



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

10th October, 2016

Deputy John Curran
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 27609/16

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who are on Methadone treatment for each year of the past five years, in tabular form; if he will provide for each year, the number of these on Methadone Treatment for one, two, three, five and ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Curran,

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 number of people on a methadone treatment programme as of the 31st of December 2010 to 2015 is set out in the below table.

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total Patients as of the 31 st of December	9940	9764	9655	9419	9251	9266

Prior to the end of December 2015 data for the length of time in treatment wasn't routinely collated. For the Deputy's information, the National Social Inclusion Office had previously conducted a report for length of time in treatment in May 2014 and the total numbers in methadone treatment for more than two, three, five, seven and ten years as of 31st May 2014 and 31st December are outlined in the following table:

Central Treatment List Summary Breakdown for Length of time in Treatment Report for Patients registered		
Years in treatment	as at 31 st of May 2014	as at 31 st of December 2015
10yrs +	3325	3640
5yrs +	5522	5768
3yrs +	6716	6917
2yrs +	7540	7664
1yr +	8434	8587
Total in Treatment	9678	9940

The above table shows that as of May 31st 2014 34% of patients in treatment were in treatment for longer than 10 years with 57% of patients being in treatment for 5 years or more. As of the end of December 2015 this has risen to 37% and 58% respectively. Retention in methadone treatment is generally regarded as a positive goal in drug treatment. A recent report from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) showed that no country of the 20 surveyed, including Ireland, imposes a limit on the amount of time a person can be on methadone.

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