

Cancer control in Aotearoa New Zealand

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Overview

- Cancer Control in Aotearoa
- Inequalities for Maori
- Barriers to equitable health
- 2 case studies
- Last thoughts

Health System

Largely free Public system runs concurrently with a private fee for service system

There is substantial input of NGO'S in the cancer health sector

NZ Cancer Control Strategy

- **Two purposes:**

1. To reduce the impact of cancer
2. To reduce inequalities in the impact of cancer

- **Six Goals:**

1. Primary Prevention
2. Screening and early detection
3. Diagnosis and treatment
4. Support, rehabilitation and palliation
5. Delivery of services (workforce, Māori, consumer)
6. Research and surveillance



CANCER CONTROL COUNCIL

OF NEW ZEALAND

Te Kaunihera Whakahaere Mate Pukupuku o Aotearoa

- Independent, reporting to and advising the Minister
- Five terms of reference:
 - Monitor and evaluate implementation of CCS
 - Independent strategic advice
 - Foster collaboration in sector
 - Foster and support best practice
 - Maintain international linkages

Inequalities for Māori

Māori are the Indigenous people of New Zealand and make up 15% of the population

Māori adults have 19% higher rate of diagnosis of cancer than non-Māori and a 78% higher risk of death from cancer

More likely to be diagnosed at a later stage
Stage does not account for all inequalities

(Robson, Purdie & Cormack, 2010)

Bad news: Percentage difference in cancer excess mortality between Māori :non-Māori, patients diagnosed 1991-2004

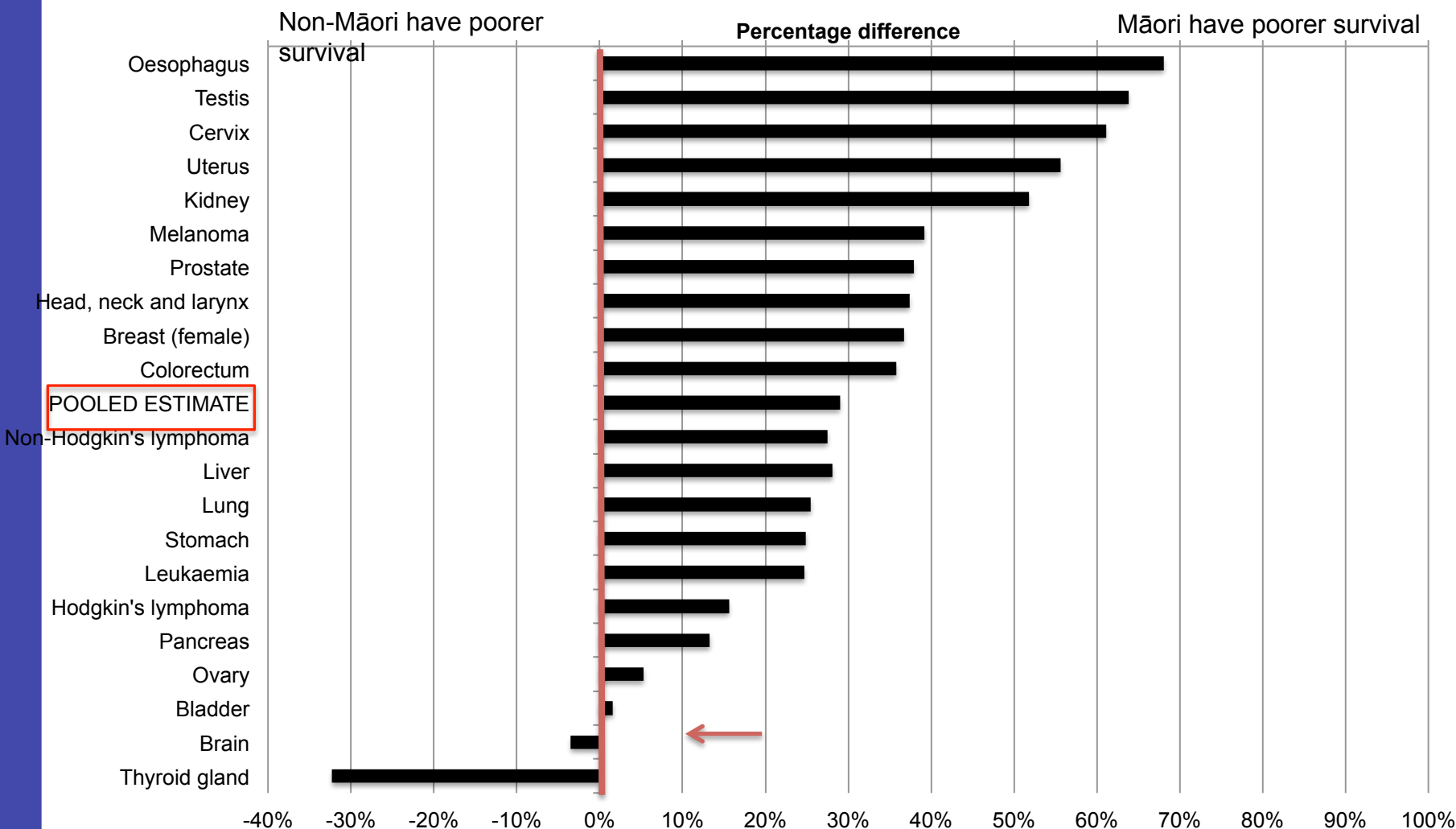
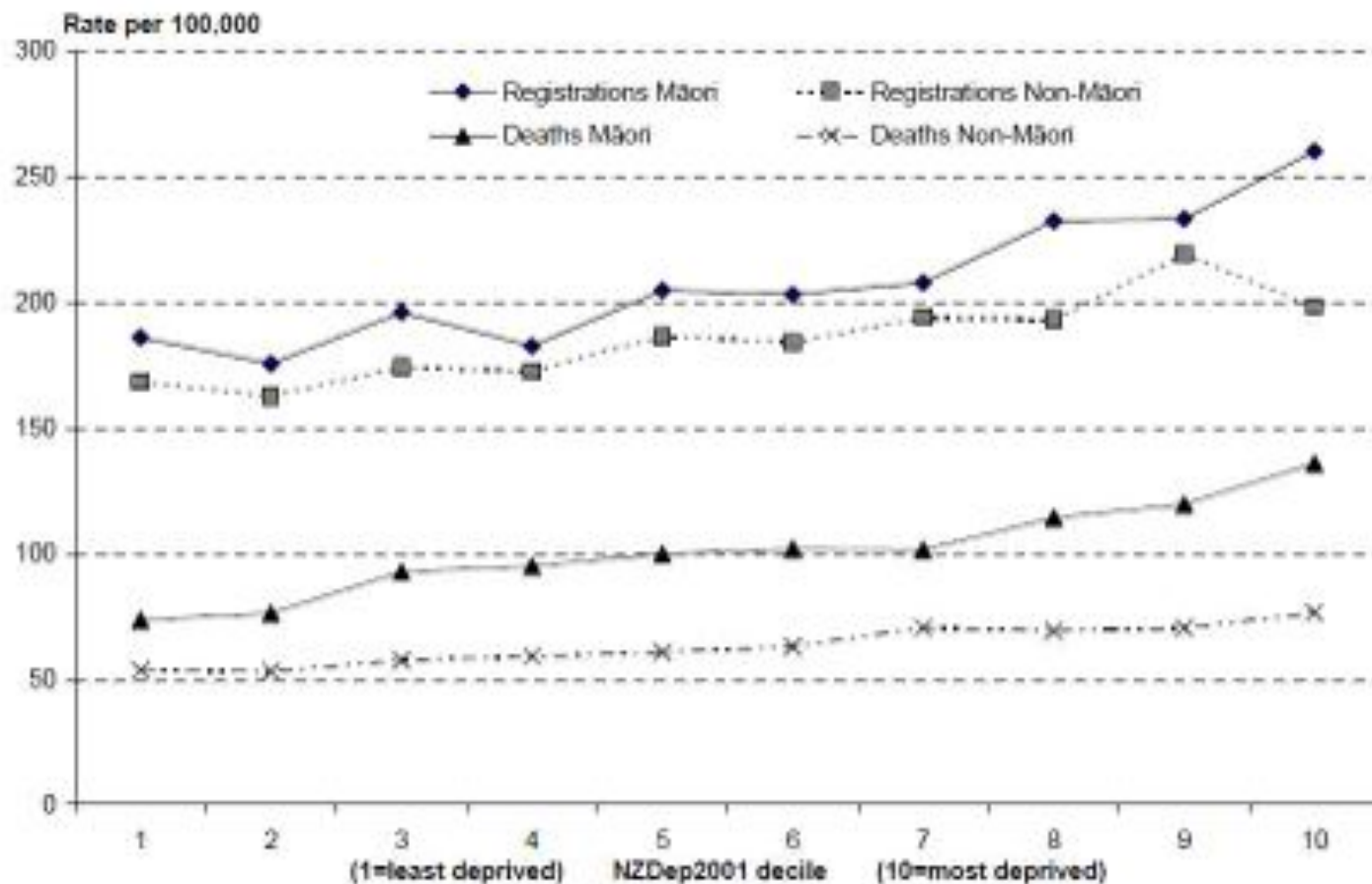
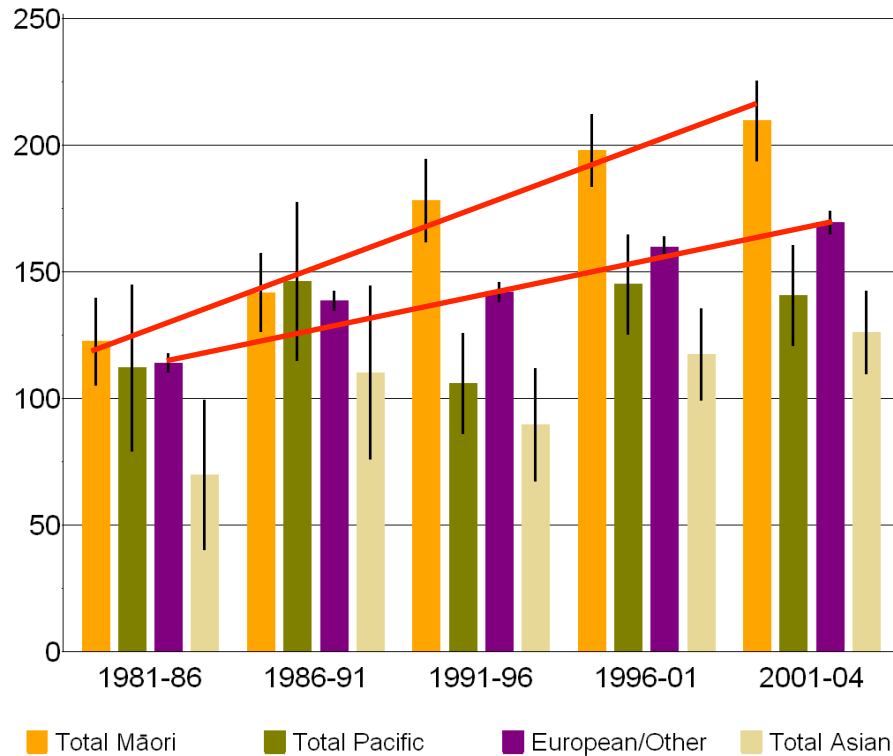


Figure 1: Cancer registration and death age-standardised rates by deprivation decile 2002-2006 (from Robson et al 2010)



Breast cancer incidence rates by ethnicity

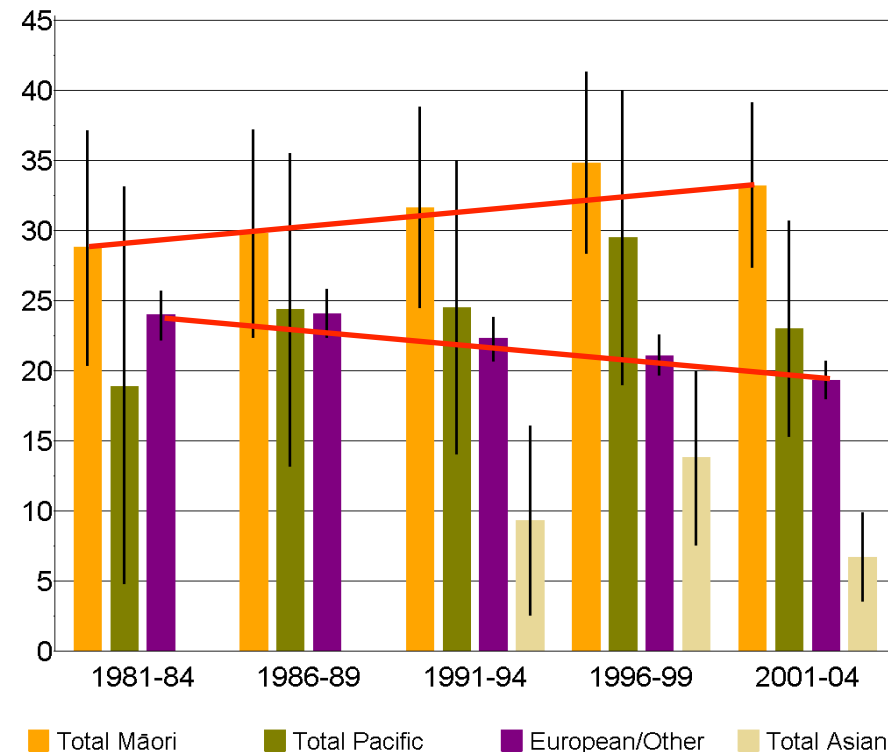
Breast ≥ 25 yrs Females



Suggestion survival gaps widening faster than incidence gaps

Breast cancer mortality rates by ethnicity

Breast 1-74 yrs Females



NZCMS and CancerTrends (Incidence) findings

Inequities are differences which are

- Unfair
- Avoidable
- Fixable
- Privilege

System/ Provider are the problem not the patient

Eliminate Victim Blaming approach

“Maori are more likely to die of cancer because they have cultural problems”

“eating problems, self control problems, smoking problems, genetic problems, . . too shy, too lazy, fatalistic”.

“Then they present late, don’t take their meds”

Triple A Q

- Available
- Accessible
- Appropriate
- Quality
- Apples and pears

Case study 1

- Rural, coastal, 90 % Maori community in the Eastern Bay of Plenty (220Km)
- Participation rate in mammography increased from 45% in 2003 to about 98% in both 2005 and 2007.
- Breast Screen Aotearoa
- Mobile breast screening unit

Thomson NZMJ 2009

How did they improve access

- Te Whānau ā Apanui Community Health Service ('TWAACH', 'the Service')
- Increased local involvement
- Consulted community re barriers
- Facilitated the provision of information about and promotion of breast screening,
- Improved the identification of eligible women, and

Changing the system

- Clinic took over enrolments and appointments
- Group bookings and transport
- Master list on the wall of surgery
- Champions
- Active promotion at community events, store pub
- Cup of Tea, a small gift

HPV vaccination program

- Use of a Maori Equity Advisory Group (MEAG) as an equity tool
- Input at multiple levels- program policy, implementation plans and media
- Issues :Community consultation and financial drivers
- Rates of vaccination high for Maori compared to European 65% vs 46%

Conclusion


Significant inequalities in Cancer exist in New Zealand


The gaps may be widening

Innovative programs are being undertaken

Last thoughts

- Indigenous Community involvement at the beginning
- Eliminate the silence –put indigenous health upfront from policy to the cliff face
- Racism
- Champions

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- **Globally we need to make make the case that prioritising the health of indigenous peoples is cost effective**
 - **Call to action – we need to be visible with our messages as our people are dying**



*He aha te mea nui o tenei ao? Maku e
kii atu, He tangata, he tangata, he
tangata!*

*You ask what is the most important thing
in this world? I will tell you: It is people, it
is people, it is people!*

Kia Ora Thank-you
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