SOCIAL WELLBEING AGENCY | TOI HAU TĀNGATA

Analytics and evidence

Improving social services with better decision-making begins by analysing available data about people's lives and wellbeing.

We want to empower social service providers and government agencies to understand, decide on and do more of what really works, for better lives.

Analytics support decision-making

Analytics provides one type of evidence to support better decision-making. Analytics is the use of computer skills and statistics to draw conclusions from data. We combine analytics with qualitative data, science and people's lived experience.

Social sector analytics can help social service providers and government agencies improve evidence informed decision making, service delivery measurement, and develop and enhance innovative social services.

Our tools for technical users

We've produced analytical tools and reusable code for technical users who have access to Stats NZ's Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI). Code, assembly and visualisation tools and user guidance is publicly available on GitHub — an open source, collaborative software development platform and repository.

Available resources include:

Topic	Subject	Tool	Description
IDI measures	IDI definitions library	Code	Definitions of events and measures in the IDI from our research projects. Compatible with the Dataset Assembly Tool. Gathered together for ease of reuse.
Dataset assembly	Dataset Assembly Tool	Method and code	Standard tool and process for assembling a range of measures together into a single dataset ready for analysis.
People's life experience	Representative timeline modelling	Method and code	Constructing cross-sector representative timelines of people's life experience
People's life experience	Representative timeline visualisation	Run code	Interactive timeline visualisation tool for exploring journey timelines

Wellbeing impacts evaluation	[Benefit to employment transition](#)	Method and code	Using linked administrative and survey data to evaluate the wellbeing impacts of transitioning from benefit to employment
Wellbeing impacts evaluation	[Social housing](#)	Method and code	Using linked administrative and survey data to evaluate the wellbeing impacts of social housing

Visit the Social Wellbeing Agency [Github](#)   or the Social Investment Agency [Github](#)   (archived material).

Our work with Informatics for Social Services & Wellbeing

We are working with Victoria University of Wellington and the University of Auckland on the [Te Rourou Tātaritanga Informatics for Social Services & Wellbeing](#)   programme. The programme aims to improve the way New Zealand stores, shares and accesses data to help produce better policy and enhance the delivery of social services.

The programme works to:

- Improve data standards
- Promote Māori data sovereignty
- Develop systems to support access
- Evaluate synthesising of datasets
- Explore security and privacy implications
- Develop machine learning and AI methods

We are contributing to systems to support data access, and helping to foster a community of practice across the government sector. We also deliver a symposium annually, to share the ground-breaking things people are doing with data and look for future opportunities in the applied data system. The next symposium will be held in early 2023. [You can read or watch 2021's presentations](#)   , including two presentations on tools built to support analytic and research projects.

This work aligns with the Agency's 2021-2023 Strategy by supporting government agencies to improve their data capability and lead advice across the sector.