

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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10 May 2019

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### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10067

I refer to your email dated 21 March 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. I note this request was revised on 27 March 2019 as below:

1. **What is the number of hospital admissions for opioid and opiate use, abuse or overdose, annually, since 2015?**

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the number of Canterbury DHB hospital admissions for opioid and opiate use, abuse or overdose admissions to our hospitals where the opioid/opiate diagnosis was a contributory factor in the admission and **Table two** (below) where opioid and opiate use, abuse or overdose was the primary factor in the admission. This information includes admissions to any Canterbury DHB hospital e.g. Hillmorton Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, Christchurch Hospital, Burwood Hospital and Ashburton Hospital.

**Table one:** Number of hospital admissions where opioid and opiate use was a contributory factor.

Calendar year	Number of admissions
2015	667
2016	788
2017	779
2018	790

**Table two:** Number of hospital admissions where opioid and opiate use was the primary factor

Calendar year	Number of admissions
2015	299
2016	419
2017	384
2018	385

**2. Could you please provide me, if possible, with the age, ethnicity and sex for each of these patients?**

Please refer to **Appendix 1:** (attached) for the age, ethnicity and sex for patients admitted to hospital where the opioid/opiate diagnosis was a contributory factor in the admission (regardless of number of admissions) and **Appendix 2** (attached) for the age, ethnicity and sex for patients admitted to hospital where the opioid/opiate diagnosis was the primary factor in the admission (regardless of number of admissions).

**Please note:** In this data, where the numbers of people admitted were smaller than five (<5) we have withheld the number under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act on the basis that very small numbers may lead to identification of individuals.

**3. Does the DHB provide any help for those addicted to opioids or opiates, such as recovery programmes? If so, can you please provide details of these programmes, as well as the current number of people enrolled in your region?**

The Canterbury DHB Specialist Mental Health Service provides Opioid Substitution Treatment for those addicted to opioids or opiates, there are currently 782 people who access this treatment through the Canterbury Opioid Recovery Service (CORS). This is an outpatient service based at Hillmorton Hospital which provides case management and opiate maintenance treatment in the community.

There are also people (including those engaged with the COR Service) accessing addiction treatment services including peer support, brief intervention, and alcohol and drug residential services from our community NGOs. We are not able to provide details of numbers enrolled in these services without substantial collation or research. We are therefore declining to provide this information under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

**4. Does the DHB keep records of opiate and opioid prescription rates i.e. how many times these are being prescribed on an annual basis in your region? If so, can you please provide me with the number of times opiates and opioids are prescribed on an annual basis, since 2015? Could you please include which opiates and opioids are being prescribed?**

Please refer to **Table five** (below) for the number of opiate and opioid prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacy during calendar years 2015 – 2018. **Note:** If a patient was given a prescription and did not get it filled it will not be included.

**Table five:** opiate and opioid prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacies during calendar years 2015 – 2018 by chemical name.

<b>Chemical name</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Codeine phosphate	66237	66933	67248	65662
Dihydrocodeine tartrate	1528	1424	1406	1349
Fentanyl	1436	1565	1520	1527
Methadone hydrochloride	1057	942	858	874
Morphine hydrochloride	2831	2778	2778	2805
Morphine sulphate	5774	6103	6340	6145
Morphine tartrate	75	69	66	124
Oxycodone hydrochloride	3637	3778	4184	4179
Paracetamol with codeine	30518	28741	27090	25632
Pethidine hydrochloride	359	290	235	225
Tramadol hydrochloride	28633	31369	31294	32621
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>142085</b>	<b>143992</b>	<b>143019</b>	<b>141143</b>

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

If you disagree with our decision to withhold information you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek an investigation and review of our decision from the Ombudsman. 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 response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping underline.

Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**

**Appendix 1** - age, ethnicity and sex for patients admitted to hospital where the opioid/opiate diagnosis was a contributory factor in the admission (regardless of number of admissions).

**Jan - Dec 2015**

Gender	Age	Maori	Pacific Peoples	European	Other
Female	Under 20	11	<5	35	<5
Female	20-29	9	<5	69	<5
Female	30-39	19	0	44	<5
Female	40-49	7	<5	48	<5
Female	50-59	5	0	27	<5
Female	60-69	0	0	6	0
Female	70+	0	0	12	0
Male	Under 20	<5	0	19	<5
Male	20-29	11	0	47	<5
Male	30-39	8	<5	42	<5
Male	40-49	7	<5	47	<5
Male	50-59	<5	<5	36	<5
Male	60-69	<5	0	11	0
Male	70+	0	<5	8	0

**Jan - Dec 2016**

Gender	Age	Maori	Pacific Peoples	European	Other
Female	Under 20	13	<5	37	<5
Female	20-29	16	0	64	<5
Female	30-39	20	<5	68	<5
Female	40-49	11	0	56	<5
Female	50-59	6	0	39	0
Female	60-69	<5	0	11	0
Female	70+	0	0	12	0
Male	Under 20	<5	<5	8	<5
Male	20-29	13	0	54	0
Male	30-39	16	<5	40	<5
Male	40-49	12	<5	58	0
Male	50-59	13	0	39	<5
Male	60-69	<5	0	14	<5
Male	70+	<5	<5	8	0

**Jan - Dec 2017**

Gender	Age	Maori	Pacific Peoples	European	Other
Female	Under 20	9	<5	49	<5
Female	20-29	16	<5	67	6
Female	30-39	25	<5	60	0
Female	40-49	12	0	58	<5
Female	50-59	5	0	38	0
Female	60-69	<5	0	15	<5
Female	70+	<5	0	17	0
Male	Under 20	0	<5	13	<5
Male	20-29	<5	<5	41	<5
Male	30-39	8	0	41	<5
Male	40-49	<5	<5	69	0
Male	50-59	13	<5	47	<5
Male	60-69	7	0	18	0
Male	70+	0	<5	12	0

**Jan - Dec 2018**

Gender	Age	Maori	Pacific Peoples	European	Other
Female	Under 20	12	<5	40	<5
Female	20-29	21	<5	70	<5
Female	30-39	21	<5	60	5
Female	40-49	15	<5	50	<5
Female	50-59	<5	0	36	0
Female	60-69	<5	0	11	0
Female	70+	<5	0	13	0
Male	Under 20	8	0	22	<5
Male	20-29	7	<5	41	0
Male	30-39	5	<5	42	<5
Male	40-49	11	<5	58	0
Male	50-59	6	0	52	<5
Male	60-69	<5	<5	19	<5
Male	70+	0	0	8	0

**Appendix 2** - age, ethnicity and sex for patients admitted to hospital where the opioid/opiate diagnosis was the primary factor in the admission (regardless of number of admissions).

**Jan - Dec 2015**

Gender	Age	Maori	Pacific Peoples	European	Other
Female	Under 20	7	<5	13	<5
Female	20-29	<5	<5	31	<5
Female	30-39	9	0	19	<5
Female	40-49	0	<5	27	<5
Female	50-59	<5	0	10	<5
Female	60-69	0	0	<5	0
Female	70+	0	0	0	0
Male	Under 20	0	0	9	<5
Male	20-29	<5	0	20	<5
Male	30-39	<5	<5	19	<5
Male	40-49	5	0	23	<5
Male	50-59	<5	0	15	<5
Male	60-69	0	0	<5	0
Male	70+	0	0	<5	0

**Jan - Dec 2016**

Gender	Age	Maori	Pacific Peoples	European	Other
Female	Under 20	5	<5	17	<5
Female	20-29	7	0	37	<5
Female	30-39	11	<5	37	<5
Female	40-49	6	0	32	0
Female	50-59	<5	0	16	0
Female	60-69	<5	0	6	0
Female	70+	0	0	<5	0
Male	Under 20	<5	<5	7	0
Male	20-29	7	0	33	0
Male	30-39	10	<5	27	0
Male	40-49	<5	0	33	0
Male	50-59	7	0	19	<5
Male	60-69	0	0	5	0
Male	70+	0	0	<5	0

**Jan - Dec 2017**

Gender	Age	Maori	Pacific Peoples	European	Other
Female	Under 20	5	<5	30	<5
Female	20-29	8	<5	29	<5
Female	30-39	16	0	26	0
Female	40-49	8	0	35	<5
Female	50-59	<5	0	17	0
Female	60-69	0	0	6	0
Female	70+	<5	0	5	0
Male	Under 20	0	0	6	0
Male	20-29	<5	0	20	<5
Male	30-39	<5	0	26	0
Male	40-49	<5	0	36	0
Male	50-59	5	<5	18	0
Male	60-69	5	0	7	0
Male	70+	0	0	<5	0

**Jan - Dec 2018**

Gender	Age	Maori	Pacific Peoples	European	Other
Female	Under 20	8	0	21	<5
Female	20-29	9	0	40	<5
Female	30-39	12	<5	28	<5
Female	40-49	<5	<5	23	<5
Female	50-59	0	0	12	0
Female	60-69	<5	0	5	0
Female	70+	<5	0	<5	0
Male	Under 20	<5	0	9	<5
Male	20-29	<5	<5	17	0
Male	30-39	<5	<5	30	<5
Male	40-49	5	<5	33	0
Male	50-59	5	0	22	<5
Male	60-69	<5	<5	9	0
Male	70+	0	0	<5	0