



10 April 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2024, requesting a demographic breakdown by ethnicity, gender, and benefit type of clients aged between 16 and 24 years old.

You have referenced information from the Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Social Development and Employment General Election BIM 2023, that 16–24-year-old clients¹ are estimated to spend 21.3 more years on main benefits on average.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below.

The information that you have referenced was modelled from data as at 30 September 2022. **Tables One to Three** provide the requested breakdowns from the data used for that model:

Table One: The percentage of 16 to 24 year old clients receiving a main benefit, by gender

Female	58%
Male	42%

¹ Receiving a main benefit. Main benefits include Jobseeker Support Work Ready, Jobseeker Support Health Condition or Disability, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment, Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, Emergency Benefit, and Emergency Maintenance Allowance. It does not include Jobseeker Support Student Hardship.

Table Two: The percentage of 16 to 24 year old clients receiving a main benefit, by benefit type

Jobseeker Support Work Ready, Youth Payment or Emergency Benefit	49%
Jobseeker Support Health Condition or Disability	16%
Sole Parent Support, Young Parent Payment or Emergency Maintenance Allowance	20%
Supported Living Payment	15%

Table Three: The percentage of 16 to 24 year old clients receiving a main benefit, by ethnicity

NZ European/Pakeha	60%
Māori	50%
Pacific	17%
Asian	5%
Other	3%

Please note that the data presented in **Table Three** is based on a 'Total Ethnicity' view which allows for every ethnicity that each person identifies with, so people may appear in multiple ethnicities. This means the percentages add up to more than 100%.

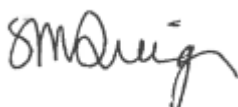
For **Tables One to Three**, please note that these proportions may not align with official reporting at that time as, for modelling purposes, we count clients slightly differently. For the model, we count the number of people receiving a benefit at the end of the quarter not across the quarter, and we also include partners. In addition, we use the Statistics NZ Integrated Data infrastructure (IDI) for this analysis which has additional sources for ethnicity and gender, so these may differ to the information provided to the Ministry.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

IDI Disclaimer

Access to the data used in this study was provided by Statistics New Zealand under conditions designed to give effect to the security and confidentiality provisions of the Data and Statistics Act 2022. The results presented in this study are the work of the author, not Statistics New Zealand or individual data suppliers.

These results are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the IDI which is carefully managed by Statistics New Zealand. For more information about the IDI please visit <https://www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/>.

The results are based in part on tax data supplied by Inland Revenue to Statistics New Zealand under the Tax Administration Act 1994 for statistical purposes. Any discussion of data limitations or weaknesses is in the context of using the IDI for statistical purposes, and is not related to the data's ability to support Inland Revenue's core operational requirements.