

A BETTER  
START

ETipueRea

# Future Directions – Big Data Team

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# What we've learned

- How to effectively use the IDI to identify events of interest and how to classify these events into something meaningful.
- How to collaborate with 'content' experts to produce high impact publications.
- How to leverage our own networks to get work done quickly.
- The IDI presents challenges for doing work with a Māori and Pacific world view. Continuing consideration on whether we have the right measures and trying to present findings without deficit framing and casting communities in a negative light. In the absence of ideal measures can we still make use of the data available?
- I've personally come to accept that data is not agnostic.

# Where to next?

- We have a unique role, in that we will continue to support the content experts – although now orientated more towards projects.
- Will use the IDI to provide key population statistics and to inform where the research may have the greatest impact.
- Also developing our own research agenda, linked to previous themes around healthy weight, learning and resilience and emerging projects.
- Shifting our thinking towards ‘well-being’ – and thinking about how we can capture this using the IDI.

# We're doubling down on life course research

- Our research has the greatest value if viewed from a life course perspective.
- Can interventions at the earliest stages of life have enduring impact on children, their families and whānau? Do interventions have a universal impact, or are there some communities where interventions are more (or less) effective?
- Critical to find out what works, for whom and under what circumstances.
- We target towards those individuals, families and communities that are struggling and trying to understand how better outcomes can be achieved.
- The IDI lends itself extremely well to this kind of analysis using a variety of quasi-experimental approaches.

# We Remain Focused on Inequality

- THE fundamental point of our work is trying to provide the knowledge base to redress the inequalities we observe in New Zealand.
- We understand that many of these inequalities are present when the child is born (the Gatsby effect) and that breaking the cycle of disadvantage will be challenging.
- We believe that the best policies will need to be tailored to the circumstances of individuals, their families and whānau and their communities.
- In many (most?) cases a one size fits all approach will not work – and will be least likely to work for those who face the most difficult circumstances.
- If we have not figured out approaches to reduce inequalities, we really have not succeeded.

# Four Strands to our Research – which we will apply across the project areas

1. Microsimulation and economic modelling – understanding the longer term impact of early intervention.
2. Intergenerational and siblings analysis – examining how the circumstances one is born into affects their life trajectories and how events occurring to one family member impact the lives of those around them.
3. Long-term follow-up of interventions – determining the extent to which interventions have an enduring impact – can we shift the trajectories of young people at risk of not achieving good outcomes?
4. Ongoing population health monitoring – understanding how the population is changing – for better or worse – and where the ‘hot spots’ are.

# Our Legacy

- First and foremost, we believe our research has the impact to shape policy and around child development and inform best practice in the design and implementation of interventions targeted at those who have not benefitted from the wealth of Aotearoa - New Zealand.
- We hope to build capacity in big data research – with special emphasis on developing emerging Māori and Pacific researchers.
- We will advance methodology and practice in the analysis of big data, particularly in the context of life course research.
- We will enhance the data available to researchers.
- We will create a research platform where the enduring effect of interventions can be examined.

# Questions?