



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Lána an Mhuilinn
Baile Phámar
Baile Átha Cliath 20

☎: 01-620 1747 f. 01-620 1626

National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

23rd June, 2016

Deputy Jack Chambers
Dáil Eireann
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

PQ 16072/16

* To ask the Minister for Health if there has been a 25 per cent increase in Hepatitis C cases among drug users based on 2008 figures, as targeted in the National Drugs Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Chambers,

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:

In 2008 there were 1537 notifications of Hepatitis C infection to the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) of the HSE. Some information on most likely risk factor was available for 38% of cases (n=581) in 2008. The most likely risk factor for 77% (n=447) was injecting drug use.

Since 2008 there has been a steady decrease in the number of new notifications of Hepatitis C infection each year with 678 new notifications in 2015. Information on most likely risk factor was only available for 33% (n=225) of notifications in 2015. 75% (n=169) of those were injecting drug users.

(see www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/Hepatitis/HepatitisC/HepatitisCReports for further information) The above figures show that there has not been a 25% increase in hepatitis C cases among drug users based on 2008 figures.

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