

04 March 2019

Thank you for your request dated 13 February 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding ‘any statistics or data about the number and nature of violent incidents in hospitals within your DHB within the last five years’.

The definition you have provided for the term ‘violent incident’ is as follows:

‘would refer to any harm of a violent nature carried out against an individual, whether that be verbal, physical or behavioural. If you could break these incidents down by the type of incident, it would be very useful. Under ‘violent incidents’, we’d include verbal abuse, threat, threatening behaviour, physical violence, assault, inappropriate behaviour, aggression. We wouldn’t include violence to property.’

We have broken down your request as follows:

Question 1: *“What is the annual number of incidents?”*

Question 2: *“What is the type or nature of incident?”*

Question 3: *“Where did they occur? (type of service, e.g. emergency departments, mental health units, other wards)”*

Question 4: *“Who was the victim (patient, staff, visitor, etc) and who perpetrated the violence?”*

Question 5: *“When did the incident happen, and at what point in the hospital experience? (e.g., 2pm, Sunday 4 Feb 2017, at the time of admission)”*

Question 6: *“Where the patient was the perpetrator of a violent incident, how many incidents are reported within 48 hours of that patient being placed in seclusion or restraint?”*

Question 7: *“Were there any other factors or circumstances that may have contributed to the incident?”*

Hutt Valley District Health Board’s incident database (SQuARE – Safety, Quality and Reportable Events) became operational in March 2016. Information prior to this date has been archived and is not easily retrievable for analysis. This response provides data from 01 March 2016 to 13 February 2019.

The information pertaining to your request is below. Data provided from 01/03/2016 to 13/02/2019, the duration SQuARE has been operational.

Question 1:

“What is the annual number of incidents?”

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Violent Incident*	343	270	241	35

**Events entered under the categories: Physical Assault; Restraint; Seclusion; Threat of Violence; Verbal Abuse; Inappropriate Behaviour.*

Question 2:

“What is the type or nature of incident?”

Type of Event	2016	2017	2018	2019
Inappropriate Behaviour	79	43	42	4
Physical Assault	50	55	34	10
Restraint	84	81	86	9
Seclusion	68	41	46	4
Threat of Violence	22	15	21	4
Verbal Abuse	40	35	12	4

Question 3:

“Where did they occur? (type of service, e.g. emergency departments, mental health units, other wards)”

Service	2016	2017	2018	2019
Emergency Department	122	67	42	10
Mental Health	153	150	151	16
Surgical Services	8	8	9	1
Women's and Children's Services	5	1	3	1
Medical Services	8	25	8	1
Older Persons Services	39	9	25	6
Non-Clinical/Support Services	4	3	2	0
Community Services	4	7	1	0

Question 4:

“Who was the victim (patient, staff, visitor, etc) and who perpetrated the violence?”

Definition: Perpetrator = the person the incident was logged against

Incident logged against	2016	2017	2018	2019
Community Patient	3	9	7	1
Inpatient	234	184	190	25
Other	100	64	33	8
Outpatient	1	6	5	1
Visitor	5	7	6	0

Victim – note: the ‘victim’ would only be identifiable from the events under perpetrator (above) but would require each individual event to be manually accessed and read. As such, only the data where a staff member has also entered a ‘Staff and Other Health and Safety Event’ has been provided (below).

Type of incident/person (victim)	2016	2017	2018	2019
Inappropriate Behaviour				
Employee Casual	0	0	3	0
Employee Full Time	0	0	7	1
Employee Part Time	0	0	6	0
Multiple People Affected	0	0	2	1
Other	0	0	0	1
Student	0	0	1	0
Injury as Result of Taking Part in a Restraint				
Employee Casual	1	2	0	0
Employee Full Time	3	4	6	0
Employee Part Time	2	3	4	0
Multiple People Affected	3	1	1	0
Other	1	2	0	0
Threatening Behaviour				
Employee Casual	1	2	2	0
Employee Full Time	1	8	7	2
Employee Part Time	1	1	4	1
Multiple People Affected	0	4	4	3
Other	0	1	2	1
Verbal Abuse				
Employee Casual	0	2	1	0
Employee Full Time	9	5	8	1
Employee Part Time	4	11	14	3
Multiple People Affected	3	6	3	1
Other	0	1	0	0
Violence (Physical Assault)				
Contractor	0	1	1	0
Employee Casual	3	6	7	2
Employee Full Time	23	17	14	2
Employee Part Time	12	19	9	3
Multiple People Affected	1	6	3	4
Other	2	6	2	2
Visitor	0	4	0	0

Question 5:

“When did the incident happen, and at what point in the hospital experience? (e.g., 2pm, Sunday 4 Feb 2017, at the time of admission)”

NB: ‘time of admission’ not captured in SQuARE – data for this cannot be provided as it would require a manual search of every patient record. Therefore we are declining this request under Section 18(f) of the Act on the basis that it would require substantial research and collation of the data. However we have provided the time of day the incident occurred.

Time of day event occurred	2016	2017	2018	2019
12 AM	22	8	11	0
1 AM	13	5	4	3
2 AM	7	4	4	3
3 AM	12	3	3	1
4 AM	10	5	13	1
5 AM	14	6	5	1
6 AM	8	1	9	0
7 AM	6	8	6	0
8 AM	15	7	8	1
9 AM	16	14	14	0
10 AM	24	19	12	0
11 AM	16	17	11	0
12 PM	16	13	7	0
1 PM	13	21	15	6
2 PM	18	19	13	2
3 PM	13	19	14	2
4 PM	13	8	12	0
5 PM	13	14	13	4
6 PM	20	16	9	3
7 PM	19	19	10	3
8 PM	16	8	13	3
9 PM	11	14	10	1
10 PM	12	9	13	0
11 PM	16	13	12	1

Question 6:

“Where the patient was the perpetrator of a violent incident, how many incidents are reported within 48 hours of that patient being placed in seclusion or restraint?”

All events entered under the categories ‘Restraint’ and ‘Seclusion’.

Report times	2016	2017	2018	2019
Within 2 days of the event	148	114	124	11
Greater than 2 days of the event	4	8	8	2

Question 7:

“Were there any other factors or circumstances that may have contributed to the incident?”

This information is not easily obtainable from database and would require manual analysis of each individual event to identify these factors, therefore we are declining this request under Section 18(f) of the Act on the basis that it would require substantial research and collation of the data.