



Trust Headquarters  
Nexus House  
Gatwick Road  
Crawley  
West Sussex  
RH10 9BG

Date 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

Email:

Tel: 0300 123 0999  
[www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/19/12/14.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

**1 How many times was your ambulance trust called to deal with incidents of someone having ingested benzodiazepines in the last five financial years (2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-2020 so far)? Please break this down by year and say the age of the patient and also the instances where the drug Xanax (Alprazolam) was taken.**

Please see table below. Please note data below is based on calls, not attendances.

Year	Benzodiazepine incidents	Xanax (Alprazolam) incidents
2015-16	0	2
2016-17	0	6
2017-18	3	21
2018-19	1	26
2019-20*	1	24

\*This data is up to and including 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019

*Please note this data has been obtained using a free text search for the following terms 'Benzodiazepine', 'Xanax' and 'Alprazolam'*

*Please note this may not be a true reflection of calls as there may be cases where this term is mentioned within the text but does not relate to the incident itself and may relate to something else i.e. patient's medical history*

*There may also be cases where this has not been mentioned on the initial call and is therefore not documented within the notes*

Please see ages below. Please also be advised that this is the age of the patient is provided by the caller and therefore may not be a true reflection of the patients actual age

Age	Total
13 - 25	58
26 - 35	11
36 - 45	8
46 - 55	4
56+	3

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

[FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator  
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust