

Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit
Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

www.salvationarmy.org.nz/socialpolicy

STATE

IATION







- 23 indicators over five focus areas

Changes in presentational format

- Hardcopy summary handout
- On-line version as interactive pdf

This presentation will tell four stories around the results from the 2016 report

- The questionable use of child abuse targets
- The paradox of less crime & larger prison populations
- The unmeasured impact of welfare policy change
- The spreading problem of Auckland's housing bubble



RESULT 4

Halt the rise in children experiencing physical abuse and reduce the current numbers by 5%

Ministry of Social
Development report a 1.9%
decline in the numbers of
cases of substantiated
physical abuse of children

From 3178 cases in 2013/14 to 3118 in 2014/15





VIOLENT OFFENCES TOWARD CHILDREN 2014/15

Offence type	Number of Victimisations	Unique victims
Murder	6	2
Manslaughter	6	5
Serious assault resulting in injury	1,257	1,089
Serious assault not resulting in injury	2,223	2,004
Common assault	1,227	1,086
All assaults	4,698	4,170
Sexual assaults	1,626	1,299
Abduction-kidnapping	81	39

Yet Police report more violent offences toward children than MSD can substantiate

In 2014/15 there were 4698 recorded assaults on 4170 individual children





Reporting child abuse

Activity

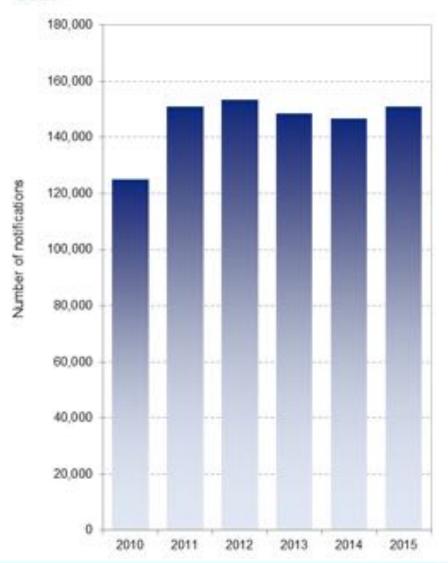
'Act early to protect children'

What/Action

'Better reporting, easier ways to raise concerns, clarity on society's expectations of parents, and advice on how to spot child abuse and neglect'

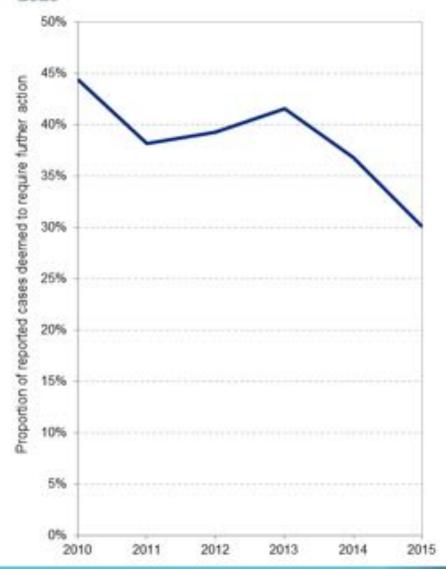
CHILDREN'S ACTION PLAN P.3





New Zealanders have responded positively to the Children's Action Plan's proposal to actively report possible child abuse or neglect

In 2014/15 CYF received 150,905 reports of possible child abuse/neglect up by 2,450 on the previous year



Yet CYF have decided to not to investigate a greater proportion of these reports

'In 2014/2015, we strengthened practice by providing better screening at intake (so fewer cases unnecessarily proceed to an investigation or assessment), conducting more thorough assessments, and improving understanding of abuse findings.'

MSD 2014/14 ANNUAL REPORT P.22



The number of substantiated cases of child abuse have fallen simply because CYF is placing less emphasis on emotional abuse and neglect

Child Youth & Family substantiations of child abuse and neglect - 2011 to 2015

Year ending 30 June	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Emotional abuse	12,711	12,454	12,777	10,406	8,318
Physical abuse	3,253	3,330	3,343	3,305	3,235
Sexual abuse	1,514	1,418	1,459	1,329	1,275
Neglect	4,813	4,970	5,405	4,583	3,644
Total substantiations	22,291	22,172	22,984	19,623	16,472

Source: Key Statistics from CFYs website at http://www.cyf.govt.nz/about-us/key-statistics/notifications.html



KEY LESSONS

Targets have become mythical

- Reported outcomes have become symbolic and do not entirely match historical facts

Practice is running contrary to declared strategy

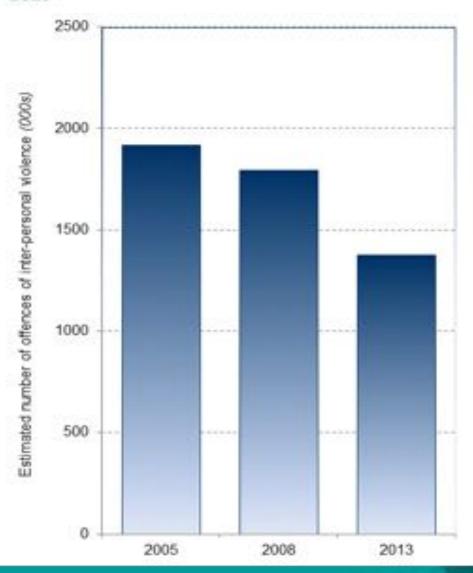
- The Children's Action Plan makes a big deal of active public engagement while the results of this engagement are increasingly ignored by CYF

Lack of transparency undermines credibility

- Having the agency responsible for the target outcome also responsible for deciding practice, collecting and analysing results and reporting outcomes risks making a joke of public service targets

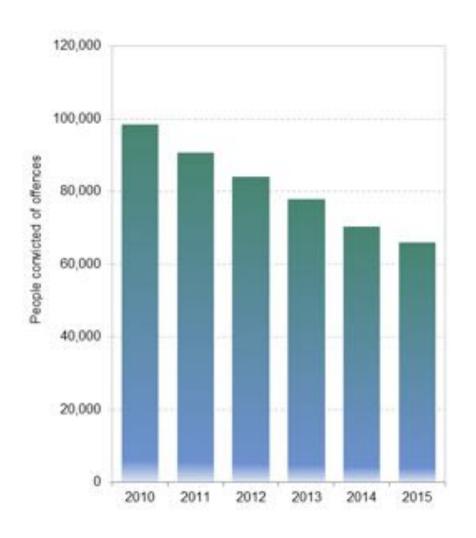






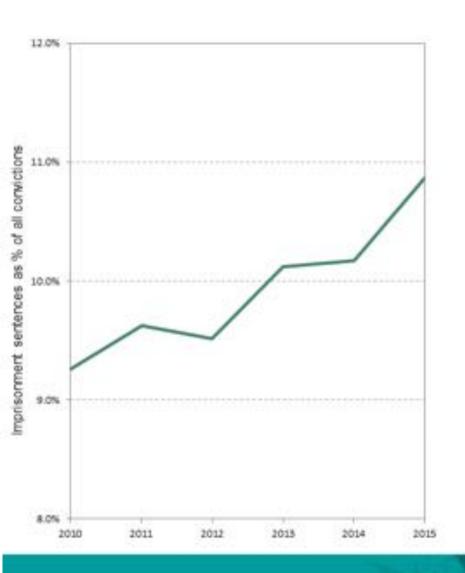
Violent crime has fell 23% between 2005 and 2013

NZ Crime & Safety Survey estimated that there was 1,379,000 violent offences in 2013 – down from 1,919,000 in 2005



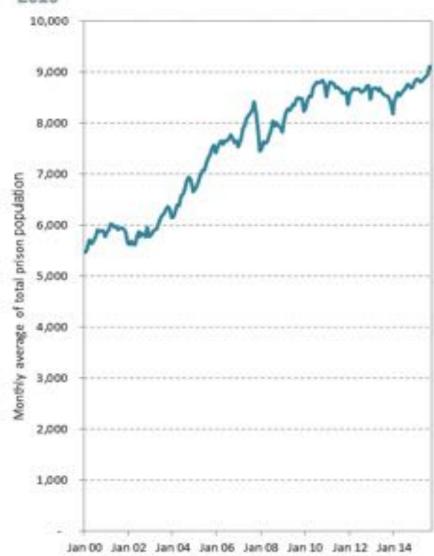
This fall in offending shows up in the numbers of adults convicted of offences

Between 2010 and 2015 – the number of people convicted fell by 1/3rd to 66,000



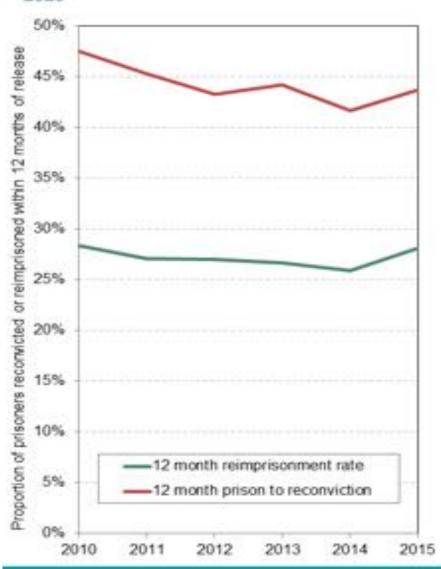
As the numbers being convicted have fallen to proportion of those convicted going to prison has risen

Between 2010 and 2015 – the proportion of adults convicted who went to prison rose consistently from 9.3% to 10.9%



As a result prisoner numbers have continued to rise – now to record levels

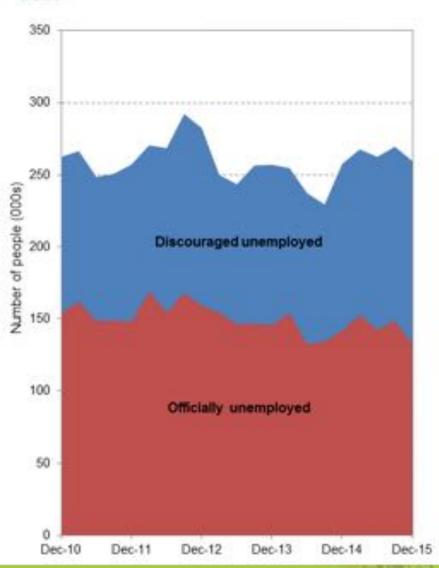
In July 2015 the average monthly prisoner population exceeded 8,900 for the first time ever



Despite the extra budgets & rhetoric, recidivism rates may be rising

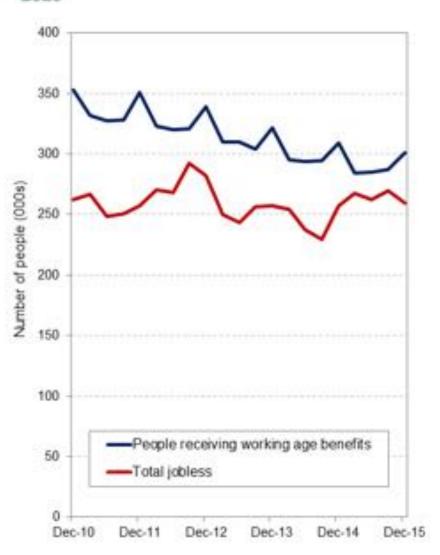
Between 2013/14 and 2014/1 the 12 month release-reconviction rate rose 2% to 43.7% and the 12 month release-re-imprisonment rate 2.2% to 28.1%





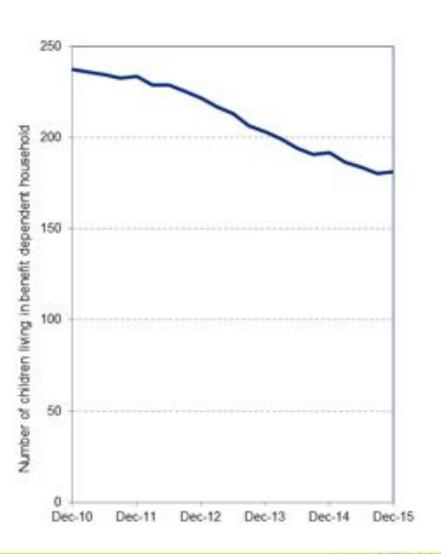
While job numbers have grown strongly over the past five years unemployment numbers have changed little

Consistently there have been around 150,000 people officially unemployed and a further 100,000 amongst the discouraged unemployed



Despite these consistent unemployment numbers the number of people on benefits has dropped in line with Government's tightening up access rules

Between 2010 and 2015 the number of people receiving working age benefits fell by 50,000 to 301,000 in December 2015



As benefit numbers have fallen so too have the numbers of children living in benefit dependent households

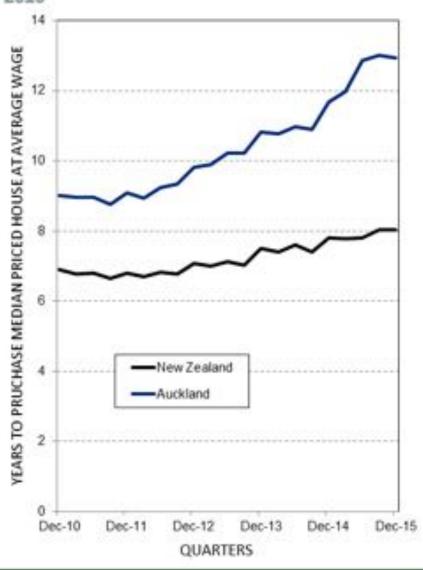
Between 2010 and 2015 the number of children in benefit dependent households dropped by 24% and by 55,000 to around 180,000



There has been no monitoring of how these changes have impacted on poor children and poor households so there is no evidence that the 100,000 people no longer on benefits are better or worse off

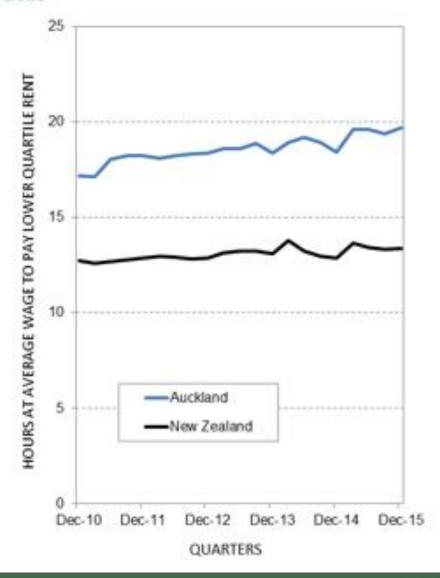
WORK & INCOMES





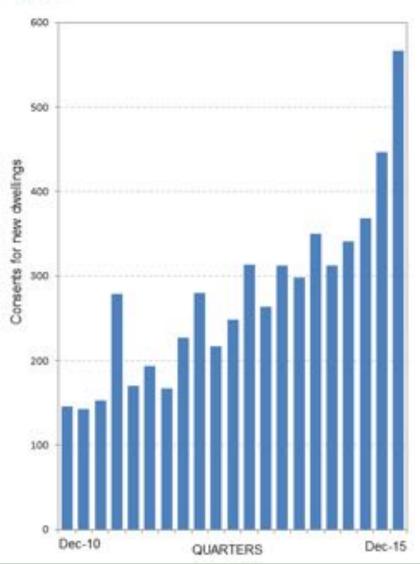
The new heights of unaffordability of Auckland housing have been well publicised

Toward the end of 2015 it took 12.9 years of years of the average wage to purchase a median priced Auckland house – in 2010 it was 9.0 years



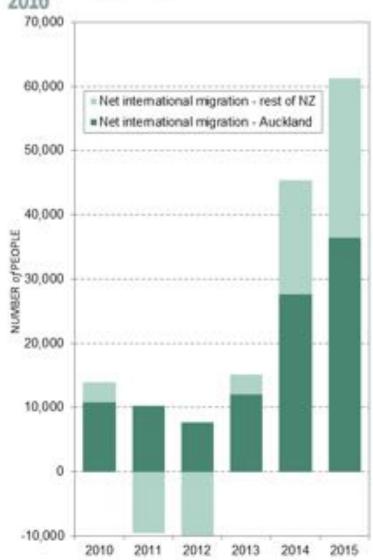
These house value increases have eventually translated into higher rents in Auckland

At the end of 2015 it took a low paid worker receiving the average hourly services sector wage almost 20 hours at this gross wage to pay rent on a modest 2 bedroom house – five years previously it took 17 hours



There are signs that the excess demand in Auckland's housing market is shifting to other regions such as the northern Waikato and western Bay of Plenty

The number of consents for new dwellings in western Bay of Plenty rose 36% in 2015 to 1730



The main reason both for Auckland's house price inflation and more recent spreading of this pressure is international migration

Over the 12 months to September 2015 net international migration into New Zealand was over 61,000 of which almost 60% was into Auckland





Things to celebrate

- Falling teenage pregnancy rates
- Declining numbers of infant deaths
- Falling rates of youth offending
- Lower levels of violent offending
- Continuing job growth
- Continuing income growth



Things of concern

- Misuse of public service targets by Government agencies
- Lack of progress on reducing child poverty
- Absence of monitoring of effects of welfare policy changes
- The possible contagion of Auckland's housing bubble