

Māori in the health workforce

Ideally, the ethnic distribution of each health workforce in New Zealand would match the ethnic population distribution (15 percent Māori, 85 percent non-Māori).

We analysed workforces operating under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003) and counted the active health professionals in each.

Data was sourced from surveys by the relevant regulatory authorities between 2004 and 2016.

Active health professionals must hold a current annual practising certificate or annual licence and have reported that they are working in their profession, in New Zealand, in their respective workforce survey.

No profession reflected the expected ethnic population distribution, and this has not changed over time.

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In general, despite the **number of Māori** in each workforce **increasing**, the **percentage of Māori** in each workforce did not change much over time. **Midwifery** and **podiatry** workforces were the **exception**.



The **percentage of Māori** in the **midwifery** workforce increased over time to just over **9 percent** in **2016**.



The **percentage of Māori** in the **podiatry** workforce **increased** over time to nearly **7 percent** in **2010**.



On average, **7 percent** of the **nursing** workforce identified as **Māori**.



On average, about **4 percent** of the following workforces identified as **Māori: physiotherapy, oral health, psychology** and **medical laboratory technician**.



On average, about **3 percent** of the following workforces identified as **Māori: medical radiology, dietitian, medical employed FTE¹** and **chiropractor**.



On average, about **2 percent** of the following workforces identified as **Māori: medical laboratory scientist, pharmacy, optometry** and **osteopath**.



On average, about **1 percent** of the **dispensing opticians** workforce identified as **Māori**.

¹ Medical employed FTE includes senior medical officers, medical officers, general practitioners, registrars, house officers and probationers and interns.