



Official Statistics System

New Zealand General Social Survey 2008

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12 November 2009



This briefing will cover:

- What is the NZGSS?
- Why have the NZGSS?
- What does the NZGSS show?
- How do I access the NZGSS?



What is the NZGSS?

- A nationally representative sample survey of 8,000 households
- Provides data on important social and economic outcomes not available elsewhere
- Runs every two years (from April to March)
- Uses face-to-face computer-assisted interviews of one respondent aged 15 years or over selected from each household



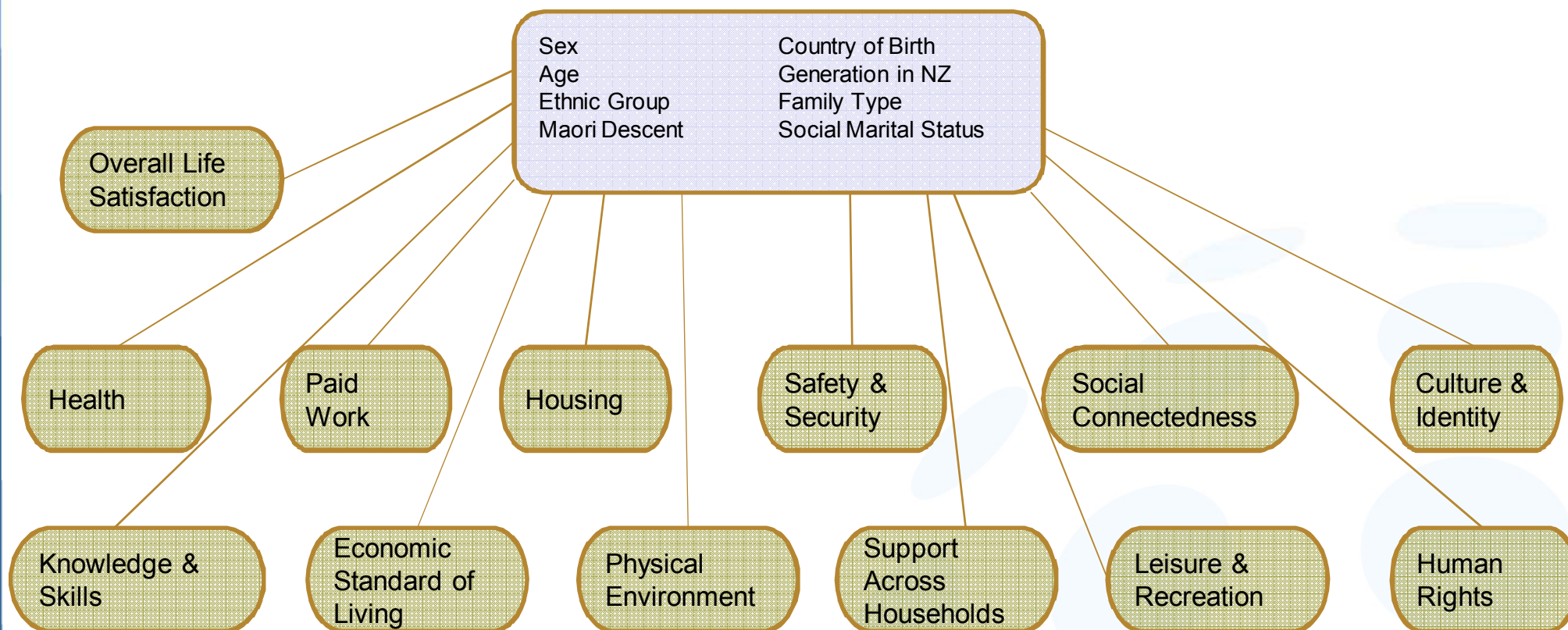
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What is the NZGSS?

- First new survey funded under the Programme of Official Social Statistics (POSS)
- First major regular household social survey since 1986
- First results from the NZGSS were released on 29 October and are available at www.stats.govt.nz/nzgss



Scope and Content





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Why have the NZGSS?

- Statistics are the feedback mechanism for society – how we know whether we are succeeding
- Most of the government's budget is spent trying to achieve the kind of outcomes that the NZGSS measures
- The NZGSS provides the infrastructure to measure progress



Why have the NZGSS?

The NZGSS will be used to:

- Monitor progress over time and track the impact of events such as the current recession
- Identify the factors associated with multiple poor outcomes
- Provide information on how people think they themselves are faring to complement existing objective measures
- Investigate new topics in a timely manner

What does the NZGSS show?

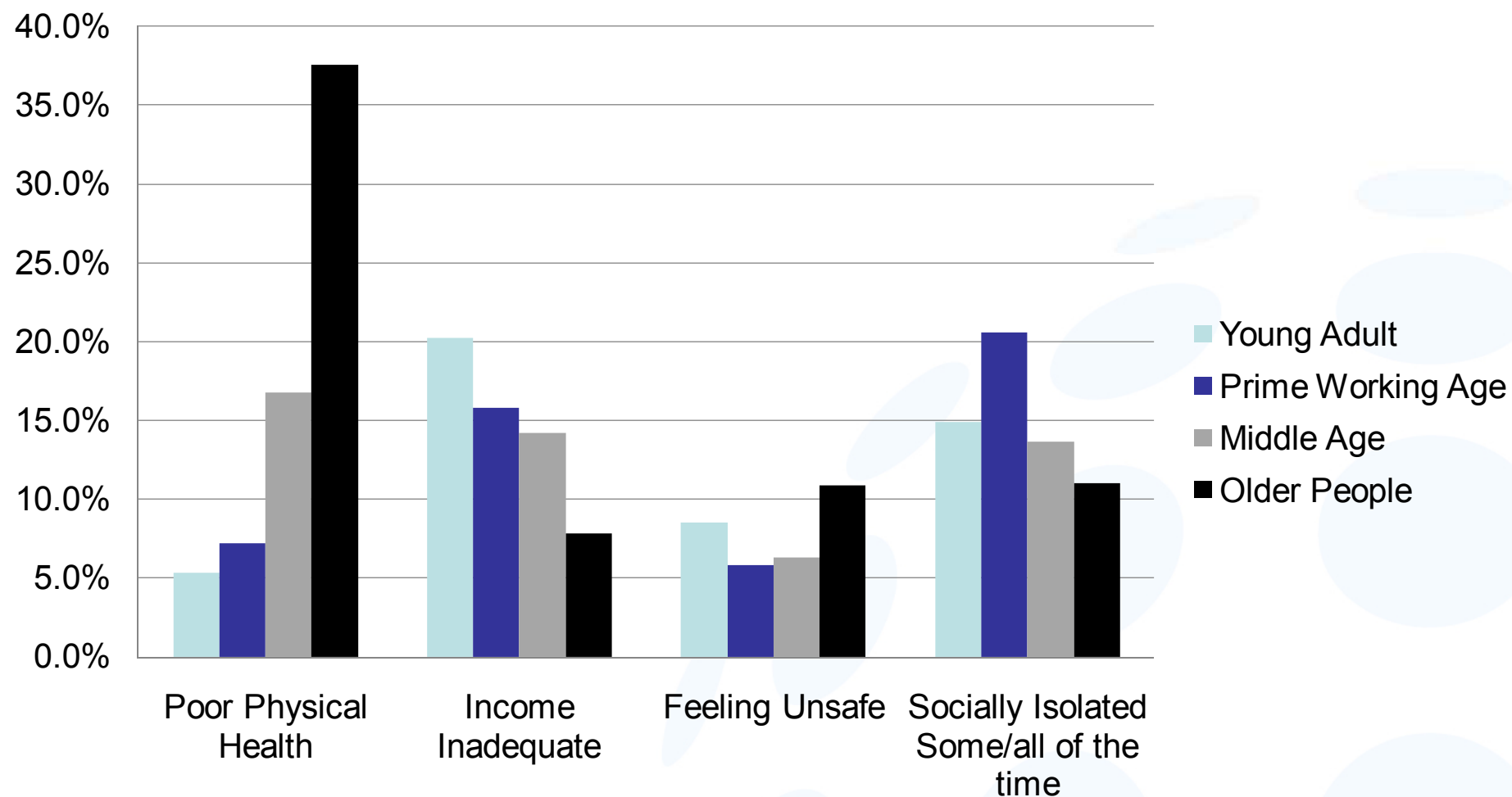


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- The scope of the NZGSS dataset means that there is no 'one' story
- Full analysis of the NZGSS dataset will take time and involve more players than just Statistics New Zealand
- My focus here, therefore, is on illustrative examples of the uses of NZGSS data

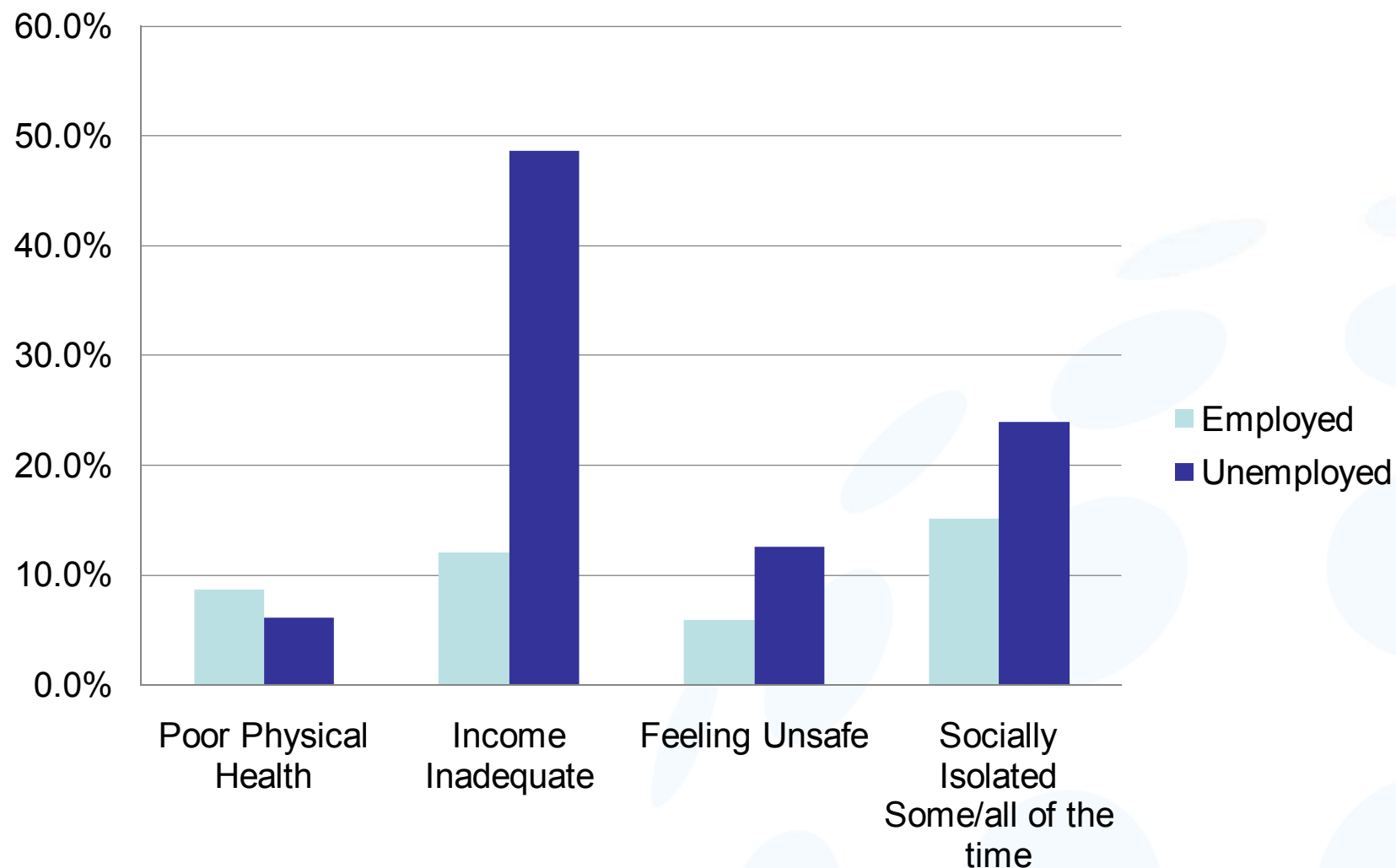


Proportion of the population facing poor social outcomes by life stage 2008/09



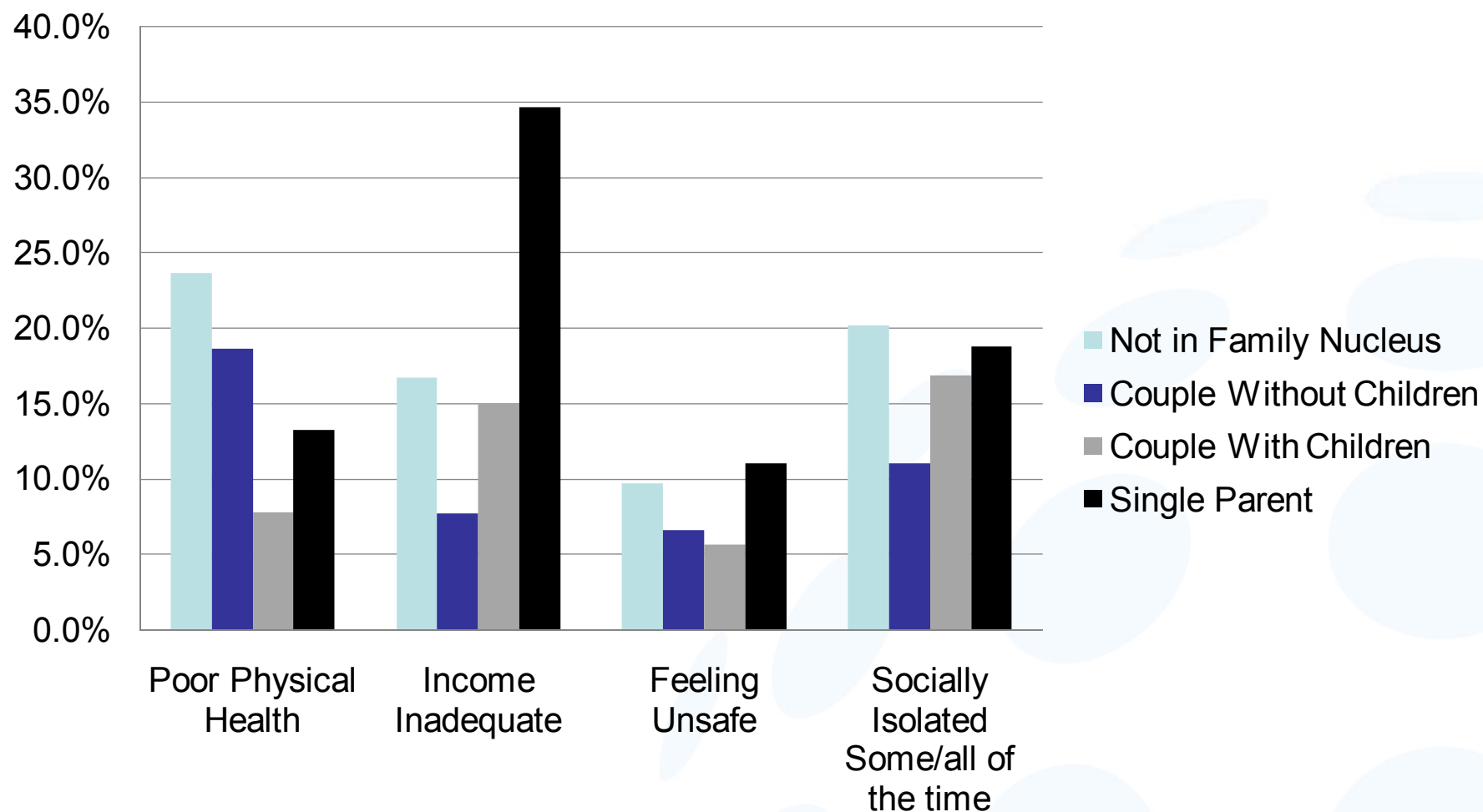


Proportion of the population facing poor social outcomes by employment status 2008/09



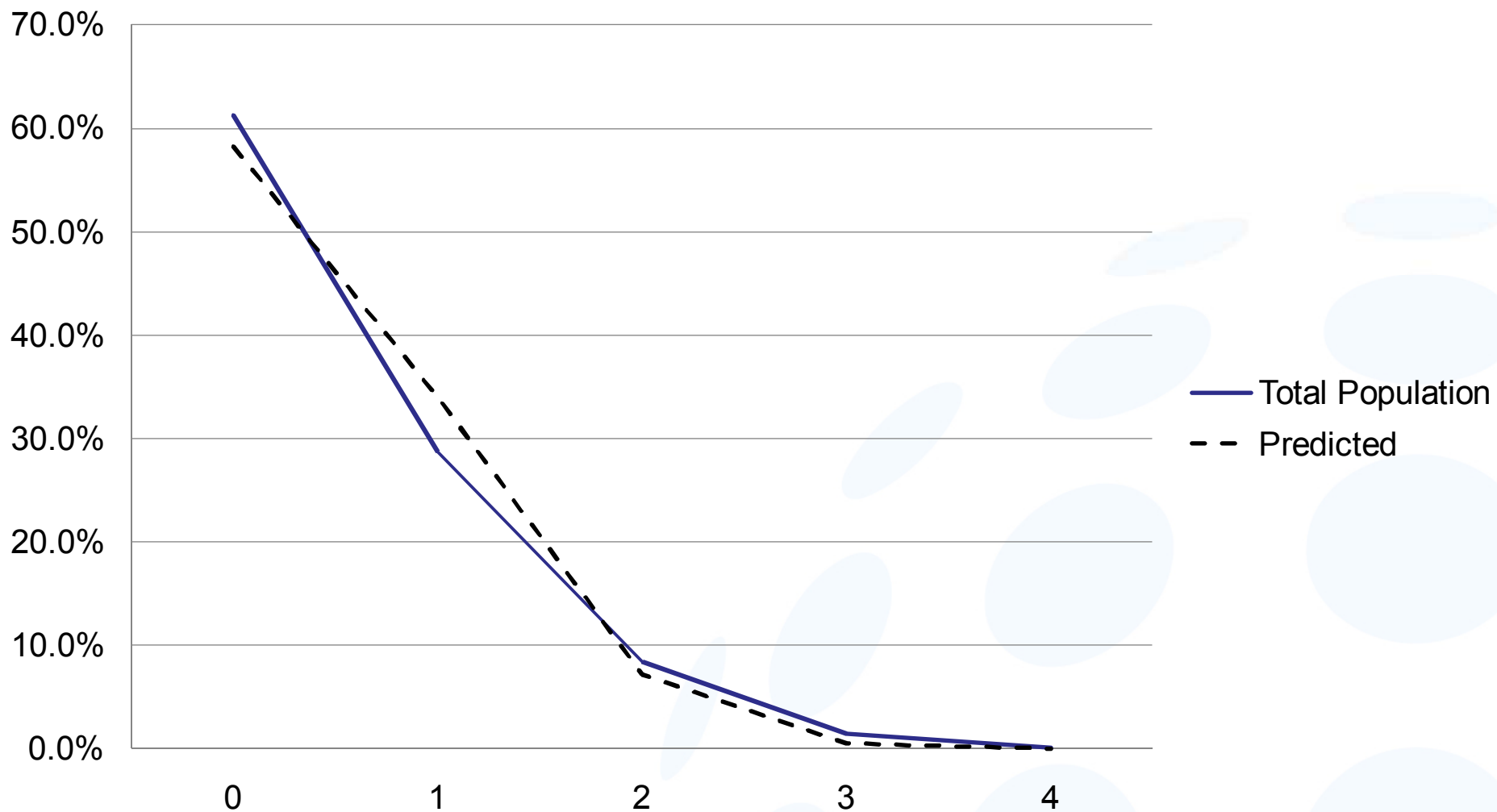


Proportion of the population facing poor outcomes by family type 2008/09



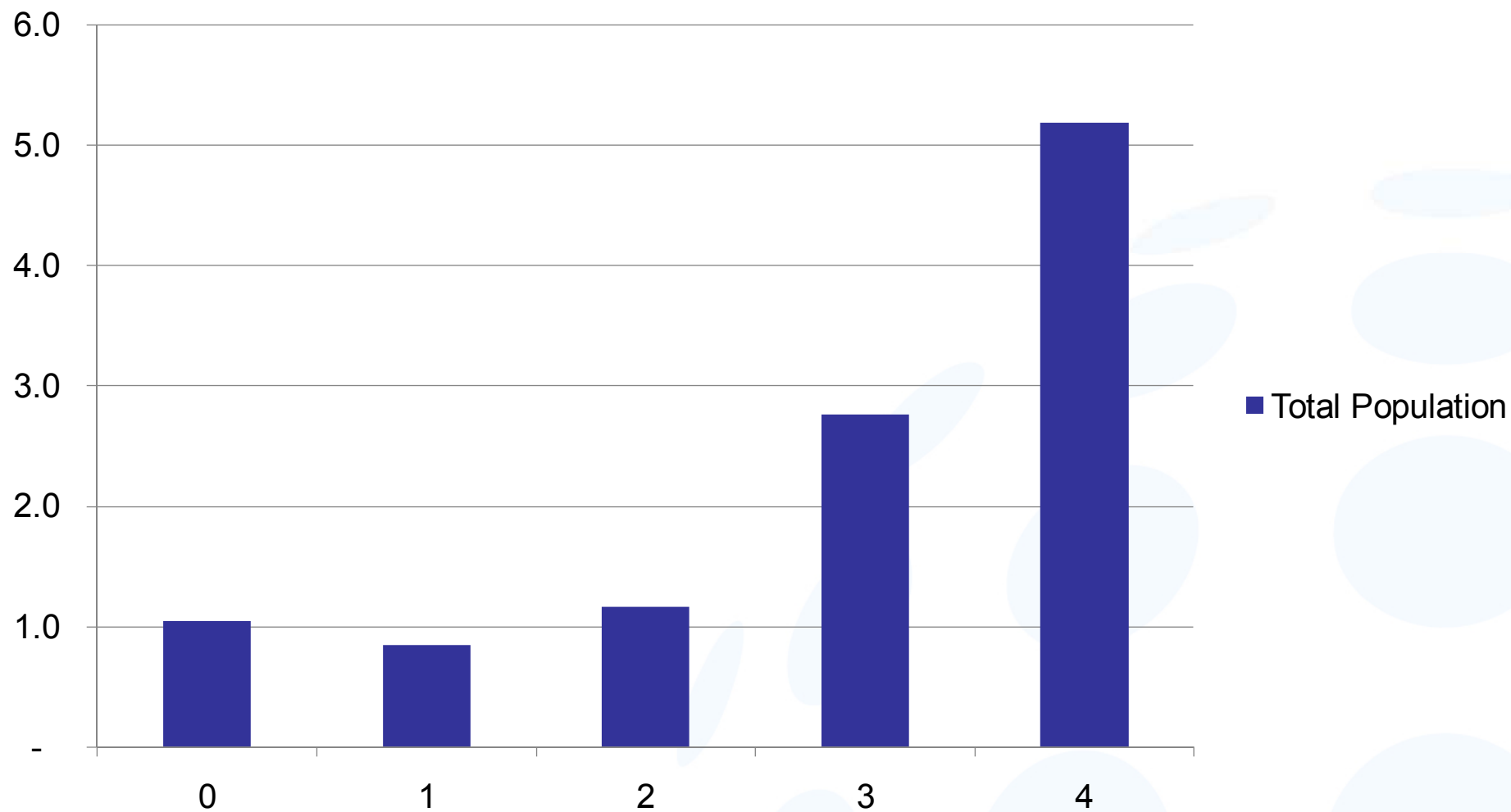


Actual vs predicted levels of multiple poor outcomes in New Zealand 2008/09



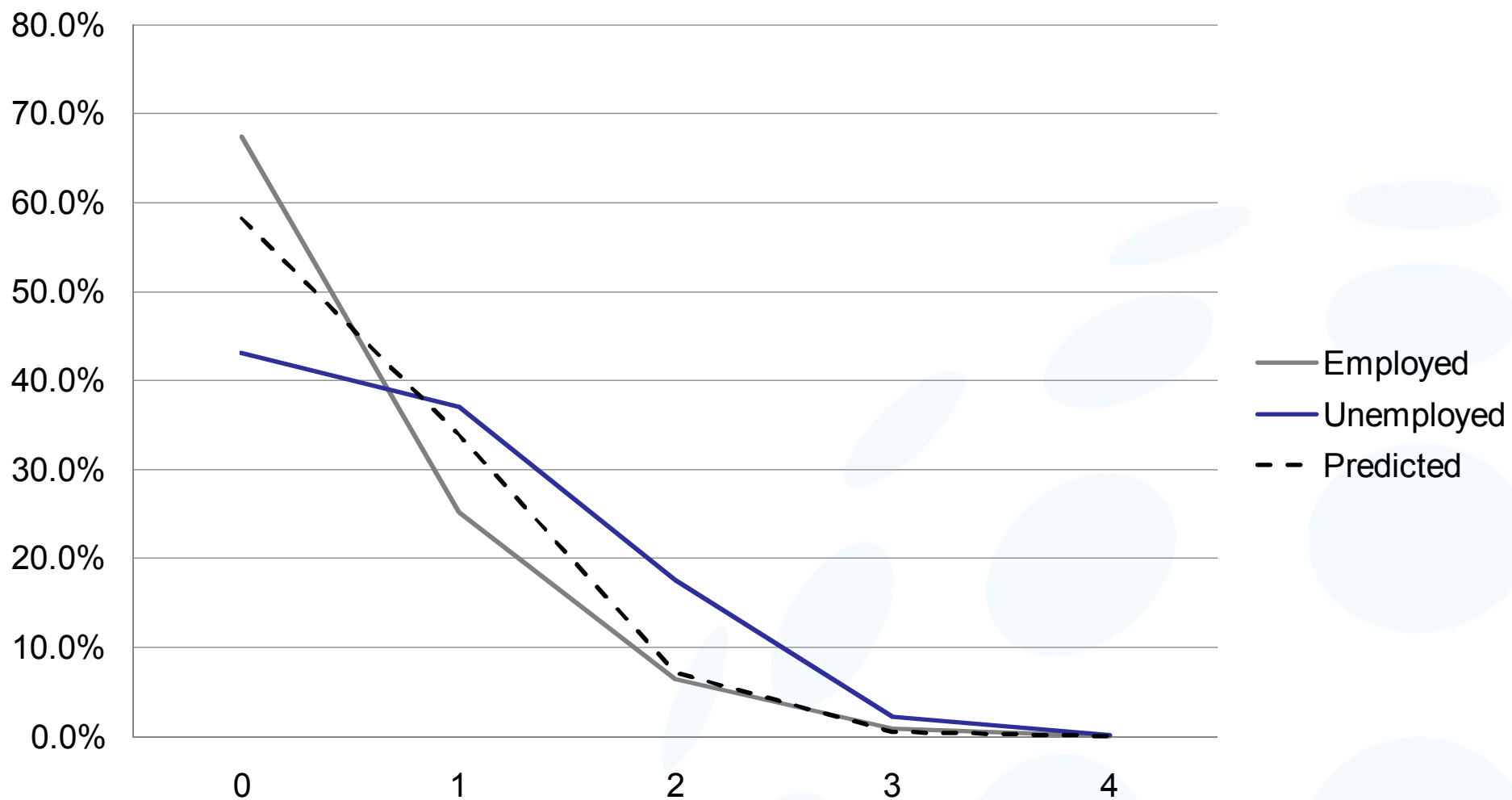


Relative probability of multiple poor outcomes: actual vs predicted 2008/09



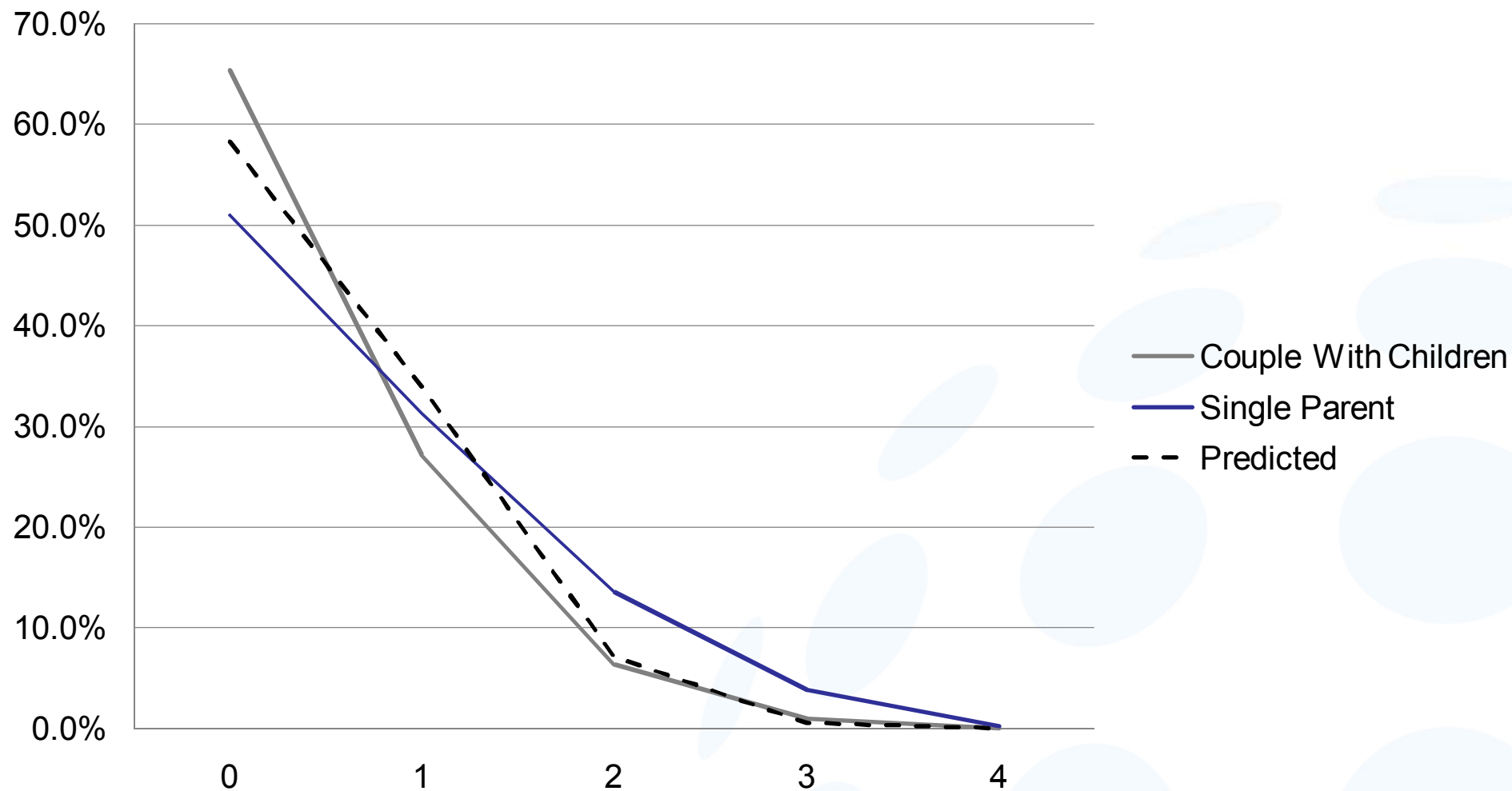


Prevalence of multiple poor outcomes by labour force status 2008/09



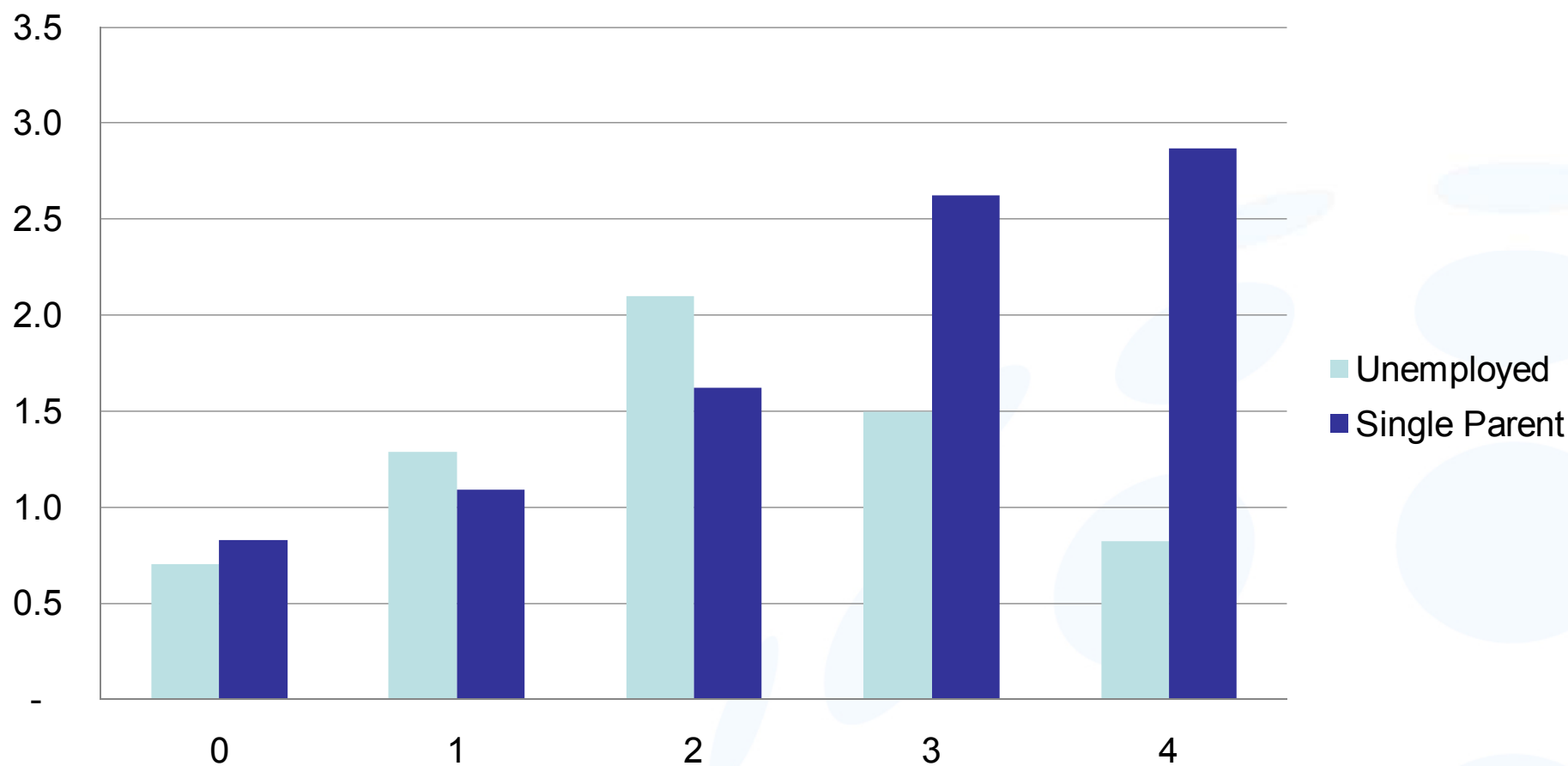


Prevalence of multiple poor outcomes by family type 2008/09



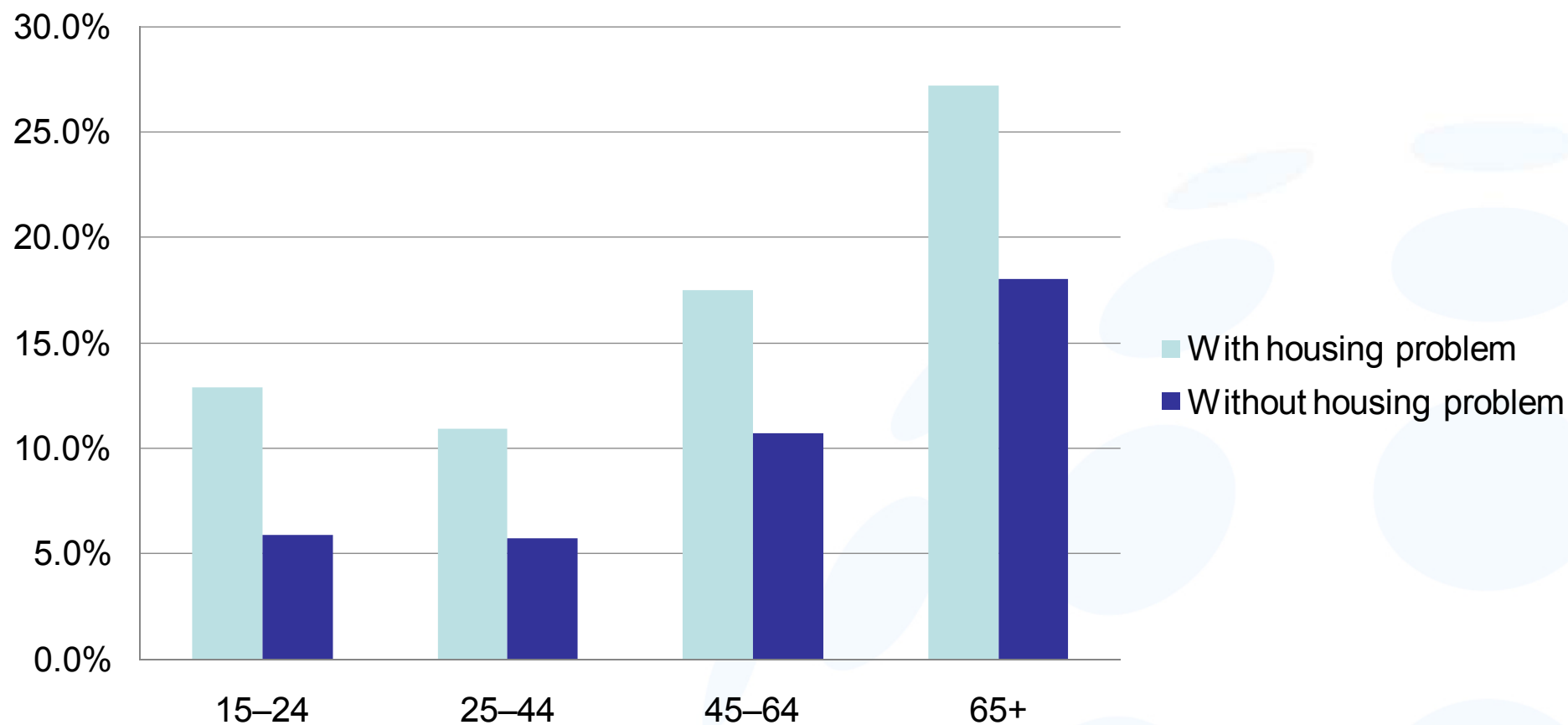


Relative probability of multiple poor outcomes: unemployed and single parent vs population total 2008/09



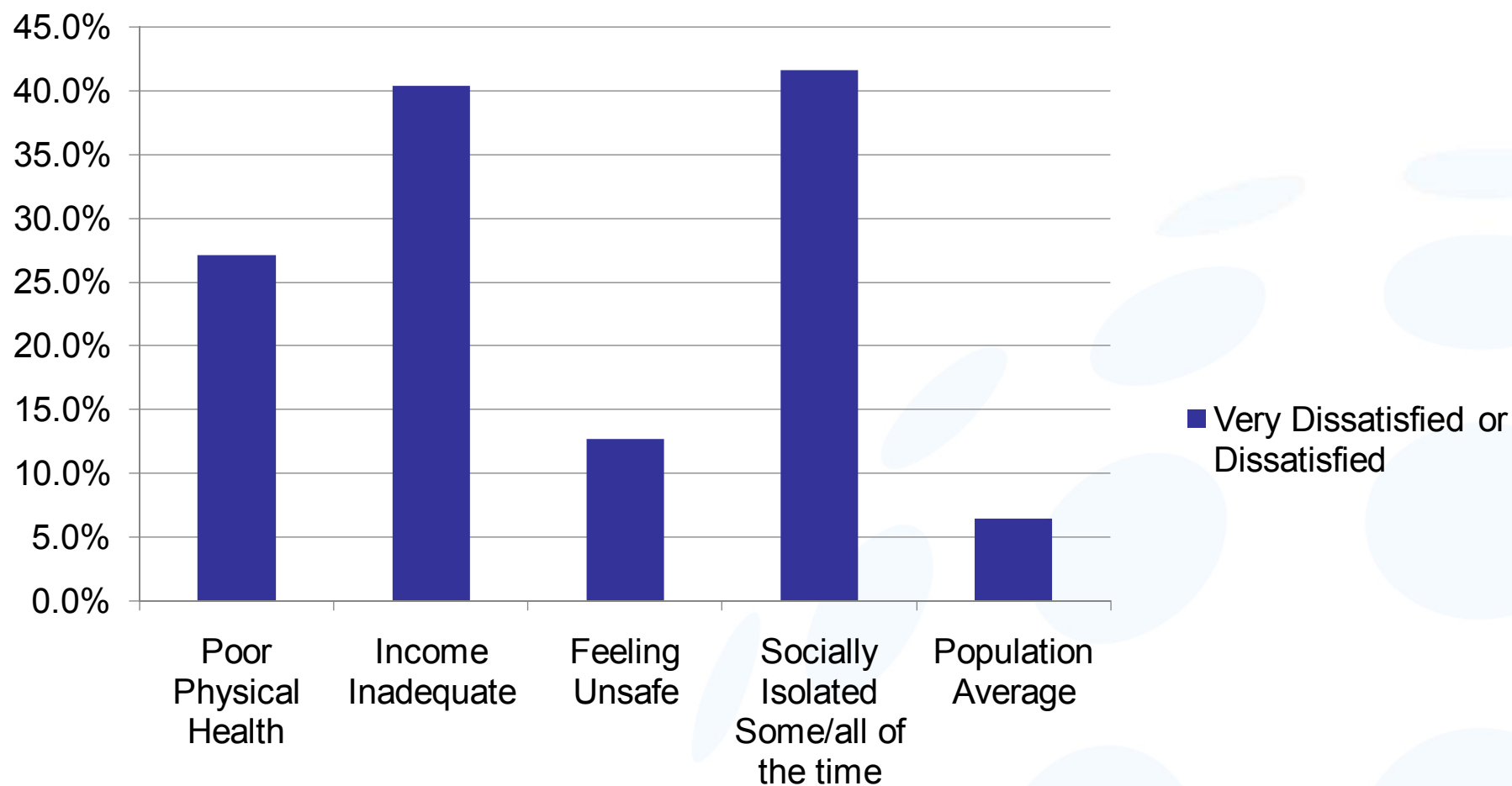


Proportion of the population with self-assessed fair or poor health, with and without house/ neighbourhood problems, by age group 2008/09





Proportion of the population dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with life as a whole by incidence of poor outcomes, 2008/09





Access to the NZGSS

- NZGSS is funded as part of the Programme of Official Social Statistics (POSS)
- POSS represents a major investment by government in the evidence base for policy
- POSS depends entirely on use of the data collected to inform policy and promote greater transparency in monitoring outcomes



Access to the NZGSS

Statistics New Zealand:

- Provides the dataset
- Publishes tables containing the most important aggregate statistics
- Undertakes a limited amount of analysis
- Supports users without strong analytical capability themselves



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Access to the NZGSS

But to get full value from the NZGSS it
needs to be used more widely...



Access to the NZGSS

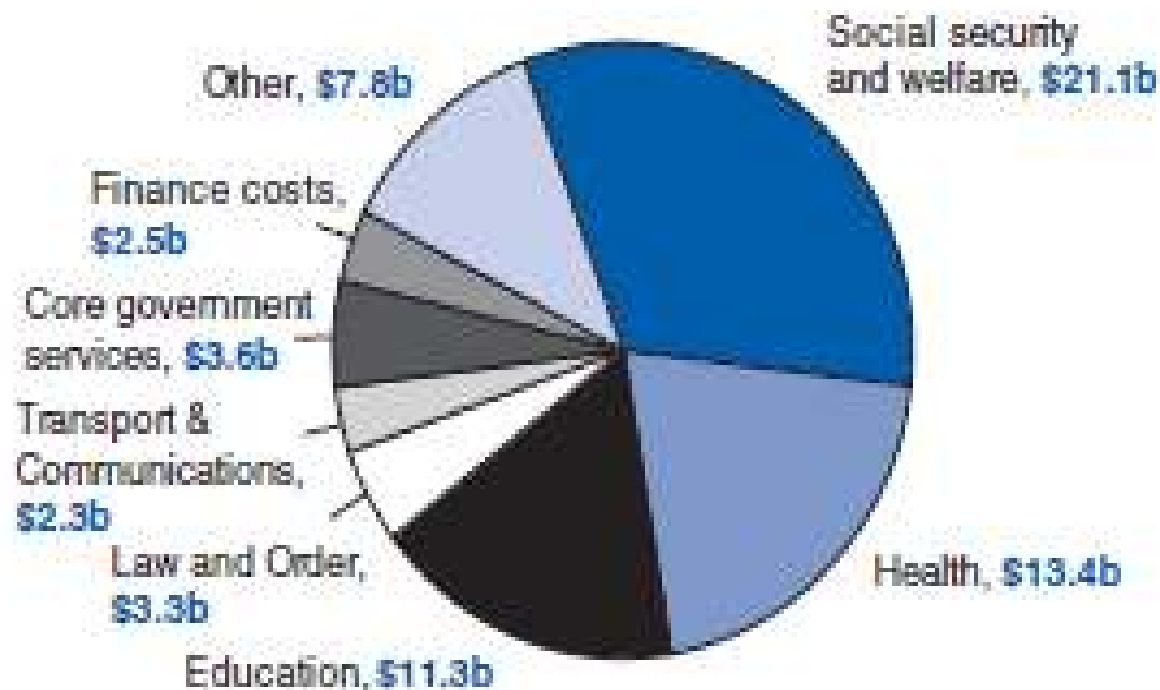
- For the New Zealand General Social Survey: 2008 Hot Off the Press publication, associated tables, and access to Table Builder, see www.stats.govt.nz/nzgss.
- A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) is available now. See our website for application forms.
- We are happy to talk through research proposals, and for more information or any questions about the NZGSS, contact us at social.conditions@stats.govt.nz.



Why measure social outcomes?

Where do core Crown expenses go?

2009/10: \$65.3b (37.3% of GDP)



Social security & welfare includes New Zealand Superannuation, the Accommodation Supplement and the Domestic Purposes, Unemployment, Sickness & Invalid's benefits.