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To ask the Minister for Health the number of young persons, that is age 16 or under, who have presented to hospitals with suicide attempts, self-harm or deliberate poisoning; the number that are linked to an overdose of paracetamol; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

The main source of self-harm data in Ireland is the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI). The NSHRI is operated by the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) and funded by the NOSP. It is the world's first national registry of cases of intentional self-harm presenting to hospital emergency departments. It is based on data collected from all 33 hospital emergency departments including three paediatric hospitals and three local injury units, and information is published annually.

The NSHRI Annual Report for 2020 is due for publication by the NSRF in early 2022. Presently, the Annual Report for 2019 is publicly available [here](#). In the report you can find:

- Person-based rates per 100,000 of self-harm presentations including variations by gender and age (pages 29 and 30).
- Information on the frequency with which the most common drug types were used in intentional drug overdose (IDO), including paracetamol (pages 20 and 21).

Additional information supplied by the NSRF is in Table 1, which illustrates the frequency of hospital-presenting self-harm, IDO and IDO with paracetamol, by individuals aged 16 and under in 2019. Presentations by individuals aged 16 years and under accounted for 11% (N=1,305) of the 12,465 self-harm presentations in 2019. Over half of self-harm presentations (696; 53%) by individuals aged 16 years and under involved IDO. One in four self-harm presentations by individuals aged 16 years and under involved an IDO with paracetamol (358; 27%). Females more frequently engaged in self-harm, IDO and IDO with paracetamol compared to males, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Hospital presenting self-harm and intentional drug overdose presentations by individuals aged 16 years and under in 2019, by gender

	Male N(%)	Female N(%)	Total N(%)
Self-harm	333 (25%)	972 (75%)	1305 (100%)
Intentional drug overdose	139 (20%)	557 (80%)	696 (100%)
Intentional drug overdose with paracetamol	47 (13%)	311(87%)	358 (100%)

(Source: National Suicide Research Foundation, 2021).

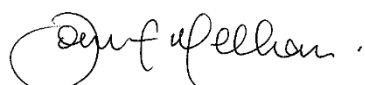
You might find these additional publications from the NSRF on self-harm and IDO particularly useful in the context of your question:

- [Paracetamol-Related Intentional Drug Overdose Among Young People: A National Registry Study of Characteristics, Incidence and Trends, 2007–2018](#). Daly C, Griffin E, McMahon E, Corcoran P, Webb RT, Ashcroft DM, Arensman E. Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology 2020, 56(5), 773-81.
- [Repeat Self-Harm Following Hospital-Presenting Intentional Drug Overdose among Young People—A National Registry Study](#). Daly C, Griffin E, McMahon E, Corcoran P, Webb RT, Witt K, Ashcroft DM, Arensman E. Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2020, 17(17), 6159.
- [Frequently Used Drug Types and Alcohol Involvement in Intentional Drug Overdoses in Ireland: A National Registry Study](#). Daly C, Griffin E, Ashcroft DM, Webb RT, Perry IJ, Arensman E. Eur. J. Public Health 2018, 28(4), 681-6.
- [Characteristics of hospital-treated intentional drug overdose in Ireland and Northern Ireland](#). Griffin E, Corcoran P, Cassidy L, O’Carroll A, Perry IJ, Bonner B. BMJ Open 2014, 4(7).

You would be very welcome to connect directly with the NSRF if you require clarification on any of these publications or data.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



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