

2 October 2015

Paul Lynch  
Email: fyi-request-3145-300ae4b3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201504372

Dear Paul

**Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request of 14 September 2015 under the Official Information Act 1982 for:

1. Statistics that show how many people died by suicide after having been diagnosed with a mental illness vs those who had not.
2. Suicides outside the mental health system vs suicides inside the mental health system.
3. The number of suicides where the deceased had alcohol and/or drugs in their system.

The information relating to this request is itemized below. Some of the information you requested is already in the public domain. This information is available at [www.health.govt.nz/publications](http://www.health.govt.nz/publications), and has also been provided as an attachment.

Request	Response
<p>1. Statistics that show how many people died by suicide after having been diagnosed with a mental illness vs those who had not.</p>	<p>Attached are:</p> <p><i>1. The Office of the Director of Mental Health Annual Report 2013 (see the 'Death by suicide or suspected suicide section' page 43).</i></p> <p>Please note: the 2014 report will be published late 2015 and will include suicide data from 2012 (data from 2012 is used because it can take over two years for a coroner's investigation into a suicide to be completed).</p> <p><i>2. Suicide Facts: Deaths and intentional self-harm hospitalizations 2015</i></p>
<p>2. Suicides outside the mental health system vs suicides inside the mental health system.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

<p>3. The number of suicides where the deceased had alcohol and/or drugs in their system</p>	<p>In 2012, there were 551 suicide deaths. With respect to alcohol and other drugs being found in an individual's system, the numbers are:</p> <p><b>Alcohol involved</b>  152 = Y (Yes)  85 = T (Trace)  152 = NS (Not stated), NT (Not tested), or NA (Not available)  162 = N (No)</p> <p><b>Prescription/pharmacy drug involved</b>  35 = Y (Yes)  372 = U (Unknown)  144 = N (No)</p> <p><b>Cannabis involved</b>  38 = Y (Yes)  338 = U (Unknown)  175 = N (No)</p> <p><b>Other illicit drug involved</b>  10 = Y (Yes)  341 = U (Unknown)  200 = N (No)</p> <p><b>Volatile substance involved*</b>  2 = Y (Yes)  549 = U (Unknown)</p> <p><b>Other drug involved</b>  1 = Y (Yes)  547 = U (Unknown)  3 = N (No)</p> <p>Source: New Zealand Mortality Collection</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>It should be noted that a presence of a substance does not imply a causal relationship with regards to a suicide.</p> <p>For further information about Ministry of Health suicide information please contact:  <a href="mailto:data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz">data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz</a>.</p> <p>*Volatile substances refer to the inhaling of gases or vapours from household and industrial products such as aerosols and lighter refills. These substances are volatile, meaning that they evaporate and can be inhaled without burning or heating them up.</p>
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I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review this response.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Crawshaw  
**Director of Mental Health**  
**Chief Advisor, Mental Health**