

North Inner City Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Drug Misuse, Trends and Behaviours

Online Survey 2018

This report shows a summary of the results of the 7th online survey on Drugs Misuse, Trends and Behaviours undertaken by the NICDATF in May 2018.

Invitations to participate were sent to 21 NICDATF organisations. The survey was issued on the 25th of May and the survey was closed on the 27th of August 2018.

Fourteen surveys were completed and returned, all from separate community based organisations based in the NICDATF area, and one statutory agency. Eleven of these projects work mainly with adults and three mainly with children or young people and their families.

KEY POINTS

- 62% of NICDATF projects responded.
- Tablets are the drugs most frequently mentioned by individuals and groups engaging with projects @ 30%.
- 93% of projects reported that poly-drug use is frequently causing problems for the individuals or groups contacting their service.
- Tablets and alcohol were the substance that featured highest among the particular combinations causing concern.
- 53% of combinations specified as causing concern involved a combination of alcohol and tablets, sometimes in conjunction with other substances.
- 37% of combinations specified as causing concern involved cocaine or crack cocaine.
- Tablets were cited as the drug causing the greatest issue for clients, followed closely by cannabis and crack cocaine / cocaine.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

Q1. The 14 organisations that completed the survey were contacted by a total of 737 individuals / groups affected by drugs or drug related issues within the last month.

54% (397) were male

44% (322) were female

2% not specified

Note: regarding concern about double-counting, respondents were requested to count each individual/group which contacted their service ONLY ONCE, regardless of how many times they made contact within the month. It is possible that individuals / groups may also have contacted another service and if so, may be double counted in the overall figures.

Q2. The individuals / groups that most frequently contacted the projects around drugs or drug-related issue were:

1. Adults with drug issues
2. Parents and Guardians
3. Community members
4. Community groups

Q3. The most common age range of individuals engaging with projects regarding drugs or drug-related issues were:

1. 35 to 44
2. 24 to 34
3. 45 to 60
4. 12 to 23

Q4. The 5 drugs most frequently mentioned by individuals / groups engaging with projects were:

1. Tablets
2. Cannabis
3. Alcohol
4. Cocaine
5. Heroin

Tablets were listed as various substances/various names;

Benzos, benzodiazepines, street benzos, Zimovanes, Zimmos and Z-drugs

Cannabis was listed as:

Cannabis, Weed, Grass, Hash

Q5. We asked if poly-drug use (using 2 or more drugs at the same time) was causing problems for individuals/groups contacting the service.

93% responded that it was causing problems either frequently or very frequently.

We then asked if there were any particular combinations which were causing concern.

Of the various combinations of drugs listed as causing concern: alcohol and tablets were most frequently included, either in combination with each other, or combined with other drugs.

1. 13 of the 19 combinations included alcohol
2. 13 of the 19 combinations included tablets
3. 10 of 19 of the combinations included both alcohol and tablets
4. 7 of the 12 respondents mentioned cocaine or crack cocaine in some combination with other substances

5. 5 of the 12 respondents listed a minimum of three combinations that were causing concern, or mentioned that poly-drug use included an array of substances.

Q6. We asked which drugs were causing the greatest issue for the individuals or groups contacting the service:

1. Tablets (Benzos/Z-drugs/Other tablets)
2. Cannabis (weed/grass/hash/high strength cannabis)
3. Crack Cocaine/cocaine
4. Alcohol
5. Heroin

Q7. 80% projects reported an increase in new individuals/groups contacting their service around drug-related issues during the last month.

Q8. We asked in what way are drugs and drug-related issues are affecting individual's behaviour, social interactions and personal life. The greatest issues reported were:

1. Crime
2. Drug dealing, Financial problems, Education, anti-social issues
3. Homelessness, employment, children,
4. Intimidation, aggression

Q9. We asked in what way are drugs and drug-related issues are affecting individual's mental health. The greatest issues reported were:

1. Addiction
2. Low self-esteem
3. Anxiety
4. Depression

Q10. We asked in what way are drugs and drug-related issues are affecting individual's physical health. The greatest issues reported were:

1. Withdrawal pains
2. Infections
3. Respiratory problems
4. Blood borne viruses

Q11. Since the last survey was completed in May 2017, have there been any new drug related trends and behaviours occurring which you are concerned about?

Homelessness continues to rise leading to increase drug use.

Crack Cocaine on increase in the local area.

Increase in the use of alcohol and cocaine, particularly among young people.

More clients presenting with poly drug use. Also there's a lot of anger presenting with this cohort. Suicidal ideation and intimidation are also often present.

Increased level of violence.

Increased level of individuals experiencing severe mental health issues.

Older drug users presenting to the service.

More coke and more low level dealing.

An increase in powder form cocaine, and alcohol has increased. In contrast to last year where benzos and weed were the main cause for referral.

Nothing that hasn't arisen before. Those presenting with Chem Sex issues are in counselling in relation to this.

New Xanax with NIKE tick (nikies) on the tablet which is coming in stronger than Tranex.

Injecting heroin and then smoking a rock of crack straight after and continuing this cycle till the drug is gone.

MILK - fentanyl mixed with water.

Strong Grass/Weed.