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Tēnā koe

Re: OIA request - serious incident reviews - mental health

Thank you for your OIA request of 12 February 2020.

You asked:

Does HQSC have information about numbers of mental health related serious incident reviews they receive per year.

If so, do they categorise/breakdown these SAC1 incident as homicide and suicide?

Would it be possible to find out the number of homicides per year from 2007 (the timeframe I have chosen)?

## Our reply:

The Health Quality & Safety Commission (the Commission) was established in 2010. This means that we do not have any of the data requested prior to the 2011/12 financial year. The table in appendix one gives the data requested from 2011/12 to 2018/19, which is the most recent year we have confirmed reporting from.

District health boards (DHBs) are required by the <u>National Adverse Events Reporting Policy</u> 2017 to report SAC1 and 2 events to the Commission. The <u>SAC rating and triage tool</u> provides guidance on rating adverse events and the <u>SAC examples</u> provide further guidance.

The total number reported to us includes all adverse events from DHB mental health and addiction services. Data for the other columns was compiled as follows:

- Suicides These events are reported to the Commission as suspected suicides and are often not confirmed through the coronial process for some time. This column includes all reported suicides, including continuous care (in-patient) settings and community mental health and addiction services.
- SAC1 suicides this column contains events that occurred in a continuous care (inpatient) setting or within 72 hours of discharge and includes consumers on approved or unapproved leave.

- Homicides Homicides by consumers of mental health and addiction services are not required to be reported to the Commission. To obtain the numbers presented in this column, we searched our database for the following terms:
  - Homicide,
  - o Alleged homicide
  - Manslaughter
  - o Assault causing death of another

The definitions for adverse event data changed in 2017 and limits the comparability of earlier and more recent reporting. The National Adverse Events Reporting Policy 2017 has current definitions. The <u>National Reportable Events Policy 2012</u> has had the definitions in use prior to 1 July 2017.

The Commission's database is constantly edited as new information comes to hand, whereas published figures are by necessity, a snapshot of a point in time. Event totals normally fluctuate after publication because some events are reclassified more accurately after reviews and are either 'elevated' to SAE status or are 'downgraded' and therefore fall outside criteria. This means our current totals for any particular time period may not match the published figures.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at <a href="https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz">www.ombudsman.parliament.nz</a> or freephone 0800 802 602. If you wish to discuss this answer with us, please feel free to contact our specialist adverse events

Ngā mihi

## Appendix one

Financial	Total DHB MHA reported		SAC 1	
year	events	Suicides	suicides	Homicides
2018/2019	227	193	20	2
2017/2018	225	201	22	1
2016/2017	198	171	21	3
2015/2016	187	153	8	5
2014/2015	166	125	14	3
2013/2014	172	128	10	3
2012/2013	175	134	35	1
2011/2012	125	85	No SAC ratings	3