



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,  
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
R: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital,  
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Deputy Róisín Shortall,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

22nd July 2022

**PQ Number: 38067/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adolescents admitted to adult psychiatric units by year, age and hospital from 2015 to 2021 and to date in 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall**

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Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

HSE Mental Health Services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization of the number of admissions of children to adult units, while acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it will continue to be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible.

Children are admitted to adult units only after efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent in-patient units are unsuccessful due to clinical needs or capacity. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulations. On every occasion that a young person requires to be admitted to an adult unit, there are nursed on a 1:1 basis continuously over the 24 hour period as per the Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice.

Further information on Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice can be found at the following link:

<https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/Addendum-to-admission-children-2011.pdf>



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The table below provides information on the number of children and adolescents admitted to adult psychiatric units from 2015 to date in 2022. Data is not available by age or hospital.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	May 2022
National	261	229	312	226	308	322	361	107
Admission to adult approved centres	95	68	82	84	50	27	29	6
% admission to Adult	26.7%	22.9%	20.8%	27.1%	14.0%	7.7%	7.4%	5.3%

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Tony Mc Cusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**