

COPD prevalence among people who aren't enrolled in a Primary Health Organisation (PHO)

People are eligible to enrol with a Primary Health Organisation (PHO) if they are New Zealand citizens, permanent residents, or meet other criteria, such as holding a relevant visa. When people enrol, they receive regular, ongoing care and cheaper doctors' visits. Some people are not enrolled in PHOs as they receive their health care through a separate system, for example, Defence Force staff or prisoners. Subsidised medicines are available to New Zealand residents and citizens whether or not they are enrolled with a PHO.

The COPD method excludes people not enrolled in a PHO. This is because the data quality is better for those enrolled in a PHO and we can be more confident in the denominator.

However, there is a concern that people with COPD who aren't enrolled may be at increased risk of unmanaged or poorly managed chronic respiratory illness. They miss critical opportunities for early intervention, ongoing disease management and preventative care.

Therefore, we sought to capture how many people with COPD are not enrolled in a PHO.

Analysis showed that most people (more than 98 percent) aged 45 and older with COPD are enrolled in a PHO. Only about 1.5 percent – around 995 people – are not currently enrolled. The proportion of people with COPD among those who aren't enrolled in a PHO increased slightly with age to 2 percent among those aged 75 years or older.

These rates also slightly varied by ethnic group and health district. See Table 1 and Table 2 for results by ethnic group and district respectively.

Table 1: PHO enrolment status among people with COPD by ethnic group

	People with COPD who aren't enrolled in a PHO		People with COPD who are enrolled in a PHO		Total
	n	%	n	%	
Total Māori	216	1.4	14917	98.6	15,133
Total Pacific peoples	75	2.3	3167	97.7	3242
Total Asian	33	1.8	1780	98.2	1813
Total European/Other	707	1.4	49754	98.6	50m461
Total	995	1.5	66014	98.5	67,009

Table 2: PHO enrolment status among people with COPD by health district

Region	Health district	People with COPD not enrolled in a PHO		People with COPD enrolled in a PHO		Total
		n	%	n	%	
Central	Hawke's Bay	47	1.3	3573	98.7	3620
	MidCentral	43	1.3	3226	98.7	3269
	Whanganui	19	1.1	1721	98.9	1740
	Capital & Coast	32	1.2	2659	98.8	2691
	Hutt Valley	24	1.3	1822	98.7	1846
	Wairarapa	10	0.9	1049	99.1	1059
Northern	Northland	60	1.5	3849	98.5	3909
	Waitematā	110	1.9	5557	98.1	5667
	Auckland	62	1.8	3344	98.2	3406
	Counties Manukau	100	1.6	6055	98.4	6155
Te Manawa Taki	Waikato	101	1.3	7516	98.7	7617
	Lakes	20	0.9	2130	99.1	2150
	Bay of Plenty	111	2.3	4799	97.7	4910
	Tairāwhiti	11	1.1	975	98.9	986
	Taranaki	49	2.0	2437	98.0	2486
Te Waipounamu	Nelson Marlborough	26	1.1	2284	98.9	2310
	West Coast	-	-	-	-	900
	Canterbury	80	1.4	5837	98.6	5917
	South Canterbury	16	1.3	1176	98.7	1192
	Southern	70	1.4	5109	98.6	5179
New Zealand		995	1.484875	66,014	98.51513	67,009

Note. Values below 10 are represented as a dash (-) in the table