

# Segmenting the needs of young New Zealanders

## A preliminary data exploration

July 2024

### Disclaimer:

These results are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) which is carefully managed by Stats NZ. For more information about the IDI please visit <https://www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data>.

The results are based in part on tax data supplied by Inland Revenue to Stats NZ under the Tax Administration Act 1994 for statistical purposes. Any discussion of data limitations or weaknesses is in the context of using the IDI for statistical purposes, and is not related to the data's ability to support Inland Revenue's core operational requirements.

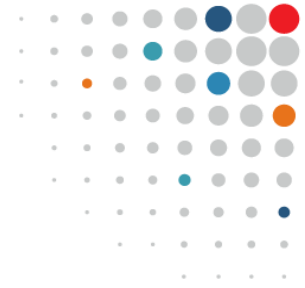
Access to the data used in this study was provided by Stats NZ under conditions designed to give effect to the security and confidentiality provisions of the Data and Statistics Act 2022. The results presented in this study are the work of the author, not Stats NZ or individual data suppliers.



**Social Investment Agency**  
Toi Hau Tāngata

**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government





# The IDI can identify the small group of the population who have the highest needs

## We used the IDI to track 10 social outcomes for 22 year olds in 2022:



No school qualification  
Non-enrolment in school before age 16



Receiving jobseeker benefit  
Receiving special needs/food grant



Admitted to ED 3+ times in last 5 years  
Ever had serious mental health referral



Ever been in emergency or social housing  
Ever any evidence of homelessness



Ever been charged with violent offence  
Ever been victim of violence

### Moderate to high needs

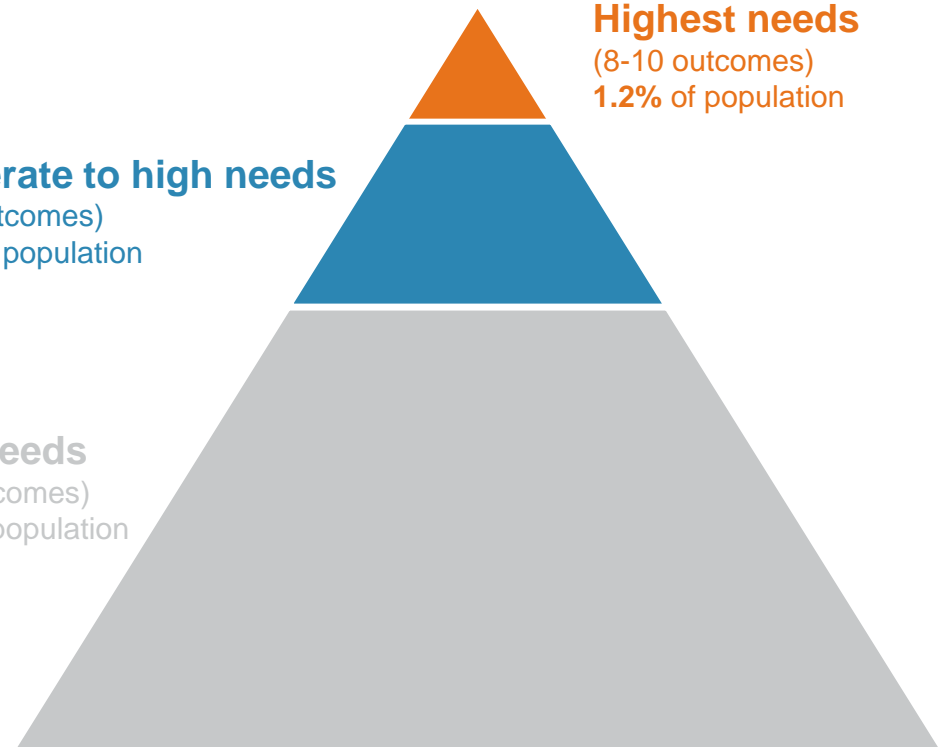
(4-7 outcomes)  
11% of population

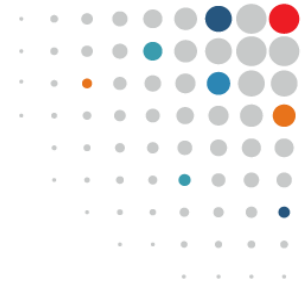
### Low needs

(0-3 outcomes)  
88% of population

### Highest needs

(8-10 outcomes)  
1.2% of population

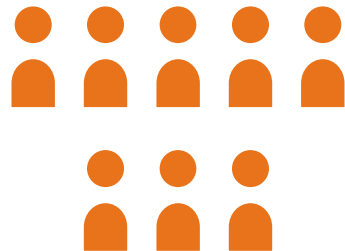




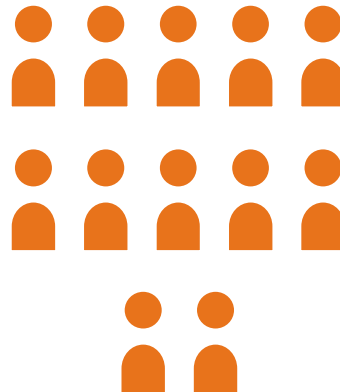
# The proportion of the population with the highest needs has grown in the last five years

Out of 1,000 22 year olds:

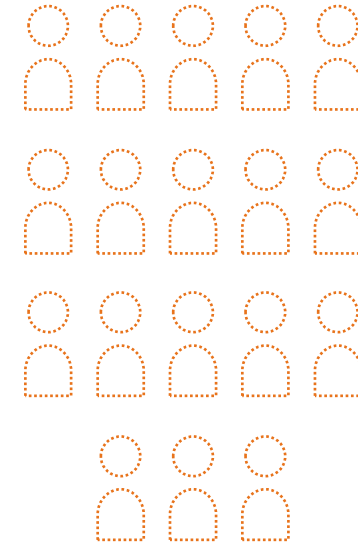
**8** had **highest needs**  
in 2017

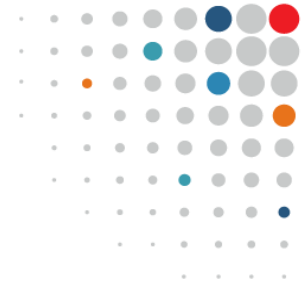


**12** had **highest needs**  
in 2022



**?** will have **highest needs**  
in 2027





# The highest needs group is disproportionately Māori

**74%**

of the 22 year olds in the highest needs group are Māori.

**6.6x**

How much more likely Māori are to be in the highest needs group than non-Māori.

For Māori, too, needs are increasing:

In 2017,

**1.6%**

of Māori 22 year olds were in the highest need group.

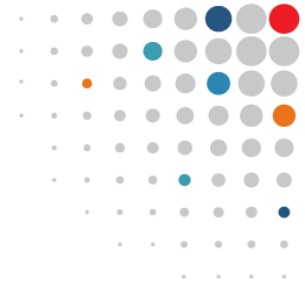


By 2022,

**2.8%**

of Māori were in this group

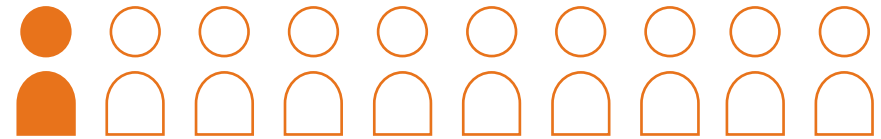
**Note:** Pacific 22 year olds had about the same level of needs using this metric as the rest of the population. However, some of our chosen outcomes may particularly understate needs for Pacific people – for example, Māori and Pacific people report about the same level of mental distress, but there is substantial evidence of greater unmet need in the health system for Pacific people..



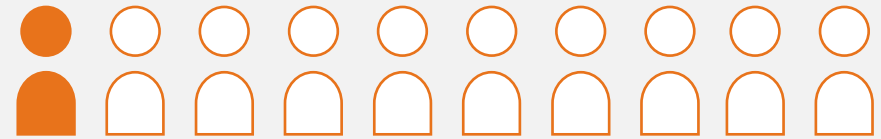
# Being in the highest needs group predicts much worse future experiences

**We tracked the future outcomes of the 22 year olds in 2017. By age 27, for every 10 people with the highest needs:**

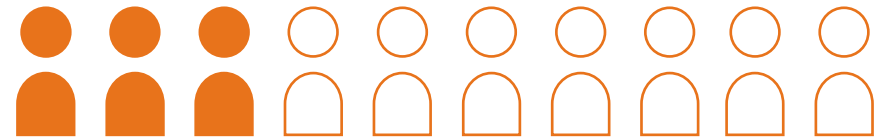
**About 1** had been hospitalised for **attempted suicide**  
(5.5x the rate of the low needs group)



**1** had a child placed with **Oranga Tamariki**  
(116x the rate of the low needs group)



**3** had served a **prison sentence**  
(69x the rate of the low needs group)

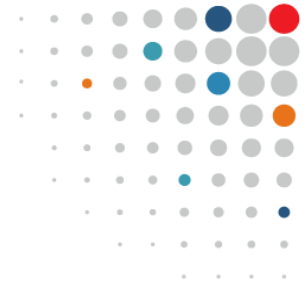


**7** had been a victim of **family violence**  
(22x the rate of the low needs group)




**8** had at least one of these outcomes: Died, had a child die, had a child in OT placement, served a prison sentence and/or was a victim of family violence.  
(20x the rate of the low needs group)








# Those with toxic exposures before birth are at far greater risk

**We repeated the analysis for a group of young people who were exposed to the following in utero:**

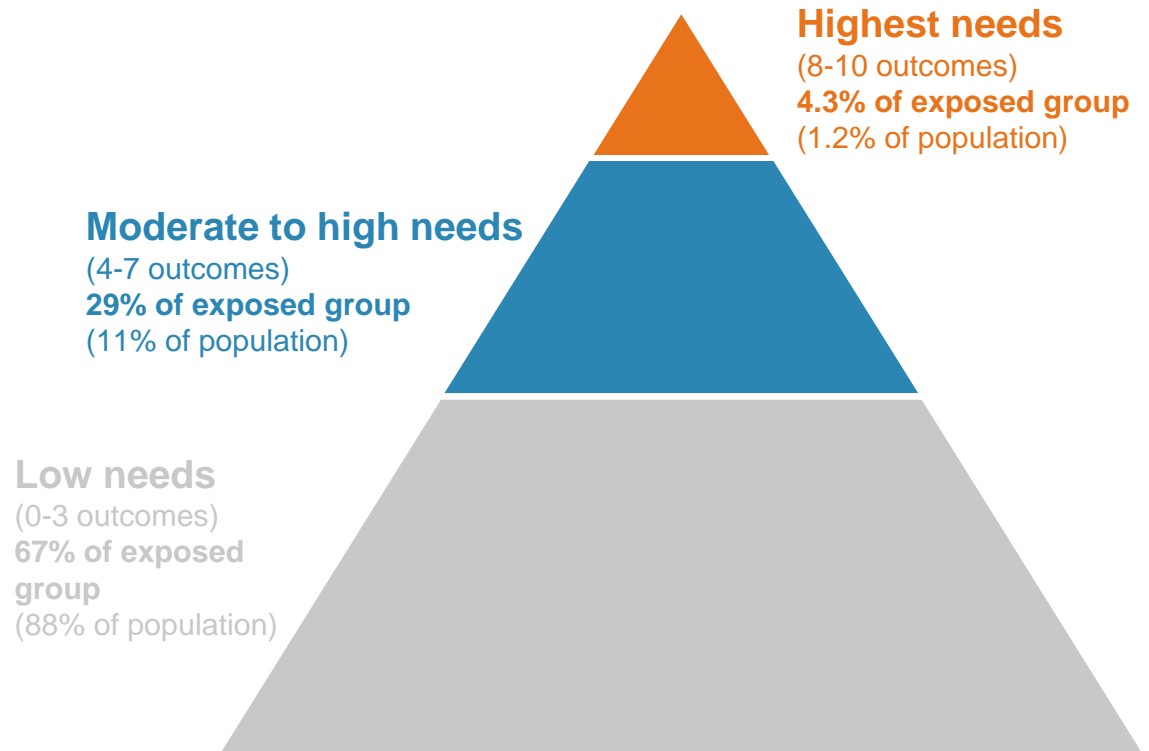
 Alcohol (mother had evidence of treatment for alcohol dependence during pregnancy)

 Drugs (mother had evidence of treatment for drug use during pregnancy)

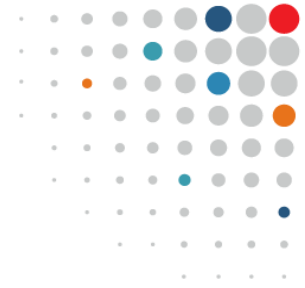
 Tobacco (mother reported being a current smoker in midwife check-ups)

 Violence (father was charged with a family violence incident during pregnancy)

This identified a group of 6,051 children (11% of the 22 year olds we examined).



**Note:** Our ability to identify these exposures in administrative data is now much better than it was 22 years ago, so the size of this group does not reflect the current prevalence of exposure.



# Three quarters of those with the highest needs have parents with moderate, high or very high needs

75% of 22 year olds with the highest needs have a parent with either moderate, high or very high needs themselves.

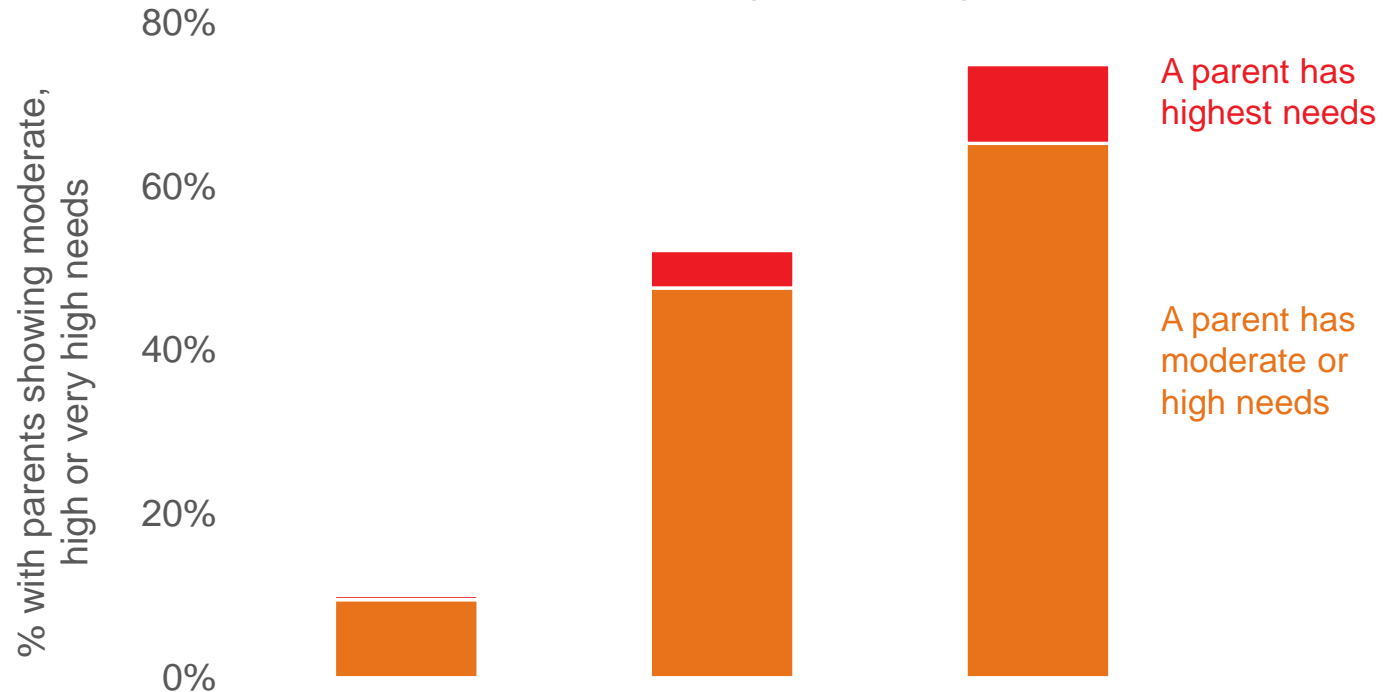
89% of 22 year olds with the highest needs have siblings, and 45% have more than three siblings.

By age 22, 52% of the people with the highest needs already have children.

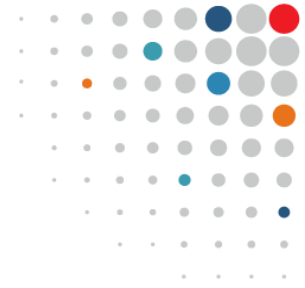
**Need is intergenerational.**

## Of the 22 year olds who have...

Low needs    Moderate/high needs    Highest needs



**Note:** Parents are identified on the basis of birth certificate. Siblings are identified based on the number of children (subtracting one) born to the young person's mother. Graph excludes a small number of young people whose parents could not be identified.



# Mental health affects everyone with the highest needs, but a lot of people with lower needs, too

14k of 22 year olds have serious mental health referrals

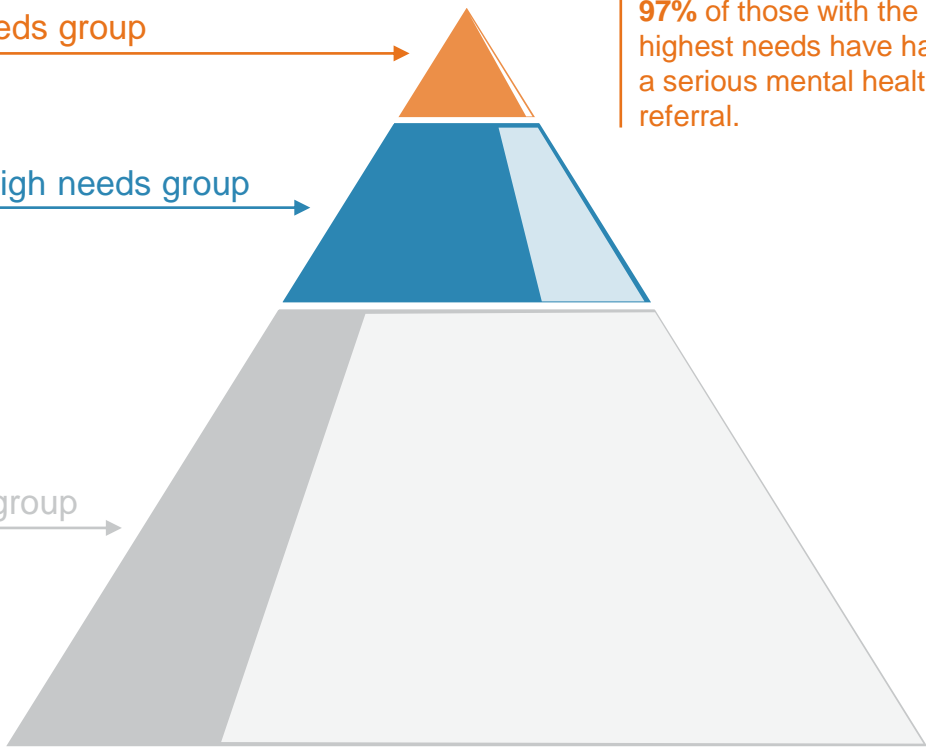
4.3% are in the highest needs group

32% are in the moderate/high needs group

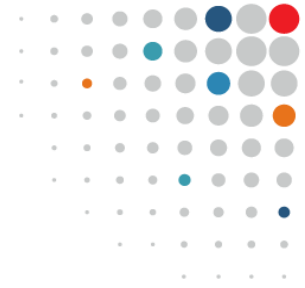
64% are in the low needs group

97% of those with the highest needs have had a serious mental health referral.

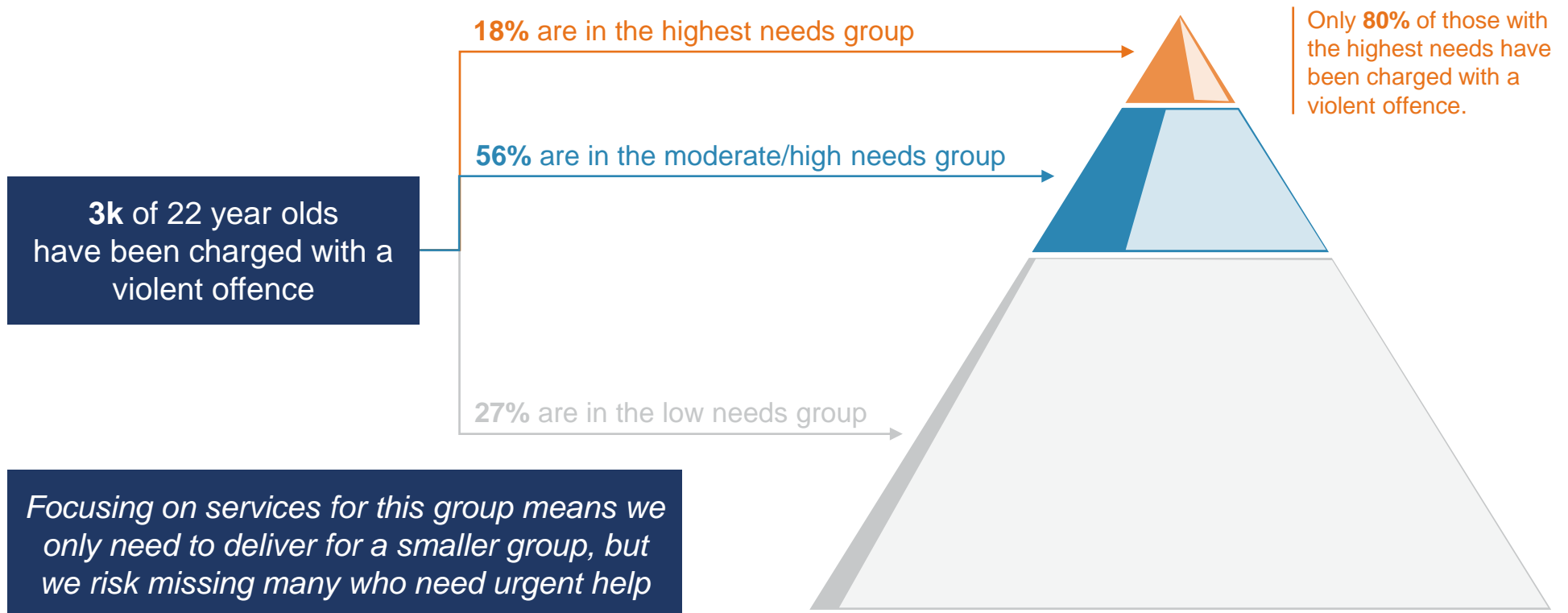
*Focusing on services for this group means reaching a large group of people, including those with lower overall needs who might not need help*

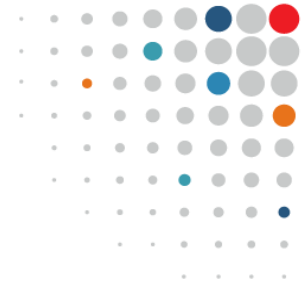




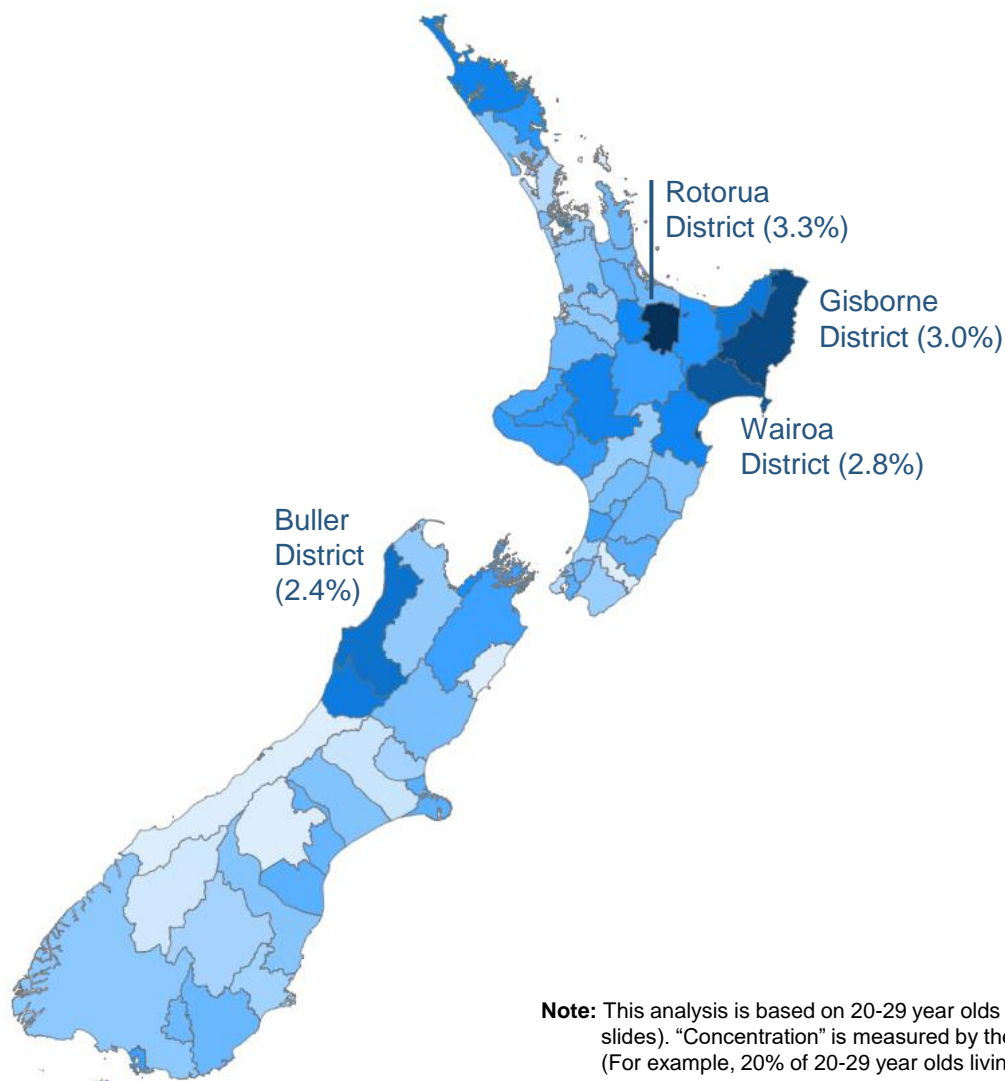


In contrast, violent offenders are a more targeted group, but miss some with the highest needs





The highest needs are concentrated in some areas, where targeting services will be most effective



## Suburbs with the highest concentration of need

Suburb	Region	% highest needs
Rotorua Central	Rotorua	20%
Wiri West	Manukau	16%
Westshore	Napier	11%
Ōtāhuhu Central	Auckland	10%
Pyes Pa East	Tauranga	10%
Kirikiroa	Hamilton	9%
Otangarei	Whangarei	8%
Ahuriri	Napier	8%
Victoria	Rotorua	8%
Fordlands	Rotorua	7%
Kuirau	Rotorua	7%
Napier Central	Napier	7%
Outer Kaiti	Gisborne	7%
Onekawa East	Napier	6%
Camberley	Hastings	6%

**Note:** This analysis is based on 20-29 year olds in 2022, measuring need using the same definition (8-10 of the indicators listed on previous slides). "Concentration" is measured by the proportion of 20-29 year olds living in the area who are classed in the highest need group. (For example, 20% of 20-29 year olds living in the Rotorua Central SA2 have at least 8 of the outcomes we examined.)