



28 March 2024



Kia ora 

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-031132**

Thank you for your email of 12 March 2024, asking for data relating to chainsaw injuries under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

**The requested information is attached**

Please find information on chainsaw injury claims, between 2019 and 2023, in the attached Excel file. Please refer to the “notes” tab of the spreadsheet on how to interpret the figures provided.

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

ACC may decide to release 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).

**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).

Ngā mihi



Christopher Johnston  
**Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement

**Description:**

Chainsaw related injuries between 2019 and 2023

**Response:**

The data have been extracted based on the following criteria:

The claim lodgement / payment date is between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2023.

The claim cover decision is equal to 'Accept'.

The external agency is equal to Tool - Chainsaw.

**Caveats:**

A calendar year is 1 January to 31 December.

Accredited employer claims have been excluded.

'New claims' have been counted by the date that they were lodged with ACC. This can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later date.

'Active claims' are claims that generated a payment in the relevant calendar years. These claims were not necessarily lodged, or had the accident occur, in the same calendar year.

Costs provided are exclusive of GST.

Costs are based on payment date. Payment date may be different to the date of service.

Costs do not include Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. Treatment for covered claims in public hospitals is provided by an annual service agreement between ACC and the Ministry of Health, and is funded by bulk payments from ACC to the Crown.

The calendar year in which the service was paid may differ to the calendar year in which the service was provided.

A claim can cover multiple calendar years. a claim which lasts longer than one year is counted as 'active' once for each calendar year covered. For example, a claim which lasted from 2019 to 2021 would be counted a total of three times, once for each calendar year.

Diagnosis and injury site is based on the client's primary injury. Claims may have multiple injuries; however, these secondary injuries will not show within this data extract.

Region is based on accident location which differ to client's current residential location or client's residential location at the time of accident.

Data were extracted on 18 March 2024 and may differ if rerun at a later date.

**Table 1: Number of new claims, active claims and active costs (excluding GST) for chainsaw related injuries, broken down by calendar year.**

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs
2019	2,480	2,912	\$3,974,204
2020	2,674	3,097	\$4,094,363
2021	2,584	3,068	\$4,671,397
2022	2,535	3,050	\$5,553,147
2023	2,791	3,322	\$5,593,985

**Table 2: Number of new claims for chainsaw related injuries, broken down by most common primary diagnosis and claim lodgement calendar year.**

Primary Diagnosis	Lodgement Calendar Year				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Soft Tissue Injury	1,208	1,319	1,296	1,341	1,452
Laceration / Puncture/ Sting	1,017	1,089	1,019	957	1,078
Foreign Body In Orific / Eye	96	112	110	82	84
Fracture / Dislocation	43	41	28	34	38
Industrial Deafness	17	6	16	16	21
Burns	5	7	13	5	10
Gradual Process - Local Inflamm.	7	5	7	9	11
Other / Unknown	87	95	95	91	97

**Table 3: Number of new claims for chainsaw related injuries, broken down by most common primary injury site and claim lodgement calendar year.**

Primary Injury Site	Lodgement Calendar Year				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Lower Back/spine	382	390	411	406	439
Finger/thumb	370	377	344	362	425
Upper And Lower Arm	274	352	315	296	310
Shoulder	266	310	296	306	333
Hand/wrist	207	213	230	191	231
Eye	166	189	181	148	159
Knee	145	150	142	146	155
Lower Leg	137	129	122	113	135
Neck, Back Of Head Vertebrae	101	122	91	138	146
Upper Back/spine	73	68	62	73	72
Other / Unknown	359	374	390	356	386

**Table 4: Number of new claims for chainsaw related injuries, broken down by accident region and claim lodgement calendar year.**

Accident Region	Lodgement Calendar Year				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Northland	199	224	205	216	302
Auckland	461	484	460	447	522
Waikato	327	301	329	331	337
Bay of Plenty	243	250	229	240	232
Gisborne	51	51	53	53	53
Hawkes Bay	120	142	152	135	162
Taranaki	83	70	77	95	83
Manawatū-Whanganui	149	173	163	152	152
Wellington	159	214	189	188	206
Tasman	55	45	39	49	69
Nelson	30	34	56	40	41
Marlborough	45	49	38	46	65
Canterbury	288	339	338	291	321
West Coast	34	25	27	35	29
Otago	156	182	140	144	147
Southland	73	87	87	71	64
Other / Unknown	7	4	2	2	6