



# **Population futures in an uncertain world**

## The changing faces of Aotearoa New Zealand

# **Critical Issues for Population in Aotearoa**

## **Ethnic inequities in population health**

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# Māori Inequities in Population Health

- In any dimension measured, the health system has failed to achieve equity for Māori.
- Despite being embedded in legislation, policy and service planning, equity is often a tick box or aspirational objective and is not well linked to concrete actions, levers or consequences.
- Whole system responsibility

# Key challenges

- **Poor quality ethnicity data collection (despite protocols for ~20yrs)**
  - 1:5 Maori (21%) were not identified as Māori on the NHI when compared to self-identified ethnicity recorded on the Census (Harris et al. 2022, Cleary 2021).
  - The quality of ethnicity data is consistently worse for Māori males than Māori females, and is particularly poor for those ages 20-24 years, where NHI misses 30%, or almost one in three Māori (Harris et al. 2022).
- **Poor quality ethnicity data analysis**
  - Promotion of Total Response ethnicity leading to overlapping comparator groups.
    - 54% of the total Māori population also identify with another ethnic group in addition to Māori (StatsNZ 2018).
  - Promotion of problematic denominators (e.g. HSU)
    - miss any Māori who have not accessed health services the last 3 years (selection bias), cannot be used for time-series analyses, relies on NHI ethnicity (misclassification bias)
- **Threats to time-series analyses**
  - Stats NZ review of standard/ethnicity question

# Principles

- Māori have the right to be counted (and therefore valued).
- Māori have the right to monitor the Crown.
- Māori have Indigenous rights as tangata whenua to be a priority within ethnicity data analyses.
- Māori rights to mana motuhake (self-determination) require Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles to be upheld.
- The Crown requires high quality ethnicity data and analyses for Māori to uphold its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Values and positioning affect ethnicity data collection and analysis and should be framed to support equity and Māori Indigenous rights.