



He Mana tō ia Tamaiti
Every Child Counts

Key facts about New Zealand children

New Zealand sits at the bottom of the OECD for its rankings on child wellbeing and our investment in children is also among the lowest.

The first 1000 days/ 3 years of a child's life are when the most important physical, mental and social development occurs. The first 1000 days represents the greatest chance politicians have to get it right now and for the future.

About 22 percent of children (230,000) live in relative poverty – this means going without doctor's visits, shoes, wet weather clothing, spots and other recreational opportunities. Poverty has a lasting impact with estimates suggested the poor outcomes associated with poverty cost the nation 3 percent of GDP/ \$6bn per annum.

Economic analysis suggests child maltreatment costs the nation at least \$2bn per annum.

Māori and Pasifika children are more likely to live in poverty, leading to a disproportionate number of Māori children being hospitalised for abuse, neglect or maltreatment and a disproportionate number of Pasifika children being hospitalised for infectious diseases.

There is currently a significant subset of children who miss out on the support they need. Support for these children in their early years, and their families, represents a cost effective social investment.

New Zealand has a rheumatic fever rate of 14 times the OECD average.

About 160,000 children are considered vulnerable at any one time.

There are around 21,000 confirmed cases of abuse and neglect every year.

Over 13,000 children are admitted to hospital with conditions that could have been avoided.

More than 47,000 children in homes with family violence.

More than 7,000 children leave school without qualifications each year.

Youth unemployment is currently at (percentage). (percentage) of Māori youth are unemployed. (percentage) of Pasifika youth are unemployed.

In 12 years, there will be many more old people than young. Outcomes for today's children will be critical to their productivity, employability and ability to contribute fully to their communities.

There are clear benefits from participation in quality early childhood education. The return on investment is significant – anything up to \$16 return for every \$1 spent.

*[Every Child Counts](http://www.everychildcounts.org.nz) is a coalition led by Barnardos, Plunket, UNICEF, Save the Children and Te Kahui Mana Ririki working to increase the status and wellbeing of New Zealand children.

www.everychildcounts.org.nz

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