

# A MEDIA CONTENT ANALYSIS OF NEW ZEALAND'S DHB POPULATION-BASED FUNDING FORMULA

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# BACKGROUND

- ▶ The PBFF has a significant impact on health
- ▶ There are limited formal avenues for discussing the PBFF
- ▶ News media is a key platform for DHBs to voice their concerns
- ▶ There is a poor understanding of the media portrayal of health funding

# AIM

- ▶ Explore how the PBFF has been portrayed in the media
- ▶ Identify the key issues being reported
- ▶ Explore variations and trends in reporting over time and across the country

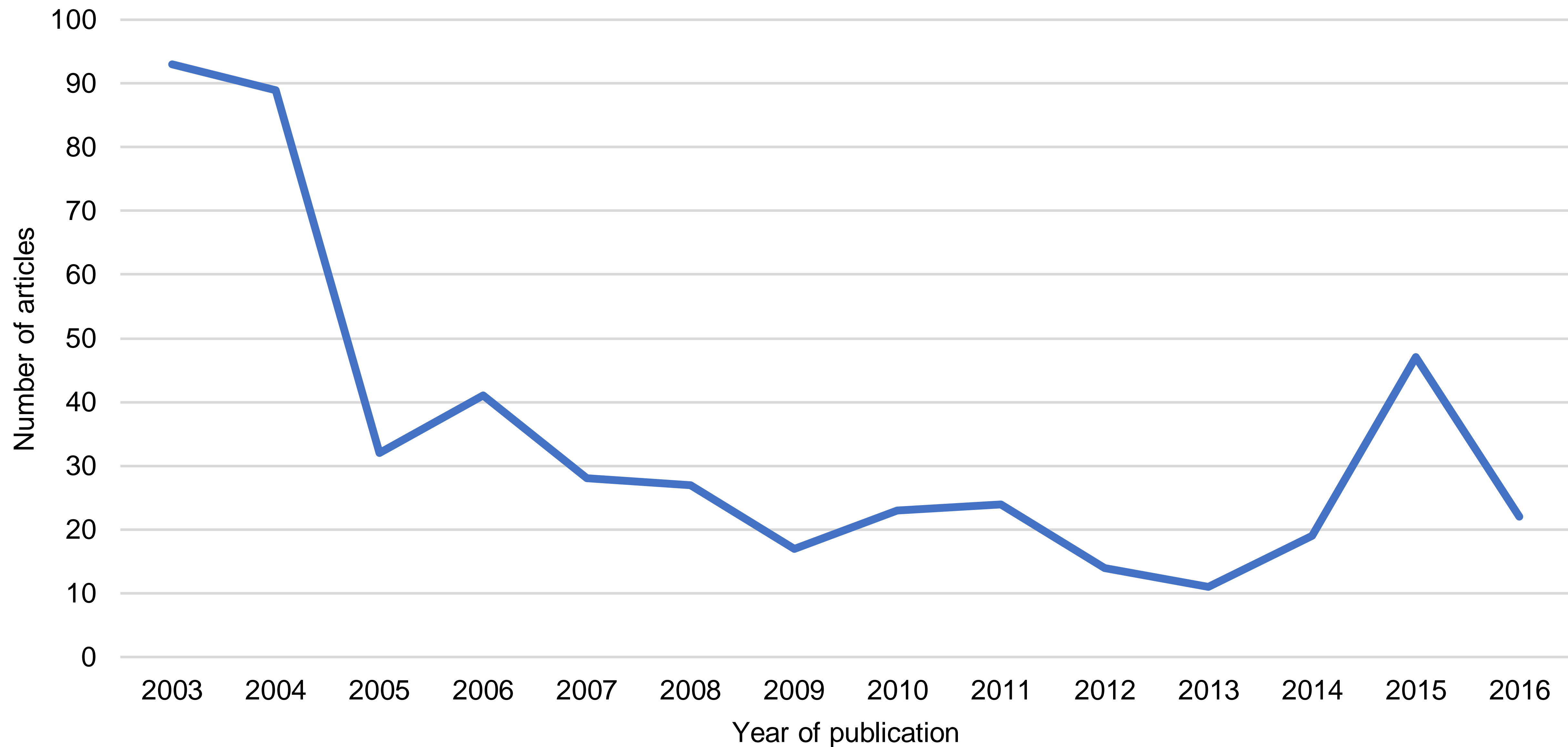
# METHODS

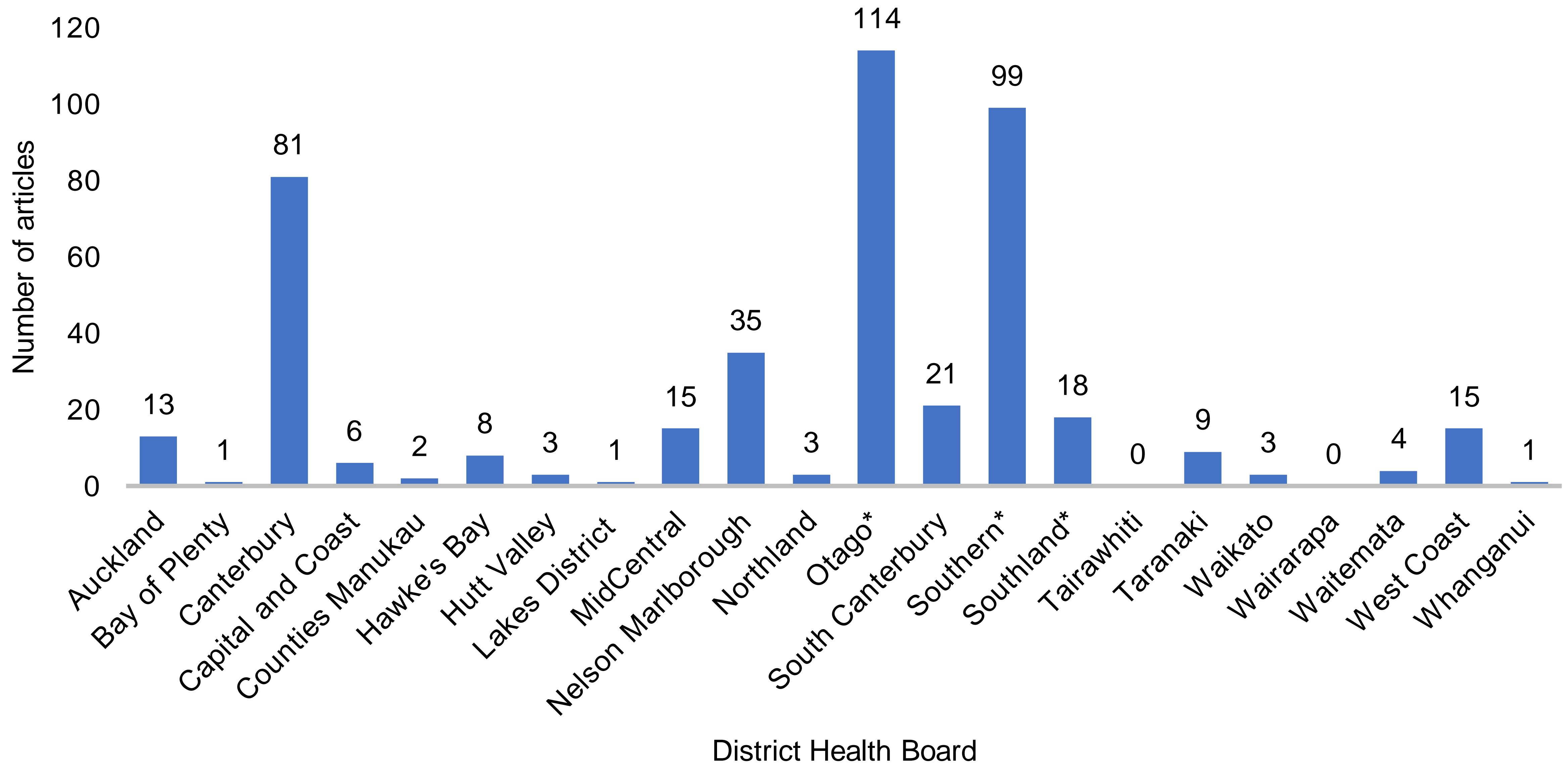
- ▶ Study design: media content analysis
- ▶ Articles from Newztext and Factiva
- ▶ Qualitative analysis of 487 news articles
- ▶ Identifying trends through data analysis

# RESULTS

- ▶ Significant regional and temporal trends
- ▶ Portrayed negatively by news media
- ▶ A range of issues reported (mostly DHB deficits)
- ▶ A range of groups commenting (mainly DHBs)

The number of articles published about the Population-Based Funding formula by year





**The number of articles published per DHB between January 1, 2003 and October 1, 2016.**

Code	Meaning	n = 487	%
DHB deficit	DHB deficits were mentioned.	131	26.8
Services stretched	DHB health services were stretched or compromised in relation to funding.	104	21.3
Services cut	DHB health services were abolished in relation to funding.	94	19.3
Impact on staff	DHB staff were impacted (e.g. job loss) by changes to funding or underfunding.	81	16.6
Age	PBF and health costs were affected by the age of a population.	71	14.5
Rurality	PBF and health costs were affected by rural populations.	54	11.1
Population	Population size and changes to that size affected PBF.	51	10.5
Review	Review of the formula was mentioned or advocated for.	40	8.2
Transparency	Concern about limited transparency around the formula and its workings.	26	5.3
Unmet need	There was a level of unmet need in healthcare related to health funding.	22	4.5
Doctor recruitment	The recruitment of doctors was impacted by the formula.	18	3.7
Ethnicity	Ethnicity was an issue in relation to PBF.	17	3.5
Deprivation	Deprivation was an issue in relation to PBF.	13	2.7
Overseas visitors	Overseas visitors were affecting PBF.	6	1.2



Interested Party	Number of articles group commented on (n = 442)	Percentage of articles group commented on (n = 487) *
District health boards	211	43.3
Ministry of Health	77	15.8
Political parties	50	10.3
Contracted providers	23	5.2
Professional groups	18	3.6
Medical professionals	14	2.8
Patient groups	14	2.8
Other	14	2.8
Academics	12	2.5
Government (other than MoH)	6	1.2
Local body politicians	2	0.4

# CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ The formula is a lightning rod for frustrations over limited health funding
- ▶ The formula is portrayed negatively and as having a range of problems associated with it
- ▶ The formula has a strong interplay with health policy and governance

# THANK YOU

- ▶ To the Dunedin School of Medicine for funding this study