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30 April 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024038608

Tēnā koe s 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 – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 28 March 2024 for information regarding smoking and vaping data. You requested:

I am reaching out to request access to a data set related to smoking consumption and vaping within the New Zealand context.

The New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS) provides information about the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders. The NZHS contains some data pertaining to smoking consumption and vaping within the New Zealand context. The Annual Data Explorer presents results from the 2022/23 NZHS, with comparisons to earlier surveys where possible. Results are available by gender, age group, ethnic group, neighbourhood deprivation and disability status. The type of data included within the Annual Data Explorer relevant to your request includes rates of daily smoking and daily vaping in adults (aged 15 years and above), as well as mean number of cigarettes smoked per day. The Annual Data Explorer is publicly available online here: www.health.govt.nz/publication/annual-update-key-results-2022-23-new-zealand-health-survey.

Furthermore, the Ministry has produced a report regarding the smoking status of daily vapers with data from previous NZHS years, which is found publicly available online here: www.health.govt.nz/publication/smoking-status-daily-vapers-new-zealand-health-survey-2017-18-2021-22.

As well as these Ministry resources, you may also be interested in the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey. This is an annual cross-sectional census of 14 and 15-year-old school students' smoking and vaping behaviour and attitudes. Although these are not publications owned by the Ministry, they can be publicly accessed here: www.ash.org.nz/ash_year_10.

The data set is crucial for my research project, where I aim to analyze the trends and patterns associated with smoking and vaping behaviours in our country.

Specifically, I am interested in examining various aspects such as prevalence rates among different demographic groups,

As stated above, the Ministry's Annual Data Explorer presents results from the 2022/23 NZHS with comparisons to earlier surveys where possible. Results are available by gender, age group,

ethnic group, neighbourhood deprivation and disability status. Users are able to explore and compare prevalence rates for vaping and smoking among different demographic groups.

trends in smoking cessation methods,

The Ministry is not responsible for collecting smoking cessation data. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing the information is held by another agency subject to the Act.

preferences regarding vaping products,

This part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing this information is held by another agency subject to the Act.

and the overall impact of vaping on smoking cessation efforts and public health outcomes.

Vaping rates can be accessed from the Annual Data Explorer, however there is no way to show specifically that people have switched directly from smoking to vaping, as it can only be inferred or assumed. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds to believe this information is held by another agency subject to 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



Dean Rutherford
**Deputy Director-General
Evidence Research and Innovation**