

The social report monitors outcomes for the New Zealand population. This section contains background information on the size and characteristics of the population to provide a context for the indicators that follow.

People

Population size and growth

New Zealand's resident population reached 4 million in 2003 and was estimated to be 4.25 million at the end of December 2007.

During 2007, the population grew by 41,200 or 1.0 percent. This rate of growth was lower than that recorded in 2006 (50,400 or 1.2 percent) and lower than the average annual increase during the decade ended December 2007 (45,000 or 1.1 percent).

Under 2006-based medium population projection assumptions, the population growth rate is expected to drop from 1.0 percent in 2007 to 0.9 percent by 2011. Natural increase will account for three-quarters of this growth, and net migration the remaining quarter. Assuming net migration of 10,000 people per year after that, the growth rate is expected to slow to 0.7 percent per year between 2021 and 2026. Such a growth rate would add around 711,500 people to the population between 2007 and 2026.⁵

Figure P1 **Estimated and projected resident population, 1991–2026**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: All three projection series assume medium mortality (life expectancy at birth 84.5 years for males, 88.0 years for females by 2061). The low fertility series (total fertility rate of 1.7 births per woman by 2026) and the medium series assume a long-term annual net migration gain of 10,000 from 2010. The medium series and the high migration series assume medium fertility (total fertility rate of 1.9 births per woman)

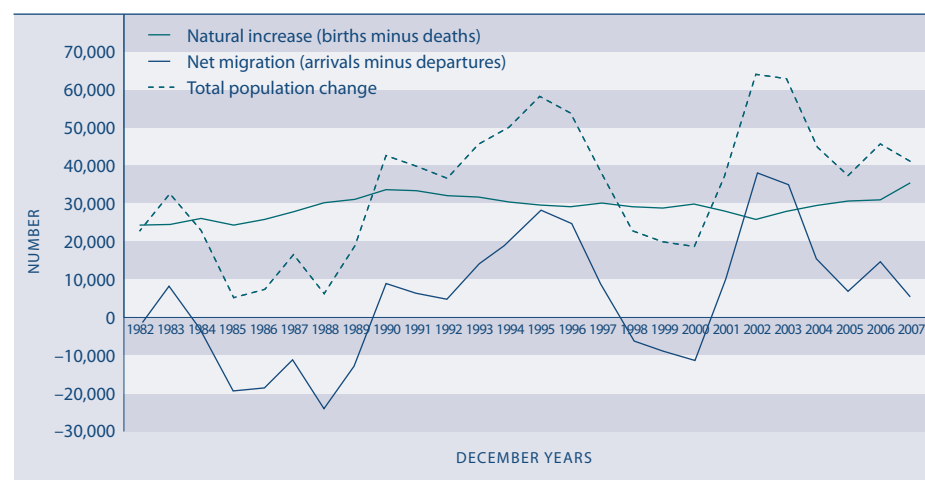
Components of population change

Changes in national population size are driven by two factors: natural increase (births minus deaths) and net external migration.

Births exceeded deaths by 35,500 in the December 2007 year, an increase from 30,900 in 2006. Historically, natural increase has been the main component of population growth in New Zealand, but its contribution is set to decline gradually as the population ages and fertility remains stable. By 2021, natural increase is projected to be about 25,000 a year.

The number of people coming to live in New Zealand in 2007 exceeded those leaving the country to live elsewhere by 5,500, well below the net migration gain of 14,600 in 2006. In the December 2007 year, the net gain from permanent and long-term migration accounted for 13 percent of population growth.

Figure P2 **Components of population change, 1982–2007**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: Before 1991, estimated population change was based on the de facto population concept. From 1991 onwards, population change was based on the resident population concept

The decline in net long-term migration in 2007 was mainly due to an increase in long-term departures to Australia, from 34,000 in 2006 to 41,600 in 2007. However, net long-term migration inflows from other countries more than offset the net outflow to Australia. The main contributing countries were the United Kingdom (7,100), India (3,600), the Philippines (3,200), and Fiji (2,500). The United Kingdom has been New Zealand's leading net source of migrants since 2004.

Two-thirds (67 percent) of New Zealand nationals returning home in 2007 after a long-term absence came from either Australia or the United Kingdom. These two countries were also the most popular destinations for New Zealand citizens departing for a permanent or long-term absence.

The net inflow of non-New Zealand citizens more than doubled between 2000 and 2002 (from 26,600 to 54,900), fell to 32,000 in 2005, then rose to 38,200 in 2006 and 2007.

In the decade to 2007, New Zealand had a net gain of 98,400 migrants. Two age groups contributed most of this gain: adults aged 25–49 years (60 percent) and children aged under 15 years (25 percent). Most new migrants settle in Auckland.

People born overseas

Overseas-born people make up an increasing proportion of the New Zealand population. At the time of the 2006 Census there were 879,500 overseas-born people living in New Zealand, making up 23 percent of the country's population compared with 19 percent in 2001 and 17 percent in 1996.

The composition of New Zealand's overseas-born population is also changing, reflecting the changes in New Zealand's immigration patterns. The United Kingdom and Ireland – historically the major sources of New Zealand's immigrants – still account for the largest share of New Zealand's overseas-born population, but at 29 percent in 2006 this is considerably lower than the 1996 figure of 38 percent. Over the same period there were also falls in the proportion of overseas-born residents who were born in Australia, the Pacific Islands and the other countries of North-West Europe.

The largest growth was in the North-East Asia category. This was mainly because of an increase in the number of people born in the People's Republic of China from 19,500 to 78,100 between 1996 and 2006. The Southern and Central Asia category also increased markedly, reflecting a more-than-threelfold increase in the Indian-born population from 12,800 to 43,300. The largest proportionate increase was in the sub-Saharan Africa group, largely the result of an almost fourfold increase in the South African born population, from 11,300 to 41,700.

Table P1 **Birthplaces of the overseas-born population, 1996 and 2006**

Birthplace	Census year			
	1996		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Australia	54,711	9.0	62,742	7.1
Pacific Islands	99,258	16.4	135,852	15.4
United Kingdom and Ireland	230,049	38.0	251,688	28.6
North-West Europe	39,168	6.5	44,103	5.0
Southern and Eastern Europe	16,431	2.7	23,964	2.7
North Africa and the Middle East	7,245	1.2	16,533	1.9
South-East Asia	37,332	6.2	58,266	6.6
North-East Asia	61,179	10.1	135,168	15.4
Southern and Central Asia	19,410	3.2	57,699	6.6
The Americas	22,629	3.7	34,383	3.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	17,439	2.9	59,118	6.7
Total with overseas birthplace specified	604,851	100.0	879,516	100.0

Source: Statistics New Zealand (2007e) Table 7

Significant proportions of New Zealand's immigrant population are relatively recent arrivals in the country. In 2006, almost a third (32 percent) of overseas-born residents had lived here less than five years, while a further 17 percent had lived here between five and nine years.

New Zealand's immigrant population is disproportionately concentrated in the Auckland region. In 2006, over half (52 percent) of the overseas-born population lived in Auckland, which was home to 32 percent of the country's total population. People born in Pacific and Asian countries had particularly high concentrations in Auckland (73 percent and 66 percent respectively). Overseas-born people were under-represented in all other regions with the exception of Wellington, which was home to 11 percent of both the overseas-born and the total populations.

Fertility

Fertility rates for the year 2007 indicate that New Zealand women average 2.17 births per woman. This is higher than the rate of 2.01 births per woman in 2006 and just above the level required by any population to replace itself without migration (2.1 births per woman). Several other OECD countries have experienced a recent rise in fertility, including the United States (now second after New Zealand with a rate of 2.1 births per woman in 2006) and Australia. Despite the increase, most other developed countries have sub-replacement fertility rates, including France (1.9 births per woman in 2005), Norway and England and Wales (1.9 in 2006), Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Australia (1.8 in 2006), the Netherlands (1.7 in 2006), Canada (1.5 in 2005) and Japan (1.3 in 2006). The comparatively high rate in New Zealand reflects, in part, the higher fertility rates of Māori women (2.94 births per woman in 2007) and Pacific women (2.95 in 2005–2007).

The median age of New Zealand women giving birth has risen from 27 years in the 1980s to just over 30 years since 2002. For women having their first birth, the median age is 28 years. Age at childbearing varies widely by ethnicity, with European and Asian mothers having the highest median age (31 years in 2006), followed by Pacific mothers (28 years) and Māori mothers (26 years).

In 2007, the teenage fertility rate was 31.6 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 years, an increase from 28.4 per 1,000 in 2006. The teenage fertility rate fell between 1997 and 2002 (from 33.2 to 25.8 per 1,000) but rose by almost as much between 2002 and 2007. Over the same period, the Māori teenage fertility rate fell from 84.0 per 1,000 in 1997 to 61.8 per 1,000 in 2002, rising to 78.7 per 1,000 by 2007. For non-Māori females under 20 years, the pattern was similar but less pronounced: a fall in the rate between 1997 and 2003 (from 19.9 to 15.7 per 1,000), followed by a rise to 18.9 per 1,000 in 2007. The birth rate for Pacific females aged 15–19 years declined from 47.4 per 1,000 in 2000–2002 to 42.5 per 1,000 in 2005–2007.

New Zealand has a relatively high rate of childbearing at young ages compared with most other developed countries. At 31.6 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 years in 2007, the New Zealand teenage birth rate is higher than the rate in England and Wales (26.6 per 1,000 in 2006) but considerably lower than that of the United States (41.9 per 1,000 in 2006).

Distribution of the population

Over three-quarters (76 percent) of the population live in the North Island, and nearly a third (32 percent) in the Auckland region.

Reflecting the impact of migration, the population growth in the Auckland region accounted for half (50 percent) of the total population growth between the 2001 and 2006 censuses.

The Māori population is heavily concentrated in the North Island (87 percent), but only 24 percent of Māori live in the Auckland region.

The New Zealand population is highly urbanised. At the 2006 Census, 86 percent of the population was living in an urban area. This includes 72 percent living in main urban areas (population of 30,000 or more), 6 percent living in secondary urban areas (10,000–29,999) and 8 percent living in minor urban areas (1,000–9,999).

There are marked ethnic differences in urbanisation, with the vast majority of Pacific peoples, Asian and Other ethnic groups living in main urban areas and very few in rural areas.

Table P2 **Urban and rural residence (%), by ethnic group, 2006**

	European	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	Other	Total
Main urban area (30,000+)	69	65	92	94	91	72
Secondary urban area (10,000–29,999)	7	7	3	2	2	6
Minor urban area (1,000–9,999)	9	13	2	2	3	8
Total urban	84	84	97	98	96	86
Rural	16	16	2	2	4	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2006 Census, unpublished data

Note: New Zealander is included in European

Ethnic composition of the population

The ethnic diversity of the New Zealand population continues to increase.

While the European ethnic group still has the largest share (78 percent) of the total population, the number of people identifying as European increased by only 8 percent in the 15 years between 1991 and 2006. Over the same period, the number who identified as Māori increased by 30 percent, the Pacific peoples ethnic group increased by 59 percent, and the number of Asian people increased by 255 percent. While people of all other ethnicities still make up less than 1 percent of the population, they grew in number faster than any of the major ethnic groups (by 440 percent).

Table P3 **Ethnic distribution of the population, 1991–2006**

Ethnic group ⁽¹⁾	1991	%	1996	%	2001	%	2006	%
European ⁽²⁾	2,783,028	83.2	2,879,085	83.1	2,871,432	80.1	2,997,051	77.6
Māori	434,847	13.0	523,374	15.1	526,281	14.7	565,329	14.6
Pacific peoples	167,070	5.0	202,233	5.8	231,798	6.5	265,974	6.9
Asian	99,759	3.0	173,502	5.0	238,176	6.6	354,549	9.2
Other	6,597	0.2	15,804	0.5	24,885	0.7	36,237	0.9
Total people with ethnicity specified	3,345,741		3,466,515		3,586,641		3,860,163	

Source: Statistics New Zealand (2007e) Table 1, and unpublished 2006 Census data (for European/New Zealander and Other)

Notes: (1) Includes all of the people who stated an ethnic group, whether as their only ethnic group or as one of several ethnic groups. Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, they have been counted in each applicable group. Totals therefore do not add up to 100 percent (2) Before the 2006 Census, people who specified their ethnicity as "New Zealander" were included in the European ethnic group. The 429,429 people who identified as "New Zealander" in 2006 have been included in the European ethnic group to maintain consistency over time (3) Up to three responses were used for 1991 and 1996; up to six for 2001 and 2006.

Previous social reports used data based on up to three ethnicity responses for 1991, 1996 and 2001, therefore the 2001 count for ethnic groups in the table above is slightly higher than that published in previous social reports

In 2006, Māori made up 15 percent of the total New Zealand population compared with 13 percent in 1991. At 9 percent, the Asian ethnic group is now the third largest group, ahead of Pacific peoples (7 percent). According to 2006-based medium population projections, by 2026 the Māori share of the population is projected to be 17 percent, the Pacific peoples' share 10 percent and the Asian share 16 percent.⁶

Ethnic diversity varies by age: among those aged under 25 years at the 2006 Census, Europeans made up 72 percent, Māori 22 percent, Pacific peoples and Asians each 11 percent, and people of all other ethnicities 1 percent. Among those aged 65 years and over, Europeans made up 91 percent, Māori 5 percent, Asians 3 percent, Pacific peoples 2 percent and people of other ethnicities 0.2 percent.

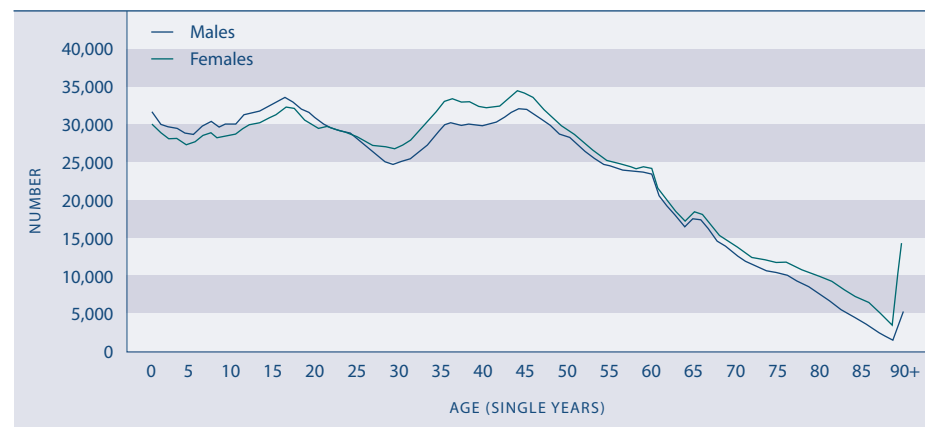
The number of people with multiple ethnic identities is increasing. In 2006, 90 percent of the population identified with only one ethnicity, down from 95 percent in 1991. Younger people are far more likely to identify with more than one ethnicity than older people, with 19.7 percent of children aged under 15 years reported as belonging to two or more ethnic groups in 2006, compared with 3.5 percent of people aged 65 years and over. Birth registration data for 2006 shows that 25 percent of babies were identified with more than one ethnicity, compared with 13 percent of mothers.⁷ Having multiple ethnic identities is most common among Māori: 65 percent of Māori children born in 2006 had more than one ethnicity, compared with 49 percent of Pacific babies, 31 percent of Asian babies and 30 percent of European babies.

The figures for the ethnic distribution used in this section are based on the number of people identifying with each ethnicity. Because people can identify with more than one ethnicity, the total number of ethnic responses may be greater than the number of people. Elsewhere in the report, the approach to measuring ethnicity varies with the data source used.

Age and sex structure of the population

Just over half the New Zealand population (51 percent) is female. Males outnumber females among children and youth, but females predominate among adults. More males are born than females, but males have higher mortality rates than females at all ages, particularly at ages 20–29 years. The imbalance in the middle years is partly an outcome of sex differences in net migration. At older ages, the difference reflects higher male mortality rates.

Figure P3 **Population, by age and sex, 2007**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The New Zealand population is ageing: the median age of the total population was 36 years in 2006, and is expected to rise to 38 years by 2016, and to 40 years in 2026.⁸

The proportion of the population under 15 years of age has declined from 25 percent in 1985 to 22 percent in 2006. The population aged 65 years and over has increased from 10 percent of the total population in 1985 to 12 percent in 2006.

Age structure varies by ethnic group. In 2006, the European or Other population was the oldest, with a median age of 38 years, followed by the Asian population (28 years), the Māori population (23 years) and Pacific peoples (22 years). By 2026, half of all Māori will be older than 25 years and half of all Pacific peoples will be older than 23 years. Over the same period, the median age of Asian

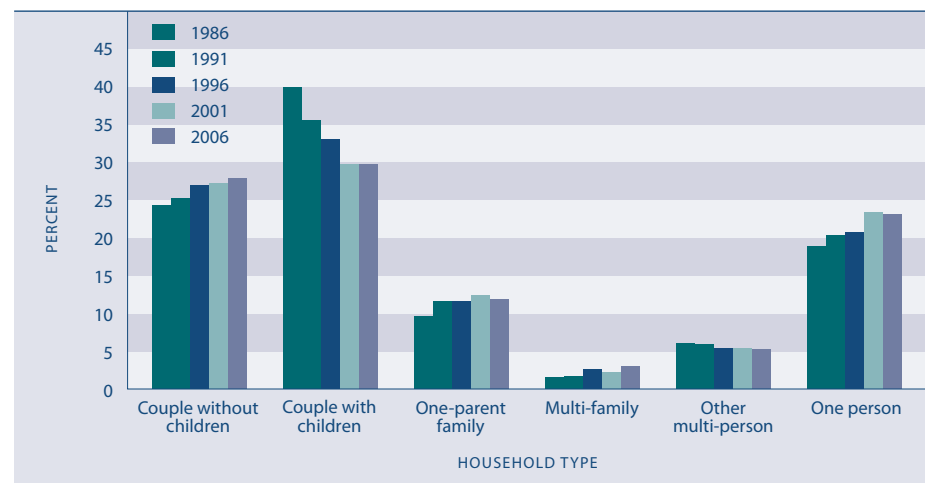
New Zealanders is expected to rise to 36 years, while for European or Other New Zealanders it will rise to 43 years.⁹

Households

A household may contain a single person living alone, or two or more people who usually live together and share facilities, either as families (couples, parents with children) or as groups of individuals flatting together. There were 1.45 million households in New Zealand at the 2006 Census, an increase of 8 percent over the number recorded in 2001 and 34 percent higher than the number in 1986.

Twenty-eight percent of households contained couples without children in 2006, 30 percent contained two-parent families with children, 12 percent were one-parent family households, 3 percent contained more than one family, 5 percent comprised a group of individuals and 23 percent were one-person households.

Figure P4 **Distribution of households, by household type, 1986–2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Couple-only and one-person households are the fastest growing household types and are projected to increase the most over the next 15 years. Population ageing is the major factor behind both of these changes. But declining fertility and the closing gap between male and female life expectancy are also contributing to the rising number of couples without children. Delayed marriage, divorce and changing lifestyle preferences are other factors contributing to the growing number of one-person households.

Housing tenure

Most New Zealand householders own their own homes but they are less likely to do so than in the past. Between 1991 and 2001, the proportion of New Zealand households owning their dwellings either with or without a mortgage or in a family trust fell from 74 percent to 68 percent. Since 2001 the decline has been less marked, with a fall from 68 percent to 67 percent in 2006.¹⁰ Between 2001 and 2006, there was a decline in home ownership among all age groups from 25–74 years but it was most marked among those aged between 35–54 years. The proportion of 35–44 year olds who owned or partly owned their own dwellings fell from 65 percent to 61 percent over the five years, while among 45–54 year olds the figure fell from 76 percent to 72 percent. The only age group to experience a significant increase in home ownership was the 75 years and over age group.

Families with children

In 2006, there were 641,500 families with children living within New Zealand households. Of these families, 515,800 (80 percent) had dependent children (aged under 18 years and not in full-time employment).¹¹

The number of families with dependent children increased by 8 percent in the five years to 2006, the largest increase since the census count of families began in 1976. The number of two-parent families with dependent children grew faster than the number of one-parent families (9 percent, compared with 3 percent). As a result, the proportion of families with dependent children headed by one parent fell slightly, from 29 percent in 2001 to 28 percent in 2006. For many of these families there will be parents living in another household who are actively involved in the care and upbringing of the children.

Table P4 **Families with dependent children, by family type, 1976–2006**

	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
Number							
Two-parent family	398,772	380,886	363,489	339,681	346,086	339,159	370,809
One-parent family	46,296	62,280	82,632	110,055	126,585	140,178	145,032
<i>Mother only</i>	39,153	52,938	71,388	92,028	107,394	117,018	120,996
<i>Father only</i>	7,143	9,342	11,244	18,024	19,191	23,163	24,036
Total families	445,068	443,166	446,121	449,736	472,671	479,337	515,841
Percentage distribution							
Two-parent family	89.6	85.9	81.5	75.5	73.2	70.8	71.9
One-parent family	10.4	14.1	18.5	24.5	26.8	29.2	28.1
<i>Mother only</i>	8.8	11.9	16.0	20.5	22.7	24.4	23.5
<i>Father only</i>	1.6	2.1	2.5	4.0	4.1	4.8	4.7
Total families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Statistics New Zealand, published and unpublished census data

Note: The census definition of child dependency has changed over time. From 1996, a dependent child is a person in a family aged less than 18 years who is not in full-time employment. For earlier years, a dependent child is a person in a family under 16 years or aged 16–18 years and still at school

Compared to other OECD countries, New Zealand has a relatively high proportion of families with children under 18 years headed by sole parents (28 percent), second only to the United States (33 percent in 2006) and higher than the United Kingdom (25 percent in 2006), Australia and Canada (both 22 percent in 2006).

Official languages

New Zealand has three official languages: English, Māori (from 1987) and New Zealand Sign Language (from April 2006). The 2006 Census recorded that 96 percent of people could speak English, 4 percent of people could speak Māori, and 0.6 percent could converse in New Zealand Sign Language.¹²

In 2006, eight out of 10 people (79 percent) spoke English as their only language while a further 17 percent spoke English along with at least one other language. Of the 4 percent of New Zealanders who could not speak English, almost half (49 percent) were children under the age of five, most of whom would still be learning to speak. There were also relatively high proportions of non-English speakers in some ethnic groups: 16 percent of people belonging to the Asian ethnic group could not speak English, along with 14 percent of people of Middle-Eastern, Latin American or African ethnicity and 10 percent of Pacific peoples.

The number of people able to converse in New Zealand Sign Language was 24,000 in 2006, a decline from 27,300 in 2001. This fall of 12 percent followed an

increase of 3 percent between the 1996 and 2001 censuses. In 2006, 9 percent or 2,200 of those people who were able to converse in New Zealand Sign Language indicated it was their only language. A further 89 percent were also able to converse in English, 26 percent in Māori and 25 percent in other languages (either alone or in combination).

New Zealanders experiencing disability

In 2006, an estimated 660,300 New Zealanders reported a disability, representing 17 percent of the total population.¹³

Disability increases with age. In 2006, the prevalence of disability ranged from 10 percent of children (0–14 years) to 45 percent of people aged 65 years and over.

For children with disabilities, conditions or health problems that existed at birth and disease or illness were the most common causes. Disease or illness, accidents or injuries and ageing were the most common causes of disability for adults.¹⁴

Table P5 **Number and prevalence (%) of people experiencing disabilities (total population residing in households and residential facilities), by age group and sex, 2006**

Age group (years)	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
0–14	53,500	12	36,500	9	90,000	10
15–44	73,800	9	67,600	8	141,500	9
45–64	104,700	21	103,800	19	208,500	20
65+	95,600	43	124,700	46	220,300	45
Total	327,700	17	332,600	16	660,300	17

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2006 Disability Survey

The total disability rate for Māori (17 percent) was higher than the disability rate for Pacific peoples (11 percent) but lower than the disability rate for Europeans (18 percent). The Asian population had the lowest rate (5 percent). Because Māori and Pacific peoples have a younger age structure than Europeans, disability rates should be compared by age group. In every age group, Māori had a higher disability rate than other ethnic groups.

Many New Zealanders experiencing disability face barriers to full participation in society. For example, only 60 percent of 15–64 year olds with a disability were employed in 2006, compared with 80 percent of non-disabled 15–64 year olds.¹⁵

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people

There is little information available about gay, lesbian, bisexual, fa'afafine, takatāpui, intersex, transgender and transsexual people in New Zealand, or the size of this group of people in relation to the total population.

Some information about same-sex couples who share a residence has been collected in censuses since 1996. The 2006 Census recorded just over 12,300 adults living with a partner of the same sex, making up 0.7 percent of all adults living in couples. This is an increase from the 10,000 recorded in the 2001 Census when they made up 0.6 percent of all couples and the 6,500 recorded in the 1996 Census when they made up 0.4 percent of all couples. However, it is difficult to know whether the change in numbers represents a real increase in the number of same-sex couples living together, or a greater willingness on their part to report living arrangements and partnership status. According to Statistics New Zealand, it is likely that the figures understate the actual number of same-sex couples because of the inconsistent way people responded to the census question.