

Finalising the youth System Level Measure

The youth System Level Measure has been developed by many people with an interest in youth health including the Ministry for Social Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Office of the Children’s Commissioner, sector groups such as Ara Taiohi, Youth One Stop Shops, clinicians from primary and secondary care and academics. The Ministry of Health also held youth focus groups and one-on-one interviews with young people on what the youth System Level Measure should look like.

At the end of this consultation process, the youth System Level Measure was confirmed as: ‘youth access to and utilisation of youth-appropriate health services’. It is made up domains, with indicators to measure each of the domains.

The five domains (national indicators):

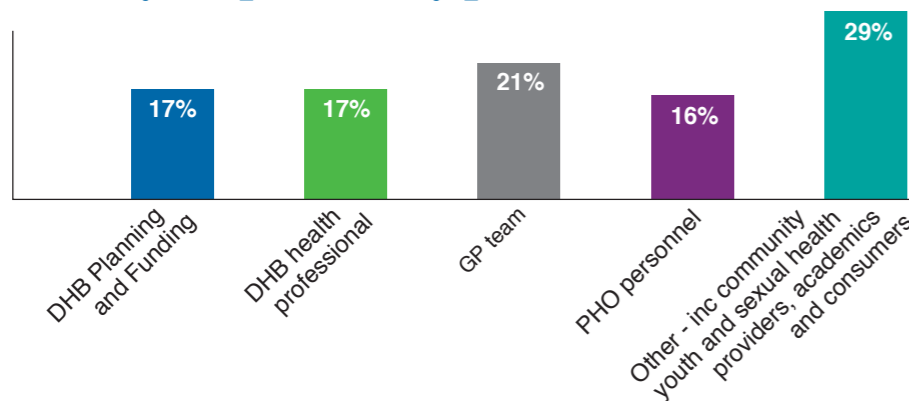
- sexual and reproductive health (chlamydia testing rates)
- access to preventative services (utilisation of oral health services)
- youth experience of the health system (Mārama Real-Time survey results)
- mental health and wellbeing (hospitalisations for intentional self-harm)
- alcohol and other drugs (alcohol-related ED presentations).

After the System Level Measure was implemented in 2017/18, the Ministry then ran a survey to find out what people from different parts of the health sector thought of the five domains and the youth System Level Measure to see if any amendments were required for 2018/19.

Survey results

- Most respondents feel that five is an appropriate number of domains, but time is needed for the domains to be established.
- Respondents were largely positive about the domains; and many said they understood the difficulty of selecting only a few indicators to measure youth health.
- Better communication and engagement is required from both the Ministry of Health and the district alliances.
- More work is required to clarify the role of the Ministry and the district alliances.
- We need to continue to develop the youth System Level Measure – including the national indicators – potentially through biennial reviews.

Survey responses by profession



Comments

- ‘The issue is that the domains require to be stable across time, with time to imbed changes in the services and evolve with time. The focus within domains could change over time however, the domains are sensible’ (DHB health professional).
- ‘It seems to accurately reflect what the story book says youth would like to have’ (member of a GP team).
- ‘I think five is good, however we will not necessarily be able to work on them all straight away. However, I think it is good to be visionary, and experience of health care spans all of these, as does utilisation of preventative services’ (community youth health provider).

Survey respondents involved in implementing the youth System Level Measure

45% are involved

55% are not involved

Comments

- ‘Never heard of it at all yet we are seeing youth every day’ (member of a GP team).
- ‘Yes, alongside a wide range of mental health and youth health clinicians and managers including primary care’ (DHB Planning and Funding).

What would the respondents like from the Ministry of Health?

Sharing information

- Guidelines and examples of good practice and strategies that have proven effective.
- Suggestions of appropriate priorities, projects, activities.
- Sharing initiatives from other district youth System Level Measure plans.
- Ideas to support general practice in achieving what the young people want, eg running youth drop in clinics.

Data

- Better data and data analysis – including comparisons to other DHBs and Māori-specific data.

Engagement

- Roadshows run by youth across the DHBs.
- Meet with local youth leaders.
- Visit youth-dedicated services.
- Someone from the Ministry to travel and meet with community providers.
- Involve school-based health services.
- Consultation and inclusion of GP teams.

Noted, but out of scope

- Funding (including ring-fenced for youth).
- More nurses in schools.
- More community health workers.
- Support to develop more primary care youth-focused services.
- More sexual health services.
- Support for workforce training.
- Circulate information to GP teams better.
- More buy in from GP teams.

Next steps

Given the results of the survey process, the measure (youth access to and utilisation of youth-appropriate health services), the five domains and their associated indicators have been confirmed to remain as they are. Other next steps for Ministry of Health and the district alliances are:

Ministry of Health

- Develop clearer annual planning guidance on the System Level Measure, particularly around local engagement. This includes more detailed assessment of the plans; looking at who has been involved in development and ensuring a more robust sign-off process.
- Continue to update and share national and DHB level data on the Nationwide Service Framework Library to facilitate evidence-based quality improvement activities.
- Share best-practice initiatives.
- Further outline expectations of district alliances.

District alliances

- Review and confirm that membership of Youth Service Level Alliance Team covers all perspectives of youth health across DHBs and the community; will enable the Service Level Alliance Team to better determine priorities for youth in their district.
- Ensure that all members from across youth health are involved in the System Level Measure implementation – including GP teams, youth one-stop shops, youth and other community youth health providers.
- Consider how information on the System Level Measure and priorities of the Service Level Alliance Team can best be shared.
- Better understand priorities for young people and ensure they are accessing services in each district.