



An Oifig Náisiúnta um Chumhdach

Ospidéal Naomh Iósaf

Sráid Mulgrave

Luimneach

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4th of July 2024

Deputy Carol Nolan, TD

Dáil Éireann

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

E: carol.nolan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Nolan,

PQ ref 24693/24

To ask the Minister for Health the reported rate of elder abuse incidences in each CHO area; the total national reported incidence rate; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The HSE has nine Safeguarding and Protections Teams located in each of the current Community Health Organisation areas. These Teams takes direct referrals of alleged elder abuse from the community as well as notifications from HSE and HSE funded services that fall under the scope of the *HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse, National Policy and Procedure, 2014*. The social workers in the HSE Safeguarding Teams across the Community Health areas have a role to oversight service notifications and to assess community referrals. The safeguarding social workers work with the older persons deemed at risk of abuse as well as their support network to devise a safeguarding plan where reasonable grounds for concern have been established.



National Safeguarding Office

The HSE National Safeguarding Office collects data on reported safeguarding incidents from the nine safeguarding teams and this data includes elder abuse information on persons over 65 where there is suspected incidents of abuse or neglect. The following Table 4 taken from the National Safeguarding Office 2022 Report includes the data from 2022 which was the latest year of published data on elder abuse reports broken down by Community Health Organisation. The data for 2023 is currently being finalised and will be published in September 2024.

Table 4: Reporting rate per 1,000 of adult population: 65+ years by CHO 2022

CHO	Males 65+ Years			Females 65+ Years			Total 65+ Years		
	Pop.	Concern	Rate/ 1000 Pop.	Pop.	Concern	Rate/ 1000 Pop.	Pop.	Concern	Rate/ 1000 Pop.
1	29,002	93	3.21	31,061	138	4.44	60,063	231	3.85
2	32,787	168	5.12	35,771	220	6.15	68,558	388	5.66
3	26,069	75	2.88	29,540	209	7.08	55,609	284	5.11
4	46,038	208	4.52	52,839	334	6.32	98,877	542	5.48
5	35,410	189	5.34	39,181	310	7.91	74,591	499	6.69
6	25,034	137	5.47	31,524	224	7.11	56,558	361	6.38
7	35,638	303	8.50	41,807	476	11.39	77,445	779	10.06
8	35,149	191	5.43	39,109	246	6.29	74,258	437	5.88
9	31,710	207	6.53	39,898	486	12.18	71,608	693	9.68
Total	296,837	1,571	5.29	340,730	2,643	7.76	637,567	4,214	6.61

Our Office will forward a copy of the 2023 National Safeguarding Office Report directly when it has been published. Please note that a full 2022 National Safeguarding Office Report is available at the following link: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/socialcare/safeguardingvulnerableadults/national-safeguarding-office-annual-report-20221.pdf> . Should you require further information please contact me direct on the above number or by email on timg.hanly@hse.ie

Yours Sincerely,

Tim Hanly



General Manager | National Safeguarding Office

Copy to HSE PAD at PQuestions@hse.ie