

20 November 2023

Nikita Mahendra  
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Tēnā koe Nikita,

**Your request for Official information, reference: HNZ00031583**

Thank you for your email on 20 October 2023, asking for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“Could you please provide the stats on spontaneous miscarriages/fetal deaths for the last 6 years outlined as numbers in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023?”*

Please note the following definitions used by Te Whatu Ora. A miscarriage is the death of a fetus where the birthweight is less than 400g and the gestation is less than 20 weeks. A fetal death or still birth is the death of a fetus where the birthweight is 400g or more, or the fetus has 20 weeks or more gestation.

Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand does not hold complete information about the number of spontaneous miscarriages in New Zealand. We receive records from hospitals when someone is admitted and requires treatment for a miscarriage. However, many people do not require hospital-level care for a miscarriage. This means the information we could provide about miscarriages would not be complete. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information you have requested is not held by Te Whatu Ora and we have no grounds to believe that the information is held by other departments or Ministers of the Crown or organisation.

The estimated number of fetal deaths for each year between 2018 and 2021 is provided below, from Te Whatu Ora’s mortality data collection. Data for the years 2022 and 2023 is not yet available, as this data is not yet complete enough to release. Many stillbirths are not immediately registered as deaths by the parents of the deceased.

Year	Number of fetal deaths
2018	414
2019	426
2020	434
2021	453

Data from 2019 onwards is provisional and has not undergone full quality assurance.

**How to get in touch**

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [hnzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:hnzOIA@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](http://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 several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gaynor Bradfield  
**Group Manager, Business Support**  
**Business Services – Data and Digital**