

The Evidence and Indicators Dashboard

The Evidence and Indicator Dashboard forms part of the regular Action Plan programme of advice, focused on the extent to which children’s agencies are achieving outcomes for the Action Plan cohort. A prototype of the Dashboard was approved by ministers in November 2023. The Dashboard will be used to support evidence based discussions at meetings of the Social Wellbeing Board and Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group. A particular focus of the Dashboard indicators is to give visibility to tamariki and rangatahi Māori, Pacific children and young people, and children and young people living with a disability in order to prioritise wellbeing outcomes for groups with the greatest needs.

The Dashboard sits alongside insights provided by this six monthly implementation report. Each of report backs will include the latest version of the Dashboard.

Critical Indicators provide ‘at a glance’ progress on the Action Plan outcomes

Following this reporting cycle will ensure Ministers are kept updated with the current critical indicators in the Dashboard. Evidence driven, and informed by the needs assessments, by end of 2023, we should have a comprehensive set of critical indicators, including targets where practicable, for housing, health and education needs.

The critical indicators provide a measure of the current experiences of the Action Plan cohorts. They are intended to support system level decision making, showing overtime, whether improvements have been made in targeted areas.

Improvements to the existing measures are underway

In the Prototype Dashboard, we signalled that some of the current Housing (Transitions) indicators needed further development. Work has progressed on both improved Supported Accommodation data, as well as for the number of Transition huia whānau or Family Group Conferences being held. Both will be included in the next version of the Dashboard, updated to December 2022.

Work with the Ministry of Social Development on accessing the data for the Emergency Housing measure is underway. The agreed measure is the number of young people eligible for Transition Support Services who are accessing Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants. Further work is needed to enable data sharing between Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Social Development.

Where possible more detailed information is being provided for the Indicators

The updated Dashboard has the Transition referral rates split by ethnicity and by region. These splits are not possible to include for all the Housing Transition indicators, primarily due to the numbers of some sub populations being too small to publish (e.g., for the Entitlement to Return or Remain).

There are also cases where more detail should be possible but currently is not (e.g., we should clearly know which children and young people in the Action Plan cohort have a disability). The Dashboard will be used to show where, in instances like this, there are information gaps, to call children’s agencies to action where the evidence base needs to be improved.

The Dashboard also provides a broader, profile view of each of the Action Plan groups

Data and supporting information across the Action Plan cohort group is broken down to provide profiles of each sub group identified in the Act. This information changes less frequently but forms part of the Dashboard for context. The latest version of the Dashboard has expanded profiles to include the remaining three cohort groups: Receiving Support, Early Risk Factors and Care Experienced groups.

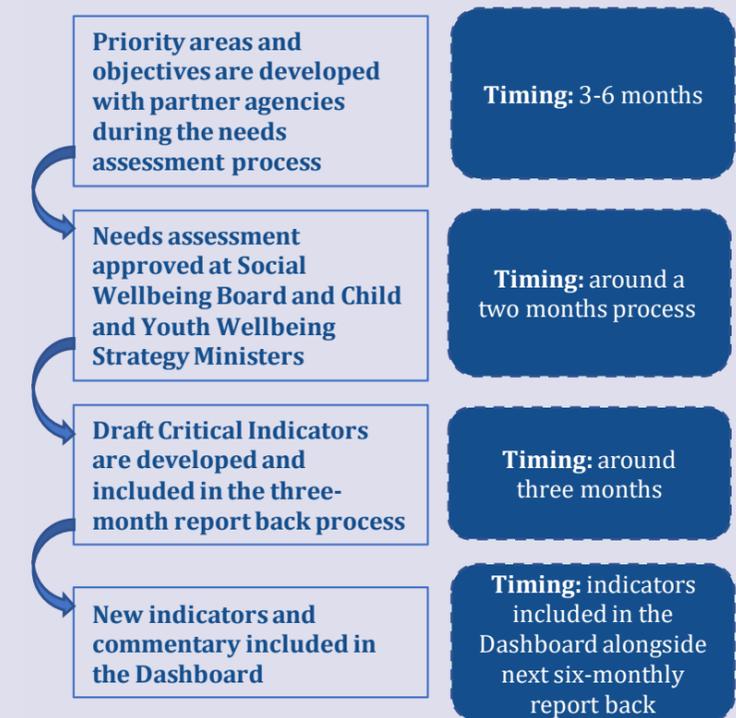
Underpinning the Dashboard is a continuous improvement approach building on the work of the needs assessments

The development of the Dashboard is an iterative process. New proposed indicators, based on evidence from the latest needs assessments will be developed as part of the three month

reporting for Education (In Care) and Mental Health needs cohort groups. Descriptions of potential measures are included in the Dashboard.

We need to investigate ways to enable other agencies to identify our children to support reporting. For instance, discussions around data sharing are underway with the Ministry of Education.

Ongoing development of the Dashboard and additional indicators is informed by the needs assessments. The following diagram provides a high level view of this process to give increased visibility of how both critical indicators are developed and agreed, and to show interdependency with the reporting cycle.



Critical Indicators

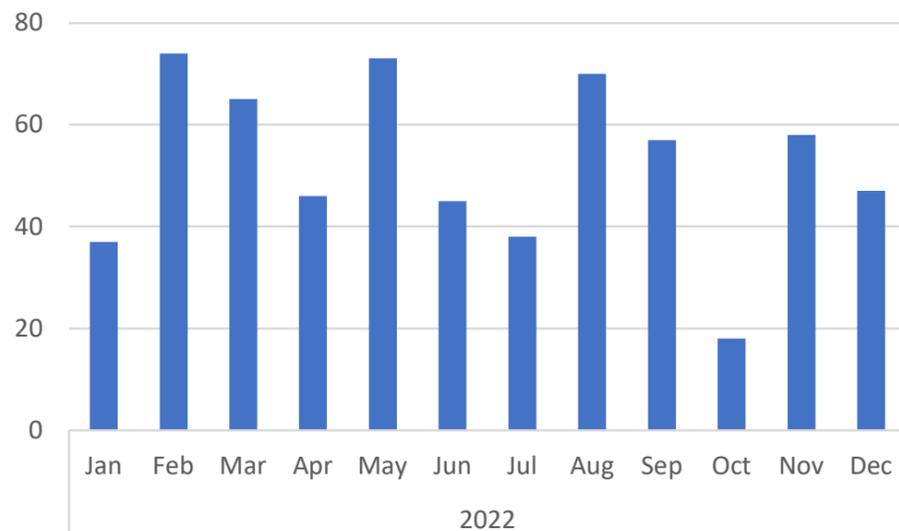
Transitions Housing Services

Transitions

As at 31 December 2022 there are around 3,000 Transitions Support eligible young people (aged 15 to 20) who sit across several of the cohorts. Primarily they are in the currently In Care, Youth Justice Contact and Past Care groups, with some in the Receiving Assistance group. Note this figure does not include young people aged 21 to 24 who are no longer eligible for a transitions worker but can still receive advice and assistance.

Referrals to a Transitions Worker

Monthly count of referrals

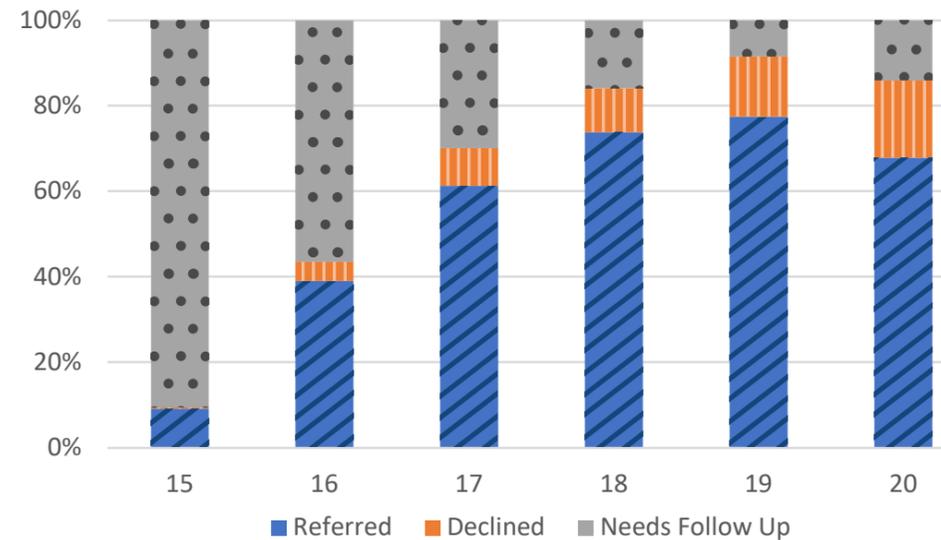


As this is an 'opt-in' service there is no target for referrals to a transition worker. This number will fluctuate based on the number of young people eligible for referral, their choice to be referred and planning required to support these referrals.

Referrals have been included as transition workers act as mentors to young people, aiding in all aspects of their transition to adulthood, including housing. This could include help applying for rental properties, applying for the accommodation supplement or public housing and providing financial assistance (for example, to buy furniture).

Percent Referred to a Transition Worker

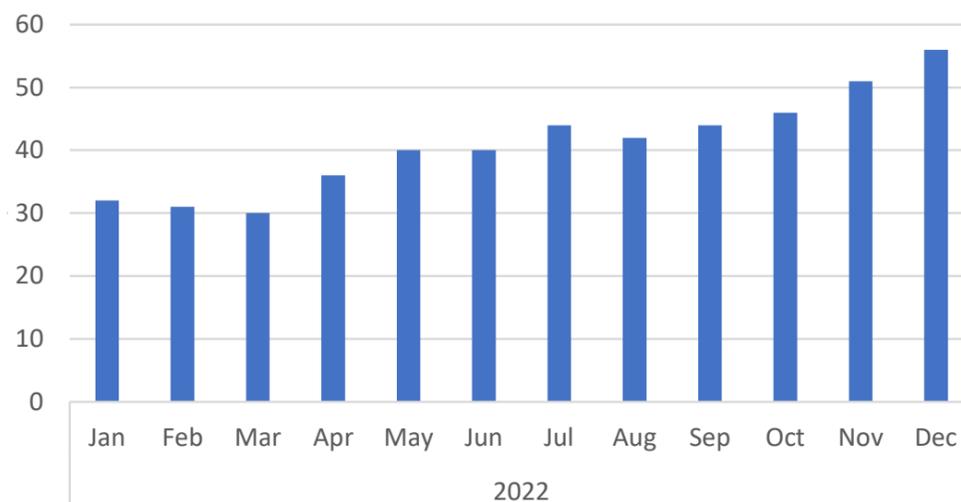
Of eligible young people, split by age, as at Dec 2022



Referrals for a transitions worker can start when a young person turns 15. **Target: By 17 all young people leaving care should have either been referred or have declined a referral (i.e. none needing follow up).** There is a small decrease after 18 for referrals and declined referrals combined, which represent young people who became eligible when the service was still being established.

Young People in ETRR Placements

As at end of the month. ETRR is the entitlement to remain or return to living with a caregiver after turning 18.



As this is an 'opt in' service there is no target for the number of young people in ETRR placements. Each month represents the **total** count of young people in an ETRR placement as at the end of the month, not new young people in an ETRR placement.

Supported Accommodation Places Available

General Places Young Parent Homes



Oranga Tamariki is currently on track to increase the number of places from 136 to 155 by the end of June 2023. This total includes six Young Parent Homes.

The supported accommodation count is the number of places available. We currently cannot count the number of people using these places or their average length of stay (though our understanding from providers is that many of them are full, with low turnover). These places are funded by Oranga Tamariki and provided by different Non-Governmental Organisation. Oranga Tamariki is working to collect accurate and consistent occupancy data.

Housing services outcomes for young people transitioning from care and youth justice placements

Increase the number of Transition hui-a-whānau or Family Group Conferences to enable greater whānau involvement in transition planning processes.

- Indicator in development: A new indicator for this will be included in the next Dashboard
- Provide fit for purpose supported accommodation for young people transitioning to independence from care and youth justice settings.
- Current indicator: Number of supported accommodation places available. An improved indicator will be included in the next Dashboard.

Support young parents to have their housing needs met with fit for purpose young parent homes.

- Current indicator: Number of young parent homes available.

Ensure young people transitioning to independence from care and youth justice settings have access to safe and suitable emergency housing options where longer term housing is not available.

- Current indicator: The number of young people eligible for Transition Support Services who are accessing Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants. Currently this information is only available in the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI), so further work on a non-IDI measures is progressing via data sharing discussions.

Ensure all eligible young people who want to remain with or return to living with caregivers are supported to do so.

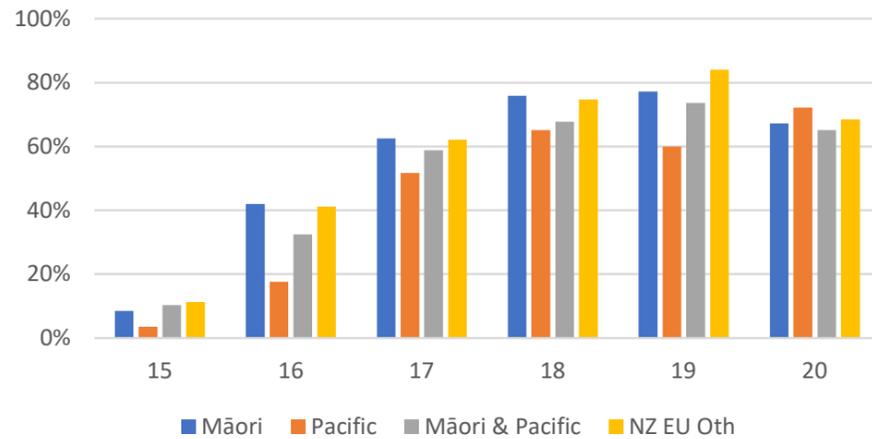
- Current indicator: Number of young people who have taken up the entitlement to remain or return home.



Transitions Support

Percent Referred to a Transition Worker, split by Ethnicity

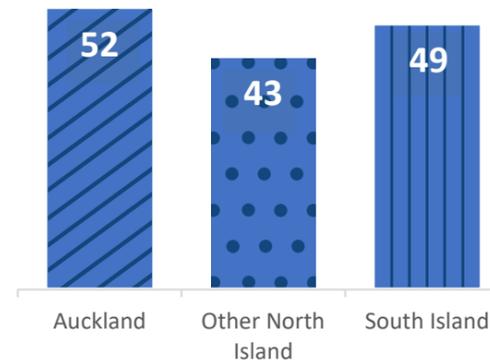
Of eligible young people, split by age, as at 31 Dec 2022



Within each age group referral rates tend to be highest for Māori and Other Ethnicity young people. At older ages these differences are much smaller.

Supported Accommodation Places Available

By Region, as at Dec 2022

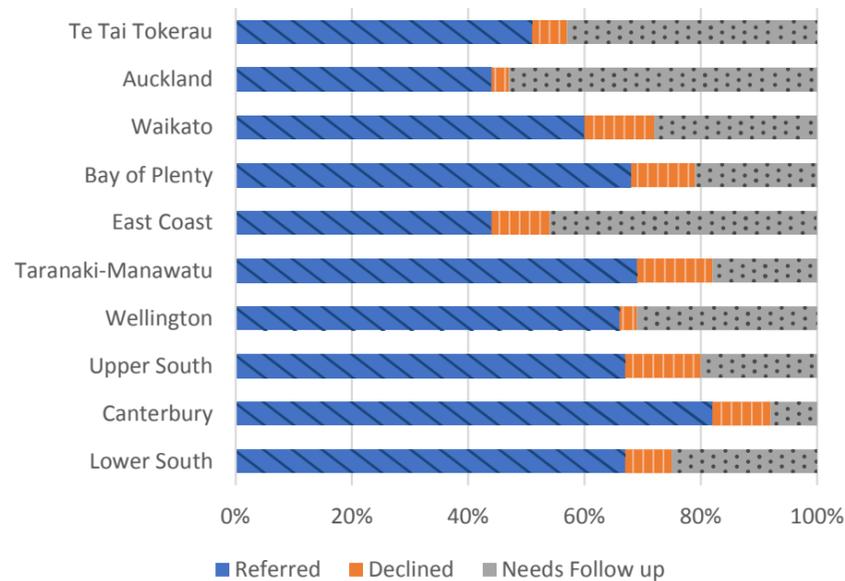


Numbers represent the maximum available supported Accommodation places as at 31 December 2022

Due to small numbers demographic splits are not available for monthly referrals and for those using ETRR for privacy reasons

Referral Rate, Split by Region

Of eligible young people aged 16/17/18, plus 15 year olds who have left care, as at 31 Dec 2022



Total referral rates for all young people eligible for a referral differ across the Care and Protection regions, with Auckland having the lowest rate and Canterbury having the highest.

Indicators in development

Education outcomes for children and young people in care

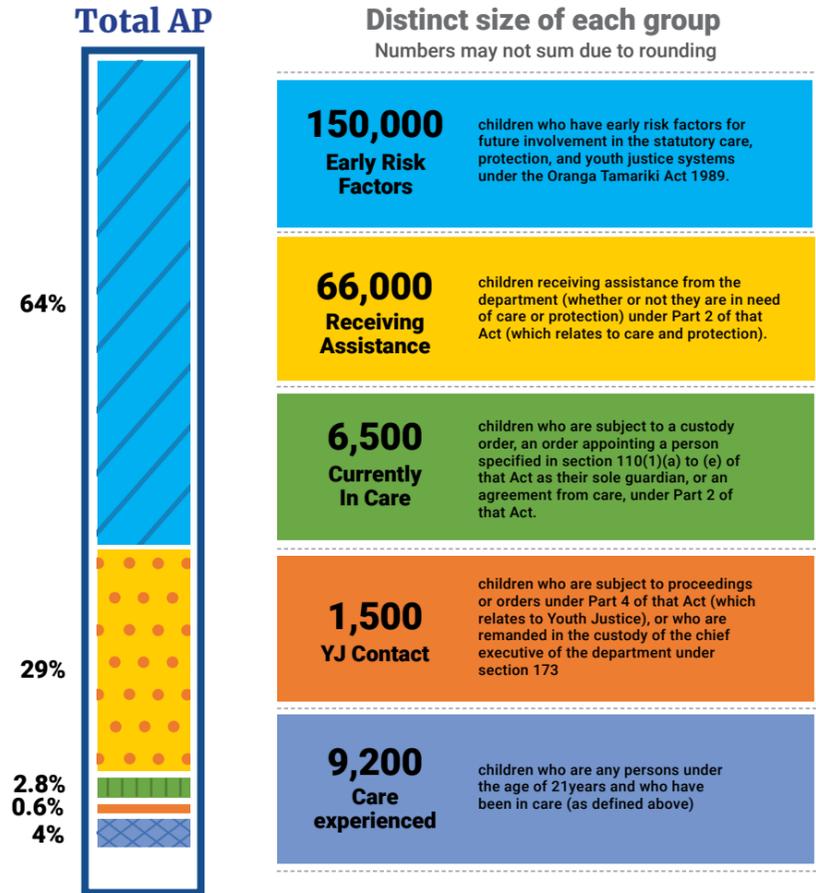
Indicators are currently being developed jointly by Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Education as part of the three-month report back.

Mental Health supports for children and young people in the Receiving Assistance, Currently in Care, or Youth Justice Contact groups

Indicators are currently being developed as part of the three-month report back, with the process being led by the Ministry of Health.

Oranga Tamariki Action Plan Overview

Who are the Action Plan cohort Total: 230,000 as at 31 March 2020



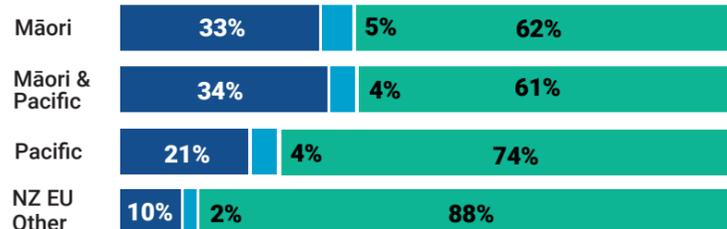
AP All remaining New Zealanders aged 0 to 20 are in one of the following two groups:

Past AP **Past Action Plan Cohort (Past AP):** 18 to 20 year olds who were previously in one of the AP cohorts but are not any more.

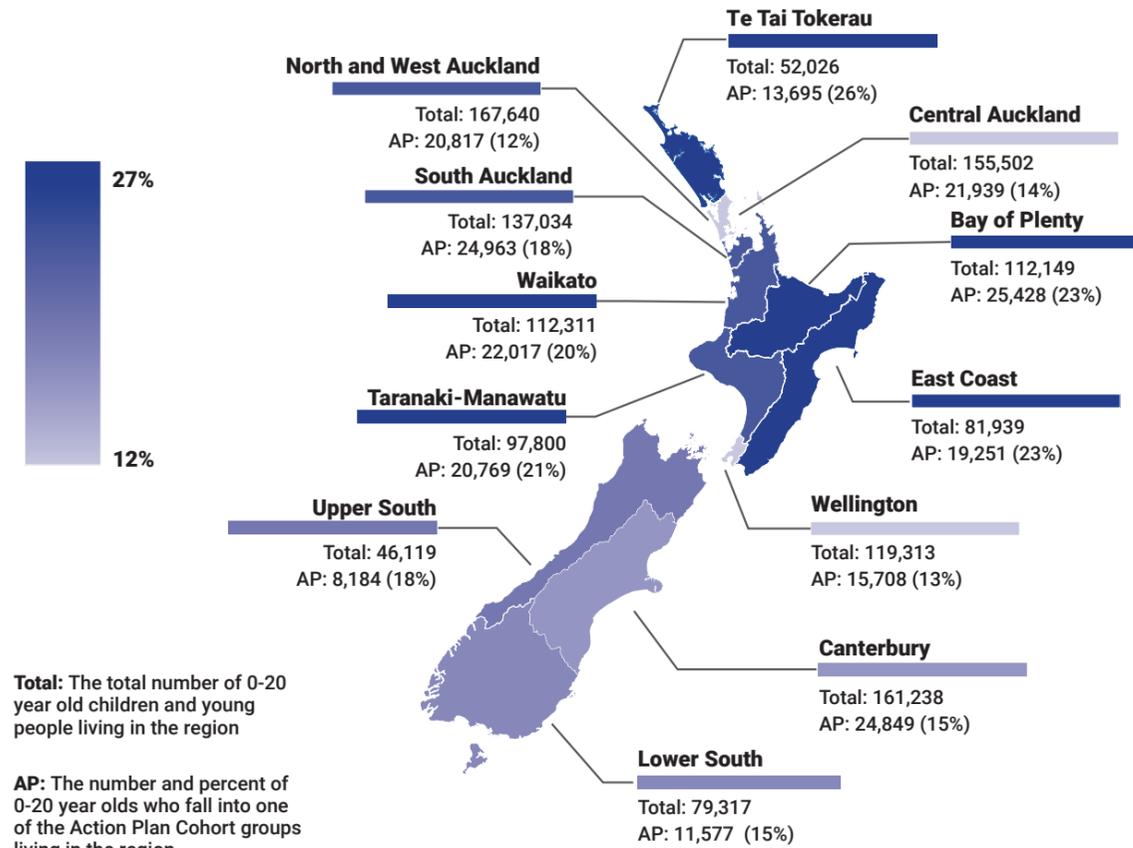
Gen Pop **General population (Gen. Pop.):** those who have never been in one of the AP cohorts, meaning they have never had contact with Oranga Tamariki.



What ethnicity are they?



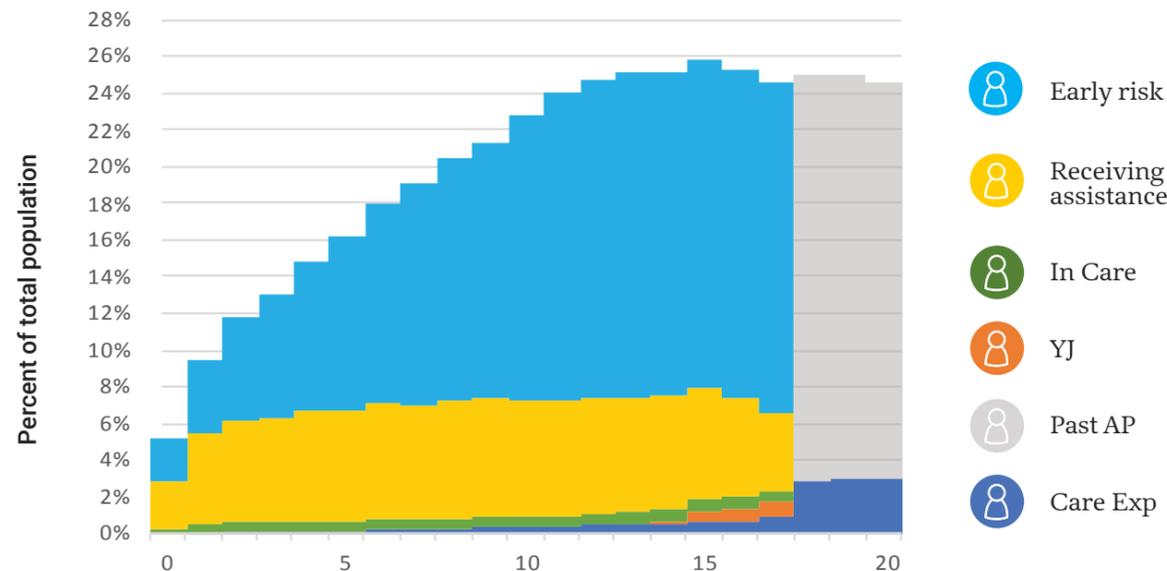
Where are the Action Plan cohort?



Total: The total number of 0-20 year old children and young people living in the region

AP: The number and percent of 0-20 year olds who fall into one of the Action Plan Cohort groups living in the region

What is the age profile of the Action Plan cohort groups? (stacked chart)



What are the current wellbeing needs of the Action Plan cohort?

Compared with the general population, children in the Action Plan cohort were more likely to:

- have a parent on a benefit and more likely to have a combined parental income under \$50,000
- be on the priority housing register or in social housing
- change schools in their lifetime (excluding mandatory school changes)
- have been in alternative education in the last year
- have periods of stand-down, suspension, and truancy from school
- have mental health and substance abuse treatment, as are their parents
- have had a parent in prison in the past year

What will the Action Plan achieve?

The Action Plan promotes wellbeing for children, young people and families with the greatest needs (the Action Plan cohort) by enabling Government agencies to work more effectively together and support whānau and communities to realise oranga tamariki.

The end outcome for the Action Plan is that Aotearoa should be the best place in the world for all children to live.

Disabled and Takatāpui/SOGIESC* children and young people are disproportionately represented in all the Action Plan cohorts.

We know that being part of these groups increases the likelihood of harm (e.g. disabled children and young people being left in abusive situations). Cross-agency work is underway to improve our understanding of these children and young people, and inform ways agencies can work together to better meet the needs of disabled children and young people.

* Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sexual Characteristics

Currently In Care

How is this Cohort defined?

Cohort definition in the Children's Act 2014

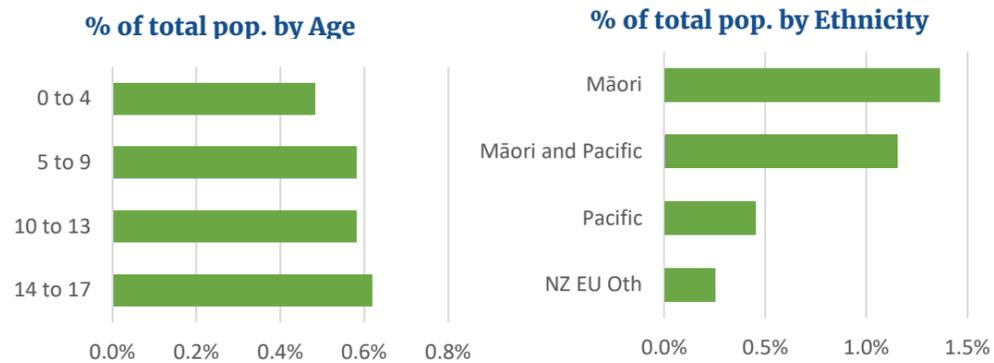
Children who are subject to a custody order, an order appointing a person specified in section 110(1)(a) to (e) of that Act* as their sole guardian, or an agreement for care, under Part 2 of that Act.

Operational Definition

Children who are recorded as being in the custody of the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki in the past year. This includes in home and out of home care.

Size of cohort: 6,500

2.8% of total Action Plan population (aged 0-20)
0.6% of total population aged 0 to 17, split below:



What works for children and young people in care:

Supporting connections

- Supporting children and young people's sense of identity and belonging is fundamental, with the goal of improved the quality of life and wellbeing, and a positive sense of identity.
- This can include collecting important mementos from time in care and supporting cultural connections.
- For our tamariki and rangatahi Māori and Pacific children and young people this must be grounded in connecting to whakapapa and akapapaanga.
- Promoting and raising the voice, mana and strengths of children and young people, and supporting their potential to thrive and achieve.
- Promoting te ao Māori approaches to oranga.

Specific initiatives

- Therapeutic Residential Care is a good option for children and young people with high and complex needs, with starting sooner leading to better outcomes.
- Early intervention programmes designed to work with whānau and families to improve children's outcomes (e.g. Family Start).
- Specific programmes to help with cultural connectedness (e.g. Whānau Care partnership).

General support

- General areas of support for children and young people and their families/caregivers include direct financial support, helping children and young people access extra-curricular activities, housing support, childcare, housework, and meeting specific needs (e.g. disability supports).

The system needs to work together

- Better links and integration between services will help improve parental and family outcomes, especially to keep children and young people at home.

These types of supports are also valuable for other Action Plan groups (e.g. Youth Justice Contact) as often many of the underlying needs are the same.

* Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

Youth Justice Contact

How is this Cohort defined?

Cohort definition in the Children's Act 2014

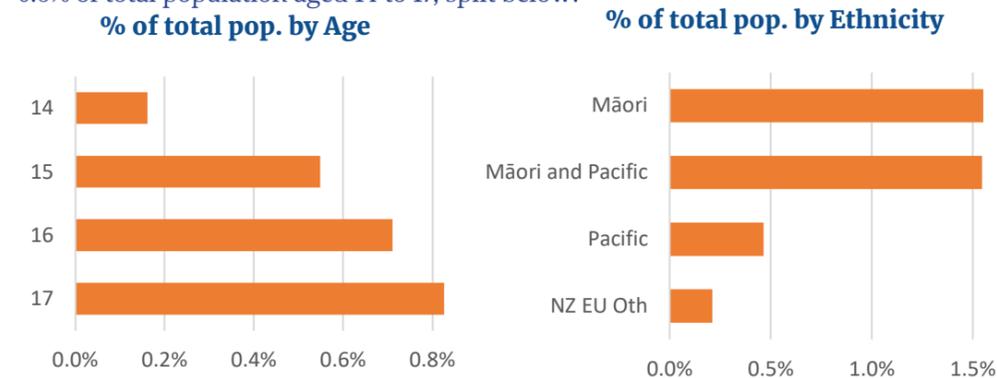
Children who are subject to proceedings or orders under Part 4 of that Act* (which relates to youth justice), or who are remanded in the custody of the chief executive of the department under section 173 or 174 of the Criminal Procedure Act 2011.

Operational Definition

Young people who have had a Youth Justice Family Group Conference, Supervision, Supervision with Activity, or a Youth Justice Custody order (Supervision with Residence, custodial remand, or post-arrest custody before a court hearing) within the last year.

Size of cohort: 1,500

0.6% of total Action Plan population (aged 0-20)
0.6% of total population aged 14 to 17, split below:



What works for young people with youth justice contact:

Early Intervention

- Intervening early is key, as children who begin offending pre-adolescence have poorer longer term offending outcomes than those who start in adolescence.
- Empowering families and whānau to make changes and supporting their needs.
- Giving voice children and young people to make decisions that enhance their mana and connecting them to their language, culture and communities.
- Promoting te ao Māori approaches to oranga.

Well run Family Group Conferences and Hui-ā-Whānau

- Family Group Conferences include the voices of families, victims, and communities in decision making which enables an improved outcomes for young offenders.
- For example, the concept of Tino Rangatiratanga/self determination empowers whānau as they can determine how engagement occurs by choosing the environment of the Family Group Conference.

Charging and Sentencing

- Use approaches such as not charging a young person until a youth justice coordinator has been consulted and a Family Group Conference held or Alternative Action from Police.
- Promote remand options that maintains connections to family, whānau, communities, and culture.

Rehabilitation

- Effective rehabilitation addresses known causes of offending, e.g. specific programmes and approaches help improve the family unit to support reduced offending behaviours.
- Supporting young people to build new relationships with prosocial individuals and increasing education, work skills and experience, and general life skills, can all help reduce offending.

Age- and culture-appropriate services

- Specialists trained to work with young people recognise the difference between younger and older offenders and help ensure appropriate outcomes for young offenders.
- Using culturally appropriate services, such as Māori and Pacific Non-Governmental services, community leaders, or sports groups, can increase engagement and improve process.

* Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

Transitions

How is this Cohort defined?

Cohort definition in the Children's Act 2014

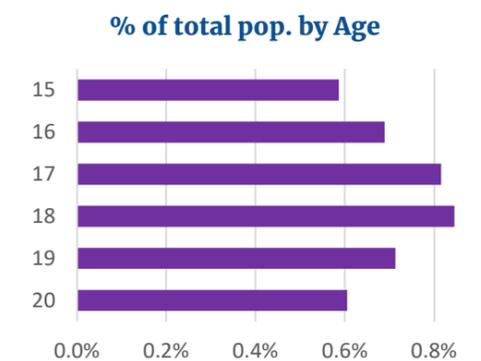
Children receiving transition support from the department under Part 7 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

Operational Definition

This cohort is a subset of those eligible for transitions support services (which includes supports up to 25) who are aged 15 to 20. While the other action plan cohorts are defined to be mutually exclusive, the transitions cohort sits across them, with these rangatahi also falling in the In Care, Youth Justice and Receiving Assistance cohorts.

Size of cohort: 2,700

1.2% of total Action Plan population (aged 0-20)
0.7% of total population aged 15 to 20, split below:



Transitions services

As all young people eligible for Transition Support Services have either been in care or in youth justice custody, the supports described in the "In Care" and "Youth Justice" sections of this dashboard will also be available to this cohort. In addition to those, this cohort will also have access to Transition Support Services, provided by Oranga Tamariki. This may include:

- Support from a community-based transition worker until they turn 21. This is a relationship-based service providing mentoring through a young person's transition from care into adulthood, and is provided through Iwi-Māori and community partners.
- The option to remain or return to living with a caregiver from the age of 18 until they turn 21 (In Care cohort only).
- Advice and assistance until they turn 25. Transition advisors at the transition assistance helpline are available to provide assistance to young people (and those who support them), at any time they need.
- Emergency housing, and a limited number of supported accommodation places, including young parent homes and shared houses.
- General financial support until they turn 25 (once other financial entitlements from other agencies are first considered).



Child and Youth Wellbeing

Early Risk Factors

How is this cohort defined?

Cohort definition in the Children's Act 2014

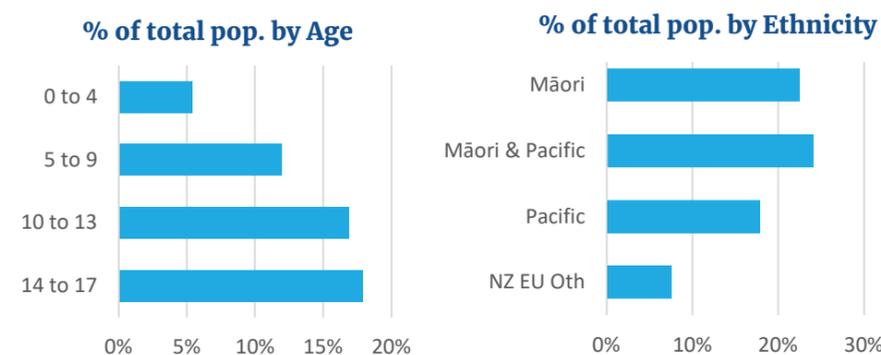
Children who have early risk factors for future involvement in the statutory care, protection, and youth justice systems under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

Operational Definition

Children who have not had any Oranga Tamariki contact in the past year but have had a Report of Concern, Family Group Conference, Assessment or received an Orphan's Benefit and the Unsupported Child's Benefit more than a year ago. Children that have never had contact with Oranga Tamariki but have 3 or 4 wellbeing domains unwell are also included.

Size of cohort: 150,000

64% of total Action Plan population (aged 0-20)
13% of total population aged 0 to 17, split below:



What works for children and young people with early risk factors

There are two main clusters of children and young people in the Early Risk Factors cohort

- Around 90% of this cohort consists of children and young people who have had some contact (Report of Concern, Assessment, or Family Group Conference) with Oranga Tamariki, but this was more than a year ago, and they have not actually been in care. As such, they have similar support needs as the Receiving Assistance group.
- The remainder of the group have had no contact with Oranga Tamariki at all, meaning the general system supports available will be of relevance to them.

All children and young people can benefit from general system services and supports

- System services provided by Government include free doctor and dentist visits for children, maternity care, 20 hours free early childhood education, and financial support.
- There are also supports from communities, iwi, and other non-government organisations, especially with the shift towards community-led, whānau-centred approaches, with some examples below.
- Whānau Ora pertains to be a culturally-based, and whānau-centred approach to wellbeing focused on whānau (family group) as a whole, as the decision-makers who determine their goals and aspirations.
- Manaaki Tairāwhiti, an example of a Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency, is an Iwi-led partnership changing the way that social services work together across Tairāwhiti, including a recognition that few issues can be fixed with a one-size fits all approach and supporting agencies to take the time to hear the voices of whānau.
- Ngā Tini Whetū is another example, where whānau are placed at the centre and can determine what success means to them.
- Groups such as KidsCan, Kickstart Breakfasts, and food banks help support children in need through providing resources like food, clothing, and health products.
- Resources supporting specific groups in schools (such as Inside Out for SOGIESC youth) has a significant role to play in making safer environments for young people by reducing bullying.
- For children and young people and their family/whānau with more complex support needs there needs to be clear coordination and collaboration across sectors, agencies, and partners.

Receiving Assistance

How is this cohort defined?

Cohort definition in the Children's Act 2014

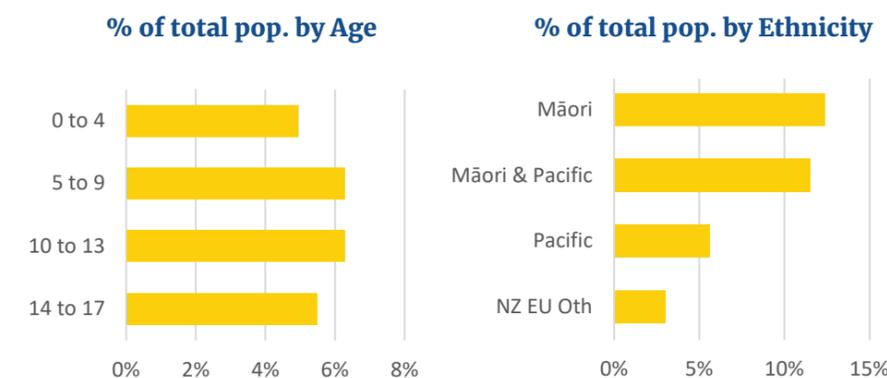
Children receiving assistance from the department (whether or not they are in need of care or protection) under Part 2 of that Act* (which relates to care and protection).

Operational Definition

Children who have had a Report of Concern, Family Group Conference, or Assessment, or have received an Orphan Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit payment, in the past year.

Size of cohort: 66,000

29% of total Action Plan population (aged 0-20)
5.8% of total population aged 0 to 17, split below:



What works for children and young people receiving assistance

Good engagement and a whānau-centred approach are key for this cohort group

- Engagement needs to involve the wider context the children and young people are in, including family/whānau, community, and service contexts, and the goals and aspirations of the children and young people and their family/whānau.
- Relationships are very important, especially in the move towards partnering with Māori and communities and using community led and te ao Māori approaches to support them to develop solutions for their tamariki, rangatahi and whānau in their communities.

There are three main paths to exiting from care or custody

- Te Hunga Tauwhiro i te Kura - Social Workers in Schools (SWiS) demonstrates how relationships and partnerships between whānau, school and SWiS social workers enable them to become advocates to mediate between the school and the home, connect with communities and make referrals to other services.
- Family Start programme, aimed at whānau with pre-school children, is a supportive and strengths-based early support service which uses whānau-led goal-setting that reflects their priorities, needs and aspirations in a culturally safe way which is important and valued by whānau receiving assistance.
- Early Start home visiting programme, targeted at families with infants who are facing severe social, economic or emotional challenges, shows the importance of better links and integration between home visiting and other family-related services.
- The Strengthening Families programme supports vulnerable family/whānau by providing interagency service coordination, with a focus on early intervention, and recognises that barriers to engagement include referrals that are pressured and where families/whānau are in crisis or have high levels of need
- Intensive Response has shown that a partnering approach is a mechanism for the provision of more effective support, particularly partnership with iwi and community groups
- Specialist Māori roles provide more culturally appropriate process and better quality of experience for whānau, increasing participation and enabling them to resolve issues without further escalation.
- Disability support services are available through a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) and Enabling Good Lives (EGL) organisations, including Child Development Services.

* Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

Care Experienced

How is this cohort defined?

Cohort definition in the Children's Act 2014

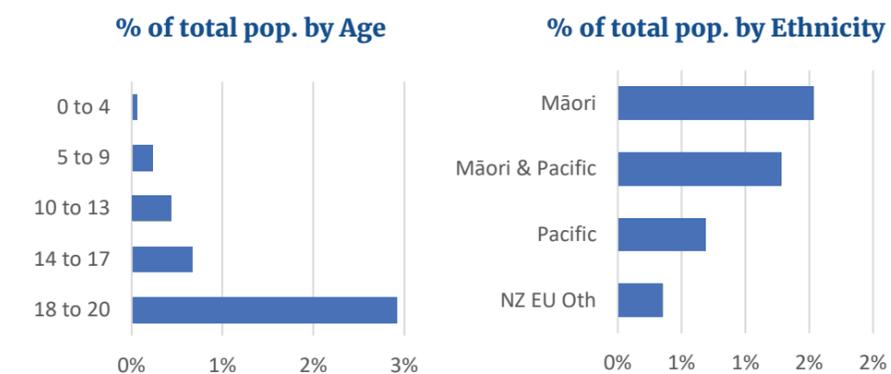
Children who are any persons under the age of 21 years and who have been in care (as defined under Currently in Care)

Operational Definition

Children who have had no Oranga Tamariki contact in the past year but were in Care and Protection or Youth Justice Custody over a year ago.

Size of cohort: 9,200

4.0% of total Action Plan population (aged 0-20)
0.7% of total population aged 0 to 20, split below:



What works for care experienced children and young people

There are three main paths to exiting from care or custody

- Returning to live with whānau, where Oranga Tamariki statutory care is not assessed as being necessary anymore
- Permanent care, where the child or young person moves to the permanent care of their caregiver
- Transitioning to independence, for young people who turn 18 while in care or a long-term youth justice residential custody

Supports for children and young people in care and Transitions services will be relevant for this group

- Oranga Tamariki practice guidance and policy outlines the key steps that need to be taken to support children and young people successfully leaving care or custody
- These include ensuring the child or young person and their whānau and/or caregivers have the right support and early information to understand and prepare for the change, having a transitions plan in the All About Me plan, and completing a Tuituia assessment of their needs
- Specific teams are also consulted as needed through the case consult service provided by the Practice Advice teams at Oranga Tamariki, such as those focused on children and young people who are Māori, Pacific, or who have disabilities

Careful planning helps support successfully leaving care or custody

- Oranga Tamariki practice guidance and policy outlines the key steps that need to be taken to support children and young people successfully leaving care or custody
- These include ensuring the child or young person and their whānau and/or caregivers have the right support and early information to understand and prepare for the change, having a transitions plan in the All About Me plan, and completing a Tuituia assessment of their needs
- Specific teams are also consulted as needed through the case consult service provided by the Practice Advice teams at Oranga Tamariki, such as those focused on children and young people who are Māori, Pacific, or who have disabilities

Support is still available after care or custody orders are discharged

- Visits continue after care or custody orders are discharged to ensure the change has gone well and to make sure whānau and/or caregivers have the support and information they need, including wider government and non-government support
- Social workers will also engage with the child or young person to understand their experiences following being discharged from care or custody
- Transition workers are also available to support young people aging out of care