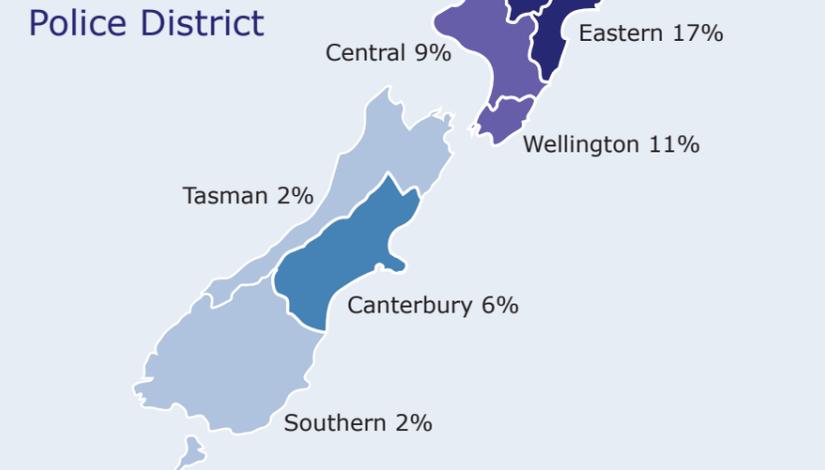
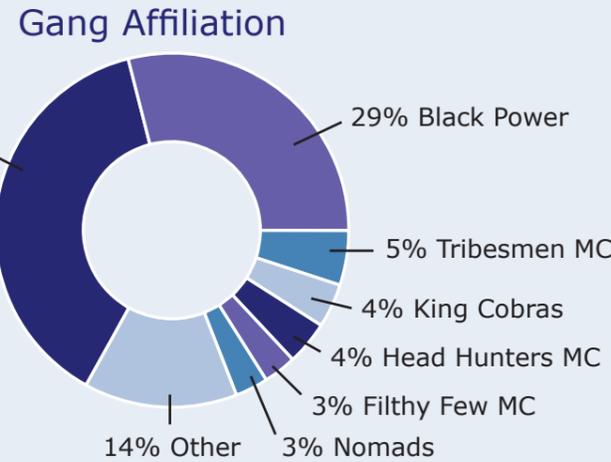
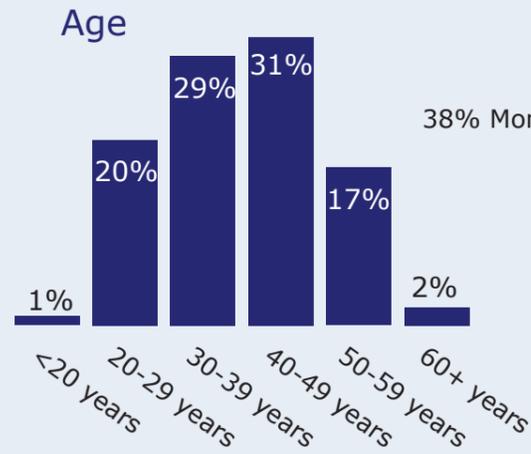
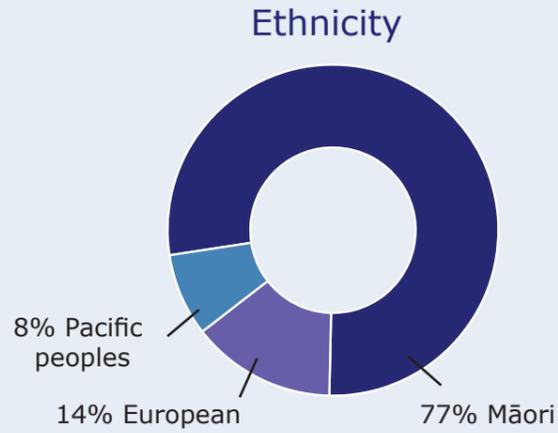


# Adult gang members and their children's contact with Ministry of Social Development service lines: National Profile<sup>1,2,3</sup>

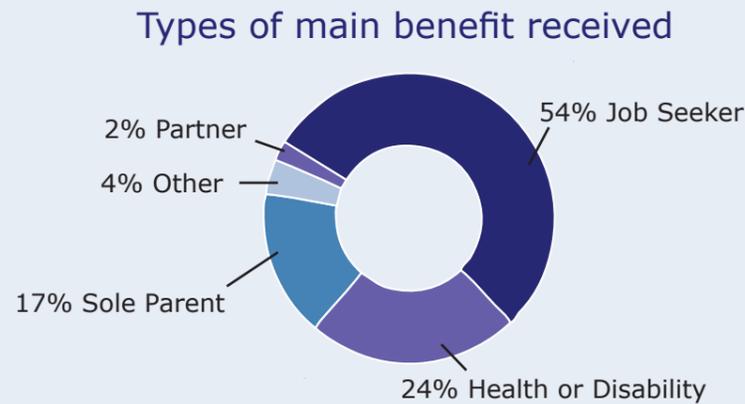
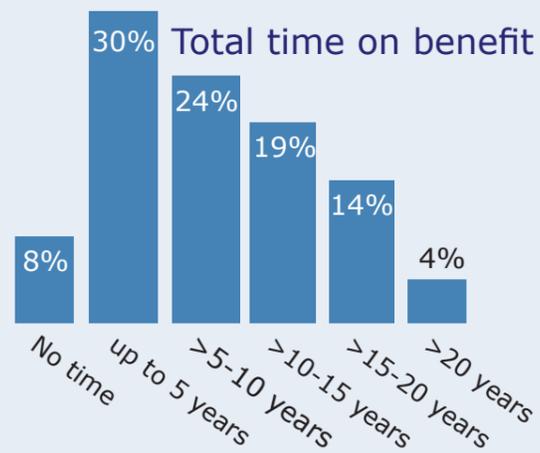
## Gangs profile

- An estimated total of 3,960 adult gang members were known to Police as at July 2014
- All gang members were male, most were Māori and the average age was around 40 years
- Gang members were mostly concentrated in the North Island



## Work & Income (W&I) involvement

- 92% (3,627) of gang members have received a main benefit at some point in their life
- The average duration of receipt of a main benefit was 8.9 years (not necessarily continuously)



- 7,075 dependent children were included in benefits with gang members for an average of 2.8 years
- Thirty-two (1%) of the gang members who have received a main benefit in the last five years have been prosecuted for benefit fraud

## Child, Youth & Family (CYF) involvement

### Substantiated findings of abuse or neglect by gang members

- 27% (1,056) of the gang members were recorded by CYF as alleged perpetrators of abuse or neglect of children
- 2,953 children were recorded as having a finding of abuse or neglect allegedly by one of these gang members

### Children of gang members

- 1,925 gang members had a total of 5,890 children known to CYF
- 60% (3,516) of these children had findings of abuse or neglect allegedly by their parents, or in a minority of cases some other person
- Mothers were just as likely to be the alleged perpetrator as the gang member father

### Involvement of children with Youth Justice

- Of the children of gang members aged 10 years or over, 23% have had at least one Youth Justice Family Group Conference

## Estimated costs (lifetime-to-date)

**Cost to W&I** \$525 million  
 { \$382 million in main benefits  
 { \$143 million in other assistance

**Cost to CYF** \$189 million

Total estimated cost to MSD:

**\$714 million**

### Note the following limitations:

1. The findings of this research were based on a probabilistic data match by Insights MSD between names and dates of birth held by NZ Police and those held by MSD. Inevitably this means that the data-match results, and therefore the subsequent findings, will have some degree of error.
2. There are limitations to CYF data which mean that findings relating to "lifetime" contact rates and costs in particular are likely to be under-estimates and should be treated with some caution. To a much lesser extent, this is also true of the welfare assistance findings.
3. There was particular interest in identifying the children of gang members recorded in the MSD data, and measuring their levels of contact with MSD. While there were around 6,000 to 7,000 children linked to the gang members in the two MSD source systems examined, there is no way to know whether this was all of the gang members' children.

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