

15 February 2024

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Tēnā koe Chris,

Your request for Official information, reference: HN200033452

Thank you for your email on 6 December 2023, asking for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can you please provide a count of the number of people vaccinated against COVID19 funded by the government of NZ and those who subsequently died of any cause - as measured by MoH record level patient or payment databases.

Please provide this as a machine readable CSV file.

Dataset 1 - Vaccinations

The following breakdown of each column is required:

- 1) Month of vaccination - from the first vaccination until the end of Nov 2023*
 - 2) Vaccination number (eg 1=1st, 2=2nd, 3=1st booster, 4=2nd booster etc) using a coding scheme used within the MoH*
 - 3) Location - Territorial Local Authority (ie Council area) based grouped into The following categories: Auckland, Greater Wellington (incl Wairarapa), Christchurch, Dunedin, Rest of South Island, Lower North Island (including Taranaki and Gisborne but excluding Taupo and King Country), Upper North Island. Ideally this is the physical vaccinating provider paid. Ideally derived from the location the injection was given (eg Rest Home for a mobile clinic - which is possible because the address of the patient's NHI number will be the rest home, or the physical address of a physical site like a pharmacy/GP clinic).*
 - 4) Age Band of Patient - <19 years old inclusive, 20-39 inclusive, 40-59 inclusive, 60-74 inclusive, 75+ inclusive*
 - 5) Intentionally blank - null*
 - 6) Death Last Dose - <30 days inclusive, 31 days-90 days inclusive, 91-180 days, 181 days to 365 days, 366 days to 730 days inclusive, 731 to 1095 days inclusive, over 1096 days inclusive. Each of these categories should be calculated from the date of the patient's most recent vaccine and a suffix appended depending upon the number of their last vaccine (eg "<30_5" would be coded against a patient who died within 30 days of their 5th jab/3rd booster*
 - 7) Intentionally blank - null*
 - 8) The count of the number of vaccination injections in each of the categories above when the underlying dataset has a Group By query applied using Count(Distinct NHI_Number) or similar for this column.*
 - 9) The count of the number of people who subsequently died after the vaccination month in each of the categories above when the underlying dataset has a Group By query applied using Count(Distinct NHI_Number) or similar for this column.*
- So for example, a group of 1000 70 year old people who were injected in June 2023 with their 3rd injection where 7 people died after 4 months (in Oct 2023) after visiting an ER would appear in a record like the following:*
- 202307, 3, "Auckland", "60-74", ">null_1", "91-180_3", "null", 1000, "7"*
- Similarly there be no recorded deaths for 366 days and over because this is in the future after this dataset is being summarised.*
- If there were 1234 1st injections and no deaths within 30 days of Feb 2022 for teenagers, but 3 / 345 within 2 months and 10 / 456 in month 4 then the records might look like:*

202202, 1, Dunedin, "<19", "null", "<30_1", "N", 1234, "0"
202202, 1, Dunedin, "<19", "null", "31-90_1", "null", 345, "S" (see below re use of "S")
202202, 1, Dunedin, "<19", "null", "91_180_1", "null", 456, "10"

Dataset 2 - Benchmark Total Vaccinations and Deaths

The following breakdown of each column is required:

- 1) Month of vaccination - from the first vaccination until the end of Nov 2023
- 2) Vaccination number (eg 1=1st, 2=2nd, 3=1st booster, 4=2nd booster etc) using a coding scheme used within the MoH
- 3) Intentionally blank - null
- 4) Age Band of Patient - <19 years old inclusive, 20-39 inclusive, 40-59 inclusive, 60-74 inclusive, 75+ inclusive
- 5) Death First Dose - <30 days inclusive, 31 days-90 days inclusive, 91-180 days, 181 days to 365 days, 366 days to 730 days inclusive, 731 to 1095 days inclusive, over 1096 days inclusive. Each of these categories should be calculated from the date of the patients's first injection and a suffix "_1" appended
- 6) Death Last Dose - <30 days inclusive, 31 days-90 days inclusive, 91-180 days, 181 days to 365 days, 366 days to 730 days inclusive, 731 to 1095 days inclusive, over 1096 days inclusive. Each of these categories should be calculated from the date of the patients's most recent vaccine and a suffix appended depending upon the number of their last vaccine (eg "<30_5" would be coded against a patient who died within 30 days of their 5th jab/3rd booster)
- 7) ER Visit - a "E" if the patient visited a hospital Emergency Room for any reason between their last injection and their date of death inclusive. Otherwise "N".
- 8) The count of the number of vaccination injections in each of the categories above when the underlying dataset has a Group By query applied using Count(Distinct NHI_Number) or similar for this column.
- 9) The count of the number of people who subsequently died after the vaccination month in each of the categories above when the underlying dataset has a Group By query applied using Count(Distinct NHI_Number) or similar for this column.

Dataset 3 - Control Group

For anyone in the NHI dataset who is NOT in the COVID Vax Pay per Dose database but is enrolled with a GP Practice in NZ, please produce the following dataset.

The following breakdown of each column is required:

- 1) Date of 1st COVID19 injection in NZ - this will be the same value for each row
- 2) Vaccination number - 0 - the same for all rows
- 4) Age Band of Patient - <19 years old inclusive, 20-39 inclusive, 40-59 inclusive, 60-74 inclusive, 75+ inclusive
- 5) Death Period - <30 days inclusive, 31 days-90 days inclusive, 91-180 days, 181 days to 365 days, 366 days to 730 days inclusive, 731 to 1095 days inclusive, over 1096 days inclusive. Each of these categories should be calculated from the date in column (1) of this dataset and a suffix "_0" appended
- 8) Size of Control at start - The count of the number of people in each of the categories above when the underlying dataset has a Group By query applied using Count(Distinct NHI_Number) or similar for this column.
- 9) Death count - The count of the number of people who subsequently died after the date in column (1) in each of the categories above when the underlying dataset has a Group By query applied using Count(Distinct NHI_Number) or similar for this column.

For all Datasets please provide a list of codes used and descriptions, and a description of the file format.

A Reasonable OIA with Precedent

This OIA should be possible by using simple queries on the entire datasets of COVID Vax Pay per Dose and National Minimum Dataset of Hospital data - matched using the NHI number. My understanding is the Pay Per Dose dataset is about 12m records.

This OIA does not ask for the creation of any information, just the aggregation of a data set the MoH already collects as a normal course of its business.

This OIA does not seek any personal or commercial information about patients or suppliers. Where a cell count in column (7) or (8) is less than 5 please mark as "S". Where a cell count in column (7) is truly zero this should not occur in the dataset.

Response

The Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) enables people to request official information from Ministers and agencies, including Te Whatu Ora. However, the OIA only applies to information that is already held by Te Whatu Ora. There is no obligation on Te Whatu Ora to create information in order to respond to a request.

Te Whatu Ora have received several similar OIA requests asking for deaths and covid vaccination status data over the past two months. Many of these requests would require the creation of new information and/or would require significant resource to collate. Because of this, we are unable to provide bespoke responses to each individual request. Instead, we have consolidated the requirements from all OIA requests asking for deaths and covid vaccination status data and produced a standard dataset (see attached).

We acknowledge that the standard dataset provided may not meet all your requirements or may provide more detail than requested. Where requirements have not been met, we apologise, but due to the work required to create this information and the available resources, this is the best we can do without severely impacting our other functions. Where more detail has been provided than requested, you will be able to aggregate the data up to the level you desire.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Danielle Coe
Manager (OIA) Government Services
Office of the Chief Executive