



19th October, 2021

Deputy Róisín Shortall, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re PQ: 47634/21

To ask the Minister for Health if the latest figures for the number of persons availing of methadone replacement treatment with a breakdown by treatment centre and a further breakdown by time in treatment in each centre will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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:

As of the end of September 2021 the Central Treatment List identifies that there were 10,900 on Methadone Treatment and a further 556 on Buprenorphine based treatments nationally (including within the prison system). This gives a total of 11,456 people in receipt of Opioid Substitute Treatment. It is not possible to break this down by individual treatment centres or GP given the low numbers in some cases however for the Deputy's information Tables 1, 2 and 3 below identifies the total number of people in Methadone Treatment at HSE clinics and General Practitioners per CHO.

Table 1 Total Patients in Treatment in HSE Clinics as of the End of September '21

CHO Area	Total Patients at End of September '21	No of Clinics
HSE CHO Area 1	0	0
HSE CHO Area 2	50	1
HSE CHO Area 3	213	2
HSE CHO Area 4	444	2
HSE CHO Area 5	360	9
HSE CHO Area 6	446	8
HSE CHO Area 7	2240	38
HSE CHO Area 8	419	10
HSE CHO Area 9	1795	23
Totals	5967	93



Table 2 Total Patients in Treatment with Level 1 General Practitioners as of the End of September '21

CHO Area	Total Patients at End of Period	General Practitioners- Level 1
HSE CHO Area 1	23	9
HSE CHO Area 2	74	24
HSE CHO Area 3	115	17
HSE CHO Area 4	128	18
HSE CHO Area 5	201	36
HSE CHO Area 6	137	23
HSE CHO Area 7	565	79
HSE CHO Area 8	151	21
HSE CHO Area 9	469	50
Totals	1863	277

Table 3 Total Patients in Treatment with Level 2 General Practitioners as of the End of September '21

CHO Area	Total Patients at End of Period	General Practitioners- Level 2
HSE CHO Area 1	82	2
HSE CHO Area 2	63	1
HSE CHO Area 3	68	2
HSE CHO Area 4	67	4
HSE CHO Area 5	33	2
HSE CHO Area 6	338	9
HSE CHO Area 7	842	35
HSE CHO Area 8	269	8
HSE CHO Area 9	660	26
Totals	2422	89

The most recent available data for length of time in Methadone Treatment from the Central Treatment List as of 31st of December 2020 is set out in the below table 4. International research evidence highlights that increased length of time in OST is associated with improved treatment outcomes (including reduced use of other opioids and reduced criminal activity) and short-term methadone maintenance treatment is associated with poorer outcomes.

Table 4 Length of Time in Treatment as of the End of September '21

Years in Treatment	M	F	Totals
20 years +	888	501	1389
19 years	223	103	326
18 years	196	97	293
17 years	171	96	267
16 years	184	88	272
15 years	174	81	255
14 years	196	61	257
13 years	177	69	246
12 years	170	74	244
11 years	201	108	309
10 years	228	101	329
9 years	206	91	297
8 years	253	72	325
7 years	283	160	443
6 years	270	114	384
5 years	336	103	439
4 years	378	117	495
3 years	436	160	596
2 Years	454	198	652
<1year	1903	676	2579
Totals	7327	3070	10397

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

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion