

Children and young people

From “Understanding the Landscape of Auckland & Northland: An Evidence Review”

Written by the Centre for Social Impact (July 2018)

This topic extract is taken from the above report which summarises the key findings of an evidence review completed by the Centre for Social Impact to inform the implementation of Foundation North’s 2018 Strategic Plan. These key findings have been used to inform the development of funding priorities for the Foundation alongside the development of a broader range of positive outcomes that best contribute to the Foundation’s overall vision.

Key Findings

There are 10 topic-specific extracts from the full report.

All extracts and the full report are available at www.foundationnorth.org.nz/how-we-work/resources

1. Population profile | 2. Population change | 3. Income inequality and deprivation | 4. Economic wellbeing | 5. Social cohesion | 6. Education | **7. Children and young people** | 8. Housing | 9. Environmental wellbeing | 10. Community sector

(i) Why is child and youth wellbeing an important indicator?

- 1) The wellbeing of children and young people can significantly influence their potential for success as adults. Children who have their needs met from the womb to school are more likely to become healthy, resilient and contributing adults. (Heckman, J., University of Chicago, 2008).
- 2) The first five years of life are critical to future wellbeing. Evidence shows that removing barriers and providing effective early interventions give the greatest social return on investment. This is best achieved through supporting parents and children aged 0-3 years. (Heckman, J., University of Chicago, 2008).
- 3) The wellbeing of children depends largely on the capabilities, wellbeing and situations of the adults around them and the extent to which their lives are affected by issues such as poverty, a lack of support, social isolation, stress and disadvantage. (Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, n.d.).

(ii) What are the regional trends and issues?

1) The Treasury has identified four key risk factors ³ that are predictive of longer-term life outcomes and challenges for children 0-5 and 6-14 years. Children with two or more of these risk factors are significantly more likely to experience poor outcomes as adults. Source: Treasury, 2015.	Potential poor outcomes as adults	Increased likelihood (with 2+ risk factors)
	Contact with youth justice by 18 years	X 7
	Leave school with no qualification	X 3
	Receive benefits for 2+ years by age 21	X 6
	Spend time in jail by age 21	X 10
	Receive benefits for 5+ years when 25-34	X 4
2) The average projected Oranga Tamariki, Department of Corrections and benefits costs (by age 35 years) associated with poor outcomes for children with two or more risk factors are significant. As children experiencing risk age, the projected costs increase. Source: Treasury, 2015.	Child/Risk	Projected costs (average)
	0-5 with <2 risk factors	\$45,637
	0-5 with 2+ risk factors	\$184,456
	6-14 with <2 risk factors	\$46,544
	6-14 with 2+ risk factors	\$205,014
	Being on a benefit long term	
	Receiving a prison or community sentence	
	Needing to access mental health services	

<p>3) One in four children in Northland has two or more risk factors. In the Far North, this increases to almost one in three. Whilst Auckland's children are generally at lower risk than average, there are areas in South Auckland where higher numbers of children are at greater risk. <i>Source: Education Counts, n.d./a</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>% 0-5 yrs (2+ risk factors)</th> <th>% 6-14 yrs (2+ risk factors)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New Zealand</td> <td>13%</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northland</td> <td>25%</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Far North</td> <td>30%</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auckland</td> <td>11%</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Manurewa-Papakura</td> <td>23%</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Manukau</td> <td>17%</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Region	% 0-5 yrs (2+ risk factors)	% 6-14 yrs (2+ risk factors)	New Zealand	13%	14%	Northland	25%	26%	- Far North	30%	30%	Auckland	11%	12%	- Manurewa-Papakura	23%	26%	- Manukau	17%	21%									
Region	% 0-5 yrs (2+ risk factors)	% 6-14 yrs (2+ risk factors)																													
New Zealand	13%	14%																													
Northland	25%	26%																													
- Far North	30%	30%																													
Auckland	11%	12%																													
- Manurewa-Papakura	23%	26%																													
- Manukau	17%	21%																													
<p>4) Treasury has identified five target risk populations for young people aged 15-19 years, and five for young people aged 20-24 years⁴. These target populations are those at highest risk of poor transitions and outcomes as adults. <i>Source: Treasury, 2015.</i></p>	<p>Increased likelihood of poor outcomes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not achieving Level 2 qualification Being on a benefit long term Receiving a prison or community sentence Needing to access mental health services 																														
<p>5) The average projected Oranga Tamariki, Department of Corrections, and benefits costs (by age 35 years) associated with poor outcomes for young people in one or more of the target risk populations are significant. The projected costs for older young people (20-24 years) in one or more of the target risk populations are significantly higher. <i>Source: Treasury, 2015.</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age/Risk</th> <th>Average projected costs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15-19 with no risk factors</td> <td>\$48,725</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-19 with 1+ risk factors</td> <td>\$236,754</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20-24 with no risk factors</td> <td>\$45,524</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20-24 with 1+ risk factors</td> <td>\$304,705</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age/Risk	Average projected costs	15-19 with no risk factors	\$48,725	15-19 with 1+ risk factors	\$236,754	20-24 with no risk factors	\$45,524	20-24 with 1+ risk factors	\$304,705																				
Age/Risk	Average projected costs																														
15-19 with no risk factors	\$48,725																														
15-19 with 1+ risk factors	\$236,754																														
20-24 with no risk factors	\$45,524																														
20-24 with 1+ risk factors	\$304,705																														
<p>6) One in four young people aged 15-19 years in Northland is in a target risk population. In the Far North, one in five young people aged 20-24 is in a target risk population – more than twice the national average. Whilst Auckland's children are generally at lower risk than average, there are areas in South Auckland where high proportions of young people are at risk. <i>Source: Treasury, 2015.</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>% 15-19 yrs at risk</th> <th>% 20-24 yrs at risk</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>New Zealand</td> <td>14%</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northland</td> <td>23%</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Far North</td> <td>26%</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auckland</td> <td>11%</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Manurewa-Papakura</td> <td>22%</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki</td> <td>17%</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Region	% 15-19 yrs at risk	% 20-24 yrs at risk	New Zealand	14%	8%	Northland	23%	16%	- Far North	26%	19%	Auckland	11%	6%	- Manurewa-Papakura	22%	12%	- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	17%	8%									
Region	% 15-19 yrs at risk	% 20-24 yrs at risk																													
New Zealand	14%	8%																													
Northland	23%	16%																													
- Far North	26%	19%																													
Auckland	11%	6%																													
- Manurewa-Papakura	22%	12%																													
- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	17%	8%																													
<p>7) Youth transitions in Northland and South Auckland are a concern. Northland has a higher percentage of long-term Y-NEET youth (those not in education, employment or training) than any other region, across both age groups. One-quarter (26%) of 20-24 year olds are long-term Y-NEET. One-third (32%) of 20-24 year olds in the Far North are long-term Y-NEET. Manurewa-Papakura has the highest proportions of long-term Y-NEET youth aged 20-24 years in the Auckland region (23%). <i>Source: Treasury, 2015.</i></p>	<p>Percentage of long-term Y-NEET aged 20-24 years</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>REGION</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northland</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gisborne</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bay of Plenty West Coast</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hawke's Bay</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waikato</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manawatu-Wanganui</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taranaki Nelson</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marlborough</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southland</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auckland</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wellington</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tasman</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Canterbury</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otago</td> <td>9.2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	REGION	Percentage	Northland	26%	Gisborne	23%	Bay of Plenty West Coast	21%	Hawke's Bay	20%	Waikato	19%	Manawatu-Wanganui	19%	Taranaki Nelson	18%	Marlborough	16%	Southland	14%	Auckland	14%	Wellington	13%	Tasman	13%	Canterbury	11%	Otago	9.2%
REGION	Percentage																														
Northland	26%																														
Gisborne	23%																														
Bay of Plenty West Coast	21%																														
Hawke's Bay	20%																														
Waikato	19%																														
Manawatu-Wanganui	19%																														
Taranaki Nelson	18%																														
Marlborough	16%																														
Southland	14%																														
Auckland	14%																														
Wellington	13%																														
Tasman	13%																														
Canterbury	11%																														
Otago	9.2%																														

3 The risk factors for children identified by Treasury are: having a Child Youth & Family (CYF) finding of abuse or neglect; being mostly supported by benefits since birth; having a parent with a prison or community sentence; having a mother with no formal qualifications

4 The five target risk populations for young people aged 15-19 are: teenage boys with Youth Justice or Corrections histories; teenagers with health, disability issues or special needs; teenage girls supported by benefits; mental health service users with stand-down or CYF histories; and young people who have experienced significant childhood disadvantage. The five target risk populations for young people aged 20-24 are: young offenders with a custodial sentence; young offenders with a community sentence and CYF history; jobseekers in poor health with CYF histories; sole parents not in full-time employment with CYF histories; and long-term disability beneficiaries.

References

Center on the Developing Child – Harvard University (n.d.). Building adult capabilities.

Retrieved from: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/innovation-application/key-concepts/adult-capabilities/>

Heckman, J.J. (2008). Return on Investment: Cost vs. benefits. University of Chicago.

Retrieved from: https://childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/pdfs/10yranniversary_Heckmanhandout.pdf

The Treasury (2015). Children and youth at risk.

Retrieved from: <https://insights.apps.treasury.govt.nz/#>

Salvation Army (2015, p10). Mixed Fortunes: The geography of advantage and disadvantage in New Zealand.

Retrieved from: http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/sites/default/files/uploads/20150511SAMixedFortunesReport_o.pdf