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.

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


Tanton, R, Vidyattama, Y. and Miranti, R. (2016), ‘Small area Indicators of Wellbeing for Older Australians (IWOA)’, 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


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


MORE INFORMATION

Dr Riyana Miranti
Building 24, University of Canberra
+61 6201 5319 | riyana.miranti@canberra.edu.au