

16 March 2021

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-009262

Thank you for your email of 17 February 2021, to [REDACTED] of our Media team, asking for the following information:

I'm interested to know statistics regarding accidents related to stairs for all reasons and if possible with breakout data on cause (handrail missing, handrail noncontinuous, handrail faulty, landing size, riser and tread size, etc).

Your request was transferred to my team for a response under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

ACC's data

As advised during your telephone conversations with [REDACTED] and one of the advisors in my team, ACC is unable to provide you with data to the level of detail you require about handrails, and landing, riser and tread size. However, we can provide some general data on stair-related injuries, based on the information provided on the injury claim forms (the ACC45), which are completed when a person seeks treatment for their injury. This data is not necessarily robust because it relies on the free-text information provided on the ACC45.

The free-text field 'accident description' on the form is where a person can provide a brief description of how their accident happened. This field is not mandatory to complete and not every client does so. Also, when the field is completed there is considerable variation in the way accidents are described. As such the data extracted may not cover all stair-related injuries.

Data we can provide

The attached tables provide data on stair-related injuries and the costs to ACC of those injuries, over the last 10 years.

Notes about the data

- The data is by calendar year.
- Accredited employer claims have been excluded as ACC does not hold this level of detail about their claims.
- New claims are counted by the date they are lodged with ACC. A claim can be lodged immediately after an injury or at a later date.
- Active claims are ones that generated a payment in the period. A claim can be active over many years and appear more than once in the data. The count of Active claims includes new claims for which a payment has been made in the period.
- The year in which the payment was made may differ to the year in which the service was provided.
- Costs do not include Public Health Acute Service payments. Treatment for covered claims in emergency departments of public hospitals is bulk funded, and not attributed to individual claims.

- Costs provided are exclusive of GST.
- The data was extracted on 4 March 2020 and may differ if extracted at a later date.

How to contact us

If you have any questions, you can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sasha Wood', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Sasha Wood
Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement & Support

Table 1 Number of new and active claims, and active claim costs for stair related injuries

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs
2011	48,833	55,826	\$59,063,290
2012	51,423	58,261	\$59,636,964
2013	57,332	64,956	\$68,510,932
2014	58,538	67,442	\$78,773,938
2015	59,279	68,644	\$84,770,718
2016	62,215	72,004	\$91,812,754
2017	62,774	72,918	\$100,455,198
2018	64,443	75,376	\$112,854,820
2019	72,715	85,768	\$125,803,844
2020	66,631	81,688	\$134,359,944

Table 2 Number of new claims for stair related injuries broken down by top 5 most common primary diagnoses

Primary Diagnosis	Lodgement Calendar Year									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Soft Tissue Injury	35,470	38,012	43,074	44,086	45,156	47,494	47,941	49,523	56,394	51,671
Fracture / Dislocation	5,521	5,625	5,743	5,808	5,812	6,172	6,085	6,038	6,289	5,726
Laceration / Puncture / Sting	5,532	5,642	6,110	5,995	5,749	5,783	5,882	5,784	6,431	5,731
Dental Injury	737	730	757	816	749	792	798	763	735	701
Concussion / Brain Injury	407	369	413	406	406	420	461	472	472	476
Other	1,166	1,045	1,235	1,427	1,407	1,554	1,607	1,863	2,394	2,326
Total	48,833	51,423	57,332	58,538	59,279	62,215	62,774	64,443	72,715	66,631

Table 3 Number of new claims for stair related injuries, broken down by scene

Scene	Lodgement Calendar Year									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Home	34,107	36,021	40,458	41,160	41,509	43,564	43,901	44,417	48,365	46,513
Commercial / Service Location	3,623	3,797	3,906	3,913	3,980	4,171	4,117	4,421	4,916	4,142
Place of Recreation / Sports	2,469	2,619	3,084	3,195	3,355	3,511	3,476	4,087	5,816	4,864
School	1,757	1,898	2,042	2,198	2,235	2,296	2,351	2,287	2,471	1,971
Road / Street	1,341	1,459	1,532	1,662	1,674	1,616	1,749	1,894	2,453	2,083
Industrial Place	756	683	686	596	763	800	817	836	1,178	1,053
Farm	184	203	214	196	182	180	192	220	296	323
Place of Medical Treatment	109	94	116	113	143	127	126	141	152	134
Other	4,487	4,649	5,294	5,505	5,438	5,950	6,045	6,140	7,068	5,548
Total	48,833	51,423	57,332	58,538	59,279	62,215	62,774	64,443	72,715	66,631

Table 4 Number of new claims for stair related injuries, broken down by top 12 most common injury causes

Injury Cause	Lodgement Calendar Year									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Loss Balance / Personal Control	15,132	15,519	16,257	17,109	19,558	18,808	17,889	20,190	25,981	23,875
Slipping / Skidding on Foot	15,700	16,613	18,934	19,300	17,721	19,967	20,002	18,305	14,958	13,171
Tripping / Stumbling	11,029	11,418	12,710	12,403	11,898	12,192	13,241	11,442	9,196	8,544
Twisting Movement	3,133	3,229	3,732	4,447	4,549	4,814	4,746	6,683	10,792	10,004
Lifting / Carrying / Strain	758	983	983	938	836	964	1,271	2,263	5,614	5,343
Misjudgement of Support	1,208	1,406	1,928	1,896	2,241	2,282	2,172	1,332	1	4
Pushed / Pulled	200	280	477	439	531	724	692	946	1,795	1,622
Collision / Knocked Over by Object	519	738	900	494	456	729	602	505	424	351
Work Property / Characteristics	204	229	350	423	322	395	389	373	572	532
Puncture	72	64	33	59	125	128	260	538	1,090	1,015
Something Giving Way Underfoot	57	47	54	42	142	110	85	287	475	500
Object Coming Loose / Shifting	70	25	33	44	39	56	70	148	441	390
Other	751	872	941	944	861	1,046	1,355	1,431	1,376	1,280
Total	48,833	51,423	57,332	58,538	59,279	62,215	62,774	64,443	72,715	66,631