



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
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National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
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6th February, 2018

Deputy Jack Chambers
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 5568/18

* To ask the Minister for Health the measures in place to warn drug users regarding the dangers of a drug (details supplied); the number of drug overdose cases in which this drug has been linked; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: Fentanyl

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 2015 there were 7 poisoning deaths where Fentanyl was implicated (the latest data available). Between 2011 and 2014 there were less than 5 poisoning deaths where fentanyl was implicated. For the Deputy's information please see Health Research Board (2017) National Drug-Related Deaths Index 2004 to 2015 data available at: <http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/28086> and at www.hrb.ie/publications.

Arising from a number of drug related deaths in Dublin and Cork in 2016, the HSE issued an alert in relation to the dangers of a class of Opiate drugs known as Fentanyls. Since 2016 there has not been a significant issue reported in Ireland associated with Fentanyl type drugs.

The situation continues to be closely monitored in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, colleagues in Northern Ireland and the Early Warning system of the EMCDDA.

For support around drug and alcohol use the HSE Drugs & Alcohol Helpline is available Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.30pm. This confidential service has both a freephone Helpline (1800 459 459) and an email support service (helpline@hse.ie). Information and support is also available on drugs.ie.

The HSE is also planning an information campaign in relation to Fentanyl and the harms associated with Drugs.ie in Quarter 3 of this year.

I trust this 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 stylized "D".

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist