

19th February 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request for – MDMA Related Admissions

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 14th January 2021, you requested the following information:

1. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people treated at Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related admissions. Can you please break it down by age groups of those treated and ethnicity.
2. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people admitted to Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related harm. Eg for those who have injured themselves with MDMA in their system. Can you please break it down by age groups of those admitted and ethnicity.
3. Please provide a monthly breakdown of patients admitted to Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for consuming substances disguised as MDMA e.g. Synthetic Cathinones.
4. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people who have died from MDMA related harm at Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period).
5. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the cost for each person who was treated at Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA use.

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 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.

In response to your request, it is important to note when a patient presents to our Emergency Department for care, their presenting medical condition is recorded in our admission system, rather than necessarily the underlying cause of their condition. Given the nature of drug intoxication and its effects, patients may be recorded as having experienced a specific medical event (e.g. seizures, withdrawal), or in some cases as either specified or non-specified drug intoxication or withdrawal.

In some cases, our data will record where a substance is thought to have contributed to the underlying medical issue. This will always be recorded on the basis of what clinicians are told, rather than as a result of testing for a particular substance. This information is anecdotal rather than evidence based, and relies on what we are told by the patient or their family/friends or emergency services.

We have used the following ICD-10 clinical coding to answer your request for patients who have been admitted to hospital:

- **F1502** - Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine, acute intoxication, methylenedioxy methamphetamine

For patients that are not admitted, e.g. those in Emergency Department for over three hours, there is unlikely to be a presenting symptom that can be used from Emergency Department coding data. This means we can answer questions related to patients who are admitted however cannot easily answer the question relating to patients 'treated'. We have used the following searches of patients with Emergency Department presenting symptoms of MDMA, Ecstasy and Synthetic cathinones.

During the specified timeframe, there were nine (9) patients that were admitted and discharged with ICD10 code of F1502 and sixteen (16) patients were treated in the Emergency Department and discharged home. This is a total of twenty-five (25) presentations to Middlemore Hospital. All patients were between the age 15-64 (Adult); no children (<15) or older adults (>64) are reflected in the below data.

1. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people treated at Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related admissions. Can you please break it down by age groups of those treated and ethnicity.

Treated patients at CM Health – Note Limitation Explanation Above													
Month	2016		2018		2019				2020				Total
	Pacific	Other	Maaori	Other	Maaori	Pacific	Asian	Other	Maaori	Pacific	Asian	Other	
Jan			1	2	1					1		1	6
Feb		1											1
Mar												1	1
Apr	1						1			1	1		4
May					1					1			2
Jun			1								1		2
Jul				1				1					2
Aug													0
Sept						1			1				2

Oct				1	1									2
Nov				1										1
Dec				1				1						2
Total	1	1	2	6	3	1	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	25

Table 1: Health Intelligence & Informatics (21/01/2021)

- Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people admitted to Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related harm. Eg for those who have injured themselves with MDMA in their system. Can you please break it down by age groups of those admitted and ethnicity.

Table 2 below reflects patients admitted with an ICD-10 code of F1502 as explained above.

Patients Admitted with ICD-10 Code F1502										
	2016	2018	2019				2020			Total
Month	Pacific	Other	Maaori	Pacific	Other	Asian	Maaori	Pacific	Asian	
Jan		2	1					1		4
Feb										0
Mar										0
Apr	1					1		1	1	4
May										0
Jun									1	1
Jul		1								1
Aug										0
Sep				1			1			2
Oct		1	1							2
Nov		1								1
Dec					1					1
Total	1	5	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	16

Table 2: Health Intelligence & Informatics (21/01/2021)

- Please provide a monthly breakdown of patients admitted to Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (Including through the COVID-19 period) for consuming substances disguised as MDMA e.g. Synthetic Cathinones.

There were no coded admissions for these substances.

- Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people who have died from MDMA related harm at Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period).

No deaths have been recorded.

- Please provide a monthly breakdown of the cost for each person who was treated at Counties Manukau District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA use.

Table three below reflects the costs of those admitted and discharged from both the Emergency Department and those admitted to hospital.

MDMA Cost of Admission & Discharges				
Month	2016	2018	2019	2020
Jan		\$3,918	\$1,646	\$1,266
Feb	\$409			
Mar				\$537
Apr	\$1,358		\$2,250	\$2,805
May			\$171	\$604
Jun		\$527		\$1,953
Jul		\$1,169	\$549	
Aug				
Sept			\$824	\$1,533
Oct		\$1,067	\$1,323	
Nov		\$957		
Dec		\$199	\$558	
Total	\$1,766	\$7,836	\$7,321	\$8,698

Table 3: Health Intelligence & Informatics (21/01/2021)

I trust this information answers your request. 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 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



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health