



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
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9th November 2015

Deputy Brian Walsh
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 35985/15

* To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who have availed of addiction services in each Local Health Office area, by addiction service, in 2013; and in 2014; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Walsh,

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:

Data for 2014 is not yet available so for the Deputy's information please find below tables 1 and 2 identify those cases who entered treatment for abuse or misuse by Local Health Office Area and main problem drug where their information was recorded by centres participating in the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) for 2012 and 2013. Please note that NDTRS data refers to a case (or treatment episode) and not an individual.

Provisional unpublished data for 2012 and 2013 indicates that:

In 2012 72% of cases were treated in an outpatient setting, 15% were treated in an inpatient setting, 10% were treated in a low threshold setting and 3% were treated by a GP.

In 2013, 73% of cases were treated in an outpatient setting, 15% were treated in an inpatient setting, 10% were treated in a low threshold setting and 2.6 % were treated by a GP.

It is important to note (see attached Appendix) that the NDTRS only report on cases who enter treatment in a particular calendar year, not on those who continue in treatment from one year to the next without a break.

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

Table 1: 2013 Cases who entered treatment for abuse or misuse by Local Health Office Area and main problem drug.

	Year : 2013										Totals
	Main Problem Drug										
	Alcohol	Amphetamines	Benzodiazepines	Cannabis	Cocaine	Ecstasy	Opiates	Others	Volatile inhalants		
Local Health Office											
Clare	92	~	11	57	6	0	43	0	0		210
Carlow and Kilkenny	295	~	25	116	16	~	162	~	~		622
Cavan and Monaghan	121	0	~	35	~	0	30	5	0		195
Cork - North Lee	499	~	88	227	22	~	175	11	~		1027
Cork - South Lee	347	~	38	150	16	~	125	~	0		684
Donegal	449	0	6	39	~	~	24	~	0		525
North Central Dublin	206	~	52	81	38	0	427	24	0		829
Dublin South	103	0	9	34	28	~	87	6	0		268
Dublin South City	213	0	19	40	29	0	280	10	0		591
Dublin South East	78	0	~	14	8	0	47	0	~		150
Dublin South West	300	~	30	86	127	~	213	~	0		759
Dublin West	212	~	27	107	36	~	226	~	0		613
Galway	267	0	10	82	7	~	147	~	~		517
Kildare and West Wicklow	284	0	9	100	13	~	144	~	0		556
Kerry	408	~	21	127	15	~	59	11	0		644
Louth	138	~	28	59	9	~	98	~	0		339
Limerick (excluding East Limerick)	222	~	51	98	22	~	115	0	~		512
Laois and Offaly	275	~	12	43	20	0	127	~	~		481
Longford and Westmeath	293	~	12	39	9	~	132	~	0		494
Meath	111	~	~	44	11	0	77	~	0		251
Mayo	93	~	5	44	6	~	8	~	0		162
Cork North	187	~	~	63	11	~	15	~	~		288
Dublin North	187	~	20	50	13	~	229	7	0		509
Tipperary NR and East Limerick	116	~	7	32	~	0	19	~	~		181
Dublin North West	270	0	69	110	70	~	403	25	0		949
Roscommon	37	~	~	27	0	0	23	~	0		92
Sligo and Leitrim	265	0	~	51	9	0	14	~	0		343
Tipperary SR	248	9	33	110	8	6	121	~	0		536
West Cork	106	0	~	20	~	0	17	0	0		148
Waterford	482	~	62	140	26	5	173	8	0		900
Wicklow	125	0	16	56	15	~	81	~	0		298
Wexford	363	~	28	161	16	~	136	13	~		722
Outside Ireland	42	0	~	0	~	0	0	~	0		48
area unknown	115	~	10	18	6	~	212	~	0		365
Totals	7549	49	719	2460	624	41	4189	165	12		15808

Items with less than 5 entries have been removed

Table 2: 2012 Cases who entered treatment for abuse or misuse by Local Health Office Area and main problem drug.

Year : 2012										
	Main Problem Drug									Totals
	Alcohol	Amphetamines	Benzodiazepines	Cannabis	Cocaine	Ecstasy	Opiates	Others	Volatile inhalants	
Local Health Office										
Clare	77	0	5	30	~	0	20	0	0	134
Carlow and Kilkenny	369	7	27	111	13	~	157	6	0	691
Cavan and Monaghan	340	0	10	26	~	0	50	0	0	429
Cork - North Lee	462	~	73	182	26	~	111	11	7	874
Cork - South Lee	359	~	45	153	23	~	96	~	0	685
Donegal	628	0	8	40	~	0	25	~	0	706
North Central Dublin	139	~	20	65	36	~	332	16	0	612
Dublin South	89	0	9	21	15	0	75	~	0	210
Dublin South City	226	~	8	33	26	~	239	~	0	539
Dublin South East	78	0	~	15	9	~	63	0	0	170
Dublin South West	305	~	15	75	88	~	237	~	~	727
Dublin West	253	0	26	62	47	0	217	~	0	607
Galway	281	~	13	82	9	~	138	~	0	529
Kildare and West Wicklow	285	~	13	122	15	~	183	7	0	632
Kerry	458	~	28	100	13	~	49	9	~	663
Louth	179	0	27	88	6	~	125	5	0	431
Limerick (excluding East Limerick)	191	~	26	72	9	~	66	~	~	372
Laois and Offaly	283	~	13	61	12	~	105	~	0	483
Longford and Westmeath	336	~	6	30	6	~	168	~	~	553
Meath	131	0	5	46	8	0	86	0	~	277
Mayo	105	0	~	26	~	~	14	~	0	152
Cork North	193	0	5	63	6	0	23	0	~	291
Dublin North	191	0	5	53	20	0	167	5	0	441
Tipperary NR and East Limerick	108	~	~	40	~	0	19	~	0	176
Dublin North West	226	0	40	95	79	0	333	11	~	785
Roscommon	41	0	~	24	7	~	27	0	0	104
Sligo and Leitrim	296	~	5	49	5	~	12	~	0	373
Tipperary SR	296	10	26	129	11	~	119	~	~	596
West Cork	138	0	~	20	~	0	13	~	0	177
Waterford	561	~	38	109	18	~	215	~	~	950
Wicklow	84	0	14	24	8	~	63	~	0	196
Wexford	411	~	15	121	16	~	128	5	~	704
Outside Ireland	69	0	~	~	~	0	~	0	0	77
area unknown	148	0	~	12	6	0	181	~	0	353
Totals	8336	46	547	2183	552	42	3857	115	21	15699

Items with less than 5 entries have been removed

Appendix

National Drug Treatment Reporting System

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. 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 individuals who receive treatment for problem drug and/or alcohol use at each treatment centre in a calendar year, and includes:

- *Cases assessed only* - describes individuals who were assessed but who did not progress to treatment
- *Previously treated cases* – describes individuals 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 individuals who have never been treated for problem drug/alcohol use; and
- *Status unknown* – describes individuals whose status with respect to previous treatment for problem drug/alcohol use is not known.

In the case of the data for 'previously treated cases', there is a possibility that individuals appear more than once in the database: for example, where a person receives treatment at more than one centre or at the same centre more than once per year.