

## OPERATIONS SERVICES, ANALYTICS & REPORTING

Statistics around clients who suffered injuries from rock climbing across New Zealand.



To: -  
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### Question:

The ACC Analytics and Reporting Team have received the following request under the Official Information Act:

- *Can you provide the number of injuries and fatalities while rock climbing in New Zealand?*

### Response:

The data have been extracted based on the following criteria:

A client's claim was lodged between 1 January 2015 and 21 September 2019.

The claim decision is equal to "Accept".

The claim has either of the following key phrases in the accident description:

- Rock climbing
- Climbing wall

**Table 1: Number of injuries and fatalities from rock climbing since 1 January 2015**

| Lodged Calendar Year                               | Claims       |
|--|--------------|
| 2015   | 839          |
| 2016   | 968          |
| 2017   | 986          |
| 2018   | 1,124        |
| 2019 (year to date)                                | 928          |
| <b>Total:</b>                                      | <b>4,845</b> |
| Fatal rock-climbing accidents since 1 January 2015 | <4           |

### Caveats / notes on data:

Cell suppression of "<4" is used for claim counts less than 4. This is to ensure client privacy.

The data ACC collects about accidents, and the individuals injured in them, is largely reliant on the information clients provide when the ACC45 form is completed. There are a variety of fields for clients to complete when filling out the ACC45 form, some mandatory, some not.

For example, it is mandatory for a client to indicate when their accident occurred, whether the accident occurred at work, and their employment status. Those mandatory fields can be contrasted with the free text field on the ACC45 form, where clients are able to provide a brief description of how their accident happened. If there is enough information by injury cause and diagnosis, the decision can be made without a description.

The reason ACC does not require that information from clients is that the ACC scheme operates on a no-fault basis. Cover is available by virtue of a person simply having suffered a personal injury caused by a specific or series of events.

Therefore, while that information does have an inherent value in informing our understanding of how and why accidents occur, strictly speaking, it is unnecessary for the purpose of processing claims under the Act.

It also needs to be noted that even where clients do provide a description of how their injury occurred, there is a large degree of variability in the nature and quality of the descriptions clients provide. Such inconsistency can make it difficult to search for a particular item or issue with a high degree of accuracy.

Because of the limitations above, while largely representative of the claims received by ACC, the data provided should not be considered a completely definitive measure of the claims ACC received in the relevant period.

Data were extracted on 26 September 2019 and may differ if rerun later.