

Men in prison referred for psychiatric admission: Outcomes during a bed crisis over five years.

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INTRODUCTION:

- Ireland has one forensic hospital, the Central Mental Hospital (CMH) and among the lowest numbers of forensic mental health beds per capita in the western world.
- Reduced general psychiatry beds nationally, more NGRI findings and increasing prison numbers have led to patients remaining on waiting lists for extended periods in recent years.
- This accumulation of men in prison has been commented on by the Committee for Prevention of Torture in their 2020 report¹.
- Court diversion services² as recommended in government Policy *A Vision for Change*³ may help mitigate this, pending the opening of the new Central Mental Hospital in Portrane in 2021.

THE IRISH TIMES
Tue, Feb 23, 2021
NEWS | SPORT | BUSINESS | OPINION | LIFE & STYLE | CULTURE
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Bed capacity in the Central Mental Hospital at 'critical' level
Waiting list of 20 for CMH, 20 of whom are referrals from Irish Prison Service

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Séan Ó Siadhail

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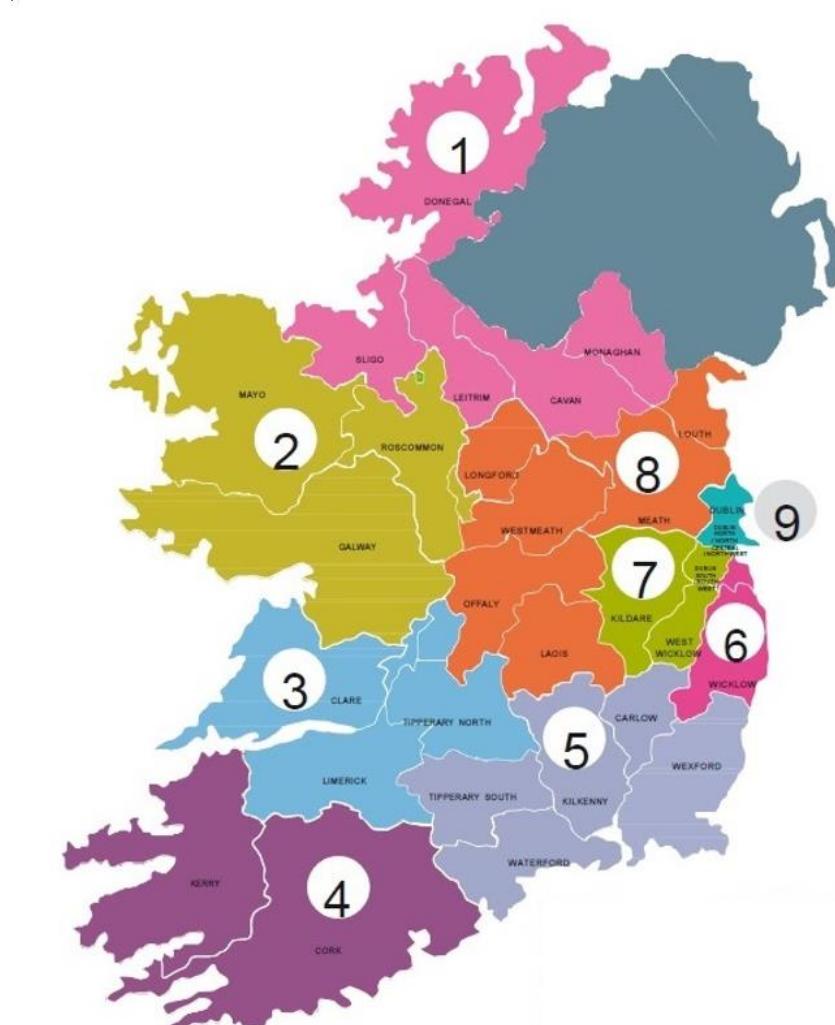
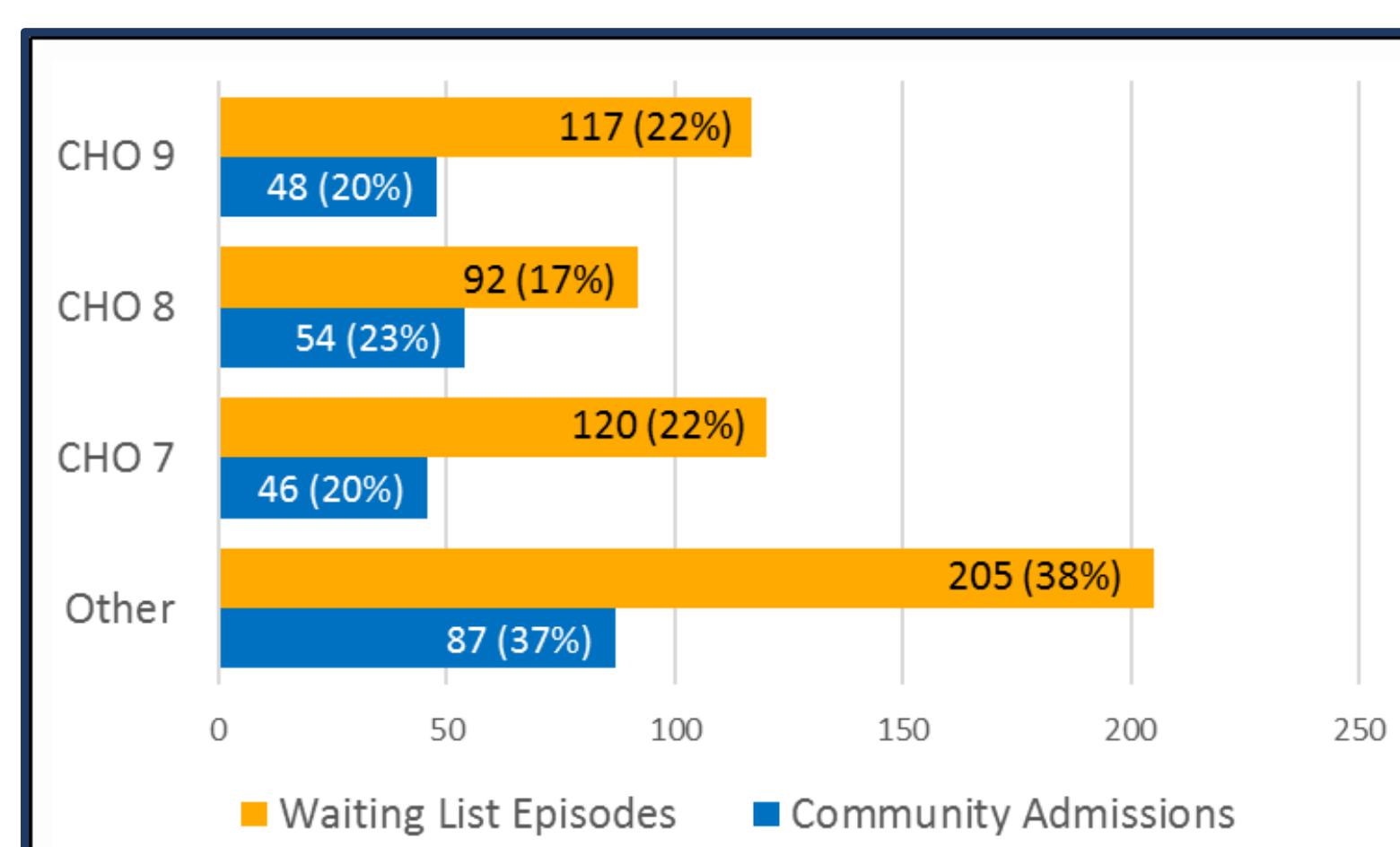
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RESULTS – CATCHMENT AREAS

- Catchment areas (based on address, most recent previous contact or place of arrest) showed almost half (47%) from catchment areas around Dublin.
- Areas most represented included Tallaght University Hospital (14%), DOP Drogheda (11%), Ashlin Centre (8%) and St. James' Hospital (6%).
- Half (49%) of cases were homeless.

RESULTS – COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATIONS

- The three CHOs most represented over 5 years were CHOs 7, 8 and 9.
- These accounted for 60% of all male prison cases placed on the CMH waiting list and a similar proportion of community admission over the five years.



RESULTS – PICLS SERVICE AT CLOVERHILL

- The Prison Inreach and Court Liaison Service (PICLS)² at Cloverhill arranged/assessed for males on the CMH prison waiting list from 2015-2019:
 - Half (45/90) of all CMH admissions.
 - 79% (186/235) of all community admissions (remand and sentenced)
 - 90% (179/198) of all diversions to community approved centres of remands from the waiting list



DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS:

- Over 60% of men placed on the CMH waiting list received psychiatric admission.
- The opening of the new CMH at Portrane in 2021 and associated ICRU beds will help address the needs of people in prison requiring admission. Not all remands need this level of security.
- Diversion via the courts of Remands to Approved Centres was the single largest contributor to admissions over the five years studied.
- Sharing the Vision*⁴ states that the effectiveness of diversion services “depends on ongoing resourcing and access to facilities and services in the community to which individuals can be diverted”.
- There is a need for admission facilities for homeless people remanded after minor offences, particularly in areas of greatest need.

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Outcomes

