

# SLM Youth access to and utilisation of youth appropriate health services

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HQMNZ ID: HQM16.6.29.922

## Outcome

Youth are healthy, safe and supported.

## Measure

Youth access to and utilisation of youth appropriate health services

## Type

System Level Measure

## Relationship(s) to other frameworks

This measure has strong correlations with a number of DHB performance measures that are included in the DHB non-financial monitoring framework and performance measures which is available at: <https://nsfl.health.govt.nz/accountability/performance-and-monitoring/performance-measures/final-draft-performance-measures>.

This measure also supports the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project which promotes the mental health and wellbeing of young people with or at risk of developing mild to moderate mental health issues. Strategic evaluations of this Project can be found at: <http://www.superu.govt.nz/ymh>.

## Rationale

Youth have their own specific health needs as they transition from childhood to adulthood. Most youth in New Zealand successfully transition to adulthood but some do not, mainly due to a complex interplay of individual, family and community stressors and circumstances, or 'risk factors'. 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 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 and preventive health care services. Research shows that youth whose healthcare needs are unmet can lead to increased risk for poor health as adults and overall poor life outcomes through disengagement and isolation from society and riskier behaviours in terms of drug and alcohol abuse and criminal activities.

Early interventions which target younger populations may potentially be an effective strategy for improving adult health and reducing future healthcare costs.

## Eligible population

Youth aged 10 to 24 years

## Measure status

In development

## Measure definition

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### National target

N/A

### Local target

District alliances must select a minimum of one 'Domain' and use the 'National Indicator' associated to that Domain to set an improvement milestone, and select quality improvement activities and contributory measures appropriate to this domain.

The Domain selected should be the domain in greatest need of improvement locally.

District alliances must work with relevant health and wider sector partners to implement this SLM. Besides DHBs and PHOs, partners should include the local Youth Service Level Alliance Teams (or equivalent) and other service providers which provide youth health services in the district.

## Data Sources

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### Data extracted from data sources

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### Data availability

Data is released by the Ministry of Health quarterly and is available on the [Nationwide Service Framework Library website](#)

## Measure calculation process

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### Relationship(s) to other measures

The measures chosen as national indicators for this SLM are all currently collected and reported under different frameworks and programmes.

## Measure development notes

This measure has been developed in consultation with children and young people aged 10 – 24 years. It consists of five 'Domains' to reflect the complexity and breadth of issues impacting youth health and wellbeing. The Domains are:

The Ministry is aware that there are currently quality and integrity issues with the data associated with the national indicators for this SLM hence why the SLM is developmental for 2017/18. Placing a spot light on particular data sets has resulted in data quality improvement in the past. This is anticipated to occur for these data sets as well. Alliances are encouraged to work with the relevant health providers in their district to identify pragmatic approaches which will improve the robustness and accuracy of their data collection processes.