



11 February 2021

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

### Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about MDMA related admissions.

- Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people treated at Northland District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related admissions. Can you please break it down by age groups of those treated and ethnicity.*

Please see the information total number of people treated in the table below. This includes individuals who presented at Emergency Departments as well as those admitted as inpatients. All individuals were aged 18-34 except for one presentation in 2017 and one presentation in 2020. In both these cases the individuals were aged 15-17 years.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	0	0	0	2 (1 NZ Māori 1 NZ European)	1 (NZ European)	3 (1 NZ Māori 2 NZ European)
February	1 (NZ European)	1 (NZ European)	0		1 (NZ Māori)	-
March	0	0	0	2 (1 NZ European 1 Other European)	1 (NZ European)	-
April	0	0	0			-
May	0	0	2 (1 NZ Māori 1 NZ European)			-
June	0	0	0			-
July	0	0	0			-
August	0	0	0		1 (NZ European)	-
September	0	0	0			-
October	0	0	0			-
November	0	0	0			-
December	0	1 (Other European)	2 (1 NZ European 1 Other European)	3 (1 NZ European 2 Other European)	3 (1 NZ Māori 2 NZ European)	-
<b>Total Treated</b>	1	2	4	7	7	3

2. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people admitted to Northland District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA related harm. Eg for those who have injured themselves with MDMA in their system. Can you please break it down by age groups of those admitted and ethnicity.

Of those listed above the following table notes the number admitted to hospital

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	0	0	0	2 (1 NZ Māori 1 NZ European)	0	1 (NZ European)
February	1 (NZ European)	1 (NZ European)	0	0	1 (NZ Māori)	-
March	0	0	0	1 (Other European)	1 (NZ European)	-
April	0	0	0	0	0	-
May	0	0	1 (NZ Māori)	0	0	-
June	0	0	0	0	0	-
July	0	0	0	0	0	-
August	0	0	0	0	0	-
September	0	0	0	0	0	-
October	0	0	0	0	0	-
November	0	0	0	0	0	-
December	0	0	1 (Other European)	0	1 (NZ Māori)	-
<b>Total Admissions</b>	1	1	2	3	3	1

3. Please provide a monthly breakdown of patients admitted to Northland District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (Including through the COVID-19 period) for consuming substances disguised as MDMA e.g. Synthetic Cathinones.

Northland DHB does not specifically code events to the level where substances consumed are drug types disguised as MDMA such as synthetic cathinones. We are therefore unable to provide this information.

4. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people who have died from MDMA related harm at Northland District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period).

Northland DHB's coding system does not capture the data requested. In order to provide it individual clinical records would need to be reviewed by a clinician. This would require substantial research and collation and would necessarily take the clinician away from their primary function of treating patients. I have therefore decided to decline this part of your request in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. You have a right to complain to the Ombudsman about my decision.

5. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the cost for each person who was treated at Northland District Health Board from 2016 to 2021 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for MDMA use.

Northland DHB is unable to provide the total cost of treating each person for MDMA use. We are able to provide the approximate cost of care provided for the incidents listed above in each year. The amounts listed below relate to treating the particular episodes; the data does not include associated costs for ongoing care for subsequent admissions, outpatient attendances or care provided in community settings.

Year	Approximate treatment cost per year \$
2016	6,420.00
2017	895.00
2018	2,417.00
2019	12,176.00
2020	8,238.00
2021	1,193.00

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any questions regarding Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact Northland DHB's Communications Manager, in the first instance at [communications@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:communications@northlanddhb.org.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Dr Nick Chamberlain**  
**Chief Executive**