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2 February 2022

Brian Sandle

Email: fyi-request-18109-e815735d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Brian

RE Official information request CDHB 10795

I refer to your email dated 6 January 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

Following on from your FOI release of information on 2020 and 2021 emergency department presentations*, have any causes for the increase in 2021 been found?

* link to our previous response CDHB 10751

<https://www.cdhb.health.nz/wp-content/uploads/15b3423d-cdhb-10751-emergency-department-presentations.pdf>

Here I show my calculations for the increases above 17% which appears to be the average increase:

1 Mar-31 Dec 2020 (306 days)	1 Mar-14 Nov 2021 (256 days)	% change per day	Presenting Complaint
4	54	1513.67	Abnormal blood test
4	20	497.66	Abnormal vital signs
7	16	173.21	Insomnia
232	422	117.42	Follow-up visit
16	27	101.71	Aggressive behaviour
24	38	89.26	Tremor
810	1261	86.09	Cough
217	329	81.22	Plaster cast problem
28	42	79.30	Swollen leg (single)
12	18	79.30	Chemical exposure
31	46	77.37	Postpartum complication
22	29	57.56	Removal of skin sutures or staples
1552	2030	56.35	General weakness/fatigue/unwell
79	102	54.33	Change
18	23	52.73	Electrical injury
23	29	50.71	Hypothermia
40	49	46.43	Swelling of tongue

28	34	45.15	Itching
89	105	41.02	Pain in anus and/or rectum
4687	5469	39.47	Shortness of breath
31	36	38.81	Nasal congestion
101	117	38.47	Abdominal distension
290	330	36.02	Earache
39	44	34.86	Discharge from ear
34	38	33.59	Episodes of not breathing (apnoea)
26	29	33.32	Exposure to blood and/or body
106	118	33.06	Coughing up blood
49	54	31.73	Injury of nose
61	67	31.29	Foreign
12	13	29.49	Sexual assault
2560	2761	28.92	Fever symptoms
312	336	28.73	Foreign
56	60	28.07	Administration of medication
1444	1546	27.97	Mental health problem
243	259	27.40	Weakness of face muscles
103	108	25.33	Crying baby
235	245	24.62	Altered
7032	7264	23.47	Injury of upper limb
672	692	23.09	Sore throat
35	36	22.95	Injury of ear
233	239	22.61	Vomiting blood
489	500	22.22	Wound complication
90	92	22.19	Abnormal behaviour
949	969	22.05	Altered mental state
55	56	21.70	Cardiac arrest
1420	1443	21.47	Localised swelling or lump of skin
940	955	21.44	Multiple injuries - minor
630	640	21.43	Pregnancy problem
6073	6165	21.34	Injury of lower limb
356	360	20.87	Visual disturbance
275	278	20.84	Multiple injuries major
402	406	20.72	Alcohol/drug intoxication or withdrawal
367	368	19.86	Vaginal bleeding not pregnant
7006	6952	18.61	Chest pain
1942	1906	17.32	Collapse and/or syncope.

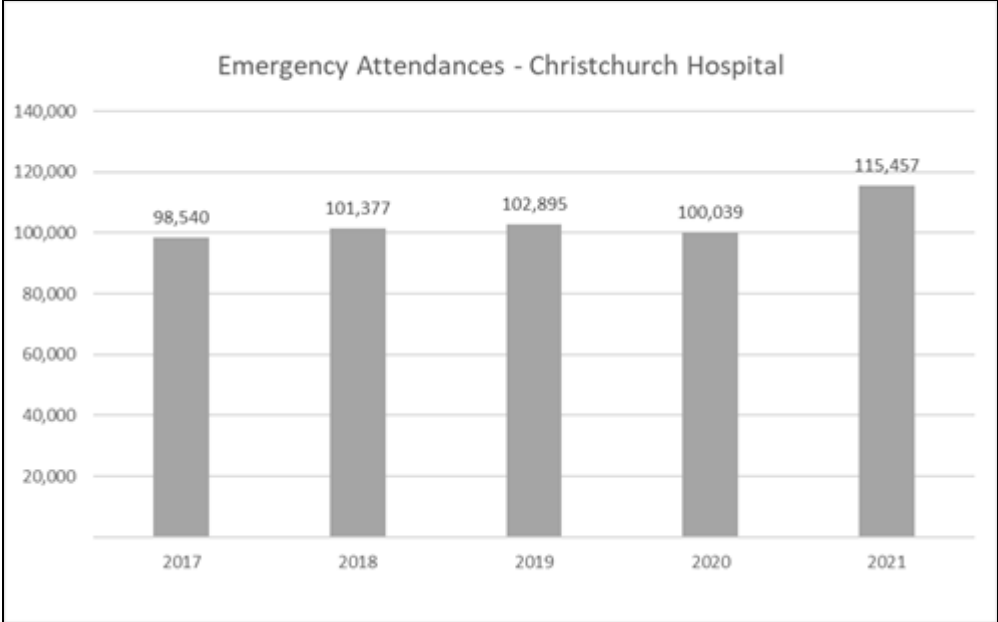
Where you have given <5 I have substituted 4.

I have not included presentations where neither figure was 20 or more.

The increase in activity between 2020 and 2021 is seen in a number of factors.

In 2020 there was a reduction in ED attendances due to the first wave of COVID lockdown, therefore the increase to 2021 was from a lower base, refer to Table 1

Table 1:



There has been a significant increase in particular Triage categories. Triage refers to the urgency in which the person needs to be attended to (with Triage 1 being most urgent and Triage 5 being less). The largest % increases were in Triage 2 (+21%) and Triage 5 (+41%), although the largest volume increases were across Triages 3 (+7,155) and 4 (3,938).

In terms of patient demographics we have seen the largest % increase in 0-15 year olds (+27%), with the largest volume increase in Adult 16-64 yrs (+9,028).

While we can identify where movements have occurred the drivers associated with these increases are lesser known, it is interesting to note that the increase in attendances commenced prior to the opening of the new ED department (this opened in November 2020).

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Planning, Funding & Decision Support