

18 July 2015

Mr Craig Mackinlay
fyi-request-2884-dc75e00d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201502425

Dear Mr Mackinlay

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 28 June 2015 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested statistics on the rate of Autism/Aspergers amongst children in New Zealand from 1990 to present.

The Ministry of Health does not hold the information you have requested from 1990-2005 as the Health Survey only started collecting child Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) statistics in the 2006/07 Health Survey. Therefore I am refusing your request under s18(e) of the Act that the information requested in this form does not exist.

Statistics from 2006-2014 are publically available online in the Annual Update of Key Results 2013/14: New Zealand Health Survey, and can be found here <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/annual-update-key-results-2013-14-new-zealand-health-survey> under "Child Data Tables: Health Conditions".

I have included a snapshot below of the information relevant to your request. Please note that the Health Survey data consists of self-reported doctor diagnosed ASD.

Population group	Unadjusted prevalence (%) (95% confidence interval)								Significance of difference between years (p-values)		
	2006/07		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2006/07 and 2013/14	2011/12 and 2013/14	2012/13 and 2013/14
Total population	0.5	(0.3-0.8)	1.8	(1.3-2.5)	1.7	(1.2-2.4)	1.6	(1.1-2.3)	0.00	0.65	0.80
Boys	0.9	(0.5-1.4)	2.6	(1.7-3.8)	2.9	(1.9-4.2)	2.7	(1.8-4.0)	0.00	0.89	0.82
Girls	0.1	(0.0-0.4)	0.9	(0.4-1.9)	0.5	(0.2-1.3)	0.4	(0.1-1.0)	0.14	0.21	0.78

I trust this information is helpful to you. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold information under this request.

Yours sincerely

J. h. Wall.

Teresa Wall
Acting Deputy Director-General
Policy Business Unit