



Príomhoifigeach Daoine

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
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Mr. David Cullinane, TD

29 April 2025

PQ 21557/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against staff at HSE facilities for each March for each year 2019-2024, inclusive, in tabular form – David Cullinane

Dear Deputy,

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

Please see below the report on HSE Assaults on 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 in March for each year 2019 to 2024
- 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 28/04/2025

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 Severity Rating in March of each year from 2019 to 2024

	2019 Mar	2020 Mar	2021 Mar	2022 Mar	2023 Mar	2024 Mar	Grand Total
Severity Rating							
Major				~	~	~	~
Minor	64	51	35	44	54	56	304
Moderate	14	21	16	13	18	20	102
Negligible	503	408	383	402	513	478	2687
Grand Total	581	480	434	460	586	557	3098

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

Severity Ratings:

- Negligible incidents accounted for 87% of incidents (2687)

Negligible is defined as adverse event leading to minor injury not requiring first aid. No impaired psychosocial functioning.

- Minor incidents accounted for 10% of incidents (304)

Minor is defined as minor injury or illness, first aid treatment required < 3 days extended hospital stay Impaired psychosocial functioning greater than 3 days less than one month.

- Moderate incidents accounted for 3% of incidents (102)

Moderate is defined as significant injury requiring medical treatment e.g. Fracture and/or counselling. Agency reportable, e.g. HSA, Gardaí (violent and aggressive acts). >3 Days absence 3-8 days extended hospital stay. Impaired psychosocial functioning greater than one month and less than six months.

- Major incidents accounted for 0.01% of incidents

Major is defined as major injuries/long term incapacity or disability (loss of limb) requiring medical treatment and/or counselling Impaired psychosocial functioning greater than six months.

- There were no extreme incidents reported

Extreme is defined as an incident leading to death or major permanent incapacity. Event which impacts on large number of service users or member of the public Permanent psychosocial functioning incapacity.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR