



**Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta, An Chéad**
Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15, Áras Phlásóg na Rós,
Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile, Páirc
Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an
Treoiigh, Luimneach

**Office of the Assistant National
Director, National Disability Team,**
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business
Complex, National Technology Park,
Castletroy, Limerick.

9th September 2025

Deputy Michael Cahill,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: michael.cahill@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 44896/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of children awaiting psychological treatment in each county in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Cahill,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

National Access Policy

The National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay ensures that children under 18 are directed to the appropriate service based on the complexity of their presenting needs i.e. Primary Care for non-complex functional difficulties and Children's Disability Network Teams for complex functional difficulties arising from their disability.

Childrens Disability Services

93 CDNTs, aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country, are in place and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.

Each CDNT covers a specific geographical area and holds a waiting list for children with complex needs residing in that area.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, and speech and language therapy. The model of service for all CDNTs is family-centred and based on the needs of the child. This includes universal, targeted and specialised supports and interventions, as appropriate to the individual child and family. It is based on the objectives of empowering and supporting parents and others who are with the child on a daily basis to facilitate the child's developmental needs.

The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for over 44,000 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow.

Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People

The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families.

The Roadmap, has four Working Groups which report into a Service Improvement Programme Board every month, which in turn reports to the Roadmap Oversight Group which was chaired by the Minister of State.

Working Group 2: Service Access and Improvement – has responsibility for Waitlist Management and Services; Optimising Teams Efficiencies, Effectiveness and Governance; AONs overdue for completion; and the development of a National Capital plan to enable all staff of a CDNT to be co-located.



Waiting List for the Childrens Disability Services

Historically the number of children waitlisted for children's disability services provided by section 38 and section 39 providers has not been available nationally. The establishment of CDNTs in 2021 has facilitated the collection of this data. A National Information Management System for all 93 CDNTs is being rolled out and when implemented, will provide current data on waiting lists and other details for all CDNTs.

Pending full roll-out to all 93 CDNTs, manual data collection is currently in place nationally as an interim measure.

Prior to 2023, CDNT data was not collated nationally. The table below is the validated data for the end of July 2025 activity reports. This shows the number of children that are waiting for an initial contact with a CDNT in the 6 Regional Healthcare Areas (RHAs).

With regard to the specific question on the number of children awaiting psychological treatment, in line with best practice guidelines, CDNTs use a multidisciplinary approach to assessment and intervention. In this context, the CDNTs do not collect activity data by individual discipline (such as SLT, Physiotherapy, OT etc) as this does not align with the interdisciplinary model of care. So while we have data for children that are waiting for an initial contact with a CDNT, discipline-specific data is not available.

End of July 2025

National CDNT Interim Metrics (July 2025)	HSE West and North West	HSE Midwest	HSE South West	HSE Dublin and South East	HSE Dublin Midlands	HSE Dublin and North East	Total
No. of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	299	165	169	182	251	277	1343
No. of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	143	143	112	176	206	242	1022
No. of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	125	250	126	250	322	319	1392
No. of children waiting over 12 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	168	635	213	1977	2038	1926	6957
Total no. of children on the CDNT waiting list @ month end.	299	165	169	182	251	277	10714

In addition, 1,011 children (&/or their parents) who are on the CDNT waiting list participated in one or more individual and/or group intervention appointments during July 2025.

There has been a 5.6% increase in new children referred (5,370) Jan to June 2025 over same period last year, however, importantly, despite this challenge the CDNT waiting list has been reduced by 14.9% (1,959) to 10,961 on 30/6/25 from 12,920 on 31/12/2024.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom McGuirk,
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration