



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

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Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

21st March 2024

PQ Number: 11558/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who were admitted to hospitals for eating disorders since 2020; the average length of hospitalisation for eating disorders during this time period; if readmissions occur; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System (NPIRS) gathers data on patient admissions and discharges from psychiatric hospitals and units throughout Ireland, which are on the Register of Approved Centres under the Mental Health Act 2001. The database has 100% coverage of all such psychiatric units and hospitals.

The data collected have been reported in the Activities of Irish Psychiatric Services since 1965 and continue to play a central role in the planning of service delivery. These findings inform national policy, health service management, clinical practice, and international academic research in the area of mental health.

Data collected include demographic information (age, gender, marital status, occupation, socio-economic group, county, Community Health Organisation (CHO) area and clinical data (date of admission, legal status on admission, diagnosis on admission, date of discharge, reason for discharge and discharge diagnosis, if different to admission diagnosis).

All data are received from units and hospitals according to agreed specifications. Data received from units and hospitals are processed and go through various in-built and manual quality assurance and validation measures, according to policies and procedures employed by the NPIRS team over a number of years. The data contained in this request reflect data received from and verified by hospitals during the year in question. It is worth noting however, that any changes to the data by a hospital or errors noted by a hospital for correction after the final date of processing in the HRB may not be captured in this report. **Admissions and discharges represent episodes or events rather than persons.** Thus, one person may have several admissions during the course of a year and each admission is recorded separately. Admissions do not necessarily represent incidence of mental illness but rather the activity of in-patient services. In addition, as the data in this report relate to admissions and/or discharges and not people, the potential to identify individuals from the data is zero.



The NPIRS should be acknowledged in any publication where NPIRS data is used.

Source: National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS), Health Research Board
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Included in this analysis are admissions to adult approved centres (under the Mental Health Act 2001) for the years 2020 to 2022 inclusive where the primary diagnosis was an Eating Disorder. Please note that collation of data for 2023 is not yet complete and is thus not available.

Average length of stay is based on data on discharges within the reporting year.

Table 1: Primary admission diagnosis of an Eating Disorder - Number of Admissions to adult approved centres under the Mental Health Act 2001; the average length of stay, and the number of readmissions, 2020 to 2022, NPIRS

	2020	2021	2022
Number of Admissions	182	172	210
<i>Number of admissions which were 'readmissions'</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>114</i>
Average (mean) length to stay in days	35.1	42.6	52.4
Median length of stay in days	26	35	44

Source: National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS), Health Research Board

There are 4 CAMHS Units across the HSE; Linn Dara Approved Centre, Dublin, St Josephs Approved Centre in Dublin, Eist Linn Approved Centre in Cork and Merlin Park Approved Centre in Galway. Specialist eating disorder beds are available in Merlin Park Galway and Linn Dara AC.

The table below provides a breakdown of admissions for Eating Disorders for each of the four CAMHS Inpatient units. This includes patients' with a diagnosis of:

- F50.0 Anorexia Nervosa
- F50.1 Atypical Anorexia Nervosa
- F50.2 Bulimia Nervosa
- F50.3 Atypice Bulimia Nervosa
- F50.9 Eating Disorder Unspecified
- Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake

Year	Linn Dara, Dublin	Eist Linn, Cork	Merlin Park, Galway	St. Joseph's Unit, Fairveiw	Total
2020	19	4	32	10	65
2021	28	9	21	19	77
2022	18	6	12	11	47
2023	15	2	21	14	52
Total	80	21	86	54	



Please Note:

*In 2020 Merlin Park had 19 readmissions of the same patient

Further information on the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders can be found here:

[Eating Disorders - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/data-infographics/) and here

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/data-infographics/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services