



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
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National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

24th July 2017

Deputy John Curran
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 33445/17

* To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that accessed drug treatment and rehabilitation services by local health area in Dublin over the past five years and to date in 2017; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Curran,

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:

The below table outlines the number of cases treated for problem drug use (excluding alcohol) in the past 5 years (2011 and 2015 most recent available data) by Local Health Office of residence in Dublin as per the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). Data for 2016 will be available in September '17. See attached Appendix on the NDTRS.

Table: Treated Cases Residing in Dublin LHOs for problem drug use (excluding alcohol) NDTRS 2011 to 2015.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Dublin North Central	600	504	667	721	634
Dublin South	171	127	184	164	159
Dublin South City	369	331	400	408	436
Dublin South East	62	95	79	93	78
Dublin South West	577	454	507	591	576
Dublin West	447	388	441	529	567
North Dublin	286	274	361	470	472
North West Dublin	626	601	720	877	901
Total	3138	2774	3359	3853	3823

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'D'.

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.