

National Ability Supports
System (NASS)

**NASS Regional Bulletin
for NASS CHO 7 – Kildare, West
Wicklow, Dublin West,
Dublin South City,
Dublin South West, 2022**

1 Background

This bulletin is based on validated data extracted from the National Ability Supports System (NASS) at the end of December 2022 for Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area 7. NASS is a national database that records information about current Health Service Executive (HSE) disability-funded¹ services and services required in the next 5 years. Disability-funded services can be required as a result of an intellectual disability (ID); developmental delay, physical, sensory, neurological,² learning, and speech and/or language disabilities; or autism. Mental health is only recorded on NASS where an individual is in receipt of a HSE disability-funded service.

The purpose of NASS is to gather information from service providers in order to aid the planning, development, and organisation of HSE disability-funded services. A person is eligible to be registered on NASS if they receive or require (either currently or within the next 5 years) a HSE disability-funded service as identified by their service provider.

There are some 18 year olds who have moved to adult services while others remain in children's services until they finish secondary school. In this bulletin, 'children' includes service users aged 18 years and under who are engaging with children's disability services, and 'adults' refers to those engaging with adult disability services.

This bulletin presents an overview of the information recorded on NASS for people engaging with disability services in CHO 7. In total, 10,316 people are included in this bulletin, of which 7,137 are children and 3,179 are adults.

¹ 'HSE disability -funded' refers to the budget the HSE uses to fund services for people with disabilities. In 2022, the overall budget for disability services was €2.4 billion. See <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/59a35-minister-anne-rabbitte-announces-disability-services-budget-for-2023/>

² A neurological disability can include epilepsy, spina bifida, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, acquired brain injury, and Parkinson's disease. This term applies to impairments of the nervous system.

1.1 Data collection

Information on NASS is captured under four headings:

- Service user details
- Primary carer details
- Disability type and diagnosis, and
- Services.

A primary disability should be recorded by the service provider for every person on NASS. There is also an option for reporting additional disability type(s). A primary disability refers to the disability which most restricts a person's ability to take part in daily life and/or the disability that gives rise to using/needing the most disability-funded services.

Within the Services heading, NASS captures 77 service options across 6 service types:

- Residential setting
- Day services
- Day respite
- Overnight respite
- Supports for daily living (for example, home support, a personal assistant, or community support), and
- Specialist supports (for example, physiotherapy, speech and/or language therapy, or occupational therapy).

Service providers record information about current services funded through the HSE disability budget and services identified as being currently required or that will be required within the next 5 years.

1.2 Limitations of the data

It is important to note that the data returned for children by the newly established Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are less complete than the data provided by service providers for adults accessing HSE disability-funded services. Overall, a significant increase in the number of children registered on NASS was achieved in 2022. However, the data are largely incomplete for most of these children. Work is ongoing with our partners in the HSE to improve the completeness of these data.

2 Profile of children engaging with children's disability services in CHO 7

2.1 Number of children registered on NASS in CHO 7 in 2022

In 2022, there were 7,137 children registered on NASS as receiving their main service in CHO 7.

2.2 Demographic profile

Information on sex at birth was available for 7,121 (99%) children. There were more male (5,161; 72%) children than female (1,960; 28%) children registered on NASS in CHO 7.

Over one-half of children were aged 5-12 years (58%; 4,108), 25% (1,749) were aged 13-17 years, 16% (1,159) were aged 0-4 years and 2% (121) were aged 18 years (Table 1).

Table 1 Number of children registered on NASS in children's disability services in CHO 7 by age group and sex, 2022

Age groups	Male		Female		Data on sex not provided		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
0-4 years	800	11.2	355	5.0	4	0.1	1159	16.2
5-12 years	3032	42.5	1064	14.9	12	0.2	4108	57.6
13-17 years	1245	17.4	504	7.1	0	0.0	1749	24.5
18 years	84	1.2	37	0.5	0	0.0	121	1.7
Total	5,161	72.3	1,960	27.5	16	0.2	7,137	100.0

2.3 Reported disabilities

Primary disability type was recorded for 4,157 children (58%). Where primary disability type was known, the most frequently reported primary disability type was autism (1,791; 43%), followed by ID (901; 22%), and physical (218; 5%).

Table 2 shows the breakdown of primary disability by sex.

Table 2 Primary disability among children registered for children's disability services in CHO 7 on NASS by sex, 2022

Primary disability	Male		Female		Data on sex not provided		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Autism	1,404	78.4	386	21.6	~	~	1,791	43.1
Intellectual	578	64.2	323	35.8	0	0.0	901	21.7
Physical	130	59.6	88	40.4	0	0.0	218	5.2
Visual	59	50	59	50	0	0.0	118	2.8
Developmental delay (under 10 years only)	78	67.2	38	32.8	0	0.0	116	2.8
Neurological	62	60.2	41	39.8	0	0.0	103	2.5
Speech and/or language	23	74.2	8	25.8	0	0.0	31	0.7
Hearing loss and/or deafness	12	57.1	9	42.9	0	0.0	21	0.5
Specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual)	~	~	5	62.5	0	0.0	8	0.2
Mental Health*	~	~	~	~	0	0.0	~	~
Not verified**	621	73.3	226	26.7	0	0.0	847	20.4
Total	2,972	71.5	1,184	28.5	~	~	4,157	100.0

* All those with a primary disability of mental health had a secondary disability type eligible for HSE disability-funded services.

** Not verified- Where the type of disability has not been verified for an individual by an appropriate healthcare professional.

~ In order to protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values less than 5, or where individuals may be identified, have been suppressed.

2.4 Additional disabilities

A total of 689 children had at least one additional disability along with their primary disability recorded. The most commonly reported additional disability was a speech and/or language disability (249), followed by autism (165), and an intellectual disability (152).

3 Profile of adults engaging with adult disability services in CHO 7

3.1 Number of adults registered on NASS in CHO 7 in 2022

In 2022, there were 3,179 adults engaging with adult disability services in CHO 7.

3.2 Demographic profile

There were more male (1,802; 57%) adults registered in CHO 7 compared with females (1,377; 43%). Table 3 shows the age and sex breakdown of adults in CHO 7.

Table 3 Number of adults registered in adult disability services in CHO 7 by age group and sex, 2022

Age groups	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
18-24 years	401	12.6	215	6.8	616	19.4
25-39 years	524	16.5	385	12.1	909	28.6
40-59 years	598	18.8	461	14.5	1,059	33.3
60-69 years	218	6.9	222	7	440	13.8
≥ 70 years	61	1.9	94	3	155	4.9
Total	1,802	56.7	1,377	43.3	3,179	100

3.3 Occupational status

Information on occupational status was available for 90% (2,871) of the 3,179 adults accessing or requiring an adult HSE disability-funded service in 2022, in CHO 7, of whom:

- Over two-fifths (43%; 1,220) were in a training or day programme.
- Over one-fifth (22%; 630) were unable to work due to a disability.
- Twelve percent (353) were unemployed.
- Twelve percent (330) were in paid employment.
- Five percent (154) were retired.
- The remaining 6% had either 'other' as their occupational status (116;4%), were students (59;2%), or engaged in home duties (9, <1%).

3.4 Ethnicity or cultural background

Where ethnicity or cultural background information was known (2,787; 88% of the total), 96% (2,680) of adults were Irish. A total of 2% (41) were from any other white background and 1% were Black African (35).

3.5 Living arrangements

Information on living arrangements was available for 98% (3,113) of the 3,179 adults accessing or requiring adult HSE disability-funded services in CHO 7, of whom:

- Three fifths (60%; 1,869) were residing with family members.
- Nearly one third (32%; 984) were living in a residential setting.
- Seven percent were living alone (226).
- The remaining 1% (34) were living with non-relatives.

3.6 Reported disabilities

The most frequently reported disability amongst adults in CHO 7 was an ID (2,509; 79%), followed by a neurological disability (238; 8%) and a physical disability (142; 5%) (Table 4).

Table 4 Primary disability among adults registered in adult disability services in CHO 7 on NASS by sex, 2022

Primary disability	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Intellectual	1446	57.6	1063	42.4	2509	78.9
Neurological	115	48.3	123	51.7	238	7.5
Physical	64	45.1	78	54.9	142	4.5
Autism	97	76.4	30	23.6	127	4.0
Visual	30	46.9	34	53.1	64	2.0
Hearing loss and/or deafness	20	41.7	28	58.3	48	1.5
Mental health*	28	63.6	16	36.4	44	1.4
DeafBlind-dual sensory	~	~	~	~	5	0.2
Specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual)	0	0	~	~	~	~
Speech and/or language	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Not verified**	~	~	0	0	~	~
Total	1,802	56.7	1,377	43.3	3179	100.0

* All those with a primary disability of mental health had a secondary disability type eligible for HSE disability-funded services.

** Not verified- Where the type of disability has not been verified for an individual by an appropriate healthcare professional.

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3.7 Additional disabilities

A total of 944 adults had at least one additional disability along with their primary disability recorded. The most commonly reported additional disability was a physical disability (408), followed by a speech and/or language disability (210), and autism (180).

3.8 Primary carer

Of adults registered on NASS who do not live in a residential setting (2,195; 69%), 75% (1,642) reported having a primary carer; almost all of these individuals live with their primary carer (95%; 1,556).

The majority (82%; 1,344) of primary carers were parents, 9% (151) were siblings, 5% (75) were a wife/husband/partner and 2% (31) were a non-relative. The remaining 2% were either another relative (17; 1%), a daughter or son (13; <1%), or a foster parent (9; <1%). Age was recorded for 70% (1,152) of primary carers; 35% (399) of whom were aged 60 years and over.

4 Services

NASS collects information on the HSE disability-funded services people with disabilities use and/or will require in the next 5 years, as reported by their service providers, in the following categories:

- Residential and home support services
- Day services
- Day and overnight respite, and
- Support services (including personal assistant (PA), multidisciplinary, and specialised disability supports).

The information presented in this section represents whether a service was recorded as:

- **Current services:** The number of places accessed in the reporting year.
- **Enhancement required to current services:** The number of places accessed which require an enhancement in the next 12 months; for example, additional hours/days or additional support.
- **New services required:** The number of new places required for those not in receipt of that service but who require it now or will require it within the next 5 years.

This section reports on children and adults engaging with disability services. Information on residential services, respite (day and overnight) services, and supports for daily living is presented for the full cohort of people. Information on specialist supports for children is incomplete; therefore, these data are only presented for adults.

Individuals may access one or more services within our broad categories of services outlined e.g. a person can access both centre based day respite and day respite in their own home over the calendar year.

4.1 Current service provision

The following outlines 2022 data for current service provision in CHO 7.

- A total of 986 people were recorded as living in a residential setting in CHO 7.
 - The majority (98%; 971) were adults.
 - A house in the community (481) was the most common type of residential setting, followed by a residential centre (283) and a community group home (180).
 - Of the 986 people living in a residential setting, 20% (193) require an enhancement to their current service.
- There were 411 people accessing home support.
 - Of these, 95 were children and 316 were adults.
 - Of the 411 people in receipt of home support, 35% (142) required an enhancement to their service.
- A total of 2,591 adults accessed at least one day service.
 - A day programme was the most commonly accessed (1,927; 74%) type of day service.
 - Rehabilitative training was received by 265 adults.
 - Of the 2,591 adults accessing a day service, 19% (496) require an enhancement to their current service.
- Overall, 24 people accessed day respite in CHO 7.
 - Of these, 8 were children and 16 were adults.
 - Of the day respite places provided, 20 were centre-based respite.
- A total of 299 people accessed 302 overnight respite places.
 - Of these, 296 were adults.
 - The most commonly accessed type of overnight respite was house in the community or a dedicated respite centre (236), followed by holiday respite (hotel/B&B/hostel) (60).
 - A total of 5,007 nights of overnight respite were received in CHO 7. Children accessed 245 nights and adults accessed 4,762 nights in 2022.
 - Of the 299 people accessing overnight respite, 35% (106) require an enhancement to their current service.
- There were 86 people accessing the services of a PA, of whom 85 were adults.

- There were 428 people accessing community support, of whom 11 were children and 417 were adults.
- Of the 7,137 children registered on NASS in CHO 7, 97% (6,938) were assessed and found to require the support of a multidisciplinary CDNT.
- 2,503 adults accessed 6,584 specialist supports.
 - The most commonly accessed specialist support services were social work (855), speech and language therapy (777) and occupational therapy (691).
 - Of the 2,503 adults accessing specialist support services, 34% (861) required an enhancement to at least one of their specialist supports.

4.2 New services required for 2022–2027

As outlined in Section 1, NASS collects information on the HSE disability-funded services that people with disabilities currently use and/or will require in the next 5 years. New services required are the number of new places that service providers have identified as being required by people who are not yet in receipt of a particular type of service but who need it now or will need it within the next 5 years.

The following outlines data regarding new services required for 2022-2027, as identified by service providers.

- A total of 292 people were identified by service providers as requiring a residential service, most of whom were adults (287).
 - Of the residential services required, 94% (274) were for a place in a house in the community with four or fewer residents.
- Home support was required by 76 adults.
- Overall, 74 adults required a day service, of which 65 required a day programme.
- A total of 12 people require a day respite service.
- Overall, 194 people require overnight respite.
 - Overnight respite in a house in the community or a dedicated respite centre is the most commonly required (128), followed by holiday respite in a residential centre or hotel/B&B/hostel (54).
- Overall, 457 adults require at least one specialist support.
 - The specialist supports most commonly required are speech and language therapy (98), occupational therapy (91), and clinical psychology (88).