



5th February 2025

Sorca Clarke, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 46533/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of pregnant victims of domestic violence reported in each hospital, per county, in 2023 and to date in 2024.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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

We have been provided with advice from Access and Integration that this information is not routinely collected. Domestic Violence (DV) in pregnancy and child protection and welfare are interlinked. Healthcare professionals working in maternity units are 'Mandated Persons' under the Children First Act 2015 and are legally required to refer all child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla. There are also processes in place to support mothers who are identified as experiencing DV.

Maternity, gynaecology, and other women's health services provide a unique opportunity to screen for and respond to sexual and domestic violence. These settings often allow healthcare professionals to develop trusting relationships with patients and engage in sensitive conversations. In May 2024, the National Women and Infants Health Programme, in collaboration with the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, published a new [National Clinical Practice Guideline for Screening and Management of Domestic Violence in Pregnancy and the Early Postnatal Period](#).

The guideline recommends mandatory antenatal screening for domestic violence for all women attending maternity services irrespective of care pathway or setting and sets out referral pathways where a disclosure is made, as-well-as in instances where a woman screens negatively but the midwife/doctor have suspicions of DV.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion

