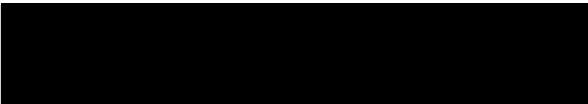


21 January 2019



Dear Amita

Re Official Information Request for number of STD checks

I refer to your Official Information Act request 21 December 2018 for the following information:

- ***The number of sexually transmitted disease screening checks conducted by the DHB, each year for the last five years.***
- ***The number of positive tests results for each sexually transmitted disease, each year for the last five years.***
- ***The cost of conducting a sexually transmitted disease screening check and a break down of those costs.***

Sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening checks may be undertaken by a range of providers including DHB sexual health services, DHB midwives or obstetricians and gynaecologists as well as community providers such as General Practices, Family Planning, school clinics and Lead Maternity Carers (LMC).

The Ministry of Health contracts the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) to undertake STI surveillance. A link to their website and introductory information from their website is https://surv.esr.cri.nz/public_health_surveillance/sti_surveillance.php

ESR undertakes STI surveillance on behalf of the Ministry of Health. A number of different surveillance systems are currently in place including:

- notifications of gonorrhoea and syphilis
- laboratory-based surveillance of chlamydia and gonorrhoea
- clinic-based surveillance of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, genital warts, genital herpes, non-specific urethritis (NSU), chancroid, granuloma inguinale (GI), and lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV).
- surveillance for AIDS and HIV is undertaken by the AIDS Epidemiology Group.

DHB information is not coded in a way that would support a meaningful extract of data on the number of sexually transmitted disease screening checks, or number of positive tests results for each sexually transmitted disease. It is also difficult to determine whether it is a screen in the true

sense of screening (asymptomatic people) or whether a test is requested as part of a diagnostic set of tests ordered due to symptoms or other concerns.

Similarly cost data is not collected by the DHB. For example, an LMC may do a screening test alongside provision of other first trimester pregnancy checks, tests and provision of information to a women in that visit. The DHB does not hold information on LMC care as this is funded directly by the MoH.

You may wish to explore the information on the ESR website and to contact them and/or the Ministry of Health if you require further information. I regret I cannot be more helpful on this occasion.

You are entitled under the Official Information Act to seek a review of this response. 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