



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Chief Operations Officer,
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Tel: 091 893800

Mairead Farrell T.D.
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

16th March 2021

PQ10668/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of deaths from drug and alcohol overdose in County Galway disaggregated by city and county, age cohort and gender in each of the years 2017 to 2020.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question/Public Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There is a National Drug Related Index which is an epidemiological database which records cases of drug and alcohol related deaths, deaths among drug users and among alcohol dependent persons in Ireland. The most recent data was published in December 2019. Data is collected from Coroner Service files relating to all deaths among alcohol dependent persons, all deaths where a history of drug use was recorded or where drug or alcohol misuse was implicated in the death. Data is also collected from The General Mortality Register (through the Central Statistics Office), The Central Treatment List and the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) scheme. Please see link below to the NDRI website.

<https://www.hiqa.ie/areas-we-work/health-information/data-collections/national-drug-related-deaths-index-ndrdi>

Data collected by the hospital HIPE system relates inpatients who die in hospital and does not include those who die in the Emergency Department, Community, at home, in short-term or long-term residential facilities, etc. Therefore, it is not possible to provide an accurate picture of drug and alcohol related deaths in County Galway as a whole.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Ann Cosgrove,
Chief Operations Officer,
Saoita University Health Care Group**