

SC-2023-517

4 April 2023

Richard

fyi-request-22106-04cee01a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Kia ora Richard

Request for influenza deaths

Thank you for your request for data through the FYI website. You specifically requested the total number of influenza cases and deaths each month, for the last 10 years (not including any Covid-19 cases or deaths). On 20 March 2023 this request was partially transferred to the Ministry of Justice. We can provide you the number of influenza cases reported to the coroner each month, for the last 10 years. However, please note the vast majority of influenza deaths will not be referred to the coroner, so this data is only a small subset of total deaths from influenza.

In response to your request please see Table 1.

Table 1 provides the number of deaths where influenza has been recorded as the cause of, or contributing to the cause of death, notified to the coroner between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2022.

This data may differ from previously released or published data. This data was extracted from the case management system as of 20/03/2023. Cases are included based on the date the case was notified to the coroner (this can differ from the date of death). This data includes active cases. Active cases are currently under investigation by the coroner and are therefore provisional. This data includes closed cases. Closed cases have been heard by the coroner and findings have been issued.

This data counts instances where one or more of the keywords is recorded in the Medical Cause of Death 1, Medical Cause of Death 2, Medical Cause of Death 3, Medical Cause of Death Secondary, Provisional Cause of Death, or Final Cause of Death fields in the case management system. Keywords searched: "flu", "influenza"

To find the information you have requested, we searched key words in the case management system, meaning the search was dependent on the way in which the information was received

and recorded. It is therefore possible that we have not identified all deaths related to influenza that were notified to the coroner.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, you can make a complaint to the Chief Coroner. The Chief Coroner may be contacted by email to officeofthechiefcoroner@justice.govt.nz or by writing to the Office of the Chief Coroner at DX CX 10079, Auckland.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



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Table 1: Number of deaths where influenza has been recorded as the cause of, or contributing to the cause of death, notified to the coroner between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2022

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
2013	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	7
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	3	1	1	1	16
2015	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	9
2016	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	6
2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	6
2018	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	3	4	0	0	12
2019	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	7
2020	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2021	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	6
2022	0	0	0	1	0	8	6	1	0	2	0	0	18

Notes:

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Cases are included based on the date the case was notified to the coroner (this can differ from the date of death).

This data includes active cases. Active cases are currently under investigation by the coroner and are therefore provisional.

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Keywords searched: "flu", "influenza"

To find the information you have requested, we searched key words in the case management system, meaning the search was dependent on the way in which the information was received and recorded. It is therefore possible that we have not identified all deaths related to influenza that were notified to the coroner.