

POSS Possibilities: setting the data free



$$47,649$$
$$913,221 \quad Y = 1.076 \beta + \varepsilon$$
$$\sum_{i=1} [2X + 7] \quad 153$$

The POSS Programme

- POSS is the Programme of Official Social Statistics
- It comprises an integrated programme of activities including:
 - A survey programme
 - Development of administrative datasets and data integration
 - An analytical programme
 - Work on identifying strategic information needs for the future

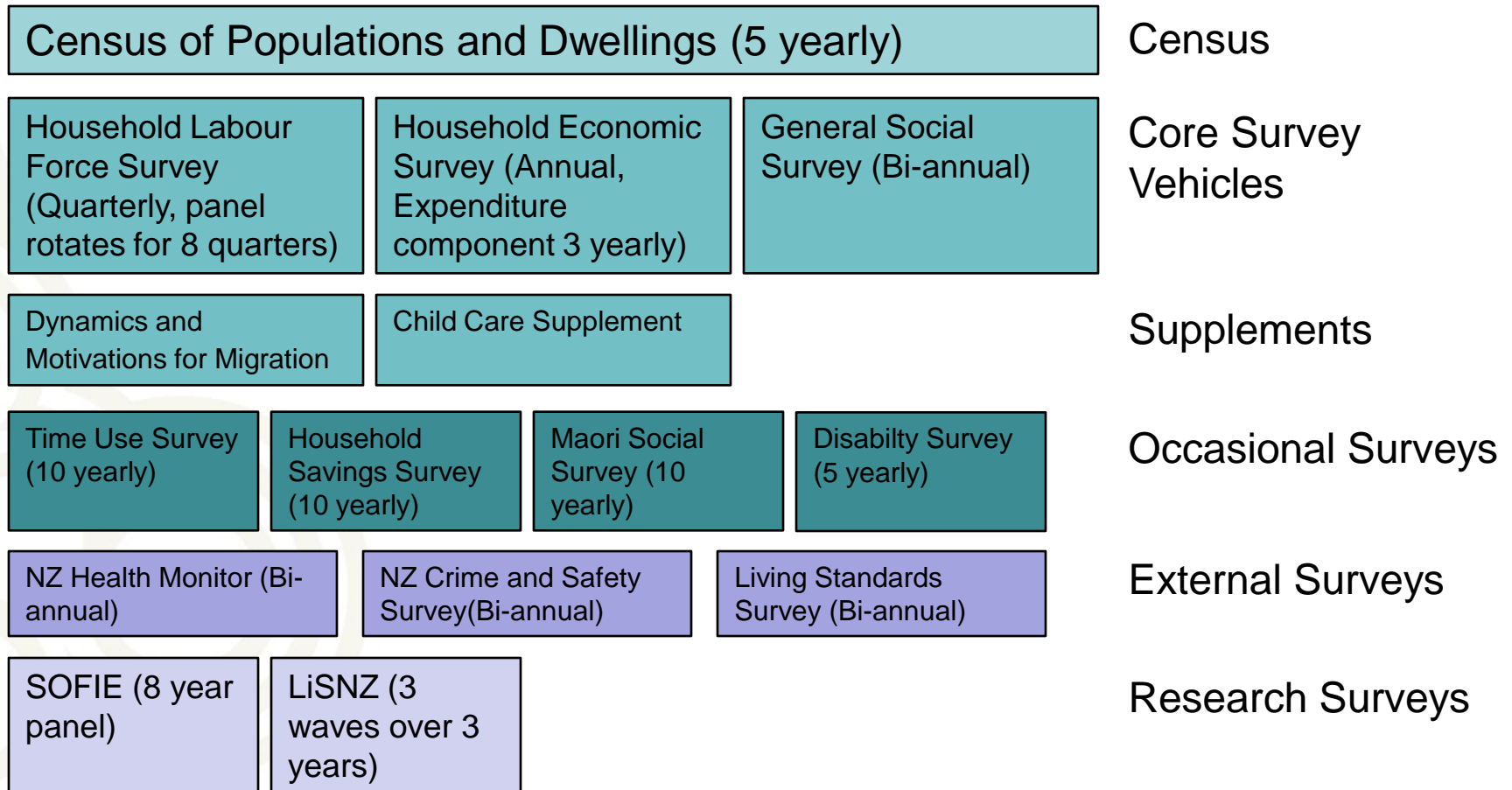
The POSS Programme

- The POSS programme dates to 2004
 - 10 years of funding was allocated in Budget 2004 to address gaps in the range of social statistics
 - The first 5 years has seen extensive development work
 - Over the next 5 years we will be delivering a range of new information
 - New funding will need to be sought from 2014 for those elements of the programme that we wish to continue

The POSS Programme

- The POSS Programme represents a very significant investment in information on the part of New Zealand
- The degree to which this investment pays off will depend on the degree to which POSS data is used

POSS Survey Programme



Census of Populations and Dwellings (5 yearly)			Census	
Household Labour Force Survey (Quarterly, panel rotates for 8 quarters)	Household Economic Survey (Annual, Expenditure component 3 yearly)	General Social Survey (Bi-annual)	Core Survey Vehicles	
Dynamics and Motivations for Migration	Child Care Supplement		Supplements	
Time Use Survey (10 yearly)	Household Savings Survey (10 yearly)	Maori Social Survey (10 yearly)	Disability Survey (5 yearly)	Occasional Surveys
NZ Health Monitor (Bi-annual)	NZ Crime and Safety Survey (Bi-annual)	Living Standards Survey (Bi-annual)		External Surveys
SOFIE (8 year panel)	LISNZ (3 waves over 3 years)			Research Surveys

The Census

- 5 yearly census of the New Zealand population
 - Covers demographic information (age, sex, ethnicity) as well as limited social and economic variables (gross income, labour force status, family type etc)
 - Also has details on the household
- Key strengths are driven by the size
 - Regional analysis and analysis of small population groups is possible

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The Core Surveys

- HLFS, HES, and GSS are referred to here as core surveys
 - Are repeated relatively frequently (quarterly through to biannually)
 - Medium term POSS objective is to do as much as possible from these vehicles to reduce costs
 - Designed to service New Zealand's key objectives for monitoring household economic and social outcomes (unemployment, CPI, social wellbeing)
- HES goes into the field with the expenditure module in the next financial year
- GSS 1 will be released on 29 October, and GSS 2 goes into the field in April 2010

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Supplements

- Supplements are special topic modules added on to one of the core surveys
- Currently on the HLFS carries supplements
 - Dynamics and Motivations for Migration
 - Childcare Survey
- However, the GSS is intended to be modular and will carry additional modules from 2012
- In the medium term we would like to move the HES to a modular format as well

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Occasional Surveys

- Surveys such as the Household Savings Survey (HSS), Maori Social Survey, Time Use Survey, and Disability Survey are run less frequently
- These have a more specialised topic – often focused on getting a good measure of a particular concept (e.g. net worth) that is resource intensive to collect
- In the medium to long term it might be desirable to move some of these surveys to supplements or modules on the core surveys

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Occasional Surveys

- Disability Survey 2011
 - Post-censal survey of c4000 disabled people
 - Will have a greater focus than previous disability surveys on social and economic information
- Maori Social Survey 2011
 - Post-censal survey with a sample probably around 5000
 - Focus on cultural identity and understanding the diversity that underlies Maori ethnic identification
- Time Use Survey 2009
 - Goes into the field this September
 - Detailed diary-based time use information on 8500 individuals
- Household Savings Survey 2012?

POSS Survey Programme

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External Surveys

- Not all POSS surveys are collected by Statistics New Zealand
- The New Zealand Health Monitor (Ministry of Health)
 - New Zealand Health Survey
 - Mental Health Survey
 - Alcohol and Drug use
- The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey (Ministry of Justice)
 - 1996, 2001, 2006, 2009, 3 yearly thereafter
- Living Standards Surveys (MSD)
 - 2000, 2004, 2008

POSS Survey Programme

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Research Surveys

- SOFIE and LISNZ are both panel datasets designed for research purposes rather than monitoring social/economic outcomes
 - SOFIE gathers information on family structure, income, labour market participation, health, and net worth
 - It is an 8 year panel survey collecting information on all of the inhabitants of the original households interviewed in each panel, along with information on whoever else they are currently living with
 - LISNZ has fewer waves and collects detailed information on the settlement outcomes of new migrants
- The inherently sensitive nature of panel data means that access to these surveys is primarily through the datalab

Accessing POSS data

Turning data into knowledge, efficiently

- As a statistical agency, we need to think not just about investing in collecting data, but also in getting it used
 - New Zealand is a small country, and consequently collecting information is relatively expensive
 - We have a relatively low ratio of quantitative researchers to datasets compared to other OECD countries
- Lowering barriers to access is crucial

Accessing POSS data

- There are a number of ways of accessing POSS data
- Tabular data can be accessed via:
 - Hot Off the Press and associated tables
 - Table Builder
 - Infoshare
 - Customised data requests
- Unit Record data can be accessed via:
 - The CURF programme
 - Datalab
 - Secondments to Statistics New Zealand

The CURF Programme

- Why is HILDA so successful?

“We give away the unit record data to anyone who asks, for free”

The CURF Programme

- CURF stands for Confidentialised Unit Record File
 - A complete unit record dataset of one of the POSS surveys available on a CD
 - They are free to academics and students, and the charge is otherwise minimal
 - We give them away to anyone with a serious research proposal
 - The data is confidentialised to some degree

The CURF Programme

- Confidentialising the data involves:
 - Top and bottom coding to remove outliers
 - Grouping some variables
 - Rounding figures off
 - Removing particularly sensitive variables from the dataset
- However, the overall impact of confidentialising is not necessarily that great from an analytical perspective

The CURF Programme

