

TacklingPovertyNZ Workshop

Handout Five: Using integrated administrative data to identify youth who are at risk of poor outcomes as adults

McLeod, K., Templeton, R., Ball, C., Tumen, S., Crichton, S., & Dixon, S. (2015). *Using integrated administrative data to identify youth who are at risk of poor outcomes as adults*. Analytical paper 15/02 prepared for New Zealand Treasury. Retrieved March 24, 2016 from <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/research-policy/ap/2015/15-02/ap15-02.pdf>

Key findings

- ▶ Integrated administrative data can be a powerful tool for government and other agencies to identify at-risk groups in the population. Limitations in some of the data mean that the findings of this analysis need to be treated with some caution. However, the results provide a useful insight into the lives of at-risk youth. The data used for this type of analysis will continue to improve over time.
- ▶ A number of characteristics can be identified throughout a person's early life that are predictive of future poor outcomes including early contact with government agencies such as Child, Youth and Family (CYF), demographic characteristics and geographic location, characteristics of the young person's caregiver and early outcomes evident in data from the education, corrections, welfare and health systems. These can be used to quantify risk at an individual level and to identify the size and characteristics of at-risk groups of young people at different ages.
- ▶ The characteristics that are predictive of future outcomes change over time. As young people progress into early adulthood, poor future outcomes become directly evident through contact with the benefit, corrections and health systems. Whilst it becomes easier to predict poor outcomes as a young person ages, these outcomes may become more difficult to influence.
- ▶ It is possible to identify groups of at-risk youth at different ages using a small set of identifying characteristics. However, these predictions are by no means perfect. Young people who are identified as being at risk are highly likely to have poor future outcomes, but a large number of people have poor outcomes despite not falling into one of these defined groupings.
- ▶ In general, geographic location is strongly associated with risk of poor outcomes, with location-based measures such as the New Zealand Deprivation Index (NZDep) and territorial authority area being important predictors of risk, even controlling for other observed characteristics. Youth at risk of poor outcomes tend to be concentrated in specific areas such as the Far North, Kawerau, Opotiki and Wairoa. However, it is important to note that the largest numbers of at-risk youth still live in larger urban centres such as Manukau, Waitakere, Hamilton and Christchurch.

Appendix 5 Table 1: Target populations by territorial authority for December 2013 population (ages 15 to 19)

	Teenage boys with Youth Justice or Corrections history	Teenagers with health, disability issues or special needs	Teenage girls supported by benefits	Mental health service users with stand-down or CYF history	Experienced significant childhood disadvantage	In any target population	Not in a target population
Far North District	357	72	126	297	492	957	3,237
Gisborne District	264	90	93	234	330	720	2,904
Manawatu District	75	51	24	75	111	261	1,887
Queenstown-Lakes District	27	9	s	30	12	69	1,179
Rotorua District	435	141	120	240	462	1,005	4,320

The full paper is also available on the *TacklingPovertyNZ* website resources page.