

# Utilisation of Primary Health Services by Youth

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## Outcome

Youth are healthy, safe and supported.

## Measure

Percentage of youth enrolled in and utilising primary health care services

## Type

Contributory measure

## Relationship(s) to other frameworks

This measure assimilates to two indicators included in the Outcomes for the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project that has been developed by Superu - specifically:

- Youth visit primary health services (including GPs, YOSS, school-based health services)
- Youth visit a practice nurse (for mental health issues)

Information on the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project can be found at: <http://www.superu.govt.nz/ymh>

Delivery of this measure also supports the overarching outcomes for the health and disability system of 'New Zealanders living longer, healthier and more independent lives', and 'The health system is cost effective and supports a productive economy' and the overarching goal that 'All New Zealanders live well, stay well, get well'.

## Rationale

Equity of access to health care for all people is an important objective.

Youth have their own specific health needs as they move from childhood to adulthood. They are at higher risk of a mental health disorder, contracting a sexually transmitted disease or indulging in substance abuse.

Evidence shows that youth are not in the habit of seeking the services or advice of a registered health practitioner when unwell. Generally they cope with illness with advice from friends and whanau (family) as they see fit. Attending a health clinic is often viewed as a last resort instead of a reasonable first choice.

This measure focuses on youth accessing primary health care services. Early interventions which target younger populations may potentially be an effective strategy for improving adult health and reducing future healthcare costs.

## Eligible population

Young people aged 15 to 24 years

## Measure status

In development

## Measure definition

### Numerator

Number of youth enrolled in a DHB who have had a consultation in the last 12 months

### Denominator

Number of youth enrolled in a DHB

## National target

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## Local target

Milestones to be decided by Alliance

## Data Sources

- Child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) data
- PHO enrolment registers
- PHO service utilisation reports
- NZ health survey

## Data extracted from data sources

This measure and the data required to monitor it will be dependent on multiple agencies working together and sharing information.

## Data availability

Data will be released by the Ministry of Health on a quarterly basis.

## Measure calculation process

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## Relationship(s) to other measures

This measure supports the five SLM's that have been developed for youth health.

## Measure development notes

**Measure testing/piloting:** This measure has been assigned a status of *In Development* for a period of 12 months during which time, the sector will 'test/use' the measure as it is currently defined and provide feedback to the SLM Team. Modifications to the measure definition may be made, prior to its status being updated to *Active* from 1 July 2018.

**Implementation timeline:** Measure is scheduled to move from a status of 'in development' to 'active' on 1 July 2018.

**Reporting frequency:** The Ministry will be responsible for gathering data and releasing information to Alliances on a quarterly basis.

**Measure implementation group:** Service Analysis and Modelling team, Ministry of Health