Pacific Islands Families Study (PIF)

Professor Janis Paterson
Aims

- To determine optimum pathways for children and families during critical developmental periods.

- To make empirically based recommendations to promote the wellbeing of Pacific children and families.
## NZ Pacific population 265,974 (6.5%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>NZ population</th>
<th>Island population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Samoa</strong></td>
<td>131,100 (49%)</td>
<td>179,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cook Islands</strong></td>
<td>58,011 (22%)</td>
<td>19,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tonga</strong></td>
<td>50,478 (19%)</td>
<td>101,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Niue</strong></td>
<td>22,473 (8%)</td>
<td>1,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiji</strong></td>
<td>9,861 (4%)</td>
<td>827,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tokelau</strong></td>
<td>6,819 (3%)</td>
<td>1,466</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuvalu</strong></td>
<td>2,625 (1%)</td>
<td>9,561</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the PIF?


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>1398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Year</td>
<td>1144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Year</td>
<td>1048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Year</td>
<td>1015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Details of cohort mothers

- Samoan: 47.2%, Tongan: 21%
- Cook Islands: 16.9%, Niuean: 4.3%
- Other Pacific: 3.4%, Non-Pacific: 7.2%

- Mean age: 27 years
- Married or de facto partnerships: 81%
- New Zealand born: 33%
- Had post school qualifications: 27%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mother</th>
<th>Child</th>
<th>Father</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 week</strong></td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 year</strong></td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2 year</strong></td>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image10.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image11.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image12.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 year</strong></td>
<td><img src="image13.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image14.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image15.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image16.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6 year</strong></td>
<td><img src="image17.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image18.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image19.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image20.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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PIF Core Focus

- Demographics
- Child Development
- Parenting and home environment
- School environment & Community environment
- Peer relationships
- Child and family health
- Family Finances
- Cultural Aspects
- Child behaviour
- Partner Relationships
PIF Supplementary Studies

- OME at 2 years
- Nutrition and Body Size (4 & 6 years)
- Physical Activity (6 years)
- Traffic & Indoor Air pollution
- Oral health
Where we are Now?

- Funded by FRST for 9 and 11 year phase:
  - The new phase of Data collection starts March 15th 2009:
  - Write up data from 6 year phase.
(1) A Pacific PhD Placement Scholarship was awarded to El-Shadan Tautolo by the HRC.

(2) A Pacific Placement Masters Scholarship & Summer Studentship was awarded to Melanie Silulu by the HRC.

(3) The PIF Masters Scholarship is available annually
Conference Pasifika Medical Association
September – Apia Samoa

Five Papers Presented:
- Birth weight categories
- Gambling and Fathers
- IPV and Postnatal Depression
- Maternal Mental Health and Child behaviour problems at 2 years
- Factors associated with smoking of mothers
Selected findings

- Infant illness episodes
- Oral Health of 4 & 6 year olds
- Glue ear in 2 year olds
PIF Findings: Infant Illnesses

Health Problems

- Skin Rash: 23.90%
- Skin Sores: 2.70%
- Ear Infections: 10.80%
- Eye Infections: 3.60%
- Generally Unwell: 15.40%
- Breathing Problems: 42.90%
- Stomach Problems: 8.50%
Oral Health in 4 & 6 year olds
Mother not visited dentist in past 5 years

- 4 years: 50
- 6 years: 67
Findings

- After similar oral health at 4 years Tongan Children emerged to have poorer oral health & practices at 6 years.

- Mothers’ dental health issues need to be addressed. Now over 2/3 of Mothers had not visited the dentist past 5 YEARS or EVER.

- Extended length of Breastfeeding was associated with poorer child oral health.

- Children are brushing more often, snacking less before bed, but are also supervised less whilst brushing from 2 years ago.
PIF Findings:
The Prevalence of OME

- About 25%, or one in four, Pacific Island two year olds were found to have OME in this preliminary study.
- A further 2% had grommets in situ.
- A further 2% had AOM.
- And 7% had mild retractions
Information

- http://www.aut.ac.nz

- http://www.aut.ac.nz/about/faculties/health_and_environmental_sciences/research_centres_and_institutes/pacific_islands_families/publications.htm
Thanks