



15 July 2025

Deputy Conor Sheehan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 36143/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 13 awaiting dental screening; the length of time they are waiting, by CHO, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Sheehan,

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. The school dental service provides examination and any necessary preventive and restorative treatment noted at examination. The programme commences with 6th class and follows with 2nd and 4th - 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. The Department of Education publishes a National School Annual Census each academic year. Table 1 below provides indicative numbers per CHO of children entering these classes on 1st September of the academic year, which become the target classes for that academic year. The numbers are provided by CHO to enable cross reference between the KPI data and the school census data. This is provided by way of context.

Table 1: National School Annual Census 2023-2024 Academic Year

	No. of 2nd class children	No. of 4th class children	No. of 6th class children	No. of Special class children
CHO Area 1 Total	5637	6026	6105	716
CHO Area 2 Total	6239	6609	6694	630
CHO Area 3 Total	5351	5353	5780	744
CHO Area 4 Total	9241	9669	9721	1576
CHO Area 5 Total	7068	7566	7632	897
CHO Area 6 Total	5181	5477	5403	471
CHO Area 7 Total	9004	9135	9598	995
CHO Area 8 Total	9319	10092	10292	1575
CHO Area 9 Total	8089	8523	8700	860
Grand Total	65129	68450	69925	8464

Table 2 details KPI data for the Dental Service (2022 to 2024). The reported metric for the Dental Service is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment. This includes children in target classes (2nd, 4th and 6th) and any special care patients both adult and children who may have been targeted within the timeframe.

Table 2: KPI Data No. of new oral health patients in target groups (all ages) attending for scheduled assessment

CHO	LHO	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
National Total		99367	104488	106703
CHO 1	Total	13637	12138	12511
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	4250	4961	3046
CHO 1	Donegal	7187	5712	5369
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	2200	1465	4096
CHO 2	Total	7073	9531	7806
CHO 2	Galway	895	2718	1609
CHO 2	Mayo	2027	2872	2617
CHO 2	Roscommon	4151	3941	3580
CHO 3	Total	6125	5060	6258
CHO 3	Clare	1784	2115	2447
CHO 3	Limerick	1528	1662	2198
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	2813	1283	1613
CHO 4	Total	15350	16806	17027
CHO 4	Kerry	2344	2523	3237
CHO 4	North Cork	3252	3950	3675
CHO 4	North Lee	4725	4664	4938
CHO 4	South Lee	3763	3919	4144
CHO 4	West Cork	1266	1750	1033
CHO 5	Total	12484	11626	12939
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	3075	2162	2746
CHO 5	South Tipperary	4259	4573	5078
CHO 5	Waterford	2909	2799	2886
CHO 5	Wexford	2241	2092	2229
CHO 6	Total	5678	5900	5996
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	5678	5900	5996
CHO 7	Total	15151	16670	15334
CHO 7	Dublin South City	3456	3334	3168
CHO 7	Dublin South West	2812	3057	3233
CHO 7	Dublin West	4446	4736	4638
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	4437	5543	4295
CHO 8	Total	8581	8016	11919
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	1902	1607	1597

CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	2212	2196	2339
CHO 8	Louth	1812	1835	4100
CHO 8	Meath	2655	2378	3883
CHO 9	Total	15288	18741	16913
CHO 9	Dublin North	4562	5863	6962
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	2845	4775	3662
CHO 9	Dublin North West	7881	8103	6289

The HSE's 2025 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,

Anne O'Neill
Assistant National Director, Oral Health