



6th May 2021

Deputy Martin Browne, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ: 19917/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on methadone maintenance therapy in each county; the length of time patients spend on such therapy on average by county; and the supports available to help persons become fully drug free by county

Dear Deputy Browne,

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:

This is a complex issue involving significant amounts of information some of which is not collated in the data which is routinely collected by the HSE. For ease of reference, I have broken down the answer into three sections

1. The number of patients on methadone maintenance therapy in each county. Data in relation to Methadone Maintenance is not recorded by county but rather by CHO area. The table below outlines the situation at the end of March 2021 which is the most recent data available

CHO Area	Total at end March 2021
HSE Area CHO 1	111
HSE Area CHO 2	179
HSE Area CHO 3	378
HSE Area CHO 4	626
HSE Area CHO 5	594
HSE Area CHO 6	914
HSE Area CHO 7	3227
HSE Area CHO 8	825
HSE Area CHO 9	2922



NDTC	488
Prisons	711
Total	10975

2. The length of time patients spend on such therapy on average by county. Once again data is not collected by county. In relation to this metric a national figure is calculated at the end of each year. The most recent figure relates to the end of 2020 and the position is outlined in the table below

Yrs in Treatment	M	F	T	Totals
20 yrs+	888	501	0	1389
19 yrs+	223	103	0	326
18 yrs+	196	97	0	293
17 yrs+	171	96	0	267
16 yrs+	184	88	0	272
15 yrs+	174	81	0	255
14 yrs+	196	61	0	257
13 yrs+	177	69	0	246
12 yrs+	121	80	0	201
11 yrs+	201	108	0	309
10 yrs+	228	101	0	329
9 yrs+	206	91	0	297
8 yrs+	253	115	0	368
7 yrs+	283	160	0	443
6 yrs+	270	114	0	384
5 yrs+	336	135	0	471
4 yrs+	378	117	0	495
3 yrs+	436	187	0	623
2 yrs+	554	355	0	909
1 yrs+	1903	676	0	2579
Totals	7378	3335	0	10713

3. The supports available to help people become fully drug free by county. The addiction services are provided nationally by the HSE and by funded agencies that provide care through service level agreements with the HSE. A range of services are available to provide support to people who are suffering problems as a result of substance use. These services range from harm reduction services, brief interventions, counselling, medication assisted treatment, opioid detoxification, opioid maintenance treatment, residential treatment and rehabilitation. The most appropriate treatment should be determined after a comprehensive assessment. The range of services that are available can be accessed on our website, drugs.ie, which contains a service directory of HSE and HSE funded agencies. The service directory on drugs.ie can be searched on a county by county basis using the advanced search function on the website. The link to the service directory can be found here <http://drugs.ie/services/>

Treatment responses for people with drug and alcohol problems are by our National Drug and Alcohol Strategy, 'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: A health led response to the problem of drug and alcohol in Ireland'.

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

Yours sincerely,



Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead HSE Addiction Services