



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

**Deputy Catherine Murphy
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 19686/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists, per CHO area nationally, as of 25 April 2024; and the number of persons under the age of 18 years waiting to be examined by a dentist in the public dentistry waiting list, by CHO region.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

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

The number of whole time equivalent (WTE) dental surgeons in each of the CHO regions who are employed by the HSE as at end March 2024 is detailed in the table 1 below.

The data on the number of persons under the age of 18 years waiting to be examined by a dentist in the public dentistry waiting list is not available as requested. Table 2 details KPI data for the Dental Service as at March 2024. The reported metric for the Dental Service is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment.

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

Table 1: WTE Dentist Grades HSE March 2024

Dental Grades - HSE Only	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9
Dental Surgeon, Senior	4	4	5	6	5	3	4	4	5
Dental Surgeon, General	12	15	15	31	22	10	18	14	19
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	4	2	3	6	4	3	5	3	3
Dental Surgeon, Principal	6	2	1	4	3	1	2	4	2

Table 2: The number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment

CHO	LHO	Q1 2024
National Total		27739
CHO 1	Total	3331
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	846
CHO 1	Donegal	1467
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	1018
CHO 2	Total	2088
CHO 2	Galway	443
CHO 2	Mayo	748
CHO 2	Roscommon	897
CHO 3	Total	1700
CHO 3	Clare	671
CHO 3	Limerick	619
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	410
CHO 4	Total	4700
CHO 4	Kerry	765
CHO 4	North Cork	1003
CHO 4	North Lee	1379
CHO 4	South Lee	1239
CHO 4	West Cork	314
CHO 5	Total	2903
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	571
CHO 5	South Tipperary	1149
CHO 5	Waterford	646
CHO 5	Wexford	537

CHO 6	Total	1445
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	1445
CHO 7	Total	4032
CHO 7	Dublin South City	939
CHO 7	Dublin South West	670
CHO 7	Dublin West	1314
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	1109
CHO 8	Total	2897
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	316
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	520
CHO 8	Louth	1156
CHO 8	Meath	905
CHO 9	Total	4643
CHO 9	Dublin North	1667
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	1201
CHO 9	Dublin North West	1775