

12 October 2020



Tēnā koe 

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-007039

Thank you for your email of 24 September 2020, asking for the following information. Due to the nature of your request, we are responding under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

summary injury statistics full analysis (or direct links to) for Massage Therapists, Massage Providers. for an assignment at EIT.

Our response

We have interpreted your request to be for work-related injuries sustained by massage therapists. Please find injury statistics for massage therapists in tables 1-3 below. The data covered includes accepted claims by most common primary diagnoses, most common primary injury sites and, claims and costs for injuries to massage therapists.

Limitations in capturing the data

The data set available to ACC is reliant on the information provided on an ACC45 injury claim form, which is completed when a person seeks treatment for their injury. There are multiple fields on the ACC45 form, some fields are mandatory to complete, and others are not.

There is a free-text field 'accident description' on the form 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.

The data below was extracted for claims where the key words "massage" or "masseu" were used in this field. Due to the limitations above, while largely representative of the claims received by ACC, the data should not be considered a complete, definitive measure of the claims related to massage therapist accidents that ACC received during the period covered by this response.

Notes about the data

- As 'massage therapist' is not a recorded health care profession in our system, the following criteria have been used to capture the information instead:
 - 'Other Health Associate Professionals'
 - 'Hairdressers, Beauty Therapists and Related Workers'
- We have determined that the claims were work-related by only including the claims that included an 'at work indicator' with a 'Yes' response.
- The data is provided in calendar years, with a registration or payment date between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2020.
- *New claims* are determined by the timeframe in which the claim was made, this can be immediately after the injury occurred or at a later date.
- *Active claims* are claims that generated a payment in the relevant calendar year. These claims were not necessarily registered, or had the accident occur, in the same calendar year. A claim is counted in each year a payment is made, some claims may be counted in more than one year.
- Accredited employer claims have been excluded.

- Costs provided are exclusive of GST. The costs are based on payment date.
- Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments, where treatment occurred in a public hospital in the acute phase, are not included. These costs are paid through a bulk payment that ACC makes to the Crown and as such cannot be allotted to individual claims.
- Diagnosis is based on the client's primary injury. Claims may have multiple injuries; however, these secondary injuries will not show within this data extract.
- The data provides information on accepted claims. It was extracted on 30 September 2020 and may differ if rerun at a later date.

Who to contact

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

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sasha Wood

Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement & Support

Table 1: New claims for massage therapists, lodged between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2020, by most common primary diagnosis

Primary Diagnosis	Claim Count
Soft Tissue Injury	289
Gradual Onset	10
Other	6
Total	305

Table 2: New claims for massage therapists, lodged between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2020, by top 10 primary injury sites

Primary Injury Site	Claim Count
Back / Spine	92
Hand / Wrist	50
Shoulder	43
Neck / Back of Head Vertebrae	42
Finger / Thumb	25
Upper and Lower Arm	13
Abdomen / Pelvis	8
Elbow	7
Chest	5
Knee	5
Other	15
Total	305

Table 3: New and active claims and costs for massage therapists by calendar year

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs (\$)
2015	48	61	44,253
2016	49	60	37,230
2017	55	59	97,956
2018	58	75	134,081
2019	61	83	99,364
2020 (YTD)*	34	46	97,022

*to 31 August 2020