

FOI DOF/2026-0530

Request

You requested the following information on 1 September 2026.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request statistical data held by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) regarding registered deaths in Northern Ireland where kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) or its primary active compounds (mitragynine or 7-hydroxymitragynine) were mentioned on the death certificate.

Please provide data covering the 15-year period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2025 (or the most recent 15-year dataset available):

Annual Totals: The total number of death registrations per calendar year in Northern Ireland where kratom, *Mitragyna speciosa*, mitragynine, or 7-hydroxymitragynine was explicitly mentioned.

Causation Classification: A breakdown showing whether the substance was identified as the primary underlying cause of death or as a contributing factor (e.g., in drug misuse/drug poisoning statistics).

Demographics & Poly-Drug Use: Where small-number disclosure control permits without compromising confidentiality:

Age group and sex breakdown.

Information on whether other substances (e.g., opioids, benzodiazepines, alcohol) were recorded in combination with kratom/mitragynine.

DoF response

I can confirm the Department holds this information.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) produces statistics based on the cause of death information recorded on death certificates and collected by the General Register Office (GRO) during the death registration process.

NISRA holds the information for all parts of the request. The most recently published data available is for the 2024 calendar year, so the following data covers the 15-year period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2024.

There have been three relevant registered deaths in that period, the requested information is summarised as follows:

Year of death registration	Sex	Age	Underlying Cause	Class of drug-use mentioned on medical certificate of cause of death
2021	Male	20-24	No	Combined effects of psychoactive alkaloid, antidepressant, sedative antihistamine and antipsychotic
2021	Male	30-34	Yes	Combined benzodiazepine, psychoactive alkaloid and sedative antihistamine toxicity
2024	Male	30-34	Yes	Single drug