

# Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery

A health-led response to drug  
and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025

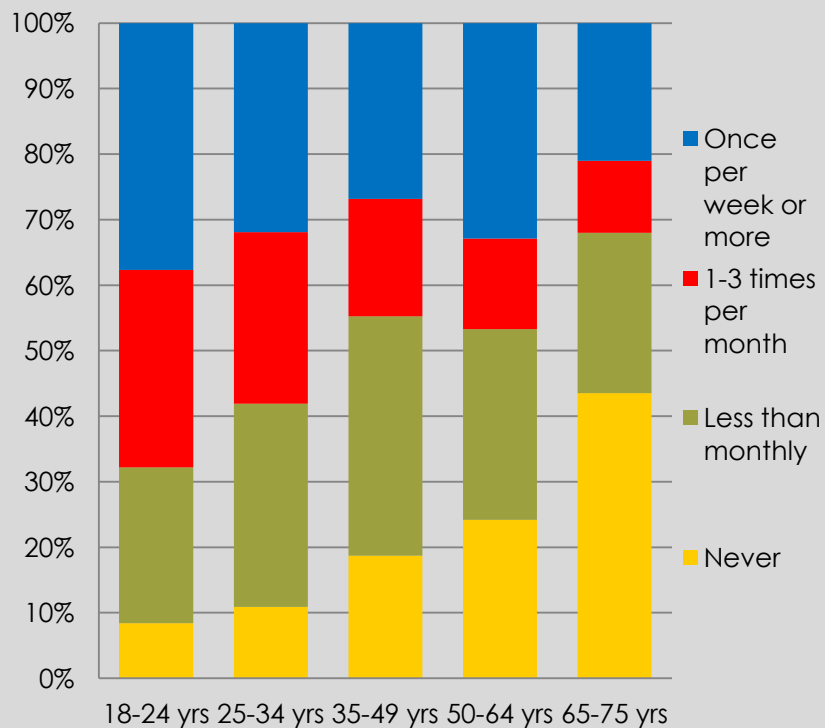


# OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

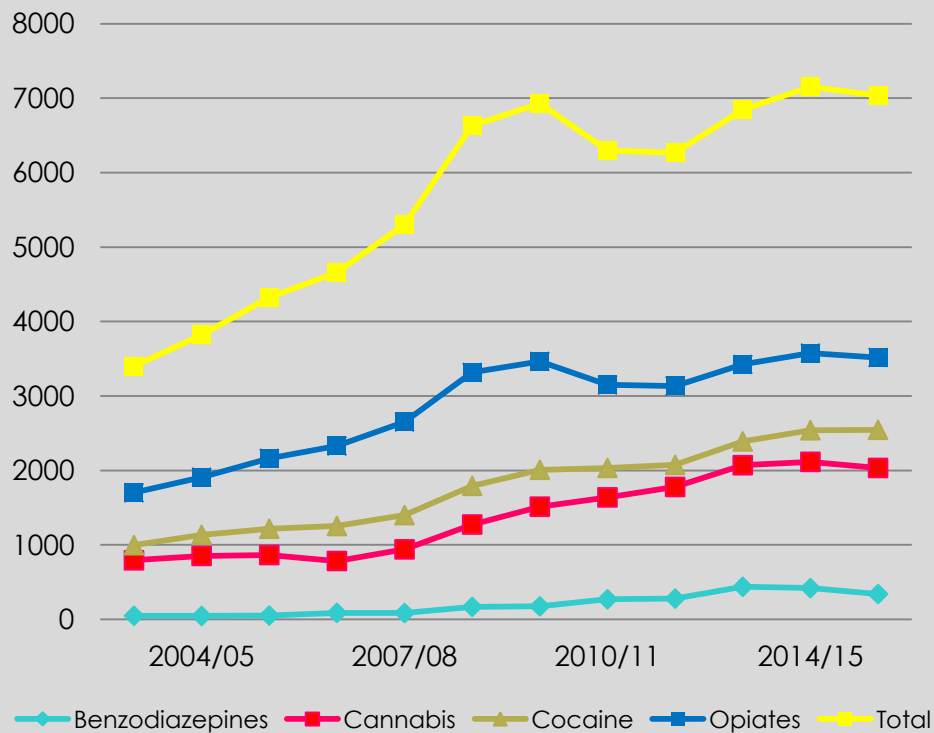
- Trends
- Methodology
- Key messages from public consultation
- Vision
- Values, Goals, Objectives
- Performance Measurement System
- Health-led actions
- Structures supporting delivery

# DRUG AND ALCOHOL TRENDS

## Frequency of Binge Drinking in the Last Year (males)



## New Treatment Cases by Drug Type 2010-2015



# METHODOLOGY

Minister of State for the National Drugs Strategy

Steering Committee

## Focus Groups on:

1. Supply Reduction
2. Continuum of Care
3. Education and Prevention
4. Evidence and Best Practice

Rapid Expert Review  
of 2009-2016 Strategy

Trends Analysis

Public Consultation

The effectiveness of interventions related to the use of illicit drugs: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. A 'review of reviews'

# A HEALTH-LED APPROACH TO DRUGS USE

- Programme for a Partnership Government commits to supporting a health-led rather than criminal justice approach to drugs use including legislating for injection rooms
- Recognise the need for a more humane and compassionate approach to drug use with a focus on harm reduction which recognises that addiction and substance misuse is a public health issue

# KEY FINDINGS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## Key findings of public consultation

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graph TD; A[Key findings of public consultation] --- B[Curb access to harmful drugs]; A --- C[Treat drug and alcohol use as a health issue]; A --- D[Start drugs education earlier]; A --- E[Involve families and communities]; A --- F[Reduce harm]; A --- G[Improve access to treatment];
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Curb access to harmful drugs

Treat drug and alcohol use as a health issue

Start drugs education earlier

Improve access to treatment

Reduce harm

Involve families and communities

# VISION

*A healthier and safer Ireland,  
where public health and safety is protected,  
and the harms caused to individuals, families  
and communities by substance misuse are  
reduced and every person affected by  
substance misuse is empowered to improve  
their health, wellbeing and  
quality of life*

# STRUCTURE OF STRATEGY

## Vision

- A healthier and safer Ireland

## Values

- Compassion, Respect, Equity,
- Inclusion, Partnership, Evidence-Informed

## Goals

- 5 Goals and related objectives
- 50 point Strategic Action Plan



# GOAL ONE: PROMOTE AND PROTECT HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## Objective 1.1

- Promote healthier lifestyles within society

## Objective 1.2

- Prevent use of drugs and alcohol at a young age

## Objective 1.3

- Develop harm reduction interventions targeting at risk groups

# GOAL TWO: MINIMISE THE HARMS CAUSED BY THE USE AND MISUSE OF SUBSTANCES AND PROMOTE REHABILITATION & RECOVERY

## Objective 2.1

- Attain better health & social outcomes for people who misuse drugs and meet their recovery & rehabilitation needs

## Objective 2.2

- Reduce harm among high risk drug users

# GOAL THREE: ADDRESS THE HARMS OF DRUG MARKETS AND REDUCE ACCESS TO DRUGS FOR HARMFUL USE

## Objective 3.1

- Provide a comprehensive and responsive misuse of drugs control framework which ensures the proper control, management and regulation of the supply of drugs

## Objective 3.2

- Implement effective law enforcement and supply reduction strategies and actions to prevent, disrupt or otherwise reduce the availability of illicit drugs

## Objective 3.3

- Develop effective monitoring and responses to evolving trends, public health threats and the emergence of new drug markets

# GOAL FOUR: SUPPORT PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

## Objective 4.1

- Strengthen the resilience of communities and build their capacity to respond

## Objective 4.2

- Enable participation of both users of services and their families

# GOAL FIVE: DEVELOP SOUND AND COMPREHENSIVE EVIDENCE-INFORMED POLICIES AND ACTIONS

## Objective 5.1

- Support high quality monitoring, evaluation and research to ensure evidence-informed policies and practice

# PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

Developed by Trutz Haase, social and economic consultants

Measures the collective response to the drug problem

**Predicted problem drug use (based on social indicators)**

*Resource allocation model enables funding to be based on underlying need in DATF areas and targets those communities which face a higher risk of drug problems*

*Net effects of the strategy at the population level, in particular, the effects on the health, wellbeing and quality of life of people living in local and regional DATF areas*



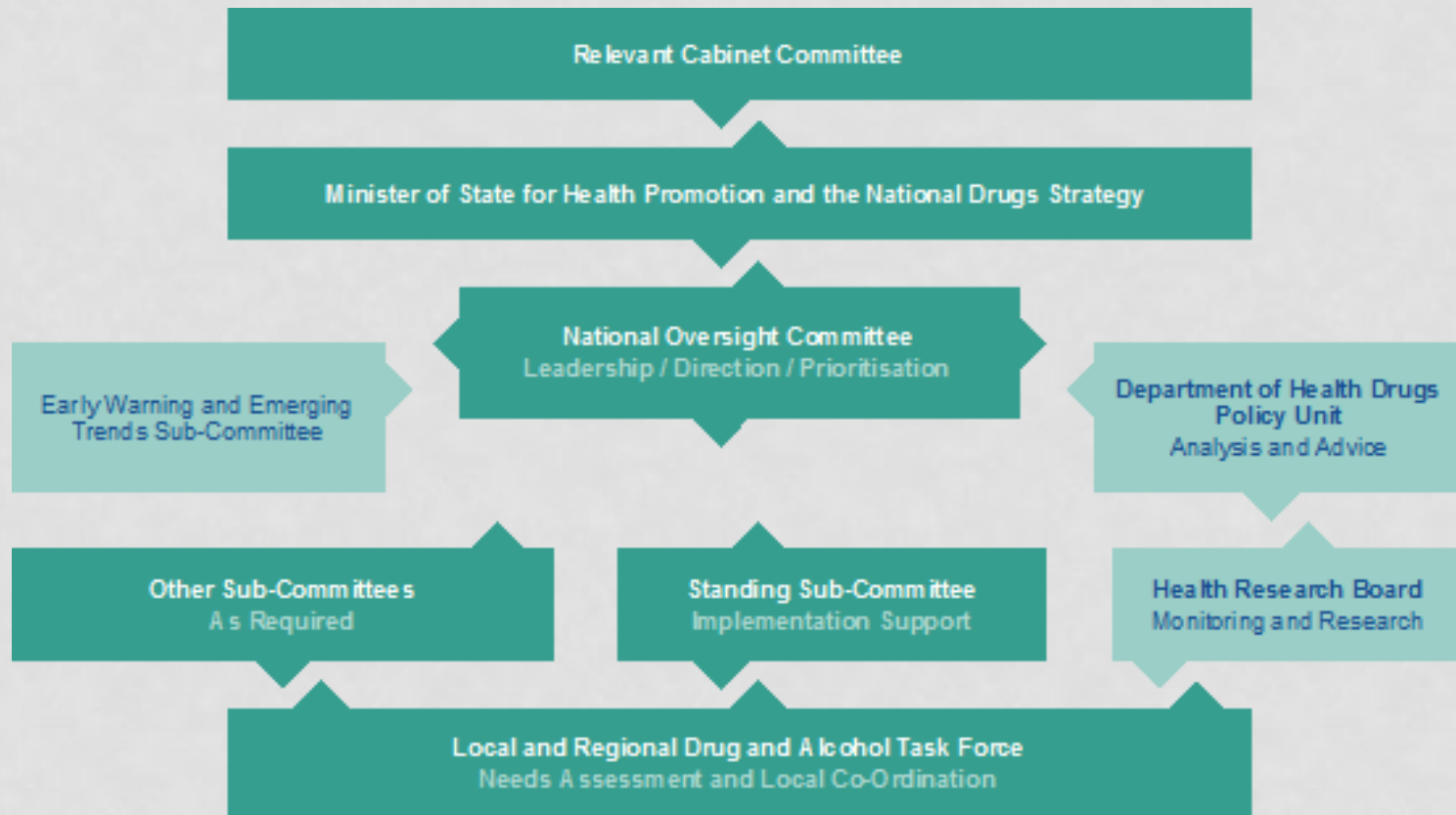
**Actual problem drug use (based on routine monitoring systems)**

# KEY HEALTH-LED STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Establish a pilot supervised injecting facility
- Expand drug and alcohol treatment services
- Develop a new programme to promote community awareness of alcohol-related harm
- Establish a Working Group to consider the approaches taken in other jurisdictions to the possession of small quantities of drugs for personal use
- Develop a targeted new youth services scheme for young people at risk of substance misuse, focused on socially and economically disadvantaged communities

# IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCING HARM, SUPPORTING RECOVERY

## Structures supporting implementation of *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery*





*Thank you for  
your attention*



Link to Strategy :

<http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Reducing-Harm-Supporting-Recovery-2017-2025.pdf>