

19<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Peadar Tóibín, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 33813/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health if his Department or the HSE collate statistics on the number, or suspected number, of persons addicted to drugs or alcohol; if so, if that number has risen or fallen over the past decade; and if he will provide statistics, in tabular form.**

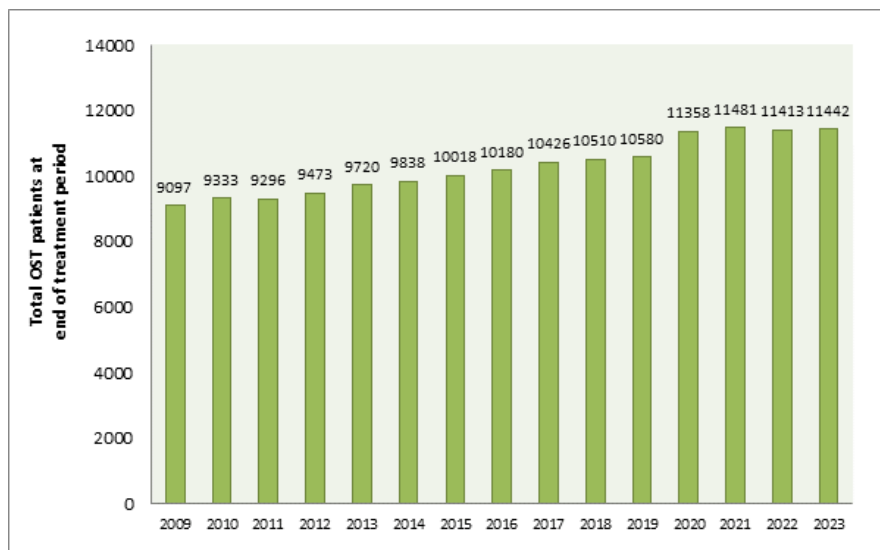
Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE collates information on treatment episodes, and KPIs associated with this treatment, however, does not collate population-based statistics on the number/estimated number of 'persons addiction to drugs or alcohol'.

Regarding HSE Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) data, this has increased by 26% since 2009. In 2023 a total of 11,442 people received OAT. The numbers treated have remained relatively stable in recent years with a 0.7% increase since 2020 (Figure 1).

**Figure1: Number treated with OAT (Methadone or Buprenorphine) for problem opiate use**



Source: Central Treatment List

The HRB provides information on drug and alcohol trends, with some reports focussing on population based data, and I have also provided a link to their most up-to-date information below, information from previous years is available here - <https://www.hrb.ie/publications/>:

- **Irish National Drug & Alcohol Survey 2019-2020**, note that this has looked at prevalence rates of drug and alcohol use in the general population, and has identified that one in five of those who drink meet the criteria for alcohol use disorder and the prevalence of cannabis use disorder was 1.2% of the population, equating roughly to 45,000 people - [https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/The\\_2019-20\\_Irish\\_National\\_Drug\\_and\\_Alcohol\\_Survey\\_Main\\_findings.pdf](https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/The_2019-20_Irish_National_Drug_and_Alcohol_Survey_Main_findings.pdf)
- **Alcohol treatment demand in Ireland 2023** - <https://www.hrb.ie/publication/alcohol-treatment-demand-in-ireland-2023/>
- **Drug treatment demand in Ireland 2023** - <https://www.hrb.ie/publication/drug-treatment-demand-in-ireland-2023/>
- **Alcohol: availability, affordability, related harm, and policy in Ireland** - <https://www.hrb.ie/publication/alcohol-availability-affordability-related-harm-and-policy-in-ireland/>
- **HRB Polydrug use in Ireland, 2014/15 survey results** - <https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/30352/>

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

Yours sincerely,



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Prof Eamon Keenan  
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HSE National Social Inclusion Office