

Table 1: The number of sanctions for failing work obligations for working age main benefit clients with or without children during the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025
by quarter and region

Quarter / Children		Region											
		Northland	Auckland Metr	Waikato	Taranaki	Bay of Plenty	East Coast	Central	Wellington	Nelson	Canterbury	Southern	Other
September 2024	No	690	4,926	1,398	396	1,434	894	672	834	327	837	465	72
	Yes	120	576	165	36	138	84	51	60	36	90	36	66
	Quarter total	810	5,502	1,566	432	1,572	975	723	894	366	927	501	141
December 2024	No	759	4,335	1,362	396	1,383	831	552	993	321	867	339	9
	Yes	111	519	177	42	147	72	54	63	33	78	27	51
	Quarter total	867	4,851	1,542	441	1,530	903	603	1,062	354	945	363	60
March 2025	No	1,134	4,230	1,395	453	1,293	798	576	651	288	897	399	18
	Yes	120	522	150	48	153	87	51	42	30	63	30	66
	Quarter total	1,254	4,752	1,542	498	1,446	885	624	693	318	957	426	81

Notes:

The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
This is a count of sanctions, not clients. A client can have more than one sanction within the time period.
Children in care is assessed at the time of sanction.

Confidentiality Notes:

To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to three.
The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

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Table 2: The number of sanctions for failing work obligations for working age main benefit clients with or without children during the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025 by quarter and ethnicity

Quarter / Children		Total response ethnicity							Total sanctions
		Māori	European	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA	Other	Unknown	
September 2024	No	6,333	3,714	2,640	396	135	432	1,047	12,954
	Yes	723	363	384	48	15	15	105	1,455
	Quarter total	7,056	4,077	3,024	447	150	447	1,152	14,409
December 2024	No	6,078	3,492	2,379	342	120	402	1,017	12,147
	Yes	708	348	330	54	15	27	84	1,374
	Quarter total	6,786	3,840	2,709	393	135	432	1,101	13,521
March 2025	No	6,024	3,504	2,235	336	129	420	1,104	12,129
	Yes	693	327	330	48	21	27	99	1,359
	Quarter total	6,717	3,834	2,565	384	147	444	1,206	13,485

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Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept.

Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.

Because a client can choose more than one ethnic response, the total number of ethnic responses will be greater than the number of clients.

MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African.

'Unknown' is where ethnicity is not recorded. 'Other ethnicity' is where ethnicities fall outside the reported ethnicities.

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Table 3: The number of sanctions for failing work obligations for working age main benefit clients with or without children during the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025 by quarter and age group

Quarter / Children		Age group										Total sanctions
		18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	
September 2024	No	2196	4050	2514	1527	954	657	459	309	189	102	12,954
	Yes	75	138	177	246	312	249	150	69	36	6	1,452
	Quarter total	2,271	4,185	2,691	1,770	1,266	906	603	378	225	108	14,409
December 2024	No	2034	3837	2319	1359	891	636	429	321	216	96	12,144
	Yes	60	150	165	219	276	222	159	84	30	6	1,374
	Quarter total	2,097	3,990	2,484	1,581	1,170	858	588	405	246	105	13,518
March 2025	No	2151	3891	2142	1380	852	627	447	303	222	111	12,126
	Yes	72	147	150	195	276	234	150	93	27	9	1,356
	Quarter total	2,226	4,038	2,295	1,578	1,125	864	597	396	249	117	13,485

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Table 4: The number of sanctions for failing work obligations for working age main benefit clients with or without children during the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025
by quarter and gender

Quarter / Children		Gender			Total sanctions
		Female	Gender Diverse	Male	
September 2024	No	3,945	63	8,949	12,954
	Yes	693	0	759	1,455
	Quarter total	4,638	63	9,708	14,406
December 2024	No	3,615	60	8,472	12,144
	Yes	681	0	693	1,374
	Quarter total	4,296	60	9,165	13,518
March 2025	No	3,657	69	8,403	12,126
	Yes	699	0	657	1,359
	Quarter total	4,353	69	9,060	13,485

Notes:

The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).

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From 2 December 2019, The Ministry of Social Development has three options to record a client's or child's gender: Male, Female or Gender Diverse.

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