

2 February 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H202117852

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 19 December 2021 for:

- “1. Number of case of myocarditis / pericarditis.*
- 2. Number of heart attacks.*
- 3. Number of heart attacks in under 40 age group*
- 4. Number of strokes*
- 5. Number of sudden deaths of unknown cause.”*

Please find a response attached. To ensure data completeness, discharge data that occurred within the most recent two months is not included in National Minimum Dataset queries.

At the time of extraction, information for this response included data up to October 2021. The clinical code system version used is ICD10-AM version 11, and a list of clinical codes used is detailed on the attachments.

Please note that there are other clinical codes for myocarditis, pericarditis and myocardial infarction. The total number of people with myocarditis, pericarditis and myocardial infarction is much larger than those with acute versions of these conditions diagnosed.

The Ministry does not currently hold the number of sudden deaths of unknown cause for the period requested. There is approximately a 6-8 week lag between a death occurring and the fact of this death appearing in Ministry of Health data. The earliest fact of death information is available online from the Stats NZ COVID 19 data portal [www.stats.govt.nz/experimental/covid-19-data-portal](https://www.stats.govt.nz/experimental/covid-19-data-portal). This shows trends in the numbers of deaths in New Zealand over time, but does not give cause of death.

After the Ministry receives fact of death information, there is a 6-18 month process to assign a cause of death code for most deaths. The Ministry's clinical coding team reviews the death certificate and health history of the deceased, to assign cause of death codes. Any death which requires a coronial inquiry can take 2-3 or more years for cause of death to be assigned. We do not make mortality data available publicly until the majority of deaths have been assigned a cause of death, so that the data we release is complete and accurate.

The Ministry publishes preliminary mortality statistics, which do not include injury-related deaths information which are typically more influenced by coronial cases, in December each year. The 2019 preliminary data will be published in December 2021.

The Ministry has a Mortality web tool that provides data from 2018, and historical mortality data. The webtool is here: [www.health.govt.nz/publication/mortality-web-tool](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/mortality-web-tool)  
Follow the link in the right hand corner of the page to open the web tool.

Other published mortality data is on this page: [www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/mortality-data-and-stats](http://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/mortality-data-and-stats).

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](mailto: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 of Health website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line.

Gaynor Bradfield  
**Manager, Office of the Director-General  
Data & Digital**

**Table 1: Number of publicly funded hospital discharges in 2021 by month, broken down by diagnosis.**

	Month										
Diagnosis	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Acute Myocardial Infarction	924	790	1022	917	1027	1005	1039	974	831	837	<b>9366</b>
Acute myocarditis	2	5	7	8	7	4		5	6	4	<b>48</b>
Acute pericarditis	18	18	24	16	21	17	30	22	25	16	<b>207</b>
Stroke	737	580	720	702	758	736	763	730	713	684	<b>7123</b>

**Table 2: Number of publicly funded hospital discharges for acute myocardial infarction in 2021 by month, for those under the age of 40.**

	Month										
Diagnosis	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Acute Myocardial Infarction	7	16	13	21	21	22	12	20	17	15	<b>164</b>

Notes: Source – National Minimum Dataset (NMDs)

Extracted: 21/12/2021

Includes casemix events only

<b>Pericarditis</b>	
ICD code	Code Description
I30	Acute pericarditis
<b>Myocarditis</b>	
ICD code	Code Description
I40	Acute myocarditis
<b>Acute Myocardial Infarction</b>	
ICD code	Code Description
I21	Acute myocardial infarction
<b>Stroke</b>	
ICD code	Code Description
I61	Intracerebral haemorrhage
I63	Cerebral infarction
I64	Stroke, not specified as haemorrhage or infarction
Note that ICD10-AM version 11 is used.	

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