

## Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*"I would like to request the most recent statistics in regards to suicide rates in New Zealand. I would like to know the National Rates for Suicide Deaths and attempts, including information on ethnicity, age, gender.*

*I would also like the figures of the above information for the Eastern Bay of Plenty region please"*

In response to the first part of your request, the latest suicide statistics are publicly available from the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) website at: [www.health.govt.nz/publication/suicide-facts-2016-data-provisional](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/suicide-facts-2016-data-provisional). These provide breakdowns by gender, age, ethnicity, and district health board (DHB). It is important to note that 2016 is the most recent year for which this data is currently available. Finalising mortality data takes several years as there are a variety of data quality processes involved, including completing coronial cases, before this information is published. Generally, provisional data becomes available around two years after the end of the year.

For suicide attempts, publicly funded hospital discharge data is also available from the Ministry website: [www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/hospital-event-data-and-stats](http://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/hospital-event-data-and-stats). This information is coded using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) (the codes for intentional self-harm are X6 to X84). Similarly, these provide breakdowns by gender, ethnicity, and age. Data is provided for each financial year, and includes hospital discharges for intentional self-harm. You can find these under the 'External Cause' tabs, and all intentional self-harm events are grouped together by sub-category.

I have decided to refuse the last part of your request under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. Given the relatively small numbers of suicides in any one DHB, individuals may be able more readily identified when the data is further broken down by age and ethnicity.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made on this request.

Yours sincerely



Shayne Hunter  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Data and Digital**