



Self-harm data, 2017 CHO Area 3

Table 1: Number of residents and person-based European age-standardised rates (EASR) per 100,000

		Persons	Age-standardised rate per 100,000
Clare	Male	60	115
	Female	98	177
Limerick	Male	133	179
	Female	187	254
Tipperary North/ East Limerick	Male	56	107
	Female	98	185
CHO Area 3	Male	249	139
	Female	383	211

For the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017, the Registry recorded 11,600 self-harm presentations to hospital that were made by 9,103 individuals nationally. In 2017, 249 male and 383 female residents of CHO Area 3 presented to EDs with an act of self-harm. Taking into account the population, the rate of persons presenting to hospital following self-harm was 139 and 211 per 100,000 for males and females respectively. Nationally, the rate of self-harm for males and females was 181 and 218 per 100,000 respectively.

Table 2: Presentations by age and gender

	<20yrs	20-24yrs	25-34yrs	35-44yrs	45-54yrs	55+yrs	Total
Male	61	53	83	43	32	36	308
Female	137	67	97	95	75	41	512

In 2017, there were 308 male and 512 female presentations of self-harm. Over half (53%) of all presentation were made by those aged 20-44 years.

Table 3: Method of self-harm

Drug overdose	Alcohol*	Poisoning	Attempted Hanging	Attempted drowning	Self-cutting
525 (64%)	302 (37%)	18 (2%)	74 (9%)	73 (9%)	227 (28%)

*This includes presentations where alcohol was involved (not just as the main method of self-harm)

Drug overdose was the most common method of self-harm, involved in 64% of presentations (n=525). Alcohol was involved in 37% of presentations (n=302). Self-cutting was the only other common method, involved in 28% of presentations (n=227). There were 74 (9%) presentations involving attempted hanging while 73 (9%) involved attempted drowning and 18 (2%) presentations involved poisoning.

Table 4: Repeat presentations by residents

	Male	Female	Total
Number of persons	249	383	632
Number who repeated	40	60	100
% repeating	16%	16%	16%

There were 632 individuals treated for 820 self-harm presentations in 2017. This implies that 23% (n=188) of the presentations in 2017 were due to repeat presentations. Based on persons, the rate of repetition was for both men and women (16%).

Table 5: Repeat presentations by method

	Drug overdose	Alcohol*	Poisoning	Attempted Hanging	Attempted drowning	Self-cutting
Number of individuals treated	414	235	16	67	47	158
Number repeating	68	34	<10	<10	<10	33
Percentage repeating	16%	14%	-	-	--	21%

The rate of repetition varied with the method of self-harm involved in the self-harm act (Table 5). Of the commonly used methods of self-harm, drug overdose and alcohol were associated with a 16% and 14% rate of repetition respectively while self-cutting was associated with a 21% rate of repetition.

Table 6: Presentations to hospital in region

	Residents	Non-residents	Total
University Hospital, Limerick	707	97	804
South Tipperary General Hospital	38	261	299
Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Ennis	<10	<10	<20

The three main hospital residents from this area presented to were University Hospital, Limerick, South Tipperary General Hospital and Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Ennis. For all self-harm patients seen at University Hospital Limerick (n=804) 707 were residents, while 38 residents presented to South Tipperary General Hospital and 7 residents presented to Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Ennis.

Table 7: Recommended next care for hospital-treated self-harm by residents of area

	Number	Percentage
General admission	113	14%
Psychiatric admission	45	6%
Left without being seen/ against medical advice	98	12%
Not admitted	564	69%
Total	820	100%

Overall, 12% of presentations left the emergency department before a next care recommendation could be made. Of all self-harm presentations, 14% resulted in admission to a ward of the treating hospital and 6% were admitted for psychiatric inpatient treatment from the emergency department.



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Most commonly, 69% of presentations were discharged following treatment in the emergency department.

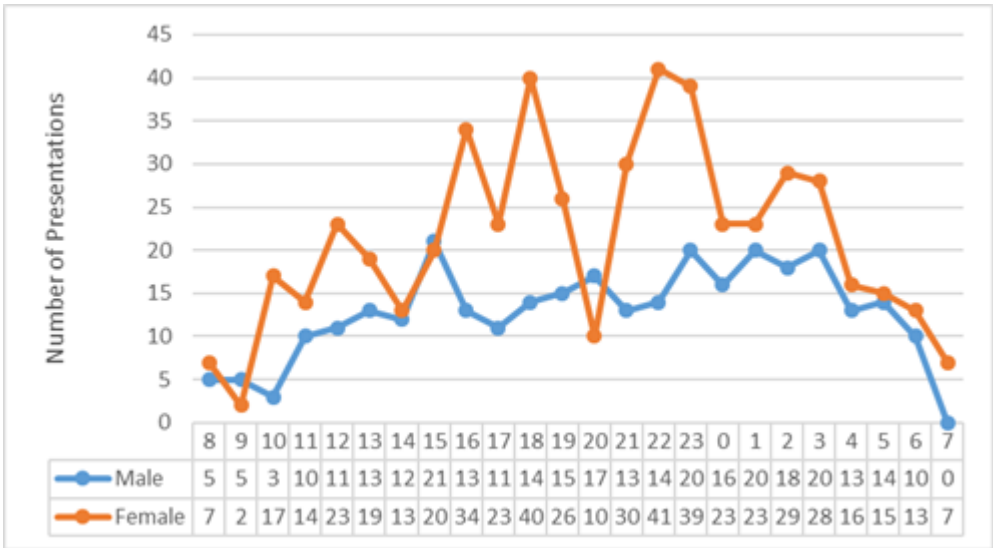


Figure 1: Self-harm presentations by time of attendance

There was a pattern in the number of self-harm presentations seen over the course of the day in 2017. The numbers for both men and women fluctuated throughout the day. Men had peaks at 3pm, 11pm, 1am and 3am, while women peaked at 6pm and 10pm.

Table 8: Self-harm presentations by month of attendance

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number	56	65	61	61	61	70	90	85	68	70	59	74	820

Table 8 presents number of presentations in each calendar month. The monthly average number of self-harm presentations to hospitals in 2017 was 68. In 2017, July and August saw more self-harm presentations than any other months while January and November saw the lowest number of presentations for the year.





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