

19 December 2022

Jai Ganesh

fyi-request-21181-1046d5fd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Jai

Official Information Act (OIA) request: Birth and death data

On 6 December 2022, Health New Zealand transferred your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Stats NZ. You requested the following information:

Please provide the number of all cause deaths from 2016-2022 broken down by month and age group. I'd also like the number of births for the same period broken down by month. I'm sure NZ logs Births and Deaths with regularity so it should be an easy find, if not, please point me to the right agency.

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act because the information requested is already publicly available.

Number of deaths

Stats NZ publish the number of deaths (all causes) which have been registered in New Zealand each month on our website. The information is broken down by month, age group and ethnicity, and can be accessed [here](#).

The latest release was published on 17 November 2022 and shows information from January 2010 to September 2022. The next Births and Deaths release, which will include deaths information for the remainder of 2022 will be published on 20 February 2022.

Number of births

Stats NZ publishes annual statistics for births, based on birth registrations. The next Births and Deaths release, which will include birth information for the remainder of 2022 will be published on 20 February 2022. These statistics are broken down by quarter and/or year, and by a range of variables which can be seen on our infoshare website [here](#). These statistics do not include birth registrations by month.

info@stats.govt.nz
toll-free 0508 525 525
stats.govt.nz

However, Stats NZ does publish data on the number of births which have **occurred** each month on [Infoshare](#) (as opposed to registered each month). To access this information please select:

- + Population
 - + Births – VSB
 - + Month and year of birth (Monthly)

The number of births which occur each month will be slightly different to the number of births registered each month, as births are registered after they occur. This monthly information is updated with each quarterly Births and Deaths release. You will also notice that this monthly data is only currently available up to the end of March 2022. The next release in February 2023 will cover the birth occurrences in April, May and June of 2022.

Because there is a lag between when a birth occurs and when it is registered our birth occurrence data is updated as the birth registrations data comes through. We allow a six month lag for this process as most births are registered within six months. This ensures we have the best quality of data. Many people use registrations as a proxy for occurrence because of this lag.

If you would like information on the number of births *registered* each month, as opposed to births occurred, you can request a customised data request. A customised data request would allow us to provide data to you up until the latest release month, currently September 2022. For information about what a customised data request is, how to make one, and any associated costs, please visit [Customised data services | Stats NZ](#).

Stats NZ's Information Centre is often the best place to start seeking statistical information, as the Information Centre exists to help users find the statistical information they are looking for. Stats NZ's Information Centre can let you know what data Stats NZ can provide and show you how to find it. This service is free and often results in a same day response. In this case, the information they could provide is the information we have provided to you in this letter.

You can contact our Information Centre in the following ways:

Phone – 0508 525 525

Email – info@stats.govt.nz

[Online form](#)

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Stats NZ at: OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

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It is Stats NZ's policy to proactively release its responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of government decision-making and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Ngā mihi nui, nā



Kate Satterthwaite
General Manager, Executive and Government Relations
Office of the Chief Executive, Stats NZ