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

14 January 2025

Info@data.govt.nz

Kia ora

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-037091
Thank you for your request of 10 December 2024, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. I am seeking the following data as tables from 2000 - 2023. If that is too much, I would like 2013 - 2023.
    a. The number of ACC firearm injury claims by year.
    b. The cost of ACC firearm injury claims by year.
    c. The number of ACC firearm injury claims related to self-harm / suicide attempt (and whether non-fatal or fatal).
    d. The cost of ACC firearm injury claims related to self-harm / suicide attempt (and whether non-fatal or fatal).
    e. The number of ACC firearm injury claims related to self-harm / suicide attempt which resulted in permanent disablement.
    f. The number of ACC firearm injury claims related to self-harm / suicide attempt which involved alcohol and/or drugs.
    g. the number of ACC firearm injury claims related to self-harm / suicide attempt by age.
    h. the number of ACC firearm injury claims related to self-harm / suicide attempt by gender.
2. If the above includes fatal / non-fatal injuries, I would like this broken down please

Fatality data
Fatality data available to ACC is collected based on claims made. As such, our data may not represent the total number of fatalities related to accidents for the following reasons:

1. Many people are not aware that they can make a claim related to an accidental death of a family member and therefore ACC only ever receives claims for a subset of accidental deaths.
2. If a person who has an open claim with ACC dies of their injuries, or other causes, ACC is not necessarily notified of this.

For more accurate fatality data, we suggest that you contact the Ministry of Health Mortality Collection (MORT), which classifies the underlying cause of death for all deaths registered in New Zealand. MORT uses a range of sources (Police, funeral director, coroner, hospital records) to validate data reliability.

More information on MORT is available on www.health.govt.nz/statistics-research or by contacting data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz.

Data is provided in the attached appendix
When interpreting the data, please refer to the 'Notes' tab.

Claim counts fewer than four
Some values in the tables only indicate that the claim count is fewer than four (denoted as <4). This limits the potential for particular individuals, or matters specific to certain individuals, from being identified. This decision has been made under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect our clients' privacy.

Firearm injury claims related to self-harm / suicide attempts which involved alcohol and/or drugs
This information is not recorded in ACC's database. If recorded, it would be held on individual claim files and to find it, we would need to manually review the relevant claim files, which would amount to substantial collation and research. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act.

In doing so, we considered extending our timeframe to respond and charging (as allowed under the Act). However, it was determined that the resources required to extract the data would have a significant impact on the everyday functions of the team(s) involved.

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

If you have any questions about this response, please get in touch
You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

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

Ngā mihi

Christopher Johnston
Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement

GOV-037091

Description:

Firearms related claims and those related to wilfully self-inflicted (WSI) claims

Caveats and Notes:

- All included claims are accepted for cover.
- Claims managed by an accredited employer are not included.
- Claims are identified as related to firearms via search for series of keywords in the accident description or where a firearms related injury is identified.
- The accident description is a non-mandatory, free text field on the ACC45 claim lodgement form. The field allows a client to add some additional details around how their accident came about. The quality and quantity of information provided in this section varies significantly and, as such data provided based on keywords in this field should be considered indicative only.
- Claims are identified as wilfully self-inflicted (WSI) by a flag added at cover assessment.
- Please note that Section 119 of the ACC Act which outlines cover for wilfully self-inflicted injuries was repealed on 1 August 2008 before being reinstated on 1 July 2010. Differences in number of WSI claims during this time compared to other periods may represent changes in lodgement behaviour and cover rather than differences in number of wilfully self-inflicted injuries.
- Client age is based on the clients age at accident.
- Fatal claims are counted where the fatal indicator is 'Y'. Please note that this should not be considered a comprehensive count of all fatal WSI firearm related claims. A claim must be lodged with ACC in order to be counted and not all deaths by accident are lodged particularly for WSI claims where disentitlement on some payment types occurs. Those fatal claims that do get lodged regularly give little detail on the nature of the accident in the accident description which this dataset relies on to identify firearms.
- New claims are counted where a claim is lodged with ACC between 1 January 2008 and 14 December 2024. A claim may be lodged immediately following an accident or any later stage.
- Data are displayed by calendar year, i.e. 1 January to 31 December.
- Active claims are counted where ACC makes at least one payment to the claim between 1 January 2008 and 14 December 2024. A claim was not necessarily lodged or had the accident occur within that time period.
- A claim may be active in multiple calendar years and will be counted once for each relevant year in which at least one payment was made.
- Costs are exclusive of GST and based on payment date which may occur in a different year to that of the service.
- Costs do not include Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. These costs are for treatment in a public hospital during the acute phase of an injury and are covered by bulk payments made by ACC to the Crown. As such, these payments cannot be attributed to individual claims.

- The data was extracted on 17 December 2024 and may differ if re-run at a later date.

Table 1: New and active claims and active costs for firearms related injuries between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2023 broken down by calendar year

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs
2008	493	549	$822,760
2009	429	504	$1,040,788
2010	484	543	$1,220,015
2011	451	523	$1,261,725
2012	499	539	$1,041,641
2013	504	562	$1,273,779
2014	432	516	$952,741
2015	502	573	$1,051,272
2016	500	588	$1,127,100
2017	475	567	$1,507,720
2018	480	606	$1,501,998
2019	521	624	$3,508,121
2020	481	653	$3,452,963
2021	476	614	$3,090,649
2022	467	614	$3,320,985
2023	455	636	$3,448,706
Total	**7,649**	**9,211**	**$29,622,964**

Table 2: New and active claims and active costs for wilfully self-inflicted firearms related injuries between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2023 broken down by calendar year

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs
2008	<4	<4	$9,069
2009	7	6	$209,689
2010	<4	7	$70,097
2011		<4	$46,309
2012	<4	<4	$11,061
2013	7	6	$96,470
2014	<4	4	$26,109
2015	<4	<4	$3,994
2016	<4	<4	<$100
2017		<4	$1,589
2018	<4	<4	$1,680
2019	<4	<4	$13,432
2020	<4	<4	$40,955
2021	<4	<4	$29,475
2022	<4	4	$7,893
2023	<4	5	$153,235
Total	**39**	**31**	**$721,057**

Table 3: New and active claims and active costs for fatal wilfully self-inflicted firearms related injuries between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2023 broken down by calendar year

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs
2008	<4	<4	$9,069
2009	7	6	$209,689
2010	<4	7	$70,097
2011		<4	$46,309
2012			
2013	<4		
2014			
2015			
2016	<4	<4	<$100
2017			
2018			
2019	<4		
2020		<4	$665
2021	<4	<4	$183
2022			
2023	<4	<4	$139,296
Total	**17**	**16**	**$1,005,081**

There are no wilfully self-inflicted firearms claims with a serious injury flag of 'Y'.
Note that it can take some time for a

Table 4: New wilfully self-inflicted firearms related claims lodged between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2023 broken down by client age and calendar year

	Client age													
Client Gender	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female				<4			<4							
Male	<4	7	<4	<4	7	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4

Table 4: New wilfully self-inflicted firearms related claims lodged between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2023 broken down by client age and calendar year

Client Age	New Claims
05-19 Years	5
20-29 Years	6
30-39 Years	7
40-49 Years	7
50-59 Years	4
60-69 Years	5
70 Years and over	5