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31 May 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024041806

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 15 April 2024 for information regarding abortion statistics. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

The number of EMA prescriptions issued by DECIDE telehealth in 2022, and 2023 (provisional)

The number of EMA prescriptions issued by other abortion providers in 2022, and 2023 (provisional)

Please provide the provisional numbers for the 2023 calendar year of the following:

- 1. Total abortions*
- 2. the number of abortions by age. eg. 10 yrs, 11 yrs, 12 yrs, 15yrs, 16 yrs etc.*

Please provide the number of abortions between 20-25 weeks inclusive, and the number of abortion procedures at 26 weeks and over.

Please provide a breakdown of the number of previous abortions by age

The Ministry collects data on abortion figures as outlined within the Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion (Information Collection) Regulations 2021. Information on this can be accessed here: www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0219/latest/whole.html. Accordingly, to respond to your request for official information, the Ministry will interpret all aspects relating to 'EMA prescriptions' as referring to medical abortions recorded at 10 weeks' gestation or fewer.

The number of medical abortions recorded at 10 weeks' gestation or fewer in 2022, provided by both the DECIDE national telehealth services, as well as by other providers, can be accessed here: www.health.govt.nz/publication/ratonga-whakatahe-i-aotearoa-abortion-services-aotearoa-new-zealand-annual-report-2023.

Please note that figures generated from the 2023 calendar year are provisional and are subject to change pending final validation of the data. Final figures will be published on the Ministry website in due course.

During the 2023 calendar year, 3889 medical abortions recorded at 10 weeks' gestation or fewer were provided by the DECIDE national telehealth services, and 6190 were provided by other medical practices.

During the 2023 calendar year, a total of 16,277 abortions were performed.

Please find appended to this letter in Table 1 the number of abortions, delineated by age, occurring in 2023. Due to the low numbers of procedures for individuals under the age of 15, and over the age of 45, the portion of your request relating to those lower and upper thresholds of age has been addressed by grouping those respective age categories. Any further breakdown is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

During the 2023 calendar year, there were 120 abortions occurring at 20-25 weeks' gestation inclusive, and 22 abortions occurring at 26 week's gestation or greater. Please note that "20-25 weeks inclusive" is defined as 140-181 days, inclusive. Additionally, "26 weeks and over" is defined as 182 days gestation or greater.

Please find appended to this letter in Table 2 information regarding number of prior abortions, further delineated by age. Due to the low number of procedures observed in individual cells when categorized by both number of prior abortions and as well as age, grouping criteria has been included such that age has been grouped into 5-year increments. Additionally, due to low numbers of procedures observed in cases where a person had greater than five prior terminations of pregnancy, this category is grouped as '6 or terminations or greater'.

Any instance where the categories formed resulted in a sum of fewer than 10 individual cases have been suppressed (S). A further breakdown is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Ruihua Gu
**Acting Group Manager, Quality Assurance and Safety
Regulation and Monitoring | Te Pou Whakamaru**

Table 1: The number of abortions, delineated by age, occurring in 2023

Age	Number of abortions 2023
<15	36
15	85
16	175
17	356
18	492
19	704
20	759
21	841
22	840
23	799
24	837
25	839
26	810
27	822
28	754
29	764
30	764
31	693
32	729
33	706
34	585
35	525
36	487
37	419
38	329
39	324
40	278
41	185
42	126
43	85
44	65
45+	64

Table 2: Number of prior abortions, further delineated by age

Age	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+
<15	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	1633	158	20	0	S	0	0
20-24	3051	815	157	35	15	S	0
25-29	2449	1039	333	104	43	15	S
30-34	1952	927	363	135	66	16	18
35-39	1126	554	234	93	32	22	23
40-44	398	215	73	34	11	S	S
45+	38	17	S	S	S	0	0