Respiratory diseases

Here we present trends in selected respiratory diseases for Māori compared to non-Māori.

Respiratory diseases presented include asthma, bronchiectasis, bronchiolitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia.

Data is sourced from the Ministry of Health’s:
- New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS), from 2006/07 to 2016/17
- National Minimum Data Set (NMDS), from 1996–98 to 2014–16

**Asthma**

Māori adults aged 15–44 were more likely than non-Māori adults to report being diagnosed with asthma by a doctor and currently taking medication to treat it. This has not changed much over time.

Asthma hospitalisation rates have decreased for both Māori and non-Māori aged 5–34, however, the decrease has been greater for non-Māori, resulting in an increased disparity between Māori and non-Māori.

Females have higher asthma hospitalisation rates than males for both Māori and non-Māori.

**Bronchiectasis (excludes congenital)**

Māori had higher bronchiectasis hospitalisation rates than non-Māori. The difference between Māori and non-Māori narrowed over time.

Bronchiectasis hospitalisation rates for Māori males have increased over time, while there was some decline apparent for Māori females until 2012–14, when rates appeared to be rising again.

Females had higher bronchiectasis hospitalisation rates than males for both Māori and non-Māori.

**Bronchiolitis (acute, excludes chronic)**

Māori children aged 0–4 had higher bronchiolitis hospitalisation rates than non-Māori children.

Bronchiolitis hospitalisation rates increased over time for both Māori and non-Māori children, although the difference between Māori and non-Māori did not change much over time.

Boys had higher bronchiolitis hospitalisation rates than girls for both Māori and non-Māori.

**Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**

Māori adults aged 45 and over had higher COPD hospitalisation rates than non-Māori adults over time.

COPD hospitalisation rates have increased for Māori adults over time, but decreased for non-Māori. This resulted in an increase of the difference between Māori and non-Māori.

COPD has been one of the major causes of death for Māori females.

Māori adults aged 45 and over had higher COPD mortality rates than non-Māori adults over time.

There has been a decrease in COPD mortality rates for Māori adults but the difference did not change much over time.

**Pneumonia**

Māori had higher pneumonia hospitalisation rates than non-Māori over time.

Pneumonia hospitalisation rates decreased slightly over time for Māori and the difference between Māori and non-Māori narrowed slightly as well.

There has been a decrease over time in pneumonia mortality rates for Māori, however, Māori were more likely than non-Māori to die from pneumonia and this disparity changed little over time.