



30 April 2024

Kia ora

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-031498

Thank you for your email of 3 April 2024, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

It will be extremely helpful for our team if we can have access to non-identifiable injury claim data including:

- 1. Mechanism of thoracic spine injury claims (last 10 years)*
- 2. location (e.g. christchurch) and place (e.g. when injury happened)*
- 3. Age/sex of claimants*
- 4. Injury type/diagnosis (e.g. thoracic strain, thoracic fracture, etc)*
- 5. Health practitioners consulted including number of visits (especially physiotherapists, osteopaths, chiropractors, GP, surgeon)*
- 6. cost of care for different diagnosis'*

On 9 April 2024, we clarified the following about our claims data:

- We can provide upper back/spine claims information rather than thoracic spine
- For clients' locations, we use their region
- The closest information to number of visits that we record is number of payments.

On 15 April 2024, you advised you would like us to proceed with your request with the data we have.

The requested information is attached

When reviewing this information, please refer to the notes provided.

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

ACC may decide to proactively 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.

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

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

Ngā mihi

Christopher Johnston
Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement

Description:

- *Summary of new claims for upper back/spine injuries for past 10 years, by injury description, location, age, sex and diagnosis.*
- *Number of payments paid to health practitioners for upper back/spine injuries, by provider vocational class.*
- *Active cost for upper back/spine injuries, by injury diagnosis.*

Notes and caveats:

- This report includes claims for upper back/spine injuries lodged with ACC or have payment made between 01 January 2013 and 31 March 2024. Please note that only accepted claims with accepted upper back/spine injury are included.
- Please note that one claim may have more than one injury so it may have multiple injury sites, and it's included if one of the injury sites is 'upper back/spine'.
- In table 7, vocation is the *primary* vocation class of the provider. Note that some providers have multiple vocations but only prioritised vocation will be used here.
- In table 5 and 6, one claims can be counted multiple times if it has more than one injury diagnosis or description.
- Please note that for table 8, we can't be sure whether cost is for a specific injury diagnosis if one claim has multiple injury diagnosis as cost can only be linked to one claim, therefore cost will be calculated under different injury diagnosis.
- Age is based on client's age at the time of claim lodgement, which may differ to client's age at the time of accident.
- New claims is the count of claims that ACC registered in the specified period. The registration date may be any date after the accident occurred.
- Active claims is the count of claims for which ACC made a payment in the specified period. The claim may have been lodged in the specified period or any previous period.

- A claim may be active in multiple periods, and will be counted once in each period it is active.
- Costs are the GST exclusive cost of payments made for claims that were active in the specified period.
- Data were extracted on 18 April 2024 and may differ if rerun later.

Table 1: New claims, active claims and active costs (excluding GST) for upper back/spine injuries between 01 January 2013 and 31 March 2024.

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs
2013	78,065	96,073	\$112,437,066
2014	82,954	103,083	\$126,511,242
2015	86,879	107,721	\$137,205,021
2016	89,377	111,568	\$156,058,426
2017	90,280	112,865	\$169,273,789
2018	94,104	119,038	\$194,858,911
2019	99,118	127,061	\$204,671,100
2020	92,996	121,427	\$224,241,725
2021	92,512	123,353	\$241,670,537
2022	96,522	124,307	\$255,076,506
2023	100,906	133,184	\$313,098,383
2024 YTD	24,027	48,392	\$73,603,214
Grand Total	1,027,740	1,029,007	\$2,208,705,920

Table 2: Number of new claims for upper back/spine injuries lodged between 01 January 2013 and 31 March 2024, by region.

Region	Claim Lodgement Calendar Year											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Northland	3,816	3,967	4,210	4,237	4,199	4,233	4,407	3,981	4,309	4,518	4,970	1,203
Auckland	25,374	28,560	30,536	31,636	32,936	34,342	36,797	33,864	31,938	35,884	36,920	8,669
Waikato	8,459	8,514	8,770	9,082	9,541	9,906	10,168	9,621	9,547	9,591	10,466	2,557
Bay of Plenty	6,636	7,263	7,441	7,901	7,666	8,141	8,968	8,650	8,816	8,736	8,690	2,167
Coromandel	1,291	1,248	1,296	1,342	1,282	1,288	1,403	1,362	1,201	1,090	1,010	274
Hawkes Bay	4,439	4,521	4,427	4,242	4,241	4,348	4,660	4,574	4,882	4,718	4,668	1,131
Taranaki	1,134	1,399	1,416	1,410	1,616	1,876	1,833	1,920	1,961	1,964	1,904	383
Manawatu-Wanganui	2,881	3,030	3,139	3,572	3,018	3,308	3,255	3,294	3,267	3,074	3,195	687
Wellington	1,746	1,907	1,951	2,000	1,917	2,017	2,053	1,998	2,019	1,968	2,021	479
Tasman	447	514	548	635	693	815	878	801	843	769	1,001	278
Nelson	1,689	1,501	1,641	1,729	1,610	1,431	1,487	1,499	1,466	1,297	1,571	381
Marlborough	623	633	721	775	775	886	1,052	1,135	1,014	876	813	163
Canterbury	8,141	8,730	8,985	9,176	8,996	9,178	9,412	9,144	9,620	9,903	10,441	2,490
West Coast	293	353	304	278	293	270	301	215	270	267	274	56
Otago	5,051	5,031	5,438	5,199	5,253	5,661	5,738	5,621	5,932	6,231	6,644	1,566
Southland	1,422	1,227	1,422	1,280	1,299	1,215	1,219	1,192	1,324	1,332	1,405	364
Other	489	482	579	638	667	718	745	236	103	301	600	145
Unknown	34	38	51	108	63	185	157	80	69	69	115	40
Grand Total	78,065	82,954	86,879	89,377	90,280	94,104	99,118	92,996	92,512	96,522	100,906	24,027

Table 3: Number of new claims for upper back/spine injuries lodged between 01 January 2013 and 31 March 2024, by client age.

Age	Claim Lodgement Calendar Year											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
00-04 Years	283	302	271	264	275	328	317	307	262	230	260	72
05-09 Years	873	944	943	1,086	1,101	1,068	1,015	926	824	787	798	173
10-14 Years	3,338	3,553	3,504	3,581	3,682	3,560	3,631	2,967	2,806	2,861	3,034	657
15-19 Years	6,135	6,357	6,640	6,680	6,348	6,347	6,627	5,665	5,426	5,547	5,552	1,318
20-24 Years	6,634	7,011	7,482	7,348	7,400	7,582	7,833	7,185	7,114	6,966	6,635	1,450
25-29 Years	6,695	7,332	8,068	8,643	9,046	9,558	10,216	9,528	9,307	9,237	8,683	1,957
30-34 Years	7,002	7,660	8,029	8,241	8,649	9,335	10,263	9,752	10,261	10,903	11,072	2,607
35-39 Years	7,663	7,962	8,104	8,214	8,319	8,668	9,473	9,033	9,069	9,506	10,414	2,464
40-44 Years	8,195	8,612	8,687	8,551	8,450	8,510	8,639	8,172	8,133	8,452	9,225	2,058
45-49 Years	7,444	7,587	8,106	8,297	8,321	8,634	8,933	8,517	7,956	8,116	8,280	1,984
50-54 Years	6,961	7,279	7,428	7,540	7,328	7,614	8,050	7,459	6,609	6,025	6,591	1,820
55-59 Years	5,195	5,446	5,964	6,360	6,494	7,054	7,126	6,724	6,500	6,923	7,429	1,151
60-64 Years	3,970	4,381	4,503	4,802	4,825	5,195	5,465	5,474	5,527	6,003	6,642	1,706
65-69 Years	1,023	1,333	1,612	1,763	1,851	1,963	2,269	4,127	4,170	4,555	5,097	1,278
70-74 Years	1,938	2,155	2,247	2,501	2,606	2,912	3,231	3,207	3,295	3,531	3,749	884
75-79 Years	1,187	1,380	1,505	1,679	1,646	1,788	1,936	1,931	1,952	2,345	2,731	740
80-84 Years	817	890	955	961	1,084	1,065	1,189	1,108	1,223	1,453	1,570	395
85 Years and over	714	770	831	847	851	914	894	914	1,018	1,102	1,184	313
Grand Total	78,065	82,954	86,879	89,377	90,280	94,104	99,118	92,996	92,512	96,522	100,906	24,027

Table 4: Number of new claims for upper back/spine injuries lodged between 01 January 2013 and 31 March 2024, by client gender.

Gender	Claim Lodgement Calendar Year											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Another Gender	4	4	9	7	9	11	15	12	10	15	21	11
Female	42,558	45,170	47,548	48,644	49,278	51,311	53,999	50,292	50,009	52,062	55,062	13,127
Male	35,501	37,780	39,321	40,752	40,951	42,782	45,104	42,690	42,493	44,443	45,870	10,883
Unknown	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	13	6
Grand Total	78,065	82,954	86,879	89,377	90,280	94,104	99,118	92,996	92,512	96,522	100,906	24,027

Table 5: Number of new claims for upper back/spine injuries lodged between 01 January 2013 and 31 March 2024, by injury diagnosis.

Injury Diagnosis	Claim Lodgement Calendar Year											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Soft Tissue Injury	76,587	80,821	84,970	87,456	88,349	92,137	97,214	90,979	90,407	94,374	98,502	23,430
Fracture / Dislocation	1,480	1,621	1,524	1,476	1,543	1,596	1,586	1,744	1,794	1,880	2,088	535
Pain Syndromes	169	703	581	608	590	542	479	462	495	472	542	117

Table 6: Number of new claims for upper back/spine injuries lodged between 01 January 2013 and 31 March 2024, by top 20 most prevalent injury descriptions.

Injury Description	Claim Lodgement Calendar Year											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Thoracic sprain	76,139	80,342	84,463	86,941	87,845	91,697	96,880	90,630	90,002	94,032	98,170	23,338
Closed fracture thoracic vertebra	954	812	684	620	650	663	605	717	787	904	980	258
Pain in thoracic spine	109	703	581	608	590	542	479	462	495	472	542	117
Fracture of thoracic vertebra	92	243	320	309	303	360	380	355	382	407	506	133
Sprain and strain of thoracic spine	325	367	406	423	434	354	203	201	224	177	157	44
Fracture of lumbar vertebra	105	229	114	106	132	185	130	147	158	199	224	64
Fracture of thoracic vertebra, level unspecified	151	144	144	164	150	155	179	164	164	104	97	15
Injury of muscle and tendon at thorax level	40	66	56	35	25	46	86	109	144	120	140	39
Closed fracture thoracic vertebra, wedge	47	58	66	73	74	66	66	65	51	46	51	11
Multiple fractures of thoracic spine	29	33	47	58	51	56	81	73	75	75	67	23
Fracture of thoracic vertebra, T11 and T12 level	36	40	64	44	56	34	46	43	49	51	45	6
Thoracic disc prolapse with radiculopathy	103	64	44	31	30	27	20	24	25	31	18	4
Closed fracture thoracic vertebra, transverse process	15	15	19	32	27	17	48	53	24	29	35	9
Fracture of thoracic vertebra, T7 and T8 level	9	12	18	24	24	13	14	26	20	23	20	11
Fracture of thoracic vertebra, T5 and T6 level	18	12	15	20	15	15	13	27	20	16	26	4
Fracture of thoracic vertebra, T3 and T4 level	10	12	11	13	17	17	11	22	26	22	21	2
Fracture of thoracic vertebra, T1 and T2 level	6	8	16	11	16	13	17	18	25	19	21	9
Closed fracture thoracic vertebra, spinous process	12	16	15	11	11	13	18	15	15	19	18	22
Fracture of thoracic vertebra, T9 and T10 level	18	15	9	11	11	11	14	20	24	14	12	7
Closed fracture thoracic vertebra, burst	6	7	14	11	10	11	22	11	35	11	16	7

Table 7: Number of payments paid to providers for claims for upper back/spine injuries between 01 January 2013 and 31 March 2024, by top 20 most prevalent provider prioritised vocations.

Provider Prioritized Vocation	Payment Calendar Year											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Physiotherapist	200,970	218,432	235,797	242,609	244,527	258,648	267,629	241,669	247,277	254,999	262,192	53,549
Chiropractor	111,599	114,979	126,083	133,472	144,571	162,174	174,993	150,559	152,854	155,767	173,866	35,655
Osteopath	83,095	87,611	92,842	95,808	95,587	100,190	119,380	106,109	106,551	111,840	128,481	27,466
Electronic Billing Provider	64,940	73,663	84,960	100,181	108,082	113,574	119,122	119,735	119,593	105,274	124,013	25,101
Acupuncturist	33,871	40,011	45,887	49,236	56,171	67,507	75,594	63,767	61,876	62,432	64,516	13,311
General Practitioner	43,285	46,517	48,991	49,380	49,318	49,478	53,198	55,311	58,256	53,472	57,943	12,731
Diagnostic Radiologist	22,193	24,041	26,272	27,534	28,904	30,847	34,329	33,664	35,960	37,228	41,880	8,946
Nurse	7,595	8,691	12,137	8,776	9,989	9,475	30,425	41,878	51,465	60,884	77,641	20,000
Orthopaedic Surgeon	6,415	7,526	8,362	8,338	8,296	8,716	8,433	9,293	9,605	10,006	10,135	2,176
Occupational Therapist	552	521	582	880	958	4,269	6,447	7,252	8,538	10,090	14,027	4,119
Physiotherapist - Registered	1,856	2,658	2,275	2,231	2,565	2,501	2,775	2,731	3,946	3,858	4,031	1,072
Musculoskeletal Medicine Specialist	2,959	2,643	2,237	2,254	1,945	1,987	1,578	1,987	2,030	2,122	2,501	471
Internal Medicine Specialist	339	921	1,045	1,412	3,798	4,689	3,319	603	619	521	1,131	1,072
Unspecialised Medical Specialist	1,668	1,721	1,797	1,784	1,414	1,232	1,430	1,550	1,788	1,793	1,834	363
Clinical Psychologist	353	376	418	472	523	768	1,385	2,088	1,017	2,878	3,163	1,214
Sports Medicine Specialist	689	819	954	1,145	1,162	1,422	1,817	1,644	1,536	1,645	1,578	265
Dental Surgeon	884	822	986	768	1,031	1,095	1,059	1,092	1,187	1,358	1,395	345
Chiropractor/Assessor	639	860	824	1,061	1,088	1,058	1,078	1,078	848	1,076	1,076	278
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon	713	889	1,056	924	660	763	959	1,081	1,295	955	1,058	178
Occupational Medicine Specialist	833	829	976	1,153	1,040	1,002	790	577	717	1,076	1,167	247