

31 March 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H202204223

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 18 March 2022 regarding information on abortion statistics between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2021. You requested the following information for each year and asked:

*Preferably this information will be in a spreadsheet where these factors can be filtered to enable comparison across the different categories.*

The now disestablished Abortion Supervisory Committee and Ministry of Justice were responsible for publishing statistics based on abortion notifications received up until 23 March 2020. The Ministry of Health has been responsible for publishing statistics based on abortion notifications received from 24 March 2020 following the Abortion Legislation Act 2020 coming into force.

Abortion Annual Reports from 2016-2021 include statistics for 2015-2020. The reports are publicly available at:

- [www.justice.govt.nz/tribunals/abortion-supervisory-committee/annual-reports/](http://www.justice.govt.nz/tribunals/abortion-supervisory-committee/annual-reports/).
- [www.health.govt.nz/publication/abortion-services-aotearoa-new-zealand-annual-report-2021](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/abortion-services-aotearoa-new-zealand-annual-report-2021).

The 2021 statistics will be released on the Ministry's website in October 2022 as part of the 2022 Annual Abortion Report.

*Total number of abortions undertaken nationally and then broken down into the following also:*

- *by District Health Board*
- *per abortion provider*

This is available within the published reports noted above. Please note, statistics up to 2019 were reported by regional council area rather by district health board area.

- *by fetous gestational age as follows 0-10 weeks, 11-20 weeks, 21-30 weeks, 31-40 weeks*

The published reports include abortions by gestational age under 8 weeks, 8–12 weeks, 13–16 weeks, 17–20 weeks and 21 weeks plus.

*- by sex, male, female, unknown*

Sex of the fetus is not captured within abortion notification data as such we cannot provide you data on this.

*- age of mother 0-15 years, 16-20 years, 21-25 years, 26-30 years, 31-35 years, 36-40 years, 41-45 years, 45-50 years etc*

The published reports include abortions by standard five-year maternal age groups (11-14 years, 15-19 years, 20-24 years, 25-29 years, 30-34 years, 35-39 years, 40-44 years and 45 years +) as well as abortion in those under 16 years by each age year.

*- the reason the abortion was approved*

This data was collected up until 23 March 2020 and can be found in published reports up until 2020.

*- the number of abortions that resulted in a live birth  
- of the number of live births the percentage that were terminated after the event through inaction and leaving the baby to die  
- of the number of live births the percentage that were terminated after the event by medical intervention"*

This data is not captured within abortion notification data as such we cannot provide you data on this. The Ministry is not aware of any abortions that resulted in a live birth.

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](mailto: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 Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Emma Prestidge  
**Group Manager, Quality Assurance and Safety**  
**Health System Improvement and Innovation**