

EXAMINING MEASURES OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD SEP IN NZ

A PHD RESEARCH PROPOSAL BY NATALIA BOVEN

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SOCIOECONOMIC POSITION (SEP)

- A multidimensional construct which aims to measure access to social and material resources.
- Related to a range of health and social outcomes.
- Common control variable — potential for residual confounding if poorly measured.

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD LEVEL MEASURES OF SEP

- Many individual outcomes likely affected by SEP of family members and others you live with.
- Previous research shows partner SEP affects individual health outcomes.
- Little research into the effect of other family or household members.

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD LEVEL MEASURES OF SEP

- Conventional approach: assign SEP of male spouse/parent to all family members.
- Dominance approach: assign SEP of spouse/parent with higher SEP to all family members.
- Joint/combined approaches: incorporate SEP from both spouses/parents.
- Sex-role approach: assign SEP of same sex parent to child(ren).

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD LEVEL MEASURES OF SEP

Example family	Conventional	Dominant	Joint/combined	Sex-role
Hinemoa (GP), John (plumber), kids Lucy & Tane	Plumber NZSEI = 40	GP NZSEI = 90	Multiple possibilities	Lucy = 90, Tane = 40 (or different weightings)
Sarah (receptionist), kids Liam & Emma	Receptionist NZSEI = 36	Receptionist NZSEI = 36	Receptionist NZSEI = 36	Emma = 36, Liam = not determinable
Sally (teacher), Kristy (accountant), kid Charlie	Not determinable	Accountant NZSEI = 73	Multiple possibilities	Not determinable

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD LEVEL SEP — BEYOND NUCLEAR FAMILIES

Different methods endorse particular understandings of families.



PROJECT AIMS

- Examine different methods of combining socioeconomic position for couples, parental units and households using a range of health and social outcomes.
 - For the New Zealand usually-resident population
 - For different age groups/cohorts
 - For different genders
 - For different ethnic groups (Level 1)
 - For same and opposite sex couples (where sample sizes permit).

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

- 2013 Census as base population, link other data sets from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI).
- Socioeconomic measure — New Zealand Socioeconomic Index (NZSEI-I3).
- Sensitivity checks with other SEP measures.
- Best measure of couple/parental/household SEP should explain the most variation in the outcome/fit the data best.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY — OUTCOMES

Data set	Adult or child?	Outcomes
Chronic conditions (MoH)	Adult	Diabetes, TBI, AMI, stroke, cancer
Birth records (DIA)	Child	Birth weight, gestational age
B4 school check (MoH)	Child	BMI, dental health
School records (MoE)	Child	Expected percentile score at NCEA Level I

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY — KEY LIMITATIONS

- Limitations of NZSEI.
 - Imputed NZSEI scores (education and age).
 - Sensitivity checks with income, education and housing tenure.
- Reverse causality.
 - SEP bias in diagnosis.
 - Weakening of SEP gradients for older age groups.

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