

28 August 2024

Bob McCoskrie
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Tēnā koe Bob

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00058650

Thank you for your email on 30 July 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*ABC (Australia) had an article about psychotic episodes from medicinal marijuana
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-21/medicinal-cannabis-psychosis-harm-risk-prescription-marijuana/104116952>*

Could you please provide statistics of how many psychotic episodes from medicinal marijuana have been recorded by the Ministry of Health since the beginning of 2020.

Response

Health NZ does not have data on the total number of psychotic episodes due to marijuana use. We can provide data on people who received treatment in a hospital for this condition. Our data does not distinguish between medicinal and non-medicinal cannabis use.

Please find the number of publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of *Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids, psychotic disorder* (ICD-10 code F12.5) from the years 2019/20 to 2022/23 below.

Year	Count
2019/20	376
2020/21	402
2021/22	408
2022/23	461

Please note, data contained in this response is provisional and has not undergone full quality assurance. The data is for operational purposes, it has not undergone the validation process that we use for published data. We recommend that caveats are consistently used, underscoring that the data is provisional, not validated through a formal validation process, and could be subject to change.

Please also note the following:

- A psychotic disorder is not the same thing as a 'psychotic episode', our data cannot directly identify psychotic episodes.
- The data is presented over financial years (ie, 1 July – 30 June).
- People who were hospitalised multiple times (for example, transfers, readmissions, and/or multiple incidents) are counted each time.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@tewhatoru.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Gaynor Bradfield

**Group Manager, Business Support
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