Measuring disparities in immunisation coverage among children in New Zealand

Authors: Mueller S et al

Summary: This investigation into immunisation coverage levels in New Zealand used data from the National Immunisation Register of children aged 12 months old in 2007–2009. It reports substantial variations in uptake by ethnicity and District Health Board (DHB) level. After adjusting for socio-economic deprivation, Māori and ‘Other’ ethnicity were substantial risk factors for low immunisation uptake. The paper also reports a general north–south gradient across New Zealand.

Comment: The presentation of the north–south gradient for childhood immunisations is compelling in itself. As the authors suggest, DHBs with higher rates of Māori, Pacific, and ‘Other’ ethnicities, particularly when combined with higher population numbers in areas of socioeconomic deprivation, are likely to need greater resourcing and attention to services in order to reduce disparities.


Mātātuhi Tuawhenua: Health of Rural Māori 2012

Mātātuhi Tuawhenua: Health of Rural Māori 2012 was released on 28 August 2012. Published by the Ministry of Health, the report gives a snapshot of the health of Māori and non-Māori living in rural and urban areas. The report provides a descriptive analysis of data from routinely collected data sources and the statistical information has been made accessible in an easy-to-use format.

Download or order a copy of the publication online at http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/matatuhi-tuawhenua-health-rural-maori-2012

For more information, please go to http://www.maorihealth.govt.nz

Independent commentary by Dr Matire Harwood

Dr Matire Harwood (Ngapuhi) has worked in Hauora Māori, primary health and rehabilitation settings as clinician and researcher since graduating from Auckland Medical School in 1994. She also holds positions on a number of boards, committees and advisory groups including the Health Research Council. Matire lives in Auckland with her whānau including partner Haunui and two young children Te Rangiura and Waimarie.

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