



NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT TREATMENT UNIT (SATU)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ANNUAL KEY SERVICE ACTIVITY

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Introduction

The six Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs) in Ireland provide clinical, forensic and supportive care for those who have experienced sexual violence. These units are located in Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Mullingar, Galway and Letterkenny and, in 2018, these units provided care for 941 men and women who disclosed rape or sexual assault. An additional 36 people were cared for in the out-of-hours service at University Hospital Limerick, which has a slightly different structure and funding stream.

For the fourth consecutive year, the numbers of patients attending SATUs has increased; this year's figures represent a further increase of just under 10%. The counties most frequently represented in the figures are counties in which there is a SATU, we need to ensure equitable awareness of and access to the service regardless of where or to whom a person reports an incident. While it is important not to over interpret small changes year on year, it is vital that we continue to collate these figures in order to identify trends and adapt our services appropriately to ensure that we remain responsive to patients' needs.

With that in mind, we welcome the commitment of the Department of Health and Minister Simon Harris who undertook a short review of SATU services, commencing in Autumn 2018. This review focussed on the unpredictable demand for this relatively low volume service and the review team consulted a large number of stakeholders to identify potential solutions to identified staffing & service gaps. This review will soon publish a report & implementation plan and we welcome the opportunity to implement their funded recommendations. It has been a pleasure to be involved in such a solution focussed project – and if these solutions are delivered as efficiently as the project, 2019 will be a fabulous year for all involved in provision of SATU care!

This year's interagency study day for those involved in SATU care provision took place at the Pillar Room of the Rotunda Hospital, and coincided with the launch of the 4th Edition of the Interagency Guidelines of the Sexual Assault Response Team. This was the 10th annual study day, and it continues to provide us with an excellent opportunity to remain updated on developments in all aspects of the interagency service. This year we were delighted to welcome Maeve Lewis from 1 in 4 who enlightened us on The Phoenix Programme & interventions for families and perpetrators of sexual violence. We were also very humbled to hear from Aoife Ni Mhurcu – a Sexual Violence Programme Implementer with Medecins Sans Frontier - who described her experiences in working in areas of conflict. Dr Brian Gibson from FSI addressed the issue of Drug Facilitated Sexual Crime and there was an excellent discussion on future research questions which could inform the care we provide in SATUs. Funding for this study day came from HSE, Tusla and An Garda Síochána, through their

funding of the 4th Edition of the Guidelines. The day afforded dissemination of multiagency updates on the recommendations for care and, as usual, provided plenty of opportunities for interagency networking to drive quality patient care & service improvements – always a really valuable component of this annual date in our calendars. We continue to lobby the HSE and all agencies involved in service provision to provide a defined training budget annually to ensure sustained provision of interagency training.

In terms of service provision we continue to offer three streams of care for survivors of sexual violence. These include forensic examination following reporting to An Garda Síochána, health assessment and care without reporting to An Garda Síochána and health care & forensic examination with safe storage of evidence providing the opportunity for subsequent reporting. About 10% of patients chose this storage of evidence option in 2018, and a number subsequently reported the incident to An Garda Síochána. We acknowledge the ongoing support from COSC and the Department of Justice in funding the freezers in which we securely store this evidence; it has been a very valuable initiative in terms of responding to patient choice, and providing an opportunity to increase reporting rates after an incident of sexual violence.

We continue to produce 'The SAFE Way' – an e-newsletter for those involved in delivering the SATU service. This includes features on a variety of SATU developments and events, as well as relevant articles, links and reviews. It provides the SATU services and partner agencies with a forum for disseminating information and remaining updated. Unfortunately (for us!) our esteemed colleague Deborah Marshall from the SATU in Mullingar has moved on to pastures greener. Debbie coordinated production and dissemination of the SAFEWay for the past few years and her successor has a hard act to follow.

In 2018 Finola Tobin from the Cork SATU retired. Finola gave many years of committed service to SATU, initially as nurse manager and, for the past 10 years, as CNS and we wish her many years of good health and happiness in her retirement. Another major supporter of SATU services also retired in 2018, Dr Mary Holohan, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist from the Rotunda had her last clinical working day in December 2018. Mary was medical director of the Rotunda service for many years until 2009, and as well as providing innumerable hours of clinical service, was instrumental in establishing the SATU national network and guidelines, progressing the role of forensic nursing as a specialty and contributing to many local, national and international developments in forensic gynaecology. Her legacy to the SATU service is immense, and I personally will miss her wise counsel and support.

However despite all our 'Goodbyes', 2018 also brought a few 'Hellos'! In September 2018 we were delighted to welcome our new colleagues undertaking the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination). Each SATU has at least one trainee on this course and we look forward to the contribution these colleagues will make to adult and paediatric services in the future. Many thanks to all SATUs for the training opportunities they are providing, as well as to colleagues in allied clinical areas, affiliated agencies and RCSI who are supporting the professional development of this vital additional staffing complement.

Working in a SATU is never an 'easy option', and I thank each and every member of each SATU team who provide high quality care at a time of immense crisis. Additionally, it must be emphasised that this report of key service activity is only possible because of the commitment to collation and inputting of relevant data into the database to ensure accurate presentation of service activities and key performance indicators. This year, the anonymised data on 83% of attendances were inputted within 10 days of the first visit, ensuring availability of accurate data promptly. Particular thanks is due to Connie McGilloway, CNS in the Donegal SATU, who has been the clinical lead on the database project from its inception and continues to provide a clinical interface between the SATUs and the project team to ensure that IT problems & challenges are identified and resolved promptly. Her assistance with preparation & review of these summary metrics is also greatly appreciated.

However, please remember that this document is only providing an executive summary of SATU activity and further information on metrics from specific units can be obtained directly from the individual SATUs.

As usual, I would like to thank a number of key personnel within the Health Service Executive, including Patrick Glackin from Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development, and Gerry O'Dwyer from the South / South West Hospital Group. Their commitment to SATU services despite multiple demands on their time and resources is greatly appreciated. We also would be nowhere without our collaborators and colleagues in the hospitals and health care environments in which we are based. When compared with emergency departments and labour wards, we see a small number of patients, so our value in the hierarchy of service provision is not evident to all. We frequently say that our absence would be noted more than our presence, and I acknowledge the support we receive from Masters, Clinical Directors, Directors of Midwifery/Nursing and hospital & network managers who advocate for us despite frequent, competing and important demands on their valuable resources.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the men and women who attend SATUs around the country. Nobody ever 'wants' to attend a SATU and we never cease to be amazed by the strength that our service users display, despite the enormity and unexpected nature of the events they have experienced. We really value the online and paper feedback that our patients provide; in order to critically appraise our service through the lens of a service user. This underpins continuous quality improvement, and is really valuable in informing ongoing staffing and infrastructural developments.

Please contact me directly, or via satu@rotunda.ie, if you have any questions or comments on this Executive Summary of Key Service Activity.



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Operational definitions for the purpose of this report:

Recent incident: Where the incident happened < 7 days

Acute cases: Where the incident happened < 72 hours

Support Worker: A rape crisis centre volunteer or staff person trained and available to provide advocacy and support to a sexual violence victim/survivor in a Sexual Assault Treatment Unit.

Stranger: someone who the person did not know

Intimate Partner: a husband/wife, boyfriend/girlfriend or lover

Ex-intimate Partner: an ex-husband/wife, ex-boyfriend/girlfriend or ex-lover

Multiple assailants: Two or more assailants

Abbreviations

CN/MS (SAFE): Clinical Nurse/Midwife Specialist (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination)

CN/MM: Clinical Nurse/Midwife Manager

EC: Emergency contraception

ED: Emergency Department

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

PEP: Post exposure prophylaxis

RCC: Rape Crisis Centre

SATU: Sexual Assault Treatment Unit

STI: Sexually Transmitted Infections

Attendances in each SATU 2018

SATU	Number	Percentage
Dublin (Rotunda Hospital)	319	34%
Mullingar (Midlands Regional Hospital)	203	22%
Cork (South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital)	165	18%
Galway University Hospital - (Hazelwood House, Parkmore Rd)	97 (Not inclusive of those who attended CASATs)	10%
Letterkenny University Hospital (NoWDOC Premises, Oldtown)	84	9%
Waterford University Hospital	73	8%
	941	100%

Key Service Activity in Sexual Assault Treatment Units 2018

Attendance

- There were 941 attendances at the 6 SATUs in the Republic of Ireland in 2018, an increase of just over 8% from 2017 (when 865 patients attended), and an increase of 44% from 2009 – the first year in which we recorded national metrics.
- 854 (91%) of incidents occurred in the Republic of Ireland.
- 81% met with a psychological support worker at the time of their SATU attendance
- 90% of patients were seen within 3 hours of a request for forensic clinical examination.

Time of Day the Incident Occurred

- 752 (80%) of incidents occurred between the hours of 2000 – 0759hrs, and 289 (31%) of attendances happened between those hours - underpinning the need for a round the clock service.
- Sunday was the busiest day of the week and June was the busiest month of the year.

Type of Alleged Sexual Crime

- 78% of patients reported recent sexual assaults (within 7 days).
- 865 (92%) cases involved a single assailant.
- 471 (50%) described the perpetrator as a 'stranger' or 'recent acquaintance' while 116 (12%) identified them as an 'intimate (or ex-intimate) partner' or family member.
- 854 (91%) of incidents occurred in Ireland, incidents occurred in 27 counties and 20 other countries.
- 149 (16%) patients were unsure if a sexual assault had occurred.

Gender, Age Profile, Referral Source

- 889 (94%) of patients were women, 780 (83%) were Irish.
- 282 (30%) were employed and 362 (38%) were school or college students.
- The mean age of patients was 27 years, with the age of people attending ranging from less than 14 years (20 people, 2%) to over 70 years (5 people,

1%).

- 567 (60%) cases were referred to the SATU by An Garda Síochána.

Patients Reporting the incident to An Garda Síochána / Interval from Incident till SATU

- 586 (62%) patients reported the incident to An Garda Síochána
- 362 of these (62%) attended SATU within 24 hours of the incident, and 551 (94%) attended within 7 days.
- 93 (10%) patients opted to securely store their forensic evidence in SATU to give them an option to report the incident, and have this forensic evidence released, over the following 12 months.

Alcohol and Drug Use

- When recorded, 410 (44%) had consumed more than 6 standard drinks in the 24 hours prior to the incident, 213 (23%) had not had any alcohol.
- 122 (13%) patients were concerned that drugs had been used to facilitate sexual assault

Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Prophylaxis

- 663 women presented within 120hrs, 376 of these received emergency contraception (EC). EC was not indicated in 287 presentations for a range of reasons.
- All units now offer Chlamydia prophylaxis, Hepatitis B vaccination and risk assessment for HIV postexposure prophylaxis (PEPSE) at time of SATU attendance. 618 (66%) received Chlamydia prophylaxis, 495 (53%) commenced a Hepatitis B immunisation programme and 58 (6%) patients started postexposure prophylaxis for HIV.

STI screening

- 697 (74%) either had a STI screen at their first attendance or were offered an appointment for STI follow up.
- 313 (55% of those given a follow-up appointment) attended for follow-up STI screening. This low rate of return underpins the importance of offering prophylaxis at the time of initial attendance to reduce the long term health effects of sexual violence.

Updates from each unit (2018)

Rotunda (Dr Maeve Eogan, Medical Director)

319 patients attended the Rotunda SATU in 2018, a year that unfortunately continued to provide staffing challenges. However, we are delighted to welcome Naomi Finnegan, Christine Murphy & Kate O'Halloran who have commenced training as CNS SAFE. Additionally, a number of our obstetric and gynaecology doctors in training committed to training in SATU care and some of them now provide clinical and forensic care on our on-call rota. Sincere thanks to Cathy Montieth, Daniel Kane, Niamh Murphy and Jill Mitchell for their exemplary care. Haroon Khan and Killian Bates, forensic examiners who worked with us for many years in the Rotunda SATU, reduced their on call commitment in 2018. We acknowledge their many years of service and remind them that the door remains open for a welcome return if circumstances change! Of necessity, our staffing challenges have meant that people are going above and beyond in terms of on-call commitment, and this is greatly appreciated this year and every year.

By the same token, we sincerely acknowledge the on-call support being provided by the SATU at Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar – for days (and nights) where our staffing is insufficient to offer a round the clock service. It is always upsetting when patients have to travel further than we would wish to access SATU care, and we hope that improved staffing levels in the coming year will make that a less frequent event.

Despite these staffing issues, the team have continued to provide education and training in many areas. This included the well-established Transition Year programme, run by Deirdra Richardson, undergraduate education in UCD and a range of interagency educational collaborations with Dublin Rape Crisis, An Garda Síochána and the STI Foundation. A number of SATU medical, nursing and midwifery staff are providing training opportunities for our CNSs in training, their commitment and expertise is much appreciated.

We also welcomed our new administrative support, Moira Carberry – who is now job sharing with Rita O'Connor. We welcome her to the service and thank her for her commitment and expertise.

Mullingar (Nessa Gill, CNS SAFE)

2018 was our busiest year to date with 202 new cases attending Mullingar SATU. Patient referrals were received from 19 counties with 49 patients coming from Dublin. The large number of counties is reflective of the geographical position of SATU Mullingar and the ease of access. Patient referral numbers reflect the bidirectional referral pathway between the units in the Rotunda and Mullingar and the staffing issues that exist in both our units in 2018.

During the year the number of forensic clinical examiners reduced from five to three. Despite the reduced staff numbers SATU Mullingar, for the most part, maintained a 24/7 rota. We welcomed additional support nurses including Melanie Maloney, Edel Shannon, Shirley Martin and Patricia Kenny. Dr Charlotte Coyle also joined our team as a Forensic Examiner. We also welcomed the recruitment of Catherine Marsh who commenced her CNS SAFE training in September and we look

forward to working with her in SATU. The new people joining our team have injected new energy and vibrancy to SATU Mullingar and we look forward to working together.

Attendance at local and national peers review by forensic clinical examiners continued throughout 2018. Deborah Marshall represented Mullingar SATU on the National SATU Guidelines group and the National SATU Documentation group. Deborah Marshall also co-edited the National SAFEWAY Magazine most ably. Nessa Gill was a member of the steering group for a TUSLA Needs Analysis Program looking at Sexual Violence in the Midlands Area. It is envisaged that this project will lead to service improvement for those people who experience sexual violence.

Deborah Marshall, as the only Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner SAFE and Sexual Health in Ireland, was a member of the core project group for the National Review of SATU services and we eagerly await the recommendations of this review.

Both Deborah Marshall and Nessa Gill continue to provide education and training to Schools, Colleges and other institutions. Nessa Gill undertook training in Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence and has utilised this to further develop SATU services.

We would like to thank the team in SATU Mullingar whose care and commitment to our patients and to each other ensures that an excellent service continues to grow despite the challenges faced.

Cork (Margo Noonan, CNS SAFE)

In 2018 165 new cases attended the Cork SATU and we commend all our clients for their bravery in disclosing what has happened to them and thank you to the staff in SATU who go above and beyond to ensure that the service is available 24/7 throughout the year.

2018 brought many changes to the Cork SATU with the most notable being the retirement of Ms. Finola Tobin, CNS SAFE. Finola has developed the service since its very first days and we thank her for her commitment to victims of sexual assault throughout the years. Everyone involved here in the Cork SATU wishes Finola a healthy, happy and lengthy retirement. We also said goodbye to two long serving members of the on call SATU team, Dr.Mehboob Kukaswadia and Ms. Lydia Kukaswadia, RGN. Their flexibility and commitment to the service will be missed and we wish them all the best going forward. Along with the goodbyes we had some hellos. We welcomed Ms. Susan Coleman, RGN and Ms. Frankie O'Keefe RGN to our unit and also welcomed Ms. Louise Tiernan and Ms. Sinead Maher as they commenced their CNS SAFE training. We anticipate more exciting times ahead with the introduction of this new dynamic team.

The CNS SAFE continues to provide education and training to schools, universities and other institutions as requested with a large increase in the number of the schools requesting this education. In October Margo Noonan, CNS SAFE had the opportunity to attend the International Association of Forensic Nurses conference in Reno, Nevada which afforded many learning and knowledge sharing opportunities. The highlight of the trip was getting to spend time at the local child advocacy centre which highlighted the need to develop services for children in our community.

The SATU also worked closely with TUSLA throughout the year to complete a Needs Analysis Project of all sexual violence and domestic violence services in the Cork area. This has led to many improvements of services for victims of sexual assault and the work to complete the recommendations will continue throughout 2019.

Galway (Dr Andrea Holmes, Medical Director)

Galway SATU saw 97 and CASATS 76 new patients in 2018. This brings our total figures, since opening in 2009 and being joined by CASATS in 2011, to more than 1,100 new attendances. In May, we were honoured with a visit by Dr Maud de Boer Buquicchio, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children, who visited the unit and met with front line staff. Dr de Boer Buquicchio had warm words of encouragement and support for the work that we do.

Sadly, in 2018 we said goodbye to Ms Clare Mahon, our stellar CNS (SAFE), who moved to the UK where she is now practicing as a Forensic Nurse Examiner. Clare has been back to visit several times and spoke at the National SATU Study Day in October comparing her work in each jurisdiction.

Ms Carrie Kirby joined the team here as staff nurse and is greatly contributing to the day to day clinical management of the service and acting as linchpin in patient care in the absence of a CNS. Four new CNS (SAFE) candidates began training to work in Galway; Ms Susan Hogan, Ms Mary Mahony, Ms Cathy Shortt and Ms Cathy Bergin. “The Cathys” will receive further training once qualified as CNS (SAFE) to become Ireland’s first paediatric Forensic Nurse Examiners, a major step forward in providing acute forensic care to all age groups.

Also in 2018, Galway SATU/CASATS was chosen as pilot site for Ireland’s first Barnahus, a European initiative to integrate medical, social, therapy and Garda services for children under 18 in a “one-stop-shop”. This multi-agency (HSE, Tusla, an Garda Síochána) collaboration will be operational in 2019 at the Parkmore site.

Donegal (Connie McGilloway and Bridin Bell, CNS SAFE)

84 patients attended the Donegal SATU in 2018; an 83% increase in patient attendances in two years. This 24-hour service continues to be staffed by two CNS Forensic Clinical Examiners, who in addition to providing all clinical and forensic care on the on-call rota, manage the ongoing clinical and operational needs of the service. Furthermore, collaboration and interagency working is a key feature of the work carried out in the Donegal SATU and both CNSs continued to provide extensive education and risk reduction programmes throughout the northwest and border counties in collaboration with our colleagues from An Garda Síochána and the Donegal Rape Crisis Centre. Training and education programmes include post-primary schools’ programmes, undergraduate training in Letterkenny Institute of technology (IT) and Sligo IT as well as postgraduate training for a diversity of healthcare professionals, teachers, social workers and Gardaí.

With the increase in service demands we welcomed the approval of an additional nurse to participate in the CNS SAFE training programme in September 2018 but unfortunately due to other

commitments the candidate was unable to continue the course. It is however anticipated that approval will be provided for a candidate to commence the one-year CNS SAFE programme in September 2019. We also welcomed the approval of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner candidacy. This was a positive development not only for the Donegal SATU as a nurse-led service but also for the wider national SATU service, indicating a commitment to the continued professional development of nurses working in this arena. Although the position was not advertised by the end of 2018 it is anticipated that this position will be advertised in 2019. In addition, an increased number of on-call SATU Support Staff were recruited and trained, supporting the 24/7 on-call rota. Although funding was only approved for SATU Support staff between the hours of 06:00hrs and 00:00hrs; the goodwill, commitment and dedication of this team ensured that the unit provided 24/7 access and care to patients requiring our service.

Despite staffing challenges the two CNSs continued to develop the service. An additional SART Liaison group was established in Sligo earlier in the year to consolidate inter-agency collaboration throughout the northwest and improve patient access to SATU services. Representation from a wide range of agencies including An Garda Síochána, Sligo Rape Crisis Centre, Sligo Domestic Violence Service, Tusla, Sligo University Hospital and Sligo IT are active members of the group. In addition, the outreach programme now established in a specified clinical room in the Donegal Hospital in south Donegal has improved access to follow-up care for patients from Sligo/Leitrim and south Donegal.

Since 2010 the Donegal SATU has been operating out of clinical rooms kindly provided to us by the NoWDOC service. This was always a temporary arrangement and alternative accommodation has been sought for several years. In 2018 we were delighted to be involved in selecting a new site for a stand-alone unit dedicated to SATU patients only. This is a fantastic development and will create the much-needed dedicated space for our patients. We look forward to turning the key in this new premises in 2019.

Waterford (Sinead Boyle, CNS SAFE)

The SATU at University Hospital Waterford saw an 11% increase in attendances when compared to 2107. There was a 60% increase in the number of patients opting for the collection and storage of evidence without immediate Reporting to An Garda Síochána.

- One GP/ Forensic examiner retired in 2018 and a new GP/ Forensic examiner commenced training in 2018.
- One new assisting nurse has commenced training.
- The second CNS post is still unfilled however a CNS candidate has commenced the higher diploma in Sexual assault/Forensic Examination.

The SATU Advisory group consisting of the following; Rape Crisis Centre Manager, Garda Liaison Officer, Clinical Nurse Specialist (SATU), Clinical Nurse Manager II (SATU), DOM (Maternity and Paediatric services) Community Paediatrician and a GP representative met three times throughout the year. Minutes of all the meetings and attendance were compiled.

In 2018 Waterford welcomed its own division of Garda protective services comprising of Two Detective Sergeants, Ten Garda Detectives and one specialist Interviewer. Relevant training in relation to SATU will be given by CNS.

SATU at UHW is now a registered clinic with Cervical Check so opportunistic smears can now be carried out when indicated.

The CNS is a member of regional social inclusion group and attended all quarterly meetings; the CNS is also a representative on the regional LGBTI steering group and attended all scheduled meetings.

- CNS attended the National SATU conference 2018.
- CNS attended peer review meetings.
- CNS attended national documentation meetings.
- CNS attended national PEP conference.
- CNS attended a Women's Aid training course.
- CNS completed training on the provision of care for clients presenting in Ireland as asylum seekers or refugees who may have been subjected to sexual violence.
- Education sessions were provided by the CNS to fourth year intern nursing students.
- A training programme for Care Doc Nurses/ telephone triage nurses has been developed by the CNS.
- CNS presented at a Rape Crisis conference in Wexford and at Care Doc quarterly meeting.
- Annual education evening was provided to all SATU nursing on call staff.
- Annual education evening was provided to all SATU forensic examiners.
- CNS and CNM2 completed Child first training.

All mandatory training and clinical safety updates attended by CNS/CNM

I wish to thank and acknowledge all the hard work and effort by everyone involved with the provision of services at the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) UHW including Dr. Bermingham (Medical Director), Nursing Management, all the Forensic Examiners, Assisting Nurses and Support Workers from the Waterford Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre.

I wish to thank and acknowledge our colleagues in the Infectious disease departments of Cork University Hospital and The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Dublin who are continuously flexible and compassionate when providing care to the clients we refer.

I would also like to thank the staff at SATU South Infirmiry Cork for providing on call cover for us on one occasion in 2018.

Appendix - Midwest Forensic Medical Examination Service (Angela Frawley, Business Manager, Primary Care Services)

The Mid West Forensic Medical Examination Service (FME) was established in 2006 and provides a comprehensive out of hours Forensic Medical Examination Service. This service is open to both male and female aged 14 years and upward who have experienced rape or sexual assault and are referred by An Garda Síochána. This is an Out of Hours Service Monday to Friday 6pm to 8am and 24 hours over weekends and Public Holidays, with on call commitment being provided by six Forensic Clinical Examiners (General Practitioners) through Shannondoc. The service is delivered from a clinical room at University Hospital Limerick and provided care for 36 people in 2018 (5 men and 31 women) an increase from 24 in 2017, with an age range of 14 to 75.

Limerick Rape Crisis Network volunteers are specifically trained to attend at forensic medical examinations with victims and their family/friend and attended approximately 64% of these examinations in 2018.