



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

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St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
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16th December 2020
Deputy Michael Moynihan
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 40734/20

To ask the Minister for Health if there has been an increase in the number of emergency or crisis presentations for mental health services to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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

The HSE does not collect data on the number of emergency or crisis presentations.

There are two organisations that keep statistics on presentations to the Emergency Departments following self-harm:

- The National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF)
- The National Clinical Programme for patients presenting to the Emergency Department following self-harm (NCP_SH)

The National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) is independent of the HSE and it keeps statistics for the National Self-Harm Registry on Self-Harm. The National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI), operated by the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF), collects data related to self-harm presentations to hospital emergency departments in the Republic of Ireland.

Data have been collected and analysed for a representative sample of 12 hospitals across Ireland up to the end of July 2020. This selection of hospitals is considered representative of national figures as these hospitals are located in both cities and large towns. In 2018 and 2019 respectively, these 12 hospitals accounted for 45% and 43% of total self-harm presentations to Emergency Departments in hospitals across Ireland.

Table 1 presents the difference per month in the number of self-harm presentations to 12 nationally representative hospitals during the time-period March – July from 2018 - 2020.

Table 1: Self-harm presentations to 12 hospitals in March – July in 2020 compared to 2018-2019



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Month	Number in 2020	Average number in 2018-2019	Difference
March	384	462	17% lower in 2020
April	357	464	23% lower in 2020
May	439	491	11% lower in 2020
June	435	465	6% lower in 2020
July	484	449	8% higher in 2020

The number of self-harm presentations in 2020 was significantly reduced in March and April compared to the average number for those months in 2018 and 2019. There were also reduced numbers in May and June 2020, but by a smaller margin. In July 2020, there were 8% more self-harm presentations than the average for July in 2018 and 2019.

The National Clinical Programme for patients presenting to the Emergency Department following self-harm (NCP_SH) also keeps statistics on all self-harm presentations.

Table 1. NCP SH self-harm presentations between 27th of March and 31st of August 2020.

Date of the month	Number of self-harm presentations*					
	March	April	May	June	July	August
1 st		11	21	28	24	16
2 nd		10	20	18	23	22
3 rd		9	19	28	27	19
4 th		25	17	22	14	28
5 th		8	20	24	21	15
6 th		17	17	18	29	23
7 th		20	24	17	22	18
8 th		21	25	29	26	15
9 th		14	26	25	28	20
10 th		17	24	22	21	19
11 th		17	14	15	19	24
12 th		12	20	20	12	24
13 th		8	24	15	26	18
14 th		19	24	12	25	13
15 th		21	22	30	18	21
16 th		20	15	21	28	17
17 th		8	19	29	24	26
18 th		19	24	26	20	25
19 th		7	19	14	19	33



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20 th		29	14	23	22	23
21 st		16	22	22	17	23
22 nd		18	10	28	23	12
23 rd		19	17	20	19	21
24 th		32	20	28	13	21
25 th		27	26	22	20	32
26 th		16	29	23	22	23
27 th	13	22	22	20	25	18
28 th	18	18	24	17	13	16
29 th	11	26	22	21	15	20
30 th	17	18	14	24	21	24
31 st	12	-	20	-	12	14
Total	71	524	634	661	648	643

*Number of presentations is based only on hospitals that have submitted their data for this period.

Total number of presentations: 3183

Sex: 55% women, 45% men.

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

Yours Sincerely

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services