Carlow alcohol-related harm profile 2019

Item Type	Report
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Carlow

Total alcohol consumption per capita (litres of pure alcohol), 2016

Total alcohol consumption per capita is based on projections for the amount of alcohol consumption (litres of pure alcohol) per person ages 15+ per year.

Our World in Data

No data	0 litres	2 litres		6 litres		10 litres		14 litres		18 litres
	1 litres	4 litres		8 litres		12 litres		16 litres		
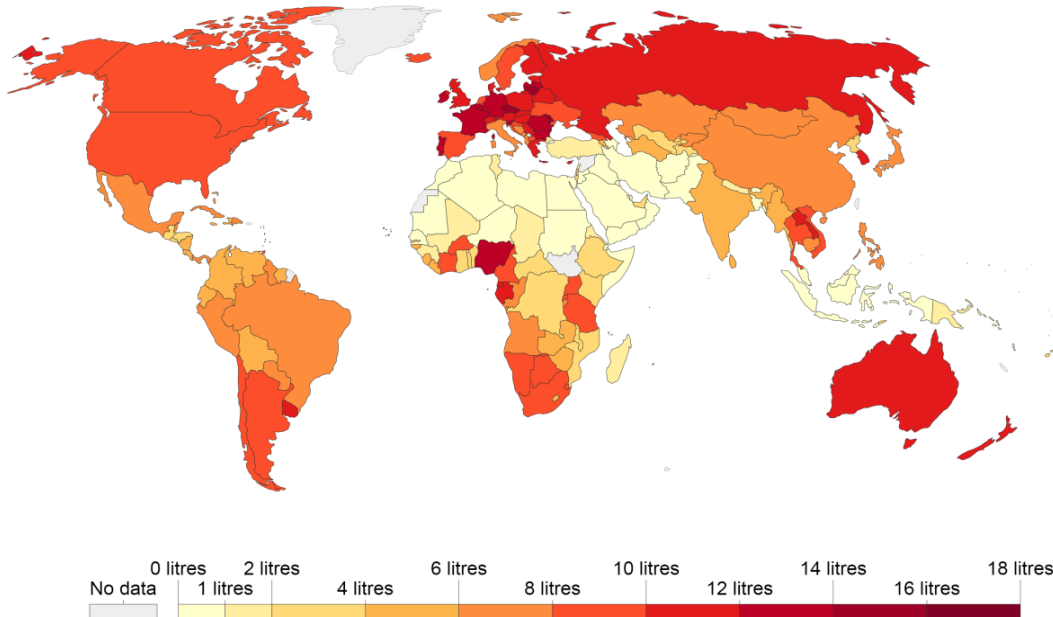
Source: World Bank

CC BY

Key Facts Carlow

In 2017, Carlow was above average for mortality for all ages due to alcohol related causes (62.9, per 100,000 population compared to a National rate of 58.6 per 100,000).

In 2017 the percentage of potential years of life lost (PYLL) per 100,000 population due to selected alcohol related causes were average for females (315.5 per 100,000, National 298.2) and also average for males (988.3 per 100,000, National 1006.1).

In 2017, Carlow had an average hospital admission rate for mental and behaviour disorders due to alcohol (86.9 per 100,000 population, National 83.8) and one of the lowest nationally for alcoholic liver disease with less than 5 cases (National 36.5 per 100,000 population).

In 2017, Carlow was below average for psychiatric in-patient rates for alcohol disorders for first admissions (5.7 per 100,000 population, National 9.2) and for all admissions (19.3 per 100,000, National 24.1).

In 2017, Carlow had average alcohol treatment rate of 172.5 per 100,000 population (National 153.2).

In January 2019, Carlow ranked 18th for the number of liquor licenses with 279.3 per 100,000 (National 273.1).

In 2017, the rate of alcohol related offences in Carlow/Kilkenny were average for drink driving at 146.2 per 100,000 population, average for disorderly conduct at 635.6 per 100,000 and average for liquor licensing offences at 15.3 per 100,000 compared to the National rates. (Drink driving 153.8 per 100,000, disorderly conduct 528.4 and liquor licensing offences 17.3 per 100,000 population respectively).
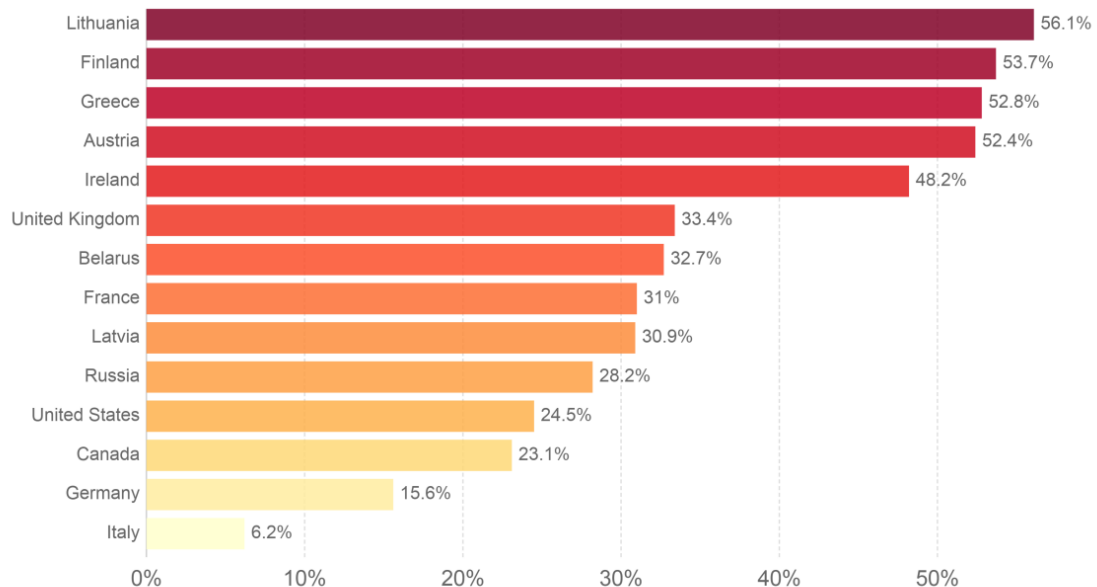
Alcohol Consumption in Ireland

The figures for Ireland in 2016 show that per capita alcohol consumption was 13 litres of pure alcohol per person aged 15 years and over, an increase from 2015, when it was 10.93 litres. There were increases recorded in all categories of alcohol: spirits, cider, wine, and beer. The European Union average is 11.31, for OECD countries the average is 9.41 litres (according to the Our World in Data, WHO, Global Health Observatory).

Heavy episodic drinking (binge drinking) is defined as the proportion of adult drinkers (aged 15 and older) who have had at least 60 grams or more of pure alcohol on at least one occasion in the past 30 days. An intake of 60 grams of pure alcohol is approximately equal to 6 standard alcohol drinks. The chart below (selected countries) shows a of the share of drinkers only (i.e those who have drank less than one alcohol drink in the last 12 months are excluded) who had a heavy episode of drinking in the previous 30 days. In 2010 Ireland had some of the highest levels of binge drinking (5th highest in EU countries and 14th highest worldwide).

Share of drinkers who have had a heavy drinking session in past 30 days, 2010

Heavy episodic drinking (drinkers only) is defined as the proportion of adult drinkers (15+ years) who have had at least 60 grams or more of pure alcohol on at least one occasion in the past 30 days. A consumption of 60 grams of pure alcohol corresponds approximately to 6 standard alcoholic drinks.

Our World in Data

Country	Share
Lithuania	56.1%
Finland	53.7%
Greece	52.8%
Austria	52.4%
Ireland	48.2%
United Kingdom	33.4%
Belarus	32.7%
France	31%
Latvia	30.9%
Russia	28.2%
United States	24.5%
Canada	23.1%
Germany	15.6%
Italy	6.2%

Source: WHO, Global Health Observatory (GHO)   CC BY-SA

The Healthy Ireland Survey 2018:

• Overall, 75% in Ireland have drunk alcohol in the past 12 months Those aged 25 to 44 are most likely to have drunk alcohol in the past 12 months (84%),with those aged 75 and older least likely to have done so (54%).

• In Ireland over half (55%) of drinkers, drink alcohol at least once a week with 30% of drinkers drinking on multiple days each week. Almost two out of every three (62%) men who drink do so at least once a week, and 48% of women drink this frequently.

• In Ireland 37% of drinkers binge drink on a typical drinking occasion. 22% of drinkers binge drink at least once a week, and 39% do so at least once a month.

Prevalence Trend

BINGE DRINKING TREND 2015 - 2018

2015	2016	2017	2018
39%	37%	39%	37%

Total
37%

Prevalence by Gender
19% WOMEN
54% MEN

Source: https://health.gov.ie/healthy-ireland/research-and-data/
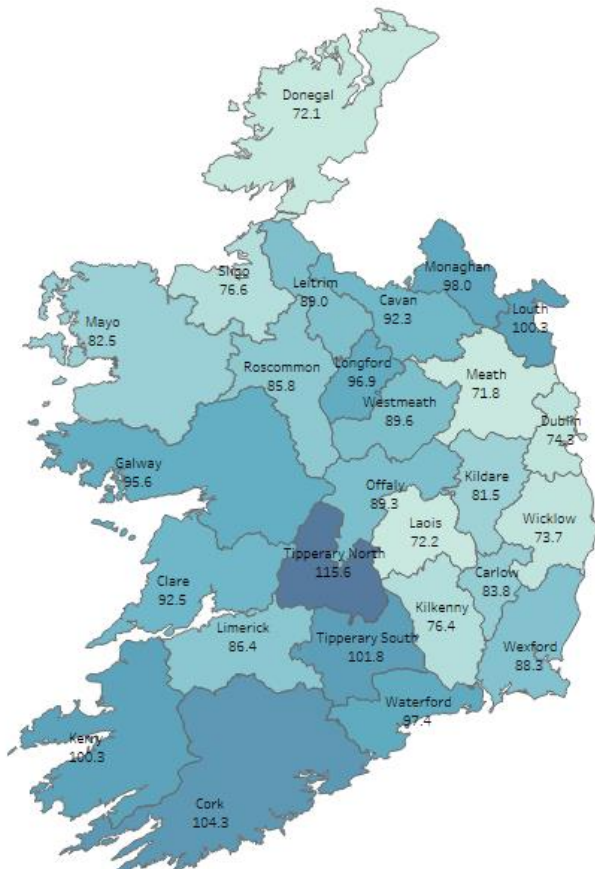
Five year age standardised mortality rate per 100,000 for selected alcohol related causes 2017

SDR per 100,000, all ages Male

71.8 — 115.6

SDR per 100,000, all ages female

23.0 — 40.7

Male map:
Donegal 72.1
Sligo 76.6
Leitrim 89.0
Mayo 82.5
Monaghan 98.0
Cavan 92.3
Louth 100.3
Roscommon 85.8
Longford 96.9
Westmeath 89.6
Meath 71.8
Dublin 74.3
Galway 95.6
Offaly 89.3
Kildare 81.5
Laois 72.2
Wicklow 73.7
Tipperary North 115.6
Carlow 83.8
Clare 92.5
Kilkenny 76.4
Limerick 86.4
Tipperary South 101.8
Wexford 88.3
Waterford 97.4
Kerry 100.3
Cork 104.3

Female map:
Donegal 33.3
Sligo 29.0
Leitrim 31.1
Mayo 37.5
Monaghan 31.2
Cavan 35.4
Louth 36.5
Roscommon 39.5
Longford 39.3
Westmeath 35.0
Meath 28.3
Dublin 35.3
Galway 37.1
Offaly 29.2
Kildare 31.2
Laois 23.0
Wicklow 25.9
Tipperary North 33.2
Carlow 40.7
Clare 33.7
Kilkenny 32.2
Limerick 33.5
Tipperary South 33.7
Wexford 36.0
Waterford 32.9
Kerry 38.2
Cork 39.4

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Mortality for selected alcohol causes
Potential years of life lost (PYLL) per 100,000 poulation 2013-2017
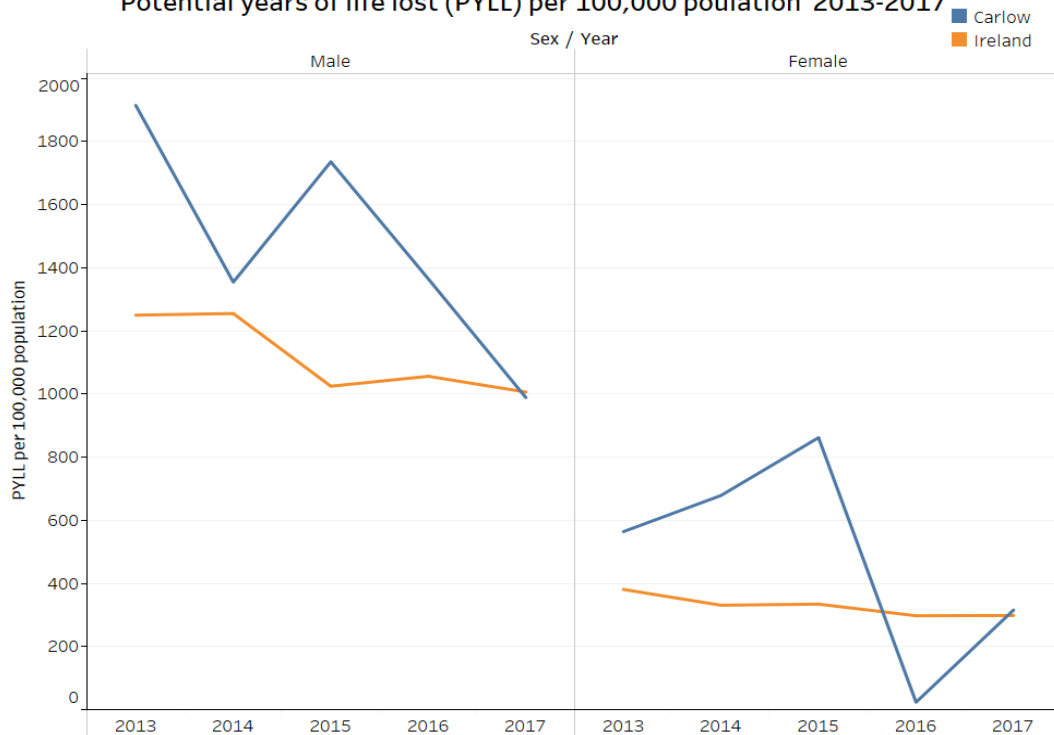
Carlow
Ireland

Sex / Year

Male — Female

PYLL per 100,000 population

The Irish National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI) records cases of death by drug and alcohol poisoning, and deaths among drug users and those who are alcohol dependent.   The number year on year at county level is small.

Deaths due to poisoning where alcohol was implicated in the death - crude rate per 100,000, NDRDI, 2004-2016
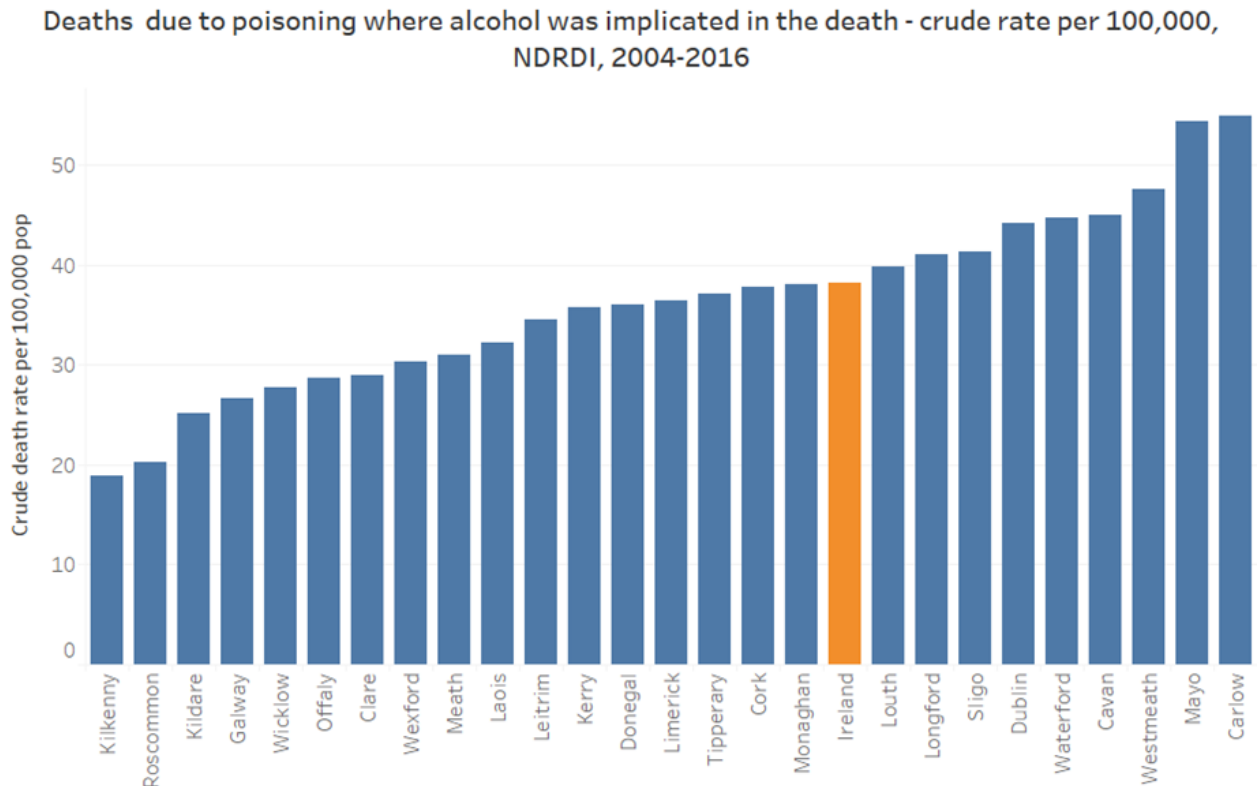
Crude death rates were calculated using estimated 2011 population figures (as mid census data point between years 2004 – 2016) from CSO.

There were 1,753 poisonings where alcohol was implicated in the cause of death, recorded by the NDRDI during the reporting period 2004 to 2016. Thirty (1.71%) of these deaths were among individuals *residing* in the county of Carlow.

There were 369 poisoning deaths among alcohol dependent persons recorded by the NDRDI during the reporting period 2004 to 2016 where alcohol was NOT implicated in the death; Less than five deaths were among individuals *residing* in the county of Carlow.

There were 10,046 non-poisoning deaths among persons known to be alcohol dependent recorded by the NDRDI during the reporting period 2004-2016. Fifty four (0.54%) of these deaths were among individuals *residing* in the county of Carlow.

There were 890 non-poisoning deaths where deaths were NOT due to poisoning and person was NOT known to be alcohol dependent but alcohol was implicated in the deaths recorded by the NDRDI during the reporting period 2004-2016. Eight (0.9%) of these deaths were among individuals *residing* in the county of Carlow.

Source: NDRDI , HRB April 2019

HIPE data relates to public hospitals. The figures graphed give an indication of the level of service use in the geographical area. Caution is warranted in interpreting this data as mental health problems are common in those requiring treatment for alcohol misuse and vice versa.

Age Standardised Hospital In-Patient Discharge Rate per 100,000 Mental & behavioural - alcohol 2012-2017, Carlow & Ireland
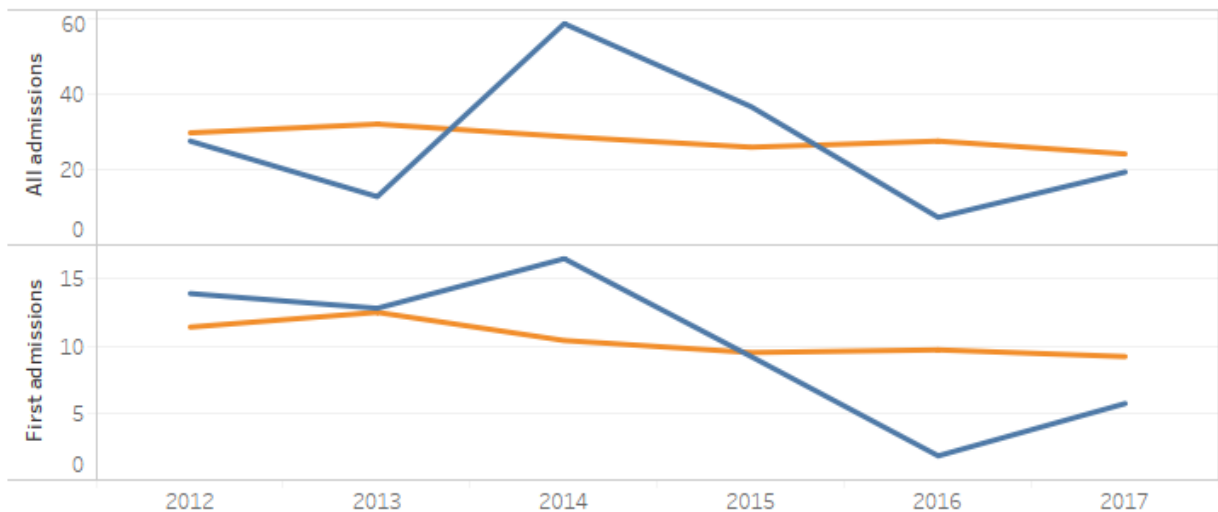
Area
■ Carlow
■ Ireland
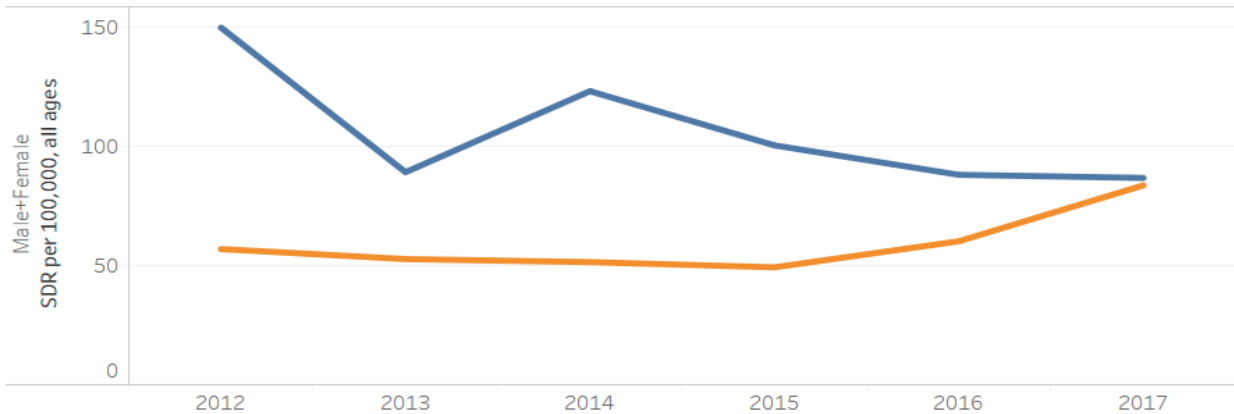
Age Standardised Hospital In-Patient Discharge Rate per 100,000 Alcoholic liver disease 2012-2017, Carlow & Ireland
(blank values represent either no rate or where the number of cases was <5)
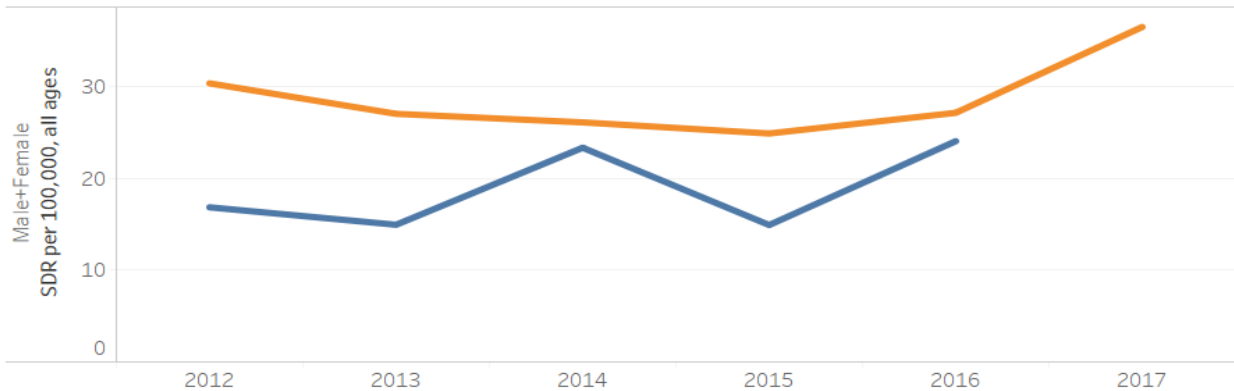
### Psychiatric in-patient admission rate per 100,000 Alcohol Disorders 2012-2017 Carlow & Ireland

Source: PHIS : Personal Edition April 2019, Department of Health and National Psychiatric Inpatient Reporting System www.hrb.ie

The National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) data is affected by participation of services. While coverage of drug treatment is high, coverage of alcohol services, particularly provided by Mental Health Services is not uniform around the country and as such will impact on county level analysis. Psychiatric in-patient and those undergoing treatment for alcohol misuse may be similar population cohorts. Low usage of services in an area may be due to lack of capacity and may not indicate low alcohol harm.

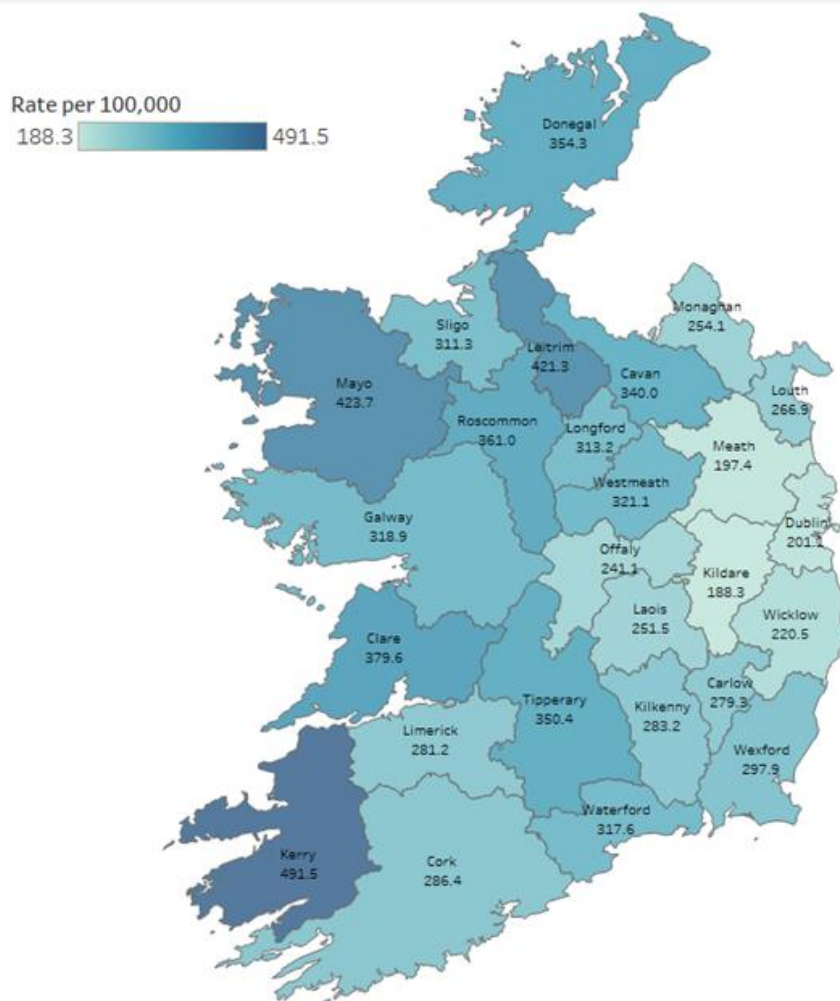| Alcohol Treatment Numbers 2012-2017							
	County	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of cases	Carlow	159	136	127	117	86	99
No. of cases	Ireland	8609	7819	7760	7618	7643	7350
% of Ireland	Carlow	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.3

Alcohol Treatment - Crude Rate per 100,000, NDTRS, 2017
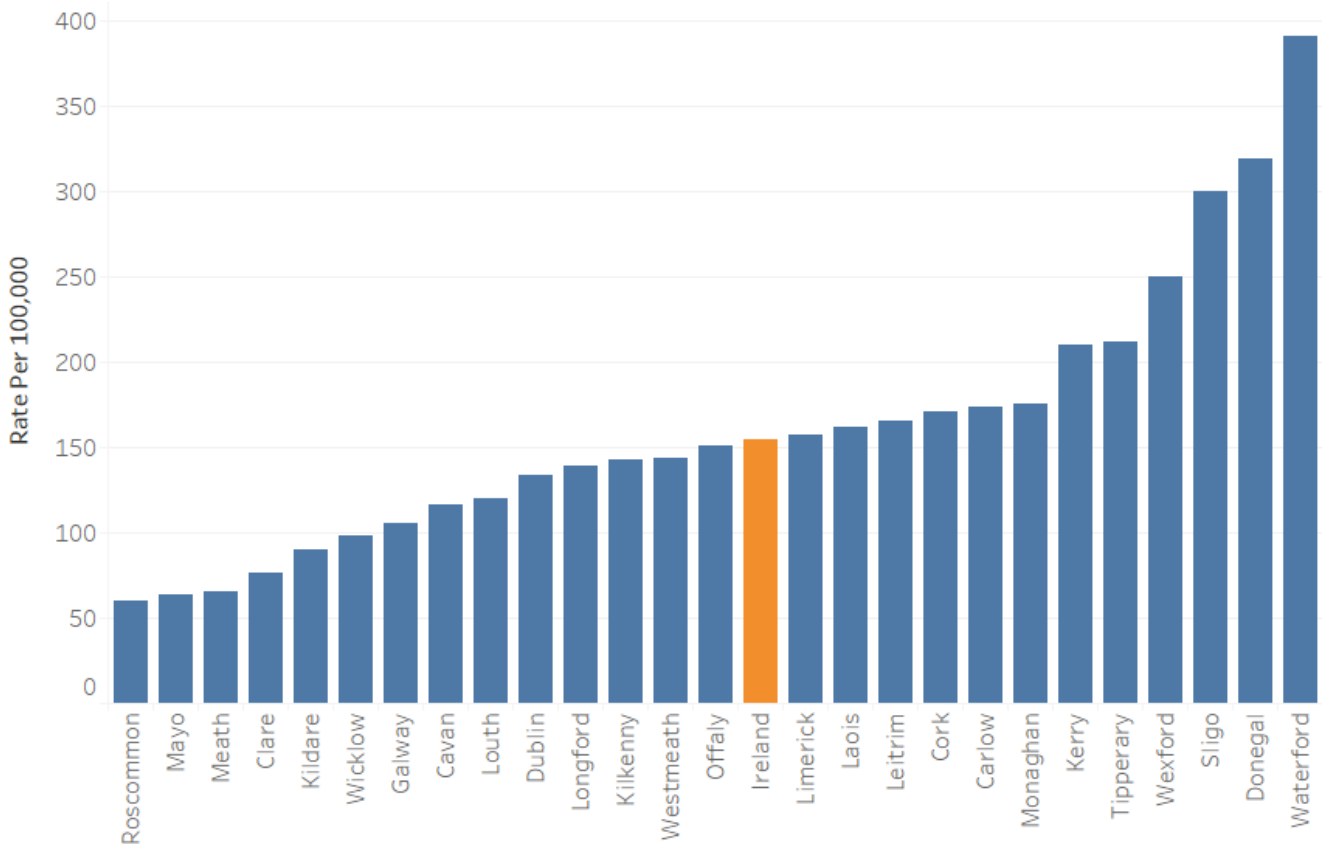
Source: Treatment figures from National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS), HRB. Population data used to calculate treatment rates sourced from Central Statistics Office (CSO) 2016 Census of Population 2016.

Liquor Licences Rate per 100,000 Population, 1ˢᵗ January 2019 (Map shows rate for all licenced premises)

Rate per 100,000
188.3 — 491.5

Map labels:
- Donegal 354.3
- Sligo 311.3
- Leitrim 421.3
- Mayo 423.7
- Roscommon 361.0
- Longford 313.2
- Cavan 340.0
- Monaghan 254.1
- Louth 266.9
- Meath 197.4
- Westmeath 321.1
- Galway 318.9
- Offaly 241.1
- Dublin 201.2
- Kildare 188.3
- Laois 251.5
- Wicklow 220.5
- Clare 379.6
- Tipperary 350.4
- Kilkenny 283.2
- Carlow 279.3
- Limerick 281.2
- Wexford 297.9
- Waterford 317.6
- Kerry 491.5
- Cork 286.4

| County	Type	Number	Rate per 100,000
Carlow	Manufacturer's Licence	5	9
	Off Licence	43	76
	Publican's Licence	81	142
	Special Restaurant Licence	4	7
	Wholesaler	6	11
	Wine Retailer's On Licence	20	35
	Total	159	279
Ireland	Manufacturer's Licence	161	273
	Off Licence	3,154	66
	Publican's Licence	6,819	143
	Special Restaurant Licence	433	9
	Wholesaler	542	11
	Wine Retailer's On Licence	1,897	40
	Total	13,006	273

Source: Irish Tax and Customs, Revenue. www.revenue.ie. Crude rates were calculated using Census of Ireland 2016 data. www.cso.ie.

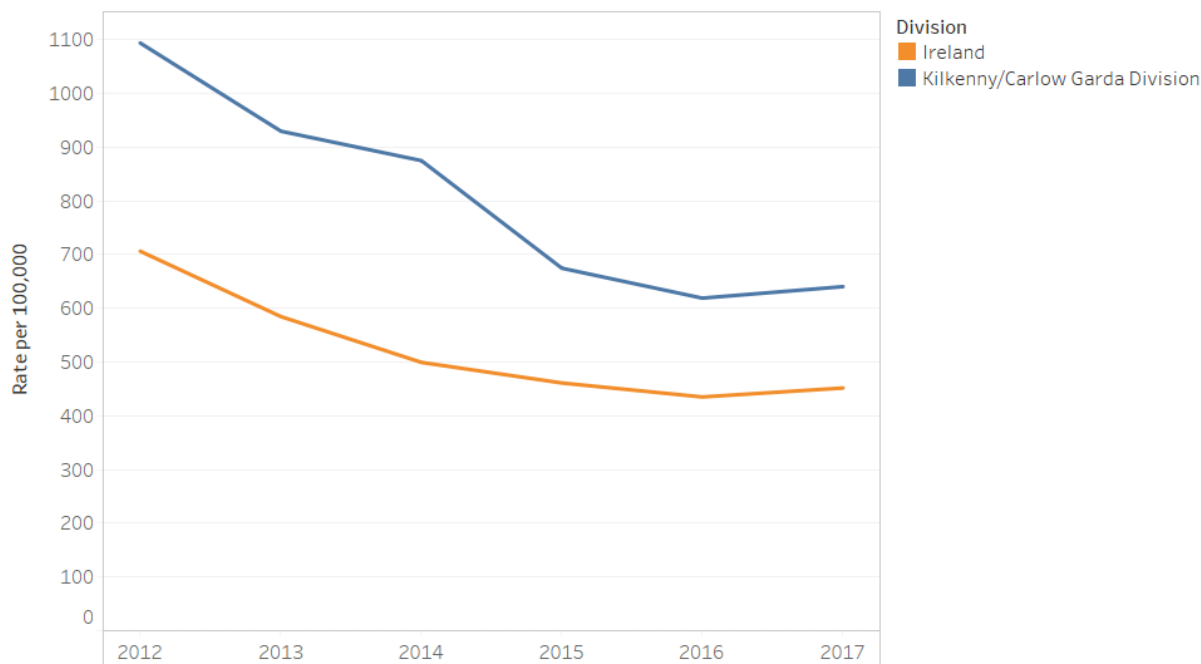***Cautionary note regarding Recorded Crime Offences data sourced from Central Statistics Office (CSO)**

The publication by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Recorded Crime statistics is wholly dependent on the provision of PULSE data by An Garda Síochána (AGS). As users are aware, there has been a number of data quality issues identified in relation to PULSE data.

The CSO recognises that the deferral of these important statistics results in an information gap and is a source of frustration to users. The CSO has taken the decision to resume publication of Recorded Crime statistics under a new category "Under Reservation". This categorisation indicates that the quality of these statistics do not meet the standards required of official statistics published by the CSO.

Driving in charge of a vehicle while over legal alcohol limit per 100,000 Population, 2012 to 2017 Ireland & Laois/Offaly Garda Division
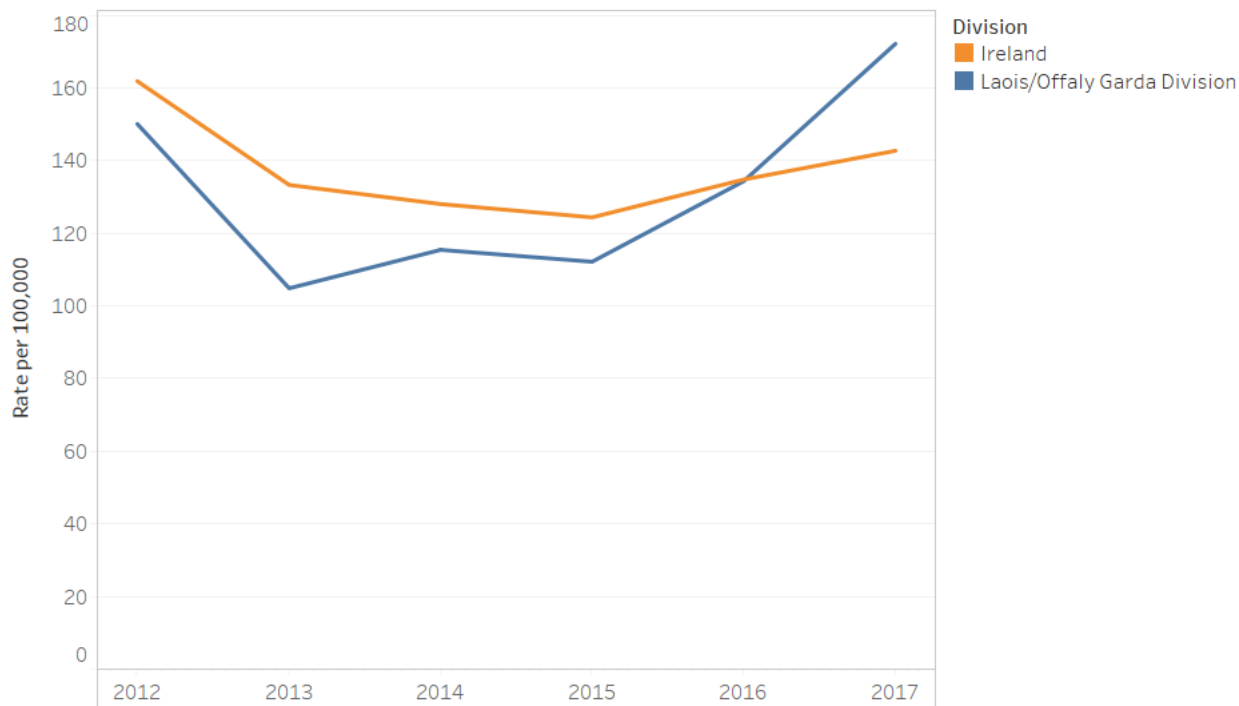
Disorderly conduct per 100,000 Population, 2012 to 2017 Ireland & Kilkenny/Carlow Garda Division

Source: Quarterly Recorded Crime Release, Recorded Scrime Offences, Central Statistics Office (CSO) available at www.cso.ie

Liquor licensing offences per 100,000 Population, 2012 to 2017 Ireland & Kildare Garda Division
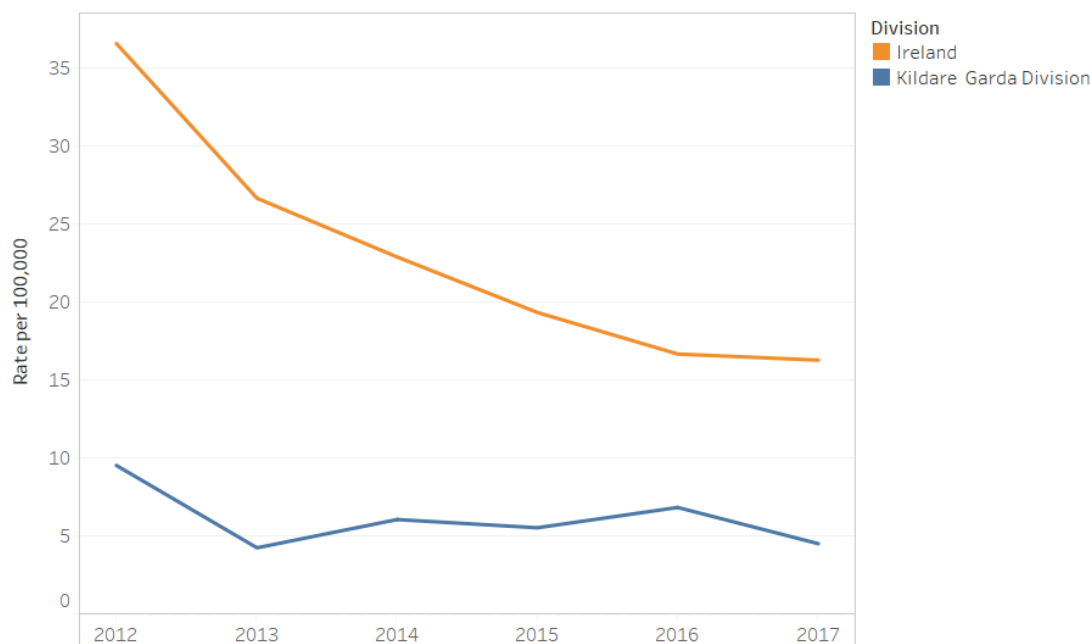

Source: Quarterly Recorded Crime Release, Recorded Crime Offences, Central Statistics Office (CSO) available at www.cso.ie

Fact and Health Summary for Carlow

The following charts show how people in this area compare with the rest of Ireland for key indicators. The black circle shows the score for this area and the black line shows the average for Ireland. For some indicators, being above average is preferable, whereas for others the opposite is the case. A more detailed interpretation is given on page 13.

Ireland Key:

	Ireland Average	
Lowest		Highest
	25th Percentile 75th	
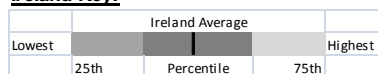
Local Value: ⬤

	Indicator	Local Number	Local Value	Irl Avg	Irl Low	Ireland Range	Irl High
	5 Year Age Standardised Mortality per 100,000 Population 2017						
1	5 year age standardised mortality for all causes and all ages	1922	1094.7	1002.2	924.9		1115.6
2	5 year age standardised mortality for Selected Alcohol Related causes	146	62.9	58.6	46.5		71.1
	Age Standardised treatment rates per 100,000 Population 2017						
3	Hospital addmission rate for all causes	20858	52108.2	55676.2	36016.9		104005.8
4	Hospital admission rate for mental & behavioural disorder due to alcohol disease	34	86.9	83.8	39.8		270.8
5	Hospital admission rate for alcoholic liver disease	<5	12.9	36.5	12.9		70.4
6	Psyciatric hospital admission rate for alcohol disorders first admissions	n/a	5.7	9.2	1.6		25.0
7	Psyciatric hospital admission rate for alcohol disorders all admissions	n/a	19.3	24.1	5.9		62.6
8	Alcohol treatment rate per 100,000 population	99	172.5	153.2	60.3		389.0
	Societal Impacts Crime Statistics 2017 Carlow/Kilkenny						
9	Driving vehicle over the alcohol limit per 100,000 population	230	146.2	153.8	98.8		280.1
10	Disorderly conduct offences per 100,000 population	1000	635.6	528.4	223.8		1564.8
11	Liquor licensing offences per 100,000 population	24	15.3	17.3	4.4		76.3

The following charts show how people in this area compare with the rest of Ireland for key indicators. The black circle shows the score for this area and the black line shows the average for Ireland. For some indicators, being above average is preferable, whereas for others the opposite is the case. A more detailed interpretation is given on page 13.

Ireland Key:

	Ireland Average	
Lowest		Highest
25th	Percentile	75th

Local Value ●

	Indicator	Local Number	Local Value	Irl Avg	Irl Low	Ireland Range	Irl High
	2016 Census Population						
1	Population number and % of National	56932	1.2	3.2	0.7		11.6
2	5 year Population change 2011-2016	2320	4.2	3.2	-1.2		8.0
	2016 Census Indicators						
	Age Groups						
3	Age 0-4	4056	7.1	7.0	5.0		8.4
4	Age 5-9	4420	7.8	7.5	4.8		9.1
5	Age 10-14	4135	7.3	6.7	4.4		7.9
6	Age 15-19	3686	6.5	6.4	5.2		7.0
7	Age 20-24	3324	5.8	5.7	4.0		10.8
8	Age 25-29	3388	6.0	6.2	4.5		11.0
9	Age 30-34	4136	7.3	7.6	6.2		10.6
10	Age 35-39	4498	7.9	8.2	6.8		9.8
11	Age 40-44	4297	7.5	7.5	6.0		8.8
12	Age 45-49	3914	6.9	6.8	5.6		7.5
13	Age 50-54	3611	6.3	6.3	5.0		6.9
15	Age 55-59	3246	5.7	5.7	4.8		6.8
14	Age 60-64	2864	5.0	5.0	4.1		6.8
15	Age 65-69	2467	4.3	4.4	3.4		6.8
16	Age 70-74	1888	3.3	3.4	2.5		6.8
17	Age 75-79	1355	2.4	2.4	1.5		6.8
18	Age 80-84	908	1.6	1.7	0.9		6.8
19	Age 84+	739	1.3	1.4	0.7		6.8
	Age Discrete groupings						
20	Age 0-14	12611	22.2	21.1	14.3		25.1
21	Age 15-64	36964	64.9	65.5	61.5		71.9
22	Age 65 and over	7357	12.9	13.4	6.8		17.6
23	Age 0-17	14852	26.1	25.0	17.2		29.3
24	Age 18-64	34723	61.0	61.2	57.6		69.2
25	Dependency Population Ratio	19968	54.0	52.7	39.0		62.6
	2016 Census Indicators Society						
26	Lone Parent housholds	2233	9.8	9.5	7.8		11.2
27	persons with no formal or primary Education only	5012	11.3	10.3	5.1		17.2
28	Semi, unskilled and agricultural workers	7604	13.5	11.6	5.0		15.3
29	Unemployment	4941	11.1	8.8	4.9		13.0
30	Households local authority/voluntary rented	2409	11.8	9.4	4.9		17.7
31	Depriavtion	n/a	-3.4	0.6	-6.2		10.6
32	White Irish	47598	84.2	82.2	70.0		89.5
33	White Irish Traveller	507	0.9	0.7	0.2		2.6
34	All other ethnic backgrounds	8450	14.9	17.2	10.1		28.1

Definitions and References

Page 1

Alcohol consumption is defined as annual sales of pure alcohol in litres per person aged 15 years and older. Alcohol use is associated with numerous harmful health and social consequences, including an increased risk of a range of cancers, stroke and liver cirrhosis. Alcohol also contributes to death and disability through accidents and injuries, assault, violence, homicide and suicide. Litres per capita (people aged 15 years and older 2016. http://www.who.int/gho/alcohol/en/   WHO Global Health Repository and Our World in Data Report on Alcohol.   Ritchie H, Roser M. April 2018 https://ourworldindata.org/alcohol-consumption

Page 2

Litres per capita (people aged 15 years and older) 2016 and share of drinkers who have had a heavy drinking session in past 30 days 2010. http://www.who.int/gho/alcohol/en/   WHO Global Health Repository and Our World in Data Report on Alcohol. Ritchie H, Roser M. April 2018 https://ourworldindata.org/alcohol-consumption
Healthy Ireland Survey 2018. Source: https://health.gov.ie/healthy-ireland/research-and-data/

Page 3

Five year age standardised death rate for selected alcohol related causes per 100,000 population by county and nationally 2013-2017. Source Public Health Information System (PHIS) personal Edition 2018. The cause of death category Selected Alcohol Related Cause is made up of deaths where the following ICD 10 codes was recorded as the primary cause of death: ICD-10: C15 Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus, C32 Malignant neoplasm of larynx, F10 Alcohol related disorders, K70 Alcoholic liver disease, K73 Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified, K74 Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver, K76 Other diseases of liver and External Causes V00-V99, W00-W99, X00-X99, Y00-Y99. This simple pooling of alcohol related deaths can help to better rank countries by alcohol related mortality and can be used to better track trends in deaths associated with alcohol than using separate causes. It is relatively rough indicator and it is NOT the estimate of alcohol attributable mortality, which is more complex and difficult to calculate Source: Public Health Information System (PHIS) Personal Edition, April 2019. Department of Health
Potential Years of Life Lost 2013-2017. Source: Public Health Information System (PHIS) Personal Edition, April 2019. PHIS Personal Edition, April 2019. Department of Health

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Death due to alcohol poisoning and deaths among drug users and those who are alcohol dependent 2004-2016. National Alcohol-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI). Health Research Board (April 2019). Source Irish National Drug-Related Deaths Index. http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/26299 and www.hrb.ie/publications . Crude death rate calculated using population figures for2006, 2011 and 2016 from Central Statistics Office, Census of Ireland. source www.cso.ie

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Hospital In-Patient Age Standardised rate per 100,000 for Alcoholic Liver Disease and Mental & Behavioural alcohol related discharges 2012-2017. Source Public Health Information System (PHIS) Personal Edition, April 2019. Department of Health. Hospital Admissions (Rate per 100,000 Pop.) by ICD 10 Diagnostic Group, Psychiatric In-Patient rate per 100,000 due alcohol disorders 2012-2017. Source: 2011; 2012: National Psychiatric Inpatient Reporting System (http://www.hrb.ie/health-information-evidence/mental-health/information-systems/npirs-national-psychiatric-in-patient-reporting-system/.   Hosted on: www.cso.ie and PHIS Personal Edition, April 2019, Department of Health.
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Treated problem alcohol use in Ireland Health Research Board (2012-2017). The National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) is an epidemiological database on treated problem drug and alcohol use in Ireland
Interpretation of data3 factors must be taken into consideration when interpreting the figures in this paper.
1.The number of alcohol treatment services reporting to the NDTRS, not all services participate in the system. In particular, the coverage for cases reporting alcohol as their main problem drug is incomplete in the west (Galway, Mayo and Roscommon). Up to 2007, the alcohol services managed by the mental health services had never been invited to take part in the reporting system. The process of recruiting services that have not participated in the NDTRS to date is ongoing.
2.Each record in the NDTRS database relates to a treatment episode (a case), and not to a person. This means that the same person could be counted more than once in the reporting year if they had more than one treatment episode in that year.
3.The place of residence is not always recorded, and an additional small number of cases lived outside Ireland. These cases could not be assigned to a specified HSE region or county.

National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) data is affected by participation of services. While coverage of drug treatment is high, coverage of alcohol services, particularly provided by mental health services is not uniform around the country and as such will impact on county level analysis. Psychiatric in-patient and those undergoing treatment for alcohol misuse may be similar population cohorts. Low usage of services in an area may be due to lack of capacity and may not indicate low alcohol harm.

Page 7

Current valid liquor licenses per 100,000. Current liquor licenses sourced from Irish Tax and Customs, Revenue website**,** **http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/excise/** 1st January 2019. Density of licensed premises rate per 100,000 population calculated using Census of Ireland data 2011- 2016. Source: www.cso.ie

Page 8 and 9

Offence of Driving/in charge of a vehicle while over legal alcohol limit 2012-2017 rate per 100,000. Offence of disorderly conduct rate per 100,000 2012-2017. Liquor licensing offences rate per 100,000**.** Recorded Crime Offences (Number) by Type of Offence, Garda Division. Source http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?maintable=CJQ03. Rate per 100,000 population calculated using Census of Ireland data 2011- 2016. Source: www.cso.ie

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(1-2) 5 year age standardised mortality rate for all causes and for selected alcohol related causes all ages 2017. PHIS personal Edition April 2019. Department of Health

(3-5) Age standardised In-patient admissions rate per 100,000 for all causes, mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol, and alcoholic liver disease 2017. PHIS personal Edition April 2019. Department of Health

(6-7) Psychiatric hospital admission rate for alcohol disorders first admissions and all admissions 2017. Source: 2011; 2012: National Psychiatric Inpatient Reporting System (http://www.hrb.ie/health-information-evidence/mental-health/information-systems/npirs-national-psychiatric-in-patient-reporting-system/.   Hosted on: www.cso.ie and PHIS Personal Edition, April 2019, Department of Health.

(8) Alcohol Treatment rate per 100,000 population. NDTRS). National Health Information Systems, Health Research Board. Available at http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/23564 and www.hrb.ie/publications. Figures for 2012-217 sourced directly from NDTRS, Health Research Board. Alcohol treatment rates calculated using Census of Ireland data 2011 and 2016. Source www.cso.ie

(9-11) Offences of driving in vehicle over the alcohol limit per 100,000 2017. Liquor licensing offences 2017. Public disorderly offences 2017. Recorded Crime Statistics. Source hosted on Central Statistics http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?maintable=CJQ03

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Data (1-34)taken from Census of Ireland data 2016. Source www.cso.ie

(1)   Population of Ireland 2016 as a percentage of the National Population.

(2)   Population change 2011-2016 and percent change.

(3-24) Percentage of the population of this area by age groups 2016.

(25) Dependency ratio 2016– the proportion of the population in the 0-14 and 65 years and over age groups as a proportion of the 15-64 age group.

(26) Percentage of lone parent households over the total number of households 2016.

(27) Percentage of persons aged 15 and over who have either no formal education or whose highest level of education is at primary school level over the number of persons aged 15 and over who have ceased education 2016.

(28) Percentage of persons in labour force who are semi, unskilled or agricultural workers 2016.

(29) Percentage of persons aged 15-64 available in the labour force who are unemployed including first time job seekers 2016.

(30) Percentage of households which are local authority or voluntary sector rented over the total number of households 2016.

(31) Deprivation relative score 2011. The calculated deprivation level for this area. A scoring is given to the area based on a national average of zero and ranging from roughly -40 (being most disadvantaged to +40 (most affluent).For more information see www.pobal.ie.

(32-34) The percentage of persons of white Irish, Traveller and all "other ethnicity" 2016.

How to interpret the spine tool

This user guide is designed to aid interpretation of the spine charts on page 8 in the health profiles (2017). The spine charts were developed utilising a spine tool developed by the West Midlands Public Health Observatory which is now part of Public Health England. The following explanation on how to interpret these charts is adapted from a document published by the West Midlands Public Health Observatory.

A spine chart is a data visualisation technique to present a number of indicators for an area. Each indicator's statistics are scaled so that the indicator's Ireland average (mean) value forms one dark vertical central line on the chart. An area's value for each indicator is presented as a circle against a shaded background showing the range and inter-quartile range of the local authority values across Ireland.

Range and interquartile range

Behind each local authority indicator value there is a shaded bar representing the range of values for local authorities across Ireland. The darker grey inner area of this bar represents the interquartile range. If areas were put in order of worst to best, the interquartile range would represent the worst and best values of the middle 50% of areas, i.e. those that are neither in the 25% worst nor the 25% best in all of Ireland. If the frequency distribution was a perfect normal distribution then the centre of the dark grey band (the median) would overlap the Ireland value (the mean) and the light grey tails would be equal length. The symmetry of the grey bars can give a general indication of:

• where there is skew or outliers in a particular direction: the light grey tail will be greater on one side than the other and the dark grey band may also be off-centre. In extreme cases the dark grey band (the interquartile range) may not overlap the mean Ireland value as the centre of the interquartile range is the median rather than the mean average**.**

• If the majority of areas are very close to the Ireland value but others are more spread out (central dark grey band is much narrower than the length combined of the light grey tails).

• **Mean:** This is another word for the average. It is defined as the sum of the observations divided by the number of observations.

• **Median:** This is the middle value in a range of values which have been put in order of lowest to highest. It is used instead of the mean if the data is skewed.

• **Range:** The range is described as the smallest and largest observations.

• **Interquartile range:** This is the range where the middle 50% of the observations lie the data on a chart the chart would look symmetrical.

• **Normal distribution:** This describes data which have a symmetrical distribution, with a characteristic 'bell' shape.

• **Skew:** This is used to describe data which does not have a symmetrical distribution. If you were to depict the data on a chart the chart would look lopsided or "skewed".

To watch a training video on Spine Tool interpretation click the link below:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=480Mswgcg8M

West Midlands Public Health Observatory (now Public Health England). Tools: Spine Chart Creator. Available online at http://www.wmpho.org.uk/tools/
West Midlands Public Health Observatory. The Older People's Health and Wellbeing Atlas: User Guide (November 2012 update). Available online at http://www.wmpho.org.uk/olderpeopleatlas/Atlas/UserGuide_OlderPeopleAtlas.pdf
Definitions adapted from Public Health textbook on http://www.healthknowledge.org.uk/:

Additional information:

Further information on health determinants from census data, such as housing, water supply, time to travel to work, computer ownership, car ownership etc. are available at www.cso.ie.

Data and information gaps

• Alcohol attributable mortality data
• Emergency Department data
• GP consultation data
• Total alcohol per capita (15+ years) consumption by county
• Social data (impact on children, relationships and employment)
• Interpretation of the recorded crime statistics

This is by no means an **exhaustive list** but it gives an indication of the data and information gaps that currently exist.

Background:

In 2016 the Alcohol Forum, selected clinical services and the Department of Public Health Medicine (DPHM), HSENE, HSENW and HSEW, collaborated on an exercise to scope the availability of data to describe alcohol-related harm in Ireland. The intention was to identify quality assured databases that provided data at county level to allow the development of a County Alcohol Harm profile for each county in Ireland. The purpose of the profile was to provide a baseline from which trends could be measured and to inform local planning and action to reduce alcohol harm. The profiles have the potential to become an important tool for a range of organisations and structures operating at the County level. This is the second issue of the Alcohol Related Harm Profile by County.

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Alcohol Related Harm Profile 2019

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