

13 August 2024

Peter Russell  
[fyi-request-27568-1cc992c3@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27568-1cc992c3@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Peter

### Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00055917

Thank you for your email, transferred from Ministry of Health to Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora on 15 July 2024, asking for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Please provide me with the number of cases of tachycardia and the number of cases of tachypnoea recorded in New Zealand annually since 2013.*

### Response

Health NZ does not hold national level data on the total number of cases of tachycardia and tachypnoea in New Zealand. However, we do hold information on the numbers of hospitalisations where tachycardia was recorded as the primary diagnosis. This data does not include people who had the condition but did not receive treatment for the condition in a hospital.

The hospital events data we hold is coded using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD). The ICD includes the following two relevant clinical codes for tachycardia:

1. I47 Paroxysmal tachycardia
2. R00.0 Tachycardia, unspecified

Please refer to **Appendix 1** for publicly funded hospital discharges where 'R00.0 Tachycardia, unspecified' was recorded as the primary diagnosis, and **Appendix 2** for publicly funded hospital discharges where 'I47 Paroxysmal tachycardia' was recorded as the primary diagnosis. The appendices also provide rates per 100,000 population, age-standardised to the World Health Organisation (WHO) world standard population.

The 2020/2021 financial year is the latest full year for which complete national level hospital events data for this condition has been compiled. We can provide data to the 2021/22 year in November 2024. For later data, we must refuse pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as we do not hold it, and have no reason to believe is held by any other agency subject to the Act.

Please note that hospital discharge data codes relate to conditions, not symptoms. This means that where tachycardia is a symptom of another condition it will not be reported in the data provided to Health NZ.

Please also note some of the increase shown between 1999 and 2013 is likely related to changes in short stay Emergency Department (ED) reporting. More information on this can be found here:

[www.health.govt.nz/publication/factsheet-short-stay-emergency-department-events](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/factsheet-short-stay-emergency-department-events).

While we have reviewed the provisional data presented in our response, it has not undergone full quality assurance. This means the data could have unexpected errors that may be picked up through the rigorous data quality checks that publication datasets undergo.

Published data may also differ from the provisional data presented here. Published data should be considered the most accurate source and used where possible.

Regarding tachypnoea, this is coded under 'R06.8 Other and unspecified abnormalities of breathing'. This code is not specific enough to identify only cases of tachypnoea, as other breathing conditions would also be reported to this code.

It is possible that information which could specifically identify tachypnoea would be held on individual patient files, however, to provide this information would divert personnel from their core duties and we would need to allocate additional resources to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair our ability to carry out our other core functions. We are therefore refusing this part of your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act for reasons of substantial collation and research.

We have considered whether fixing a charge for the supply of the information or extending the timeframe for response would enable Health NZ to respond, however, we do not consider that either option would remove the impact that supplying the information would have on our other operations.

If you are interested in data on tachypnoea hospitalisations for newborn babies, there is a code in the ICD system which can identify tachypnoea specifically for babies. You can request this information by emailing [data-enquiries@health.govt.nz](mailto:data-enquiries@health.govt.nz) or [h.nzOIA@tewhatauora.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@tewhatauora.govt.nz).

## How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@tewhatauora.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@tewhatauora.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, Health NZ 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



## Gaynor Bradfield

Group Manager, Business Support

Data and Digital