



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
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National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
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Dublin 20

26th July, 2016

Deputy Jack Chambers
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 19074/16

* To ask the Minister for Health the number of cases of substance abuse treated in the past ten years per county, in tabular form; the number of these which received methadone treatment; 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:

The best source of complete and accurate information for the numbers in methadone substitution is from the Central Treatment List (CTL). Table 1 identifies the total number of patients in treatment as of the end of December of the particular year.

Table 2 outlines the number of cases treated for problem alcohol and other drug use in the past 10 years (2005 and 2014) as per the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). Data for 2015 will be available in September. Note that the CTL and the NDTRS **cannot be directly compared**. This is because the CTL includes all those in methadone treatment, both new and in continuous treatment, while the NDTRS includes only those reported as entering treatment in that particular year. See attached Appendix on the NDTRS.

Table 1

Number of patients in treatment as of the end of December of the particular year by County.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Total Patients at End of Period										
Carlow	21	27	31	38	34	37	40	48	56	62	68
Cavan	<10	10	27	34	37	50	50	56	58	63	75
Clare	10	9	9	14	15	20	19	23	23	23	24

Cork	16	22	65	93	163	188	207	230	268	304	350
Donegal	<10	0	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Dublin	6626	6864	7075	7138	7288	7351	7207	7181	7168	7139	7081
Galway	24	31	52	72	71	74	79	89	104	99	119
Kerry	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	15	38	49	50	57	68
Kildare	59	66	86	80	79	81	97	103	118	133	135
Kilkenny	0	0	0	<10	12	15	34	48	49	52	57
Laois	39	45	58	61	67	65	75	92	108	149	110
Leitrim	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Limerick	89	100	142	141	138	169	178	197	195	217	276
Longford	0	0	0	0	<10	<10	<10	16	17	20	17
Louth	41	75	86	83	85	79	74	77	63	78	103
Mayo	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	11	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Meath	48	46	38	46	53	50	53	55	98	92	97
Monaghan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offaly	0	0	<10	<10	<10	<10	15	26	27	45	42
Roscommon	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Sligo	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Tipperary	<10	<10	12	14	14	10	<10	<10	36	85	94
Waterford	15	20	21	22	22	24	36	74	109	113	142
Westmeath	44	67	87	88	112	118	147	172	92	195	201
Wexford	<10	11	14	14	19	20	28	38	48	64	82
Wicklow	204	229	265	284	305	326	312	309	309	320	326

Table 2

Number of cases treated for problem alcohol and other drug use, 2005 to 2014 (NDTRS)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Alcohol	5526	5876	7312	7940	7816	7866	8604	8336	7549	7541
Other drugs	5176	5475	5977	6576	6668	7876	7600	7363	8259	9046
Total Alcohol and other drugs	10702	11351	13289	14516	14484	15742	16204	15699	15808	16587

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

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist

Appendix

Background to the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)

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.

Staff at the NHIS unit in 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 cases who receive treatment for problem drug and/or alcohol use at each treatment centre in a calendar year, and includes:

Cases assessed only - describes cases who were assessed but who did not progress to treatment

Previously treated cases – describes cases 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 cases who have never been treated for problem drug/alcohol use; and

Status unknown – describes cases whose status with respect to previous treatment for problem drug/alcohol use is not known.

* It is very important to note that **each case refers to an episode of treatment**, not an individual. Therefore 'previously treated cases' could appear more than once in the database, in a calendar year, if for example they receive treatment at more than one centre or at the same centre more than once per year. The NDTRS also does not include those cases in continuous care i.e. cases who remained in treatment without a break from one year to the next. It also does not include those treated in psychiatric hospitals.