

## Data sources

Data in this report is based on two of the Ministry of Health's National Collections:

### 1. The Pharmaceutical Collection:

- Includes all dispensing of subsidised medicines in the community.
- Is a record of prescriptions that have been dispensed (i.e. it is not a record of a prescription being written).
- Includes only subsidised medicines (therefore does not record non-subsidised medicines, over-the-counter medicines and hospital medicines).

### 2. The Primary Health Organisation Enrolment Collection:

- Contains information on patients enrolled with general practitioners
- Holds patient enrolment data for over four and a half million patients registered to 992 New Zealand general practices.
- Registered patients accounted for 99% of pharmaceutical dispensings recorded in the National Collections.

## Inclusions

This dashboard contains data for all prescriptions you wrote for any patient in New Zealand that were dispensed a subsidised medicine. Where the numbers differ from an audit of prescribing data stored in your Practice Management System (PMS), this could be a result of prescriptions written when working as a locum in another practice, in an after-hours clinic or for casual patients who are not enrolled at your practice.

## Exclusions

Data is excluded where:

- Data has been excluded for patients who are not registered to a practice in the PHO Enrolment Collection. Registered patients accounted for 99% of pharmaceutical dispensings recorded in the National Collections.
- A National Health Index (NHI) number was not recorded for the patient.
- Individual data points are clearly inaccurate, i.e. patients aged over 120 years, or null values for ethnicity. These patients will still be recorded in other parts of the report.

## Data errors

He Ako Hiringa endeavours to provide reports that contain accurate and useful data. As noted, data are provided by the Ministry of Health and may include errors introduced at the pharmacy, sector services or Ministry of Health level. There may also be some errors relating to rounding. If you have concerns about data in your report, please contact [noni@akohiringa.co.nz](mailto:noni@akohiringa.co.nz)

## Filter categories

The data can be displayed in several ways including by age group, gender, socioeconomic deprivation quintile, and ethnicity (Māori, Pacific, Asian or European/Other).

**Ethnicity:** data are displayed by ethnicity using the Ministry of Health's prioritised ethnic group system. Each person is allocated to a single ethnic group, based on the ethnicities they have identified with, in the prioritised order of Māori, Pacific, Asian and European/Other<sup>1</sup>. For example, if someone identifies as being Chinese and Māori, under the prioritised ethnic group method, they are classified as Māori for the purpose of analysis.

**Gender:** data are displayed as male or female. There are possible exceptions where people have chosen to not identify a gender. As this is difficult to distinguish from genuine data errors, we have excluded these data points in this report.

**Age:** data are categorised into age bands. We have chosen these for this report beginning at 25 years old to exclude young people with type 1 diabetes. Where people have crossed into a different age band during the last 12 months, we have included them in the age band where medicine was most recently prescribed.

**Socioeconomic deprivation:** data are categorised into socioeconomic deprivation quintiles. Each deprivation quintile contains two New Zealand Index of Deprivation (NZDep13) deciles<sup>2</sup>. NZDep13 measures the level of deprivation of a meshblock (the smallest geographical area defined by Statistics New Zealand, with a population of 60 to 110 people, using nine socioeconomic census variables. Each NZDep13 decile contains about 10% of meshblocks in New Zealand, ordered per NZDep13. Decile 1 represents the 10% of meshblocks with the least deprived scores. Decile 10 represents the 10% of meshblocks with the most

**References:** 1. Ministry of Health. 2004b. Ethnicity Data Protocols for the Health and Disability Sector. Wellington: Ministry of Health

2. Atkinson J, Salmond, C., & Crampton, P. (2014) NZDep2013 index of deprivation. Wellington: Department of Public Health, University of Otago