



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.  
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**18<sup>th</sup> November 2020,**  
**Deputy Bernard J. Durkan,**  
**Dail Eireann,**  
**Dublin 2.**

**PQ Number: 33800/20**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children suffering from mental health issues hospitalised throughout the HSE in each of the past ten years to date; the degree to which treatment has been made readily available in sufficient scale to address the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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, with the most recent data being September 2020 (YTD).

The table below provides information on inpatient mental health admissions of children since 2007. The numbers of children being admitted to adult services has decreased significantly as shown below.

YEAR	CAMHS UNITS ADMISSIONS	ADULT UNITS ADMISSIONS	TOTAL
2007	78	190	268
2008	73	223	296
2009	99	185	284
2010	148	156	304
2011	156	130	286
2012	145	109	254
2013	187	91	278
2014	201	89	290
2015	261	95	356
2016	312	68	380
2017	226	82	308
2018	203	84	287
2019	308	50	358
2020 (to date)	222	21	242



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HSE mental health services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization of the number of admissions of children to adult units, while acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it will continue to be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible. All decisions to admit are based on clinical priority and the benefits of an in-patient admission versus continuing care in the community with the support of a CAMHS community team.

Children are admitted to adult units only after efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent In-Patient Units are unsuccessful due to capacity or clinical needs. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulations. All such admissions are also notified to a National CAMHS Lead Manager within Mental Health.

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'.

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services