



Executive Summary

‘TRAUMA IN THE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE 2024’

HOSTED BY
THE NATIONAL FAMILY
SUPPORT STEERING GROUP
(NFSSG)

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Introducing Family Addiction Recovery Ireland

A New Identity for Collective Empowerment



At the heart of transformation lies meaningful dialogue and shared determination. This was evident during the Trauma in the Community Conference, where participants - representing a broad spectrum of experiences and perspectives - gathered to deliberate on a name that could embody a renewed purpose, a unified identity, and a clear mission. After thoughtful discussions, one name resonated above all others: Family Addiction Recovery Ireland (FARI).

FARI represents more than a change in name - it signifies a commitment to amplify the voice of families and their indispensable role in Ireland's recovery agenda. It is a name born out of collective insight and shared ownership, sending a strong and unequivocal message: families are central to addiction recovery, and FARI is here to ensure their place in shaping a brighter future.

With this new identity, FARI embraces its mission to unite families, advocates, and stakeholders under a common banner of hope, resilience, and progress. Together, we embark on a journey to advocate, empower, and inspire change - one family, one community, and one nation at a time.



National Family Support Steering Group & Volunteers at the Trauma in the Community National Conference, September 2024. L-R: Michael Mason, Jackie McKenna, Jackie Daly, Gwen McKenna, Breda Fell, Riona Greene, Megan Hughes & Aileen Malone. Missing from photo: Maureen Penrose.

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Abbreviations

NFSSG | National Family Support Steering Group
FARI | Family Addiction Recovery Ireland
NFSN | National Family Support Network
HRB | Health Research Board
NDTRS | National Drug Treatment Reporting System
UKDPC | United Kingdom Drug Policy Commission
CADU | Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use
FASN | Family Adiction Support Network
SERFSN | South East Regional Family Support Network
TIC | Trauma-informed Care
WHO | World Health Organisation
WC | World Café





Introduction

Following the 2021 closure of the National Family Support Network (NFSN), a critical gap emerged in the representation and coordination of families affected by substance use in Ireland. In response, a national conference convened over 250 participants from across the Island of Ireland to create a platform for sharing lived experiences and developing a unified voice. The conference highlighted the exclusion of families from drug policy discourse, despite their deep understanding and experience of the consequences. Participants detailed experiences of trauma, stigma, intimidation, and isolation, and expressed frustration with their marginalisation in decision-making processes. Despite being acknowledged in the National Drugs Strategy (2017–2025), family engagement was widely perceived as superficial.

The conference called for the establishment of a National Family Support Coordinating Body to ensure sustained advocacy, equitable resourcing, and genuine inclusion in all stages of policy from planning to evaluation.

A recurring theme was the need for trauma-informed, whole-family approaches to recovery that address psychological, emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions. Participants also emphasised the inequities in service access, especially in rural areas, and advocated for a nationally coordinated response to eliminate disparities and duplication. Peer-led, community-based models were highlighted as effective yet under recognised, requiring formal integration into national frameworks as co-produced services. The conference identified the necessity of grounding policy in lived experience through qualitative, evidence-based data collection.

Based on HRB NDTRS figures of 21,267 (Drugs, 2023)¹ and (Alcohol, 2024),² there may be as many as 191,403 family members impacted in Ireland by a loved one's drug or/and alcohol addiction, based calculations on research by Copello et al. (2009),³ (UKDPC)⁴ and (Monari et al. 2024).⁵

1 HRB Bulletin National Drug Treatment Reporting System. 2023 Drug Treatment Demand: <https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NDTRS-Drug-treatment-demand-2023-bulletin.pdf>

2 Alcohol Statistics Dashboard (HRB 2024): https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/alcohol_statistics_dashboard#

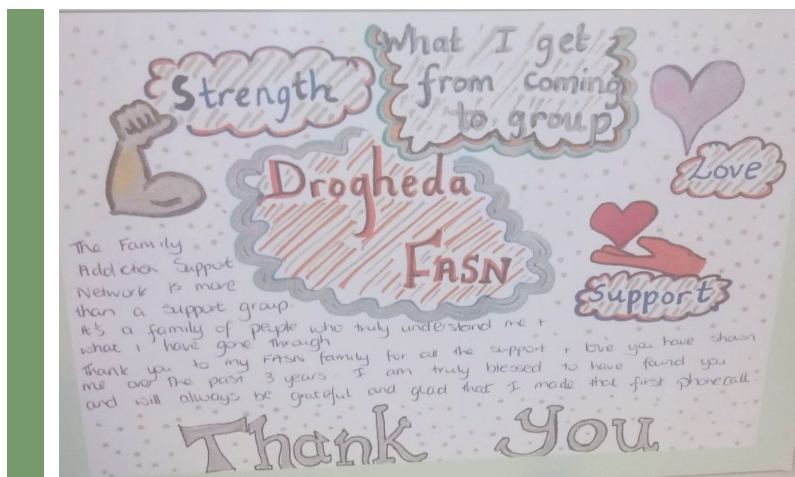
3 Copello, A., Templeton, L.J., & Powell, J. (2009). Adult family members and carers of dependant drug users: prevalence, social cost, resource savings and treatment. <https://www.ukdpc.org.uk/publication/adult-family-members-carers/>

4 UK Drug Policy Commission (UKDPC), Supporting the Supporters: families of drug misusers: [https://www.ukdpc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Policy%20report%20-%20Supporting%20the%20supporters%20families%20of%20drug%20misusers%20\(policy%20briefing\).pdf](https://www.ukdpc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Policy%20report%20-%20Supporting%20the%20supporters%20families%20of%20drug%20misusers%20(policy%20briefing).pdf)

5 Monari N., Booth R., Forchuk C. and Csiernik R. (2024), Experience of Family Members of Relatives with Substance Use Disorders: An Integrative Literature Review <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/10784535241252169>

With known gaps in reported data based on a 31.1% non-compliance rate among publicly funded services (HRB, 2023), it is estimated that treatment figures may be as high as 30,866 (21,267 + 9,599). Applying the calculations, the number of affected family members due to under reporting may be nearer to 277,794.

The conference outcomes represent a potential turning point for Ireland, offering a roadmap and opportunity to effects systemic reform grounded in long-term investment, authentic collaboration, community development principles and family voices central to shaping a trauma-informed, inclusive drug policy.



Support Network Family Members Highlight Importance of Family Support.

Family members attending the conference displayed posters highlighting the benefits of having a support network.

Poster - Drogheda FASN.



Trauma in the Community Conference

Keynote speaker Ed Sipler, Addiction Treatment and Prevention, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust N.I. addresses conference attendees.



NFSSG inaugural meeting 09.01.24

L-R: Mick Mason, Jackie Daly, Kathleen Cronin, Gwen McKenna, Anna Quigley, Riona Greene, Breda Fell.

Missing from picture: Jackie McKenna.

Recurring Themes

Establishment of a National Body: To represent families impacted by addiction encompassing a community development and empowerment approach to effectively address the underlying systemic issues that families experience due to addiction. Inclusion of family voices to highlight their needs through inclusion in policy and program development.

Mental, Emotional Psychological Trauma: Families experience high levels of stress, anxiety, depression, stigma, exclusion, isolation, fear and helplessness due to addiction-related challenges. Service providers highlighted emotional exhaustion, compassion fatigue, secondary trauma/stress, vicarious trauma and burnout due to sustained exposure to trauma in their professional roles. Issues related to the lack of training, resources, and clinical supervision (SAMHSA, 2014)⁶, (APA, 2022)⁷.

Safety Concerns: Both families and service providers identified heightened fear related to violence, intimidation, and threats related to drug debts. These safety concerns perpetuate hypervigilance, isolation and exhaustion (CADU Vol 1, 2024 p.15)⁸.

Financial Stress: Families struggle with severe financial burdens due to drug debts, legal fees, and loss of income, that compound their emotional and mental health. The economic strain has far-reaching effects on family's stability and security (FASN, 2024)⁹, (DRIVE, 2021)¹⁰, (Connolly and Buckley, 2016)¹¹.

Family and Relationship Breakdown: Addiction disrupts familial bonds, causing relationship breakdowns, mistrust, and social isolation.

These challenges are compounded by societal stigma and a lack of support structures, leading to cycles of detachment and social disconnection (CADU Vol 1, 2024 p.16). Youth engagement to combat drug-related exploitation and grooming: Grooming by criminal gangs was highlighted by Escapeline UK and Greentown (UL Limerick and Department of Justice).

6 Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach (SAMHSA, 2014):

<https://library.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/sma14-4884.pdf>

7 APA Releases Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR), (APA, 2022):

<https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room/news-releases/apa-releases-diagnostic-and-statistical-manual-of>

8 Report of the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use Volume I 2024:

https://citizensassembly.ie/wpcontent/uploads/CADU_Volume1.pdf

9 FASN Guidance for those experiencing drug debt intimidation: What to do if a drug dealer threatens you or your family?

<https://fasn.ie/guidance-for-those-experiencing-drug-debt-intimidation-what-to-do-if-a-drug-dealer-threatens-you-or-your-family-2/>

10 DRIVE (2021). A data-driven intervention model to respond effectively to drug-related intimidation and violence in communities in Ireland. Dublin: Department of Health <https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/35239/7/DRIVE%20Report.pdf>

11 Dwyer, C. (2019). Some Irish communities 'severely affected' by intimidation over drug debt, EU report says

The EU Drug Markets Report 2019: <https://www.thejournal.ie/drugs-report-eu-ireland-4906739-Nov2019/>

Families and service providers called on the government to provide these programs nationally (CADU Vol 1, 2024 p.12), (CADU Vol 2, p.8),¹²(O'Brien, 2017),¹³(Redmond 2016),¹⁴(Geiran, 2021).¹⁵

Peer Support and Community Interventions: Peer-led support models are universally acknowledged as effective in fostering resilience, empathy, and recovery through shared lived experiences. Community peer led initiatives, such as those provided by FASN, SERFSN, NFSSG and other groups are crucial in addressing addiction related family trauma (HSE,2024),¹⁶(EUDA, 2023),¹⁷(CADU Vol 1, p.14), (CADU Vol 2, 2024 p.37), (SAMHSA, 2015),¹⁸(NDS, 2017-2025),¹⁹(CADU Vol 1, 2024 p.10).

Recommendations

- Establish a National Family Support Coordinating Body.
- Expansion of Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Training for Service Providers and Families.
- Enhancing Availability and Access to Mental Health Services.
- Supporting Peer-led Initiatives, Diversion Programs for 'At Risk Young People' and Financial Resources for Respite/Safe Places for Families Under Threat.
- Initiatives to Target Young People's Exploitation and Grooming by Drug Gangs was a Constant Stressor for Families Resulting in Family Breakdown.
- Awareness Campaigns to Reduce Stigma and Encourage those Impacted by Addiction to Seek Support is a Significant Factor for Families Accessing Support, (SAMHSA, 2015),²⁰(NDS, 2017-2025),²¹(CADU Vol 1, 2024 p.10).

12 Report of the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use Volume II Record of Meetings, Results of Balloting, Appendices January 2024: https://citizensassembly.ie/wp-content/uploads/CADU_Volume-2.pdf

13 O' Brien (2017), Irish gangs recruit children as young as 11 into serious crime:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/irish-gangs-recruit-children-as-young-as-11-into-serious-crime-1.2972763>

14 Redmond, S. (2016). Lifting the lid on Greentown – Why we should be concerned about the influence criminal networks have on children's offending behaviour in Ireland. University of Limerick. Report. <https://hdl.handle.net/10344/5793>.

15 Drogheda: Creating a Bridge to a better Future, Community Safety & Wellbeing: Report of a Scoping Review for the Department of Justice (Geiran, 2021), <https://droghedaimplementationboard.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Scoping-Report.pdf>

16 A National Framework for Recovery in Mental Health. A National Framework to Advance the Continuous Delivery of a Quality, Recovery Orientated, Person Centred Mental Health Service 2024–2028: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/mental-health-engagement-and-recovery/resources-information-and-publications/a-national-framework-for-recovery-in-mental-health.pdf>

17 Families of people who use drugs: health and social responses (2023): https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/mini-guides/families-health-and-social-responses_en

18 Core Competencies for Peer Workers in Behavioural Health Services (2015): https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/brss_tacs/core-competencies_508_12_13_18.pdf

19 Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025:

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/14571/c22d1dd1756440f8946717a80ad2ffc3.pdf>

20 Core Competencies for Peer Workers in Behavioural Health Services (2015):

https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/brss_tacs/core-competencies_508_12_13_18.pdf

21 Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025:

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/14571/c22d1dd1756440f8946717a80ad2ffc3.pdf>

What is Trauma

Trauma diagnosis is assessed using criteria developed through the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11, Codes: 6B40 & 6B41), (WHO, 2022)²² and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual 5th Edition (DSM-5-TR) developed by the American Psychiatric Association (APA, 2022).²³

“Trauma results from an event, series of events, or a set of circumstances that an individual experience’s as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening, that may have lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being” (SAMHSA, 2014).²⁴

Common Signs and Symptoms of Trauma

Traumas affect the Whole Person either individually and/or the whole family unit Physically; Mentally; Emotionally; Spiritually; Family Dynamics; Financially; Socially and Behaviorally. Factors include Fear; Stigma; Helplessness; Shame; Loss of Hope, Blame; Numbness; Sadness; Feeling Vulnerable; Diminished Empathy; Loss of Meaning; Feeling Abandoned; Grief. Appetite; Stomach Upset; Sleep Issues; Fatigue; Increased Heart Rate; Rapid Breathing; Sweating; Headaches; Concentration; Decision Making; Nightmares; Resentment; Trust Issues; Isolation; Avoidance; Agitations; Anger; Violence; Nervousness; Hyperarousal; Hypervigilance and Substance Use are universally recognised issues that individuals and families experience (HSE, 2022),²⁵ (NHS, 2022),²⁶ (WHO, 2024).²⁷

Traumatology or the field of traumatic stress studies identifies that Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD) impacts trauma workers (counsellors, social care workers, peer support, volunteers, friends, family and significant others) who themselves may have suffered trauma. It is acknowledged that workers can develop resilience to trauma by witnessing the development of resilience in clients in conjunction with professional supports (APS, n.d).²⁹ Professionals working with trauma sufferers are susceptible to developing trauma through, “repeated or extreme exposure to aversive details of a traumatic event, which applies to workers who encounter the consequences of traumatic events as part of their professional responsibilities” (DSM-5-TR). Professionals may develop compassion fatigue, secondary trauma, secondary stress and/or vicarious trauma leading to burnout. “Vicarious trauma is a process of change resulting from empathetic engagement with trauma survivors” (BMA, 2024).³⁰ Burnout is a negative emotional, physical and attitudinal change due to the individual’s work context.

22 ICD-11 - International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision. The global standard for diagnostic health information: <https://icd.who.int/en>

23 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5-TR): <https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/dsm>

24 SAMHSA (2014), Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach. SAMHSA's Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative July 2014: <https://library.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/sma14-4884.pdf>

25 Symptoms post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/ptsd/>

26 Symptoms - Post-traumatic stress disorder(2022): <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd/symptoms/>

27 Post-traumatic stress disorder (WHO, 2024): <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/post-traumatic-stress-disorder>

28 National Center for PTSD. US Department of Veteran Affairs (2025): <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

29 Building Vicarious Resilience through Community Service Worker Solidarity with Clients and Co-Workers, APS (n.d), <https://psychology.org.au/for-members/publications/journals/australian-community-psychologist/acp-issues/volume-32.-no-1/building-vicarious-resilience-through-community-se>

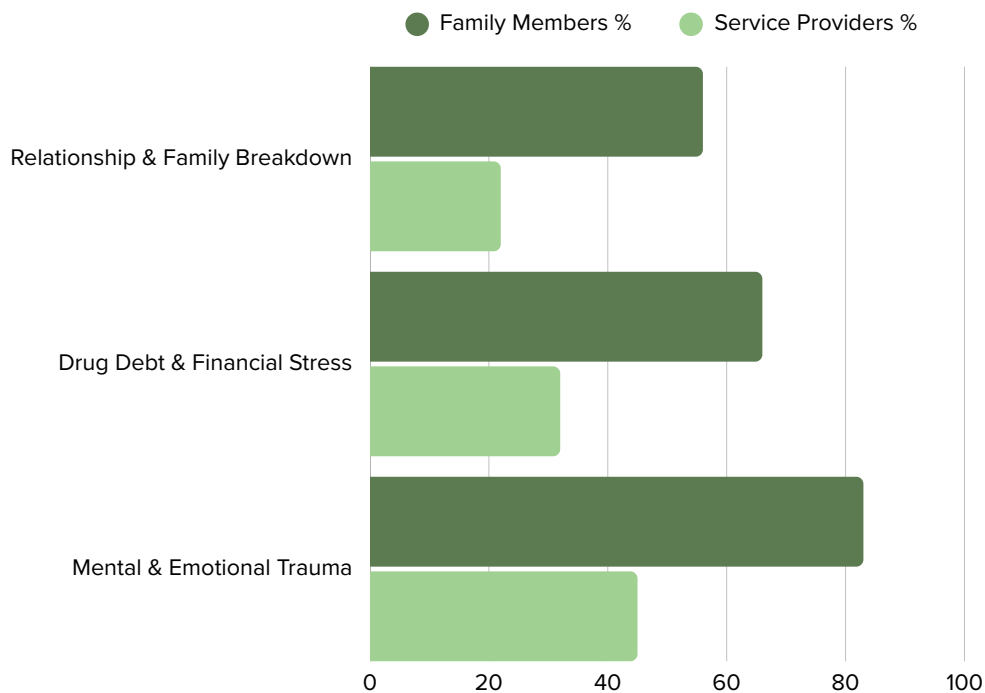
30 British Medical Counsel (2024): <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/your-wellbeing/vicarious-trauma/vicarious-trauma-signs-and-strategies-for-coping>

Conference Findings

World Café 1

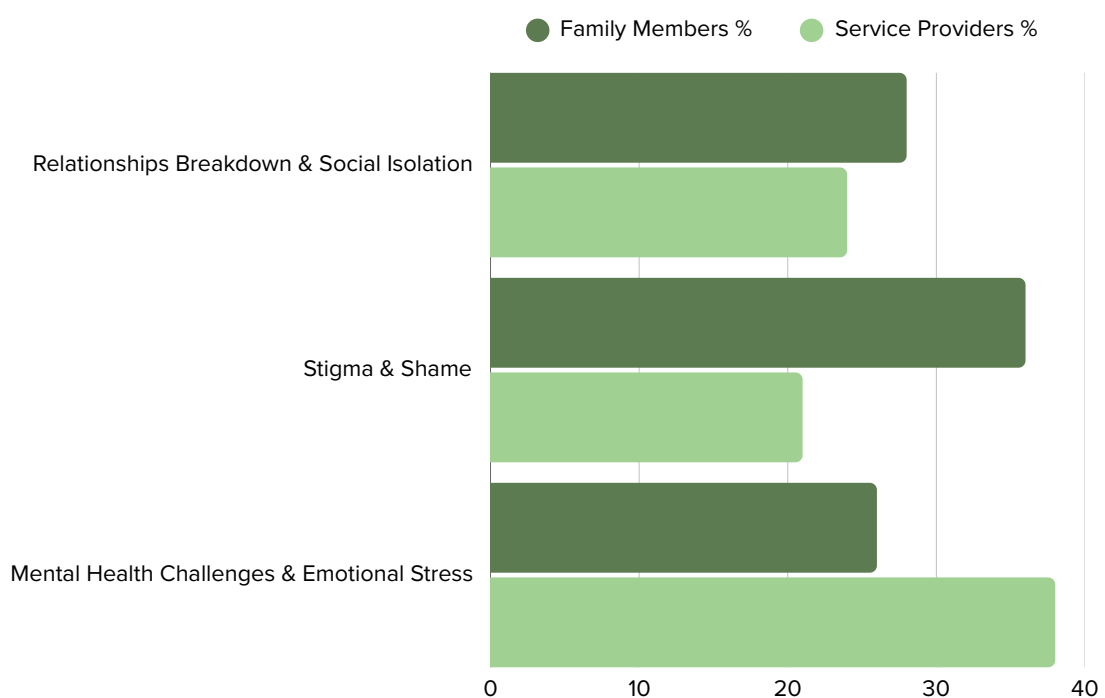
QUESTION 1: What kinds of trauma are experienced, and in what way?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 1 Q-1



QUESTION 2: How do these traumas affect individuals, families, and communities?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 1 Q-2

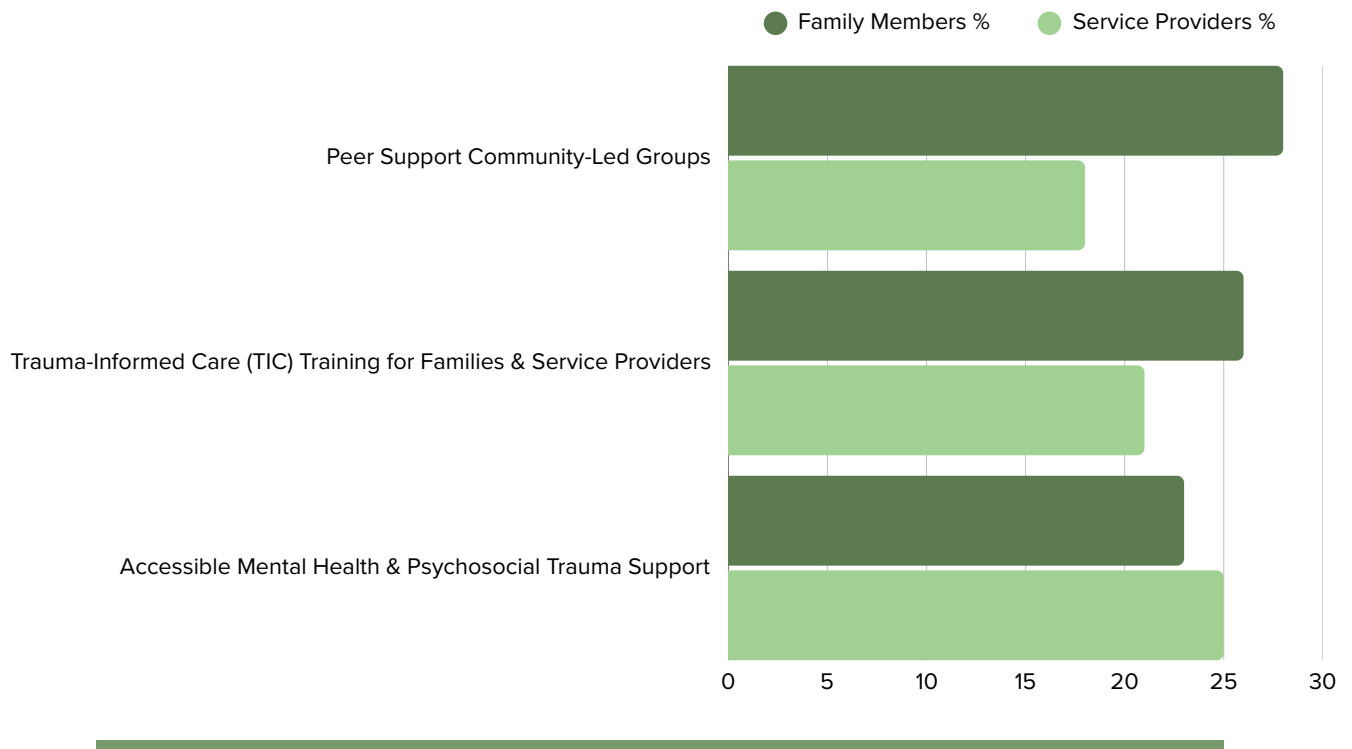


Conference Findings

World Café 1

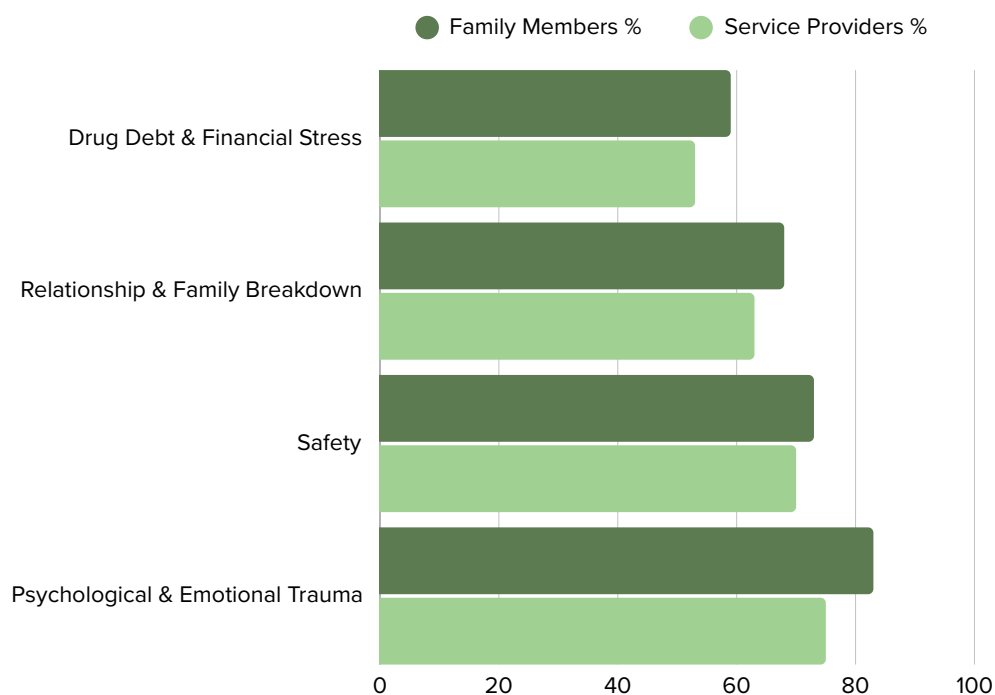
QUESTION 3: What supports can help better manage trauma?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 1 Q-3



Cross Comparison WC 1 Analysis from Responses to Questions 1, 2 & 3.

Four Most Prevalent Themes World Cafe 1 - Cross Comparison

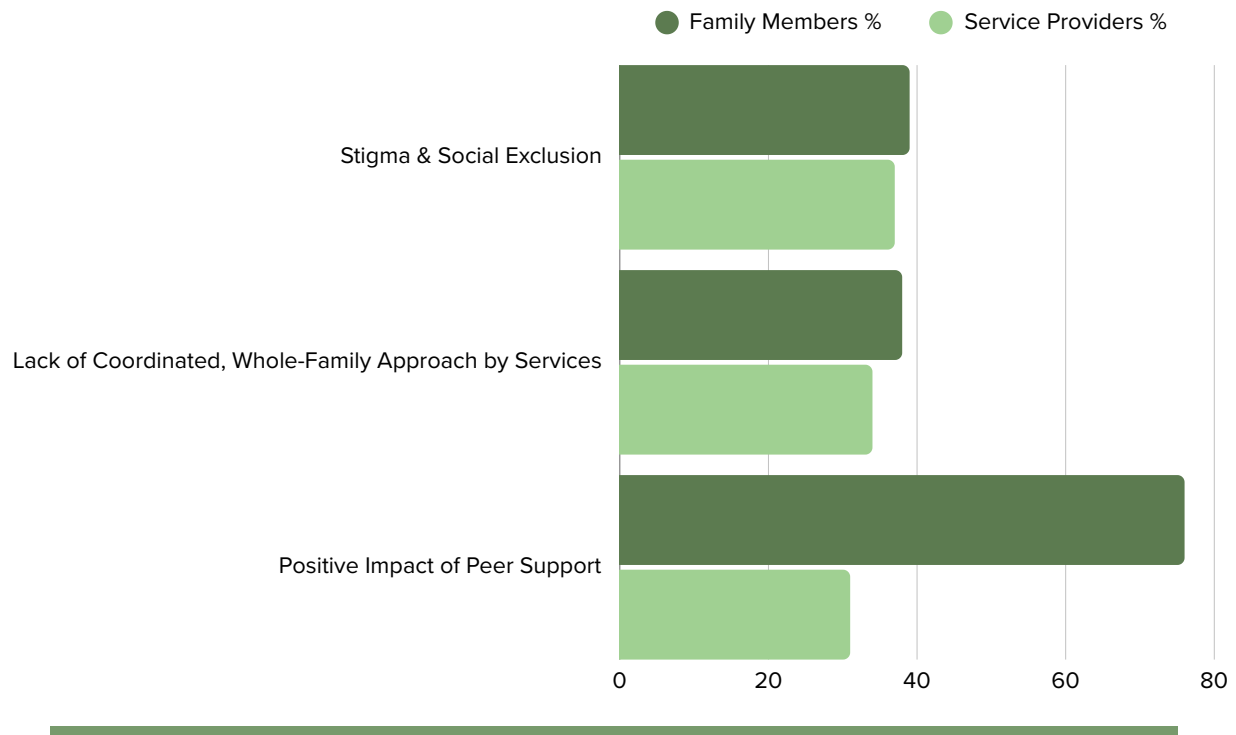


Conference Findings

World Café 2

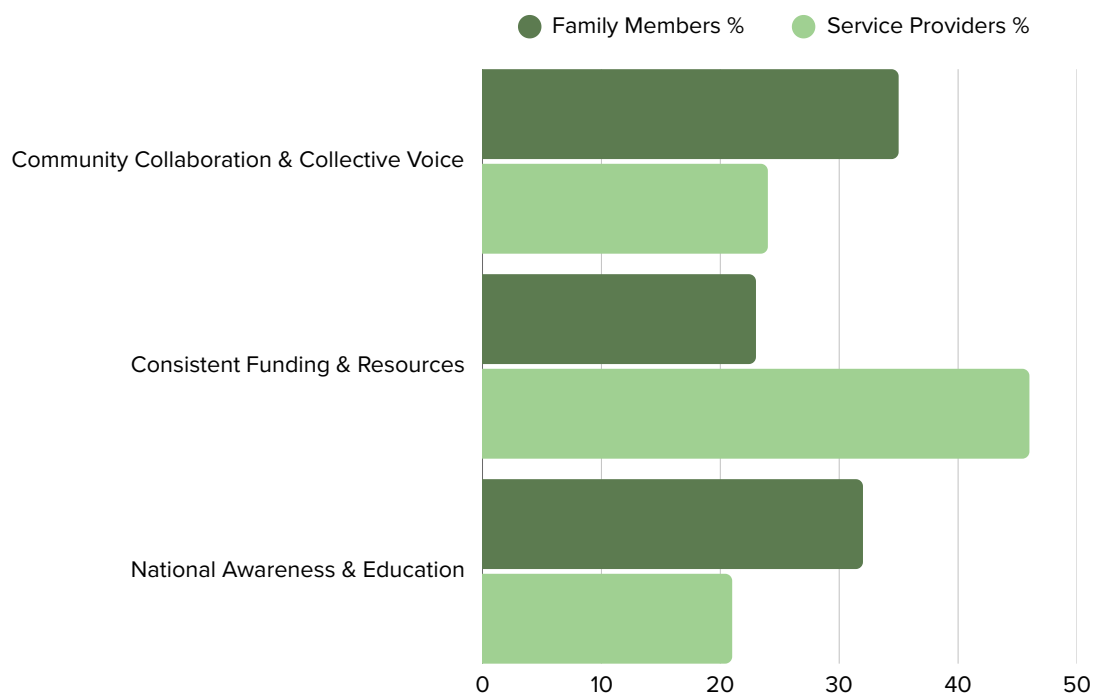
QUESTION 1: Describe your experience of Family Support services that you or someone you know have engaged in?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 2 Q-1



QUESTION 2: How can we as individuals, families and services address the current situation and create change?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 2 Q-2

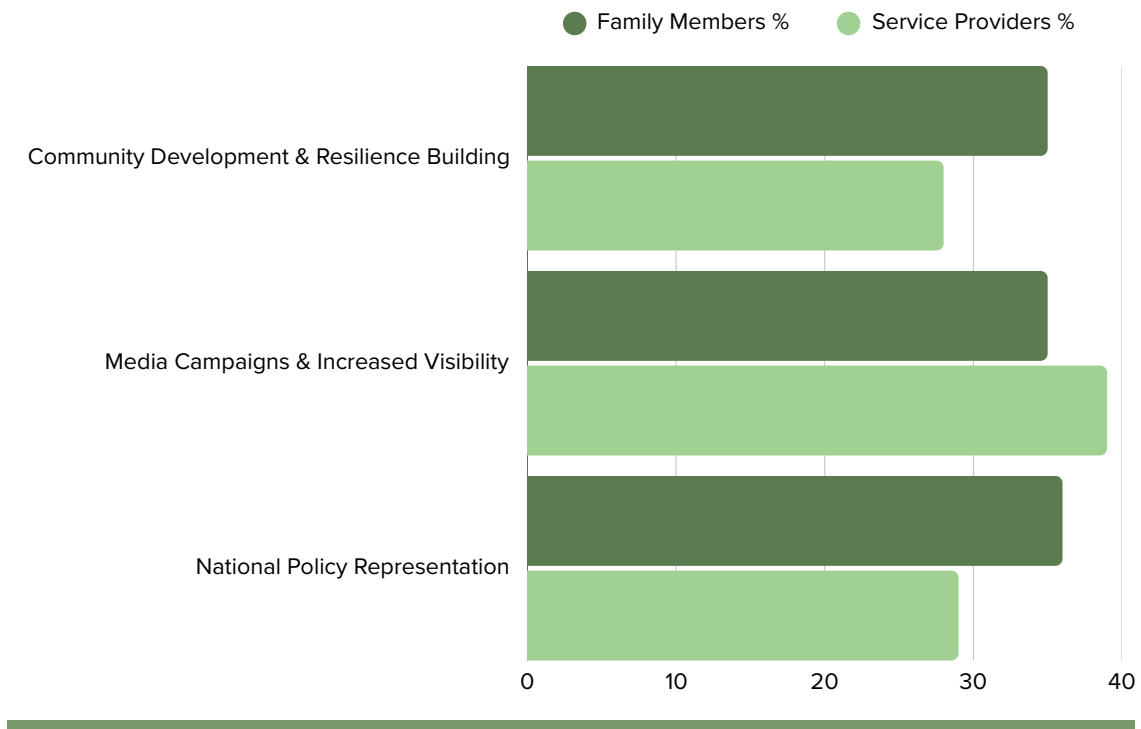


Conference Findings

World Café 2

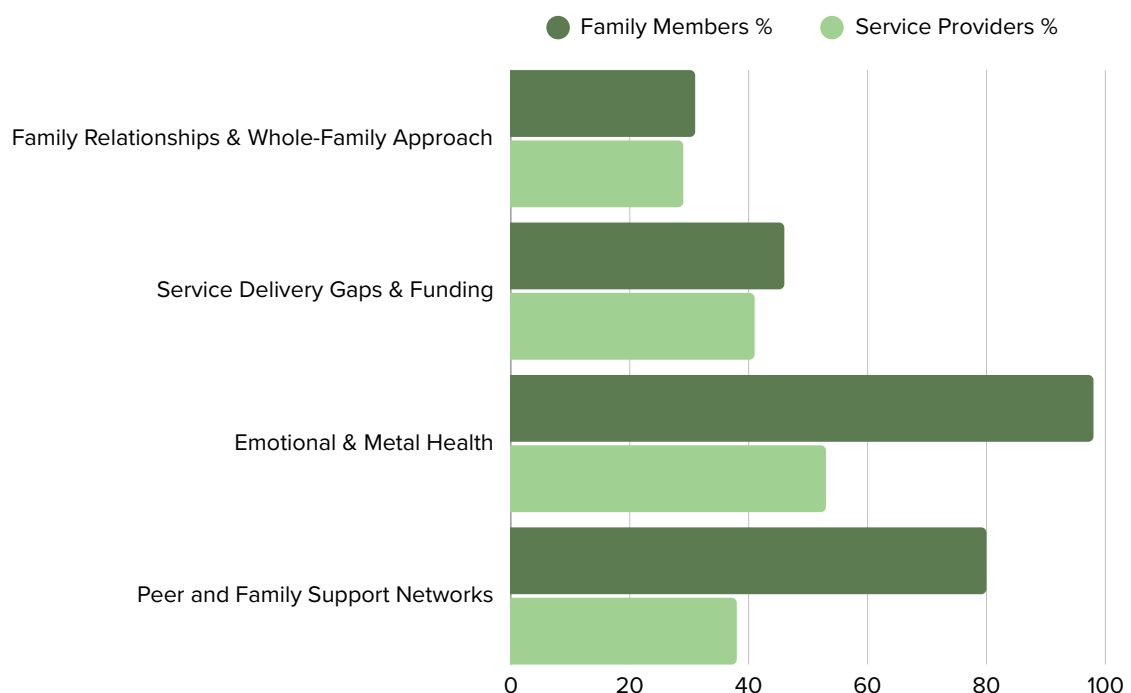
QUESTION 3: What is the best way to get family support for those affected by drug/alcohol related harm?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 2 Q-3



Cross Comparison WC 2 Analysis from Responses to Questions 1, 2 & 3.

Four Most Prevalent Themes - WC 2 Cross Comparison

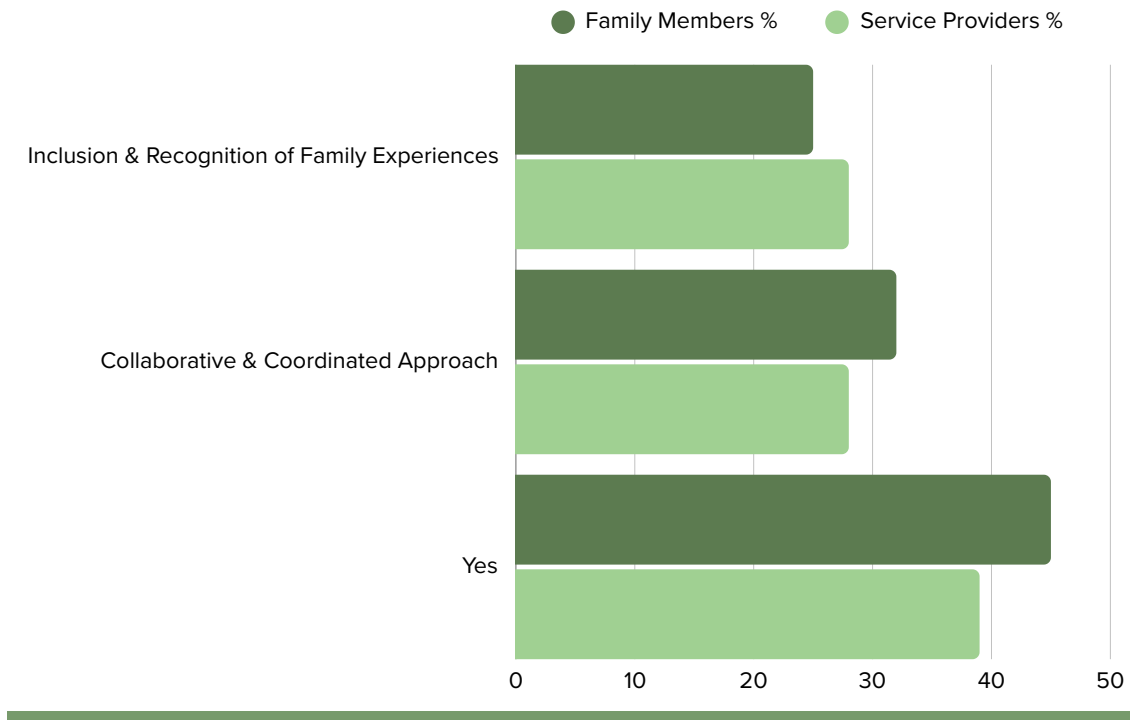


Conference Findings

World Café 3

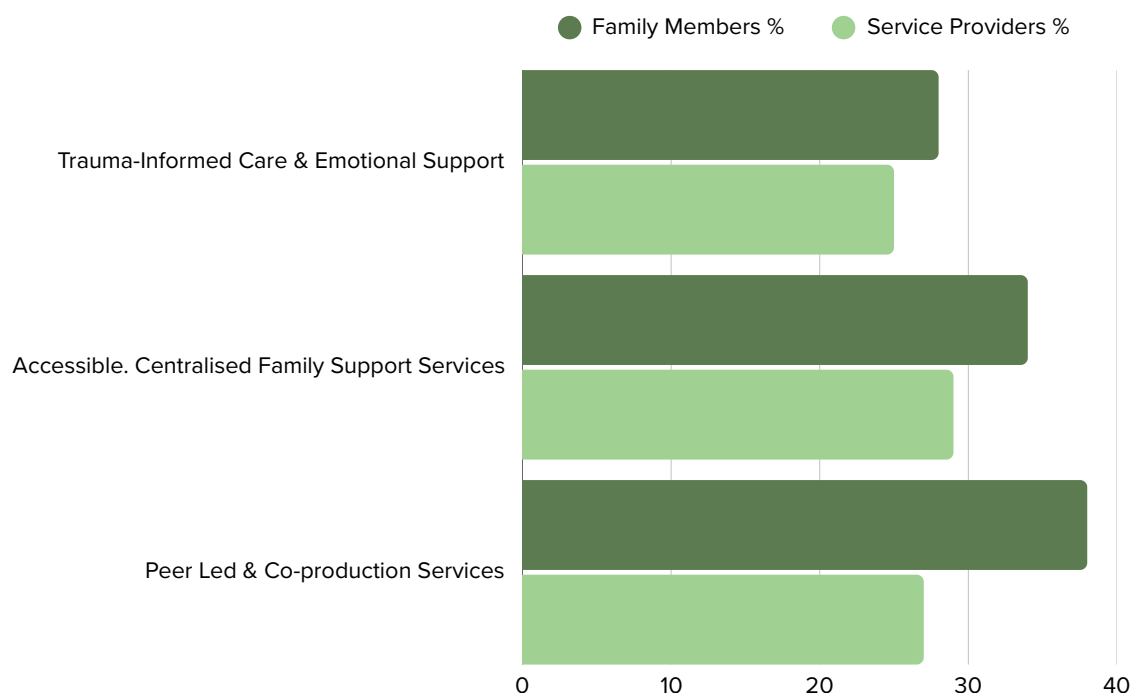
QUESTION 1: Do you feel we need a national voice /system for families affected by drug/alcohol related harm? Yes / No?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 3 Q-1



QUESTION 2: If yes, what would a national voice / system for families look like?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 3 Q-2

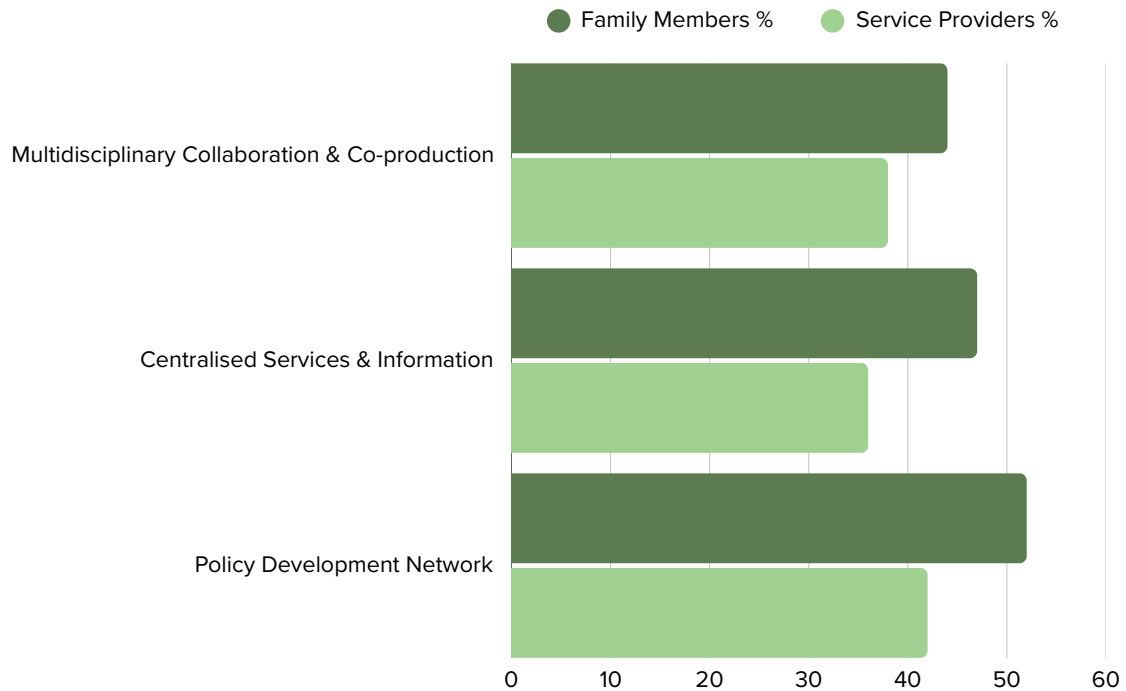


Conference Findings

World Café 3

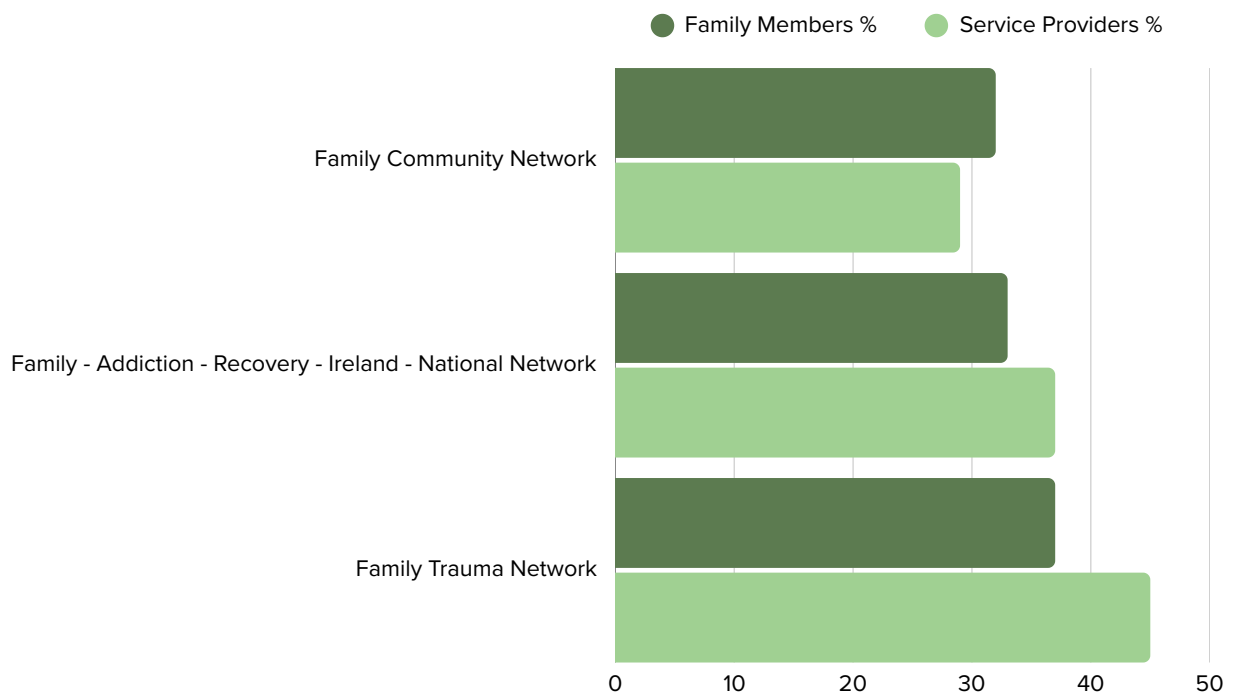
QUESTION 3: How would we organise at Local, Regional and National level?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 3 Q-3



QUESTION 4: What would we name this voice /system?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 3 Q-4

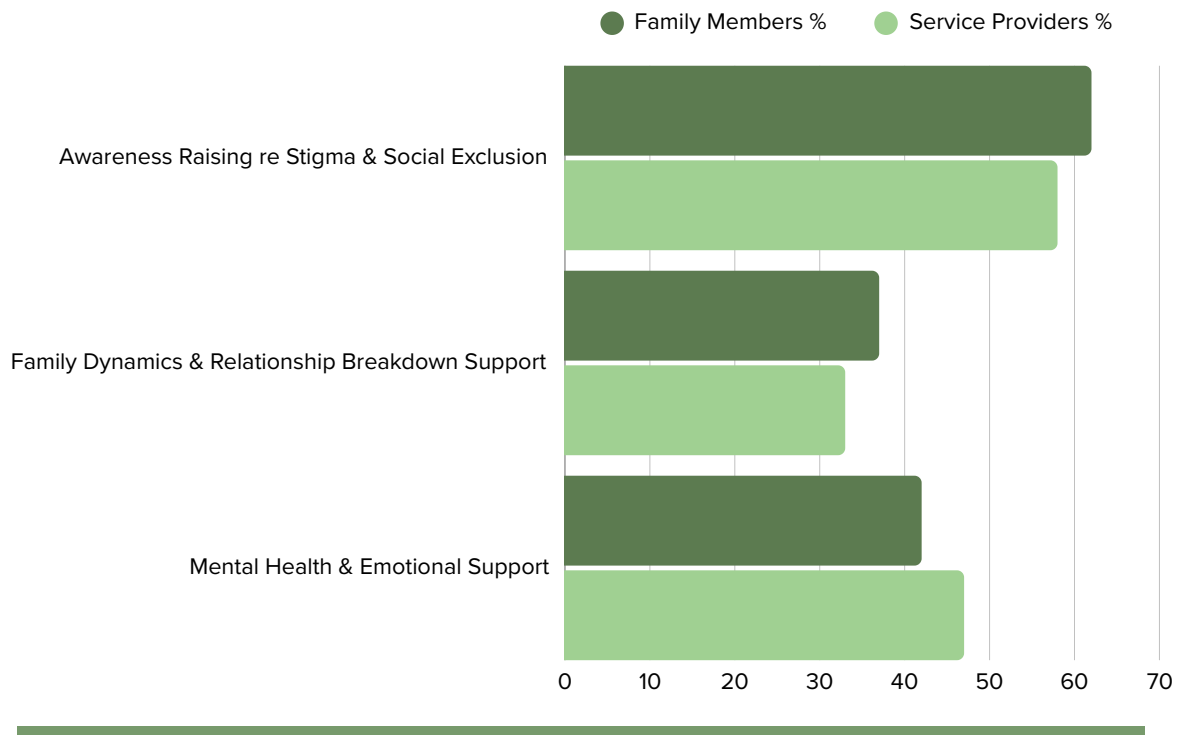


Conference Findings

World Café 3

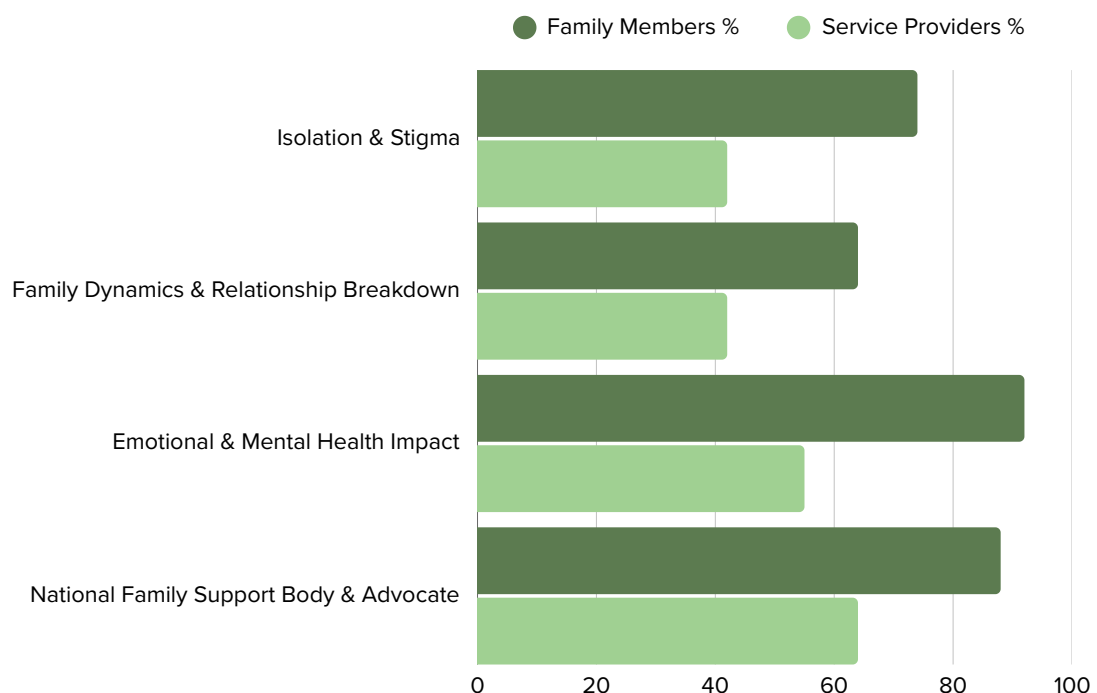
QUESTION 5: What should the next steps be?

Three Most Prevalent Themes - WC 3 Q-5



Cross Comparison WC 3 Analysis from Responses to Questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Four Most Prevalent Themes - WC 3 Cross Comparison



Conclusion

The “Trauma in the Community Conference 2024” provided a resounding and urgent call for systemic reform in how Ireland understands, engages with, and supports families impacted by addiction related trauma. The diverse and personal testimonies of over 250 participants from across the country revealed the profound psychological, emotional, social, and financial toll that substance use imposes not only on individuals but on entire family systems.

The conference served as a platform to highlight gaps and blocks in service accessibility, symbolic inclusion in national policy, and the lack of a coordinated, trauma-informed national framework. Despite references to family involvement in the National Drugs Strategy (2017–2025), the lived experience of exclusion remained a dominant theme for attendees.

The findings reinforced the necessity for a National Family Support Coordinating Body that centres lived experience, advocates for equitable resourcing, and embeds families as co-producers in policy and service development.

The conference identified the value of peer-led, community-based initiatives, youth diversion programs, and trauma-informed care, each demonstrating promise in supporting recovery and resilience when adequately supported.

With estimates suggesting that up to 278,658 individuals in Ireland may be affected by a loved one’s substance use, the implications are both significant and far reaching.

Addressing this hidden harm and public health crisis requires integrated, cross-sector collaboration, long-term investment, commitment to reducing stigma, enhance safety, and restore family cohesion through a co-production approach.

“The conference’s recommendations are not merely a strategic framework, but a moral imperative to transform Ireland’s approach to addiction by ensuring the principles of social justice, dignity, inclusivity, and restorative care.”





Conference Methodology and Rationale

Invitations

The NFSSG extended over 800 email invitations to public, private, political, statutory, voluntary, and community services across the whole of Ireland (Social Justice Ireland, 2023).³¹

Participant Demographics

Representation included 85 services from 32 counties across the whole of Ireland.

Age range: 15–72 years.

Total participants: 250 (195 females, 55 males).

Family support members: 75 females, 31 males.

Service providers: 120 females, 24 males.

Attendance: 250 on day one, 123 on day two.

World Café, Evaluation and Satisfaction Likert Scale Questions

The NFSSG developed the questions for the World Cafés, Evaluations and Satisfaction Likert Scale. The author had no input into the design or development of questions.

Purpose and Method

Method	Purpose	Philosophical Justification
Roundtable discussions;	Gather lived experiences & emotional responses;	Interpretivism (subjective knowledge);
Written feedback;	Capture detailed narratives & recommendations;	Critical Realism (contextual reality);
Two quantitative evaluations.	Measure trauma impact & service effectiveness.	Positivism (objective measurement).

Aims and Objectives of Research Report

Social Analysis and Social Impact Assessment (SIA),³² to identify Issues, Desired Outcome and Process to Achieve Desired Outcome (Community Development, Co-production & Social Analysis Approach Ethos).

31 Social Justice Matters 2023 guide to a fairer Irish society <https://www.socialjustice.ie/system/files/file-uploads/2023-05/Social%20Justice%20Matters%202023%20WEB%20Version.pdf>

32 Social Impact Assessment (2024): https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-031-17299-1_2761

Coding Parameters

A structured process of organising and categorising the data to uncover themes, patterns, and relationships within the datasets was used. The qualitative and quantitative data approach supported a narrative analysis and was specific to Addiction Family Support Trauma, (Clarke, 2006)³³, (Scribbr, 2021)³⁴ and SPSS³⁵ software to support the examination of data.

Identifying Themes and Data Analysis

Responses to each World Café question were analysed, creating three themes with three testimonies from family members and service providers. The cross-comparison analysis of each World Café session was based on responses (raw data) to the questions. The three WC's data and two evaluations were then analysed to identify the overall five most prevalent themes across the whole conference.

Data Type	Analysis Technique	Rationale
Qualitative (Roundtable Discussions),	Thematic Analysis,	Identifies Recurring Patterns in Trauma Narratives,
Quantitative (Evaluations),	Descriptive & Inferential Statistics,	Measures Trends in Trauma Impact & Intervention Effectiveness,
Mixed Data.	Concurrent Nested / Triangulation.	Ensures Robust Conclusions Integrating Both Data Sources.

Literature Review

The content is a practical usable resource for family members and service providers in areas such as policy, strategy, government commitments, rights, equity, equality and best practice). The literature review is a comprehensive evidence-based review of the themes and findings.

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone who contributed to this report and its launch, ensuring its success:

1. Department of Justice: As the main funder, along with all those who contributed through grant aid, donations, and sponsorship, your unwavering support has been pivotal in driving this important work forward and sustaining the advocacy for families and communities affected by substance misuse.

33 Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3 (2), 77–101. <https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp063oa>

34 Mixed Methods Research (2021) <https://www.scribbr.com/methodology/mixed-methods-research/>

35 <https://www.ibm.com/products/spss-statistics>



- 2. FASN Project & Staff:** Thank you for your dedication, leadership, administration, and for so eloquently giving a voice to the human impact of substance misuse on families and communities.
- 3. Anna Quigley and Citywide:** Thank you for your steadfast leadership and collaboration, which have significantly advanced the recovery agenda and family support structures in Ireland.
- 4. World Café Round Table Volunteer Facilitators:** Your skill and dedication in guiding discussions have been invaluable in amplifying the voices of families, workers, and volunteers.
- 5. Holistic Therapists:** A huge thank you to the holistic therapists for generously donating their time and skills at the national conference! Your contribution not only enriches the event but also offers invaluable support to everyone who benefits from your care and dedication.
- 6. Ballyfermot Advance Project Staff and Venue Support:** We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity in providing the meeting venue free of charge throughout this two-year project. Your warm hospitality, along with the catering support, created a welcoming and inclusive space that fostered meaningful dialogue and collaboration.
- 7. Greg Christodoulou, Research and Data Contributor:** Your contributions have been pivotal in documenting the lived experiences and gathering evidence that form the foundation of the report's findings and recommendations. What began as a report has evolved into an indispensable research resource, capturing the trauma, the harms, and the potential solutions for establishing trauma-informed care services. This report holds immense value not only for individuals affected by a relative's substance use but also for the service providers supporting them. Your work is deeply appreciated!
- 8. Pat Byrne, Dundalk FM:** A special acknowledgement to Pat Byrne of Dundalk FM Radio for his generous donation of time and expertise in providing media coverage for the Trauma in the Community Conference. Your professionalism and dedication have played a vital role in amplifying the voices of those affected, spreading awareness, and highlighting the importance of addressing trauma within our communities.
- 9. Family Members and Volunteers:** Your courage, openness, and contributions have been the cornerstone of this report, showcasing the invaluable role families play in Ireland's recovery agenda.
- 10. Hidden Voices Video:** A heartfelt acknowledgement to the courageous family members who shared their deeply personal and heartbreaking experiences to support others. Your bravery in stepping forward not only provides comfort to those navigating similar challenges but also serves as a powerful force for change. A special thank you as well to the video team who approached this sensitive work with care and dignity, ensuring the stories were captured respectfully to influence government policy and enhance family support services in Ireland. Your collective efforts are invaluable and truly inspiring!
- 11. Government Representatives:** A special thanks to the TDs, ministers, and policymakers who have engaged with us and supported the development of this report's recommendations.
- 12. Community Leaders and Advocates:** Thank you for championing the recovery agenda, raising awareness, and amplifying the voices of families and affected communities.
- 13. Participants and Stakeholders:** To everyone who attended the conference and engaged in meaningful dialogue, your input will help shape the path forward.
- 14. Conference Organisers:** This event would not have been possible without the incredible effort and coordination of the organizing team, who brought stakeholders together to spotlight this important cause.

This report is a reflection of the collective effort, passion, and resilience of all those involved. Together, we are shaping a future of hope and recovery for families and communities across Ireland.



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