

New Zealand Occupational Disease rates

In the surveillance of occupational disease and injury in New Zealand, we have a long way to go in even identifying the size and nature of the problems, let alone developing effective interventions.

The lack of reliable New Zealand data means that we are unable to adequately document the size of the problem or effectively suggest and enable solutions.

Occupational Health diseases and conditions are usually described as being chronic; can be slow to be identified, and equally slow in their effect on the victim. They typically do not have the urgency in attention (by the victim or their medical treatment provider) that a direct injury stimulates.

Yet, through 2000-2013 there have still been high numbers of people admitted to hospital suffering from diseases or conditions that were directly attributed to their work.¹

13 HIGHEST CONDITIONS

AVERAGE NZ ADMISSIONS

		YEAR	WEEK
1.	Asthma	6043	116
2.	Depression	5593	107
3.	Anxiety	4796	92
4.	Lung Cancer	2366	46
5.	Leukaemia (Blood cancers)	2196	42
6.	Dermatitis (Skin inflammation)	1834	35
7.	Eye Injury	1083	21
8.	Bladder Cancer	509	10
9.	Burn and corrosion of wrist and hand	428	8
10.	Mesothelioma (Chest lining cancer – asbestos)	113	2
11.	Crushing injury of wrist and hand	72	1.4
12.	Leptospirosis (Urine spread bacterial infection)	65	1.2
13.	Toxic unspecified substance exposure	64	1.2

¹ [Borman B., Xu F. *Occupational Disease Surveillance Report 2000-2013*. Centre for Public Health Research; 2015.]