

Irish Minister for Health announces distribution of drug overdose antidote

Marie O'Hanlon reported on an issue raised in the Dáil by Deputy Seán Crowe, who, pointing to a 50% increase in deaths from drug overdose in the last decade, said that drugs taskforces had suffered funding cuts while having alcohol added to their remit, calling for a specific Minister for Drugs. Leo Varadkar, Minister for Health, responded that the Health Service Executive was to begin supplying 600 opiate users and their families with the antidote Naloxone in the hope of reducing overdose deaths from heroin, morphine and methadone and added that an additional €2.1 million was included in the 2015 budget for drug treatment measures, but he was unable to increase taskforce budgets.

Source: Feb 6, 2015, irishtimes.com