

Electroconvulsive Therapy Annual Statistics

For the period from 1 July 2003
to 30 June 2004

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1 Introduction

In 2003 the Government carefully considered the Health Committee's report on Petition 1999/30 of Anna de Jonge and others. The petition requested that the House of Representatives accept a petition against electro-convulsive therapy (ECT). The petition claims the treatment is degrading and inhumane, always causes brain damage (including memory loss) and that forced psychiatric drugging in hospitals and the community and outpatient committal legislation breaches section 10 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

The Government agreed with the Health Committee's recommendations to ensure consistent monitoring, collection and recording of national data (broken down by District Health Boards) on ECT, to be reported annually. This is the first Ministry of Health annual report on the number of patients who receive ECT, and the number of ECT treatments per patient, by District Health Board. It covers the period from 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004. In accordance with the Health Committee's recommendations the report shows statistics for the total number of people who received ECT and also shows statistics for patients who received ECT under compulsion.

2 ECT data for the period from 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004

Total number of people who have received ECT

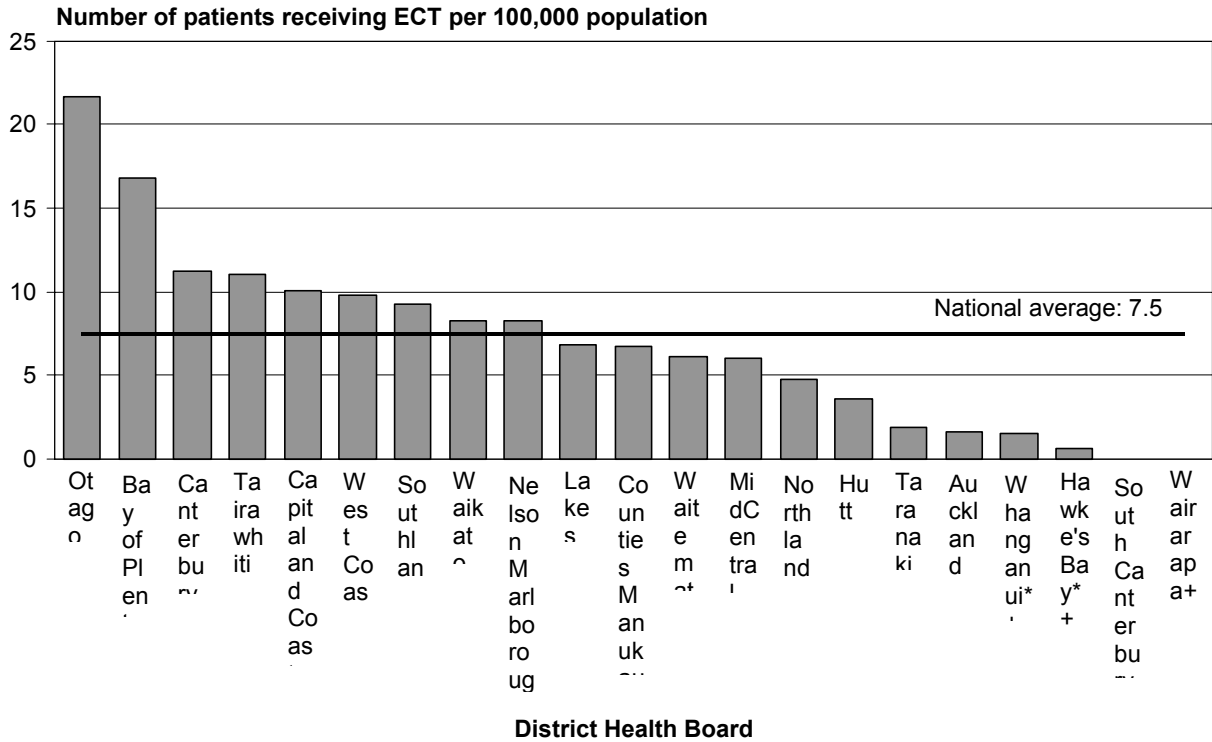
Table 1 shows the total number of peoples who have received ECT from 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004 broken down by District Health Board. Figure 1 illustrates the population adjusted figures, for the number of people who received ECT per 100,000 population. It also shows the national average number of ECT patients, which was 7.5 people per 100,000 population.

Table 1: Raw data, total number of patients who received ECT per DHB 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004

District Health Board	Number of peoples who received ECT
Auckland	7
Bay of Plenty	33
Canterbury	52
Capital and Coast	27
Counties Manukau	29
Hawke's Bay*+	1
Hutt	5
Lakes	7
MidCentral	10
Nelson Marlborough	11
Northland	7
Otago	39
South Canterbury+	0
Southland	10
Tairāwhiti	5
Taranaki	2
Waikato	28
Wairarapa+	0
Waitemata	30
West Coast	3
Whanganui*+	1
Total	307
Total number of individual patients	305

NB: One patient received treatment at both Bay of Plenty and Counties Manukau DHB, one patient received treatment at both Southland and Otago DHB.

Figure 1: Number of ECT patients per 100,000 population for 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004



Notes:

- * ECT performed at MidCentral DHB.
- + DHB does not have an ECT machine.

Average number of ECT administrations per patient

Table 2 shows the average number of ECT administrations per patient, by District Health Board. This data is represented graphically in Figure 2, with the national average being 10.4 ECT administrations per ECT patient.

Table 2: Average number of ECT administrations per patient by District Health Board 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

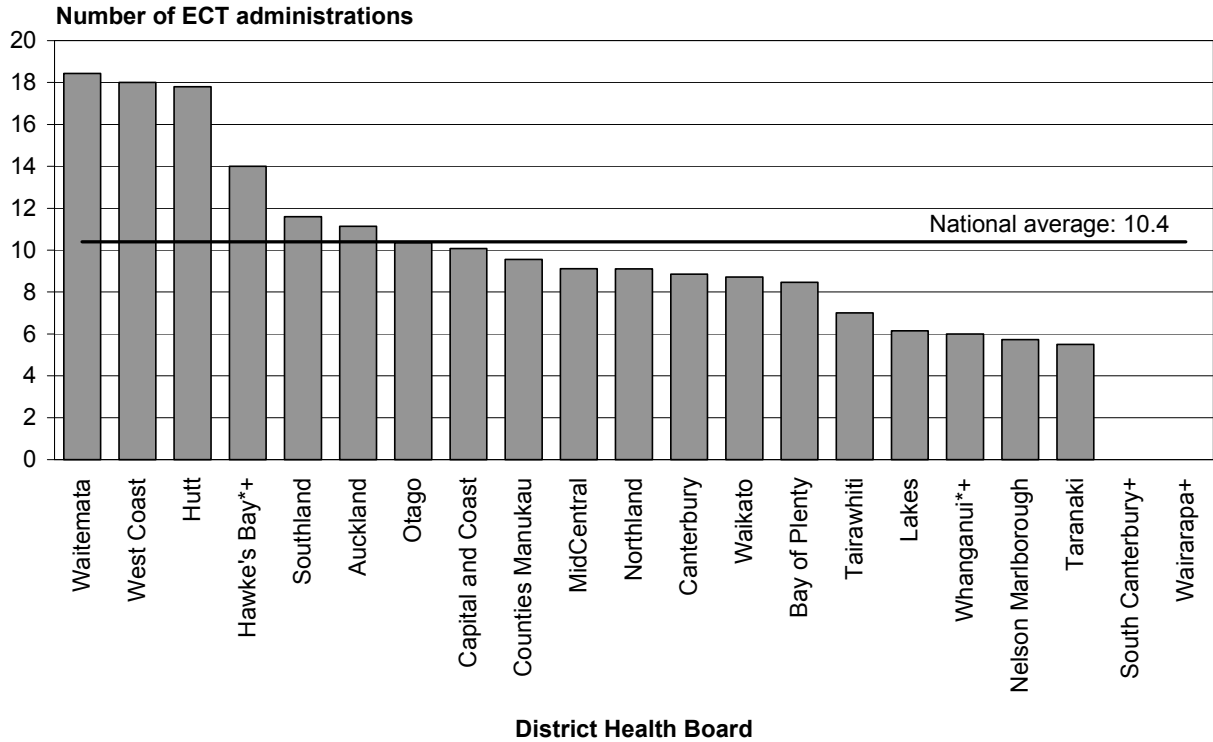
District Health Board	Average number of ECT administrations per patient
Waitemata	18.4
West Coast	18.0
Hutt	17.8
Hawke's Bay*+	14.0
Southland	11.6
Auckland	11.1
Otago	10.4
Capital and Coast	10.1
Counties Manukau	9.6
Canterbury	9.1
MidCentral	9.1
Bay of Plenty	8.8
Northland	8.7
Waikato	8.5
Tairāwhiti	7.0
Lakes	6.1
Whanganui*+	6.0
Nelson Marlborough	5.7
Taranaki	5.5
South Canterbury+	0.0
Wairarapa+	0.0
New Zealand average	10.4

Notes:

* ECT performed at MidCentral DHB.

+ DHB does not have an ECT machine.

Figure 2: Average number of ECT administrations per patient by DHB for the period 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004



Notes:

- * ECT performed at MidCentral DHB.
- + DHB does not have an ECT machine.

3 ECT Data for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 Delivered under Compulsion

Table 3 shows the raw data for the number of ECT administrations consented to per DHB for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. The population-adjusted figures are also depicted in Figure 3. Of the ECT administrations where consent was recorded, twenty six percent of ECT administrations were reported as being performed under compulsion. It is important to note that there were various interpretations of the word compulsion. Some DHBs interpreted compulsion as referring to people under the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992, regardless of whether permission was given for ECT. Hence it is likely that the figures reported on the number of ECT administrations not consented to will be over-reported.

Table 3: Raw data for the number of ECT administrations consented to for the period 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004

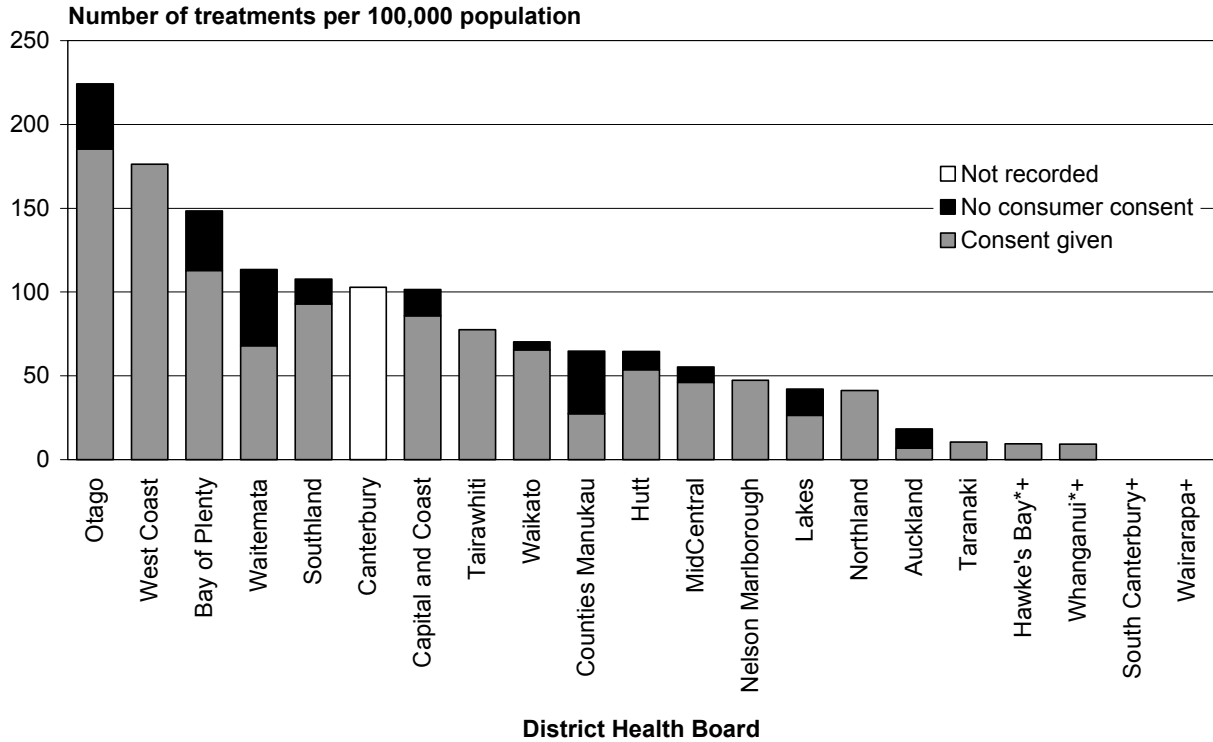
DHB	Number of administrations consented to	Number of administrations not consented to	Consent not reported
Otago	334	70	474
West Coast	54		
Bay of Plenty	222	70	
Waitemata	331	222	
Southland	100	16	
Canterbury			
Capital and Coast	230	42	
Tairāwhiti	35		
Waikato	221	16	
Counties Manukau	117	160	
Hutt	74	15	
MidCentral	76	15	
Nelson Marlborough	63		
Lakes	27	16	
Northland	61		
Auckland	29	49	
Taranaki	11		
Hawke's Bay*+	14		
Whanganui*+	6		
South Canterbury+	0	0	
Wairarapa+	0	0	
Total	2005	691	474

Notes:

* ECT performed at MidCentral DHB.

+ DHB does not have an ECT machine.

Figure 3: Population adjusted figures for the number of ECT administrations consented to per 100,000 population, for the period 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004



Notes:

- * ECT performed at MidCentral DHB.
- + DHB does not have an ECT machine.

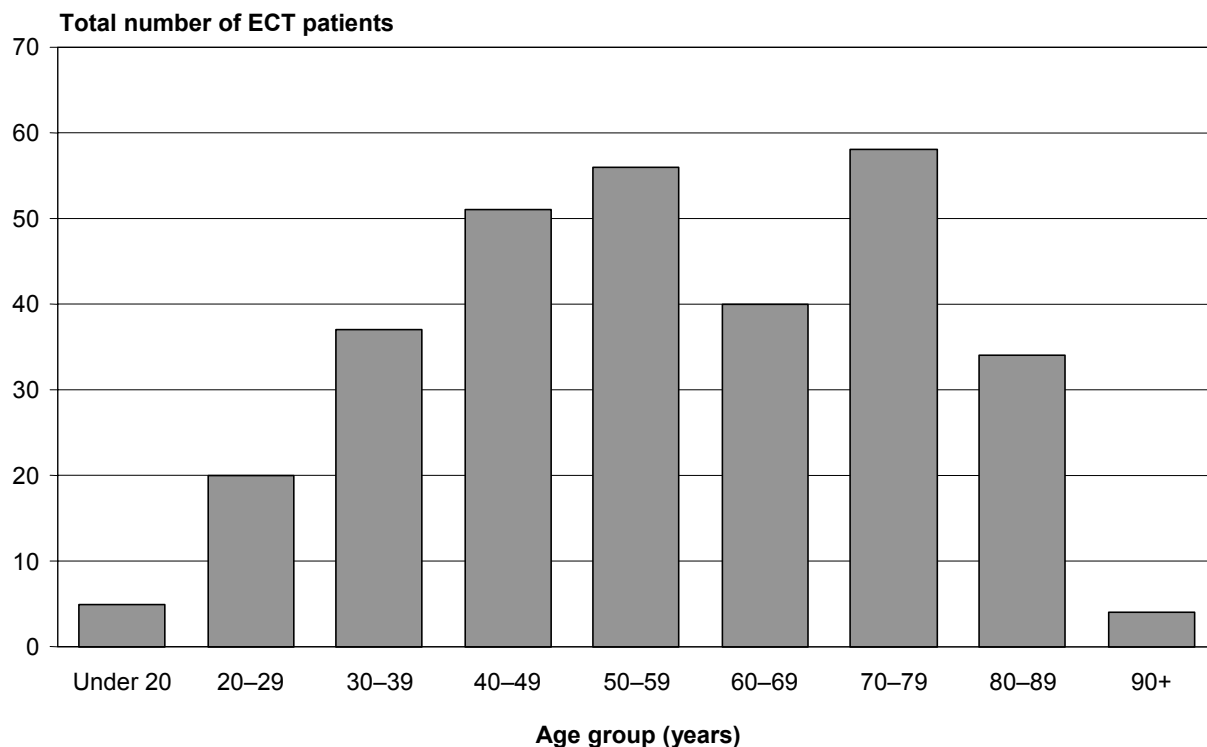
5 Age of ECT Patients

Table 4 represents the age breakdown for people who received ECT treatment during the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. This is depicted graphically Figure 4. Age group was determined by the individuals' age at the beginning of their treatment.

Table 4: Breakdown of ages of patients who received ECT 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004

Age of patients	Number of patients
Under 20	5
20–29	20
30–39	37
40–49	51
50–59	56
60–69	40
70–79	58
80–89	34
90 +	4

Figure 4: Age breakdown of people who received ECT treatment in the Period 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004



6 Ethnicity of ECT Patients

Table 5 represents the ethnicity breakdown of people who received ECT during the period 1 July 2003-30 June 2004.

Table 5 Breakdown of ethnicity of people who received ECT 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004

Ethnicity	Number of patients
Maori	15 (5%)
Other	290 (95%)

7 Gender of ECT patients

Table 6 represents the gender breakdown for people who received ECT during the period 1 July 2003-30 June 2004.

Table 6 Breakdown of gender of patients who received ECT 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004

Gender	Number of patients
Male	93 (30%)
Female	212 (70%)