**Māori Injury and Disability**

**Overview:** Injury is the second leading cause of death and disability for Māori aged 15-64 years (Office for Disability Issues, 2010). Māori adults have more than twice the mortality risk and more than 1.5 times the risk of hospitalisation due to unintentional injuries compared to non-Māori (Ministry of Health, 2010). Improving injury outcomes for Māori will result in longer life expectancies, better quality of life, and less disability. Below are some key findings from research undertaken at the University of Otago.

- **Predictors of disability 12 months post-injury**
  - 2 or more chronic conditions
  - Trouble accessing healthcare services
  - Hospitalisation due to injury
  - Inadequate household income

- **Māori experience higher levels of adverse outcomes than non-Māori including:**
  - pain and discomfort
  - difficulties with mobility and usual activities
  - psychological distress
  - reporting ‘barely/not enough’ household income

- **Difficulties accessing health services contribute to Māori experiencing long-term disability after injury, even for less severe injuries.**

- **Māori are not receiving adequate access to health services after injury**

- **Factors predicting being in paid work 3 months after injury**
  - Professional occupation
  - Financial security pre-injury
  - Job satisfaction pre-injury
  - Low-moderate injury severity
  - Not hospitalised due to injury
  - Occupation requiring less frequent hand movements
  - Occupation requiring no physical exertion

- **Māori hospitalised for injury are **1.8** times as likely to experience disability 24 months post-injury compared to non-Māori**

- **Subsequent injuries**
  - **DISLOCATIONS, SPRAINS and STRAINS** of the **SPINE** are the most common type of ACC subsequent injury

- **Predictors of reduced participation in paid work for Māori with a subsequent injury**
  - Assault
  - ACC entitlement claim
  - 2 or more subsequent injuries
  - Non-work-related subsequent injury

- **Subsequent injuries affect participation 12 months after an initial injury**
  - less paid work
  - less unpaid work

- **Māori working for pay post-injury**
  - 3 months post-injury
  - 12 months post-injury
  - 64%
  - >90%

- **Māori working for pay post-injury**
  - 3 months post-injury
  - 12 months post-injury

- **Factors predicting being in paid work 3 months after injury**
  - Professional occupation
  - Financial security pre-injury
  - Job satisfaction pre-injury
  - Low-moderate injury severity
  - Not hospitalised due to injury
  - Occupation requiring less frequent hand movements
  - Occupation requiring no physical exertion

- **Māori hospitalised for injury are **1.8** times as likely to experience disability 24 months post-injury compared to non-Māori**

- **Subsequent injuries**
  - **DISLOCATIONS, SPRAINS and STRAINS** of the **SPINE** are the most common type of ACC subsequent injury

- **Predictors of reduced participation in paid work for Māori with a subsequent injury**
  - Assault
  - ACC entitlement claim
  - 2 or more subsequent injuries
  - Non-work-related subsequent injury

- **Subsequent injuries affect participation 12 months after an initial injury**
  - less paid work
  - less unpaid work

- **Māori working for pay post-injury**
  - 3 months post-injury
  - 12 months post-injury

- **Factors predicting being in paid work 3 months after injury**
  - Professional occupation
  - Financial security pre-injury
  - Job satisfaction pre-injury
  - Low-moderate injury severity
  - Not hospitalised due to injury
  - Occupation requiring less frequent hand movements
  - Occupation requiring no physical exertion
Research Project Details

Māori Disability Outcomes: Pathways and Experiences After Injury

Team members:
- Emma Wyeth
- Sarah Derrett
- Matire Harwood

Funding: Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC14/608)

Subsequent Injury Study (SInS): Improving outcomes for injured New Zealanders

Team members:
- Sarah Derrett
- Helen Harcombe
- Emma Wyeth
- Gabrielle Davie

Funding: Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC15/091)

References


Suggested citation:

For further information:
Ngāi Tahu Māori Health Research Unit
Dr Emma Wyeth
emma.wyeth@otago.ac.nz
(03) 479 4064