

# Auckland Supercity and Future Health Equity

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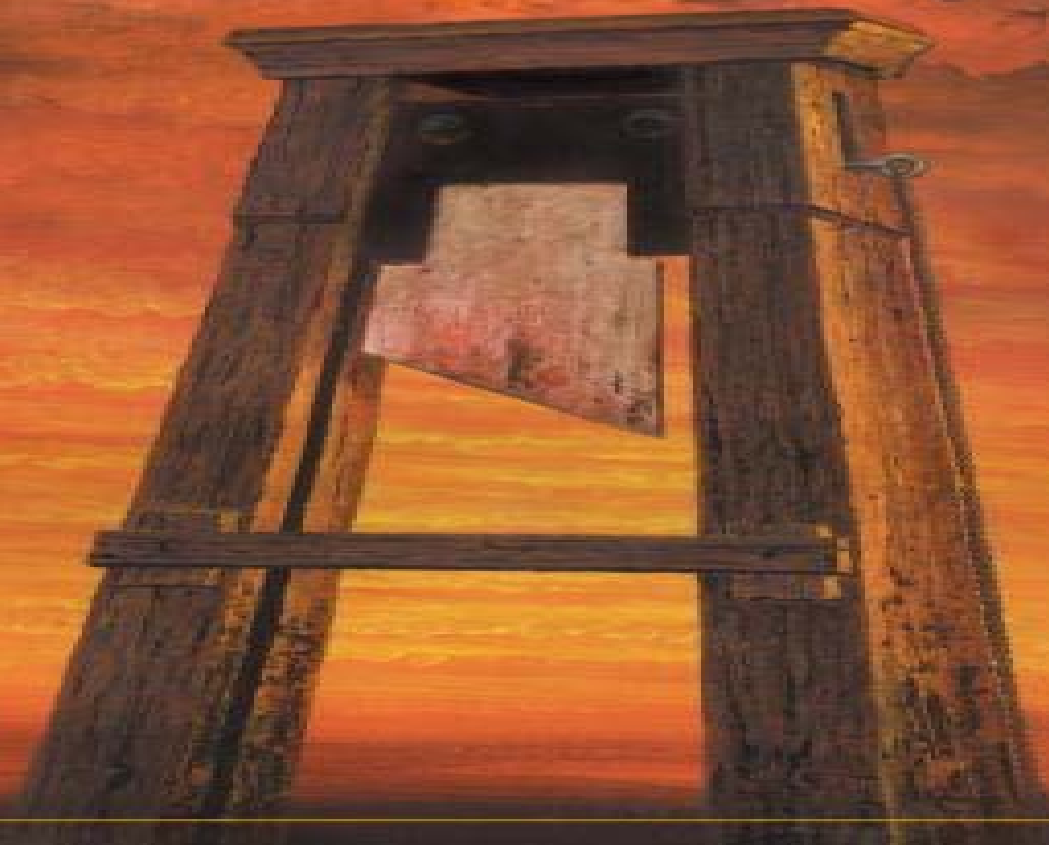
# Outline

- What is Health Equity?
- Pacific Peoples in Aotearoa/NZ
- Why we should be concerned
- What we know already?
- What needs to happen?



CHARLES DICKENS

# A Tale of Two Cities



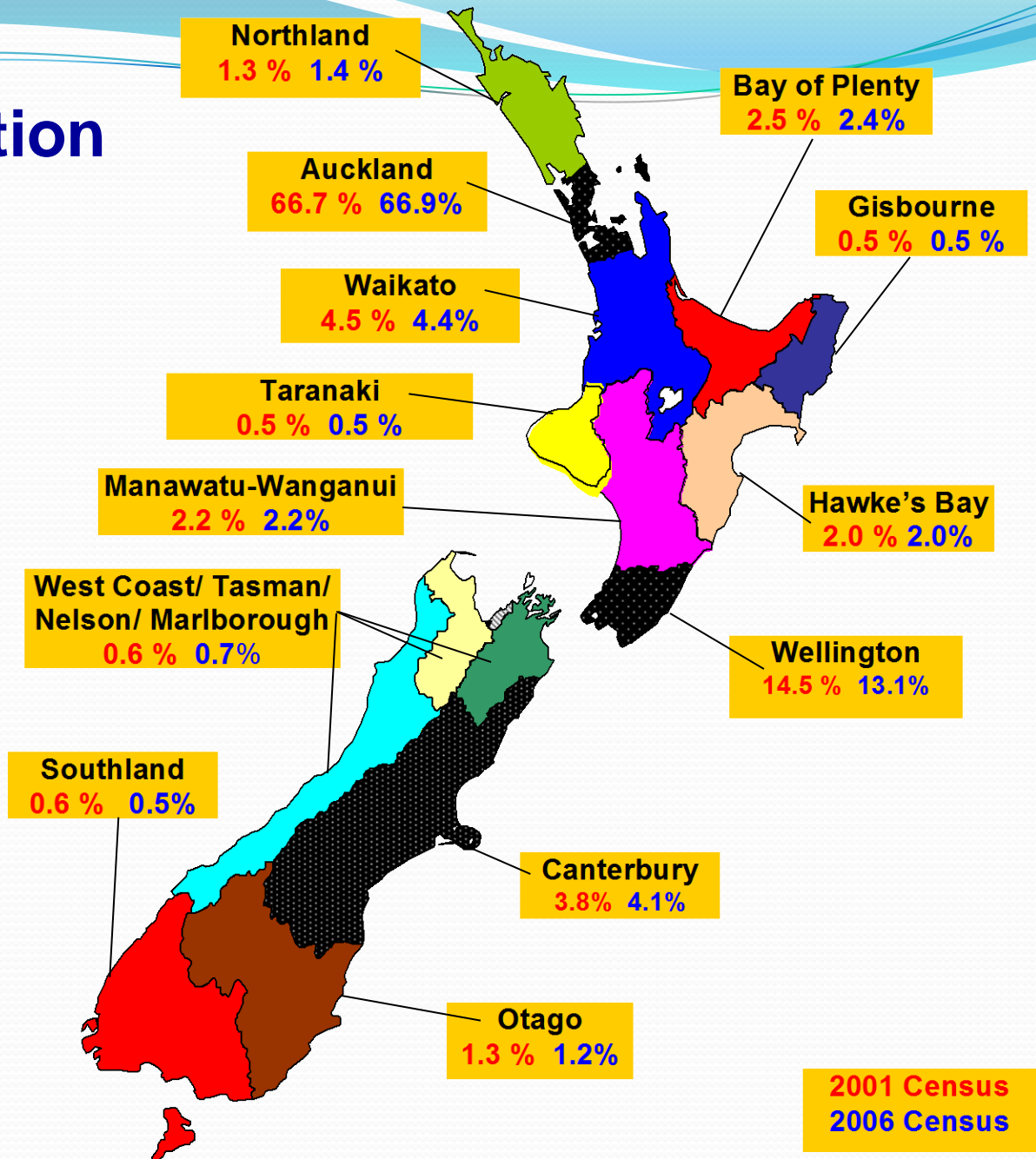
EVERBIND  
BOOKS

# A Tale of Two Cities

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way....”



# New Zealand's Pacific Population



# Pacific Peoples in Auckland

- Pacific Peoples 13% of Auckland population,
- Projected to be 16% in 2021
- Two thirds are NZ born
- Several distinct communities
- Multiple ethnicities
- Mean age 21 years cf 36 years for NZ Total
- ¼ births claim Pacific descent

# Economic/Workforce Imperatives

- Auckland is powerhouse of NZ economy
- Skill shortages in Auckland
- Ageing and shrinking NZ workforce, increasing share who are Pacific (and Maori)
- We are not equipping our future workforce well enough; about half Pacific young people leave school with no qualifications
- High unemployment in young people 28% for Pacific and Maori vs 18% NZ (15-24 years March 2011 Quarter)

# Social

- Pacific peoples had the lowest proportion who have access to the internet
- Less than half of students reported have enough time with their parents cf two thirds European students
- High numbers of Pacific young people who engage in sedentary behaviours, binge drink, experience abuse and or witness violence in the home
- About one quarter of Pacific (and Asian) adults reported loneliness or felt isolated in last year
- Pacific peoples most likely to have engaged in voluntary work in the previous 4 weeks

Social Report 2010



# Equity – what is it?

- Justice, fairness, equality
- NOT benevolence, charity, mercy
- Rawls “Veil of Ignorance” - personality, social status, moral character, wealth, talent, life span
- Equality refers to equal treatment, equality of opportunity, equality of outcome, gender

# Equity – what is it?

**“Differences in health that are not only unnecessary and avoidable, but in addition unfair and unjust”**

Whitehead 1992

# What we know

- Political ideology and attitude; egalitarian political ethos associated with less disparity
- Income is a critical determinant – gap between rich and poor critical
- Rich are healthier than the poor
- Neoliberalism dominating policy i.e. markets reign supreme, deregulation, competition,



# Income Inequality, Health and Social Problems



# Predictors of Decline in Infant Mortality and Increases in Life Expectancy in OECD Nations

- Increasing support for social democratic parties
- Increases in the proportion of citizens voting
- Increases in public health care coverage
- Increases in the proportion citizens employed
- Increases in female labour force participation
- Increasing income equality
- Increases in national wealth

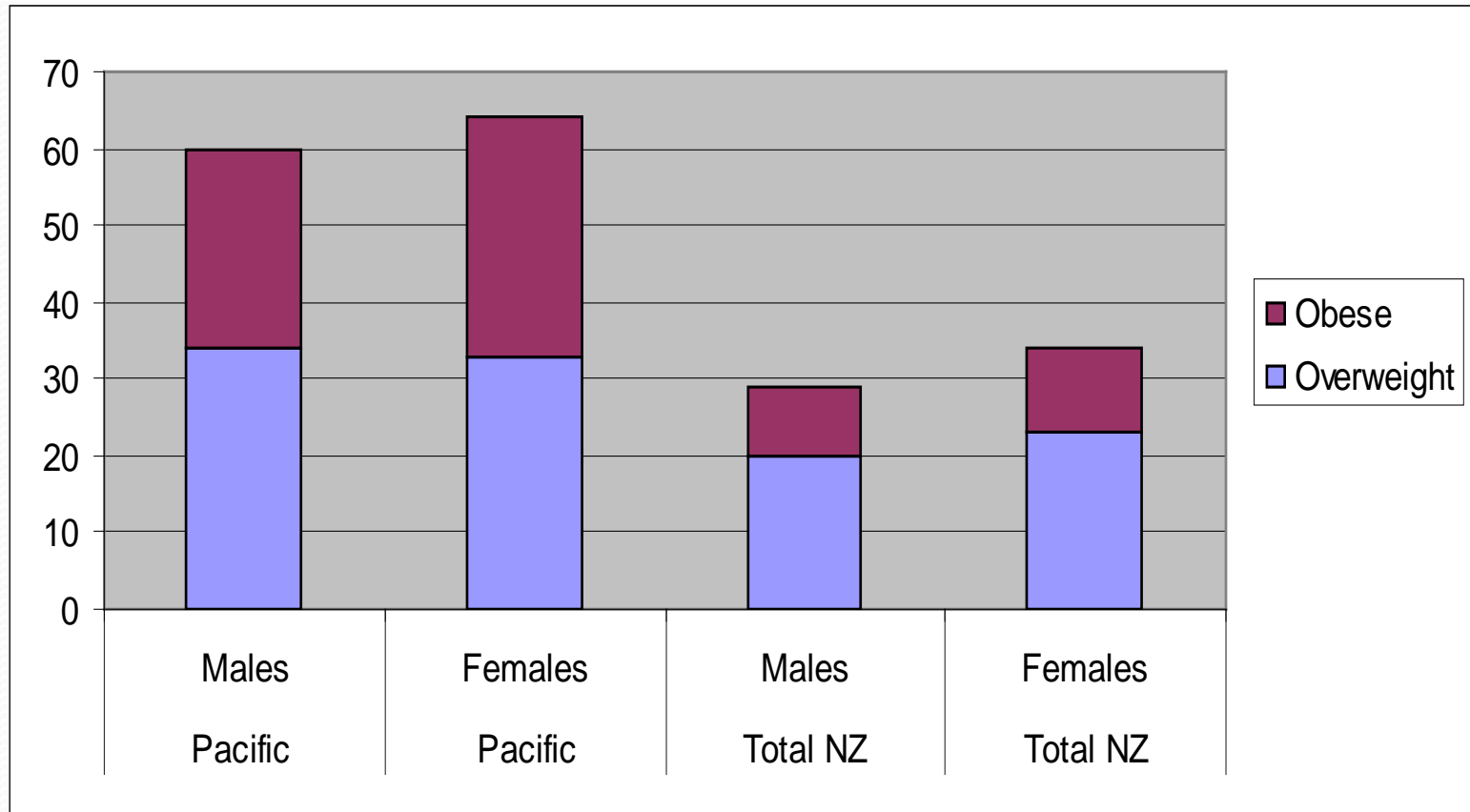
Navarro V et al (2004)

# What we know about Pacific Peoples

- Significant inequities exist in almost all reported health determinants, risk factors, health conditions studied in NZ; also in housing, education, income etc
- Significant inequities exist in access and quality of care received by Pacific Peoples
- High ASH rates among Pacific Peoples consistent with problems at primary care level; probably quality since PHO enrolments high
- Lack of impact – much policy, limited real action



# Prevalence of overweight and obesity by sex, 5-14 years, 2002.



# What needs to happen?

- Support for active citizenship
- Encourage participation – Auckland Council and Pacific Panel, Local Boards, State Sector Boards, Schools BOTs
- Improve equity in critical sectors – education,
- Improve access to and quality of health services, especially in primary care
- Support community action, Leadership

# “Auckland Unleashed”

- Encouraging signals
- Focus on children and young people – targets for ECE, NCEA achievement, all young people ‘work ready’
- 20% reduction in household crowding within 10 years, and decline in proportion of people paying >30% of incomes on housing
- Improving service delivery, focus on children e.g. Community Hubs
- Growing skills, education and learning

# What needs to happen?

- Political environment – national, local
- Actively monitor and manage the income gap
- Inter-sectoral action e.g. economic development, housing, education, employment,
- Supporting community based initiatives
- Better targeting health resources to high needs groups in addition to population wide measures