



This Issue in the Journal

Maternal and demographic factors associated with non-immunisation of Pacific infants living in New Zealand

J Paterson, T Percival, S Butler, M Williams

The Pacific Islands Families study found that 27% of mothers (n=1376) had not had their infant immunised at approximately 6 weeks of age. The factors that were associated with non-immunisation of Pacific infants were ethnic group, maternal birthplace, parity, difficulty with transport, and age of the baby at the time of the interview. These findings demonstrate the need for education about the importance of the primary immunisation series and the current schedules.

Decades of disparity: widening ethnic mortality gaps from 1980 to 1999

T Blakely, S Ajwani, B Robson, M Tobias, M Bonné

Maori and Pacific deaths have been undercounted in the mid-1980s and first half of 1990s. Correcting for this undercount, the gaps between Maori and non-Maori non-Pacific mortality widened over the 1980s and 1990s due to steadily declining non-Maori non-Pacific mortality rates and stagnant Maori mortality rates. Likewise, the gaps between Pacific and non-Maori non-Pacific mortality widened. It seems likely that the structural reforms, and the varying impact of these reforms on ethnic groups, was at least partially responsible for the widening gap.

Population need and geographical access to general practitioners in rural New Zealand

L Brabyn, R Barnett

Population based travel times to general practitioners were calculated, and this information showed how access to GPs varies across New Zealand. Travel times based on the use of private vehicles were also calculated by different population groups classified by ethnicity, age, and deprivation. The research shows that many rural regions in New Zealand have high travel times to GPs and that, in some regions, a high percentage of the population with poor access are Maori and poor. This analysis uses computer-based geographical information systems (GIS).

Maori responsiveness in health and medical research: key issues for researchers (part 1)

A Sporle, J Koea

Applications for contestable government research funding require researchers to outline how the intended research proposal contributes to Maori health. This has created difficulties for both researchers and Maori. This paper outlines nine key issues for researchers (to address in the formulation of research proposals) in the hope that this will be of assistance to both researchers and Maori.

Maori responsiveness in health and medical research: clarifying the roles of the researcher and the institution (part 2)

A Sporle, J Koea

Applications for contestable government research funding require researchers to outline how the intended research proposal contributes to Maori health. This has created difficulties for both researchers and Maori. This paper outlines the historical development of the focus on Maori research responsiveness and the legislation underpinning it. It is also argued that research institutions, rather than researchers, need to take a lead role in consulting on research issues with Maori organisations.

Clinical practice guidelines' development and use in New Zealand: an evolving process

E McKinlay, D McLeod, A Dowell, C Marshall

Internationally, there is considerable writing about the development of evidence-based guidelines and use by clinicians. This study describes the history of guideline development in New Zealand (NZ)—and explores NZ general practitioners' attitudes towards, and use of, guidelines. Implementation of recommendations (made as a result of this study) are reported on, and further questions about the NZ guideline movement are raised.