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| **Household Food Insecurity among Children in New Zealand** |
| **Background/Objectives**Food insecurity is limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate, safe and acceptable foods. In New Zealand it is largely the result of lack of sufficient money for food.This oral presentation provides descriptive data from 2012 to 2016, of the percentage of New Zealand children living in households that report food insecurity. It was written by Linda Pannekoek (Ministry of Health) and David Rea (Ministry of Social Development)**Methods**The data are from the child components of New Zealand Health Surveys 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2015/16. The Health Survey runs from 1 July to 30 June the following year and provides a cross-sectional snapshot of the health of New Zealand adults and children.Using an eight-item questionnaire caregivers of children aged 0-14 years, were asked to rate their household’s food security. **Results**For 2015/16, an estimated nineteen percent (19%) of children aged 0-14 years lived in households experiencing severe to moderate food insecurity with 1.6% living in households that reported severe food insecurity. Thus an estimated 174,000 children were part of households that had to compromise on the amount or quality of food consumed. There was a strong socioeconomic gradient, with household income being important in the prevalence of reported household food insecurity.**Discussion**Food insecurity is an important public policy matter with negative impacts on health, development and educational outcomes. These estimates establish a baseline to inform policy interventions and enable monitoring of the impacts.**Keywords**Household food insecurity, Children, New Zealand Health Survey. |