

# Factors Associated with Disparities Experienced by Tamariki Māori in the Care and Protection System

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# Acknowledgements and Disclaimer

- This work was completed by analysts at Ernst & Young (EY), supported by other analysts from the Evidence Centre as part of the larger work programme around disparities
- Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) disclaimer:  
*These results are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) which is carefully managed by Stats NZ. For more information about the IDI please visit <https://www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/>.*

# Presentation overview

- Why measure disparity
- Background on the Children's Wellbeing Model
- The approach
- High-level results

# Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

## 7AA Duties of chief executive in relation to Treaty of Waitangi (Tiriti o Waitangi)

(2) The chief executive must ensure that—

(a) the policies and practices of the department that impact on the well-being of children and young persons have **the objective of reducing disparities** *[emphasis added]* by setting measurable outcomes for Māori children and young persons who come to the attention of the department

# Children's Wellbeing Model

Is designed to solve **intergenerational issues** by understanding **intergenerational needs and risk**

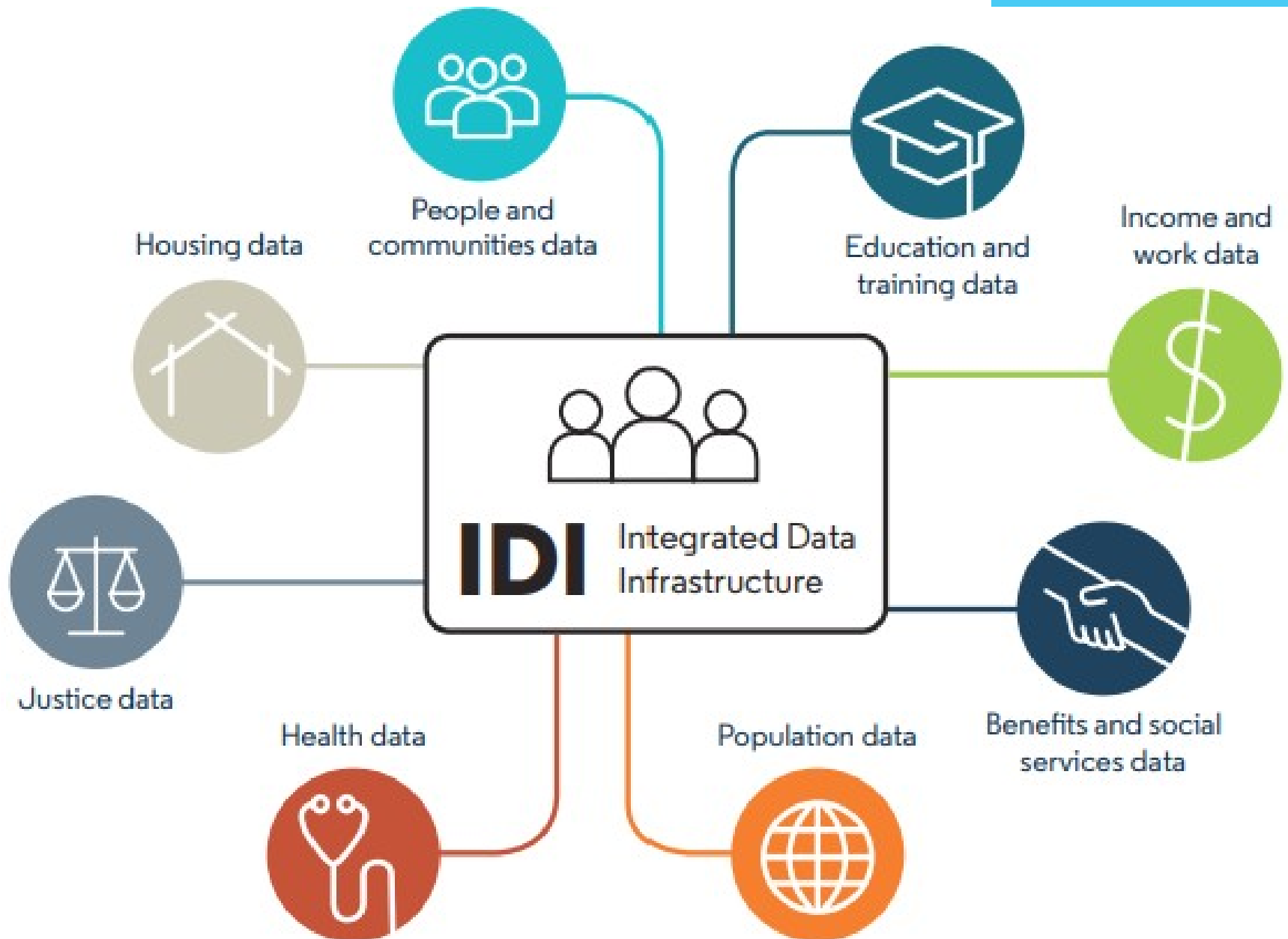
Encompasses **all** children and young people and is **child-centred**

Focuses is on **wellbeing**, with the recognition that **wellbeing is complex**

Considers the **past** and **present** as well as the **future**

Enables us to understand **every individual child and their family**

**Cannot** be used to identify individual children



# Child and youth wellbeing outcomes



CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE  
are LOVED, SAFE and  
NURTURED



CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE  
have WHAT they NEED



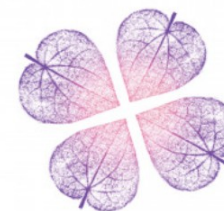
CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE  
are HAPPY and HEALTHY



CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE  
are LEARNING and DEVELOPING



CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE  
are ACCEPTED, RESPECTED and  
CONNECTED



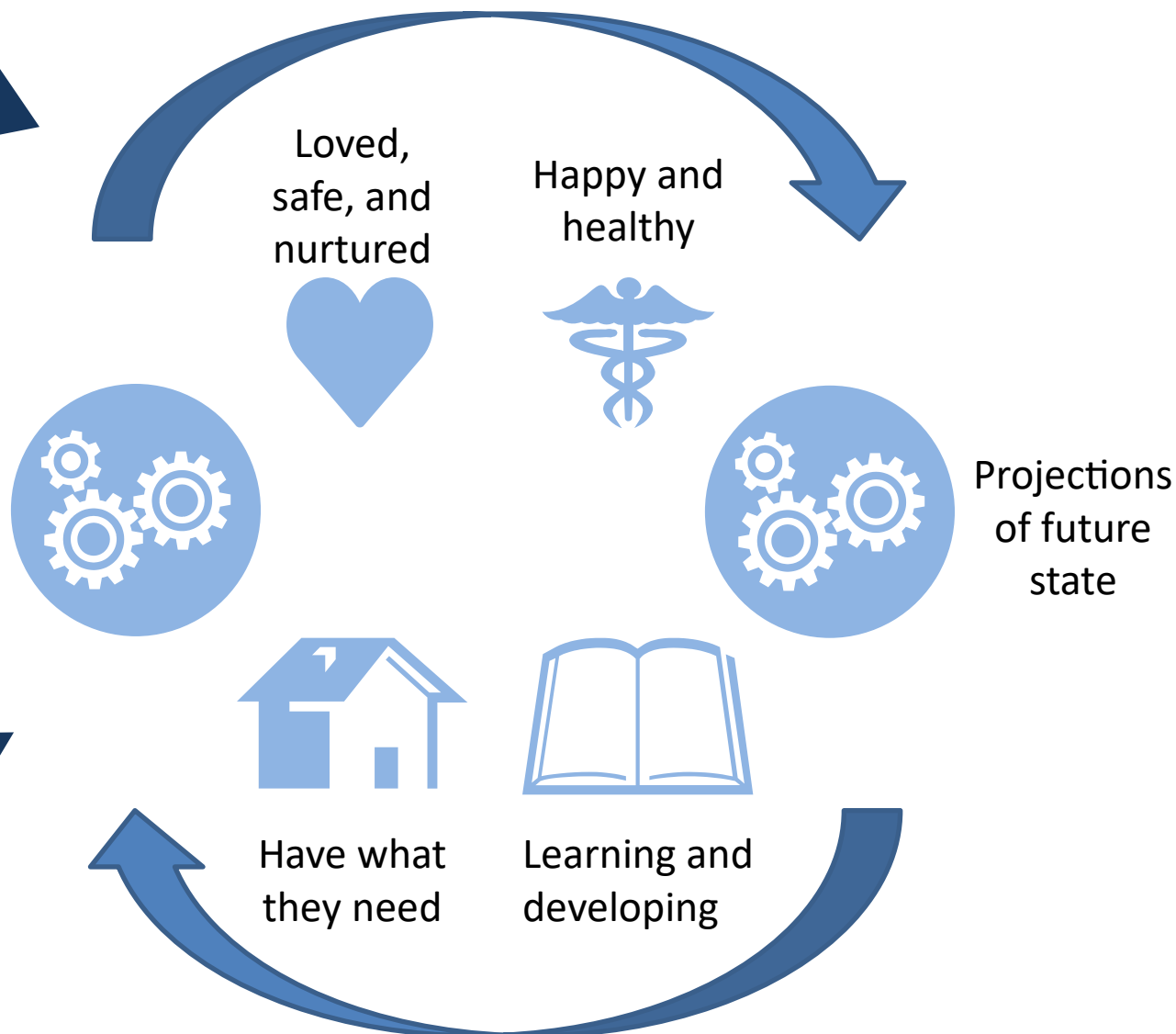
CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE  
are INVOLVED and  
EMPOWERED

# The modelling process

We model the  
entire  
population of  
children aged  
17 years and  
under in NZ

Projections  
of future  
activity

We project each  
individual through  
to age 25 in the  
microsimulation





# Information in the model covers a diverse range of factors

Domain	Factors	Examples of indicators
<b>Loved, safe, and nurtured</b>	<b>Parental factors</b>	Parental childhood contact with the child protection system; mental health and substance use treatment
	<b>Family factors</b>	Sibling contact with the care and protection system, family violence incidents
	<b>Child-specific factors</b>	Child contact with the care and protection system
<b>Happy and healthy</b>	<b>Parental factors</b>	Mother smoker around child's birth, chronic conditions
	<b>Family factors</b>	Sibling with chronic condition
	<b>Child-specific factors</b>	Engagement with the health system, chronic conditions, treatments

# Information in the model covers a diverse range of factors

Domain	Factors	Examples of indicators
Learning and developing	Parental factors	Maternal highest qualification, corrections contact
	Family factors	Sibling Corrections contact
	Child-specific factors	Educational engagement, corrections contact, qualifications
Have what they need	Parental factors	Income, benefits, accommodation supplements
	Family factors	Public housing register, numbers of siblings
	Child-specific factors	Time supported on benefit, own benefit and employment

# **Factors associated with disparities experienced by Māori children**

**in the care and protection system**

August 2023

# AN APPROACH TO MEASURING DISPARITY AND DISPROPORTIONALITY

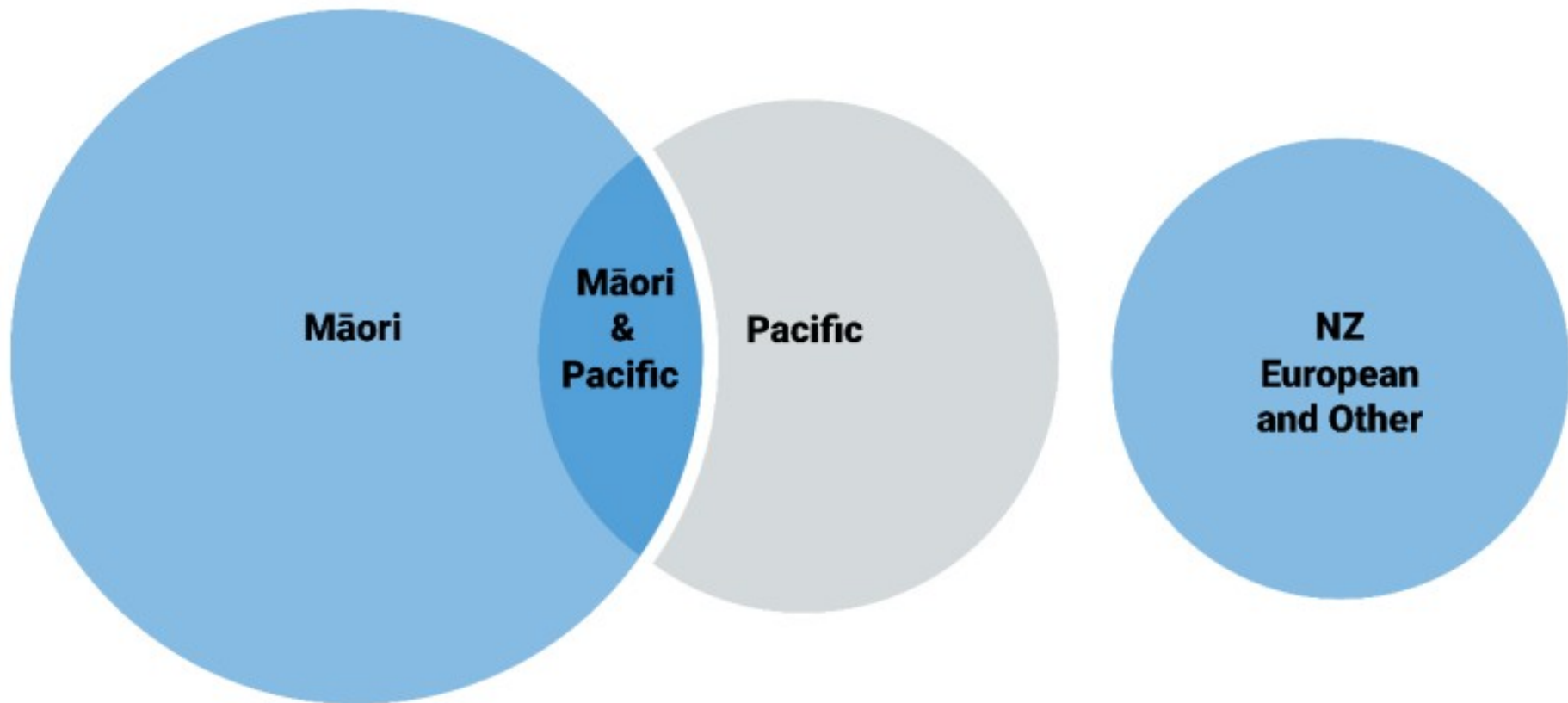
in the Care and Protection System

**Disparity:** the unequal outcomes of one racial or ethnic group as compared to outcomes for another racial or ethnic group.

**Disproportionality:** the under-representation or over-representation of a racial or ethnic group compared to its percentage in the total population.

**Source:** *Child Welfare Practice to Address Racial Disproportionality and Disparity (Bulletin for Professionals, April 2021)*. Child Welfare Information Gateway and Children's Bureau in the United States. [Child Welfare Practice to Address Racial Disproportionality and Disparity](#)

# How we defined ethnicity



Note: Not to scale

# Key care and protection stages

- **Report of concern (ROC):** reports about the wellbeing of a child from members of the public, family or whānau, Police, schools, health professions
- **Assessment or investigation:** further actions which can follow a ROC following initial review of the report
- **Family Group Conference (FGC) or Family/Whānau Agreement:** a formal meeting where the whānau or family comes together with professionals to talk about the concerns we have for a child or young person, and come up with a plan.
- **Placement:** for this presentation this is where a child is placed with foster or family/whānau caregivers after being brought into the custody of the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki

**In all cases we were interested in the first time a child or young person moved into each stage**

Examples of factors that have been found to have a significant association with escalation in care and protection involvement include:

- Parental history with Care and Protection or recent Corrections involvement
- Child's history of involvement with ROCs
- For children under 5, emergency department contact, with additional weight on injury-related contacts.
- For teenage children, recent indicators of school disengagement and mental health/substance usage treatment
- Victimisation (recorded by Police as being a victim of an offence) is a factor associated with first-time placement entry
- Lower parental income

Stage (first time)	Base disparities	Disparities after controls
Report of concern	3.26X	1.25X
Referral to assessment or investigation	1.13X	1.05X
FGC or Family/Whānau Agreement	1.34X	1.05X
Placement	0.99X	0.96X



# Other analyses not shown here

STAGE	First Report of Concern	First referral to assessment/investigation	First Family Group Conference Family Whānau Agreement
Relative likelihood of Māori children being escalated into each care and protection stage for the first time relative to children from 'NZ European and Other' ethnicities			
Event	Age group	Over the 3 years to 31 March 2017	Over the 3 years since 1 July 2017
		Before controlling for factors	After controlling for other factors
Ratio after allowing for	National	First report of concern	Comparing with entries to care over the past five years.

## Disparity and Disproportionality in the Care and Protection System to June 2022

Open  
The number of entries to care  
though has tapered off in

Socioeconomic factors

3.88x

2.53x

2.25x

1.10x

1.10x

1.15x

1.25x

1.40x

1.12x

1.19x

1.12x

1.25x

1.21x

0.92x

1.05x

1.09x

0.98x

1.20x

0.91x

1.00x

0.96x

0.96x

# So what?



**Child and Youth  
Wellbeing**

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# Oranga Tamariki Action Plan

The Children's Agencies' joint plan  
to prevent harm, and promote wellbeing,  
for the children and young people in the  
populations of interest to Oranga Tamariki

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# Key links

- Factors associated with disparities
  - [2022](#)
  - [2020](#)
- [Experience of disparities and disproportionality](#)
- [Measurement approach](#)
- More on [7AA](#)
- All these reports (and more) can be found on the [Oranga Tamariki Research web page](#) – search Disparities
- [Oranga Tamariki Action Plan](#)





## **EVIDENCE CENTRE**

TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

### **READ OUR RESEARCH:**

Check out the Research web  
page at  
[www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research/our-research/](http://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research/our-research/)

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**ORANGA TAMARIKI**  
Ministry for Children

