

Atlas of Healthcare Variation

Consumer summary | Asthma

Asthma in people aged 0 to 49 years

The Atlas of Healthcare Variation is a website that uses maps, graphs, tables and words to show differences in health care in New Zealand by district health board (DHB). The Atlas is used to start conversations about health care differences, and the reasons why differences may be happening.

The asthma Atlas shows how many people in each DHB were admitted to hospital as a result of their asthma in a year. The use of medication to manage asthma is also presented.

In order to reduce the contribution from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), only data for adults aged less 50 years are included.

What the Atlas data shows

- Young children are much more likely to be admitted to hospital for asthma than older children (5–14 years) and adults. Admissions for Pacific people and Māori are proportionally higher than those identifying as European or Other
- 85 percent people admitted with asthma did not receive a funded influenza vaccine in the year after admission. People with asthma are recommended to have an annual flu vaccine.
- Over a third of people admitted with asthma were not regularly dispensed asthma preventer inhalers (brown, inhaled corticosteroid) in the year after their admission. This suggests that some people with asthma that is severe enough to warrant hospital admission may benefit from using more preventer inhalers to manage their asthma.
- In the community, 21 percent of those regularly dispensed reliever inhalers (blue, SABA) were not dispensed any preventer medication in the year and 32 percent regularly dispensed relievers were not regularly dispensed a preventer. For more information on asthma medications and whether you need to review your asthma medications visit: <https://www.asthmafoundation.org.nz/your-health/living-with-asthma/managing-your-asthma>

More information

Health Navigator has information about asthma including asthma in children, causes, diagnosis, treatment and other resources:

<http://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/health-a-z/a/asthma/>

The Asthma and Respiratory Foundation of New Zealand website also contains a lot of information and resources:

<https://www.asthmafoundation.org.nz/your-health/living-with-asthma>