



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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17th August 2020,
Deputy Pat Buckley,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 20657/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of self-harm presentations by children under 18 years of age in 2019 and to date in 2020, respectively by presenting hospital.

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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 National Self-Harm Registry Ireland, operated by the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF), collects data related to self-harm presentations to all hospital emergency departments in the Republic of Ireland. The HSAE does not collect national information on self-harm presentations to GPs, primary care mental health services or secondary care CAMHS services. the information below related to presentations to hospitals only.

As a result of restrictions related to COVID-19, data collection for the Registry was suspended in most hospitals during the period 27 March – 29 June 2020.

At this time, provisional data has been collected on self-harm presentations to eight hospital emergency departments to the end of April 2020. These hospitals provide nationally-representative findings given their spread across the country and that they account for 35-40% of all self-harm presentations to hospitals each year.

In the first four months of 2020, there were 190 self-harm presentations made to these eight hospitals by children under 18 years of age compared to 230 self-harm presentation made in the same four months of 2019, which represents a 17% reduction.

Provisional number of self-harm presentations by children under 18 years of age in 2019 and to date in 2020 by presenting hospital

Time period	Cork University Hospital	Kerry General Hospital	Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	Mercy University Hospital, Cork	Sligo General Hospital	South Tipperary General Hospital	Tallaght University Hospital	University Hospital, Limerick	Total
2019 All	102	52	26	64	55	51	192	109	651
2019 Jan-Apr	36	18	12	19	25	23	66	31	230
2020 Jan-Apr	24	17	15	17	3	18	57	39	190



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services