



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,
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Deputy Alan Kelly
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 11796/19: To ask the Minister for Health if the targets under the 1994 dental health action plan that children are entitled to three routine screenings in first or second class, third or fourth class and in sixth class including orthodontic screening, are being achieved across each HSE region; the percentage figures achieved for same across all regions in each of the years 2015 to 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Final Reply

Dear Deputy Kelly

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions which have been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response. In addressing the above question, it is important to note the following;

The HSE Routine Dental Services are provided on the basis of need, with a strong emphasis on prevention. This is delivered through targeted screening and prevention for school children at certain dental developmental milestones and for special needs groups. This approach involves identifying children with the greatest needs, and the highest risks of dental disease.

The 1994 Dental Health Action Plan states that '*Children in specific classes, usually 2nd, 4th and 6th classes are targeted for preventative measure under the school based approach*'. Children in the targeted age groups are typically seen in 1st/2nd Class and 6th Class, with some 4th Class children being seen in some parts of the country as outlined below.

Area	1 st /2 nd Class	4 th class	6 th Class (Priority)
CHO 1	Yes	Yes	Yes
CHO 2 <i>Roscommon/Mayo Galway</i>	Yes Not currently offered screening	Where resources allow Not currently offered screening	Yes Yes
CHO 3	Yes	Where resources allow	Yes
CHO 4	Yes	Not currently offered screening	Yes
CHO 5	Yes	Not currently offered screening	Yes
CHO 6	Yes	Not currently offered screening	Yes
CHO 7 <i>Dublin SW KWW Dublin Sth City Dublin West</i>	Yes Yes Yes	Where resources allow Where resources allow Not currently offered screening	Yes Yes Yes
CHO 8	Where resources allow	Not currently offered screening	Yes
CHO 9	Yes	Where resources allow	Yes



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The emphasis within the routine service is on preventing dental disease through patient and parent oral health education, dietary advice and tooth-brushing instruction, along with preventive interventions such as the placement of fissure sealants on vulnerable tooth surfaces. Restorative treatment such as fillings is also available.

The uptake of these services is very high, often in excess of 95% of children are screened and offered follow up treatment where indicated. There are approximately 70,000 children in each of the targeted classes.

The dental service also monitors the development of the dentition during childhood and makes referrals for eligible patients for orthodontic assessment. Orthodontic assessments are carried out by the Regional Orthodontic Departments.

The number of new Oral Health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment in each of the years 2015-2018 has been addressed in Table 1. It should be noted that due to an industrial action during this time period; there are significant gaps in the data reported. Therefore, the calculation of percentages is confounded by the absence of this data.

There is deficit in capacity required for the provision of Dental Service to all target classes. Routine Dental Services for children will be re-examined as resources and capacity permit.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Green'.

Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations

Table 1: No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment

		2018	2018	2017	2017	2016	2016	2015	2015
CHO	LHO 17 Dental Areas (divided by red)	Target YTD	Activity YTD	Target YTD	Activity YTD	Target YTD	Activity YTD	Target YTD	Activity YTD
National Total		131,388	163,177	47,904	135,622	42,942	29,906	0	22408
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	5,912	4,469	0	5,404	0	0	0	0
CHO 1	Donegal	0	5,760	2,796	0	7,500	2,719	0	3208
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	6,163	6,598	0	6,178	0	0	0	0
CHO 1	Total	12,075	16,827	2,796	11,582	7,500	2,719	0	3208
CHO 2	Galway	943	5,223	0	2,034	0	0	0	0
CHO 2	Mayo	2,849	4,544	4,020	3,005	0	3,198	0	2351
CHO 2	Roscommon	2,240	3,768	0	2,121	0	0	0	0
CHO 2	Total	6,032	13,535	4,020	7,160	0	3,198	0	2351
CHO 3	Clare	0	2,687	0	367	0	0	0	0
CHO 3	Limerick	0	3,570	0	272	0	0	0	0
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	0	4,278	0	308	0	0	0	0
CHO 3	Total	0	10,535	0	947	0	0	0	0
CHO 4	Kerry	2,978	4,390	0	3,094	0	0	0	0
CHO 4	North Cork	4,728	4,691	2,796	4,917	2,863	0	0	599.0
CHO 4	North Lee	6,167	5,555	4,416	6,244	5,170	0	0	1,233.0
CHO 4	South Lee	6,845	6,365	4,212	6,993	5,637	0	0	1,536.0
CHO 4	West Cork	2,673	2,320	2,112	2,615	2,268	0	0	518.0
CHO 4	Total	23,391	23,231	13,536	23,863	15,938	0	0	3886
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	3,583	4,382	3,720	3,220	4,257	2,772	0	3084
CHO 5	South Tipperary	7,222	6,185	8,352	6,894	6,297	2,396	0	2375
CHO 5	Waterford	4,088	3,652	0	4,170	0	705	0	0
CHO 5	Wexford	5,891	5,358	0	5,414	0	1,413	0	0
CHO 5	Total	20,784	19,577	12,072	19,698	10,554	7,286		5459

CHO 6	DSE/Dun Laoghaire/Wicklow	8,461	8,459	8,724	8,491	8950	5,651	0	3159
CHO 6	Total	8,461	8,459	8,724	8,491	8,950	5,651	0	3159
CHO 7	Dublin South City	2,577	2,858	0	3,743	0	0	0	0
CHO 7	Dublin West	4,748	6,740	0	4,711	0	0	0	0
CHO 7	Dublin South West	3,200	5,055	0	3,204	0	740	0	0
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	3,851	14,198	0	7,017	0	743	0	0
CHO 7	Total	14,376	28,851	0	18,675	0	1,483	0	
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	4,531	3,522	3,240	4,354	0	1,002	0	1576
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	4,832	3,709	3,516	4,852	0	3,423	0	2769
CHO 8	Louth	5,721	5,426	0	5,348	0	1,652	0	0
CHO 8	Meath	10,096	7,711	0	9,407	0	1,524	0	0
CHO 8	Total	25,180	20,368	6,756	23,961	0	7,601	0	4345
CHO 9	Dublin North	9,213	8,775	0	8,997	0	240	0	0
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	3,648	3,958	0	3,863	0	1,728	0	0
CHO 9	Dublin North West	8,228	9,061	0	8,385	0	0	0	0
CHO 9	Total	21,089	21,794	0	21,245	0	1,968	0	0