



Family Wellbeing in an era of reform – monitoring changes in family wellbeing in New Zealand between 1981 and 2001



THE UNIVERSITY
OF AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

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Outline

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- Project description
- Definitions of families + ethnicity
- Wellbeing indicators
- Results
- So what?

The Family and Whānau Wellbeing Project (FWWP)

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- ❑ Five year, FoRST funded programme
- ❑ Aims to examine and monitor social and economic determinants of family and whanau wellbeing 1981–2001
- ❑ Uses Census of Population and Dwellings to construct indicators of wellbeing
 - ❑ An indicator is a summary measure
- ❑ Primary units of interest are the family and the household
- ❑ Focus on outcome for different ethnic groups and family types.

Data

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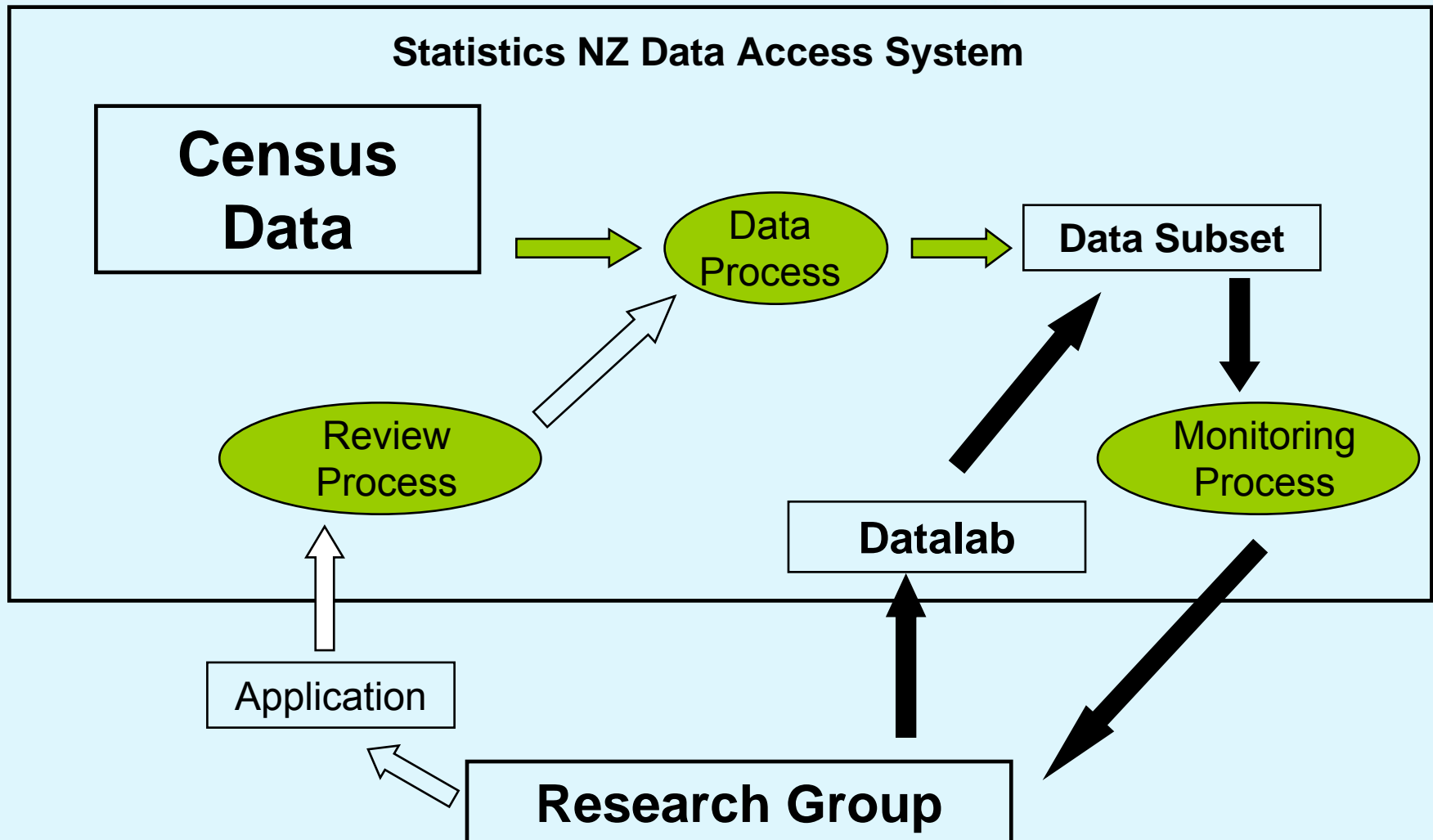
- ❑ Access to census records was obtained through SNZ DATA LABORATORY
- ❑ Allowed use of confidentialised unit record data
- ❑ Required working on-site (SNZ Auckland)
- ❑ Required application of confidentiality rules to all output taken from the Data Lab, as well as SNZ review of all published and presented outputs (Statistics Act, 1975)
- ❑ Detailed data assessment undertaken prior to analysis
 - ❑ Variable assessment (data dictionaries)
 - ❑ Comparability measures

Accessing Census Data

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Access to the data used in this study was provided by Statistics New Zealand in a secure environment designed to give effect to the confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act 1975.

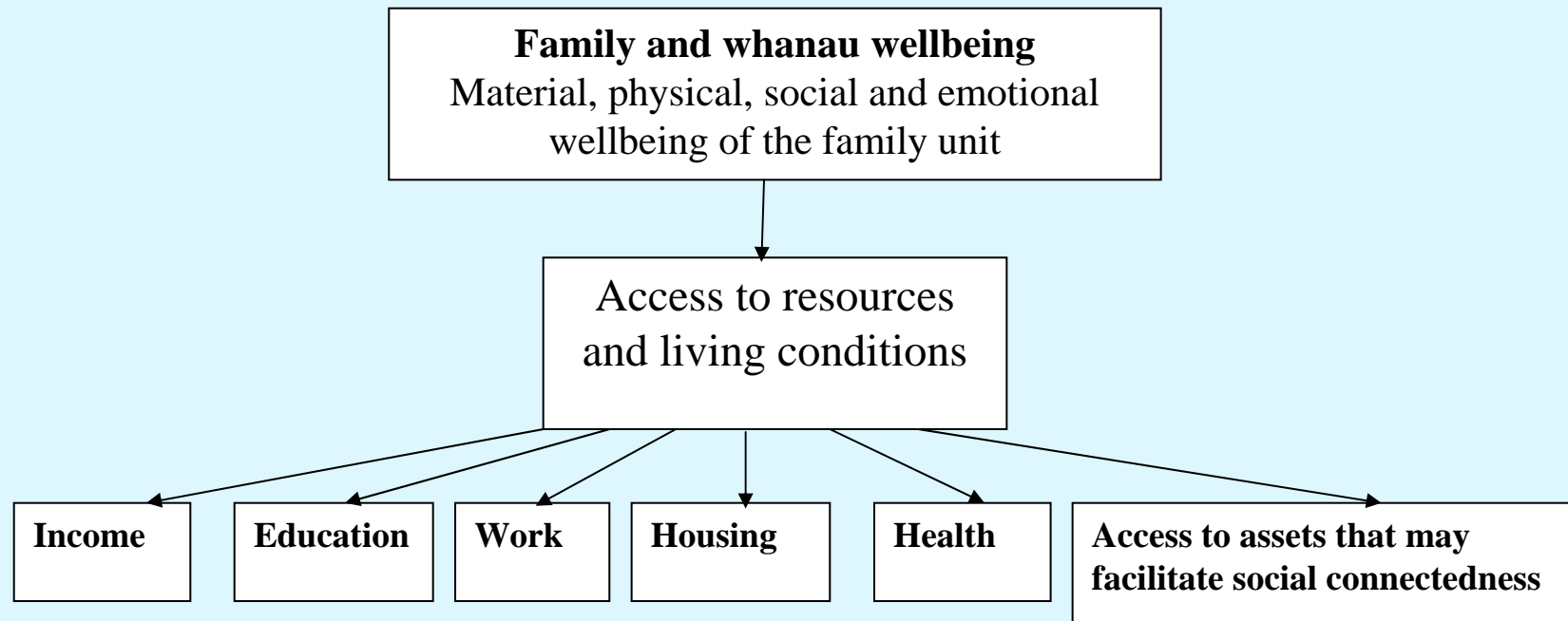
Modelling Wellbeing using Census data

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Family and whanau wellbeing model (as operationalised for constructing indicators Census data)



Milligan et al. (2006, p.29)

Census Families

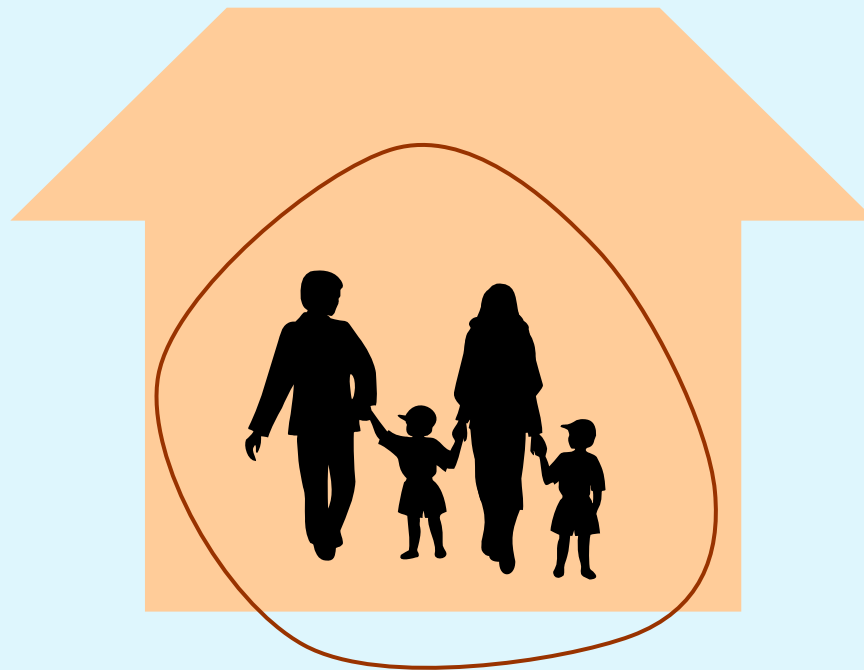
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Defining indicators at the family level is limited by census definition:

can identify families in the same household



Census Families

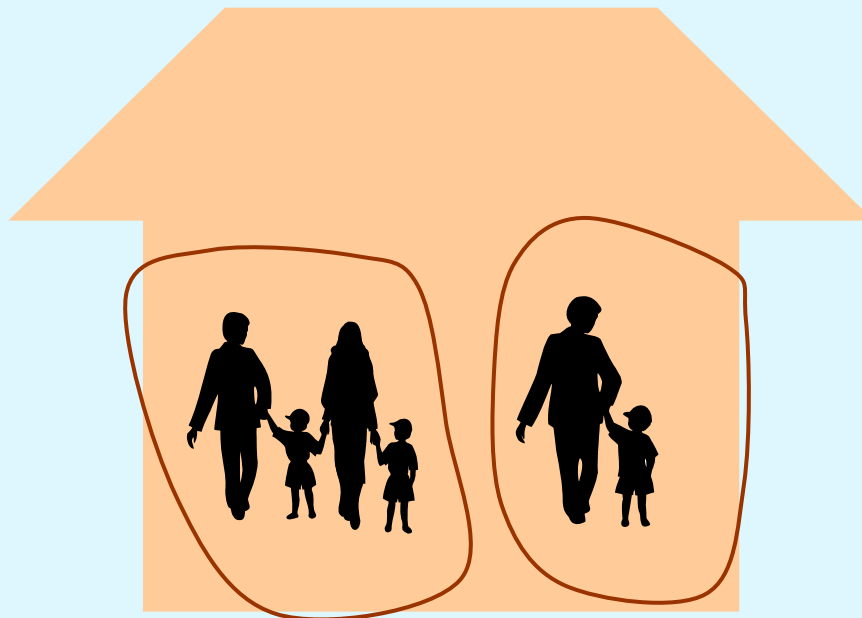
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Defining indicators at the family level is limited by census definition:

can identify families in the multi-family households



Census Families

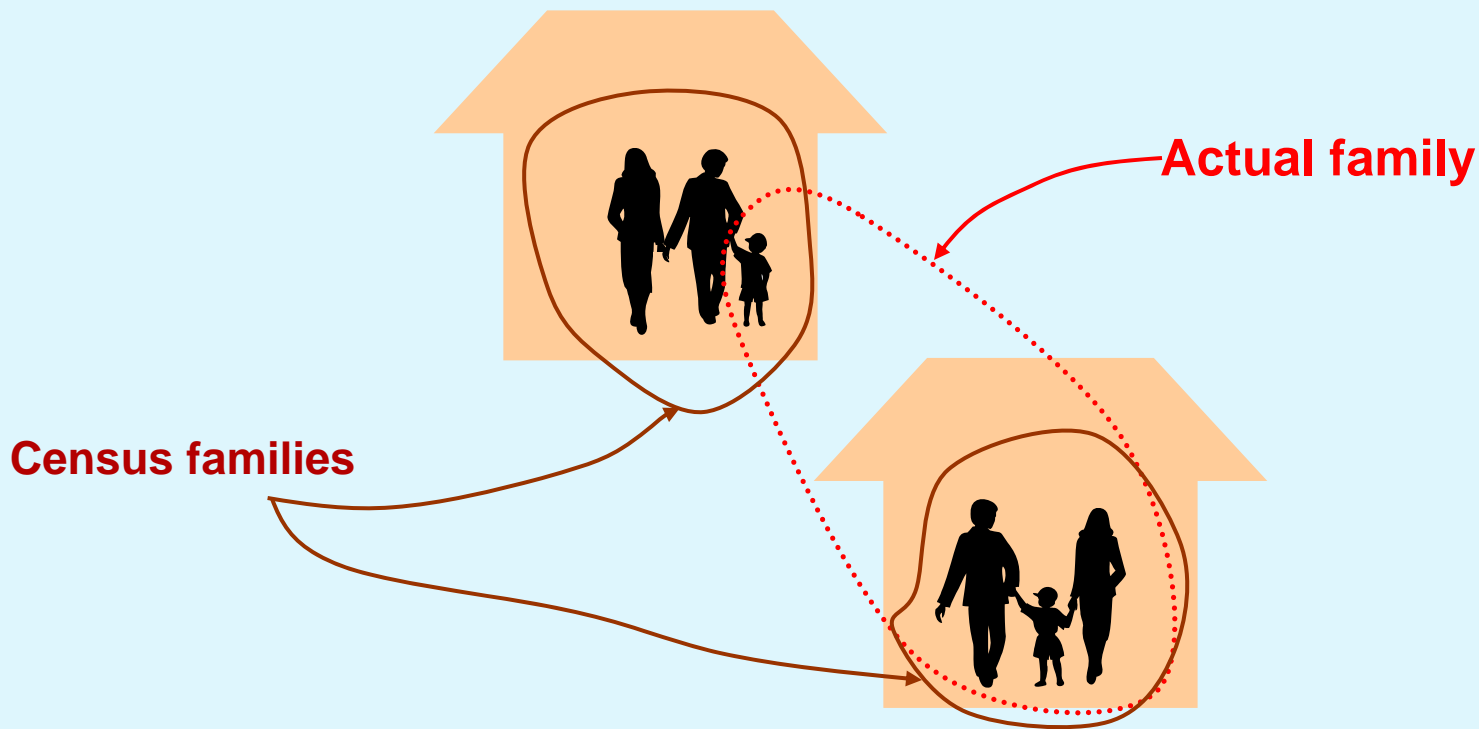
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Defining indicators at the family level is limited by census definition:

cannot identify families which cross household boundaries



Multi-household Families

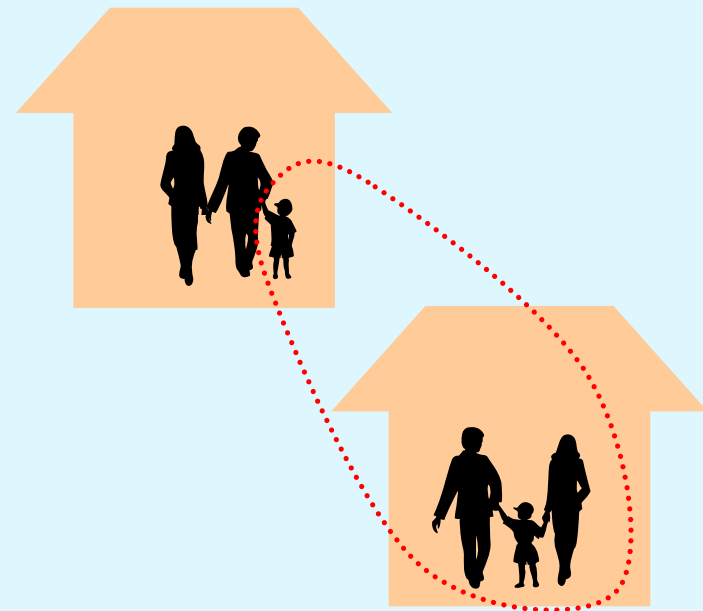
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In particular, we cannot easily identify:

- ❑ Families where parents have dual custody
- ❑ Blended families
- ❑ Extended families
- ❑ 'Operational' families



Family Classification

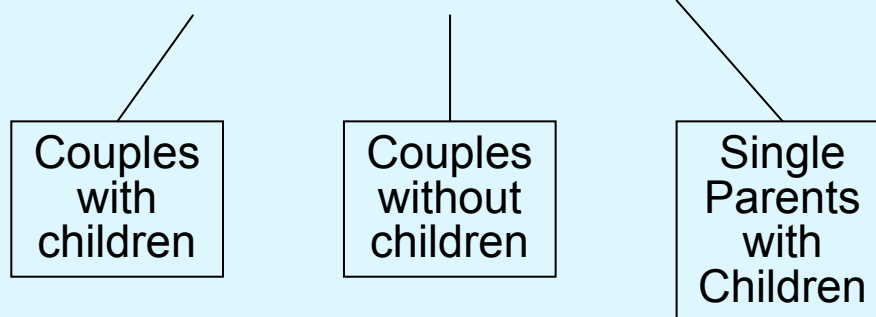
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- ▣ Families in the census classified by SNZ according to
 - ▣ number of adults
 - ▣ number and dependency status of children

- ▣ Family types in the analysis

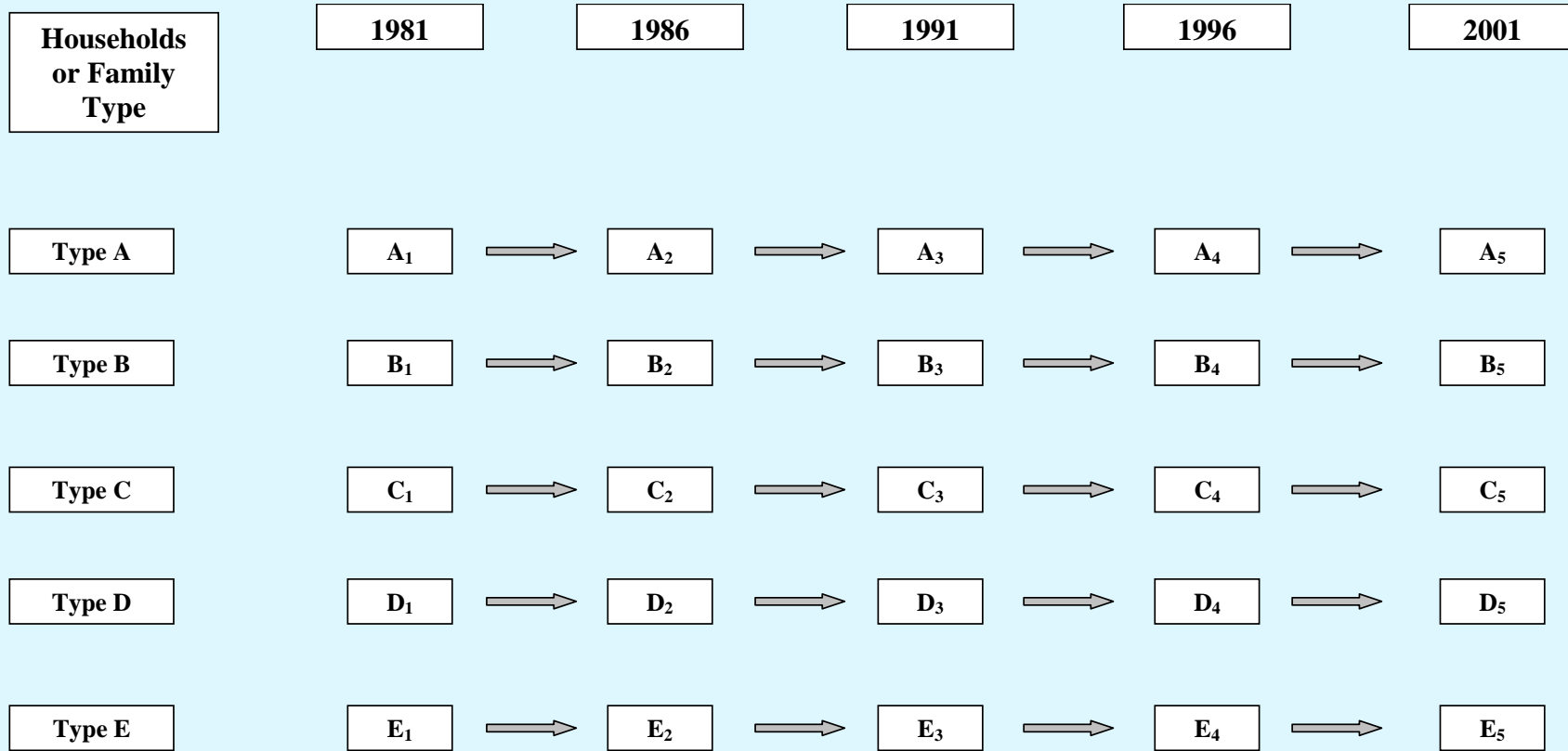


Time Series

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→ Changing distributions of outcomes for household or family type

Family Ethnicity?

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- ❑ Ethnicity is an individual attribute

- ❑ Chosen approach – where one of more of the parents is Maori
 - ❑ Strengths
 - Looks at child's environment
 - Parents complete the census form
 - Children's ethnicity is variable
 - ❑ Limitations
 - Theoretically shonky
 - Not an indigenous definition (Maori ancestry)

Family Wellbeing Indicators



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Domains and indicators

- ✚ Income
 - Median equivalised gross family income
 - Income source
 - Income inequality
- ✚ Education
 - Educational attainment
 - Post-secondary educational attainment
- ✚ Work
 - Workless families / households
 - Hours worked
- ✚ Housing
 - Tenure
 - Rental Affordability
 - Crowding
- ✚ Health
 - Health related benefits

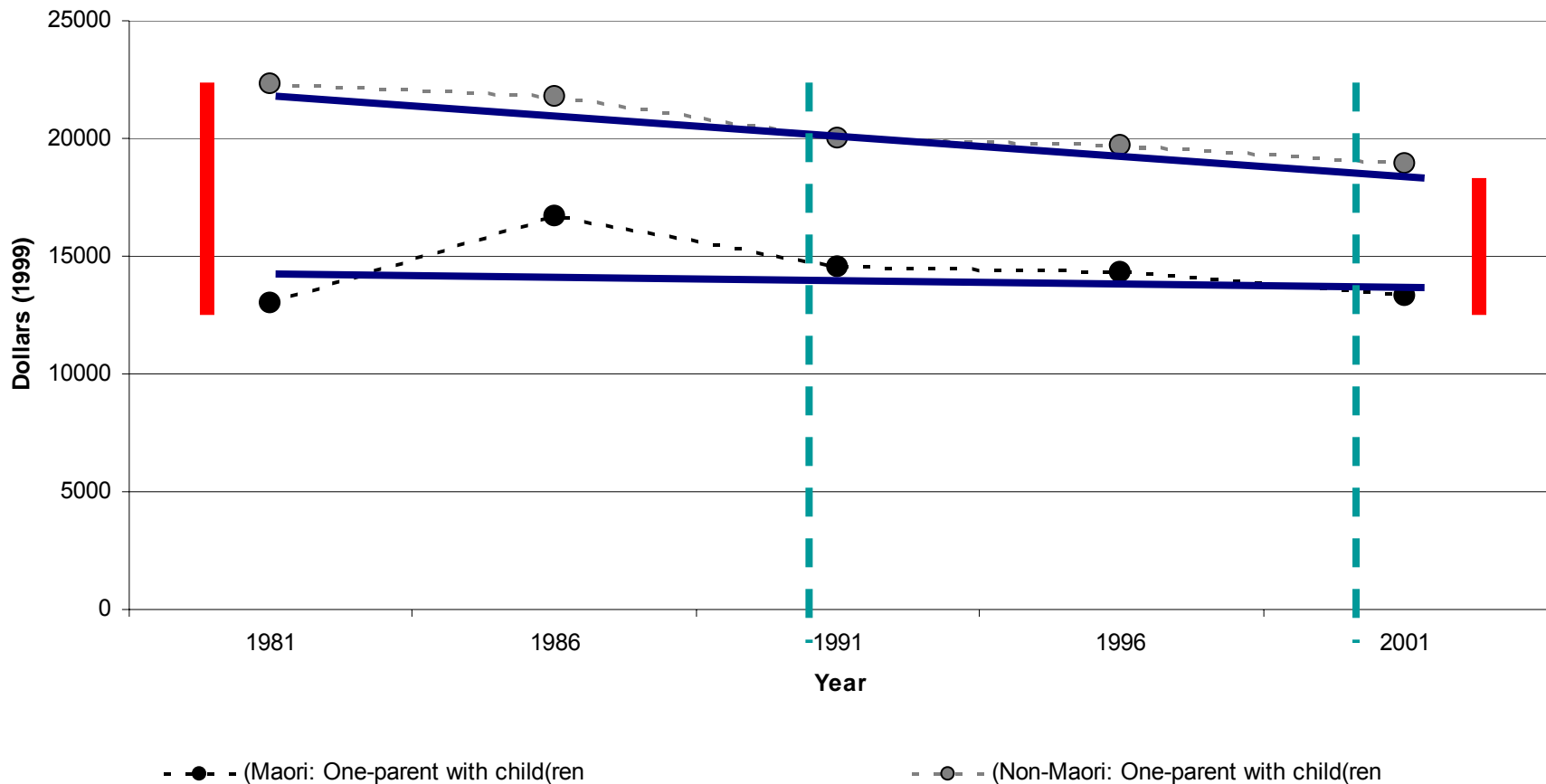
Median equivalised income - One parent with children

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Median equivalised income, 1981–2001, by family type



The results presented in this study are the work of the author, not Statistics New Zealand.

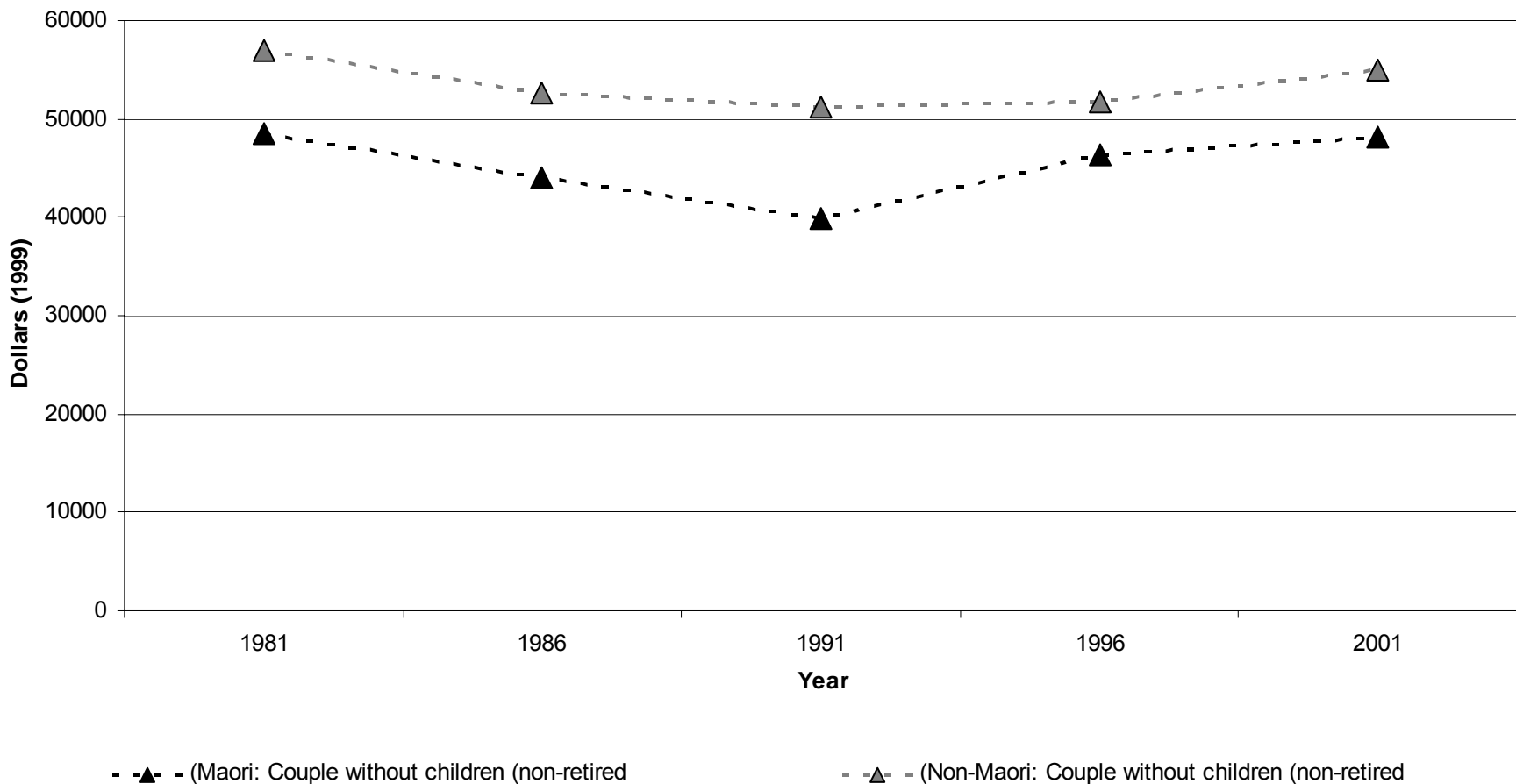
Median equivalised income - Couple without children

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Median equivalised income, 1981–2001, by family type



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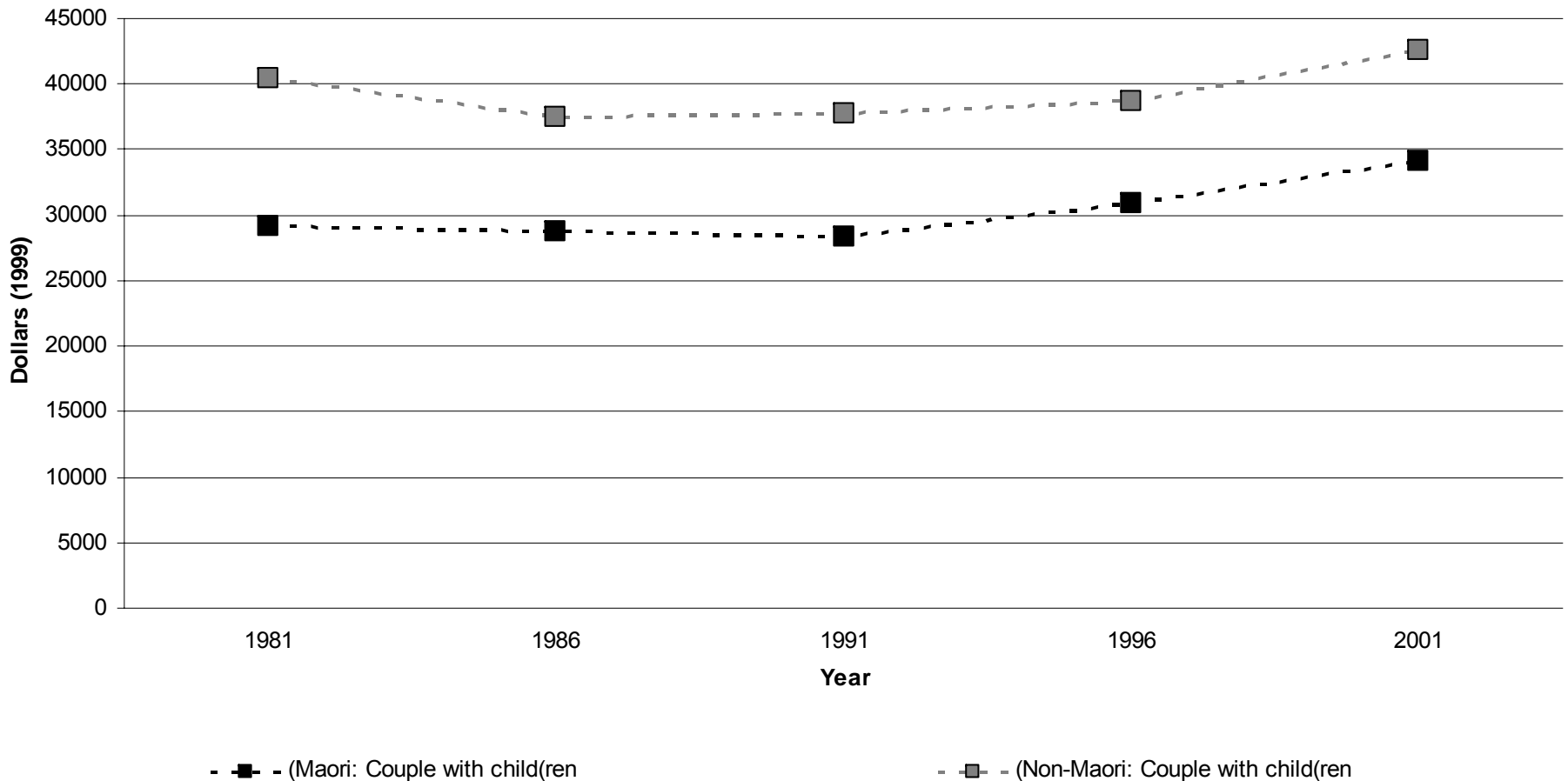
Median equivalised income - Couple with Children

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Median equivalised income, 1981–2001, by family type



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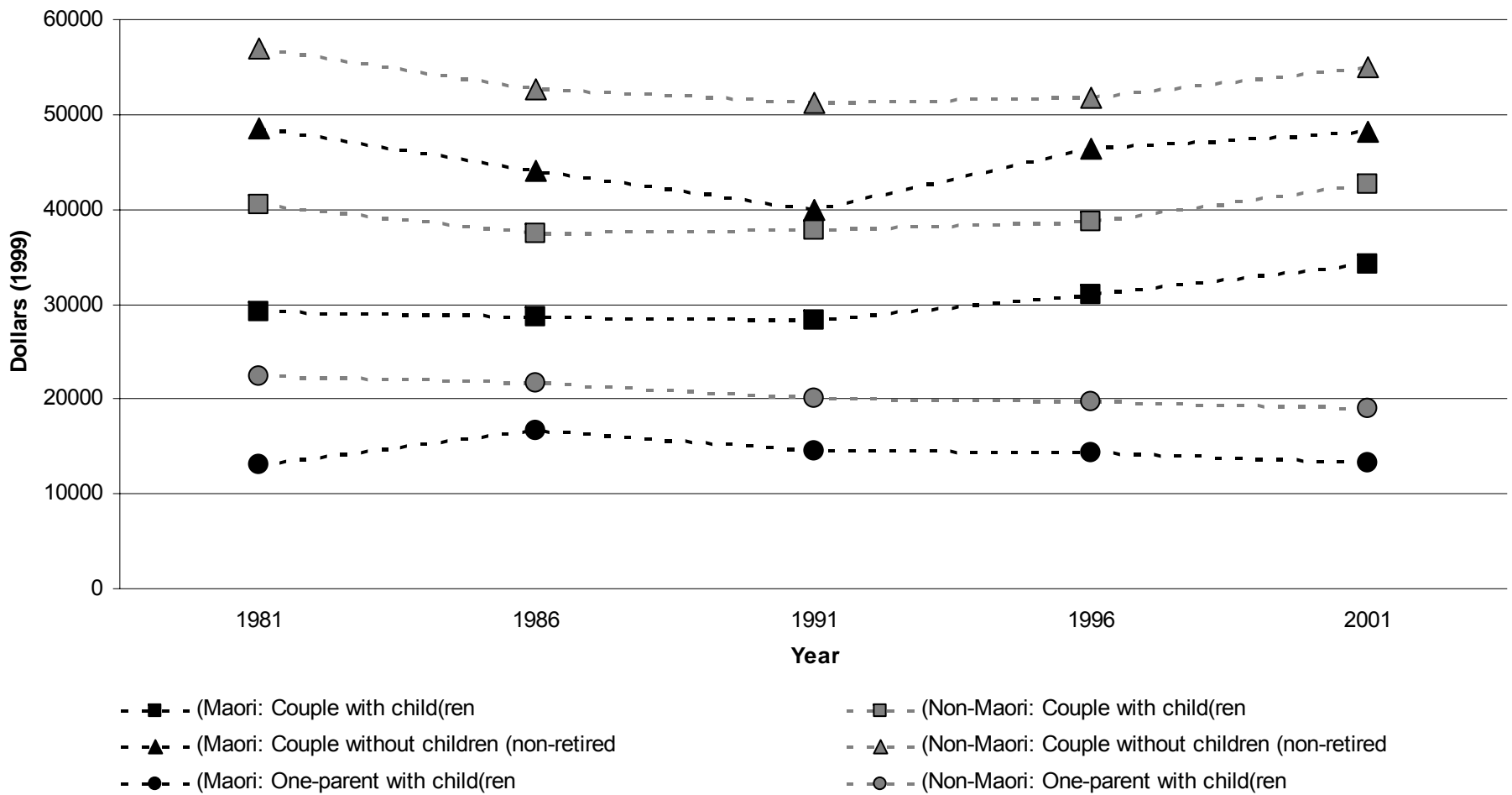
Median equivalised income -ALL

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Median equivalised income, 1981–2001, by family type



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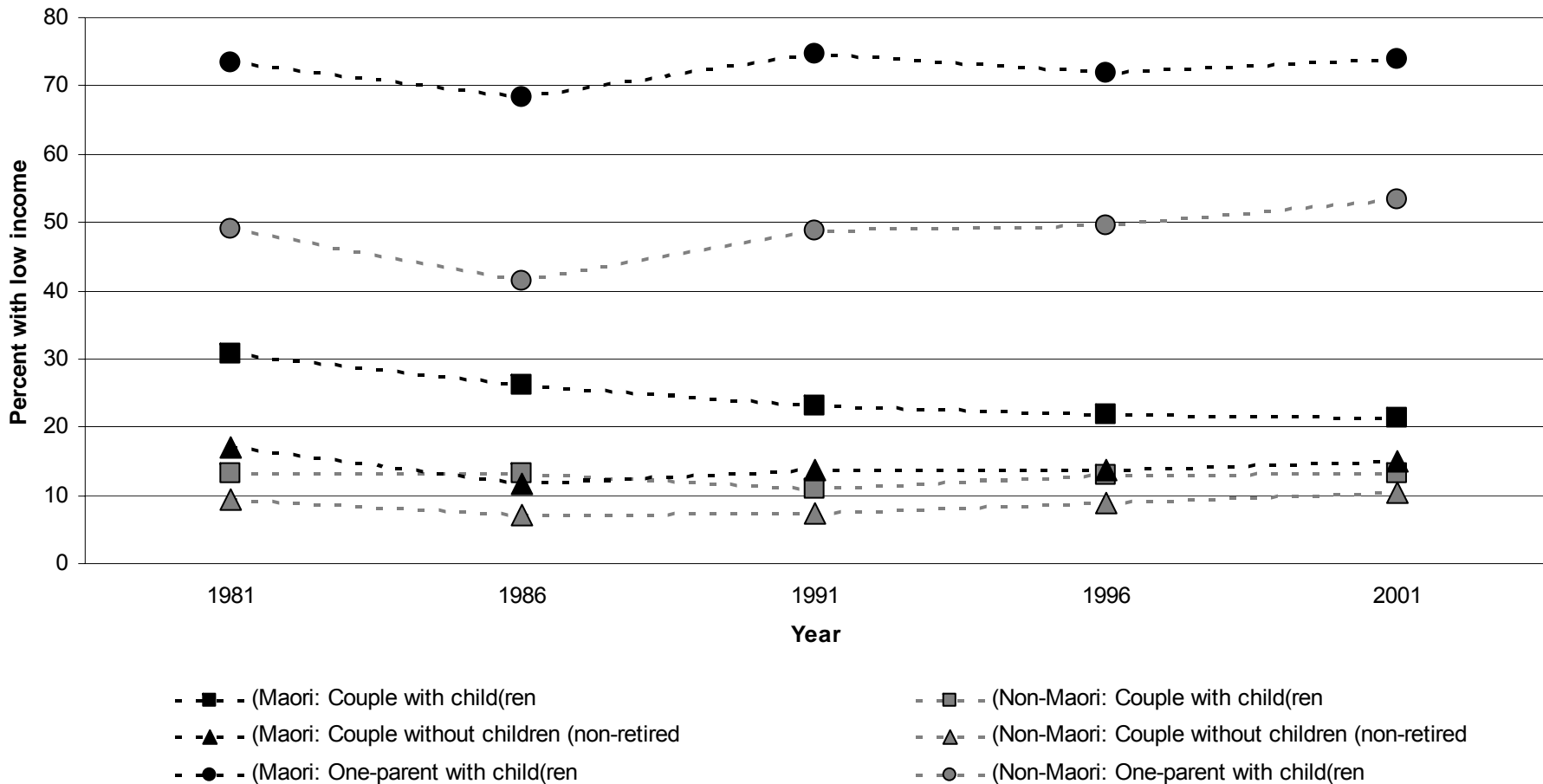
Low income families

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Percentage of families whose equivalised gross income is more than 60 percent below the median gross equivalised family income level, 1981–2001, by family type



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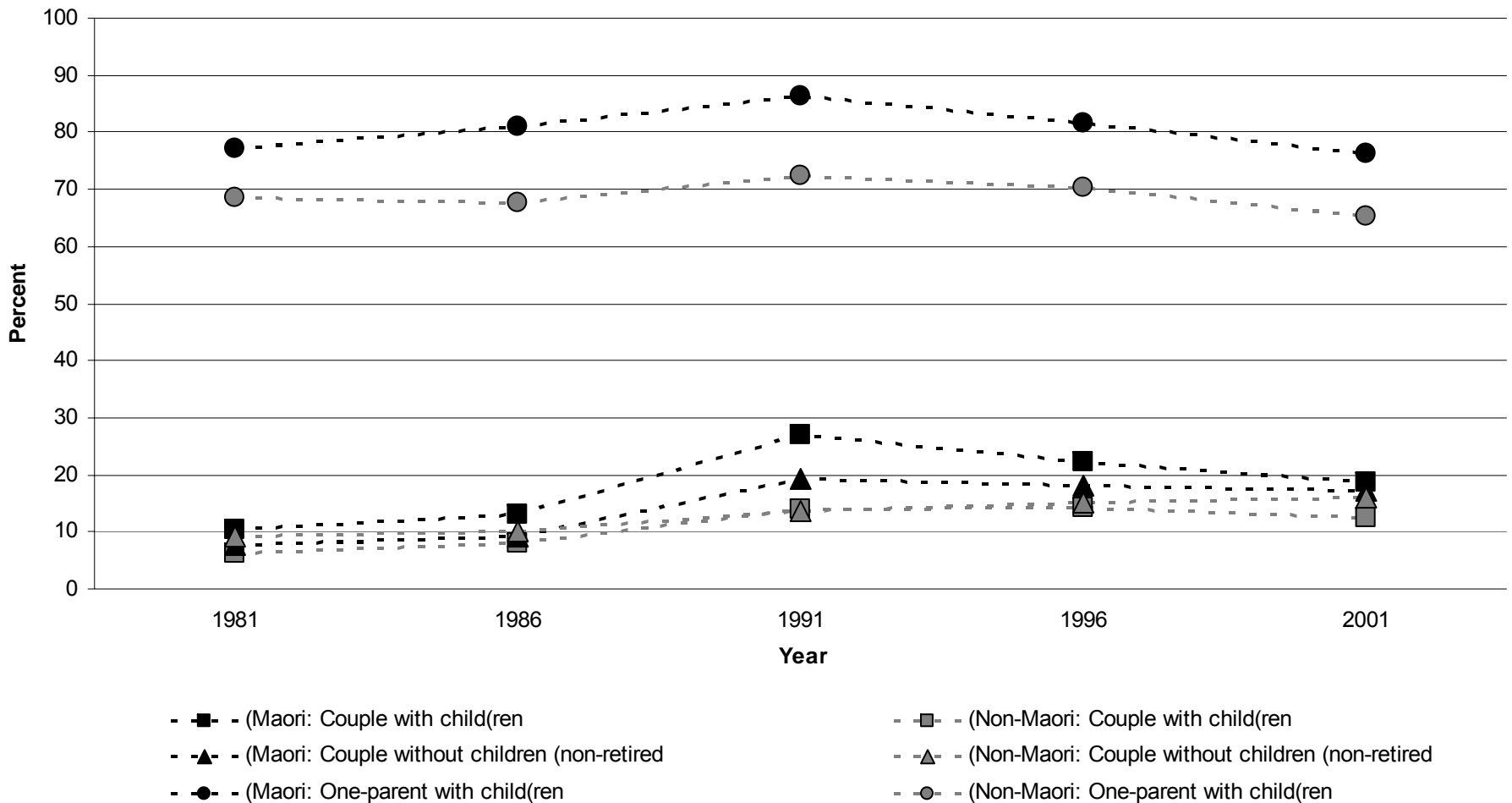
Workless families

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Percentage of families with no adult in full-time employment, 1981–2001, by family type



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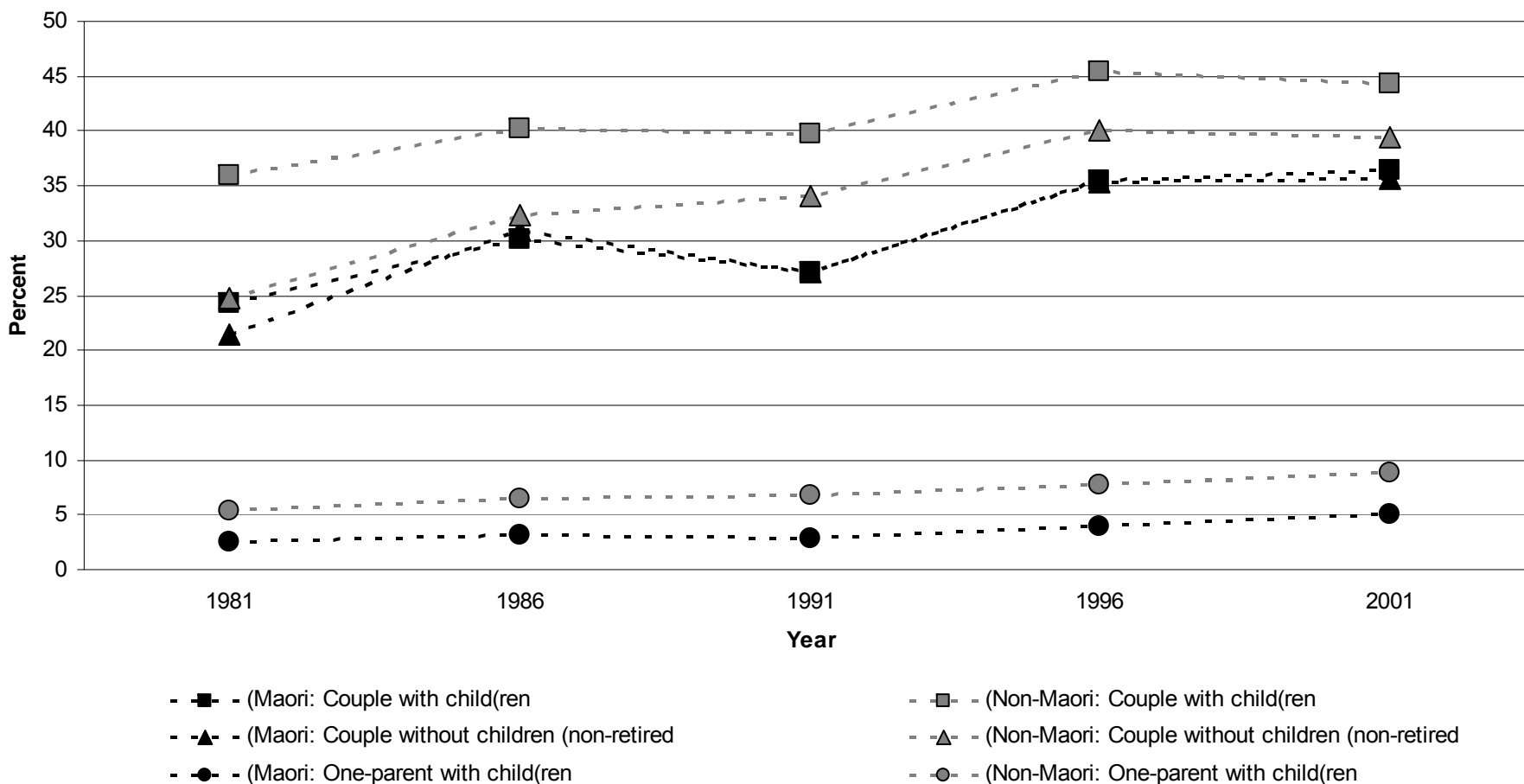
Hours worked

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Percentage of families with at least one adult working more than 48 hours per week, 1981–2001, by family type



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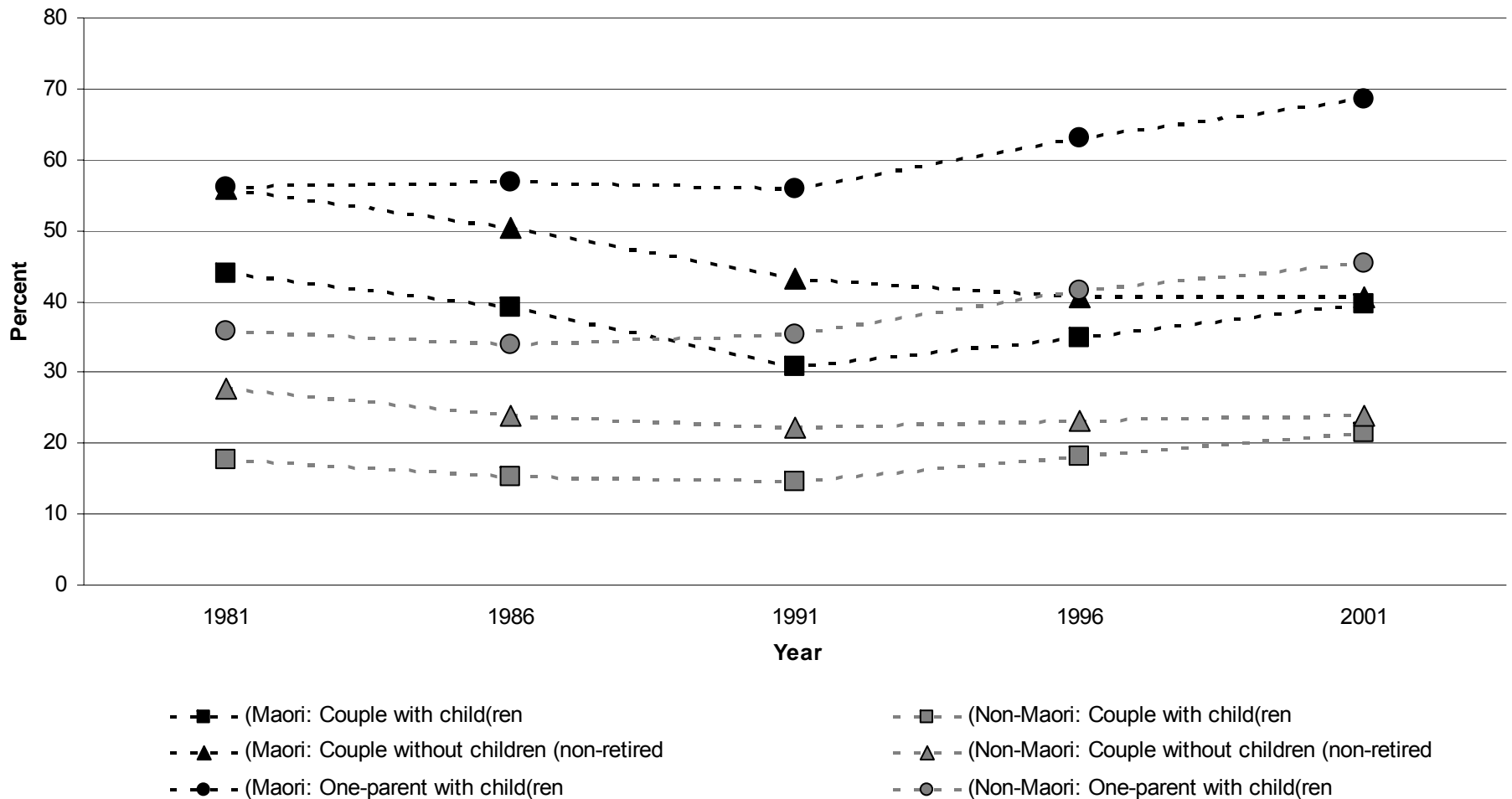
Tenure

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Percentage of families not living in owner-occupied dwellings, 1981–2001, by family type



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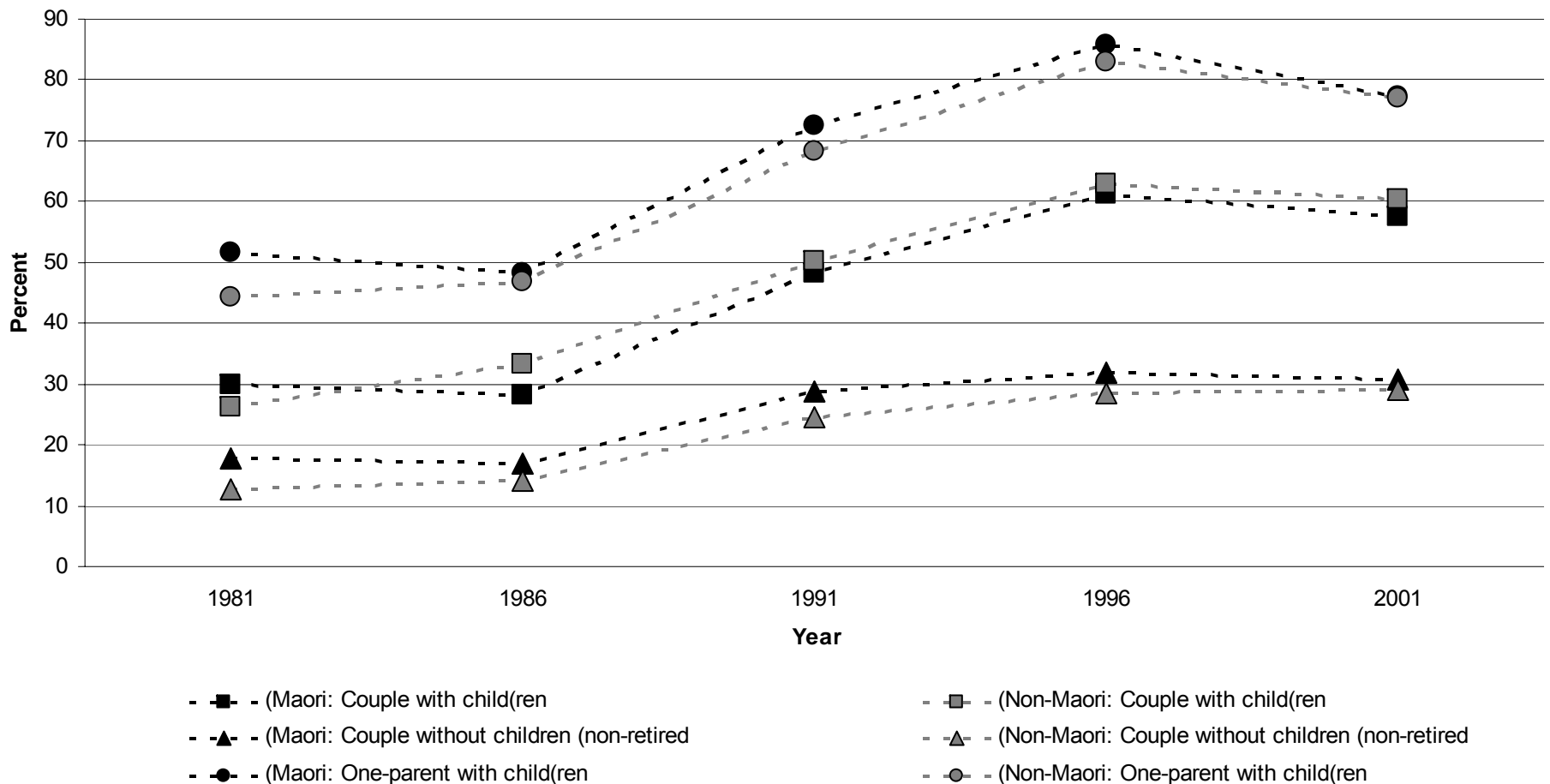
Rental Affordability

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Percentage of families living in rented dwellings whose weekly rent is greater than 25 percent of their gross equivalised family income, 1981–2001, by family type



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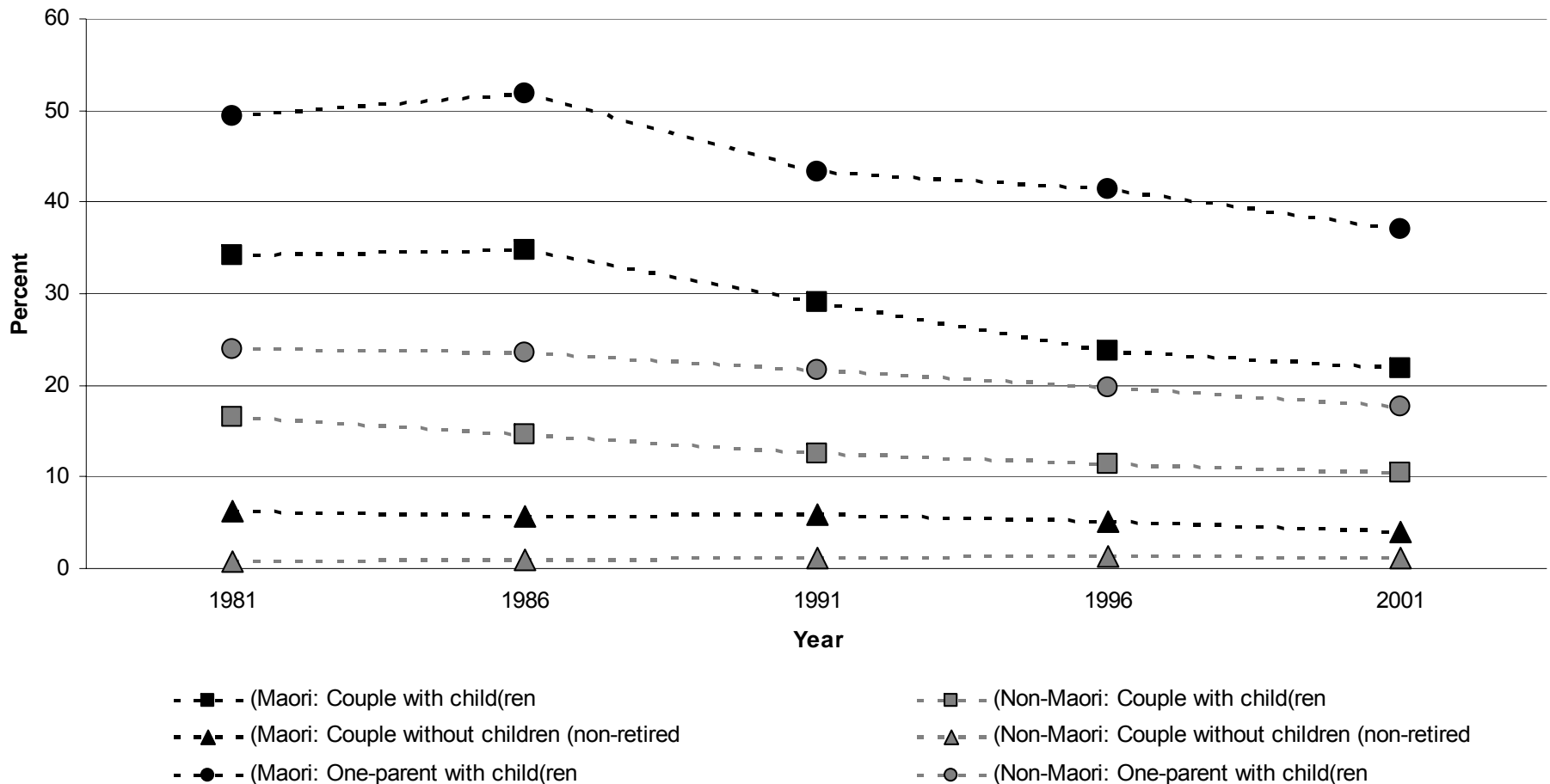
Crowding

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Percentage of families whose dwellings need at least one additional room in order to meet their sleeping requirements, 1981–2001, by family type



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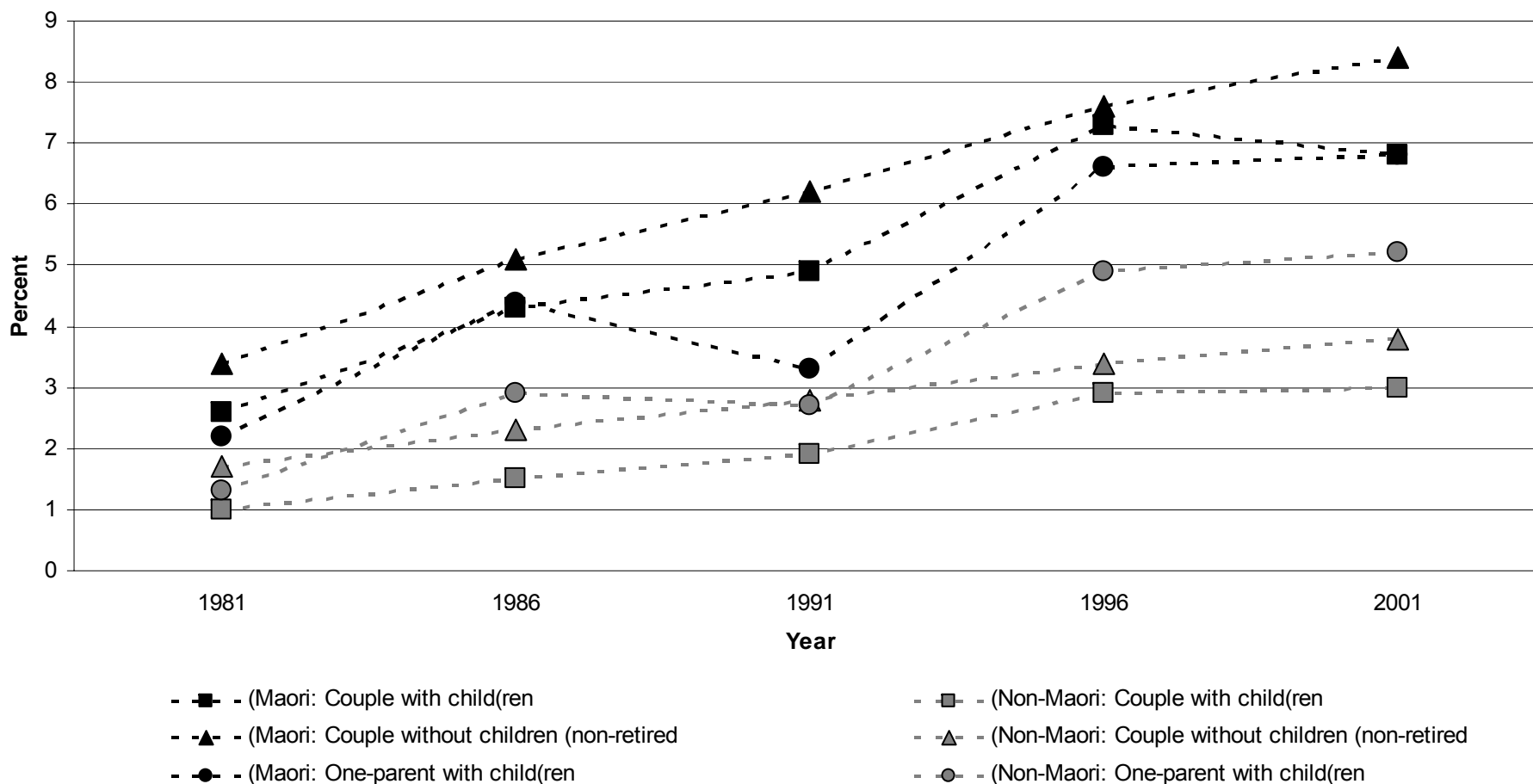
Health-related benefits

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Percentage of families with at least one adult receiving a health-related benefit, 1981–2001, by family type



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Overall Comments

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- ❑ Persistent differences between Maori and non-Maori families over 20 years
- ❑ Sole parent families do consistently worse than other family types
- ❑ Improvements in some key determinants for wellbeing and decreases in others

- ❑ Marked differences in outcomes by
 - ❑ Family type
 - ❑ Ethnic group

What's next?

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- Add 2006 Census data
- More ethnic groups

Maori

European

Pacific

Asian

MELAA

Other

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- Intra-ethnic analysis
- Indigenous focus
- Analyse associations with positive outcomes
- Data platform and modelling

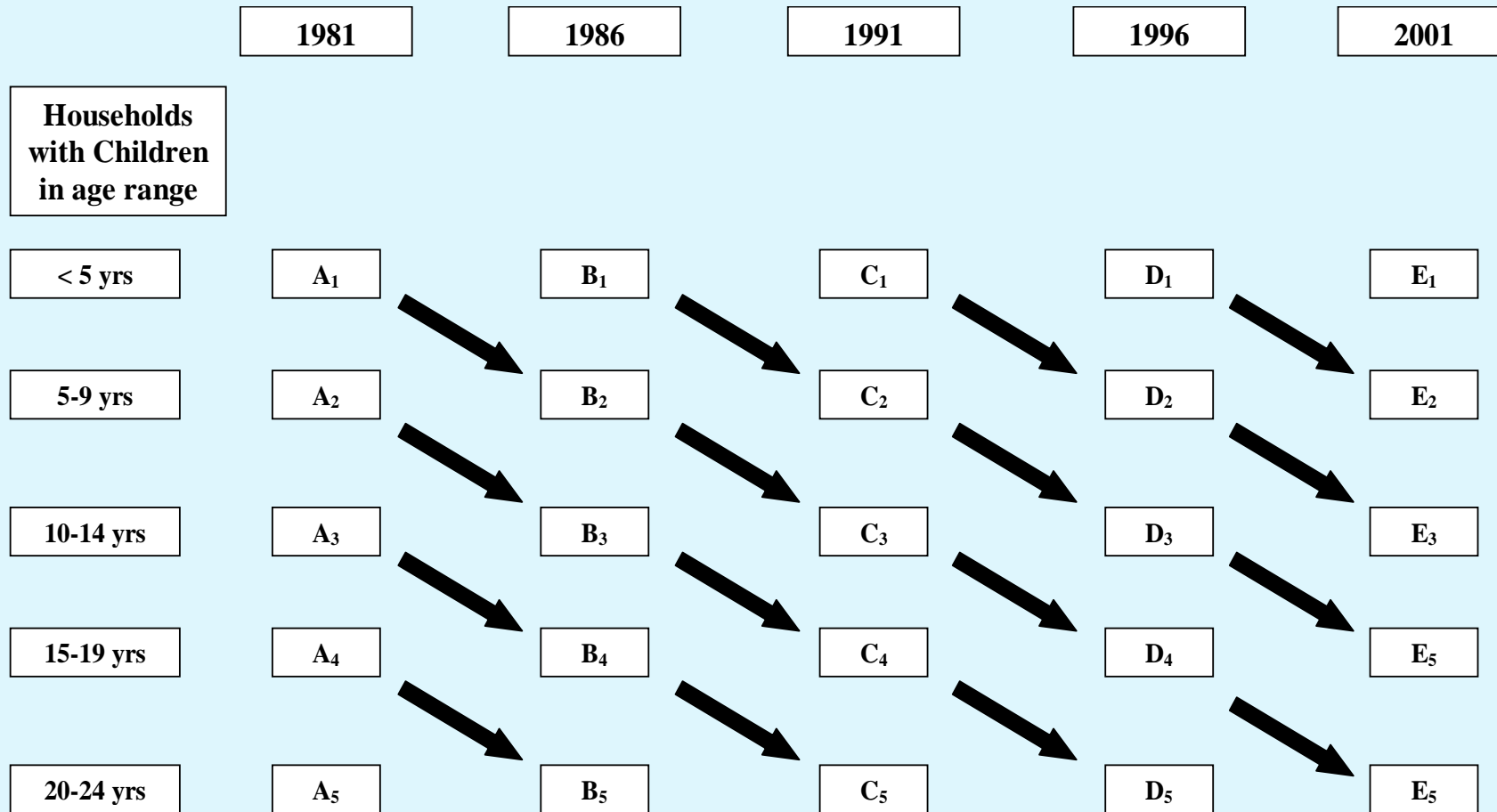
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Cohort Study

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Concluding Comments

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- ❑ Census data can be used to create time-series
 - ❑ Some limitations
 - Comparability imposes certain restrictions
 - Families restricted to the same household
- ❑ Highly detailed policy monitoring tool
 - ❑ The data is there, so use it
- ❑ Highlights gaps in knowledge

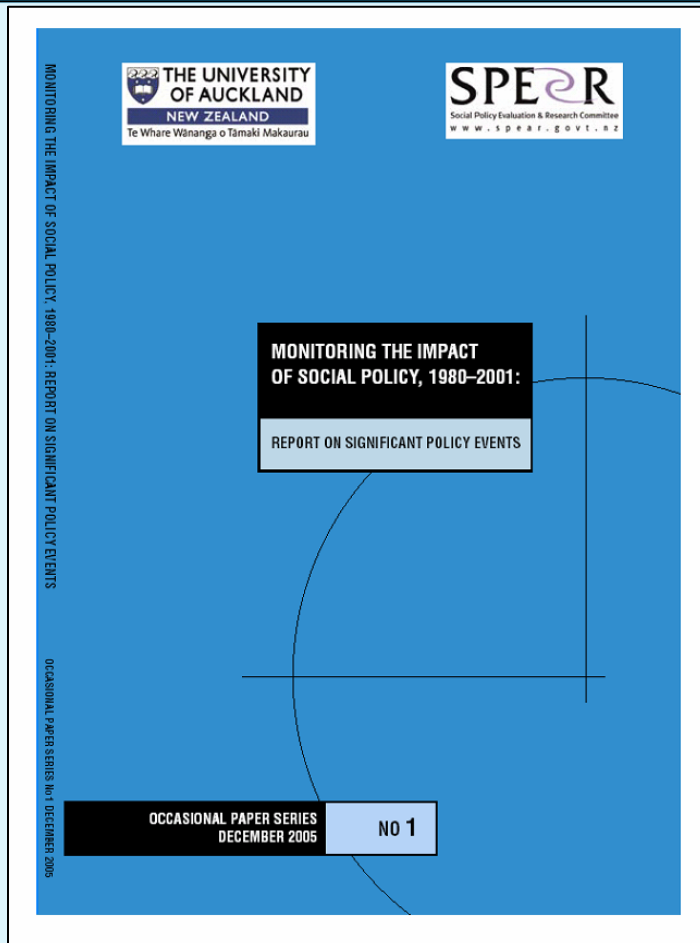
FWWP-related Publications



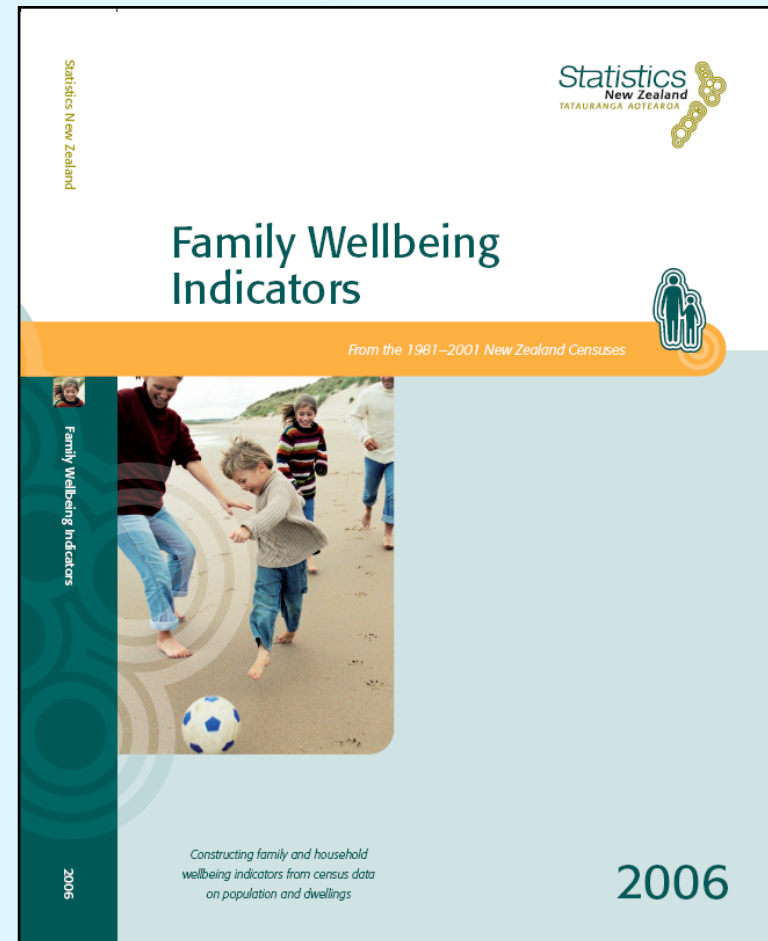
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<http://www.spear.govt.nz/publications/>



<http://www.stats.govt.nz/analytical-reports/default.htm>

Further Information



- For further information about FWWP and other projects of the Social Statistics Research Group, please visit:

<http://www.nzssn.org.nz>

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