



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
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Deputy Verona Murphy.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

23rd March 2022

PQ Number: 13070/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently waiting to be seen by child and adolescent primary care psychology services nationally; the average length of time on the wait list; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Verona Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

The HSE is committed to the provision of evidence based Psychological Interventions for young people. These interventions are delivered internally through Primary Care and where necessary through CAMHS Teams.

In addition significant additional funding has been allocated to NGO's e.g. Jigsaw to improve access to young people seeking Psychological assistance.

Primary Care psychology services work with children with mild-to moderate mental health needs or signposting those who need specialist services. All referrals are prioritised upon receipt. The additional Assistant Psychologist Posts in Primary Care teams will assist in ensuring that young people whose clinical needs are at primary care level are not inappropriately ending up on secondary care waiting lists due to lack of appropriate assessment and resources.

CAMHS is a specialist service that provides assessment and treatment to children and young people who are experiencing moderate to severe mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders and psychosis. Some conditions treated in CAMHS include: moderate to severe depression, anxiety, eating disorders and self-harm. The CAMHS Standard Operating Procedure outlines for all stakeholders the role and function of CAMHS Teams to ensure only appropriate referrals are made, and to highlight the role of Primary Care in dealing with less severe Mental Health issues.

Mental Health Services do not routinely collect data on wait lists for CAMHS psychology services.



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Please find hereunder details of waiting lists for Primary Care Psychology services.

Primary Care Psychology - Number of Patients aged under 18 years old waiting for treatment January 2022											
CHO Area	0 - 4 Yrs 11 Months					5 - 17 Yrs 11 Months					TOTAL
	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52 weeks	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52 weeks	> 52 weeks	
CHO1 Total	21	18	13	5	6	105	166	100	89	171	694
CHO2 Total	28	27	18	11	23	98	108	91	66	588	1,058
CHO3 Total	17	17	9	7	10	60	68	55	33	75	351
CHO4 Total	47	64	28	21	25	273	378	319	162	868	2,185
CHO5 Total	32	36	20	12	11	167	175	115	117	235	920
CHO6 Total	51	40	15	3	7	158	95	57	32	15	473
CHO7 Total	51	40	38	23	78	234	159	159	137	1,056	1,975
CHO8 Total	48	23	6	3	0	245	260	62	20	7	674
CHO9 Total	43	37	45	15	104	217	169	180	129	1,152	2,091
National Total	338	302	192	100	264	1,557	1,578	1,138	785	4,167	10,421



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ryan".

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services