

**Population futures in an uncertain world**  
The changing faces of Aotearoa New Zealand

## **Critical Issues for Population in Aotearoa**

# **Fertility, families and households**

**Robert Didham**

Research Associate, Te Ngira Institute for Population Research

# Fertility,

NZW:FEE survey (NZ Women: fertility, employment, and education) 1995

- Childbearing dynamics – maternal age, timing and spacing
- Children ever born
- Childlessness
- Migration effects and climate change
- Economic, social and cultural aspects
- Cost of children and value of children
- Employment and parenthood
- Wellbeing and child health
- Maternal health – mortality, gestational diabetes etc
- Infant mortality

Aitken - The Infertility Trap - 2022

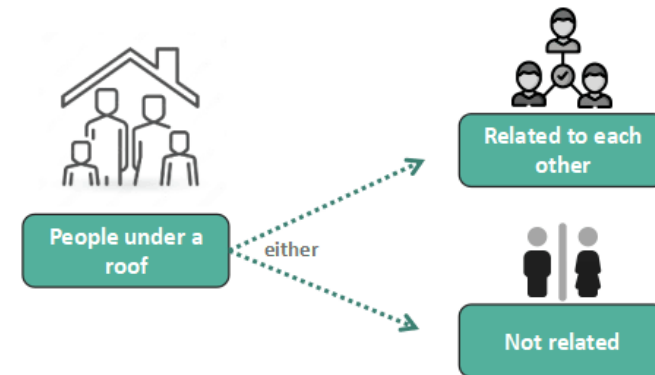
**Census, vitals and historical data are critical**

**Longitudinal and time stamped data is vital!**

# Families and households

## Key enduring issue:

- Need for good consistent and relevant data
- Definitions, classifications, and translations

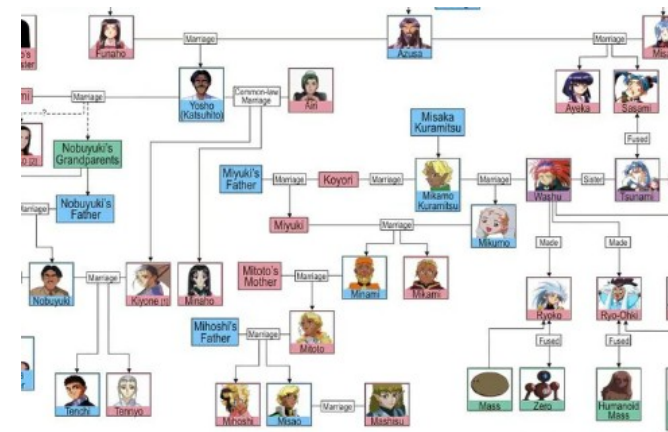


## Households

- Intimately related to housing issues
- Relationship between the real world and survey frames
- Household formation/composition and temporal/spatial dynamics
- Longitudinal data to understand change

## Family

- What is a family?
- Families within and across household
- Measuring – how, what, why
- Family dynamics – formation, dissolution, changing structures
- Grandparenting, step children, complex parenting
- Language retention, ethnic mobility, gender relations
- Interethnic partnering, multiple ethnicity and definition of community



# Why does this matter?



**WE'RE  
DUE TO  
HIT PEAK  
HUMAN  
IN 2064.  
THEN  
WHAT  
HAPPENS?**

Colonial subtexts



Are Human Beings Weeds?

What is a "weed"? Generally it means a plant growing where

