

Ref. No: 252
From: Research
Date: 14-Jan-2023
Subject: Assault attendances to Emergency Department 2022

REQUEST

Dear Colleague,

I write to you on behalf of the Violence Research Group of Cardiff University. We are conducting an annual national study of attendances to Emergency Departments for assault-related injury and will be grateful if your department could provide us with attendance data for 2022. This data will be used, as in previous years, to analyse trends in violence in England and Wales from injury perspective. You can read more about the group and how your data has been used by following this link:

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/violence-research-group>

The data we require are as follows (for period 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022) in an electronic format that allows us to read the data into a database. Many hospitals respond to our survey and provide data in the form we require. Preferably this format is in an excel file or comma separated text file.

Data required (for period between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022)

- We require the gender of the patient (M or F), the date that they attended due to assault (dd/mm/yyyy) and their age. Age can either be numerical to the nearest year (preferred) or in age bands ("0-10", "11-17", "18-30", "31-50", "51+"), we can also accept date of birth.*
- To calculate the level of assault-related injury in England and Wales we also require the total number of attendances for any reason in the year of interest, i.e., 2022.*
- Please also include the names of hospitals (including Minor Injury Units and Walk-in Centres) providing assault data.*

The Data Protection Act places restrictions on what data can be shared. It is the view of nearly 170 hospitals in England and Wales that the data we are requesting (age, date of attendance and gender) do not constitute personal information and that it is not realistic to expect that information to be used to discover an individual's identity. If you would like to contact someone to talk about these issues you can do so by responding to this email.

RESPONSE

Q1) We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed "lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner". It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

Q2) Total Attends 2022 is 117,511

Q3) Whiston Hospital