

Metadata: Unmet need for GP services due to a lack of transport

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	Unmet need for GP services due to a lack of transport
Domain	Transport domain
Rationale	Not having access to transport when it is needed (either via a motor vehicle, cycling, walking or access to public transport) can result in social isolation. In particular, access to transport is important for accessing health services and other amenities in society (Kjellstrom and Hill 2002). Not accessing healthcare services in a timely way can lead to an unmet need for healthcare, and a potential worsening of health.
Indicator definition and units	Unmet need for GP services due to a lack of transport is defined as having had a medical problem but not visiting a GP due to a lack of transport, in the past 12 months (Ministry of Health 2014).
Data source	New Zealand Health Survey, conducted by the Ministry of Health. We have used data supplied in tables published on the Ministry of Health website.
Time period and time scale	<p>National data is available for 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, and annually after this.</p> <p>DHB-level data is available for the three-year period 2011–2014; updated data is available occasionally by the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>The time period for each survey year is from 1 July to 30 June (eg 2015/16 data collection was from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016).</p> <p>Time trends with earlier surveys (eg 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey) are not possible, as the question wording was substantially changed for the 2011/12 survey.</p>
Numerator and denominator	<p>Numerator: Children and adults who needed to see a GP in the last 12 months but didn't, because they did not have transport to get there.</p> <p>Denominator: All children (aged 0–14 years) and adults (aged 15+ years) (estimated usually resident population).</p>
Survey question	<p>Since 2011/12, unmet need for GP services due to a lack of transport has been asked about in the adult and child questionnaires of the New Zealand Health Survey. The question asked was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the last 12 months, was there a time when you had a medical problem but did not visit a GP because you had no transport to get there?

	For children aged 0–14 years, a primary caregiver answered the child questionnaire as a proxy for the child. The above question was reworded to refer to the child.
Population coverage	The New Zealand Health Survey results refer to the usually resident population of all ages, who are living in permanent dwellings, aged-care facilities and student accommodation. The following people were not included in the survey: people living in institutions, such as for long-term hospital care, hospital- and dementia-level care in aged-care facilities, and in prisons; the homeless; short-term visitors; and tourists.
Time trend analysis	Results between survey years have been compared, and statistically significant differences are noted (based on 95% confidence intervals not overlapping, or a <i>t</i> -test if needed).
Reporting variables	Results are presented by sex, age group, ethnic group (total response), socioeconomic deprivation (NZDep quintiles) and district health board (DHB).
Confidence intervals	95% confidence intervals were calculated by the Ministry of Health using jack-knife weights. Confidence intervals are presented in brackets in the text and tables, and as error bars on graphs.
Limitations of indicator	There is some uncertainty in the estimates due to taking a sample, reflected in the 95% confidence intervals. The results cannot be compared to previous results (eg the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey) due to a change in question wording.
Limitations of data source	The survey results may under- or over-estimate indicators due to the nature of self-reported information.
Created by	Ministry of Health New Zealand
Related indicators	Number of motor vehicles Main mode of transport to work on Census day Household travel time by mode of transport Active transport to and from school
For more information	For more information on the New Zealand Health Survey, visit the New Zealand Health Survey website: http://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/national-collections-and-surveys/surveys/current-recent-surveys/new-zealand-health-survey
References	Kjellstrom, T., & Hill, S. (2002). <i>New Zealand Evidence for Health Impacts of Transport: A background paper prepared for the Public Health Advisory Committee</i> . Wellington: National Health Committee. Ministry of Health. (2014). <i>Indicator Interpretation Guide 2013/14: New Zealand Health Survey</i> . Wellington: Ministry of Health.