

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	Unmet need for GP services due to a lack of transport
Domain	Transport
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 or talking to a GP due to a lack of transport, in the past 12 months (Ministry of Health 2025a).
Data source	New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS), conducted by the Ministry of Health. We have used data supplied in tables published on the Ministry of Health website.
Numerator	Children and adults who had a medical problem but did not visit a GP, because they did not have transport or it was too far to travel.
Denominator	All children (aged 0–14 years) and adults (aged 15+ years) (estimated usually resident population).
Methodology	<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. Up until the 2021/22 New Zealand Health Survey, there was a separate question asking people if there was a time when they had a medical problem but did not visit a GP due to a lack of transport. There were further separate questions about not accessing a GP for other reasons. From 2021/22 onwards, the questions were grouped together, with lack of transport being one possible response in a list of reasons for not visiting a GP when the person had a medical problem. For children aged 0–14 years, a primary caregiver answered the child questionnaire as a proxy for the child. The question was reworded to refer to the child.</p> <p>Time trends: Results between survey years have been compared, and statistically significant differences are noted (based on t-tests using age-standardised results).</p> <p>Population groups: Results between population groups have been compared using adjusted rate ratios (except for between different age groups).</p> <p>For more details, see the NZHS Methodology report (Ministry of Health 2025b).</p>
Time period and time scale	<p>National and health region data is available for 2011/12 onwards.</p> <p>District-level data is reported when available, with the most recent data covering the three-year period to 2017-20.</p> <p>The time period for each survey year is from 1 July to 30 June (e.g. 2023/24 data collection was from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024).</p> <p>The question change in 2021/22 means that caution must be taken when comparing the most recent results to those before this change.</p>

Population coverage	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.
Spatial Coverage	National and by health region. The data for health districts (the former District Health Board areas) has not been updated in recent releases. The four health regions, and the districts they cover, are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Northern – Northland, Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau · Te Manawa Taki – Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Lakes, Tairāwhiti and Taranaki · Central – MidCentral, Whanganui, Capital & Coast/Hutt Valley, Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa · Te Waipounamu – Canterbury, West Coast, Nelson Marlborough, Southern and South Canterbury.
Measures of frequency	Results are presented by sex, age group, ethnic group (total response), neighbourhood deprivation (NZDep2018 quintiles) and disability status.
Confidence interval methodology	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 vertical bars on graphs.
Limitations of indicator	The survey results may under- or over-estimate indicators due to the nature of self-reported information. There is some uncertainty in the estimates due to taking a sample, reflected in the 95% confidence intervals. The results from 2021/22 onwards cannot be compared to previous results due to a change in question wording.
Related indicators	Number of motor vehicles Road traffic injury deaths and hospitalisations Main mode of transport to work 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: https://www.health.govt.nz/statistics-research/surveys/new-zealand-health-survey
References	Ministry of Health. 2025a. <i>New Zealand Health Survey Annual Data Explorer</i> . URL: https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer . Ministry of Health. 2025b. <i>Methodology Report 2024/25: New Zealand Health Survey</i> . URL: https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/methodology-report-202425-new-zealand-health-survey .