

17 April 2019

Thank you for your request received on 21 March 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding opioid and opiate use and abuse. You requested:

1. *“What is the number of hospital admissions for opioid use, abuse or overdose, annually, since 2015 in your region?”*
2. *“Could you please provide me, if possible, with the age, ethnicity and sex for each of these patients?”*
3. *“Does the DHB provide any help for those addicted to opioids, such as recovery programmes?
If so, could you please provide details of these programmes, as well as the current number of people enrolled in your region?”*
4. *“Does the DHB keep records of opiate prescription rates, i.e. how many times opiates are being prescribed on an annual basis in your region?”*
5. *“If so, can you please provide me with the number of times opiates are prescribed on an annual basis since 2015? Could you please include which opiates are being prescribed?”*

The information pertaining to your request is below.

Question 1:

“What is the number of hospital admissions for opioid use, abuse or overdose, annually, since 2015 in your region?”

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cases	11	16	15	11

Question 2:

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

Gender	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Female	6	12	7	8	33
Male	5	4	8	3	20
Total	11	16	15	11	

Ethnicity	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Maori	2	4	6	0	12
Other	9	12	9	11	41
Total	11	16	15	11	

Age	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
0-19	0	4	4	2	10
20-29	3	5	2	0	10
30-59	5	5	6	4	20
Over 60	3	2	3	5	13
Total	11	16	15	11	

Question 3:

“Does the DHB provide any help for those addicted to opioids, such as recovery programmes?”

“If so, could you please provide details of these programmes, as well as the current number of people enrolled in your region?”

Capital Coast Health provides opioid substitution treatment for clients in the Capital Coast and Hutt Valley District Health Boards (DHB). This service provides medications and psychosocial treatments as outlined in the Ministry of Health New Zealand Practice Guidelines. The service provides treatment for 501 clients across the 2 DHBs. 338 of these are under specialist care within the DHBs and 163 are treated within primary care with specialist oversight.

Question 4:

“Does the DHB keep records of opiate prescription rates, i.e. how many times opiates are being prescribed on an annual basis in your region?”

Hutt Valley DHB does not keep patient level prescribing information for opiates/opioids in the pharmacy system.

Question 5:

“If so, can you please provide me with the number of times opiates are prescribed on an annual basis since 2015? Could you please include which opiates are being prescribed?”

As above we cannot supply the number of prescribed medications, however a list of opioid medications kept in hospital stock are:

Morphine
Fentanyl
Oxycodone
Methadone
Codeine
Dihydrocodeine
Buprenorphine+naloxone
Tramadol
Pethidine
Alfentanil
Remifentanil