

27 July 2023

ASE

fyi-request-23240-8bbe57e5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe ASE

Official Information Act (OIA) request: Death Statistics

On 28 June 2023, the Ministry of Health transferred your request to Stats NZ, in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the Official Information Act (the Act). You requested, under the Act, the following information:

For the period of time in which records are available, I am seeking the following information regarding age of death within New Zealand, per year:

- * the average (mean) age of death*
- * the median age of death*
- * the mathematical mode of age of death*
- * the mean absolute deviation of age of death*
- * the standard deviation of age of death*
- * the age ranges or percentile ranges that divide the data into ten equal groups based on the frequency of death, so that each group accounts for 10% of the total deaths*

If this information is not held by The Ministry of Health, I would appreciate a dataset from which this information can be calculated.

Regarding any recent information/data which may not yet have been compiled into yearly data, I am seeking interim information/data.

Regarding the second point of your request, the median age at death is publicly available on [Infoshare](#) under “Population” > “Deaths – VSD” > “Deaths by age and sex (Annual-Dec)”. At the end of the “Observation” list, select “Median age at death”. This data has also been included at the end of this letter, for your ease of reference. Your request for this information is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is publicly available.

With regard to the remaining parts of your request, while Stats NZ holds raw data on deaths registered in New Zealand, your request relates to specific aggregations which are not regularly produced and therefore not held by Stats NZ.

As such, these aspects of your request are refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by Stats NZ and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

Further, in accordance with the Data and Statistics Act 2022 and the Privacy Act 2020, great care is taken to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of individuals' data. To ensure this, statistical data and information is only made available in an aggregated form that does not contain any identifiable information. On this basis, we cannot provide the raw data on deaths registered in New Zealand.

However, the aggregations you have requested can be created from the raw data held by Stats NZ, upon receipt of a customised data request. Please note that there is a [standard charge](#) of \$155 plus GST per hour for customised data requests. If you would like to proceed with a request, one can be made through contacting Stats NZ's Information Centre.

You can contact our Information Centre in the following ways:

- By phone – 0508 525 525
- By email – info@stats.govt.nz
- [Online form](#)

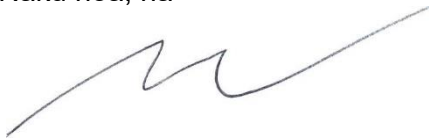
We note that Stats NZ's Information Centre is often the best place to start seeking statistical information, as the Information Centre exists to help users find the statistical information they are looking for. Stats NZ's Information Centre can let you know what data Stats NZ can provide and show you how to find it. This includes assistance with navigating and retrieving data from Infoshare, such as those outlined above. This service is free and often results in a same day response.

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, please feel free to contact us or 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.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Mike Webb
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Median age at death, total both sexes, years ended December 1948 – 2022

Year ended December	Median age at death - Total both sexes
1948	67.4
1949	67.9
1950	68.8
1951	69.1
1952	69.2
1953	69.4
1954	70.1
1955	70.3
1956	71.2
1957	71.2
1958	71.3
1959	71.7
1960	71.7
1961	71.7
1962	72.3
1963	72.3
1964	72.4
1965	71.6
1966	71.7
1967	70.9
1968	71.7
1969	71.6
1970	71.2
1971	71.3
1972	71.6
1973	71.3
1974	71.4
1975	71.3
1976	71.7
1977	71.5
1978	71.5
1979	72.1
1980	72.7
1981	72.4
1982	72.7

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Year ended December	Median age at death - Total both sexes
1983	73.1
1984	73.3
1985	74.0
1986	73.8
1987	74.0
1988	74.5
1989	74.7
1990	74.6
1991	74.9
1992	75.4
1993	75.7
1994	76.0
1995	76.0
1996	76.3
1997	76.5
1998	76.7
1999	77.3
2000	77.5
2001	78.1
2002	78.3
2003	78.5
2004	78.9
2005	79.0
2006	79.3
2007	79.3
2008	79.7
2009	79.8
2010	80.0
2011	80.4
2012	80.6
2013	80.3
2014	80.8
2015	80.7
2016	80.6
2017	80.6
2018	80.5

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Year ended December	Median age at death - Total both sexes
2019	80.5
2020	80.2
2021	80.7
2022	80.9

