

# **Taking the Pulse**

The 1996/97 New Zealand  
Health Survey

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MANATŪ HAUORA

# 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](http://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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. O. Poutasi', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Karen O Poutasi (Dr)  
Director-General of Health  
April 1999

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Grant Johnston, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Health: co-author of Chapter 1.

Ian Hodges PhD, consultant health researcher: author of chapters 12–15.

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