

The People's Project – A Housing First response to homelessness in Hamilton

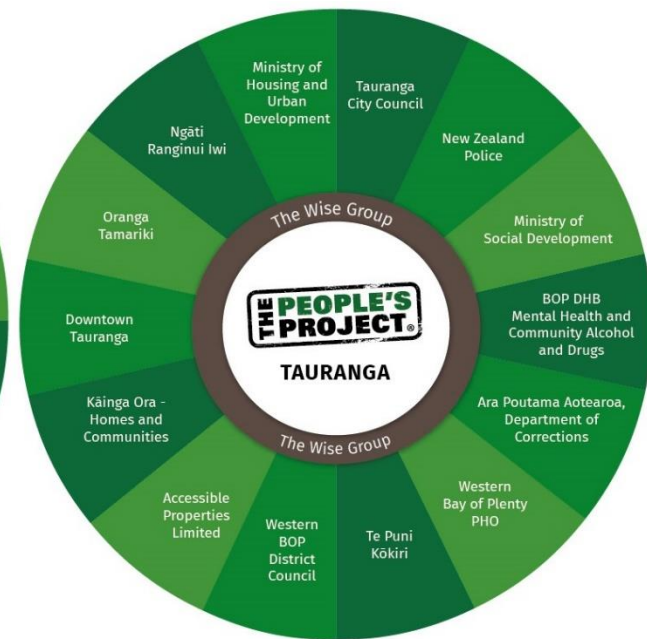




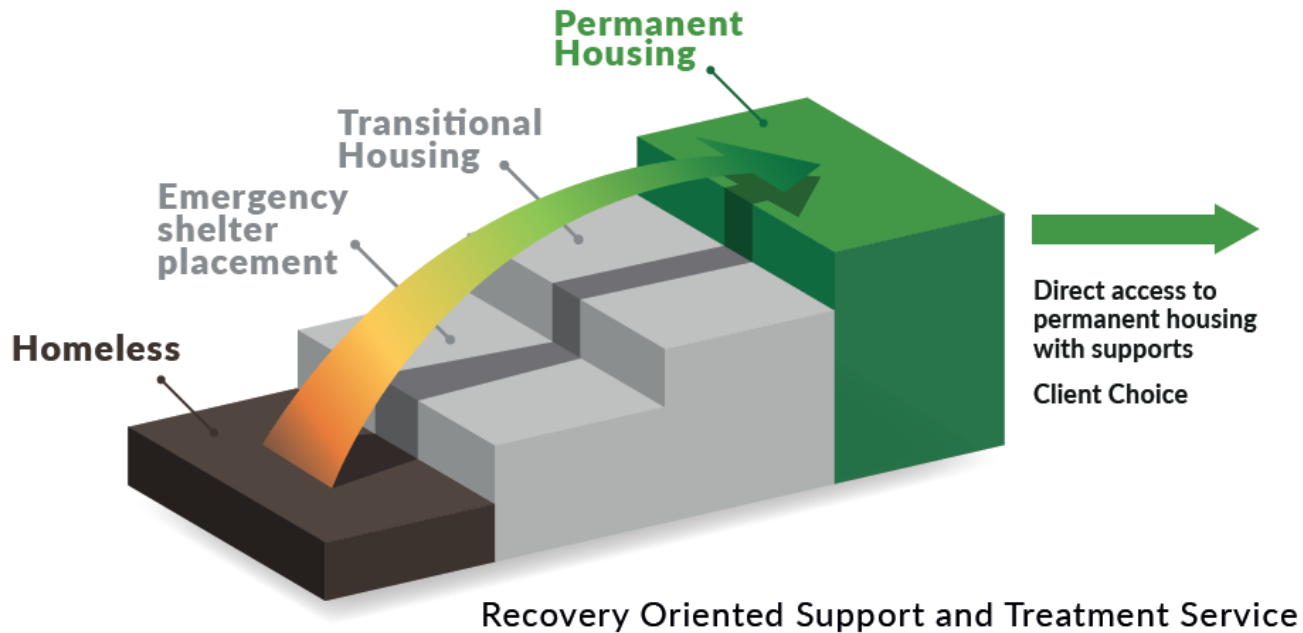


Collective impact and collaboration are key

The People's Project Governance Groups

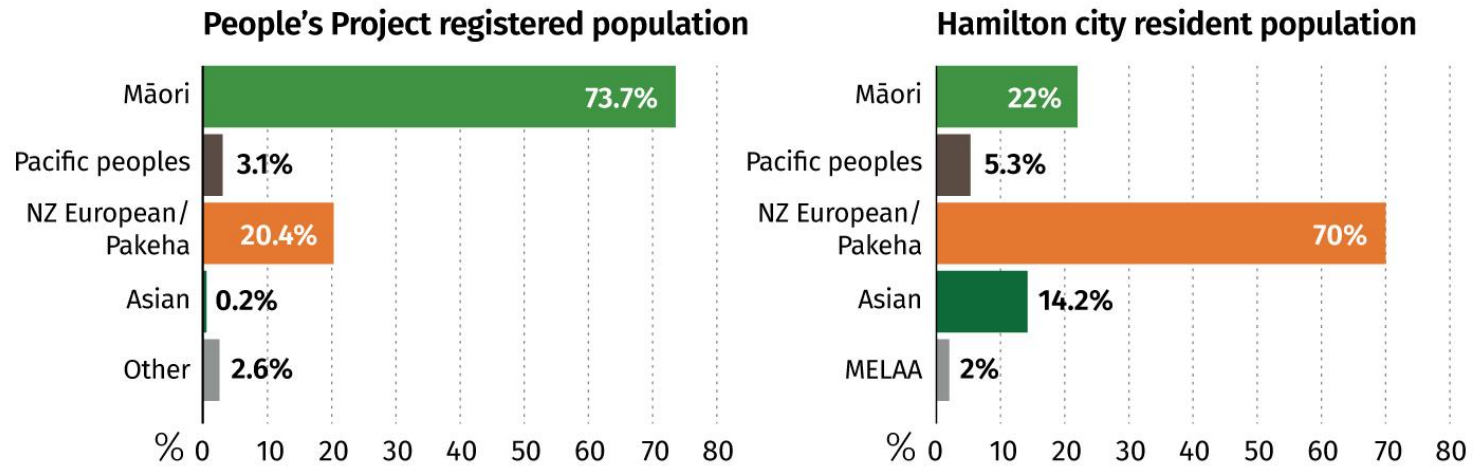


The Housing First Approach



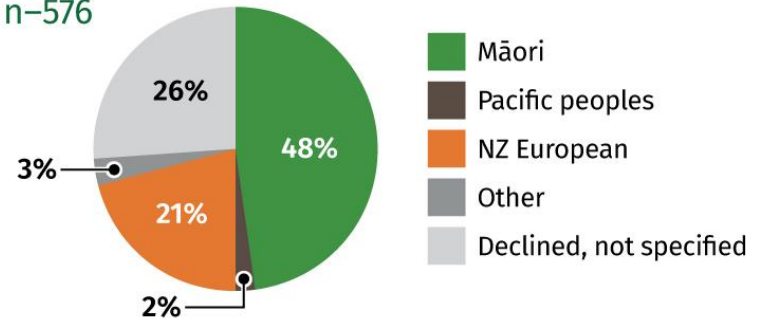
Reference: Sam Tsemberis, Founder, Pathways to Housing

Total registered clients n=647



Total households housed n=576

Aug 2014 - Oct 2018

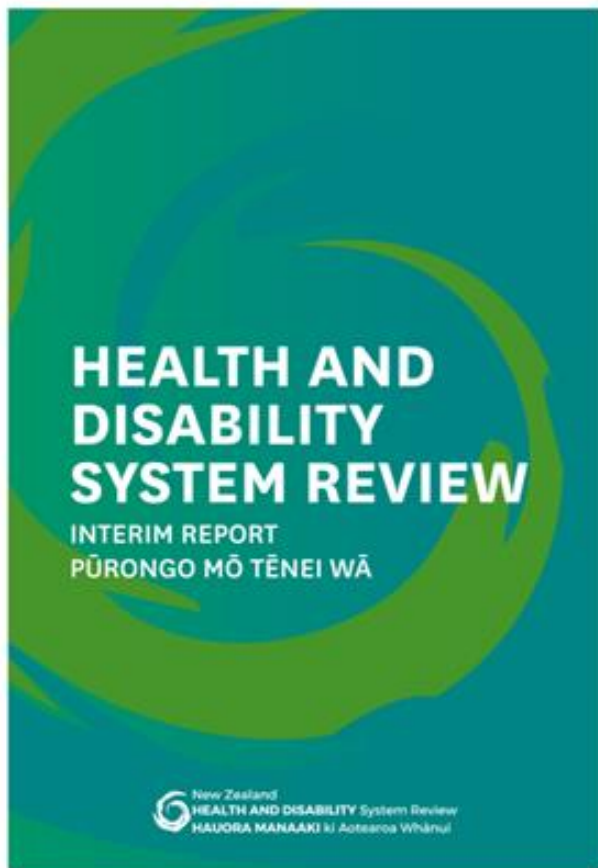


Focus on debt

- Debt described by 55% (a further 28% missing this information)

Do you have any debts?	Total clients
No	122
Yes	379
(blank)	194
Total	695

- Debt amount incomplete – mentioned for n=188 (50%)
 - Average \$10 000; median \$4690 (range \$60-\$100,000)
 - Total \$1912725



Equity

During Phase One, equity and the role of digital delivery models and ways of working came up in several stakeholder meetings. Some programmes running across the sector are developing websites and mobile apps to better engage, serve, and inform Māori, young, and rural consumers.

Research shows clear opportunities exist for digital delivery models to improve equity and enhance democratisation of health care, but also barriers and risks, including that of the digital divide potentially exacerbating inequities.⁴⁵⁰

A local project that demonstrates the opportunities associated with taking a data-driven approach is The People's Project.⁴⁵¹ It works across government and in the community to rehouse people who are homeless using comprehensive team support and care.

Other local and international examples of opportunities and challenges are summarised in Table 12.1 and Table 12.2, respectively.

A University of Otago study documents how The People's Project took a cohort of clients and linked them across the Statistic New Zealand's Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI).¹ The IDI contains administrative data on most services the Government provides to citizens. Linkage rates in all datasets were above 90%.

The study found that, in the preceding five years, the 390 people in the cohort had had 200,000 interactions with various government departments. The findings are significant, as they demonstrate how a 'cohort that is supposedly 'hard to reach' is highly traceable across a variety of government records and are more likely 'victims of inadequate systems'.

The project was highly successful in demonstrating data sets could be linked across agencies to inform decision-making that improved on the outcomes for people. Key lessons included the need for enhanced data stewardship, pro-active consent processes and ongoing consumer engagement.



A solution to homelessness

The Wellbeing Budget will mean the internationally-acclaimed Housing First programme will be able to reach 2,700 homeless people and help them into permanent homes.

Research by the University of Otago found that chronically homeless people have high mental health needs.¹⁷ It found that in the five years before being housed, 390 people seen by the People's Project in Hamilton had spent a total of 10,000 bed nights in mental health facilities – that's about a month per person. They were also given 55,000 prescriptions, most commonly for anti-psychotic and antidepressant medicines.

The Housing First programme understands that it is easier for people to address their issues once they have a home. That's why they house them, then support them to address their issues by connecting them with services such as counselling and addiction treatment, helping them to keep their homes and avoid ending up back on the streets.



"Homelessness is the sharp end of the housing crisis. Our Government wants to stop people falling through the cracks and becoming homeless in the first place."

Phil Twyford

Budget 2019 is investing \$197 million over four years into Housing First, which will fund 1,044 new places.

Housing and Urban Development Minister Phil Twyford says the funding announced in the Wellbeing Budget will raise the number of people the programme can help to 2,700.

"Housing First has housed 720 households, including 431 children in Auckland alone, since 2017.

"It is now helping house long-term homeless people in Auckland, Hamilton, Christchurch, Tauranga and Rotorua, and will launch in Northland, Hawke's Bay, Nelson/Blenheim and Wellington later this year."

The People's Project – Hamilton

August 2014 to 31 October 2019



781 housing outcomes

Housing type
(n = 781)



- 64% Private
- 32% Housing New Zealand
- 4% Social Housing other

Client profile – Housed
(n = 781)



- 19% Families
- 49% Single male
- 31% Single female
- 1% Gender diverse

Acuity of homelessness
(n = 526)

Based on the vulnerability assessment tool (VI-SPDAT). Counts all people ever assessed with VI-SPDAT.



- 7% Minimal housing intervention VI-SPDAT score 0-3
- 19% Rapid rehousing VI-SPDAT score 4-6
- 74% Housing First, permanent, supportive housing VI-SPDAT score 7+



209 active clients



124 require housing



95 have been housed



85 are currently housed



10 require re-housing



remain housed

Data provided by Recordbase recordbase

Our work level is not declining

- More than 2,000 people registered for help (Hamilton).
- On average a team of 10 support 200 active clients who are housed or needing housing.
- On average, 20 people sleeping rough at any one time in Hamilton.
- We have not solved poverty, lack of housing supply and other drivers, such as domestic violence and addiction.



Housing First Research Programme



The
University
of Waikato
*Te Whare Wānanga
o Waikato*



What is the Housing First research programme?

- Partnership between He Kāinga Oranga at the University of Otago, the University of Waikato, and The People's Project.
- The Housing First research programme was funded by MBIE's Endeavour Fund in 2016, and will end in 2021.
- Purpose to provide a New Zealand evidence base for Housing First and action on homelessness.



Context

- Housing First was not funded by government – is now a nationally-funded programme.
- Rising homelessness crisis - 2001-2013 censuses (Kate Amore).
- Equity issue – homelessness disproportionately affecting Māori.

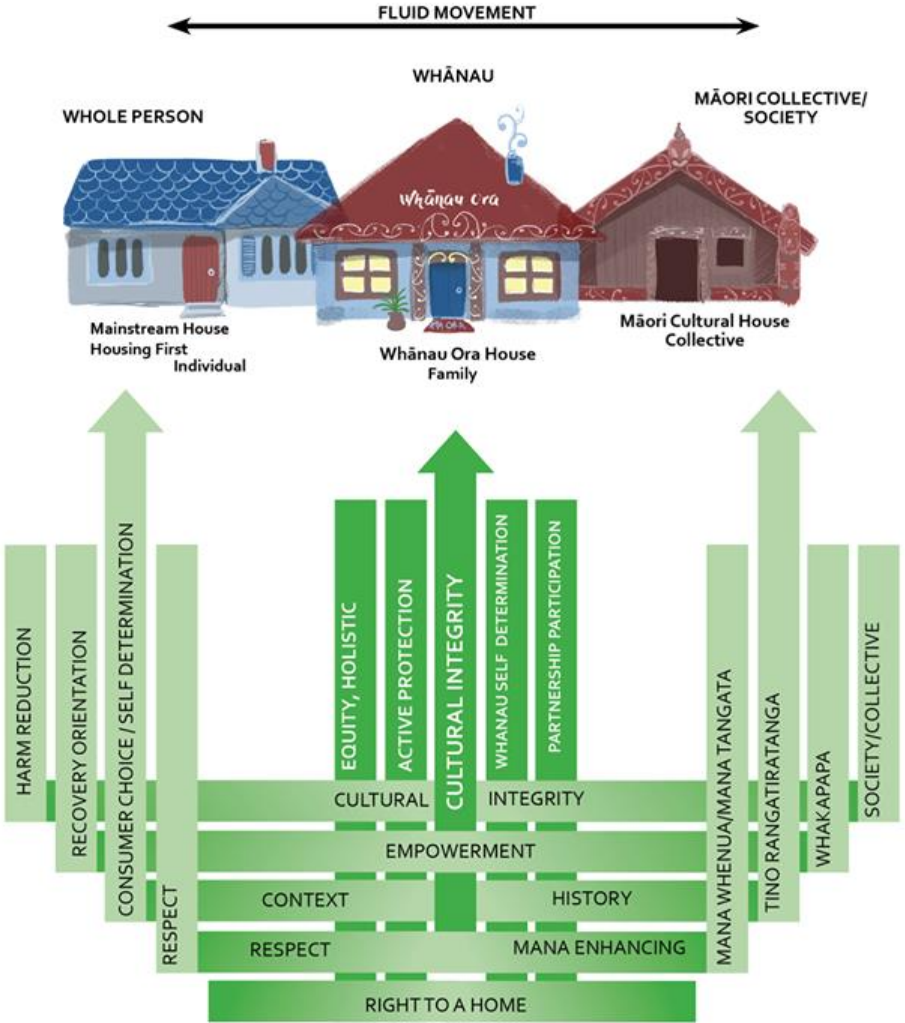


Research Streams

- IDI: Outcomes for people housed (Otago)
- Risk factors and experiences (Waikato)
- Takatāpui/LGBTIQ and homelessness (Otago)
- Transferability (Otago)
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Housing First (Otago)

WHARE ŌRANGA

PRINCIPLES FRAMEWORK FOR MĀORI HOUSING



**FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES
TRAVERSING THREE MODELS**



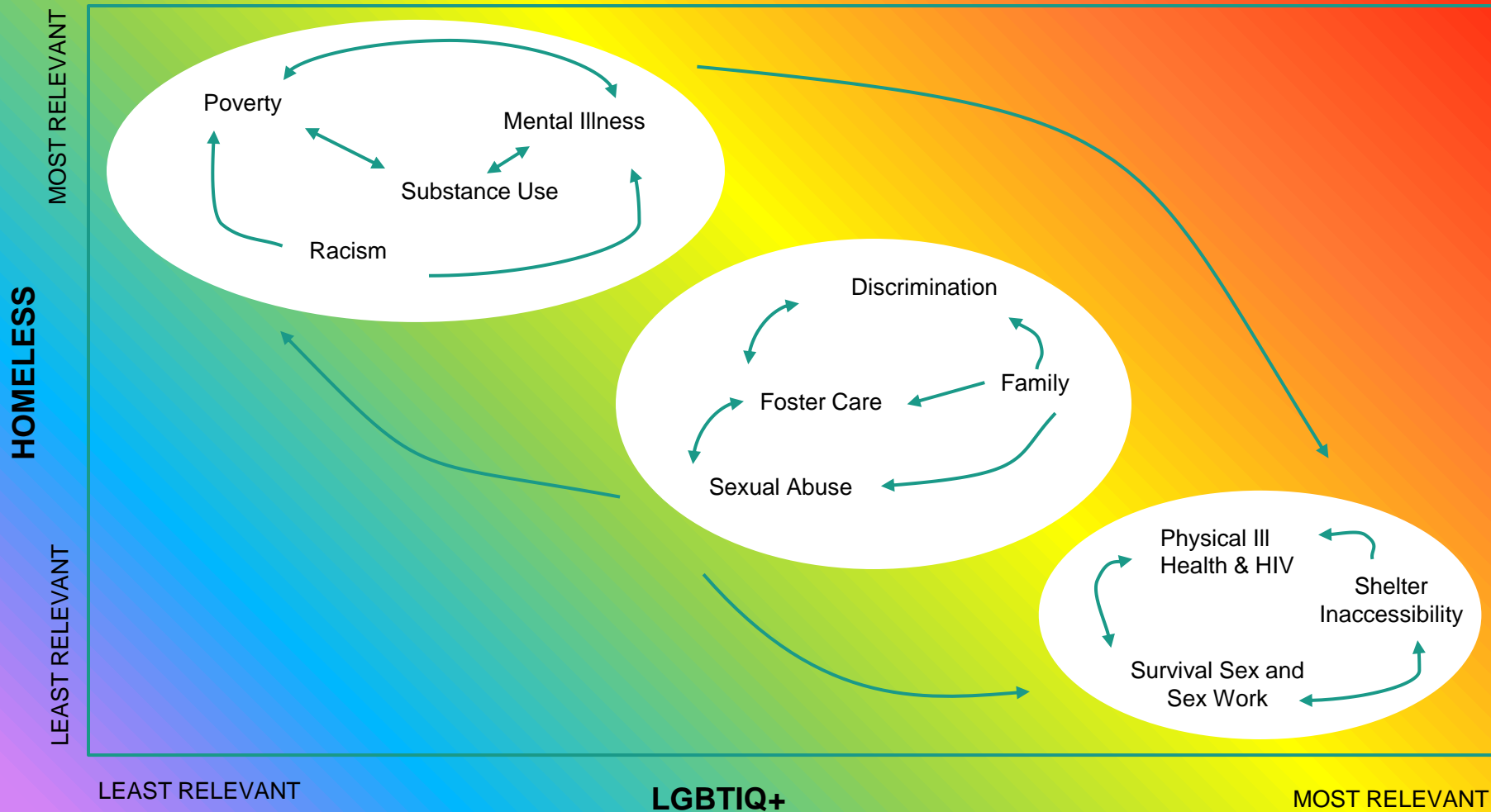
Takatāpui/LGBTIQ+ Homelessness



Takatāpui/LGBTIQ+ Homelessness

- 20-40% of people who are homeless are LGBTIQ+
- There are higher prevalence of wellbeing issues in this population
- There's no New Zealand research, despite anecdotal evidence that LGBTIQ+ people are facing high levels of homelessness and issues with WINZ (particularly for youth)

Intersections of LGBTQ+ Identity and Homelessness





PhD research and methods

- 9 semi-structured interviews in Wellington
- Queerphobia and transphobia directly lead to homelessness
- Their class background was varied; discrimination and systems failures were more pronounced
- Community connectedness was a key disruptor of homelessness
- Many don't feel comfortable accessing services
- They had limited trust in institutions that were meant to support them
- Several tried — unsuccessfully — to obtain social housing



Transferability of Housing First



PhD research and methods

- **Case Study** of the implementation of Housing First in New Zealand
- **Literature Review**
- **Key informant interviews** (government and community agencies involved in the implementation of HF in Hamilton, Auckland and Wellington)
- **Document analysis** (policies, reports, contracts, HF programme service designs, websites, media).

How has Housing First been implemented in NZ?

Defined

Designed

Delivered



Who/what has influenced the implementation process?

International evidence

NZ & local context

Values and beliefs

Actors and power



What were the issues, challenges and success factors during implementation?

Hx/ Māori cultural context

Resources

-/+ Alignment

Te Tiriti o Waitangi



Early findings

Issues and challenges

- Inadequacy of pre-existing resources
- Lack of clarity, alignment, mechanisms

Success

- New resources
- Strengths, renegotiation of relationships
- Māori cultural values and beliefs

Future

- Systemic alignment to reach scale/intensity of response required
- Advancement by Māori as Māori



Baseline results from the IDI

Better decision making for better outcomes

OUR DATA

The People's Project data in partnership with local government services

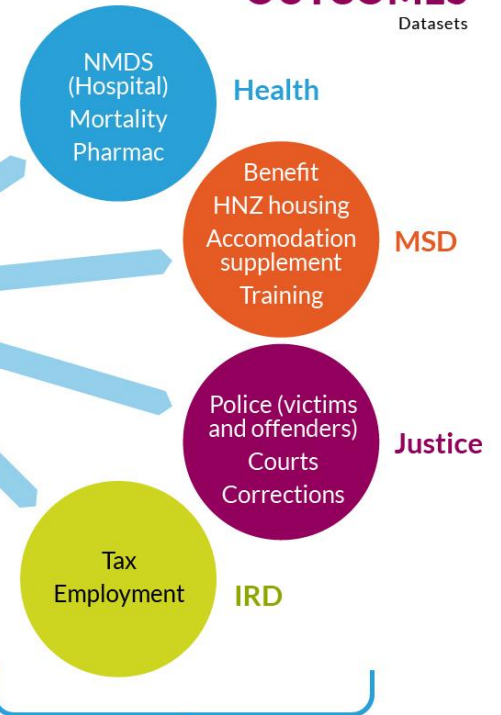


MATCHED AND ANONYMISED

IDI
(Integrated Data Infrastructure)

GOVERNMENT OUTCOMES

Datasets



Feedback to partner agencies



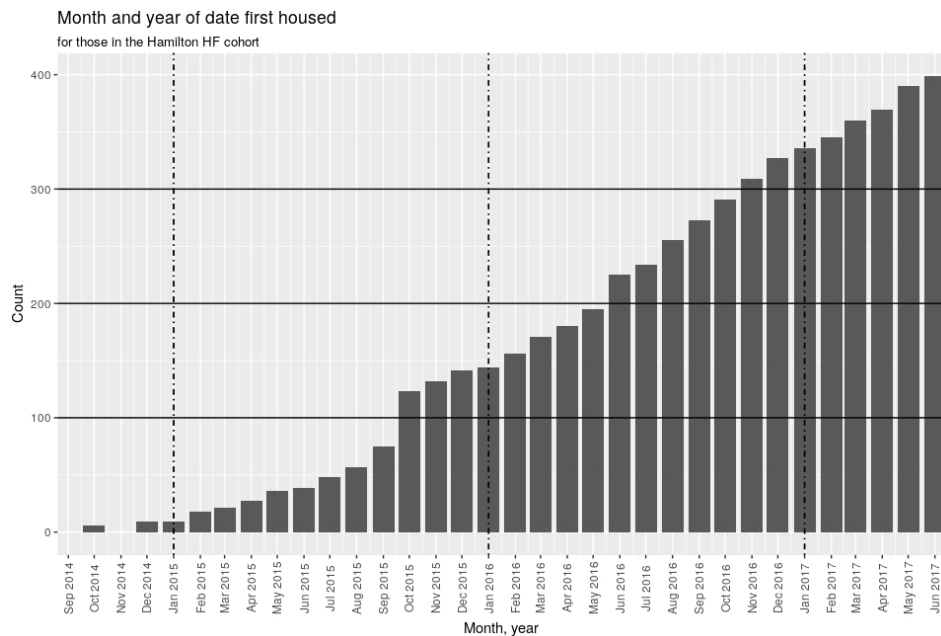
Disclaimer

The results presented here are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI), managed by Statistics New Zealand. The opinions, findings, recommendations, and conclusions expressed in herein are those of the author(s), not Statistics NZ, or any other government agency. Access to the anonymised data used in this study was provided by Statistics NZ under the security and confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. Only people authorised by the Statistics Act 1975 are allowed to see data about a particular person, household, business, or organisation, and these results have been confidentialised to protect these groups from identification and to keep their data safe. Careful consideration has been given to the privacy, security, and confidentiality issues associated with using administrative and survey data in the IDI. Further detail can be found in the Privacy impact assessment for the Integrated Data Infrastructure available from www.stats.govt.nz. The results are based in part on tax data supplied by Inland Revenue to Statistics NZ under the Tax Administration Act 1994. This tax data must be used only for statistical purposes, and no individual information may be published or disclosed in any other form, or provided to Inland Revenue for administrative or regulatory purposes. Any person who has had access to the unit record data has certified that they have been shown, have read, and have understood section 81 of the Tax Administration Act 1994, which relates to secrecy. Any discussion of data limitations or weaknesses is in the context of using the IDI for statistical purposes, and is not related to the data's ability to support Inland Revenue's core operational requirements.



Whakamahia te IDI Using the IDI

- Name
- DOB
- National Health Identifier (NHI)
- Date of first interaction
- Date first housed
- Categorisation of homelessness type



390 people

Slightly imbalanced by sex: 54% female.

‘Working-age’: 52% between 25-44 years in age, 32% 45-64.

Overrepresentation of Māori: 73% Māori, compared to 41% Pākehā, 7% Pasifika, 3% Asian, and 5% MELAA.



“Hard to reach”?

HF

ERP

Health

99.2%

96.2%

Justice

83.8%

23.6%

Social Development and Tax

97.7%

92.5%



Service usage

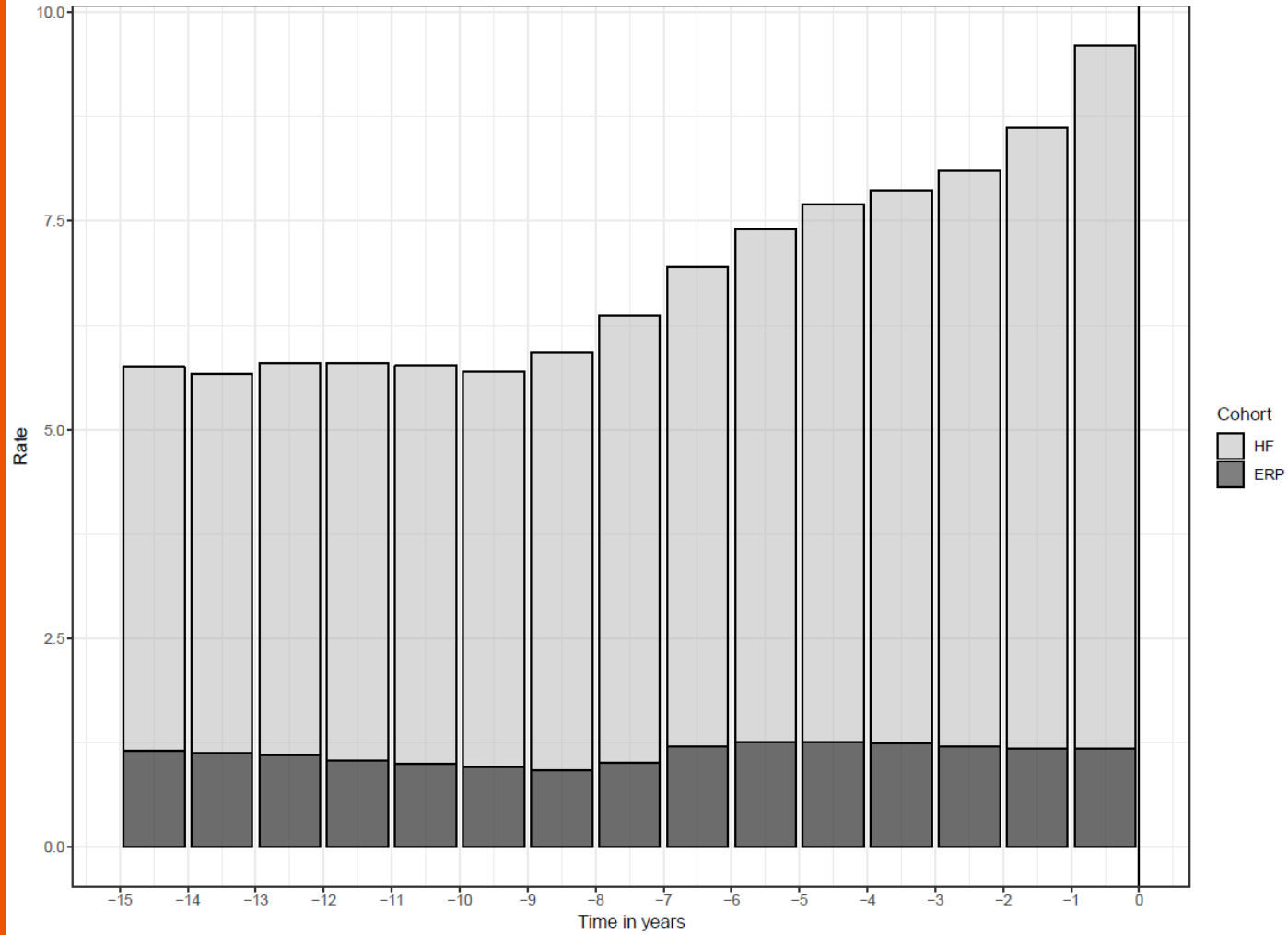
HF / ERP

- Datasets considered in those same three domains, looking at service usage in the:
 - 5 years before baseline,
 - the year immediately preceding the baseline date.
- Stark differences across almost all measures between the two groups, especially in:
 - Health: hospitalisations, mental health secondary care events
 - Justice: police offending, charges, Corrections events.
 - Social development and tax: welfare receipt, reported income.

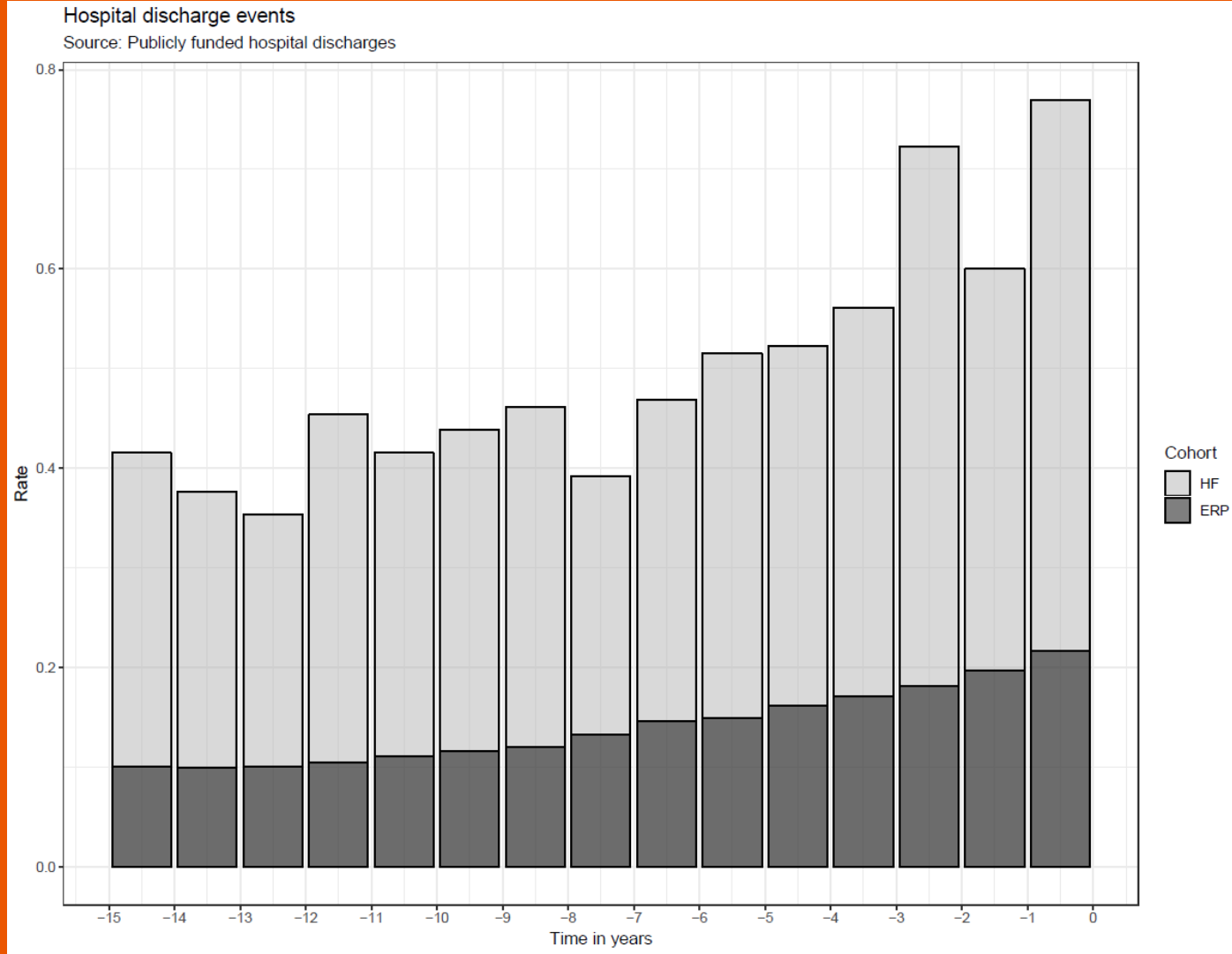
MAIN BENEFIT ASSISTANCE

Months with recorded main benefit assistance

Source: Inland Revenue derived data from the Employer Monthly Schedule



HOSPITALISATIONS





5 years before baseline

Health

- Hospitalisations: **3.2 / 0.9**
- Mental health inpatient bed nights: **26.8 / 1.3**

Justice

- Police offences: **3.7 / 0.3**
- Criminal charges: **3.5 / 0.3**

Social development and tax

- Months, wages & salaries: **9.2 / 29.9**
- Months, welfare receipt: **41.9 / 6.1**



1 year before baseline

Health

- Hospitalisations: **0.8 / 0.2**
- Mental health inpatient bed nights: **10.6 / 0.3**

Justice

- Police offences: **0.8 / 0.06**
- Criminal charges: **0.7 / 0.06**

Social development and tax

- Months, wages & salaries: **1.4 / 6.5**
- Months, welfare receipt: **9.6 / 1.2**




Where we are now

- Linkable and visible
- High rate of service usage
- Need to prevent homelessness

Where we're going

- Looking at outcomes post-intervention
- Understanding different events
- Auckland City Mission data



Ngā mihi mō tā koutou whakarongo. He pātai?

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