

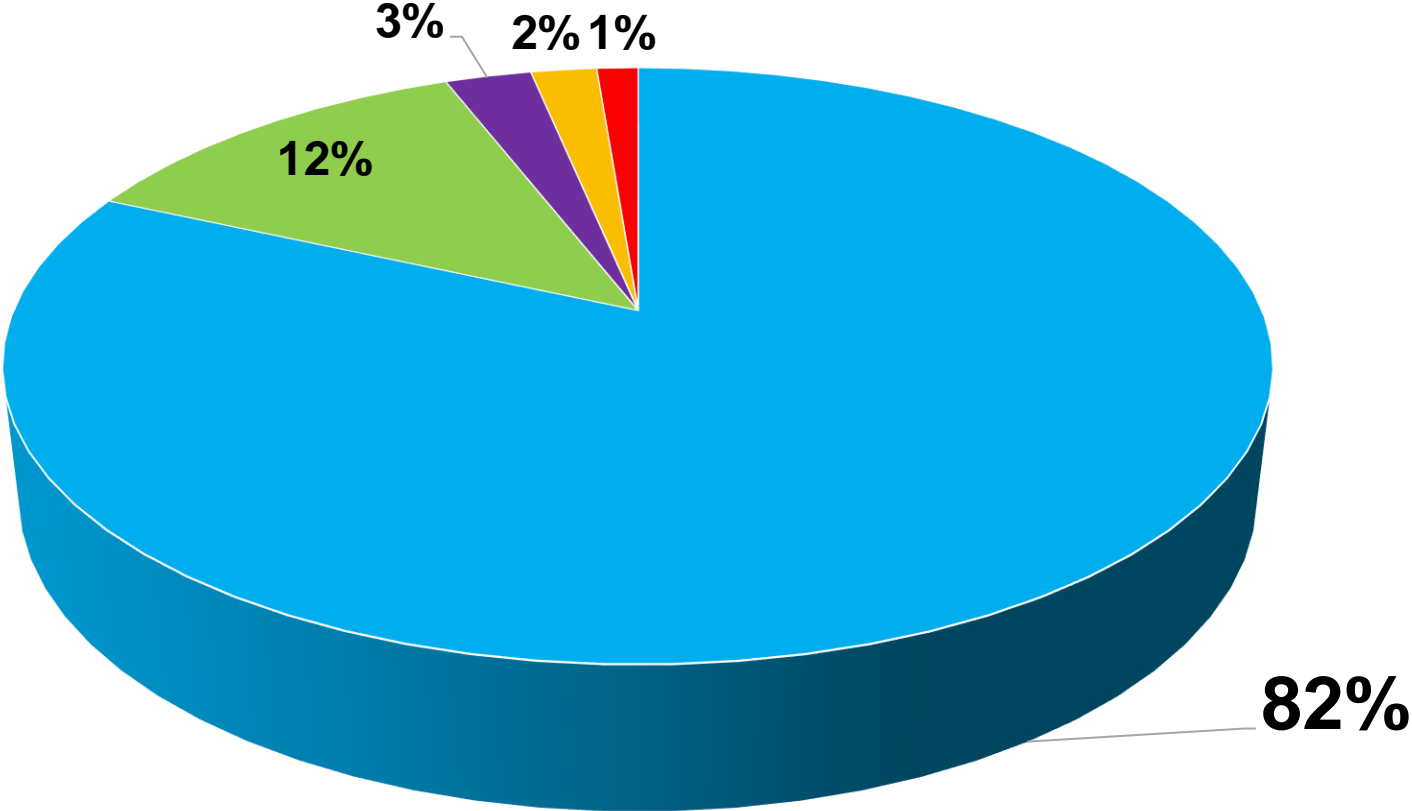


Medical perspectives on drug use, drug harm and drug policy

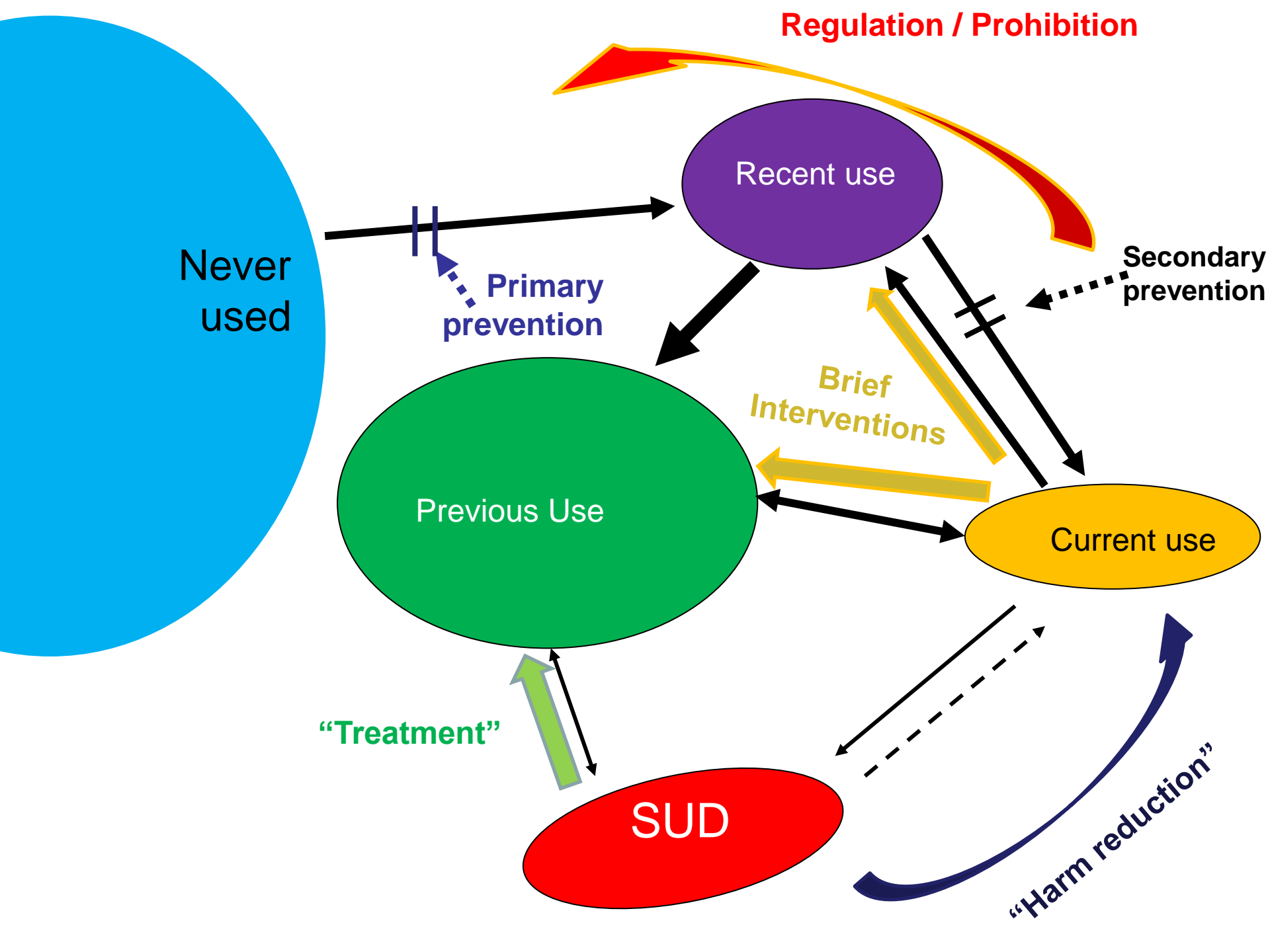
Prof Bobby Smyth PhD MRCPsych
September 2023



Distribution of entire population (aged 0 to 109) by history of illegal drug use, 2019



- Never used
- Past Use (lifetime but no past year use)
- Recent use (past year but not past month)
- Current use, but no SUD
- SUD



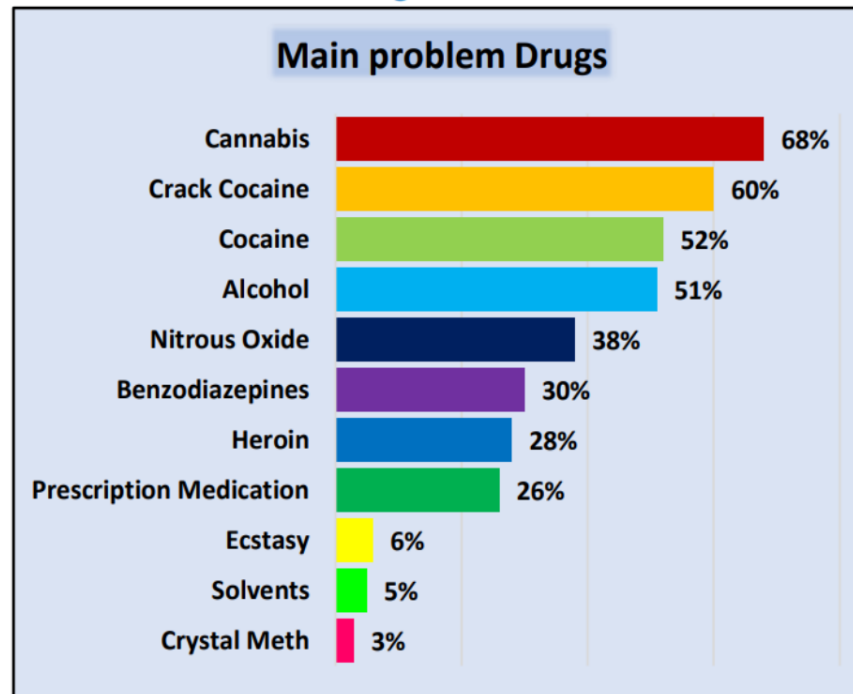
Cannabis use disorder

- 20% of past year users have CUD (~45,000 in Ireland)
- Cannabis is main substance for ~80% of under 18s who enter Rx

- Mainly boys
- All SE Groups
- Issues
 - Mental health
 - Debt
 - School
 - Family



4.2.2 Main Problem Drugs



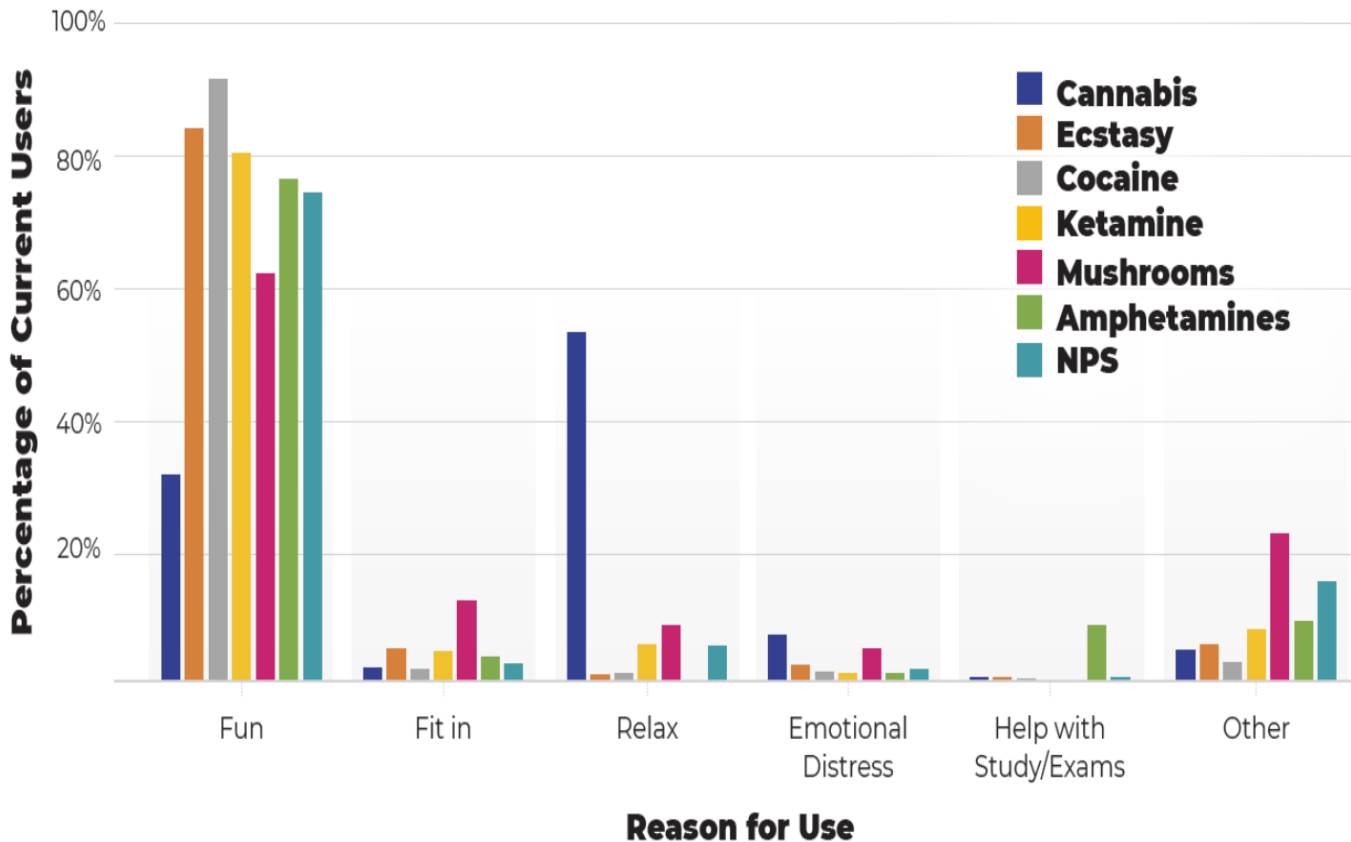
Survey respondents were asked to identify the main problem drug in their area. They had the option of choosing three options from a pre-set list. Cannabis, Crack Cocaine, and Cocaine were identified as the three main problem drugs.

Alcohol, Nitrous Oxide and Benzodiazepines were the next three most prominent problem drugs identified by respondents followed

closely by Heroin and Prescription Medication. The sense that Crystal Meth was emerging as a

Why do young people use drugs?

Figure 20 - Main Reason for Use (Current Users)



Cocaine

To get high/
for fun
(88%)

To Socialise
(70%)

Out of
curiosity
(11%)

To reduce
stress/to relax
(10%)

To treat
depression
(6%)

cannabis

Drug Abuse

Cannabis Legalization for Adult Use (commonly referred to as recreational use) H-95.924

Topic: Drug Abuse
Meeting Type: Interim

Policy Subtopic: NA
Year Last Modified: 2020

Our American Medical Association:
(1) believes that **cannabis** is a dangerous drug and as such is a serious public health concern;
(2) believes that the sale of **cannabis** for adult use should not be legalized

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update

COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE, COMMITTEE ON ADOLESCENCE

POLICY STATEMENT Organizational Principles to Guide and Define the Child Health Care System and/or Improve the Health of all Children

“The AAP opposes legalization of marijuana because of the potential harms to children & adolescents.”

ER visits linked to marijuana rose at Colorado hospital after legalization, study finds

People who consume marijuana edibles may be ingesting unsafe levels because they don't feel

Cannabis poisoning in children rose dramatically after edibles legalized: study

Illinois emergency department visits

Vancouver

Billions in black-market weed still selling in Illinois 18 months after marijuana legalized

Asia Australia Middle East Africa Inequality

Illegal cannabis market still thriving in Canada two years after legalization

California legalized weed five years ago. Why is the illicit market still thriving?

Editorial: What legalization? California is still the Wild West of illegal marijuana

Los Angeles Times

Cannabis use landing more young people in emergency departments, study finds

By Giri Viswanathan, CNN
Published 1:00 PM EDT, Thu July 13, 2023

'The legal stuff is garbage': why Canada's cannabis black market keeps thriving

Legalized marijuana sends more kids to the hospital in Colorado

Seven Years After Legalization, Colorado Battles An Illegal Marijuana Market

Legalization of Marijuana Linked to Increased Traffic Crashes, Fatalities

Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs
July 19, 2022 3 min read

Proportionate deterrents



Gardaí have issued over 20,000 fines for Covid-19 restriction breaches

Most fines relate to non-essential travel outside of designated distance

© Fri, Apr 16, 2021, 19:57

Conor Gallagher



An Garda Síochána said that all occupants of a car taking a non-essential journey would be fined. File photograph: Stephen Collins/Collins Photos

THE IRISH TIMES

Tue, Jul 13, 2021

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Covid-19 laws: What can gardaí enforce and what penalties can be given?

Those found organising a party or gathering could face a fine of up to €1,000

© Wed, Oct 21, 2020, 14:09

Jennifer Bray

