



MODELLING WELLBEING AND DISADVANTAGE

Researchers at NATSEM have done a significant amount of work in measuring and modelling wellbeing and disadvantage. This includes index construction; modelling indicators when little data are available; and analysing different indicators. Much of this work is concerned with well-being across the life cycle.

Our work has built important knowledge on questions of social disadvantage and exclusion and has been used extensively to inform policy and practice.

The issue of wellbeing and disadvantage is multidimensional and spatial, so our work is usually presented as a small area index of multidimensional indicators. However, this is not always the case, and our work has included estimating small area poverty rates for different groups of the population to inform service delivery; and estimating small area estimates of housing stress. These estimates are derived using our small area estimation model, which can provide small area cross-tabulations for a number of indicators (see separate brochure).

Our research in this space is usually collaborative with NGO's, and is used to inform policy and service delivery.

CHILD AND YOUTH SOCIAL EXCLUSION

NATSEM has taken the lead in developing small area measures of child disadvantage, promoting a greater understanding of child and youth well-being both within Australia and internationally.

We have created small area Child Social Exclusion Indices using the 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016 Census and other data, while the Youth Social Exclusion Index has been created using the 2011 and 2016 Census and other data. The 2016 index was calculated in collaboration with UnitingCare, and is available through an online mapping system, allowing the public to access maps for their area. This has been used extensively by Commonwealth, State and Local Government.



Publications



Daly, A., Harding, A., McNamara, J., Tanton, R and Yap, M. (2008) 'Indicators of risk of social exclusion for children in Australian households: an analysis by state & age group', *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*, 14, 133-154



Harding, A., McNamara, J., Daly, A., & Tanton, R. (2009). Child social exclusion: an updated index from the 2006 Census. *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*, 12(1), 41.



Abello, A., Cassells, R., Daly, A., D'Souza, G., and Miranti, R. (2015). 'Youth Social Exclusion in Australian Communities: A new index', *Social Indicators Research*, 128(2): 635-660.



Miranti, R., Daly, A., and Tanton, R. (2015). 'An area-based measure of risk of social exclusion for Australian school-aged children', *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*, 21(1):26-49.



Miranti, R., Brown, L., Li, J., Tanton, R., Vidyattama, Y., Tuli, S and Rowe, P. (2018). 'Child Social Exclusion, Poverty and Disadvantage In Australia', NATSEM, University of Canberra. Report commissioned by UnitingCare Australia

INDEX OF WELLBEING FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS (IWOA)

We have also undertaken research into the wellbeing of older Australians, including a collaboration with The Benevolent Society calculating an index of wellbeing for older adults using 2011 and 2016 data from the Census, AIHW and other sources, including NATSEM's small area estimation model. These indexes are presented using an online mapping tool, which makes the information available to the public.



Publications



Miranti, R. and Yu, P. (2015). 'Why Social Exclusion Persists among Older People in Australia', *Social Inclusion, A Special Issue on Indicators and Measurement of Social Inclusion*, 3(4):112-126.



Tanton, R., Vidyattama, Y. and Miranti, R. (2016). 'Small area Indicators of Wellbeing for Older Australians (IWOA)', Report commissioned by the Benevolent Society.



Tanton, R., Miranti, R., Vidyattama, Y., and Tuli, S (2019). 'Index of Wellbeing of Older Australians (IWOA)', NATSEM, University of Canberra. Report commissioned by the Benevolent Society

ESTIMATES OF POVERTY

We have also worked closely with VCOSS, ACTCOSS and NCOSS modelling small area poverty rates for different groups of the population (age, sex, labour force status, family type) for Victoria and New South Wales, and have estimated suburb level disadvantage in the ACT. Many of these reports used online mapping tools to make the estimates available to anyone, and these tools have been used extensively by NGO's, State and Local Government.

Publications



Tanton, Miranti and Vidyattama, (2017), 'Hidden disadvantage in the ACT: Report for ACT Anti-Poverty Week', NATSEM, University of Canberra. Report commissioned by the ACT Council of Social Service Inc.



Tanton, Peel and Vidyattama (2018), 'Poverty in Victoria', NATSEM, University of Canberra. Report commissioned by VCOSS.

OTHER WORK ON WELLBEING

In addition to our indicators and indexes, we also undertake other related work on wellbeing, recognising our national expertise in this field.

For example, work we did with the Sax Institute and NSW FACS reviewed potential wellbeing indicators across the life cycle based on seven core wellbeing domains. This review aimed to investigate indicators and their measures of wellbeing which have been successfully validated and applied in population settings, across the life cycle. The review also identified gaps in the literature and indicator frameworks.

We are also advising the ACT Government on their wellbeing framework currently under development, and work with other staff at the University of Canberra using the Regional Wellbeing Survey. This has included developing a farm microsimulation model using the regional wellbeing survey, able to model the impact of policy on the farming sector.

Publications



Miranti R., Tanton R, Vidyattama Y, Schirmer J, Rowe P (2017). Wellbeing indicators across the life cycle: an Evidence Check rapid review brokered by the Sax Institute for NSW Family and Community Services and FACSIA.



MORE INFORMATION

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