

20 June 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H202206569

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 17 May 2022 for information relating to the number of miscarriages, pregnancies, births and deaths for the years 2019 to 2021. You will find a response to each part of your request below.

#### *The number of miscarriages recorded per year.*

The Ministry does not have national-level data on the number of miscarriages, ie death of a fetus before 20 weeks gestation. We receive reporting for miscarriages which resulted in a hospitalisation, but many miscarriages do not need hospital treatment. We also do not receive reporting on miscarriages where the mother was not aware she was pregnant. We are therefore unable to provide complete data on miscarriages.

We do record statistics on still births/fetal deaths, ie where the fetus was at least 20 weeks gestation or had a 400g birthweight. 2019 is the most recent year currently available, as there are issues with non-registration of some fetal and infant deaths. There is therefore a delay before this data is complete.

#### *The number of ectopic pregnancies per year.*

The data that the Ministry holds on ectopic pregnancies comes from hospital discharge data. The number of publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy (ICD-10-AM-VIII code O00) is outlined below:

- In 2019 there were 1,323 publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy.
- In 2020 there were 1,474 publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy.
- In 2021 there were 1,454 publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy.

In these numbers, patients who were hospitalised multiple times (transfers, readmissions or multiple incidents) are counted each time. Please note that the data provided for 2020 and 2021 is provisional.

#### *The number of molar pregnancies per year.*

The data that the Ministry holds on molar pregnancies comes from hospital discharge data. The number of publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of hydatidiform mole

(ICD-10-AM-VIII code O01) and blighted ovum and non hydatidiform mole (ICD-10-AM-VIII code O02.0) is below:

- In 2019 there were 150 publicly funded hospital discharges with a diagnosis of molar pregnancies.
- In 2020, there were 163 publicly funded hospital discharges with a diagnosis of molar pregnancies.
- In 2021, there were 191 publicly funded hospital discharges with a diagnosis of molar pregnancies.

Please note that the 2020 and 2021 data provided above is provisional. People who were hospitalised multiple times (transfers, readmissions, multiple incidents) are counted each time. In 2019 and 2020, there were low hospital rates compared to previous years, meaning 2021 looks higher than other years. Data for the previous 4 years' is below:

- In 2015 there were 172 publicly funded hospital discharges with a diagnosis of molar pregnancies.
- In 2016 there were 191 publicly funded hospital discharges with a diagnosis of molar pregnancies.
- In 2017, there were 181 publicly funded hospital discharges with a diagnosis of molar pregnancies.
- In 2018 there were 188 publicly funded hospital discharges with a diagnosis of molar pregnancies.

*The number of live births per year.*

The Ministry receives live birth registration data from Statistics New Zealand. According to this data the number of live births for 2019 was 60,461 and 2020 was 58,140. Please note we have not yet received the live birth registration data for 2021.

The Ministry's online web tool for maternity data contains additional statistics about birth events. The web tool can be found here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/report-maternity-web-tool>

*Number of perinatal deaths and neonatal deaths per year.*

Data about perinatal and neonatal deaths is also impacted by late and missing registrations, and 2019 is the most recent year for which we have data available. Provisional data for 2019 for perinatal and neonatal deaths is:

- Perinatal deaths (foetal and early neonatal) for 2019 is 583
- Neonatal deaths (early and late neonatal) for 2019 is 184

The Ministry's online web tool for fetal and infant deaths contains additional statistics. The web tool can be found here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/fetal-and-infant-deaths-web-tool>

*In relation to pharmacovigilance, is the DHB recording/reporting any data relating to outcomes following vaccination for Covid-19 in pregnancy, as part of a post marketing surveillance programme?"*

Medsafe is not aware of any district health boards reporting data relating to outcomes following vaccination for COVID-19 in pregnancy. Please note, no DHB has been in contact with Medsafe around the reporting data of vaccination in pregnancy. DHBs may have additional information regarding this question, and you may wish to contact them directly.

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 website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://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 stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line.

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