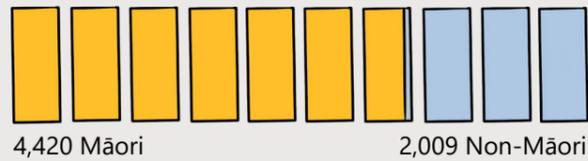


Overview of statistics, whānau themes and areas for change

STATISTICS

THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL AND PERSISTENT INEQUITIES FOR MĀORI IN THE CARE AND PROTECTION SYSTEM

There were 6,429 children in state custody in June 2019, 4,420 of them tamariki Māori. That's 69%.



5x Pēpi Māori aged 0-3 months were taken into state custody at 5 times the rate of non-Māori babies in 2019.

ASSESSMENTS AND REMOVALS OF PĒPI MĀORI ARE HAPPENING EARLIER

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

2-3x

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

2x 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.

STATE CUSTODY IS INTERGENERATIONAL



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

WHĀNAU THEMES

MUMS AND THEIR WHĀNAU TOLD US THINGS NEED TO CHANGE

I am a mum first

"I did everything possible to make sure that I was proving to [CYF] that I'm doing right for my unborn... it wasn't till I was halfway through labour I found out there was already an automatic uplift and then it went to sh** straight up"



The system is harmful



"I felt completely helpless. Helpless... We're just dealing with years of trauma that's just grown on top of trauma and you give up, you start to get weak and around that – the whole thing is trauma."

Statutory social workers have all the power and control

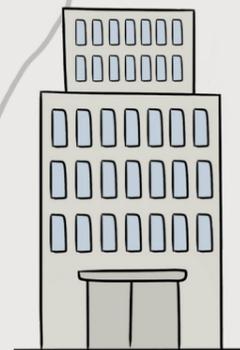
"Once you're involved, you're powerless. This is a department that's got too many powers, and even if they don't have the power, they use the threatening tactics that if you don't do what I say, you'll lose the lot."



We need good support

"... that's always been a thing for me if I'm going through this or if this social worker from OT is doing this to me, how many other mum and dads are out there going through the same thing? And only in the last month or so has OT finally kind of stepped up and that's because of the push from all my support and all my lawyers. If I didn't have the support or didn't reach out like I did I wouldn't have [name of pēpi]."

The statutory care and protection system and other agencies have hurt my whānau



"One, she was an abused wāhine, two, her mana kind of had been taken away from her, I think at this point she stood there with no mana, no confidence in herself. She didn't want to speak to anybody, she didn't trust anybody, everything that she had kind of known with her Mum and her Dad and everything had kind of all pretty much dissipated."



AREAS FOR CHANGE

1 The system needs to recognise the role of mums as te whare tangata and treat them and their pēpi with humanity

Unprofessional statutory social work practice is harming mums, whānau and pēpi

2

3 Whānau need the right support from the right people

Pēpi Māori and their whānau are experiencing racism and discrimination

4

5 The organisational culture of the statutory care and protection system needs to support parents and whānau to nurture and care for their pēpi

The system needs to work in partnership with whānau, hapū and iwi so they can exercise tino rangatiratanga

6