

Alcohol-related deaths and deaths among people who were alcohol dependent in Ireland, 2004 to 2009

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Alcohol-related deaths and deaths among people who were alcohol dependent in Ireland, 2004 to 2009



- Alcohol was the drug most frequently implicated in poisoning deaths in Ireland
- 805 alcohol-related poisonings
- Over half of all alcohol-related poisonings involved another drug, mainly benzodiazepines.
- 4,132 non-poisoning deaths among people who were alcohol-dependent
- Nine out of ten non-poisoning deaths were due to medical causes.

Overview of presentation



- NDRDI
- Alcohol-related poisoning deaths
- Non-poisoning deaths among alcohol dependent persons

What is the NDRDI?



- National Drug-Related Deaths Index
- Action 67 previous National Drug Strategy (2001-2008)
 - Accurately measure drug-related deaths and deaths among drug users
- Funded by Dept. of Health & Dept. Justice and Equality
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
- Data sources

Alcohol-related poisoning deaths

Alcohol-related poisonings, NDRDI, 2004-2009 (N = 805)



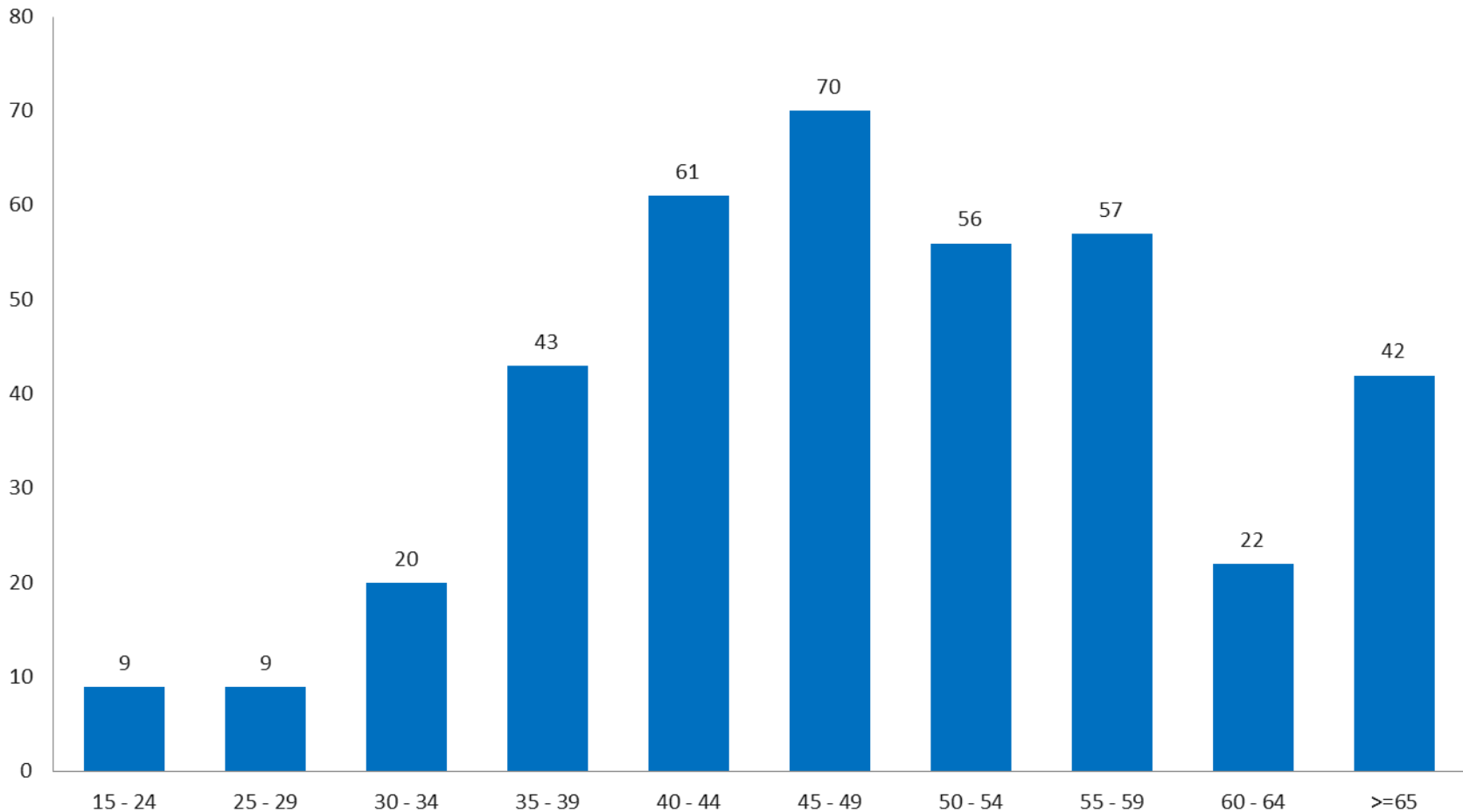
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total	125	116	111	165	152	136
Alcohol only (n = 390)	61	51	54	85	81	58
Alcohol plus other drug(s) (n = 415)	64	65	57	80	71	78

Alcohol-only poisoning, NDRDI, 2004-2009 (N =390)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Alcohol only poisoning (n = 390)	61	51	54	85	81	58

Alcohol-only poisoning, NDRDI, 2004-2009 (N =389)



Additional drugs involved in polysubstance poisonings

Alcohol-polysubstance poisonings, NDRDI, 2004-2009 (N = 415)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Alcohol plus other drug(s) (n = 415)	64	65	57	80	71	78

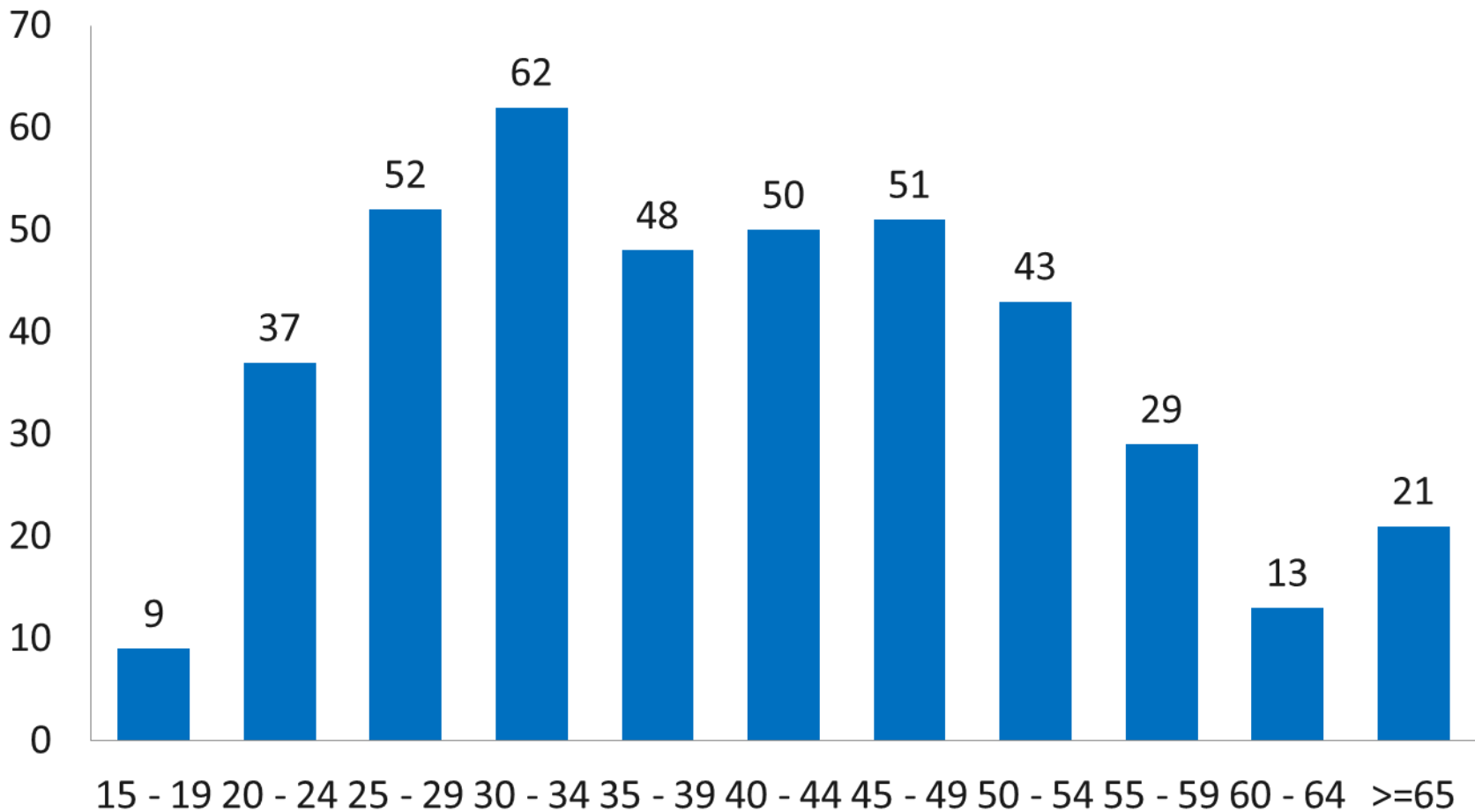
Additional drugs involved in polysubstance poisonings, NDRDI, 2004 – 2009 (N = 415)



	%
All alcohol polysubstance poisonings*	100.0
Benzodiazepines	62.7
Heroin	24.1
Antidepressants	22.2
Other opiates	20.7
Other prescription medication	16.4
Methadone	13.0
Cocaine	9.6
Other	9.4

* Multi-response table – there is more than one drug reported per death, so add up to more than 100%

Polysubstance poisoning, NDRDI, 2004-2009 (N =415)



Treatment



- 11% (86) of all alcohol-related poisoning had a recorded history of receiving treatment for substance dependency
- 47% (40) of the above were receiving treatment at the time of their death

All poisoning deaths

Drugs involved in *all* poisoning deaths in Ireland, NDRDI 2004–2009, (N=2,015)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
All NDRDI poisoning deaths	267	300	325	385	381	357	2015
<i>All alcohol poisonings</i>	<i>125 (46.8)</i>	<i>116 (38.6)</i>	<i>111 (34.2)</i>	<i>165 (42.9)</i>	<i>152 (39.9)</i>	<i>136 (38.1)</i>	805 (40%)

Drugs involved in *all* poisoning deaths in Ireland, NDRDI 2004–2009, (N=2,015)



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Non-poisoning deaths

Non-poisoning deaths in people who were alcohol dependent (N = 4,132)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total	508	564	720	747	804	789
Medical (n = 3657)	459	499	617	681	722	679
Trauma (n = 475)	49	65	103	66	82	110

Non-poisoning deaths in people who were alcohol dependent (N = 4,132)



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Total	508	564	720	747	804	789
Medical (n = 3657)	459	499	617	681	722	679
Trauma (n = 475)	49	65	103	66	82	110

Medical causes (N = 3,657)



- 73% were male
- 65% were aged less than 65 years

- 22% - alcoholic liver disease
- 18% - cardiac conditions
- 12% - respiratory infections
- 9% - cancer

Age group by alcoholic liver disease



- 67 people aged 30 to 34 died of medical causes
 - 33% of these died of alcoholic liver disease
- 486 people aged 50 to 54 died of medical causes
 - 25% of these died of alcoholic liver disease
- 511 people aged 60 to 64 died of medical causes
 - 21% of these died of alcoholic liver disease

Non-poisoning deaths in people who were alcohol dependent (N = 4,132)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total	508	564	720	747	804	789
Medical (n = 3657)	459	499	617	680	722	679
Trauma (n = 475)	49	65	103	66	82	110

Traumatic causes (N = 475)



- 77% were male
- 32% were under 45 years old

- 40% - falls
- 20% - hanging
- 13% - choking

Alcohol dependent and received treatment for substance misuse



- 186 (5%) alcohol dependent people also had history of drug dependency
- 109 (3%) alcohol dependent people had a record of receiving treatment for substance dependency at the time of death
- Majority were receiving treatment for opiate dependency

Summary: NDRDI 2004-2009



- Alcohol was the drug most frequently implicated in poisoning deaths in Ireland
- 805 alcohol-related poisonings
 - Over half of all alcohol-related poisonings involved another drug, mainly benzodiazepines.
- 4,131 non-poisoning deaths among people who were alcohol-dependent
 - Nine out of ten deaths were due to medical causes.
- Future changes in policy to be measured by the NDRDI

Additional slides

WHO recommendations



- Evidence-based to reduce alcohol-related harm:
 - increased taxes;
 - restrictions on outlet density, days and hours of sale;
 - a minimum legal purchase age;
 - a low legal BAC for drivers;
 - random breath testing for drivers;
 - accessible brief advice programmes;
 - alcohol treatment programmes in health services.

Alcohol-only poisoning, NDRDI, 2004-2009 (N =390)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Alcohol only poisoning (n = 390)	61	51	54	85	81	58

- 45% recorded history of alcohol dependency
- 12.5% of the above had a recorded history of receiving treatment for alcohol dependency



Alcohol-polysubstance poisonings, NDRDI, 2004-2009 (N = 415)



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Alcohol plus other drug(s)	64	65	57	80	71	78

- 27% recorded history of alcohol dependency
- 5% of the above had a recorded history of receiving treatment for alcohol dependency
- 46% of alcohol poly-substance poisonings had a recorded history of drug dependency
- 21% of the above had a recorded history of receiving treatment for drug dependency