

12 March 2021

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Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 17 February 2021 for:

- *How many New Zealanders were prescribed antidepressant or anti-anxiety medication in since January 2017 (broken down into monthly increments)*
- *What was the age, location, gender and ethnicity of these people*
- *What were the drugs prescribed.*

Please refer to the spreadsheet enclosed for information pertaining to your request. The data is a count of individuals that received a prescription of the selected medication. If an individual receives a dispensing several times in the same year, then they will be counted in each of the months they were dispensed medication. The bolded and highlighted total figures in the spreadsheet have been to reduce the possibility of double counting.

All chemicals in 'Antidepressant' Therapeutic group level 2 have been included. There is no specific grouping for anti-anxiety medication, although many of the common medications prescribed for anxiety fall under the 'Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI)' Therapeutic group level 3 which is included in the 'Antidepressant' group.

The pharmaceutical collection does not hold any information regarding the reason a prescription was written, the Ministry only holds information about the actual dispensing event. Therefore, we are unable to identify whether a dispensing was used for the treatment of anxiety or not.

The ethnicity provided is prioritised ethnicity¹ and DHB of domicile is based on the DHB area where the individual was living when the medication was dispensed (based on the latest address information the Ministry holds).

2020 was an abnormal year for prescribing pattern, and this was observed across all medicines (not just antidepressants). Any changes in dispensing patterns of a medicine during 2020 should be viewed in the wider context of all dispensing trends. Graphs 1 and 2 in Appendix A outline dispensing for all medicines and for the Therapeutic Group Level 2 'Antidepressants', which show the differences in antidepressant dispensing were also seen in all dispensing for that time period.

March 2020 was also when PHARMAC introduced a schedule change which required pharmacies to move to monthly dispensing, rather than all at once (or 'stat') dispensing: pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/covid19/dispensing-frequency/. This was done to mitigate

¹ Prioritised ethnicity is where a person is assigned one ethnicity, based on the range of ethnicities they report when interacting with the health system. The order of priority is Māori, Pacific, Asian, MELAA (Middle Eastern, Latin, and African), European and Other.

the effects of panic-buying, as well as to manage global supply issues that were affecting New Zealand's stock of some medicines.

This change meant that a patient would have to go into a pharmacy three times for a normal 90-day prescription, rather than once (one initial dispensing, followed by two repeats). This is reflected in Graphs 1 and 2, initial dispensing numbers were relatively smooth, but the number of repeats increased steadily, before dropping off in August 2020, when the restrictions were moved from most medicines.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

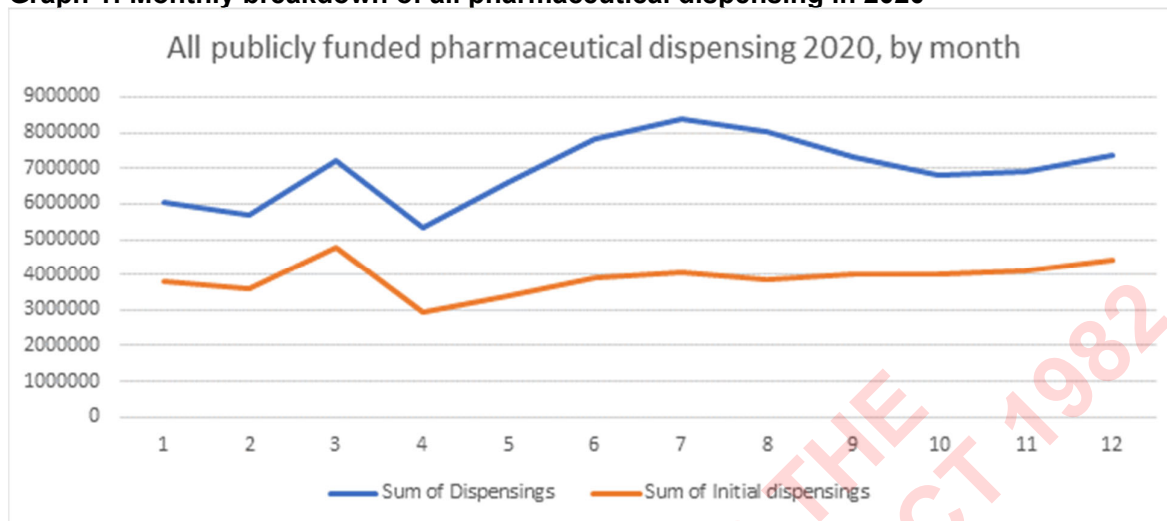
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Gaynor Bradfield', written over a horizontal line.

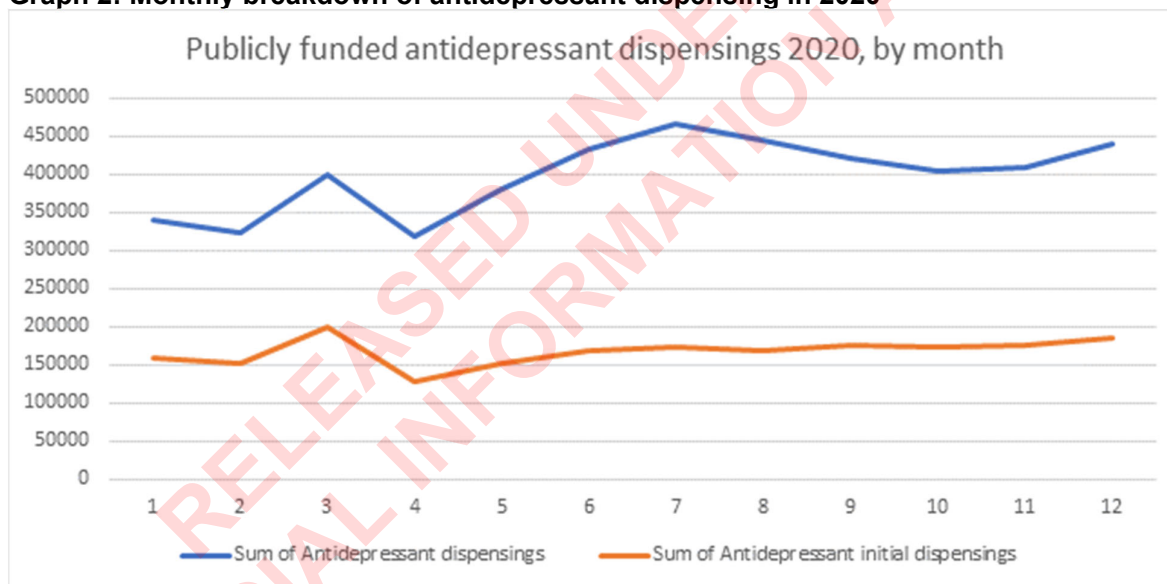
Gaynor Bradfield
**Manager Office of the Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital**

Appendix A:

Graph 1: Monthly breakdown of all pharmaceutical dispensing in 2020



Graph 2: Monthly breakdown of antidepressant dispensing in 2020



A count of people who received a publicly funded dispensing of selected pharmaceuticals, by month and chemical, 2017-2020

Selected pharmaceutical defined as those in Level 2 Therapeutic group "Antidepressants"

Extracted 04/03/2021

Notes

People may appear in multiple cells if, for example, they had a birthday between dispensings or recieved dispensings from multiple DHBs in the same year. Because of this, individual cells should not be summed, as people can appear in more than one cell and will be counted in each row and column they appear; this will result in doublecounting.
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Before the new Community Pharmacy Services Agreement in July 2012, it was not mandatory for pharmacies to submit a claim for items where the healthcare user's copayment covered the entire cost of dispensing the pharmaceutical (e.g. there was nothing to claim for). This can create an artificial trend for increases in lower cost medicines over this time.
The Pharmaceutical Collection is a live dataset, whilst the Pharmaceutical Data Web Tool is a static extract. Comparing the two extracts may result in

Source: Ministry of Health, Pharmaceutical Collection

		Chemical Name																		
Year and Month	Amitriptyline	Citalopram hydrobromide	Clomipramine hydrochloride	Dosulepin [Dothiepin] hydrochloride	Doxepin hydrochloride	Escitalopram	Fluoxetine hydrochloride	Imipramine hydrochloride	Maprotiline hydrochloride	Mirtazapine	Moclobemide	Nortriptyline hydrochloride	Paroxetine	Phenelzine sulphate	Sertraline	Tranylcypromine sulphate	Venlafaxine	Total		
201701	41,304	37,641	1,359	4,570	4,208	14,916	24,667	884	52	8,112	784	24,145	12,287	63	16,460	103	29,556	207,492		
201702	40,167	37,176	1,327	4,368	4,018	15,175	24,596	875	49	8,076	794	23,382	12,151	62	16,567	112	29,104	204,833		
201703	44,141	40,986	1,392	4,716	4,400	17,187	27,574	944	60	8,672	862	26,128	13,466	67	18,486	113	31,613	225,975		
201704	40,357	35,922	1,293	4,358	3,993	15,879	24,176	864	56	8,295	764	23,648	11,870	58	17,281	98	29,551	205,467		
201705	45,061	42,113	1,401	4,780	4,345	19,149	28,374	933	56	9,213	898	26,529	13,530	61	19,927	109	32,293	233,457		
201706	43,207	39,478	1,368	4,520	4,191	17,993	26,965	879	51	9,179	839	25,486	12,655	54	19,531	111	30,755	222,741		
201707	42,628	38,315	1,369	4,500	4,061	17,169	25,903	861	50	9,283	791	25,212	12,280	67	19,679	107	30,978	218,897		
201708	44,583	40,750	1,385	4,618	4,213	18,185	27,984	914	52	9,679	870	26,321	13,199	52	21,168	109	32,155	230,911		
201709	42,895	38,588	1,367	4,380	4,075	17,497	26,475	878	55	9,576	791	25,240	12,297	52	20,700	106	30,082	220,679		
201710	43,501	38,963	1,355	4,491	4,120	17,588	26,855	873	53	9,837	833	25,901	12,463	53	21,258	112	30,747	224,247		
201711	44,083	39,814	1,356	4,482	4,207	18,296	27,537	876	55	10,033	813	26,487	12,708	53	22,217	113	31,150	229,042		
201712	43,077	38,887	1,369	4,405	4,059	17,829	26,759	901	53	9,885	832	25,909	12,599	51	21,965	121	31,027	225,001		
2017 Total	103,429	115,843	2,116	6,942	7,021	53,659	83,369	1,484	88	18,267	1,916	67,715	34,166	114	45,144	196	51,307	512,130		
201801	42,516	37,493	1,311	4,354	4,094	17,307	25,760	845	54	9,887	793	25,807	11,977	54	22,013	110	27,018	216,802		
201802	40,293	36,158	1,279	4,122	3,756	16,948	24,816	828	54	9,672	747	24,517	11,587	55	18,840	114	23,062	203,586		
201803	43,459	38,501	1,447	4,390	3,979	18,187	26,640	865	49	10,395	828	26,255	12,301	56	18,511	117	23,755	215,458		
201804	42,268	36,427	1,375	4,228	3,846	17,462	25,124	783	44	10,321	783	25,515	11,543	54	16,945	110	22,110	205,250		
201805	45,021	40,252	1,419	4,387	4,042	19,607	27,922	858	45	10,962	810	27,591	12,679	55	18,761	122	23,642	223,271		
201806	42,609	36,843	1,359	4,181	3,870	18,375	25,869	817	53	10,767	804	25,877	11,733	50	17,519	116	22,205	209,213		
201807	43,870	38,015	1,399	4,323	3,971	18,772	26,296	820	49	11,199	806	26,753	11,996	55	18,392	115	22,576	215,057		
201808	44,837	39,410	1,405	4,247	3,923	20,001	28,008	826	50	11,594	809	27,451	12,442	46	19,255	119	23,319	222,736		
201809	42,052	36,304	1,318	4,004	3,764	18,727	25,492	778	45	11,312	789	25,726	11,307	45	18,091	112	21,713	207,735		
201810	44,500	38,491	1,395	4,210	3,944	19,918	27,347	825	43	11,932	826	27,089	12,075	47	19,591	120	22,492	219,801		
201811	43,907	38,716	1,406	4,173	3,857	20,376	27,416	802	41	11,953	824	26,859	12,360	47	20,093	118	22,405	220,554		
201812	43,022	37,622	1,378	4,113	3,839	19,957	26,395	821	43	11,866	805	26,420	11,728	41	19,415	112	21,689	214,998		
2018 Total	103,621	109,942	2,208	6,394	6,534	59,129	81,705	1,379	77	21,972	1,824	69,494	31,966	104	56,340	211	50,986	522,726		
201901	43,158	36,703	1,359	4,102	3,825	19,622	25,875	783	40	11,862	800	26,391	11,386	46	19,274	110	21,227	212,298		
201902	40,833	34,998	1,335	3,856	3,439	19,259	24,924	743	41	11,643	754	24,872	11,213	43	19,101	102	20,331	203,877		
201903	43,259	37,009	1,387	4,001	3,537	20,465	26,449	786	44	12,314	782	26,349	11,509	41	20,497	114	21,407	215,402		
201904	43,221	35,924	1,376	3,979	3,461	19,968	25,770	768	47	12,372	759	26,351	11,171	46	20,197	112	20,902	212,326		
201905	46,171	40,044	1,466	4,136	3,475	22,520	28,894	798	47	13,192	807	28,078	12,462	51	23,051	127	22,983	232,514		
201906	42,568	35,072	1,357	3,683	3,110	20,272	25,410	770	35	12,497	767	25,769	10,800	44	20,770	118	20,878	209,787		
201907	46,085	38,092	1,469	3,302	3,175	21,908	27,596	844	44	13,490	785	28,034	11,805	49	22,542	121	22,332	226,100		
201908	45,842	37,532	1,451	2,104	2,956	22,163	32,722	835	49	13,805	797	28,495	11,833	57	23,255	133	22,309	230,418		
201909	44,972	36,299	1,407	1,226	2,630	21,637	30,485	846	48	13,897	771	28,107	11,251	39	22,828	131	21,789	223,128		
201910	46,604	37,549	1,451	969	2,463	22,639	28,778	860	42	14,280	778	29,070	11,491	51	23,961	124	22,519	227,854		
201911	45,938	37,291	1,477	777	1,875	22,715	28,364	831	51	14,401	786	28,903	11,535	51	24,146	125	22,539	226,268		
201912	46,417	37,678	1,496	723	1,568	22,838	31,682	857	61	14,531	844	29,366	11,862	48	24,220	136	22,882	231,493		
2019 Total	107,251	105,741	2,364	5,456	5,158	65,751	81,517	1,445	90	26,602	1,789	72,158	30,338	99	68,782	225	50,181	537,493		
202001	46,002	35,969	1,415	681	1,155	21,958	34,030	853	60	14,419	748	28,843	11,075	47	23,638	115	22,169	227,583		
202002	43,787	35,010	1,383	574	1,023	21,898	36,203	811	63	14,059	745	27,739	10,964	48	23,785	119	21,420	224,571		
202003	50,032	43,796	1,517	651	1,039	26,878	42,909	933	65	15,534	895	31,150	13,631	51	27,895	147	25,500	265,206		
202004	43,185	32,531	1,343	531	295	20,550	35,845	790	55	14,110	697	26,895	10,257	37	22,359	115	20,562	215,464		
202005	47,387	45,316	1,421	587	0	27,882	41,284	851	69	15,102	878	29,553	14,296	36	30,083	150	26,392	263,765		
202006	50,193	56,203	1,481	593	0	34,487	44,571	859	62	15,792	992	31,306	17,870	19	36,488	195	30,951	301,977		
202007	51,789	60,302	1,505	594	0	37,254	46,254	892	74	16,560	1,054	32,604	18,940	14	39,614	190	32,662	318,973		
202008	51,392	59,866	1,499	518	0	37,422	44,692	879	60	16,463	1,063	32,032	18,806	3	40,143	191	32,562	316,607		
202009	51,033	48,657	1,475	538	0	31,506	44,929	865	48	16,584	967	31,821	15,130	1	38,976	193	27,908	291,106		
202010	50,746	40,119	1,477	524	0	33,351	44,634	834	20	16,848	811	31,727	12,214	0	39,128	199	24,522	278,614		
202011	49,963	39,048	1,434	523	0	37,225	44,737	830	13	16,747	817	31,557	12,022	0	41,544	200	24,437	282,311		
202012	51,543	40,499	1,496	534	0	39,378	46,533	875	6	17,228	833	32,285	12,373	0	44,142	199	25,361	293,818		
2020 Total	111,102	102,108	2,267	1,028	1,426	72,062	82,643	1,421	128	30,325	1,740	74,765	29,037	79	82,346	306	51,647	559,214		

A count of people who received a publicly funded dispensing of selected pharmaceuticals, by month and prioritised ethnicity, 2017-2020

Selected pharmaceutical defined as those in Level 2 Therapeutic group "Antidepressants"

Extracted 04/03/2021

Notes

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Source: Ministry of Health, Pharmaceutical Collection

Year and Month	Prioritised Ethnicity				Total
	Māori	Pacific Island	Asian	Other	
201701	16,278	3,513	6,644	181,085	207,492
201702	16,182	3,493	6,579	178,604	204,833
201703	17,666	3,874	7,373	197,110	225,975
201704	16,098	3,559	6,561	179,269	205,467
201705	18,310	4,014	7,722	203,461	233,457
201706	17,778	3,899	7,359	193,733	222,741
201707	17,768	3,813	7,162	190,181	218,897
201708	18,841	4,079	7,771	200,256	230,911
201709	18,088	3,982	7,532	191,111	220,679
201710	18,166	4,013	7,612	194,487	224,247
201711	18,715	4,143	7,852	198,368	229,042
201712	17,691	3,937	7,348	196,051	225,001
2017 Total	47,422	11,359	22,917	433,133	512,130
201801	17,550	3,902	7,432	187,951	216,802
201802	16,797	3,672	6,973	176,184	203,586
201803	18,032	3,956	7,645	185,882	215,458
201804	17,025	3,785	7,165	177,316	205,250
201805	18,974	4,124	7,992	192,223	223,271
201806	17,938	3,853	7,563	179,892	209,213
201807	18,331	4,064	7,941	184,781	215,057
201808	19,601	4,261	8,406	190,531	222,736
201809	18,351	4,023	7,864	177,524	207,735
201810	19,297	4,254	8,413	187,878	219,801
201811	19,637	4,203	8,530	188,234	220,554
201812	18,748	4,046	7,866	184,369	214,998
2018 Total	51,588	12,167	25,303	437,864	522,726
201901	18,756	4,093	8,078	181,409	212,298
201902	18,246	4,007	7,727	173,921	203,877
201903	19,398	4,320	8,296	183,429	215,402
201904	18,833	4,095	8,143	181,304	212,326
201905	21,017	4,549	9,186	197,804	232,514
201906	19,379	4,197	8,276	177,958	209,787
201907	20,734	4,600	9,021	191,791	226,100
201908	21,374	4,669	9,085	195,360	230,418
201909	21,059	4,584	8,932	188,592	223,128
201910	21,523	4,619	9,132	192,626	227,854
201911	21,540	4,574	9,103	191,102	226,268
201912	21,491	4,630	9,075	196,334	231,493
2019 Total	56,644	13,171	27,819	443,567	537,493
202001	21,301	4,594	8,863	192,870	227,583
202002	21,148	4,490	8,787	190,177	224,571
202003	24,368	5,251	10,296	225,325	265,206
202004	20,325	4,444	8,121	182,591	215,464
202005	24,013	5,108	10,576	224,099	263,765
202006	26,901	5,723	12,314	257,077	301,977
202007	28,317	6,031	13,202	271,455	318,973
202008	28,206	5,929	13,157	269,356	316,607
202009	26,488	5,775	12,312	246,561	291,106
202010	25,998	5,668	12,177	234,806	278,614
202011	26,090	5,682	12,076	238,501	282,311
202012	26,627	5,831	12,281	249,110	293,818
2020 Total	59,715	13,969	30,539	457,274	559,214

A count of people who received a publicly funded dispensing of selected pharmaceuticals, by month and gender, 2017-2020

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Extracted 04/03/2021

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Source: Ministry of Health, Pharmaceutical Collection

Year and Month	Gender			
	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
201701	70,665	136,824	5	207,492
201702	69,908	134,922	4	204,833
201703	76,761	149,213	3	225,975
201704	69,841	135,622	5	205,467
201705	79,423	154,031	5	233,457
201706	76,061	146,677	5	222,741
201707	75,027	143,865	6	218,897
201708	79,151	151,756	6	230,911
201709	75,573	145,104	4	220,679
201710	76,926	147,316	7	224,247
201711	78,575	150,461	8	229,042
201712	77,110	147,886	8	225,001
2017 Total	180,888	331,402	20	512,130
201801	74,365	142,428	9	216,802
201802	69,977	133,603	9	203,586
201803	73,802	141,645	11	215,458
201804	70,612	134,630	9	205,250
201805	76,587	146,677	9	223,271
201806	72,002	137,198	13	209,213
201807	74,149	140,898	13	215,057
201808	76,699	146,022	18	222,736
201809	71,559	136,156	21	207,735
201810	76,110	143,677	16	219,801
201811	75,902	144,636	17	220,554
201812	74,135	140,848	15	214,998
2018 Total	185,696	337,146	46	522,726
201901	73,216	139,065	19	212,298
201902	70,676	133,183	21	203,877
201903	74,625	140,758	21	215,402
201904	73,296	139,012	20	212,326
201905	80,171	152,332	16	232,514
201906	72,574	137,191	23	209,787
201907	78,567	147,518	19	226,100
201908	79,727	150,669	24	230,418
201909	77,478	145,631	21	223,128
201910	79,316	148,514	26	227,854
201911	78,503	147,742	25	226,268
201912	80,259	151,203	34	231,493
2019 Total	192,025	345,558	83	537,493
202001	78,942	148,614	29	227,583
202002	77,848	146,701	26	224,571
202003	90,107	175,054	48	265,206
202004	74,310	141,115	42	215,464
202005	90,365	173,348	56	263,765
202006	103,254	198,671	53	301,977
202007	108,717	210,199	62	318,973
202008	107,731	208,810	70	316,607
202009	99,560	191,485	66	291,106
202010	95,306	183,246	64	278,614
202011	96,307	185,941	69	282,311
202012	100,131	193,609	89	293,818
2020 Total	198,199	361,081	183	559,214

A count of people who received a publicly funded dispensing of selected pharmaceuticals, by month and DHB of domicile, 2017-2020

Selected pharmaceutical defined as those in Level 2 Therapeutic group "Antidepressants"

Extracted 04/03/2021

Notes

People may appear in multiple cells if, for example, they had a birthday between dispensings or recieved dispensings from multiple DHBs in the same year. Because of this, individual cells should not be summed, as people can appear in more than one cell and will be counted in each row and column they appear; this will result in doublecounting.

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Administrative and bulk dispensing data has been excluded.

Dispensings without an NHI have been excluded.

The Pharmaceutical Collection only counts publicly funded, community dispensed pharmaceuticals; It does not count hospital dispensings, drugs not funded by PHARMAC, or prescriptions that were never dispensed.

Some medications can be dispensed via practitioner supply order; for example, a family planning clinic may be dispensed a large volume of contraceptives which they then dispense to clients. Dispensings of this type have very poor NHI reporting and it is often not possible to tell who is ultimately receiving the medication. These are excluded from the following data.

Before the new Community Pharmacy Services Agreement in July 2012, it was not mandatory for pharmacies to submit a claim for items where the healthcare user's copayment covered the entire cost of dispensing the pharmaceutical (e.g. there was nothing to claim for). This can create an artificial trend for increases in lower cost medicines over this time.

The Pharmaceutical Collection is a live dataset, whilst the Pharmaceutical Data Web Tool is a static extract. Comparing the two extracts may result in

Source: Ministry of Health, Pharmaceutical Collection

DHB of Domicile																						Total
Year and Month	Auckland	Bay of Plenty	Canterbury	Capital and Coast	Counties Manukau	Hawkes Bay	Hutt Valley	Lakes	MidCentral	Nelson Marlborough	Northland	Overseas	South Canterbury	Southern	Tairarwhiti	Taranaki	Waikato	Wairarapa	Waitemata	West Coast	Whanganui	
201701	14,358	10,982	30,016	13,399	15,460	8,813	7,701	4,418	9,177	8,888	7,358	147	3,559	17,081	1,797	6,313	18,763	2,942	21,294	1,865	3,343	207,492
201702	14,592	10,706	29,248	13,263	15,293	8,480	7,709	4,419	8,898	8,644	7,217	143	3,453	16,921	1,775	6,131	18,730	2,885	21,600	1,733	3,213	204,833
201703	16,089	11,716	32,670	14,707	16,878	9,423	8,397	4,790	9,838	9,604	7,784	163	3,742	18,629	1,944	6,663	20,776	3,180	23,714	1,945	3,585	225,975
201704	14,572	10,678	29,605	13,465	15,392	8,578	7,666	4,351	8,955	8,613	7,177	137	3,482	17,188	1,731	6,118	18,590	2,879	21,482	1,735	3,172	205,467
201705	16,662	12,120	33,777	15,701	17,185	9,761	8,654	4,979	10,274	9,778	8,171	181	3,937	19,354	1,917	6,894	21,126	3,259	24,284	1,975	3,709	233,457
201706	15,657	11,624	32,153	14,846	16,521	9,337	8,388	4,668	9,854	9,244	7,909	157	3,744	18,509	1,918	6,513	20,148	3,062	23,255	1,947	3,536	222,741
201707	15,362	11,383	31,525	14,536	16,205	9,176	8,117	4,646	9,600	9,177	7,803	165	3,639	18,142	1,834	6,548	19,943	3,119	22,840	1,878	3,497	218,897
201708	16,238	12,051	33,308	15,323	17,183	9,637	8,593	4,923	10,263	9,551	8,242	164	3,782	19,256	1,984	6,957	20,953	3,260	23,811	1,998	3,722	230,911
201709	15,492	11,405	31,864	14,728	16,321	9,277	8,324	4,653	9,697	9,321	7,870	157	3,535	18,548	1,934	6,523	20,047	3,018	22,752	1,892	3,529	220,679
201710	15,768	11,592	32,515	15,092	16,570	9,361	8,308	4,713	9,963	9,293	7,960	171	3,655	18,812	1,920	6,712	20,334	3,140	23,029	1,917	3,644	224,247
201711	16,153	11,956	32,957	15,397	16,901	9,576	8,394	4,807	10,197	9,524	8,170	157	3,777	19,245	2,004	6,809	20,792	3,212	23,680	1,930	3,632	229,042
201712	15,970	11,704	32,942	15,030	16,518	9,420	8,374	4,838	9,895	9,209	7,922	162	3,719	18,780	1,934	6,580	20,294	3,140	23,270	1,836	3,668	225,001
2017 Total	42,052	27,450	71,838	35,902	42,732	20,905	18,205	11,720	21,758	21,027	19,392	924	8,096	41,442	4,566	15,496	48,780	6,535	58,098	4,520	8,065	512,130
201801	14,840	11,199	31,277	14,053	16,043	9,319	8,208	4,574	9,866	9,198	7,708	177	3,575	18,173	1,927	6,614	19,454	3,108	22,171	1,871	3,646	216,802
201802	14,379	10,586	29,268	13,129	15,251	8,564	7,681	4,274	9,056	8,403	7,362	157	3,284	16,814	1,801	6,040	18,629	2,951	21,158	1,666	3,317	203,586
201803	15,102	11,113	31,318	13,898	16,354	9,254	8,186	4,414	9,559	8,751	7,646	142	3,603	17,779	1,834	6,185	19,697	3,125	22,395	1,795	3,540	215,458
201804	14,337	10,634	29,752	13,356	15,562	8,784	7,831	4,226	9,154	8,445	7,340	134	3,439	17,013	1,748	6,043	18,624	3,024	20,914	1,660	3,427	205,250
201805	15,754	11,549	32,420	14,571	16,951	9,421	8,441	4,600	10,028	8,973	7,928	146	3,599	18,469	1,908	6,481	20,473	3,212	23,118	1,857	3,624	223,271
201806	14,720	10,866	30,343	13,885	15,815	8,933	7,989	4,290	9,369	8,447	7,344	135	3,464	17,293	1,727	6,086	18,902	3,102	21,481	1,758	3,457	209,213
201807	14,903	11,162	30,976	13,974	16,355	9,117	8,030	4,475	9,755	8,649	7,760	136	3,552	18,003	1,750	6,355	19,639	3,247	22,133	1,746	3,552	215,057
201808	15,532	11,596	32,157	14,684	16,979	9,358	8,344	4,661	10,055	9,047	7,938	119	3,630	18,334	1,928	6,459	20,380	3,247	22,985	1,815	3,744	222,736
201809	14,573	10,810	29,978	13,524	15,942	8,702	7,890	4,344	9,461	8,358	7,224	103	3,327	17,163	1,719	6,102	18,993	3,102	21,415	1,721	3,455	207,735
201810	15,241	11,173	31,934	14,389	16,900	9,168	8,234	4,582	10,003	8,866	7,755	101	3,586	18,338	1,826	6,448	19,975	3,252	22,785	1,823	3,638	219,801
201811	15,573	11,334	32,006	14,388	16,941	9,182	8,250	4,709	10,064	8,971	7,783	113	3,551	18,229	1,820	6,450	20,036	3,206	22,671	1,832	3,663	220,554
201812	15,138	11,108	31,671	14,033	16,354	9,129	8,153	4,523	9,711	8,518	7,469	104	3,538	17,825	1,790	6,291	19,325	3,180	22,051	1,746	3,528	214,998
2018 Total	42,562	27,969	73,775	36,292	43,912	21,211	18,604	11,928	22,297	21,382	19,720	769	8,189	42,612	4,594	15,928	49,798	6,667	58,845	4,453	8,439	522,726
201901	14,410	11,095	31,012	13,616	16,055	9,083	7,964	4,542	9,734	8,909	7,515	122	3,505	17,660	1,784	6,385	18,977	3,192	21,590	1,775	3,552	212,298
201902	14,344	10,624	29,305	13,215	15,488	8,646	7,512	4,301	9,298	8,211	7,214	90	3,285	17,004	1,773	6,017	18,485	3,097	21,107	1,722	3,308	203,877
201903	15,219	11,149	31,681	13,804	16,620	9,092	8,150	4,433	9,726	8,768	7,373	86	3,484	17,852	1,760	6,311	19,416	3,147	22,341	1,768	3,479	215,402
201904	14,807	10,990	31,013	13,850	16,199	8,968	7,851	4,510	9,675	8,664	7,432	95	3,485	17,873	1,741	6,112	19,068	3,102	21,872	1,714	3,514	212,326
201905	16,348	12,070	34,139	15,270	17,796	9,571	8,597	4,929	10,469	9,472	8,187	91	3,735	19,397	1,925	6,782	21,086	3,332	23,905	1,904	3,756	232,514
201906	14,794	10,854	30,750	13,634	16,213	8,761	7,813	4,306	9,525	8,471	7,233	73	3,374	17,510	1,692	5,990	18,909	3,106	21,889	1,675	3,402	209,787
201907	15,899	11,749	33,256	14,669	17,500	9,309	8,380	4,810	10,263	9,118	7,882	76	3,618	18,920	1,804	6,463	20,403	3,327	23,346	1,861	3,694	226,100
201908	16,032	11,978	33,853	15,118	17,659	9,610	8,568	4,888	10,465	9,216	7,970	74	3,668	19,426	1,869	6,622	20,942	3,328	23,772	1,868	3,703	230,418
201909	15,526	11,431	33,025	14,558	17,240	9,287	8,193	4,624	10,139	8,942	7,719	82	3,504	18,790	1,882	6,445	20,107	3,246	23,130	1,813	3,627	223,128
201910	15,876	11,880	33,354	14,927	17,478	9,445	8,463	4,768	10,382	9,144	7,980	87	3,710	19,067	1,876	6,614	20,655	3,374	23,475	1,831	3,694	227,854
201911	15,966	11,782	33,270	14,889	17,369	9,541	8,414	4,639	10,238	9,143	7,771	85	3,534	18,856	1,895	6,497	20,548	3,387	23,230	1,892	3,511	226,268
201912	16,191	12,060	34,293	15,306	17,640	9,692	8,658	4,752	10,463	9,046	8,118	80	3,689	19,363	1,970	6,584	20,834	3,379	24,046	1,835	3,732	231,493
2019 Total	43,786	28,946	76,434	37,340	45,535	21,729	18,921	12,238	22,935	21,770	19,697	577	8,236	44,292	4,679	16,219	50,863	6,884	60,115	4,544	8,581	537,493
202001	15,315	11,983	33,906	14,746	17,082	9,667	8,467	4,733	10,418	9,453	7,861	87	3,751	19,037	1,946	6,676	20,468	3,452	23,161	1,879	3,707	227,583
202002	15,581	11,750	33,437	14,697	17,033	9,466	8,359	4,572	10,095	8,977	7,708	99	3,572	18,587	1,956	6,608	20,239	3,352	23,271	1,835	3,573	224,571
202003	18,916	13,812	39,809	17,739	19,679	11,103	9,790	5,458	1													

A count of people who received a publicly funded dispensing of selected pharmaceuticals, by month and prioritised ethnicity, 2017-2020

Selected pharmaceutical defined as those in Level 2 Therapeutic group "Antidepressants"

Extracted 04/03/2021

Notes

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Source: Ministry of Health, Pharmaceutical Collection

Year and Month	Age Group																			Total
	00 to 04	05 to 09	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64	65 to 69	70 to 74	75 to 79	80 to 84	85+		
201701	6	173	877	4,887	8,835	9,924	10,521	12,171	15,450	18,338	19,404	19,731	18,306	17,266	15,365	13,424	10,340	12,767	207,492	
201702	5	191	981	5,084	8,711	9,952	10,571	12,347	15,384	18,148	19,008	19,322	17,848	16,840	14,915	13,084	10,087	12,580	204,833	
201703	12	208	1,107	5,822	9,903	11,171	11,752	13,597	17,069	20,416	21,028	21,400	19,683	18,603	16,339	14,125	10,847	13,246	225,975	
201704	9	176	980	5,069	8,961	10,022	10,597	12,402	15,309	18,385	19,082	19,603	17,971	16,787	14,986	12,907	10,070	12,374	205,467	
201705	10	217	1,088	6,303	10,706	11,789	12,348	14,394	17,532	20,944	21,586	22,088	20,229	19,034	16,769	14,534	11,006	13,335	233,457	
201706	3	196	1,178	6,359	10,350	11,301	11,621	13,415	16,706	20,103	20,466	20,930	19,330	17,782	16,006	13,783	10,585	12,935	222,741	
201707	6	199	1,125	6,015	10,022	10,991	11,624	13,395	16,182	19,742	20,045	20,749	18,940	17,387	15,874	13,634	10,410	12,843	218,897	
201708	7	221	1,247	6,595	10,754	11,756	12,261	14,209	17,230	20,962	21,352	21,818	19,911	18,310	16,574	14,244	10,790	13,054	230,911	
201709	5	196	1,227	6,332	10,271	11,224	11,568	13,550	16,303	19,942	20,226	20,817	19,096	17,386	15,925	13,764	10,369	12,774	220,679	
201710	3	193	1,147	6,133	10,434	11,411	11,882	13,518	16,262	20,137	20,739	21,085	19,515	17,884	16,559	14,174	10,660	12,913	224,247	
201711	4	208	1,252	6,243	10,695	11,705	12,007	13,890	16,623	20,469	20,991	21,480	20,085	18,435	16,973	14,531	10,791	13,038	229,042	
201712	3	206	1,196	5,810	9,784	10,993	11,665	13,720	16,487	20,341	20,669	21,538	20,058	18,264	16,984	14,244	10,688	12,677	225,001	
2017 Total	32	637	3,454	19,985	33,238	35,440	35,395	38,865	45,708	53,362	53,530	52,490	46,397	41,768	35,232	28,272	20,261	21,409	512,130	
201801	4	183	1,017	5,688	9,749	10,852	11,286	12,803	15,209	18,928	19,677	20,284	19,196	17,660	16,801	14,165	10,725	12,880	216,802	
201802	6	159	1,056	5,412	9,133	10,039	10,532	11,831	14,361	17,734	18,268	19,068	17,977	16,477	15,763	13,433	10,170	12,399	203,586	
201803	6	212	1,085	5,820	9,499	10,386	10,936	12,672	15,141	18,974	19,514	20,455	19,047	17,573	16,734	13,993	10,852	12,867	215,458	
201804	6	171	1,011	5,454	9,057	9,812	10,049	11,760	13,910	17,727	18,526	19,596	18,271	16,910	16,180	13,644	10,666	12,719	205,250	
201805	6	195	1,188	6,251	10,229	11,032	11,532	13,105	15,621	19,358	19,980	21,078	19,734	18,230	17,519	14,355	11,112	13,130	223,271	
201806	8	180	1,183	5,930	9,624	10,333	10,629	12,071	14,461	18,281	18,789	19,644	18,507	16,899	16,285	13,554	10,525	12,573	209,213	
201807	12	182	1,101	6,202	9,937	10,685	10,972	12,271	14,759	18,577	19,336	20,374	18,983	17,428	16,834	13,875	10,884	12,983	215,057	
201808	10	202	1,297	6,793	10,676	11,044	11,540	12,914	15,284	19,473	19,884	21,079	19,520	17,917	17,399	14,074	10,971	13,069	222,736	
201809	9	194	1,207	6,190	9,892	10,196	10,660	11,765	14,199	17,904	18,613	19,688	18,133	16,594	16,252	13,389	10,515	12,580	207,735	
201810	6	179	1,223	6,602	10,579	10,997	11,450	12,559	14,745	18,903	19,626	20,692	19,240	17,778	17,284	14,250	10,997	13,107	219,801	
201811	5	179	1,254	6,456	10,621	11,072	11,387	12,694	15,025	18,857	19,483	20,790	19,417	17,877	17,480	14,213	11,016	13,069	220,554	
201812	6	196	1,200	5,997	9,592	10,350	10,860	12,204	14,518	18,830	19,348	20,522	19,142	17,672	17,224	14,025	10,870	12,750	214,998	
2018 Total	28	625	3,791	21,305	34,938	37,146	36,942	39,363	44,593	53,648	53,301	53,359	47,320	41,711	37,118	28,777	20,805	21,346	522,726	
201901	7	173	1,082	5,677	9,866	10,566	10,972	11,920	13,970	17,887	18,844	19,948	18,970	17,496	17,230	14,048	11,011	12,924	212,298	
201902	3	198	1,140	5,906	9,594	10,369	10,687	11,696	13,662	17,183	17,912	18,857	17,868	16,521	16,274	13,340	10,374	12,524	203,877	
201903	5	200	1,241	6,277	10,138	11,040	11,241	12,401	14,304	18,361	19,045	20,140	18,954	17,358	17,102	14,018	10,980	12,896	215,402	
201904	6	194	1,177	6,039	10,032	10,729	11,013	11,964	14,006	17,993	18,552	19,827	18,882	17,280	17,074	14,085	10,862	12,925	212,326	
201905	4	204	1,371	7,023	11,389	12,228	12,518	13,611	15,546	19,737	20,692	21,740	20,271	18,506	18,501	14,925	11,294	13,330	232,514	
201906	5	170	1,281	6,417	10,214	10,920	11,233	12,088	13,971	17,942	18,482	19,302	18,316	16,474	16,465	13,698	10,528	12,513	209,787	
201907	4	192	1,334	6,856	11,129	11,783	12,163	13,047	14,983	19,419	20,072	20,958	20,044	17,982	17,772	14,554	11,143	13,088	226,100	
201908	3	195	1,460	7,316	11,477	12,210	12,338	13,526	15,497	19,684	20,639	21,491	20,230	17,997	18,020	14,653	11,076	12,985	230,418	
201909	5	202	1,417	7,121	11,151	11,808	12,138	12,973	14,857	19,098	19,616	20,607	19,489	17,489	17,425	14,338	10,923	12,810	223,128	
201910	8	200	1,423	7,101	11,468	12,030	12,514	13,195	14,997	19,321	20,175	21,030	20,149	17,977	17,834	14,669	11,232	12,974	227,854	
201911	5	208	1,445	6,943	11,416	11,823	12,347	13,313	14,819	19,094	19,864	20,839	19,986	17,909	17,845	14,575	11,248	12,895	226,268	
201912	5	209	1,481	6,764	10,864	12,097	12,469	13,310	15,465	19,952	20,626	21,674	20,843	18,489	18,487	14,864	11,396	12,837	231,493	
2019 Total	25	651	4,106	22,580	37,347	39,620	39,676	40,863	44,594	53,791	53,755	54,019	48,742	41,982	38,823	29,459	21,395	21,437	537,493	
202001	5	197	1,357	6,579	11,093	12,037	12,440	13,052	14,846	19,110	20,075	21,365	20,391	18,280	18,209	14,706	11,307	12,872	227,583	
202002	4	192	1,459	7,015	11,034	12,069	12,510	13,325	14,878	18,933	19,779	20,544	19,801	17,699	17,658	14,339	11,023	12,586	224,571	
202003	6	242	1,747	8,122	12,862	14,182	15,163	16,066	18,408	23,075	24,091	24,980	23,902	20,933	20,354	16,153	12,127	13,242	265,206	
202004	4	183	1,342	6,441	10,221	11,093	11,926	12,371	14,158	17,789	19,184	19,830	19,307	17,311	17,255	14,006	10,863	12,509	215,464	
202005	6	227	1,541	7,834	13,009	14,277	15,373	15,967	17,972	22,562	23,978	24,673	23,810	20,907	20,644	16,091	12,064	13,222	263,765	
202006	6	256	1,837	9,016	15,142	16,887	17,891	18,974	21,058	26,524	27,704	28,338	27,157	23,907	23,022	17,852	13,148	13,735	301,977	
202007	3	271	1,946	9,755	16,404	18,276	19,334	20,436	22,532	28,204	29,353	29,946	28,378	24,847	23,999	18,289	13,550	14,048	318,973	
202008	4	271	2,017	9,737	16,392	17,919	19,165	20,456	22,371	27,990	29,052	29,678	28,226	24,526	23,756	18,099	13,485	13,907	316,607	
202009	6	238	2,010	9,783	15,397	16,629	17,588	18,388	20,201	25,090	26,120	26,697	25,679	22,332	21,694	17,063	13,006	13,667	291,106	
202010	8	222	1,986	9,586	15,150	16,034	16,832	17,490	19,049	23,417	24,889	25,153	24,507	21,189	20,807	16,481	12,729	13,559	278,614	
202011	5	214	2,033	9,657	15,526	16,412	17,207	17,928	19,292	23,603	25,279	25,496	24,443	21,395	21,067	16,665	12,903	13,628	282,311	
202012	7	235	2,112	9,892	15,791	16,884	17,954	18,754	20,398	24,840	26,359	26,747	25,798	22,524	21,906	17,186	13,274	13,706	293,818	
2020 Total	21	632	4,659	24,888	39,723</															

A count of people who received a publicly funded dispensing of selected pharmaceuticals, by month, 2017-2020

Selected pharmaceutical defined as those in Level 2 Therapeutic group "Antidepressants"

Extracted 04/03/2021

Notes

People may appear in multiple cells if, for example, they had a birthday between dispensings or recieved dispensings from multiple DHBs in the same year. Because of this, individual cells should not be summed, as people can appear in more than one cell and will be counted in each row and column they appear; this will result in doublecounting.

The totals presented here (i.e., the highlighted and bolded figures) are calculated without double-counting. They may not be equal to the total of the row, column or table.

Administrative and bulk dispensing data has been excluded.

Dispensings without an NHI have been excluded.

The Pharmaceutical Collection only counts publicly funded, community dispensed pharmaceuticals; it does not count hospital dispensings, drugs not funded by PHARMAC, or prescriptions that were never dispensed.

Some medications can be dispensed via practitioner supply order; for example, a family planning clinic may be dispensed a large volume of contraceptives which they then dispense to clients. Dispensings of this type have very poor NHI reporting and it is often not possible to tell who is ultimately receiving the medication. These are excluded from the following data.

Before the new Community Pharmacy Services Agreement in July 2012, it was not mandatory for pharmacies to submit a claim for items where the healthcare user's copayment covered the entire cost of dispensing the pharmaceutical (e.g. there was nothing to claim for). This can create an artificial trend for increases in lower cost medicines over this time.

The Pharmaceutical Collection is a live dataset, whilst the Pharmaceutical Data Web Tool is a static extract. Comparing the two extracts may result in

Source: Ministry of Health, Pharmaceutical Collection

Year and Month	People
201701	207,492
201702	204,833
201703	225,975
201704	205,467
201705	233,457
201706	222,741
201707	218,897
201708	230,911
201709	220,679
201710	224,247
201711	229,042
201712	225,001
2017 Total	512,130
201801	216,802
201802	203,586
201803	215,458
201804	205,250
201805	223,271
201806	209,213
201807	215,057
201808	222,736
201809	207,735
201810	219,801
201811	220,554
201812	214,998
2018 Total	522,726
201901	212,298
201902	203,877
201903	215,402
201904	212,326
201905	232,514
201906	209,787
201907	226,100
201908	230,418
201909	223,128
201910	227,854
201911	226,268
201912	231,493
2019 Total	537,493
202001	227,583
202002	224,571
202003	265,206
202004	215,464
202005	263,765
202006	301,977
202007	318,973
202008	316,607
202009	291,106
202010	278,614
202011	282,311
202012	293,818
2020 Total	559,214