

I Am A Reason

Pre-Budget Submission 2024



Mental
Health
Reform

**BUDGET
2024**



Mental Health Reform, together with our 81 member organisations, call on the Government to

Invest an additional €115 Million in our Mental Health Services for Budget 2024

€30 Million

Maintenance of existing services



€85 Million

Development of services to address unmet need

WHY INVEST IN MENTAL HEALTH?

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people seeking mental health care in Ireland has drastically increased. Many children and young people are not receiving appropriate or timely support due to staff shortages and a lack of resources in the mental health system.

The voluntary and community sector plays a vital role in the delivery of mental health services and supports. Despite the importance of the sector, the funding provided by the State is often unsustainable and insufficient to meet demand.

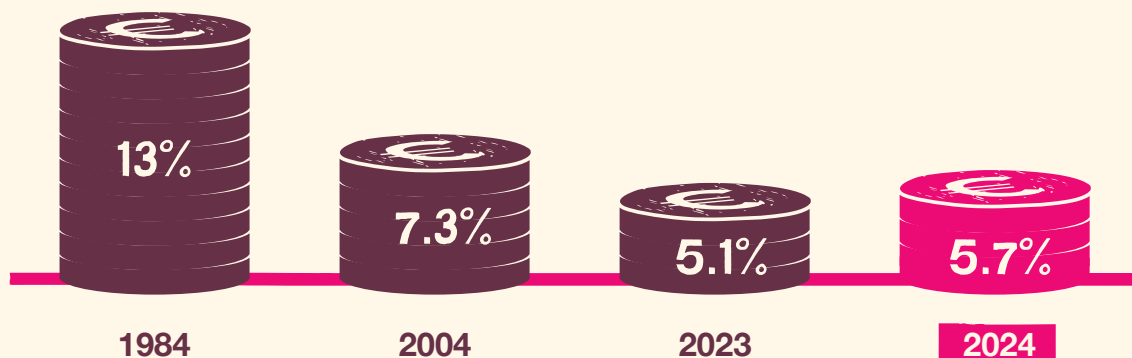
The need for more funding could not be clearer yet the percentage of the health budget allocated to mental health has continued to fall over the decades. This year, spending on mental health represents only 5.1% of the total health budget. This is around half of the Government's own target and significantly less than international standards.

Each and every one of us deserves access to timely, high-quality mental health services no matter where we live.

We all have a reason to invest in mental health.

We all are a reason to invest in mental health.

% of the total health budget allocated to Mental Health 1984-2023





WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT NEED TO INVEST IN?

Mental Health Budget

10%

Funding for mental health has stalled between **5 and 6%** of Ireland's total health budget since this Government came into power in 2020. The funding allocation for mental health fails to match the increased demand for mental health services and the rising rates of inflation.

In 2023, the national mental health budget represents only **5.1%** of the total health budget. Sláintecare recommended at least **10%** in 2017. The UK spends **13% - 14%**.

The Government must increase spending on mental health to **10%** of the total health budget.

Voluntary and Community Sector €25M

The **voluntary and community mental health sector** is experiencing a growing demand for mental health supports, **in particular from children and young people**. The sector delivers a range of prevention and early intervention services which are key to preventing the development of more complex mental health issues.

Many organisations must operate with limited public funding which poses significant challenges for service provision, recruitment and retention. Sustainable, multi-annual funding is required to enable the sector to continue providing essential services.

Leadership in Mental Health €200K

The instatement of a **national leadership role** for mental health in the HSE is a key commitment in the current Programme for Government. This role is fundamental to ensure oversight and leadership in the improvement of mental health services across Ireland.

Youth Mental Health Pathfinder €800K

The **Youth Mental Health Pathfinder** project is designed to enable more effective collaboration between Government Departments in youth mental health. Investment is needed in Budget 2024 to improve mental health outcomes for children and young people.

Reform of the Mental Health Act, 2001 €2M

The **Mental Health Act, 2001** is legislation that governs the rights of people who are admitted and treated in an in-patient facility for mental health care. The upcoming reform of the Act will require funding to support key changes in our mental health services.

Independent Advocacy Service €2M

People receiving mental health care on a voluntary basis currently do not have basic rights to **information and advocacy**. The Government must provide a fully funded, nationally available independent advocacy service for people of all ages with mental health difficulties.

Sharing the Vision €15M

The **Sharing the Vision Implementation Plan** sets out milestones for the improvement of mental health services in 2024. Funding is crucial to ensure this policy delivers meaningful changes in our mental health system.

National Clinical Programmes in Mental Health €40M

The **National Clinical Programmes** in mental health provide vital specialist services across a range of areas including **Dual Diagnosis, Self-Harm/Suicide, Early Intervention in Psychosis, Eating Disorders, ADHD and Perinatal Mental Health**. These programmes received no additional funding this year so investment in Budget 2024 is critical.



GET INVOLVED
mentalhealthreform.ie

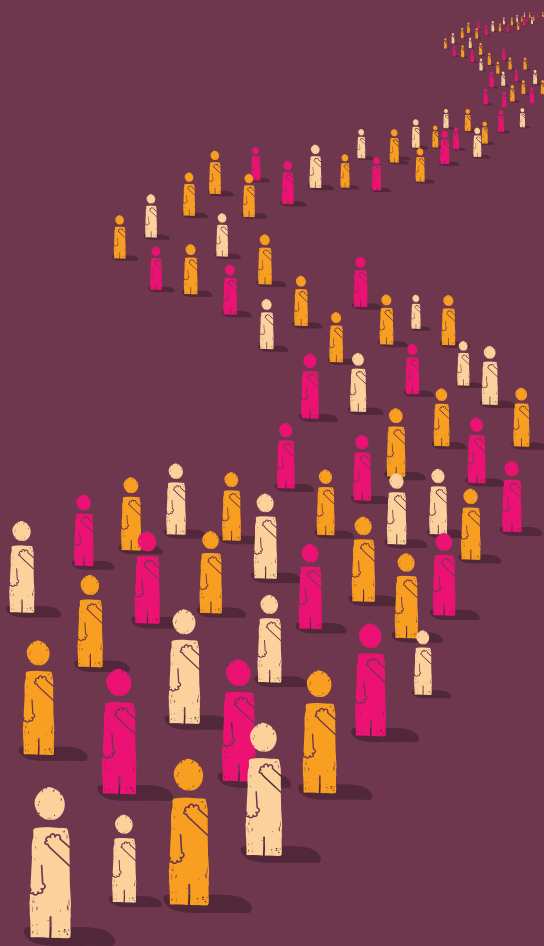
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