

23rd September 2020,
Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 22029/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons from direct provision centres presenting at emergency departments with suicide attempts, self-harm injuries and or overdose by location in each of the years 2018, 2019 and to date 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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. Within the Registry individuals who are described in hospital notes or address indicate that the individual is in direct provision or seeking asylum are recorded as such. Since January 2020 the Registry also includes the direct provision centre in which presenting individuals reside.

As illustrated in **Table 1**, the total number of self-harm presentations to hospital emergency departments by persons in direct provision is small and as a result, these figures are not provided by location.

In 2018 there were 12 self-harm presentations recorded by persons in direct provision, of which one presentation involved an intentional drug overdose. Based on provisional data, the number of self-harm presentations by persons in direct provision was 4 in 2019.

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. To date, 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 2 self-harm presentations made to these eight hospitals by persons in direct provision, compared to an average of 1 in the same period of 2018/19.



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Table 1: Number of self-harm presentations by persons in direct provision in 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020

Self-harm				Intentional drug overdose			
2018	2019*	Jan-Apr 2018/19**	Jan to Apr 2020**	2018	2019*	Jan-Apr 2018/19**	Jan to Apr 2020**
12	4	1	2	3	1	0	1

*Data for 2019 is currently provisional and subject to revision.

**Data is based on presentations in 8 hospitals, including: Adelaide & Meath & National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, South Tipperary General Hospital, Cork University Hospital, Kerry General Hospital, Mercy University Hospital, Cork, Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick and Sligo General Hospital. This data is currently provisional and subject to revision.

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