

17 May 2023



He Kaupare. He Manaaki.  
He Whakaora.  
prevention. care. recovery.

Kia ora [REDACTED]

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-024731**

The following part of your request to the Ministry of Education, regarding assaults in schools over the past ten years, was transferred to ACC to respond to under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*How many of those cases resulted in serious injuries and what those injuries were*

**Serious injury claims**

ACC defines a serious injury as a type of injury where the client has acquired a lifetime disability or significant impairment and likely will need ongoing support or rehabilitation. Serious injury claims were identified where the serious injury indicator has been applied. It can take some time for a serious injury claim to be profiled and have the indicator applied, so the claim counts for 2022 in particular may change over time.

Between 2012 and 2022, there were less than four accepted serious injury claims lodged with ACC for assaults in schools.

We have withheld the exact number of serious injury claims and the type of injury to protect our clients' privacy. Withholding in this way ensures that individual claims cannot be 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.

**Please also see Appendix 1** which provides a further breakdown of injuries sustained by assaults in schools between 2012 and 2022. When interpreting the data provided, please refer to the 'Notes' tab.

**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](http://www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12).

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

You can contact our Media team at [media@acc.co.nz](mailto:media@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

Sara Freitag

**Acting Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement

## GOV-024731 Appendix 1

### Response:

The data has been extracted based on the following criteria:

The claim lodgement date is between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2022.

The claim cover decision is equal to 'Accept'.

The accident scene is equal to 'School'.

### Caveats:

- A calendar year is 1 January to 31 December.

- Accredited employer claims have been excluded.

- Assaults are identified by combining fields such as contact (Fight/Struggle with Person), cause (Criminal Act or Struck by Person/Animal) and prior activity (Fighting) with each other or with various keywords from the accident description or Read code (injury description), and then excluding claims that are not relevant such as play fighting, participation in contact sport or animal attacks.

- 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.

- '**New claims**' have been counted by the date that a claim was lodged with ACC. This can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later stage.

- Region is based on the location of the accident and may not be where the client was residing at the time of the injury.

- The data hasn't been filtered for age or whether the claim was at work, so it will include both fights between students and assault of teachers by students (or vice versa). Sensitive claim assaults were also not included.

The data was extracted on 10 May 2023 and may differ if extracted again at a later date.

Table 1: Number of new claims for school assaults lodged between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2022 broken down by lodgement calendar year

Lodgement Calendar Year	New claims
2012	1,047
2013	1,094
2014	921
2015	1,027
2016	1,167
2017	1,159
2018	1,290
2019	1,509
2020	1,220
2021	1,099
2022	1,199

Table 2: Number of new claims for school assaults lodged between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2022 broken down by the top 5 most prevalent primary diagnosis and lodgement calendar year

Primary diagnosis	Lodgement Calendar Year										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Soft Tissue Injury	612	634	528	574	645	663	752	828	682	605	626
Fracture / Dislocation	136	124	102	91	126	83	107	212	168	161	168
Laceration / Puncture / Sting	123	161	106	135	119	108	113	144	109	85	112
Dental Injury	85	79	64	74	87	70	81	61	54	42	49
Concussion	52	40	47	50	56	66	59	72	62	60	76
Other / Unknown	39	56	74	103	134	169	178	192	145	146	168

Table 3: Number of new claims for school assaults lodged between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2022 broken down by region and lodgement calendar year

Region	Lodgement Calendar Year										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Northland	55	68	48	41	71	55	72	62	69	53	47
Auckland	386	450	367	390	491	462	516	525	408	280	408
Waikato	146	151	119	140	150	130	153	211	164	156	197
Bay of Plenty	92	105	79	124	101	126	125	149	117	95	86
Gisborne	12	9	6	6	10	11	12	16	11	16	11
Hawkes Bay	56	40	31	42	40	52	32	48	53	44	37
Taranaki	18	33	34	30	24	33	24	43	35	28	20
Manawatu-Whanganui	43	25	47	29	26	39	60	75	53	68	66
Wellington	74	62	57	76	71	82	89	100	83	104	95
Tasman	3	4	6	9	11	8	4	11	9	11	8
Nelson	5	5	7	8	11	10	11	12	7	22	12
Marlborough	18	8	2	9	16	7	11	19	7	12	7
Canterbury	67	66	65	69	79	88	118	144	120	136	137
West Coast	3	9	8	8	9	9	9	11	6	9	5
Otago	40	29	31	26	35	28	28	52	55	46	32
Southland	29	30	13	19	20	18	26	31	23	19	31
Other			1	1	1	1					