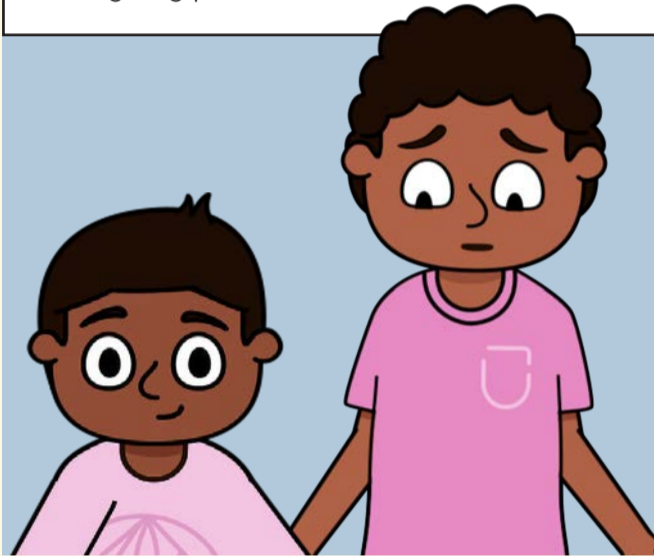




# Access to Primary Health Services and Dental care

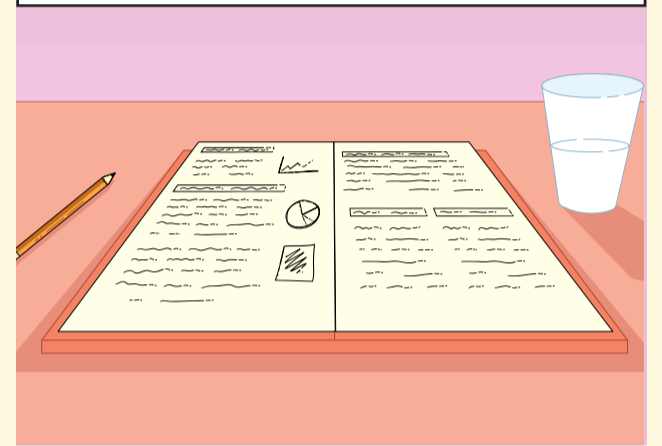
An in-depth look into the experiences of accessing primary health services and dental care for tamariki and rangatahi in care.

Tamariki (children) and rangatahi (young people) in care are less likely than others to report being well. They are more likely to have something that makes life a bit tough, like a long-term sickness, disability, or ongoing pain.



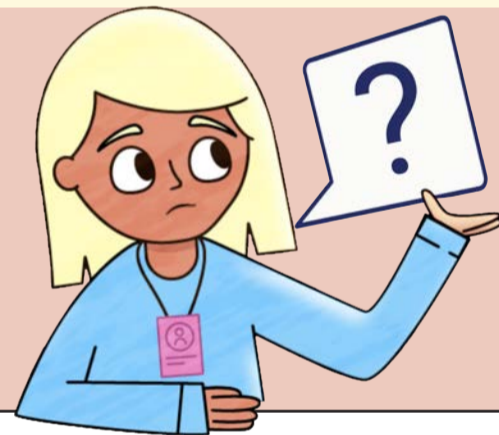
Māori tamariki and rangatahi are more likely to have health and teeth problems that don't get fixed. Pacific and Māori tamariki and rangatahi often have more damaged teeth than others in Aotearoa.

The National Care Standards Regulations are the rules that guide Oranga Tamariki, Open Home Foundation, and other custody agencies to make sure tamariki and rangatahi are cared for and have what they need. This review focused on the rules about going to the doctor and dentist.

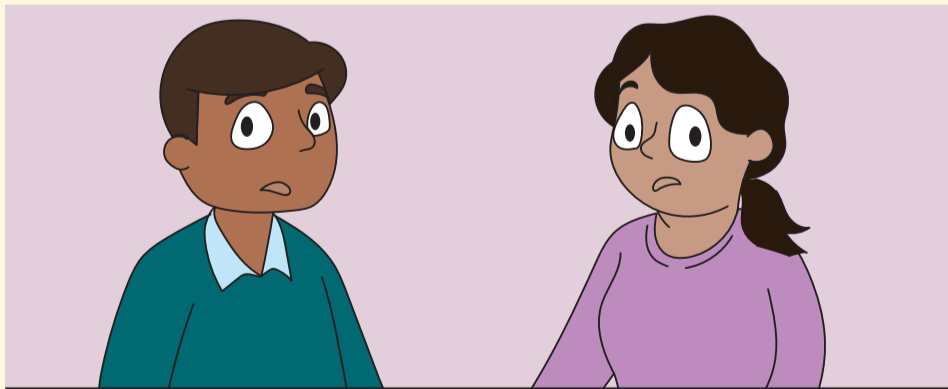


## What we found:

Oranga Tamariki does not keep good records about enrolment with a doctor or dentist for tamariki and rangatahi in care. There might be more enrolled than its records show, but Oranga Tamariki does not know.



Many Oranga Tamariki social workers do not know the rules about tamariki and rangatahi going to the doctor and dentist.

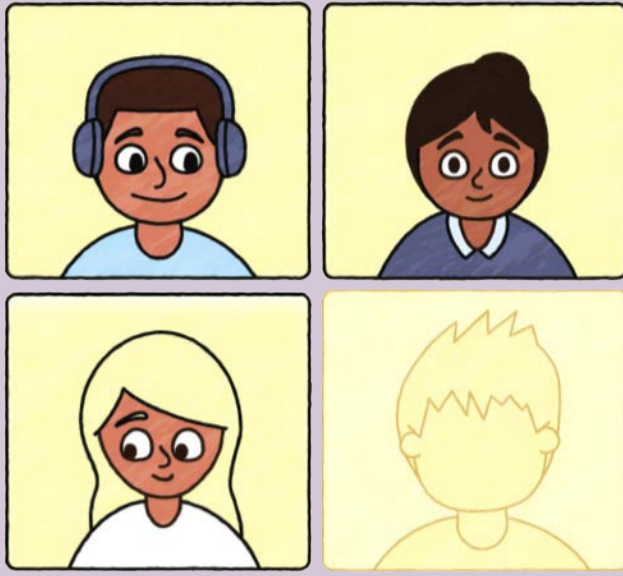


Some caregivers do not have all the information they need to make sure tamariki and rangatahi stay healthy and well. Some caregivers also don't know when they need to ask mum's or dad's or the social worker's permission to take tamariki and rangatahi to see a doctor or have their teeth looked at.



The rules say that every tamariki and rangatahi in care must visit the doctor each year for a check-up, but doctors, and social workers don't know what the check needs to cover.

Open Home Foundation could tell us that most tamariki and rangatahi in its care had seen a doctor in the last year. Oranga Tamariki could tell us that about 70 percent of tamariki and rangatahi in care had seen a doctor for different reasons, like a sore foot or a bad cough, but not necessarily for an annual check.

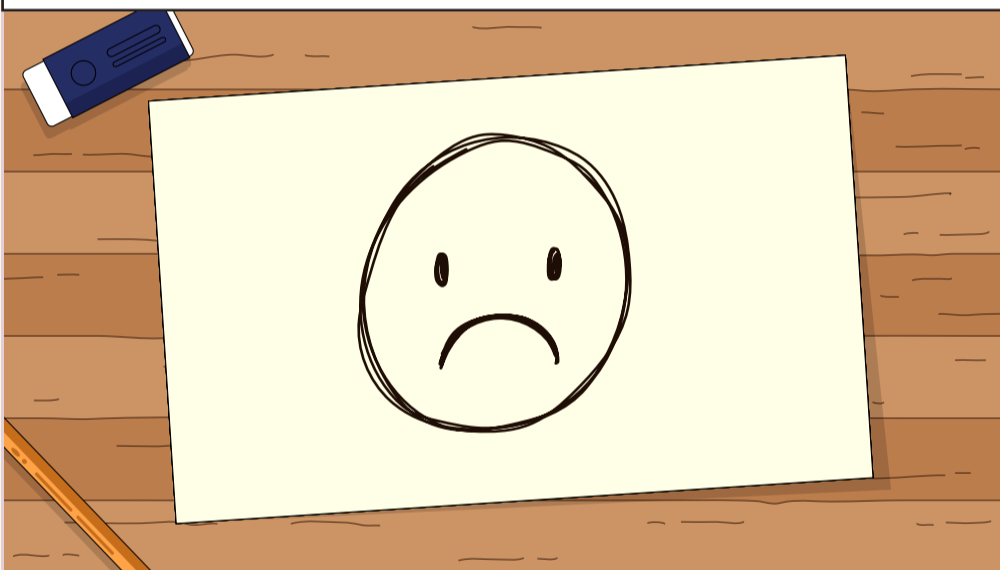


Tamariki and rangatahi in care should see the dentist every year. Oranga Tamariki does not know if this is happening. Open Home Foundation could tell us that three quarters of children in its care do go to the dentist every year.

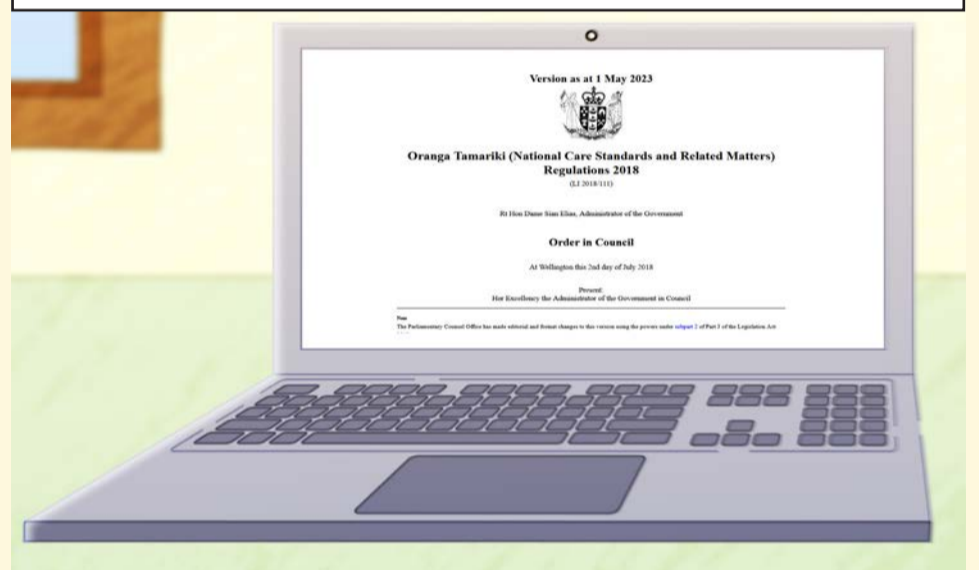
We found that some social workers didn't know when they should support tamariki and rangatahi to see the doctor or go to the dentist. Caregivers often had to arrange appointments that the social workers did not organise.



Some caregivers did not have all the information they needed. This meant that some tamariki and rangatahi who might be unwell or have a health condition didn't get the proper help they needed to stay well or get better.



We don't know if Oranga Tamariki is doing everything the rules say to make sure tamariki and rangatahi in care are getting all their health needs met. This is because it does not record the right information.



Some tamariki and rangatahi in care will stay with a 'care partner'. For example, an Iwi may have a partnership with Oranga Tamariki and may have their own caregivers or care homes. We found that care partners kept a record of when their tamariki and rangatahi were going to the doctor or dentist, but Oranga Tamariki doesn't ask for this information.



We spoke to lots of health professionals (doctors, nurses, dentists and their bosses!). They all wanted to do their best to make sure all tamariki and rangatahi in care stay happy and healthy.

