

24 January 2025

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Tēnā koe Chris

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00075154

Thank you for your email of 2 October 2024, following on from your earlier request HNZ00067356, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Response

Please find HNZ00061156 embedded below, which contains the data “as is”. As stated previously, the data should not have been released without including the relevant appropriate caveats.

The apparent large rise over the last six years is due to incomplete data collection which did not include all districts, not an actual rise in chest pain ED presentations.

As noted in our response HNZ00067356, 2024 is the only year that all districts at Health NZ were recording this data in this format and only a few districts (two-four) were contributing to this dataset prior to 2020.

Additionally, not all 20 districts use the same code for recording this data, so no complete and meaningful data set is available.

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00061156

Thank you for your email on 28 August 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find our response to each of your questions below.

Please note that data is provisional and subject to change, as it has not been through a full Quality Assurance process.

Response

1. *The number of people under the age of 40 presenting to Emergency departments throughout NZ hospitals with Chest pain or heart issues for the years 2017 to 2024 ? (Please provide figures year by year)*

Year	Number of ED events related to Chest Pain
2018	111
2019	2219
2020	4406
2021	13063
2022	21416
2023	20005
2024 (to June)	14639

The data has been provided for the period from January 2018 to June 2024, as this represents the earliest and latest approved data available from DHBs.

PC preferred term for chest pain included right sided chest pain, chest wall pain, chest pain, musculoskeletal chest pain, chest pain on breathing, acute chest pain, chest pain on exertion, assessment of chest pain, anterior chest wall pain, atypical chest pain, history of chest pain, costal margin chest pain, non-cardiac chest pain, cardiac chest pain, dull chest pain, left sided chest pain, central chest pain, ischaemic chest pain.

The annual out of hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) report contains similar information, albeit specific to cardiac arrests, and is publicly available at <https://www.stjohn.org.nz/news--info/our-performance/clinical-audit-and-research/cardiac-arrest-annual-report/>

2. *The number of ambulances called via healthline in the years 2017 to 2024. ? (Please provide figures year by year)*

In regard to consultation, we do not consider that consulting would have assisted, as there is no obligation under the Act to consider consulting the requester on requests for information that we do not hold. Section 18B of the Act relates to refusals under section 18(e) or 18(f), not 18(g).

The remainder of the HNZ00061156 response is included below for your reference.

We cannot provide the number of ambulances called via Healthline as it is not reported. Accordingly this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by Health NZ.

More information about the National Telehealth Service (which Healthline is part of) can be found in the published <https://www.tewhātuora.govt.nz/health-services-and-programmes/digital-health/national-telehealth-service>. Note that the current plan with volumes to 30 June 2024 are yet to be published.

3. *The number of ambulance arrivals at Emergency departs years 2017 to 2024 ? (Please provide figures year by year)*

Calendar Year	ED attendances
2017	444,954
2018	434,821
2019	445,539
2020	434,424
2021	455,078
2022	473,869
2023	492,419
2024 (as at July)	291,243

4. *The number of confirmed cases of Pericarditis in the under 40s for the years 2017 to 2024 (Please provide figures year by year)*

The number of publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of *Acute pericarditis* (ICD-10-AM-VIII code I30) aged 0-39 years was:

Financial year	Number of discharges
2016/17	93
2017/18	80
2018/19	97
2019/20	84
2020/21	92
2021/22	102
2022/23	116
2023/24	113

5. *The number of confirmed cases of Myocarditis for the under 40s from the years 2017 to 2024 (Please provide figures year by year)*

The number of publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of *Acute myocarditis* (ICD-10-AM-VIII code I40) aged 0-39 years was:

Financial year	Number of discharges
2016/17	39
2017/18	53
2018/19	44
2019/20	16
2020/21	47
2021/22	34
2022/23	58
2023/24	64

As this is a count of hospitalisations, people hospitalised multiple times (transfers, readmissions, multiple incidents) are counted each time.

Please note that hospitalisation data from 2021/22 onwards is considered provisional.

6. *The number of confirmed deaths from heart attack or cardiac arrest in the under 40s from the years 2017 to 2024 (Please provide figures year by year)*

The number of deaths with an underlying cause of death of *Cardiac arrest* (ICD-10-AM code I46) aged 0-39 years was:

Calendar year	Number of deaths
2017	0
2018	4
2019	1
2020	2

Please note that the 2020 mortality data is considered provisional. At present this is the most recent year for which cause of death data is available.

After the close of a calendar year, there is a 12-18 month process to assign cause of death codes to the majority of deaths in that year. The Te Whatu Ora clinical coding team reviews the death certificate and health history of the deceased, to assign cause of death codes.

Approximately 10% of deaths are referred to the Coroner each year to determine cause. Deaths that require a coronial inquiry can take 2-3 or more years for cause of death to be determined. We do not make mortality data available publicly until the majority of deaths have been assigned a cause of death, so that the data we release is complete and accurate. The Chief Coroner has noted delays in the time it is taking them to determine cause of death.

While some of these numbers might seem low, they match the published numbers for years in which we have published data.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@tewhatuora.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 or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Sasha Wood

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