



Hospital Statistics

Between 1997 and 2002, the average number of hospital beds available in the Republic of Ireland increased by 2% to 12,152. Conversely, the average number of available hospital beds in Northern Ireland decreased by 8% to 8,301 during the same period. The number of day cases in the Republic of Ireland increased by two-thirds between 1997 and 2002, compared with an increase of one third in Northern Ireland.

Cause of death

Deaths from circulatory diseases represented around two-fifths of both male and female deaths in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in 2002, whilst deaths from cancer represented approximately one quarter. Between 1950 and 2002, cancer deaths increased by 78% in the Republic of Ireland and 75% in Northern Ireland. In 2002, 1.9 deaths per 1,000 population in the Republic of Ireland were caused by cancer, compared with 2.2 deaths per 1,000 population in Northern Ireland.

Lifestyle

In 2002, the prevalence of smoking in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland was greatest among 18 to 34 year olds. In both territories, one third of this age group smoked, compared with around one quarter of 35 to 54 year olds and approximately one fifth of over 55 year olds. Between 1998 and 2002 the prevalence of smoking decreased for all age groups and for both males and females in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The prevalence of drinking alcohol was also greatest in the 18 to 34 age group in both regions in 2002. In general the prevalence of drinking alcohol is higher for males and females of all age groups in the Republic of Ireland than in Northern Ireland.

Immunisation

Over the period 2000 to 2002, uptake rates for 2 year olds for various immunisations were higher in Northern Ireland than in the Republic of Ireland. In both regions, the uptake rate of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination was lower than other immunisation uptake rates. In both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland uptake rates for each immunisation were generally very consistent across each quarter of 2000, 2001 and 2002, with the exception of the uptake rates for MMR in the Republic of Ireland. Uptake rates for this immunisation varied from a high of 83% in quarter 4 of 2000 to a low of 69% in quarter 4 of 2001.

Table 3.1 Hospital statistics

Description	<i>Numbers and percentages</i>					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Republic of Ireland						
Average beds available	11,861	11,788	11,781	11,891	12,004	12,152 ^P
Discharges and deaths	536,236	537,841	531,456	551,834	561,251	556,617 ^P
% occupancy	83.3	84.2	83.0	83.3	85.2	84.5 ^P
Average length of stay (days)	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.5 ^P
Day cases	243,303	270,240	296,631	324,504	357,676	401,758 ^P
Northern Ireland¹						
Average beds available	9,006	8,818	8,639	8,571	8,419	8,301
Discharges and deaths	305,158	334,768	332,074	332,940	328,135	327,077
% occupancy	80.8	81.9	81.5	82.0	83.3	84.3
Average length of stay (days)	8.7	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.8
Day cases	104,666	111,760	119,985	123,207	130,068	138,605

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Department of Health and Children*
Northern Ireland: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

¹ Northern Ireland data are for the financial year.

Table 3.2 Attendances at accident and emergency departments

Numbers

Years	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland ¹
1997	1,213,321	664,549
1998	1,242,243	663,046
1999	1,229,303	670,863
2000	1,214,154	672,654
2001	1,228,406	672,782
2002	1,212,842 ^p	659,659

Sources Republic of Ireland: Department of Health and Children
Northern Ireland: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

¹ Northern Ireland data are for the financial year.

Table 3.3 Principal cause of death

Numbers

Principal cause	2000		2001		2002	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Republic of Ireland						
Circulatory diseases	6,449	6,217	6,109	5,777	5,886	5,709
Respiratory diseases	2,326	2,537	2,156	2,316	2,118	2,212
Cancer	4,079	3,587	4,038	3,594	4,066	3,433
Road traffic accidents	326	109	316	95	269	85
Suicides	395	91	429	90	371	80
All other	2,617	2,658	2,643	2,649	2,507	2,612
Total deaths	16,192	15,199	15,691	14,521	15,217	14,131
Northern Ireland						
Circulatory diseases	2,763	3,013	2,763	3,066	2,676	3,053
Respiratory diseases	1,328	1,691	891	1,084	806	1,077
Cancer	1,755	1,786	1,934	1,762	1,908	1,744
Transport accidents	110	34	116	32	112	35
Suicides	130	33	119	22	132	30
All other	1,042	1,218	1,184	1,540	1,314	1,699
Total deaths	7,128	7,775	7,007	7,506	6,948	7,638

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Table 3.4 Cancer deaths

<i>Numbers and rates</i>				
Years	Males	Females	Total	Deaths per 1,000 population
Republic of Ireland				
1950	2,243	1,970	4,213	1.4
1960	2,546	2,215	4,761	1.7
1970	2,987	2,557	5,544	1.9
1980	3,423	2,864	6,287	1.8
1990	3,854	3,261	7,115	2.0
2000	4,079	3,587	7,666	2.0
2001	4,038	3,594	7,632	2.0
2002	4,066	3,433	7,499	1.9
Northern Ireland				
1950	1,047	1,044	2,091	1.5
1960	1,205	1,096	2,301	1.6
1970	1,474	1,335	2,809	1.8
1980	1,560	1,438	2,998	2.0
1990	1,765	1,680	3,445	2.2
2000	1,755	1,786	3,541	2.1
2001	1,934	1,762	3,696	2.2
2002	1,908	1,744	3,652	2.2

Sources Republic of Ireland: Central Statistics Office
 Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Figure 3.1 Cancer deaths, 1950-2000

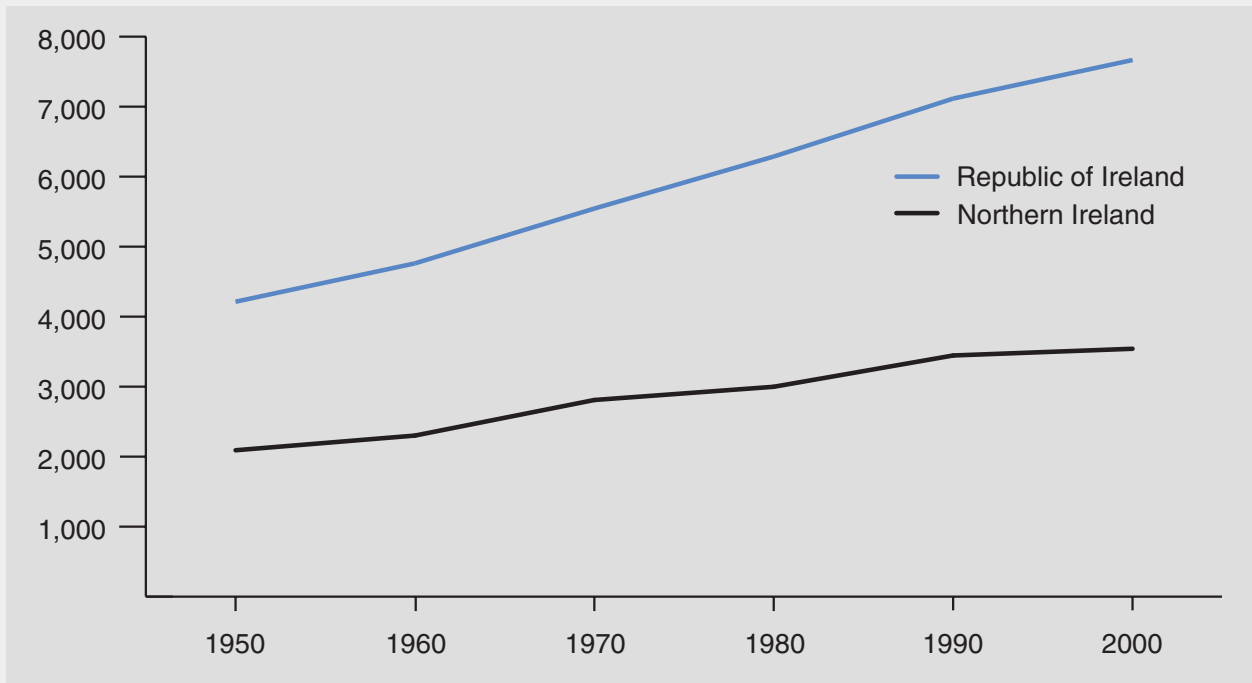


Table 3.5 Infectious diseases notified

	<i>Numbers</i>					
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Republic of Ireland						
Dysentery	59	41	120	116	30	28
Food poisoning and salmonellosis	954	1,406	2,496	2,635	2,194	1,647
Gastro-enteritis (persons under 2)	2,997	2,968	3,483	2,917	2,796	2,057
Hepatitis A	313	422	218	323	309	112
Hepatitis B	11	31	155	160	187	342
Hepatitis unspecified: Viral	67	122	147	125	65	90
Legionnaires Disease	2	6	2	2	9	3
Leptospirosis	6	8	12	6	7	9
Malaria	14	8	17	17	19	11
Measles	228	185	204	147	1,603	241
Meningitis - Bacterial	410	508	491	587	586	396
Meningitis - Viral	77	32	32	27	98	161
Mumps	422	285	57	38	52	40
Rubella	602	113	83	62	97	57
Tetanus	0	0	1	1	1	3
Tuberculosis	434	416	424	469	395	409
Typhoid and paratyphoid	4	0	3	0	1	4
Whooping cough	261	459	252	179	152	142
Yellow fever	0	0	1	1	0	0
Northern Ireland						
Dysentery	155	29	18	10	24	22
Food poisoning and salmonellosis	1,456	1,534	1,942	2,033	2,285	1,644
Gastro-enteritis (persons under 2)	745	896	1,371	1,121	1,205	1,106
Hepatitis A	49	33	91	62	26	6
Hepatitis B	15	8	1	4	11	7
Hepatitis unspecified: Viral	15	15	16	12	9	10
Legionnaires Disease	0	2	2	2	1	1
Leptospirosis	1	1	2	1	0	0
Malaria	14	16	23	13	11	13
Measles	197	120	112	79	92	96
Meningitis - Bacterial	136	130	135	227	222	158
Meningitis - Viral	36	17	16	17	31	29
Mumps	67	68	79	93	1,006	537
Rubella	190	127	111	73	62	65
Tetanus	0	1	0	0	0	1
Tuberculosis	75	75	61	61	58	48
Typhoid and paratyphoid	1	2	3	0	0	1
Whooping cough	148	135	100	108	61	65
Yellow fever	0	0	0	0	0	1

Sources *Republic of Ireland: National Disease Surveillance Centre
Northern Ireland: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety*

Table 3.6 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and age

Age	Percentages					
	1998			2002		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Republic of Ireland						
18-34	38	40	39	35	33	34
35-54	32	29	30	26	25	25
55 and over	22	18	20	19	16	17
Northern Ireland¹						
18-34	34	36	36	33	33	33
35-54	30	34	32	26	29	27
55 and over	22	19	20	21	17	19

Sources *Republic of Ireland: Department of Health and Children*
Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

¹ Northern Ireland figures are for the financial year.

Figure 3.2 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by age, 2002

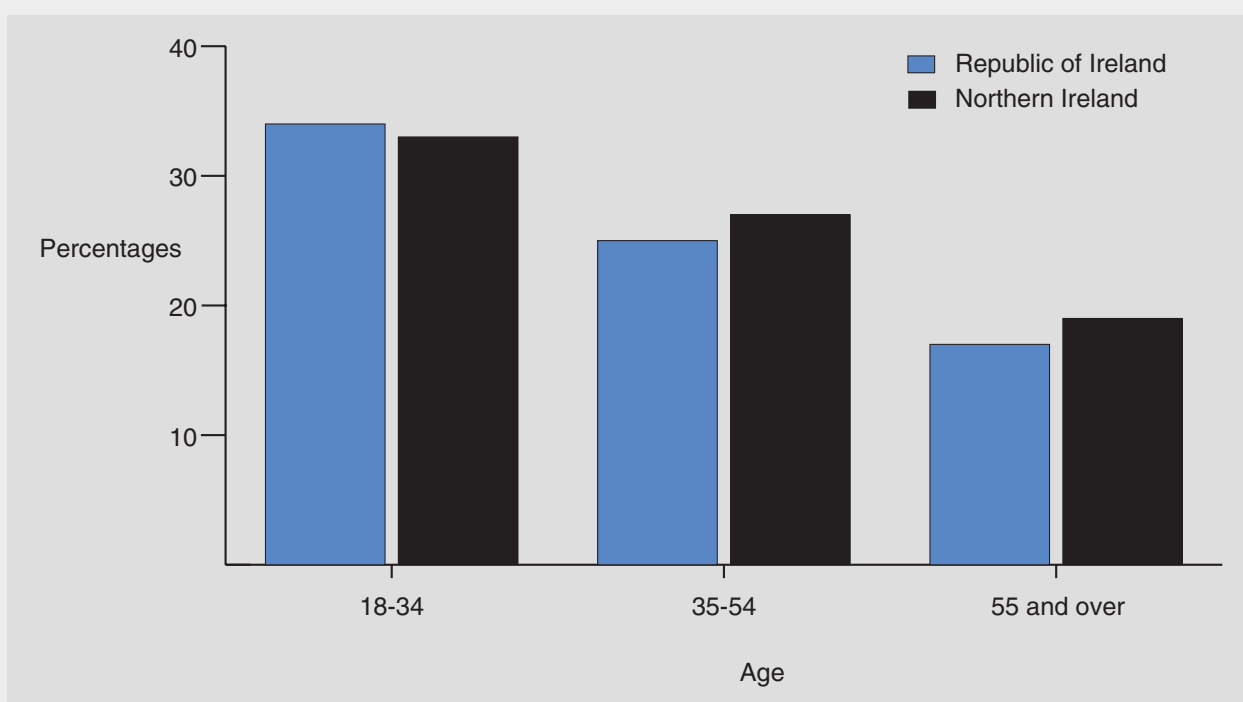


Table 3.7 Prevalence of drinking alcohol by sex and age

Age	<i>Percentages</i>			
	1998		2002	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Republic of Ireland				
18-34	95	93	95	94
35-54	93	90	93	91
55 and over	80	64	83	70
Northern Ireland¹				
18-34	85	82	89	86
35-54	82	76	85	80
55 and over	68	50	72	54

Sources Republic of Ireland: Department of Health and Children
 Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

¹ Northern Ireland figures are for the financial year.

Table 3.8a Self-reported general health in the Republic of Ireland, 2001¹

	<i>Percentages</i>		
	Male	Female	All persons
Excellent	31	27	29
Very good	35	36	35
Good	23	25	24
Fair	9	10	9
Poor	2	2	2
GP visit in preceding 2 weeks	15	23	19

Source Central Statistics Office

¹ Figures are taken from Quarterly National Household Survey, Third quarter 2001.

Table 3.8b Self-reported general health in Northern Ireland, 2001-02

	<i>Percentages</i>		
	Male	Female	All persons
Good	57	52	54
Fairly good	28	29	29
Not good	15	18	17
GP visit in preceding 2 weeks	13	20	16

Source Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Table 3.9 Immunisation uptake rates at 24 months

	<i>Percentages</i>					
	Diphtheria	Pertussis	Tetanus	Haemophilus Influenzae Type B	Polio	Measles, Mumps & Rubella
Republic of Ireland						
2000 Q1	85	82	85	85	85	76
Q2	85	82	85	85	85	77
Q3	87	83	87	86	86	81
Q4	87	83	87	86	87	83
2001 Q1	86	82	86	85	85	79
Q2	86	83	86	85	85	75
Q3	83	81	83	83	83	70
Q4	83	80	83	82	83	69
2002 Q1	83	81	83	82	83	70
Q2	83	81	83	82	82	72
Q3	83	81	83	82	82	73
Q4	85	83	85	84	84	75
Northern Ireland						
2000 Q1	96	95	97	97	96	91
Q2	97	96	97	97	97	93
Q3	97	97	97	97	97	92
Q4	96	96	96	97	96	92
2001 Q1	97	96	97	97	97	90
Q2	97	96	97	97	97	90
Q3	97	96	97	97	97	89
Q4	96	96	97	97	96	89
2002 Q1	96	96	97	97	97	90
Q2	96	96	96	96	96	90
Q3	97	96	97	97	96	89
Q4	97	96	97	97	97	88

Sources *Republic of Ireland: National Disease Surveillance Centre
Northern Ireland: Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre*

Technical Notes

Table 3.1

Figures for the Republic of Ireland refer to publicly funded acute hospitals only. Average beds available refers to the average number of in-patient beds available for use over the year, taking into account beds which have been temporarily opened or closed but not including day beds. Discharges and deaths exclude day cases. Average length of stay in days is calculated as the ratio of bed days to inpatient discharges/deaths.

Northern Ireland data relate to all programmes of care and are collected on a quarterly basis from Health Trusts on the KH03A return. Average available beds is the number of beds available during the year which are open at midnight. Beds reserved for day case admission or regular day admission are not included. The discharges and deaths figure is a proxy for admissions; day cases are not included. A patient is counted as a day case if they are admitted to hospital with the intention of receiving care but they do not require the use of an overnight bed. Average length of stay is the average time spent in hospital in days.

Table 3.2

Figures for the Republic of Ireland refer to publicly funded acute hospitals only and include new and return attendances.

Northern Ireland data include first and follow-up attendances.

Tables 3.3 and 3.4

ROI data up to and including 2001 are based on year of occurrence and are final figures. Data for 2002 are based on year of registration and are subject to revision.

In both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the cause of death is coded in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD). Currently the Republic of Ireland use the ninth revision or ICD9 while in Northern Ireland the tenth revision or ICD10 was introduced in 2001 to replace ICD9. The codes used for the selected causes of death are:

	ICD9	ICD10
◆ Circulatory diseases	390-459	I00-I99
◆ Respiratory diseases	460-519	J00-J99
◆ Cancer	140-208	C00-C97
◆ Transport accidents	E800-E848	V01-V99
◆ Suicides	E950-E959	X60-84, Y87.0