

Clinical : Trauma Gunshot/ Stabbing  
Proactive Release : 10 October 2019

27 September 2019

9(2)(a)

E-mail: 9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

#### Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 04 September 2019. You requested the following information:

#### Please provide figures on

- 1) **How many patients have been treated for gunshot wounds at Middlemore Hospital?**
  - a. *Please provide a breakdown for 2016, 2017, 2018, and the year to date.*
- 2) **Please provide further breakdown of the injuries in terms of**
  - a. *Severity (fatal/ critical/ serious/ moderate etc),*
  - b. *Which body parts were wounded,*
  - c. *What types of firearms were used (if known)?*
- 3) **Please provide figures on the estimated cost of treating patients with gunshot wounds, for each of the above time periods.**
- 4) **Please provide any relevant comment.**
- 5) **Finally, please provide the same figures and breakdowns for patients with stabbing injuries.**

Our responses to each question are below, however, we wish to note for context that Counties Manukau Health provides health care services to more than 569,000 living in our region. This is a culturally diverse and socioeconomically challenged community, who have a range of health needs. Our Emergency Department sees more than 118,000 presentations per year, and we work hard to address the wider determinants of health and wellbeing with our communities.

In order to respond to your request, we have used *ICD-10 clinical coding* systems to identify cases (noting this is coding is only for people admitted to hospital for treatment):

- For **gunshot wounds** we used various codes related to guns - W32-W34, X72-X74 and X93-X95 – including all cases from any causes - accidental, assault or self-harm, not just those from violence.

- For **'stabbing' injuries** (noting that this is a broad topic), we used X99 - assault by sharp objects, and further filtered by using keywords - "knife", "knives", 'stabbing', "stabbed" – that will include all cases from any causes, not only those from violence.

To further include cases only seen in the Middlemore Hospital Emergency Department (and directly discharged), we have searched available data of presenting symptoms, and used a free-text search. This applied key words for *'Gunshot'*-related injury, and for Stabbing *'Assault'* - filtered further for keywords "knife", "knives", "stab", "stabbing", and "stabbed".

This has provided data as per the list of tables as follows:

- 1) How many patients have been treated for gunshot wounds at Middlemore Hospital?**
  - a. Please provide a breakdown for 2016, 2017, 2018, and the year to date.***

Refer to **Table 1** – total number of **Gunshot** cases per year, and total costs to treat those.

- 2) Please provide further breakdown of the injuries in terms of:**
  - a. Severity (fatal/ critical/ serious/ moderate etc),***
  - b. Which body parts were wounded,***
  - c. What types of firearms used, (if known)?***

- a) Refer to **Table 2 and 3** – Gunshot cases per year staying less than/ more than five days in hospital.
- b) Refer to **Table 4** – For the period 2016-2019, general/ main body part injured. We note that all cases were coded as a discharge destination of 'home/ routine'.
- c) We do not code the type of firearms or weapons involved in injuries, and in many cases the hospital will not hold this information.

We note the following as further explanation of the data.

- *Severity* - It is not possible to determine/ report the severity of an injury from coding, as this is a clinical judgement, and would require further manual retrospective review of the individual medical files. As a proxy for severity, we identified cases based on length of hospital admission, by those that stayed less than 5 days and those over 5 days.
- *Body part wounded* - We have provided a combined summary of the numbers of injuries by main body parts over the 4 year period. Providing further matched details for cases, given the small numbers involved per annum may enable the identification of individuals. We have considered the balance of public interest in this information and the high privacy interests of these individuals. We do not believe the public interest outweighs the right to privacy, and are therefore declining to provide any further details matched for each case.

**3) Please provide figures on the estimated cost of treating patients with gunshot wounds, for each of the above time periods.**

Refer to **Table 1** – total **Gunshot** cases per year, and total costs to treat those.

**4) Please provide any relevant comment.**

We have no further comment to make at this point, should you have specific questions, please contact us to discuss. We treat all individual's with injuries, irrespective of cause, to deliver high quality outcomes.

**5) Finally, please provide the same figures and breakdowns for patients with stabbing injuries.**

Refer to tables as listed, for the same figures related to stabbing presentations and discharges.

**1) Table 5** – total number of **Stabbing** cases per year, and total costs to treat those.

**2A)** Refer to **Table 6 and 7** – Stabbing cases per year staying less than/ more than five days in hospital.

**2B)** Refer to **Table 8** – For the period 2016-2019, general/ main body part injured.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Counties Manukau Health**

## GUNSHOT INJURIES

Table 1 - total numbers and cost

Years	Number of cases	Actual Cost
2016 Total	19	\$ 251,050
2017 Total	16	\$ 43,402
2018 Total	25	\$ 474,929
2019 Total	19	\$ 560,938
Grand Total	79	\$ 1,330,320

Table 2 - stay less than 5 days

Years	Number of Cases
2016 Total	17
2017 Total	16
2018 Total	21
2019 Total	12
Grand Total	66

Table 3 - stay more than 5 days

Years	Number of Cases
2016 Total	2
2017 Total	0
2018 Total	4
2019 Total	7
Grand Total	13

Table 4 - Body part involved

Body parts	Number of Cases
Abdominal	6
Arm	9
Back	3
Chest	4
Hands	12
Legs/ Feet	25
Head/ neck/ shoulder/ face	20

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## STABBING INJURIES

Table 5 - total numbers and cost

Years	Number of cases	Actual Cost
2016 Total	94	\$ 402,237
2017 total	108	\$ 721,183
2018 Total	108	\$ 674,425
2019 Total	50	\$ 702,742
Grand Total	360	\$ 2,500,587

Table 6 - stay less than 5 days

Years	Number of cases
2016 Total	89
2017 Total	97
2018 Total	103
2019 Total	45
Grand Total	334

Table 7 - stay more than 5 days

Years	Number of cases
2016 Total	5
2017 total	11
2018 Total	5
2019 Total	5
Total	26

Table 8 - Body part involved

Body parts	Number of Cases
Abdominal	17
Arm	35
Back	9
Chest	42
Hands	84
Legs/ Feet	22
Head/ neck/ shoulder/ face	118
Unknown/ not specified	33