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Putting Ecology to Use in the Community: An Analysis Needs Follow-up by Planning and Action, Part I: Analysis

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ABSTRACT Understanding the ecological relationship of child abuse and violence in society with the specific features of particular communities calls for analysis. Analysis, however, to be effective must be followed with planning and action. The community selected for study here has a median income lower than the national average and a high proportion of persons receiving an annual income of less than \$20,000. The community also has a higher number of persons without formal or tertiary qualifications, and of families caring for large numbers of dependant children, than is the case for New Zealand as a whole. Incidences of drug use, child hospitalization for injuries, and high-profile cases of domestic violence and murder are a reflection of the lack of optimal well-being. This study uses an ecological analysis in the face of such identified needs in Part I and reflects on the positive, strength-based actions taken and that could be taken by members of the community in their bid to provide intervention in Part II.