



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

**Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 9562/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists, consultants in dentistry, dental surgeons, orthodontists and other dental care workers who were employed by the HSE, at the end of each year from 2004 to 2024, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 attached ExcelSheets details WTE for dentist and orthodontics grades employed in the HSE from 2005 to January 2025 (Sheet 1) and Dental Nurse and Hygienist grades employed in the HSE from 2017-2024 (Sheet 2). Data from 2004 is not readily available.

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.

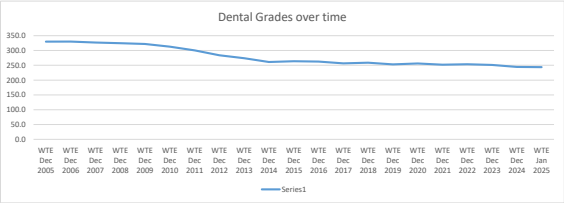
Yours Sincerely,

**Anne O'Neill
Assistant National Director, Oral Health**

Dental and Orthodontic Grades

Employment 2005-2024	WTE Dec 2005	WTE Dec 2006	WTE Dec 2007	WTE Dec 2008	WTE Dec 2009	WTE Dec 2010	WTE Dec 2011	WTE Dec 2012	WTE Dec 2013	WTE Dec 2014	WTE Dec 2015	WTE Dec 2016	WTE Dec 2017	WTE Dec 2018	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2020	WTE Dec 2021	WTE Dec 2022	WTE Dec 2023	WTE Dec 2024	WTE Jan 2025
Total	329.8	330.1	326.9	324.6	321.9	313.0	300.6	283.7	274.1	261.1	263.6	262.5	256.7	258.7	253.2	256.0	252.2	253.4	251.3	244.6	243.8
Dental Surgeon, General	221.2	223.1	220.0	214.2	213.1	206.7	196.0	185.5	180.6	166.7	173.6	177.7	174.3	171.1	165.7	167.2	158.4	162.6	156.2	153.5	154.5
Dental Surgeon, Principal	27.8	24.8	25.6	24.4	22.9	21.9	23.6	21.9	21.8	24.9	22.9	21.5	23.0	22.0	24.9	24.9	24.2	25.7	24.3	22.3	22.7
Dental Surgeon, Senior	64.3	64.7	62.6	66.6	62.5	61.6	64.9	60.3	54.0	51.5	50.2	47.9	46.8	46.4	42.4	40.8	45.6	38.9	38.6	40.3	38.9
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	16.6	17.5	18.8	19.4	23.5	22.8	16.1	16.0	17.6	18.1	16.9	15.4	12.6	19.3	20.2	23.2	23.9	26.2	32.2	28.5	27.7

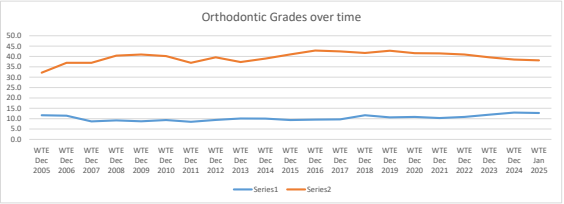
Source: Health Service Personnel Census
Data relates to HSE only



Orthodontic Grades

Employment 2005-2024	WTE Dec 2005	WTE Dec 2006	WTE Dec 2007	WTE Dec 2008	WTE Dec 2009	WTE Dec 2010	WTE Dec 2011	WTE Dec 2012	WTE Dec 2013	WTE Dec 2014	WTE Dec 2015	WTE Dec 2016	WTE Dec 2017	WTE Dec 2018	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2020	WTE Dec 2021	WTE Dec 2022	WTE Dec 2023	WTE Dec 2024	WTE Jan 2025
Total	43.9	48.4	45.6	49.6	49.7	49.5	45.4	49.0	47.4	49.0	50.3	52.4	52.1	53.4	53.4	52.4	51.8	51.8	51.6	51.5	50.8
Consultant Orthodontist	11.7	11.4	8.7	9.2	8.7	9.4	8.5	9.4	10.1	10.1	9.3	9.5	9.6	11.6	10.6	10.8	10.3	10.9	11.9	12.9	12.7
Orthodontics, Specialist	32.2	37.0	36.9	40.4	40.9	40.2	36.9	39.6	37.3	39.0	41.0	42.9	42.5	41.7	42.8	41.6	41.5	40.9	39.6	38.5	38.1

Source: Health Service Personnel Census
Data relates to HSE only



Grade by Staff Category by Hospital/CHO	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dental Hygienist	6	5	5	5	5	5	3	2
Dental Hygienist, Senior							2	2
Health & Social Care Professionals	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	2
Dental Nurse	25	24	24	28	27	27	27	26
Dental Nurse, Senior	8	8	7	7	6	6	6	7
Patient & Client Care	37	36	35	38	37	36	34	34
CHO 1								
Dental Hygienist	2	4	4	5	5	3	3	3
Dental Hygienist, Senior						2	2	2
Health & Social Care Professionals	2	4	4	5	5	5	5	5
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)	1	0	1					
Dental Nurse	25	25	24	25	27	26	19	20
Dental Nurse, Senior	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	6
Patient & Client Care	27	26	25	26	28	27	27	26
CHO 2								
Dental Hygienist	5	5	5	4	3	6	5	6
Dental Hygienist, Senior	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1
Health & Social Care Professionals	7	7	6	6	5	7	6	7
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)	7	7	6	6	7	7	7	6
Dental Nurse	26	27	29	29	27	27	29	29
Dental Nurse, Senior	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
Patient & Client Care	40	40	41	41	40	40	41	39
CHO 3								
Dental Hygienist	6	6	7	8	7	4	4	3
Dental Hygienist, Senior						3	3	3
Health & Social Care Professionals	6	6	7	8	7	7	7	6
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)	1	34	33	30	27	2	2	1
Dental Nurse	64	33	31	32	33	60	60	57
Dental Nurse, Senior	11	11	11	12	12	11	12	13
Patient & Client Care	76	77	76	74	72	73	73	70
CHO 4								
Dental Hygienist	7	7	6	7	7	5	5	5
Dental Hygienist, Senior						2	2	2
Health & Social Care Professionals	7	7	6	7	7	6	7	7
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)		39	39	1	1	1	1	1
Dental Nurse	41	5	6	42	40	39	40	40
Dental Nurse, Senior	7	7	7	8	8	7	8	8
Patient & Client Care	48	51	52	50	49	48	49	49
CHO 5								
Dental Hygienist	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	4
Health & Social Care Professionals	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	4
Dental Nurse	37	39	34	36	38	40	40	35
Dental Nurse, Senior	4	6	6	6	7	7	8	7
Patient & Client Care	42	45	40	42	45	46	48	42
CHO 6								
Dental Hygienist	3	5	5	4	3	5	5	4
Dental Hygienist, Senior						0		
Health & Social Care Professionals	3	5	5	4	3	6	5	4
Dental Nurse	46	48	47	45	45	39	35	36
Dental Nurse, Senior	8	9	8	8	9	8	7	5
Patient & Client Care	53	57	55	53	54	47	43	41
CHO 7								
Dental Hygienist	12	12	12	13	12	8	7	10
Dental Hygienist, Senior						3	2	3
Health & Social Care Professionals	12	12	12	13	12	11	9	13
Dental Nurse	58	55	54	56	54	49	55	51
Dental Nurse, Senior	9	10	9	10	9	8	9	9
Patient & Client Care	67	65	63	66	62	57	64	60
CHO 8								
Dental Hygienist	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	4
Dental Hygienist, Senior						2	2	2
Health & Social Care Professionals	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Dental Nurse	41	42	39	40	38	46	46	42
Dental Nurse, Senior	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8
Patient & Client Care	44	46	42	44	43	52	53	50
CHO 9								
Dental Hygienist	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Health & Social Care Professionals	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dental Nurse	15	17	17	17	18	21	20	21
Dental Nurse, Senior	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	2
Patient & Client Care	19	21	21	21	22	25	24	23
Saolta University Hospital Care								
Dental Nurse	1							
Patient & Client Care	1							
South/South West Hospital Group								