

25 March 2024

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Tēnā koe Chris

## Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00039074 & HNZ00039162

Thank you for your emails on 26 February 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

### **HNZ00039162:**

*"1) Can you please confirm the total number of COVID vaccination records (doses) that were covered by the dataset? Also break this down by Month and Dose Number.*

*So Col1 = Month of Dose, Col 2 = Dose Number, Col 3 = Number Vaccinated. 10 people given dose 3 in Feb 2023 would generate a record like "202302,3,10". The dataset would have a final record that read: "Total, Total, <total number of doses>"*

*2) Please provide the number of people in the "Health Service User Population" as at the end of each month from from 1 Jan 2019 to 31 Jan 2024 inclusive. Note that this should be consistent with the definition requested in an earlier request in this OIA trail. This term was used by Health NZ in its response so it needs to be quantified as a denominator.*

*3) Can you please confirm that the deaths in each category do not include the deaths in previous dose categories. For example do the 169 deaths in 2022-11 for 41-60 years olds after 3 doses that are marked "<=365" exclude the <5 deaths in the "<=180" category and the <5 in the "<=90" category in the 4th column. The numbers in the Dose 4 category for the same month seem to confirm that this is the case but we want to confirm (i.e. 8 for "<365" is less than the the 24 Count for "<=180".*

*4) There seems to be a discrepancy between the total deaths in this OIA and the stats at this data source:*

*infoshare.stats.govt.nz*

*fyi.org.nz/request/25021.*

*This discrepancy grows in time as shown in a graph on these posts on X:*

*Can Health NZ please confirm that the total death stats are accurate compared to the Infoshare site - especially if you are the source of the information at Stats as well as this OIA?*

*5) Are the deaths up to 31 Dec 2023 inclusive rather than 1 Dec 2023 as stated in the Summary tab of the OIA spreadsheet response?*

**AUGMENTED DATASET.**

6) Can the following dataset based on Ticket Reference RT-268 please be provided.

Col1: Month of Death - from 1 Jan 2019 to 31 Jan 2024 inclusive

Col2: Age at Death - Redefine to "0 to 30", "31 to 60", "61 to 80", "81+".

Col3: Last COVID-19 dose number - keep as is

Col4: Days between last vaccination and death - leave as is

Col5: Count of Deaths - re-label

Col6: Total of Person-Days -

a) Where Dose = 1 to n: The number of "person-days" to the date of death for the people who died in that month since their last dose. So if only 2 people died in a month for a Dose, age group and timeframe then Col5 would be "<5" but if they dies 60 and 40 days after their last dose then "person-days" would be 100.

b) Where Dose = 0: The number of person-days from 1 Jan 2019 to the date of death.

c) This does not reveal identity but allows %'s to be calculated. Age groups have also been redefined/merged to minimise the occurrence of "<5"s.

7) For the dataset in (6) please also provide additional rows for Age Group Totals. This is to ensure that we can reconcile and validate the accuracy of the numbers being returned. Therefore we expect rows like:

No Dose Summary: "Total,0 to 30, 0, Total, <Total Count of Deaths>,<Total Person-Days>"

At Least 1 Dose Summary: "Total,0 to 30, 1 to n, Total, <Total Count of Deaths>,<Total Person-Days>"

... and similar for other Age Groups.

#### **HNZ00039074:**

Please provide a machine readable dataset in csv format under the same Principles and Ways of Working as OIA.

A template dataset will be the basis for providing results – one metric at a time. This should enable a DBA/SQL analyst to write relatively efficient code.

#### **TEMPLATE DATASET**

Col1: Month of Dose - from 1 Jan 2019 to 31 Jan 2024 inclusive

Col2: Age at Dose - "0 to 30", "31 to 60", "61 to 80", "81+".

Col3: Last COVID-19 dose number: 0 where no dose was ever received.

Col4: Denominator:

a) If Col3=0 then Number of unvaccinated people in the "ealth Service User Population" as at the end of the month in Col1

b) If Col3>0 then the Number of people vaccinated in the month in Col1

Col5: Events  $\leq 30$  days – the metric that occurs within 30 days from the last dose in Col 3

Col6: Events  $\leq 90$  days – as per Col5 but for 31 to 90 days

Col7: Events  $\leq 180$  days – as per Col5 but for 91 to 180 days

Col8: Events  $\leq 365$  days – as per Col5 but for 181 to 365 days

Col9: Events 366+ days – as per Col5 but for more than 365 days

## METRICS

Each of the following metrics should be delivered a separate csv file.

M1) Miscarriages in Hospital (ICD-10 codes under O03)

a) Do not worry if there are numbers in 366+ as this may indicate a problem with a subsequent pregnancy as a result of a dose.

M2) Person-Days of Mother from Last Dose

a) If Col3=0 then this is the number of person-days from 1 Jan 2019

b) If Col3>0 then this is the number of person-days from the last dose to the date of admission

c) Do not worry if there are numbers in 366+ as this may indicate a problem with a subsequent pregnancy as a result of a dose.

M3) Number of ER visits (All Cause)

M4) ER visits (ICD-10 under I51 Cardiac)

M5) ER visits (ICD-10 under I60 through I69) Stroke Cranial

M6) Hospital Discharge Events – please specify whether this includes ER visits/discharges

M7) Hospital Inpatient Days

M8) Hospital Outpatient Events

M9) GP Visits

M10) Unique (Distinct) Count of People (NHI Numbers) across M1 to M9

## NOTES:

N1) Suppression for  $< 5$  applies.

N2) Where a person generates a metric across multiple doses then the metrics that applied to those dose periods need to be applied. So a hospital stay where a 2nd dose was administered might a night beforehand (or even a previous admission) for the first dose and a few nights after the 2nd dose if there were further complications.

## Response

As both requests were made by you on the same day and were asking for similar information, I have combined the responses here.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, Health New Zealand reached out to you to attempt to refine these requests, because we were unable to fulfil the requests as it would require substantial manual collation of data.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, you responded without refining the requests as asked.

Therefore, I am refusing your requests under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. I have considered whether fixing a charge for the supply of the information or extending the timeframe for response would enable Te Whatu Ora to respond. I do not consider that either option would remove the impact that supplying the information would have on our other operations.

## How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@tewhatuora.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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ 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  
Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora