

7 June 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202206004

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) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 6 May 2022 for:

the number of recorded maternal deaths (that is, the death of the mother during pregnancy, childbirth, or directly post partum) for the last five years, broken down by:

- Year
- When the death occurred (while pregnant, during childbirth, or postpartum, and if so, how long post partum)
- Whether a live baby was born
- Cause of death or suspected cause of death
- City or town where death occurred
- Location (eg at hospital, home, in public)
- Age of the mother
- Ethnicity of the mother

Mortality data is publicly available at: minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/mortality-web-tool/. Please note the most recent year for which cause of death data is currently available is 2018.

Mortality data for 2019 onwards is not ready for release. The Ministry releases provisional data only once certain quality thresholds have been met, for example the number of deaths with no known cause awaiting coroner's findings needs to drop below a certain level. Before these completeness thresholds are met, the Ministry does not release provisional data. This is because the data is not robust to use for comparing numbers of deaths between years.

Please find attached as Document 1 the summary of registered maternal deaths between 2014 and 2018.

The Ministry is unable to provide information on the stage of pregnancy when the death occurred, and whether a live baby was born, as this information is not recorded in the Ministry's mortality collection. Additionally, the Ministry cannot provide the city or town where the death occurred, as place of death is recorded in the database in a free text field and would require manual inspection of the records. Similarly, providing information on the location of the death, for example at a hospital or at home, would also require excessive collation. As such these parts of your request are refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

Registered maternal deaths by sex and age, 2014 - 2018

Source: Ministry of Health, Mortality collection

Maternal deaths defined as ICD-10-AM O00-O95, O98-O99

Death registrations are between 2014 - 2018

2018 Mortality data is provisional

Year	Total	ICD Code	Total	Age group (years)											
				10-	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45-	50-	55-	60-	65+
2014	3	O44 Placenta praevia													
		Total:	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		O88 Obstetric embolism													
		Total:	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2015	6	O99 Other maternal diseases classifiable elsewhere but complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium													
		Total:	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		O88 Obstetric embolism													
		Total:	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	1	O98 Maternal infectious and parasitic diseases classifiable elsewhere but complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium													
		Total:	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		O99 Other maternal diseases classifiable elsewhere but complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium													
		Total:	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	4	O00 Ectopic pregnancy													
		Total:	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		O98 Maternal infectious and parasitic diseases classifiable elsewhere but complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium													
		Total:	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	8	O99 Other maternal diseases classifiable elsewhere but complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium													
		Total:	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		O44 Placenta praevia													
		Total:	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	8	O88 Obstetric embolism													
		Total:	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		O99 Other maternal diseases classifiable elsewhere but complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium													
		Total:	6	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0