

Other health conditions

Introduction

What were the survey questions?

The 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey asked the parents of children and adult participants if they had ever been told by a doctor that they had any other long-term condition that had not been discussed already (in the course of the interview).

Participants were reminded that ‘long-term’ means a condition has lasted, or is expected to last, six months or more, and may come and go or be present all the time. Participants were given a show card containing examples, and were asked to specify the name of the condition.

Conditions prompted on the adult show card were: epilepsy, migraine, stomach ulcer, irritable bowel syndrome, gallbladder problems / gallstones, endometriosis, prostate problems, thyroid conditions. Conditions prompted on the child show card were: allergy lasting six months or more, birth conditions (eg, spina bifida, congenital heart defect, and intellectual disability), cancer, rheumatic heart disease, epilepsy, permanent hearing problems, vision problems that cannot be corrected with glasses.

‘Other’ answers given by respondents were checked and recoded before analysis. Conditions that were not considered to be chronic (long-term), such as pneumonia, were removed from the data set.

Disability in adults (including hearing, vision and intellectual disabilities) was not measured in the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey.

Prevalence of other health conditions for children

Table 3.23 presents the proportion of children diagnosed by a doctor with other common health conditions lasting, or expected to last, for more than six months. The definition used here for a common health condition was a doctor-diagnosed condition that affected at least 0.3% of the child population; that is, a condition that affected 3000 children or more aged from birth to 14 years.

Table 3.23: Other common health conditions for children (unadjusted)

Health condition	Prevalence (95% CI)	Number of children
Eczema	14.1 (12.8–15.5)	120600
Allergy (all types)	6.2 (5.3–7.1)	52700
Birth conditions*	3.9 (3.0–4.8)	33600
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	1.2 (0.9–1.6)	10600
Permanent hearing problems	1.2 (0.8–1.6)	10300
Vision problems that cannot be corrected with glasses	0.8 (0.4–1.2)	7000
Epilepsy	0.5 (0.3–0.7)	4100
Autism spectrum disorders (ASD)	0.4 (0.3–0.7)	3700

Source: 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey

* Birth conditions include spina bifida, congenital heart defects, intellectual impairment from birth and Down syndrome.

The following child health conditions were found to have a prevalence of less than 0.3% of the child population, which means that fewer than 3000 children aged under 15 years of age were diagnosed by a doctor with:

- rheumatic heart disease
- cancer
- oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) and conduct disorder.

Prevalence of other health conditions for adults

Table 3.24 presents the proportion of adults diagnosed by a doctor with other common health conditions lasting, or expected to last, for more than six months. The definition used here for a common health condition was a doctor-diagnosed condition that affected at least 0.3% of the adult population; that is, a condition that affected 10,000 adults or more aged 15 years or over.

Table 3.24: Other common health conditions for adults (total unadjusted) and by gender (age standardised)

Health condition	Prevalence in men (95% CI)	Prevalence in women (95% CI)	Total prevalence (95% CI)	Number of adults (total)
Neck or back disorders	23.1 (21.6–24.6)	21.3 (20.3–22.4)	24.2 (23.2–25.2)	755100
Migraine	5.5 (4.7–6.3)	12.9 (11.8–14.0)	9.5 (8.8–10.2)	296100
Eczema / dermatitis	4.1 (3.3–5.0)	9.5 (8.5–10.4)	6.6 (6.0–7.1)	204800
Bowel disorders *	3.2 (2.5–3.9)	5.9 (5.2–6.6)	5.0 (4.5–5.5)	157100
Gallbladder problems / gallstones	1.9 (1.4–2.3)	4.4 (3.9–4.9)	3.8 (3.4–4.2)	118800
Thyroid conditions	1.0 (0.7–1.3)	5.0 (4.3–5.6)	3.6 (3.2–4.0)	113200
Stomach / gastric ulcers	3.2 (2.8–3.9)	2.5 (2.0–2.9)	3.3 (2.9–3.7)	102800
Prostate problems	3.8 (3.2–4.4)	n/a	–	72900
Endometriosis	n/a	3.2 (2.7–3.7)	–	51700
Epilepsy	1.0 (0.7–1.4)	1.1 (0.9–1.4)	1.1 (0.9–1.3)	34800
Alcohol use disorders	1.4 (1.0–1.7)	0.7 (0.5–1.0)	1.0 (0.8–1.2)	32000
Eating disorders	0.3 (0.2–0.5)	1.3 (1.0–1.6)	0.8 (0.7–1.0)	26400
Bladder and kidney disorders **	0.6 (0.4–0.8)	0.6 (0.4–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.9)	22500
Drug use disorders	0.8 (0.5–1.0)	0.5 (0.3–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.8)	19000
Psoriasis	0.4 (0.2–0.7)	0.5 (0.3–0.8)	0.5 (0.3–0.7)	15500
Schizophrenia	0.5 (0.3–0.9)	0.2 (0.1–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.5)	10300

Source: 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey

* Includes irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, coeliac disease, diverticular disease and other bowel problems not further defined.

** Includes nephritis, cystitis, bladder problems not further defined, and kidney problems not further defined.

The following health conditions had a prevalence of less than 0.3% in the adult population; that is, fewer than 10,000 adults aged 15 years or over had been diagnosed with:¹⁵

- Alzheimer's and other dementias
- Parkinson's disease
- other neurological disorders (including multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy)
- hepatitis C
- chronic fatigue syndrome / fibromyalgia
- systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE / Lupus)
- polymyalgia
- Paget's disease
- haemochromatosis / iron overload
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

¹⁵ Please note that the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey excluded the institutionalised population and only asked for conditions that had been diagnosed by a doctor, relying on recall of the participant, and therefore may slightly underestimate the true prevalence of these health conditions.