The Bay of Plenty (BOP) population has generally good health compared to others in New Zealand, and generally good access to health and disability support services. Future projections (based on current state) indicate the largest potential health gains for BOP people over the next 10-20 years lie in:

- eliminating smoking
- addressing obesity
- reducing Māori inequities in health
In the Bay of Plenty...

For more information, see summary sheets at the beginning of most Sections of the Health & Service Profile 2016

BOP has steady population growth projected for Tauranga and West BOP, with negative population growth expected in East BOP. The largest proportionate growth is in older people, with the 75+ age group increasing at 3.6% per year, similar to the New Zealand average (Section 1)

75+ AGE GROUP INCREASING 3.6% PER YEAR

At 25%, BOP has a high proportion of Māori in the population compared to national data (1)

The NZ Deprivation Index shows that on average, BOP is more deprived than the New Zealand average (2)

The BOP population has a higher life expectancy than the New Zealand average, but has a higher amenable mortality. Males have a lower life expectancy than females (3)

The BOP population ranks relatively high on most risk factors compared to national data. It has 35,000 smokers and 57,000 obese adults 10,000 of whom are morbidly obese. Over 4,000 children are obese, with 21% consuming fizzy drinks 3+ times a week (4)

57,000 OBESE ADULTS

4,000 OBESE CHILDREN

Māori in BOP are comparable to Māori elsewhere in New Zealand on most health indicators. A large gap still exists in the majority of health indicators compared with non-Māori in BOP. Exciting opportunities exist for making rapid health gains for Māori in BOP (3-11)

Children (0-14 years) and youth (15-24 years) are generally at higher risk than their national counterparts. Specific concerns include overcrowding, lack of home heating, child abuse, dental health, ambulatory sensitive hospitalisations, suicide and self harm (2.3, 2.4, 3.4, 7.2, 7.3, 11.7)

BOP has a higher rate of hazardous drinking than the national average (4.2)

12,000 PEOPLE WITH DIABETES

More than 12,000 people in BOP have diabetes, and prevalence is growing (5.1)
16% of adults have chronic pain, with many assessed for home care noting severe persistent pain. Rates of long term opioid use are high despite lack of effectiveness (5.8, 6.4, 9.5)

Māori are lower users of primary care than indicated by their health status, raising equity concerns (6)

Most hospital care is provided locally. Both unplanned and planned admission rates are above the New Zealand average (7)

Overall, BOP’s ambulatory sensitive hospitalisation rate for 2010-15 is higher than the national overall rate (7.2)

Emergency department (ED) attendance rates are higher than national rates, and are particularly high at Whakatane Hospital (8). This may link to lower after-hours access to primary care (6.1)

Older people (age 75+) appear to have good access to hospital and community-based services, with good ageing in place support (7.3, 9)

The birth rate is declining, but fertility remains higher than the NZ average. Obesity rates during pregnancy are similar to New Zealand rates. Caesarean section rates are relatively low (10)

Access to mental health and addiction specialist services is similar to, or better than, the national average. Hospital level care may be overused compared with community-based support (11)

Suicide and self harm rates are higher than the NZ average (11.7)