



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 19078/16

* To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a Methadone programme per county over the past ten years; the number on waiting lists for a methadone programme for the same period; to provide the methadone completion numbers, that is, those who successfully came off the programme; 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:

Table 1 outlines the number of patients in treatment as of the end of December of the particular year by County. Table 2 identifies 163 people waiting for methadone substitution treatment as of the end of March 2016 by County. Prior to 2016 national waiting list data wasn't collated on a regular basis. However periodic examinations of waiting lists for Opioid Substitute Treatment identified the following numbers:

373 in December 2009
445 in July 2010
230 in March 2011
187 in April 2012
192 in August 2014

(Note: prior to 2016 data was not fully validated and there is potential for some duplication in numbers (individuals on more than one waiting list)).

Finally table 4 provides a summary of successful methadone completion numbers, that is, those who successfully came off the programme year by year from 2005 to 2015

Table 1

	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

	County	No of clients
Number of people waiting for opioid substitution treatment by county as of the end of March 2016.	Carlow	1
	Cavan	5
	Clare	0
	Cork	6
	Donegal	0
	Dublin	33
	Galway	14
	Kerry	1
	Kildare	11
	Kilkenny	0
Laois	21	

	Leitrim	0
	Limerick	43
	Longford	0
	Louth	3
	Mayo	0
	Meath	1
	Monaghan	0
	Offaly	5
	Roscommon	0
	Sligo	1
	Tipperary	0
	Waterford	0
	Westmeath	3
	Wexford	13
	Wicklow	1
	Unknown	1
	TOTAL	163

Also, for the Deputy's information the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) records the time between referral and assessment and time between assessment and treatment.

In 2014, preliminary data from the NDTRS shows that the majority of cases (62.6%) were treated in outpatient facilities (Table 2). Table 3 also displays the mean time between referral and assessment, and assessment and treatment for each type of service.

Table 3 Preliminary data – service type, cases treated for problem drug or alcohol use, mean times between referral and assessment and assessment and treatment, NDTRS 2014

	% treated	Mean time between referral and assessment	Mean time between assessment and treatment
Outpatient	62.6%	12 days	4 days
Inpatient	25.0%	14 days	12 days
Low threshold	10.8%	4 days	0 days
GP	1.5%	5 days	4 days

Table 4 Summary regarding methadone completion numbers, that is, those who successfully came off the programme year by year from 2005 to 2015

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Treatment Successfully Completed	399	351	429	411	770	827	781	784	650	710	773

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a prominent "D".

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist