

From: info.nzsar
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: info.nzsar
Subject: OC250989: Statistics on people lost
Date: Thursday, 23 October 2025 3:42:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia ora [REDACTED]

New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR) has a system called SARdonyx which captures some NZ Search and Rescue information. It collects data from NZ Police, Maritime New Zealand and some other agencies such as Land Search and Rescue. More information on SARdonyx could be found on the NZSAR website <https://www.nzsar.govt.nz/training-resources/start/sardonyx/sardonyx-introduction>.

Unfortunately, the dataset doesn't include specific information on the number of people reported as 'lost in the bush in New Zealand'. However, it does provide data on land-based Search and Rescue (SAR) callouts, which are classified by the type of activity involved – provided that responders recorded this information accurately at the time.

Please refer to the table below for a yearly breakdown of the relevant activity classifications for the last five years. This shows how many SAR operations occurred on land, and the types of activities that led to those callouts.

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Climber (alpine)	30	32	41	37	40
Day walker	146	127	153	193	188
Wanderer	105	107	132	160	148
Hunter	32	59	57	76	63
Missing Person			8	52	72
Tramper	157	179	227	285	253
Other	248	260	307	318	259
Yearly total	718	764	925	1121	1023

I hope this helps. [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi

Lynley Lewis

Secretariat Advisor | Kaitohutohu

New Zealand Search and Rescue Secretariat | Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa

[REDACTED] | nzsar.govt.nz



From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 16 October 2025 2:21 pm

To: info nzsar <info@nzsar.govt.nz>

Subject: Statistics on people lost

Hi there,



[Redacted] I would appreciate any advice or information you can provide on how many people are lost each year - is this something you hold statistics on or should I direct this to another organisation?

Thank you,



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