



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
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15 March 2024

Deputy Sorca Clarke
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 8104/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on waiting lists in tabular form per county for dental treatment.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The Health Services Executive delivers dental services to children under the age of 16, provided through 17 Dental Areas, all of which continue to provide routine services. The HSE Dental Service targets children in key school years (2nd, 4th and 6th classes), offering them dental examinations, preventive care and restorative treatments for conditions noted. For routine and preventive services, patient groups are prioritised with children and adults with special care needs given the highest priority, followed by children in 6th class. The ability to offer services to each of the school years has been limited due to availability of dental staff. As part of targeting of resources, each dental service maintains a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment for the relief of pain, infection, and the sequelae of trauma. Where service deficits are identified locally, additional resources where available can be redirected to address those needs. The extent of the backlog in targeted services and delays in providing preventive interventions and treatment for patients are concerns for the HSE, with services working to reduce the backlog in treatment appointments.

I wish to advise that the system does not hold data in the manner requested. Appendix 1 details KPI data for the Dental Service (End 2021 to End 2023). The reported metric is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment. Each year, a new cohort of children enters the target classes. In 2023, 104,488 were seen by Dental Services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Anne O'Neill
Assistant National Director, Oral Health



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Appendix 1: No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups (1st/2nd, 4th and 6th class) attending for scheduled assessment (End 2021 – End 2023)

LHO	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
	82,494	99,367	104,488
Cavan Monaghan	13,800	13,637	12,138
Donegal	3,135	4,250	4961
Sligo Leitrim	5,286	7,187	5712
Total	5,379	2,200	1465
Galway	6,156	7,073	9,531
Mayo	1,486	895	2718
Roscommon	2,057	2,027	2872
Total	2,613	4,151	3941
Clare	4,153	6,125	5,060

Limerick	1,307	1,784	2115
North Tipperary East Limerick	1,283	1,528	1662
Total	1,563	2,813	1283
Kerry	8,552	15,350	16,806
North Cork	1,188	2,344	2523
North Lee	1,494	3,252	3950
South Lee	2,791	4,725	4664
West Cork	2,233	3,763	3919
Total	846	1,266	1750
Carlow Kilkenny	11,973	12,484	11,626
South Tipperary	3,418	3,075	2162
Waterford	3,737	4,259	4573
Wexford	2,972	2,909	2799
Total	1,846	2,241	2092
Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	6,743	5,678	5,900
Total	6,743	5,678	5900

Dublin South City	12,059	15,151	16,670
Dublin South West	2,363	3,456	3334
Dublin West	2,860	2,812	3057
Kildare West Wicklow	3,561	4,446	4736
Total	3,275	4,437	5543
Laois Offaly	6,124	8,581	8,016
Longford Westmeath	2,188	1,902	1607
Louth	2,633	2,212	2196
Meath	709	1,812	1835
Total	594	2,655	2378
Dublin North	12,999	15,288	18,741
Dublin North Central	2,828	4,562	5863
Dublin North West	2,561	2,845	4775
Total	7,610	7,881	8103