

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Mini European Web Survey on Drugs: Covid-19

Mini-European Web Survey on Drugs (EWSD): Impact of COVID-19 on patterns of drug use, harms and drug services in the European Union

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



European Web
Survey on Drugs

Mini-European Web Survey on Drugs (EWSD): COVID-19

Impact of COVID-19 on patterns of drug use, harms and drug services in the European Union

INTRODUCTION AND CONSENT

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 across Europe and subsequent national responses to contain and mitigate the epidemic (self-isolation, quarantine, confinement, lockdowns), information has emerged about unprecedented challenges for services providing care to people who use drugs in the community and in prisons. Anecdotal information also indicates that there may have been changes in drug use patterns and in how people are obtaining their drugs. Understanding and sharing information on the consequences of COVID-19 and national response measures on harms deriving from the lack of access to care and how services have adapted as a response may help services improve their responses.

In order to investigate and rapidly document the current impact of the COVID-19 epidemics and national responses in the EU Member States on changes in patterns of drug use, harms and service provision, the EMCDDA is carrying out a study using an adapted version of the trendspotter methodology across EU Member States, of which this survey forms a part. The Mini European Web Survey on Drugs: COVID-19 is part of this snapshot and is being conducted across Europe. The aim is to gather information about how patterns of drug use may have changed in Europe due to COVID-19.

Your time is enormously appreciated. Please be assured that the information you give us is entirely confidential and will be kept safely. The questionnaire is also anonymous - although there are a few broad

questions about your general situation to help us understand how different groups of people who use drugs have been affected by the COVID-19 restrictions and how services have responded in different parts of Europe. This will help the sharing of good practice and improved preparedness in the future.

Informed Consent

Purpose:

The main purpose of this study is to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on patterns of drug use in EU countries. For a comprehensive picture we need information from people who use drugs.

Participants:

You can participate in this survey if you are aged 18 or over.

Benefits:

The information gathered from this study will be used to input into future European response to COVID-19.

Risks:

Participants will be asked to provide information about their use of substances. However, the survey is completely anonymous, no information that could identify you will be collected, and the data are confidential.

Participant Rights:

Participation in this project is completely voluntary. If at any time you wish to discontinue the activity, you may do so.

By participating in this study, I indicate that I accept the aforementioned terms and that I understand the following:

- (1) My participation is voluntary and I may discontinue participation at any time without consequence.
- (2) I will remain anonymous and any and all information I provide will be used for study purposes only and will not be traceable to me.

- The answers that you provide about your drug use are important to this study's success. Some questions are personal or concern behavior which may be against some social rules or the law. We hope that you will answer all the questions and answer them truthfully. Remember that your answers are ANONYMOUS.

A note on privacy

This survey is anonymous. The record of your survey responses does not contain any identifying information about you. No IP addresses will be stored. No tokens are used. The information will remain with the EMCDDA. No individual results of this survey will be published, but only aggregated data.

By clicking on the "agree to participate" button, I indicate my agreement to take part in this study.

- Yes
 No

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

Year of birth:

Only values between 1900 and 2002 are allowed

Which country are you currently living in?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Austria | <input type="radio"/> Germany | <input type="radio"/> Poland |
| <input type="radio"/> Belgium | <input type="radio"/> Greece | <input type="radio"/> Portugal |
| <input type="radio"/> Bulgaria | <input type="radio"/> Hungary | <input type="radio"/> Romania |
| <input type="radio"/> Croatia | <input type="radio"/> Ireland | <input type="radio"/> Slovak Republic |
| <input type="radio"/> Cyprus | <input type="radio"/> Italy | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia |
| <input type="radio"/> Czechia | <input type="radio"/> Latvia | <input type="radio"/> Spain |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Sweden |
| <input type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg | <input type="radio"/> Norway |
| <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Turkey |
| <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Netherlands | <input type="radio"/> Other |

If other, please specify the country you live in

Would you say you live in a....

- City
- Town
- Village

Please tell us in which city you live:

COVID-19 STATUS

Have you had to engage in any of the following as a consequence of the COVID-19 restrictions (mark all that apply)?

- Physical isolation (e.g., avoiding public transport and social gatherings, working/studying from home)
- Home isolation (i.e., a government asked everyone to stay in isolation at home)
- Home quarantine (tested positive for COVID-19 and stayed at home)
- Admitted to hospital (tested positive for COVID-19 and admitted to hospital)
- Other
- None
- Don't know

Have you changed your use of CANNABIS as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your cannabis use:

Have you changed your use of ECSTASY/MDMA as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your ecstasy/MDMA use:

Have you changed your use of COCAINE/CRACK-COCAINE as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your cocaine/crack-cocaine use:

Have you changed your use of AMPHETAMINES as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your amphetamines use:

Have you changed your use of HEROIN as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions

- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your heroin use:

Have you changed your use of LSD as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your LSD use:

Have you changed your use of SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions

- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your synthetic cannabinoids use:

Have you changed your use of SYNTHETIC STIMULANTS OTHER THAN AMPHETAMINES (e.g. cathinones) as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your synthetic stimulant use:

Have you changed your use of OTHER OPIOIDS without medical prescription (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine, fentanyl or others) as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions

- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your use of other opioids:

In general, would you say you have used more or less illicit drugs, since the start of the COVID-19 epidemic in your country?

- Have not used illicit drugs during COVID-19 restrictions in your country
- Used less illicit drugs during COVID-19 restrictions in your country
- Used more illicit drugs during COVID-19 restrictions in your country
- Used the same amount of illicit drugs during COVID-19 restrictions in your country
- Don't know

Why has your illicit drug use decreased as a result of COVID-19 restrictions (mark all that apply)?

- Loss of income/less money to buy drugs
- Reduced availability of drugs to buy
- Reduced ability to collect drugs (e.g., can't leave home)
- Fewer opportunities to use drugs (e.g., closure of clubs/bars, restrictions on gatherings)
- Living arrangements make it difficult to use drugs
- Worried about effects on my health
- Saving my money due to future financial uncertainty
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other reason for the decrease

Why has your illicit drug use increased as a result of COVID-19 restrictions (mark all that apply)

- More money to buy drugs
- Greater availability of drugs to buy
- Greater ability to collect drugs (e.g., online)
- Boredom
- Anxiety/to cope with COVID-19
- Because I stockpiled drugs
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other reason for the increase

When compared to the past 12 months, did the way you use drugs changed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions?

	Haven't used that way in the past 12 months	Increased	Decreased	Same
Smoking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Injecting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swallowing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snorting/sniffing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Where did you obtain your syringes before and after the COVID-19 restrictions (mark all that apply)?

	In the past 12 months	After COVID-19 restrictions
Pharmacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drop-in center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outreach-workers/van	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vending machine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug consumption room	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Received clean syringe for free from a friend or partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From a dealer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Found used syringe on the street	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared used syringe with a friend or partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Has your access to clean injection material changed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19 restrictions were in place?

- Less accessible than usual
- Same as usual
- More accessible than usual
- Don't know

Have you had enough injection material to always use a clean syringe after the COVID-19 restrictions (i.e. after nationwide stay-at-home measures)?

- Yes

- No
- I have not injected drugs after the COVID-19 restrictions

Has there been a change in your intention to seek professional support (counselling or drug treatment) to reduce or abstain from use of illicit drugs since COVID 19 containment measures were introduced?

- Strong increase
- Slight increase
- No change
- Slight decrease
- Strong decrease

Has there been a change in your use of online or remote professional support services such as phone-, video- and/or web-based drug services to seek support for reducing drug-related risk behaviours and/or drug use since COVID 19 containment measures were introduced?

- Strong increase
- Slight increase
- No change
- Slight decrease
- Strong decrease

DRUG MARKET

Have you obtained/attempted to obtain illicit drugs since the outbreak of COVID-19?

- Yes
- No

Thinking about the last time you obtained illicit drugs since the COVID-19 outbreak, what drugs did you obtain (mark all that apply)?

- Cannabis (herbal/resin)
- Ecstasy/MDMA
- Cocaine/crack-cocaine
- Amphetamines
- Heroin
- LSD
- Synthetic cannabinoids
- Other synthetic stimulants (e.g. cathinones)
- Other opioids without medical prescription (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine, fentanyl or others)
- I tried but was not able to get any drugs
- Don't know

Have you had difficulties in accessing illicit drugs because of COVID-19?

- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Moderately
- Extremely

Don't know

Have you changed the way you have obtained illicit drugs during COVID-19 compared to before the restrictions? This might include obtaining more on an occasion or more frequently as compared to pre-COVID-19, for example (mark all that apply).

- No change
- Haven't tried to access illicit drugs
- Stopped obtaining illicit drugs
- Obtained illicit drugs from a different dealer
- Obtained illicit drugs from surface net more than I had before COVID-19
- Obtained illicit drugs from darknet more than I had before COVID-19
- Obtained larger quantities on an occasion
- Bought smaller quantities on an occasion
- Bought illicit drugs more frequently
- Bought illicit drugs less frequently
- Bought different illicit drugs
- Arranged for more home delivery of illicit drugs than I had before
- Arrange for more postal delivery of illicit drugs than I had before
- Reduced face-to-face collection of illicit drugs compared to before
- Other
- Don't know

How else did you change the way you obtain drugs?

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has there been a change in the purity, price, or amount of drugs drug(s) you have obtained?

	the same	higher	lower	don't know
purity/strength was	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
the price was	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
quantity/amount received	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other comments

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill out this survey. Stay safe!



Survey of Drug and Alcohol Service Providers on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Survey of Drug and Alcohol Service Providers on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Please note: We are asking that the project leader/ service coordinator (or the equivalent in your service) completes this survey on behalf of the service as a whole. We will be accepting one response only from each service.

Please read the Participant Information Sheet before continuing.

[Participant Information Sheet.pdf](#)

I confirm I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet and consent to take part in the survey and to the processing of the data I provide.

INTRODUCTION

Drug and alcohol services have had to quickly alter the way they operate due to national guidelines. As part of a Rapid Assessment of the Impact of Covid-19 on drug trends and services in Ireland, we want to examine the impact Covid-19 has had on your service and your clients. Participants of this survey will provide evidence for appropriate policy responses to the pandemic.

About the survey

This survey is split into three main sections:

- A. Service Information
- B. Impacts of Covid-19 for clients
- C. Impacts of Covid-19 for services

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please note you can download a pdf copy of your responses if you wish. It is also possible to save the progress you have made on the survey and continue at another time, by clicking 'Save as Draft' on the right side of the screen.

Closing date

This online survey closes at **5 p.m. on Friday 4th September 2020**. Please submit your responses before this deadline.

A. SERVICE INFORMATION

Please provide information on the type and location of your service.

1. Name of Service

Respondent contact details (for survey administrative purposes, not for analysis):

2. Respondent name

3. Role in service

4. Contact phone number

5. Contact email address

6. Please select your service type (tick all that apply)

- Community Drugs Project
- Counselling Service
- Drug and Alcohol Task Force
- Family Support Service
- GP Addiction Service
- HSE Addiction Service
- Low Threshold /Day Service
- Residential Treatment Service
- Service Users/Peer Support Service
- Other (please specify)

If you selected other, please specify your service type here:

7. What type of clients use your service? (tick all that apply)

- Minors only (under 18s)
- Adults only (over 18s)
- All ages
- Men only
- Women only
- All genders

8. In which region(s) is your service located? (if your service operates in more than one Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) tick all that apply)

- CHO 1 (Donegal, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, Cavan/Monaghan)
- CHO 2 (Galway, Roscommon, Mayo)
- CHO 3 (Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary/East Limerick)
- CHO 4 (Kerry, North Cork, North Lee, South Lee, West Cork)
- CHO 5 (South Tipperary, Carlow/Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford)
- CHO 6 (Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East)
- CHO 7 (Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West)
- CHO 8 (Laois/Offaly, Longford/Westmeath, Louth, Meath)
- CHO 9 (Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West)

B. COVID-19 IMPACTS FOR CLIENTS

This section asks about impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on your clients. While acknowledging that there can be significant individual differences in the level of impacts, we ask for your general observations of trends and impacts observed by your service, since March 2020.

i) Covid-19 Specific Issues

9. To what extent have your clients been directly affected by Covid-19 in the following ways?

	Not at all	A little	To some extent	Quite a lot	Very much so	Don't know/hard to say
Clients being positively diagnosed with Covid-19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clients having to self-isolate or cocoon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clients admitted to hospital	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ii) Health & Social Impacts of Covid-19

10. To what extent have you observed a positive or negative change to your clients' health and wellbeing since the Covid-19 pandemic?

Young people (under 18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Older people (40 +)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Travelling community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Roma community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The homeless community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The LGBTI community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ex-prisoners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sex workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (if applicable)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If there are other population groups that you feel have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, please specify these here:

vi) COVID-19 Public Health Advice

15. How challenging has it been for your clients to adhere to the following elements of Covid-19 public health advice?

	Not at all challenging	A little challenging	Moderately challenging	Very challenging	Extremely challenging	Don't know
Hand washing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cough etiquette	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical distancing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Travel restrictions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restrictions on meeting people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-isolating/ cocooning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wearing face masks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (if applicable)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If there are other elements of the Covid-19 public health advice that your clients find challenging, please specify them here:

Ability to provide other key funder reports e.g. probation or DOJ	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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iii) Impacts on Staff

21. How has the Covid-19 pandemic impacted staff in your service?

	Not at all	A little	To some extent	Quite a lot	Very much so	Don't know
Staff absence/ illness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff redeployment to other duties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff retention issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff concerns about safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff supervision & support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff working from home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff work-life balance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

iv) Positive Impacts & Supports

22. What, if any, have been the positive impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on your service? (tick all that apply)

- New ways of delivering services
- New clients presenting
- Cooperation between service providers
- Development of new services
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

If your service has experienced other positive impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic than the ones mentioned above, please specify these here:

23. What supports has your service received during the Covid-19 restrictions? (tick all that apply)

- Access to information
- Communication from statutory agencies
- Local service coordination
- Personal Protection Equipment
- Public Health guidance
- None of the above

Other (please specify)

If you have received other supports than the ones mentioned above, please specify these here:

v) Restoration of Drug and Alcohol Services

24. How challenging are the below factors for your organisation, in restoring drug and alcohol services?

	Not at all challenging	A little challenging	Moderately challenging	Very challenging	Extremely challenging	Don't know
Social distancing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial costs (PPE, IT, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff training and support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
New patterns of drug and alcohol use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of back-up /support services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contingency planning for future outbreaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (if applicable)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If there are other challenges facing your organisation in restoring drug and alcohol services, please specify them here:

25. Do you envisage a need for new drug and alcohol services or initiatives in light of the continuing impact of Covid-19?

Yes

No

If yes, what type of services or initiatives are needed?



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Participant Information Sheet

Online Survey on the Impact of Covid-19 on Drug and Alcohol Services.

Invitation to participate

We would like to invite you to take part in this research study by completing an online survey. Please take time to read the following information which explains why this research is being done and what your involvement would consist of. Please feel free to ask questions if there is anything that you are unsure of, contact information is supplied below.

What is this research about?

A survey is being conducted by staff of the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES) in the Department of Health on the impact Covid-19 has had on drug and alcohol services and their clients. The survey is being conducted on behalf of the Drugs Policy and Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of Health and will form part of a wider Rapid Assessment of the Impact of Covid-19 on drug trends and services in Ireland. Due to the health implications of using drugs, such as reduced lung capacity and a weakened immune system, people who do so are more susceptible to the negative effects of Covid-19. Drug service providers have had to quickly alter their services in order to comply with the health and safety guidelines given in response to this virus. This survey will highlight how services have altered their operations and the impacts this has had on their clients. Participants will be asked to provide information on whether Covid-19 has impacted their work and the behaviours of their clients.

How was my email selected?

All relevant drug and alcohol service providers in Ireland have been sent an invitation by email from researchers in the Department of Health requesting that they take part in this survey. This invitation will only be sent to drug and alcohol service providers. Each service will receive an individual link to the survey.

What will be involved if I take part?

Participants will be asked to complete an online survey consisting of various questions in relation to the impact Covid-19 has had on their services and clients. Questions will involve selecting answers or typing answers as appropriate. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. We ask that you answer these questions as accurately as possible.

What if I decide not to take part?

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the study and to withdraw any information that you have given. You are also entitled to refuse to answer any questions you don't want to answer.

What are the benefits and risks of taking part in this study?

Information collected in this survey will be used to measure the impact Covid-19 has had on drug and alcohol services. The results will show how services and their clients have been impacted. The answers you provide will contribute to the rapid response assessment of these changes and provide evidence for appropriate policy responses to the risks and concerns that have arisen. While it is possible this survey may cause some distress for those who take part, for example when considering how they or their clients have been negatively impacted by Covid-19, it is unlikely that this will exceed the challenges faced day-to-day while working in drug and alcohol services. We do not anticipate such problems arising from participation in this survey.

What will happen to the information I give?

Any information that you give will be strictly confidential. The data will be encrypted on secure servers during fieldwork and stored in an anonymous form on a secure server in the Department of Health after fieldwork is complete. The research data will always remain confidential and answers of all survey participants will be grouped together so that no individual's responses will be identified. The Department of Health will be the Data Controller and the body responsible for ensuring data is kept secure. Personal identifiable data of participants will be collected for fieldwork administration only and will not be included in analysis or reporting. This data will only be retained for a period of up to 6 weeks during fieldwork and finalisation of data. Please note members of the public can request to see the responses we receive to the survey under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014, so we may have to release survey responses if required by an FOI request. Any personally identifiable data will not be released in these circumstances.

What information will I be required to give?

The questions in the survey will ask for details about your service, such as the type of service you operate, and the region your service operates in. It will also ask for the respondent's name, role in the service and a contact phone number and email address. This personal data is being collected for fieldwork administration only and will not be included in analysis. Survey questions will ask about the impact Covid-19 has had on the health and welfare of your clients, on drug use patterns, on access and availability of drugs, and on particular vulnerable groups. The survey will also ask about the impact of public health advice and restrictions, and the impacts of Covid-19 and public health guidelines on different aspects of service provision and your staff. You will also be given a chance to express your views on the restoration of drug and alcohol services and any service changes needed in light of the continuing impact of Covid-19. No questions in the survey are mandatory and you can refuse to answer any question.

Your rights under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

This research is being conducted in full compliance with GDPR and is overseen by the Data Protection Officer at the Department of Health. Personal data will include the name, role and contact information of the person filling out the survey. This is for administrative purposes only and will not be used in analysis.

If I have any questions or problems, who can I contact?

If you have any questions or problems regarding this research, you may contact the Department of Health on 01 6354000 and ask for the Research Service Unit or by email at Research_Services_and_Policy@health.gov.ie. Alternatively, you can contact the Principal Investigator of the research, Jim Walsh, Drugs Policy and Social Inclusion Unit, Department of Health, at the same telephone number or email Jim_Walsh@health.gov.ie