

11 December 2024

Ross Francis

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Tēnā koe Ross

Your request for official information, reference: HN200070522

Thank you for your email of 3 November 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

You have confirmed that 2229 people died of Covid-19 between 1 Jan 2020 – 31 Dec 2023 where Covid -19 was considered the underlying cause of death.

Among those deaths, how many were unvaccinated, how many were vaccinated once, how many were vaccinated twice, and how many received one or more boosters of a Covid vaccine? Among those deaths, how many were aged 70 years or older?

Response

Health NZ is unable to answer the specific questions as we do not have access to the relevant information in the requested format. Therefore, the information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act as it cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

In making this decision, we have considered whether fixing a charge for the supply of the information or extending the timeframe for response would enable Health NZ to respond, in line with section 18A of the Act. We do not consider that either option would remove the impact that supplying the information would have on our other operations.

However, we can provide data extracted from COVID-19 reporting systems, which considers similar parameters to those outlined in the request. These include:

- Age and ethnicity of deaths where COVID-19 was officially determined to be the underlying cause.
- Age and vaccination status of deaths within 28 days of the case being reported.

Refer to **Table One** and **Table Two** overleaf, for information about COVID-19 deaths related to age, ethnicity, and vaccination status from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023, which align with the dates you have requested. Please note that while deaths with COVID-19 are prioritised for coding, death data is considered either preliminary or provisional until it has been through a rigorous process to mark the data as complete, including coronial inquests and findings, where necessary.

Currently, the data for 2020 is provisional and the data for 2021-2023 is preliminary due to the number of outstanding deaths with no known cause awaiting coronial findings, and therefore subject to change.

Table One: Age and ethnicity of deaths where COVID-19 is officially coded as the underlying cause

Age group	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	European or Other	Total
0 to 59	34	18	13	30	95
60 to 69	37	20	8	86	152
70 to 79	51	22	19	329	423
80 to 89	48	35	39	746	868
90+	21	17	15	687	742
Total	191	112	94	1878	2280

Age groups and underlying deaths, 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2023

Table Two: Age and vaccination status of deaths within 28 days of being reported as a case

Age group	Not fully vaccinated	Fully vaccinated	Received booster	Total
0 to 59	110	135	205	450
60 to 69	65	94	309	468
70 to 79	126	138	832	1096
80 to 89	179	185	1552	1916
90+	130	121	1112	1363
Total	610	673	4010	5293

Age groups and vaccination status, 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2023

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.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ 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



Sara Freitag

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government