Handout Two: Children and youth at higher risk of poor outcomes

Children and youth at higher risk of poor outcomes

This work is part of the Treasury's commitment to higher living standards and to an inclusive society where all New Zealanders can participate. The tool provides information about New Zealand children (aged 0 to 14) and youth (aged 15 to 24) at higher risk of poor future outcomes.

What does the preliminary analysis show us?

This analysis tells us about children aged 14 and under, and youth aged 15 to 24, who are at higher risk of poor outcomes later in life. It identifies indicators that are associated with higher risk of poor future outcomes, shows the likelihood of these outcomes occurring, and identifies some of the costs associated with these outcomes.

Children at risk: Four key risk indicators

Using the information already collected by government agencies we can identify four indicators that are associated with having poor outcomes later in life. These are:

1. Having a CYF finding of abuse or neglect (8% of children)
2. Being mostly supported by benefits since birth (15% of children)
3. Having a parent with a prison or community sentence (17% of children)
4. Having a mother with no formal qualifications (10% of children)

Children who have these indicators are more likely to leave school with no qualifications, to spend time on benefit, and to receive a prison or community sentence. The greater the number of indicators a child has, the more likely this will happen.

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

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Children aged 0 to 5 and aged 6 to 14 are represented separately, according to whether they have two or more risk indicators, three or more risk indicators, or all four risk indicators.

Youth at risk: Ten target populations

As children get older the information we have about them gets richer and more complex. As such, it's not possible to pick a few risk indicators that predict poor outcomes as we did for children. A richer picture helps us to make predictions, but also adds complexity. For this reason we developed a more sophisticated way to identify those youth most at risk of poor outcomes. We identified ten groups, or target populations - five at ages 15 to 19, and five at ages 20 to 24.

15 to 19 year olds

- o Teenage boys with Youth Justice or Corrections history
- o Teenagers with health, disability issues or special needs
- o Teenage girls supported by benefits
- o Mental health service users with stand-down or CYF history
- o Experienced significant childhood disadvantage

20 to 24 year olds

- o Young offenders with custodial sentence
- o Young offenders with community sentence and CYF history
- o Jobseekers in poor health with CYF history
- o Sole parents not in fulltime employment with CYF history
- o Long-term disability beneficiaries

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Using the tool

A number of 'pull-down menus' can be used to change the map, focussing in on particular areas or risk groups. These are:

- o Gender: Male, Female, Total
- o Age Group: 00-05, 06-14, 15-19, 20-24
- o Risk Measure: Changes with the age group selected, as above.
- o View Type: Allows you to choose to map the whole of New Zealand or to focus on a particular region or territorial authority. Within Auckland selecting 'Territorial Authority' allows you to then select a specific Local Board area.
- o Selected Region/Territorial Authority (if Region or Territorial Authority View Type selected).
- o Geographic Detail Displayed: Allows you to modify the level of geographical detail displayed. If you have selected a specific Region or Territorial Authority, this goes down to Area Unit (city suburb) level.

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