

Comparing Monetary and Non-Monetary Indicators of Household Well-being in Australia and Japan

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ABSTRACT

This paper will use data derived from recent surveys of living conditions and community attitudes in Australia and Japan to analyse alternative indicators of well-being based on the concepts of deprivation and social exclusion, as well as objective and subjective measures of poverty. The surveys have been designed and conducted by SPRC in Australia and NIPSSR in Japan. The focus will be on differences in the demographic structures and living arrangements in the two countries, and what the different measures indicate about the relative position of household groups in the two countries differentiated on the basis of age and the presence of children. Particular attention will be paid to whether the relative standing of different groups is sensitive to the use of different indicators within and between the two countries, and on the nature of such sensitivity. Attention will also focus on the degree of overlap between those defined as poor (variously defined) using the different indicators, and what this implies for the validity of the measures themselves. The results are expected to shed new light on the reliability of conventional poverty estimates to depict the relative standing of different groups in the two countries, and on national differences in the patterns of household responses to policy actions.