

19th April 2022



Official Information Act Request for – ADHD Services

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 16th March 2022, you requested the following information:

1. **How many ADHD assessments have been undertaken in the last ten years through the CMDHB? Broken down by year, sex and age (under or above 18)?**
2. **How many people have been diagnosed with ADHD through the CMDHB in the past ten years? Broken down by year of diagnosis, and sex and age (under or above 18) of the person diagnosed?**
3. **Over the past ten years what has been the average wait time for an ADHD diagnosis through the CMDHB? Broken down by year?**
4. **Over the past ten years what has been the average amount of people on the waitlist with suspected ADHD, in the area? Can this be broken down by sex?**
5. **How many people are currently on the waitlist with suspected ADHD? Can this be broken down by sex?**
6. **What percentage of the waitlist for youth mental health is currently made up of patients with suspected ADHD?**

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. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, over 490,000 outpatient appointments 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 national, 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.

1. **How many ADHD assessments have been undertaken in the last ten years through the CMDHB? Broken down by year, sex and age (under or above 18)?**

Please see data in Question 2. This data shows the number of assessments where a diagnosis of ADHD was confirmed however does not account for the total number of ADHD assessments undertaken. Data showing the total number of ADHD assessments undertaken by the service is not available and requires manual work in reading individual patient files to ascertain all ADHD assessments undertaken.

2. How many people have been diagnosed with ADHD through the CMDHB in the past ten years? Broken down by year of diagnosis, and sex and age (under or above 18) of the person diagnosed?

Year	Gender	0-17 Years	18+ Years	Total
2012	F	36	13	49
	M	184	15	199
2012 Total		220	28	248
2013	F	39	19	58
	M	189	28	217
2013 Total		228	47	275
2014	F	53	10	63
	M	243	29	272
	U	1		1
2014 Total		297	39	336
2015	F	38	7	45
	M	208	39	247
	U	1		1
2015 Total		247	46	293
2016	F	35	9	44
	M	154	30	184
2016 Total		189	39	228
2017	F	27	15	42
	M	144	27	172
2017 Total		171	42	214
2018	F	21	18	39
	M	146	50	196
	U	1		1
2018 Total		168	68	236
2019	F	35	29	64
	M	170	49	219
2019 Total		205	78	283
2020	F	20	20	40
	M	116	50	166
2020 Total		136	70	206
2021	F	36	39	75
	M	112	48	160
2021 Total		148	87	235
Grand Total		2009	544	2554

3. Over the past ten years what has been the average wait time for an ADHD diagnosis through the CMDHB? Broken down by year?

The table below represents the average wait time for completed ADHD assessments across all ages (average days from referral start date to the diagnosis date of ADHD).

This data should be interpreted with the following assumptions:

- Clients can be receiving treatment for a differential diagnosis and later receive a diagnosis of ADHD.
- Psychometric screening questionnaires are required from school and parents/caregivers to enable assessments.

Year	Average wait time (days)
2012	115
2013	106.5
2014	131
2015	145
2016	146
2017	149
2018	138
2019	178
2020	184
2021	180.5

4. Over the past ten years what has been the average amount of people on the waitlist with suspected ADHD, in the area? Can this be broken down by sex?
5. How many people are currently on the waitlist with suspected ADHD? Can this be broken down by sex?

In response to questions 4 and 5, this is not data that is routinely collected by CM Health and would involve considerable time to manually search through individual patient files to obtain this information. Frequently clients are referred with a range of symptoms and behavioural characteristics common to several neuro developmental disorders of which ADHD is one. All referrals are received by the service and triaged according to clinical risks and seen within internally agreed timeframes.

The table below shows the wait time targets for specialist Mental Health Services against the Ministry of Health Target.

CM Health Wait Times Against MoH Target					
Age Group	0-19-years	20-64-years	65+ years	Grand Total	MoH Target
≤3 weeks	81.42%	90.22%	87.08%	86.89%	80%
3-8 weeks	93.66%	97.31%	98.11%	96.20%	95%

6. What percentage of the waitlist for youth mental health is currently made up of patients with suspected ADHD?

All referrals that do not require an immediate response are scheduled for an initial appointment (Kotahi Ra Appointment). This initial appointment determines the type of support the teams offers to better understand the needs of the young person and whaanau.

The specific information you have requested is currently not easily obtainable and a detailed exploration of individual patient files to investigate the reason for referral would be required to provide this information. Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We

have, therefore, determined to decline this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 due to substantial collation and research.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pauline McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Pauline McGrath
Chief Operating Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health