



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
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Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Deputy Timmy Dooley
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

3rd April, 2025

PQ : 2979/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of practising GPs per 100,000 population by county for each of the years 2020 to 2024, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Dooley,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

There are approximately 3,160 GPs with a public contract (2,552 GMS & 608 others) and c.800 GPs including those who work privately, GPs in training and International Medical Graduate (IMG) participants. Please find attached Appendix 1 which sets down the number of General Practitioners (GMS GPs and GPs registered to provide other services*) that are in practice in each county broken down into CHO and LHO area for each of the years 2020 to 2024.

*Please note that the attached data includes GPs not contracted to the GMS Scheme but who are registered to provide services such as the Primary Childhood Immunisation Scheme, Maternity & Infant, the Health (Amendment) Act 1996, Methadone Treatment Scheme and National Cancer Screening Service.

The HSE is actively working to increase the number of GPs through various initiatives.

Expansion of GP Training

The HSE is working closely with the Irish College of General Practitioners on a range of measures to expand the GP Workforce and in developing a sustainable model of General Practice for the future in line with Sláintecare. GP Training Places have increased from an intake of 259 in 2022 to 286 in 2023 and an intake of 350 in 2024. The total number of trainees undertaking the four-year programme will increase from the current 1,044 to 1,300 in 2026 – a 25% increase. Funding has been provided in the 2024 budget to enable the HSE and the ICGP to implement this initiative at pace.

International Medical Graduate (IMG) Programme

The International Medical Graduates (IMG) Programme, is an initiative supported by the ICGP, HSE and the IMO aimed at expanding GP workforce in rural and urban disadvantaged areas. As of Q3 2024, 129 candidates have started with the IMG Programme with over 100 of these currently working in General Practice. Recruitment is ongoing in 2025. This has a very immediate impact on GP shortages. The new additional posts work in General Practice for a 2 year period, following which they can take up an Irish GMS contract. The initiative is targeted at rural areas, areas of urban deprivation and those difficult to fill posts in various geographical



locations across the country. IMG candidates are in place across all the Health Regions, and the initiative has helped ease the pressures on GP Practices in areas such as the southwest, southeast, midlands and western seaboard.

General Practice Strategic Review

The Minister for Health has established a Strategic Review of General Practice. The Review is being led by the Department of Health, with support from the HSE and input from key stakeholders, including the IMO and ICGP. The Review is examining the issues affecting general practice including GP training, GP capacity, Out of Hours services reform, the eHealth Agenda, and the financial support model for general practice.

The Review will then identify the arrangements necessary to improve the current system of GP care as part of a primary care-focused health service and in line with the Sláintecare vision on access.

Following its conclusion, a report will be presented to the Minister for Health giving an assessment of the challenges affecting general practice and setting out the actions needed to provide for a more sustainable GP service. Meetings of the Joint Department of Health/HSE Steering Group are ongoing and engagement with relevant stakeholders is currently underway.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts



Appendix 1- Source PCRS Online Reporting <https://www.sspcrs.ie/portal/annual-reporting/>

Community Healthcare Organisation	Number of General Practitioners by Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CHO Area 1	230	234	233	241	247
Cavan / Monaghan	70	69	71	72	74
Donegal	96	99	98	103	104
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	64	66	64	66	69
CHO Area 2	321	316	313	320	327
Galway	200	197	194	198	204
Mayo	87	87	86	88	89
Roscommon	34	32	33	34	34
CHO Area 3	250	256	260	261	258
Clare	56	55	54	54	55
North Tipp./East Limerick	51	53	54	53	53
Limerick	143	148	152	154	150
CHO Area 4	475	477	481	474	481
South Lee	150	150	151	151	150
North Lee	124	121	124	119	124
West Cork	44	44	46	46	46
Kerry	99	101	101	102	102
North Cork	58	61	59	56	59
CHO Area 5	302	311	308	311	306
Carlow/Kilkenny	86	85	84	89	89
Waterford	80	84	79	83	82
South Tipperary	58	63	62	58	58
Wexford	78	79	83	81	77
CHO Area 6	310	319	320	319	329
Dun Laoghaire	118	126	122	116	118
Dublin South East	106	108	110	113	113
Wicklow	86	85	88	90	98
CHO Area 7	415	424	430	452	460
Dublin South City	122	118	124	126	127
Dublin South West	109	115	109	117	119
Dublin West	73	77	79	83	82
Kildare / West Wicklow	111	114	118	126	132
CHO Area 8	338	338	338	338	343
Louth	83	81	85	83	83
Meath	88	83	87	85	85
Laois / Offaly	79	81	79	79	84
Longford / Westmeath	88	93	87	91	91
CHO Area 9	393	408	408	410	409



Dublin North West	102	107	105	106	107
Dublin North Central	134	137	138	138	141
Dublin North	157	164	165	166	161
National	3,034	3,083	3,091	3,126	3,160
*Number of GPs included in the above that are not contracted to the GMS Scheme who are registered to provide services such as the Primary Childhood Immunisation Scheme, the Health (Amendment) Act 1996, Methadone Treatment Scheme and National Cancer Screening Service.	500	528	559	587	608