

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/2007

Bulletin 2

Drug Prevalence Survey: Regional Drugs Task Force (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results

This bulletin presents key findings at a local level from the second drug prevalence survey of households in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. The survey sampled a representative number of people aged between 15 and 64 during late 2006 and early 2007. The survey was carried out by Ipsos MORI in Ireland and by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in Northern Ireland according to standards set by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). This bulletin presents results relating to drug prevalence on a lifetime, last year (recent) and last month (current) basis for illegal and other drugs including alcohol and tobacco for each Regional Drugs Task Force area (RDTF)¹ in Ireland, and Health and Social Services Board (HSSB) in Northern Ireland.

Key Findings across RDTF and HSSB areas:

- Lifetime use of any illegal drugs varied across RDTF and HSSB areas ranging from as high as 38% in RDTF and 37% in HSSB areas to as low as 14% in RDTF and 20% in HSSB areas.
- Last year prevalence rates for any illegal drugs showed a four fold difference between the highest and lowest rate in RDTFs (13% and 3%) whereas the difference was smaller in HSSB areas (13% and 7%).
- These differences widened for last month use of any illegal drugs in both RDTF and HSSB areas. The highest rate at 8% being 27 times greater than the lowest rate of 0.3% in RDTF areas whereas in HSSB areas the difference was smaller with the highest rate being 3 times greater 6% than the lowest rate 2%.
- Prevalence rates for use of any illegal drugs tended to be higher across all time periods in the East Coast and Southern RDTFs in Ireland and in the Eastern HSSB in Northern Ireland.
- Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug in all RDTF and HSSB areas across all time periods.
- Prevalence rates for all other illegal drugs were considerably lower than the rates for cannabis use in all RDTF and HSSB areas.
- In general, the profile of illegal drug users across RDTF and HSSB areas was similar: men were more likely than women and young adults more likely than older adults to use illegal drugs.
- Significant changes in illegal drug use since the 2002/3 survey varied across RDTF and HSSB areas. For example, lifetime use of cannabis increased in 2 RDTF and HSSB areas, whereas lifetime use of cocaine increased in 5 of the 10 RDTF areas and in all 4 HSSB areas.

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¹ For explanation please see footnote on page 5.

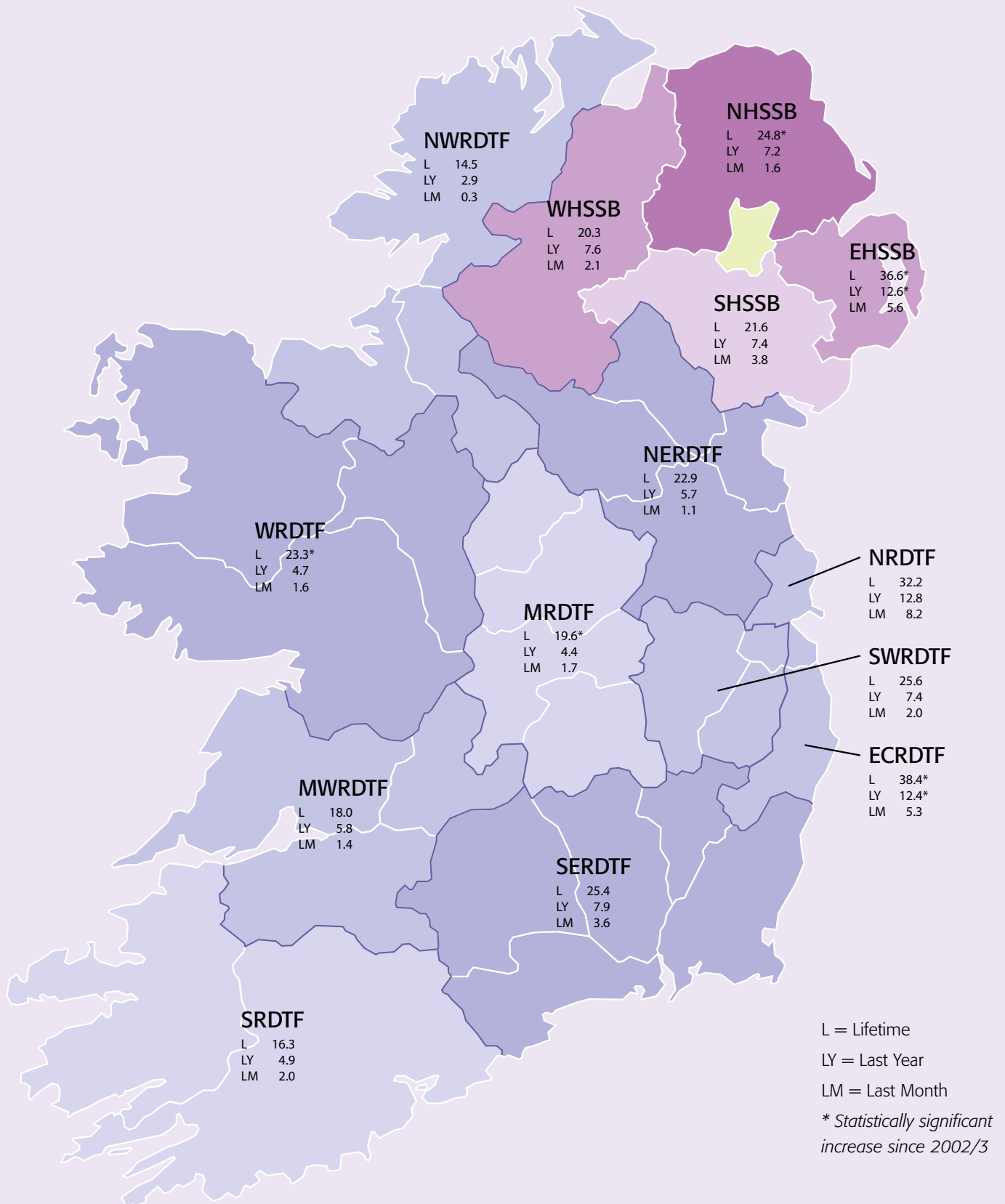
Northern Ireland Key Findings by Health and Social Services Board (HSSB)

- Among all adults aged 15-64 years, lifetime prevalence rates for any illegal drugs varied across HSSB areas, ranging from 20% in the WHSSB to 37% in the EHSSB.
- The highest last year prevalence rate for any illegal drugs (13%) was almost double that of the lowest rate (7%) among all adults.
- Among all adults, last month prevalence rates for any illegal drugs ranged from 2% in the NHSSB and WHSSB to 6% in the EHSSB.
- Prevalence rates tended to be higher across all time periods in the EHSSB than in other HSSB areas.
- Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug in all HSSB areas across all time periods.
- Generally, prevalence rates for other illegal drugs were considerably lower than the rates for cannabis use in all HSSB areas.
- After cannabis, ecstasy was the most commonly reported illegal drug ever used in the EHSSB and SHSSB, while poppers were the most commonly reported illegal drug ever used in the NHSSB and WHSSB.
- In the last year, ecstasy was the most commonly reported illegal drug used in the EHSSB after cannabis; in all other HSSB areas, cocaine was the most commonly reported illegal drug after cannabis.
- The profile of illegal drug users was similar across HSSB areas: in general, men were more likely than women, and young adults were more likely than older adults, to use any illegal drugs.
- Some changes since 2002/3 were statistically significant: in the EHSSB, lifetime prevalence rates for any illegal drugs increased from 22.5% in 2002/3 to 36.6% in 2006/7 and for cannabis use, from 18.9% to 32.2%, among all adults.
- Significant increases since the previous survey in the last year use of any illegal drugs were observed in the EHSSB among all adults (from 7.3% to 12.6%), males (from 11.0% to 18.3%) and young adults (from 13.3% to 23.4%).
- Among all adults, lifetime use of cocaine increased significantly in all HSSB areas.
- Last year use of cocaine increased significantly among all adults since 2002/3 in three of the HSSB areas: in the EHSSB (from 1.0% to 2.8%), in the NHSSB (from 0.0% to 1.1%) and in the WHSSB (from 0.2% to 1.7%).
- Among all adults, lifetime use of cannabis increased significantly since the previous survey in the EHSSB and NHSSB.
- Last year use of cannabis increased significantly among females in the SHSSB.
- Since 2002/3, current use of ecstasy increased among females in the EHSSB but decreased among all adults and males in the NHSSB.
- Current use of tobacco decreased among all adults in the EHSSB, SHSSB and WHSSB.
- There were significant decreases since 2002/3 in the lifetime and last year prevalence rates for alcohol among young adults in the SHSSB.

Ireland Key Findings by Regional Drugs Task Force (RDTF)

- Lifetime use of any illegal drugs varied across RDTF areas ranging from 38% in the East Coast RDTF, to as low as 14% in the North Western RDTF.
- The highest prevalence rate (13%) was four-times greater than the lowest prevalence rate (3%), for last year use of any illegal drugs.
- This gap widened for last month use with the range from 8% in the Northern Area RDTF, to 0.3% in the North Western RDTF, a 27 fold difference.
- Prevalence rates (any illegal drugs) tended to be higher across all time periods in the east of the country from Dundalk to Cork.
- Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug in all RDTF areas across all time periods.
- Prevalence rates for all other illegal drugs were considerably lower than the rates for cannabis use in all RDTF areas.
- In RDTF areas cocaine ranks, on average, the 4th most commonly used drug after cannabis (1st), magic mushrooms (2nd) and ecstasy (3rd) for lifetime use.
- Last year use of cocaine on average ranks second after cannabis, followed by ecstasy (3rd) and magic mushrooms (4th).
- The profile of illegal drug users was similar in all areas: more men than women and more young adults than older adults use illegal drugs.
- Some changes since 2002/3 were statistically significant. For example the Western RDTF had an almost doubling of lifetime prevalence among all adults for any illegal drug use, from 12.5% in 2002/3 to 23.3% in 2006/7, and for cannabis use from 12.0% in 2002/3 to 21.0% in 2006/7.
- Significant increases since 2002/3 for last year use were observed among all adults in the East Coast RDTF for any illegal drug use, from 6.3% in 2002/3 to 12.4% in 2006/7 and among older adults from 2.3% to 7.0%. Similarly, last year use of cannabis increased among all adults from 6.1% to 11.3% and for older adults from 1.9% to 6.5%.
- Lifetime use of cocaine increased significantly in five RDTF areas.
- Lifetime use of magic mushrooms increased significantly in three RDTF areas.
- Statistically significant decreases were observed in the lifetime use of amphetamines, LSD and tobacco in the South Western RDTF area.
- There was a significant decrease in lifetime use of alcohol in the Southern RDTF area.
- However, three RDTFs (the Midland, the North East and the North West) showed an increase in lifetime use of alcohol among older adults.
- Three RDTF areas showed significant increases in lifetime use of alcohol among women.
- Conversely, in the Southern Area RDTF last month use of alcohol significantly decreased among women.
- In the Northern Area RDTF both lifetime and last year use of tobacco decreased significantly among women.
- There were more increases observed among older adults than among young adults:
 - (i) Lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased among older adults in four RDTFs compared to increases among young adults in just three RDTF areas.
 - (ii) Lifetime use of cannabis increased in three RDTF areas for older adults and in two RDTF areas for young adults.

Map 1:
Use of any illegal drugs: Prevalence rates for all adults aged 15-64 in RDTF and HSSB areas 2006/7



Purple boundary and shading highlights the RDTF areas.
HSSB areas are highlighted in pink shading.

Introduction

The survey was commissioned by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) in Ireland and the Public Health Information and Research Branch (PHIRB), formerly known as the Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU), within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) in Northern Ireland.

The main focus of the survey was to obtain prevalence rates for key illegal drugs, such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin, on a lifetime (ever used), last year (recent use), and last month (current use) basis. Similar prevalence questions were also asked of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (e.g. tranquillisers); attitudinal and demographic information was also sought from respondents.

Methodology

The questionnaire and methodology for this survey were based on best practice guidelines drawn up by the EMCDDA. The questionnaires were administered through face-to-face interviews with respondents aged between 15 and 64 normally resident in households in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Thus persons outside these age ranges, or who do not normally reside in private households, have not been included in the survey. This approach is commonly used throughout the EU and because of the exclusion of those living in institutions (for example, prisons, hostels) this type of prevalence survey is usually known as a general population survey.

Fieldwork for the survey was carried out between October 2006 and May 2007 and the final achieved sample was 6,969 (4,967 in Ireland and 2,002 in Northern Ireland). The response rate for the survey was 65% in Ireland and 62% in Northern Ireland. Area based sampling was applied in Ireland. The first stage involved stratifying by Health Board²/Regional Drugs Task Force (RDTF) area in Ireland. Within the Health Board/RDTF strata Electoral Divisions (EDs) were selected as areas. In Northern Ireland, the first stage involved stratifying by Health and Social Services Board (HSSB) areas and within the strata simple random sampling was used. The achieved sample was weighted by gender, age, RDTF area in Ireland and HSSB area in Northern Ireland, to maximise representativeness of the general population. The effects of stratification, clustering and weighting have been incorporated in the interval estimates (i.e. design effect adjusted). Details

of the methodology have been published on the websites of the NACD (<http://www.nacd.ie/>) and the DHSSPS (<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/>) in comprehensive technical reports containing copies of the questionnaires used in each jurisdiction.

The Research Advisory Group (RAG) decided to change from using a pen and paper interviewing technique to computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), where the interviewer records responses electronically. This technique has several advantages: interviews can be administered more quickly; human error is minimised; yielding higher-quality data; and data input is managed more efficiently, thus cutting costs.³

Please Note:

- Prevalence rates for “any illegal drugs” refers to the reported use of one or more of the following: amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers or solvents – see table footnotes.
- Questions relating to Nubain® were asked only in Northern Ireland. To maintain comparability of overall illegal drug prevalence rates between Ireland and Northern Ireland, this drug is not included in the calculation of the prevalence rates for “any illegal drugs”.
- There was a change in the measurement of ‘other opiates’ in Ireland between 2002/3 and 2006/7. In 2002/3 ‘other opiates’ included 9 drugs: Opium, Temgesic®, Diconal®, Napps, MSTs®, Pethidine, DF118® (Dihydrocodeine), Buprenorphine and Morphine. In 2006/7 the category ‘other opiates’ was extended to be consistent with Northern Ireland, it included: Codeine, Kapake, Diffs, Dikes, Peach, Fentanyl (Durogesic®, Sublimaze®, Actiq®), Oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Oxynorm®), and Buprenorphine (Subutex®). The 2006/7 results for this drug category are reported in this bulletin but given this change in measurement, comparative analysis between 2002/3 and 2006/7 is not appropriate.
- The measurement of the combined group of sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants was changed between 2002/3 and 2006/7. In 2002/3 this drugs category was measured using one question while in 2006/7 two questions were used. Furthermore in 2006/7 a more expansive list of drug categories was used (see technical report for further details). Given this change in measurement comparative analysis between 2002/3 and 2006/7 is not appropriate.

2 Since January 2005 the Health Boards in Ireland have undergone restructuring and are merged under one authority – the Health Service Executive. However for the purpose of comparison with 2002/3 data, we have continued to weight the data by the former Health Board areas as these correspond with the Regional Drugs Task Force (RDTF) structures. The above reference relates to the Health Board structures details in *Bulletin 2: Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey – Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results (Revised)* June, 2005.

3 EMCDDA Handbook on Population Surveys 2002.

What is Prevalence?

The term prevalence refers to the proportion of a population who has used a drug over a particular time period. In general population surveys, prevalence is measured by asking respondents in a representative sample drawn from the population to recall their use of drugs. The three most widely used recall periods are: lifetime (ever used a drug), last year (used a drug in the last twelve months), and last month (used a drug in the last 30 days). Provided a sample is representative of the total population, prevalence information obtained from a sample can be used to infer prevalence in the population.

Lifetime prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported ever having used the named drug at the time they were surveyed. A person who records lifetime prevalence may – or may not – be currently using the drug. Lifetime prevalence should not be interpreted as meaning that people have necessarily used a drug over a long period of time or that they will use the drug in the future.

Last year prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported using a named drug in the year prior to the survey. For this reason, last year prevalence is often referred to as recent use.

Last month prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported using a named drug in the 30 day period prior to the survey. Last month prevalence is often referred to as current use. A proportion of those reporting current use may be occasional (or first-time) users who happen to have used in the period leading up to the survey – it should therefore be appreciated that current use is not synonymous with regular use.

As with other European surveys, people over the age of 64 are excluded from this survey, as they grew up in an era when both the use and availability of illegal drugs were very limited. Therefore surveys with older people have, to date, shown very low rates of use even on a lifetime basis. This situation will change over time as the younger population grows older. Hence lifetime prevalence rates are likely to increase for a considerable period time. When examining the data and comparing results over time, last year use is the best reflection of changes as it refers to recent use. Last month use is equally valuable as it refers to current use.

Understanding the Results in this Bulletin

Results (revised) from the first Drug Prevalence Survey, published in Bulletin 2 (June 2005), gave comparative information for Ireland and its constituent Health Boards (and RDTF areas) and Northern Ireland and its constituent Health and Social Services Boards. This bulletin contains the same information for 2006/7 and also provides comparison information between 2002/3 and 2006/7. Results are given for all respondents, and are also presented by gender and by age (young adults aged 15-34 and older adults aged 35-64). All prevalence rates presented in the accompanying tables are rounded to one decimal place and are rounded to whole numbers in the text (except for percentages less than 1%). Changes in prevalence rates between 2002/3 and 2006/7 are also rounded to one decimal place and reported in this format in the text.

As in all sample surveys, the greater the sample size the more statistically reliable are the results. Some of the differences in prevalence rates in the tables will be attributable to natural sample variations. Detailed confidence intervals for all prevalence figures contained in this bulletin can be found on the websites of the NACD and DHSSPS (see page 5).

Invalid responses have been excluded from all analyses. Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to either the effect of rounding or where respondents could give more than one answer.

Where the figure 0.0% appears it does not mean that no-one has used the drug, rather it means that in this category no respondent reported use. The confidence intervals will provide a prevalence rate for all categories of drug use.

Statistical significance tests have been carried out on the drug prevalence data in this bulletin. These tests are used to establish the degree of confidence with which we can infer that observed changes in drug prevalence between 2002/3 and 2006/7 are not due to sampling error. In this bulletin, a significance level of 5% has been specified which means that the likelihood that sampling error accounts for the observed changes is less than 5%.

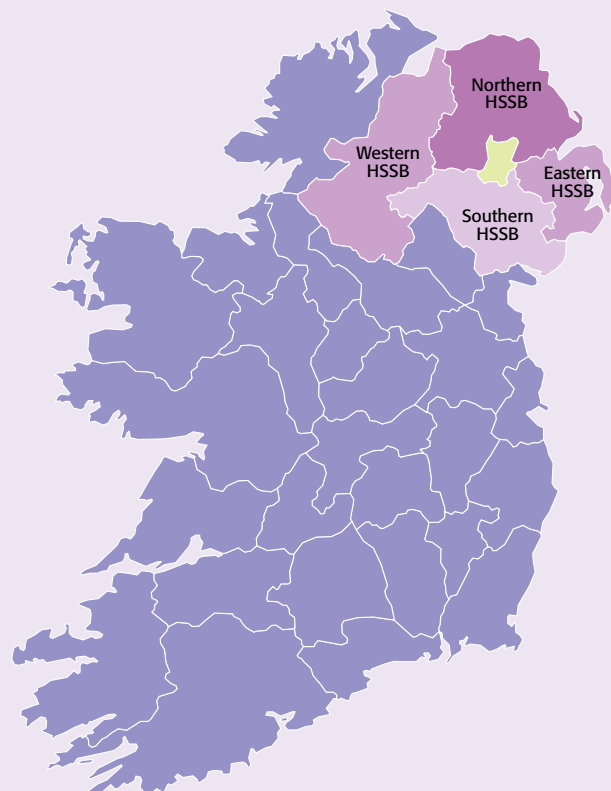
A population drug prevalence survey has limitations. The more problematic drug users may also be underrepresented due to the complicated and problematic nature of their lives. Therefore, population drug prevalence surveys are not used to estimate the prevalence of problem drug use (i.e. heroin or crack use). Whilst this survey includes some young people, it needs to be supplemented by a school survey of the teenage population such as the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) in Ireland or the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) in Northern Ireland.

A summary of key results for the four Health and Social Services Board areas in Northern Ireland (see map 2) and the ten Regional Drugs Task Force areas in Ireland (see map 3) are given below.

Northern Ireland – Results by Health and Social Services Board

Prevalence rates for Northern Ireland are given in Tables 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

Map 2: Northern Ireland – Health and Social Services Board Areas



Eastern Health and Social Services Board (EHSSB)

(See Tables 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3)

Any illegal drugs

More than a third (37%) of respondents reported ever having taken any illegal drugs, 13% had done so in the previous year and 6% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the EHSSB, the prevalence rates for any illegal drugs were higher than the corresponding figures for Northern Ireland. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (47% compared to 27%) and last year use (18% compared to 7%) of any illegal drugs. Similarly, young adults aged 15-34 were more likely than their older counterparts (aged 35-64) to report lifetime use (54% compared to 24%) and last year use (23% compared to 5%) of any illegal drugs.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug, with nearly one third (32%) of respondents reporting ever having taken it. Nine percent had taken it in the previous year and 4% in the previous month. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (40% compared to 25%) and last year use (12% compared to 6%). A similar pattern was evident with young adults and older adults: lifetime use (46% compared to 22%) and last year use (14% compared to 5%).

Other illegal drugs

Apart from cannabis, the highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for ecstasy (11%), magic mushrooms, LSD and poppers (each 10%), amphetamines and cocaine (each 7%), and solvents (5%). The lifetime prevalence of all other illegal drugs was less than 1% – heroin (0.8%) and crack (0.4%). In the last year, ecstasy and cocaine (each 3%), poppers and amphetamines (each 2%) were the main drugs reported other than cannabis. In the month prior to the survey, ecstasy (2%) was the most frequently reported illegal drug used apart from cannabis.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Almost one quarter of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers (24%) and anti-depressants (24%). In the previous year 11% reported using sedatives and tranquillisers and 9% reported using anti-depressants. Just under one in ten respondents reported using sedatives and tranquillisers (8%) and anti-depressants (8%) in the previous month. Females were more likely than males to have used anti-depressants in each of the timescales examined. Older adults reported higher lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates for both sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants than young adults.

Other opiates, anabolic steroids and Nubain®

Over one quarter (28%) of respondents reported lifetime use of other opiates, 11% reported use in the previous year and 6% in the previous month. Males and females were just as likely to report use of other opiates in each of the timescales examined. Older adults (aged 35-64) were more likely than young adults (aged 15-34) to have ever used other opiates (34% compared to 20%).

Lifetime prevalence of anabolic steroids was 1%, while there was no reported use in the previous year or the previous month in the EHSSB.

There was no reported use of Nubain® in the EHSSB.

Alcohol

Ninety percent of the respondents in the EHSSB area reported that they had ever taken alcohol, 82% had done so in the previous year and 76% in the previous month. Males (81%) were more likely to report current drinking than females (71%), while young adults (77%) and older adults (76%) had similar current drinking prevalence rates.

Tobacco

Fifty nine percent of respondents reported ever smoking tobacco, 35% had done so in the previous year and 30% in the previous month. Male respondents were more likely to report ever having smoked than females (63% compared to 54%), whereas similar proportions of males (31%) and females (30%) reported current smoking. Young adults were more likely than their older counterparts to report smoking in the last year (42% compared to 30%).

EHSSB – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 22.5% in 2002/3 to 36.6% in 2006/7 among all adults (15-64 years). There were increases in lifetime use of any illegal drugs among males (from 29.8% to 46.5%), females (from 15.5% to 27.2%), young adults (from 33.7% to 54.1%) and older adults (from 13.7% to 24.1%).

Among all adults aged 15-64, lifetime use of the following drugs increased since the previous survey: cannabis (from 18.9% to 32.2%), heroin (from 0.1% to 0.8%), cocaine (from 2.3% to 7.2%), LSD (from 5.1% to 9.5%), magic mushrooms (from 4.3% to 10.4%) and solvents (from 2.4% to 4.7%).

Increases were found among males in lifetime use of cannabis (from 26.2% to 40.3%), cocaine (from 4.0% to 10.7%), LSD (from 8.1% to 14.8%) and magic mushrooms (from 5.7% to 18.0%). Among females, lifetime prevalence rates increased since the previous survey for cannabis (from 12.0% to 24.5%) and cocaine (from 0.7% to 3.8%).

Among young adults, lifetime use of the following drugs increased since 2002/3: cannabis (from 27.4% to 46.2%), cocaine (from 4.5% to 12.8%) and magic mushrooms (from 5.7% to 13.3%). Increases were found among older adults for cannabis (from 12.3% to 22.1%), heroin (from 0.0% to 0.8%), cocaine (from 0.7% to 3.1%), LSD (from 2.3% to 5.7%), magic mushrooms (from 3.2% to 8.4%) and solvents (from 1.2% to 3.6%).

Significant Changes – Last Year Prevalence

Last year use of any illegal drugs increased from 7.3% in 2002/3 to 12.6% in 2006/7 among all adults (15-64 years). There were increases in last year use of any illegal drugs among males (from 11.0% to 18.3%) and young adults (from 13.3% to 23.4%).

Among all adults aged 15-64, there were increases in the last year use of cocaine (from 1.0% to 2.8%) and poppers (from 0.6% to 2.3%) since the previous survey.

Increases were found among males in last year use of poppers (from 0.8% to 4.0%). Among females, last year prevalence rates increased since the previous survey for cocaine (from 0.2% to 1.7%) and amphetamines (from 0.3% to 1.7%). There were *decreases* in last year tobacco use among females (from 40.4% to 32.0%) and older adults (from 38.6% to 30.1%) since 2002/3.

Significant Changes – Last Month Prevalence

There were increases in last month use of any illegal drugs among females (from 1.2% to 3.8%) and older adults (from 1.2% to 3.9%) since 2002/3.

Among all adults aged 15-64, last month use of tobacco *decreased* since the previous survey, from 37.4% to 30.3%.

Increases were found among females in last month use of ecstasy (from 0.2% to 1.7%) and among older adults in last month use of cannabis (from 0.9% to 3.5%). There were *decreases* in last month tobacco use among females (from 38.3% to 29.9%) and older adults (from 35.7% to 27.1%) since 2002/3.

Northern Health and Social Services Board (NHSSB)

(See Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3)

Any illegal drugs

One quarter (25%) of respondents reported ever having taken any illegal drugs, 7% had done so in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the NHSSB, the last month prevalence rate for any illegal drugs was significantly lower than the corresponding figure for Northern Ireland. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (29% compared to 21%) and last year use (10% compared to 4%) of any illegal drugs while young adults aged 15-34 reported higher lifetime, last year and current usage rates than older adults aged 35-64.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug, with 22% of respondents reporting ever having taken it. Seven percent had taken it in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (26% compared to 18%) and last year use (10% compared to 3%) while young adults reported higher lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates than their older counterparts.

Other illegal drugs

With the exception of cannabis, the highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for poppers (8%), LSD, magic mushrooms, ecstasy and amphetamines (each 6%), cocaine (4%), and solvents (2%). The lifetime prevalence rates of all other illegal drugs were less than 1% – crack (0.6%) and heroin (0.1%). In the year prior to the survey, cocaine (1%) was the main drug reported other than cannabis – no other drug had a last year prevalence rate exceeding 1%. In the month prior to the survey, amphetamines (0.2%) were the only other illegal drugs used apart from cannabis.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

One fifth of respondents reported ever taking sedatives and tranquillisers (20%) and anti-depressants (21%). In the previous year, almost one in ten respondents reported taking sedatives and tranquillisers (9%) and anti-depressants (9%) – the corresponding figures for current usage of sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants were 7% each. Males were just as likely as females to report use of sedatives and tranquillisers in each of the timescales examined, whereas the lifetime prevalence rate for females taking anti-depressants was more than twice that for males (28% compared to 13%). Older adults aged 35-64 were more likely than young adults aged 15-34 to report use of sedatives and tranquillisers in their lifetime, in the last year and in the last month. Current use of anti-depressants among older adults was more than twice that of younger adults (9% compared to 4%).

Other opiates, anabolic steroids and Nubain®

One fifth (20%) of respondents reported taking other opiates in their lifetime, 8% reported use in the previous year and 5% in the previous month. A higher proportion of females (26%) than males (15%) reported lifetime use of other opiates. Young adults were just as likely as older adults to report use of other opiates in each of the timescales examined.

One percent of respondents reported taking anabolic steroids in their lifetime, 0.5% in the last year and 0.5% in the last month.

No respondents reported taking Nubain®, in any timescale, in the NHSSB.

Alcohol

Eighty eight percent of the respondents in the NHSSB area reported that they had ever taken an alcoholic drink, 80% had done so in the previous year and 67% in the previous month. Males (73%) were more likely to report current drinking than females (60%), while young adults and older adults had similar lifetime, last year and current drinking prevalence rates.

Tobacco

Fifty five percent of respondents reported ever smoking tobacco, 35% had done so in the previous year and 30% in the previous month. Male respondents (61%) were more likely to report ever having smoked than females (49%). A higher proportion of young adults than their older counterparts reported smoking in the year prior to the survey (41% compared to 30%).

NHSSB – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 17.8% in 2002/3 to 24.8% in 2006/7 among all adults (15-64 years). There were increases in lifetime use of any illegal drugs among females (from 12.7% to 21.0%) and older adults (from 9.1% to 15.9%).

Among all adults aged 15-64, there were increases in the lifetime use of cannabis (from 14.4% to 22.2%) and cocaine (from 1.0% to 3.8%) since the previous survey.

Increases were found among males in lifetime use of cocaine (from 2.1% to 5.6%). Among females, lifetime prevalence rates increased since the previous survey for cannabis (from 9.3% to 18.3%), cocaine (from 0.0% to 1.9%) and LSD (from 1.4% to 4.4%).

Among young adults, there were increases in the lifetime use of cannabis (from 22.8% to 33.8%) and cocaine (from 1.3% to 6.7%) since 2002/3. Increases were found among older adults for cannabis (from 8.1% to 14.4%) and anabolic steroids (from 0.0% to 1.2%).

Significant Changes – Last Year Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64, there was an increase in the last year use of cocaine (from 0.0% to 1.1%) since the previous survey.

Increases were found among males in last year use of cocaine (from 0.0% to 2.0%). Among young adults, the last year prevalence rate increased since the previous survey for cocaine (from 0.0% to 1.9%).

Significant Changes – Last Month Prevalence

Last month use of any illegal drugs *decreased* among males, from 6.5% to 2.0%, since 2002/3.

Among all adults aged 15-64, last month use of ecstasy *decreased* since the previous survey, from 1.1% to 0.0%.

Decreases were found among males in last month use of cannabis (from 6.2% to 2.0%) and ecstasy (from 2.2% to 0.0%). There was a *decrease* in last month tobacco use among females (from 35.3% to 27.3%) since 2002/3.

Southern Health and Social Services Board (SHSSB)

(See Tables 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3)

Any illegal drugs

Just over one fifth (22%) of respondents reported ever having taken any illegal drugs, 7% had done so in the previous year and 4% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the SHSSB, the lifetime prevalence rate for any illegal drugs was significantly lower than the corresponding figure for Northern Ireland. Males were more likely to report lifetime, last year and current use of any illegal drugs than females. Young adults aged 15-34 had higher prevalence rates than older adults aged 35-64 for use of any illegal drugs in each of the timescales examined.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly reported illegal drug, with around one in five (19%) respondents reporting ever having taken it. Seven percent had taken it in the previous year and 4% in the previous month. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (23% compared to 14%), last year use (10% compared to 4%) and last month use (5% compared to 2%). Young adults reported higher lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates than their older counterparts.

Other illegal drugs

Other than cannabis, the highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for ecstasy and poppers (each 5%), amphetamines (4%), cocaine, magic mushrooms, solvents and LSD (each 3%). Lifetime prevalence for all other illegal drugs was below 1% - heroin and crack (each 0.6%) and methadone (0.2%). In the year prior to the survey, cocaine (1%) was the main drug reported other than cannabis – no other drug had a last year prevalence rate exceeding 1%. Use of ecstasy, cocaine, magic mushrooms and poppers was reported by less than 1% of respondents in the last month.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Eighteen percent of respondents reported ever using anti-depressants, 9% had done so in the previous year and 7% in the previous month. Prevalence rates for sedatives and tranquillisers were as follows: 15% for lifetime use, 7% for recent use and 5% for current use. Female lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates for anti-depressants were at least double those of males. Females were also more likely than males to report last year and last month use of sedatives and tranquillisers. Older adults reported higher lifetime, last year and current usage rates for sedatives and tranquillisers than young adults and also higher lifetime prevalence rates for anti-depressants.

Other opiates, anabolic steroids and Nubain®

Eleven percent of respondents in the SHSSB area reported that they had ever taken other opiates, 6% in the last year and 3% in the previous month. Similar proportions of males and females reported having taken other opiates at some time in their life (10% compared to 12%), in the last year (5% compared to 7%) and in the last month (4% compared to 3%). Young adults aged 15-34 were just as likely as older adults aged 35-64 to report use of other opiates in each of the timescales examined.

One percent of respondents reported ever taking anabolic steroids and 0.1% reported using them in the last year.

There was no reported use of Nubain® in the SHSSB.

Alcohol

Eighty one percent of the respondents in the SHSSB area reported that they had ever taken an alcoholic drink, 74% had done so in the previous year and 63% in the previous month. Males (84%) were more likely to report lifetime drinking than females (78%), and both these rates were lower than the corresponding Northern Ireland figures. Young adults were just as likely as older adults to report drinking alcohol in each of the timescales examined.

Tobacco

Half of respondents (50%) reported ever smoking tobacco, 30% had done so in the previous year and 26% in the previous month. Male respondents (55%) were more likely to report ever having smoked than females (46%). Young adults reported higher last year and current smoking prevalence rates than older adults.

SHSSB – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64, there were increases in the lifetime use of cocaine (from 0.8% to 3.3%) since the previous survey. Lifetime use of alcohol *decreased* from 85.7% to 80.9% among all adults.

Increases were found among males in lifetime use of cocaine (from 1.4% to 5.2%). Among females, the lifetime prevalence rate for amphetamines increased from 0.5% to 2.8% since the previous survey.

Among young adults, there was an increase since 2002/3 in lifetime use of cocaine (from 1.5% to 6.3%) and a *decrease* in the use of alcohol (from 89.3% to 81.6%). An increase was found among older adults for poppers (from 0.5% to 3.2%).

Significant Changes – Last Year Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64, there was a *decrease* in the last year tobacco use (from 38.6% to 29.6%) since the previous survey.

An increase was found among females in last year use of cannabis (from 0.7% to 4.0%) and a *decrease* in last year tobacco use (from 35.3% to 25.9%). Among young adults, the last year alcohol prevalence rate *decreased* from 85.0% to 75.3% since the previous survey. A *decrease* was found among older adults for last year tobacco use (from 36.5% to 24.4%).

Significant Changes – Last Month Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64, last month use of cannabis increased from 1.5% to 3.5% since 2002/3 while tobacco use *decreased* from 35.2% to 26.4%.

There were increases in last month use of cannabis among females (from 0.0% to 1.8%) and among young adults (from 2.9% to 7.8%) since 2002/3. *Decreases* were found in last month use of tobacco since the previous survey among males (from 37.4% to 28.3%), females (from 33.0% to 24.6%) and older adults (from 33.5% to 21.6%).

Western Health and Social Services Board (WHSSB)

(See Tables 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3)

Any illegal drugs

One fifth (20%) of respondents reported ever having taken any illegal drugs, 8% had done so in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the WHSSB, the lifetime prevalence rate for any illegal drugs was significantly lower than the corresponding figure for Northern Ireland. Males were more likely than females to report higher lifetime (24% compared to 17%) and last year (12% compared to 3%) prevalence rates. Young adults aged 15-34 had higher lifetime and last year usage rates of any illegal drugs than older adults aged 35-64.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug, with 18% of respondents reporting ever having taken it. Five percent had taken cannabis in the previous year and 1% in the previous month. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (22% compared to 15%) and last year use (8% compared to 2%). Young adults also reported higher lifetime and last year prevalence rates than their older counterparts.

Other illegal drugs

With the exception of cannabis, the highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for poppers and ecstasy (each 7%), amphetamines and cocaine (each 5%), LSD and magic mushrooms (each 4%) and solvents (3%). The lifetime prevalence of both heroin and methadone was 0.2%. In the last year, the main drugs reported apart from cannabis were cocaine (2%), ecstasy and poppers (each 1%). In the month prior to the survey, all illegal drugs other than cannabis were used by less than 1% of respondents.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Similar proportions of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers (17%) and anti-depressants (18%). Males were just as likely as females to report lifetime, last year and last month usage of sedatives and tranquillisers. Almost twice as many females than males reported taking anti-depressants at some point in their life or in the last year; more than twice as many females (11%) reported current use of anti-depressants than males (4%). For both groups of drugs, older adults showed higher prevalence rates than younger adults, in all timescales.

Other opiates, anabolic steroids and Nubain®

In the WHSSB, 13% of respondents reported taking other opiates in their lifetime, 6% in the past year and 3% in the month prior to the survey. Males were just as likely as females to report lifetime, last year and last month use of other opiates. Older adults reported higher prevalence rates than young adults for other opiates in each of the timescales.

Anabolic steroids had reportedly been used by 0.6% of respondents at some time in their life, 0.3% in the last year and 0.1% in the last month.

No respondents reported taking Nubain®, in any timescale, in the WHSSB.

Alcohol

Eighty seven percent of respondents in the WHSSB area reported that they had ever taken an alcoholic drink, 79% had done so in the previous year and 66% in the previous month. Males (70%) were more likely to report current drinking than females (62%) and these prevalence rates are similar to the corresponding figures for Northern Ireland as a whole. The same proportion of young adults and older adults reported current drinking (66%).

Tobacco

Fifty four percent of respondents reported ever smoking tobacco, 33% had done so in the previous year and 30% in the previous month. Similar proportions of male and female respondents reported lifetime (55% compared to 53%), last year (32% compared to 33%) and current smoking (31% compared to 29%). Young adults were just as likely as older adults to report ever having smoked, having smoked in the last year and in the last month.

WHSSB – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 9.9% in 2002/3 to 16.5% in 2006/7 among older adults aged 35-64.

Among all adults aged 15-64, there was an increase in the lifetime use of cocaine (from 1.5% to 4.6%) since the previous survey and a *decrease* in tobacco use (from 63.4% to 53.9%).

Increases were found among females in lifetime use of cocaine (from 0.8% to 4.2%) and amphetamines (from 1.4% to 4.8%) since 2002/3. Lifetime use of tobacco *decreased* from 66.2% to 55.2% among males.

Among young adults, there was an increase since 2002/3 in lifetime use of cocaine (from 2.9% to 7.6%) and a *decrease* in the use of tobacco (from 60.8% to 50.2%). Increases were found among older adults for the following drugs: cannabis (from 9.2% to 14.8%), cocaine (from 0.2% to 2.3%), amphetamines (from 0.6% to 3.0%), ecstasy (from 0.3% to 3.6%), LSD (from 0.9% to 3.5%) and poppers (from 0.6% to 3.9%). Lifetime use of tobacco *decreased* from 65.6% to 57.0% since the previous survey among older adults.

Significant Changes – Last Year Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64, there was an increase in last year use of cocaine (from 0.2% to 1.7%) and a *decrease* in the last year tobacco use (from 44.7% to 32.6%) since the previous survey.

Last year use of cocaine increased from 0.4% in 2002/3 to 3.0% in 2006/7 among young adults. *Decreases* in last year tobacco use were found among males (from 44.6% to 31.7%), females (from 44.8% to 33.4%), young adults (from 48.7% to 32.3%) and older adults (from 41.3% to 32.8%).

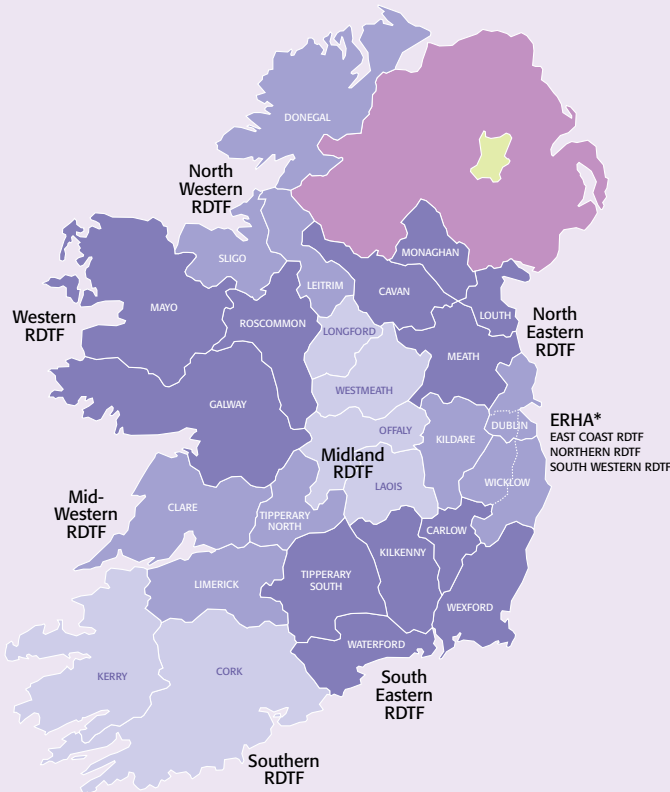
Significant Changes – Last Month Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64, last month tobacco use *decreased* from 40.7% to 30.2% since 2002/3. *Decreases* were also found in last month use of tobacco since the previous survey among males (from 40.1% to 31.3%), females (from 41.4% to 29.0%) and young adults (from 43.3% to 29.3%).

Ireland – Results by Regional Drugs Task Force Area (RDTF)

Prevalence rates for Ireland are given in Table 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3.

Map 3: Ireland – Regional Drugs Task Force Areas



East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force (ECRDTF)

(See Tables 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3)

Any illegal drugs

Over one third (38%) of respondents reported having ever taken any illegal drugs: 12% had done so in the previous year, and 5% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the ECRDTF area, the prevalence rates for any illegal drugs were higher than the corresponding national figures. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (45% compared to 32%), last year use (14% compared to 11%) and last month use (7% compared to 4%) of any illegal drugs. Young adults aged 15-34 had higher prevalence rates than older adults aged 35-64 for use of any illegal drugs in each of the time periods examined.

* ERHA – Eastern Regional Health Authority which comprised three RDTFs covering East Dublin and Wicklow, North Dublin and South West Dublin, Kildare and West Wicklow.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug; 36% of respondents reported ever taking the drug, 11% had done so in the previous year, and 4% in the previous month. Males reported higher prevalence rates than females across all three time periods examined. Young adults aged 15-34 were more likely than older adults aged 35-64, to report lifetime use (38% compared to 34%), last year use (16% compared to 6%) and last month use (6% compared to 3%) of cannabis. All cannabis prevalence rates were higher in the ECRDTF area than the corresponding national rates.

Other illegal drugs

Apart from cannabis, highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for magic mushrooms (11%), cocaine powder (9%), ecstasy (8%), poppers (5%), LSD and amphetamines (each 4%). Lifetime prevalence rates for all of these drugs were higher than the corresponding national rates.

Last year prevalence rates for cocaine powder (3%), ecstasy and magic mushrooms (each 2%) were also higher than the corresponding national rates.

In the month prior to the survey, aside from cannabis, cocaine powder (1%) was the most widely reported drug used. Low levels of current use of ecstasy (0.5%) and poppers (0.3%) were reported by those surveyed.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Twelve percent of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers; 5% had done so in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. Females were more likely than males to report lifetime use (17% compared to 7%), last year use (7% compared to 4%) and current use (4% compared to 0.7%). Older adults lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates for sedatives and tranquillisers were at least double those of young adults.

The lifetime prevalence rate for anti-depressants was 8%; last year use was 4% and 3% reported last month use.

Other opiates

Thirteen percent of respondents reported the lifetime use of other opiates, 5% in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. These prevalence rates were higher than the corresponding national rates. Female lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates for other opiates were at least double those of males. Older adults were more likely than young adults to report lifetime use (15% compared to 11%) and last year use (5% compared to 4%) of other opiates.

Alcohol

Ninety three percent of respondents surveyed reported ever taking alcohol; 86% had done so in the previous year, and 77% in the previous month. Alcohol prevalence rates across age and gender were slightly higher than the corresponding national prevalence rates. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report recent use (88% compared to 84%) and current use (78% compared to 76%) of alcohol. Males reported higher prevalence rates than females across all three time periods examined.

Tobacco

Sixty percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 39% had done so in the previous year, and 32% in the previous month. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (61% compared to 59%), last year use (41% compared to 36%) and last month use (35% compared to 29%). Young adults reported higher recent and current smoking prevalence rates than older adults.

ECRDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 25.9% in 2002/3 to 38.4% in 2006/7 among all adults (15-64 years), from 18.0% to 34.4% among older adults (aged 35-64) and from 17.6% to 31.9% among females since the previous survey.

Among all adults aged 15-64 there were increases in the lifetime use of cannabis (from 24.5% to 35.9%) and magic mushrooms (from 5.9% to 10.9%) since the last survey.

Increases among older adults (35-64 years) were found in lifetime use of cannabis (from 17.4% to 33.7%), magic mushrooms (from 2.9% to 7.3%), cocaine powder (from 3.0% to 7.2%) and poppers (from 0.7% to 3.2%). Among females, increases since the previous survey were found in lifetime use of cannabis (from 16.4% to 29.5%), magic mushrooms (from 3.1% to 10.3%) and cocaine powder (from 2.0% to 6.9%).

Significant Changes – Last Year Prevalence

Last year use of any illegal drugs increased from 6.3% in 2002/3 to 12.4% in 2006/7 among all adults (15-64 years). There were increases in last year use of any illegal drugs among those aged 35-64 years (from 2.3% to 7.0%) and among females (from 2.5% to 11.1%).

Since the previous survey increases were found among all adults (aged 15-64) in last year use of cannabis (from 6.1% to 11.3%), and magic mushrooms (from 0.0% to 2.0%). Last year use of cannabis also increased among those aged 35-64 years (from 1.9% to 6.5%) and among females (from 2.5% to 9.0%).

Midland Regional Drugs Task Force (MRDTF)

(See Tables 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3)

Any illegal drugs

One fifth (20%) of respondents reported having ever taken any illegal drugs; 4% had done so in the previous year, and 2% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the MRDTF area, the prevalence rates for any illegal drugs were lower than the corresponding national figures. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (24% compared to 15%), last year use (6% compared to 3%) and last month use (2% compared to 1%) of any illegal drugs. Young adults aged 15-34 had higher prevalence rates than older adults aged 35-64 for use of any illegal drugs in each of the time periods examined.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug, 17% of respondents reported ever taking the drug, 4% had done so in the previous year, and 1% in the previous month. Males were more likely than females to have used cannabis in each of the time periods examined. Young adults had higher lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates than older adults. All cannabis prevalence rates were lower in the MRDTF area than the corresponding national rates.

Other illegal drugs

Apart from cannabis, highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for ecstasy (6%); magic mushrooms (5%); cocaine powder and amphetamines (each 4%); solvents and poppers (each 3%); and LSD (2%).

Cocaine powder and ecstasy (each 1%) were the most commonly reported drugs used in the last year. In the month prior to survey cocaine powder (1%) was the most widely reported drug used.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Twelve percent of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers, 5% had done so in the previous year and 3% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates among females and older adults were higher than the corresponding national figures.

Ten percent of respondents in the MRDTF reported having ever used anti-depressants, 3% had done so in the previous year, and 3% in the previous month. Lifetime and last month prevalence rates among females were higher than the corresponding national rates.

Other opiates

Five percent of respondents reported ever using other opiates, 1% had done so in the previous year, and 1% in the previous month. Females reported a higher lifetime prevalence rate than males (9% compared to 2%). Older adults were more likely than young adults to report lifetime use (8% compared to 2%), last year use (2% compared to 0.4%) and last month use (1% compared to 0%) of other opiates.

Alcohol

Ninety one percent of respondents surveyed reported ever having taken alcohol, 84% had done so in the previous year, and 70% in the previous month. Males were more likely than females to report last year use (86% compared to 81%) and last month use (74% compared to 67%) of alcohol. Young adults reported higher last year and last month prevalence rates than older adults. Overall, rates were similar to the national prevalence rates, although last month usage rates across gender and age within the MRDTF were lower than the corresponding national rates.

Tobacco

Sixty percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 39% had done so in the previous year, and 36% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were higher among young adults than older adults, and exceeded the national rates across all three time periods. Females were more likely than males to report last year use (42% compared to 37%) of tobacco. There was no gender difference in current smoking.

MRDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 11.0% in 2002/3 to 19.6% in 2006/7 among all adults (15-64 years). There were increases in lifetime use of any illegal drugs among young adults aged 15-34 (from 15.2% to 27.7%) and among men (from 13.3% to 23.9%).

Among all adults aged 15-64, lifetime use of the following drugs increased since the previous survey: ecstasy (from 2.0% to 5.8%); magic mushrooms (from 1.8% to 5.5%); amphetamines (from 0.6% to 3.6%); and cocaine powder (from 1.3% to 4.0%).

Since the previous survey, increases were found among young adults (15-34 years) in lifetime use of magic mushrooms (from 2.9% to 10.5%) and ecstasy (from 3.4% to 10.5%). Increases among older adults (35-64 years) were found in lifetime use of alcohol (from 85.1% to 91.8%) and amphetamines (from 0.0% to 2.7%). Among males, increases were found in lifetime use of magic mushrooms (from 2.8% to 9.6%) and ecstasy (from 2.6% to 8.7%). Among females, lifetime use of alcohol increased (from 81.3% to 90.8%).

Mid-Western Regional Drugs Task Force (MWRDTF)

(See Table 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3)

Any illegal drugs

Eighteen percent of respondents reported having ever taken any illegal drugs; 6% had done so in the previous year, and 1% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the MWRDTF, the prevalence rates for any illegal drugs were lower than the corresponding national figures. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (22% compared to 14%), last year use (8% compared to 4%) and last months use (3% compared to 0%) of any illegal drugs. Young adults aged 15-34 had higher prevalence rates than older adults aged 35-64 for use of any illegal drugs in each of the three time periods examined.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug, 17% of respondents reported ever taking it, 5% had done so in the previous year, and 1% in the previous month. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (21% compared to 13%), last year use (7% compared to 3%) and last month usage (3% compared to 0%) of cannabis. Young adults were at least twice as likely as older adults to report cannabis use across all time periods examined. Rates of cannabis use within the MWRDTF area were lower than the corresponding national rates.

Other illegal drugs

Apart from cannabis, highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for magic mushrooms, ecstasy, cocaine powder and amphetamines (each 3%); and LSD, solvents and poppers (each 2%).

Poppers, cocaine powder, ecstasy and amphetamines (each 1%) were the most commonly reported drugs used in the past year. Current use of ecstasy and LSD (each 0.3%) was low.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Nine percent of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers, 4% had done so in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. Males were as likely as females to report current use of sedatives and tranquillisers (2%). However, females were at least twice as likely as males to report lifetime use (13% compared to 5%) and last year use (6% compared to 3%). Older adults reported higher prevalence rates than young adults, across the three time periods examined.

Ten percent of respondents reported having ever used anti-depressants, 4% had done so in the previous year, and 2% in the previous month.

Other opiates

Six percent of respondents reported ever using other opiates; 3% had used other opiates in the previous year, and 1% in the previous month. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report last year use (5% compared to 1%) and last month use (2% compared to 0.2%). Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates among older adults were lower than the corresponding national rates. Conversely, among young adults prevalence rates across the three time periods were higher than national figures.

Alcohol

Ninety percent of respondents surveyed in the MWRDTF reported that they had ever taken alcohol, 83% had done so in the previous year, and 72% in the previous month. Young adults aged 15-34 were more likely than older adults ages 35-64 to report use of alcohol in their lifetime, in the last year and in the last month. Alcohol prevalence rates within the MWRDTF were broadly similar to the corresponding national rates, although older adults reported slightly lower rates for last year and last month use.

Tobacco

Sixty percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 39% had done so in the previous year, and 36% in the previous month. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report last year use (40% compared to 38%) and current use (38% compared to 34%) of tobacco. Males were more likely than females to report recent and current smoking.

MWRDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Last Year Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64 there was a small, albeit significant increase in last year use of poppers (from 0.0% to 1.3%).

North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force (NERDTF)

(See Tables 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3)

Any illegal drugs

Twenty three percent of respondents reported having ever taken any illegal drugs; 6% had done so in the previous year, and 1% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the NERDTF, the prevalence rates for any illegal drugs were lower than the corresponding national figures. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (29% compared to 16%), last year use (8% compared to 3%) and last month use (2% compared to 0.3%) of any illegal drugs. Young adults reported higher prevalence rates than older adults, across the three time periods examined.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug: 19% of respondents reported ever taking the drug, 5% had done so in the previous year, and 1% in the previous month. These prevalence rates were lower than the corresponding national figures. Males reported higher prevalence rates than females across the three time periods. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report lifetime use (25% compared to 15%), last year use (8% compared to 2%) and last month use (2% compared to 0.7%) of cannabis.

Other illegal drugs

After cannabis, lifetime use of ecstasy, magic mushrooms, and cocaine powder was reported (each 5%), amphetamines, poppers and LSD (each 3%), and solvents (2%).

After cannabis cocaine powder, ecstasy and poppers (each 1%) were the most commonly reported drugs used in the past year. Other than cannabis, poppers (0.2%) and heroin (0.1%) were the only drugs currently used by those surveyed.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Ten percent of respondents within the NERDTF reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers, 5% had done so in the previous year and 3% in the previous month. Females were at least twice as likely as males to report the use of sedatives and tranquillisers across the three time periods examined. Older adults were more likely than young adults to report lifetime use (15% compared to 3%), last year use (8% compared to 2%) and current use (5% compared to 1%).

Eight percent of respondents reported having ever used anti-depressants, 4% had done so in the previous year, and 2% in the previous month. Males and young adults within NERDTF reported lower prevalence rates than the corresponding national figures, across all three time periods.

Other opiates

Four percent of respondents reported ever using other opiates, 1% had done so in the previous year, and 0.3% in the previous month. Females were more likely than males to report lifetime, last year and last month use of other opiates. However, all prevalence rates were lower than the corresponding national rates.

Alcohol

Ninety one percent of respondents surveyed reported that they had ever taken alcohol, 84% had done so in the previous year, and 73% in the previous month. Males reported higher current use of alcohol than females (80% compared to 66%).

Tobacco

Fifty eight percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 37% had done so in the previous year, and 35% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were higher among males and young adults than the corresponding national rates. Conversely, the prevalence rates for females across the three time periods were lower than the national figures. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report last year use (44% compared to 32%) and current use (41% compared to 30%) of tobacco.

NERDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased among older adults aged 35-64 in the NERDTF from 7.2% in 2002/3 to 17.6% in 2006/7.

Among all adults aged 15-64, lifetime use of cocaine powder increased (from 0.9% to 4.9%) since the previous survey.

Increases were found among young adults aged 15-34 in lifetime use of cocaine powder (from 1.5% to 8.7%) since the previous survey. Increases among older adults (35-64 years) were found in lifetime use of cannabis (from 6.7% to 14.9%) and alcohol (from 85.1% to 91.9%). Among males, lifetime use of cocaine powder increased (from 1.8% to 7.4%). Among females, there were increases in lifetime use of alcohol (from 84.1% to 90.7%) and cocaine powder (from 0.0% to 2.3%).

North Western Regional Drugs Task Force (NWRDTF)

(See Table 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3)

Any illegal drugs

Fourteen percent of respondents reported having ever taken any illegal drugs; 3% had done so in the previous year, and 0.3% in the previous month. Prevalence rates within the NWRDTF were lower than national rates across age and gender. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (18% compared to 11%) and last year use (4% compared to 2%) of any illegal drugs. Young adults aged 15-34 reported higher prevalence rates than older adults aged 35-64 across the three time periods examined.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug; 13% of respondents reported ever taking the drug, 3% had done so in the previous year, and 0.3% in the previous month. Females were more likely than males to report current cannabis use (0.6% compared to 0%). Rates of cannabis use within the NWRDTF area were lower than the corresponding national rates.

Other illegal drugs

After cannabis, highest levels of lifetime use were reported for magic mushrooms and poppers (each 3%), ecstasy, amphetamines, solvents and cocaine powder (each 2%), LSD, crack cocaine heroin (each 1%). Current use of ecstasy, cocaine powder and crack was low and reported by 0.3% of respondents. Recent and current prevalence rates were highest among females and young adults.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Twelve percent of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers, 6% had done so in the previous year and 4% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the NWRDTF, the prevalence rates for sedatives and tranquillisers were higher than the corresponding national figures. Older adults were twice as likely as young adults to report lifetime, last year and current use. Females reported higher prevalence rates than males across the three time periods examined.

Ten percent of respondents reported having ever used anti-depressants, 5% had done so in the previous year, and 4% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were higher than the national rates among males and older adults. Females were more likely than males to report lifetime use (13% compared to 7%) and last year use (6% compared to 4%) of anti-depressants. Older adults reported higher prevalence rates than young adults in each of the time periods examined.

Other opiates

Eight percent of respondents reported ever using other opiates, 3% had done so in the previous year, and 0.4% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the NWRDTF, lifetime and last year prevalence rates for other opiates were higher than the corresponding national figures. Females were more likely than males to report lifetime use (9% compared to 7%) of other opiates. Older adults reported higher prevalence rates than young adults across the three time periods examined.

Alcohol

Ninety percent of respondents surveyed reported that they had ever taken alcohol, 79% had done so in the previous year, and 65% in the previous month. Recent and current prevalence rates were lower than national figures across age and gender. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report last year use (80% compared to 77%) and current use (70% compared to 61%) of alcohol. Males reported higher last year and last month alcohol use than females.

Tobacco

Fifty six percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 32% had done so in the previous year, and 28% in the previous month. Prevalence rates were lower than the corresponding national rates, in particular recent use (30% compared to 36%) and current use (26% compared to 32%) among females.

NWRDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Lifetime use of the following drugs increased among all adults aged 15-64 since the previous survey: ecstasy (from 0.3% to 2.2%); amphetamines (from 0.3% to 2.1%); and cocaine powder (from 0.0% to 1.6%)

Across age groups and gender: increases (since the previous survey) were found among older adults (35-64 years) in lifetime use of alcohol (from 84.2% to 90.8%). Among females, lifetime use of alcohol also increased (from 81.0% to 90.2%) since the previous survey.

Northern Regional Drugs Task Force (NRDTF)

(See Tables 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3)

Any illegal drugs

Almost one third (32%) of respondents reported having ever taken any illegal drugs; 13% had done so in the previous year, and 8% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the NRDTF, the prevalence rates for any illegal drugs were higher than the corresponding national figures. Young adults were at least twice as likely as older adults to report the use of any illegal drugs across all three time periods. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were higher among males than females.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug; 29% of respondents reported ever taking the drug; 12% had done so in the previous year and 8% in the previous month. Prevalence rates were highest among young adults and males. Rates of cannabis use were higher than the corresponding national rates, across gender and age groups.

Other illegal drugs

After cannabis, the highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for magic mushrooms, ecstasy, and cocaine powder (each 11%); LSD, poppers and amphetamines (each 6%); methadone, solvents and heroin (each 1%); and crack cocaine (0.5%). With the exception of solvents and crack, prevalence rates for all other illegal drugs across age groups and gender, were higher than the corresponding national figures.

After cannabis, cocaine powder and ecstasy (each 3%) and amphetamines, magic mushrooms and poppers (each 1%) were the most commonly reported drugs used in the past year. In the month prior to survey, use of cocaine powder, ecstasy and methadone (each 1%) were the main drugs reported other than cannabis – no other drug had a last month prevalence rate exceeding 1%.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Eleven percent of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers, 4% had done so in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. Females were more likely than males to report lifetime use (14% compared to 9%), last year use (5% compared to 3%) and current use (3% compared to 1%) of sedatives and tranquillisers. Older adults reported higher prevalence rates than young adults across each time period.

Ten percent of respondents reported having ever used anti-depressants, 4% had done so in the previous year, and 3% in the previous month. Prevalence rates were broadly similar to the corresponding national rates.

Other opiates

Four percent of respondents reported ever using other opiates, 1% had done so in the previous year, and 0.2% in the previous month. Males reported higher lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates than females. Older adults were more likely than young adults to report lifetime use (6% compared to 1%), last year use (2% compared to 0.4%) and current use (0.5% compared to 0%) of other opiates.

Alcohol

Ninety one percent of respondents surveyed in the NRDTF reported that they had ever taken alcohol, 88% had done so in the previous year, and 78% in the previous month. Recent and current prevalence rates were higher across age groups and gender than the corresponding national rates. Older adults were more likely than young adults to report lifetime use (92% compared to 89%) and current use (80% compared to 76%) of alcohol. Males reported higher prevalence rates than females across the three time periods examined.

Tobacco

Fifty five percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 37% had done so in the previous year, and 35% in the previous month. Across the three time periods prevalence rates among males and older adults were higher than the corresponding national figures. Conversely, prevalence rates among young adults were lower than the corresponding national figures.

NRDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

There were increases in lifetime use of cocaine powder (from 5.0% to 10.7%) and magic mushrooms (from 5.1% to 11.4%) among all adults aged 15-64 since the previous survey. Conversely, among all adults (15-64) there was a decrease since the previous survey, in lifetime use of solvents (from 3.4% to 0.9%).

Across the age groups, increases were found among those aged 15-34 years in lifetime use of magic mushrooms (from 6.8% to 16.3%) since the previous survey. Increases among older adults (35-64 years) were found in lifetime use of cocaine powder (from 2.6% to 6.4%) and ecstasy (from 1.2% to 4.8%).

Among males, increases were found in lifetime use of magic mushrooms (from 8.2% to 17.0%). Among females there were *decreases* in the lifetime use of tobacco (from 63.1% to 49.8%).

Significant Changes – Last Year Prevalence

Last year use of tobacco among females *decreased* (from 44.9% to 33.2%) since the previous survey.

South Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force (SERDTF)

(See Tables 14.1, 14.2 and 14.3)

Any illegal drugs

One quarter (25%) of respondents in the South Eastern RDTF reported having ever taken any illegal drugs; 8% had done so in the previous year, and 4% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates among males and young adults were higher than the corresponding national rates. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (32% compared to 18%), last year use (11% compared to 4%) and last month use (5% compared to 2%) of any illegal drugs. Young adults aged 15-34 reported higher prevalence rates than older adults aged 35-64 across all time periods.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug; 23% of respondents reported ever taking the drug, 5% had done so in the previous year and 3% in the previous month. Young adults were at least twice as likely as older adults to report lifetime, last year and last month use of cannabis. Males reported higher prevalence rates than females across all three time periods.

Other illegal drugs

After cannabis, the highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for amphetamines (7%), cocaine powder, magic mushrooms and ecstasy (each 6%), poppers (5%), LSD (4%) and solvents (3%). By and large, lifetime prevalence rates were higher than the corresponding national rates. No heroin or methadone use was reported by those surveyed in the SERDTF area.

After cannabis, cocaine powder and ecstasy (each 2%) were the most commonly used drugs in the past year followed by poppers, amphetamines, and magic mushrooms (each 1%). Last month use of cocaine and amphetamines were each 1%, ecstasy was 0.3% and LSD was 0.1%.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Thirteen percent of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers, 6% had done so in the previous year and 4% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the SERDTF, the prevalence rates for sedatives and tranquillisers were higher than the corresponding national figures. Females were more likely than males to report lifetime use (17% compared to 10%) and last year use (6% compared to 5%) of sedatives and tranquillisers. Older adults reported higher prevalence rates than young adults across all time periods.

Ten percent of respondents reported having ever used anti-depressants, 4% had done so in the previous year, and 2% in the previous month. Females lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates for anti-depressants were at least double those of males.

Other opiates

Twelve percent of respondents reported ever using other opiates, 4% had done so in the previous year, and 3% in the previous month. Prevalence rates across age groups and gender were substantially higher than the corresponding national figures. Last year prevalence rates were higher among females than males (5% compared to 4%), but current prevalent rates were higher among males than females (3% compared to 2%).

Alcohol

Ninety one percent of respondents surveyed reported that they had ever taken alcohol, 83% had done so in the previous year, and 73% in the previous month. Males reported higher lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates than females. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report recent use (88% compared to 79%) and current use (76% compared to 70%) of alcohol.

Tobacco

Fifty nine percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 35% had done so in the previous year, and 32% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were lower among older adults and higher among young adults than corresponding national figures. Similar proportions of males and females reported smoking in their lifetime, in the last year and in the last month.

SERDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased among older adults (35-64 years) from 11.4% in 2002/3 to 19.1% in 2006/7. There was also an increase in lifetime use of any illegal drugs among females (from 12.0% to 18.2%).

There were increases among all adults aged 15-64 in lifetime use of cocaine powder (from 2.3% to 6.4%) and solvents (from 1.1% to 3.1%) since the previous survey.

Lifetime use of the following drugs increased since the previous survey among older adults (35-64 years): cannabis (from 9.8% to 16.3%); ecstasy (from 0.2% to 3.2%); LSD (from 1.4% to 4.4%); and cocaine powder (from 0.8% to 3.6%). Among males, increases were found in lifetime use of cocaine powder (from 3.1% to 9.5%). There was an increase in lifetime use of solvents (from 0.3% to 3.5%) among females.

Significant Changes – Last Month Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64, current use of cocaine powder increased (from 0.0% to 0.9%) since the previous survey.

South Western Regional Drugs Task Force (SWRDTF)

(See Tables 15.1, 15.2 and 15.3)

Any illegal drugs

Just over a quarter (26%) of respondents surveyed in the SWRDTF reported having ever taken any illegal drugs; 7% had done so in the previous year and 2% in the previous month. Recent and current prevalence rates among older adults were higher, and lower among young adults, than the corresponding national figures.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug; 24% of respondents reported ever taking the drug, 7% had done so in the previous year, and 2% in the previous month. Young adults aged 15-34 were more likely than older adults aged 35-64 to report lifetime use (28% compared to 20%) and last year use (9% compared to 4%) of cannabis. Males reported higher prevalence rates than females across all three time periods examined.

Other illegal drugs

After cannabis, highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for magic mushrooms (5%) ecstasy and cocaine powder (each 4%); amphetamines, solvents, poppers and LSD (each 2%); and crack (1%).

After cannabis, last year use was reported as follows: cocaine powder (1%), ecstasy (0.5%) and magic mushrooms and methadone (each 0.2%). Last month use of cocaine (0.3%) and methadone (0.2%) was reported by all adults aged 15-64. The prevalence of the former was higher among women (0.6%) than men (0%).

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Nine percent of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers, 4% had done so in the previous year and 3% in the previous month. Lifetime prevalence rates were lower than the corresponding national rates across gender and age groups.

Ten percent of respondents reported having ever used anti-depressants, 5% had done so in the previous year, and 4% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates among females and young adults were higher than the corresponding national rates. Females lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates for anti-depressants were at least double those of males. Similar proportions of young and older adults reported recent (5%) and current (4%) anti-depressant use.

Other opiates

Four percent of respondents reported ever using other opiates, 1% had done so in the previous year, and 1% in the previous month. Females were more likely than males to report lifetime use (6% compared to 2%) and last year use (2% compared to 1%) of other opiates. Similar proportions of young and older adults reported lifetime, last year and last month use of other opiates.

Alcohol

Ninety one percent of respondents surveyed reported that they had ever taken alcohol, 87% had done so in the previous year, and 77% in the previous month. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report lifetime use (92% compared to 89%) and last year use (90% compared to 84%) of alcohol. Males reported higher prevalence rates than females across all three time periods.

Tobacco

Fifty six percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 38% had done so in the previous year, and 34% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were higher for women than for men. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report recent use of tobacco (44% compared to 32%) and current use (36% compared to 31%).

SWRDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64, lifetime use of the following drugs *decreased* since the previous survey: tobacco (from 63.8% to 56.3%); LSD (from 4.9% to 1.7%); and amphetamines (from 5.1% to 2.1%)

Across age groups, there were *decreases*, since the previous survey, among young adults (15 -34 years) in the lifetime use of amphetamines (from 8.2% to 1.8%) and LSD (from 6.9% to 1.8%). There were also *decreases* in lifetime tobacco use among those aged 35-64 years, (from 66.0% to 56.2%) and among males (from 66.7% to 54.2%).

In addition, there was a *decrease* in lifetime use of LSD among males (from 7.6% to 2.7%).

Significant Changes – Last Year Prevalence

Last year use of tobacco *decreased* from 41.6% in 2002/3 to 31.9% in 2006/7 among older adults (35-64 years).

There was a *decrease* in last month use of tobacco among males from 42.1% in 2002/3 to 32.4% in 2006/7.

Southern Regional Drugs Task Force (SRDTF)

(See Tables 16.1, 16.2 and 16.3)

Any illegal drugs

Sixteen percent of respondents surveyed in the SRDTF area reported having ever taken any illegal drugs; 5% had done so in the previous year, and 2% in the previous month. All prevalence rates were lower than the corresponding national figures. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (20% compared to 13%), last year use (7% compared to 2%) and last month use (4% compared to 0.2%) of any illegal drugs. Prevalence rates were higher among young adults than older adults, across the three time periods examined.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug, 15% of respondents reported ever taking the drug, 5% had done so in the previous year, and 2% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the SRDTF, the prevalence rates for cannabis were lower than the corresponding national figures.

Other illegal drugs

After cannabis, the highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for ecstasy, magic mushrooms, cocaine powder, amphetamine and poppers (each 3%), and LSD and solvents (each 1%).

After cannabis, cocaine powder, magic mushrooms and ecstasy (each 1%) were the most commonly reported drugs used in the past year. Low levels of current ecstasy and cocaine powder use (each 0.2%) were reported by those surveyed.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Ten percent of respondents reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers, 4% had done so in the previous year and 3% in the previous month. Females lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were lower than the corresponding national figures. Older adults were at least three times as likely as young adults to report lifetime, recent and current use of sedatives and tranquillisers. Similar proportions of males and females reported last year (4%) and last month (3%) use.

Seven percent of respondents reported having ever used anti-depressants, 4% had done so in the previous year, and 3% in the previous month. Females lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were lower than the corresponding national rates.

Other opiates

Five percent of respondents reported ever using other opiates, 2% had done so in the previous year, and 0.5% in the previous month. Females reported higher lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates than males. Older adults were more likely than young adults to report lifetime use (7% compared to 3%), last year use (3% compared to 0%) and last month use (1% compared to 0%) of other opiates.

Alcohol

Eighty seven percent of respondents reported that they had ever taken alcohol, 81% had done so in the previous year, and 70% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the SRDTF, the prevalence rates for alcohol use were lower than the corresponding national figures. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were higher among males than females. Older adults were more likely than young adults to report current alcohol use (71% compared to 69%).

Tobacco

Fifty five percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 30% had done so in the previous year, and 27% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates were higher among females than males. Young adults were more likely than older adults to report recent use of tobacco (33% compared to 28%) and current use (30% compared to 25%).

SRDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 7.0% in 2002/3 to 11.6% in 2006/7 among older adults aged 35-64.

Among all adults aged 15-64 there was a *decrease* in lifetime use of alcohol (from 91.2% to 87.2%) since the previous survey. Across age groups, increases among older adults (35-64 years) were found in lifetime use of poppers (from 0.0% to 1.1%).

Significant Changes – Last Month Prevalence

Among all adults aged 15-64 there was a *decrease* in last month alcohol use (from 75.3% to 69.7%) since the previous survey. There were also *decreases* in last month alcohol use among females (from 71.6% to 62.6%) and among those aged 15-35 (from 78.3% to 68.7%).

Western Regional Drugs Task Force (WRDTF)

(See Table 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3)

Any illegal drugs

Almost one quarter (23%) of respondents reported having ever taken any illegal drugs; 5% had done so in the previous year, and 2% in the previous month. Among all adults aged 15-64 in the WRDTF, the prevalence rates for use of any illegal drugs were lower than the corresponding national figures. Young adults aged 15-34 were more likely than older adults aged 35-64 to report lifetime use (32% compared to 16%), last year use (8% compared to 2%) and last month use (3% compared to 0.3%) of any illegal drugs. Males reported higher prevalence rates than females across all three time periods examined.

Cannabis

Cannabis was the most commonly used illegal drug, 21% of respondents reported ever taking the drug, 4% had done so in the previous year, and 2% reported recent use. Young adults lifetime, last year and last month use prevalence rates for cannabis were at least double those of older adults.

Other illegal drugs

After cannabis, highest levels of lifetime use were recorded for ecstasy (4%); cocaine powder, magic mushrooms, poppers and amphetamines (each 3%); LSD and solvents (each 2%). Last year use of cocaine (2%), ecstasy and magic mushrooms (each 1%), amphetamines (0.4%) and poppers (0.3%) were reported. Low levels of current cocaine powder (0.4%) amphetamines ecstasy (each 0.3%) and methadone (0.2%) use were reported by those surveyed.

Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants

Ten percent of respondents in the WRDTF reported ever using sedatives and tranquillisers, 5% had done so in the previous year and 4% in the previous month. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (10% compared to 9%), last year use (6% compared to 3%) and current use (5% compared to 2%) of sedatives and tranquillisers. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates among males were higher than the corresponding national rates. Conversely, among females, prevalence rates across the three time periods were lower than the corresponding national figures.

Ten percent of respondents reported having ever used anti-depressants, 6% had done so in the previous year, and 5% in the previous month. Lifetime, last year and last month prevalence rates among males within the WRDTF were higher than the corresponding national rates. In addition, current and recent prevalence rates among young adults and older adults were higher than the corresponding national rates.

Other opiates

Four percent of respondents reported ever using other opiates, 1% had done so in the previous year, and 0.4% in the previous month. Highest prevalence rates for current use were reported by young adults and males. Similar proportions of young and older adults reported lifetime and last year prevalence rates for other opiates

Alcohol

Ninety one percent of respondents surveyed reported that they ever taken alcohol, 83% had done so in the previous year, and 71% in the previous month. Young adults reported higher lifetime, last year and last month use of alcohol than older adults. Males were more likely than females to report lifetime use (92% compared to 89%), recent use (85% compared to 80%) and current use (76% compared to 66%).

Tobacco

Sixty three percent of respondents reported having ever smoked tobacco, 38% had done so in the previous year, and 33% in the previous month. Young adults reported higher last year and current smoking prevalence rates than older adults. Similar proportions of males and females reported current use (33% compared to 32%) of tobacco.

WRDTF – Results Comparison 2002/3-2006/7

All findings reported are statistically significant at least at the 5% level.

Significant Changes – Lifetime Prevalence

Since the previous survey lifetime use of any illegal drugs increased from 12.5% in 2002/3 to 23.3% in 2006/7 among all adults (15-64 years). There were also increases in lifetime use of any illegal drugs among young adults aged 15-34 (from 15.6% to 31.7%) and among females (from 8.6% to 17.7%).

Among all adults aged 15-64, lifetime use of cannabis increased (from 12.0% to 21.0%) since the previous survey.

Across the age groups, increases were found among young adults (15-34 years) in lifetime use of cannabis (from 14.6% to 29.1%). Among females, there were increases in lifetime use of the cannabis (from 8.1% to 15.8%) and cocaine powder (from 0.9% to 3.5%).

Significant Changes – Last Year Prevalence

Last year use of alcohol increased from 77.1% in 2002/3 to 82.6% in 2006/7 among all adults aged 15-64. There was an increase in last year use of cocaine powder among females (from 0.0% to 1.9%). Among young adults (15-34 years) there were increases, since the previous survey, in last year use of alcohol (from 78.2% to 86.4%) and cannabis (from 1.5% to 7.1%).

Prevalence Table 1 – Northern Ireland

All HSSB Areas

Table 1.1 Northern Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(2002)</i>	<i>(893)</i>	<i>(1109)</i>	<i>(714)* (1280)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	28.0	33.9	22.1	40.2
Cannabis	24.7	30.1	19.3	35.0
Heroin	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6
Methadone	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other opiates ²	20.2	17.4	23.0	14.4
Cocaine				
(total including crack)	5.2	7.4	2.9	9.1
Crack	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6
Cocaine Powder	5.1	7.3	2.9	9.1
Amphetamines	5.8	7.3	4.4	9.1
Ecstasy	7.7	9.9	5.5	14.3
LSD	6.6	9.7	3.5	9.4
Magic mushrooms	6.7	11.2	2.4	8.3
Solvents	3.5	5.1	2.0	5.5
Poppers ³	7.8	10.9	4.9	14.0
Anabolic Steroids	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives &				
Tranquillisers	20.2	18.1	22.3	11.7
Anti-depressants	21.0	13.4	28.4	13.6
Alcohol	87.3	89.4	85.2	87.9
Tobacco	55.3	59.7	51.1	54.6

Table 1.2 Northern Ireland – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(2002)</i>	<i>(893)</i>	<i>(1109)</i>	<i>(714)* (1280)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	9.4	13.7	5.2	17.3
Cannabis	7.2	10.3	4.1	12.4
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	8.4	8.0	8.7	7.1
Cocaine				
(total including crack)	1.9	2.8	0.9	3.5
Crack	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.9	2.8	0.9	3.5
Amphetamines	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.7
Ecstasy	1.8	2.4	1.2	3.4
LSD	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5
Solvents	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4
Poppers ³	1.3	2.3	0.3	2.7
Anabolic Steroids	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives &				
Tranquillisers	9.2	8.2	10.2	4.6
Anti-depressants	9.1	5.8	12.4	5.8
Alcohol	79.0	82.1	75.9	82.0
Tobacco	33.5	35.9	31.2	39.1

Table 1.3 Northern Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(2002)</i>	<i>(893)</i>	<i>(1109)</i>	<i>(714)* (1280)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	3.6	4.9	2.4	5.9
Cannabis	2.6	3.7	1.6	3.7
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	4.9	5.1	4.7	3.6
Cocaine				
(total including crack)	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.6
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.6
Amphetamines	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Ecstasy	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.4
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Solvents	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2
Poppers ³	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.7
Anabolic Steroids	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives &				
Tranquillisers	7.1	5.7	8.4	2.3
Anti-depressants	7.5	4.2	10.7	4.2
Alcohol	69.5	74.7	64.5	71.0
Tobacco	29.5	30.9	28.1	32.8

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

* Eight respondents confirmed they were eligible to participate in the survey but did not state their exact age.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 2 – Northern Ireland

Eastern Health and Social Services Board (EHSSB)

Table 2.1 EHSSB – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(462)</i>	<i>(205)</i>	<i>(257)</i>	<i>(162)* (298)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	36.6	46.5	27.2	54.1
Cannabis	32.2	40.3	24.5	46.2
Heroin	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.9
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	28.0	26.1	29.9	19.9
Cocaine				
(total including crack)	7.2	10.7	3.8	12.8
Crack	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Cocaine Powder	7.2	10.7	3.8	12.8
Amphetamines	7.3	9.8	4.9	13.1
Ecstasy	10.5	14.5	6.7	20.0
LSD	9.5	14.8	4.6	14.9
Magic mushrooms	10.4	18.0	3.1	13.3
Solvents	4.7	6.9	2.7	6.4
Poppers ³	9.5	14.0	5.2	18.3
Anabolic Steroids	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives &				
Tranquillisers	24.0	21.6	26.2	16.3
Anti-depressants	24.3	15.4	32.8	16.2
Alcohol	90.1	91.4	88.8	91.4
Tobacco	58.6	63.3	54.1	56.4

Table 2.2 EHSSB – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(462)</i>	<i>(205)</i>	<i>(257)</i>	<i>(162)* (298)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	12.6	18.3	7.3	23.4
Cannabis	8.7	12.0	5.5	14.4
Heroin	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	10.8	11.3	10.4	9.0
Cocaine				
(total including crack)	2.8	4.0	1.7	5.6
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	2.8	4.0	1.7	5.6
Amphetamines	1.7	1.6	1.7	3.1
Ecstasy	3.0	4.0	2.1	6.2
LSD	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.8
Solvents	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.5
Poppers ³	2.3	4.0	0.7	4.9
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives &				
Tranquillisers	10.7	10.3	11.1	6.3
Anti-depressants	9.1	5.0	13.0	3.6
Alcohol	81.5	85.1	78.0	85.3
Tobacco	35.1	38.3	32.0	42.3

Table 2.3 EHSSB – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(462)</i>	<i>(205)</i>	<i>(257)</i>	<i>(162)* (298)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	5.6	7.4	3.8	8.0
Cannabis	3.5	5.1	2.1	3.6
Heroin	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	6.3	6.3	6.2	4.2
Cocaine				
(total including crack)	0.7	1.4	0.0	1.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.7	1.4	0.0	1.0
Amphetamines	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Ecstasy	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.9
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.5
Poppers ³	0.6	1.2	0.0	1.4
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives &				
Tranquillisers	8.1	6.8	9.4	2.7
Anti-depressants	8.0	4.1	11.6	2.7
Alcohol	76.0	81.4	71.0	77.3
Tobacco	30.3	30.8	29.9	35.1

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

* Two respondents confirmed they were eligible to participate in the survey but did not state their exact age.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 3 – Northern Ireland

Northern Health and Social Services Board (NHSSB)

Table 3.1 NHSSB – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(498)</i>	<i>(211)</i>	<i>(287)</i>	<i>(175)*</i>	<i>(322)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	24.8	28.7	21.0	38.0	15.9
Cannabis	22.2	26.2	18.3	33.8	14.4
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	20.3	14.7	25.8	16.5	22.9
Cocaine (total including crack)	3.8	5.6	1.9	6.7	1.8
Crack	0.6	0.0	1.1	1.4	0.0
Cocaine Powder	3.8	5.6	1.9	6.7	1.8
Amphetamines	5.5	6.6	4.4	7.0	4.5
Ecstasy	5.6	6.6	4.6	10.7	2.2
LSD	6.3	8.2	4.4	8.5	4.9
Magic mushrooms	5.6	8.6	2.6	7.1	4.6
Solvents	2.3	3.0	1.7	4.8	0.6
Poppers ³	8.1	10.1	6.1	14.8	3.6
Anabolic Steroids	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.2
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & Tranquillisers	20.4	19.4	21.4	10.9	27.0
Anti-depressants	20.7	12.9	28.4	13.5	25.7
Alcohol	88.0	90.8	85.1	89.2	87.4
Tobacco	55.1	61.1	49.1	60.2	51.7

Table 3.2 NHSSB – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(498)</i>	<i>(211)</i>	<i>(287)</i>	<i>(175)*</i>	<i>(322)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	7.2	10.2	4.3	13.4	3.0
Cannabis	6.5	9.7	3.4	11.8	3.0
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	8.4	6.9	9.8	9.0	8.0
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.6
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.6
Amphetamines	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
Ecstasy	0.9	1.5	0.3	1.2	0.6
LSD	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.6
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.3
Poppers ³	0.6	1.2	0.0	1.5	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.3
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & Tranquillisers	9.3	8.4	10.1	4.0	12.9
Anti-depressants	8.6	6.2	10.9	7.0	9.7
Alcohol	79.5	82.8	76.2	82.3	77.9
Tobacco	34.7	37.0	32.3	41.3	30.3

Table 3.3 NHSSB – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(498)</i>	<i>(211)</i>	<i>(287)</i>	<i>(175)*</i>	<i>(322)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	1.6	2.0	1.1	2.5	0.9
Cannabis	1.6	2.0	1.1	2.5	0.9
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.2	5.0
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3
Ecstasy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.3
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & Tranquillisers	7.4	6.1	8.7	1.7	11.3
Anti-depressants	6.8	4.6	8.9	4.0	8.6
Alcohol	66.6	73.0	60.1	68.5	65.5
Tobacco	30.0	32.7	27.3	31.8	28.8

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

* One respondent confirmed they were eligible to participate in the survey but did not state their exact age.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 4 – Northern Ireland

Southern Health and Social Services Board (SHSSB)

Table 4.1 SHSSB – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(511)</i>	<i>(249)</i>	<i>(262)</i>	<i>(193)*</i>	<i>(316)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	21.6	25.5	17.8	28.6	16.5
Cannabis	18.7	23.1	14.3	25.6	13.6
Heroin	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.3
Methadone	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0
Other opiates ²	10.8	9.9	11.7	8.6	12.5
Cocaine					
(total including crack)	3.5	5.6	1.3	6.3	1.3
Crack	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.7
Cocaine Powder	3.3	5.2	1.3	6.3	1.0
Amphetamines	3.7	4.7	2.8	4.7	3.0
Ecstasy	5.4	7.2	3.7	10.4	1.6
LSD	2.9	4.3	1.5	3.3	2.6
Magic mushrooms	3.2	5.3	1.1	3.2	3.2
Solvents	3.2	5.4	1.0	5.0	1.9
Poppers ³	4.9	8.0	1.8	7.2	3.2
Anabolic Steroids	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.7	0.7
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives &					
Tranquillisers	15.0	12.0	18.1	8.0	20.1
Anti-depressants	17.8	11.7	23.9	13.2	21.4
Alcohol	80.9	84.4	77.5	81.6	80.6
Tobacco	50.3	54.8	45.9	47.7	52.0

Table 4.2 SHSSB – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(511)</i>	<i>(249)</i>	<i>(262)</i>	<i>(193)*</i>	<i>(316)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	7.4	10.8	4.0	13.7	2.7
Cannabis	7.1	10.2	4.0	13.0	2.7
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	5.7	4.9	6.5	4.9	6.4
Cocaine					
(total including crack)	1.1	2.1	0.0	2.0	0.3
Crack	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3
Cocaine Powder	1.1	2.1	0.0	2.0	0.3
Amphetamines	0.7	1.4	0.0	1.1	0.3
Ecstasy	0.8	1.6	0.0	1.8	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives &					
Tranquillisers	6.8	4.5	9.1	3.4	9.5
Anti-depressants	9.3	5.6	13.0	9.7	9.0
Alcohol	73.6	76.1	71.1	75.3	72.4
Tobacco	29.6	33.3	25.9	36.2	24.4

Table 4.3 SHSSB – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(511)</i>	<i>(249)</i>	<i>(262)</i>	<i>(193)*</i>	<i>(316)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	3.8	5.8	1.8	8.5	0.3
Cannabis	3.5	5.2	1.8	7.8	0.3
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	3.2	3.9	2.5	2.4	3.8
Cocaine					
(total including crack)	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.0
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.5	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives &					
Tranquillisers	5.2	2.7	7.6	2.6	7.2
Anti-depressants	7.4	3.9	11.0	8.0	7.1
Alcohol	63.2	67.6	58.8	66.0	61.2
Tobacco	26.4	28.3	24.6	32.5	21.6

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

* Two respondents confirmed they were eligible to participate in the survey but did not state their exact age.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 5 – Northern Ireland

Western Health and Social Services Board (WHSSB)

Table 5.1 WHSSB – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(531)</i>	<i>(228)</i>	<i>(303)</i>	<i>(184)*</i>	<i>(344)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	20.3	23.7	16.8	25.5	16.5
Cannabis	18.1	21.5	14.6	22.6	14.8
Heroin	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
Methadone	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
Other opiates ²	13.2	11.0	15.5	5.8	19.2
Cocaine (total including crack)	4.6	5.0	4.2	7.6	2.3
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	4.6	5.0	4.2	7.6	2.3
Amphetamines	5.2	5.6	4.8	8.0	3.0
Ecstasy	7.0	7.6	6.3	11.4	3.6
LSD	4.4	6.6	2.1	5.6	3.5
Magic mushrooms	4.0	6.5	1.5	4.7	3.5
Solvents	3.0	3.8	2.1	5.0	1.4
Poppers ³	7.1	8.5	5.7	11.3	3.9
Anabolic Steroids	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.8
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & Tranquillisers	17.0	15.1	19.0	6.8	25.1
Anti-depressants	17.5	11.8	23.3	8.3	24.8
Alcohol	87.1	88.8	85.4	85.4	88.6
Tobacco	53.9	55.2	52.6	50.2	57.0

Table 5.2 WHSSB – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(531)</i>	<i>(228)</i>	<i>(303)</i>	<i>(184)*</i>	<i>(344)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	7.6	11.9	3.3	13.3	3.3
Cannabis	4.7	7.5	1.8	8.3	1.9
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	5.7	5.7	5.8	2.8	8.1
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.7	2.3	1.2	3.0	0.8
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.7	2.3	1.2	3.0	0.8
Amphetamines	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.3	0.4
Ecstasy	1.3	1.0	1.6	2.1	0.8
LSD	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	1.2	2.3	0.0	2.4	0.2
Anabolic Steroids	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.2
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & Tranquillisers	8.4	7.6	9.2	3.1	12.6
Anti-depressants	9.9	7.1	12.7	4.5	14.1
Alcohol	78.5	81.1	75.7	81.7	76.1
Tobacco	32.6	31.7	33.4	32.3	32.8

Table 5.3 WHSSB – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	<i>(531)</i>	<i>(228)</i>	<i>(303)</i>	<i>(184)*</i>	<i>(344)*</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	2.1	2.8	1.3	3.3	1.2
Cannabis	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.2	1.2
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	3.3	3.4	3.2	1.6	4.8
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.4
Ecstasy	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0
LSD	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.8	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & Tranquillisers	6.5	6.2	6.8	1.8	10.3
Anti-depressants	7.7	4.4	11.1	3.2	11.3
Alcohol	66.1	70.1	61.9	66.4	65.8
Tobacco	30.2	31.3	29.0	29.3	30.8

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

* Three respondents confirmed they were eligible to participate in the survey but did not state their exact age.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 6 – Northern Ireland Overview All Adults 15-64

All HSSB Areas

Table 6.1 Northern Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB	
	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	(1393)	(462)	(877)	(498)	(655)	(511)	(591)	(531)
Any illegal drugs ¹	22.5	36.6	17.8	24.8	19.1	21.6	18.7	20.3
Cannabis	18.9	32.2	14.4	22.2	16.3	18.7	16.3	18.1
Heroin	0.1	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.2
Methadone	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Cocaine (total including crack)	2.4	7.2	1.0	3.8	0.8	3.5	1.6	4.6
Crack	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.9	0.0
Cocaine Powder	2.3	7.2	1.0	3.8	0.8	3.3	1.5	4.6
Amphetamines	4.9	7.3	4.1	5.5	2.3	3.7	3.8	5.2
Ecstasy	7.1	10.5	5.9	5.6	3.2	5.4	5.2	7.0
LSD	5.1	9.5	4.7	6.3	3.4	2.9	4.1	4.4
Magic mushrooms	4.3	10.4	5.2	5.6	2.9	3.2	4.7	4.0
Solvents	2.4	4.7	2.9	2.3	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.0
Poppers ²	6.3	9.5	6.7	8.1	3.4	4.9	4.3	7.1
Anabolic Steroids	0.8	1.0	0.2	1.0	0.4	1.1	1.6	0.6
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Alcohol	90.9	90.1	86.1	88.0	85.7	80.9	87.4	87.1
Tobacco	59.5	58.6	54.9	55.1	57.3	50.3	63.4	53.9

Table 6.2 Northern Ireland – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB	
	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	(1393)	(462)	(877)	(498)	(655)	(511)	(591)	(531)
Any illegal drugs ¹	7.3	12.6	6.2	7.2	5.1	7.4	5.8	7.6
Cannabis	6.0	8.7	5.4	6.5	4.3	7.1	5.3	4.7
Heroin	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.0	2.8	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.1	0.4	1.7
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.0	2.8	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.7
Amphetamines	1.5	1.7	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.8
Ecstasy	2.3	3.0	1.5	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.4	1.3
LSD	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Magic mushrooms	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0
Poppers ²	0.6	2.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.2
Anabolic Steroids	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.3
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Alcohol	82.4	81.5	77.1	79.5	76.5	73.6	78.4	78.5
Tobacco	40.3	35.1	38.3	34.7	38.6	29.6	44.7	32.6

Table 6.3 Northern Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB	
	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7
<i>Total Sample (unweighted)</i>	(1393)	(462)	(877)	(498)	(655)	(511)	(591)	(531)
Any illegal drugs ¹	3.8	5.6	3.8	1.6	2.1	3.8	3.0	2.1
Cannabis	3.4	3.5	3.5	1.6	1.5	3.5	2.6	1.2
Heroin	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0
Amphetamines	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5
Ecstasy	0.5	1.6	1.1	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
LSD	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Magic mushrooms	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0
Poppers ²	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1
Nubain®	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Alcohol	71.9	76.0	64.5	66.6	64.5	63.2	65.3	66.1
Tobacco	37.4	30.3	35.4	30.0	35.2	26.4	40.7	30.2

■ cell indicates a significant increase from 2002/3 to 2006/7.

■ cell indicates a significant decrease from 2002/3 to 2006/7.

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■ cell indicates a significant decrease from 2002/3 to 2006/7.

¹ For this study “any illegal drug” refers to the use of amphetamine, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 7 – Ireland

All RDTF Areas

Table 7.1 Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(4967)</i>	<i>(2027)</i>	<i>(2940)</i>	<i>(1989)</i>	<i>(2978)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	24.0	29.4	18.5	31.4	17.6
Cannabis	21.9	27.0	16.6	28.6	16.1
Heroin	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Methadone	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2
Other opiates ²	6.2	4.7	7.8	4.6	7.6
Cocaine (total including crack)	5.3	7.0	3.5	8.2	2.7
Crack	0.6	0.8	0.4	1.0	0.2
Cocaine Powder	5.0	6.7	3.3	7.8	2.6
Amphetamines	3.5	4.6	2.5	5.1	2.1
Ecstasy	5.4	7.2	3.6	9.0	2.3
LSD	2.9	4.0	1.7	3.6	2.2
Magic mushrooms	5.8	7.7	3.8	8.4	3.5
Solvents	1.9	2.3	1.4	3.2	0.8
Poppers ³	3.3	4.2	2.4	5.5	1.4
Anabolic Steroids	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8
Sedatives & tranquillisers	10.5	8.0	13.2	5.9	14.6
Anti-depressants	9.2	5.9	12.5	7.1	11.0
Alcohol	90.3	91.8	88.8	90.5	90.1
Tobacco	57.9	59.0	56.8	56.3	59.4

Table 7.2 Ireland–Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(4967)</i>	<i>(2027)</i>	<i>(2940)</i>	<i>(1989)</i>	<i>(2978)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	7.2	9.6	4.7	12.1	2.9
Cannabis	6.3	8.5	3.9	10.4	2.6
Heroin	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Methadone	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Other opiates ²	2.1	1.5	2.8	1.8	2.5
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.7	2.3	1.0	3.1	0.5
Crack	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.6	2.2	0.9	2.9	0.5
Amphetamines	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.1
Ecstasy	1.2	1.8	0.6	2.4	0.2
LSD	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.6	0.9	0.4	1.2	0.2
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.1
Anabolic Steroids	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Sedatives & tranquillisers	4.7	3.7	5.7	2.6	6.5
Anti-depressants	4.3	3.0	5.6	3.2	5.2
Alcohol	84.2	86.4	81.8	86.5	82.1
Tobacco	36.3	36.8	35.8	40.8	32.3

Table 7.3 Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(4967)</i>	<i>(2027)</i>	<i>(2940)</i>	<i>(1989)</i>	<i>(2978)</i>
Any illegal drug ¹	2.9	4.3	1.4	4.8	1.2
Cannabis	2.6	4.0	1.1	4.2	1.2
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Methadone	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Other opiates ²	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.1
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.5	0.8	0.2	1.0	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.5	0.7	0.2	1.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
Ecstasy	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.1
LSD	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Sedatives & tranquillisers	3.0	2.4	3.5	1.3	4.4
Anti-depressants	3.1	2.3	3.9	2.2	3.9
Alcohol	73.4	78.2	68.4	73.8	73.0
Tobacco	32.6	33.6	31.6	36.0	29.7

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 8 – Ireland

East Coast RDTF (ECRDTF)

Table 8.1 ECRDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(360)</i>	<i>(139)</i>	<i>(221)</i>	<i>(150)</i>	<i>(210)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	38.4	45.4	31.9	42.5	34.4
Cannabis	35.9	42.9	29.5	38.1	33.7
Heroin	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6
Methadone	0.8	1.6	0.0	1.6	0.0
Other opiates ²	12.8	6.7	18.4	10.7	14.8
Cocaine (total including crack)	9.1	11.4	6.9	11.0	7.2
Crack	0.9	1.4	0.5	1.2	0.6
Cocaine Powder	9.1	11.4	6.9	11.0	7.2
Amphetamines	3.9	4.8	3.2	4.2	3.7
Ecstasy	7.6	11.0	4.5	10.5	4.8
LSD	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.5	3.7
Magic mushrooms	10.5	10.8	10.3	13.9	7.3
Solvents	2.1	1.6	2.6	3.3	1.0
Poppers ³	5.4	6.9	4.1	7.7	3.2
Anabolic Steroids	1.7	3.2	0.3	2.5	0.9
Sedatives & tranquillisers	12.3	7.1	17.2	8.3	16.2
Anti-depressants	7.8	4.6	10.9	5.3	10.3
Alcohol	92.8	95.2	90.6	91.1	94.5
Tobacco	59.8	61.2	58.5	56.0	63.6

Table 8.2 ECRDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(360)</i>	<i>(139)</i>	<i>(221)</i>	<i>(150)</i>	<i>(210)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	12.4	13.8	11.1	17.9	7.0
Cannabis	11.3	13.8	9.0	16.2	6.5
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	4.6	0.7	8.2	3.8	5.3
Cocaine (total including crack)	3.1	3.7	2.6	4.6	1.6
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	3.1	3.7	2.6	4.6	1.6
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	2.3	4.9	0.0	4.1	0.6
LSD	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0
Magic mushrooms	2.0	2.3	1.8	3.0	1.1
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.9	0.3
Sedatives & tranquillisers	5.3	3.6	6.8	3.1	7.4
Anti-depressants	3.6	2.5	4.6	1.5	5.7
Alcohol	86.1	87.2	85.1	87.8	84.4
Tobacco	38.7	41.3	36.3	44.5	33.1

Table 8.3 ECRDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(360)</i>	<i>(139)</i>	<i>(221)</i>	<i>(150)</i>	<i>(210)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	5.3	7.2	3.7	7.8	2.9
Cannabis	4.2	5.5	3.0	5.5	2.9
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	1.9	0.7	3.0	1.7	2.2
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.8	1.6	0.0	1.6	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.8	1.6	0.0	1.6	0.0
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	2.3	0.7	3.8	0.5	4.0
Anti-depressants	2.9	1.9	3.8	1.5	4.3
Alcohol	77.2	79.8	74.9	78.4	76.1
Tobacco	32.4	35.5	29.5	37.2	27.7

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 9 – Ireland

Midland RDTF (MRDTF)

Table 9.1 MRDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(401)</i>	<i>(160)</i>	<i>(241)</i>	<i>(164)</i>	<i>(237)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	19.6	23.9	14.9	27.7	12.9
Cannabis	17.0	19.7	14.1	23.6	11.6
Heroin	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	5.1	1.7	8.8	1.8	7.8
Cocaine (total including crack)	4.4	5.2	3.5	6.7	2.4
Crack	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0
Cocaine Powder	4.0	4.5	3.5	6.0	2.4
Amphetamines	3.6	4.9	2.1	4.7	2.7
Ecstasy	5.8	8.7	2.7	10.5	2.0
LSD	2.4	3.7	1.1	3.3	1.8
Magic mushrooms	5.5	9.6	1.1	10.5	1.4
Solvents	2.7	3.7	1.6	3.7	1.9
Poppers ³	2.6	2.7	2.5	4.2	1.4
Anabolic Steroids	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.0	1.2
Sedatives & tranquillisers	12.1	9.2	15.3	4.2	18.6
Anti-depressants	10.0	6.6	13.7	6.5	13.0
Alcohol	90.9	91.0	90.8	89.8	91.8
Tobacco	60.2	60.6	59.8	63.3	57.6

Table 9.2 MRDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(401)</i>	<i>(160)</i>	<i>(241)</i>	<i>(164)</i>	<i>(237)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	4.4	6.0	2.7	9.2	0.5
Cannabis	4.1	5.4	2.7	8.5	0.5
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	1.3	1.2	1.5	0.4	2.1
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.7	1.4	1.9	3.7	0.0
Crack	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.3	0.8	1.9	3.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0
Ecstasy	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.9	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3
Sedatives & tranquillisers	5.1	2.0	8.4	1.4	8.1
Anti-depressants	3.3	0.7	6.0	3.5	3.0
Alcohol	83.5	85.9	81.0	86.0	81.4
Tobacco	39.5	37.5	41.5	46.6	33.7

Table 9.3 MRDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(401)</i>	<i>(160)</i>	<i>(241)</i>	<i>(164)</i>	<i>(237)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	1.7	2.1	1.3	3.8	0.0
Cannabis	1.1	1.4	0.7	2.4	0.0
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	1.3
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.9	1.4	0.4	2.0	0.0
Crack	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.6	0.8	0.4	1.3	0.0
Amphetamines	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0
Ecstasy	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	3.1	1.3	5.1	0.0	5.7
Anti-depressants	2.6	0.7	4.7	2.1	3.0
Alcohol	70.3	73.8	66.6	71.2	69.5
Tobacco	36.2	35.9	36.4	42.0	31.4

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 10 – Ireland

Mid-Western RDTF (MWRDTF)

Table 10.1 MWRDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(537)</i>	<i>(214)</i>	<i>(323)</i>	<i>(208)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	18.0	21.6	14.2	26.0
Cannabis	17.0	20.6	13.3	24.6
Heroin	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.7
Methadone	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.7
Other opiates ²	6.1	3.9	8.4	6.0
Cocaine (total including crack)	2.9	4.2	1.6	4.9
Crack	0.6	1.2	0.0	1.4
Cocaine Powder	2.9	4.2	1.6	4.9
Amphetamines	2.6	3.6	1.6	4.6
Ecstasy	2.9	3.8	2.0	6.0
LSD	2.3	3.6	1.0	4.2
Magic mushrooms	3.1	4.4	1.7	4.4
Solvents	2.2	3.0	1.3	4.4
Poppers ³	1.8	2.2	1.5	3.7
Anabolic Steroids	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.7
Sedatives & tranquillisers	8.8	5.2	12.6	5.3
Anti-depressants	10.0	5.6	14.6	9.0
Alcohol	90.0	92.7	87.2	90.9
Tobacco	60.0	63.5	56.2	57.7

Table 10.2 MWRDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(537)</i>	<i>(214)</i>	<i>(323)</i>	<i>(208)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	5.8	7.9	3.5	11.3
Cannabis	4.7	6.6	2.8	9.2
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	3.1	2.3	4.0	5.4
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.0	1.6	0.3	2.2
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.0	1.6	0.3	2.2
Amphetamines	0.7	1.0	0.3	1.5
Ecstasy	0.8	1.6	0.0	1.8
LSD	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.7
Magic mushrooms	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.7
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	1.3	1.4	1.1	2.5
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	4.3	2.9	5.7	2.8
Anti-depressants	4.3	3.5	5.2	2.7
Alcohol	82.7	85.4	79.9	86.0
Tobacco	38.9	39.4	38.4	40.4

Table 10.3 MWRDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(537)</i>	<i>(214)</i>	<i>(323)</i>	<i>(208)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	1.4	2.8	0.0	2.7
Cannabis	1.4	2.8	0.0	2.7
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	1.3	1.4	1.1	2.5
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.7
LSD	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.7
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.5
Anti-depressants	2.5	1.8	3.2	1.5
Alcohol	72.2	76.2	67.9	73.8
Tobacco	35.9	36.5	35.2	37.9

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 11 – Ireland

North Eastern RDTF (NERDTF)

Table 11.1 NERDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(446)</i>	<i>(171)</i>	<i>(275)</i>	<i>(170)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	22.9	29.4	16.1	17.6
Cannabis	19.5	25.2	13.4	14.9
Heroin	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3
Methadone	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3
Other opiates ²	4.2	3.4	5.0	3.6
Cocaine (total including crack)	5.6	8.1	3.0	1.8
Crack	1.4	2.0	0.7	0.0
Cocaine Powder	4.9	7.4	2.3	1.8
Amphetamines	3.3	4.2	2.3	1.1
Ecstasy	5.4	6.8	3.9	1.7
LSD	3.0	4.9	1.0	2.2
Magic mushrooms	5.0	7.8	2.0	2.2
Solvents	2.0	3.2	0.7	0.8
Poppers ³	3.1	3.8	2.3	1.4
Anabolic Steroids	1.9	2.5	1.3	2.2
Sedatives & tranquillisers	9.9	6.5	13.5	15.4
Anti-depressants	8.4	4.6	12.3	12.6
Alcohol	90.6	90.6	90.7	91.9
Tobacco	58.1	62.1	53.8	58.7

Table 11.2 NERDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(446)</i>	<i>(171)</i>	<i>(275)</i>	<i>(170)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	5.7	8.3	3.0	2.6
Cannabis	4.6	6.4	2.6	1.9
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	0.9	0.0	1.9	0.8
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.5	2.8	0.0	0.0
Crack	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.1	2.2	0.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.3
Ecstasy	0.9	1.5	0.3	0.3
LSD	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.3
Poppers ³	0.6	1.2	0.0	0.4
Anabolic Steroids	1.4	2.0	0.7	1.2
Sedatives & tranquillisers	5.0	2.7	7.5	7.6
Anti-depressants	3.7	1.9	5.6	6.2
Alcohol	84.4	85.0	83.7	84.1
Tobacco	37.2	43.2	31.0	31.6

Table 11.3 NERDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(446)</i>	<i>(171)</i>	<i>(275)</i>	<i>(170)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	1.1	1.8	0.3	0.7
Cannabis	0.8	1.3	0.3	0.3
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.5
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.4
Anabolic Steroids	0.9	1.4	0.4	0.3
Sedatives & tranquillisers	2.9	1.7	4.2	4.6
Anti-depressants	2.4	1.0	3.9	3.8
Alcohol	73.2	79.8	66.2	74.0
Tobacco	35.1	41.6	28.3	30.2

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 12 – Ireland

North Western RDTF (NWRDTF)

Table 12.1 NWRDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(386)</i>	<i>(170)</i>	<i>(216)</i>	<i>(145)</i>	<i>(241)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	14.5	17.5	11.4	21.1	9.5
Cannabis	12.8	16.8	8.7	18.9	8.2
Heroin	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.4
Methadone	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4
Other opiates ²	8.0	7.1	9.0	4.8	10.4
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.6	1.6	1.7	3.2	0.4
Crack	1.4	1.6	1.1	2.6	0.4
Cocaine Powder	1.6	1.6	1.7	3.2	0.4
Amphetamines	2.1	3.1	1.1	2.6	1.8
Ecstasy	2.2	2.9	1.5	4.7	0.4
LSD	1.3	2.1	0.5	1.9	0.9
Magic mushrooms	3.0	3.9	2.1	3.5	2.6
Solvents	2.0	2.4	1.7	4.1	0.4
Poppers ³	2.6	3.6	1.5	5.5	0.4
Anabolic Steroids	1.2	0.0	2.3	0.0	2.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	11.8	9.3	14.3	5.3	16.6
Anti-depressants	9.9	7.2	12.7	7.1	12.0
Alcohol	90.1	90.0	90.2	89.2	90.8
Tobacco	56.2	58.2	54.1	54.7	57.2

Table 12.2 NWRDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(386)</i>	<i>(170)</i>	<i>(216)</i>	<i>(145)</i>	<i>(241)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	2.9	3.9	2.0	6.8	0.0
Cannabis	2.9	3.9	2.0	6.8	0.0
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	2.6	2.5	2.6	1.6	3.3
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Crack	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Amphetamines	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Ecstasy	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.7
Sedatives & tranquillisers	6.0	5.8	6.3	3.0	8.3
Anti-depressants	5.3	4.2	6.4	4.1	6.2
Alcohol	78.6	80.0	77.2	80.4	77.3
Tobacco	32.3	34.9	29.6	39.7	26.8

Table 12.3 NWRDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(386)</i>	<i>(170)</i>	<i>(216)</i>	<i>(145)</i>	<i>(241)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Cannabis	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.8
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Crack	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.7
Sedatives & tranquillisers	4.5	3.5	5.5	1.6	6.6
Anti-depressants	3.6	3.7	3.5	1.8	4.9
Alcohol	64.9	68.9	60.7	70.5	60.7
Tobacco	28.0	30.1	25.9	34.9	22.9

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 13 – Ireland

Northern Area RDTF (NRDTF)

Table 13.1 NRDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(483)</i>	<i>(198)</i>	<i>(285)</i>	<i>(198)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	32.2	40.1	24.3	44.3
Cannabis	28.8	37.0	20.7	40.3
Heroin	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3
Methadone	1.0	0.4	1.5	0.8
Other opiates ²	3.9	4.7	3.0	1.4
Cocaine (total including crack)	11.0	15.1	6.9	15.9
Crack	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Cocaine Powder	10.7	15.1	6.4	15.4
Amphetamines	5.5	7.1	4.0	8.1
Ecstasy	11.2	16.6	5.9	18.2
LSD	6.3	9.3	3.3	8.1
Magic mushrooms	11.4	17.0	5.9	16.3
Solvents	0.9	0.5	1.4	1.5
Poppers ³	5.7	7.9	3.5	8.6
Anabolic Steroids	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	11.3	8.6	14.0	6.6
Anti-depressants	9.6	5.3	13.9	7.7
Alcohol	91.0	93.7	88.2	89.4
Tobacco	55.4	61.1	49.8	49.6

Table 13.2 NRDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(483)</i>	<i>(198)</i>	<i>(285)</i>	<i>(198)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	12.8	17.6	8.0	20.8
Cannabis	11.9	17.6	6.3	18.9
Heroin	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5
Methadone	0.7	0.0	1.5	0.8
Other opiates ²	1.2	1.4	0.9	0.4
Cocaine (total including crack)	3.3	5.8	0.8	5.6
Crack	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.5
Cocaine Powder	3.0	5.8	0.3	5.1
Amphetamines	1.1	1.7	0.6	2.1
Ecstasy	2.9	4.7	1.1	5.3
LSD	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.5
Magic mushrooms	1.1	1.9	0.4	2.3
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.1
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	4.1	3.3	4.9	3.1
Anti-depressants	3.8	2.3	5.3	3.3
Alcohol	87.9	91.9	84.0	87.5
Tobacco	37.2	41.2	33.2	36.0

Table 13.3 NRDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(483)</i>	<i>(198)</i>	<i>(285)</i>	<i>(198)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	8.2	13.2	3.3	13.7
Cannabis	7.9	12.5	3.3	13.0
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0
Methadone	0.7	0.0	1.5	0.8
Other opiates ²	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.4	2.8	0.0	2.5
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.4	2.8	0.0	2.5
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	1.0	1.8	0.3	1.4
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.5
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	2.3	1.4	3.3	1.3
Anti-depressants	3.0	2.3	3.7	1.8
Alcohol	78.3	85.3	71.3	76.4
Tobacco	34.8	38.1	31.6	33.3

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 14 – Ireland

South Eastern RDTF (SERDTF)

Table 14.1 SERDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(440)</i>	<i>(169)</i>	<i>(271)</i>	<i>(184)</i>	<i>(256)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	25.4	32.4	18.2	33.7	19.1
Cannabis	23.3	29.7	16.6	32.3	16.3
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	11.9	11.9	11.8	8.5	14.5
Cocaine (total including crack)	6.7	10.1	3.3	10.1	4.1
Crack	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Cocaine Powder	6.4	9.5	3.3	10.1	3.6
Amphetamines	6.9	8.0	5.7	10.8	3.9
Ecstasy	6.5	8.7	4.2	10.7	3.2
LSD	4.1	6.0	2.2	3.8	4.4
Magic mushrooms	6.3	8.9	3.6	7.8	5.1
Solvents	3.1	2.7	3.5	5.7	1.0
Poppers ³	4.5	6.4	2.5	7.6	2.1
Anabolic Steroids	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.7
Sedatives & tranquilisers	13.3	9.8	16.9	6.6	18.5
Anti-depressants	10.3	6.9	13.9	8.8	11.5
Alcohol	90.5	91.3	89.6	91.1	90.1
Tobacco	59.3	60.2	58.5	61.2	57.9

Table 14.2 SERDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(440)</i>	<i>(169)</i>	<i>(271)</i>	<i>(184)</i>	<i>(256)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	7.9	11.1	4.5	14.9	2.4
Cannabis	5.1	7.4	2.6	9.8	1.4
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	4.4	3.9	4.9	3.4	5.1
Cocaine (total including crack)	2.4	3.4	1.4	4.2	1.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	2.4	3.4	1.4	4.2	1.0
Amphetamines	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.3	0.0
Ecstasy	1.9	2.9	0.9	4.4	0.0
LSD	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.8	1.6	0.0	1.8	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & tranquilisers	5.6	5.0	6.3	3.3	7.4
Anti-depressants	3.9	2.3	5.5	2.5	4.9
Alcohol	83.2	84.6	81.8	88.1	79.4
Tobacco	35.0	34.9	35.1	44.7	27.5

Table 14.3 SERDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(440)</i>	<i>(169)</i>	<i>(271)</i>	<i>(184)</i>	<i>(256)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	3.6	5.0	2.2	6.8	1.0
Cannabis	2.8	4.3	1.2	5.0	1.0
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	2.8	3.3	2.4	2.0	3.4
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.9	1.3	0.5	2.0	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.9	1.3	0.5	2.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.3	0.0
Ecstasy	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.8	0.0
LSD	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & tranquilisers	4.1	4.0	4.2	1.8	5.9
Anti-depressants	2.4	1.4	3.6	0.8	3.7
Alcohol	72.6	76.9	68.1	75.8	70.1
Tobacco	31.6	32.3	31.0	39.2	25.8

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 15 – Ireland

South Western RDTF (SWRDTF)

Table 15.1 SWRDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(689)</i>	<i>(290)</i>	<i>(399)</i>	<i>(374)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	25.6	31.3	19.7	30.9
Cannabis	24.0	29.6	18.2	28.1
Heroin	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2
Methadone	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Other opiates ²	4.1	1.7	6.5	3.8
Cocaine (total including crack)	3.8	4.7	3.0	6.2
Crack	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.8
Cocaine Powder	3.6	4.2	3.0	5.7
Amphetamines	2.1	2.9	1.2	1.8
Ecstasy	4.1	4.5	3.6	6.0
LSD	1.7	2.7	0.8	1.8
Magic mushrooms	5.4	6.7	4.1	7.3
Solvents	1.9	2.6	1.2	3.1
Poppers ³	1.9	1.8	1.9	3.1
Anabolic Steroids	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	8.8	6.5	11.2	6.8
Anti-depressants	9.8	5.3	14.5	8.9
Alcohol	90.9	92.9	88.9	92.5
Tobacco	56.3	54.2	58.5	56.4

Table 15.2 SWRDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(689)</i>	<i>(290)</i>	<i>(399)</i>	<i>(374)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	7.4	10.0	4.6	10.1
Cannabis	6.7	8.9	4.4	8.8
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	1.4	1.1	1.8	1.5
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.8	1.0	0.6	1.3
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.8	1.0	0.6	1.3
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.5	0.0	1.0	1.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.4
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	3.9	2.3	5.6	2.5
Anti-depressants	5.2	2.3	8.1	5.3
Alcohol	87.1	89.3	84.9	90.3
Tobacco	37.9	37.1	38.8	43.6

Table 15.3 SWRDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(689)</i>	<i>(290)</i>	<i>(399)</i>	<i>(374)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	2.0	2.5	1.4	2.3
Cannabis	1.8	2.5	1.0	1.9
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	0.9	0.6	1.3	1.1
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.6
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.6
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	2.5	1.6	3.5	1.9
Anti-depressants	3.6	2.0	5.1	3.5
Alcohol	77.4	81.1	73.5	76.0
Tobacco	33.6	32.4	34.8	36.3

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 16 – Ireland

Southern RDTF (SRDTF)

Table 16.1 SRDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(682)</i>	<i>(302)</i>	<i>(380)</i>	<i>(443)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	16.3	19.8	12.7	22.1
Cannabis	15.0	17.9	12.0	20.1
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
Methadone	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
Other opiates ²	5.2	4.2	6.2	2.5
Cocaine (total including crack)	3.1	4.9	1.2	5.3
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	3.1	4.9	1.2	5.3
Amphetamines	2.6	4.2	1.0	4.6
Ecstasy	3.5	4.9	2.0	5.9
LSD	1.2	1.6	0.8	1.7
Magic mushrooms	3.4	4.9	2.0	5.6
Solvents	1.0	1.6	0.5	2.0
Poppers ³	2.8	3.9	1.7	4.9
Anabolic Steroids	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5
Sedatives & tranquillisers	9.7	8.5	10.9	3.6
Anti-depressants	6.8	6.0	7.7	4.9
Alcohol	87.2	88.6	85.7	89.1
Tobacco	54.7	51.7	57.7	51.9

Table 16.2 SRDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(682)</i>	<i>(302)</i>	<i>(380)</i>	<i>(443)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	4.9	7.4	2.4	9.5
Cannabis	4.6	6.9	2.1	8.6
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
Methadone	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
Other opiates ²	1.7	1.1	2.3	0.0
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.1	1.8	0.5	2.5
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.1	1.8	0.5	2.5
Amphetamines	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.5
Ecstasy	0.6	1.2	0.0	1.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.7	1.4	0.0	1.5
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.5
Anabolic Steroids	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.5
Sedatives & tranquillisers	4.2	3.9	4.4	1.8
Anti-depressants	3.7	4.1	3.2	2.4
Alcohol	81.3	84.8	77.7	82.3
Tobacco	30.1	26.6	33.7	32.8

Table 16.3 SRDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults	Older adults
	15-64	Males		
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(682)</i>	<i>(302)</i>	<i>(380)</i>	<i>(443)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	2.0	3.7	0.2	3.5
Cannabis	2.0	3.7	0.2	3.5
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ²	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.0
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.5
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.5
Amphetamines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecstasy	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.5
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	2.8	2.6	3.0	1.0
Anti-depressants	2.8	3.1	2.5	2.0
Alcohol	69.7	76.6	62.6	68.7
Tobacco	27.2	25.0	29.5	29.6

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 17 – Ireland

Western RDTF (WRDTF)

Table 17.1 WRDTF – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(543)</i>	<i>(214)</i>	<i>(329)</i>	<i>(216)</i>	<i>(327)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	23.3	28.6	17.7	31.7	16.4
Cannabis	21.0	26.1	15.8	29.1	14.5
Heroin	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
Methadone	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
Other opiates ²	3.9	3.3	4.4	3.6	4.1
Cocaine (total including crack)	3.5	3.5	3.5	6.7	0.9
Crack	0.5	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.0
Cocaine Powder	3.2	2.8	3.5	6.0	0.9
Amphetamines	2.9	3.3	2.5	5.1	1.1
Ecstasy	4.4	4.6	4.1	8.1	1.3
LSD	2.3	2.8	1.9	3.7	1.2
Magic mushrooms	3.2	3.0	3.5	5.2	1.6
Solvents	1.8	3.0	0.6	2.2	1.6
Poppers ³	3.0	3.5	2.5	6.0	0.6
Anabolic Steroids	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.3	0.5
Sedatives & tranquillisers	9.9	10.4	9.3	7.6	11.8
Anti-depressants	10.0	8.2	11.9	8.5	11.2
Alcohol	90.5	92.0	89.0	91.6	89.6
Tobacco	63.0	65.7	60.3	60.4	65.2

Table 17.2 WRDTF – Last Year Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(543)</i>	<i>(214)</i>	<i>(329)</i>	<i>(216)</i>	<i>(327)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	4.7	5.6	3.8	8.1	2.0
Cannabis	4.3	5.0	3.5	7.1	2.0
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
Other opiates ²	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1
Cocaine (total including crack)	1.5	1.1	1.9	3.0	0.3
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	1.5	1.1	1.9	3.0	0.3
Amphetamines	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3
Ecstasy	0.9	1.1	0.6	1.9	0.0
LSD	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.3	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.2
Sedatives & tranquillisers	4.9	6.3	3.3	2.8	6.5
Anti-depressants	5.9	6.1	5.6	5.0	6.6
Alcohol	82.6	85.0	80.2	86.4	79.6
Tobacco	38.0	37.0	39.1	40.2	36.3

Table 17.3 WRDTF – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	All adults		Young adults 15-34	Older adults 35-64	
	15-64	Males			Females
<i>Total Sample (Unweighted)</i>	<i>(543)</i>	<i>(214)</i>	<i>(329)</i>	<i>(216)</i>	<i>(327)</i>
Any illegal drugs ¹	1.6	2.5	0.6	3.2	0.3
Cannabis	1.6	2.5	0.6	3.2	0.3
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
Other opiates ²	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.2
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.0
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.4	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.0
Amphetamines	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.0
Ecstasy	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ³	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
Sedatives & tranquillisers	4.0	5.5	2.4	2.5	5.2
Anti-depressants	5.0	4.9	5.1	4.6	5.2
Alcohol	71.2	75.8	66.4	72.1	70.5
Tobacco	32.9	33.4	32.4	33.9	32.1

¹ For this study, 'any illegal drugs' refers to amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² A change in the measurement of 'other opiates' occurred in the 2006/7 survey. Please see Methodology section for further details.

³ Poppers, i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 18.1 – Ireland Overview All Adults 15-64

All RDTF Areas

Table 18.1 Ireland – Lifetime Prevalence (%)

Drug	ECRDTF		MRDTF		MWRDTF		NERDTF		NWRDTF		NRDTF		SERDTF		SWRDTF		SRDTF		WRDTF	
	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7
Total Sample (Unweighted)	(455)	(360)	(315)	(401)	(424)	(537)	(433)	(446)	(332)	(386)	(521)	(483)	(604)	(440)	(604)	(689)	(746)	(682)	(484)	(543)
Any illegal drugs ¹	25.9	38.4	11.0	19.6	12.0	18.0	18.9	22.9	10.6	14.5	29.5	32.2	18.5	25.4	24.0	25.6	12.1	16.3	12.5	23.3
Cannabis	24.5	35.9	10.7	17.0	10.9	17.0	17.8	19.5	9.3	12.8	26.9	28.8	16.8	23.3	23.2	24.0	11.6	15.0	12.0	21.0
Heroin	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.9	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Methadone	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Cocaine (total including crack)	6.3	9.1	1.3	4.4	1.1	2.9	1.2	5.6	0.0	1.6	5.2	11.0	2.5	6.7	5.0	3.8	1.9	3.1	1.6	3.5
Crack	1.0	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.3	1.4	0.0	1.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5
Cocaine Powder	6.3	9.1	1.3	4.0	1.1	2.9	0.9	4.9	0.0	1.6	5.0	10.7	2.3	6.4	4.7	3.6	1.9	3.1	1.5	3.2
Amphetamines	4.8	3.9	0.6	3.6	1.3	2.6	2.6	3.3	0.3	2.1	3.8	5.5	4.4	6.9	5.1	2.1	1.8	2.6	1.4	2.9
Ecstasy	5.4	7.6	2.0	5.8	1.7	2.9	2.6	5.4	0.3	2.2	6.5	11.2	4.3	6.5	5.9	4.1	2.8	3.5	1.8	4.4
LSD	4.9	4.1	1.6	2.4	1.4	2.3	2.0	3.0	0.3	1.3	4.2	6.3	4.6	4.1	4.9	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.3
Magic mushrooms	5.9	10.5	1.8	5.5	1.7	3.1	3.2	5.0	1.5	3.0	5.1	11.4	5.7	6.3	5.6	5.4	2.9	3.4	2.0	3.2
Solvents	2.5	2.1	1.2	2.7	0.9	2.2	3.3	2.0	0.7	2.0	3.4	0.9	1.1	3.1	1.6	1.9	1.1	1.0	0.4	1.8
Poppers ²	3.6	5.4	1.6	2.6	0.8	1.8	5.0	3.1	0.9	2.6	4.0	5.7	3.3	4.5	3.0	1.9	1.3	2.8	1.3	3.0
Alcohol	94.1	92.8	87.1	90.9	87.5	90.0	87.6	90.6	86.0	90.1	93.5	91.0	89.5	90.5	91.2	90.9	91.2	87.2	88.1	90.5
Tobacco	62.1	59.8	60.4	60.2	58.6	60.0	57.6	58.1	58.5	56.2	62.5	55.4	60.7	59.3	63.8	56.3	54.8	54.7	61.1	63.0

■ cell indicates a significant increase from 2002/3 to 2006/7.

■ cell indicates a significant decrease from 2002/3 to 2006/7.

¹ For this study "any illegal drug" refers to the use of amphetamine, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 18.2 – Ireland Overview All Adults 15-64

All RDTF Areas

Table 18.2 Ireland – Last Year Prevalence (%)																					
Drug	ECRDTF		MRDTF		MWRDTF		NERDTF		NWRDTF		NRDTF		SERDTF		SWRDTF		SRDTF		WRDTF		
	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	
Total Sample (Unweighted)	(455)	(360)	(315)	(401)	(424)	(537)	(433)	(446)	(332)	(386)	(521)	(483)	(604)	(440)	(604)	(689)	(746)	(682)	(484)	(543)	
Any illegal drugs ¹	6.3	12.4	2.8	4.4	3.2	5.8	6.4	5.7	2.6	2.9	8.4	12.8	6.9	7.9	7.5	7.4	4.7	4.9	2.9	4.7	
Cannabis	6.1	11.3	2.8	4.1	3.0	4.7	5.2	4.6	2.2	2.9	7.7	11.9	5.8	5.1	7.3	6.7	4.4	4.6	2.0	4.3	
Heroin	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	
Methadone	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	
Cocaine (total including crack)	2.3	2.1	0.3	1.7	0.6	1.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.3	1.7	3.3	1.7	2.4	1.5	0.	0.7	1.1	0.7	1.5	
Crack	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cocaine Powder	2.3	3.1	0.3	1.3	0.6	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.3	1.7	3.0	1.7	2.4	1.5	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.7	1.5	
Amphetamines	0.8	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	
Ecstasy	2.5	2.3	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.3	1.6	2.9	1.3	1.9	1.3	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.9	
LSD	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	
Magic mushrooms	0.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.6	
Solvents	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Poppers ²	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.2	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	
Alcohol	89.2	86.1	78.6	83.5	81.2	82.7	82.3	84.4	77.0	78.6	88.8	87.9	83.7	83.2	86.0	87.1	85.1	81.3	77.1	82.6	
Tobacco	39.2	38.7	36.5	39.5	35.7	38.9	34.6	37.2	32.9	32.3	42.9	37.2	38.2	35.0	43.8	37.9	34.8	30.1	36.2	38.0	

■ cell indicates a significant increase from 2002/3 to 2006/7.

¹ For this study "any illegal drug" refers to the use of amphetamine, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Prevalence Table 18.3 – Ireland Overview All Adults 15-64

All RDTF Areas

Table 18.3 Ireland – Last Month Prevalence (%)

Drug	ECRDTF		MRDTF		MWRDTF		NERDTF		NWRDTF		NRDTF		SERDTF		SWRDTF		SRDTF		WRDTF	
	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7	02/3	06/7
Total Sample (Unweighted)	(455)	(360)	(315)	(401)	(424)	(537)	(433)	(446)	(332)	(386)	(521)	(483)	(604)	(440)	(604)	(689)	(746)	(682)	(484)	(543)
Any illegal drugs ¹	4.1	5.3	1.0	1.7	1.6	1.4	2.4	1.1	0.2	0.3	5.3	8.2	3.1	3.6	4.3	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.6
Cannabis	3.8	4.2	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.9	0.8	0.2	0.3	4.5	7.9	2.1	2.8	3.9	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.3	1.6
Heroin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Methadone	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Cocaine (total including crack)	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.4	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4
Crack	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine Powder	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.4	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4
Amphetamines	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Ecstasy	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
LSD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Magic mushrooms	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solvents	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poppers ²	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Alcohol	81.2	77.2	69.0	70.3	71.8	72.2	71.2	73.2	67.6	64.9	80.7	78.3	74.1	72.6	73.5	77.4	75.3	69.7	67.0	71.2
Tobacco	32.0	32.4	31.4	36.2	29.8	35.9	31.1	35.1	28.6	28.0	38.3	34.8	32.5	31.6	39.4	33.6	31.5	27.2	31.7	32.9

■ cell indicates a significant increase from 2002/3 to 2006/7.

■ cell indicates a significant decrease from 2002/3 to 2006/7.

¹ For this study "any illegal drug" refers to the use of amphetamine, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers and solvents.

² Poppers i.e. amyl or butyl nitrite.

Note: Unweighted sample sizes for each group are given at the head of each column. All prevalence rates are based on weighted data. All figures are rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Notes

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Research Advisory Group and Editorial Board:

Ms Moira McKee (from November 2007) and Mr Kieron Moore (PHIRB); Dr Des Corrigan, Ms Mairéad Lyons, Dr Jean Long (from September 2006), Dr Gemma Cox, Mr Eddie Arthurs (NACD).

External Statistical Expert: Dr Peter Mühlau, Trinity College

Contact NACD:

Mairéad Lyons
National Advisory Committee on Drugs
3rd Floor
Shelbourne House
Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

Tel: 00 353 1 667 0760
Email: info@nacd.ie
Web: www.nacd.ie

Contact PHIRB:

Kieron Moore
Public Health Information and Research Branch
Annex 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Tel: 00 44 28 90 522501
Email: phirb@dhsspsni.gov.uk
Web: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk



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