

9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act Request for – Covid-19 Admissions and Substance Use/Addiction**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, you requested the following information:

1. Any aggregated and anonymised data showing the number of patients admitted with COVID-19 symptom during 2021 that have also been identified as using methamphetamine.
2. Any aggregated and anonymised data showing the number of patients admitted with COVID-19 symptom during 2021 that have also been identified as using illicit substances.
3. Any aggregated and anonymised data showing the number of patients admitted with COVID-19 symptom during 2021 that have also been identified as being addicted to alcohol or other drugs.
4. Any reports or communication that refer to the percentage or number of people admitted with COVID-19 symptom during 2021 that have also been identified as using methamphetamine, other illicit substances or experiencing addiction.

**Please note that we are not seeking individual patient information that could breach their patient confidentiality. Only overall statistics and numbers. Please provide this information in an accessible, searchable format.**

**Counties Manukau Health Response:**

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

In response to your questions, our analyst has pulled the information you have requested using the following clinical codes and clinical coding descriptions.

Clinical Code	Clinical Code Description
F100	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, acute intoxication
F101	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, harmful use
F1320	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics, dependence syndrome, unspecified sedative or hypnotic
F1511	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine, harmful use, methylamphetamine
F1531	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine, withdrawal state, methylamphetamine

It is important to note that, at times, clinical coding of this information can be difficult due to the written clinical notes having to be very specific with the diagnosis.

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2. Any aggregated and anonymised data showing the number of patients admitted with COVID-19 symptom during 2021 that have also been identified as using illicit substances.
3. Any aggregated and anonymised data showing the number of patients admitted with COVID-19 symptom during 2021 that have also been identified as being addicted to alcohol or other drugs.

Using both toxicology and coding, we have identified twelve (12) Covid positive patients in total that were found to have drug/alcohol use. Please find a breakdown of this information below:

Using ICD coding, we identified six (6) Covid patients with 8 diagnoses for drug/alcohol use.

- The number of patients admitted with Covid-19 symptoms that have also been identified as using methamphetamine and illicit substances is three (3).
- The number of patients admitted with Covid-19 symptoms that have also been identified as being addicted to alcohol or other drugs is three (3).

We also searched toxicology test results for all patients that were Covid positive. ten (10) patients had test however only seven (7) patients had a toxicology panel that came back with 14 abnormal results (multiple things tested at once).

There were ten patients that had a toxicology panel run on them and seven of them came back with fourteen abnormal results (multiple things tested at once i.e for both amphetamine and cannabinoid use). We found:

Substance	Toxicology	Coding	Notes
Amphetamine Type Substance	6	3	1 patient in toxicology & coding
Cannabinoid Urine	5	2	1 patient in toxicology & coding
Urine Opiates	2	-	
Benzodiazepine Urine	1	-	
Alcohol	-	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	

- 4. Any reports or communication that refer to the percentage or number of people admitted with COVID-19 symptom during 2021 that have also been identified as using methamphetamine, other illicit substances or experiencing addiction.**

None.

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Peter Watson**  
**Chief Medical Officer/Deputy Chief Executive Officer**  
**Counties Manukau Health**