



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

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

26th July, 2016

Deputy Jack Chambers
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 19075/16

* To ask the Minister for Health the status of the needle exchange programme; the number of persons which have taken part in the programme over the past ten years per county; if the programme has been rolled out to 65 new locations, as outlined 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:

The Pharmacy Needle Exchange Programme was made available to service users to access needle exchange in community pharmacies in November 2011. The number of unique individual attendances for pharmacy needle exchange has increased since the programme was established. Currently there are 109 Pharmacies participating in the programme based on a needs basis covering all major towns/cities outside of Dublin/Kildare & Wicklow where a need was identified.

For the Deputy's information the below table identifies the average monthly number of Unique Individuals attending the service each year from 2011-2015 and for the first quarter in 2016.

Year	Average Number of Unique Individual Attendances per Month
2011	120
2012	360
2013	933
2014	1342
2015	1608
2016 (as of the end of Quarter 1)	1508

Data is not available per county as it was collated by HSE Regional up to 2014 and then by each Community Health Organisation from 2015

CHO Area	2015	2016 (as of the end of Quarter 1)
	Average Number of Unique Individual Attendances per Month per CHO	Average Number of Unique Individual Attendances per Month per CHO
CHO 1	54	38
CHO 2	124	123
CHO 3	283	261
CHO 4	350	353
CHO 5	355	336
CHO 8	442	397

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