2018 Animal use statistics



MPI collects annual statistics on the use of animals in research, testing and teaching in New Zealand. Production animals (such as cattle and sheep), rodents (such as rats and mice) and fish are the main types of animals used. Animal use contributes to our medical and veterinary knowledge and has benefits for humans, animals and ecosystems.

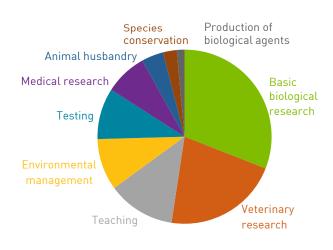
	2018	2017
Institutions with approved codes of ethical conduct that can carry out research, testing and teaching	25	26
Organisations/individuals using another institution's animal ethics committee	121	119
The largest individual species grouping used was cattle	34%	14%
Animals that were returned to their environment following use	65%	46%
Most animals experienced little or no impact as a result of use	77%	82%

Types of animals used for research

All other species Rats, mice guinea pigs, rabbits Other domestic animals Sheep, cattle, goats

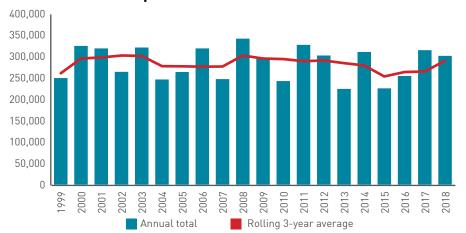
There is significant annual variability in the number of animals reported to MPI each year due to the completion of long term projects. The rolling three year average provides a more accurate representation of animal use over time. The graph below shows the rolling three-year average compared with the annual totals.

Purpose of manipulation



In terms of general purpose categories, basic biological research (the study of living things and their vital processes) and veterinary research (research aimed at improving the health and welfare of production and companion animals) accounted for over half of the animals used.

Animals manipulated between 1999 and 2018



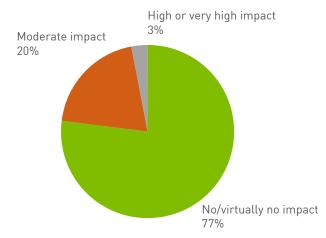
Total number of animals used in 2018 was

301,335

Rolling 3-year average in 2018 was

289,990

Impact on animals used in 2018



Code holders are required to report the impact of research, testing and teaching on the animals that they used. In 2018

77%

of animals experienced little or no impact as a result of use.

The long-term trends of the impact of research, testing and teaching on the animals used in New Zealand is illustrated in the graph below.

Impact of manipulations on animals used for RTT over the last 18 years

