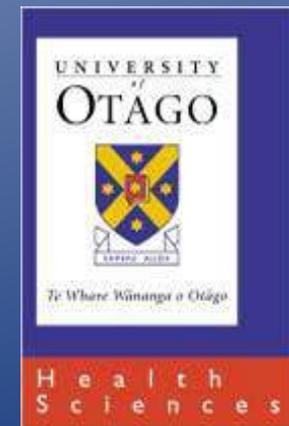


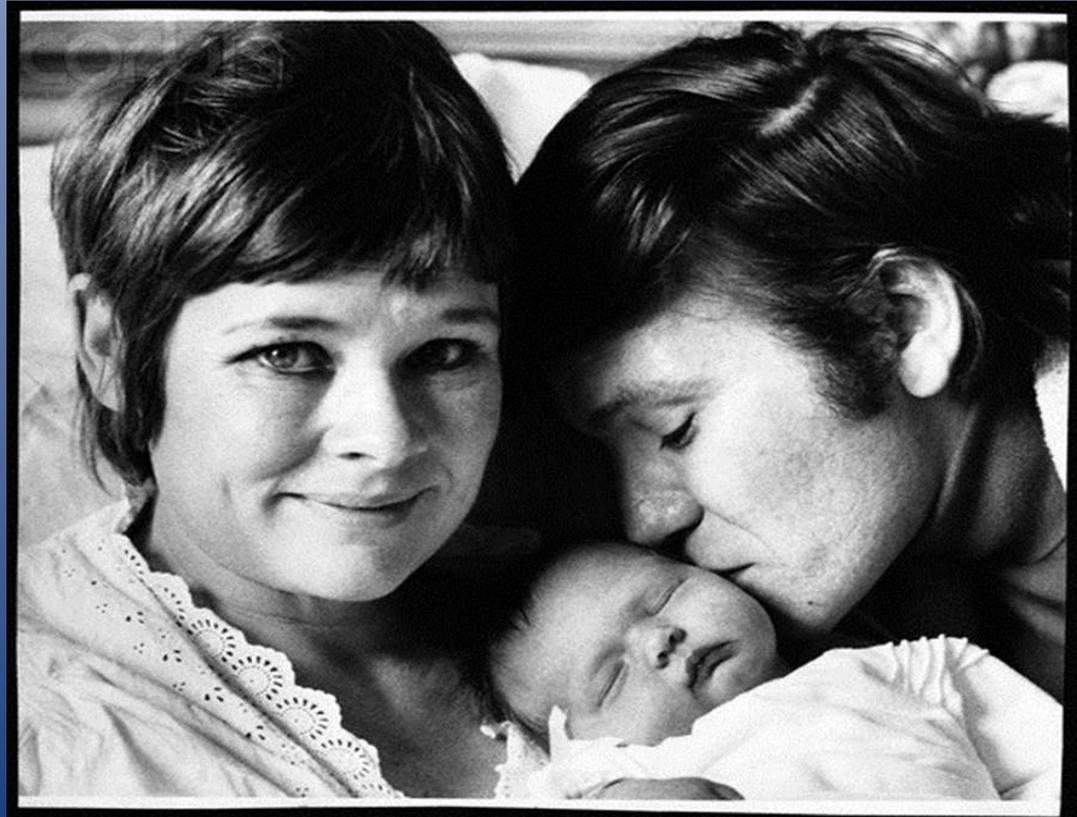
# The Complexity, diversity and dynamic nature of NZ children's family lives: Findings from the Next Generation Study of the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Research Unit

Judith Sligo

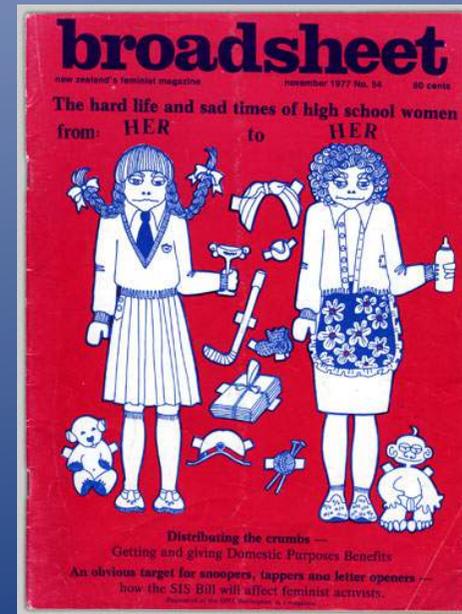
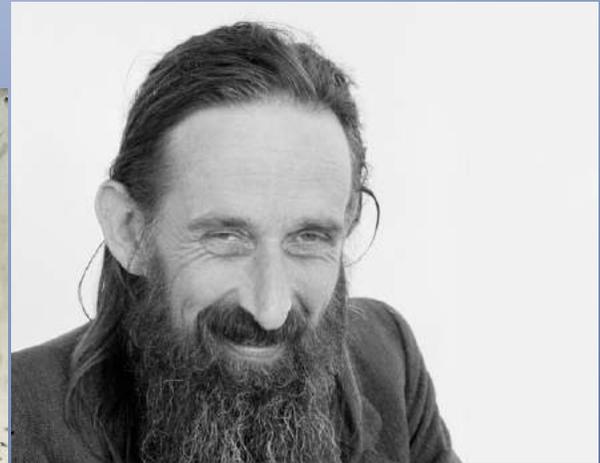


# The Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Research Study

- 1037 people born at Queen Mary Hospital in 1972 & 1973.

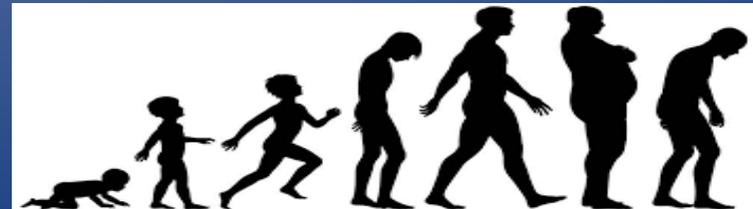


# 1972



# The Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Research Study

- Studied at birth (1972/3) Followed up and assessed at the age of three when the longitudinal study was established.
- Since then they have been assessed every two years until the age of 15, then at ages 18 (1990-91), 21 (1993-94), 26 (1998-99), 32 (2003-2005), and 38 (2010-2012). It is planned to next see the Study members at age 44/45.
- Interviewed/assessed on virtually every aspect of their lives. Participants guaranteed confidentiality.
- Consistently high retention: 94% of living participants participated in phase 38 in 2010 & 11.
- Over 1250 publications and reports from the Study.



# Where?



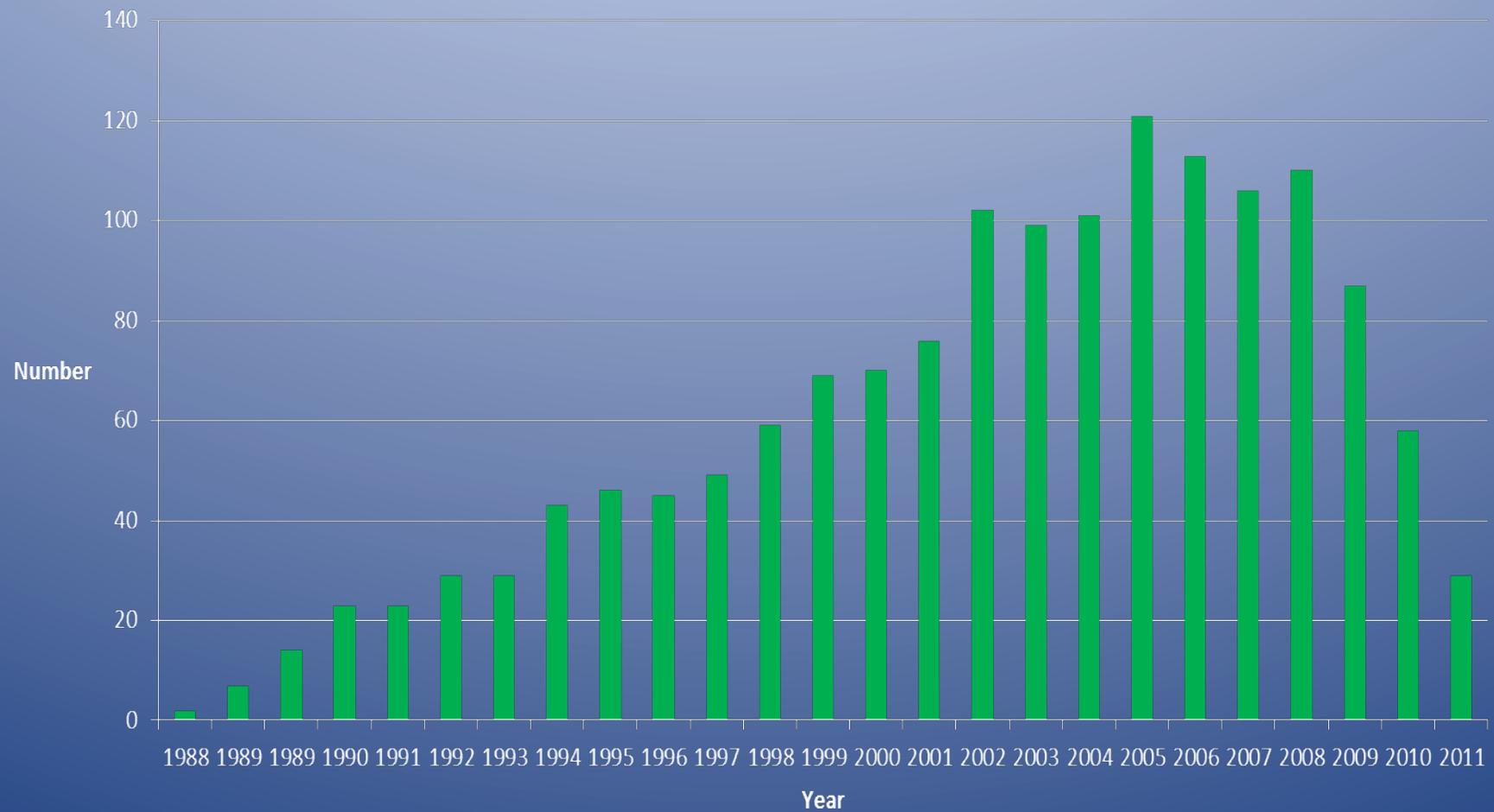
# Where?



## Some of the Research topics...

- Socio-economic inequalities - selection v causation
- Employment
- Personality continuities across the life-course
- Antisocial behaviour and criminality
- Long-term consequences of child abuse
- Maori health/cultural identity
- Mental health (including substance abuse)
- Self-harm/coping
- Intimate relationships and domestic violence
- Dental health
- Sexual & reproductive health
- Cardiovascular risk factors
- Cardiovascular reactivity
- Respiratory functioning and lung health
- Blood based studies (eg HPV, Herpes immunity, Cardiovascular disease risk factors)
- Genetic studies (eg Mental health, Asthma/allergy, Cardiovascular risk factors)
- **Intergenerational relations (Study members, their parents & their children)**

## Number of Children born to Dunedin Study Members by Year



# The Next Generation Study

- One-off assessment with each of the Dunedin Study members' teenage children and stepchildren.
- Replicates Dunedin Study 'Phase 15' with some updating and new research methodologies.
- Both parents are interviewed: primary caregiver accompanies teen and 'other' parent has a phone interview.



# What do we ask the teens about?

## Replicated from Phase 15

- Physical and mental health
- Relationships with parents and peers
- Ethnicity
- Physical activity, fitness & body image
- Physical measures
- Dental health
- Experiences of School
- Hopes and worries for the future
- Smoking, alcohol & drug use
- Self esteem

## New

- Bullying
- Sexual and Reproductive health
- Self harm
- Technology use
- Discrimination
- Gambling
- Spiritual health
- Life History

# Parental Interview

## Dunedin Study member

- Teen Life History
- Teen behaviour questionnaire
- Parent-child relationship questionnaire
- Teen Strengths
- Teen's lifelong health interview

## Not Dunedin Study member

- All of DSM assessments
- Their own....
- Ethnicity
- Education, work & income
- Mental health
- Physical Health
- Drug and alcohol use

# Where?



# Physical Health Measures



# Physical Activity Assessment



And lots of questions...






**DMHDRU**  
**NEXT GENERATION STUDY**  
**Consent Form**  
*for parent who is a Dunedin Study member*

I confirm that:

- I have read the Information Sheet about the Study.
- I understand that participation in this Study is entirely voluntary and that I may withdraw from the Study at any time.
- I understand that I may refuse to answer any questions at any time.
- I understand that my participation in this Study is confidential and that no material that could identify me will be used in any reports on the Study.
- I understand that all the information obtained in the interview for this Study will be treated as strictly confidential to members of the research team.
- I have had an opportunity to discuss the Study and to ask questions which have been answered to my satisfaction.
- I agree to take part in the Dunedin Next Generation Study.
- I will be paid \$40 for taking part in the Study.

Your full name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Today's date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Researcher's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Professor Richie Poulton      Associate Professor Bob Hancock      Ms Judith Sligo  
 Director                              Principal Investigator                      Project Manager

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 0800 479 8508 (Freephone NZ)    +64 3 479 8508 (Collect Overseas)  
 Email: dmhdru@otago.ac.nz

*A copy of this consent form will be given to you*

SM Parent\_Consent V2

**NEXT GENERATION STUDY**  
**15-YEAR-OLD QUESTIONNAIRES**  
**SESSION 1**

**NEXT GENERATION STUDY**  
**15-YEAR-OLD QUESTIONNAIRES**  
**SESSION 2**

SNLM \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Next Generation Schedule**

Time allocated	Interview (15 Year olds)	Time allowed	Interview (Parents)	Time taken
9.00-9.05	Welcome/consent	5 minutes	Welcome/consent	
9.05-10.30	LIFE Relationships W.A.S.I.	30 minutes 10 minutes 45 minutes	LIFE Parent questionnaire	Booked
10.30-10.40	Morning tea	10 minutes	Morning tea	
10.40-11.40	Ethnicity Religion / Spirituality Physical measures Bike fitness test Physical activities Transport	60 minutes		
11.40-12.30	DISC	45 minutes	Post	
12.30-1.00	Lunch	30 minutes		
1.00-2.00	Blood pressure Physical health Diet Respiratory Allergy test Spirometry School and future Paid/unpaid work Finances Worries Strengths	60 minutes		Not
2.00-2.15	Dental	15 minutes		
2.15-2.55pm	Self-admin computer questionnaire	40 minutes		
2.55-3pm	Evaluation and payment	5 minutes		





# Interviewers enter information on a database





## The dynamic, complex and diverse living and care arrangements of young New Zealanders: implications for policy

JL Sligo, HM McAnally, JE Tansley, JM Baxter, AE Bolton, KM Skillander & RJ Hancox

To cite this article: JL Sligo, HM McAnally, JE Tansley, JM Baxter, AE Bolton, KM Skillander & RJ Hancox (2016): The dynamic, complex and diverse living and care arrangements of young New Zealanders: implications for policy, Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online, DOI: 10.1080/1177083X.2016.1196715

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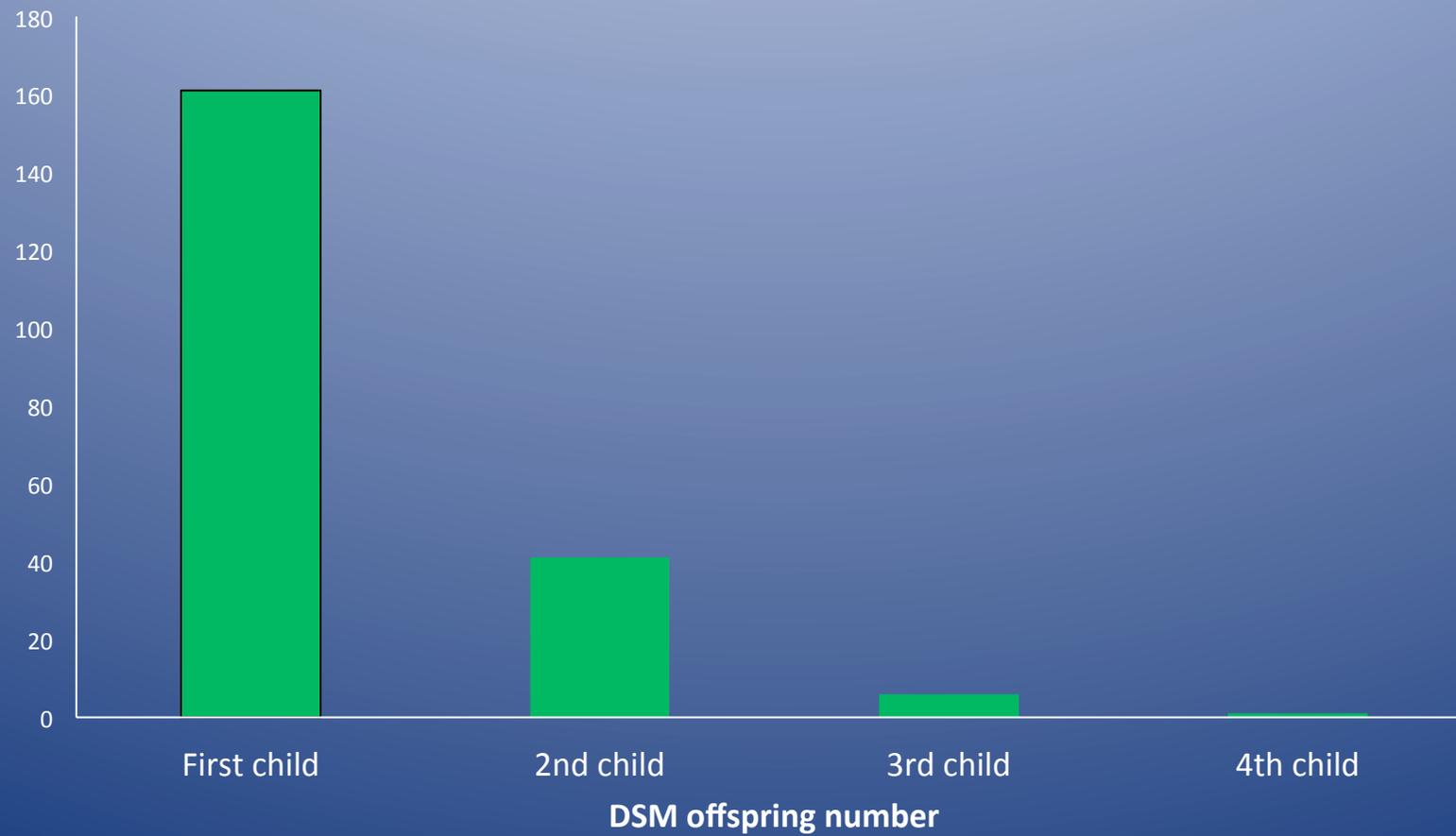
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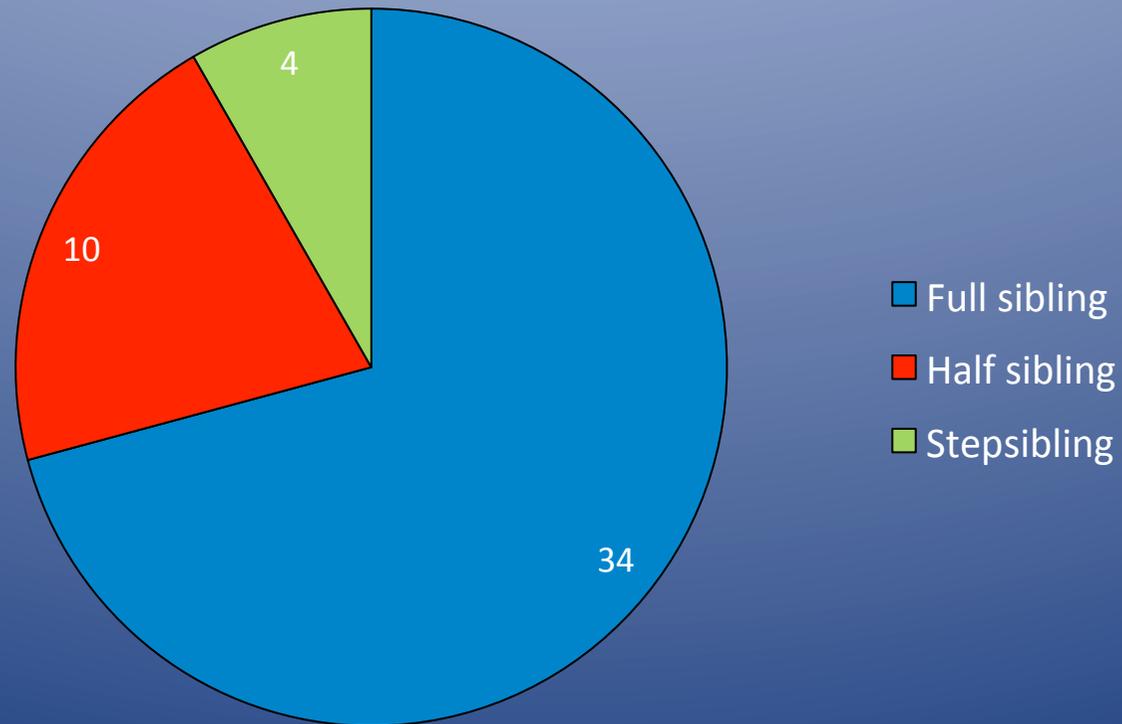
# The first 209 Next Generation Study Participants

- The first 180 months of life (birth to age 15) for the first 209 Next Generation Study participants.
- Born between 1991 and 1995.
- Forty eight percent (101/209) female.
- At the time of their assessment 180 of the participants were living in New Zealand, 27 in Australia and two in other countries.
- 184 (88%) identified as New Zealand European/Pākeha and 47 (22%) as Māori. A range of other ethnicities was reported by 28 participants. Just over one third (36%) were of Māori descent. (NZ census question re ethnicity)

## Participant's place in DSM's family



# Relationship of subsequent child/ren to first NG participant



# Parent Participants

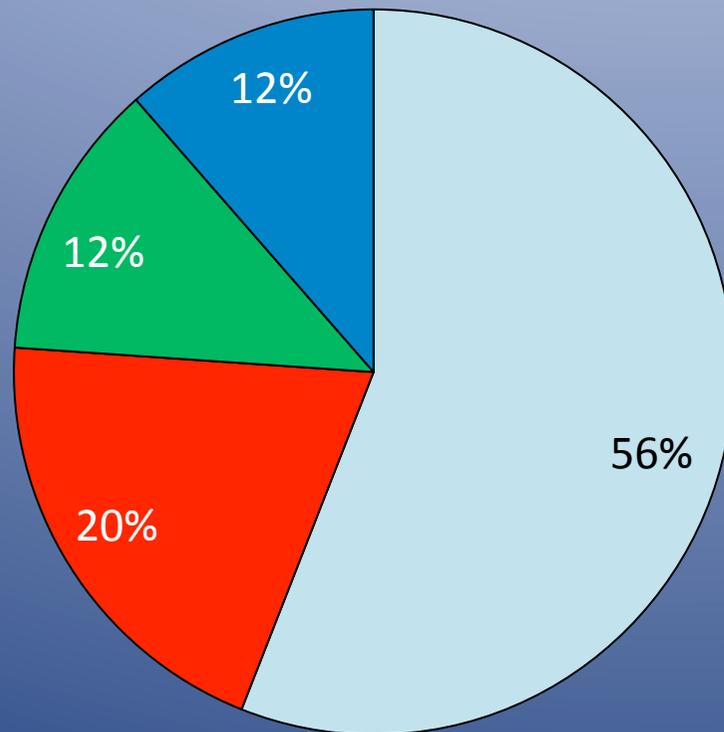
- 187 Primary caregiver parents female (184 biological mums); 22 male (17 biological dads).
- 61% PCPs were Dunedin Study members.
- The average age of DSM at birth of child = 22
- Range of age of biological mothers of the teen participants ranged from was 16.3 to 32.6.  
(Only one parent is DSM born in 1972/3)

# Results

- Length of time living with biological parents
- Care arrangements for children
- Change in care arrangements
- Cohabitants
- Change of address



# Living with parents



- Lived with both parents for less than 180 months
- Lived in a two parent household for 180 months
- Lived with both parents for 180 months (multiple households)
- Never lived with Father

# Parental care arrangements

- *Category 1: Two parent household:* Children live in a household with both biological parents.
- *Category 2: Shared care arrangements:* Parents live in different households but each has at least 35% care.
- *Category 3: Primary Care:* Children have a primary parental carer and less than 35% of the time with their other parent.
- *Category 4: Sole Parent Care:* Children have no contact with one of their biological parents.
- *Category 5: No Parental Care:* Less than 35% contact with both biological parents.
- *Category 6: Changing Care:* Those who change living and care arrangements during the course of a year (e.g., due to parental separation or reconciliation).

(Based on modified version of Smyth, BM, Caruana, C, Ferro, A. 2004. Father-child contact after separation: Profiling five different patterns of care. *Family Matters* 67: 20. )

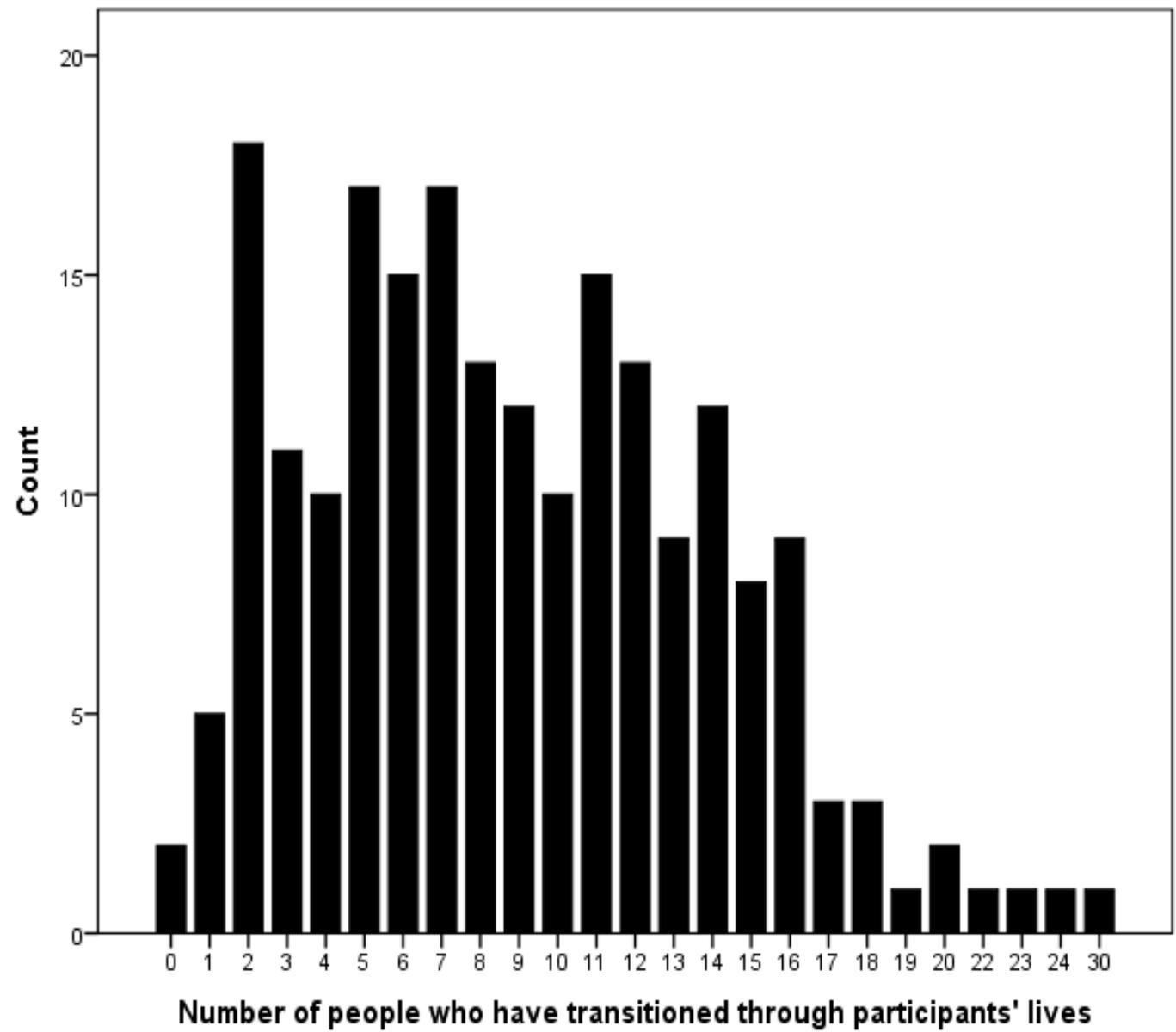
Age	Category 1 Two Parent Household		Category 2 Shared Care		Category 3 Primary Care		Category 4 Sole Parent Care		Category 5 No Parental Care		Category 6 Changing Care	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Birth -1 year	132	63.16	1	0.48	6	2.87	38	18.18	0	0.00	32	15.31
1-2 years	122	58.37	2	0.96	12	5.74	51	24.04	0	0.00	22	10.53
2-3 years	104	49.76	2	0.96	19	9.09	60	28.71	0	0.00	24	11.48
3-4 years	101	48.33	6	2.87	19	9.09	61	29.19	4	1.91	18	8.61
4-5 years	100	47.85	5	2.39	25	11.96	66	31.58	2	0.96	11	5.26
5-6 years	89	42.58	6	2.87	32	15.31	69	33.01	0	0.00	13	6.22
6-7 years	84	40.19	7	3.35	34	16.27	70	33.49	1	0.48	13	6.22
7-8 years	81	38.76	8	3.83	38	18.18	68	32.54	2	0.96	12	5.74
8-9 years	73	34.93	10	4.78	38	18.18	71	33.97	3	1.44	14	6.70
9-10 years	72	34.45	12	5.74	43	20.57	73	34.93	2	0.96	7	3.35
10-11 years	67	32.06	12	5.74	42	20.10	77	36.84	3	1.44	8	3.83
11-12 years	64	30.62	17	8.13	43	20.57	72	34.45	4	1.91	9	4.31
12-13 years	61	29.19	17	8.13	43	20.57	69	33.01	6	2.87	13	6.22
13-14 years	57	27.27	17	8.13	37	17.70	72	34.45	6	2.87	20	9.57
14-15 years	54	25.84	15	7.18	37	17.70	71	33.97	8	3.83	24	11.48

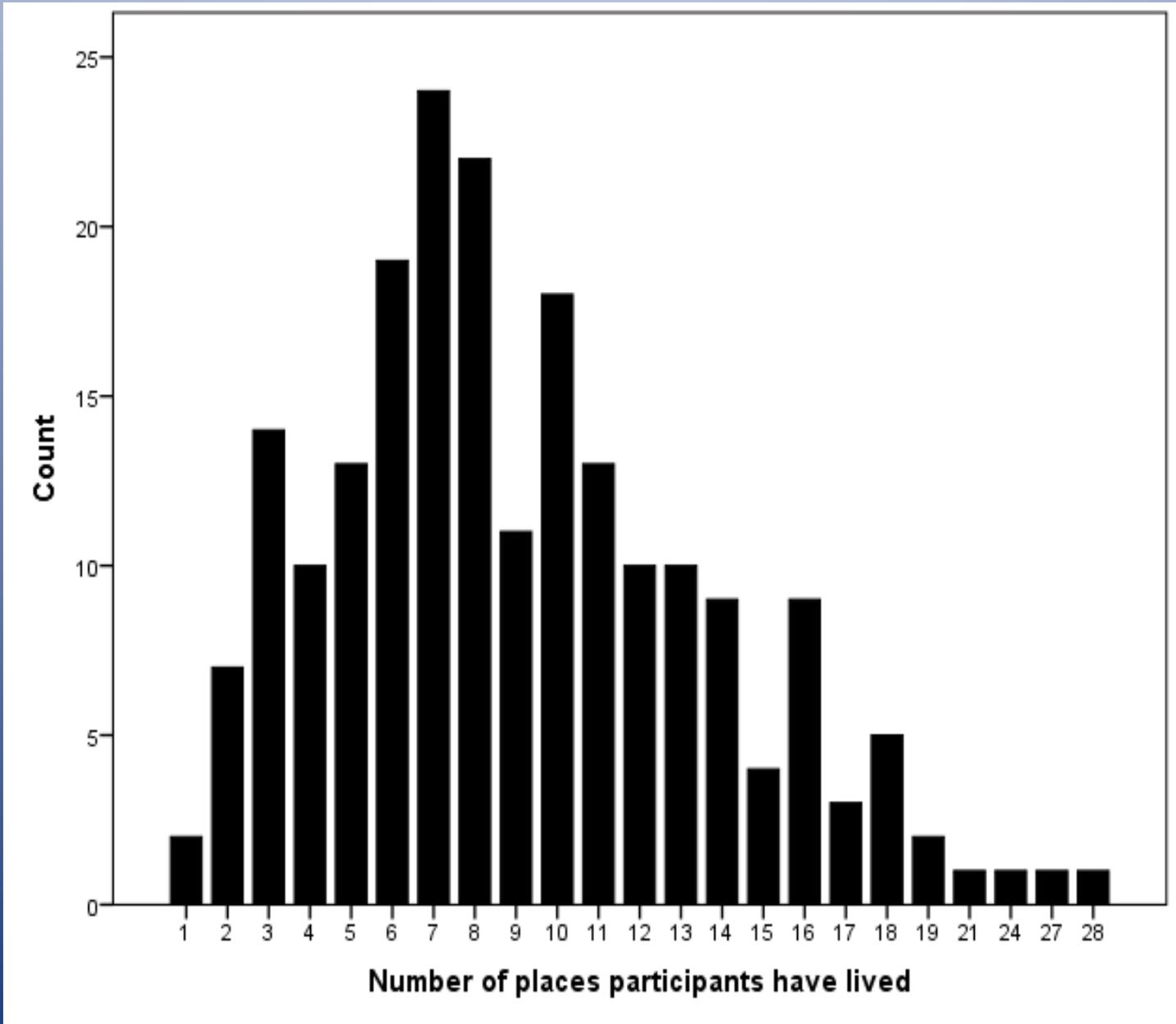
# Frequency of change to care arrangement

	Number of year by year changes to care arrangement*	Number of children experiencing change in each year	Percentage of cohort experiencing change in each year
	0	55	26%
	1	36	17%
	2	39	19%
	3	28	13%
	4	23	11%
	5	14	7%
	6	3	1%
	7	6	3%
	8	5	2%
<b>Total</b>		<b>209</b>	

\*This only includes changes from one year to the next. Changes within a year are not included.

Relationship Type	N	Months sharing a house		
		Median	Range	
			Lowest	Highest
Biological Mother	209	180	30	180
Biological Father	185	168	1	180
Stepmother	98	36	2	150
Stepfather	168	53.5	2	162
Foster Mother	4	13.5	2	99
Foster Father	3	24	2	99
Adoptive Parents	2	159	144	174
Biological Sibling	205	144	6	180
Half-sibling	215	78	1	180
Stepsibling	129	36	1	144
Foster Sibling	17	24	2	72
Whāngai	4	30.5	2	35
Grandmother	135	12	1	179
Grandfather	103	8	1	179
Aunt	64	12	2	179
Uncle	82	12	1	114
Cousin	70	11.5	1	179
Other Relative	28	8	2	50
Flatmate/Housemate	141	12	1	95
Boarder	33	12	2	60
Friend	97	6	1	87
Other Non-Relative (e.g. friend's)				





## But, it's actually probably more complex:

- Shared care arrangements remained consistently low, perhaps in part because of Smyth and others' (2004) 35% care criterion for allocation into this group. Many parents have a significant role in their children's lives despite a smaller proportion of time spent together
- We categorised changes in caregiver relationships over yearly intervals meaning that changes *within* years were missed.
- The analyses relied on parental recall over 15 years, which may have been incomplete.
- We also only analysed residential relationships, excluding meaningful non-residential relationships.
- Nor do we report other features of family diversity recorded in the data, such as same-sex parent families and couples living 'apart together'.

## Is this indicative of New Zealand society?

- Census data is not able to capture complexity and is a 'snapshot' so difficult to compare.
- Statistics NZ's most recent report on children in NZ stated that 23.6% of children live in sole parent families. Our data suggests that most parents re-partner and that family life is 'fluid' with some people experiencing lots of change.

# So?

- Many policies and interventions are still predicated on an underlying assumption of stability: may not be meeting children's needs
- Organisations working with children and families (schools, medical services, agencies etc) may interact with them based on an erroneous concept of 'family'
- Better methods of recording and analysing the reality of children's and family lives are required
- Outcomes for children: vary according to circumstances

# Acknowledgements

The Next Generation Study was developed and piloted with funding from a Dunedin School of Medicine Distinguished Researcher Award to Prof. Richie Poulton and a grant from the James Hume Bequest Fund. The study is funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand. We thank the Dunedin and Next Generation Study members and their families and friends, for their participation and on-going support.