

‘Time to Remember, Time to Act’

Trends in stimulant use and health harms in Ireland

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Irish data sources

- National Drug and Alcohol survey 2002/03-2019/20 (NDAS)
- European Web Survey on Drugs (EWSD) - Irish results
- National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)
- Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) scheme
- National Drug Related Deaths Index (NDRDI)

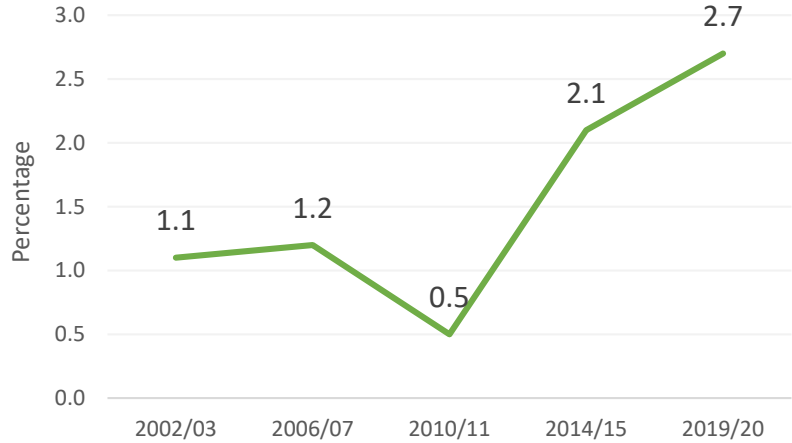
Prevalence and patterns of stimulant use in Ireland

Prevalence of stimulant use in Ireland

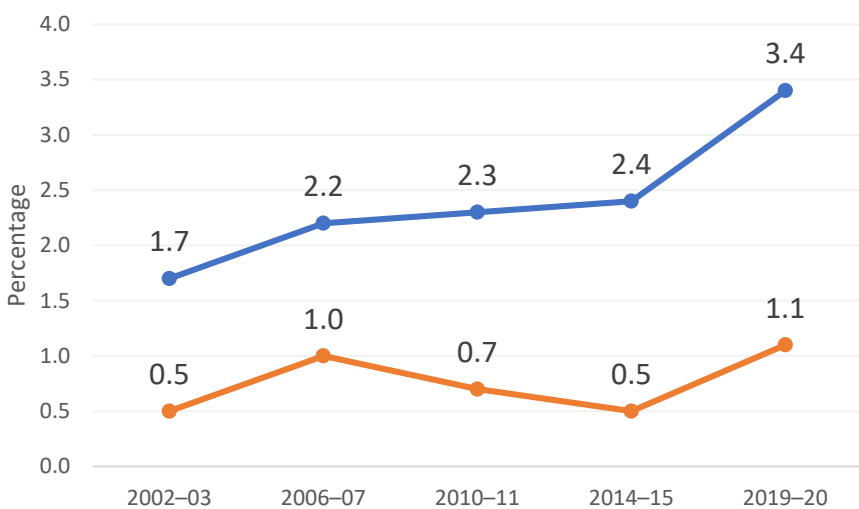
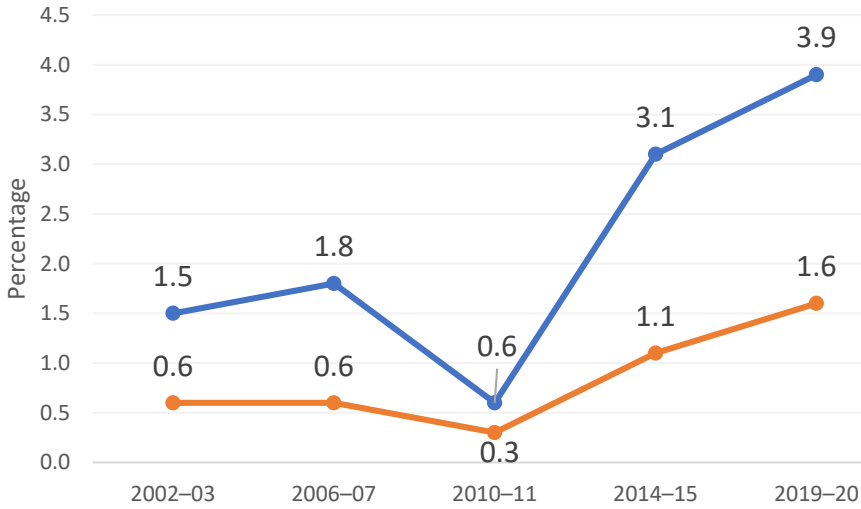
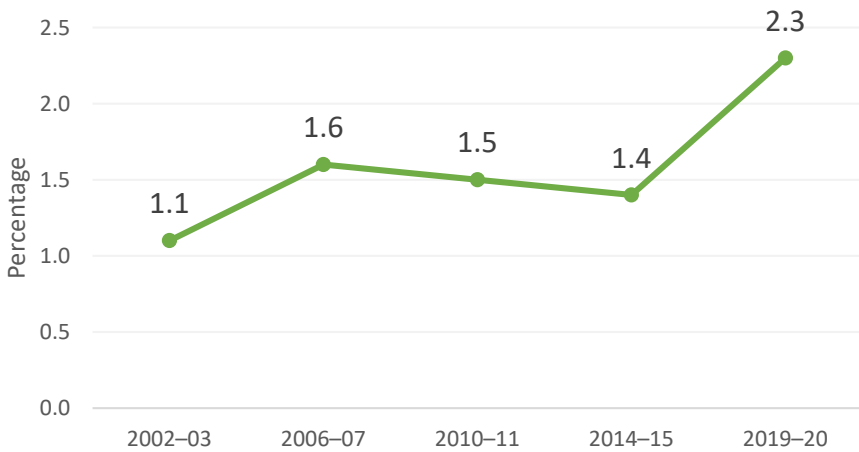
- Measured using NDAS data
- Survey conducted five times since 2002/03
- 2019/20 survey included 5,762 respondents
- Provides prevalence data that is representative of the general population in Ireland

Trends in last year stimulant use (NDAS)

Ecstasy/MDMA



Cocaine



● Males ● Females

● Males ● Females

Patterns of stimulant use in Ireland (EWSD)

- EWSD conducted in Ireland for first time in 2021 among people who used drugs in the last year
- Cocaine 2nd most commonly used drug – 49% reported last year use (34% among entire European sample) (Males 48%; Females 49%)
- Ecstasy/MDMA used by 31% in the last year (Males 31%; Females 31%)

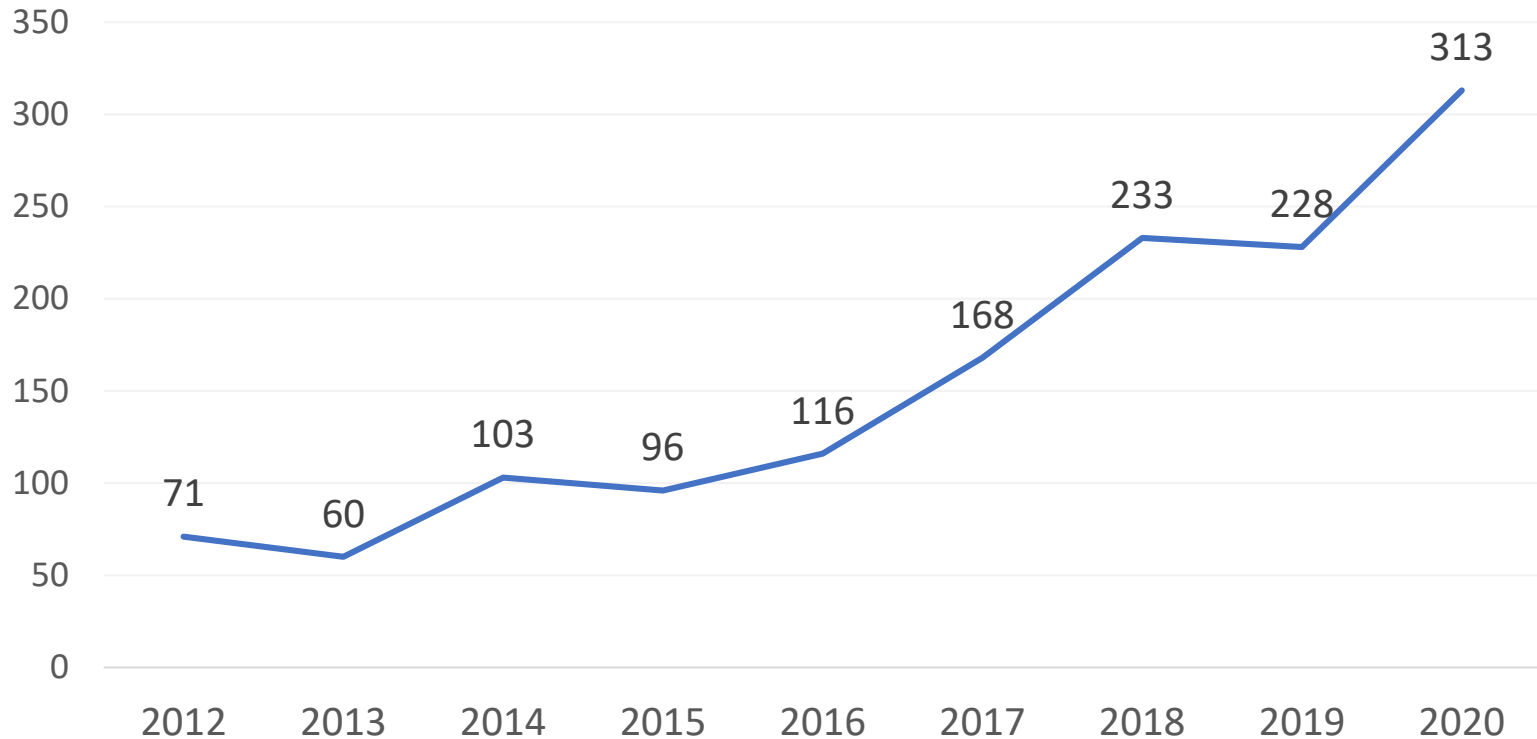
Cocaine powder (n=1860)

Frequency of use in the last year	%	Mean grams used
Infrequent use (<11 days)	67	0.7
Occasional use (11-50 days)	25	1.1
Frequent use (51+ days)	8	1.4

- No gender differences in frequency of use

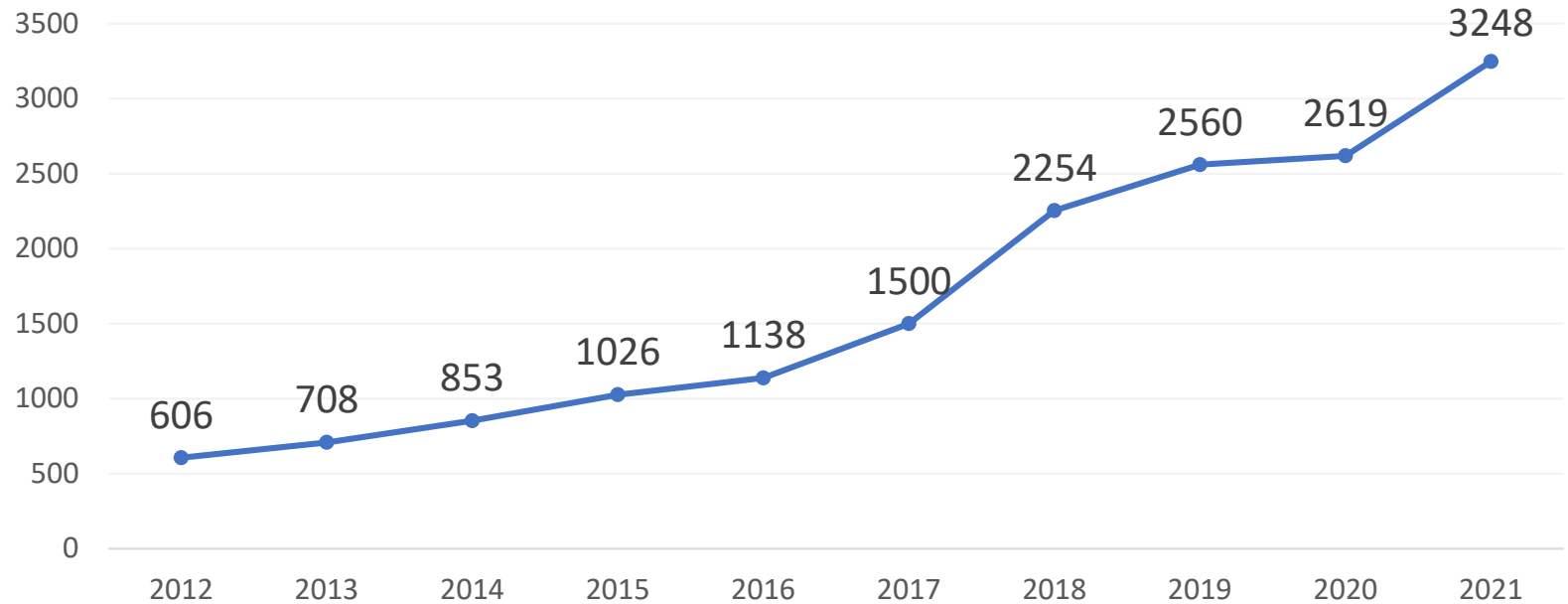
Health harms associated with stimulant use in Ireland

Non-fatal overdoses involving cocaine (HIPE)



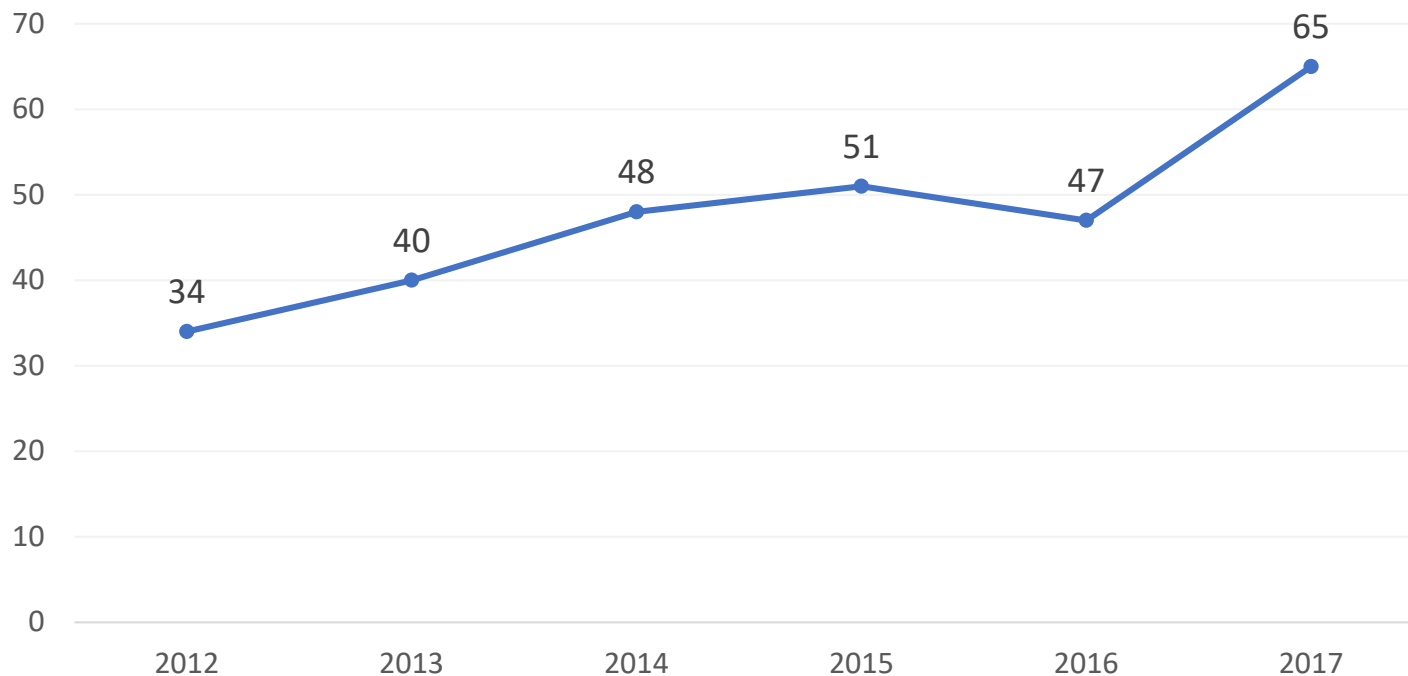
341% increase in overdoses between 2012 and 2020

Treatment for cocaine use 2012-2021 (NDTRS)



- 436% increase in number of cases
- In 2021 Males 75%, Females 25%
- Males ↑ 348%; Females ↑ 583%

Poisoning deaths involving stimulants (NDRDI)



Conclusion

- Prevalence of stimulant use increasing in Ireland
- Harms due to stimulant use, especially cocaine, also increasing
- Need timely data to continue to monitor trends
- Interventions to reduce harms arising from stimulant use required

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