

# Infant and child health

On the right we present some findings about breastfeeding, low birthweight, infant and child mortality.

Data is sourced from the Ministry of Health's:

- New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS), from 2006/07 to 2016/17
- Mortality Collection Data Set (MORT), from 1996–98 to 2012–14
- Low birthweight data from 1996 to 2016.



## Breastfeeding

Exclusive breastfeeding means that, since birth, a baby has only had breast milk (from the breast or expressed) and prescribed medicines.

Since 2011/12, **Māori babies** were **less likely** than non-Māori babies to be **exclusively breastfed** at **3 months** (13 weeks) and **6 months** (26 weeks) of age.

In **2006/07**, there were **no significant differences** in **exclusive breastfeeding** rates between Māori and non-Māori babies.



## Low birthweight

Low birthweight is defined as less than 2500 grams.

**More Māori babies** were born with **low birthweight** than non-Māori babies.

The **low birthweight** rate **declined** over time for both **Māori** and **non-Māori**.

**Baby girls** are **more likely** to be born with low birthweight than baby boys, for both **Māori** and **non-Māori**.

The **difference** between the rates of **Māori babies** born with **low birthweight** compared to non-Māori babies has **decreased** over time.



## Infant death rates

Infants are defined as children aged one or below.

**Māori** had a **higher** infant mortality rate than non-Māori.

**Māori infant mortality** rates **decreased** over time, and there was a **decrease in difference** of **infant mortality** rates between Māori and non-Māori.

**Māori infants** had a **higher sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI)** rate than non-Māori.

**SUDI** rates for **Māori** infants **decreased** over time, and there was a **decrease in difference** of **SUDI rates** between Māori and non-Māori.

**Māori infants** had a **higher sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)** rate than non-Māori.

**SIDS** rates for **Māori infants** **decreased** over time, and there was a **decrease in difference** of **SIDS rates** between Māori and non-Māori.



## Child death rates

Children are defined as children aged zero to five.

**Māori children** had a **higher all-causes mortality rate** than non-Māori children.

The **all-causes mortality rate** for **Māori children** **decreased** over time, and the **difference** between Māori and non-Māori **child mortality narrowed** over time.