

Clinical: Women's Health Maternity data during COVID-19
Proactive Release: 03 June 2020

21 May 2020

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Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 14 May 2020. You requested the following information.

1. **The number of births at Counties Manukau District Health Board facilities, and home births during the nationwide coronavirus lockdown from March 25 to April 27.**
2. **Can this information be broken down by**
 - a. **location:**
 - i. **at Middlemore Hospital,**
 - ii. **other Counties Manukau facilities (such as community birthing centres),**
 - iii. **or a home birth,**
 - b. **And by date and sex.**
3. **Can figures also be provided for the same period in 2019?**

As context, Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 people). Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient/ ambulatory and community-based models of care. Each year we have more than 7,600 Counties Manukau women give birth - at our facilities, and also in other birthing locations.

CM Health's Maternity Clinical Information System (MCIS) captures births at CM Health facilities. The National Maternity Collection (MAT) data includes hospital facility births, as well as those supported by independent LMCs under the Primary Maternity Services Notice, and data from Births, Deaths and Marriages collected by the Department of Internal Affairs. This dataset is able to provide birth data by DHB of domicile, but can take longer to get full data due to multiple data collation sources.

Given the timeframe of your request, we can readily provide our MCIS data, and note a number of Counties Manukau women birth at other locations, including at other DHBs and private providers, as well as home-births with independent LMCs.

The information you have requested is attached to this letter.

Please note that:

- While the total 2020 figures are lower than 2019, this is a recognised trend over the previous 8 months (of lower birth rates), that we do not believe shows any reduction/ anomaly directly related to the NZ COVID lockdown.
- Other data sets may refer to the number of women birthing (not the number of babies born).
- Overall, there was an average of 23 births each day in the 2019 set, and 21 per day in the 2020 set.

We note that further detail on these Maternity and Women's Health services for our Counties Manukau community are in the 2018/19 Women's Health Annual Report;

- <https://countiesmanukau.health.nz/our-services/maternity-services/womens-health-and-newborn-annual-report/>

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

APPENDIX 1

OIA 14052020 – HUTT –Birth data during COVID-19 Lockdown

Criteria:

All **births** (including multiple) included in the MCIS data set, between 25 March and 27 April in 2019 *and* 2020
Birth or care locations:

- Middlemore Hospital; Botany Birthing Unit; Papakura Birthing Unit; Pukekohe Birthing Unit, Home births (both planned and unplanned) and Born before Arrivals (either in own transport or Ambulance).

This information for both 2019 and 2020 period is summarised by location below (**Table 1**):

Location	2019	% of births	2020	% of births
Middlemore Hospital	663	88%	585	88%
Botany Birthing Unit	26	3%	16	2%
Papakura Birthing Unit	14	2%	20	3%
Pukekohe Birthing Unit	30	4%	25	4%
Born before arrival	2	0%	3	0%
Home	21	3%	18	3%
Total	756		667	

Table 1: Births by Location and Year

This information for both 2019 and 2020 period is summarised by gender (**Table 2**)

Gender	2019	% of births	2020	% of births
Female	351	46%	358	54%
Male	405	54%	309	46%
Total	756		667	

Table 2: Births by Gender and Year

The information on birth dates and gender of babies in March/ April 2019 is below (**Table 3**):

Date	Female	Male	Grand Total
31-Mar-19	11	14	25
25-Mar-19	9	9	18
26-Mar-19	14	11	25
27-Mar-19	16	10	26
28-Mar-19	12	8	20
29-Mar-19	12	9	21
30-Mar-19	5	11	16
01-Apr-19	12	8	20

Date	Female	Male	Grand Total
02-Apr-19	7	8	15
03-Apr-19	11	18	29
04-Apr-19	9	16	25
05-Apr-19	12	14	26
06-Apr-19	7	7	14
07-Apr-19	12	14	26
08-Apr-19	10	11	21
09-Apr-19	10	17	27
10-Apr-19	11	17	28
11-Apr-19	15	10	25
12-Apr-19	8	9	17
13-Apr-19	10	17	27
14-Apr-19	8	8	16
15-Apr-19	19	14	33
16-Apr-19	10	16	26
17-Apr-19	15	13	28
18-Apr-19	7	23	30
19-Apr-19	6	11	17
20-Apr-19	5	20	25
21-Apr-19	11	11	22
22-Apr-19	11	9	20
23-Apr-19	6	9	15
24-Apr-19	17	4	21
25-Apr-19	11	16	27
26-Apr-19	12	13	25
Grand Total	351	405	756

Table 3: March / April 2019 Total births per day by gender

And the information on birth dates and gender of babies in March/ April 2020 is below (Table 4):

Date	Female	Male	Grand Total
25-Mar-20	15	10	25
26-Mar-20	9	8	17
27-Mar-20	5	17	22
28-Mar-20	8	7	15
29-Mar-20	14	7	21
30-Mar-20	13	8	21
31-Mar-20	2	9	11
01-Apr-20	17	8	25

Date	Female	Male	Grand Total
02-Apr-20	11	9	20
03-Apr-20	20	10	30
04-Apr-20	7	13	20
05-Apr-20	4	9	13
06-Apr-20	10	7	17
07-Apr-20	11	10	21
08-Apr-20	9	10	19
09-Apr-20	7	16	23
10-Apr-20	9	6	15
11-Apr-20	12	7	19
12-Apr-20	7	11	18
13-Apr-20	7	15	22
14-Apr-20	15	11	26
15-Apr-20	13	13	26
16-Apr-20	19	11	30
17-Apr-20	12	5	17
18-Apr-20	13	7	20
19-Apr-20	8	12	20
20-Apr-20	10	11	21
21-Apr-20	15	11	26
22-Apr-20	11	7	18
23-Apr-20	13	7	20
24-Apr-20	12	7	19
25-Apr-20	6	7	13
26-Apr-20	14	3	17
Grand Total	358	309	667

Table 4: March / April 2020 total births per day by gender

Ends