

# **PROTOCOL FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCY REPORTING ON INJURY INCIDENCE IN NEW ZEALAND**

## **Introduction**

This Protocol sets out how government agencies monitor and report, at a high level, the rates and frequencies of injury in New Zealand.

The aim of the Protocol is to enable consistent and comparable injury reporting, through an agreed set of injury measures that monitor injury rates and trends generically across all injuries and for the six priority injury areas of the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy (NZIPS).

## **Purpose of the protocol**

The 2008 review of the Official Injury Information Programme found that injury reporting across government agencies was fragmented and that different measures were used for different purposes by different agencies. This creates confusion in the absence of a clear official picture and makes valid comparisons of injury rates difficult.

To address this issue, officials from the Department of Labour, Ministry of Transport, ACC, Ministry of Health and Statistics New Zealand have developed an interagency protocol for Government Agencies to use at least two of the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy (NZIPS) serious injury outcome indicators as a consistent set of measures to monitor and report injury at a high level.

## **NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators**

A set of serious injury outcome indicators were developed by the Injury Prevention Research Unit (IPRU) in 2004 to evaluate the implementation of NZIPS by monitoring performance in reducing serious injury for the population as a whole, for children and for Maori. These indicators are based on death or on serious injury incidence, where 'serious' is defined in terms of threat to life.

The indicators are reported annually through the publication of three separate chartbooks, which present annual frequencies and rates of fatal, serious non-fatal and combined fatal and serious non-fatal all injury and for the six NZIPS priority injury areas:

- motor vehicle traffic crashes
- suicide and deliberate self harm
- falls
- assault
- workplace injuries (including occupational disease)<sup>1</sup>
- drowning.

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<sup>1</sup> Occupational disease is not currently included in the workplace injury indicators

The chartbooks include the latest available data which is sourced from a range of collections including:

- Accident Compensation Corporation claims (work related injury)
- Ministry of Health Information Directorate Mortality Collection and National Minimum Dataset (NMDS) of hospital discharge data
- Ministry of Transport Crash Analysis System (vehicle crash injuries)
- Water Safety New Zealand DrownBase (drowning)
- Statistics New Zealand (estimates of total population and data from the Household Labour Force Survey are used as the denominator in the calculation of rates).

## **Validity of the injury indicators**

The NZIPS indicators have been in use since their development in 2004 and are endorsed by the injury sector and the lead government agencies of NZIPS as the key measures in monitoring the impacts of the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy on injury rates.

As the indicators focus on serious injuries, they provide only a partial picture of injuries in New Zealand.

Considerable development work was undertaken by the IPRU to identify valid injury outcome indicators for inclusion in the set. Taking account of the limitations of available data in New Zealand, and the scientific basis of severity measurement, the indicators are the most valid measures of injury incidence currently available in New Zealand.

The indicators use administrative data from sets such as the National Minimum Dataset and the Mortality Collection. Due to the length of time taken for some coronial enquires, finalised mortality data is typically not available until three years after the reporting period of interest (e.g. 2006 data available in 2009). In addition, to ensure completeness of the National Minimum Dataset, finalised data will not be available until 12 months after the reporting period of interest.

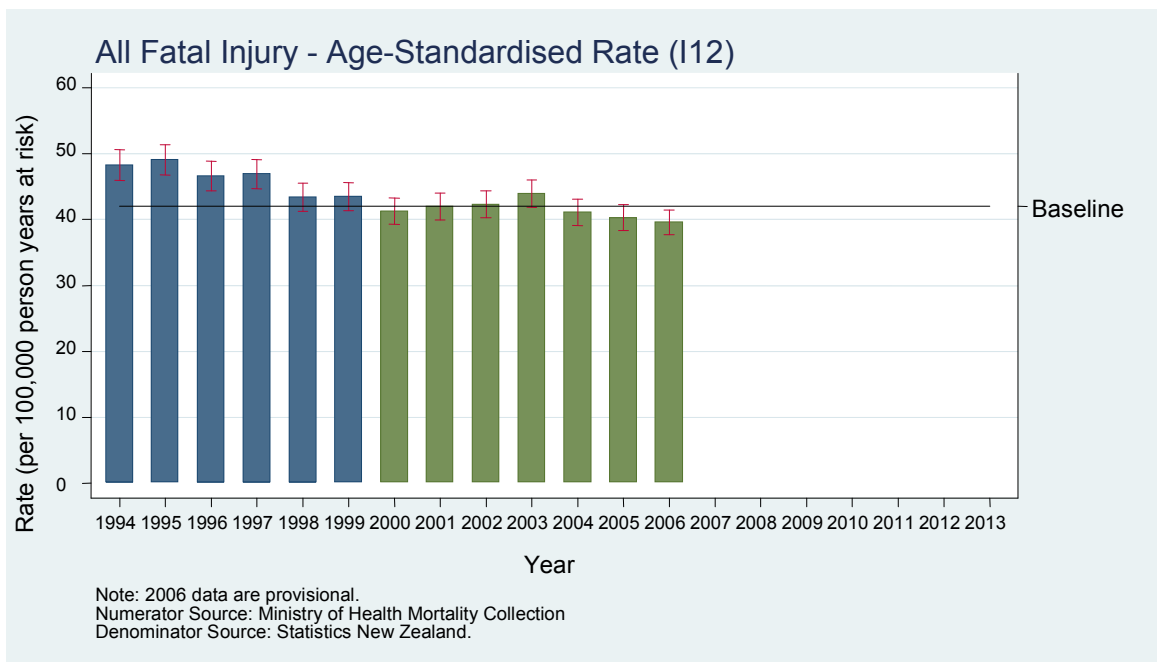
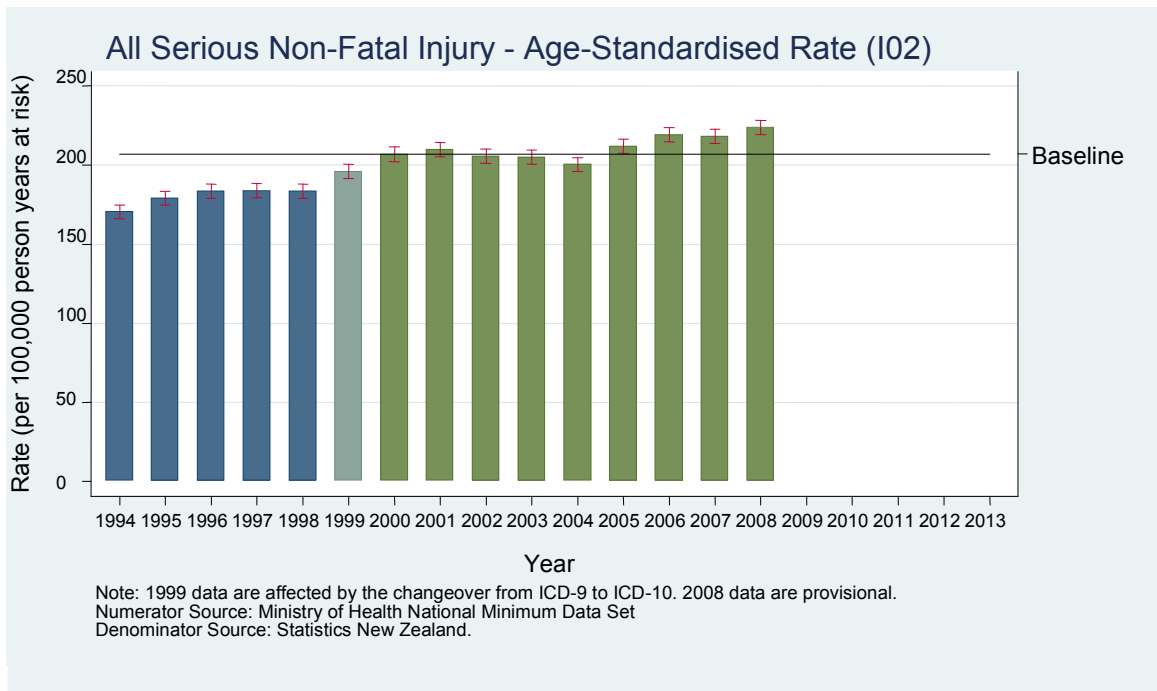
Because of this time lag in the availability of the most complete set of injury data, accurate reporting of injury rates and incidence is limited to an annual 'high level' update on injuries in the previous year/s and trends in each of the indicators over a period of years.

## **Reporting against the injury indicators**

The set of indicators is made up of sixty serious injury outcome indicators across 'all injuries' and for the six NZIPS priority injury areas (see appendix for full list of indicators). So that agencies can realistically and appropriately incorporate injury indicators into injury reporting, the two most relevant and useful indicators have been identified as a minimum to include when reporting injury incidence. Each lead agency of NZIPS is asked to include the age- standardised serious non-fatal injury rate and age-standardised fatal injury rate for the relevant injury priority area.

Alongside injury reporting of the relevant injury priority area, lead agencies may also include the age standardised rates for all injuries.

As an example, the following graphs show the injury incidence rate trends for all serious non-fatal from 1994 to 2008 and fatal injury from 1994 to 2006.



## Statistics New Zealand to support agencies in using the indicators

As part of the Official Injury Information Programme, Statistics New Zealand will support agencies in applying the protocol. This will include:

- providing access to relevant information about injury monitoring and reporting
- co-ordinating a programme of review and further development of the injury indicators

- setting and supporting the use of a consistent standard for high level injury monitoring and reporting
- providing advice and direction on the use of the protocol.

### **References**

Cryer C, Langley J, Stephenson S. Developing valid injury indicators. A report for the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy. Injury Prevention Research Unit Occasional Report OR 049, Dunedin: University of Otago, September 2004.

Gulliver P, Cryer C, Davie G. A Chartbook of the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy serious injury outcome Indicators: 1994 – 2008. Injury Prevention Research Unit (University of Otago) OR081 Wellington: New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy Secretariat, ACC. January 2010.

Gulliver P, Cryer C, Davie G. The New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy serious injury outcome indicators: Technical report. Injury Prevention Research Unit (University of Otago) Wellington: New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy Secretariat, ACC. November 2008.

## **PROTOCOL**

This section details the agreed protocol.

### **1. The 'Official' measures of injury in New Zealand**

- 1.1. The age-standardised serious non-fatal injury rate and age-standardised injury mortality rate are the official core measures of serious injury in New Zealand.
- 1.2. The New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy (NZIPS) serious injury outcome indicators will be used as the official measures of serious injury rates in New Zealand for the six NZIPS priority injury areas.

### **2. Application of the Protocol**

- 2.1. At least two injury indicators are included in key reports produced by the lead agencies of NZIPS, and in other important reports, publications or correspondence from government departments which refer to the annual trends or rates of injury in New Zealand. These may include:
  - departmental Statements of Intent
  - departmental Output Plans
  - departmental Annual Reports
  - reports to Ministers
  - ministerial advice
  - injury related publications.
- 2.2. Lead agencies have standard procedures and processes in place that detail the use of the injury indicators in injury reporting.
- 2.3. Where injury reporting already occurs agency accountability documents include information about the injury indicators and their relevance to the lead agency.
- 2.4. Reporting of injury incidence can include progress against the injury indicators for 'all population', 'children', 'Maori' and for the six priority injury areas where available and relevant to the subject matter.
- 2.5. When reporting annual trends in all injury incidence or rates, the 'all injury' measures are included.

### **3. Consistent presentation across Government Agencies**

- 3.1. Lead agencies will present the indicators and include (or provide access to) supporting information that enables users to understand and interpret the data.

This will include:

- sufficient information about the methodology, classifications and processes used in relation to the injury indicators, or advice about where it can be obtained, to allow users to access the data. For example, by providing access to the technical report of the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy serious injury outcome indicators.
- explanations and interpretations that show the links between the injury indicators and other injury measures or information reported.

#### **4. Lead agency responsibility for implementing the protocol**

4.1. Copies of this Protocol have been provided to the lead agencies of NZIPS as follows:

- ACC
- Ministry of Health
- Department of Labour
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Social Development

4.2. Each of these agencies is responsible for ensuring that the protocol is disseminated to the appropriate staff within the agency.

#### **5. Commencement date**

5.1 This protocol comes into operation on 1 July 2010

**Signatories**

Signed for and on behalf of the Accident  
Compensation Corporation

Signed for and on behalf of the Ministry  
of Health

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Dr Jan White  
Chief Executive  
Accident Compensation Corporation

.....  
Stephen McKernan  
Director General of Health  
Ministry of Health

Date ...../...../.....

Date ...../...../.....

Signed for and on behalf of the Ministry of  
Justice

Signed for and on behalf of the  
Department of Labour

.....  
Belinda Clarke  
Chief Executive  
Ministry of Justice

.....  
Christopher Blake  
Chief Executive  
Department of Labour

Date ...../...../.....

Date ...../...../.....

Signed for and on behalf of the Ministry of  
Social Development

Signed for and on behalf of Statistics  
New Zealand

.....  
Peter Hughes  
Chief Executive  
Ministry of Social Development

.....  
Geoff Bascand  
Government Statistician  
Statistics New Zealand

Date ...../...../.....

Date ...../...../.....

Signed for and on behalf of the Ministry of  
Transport

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Martin Mathews  
Chief Executive  
Ministry of Transport

Date ...../...../.....

## **Appendix: NZIPS serious injury outcome indicators and data source**

### **All injury indicators**

- Number of injury deaths. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Age-standardised injury mortality rate, per 100,000 person-years at risk. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of serious non-fatal injuries. (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age-standardised serious non-fatal injury rate, per 100,000 person-years at risk. (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Number of fatal and serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age standardized mortality and serious non-fatal injury rate (per 100,000 person years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)

### **Assault**

- Number of assaultive injury deaths. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Age-standardised assaultive injury mortality rate, per 100,000 person-years. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of assaultive serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age-standardised assaultive serious non-fatal injury rate, per 100,000 person-years at risk (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Number of assaultive fatal and serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age standardized assaultive mortality and serious non-fatal injury rate (per 100,000 person years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)

### **Work-related injury**

- Number of work-related injury deaths (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Age-standardised work-related injury mortality rate, per 100,000 workers (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of work-related injury deaths (ACC Mortality data)
- Age-standardised work-related injury mortality rate, per 100,000 workers (ACC Mortality data)
- Number of work-related serious non-fatal injuries (ACC-NMDS linked data-based)
- Age-standardised work-related serious non-fatal injury rate, per 100,000 workers (ACC-NMDS linked data-based)
- Number of work-related fatal and serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and ACC-NMDS linked data-based)
- Age standardized mortality and serious non-fatal injury rate (per 100,000 person years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and ACC-NMDS linked data-based)

## Intentional self-harm

- Number of intentional self-harm injury deaths. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Age-standardised intentional self-harm injury mortality rate, per 100,000 person-years. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of intentional self-harm serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age-standardised intentional self-harm serious non-fatal injury rate, per 100,000 person-years at risk (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Number of intentional self harm fatal and serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age standardized intentional self harm mortality and serious non-fatal injury rate (per 100,000 person years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)

## Falls

- Number of fall-related injury deaths. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Age-standardised fall-related injury mortality rate per 100,000 person-years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of fall-related injury deaths amongst people aged 0-74. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Age-standardised fall-related injury mortality rate per 100,000 person-years for people aged 0-74. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of fall-related injury deaths for people aged 75 and over. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Age-standardised fall-related injury mortality rate per 100,000 person-years for people aged 75 and older. (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of fall-related serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age-standardised fall-related serious non-fatal injury rate, per 100,000 person-years at risk (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Number of fall-related serious non-fatal injuries amongst people aged 0-74. (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age-standardised fall-related serious non-fatal injury rate per 100,000 person-years for people aged 0-74. (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Number of fall-related serious non-fatal injury for people aged 75 and over. (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age-standardised fall-related serious non-fatal injury rate per 100,000 person-years for people aged 75 and older. (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Number of fall-related fatal and serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age standardized fall-related mortality and serious non-fatal injury rate per 100,000 person years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Number of fatal and serious non-fatal injuries amongst people aged 0-74 (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age standardized mortality and serious non-fatal injury rate amongst people aged 0-74 (per 100,000 person years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Number of fall-related fatal and serious non-fatal injuries for people aged 75 and over (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age standardized mortality and serious non-fatal injury rate for people aged 75 and over per 100,000 person years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)

## **Motor vehicle traffic crashes (MVTC)**

- Number of MVTC-related injury deaths (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Age-standardised MVTC-related injury mortality rate, per 100,000 person-years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of MVTC-related serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age-standardised MVTC-related serious non-fatal injury rate, per 100,000 person-years at risk (Ministry of Health NMDS)
- MVTC-related mortality rate per billion vehicle-kilometres (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- MVTC-related mortality rate per 10,000 vehicles (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of MVTC-related fatal and serious non-fatal injuries (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Age standardized MVTC-related mortality and serious non-fatal injury rate (per 100,000 person years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality Collection and Ministry of Health NMDS)
- Number of MVTC-related injury deaths (Ministry of Transport Crash Analysis System data)
- Age-standardised MVTC-related injury mortality rate, per 100,000 person-years at risk (Ministry of Transport Crash Analysis System data)
- MVTC-related death rate per billion vehicle-kilometres (Ministry of Transport Crash Analysis System data)
- MVTC-related death rate per 10,000 vehicles (Ministry of Transport Crash Analysis System data)

## **Drowning and near drowning**

- Number of drowning cases (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Age-standardised drowning rate, per 100,000 person-years at risk (Ministry of Health Mortality data)
- Number of drowning cases (Water Safety New Zealand DrownBase data)
- Age-standardised drowning rate, per 100,000 person-years (Water Safety New Zealand DrownBase data)