Comparison of different markers of socio-economic status with cardiovascular disease and diabetes risk factors in the Diabetes, Heart and Health Survey

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Summary: Data from 4020 participants aged 35–74 years in the 2002/2003 Diabetes, Heart and Health Survey were used to compare socioeconomic status (SES) markers (the occupation-based NZ Socioeconomic Index (NZSEI), combined household income, education, and the area-based deprivation measure NZDep2001) with cardiovascular disease (CVD) and diabetes risk factors. After adjusting for all other SES measures, there were relatively few independent risk factor associations with NZSEI or education; CVD and diabetes risk factors were more strongly associated with the area-based NZDep2001 and household income. In general, the strongest associations were observed for disease and diabetes risk factors in the Health Survey and education; CVD and diabetes risk factors were more strongly associated with the area-based NZDep2001 and household income. In general, the strongest associations were observed for NZDep.

Comment: Further evidence to support the use of NZDep as marker of socio-economic status in Aotearoa. And not just for research purposes. As the investigators found here, NZDep is strongly associated with the health status of people living in Aotearoa and therefore should be used in the development of health policy, including funding equations. It must be noted that ethnicity is another variable, independent of NZDep level, which also must be applied in policy and funding decisions.


Ngā Kōrero
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Ideas for new articles are welcomed
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