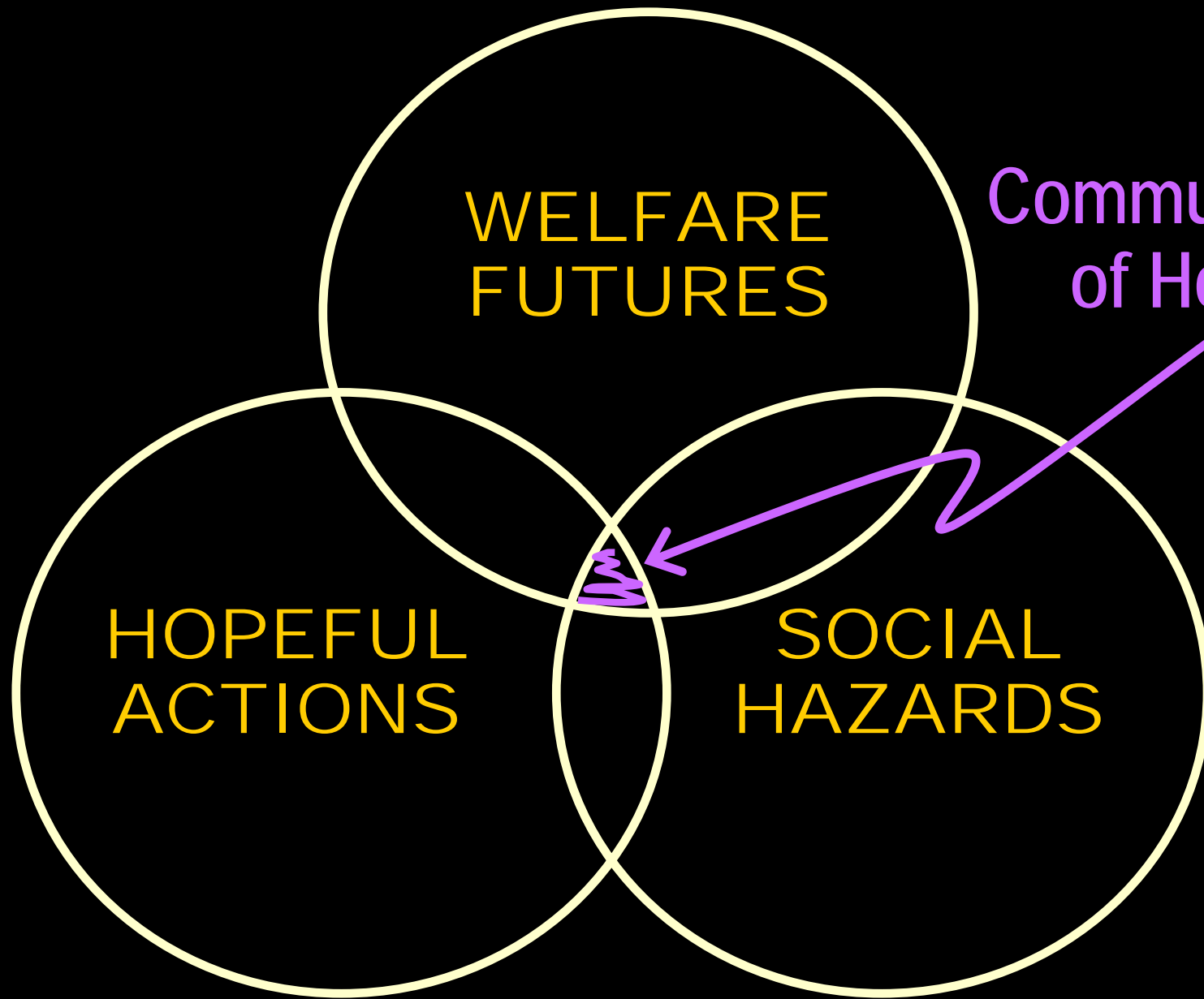


Building Hopeful Communities

ADDRESSING INEQUALITY, POVERTY AND
SOCIAL EXCLUSION THROUGH COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Waitakere City's Wellbeing Summit
26th JULY 2007



Communities
of Hope



3 PROPOSITIONS

1

That the way we deliver welfare and more generally how we care for the vulnerable will fundamentally change over the next 20 years
– business as usual is not feasible

That it is no accident that poor communities face the greatest social risk

2

3

HOPE = ANSWER

WELFARE FUTURES

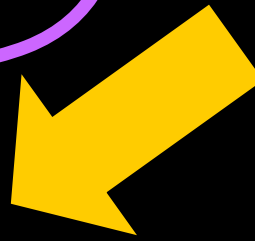
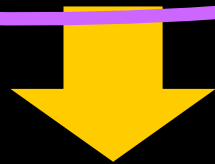
Fundamental change in our welfare state will occur because of

The aging population
and political dominance
of the baby boomers

Globalisation and
mobility of capital
and skilled labour

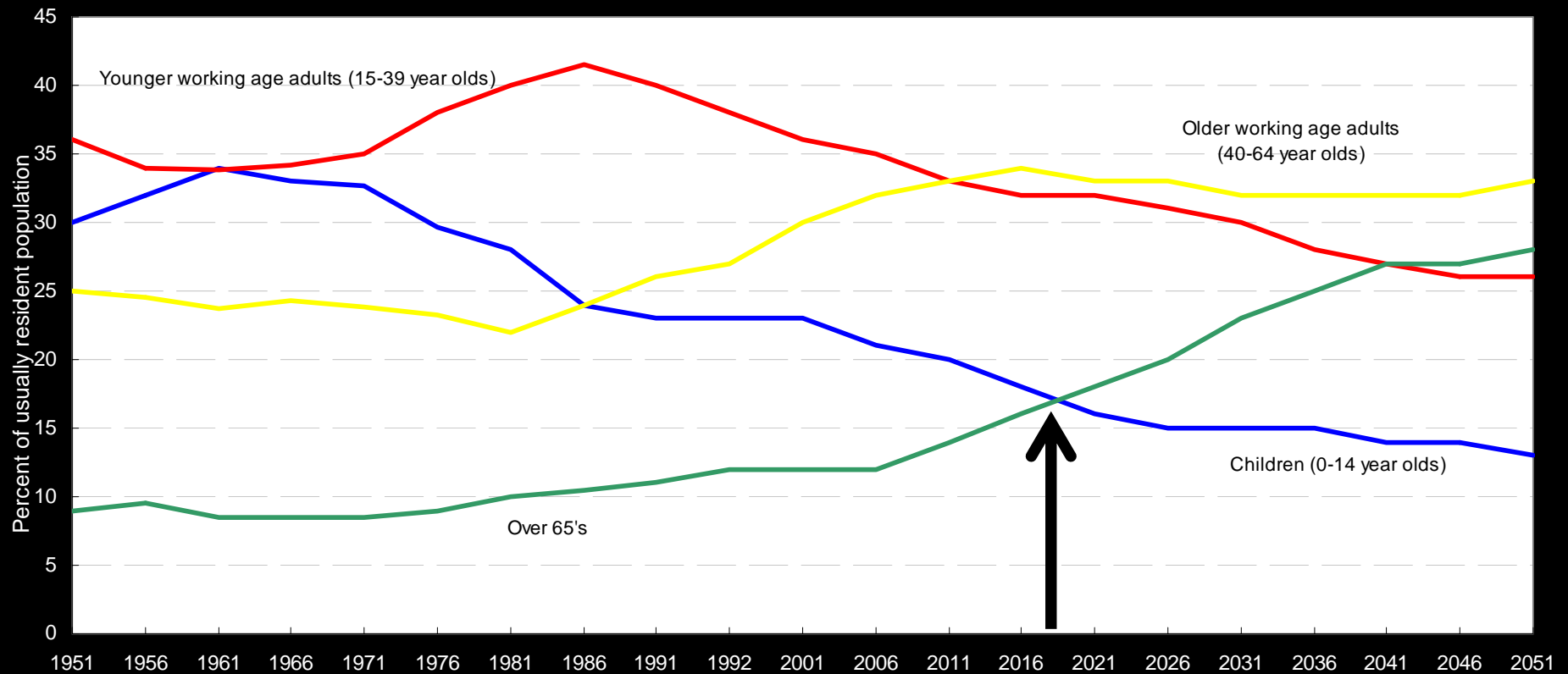
Individualism
and the decline
in social
solidarity

Rising inequality,
segregation and
polarisation



The aging population and political dominance of the baby boomers

Age Distribution of New Zealand Population
1951-2051 - medium forecast



The aging population and political dominance of the baby boomers

DEPENDENCY RATIOS

For every 100 working age adults...

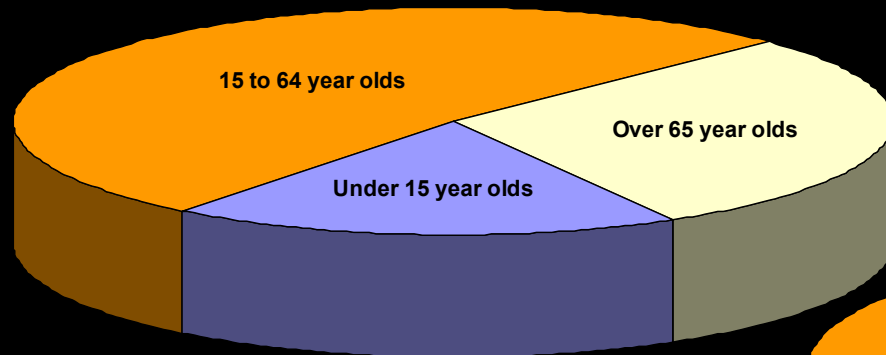
In 1991 <i>there were</i>	17 over 65's	35 under 15's
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Now <i>there are</i>	19 over 65's	32 under 15's
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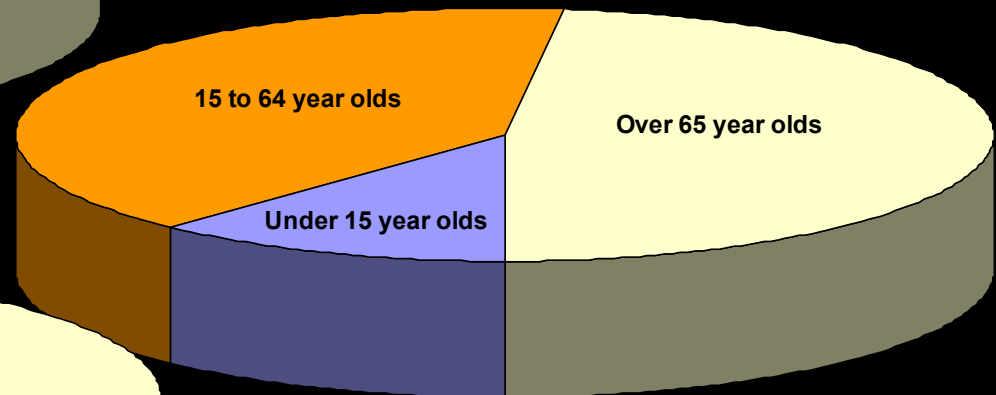
By 2026 <i>the may be</i>	32 over 65's	24 under 15's
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The aging population and political dominance of the baby boomers

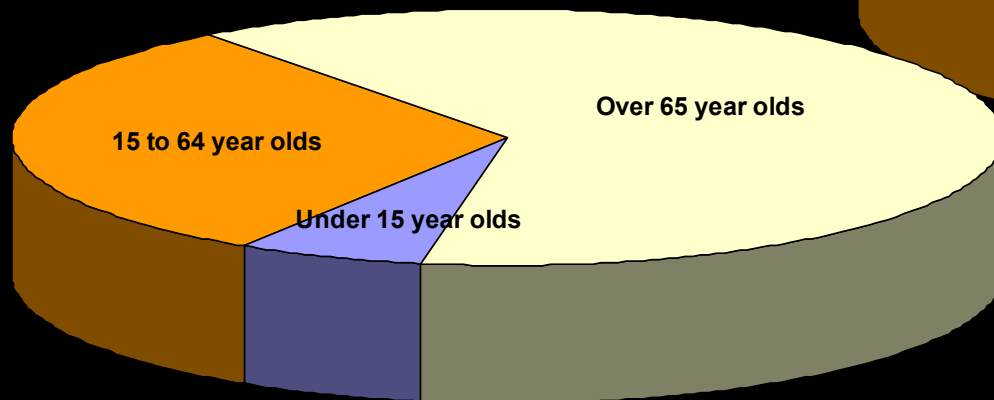
1951



2002

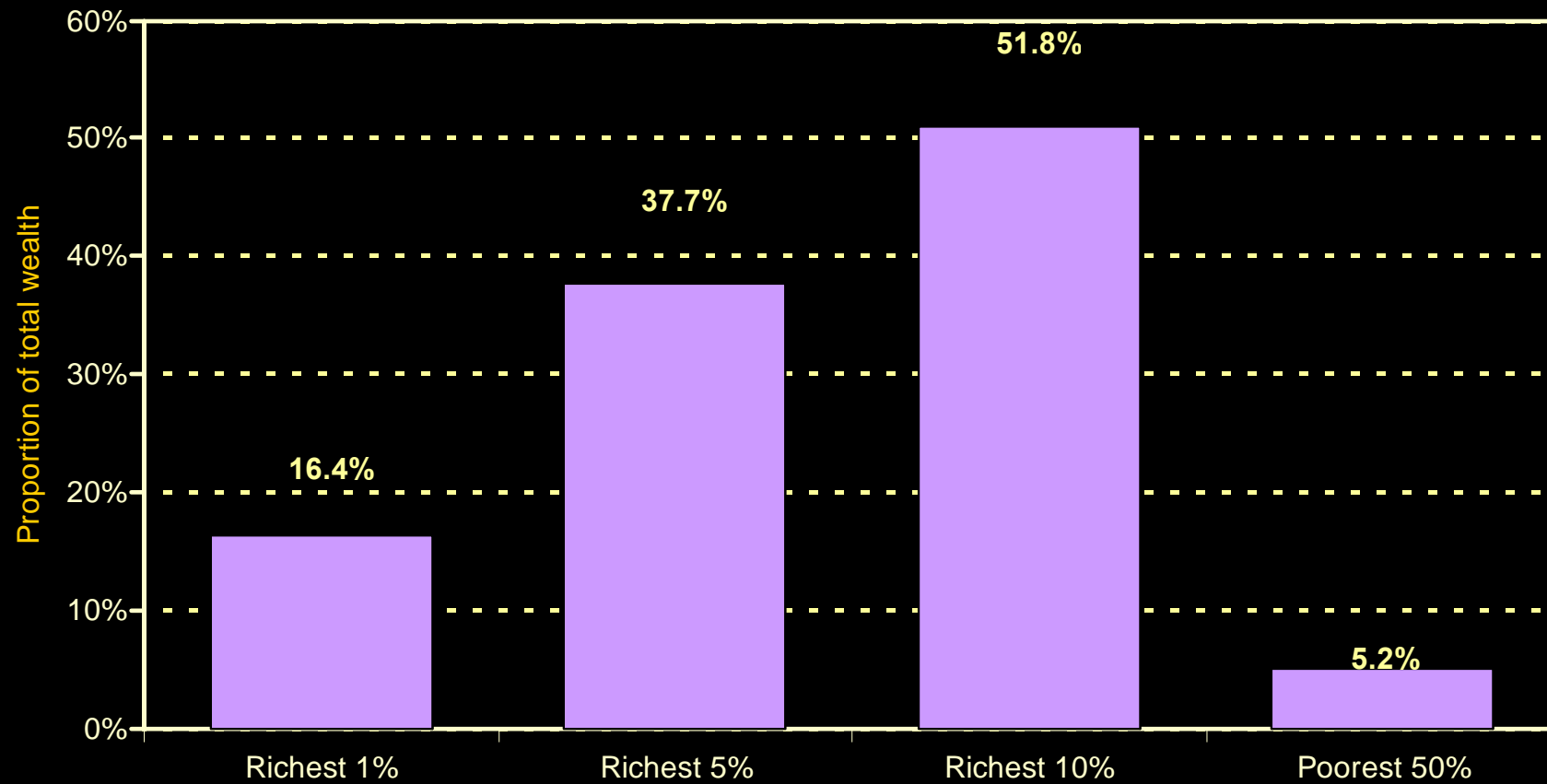


2051



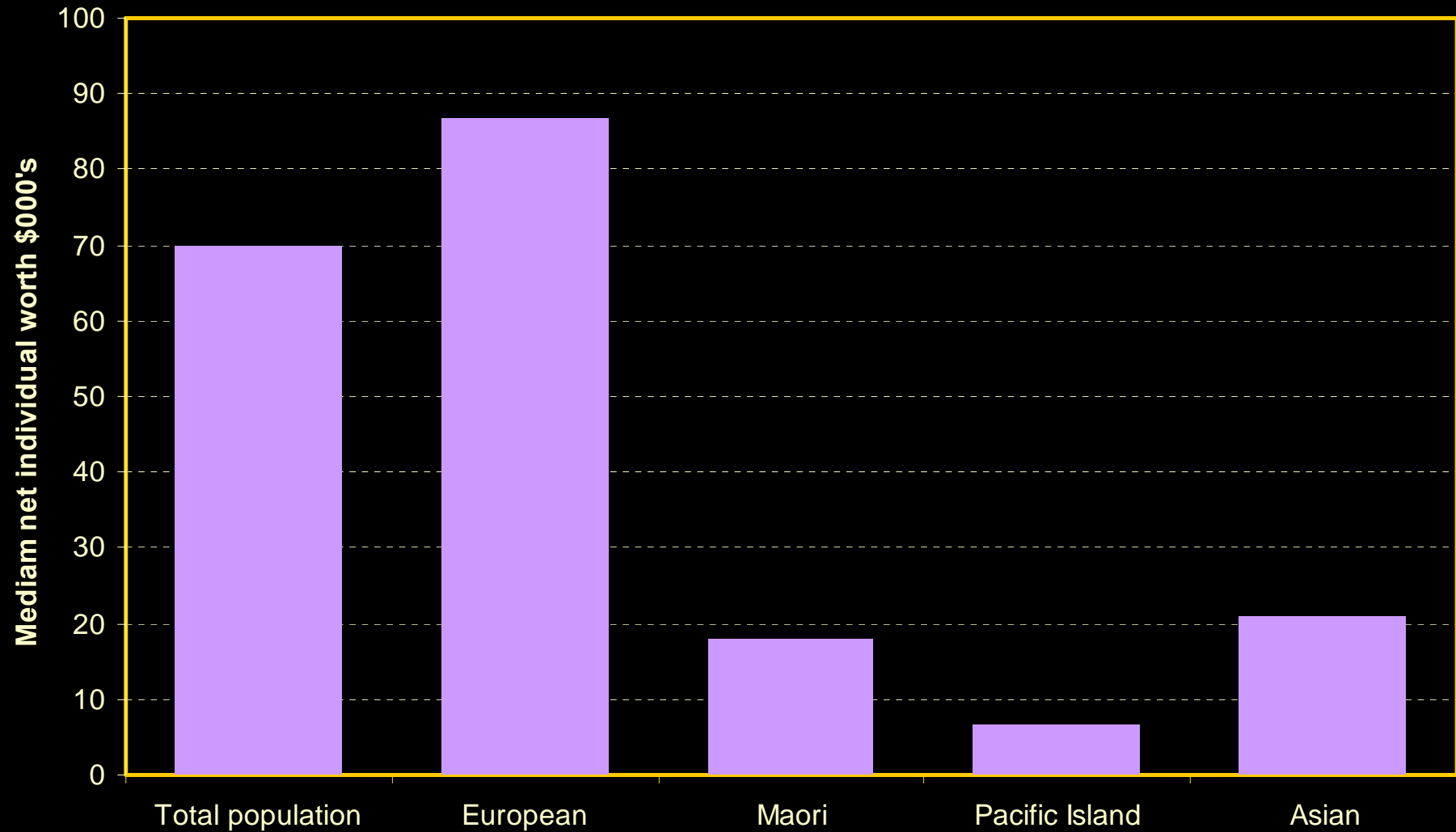
Growing inequality.....

Wealth distribution in New Zealand 2004



Growing inequality.....

Wealth in New Zealand by ethnicity 2004



**That it is no accident that
poor communities face
the greatest social risk**

2

Remember Cyclone Katrina?



www.streetgangs.com

Photo by: Alex Alonso

Who faced the biggest risk and who suffered most?

The poor most often face the greatest risk

BECAUSE.....

They don't have choice about where they live and what happens in their neighbourhood

The risks they face are ignored or trivialised

They aren't told about the risks they face

The consequences of the risk are blamed on them rather than the circumstances

**Social hazard is risk from social harm
caused by neglectful or malevolent social
policy**

LIQUOR LAWS

GAMBLING LAWS

INDIFFERENT POLICING

UNDER-RESOURCED SCHOOLS

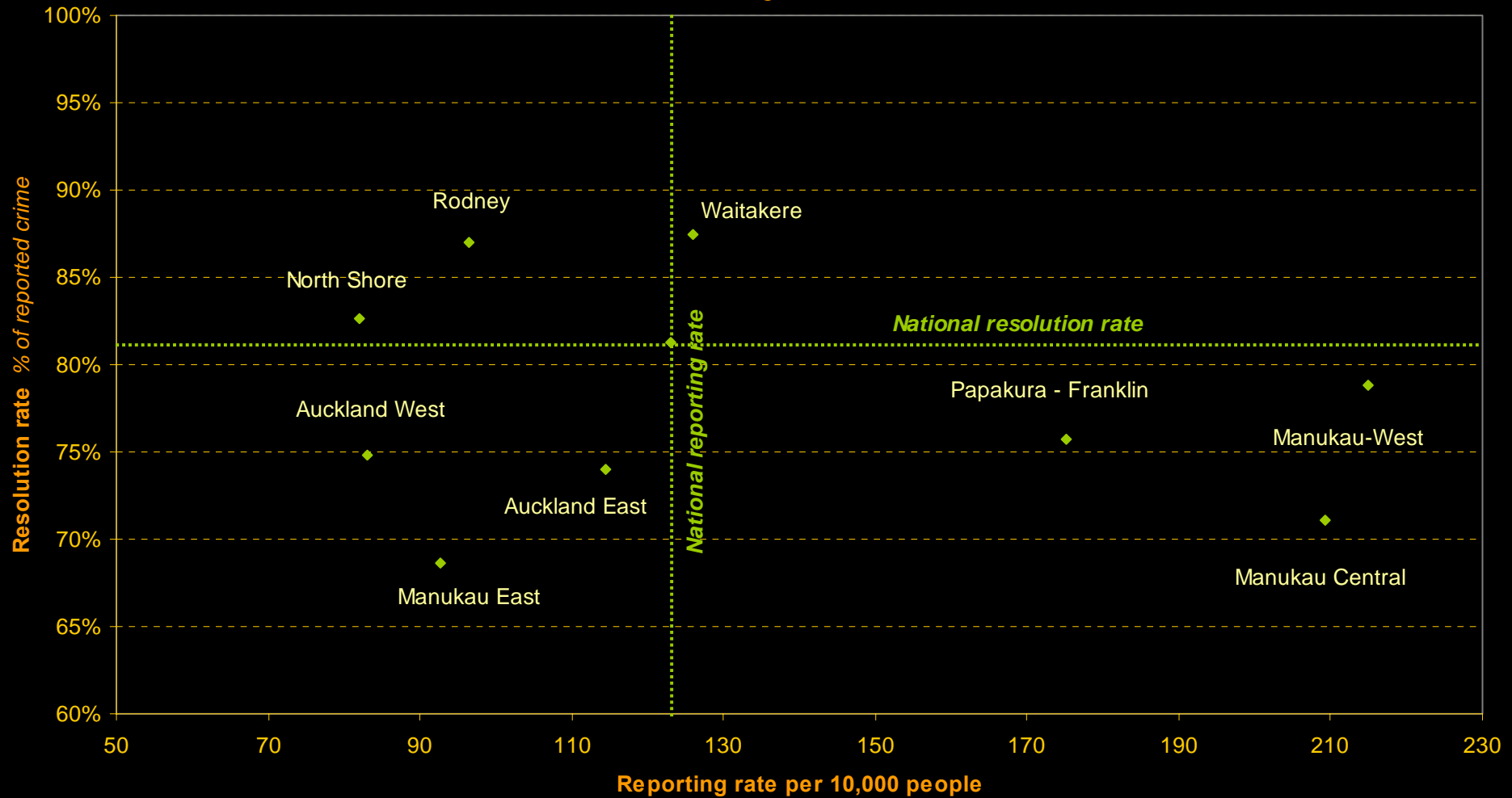
CREDIT LAWS & LOAN SHARKING

EMPLOYMENT LAWS & "FLEXIBLE LABOUR MARKETS"

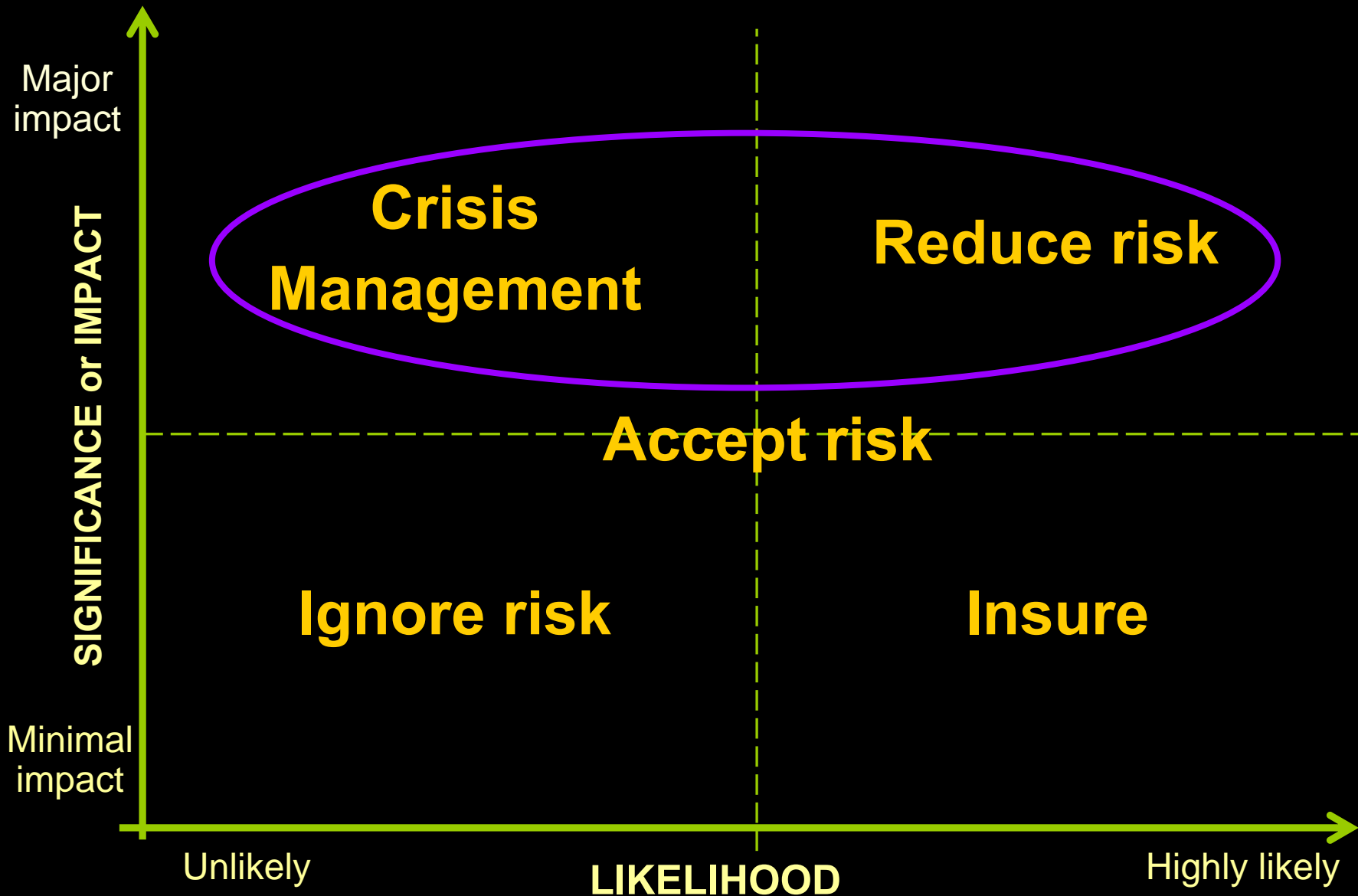
All equal under the law....

Reporting & Resolution of Violent Crimes in Auckland Region

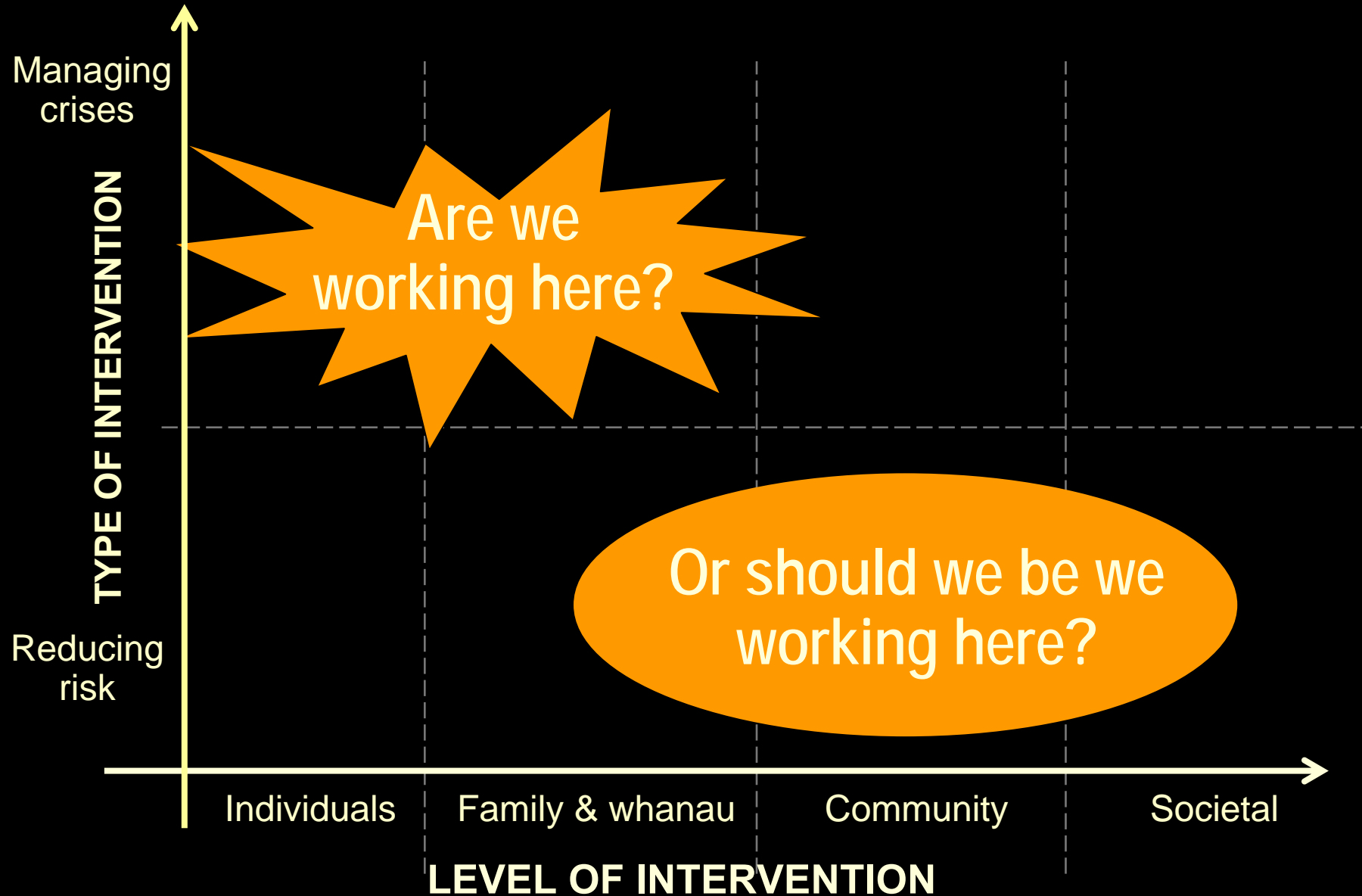
Year ending June 2006



How do we respond to risk?

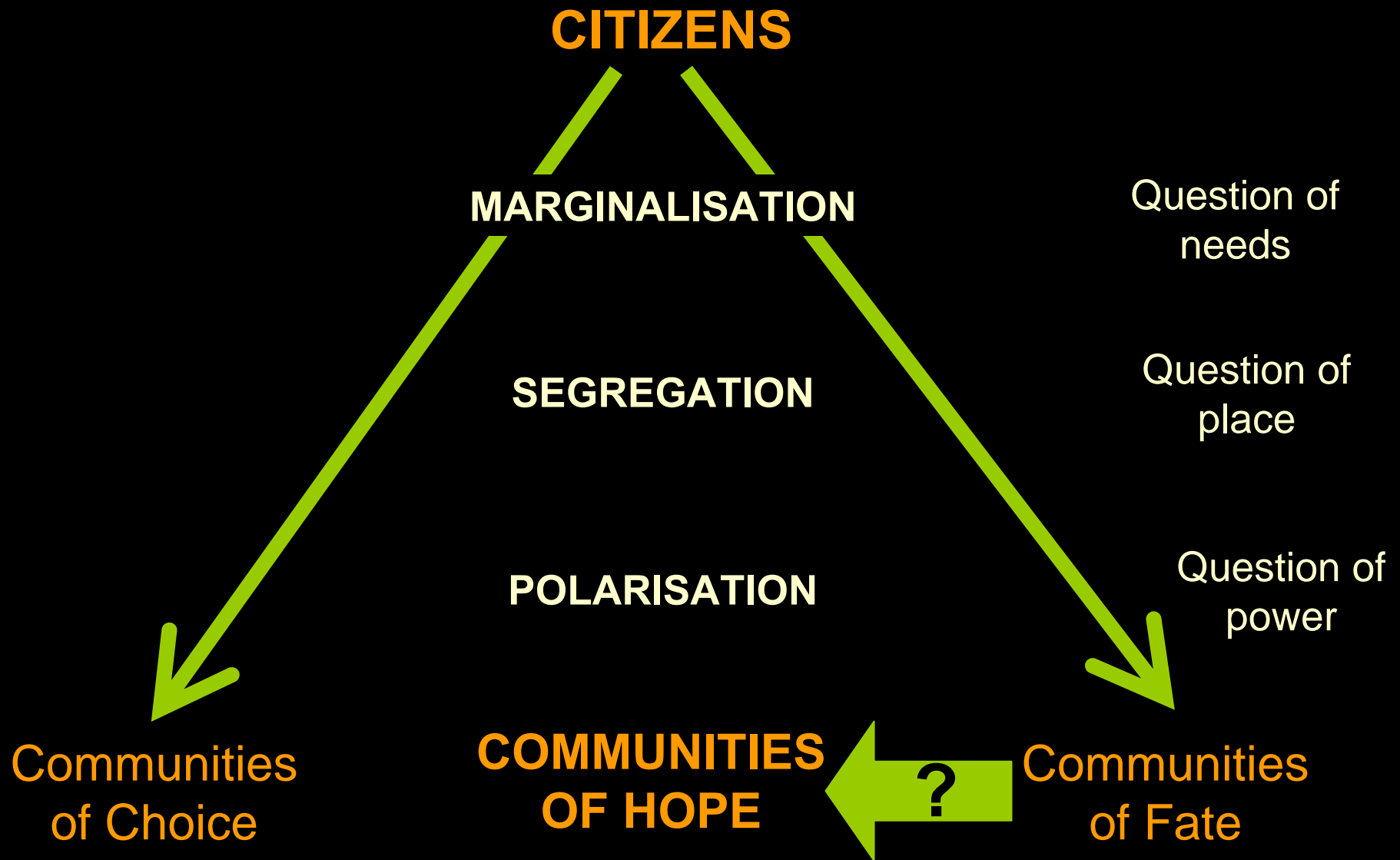


Reducing risk or managing crises?



3 HOPE = ANSWER

Marginalisation – Segregation - Polarisation



Is there hope in hopefulness?

POSSIBLY..... BUT

Polarisation is unlikely to be reversed

- why would it and what would cause it?

Individualism may fade

to be replaced by nationalism or religious fanaticism?

Globalism ≠ Globalisation

- the global future is not pre-determined by the interests of multi-nationals and trade deals

Building Communities of Hope

HOPEFULNESS

Optimism may soon be in short supply as we confront the prospect of global warming and perhaps with this deepening poverty and widening conflict.

Hopelessness leads to fatalism and a belief that the future is predetermined and beyond our influence

Hopefulness is a belief in the essential goodness of people and in our collective ability to do good

Starting to build hope

HOPEFUL PRAGMATISM

Taking actions which make a positive contribution no matter how small or tenuous.

HOPEFUL ALTERNATIVES

Offer hope by way of practical example no matter how small or tenuous.

HOPEFUL PLACES

Actions and alternatives take space which requires places

Hopeful pragmatism

RELOCATE

Go to where vulnerable people are and work with them on their terms even if this is not directly the cause

RECREATE

Make it fun and practice everyday customs even if this is not directly the cause

ACTIVATE

Make it easy to do good things no matter how small even if this is not directly the cause

Hopeful alternatives

PROCESS

- ▶ How we do something is as important as what we do
- ▶ Work on big processes not little ones
eg restorative justice v's procedural justice
- ▶ Reinvent ceremony as long as it is inclusive and builds solidarity

MOVEMENTS

- ▶ We now have almost unlimited ability to share ideas & experiences
- ▶ Provide tangible examples and build community & solidarity in doing so.
- ▶ Allow opportunities to “pick & mix”

Hopeful places

LOCALITY

- ◀ Work with the history and meaning of places
– recreate and celebrate these
- ◀ Build a wider identity around this history & meaning
- ◀ Own that identity as something shared & unique
- ◀ Make it safe – focus on reducing violence, other crime & social risk.

LOCALISM

- ◀ Build local alternatives on an alternative basis
 - reciprocity – a circle of rights & obligations
 - subsidiarity - holding onto power where possible
 - mutuality – understanding the connectedness and interdependencies in most processes