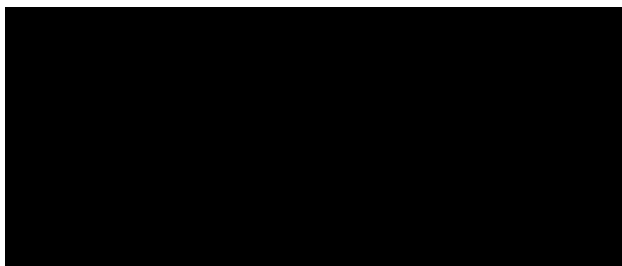


08 May 2019



Re Official Information Request – Hospital admissions for opioid use, abuse, overdose

I refer to your official information request of 27 March 2019 and extended to 8 May, 2019 for the following information:

1. **What is the number of hospital admissions for opioid and opiate use, abuse or overdose, annually, since 2015?**
2. **Could you please provide me, if possible, with the age, sex and ethnicity for each of these patients?**
3. **Does the DHB provide any help for those addicted to opioids or opiates, such as recovery programmes? If so, can you please provide details of these programmes, as well as the current number of people enrolled in your region?**
4. **Does the DHB keep records of opiate and opioid prescription rates i.e. how many times these are being prescribed on an annual basis in your region?**
5. **If so, can you please provide me with the number of times opiates and opioids are prescribed on an annual basis, since 2015?**
6. **Could you please include which opiates and opioids are being prescribed?**

Part of the information you have requested is enclosed. Information you requested relating to help provided by the DHB for those addicted to opioids or opiates was transferred to Waitemata HB who are responsible for managing regional CADs services for Auckland. We notified you under section 14 of that decision.

The information we have released to you is enclosed.

1. What is the number of hospital admissions for opioid and opiate use, abuse or overdose, annually, since 2015?

Use of Opioid and opiate use by Calendar Year

AdmitYear	Number of Events
2015	213
2016	252
2017	252
2018	237
Total	954

2. Could you please provide me, if possible, with the age, sex and ethnicity for each of these patients?

By Sex

GenderCode	Number of Events
Female	516
Male	438
Total	954

By Age

Admit Age	Number of Events
0-4	28
5-14	21
15-24	198
25-34	189
35-44	128
45-54	143
55-64	145
65-74	52
75-84	28
85-94	19
>94	3
Total	954

By Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Number of Events
European	678
Maori	180
Pacific	46
Asian	31
Others	19
Total	954

Your reference to prescriptions in questions four to six would best be answered by seeking dispensing data from community pharmacies. Opioid dispensing rates (i.e. what patients obtain) are collected nationally and data is available and supplied publicly by the Health Quality and safety Commission on:

- <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/health-quality-evaluation/projects/atlas-of-healthcare-variation/opioids>
- <https://public.tableau.com/profile/alexis.wevers#!/vizhome/Opioidssinglemapv1/HQSCAtlasofVariationOpioids>

All major opioid outpatient prescriptions are on controlled scripts and a manual audit would be required to interpret trends. Our response is to refuse this part of your question under section 18(f) in that providing an answer would require extensive research.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive