

What's the big deal about inequality?

New Zealand's big increase in inequality over the last three decades has had far-reaching impacts for our society. It has worsened the health, housing, education and opportunities of many New Zealanders and **affects everyone**, including the wealthy. Some examples...

Mental illness

Mental health problems, including depression, are more than twice as common in New Zealand as in similar but more equal countries.

Empathy

Highly unequal countries have a 'money-empathy gap': the wealthy lose compassion for the less well-off, feel more deserving and act more self-interestedly.

Imprisonment

We put twice as many people into prison than we did 30 years ago, even though crime rates have basically stayed the same.

Children

Twice as many children are living in poverty now than 30 years ago, and many more children suffer from third-world diseases such as rheumatic fever.

