How is my privacy protected?

The information you provide to the interviewer is confidential and protected by the Privacy Act 1993. The interviewer will not discuss your information with anyone else and no one will be able to find out whether you took part in this survey. The answers you give will be added to other people’s answers to create group statistics. Personal information will not be given to other government departments or researchers.

How long will the interview and examination take?

The interview will take about 40 minutes for an adult and 20 minutes for a child. The interview will be done at a date and time that suits you and your family.

The simple dental examination will take about 40 minutes for an adult and 20 minutes for a child.

Where can I find the survey findings?

The Ministry of Health will publish the New Zealand Oral Health Survey results on its website in 2010. You will be able to get a free copy from the Ministry’s website http://www.moh.govt.nz or by phoning (04) 496 2277.

The New Zealand Oral Health Survey has been approved by the Multi-region Health Research Ethics Committee and is managed by the Health and Disability Intelligence Unit, Ministry of Health http://www.moh.govt.nz/hdi

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SURVEY

For more information on the New Zealand Oral Health Survey, visit the Health and Disability Intelligence webpage http://www.moh.govt.nz/hdi or phone CBG Health Research Ltd 0800 478 783.

If you have questions or problems associated with the practical aspects of your participation in the project, or wish to raise a concern about the project, then you should consult the project coordinator: Dr Robyn Haisman, Senior Advisor, Oral Health, Ministry of Health, phone (04) 816 3582.

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant in this research study you can contact an independent health and disability advocate. This is a free service provided under the Health and Disability Commissioner Act.

Telephone: (NZ wide) 0800 555 050

Free Fax (NZ wide): 0800 2787 7678 (0800 2 SUPPORT)

Email (NZ wide): advocacy@hdc.org.nz
WHAT IS THE NEW ZEALAND ORAL HEALTH SURVEY?

The New Zealand Oral Health Survey collects information about the health of New Zealanders' teeth, gums, and mouths and the oral health services New Zealanders use. The last oral health survey in New Zealand was conducted 20 years ago. Information from this survey will build on the oral health surveys conducted in 1976 and 1988.

The survey has two parts: an interview and a simple dental examination. The most information about New Zealanders' oral health will be gained if participants complete both parts of the survey.

The Ministry of Health expects about 2000 adults and 1000 children to take part in this survey.

WHAT QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED?

The New Zealand Oral Health Survey will collect information about:
- the problems you may have with your teeth and mouth
- how your teeth look and work
- how you use oral health services
- the things that affect your oral health.

Questions in the New Zealand Oral Health Survey will include the following:
- How often do you brush your teeth?
- What was the main reason for your last visit to a dentist?

You can tell the interviewer if you don't want to answer a question, and they will move to the next question.

What happens at the simple dental examination?

The dental examinations for the New Zealand Oral Health Survey are less extensive than the usual examinations a dentist does.

The examination is a routine one where no x-rays will be taken, and no dental treatment or medications will be provided. The examination will usually be done at a dental facility such as a private dental practice. If this is not possible, the examination may be done in your home or in another place such as a marae.

The dental survey examinations for adults and children will be done free of charge by qualified and registered dentists who will be specially trained to collect the specific information for the Oral Health Survey.

Who is carrying out the survey?

The Ministry of Health has contracted CBG Health Research Ltd to interview people for this New Zealand Oral Health Survey. Registered dentists will do the dental survey examination for the survey.

What happens after the interview?

At the end of your interview, the interviewer will ask if you would like to take part in the simple dental examination. If you are the parent or caregiver of the child interviewed, the interviewer will ask if the child can take part in the dental examination. If you agree to take part or for the child to take part, the examination will be arranged for a few days after the interview at a date and time to suit you and your family.

The dental information collected in the Oral Health Survey is designed to measure such things as dental decay and gum disease. This information is then used to get an overall indication of the oral health of New Zealand people.

What will the information be used for?

The Ministry of Health will use the information from the New Zealand Oral Health Survey to:
- assess the population’s oral health
- monitor the population’s use of oral health services
- develop oral health policies, programmes and services that will better meet New Zealanders’ needs
- focus additional oral health research.

Health researchers outside of the Ministry of Health may apply to use the data from the New Zealand Oral Health Survey. These data will not contain any information that could identify you (in accordance with the Health Act 1956).

WHY WAS I ASKED TO PARTICIPATE?

You were recently interviewed in your home as part of the New Zealand Health Survey. At that time, you kindly agreed to be contacted about the possibility of your answering other questions of importance to the Ministry of Health. If you were the adult in your household who took part in the New Zealand Health Survey, you are being invited to take part in this oral health survey.

If a child in your household took part in the New Zealand Oral Health Survey, you are being invited as the parent or caregiver of the child interviewed, the interviewer will ask if the child can take part in the dental examination. If you agree to take part or for the child to take part, the examination will be arranged for a few days after the interview at a date and time to suit you and your family.

The experience of people with good teeth, from people who have problems with their teeth and from people who have lost all of their teeth. This information will help the Ministry to get a clear picture of the oral health of all people living in New Zealand.

The registered dentists will do the dental examinations for the New Zealand Oral Health Survey.

What will happen during the dental examination? The dental survey examinations for adults and children will be done free of charge by qualified and registered dentists who will be specially trained to collect the specific information for the Oral Health Survey.

The examination is a routine one where no x-rays will be taken, and no dental treatment or medications will be provided. The examination will usually be done at a dental facility such as a private dental practice. If this is not possible, the examination may be done in your home or in another place such as a marae.

The dental examination for adults and children will be done free of charge by qualified and registered dentists who will be specially trained to collect the specific information for the Oral Health Survey.

The examiner will explain the examination to you, and you can tell them if you decide not to have the examination.

During the dental survey examination, the dentist will count the number of teeth you or your child have and record the condition of those teeth. For adults, the health of your gums and information about damaged teeth and any false teeth you may have will also be recorded.

If you give consent, photographs of your or your child’s teeth will be taken. These photographs will enable dental researchers to further assess people’s teeth after the examination. Nobody will be able to recognise or identify you or your child from the photographs.

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