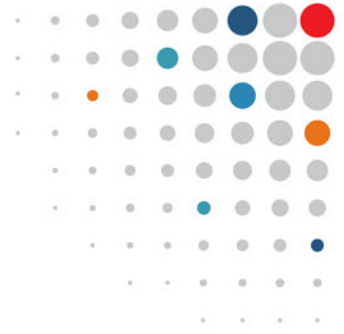




Social Investment Agency
Toi Hau Tāngata



7 August 2025

OIA-2526-007

9(2)(a)



Thank you for your email of 22 July 2025 to the Social Investment Agency (SIA) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I request a copy of the report called "Initial insights: ADHD in Aotearoa New Zealand". I also request any associated documents or briefings that might include relevant information not included in the final report (e.g. detailed methodology). This second part of the request can be ignored if the report itself is comprehensive.

Please find attached the May 2024 document titled *Initial Insights: ADHD in Aotearoa New Zealand – Using the IDI to understand outcomes and prevalence*.

In addition, you can find the ADHD code module based on the code used for this analysis here: [Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder \(ADHD\) - Code Module - Stats NZ Integrated Data Commons](#)

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact info@sia.govt.nz

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Luana Scowcroft
Manager, Engagement, Ministerials and Communications
Social Investment Agency

Initial Insights: ADHD in Aotearoa New Zealand

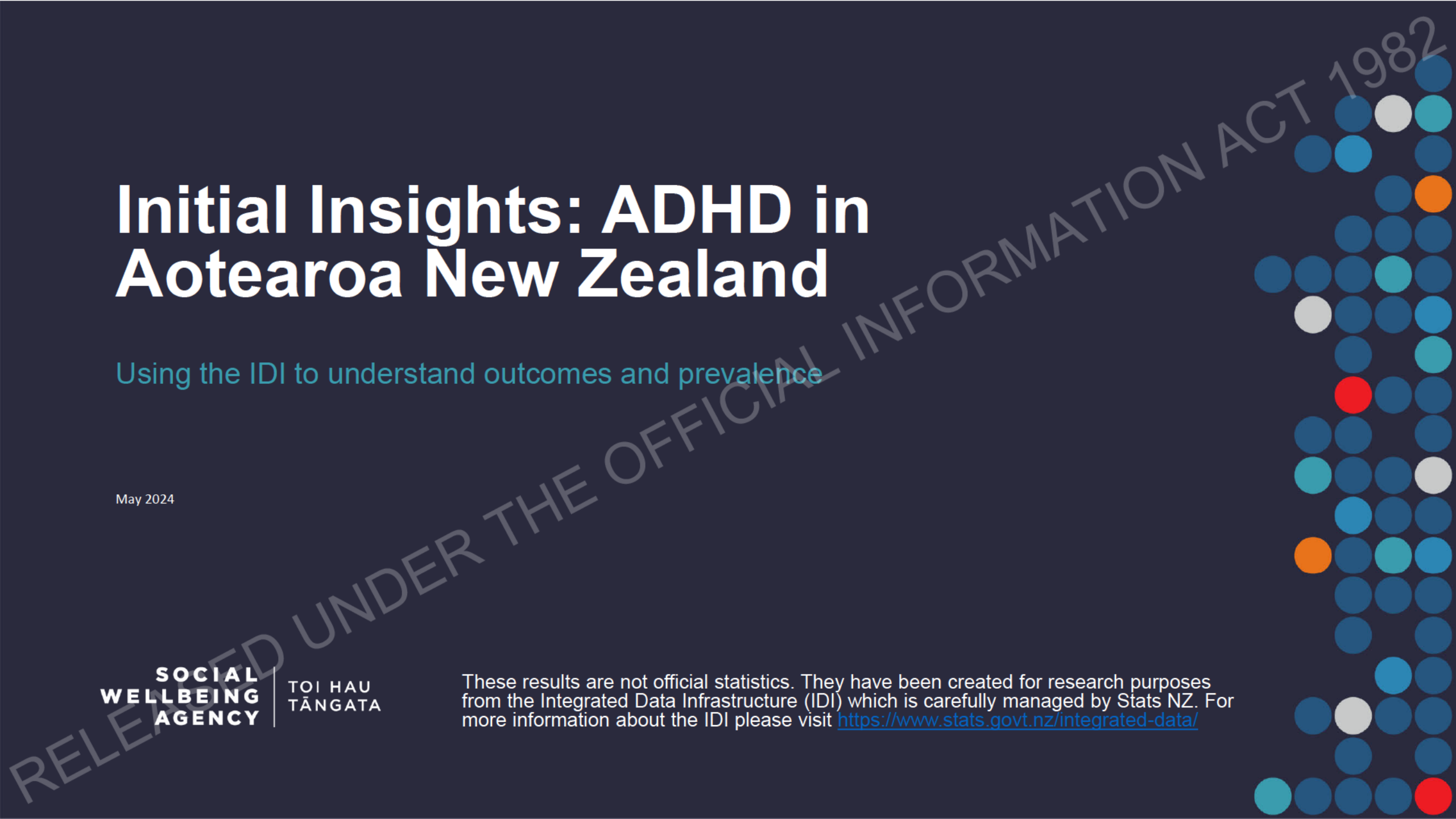
Using the IDI to understand outcomes and prevalence

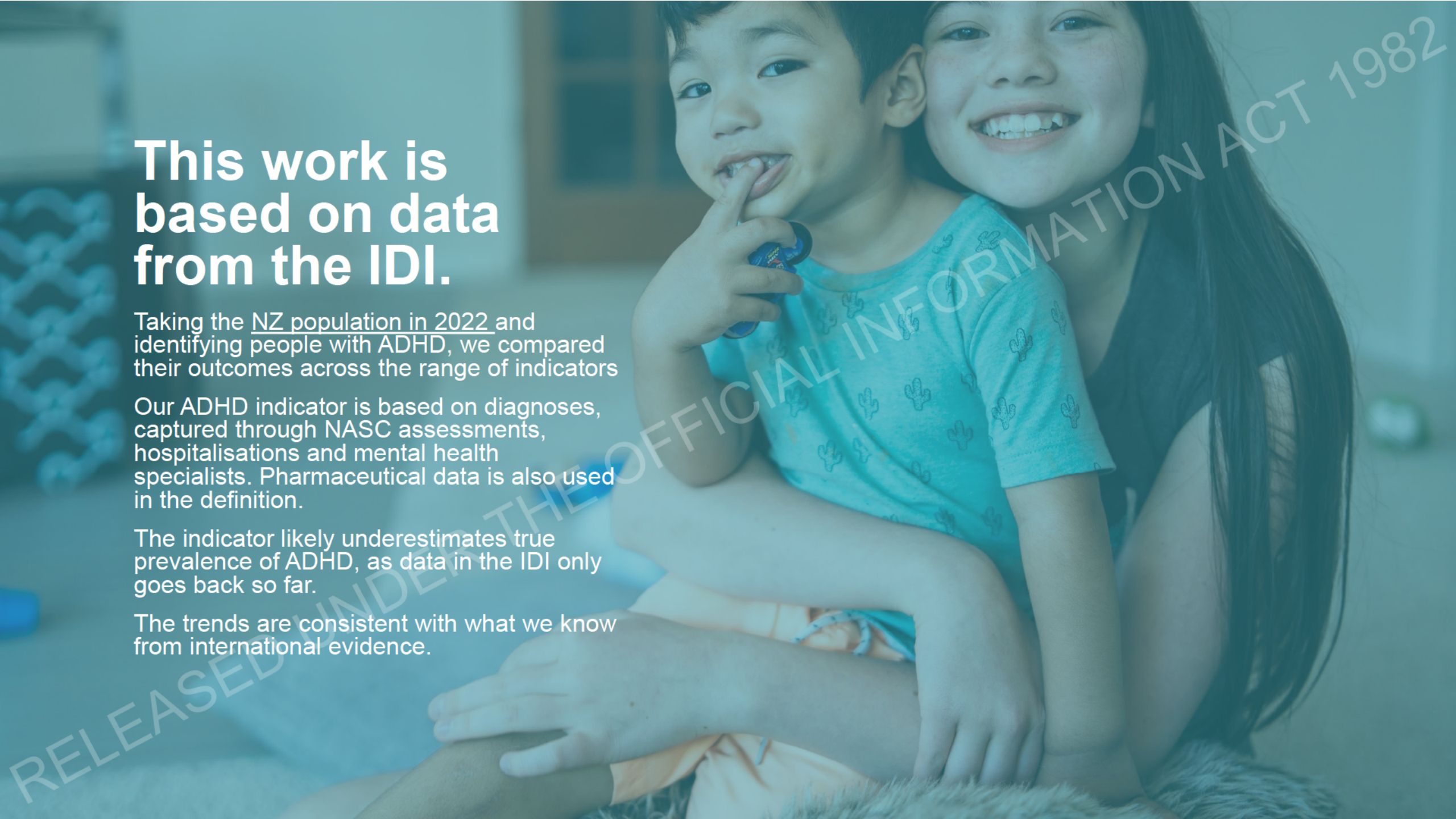
May 2024

**SOCIAL
WELLBEING
AGENCY**

TOI HAU
TĀNGATA

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/>





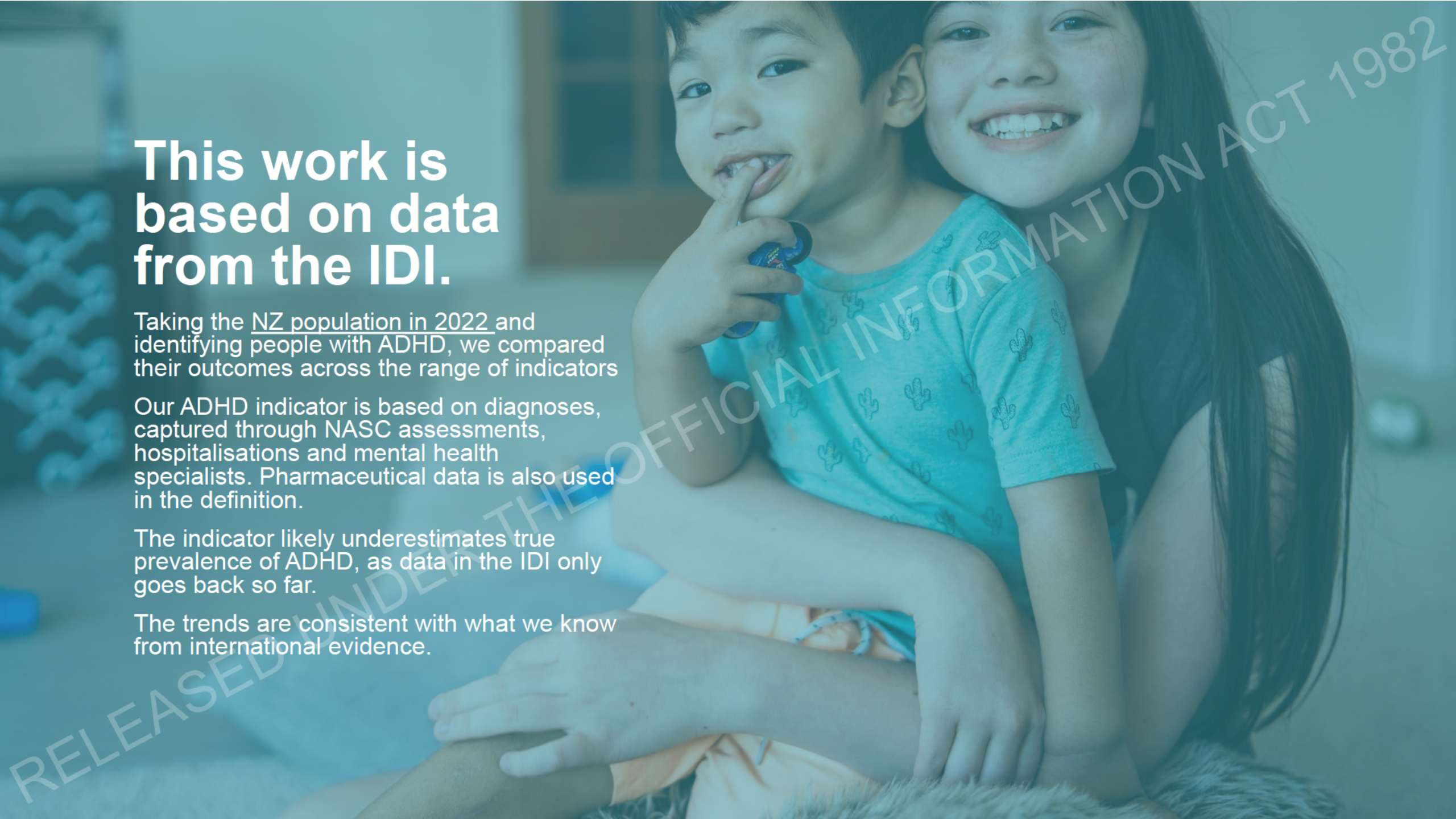
This work is based on data from the IDI.

Taking the NZ population in 2022 and identifying people with ADHD, we compared their outcomes across the range of indicators

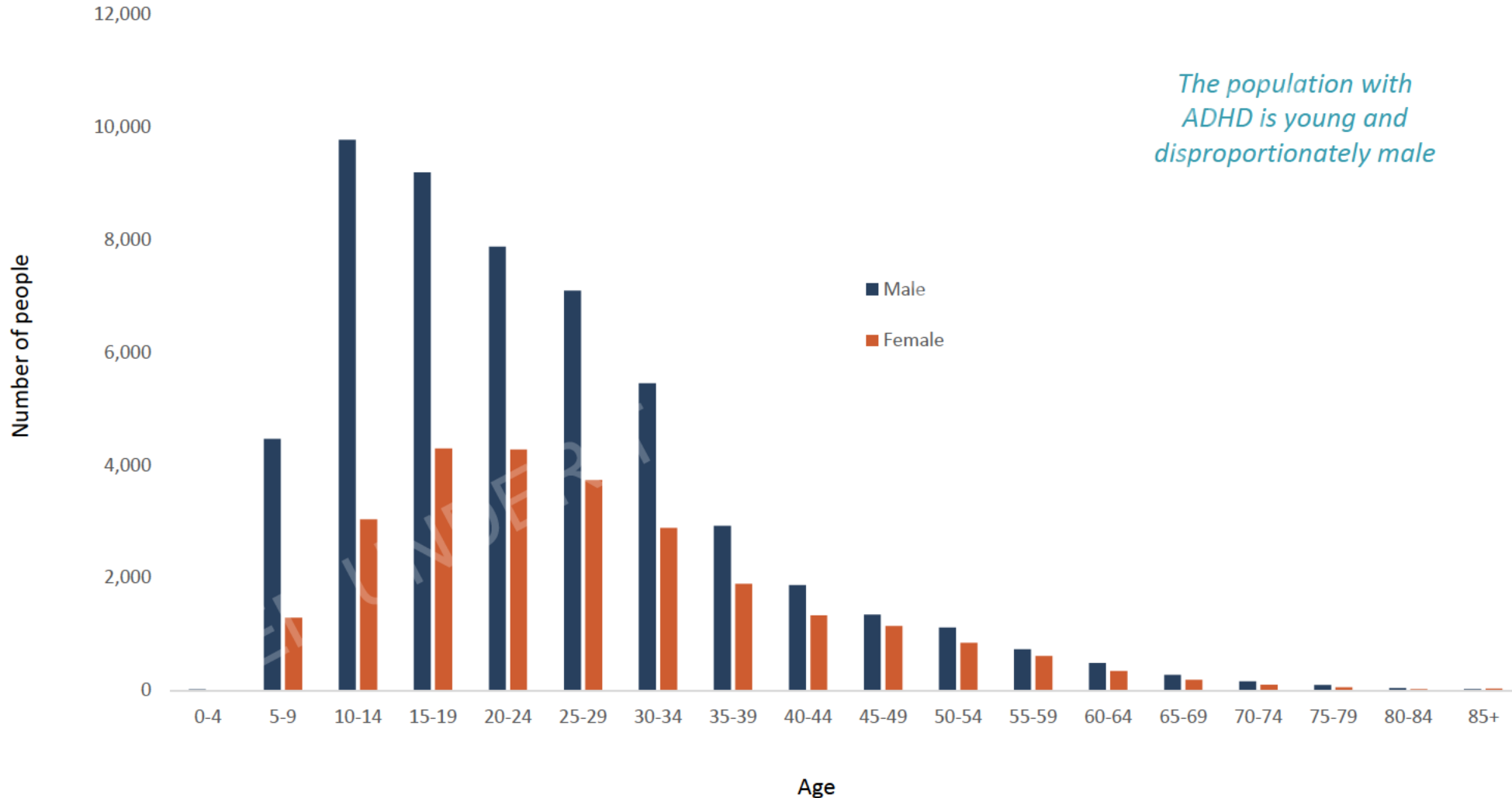
Our ADHD indicator is based on diagnoses, captured through NASC assessments, hospitalisations and mental health specialists. Pharmaceutical data is also used in the definition.

The indicator likely underestimates true prevalence of ADHD, as data in the IDI only goes back so far.

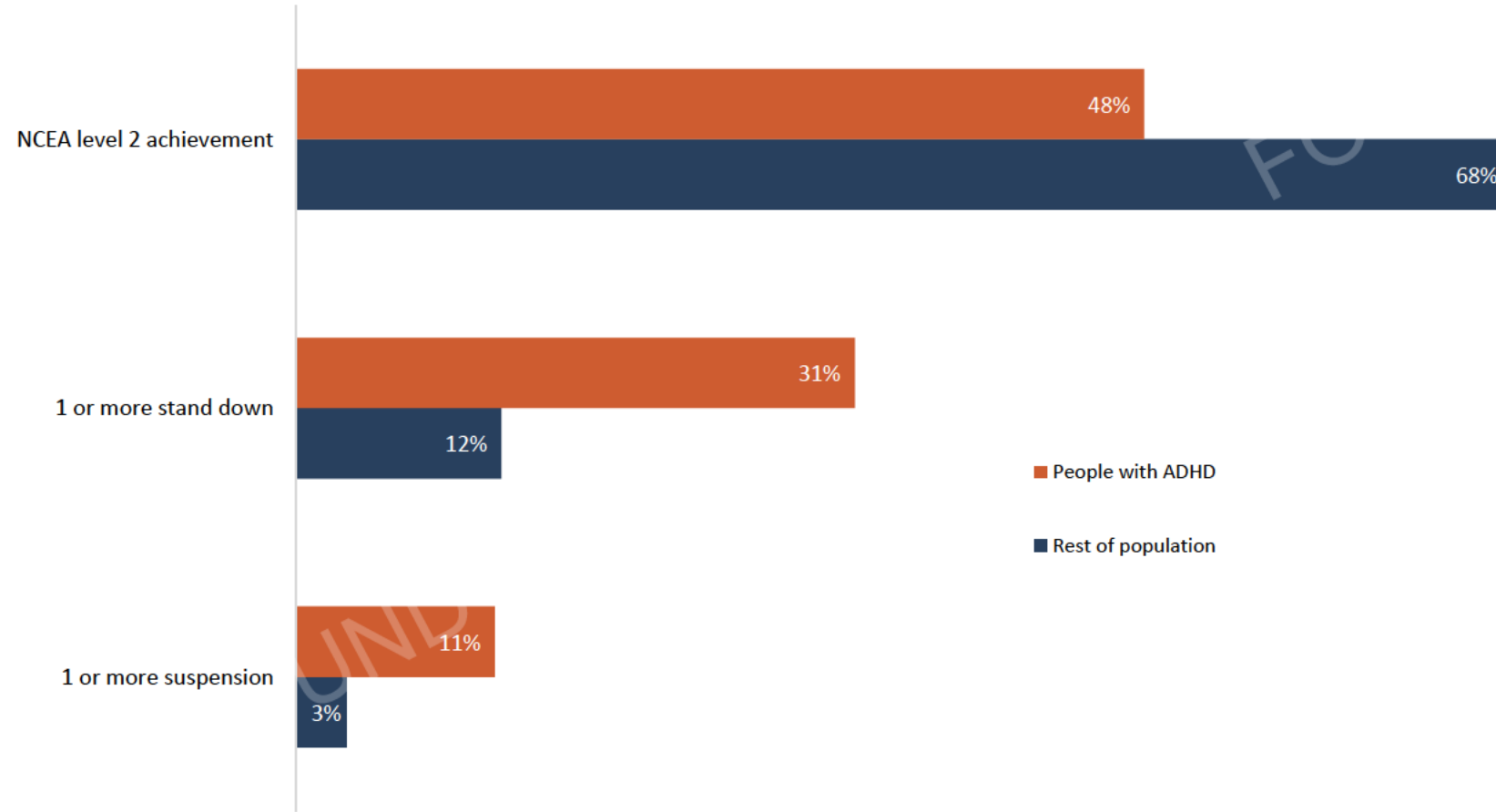
The trends are consistent with what we know from international evidence.



Using the IDI, we were able to identify ~79,000 people in Aotearoa New Zealand with ADHD

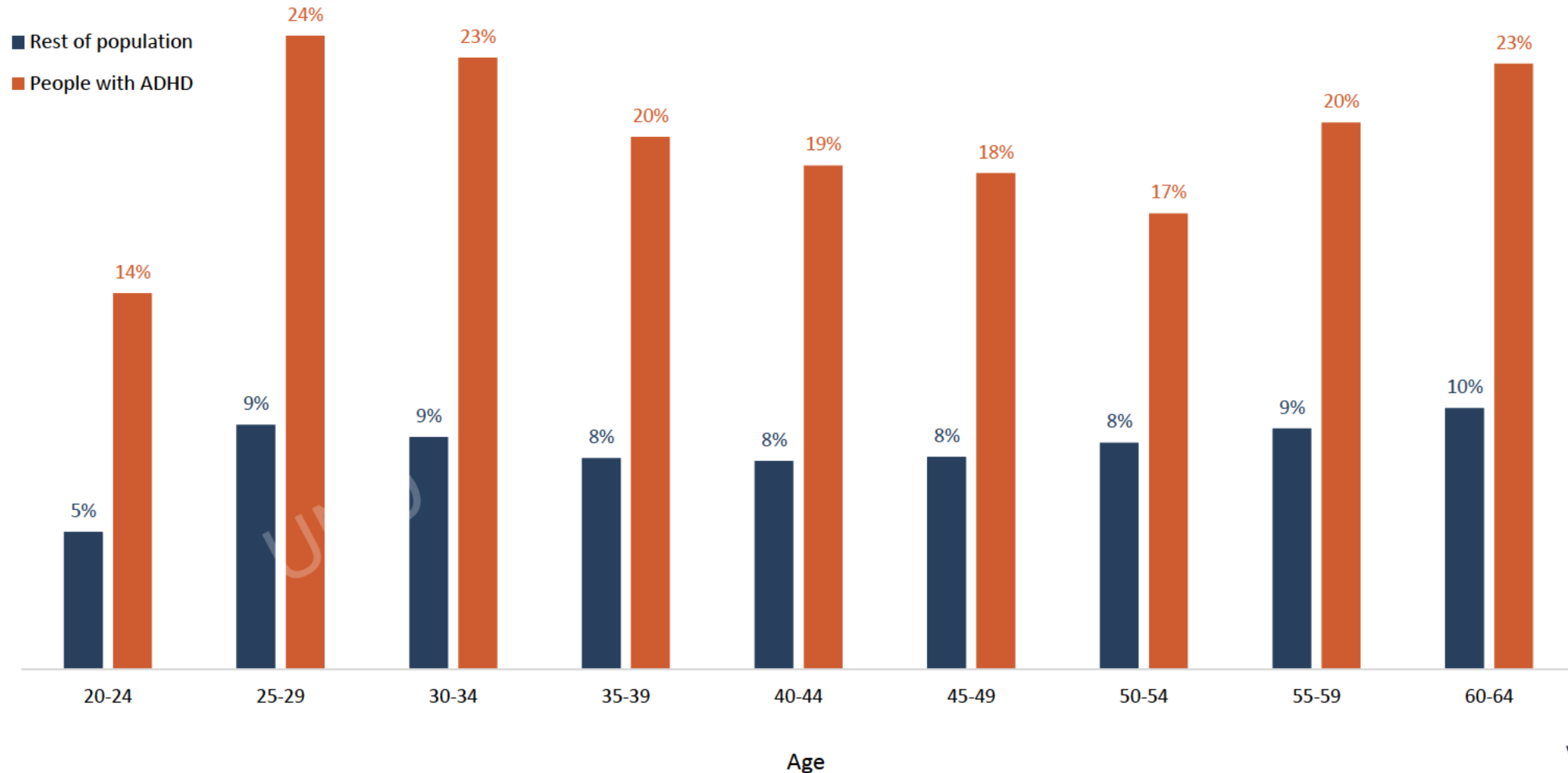


People with ADHD have more exclusionary experiences at school and are less likely to achieve NCEA Level 2

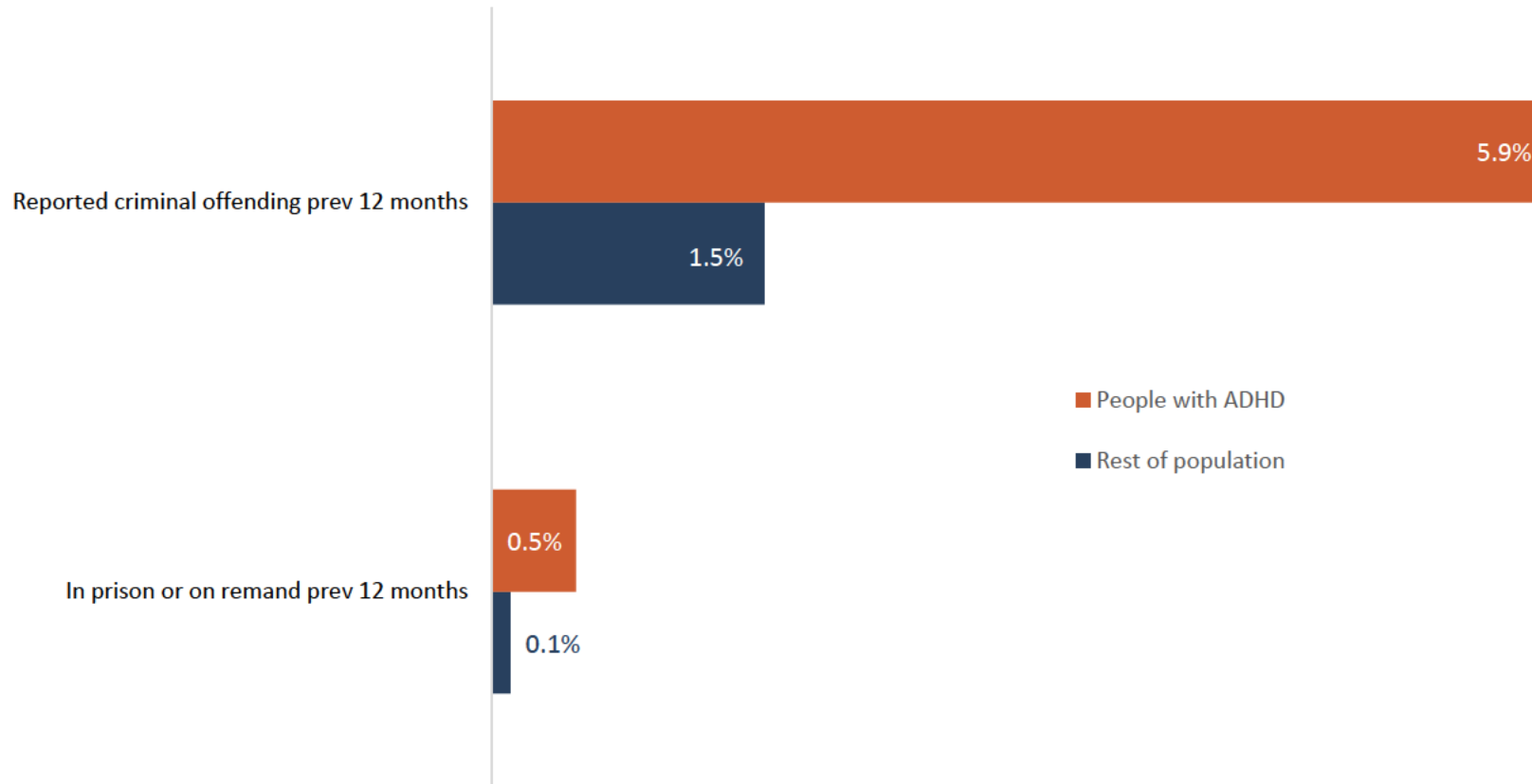


* 18-year-olds in 2022

People with ADHD are more likely to have long-term (5+ years) reliance on the benefit



People with ADHD are disproportionately over-represented in the justice system

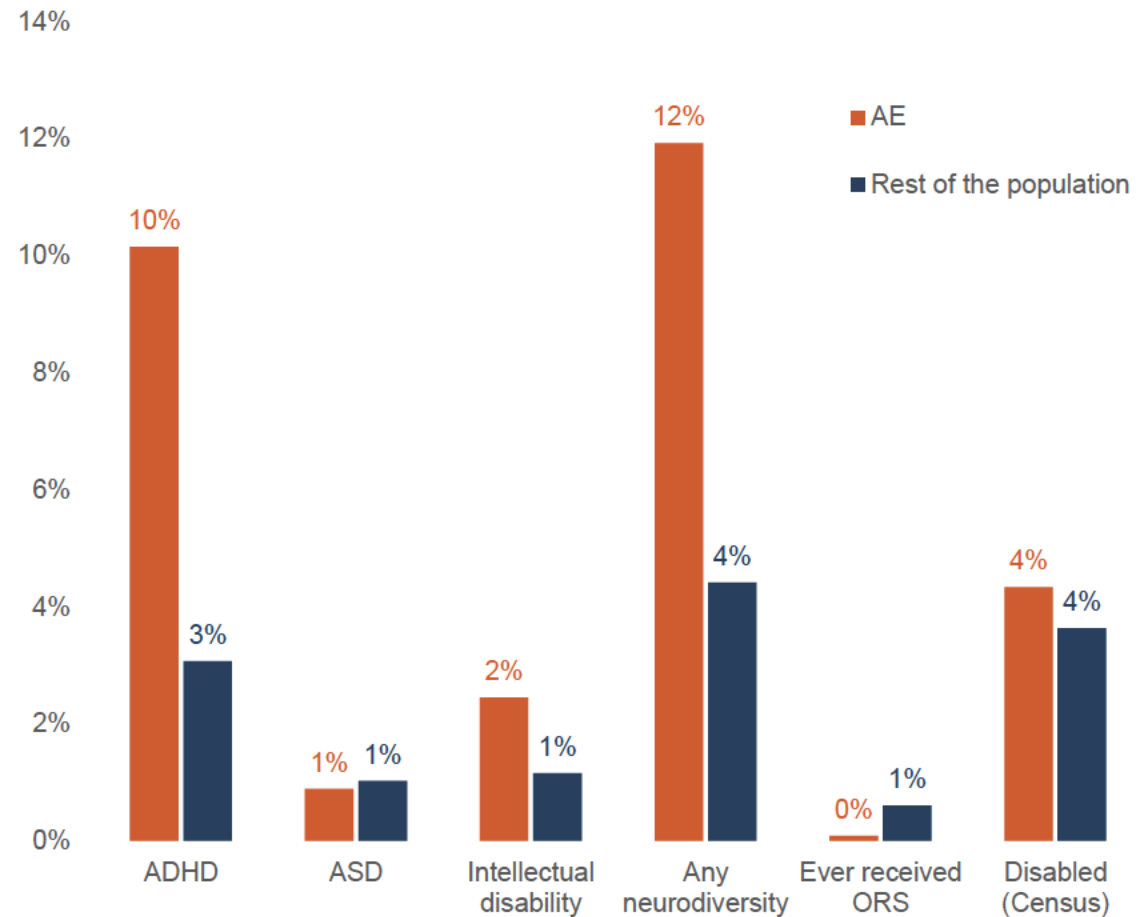


These experiences are consistent with our previous evaluation of Alternative Education

Our analysis found that many young people in Alternative Education (AE) have ADHD.

The most striking finding in our evaluation was the comparison of young people in Alternative Education to a group of similarly disadvantaged young people. The long-term outcomes for young people in Alternative Education across multiple measures were worse.

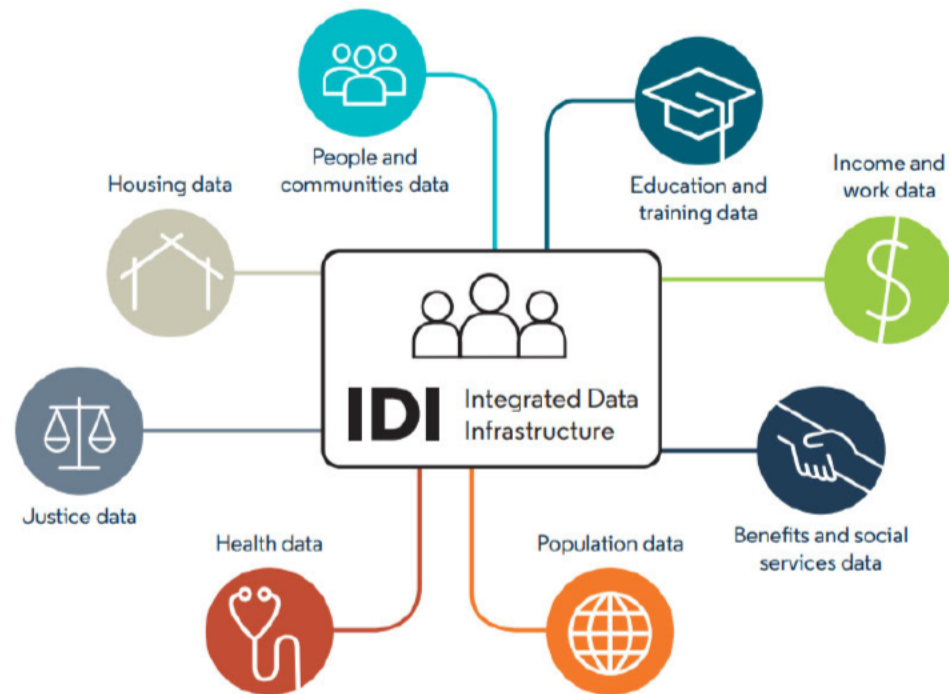
There are missed opportunities to identify and address educational and other needs much earlier in their lives, to promote better long-term outcomes.



Note: ADHD: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; ASD: Autism Spectrum Disorder; ORS: Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (an MoE learning support).
Technical report available at <https://www.swa.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Experiences-and-outcomes-of-Alternative-Education-participants-v3.pdf>
ERO's full report available at [An Alternative Education? Support for our most disengaged young people | Education Review Office \(ero.govt.nz\)](https://www.ero.govt.nz/publications/An-Alternative-Education-Support-for-our-most-disengaged-young-people)

The IDI can provide further information about the experiences, outcomes and trajectories of people with ADHD

The IDI is a large research database. It holds de-identified microdata about people and households.



It can be used to understand, for example:

- Other experiences and interactions with government, such as income, Oranga Tamariki involvement, housing security, access to Learning Supports, reported victimisations, accidents and injuries.
- Mental health, addiction and medical co-occurrences.
- Changes to diagnosis and (pharmaceutical) treatment over time and varies across/between population sub-groups.
- The socio-demographics of people with ADHD and their whānau.
- Opportunities to provide better support for people with ADHD to enable better short- and long-term outcomes.