

# What is the scale of vulnerable transience in New Zealand?

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Research conducted by New Zealand Work Research Institute, Auckland  
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# Background

- Research was commissioned by former Minister of Finance (Rt Hon Bill English) through the Ministerial Social Sector Research Fund, which is managed by Superu
- Motivation:
  - Evidence that transience can lead to poor outcomes (eg education and health)
  - Government services can be hard to deliver to people who frequently change their address
- First step is to measure the scale of the problem. How many people are transient and, in particular, vulnerable transient?
  - Improvements in linked data has made this possible

# Disclaimer

The results in this report are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) managed by Statistics NZ. The opinions, findings, recommendations and conclusions expressed in this report are those of the authors, not Statistics NZ.

Access to the anonymised data used in this study was provided by Statistics NZ in accordance with security and confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. Only people authorised by the Statistics Act 1975 are allowed to see data about a particular person, household, business or organisation, and the results in this report have been confidentialised to protect these groups from identification.

Careful consideration has been given to the privacy, security and confidentiality issues associated with using administrative and survey data in the IDI. Further detail can be found in the privacy impact assessment for the Integrated Data Infrastructure, available from [www.stats.gov.nz](http://www.stats.gov.nz)

# Outline

- What is vulnerable transience?
- Data sources
- Measurement used in the research
- Results
  - How many people are vulnerable transient in New Zealand?
  - Who are they?
  - Who is at risk of being vulnerable transient?

# Defining vulnerable transience

- Superu defined transience (for this project) as:
  - *“Repeated disruption of key social support mechanisms (including residence) which is associated with negative impacts on social, education and/or employment outcomes”*
- Transient
  - Temporary / short-lived
  - No accepted definition in the social policy literature
  - It depends on the question!
- Vulnerable transient
  - Moves that lead to worse outcomes

Transient	Vulnerable transient
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low movement</li><li>• People who move once in a given period</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voluntary moves to better homes and neighbourhoods</li><li>• Moves can be timed to reduce disruption to lives (eg starting school at the beginning of the school year)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High movement</li><li>• People who move frequently in a given period</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involuntary moves to worse housing and neighbourhoods</li><li>• Unable to control timing, which leads to disruption to lives (eg starting school during the school year)</li></ul>

# Data sources

Data sources	Advantages	Disadvantages
Census	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surveys all New Zealanders</li><li>• Collects other information socio-economic information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cannot measure frequent movement</li><li>• Lacks measures of involuntary movement (cross-section data)</li></ul>
Administration data (IDI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can measure frequent movement</li><li>• May contain measures of involuntary movement (longitudinal data)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excludes people who do not receive government services</li><li>• Address changes may not be captured</li></ul>

# Vulnerable transience measure

Non-movers	Low/medium movement <i>(1-2 times in 3 years)</i>	High movement <i>(3+ times in three years)</i>
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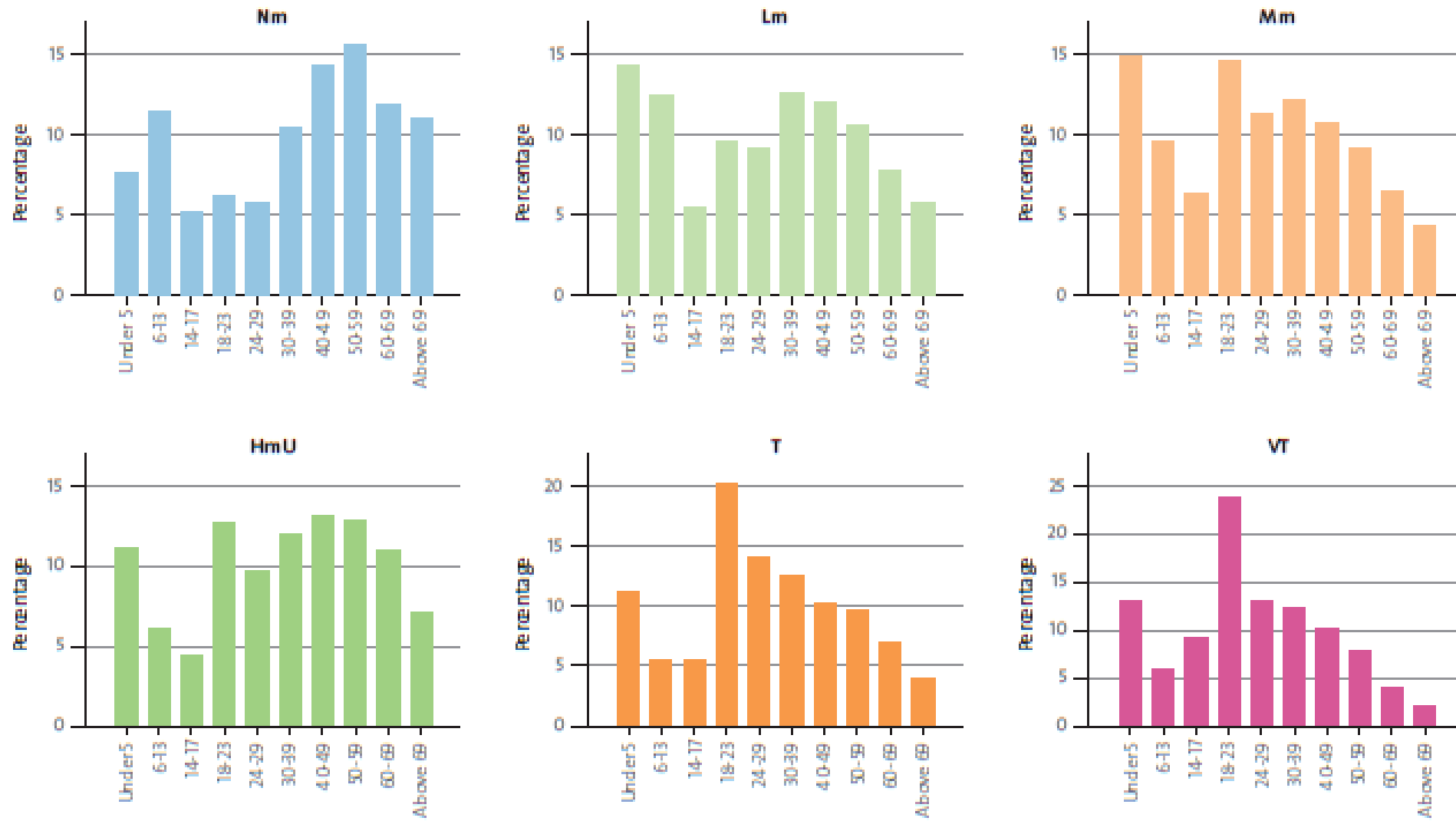
High movement groups	
High movement (upward)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Move to <u>Less</u> deprived neighbourhood</li><li>• Moved within <u>Least</u> deprived neighbourhood</li></ul>
Transient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Move to a worse deprived neighbourhood (<u>Middle</u>)</li><li>• Moved within a <u>Middle</u> deprived neighbourhood</li></ul>
Vulnerable transient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Move to a worse deprived neighbourhood (<u>Most</u>)</li><li>• Moved within a <u>Most</u> deprived neighbourhood</li></ul>



# What is the scale of vulnerable transience in New Zealand?

Population subgroups		Proportion of population sample
Nm	Non-movers	70.2%
Lm	Low movement	16.9%
Mm	Medium movement	7.3%
HmU	High movement (upward)	0.3%
T	Transient	1.3%
VT	Vulnerable transient	4.0%
Population sample size		3,857,433

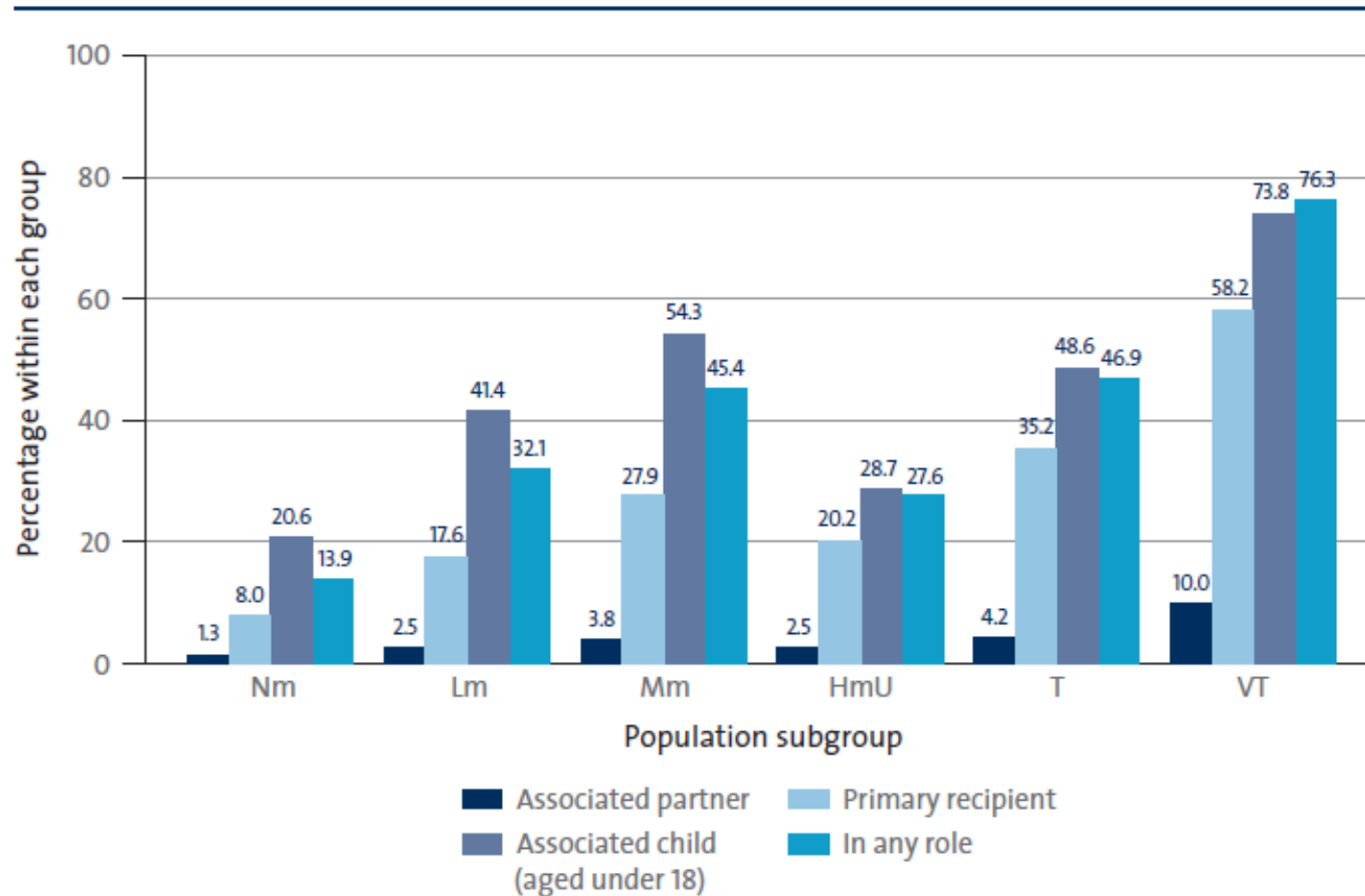
Figure 6 \_ Age distribution for each population subgroup



Notes: Nm = non-movers; Lm = low movement; Mm = medium movement; HmU = high movement (upward); T = transient; and VT = vulnerable transient (as those terms are defined in Section 3.4). Data sourced from the address table and the personal details tables in the IDI.

# 75 percent of vulnerable transient people receive a benefit

Figure 8 \_ Proportion within each population subgroup on benefit



Receiving welfare support and court charges are associated with being vulnerable transient in the future

High movement	Vulnerable transient
	Benefit
	WFF
	Court charges
Mental health	Mental health
ED visit	ED visit

# Summary

- Around 200,000 people moved 3 times or more over a three year period
  - Most of them (80 percent) are vulnerable transient
- 75 percent of vulnerable transient people received a benefit during the reference period
  - What is the impact of transience on delivering these services (individual and service provider)?
- Receiving welfare support is associated with being vulnerable transient in the future
  - Can government services be used to reduce the amount of movement occurring?

# Research report

- <http://www.superu.govt.nz/publication/residential-movement-within-new-zealand-quantifying-and-characterising-transient>
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