



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
Lána an Mhuilinn
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National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown

20th July 2017

Deputy Jack Chambers
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 31990/17

* To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that sought drug treatment and rehabilitation services by county or local health area in each of the past five years and to date in 2017, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Chambers,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

Table 1 outlines the number of cases assessed for treatment for problem drug use (excluding alcohol) in the past 5 years (2011 - 2015 most recent available data) by Local Health Office of residence as per the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). Data for 2016 will be available in September 2017.

See also attached Appendix on the NDTRS.

Table 1
Assessed for treatment for problem drug use (excluding alcohol)
Where case resides: LHO, NDTRS 2011 to 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Clare	113	107	188	228	230
Carlow/ Kilkenny	353	386	407	359	345
Cavan/ Monaghan	120	224	117	111	68
Cork - North Lee	726	756	829	901	860
Cork - South Lee	687	485	509	506	532
Donegal	171	180	168	195	193
Dublin North Central	714	594	747	811	697
Dublin South	193	189	240	210	199
Dublin South City	442	402	513	548	537
Dublin South East	77	121	99	126	105
Dublin South West	646	537	597	744	649
Dublin West	501	457	503	612	650
Galway	349	352	347	298	342
Kildare/ West Wicklow	356	457	389	376	270
Kerry	393	309	330	349	402
Louth	241	314	244	254	273
Limerick	500	325	480	643	563
Laois/ Offaly	244	263	265	360	321
Longford/ Westmeath	283	269	238	385	381
Meath	152	201	175	211	150
Mayo	103	80	101	105	97
North Cork	187	178	167	162	161
North Dublin	372	336	435	552	592
North Tipperary/ East Limerick	117	116	130	160	147
North West Dublin	775	784	896	1123	1083
Roscommon	70	82	69	65	91
Sligo/ Leitrim	114	120	111	155	173
South Tipperary	355	375	378	395	352
West Cork	83	70	58	59	69
Waterford	400	432	454	379	422
Wicklow	172	170	333	419	379
Wexford	402	436	458	460	497
Outside Ireland	19	19	13	17	27
Ireland Unknown	267	244	297	374	410
	10697	10370	11285	12652	12267

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist

Appendix

Background to the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)

Treatment for problem alcohol and drug use in Ireland is provided by statutory and non-statutory services, including residential centres, community-based addiction services, general practices and prison services.

For the purpose of the NDTRS, treatment is broadly defined as 'any activity which aims to ameliorate the psychological, medical or social state of individuals who seek help for their substance misuse problems'. Clients who attend needle-exchange services are not included in this reporting system. From 2004 onwards, clients who report alcohol as their main problem drug have been recorded by the system. These data have been presented in an earlier paper in the HRB Trends Series (Fanagan *et al.* 2008). Drug treatment options include one or more of the following: medication (detoxification, methadone reduction, substitution programmes and psychiatric treatment), brief intervention, counselling, group therapy, family therapy, psychotherapy, complementary therapy, and/or life-skills training.

Compliance with the NDTRS requires that one form be completed for each new client coming for first treatment and for each previously treated client returning to treatment for problem drug use. Service providers at treatment centres throughout Ireland collect data on each individual who attends for first treatment or returns to treatment in a calendar year.

Staff at the NHIS unit in the HRB compile anonymous, aggregated data, which are analysed and reported at national and EU levels.

The main elements of the reporting system are defined as follows:

All cases treated – describes cases who receive treatment for problem drug and/or alcohol use at each treatment centre in a calendar year, and includes:

Cases assessed only - describes cases who were assessed but who did not progress to treatment

Previously treated cases – describes cases who were treated previously for problem drug/alcohol use at any treatment centre and have returned to treatment in the reporting year;

New cases treated – describes cases who have never been treated for problem drug/alcohol use; and

Status unknown – describes cases whose status with respect to previous treatment for problem drug/alcohol use is not known.

* It is very important to note that **each case refers to an episode of treatment**, not an individual. Therefore 'previously treated cases' could appear more than once in the database, in a calendar year, if for example they receive treatment at more than one centre or at the same centre more than once per year. The NDTRS also does not include those cases in continuous care i.e. cases who remained in treatment without a break from one year to the next. It also does not include those treated in psychiatric hospitals.