

# Individual Placement and Support (IPS) in Aotearoa New Zealand – New insights

IPS is a well-defined approach to employment support for people with mental health conditions. Internationally, IPS employment support programmes make a large positive difference to the likelihood of employment, when compared to what would have occurred in the absence of the programme, regardless of economic conditions.

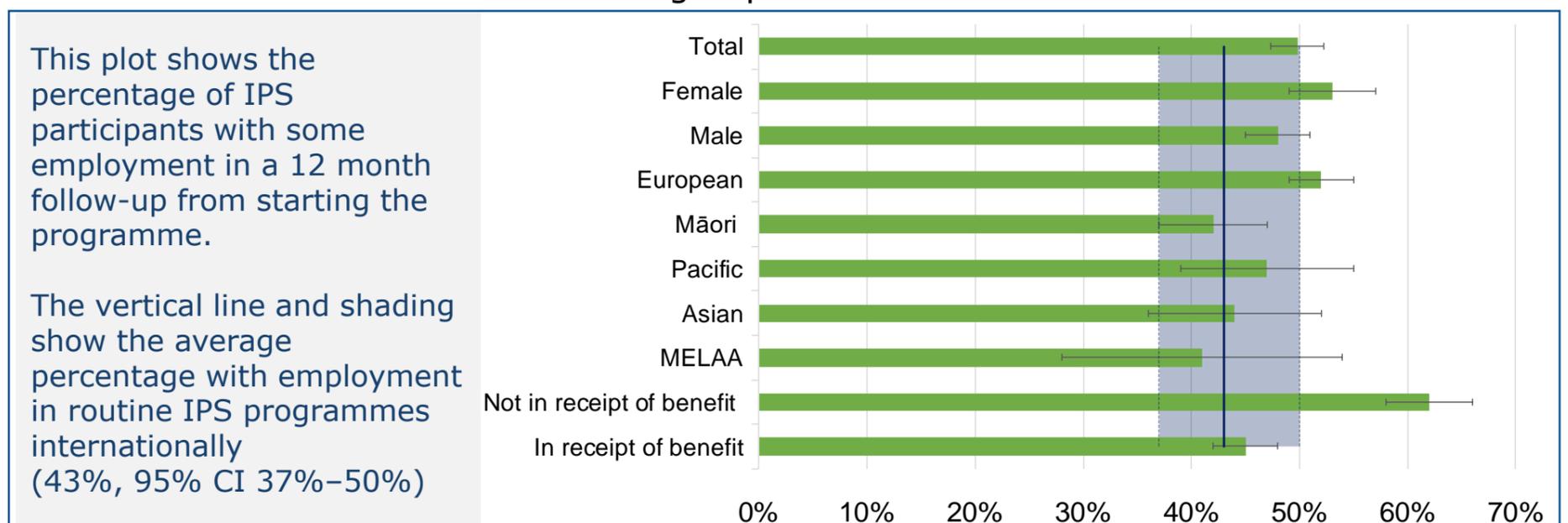
This study examined the performance of existing Aotearoa NZ programmes in five District Health Boards (DHBs) where IPS employment support is well established, and looked at access to IPS programmes across the country.

## Participation and employment outcomes in five DHBs with IPS

IPS programmes in the five DHBs examined reach the people IPS employment support is designed for, namely people who have high levels of labour market disadvantage

**71%** of programme participants were receiving a benefit.

On average, the IPS programmes achieve equivalent participation rates for Māori, Pacific and non-Māori, non-Pacific mental health and addiction service users. In mental health and addiction teams where it is available, one in ten people accessed IPS employment support in a three year period. The IPS programmes achieve employment outcomes at or exceeding international benchmarks for all ethnic groups.



## Access across the country

There is low and uneven access to IPS employment support in Aotearoa NZ, with no services in around half of District Health Boards in 2019. Even in the five DHBs which had well established IPS programmes, only four percent of mental health and addiction service users accessed IPS employment support in a three year period, due to the low level of IPS coverage within the DHBs.

## Implications for policy

This study examined programmes in which IPS provision was health-led, and contracts required performance monitoring but were not contingent on employment outcomes being achieved. The findings lend support to the Ministry of Social Development working with the Ministry of Health to increase access to employment support programmes in health settings, and suggest IPS will form a useful part of a strategy of early intervention to enhance employment through the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Disclaimer

The results in this document are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI), managed by Statistics New Zealand.

The opinions, findings, recommendations, and conclusions expressed in this report are those of the author(s), not Statistics NZ or the other agencies involved in this research collaboration.

Access to the anonymised data used in this study was provided by Statistics NZ under the security and confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. Only people authorised by the Statistics Act 1975 are allowed to see data about a particular person, household, business, or organisation, and the results in this paper have been confidentialised to protect these groups from identification and to keep their data safe.

Careful consideration has been given to the privacy, security, and confidentiality issues associated with using administrative and survey data in the IDI. Further detail can be found in the Privacy impact assessment for the Integrated Data Infrastructure available from [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz).

The results are based in part on tax data supplied by Inland Revenue to Statistics NZ under the Tax Administration Act 1994. This tax data must be used only for statistical purposes, and no individual information may be published or disclosed in any other form, or provided to Inland Revenue for administrative or regulatory purposes.

### Find out more

Read the full report online at:

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/individual-placement-and-support-trials/index.html>

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