

Metadata: Lead absorption notifications in New Zealand

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	Lead absorption notifications in New Zealand
Domain and topic	Hazardous substances: Health effects of hazardous substances
Indicator definition and units	The number of annual lead absorption notifications in New Zealand, where the blood lead level is greater than or equal to 0.48µmol/l.
Data source	The Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury Reporting Tool (HSDIRT).
Methodology	<p>Diseases or injuries due to exposure of lead or hazardous substances are notifiable in New Zealand. All cases diagnosed by doctors and/or laboratories are required to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health in the region for further investigation.</p> <p>GPs or local Public Health Units notify the cases to the Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury Reporting Tool (HSDIRT) which is administered by the Environmental Health Indicators Programme.</p> <p>Where a person has had a repeat blood lead level taken within 12 months of the original test, the repeat blood test is not included as a second notification unless further investigation or public health action has resulted.</p>
Time periods covered:	Annual, from 2013 onwards.
Population coverage:	All people in New Zealand.
Reporting variables	Results are presented by gender, age group, ethnicity, settings of exposure (occupational or non-occupational/unknown), occupation, and source of lead exposure.
Limitations of indicator and data source	This indicator only includes cases that were notified and will be underestimating the total burden of diseases or injuries that were caused by hazardous substances or lead exposures. In most cases, diseases or injuries due to hazardous substances or lead exposure will not be diagnosed (i.e. the person who was ill did not see a doctor or the diagnostic test was not performed).
Created by	Environmental Health Indicators Programme, Massey University, Wellington
Related indicators	Hazardous substances notifications in New Zealand
For more information	Environmental Health Indicators New Zealand: HSDIRT notification tool. http://www.ehinz.ac.nz/our-projects/hazardous-substances/hsdirt-notification-tool/