

5 February 2021

s 9(2)(a)

REF: OIA-7577

Dear S

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email to NZ Police on 14 January 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am looking for statistics to do with all alcohol related crimes.

How many drunk drivers? How many accidents caused by drunk drivers? Any violence /violent crimes related to alcohol?

Particular stats per crime area would be really helpful but not by region – just NZ as a whole in the last 12 / 24 months

I am putting together an alcohol related video / training and really wanted to open with these stats as an attention grabber.

A part of your request relating to the number of accidents caused by drunk drivers in New Zealand in the past 12/ 24 months was transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on 15 January 2021.

The following table shows a breakdown of crashes where a driver with a contributing factor of '103 Alcohol test above limit or test refused' was a primary or partial contributor to the crash.

Year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury crashes	Total crashes
2019	78	277	1,388	3,287	5,030
2020*	48	189	1,209	1,857	3,303
2021*		17	69		86
Total	126	483	2,666	5,144	8,419

* 2020 and 2021 data are incomplete and is current from CAS as at 28/01/2021.

It is important to note the following in relation to the information provided:

- This data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS) version 2.1.0.
- Waka Kotahi maintains the Crash Analysis System which is updated once a Traffic Crash Report (TCR) is received from NZ Police sometime after the crash.
- Data is for all crashes for the years 2019 to 2021 as recorded in CAS to date - 28/01/2021.
- Data is limited to crashes where a driver with a contributing factor of '103 Alcohol test above limit or test refused' was a primary or partial contributor to the crash.

- A crash, to be recorded in CAS has to have occurred on a road. The CAS definition of a road is any street, motorway or beach, or a place to which the public have access with a motor vehicle, whether as of right or not e.g. a public car park.
- Due to the police reporting time frame and subsequent data processing there is a lag from the time of a crash to full and correct crash records within CAS.
- Due to the nature of non-fatal crashes it is believed that these are under-reported, with the level of under-reporting decreasing with the severity of the crash.
- The cause of a crash cannot necessarily be attributed to any one factor (eg fatigue) as a crash may have multiple factors.
- The behaviour of several drivers may contribute to a crash, but usually only one driver is assigned the primary contribution. The determination of primary contribution is based on crash movements and crash cause factors assigned in the Crash Analysis System. It is not based on legal liability or court conviction.

According to Waka Kotahi policy, this response will be published on the external website shortly.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Kerry Greig, Manager Data Services, by email at kerry.greig@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Galina Mitchelhill', with a stylized, flowing script.

Galina Mitchelhill

Senior Manager, Research and Analytics