

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5267

**Please reply to:**  
FOI Administrator  
Trust Management  
Maidstone Hospital  
Hermitage Lane  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME16 9QQ  
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

18 February 2019

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Knife injuries.

*You asked:*

- 1. How many people have been treated for serious knife injuries (those which require stitches or worse)?*
- 2. How many people have been treated for life threatening knife injuries?*
- 3. How many people have been treated for multiple knife injuries in the same attack?*
- 4. How many people have been treated for gun/ bullet injuries?*

*Please provide figures for each year of 2016, 2017 and 2018. Please also provide the age of the youngest and the oldest person treated for the injuries in each question.*

Trust response:

Looking at emergency admissions of patients with a diagnosis code of X99 (Assault with a sharp object), numbers are

2016 : 12

2017 : 8

2018 : 19

For codes X93 (Assault with handgun), X94 (Assault with rifle or shotgun) or X95 (assault with other or not specified firearm), numbers are

2016 : 2

2017 : 2

2018 : 2

**IMPORTANT:** The apparent increase in 2018 cannot be taken as evidence of an increase in knife injuries treated. The vast majority of these cases are

short-stay admissions to the Clinical Decision Units. Use of these units has effectively doubled over the past couple of years thanks to an increase in capacity, so if the numbers coming into A&E had remained exactly the same, we would expect to see an increase in admissions.

Whilst the severity of the injury is impossible to quantify from the data available, only 30% of Assault with a sharp object patients stayed overnight, and only 14% went on to wards other than the assessment / decision units.

We cannot provide multiple knife injuries in the same attack and we cannot distinguish between serious knife injuries versus life threatening knife injuries. We can only identify those who had the code X99 Assault with sharp object (which would be likely mainly knife, but could also be for example a broken bottle). And gun assaults using the codes specified.

This is for admitted patients, so likely to be the more serious, as those just requiring stitches in A&E and sent home would not be included in this. The A&E diagnosis is far too broad to be able to identify these cases.