



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
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**21 May 2024**

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

**PQ 19688/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons under the age of 13 years who have been referred from the school dental programme for children to a dentist for further examination and or procedures in 2023 and to date in 2024, by CHO region; the number in the waiting list, by CHO region; and the average time in each CHO to be seen by a dentist.**

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 Health Services Executive delivers dental services to children under the age of 16, 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 school dental service provides examination and any necessary preventive and restorative treatment noted at examination. The programme commences with 6<sup>th</sup> class and follows with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>- depending on available resources.

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

I wish to advise the Deputy that the data is not available as requested. The table below provides the total number of dental examinations undertaken within the Community Dental Service in 2023 for those who are participating in a targeted programme. In 2023, the HSE Community Dental Service provided over 72,000 fillings, 43,000 extractions and 359,000 preventative treatments to patients attending the service.

| KPI Metric   | CHO                   | Dental Area    | Q4 2023      | Q1 2024        |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment</b> | <b>National Total</b> |                | <b>12384</b> | <b>3,375.0</b> |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 1                 | <b>Total</b>   | 1218         | 224.0          |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 1                 | Cavan Monaghan | 0            | 0.0            |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 1                 | Donegal        | 1089         | 187.0          |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 1                 | Sligo Leitrim  | 129          | 37.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 2                 | <b>Total</b>   | <b>1719</b>  | <b>133.0</b>   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 2                 | Galway         | 753          | 72.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 2                 | Mayo           | 65           | 1.0            |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 2                 | Roscommon      | 901          | 60.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 3                 | <b>Total</b>   | <b>2272</b>  | <b>635.0</b>   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 3                 | Clare          | 936          | 309.0          |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 3                 | Limerick       | 707          | 157.0          |

|   |       |                                  |      |       |
|---|-------|----------------------------------|------|-------|
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 3 | North Tipperary<br>East Limerick | 629  | 169.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | <b>Total</b>                     | 220  | 33.0  |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | Kerry                            | 220  | 33.0  |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | North Cork                       | 0    | 0.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | North Lee                        | 0    | 0.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | South Lee                        | 0    | 0.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | West Cork                        | 0    | 0.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | <b>Total</b>                     | 2513 | 897.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | Carlow Kilkenny                  | 504  | 156.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | South Tipperary                  | 1032 | 371.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | Waterford                        | 440  | 226.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | Wexford                          | 537  | 144.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 6 | <b>Total</b>                     | 1    | 2.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 6 | Dun Laoghaire                    | 1    | 2.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | <b>Total</b>                     | 662  | 415.0 |

|   |                       |                      |              |                 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 7                 | Dublin South City    | 548          | 95.0            |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 7                 | Dublin South West    | 0            | 0.0             |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 7                 | Dublin West          | 113          | 320.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 7                 | Kildare West Wicklow | 1            | 0.0             |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 8                 | <b>Total</b>         | 203          | 23.0            |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 8                 | Laois Offaly         | 7            | 3.0             |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 8                 | Longford Westmeath   | 74           | 11.0            |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 8                 | Louth                | 122          | 1.0             |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 8                 | Meath                | 0            | 8.0             |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 9                 | <b>Total</b>         | 3576         | 1,013.0         |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 9                 | Dublin North         | 493          | 384.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 9                 | Dublin North Central | 1015         | 247.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 6-8 years of age /1st or 2nd class attending for scheduled assessment           | CHO 9                 | Dublin North West    | 2068         | 382.0           |
| <b>No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment</b> | <b>National Total</b> |                      | <b>49988</b> | <b>14,124.0</b> |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment        | CHO 1                 | <b>Total</b>         | 4262         | 1,670.0         |

|  |       |                                  |       |         |
|--|-------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 1 | Cavan Monaghan                   | 1509  | 300.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 1 | Donegal                          | 2071  | 709.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 1 | Sligo Leitrim                    | 682   | 661.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 2 | <b>Total</b>                     | 4325  | 1,323.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 2 | Galway                           | 1334  | 268.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 2 | Mayo                             | 1529  | 496.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 2 | Roscommon                        | 1462  | 559.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 3 | <b>Total</b>                     | 2706  | 1,019.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 3 | Clare                            | 1107  | 333.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 3 | Limerick                         | 949   | 451.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 3 | North Tipperary<br>East Limerick | 650   | 235.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | <b>Total</b>                     | 16318 | 4,586.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | Kerry                            | 2035  | 651.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | North Cork                       | 3950  | 1,003.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | North Lee                        | 4664  | 1,379.0 |

|  |       |                      |      |         |
|--|-------|----------------------|------|---------|
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | South Lee            | 3919 | 1,239.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | West Cork            | 1750 | 314.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | <b>Total</b>         | 2728 | 551.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | Carlow Kilkenny      | 498  | 101.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | South Tipperary      | 872  | 186.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | Waterford            | 846  | 89.0    |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | Wexford              | 512  | 175.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 6 | <b>Total</b>         | 3219 | 751.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 6 | Dun Laoghaire        | 3219 | 751.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | <b>Total</b>         | 5522 | 1,110.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | Dublin South City    | 1646 | 513.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | Dublin South West    | 759  | 0.0     |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | Dublin West          | 2613 | 597.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | Kildare West Wicklow | 504  | 0.0     |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 8 | <b>Total</b>         | 2506 | 1,517.0 |

|  |                       |                      |              |                 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 8                 | Laois Offaly         | 681          | 140.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 8                 | Longford Westmeath   | 1595         | 384.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 8                 | Louth                | 152          | 569.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 8                 | Meath                | 78           | 424.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 9                 | <b>Total</b>         | 8402         | 1,597.0         |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 9                 | Dublin North         | 3425         | 667.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 9                 | Dublin North Central | 2355         | 240.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in target group 11-13 years of age / 5th or 6th class attending for scheduled assessment | CHO 9                 | Dublin North West    | 2622         | 690.0           |
| <b>No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment</b>      | <b>National Total</b> |                      | <b>42116</b> | <b>10,240.0</b> |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment             | CHO 1                 | <b>Total</b>         | 6658         | 1,437.0         |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment             | CHO 1                 | Cavan Monaghan       | 3452         | 546.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment             | CHO 1                 | Donegal              | 2552         | 571.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment             | CHO 1                 | Sligo Leitrim        | 654          | 320.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment             | CHO 2                 | <b>Total</b>         | 3487         | 632.0           |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment             | CHO 2                 | Galway               | 631          | 103.0           |

|  |       |                                  |      |         |
|--|-------|----------------------------------|------|---------|
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 2 | Mayo                             | 1278 | 251.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 2 | Roscommon                        | 1578 | 278.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 3 | <b>Total</b>                     | 82   | 46.0    |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 3 | Clare                            | 72   | 29.0    |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 3 | Limerick                         | 6    | 11.0    |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 3 | North Tipperary<br>East Limerick | 4    | 6.0     |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | <b>Total</b>                     | 268  | 81.0    |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | Kerry                            | 268  | 81.0    |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | North Cork                       | 0    | 0.0     |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | North Lee                        | 0    | 0.0     |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | South Lee                        | 0    | 0.0     |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 4 | West Cork                        | 0    | 0.0     |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | <b>Total</b>                     | 6385 | 1,455.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | Carlow Kilkenny                  | 1160 | 314.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | South Tipperary                  | 2669 | 592.0   |



|  |       |                         |       |         |
|--|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | Waterford               | 1513  | 331.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 5 | Wexford                 | 1043  | 218.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 6 | <b>Total</b>            | 2680  | 692.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 6 | Dun Laoghaire           | 2680  | 692.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | <b>Total</b>            | 10486 | 2,507.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | Dublin South City       | 1140  | 331.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | Dublin South West       | 2298  | 670.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | Dublin West             | 2010  | 397.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 7 | Kildare West<br>Wicklow | 5038  | 1,109.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 8 | <b>Total</b>            | 5307  | 1,357.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 8 | Laois Offaly            | 919   | 173.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 8 | Longford<br>Westmeath   | 527   | 125.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 8 | Louth                   | 1561  | 586.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 8 | Meath                   | 2300  | 473.0   |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 9 | <b>Total</b>            | 6763  | 2,033.0 |

|  |       |                      |      |       |
|--|-------|----------------------|------|-------|
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 9 | Dublin North         | 1945 | 616.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 9 | Dublin North Central | 1405 | 714.0 |
| No. of new oral health patients in other target groups accessed in a planned manner for scheduled assessment | CHO 9 | Dublin North West    | 3413 | 703.0 |

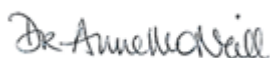
| Summary Table   | Total 2023 | 2024 Q1 | % change Q1 2023 vs Q1 2024 |
|---|------------|---------|-----------------------------|
|   |            |         |                             |
| New patients (6-8yrs/1st or 2nd class) targeted assessment                            | 12,384     | 3,375   | 9%                          |
| New patients (11-13yrs/5th or 6th class) targeted assessment                          | 49,988     | 14,124  | 13%                         |
| New patients (all other ages) targeted assessment                                     | 42,116     | 10,240  | -3%                         |
| Total new patients targeted assessments all ages (school and special care programmes) | 104,488    | 27,739  | -5%                         |
|   |            |         |                             |

The HSE's 2024 National Service Plan aims to continue to develop services and implement waiting list initiatives across a range of dental and orthodontic services and maximise activity across these services to manage waiting lists and waiting times.

The service plan supports the implementation of the Government's National Oral Health Policy, Smile Agus Sláinte, including the development of comprehensive oral healthcare packages for roll-out to children aged from birth to seven years of age.

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

Yours Sincerely,




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**Anne O'Neill**  
Assistant National Director, Oral Health