



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

23rd February 2022

PQ Number: 63183/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who arrived at emergency departments with suicidal thoughts in each of the years 2017 to 2021 and to date in 2022; 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.

In 2014 the National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients who present to the Emergency Department (NCP SH) was introduced in a number of emergency departments (ED) that were operating 24/7.

In 2016 an agreed Model of Care was published and the service expanded. It established a clinical framework to ensure that any person who presents to the ED following self-harm or with suicide-related ideation receives a compassionate, empathic, validating response, and a therapeutic assessment and intervention from a suitably trained mental health professional; that every effort is made to ensure that a family member or supportive adult is involved in assessment and safety planning, and that they are followed up and linked to appropriate next care.

The funding and appointment of dedicated Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) has contributed to the improvements in response for people with self-harm or suicide-related ideation (covering both thoughts about suicide and thoughts about self-harm) in each ED.

Data is collected from each emergency department (ED) operating 24/7 by CNS on the number of presentations of suicide-related ideation and self-harm in each month. Our data collection system is not automated and is inputted by clinicians into an electronic template. There are gaps in the data when clinicians are on various types of leave and not replaced.

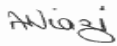
The table below shows the collated national data for suicide-related ideation, from 2018 to 2021, which have been verified based on all data received.

Table 1: No. of presentations with suicidal Ideation

Year	No. of presentations with suicidal Ideation	No. of hospitals who returned data
2018	5554	23
2019	5655	24
2020	6634	25
2021	5154	24
2022 (year to date)	Not available	

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
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