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**Deputy Verona Murphy
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 10308/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of students at primary school level that were due to receive dental screening, in second, fourth and sixth class, under the school dental screening programme in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, by CHO, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 response.

The HSE Dental Services are provided through 17 Dental Areas, all of which continue to provide routine services. The dental service prioritises treatment for people with special care needs, those who are medically compromised and provides emergency care for all eligible patients.

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.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the Data is not available as requested. The reported metric is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment. In 2019 a total of 151,393 new oral health patients in target groups attended for scheduled assessment and this figure is the basis for attendance in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Year	Number of expected appointments	Number of appointments
2019	151,392	151,392
2020	151,392	55,324
2021	151,392	82,494
2022	151,392	99,367

In recent years, most dental services have been in a position to offer assessments to 1st or 2nd class and 6th class. The Department of Education publishes the number of children in each school year annually. Using the data published for the year 2022, the number of children in 2nd and 6th classes was 135,809 who met 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,



Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations