



26 May 2023

By email: [REDACTED]

Re: Police tasers in mental health facilities, and survey responses for inpatient mental health service users in the Ngā Poutama survey

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official information request

Please find below our response to your official information request for:

Is the HQSC aware of the use of any Police tasers in mental health facilities?

Can you please provide the survey responses for inpatient mental health service users in the Ngā Poutama survey to include:

How many survey responses included that service users experienced in each of these categories:

- Another type of harm***
- A fall that caused a broken bone or head injury***
- Physical harm during restraint***
- Physical harm from others (eg assault)***

Please provide the outcomes in statistical percentage of responses relating to the experience of these types of harm in the context of overall inpatient service users.

We do not hold any data on the use of police tasers in mental health facilities.

We have interpreted your second question to refer to responses only by those who identified as users of mental health services. This constitutes 76 tangata whaiora who reported experiencing some type of harm (n=76). This is broken down in the below table.

	Consumers
Another type of harm	15
A fall that caused a broken bone or head injury	<5
Physical harm during restraint	5
Physical harm from others (eg, assault)	7
Reporting any harm	76
Total Responses	228

The Ngā Poutama survey for consumers of mental health and addiction services, their families and whānau includes 39 responses from family or whānau of service users who were also asked 'Did your whānau member's care or support cause them harm?' which are not included in this response.

We have interpreted your reference to 'Another type of harm' to refer specifically to the question 'Another type of harm – please tell us what type'. The options for responses to the question 'Did your care or support cause you harm', and 'If yes, then what type of harm' can be found in the questionnaire here:

https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Our-work/Mental-health-and-addiction/Resources/Consumer_survey_questionnaire_Nga_Poutama.pdf

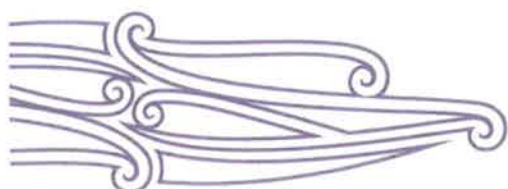
It was possible for someone to report experiencing multiple types of harm, and of the respondents who reported harm – 39.5% (n=30) reported experiencing one type of harm, 28.9% (n=22) reported experiencing two types of harm, and 31.6% (n=24) reporting experiencing three or more types of harm.

Given the low number of responses, and the difficulties in obtaining a representative sample of inpatient service users, it is not appropriate to apply these proportions to the overall inpatient service user population. Limitations of the survey methodology can be found in Appendix two of the national report, here:

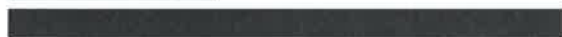
https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Our-work/Mental-health-and-addiction/Resources/National_report_NgaPoutama.pdf

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us at info@hqsc.govt.nz. If any additional factors come to light which are relevant to your request, please do not hesitate to contact us so that these can be considered.

Please note that the Commission publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address, or contact details.



Nāku noa, nā



Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission

