

21 March 2023

Robert Spoons
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Tēnā koe Robert,

Your request for official information reference: HNZ00012165

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2023 asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Kindly provide ACM deaths for the year of 2019 (Christchurch) and the 5-year average previously for the same city, so 2014 - 2019. Kindly provide also cause/s of death for that year, 2019”.

Response to your request

We can provide the total number of deaths until 2019. The latest year for which cause of death information is available is 2018.

After the close of a calendar year, there is a 12-18 month process to assign cause of death codes to the majority of deaths in that year. Te Whatu Ora’s clinical coding team reviews the death certificate and health history of the deceased to assign cause of death codes. Approximately 10% of deaths are referred to the Coroner each year to determine cause. Deaths that require a coronial inquiry can take 2-3 years, or longer, for cause of death to be assigned. We do not make mortality data available publicly until the majority of deaths have been assigned a cause of death, so that the data we release is complete and accurate. The Chief Coroner has noted delays in the time it is taking them to assign cause of death codes.

Please note we have provided data for the Christchurch Territorial Authority area, as defined by Stats NZ. Their definition is here: <https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/106668-territorial-authority-2022-generalised/>.

Table 1: Total number of deaths for the Christchurch Territorial Authority area

Year	Total number of deaths
2014	2,882
2015	2,807
2016	2,711
2017	2,948
2018	2,751
2019	2,941

Table 2: Breakdown of cause of deaths in Christchurch Territorial Authority area 2014-2018:

Cause of death		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
01	Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A00-B99)	38	25	25	19	13
02	Neoplasms (C00-D48)	812	796	712	822	796
03	Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism (D50-D89)	8	6	6	5	8
04	Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-E89)	81	76	67	83	59
05	Mental and behavioural disorders (F00-F99)	180	173	209	247	226
06	Diseases of the nervous system (G00-G99)	155	159	170	195	178
07	Diseases of the eye and adnexa (H00-H59)			1		
09	Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99)	989	986	886	933	862
10	Diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J99)	277	246	278	262	242
11	Diseases of the digestive system (K00-K93)	84	85	80	73	76
12	Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue (L00-L99)	16	6	5	1	4
13	Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (M00-M99)	24	22	30	18	17
14	Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-N99)	35	30	31	36	31
15	Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (O00-O99)				1	
16	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (P00-P96)	8	9	8	8	16
17	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (Q00-Q99)	15	19	15	14	18
18	Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00-R99)	15	11	45	36	35
20	External causes of morbidity and mortality (U50-Y98)	145	158	143	195	170
	Total	2,882	2,807	2,711	2,948	2,751

Table Notes:

- Data extracted 13 March 2023.

How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gaynor Bradfield
Manager
Office of the Chief Data and Digital