

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020,  
Deputy Michael McNamara  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

PQ 37302/20

To ask the Minister for Health the data obtained by his Department relating to self harm presentations to emergency department per day and emergency department during the period 27 March to 31 August 2020, including the data collected and collated by the HSE National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients presenting to emergency departments following self harm. -Michael McNamara

Dear Deputy McNamara,

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 (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*

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



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
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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.

Data up to the end of August 2020 will be available in December 2020.

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