



22nd October 2019

Deputy John Curran, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ: 40754/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of treatment options available for persons with drug addiction problems; and the number of persons availing of each in 2017, 2018 and to date in 2019, in tabular form

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 Table below identifies within the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) the number of cases treated for drugs (excluding alcohol) that received each activity in 2017, figures for 2018 are currently being finalised with 2019 data expected this time next year (see appendix re NDTRS).

Table: Activities recorded by the NDTRS in 2017 and the number of cases treated for drugs (excluding alcohol) that received each activity in 2017:

| # | Activity | Number of cases |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Brief intervention | 3231 |
| 2 | Detoxification from Alcohol | 65 |
| 3 | Detoxification from Benzodiazepines | 321 |
| 4 | Methadone substitution | 1448 |
| 5 | Buprenorphine/naloxone substitution | 15 |
| 6 | Medication free therapy | 1037 |
| 7 | Psychiatric treatment | 205 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|------|
| 8 | Individual Counselling | 3596 |
| 9 | Group Counselling | 1056 |
| 10 | Social and/or occupational reintergration | 458 |
| 11 | Family therapy | 250 |
| 12 | Individual Education/awareness programme | 1117 |
| 13 | Group education/awareness programme | 1221 |
| 14 | Aftercare | 266 |
| 15 | Complementary therapy | 778 |
| 16 | Strengthening family programme | 195 |
| 17 | Community detoxification | 109 |
| 18 | Detoxification from Heroin | 339 |
| 19 | Detoxification from Methadone | 191 |
| 20 | Detoxification from Z drugs | 31 |
| 21 | Detoxification from Other drug | 281 |
| 22 | Multi-component model | 127 |
| Total activities = 22 | | |

Note:

- A client may receive more than one activity during a treatment episode
- NDTRS data are case-based, which means there is a possibility that individuals appear more than once in the database; for example, where a person receives treatment at more than one centre, or at the same centre more than once in a calendar year.

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

The NDTRS is the national epidemiological surveillance database that records and reports on treated problem drug and alcohol use in Ireland (www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/alcohol-and-drug-treatment/). For the purposes of the NDTRS, *treatment* is broadly defined as any activity which aims to ameliorate the psychological, medical or social state of individuals seeking help. Established in 1990, the NDTRS is maintained by the National Health Information Systems (NHIS) of the Health Research Board (HRB) on behalf of the Department of Health.

The analysis was conducted on data received from NDTRS-participating services nationally. The data pertain to cases treated in these centres during the period 2010 to 2017 inclusive. **NDTRS data for 2018 are due to be published in the Drugs Bulletin in November 2019.** Data for 2019 will be available in 2020.

Please note that NDTRS data are case-based, which means there is a possibility that individuals appear more than once in the database; for example, where a person receives treatment at more than one centre, or at the same centre more than once in a calendar year. The NDTRS suppresses data where the total in a cell is five cases or fewer. This is to ensure that individuals are not indirectly identified. *Please note that NDTRS data are not to be presented in either written or oral form that could directly or indirectly identify an individual.*