

Conclusion

This section summarises the indicators we have updated in this year's social report. It also compares outcomes from the mid-1980s with recent outcomes and highlights changes within those periods for the population as a whole and for different population subgroups.

Changes in social wellbeing over time

Social wellbeing in New Zealand continues to improve

We have new data for 25 of the 42 indicators used in this year's report. The patterns of change shown by the updated indicators broadly reflect the trends shown in *The Social Report 2005*. The Health indicators, with the exception of suicide, have improved. Despite a small drop in participation in tertiary education (largely due to a decline in participation in certificate level courses), the Knowledge and Skills outcomes were generally better. The Paid Work indicators have all improved. In the Economic Standard of Living domain, market income per person has gone up. While there was little change in the proportion of the population with low living standards, there was an increase in the prevalence of severe hardship.

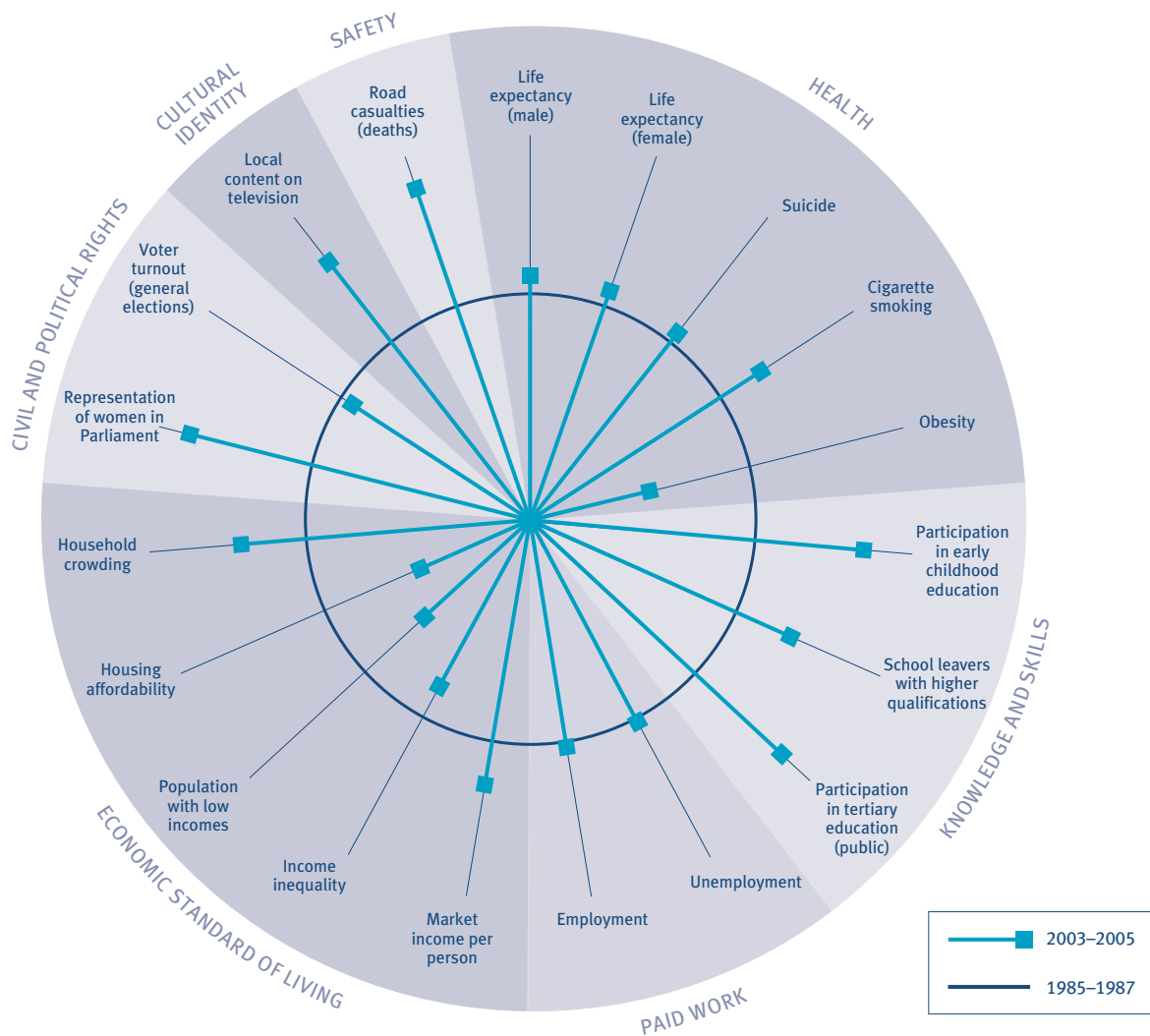
In the Civil and Political Rights domain, changes were mixed. Voter turnout in the 2005 general election increased against a long-term downward trend, and more women were elected to Parliament. Turnout in the 2004 local authority elections declined, and a similar proportion of women as previously were elected to local authorities. People perceived there was less discrimination against most groups. New Zealand continues to be a world leader in terms of perceived corruption. In the Cultural Identity domain, we added Prime Television and Māori Television to the local content programming on New Zealand television indicator. As Prime screens low levels of local content, the proportion of local content dropped between 2004 and 2005. In the Physical Environment domain, both the air and drinking water quality indicators have improved. In the Safety domain, intentional injury child mortality improved, road deaths declined but road injuries went up. The telephone access and the contact with family/friends indicators in the Social Connectedness domain remained similar to previous measures, but internet access increased substantially.

Most aspects of wellbeing have improved since the 1980s but some economic outcomes have not recovered to mid-1980s levels

In previous reports we have compared recent outcomes with those of the mid-1990s. This year we are looking back over 20 years to compare recent outcomes with those from before most of the restructuring and reforms of the 1980s and early-1990s took place.

Outcomes stagnated or even declined across a number of domains in the late-1980s and early-1990s. Since then, outcomes have overtaken the mid-1980s levels in most of the domains we monitor, including Health, Knowledge and Skills, Paid Work and Safety. However, three of the five outcomes for which we have data in the Economic Standard of Living domain have not recovered to mid-1980s levels. Outcomes in the Civil and Political Rights domain are mixed.

Figure C01 **Changes in social wellbeing, 1985–1987 to 2003–2005**



Interpreting “Changes in social wellbeing, 1985–1987 to 2003–2005”

The circle ○ represents average performance against each indicator between 1985 and 1987, and the spokes —■ represent the most recent performance, where possible averaged over the most recent three years (to smooth fluctuations). Where a spoke falls outside the circle, this means outcomes have improved since the mid-1980s; the further from the circle, the greater the improvement. Where a spoke falls inside the circle, outcomes in this area have

deteriorated since the mid-1980s; the further the spoke is from the circle the more pronounced this effect. There are, however, some important limitations on this style of presentation. In particular, we cannot directly compare the size of changes for different indicators. The absence of trend data for some indicators also means we can show only 18 of the 42 indicators used in *The Social Report 2006*.

Health outcomes have generally improved since the mid-1980s

From 1985–1987 to 2003–2005, life expectancy at birth increased by 6.4 years for males and 4.6 years for females. Suicide rates worsened in the late-1980s but began to improve towards the end of the 1990s. The 2003 suicide rate was the same as the 1986 rate of 11.5 per 100,000 population. Cigarette smoking has dropped by 7 percentage points from 30 percent in 1986. Only the obesity outcomes have deteriorated. Reflecting changes in diet and physical activity, obesity doubled from 10 to 20 percent between 1989 and 2003 for adult men. Obesity almost doubled for adult women, increasing from 13 to 22 percent over the same period.

Knowledge and Skills outcomes are also considerably better now

Since the mid-1980s there have been substantial increases in participation in early childhood and tertiary education and more school leavers have higher qualifications. The “apparent” early childhood education participation rate was 98 percent for 3 year olds and 103 percent for 4 year olds in 2005 compared with 43 percent and 73 percent respectively in 1986. Much of this growth was in the five years between 1986 and 1991, with slower growth in the subsequent years. In 1986, 4 percent of the population aged 15 years and over was enrolled in public tertiary education institutions, compared to 10 percent in July 2004 and 9 percent in July 2005.

The proportion of school leavers with higher qualifications has increased substantially from 47 percent in 1986 to 69 percent in 2004. Most of this increase occurred in the late-1980s, with the level fluctuating between 63 percent and 69 percent since 1990. The greater availability of employment and training opportunities for young people without higher qualifications may explain some of the lack of continued growth in this area.

Paid Work outcomes are also more favourable

The unemployment rate increased between the late-1980s and early-1990s, peaking at 10.4 percent in 1992. It has declined steadily since 1998. In 2005, 3.7 percent of the labour force was unemployed compared with 4.1 percent in 1986. In 2005, the proportion of unemployed people who had been unemployed for more than six months was just under that recorded in 1986 (23 percent) and substantially lower than the peak of 53 percent in 1992.

Employment rates fell sharply between 1986 and 1992. Apart from declines during the economic downturn in 1997 and 1998, the rate has been rising since 1992. The rate in 2005 was 74.6 percent, compared with 72.3 percent in 1986. The part-time employment rate increased throughout the period, from 11.9 percent in 1986 to 15.9 percent in 2005.

Three of the Economic Standard of Living outcomes are worse now than in the mid-1980s

The market income per person, income inequality, population with low incomes, and housing affordability indicators all deteriorated between the late-1980s and early-1990s. However, despite improvements since then, income inequality, population with low incomes, and housing affordability are still worse than they were in the mid-1980s. Market income per person is well above mid-1980s levels and household crowding improved steadily between 1986 and 2001.⁹³

In the year to March 2005, market income per person was \$28,998 in constant 1995/1996 dollars compared with \$22,735 in 1988. After growing slowly between 1988 and 1990, market income per person fell sharply between 1990 and 1992. Since then it has been increasing steadily, reflecting labour productivity gains, increasing labour force participation and declining unemployment.

Income inequality has increased since 1988; the equivalised disposable income of a household at the 80th percentile was 2.8 times that of a household at the 20th percentile in 2004, compared with 2.4 times in 1988. Most of the observed increase in income inequality has been due to a larger overall rise in incomes for those in the top 20 percent of incomes than for those in the bottom 20 percent of incomes. Since 1988, incomes of those in the bottom 20 percent of all incomes have increased only a little, once adjustments for inflation are made, whereas those in the top 20 percent of incomes have climbed by more than a third.

The proportion of the population with low incomes was substantially higher in 2004 than in 1988. In that year, 12 percent of the population was living below the 60 percent threshold compared with 19 percent in 2004. The proportion of the population with low incomes increased sharply in the early-1990s, in part reflecting high rates of unemployment and cuts in the level of social assistance. After reaching a peak in the mid-1990s, the proportion of people with low incomes declined over the latter half of the decade and has continued to improve since then.

There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of households spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing since the late-1980s. Between 1988 and 1997 the proportion rose from 11 percent to 25 percent of households, before levelling off at 24 percent in 1998 and 2001 and falling to 22 percent in 2004. The proportion of households in the lowest 20 percent of the equivalised household income distribution spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing rose from 16 percent in 1988 to reach a peak of 49 percent in 1994 before levelling off at 41 to 42 percent over the period 1996–2001. In 2004, this proportion had fallen to 35 percent. While this represents a substantial improvement since the mid-1990s, the proportion of low-income households spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing is still over twice as high as it was in 1988.

Changes in the Civil and Political Rights domain are mixed

The number of women elected to Parliament has gone up since the mid-1980s, but voter turnout has declined. In 1984, under the first-past-the-post system, 13 percent of the Members of Parliament were women. This climbed sharply to 29 percent in the first mixed-member-proportional election held in 1996. Following fluctuations in the subsequent two elections, women now make up 32 percent of the 121 MPs. The percentage of women on local boards and councils increased from 18 percent in 1986 to 30 percent in 1995, and remained at this level in 2004.

Voter turnout of the eligible population in the 1984 general election was 89 percent. Following falls in all subsequent elections, reaching a low point of 73 percent in 2002, turnout recovered to 77 percent in 2005. A major restructuring of local government in 1989 was initially accompanied by a noticeable increase in voter turnout at the local authority elections, peaking at 61 percent in 1992. Since then voter turnout has declined steadily, with the exception of the 1998 elections. The 46 percent voter turnout in 2004 was the lowest since 1989 (57 percent).

Outcomes in the Cultural Identity and Safety domains have improved

The proportion of local content screened on New Zealand television channels during prime-time is higher now than it was in 1988. In 2005, local content made up 38 percent of the prime-time schedule compared with 24 percent in 1988.

Deaths and injuries from motor vehicle accidents have fallen substantially since 1986, possibly because of better vehicles and safer roads, as well as the impact of legislation, enforcement and education. Fatalities dropped by 47 percent between then and 2005 and there were 24 percent fewer injuries.

Changes in wellbeing for different population subgroups

MĀORI

Outcomes for Māori have improved over the last two decades against most of the indicators for which we have time series data

During the period of New Zealand's economic reforms in the 1980s and early-1990s, outcomes for Māori deteriorated or stagnated across many domains. The subsequent improvements in outcomes for Māori have, in many cases, been at a faster rate than for Europeans. However, despite the improvements, average outcomes for Māori still tend to be poorer than average outcomes for Europeans.

Māori life expectancy has increased, with a dramatic improvement in the five years to 2000–2002 following little change during the 1980s and 1990s. Life expectancy for Māori males was 69 years in 2000–2002 compared with 64.9 years in 1985–1987, while that for females was 73.2 years compared with 70.5 years. Obesity has increased among Māori, as it has for all groups since 1989, but there was little change in the rates for Māori between 1997 and 2003.⁹⁴

Unemployment and employment rates for Māori have also improved. The Māori unemployment rate was 11.3 percent in 1986. It rose steadily to peak at 25.4 percent in 1992, but has been falling since then. It was 8.6 percent in 2005. However, this is still higher than for other ethnic groups. The Māori employment rate fell from 61.2 percent in 1986 to a low of 46 percent in 1992. Since then it has improved, at a faster rate than for Europeans, reaching 64 percent in 2005.

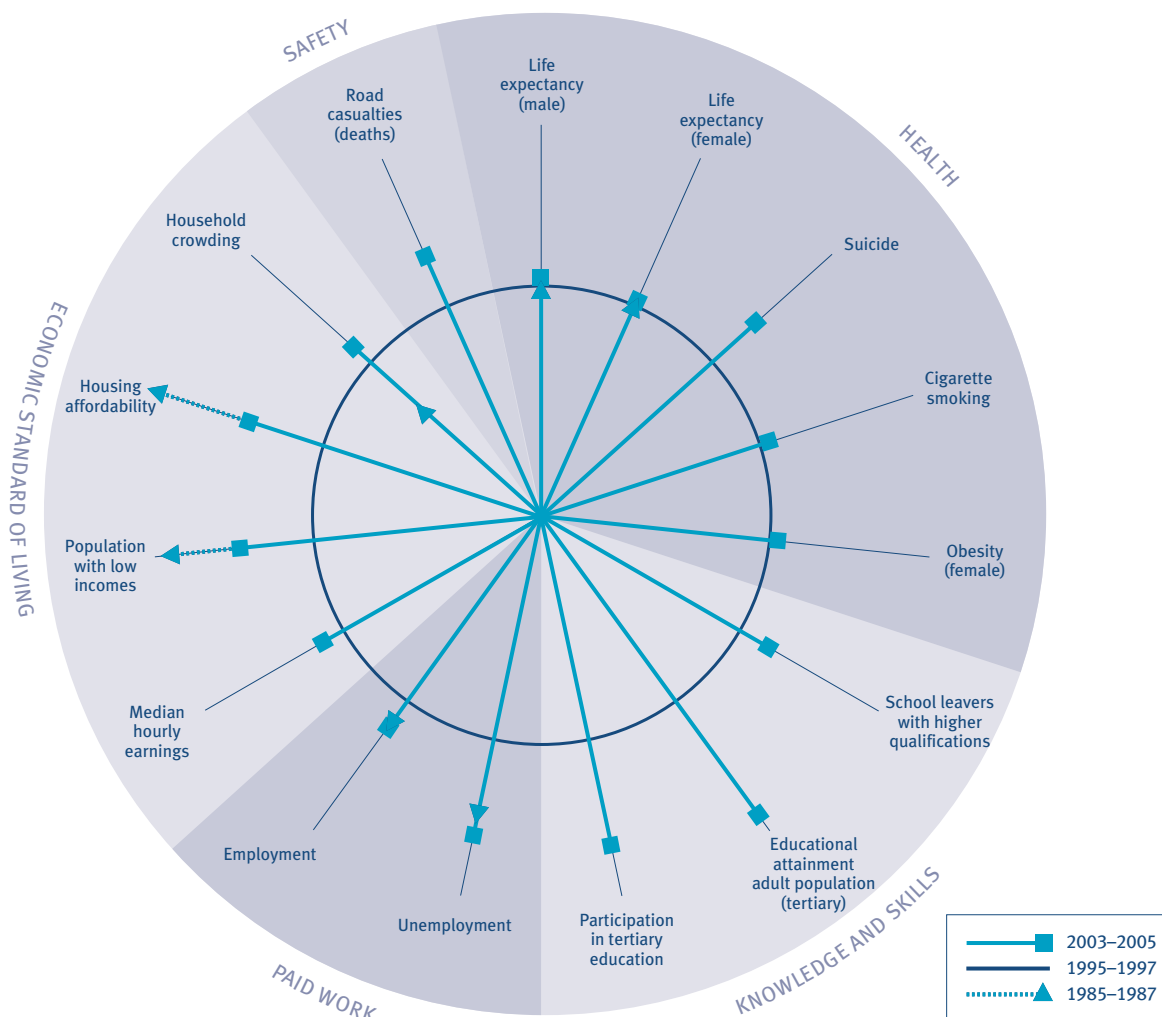
The proportion of Māori families with low incomes rose from 14 percent in 1988 to 42 percent in 1993, but dropped to 24 percent in 2004. The proportion spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs increased from 8 percent in 1988 to peak at 36 percent in 1997, fell slightly to 31 percent in 2001, then dropped sharply to 21 percent in 2004. Household crowding has improved since 1986.⁹⁵

For the remaining indicators, data dates from the 1990s. Suicide rates for Māori have fallen since their peak in 1998, as they have for non-Māori. The percentage of Māori smoking cigarettes has dropped from 51 percent in 1990 to 47 percent in 2004. But Māori still have the highest rates of cigarette smoking of all ethnic groups.^{96, 97}

There has been an increase in the participation of Māori children in early childhood education. While Māori participation is still lower than that for European children, the difference is reducing. The proportion of Māori school leavers with higher qualifications has also increased. Although Māori adults are less likely than European adults to have higher qualifications, the growth in the proportion of adults with at least upper secondary qualifications was faster for Māori than for Europeans. There has also been a sharp increase in Māori participation in tertiary education.

Increases in inflation-adjusted median hourly earnings from wage and salary jobs were higher for Māori over the eight years to June 2005 than they were for any other ethnic group. However, earnings were still \$2 an hour lower than those for Europeans. Māori have a higher rate of workplace injury claims than other ethnic groups, reflecting higher Māori representation in more dangerous industries. Māori are also more likely than other ethnic groups to be killed in motor vehicle accidents, though the rate has improved since 1996.

Figure C02 **Changes in social wellbeing for Māori**



Interpreting “Changes in social wellbeing for Māori”

The circle ○ represents average outcomes for Māori against each indicator between 1995 and 1997. The spokes —■ represent the most recent performance averaged, where possible, over the most recent three years. Where a spoke falls outside the circle, this means outcomes for Māori are better now than they were in the mid-1990s; the further from the circle, the greater the improvement. Where a spoke falls inside the circle, outcomes for Māori are worse now than they were in the mid-1990s; the further the spoke is from the circle the more pronounced this effect.

The triangles▲ on the spokes show outcomes for Māori for the mid-1980s. Where the triangle is closer to the centre of the circle than the end of the spoke, outcomes are better now than they were in the mid-1980s. Where the triangle is further away from the centre of the circle than the end of the spoke, outcomes are worse now than they were in the mid-1980s. There are, however, some important limitations on this style of presentation. In particular, we cannot directly compare the size of changes for different indicators.

PACIFIC PEOPLES

Outcomes for Pacific peoples are improving but are still relatively poor

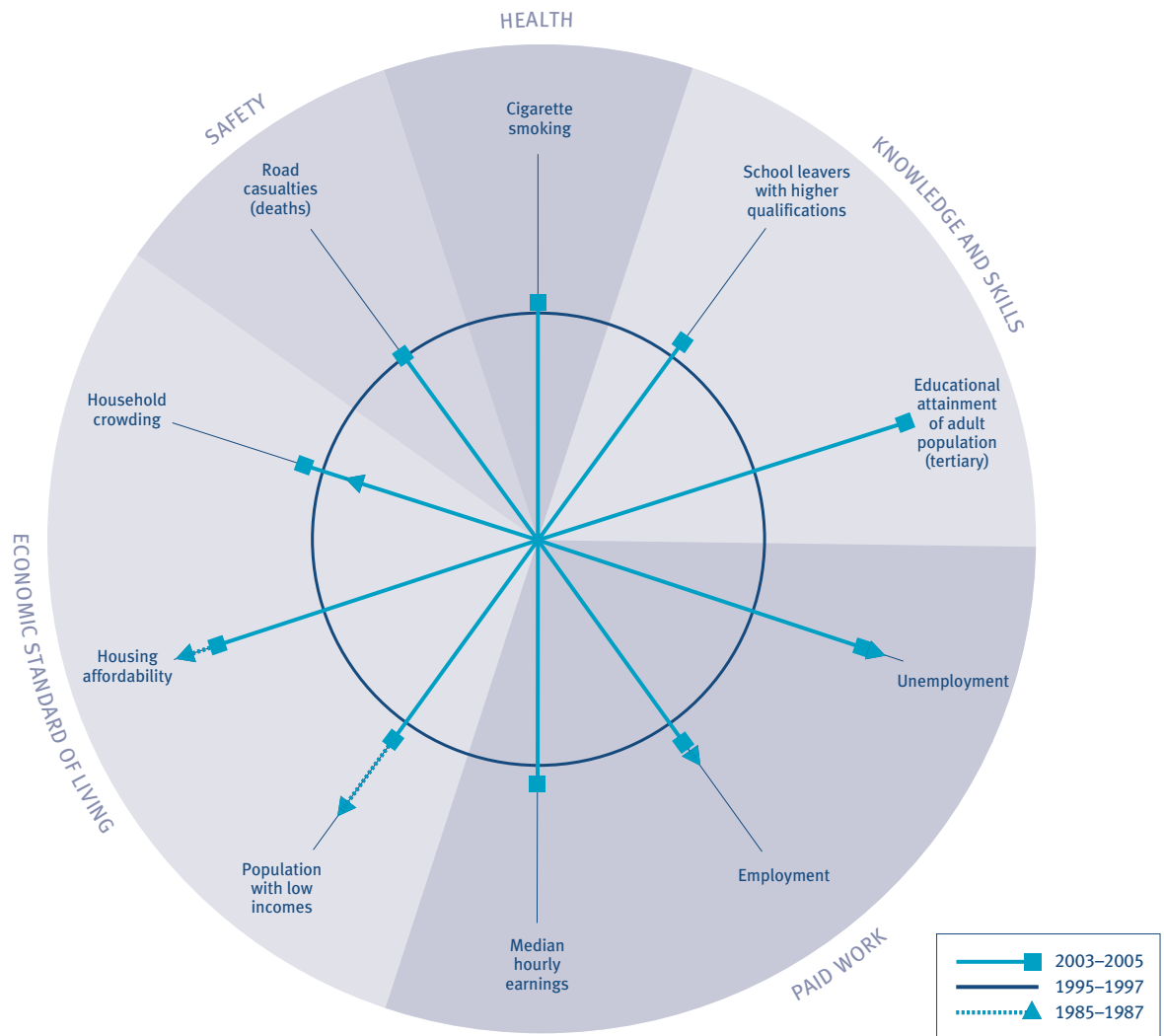
We have data for Pacific peoples dating back to the mid-1980s for two indicators in the Paid Work domain and three indicators in the Economic Standard of Living domain. These, and the remaining indicators dating from the 1990s, show there have been improvements in outcomes for Pacific peoples, but their outcomes are still relatively poor against the large majority of indicators. In some cases, outcomes are worse than they were 20 years ago.

In 1986, the unemployment rate for Pacific peoples was 6.6 percent. By 1992 it had risen to 28 percent, the highest rate for any ethnic group. By 2005, following a steady decline since the early-1990s, it had fallen to 6.1 percent. Employment rates for Pacific peoples fell steeply from 68.4 percent in 1986 to 46 percent in 1992. They have recovered strongly since then. However, with an employment rate of 61.8 percent in 2005, Pacific peoples are still less likely to be employed than they were in 1986.

The proportion of Pacific families with low incomes rose from 23 percent in 1988 to 50 percent in 1993. Their position had improved to 40 percent in 2003/2004, but was still double that of the total population. The proportion of Pacific families who spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs increased dramatically from 15 percent in 1988 to 48 percent in 1997, fell to 41 percent in 1998 and 2001, then almost halved to 23 percent in 2004. Household crowding has improved since 1986, but Pacific peoples are still more likely than other ethnic groups to be living in crowded houses.⁹⁸

There has been a big increase in the proportion of Pacific school leavers with higher qualifications (from 52 percent in 1991 to 61 percent in 2004). Although Pacific adults are less likely than European adults to have higher qualifications, the growth in the proportion of adults with at least upper secondary qualifications was faster for Pacific peoples than for Europeans. The proportion of Pacific peoples who smoke cigarettes has fallen from 32 percent in 1990 to 29 percent in 2004, after fluctuating between 30 and 35 percent during the 1990s and early 2000s.^{99, 100} Pacific peoples have the second highest rate of workplace injury claims and the second highest rate of death from motor vehicle accidents.

Figure C03 **Changes in social wellbeing for Pacific peoples**



Interpreting “Changes in social wellbeing for Pacific peoples”

The circle ○ represents average outcomes for Pacific peoples against each indicator between 1995 and 1997. The spokes —■ represent the most recent performance averaged, where possible, over the most recent three years. Where a spoke falls outside the circle, this means outcomes for Pacific peoples are better now than they were in the mid-1990s; the further from the circle, the greater the improvement. Where a spoke falls inside the circle, outcomes for Pacific peoples are worse now than they were in the mid-1990s; the further the spoke is from the circle the more pronounced this effect.

The triangles▲ on the spokes show outcomes for Pacific peoples for the mid-1980s. Where the triangle is closer to the centre of the circle than the end of the spoke, outcomes are better now than they were in the mid-1980s. Where the triangle is further away from the centre of the circle than the end of the spoke, outcomes are worse now than they were in the mid-1980s. There are, however, some important limitations on this style of presentation. In particular, we cannot directly compare the size of changes for different indicators.

OTHER ETHNICITIES

There is a mixed pattern of performance for people who identify with ethnicities other than European, Māori or Pacific peoples

Ethnicities other than European, Māori and Pacific peoples are referred to as Other. The limited number of indicators for this ethnic group show a mixed picture. Very few of these indicators date back to the 1980s. This and the fact the composition of this group has changed over the last 20 years, makes it difficult to compare outcomes over time.

This ethnic group had the second highest rate of employment in the mid-1980s (72 percent), but since the mid-1990s this group (partly through the inclusion of foreign students studying in New Zealand) has had the lowest rate of employment of any ethnic group. In 2005, the group's rate was 59 percent, almost 3 percent lower than that for Pacific peoples and over 20 percent lower than that for Europeans. Their unemployment rate was the second lowest behind Europeans in 1986, at 4 percent. In 2005, at 6.4 percent, it was lower than that for Māori, but higher than the rate for Pacific peoples and Europeans. Median hourly earnings are the same as for Māori, but lower than for Europeans. Over the last eight years, employees in the Other ethnic group have experienced the lowest increase in real median hourly earnings.

Families with an adult of Other ethnicity was the only group to experience an increase in the proportion of people with low incomes and an increase in the proportion of people spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing between 2001 and 2004. Outcomes for this group are now worse for these two indicators than for any other ethnic group. However, the Other ethnic group performs well across the social connectedness indicators.

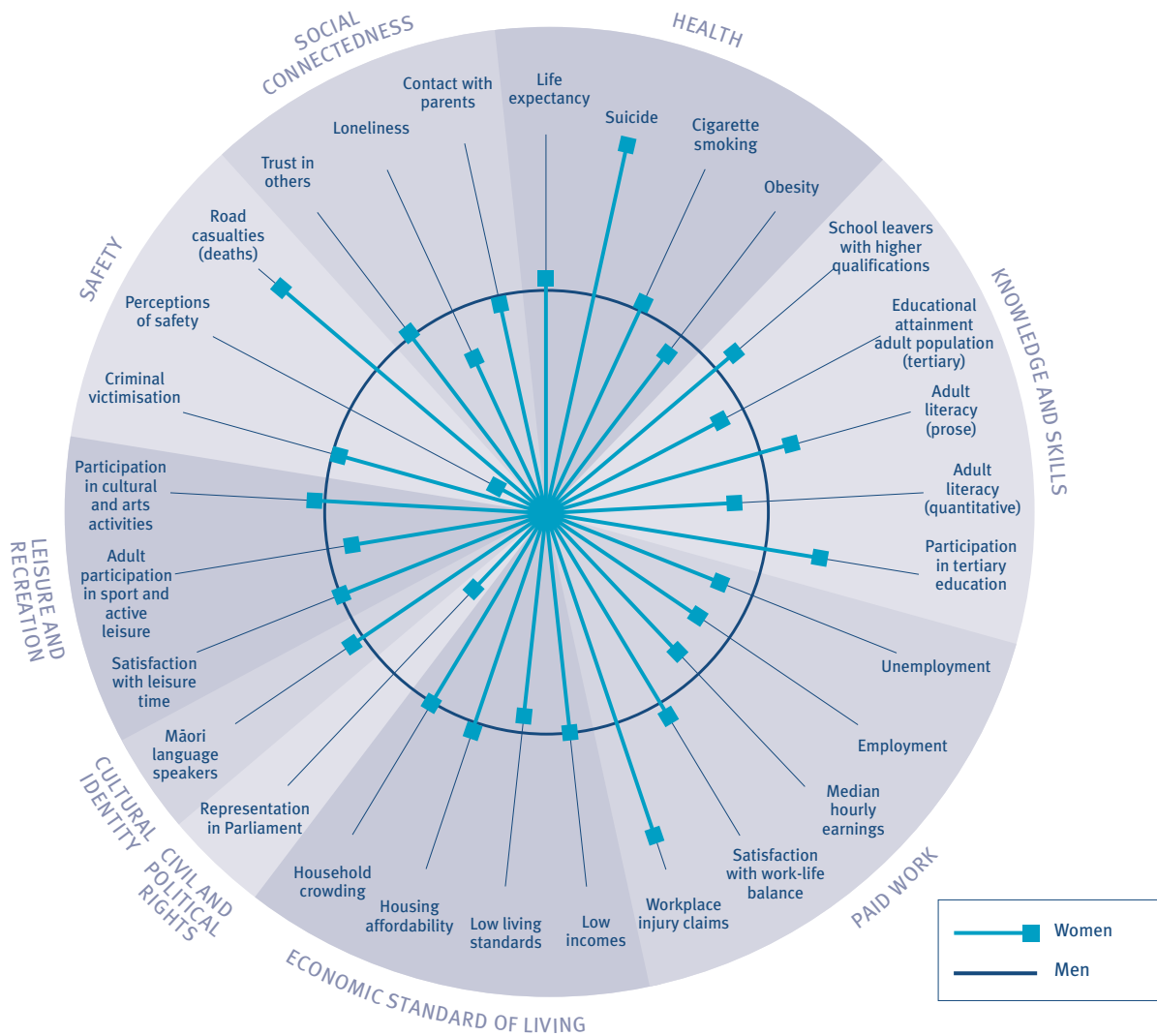
WOMEN AND MEN

While women's and men's outcomes are similar across many domains, women's Health and Knowledge and Skills outcomes are better than men's, but men have better outcomes in Paid Work

The patterns of change in the Health domain over the last 20 years have been similar for both sexes, with improvements in life expectancy and cigarette smoking rates, a rise then fall in suicide rates, and a deterioration in obesity levels. Between 1985–1987 and 2003–2005, the gap in life expectancy between females and males reduced from 6 to 4.2 years. Over a similar period, the proportion of men smoking cigarettes fell from 30 to 24 percent and the proportion of women smoking fell from 30 to 22 percent. The prevalence of obesity increased between 1989 and 2003 from 10 to 20 percent for males and from 13 to 22 percent for females. Suicide rates for males and females increased between 1986 and 1998, rising from 6.1 per 100,000 population for females, and 17 per 100,000 population for males to 6.5 and 22.3 respectively. However, while the rate for males has dropped steadily since the late-1990s to reach 16.9 per 100,000 in 2003, the rate for females has fluctuated, dropping to 4 in 2000 but increasing again to 6.2 in 2003.

Female outcomes in the Knowledge and Skills domain are now generally better than those for men. Females are more likely than males to leave school with a qualification higher than NCEA Level 1. Since 1986, the proportion of school leavers with higher qualifications has improved at a faster rate for females than for males. In 1986, 45 percent of male school leavers and 48 percent of female school leavers had higher qualifications. In 2004, the proportions had increased to 65 percent for males and 73 percent for females. While women in the 25–34 years age group are more likely than men to have a higher educational qualification, in older age groups men are more likely than women to have higher qualifications.

Figure CO4 **Social wellbeing for women, relative to men, 2003–2005**



Interpreting “Social wellbeing for women, relative to men”

The circle ○ represents average outcomes for men over the most recent period for which we have data, averaged where possible over the last three years. The spokes —■ represent the most recent performance for women, averaged, where possible, over the most recent three years. A spoke falling outside the circle means the outcome is better for women than for men; the further from the circle, the greater the difference in that outcome for women compared with

men. A spoke falling inside the circle means the outcome is worse for women than for men; the further the spoke is from the circle the more pronounced this effect. There are, however, some important limitations on this style of presentation. In particular, we cannot directly compare the size of difference in outcomes for men and women across different indicators.

Male participation in tertiary education has increased from 7 percent in 1994 to 10 percent in 2005. Over the same period, female participation has increased from 7 percent to 12 percent.

The gap in outcomes for men and women in the Paid Work domain has narrowed over the last 20 years, but women's outcomes are still worse than those for men. In 1986, the rate of unemployment for males was 3.6 percent, compared with 4.8 percent for females. While both rates worsened over the next five years, the rate for men deteriorated more than that for women. In 1991, 10.9 percent of males and 9.6 percent of females were unemployed. However, the men's rate has also recovered more than the women's rate since then. In 2005, the rate for women was 4 percent compared with 3.4 percent for men.

The gap between men's and women's rates of employment has narrowed substantially since the mid-1980s, from 24 to 14 percentage points. In 1986, the rate of employment for men was 84.6 percent compared with 60.2 percent for women. Both men's and women's rates of employment dropped through to 1991. While both have improved since then, men's employment at 81.5 percent in 2005 is lower than it was in 1986. Women's employment at 68 percent in 2005 is higher than it was in 1986. The lower rates of unemployment and considerably lower rates of employment for women than for men reflect the time women spend on childcare and other unpaid work. Although the part-time rate has almost doubled for men since 1986, women are still more likely to be employed part-time than men.

Women's median hourly earnings have been consistently lower than men's. In 2005, women's median hourly earnings were \$15 compared with \$17.50 for men.

In the Civil and Political Rights domain, although the number of women in Parliament and in local authorities has improved since the mid-1980s, women are still more poorly represented in political institutions than men. Women now make up 32 percent of all MPs, compared with 13 percent in 1984, and 30 percent of local government board and council members are women, compared with 18 percent in 1986.

Summary of indicators

Indicators	Current level of indicator (most recent year) and change since <i>The Social Report 2005</i> 😊 better 😐 same 😞 worse ⌛ not updated	Longer term change	Variation within the population	Comparison with the OECD
HEALTH				
Health expectancy	⌛ Males 64.8 years Females 68.5 years (2001)	Improved for females	Lower for males and Māori	No comparison available
Life expectancy	😊 Males 77.5 years Females 81.7 years (2003–2005)	Improved, faster for males than females	Lower for males, Māori and those living in deprived areas	Average for both males and females
Suicide	😞 11.5 per 100,000 (age-std rate for all ages) Youth 15–24 years, 16.5 per 100,000 (2003)	Improved since 1998	Suicide deaths higher for males, youth, young adults and Māori; attempted suicide higher for females	Average for all ages, poor for youth
Cigarette smoking	😊 23 percent of population aged 15 years and over (2004)	Improved to 1991, steady since	Higher rates among young people, Māori, Pacific peoples and those living in deprived areas	Good for males, poor for females
Obesity	⌛ 21 percent of population 15 years and over (2003) 10 percent of children 5–14 years (2002)	Prevalence of obesity doubled between 1989 and 2003	Higher for Pacific peoples, Māori, and females in deprived areas	Poor
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS				
Participation in early childhood education	😊 “Apparent” participation rate: 98 percent for 3 year olds and 103 percent for 4 year olds (2005)	Improved	Māori and Pacific rates lower than European	No robust comparison available
School leavers with higher school qualifications	😊 69 percent (2004)	Improved to 1991, fluctuated since	Proportions lower for males, Māori and Pacific school leavers	No comparison available
Participation in tertiary education	😞 11 percent of population aged 15 years and over enrolled in tertiary education institutions (2005)	Improved	Lower rates for males, students from deprived areas; higher for Māori under 18 and over 25 years	No direct comparison available for total population aged 15 and over, average for 20–29 year olds
Educational attainment of the adult population	😊 Upper secondary qualification 76 percent (2005) 😊 Tertiary (bachelor degree +) 18 percent (2005)	Improved	Proportions lower for older people, women, Māori and Pacific peoples; Other adults highest proportion with tertiary qualification	Good for upper secondary, average for tertiary
Adult literacy skills in English	⌛ Prose 54 percent Document literacy 50 percent Quantitative literacy 51 percent (1996)	No trend available	Literacy levels lower among older people, Māori, Pacific peoples and Other ethnic groups	Average for prose literacy, below average for document and quantitative
PAID WORK				
Unemployment	😊 3.7 percent of the labour force (2005)	Improved since 1998, almost to mid-1980s levels	Higher rates for young people, Māori, Pacific peoples and Other ethnic groups	Very good
Employment	😊 74.6 percent of the population aged 15–64 years (2005)	Improved since 1998 to above mid-1980s levels	Lower rates for young people, women, Māori, Pacific peoples and Other ethnic groups	Good
Median hourly earnings	😊 \$16.10 per hour for wage and salary earners (\$17.50 for males; \$15 for females) (2005)	Improved	Lower for Māori, Other, Pacific peoples, youth and females over 35 years	No comparison available
Workplace injury claims	😊 137 claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees (2004)	Improved but still worse in 2004 than 2001	Higher rates for men, Māori and Pacific peoples	No comparison available
Satisfaction with work-life balance	⌛ 66 percent of employed people reported satisfaction with their work-life balance (2004)	No data	Men are less likely to be satisfied with their work-life balance	No comparison available

Indicators	Current level of indicator (most recent year) and change since <i>The Social Report 2005</i> 😊 better 😊 same 😞 worse ⚪ not updated	Longer term change	Variation within the population	Comparison with the OECD
ECONOMIC STANDARD OF LIVING				
Market income per person	😊 RGNDI of \$28,998 per capita (in constant 1995/1996 dollars) (2005)	Improved	Not measured	Poor
Income inequality	⚪ The household in the 80th percentile has an income 2.8 times that of the household in the bottom 20th percentile (2004)	Worsened slightly	Not relevant	Higher inequality than OECD median around 2000
Population with low incomes	⚪ 19 percent of population lives in economic family units with incomes below 60 percent of median (2004)	Improved since mid-1990s	Higher rates among children, large families, sole parents, Māori, Pacific and Other families, families who rely on income-tested benefits and families in rented dwellings	Average
Population with low living standards	😊 24 percent of the total population with low living standards (ELSI Levels 1–3), but small increased severity of hardship (2004)	No change between 2000 and 2004	As for population with low incomes	No comparison available
Housing affordability	⚪ 22 percent of households spend more than 30 percent of income on housing (2004)	Improved since 1998	Higher proportions among low-income households, Māori, Pacific peoples and Other ethnic groups	No comparison available
Household crowding	⚪ 10 percent of individuals live in households requiring one or more additional bedrooms (2001)	Improved	More common among families with young children, youth, people in rental housing, Māori and Pacific peoples and people in Manukau City	No comparison available
CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS				
Voter turnout (general elections)	😊 General election 77 percent (2005)	Fallen	Non-voters more likely to be on lower incomes, younger people, Māori or Pacific peoples	Above average for general election
Voter turnout (local authority elections)	😞 Local authority elections 46 percent (2004)	Fallen		
Representation of women in government	😊 32 percent of seats in Parliament (2005) 😞 30 percent of elected members (2004 local authority elections)	Improved Deteriorated slightly	Not relevant	Very good for central government
Perceived discrimination	😊 72 percent of respondents thought Asian people were subject to a “great deal” or “some” discrimination (2006)	Improved	Since 2001, perceptions of discrimination lower for all groups except recent immigrants	No comparison available
Perceived corruption	😊 New Zealand ranked second least corrupt nation with a Corruption Perceptions Index score of 9.6 (2005)	Steady	Not relevant	Very good
CULTURAL IDENTITY				
Local content programming on New Zealand television	😞 38 percent of the prime-time schedule (2005)	Improved	Not relevant	Below average
Māori language speakers	⚪ 25 percent of Māori reported conversational fluency in Māori (2001)	No trend available	Fluent speakers more likely to be older	Not relevant
Language retention	⚪ Varied from 17 percent of Cook Islands Māori to 81 percent of Koreans (2001)	No trend available	Not relevant	No comparison available

Indicators	Current level of indicator (most recent year) and change since <i>The Social Report 2005</i> 😊 better 😊 same 😞 worse ⌛ not updated	Longer term change	Variation within the population	Comparison with the OECD
LEISURE AND RECREATION				
Satisfaction with leisure time	⌛ 80 percent of the population reported satisfaction with their leisure time (2004)	No trend available	Those aged 25–49 years reported lower satisfaction rates	No comparison available
Participation in sport and active leisure	71 percent of adults 15 years and over were physically active (2005) Data not comparable with previous survey data	No trend available	Women and older people were less likely to be physically active than men and young people	No comparison available
Participation in cultural and arts activities	⌛ 93 percent of adult population took part in cultural activities (2002)	No trend available	Higher participation rates among young people	No comparison available
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT				
Air quality	😊 Auckland below threshold (2005) ⌛ Hamilton below threshold (2004) 😊 Wellington below threshold (2005) 😊 Christchurch above threshold (2005) 😞 Dunedin above threshold (2005)	Steady	Not reported	No comparison available
Drinking water quality	😊 <i>E. coli</i> 74 percent (2004) 😊 <i>Cryptosporidium</i> 60 percent (2004)	Improved between 2001 and 2004 Fluctuated between 2001 and 2004	Not reported	No comparison available
SAFETY				
Intentional injury child mortality	😊 In the five years to 2003, 38 children died as a result of maltreatment, an average rate of 0.9 per 100,000 per year (2003)	Trends are difficult to discern with small numbers	Higher for children under 5 years	Poor
Criminal victimisation	⌛ 30 percent were victims of criminal offending (2000)	Similar to 1995 level	Younger people and Māori more likely to have been a victim of crime	No reliable comparison available
Perceptions of safety	⌛ 29 percent of population reported feeling unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (2001)	No trend available	Perceptions more negative among females and Pacific peoples	No comparison available
Road casualties	😊 9.9 deaths per 100,000 population (2005) 😞 352 injuries per 100,000 population (2005 provisional)	Improved Improved since mid-1980s	High rates among men, young people, Māori and those aged 65 years and over	Average for road deaths

Indicators	Current level of indicator (most recent year) and change since <i>The Social Report 2005</i> 😊 better 😊 same 😞 worse ⌛ not updated	Longer term change	Variation within the population	Comparison with the OECD
SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS				
Telephone and internet access in the home	😊 Telephone 96 percent (2004) 😊 Internet access 65 percent (2004)	Big improvement for internet access	Access less likely among Māori and Pacific families, families with unemployed adults and sole-parent families	Above average for internet
Regular contact with family/friends	😊 70 percent of adults had family or friends over for dinner at least once a month in the previous year (2004)	Steady	Sharing a meal at home less common among those not in full-time employment, older people, sole parents and Europeans	No comparison available
Trust in others	⌛ 69 percent of people aged 15 years and over reported that people can be trusted (2004)	No trend available	Māori, Pacific peoples and those with incomes less than \$20,000 reported lower levels of trust	Good
Loneliness	⌛ 18 percent of people aged 15 years and over reported having felt lonely in the past 12 months (2004)	No trend available	People of Other ethnicity, young people, people whose incomes are less than \$20,000, unemployed people, unpartnered people and people living in Manukau City reported higher levels of loneliness	No comparison available
Contact between young people and their parents	⌛ 63 percent of male students and 61 percent of female students spent enough time with Mum and/or Dad (2003)	No trend available	Māori students more likely to report not getting enough time with their Mum and/or Dad	No comparison available