



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.

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4th February 2021
Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ 3297/21

To ask the Minister for Health the average and longest waiting time for a child to see a CAMHS professional in each county in the past three years; and the number of children on waiting lists for CAMHS by county in each of the past three years.

Dear Deputy Tóibín

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 average and longest waiting time for a child to see a CAMHS professional are not captured nationally.

The CAMHS teams meet every week to review all referrals. There are two types of referral to CAMHS; an urgent referral and a routine referral. Every effort is made to prioritise urgent referrals so that young people with high risk presentations are seen as soon as possible and this is often within 24 to 48 hours. This may impact on wait times for cases that are considered, by a clinician, to be less severe.

The HSE has an expected activity target that 78% of accepted referrals / re-referrals are offered their first appointment within 12 weeks. The table below demonstrates this activity by CHO from 2020 to 2018

In 2020, 89% of urgent referrals to CAMHS Teams were responded to within three working days.

As of the end of December, 79.1% of referrals accepted by child and adolescent community teams nationally were offered an appointment within 12 weeks against a target of 78%. However, 95.6% of young people new or re-referred cases were seen within 12 months in community CAMHS services YTD December 2020

% of accepted referrals / re-referrals offered first appointment within 12 weeks by Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Teams			
CHO	2020	2019	2018
CHO 1	67.4%	71.2%	80.5%
CHO 2	94.3%	98.4%	98.3%
CHO 3	91.5%	84.4%	85.0%
CHO 4	68.8%	64.9%	65.2%



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CHO 5	86.1%	82.3%	91.0%
CHO 6	70.3%	68.8%	71.3%
CHO 7	94.5%	85.0%	77.2%
CHO 8	74.4%	76.0%	78.4%
CHO 9	73.4%	72.9%	77.9%
Nationally	79.1%	78.4%	79.7%

Waiting lists vary according to Community Healthcare Organisation where although some areas have relatively short waiting lists regrettably waiting times are longer in other counties. Severity of the symptoms reported affects waiting times where waiting times for those with high risk presentations are shorter.

The reasons for differences around the country relate to availability of specialist CAMHS clinicians, current vacancies and difficulties in recruiting in an international context. CAMHS wait lists are also related to capacities in other parts of the system where young people may not receive early intervention and thus their needs escalate necessitating referrals to CAMHS.

Total No. to be seen or waiting to be seen by CAMHS Dec 2020	Total Waiting No	<= 3Mths No.	>3<=6 Months No	>6<=9 Months No	>9<=12 Months No	>12<=15 Months No	>15<=18 Months No	>18 Months No
National Total	2,736	1,556	410	215	289	159	57	50
CHO 1	407	227	61	19	40	37	12	11
CHO 2	43	21	22	0	0	0	0	0
CHO 3	240	94	36	28	39	30	11	2
CHO 4	448	201	69	33	47	54	23	21
CHO 5	247	134	71	22	20	0	0	0
CHO 6	364	262	42	22	24	14	0	0
CHO 7	265	216	16	15	9	6	1	2
CHO 8	432	254	37	46	65	6	10	14
CHO 9	290	147	56	30	45	12	0	0

Total No. to be seen or waiting to be seen by CAMHS Dec 2019	Total Waiting No	<= 3Mths No.	>3<=6 Months No	>6<=9 Months No	>9<=12 Months No	>12<=15 Months No	>15<=18 Months No	>18 Months No
National Total	2,327	1,157	435	311	212	75	39	98
CHO 1	329	162	61	45	22	25	14	0

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CHO 2	35	32	2	1	0	0	0	0
CHO 3	188	115	43	17	9	3	1	0
CHO 4	619	203	89	93	89	26	22	97
CHO 5	144	99	23	12	7	3	0	0
CHO 6	412	160	106	69	58	16	2	1
CHO 7	144	111	20	11	2	0	0	0
CHO 8	268	152	53	42	19	2	0	0
CHO 9	188	123	38	21	6	0	0	0

Total No. to be seen or waiting to be seen by CAMHS Dec 2018	Total Waiting No	<= 3Mths No.	>3<=6 Months No	>6<=9 Months No	>9<=12 Months No	>12<=15 Months No	>15<=18 Months No	>18 Months No
National Total	2,526	1,136	441	361	274	117	76	121
CHO 1	263	156	40	33	21	10	3	0
CHO 2	29	27	2	0	0	0	0	0
CHO 3	239	63	34	42	32	16	24	28
CHO 4	752	220	109	140	120	46	31	86
CHO 5	186	82	31	22	20	22	8	1
CHO 6	353	163	102	38	45	1	3	1
CHO 7	183	134	34	12	3	0	0	0
CHO 8	329	183	58	41	16	19	7	5
CHO 9	192	108	31	33	17	3	0	0

The links to the publications of the Delivering Specialist Mental Health Reports where further information is available.

2019

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/mentalhealth/delivering-specialist-mental-health-report.pdf>

2018

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/mentalhealth/delivering-specialist-mental-health-report-2018.pdf>

2017

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/mentalhealth/delivering-specialist-mental-health-services-2017.pdf>

2016

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<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/mentalhealth/hse-mental-health-division-delivering-specialist-mental-health-services.pdf>

2014/2015

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/mentalhealth/delivering-specialist-mental-health-services-2014-2015-final.pdf>

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