



Deputy David Cullinane
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

8th July 2025

PQ Number: 38146/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children admitted to adult mental health acute inpatient units in 2023, 2024, and to date in 2025, 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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

HSE Mental Health Services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and to the minimization of the number of admissions of children to adult units, while acknowledging that, in exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary, where there is a clear clinical imperative, to admit a small number of children to adult units, for the shortest time possible.

Children are admitted to adult units only after all efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent in Patient Units are unsuccessful due to capacity or clinical needs. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years are immediately notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulation. On every occasion that a young person requires to be admitted to an adult unit, there are nursed on a 1:1 basis continuously over the 24 hour period as per the Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice.

The number of children admitted to adult inpatient mental health units has continued to reduce over time as demonstrated in the table below.

Year	No. Of Admissions
2025 to date	**
2024	5
2023	12

**** Please note:** The low number of child admissions to Adult Units reported for 2025 to date (where the number reported is less than 5) is not being released in order to comply with GDPR guidelines.



Further information on Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice can be found at the following link: <https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/Addendum-to-admission-children-2011.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Braham
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