



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
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07 April 2025

Deputy Marie Sherlock  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 5191/25: To ask the Minister for Health the numbers of children seen by HSE dentists, by CHO area, in the years 2019 to 2024, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the data is not available as requested. Appendices below provide KPI data on the total number of dental examinations undertaken within the Community Dental Service in years 2019 - 2024 for those who are participating in a targeted programme (target group 6-8yrs of age /1st or 2nd class, target group 11-13yrs of age / 5th or 6th class and other target groups) and for those who attended for unscheduled assessment in the year 2020-2024.

The reported metrics are;

- Appendix 1 - No of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment.
- Appendix 2 -No. of new oral health patients (aged less than 16 years) attending for unscheduled assessment

The ability to offer services to each of the school years has been limited due to availability of dental staff.

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**

**Appendix 1:** KPI Data 2019-2024 - the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment

CHO	LHO	Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
<b>Total</b>		<b>151392</b>	<b>55324</b>	<b>82559</b>	<b>99367</b>	<b>104488</b>	<b>106703</b>
CHO 1	Total	19266	9129	13800	13637	12138	12511
CHO 2	Total	12145	2904	6156	7073	9531	7806
CHO 3	Total	11632	3385	4153	6125	5060	6258
CHO 4	Total	20641	8086	8552	15350	16806	17027
CHO 5	Total	18638	6621	11973	12484	11626	12939
CHO 6	Total	8143	4054	6743	5678	5900	5996
CHO 7	Total	25180	9534	12059	15151	16670	15334
CHO 8	Total	17842	3829	6124	8581	8016	11919
CHO 9	Total	17905	7782	12999	15288	18741	16913

**Appendix 2:** No. of new oral health patients (aged less than 16 years) attending for unscheduled assessment

		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>National Total</b>		<b>52,965.0</b>	<b>47,370.0</b>	<b>48,747.0</b>	<b>47,806.0</b>	<b>46,939.0</b>
CHO 1	Total	7,545.0	6,054.0	6,658.0	6,713.0	7,005.0
CHO 2	Total	1,385.0	1,635.0	1,553.0	2,071.0	1,511.0
CHO 3	Total	3,177.0	3,763.0	3,830.0	3,722.0	3,796.0
CHO 4	Total	4,614.0	4,808.0	6,181.0	6,261.0	5,934.0
CHO 5	Total	6,724.0	5,934.0	5,917.0	6,287.0	6,605.0
CHO 6	Total	3,888.0	3,437.0	2,611.0	2,318.0	2,119.0
CHO 7	Total	10,895.0	7,868.0	6,914.0	6,417.0	6,104.0
CHO 8	Total	7,139.0	5,664.0	7,340.0	6,598.0	6,188.0
CHO 9	Total	7,598.0	8,207.0	7,743.0	7,419.0	7,677.0