

## Overall New Zealand children are healthy

However, there are a number of areas where children are not doing so well, especially in illnesses and diseases related to poverty.

**74%** of babies aged 3-months are enrolled in a [Primary Health Organisation](#)

**73%** of pre-schoolers are enrolled in oral health services

**93%** of four-year-olds have a [B4 School Check](#)

Source: DHBs [Health Quality and Safety Commission](#)

## Socioeconomic status: impact on health

Children in the bottom 1/5 of family incomes compared with the top 1/5 have:

**3** times more infant mortality

**3** times more hospitalisations (age 1 month to 14 years)

# 41,000

children are hospitalised each year for conditions associated with deprivation

- Maori hospitalisation rate is 17% higher than European
- Pacific hospitalisation rate is 40% higher than European

Source: [Child Poverty Monitor](#)

## FAQS

**Q. How many children have a disability?**

A. About 1 in 10 children have a physical or mental disability. Half of these children have a disability from birth. Half of all children with a disability have learning difficulties.

**Q. What is New Zealand's immunisation rate?**

A. New Zealand currently has 93.7% of infants immunised at 8 months old, and 94.6% of infants fully immunised at 12 months. This is comparable with the OECD average.

**Q. How many children are hospitalised each year for illnesses related to poverty?**

A. In 2014, 41,729 children had stays in hospital due to illnesses with a socioeconomic gradient. Not all of these children will have been living in poverty.

**Q. What is New Zealand's infant mortality rate?**

A. Infant mortality (death in the first year) is 4.1 deaths per 1000 live births. The rate is twice as high for teen mothers, at 10 per 1000. New Zealand rates are above the OECD average.

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# Home environment: impact on health

**Crowded housing** (at least a bedroom 'short') increases the risk of infectious diseases

**47%** of Pacific children live in crowded homes

**25%** of Maori children live in crowded homes

**21%** of Asian children live in crowded homes

**5%** of European children live in crowded homes

## Smoking around children damages their health

*87% of two-week old babies have non-smoking mothers*

*98% of 4-year-olds are reported to live in smoke-free homes*

Source: Health and Safety Quality Commissioner

## Child obesity and fitness

*The child obesity rate is 11%  
This has increased from 8% in 2007*

**1 in 9  
children aged  
2-14 years is  
obese**

**15%** of Maori children are obese

**30%** of Pacific children are obese

**children living in the most deprived areas are five times more likely to be obese as those living in the least deprived areas**

Source: [Ministry of Health](#)

Most New Zealand children are active. 9 in 10 children aged 5 to 14 years spend 3+ hours a week taking part in sport and active recreation ([Sport NZ survey](#))

## Youth suicide rates

In 2013 New Zealand youth (aged 15 -24 years) had a suicide rate of 18 per 100,000.

This is high compared to similar countries.

In 2012:

**the youth suicide rate for males was 2.5 times higher than for females**

**the Maori youth suicide rate was 2.8 times the non-Maori rate**

Source: [Ministry of Health](#)