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# **To move or not to move? Exploring the relationship between residential mobility, risk of cardiovascular disease and ethnicity in New Zealand**

## **Abstract**

Residential mobility can have negative impacts on health, with some studies finding that residential mobility can contribute to widening health gradients in the population. However, ethnically differentiated experiences of residential mobility and the relationship with health are neglected in the literature. To examine the relationship between residential mobility, risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and ethnicity, we constructed a cohort of 2,077,470 participants aged 30+ resident in New Zealand using encrypted National Health Index (eNHI) numbers linked to individual level routinely recorded data. Using binary logistic regression, we model the risk of CVD for the population stratified by ethnic group according to mover status, baseline deprivation and transitions between deprivation statuses. We show that the relationship between residential mobility and CVD varies between ethnic groups and is strongly influenced by the inter-relationship between residential mobility and deprivation mobility. Whilst residential mobility is an important determinant of CVD, much of the variation between ethnic groups is explained by contrasting deprivation experiences. To reduce inequalities in CVD within New Zealand, policies must focus on residentially mobile Māori, Pacific and South Asian populations who already have a heightened risk of CVD living in more deprived areas.

## **Key words**

New Zealand; CVD; Ethnicity; Inequalities; Mobility; Migration; Deprivation; Record Linkage

## **Introduction**

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) and associated morbidities are among the leading causes of global deaths (World Health Organisation, 2014). In New Zealand (NZ) there are marked variations between ethnic groups in the prevalence of CVD (Blakely et al., 2004; Riddell et al., 2007; Jatrana and Blakely, 2008; Kerr et al., 2008; Grey et al., 2010; Mehta et al., 2011; Perumal et al., 2012; Ker et al., 2015; Mehta et al., 2014; Exeter et al., 2015; Wells et al., 2015). Between 1980 and 1999, while all ethnic groups experienced reductions in CVD mortality, Māori and Pacific populations saw markedly smaller

27 reductions than non-Māori non-Pacific (nMnP) groups (Blakely et al., 2005). By 2007, these disparities  
28 had not disappeared: Māori males and females almost invariably had the highest age-specific prevalence  
29 of CVD across all age groups, as well as the highest age-standardised prevalence of CVD (7.41  
30 compared to NZ's total population at 4.77, and 5.68 for the Pacific group) (Cheuk Chan et al., 2008).  
31 Stark differences in risk of CVD and CVD mortality between ethnic groups are not restricted to NZ.  
32 For example, rates of ischaemic heart disease amongst South Asian males are 30 to 40% higher than  
33 rates amongst the UK's general population (Department of Health, 2001). In the US in 2013, Black  
34 groups had 30% higher mortality from CVD than Whites, increasing to 113% higher CVD mortality  
35 than Asians and Pacific Islanders (Singh et al., 2015).

36 Exploring why ethnic inequalities in CVD exist is therefore of international importance. The existence  
37 of these inequalities across different contexts and across different ethnic groups suggests that these  
38 disparities are not solely explained by 'ethnicity'. Rather, these differences may (in part) be explained  
39 by similarities in the experiences of minority groups across different contexts and the social gradient to  
40 risk of CVD.

41 The impact of both traditional and environmental risk factors for CVD is modified by socioeconomic  
42 status (Albert et al., 2006). Thus, lower socioeconomic status and general disadvantage are associated  
43 with higher levels of CVD (Kanjilal et al., 2006; Clark et al., 2009) or increased exposure to CVD risk  
44 factors, such as smoking or low levels of physical activity (Gupta et al., 2012). A review of CVD  
45 mortality in the US and 11 western European countries found that risk increased with decreasing  
46 occupational class and lower levels of educational attainment, as well as factors such as smoking uptake  
47 and alcohol consumption (Mackenbach et al., 2000).

48 Given the social gradient of CVD occurrences, it is important to consider the contrasting socioeconomic  
49 circumstances which invariably characterise the experience of marginalised minority ethnic groups  
50 (MEGs) in different contexts, particularly when assessing ethnic inequalities in CVD. Where broader  
51 structural inequalities exist, these may exaggerate the already disadvantaged experience of marginalised  
52 MEGs and exacerbate health differences. For example, it has been suggested that in NZ, widening

53 inequalities in employment, housing, education and income during the 1980s and 1990s between Māori  
54 and Pacific groups compared to non-Māori non-Pacific groups may have had significant health  
55 implications (Blakely et al., 2005). This may explain the smaller reductions in CVD mortality for Māori  
56 and Pacific populations than observed for the non-Māori non-Pacific population. However, results of a  
57 previous study in Auckland, NZ suggest that there is an additional mechanism potentially driving  
58 inequalities in CVD: residential mobility.

59 XXXX found residential mobility to be an important determinant of CVD in Auckland, NZ. Residential  
60 mobility has important implications for health (Morris et al., 2016), and has been examined in NZ in  
61 the context of child health outcomes (Jelleyman and Spencer, 2008), but also more generally in  
62 Australia (Larson et al., 2004) and the UK (Boyle et al., 2005; Norman et al., 2005; 2011). However,  
63 the relationship between residential mobility and CVD is under-explored. In particular, no previous  
64 work has specifically investigated whether this relationship varies by ethnic group. Residential mobility  
65 is an inherently selective event: a wealth of research demonstrates this, highlighting that movers are  
66 often distinct from stayers in their age, sex, stage in the lifecourse, tenure, educational attainment, social  
67 class, income and health (e.g. Bentham, 1988; Findlay, 1988; Simpson and Finney, 2009). As the  
68 socioeconomic circumstances of different ethnic groups in any socio-political context varies, with  
69 substantial evidence that people from ethnic minorities also have significantly worse health experiences  
70 than people from non-ethnic minority groups, the patterning to residential mobility may vary between  
71 ethnic groups. More importantly, the nature of residential mobility experienced by different ethnic  
72 groups may also vary and therefore differently influence risk of CVD. For example, if certain groups  
73 are more likely to move frequently over shorter distances, or perhaps move frequently within similarly  
74 deprived neighbourhoods, the influence of these moves on CVD risk may vary compared with groups  
75 who move infrequently or experience upwards deprivation mobility, moving from more to less deprived  
76 areas. Results of XXXX research support this, revealing that those moving from less to more deprived  
77 areas having a higher risk of CVD hospitalisation than those moving in the opposite direction. The  
78 concept of health-selective migration can help us begin to disentangle possible variations in the  
79 patterning to residential mobility for different ethnic groups.

80 Theories of health-selective migration hypothesise that health gradients are widened as differently  
81 healthy groups of people are sorted into different area types (e.g. Boyle, 2004; Norman et al., 2011;  
82 Exeter et al., 2011). Those in good health or with favourable health-related individual characteristics  
83 are more likely to experience upward mobility, moving to less deprived areas. Conversely, those in poor  
84 health or with unfavourable health-related individual characteristics are more likely to experience  
85 downward mobility or remain in more deprived areas. These scenarios exacerbate existing health  
86 gradients as those in poor health continue to suffer the deleterious consequences of their relative  
87 disadvantage, while those living in more advantaged circumstances continue to reap the health benefits  
88 of their elevated situation. In a recent review of the literature on health and mobility, Morris et al.  
89 (2016) distinguish between population level aggregate studies, those which are typically used in the  
90 context of discussions of health-selective migration and changing health gradients (e.g. Boyle and  
91 Norman, 2009), and individual level studies wherein the relationship between health and mobility is  
92 more often viewed negatively (e.g. Jelleyman and Spencer, 2008).

93 Thus, in this study we might hypothesise that through health-selective migration, risk of CVD is lower  
94 for movers as compared to stayers as those at risk of CVD are less likely to move. However, we might  
95 also assume that risk of CVD is higher for an individual who has moved due to the stress associated  
96 with a move, perhaps exacerbated or attenuated by the nature of the move itself. Moreover, are they  
97 moving to a more or less deprived area? Given the results of the previous study (XXXX), we can  
98 hypothesise that movers across NZ will also have a higher risk of CVD than stayers, as found in  
99 Auckland. However, what is of interest is why this occurs, and whether the relationship varies between  
100 ethnic groups. This focuses attention on the complex relationship between mobility and health, and the  
101 context within which different ethnic groups live out their day-to-day lives.

102 The persistent (albeit narrowing) inequalities in areas such as housing and education experienced by  
103 MEGs in NZ (see Blakely et al., 2005) are echoed in the overwhelming concentration of minority groups  
104 in the most deprived areas of the country (see Table 2). The marginalisation of these groups both  
105 spatially but also more broadly (see work on the relationship between poor health outcomes and racial  
106 discrimination in NZ such as Harris et al., 2006; Harris et al., 2012; Harris et al., 2015) suggests that

107 MEGs in NZ might be more likely to experience increased rates of residential mobility. The neglected  
108 concept of ‘malign migration’ holds that marginalised, socially disadvantaged groups are more likely  
109 to experience residential mobility, and this is more common in inner city (often deprived) areas: this is  
110 detrimental to health (Warfa et al., 2006). It therefore seems likely that different ethnic groups in NZ  
111 will have different experiences of residential mobility, perhaps through processes of ‘malign migration’  
112 but also more broadly in terms of socioeconomic inequalities and the selective nature of migration. We  
113 can assume that this will differently influence the relationship between CVD and residential mobility  
114 for different ethnic groups. One aspect of the relationship between residential mobility and health which  
115 gets less specific coverage in the literature is immobility. Notwithstanding a few notable exceptions  
116 (e.g. Boyle et al., 2004; Exeter et al., 2011; Brown et al., 2012), much of the extant literature in this area  
117 focuses on the selection of mobile groups into different socioeconomic circumstances. However,  
118 reasons for immobility may be as important in the selection process as reasons for mobility. This will  
119 also be addressed.

120 This paper uses a unique, unrivalled longitudinal dataset to investigate an under-explored determinant  
121 of CVD, that of residential mobility, and evaluate whether the salience of residential mobility (and  
122 immobility) as a determinant of CVD varies between ethnic groups. Extending the research for the  
123 Auckland Region by XXXX, a cohort of participants are derived from national routine health databases  
124 in NZ. We address the following research questions:

- 125 1. Do movers in NZ have a higher risk of CVD than stayers?
- 126 2. Is risk of CVD for movers attenuated by baseline deprivation at the start of the study period?
- 127 3. Do the patterns observed for movers and stayers in NZ overall vary for specific ethnic groups?
- 128 4. How does the nature of a move influence risk of CVD for different ethnic groups in NZ? and;
- 129 5. Does risk of CVD for ethnic groups who do not move (stayers) vary by deprivation?

### 130 **Data and methods**

131 A cohort of participants was identified using the unique health identifier which is assigned to the  
132 majority of all NZ residents. Using these identifiers, patient records are anonymously and securely

133 linked between four national routine health databases: enrolment with a Primary Health Organisation  
134 (PHO), hospital discharges, mortality records and pharmaceutical dispensing claims from community  
135 pharmacies. As data held by the Ministry of Health on discharges from private hospitals are incomplete,  
136 these are excluded from the cohort (Ministry of Health, 2014).

137 Building on XXXX study, we use the same population eligibility criteria, but increase the coverage to  
138 the entire adult population of NZ rather than focusing on Auckland residents. Thus, participants are  
139 eligible for inclusion if enrolled in any PHO within NZ during at least one of the 34 calendar quarters  
140 of the study period from 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2014; aged 30 years or over at the start of the study  
141 period; had complete demographic information; and had no prior history of CVD (defined below) before  
142 1 January 2006. Figure 1 summarises the eligibility criteria for this study.

143

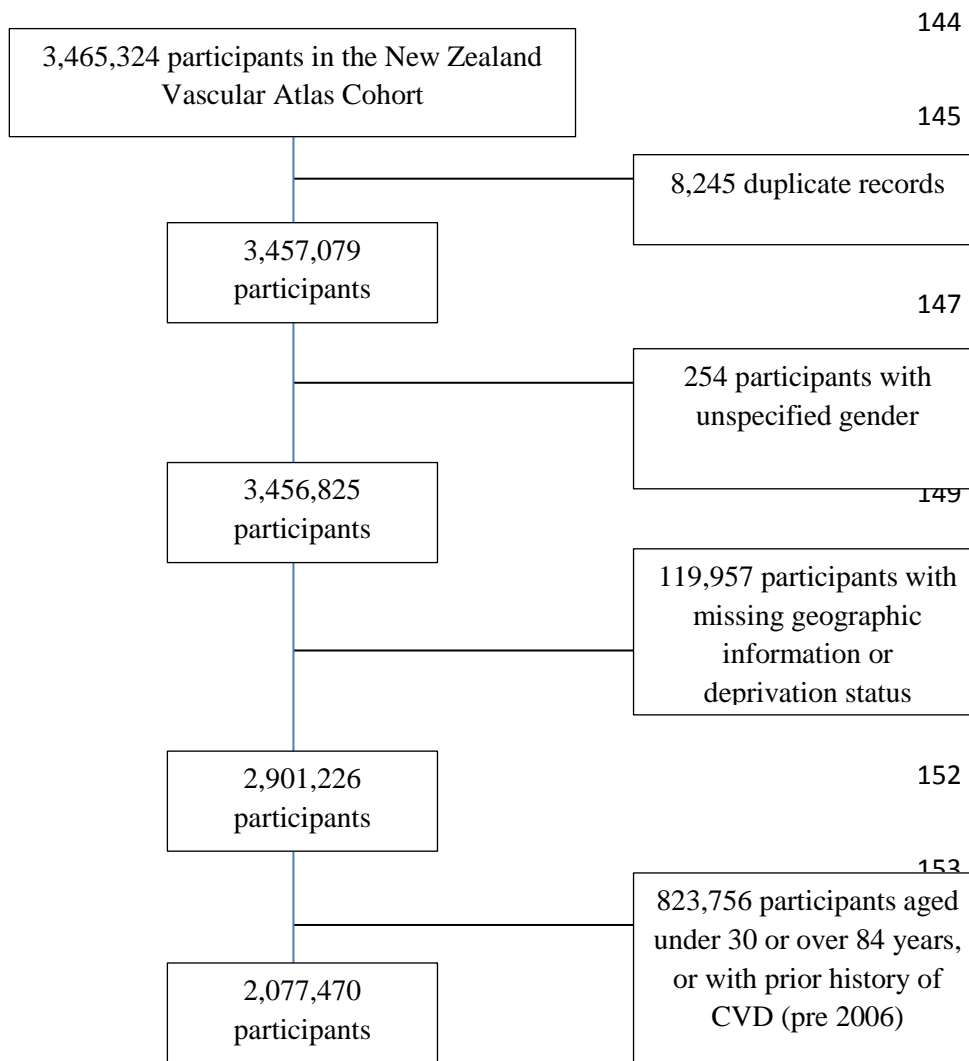


Figure 1 Population eligibility flow chart

156

157 Variables

158 Variables identifying each participant’s age, sex, ethnicity and area of residence are the key independent  
 159 demographic variables for this analysis. Consistent with previous work, age was categorised into six  
 160 groups (30-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65-74; 75-85) with the 55-64 age band used as the reference group  
 161 (XXXX; Grey et al., 2014; Warin et al., 2016). The age group was restricted due to the low risk of CVD  
 162 for those aged below 30 years, and the incomplete data, increased risk of having a history of CVD and  
 163 the statistical problem of small numbers for those aged over 85.

164 Using the national ethnicity coding protocols for NZ, we prioritised ethnicity to identify five ethnic  
 165 groups: Māori, Pacific, Indian (Indian groups are distinguishable from Other South Asian groups in



166 NZ's ethnicity coding system), Other Asian, and NZ and Other European combined (NZE0). Consistent  
167 with the PREDICT study (Wells et al., 2015), we distinguish between Indian and Other Asian groups  
168 given the higher risk of CVD amongst Indian participants relative to Other Asian participants (Ministry  
169 of Health, 2012). We use Census Meshblocks (MBs) to identify a participant's area of residence in each  
170 calendar quarter, and to derive information on residential mobility and area deprivation.

171 MBs consist of (on average) approximately 100 persons and are the most detailed geographic unit of  
172 analysis available for census data in NZ. Using the NZ Index of Deprivation (NZDep2006), we assigned  
173 a deprivation score to each participant based on their MB for each calendar quarter. This is a measure  
174 of area level socioeconomic deprivation based on nine variables from the 2006 Census (Salmond et al.,  
175 2007). Scores are ranked into quintiles where quintile 1 (Q1) comprises the least deprived 20% of areas  
176 across NZ and quintile 5 (Q5) the most deprived 20%.

177 By assigning each participant to a MB and NZDep2006 score at each calendar quarter, we identified  
178 participants who moved during the study period as well as their deprivation trajectory according to  
179 moves between or within deprivation quintiles. We focus on overall deprivation trajectory; for  
180 participants who moved, we investigate the change between first and last recorded MB and NZDep2006  
181 score. We use the same measure of deprivation for all time points (from 2006 to 2014), as NZDep2013  
182 was not published when we obtained our dataset. However, we do recognise that areas can change their  
183 level of deprivation over time (Norman, 2010), and that changing and persistent area deprivation can  
184 have a concomitant influence on health (Boyle et al., 2004; Norman et al., 2010; Exeter et al., 2011).  
185 The implications of using fixed deprivation levels to analyse changes in health has been considered  
186 elsewhere and found not to affect interpretations (Bajekal et al., 2013). In the main this is because the  
187 relative position of areas with regard to their level of deprivation has great consistency over time  
188 (Norman and Darlington-Pollock, 2016).

189 Any participant with a previous hospitalisation or procedure related to acute coronary syndrome,  
190 ischaemic and haemorrhagic stroke, peripheral arterial disease or for congestive failure was defined as  
191 having a CVD event, either for exclusion purposes or for identification during the study period. Table

192 1 summarises the variables included in the analysis, distinguishing between movers and stayers for the  
193 NZ cohort of participants.

#### 194 Analysis

195 We used binary logistic regression to model risk of CVD for different ethnic groups in NZ. All results  
196 are expressed as odds ratios (ORs) and accompanied by 95% confidence intervals (CIs). We constructed  
197 five models adjusting for: 1) mover status; 2) mover status and baseline deprivation; 3) deprivation  
198 mobility status; 4) detailed deprivation transitions; and 5) deprivation circumstances for stayers.  
199 Deprivation mobility status identifies the overall nature of the deprivation mobility experienced by each  
200 participant- moving to more deprivation; churning within comparable deprivation; or moving to less  
201 deprivation. The detailed deprivation transitions expand on this, in particular identifying moves into,  
202 out of or within the least (Q1) and most (Q5) deprived areas, as well as those who move within Q2 to  
203 Q4. Given the anticipated role of deprivation in contributing to risk of CVD, the results begin with a  
204 discussion of the ethnic profile of the deprivation quintiles (according to baseline deprivation). In the  
205 first instance, all models were run using the total sample population, adjusting for age, sex and ethnicity.  
206 Then, the five models were stratified by ethnic group, adjusting for age and sex (models 1e to 5e). For  
207 the models adjusting for stable deprivation, movers are the reference group. For all other models, we  
208 use stayers as the reference group in the relevant variables. We take females and NZEO as the reference  
209 group for gender and ethnicity. As mentioned above, we take those aged 55-64 as the reference group  
210 in line with wider literature investigating CVD (e.g. Warin et al., 2016). The models were stratified by  
211 ethnic group as we hypothesised that the relationships between residential mobility and risk of CVD  
212 may vary by ethnic group. Ethnic-specific models illuminate how the relationship between residential  
213 mobility and risk of CVD may interact differently with different ethnic groups: this is not captured in  
214 models only adjusting for ethnicity. Results for the ethnic-specific models are presented as modelled  
215 probabilities. Modelled probabilities are more comparable than ORs which only summarise the constant  
216 effect of the predictor variable (e.g. becoming less deprived) on risk of CVD. Modelled probabilities  
217 quantify the likelihood of CVD for the predictor variable (e.g. becoming less deprived), holding all  
218 other variables constant. All analyses were conducted in IBM SPSS Statistics 23.

219 Table 1. Demographics of movers and stayers aged 30-85 years in New Zealand

<b>Total</b>	<b>Stayers</b> (n = 950,151 45.7%)	<b>Movers</b> (n = 1,127,319 54.3%)	<b>Total</b> (n = 2,077,470)
<b>CVD event</b>			
Yes	75,263 (7.9%)	78,867 (7.0%)	154,130 (7.4%)
No	874,888 (92.1%)	1,048,452 (93.0%)	1,923,340 (92.6%)
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	460,004 (48.4%)	532,608 (47.2%)	992,612 (47.8%)
Female	490,147 (51.6%)	594,711 (52.8%)	1,084,858 (52.2%)
<b>Age</b>			
30-44	333,784 (35.1%)	581,225 (51.6%)	915,009 (44.0%)
45-54	242,051 (25.5%)	251,287 (22.3%)	493,338 (23.7%)
55-64	191,279 (20.1%)	159,863 (14.2%)	351,142 (16.9%)
65-74	119,198 (12.5%)	83,915 (7.4%)	203,113 (9.8%)
75-85	63,839 (6.7%)	51,029 (4.5%)	114,868 (5.5%)
<b>Ethnic</b>			
Māori	65,741 (6.9%)	111,876 (9.9%)	177,617 (8.5%)
Pacific	49,620 (5.2%)	61,641 (5.5%)	111,261 (5.4%)
Indian	22,716 (2.4%)	32,000 (2.6%)	54,716 (6.5%)
Other Asian	61,759 (6.5%)	67,166 (6.0%)	128,961 (6.2%)
NZEO	750,279 (79.0%)	854,636 (75.8%)	1,604,915 (77.3%)
<b>Baseline deprivation</b>			
Q1 – least deprived	235,253 (24.8%)	243,123 (21.6%)	478,376 (23.0%)
Q2	206,990 (21.8%)	235,474 (20.9%)	442,464 (21.3%)
Q3	186,050 (19.6%)	222,702 (19.8%)	408,752 (19.7%)
Q4	169,273 (17.8%)	220,189 (19.5%)	389,462 (18.7%)
Q5 – most deprived	152,585 (16.1%)	205,831 (18.3%)	358,416 (17.3%)
<b>Of movers:</b>			
<b>Deprivation change</b>			

To less deprived area	374,467 (33.2%)
Moved within same level	421,114 (37.4%)
To more deprived area	331,738 (29.4%)
<b>Deprivation transitions</b>	
Within Q1	111,072 (9.9%)
Into Q1	133,457 (11.8%)
Out of Q1	118,654 (10.5%)
Within Q2-Q4	460,532 (40.9%)
Out of Q5	114,158 (10.1%)
Into Q5	97,773 (8.7%)
Within Q5	91,673 (8.1%)
<b>Of stayers:</b>	
Stable Q1 – least deprived	235,253 (24.8%)
Stable Q2	186,050 (19.6%)
Stable Q3	169,273 (17.8%)
Stable Q4	152,585 (16.1%)
Stable Q5 – most deprived	

220

## 221 **Results**

### 222 **i) Ethnic profile of deprivation quintiles in NZ**

223 Table 2 summarises the distribution of each ethnic group across the baseline deprivation quintiles.  
 224 Māori and Pacific peoples, and to a lesser extent Indians, are disproportionately represented in the more  
 225 deprived quintiles (Q4 and Q5). For Māori and Pacific, this accounts for the majority of the population.  
 226 NZEO peoples are skewed towards the less deprived quintiles (Q1-Q3) whilst Other Asian peoples are  
 227 fairly evenly distributed between Q1 and Q4. Given the unequivocal relationship between poor health

228 and increasing deprivation (e.g. Boyle et al., 2005), the distribution of NZ's population across the  
 229 deprivation quintiles will be pertinent to experiences of specific health outcomes, including CVD.

230 Table 2. Population by ethnic group and baseline deprivation quintile

	<b>Q1 Least deprived</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5 Most deprived</b>
Māori	12,535 (7.1%)	18,181 (10.2%)	26,096 (14.7%)	41,383 (23.3%)	79,422 (44.7%)
Pacific	4,992 (4.5%)	7,889 (7.1%)	12,150 (10.9%)	23,077 (20.7%)	63,153 (56.8%)
Indian	7,341 (13.4%)	9,330 (17.1%)	10,850 (19.8%)	14,777 (27.0%)	12,418 (22.7%)
Other Asian	28,917 (22.4%)	29,455 (22.8%)	26,286 (20.4%)	25,199 (19.5%)	19,104 (14.8%)
NZEO	424,591(26.5%)	377,609 (23.5%)	333,370 (20.8%)	285,026 (17.8%)	184,319 (11.5%)
Total	478,376 (23.0%)	442,464 (21.3%)	408,752 (19.7%)	389,462 (18.7%)	358,416 (17.3%)

231

232 **ii) The influence of mobility on CVD in a national health database cohort**

233 We summarise the results of each model first for all persons, and then by ethnic group. Table 3 presents  
 234 ORs and CIs for the five all-person models. Statistically significant ORs are starred. Males consistently  
 235 have significantly higher odds of CVD than females. Adjusting for different residential mobility or  
 236 deprivation mobility variables has only a marginal impact on the size of the ORs for males. A clear age-  
 237 gradient in CVD risk is apparent across all models, whereby participants aged 30-44 and 45-54 years  
 238 have significantly lower odds of CVD than participants aged 55-64. This reverses in the older age  
 239 groups: those aged 65-74 and 75-85 years have a significantly higher risk of CVD than the reference  
 240 group. As with the ORs for gender, adjusting for different residential mobility or deprivation mobility  
 241 variables has only a marginal impact on the ORs for each age group. This does not affect the statistical  
 242 significance of the variables, or the interpretation of the ORs.

243 Table 3. Binary logistic regression modelling CVD events in NZ adult population

Model description	Model 1 Odds Ratio (95% CI)	Model 2 Odds Ratio (95% CI)	Model 3 Odds Ratio (95% CI)	Model 4 Odds Ratio (95% CI)	Model 5 Odds Ratio (95% CI)
Adjusts for gender, age ethnicity plus:	Mover status	Mover status, baseline deprivation	Deprivation mobility status	Detailed deprivation transitions	Deprivation quintile for stayers
<b>Gender</b>					
Female	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>
Male	1.66* (1.64 – 1.68)	1.66*(1.64 – 1.68)	1.66*(1.64 – 1.68)	1.66*(1.64 – 1.68)	1.66*(1.64 – 1.68)
<b>Age group</b>					
30-44	0.12* (0.12-0.12)	0.12*(0.12-0.12)	0.12* (0.12-0.12)	0.12* (0.12-0.12)	0.12*(0.12-0.12)
45-54	0.42* (0.42 -0.43)	0.42* (0.42 -0.43)	0.42* (0.42 -0.43)	0.42* (0.42 -0.43)	0.43*(0.42 -0.43)
55-64	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>
65-74	2.41*(2.37 – 2.44)	2.38* (2.34 – 2.42)	2.40* (2.37 – 2.44)	2.39* (2.35 – 2.43)	2.39* (2.36 – 2.43)
75-85	5.54*(5.45 – 5.63)	5.43* (5.34 – 5.52)	5.54* (5.44 – 5.63)	5.48* (5.39 – 5.57)	5.48* (5.39 – 5.58)
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
NZEO	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>
Māori	2.25* (2.21 – 2.30)	1.97* (1.93– 2.01)	2.26* (2.21 – 2.30)	2.05* (2.01 – 2.09)	2.15* (2.10 – 2.19)
Pacific	1.63* (1.59 – 1.67)	1.38* (1.35 – 1.42)	1.64* (1.60 – 1.68)	1.47* (1.43 – 1.51)	1.53* (1.49 – 1.57)
Indian	1.21*(1.17 - 1.26)	1.14*(1.10 - 1.19)	1.21* (1.17 - 1.26)	1.17* (1.12 - 1.22)	1.19*(1.15 - 1.24)
Other Asian	0.56*(0.54 - 0.58)	0.55* (0.54 - 0.57)	0.56* (0.54 - 0.58)	0.56* (0.54 – 0.57)	0.56* (0.54 - 0.58)
<b>Mover status</b>					
Stayer	<b>REF</b>	<b>REF</b>			
Mover	1.26* (1.25 – 1.28)	1.26* (1.24 – 1.27)			
<b>Baseline deprivation (NZDep2006)</b>					
Q1(least deprived)		<b>REF</b>			
Q2		1.14* (1.12 – 1.16)			
Q3		1.26* (1.24 – 1.29)			
Q4		1.39* (1.37 – 1.42)			
Q5		1.58* (1.55 – 1.61)			
<b>Deprivation mobility status</b>					
Stayer			<b>REF</b>		
Moves up			1.29* (1.27 – 1.31)		
Moves w/in			1.23* (1.21 – 1.25)		
Moves down			1.28* (1.26 – 1.30)		
<b>Deprivation transitions (detailed moves between quintiles)</b>					
Stayer				<b>REF</b>	

Within Q1	0.88* (0.85 – 0.91)	
Into Q1	1.08* (1.05 – 1.11)	
Out of Q1	1.06* (1.03 – 1.08)	
Within Q2-4	1.26* (1.24 – 1.28)	
Out of Q5	1.55* (1.51 – 1.58)	
Into Q5	1.52* (1.48 – 1.56)	
Within Q5	1.71* (1.66 – 1.76)	
<b>Stable deprivation</b>		
Mover		REF
Stable Q1		0.65* (0.64 – 0.67)
Stable Q2		0.73* (0.72 – 0.75)
Stable Q3		0.81* (0.79 – 0.82)
Stable Q4		0.89* (0.87 – 0.90)
Stable Q5		0.94* (0.92 – 0.96)

244 Note: statistically significant ORs are starred:  $p < 0.001$ .

245

246 Adjusting for residential or deprivation mobility has a more discernible impact on the ORs for certain  
247 ethnic groups. Across all five models, the highest odds of CVD are consistently observed for Māori  
248 groups, ranging from an OR of 2.26 (95% CI 2.21-2.30) in model 3 to 1.97 (1.93-2.01) in model 2. The  
249 odds of Māori having CVD, however, are attenuated by baseline deprivation, evident in the reduction  
250 of the odds of CVD for Māori in model 2 compared to the other models. Models 1, 3, 4 and 5 all suggest  
251 that the odds of Māori being hospitalised for CVD is more than twice that of NZEO. However, when  
252 adjusting for baseline deprivation the odds are significantly lower (1.97). The importance of baseline  
253 deprivation in explaining odds of CVD is not limited to Māori, as the odds of CVD also notably declines  
254 for Pacific and Indian participants in model 2. Baseline deprivation appears to exert a stronger influence  
255 on odds of CVD for each ethnic group than mover status alone. Indeed the ORs for each deprivation  
256 quintile are all significantly different from each other, increasing in size with increasing deprivation  
257 with Q2 at 1.14 (1.12-1.16) and Q5 climbing to 1.57 (1.54-1.59). Odds of CVD for Māori and Pacific  
258 groups are more notably attenuated when adjusting for deprivation than the other ethnic groups. It is  
259 possible this is largely driven by the likelihood of Māori, Pacific, and to a lesser extent, Indian groups,  
260 living in more deprived areas as CVD is socially graded.

261 Results of models 4 and 5 further demonstrate the importance of deprivation in explaining risk of CVD  
262 for different ethnic groups. ORs are attenuated when adjusting for detailed deprivation transitions  
263 (model 4) and stable deprivation for stayers (model 5). Although the reduction in the ORs for each  
264 ethnic group is smaller in models 4 and 5 than observed in model 2, it is still notable. Despite the  
265 apparent importance of deprivation, it is important to note that even after adjusting for deprivation and  
266 deprivation transition, the odds of CVD for Māori and Pacific groups are still notably high. Variables  
267 not adjusted for in these models, such as social class, tenure, education and employment may explain  
268 some of the variation observed here. The importance of these variables in relation to risk factors for  
269 CVD has been determined in the wider literature (e.g. Albert et al., 2006).

270 After Māori, Pacific people have the highest odds of CVD, followed by Indians. These three ethnic  
271 groups consistently have significantly higher odds of CVD than NZEO, whether adjusting for  
272 residential or deprivation mobility. Conversely, Other Asian peoples have significantly lower odds of



273 CVD relative to NZEO in all five models. While the ORs for Māori, Pacific and Indian peoples are  
274 attenuated when adjusting for residential or deprivation mobility, this is not true for Other Asians. The  
275 odds of Other Asians being hospitalised for CVD are consistently about 45% less likely than for NZEO  
276 participants.

277 In models 1 and 2, movers have significantly higher odds of CVD than stayers (1.26 (1.24-1.27) when  
278 adjusting for baseline deprivation). There is no change in the size of the ORs or the size of the  
279 confidence interval between these two models. The influence of residential mobility on the odds of  
280 being hospitalised for CVD can also be seen in model 3: after adjusting for deprivation mobility status,  
281 the odds of CVD are significantly higher for movers regardless of their deprivation mobility status.  
282 Further, the odds of CVD for these differently mobile groups are not significantly different from each  
283 other. However, as demonstrated in model 4, the odds of CVD are influenced by detailed deprivation  
284 transition: variations begin to emerge when looking at residential mobility in the context of transitions  
285 into and out of the extremes of the deprivation spectrum.

286 Movers who churn within the least deprived quintile (Q1) are the only mobile group to have  
287 significantly lower odds of CVD than stayers (0.88 (0.85-0.91)). Model 4 shows that the odds of CVD  
288 generally increases successively with each transition down the deprivation spectrum. Of those moving  
289 within the same deprivation quintile (i.e. churning), the highest odds of CVD are for those churning  
290 within the most deprived quintile (Q5) (1.71 (1.66-1.76)), followed by those who move out of or into  
291 Q5. There is no significant difference in the odds of CVD among those moving into Q5 (1.52 (1.48-  
292 1.56)) or out of Q5 (1.55 (1.51-1.58)), or between those moving into (1.08 (1.05-1.11)) or out of (1.06  
293 (1.03-1.08)) Q1.

294 Model 5 further demonstrates that movers are, generally, at significantly higher risk of CVD than  
295 stayers. Odds of CVD for stayers (in model 5) are consistently significantly lower than for the reference  
296 group of movers. Here, we see a clear deprivation gradient with the odds of CVD increasing  
297 significantly for stayers with increasing levels of area deprivation. However, despite these significant

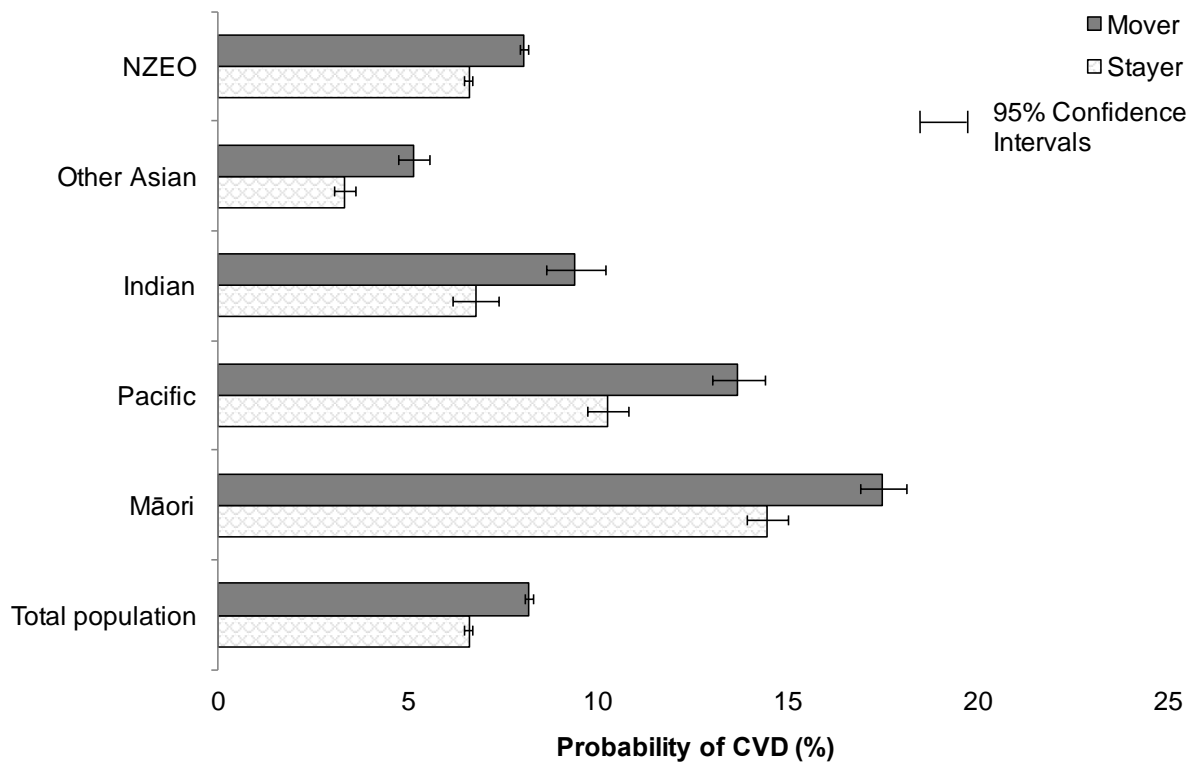
298 increases stayers in Q5, the most deprived area, are still significantly less likely than movers to have  
299 CVD.

300 The results of the all-person models suggest: a) there is an important relationship between residential  
301 mobility and CVD but that the overall direction of the move is less important than the move itself, and  
302 b) CVD is socially graded. This is apparent in the clear deprivation gradient in odds of CVD by baseline  
303 deprivation, stable deprivation (for stayers), and when accounting for specific moves into and out of the  
304 most and least deprived areas. Importantly, we also see clear and consistent disparities in the odds of  
305 CVD by ethnic group, each somewhat attenuated by residential mobility and deprivation (change). The  
306 following set of results explore the social gradient to CVD and the influence of residential mobility and  
307 deprivation (change) in more detail for each ethnic group.

### 308 **iii) Ethnic-specific influences of mobility on CVD**

309 For models 1e to 5e (subset by ethnic group), modelled probabilities of CVD are calculated for each  
310 ethnic group by origin deprivation, deprivation mobility status, detailed deprivation transitions, and  
311 stable deprivation for stayers. These are compared to the modelled probabilities of CVD for the total  
312 population. All probabilities are derived from models adjusting for age and sex in addition to the  
313 relevant residential mobility or deprivation-related variables. Probabilities derived from the all-persons  
314 models discussed above also adjust for ethnicity. Error bars are presented on each graph to represent  
315 the 95% confidence intervals.

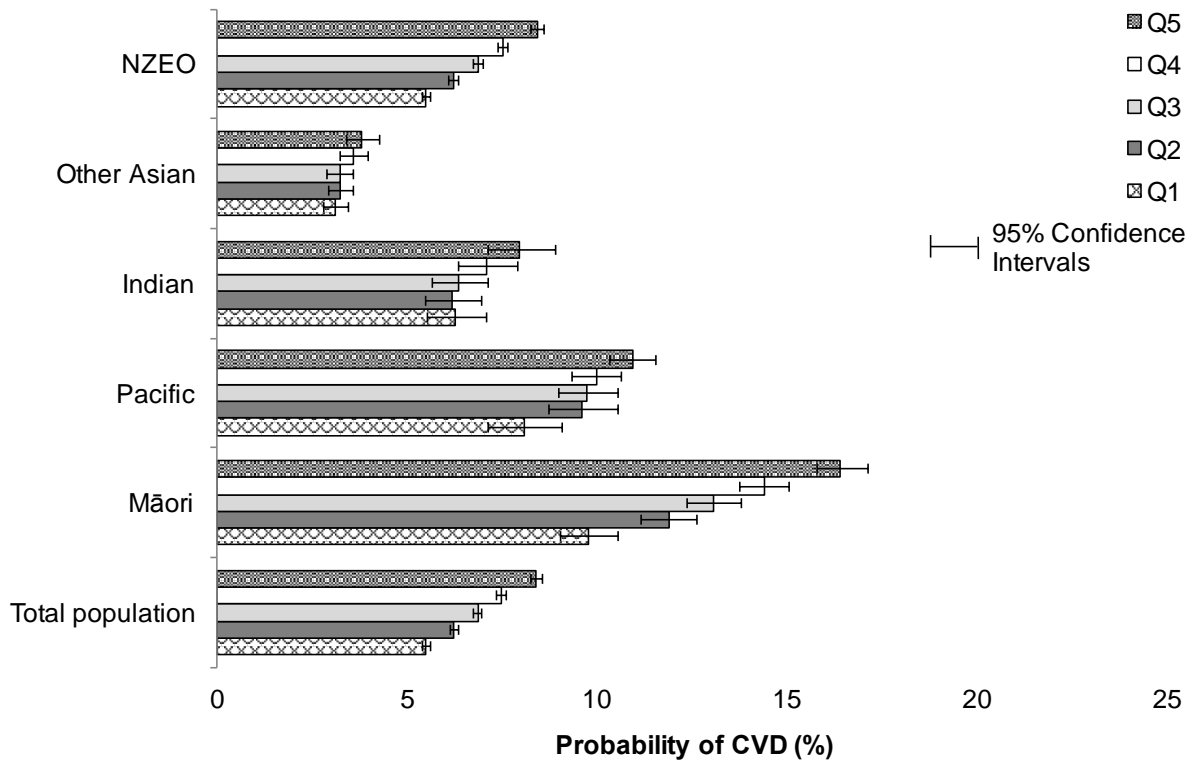
316 Figure 2 presents the modelled probability of CVD by mover status stratified by ethnicity from models  
317 1e. For all ethnic groups, the probability of CVD is significantly higher for movers than for stayers.  
318 Compared to the total population, Māori and Pacific movers and stayers, and Indian movers have  
319 significantly higher probabilities of CVD. Probability of CVD for Other Asian stayers is significantly  
320 lower than the probability of CVD for all other groups (3.31% compared to 17.47% for Māori movers).



321

322 Figure 2 Probability of CVD (%) by mover status, stratified by ethnic group (adjusting for age,  
 323 gender, [and ethnicity])

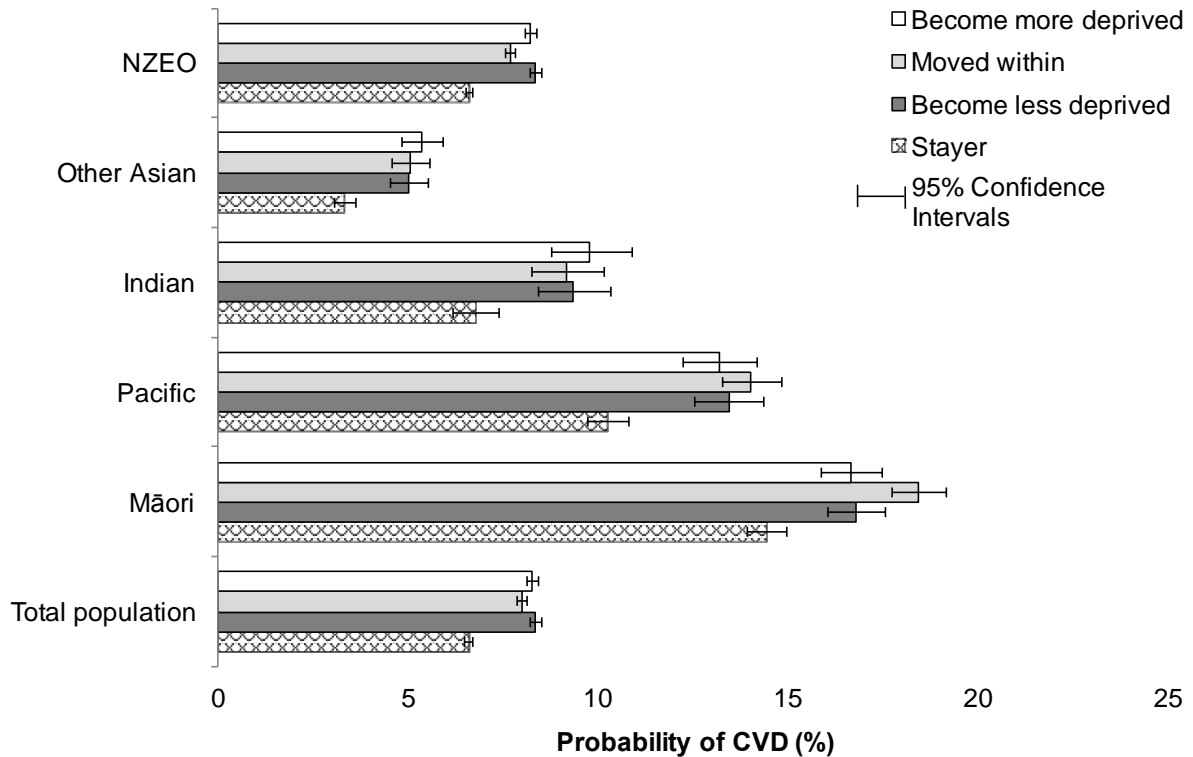
324 Figure 3 summarises results from models 2e: the probability of having CVD by baseline deprivation  
 325 stratified by ethnic group. Whilst a deprivation gradient is apparent for all ethnic groups, the steepness  
 326 of this gradient varies. It is steepest for Māori and Pacific groups who have a disproportionate share of  
 327 their population in the more deprived quintiles (see Table 2). Further, although increasing deprivation  
 328 is generally associated with increasing probabilities of CVD for all groups, Māori groups in Q1-Q5  
 329 (9.76% - 16.38%), Pacific groups in Q1-Q5 (7.91% - 10.81%) and Indian groups in Q1 (6.24%) have a  
 330 higher probability of CVD than observed for corresponding quintiles of the NZEO population.  
 331 Differences are significant for Māori. The distribution of probability of CVD by deprivation is flatter  
 332 around Q2-Q4 for Other Asian, Indian and Pacific groups than for the total population, or for Māori  
 333 and NZEO groups.



335

336 Figure 3 Probability of a patient having CVD (%) by baseline deprivation, stratified by ethnic group  
 337 (adjusting for mover status, age, gender, [and ethnicity])

338 The patterning to probability of CVD varies somewhat between ethnic groups according to their  
 339 deprivation mobility status (figure 4). For Māori and Pacific groups (18.42% and 14.01% respectively),  
 340 the highest probability of CVD is for movers who churn within the same deprivation quintile.  
 341 Differences are significant for Māori. Conversely, for all other ethnic groups movers churning within  
 342 the same deprivation quintile tend to have lower probabilities of CVD than those who either become  
 343 more or less deprived, significantly lower for NZEO.



344

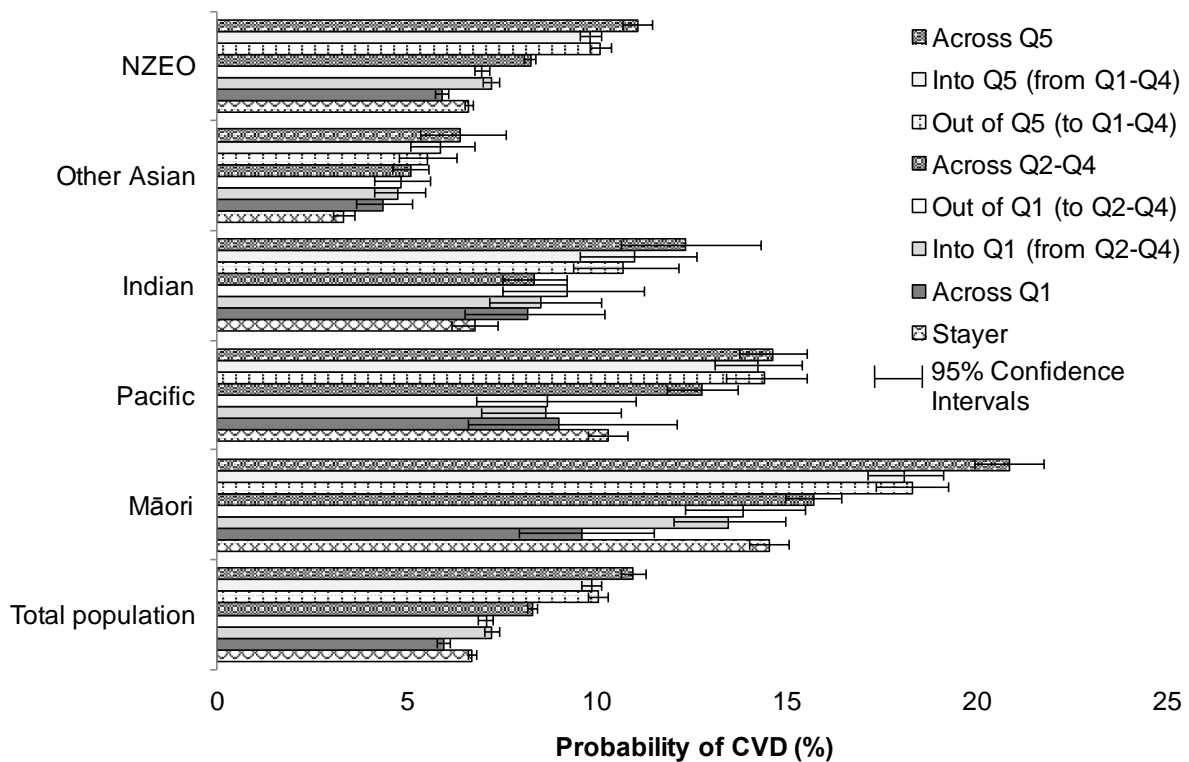
345 Figure 4 Probability of CVD (%) by deprivation mobility status, stratified by ethnic group (adjusting  
 346 for age gender, [ethnicity])

347 This likely reflects the high concentrations of Māori (68.0%) and Pacific (67.5%) populations residing  
 348 in Q4 and Q5 at baseline: the majority of their moves will therefore be within very deprived areas.  
 349 Differences in the probability of CVD between those whose areas become more or less deprived are  
 350 small for all ethnic groups (less than 0.5% for all groups).

351 To further explore how the nature of a move influences probability of CVD between ethnic groups, we  
 352 also adjusted for detailed deprivation transitions (models 4e). Māori groups consistently have the  
 353 highest probability of CVD when compared to all other ethnic groups in comparable circumstances.  
 354 There is a significant marked gap between those churning within Q5 (the most deprived quintile) and  
 355 all other movers within NZEO, Indian and Māori groups (figure 5). Conversely, differences between  
 356 Other Asian and Pacific groups are much smaller (although still significant for Pacific groups). Indian  
 357 and Other Asian stayers had the lowest probability of CVD compared to mobile Indian or Other Asian  
 358 peoples. Māori stayers have a higher probability of CVD (14.50%) than Māori movers moving across  
 359 (significant difference for this group), into or out of the least deprived quintile (9.56%, 13.41% and

360 13.81%, respectively). However, this is unsurprising given that 68.7% of Māori stayers remain in Q4  
 361 and Q5. Pacific and NZEO stayers also have a higher probability of CVD than those moving across,  
 362 into or out of Q1, but differences are small (but significant for NZEO). It is important to note that as  
 363 only 4.5% of Pacific reside in Q1 (at baseline) compared to 26.5% of NZEO, the reasons for these  
 364 similar probabilities will vary.

365

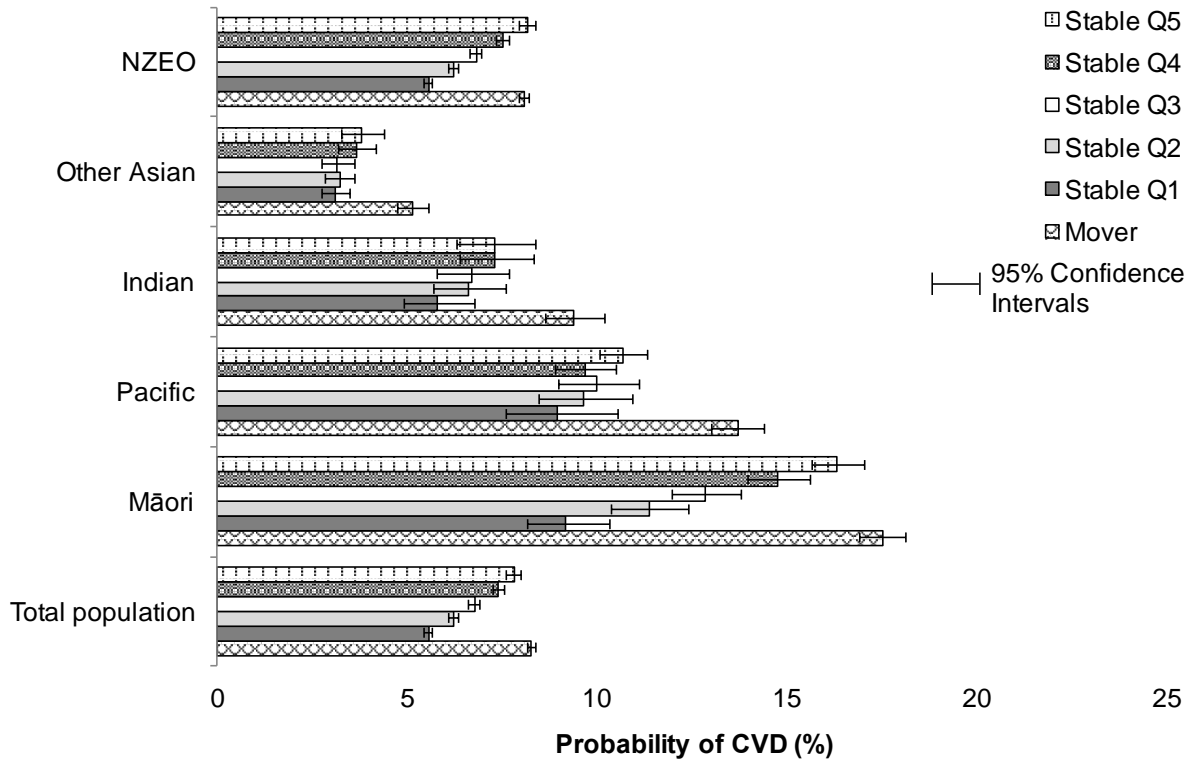


366

367 Figure 5 Probability of CVD (%) by detailed deprivation transition, stratified by ethnic group (adjusting  
 368 for age, gender, [ethnicity])

369 Figure 6 illustrates the results of models 5e as probabilities of CVD by experience of deprivation for  
 370 stayers compared to movers, stratified by ethnic group. The similarities in the patterning of health for  
 371 stayers by deprivation quintile and for movers by baseline deprivation quintile are striking. The steepest  
 372 gradient is observed for Māori stayers (differences between quintiles are generally significant).  
 373 Probability of CVD for Māori stayers who remain in Q5 (16.31%) is more than 1.5 times that of Māori  
 374 stayers who remain in Q1 (9.17%). However, probability of CVD for stayers in Q5 is not significantly  
 375 different from movers. Conversely, the gradient for Pacific, Indian and Other Asian stayers is less

376 marked with probability of CVD only about 1.2 times greater for stayers in Q5 than for stayers in Q1.  
 377 Movers for these groups consistently have a significantly higher probability of CVD than stayers,  
 378 irrespective of deprivation. The lowest probabilities of CVD for stayers are consistently found for those  
 379 remaining in the least deprived areas for all ethnic groups.



380

381 Figure 6 Probability of CVD (%) by stable deprivation for stayers compared to movers, stratified by  
 382 ethnic group (adjusting for age, gender, [ethnicity])

383 **Discussion**

384 This paper aimed to investigate the relationship between residential mobility and risk of CVD for  
 385 different ethnic groups, building on previous results of a study of Auckland’s adults. We expanded the  
 386 research, exploring whether the relationship between residential mobility and CVD varies between  
 387 ethnic groups across the whole of NZ. Further, we addressed the role of immobility in explaining  
 388 differences in health between ethnic groups, an idea that has not been extensively explored in  
 389 comparable literature.

390 The key findings of this paper are a) movers have a higher risk of CVD than stayers across the adult  
391 population of NZ (similar to the results of XXXX for Auckland's adults); the influence of residential  
392 mobility on risk of CVD gains in importance through its relationship with deprivation mobility; and c)  
393 the relationship between residential mobility and risk of CVD varies notably between ethnic groups.  
394 Interpretation of the all-person models (see Table 3) suggested that the salience of residential mobility  
395 varied for each ethnic group through the complex relationship with deprivation, whether at baseline or  
396 through changing deprivation trajectories. Adjusting for baseline deprivation, deprivation mobility  
397 status or detailed deprivation transitions attenuated the odds of CVD for all ethnic groups, apart from  
398 Other Asians. The importance of deprivation was also apparent in the clear gradient to odds of CVD  
399 for stayers by deprivation quintile (model 5).

400 To explore the attenuation of the odds of CVD by ethnic group observed in models 1-5, we calculated  
401 modelled probabilities of CVD, sub-setting each of the models by ethnic group. We refer to the results  
402 of these models as 1e to 5e. Calculating modelled probabilities allows comparisons within and between  
403 ethnic groups and reveal a more nuanced picture of the relationships between residential mobility,  
404 deprivation and CVD for different ethnic groups in NZ. As with the all-person models, we found that  
405 movers consistently have a significantly higher probability of CVD than stayers for all ethnic groups.  
406 This is consistent with wider literatures investigating the relationship between residential mobility and  
407 health (albeit not ethnically differentiated): at the individual level, Morris et al. (2016) note that  
408 residential mobility is often associated with poorer health outcomes for movers compared to stayers  
409 (see Jelleyman and Spencer, 2008; Scanlon and Devine, 2001; Piro et al., 2007). However, the nature  
410 of the residential mobility event will vary markedly between ethnic groups: disadvantaged groups will  
411 have very different motivations and opportunities for residential mobility to those of advantaged groups.  
412 This, in turn, will influence the relationship with CVD.

413 To effectively disentangle these relationships, we should look to the detailed health, social and physical  
414 histories of individuals. Morris et al. (2016: 2) advocate such an analytical framework, also drawing on  
415 individual experiences and personal biographies. Within the scope of this study, we use baseline  
416 deprivation and deprivation change (measured as deprivation mobility status and detailed deprivation



417 transitions) to try and unpack the relationship between residential mobility and CVD for different ethnic  
418 groups.

419 In the Auckland study, the odds of CVD were lower for those moving up the deprivation spectrum (to  
420 lower deprivation) compared to those moving down (to more deprivation). XXX question whether  
421 health status is more associated with an individual's current residence, or where they have been.  
422 However, it is more complex than that. We must also examine whether the extent of the influence of  
423 current or previous residence varies by, for example, deprivation, and consider the relationship with  
424 literatures on selective sorting (see Norman et al., 2005). In terms of the results in Auckland, we might  
425 assume that movers take some of the health advantage of more prosperous areas with them when  
426 moving from less to more deprived areas, while those moving out of more deprived areas may inherit  
427 the health status of the less deprived areas they move to, particularly if those groups of movers have  
428 been sorted into less deprived areas by virtue of their better health.

429 Our results reveal a more nuanced picture for different ethnic groups across NZ, and one with marginal  
430 differences when looking at the population as a whole. Maori, Pacific and NZEO movers who move to  
431 less deprived areas have a (marginally) higher risk of CVD than their peers moving to more deprived  
432 areas, perhaps suggesting they inherit the health status of the areas they move to or are sorted into these  
433 less deprived areas due to their good health. However, differences between the mobile groups are too  
434 small to be significant. Conversely, Indian and Other Asian movers who become more deprived have a  
435 higher probability of CVD than their peers who become less deprived. Are these down the deprivation  
436 spectrum precipitated by poor health? This downward deprivation mobility is the most detrimental to  
437 Indian and Other Asian groups as this is associated with the highest probability of CVD. Yet for Maori  
438 and Pacific movers, the highest probability of CVD is associated with churning within the same  
439 deprivation quintile. Indeed for Maori, churning with the same level deprivation results in significantly  
440 higher probabilities of CVD than for any other deprivation mobility status. In contrast, churning within  
441 the same level of deprivation for NZEO movers results in a significantly lower probability of CVD.  
442 This likely reflects the markedly higher concentration of Maori and Pacific groups in the most deprived  
443 quintiles (see Table 2; Salmond and Crampton, 2012): the health of those churning within these

444 deprived areas will likely be poorer than those who have spent time in less deprived areas and then  
445 moved down.

446 These results highlight the importance of looking, insofar as possible, to the wider experiences of  
447 differently mobile groups in order to understand the relationship with risk of CVD. Results of models  
448 4e further illustrate this: Maori and Pacific movers who move within, into or out of the least deprived  
449 quintile (Q1) all have a lower probability of CVD than their stable counterparts, significantly lower for  
450 those moving within Q1. Similarly, NZEO movers churning with Q1 also have a significantly lower  
451 probability of CVD than their stable counterparts. This strengthens the conclusions drawn above: the  
452 health advantage of those groups in Q1 likely reflects their relatively social advantage, here defined by  
453 residency in the least deprived quintiles. Maori and Pacific groups residing in the least deprived  
454 quintiles will be particularly advantaged compared to their stable peers given the overwhelming  
455 concentration of these ethnic groups in the most advantaged areas.

456 It seems likely that deprivation histories interact with the opportunities for residential mobility and the  
457 nature of the move itself (in terms of changing deprivation). We must therefore ask, are there different  
458 causal pathways operating which might be explaining these results and the marked (often significant)  
459 variations within and between ethnic groups?

460 Firstly, those MEGS which concentrate in more deprived areas may have a heightened risk of CVD,  
461 irrespective of any residential mobility or the nature of the move, as CVD is socially graded. Those  
462 living in socially deprived areas may also be individually deprived, perhaps with lower levels of  
463 educational attainment and working in lower occupational classes. Each are associated with a higher  
464 risk of CVD mortality (Mackenbach et al., 2000): lower educational attainment may mean individuals  
465 are less able to participate in health promotion activities or are less aware of appropriate life-style  
466 choices and health-enabling behaviours (Glymour et al., 2014). However, those living in more deprived  
467 areas may also have access to fewer facilities or services which promote health-enabling behaviours,  
468 thus contributing to an increased risk of CVD. These compositional and contextual factors may  
469 collectively contribute to ethnic and social disparities in CVD.

470 Secondly, residential mobility is associated with poorer health outcomes as already noted, and this is  
471 consistent across ethnic groups. However, the relationship varies, evidenced by the ratio of the  
472 probabilities of CVD for movers compared to stayers in models 1e: probability of CVD is 1.5 times as  
473 likely for NZEO movers compared to stayers, this increases to 1.8 times as likely for Other Asians 2.6  
474 times as likely for Indians, and more than 3 times as likely for Maori and Pacific movers. This may be  
475 explained by their contrasting deprivation experiences and the extent to which this determines the nature  
476 of the move itself. To understand this, we must revisit the concept of ‘malign migration’ and the notion  
477 that marginalised, socially excluded groups in inner city, deprived areas “experience higher than  
478 average levels of residential mobility which is detrimental to health” (Warfa et al., 2006: 504). 26% of  
479 the Maori population who moved during the study period moved more than 4 times within the most  
480 deprived areas. This increases to 37% of Pacific movers, yet only accounts for 4% of NZEO movers.  
481 The interaction between deprivation and higher than average levels of residential mobility may be  
482 particularly pertinent to our understanding of the causal pathways driving the varying relationships  
483 between residential mobility and CVD for ethnic groups through uptake of health-related behaviours  
484 and the relationship with access to healthcare.

485 Increased residential mobility is associated with increased participation in risk behaviours, including  
486 smoking, alcohol consumption even drug use (see Morris et al., 2016 for a review of relevant  
487 literatures): these risk factors, particularly smoking, may influence risk of CVD. Participation in these  
488 health-related behaviours is socially graded and varies between ethnic groups: while relative deprivation  
489 is the most important predictor of smoking uptake in NZ, increased inequality between Maori and non-  
490 Maori groups leads to higher smoking rates amongst Maori (Barnett et al., 2005).

491 Residential mobility, particularly amongst those concentrated in more deprived areas, may disrupt  
492 access to preventative healthcare services (see Warfa et al., 2006; Jolleyman and Spencer, 2008).  
493 However, it is likely that there are additional salient interactions. Healthcare provision has famously  
494 been found to follow an inverse care law (Hart, 1971) whereby services are inversely distributed  
495 according to need. In NZ, recent research concluded that despite improvements in cardiac interventions,  
496 the inverse care law in the context of ischaemic heart disease persist for the Maori population (Sandiford

497 et al., 2015: 974). Ethnic differences in access or utilisation of healthcare may be variously explained  
498 by cultural, linguistic or religious factors influencing perceptions of healthcare services (e.g. willingness  
499 or perceived ability to access services) and participation in in health promotion activities (Zanchetta  
500 and Poureslami, 2006). However, these barriers extend past patient-level characteristics, including  
501 factors such as the attitudes of healthcare providers or structural barriers in the organisation of the  
502 healthcare system (see Scheppers et al., 2006).

503 We might therefore assume that the higher risk of CVD for MEGs churning with more deprived areas  
504 can, in part, be explained by the interaction between deprivation, residential mobility (or perhaps  
505 ‘malign migration’), ethnicity and access to preventative healthcare. Each are associated with a  
506 heightened risk of CVD, and collectively reflect a significant policy concern. To extent Jelleyman and  
507 Spencer’s (2008) arguments in the context of child health outcomes, CVD preventative healthcare  
508 services should be reoriented to effectively engage residentially mobile Maori, Pacific and Indian  
509 populations living in more deprived areas already vulnerable to CVD.

510 Notwithstanding the likely important of the interactions outlined above, the reported results may be  
511 confounded by cultural factors differently influencing the patterning of residential mobility between  
512 ethnic groups, or by ethnically differentiated experiences of tenure and housing conditions across NZ.  
513 Firstly, despite broad similarities important differences in the age profile of movers across ethnic groups  
514 have been observed in the UK (Finney and Simpson, 2008; Simpson and Finney, 2009). Although  
515 younger adults are consistently the most mobile, South Asian groups are less likely to move than other  
516 ethnic groups. Finney and Simpson (2008) attribute this to differences in household formation as South  
517 Asian young adults are more likely to remain the family home until marriage contrasting with non-  
518 South Asian young adults who are more likely to live alone before marriage. It is reasonable to assume  
519 that patterns of residential mobility may be similarly influenced by different cultural traditions in the  
520 NZ population which may be pertinent.

521 Secondly, recent research has shown that falls in owner-occupied housing have been greater in Maori  
522 (20%) and Pacific (35%) groups than for the total population (15%) between the 1986 and 2013 NZ

523 censuses. This may be explained by increasing housing costs prices, the younger age structure for Māori  
524 and Pacific people and lower rates of employment and income levels among these ethnic groups  
525 (Statistics New Zealand 2016). Other important factors include ethnic differences in intergenerational  
526 attitudes to home ownership (Statistics New Zealand 2016) and institutionalised racism (Houkamau and  
527 Sibley, 2015). Data from the 2002/3 New Zealand Health Survey found that the odds of Māori  
528 experiencing racism in the context of housing was 13 times higher than NZ Europeans (Harris et al.  
529 2006). Decreasing owner-occupation pushes groups into rental accommodation, insecure by nature and  
530 therefore related to residential mobility. A recent survey found that Maori (58%) and Pacific (71%)  
531 peoples were more likely to be renters than Asian (41%) or NZ Europeans (27%). To address the issues  
532 raised here, future research should assess the impact of transitions within and between tenures on ethnic  
533 differences in CVD as well as exploring whether and why propensity to migrate varies between ethnic  
534 groups.

535 In addition to these confounding factors, it is worth drawing out a final key point of interest from these  
536 data. Despite the relative disadvantage of Māori populations who generally have some of the highest  
537 probabilities of CVD, the patterning of health for Maori is closely aligned to the experiences of the  
538 NZEO. This contrasts with the similarities in the patterning to probabilities of CVD for Pacific, Indian  
539 and Other Asian groups. We may speculate that the similarities in the distribution of risk of CVD  
540 between these two sets of ethnic groups are related to wider migration and settlement patterns in NZ.  
541 Pacific, Indian and Other Asian populations are more likely to comprise recent migrants whose health  
542 may follow from their place of origin or are not yet similarly susceptible to the determinants influencing  
543 Māori and NZEO health. The similarities between Māori and NZEO groups on the one hand, and  
544 Pacific, Indian and Other Asian on the other, may therefore be attributed to longevity in NZ and the  
545 resulting gradual convergence between cultural and socio-political heritages. As we were unable to  
546 exclude (recent) international migrants from the cohort, a common practice in research into selective  
547 migration and health (e.g. Norman et al., 2005), this cannot be further tested. However, future work  
548 should explore how the influence of residential mobility and deprivation mobility on health may not  
549 only vary between ethnic groups in terms of the magnitude of the influence, but also may vary according

550 to length of residence in a country. Such work would build on literatures exploring the ‘healthy migrant  
551 effect’ and wider international migration (e.g. Silventoinen et al., 2008; Norredam et al., 2013; Blair  
552 and Schneeberg, 2014), rather than internal migration or residential mobility.

553 We have shown that the relationship between residential mobility and risk of CVD varies notably  
554 between ethnic groups. However, much of this variation is attributable to the contrasting deprivation  
555 experiences of different ethnic groups in NZ, evident in the attenuating influence of baseline deprivation  
556 circumstances on the odds of CVD by ethnic group, the consistent deprivation gradient in probability  
557 of CVD for stayers, and the varying probabilities of CVD for different ethnic groups according to the  
558 nature of the move. It is apparent that while residential mobility is an important determinant of CVD in  
559 NZ, as was found in the Auckland study, the extent of the influence will vary by ethnic group according  
560 to their deprivation experiences. Further differences may also arise if ethnic groups are differentiated  
561 by sex as gendered differences in risk of CVD have been determined in the literature (Mieres 2005,  
562 Maas and Appelman 2010, Mosca et al., 2011; Brunner, 2016). There may also be gendered differences  
563 in migration propensities between ethnic groups. Future work should investigate whether gendered  
564 differences in risk of CVD interact with possible gendered differences in propensity to migrate by ethnic  
565 group.

566 Despite the strengths of this study, particularly in the value of the dataset used, there are a number of  
567 limitations. Firstly, we are not able to fully disentangle the complexities of the relationship between  
568 residential mobility and health in the absence of richer socioeconomic data on the participants included.  
569 However, deprivation acts as a good proxy for individual-level socioeconomic data and reveals much  
570 as to the socially graded risk of CVD and how this varies between ethnic groups. Secondly, we are not  
571 able to account for certain factors such as access to healthcare or cultural differences influencing  
572 residential mobility patterns. In the case of the latter, it is important to recognise that we are not  
573 necessarily comparing like-for-like when looking at different ethnic groups. Relatedly, we must ask  
574 whether comparisons between movers and stayers are not necessarily comparing like-for-like: are  
575 differences in health outcomes the result of mover or stayer status, or merely an ‘artefact of differences  
576 in their demographic composition’ (Green et al., 2015: 30). While the distinct characteristics of mobile

577 groups compared to immobile groups are the basis of theories of health-selective migration, the inherent  
578 bias in the data is problematic (note the different composition of movers compared to stayers in Table  
579 1).

580 Green et al. (2015) note that this inherent bias is rarely adequately accounted for in migratory research.  
581 To overcome this bias, they advocate the use of ‘matching’, comparing the change in status of one group  
582 (e.g. the migration event) with the manually changed status of an alternative control group. Using this  
583 pseudo-experimental design, the authors of the study find that migration, regardless of the nature of the  
584 move, increased the likelihood that an individual reported poor health. Thus, while the process of  
585 matching might help reduce selection bias in the data given the contrasting demographic characteristics  
586 of movers compared to stayers, the results of their study are similar to those reported here. Namely,  
587 probability of CVD is greater for movers compared to stayers, regardless of the nature of the move.  
588 Although this reflects a limitation of the study, our interpretation of the results are still significant.

589 We must look to discussions of health-selective migration to expand on these results. How confident  
590 can we be that there is a causal relationship between residential mobility and risk of CVD? The findings  
591 presented in this paper contrast with some of the wider literature on migration and health which finds  
592 that migrants, or at least younger migrants, are in better health than their stable counterparts (Bentham,  
593 1988; Larson et al., 2004). On the one hand, this may reflect the neglect of ‘malign migration’ in the  
594 literature, something that has also been explored in terms of the ‘drift’ hypothesis in research exploring  
595 mental health and selective migration (see Curtis et al., 2006; De Verteuil et al., 2007). The heightened  
596 risk of CVD for marginalised minority groups in more deprived areas may be attributed to higher rates  
597 of residential mobility. Future research should examine the frequency of moves and the deprivation  
598 trajectory of these moves over time to address this issue. On the other hand, the health outcome may be  
599 important in assessing the influence of health-selective migration or residential mobility on health  
600 inequalities in a population, as is the nature of the move itself in terms of changing deprivation. It is  
601 possible that movers may have a heightened susceptibility to certain morbidities such as CVD as a  
602 consequence of the move itself. Apart from not having experienced a CVD event by the start of the  
603 study period, the sequencing of the CVD and migration events are not accounted for here. Thus, for

604 different ethnic groups in NZ, are CVD events the reason for the move (for informal care, for example),  
605 are CVD events associated with the move (relating to the stress of moving), or are certain characteristics  
606 of movers associated with a higher risk of CVD (see forthcoming research)?

607 Notwithstanding these limitations, this study clearly identifies a number of fruitful avenues for future  
608 research. Further, ethnic inequalities in CVD are a major policy concern in NZ, and of international  
609 relevance given the existence of these inequalities in countries across the world. The policy  
610 implications of this study are clear. Residentially mobile Māori, Pacific and South Asian populations  
611 who already have a heightened risk of CVD living in more deprived areas must be the focus of policies  
612 aiming to reduce inequalities in CVD within NZ. Moreover, healthcare providers must effectively  
613 engage with those mobile vulnerable groups if health inequalities are to reduce.

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