



Waitemata

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

Planning, Funding and Outcomes

Level 2, 15 Shea Terrace
Takapuna, Auckland 0622
Private Bag 93-503, Takapuna
North Shore City, 0740
Telephone: 09 486 8900
Facsimile: 09 486 8924
www.waitematadhb.govt.nz

17 December 2018

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request: - number of STD checks

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) received 3 December 2018 seeking information regarding:

- The number of sexually transmitted disease screening checks conducted by the DHB each year for the last five years.
- The number of positive tests results for each sexually transmitted disease each year for the last five years.
- The cost of conducting a sexually transmitted disease screening check and a break down of those costs.

While we would like to provide you with the information requested, we do not hold this information in a form that can be readily extracted, if at all. Sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening checks may be undertaken by a range of providers, including DHB sexual health services, DHB midwives or obstetricians and gynaecologists as well as community providers such as General Practices, Family Planning, school clinics and Lead Maternity Carers (LMCs).

The Ministry of Health contracts the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) to undertake STI surveillance. A link to their website and introductory information from their website is provided below.

https://surv.esr.cri.nz/public_health_surveillance/sti_surveillance.php

ESR undertakes STI surveillance on behalf of the Ministry of Health. A number of different surveillance systems are currently in place including:
notifications of gonorrhoea and syphilis
laboratory-based surveillance of chlamydia and gonorrhoea
clinic-based surveillance of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, genital warts, genital herpes, non-specific urethritis (NSU), chancroid, granuloma inguinale (GI), and lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV).

Surveillance for AIDS and HIV is undertaken by the AIDS Epidemiology Group.

DHB information is not coded in a way that would support a meaningful extract of data on the number of sexually transmitted disease screening checks or number of positive tests results for each

sexually transmitted disease. It is also difficult to determine whether it is a screen in the true sense of screening (asymptomatic people) or whether a test is requested as part of a diagnostic set of tests ordered due to symptoms or other concerns.

Similarly, cost data is not collected by the DHB and may not be able to be separated out into the cost of a screening test alone. For example, an LMC may do a screening test alongside provision of other first trimester pregnancy checks, tests and provision of information to a woman in that visit. The DHB does not hold information on LMC care as this is funded directly by the MoH. The price paid for individual laboratory tests is commercially sensitive information and would not be released on those grounds.

I recommend you explore the information on the ESR website and contact them and/or the Ministry of Health if you require further information. I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful on this occasion.

Waitemata DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider them.

We hope this reply satisfies your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Holdsworth', written over a vertical line that extends downwards from the signature.

Dr Debbie Holdsworth
Director Funding
Waitemata District Health Board