

17 September 2026

Children and Young People Attending A&E in Mental Health Crisis

1. A&E attendances for Mental Health concerns

Please provide the total number of attendances at Emergency Departments/A&E by children and young people aged 6–17 years where the reason for attendance was recorded as relating to a mental health concern, for each financial year from 2019/20 to 2025/26.

Please provide the figures broken down by each of the five Health and Social Care Trusts.

We are only able to provide figures relating to Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Please contact other Health and Social Care Trusts directly to request this information.

In Belfast Trust:

Year	Number of Attendances
2019/2020	358
2020/2021	362
2021/2022	372
2022/2023	345
2023/2024	393
2024/2025	383
2025/2026	350

2. Age breakdown

Where available, please provide the annual figures broken down by age groups, including:

- 6–9 years
- 10–13 years
- 14–17 years

If the data is held using different age categories, please provide the closest equivalent breakdown.

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Year	6–9 years	10–13 years	14–17 years
2019/2020	22	113	223
2020/2021	38	120	204
2021/2022	16	109	247
2022/2023	20	110	215
2023/2024	18	112	263
2024/2025	18	101	264
2025/2026	24	90	236

3. Reason for attendance

Where recorded, please provide an annual breakdown of these attendances by the primary mental health-related reason/reason for presentation, including where applicable:

- self-harm;
- suicidal thoughts/behaviour;
- eating disorders;
- emotional or psychological crisis;
- anxiety;
- depression;
- psychosis;
- behavioural or emotional disturbance;
- other mental health-related presentations.

If these categories are not available, please provide the categories that are used in the relevant dataset.

2563 attendances related to Mental Health were recorded during the periods in question. During a single attendance, many patients presented with Multiple Mental Health related Diagnosis. In this case all conditions are listed below, not solely the primary mental health-related reason/reason for presentation.

Where numbers are low we have indicated <5 rather than give the exact figure. We feel that providing the exact figure has the potential to make people identifiable and so that information is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Year	Self Harm	Suicidal Thoughts/Behaviour	Eating Disorder	Anxiety	Depression	Psychosis	Behavioural or Emotional Disturbance	Other Mental Health
2019/2020	73	58	<5	69	16	<5	8	217
2020/2021	88	55	19	103	11	6	7	173
2021/2022	76	50	30	92	5	<5	<5	181
2022/2023	64	44	18	79	14	<5	7	198
2023/2024	63	45	29	80	30	<5	8	218
2024/2025	105	93	30	91	57	<5	<5	125
2025/2026	83	108	17	93	44	6	<5	115

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4. Waiting times in A&E

For each year and each Health and Social Care Trust, please provide the number and percentage of children and young people aged 6–17 attending A&E for a mental health concern who:

- waited less than 4 hours;
- waited 4–12 hours;
- waited more than 12 hours;
- waited more than 24 hours.

Year	less than 4 hours	4–12 hours	12- 24 Hours	More than 24 hours
2019/2020	252	102	<5	<5
2020/2021	262	89	11	0
2021/2022	194	165	12	<5
2022/2023	189	139	10	7
2023/2024	176	182	25	10
2024/2025	147	171	34	31
2025/2026	144	145	38	23

Where numbers are low we have indicated <5 rather than give the exact figure. We feel that providing the exact figure has the potential to make people identifiable and so that information is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Percentages.

Year	less than 4 hours	4–12 hours	12- 24 Hours	More than 24 hours
2019/2020	70.4%	28.5%	0.8%	0.3%
2020/2021	72.4%	24.6%	3.0%	0.0%
2021/2022	52.2%	44.4%	3.2%	0.3%
2022/2023	54.8%	40.3%	2.9%	2.0%
2023/2024	44.8%	46.3%	6.4%	2.5%
2024/2025	38.4%	44.6%	8.9%	8.1%
2025/2026	41.1%	41.4%	10.9%	6.6%

5. Disposition following attendance

Where this information is recorded, please provide an annual breakdown of what happened following the A&E attendance, including the number of children and young people who:

- were discharged home;
- were referred to community mental health services;
- were referred to CAMHS;
- were admitted to a mental health inpatient unit;

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- were admitted to a general hospital ward;
- were transferred to another service;
- left before being assessed or treated;

Year	Admitted	Discharged	Transferred to another service	left before being assessed or treated
2019/2020	23	272	40	23
2020/2021	61	285	5	11
2021/2022	62	291	9	10
2022/2023	45	280	<5	16
2023/2024	54	309	<5	28
2024/2025	46	291	23	23
2025/2026	22	284	17	27

Where numbers are low we have indicated <5 rather than give the exact figure. We feel that providing the exact figure has the potential to make people identifiable and so that information is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

6. Comparable overall A&E figures

Year	Total Attendances of Patients Aged 6-17	Total Attendances of Patients Aged 6-17 with a Mental Health Presentation
2019/2020	21413	358
2020/2021	14757	362
2021/2022	20693	372
2022/2023	23014	345
2023/2024	22727	393
2024/2025	22189	383
2025/2026	23702	350