



6th October 2021

Deputy Neasa Hourigan, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 45345/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who developed gestational diabetes during pregnancy in each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes [who, in turn, linked with HSE National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP)] on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Ireland does not have a National Diabetes Registry and cannot accurately report the prevalence or incidence of diabetes or the various sub-types of diabetes, including Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM).

Using criteria of the International Association of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group (IADPSG), the estimated prevalence of GDM is 12-15% of pregnancies. In an Irish context, this has been confirmed through the work of Professor Fidelma Dunne and the Atlantic Diabetes in Pregnancy (DIP) Study delivered out of National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway. The prevalence of GDM varies, based on the age profile and the ethnicity of the population. Another factor that influences rates of GDM is the approach to screening. The prevalence cited above is based on universal screening, i.e., all women are screened at 24-26 weeks gestation. In the majority of Antenatal Clinics in Ireland, screening for GDM is undertaken based on the presence of certain risk factors (including age, ethnicity, body mass index and history of prior GDM).

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager