

13 April 2021

Cecile Meier  
Stuff

**Via email:** cecile.meier@stuff.co.nz

Dear Cecile

**Official Information Act Request - OIA 13421 Seclusion for Mental Health Patients Under 18 Years**

On 1 April 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

"How many patients aged under 18 were put into seclusion every year since 01.01.2018 in mental health facilities in your DHB? Could you please give detail of:

1. Number of seclusion incidents each year since 2018 until today for patients aged under 12.
2. Number of seclusion incidents each year since 2018 until today for patients aged 13-18.
3. How long were patients in seclusion over that period and in what conditions? Please provide a breakdown of average, minimum and maximum seclusion duration for each year (2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 to date) for patients aged under 12, and for patients aged 13-18.
4. Number of patients put in seclusion each year since 2018 with their age, or age range if possible, and how many times they were placed in seclusion."

**Whanganui District Health Boards response:**

**1. Number of seclusion incidents each year since 2018 until today for patients aged under 12.**

No seclusion of young people under the age of 12 in 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021 to date

**2. Number of seclusion incidents each year since 2018 until today for patients aged 13-18.**

year	Incidents of seclusion in young people aged 13-18
2018	3
2019	5
2020	1
2021	0

**3. How long were patients in seclusion over that period and in what conditions? Please provide a breakdown of average, minimum and maximum seclusion duration for each year (2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 to date) for patients aged under 12, and for patients aged 13-18.**

Young people aged 13-18 when secluded are in an approved seclusion room that meets the criteria under the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992.

Chief Executive | Phone 06 348 3140 | Fax 06 345 9390

For clarity of understanding, please refer to pages 5 and 6 of the MoH document ISBN 978-0-478-3394-7

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/seclusion-guidelines-feb10.pdf>

year	#people 13-18	# incidents	Max hrs	Min hrs	Avg. hrs
2018	2	3	24	8	15
2019	1	5	25	1	8
2020	1	1	26	-	26
2021	0	0	0	0	0

**4. Number of patients put in seclusion each year since 2018 with their age, or age range if possible, and how many times they were placed in seclusion."**

2018: number of patients secluded, number of seclusion by age range and yearly total # of times they were placed in seclusion

Age ranges	# people
<19	2
19-29	8
30-39	3
40-49	4
50-59	2
60 or >	3
<b>Total seclusion incidents 2018</b>	<b>35</b>

2019: number of patients secluded, number of seclusion by age range and yearly total # of times they were placed in seclusion

Age ranges	# people
<19	1
19-29	8
30-39	7
40-49	1
50-59	3
60 or >	4
<b>Total seclusion incidents in 2019</b>	<b>34</b>

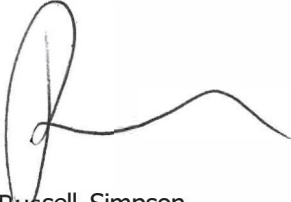
2020: number of patients secluded, number of seclusion by age range and yearly total # of times they were placed in seclusion

Age ranges	# people
<19	1
19-29	3
30-39	4
40-49	0
50-59	1
60 or >	0
<b>Total seclusion incidents in 2020</b>	<b>15</b>

2021: zero seclusion to date

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at [anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a slight upward curve.

Russell Simpson  
**Chief Executive**