



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,
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10 August 2023

**Deputy Roisin Shortall
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ Number 36503/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on a school dental screening service waiting list by age, wait time, LHO and CHO in 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for reply.

The HSE Dental Services are provided through 17 Dental Areas, all of which continue to provide routine services. These services are delivered with a strong preventive ethos in order to minimise the incidence of dental disease in vulnerable populations. In particular this preventive approach involves the delivery of personalised oral health promotion for children and people with special care needs. Children are seen at ages that correspond with dental developmental milestones to identify opportunities for timely preventive interventions such as fissure sealants and the need for restorative treatment, as well as monitoring the eruption of the permanent dentition including possible orthodontic anomalies requiring referral for HSE orthodontic assessment.

The HSE Dental Service targets children in key school years (2nd, 4th and 6th classes), offering them dental examinations, preventive care and restorative treatments for conditions noted. The ability to offer services to each of the school years has been limited due to availability of dental staff. Since the emergence of Covid-19, there has been a significant increase in delays in accessing routine treatment for those in target classes. This has resulted in backlogs emerging in the targeted schools programme.

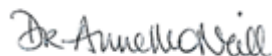
As part of targeting of resources, each dental service maintains a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment for the relief of pain, infection, and the sequelae of trauma. Children in targeted classes are offered dental examination, with individual care plans based on each child's needs. For routine and preventive services, patient groups are prioritised with children and adults with special care needs given the highest priority, followed by children in 6th class. Where service deficits are identified locally, additional resources where available can be redirected to address those needs.

The extent of the backlog in targeted services and delays in providing preventive interventions and treatment for patients are concerns for the HSE, with services working to reduce the backlog in treatment appointments. Delays in assessments may reduce opportunities for preventive measures as disease is not identified early.

Appendix 1 details KPI data for the Dental Service by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) and Local Health Office (LHO) end each year 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023. The reported metric is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment. The Department of Education publishes the number of children in each school year annually (Appendix 2). Using the data published for the year 2021, the number of children in 2nd, 4th and 6th classes in the school enrollment for September 2022 is anticipated as 66071, 67423, and 71022 respectively (204516 in total) who meet the criteria for eligibility.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



Anne M O Neill
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations



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Appendix 1: No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups (1st/2nd, 4th and 6th class) attending for scheduled assessment (2021 – 2023)

CHO	LHO	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Latest available data End June 2023
National Total		82,494	99,367	52,593
CHO 1	Total	13,800	13,637	6,482
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	3,135	4,250	2,850
CHO 1	Donegal	5,286	7,187	3,072
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	5,379	2,200	560
CHO 2	Total	6,156	7,073	4,565
CHO 2	Galway	1,486	895	1,068
CHO 2	Mayo	2,057	2,027	1,395
CHO 2	Roscommon	2,613	4,151	2,102
CHO 3	Total	4,153	6,125	2,578

CHO 3	Clare	1,307	1,784	964
CHO 3	Limerick	1,283	1,528	898
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	1,563	2,813	716
CHO 4	Total	8,552	15,350	8,820
CHO 4	Kerry	1,188	2,344	1,283
CHO 4	North Cork	1,494	3,252	2,134
CHO 4	North Lee	2,791	4,725	2,362
CHO 4	South Lee	2,233	3,763	2,031
CHO 4	West Cork	846	1,266	1,010
CHO 5	Total	11,973	12,484	6,149
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	3,418	3,075	1,236
CHO 5	South Tipperary	3,737	4,259	2,381
CHO 5	Waterford	2,972	2,909	1,433
CHO 5	Wexford	1,846	2,241	1,099
CHO 6	Total	6,743	5,678	2,836

CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	6,743	5,678	2,836
CHO 7	Total	12,059	15,151	8,499
CHO 7	Dublin South City	2,363	3,456	1,457
CHO 7	Dublin South West	2,860	2,812	1,823
CHO 7	Dublin West	3,561	4,446	2,681
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	3,275	4,437	2,538
CHO 8	Total	6,124	8,581	4,198
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	2,188	1,902	936
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	2,633	2,212	1,246
CHO 8	Louth	709	1,812	866
CHO 8	Meath	594	2,655	1,150
CHO 9	Total	12,999	15,288	8,466
CHO 9	Dublin North	2,828	4,562	2,318
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	2,561	2,845	1,847
CHO 9	Dublin North West	7,610	7,881	4,301



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Appendix 2: Department of Education Data - Target Population Academic Year 2022-2023

County	2nd Class	4th Class	6th Class	target classes
Carlow	914	920	1021	2855
Cavan	1128	1197	1234	3559
Clare	1520	1592	1584	4696
Cork	7473	7688	8127	23288
Donegal	2086	2215	2407	6708
Dubin(City)	5749	5739	5973	17461
Dublin(Dun LaoghaireRathdown)	2595	2539	2557	7691
Dublin(Fingal)	4548	4717	4844	14109
Dublin(South)	4366	4390	4453	13209
Galway	3515	3663	3836	11014
Kerry	1801	1940	2049	5790
Kildare	3581	3583	3857	11021
Kilkenny	1363	1371	1468	4202
Laois	1331	1332	1420	4083
Leitrim	469	444	489	1402
Limerick	2687	2762	2963	8412
Longford	604	678	679	1961
Louth	1998	2066	2198	6262
Mayo	1750	1766	1856	5372
Meath	3193	3188	3491	9872
Monaghan	943	962	1005	2910
Offaly	1154	1131	1229	3514
Roscommon	982	958	1000	2940
Sligo	867	944	947	2758
Tipperary	2182	2151	2283	6616
Waterford	1662	1690	1869	5221
Westmeath	1338	1423	1508	4269
Wexford	2232	2165	2320	6717
Wicklow	2040	2209	2355	6604
National	66071	67423	71022	204516