



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

**Deputy Jim O'Callaghan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 43989/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number and percentage of eligible children in second and sixth class that were not targeted for dental screenings for the years 2018 to 2024, per LHO area, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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 school dental service provides examination and any necessary preventive and restorative treatment noted at examination. The programme commences with 6th class and follows with 2nd and 4th- depending on available resources.

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 table below provides KPI data on the total number of dental examinations undertaken within the Community Dental Service in years 2018 - 2024YTD for those who are participating in a targeted programme.

CHO	LHO	Q4 2018	Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	Q3 2024
National Total		152190	151392	55324	82559	99367	104488	81190
CHO 1	Total	15182	19266	9129	13800	13637	12138	9693
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	2836	5116	3571	3135	4250	4961	2161
CHO 1	Donegal	5760	8321	2659	5286	7187	5712	4332
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	6586	5829	2899	5379	2200	1465	3200
CHO 2	Total	12455	12145	2904	6156	7073	9531	5931
CHO 2	Galway	4223	4317	531	1486	895	2718	1266
CHO 2	Mayo	4258	3690	1264	2057	2027	2872	1960
CHO 2	Roscommon	3974	4138	1109	2613	4151	3941	2705
CHO 3	Total	10480	11632	3385	4153	6125	5060	4785
CHO 3	Clare	2691	4148	1481	1307	1784	2115	1876
CHO 3	Limerick	3507	2544	963	1283	1528	1662	1690
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	4282	4940	941	1563	2813	1283	1219
CHO 4	Total	22930	20641	8086	8552	15350	16806	12816
CHO 4	Kerry	3999	3419	1277	1188	2344	2523	2357
CHO 4	North Cork	4691	4105	1710	1494	3252	3950	2759
CHO 4	North Lee	5555	5175	2027	2791	4725	4664	3775
CHO 4	South Lee	6365	6369	2415	2233	3763	3919	3134
CHO 4	West Cork	2320	1573	657	846	1266	1750	791
CHO 5	Total	19174	18638	6621	11973	12484	11626	9560
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	4384	4992	1690	3418	3075	2162	2133
CHO 5	South Tipperary	6185	6239	2485	3737	4259	4573	3671
CHO 5	Waterford	3652	3919	1608	2972	2909	2799	2080
CHO 5	Wexford	4953	3488	838	1846	2241	2092	1676
CHO 6	Total	8105	8143	4054	6743	5678	5900	4638
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	8105	8143	4054	6743	5678	5900	4638
CHO 7	Total	21355	25180	9534	12059	15151	16670	11698
CHO 7	Dublin South City	2768	3175	1627	2363	3456	3334	2568

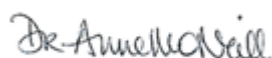
CHO 7	Dublin South West	3957	5242	2136	2860	2812	3057	2376
CHO 7	Dublin West	6596	5420	2014	3561	4446	4736	3392
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	8034	11343	3757	3275	4437	5543	3362
CHO 8	Total	20963	17842	3829	6124	8581	8016	8956
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	3656	3154	720	2188	1902	1607	1138
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	4173	4317	875	2633	2212	2196	1775
CHO 8	Louth	5423	5547	1100	709	1812	1835	3107
CHO 8	Meath	7711	4824	1134	594	2655	2378	2936
CHO 9	Total	21546	17905	7782	12999	15288	18741	13113
CHO 9	Dublin North	8527	7419	2456	2828	4562	5863	5207
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	3958	2676	2003	2561	2845	4775	3037
CHO 9	Dublin North West	9061	7810	3323	7610	7881	8103	4869

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