



# SECTION D

Community Health and  
Welfare Services

## Section D: Community Health and Welfare Services

### Section D

#### Community Health and Welfare Services

##### General Medical Services

Table D1

##### Number with Medical Cards or GP Visit Cards 2009-2010

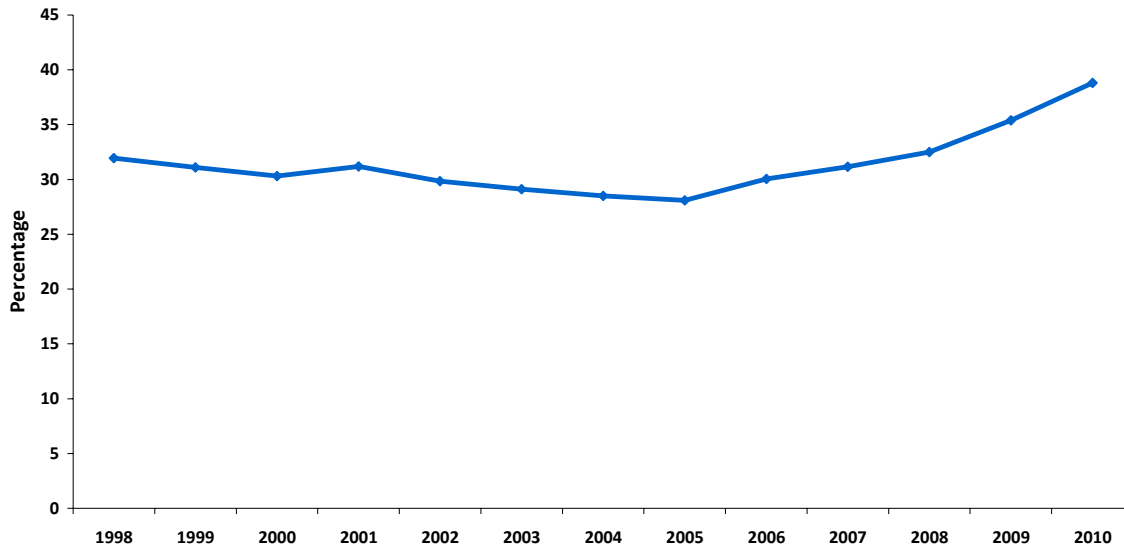
Local Health Office	Number of Persons (including dependants) covered by Medical or GP Visit Cards as of 31st December			
	2009	2009	2010	2010
	Medical Cards	GP Visit Cards	Medical Cards	GP Visit Cards
<b>Dublin Mid-Leinster</b>				
Dublin South	23,102	1,017	23,933	1,052
Dublin South East	17,156	756	18,311	938
Dublin South City	29,124	720	29,929	899
Dublin South West	53,260	2,307	57,177	2,613
Dublin West	48,258	2,959	49,908	3,790
Kildare / West Wicklow	53,325	2,927	61,265	3,729
Wicklow	34,356	2,017	38,781	2,178
Laois / Offaly	52,067	3,520	57,887	4,524
Longford / Westmeath	43,858	3,023	47,192	3,707
<b>Total</b>	<b>354,506</b>	<b>19,246</b>	<b>384,383</b>	<b>23,430</b>
<b>Dublin North East</b>				
Dublin North West	52,521	2,076	62,599	3,983
North Central Dublin	37,776	1,017	39,483	1,750
North Dublin	59,182	2,256	69,974	3,474
Cavan / Monaghan	47,645	3,828	53,302	4,240
Louth	47,594	3,379	53,718	3,705
Meath	46,261	4,159	56,375	4,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>290,979</b>	<b>16,715</b>	<b>335,451</b>	<b>21,992</b>
<b>West</b>				
Galway	87,377	6,733	93,764	7,663
Mayo	58,776	3,355	62,148	3,817
Roscommon	26,606	1,730	28,390	1,793
Donegal	81,199	6,260	85,764	6,849
Sligo / Leitrim	36,709	2,897	39,790	3,381
Clare	42,563	2,287	46,227	2,713
North Tipperary / East Limerick	26,393	1,671	28,738	2,003
Limerick	62,999	3,760	69,160	4,682
<b>Total</b>	<b>422,622</b>	<b>28,693</b>	<b>453,981</b>	<b>32,901</b>
<b>South</b>				
Cork South Lee	51,629	4,718	54,528	5,684
Cork North Lee	65,050	5,840	71,300	6,721
West Cork	20,466	1,891	21,452	2,285
Kerry	51,040	3,999	54,125	4,971
North Cork	32,423	3,434	34,917	3,867
Carlow / Kilkenny	49,599	4,033	53,688	4,653
Waterford	48,285	3,109	52,660	3,308
South Tipperary	35,894	2,375	38,325	2,426
Wexford	56,067	4,272	60,999	5,185
<b>Total</b>	<b>410,453</b>	<b>33,671</b>	<b>441,994</b>	<b>39,100</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,478,560</b>	<b>98,325</b>	<b>1,615,809</b>	<b>117,423</b>

Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service

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Figure D1

Percentage of Population Covered by Medical Cards, 1998-2010 (Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards from 2006)



Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service.

In interpreting this information, it is necessary to take into account the fact that the HSE (and before 2005 the Health Boards) has undertaken a substantial programme of work in recent years to improve the data quality in the General Medical Services (GMS) Scheme client database.

For example, in 2003 and 2004, work carried out by the health boards led to a deletion of approximately 104,000 inappropriate entries, where, for example, there were duplicate entries for the same person, the expiry date on the card had passed, the person had moved away or had deceased.

This exercise did not involve the reduction in the actual number of persons who held medical cards but rather resulted in a more accurate picture of the individuals in receipt of GP services under the GMS Scheme.

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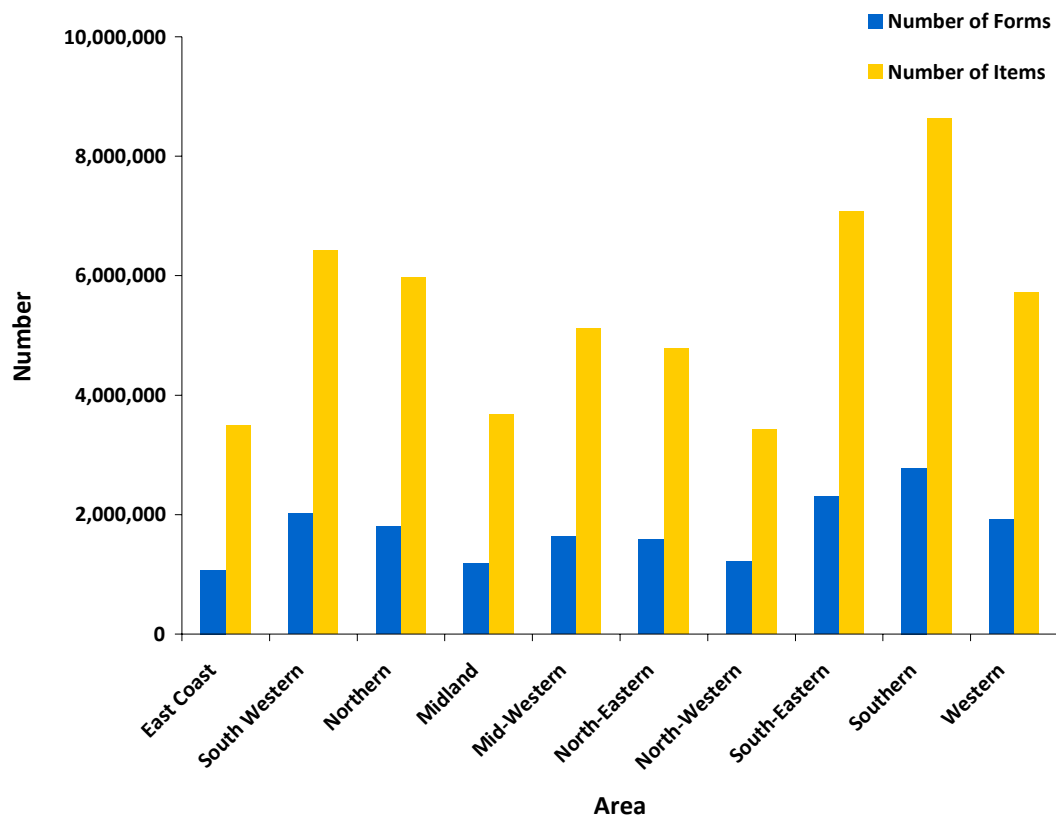
Table D2

### GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES: NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTION FORMS AND ITEMS, 2008 - 2010

Area	Number of Forms			Number of Items			Items Per Form		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
East Coast	1,017,824	993,022	1,069,987	3,313,978	3,252,646	3,487,693	3.26	3.28	3.26
South Western	1,811,548	1,884,323	2,023,789	5,710,301	5,995,036	6,427,743	3.15	3.18	3.18
Northern	1,653,006	1,720,016	1,793,302	5,386,385	5,683,891	5,970,590	3.26	3.30	3.33
Midland	1,049,184	1,112,330	1,181,149	3,263,230	3,464,279	3,676,790	3.11	3.11	3.11
Mid-Western	1,467,904	1,528,655	1,633,307	4,543,217	4,783,532	5,109,996	3.10	3.13	3.13
North-Eastern	1,357,289	1,438,637	1,581,461	4,151,331	4,423,611	4,786,318	3.06	3.07	3.03
North-Western	1,101,717	1,145,110	1,218,124	3,051,204	3,211,631	3,426,880	2.77	2.80	2.81
South-Eastern	1,988,249	2,124,830	2,303,273	6,090,929	6,546,461	7,073,893	3.06	3.08	3.07
Southern	2,509,295	2,610,466	2,780,296	7,682,044	8,093,563	8,635,135	3.06	3.10	3.11
Western	1,692,464	1,775,985	1,923,329	5,019,244	5,267,269	5,713,145	2.97	2.97	2.97
<b>National</b>	<b>15,648,480</b>	<b>16,333,374</b>	<b>17,508,017</b>	<b>48,211,863</b>	<b>50,721,919</b>	<b>54,308,183</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>3.10</b>

Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service.

**Figure D2**  
**General Medical Services: Number of Prescription Forms and Items**  
**by Area, 2010**

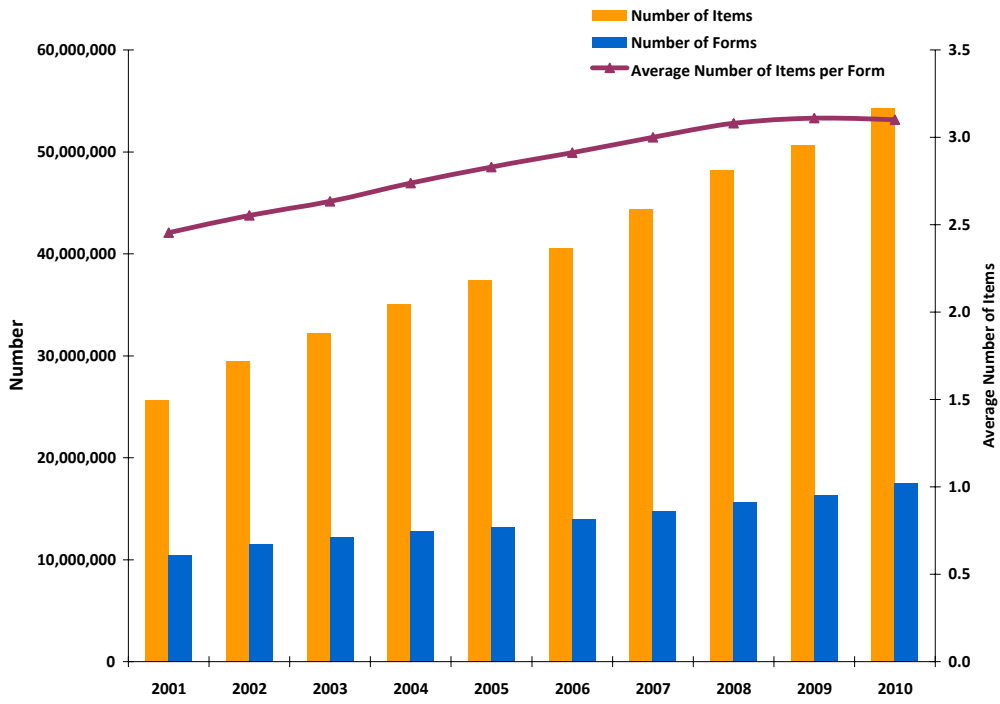


Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service

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Figure D3

General Medical Services Dispensed Items: Numbers of Items, Numbers of Forms and Average Number of Items per Form, 2001 to 2010



Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service

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**TABLE D3A**  
**PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES: NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS AS AT**  
**31-Dec-08**

Area	GMS	GPVC	DP	LTI
Eastern	387,576	15,626	554,003	60,885
Midland	86,747	5,482	101,300	6,937
Mid-Western	122,537	6,636	166,918	8,185
North-Eastern	120,137	9,634	147,643	9,500
North-Western	109,351	7,836	65,259	6,842
South-Eastern	167,346	12,091	161,314	12,734
Southern	202,645	17,847	266,412	8,672
Western	155,781	10,394	161,564	6,652
<b>National</b>	<b>1,352,120</b>	<b>85,546</b>	<b>1,624,413</b>	<b>120,407</b>
<b>% of Population</b>	<b>30.6%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>36.7%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>

Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
 GMS = General Medical Services Scheme  
 DP = Drugs Payments Scheme  
 LTI = Long Term Illness Scheme  
 GPVC = GP Visit Card

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**TABLE D3B**  
**PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES: NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS AS AT**  
**31-Dec-09**

Area	GMS	GPVC	DP	LTI
Eastern	408,060	18,052	539,188	63,906
Midland	95,925	6,543	101,708	7,453
Mid-Western	131,955	7,718	159,029	8,647
North-Eastern	141,500	11,366	147,811	10,241
North-Western	117,908	9,157	63,000	7,207
South-Eastern	189,845	13,789	149,983	13,602
Southern	220,608	19,882	266,122	9,259
Western	172,759	11,818	160,607	7,321
<b>National</b>	<b>1,478,560</b>	<b>98,325</b>	<b>1,587,448</b>	<b>127,636</b>
<b>% of Population</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>35.6%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
 GMS = General Medical Services Scheme  
 DP = Drugs Payments Scheme  
 LTI = Long Term Illness Scheme  
 GPVC = GP Visit Card



**TABLE D3C**  
**PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES:**  
**NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010**

HSE Area	GMS	GPVC	DP	LTI
Eastern	451,360	24,406	525,606	66,911
Midland	105,079	8,231	99,784	8,056
Mid-Western	144,125	9,398	164,541	9,025
North-Eastern	163,395	12,785	139,757	10,967
North-Western	125,554	10,230	58,727	7,489
South-Eastern	205,672	15,572	143,700	14,355
Southern	236,322	23,528	260,032	10,180
Western	184,302	13,273	164,901	7,943
<b>National</b>	<b>1,615,809</b>	<b>117,423</b>	<b>1,557,048</b>	<b>134,926</b>
<b>% of Population</b>	<b>36.5%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>35.2%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service

GMS = General Medical Services Scheme

DP = Drugs Payments Scheme

LTI = Long Term Illness Scheme

GPVC = GP Visit Card

## Drugs Payments Scheme

In 1999, the Drug Payment Scheme (DPS) replaced the schemes whereby patients reclaimed drug expenditure from the former health boards. The DPS allows individuals and families who do not hold medical cards to limit the amount they have to spend on prescribed drugs. Under the Drugs Payment Scheme, no individual or family is required to pay more than €120 (increasing to €132 from January 2012) in any calendar month for approved prescribed drugs, medicines and appliances.

All those who are ordinarily resident in Ireland are eligible to apply for the Drugs Payment Scheme as long as they do not hold a current medical card. You can use the drug payment scheme in conjunction with a Long Term Illness Book.

Application forms for the Drugs Payment Scheme can be obtained from the local pharmacy or the local Health Service Executive Health Office.

Table D4

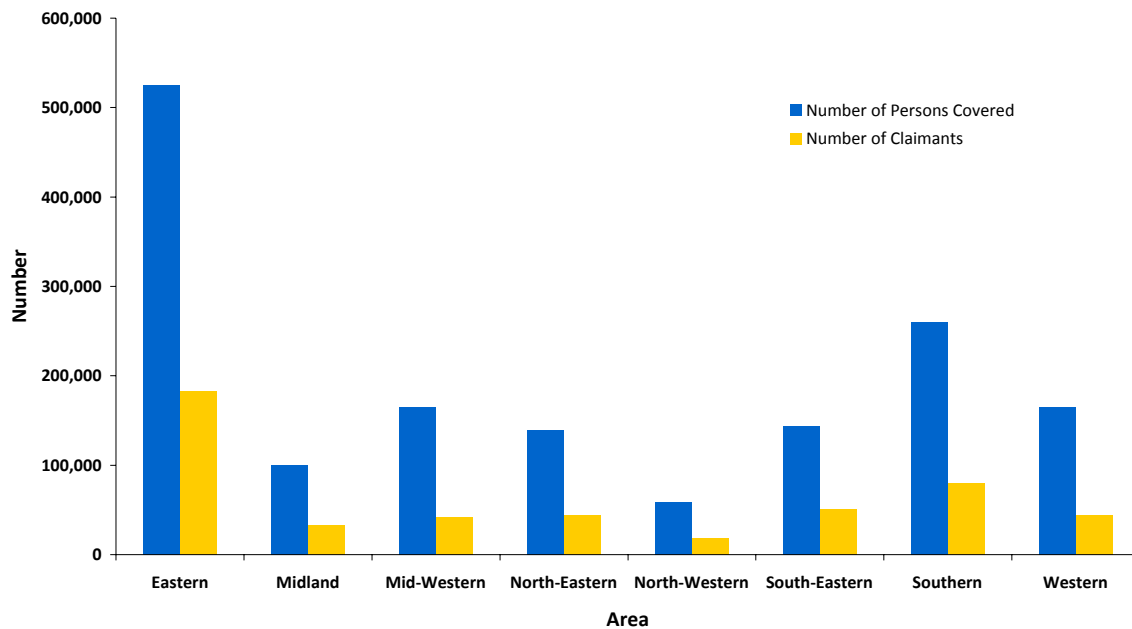
**DRUGS PAYMENTS SCHEME:****NUMBER OF PERSONS COVERED AND UNIQUE NUMBER OF CLAIMANTS BY  
HSE AREA AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008-2010**

Area	Number of Persons Covered			Number of Claimants		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Eastern	554,003	539,188	525,606	240,810	243,837	183,305
Midland	101,300	101,708	99,784	46,692	42,258	32,567
Mid-Western	166,918	159,029	164,541	61,118	57,404	41,486
North-Eastern	147,643	147,811	139,757	64,627	60,618	44,413
North-Western	65,259	63,000	58,727	25,760	24,967	18,022
South-Eastern	161,314	149,983	143,700	74,483	69,556	50,330
Southern	266,412	266,122	260,032	109,278	104,524	80,012
Western	161,564	160,607	164,901	64,819	59,963	44,415
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>1,624,413</b>	<b>1,587,448</b>	<b>1,557,048</b>	<b>687,587</b>	<b>663,127</b>	<b>494,550</b>

Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service

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**Figure D4**  
**Drugs Payments Scheme - Number of persons covered and unique number of claimants by Area, 31st December 2010**



Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service

## Section D: Community Health and Welfare Services

### Long Term Illness Scheme

Under the Health Act, 1970 the Health Service Executive may arrange for the supply, without charge, of drugs, medicines and medical and surgical appliances to people with a specified condition, for the treatment of that condition, through the Long Term Illness Scheme (LTI). The LTI does not cover GP fees or hospital co-payments. The conditions are: mental handicap, mental illness (for people under 16 only), phenylketonuria, cystic fibrosis, spina bifida, hydrocephalus, diabetes mellitus, diabetes insipidus, haemophilia, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophies, parkinsonism, conditions arising from thalidomide and acute leukaemia.

Products which are necessary for the management of the specified illness are available to LTI patients. Other products are available according to the patient's eligibility.

Non-reimbursed medical expenses above a set annual threshold may be offset against tax.

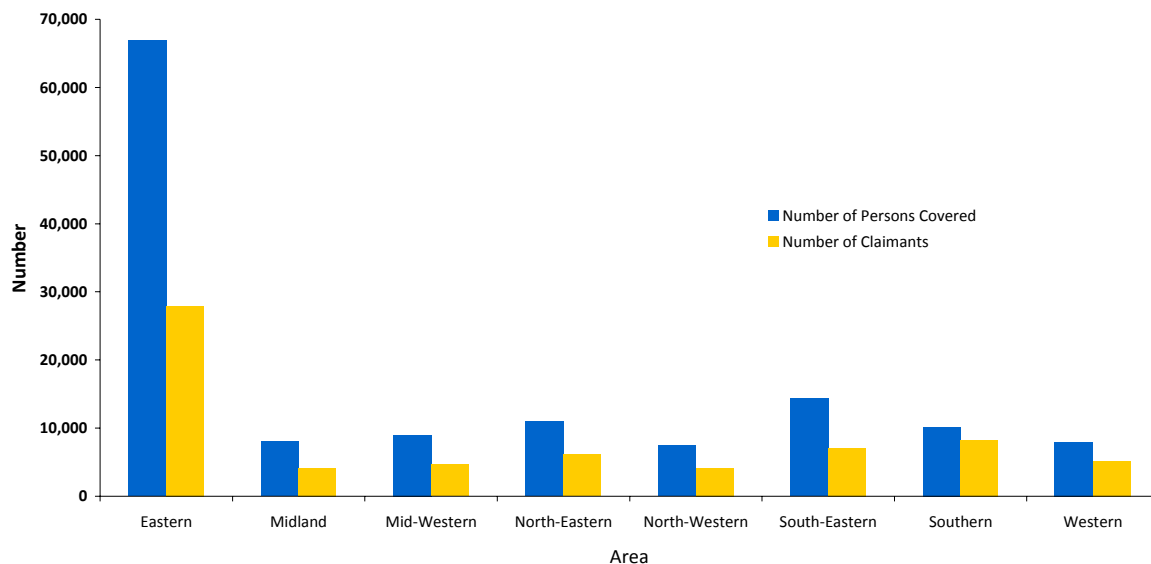
**Table D5**  
**LONG TERM ILLNESS SCHEME -**  
**NUMBER OF PERSONS COVERED AND UNIQUE NUMBER OF CLAIMANTS**  
**BY HSE AREA AS AT 31 DEC 2008 - 2010**

Area	Number of Persons Covered			Number of Claimants		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Eastern	60,885	63,906	66,911	26,090	27,154	27,904
Midland	6,937	7,453	8,056	3,797	3,981	4,197
Mid-Western	8,185	8,647	9,025	4,550	4,640	4,650
North-Eastern	9,500	10,241	10,967	5,687	5,956	6,090
North-Western	6,842	7,207	7,489	3,858	4,065	4,163
South-Eastern	12,734	13,602	14,355	6,830	7,014	7,094
Southern	8,672	9,259	10,180	7,349	7,891	8,227
Western	6,652	7,321	7,943	4,773	5,030	5,167
NATIONAL	120,407	127,636	134,926	62,934	65,731	67,492

Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service.

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Figure D5  
Long-Term Illness Scheme - Number of Persons Covered and Unique Number of Claimants by Area, 31st December 2010



Source: Primary Care Reimbursement Service

### **Immunisation Uptake Statistics for Ireland**

The immunisation statistics for children at 24 months of age are presented in Table D6.

Childhood vaccinations have made a major contribution to reducing the incidence of infectious disease in Ireland and in eradicating diseases such as polio and smallpox. Monitoring immunisation uptake is necessary to identify under vaccinated populations and to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to increase uptake. Uptake of 95% is recommended to control and prevent outbreaks of disease such as measles.



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**TABLE D6**  
**IMMUNISATION RATES AT 24 MONTHS - PERCENTAGE UPTAKE BY HSE AREA, 2010**

HSE Area	Number in cohort †	Diphtheria	Pertussis	Tetanus	Haemophilus Influenzae Type B	Polio	Hepatitis B	Meningococcal Group C	Pneumococcal Conjugate	Measles, Mumps and Rubella
HSE-Eastern	26,607	93	93	93	93	93	94	85	87	89
HSE-Midland	2,557	93	93	93	93	93	93	82	89	90
HSE-Mid-Western	5,999	94	94	94	94	94	95	88	91	92
HSE-North-Eastern	6,167	95	95	95	95	95	95	92	92	93
HSE-North-Western	3,944	96	96	96	95	96	95	88	88	92
HSE-South-Eastern	8,434	94	94	94	94	94	94	88	90	93
HSE-Southern	7,897	93	93	93	94	93	92	83	87	89
HSE-Western	7,149	93	93	93	93	93	93	85	85	88
<b>Ireland †</b>	<b>68,754</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>90</b>

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

na=not available

Since September 1st 2008 the new primary childhood immunisation schedule has been implemented.

The changes to the primary schedule for children born on or after 1st July 2008 include the introduction of a hepatitis B vaccine (as part of a 6 in 1 vaccine) given at 2, 4, 6 months of age, introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine given at 2, 6 and 12 months of age and a change in timing of meningococcal serogroup C conjugate vaccination, now given at 4, 6 and 13 months of age. Therefore, HepB3 and PCV3 uptake data presented here are only for those born between 01/07/2008 and 31/12/2008.

† The 2010 data for those at 24 months are incomplete as the following were unavailable: the Quarter 1 2010 HSE-Midland and Southern Area data, the Quarter 2 2010 HSE-Midland Area data and the Quarter 4 2010 HSE-North Eastern Area data. The national HepB3 and PCV3 cohorts (combined Quarters 3 and 4 data ) were 36,602 and 36,551, respectively.

### FOOD SAFETY

The Food Unit develops and co-ordinates policy relating to food safety and food related issues.

The Unit's principal functions are:

- \* to provide advice to the Minister and Minister of State on food safety;
- \* to develop policy in relation to food safety, including contributing to its development at EU level;
- \* to ensure Ireland's obligations in relation to food safety legislation are met in accordance with the commitment in the Health Strategy;
- \* putting in place appropriate arrangements and structures for the implementation of food safety policy and legislation.

## Section D: Community Health and Welfare Services

Table D7

**FOOD PREMISES UNDER HSE SUPERVISION  
AND INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT ON THESE PREMISES, 2007 - 2010**

<b>Establishments and Inspections</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Number of food establishments	42,210	43,926	45,303	46,355
Number of food establishments inspected	28,028	27,337	28,793	27,904
Total number of inspections	48,597	46,873	45,485	41,966
Total number of infringements	19,582	18,169	17,141	13,495
Establishments committing infringements	8,118	7,618	7,331	5,652
<b>Type of Infringements</b>				
Hygiene Training & Risk Assessment/HACCP	32.1%	38.9%	42.1%	45.7%
General Hygiene	50.9%	50.2%	48.7%	42.4%
Composition	6.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Chemical/Physical Contamination	2.5%	1.2%	1.0%	1.5%
Labelling and Presentation	7.8%	7.5%	7.2%	9.2%
Others	0.3%	1.9%	1.0%	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,582</b>	<b>18,169</b>	<b>17,141</b>	<b>13,495</b>

Source: Food Safety Authority of Ireland

**TABLE D8**  
**NUMBER OF FOOD SAMPLES ANALYSED BY PUBLIC**  
**ANALYST LABORATORIES 2007 - 2010**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Total	11,814	11,820	10,792	9,852

Source: Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

**TABLE D9**  
**NUMBER OF FOOD SAMPLES ANALYSED BY OFFICIAL**  
**FOOD MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORIES 2007 - 2010**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Number of samples	13,446	13,614	14,262	12,528

Source: Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

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**TABLE D10**  
**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD SAFETY**  
**AUTHORITY OF IRELAND ACT 1998, FOR 2007 - 2010**

Type of Notice or Order Served	2007	2008	2009	2010
Improvement Notice	237	214	269	251
Improvement Order	6	6	7	4
Closure Order	37	34	34	57
Prohibition Order	16	6	13	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>324</b>

Source: Food Safety Authority of Ireland.