



A data-driven intervention model to respond effectively to drug-related intimidation and violence in communities in Ireland.

- An overview of DRIVE
- And a snapshot of responses to DRI in Fingal



NORTH DUBLIN
Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force

B.Walsh, Regional DATF Coordinator & Inspector John Moroney, nominated Inspector for DRI, DMR North

PLANET
Youth

by ICSRA ®

PARTNER Ireland

STRAND 1. PRIMARY SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION PROJECT



NORTH DUBLIN
Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force

An initiative of the North Dublin Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force with partners



HE
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Comhar LEADER Fhine Gall
Fingal LEADER Partnership



JIGSAW
Young people's
health in mind

Substance Use - Key Findings

Alcohol Onset

35%

Tried alcohol at the age
13 or younger

Tried alcohol

63%

Tried alcohol in their lifetime

Drunk 30 days

13%

Were drunk in the past 30 days

Get alcohol from family

12%

Get their alcohol from a
family member



E-Cigarettes

32%

Have tried smoking an
e-cigarette in their
lifetime

18%

Smoked an e-cigarette
in the last 30 days

Cigarette Smoking

10%

Tried smoking at the
age 13 or younger

3%

Smoke cigarettes daily



Cannabis Use

8%

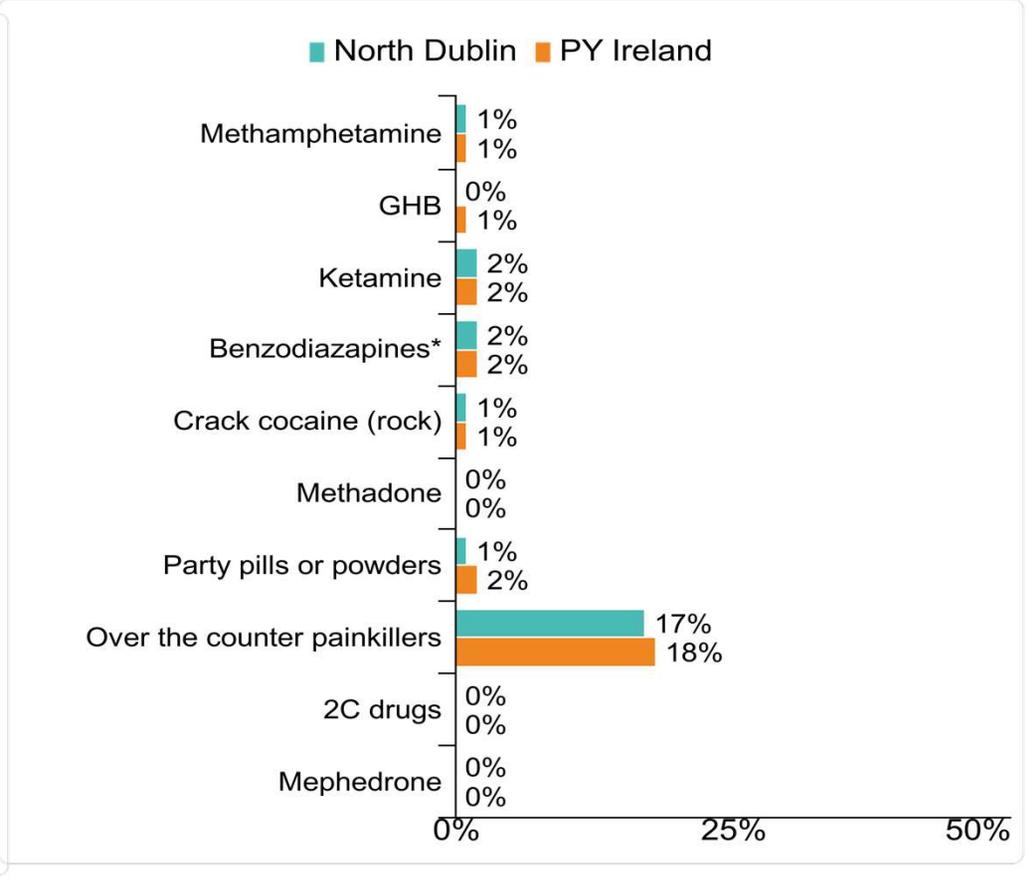
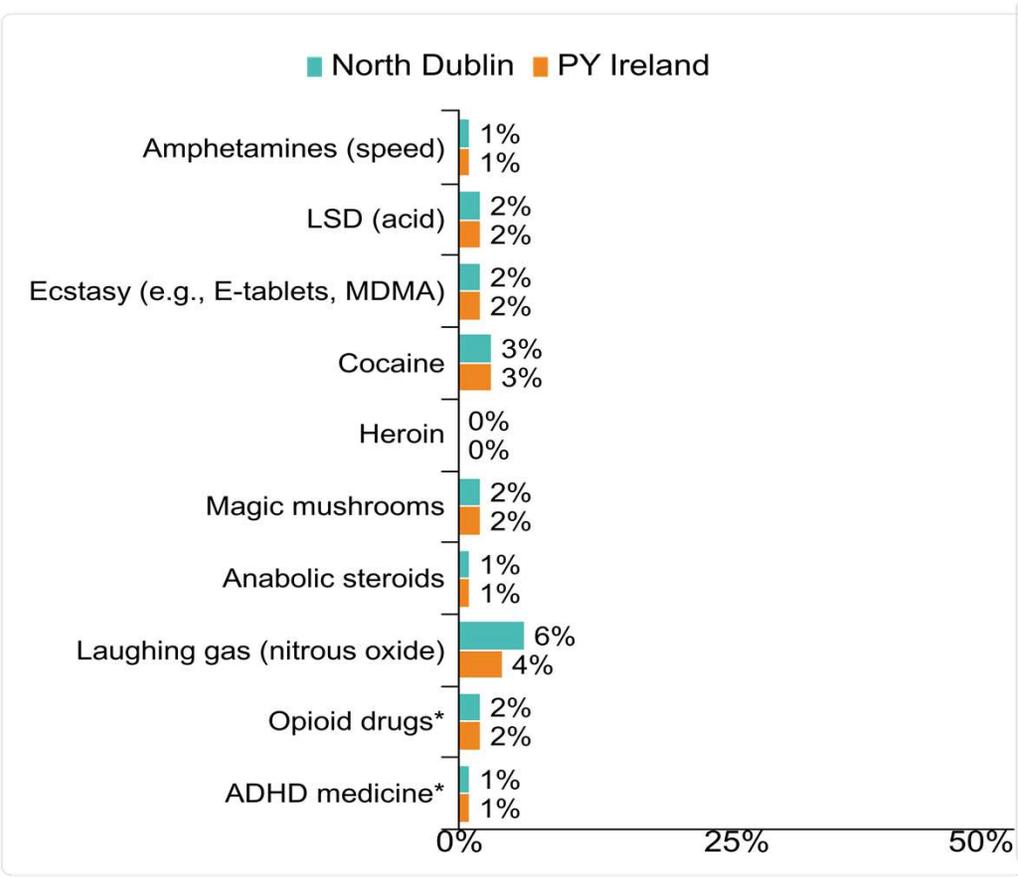
Used cannabis in the
last 30 days

18%

Have used cannabis in
their lifetime

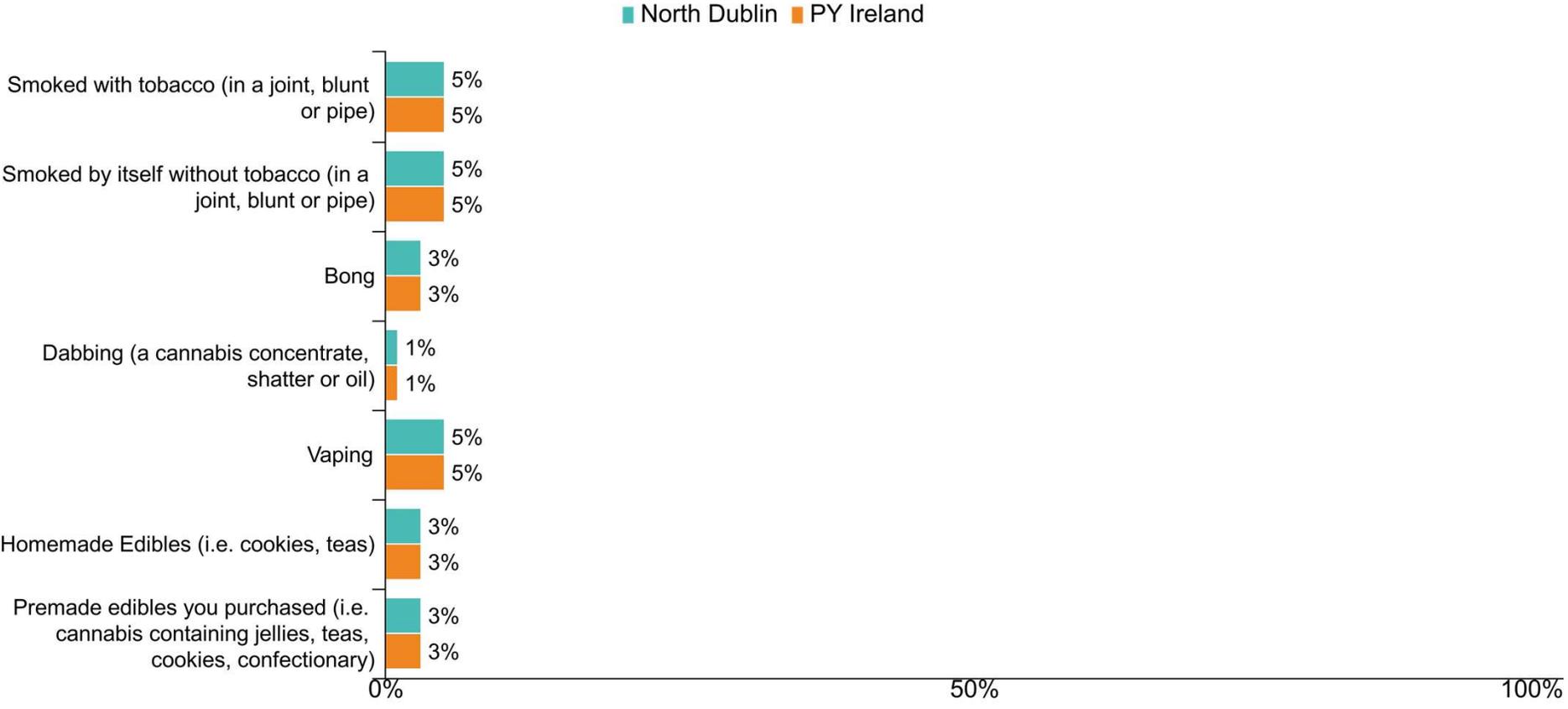


Proportion of young people aged 14-17 in Fingal who have used the following substances once or more in their lifetime (based on data from nearly 3000 children)

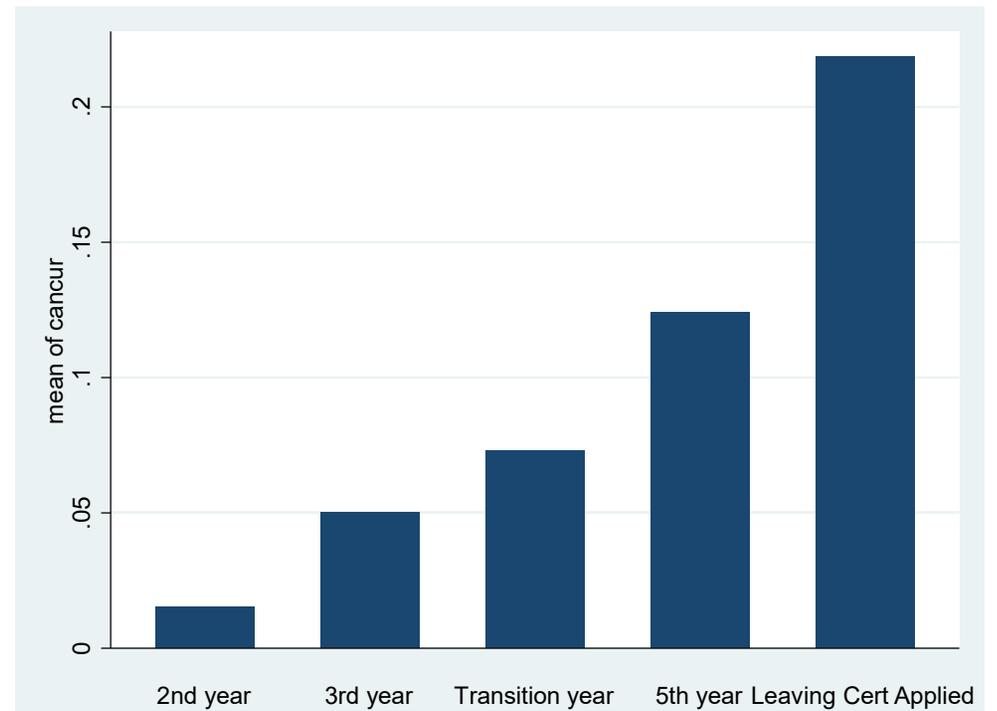
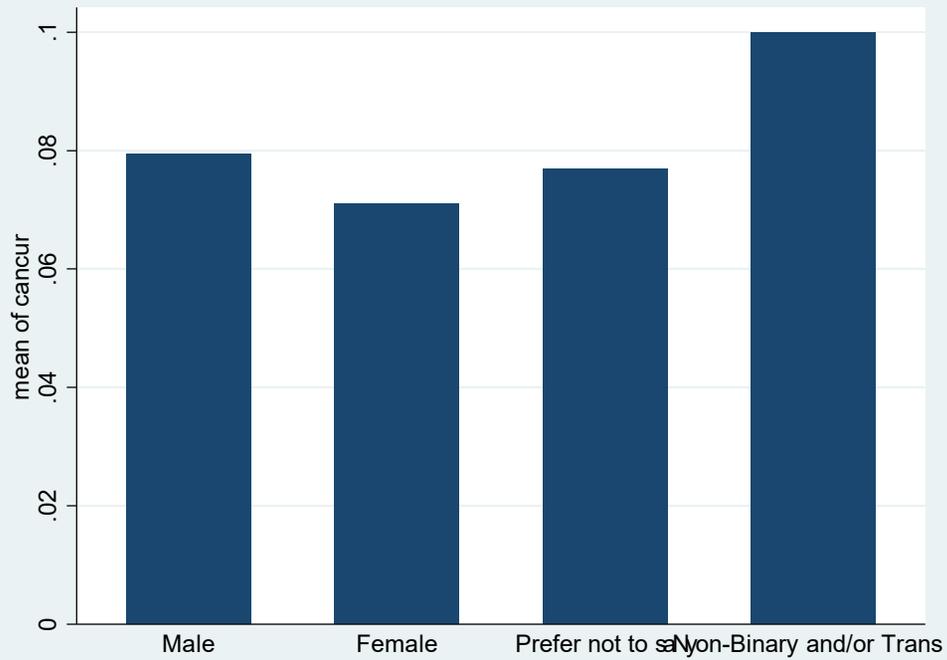


*Without a doctor's prescription

Proportion of adolescents in Fingal who report having used cannabis in the following forms



Cannabis and demographics



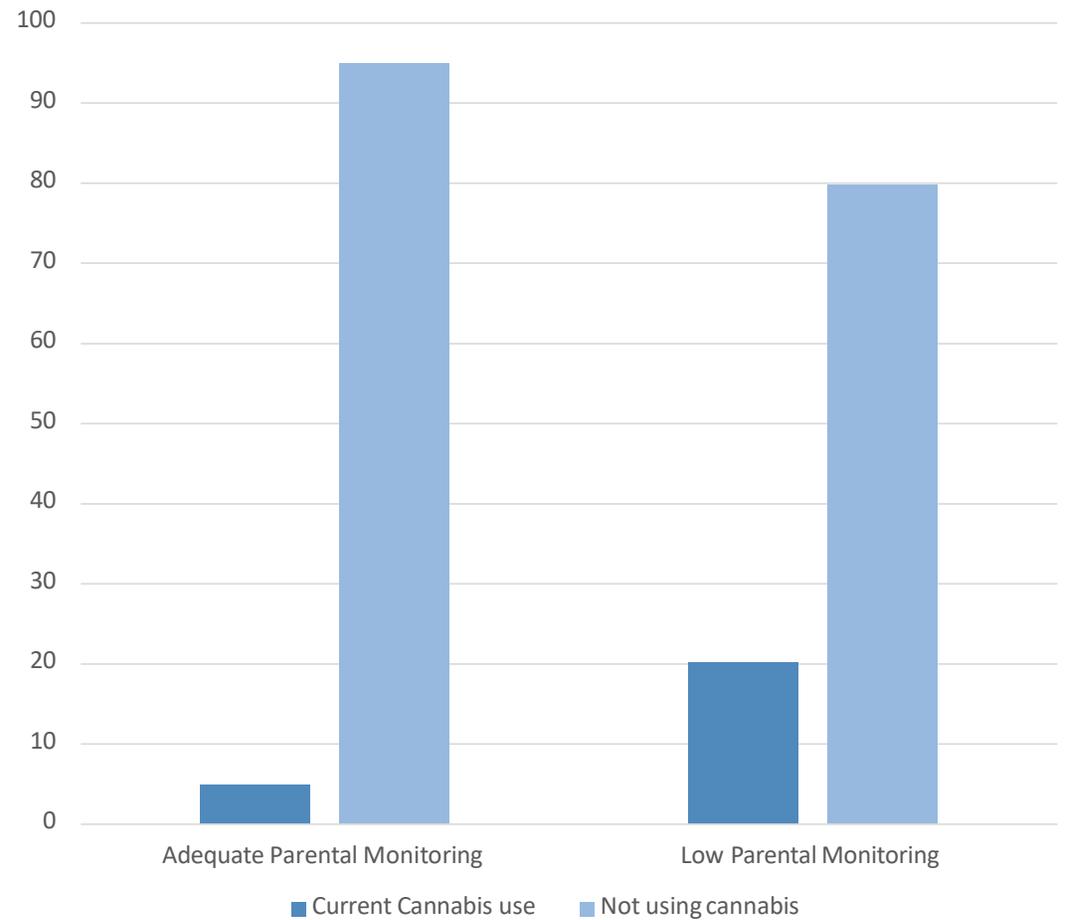
New Sources of illicit drugs - Social Media

Few young people source drugs “often”

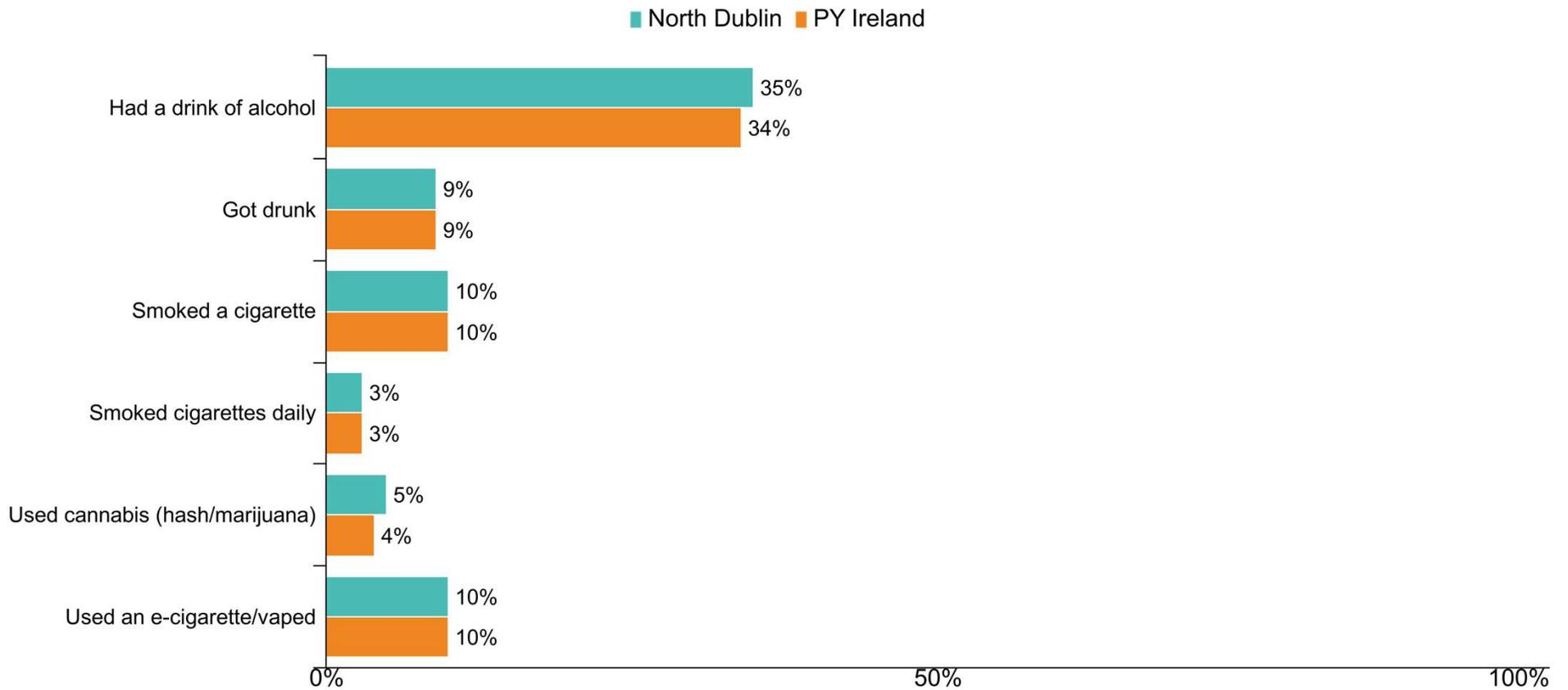
Of those that source drugs “often” – social media is the most common means to source drugs

Overall social media and in person peer social networks were the most common ways to source illicit substances (9-11% of all young people source drugs through these methods)

Parental monitoring and current cannabis use



Proportion of adolescents in Fingal that tried the following for the first time at the age of 13 or younger



- Drug debt threats for young people **who are currently using cannabis**

1 in 8 have threatened someone else

1 in 6 have been threatened

1 in 5 have said a family member was threatened

4 in 10 have said a friend was threatened



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JUNE 2022

Background

- Consistently raised as an issue in Task Forces, services, public reps and by local community representatives and families
- severe impact on families & communities
- Small group submitted application supported by 23 DATFS
- Funding Approved by Minister – oversight committee set up – strand 3. . More recently approved under SIG 4



Challenges



- Need standardised approach to Drug related Intimidation
- DRIRP more active in some areas than others – need to build on the existing work
- Victims can be reluctant to make reports or to go gardaí
- Data is anecdotal – need to recognise the role of addiction/family support services
- Need for local, regional and national data on nature and prevalence to inform responses
- No national focal point of information, resources and support

DRIVE Oversight Committee

- **Bríd Walsh:** Chairperson
- **Antoinette Kinsella** Regional DATF Coordinators Network
- **Dave Kenny:** The Probation Service
- **Detective Superintendent Sé McCormack** An Garda Síochána
- **Joe Slattery:** Community Voluntary Sector
- **Hugh Greaves** Local DATF Coordinator Network
- **Fran Byrne** HSE National Addiction Advisory Governance Group





Reporting/communication structure



Progress so far



- Funding secured to commission development of DRIVE Framework
- DRIVE Youth Justice strategy submission
- Model developed and launched by Minister
- Data collection scoping exercise
- Ongoing work with HRB to develop data collection system
- DATA Scoping group
- SIG 4 approval in post mid term review actions

DRIVE

Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement
An interagency response in Ireland



2. Data Collection and Analysis

To increase both real time and retrospective reporting of DRI, leading to increased knowledge of DRI prevalence and trends in local communities

4. Community Level Supports

To develop, design and implement data informed and evidence based community level supports to tackle DRI focused on prevention, desistance and suppression

6. Legislation and systemic change

To enable the pursuit of strategic, policy and legislative changes required to bring about increased convictions and reduce incidents of DRI



1. Capacity Building and Shared Commitment

To develop an increased understanding of DRI and improve the capacity of front line workers and relevant organisations to respond effectively.

3. Information Sharing

To connect organisations and share information to enable solution focused approaches and interventions at local, regional and national levels

5. Law Enforcement

To support responsive policing aligned to area based data ranging from harm reduction approaches to aggressive investigations & 'pulling levers'

Operation Fógra, DMR North Drug Related Intimidation (DRI)



Inspector John Moroney

Nominated Drug Related Intimidation
Inspector DMR North

Cocaine Use in Ireland 2020

During 2020 An Garda Síochána
seized in excess of

137.8kg Cocaine €9.5million
368.6kg Cannabis €7.3 million

6.6% have used - **260,000** of the general
population of 15 years and older.

1.9% (72,000) – Last year

26.7% - knew somebody who used cocaine

84.9% Lifetime Users also used **alcohol** on
occasion of 1st use.

**11.3% in 2014 up to 35.8% of Treatment
Cases in 2020**

What is DRI?

Criminals Allege a Drugs Debt

Threats, damage, physical / sexual violence

Offences include:

- Threats to Kill/Cause Serious Harm
- Demanding Money with Menaces / Extortion
- Criminal Damage
- Assault
- Threats to Kill
- OCG Offences
- Sexual Offences

Who is at Risk?

All Socio-Economic Backgrounds – money and ‘in kind’

The user/dealer

Immediate family

Relatives

Loved ones

Innocent people

The perpetrator is often a victim but can also be a profiteer.

Impact on the Victim

Psychological

Physical

Financial

Family Relationships

Operation
Fógra DMR
North
Supporting
the Victim

Nominated DRI SPOC DMR North

Divisional Network and Inter-Agency Support

Meet Victims of DRI – Confidential, Advice, Support, Options

Operation Fógra

Operation
Fógra DMR
North
Investigation
of DRI
Offences

Full Incident Room

Divisional Team

- D/Supt. Paul Scott, DMR North
- Insp. John Moroney, DRI SPOC
- D/Gda Domhnall O'Connell, IRC
- Gda Paul Murphy, Exhibits Officer
- D/Gda Stephen O'Carolan, Phones
- 4 Sgts/ D/Sgts
- 11 Gardaí/ D/Gardaí
- All Members Divisionally

Op Fógra November 2020 – June 2022

165 – Reported DRI incidents
(Nov. '20 – June '22)

92 – individuals who are suspected of
involvement (Various strength of nominations)

19 - premises searched under warrant

18 - individuals Arrested & Detained

10 – Separate investigation files submitted to
the DPP

From
Investigation
Files
Submitted

22 – individual incidents within the
10 investigation files submitted.

17 – suspects in these investigation
files

11 – individuals charged & before
courts or convicted.

4 – Suspects in Completed Files
Under Consideration

Other Ongoing Investigations

14 – ongoing investigations i.e. 14 different locations or injured parties.
Days of Action planned.

Relate to 31 individual incidents

9 – suspects for these ongoing investigations

Total - ID and built cases - **23 People** - either before the courts, subject of an investigation files or suspects in ongoing investigations

Total of **49 separate incidents** of Drug Related Intimidation where People have been Charged or Identified as Suspects **i.e. 29.7% of all incidents** reported in DMR North

Inter agency approach with the Task force facilitated successful investigations

Victim of DRI – What to Do

Critical – Dial 999

Seek Support (Regional Drug Task Force -Fingal Families/ DRI Inspector)

Establish Your Options

Is there a debt. Is it mine?

If I pay..... Will it go away?

If I don't pay.....consequences?

Is the source of the debt still using (Set clear lines and ensure consequences)

Criminal Complaint

General Advice and AGS actions to Victims of DRI

Criminal Investigation
– SIO, IRC and
Incident Room Led.
Divisional Team

Premise History Alert

Circulation for Patrols

Crime Prevention
Officer

Assessment of Risk

Encourage Family
Support, engagement
with services

Focus on the family as
a whole

Consequences

Community based interagency DRIVE Committees

Eg: Draft Agenda

- Data review on DRI from DRIVE system and other sources
- Community-Level Insights and identification of emerging trends
- Community-Level Supports (Capacity, Resources, Services) that can be aligned to emerging information
- Gaps and Unmet needs
- Key Actions



Next steps 2022

- HRB and Data collection Tool
- DRIVE Coordinator in place in June based in Balbriggan
- Set up network of DRIVE liaisons
- Establish Community based DRIVE Inter-agency groups
- Development of Enhanced DRI training and Train the trainer
- Build www.driveproject.ie as focal point for resources
- 1st annual good practice national conference Q4 2022

For more info contact: brid@ndublinrdtf.ie

