Deputy Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

26th May 2025

PQ 23280/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of cases of spiking that have been reported in the past five years, per county; including reports to hospitals and Gardaí; in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin

Dear Deputy Ó Súilleabháin,

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.

Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) is a health information system, managed by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) of HSE Finance and is designed to collect clinical and administrative data on discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals in Ireland. HIPE discharges are clinically coded from charts in the hospitals, this includes translating medical terminology into alpha-numeric code and using the entire chart to extract the conditions and procedures to create an adequate picture of the patient's health care encounter.

Please see the included Excel file provided by HIPE detailing the *Number of HIPE discharges from acute hospitals with any listed diagnosis code X85 Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances* for the years requested.

HIPE advised that the data included those admitted and not all Emergency Department attendances. HIPE further advised that due to the small numbers reported, it is not possible to provide a breakdown by county.

Please note information on reports to An Garda Síochána is not available to the HSE/HIPE.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

_____
John Smith
Assistant National Director
Access & Integration

Notes:

HIPE is a health information system designed to collect medical and administrative data regarding discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals in Ireland. All acute public hospitals participate in HIPE.

Please note that the data provided does not include any public activity performed in private hospitals under the private hospital agreements.

HIPE data is based on hospitalisations which may include multiple admissions for the same patient. Therefore, it is not possible to use HIPE to examine certain parameters such as the number of hospital encounters per patient, or to estimate incidence or prevalence of disease.

Diagnosis and Procedures are coded using ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS (From 2020 to 2023 the 10th edition was used. From 2024 the 12th edition is used).

From 2011 onwards HIPE collects a principal diagnosis and up to 29 additional diagnoses per discharge.

Table: Number of HIPE discharges from acute hospitals with any listed diagnosis code X85 *Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances* **, 2022-2023**

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
N	~	0	~	~	0

The HPO does not disclose cells where the number of discharges reported to HIPE is five or less. Therefore, values between one and five must be suppressed and are replaced by ~.

Notes:

1. In-patient and day case discharges are reported only; ED and out-patient attendances are not recorded on HIPE.

2. HIPE relies on clear documentation in the medical chart, and coders cannot make assumptions when assigning codes. This particular code (X85) would be difficult to assign without clear information.