

Report of the Review of Official Family Statistics



*Developing official family statistics
to meet users' needs*

2007

Report of the Review of Official Family Statistics

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Preface


The *Report of the Review of Official Family Statistics* presents the findings and recommendations of a review of official family statistics undertaken under the Statistics Act 1975. The review was led by Statistics New Zealand, with the support of a number of other government agencies, organisations and individuals with interests and expertise in family statistics.

The purpose of the review was to ascertain the extent to which official family statistics are adequate for current and prospective information needs, and to identify remedial actions required to address any significant shortcomings or gaps. This topic was previously reviewed in 1978 and, in the intervening period, there have been significant changes in the demographic, social and economic fabric of New Zealand. These changes relate to the nature of families and to the information that is needed about them in order to inform public policy. In particular, the growing diversity of New Zealand's society and economy has been reflected in an increased diversity of family structures and forms.

This report provides a blueprint for the development of official family statistics over the next ten years. Following the 1978 review, a number of enhancements were made to the official statistics system that led to significant improvements in the scope and range of family statistics, particularly through the growth of a household survey programme and the establishment of standard classifications of households and families. Changes recommended in this review will be implemented by building on these earlier initiatives, improving and expanding the household survey programme under the current Programme of Official Social Statistics and reviewing the standard classifications of households and families.

While the review focuses on significant information needs that are relevant to the official statistics system, other important information needs that fall outside the scope of the official statistics system have been identified through the review process. Typically, these are issues that are better addressed through specific social research, or that require further development before they will be suitable for inclusion.

I would like to acknowledge the team in the Social Conditions business unit of Statistics New Zealand for the work they did to research the information issues, prepare position and reference reports, conduct a public consultation process, evaluate submissions, and prepare this report. I would also like to thank the other agencies, organisations and individuals who made submissions and provided advice, and who are acknowledged by name in an appendix 5 of this report.



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Information

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Contents

Preface iii

Executive summary 1

Summary of recommendations..... 3

Introduction..... 4

Chapter

1 Review methodology 5

 Research 5

 Consultation 5

 Evaluation of information needs 5

2 Current sources of family statistics 7

3 Family statistics information needs 9

 Key messages of the review 9

 Family form and diversity 9

 Family transitions and dynamics 12

 Family functioning 13

 Family interaction with the wider community..... 15

 Other issues raised by the review 15

4 Recommendations to improve official family statistics 17

 Develop a conceptual framework for the measurement of family issues 17

 Expand official family statistics 17

 Maximise the utility of existing data sources 18

 Keep up-to-date with relevant developments 18

 Further family-related research 19

5 Conclusion 21

References and further reading 23

Appendix

1 Official definitions and standards 25

2 Other family-related concepts 27

3 Official statistics relevant to families 29

4 Key internal and external stakeholders 45

5 List of organisations and individuals making submissions 47

Executive summary

The *Report of the Review of Official Family Statistics* identifies information needs about family statistics, where some of these needs are currently met, and gives recommendations about how information gaps can be filled. A key objective of the review has been to ensure that prevailing statistics are sufficiently relevant and robust to meet the current and future needs of users.

Two background papers were published to inform the work of the review team. Statistics New Zealand published a consultation paper outlining the context for the review. The *Review of Official Family Statistics Consultation Paper* is available on the Statistics New Zealand website at: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/8FE32009-565A-4F4B-89CC-2E163D6EB74E/0/ReviewofOfficialFamilyStatistics.pdf>.

As a further input to the review, Statistics New Zealand prepared a supplementary paper titled *International Developments in Family Statistics*, which is on the website at: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/F3B99201-905B-4BE4-9CF6-61CC93DA052D/0/InternationalDevelopmentsinFamilyStatistics.pdf>.

A wide range of users and stakeholders were consulted during the review. This consultation, along with consideration of the policy uses of data about families, was used by Statistics New Zealand to develop recommendations.

The main findings of the review, as highlighted by the subsequent recommendations, are:

- There is a need for improved statistical data to support a wide range of information needs in relation to families and the family circumstances of individuals within New Zealand.
- The relevance and validity of current data requires improvement to enable different family

circumstances to be easily distinguished within statistical data.

- Key information gaps in current official statistics are information on social and economic support for family members across households and on caring arrangements for children.
- A survey on the family circumstances of individuals, in particular family structure and support arrangements, will add value to the existing body of family-related statistics.
- Some topics of interest, such as family functioning, need to be underpinned by further theory and research before measures and indicators can be included in official family statistics.
- Data collection exercises already underway, such as the Survey of Family, Income and Employment, will provide some information about family transitions and dynamics.
- Revision of the current household and family classifications should provide improved definitions and collection of data on shared living arrangements, the ability to distinguish step-families in the range of family types, and classification and categorisation of types of social and economic support given to/received from family members within and across households.

The review makes recommendations to improve official family statistics and respond to the information issues of the review under five headings (see Table 1 on page 2).

Two immediate tasks arising from the review are to generate a conceptual framework that sets out the definitions and boundaries for the measurement of family issues, and to increase the relevance of official household and family classifications to more accurately reflect contemporary reality in New Zealand.

Table 1: Summary of Identified Information Issues and Recommendations

INFORMATION ISSUES	RECOMMENDATION					
	Develop a conceptual framework	Expand official family statistics		Maximise utility of existing data sources (eg SoFIE and census)	Keep up-to-date with relevant developments	Further family-related research
		Classifications review	New official family statistics			
Form and diversity						
Family structure	■	■	■	■	■	■
Families across households	■	■	■		■	■
Dependency		■				
Emergent issues and small populations				■		■
Ethnicity					■	■
Whānau					■	■
Family transitions and dynamics						
Transitions				■		■
Fertility						■
Family functioning						
Family functioning					■	■
Well-being	■			■	■	■
Support within and across households	■	■	■	■	■	
Interaction with the wider community						
Family in the social and economic context	■			■	■	■

Summary of recommendations

Develop a conceptual framework for the measurement of family issues

1. Statistics New Zealand lead the development of a conceptual framework for the measurement of family issues.

Expand official family statistics

2. Statistics New Zealand lead a review of household and family classifications to encompass a more detailed range of family-related classifications and standards in order to reflect the increased diversity of family types, support and living arrangements.
3. Statistics New Zealand develop standard measures and indicators that establish the nature and extent of support (social and economic) for family members within and across households.
4. Statistics New Zealand develop and conduct a survey of the family circumstances of individuals that focuses on family structure and support.

Maximise the utility of existing data sources

5. Agencies and researchers undertake more analysis of families and the family circumstances of individuals using current and planned data sources.

Keep up-to-date with relevant developments

6. Agencies and researchers ensure strong coordination with Statistics New Zealand and other parties when developing measures of family and child well-being, to ensure that concepts and indicators can be applied within official statistics.
7. Agencies and researchers ensure strong coordination with Statistics New Zealand and other parties when attempting to develop measures of the concepts of whānau and whānau well-being, so that these can be applied within official statistics.
8. Statistics New Zealand continue to explore improved methodologies for collecting information on individuals and their families that have been used successfully by other statistical agencies.

Further family-related research

9. Agencies and researchers encourage and support research that may enhance official family statistics and research that considers emergent family issues and small populations.

Introduction

Official statistics and the classifications that underpin them are a major information resource, informing a wide range of decisions, both public and private. An important role of a national statistics office is to ensure that the value of the investment made in official statistics is maintained by striking a balance between historical continuity and contemporary relevance.

Subject-matter reviews of official statistics are undertaken periodically by Statistics New Zealand, to ensure that the prevailing statistics are sufficiently relevant and robust to meet the current and future needs of users. A review of family statistics was last undertaken in 1978. In the intervening years

there have been significant changes in the nature and circumstances of families in New Zealand, and in statistical information needs, warranting another review.

This *Report of the Review of Official Family Statistics* presents the findings and recommendations of the review. The content and views in this report have been developed and consolidated from consultation with users and stakeholders, and investigation and evaluation by Statistics New Zealand. The recommendations provide the basis for the prioritisation of further work and improvements in official family statistics.

Chapter 1:

Review methodology

Research

The Review of Official Family Statistics was initiated in 2005. Statistics New Zealand carried out extensive work, including literature reviews and consultation with key stakeholders and experts (see appendix 4). This work resulted in the publication of two papers, which set out Statistics New Zealand's provisional understanding of the current supply of data about families, and the main information needs and uses relating to official family statistics in New Zealand:

- *Review of Official Family Statistics Consultation Paper* (Statistics New Zealand, 2006a) includes details on the context of the review, discusses the role of family statistics in social policy, provides information on family-related definitions, and references sources of family statistics and information (see appendices 1, 2 and 3 also).
- *International Developments in Family Statistics* (Statistics New Zealand, 2006b) outlines international developments in family statistics and broadly summarises changes in families in New Zealand society.

A structure to frame family statistics was formulated through the work analysing international trends and New Zealand family-related issues and topics. The research identified four information themes under which family statistics have been discussed throughout the review:

- form and diversity
- transitions and dynamics
- functioning
- interaction with the wider community (previously named the state, community and marketplace).

Consultation

The *Review of Official Family Statistics Consultation Paper* was published on the Statistics New Zealand website in August 2006. The paper invited users of family statistics to make submissions highlighting information gaps and their particular information needs. Submissions on the consultation paper were received from 34 individuals and organisations, including government departments, district councils and individual researchers (see

appendix 5). A template was provided to enable users to classify their information needs into one of the four information themes identified in the consultation paper.

The consultation provided Statistics New Zealand with greater insight and awareness of specific issues related to family statistics needs and, in particular, how these needs relate to policy. The consultation also confirmed the information needs identified in the consultation paper and endorsed the four themes used in the review to frame family statistics.

Evaluation of information needs

Under each of the four themes, sub-themes were identified and researched to ascertain whether this information had been collected overseas (and, if so, how), its relevance to official statistics, the potential to be included as part of a survey about families, and what issues there may be in collecting data on the topic. Often these sub-themes could be identified within several themes, for instance, families across households can be included under all four themes.

Information needs were evaluated and priorities set according to the following criteria:

- relevance to family-related policy (ie development, evaluation and monitoring) or contribution to better understanding the structure, functioning, dynamics and well-being of families, and
- relevance to official statistics.

The second criterion required assessment on whether information needs fit with the requirements of official statistics. Official statistics must:

- provide valid and cost-effective measurement
- confer public benefits that clearly outweigh the compliance burden and privacy impact, and
- be publicly acceptable.

Information needs that were deemed important, but currently fall outside these criteria, have been acknowledged in this report.

Chapter 2:

Current sources of family statistics

This chapter summarises family statistics data sources, looks at data sources that have been developed since the last review of family statistics, and how data about families are currently classified.

At the time of the last review of family statistics in New Zealand (in 1978), information about families was primarily derived from the following sources:

- New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings (five-yearly)
- Household Sample Survey (yearly) (now the Household Economic Survey)
- Vital statistics (births, deaths and marriages) (yearly).

Currently there are a variety of data sources available for information on family statistics, depending on the focus that is required (see appendix 3 also). Some of the regular sources are:

- New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings (five-yearly)
- Births and Deaths (quarterly)
- Household Labour Force Survey (quarterly)
- Marriages, civil unions and divorces (yearly)
- Household Economic Survey (three-yearly)
- New Zealand Health Survey (three-yearly)
- New Zealand Disability Survey (five-yearly)
- New Zealand Child Nutrition Survey (10-yearly)
- Survey of Family, Income and Employment (longitudinal – yearly for eight years).

Some family statistics are also available through one-off surveys, such as the New Zealand Childcare Survey (1998) and the New Zealand Survey of Older People, Older Māori and Working-Aged People (2000).

There are also research centres with a family focus that produce both quantitative and qualitative information. These include:

- Ngāi Tahu Māori Health Research Unit, Otago University
- The Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families, Victoria University
- Centre for Social Research and Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development
- The Families Commission.

The current statistics available for families are framed by the present classifications as set out in the *New Zealand Standard Classification of Households and Families* (Statistics New Zealand, 1995). A common element of these classifications is that to be regarded as a family, people must live in the same household. Currently four classifications of family (and household) are used in New Zealand:

- **Family type** classification comprises the three high-level categories of couple without children, couple with child(ren), and one parent with child(ren).
- **Household composition** identifies one, two or three or more families living together in the same household.
- **Extended family** identifies the presence of other related people living with the family in the household.
- **Economic family** distinguishes people who are financially dependent within the household.

Since the 1978 review a greater range of family-related data has become available. One of the objectives of the Review of Official Family Statistics was to test whether this range is adequate for current and likely future needs.

Chapter 3:

Family statistics information needs

This chapter summarises and confirms information needs identified by Statistics New Zealand following public consultation. The needs identified focus on significant gaps and shortcomings in the existing body of statistics.

Key messages of the review

The review supports the development of a conceptual framework for the measurement of family issues to enable key family concepts and information needs to be identified, most notably:

- a more detailed range of family types (step- and blended families, extended families, multi-household families, and shared parenting arrangements), and
- social and economic support across households.

This conceptual framework, along with the Household and Family Classifications Review¹, will ensure that core family-specific topics and standard methods of measurement are applied across all official statistics and will enable extra levels of detail to be available.

Current official family statistics do not sufficiently cover the wide variety of living arrangements in New Zealand today. Changing the definition of an underlying concept may result in statistics that are better aligned with the variety of current living arrangements, and are of greater relevance to data users. However, changes in the definition of an underlying concept may also disrupt time-series, and restrict data users' ability to compare statistics over time. Statistics New Zealand must concern itself with both the consistency and relevance of family statistics. There is a tension between these goals, and finding a suitable balance between them will be one of the objectives of the Household and Family Classifications Review.

The review advocates that best use be made of current data sources before new data are considered for collection. Datasets should be comparable and complement each other. The review acknowledges that not all identified information needs can currently be met by official statistics, and that in some areas the development of measures and indicators of official family statistics need to be underpinned by further theory and research.

This report and the recommendations that come out of the review discuss family statistics in the context

of information about the family circumstances of individuals. This focus is particularly appropriate for collecting data about families across households and from the perspective of individual family members. Measuring relationships and analysing data from an individual perspective, for instance, can go some way towards identifying across-household relationships and give insight into families from a child's perspective. This report also recognises that family and household units are important units of interest and analysis, for example, in relation to the possible development of data on family well-being.

Family form and diversity

Family form and diversity focuses on issues of family structure and is primarily concerned with information about family types.

Although family types such as step-, blended and extended families are now increasingly common, little is known about these family types in New Zealand, as they are not well captured and reported on in official statistics.

Historically, New Zealand and international official family statistics are bound by the use of household as the measurement entity, and the underlying family nucleus concept. It is now widely recognised that the household may be a less useful boundary for family-centred analysis and policy provision than it was in the past. For example, "Household data are seriously limited in the insights they can give us about families... They provide no insight into the lives of children who live in two households." (Ministry of Social Development, 2004)

Dependency and support, both within and across households, may now be more relevant for defining aspects of the family for various purposes. There is therefore a need for family statistics that also look beyond the household to capture the diversity of families that exist today.

Family structure within households

There is a clear need in New Zealand to explore the feasibility of producing better official statistics for a more detailed range of family types, in particular, on step-, blended and extended families. The review also identified that information on foster and adopted children and their well-being was of interest to policy makers. Current New Zealand official statistics data collections do not distinguish

¹ This will be a review of the *New Zealand Standard Classification of Households and Families* (Statistics New Zealand, 1995). The Household and Family Classifications Review will be led by Statistics New Zealand (see recommendation 2 in chapter 4 for more detail).

between natural, step-, adopted or foster children in families.

The Office for National Statistics (UK) has collected regular statistics on step-families for over a decade in their General Household Survey and more detailed information on step-, extended and grandparent families is available from the latest census. Similarly, Australia has collected more detailed family structure information, including grandparent families, in their Family Characteristics Survey, and a new family blending variable will be reported on from their 2006 Census.

Some data on extended families in New Zealand is currently available from the census. The extended family data from the census relates to extended families within households, and can currently be categorised by the number of family generations in a household.

The review supports the use of a relationship matrix to capture family relationships in a household. The matrix identifies the relationship of each household member to all others, in contrast to the traditional approach of capturing relationship information of members to one reference person. The matrix approach offers greater analytical power, but is more complex to administer and may not be as effective in self-administered questionnaires. Some national statistics organisations, such as Statistics Canada, have chosen to confine its use to household surveys, while others have included it in self-administered questionnaires – the Office for National Statistics (UK) successfully used a matrix in their 2001 Census (Statistics New Zealand, 2006b).

Statistics New Zealand currently employs a matrix instrument in most household surveys, including the Survey of Family, Income and Employment, and will be used in the General Social Survey and the Time Use Survey. The current matrix instrument provides more accurate identification of second families within households, but does not currently identify step-relationships.

The proposed Household and Family Classifications Review will include the revision of current family and household classifications, with additional categories to identify further relationship types, such as step-relationships (recommendation 2).

Dependency and support

Different countries use different age ranges and other criteria to measure the dependency of young people on their parents, reflecting different educational systems and labour markets. National data requirements have a strong priority, since the concept of dependency is often linked to the provision of government benefits. However, besides the legal rights and obligations of parents, or policy

and eligibility criteria, dependency can also be viewed as more informal support mechanisms within families.

In New Zealand, child dependency is currently defined in terms of an age (and labour market participation) threshold. This is contentious, given the increasing number of young people over the age of 18 years who remain dependent on their parent(s) while they study or look for work. Consequently, families with older children may be incurring an ongoing financial cost, which current information models do not recognise. There is a need to re-examine the definition of a dependent child, and the extent to which children and young adults remain dependent on their parents after the age of 18, and even after they have left home.

The dependency of household members other than children and family members living in other households is also relevant. Children may share time between two parents and two households, young people may spend more time in education and training while remaining economically dependent on their parents, families may provide support to elderly or disabled relatives, and for migrant families, strong family links may extend to other countries. Re-assessing measures of dependency to include forms of support received is also linked to the recognition that current data sources do not provide information about families across households, ie the nature and extent of support across households and whether this support constitutes dependency.

The proposed Household and Family Classifications Review will include revisiting the concept of dependency and evaluating the inclusion of notions of support in family definitions (recommendation 2).

Families across households

Families across households, or multi-household families, are a major area of interest. Current family statistics in New Zealand tell us nothing about family relationships that extend across households. The review strongly supports this topic and identified several different aspects within it:

- children living in more than one household (eg shared parenting arrangements)
- the nature and extent of support across households
- extended families
- whānau
- couples living apart together, and
- trans-national families.

The measurement of these relationships poses a major technical challenge, given that most surveys use individuals or households as the unit of

measurement. However, measuring relationships from an individual perspective can go some way towards identifying across-household family relationships, links and support structures. For instance, collecting information from a child's perspective to gain details about that child and their family (eg whether the child is moving between families/households and what those families/households are like) will allow for definitions that are not bound by household constraints.

This area requires more conceptual development, both at a theoretical and statistical level, to identify the nature and extent of social and economic support that need to be covered, and practical ways of collecting, analysing and presenting data. Statistics New Zealand (2006b) provides a comprehensive summary of the collection of multi-household data about families overseas. For example, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has collected data in the Family Characteristics Survey from the perspective of children (aged under 17) who have one of their natural parents living elsewhere.

Data about families across households is a strongly supported information need in New Zealand, and this should be kept in mind when assessing family statistics needs. Families across households is covered explicitly in several of the recommendations (1, 2, 3, 4, and 8) and is implicitly recognised in all other recommendations.

Emergent issues and small populations

Measurement of emergent issues and relatively small populations, from the perspective of population-level statistics, pose a challenge, because most sample surveys are not large enough to provide a sufficiently accurate range of statistics. By the very nature of emergent issues and small populations, suitable sample frames for investigating these populations do not exist, and are difficult and costly to construct.

A number of information needs fall into this category. These include statistics on:

- families comprising grandparents and their grandchildren
- shared parenting arrangements
- intra-country and inter-country adoptions
- children in foster care, and
- gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender family circumstances.

New classifications created in the proposed Household and Family Classifications Review

could be broad enough to encompass and identify grandparent families and shared parenting arrangements, but reporting on these population groups may be restricted, due to the possible small numbers involved (recommendation 2).

Some surveys in New Zealand ask questions on sexual orientation and/or behaviour in relation to youth or the topic of health (Le Brun C, et al, 2004, Oakley Browne et al, 2006, and Ministry of Health, 2007), but questions have not been asked in a general household survey or census. In relation to family statistics, some data on same-sex couples residing together can be derived from current sources, particularly the census. However, couples living in separate houses are not recognised (whether same-sex or opposite sex) and the sexual orientation of a sole-parent is not asked, known and cannot be derived.

Questions to ascertain gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender family circumstances have not been asked in official statistics surveys in New Zealand, due to issues of non-compliance when collecting data, as well as the small numbers involved. Questions on sexual orientation may, for both heterosexual and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender populations, cause offence or invade privacy, resulting in a refusal to answer the survey. Similarly, specific questions about foster children and adoption have not been asked, although some data on these groups are collected for administrative purposes. Collecting data on children in foster care in surveys may also be problematic, due to the transient nature of this population group. Further development of measures and indicators to accurately collect such data in surveys is necessary before this information can be collected within official statistics.

The review recognises the need for information on family form and diversity to be available at subnational levels, to allow regional comparisons and enable regional planners to better understand the motivation for and characteristics of population shifts. Some subnational reporting on families is available using census data.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity measurement standards apply to individuals only, and the *Report of the Review of the Measurement of Ethnicity* (Statistics New Zealand, 2004) recommended that household or family ethnicity (as derived in the past) is not a standard output². Ethnicity is a particularly challenging area for family analysis in New Zealand, given the growing degree of ethnic diversity, increasingly

2 See Statistics New Zealand, 2004, recommendation 5.3. "In the past, standard output tables for the ethnicity of a household, dwelling and family have been derived. The ethnic group of the occupier, or when it was not known, the spouse of the occupier, determined the ethnicity of a household."

permeable ethnic boundaries, and the number of individuals with several ethnicities.

Statistics New Zealand (2006/07) has funded work under the official statistics research programme to study the ethnic classification of families. Ethnicity is a personal characteristic and cannot be ascribed to families, households, businesses or other social constructs (Sustainable Development Programme of Action, 2004). However, there is a widespread perception that considerations of entities such as 'European families' or 'Pacific households' may add value in some way to analysis. The research considers ethnicity statistics in the context of family. The project is sponsored by the Families Commission. Results from this research will guide any future development of the inclusion of an ethnic classification of families in official family statistics (recommendation 9).

Māori whānau

The measurement of whānau is most often noted as an information need in the context of family form and diversity, and families across households. It is also noted in the context of notions of family and whānau well-being.

There are currently several projects related to whānau underway – the results of which should add to the knowledge base of Māori statistics. Statistics New Zealand has worked with Māori stakeholders to establish a framework for Māori statistics and information needs. The framework includes measures of well-being, with families and households noted as an 'area of interest'. A discussion paper, *Towards a Māori Statistics Framework* (Statistics New Zealand, 2002b), outlines the process and rationale used to construct the framework.

The Cross Departmental Research Pool is funding a Ministry of Health scoping project to investigate options for measuring Māori-based collectives, namely whānau. The Ministry of Health has been working with a range of agencies (including Statistics New Zealand) to develop this methodology. The development of measurement tools for whānau research, monitoring and evaluation, which are reflective of current whānau roles and structures, would significantly enhance government agencies' efforts in building strong, connected whānau with good well-being. Statistics New Zealand will maintain an active involvement in this project (recommendation 7).

More specific information may be captured in a Māori Social Survey, planned for 2011. It is proposed that this survey be similar to the General Social Survey, in that it will cover different topics in one survey, but also allow the collection of information on issues and concerns specific to Māori. This survey is yet to be scoped.

The results of the research into measuring Māori-based collectives, namely whānau, will help guide future developments. Recommendation 7 supports the examination of the feasibility of developing a statistical standard measure of whānau that is flexible enough to incorporate the measurement of whānau well-being, and be incorporated into a range of official statistics. Statistics New Zealand recognises that it cannot be presumed that it is possible to simply add this on to an existing standard and/or classification, or that the concept of whānau can actually be defined or measured. As has been stated, given "the breadth and depth of the notion of whānau, it would be difficult for policy and legislation to capture its whole meaning and to apply it appropriately." (Walker and Porou, 2006)

Family transitions and dynamics

This theme is associated with change over time. It is generally thought that movements between different life stages and circumstances – transitions – provide critical tipping points for individuals within families. Family transitions include childbirth, marriage or partnering, children leaving home, couple separation, and death. These can have positive or negative effects on a family's social and economic security, with the outcomes of these transitions influenced by how well they are negotiated and managed.

Longitudinal data and relationship history cross-sectional data are required to identify transitions, as well as to determine length and frequency of different states. For example, current data sources (both administrative sources, ie registrations and dissolutions, and survey sources) do not capture much information about the formation and dissolution of de facto relationships and the children living in them.

The review supports the need for improved understanding of family transitions, based both on cross-sectional and longitudinal data. A family life cycle may be included in a conceptual framework of family statistics. The framework could incorporate whether and how the concept of a life cycle or life course could apply to the analysis of data about individuals in the context of their families. Work that explores methodologies for analysing and presenting data in a life-cycle approach will come under recommendation 9).

The Survey of Family, Income and Employment (SoFIE), which was designed specifically to support the measurement of family dynamics and transitions, is a valuable source of data for this theme and could and should be exploited in more depth (recommendation 5).

SoFIE provides an existing longitudinal dataset that contains information on a sample of the population

of New Zealand, their work, family and household circumstances, income, net worth and health. The survey has been underway since October 2002 and is a household-based eight-year longitudinal survey, with fieldwork ending in 2010. SoFIE is likely to be able to address some short-term information needs by providing new official statistics about family transitions and dynamics, but like other current data sources, the survey does not identify detailed family types or families across households.

Information needs under this theme include:

- number, length, and types of family transitions
- number, length, and types social transitions that impact on the family
- relationship history
- children and families moving to live in different households
- young adults leaving home, and
- the geographical mobility of families.

Exploration of SoFIE (recommendation 5) will allow some analysis of transitions, mainly within the household.

Fertility measures

Fertility information needs in New Zealand include:

- the spacing and timing of children
- family formation and decision making
- male fertility and decision making
- number of children ever born to a woman
- assisted fertility, and
- the relationship between infertility and adoption.

These fertility-related topics were identified as information needs. In common with most developed countries, fertility data in New Zealand are sourced from established collection methods, such as birth registrations and the census. For example, the number of children ever born to a woman has been asked several times in the census, most recently in 2006 (previously in 1996 and 1981).

Some information on the family formation and the timing and spacing of children is likely to be available through questions included in a family structure section of a survey about families (recommendation 4). Explanations for the determinants of fertility, such as decision making, will not be collected in the survey. The benefit of obtaining more reliable statistical information on fertility has to be carefully weighed against the impact this might have on the privacy of individuals, the perceived enduring need of topics, and also the priorities for information needs in official family statistics. For these reasons some of the fertility topics identified in this review

are currently more suitable for specific fertility research (recommendation 9).

Family functioning

This theme relates to family functioning, as opposed to structure. It includes parenting skills, relationship and communication skills, social participation, and safety within families. Information needs indicate particular interest in the impact of family functioning on children. Generating information to inform this theme implies the need for new types of data on behaviours and values.

A number of aspects of family functioning contribute to the well-being of the members of a family – both adults and children. These include family routines, the quality of the parents' relationship, the quality of the parent-child relationship, care and supervision of children, household management (including money), and family communication.

There is little information available from the official statistics system to support policy development in this area. Characteristics that put families at risk can be passed from one generation to the next. For these at-risk family environments, good evidence is required in order to develop programmes and services to mitigate negative paths and deal with potential problems early in life. Good evidence is also required for agencies to have confidence about when and how to intervene, in order to achieve better outcomes for those involved.

A review of research revealed that there are no internationally recognised standard methods for capturing information on family functioning.

Functioning

The review recognises the importance of measuring the quality of family functioning as a possible indicator of service need and policy effectiveness. However, the concepts of family functioning and definitive indicators have not yet been developed in the official statistics context.

The review acknowledges the potential difficulties in measuring family functioning in an official statistics context and suggests that small-scale research projects may be more suited to this topic of investigation. Several sub-themes of family functioning, which could be seen as sensitive issues and/or require subjective measurement, were identified.

More information on all aspects of family violence and abuse is required, in particular child abuse and neglect. There is a requirement for more detailed measurement of the incidence of family violence and abuse, along with a need for more research into the drivers of violent behaviours and the impact of behaviours on families and victims.

Some information on family violence and abuse is available in the Justice sector through administrative data and the Crime and Safety Survey.

Family strength and resilience are relatively new topics in social research and are of interest to policy makers in attempting to understand what makes families, and in particular children, resilient. Research suggests that families that function in a healthy manner generally have the resilience to deal with the many normal changes in family life as well as the unexpected crises that confront them.

The measurement of the quality of whānau and/or family relationships, parenting styles and communication strategies, both within and between households and individuals is of interest in New Zealand.

Family functioning is an area where the development of future official statistics needs to be underpinned by the development of better theory and research, to increase understanding of key factors and interests in family functioning. This will enable the refinement of statistical frameworks and the development of relevant indicators (recommendations 9).

Well-being

The family environment in which we live is intricately linked to our well-being as individuals. Research has shown that numerous aspects of family functioning are related to the well-being of the adults and children in a family and that the well-being of children depends to a large extent on the healthy functioning of the family environment. Similarly, government agencies and Māori (Hui Taumata³) regard a strong whānau as fundamental to improving Māori well-being.

Information needs identified here are strongly related to measuring family functioning and its impact (both negative and positive) on family well-being, whānau well-being, and in particular, child well-being.

Current data sources can go some way to obtaining well-being data. In particular, Census data and the Survey of Family, Income and Employment can be used to report on changes in the child population, family structure, health and education, and patterns of work and income among parents (recommendation 5). A recent report *Family Wellbeing Indicators from the 1981–2001 New Zealand Censuses* (Milligan et al, 2006) will also be of interest to users.

Well-being cuts across all four themes, as there are many circumstances that can have negative

or positive impacts on an individual's social or economic well-being. For example, changes to family structures as relationships dissolve or children leave home can affect the emotional well-being of family members, while participation in paid work can affect the economic well-being of a family.

The General Social Survey will provide information on individual well-being (recommendation 5) and agencies should, when and where possible and appropriate, incorporate into the collection of official statistics measures of child, family or whānau well-being (recommendations 6, 7 and 9).

Support and interdependence across households

Family support can be measured both from the perspective of those who receive and those who provide assistance. Within this theme, the review recognises information needs identified under the headings of community support, social and economic support, and specifically support in relation to carers and caring (including care for those with disabilities).

Needs identified under community support encompass notions of social participation and engagement, as well as social and economic support received and provided across a range of areas in the community. Some of these identified needs fall under the notion of social capital (see Statistics New Zealand, 2001).

A variety of data needs relating to carers and caring can be identified – whether it is care of a child by a parent or grandparent, or care of a parent by their child. Public policy is interested in the caring practices that take place in families, particularly those practices that extend across households and are not currently captured in official statistics.

In a similar way to well-being, caring as a sub-theme cuts across all four themes, with information needs identified for caring across households, changing care patterns over the life cycle, and the relationship between work and care, and time and money.

The development of a conceptual framework, the proposed Household and Family Classifications Review, and the development of standard measures of support will identify and define support structures across households, while a survey about families will capture the nature and extent of support structures (recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4). Currently little information is available from social surveys, but some high-level information

³ A hui is a New Zealand Māori social gathering or assembly in a Māori community. Participants at the Hui Taumata called for Māori to set the agenda for Maori economic development, see: <http://www.huitaumata.maori.nz/>.

about support across households will be available from the General Social Survey and the Time Use Survey (recommendation 5).

Family interaction with the wider community

This theme explores family social exchange and support and its interaction with various community, government and marketplace institutions (such as ethnic communities, schools, and paid and unpaid work). This requires information on transactions with agencies, participation and involvement with groups, and data on social connectedness.

Interactions occur daily between families and a range of institutions – community, marketplace and state – that can support or challenge families. Little is known about how families influence, and are influenced by, the wider community. Knowledge about how economic, demographic and cultural changes affect these interactions is also lacking. It is critical to find out how support and care responsibilities are most effectively achieved within families; and ways that government, private sector and voluntary organisations can help or hinder this achievement. Researchers and policy-makers need information on family exchanges to help understand how the family support networks interact with the wider community.

Key areas of interaction between families and the state are the health and education sectors, social welfare, and the labour force, with an increased focus on work-life balance. This theme also includes a number of broadly-defined economic dimensions of family, which are of interest to a wide range of users.

In the face of the demographic trends of population ageing, and families with fewer children, patterns of support within families and between generations may change. The boundaries between paid and unpaid work in a family context are also shifting, as people are increasingly likely to pay for domestic services they might previously have expected to give or receive without payment from family members. The public, private and voluntary sectors need information about the nature and magnitude of such changes, in order to respond with new or adapted services or products. Planned surveys such as the Time Use Survey and the proposed Childcare supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey (currently under consideration) could help meet some of these needs (recommendations).

Family in social and economic context

Information needs in this area range from work-life balance, to income, to the effectiveness of policy and service provision.

The need for information about family interactions with government and social agencies (ie transactions with agencies, participation in groups, and social connectedness) across a whole range of sectors is strongly supported by the review. However, information needs around policies or services related to specific organisations' fields of interest, or on take-up rates and satisfaction with specific services, are likely to be best met through agency-specific research (recommendation 9).

Information about the paid and unpaid work practices and work patterns of family members is needed to help gain an understanding of the socio-economic well-being of families. Additionally, economic dimensions of families are of interest to many users of statistics. Topics of interest include wealth, income, expenditure, savings, economic standard of living, retirement provision and inheritance, decision making in families, financial obligations, and resource flows within and between families and households. Care arrangements and economic flows within and across households are strongly supported information needs.

There is potential to make better use of existing data, for instance, by using households as the unit of analysis, rather than individuals. However, much of the current information need can be met through providing a more detailed range of family types, most notably families across households, to obtain data on resource use and financial obligations, support and sharing across households.

The development of a conceptual framework will define topics and issues and their relationship to family statistics. The proposed Household and Family Classifications Review, that is, new and revised classifications of families and the family circumstances of individuals, and their inclusion in a survey about families and possible incorporation across official statistics surveys, will meet many of the identified needs (recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4). Many of the topics in this theme are also available to some extent in current data sources (recommendation 5).

Other issues raised by the review

In addition to identifying information needs for family statistics, the review highlighted several other issues for consideration. The review supports the development of a family statistics conceptual framework, advises to ensure that full use is made of existing data sources before new sources are considered, and warns of the privacy impact and compliance burden extra data collection could entail.

Concern that a new survey about families would increase respondent burden or impact

on respondent privacy and confidentiality is acknowledged by the review. The collection of data from small populations (eg grandparent families) and the potentially private nature of topics for inclusion in a survey about families (eg personal relationships) are noted. These are valid issues and will be taken into consideration during the development of a survey about families. Statistics New Zealand acknowledges its obligation to the public to manage the compliance burden across surveys at an acceptable level, which requires careful control of both the content of surveys and

the frequency of participation of respondents (recommendation 4).

Within the review, some identified information needs may be covered by or best served by other statistical reporting, survey mechanisms, or subject-matter reviews. Information needs of this nature include:

- disability and its classification, and
- the physical home environment.

Chapter 4:

Recommendations to improve official family statistics

This chapter outlines the nine recommendations in more detail and highlights specific information needs that the recommendations will address.

Table 1 (see page 2) provides an overview of how information needs, as described in chapter 2, will be addressed through recommendations falling under five headings:

- Develop a conceptual framework
- Expand official family statistics
- Maximise utility of existing data sources
- Keep up-to-date with relevant developments
- Further family-related research.

The recommendations are broadly outlined in priority order. A conceptual framework that sets out the concepts and boundaries for the measurement of official family statistics needs to be developed before work on the Households and Family Classifications Review can begin. The conceptual framework, along with new classifications, will help expand official family statistics, while a survey about families will incorporate the developed concepts and classifications, and address the main identified information gaps. Ongoing recommendations are to maximise the utility of existing data sources, keep up-to-date with relevant developments and encourage further family-related research.

Develop a conceptual framework for the measurement of family issues

1. *Recommendation:* Statistics New Zealand lead the development of a conceptual framework for the measurement of family issues.

It has been recognised that official statistics on the family no longer sufficiently cover the wide variety of living arrangements in New Zealand, for example, multi-household children (ie children who have two active parents living in separate households and spend time living with each parent).

There is an identified need to have broader classifications of family types that fully recognise the variety of new family units that now exist, including households that have shared parenting arrangements, same-sex couples, couples in a civil union, step-families and blended families. A conceptual framework may also set out how concepts, such as well-being and caring across households for dependents (young and old), can enhance family statistics.

The review strongly supports the development of a conceptual framework for family statistics that will provide a coherent picture of what is/will be included under the heading of official family statistics, make key definitions and concepts explicit, and provide a way of linking data needs to areas of policy interest. For statistical purposes, all concepts being measured must have clear and consistent definitions to enable the production of relevant and useful statistics.

There is currently no standard international framework for family issues that includes all the identified information needs – in particular families across households. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006b) is currently working towards a framework and this may provide a useful starting point for a New Zealand model.

Expand official family statistics

2. *Recommendation:* Statistics New Zealand lead a review of household and family classifications to encompass a more detailed range of family-related classifications and standards in order to reflect the increased diversity of family types, support and living arrangements.

There are four key needs that the Review of Official Family Statistics would like to set out for the Household and Family Classifications Review:

- The ability to distinguish step-families in the range of family types.
- The ability to identify people, particularly children and elderly people, who live in more than one household.
- The ability to identify types of social and economic support given to/received from family members (within and across households).
- Reconsideration of some existing concepts (including the concepts of 'family', 'dependency' and 'people in a parent role').

The Household and Family Classifications Review will seek to address the needs outlined above but it must also seek to ensure that, wherever possible, it does so in a manner that enables key time-series to be maintained.

The standard classifications created during the Household and Family Classifications Review will be promoted across the Official Statistics System.

This coherence will ensure that all family statistics across government are relevant, able to reflect current reality, and are comparable both over time and between sources.

3. *Recommendation:* Statistics New Zealand develop standard measures and indicators that establish the nature and extent of support (social and economic) for family members within and across households.

Developing standard measures of topics that can be asked across a range of official statistics and added to existing surveys and data sources as appropriate, could hugely increase the usefulness of existing data sources in meeting identified family information needs.

The adaptation of existing vehicles to incorporate new standard measures and indicators will provide useful supplements to the development of new vehicles for official family statistics data collection exercises.

4. *Recommendation:* Statistics New Zealand develop and conduct a survey of the family circumstances of individuals that focuses on family structure and support.

Taking on board issues around the collection of more social data and the potential compliance burden, Statistics New Zealand will carry out a survey about families. The survey will capture information needs identified in the review around family structure and support within and across households, and produce new official family statistics.

A survey about families was initially proposed as part of the government-wide Programme for Official Social Statistics, which was initiated in 2004. Through extensive internal and external consultation, the review recommends the confirmation of a survey about families within the programme.

The proposed content and format of the survey has been driven by an assessment of the information needs identified in this review and an assessment of the priority of the identified needs. Current official family statistics cannot identify the more complex family types that currently exist (eg step-families and shared parenting arrangements) and do not provide information about the support structures that individuals and families make use of, in particular, support across households.

Measuring relationships and support structure from an individual perspective can go some way towards identifying across-household family relationships and support structures (eg

children living in two households). As a result, the survey is proposed to be a survey of the family circumstances of individuals, rather than a survey of families.

Maximise the utility of existing data sources

5. *Recommendation:* Agencies and researchers undertake more analysis of families and the family circumstances of individuals, using current and planned data sources.

A significant amount can be learnt about individuals and their families using current and planned official statistics. Exploration should be made into what can be learnt about family interactions with the wider community and the well-being of families and children from currently available official statistics datasets.

In particular, full use should be made of the Survey of Family, Income and Employment data, in particular in relation to research topics that encompass family formation, transitions and dynamics. There is also the potential to identify the movement of individuals into and out of one-household-families (eg parents separating or young adults leaving the parental home), despite the fact that the survey still only defines families as those resident in the same household.

In making better use of existing data sources, in particular for family statistics on smaller populations, strategies include making more use of administrative data collections, and combining data from different surveys and administrative databases. In addition, upcoming new surveys such as the General Social Survey, the Time Use Survey and supplements to current surveys may meet some of the identified information needs. These options are being investigated in the context of the Programme of Official Social Statistics.

Statistics New Zealand (2006a) provides a comprehensive list of survey and administrative data currently available to meet official family statistics needs. It also includes a list of family research centres and examples of family-related research studies.

Keep up-to-date with relevant developments

6. *Recommendation:* Agencies and researchers ensure strong coordination with Statistics New Zealand and other parties when developing measures of family and child well-being, to ensure that concepts and indicators can be applied within official statistics.

Data collection on the well-being of families and, in particular, of child well-being is strongly supported by the review. The General Social Survey will provide information on individual well-being, however, there are currently no recognised standards or indicators to measure child-specific well-being or family well-being.

7. *Recommendation:* Agencies and researchers ensure strong coordination with Statistics New Zealand and other parties when attempting to develop measures of the concepts of whānau and whānau well-being, so that these measures can be applied within official statistics.

The review acknowledges the need for information on whānau well-being, although as with well-being in general, no standard indicators to measure the concepts currently exist.

This is a possible area of future development work and Statistics New Zealand recognises that any development to conceptualise whānau or measure whānau well-being should be relevant and acceptable to the Māori community, as well as fit the criterion required for official statistics. A current Ministry of Health scoping project is investigating options for measuring Māori-based collectives, namely whānau (see page 14).

8. *Recommendation:* Statistics New Zealand continue to explore improved methodologies for collecting information on individuals and their families that have been used successfully by other statistical agencies.

Developments of particular interest to the review include methods and tools that can be used to measure families across households, family functioning, and family interactions with the wider community within an official statistics context.

Further family-related research

9. *Recommendation:* Agencies and researchers to encourage and support research that may enhance official family statistics and research that considers emergent family issues and small populations.

Further research is recommended for those topics and issues that have been identified as information needs in the review, but do not currently have standard measures and indicators, or are not yet sufficiently developed to allow data collection within official statistics. For instance, this includes research that could:

- establish robust indicators and tools of family well-being, whānau well-being, family

functioning and families across households that could be applied to and incorporated in official statistics, and

- help measure family interactions with services, where such research may generate indicators that could be used in official statistics.

The review recommends that identified information needs that fall into the categories of emergent family issues, small populations, and sensitive topics at this time, be advanced through topic or population-specific research projects. Many of the sub-groups of interest may be too small to be identified in a general population survey, or too small to report on, and the privacy impact of some of the topics may be too great. Where some administrative data are available, data sources are not sufficiently detailed to provide the contextual understanding or the assessment of outcomes. Research on these topics will contribute to the body of knowledge about families and family behaviour, usefully complement current official family statistics, and provide a basis for the development of standard measures and indicators, and the possible inclusion of these topics in future official family statistics collections.

Topics identified by the review that fall into the categories of emergent family issues, small populations and sensitive topics at this time include:

- family violence and abuse
- family resilience
- family communication strategies
- gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender family circumstances
- fertility (intentions, male fertility and assisted fertility), and
- intra-country and inter-country adoptions.

There is much interest in family-related research. In particular, the Families Commission and the Ministry of Social Development have research programmes and regular outputs which will contribute to the body of family-related research. For example, the Families Commission “will be commissioning research on better ways of measuring the incidence of different types of family violence”. (<http://www.familiescommission.govt.nz/research/index.php>)

In addition there are various funding sources available for research, including family-related research. A few examples include:

- Families Commission
 - Blue Skies Fund
<http://www.familiescommission.govt.nz/research/blueskies.php>
- Foundation for Research Science and Technology
 - Cross Departmental Research Pool
<http://www.frst.govt.nz/research/cdrp.cfm>
 - Building an Inclusive Society
<http://www.frst.govt.nz/research/BIS.cfm>
- Statistics New Zealand Official Statistics Research
<http://www.stats.govt.nz/about-us/official-statistics-research/default.htm>

Chapter 5:

Conclusion

The Review of Official Family Statistics confirms the need for improved statistical data to support a wide range of information needs in relation to families and the family circumstances of individuals within New Zealand. The relevance and validity of current data requires improvement to enable different individual family circumstances to be easily distinguished within statistical data. Information on family structures, social and economic support for family members across households, and caring arrangements for children emerged as key information gaps in current official statistics.

The recommendations of the review are intended to address the identified information needs and, when implemented, will provide more comprehensive data on family circumstances of people living in New Zealand. Two immediate tasks are to generate a conceptual framework that sets out the definitions and boundaries for the measurement of official family statistics, and to increase the relevance of official family and household classifications to more accurately reflect contemporary reality in New Zealand.

The current enumeration of families in official statistics is bounded by the geography of household, and closeness of fit to the nuclear family model. This definition will continue to be used for many measurement purposes to ensure continuity in

time-series. However, the review confirms the need to go beyond one-household models of the family, so that official statistics accurately capture a more detailed range of family types and provide a comprehensive picture of the nature and extent of social and economic support arrangements in place.

In formulating our recommendations, we have attempted to strike a balance between current information needs that may not endure much beyond the present, and longer-term ones that will endure. The timeframe and investment needed to develop or adapt official statistical collections requires the anticipation of enduring information needs. Family functioning is identified as a topic where further information is needed. However, in this case, further conceptual and theoretical work is required to generate tools, instruments and indicators that could then be applied within the official statistical system.

Debate on information needs in relation to families will continue beyond the review. Issues about measurement and ways of monitoring the social and economic changes affecting individuals and their families will continue to be raised and debated by researchers, agencies and individuals. Statistics New Zealand looks forward to these continuing discussions.

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Appendix 1:

Official definitions and standards

Child in a family nucleus

A child in a family nucleus can be of any age, but must have usual residence with at least one parent, and have no partner or child(ren) of their own living in the same household.

Couple

Two people aged 15 years or over, usually living together in a registered marriage or consensual union. There are three types of couples (males, females or opposite sex).

Couple without children

A couple without children, with or without other people, usually living together in a household. 'Couple without children' families include couples who will never have children, couples who will have children in the future, and couples whose children have left the parental home.

De facto relationship

Also known as consensual union, cohabitation, de facto marriage, de facto union.

Two people usually living in the same dwelling, but not in a registered marriage to each other, who:

- share mutual concern for each other
- have a degree of economic, social and emotional interdependence
- consider their relationship to be akin to marriage.

Dependent child

A child in a family, aged under 18 years and not in full-time employment.

Economic family

The economic family classification distinguishes financially independent individuals and groups of people who usually reside together and are financially interdependent according to current social norms. Although financial interdependence can exist across households, the definition has been restricted to people living in the same household.

Extended family

The extended family classification is used to identify the presence of family nuclei, with other related people, including siblings. An extended family can be one, two, or three (or more) generations (see the Statistics New Zealand website: <http://www.stats.govt.nz>, for a detailed generational description).

This classification provides information that is not available from the standard family type classification; however, its use is restricted to households where a family nucleus is present.

In relation to developing a detailed concept, a large amount of work was done prior to the 1996 Census to develop a detailed extended family classification that attempted to categorise many types of relationships between related people in a household. However, there are significant problems with the definition, especially with the category 'number of generations'. The census data quality was insufficient at detailed level, mainly because it could not be accurately captured.

Family

A couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent with child(ren), usually living together in a household. Related people, such as siblings, who are not in a couple or parent-child relationship, are therefore excluded from this definition. Census information about families refers to three kinds of relationships among families living in a single household (couple with child(ren), couple-only and one parent with child(ren)).

Family household

A household containing two or more people usually living together with at least one couple and/or parent-child relationship, with or without other people.

Family nucleus

A 'family' (or family nucleus) is defined as a couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent and their child(ren), all of whom usually reside together in the same household.

Family type

Family type is a derived variable that classifies family nuclei according to the presence or absence of couples, parents and children. This category is particularly broad – there are seven types of classifications that are used to compare it with other family determinants (eg family type by number of children, by couple type).

The current Statistics New Zealand family type categories can be subdivided to provide more detailed information. For example, families with child(ren) can be further subdivided according to the dependency status of the children. A dependent child is defined as a child in a family nucleus who is less than 18 years old and who is not employed

full time or who is aged 18 years or over. Other classifications include type of couple, age of youngest child, sex of the sole parent and number of children.

Household composition

Household composition is the variable that classifies households according to the relationships between people in households. A household is either one person who usually resides alone or two or more people who usually reside together and share facilities (such as eating facilities, cooking facilities, bathroom and toilet facilities, a living area). There are three levels of household composition. The criterion used to place a household into level one of the classification is the number of family nuclei present, or if no family nuclei are present, then the number of people present. (See also the Statistics New Zealand website: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/>)

Households

Census information about households refers to a person or group of people living in a single home or dwelling. Information about people who live in more than one household is not currently collected. Statistics about households include information about numbers and make-up of one-person households, extended-family households and households of unrelated people.

Living arrangements

A variable that collects the familial (occurrences among members of a family) and non-familial relationships of a person to all the other people with whom they usually reside.

Marital status

Marital status is a person's reported status with respect to the marriage laws or customs of the country. It applies to people aged 15 years and over.

There are two types of marital status: legal marital status and social marital status. Legal marital status is a person's status with respect to registered marriage or civil union. Social marital status is a person's reported status with respect to consensual union. People who are in a consensual union are partnered; people who are not in a consensual union are non-partnered.

Classifications and standards

For information on classifications and standards, go to:

www.stats.govt.nz/statistical-methods/classifications-standards/default.htm

Official statistics

Official statistics are defined in the Statistics Act 1975 as statistics derived by government departments from:

- statistical surveys
- administrative and registration records, and other documents from which statistics are, or could be, derived and published.

For more information about official statistics, go to: <http://www.statisphere.govt.nz/about-official-statistics/default.htm>

Programme of Official Social Statistics (POSS)

A 10-year programme to develop a coordinated set of official social statistics across government. It is the result of extensive consultation and discussion with government agencies and other interested individuals and organisations to identify gaps and deficiencies in existing data.

Appendix 2:

Other family-related concepts

Blended family

A couple family containing two or more children, of whom at least one is the natural child of both members of the couple, and at least one is the step-child of either member of the couple.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/info/charts/glossary.html>

Family life cycle

Family life cycle stages may include, but are not limited to: initial setting up of a family environment by two or more people; expansion to include new members; the contraction as some family members leave; and expansion to include second generation or extended family.

www.nzqa.govt.nz/nqfdocs/units/doc/6661.doc

Intact family

A couple family containing at least one child who is the natural or foster child of both members of the couple, and no child who is the step-child of either member of the couple.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/info/charts/glossary.html>

Life course

This approach dwells on the diversity of experiences and difference in the courses of people's lives. It claims that contemporary experience is more diverse and less predictable than traditional concepts of the life-cycle suggest.

<http://www.soci.canterbury.ac.nz/resources/glossary/lifecour.shtml>

Living apart together

The definition of couples that live apart together (LAT) involves one couple and two homes, where the couple does not want to share a home. Each of the two partners lives in his or her own home in which other people might also live.

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2005/09/social/wp.1.e.pdf>

Step-family

A couple family containing one or more children, at least one of whom is the step-child of either member of the couple and none of whom is the natural or foster child of both members of the couple.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/info/charts/glossary.html>

Trans-national family

Trans-national families are those where some members are based in New Zealand and others overseas, such that family relationships transcend national boundaries. Relationship duration can be short or long and can involve multidirectional or routine 'flows' amongst the members. Flows can be financial, emotional, obligatory, and can involve dimensions of caring and 'family binding' which strengthen the family relationship.

<http://www.nzfamilies.org.nz/download/blueskies-lunt.pdf>

*Appendix 3:***Official statistics relevant to families**

This appendix lists survey and administration data currently available to meet information needs for statistics about families. It is divided into three sections: Statistics NZ surveys, other government surveys, and sources of administrative data (includes Statistics NZ and other government sources). An outline of each data source is provided. For the Survey of Family, Income and Employment and the Census of Population and Dwellings, a description of the types of family statistics that are currently produced is included, along with possible further use the data could provide for family research.

Statistics New Zealand surveys

Statistics NZ household surveys collect basic relationship information on everyone living in the household. Most of Statistics NZ's collections can

be analysed by the individual, the family, or the household unit, by a range of variables, such as income and labour force status.

The Statistics NZ definition of family is "A couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent with child(ren), usually living together in a household". Generic limitations of Statistics NZ household survey family statistics include:

- family definitions exclude parents or children who live in different households, and do not distinguish those who live in more than one household
- no distinction is made between intact versus step- and blended families.

Survey of Family and Income and Employment (SoFIE)

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Longitudinal survey
Frequency:	Annual interviews for eight years (with eight waves)
Statistical unit:	People aged 15 years and over
Size:	Approximately 10,000 households and 20,000 individuals in wave 1
Fieldwork:	October 2002–September 2003 for wave 1, then seven years further
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, labour market history, education, family/household (including spells), self-assessed health status, country of birth, years in New Zealand, standard of living, labour market activity, employment spells, annual income, employee earning spells, government support spells, income spells.

SoFIE collects information on assets and liabilities every two years (starting at wave 2) to monitor net worth and savings. Detailed health information will also be collected two-yearly (starting in wave 3, so it is in alternate years to asset and liability information), along with the detail collected on income, housing cost and labour market participation, and family data.

Family output variables

- Point-in-time (for all respondents, including non-longitudinal respondents)
- Standard family type at Household Enumeration Date (HED)
- Economic family type at HED
- Family type by child dependency status
- Number of children in the family at HED
- Number of dependent children in the family at HED
- Individual's role in the family at HED
- Age of youngest child in the family at HED
- Spells (for longitudinal respondents only)
- Spells of family type of longitudinal respondent by age of child(ren)
- Spells of role in the family nucleus of the longitudinal respondent
- Spells of number of children in the family nucleus of the longitudinal respondent
- Spells of family type by age of youngest child in family nucleus.

Family statistics uses

Household income of an individual

For all individuals, including those aged 0–14 years:

- estimate an individual's usual weekly household income from paid employment earnings and regular government transfers at repeated points in time for all individuals
- estimate direction and size of change in an individual's usual weekly household income from paid employment earnings and regular government transfers at repeated points in time
- estimate annual household income from all sources at repeated points in time by the 'snapshot' method (using household composition on the date household membership was established, and adding the annual personal income of each member of the individual's household at that point in time)
- estimate direction and size of change in an individual's annual household income at repeated points in time
- describe relationships and patterns for the above with demographic variables, labour market activity and benefit receipt of adult household members, standard of living, household composition and other key explanatory factors.

Family formation and dynamics

For all individuals, including those aged 0–14, SoFIE can estimate:

- the family status of an individual for spells of family type by age categories of children, role in the family nucleus, number of children in the family nucleus and economic family
- the extent of change in family status
- the duration spent in different family types
- the frequencies of experiencing a specific family type and the probabilities of:
 - transitions between family types
 - duration at a family type
 - frequencies of a family type experience
- relationships and patterns for the above with demographic variables, labour market activity, receipt of government income support of adults in the family, and other key explanatory factors.

For individuals in the working-age population, SoFIE can estimate:

- the social marital status of an individual for spells of being partnered/non-partnered
- the extent of change in social marital status:
 - the duration of different social marital status
 - the frequencies of experiencing a specific social marital status
- and the probabilities of:
 - transitions between social marital states
 - duration of a social marital status
 - frequencies of a social marital status experience
- relationships and patterns for the above with demographic variables, labour market activity
- receipt of government income support of adults in the family and other key explanatory factors.

Further uses

- Information about family composition, together with information about family income, could be used to develop and monitor income support policies for families and individuals.
- Family type can be used to explain changes in retirement provision.
- Changes in family type may be used to explain changes in individual income, welfare receipt or labour market participation.

- Family variables are used to predict trends in family formation and dissolution.

This information could be used to answer research questions such as:

- What is the spacing, severity and duration of low family income spells for longitudinal respondents?
- What are the factors associated with transitions in and out of low family income spells for longitudinal respondents?
- What is the impact on longitudinal respondents of spending long periods of time in a low family income state?
- What are the characteristics of longitudinal respondents who spend long spells in low income states?
- What does the impact of living with others versus living alone have on the economic well-being of longitudinal respondents living in different family types?
- What is the effect of previous social marital status on family income and assets for longitudinal respondents who are sole parents?
- What is the association between the family type and family income of the longitudinal respondent and ability to save?
- What is the effect of family breakdown on retirement provision for longitudinal respondents?
- What is the association between changes in the family type of longitudinal respondents and changes in their labour market participation?
- What is the association between changes in the family type of longitudinal respondents and changes in personal income?
- What factors have the greatest impact or influence on women's earnings?
- What is the effect of partnership dissolution on income experience?
- What is the effect of labour market participation on welfare receipt and family income of longitudinal respondents?
- What is the effect of participation in part-time work on welfare receipt and family income of longitudinal respondents?
- What is the association between changes in the age of the youngest child and labour market participation of the longitudinal respondent?
- What is the pattern of labour market disadvantage among families of longitudinal respondents?
- What are the patterns of family formation, dissolution and reformation in New Zealand?
- How do the patterns of family formation and dissolution vary between different groups where family change is treated as an attribute of the longitudinal respondent, for example, by different ethnic groups, regions, income groups and age groups?
- What are the factors associated with family formation and dissolution?

New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Census of population and dwellings
Frequency:	Five-yearly
Statistical unit:	Every person and dwelling
Coverage:	All New Zealand
Fieldwork:	Census day, traditionally the first Tuesday in March in years ending 1 and 6
Key variables:	Final counts of population and dwellings, meshblock location of each dwelling in New Zealand and each respondent on census night, sex, age, ethnic group, highest educational qualification, families and households, dwelling type, Māori descent, household tenure, work and labour force status, supplementary variables (eg occupation, number of rooms in household).

Family output variables

- Number of adult children in family
- Number of children in family
- Number of dependent children in family
- Number of different family income sources specified
- Number of people in family
- Source of family income
- Sex of sole parent
- Total family income
- Type of couple
- Extended family type
- Sources of extended family income
- Total extended family income (though the 2001 variable is unfit for use)
- Age of family members:
 - Age of male partner in opposite-sex couple
 - Age of female partner in opposite-sex couple
 - Age of older partner in same-sex couple
 - Age of younger partner in same-sex couple
 - Age of youngest child in family
 - Age of youngest dependant child in family
- Combined parental income for couples with children
- Family type
- Family type by dependency child status
- Family type by number of children
- Family type with type of couple
- Total household income
- Sources of household income
- Number of different household income sources specified
- Number of different household income support sources specified (excluding Accident Compensation Corporation / New Zealand superannuation)
- Age of youngest dependent child in household
- Age of youngest child in household
- Household composition by child dependency status

- Household composition
- Number of usual residents aged under 15 years in household
- Number of usual residents aged 15 years or over in household.

Family statistics uses

- As the census covers the entire population, it is useful for measuring emergent issues for small populations.
- Comparisons between censuses can be made, to monitor family change.
- Plan public services and allocate public funds.
- The population census is the key source of information about children – statistics about their age, sex, ethnic affiliation(s), and birthplace, where they live, and what kind of household they are part of.
- ‘Family codes’ in the 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses can be used to explore the extended family concept.
- For more information on possible statistical uses, refer to Families and Households (Statistics New Zealand, 2002a)

Limitations

Census family statistics are limited in that family and household classifications are derived from the household reference person’s relationship with each individual. This means that in some households, some complex family forms may be missed. Also, personal income is banded, and subsequently family and household income is banded, so can only be used as an indicator.

Further uses

In the 2006 Census content round, the need for more detailed information on the relationships between household members was raised. Requests were made for more information on grandparents raising children. The feasibility of producing statistics on step- and blended families in the census and other Statistics NZ social surveys needs to be explored, along with some analysis on information about grandparents and other relatives in a parenting role.

Household Economic Survey (HES)

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Household survey
Frequency:	Annual from 1973 until the year ended March 1998. Since the year ended June 2001, it has been run triennially. From 2006/07 the HES will be run in full every three years, with a shorter Household Income Survey (HIS) every year
Statistical unit:	Households (with households and individuals aged 15 years and over being the collection unit)
Size:	Approximately 4,500 households (for 2006/07)
Fieldwork:	1 July to 30 June from 1972/73–1974/75, April – March from 1975/76–1997/98, July – June for 2000/01 and 2003/04
Key variables:	Expenditure on goods and services; personal and household income including source type; household characteristics (such as household composition and tenure); individual characteristics (such as sex, age, ethnic group, highest educational qualification and labour force status).

Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS)

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Household survey
Frequency:	Quarterly
Statistical unit:	Individuals aged 15 years and over, households
Achieved sample size:	Approximately 15,000 households and 30,000 individuals
Fieldwork:	Continuous
Key variables:	Age, sex, ethnicity, occupation, employment status, educational qualification, hours worked.

Household Savings Survey (HSS)

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ (on behalf of the Retirement Commissioner)
Collection type:	Household survey, including a Māori booster sample
Frequency:	One-off
Statistical unit:	People aged 18 years and over, one person per household. If their partner was living in the same household, they were interviewed as a couple.
Size:	5,374 individuals and couples
Fieldwork:	August 2001 to November 2001
Key variables:	Net worth, size and type of assets, size and type of debt, sex, age, ethnic group, highest educational qualification, labour force status, income from wages and self employment.

Longitudinal Immigration Survey New Zealand (LisNZ)

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ (on behalf of the Department of Labour)
Collection type:	Longitudinal household survey
Frequency:	3 waves
Statistical unit:	People aged 15 years and over. Sample taken from migrants who received immigration approval during a specified period from November 2004
Size:	5,000 individuals at wave 3
Fieldwork:	2004–2009
Key variables:	Social marital status, living arrangements on arrival, experience of finding suitable housing and work in New Zealand, satisfaction with housing and work, assistance or services used (for example, contacting government agencies), reasons for migrating, general satisfaction.

New Zealand Income Survey (NZIS)

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Supplement in the June quarter of the Household Labour Force Survey
Frequency:	Annual (run annually as a supplement to the HLFS)
Statistical unit:	Individuals aged 15 years and over, households
Achieved sample size:	Approximately 15,000 households and 30,000 individuals
Fieldwork:	July 1998 to June 1999
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, urban/rural, labour force status, government transfer status, family type, wage and salary, self employment, investment income (from 2002), government transfers, other transfers are collected and output as total income.

New Zealand Childcare Survey

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ (on behalf of the Department of Labour and the National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women (NACEW))
Collection type:	Supplement in the September quarter of the Household Labour Force Survey, 1998
Frequency:	One-off
Statistical unit:	People aged 15 years and over
Size:	A total of 3,809 families participated in the survey, (approx 6,500 parents and 7,200 children aged under 14 years)
Fieldwork:	July – September 1998
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, highest educational qualification, labour force status, early childhood education (ECE) and care, coping with disruptions to ECE and care arrangements, satisfaction with ECE and care arrangements, ECE problems and barriers to work and education, work arrangements.

New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS)

Lead agency:	Ministry of Health 2002/03, 2006/07 Statistics NZ and the Ministry of Health 1992/93, 1996/97
Collection type:	Private household sample survey, with Māori, Pacific and Asian booster samples, one adult and one child per household (where applicable), plus health-related institutions every second NZHS (last undertaken in 2002/03)
Frequency:	1992/93, 1996/97, 2002/03, 2006/07 and in the future will be three-yearly
Statistical unit:	NZ population of all ages (child questionnaire = birth to 14 years; adult questionnaire = 15+ years; institutions every second survey)
Size:	12,000 households
Fieldwork:	September – September
Key variables:	chronic physical and mental health conditions, risk and protective health factors, including height and weight measurements, self-reported health status, health service use, socio-economic determinants of health (income, labour force status, living standards, education, housing tenure and crowding) and other socio-demographics (gender, age, ethnicity, household and family composition etc).

New Zealand Disability Survey

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Sample survey of individuals from the 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings with Māori and Pacific peoples booster sample
Frequency:	Every five years, beginning in 1996
Statistical unit:	Usually resident population staying in private dwellings or group homes on the night of the 2001 Census
Size:	8,508 people were selected for the survey, the total number of respondents with disabilities was 7,256 (2,055 children; 3,483 adults aged 15 to 64 years; and 1,718 seniors aged 65 years and over).
Fieldwork:	The sample frame was aided by the two general disability questions asked in the 2001 Census.
Key variables:	Disability: type, duration, severity and cause.

New Zealand Surveys of Older People, Older Māori and Working-aged People

Older people

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ (on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development) and run as a supplement to the HLFS
Collection type:	Sample survey of households
Frequency:	One-off
Statistical unit:	People aged 65 and over
Size:	3,060 individuals
Fieldwork:	7 February 2000 to 7 April 2000
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, income, marital status, health status, labour force status, housing costs, assets, standard of living.

Māori older people

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ (on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development)
Collection type:	Sample survey of Māori who receive NZ Superannuation
Frequency:	One-off
Statistical unit:	Māori aged 65–69 years
Size:	540 individuals
Fieldwork:	10 April 2000 to 12 June 2000
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, income, marital status, health status, labour force status, housing costs, assets, standard of living.

Working-aged people

Lead agency:	Ministry of Social Development (MSD), AC Nielson
Collection type:	Sample survey
Frequency:	One-off
Statistical unit:	People aged 18–64 years
Size:	3,682 individuals
Fieldwork:	11 March to 18 June 2000
Key variables:	Living standard measurement items but (unlike the survey of older people) included few potentially explanatory variables according to MSD's Living Standards Survey 2000.

Social Indicators Survey

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Household survey. One person per private household interviewed (half of sample was the HES sample that year, and another 3,500 households were specially selected)
Frequency:	One-off
Statistical unit:	People aged 15 years and over
Size:	6,891 individuals
Fieldwork:	October 1980 to September 1981
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, educational info, labour force status, income, health, housing and neighbourhood, personal safety and justice, leisure, social participation, family and social attachments.

Time Use Survey

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ (on behalf of the Ministry of Women's Affairs)
Collection type:	Sample survey of households
Frequency:	One-off
Statistical unit:	Individuals aged 12 years and over
Size:	8,527 individuals
Fieldwork:	July 1998 to June 1999
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, urban/rural, labour force status, government transfer status, family type.

Upcoming Statistics New Zealand surveys**Family Survey**

It is proposed the survey will be in the field in 2009 with data available in 2010. The survey is planned as a household survey to be repeated 10-yearly.

Preliminary content for the Family Survey

The content of the Family Survey has been determined through the review of family statistics process. The main themes likely to be included:

- Family diversity, including details about own, step-children, adopted children, and non-residential children
- Family support and obligation across households (eg transfer of income and resources)
- Custody/financial support arrangements
- Information about the time children spend in different forms of family.

Time Use Survey

Assessing the population's well-being involves understanding how New Zealanders lead their daily lives. Time use surveys measure the ways in which different groups of people spend their time. From a social viewpoint, survey data shows how activity choices are affected by different circumstances and responsibilities. From an economic viewpoint,

it provides information on productive activities not measured in existing economic statistics, because the work is conducted outside the market sector.

Time use surveys provide insight into the lives of different population groups, the size and contribution of the voluntary and household sectors, the interrelationship between people's paid and unpaid work, and the capacity of the population to continue providing unpaid labour in the future.

Scoping for a Time Use Survey is currently underway by Statistics NZ. It is proposed that the survey is in the field 2008/09. The survey is planned as a household survey to be repeated eight-yearly.

General Social Survey

A General Social Survey (GSS) is currently being developed by Statistics NZ. The survey will provide information on the social well-being of New Zealanders. The GSS will collect information on well-being across a range of social domains on a regular basis, to meet the demand for information on cross-sectoral outcomes (eg the interrelationship between outcomes in health, education, housing, work, family, income and crime).

Data collection is due to begin in April 2008, with the first release ready in October 2009. The survey will repeat two-yearly.

Other government surveys

Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey (ALL)

Lead agency:	Ministry of Education (under the auspices of the OECD)
Collection type:	Household survey
Frequency:	One-off
Statistical unit:	Individuals aged 16–65 years
Size:	5,400 (NZ target)
Fieldwork:	February to June 2006
Key variables:	In addition to literacy and numeric skills, the survey covers problem solving. A range of contextual information will be collected.

International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS)

Lead agency:	Ministry of Education (under the auspices of the OECD)
Collection type:	Comparative study
Frequency:	One-off
Statistical unit:	Individuals aged 16–65 years
Size:	20 countries; 4,223 respondents from NZ
Fieldwork:	Conducted in 1996 in New Zealand (data collected between 1994 and 1998 in a range of countries); consisted of a background questionnaire and literacy (prose, document and quantitative) tests
Key variables:	Literacy measures, education, linguistics, parental qualifications, labour force status, occupation, adult education and training, household income and demographics.

New Zealand Child Nutrition Survey (CNS)

Lead agency:	Ministry of Health
Collection type:	24-hour dietary recall and food frequency questionnaire, caregiver-administered questionnaire in home, and examination component at school
Frequency:	Every 10 years (next 2012)
Statistical unit:	New Zealand children (aged 5–14 years); 172 schools
Size:	Approximately 4,000 children
Fieldwork:	February to December 2002
Key variables:	Food and nutrient intake, factors influencing dietary intake, nutritional status and nutrition-related status.

New Zealand National Survey of Crime Victims (NZNSCV) / New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey

Lead agency:	Ministry of Justice
Collection type:	Random household sample of the population with two 'booster' samples of Māori and Pacific peoples
Frequency:	1996, 2001, 2006 (New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey)
Statistical unit:	People aged 15 years and over
Size:	Approximately 5,500
Fieldwork:	February–May 2006 (latest)
Key variables:	Levels of victimisation (including family violence), risks and levels of victimisation, worry about crime, reporting victimisation to the Police, satisfaction with victim services, and levels of security.

Programme for International Student Achievement (PISA)

Lead agency:	Ministry of Education (under the auspices of the OECD)
Collection type:	International comparative study
Frequency:	Conducted first in 2000, and scheduled to be repeated every three years
Statistical unit:	Students aged between 15 years and three months and 16 years and two months
Size:	In 2000, 265,000 students worldwide; 3,667 New Zealand students
Fieldwork:	First cycle: August 2000, 153 schools and 3,667 students
Second cycle:	August 2003
Key variables:	Demographic (gender, ethnicity), other outcomes (attitudes, engagement, learning strategies), family background (socio-economic measures, language), school environment, reading, mathematical and scientific literacy.

Longitudinal Study of New Zealand Children and Families

Planning is currently underway by the Ministry of Social Development for a study of New Zealand children and families.

Administrative data

Income support data

Lead agency:	Ministry of Social Development
Collection type:	Administrative data
Frequency:	Statistics summarised quarterly
Statistical unit:	Individuals receiving income support
Size:	A cross-sectional measure shows 1,185,229 either receiving a benefit or relying on a benefit or NZ Superannuation (spouses, children etc)
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, type of benefit or subsidy, start and end dates (giving duration on benefit), amount paid, Work and Income region, presence of spouse and/or children, marital status, number of children, age of child(ren).

Births and deaths

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ; Department of Internal Affairs
Collection type:	Administrative
Frequency:	Published quarterly
Statistical unit:	Number of births and deaths registered in New Zealand.

From 1 July 1998 onwards, Internal Affairs supplied Statistics NZ with an electronic copy of the birth registration record. From this record, Statistics NZ codes responses into standard statistical classifications.

Births

Key variables: For the child: sex, ethnicity, date of birth, ancestry, place of birth, multiple birth (and if so order of birth and live/still combinations), live or still born, nuptial or ex-nuptial birth, birth weight, gestation period. For the parent: age, sex, ethnicity, place of birth, ancestry, previous children from the union, mother's residence.

Deaths

Key variables: Sex, date of birth, birthplace, residence, ethnicity, ancestry, marital status, years in New Zealand (for non-New Zealand born), date of death.

Cancer register

Lead agency:	Ministry of Health
Collection type:	Administrative data
Frequency:	Published annually
Statistical unit:	All inpatient and day patient discharges, transfers, and patients dying in publicly-funded hospitals with cases of primary malignant disease (basal and squamous cancers arising in the skin are not required to be reported, except for those of the genitalia)
Size:	16,790 new cancer registrations in 1999
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnicity, domicile, and the site, stage and pathology of the cancer.

Cause of death

Lead agency:	Ministry of Health/New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS)
Collection type:	Administrative data
Frequency:	Published annually
Statistical unit:	All registered deaths
Size:	28,224 deaths in 1999
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnicity, domicile, underlying cause of death, selected contributing disease or condition (eg diabetes, mellitus, drug abuse), health authority, country of birth, number of years in New Zealand, date of death, place died, special indicators (fetal and infant, cot death, maternal, post-mortem).

Census/mortality study

Lead agency:	Wellington Medical School (Tony Blakely) and Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Anonymous and probabilistic data matching between mortality records and census records (NZHIS)
Frequency:	1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996 Censuses, matched with mortality records for three years after each census
Statistical unit:	People aged 1 to 74 years (being extended to cover 75 plus)
Size:	76.6 of eligible mortality records linked to a census record in the 1991 Census study (the first)
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, country of birth, marital status, highest educational qualification, tertiary qualifications, highest school qualification, income (personal and household), smoking (1996 only), labour force status, occupation, industry, housing tenure, dwelling type, car access, household income, residence, living arrangements, New Zealand Deprivation Index 1991 and 1996, New Zealand Socio-economic Index, cause of death.

Community education provided by schools

Lead agency:	Ministry of Education
Collection type:	Administrative data on community education programmes
Frequency:	Ongoing
Statistical unit:	Student enrolments
Key variables:	student's sex and age, tertiary institution type (polytechnic, university, college of education, wānanga), programme type.

Early childhood education annual census

Lead agency:	Ministry of Education
Collection type:	Census
Frequency:	Published annually at July each year
Statistical unit:	All licensed and licence-exempt early childhood centres/services
Fieldwork:	The Data Management unit of the Ministry of Education collects data for kindergarten, play centre, home-based networks, and education and care centres. Early Childhood Development (ECD) collects information on licence-exempt groups such as Pacific people's early childhood groups, playgroups, nga puna kohungahunga and play centres. Te Kohanga Reo National Trust provides information on kohanga reo services affiliated to them. The data collected from these groups is sent to the Ministry.
Key variables:	Number of children, age, sex, ethnicity, number of teaching staff, highest qualification held by teaching staff.

Family and household projections

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Population projection (this includes the national, subnational, Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian and European population projections)
Statistical unit:	Resident population of New Zealand
Key variables:	Age, sex, selected ethnicity, region.

Population estimates

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Estimates
Statistical unit:	Resident population of New Zealand
Key variables:	Resident population estimates: age, sex, population age distribution, median age Subnational estimates: territorial authority, regional council, urban area, five-year age group and sex Māori ethnic group estimates: age, sex, age distribution, median age.

Estimates are cohort-component based and derived using actual births, deaths and net migration. For subnational estimates, estimates of internal migration are based on symptomatic data, such as building activity, occupancy rates and historical patterns of population movement. External migration flows for Māori are based on historical patterns of migration.

Population projections

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Population projection (this includes the national, sub-national, Māori, Pacific, Asian and European population projections)
Statistical unit:	Resident population of New Zealand
Key variables:	Age, sex, selected ethnicity, region.

Projections are based on assumptions made about future fertility, mortality and net migration and show how the composition of the population will change over time. Although the assumptions are carefully formulated to represent likely future trends, they are subject to uncertainty.

Note: Projections have as a base the estimated resident population at 30 June of the most recent census year. Population is based on the census usually resident population count of each area at the time of census with adjustments for:

- net census undercount
- residents temporarily overseas on census night
- births, deaths and net migration between census night and 30 June of that year
- reconciliation with demographic estimates at ages 0–9 years.

The estimated numbers of families and households at 30 June of the base year are derived from the estimated resident population and the estimated living arrangement type rates for each age-sex group. The estimated numbers of families and households of each area are equivalent to the census family count and census household count, respectively, at census date with adjustments for:

- net census undercount
- families and households temporarily overseas on census night
- change between census night and 30 June
- families and households temporarily away from their usual residence, but in New Zealand, on census night.

The estimated and projected population, families and households are not directly comparable with census counts because of these adjustments.

Integrated data on student loan borrowers

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ
Collection type:	Integrated dataset of administrative data from the Ministry of Education, StudyLink (MSD) and Inland Revenue
Frequency:	Published annually – updates of the establishment dataset (which covers the years 1997–2000)
Statistical unit:	Every person who borrows under the Student Loan Scheme
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnic group, tertiary institution at which enrolled, programme in which enrolled, loan entitlements, loan draw downs, loan balance, repayment details, whether resident overseas, employer, standard industrial classification (for post-study employers' industry code), income, income source (employer and income details are monitored beyond the time that a person is a student).

Marriages, civil unions and divorces

Lead agency:	Statistics NZ; Department of Internal Affairs; the Family Court
Collection type:	Administrative
Frequency:	Annual
Statistical unit:	Number of marriages, civil unions and divorces registered in New Zealand
Key variables:	
Marriage:	date of marriage, age, sex, legal relationship, status at marriage,* country of birth, residence of bridegroom, transfer from civil union*
Civil union:	date of union,* age,* sex,* legal relationship, status at civil union,* country of birth,* residence of partner,* transfer from legal marriage*
Divorce:	age, sex, previous marital status, duration of marriage, and children affected by the divorce by broad age-group (0–9 years and 10–16 years).

* At time of print, classifications and databases were being developed. Until development is completed, only basic counts of civil unions are available.

Note: New legislation on civil unions has created a legal alternative to registered marriage and enables both same-sex and opposite-sex relationships to be registered as civil unions. The ending of a civil union is governed by the same process as dissolution of marriage, granted after the partners

have been separated and lived apart for two years. Civil unions were introduced in April 2005. Because of the two-year separation requirement, April 2007 is the earliest that any civil union registered in New Zealand could be legally dissolved.

Mental health information

Lead agency:	Ministry of Health/New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS)
Collection type:	Administrative data
Frequency:	Published annually – calendar year
Statistical unit:	Admissions to psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric units of public hospitals, hospitals for the intellectually handicapped, and institutions licensed under the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Act
Size:	In 1994, there were 20,638 mental health admissions, of which 7,045 were first admissions
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnicity, domicile, whether first or readmission, diagnosis, secondary diagnosis, length of stay, facility type, legal status, type of discharge.

New Zealand birth defects monitoring programme

Lead agency:	Ministry of Health
Collection type:	Administrative data
Frequency:	Ongoing
Statistical unit:	Babies
Size:	Varies according to the defect – many are very rare
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnicity, and domicile (of baby and mother), attending physician, date reported, type of defect.

Private hospital discharges

Lead agency:	Ministry of Health/New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS)
Collection type:	Administrative data
Frequency:	Published annually
Statistical unit:	All private hospital discharges
Size:	120,281 discharges from private hospitals in 1995
Official report:	Calendar year
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnicity, domicile, type of procedure, whether inpatient, diagnosis, length of stay, discharge date.

Public hospital discharges

Lead agency:	Ministry of Health/New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS)
Collection type:	Administrative data
Frequency:	Published annually, year ended 30 June (financial year)
Statistical unit:	All public hospital discharges in New Zealand (there is a separate collection from private hospitals)
Size:	704,195 discharges in 1998/99
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnicity, domicile, whether inpatient, diagnosis, length of stay, discharge date.

Suicides and intentional self-harm hospitalisations

Lead agency:	Ministry of Health/New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS)
Collection type:	Administrative data
Frequency:	Published annually
Statistical unit:	Annual counts and rates of suicide deaths and all hospitalisation cases of intentional self-harm
Size:	406 suicide deaths in 2004, 4,933 hospitalisations for self-inflicted injury in 2005
Key variables:	Sex, age, ethnicity, domicile, method, whether hospitalised for suicide or self-inflicted injury, type of injury.

Appendix 4:

Key internal and external stakeholders

Continuous discussion and consultation with key stakeholders was carried out throughout the Review of Official Family Statistics. In addition to ad hoc informal discussion, formal internal and external workshops were held. The first external workshop was held to scope and discuss the consultation paper and the second to discuss the final recommendations.

Key internal stakeholders consulted during the review included colleagues representing the following business areas:

Census
Classifications and Standards
Māori Statistics
Population Statistics
Social Conditions
Social Statistics Development
Standard of Living
Statistical Methods
Work, Knowledge and Skills

Key external stakeholders consulted during the review included:

Families Commission
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Social Development
Office of the Children's Commissioner
Roy McKenzie Institute, Victoria University of Wellington
Paul Callister, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington
Gerry Cotterell, University of Auckland
Heather Crawford, Australian Bureau of Statistics
Mervyl McPherson, Massey University
Brendan Stevenson, Centre for Māori Studies, Massey University.

Appendix 5:

List of organisations and individuals making submissions

- Brendan Stevenson – Massey University
- Charles Crothers – Auckland University of Technology
- Deborah Burns – DMB Research Consultant Ltd
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Department of Labour
- Families Commission
- Family Planning Association
- The Family Centre – Lower Hutt
- Father and Child Trust
- Gerry Cotterell – University of Auckland
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust
- Housing New Zealand Corporation
- Ian Pool – University of Waikato
- Maxim Institute
- Mervyl McPherson – Massey University
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Pacific Affairs
- Ministry of Social Development
- Neil Lunt – Massey University
- New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse Advisory Group
- New Zealand Police
- Office for Disability Issues
- Office of the Children’s Commissioner
- Paul Callister – Victoria University of Wellington
- Statistics New Zealand – Population Statistics Division
- Reserve Bank
- Retirement Commission
- Dr Rhoda Scherman – Auckland University of Technology
- Rotorua District Council
- Roy McKenzie Institute for the Study of Families
- Te Puni Kokiri
- Queenstown-Lakes District Council

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