Injury statistics | Q3 2026 |

Dog bites

October 2026

He Kaupare. He Manaaki. He Whakaora.
Prevention. Care. Recovery.



Notes and caveats

- Dog bites are defined as claims where the injury is coded as “Dog bite” or the accident description contains words like “bite”, “bit”, “bitten”, “attack” or “maul” and contains “dog” or “puppy”, allowing for some spelling variations.
- The accident description is a non-mandatory free-text field on the ACC45 form. The nature and quality of responses vary. These data should therefore be considered indicative, but not a definitive count of claims.
- Claims managed by Accredited Employers on behalf of ACC have been included. Due to limitations in the data provided to ACC, these claims are only identified where the injury is coded as “Dog bite”.
- New claims are counted where a claim is lodged with ACC within the specified period. A claim may be lodged immediately following an accident or at any later stage.
- Active claims are counted where the claim received at least one payment within the specified period. A claim was not necessarily lodged or had the accident occur within this period.
- A claim may be active in more than one calendar year and will be counted once in each relevant year in which at least one payment was made.
- Active costs are the GST exclusive cost of payments made for claims that were active in the specified period.
- The cost of public hospital services during the acute stage of an injury is covered under the Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) regulations. These services are bulk-funded and not attributed to individual claims, so cannot be included in these data.
- The calendar year in which the service was paid may differ to the calendar year in which the service was provided.
- The accident location is not necessarily where the client resides or sought treatment.
- Diagnosis and injury site are based on the primary injury of the client. A claim may include multiple injuries, but any additional injuries will not be included in this dataset.
- All included claims and injuries are accepted for cover
- Data are displayed in calendar years. i.e. 1 January to 31 December
- In the interest of client privacy claim counts of less than four claims have been replaced with '<4'. If the presence of totals could allow a suppressed number to be derived further suppression is displayed as '..'.
- Results are based on data available at the time of extraction and may vary if rerun later.

Table 1: Number of new claims, active claims and active claim costs (excluding GST) for dog bite related injuries between 1 January 2021 and 30 September 2026

	Calendar Year					
Measure	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026 YTD**
New Claims	12,931	12,769	14,202	15,022	14,792	10,742
Active Claims	11,611	11,693	12,907	13,443	13,441	10,102
Active Costs	$6,298,292	$6,666,103	$8,575,083	$9,224,690	$10,427,483	$7,527,829

Table 2: Number of new claims for dog bite related injuries lodged between 1 January 2021 and 30 September 2026, broken down by accident location

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
Accident Location	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026 YTD**
Northland Region	821	791	851	990	931	643
Auckland Region	4,075	4,250	4,642	5,103	4,950	3,518
Waikato Region	1,400	1,338	1,494	1,459	1,469	1,139
Bay of Plenty Region	984	1,017	1,163	1,138	1,127	776
Gisborne Region	238	178	205	237	229	159
Hawke's Bay Region	590	500	634	649	624	429
Taranaki Region	323	343	323	397	357	272
Manawatū-Whanganui Region	720	717	747	774	753	624
Wellington Region	1,103	1,036	1,153	1,262	1,157	869
Tasman Region	89	107	101	103	99	81
Nelson Region	120	127	148	167	168	114
Marlborough Region	120	104	105	105	106	89
Canterbury Region	1,504	1,429	1,552	1,643	1,661	1,172
West Coast Region	102	85	99	87	108	90
Otago Region	492	478	599	539	612	426
Southland Region	237	229	265	221	255	204
Other or Unknown	13	40	121	148	186	137

Table 3: Number of new claims for dog bite related injuries lodged between 1 January 2021 and 30 September 2026, broken down by top 5 most prevalent primary diagnoses

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
Primary Injury Diagnosis	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026 YTD**
Amputation	13	12	15	11	13	6
Dental Injury	25	34	41	42	36	19
Fracture / Dislocation	60	73	72	70	88	72
Laceration / Puncture / Sting	12,061	11,607	12,918	13,566	13,122	9,422
Soft Tissue Injury	399	488	451	494	472	346

Table 4: Number of new claims for dog bite related injuries lodged between 1 January 2021 and 30 September 2026, broken down by top 5 most prevalent primary sites

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
Primary Injury Site	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026 YTD**
Face	479	445	469	435	418	307
Finger / Thumb	757	716	766	766	751	556
Hand / Wrist	754	748	831	870	817	563
Lower Leg	412	437	429	465	464	282
Upper And Lower Arm	922	838	942	914	885	597