



30 May 2025

Info@data.govt.nz

Kia ora

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-039914**

Thank you for your email of 6 May 2025, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

**Title:** *Outdoor Recreation Injuries*

**Description:**

- *Filter for accidents/injuries/emergencies happening NOT on roads or in towns or on sports fields -> filter through info to identify outdoors pursuits injuries specifically.*
- *Filter OUT competitive ball sports/field sports both training and game mode. Also filter OUT motorised vehicular accidents of any kind*
- *DOES include ultra/mountain races, trail runs, trekking, tramping, hunting, MTB/distance cycling, climbing, kayaking (sea and white), sailing (incl regatta), swimming (sea and fresh), skiing, paragliding, parasailing...*
- *NOT focusing on any particular sport*
- *Data items: age, sex, date/time of accident, activity leading to injury details, admitted to hospital or not, diagnosis in ED, method of extraction and disposition to hospital, ethnicity, location of incident*

**Our response**

In response to your request we are providing the number of claims that relate to specific sports and activities in the last 5 calendar years, and broken down by:

- Sport/activity (Table 1)
- accident region (Table 2)
- primary diagnosis (Table 3)
- primary injury site (Table 4)
- accident day; month; year (Table 5 and 6)
- gender (Table 7)
- ethnicity (Table 8)
- age (Table 9)

This information is provided in the Appendix. Please refer to the 'Notes and Caveats' section for details about the data used for this request.

**Information we are unable to provide**

We don't specifically record the 'diagnosis in ED (emergency departments)', although this will generally be reflected in the diagnosis recorded in the claim form that is lodged with ACC. Nor do we record how a patient was brought to a hospital for their initial treatment, or whether they have been admitted to hospital.

We are therefore refusing these parts of your request as we do not hold the information. This decision is made under section 18(g) of the Act.

**As this information may be of interest to other members of the public**

ACC may publish a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available [www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12](http://www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12). Please also view this page about making requests and our published responses <https://www.acc.co.nz/contact/official-information-act-requests>.

**If you have any questions about this response, please get in touch**

You can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you can also contact the Ombudsman via [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Johnston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Johnston

**Manager Official Information Act Services**

Government Engagement



#### Notes and Caveats:

- All included claims are accepted for cover.
- Claims managed by accredited employers are not included.
- Claims are identified where the accident sport / recreational activity is one of those listed in Table 1. Please note that some fields are not detailed enough to identify activities occurring on the road / street or in sport facilities such as swimming (unspecified), jogging and cycling and have been excluded here.
- New claims are counted where ACC has received a claim for an accident occurring between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024. A claim may be lodged immediately following an accident or at any later stage.
- Data are displayed in calendar years, i.e. 1 January to 31 December.
- The data was extracted on 28 May 2025 and may differ if re-run at a later date.

**Table 1: New outdoor pursuit related claims for accidents between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 broken down by sport / activity name and calendar year**

| Accident Sport / Activity | Accident Calendar Year |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                           | 2020                   | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   | 2024   |
| Boating                   | 885                    | 898    | 908    | 911    | 953    |
| Bungee Jumping            | 23                     | 25     | 24     | 26     | 17     |
| Fishing                   | 4,102                  | 4,260  | 3,885  | 3,907  | 4,216  |
| Hang-gliding              | 26                     | 31     | 27     | 36     | 26     |
| Hunting                   | 1,529                  | 1,623  | 1,551  | 1,750  | 1,777  |
| Kayaking                  | 943                    | 978    | 894    | 967    | 1,034  |
| Luge Riding               | 499                    | 395    | 396    | 403    | 376    |
| Mountain Biking           | 5,686                  | 5,296  | 4,609  | 4,121  | 4,226  |
| Mountaineering            | 348                    | 383    | 436    | 455    | 482    |
| Parachute Jumping         | 60                     | 36     | 68     | 76     | 60     |
| Skiing - Snow             | 7,913                  | 6,582  | 8,217  | 7,981  | 7,600  |
| Snowboarding              | 4,703                  | 4,306  | 5,405  | 5,334  | 5,073  |
| Surfing                   | 5,474                  | 6,048  | 6,336  | 5,532  | 5,821  |
| Swimming - Beach          | 359                    | 418    | 447    | 398    | 452    |
| Swimming - Lake           | 51                     | 77     | 68     | 74     | 79     |
| Swimming - River          | 71                     | 66     | 76     | 53     | 54     |
| Tramping                  | 6,380                  | 7,811  | 7,816  | 7,891  | 8,955  |
| Underwater Diving         | 445                    | 487    | 468    | 485    | 574    |
| Waterskiing               | 1,115                  | 1,194  | 1,228  | 931    | 998    |
| Windsurfing               | 281                    | 321    | 299    | 334    | 289    |
| Total                     | 40,893                 | 41,235 | 43,158 | 41,665 | 43,062 |

**Table 3: New outdoor pursuit related claims for accidents between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 broken down by most prevalent primary diagnoses and calendar year**

| Injury Diagnosis              | Accident Calendar Year |        |        |        |        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                               | 2020                   | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   | 2024   |
| Soft Tissue Injury            | 29,243                 | 29,628 | 31,109 | 29,922 | 31,183 |
| Laceration / Puncture / Sting | 4,172                  | 4,161  | 3,961  | 3,920  | 4,121  |
| Fracture / Dislocation        | 3,547                  | 3,463  | 3,928  | 3,739  | 3,801  |
| Concussion                    | 774                    | 809    | 860    | 796    | 731    |
| Foreign Body in Orifice / Eye | 658                    | 630    | 553    | 528    | 538    |
| Dental Injury                 | 485                    | 414    | 471    | 436    | 390    |

- Injury diagnosis is based on the primary injury of the client. A claim may include multiple injuries but any additional diagnoses will not be included here.

**Table 2: New outdoor pursuit related claims for accidents between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 broken down by accident region and calendar year**

| Region                    | Accident Calendar Year |       |        |       |       |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
|                           | 2020                   | 2021  | 2022   | 2023  | 2024  |
| Northland Region          | 1,654                  | 1,652 | 1,616  | 1,548 | 1,576 |
| Auckland Region           | 7,062                  | 6,832 | 7,556  | 6,668 | 7,262 |
| Waikato Region            | 3,777                  | 3,818 | 3,653  | 3,521 | 3,710 |
| Bay of Plenty Region      | 3,404                  | 3,504 | 3,230  | 3,176 | 3,395 |
| Gisborne Region           | 563                    | 660   | 570    | 392   | 511   |
| Hawke's Bay Region        | 986                    | 1,080 | 886    | 749   | 943   |
| Taranaki Region           | 967                    | 990   | 963    | 947   | 1,001 |
| Manawatu-Whanganui Region | 2,881                  | 2,341 | 1,843  | 2,587 | 1,931 |
| Wellington Region         | 2,216                  | 2,460 | 2,171  | 2,158 | 2,138 |
| Marlborough Region        | 577                    | 616   | 558    | 574   | 536   |
| Tasman Region             | 704                    | 712   | 612    | 665   | 705   |
| Nelson Region             | 682                    | 752   | 740    | 796   | 753   |
| Canterbury Region         | 5,689                  | 5,907 | 6,074  | 5,774 | 5,792 |
| West Coast Region         | 437                    | 525   | 511    | 548   | 606   |
| Otago Region              | 7,891                  | 8,080 | 10,684 | 9,386 | 9,815 |
| Southland Region          | 673                    | 1,030 | 925    | 902   | 928   |
| Area Outside Region       | 675                    | 201   | 501    | 1,173 | 1,346 |
| No Location Selected      | 55                     | 75    | 65     | 101   | 114   |

- Region is based on the location of the accident and may not be where the client resides or sought treatment.

**Table 4: New outdoor pursuit related claims for accidents between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 broken down by most prevalent primary injury sites and calendar year**

| Injury Site                       | Accident Calendar Year |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                   | 2020                   | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  |
| Knee                              | 6,079                  | 6,236 | 6,878 | 6,725 | 7,073 |
| Shoulder (incl. Clavicle / Blade) | 4,795                  | 4,671 | 4,940 | 4,848 | 4,920 |
| Lower Back / Spine                | 4,081                  | 4,127 | 4,381 | 4,215 | 4,271 |
| Neck / Back Of Head Vertebrae     | 3,196                  | 2,977 | 3,047 | 2,874 | 2,865 |
| Ankle                             | 2,526                  | 2,929 | 2,909 | 2,951 | 3,236 |
| Hand / Wrist                      | 2,203                  | 2,146 | 2,303 | 2,381 | 2,299 |
| Upper / Lower Arm                 | 2,041                  | 2,058 | 2,119 | 2,072 | 2,151 |
| Finger / Thumb                    | 2,057                  | 2,078 | 2,115 | 2,046 | 2,073 |
| Hip / Upper Leg / Thigh           | 1,886                  | 1,930 | 2,068 | 2,017 | 2,190 |
| Chest                             | 1,751                  | 1,635 | 1,684 | 1,500 | 1,422 |
| Foot                              | 1,128                  | 1,341 | 1,347 | 1,294 | 1,442 |
| Lower Leg                         | 1,217                  | 1,222 | 1,267 | 1,196 | 1,296 |
| Upper Back / Spine                | 1,159                  | 1,089 | 1,223 | 992   | 1,119 |

|                    |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Head (except Face) | 1,095 | 1,122 | 1,130 | 1,044 | 1,034 |
| Face               | 1,138 | 1,046 | 1,073 | 1,006 | 1,000 |

- Injury site is based on the primary injury of the client. A claim may include multiple injuries but any additional injury sites will not be included here.

**Table 5: New outdoor pursuit related claims for accidents between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 broken down by week day of accident and calendar year**

|                 | Accident Calendar Year |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Day of Accident | 2020                   | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   | 2024   |
| Monday          | 4,345                  | 4,405  | 5,010  | 4,529  | 5,066  |
| Tuesday         | 4,021                  | 4,135  | 4,483  | 4,422  | 4,748  |
| Wednesday       | 4,745                  | 4,662  | 4,719  | 4,755  | 5,114  |
| Thursday        | 4,524                  | 4,289  | 4,482  | 4,534  | 4,514  |
| Friday          | 4,870                  | 5,162  | 5,373  | 5,281  | 5,241  |
| Saturday        | 10,413                 | 10,421 | 10,804 | 10,162 | 10,271 |
| Sunday          | 7,975                  | 8,161  | 8,287  | 7,982  | 8,108  |

**Table 7: New outdoor pursuit related claims for accidents between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 broken down by client gender and calendar year**

|                | Accident Calendar Year |        |        |        |        |
|----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Client Gender  | 2020                   | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   | 2024   |
| Female         | 15,464                 | 15,935 | 16,978 | 16,500 | 17,235 |
| Male           | 25,421                 | 25,292 | 26,170 | 25,155 | 25,813 |
| Another Gender | 5                      | 7      | 9      | 8      | 6      |
| Unknown        | 3                      | 1      | 1      | 2      | 8      |

**Table 9: New outdoor pursuit related claims for accident between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 broken down by client age at accident and calendar year**

|                 | Accident Calendar Year |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Client Age Band | 2020                   | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  |
| 00-04 Years     | 371                    | 248   | 256   | 217   | 195   |
| 05-09 Years     | 1,111                  | 909   | 858   | 799   | 814   |
| 10-14 Years     | 3,024                  | 2,703 | 2,738 | 2,786 | 2,893 |
| 15-19 Years     | 3,170                  | 3,065 | 3,167 | 3,496 | 3,557 |
| 20-24 Years     | 3,510                  | 3,498 | 3,738 | 3,541 | 3,714 |
| 25-29 Years     | 4,381                  | 4,506 | 4,537 | 4,248 | 4,086 |
| 30-34 Years     | 3,755                  | 4,099 | 4,115 | 3,995 | 3,888 |
| 35-39 Years     | 3,145                  | 3,203 | 3,473 | 3,338 | 3,480 |
| 40-44 Years     | 3,586                  | 3,471 | 3,543 | 3,333 | 3,497 |
| 45-49 Years     | 3,916                  | 3,928 | 4,002 | 3,593 | 3,674 |
| 50-54 Years     | 3,303                  | 3,600 | 3,835 | 3,700 | 3,798 |
| 55-59 Years     | 2,785                  | 2,894 | 3,094 | 2,901 | 3,075 |
| 60-64 Years     | 2,008                  | 2,166 | 2,394 | 2,340 | 2,475 |
| 65-69 Years     | 1,436                  | 1,438 | 1,708 | 1,652 | 1,908 |

**Table 6: New outdoor pursuit related claims for accidents between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 broken down by month and calendar year**

|                   | Accident Calendar Year |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Month of Accident | 2020                   | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  |
| January           | 4,979                  | 5,424 | 5,806 | 4,544 | 5,517 |
| February          | 3,866                  | 4,129 | 2,954 | 3,066 | 4,000 |
| March             | 2,298                  | 3,345 | 3,065 | 3,266 | 3,445 |
| April             | 536                    | 3,312 | 3,447 | 3,103 | 3,048 |
| May               | 2,001                  | 2,130 | 1,930 | 1,719 | 1,902 |
| June              | 2,155                  | 1,894 | 2,256 | 2,083 | 2,356 |
| July              | 5,655                  | 5,529 | 4,661 | 4,628 | 4,591 |
| August            | 5,048                  | 3,086 | 5,816 | 6,300 | 5,590 |
| September         | 4,750                  | 3,323 | 4,660 | 4,482 | 4,095 |
| October           | 3,698                  | 3,424 | 3,246 | 2,924 | 2,771 |
| November          | 2,604                  | 2,543 | 2,194 | 2,498 | 2,569 |
| December          | 3,303                  | 3,096 | 3,123 | 3,052 | 3,178 |

**Table 8: New outdoor pursuit related claims for accidents between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 broken down by client prioritised ethnicity and calendar year**

|                     | Accident Calendar Year |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Client Ethnicity    | 2020                   | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   | 2024   |
| Māori               | 2,846                  | 2,789  | 2,666  | 2,662  | 2,708  |
| Pacific Peoples     | 717                    | 720    | 689    | 635    | 695    |
| Asian               | 2,203                  | 2,495  | 3,107  | 3,076  | 3,307  |
| MELAA               | 445                    | 512    | 501    | 539    | 576    |
| Other Ethnicity     | 1,664                  | 1,680  | 2,129  | 2,554  | 2,302  |
| European            | 31,768                 | 31,654 | 32,548 | 30,446 | 31,466 |
| Residual Categories | 1,250                  | 1,385  | 1,518  | 1,753  | 2,008  |

- ACC ethnicity data is prioritised, meaning that a claim can only have one ethnicity based on their selections on the ACC45 claim lodgement form. A maximum of six ethnicities can be chosen by the client but the system prioritises these where Māori, regardless of other ethnicities are classified as Māori, Pacific Peoples with any other responses other than Māori are classified as Pacific; Asian peoples with any other response other than Māori and Pacific are classified as Asian; Middle Eastern, Latin American and African Peoples with any other response other than Māori, Pacific and Asian are classified as MELAA and Other Ethnicity regardless of any other response other than Māori, Pacific, Asian or MELAA are classified as Other. Those that listed European and did not list Māori, Pacific, Asian, MELAA or Other are classified as European. Residual Categories are those whose ethnicity was not stated.

|                   |     |     |     |     |       |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 70-74 Years       | 888 | 949 | 990 | 988 | 1,131 |
| 75-79 Years       | 333 | 381 | 479 | 536 | 619   |
| 80-84 Years       | 128 | 128 | 170 | 146 | 185   |
| 85 Years and over | 43  | 49  | 57  | 56  | 72    |
| Unknown           |     |     | 4   |     | 1     |

- Age is the clients age at the time of accident and is not necessarily their age at claim lodgement.