



Freedom of Information Request

1st November 2022

Question

I would like to know:

1. The number of children treated/ calls for choking-related injuries in the past three years- for the ages 5 and under.
2. The number of children treated/ calls for choking-related injuries in the past three years- between the ages of 0-18 years old.
3. The number of deaths announced from children choking-related causes in the past three years- for the ages 5 and under.
4. The number of deaths announced from children choking-related causes in the past three years- between the ages of 0-18 years old.

Please provide the information in the form in either excel format (raw data) or word.

Answer

Question 1 & 2

Please see the table below showing the number of incidents attended by the Scottish Ambulance Service where the final diagnostic code input was 'Choking' for the years 2019,2020,2021, 2022 to date.

Please note caution on the interpretation of this data as it is reliant on the date of births being known and entered manually by our Ambulance Clinicians. It is for this reason that there may be cases within this data set of an entry of an incorrect date of birth or no entry at all and it is for this reason there will be cases held not reflected within the given data.

Calendar Year	Choking Incidents Attended - under 18	Choking Incidents Attended Patient Age 0 - 5
2019	417	377
2020	504	462
2021	516	469
2022	352	308
Total:	1789	1616

Question 3 & 4

We do not hold this information.

To help explain our response,

The Scottish Ambulance Service records data in two ways first being, against a number of clinical codes generated through our 999-triage systems used by our Ambulance Control Centre. This is dependent on the information provided during the 999 call and is unique to the time of entry. Secondly we are able to provide data sets based on the final outcome clinical code, input by the attending ambulance clinicians based on the presenting clinical symptom(s) needing treatment.

We do not hold a clinical code against the criteria you have asked for. What we would hold for example is the number of cardiac arrests attended. We have interrogated our data to see if this holds any relevant data entry fields against your request and we do not hold these. Therefore, we do not hold the information you have requested.

For further information,

The Scottish Ambulance service does not hold causation data for death.

For this information we ask you to re-direct your request to the National Records of Scotland and Public Health Scotland, Data and Intelligence (previously known as ISD Scotland).

This is where you will find the information regarding the number of deaths, under a stated category.