

17 February 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Via Email: [REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 15 January 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 15 February 2021, where you seek information about MDMA admissions.

- 1. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people treated at Nelson-Marlborough District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related admissions. Can you please break it down by age groups of those treated and ethnicity.**

NMH response: Due to overall low numbers for the specified time frame 2016 – 2021, we find it necessary to withhold exact numbers, by month, for Questions 1 – 3 under section 9(2) of the Act to 'protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons'. In the circumstances, the withholding of that information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

The volumes below have been identified by the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision (ICD-10) code T43.62-*Poisoning by Methylenedioxy methamphetamine (Ecstasy, MDMA)*", as Primary diagnosis (reason for admission), or as a Secondary / Additional diagnosis if other drugs were involved.

TABLE ONE

Age Group	Total Admissions
15-24	14
25-34	<3*

*The exact number is withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons.

TABLE TWO

Ethnicity	Total Admissions
Asian	<3*
European	11
Maori	<3*

*The exact number is withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

2. ***Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people admitted to Nelson-Marlborough District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related harm. Eg for those who have injured themselves with MDMA in their system. Can you please break it down by age groups of those admitted and ethnicity.***

NMH response: The volumes below have been coded "Trauma" as Primary diagnosis (reason for admission) for MDMA related harm, with Additional diagnosis code ICD-10 T43.62-Poisoning by Methylenedioxy methamphetamine (Ecstasy, MDMA).

TABLE THREE

Age Group	Total Admissions
15-24	<3*
25-34	<3*

*The exact number is withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons.

TABLE FOUR

Ethnicity	Total Admissions
European	<3*

*The exact number is withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons.

3. ***Please provide a monthly breakdown of patients admitted to Nelson-Marlborough District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (Including through the COVID-19 period) for consuming substances disguised as MDMA e.g. Synthetic Cathinones.***

NMH response: Please note there is no ICD-10 code specifically for identifying "Synthetic Cathinones". As such, the volumes below are based on ICD-10 code: T43.8-Poisoning by Other psychotroic drugs, not elsewhere classified.

TABLE FIVE

Age Group	Total Admissions
15-24	4
25-34	<3*

*The exact number is withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons.

TABLE SIX

Ethnicity	Total Admissions
European	3
Maori	<3*
Pacific Peoples	<3*

*The exact number is withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons.

4. ***Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people who have died from MDMA related harm at Nelson-Marlborough District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period).***

NMH response: The DHB does not collect this information; [Coronial Services of New Zealand](#) prepares statistical data about coronial cases.

5. *Please provide a monthly breakdown of the cost for each person who was treated at Nelson-Marlborough District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA use.*

NMH response: The DHB does not have a costing system that enables us to provide the cost for each Individual Person.

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIRequest@nmdhb.govt.nz I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive