



**Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8.

**National Director
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Health Service Executive,
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David Cullinane T.D.

15th February, 2023

PQ 4924/23 To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against staff, by staff category, at HSE hospitals and community healthcare facilities for each month of 2019 to 2022, and in January 2023, in tabular form. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

Background

With regard to the above request for information, please see below the report on Assaults on HSE Staff. To assist with understanding the report/data more fully, I feel it appropriate to firstly give a brief background to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and to the data in the report. In 2015 the NIMS system was introduced by the SCA. This requires all incidents to be reported through a national centralised system and will ultimately improve the quality of the data. However, the HSE has long been proactive in encouraging staff to report all incidents and this is enshrined in the Corporate Safety Statement, Violence and Aggression policy and Incident Management Framework and Guidance.

Please note that the following conditions apply to the data:

- All physical, verbal and sexual assaults on staff that have been reported on NIMS are included
- Assaults include a problem/cause of: physical, verbal or sexual assault on staff in the HSE that occurred between 01/01/2019 and 19/01/2023.
- The report was run by "Date of Incident", which is the date on which the incident occurred
- An incident can be a harmful Incident (Adverse Event), no harm incident, near miss, dangerous occurrence (reportable circumstance) or complaint.
- Values between 1-5 have been redacted and are denoted by ~
- This report is correct as of 19/01/2023.

When considering the figures in the report it should be noted that staff are encouraged to report all "near misses" and incidents – even those that **do not** result in harm. Hence, the number of incident reports should not be considered as indicative of a level of harm. There may also be multiple reports relating to the same incident.

Table 1. Incidents by category of person, affected from 01/01/2023 – 19/01/2023

Count of Record Number	Column Labels	
	2023	Grand Total
Category of Person, Affected	Jan	
Allied Health Professional	~	~
Ambulance/Service User Transport	~	~
Catering/Housekeeping	~	~
Medical	~	~
Nursing	26	26
Other Staff	11	11
Tech/Maintenance	~	~
Grand Total	45	45



Table 2. Incidents by category of person, affected from 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022

Count of Record Number	Column Labels												Grand Total
	2022												
Category of Person, Affected	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Allied Health Professional	22	15	13	15	20	31	33	26	37	22	23	15	272
Ambulance/Service User Transport	~									~			~
Catering/Housekeeping	6	~	~	~		~	~	~	~	~	~	~	36
Dental						~			~				~
Locum			~										~
Maintenance/Trades					~								~
Medical	~	7	6	~	~	6	~	11	8	11	6	~	73
Nursing	232	263	272	218	272	352	302	289	349	265	215	154	3183
Other Staff	148	131	143	143	135	131	106	152	138	111	85	71	1494
Patient										~			~
Professional Grades	~	~	~							~			6
Professional Volunteer		~											~
Tech/Maintenance	~	~	9	~	~	~	~		~	8	7	~	45
Grand Total	418	424	450	388	435	526	445	482	537	425	340	247	5117

Table 3. Incidents by category of person, affected from 01/01/2021 – 31/12/2021

Count of Record Number	Column Labels												Grand Total
	2021												
Category of Person, Affected	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
						~							~
Allied Health Professional	~	~	18	9	11	6	~	6	14	13	21	12	120
Catering/Housekeeping	~	~	~	~	6	7	~	6	6	~	6		44
Dental	~									~			~
Maintenance/Trades				~						~			~
Medical	~	~	~	~	7	~	6	~	9	12	8	10	71
Nursing	207	253	275	243	267	263	246	227	253	227	201	244	2906
Other Staff	129	118	122	134	134	132	127	121	168	165	139	154	1643
Professional Grades		~		~								~	~
Service User										~			~
Tech/Maintenance		~	~		~			~	~	~	~		15
Grand Total	344	383	421	394	427	410	386	370	451	424	378	421	4809

Table 4. Incidents by category of person, affected from 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020

Count of Record Number	Column Labels												Grand Total
	2020												
Category of Person, Affected	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
						~							~
Allied Health Professional	14	16	9	8	8	11	10	22	6	12	~		121
Ambulance/Service User Transport		~						~					~
Catering/Housekeeping	6	~	~	7	~	10	8	~	~	~	~	~	61
Dental				~									~
Maintenance/Trades	~								~				~
Medical	13	6	~	7	10	6	8	6	~	7	~	~	76
Nursing	320	318	313	252	273	315	287	269	257	252	243	193	3292
Other Staff	179	174	146	126	171	160	192	140	161	138	152	142	1881
Professional Grades	~			~		~		~	~		~		14
Tech/Maintenance	7	10	~			~	~					~	21
Grand Total	543	528	475	403	464	507	506	446	433	414	407	346	5472



Table 5. Incidents by category of person, affected from 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

Count of Record Number	Column Labels												Grand Total
	2019												
Category of Person, Affected	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Allied Health Professional	6	8	11	13	10	14	18	7	14	10	11	6	128
Catering/Housekeeping	~	~	7	9	6	10	7	~	~	~	~	~	60
Dental	~				~	~		~		~			6
Locum										~			~
Maintenance/Trades	~			~	~	~					~		7
Medical	~	~	7	8	8	10	8	6	6	9	14	6	91
Non Professional Volunteer						~						~	~
Nursing	318	282	362	369	396	344	347	355	330	416	356	296	4171
Other Staff	191	162	184	206	224	187	219	218	193	200	208	171	2363
Professional Grades			~	~	~	~		~		~			10
Tech/Maintenance		~	~	~			~		~				7
Grand Total	527	461	577	608	650	570	600	593	547	640	591	483	6847

**Please note that this NIMS data may contain anomalies and is subject to further change following ongoing data analysis.*

Comment

Due to delays in reporting numbers are likely to change overtime, however the organisation continues to encourage the reporting of all incidents (regardless of the level of harm, if any).

Ensuring the safety of employees and service users is a priority concern for the HSE. The HSE is committed to creating a safe environment within which to work or to be treated.

The organisation will continue to place an emphasis on the management of work related aggression and violence in 2023 to support the Organisation’s strategy and policy. Key focus areas are:

- National policy on the management of work related aggression and violence (policy review)
- Risk Assessment
- Training

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Marie O’Sullivan
National HR