

# The New Zealand General Social Survey

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*March 2010*

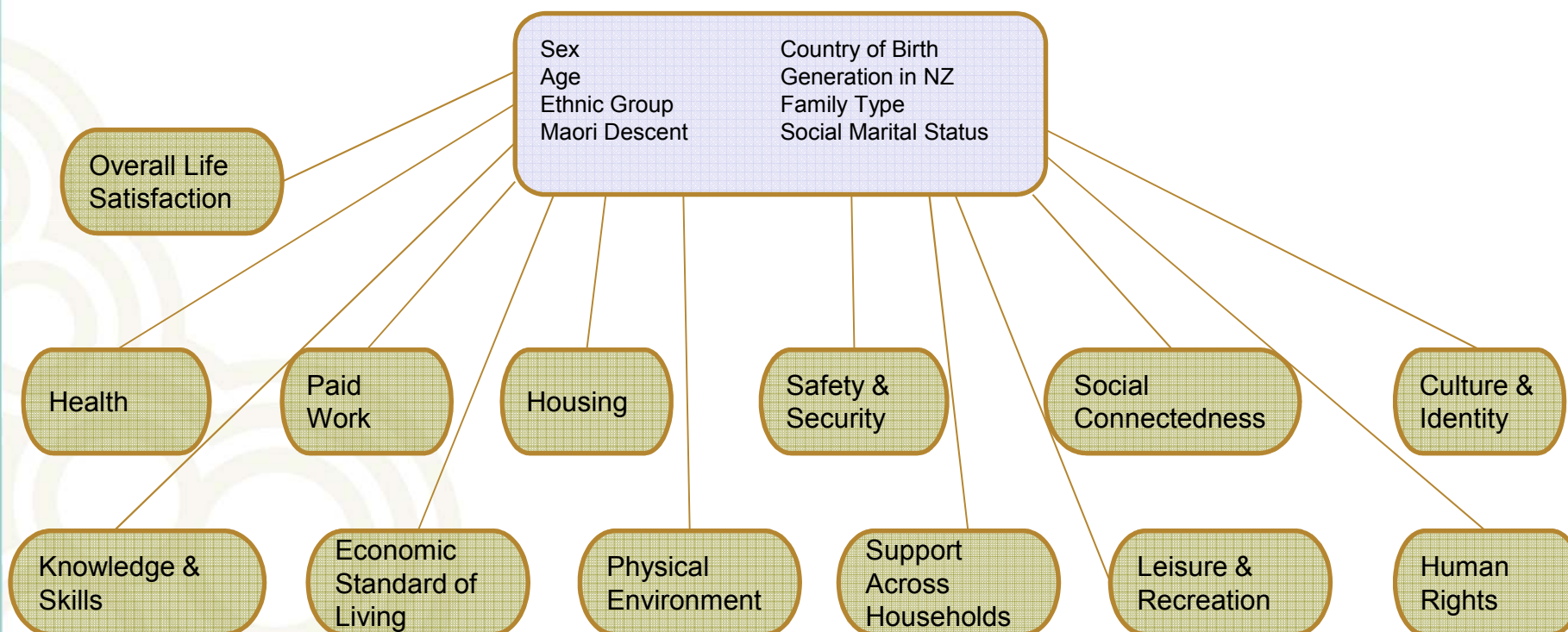
## What is the NZGSS?

- 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

## 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](http://www.stats.govt.nz/nzgss)

# Scope and Content



## 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

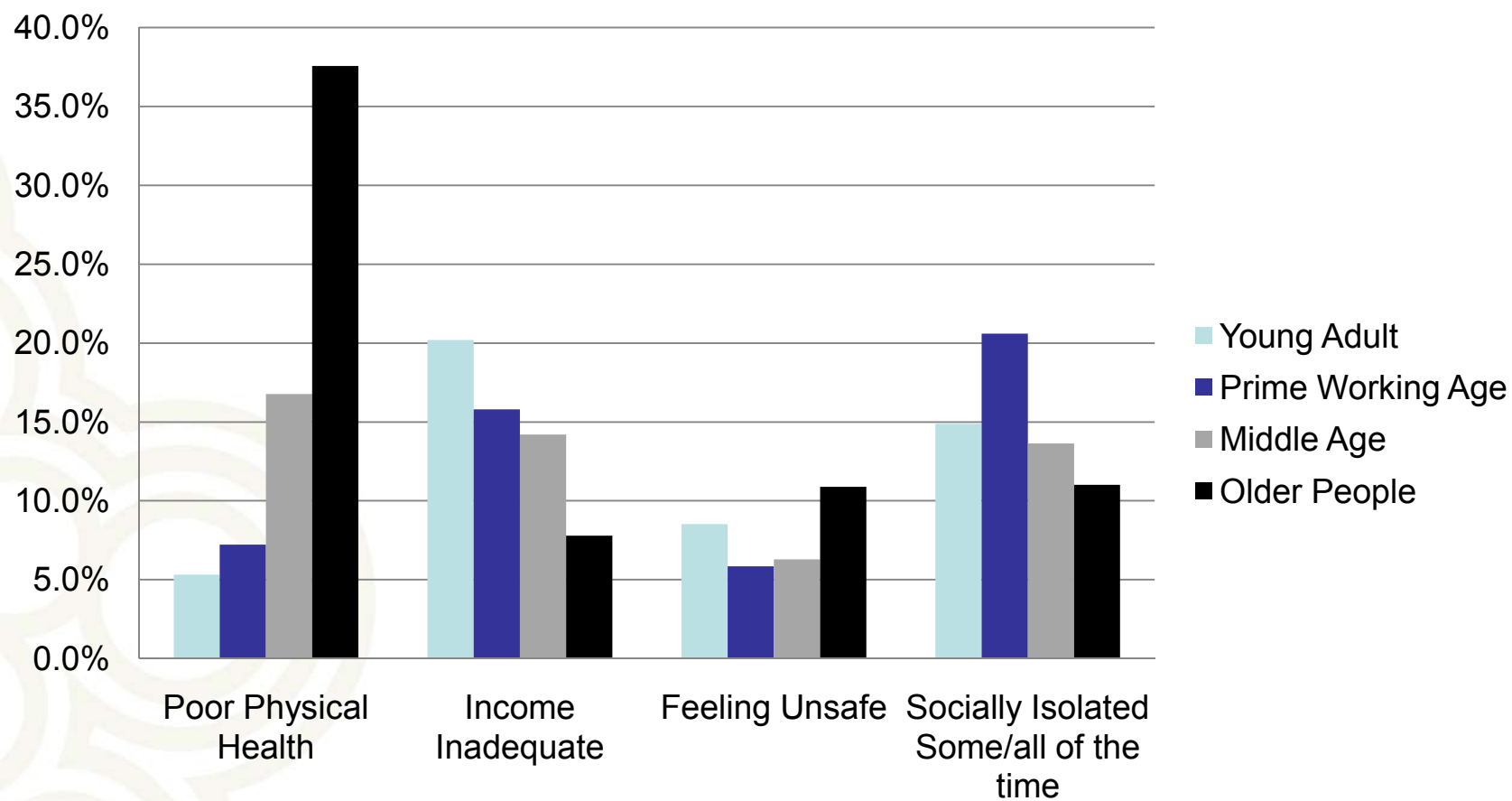
## Why have the NZGSS?

- The 'Stiglitz-Sen' report recommends Statistical offices should:
  - Incorporate questions on subjective wellbeing into their own surveys
  - Improve measures of outcomes beyond the economic sphere to include a wide range of functionings and freedoms
  - Collect data in such a way that the links between different life domains can be analysed

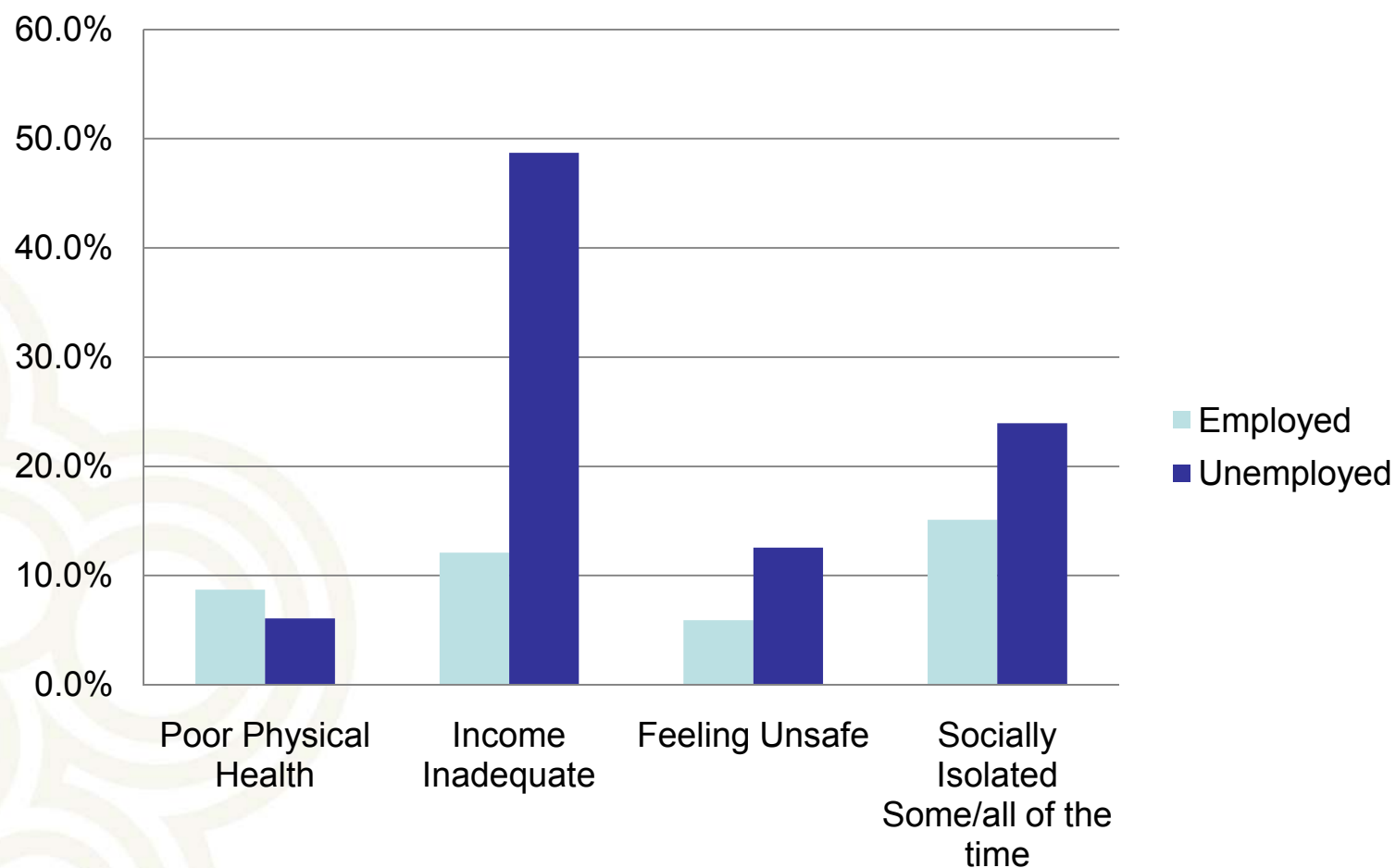
## Why have the NZGSS?

- 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

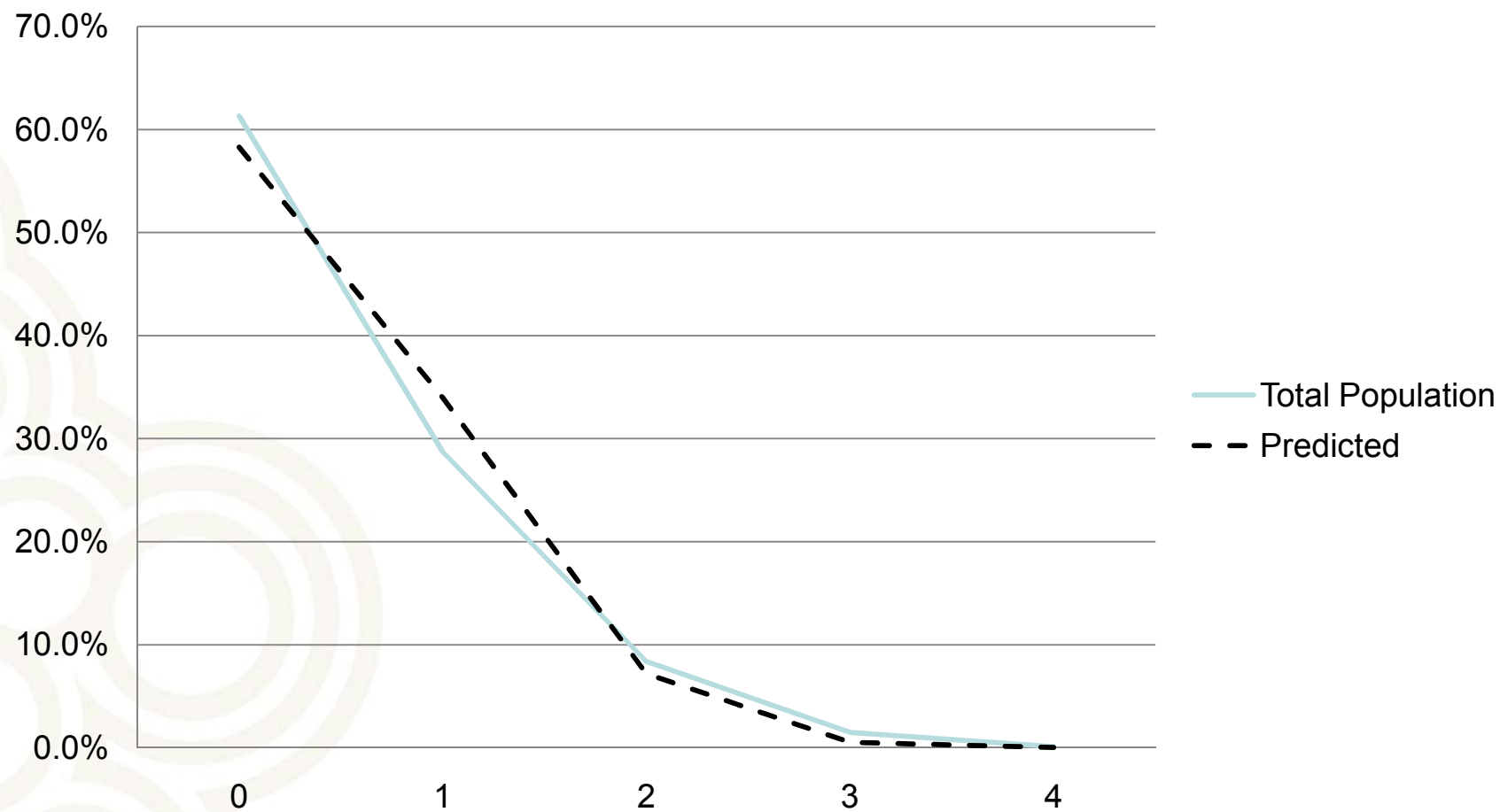
## Proportion of the population facing poor social outcomes by life stage 2008/09



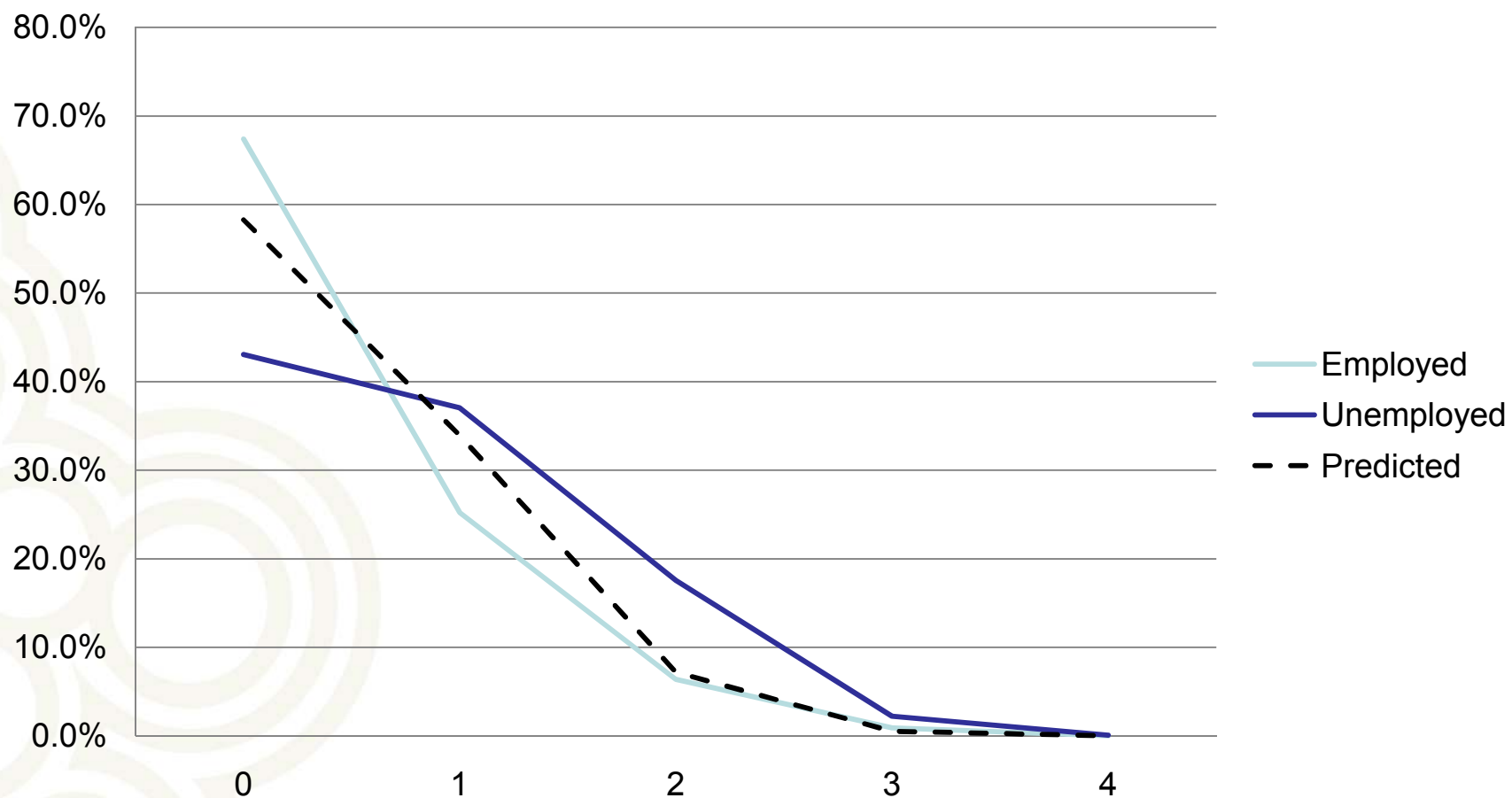
### Proportion of the population facing poor social outcomes by employment status 2008/09



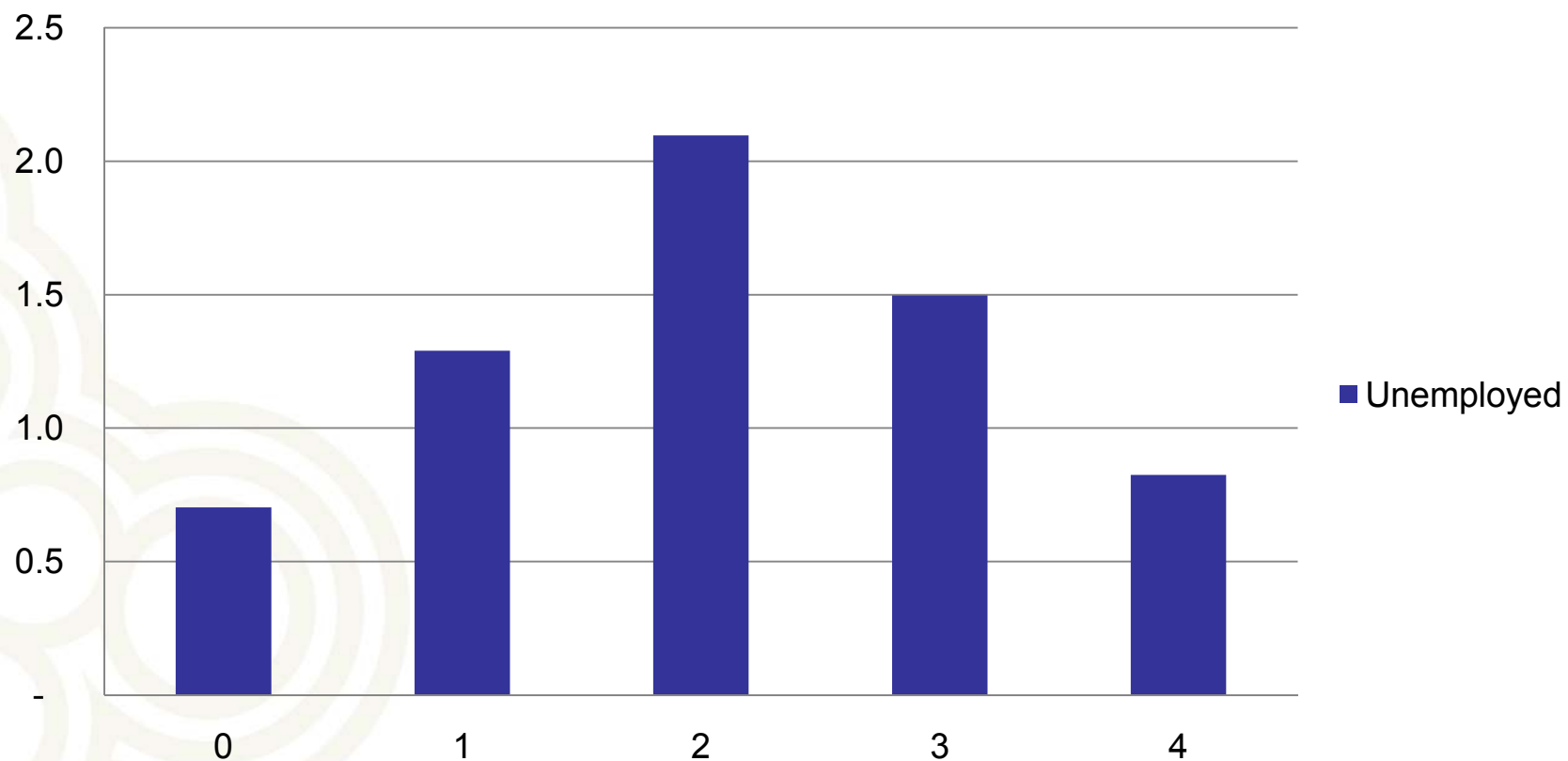
## Actual vs predicted levels of multiple poor outcomes in New Zealand 2008/09



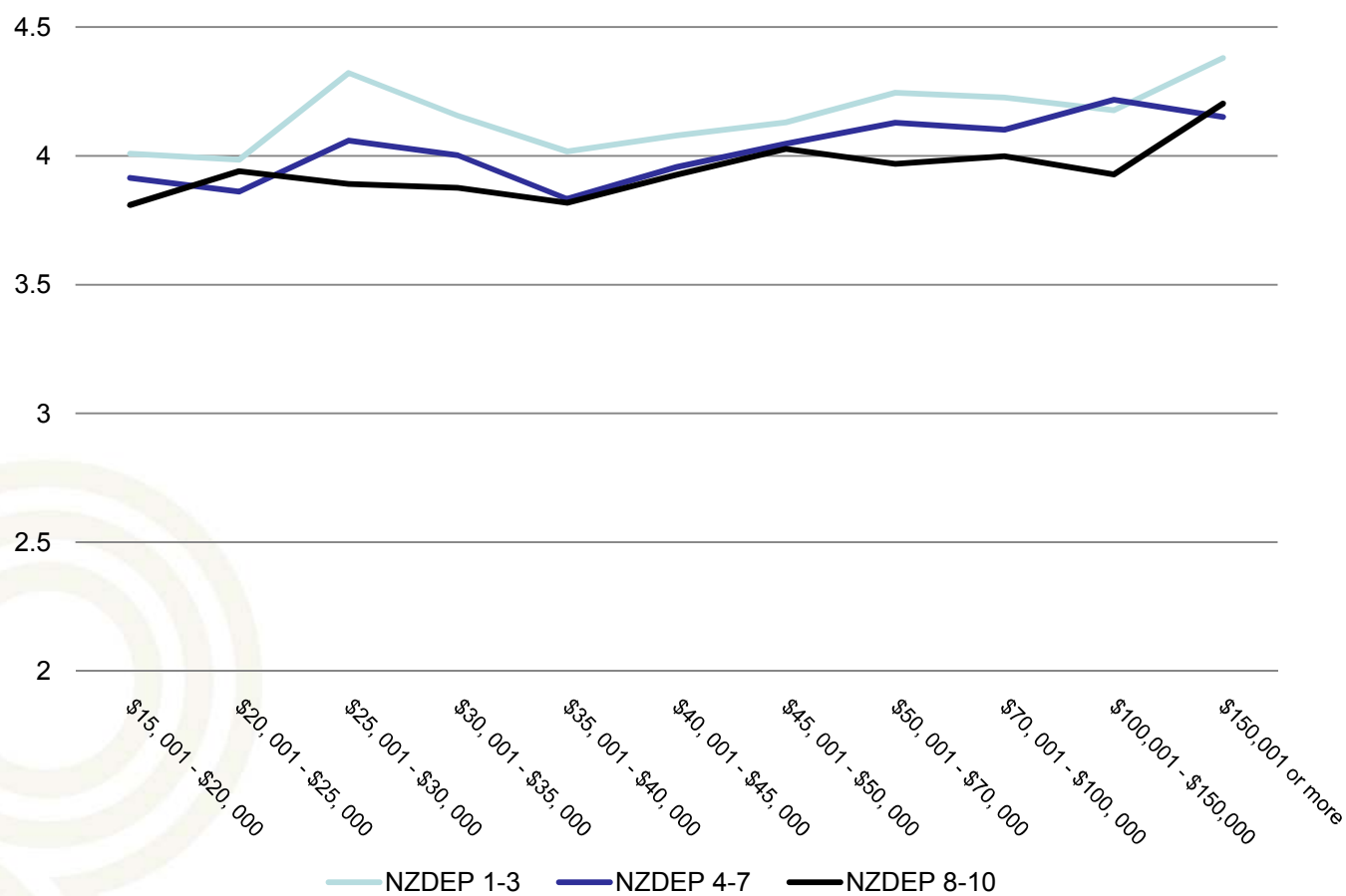
## Prevalence of multiple poor outcomes by labour force status 2008/09



### Relative probability of multiple poor outcomes: unemployed vs population total 2008/09



### Average overall life satisfaction Score by NZ Deprivation decile and Household income, 2008



## 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

## Access to the NZGSS?

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

## Access to the NZGSS?

- What products (reports, tables, microdata) should we be producing to ensure that New Zealand gets full value out of the NZGSS?
- What themes should be the focus for NZGSS output?
- How do we build a community of users?

## 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](http://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](mailto:social.conditions@stats.govt.nz)