

22 February 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: **s 9(2)(a)**
Ref: H202200506

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 24 January 2022 regarding statistics on cardiac issues. Each part of your request is responded to in turn:

1. The number of children aged 5-15 admitted to hospital with cardiac issues from 01 August 2021 till present day.

2. The number of children aged 5-15 admitted to hospital with cardiac issues annually for the previous 5 years (2016-2021)

Tables 1 and 2 below show the number of publicly funded hospital discharges for heart disease in children aged 5-14, broken down by type of heart disease.

Please note, data from the 2019/2020 financial year onwards is provisional, and has not yet been finalised. The data is a count of discharges, as such people hospitalised multiple times (for example from transfers, readmissions, or multiple incidents) are counted each time.

Table 1. Child hospital discharges for heart diseases August – December 2021

Chronic rheumatic heart diseases	24
Ischaemic heart diseases	3
Pulmonary heart disease and diseases of pulmonary circulation	4
Other forms of heart disease	78

Table 2. Child hospital discharges for heart diseases 2016 – 2021

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Chronic rheumatic heart diseases	37	35	53	38	24
Ischaemic heart diseases	5	7	4	3	7
Pulmonary heart disease and diseases of pulmonary circulation	20	10	21	11	11
Other forms of heart disease	178	156	150	162	180

3. The number of emergency calls to fire and ambulance for 5-15 year olds due to cardiac issues from 01 August 2021 till present day

4. The number of emergency calls to fire and ambulance for 5-15 years due to cardiac issues from 2016-2021 year ending. Broken down by month.

As you were advised via email on 3 February 2022 questions 3 and 4 of your request have been partially transferred to Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) under section 14(b)(i) of the Act.

As previously noted, FENZ are able to respond only in regards to emergency calls to fire, not to ambulance services. You may wish to contact St John and the Wellington Free Ambulance for information regarding emergency ambulance calls. However, as these agencies are not subject to the Act, they are not bound by legislation to provide this information to you.

5. All data relating to how many emergency calls or hospital admissions were reported after being vaccinated with the Pfizer comirnaty vaccine for children aged 5-15 years.

The Ministry is providing you with the number of hospital visits exceeding 4 hours, for children aged 5-15 years, in the 6 months following their COVID-19 vaccine. No causal relationship between vaccination and hospitalisation has been found. This means that there is no established link between a child's vaccination and hospitalisation. The most common recorded reasons for hospitalisation in the period after vaccination were physical trauma or self-ingested poisoning.

Please note, this data is captured up to 6 months following a dose of the vaccine and resets if there is another dose. For children aged 5 to 11, the recommended gap between dose 1 and 2 is 8 weeks or more. Dose 3 or a booster shot is not recommended to most children under age 18. Therefore, it is important to note that the higher number of hospital visits for children in the dose 2 category, reflects the longer period of time that children were in that category. It should also be noted that children aged 5-11 only became eligible for vaccination on 17 January 2022.

Table 3. Number of child hospital visits exceeding 4 hours within 6 months of receiving a dose of the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine

Dose 1 (within 6 months)	136
Dose 2 (within 6 months)	3170
Dose 3 (within 6 months)	17

I trust this 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 of Health website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

Nāku noa, nā



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