

18/01/2020

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202008401

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received on 23 November 2020 to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for information relating to voluntary pregnancy termination statistics.

You specifically requested:

“...Information pertaining to voluntary pregnancy terminations. I would like to know the statistical breakdown by ethnicity please – Maori versus Pākehā annually for over a period of at least five years.”

Data on abortions statistics prior to 23 March 2020 is held by Statistics New Zealand (Stats NZ). On 7 December 2020 the Ministry notified you that part of your request has been transferred to Stats NZ for response. You can expect a response from Stats NZ in due course.

For the period between 24 March 2020 and 31 September 2020:

- 1,276 abortions were reported where the patient had at least one ethnicity recorded as Māori.
- 6,459 abortions were reported where the patient did not have Māori recorded as an ethnicity.
- 11 abortions were reported where ethnicity information was missing or not provided.

Please note the Ministry only has access to data on abortions reported after 23 March 2020. On 24 March 2020 the law was changed to decriminalise abortion, better align the regulation of abortion services with other health services, and modernise the legal framework for abortion services in New Zealand.

Further information on abortion statistics for the period up to December 2019 is also published on the Statistics New Zealand website and can be accessed at the following link:
www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/abortion-statistics-year-ended-december-2019.

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 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Prestidge', written in a cursive style.

Emma Prestidge

**Group Manager, Quality Assurance and Safety
Health System Improvement and Innovation**