



Deputy Ruth Coppinger.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

25th March 2025

PQ Number: 12593/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospitalisations of people with an eating disorder were recorded in the past decade, per annum. -Ruth Coppinger

Dear Coppinger,

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.

Most people can and do recover from eating disorders if they receive effective, evidence-based treatment from eating disorder (ED)-trained staff. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. The HSE's core focus is on developing regional community-based specialist ED services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

The number of **referrals** (adult and children) to Irish psychiatric units and hospitals (including CAMHS units) with a primary admission diagnosis of eating disorders 2014-2023.

	Total admissions
2014	266
2015	207
2016	210
2017	213
2018	190
2019	192
2020	269
2021	287
2022	290
2023	253

**Source: National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS), Health Research Board
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NOTE: The number of referrals does not equal the number of people hospitalised with eating disorders. One person may have had several admissions during the course of any given year. We do not collect data on hospitalisations.

NOTE:

The data contained in this request reflect data received from and verified by hospitals during the year(s) in question. It is worth noting however, that any changes to the data by a hospital or errors noted by a hospital for correction after the final date of processing in the HRB may not be captured in this report. **Admissions and discharges represent episodes or events rather than persons. Thus, one person may have several admissions during the course of a year and each admission is recorded separately.** Admissions do not necessarily represent incidence of mental illness but rather the activity of in-patient services. In addition, as the data in this report relate to admissions and/or discharges and not people, the potential to identify individuals from the data is zero.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Michael Ryan
General Manager
Access and Integration, Mental Health Engagement and Recovery