

WPQ 38585 (2025). Chloe Swarbrick to the Minister for ACC (13 August 2025):

How many, if any, claims were made as a result of alcohol related injuries or accidents in 2024 and what was the total cost of claims compared with the previous five years, broken down by year?

The tables below show the number of new claims, active claims and active costs (excl. GST) for accepted claims containing specified alcohol and drug related keywords between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2024.

Table 1: Alcohol related claims

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs
2019	3,281	3,022	\$8,751,233
2020	3,089	2,946	\$9,898,844
2021	2,943	2,931	\$11,477,850
2022	2,812	2,810	\$12,380,122
2023	2,794	2,867	\$15,524,996
2024	2,696	2,758	\$19,128,259

Table 2: Drug related claims

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs
2019	151	86	\$572,033
2020	140	94	\$1,008,479
2021	131	105	\$1,152,136
2022	141	137	\$1,658,317
2023	125	137	\$2,335,679
2024	137	142	\$2,428,015

Notes about the data

- Claims data provided is based on keywords in the accident description text field of the ACC45 form. The accident description is a non-mandatory free-text field, and the nature and quality of responses varies. As such, this data should therefore be considered indicative, but not a definitive count of claims. This is particularly likely to apply in cases where the accident involved participation in illegal activity.
- Table 1 accident description contains key words 'alcohol', 'drunk', 'wine', 'champagne', 'beer', 'intoxicate', 'under the influence', 'whiskey', 'vodka' with some variation allowed.
- Table 2 accident description contains key words related to recreational drug use, including 'LSD', 'MDMA', 'heroin', 'cocaine', 'fentanyl', 'amphetamine', 'ecstasy', 'synthetic weed', 'cannabis', 'marijuana', 'party pill'.
- Certain exclusions have been made to omit claims related to the use of drugs for pain management.

- 'New claims' have been counted by the date that ACC lodged between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2024. An accident may have occurred on a different date.
- 'Active claims' are claims that generated a payment between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2024. These claims were not necessarily lodged, or had the accident occur, in the same period.
- A claim can cover multiple years. A claim which lasts longer than one year is counted as 'active' once for each year covered. For example, a claim which lasted from 2019 to 2023 would be counted a total of five times, once for each year.
- Costs are based on payment date. Payment date may be different to the date of service.
- Costs do not include Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. Treatment for covered claims in public hospitals is provided by an annual service agreement between ACC and the Ministry of Health, and is funded by bulk payments from ACC to the Crown.
- Data was extracted on 12 August 2025 and may differ if re-run at a later date.