



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

**Deputy Jim O'Callaghan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 32355/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in second and sixth classes waiting to be targeted under the school dental programme for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years, per LHO and per CHO, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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. These services are delivered with a strong preventive ethos in order to minimise the incidence of dental disease in vulnerable populations. In particular this preventive approach involves the delivery of personalised oral health promotion for children and people with special care needs.

Children are seen at ages that correspond with dental developmental milestones to identify opportunities for timely preventive interventions such as fissure sealants and the need for restorative treatment, as well as monitoring the eruption of the permanent dentition including possible orthodontic anomalies requiring referral for HSE orthodontic assessment.

The school dental service provides examination and any necessary preventive and restorative treatment noted at examination. The programme commences with 6th class and follows with 2nd and 4th- depending on available resources.

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.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the data is not available as requested. The table below provides the total number of dental examinations undertaken within the Community Dental Service in 2021, 2022, 2023 for those who are participating in a targeted programme.

KPI Metric	CHO	Dental Area	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	National Total		15,038.0	14,906.0	12384
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Total	2,540.0	1,329.0	1218
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	333.0	0.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Donegal	1,009.0	1,052.0	1089
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	1,198.0	277.0	129
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Total	1,148.0	1,066.0	1719
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Galway	293.0	142.0	753
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Mayo	279.0	174.0	65
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Roscommon	576.0	750.0	901
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	Total	1,666.0	2,894.0	2272
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	Clare	590.0	804.0	936
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	Limerick	268.0	643.0	707

No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	808.0	1,447.0	629
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	Total	138.0	188.0	220
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	Kerry	138.0	188.0	220
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	North Cork	0.0	0.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	North Lee	0.0	0.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	South Lee	0.0	0.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	West Cork	0.0	0.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Total	2,895.0	3,301.0	2513
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	1,212.0	914.0	504
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	South Tipperary	686.0	1,038.0	1032
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Waterford	557.0	639.0	440
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Wexford	440.0	710.0	537
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 6	Total	42.0	8.0	1
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	42.0	8.0	1
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Total	3,401.0	2,572.0	662

No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Dublin South City	596.0	960.0	548
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Dublin South West	907.0	719.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Dublin West	1,340.0	794.0	113
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	558.0	99.0	1
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Total	1,335.0	245.0	203
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Laois Offaly	9.0	10.0	7
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	1,326.0	214.0	74
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Louth	0.0	4.0	122
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Meath	0.0	17.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Total	1,873.0	3,303.0	3576
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Dublin North	17.0	19.0	493
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Dublin North Central	354.0	887.0	1015
No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Dublin North West	1,502.0	2,397.0	2068
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	National Total		26,082.0	46,580.0	49988
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Total	4,902.0	5,205.0	4262

No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	718.0	1,371.0	1509
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Donegal	1,860.0	2,950.0	2071
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	2,324.0	884.0	682
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Total	3,255.0	3,641.0	4325
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Galway	665.0	479.0	1334
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Mayo	1,282.0	1,361.0	1529
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Roscommon	1,308.0	1,801.0	1462
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	Total	1,364.0	3,087.0	2706
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	Clare	532.0	926.0	1107
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	Limerick	429.0	835.0	949
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	403.0	1,326.0	650
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	Total	933.0	14,980.0	16318
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	Kerry	933.0	1,974.0	2035
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	North Cork	0	3,252.0	3950
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	North Lee	0	4,725.0	4664

No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	South Lee	0	3,763.0	3919
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	West Cork	0	1,266.0	1750
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Total	2,861.0	2,964.0	2728
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	1,203.0	815.0	498
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	South Tipperary	675.0	1,107.0	872
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Waterford	535.0	616.0	846
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Wexford	448.0	426.0	512
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 6	Total	3,538.0	3,268.0	3219
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	3,538.0	3,268.0	3219
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Total	2,492.0	3,792.0	5522
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Dublin South City	734.0	1,203.0	1646
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Dublin South West	559.0	490.0	759
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Dublin West	620.0	1,693.0	2613
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	579.0	406.0	504
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Total	1,593.0	3,193.0	2506

No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Laois Offaly	863.0	976.0	681
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	730.0	1,488.0	1595
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Louth	0.0	525.0	152
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Meath	0.0	204.0	78
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Total	5,144.0	6,450.0	8402
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Dublin North	1,155.0	2,776.0	3425
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Dublin North Central	1,178.0	899.0	2355
No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Dublin North West	2,811.0	2,775.0	2622
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	National Total		41,439.0	37,881.0	42116
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Total	6,358.0	7,103.0	6658
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	2,084.0	2,879.0	3452
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Donegal	2,417.0	3,185.0	2552
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	1,857.0	1,039.0	654
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Total	1,753.0	2,366.0	3487
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Galway	528.0	274.0	631

No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Mayo	496.0	492.0	1278
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 2	Roscommon	729.0	1,600.0	1578
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	Total	1,123.0	144.0	82
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	Clare	185.0	54.0	72
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	Limerick	586.0	50.0	6
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	352.0	40.0	4
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	Total	7,481.0	182.0	268
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	Kerry	117.0	182.0	268
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	North Cork	1,494.0	0.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	North Lee	2,791.0	0.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	South Lee	2,233.0	0.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 4	West Cork	846.0	0.0	0
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Total	6,217.0	6,219.0	6385
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	1,003.0	1,346.0	1160
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	South Tipperary	2,376.0	2,114.0	2669

No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Waterford	1,880.0	1,654.0	1513
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 5	Wexford	958.0	1,105.0	1043
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 6	Total	3,163.0	2,402.0	2680
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	3,163.0	2,402.0	2680
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Total	6,166.0	8,787.0	10486
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Dublin South City	1,033.0	1,293.0	1140
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Dublin South West	1,394.0	1,603.0	2298
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Dublin West	1,601.0	1,959.0	2010
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	2,138.0	3,932.0	5038
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Total	3,196.0	5,143.0	5307
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Laois Offaly	1,316.0	916.0	919
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	577.0	510.0	527
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Louth	709.0	1,283.0	1561
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 8	Meath	594.0	2,434.0	2300
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Total	5,982.0	5,535.0	6763

No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Dublin North	1,656.0	1,767.0	1945
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Dublin North Central	1,029.0	1,059.0	1405
No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment	CHO 9	Dublin North West	3,297.0	2,709.0	3413

Summary Table	2021	2022	2023
New patients (6-8yrs/1st or 2nd class) targeted assessment	15,038	14,906	12,384
New patients (11-13yrs/5th or 6th class) targeted assessment	26,082	46,580	49,988
New patients (all other ages) targeted assessment	41,439	37,881	42,116
Total new patients targeted assessments all ages (school and special care programmes)	82,559	99,367	104,488

The HSE's 2024 National Service Plan aims to continue to develop services and implement waiting list initiatives across a range of dental and orthodontic services and maximise activity across these services to manage waiting lists and waiting times.

The service plan supports the implementation of the Government's National Oral Health Policy, Smile Agus Sláinte, including the development of comprehensive oral healthcare packages for roll-out to children aged from birth to seven years of age.

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

Yours Sincerely,



Anne O'Neill
Assistant National Director, Oral Health