

Shaping improvements in Pacific health & wellbeing:

Findings from the Pacific Islands Families (PIF) Study



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Presentation Outline

- Overview of study
- Selected findings
- Future endeavours

Overview of the Pacific Islands Families Study



What is the PIF Study?

- An ongoing longitudinal study
- Tracks the health and development of 1,398 Pacific children born in South Auckland in 2000, and their families
- Collects self-reported data through structured interviews
- Quantitative methodology
- 'Life course' approach

Rationale for the Study

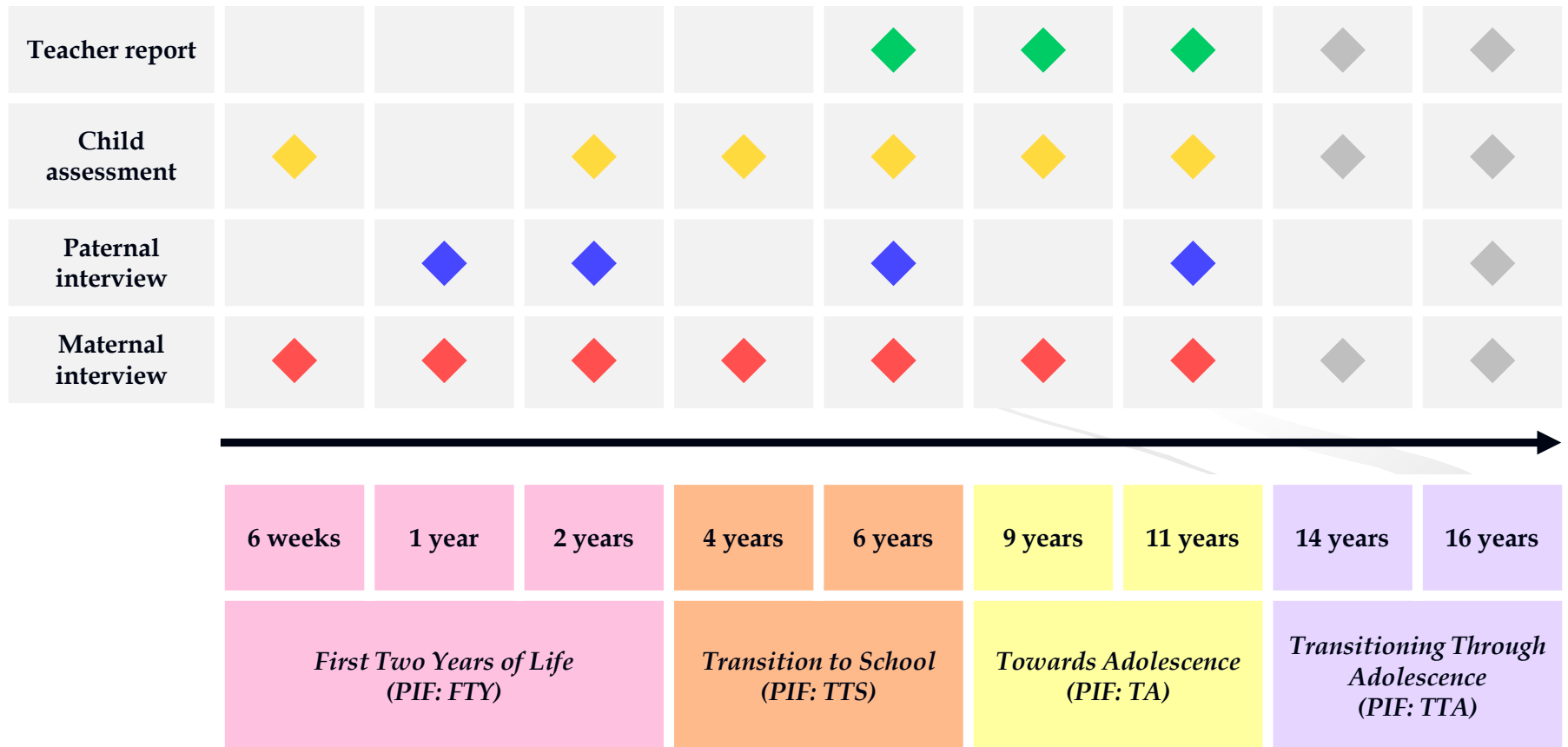
- Investigate critical periods of the lifecourse representing substantial social, psychological, and physical change
- Focusing on specific identified health and wellbeing issues for Pacific families in NZ
- Little comparable Pacific data available
- Utilise and build on an extensive longitudinal dataset to understand adolescent-specific issues

PIF Study team

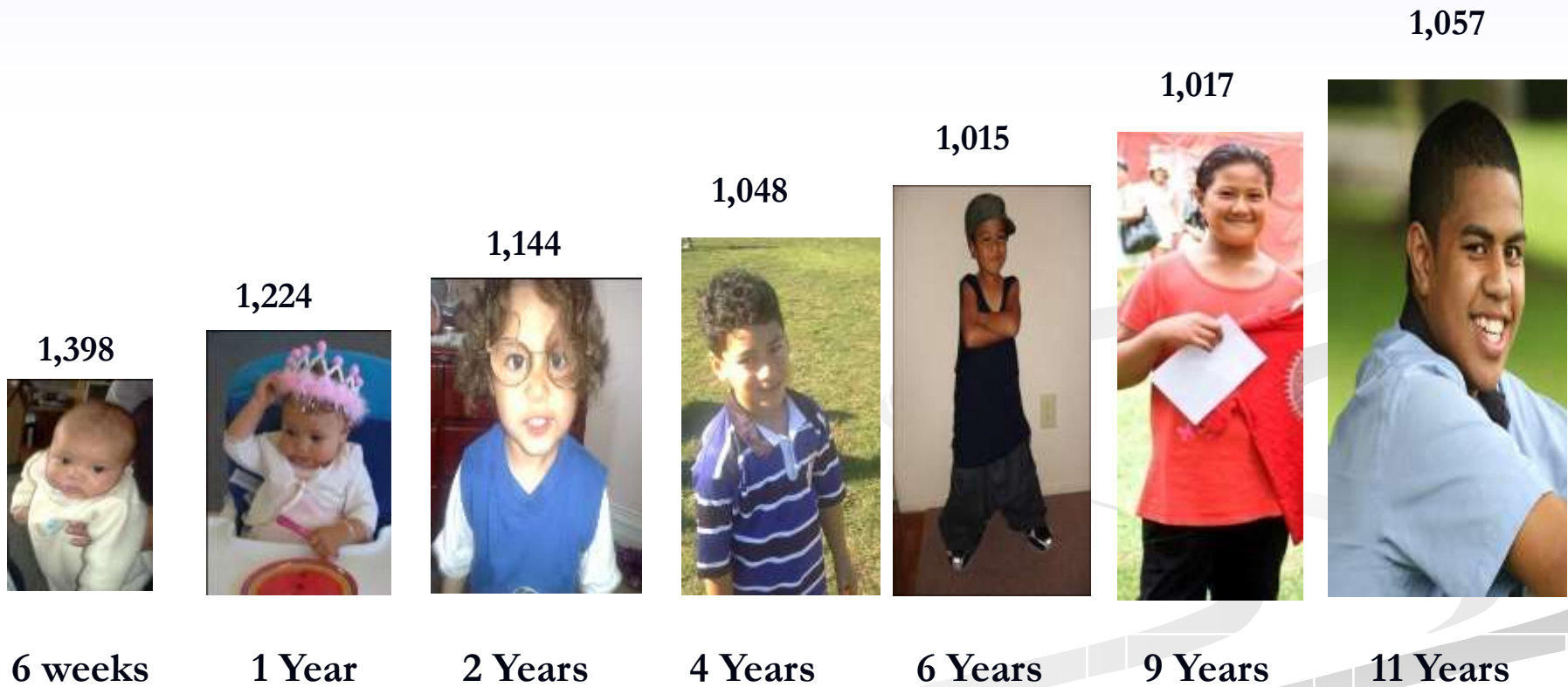


Data collection for PIF Study

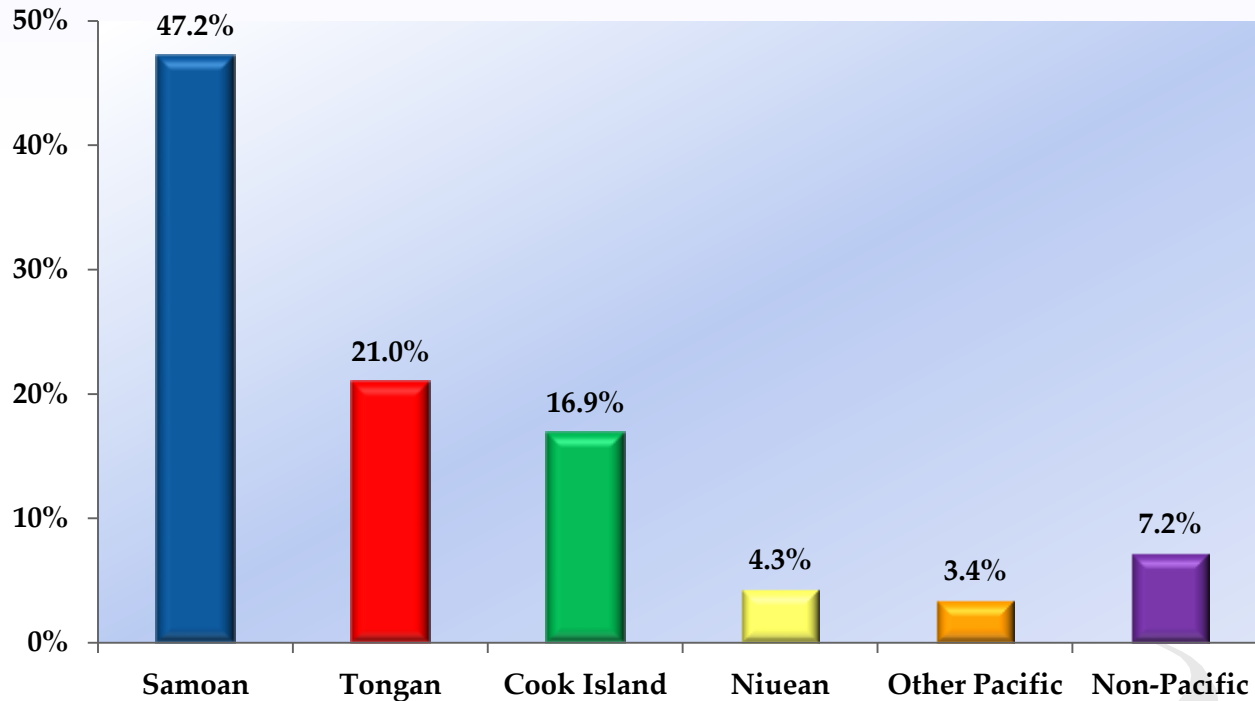
This programme is built on the established PIF cohort (n = 1398) and has the unique opportunity to understand issues of significance for Pacific youth and their families



Retention of PIF participants



Demographics of maternal cohort



Mean age: **27 years**

NZ-born: **33%**

Married or de facto couples: **81%**

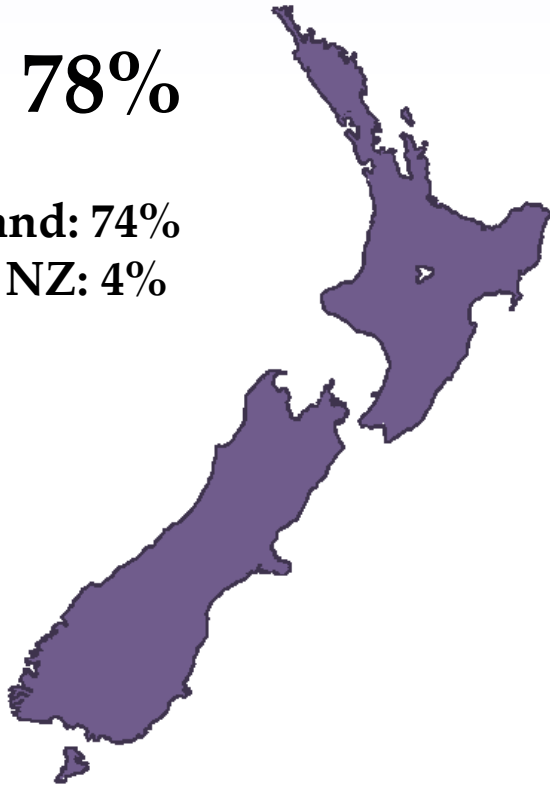
Post-school qualifications: **27%**

Where does the cohort live?

NZ: 78%

Auckland: 74%

Other NZ: 4%



Australia: 16%



Rest of world: 2%

What is investigated?

- Demographics
- Child development
- Child behaviour
- Peer relationships
- Child and family health
- Family finances
- Cultural aspects
- Partner relationships
- Parenting and home environment
- School and community environment



PIF Supplementary Studies

- OME at 2 years
- Gambling (6 & 9 years)
- Nutrition and Body Size (4, 6, and 9 years)
- Physical Activity (6 years)
- Traffic & Indoor Air pollution (9 years)
- Oral health (9 years)
- Hearing (11 years)

Strengths of PIF Study

- Excellent retention (7% drop-out)
- Robust multidisciplinary database
- Internationally known for multiple informants – Mother, Father, Child, Teacher
- Strong team of established and emerging researchers
- Solid platform for building Pacific research capacity
- Outputs: ~100 journal articles, book chapters, reports
~\$14 million funding



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Selected findings:

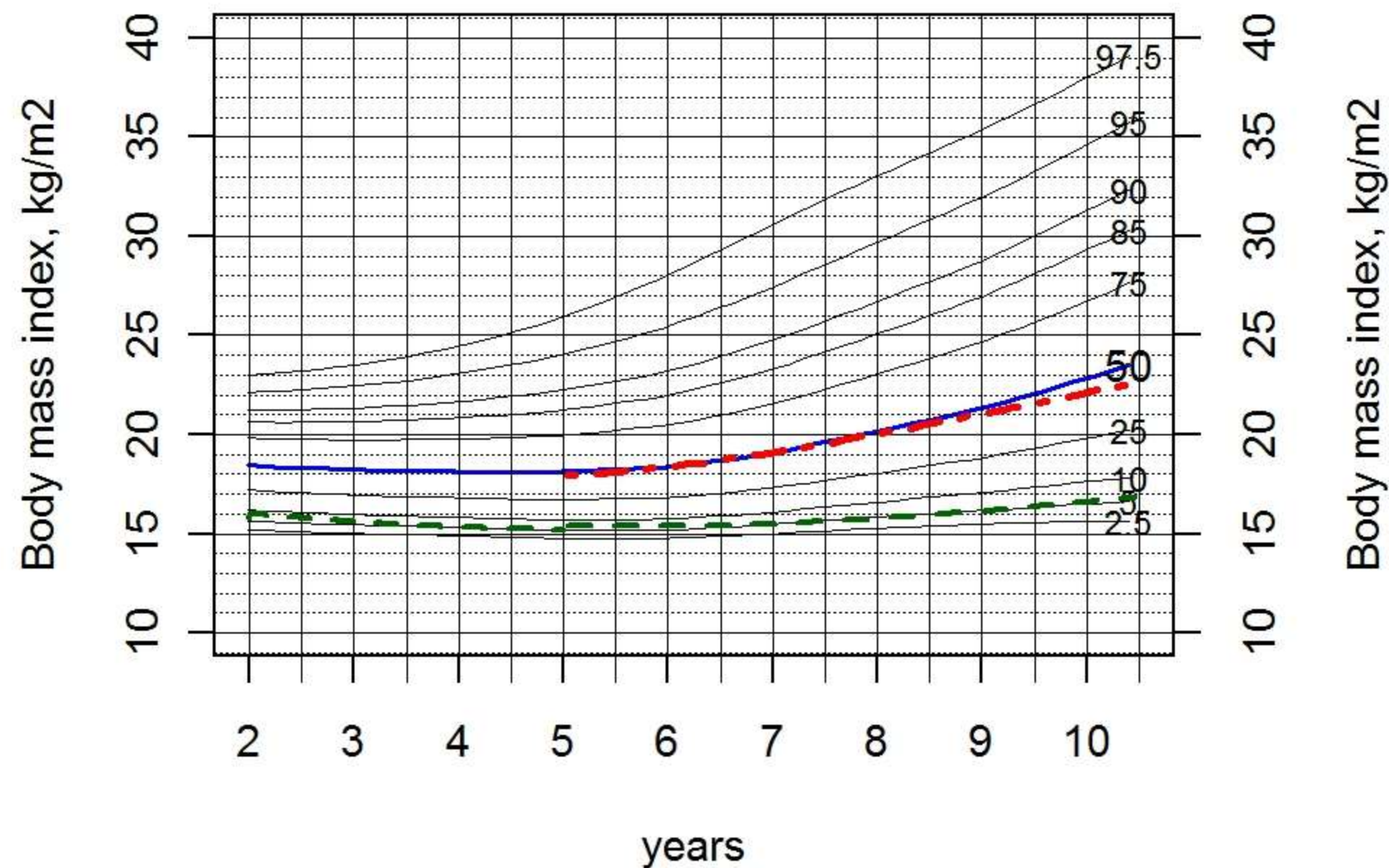
- Maternal factors, birth and ongoing body size
- HbA1c screening
- Acculturation & health

Maternal and early life factors associated child's weight status

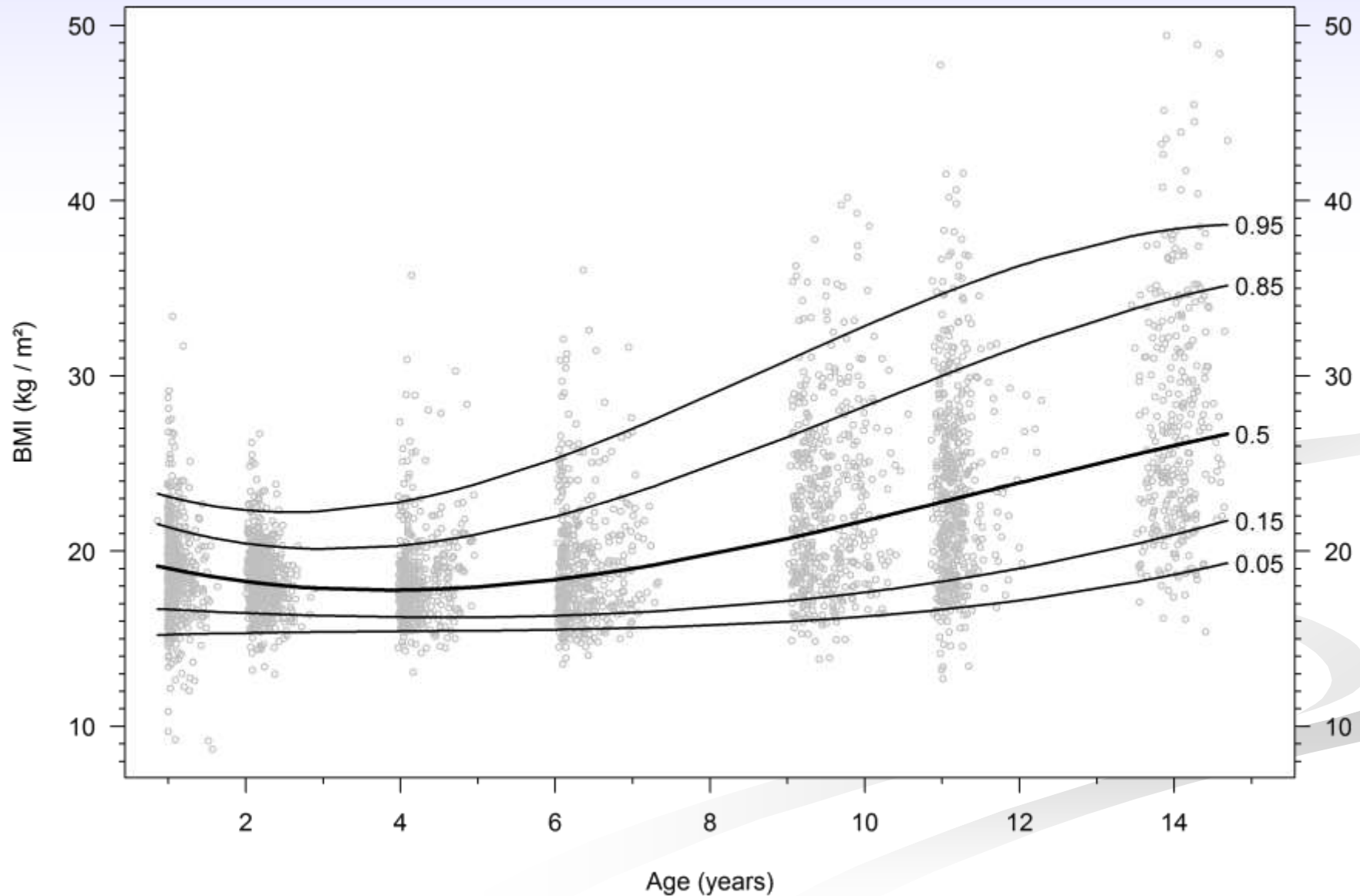
- Pacific children
 - Born heavier than WHO reference
 - Remain throughout their lifespan
 - From 4 yrs – daily weight gain of 11.2g/day vs 8.9g/day for WHO reference
- Children weigh less 2 & 4 yrs
 - Exclusively breastfed
 - Mothers didn't smoke
- Smoking during pregnancy
 - Smaller babies BUT gain weight faster



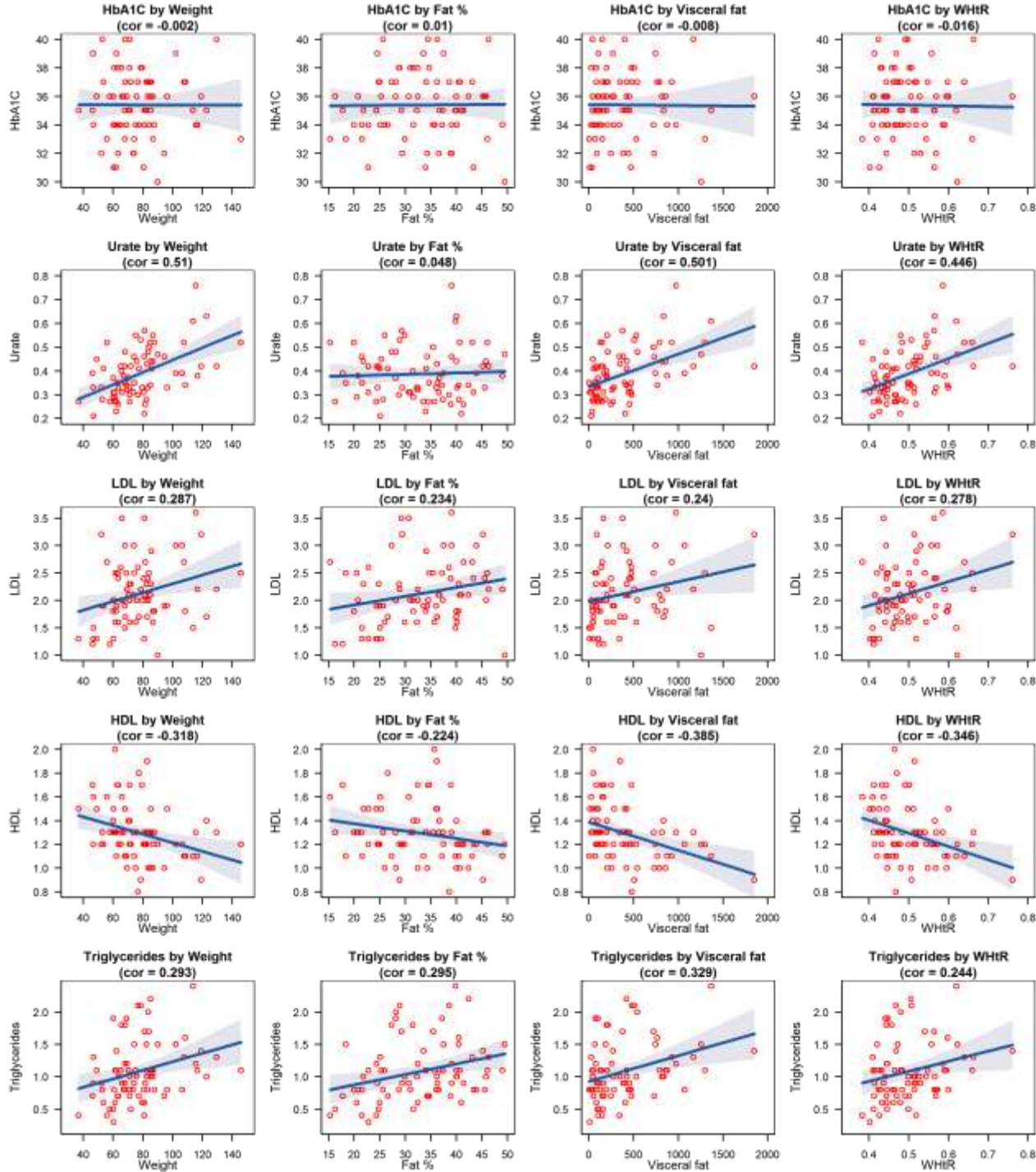
Pacific boys growth



Growth curves boys up to 14 yrs



HbA1c Screening



Acculturation & Health

The background of the slide features several light gray, wavy, horizontal lines that sweep across the lower right portion of the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Acculturation - definition

- Acculturation is “modification of the culture of a group or individual as a result of contact with a different culture”
- Attitudes, behaviours, values, beliefs are modified through contact
- Acculturation Theory – Bi-directional (Berry et al. 2003)

Acculturation Tool

- Adaption of GEQ screen (Tsai et al. 2000)
- Bi-dimensional = NZ & Pacific scale
- Language, customs, peers/friends, sports, health practices, food
- Piloted with Pacific advisory group and focus groups – robust psychometrics

Acculturation Groups

Cultural Type	Description
Assimilator	More aligned to dominant culture
Marginal	Aligned to neither culture
Integrator	Aligned to both cultures
Separator	More aligned to traditional culture

Maternal & Infant Risk factors

Maternal	Infant
Unplanned Pregnancy	Small for Gestational Age
Single Parent	Hospital Admission
Perpetration of IPV	Not immunised
Depression	Not exclusively breastfed
Gestational Smoking	
Gestational Alcohol	

Overall Results

Cultural Type	Odds Ratio
Separator (↑Pacific ↓NZ)	1.00
Integrator (↑Pacific ↑NZ)	1.53
Marginal (↓Pacific ↓NZ)	1.84
Assimilator (↓Pacific ↑NZ)	2.03

Key Findings

- Acculturation appears have important influence in health outcomes
- Pacific or traditional culture has a positive effect on health outcomes
- Need further investigation unpack this concept
 - strengthen cultural identity/utilise culture in our services



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Future endeavours for the PIF Study

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PIF Family Fun Day 2011!



Saturday 5th February 2011
AUT Manukau Campus

Special guests:

Tofiga

(from The Laughing Samoans)

Logan Swann

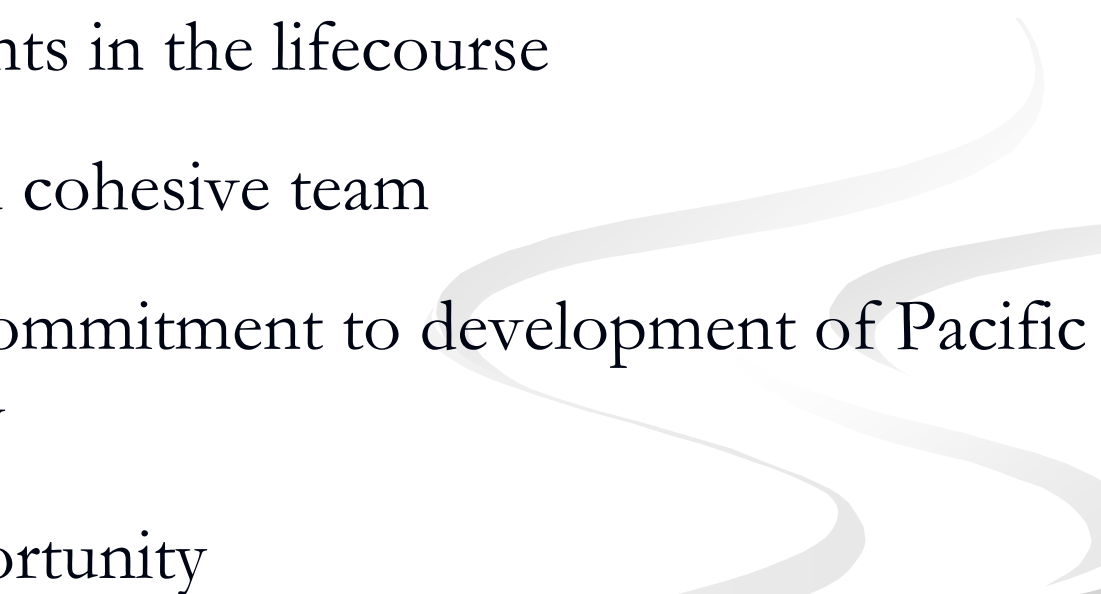
(former rugby player -Warriors)



Future Endeavours

- Planning data collection of 16 years phase of overall PIF Study.
- Completion of HRC project examine growth and body size of PIF cohort at 14 years
- Completion of mixed methods studies funded by MSI/MBiE:
 - 1) Building Successful Families (PIF:BSF Study)
 - 2) Pacific Youth in NZ: Maximising their Social & Economic potential (PYNZ Study)

Summary

- The PIF Study is the only longitudinal Pacific-specific study in the world
 - Crucial time-points in the lifecourse
 - Experienced and cohesive team
 - Demonstrated commitment to development of Pacific research capacity
 - Unequalled opportunity
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Acknowledgements

Further information via website: www.aut-pif.ac.nz



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