

20 JUN 2019



Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received on 22 May 2019 requesting:

- “Number of admissions annually to adult acute mental health wards – I think there are 22 acute MH wards?*
- Proportion of admissions to adult mental health wards who were under the Mental Health Act (for inpatient and community treatment order)*
 - Average length of stay of patients in adult mental health wards (days stay) and Median length of stay (what is most common length of stay - days, a week, 2 weeks ect)*
 - Gender and ethnicity and age of patients in adult mental health wards”*

On 18 June 2019, you were asked to refine the *proportion of admissions to adult mental health wards who were under the Mental Health Act*, to include a specific time frame. Even with your request narrowed, it still requires collating a large volume of information that is not currently available. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act.

There is a Mental Health and Addiction Services report on the Ministry’s website which is relevant to your request, particularly figures 8 (page 31), 9 (page 32) and 14 (page 39): <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/office-director-mental-health-and-addiction-services-annual-report-2017>. I hope this is helpful to you.

The number of patients admitted to mental health wards, the average length of stay, as well as the gender, ethnicity and age of these patients are itemised in Appendix 1. Please note, the Ministry has interpreted your questions as being the number of acute bed nights, these will mostly be in acute wards as well as other wards. The information provided is per referral rather than per admission since this is the most accurate representation regarding your request using the variables available in the PRIMHD mental health collection.

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please be aware that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry's website.

Yours sincerely



Shayne Hunter
Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital

Mean and median bednights per acute referral by age group, ethnicity, and gender
Source: MoH PRIMHD extracted date 14-June-2019

Age Group	Ethnicity	Gender	2014			2015			2016			2017			2018			
			Median	Mean	Referrals	Median	Mean	Referrals	Median	Mean	Referrals	Median	Mean	Referrals	Median	Mean	Referrals	
00-18	Maori	F	6	17	251	6	14	252	5	11	292	5	10	225	6	11	205	
		M	9	17	216	9	15	224	8	17	210	6	17	217	8	17	212	
	Non-Maori	F	6	13	574	6	13	598	6	14	576	5	14	546	6	13	528	
		M	7	14	292	6	12	306	6	12	303	8	16	258	7	13	274	
19-44	Maori	F	10	16	994	10	18	1,006	9	16	1,093	9	18	1,200	9	17	1,105	
		M	11	18	1,430	11	19	1,487	10	18	1,437	10	17	1,493	10	19	1,462	
		F	8	16	2,162	8	16	2,140	7	14	2,263	7	14	2,366	8	16	2,196	
	Non-Maori	M	10	17	2,449	10	19	2,262	10	17	2,418	10	18	2,459	10	17	2,260	
		Maori	F	12	24	439	12	20	417	13	20	444	12	20	430	12	19	442
			M	11	17	351	11	18	368	12	19	420	11	19	395	11	20	390
45-64	Non-Maori	F	12	20	1,312	12	20	1,341	11	19	1,383	12	22	1,323	12	20	1,261	
		M	11	21	1,277	11	21	1,264	12	21	1,139	12	21	1,177	12	22	1,181	

Notes:

The mean and median calculations are done per referral, note that a person may not have all of their bed nights as part of one stay on a referral.

Age is calculated at the referral start date

People will show up in each and year and age group where they have a referral starting.

Acute referrals are those that meet the following criteria:

Activity setting code = 'ip'

Activity type code is in ('T02', 'T03')

Team setting is I (inpatient)

Organisation type is District Health Board (DHB)

Activity unit count is not 0

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