Early Childhood Education Participation Intensity Measure
30 June 2019 results

Percentage of children attending early childhood education for 10 or more hours a week on average at age 3 and at age 4
30 June 2019 results

According to Stats NZ, there were 61,460 children in New Zealand aged 4, and 61,800 aged 5 on 30 June 2019. Of these children, 75% of current 4 year olds attended early childhood education for at least 10 hours a week on average when they were aged 3; 84% of current 5 year olds attended early childhood education for at least 10 hours a week on average when they were aged 4.

These percentages have increased since the June 2018 figures. The percentage of children attending early childhood education for 10+ and 20+ hours a week are lower for Māori children, Pacific children, and children with addresses in low socioeconomic areas.

Table 1 Participation intensity measure results, June 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current 4 year olds when aged 3</th>
<th>Current 5 year olds when aged 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10+ hours a week</td>
<td>20+ hours a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total children</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Māori</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low socioeconomic areas</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key messages:

» The percentage of current 4 year olds who attended ECE for 20+ hours a week when aged 3 (Figure 1 below) increased between 2017 and 2019, while the percentage attending for less than 10 hours a week decreased.

» The percentage of current 5 year olds who attended ECE for 20+ hours a week when aged 4 (Figure 2 below) increased from 2017 to 2019, with nearly 40% of current 5 year olds having attended ECE for 20+ hours a week when aged 4.

» A lower percentage of Māori and Pacific children attended ECE for 10+ and 20+ hours a week compared to the total population.

» A lower percentage of children with addresses in low socioeconomic areas attended ECE for 10+ and 20+ hours a week compared to the total population.

» The percentage of current 4 and 5 year olds that we have no attendance data for has decreased since 2018.
Participation intensity time series

Figure 1 Participation intensity at age 3 by 4 year olds, 2017 to 2019

Date when aged 4 years old

Figure 2 Participation intensity at age 4 by 5 year olds, 2017 to 2019

Date when aged 5 years old
Notes:

» The population of 4 and 5 year olds is taken from Stats NZ, National ethnic population projections, by age and sex, 2013(base)-2038 update, 50th percentile (median) scenario.

» Based on demographic data from the Early Learning Information system (ELI), we have used the following percentages to approximate the number of children in high, medium and low socioeconomic areas: 30% of the population of children are in high socioeconomic areas, 37% in medium socioeconomic areas, and the remaining 33% in low socioeconomic areas.

» The participation intensity measures are calculated using attendance data from ELI.

» These measures are calculated from the day each individual child turns 3 for the age 3 measure, and from the day the child turns 4 for the age 4 measure. Attendance when a child is aged less than 3 years and 5 or older are not included.

» These measures do not include attendance from services that do not report their data via ELI, such as ngā kōhanga reo or playgroups.

» Because the attendance data and the Stats NZ projections are from two different sources, the sum of the proportions for each year do not add to 100%.

The 30 June 2020 update will be available in late September 2020.
We shape an education system that delivers equitable and excellent outcomes

He mea tārai e mātou te mātauranga kia rangatira ai, kia mana taurite ai ōna huanga