

# Roadmap

Towards Better Oral Health for New Zealand

## Summary

## Current State of Oral Health in New Zealand

**Many oral conditions are preventable, but the state of oral health in New Zealand reveals significant issues, including high rates of untreated dental decay and gum disease.**

- In 2023/2024, 321,000 adults and 31,000 children had teeth removed due to decay, abscesses, infection or gum diseases. Tooth decay, which is largely preventable, is the most common chronic disease in New Zealand.
- 19% of children suffer from molar hypomineralization (a condition where teeth have reduced mineral content in their enamel, making them softer and more prone to decay and breakdown), contributing to early tooth loss.
- Early childhood oral health has not improved significantly in 15 years.
- Many oral diseases impact the health and wellbeing of Māori and Pacific people, people with disabilities and people with low incomes disproportionately.
- Children in high deprivation areas are over three times more likely to have teeth removed.
- Oral conditions have risk factors in common with other chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease and respiratory diseases.

### Queries and Comments

For queries and comments please contact:

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