National Immunisation Coverage for New Zealand, up to May 2021

This is a series of graphs summarising trends in immunisation coverage based on data provided by the Ministry of Health (QLIK)

Summary

The figures below show what proportion of New Zealand children, reported as a percent, are fully immunised at 6, 8, 12, 18 and 54 months, and 5 years. There are also separate figures showing proportion of children immunised for different ethnicities and different levels of area deprivation. In addition, figures 2, 4, 6, 11, 13, and 20 show the percentage change between, for example, April 2020 and April 2021. Doing this kind of comparison removes likely seasonal changes that comparing quarters/months with those directly preceding can suffer from.

Childhood immunisation coverage continues to decline (Figure 1). However, figure 2 indicates that we are making gains compared to the same time last year, with increases in the percent fully vaccinated at milestone ages 6 and 54 months. While coverage in the younger cohort may appear to be suggestive of an improvement, there’s still a need to make sure older children are receiving timely scheduled vaccines, i.e. at 24 months of age particularly to avoid another measles susceptible cohort for when the borders open and at 5 years of age before they go off to school. Disparity by ethnicity and deprivation is still an overriding concern. Māori coverage at 6 months of age is still low and Māori coverage at 18 and 24 months has fallen the steepest (figures 8 and 9). However, at 54 months of age, compared to the same time last year, Māori coverage has seen the greatest percent increase (figure 11).

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