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.

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.