

Drug-related and drug misuse deaths in Northern Ireland: trends and the socio-economic landscape

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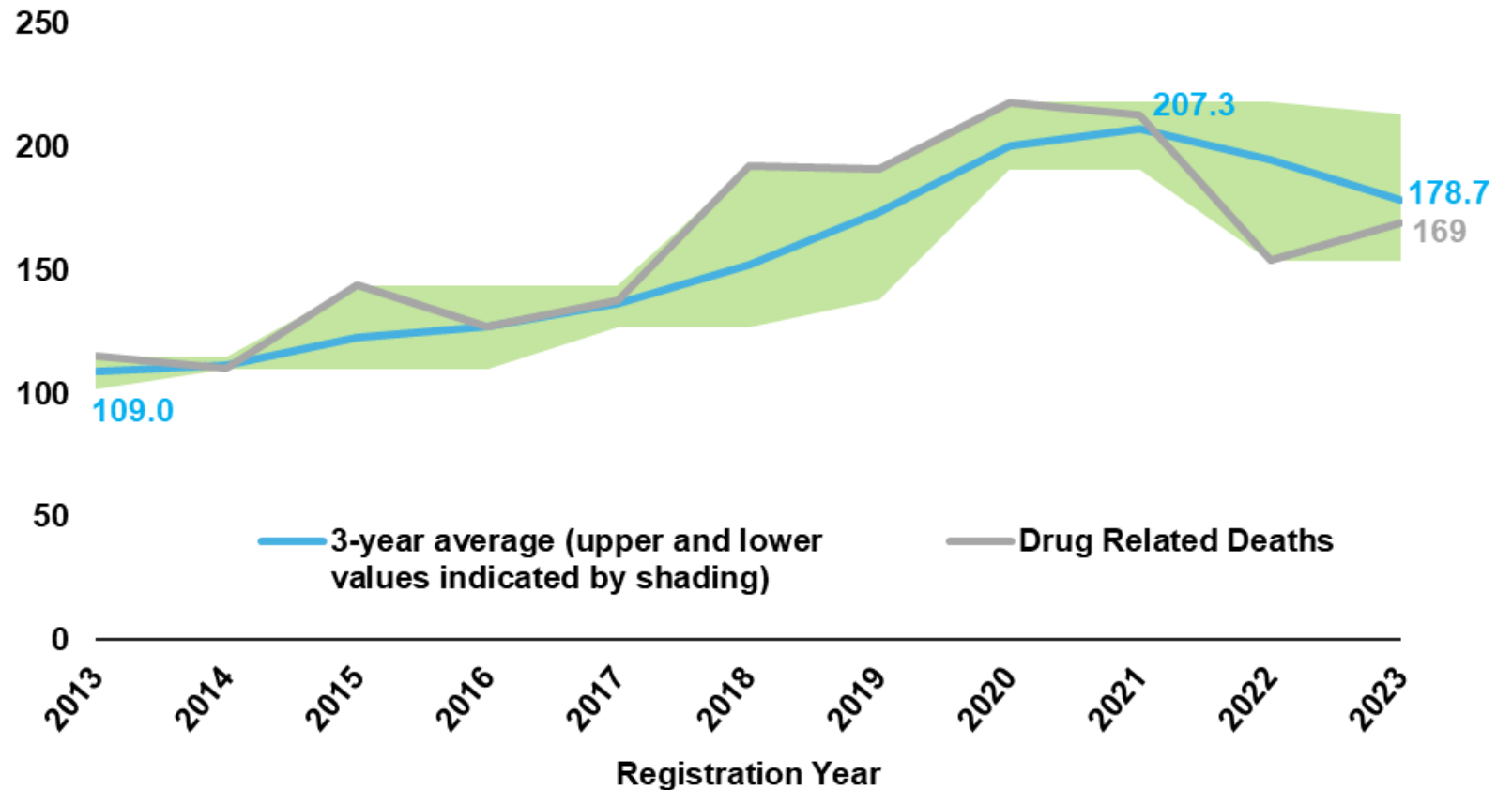
Northern Ireland statistics

	<u>2013</u>		<u>2023</u>	<u>2013-2023</u>	<u>ASMR 2023</u> (Per 100,000 population)
Registered Drug-related deaths	115	47% increase ➔	169	1,771	9.1
Registered Drug-misuse deaths	79	85% increase ➔	146	1,473 (83% of all drug-related deaths)	7.8

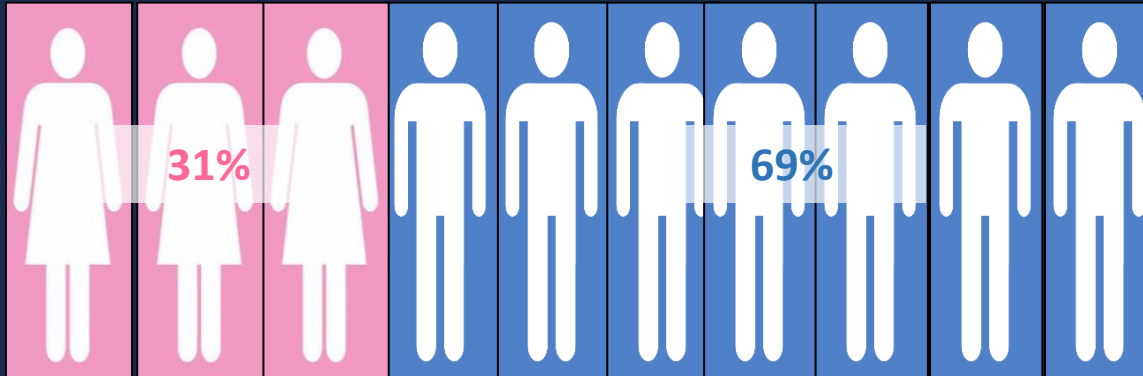
Northern Ireland trends

Drug-related deaths by registration year, 2013-2023.

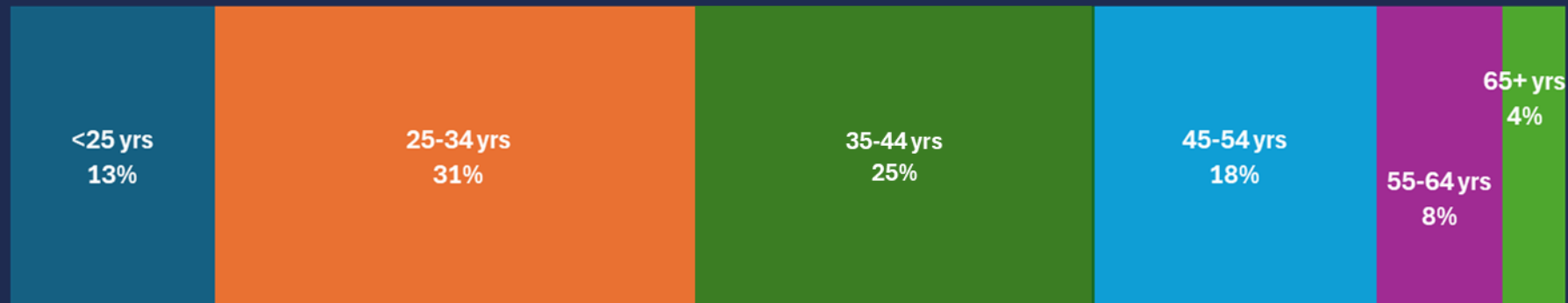
The three-year average number of drug-related deaths rose from 109.0 in 2013 to 207.3 in 2021, falling to 178.7 in 2023.



Demographics 2013-2023



69% of the 1,771 drug-related deaths were male. 72% of 1,473 drug misuse deaths were male.



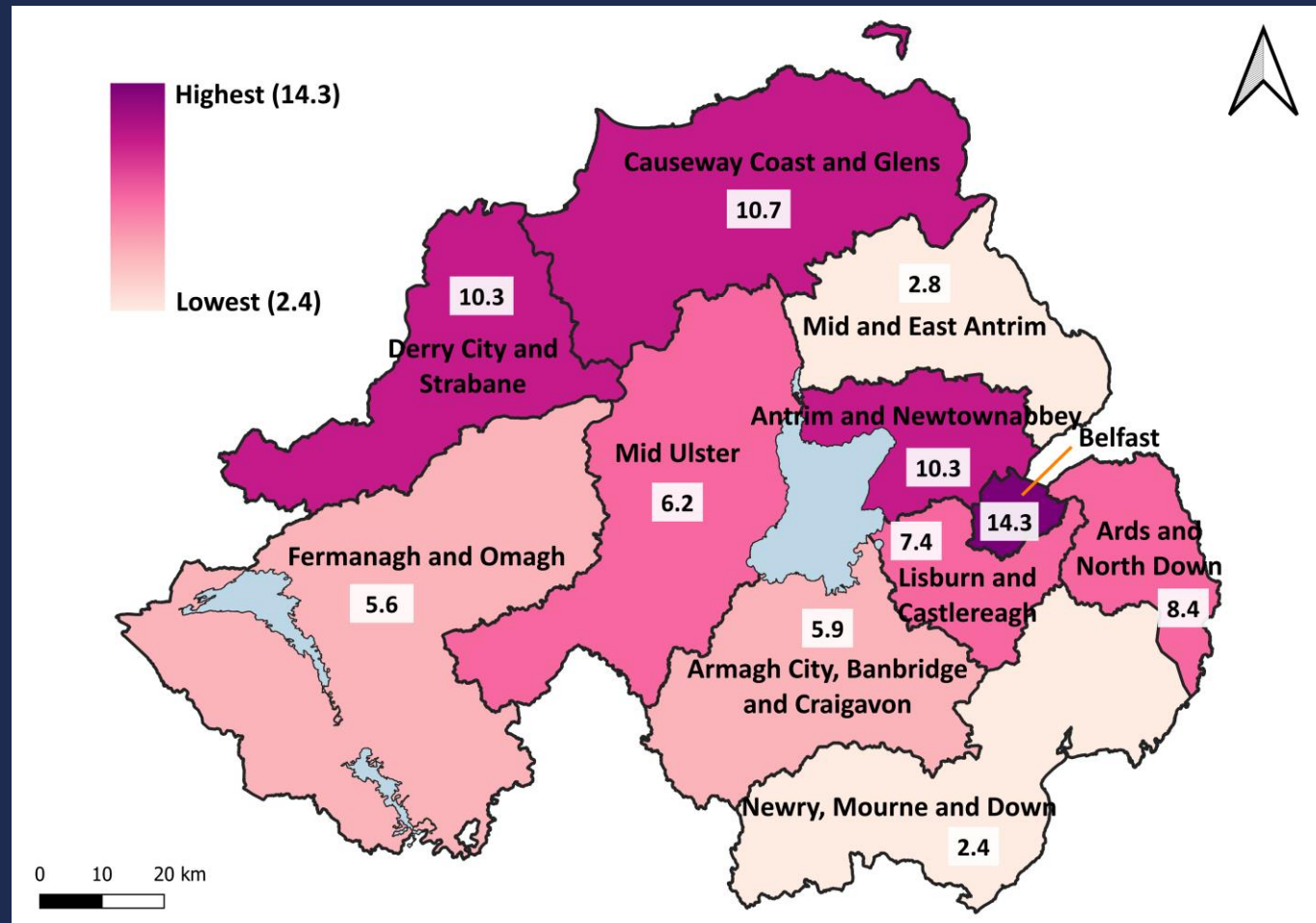
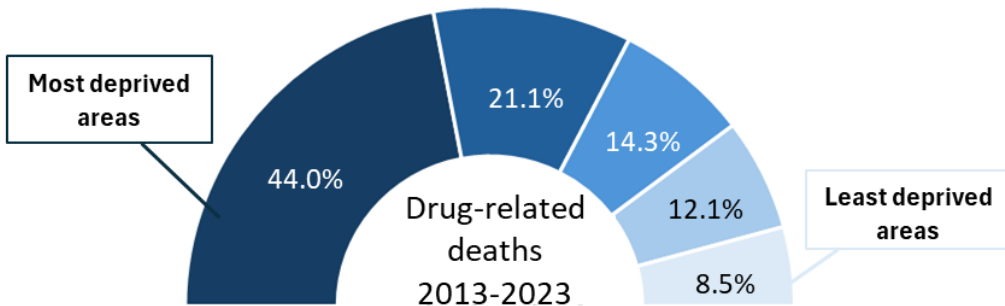
Age profile of drug-related death registrations in Northern Ireland 2013-2023

Over half (56%) of drug-related deaths were between 25 and 44 years of age. Similarly, 59% of drug misuse deaths were between 25 and 44 years of age.

Geography & Deprivation

ASMR by Local Government District 2022

% drug related deaths by NI Multiple Deprivation Quintile



Cause of death 2013-2023

72% of the 1,771 drug related deaths were due to accidental poisonings.

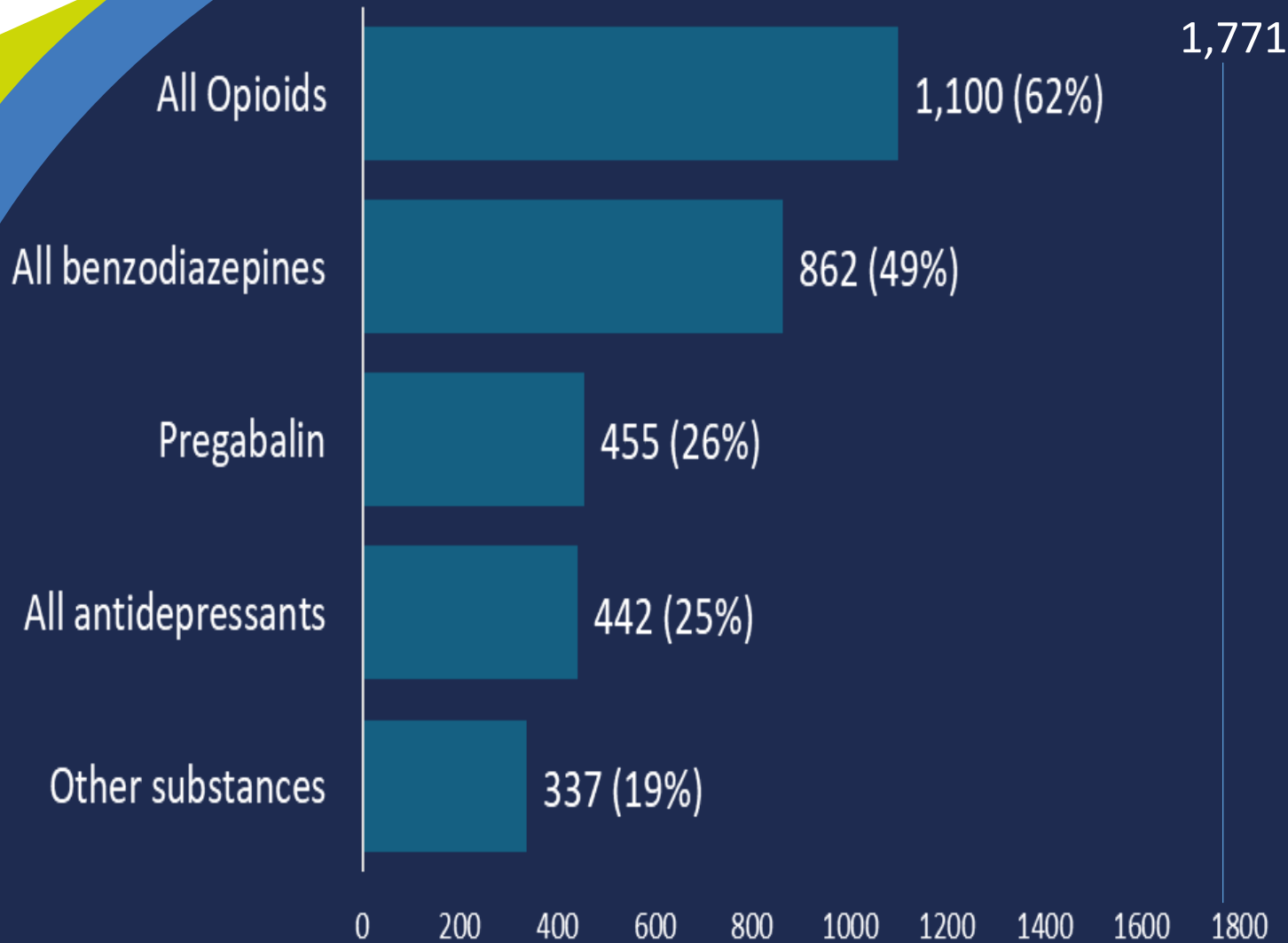
16% of the 1,771 drug related deaths were due to intentional self-poisoning.

**% of drug-related deaths
also involving alcohol.**

29% in 2013

18% in 2023

Drug types mentioned 2013-2023



75% drug-related deaths in 2023 involved two+ drugs

53% drug-related deaths in 2013 involved two+ drugs

Socio-demographic profiling of drug-related deaths in Northern Ireland 2011-22

Understanding drug-related deaths:

- Individual characteristics (e.g., qualifications, economic inactivity, poor mental health, disability).
- Household characteristics (e.g., living arrangements and housing tenure).

Data source

Northern Ireland Mortality Study (NIMS)



Registered deaths to September 2022

~ 1.1 million individuals aged 16-64

1,094 drug-related deaths - 61.7% of all registered drug-related deaths

Who is most at risk? individual characteristics (provisional)

16-64 years

Marital status



Single
Divorced/separated

General population

41.1%

10.2%

Drug-related causes

72.2% ↑

15.5% ↑

Self-rated health



Poor mental health
Disability

7.7%

17.2%

32.7% ↑

41.9% ↑

Who is most at risk? individual characteristics (provisional)

16-64 years

Education



No qualifications

General population

21.4%

Drug-related causes

40.3%↑

Employment



Unemployed

5.5%

14.7%↑

Economically inactive*

27.8%

53.1%↑

* As measured in the week before the Census

Who is most at risk? household characteristics (provisional)

16-64 years

Housing tenure



Owner-occupied
Private-rented
Social-rented

General population

73.1%
14.1%
12.8%

Drug-related causes

39.4% ↓
21.3% ↑
39.3% ↑

Household living arrangements



Lone parent in a household
Child of a lone parent
Living alone

8.8%
7.2%
10.6%

12.6% ↑
17.0% ↑
27.4% ↑

Key takeaways (so far)

Key risk factors for drug-related deaths

- Poor mental health / disability
- No qualifications & the economically inactive
- Markers of social isolation

} Area deprivation

Further analysis and next steps

- Differences by sex & statistical modelling
- Policy implications
- Upcoming report

Acknowledgements

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