

TARGET

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Shorter wait times for elective treatment

LEAD MINISTER

Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Health

LEAD AGENCIES

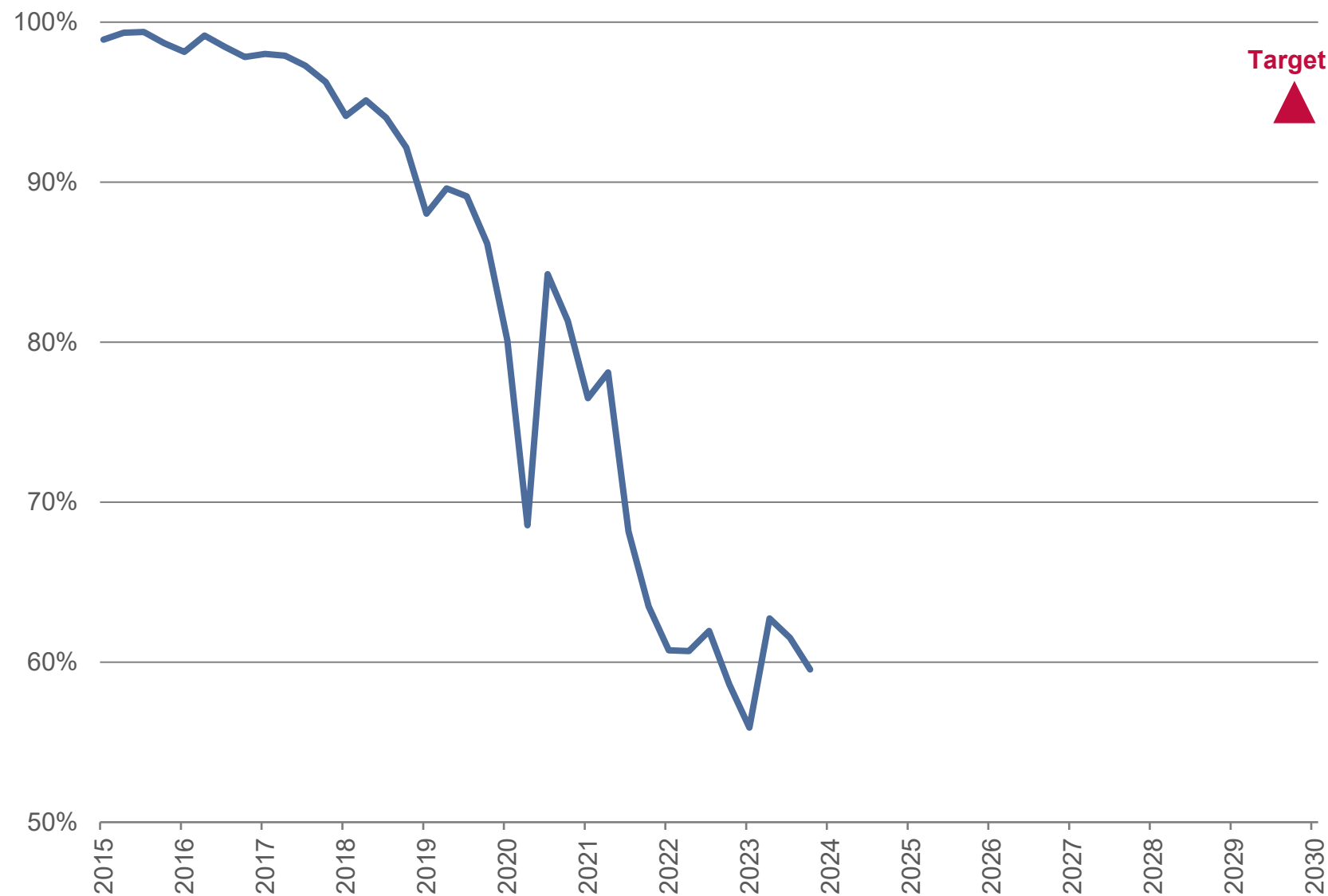
Ministry of Health, Director-General of Health, Dr Diana Sarfati

Health New Zealand, Chief Executive, Margie Apa

WHAT IS THE TARGET?

Ninety five per cent of people wait less than four months for elective treatment.

Per cent of patients waiting less than four months for elective treatment



WHY IS IT NEEDED AND WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

The treatment times we used to expect – and get – just six years ago have disappeared. Waiting for elective treatment has now turned into a highly stressful time for people who have very little certainty that they will get timely care.

In September 2023, just 62 per cent of patients waited less than four months for elective treatment. The total number of people on that wait list has also grown from 42,000 in 2018 to 75,000 in September 2023.

Between early **2015 and the end of 2017 we were achieving this target with over 95 per cent of patients receiving treatment in less than four months.** We know it is possible.

Health New Zealand has successfully focused recent efforts on seeing patients who have been waiting the longest. Importantly, there is a continued focus on clinical prioritisation, so those with the most urgent need get seen first.

Across New Zealand, patients will have access to the hospital and specialist services they need. They will have more certainty about when they will get treatment – and we will turn around the different wait times across regions, ethnicities and clinical specialty.

HOW WILL WE KEEP TRACK?

Health agencies will report results every quarter. The first quarterly results will be for July-September 2024.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for monitoring performance of Health New Zealand and the wider health system. Health New Zealand will provide regular performance reporting to the Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Health agencies will report on progress each quarter. National and regional results will be published so New Zealanders will be able to see how their local hospital is performing.

Performance information about the health system is available at the Health New Zealand and Ministry of Health websites www.tewhatauora.govt.nz and www.health.govt.nz

For information on the Government Targets go to www.dpmc.govt.nz