

22nd April 2021

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request for – Child Conditions Data

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 31st March 2021, you requested the following information:

Can I please have the number of children (aged 0-14) recorded by your DHB with the following conditions in the years 2014, 2017 and 2020?

- **whooping cough**
- **rheumatic fever**
- **bronchiolitis**
- **broncho pneumonia**
- **serious dental disease**
- **malnutrition**

On the 31st March 2021 we queried with you if you were requesting a population view or a facility view. You responded on the 31st March 2021 and advised “I think hospitalisation for the last 4 conditions would be best, and population view and hospitalisation for whooping cough and rheumatic fever would be amazing.”

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.

Can I please have the number of children (aged 0-14) recorded by your DHB with the following conditions in the years 2014, 2017 and 2020?

- whooping cough
- rheumatic fever
- bronchiolitis
- broncho pneumonia
- serious dental disease
- malnutrition

The tables below reflect the number of children (aged 0-14) recorded by CM Health with the conditions requested.

In the tables below, we have included the following views:

- Domicile view i.e. admissions for children living in Counties Manukau (they could be admitted to any hospital in New Zealand but usually Middlemore)
- Hospital view i.e. all admissions to Middlemore Hospital regardless of where the child lives. A presentation to the Emergency Department or Kidz First is counted if the child is present for 3 hours or more.

It is important to note; when looking at hospitalisation data (tables 1 & 2) this reflects admissions - this means an individual child would be counted more than once if they are admitted more than once. As you have requested the number of children we have also included tables 3 & 4 which only count admissions for a child with a specific condition once i.e. if a child is admitted with bronchiolitis, discharged and readmitted later in the year with bronchiolitis they will only be counted once.

Selected conditions by year for CMDHB domiciled	2014	2017	2020
Bronchiolitis (J21)	1123	1078	281
Malnutrition/nutritional deficiency (D50-D53, E40-E46, E50-E56, E58-E61, E63, E64)	12	12	30
Pneumonia (J13-J16, J18)	475	366	101
Serious dental disease (K02, K04, K05)	820	820	740
Whooping cough/Pertussis (A37)	14	13	2
Total	2444	2289	1154

Table 1 Sourced 01/04/21: Conditions by year for CMDHB domiciled

Selected conditions by year for CMDHB treated	2014	2017	2020
Bronchiolitis (J21)	1157	1107	276
Malnutrition/nutritional deficiency (D50-D53, E40-E46, E50-E56, E58-E61, E63, E64)	5	8	25
Pneumonia (J13-J16, J18)	464	344	89
Serious dental disease (K02, K04, K05)	22	36	20
Whooping cough/Pertussis (A37)	13	15	1
Total	1661	1510	411

Table 2 Sourced 01/04/21: Conditions by year for CMDHB treated

Selected conditions by year for CMDHB domiciled (individual count)	2014	2017	2020
Bronchiolitis (J21)	791	797	210
Malnutrition/nutritional deficiency (D50-D53, E40-E46, E50-E56, E58-E61, E63, E64)	11	8	29
Pneumonia (J13-J16, J18)	437	344	96
Serious dental disease (K02, K04, K05)	780	789	715
Whooping cough/Pertussis (A37)	11	13	1
Total	2030	1951	1051

Table 3 Sourced 01/04/21: Selected conditions by year for CMDHB domiciled (individual count)

Selected conditions by year for CMDHB treated (individual count)	2014	2017	2020
Bronchiolitis (J21)	831	828	208
Malnutrition/nutritional deficiency (D50-D53, E40-E46, E50-E56, E58-E61, E63, E64)	4	6	24
Pneumonia (J13-J16, J18)	438	326	84
Serious dental disease (K02, K04, K05)	22	34	20
Whooping cough/Pertussis (A37)	12	15	1
Total	1307	1209	337

Table 3 Sourced 01/04/21: Selected conditions by year for CMDHB treated (individual count)

The major difference between domicile and hospital view is seen in the admissions for serious dental disease. Please note, this is because elective dental procedures are provided by a regional based service at Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) where Counties Manukau domiciled children receive care from ADHB.

As expected the admissions for the infectious disease (Bronchiolitis, Pneumonia and Pertussis) were down markedly in 2020. This is consistent with the reduction in infectious diseases seen generally in Aotearoa/NZ which has been attributed to border closures, lockdowns, social distancing and improved hygiene practices.

Malnutrition is up on previous years in 2020 although the numbers are small so should not be over interpreted. When the individual codes are examined this change is driven by iron deficiency anaemia. It is not clear what has led to an increase of children being seen with this condition but anecdotally speaking with clinicians the impression this is a result of how ED has been utilised by families during Covid-19 times i.e. presenting to ED because of challenges with being seen in primary care. A common reason for iron deficiency anaemia is a child switching over to cow's milk prematurely.

We have not included admission data for rheumatic fever as the most reliable source of data to understand the trend is with Auckland Regional Public Health Service.

We have not provided rates as they have not been requested but the 0-14 year population is estimated to have increased by ~10% between 2014-2020 so the numbers are broadly comparable.

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 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



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health