



Deadly Connections acknowledges the First Nations people of Australia and specifically the many mobs of New South Wales.

We recognise First Nations peoples' continuing and enduring cultures and connections to land, seas, skies, and community, which deepen and enrich the life of our nation. We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal people and pay respects to our Elders.

Deadly Connections acknowledges the kinship structures, cultural land management practices, spirituality and sovereignty of First Nations people who are knowledge and memory holders. We stand on the shoulders of our Ancestors and in unity with our mob.

We understand intrinsically the continued custodianship and connection to the land and promise to tread lightly on unceded land.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

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Huber Social acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and future.

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This report was prepared and written on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. All data was collected on Gadigal lands.

Although this project was led by a non-Indigenous organisation, Huber Social acknowledges the many contributions of First Nations peoples throughout the measurement process, in particular during the co-design workshops, measurement tool testing, and data collection. To all those who were consulted and who participated in this measurement, we thank you for sharing your time, knowledge and truth with us.



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Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this report may contain images or names of deceased persons.

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Executive Summary

"If I hadn't been introduced to Deadly Connections I would not be where I am today in my life."

-- Deadly Connections client

Aboriginal people are strong and resilient, despite the systemic racism and injustice that has led to their disproportionate representation in the justice and child protection systems. Deadly Connections seeks to positively disrupt these cycles through work centred on healing, self-determination, Aboriginal culture and community connection - all of which are critical components of wellbeing for First Nations people. Drawing upon their professional and lived experience of both systems, Deadly Connections is uniquely placed to forge a new path for their community.

After thee years of operation, Deadly Connections has partnered with Huber Social to measure the social impact of their work to demonstrate the effectiveness of their approach and identify potential areas for improvement and refinement. This first measurement process compared people who have just begun their journey with Deadly Connections, with people who have been with them for three months or more and those who had completed their time with the organisation. This measurement found that Deadly Connections:

- Improves wellbeing Across the organisation, clients who had been with Deadly Connections for three months or more have 49% higher overall wellbeing compared to those who have just started.
- Strengthens Aboriginal identity A core aspect of Deadly Connections' model is connection with culture, and the measurement found that clients of three months or more had 57% more confidence in their skills to shape their own identity and a 55% increase in access to Aboriginal cultural activities.
- Addresses what matters most to Deadly Connections clients All program outcomes

measured had a strong relationship with overall wellbeing as well as a positive shift over time, affirming that Deadly Connections' approach focuses on their clients' most important needs.

Analysis for specific programs identified:

- Deadly Families builds healthy
 relationships a program that supports
 parents who are at risk of child protection
 system involvement, Deadly Families had the
 biggest gains in skills for managing and
 accessing healthy relationships.
- Breaking the Cycle supports healing and holistic wellness - a program that empowers Aboriginal people who are involved with the justice system, Breaking the Cycle reported largest improvements among factors related to clients' physical, mental and emotional health and wellness.
- Deadly Young Warriors a program that uplifts the youngest generation, it's young people feel strongest in their resilience and community connection.

In addition to quantitative survey responses, the open feedback was overwhelmingly positive and clearly evidences the appreciation clients have for Deadly Connections' unique approach. For some, this is the first service they have ever felt truly safe with.

As the first social impact study for Deadly Connections, this report provides a solid foundation to demonstrate the value of the organisation's work. With these findings, Deadly Connections will be able to further focus its resources and efforts to maximise the impact it has on the wellbeing of its clients and communities.



Focusing on Wellbeing to

Break the Cycle of Aboriginal Injustice

Inspired by their communities' fight against the systemic inequality and racism of the justice and child protection systems, Deadly Connections founders Carly Stanley and Keenan Mundine decided to take a new course of action. Together, they set out to positively disrupt these cycles by creating an organisation that responds to the actual needs of their mob, one focused on healing, culture and self-determination.

Lived experience has been a central component of the Deadly Connections model, embodied by its founders. By having intimate knowledge of the systemic challenges their clients face and the kind of support they need to succeed, Deadly Connections is able to provide holistic, culturally responsive interventions and services to First Nations people and communities. The organisation uses a whole-of-life approach, offering services to people of all ages and at any stage of their healing journey.

After three years of supporting clients and establishing strong community relationships, Deadly Connections has undertaken efforts to measure their social impact. The goal of measurement is to both reflect on the significant work that's already been achieved and to demonstrate the effectiveness of their approach, with an eye towards building for the future.

Deadly Connections has partnered with social impact measurement experts Huber Social to measure the overall social impact of the organisation across all clients. It also explores the impact of three key programs: (1) Deadly Families, (2) Breaking the Cycle and (3) Deadly Young Warriors.

Huber Social measures impact in terms of wellbeing, applying a holistic approach to understand the needs of people by assessing personal capabilities and access to opportunities so that we may systematically solve social issues.

This report illustrates the results of measurement that was undertaken in 2021, and is a testament to many years of determination, advocacy and commitment from the Deadly Connections team to fighting for systemic change for all First Nations peoples.



"From my lived experience, there was no Aboriginal service I could go to if I had to have my needs met... we thought, this is not good enough for our mob."

- Keenan Mundine, co-founder of Deadly Connections



Why Measure Social Impact?

Huber Social measures the social impact of Deadly Connections to demonstrate the impact of programs and identify any opportunities to maximise effectiveness.

1. Measure

To measure the impact of Deadly Connections, Huber Social measures the shift in overall wellbeing and program outcomes for people who engaged with their programs.

Measurement provides a data driven approach for Deadly Connections to articulate their social impact to internal and external stakeholders.

2. Optimise

Beyond a focus on target outcomes, Huber Social's approach considers the holistic needs of a person to be in the best position to fulfil their potential. This approach identifies opportunities to refine programs (if required) and maximise their impact.

Why Wellbeing?

Measures progress overall and supports systematically solving social issues

Ultimately, the goal of all social impact is to put people in the best position to fulfil their potential and achieve wellbeing. It is therefore important to measure wellbeing to ensure that overall, programs are having a positive impact. To measure social impact, Huber Social therefore measures a shift in overall wellbeing and the specific program outcomes that contribute to it!

Taking a wellbeing approach also provides a whole-of-life approach to understand the needs of people. Instead of starting with the issue at hand, which tends to focus on crisis end of a problem and place artificial limitations on the needs of people, focusing on wellbeing works towards strengthening people's capability and opportunity to fulfil their potential. In applying this lens, the framework also works to identifying systematic solutions to social issues.

Within the context of this project, additional frameworks and research related to First Nations peoples' concept of wellbeing were consulted. A leading framework in this context is the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Framework (SEWB). It recognises wellbeing as holistic, with social and historical determinants being interconnected to self and requiring consideration over the lifetime of an individual and society. Another is the Fabric of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing conceptual model, which visually represents the intertwined connections of family, community and culture with the parts of life most important to wellbeing. For a full list of resources consulted, please see the list of references in Appendix 5.





Summary of **Programs**

Deadly Connections takes a life cycle approach to supporting individuals, families and communities, meaning they support people at all stages of their life with a range of programs that address the needs based on their current needs. Deadly Connections are always looking to refine their model in order to deliver as many and as high quality programs as possible with their available resources.

This measurement project focused on the following three programs:

Deadly Families

Deadly Families is a culturally responsive early intervention and prevention program for Aboriginal parents and guardians, designed to target risk factors associated with child protection notifications and interventions.

Deadly Families supports Aboriginal parents and guardians by improving their parenting and life skills, promoting positive outcomes for participants and their families and encouraging healthy, connected, strong, safe relationships with their children through individualised, holistic, cultural and social support. Deadly Families empowers participants to take responsibility for their individual development to thrive and become the best parents they can be.

Breaking the Cycle

Breaking the Cycle is an intervention, prevention and diversion program that has been designed by Aboriginal people with both lived and professional experience in the justice system with the goal of keeping people out of the system.

Breaking the Cycle provides culturally responsive services and support whilst addressing criminogenic risk factors, criminal behaviours and other challenges that direct and entrench people into the child protection and/or justice system. The program uses specialist interventions and support to divert participants at any stage of their involvement with the justice system.

Deadly Young Warriors

Deadly Young Warriors is designed for Aboriginal young people ages 7-18 years old, living in or connected to the Inner West and Inner City LGAs of Sydney, and who are already justice involved or at-risk of justice involvement, coming to the attention of police, engaging in substance misuse, antisocial and/or other risky behaviours.

The primary aim of the the program is to improve mental health, reduce anti-social and risky behaviours to improve community safety and reduce the disproportionate rate of Aboriginal young people coming into contact with the justice system. The program uses culturally-based early intervention, prevention and diversion strategies to divert young people from justice involvement and work with those who have already had that lived experience.



Deadly Connections' Impact Thesis

The Deadly Connections Impact Thesis outlines the impact the organisation has on its clients' wellbeing. Through measuring each level of impact, Deadly Connections can use a data driven approach to demonstrate what works and what is needed to maximise impact and outcomes.

1. Impact

Deadly Connections seeks to improve the wellbeing of First Nations people and communities with experience of the child protection and justice systems by placing healing, self-determination, Aboriginal culture and community connection at the heart of their work.



Outcomes

Deadly Connections achieves this impact by building capabilities and providing access to opportunities across the following areas:

Core Outcomes

- Connection to community
- Connection to family
- Connection to Aboriginal culture Access to supportive relationships
 - Holistic wellness
 - Resilience

Deadly Families Outcomes

Social services and resources

Breaking the Cycle/Deadly Young Warriors Outcomes

• Justice system diversion

Outputs

Deadly Connections delivers the following outputs:

Deadly Families

- Families reunited
- Parents supported when engaging with FACS

Deadly Young Warriors

- Youth diverted from the justice
- Youth engaged with Aboriginal culture and identity

Breaking the Cycle

Adults diverted from the justice system



4. Activities

Deadly Connections achieves its outputs through the following activities:

Deadly Families

- Parenting education programs
- Culturally safe activities to promote connection within family
- Support/advocacy when engaging with Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ)/Family & Community Services (FACS)
- Case management

Breaking the Cycle

- Case management
- Multimodal programs tailored to clients' needs
- Men's/women's groups
- Case advocacy

Deadly Young Warriors

- Cultural camps
- **Cultural activities**
- Substance use education
- Referral for other health/social services

5. Resources

Deadly Connections requires the following resources:

- Cultural knowledge and lived experience
- Community trust
- Staff/volunteers/accomplices
- Office/infrastructure
- Case management tools



Measurement Approach

Huber Social and Deadly Connections worked together to develop an impact measurement system which is led by the organisation and can be used to inform program design and delivery. The goal was to create a clear articulation of the organisation's social impact and identify opportunities to maximise its impact.

Methods

While the Huber Social Wellbeing Measurement Framework consistently measures social impact in terms of change in the subjective wellbeing of participants (in this case, Deadly Connections clients), a co-design approach was used to identify the capabilities and opportunities a client requires to achieve high wellbeing. Deadly Connections staff were consulted on program outcomes and additional client needs, which then informed the Deadly Connections Impact Thesis. This model was then used to determine which factors would be included in measurement, and guided development of the Deadly Connections Wellbeing Survey tool used to collect data.

For this measurement, program impact was calculated using an average of individual scores based on time in program. The results of clients who had been at Deadly Connections for three months or more were compared to those who were just starting their time with the organisation. Data was also collected from former clients who have graduated from their Deadly Connections program, so as to understand the long term impact of the organisation's work.



To optimise the process for future measurements, data collection would be integrated into the enrolment and monitoring processes already embedded within the case management system so that individual journeys can be compared for more robust data.

Tools and Ethics

Huber Social collected all data from Deadly Connections' clients using an anonymous self-report survey. Where possible, survey questions were based on existing validated scales specific to each metric. To ensure the survey questions were culturally, linguistically and ethically appropriate, and that all survey questions would be understood by participants, surveys were tested and validated with Deadly Connections staff before distribution to clients.

The project received ethical approval from the Huber Social Ethical Review Board, a registered HREC (Committee number EC00473), on 13 October 2021.

Data Collection

So that all clients who wished to participate in this project were able to do so, all Deadly Connections client-facing staff were trained in ethical data collection methodologies prior to distribution. Surveys were completed between November 2021 and January 2022, both online and on paper.



Participant

Demographics

For the 2021 social impact measurement, 39 responses were collected from Deadly Connections clients. The following presents the distribution of survey responses from participants by key demographic factors.

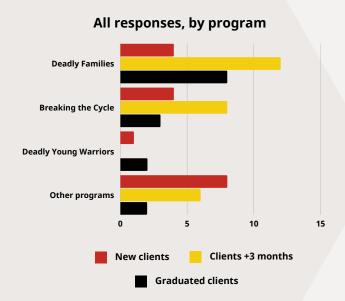
Age and Gender

Two-thirds (66%) of participants surveyed identified as female, and the remaining one-third as male. The majority (51%) of respondents were 31–40 years old.

All responses, by age Under 18 years 18-30 years 31-40 years 41-50 years Over 50 years 0 5 10 15 20 All survey participants

Program Type

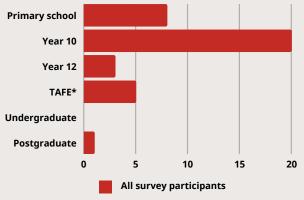
In total 39 clients completed the survey. Some clients reporting being in more than one program. Other programs include COVID-19 relief and men's/women's support groups.



Education

Only one-quarter (23%) of clients have achieved their Certificate IV or higher.

All responses, by educational attainment

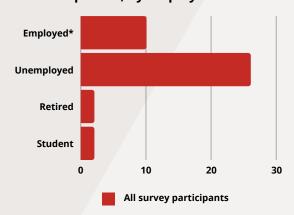


*Note that 'TAFE' includes other technical college or apprenticeship programs, in addition to clients enrolled in or graduated from TAFE.

Employment Status

About two-thirds (66%) of clients are facing employment challenges.

All responses, by employment status



*Note that 'Employed' includes clients with full-time paid work (n=3), part-time paid work (n=4), full-time unpaid work (n=2), and self-employment (n=1).



Key Findings:The Impact of Deadly Connections

1. Clients who have been with Deadly Connections for three months or more have 49% higher wellbeing

Overall, clients who have been with Deadly Connections for three months or more have 49% higher wellbeing compared to those who have just begun their journey with the organisation. The improvements are seen across the Deadly Families and Breaking the Cycle programs, and are sustained beyond Deadly Connections involvement.

2. Deadly Connections strengthens Aboriginal identity

Compared to new clients, those who have been with Deadly Connections for three months or more saw a 40% increase in their sense of Aboriginal identity. In particular, active clients scored 57% higher in their sense of self-determined Aboriginal identity and reported a 55% increase in access to Aboriginal culture, including activities, songs and art.

3. Deadly Connections addresses what matters most to client wellbeing

All program outcomes had a strong, positively correlated relationship with overall wellbeing. This suggests that the Deadly Connections approach is accurately calibrated to understand and deliver what clients need to transition from crisis and place themselves in the best position to achieve their goals and elevate their wellbeing.

4. Deadly Families builds healthy relationships

Across all factors measured, active clients of the Deadly Families program saw the greatest gains among their skills for managing and access to healthy relationships. Participants commented on the gratitude they felt for the new friendships they had made and the support the program offers them.

5. Breaking the Cycle supports healing and holistic wellness

The largest improvements for active clients of the Breaking the Cycle program were across factors related to their physical, mental and emotional health and wellness. Additionally, confidence in their relationship and daily life skills increased significantly, reflecting the holistic approach this program takes to help participants successfully avoid or exit the justice system and find routine, stability and community support.





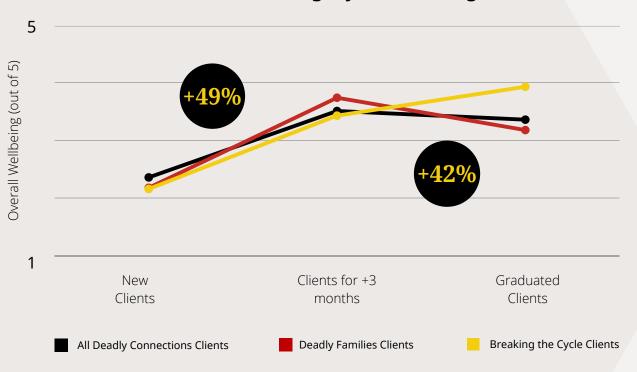


Wellbeing is Sustained

Beyond Deadly Connections

Wellbeing improvements are also sustained beyond a client's graduation from Deadly Connections. Clients who have completed their time with the organisation have 42% higher wellbeing compared to those who have just begun. This trend was also observed across the Deadly Families and Breaking the Cycle programs.

Overall Wellbeing, by Time in Program







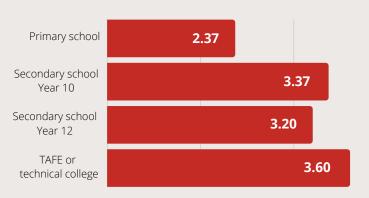
Wellbeing Differs by

Education and Employment

Across certain demographic factors, key differences in wellbeing were detected. This reinforces the range of wellbeing amongst Deadly Connections clients, and highlights the effect that access to opportunities like quality education and local employment opportunities can have on overall wellbeing.

Educational Attainment

Overall Wellbeing by Level of Education Attained



Overall Wellbeing (out of 5)

Data suggests that generally speaking, clients with greater levels of educational attainment are more likely to have higher wellbeing.

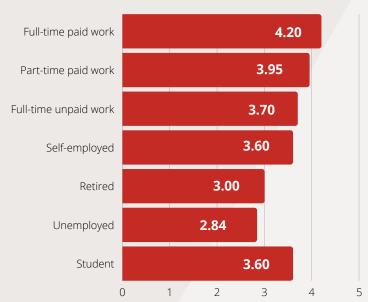
Clients who have completed up to primary school had on average 30% lower wellbeing compared to those who have completed secondary school or beyond. Among all levels, those who have completed TAFE or a similar technical college program have the highest overall wellbeing.

Employment Status

There was also a significant difference in wellbeing by employment status. Clients with full-time paid work had the highest overall wellbeing score at 4.20, while those without employment had the lowest at 2.84.

When compared to clients with some form of employment (including students and those with full-time unpaid work, such as being a care person), overall wellbeing was 42% lower among clients without work or studies. This reinforces the importance of creating access to job opportunities, in particular for those without current employment options.

Overall Wellbeing by Employment Status



There was no significant difference in overall wellbeing by gender or age. Initial analysis suggests that there may be a difference by sexual identity, but the sample sizes were too small at this stage for significance testing to confirm.

^{*}Differences in wellbeing scores reported are statistically significant (p<0.01).



Deadly Connections Addresses What Matters Most to Client Wellbeing

Deadly Connections works across many different capabilities and opportunities factors to support the wellbeing of their clients. These factors have been grouped into seven key program outcomes that their work collectively aims to address. These are:

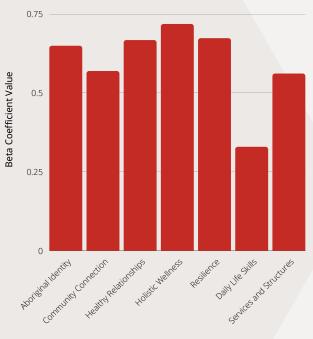
- Aboriginal identity
- Community connection
- Healthy relationships
- Holistic wellness
- Resilience
- Daily life skills
- Services and structures

To understand which program outcomes are likely to have the greatest impact on overall wellbeing, Huber Social used factor analysis to identify those that have a strong, positive correlation with wellbeing. With this information, Deadly Connections can direct its resources to targeted program delivery that data has shown is more likely to have a positive impact on a client's overall satisfaction with life.

The graph on the right shows the levels of association between each of the key program outcomes and overall wellbeing. The higher the bar, the stronger the connection to wellbeing and the more likely that wellbeing will increase when that program outcome is improved upon.

With the exception of daily life skills, all program outcomes were found to have a strong positive correlation with wellbeing. Daily life skills has weak correlation with

Overall Wellbeing and Program Outcomes



Program Outcomes

wellbeing, meaning that while there is still a relationship between the two, we can expect a smaller increase in overall wellbeing when daily life skills improve as compared to other program outcomes.

These findings affirm that Deadly Connections' approach of taking a holistic view of their clients and supporting them across multiple facets of their lives is successfully addressing the things that matter most to their wellbeing.





Deadly Connections Improves all Target Outcomes

Positive shifts were measured across all of Deadly Connections' high-level target program outcomes.



Resilience

+51%

Ability to handle setbacks and get through difficult times



Daily Life Skills

+41%

Knowledge and skills to navigate daily life



Aboriginal Identity

+40%

Skills and resources to be connected to Aboriginal culture and community



Holistic Wellness

+54%

Factors that work together to support holistic wellness physical, emotional and mental



Structures and Services

+33%

Access to resources and systems that support and protect the whole individual



Healthy Relationships

+33%

Skills to cultivate different types of relationships



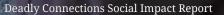
Community Connection

+28%

Environments that offer support and reduce isolation

"[Deadly Connections] has allowed me to be connected to my culture and understand my behaviours... [Deadly Connections is] the only place I feel comfortable and not judged."

- Deadly Connections client





Connection to **Aboriginal Identity** for Overall Wellbeing

Deadly Connections was created to support and strengthen Aboriginal communities. Cultural healing is central to the model, achieved through development and celebration of clients' cultural identity and the Aboriginal communities Deadly Connections serves. In addition to demonstrating that the programs significantly strengthen connection to Aboriginal identity, statistical analysis also revealed that Aboriginal identity has a significant, positive correlation with overall wellbeing. The more connected a client feels to their Aboriginal identity, the higher their wellbeing is likely to be.

Among clients who have been with Deadly Connections for three months or longer, Aboriginal identity increased by 40%.*



Aboriginal Identity

+40%

Skills and resources to be connected to Aboriginal culture and community

Male clients scored 10% higher than female clients in Aboriginal identity, and scored higher across all related factors.

These findings are aligned with existing research, and reinforce the powerful work that Deadly Connections undertakes to help their clients connect with and strengthen their Aboriginal culture and identity. Through its programs, Deadly Connections support clients to identify, connect with and shape their Aboriginal identity so that they can successfully heal. By providing them with the skills and resources needed to further strengthen their cultural identity, clients are then better equipped to improve and sustain their overall wellbeing.

"I feel if I get stuck on trying to find my connection to my culture, [Deadly Connections] can help me find my way."

- Deadly Connections client

^{*}As compare<mark>d to those who ha</mark>ve just started with Deadly Connections (p<0.05).

⁵ Perry, 2009 and Blagg and Tulich, 2018.



Deadly Connections **Strengthens Aboriginal Identity**

Each factor used to measure the many dimensions of Aboriginal identity also saw a positive shift* among Deadly Connections from when they first started to three months into their involvement with the organisation:



Self-determined Identity

+57%

Having the knowledge and skills to shape one's own Aboriginal identity



Access to Cultural Opportunities

+55%

Access to Aboriginal activities and kinship, including songs, stories and histories



Connection to Culture

+47%

Feeling a sense of connection to one's culture



Mob Relationships

+40%

Having good relations with one's mob and other Aboriginal communities



Pride in Aboriginal Identity

+17%

Being proud of one's Aboriginal identity

While pride in Aboriginal identity saw a smaller increase as compared to other factors, this was also the highest scored factor among both people just starting with Deadly Connections and those well into their journey. This suggests that clients are coming to the organisation with strong sense of pride in their Aboriginal identity, and hope for finding an organisation that protects and celebrates their identity. Deadly Connections then provides the necessary resources and relationships to support clients in nurturing their cultural connection to self and community.



Deadly Connections Confronts Systemic Injustices

Compared to clients just beginning their journey with Deadly Connections, those who have been with the organisation for three months or longer reported less confidence in the current political system being

respectful and protective of their cultural identity.



Protection by the Political System

-11%

Believe that their identity or culture is recognised and protected by the current political system

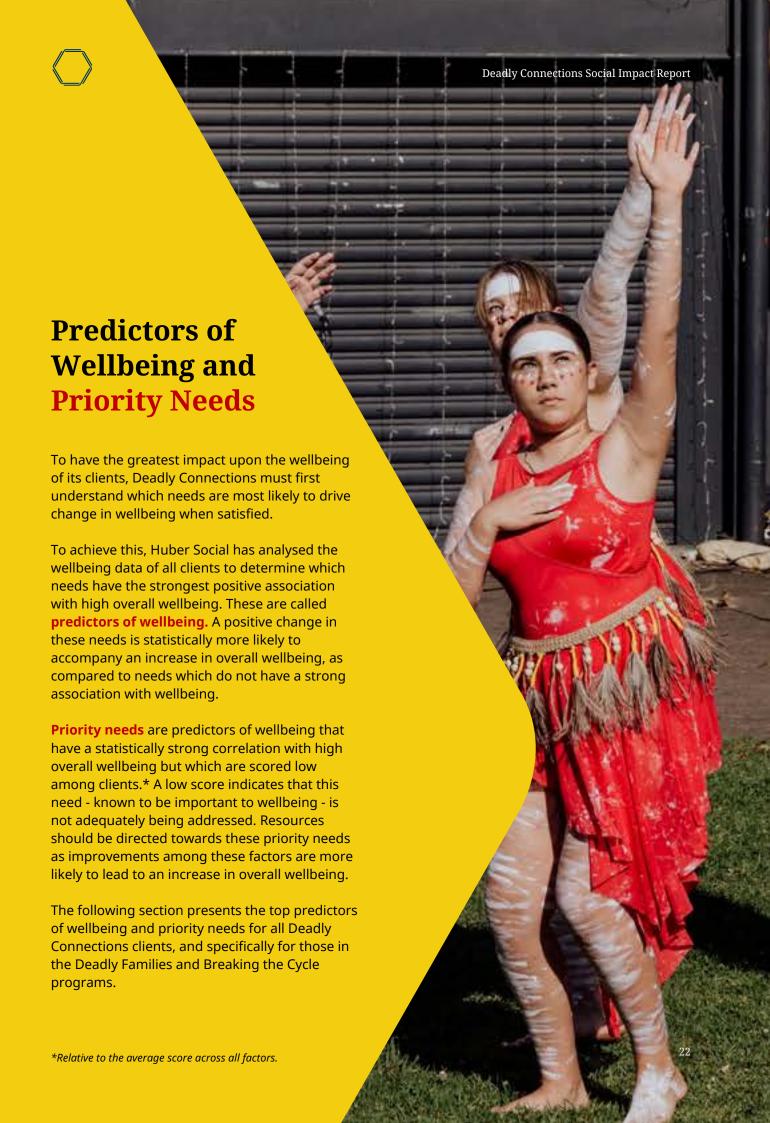
These findings speak to Deadly Connections' efforts to educate its clients on the failures of the current political systems to protect Aboriginal people and culture. This knowledge is a critical component of understanding how broken systems keep Aboriginal peoples in cycles of disadvantage and trauma, and therefore the first step towards breaking those cycles.

A focus on connection and learning is introduced from the start of a client's engagement with Deadly Connections, and is reinforced throughout the program lifecycle. Open feedback from clients supports this integral aspect of Deadly Connections' model:

"I have only just started, but already I feel connected and supported and I look forward to learning more."

> - Deadly Connections client, new member







Predictors of Wellbeing for Deadly Connections Clients

In order to better understand the needs of all Deadly Connections clients, statistical analysis was performed to identify which factors measured have a strong, predictive relationship with overall wellbeing. When these factors are improved upon, clients' wellbeing is more likely to be higher.

This analysis found there were 21 factors that had a significant association with overall wellbeing. Of those, the following seven factors showed the strongest relationship with wellbeing.* As all seven factors both saw positive shifts and were highly scored among current clients, this indicates that Deadly Connections is successfully contributing towards the needs most important to their clients' wellbeing.

Factors are listed in order of strength of relationship with overall wellbeing. For full statistical details, see Appendix 4 on page 51.

Access to New
Relationships
Opportunity to make
new friends
+101%

Purpose
Having a sense of purpose
+36%

Self-love Liking oneself +55%

Access to
Education

Access to opportunities
to further ones
interests
+74%

Daily Life Skills
Ability to run the house and take care of oneself +143%

Problem Solving
Ability to find a good solution +45%

Aboriginal
Culture
Access to activities of cultural significance
+53%

^{*}Statistical analysis was conducted using 39 responses from Deadly Connections clients. Please see the Data Transparency Page for more information on the treatment of data throughout the project lifecycle.



Challenges That Remain for

Deadly Connections Clients

Despite improvements made across the majority of factors measured, two emerged as potential areas where Deadly Connections clients may take longer to make progress: connection to family and trust with their community. Compared to new clients, both of these factors were scored lower by clients who have been with Deadly Connections for three months or longer, but much higher by graduated clients.* This trend was noted across the program overall, as well as among participants in the Deadly Families and Breaking the Cycle programs.

Given that part of the healing journey for many clients involves establishing and negotiating boundaries with friends and family members that may not be supportive of their work, these results are not surprising. However, Deadly Connections may want to consider additional ways to support their clients in managing these relationships during their involvement with the organisation.



Connection to Family

- 12%

Clients in Deadly Connections have a harder time relating to other family members

Connection to Family, by Time in Program and Type



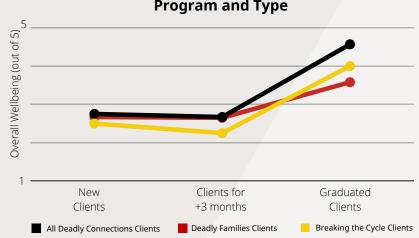


Community Trust

-1%

Clients in Deadly Connections have more difficulty knowing who to trust in their community

Community Trust, by Time in Program and Type



^{*}Note that neither shifts were found to be statistically significant (p.0.05), meaning it is likely that these findings may be due to chance rather than represent a true decrease among clients active in Deadly Connections. Further data collection could increase confidence and clarity of these results.





Deadly Connections Programs

The following section explores the impact of three of Deadly Connections programs. These are:

- Deadly FamiliesBreaking the CycleDeadly Young Warriors





Deadly Families Supports Healthy Relationships

Creating connection is one of the key outcomes for the Deadly Families program. Clients who have been with the Deadly Families program for at least three months saw a 46% increase in healthy relationships.

Having access to healthy relationships and the skills to build and maintain them was also most strongly associated with wellbeing for this program, suggesting that Deadly Families clients who have stronger, healthier relationships are more likely to have higher wellbeing. This shows that the Deadly Families program is successfully addressing the outcome most important to Deadly Families clients' wellbeing.



Access to New Relationships

+104%

Opportunity to make new friends



Relationship Skills

+100%

Ability to express disagreement with actions of friends or partner



Relationship Services

+90%

Access to domestic violence services



Healthy Relationships

+86%

Skills to build and maintain positive relationships with friends



Words of Affirmation

+57%

Access to relationships that offer encouragement and praise

"I isolated myself during a lot of stuff [but] these connections and relationships have helped me push myself out of isolation which was causing me much mental anguish."



Deadly Families Strengthens Daily Life Skills and Access to Key Services

In addition to healthy relationships, clients who have been with the Deadly Families program for at least three months saw improvements in their employment skills, child care skills, and access to key social services. Below are the top six factors that scored the highest shifts among Deadly Families participants.*



Employment Skills

+135%

Skills to find, apply for and secure meaningful employment



Housing Services

+98%

Access to emergency housing services



Employment Opportunities

+95%

Access to local employment opportunities^



Child Care Skills

+87%

Having the skills to care for one's child



Self-development

+84%

Access to opportunities to learn new things



Access to Education

+78%

Access to education opportunities to further ones interests

[^]Access to local employment opportunities is not part of the Deadly Connections impact thesis but was measured as it was considered a potential key need for program participants.

^{*}Beyond factors related to healthy relationships. Shifts are compared to new clients. Baseline measurement group defined as clients who have just begun their time in the Deadly Families program (n=4); shift measurement group defined as Deadly Families clients who have been with the program for three months or more (n=12). Sample size too small for significance testing.



Predictors of Wellbeing for

Deadly Families

As each of the Deadly Connections program is designed to support the unique needs of its participants, it is important to understand what matters most to each group of clients at the program-level.

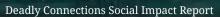
Analysis found that there were 23 factors that had a significant association with overall wellbeing of Deadly Families participants. Of those, the following seven factors showed the strongest relationship with wellbeing.* As all seven factors saw a positive shift, this indicates that Deadly Families is successfully contributing towards the needs most important to their clients' wellbeing.

Access to healthy relationships - including environments that promote self-development - is one of the leading group of factors. Deadly Families clients with greater access to environments that promote self-expression, respect, and opportunities to meet new people are more likely to have higher wellbeing. To have the greatest impact on wellbeing, Deadly Connections may want to direct resources towards creating these opportunities to develop genuine, respectful relationships among its Deadly Families clients.



^{*}Access to internet is not part of the Deadly Connections impact thesis but was still measured as it is considered a potential key need for clients.

Factors are listed in order of strength of relationship with overall wellbeing. Statistical analysis was conducted using 15 responses from Deadly Connections clients in the Deadly Families program. Please see the Data Transparency Page for more information on the treatment of data throughout the project lifecycle.



Respect Is a Priority Need for Deadly Families

A priority need is a predictor of wellbeing (see previous page) which was scored low among respondents. This need is therefore not being adequately addressed, but when improved upon it is more likely to lead to an increase in overall wellbeing.

Of all factors measured for Deadly Families participants, being heard and respected by others was identified as strong predictor of wellbeing, and was also one of the lowest scored factors.*



Respect

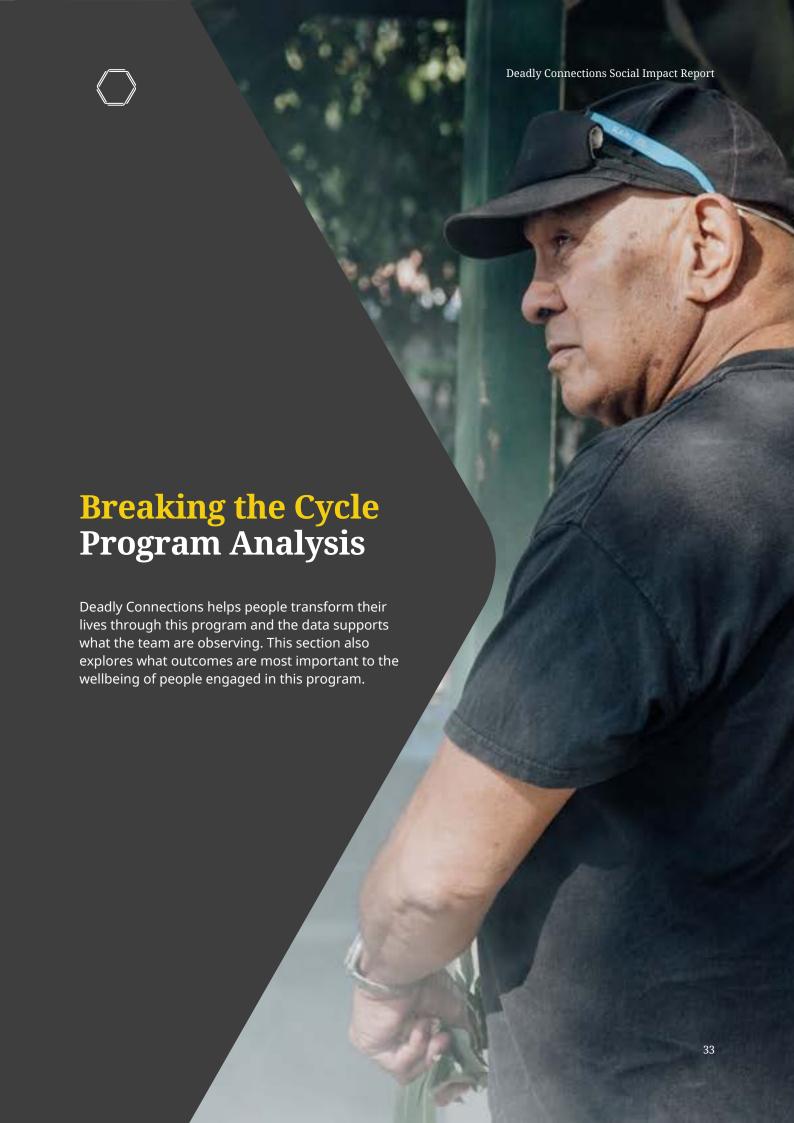
3.50out of 5
Feeling heard and respected by others

However, this factor also saw an increase of 40% when comparing scores from early clients to those who have been in the Deadly Families program for three months or more. This means that clients already in the Deadly Families program are seeing improvements where they matter most. Deadly Connections should continue efforts to incorporate and amplify values of respect for oneself and others within its Deadly Family program to have the best chance at impacting their clients' wellbeing.

*Average of outcomes score was 3.94 out of 5. For the purposes of this measurement, a low score' threshold is defined as any score below the average.

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Breaking the Cycle Strengthens Healing and Holistic Wellness

For clients of the Breaking the Cycle program, holistic wellness saw some of the greatest gains of all program outcomes, indicating that client's are successfully engaged with their healing journey. Positive shifts were seen across physical, emotional and mental wellness, leading to a **50% increase in holistic wellness overall for Breaking the Cycle clients**.

It is also the outcome with the strongest relationship with overall wellbeing. This means that the Breaking the Cycle program successfully addresses the capabilities and opportunities that matter most to the wellbeing of its clients.



Physical Wellness

+100%

Feeling physically fit and healthy



Emotional Intelligence

+72%

Having the skills to effectively manage emotions



Feelings of Courage

+70%

Reduction in frequency of feeling afraid



Stability

+65%

Having routine and balance in one's life



Passion

+64%

Having passions and interests



Vulnerability

+50%

Ability to ask for help when needed

"If I hadn't been introduced to Deadly Connections I would not be where I am today in my life. I have been successful at my restoration and recovery and rehab and housing and all important aspects of my life because of them."



Breaking the Cycle Improves Relationships and Daily Life Skills

In addition to holistic wellness, clients who have been with Breaking the Cycle for at least three months reported increases across factors related to resilience, daily life skills and healthy relationships. Below are the top six factors that scored the highest shifts among Breaking the Cycle participants beyond holistic wellness.*



Relationship Services

+100%

Access to domestic violence services



Self-belief

+83%

Belief in oneself to get through the hard times



Self-Determined Identity

+75%

Having the knowledge and skills to shape one's own Aboriginal identity



Healthy Relationships

+71%

Skills to build and maintain positive relationships with partners



Healthy Relationships

+68%

Ability to express disagreement with actions of friends or partner



Daily Life Skills

+67%

Knowledge and skills to navigate daily life

^{*}As compared to new clients. Baseline measurement group defined as clients who have just begun their time in the Breaking the Cycle program (n=4); shift measurement group defined as Breaking the Cycle clients who have been with the program for three months or more (n=8). Sample size too small for significance testing.



Predictors of Wellbeing for

Breaking the Cycle

In addition to the Deadly Families program, statistical analysis was used to identify the predictors of wellbeing for clients of the Breaking the Cycle program.

Analysis found there were 31 factors that had a significant association with overall wellbeing of Breaking the Cycle participants. Of those, the following seven factors showed the strongest relationship with wellbeing. As with Deadly Families, all factors saw an improvement across participants who have been with the program for at least three months, indicating that the Breaking the Cycle program is successfully addressing the needs that matter most to wellbeing.

Employment clearly emerges as a strong predictor of wellbeing for this group. Breaking the Cycle clients who are more likely to have the right skills and access to local employment opportunities are more likely to have higher wellbeing than other clients in the program. Deadly Connections may want to focus resources on creating job skills training and networking opportunities so that Breaking the Cycle participants are in the best position to secure meaningful employment, thereby having an even greater impact on their clients' wellbeing.

Employment Skills

Skills to secure meaningful employment +56%

Employment Opportunities

Access to local employment opportunities^+67%

Coping Skills

Being able to remain calm in difficult situations +42%

Aboriginal Culture

Access to activities of cultural significance +44%

Internet

Having access to the internet^
+40%

Daily Life Skills

Ability to run the house and take care of oneself

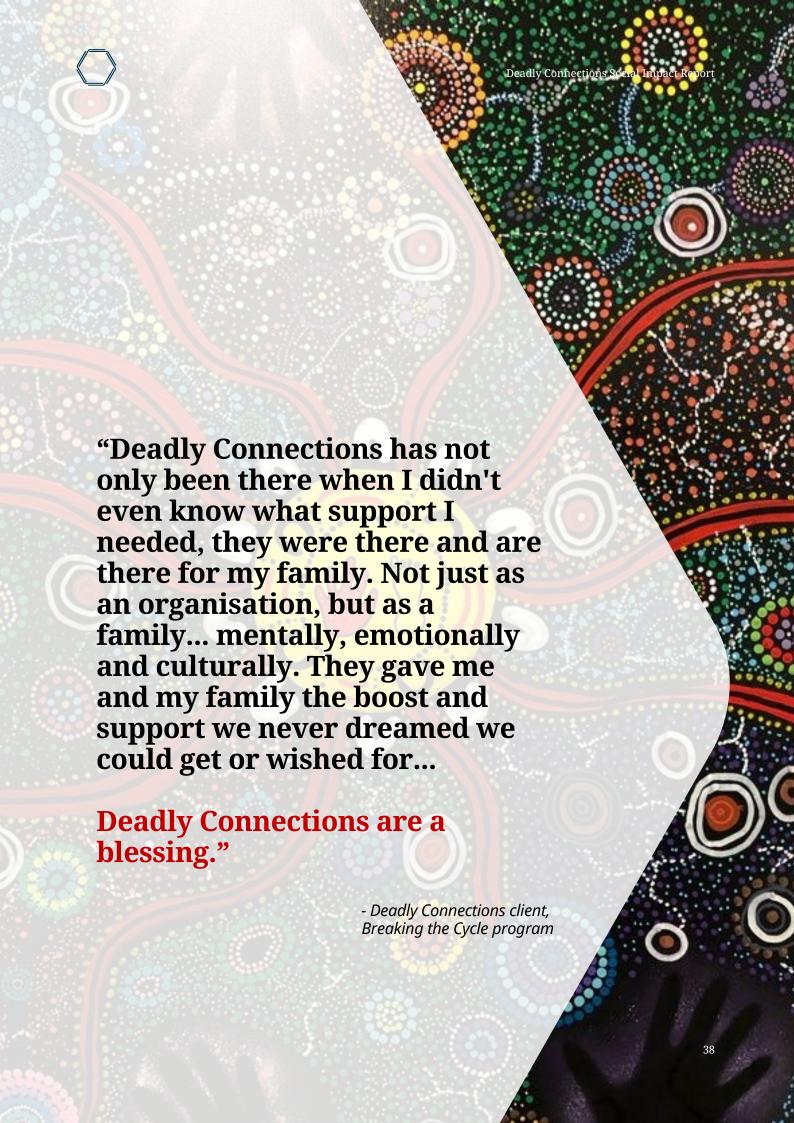
Access to New Relationships

Opportunity to make new friends +39%

*Access to internet and local employment opportunities are not part of the Deadly Connections impact thesis but were still measured as they are both considered a potential key need for clients.

Factors are listed in order of strength of relationship with overall wellbeing. Statistical analysis was conducted using 16 responses from Deadly Connections clients in the Breaking the Cycle program. Please see the Data Transparency Page for more information on the treatment of data throughout the project lifecycle.









Deadly Young Warriors Are Strongest in Resilience and Community Connection

Deadly Young Warriors Average Program Outcomes Scores

Top Performing Outcomes

Across all factors measured, Deadly Young Warriors scored the highest on average across factors related to community connection and resilience.* This suggests that the Deadly Young Warriors program is strongest in addressing these two program outcomes amongst its youngest clients.



Overall Wellbeing Score (out of 5)



Pride in Aboriginal Identity

Deadly Young Warriors have pride in their Aboriginal identity



Belonging to a Community

Deadly Young Warriors feel like a part of their community

Top Scoring Factors

In addition to their performance across program outcomes, the following five individual factors were scored the highest amongst Deadly Young Warriors participants.

All factors have an average score of 4.67 out of 5:



Fear

Deadly Young Warriors don't feel afraid very often



Safe Home

Deadly Young Warriors feel safe at home



Passions

Deadly Young Warriors have passions and interests

^{*}Note that the sample size of Deadly Young Warriors is quite small (n=3). All findings should be considered indicative in this report; further measurement will provide additional analysis opportunities and strengthen confidence in the results.



Deadly Young Warriors Face Challenges with Healthy Relationships and Access to Services

While Deadly Young Warriors reported high scores across many factors, young people scored relatively low across factors related to healthy relationships and access to key social services and skills. Given the age of this program cohort, these results are not surprising. Deadly Connections may want to consider how the Deadly Young Warriors program can work to support its young people navigate these aspects during such a challenging time. All scores listed are out of 5.

Healthy Relationships



Connection to Family

2.67

Deadly Young Warriors have a hard time relating to other family members



Community Trust

3.00

Deadly Young Warriors have more difficulty knowing who to trust in their community



Mob Relationships

3.00

Deadly Young Warriors have poor relations with their mob and other Aboriginal communities

Access to Key Services and Skills



Housing Services

2.00

Deadly Young Warriors have low access to emergency housing services



Education Opportunities

3.00

Deadly Young Warriors have poor access to the right education opportunities



Daily Life Skills

3.00

Deadly Young Warriors aren't confident in their ability to care for themselves







Next Steps for Deadly Connections

The Deadly Connections Social Impact Report brings together data-driven evidence and powerful client testimonials to collectively demonstrate how the organisation is working to break the cycle of injustice.

Overall, the measurement demonstrated that Deadly Connections puts people in an overall better position of wellbeing and that this impact endures. Focused on healing and empowerment, the model was shown to address the needs most important to client wellbeing, resulting in higher overall wellbeing for people that have been with Deadly Connections for three months or longer. Furthermore, looking at results based on time in program, revealed these higher levels of wellbeing are sustained over time.

When it came to target outcomes, the value of a model built from 'lived experience' was confirmed. Across all high level program target outcomes a significant relationship with wellbeing was revealed, indicating that Deadly Connections programming is indeed focused on what really matters for the people they seek to serve. With this information, Deadly Connections can continue to focus efforts and resources to meet these target outcomes with confidence.

Measurement also revealed a potential opportunity to streamline effort. Specifically, analysis identified that there were common needs consistent across all Deadly Connections' clients, regardless of program. These factors included 'having access to new friendships', 'a sense of purpose', and 'household management skills'. It is therefore worth considering whether activities that target these factors may be streamlined across programs for the most effective use of resources.

Building on this foundational measurement, ongoing measurement will not only strengthen these initial findings but also increase the value of the insights to build out a complete picture of what needs to be done to systematically address the cycle of injustice. In particular, to put more data driven evidence behind the needs of specific groups, at different life stages, as well as to help shine a light on structural and institutional changes needed.

Not only will this reinforce the social value of Deadly Connections and help refine and develop programs to deepen the organisation's impact, but it is hoped that it will help to unlock even greater support so that Deadly Connections may grow and reach more people.





Get in Touch



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Huber Social

Independent experts in social impact measurement, Huber Social works with clients to measure and maximise social value.

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Appendix

- 1. The Huber Social Wellbeing Measurement Framework
- 2. Data Transparency Page
- 3. Measurement Limitations
- 4. Predictors of Wellbeing



1. Huber Social Wellbeing Measurement Framework

To be able to fulfil their potential and achieve wellbeing, each individual needs to have the capability and the opportunity to do so. Everyone has different needs within these categories depending on their context.

When it comes to measuring the social impact of a service, Huber Social measures the 'shift' the service creates in terms of wellbeing and the specific program outcomes achieved to create this. Results are then consolidated at a sector, community and global level.

The goal for each of us is the same; wellbeing. The part that differs, are our individual needs.

Longitudinal measurement monitors effectiveness of programs to meet these needs; ensuring resources are directed to have the greatest impact. The vision is a wellbeing measurement system that delivers us the whole picture, to put each of us in the best position to achieve wellbeing and leave no one behind.

The Huber Social Wellbeing Measurement Framework

IMPACT

Wellbeing

To be in the best position to fulfil your potential and live a life of value. The overall goal for all services working with people.

OUTCOMES

OUTCOMES

Through building

Capability

Resilience Life skills Wellness - mental, physical and spiritual and providing

Opportunity

Resources
Self development
Societal structures
Relationships



2. Data Transparency Page

To support understanding of the findings and informed decision-making, Huber Social includes a data transparency page for every measurement project. This makes clear the rigour of evidence and analysis across every stage of the data lifecycle for the project.

DATA LIFECYCLE 1. Design

2. Data Collection

3. Cleaning

4. Analysis

5. Reporting

Phase	Questions on the T	reatment of the Data	Points allocated	Yes or N
		Everyone in the intervention included in the measurement	2	N
		OR Survey sample population designed to be representative of group	1	Y
Design	SAMPLE	Sample description: 39 responses were collected from Deadly Connections clients 15 responses collected from Deadly Families participants and 16 from Breaking the Cycle. Some baseline responses from the Deadly Families and Breaking the Cycle programs were collected from clients beginning the new Girra Girra program; however, they would otherwise be part of the Deadly Families and Breaking the Cycle programs in absence of the new program.	N/A	N/A
	BASELINE	Control group (independent of the intervention)	3	N
		Group baseline measured (pre -intervention)	2	N
		Baseline inferred from time in intervention (e.g. 1 vs. 3 years)	1	Υ
	EXCLUSIONS	Details of people specifically excluded from the measurement: N/A	N/A	N/A
	DISTRIBUTION	Online surveys		Υ
		OR hardcopy surveys		Υ
		Data collection supervised by Huber Social consultant	1	N
Data		Translation or guidance provided	N/A	N/A
Collection	DATA SOURCES	Data mining of other sources	1	N
		Data included from previous years/measurements	1	N
		Details of additional data sources: N/A		
Cleaning	CLEANING	Partial responses removed or no partial responses	1	Y
		Details of any responses removed: Partial responses removed if missing wellbeing score data and/or >50% of outcomes data. One response was excluded from the analysis due to irregularities in the responses (most questions given the same score, regardless of scale).	N/A	N/A
Analysis	SHIFT MEASUREMENT	Calculated on time in intervention		Y
		Calculated on group average	1	Υ
		Calculated based on individual scores	2	N
		Basic analysis		Υ
	TEST APPLIED	Statistical Correlation Test	2	Υ
		Multiple Regression or Lasso Regression Test	3	Υ
Reporting	REPORTING	Client published Outcomes Report (prove)	1	N
		Client received Social Performance Report (improve)	2	Υ
		Client published full Social Impact Report	3	Υ
RIGOUR SCOR	RE: OW: 1-9; MED 10-14	; HIGH 15-19	MEDIUM	14



3. Measurement

Limitations

To show the social impact of Deadly Connections' work, the project used an experimental design based on assessing self-reported changes in participants with respect to key program outcomes, comparing data from when a client begins their journey with Deadly Connections to three months in and beyond.

In the future, the goal is clients will complete a 'before' survey as part of enrolment and an 'after' survey at the three month mark and when they complete their involvement with Deadly Connections. Due to limitations with measurement timelines with this project, one single measurement was taken and then respondents were grouped based on current time in program: (1) new clients, (2) clients who had been with Deadly Connections for three months or more, and (3) clients who had completed their time with Deadly Connections ('graduated'). Data was then analysed comparing clients who were new to Deadly Connections (baseline or 'before' group) to those who had been there for three months or longer (shift or 'after' group).

While offering initial insights into the impact of the Deadly Connections, there are limitations to this approach.

Indicative baseline

In order to see the full impact of an organisation's work, ideally a pre-program baseline should be captured in measurement, that is, the 'before' surveys should ideally be completed before an organisation has had any impact on a participant. In this case, with some in the baseline group having already been involved with Deadly Connections at the time of measurement, it's possible that they had already benefitted from the organisation's work beyond what would have been their preprogram baseline. In the future, all clients will be invited to complete surveys as part of enrolment.

Sample size

To achieve a confidence level of 95% in results, a calculated number of participants are required for a scientifically representative sample. For the Deadly Connections measurement, these sample sizes were calculated based off previous years' enrolment figures. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, some programs such as Deadly Young Warriors saw a reduction in active clients due to reduced activities, while for other programs it was not possible to reach clients to ask them to participate in the study. Therefore, sample size targets were not achieved across the three programs selected for measurement, thus reducing data analysis abilities.

As Deadly Connections' continues to measure its social impact, sample sizes across programs will hopefully increase and therefore further strengthen the statistical confidence of these findings.

Sample construct

While all surveys completed for this study were done so by Deadly Connections clients (current or former), the distribution of services across each measurement group was not necessarily equal. For example, the COVID-19 relief support program would not have addressed the same outcomes as the Deadly Families or Breaking the Cycle programs; nevertheless those two types of clients were included in the same analysis group due to the small sample size overall. That being said, it is still useful to understand the broad needs of all Deadly Connections clients, as there are noticeable overlaps with those in specific programs.



4. Predictors of Wellbeing

To inform how to best support Deadly Connections clients' wellbeing, correlation analysis was performed to identify outcomes measured which have a significant relationship with overall wellbeing; these are known as predictors of wellbeing.

The predictors of wellbeing can be found listed in the following tables in order of statistical strength. The stronger the relationship between an outcome and overall wellbeing, the more confidence there is that a change in the outcome will correspond with a change in wellbeing.

Relationship strength is based on both the statistical significance (p-value) and beta coefficient value. All predictors listed are statistically significant to p<0.001 (unless otherwise noted), meaning there is 99% confidence that the relationship identified between the predictive outcome and wellbeing is true, rather than produced due to sampling error or chance. The beta coefficient describes how closely each outcome and wellbeing are likely to move together related to each other. For the purposes of this study, a strong relationship between an outcome and overall wellbeing is defined as any outcome with a beta coefficient value greater than 0.5.

The following pages present all predictors of wellbeing that have a significant relationship with overall wellbeing, for all Deadly Connections clients as well as those in the Deadly Families and Breaking the Cycle programs.

Table 1. Predictors of Wellbeing for All Deadly Connections Clients

Factors	Coefficient	p-value
Access to New Relationships: Opportunity to make new friends	0.714	p < 0.01
Purpose: Having a sense of purpose	0.705	p < 0.01
Self-love: Liking oneself	0.668	p < 0.01
Access to Education: Access to education opportunities in areas of interest	0.667	p < 0.01
Daily Life Skills: Skills to run the household and take care of oneself	0.657	p < 0.01
Problem Solving: Ability to solve problems and find good solutions	0.657	p < 0.01
Aboriginal Culture: Access to opportunities to learn and participate in Aboriginal activities	0.615	p < 0.01
Determination : Ability to meet goals	0.605	p < 0.01
Internet: Access to internet	0.598	p < 0.01
Hope: Having hope for the future	0.595	p < 0.01
Emotional Intelligence: Manage emotions effectively	0.587	p < 0.01
Access to Employment: Access to local employment opportunities	0.573	p < 0.01
Self-determined Identity: Having the knowledge and skills to shape one's own Aboriginal identity	0.551	p < 0.01
Self-expression: Access to environments that promote self-expression	0.544	p < 0.01
Safe Housing: Access to safe and stable shelter	0.537	p < 0.01
Employment Skills: Skills to find, apply for and secure meaningful employment	0.535	p < 0.01
Words of Affirmation: Access to relationships that provide encourage and praise	0.532	p < 0.01
Self-belief: Belief in one's ability to get through the hard times	0.524	p < 0.01
Shared Experiences: Opportunity to connect with people with shared experiences	0.518	p < 0.01
Housing Services: Access to emergency housing services	0.511	p < 0.01
Coping Skills: Ability to remain calm in difficult situations	0.501	p < 0.01



4. Predictors of Wellbeing

Table 2. Predictors of Wellbeing for Deadly Families Clients

Factors	Coefficient	p-value
Self-expression – Access to environments that promote self-expression	0.776	p < 0.01
Daily Life Skills - Skills to run the household and take care of oneself	0.699	p < 0.01
Access to New Relationships – Opportunity to make new friends	0.66	p < 0.01
Respect – Being heard and respected by others	0.648	p < 0.01
Problem Solving – Ability to solve problems and find good solutions	0.645	p < 0.01
Purpose – Having a sense of purpose	0.638	p < 0.01
Internet - Access to internet	0.63	p < 0.01
Access to Education – Access to education opportunities in areas of interest	0.614	p < 0.01
Safe Housing – Access to safe and stable shelter	0.59	p < 0.01
Self-love – Liking oneself	0.589	p < 0.01
Communication with Family – Opportunities to speak freely with family	0.577	p < 0.01
Healthy Relationships – Skills to build and maintain positive relationships with partners	0.559	p < 0.01
Hope – Having hope for the future	0.55	p < 0.01
Financial Services – Access to financial support services	0.549	p < 0.01
Self-belief – Belief in one's ability to get through the hard times	0.544	p < 0.01
Cultural Recognition – Access to systems that respect and protect one's culture	0.543	p < 0.01
Shared Experiences – Opportunity to connect with people with shared experiences	0.537	p < 0.01
Vulnerability – Ability to trust others in the community	0.535	p < 0.01
Emotional Intelligence - Manage emotions effectively	0.535	p < 0.01
Fear – Frequency of feeling afraid	0.514	p < 0.01
Determination – Ability to meet goals	0.508	p < 0.01
Mindset-Ability to focus on the positive things in life	0.504	p < 0.01
Relationship Services – Access to domestic violence services	0.5	p < 0.01



4. Predictors of Wellbeing

Table 3. Predictors of Wellbeing for Breaking the Cycle Clients

Factors	Coefficient	p-value
Employment Skills – Skills to find, apply for and secure meaningful employment	0.884	p < 0.01
Access to Employment – Access to local employment opportunities	0.83	p < 0.01
Coping Skills – Ability to remain calm in difficult situations	0.818	p < 0.01
Aboriginal Culture – Access to opportunities to learn and participate in Aboriginal activities	0.809	p < 0.01
Internet - Access to internet	0.798	p < 0.01
Daily Life Skills - Skills to run the household and take care of oneself	0.794	p < 0.01
Access to New Relationships – Opportunity to make new friends	0.771	p < 0.01
Purpose – Having a sense of purpose	0.769	p < 0.01
Fear – Frequency of feeling afraid	0.746	p < 0.01
Healthy Relationships – Skills to build and maintain positive relationships with friends	0.736	p < 0.01
Problem Solving – Ability to solve problems and find good solutions	0.728	p < 0.01
Self-love – Liking oneself	0.699	p < 0.01
Safe Housing – Access to safe and stable shelter	0.68	p < 0.01
motional Intelligence - Manage emotions effectively	0.671	p < 0.01
Access to Education – Access to education opportunities in areas of interest	0.669	p < 0.01
Adaptability – Ability to adapt in new or stressful situations	0.637	p < 0.01
Self-belief – Belief in one's ability to get through the hard times	0.633	p < 0.01
Determination – Ability to meet goals	0.625	p < 0.01
Healthy Relationships – Skills to build and maintain positive relationships with partners	0.614	p < 0.01
Hope – Having hope for the future	0.599	p < 0.01
Vulnerability – Ability to trust others in the community	0.597	p < 0.01
Words of Affirmation – Access to relationships that provide encourage and praise	0.566	p < 0.01
Community Safety – Access to a safe community	0.561	p < 0.01
Stability – Having stability in one's life	0.558	p < 0.01
Mindset – Ability to focus on the positive things in life	0.554	p < 0.01
Legal Services – Knowledge of where to go for legal services	0.551	p < 0.01
self-determined Identity – Having the knowledge and skills to shape one's own Aboriginal identity	0.539	p < 0.01
Physical Health – Being in good physical health	0.519	p < 0.01
self-determined Identity - Having the knowledge and skills to shape one's own Aboriginal identity	0.517	p < 0.01
Housing Services – Access to emergency housing services	0.513	p < 0.01
Acts of Service – Access to relationships that provide acts of service	0.5	p < 0.01



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