

Kia puawai ngā tamāriki
Equity from start

Public Health Association Conference



Developing Brains



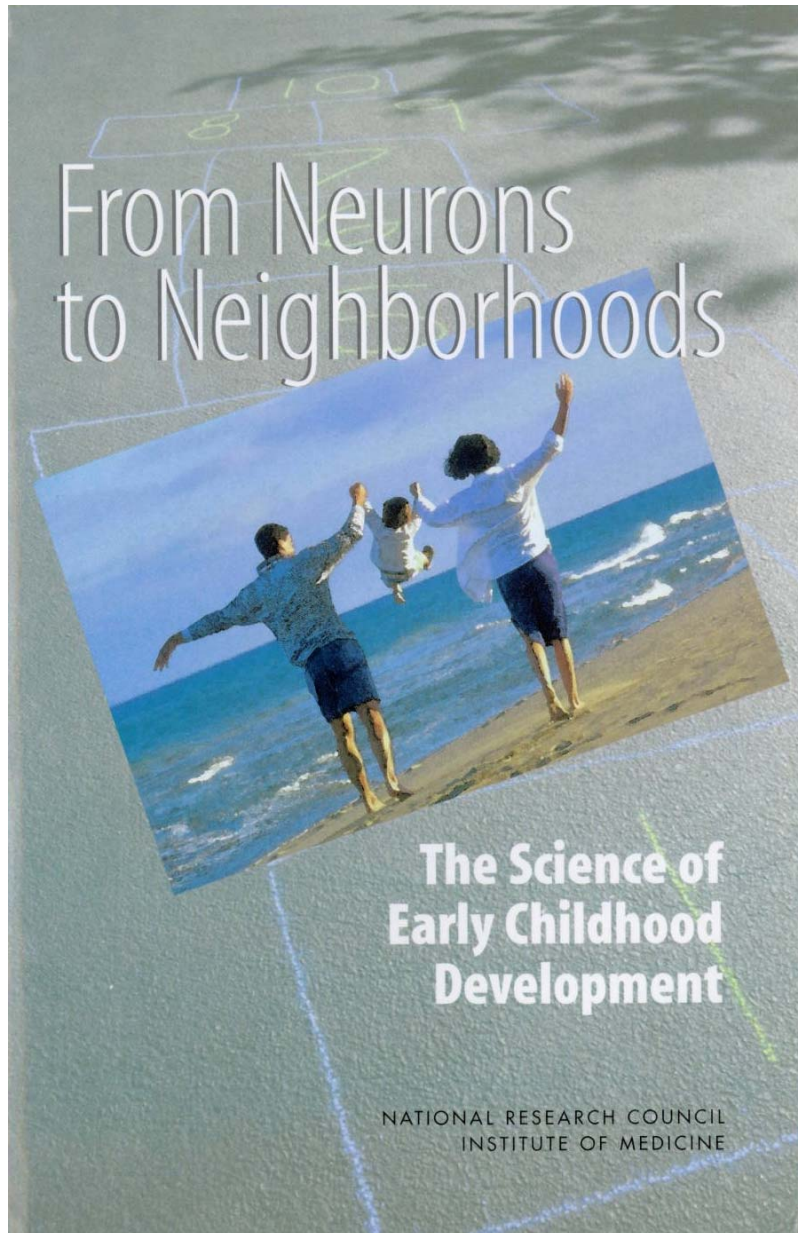
MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Cindy Kiro

Wellington

4 September 2012

Importance of the early years

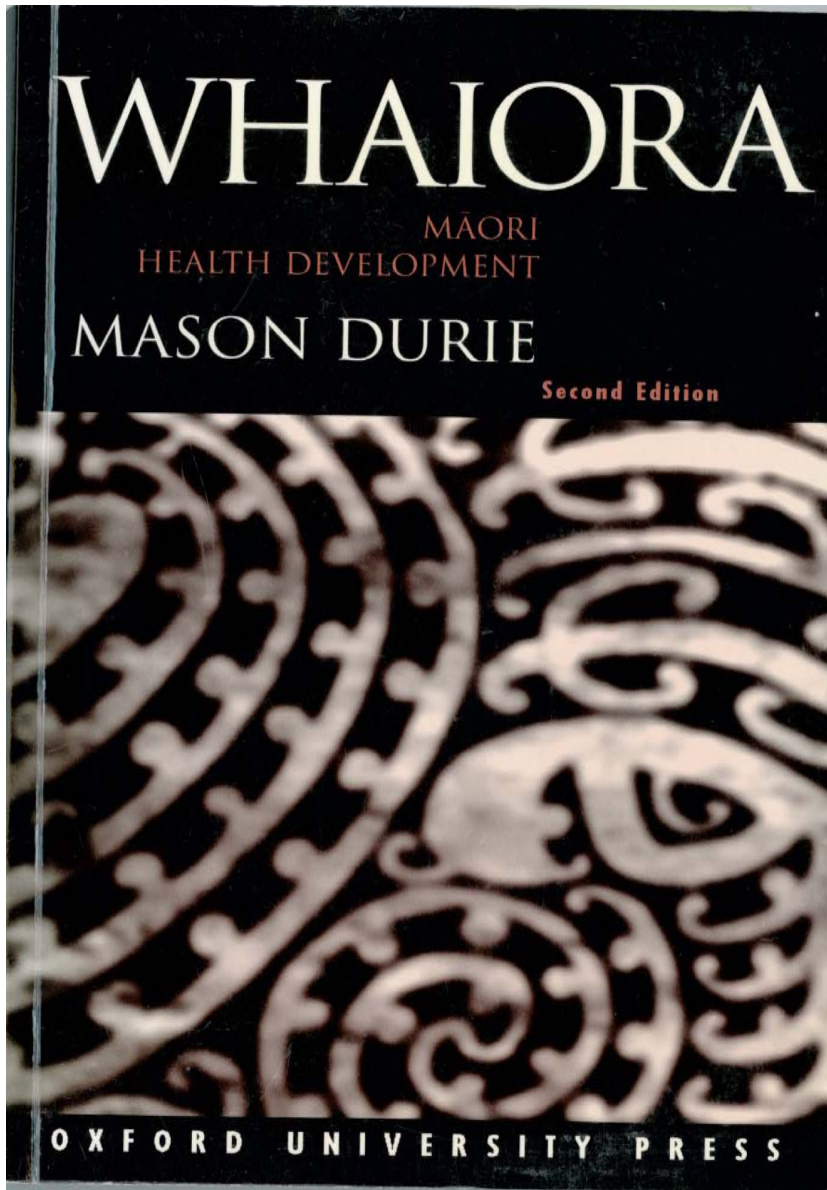


- Lifecourse, early childhood development and neuroscience
- Core elements early human development e.g. i) interaction between biology and experience, ii) influence of culture iii) children active agents iv) human relationships the cornerstone of development v) trajectories with discontinuity & transitions vi) resilience and protection
- Lifelong impact on health



Hon Tony Ryall Minister Health, Hon Paula Bennett Minister Social Development,
Hon Hekia Parata Minister of Education
Vulnerable Children launch August 2012

Past, present and future



- Matauranga Maori
- Pasifika expertise
- Centrality of whanau
- Indivisibility of individual from collective
- Implications of this for health
- Implications of this in interventions for improvement

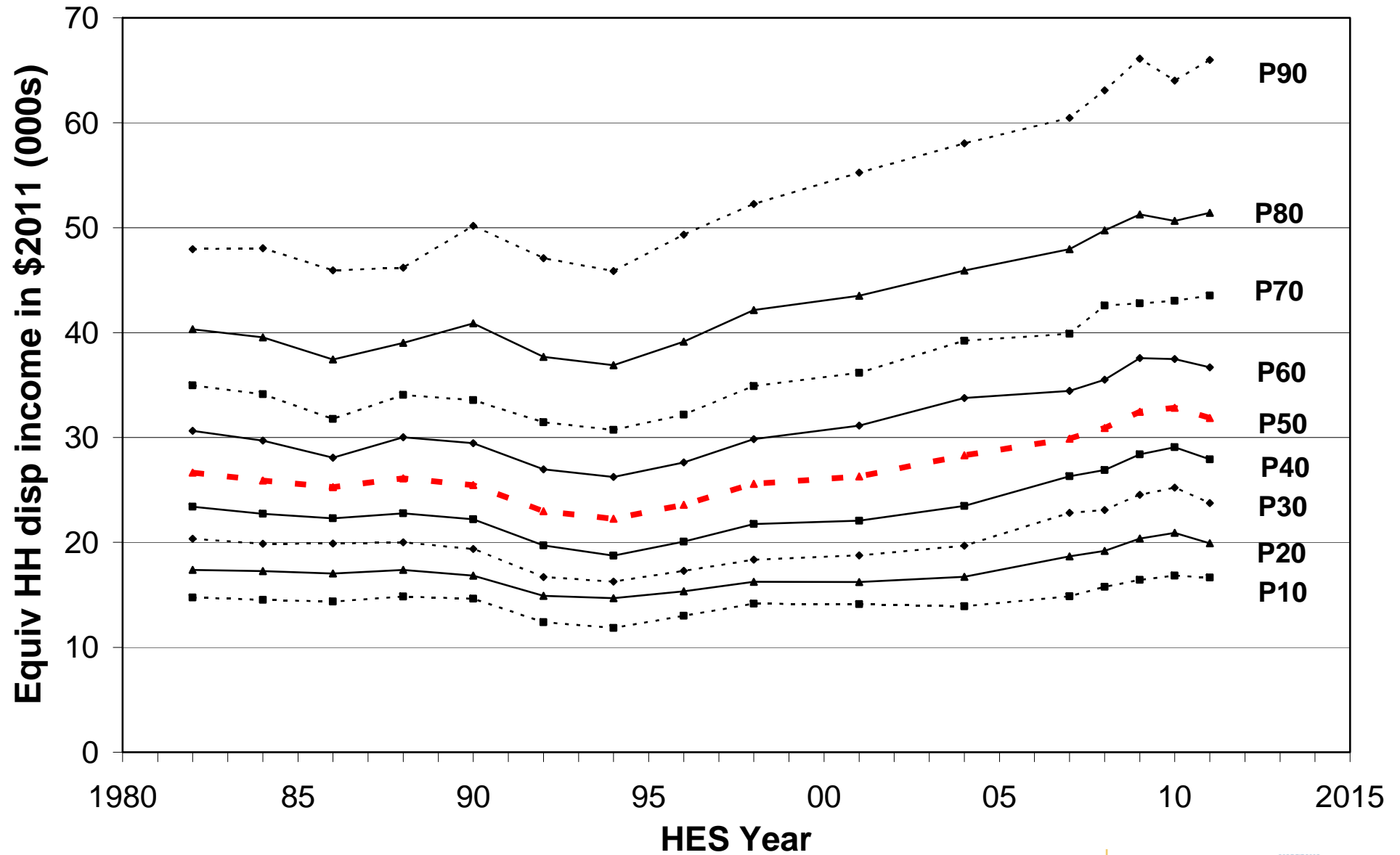
Equity – why it matters

- Low social status has an impact on health – not just for those at the bottom
- Social gradient
- Sense of control over our lives, optimism, relationships with others
- Stress from start of life affects health e.g. in the womb
- Socioeconomic status determines lifelong trajectories of health & development

Wilkinson & Pickett, 2009



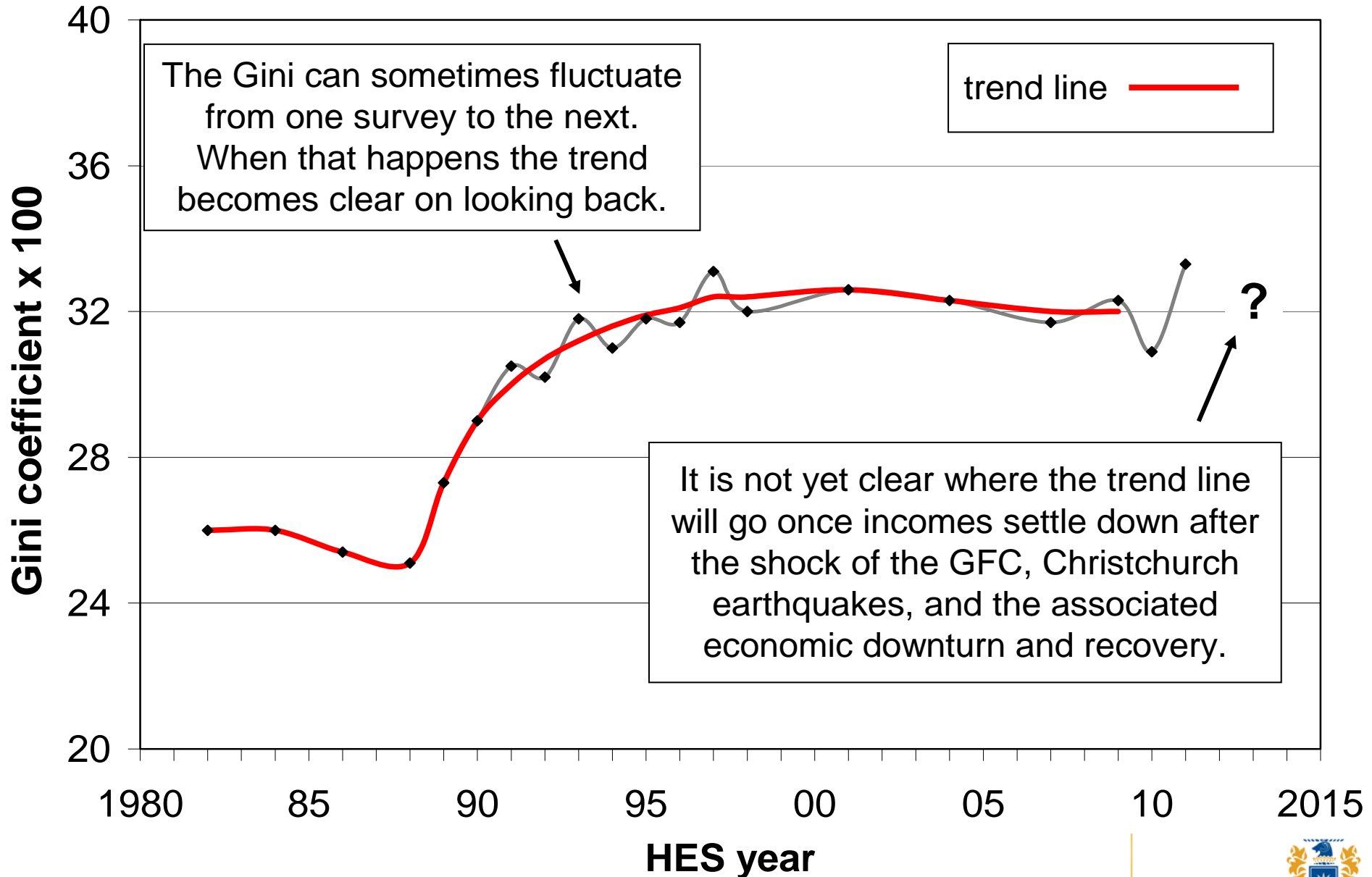
Real household income trends (BHC), 1982 to 2011 (\$2011)



Source: Ministry of Social Development, Household Incomes Report, August 2012



Income inequality



Source: Ministry of Social Development, Household Incomes Report, August 2012



The Best Start in Life: Achieving effective action on child health and wellbeing

A report to the Minister of Health
Prepared by the
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Māori household/families trends last 25 years

- Māori Households and Families Census data 25 years
 - Increased numbers identifying as Māori (census changes definition also influence this) but also demographic shift
 - Periods of low and also high employment
 - Increasing housing costs impacting home affordability
 - Decreasing overcrowding
 - Increases in relative poverty – especially for single parent and families with 3 or more children, Māori and Pacifica families
 - Impact of Government policy noticeable e.g. WFF
 - Increases in those with secondary qualifications

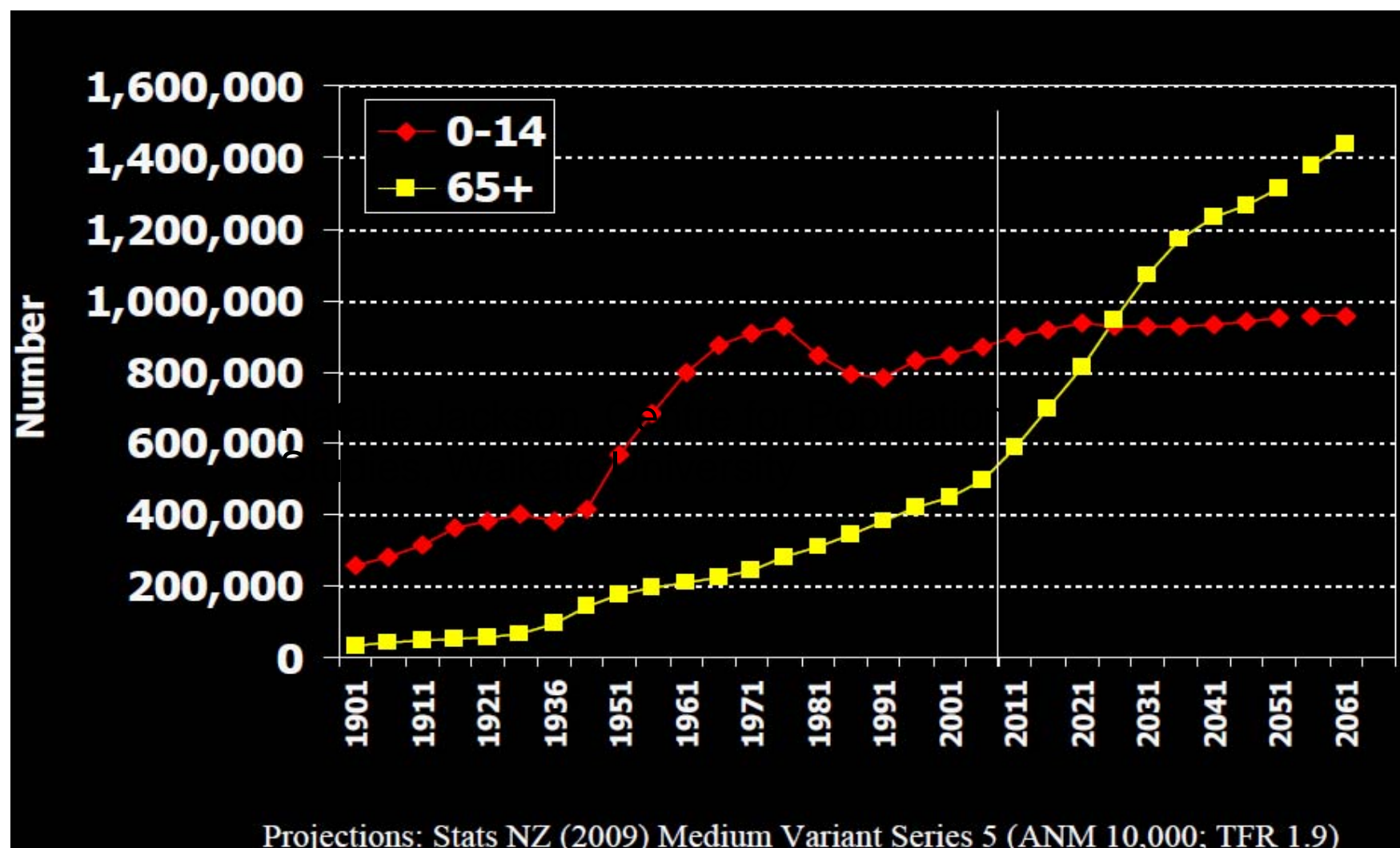


Why the disjuncture between rhetoric and reality?

- Demographic shift – aged with political influence over public resources
- Middle class impoverishment – median incomes falling so ‘altruism’ seen as ‘nice to have’ rather than essential e.g. child poverty income support
- Rise of individualism away from public good attitudes and values e.g. poverty personal responsibility/failure
- Uncertainty of economic situation with global recession/depression & natural disasters such as Christchurch earthquakes leads to survival mentality, lack of generosity of spirit

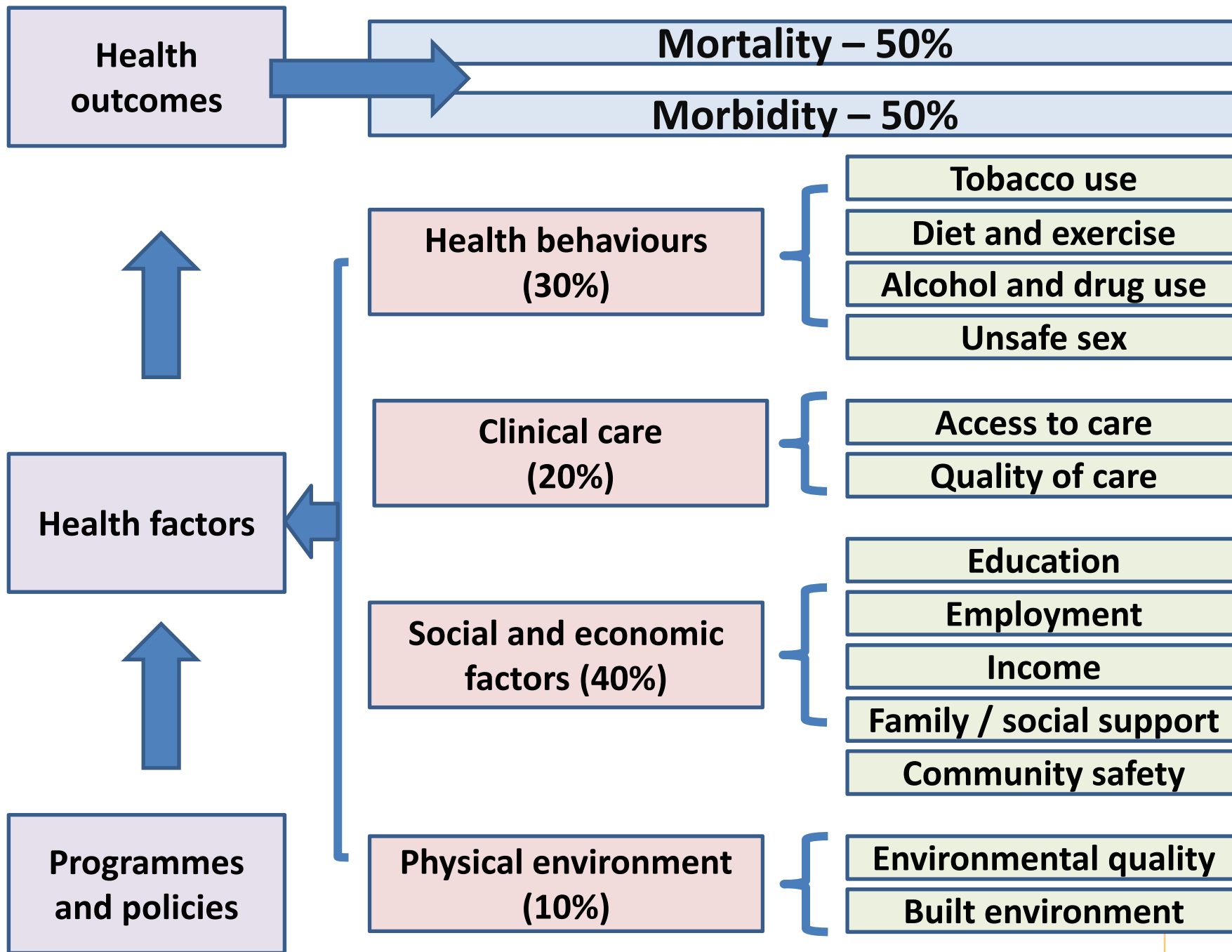


New Zealand Children: Elderly



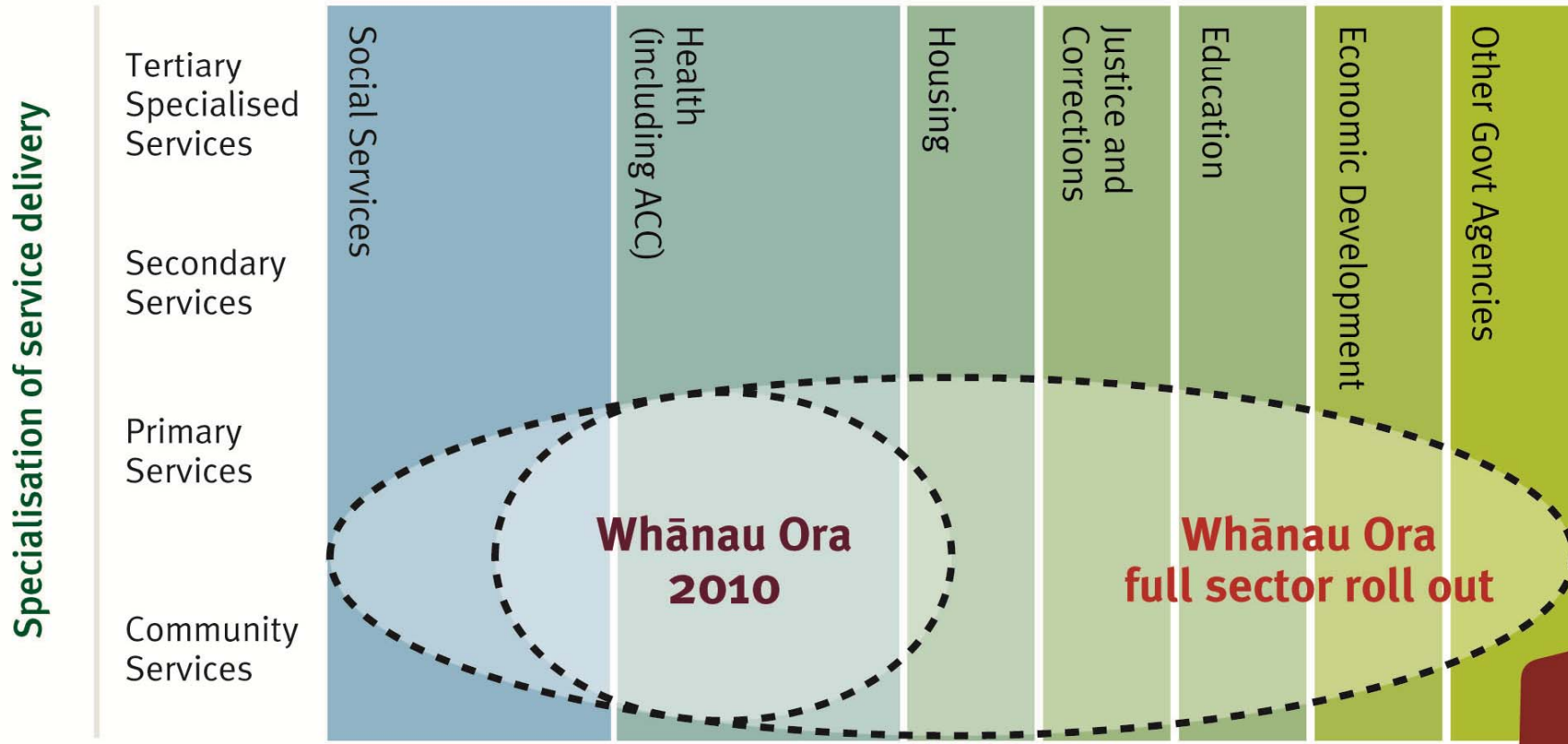
Natalie Jackson, Centre for Population Studies, Waikato University





Willems van Dijk and Kushion (2011) Multiple Determinants of Health

Whānau Ora Integration



Whanau Ora – what is it and what will make the difference?

- Approach to integrated services that make a difference based upon kaupapa Maori
- For the betterment of all, not just Maori
- Health, knowledgeable, nurtured, economically viable
- Jobs with secure, adequate income
- Affordable housing
- Access to quality early childhood education
- Fair treatment in primary and other health services
- Positive cultural identity



Solutions

- Determinants of health addressed including child poverty, housing, early childhood education
- Eco-social response and recognition of importance of investment in the early years
- Whanau ora based upon integrated health and social services
- Whanau control/autonomy/ influence/resilience
- Focus on neighbourhoods, regions – whenua, whanau, mana, wehi, ihi
- Mainstream and kaupapa Maori leadership focused on child equity

