

Reference: IR-01-22-6698

13 April 2022

██████████  
Email: ██████████

Tēnā koe ██████████

### ***Request for information***

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 8 March 2022, asking questions following previous responses you received about Gun Safe (references IR-01-21-34767 and IR-01-21-31809). You asked:

*I would like to request new figures on firearms-related injuries and deaths since the GunSafe programme was established. The figures I was previously provided show there were 155 injury incidents nationwide and 30 death incidents. For Auckland there were 72 injury events and 16 death incidents. But as per the qualifications below, these figures only included the number of firearm discharge events involving at least one injury or fatality that occurred when police were present.*

*I request updated figures on the ACTUAL number of firearms injuries and deaths recorded by police from the time the GunSafe programme went live (December 2018 for Auckland, March 2019 for rest of country) to now. This should include incidents in which someone was injured or killed by a firearm, even if police were not present when this occurred.*

*I request similar breakdowns to my last request, ie separate figures by year for each police district, and if known, what type of firearms were used in each case.*

*I presume this new data search will include those injured or killed during the Christchurch mosque attacks, even though police were not present at the time of the shootings.*

Gun Safe was introduced nationally on 1 March 2019 to record police encounters with firearms. Staff are asked to enter all events where firearms are believed to be involved into Gun Safe, regardless of whether, or how, these firearms were used during the event. This includes, but is not limited to, events where firearms are seized or located, events

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### **Police National Headquarters**

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where a person involved has a history of using firearms, and events involving the presentation or discharge of firearms at members of public or police.

The requested information does not exist in the Gun Safe database. Gun Safe does not require staff to enter the number of firearms injuries or deaths. Any event that involves one or multiple injuries/deaths is entered as a single event.

Although the number of injuries and deaths is not recorded in Gun Safe, offence information is held in Police's National Intelligence Application.

When an event takes place (known as an occurrence), it may have multiple offences attributed to it (eg, assault and theft). Each offence may have multiple victims, multiple offenders/suspects, and witnesses. Each one of those may sustain none, one, or more injuries, however the recording is at the offence level – what is the most serious injury level for that offence (none, minor, serious, fatal). Therefore, the number of injuries cannot be provided, only the number of offences or number of occurrences that had injuries.

Previous OIA responses about firearms-related offences with injuries have been published on the Police website:

<https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/4-sep-2018-ir-01-18-10187.pdf>

<https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/ir-01-20-3835.pdf>

<https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/ir-01-21-24724.pdf>

When a person is shot with a firearm and dies, Police can record this as several offence codes, such as murder, manslaughter, and infanticide, all under sections of the Crimes Act 1962. Additionally, s53(1) of the Arms Act 1983 provides for offences where accidental discharge of a firearm causes death or injury and homicide is not applicable.

Between 1 January 2018 and 31 March 2022, Police has recorded 92 victims who died because of the above-mentioned firearms offences.

The tables below show these by year and Police District and firearm type.

*Table 1. People who died because of firearms-related homicide offences, by year and District.*

District \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022 to 31 Mar	Total by District
Northland		1	1		2
Waitematā	1	2	1		4
Auckland City		1	2		3
Counties Manukau	4	2	4		10
Waikato	2	2		1	5
Bay of Plenty	1	4	1	1	7
Eastern	1			1	2
Central	1	1			2
Wellington		2			2
Tasman				1	1
Canterbury	51		2		53
Southern		1			1
Total by Year	61	16	11	4	92

Table 2. People who died because of firearms-related homicide offences, by year and firearm type.

Firearm Type \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022 to 31 Mar	Total by Firearm Type
Military Style Semi-Automatic Rifle	51		1		52
Pistol		1	1		2
Rifle	1	3	1	1	6
Shotgun	4	7	1		12
Not Known (Firearm)	5	5	7	3	20
Total by Year	61	16	11	4	92

Police does not hold information about causes of death where there is no offence, such as suicide or accidental self-inflicted gunshot wound; however, Ministry of Health holds information on cause of death from coronial investigations<sup>1</sup>, and publishes data on suicide deaths<sup>2</sup>.

You may be interested in firearms-related data that Police publishes quarterly  
<https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/firearms-data>

Police has a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website  
<https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/firearms-and-safety/firearms-information-responses>

Yours sincerely



**Superintendent Dave Greig**  
Director Capability

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/national-collections-and-surveys/collections/mortality-collection>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/suicide-facts-data-tables-19962016>