

3 October 2023

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Tēnā koe Chris

**Your request for Official information, reference: HN20029715**

Thank you for your email on 7 September 2023, asking for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“There are a few things that don't really make sense when looking at this dataset, data from Medsafe and adverse reactions to the vaccine and just generic information which leads me to a few more questions. Are you able to please provide the following.*

*With regard to the Overview of Vaccine Reports - how are the background rate "hospitalisations per year" calculated? There seem to be some significant anomalies. eg. Guillain-Barre - Background rates in vaccine reports are at 273 per year yet at no point in the last few years are the numbers this high. Why are the background rates seemingly overestimated in vaccine reports?*

*This is the same with Bells Palsy - background rates in vaccine reports are 694 yet the maximum in the data you provided me mention 435 only this latest year. This is 60% above the most recent numbers so why is this so high.*

*The vaccine reports show 974 reports of myocarditis and pericarditis yet the data you provided me says there were circa 330 cases. Where have the other 600 odd cases gone? Per the background rates myocarditis / pericarditis you state background rates of 931 cases per year yet the numbers you provided me - up until recently there haven't been more than 400 cases and then in the vaccine reports there are 974 cases that don't appear to be in the data you provided me?*

*There appears to be a number of other significant anomalies specifically relating to the Medsafe Vaccine reports overestimating the background rates of illnesses when compared against actual data notably stroke, heart attacks, embolisms - pretty much everything. Is it also concerning that every single illness appears to be going up for the Health authorities - we know why these numbers are so bad the last couple of years with the "vaccine", but from the early 2000's it appears each and every metric kiwis are getting unhealthier - food, toxins, pesticides?*

*But most important for this request is how background rates for Medsafe vaccine reports are calculated, yet all of the actual illness data you provided is significantly lower and then it seems the background rates are massively overinflated. It is very concerning.”*

Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand does not receive national level data about diagnoses made by primary care providers, for example GPs. As the conditions you have asked about may be diagnosed in a primary care setting, we do not hold complete data for these conditions in New Zealand.

We can provide data on conditions which required hospital treatment, this does not include people who received treatment outside the hospital system.

The 2021/2022 financial year is the latest year for which complete national level hospital events data is available. Data for 2020/21 and 2021/22 is considered provisional. Between 1999 and 2012, there were changes in the way former District Health Boards reported their emergency department (ED) data. Data provided for these years should therefore be interpreted with caution. More information about this issue can be found here:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/factsheet-short-stay-emergency-department-events>.

Some of the discrepancies you have highlighted are largely due to how the events were counted, based on our data. We count the number of hospitalisations caused by a condition. This is where the primary diagnosis code relates to that condition. The report you mention counted all events where the code was reported as both a primary diagnosis and as a secondary condition. People hospitalised multiple times due to transfers, readmission, or multiple incidents will be counted each time they are discharged.

With regards to why the volumes go up over time, aside from the short stay ED reporting issue which affects some conditions between 2000 and 2012, the steady growth can be attributed to population growth. In 2000, New Zealand's population was 3.8 million, in 2021 it is 5.1 million. That is why, when comparing over time, we recommend calculating rates to adjust for this growth, rather than raw counts.

### How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Gaynor Bradfield**

**Manager**

**Office of the Chief Data and Digital**