

# Hauora Maori Standards of Health IV

## A study of the years 2000–2005

Edited by B Robson and R Harris

Review by **Dr Lance O'Sullivan**,  
FRNZCGP, GP, Te Whare Hauora, Kaitiāia

**T**his book is a comprehensive and concise account of the state of Maori health compared to non-Maori in Aotearoa in the first five years of the new millennium. It is the latest in a series of texts aimed at giving an update on how well we, who influence health outcomes for Maori, are doing. The first text authored by the late Dr Eru Pomare and published in 1980 looked at the years 1955–75 and showed

of the issues discussed in the first three chapters in order for them and their patients to gain value from this book. This book is not intended to be read in one night, but rather a resource to be referred to at regular intervals. Whilst it is an overview of Maori health status in general, it also includes data on specific diseases such as bronchiectasis, obstructive sleep apnoea and heart failure.

This is an excellent resource for all workers in the NZ health sector and policy makers to the highest level. Medical practitioners diagnosing and

rate ratios for incidence and mortality for Maori and non-Maori across the spectrum of diseases. These ratios make it easy to see that we are a long way from health equity for Maori that would see rate ratios of 1.0 rather than 7.85 (female heart failure hospitalisation rates age 45–64 Maori v. non-Maori 2003–05).

The only limitation I could find with this book is the lack of copies available. Thankfully it is available online, chapter and verse, at <http://www.hauora.maori.nz/hauora/>

**I recommend this book for all those who influence health outcomes for Maori in the hope that we do not have to wait for another four volumes to see change**

that Maori suffered disproportionate disease incidence and mortality. The analysis remains much the same for the years 2000–2005.

An honest analysis of contemporary Maori health requires knowledge of historical events that impacted and continue to impact on Maori. This book rightly begins by introducing the reader to the precursors of poor health. In the first three chapters the book describes the impact of colonisation on Maori society. Readers need to have a firm grasp

treating Maori and receptionists and booking clerks who unwittingly play a role in these statistics should have access to this book and should review their practice accordingly against this analysis of Maori health.

The style of this book reflects the many expert contributors to the subject matter. Chapters range from summary of statistical analysis to personal accounts of Maori patients' experiences in our health system. What I really like about the data in this book is the

I recommend this book for all those who influence health outcomes for Maori in the hope that we do not have to wait for another four volumes to see change.

*No reira ki a koutou nga rangatira i  
wbakatakato tenei wero ki mua i a tatou  
tena koutou katoa-Mauri ora!*

Publisher: Te Ropu Rangahau Hauora a Eru  
Pomare, University of Otago, Wellington  
Publication date: November 2007