

# Māori Health Review

Making Education Easy

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## Identifying Māori ethnicity for estimating trends in fatal and serious non-fatal injury

**Authors:** Gulliver PJ et al

**Summary:** This paper sought to determine how well the 'ever-Māori' method corrects for the undercount of Māori in routinely collected health databases in New Zealand for estimating trends in fatal and serious non-fatal injury incidence. The study authors compared trends in frequencies and age-standardised rates for fatal injury indicators with the use of: (a) ever-Māori classification; (b) New Zealand Census Mortality Study adjustment ratios applied to Total Māori counts from the Mortality Collection; and (c) Total Māori counts from the Mortality Collection. For serious non-fatal injury, trends using ever-Māori were compared with Total Māori from hospital discharge data. Analyses found that while the absolute number of injuries attributable to Māori varied depending on the method used to adjust for ethnicity status, trends over time were comparable.

**Comment:** Good quality ethnicity data is necessary in order: to measure and monitor health and health disparities; to measure progress and the effectiveness of health policies and programmes; and to plan. A great resource for those wanting to more information about ethnicity data collection is the paper by Drs Cormack and McLeod, available at: [http://www.ethnicity.maori.nz/files/Improving\\_and\\_maintaining\\_WEB\\_ISBN.pdf](http://www.ethnicity.maori.nz/files/Improving_and_maintaining_WEB_ISBN.pdf)

**Reference:** *Aust N Z J Public Health*. 2011; 35(4):352-6.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1753-6405.2011.00730.x/abstract>

## Independent commentary by Dr Matire Harwood

*Dr Matire Harwood (Ngapuhi) has worked in Hauora Māori, primary health and rehabilitation settings as clinician and researcher since graduating from Auckland Medical School in 1994. She also holds positions on a number of boards, committees and advisory groups including the Health Research Council. Matire lives in Auckland with her whānau including partner Haunui and two young children Te Rangijura and Waimarie.*

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The wheel can be ordered by emailing [moh@wickliffe.co.nz](mailto:moh@wickliffe.co.nz) or calling 04 496 2277 quoting HP number 5329.

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