



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**  
**Deputy Mark Ward,**  
**Dail Eireann,**  
**Dublin 2.**

**PQ 2452/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who presented with eating disorders to community health care teams relating to referrals in each of the years 2018 to 2020; the gender, age profile and county of residence of each in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ward,

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 get better from eating disorders. 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. Dedicated community based eating disorder services, where multidisciplinary teams have specialist training can provide evidence based care and treatment.

The HSE developed and approved a Model of Care for Eating disorders that provides a blueprint for the development of specialist regional teams with skilled clinicians that can provide evidence based interventions collaborating with acute hospital physicians and GPs as required. Early intervention and evidence based treatment by multi-disciplinary specialist community eating disorder teams are recommended by the HSE Model of Care for Eating Disorders with a focus on both psychological and physical recovery. The Model of Care was launched in 2018 and continued implementation is vital to deliver access to high quality eating disorders in Ireland.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/moc/hse-eating-disorder-services-model-of-care.pdf>

There is no mental health data collection system by diagnosis. The NCP Eating Disorders are engaged with OCIO and are awaiting a decision on a business case submitted to develop a data system that will track patients over time.

I attach the following data; HRB (psychiatric inpatient reporting) and HIPE (acute hospital system) for number by hospital. I also attach the National Clinical Programme 'story so far'.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services