

Measuring the wellbeing impacts of public policy: social housing

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About Statistics NZ's IDI

Statistics NZ's Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) supports social wellbeing analysis. It houses administrative data from Government agencies and NGOs across New Zealand, which is linked at the individual level and then anonymised.

Linking administrative and survey data

This work uses the IDI to connect wellbeing measures from survey data with social service usage from administrative data.

Survey data supplement administrative records with qualitative concepts such as life satisfaction and social connection.

Evaluating the wellbeing impacts of social housing

Our working paper 'Measuring the wellbeing impacts of public policy: social housing' examines the impact of placement in social housing on people's wellbeing using a small sample of social housing data combined with survey data from the New Zealand General Social Survey.

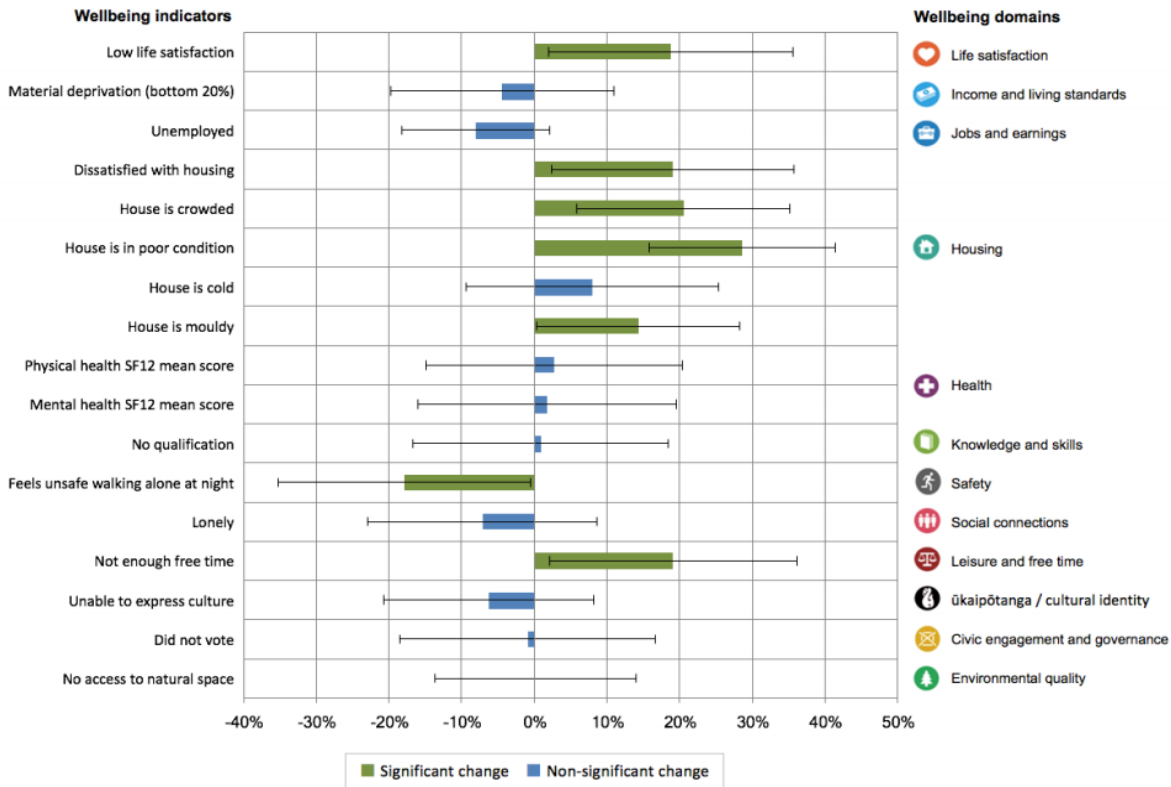
The work asks what impact placement in social housing has on:

- the recipient's overall wellbeing?
- other important wellbeing domains such as health, social contact or jobs?
- housing outcomes such as crowding, temperature or dampness?

As a result, we are able to present preliminary findings that paint a meaningful picture of the wellbeing impact of placement in social housing.

Change in wellbeing before and after social housing

Our analysis is experimental only but suggests wellbeing improves for people who move into social housing. People report a higher overall satisfaction with their lives. Whilst they report lower feelings of safety, they experience improved housing quality and more free time



Disclosure statements

Preliminary findings from a small sample

Although the picture that emerges from this analysis of the impact of social housing on wellbeing is both interesting and plausible, there are limitations associated with the data and methodology used in this research, including:

- The sample size – the number of people placed in social housing who are also interviewed in the NZGSS in the same year is small
- The time frame - precludes observation of long term effects
- Wellbeing impacts are for before and after, not control and treatment.

Working paper for discussion

Working papers are intended to stimulate discussion and consideration about policy and research issues. The papers are part of developmental and on-going work, and are not presented as policy documents. The views expressed are not final, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Social Investment Agency.

Up next

We are building on the research using the latest New Zealand General Social Survey data and a larger sample size and will publish another paper later this year.

For more information

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