

Chapter 14: Prescription Item Use

Key points

- Seven in every ten adults obtained at least one prescription item, including repeat prescription items, in the past year. Women were more likely than men to obtain a prescription item during this period.
- Older adults were more likely than younger adults to obtain 10 or more prescription items.
- European/Pākehā adults were more likely than adults in the Māori, Pacific and Other ethnic groups to obtain 10 or more prescription items.
- One in ten adults said they received a prescription for an item in the last 12 months but had not collected the item.
- In the 0–14 years age group, younger children were more likely than older children to obtain a prescription item, with 79% of 0–4-year-olds obtaining a prescription item compared to 55% of 10–14-year-olds.
- Six percent of children were reported by their caregiver to have had an uncollected prescription item in the last 12 months.

Introduction

A prescription is an order for medicines, appliances or other health-related items issued by a health professional. In most cases, people who obtain a prescription from these health professionals must take it to a registered pharmacist or chemist, who then supplies the item or items listed in the prescription. If a prescription item is included in the Pharmaceutical Schedule, which is a list of over 2500 pharmaceutical and other related medical items subsidised by the government, then adults are required to pay up to \$15 per prescription item. For children, the maximum charge per prescription item is \$10. Adults and children with Community Service Cards pay only \$3 per item. In the year 1997/98, the government, through the Health Funding Authority, spent \$747 million on pharmaceutical subsidies (Ministry of Health 1998a).

The 1996/97 Health Survey gathered national-level sociodemographic information about people's use of prescription items. This included identifying the groups in the population most likely to obtain a relatively high number of prescription items and the groups most likely not to pick up or collect prescription items. This information is useful for assessing why some groups use prescription items more than others, and for predicting likely future demand for prescription items.

The main question used in the 1996/97 Health Survey to collect information on prescription item use by adults was: 'In the last 12 months, have you had any prescription items *for yourself* from the chemist, including any prescription that you might have already told me about?' Caregivers were asked a slightly modified version of this question to collect information about their child's prescription item use. It should be noted that these questions rely on people being able to recall how many prescription items they or their children obtained in the course of a year, which could be difficult for some people, especially if they received a high number of prescription items.*

* It also should be noted that this section refers to prescription item use. A single prescription can list several prescription items.

Unless otherwise stated, age- and sex-standardised rates, and 95% confidence intervals in parentheses, are given in the text. Tables at the end of this section show key standardised and unstandardised estimates. More detailed tables related to this section are available on the Ministry of Health website (www.moh.govt.nz).

Results

Prescription item use by sociodemographic variables

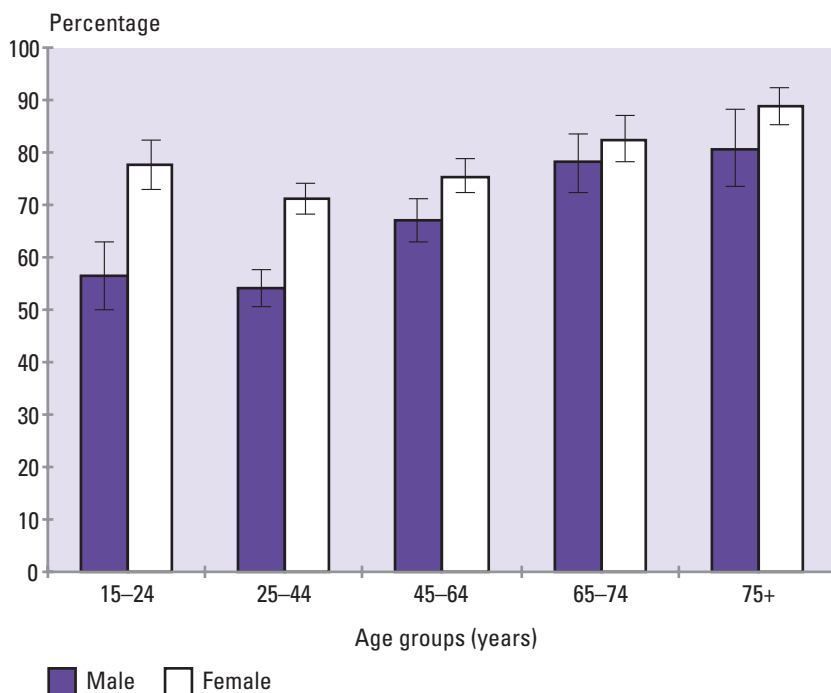
Prescription item use by age and sex

Adults

Seven in every ten adults had obtained at least one prescription item, including repeat prescription items, in the past year. Women were more likely than men to obtain a prescription item ($p < 0.0001$).^{*} Women were also more likely than men to obtain a high number of prescription items (defined as 10 or more prescription items in the past 12 months). Just over one in five women obtained 10 or more prescription items, compared to one in seven men. Applied to the New Zealand adult population as a whole, this represents an estimated 302,750 women and 189,270 men who obtained 10 or more prescription items.

It is unclear exactly why women, and younger women in particular (see Figure 109), should be greater users of prescription items than men. Studies suggest that it may be related to a wide range of factors, with examples being women's use of the contraceptive pill and their greater likelihood of visiting GPs for help with mental health problems (Ministry of Health 1996).

Figure 109: Proportion of adults who had any prescription items in the past 12 months, by age and sex

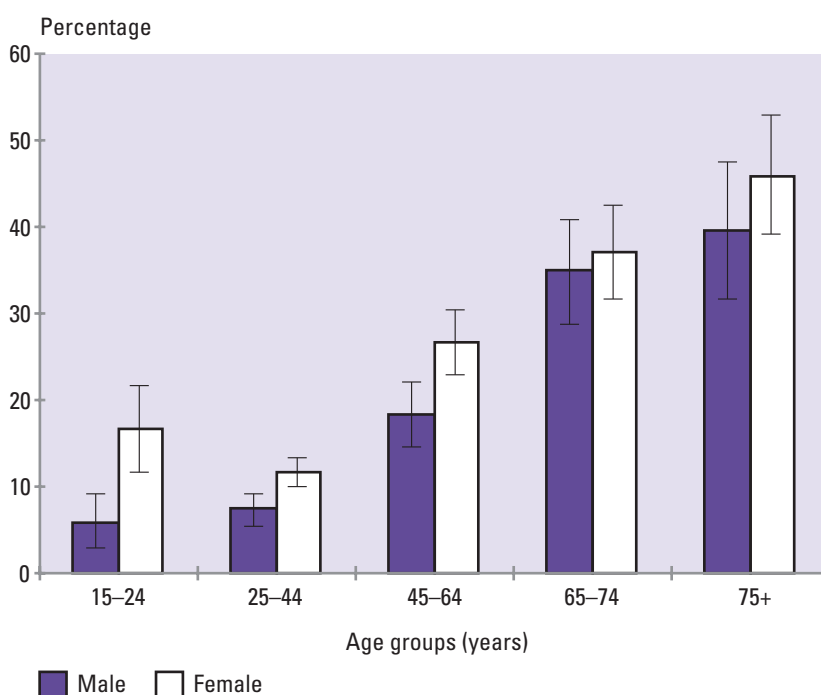


Note: Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals. For further explanation of graphs, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

^{*} This result compares closely to the 69% of adults who were given a prescription when they last visited a GP (see Chapter 12: General Practitioner Use), suggesting that a very high proportion of 1996/97 Health Survey respondents obtained their prescriptions from a GP rather than another kind of health professional.

In general, older adults (those aged 45 years or more) were more likely than younger adults to obtain a prescription item, with the highest rate of prescription item use being in the 75 plus age group and the lowest being in the 25–44 years age group ($p < 0.0001$). Older adults were also more likely to be frequent users of prescription items, meaning they obtained 10 or more prescription items in the previous year (see Figure 110). These age differences were similar to those found in the 1992/93 Health Survey (Ministry of Health 1995) and probably largely reflect the fact that older people are more likely to have ongoing health problems such as diabetes and hypertension (see Chapters 7 and 8), many of which involve treatment with prescription medicines.

Figure 110: Proportion of adults who had 10 or more prescription items in the last 12 months, by age and sex

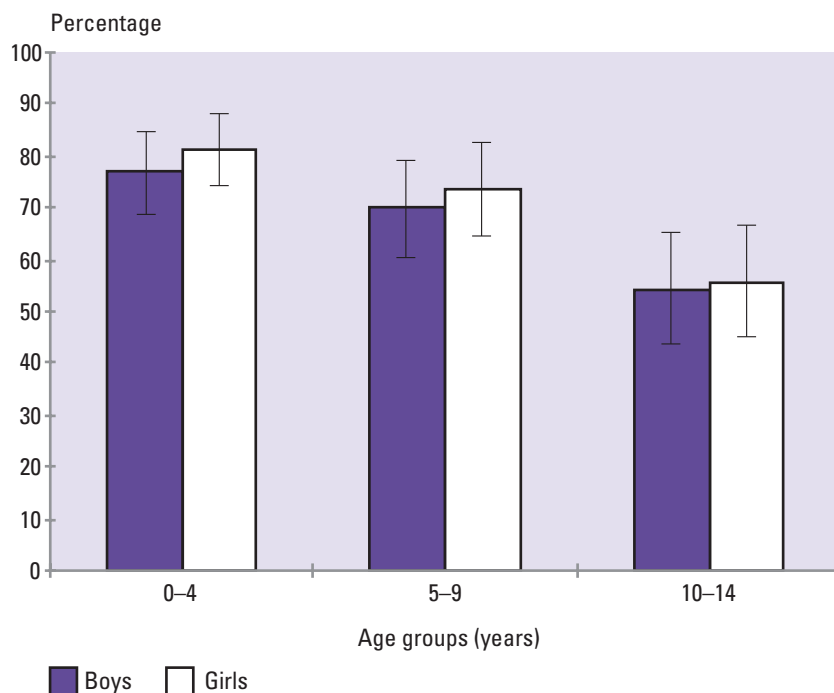


Note: Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals. For further explanation of graphs, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

Children

Amongst children aged 0 to 14 years, just over two-thirds obtained a prescription item in the past year. Younger children were more likely than older children to obtain a prescription item, with 79.0% (73.5–84.5) of 0–4-year-olds and 71.7% (65.2–78.2) of 5–9-year-olds obtaining a prescription item, compared with 55.2% (47.4–63.0) of 10–14-year-olds ($p < 0.0001$; see Figure 111). Children in the 0–4 years age group were also more than twice as likely as older children to obtain 10 or more prescription items in the year. As indicated in the previous chapter, younger children are generally more vulnerable than older children to various illnesses (Ministry of Health 1998b), which in turn is likely to be reflected in their rates of doctor visits and prescription item use. In addition, health benefit system changes introduced part way through the 1996/97 Health Survey reduced the cost barriers to GP and prescription item use for some 0–5-year-olds.

Figure 111: Proportion of children who had any prescription items in the last 12 months, by age and sex



Note: Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals. For further explanation of graphs, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

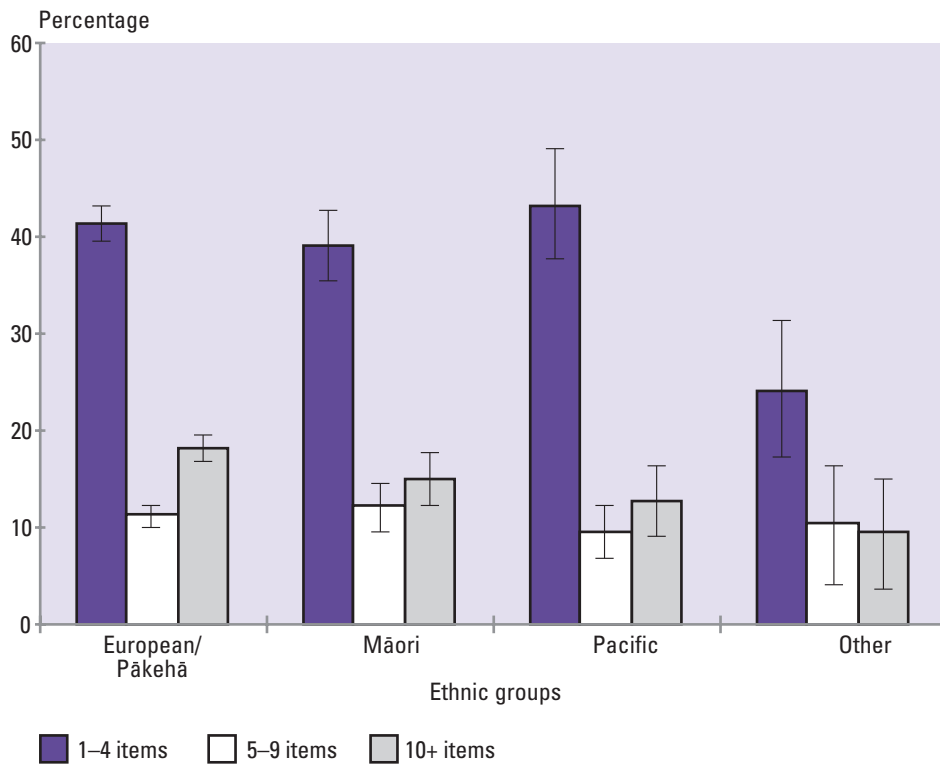
Prescription item use by ethnicity

Adults

There were statistically significant ethnic group differences in the proportion of people who received a prescription item ($p < 0.0001$). Those in the European/Pākehā ethnic group (70.9%; 69.3–72.5) were the most likely to obtain a prescription item in the past 12 months, while those in the Other ethnic group were the least likely (43.9%; 34.9–52.9). European/Pākehā adults were also more likely than adults in the other three ethnic groups to obtain 10 or more prescription items in the year (see Figure 112).

The reasons for these differences are likely to be complex, and involve a combination of factors such as patients’ attitudes and expectations regarding medicines, health status factors and the costs of prescriptions. People’s willingness or ability to visit GPs and other health professionals may also indirectly influence their rate of prescription item use.

Figure 112: Number of prescription items obtained by adults in the last 12 months, by ethnicity (age- and sex-standardised)



Note: Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals. For further explanation of graphs, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

Children (0–14-year-olds)

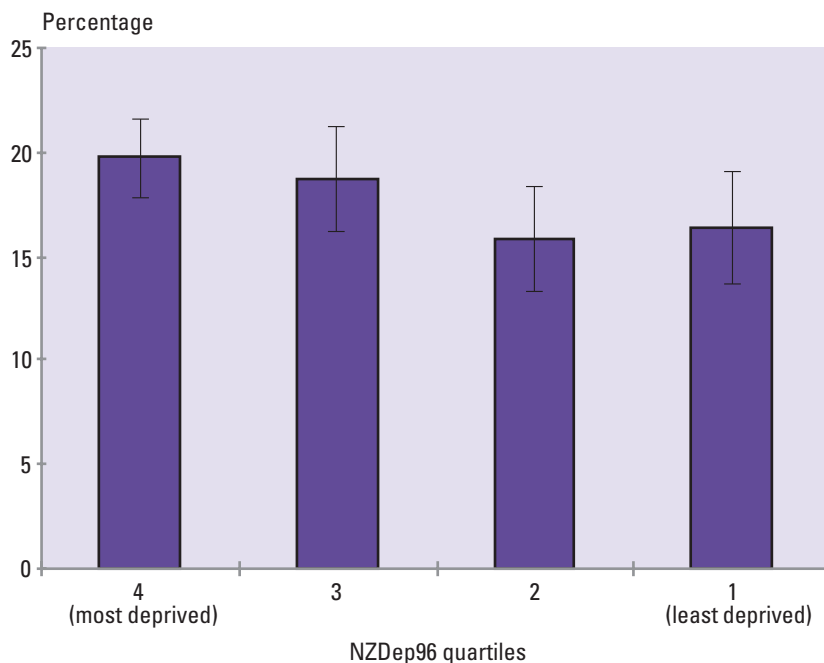
There were no significant ethnic group differences in prescription item use among children.

Prescription item use by family income, NZDep96 score and education*

Across the four family income groups, the four NZDep96 groups and the three education groups, similar proportions of adults (between 68% and 70%) had used a prescription item in the past 12 months. Similarly, there were no significant differences in the likelihood of obtaining 10 or more prescription items amongst family income, NZDep96 or education groups (see Figure 113).

* The NZDep96 score measures the level of deprivation in the area in which a person lives, according to a number of census variables, such as the proportion of people in that area who earn low incomes or who receive income support benefits, are unemployed, do not own their own home, have no access to a car, are single-parent families, or have no qualifications. The scores are divided into quartiles from 1 (least deprived) to 4 (most deprived). For more details, see Chapter 1: The Survey.

Figure 113: Proportion of adults who obtained 10 or more prescription items in the last 12 months, by NZDep96 score (age- and sex-standardised)



Note: Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals. For further explanation of graphs, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

Uncollected prescription items

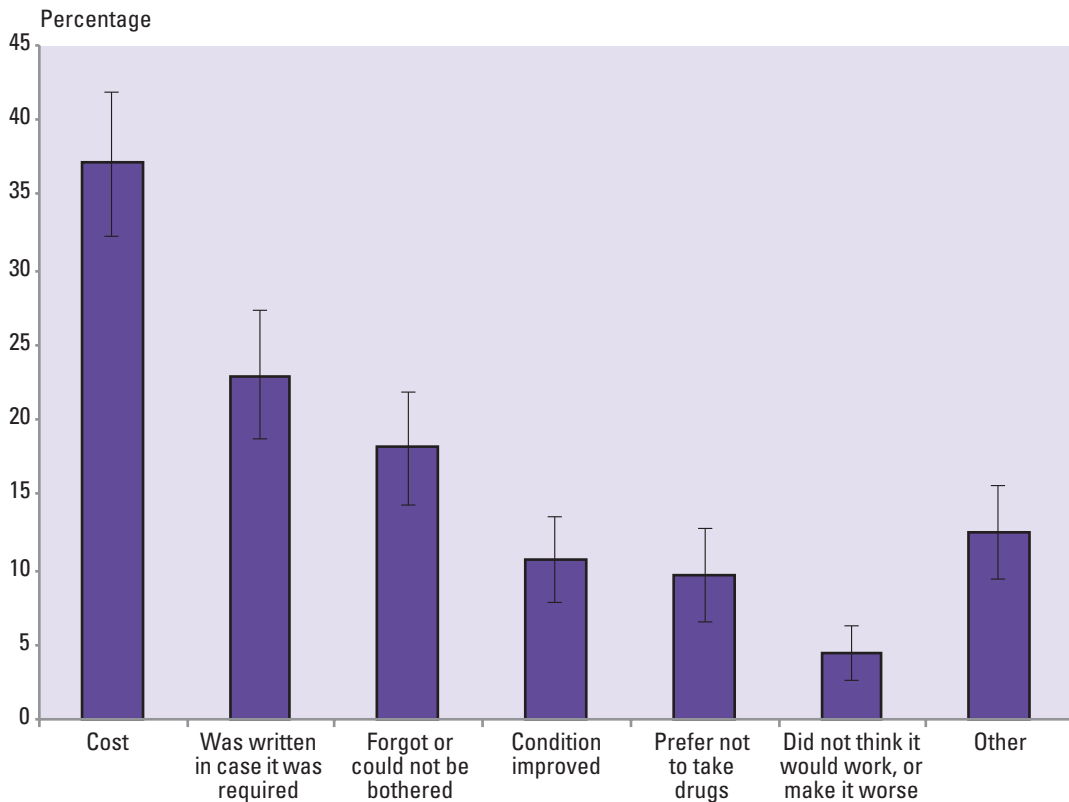
Adults

One in ten adults said they had received a prescription for an item in the last 12 months but had not collected the item. Women (12.1%; 10.7–13.5) were more likely than men (6.7%; 5.5–7.9) not to collect a prescription item ($p < 0.0001$). In general, adults in the younger age groups were more likely than those in the older age groups not to collect a prescription item, with 16.4% (12.5–20.3) of women in the 15–24 years age group not collecting a prescription item ($p < 0.0001$). There were significant differences amongst Māori (12.3%; 9.8–14.8), Pacific (10.8%; 8.1–13.5), European/Pākehā (9.3%; 8.3–10.3) and Other (5.2%; 1.1–9.3) ethnic groups in the non-collection of prescription items ($p < 0.05$).

Rates of prescription item non-collection varied significantly by family income level ($p < 0.01$) and NZDep96 scores ($p < 0.05$), with 12.6% (10.4–14.8) of adults in the 0–\$20,000 family income group not collecting a prescription item in the last year, compared with 7.5% (5.9–9.1) of adults in the \$50,001 plus family income group. However, rates of prescription item non-collection did not differ significantly by education level.

Compared with people who rated their health as excellent or very good, those who rated their health as fair or poor were more likely not to collect a prescription item ($p < 0.0001$).

Figure 114: Reasons adults gave for not collecting a prescription item in the past 12 months



Note: Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals. For further explanation of graphs, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

Adults described various reasons for not collecting prescription items (see Figure 114). Just over one in five people had not collected a prescription item because the prescription for the item had been written for them just in case they needed it. This happened more often for women than men, while European/Pākehā adults were more likely to give this reason than adults from any of the other ethnic groups.

Seventeen percent of people did not collect a prescription item because they either forgot or could not be bothered. Men and women were equally likely to give this reason, although people in the youngest and oldest age groups (15–24 years and 65 years plus) were more likely than people in the other age groups to give this reason.

The most popular single reason for not collecting a prescription item was cost, mentioned by 37.1% (32.2–42.0) of respondents. Younger adults, Pacific adults, Māori adults, adults with lower family incomes and adults living in the more deprived areas of New Zealand were more likely than other groups to give this reason.

Children

Six percent (5.6%; 3.6–7.6) of children were reported by their caregiver to have had an uncollected prescription item in the last 12 months. The most common explanation caregivers gave for this was that the prescription item had not been needed any more. Nearly half (42.0%; 23.6–60.4) of all uncollected prescription items for children were said to be for this reason. Cost was the reason given for children not obtaining a prescription in 28.0% (14.3–41.7) of cases.



Table 65: Number of prescription items per year, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals)

	Zero items			1-4 items			5-9 items			10+ items		
	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est
	Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*	
Total	31.3 (29.7-32.9)		879,135	40.3 (38.7-41.9)		1,132,158	10.9 (9.9-11.9)		307,265	17.5 (16.3-18.7)		492,028
Sex												
Male	38.7 (36.3-41.1)	38.5 (36.1-40.9)	528,681	39.3 (36.9-41.7)	39.2 (36.8-41.6)	537,293	8.1 (6.7-9.5)	8.2 (6.8-9.6)	110,702	13.9 (12.3-15.5)	14.2 (12.6-15.8)	189,273
Female	24.3 (22.5-26.1)	24.4 (22.6-26.2)	350,454	41.2 (39.2-43.2)	41.3 (39.3-43.3)	594,865	13.6 (12.2-15.0)	13.6 (12.2-15.0)	196,564	21.0 (19.2-22.8)	20.7 (18.9-22.5)	302,756
Age												
15-24 years	32.9 (29.0-36.8)	32.5 (28.6-36.4)	172,540	46.0 (41.7-50.3)	46.0 (41.7-50.3)	241,192	9.9 (7.4-12.4)	10.0 (7.5-12.5)	51,902	11.3 (8.4-14.2)	11.5 (8.6-14.4)	59,157
25-44 years	37.1 (34.7-39.5)	37.1 (34.7-39.5)	422,013	43.1 (40.7-45.5)	43.1 (40.7-45.5)	490,040	10.2 (8.8-11.6)	10.2 (8.8-11.6)	116,236	9.5 (8.1-10.9)	9.5 (8.1-10.9)	108,354
45-64 years	28.7 (26.2-31.2)	28.6 (26.1-31.1)	214,410	37.3 (34.4-40.2)	37.3 (34.4-40.2)	278,900	11.5 (9.5-13.5)	11.6 (9.6-13.6)	86,116	22.5 (20.0-25.0)	22.6 (20.1-25.1)	168,067
65-74 years	19.6 (16.1-23.1)	19.8 (16.3-23.3)	47,350	33.0 (28.7-37.3)	32.9 (28.4-37.4)	79,741	11.5 (8.8-14.2)	11.5 (8.8-14.2)	27,886	36.0 (31.9-40.1)	35.9 (31.8-40.0)	87,000
75+ years	14.3 (10.6-18.0)	14.6 (10.7-18.5)	22,823	26.5 (22.0-31.0)	26.6 (22.1-31.1)	42,285	15.7 (11.6-19.8)	15.6 (11.5-19.7)	25,126	43.5 (38.2-48.8)	43.2 (37.9-48.5)	69,450
Ethnicity												
European/Pākehā	28.8 (27.2-30.4)	29.1 (27.5-30.7)	650,241	40.7 (38.9-42.5)	41.3 (39.3-43.3)	918,857	11.3 (10.1-12.5)	11.3 (10.1-12.5)	255,973	19.2 (17.8-20.6)	18.3 (16.9-19.7)	433,755
Māori	35.8 (32.5-39.1)	33.6 (30.3-36.9)	99,183	41.3 (37.8-44.8)	39.1 (35.6-42.6)	114,413	10.9 (8.7-13.1)	12.1 (9.6-14.6)	30,100	12.1 (9.9-14.3)	15.2 (12.5-17.9)	33,531
Pacific	36.2 (31.5-40.9)	34.4 (29.3-39.5)	46,918	43.9 (39.2-48.6)	43.4 (37.9-48.9)	56,914	9.0 (6.5-11.5)	9.4 (6.7-12.1)	11,705	10.9 (7.8-14.0)	12.8 (9.3-16.3)	14,118
Other	57.1 (48.5-65.7)	56.1 (47.1-65.1)	82,793	29.0 (21.4-36.6)	24.3 (17.4-31.2)	41,973	6.5 (2.8-10.2)	10.3 (4.0-16.6)	9,488	7.3 (2.6-12.0)	9.4 (3.7-15.1)	10,624
Family income												
0-\$20,000	26.0 (23.3-28.7)	31.6 (27.9-35.3)	130,376	33.4 (30.7-36.1)	37.0 (33.5-40.5)	167,205	12.1 (10.3-13.9)	10.7 (8.7-12.7)	60,475	28.5 (26.0-31.0)	20.6 (18.1-23.1)	142,967
\$20,001-\$30,000	28.7 (25.2-32.2)	31.9 (27.8-36.0)	108,257	38.2 (34.7-41.7)	39.1 (35.2-43.0)	144,166	10.8 (8.6-13.0)	10.3 (7.9-12.7)	40,739	22.3 (19.2-25.4)	18.6 (15.7-21.5)	84,307
\$30,001-\$50,000	32.5 (29.4-35.6)	30.8 (27.7-33.9)	172,896	42.5 (39.0-46.0)	42.0 (38.5-45.5)	226,255	11.7 (9.3-14.1)	12.0 (9.5-14.5)	62,477	13.2 (11.0-15.4)	15.2 (12.7-17.7)	70,119
\$50,001+	33.3 (30.2-36.4)	30.2 (26.7-33.7)	289,799	43.0 (39.9-46.1)	42.3 (38.6-46.0)	374,280	10.7 (8.7-12.7)	11.2 (9.0-13.4)	92,983	13.1 (10.7-15.5)	16.3 (12.6-20.0)	113,661

* Adjusted rates are adjusted for age and sex, except when they are age-specific, in which case they are adjusted only for sex, or when they are sex-specific, in which case they are adjusted only for age.
 Note: For further explanation of Tables, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

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Table 65 (cont)

	Zero items			1-4 items			5-9 items			10+ items		
	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est
	Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*	
NZDep96 score 1 (least deprived)	31.1	30.6	250,669	40.7	40.6	328,164	12.0	12.3	96,753	16.2	16.4	130,303
	(27.8-34.4)	(27.3-33.9)		(37.2-44.2)	(37.1-44.1)		(9.8-14.2)	(10.1-14.5)		(13.5-18.9)	(13.7-19.1)	
	31.7	32.1	221,053	40.9	41.3	285,299	10.9	10.8	75,665	16.5	15.8	115,057
	(28.6-34.8)	(28.8-35.4)		(37.6-44.2)	(38.0-44.6)		(8.9-12.9)	(8.8-12.8)		(14.0-19.0)	(13.3-18.3)	
2	31.1	31.5	196,888	40.6	40.3	256,743	9.5	9.4	60,155	18.8	18.7	119,109
	(28.2-34.0)	(28.6-34.4)		(37.5-43.7)	(37.4-43.2)		(7.5-11.5)	(7.6-11.2)		(16.3-21.3)	(16.2-21.2)	
	31.2	30.8	210,526	38.8	38.5	261,952	11.1	11.0	74,693	18.9	19.7	127,560
	(29.0-33.4)	(28.6-33.0)		(36.4-41.2)	(36.1-40.9)		(9.5-12.7)	(9.4-12.6)		(16.9-20.9)	(17.7-21.7)	
Education No qualification	29.0	31.1	233,091	37.5	39.3	301,293	11.6	11.2	93,185	21.9	18.5	175,671
	(26.5-31.5)	(28.4-33.8)		(35.0-40.0)	(36.6-42.0)		(9.6-13.6)	(9.2-13.2)		(19.9-23.9)	(16.5-20.5)	
	31.1	31.3	313,011	41.7	40.3	419,924	10.5	11.3	105,489	16.8	17.1	169,366
	(28.7-33.5)	(28.6-34.0)		(39.0-44.4)	(37.6-43.0)		(8.9-12.1)	(9.5-13.1)		(14.6-19.0)	(14.9-19.3)	
School and post-school	33.6	32.0	331,585	41.1	40.9	405,308	10.7	10.7	105,676	14.7	16.4	144,749
	(30.9-36.3)	(29.3-34.7)		(38.4-43.8)	(38.0-43.8)		(9.1-12.3)	(9.1-12.3)		(12.7-16.7)	(14.0-18.8)	
	38.7	38.0	624,655	44.0	43.6	709,914	8.8	8.9	141,384	8.6	9.5	139,223
	(36.5-40.9)	(35.8-40.2)		(42.0-46.0)	(41.6-45.6)		(7.6-10.0)	(7.7-10.1)		(7.4-9.8)	(8.3-10.7)	
Self-rated health Excellent or very good	24.3	24.8	197,858	38.0	38.4	309,766	14.5	14.6	118,349	23.2	22.2	188,870
	(21.8-26.8)	(22.3-27.3)		(35.3-40.7)	(35.7-41.1)		(12.3-16.7)	(12.4-16.8)		(20.8-25.6)	(19.8-24.6)	
	13.5	14.7	45,616	27.9	29.8	94,500	12.8	13.1	43,427	45.8	42.4	154,984
	(10.2-16.8)	(11.2-18.2)		(23.6-32.2)	(25.3-34.3)		(9.9-15.7)	(9.8-16.4)		(41.5-50.1)	(37.9-46.9)	

* Adjusted rates are adjusted for age and sex, except when they are age-specific, in which case they are adjusted only for sex, or when they are sex-specific, in which case they are adjusted only for age.
Note: For further explanation of Tables, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

Table 66: Number of prescription items per year, by age and ethnicity, for males: percent (95% confidence intervals)

Males	Zero items			1-4 items			5-9 items			10+ items		
	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est
	Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*	
Total	38.7 (36.3-41.1)	38.5 (36.1-40.9)	528,681	39.3 (36.9-41.7)	39.2 (36.8-41.6)	537,293	8.1 (6.7-9.5)	8.2 (6.8-9.6)	110,702	13.9 (12.3-15.5)	14.2 (12.6-15.8)	189,273
Age												
15-24 years	43.5 (37.2-49.8)		114,958	44.6 (38.1-51.1)		117,736	6.0 (2.7-9.3)		15,774	5.9 (2.8-9.0)		15,704
25-44 years	46.0 (42.5-49.5)		254,488	39.8 (36.5-43.1)		220,086	6.8 (5.0-8.6)		37,864	7.4 (5.4-9.4)		40,682
45-64 years	32.8 (28.7-36.9)		122,050	39.0 (34.7-43.3)		144,829	9.8 (7.1-12.5)		36,423	18.4 (14.7-22.1)		68,257
65-74 years	21.9 (16.4-27.4)		25,230	32.6 (25.9-39.3)		37,551	10.7 (6.4-15.0)		12,355	34.8 (28.7-40.9)		40,037
75+ years	19.3 (12.0-26.6)		11,957	27.6 (20.2-35.0)		17,090	13.4 (6.7-20.1)		8,286	39.7 (31.9-47.5)		24,593
Ethnicity												
European/Pākehā	36.1 (33.6-38.6)	36.5 (34.0-39.0)	397,210	39.9 (37.2-42.6)	40.2 (37.5-42.9)	439,046	8.5 (6.9-10.1)	8.4 (6.8-10.0)	93,605	15.5 (13.7-17.3)	14.9 (13.1-16.7)	170,156
Māori	41.5 (35.8-47.2)	39.2 (33.7-44.7)	54,318	41.8 (35.9-47.7)	39.4 (33.9-44.9)	54,616	8.5 (5.2-11.8)	10.2 (6.1-14.3)	11,174	8.1 (5.6-10.6)	11.2 (7.7-14.7)	10,625
Pacific	42.6 (34.4-50.8)	40.8 (32.4-49.2)	27,205	41.8 (34.2-49.4)	41.1 (32.9-49.3)	26,687	7.0 (3.5-10.5)	7.8 (3.9-11.7)	4,462	8.5 (4.2-12.8)	10.2 (5.3-15.1)	5,441
Other	70.0 (58.4-81.6)	68.4 (56.1-80.7)	49,948	23.7 (13.1-34.3)	20.6 (11.2-30.0)	16,943	2.0 (0.0-4.4)	4.5 (0.0-11.0)	1,461	4.3 (0.0-9.0)	6.5 (0.0-13.9)	3,051

* Adjusted rates are adjusted for age.

Note: For further explanation of Tables, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

Table 67: Number of prescription items per year, by age and ethnicity, for females: percent (95% confidence intervals)

Females	Zero items			1-4 items			5-9 items			10+ items		
	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est
	Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*	
Total	24.3 (22.5-26.1)	24.4 (22.6-26.2)	350,454	41.2 (39.2-43.2)	41.3 (39.3-43.3)	594,685	13.6 (12.2-15.0)	13.6 (12.2-15.0)	196,564	21.0 (19.2-22.8)	20.7 (18.9-22.5)	302,756
Age												
15-24 years	22.1 (17.4-26.8)		57,582	47.4 (41.5-53.3)		123,456	13.9 (10.0-17.8)		36,128	16.7 (11.8-21.6)		43,452
25-44 years	28.7 (25.8-31.6)		167,525	46.3 (43.4-49.2)		269,954	13.4 (11.2-15.6)		78,372	11.6 (9.8-13.4)		67,672
45-64 years	24.6 (21.3-27.9)		92,360	35.7 (31.8-39.6)		134,071	13.2 (10.5-15.9)		49,693	26.5 (22.8-30.2)		99,810
65-74 years	17.4 (12.9-21.9)		22,121	33.3 (27.4-39.2)		42,189	12.2 (8.9-15.5)		15,531	37.0 (31.5-42.5)		46,963
75+ years	11.1 (7.6-14.6)		10,866	25.8 (19.9-31.7)		25,195	17.2 (11.7-22.7)		16,840	45.9 (39.0-52.8)		44,858
Ethnicity												
European/Pākehā	21.8 (19.8-23.8)	22.1 (20.1-24.1)	253,031	41.4 (39.0-43.8)	42.4 (39.9-44.9)	479,811	14.0 (12.4-15.6)	14.1 (12.5-15.7)	162,368	22.7 (20.7-24.7)	21.5 (19.5-23.5)	263,599
Māori	30.6 (26.9-34.3)	28.3 (24.6-32.0)	44,865	40.8 (36.9-44.7)	38.9 (34.6-43.2)	59,797	12.9 (10.2-15.6)	13.8 (10.7-16.9)	18,926	15.6 (12.5-18.7)	19.0 (15.1-22.9)	22,906
Pacific	29.9 (24.4-35.4)	28.4 (22.1-34.7)	19,713	45.9 (39.4-52.4)	45.6 (38.0-53.2)	30,227	11.0 (7.5-14.5)	10.8 (6.9-14.7)	7,243	13.2 (8.5-17.9)	15.3 (10.0-20.6)	8,677
Other	44.7 (33.7-55.7)	44.3 (32.0-56.6)	32,846	34.1 (24.1-44.1)	27.8 (18.6-37.0)	25,030	10.9 (3.8-18.0)	15.8 (5.6-26.0)	8,026	10.3 (2.3-18.3)	12.1 (3.5-20.7)	7,574

* Adjusted rates are adjusted for age.

Note: For further explanation of Tables, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.





Table 68: Number of prescription items per year, for children: percent (95% confidence intervals)

	Zero items			1-4 items			5-9 items			10+ items		
	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est	% (95% CI)		Pop est
	Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*		Unadj	Adj*	
Total	31.1 (27.2-35.0)		260,589	50.8 (46.3-55.3)		425,615	9.9 (7.5-12.3)		83,119	8.2 (6.2-10.2)		69,114
Sex												
Male	32.6 (27.3-37.9)	32.6 (27.3-37.9)	139,822	49.0 (43.1-54.9)	49.0 (43.1-54.8)	210,153	9.8 (6.9-12.7)	9.8 (6.9-12.7)	41,888	8.6 (5.9-11.3)	8.6 (5.9-11.3)	36,905
Female	29.5 (24.0-35.0)	29.5 (24.0-35.0)	120,768	52.6 (46.3-58.9)	52.6 (46.3-58.9)	215,461	10.1 (6.6-13.6)	10.1 (6.6-13.6)	41,231	7.9 (5.0-10.8)	7.9 (5.0-10.8)	32,209
Age												
0-4 years	21.0 (15.5-26.5)	21.0 (15.5-26.5)	58,328	51.4 (45.3-57.5)	51.4 (44.6-57.5)	142,542	14.2 (9.7-18.7)	14.2 (9.7-18.7)	39,228	13.4 (9.3-17.5)	13.4 (9.3-17.5)	37,080
5-9 years	28.3 (21.8-34.8)	28.3 (21.8-34.8)	84,023	57.0 (49.6-64.4)	57.0 (49.5-64.5)	169,611	8.6 (5.3-11.9)	8.6 (5.3-11.9)	25,431	6.2 (3.7-8.7)	6.2 (3.7-8.7)	18,289
10-14 years	44.8 (37.0-52.6)	44.8 (37.0-52.6)	118,238	43.0 (35.2-50.8)	43.0 (35.2-50.8)	113,461	7.0 (3.3-10.7)	7.0 (3.3-10.7)	18,460	5.2 (2.1-8.3)	5.2 (2.1-8.3)	13,744
Ethnicity												
European/Pākehā	30.8 (26.1-35.5)	30.4 (25.7-35.1)	165,430	51.0 (45.5-56.5)	50.9 (45.6-56.2)	274,072	10.1 (7.4-12.8)	10.2 (7.5-12.9)	54,139	8.2 (5.7-10.7)	8.4 (5.9-10.9)	43,916
Māori	32.1 (24.1-40.1)	33.5 (25.3-41.7)	59,394	45.7 (36.7-54.7)	44.3 (34.9-53.7)	84,492	12.2 (6.3-18.1)	11.6 (6.1-17.1)	22,505	10.1 (5.2-15.0)	10.6 (5.1-16.1)	18,596
Pacific	20.0 (10.0-30.0)	21.5 (10.9-32.1)	12,809	66.2 (54.4-78.0)	65.5 (53.7-77.3)	42,356	5.1 (0.0-11.4)	4.2 (0.0-9.3)	3245	8.7 (2.8-14.6)	8.8 (3.1-14.5)	5548
Other	44.2 (27.5-60.9)	41.1 (25.2-57.0)	22,956	47.5 (31.2-63.8)	49.2 (33.5-64.9)	24,695	6.2 (0.1-12.3)	7.6 (0.2-15.0)	3229	2.0 (0.0-4.5)	2.2 (0.0-5.1)	1054

* Adjusted rates are adjusted for age and sex, except where they are age-specific, in which case they are adjusted only for sex, or when they are sex specific, in which case they are adjusted only for age.
 Note: For further explanation of Tables, see Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables.

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