



Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

14th May 2025

PQ 21512/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who left an emergency department without being seen for each March of each year 2019-2024, inclusive, by hospital, in tabular form. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

The HSE Business Information Unit (BIU) is a central repository for activity information for Acute and Non Acute Services. The BIU collects, collates and validates extensive amounts of data which is used in performance monitoring and measurement to support the HSE in operational and strategic decisions.

The HSE currently reports the number of patients who registered yet decided not to wait within its Emergency Departments (EDs). Patients may choose to leave before triage, after triage or prior to a decision to admit or discharge home. The data does not distinguish or categorise patients that may require admission but left ED before admission or treatment.

The purpose of EDs is to deal with serious and unexpected illness and injury. EDs and their associated hospitals must clinically prioritise people who must be treated first, and those who may need to wait, or those who may need to attend a more appropriate care setting. To ensure this process is clinically safe for patients, Irish hospitals use the internationally tested Manchester Triage Tool which prioritises patients into a number of categories based on their clinical needs. Where a patient is seriously ill or injured, their needs will be prioritised above those with less serious conditions.

However, as demand inevitably overtakes capacity, prioritisation and consequential waiting may occur. In this regard, patients with less serious needs may choose to avail of alternative options. Many people, whose clinical needs could be more appropriately addressed by self-care, pharmacists, GPs, GP Out of Hours Services and Injury Units, continue to attend EDs. In Ireland, approximately 27% of those attending are actually admitted to hospital.



The information requested has been provided in the attached Excel file supplied by the Acute BIU. Please note the data is presented by Hospital Group, which was the HSE structure in place at the time to which the data relates.

Please see the data notes on the Excel file, and outlined below:

Data notes:

- CHI at Crumlin, CHI at Tallaght and CHI at Temple Street all contained under the Children's Health Ireland Group.
- The Mater Misericordiae University hospital have resubmitted Emergency Department data which has impacted their ED Did Not Wait figures from 2019-2023. This resubmission occurred in May 2025.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access and Integration

Please note data contained in this report is preliminary and may be subject to change

If information contained within this file is used in other reports
then as a minimum requirement BIU must be referenced.



Information Request Number:

PQ Number: PQ 21512/25

Date report created: 14/05/2025

Data Source: 2019-2023 run using MDR ED data. BIU Acute - Patient Experience Time data only for 2024

Subject: The number of Emergency Department patients who did not wait to be seen and left emergency departments for March of each period from 2019-2024

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who left an emergency department without being seen for each March of each year 2019-2024, inclusive, by hospital, in tabular form. - David Cullinane

Note: CHI at Crumlin, CHI at Tallaght and CHI at Temple Street all contained under the Children's Health Ireland Group

Note: Mater Misericordiae University hospital have resubmitted Emergency Department data which has impacted their ED Did Not Wait figures from 2019-2023. This resubmission occurred in May 2025

		March					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Children's Health Ireland	Children's Health Ireland	335	111	78	710	863	609
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	MRH Portlaoise	141	61	106	172	207	162
	MRH Tullamore	149	59	69	349	211	115
	Naas General Hospital	263	89	232	289	261	315
	St. James's Hospital	828	226	395	714	658	621
	Tallaght University Hospital	739	229	588	1,097	823	685
Ireland East Hospital Group	Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	1,079	480	331	943	1,239	1,232
	MRH Mullingar	140	75	76	198	206	268
	Our Lady's Hospital Navan	105	48	64	101	125	130
	St. Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny	42	66	45	85	136	152
	St. Michael's Hospital	53	12	15	36	41	75
	St. Vincent's University Hospital	280	108	169	756	615	475
RCSI Hospitals Group	Wexford General Hospital	95	82	95	170	12	140
	Beaumont Hospital	392	117	172	392	293	304
	Cavan General Hospital	139	59	118	194	121	174
	Connolly Hospital	272	156	147	414	351	342
Saolta University Health Care Group	Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital	535	258	368	764	682	755
	Galway University Hospitals	488	159	111	328	444	307
	Letterkenny University Hospital	108	49	128	195	308	197
	Mayo University Hospital	104	27	36	180	83	69
	Portiuncula University Hospital	101	55	54	95	101	136
South / South West Hospital Group	Sligo University Hospital	165	36	54	187	282	130
	Cork University Hospital	298	69	124	355	399	272
	Mercy University Hospital	221	139	91	255	236	197
	Tipperary University Hospital	61	28	33	133	98	110
	UH Kerry	136	101	95	217	211	220
UL Hospitals Group	UH Waterford	141	81	103	294	349	185
	UH Limerick	524	237	278	778	646	555
National Totals:		7,934	3,217	4,175	10,401	10,001	8,932