Taking the Pulse
The 1996/97 New Zealand Health Survey
Foreword

This report presents an overview of the 1996/97 New Zealand Health Survey, the second nationally representative survey of the health status and health service utilisation of New Zealand adults and children. The survey was conducted over a one-year period (October 1996 to October 1997) by Statistics New Zealand and funded by the Ministry of Health and the former Central Regional Health Authority. The analysis reported here was carried out by Ministry of Health staff, in conjunction with the Statistics Research and Consulting Centre, Massey University.

The 1996/97 New Zealand Health Survey provides a detailed picture of how health status and health service utilisation differ across subgroups within the population, defined by a range of demographic, socioeconomic and other variables.

This survey, together with the periodic survey programme of which it is part, is a cornerstone of the Ministry of Health’s population health monitoring function. The information the survey provides on health outcomes constitutes a critical evidential base for the Ministry’s role in providing strategic health policy advice. A rolling or periodic source of information on health outcomes contributes to all phases of the policy cycle: from targeting, through formulation, to evaluation. The information contained in this report, and collected in the survey, will also contribute to other Ministry reports on the state of the nation’s health.

It is intended that this report will be a resource for a wide range of users, including health planners and administrators, health service funders and providers, clinicians, researchers, students, and the general public. It does not include the full extent of the analysis carried out on the health survey, more of which can be found in tables on the Ministry of Health’s website (www.moh.govt.nz), and in other publications referenced in the report. For further information about the survey please contact either the Ministry of Health or Statistics New Zealand. Customised results from the survey are available from Statistics New Zealand’s Information Consultancy Group. Access to unit record data may be requested through Statistics New Zealand’s Data Laboratory.

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# Table of Contents

**Foreword** iii  
**Contributors** iv  
**Acknowledgements** v  
**Executive Summary** 1  
**Overview** 1  
**Key results** 1  
- Health-related risk factors 1  
  - Smoking 1  
  - Physical activity 1  
  - High blood pressure 1  
  - Alcohol use 2  
- Health status 2  
  - Diabetes 2  
  - Asthma 2  
  - Injuries 2  
- The SF-36 Health Status Questionnaire 2  
- Health service utilisation (previous 12 months) 3  
  - General practitioner (GP) use 3  
  - Use of other health professionals 3  
  - Prescription item use 3  
  - Hospital use 3  

**Section 1: Introduction** 5  
**Chapter 1: The Survey** 7  
- Aims of the survey 7  
- Background 7  
- Methodology 8  
  - Sample selection 8  
  - Interviewing 9  
- Survey content 9  
  - Health status 9  
  - Health risk behaviours 10  
  - Health service use 10  
  - Demographic and socioeconomic factors 11  
  - Content development 11  
  - Changes from the previous health survey 12  
- Analysis 12  
  - National level analysis 12  
  - Descriptive/univariate versus multivariate analyses 12  
  - Weighting and age/sex standardisation 13  
  - Sample design, confidence intervals and standard errors 13  
  - Item non-response 14  
  - SF-36 analysis 14  
    - Mean scores 14  
    - Skewed score distributions 14
Stratification of analysis by sex and Māori/non-Māori
Principal component summary scores
Reliability and validity of SF-36
Selected variables: explanatory notes
Age group
Ethnicity
Education
Socioeconomic status
Labour force status
Self-reported health status
Structure of this report
References

Section 2: Health-Related Risk Factors

Chapter 2: Smoking
Key points
Introduction
Results
Smoking status
Smoking status by age and sex
Smoking status by ethnicity
Smoking status by family income, education and NZDep96 score
Smoking status by self-rated health status
Smoking status by health service utilisation
Who is most at risk of the health effects of smoking?
Number of cigarettes smoked
Age at starting to smoke
Duration of smoking
Quitting status of smokers
Non-smokers’ attitude to others’ smoke
References

Chapter 3: Physical Activity
Key points
Introduction
Results
Physical activity
Physical activity by age and sex
Physical activity by ethnicity
Physical activity by income, education and NZDep96 score
Physical activity by self-rated health
Physical activity by health service utilisation
Most popular activities
References

Chapter 4: High Blood Pressure
Key points
### Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Results</strong></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure by age and sex</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure by ethnicity</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure by family income, education and NZDep96 score</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with high blood pressure who smoke</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure by self-rated health status</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure by health service utilisation</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References</strong></td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chapter 5: Alcohol Use**

| Key points | 69 |
| Introduction | 69 |
| Results | 72 |
| Alcohol use | 72 |
| Alcohol use by age and sex | 72 |
| Alcohol use by ethnicity | 75 |
| Alcohol use by family income, education and NZDep96 score | 78 |
| Alcohol use by smoking status | 79 |
| Alcohol use by self-rated health status | 79 |
| Alcohol use by health service utilisation | 79 |
| **References** | 85 |

**Chapter 6: Combined Cardiovascular Risk Factors**

| Key points | 87 |
| Introduction | 87 |
| Results | 89 |
| Combined cardiovascular risk factors | 89 |
| Risk factors by age and sex | 89 |
| Risk factors by ethnicity | 90 |
| Risk factors by family income, education and NZDep96 score | 91 |
| **References** | 96 |

**Section 3: Health Status**

**Chapter 7: Diabetes**

| Key points | 99 |
| Introduction | 99 |
| Results | 100 |
| Prevalence of diabetes | 100 |
| Diabetes by age and sex | 100 |
| Diabetes by ethnicity | 101 |
| Diabetes by family income, education and NZDep96 score | 103 |
| People with diabetes who smoke | 104 |
| Diabetes by self-rated health status | 105 |
| Diabetes by health service utilisation | 105 |
| Age at diagnosis | 105 |

---

**Table of Contents vii**
Chapter 8: Asthma

Key points

Introduction

Results

Prevalence of probable asthma
Asthma by age and sex
Asthma by ethnicity
Asthma by family income, education and NZDep96 score
People with asthma who smoke
Asthma by self-rated health status
Asthma by health service utilisation

References

Chapter 9: Injuries

Key points

Introduction

Results

Injuries and poisonings: adults
Incidence of injuries
Injuries and poisonings, by age and sex
Injuries and poisonings, by ethnicity
Injuries and poisonings, by family income, education and NZDep96 score
Injuries and poisonings, by alcohol use
Causes of injuries
Injuries caused by a sport or game
Injuries caused by falls
Injuries involving transport
Other causes of injuries
Poisonings
Where injuries or poisonings occurred
Source of medical treatment for an injury or poisoning
Injuries and poisonings: children
Injuries and poisonings among children
Types and sources of treatment of injuries among children

References

Chapter 10: SF-36 Health Status Questionnaire: Demographic and Socioeconomic Variables

Key points

Introduction

Results

SF-36 profiles by demographic variables
SF-36 profiles by total population
SF-36 profiles by sex
SF-36 profiles by age and sex
## Chapter 14: Prescription Item Use

### Key points

- Introduction
- Results
- Prescription item use by sociodemographic variables
- Prescription item use by age and sex
- Prescription item use by ethnicity
- Prescription item use by family income, NZDep96 score and education
- Uncollected prescription items

### References

233

## Chapter 15: Hospital Use

### Key points

- Introduction
- Results
- Admissions to hospital
- Other services at public hospitals
- Satisfaction with overall health care

### References

247

## Section 5: Appendices

### Appendix 1: Demographic Characteristics of Sample

### Appendix 2: Notes to Figures and Tables

### Appendix 3: Psychometric Properties of SF-36

### Appendix 4: Survey Forms

### Index

297
List of Figures

Figure 1: Proportion of people who are current smokers, by age and sex 24
Figure 2: Proportion of ever-smokers who are ex-smokers (quit ratios), by age and sex 25
Figure 3: Proportion of people who are current smokers, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 26
Figure 4: Proportion of people who are current smokers, by family income (age- and sex-standardised) 27
Figure 5: Proportion of people who are current smokers, by education (age- and sex-standardised) 28
Figure 6: Proportion of people who are current smokers, by NZDep96 score (age- and sex-standardised) 28
Figure 7: Proportion of smokers smoking more than 20 cigarettes per day, by age and sex 30
Figure 8: Non- and ex-smokers’ attitude to others’ smoke, by sex (age-standardised) 32
Figure 9: Non- and ex-smokers’ attitude to others’ smoke, by age (sex-standardised) 33
Figure 10: Proportion of people who are physically active, by age and sex 44
Figure 11: Proportion of adults who are sedentary, by age and sex 45
Figure 12: Proportion of people participating in vigorous physical activity in the last week, by age and sex 46
Figure 13: Proportion of people who are physically active, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 47
Figure 14: Proportion of people who are sedentary, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 48
Figure 15: Proportion of people who are sedentary, by education (age- and sex-standardised) 49
Figure 16: Proportion of people with high blood pressure, by age and sex 59
Figure 17: Proportion of people with high blood pressure, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 60
Figure 18: Proportion of people with high blood pressure, by family income (age- and sex-standardised) 61
Figure 19: Proportion of people with high blood pressure, by education (age- and sex-standardised) 62
Figure 20: Proportion of people with high blood pressure, by NZDep96 score (age- and sex-standardised) 62
Figure 21: Proportion of people with a potentially hazardous drinking pattern, by age and sex 72
Figure 22: Proportion of people who drink at least four times per week, by age and sex 73
Figure 23: Proportion of people who drink five or more drinks on a typical day when drinking, by age and sex 73
Figure 24: Proportion of people who drink six or more drinks on one occasion at least weekly, by age and sex 74
Figure 25: Proportion of people who reported that they had not consumed alcohol in the previous year, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 75
Figure 26: Proportion of people (including non-drinkers) with a potentially hazardous drinking pattern, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 76
Figure 27: Proportion of people who drink four or more times per week, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 77
Figure 28: Proportion of people who drink four or more times per week, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 77
Figure 29: Proportion of people who drink five or more drinks on a typical day when drinking, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 77
Figure 30: Proportion of people who drink six or more drinks on one occasion at least weekly, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 78
Figure 31: Number of cardiovascular risk factors, by sex (age-standardised) 89
Figure 32: Proportion of people with two or more cardiovascular risk factors, by age and sex 90
Figure 33: Number of cardiovascular risk factors, by ethnicity (age- and sex-standardised) 91
Figure 34: Proportion of people with two or more cardiovascular risk factors, by family income (age- and sex-standardised) 92
Figure 34: Proportion of people with two or more cardiovascular risk factors, by education (age- and sex-standardised) 92
Figure 35: Proportion of people with two or more cardiovascular risk factors, by NZDep96 score (age- and sex-standardised) 93
Figure 36: Proportion of people with diagnosed diabetes, by age (sex-standardised) 101
Figure 37: Proportion of people with diagnosed diabetes, by ethnicity (age- and sex-standardised) 102
Figure 38: Proportion of people with diagnosed diabetes, by family income (age- and sex-standardised) 103
Figure 39: Proportion of people with diagnosed diabetes, by NZDep96 score (age-and sex-standardised) 104
Figure 40: Probable asthma among those aged 15–44 years, by age and sex 113
Figure 41: Probable asthma among those aged 15–44 years, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 115
Figure 42: Number of GP visits in last year among 15–44-year-olds, with and without asthma (age- and sex-standardised) 117
Figure 43: Proportion of adults reporting an injury or poisoning requiring medical treatment in the previous 12 months, by age and sex 123
Figure 44: Injury and poisoning hospitalisation rates, by age and sex, 1997 124
Figure 45: Proportion of adults reporting an injury or poisoning requiring medical treatment in the previous 12 months, by ethnicity and sex (age-standardised) 125
Figure 46: Proportion of adults reporting an injury or poisoning requiring medical treatment in the previous 12 months, by family income (age- and sex-standardised) 126
Figure 47: Proportion of adults reporting an injury or poisoning requiring medical treatment in the previous 12 months, by education (age- and sex-standardised) 126
Figure 48: Proportion of people reporting specific causes of injury, by sex (age-standardised) 127
Figure 49: Proportion of those injured who reported sports or games as a cause, by age and sex 128
Figure 50: Proportion of those injured who reported falls as a cause, by age and sex 129
Figure 51: Proportion of those injured reporting injuries or poisonings occurring at work, by age and sex 130
Figure 52: Proportion of those injured reporting injuries or poisonings occurring at home, by age and sex 131
Figure 53: Source of medical treatment for an injury or poisoning, by sex (age-standardised) 132
Figure 54: Proportion of children reporting an injury or poisoning requiring medical treatment in the previous 12 months, by age 133
Figure 55: SF-36 profiles, by sex (age-standardised) 144
Figure 56: SF-36 profiles, by selected age group, males 145
Figure 57: SF-36 profiles, by selected age group, females 146
Figure 58: SF-36 profiles, by ethnic group (age- and sex-standardised) 148
Figure 59: SF-36 profiles, by education, non-Māori males (age-standardised) 149
Figure 60: SF-36 profiles, by education, non-Māori females (age-standardised) 150
Figure 61: SF-36 profiles, by education, Māori males (age-standardised) 151
Figure 62: SF-36 profiles, by education, Māori females (age-standardised) 152
Figure 63: SF-36 profiles, by family income, non-Māori males (age-standardised) 153
Figure 64: SF-36 profiles, by family income, non-Māori females (age-standardised) 154
Figure 65: SF-36 profiles, by family income, Māori males (age-standardised) 155
Figure 66: SF-36 profiles, by family income, Māori females (age-standardised) 156
Figure 67: SF-36 profiles, by labour force status, non-Māori males (age-standardised) 157
Figure 68: SF-36 profiles, by labour force status, non-Māori females (age-standardised) 158
Figure 69: SF-36 profiles, by labour force status, Māori males (age-standardised) 159
Figure 70: SF-36 profiles, by labour force status, Māori females (age-standardised) 160
Figure 71: SF-36 profiles, by NZDep96 score, non-Māori males (age-standardised) 161
Figure 72: SF-36 profiles, by NZDep96 score, non-Māori females (age-standardised) 162
Figure 73: SF-36 profiles, by NZDep96 score, Māori males (age-standardised) 163
Figure 74: SF-36 profiles, by NZDep96 score, Māori females (age-standardised) 164
Figure 75: SF-36 profiles, by smoking status, non-Māori males (age-standardised) 168
Figure 76: SF-36 profiles, by smoking status, non-Māori females (age-standardised) 169
Figure 77: SF-36 profiles, by smoking status, Māori males (age-standardised) 170
Figure 78: SF-36 profiles, by smoking status, Māori females (age-standardised) 171
Figure 79: SF-36 profiles, by duration of physical activity, non-Māori males (age-standardised) 172
Figure 80: SF-36 profiles, by duration of physical activity, non-Māori females (age-standardised) 173
Figure 81: SF-36 profiles, by duration of physical activity, Māori males (age-standardised) 174
Figure 82: SF-36 profiles, by duration of physical activity, Māori females (age-standardised) 175
Figure 83: SF-36 profiles, by AUDIT score, non-Māori males (age-standardised) 176
Figure 84: SF-36 profiles, by AUDIT score, non-Māori females (age-standardised) 177
Figure 85: SF-36 profiles, by AUDIT score, Māori males (age-standardised) 178
Figure 86: SF-36 profiles, by AUDIT score, Māori females (age-standardised) 179
Figure 87: SF-36 profiles, by high blood pressure status, non-Māori males (age-standardised) 181
Figure 88: SF-36 profiles, by high blood pressure status, non-Māori females (age-standardised) 182
Figure 89: SF-36 profiles, by high blood pressure status, Māori males (age-standardised) 183
Figure 90: SF-36 profiles, by high blood pressure status, Māori females (age-standardised) 184
Figure 91: SF-36 profiles, by diabetes status, non-Māori males (age-standardised) 185
Figure 92: SF-36 profiles, by diabetes status, non-Māori females (age-standardised) 186
Figure 93: SF-36 profiles, by diabetes status, Māori males (age-standardised) 187
Figure 94: SF-36 profiles, by diabetes status, Māori females (age-standardised) 188
Figure 95: SF-36 profiles, by GP use, non-Māori 189
Figure 96: SF-36 profiles, by GP use, Māori 190
Figure 97: SF-36 profiles, by hospital admission, non-Māori 191
Figure 98: SF-36 profiles, by hospital admission, Māori 192
Figure 99: Proportion of adults who visited a GP at least once in the last 12 months, by age and sex 199
Figure 100: Proportion of adults who visited a GP six times or more in the last 12 months, by age and sex 200
Figure 101: Proportion of children who visited a GP in the last 12 months, by age and sex 201
Figure 102: Proportion of adults who visited a GP 1–5 times and 6 or more times in the last 12 months, by ethnicity (age- and sex-standardised) 202
Figure 103: Proportion of adults who visited a GP six times or more in the last 12 months, by NZDep96 score (age-standardised) 203
Figure 104: Reasons for adults’ most recent GP visit in the last 12 months, by sex (age-standardised) 204
Figure 105: Reasons why children last saw a GP (age- and sex-standardised) 205
Figure 106: Main reasons given for unmet need for GP services 207
Figure 107: Health professionals used by adults in the past 12 months, by sex 217
Figure 108: Proportion of children and adults who visited a dentist or dental nurse in the last 12 months, by age 218
Figure 109: Proportion of adults who had any prescription items in the past 12 months, by age and sex 222
Figure 110: Proportion of adults who had 10 or more prescription items in the last 12 months, by age and sex 223
Figure 111: Proportion of children who had any prescription items in the last 12 months, by age and sex 224
Figure 112: Number of prescription items obtained by adults in the last 12 months, by ethnicity (age- and sex-standardised) 225
Figure 113: Proportion of adults who obtained 10 or more prescription items in the last 12 months, by NZDep96 score (age- and sex-standardised) 226
Figure 114: Reasons adults gave for not collecting a prescription item in the past 12 months 227
Figure 115: Proportion of adults admitted to any kind of hospital (public or private) in the last 12 months, by age and sex 237
Figure 116: Proportion of children admitted to any kind of hospital (public or private) in the last 12 months, by age and sex 238
Figure 117: Adults’ use of inpatient or day-patient public hospital services and any form of private hospital services in the past 12 months, by family income (age- and sex-standardised) 240
Figure 118: Proportion of adults who used a public hospital outpatient department in the last 12 months, by age and sex 241
Figure 119: Proportion of adults who used a public hospital accident and emergency department in the past 12 months, by age and sex 243
Figure 120: Frequency distributions of SF-36 scale scores 258
List of Tables

Table 1: Questions on smoking from the 1992/93 Household Health Survey, the 1996 Census and the 1996/97 New Zealand Health Survey 23
Table 2: Proportion of current smokers by age, sex and ethnicity: percent (95% confidence intervals) 26
Table 3: Self-rated health status, by smoking status: percent (95% confidence intervals) 29
Table 4: Smoking status, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 34
Table 5: Smoking status, by age and ethnicity for males: percent (95% confidence intervals) 35
Table 6: Smoking status, by age and ethnicity for females: percent (95% confidence intervals) 35
Table 7: Reported number of cigarettes smoked among smokers, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 36
Table 8: 'Quitting status' of smokers, by age, sex and ethnicity: percent (95% confidence intervals) 37
Table 9: Categories of levels of physical activity used in the 1996/97 New Zealand Health Survey 43
Table 10: Self-rated health status, by level of physical activity: percent (95% confidence intervals) 49
Table 11: Reported levels of physical activity, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 51
Table 12: Reported levels of physical activity, by age and ethnicity, for males: percent (95% confidence intervals) 53
Table 13: Reported levels of physical activity, by age and ethnicity, for females: percent (95% confidence intervals) 54
Table 14: Participation in vigorous activity in the last week, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 55
Table 15: Questions on high blood pressure asked in the 1992/93 Household Health Survey and the 1996/97 New Zealand Health Survey 58
Table 16: Proportion of people who are current smokers, by high blood pressure and age: percent (95% confidence intervals) 63
Table 17: Self-rated health status, by high blood pressure: percent (95% confidence intervals) 64
Table 18: High blood pressure, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 65
Table 19: High blood pressure, by age and ethnicity, for males: percent (95% confidence intervals) 66
Table 20: High blood pressure, by age and ethnicity, for females: percent (95% confidence intervals) 66
Table 21: The AUDIT questionnaire 71
Table 22: Self-rated health status, by AUDIT scores: percent (95% confidence intervals) 79
Table 23: AUDIT scores, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 80
Table 24: AUDIT scores for males, by age and ethnicity: percent (95% confidence intervals) 81
Table 25: AUDIT scores for females, by age and ethnicity: percent (95% confidence intervals) 81
Table 26: Frequency of alcohol consumption among male drinkers: percent (95% confidence intervals) 82
Table 27: Frequency of alcohol consumption among female drinkers: percent (95% confidence intervals) 82
Table 28: Number of drinks on a typical day when drinking, for males: percent (95% confidence intervals) 83
Table 29: Number of drinks on a typical day when drinking, for females: percent (95% confidence intervals) 83
Table 30: Frequency of having six or more drinks in one occasion, for males: percent (95% confidence intervals) 84
Table 31: Frequency of having six or more drinks in one occasion, for females: percent (95% confidence intervals) 84
Table 32: Definitions and prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors from the 1996/97 Health Survey 88
Table 33: Number of cardiovascular risk factors, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 94
Table 62: Main reasons given for unmet need relating to GPs, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 212
Table 63: Number of visits to a GP in last 12 months, for children: percent (95% confidence intervals) 213
Table 64: Reasons given for visiting GP in last 12 months, for children: percent (95% confidence intervals) 213
Table 65: Number of prescription items per year, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 228
Table 66: Number of prescription items per year, by age and ethnicity, for males: percent (95% confidence intervals) 230
Table 67: Number of prescription items per year, by age and ethnicity, for females: percent (95% confidence intervals) 231
Table 68: Number of prescription items per year, for children: percent (95% confidence intervals) 232
Table 69: Admissions to any hospital in the last 12 months, by sociodemographic variables: percent (95% confidence intervals) 245
Table 70: Admissions to any hospital in the last 12 months, by age and ethnicity, for males: percent (95% confidence intervals) 246
Table 71: Admissions to any hospital in the last 12 months, by age and ethnicity, for females: percent (95% confidence intervals) 246
Table 72: Admissions to any hospital in the last 12 months, for children: percent (95% confidence intervals) 247
Table 73: 1996/97 New Zealand Health Survey: demographic characteristics of total sample 251
Table 74: Socioeconomic characteristics of Māori sample 252
Table 75: 1996/97 Health Survey, percent complete items in each SF-36 scale, by sociodemographic variables 257
Table 76: Results of item scaling tests and reliability estimates for SF-36 257
Table 77: Descriptive statistics and features of score distributions for SF-36 257