

Injury statistics | Q2 2026 |

Dog bites

July 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 also 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 varies. 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 counts the number of new claims that were lodged with ACC in each period. This can be any time after an injury occurred.
- 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 time 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.
- All included claims and injuries are accepted for cover
- Data are displayed in calendar years.
- Data were extracted on 7 July 2026 and may differ 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 June 2026

Measure	Calendar Year					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 YTD
New Claims	12,930	12,769	14,202	15,022	14,792	7,453
Active Claims	11,610	11,692	12,907	13,443	13,441	7,270
Active Costs	\$6,297,217	\$6,666,055	\$8,575,083	\$9,224,690	\$10,427,483	\$4,948,115

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

Accident Location	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 YTD
Northland Region	821	791	851	990	931	436
Auckland Region	4,074	4,250	4,642	5,103	4,950	2,419
Waikato Region	1,400	1,338	1,494	1,459	1,469	802
Bay of Plenty Region	984	1,017	1,163	1,138	1,127	545
Gisborne Region	238	178	205	237	229	108
Hawke's Bay Region	590	500	634	649	624	307
Taranaki Region	323	343	323	397	357	186
Manawatū-Whanganui Region	720	717	747	774	753	437
Wellington Region	1,103	1,036	1,153	1,262	1,157	603
Tasman Region	89	107	101	103	99	57
Nelson Region	120	127	148	167	168	82
Marlborough Region	120	104	105	105	106	57
Canterbury Region	1,504	1,429	1,552	1,643	1,661	805
West Coast Region	102	85	99	87	108	65
Otago Region	492	478	599	539	612	301
Southland Region	237	229	265	221	255	151
Other or Unknown	13	40	121	148	186	92

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

Primary Injury Diagnosis	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 YTD
Amputation	13	12	15	11	13	5
Dental Injury	25	34	41	42	36	11
Fracture / Dislocation	59	73	72	70	88	46
Laceration / Puncture / Sting	12,061	11,607	12,918	13,566	13,122	6,527
Soft Tissue Injury	399	488	451	494	472	227

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

Primary Injury Site	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 YTD
Face	479	445	469	435	418	218
Finger / Thumb	756	716	766	766	751	381
Hand / Wrist	754	748	831	870	817	373
Lower Leg	412	437	429	465	464	194
Upper And Lower Arm	922	838	942	914	885	407