Primary health care access

Primary health care providers are most people’s first point of contact with the health system. They include general practice teams, after-hours clinics and some community health services.

On the right are some findings from the data from the New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS) from 2006/07 to 2016/17 on access to primary health care for Māori and non-Māori adults aged 15+ and for children aged 0–14.

Māori children (aged 0–14) were:

- as likely as non-Māori to have a usual medical centre
- as likely as non-Māori to see a GP
- less likely than non-Māori to have visited after-hours
- more likely than non-Māori to have unmet need and unfilled prescriptions.

These patterns have fluctuated over time.

Māori adults (aged 15+) were:

- more likely than non-Māori to have a usual medical centre
- less likely than non-Māori to see a GP or to visit after-hours
- more likely than non-Māori to see a practice nurse without seeing a GP
- more likely than non-Māori to have unmet need and unfilled prescriptions

Māori males were less likely than Māori females to visit primary care services and less likely to report unmet need or unfilled prescriptions.

These patterns have not changed much over the last 10 years.