



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 Carol Nolan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 10294/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children seen by dentists on the school dental screening service for the years 2012 to date inclusive, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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 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.

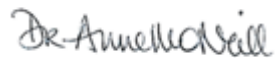
The extent of the backlog in targeted services and delays in providing preventive interventions and treatment for patients are concerns for the HSE, with services working to

reduce the backlog in treatment appointments. Delays in assessments may reduce opportunities for preventive measures as disease is not identified early.

I wish to advise that the system does not hold data in the manner requested and KPI data for 2012-2016 is not readily available on the system. Appendix 1 details KPI data for the Dental Service (end 2017 to Jan 2024). 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,



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 (2017 –2024)

CHO	LHO	Q4 2017	Q4 2018	Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	Jan-24
National Total		135,622.	152,190	151,392	55,324	82,494	99,367	104,488	10112
CHO 1	Total	11,582	15,182	19,266	9,129	13,800	13,637	12,138	387.0
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	5,404	2,836	5,116	3,571	3,135	4,250	4961	534.0
CHO 1	Donegal	*NOT AVAILABLE	5,760	8,321	2,659	5,286	7,187	5712	410.0
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	6,178	6,586	5,829	2,899	5,379	2,200	1465	1,331.0
CHO 2	Total	7,160	12,455	12,145	2,904	6,156	7,073	9,531	33.0
CHO 2	Galway	2,034	4,223	4,317	531	1,486	895	2718	246.0
CHO 2	Mayo	3,005	4,258	3,690	1,264	2,057	2,027	2872	338.0
CHO 2	Roscommon	2,121	3,974	4,138	1,109	2,613	4,151	3941	617.0

CHO 3	Total	947** INCOMPLETE	10,480	11,632	3,385	4,153	6,125	5,060	231.0
CHO 3	Clare	367	2,691	4,148	1,481	1,307	1,784	2115	251.0
CHO 3	Limerick	272	3,507	2,544	963	1,283	1,528	1662	185.0
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	308	4,282	4,940	941	1,563	2,813	1283	667.0
CHO 4	Total	23,863	22,930	20,641	8,086	8,552	15,350	16,806	297.0
CHO 4	Kerry	3,094	3,999	3,419	1,277	1,188	2,344	2523	345.0
CHO 4	North Cork	4,917	4,691	4,105	1,710	1,494	3,252	3950	507.0
CHO 4	North Lee	6,244	5,555	5,175	2,027	2,791	4,725	4664	426.0
CHO 4	South Lee	6,993	6,365	6,369	2,415	2,233	3,763	3919	139.0
CHO 4	West Cork	2,615	2,320	1,573	657	846	1,266	1750	1,714.0
CHO 5	Total	19,698	19,174	18,638	6,621	11,973	12,484	11,626	225.0
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	3,220	4,384	4,992	1,690	3,418	3,075	2162	397.0
CHO 5	South Tipperary	6,894	6,185	6,239	2,485	3,737	4,259	4573	228.0
CHO 5	Waterford	4,170	3,652	3,919	1,608	2,972	2,909	2799	170.0
CHO 5	Wexford	5,414	4,953	3,488	838	1,846	2,241	2092	1,020.0
CHO 6	Total	8,491	8,105	8,143	4,054	6,743	5,678	5,900	498.0

CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	8,491	8,105	8,143	4,054	6,743	5,678	5900	498.0
CHO 7	Total	18,675	21,355	25,180	9,534	12,059	15,151	16,670	357.0
CHO 7	Dublin South City	3,743	2,768	3,175	1,627	2,363	3,456	3334	272.0
CHO 7	Dublin South West	3,204	3,957	5,242	2,136	2,860	2,812	3057	399.0
CHO 7	Dublin West	4,711	6,596	5,420	2,014	3,561	4,446	4736	453.0
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	7,017	8,034	11,343	3,757	3,275	4,437	5543	1,481.0
CHO 8	Total	23,961	20,963	17,842	3,829	6,124	8,581	8,016	106.0
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	4,354	3,656	3,154	720	2,188	1,902	1607	181.0
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	4,852	4,173	4,317	875	2,633	2,212	2196	443.0
CHO 8	Louth	5,348	5,423	5,547	1,100	709	1,812	1835	373.0
CHO 8	Meath	9,407	7,711	4,824	1,134	594	2,655	2378	1,103.0
CHO 9	Total	21,245	21,546	17,905	7,782	12,999	15,288	18,741	558.0
CHO 9	Dublin North	8,997	8,527	7,419	2,456	2,828	4,562	5863	439.0
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	3,863	3,958	2,676	2,003	2,561	2,845	4775	684.0
CHO 9	Dublin North West	8,385	9,061	7,810	3,323	7,610	7,881	8103	1,681.0