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Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
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28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**PQ ref: 31853 /22**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons aged under 18 years who have been referred to hospitals and HSE run centres for testing for sexually transmitted diseases and infections in each of the past ten years and if this figure can be broken down by age in tabular form.

Deputy Tóibín,

Thank you for your question to the Minister for Health, which was forwarded to my office to respond to you directly.

Testing for sexually transmitted infections takes place in a very wide variety of settings, including hospital and community settings. The data requested is not collated centrally and is therefore regrettably not available.

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre publishes reports on STI diagnoses at a national level. Some of these reports account for age and location of diagnosis. For more information, please see here:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/>

In 2018, to understand more about access and capacity in STI services nationally, the SHCPP carried out the following studies within the remit of the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015 – 2020, which may be of interest.

[https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/survey-of-sexual-health-services\\_june2018v2.pdf](https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/survey-of-sexual-health-services_june2018v2.pdf)

[https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/survey-of-general-practice\\_january2018.pdf](https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/survey-of-general-practice_january2018.pdf)

Yours Sincerely

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**Maeve O'Brien**

Interim Programme Lead

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