



1st October 2019

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

PQ: 37746/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of new detoxification places in community and residential settings provided in 2018 and to date in 2019; 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:

HSE funding is provided to Tier 4 services in a number of ways:

- On a 'per bed allocation' with all treatment episodes associated with that bed given to HSE referrals
- On a 'per treatment basis' where each treatment is paid for separately (e.g. through the unit cost study)
- On a 'staffing cost basis' In some cases funding has been given to pay for a number of staff salaries within a service.

This varies across HSE regions and within service level agreements.

The National Drug Treatment Reporting System (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/). 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. 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. See attached Appendix on the NDTRS.

It should be noted that NDTRS data are case based, and therefore represent the number of treatment episodes in a given period, rather than the number of persons accessing treatment in that period. Hence, 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.



Table 1 presents the number of cases receiving a detoxification (either for alcohol or other drugs) in a residential setting between 2012 and 2017. Data for 2018 are due to be published in October 2019.

Table 1: Treated cases receiving a residential detoxification (either for alcohol and other drugs), 2012 to 2017

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total number of residential detoxifications	2059	1617	1700	1745	2327	2406

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

National Drug Treatment Reporting System

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. 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 individuals who receive treatment for problem drug and/or alcohol use at each treatment centre in a calendar year, and includes:

- *Cases assessed only* - describes individuals who were assessed but who did not progress to treatment
- *Previously treated cases* – describes individuals 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 individuals who have never been treated for problem drug/alcohol use; and
- *Status unknown* – describes individuals whose status with respect to previous treatment for problem drug/alcohol use is not known.

In the case of the data for ‘previously treated cases’, 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 per year.