

9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Reporter  
NZME

Email:

Dear

### Official Information Act Request for – Gunshot & Stabbing Injuries

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020, you requested the following information:

**“In September last year I submitted an OIA (below) to Auckland's three DHBS on firearms and stabbing injuries. It included figures for 2016, 2017, 2018, and year to date for 2019. It resulted in this story:**

**[https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12287224](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12287224)**

**I would like to submit the same OIA for same period, but updated to include full 2019 figures and year to date for 2020.”**

**Request from September 2019 as follows:**

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

### Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 7,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

Please see below our response to each of your questions. In order to respond to your request, we have used ICD-10 clinical coding systems to identify cases (this is coding for people admitted into hospital for treatment for their injuries). The data provided is the most up to date coded information:

- 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.

**1. Please provide me figures on how many patients have been treated for gunshot wounds at Middlemore Hospital. Please provide a breakdown for 2016, 2017, 2018 and the year to date.**

Please see table 1 in the appendix.

**2. Please provide further breakdown of the injures in terms of:**

**a) Severity (fatal/critical/serious/moderate etc),**

Similarly, to our previous response in 2019 around severity of the injury, it is not possible to determine/report the severity of an injury from coding as this is a clinical judgement. This would require further manual retrospective review of each individual medical file. As a proxy for severity, we identified cases based on length of hospital admission, by those that stayed less than 5 days and those staying over 5 days. Please see table 2 in the appendix.

**b) Which body parts were wounded,**

Table 3 in the appendix reflects a combined summary of the numbers of injuries by main body part over the period 2016 – 2020.

**c) What type of firearms were used (if known)**

As per our previous response in 2019, we are unable to provide this information as CM Health does not code the type of firearm or weapon involved in injuries.

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

Please see table 1 in the appendix.

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

We have no further comment to make at this point, should you have specific questions please let us know. We treat all individuals with injuries irrespective of cause, to deliver high quality outcomes.

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

Please refer to the tables in the appendix as listed for the same figures related to stabbing presentations and discharges.

- Q1. Refer to table 4 in the appendix.
- Q2a. Refer to table 5 in the appendix.
- Q2b. Refer to table 6 in the appendix
- Q2c. As above, we are unable to provide this information as CM Health does not code the type of weapon involved in injuries.
- Q3. Refer to table 4 in the appendix.

I trust that this information is helpful. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fepulea'i Margie Apa', written in a cursive style.

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

Gunshot Injuries – Number & Cost		
Year	Number of injuries	Total Cost
2016 Total	36	\$357,566.49
2017 Total	30	\$129,053.22
2018 Total	60	\$658,046.73
2019 Total	55	\$1,614,933.67
2020 Total	36	\$261,385.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>\$3,020,985.34</b>

Table 1: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 14/10/2020

Stabbing Injuries – Number & Cost		
Year	Number of injuries	Total Cost
2016 Total	94	\$409,645.28
2017 Total	108	\$737,925.57
2018 Total	108	\$690,993.85
2019 Total	109	\$1,331,710.74
2020 Total	82	\$473,107.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>\$3,643,382.45</b>

Table 4: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 14/10/2020

Gunshot Injuries – Length of Stay		
	Stay less than 5 days	Stay more than 5 days
2016	31	5
2017	30	-
2018	53	7
2019	32	23
2020	31	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>40</b>

Table 2: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 14/10/2020

Stabbing Injuries – Length of Stay		
	Stay less than 5 days	Stay more than 5 days
2016	89	5
2017	97	11
2018	103	5
2019	94	15
2020	78	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>40</b>

Table 5: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 14/10/2020

Gunshot Injuries – Body Part Involved	
Body Part	Number of cases
Abdominal	12
Arm	12
Back	7
Chest	11
Hands	41
Legs/Hip/Feet	101
Head/Neck/ Shoulder/Face	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>

Table 3: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 14/10/2020

Stabbing Injuries – Body Part Involved	
Body Part	Number of cases
Abdominal	35
Arm	62
Back	6
Chest/Lung	56
Hands	117
Legs/Hip/Feet	40
Head/Neck/Shoulder/Face	160
Unknown	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>501</b>

Table 6: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 14/10/2020