



8 November 2021

██████████  
██

Dear ██████

**Re: OIA request – Gunshot and stabbing injuries**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 13 October 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the number of people treated and cost associated with gunshot and stabbing injuries.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitākere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

**1. How many patients have been treated for gunshot wounds at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals?**

*a. Please provide a breakdown for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 year-to date (YTD).*

Please note that figures for 2020 differ to those provided in a response to a request for the same information last year, as that information was year-to-date figures to September 2020.

GUNSHOT INJURIES North Shore Hospital	
Year	Number of cases
2016	9
2017	8
2018	7
2019	5
2020	11
2021 YTD	4

GUNSHOT INJURIES Waitākere Hospital	
Year	Number of cases
2016	2
2017	1
2018	0
2019	1
2020	1
2021 YTD	1

**2. Please provide further breakdown of the injuries in terms of**

**a. Severity (fatal/ critical/ serious/ moderate etc)**

We do not have a code specific to severity but, as an indication, we can provide cases based on length of hospitalisation admission by patients who stayed less than five days and those who were admitted for more than five days.

GUN SHOT INJURY LENGTH-OF-STAY North Shore Hospital			
Year	< 5 days	> 5 days	Total
2016	8	1	9
2017	8		8
2018	6	1	7
2019	3	2	5
2020	9	2	11
2021 YTD	4		4

GUN SHOT INJURY LENGTH-OF-STAY Waitākere Hospital			
Year	< 5 days	> 5 days	Total
2016	2		2
2017	1		1
2018			
2019	1		1
2020	1		1
2021 YTD	1		1

**b. Which body parts were wounded?**

GUN INJURIES BY BODY PART North Shore Hospital						
Body Part	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 YTD
Unknown/ not specified	9	6	5	3	6	2
Leg			1	1	2	1
Hand		2	1		1	
Arm					2	1
Back				1		

GUN INJURIES BY BODY PART Waitākere Hospital						
Body Part	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 YTD
Unknown/ not specified	2	1		1	1	
Arm						1

**c. What types of firearms were used (if known)?**

We are not able to provide information on “types of firearms” used as we do not code the type of firearm/weapon involved in injuries and the hospital does not hold this information as it is not a consideration when attending to a patient’s clinical needs.

**3. Please provide figures on the estimated cost of treating patients with gunshot wounds, for each of the above time periods.**

GUNSHOT INJURY COSTS North Shore Hospital	
Year	Actual cost
2016	\$58,130
2017	\$27,179
2018	\$32,523
2019	\$41,897
2020	\$102,109
2021 YTD	\$17,297

GUNSHOT INJURY COSTS Waitākere Hospital	
Year	Actual cost
2016	\$1,587
2017	\$738
2018	\$0
2019	\$582
2020	\$2,205
2021 YTD	\$2,626

**4. Please provide any relevant comment.**

Our emergency departments see more than 100,000 presentations per year. We have included cases seen and discharged from each of North Shore and Waitākere hospitals' emergency departments. To provide the available data in response to your request, we used the relevant ICD codes (32 in total) and a free-text search for the following keywords: "Gunshot" and "Stabbing"-related injury.

**5. Finally, please provide the same figures and breakdowns for patients with stabbing injuries.**

STABBING INJURIES North Shore Hospital	
Year	Number of cases
2016	18
2017	14
2018	17
2019	10
2020	18
2021 YTD	8

STABBING INJURIES Waitākere Hospital	
Year	Number of cases
2016	10
2017	11
2018	8
2019	13
2020	14
2021 YTD	11

**a. Severity (fatal/ critical/ serious/ moderate etc)**

STABBING LENGTH OF STAY North Shore Hospital			
Year	< 5 days	> 5 days	Total
2016	15	3	18
2017	14		14
2018	16	1	17
2019	9	1	10
2020	18		18
2021 YTD	8		8

STABBING LENGTH OF STAY Waitākere Hospital			
Year	< 5 days	> 5 days	Total
2016	10		10
2017	11		11
2018	8		8
2019	14		14
2020	14		14
2021 YTD	11		11

**b. Which body parts were wounded?**

STABBING INJURIES BY BODY PART North Shore Hospital						
Body part	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 YTD
Unknown/not specified	13	13	14	6	12	6
Head/Neck/Shoulder/Face	3		2	2	3	
Leg	1	1	1	2	1	1
Back	1				1	
Arm						1
Hand					1	

STABBING INJURIES BY BODY PART Waitākere Hospital						
Body part	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 YTD
Unknown/not specified	9	11	5	12	12	9
Head/Neck/Shoulder/Face	1		2			
Arm			1		1	1
Leg				1		
Back					1	
Hand						1

STABBING INJURIES COSTS North Shore Hospital	
Year	Actual cost
2016	\$81,569
2017	\$33,168
2018	\$70,989
2019	\$38,005
2020	\$54,766
2021 YTD	\$59,872

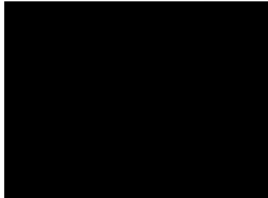
STABBING INJURIES COSTS Waitākere Hospital	
Year	Actual cost
2016	\$11,738
2017	\$13,802
2018	\$7,851
2019	\$21,909
2020	\$19,776
2021 YTD	\$9,202

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**Executive Director Hospital Services  
Waitematā District Health Board**