



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
Teil: 061 492068  
E: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)  
National Oral Health Office  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick  
Tel: 061 492068  
Email: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)

27 May 2024

Deputy Peadar Tóibín  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 21709/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting on a dental waiting list at the end of each of the last ten years, and if a breakdown, by county, can be provided on this figure.**

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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 HSE Community Dental Service targets children in key school years (6<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. I wish to advise the Deputy that the data is not available as requested. The attached table below details KPI data for the Dental Service (2017 to date 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



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**Table 1: The number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment**

CHO	LHO	Q4 2017	Q4 2018	Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	Q1 2024
<b>National Total</b>		<b>135,622</b>	<b>152,190</b>	<b>151392</b>	<b>55324</b>	<b>82559</b>	<b>99367</b>	<b>104488</b>	<b>27739</b>
<b>CHO 1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,582</b>	<b>15,182</b>	<b>19266</b>	<b>9129</b>	<b>13800</b>	<b>13637</b>	<b>12138</b>	<b>3331</b>
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	5,404	2,836	5116	3571	3135	4250	4961	846
CHO 1	Donegal	*NOT AVAILABLE	5,760	8321	2659	5286	7187	5712	1467
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	6,178	6,586	5829	2899	5379	2200	1465	1018
<b>CHO 2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,160</b>	<b>12,455</b>	<b>12145</b>	<b>2904</b>	<b>6156</b>	<b>7073</b>	<b>9531</b>	<b>2088</b>
CHO 2	Galway	2,034	4,223	4317	531	1486	895	2718	443
CHO 2	Mayo	3,005	4,258	3690	1264	2057	2027	2872	748
CHO 2	Roscommon	2,121	3,974	4138	1109	2613	4151	3941	897
<b>CHO 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>947** INCOMPLETE</b>	<b>10,480</b>	<b>11632</b>	<b>3385</b>	<b>4153</b>	<b>6125</b>	<b>5060</b>	<b>1700</b>
CHO 3	Clare	367	2,691	4148	1481	1307	1784	2115	671
CHO 3	Limerick	272	3,507	2544	963	1283	1528	1662	619
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	308	4,282	4940	941	1563	2813	1283	410

<b>CHO 4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>23,863</b>	<b>22,930</b>	<b>20641</b>	<b>8086</b>	<b>8552</b>	<b>15350</b>	<b>16806</b>	<b>4700</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	3,094	3,999	3419	1277	1188	2344	2523	765
CHO 4	North Cork	4,917	4,691	4105	1710	1494	3252	3950	1003
CHO 4	North Lee	6,244	5,555	5175	2027	2791	4725	4664	1379
CHO 4	South Lee	6,993	6,365	6369	2415	2233	3763	3919	1239
CHO 4	West Cork	2,615	2,320	1573	657	846	1266	1750	314
<b>CHO 5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,698</b>	<b>19,174</b>	<b>18638</b>	<b>6621</b>	<b>11973</b>	<b>12484</b>	<b>11626</b>	<b>2903</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	3,220	4,384	4992	1690	3418	3075	2162	571
CHO 5	South Tipperary	6,894	6,185	6239	2485	3737	4259	4573	1149
CHO 5	Waterford	4,170	3,652	3919	1608	2972	2909	2799	646
CHO 5	Wexford	5,414	4,953	3488	838	1846	2241	2092	537
<b>CHO 6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,491</b>	<b>8,105</b>	<b>8143</b>	<b>4054</b>	<b>6743</b>	<b>5678</b>	<b>5900</b>	<b>1445</b>
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	8,491	8,105	8143	4054	6743	5678	5900	1445
<b>CHO 7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,675</b>	<b>21,355</b>	<b>25180</b>	<b>9534</b>	<b>12059</b>	<b>15151</b>	<b>16670</b>	<b>4032</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	3,743	2,768	3175	1627	2363	3456	3334	939
CHO 7	Dublin South West	3,204	3,957	5242	2136	2860	2812	3057	670
CHO 7	Dublin West	4,711	6,596	5420	2014	3561	4446	4736	1314
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	7,017	8,034	11343	3757	3275	4437	5543	1109
<b>CHO 8</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>23,961</b>	<b>20,963</b>	<b>17842</b>	<b>3829</b>	<b>6124</b>	<b>8581</b>	<b>8016</b>	<b>2897</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	4,354	3,656	3154	720	2188	1902	1607	316
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	4,852	4,173	4317	875	2633	2212	2196	520
CHO 8	Louth	5,348	5,423	5547	1100	709	1812	1835	1156
CHO 8	Meath	9,407	7,711	4824	1134	594	2655	2378	905
<b>CHO 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,245</b>	<b>21,546</b>	<b>17905</b>	<b>7782</b>	<b>12999</b>	<b>15288</b>	<b>18741</b>	<b>4643</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	8,997	8,527	7419	2456	2828	4562	5863	1667
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	3,863	3,958	2676	2003	2561	2845	4775	1201
CHO 9	Dublin North West	8,385	9,061	7810	3323	7610	7881	8103	1775