

INFOGRAPHIC – PĒPI MĀORI 0-3 MONTHS AND THE CARE AND PROTECTION SYSTEM

There are substantial, persistent and intergenerational inequities occurring for pēpi Māori in the care and protection system. There has been an increase in the number of concerns reported, assessments and removal decisions, particularly for unborn pēpi Māori over the last 16 years.

There has been a recent reduction in 2018 and 2019 of pēpi Māori taken into State custody before the age of 3 months. This has followed a decade long trend of increasing use of State custody for Māori, whereas for non-Māori the trend is relatively flat over the same time.

A baby or child in State custody may be in non-kin care, whānau care or on occasion remain with their parent(s) under supervision.

1) INEQUITIES FOR MĀORI COMPARED WITH NON-MĀORI ARE SUBSTANTIAL AND PERSISTENT

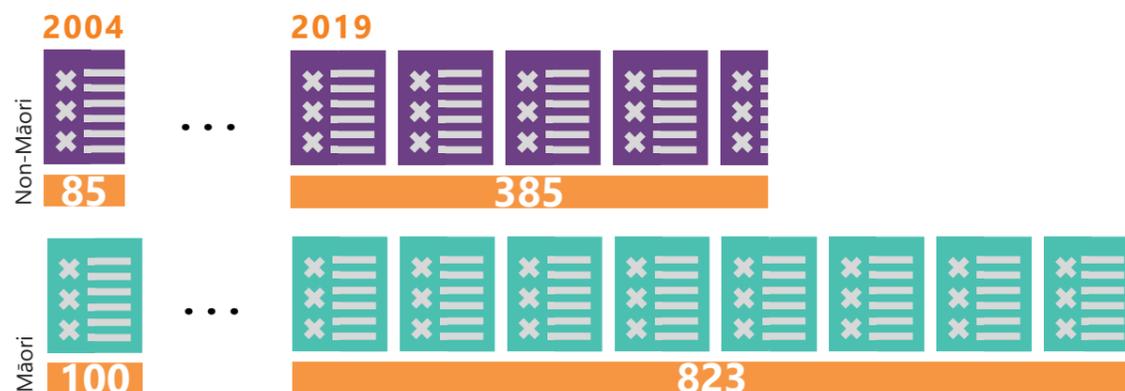
Inequities are seen for tamariki Māori of all ages in the care and protection system. As at June 2019, there are 6,429 children in State custody, 4,420 of them tamariki Māori, that's 69%.



In 2019, 0.67% of pēpi Māori aged 0-3 months were taken into State custody in 2019, compared with 0.13% of non-Māori babies. That's 5 times the rate.

2) THE NUMBER OF CONCERNS REPORTED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF BABIES AND CHILDREN HAS INCREASED, PARTICULARLY FOR PĒPI MĀORI BEFORE THEY ARE BORN

There were 8 times more concerns reported for an unborn pēpi Māori in 2019 than there were in 2004. For non-Māori, concerns reported increased by 4.5 times.



3) THE NUMBER OF SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENTS THAT FIND SUBSTANTIATED ABUSE FOR BABIES HAS DECREASED FROM A PEAK IN 2013



Over the last 10 years, 38% of social work assessments about unborn pēpi Māori did not find abuse. For pēpi Māori aged 0-3 months, 53 percent of social work assessments did not find abuse. Findings of abuse for these groups have been decreasing since 2013.

4) ASSESSMENTS AND REMOVALS OF PĒPI MĀORI ARE HAPPENING EARLIER

Decisions to remove unborn pēpi Māori increased from 36 in 2010 to a peak of 93 in 2017.



Over the past 6 years, since findings of abuse have been decreasing, between 2 and 3 times as many decisions have been made to remove unborn pēpi Māori than non-Māori.

5) THE URGENCY OF DECISIONS TO TAKE BABIES INTO STATE CUSTODY HAS INCREASED FOR PĒPI MĀORI



The rate of urgent entries into State custody approximately doubled from 2010 to 2019 for pēpi Māori aged 0-3 months, but stayed the same for non-Māori babies aged 0-3 months.

6) STATE CUSTODY IS INTERGENERATIONAL



Forty-eight percent of pregnant women whose pēpi Māori were taken into State care before birth had been in State care themselves.

This outline should be read alongside the relevant contextual information in 'Statistical Snapshot: Pēpi Māori 0-3 months and the care and protection system' (Office of the Children's Commissioner, 2020).