

# Quality and Equity in screening programmes

New Zealand Universal Hearing Screening and Early Intervention programme

# Screening programmes can do harm as well as good



Professor Sir Muir Gray

# Screening programmes can do harm as well as good

- § **Inequities** in health are differences in health status that are unnecessary, avoidable and unjust.
- § Setting standards and enabling ongoing quality improvement for screening programmes minimizes harm, and maximises good outcomes.
- § **Quality** in our context is doing the right thing consistently and well

# The data shows inequities exist

- i New Zealand Deafness Notification data indicated ethnic inequalities in hearing loss, for example:
  - § hearing loss was identified later in Maori children and even more so in Pacific children compared to non-Maori, non-Pacific children
  - § hearing loss was disproportionately reported in Maori children compared to non-Maori children, accounting for nearly half of all deafness notifications.

# Health inequities already exist in New Zealand

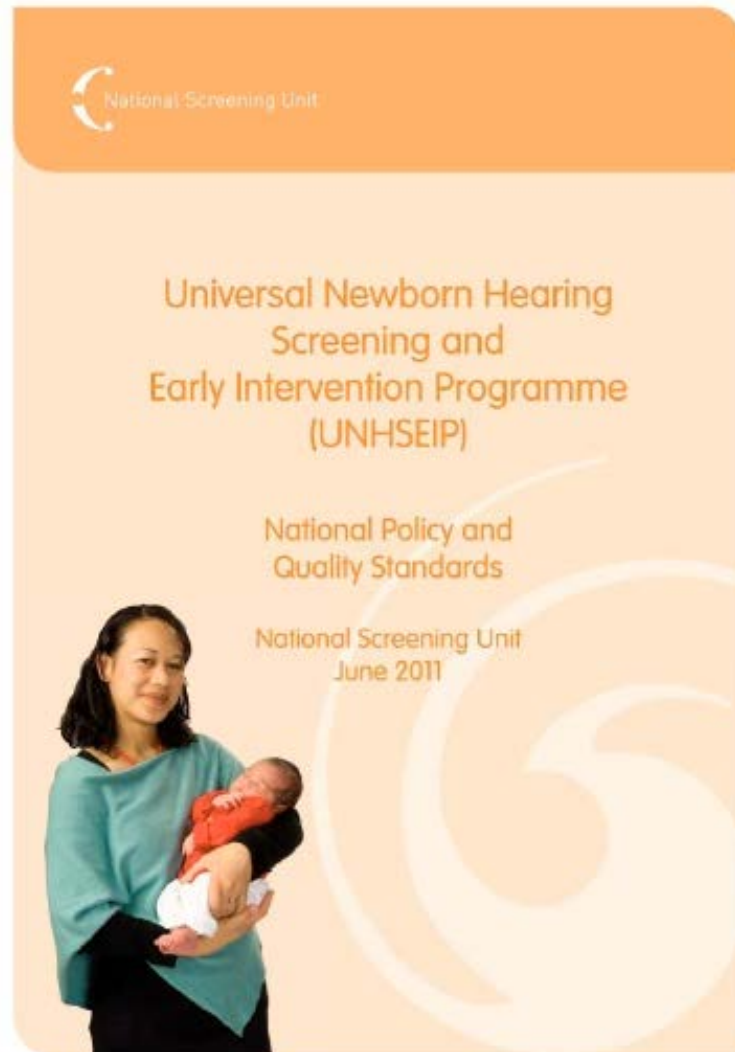


- i Maori children in New Zealand have poorer health outcomes on a range of measures
- i We used the Maori Health Strategy “He Korowai Oranga” to inform the actions we need to take to ensure that outcomes for all ethnic groups are equal.

# He Korowai Oranga

- i He Korowai Oranga – The Maori Health Strategy sets out a framework to improve the health status of Maori.
- i Core factors for improving health services for Maori include:
  - § ensuring systems/processes are in place to facilitate the routine involvement of Maori in service development, planning and delivery
  - § Addressing “access” to health care barriers, such as financial and geographical barriers
  - § providing health care services in a culturally appropriate manner.

# Quality policy and standards



The New Zealand Ministry of Health has recently developed Quality Policy and Standards for the Newborn hearing screening programme

[http://www.nsu.govt.nz/files/PQS\\_word.pdf](http://www.nsu.govt.nz/files/PQS_word.pdf)

# A quality approach to equity

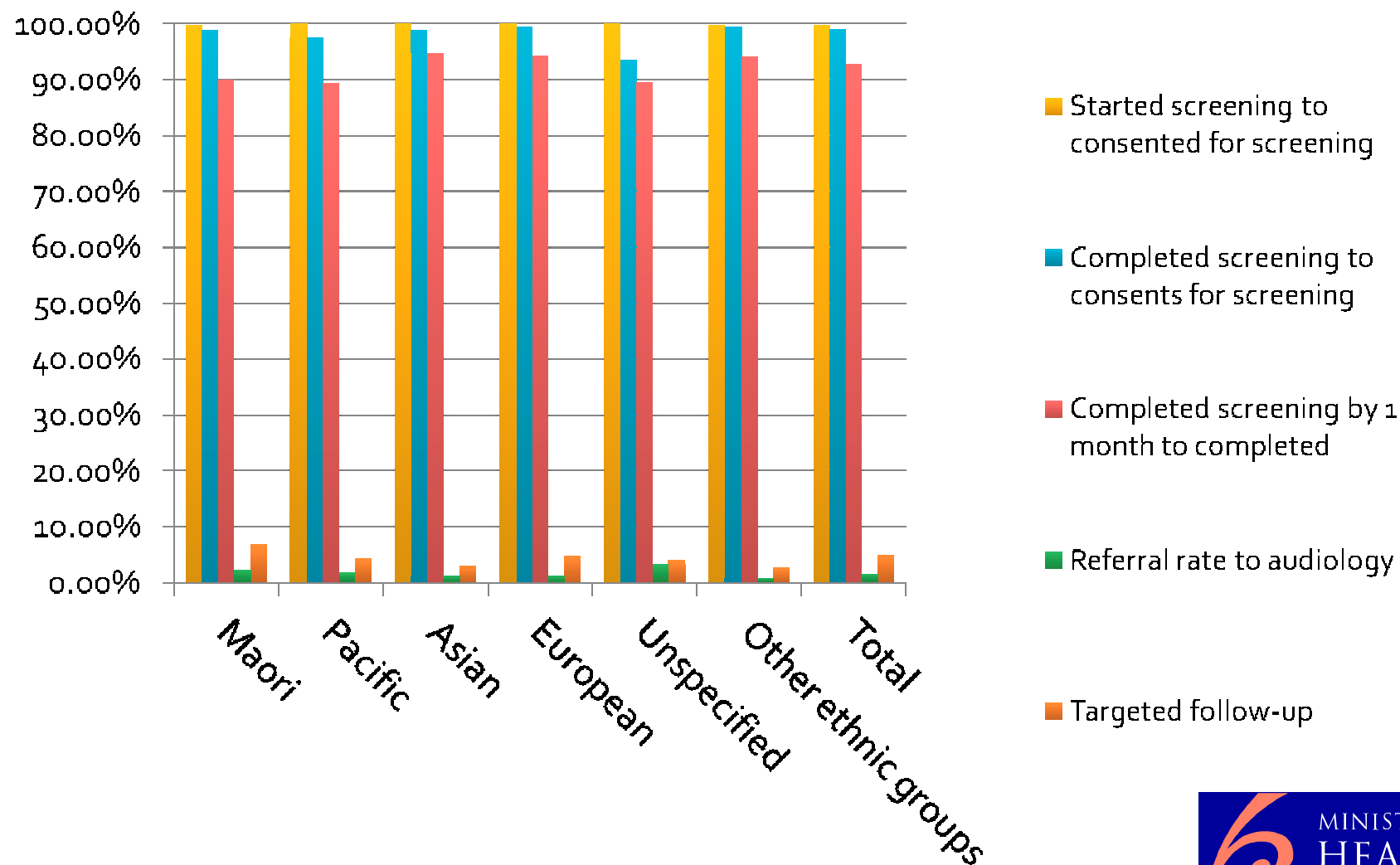
- i Screening programmes, if not implemented carefully have the potential to increase inequalities across population groups or increase inequalities which already exist
- i The approach we have taken is to place “Improving Maori Health” and “Reducing inequalities” as two the core policy goals of the UNSEIP.
- i This reduces the likelihood that the programme will disproportionately fail to enrol, screen, diagnose and follow-up children at higher risk of poorer health outcomes



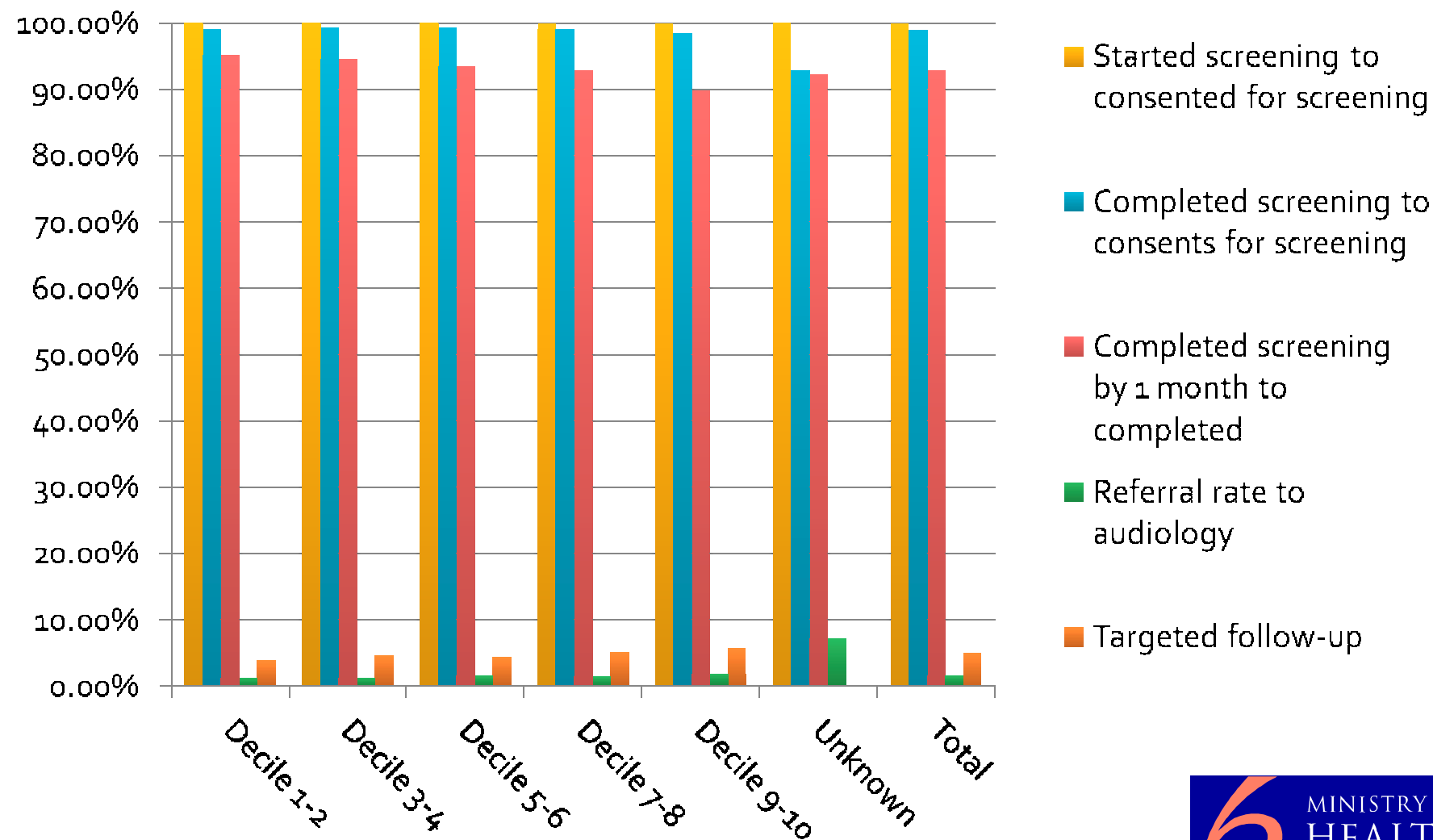
# Policy and Standards

- i UNHSEIP providers have obligations to:
  - § develop and implement Maori health plans that identify the specific ways in which they will contribute to improving hearing outcomes for Maori
  - § reduce access barriers to newborn hearing screening and early intervention for Maori
  - § facilitate the involvement of Maori throughout service design, development and delivery
  - § develop relationships with Maori health providers
  - § develop staff competencies to meet the specific needs of Maori.

# Are we meeting the needs of Maori and Pacific populations?



# Are we meeting the needs of children living in areas of relative deprivation?



# Audiology referral rates

## October 2011 – March 2012

Ethnicity	Referral to audiology	Targeted follow-up
Maori	2.30%	6.80%
Pacific	1.70%	4.50%
Asian	1.20%	3.00%
European	1.20%	4.80%
Unspecified	3.30%	4.10%
Other ethnic groups	0.90%	2.70%
Total	1.50%	4.90%

# Audiology referral rates

## October 2011 – March 2012

Deprivation	Referral to audiology	Targeted follow-up
Decile 1-2	1.20%	3.90%
Decile 3-4	1.20%	4.70%
Decile 5-6	1.50%	4.40%
Decile 7-8	1.40%	5.20%
Decile 9-10	1.90%	5.80%
Unknown	7.10%	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.50%</b>	<b>4.90%</b>

# The inverse care law

i “The availability of good medical care tends to vary inversely with the need for it in the population served.”

Julian Tudor Hart

i We avoid the inverse care law by taking a quality approach – planning for equity, monitoring our outcomes and adjusting our interventions

# Their future is in our hands

