

Summary

In this section, we look at changes in social wellbeing for New Zealanders from the mid-1990s (1995–1997)¹¹⁸ to the latest available year (generally 2007–2009). We compare New Zealand's outcomes with those of other OECD countries. We also show how different population groups have fared: Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian and Other ethnicities, and we describe differences in social outcomes by sex and socio-economic group.

Twenty-five of the 43 indicators in *The Social Report 2010* have trend data from at least as far back as the mid-1990s: these indicators are shown in Figure SU1. For most of the other indicators with trend data, the series begins in the early-2000s. Indicators with new information are identified in bold type.

Changes in social wellbeing over time

Social wellbeing in New Zealand has improved since the mid-1990s

Overall, New Zealanders generally have good outcomes on the measures of social wellbeing in this report. Most of the indicators show positive trends since the mid-1990s. A small number show improvements since the mid-1990s, but little change or slight declines in the most recent years. Three indicators – obesity, housing affordability and voter turnout – show a deterioration since the mid-1990s.

Better health outcomes compared with the mid-1990s

Four of the six indicators in the Health domain show positive trends since the mid-1990s. Both health expectancy and **life expectancy** have increased, and **cigarette smoking** has declined. Fewer young people are taking up smoking: daily smoking rates for 14–15 year olds fell by almost two-thirds over the decade to 2009. The **suicide** death rate has also improved since the mid-1990s, and was lower in 2007 than it was in the mid-1980s. On the other hand, the prevalence of obesity among adults increased between 1996/1997 and 2006/2007 and there was no significant change in the prevalence of hazardous drinking among people aged 16–64 years over that time.

Progress in education participation and achievement

Trends in education participation and achievement are largely positive. **Participation in early childhood education** at ages 3 and 4 years has increased, although growth has slowed in recent years. Since the introduction of the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) in 2002, the proportion of secondary **school leavers with higher qualifications** at NCEA Level 2 or above has increased in each year to 2008 (the latest year for which data is available). **Participation in tertiary education** was higher in 2009 than it was in the mid-1990s but it has declined since 2005, largely because of falling enrolments in certificate-level courses and among people aged 25 years and over. The **educational attainment of the adult population** has improved substantially, with the proportion of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher qualification more than doubling since the mid-1990s. Adult literacy in English (prose and document literacy skills at Level 3 or above) improved over the decade to 2006, for people aged 25–65 years.

Improved Paid
Work outcomes
but impact
of recession
showing

While all the indicators in the Paid Work domain with long-term trend data show improvement from the mid-1990s, two reflect the lagged impact of the economic recession in New Zealand between March 2008 and March 2009. The **unemployment** rate increased in the December years 2008 and 2009, although it remained lower than it was in the recession of the late 1990s. However, the youth (15–24 years) unemployment rate was higher in 2009 than it was in 1998. The **employment** rate fell slightly in both 2008 and 2009, after reaching historically high levels in 2006 and 2007. Despite the recent fall, the employment rate was considerably higher in 2009 than it was in the mid-1990s. The real **median hourly earnings** of wage and salary earners increased by 4 percent between 2008 and 2009, an improvement from no change in the previous year. Over the 12 years from 1997 to 2009, real median hourly earnings increased by 21 percent. The rate of **work-related injury claims** fell over the decade. The proportion of employed New Zealanders reporting satisfaction with their work-life balance was similar in 2006 and 2008.

Mixed outcomes
in the Economic
Standard of
Living domain

Of the four updated indicators in the Economic Standard of Living domain, one deteriorated in the latest year, two showed little change, and one improved. **Market income per person** (the total income available to New Zealanders, averaged over the population) fell slightly in the year to December 2009, although it remained considerably higher than it was in the mid-1990s. The **income inequality** ratio changed little between 2007 and 2009 and was similar to the ratio in the mid-1990s.

The proportion of the **population with low incomes** (those in households with incomes below the low-income threshold) has improved almost continuously since the mid-1990s. For the population as a whole, the rate fell from 18 percent in 2007 to 15 percent in 2009. However, the rate for children (22 percent) did not change between 2007 and 2009 and remained higher than the rates for all other age groups. Children and adults living in sole-parent families are still significantly more likely than those living in two-parent families to be living in households with incomes below the low-income threshold (43 percent and 13 percent, respectively, in 2009). Since the mid-1990s, people aged 65 and over have had the lowest proportion in households with incomes below the low-income threshold (9 percent in 2009).

Housing affordability, measured by the proportion of households spending more than 30 percent of their disposable income on housing, changed little between 2007 and 2009 for households overall, having deteriorated since the mid-1990s. For households in the lowest 20 percent of the income distribution, housing affordability improved markedly from around half of these households in 1994 to around a third in 2004, remaining close to that level in 2007 and 2009. A relatively high proportion of children under 18 years live in households with housing costs exceeding 30 percent of their disposable income and the proportion increased between 2007 and 2009 (from 32 percent to 37 percent). Household crowding, which is based on data from the five-yearly population census, improved between 1996 and 2006.

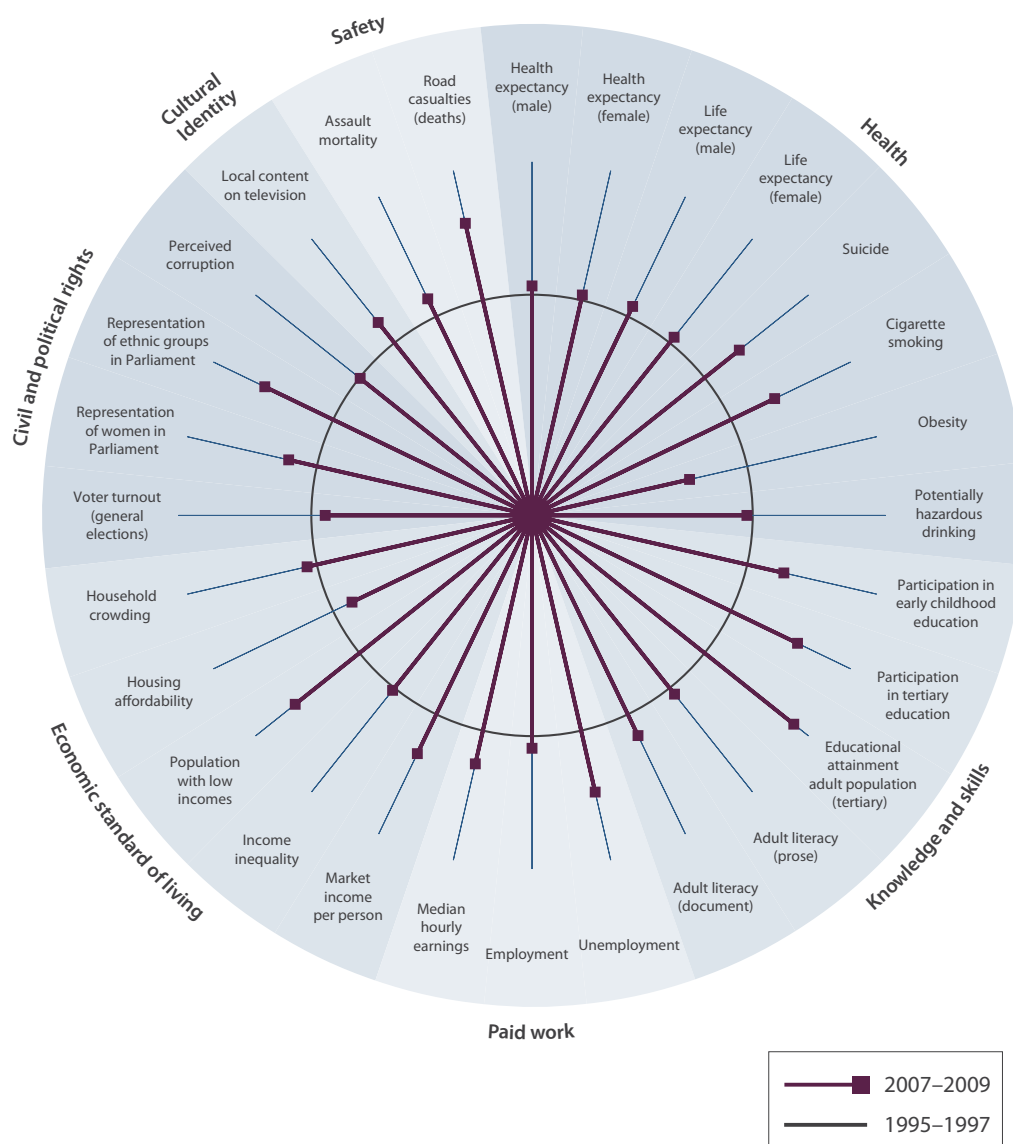
Some
improvement
in Civil and
Political Rights
outcomes

In the Civil and Political Rights domain, outcomes have generally improved or remained stable. While voter turnout in general elections has declined since the mid-1990s, there was little difference in turnout between the 2005 and 2008 elections. In the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey (NZGSS), reported **voter turnout** in the last general election was significantly lower for the unemployed and people on low incomes than for employed people or those on higher incomes. People aged 45 and over had higher reported voter turnout than younger age groups. The outcome of the 2008 election saw further increases in the proportion of women and ethnic groups represented in Parliament.

New Zealand's score for **perceived corruption** remains highly favourable, with little change since the mid-1990s. The picture is different for the **perceived discrimination** indicator. Between 2008 and 2009, there was an increase in the proportion of people reporting that Asians, people on welfare, people with disabilities, Māori, older people, women, and children and young people were subject to discrimination. In the 2008 NZGSS, one in 10 people aged 15 years and over said they had been discriminated against in the past year, most commonly because of their nationality, race or ethnic group, or their skin colour.

Cultural Identity outcomes are mixed	<p>The proportion of local content programming on New Zealand television broadcast during prime-time hours was higher in 2009 than it was in the mid-1990s, but has fallen since 2006. The proportion of Māori who can speak Māori declined slightly between 2001 and 2006 although the total number of Māori who can do so increased over this period. Between 2001 and 2006, most ethnic groups experienced little change in the proportion of people who could speak the first language of their ethnic group.</p>
No change in the Leisure and Recreation domain	<p>The proportion of New Zealanders aged 15 years and over who met the guidelines for being physically active was similar in 2002/2003 and 2006/2007, at around one half. The new indicator on participation in arts and cultural activities shows that more than four in every five people aged 15 years and over attended arts and cultural events in 2008. Almost half were active participants, similar to the proportions in 2005. There was no change between 2006 and 2008 in the proportion of people who were satisfied with their leisure time.</p>
Safety outcomes have improved since the mid-1990s	<p>In the road casualties indicator, the road user death rate was slightly higher in 2009 than in 2008, but well below the rate in the mid-1990s. The road user injury rate increased between 2000 and 2007 and although it fell slightly in both 2008 and 2009, it was still higher than the rate in 2000.</p> <p>Trends in assault mortality are more difficult to discern because the rates are based on small numbers. Across all ages, the provisional assault mortality rate for 2007 was lower than the rate in 2006, and lower than the rates in the mid-1990s. The child assault death rate for the period 2003–2007 was lower than the rate for the four previous five-year periods.</p> <p>There is no trend information for criminal victimisation or fear of crime because of changes in the survey design. In 2005, 40 percent of New Zealanders aged 15 years and over said fear of crime had a moderate or high impact on their quality of life and 39 percent reported experiencing some form of criminal victimisation.</p>
There have been some improvements in the Social Connectedness domain	<p>There was a large improvement in the proportion of households with internet access in the home between 2006 and 2009 (from 65 percent to 75 percent). Over the same period, the proportion of people with the personal use of a mobile phone increased from 80 percent to 85 percent. There was no change between 2006 and 2008 in the proportion of people who said they believed people can be trusted, and in the proportion who reported having felt lonely during the past 12 months. There was a decline between 2001 and 2007 in the proportion of secondary school students who reported that most weeks they were able to spend enough time with either their Mum or their Dad.</p> <p>Two indicators in this domain, both using data from the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey, do not yet have trend information. A majority of adults (60 percent) said they have about the right amount of contact with family and friends, and one in three adults had done voluntary work for a group or organisation in the last four weeks.</p>
New Zealanders' overall life satisfaction is high	<p>The final indicator in the report – overall life satisfaction – is a subjective indicator of how people feel about their lives as a whole. A large majority of New Zealanders – 86 percent – reported in the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey that they were satisfied with their life overall.</p>

Figure SU1 **Changes in social wellbeing, 1995–1997 to 2007–2009**



Interpreting “Changes in social wellbeing, 1995–1997 to 2007–2009”

The circle ○ represents average outcomes for each indicator between 1995 and 1997, and the spokes ■ represent outcomes between 2007 and 2009. Where possible, the data is averaged over the three years in each period. Where a spoke extends beyond the circle, this means the outcome for this indicator has improved between the two periods. The further the spoke is outside the circle, the greater the improvement. Where a spoke falls within the circle, the outcome for this indicator has deteriorated over the decade.

The further the spoke is inside the circle, the more pronounced the deterioration. An important limitation on this style of presentation is that we cannot directly compare the size of changes for different indicators. Also, the absence of longer-term trend data for some indicators limits the number of indicators we can display. Most of the latest data is for 2007, 2008 or 2009, with the exception of suicide and assault mortality (both 2005–2007) and adult literacy (2006).

Social wellbeing in New Zealand compared to OECD countries

New Zealand compares favourably to other OECD countries

For many indicators, New Zealand compares very well with other countries. New Zealand's outcomes are better than, or similar to, the OECD median for around two-thirds of the 22 indicators for which there is internationally-comparable data.

New Zealand performs very well in the Civil and Political Rights domain. We ranked first as the least corrupt of 30 OECD countries in 2009, and we are in the top third of those countries for the proportion of women in government and for voter turnout. We have a lower rate of perceived personal discrimination than many other developed countries (10 percent in 2008, compared to a median of 16 percent across 19 European OECD countries in 2009).

Paid work is another area in which New Zealand performs strongly, with a relatively high employment rate, the sixth highest in the OECD in 2009, and a relatively low unemployment rate, the 11th lowest in 2009.

We also perform well in the Social Connectedness area, with New Zealanders having a higher level of trust in others and a higher level of households with internet access than the OECD median. New Zealand adults are as likely as Australian adults to do voluntary work for groups or organisations.

In the area of Knowledge and Skills, New Zealand is above the OECD median for the proportion of adults who have a bachelor's degree or higher qualification, and for participation in tertiary education among 20–29 year olds. The proportion of New Zealand adults with prose and document literacy and numeracy skills in English at Level 3 or above is similar to the proportions in Australia and English-speaking Canada, and higher than the proportion in the United States.

In the Leisure and Recreation domain, New Zealand adults have a relatively high level of attendance at art events, compared to a range of other developed countries.

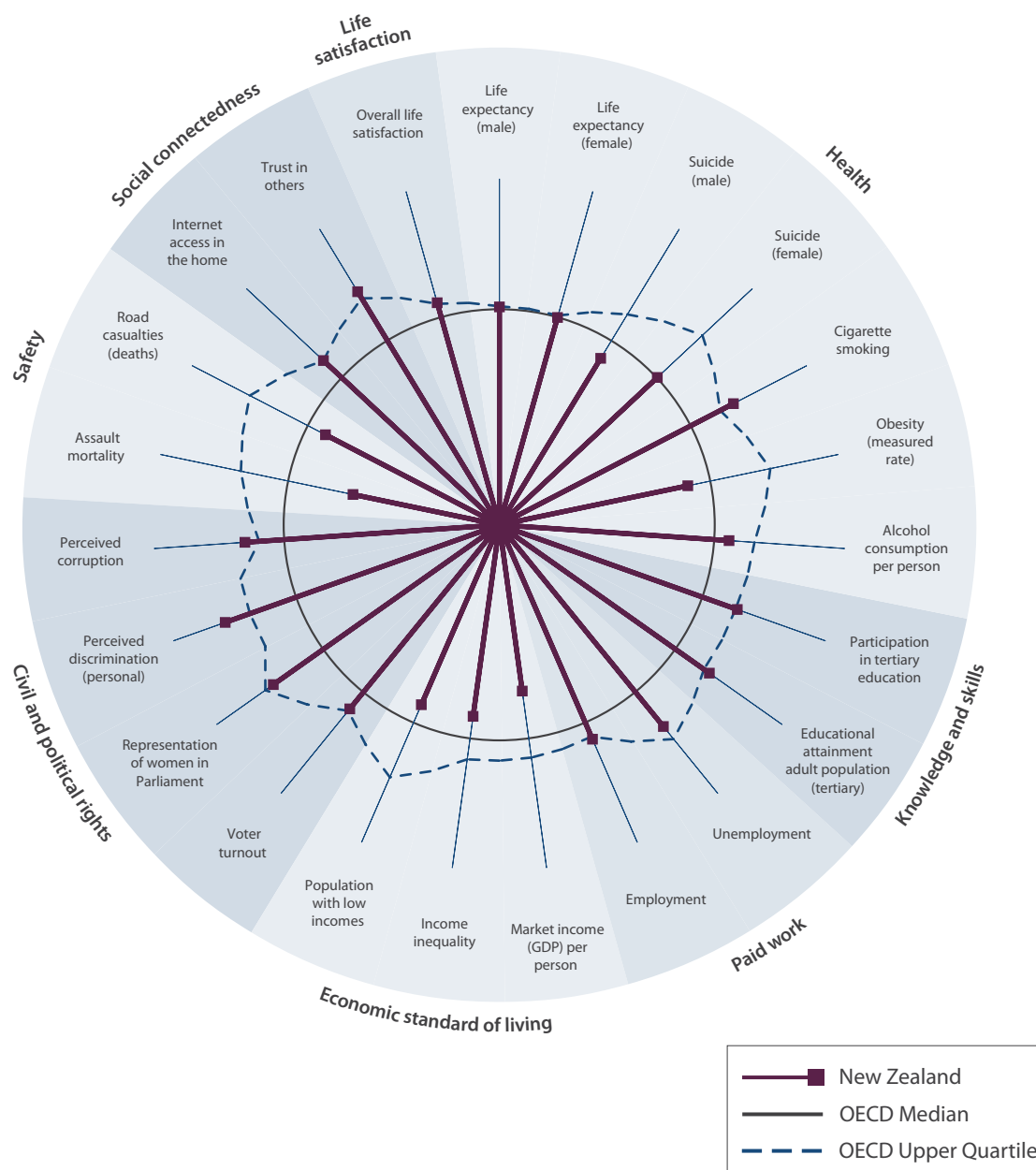
In the Health domain, New Zealand's results are mixed. Our life expectancy is similar to the OECD median, although there is a relatively narrow range of outcomes across the OECD for this indicator. New Zealand's rates of cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption are lower than the OECD median. Among the 12 countries that use actual measurements of obesity rather than self-reporting, our obesity rate is similar to those of Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada and lower than that of the United States. We have relatively high suicide death rates, particularly for youth.

New Zealand does not perform well in the Safety domain. Our road user death rate was higher than the OECD median in 2008. Our assault death rate was higher than the OECD median for 29 OECD countries with data from 2003–2008.

Our Economic Standard of Living results tend to be lower than those in many OECD countries. In 2008, New Zealand was below the OECD median for market income per person, using gross domestic product (GDP) per capita as the measure. In 2004, New Zealand was higher than the OECD median for income inequality and near the middle of the OECD for population with low incomes.

New Zealanders' overall life satisfaction was higher than the median for people in other OECD countries in 2006.

Figure SU2 **Social wellbeing in New Zealand, relative to the OECD**



Interpreting “Social wellbeing in New Zealand relative to the OECD”

This figure shows New Zealanders’ social wellbeing relative to that of people in OECD countries for 22 indicators. The circle ○ represents the OECD median for each indicator, while the spokes —■ represent New Zealand’s outcomes relative to the OECD median. Where a spoke falls outside the circle, the New Zealand outcome is better than the OECD median for that indicator. Where a spoke falls inside the circle, the New Zealand outcome is worse than the OECD median. The irregularly shaped line outside the OECD median circle - - - represents outcomes of the OECD upper quartile relative to the OECD median. Where a spoke falls past the irregularly shaped line, the New Zealand outcome is in the top quarter of OECD outcomes. An important limitation on this style of presentation is that we cannot directly compare the size of New Zealand-OECD differences for different indicators.

For each indicator, the most recent data has been used where possible. Most of the data is for the years between 2006 and 2009, but the population with low incomes and income inequality data is for 2004 and the assault mortality data is for 2003–2005. **SOME CAUTION IS REQUIRED WITH THIS DATA:** international comparisons are difficult to interpret because of the different methods countries use to collect, classify and record social data. There were too few countries with adult literacy data to include this indicator in the figure. Perceived personal discrimination includes New Zealand and 19 OECD countries in the European Union. Obesity includes only the 12 OECD countries which use actual measurements, rather than self-reporting.

Changes in wellbeing for selected population groups

In this section, we look at changes in social outcomes over time for various population groups in New Zealand, and we compare their outcomes with those of the total New Zealand population. We focus on changes since the mid-1990s where possible, as well as on more recent changes.

It is important to note that comparisons are for population group averages: there is a lot of variation within groups. For example, the risk of poor outcomes often varies by age: younger people have higher rates of unemployment, potentially hazardous drinking, suicide death and road accident death, and they have lower incomes than people in older age groups. For Māori and Pacific peoples, poor outcomes relative to those of the total New Zealand population may be partly attributable to the younger age structure of these ethnic groups. This should be kept in mind when comparing outcomes between groups for indicators where the data has not been age standardised.

Māori

For most indicators, outcomes for Māori have improved since the mid-1990s

Most of the indicators for which we have time series data show improvements in wellbeing for Māori. In several instances, improvements have been greater for Māori than for the total population, including life expectancy, participation in tertiary education, employment and median hourly earnings. Despite improvements in these areas and others, average outcomes for Māori tend to be poorer than average outcomes for the total population.

Life expectancy at birth improved more for Māori than for non-Māori between 1995–1997 and 2005–2007. While this reduced the gap in life expectancy between Māori and non-Māori, the gap remains large.

Since 1996, suicide death rates have shown no obvious trend for Māori, although the small numbers of Māori suicide deaths make it hard to ascertain trends. The suicide death rate is higher for Māori than for non-Māori.

Smoking remains high among Māori, particularly Māori women, who have the highest cigarette smoking rate of any ethnic group in New Zealand. Among 14–15 year olds, Māori girls continue to have the highest daily smoking rate, although the rate halved between 1999 and 2009 (from 36 percent to 18 percent). The rate for Māori boys more than halved over the decade (from 24 percent to 11 percent).

In the Knowledge and Skills domain, outcomes for Māori have improved strongly in recent years. The increase in participation in early childhood education between 2000 and 2009 was greater for Māori children than for all school entrants, reducing the participation gap. Between 2003 and 2008, Māori students showed the greatest improvement in the proportion of students leaving secondary school with a qualification at NCEA Level 2 or above, but they have the lowest level of educational attainment at this level. Māori have had the highest participation rate in tertiary education of any ethnic group since 2001. Māori tertiary education participation is higher than average at older age groups and in Levels 1–3 certificate courses. The proportion of Māori adults with tertiary qualifications at bachelor's degree level or above has more than trebled since the mid-1990s. Despite this substantial improvement, Māori are around half as likely as adults in general to have tertiary qualifications at degree level. Improvements in prose and document literacy in English between 1996 and 2006 were similar for Māori adults and adults in the total population. Māori are less likely than average to have literacy or numeracy skills at Level 3 or above.

The unemployment rate for Māori has halved since the mid-1990s; it fell to a record low in the year ended December 2007 but increased slightly in 2008 and more sharply in 2009. The Māori unemployment rate was the highest of any ethnic group from 1995 to 2008 but it was similar to the rate for Pacific peoples in 2009. Māori youth had the second highest unemployment rate among youth aged 15–24 years in 2009. The employment rate for Māori increased strongly over the past decade, reaching a record high in the year ended December 2008. Although it fell in 2009, the Māori employment rate remained considerably higher than it was in the mid-1990s, but it was still well below the average for the total population.

The real median hourly earnings of Māori increased by 25 percent between June 1997 and June 2009; this was more than the increase for all earners over the period (21 percent). The ratio of Māori to European median hourly earnings was 88 percent in 2009. In 2008, the rate of work-related injury claims for Māori was similar to the average rate. Because of a break in the series for work-related injury claims by ethnicity, it is not possible to assess trends over time. Employed Māori were about as likely as employees generally to be satisfied with their work-life balance in 2008.

In the Economic Standard of Living domain, median household incomes for Māori improved over the decade to 2009. The proportion of households with at least one Māori adult spending more than 30 percent of their disposable income on housing was lower in 2009 than in 1998.

Māori representation in Parliament declined between the 2005 and 2008 general elections, but remains higher than the representation of Pacific peoples and Asian ethnic groups and is similar to the Māori share of the total population.

In the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey, around one in six Māori aged 15 years and over said they had been discriminated against in the past year, compared to the population average of one in 10 people.

Māori attendance at arts events in 2008 was slightly higher than the average for all people aged 15 years and over, and Māori active participation in arts and cultural activities was much higher than average. The proportion of Māori who were satisfied with their leisure time was similar to the population average.

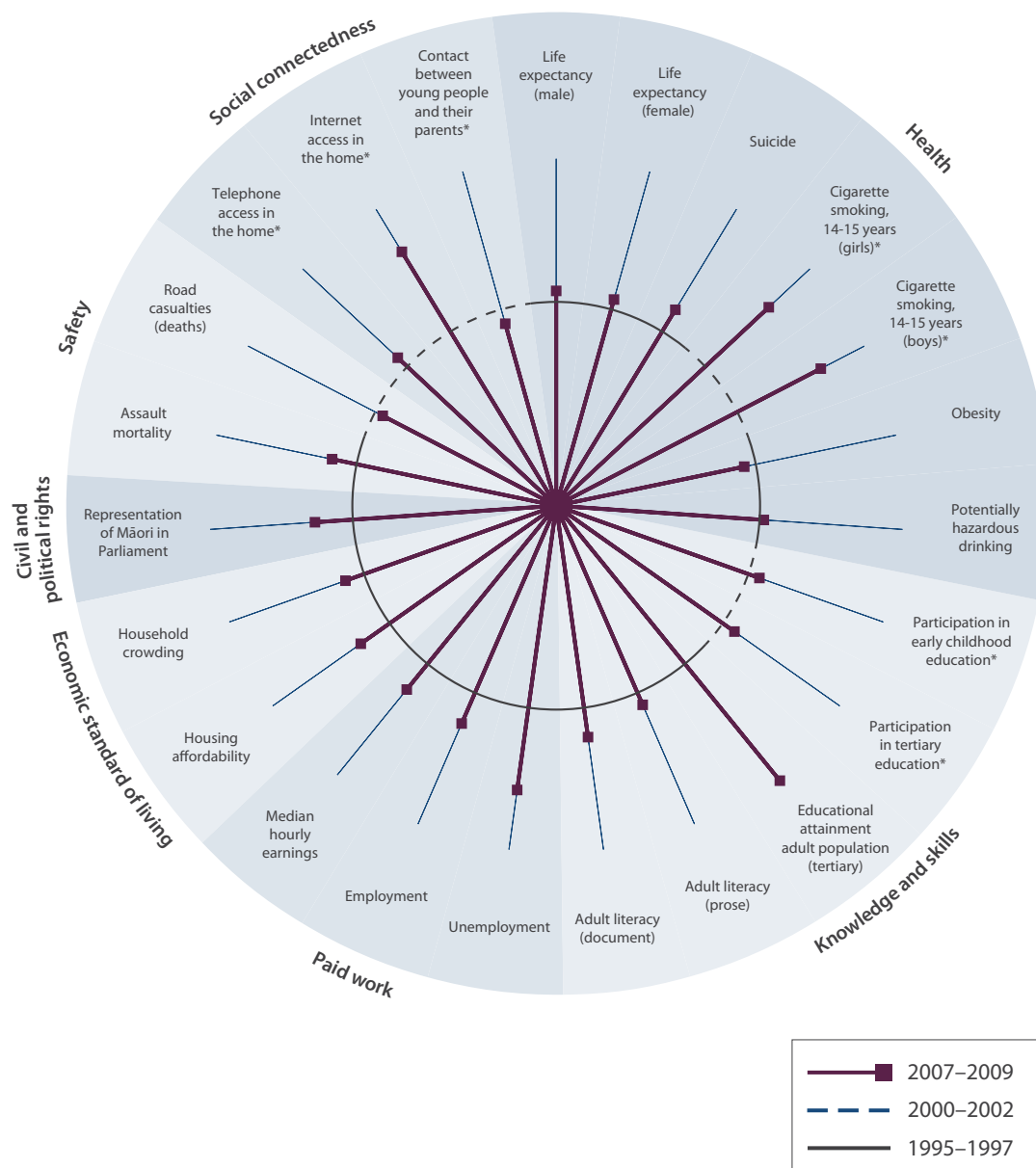
Māori continue to have poorer outcomes in the Safety domain. The assault mortality rate for Māori has fluctuated since 1996, with no clear trend. In 2007 Māori adults and Māori children remained considerably more likely than non-Māori adults and children to die from an assault or intentional injury. The rate of death from motor vehicle accidents has changed little for Māori since 2000, while the rate for non-Māori has declined. In 2007, Māori were around two and a half times as likely as non-Māori to die in motor vehicle accidents.

In 2008, Māori reported a slightly lower than average level of trust in people and a higher than average level of loneliness. In 2007, Māori secondary school students were less likely than students overall to report that most of the time they get enough time with Mum and/or Dad. In 2008, Māori adults were the least likely to feel the amount of contact they have with family and friends is about right.

In the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey (NZGSS), the rate of voluntary work for a group or organisation was about the same for Māori as for the total population aged 15 years and over.

More than four in five Māori adults (82 percent) were satisfied with their life overall in 2008.

Figure SU.3 Social wellbeing for Māori, 1995–1997 or 2000–2002 to 2007–2009



Interpreting “Changes in social wellbeing for Māori”

The circle ○ represents average outcomes for Māori for each indicator between 1995 and 1997, or 2000 and 2002 for indicators marked with an asterisk * that do not have data for 1995–1997. The spokes —■ represent outcomes between 2007 and 2009. Where possible, the data is averaged over the three years in each period. Where a spoke falls outside the circle this means the outcome for Māori has improved between the earlier and latest period. The further the spoke is outside the circle, the greater the improvement. Where a spoke falls within the circle, the outcome for Māori

has worsened compared to the earlier period. The further the spoke is inside the circle the more pronounced this effect. An important limitation on this style of presentation is that we cannot directly compare the size of changes for different indicators. Most of the latest data is for 2007–2009, with the exception of suicide, assault mortality, road casualties and life expectancy (2005–2007) and adult literacy (2006). The earlier period for cigarette smoking at 14–15 years is 1999–2001. The measure used is the daily smoking rate.

Pacific peoples

Most indicators for Pacific peoples have improved since the mid-1990s

Pacific peoples, like Māori, have experienced gains in wellbeing since the mid-1990s. While a number of these improvements have been greater than those for the total New Zealand population, Pacific peoples' outcomes overall are poor compared to those of the total population.

A positive trend in the Health domain is the significant reduction in smoking among Pacific youth. The daily smoking rate of Pacific youth aged 14–15 years fell by around two-thirds between 1999 and 2009 (from 23 percent to 7 percent for girls, and from 17 percent to 6 percent for boys). This is the only new information on the health of Pacific peoples in this year's report. Pacific adults had the second highest cigarette smoking rate, after Māori, in 2008. They had the highest obesity rate in 2006/2007 and shared the highest potentially hazardous drinking rate with Māori in the same year.

There have been considerable gains in educational participation for Pacific peoples over the past decade. The proportion of children who attended early childhood education before starting primary school increased at a faster rate for Pacific children than for all school entrants between 2000 and 2009. However, Pacific children continue to have the lowest participation rate at this level of education. Pacific peoples also had the largest increase in tertiary education participation between 2001 and 2009. In the latest year their overall participation rate was similar to that of Europeans, although higher proportions of Pacific students were enrolled in Levels 1–3 certificate courses.

Education outcomes have also improved. The proportion of Pacific students leaving secondary school with a qualification at NCEA Level 2 or above increased strongly between 2003 and 2008 but remained the second lowest proportion. The proportion of Pacific adults with tertiary qualifications increased more than threefold between the mid-1990s and 2009. Despite this substantial improvement, Pacific peoples were less than a third as likely as adults in general to have tertiary qualifications at degree level in 2009.

The proportion of Pacific adults with prose and document literacy in English at Level 3 or above declined between 1996 and 2006, against an upward trend for the total population. Pacific adults in 2006 were around half as likely as adults in general to have prose and document literacy skills in English at Level 3 or above, and around a third as likely to have numeracy skills at these levels.

All three indicators in the Paid Work domain for which there is data for Pacific peoples show a strong improvement in outcomes since the mid-1990s, despite a deterioration in the most recent two years. The unemployment rate for Pacific peoples fell markedly from the mid-1990s to 2005. It increased slightly over the following three years, then almost doubled between the December 2008 and 2009 years. Pacific youth had the highest unemployment rate among youth aged 15–24 years in 2009. The employment rate for Pacific peoples grew fairly steadily over the decade to 2008 but fell sharply in 2009. For Pacific peoples in wage and salary jobs, real median hourly earnings increased by 7 percent between 2008 and 2009, compared to 4 percent for all wage and salary earners. Pacific peoples reported a lower than average level of satisfaction with their work-life balance in 2008. Pacific peoples had the highest rate of work-related injury claims in 2008.

Median household incomes for Pacific peoples improved over the decade to 2009. Housing affordability also improved. The proportion of households with at least one Pacific adult spending more than 30 percent of their disposable income on housing was lower in 2009 than in 1998.

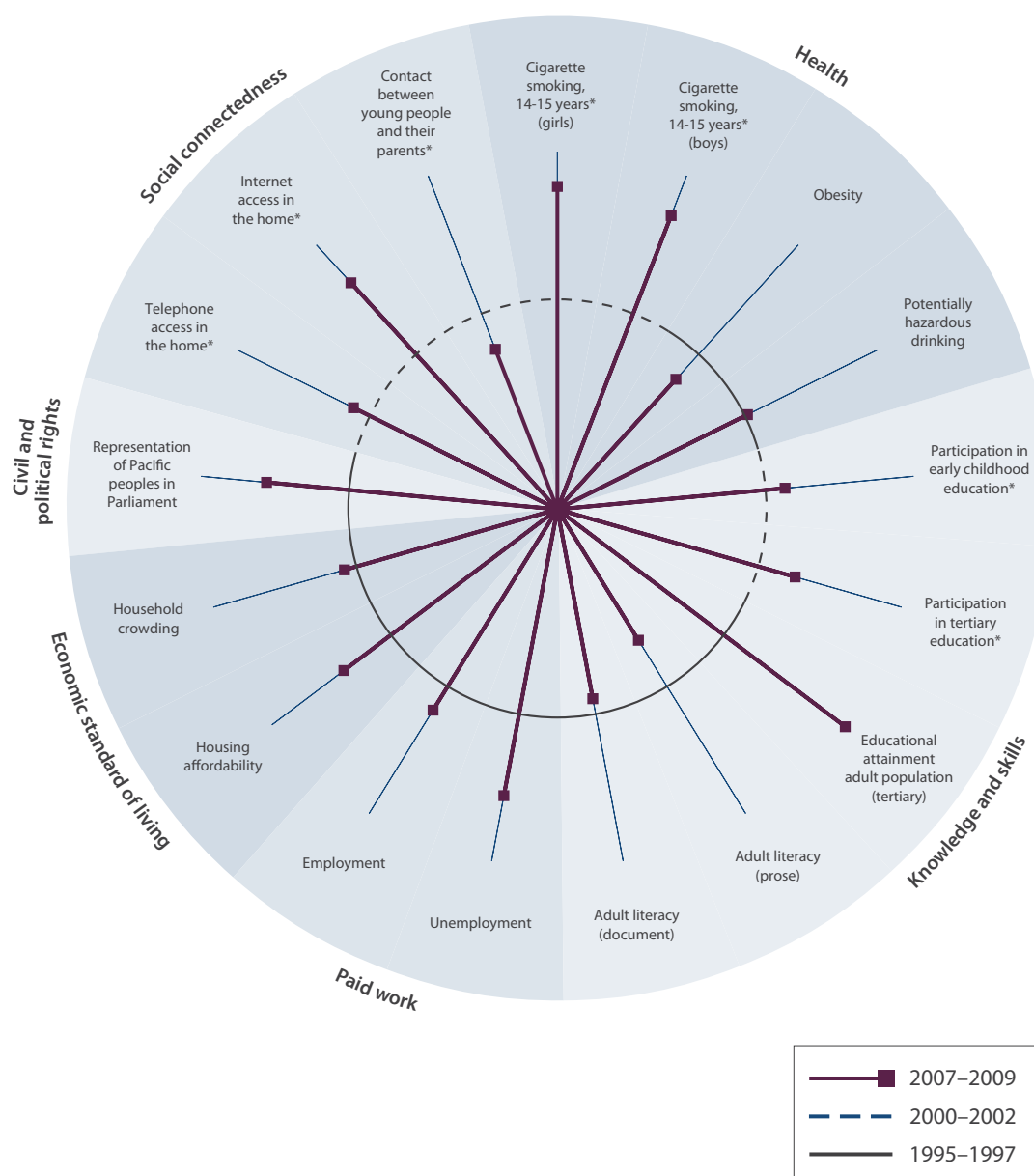
In the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey, around one in seven Pacific people aged 15 years and over said they had been discriminated against in the past year, compared to the population average of one in 10 people.

In 2008, Pacific adults reported lower than average levels of trust in others and higher than average levels of loneliness. Pacific secondary school students were less likely than students on average to report they got enough time with one or both of their parents. In 2008, Pacific adults were about as likely as adults generally to feel the amount of contact they have with family and friends is about right.

In the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey, Pacific peoples had the highest rate of voluntary work for a group or organisation.

Four in five Pacific adults (80 percent) were satisfied with their life overall in 2008.

Figure SU.4 Social wellbeing for Pacific peoples, 1995–1997 or 2000–2002 to 2007–2009



Interpreting “Changes in social wellbeing for Pacific peoples”

The circle ○ represents average outcomes for Pacific peoples for each indicator between 1995 and 1997, or 2000 and 2002 for indicators marked with an asterisk * that do not have data for 1995–1997. The spokes —■ represent outcomes between 2007 and 2009. Where possible, the data is averaged over the three years in each period. Where a spoke falls outside the circle this means the outcome for Pacific peoples has improved between the earlier and latest period. The further the spoke is outside the circle, the greater the

improvement. Where a spoke falls within the circle, the outcome for Pacific peoples has worsened compared to the earlier period. The further the spoke is inside the circle the more pronounced this effect. An important limitation on this style of presentation is that we cannot directly compare the size of changes for different indicators. The latest year for adult literacy is 2006. The earlier period for cigarette smoking at 14–15 years is 1999–2001. The measure used is the daily smoking rate.

Asian and other ethnicities

Outcomes for Asian and other ethnicities are mixed

A small number of indicators in this report include information for ethnic groups other than European, Māori and Pacific peoples. Some surveys report separate data for Asian people, and larger surveys sometimes provide a further breakdown for smaller groups, referred to collectively as the “Other” ethnic group. In other cases, data for Asian and the smaller ethnic groups are combined into a single category. For example, in the Household Labour Force Survey data used in this report, this combined group comprises Asian peoples, Middle Eastern, Latin American and African peoples (MELAA), and Other (including ‘New Zealander’). For brevity, we refer to the combined group as Asian/MELAA/Other in this section. This inconsistency between data sources should be taken into account when assessing outcomes for these population groups. The diverse and changing make-up of these ethnic group categories probably contributes to the mixed outcomes evident in the results.

In the Health domain, Asian peoples aged 15–64 years had the lowest cigarette smoking rate of all ethnic groups in 2008, around half that of the total population in that age group.

Participation in early childhood education grew faster for Asian children and children from the Other ethnic group, than for all children between 2000 and 2009. In 2009, these children were about as likely as children in general to have attended an early childhood education service before going to primary school. The proportion of Asian secondary school leavers with a qualification at NCEA Level 2 or above increased from 2003 to 2008 and was consistently the highest for all ethnic groups. For school leavers in the MELAA/Other ethnic group category, the improvement was greater but the proportion with NCEA Level 2 or above remained close to the average for all students.

Asian peoples aged 15 years and over had the second highest tertiary education participation rate in 2009 (after Māori), and the highest participation rate for degree level qualifications. Adults from Asian/MELAA/Other ethnic groups are the most likely to have tertiary qualifications at bachelor’s degree level or higher, almost double the proportion for all adults aged 25–64 years in 2009. The proportion of Asian adults with prose and document literacy skills in English at Level 3 or above increased between 1996 and 2006 but remained lower than the average for all adults. The proportion of Asian adults with numeracy skills in English at these levels was also lower than average in 2006.

The unemployment rate for the Asian/MELAA/Other ethnic group has fallen substantially since the mid-1990s but it increased in 2008 and 2009 and remains higher than the rate for the total labour force. Growth in the employment rate for this group was faster than average from the mid-1990s to 2007 but it levelled off in 2008 and 2009.

The median hourly earnings for wage and salary earners in the Asian and MELAA ethnic groups ranked second behind the median hourly earnings for Europeans in 2009. Between 2008 and 2009, the Asian and MELAA ethnic groups experienced a 5 percent increase in real median hourly earnings from wage and salary jobs, similar to the 4 percent increase for all wage and salary earners. The rate of work-related injury claims for the Other (including Asian) ethnic group in 2008 was higher than the rate for all full-time equivalent employees for that year.

Median household incomes and housing affordability for the Other (including Asian) ethnic group improved between the mid-1990s and 2009. The proportion of households with at least one adult from the Other (including Asian) ethnic group spending more than 30 percent of their disposable income on housing was lower in 2009 than in 1998.

Asian people were again the group most likely to be perceived as being subject to a great deal or some discrimination in 2009. In the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey, more than one in five Asians aged 15 years and over said they had been discriminated against, the highest proportion of any ethnic group.

In 2008, people of the Asian ethnic group reported lower than average levels of trust in others, and were more likely than people in general to report having felt isolated or lonely in the past 12 months. In the same year, Asian adults had the highest proportion who said the amount of contact they have with family and friends is about right. But in 2007, Asian secondary school students were less likely than all secondary school students to report they got enough time with one or more of their parents.

More than four in five Asian people (84 percent) were satisfied with their life overall in 2008.

Sex differences

Outcomes are generally better for females than for males in the Health and Knowledge and Skills domains, but are mixed in other domains

Sex differences in social wellbeing vary between and within the domains in this report.

Outcomes are generally better for females than for males in the Health and Knowledge and Skills domains, but are mixed in other domains such as Paid Work and Safety. In some areas, sex differences have narrowed in recent years.

For most of the indicators in the Health domain, females had better outcomes than males.

On average, females live longer than males, but the sex difference in life expectancy is decreasing, reflecting greater gains for males since the mid-1980s. There is a marked sex difference in the suicide death rate: in 2007, the rate for males was more than three times that for females. The male suicide death rate increased sharply in the late-1980s but it has declined since the mid-1990s, while the female rate has been relatively stable over the last 20 years. Females have a higher rate of hospitalisation from intentional self-harm than males. There was no significant difference in obesity rates between the sexes in 2006/2007. Obesity rates have increased more for males than for females since the mid-1990s. Cigarette smoking rates for females and males have generally been similar since the mid-1980s, but in 2008 the age-standardised rate was higher for males than for females. However, among 14–15 year olds, girls continue to have higher smoking rates than boys. In 2006/2007, male drinkers were more than twice as likely as female drinkers to have a potentially hazardous drinking pattern, as they were in 1996/1997 and 2002/2003.

In the Knowledge and Skills domain, most indicators continue to show better outcomes for females than for males, although differences have narrowed in recent years. There is little sex difference in participation in early childhood education, but females are more likely than males to leave secondary school with NCEA Level 2 or above and to participate in tertiary education. The sex difference in tertiary participation widened over the decade to 2004 but it has since narrowed because the decline in enrolments over the 2005–2009 period was greater for females than for males. For the adult population aged 25–64 years, sex differences in educational attainment have narrowed over time as a result of greater improvements for females, particularly at younger ages. Since 2003, women in the 25–34 years age group have been more likely than men of that age to have a tertiary degree at bachelor's level or above. The opposite is the case in the 55–64 years age group.

In adult literacy in English, there was no significant sex difference in prose literacy at Level 3 or above in 2006 but all of the improvement in higher prose literacy over the previous decade was due to increases for males. Males were significantly more likely than females to have numeracy skills at Level 3 or above. There was no sex difference in document literacy for all adults aged 16–65 years. However, among adults aged under 25 years, a higher proportion of females than of males had higher document skills, while at ages 45 years and over the pattern was reversed.

Outcomes are mixed in the Paid Work domain. Unemployment rates were similar for males and females in the year ended December 2009, having been higher for females than for males between 2002 and 2007 and higher for males than for females during the peak years of unemployment in the early 1990s. Men are more likely to be employed than women, but the employment rate gap has narrowed. This is because female employment rates increased more than male employment rates between 2002 and 2007, and declined less than those of males between 2007 and 2009. Among wage and salary earners, males earn more, on average, than females. The ratio of female to male median hourly earnings was 89 percent in 2009, compared to 83 percent in 1997. Males are around twice as likely as females to suffer work-related injuries involving a claim to ACC. Employed males and females have similar rates of satisfaction with their work-life balance, with part-time workers of both sexes having higher levels of satisfaction than full-time workers.

Between 1998 and 2009, females were slightly more likely than males to be living in households with low incomes. The pattern over time was less clear for housing affordability. In 2009 there was no difference by sex in the proportion of people aged 15 years and over living in households that were spending more than 30 percent of their disposable income on housing. There is very little difference by sex in the likelihood of living in crowded households.

There are fewer female than male Members of Parliament, although the proportion increased in the 2008 general election. Similarly, female representation in local authorities is lower than that of males, but it increased in the 2007 elections. Women are more likely than men to be perceived as a group subject to discrimination and the proportion of people with this perception increased between 2008 and 2009. In the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey, overall rates of personal discrimination were similar for males and females, but females were around twice as likely as males to cite gender discrimination as the reason.

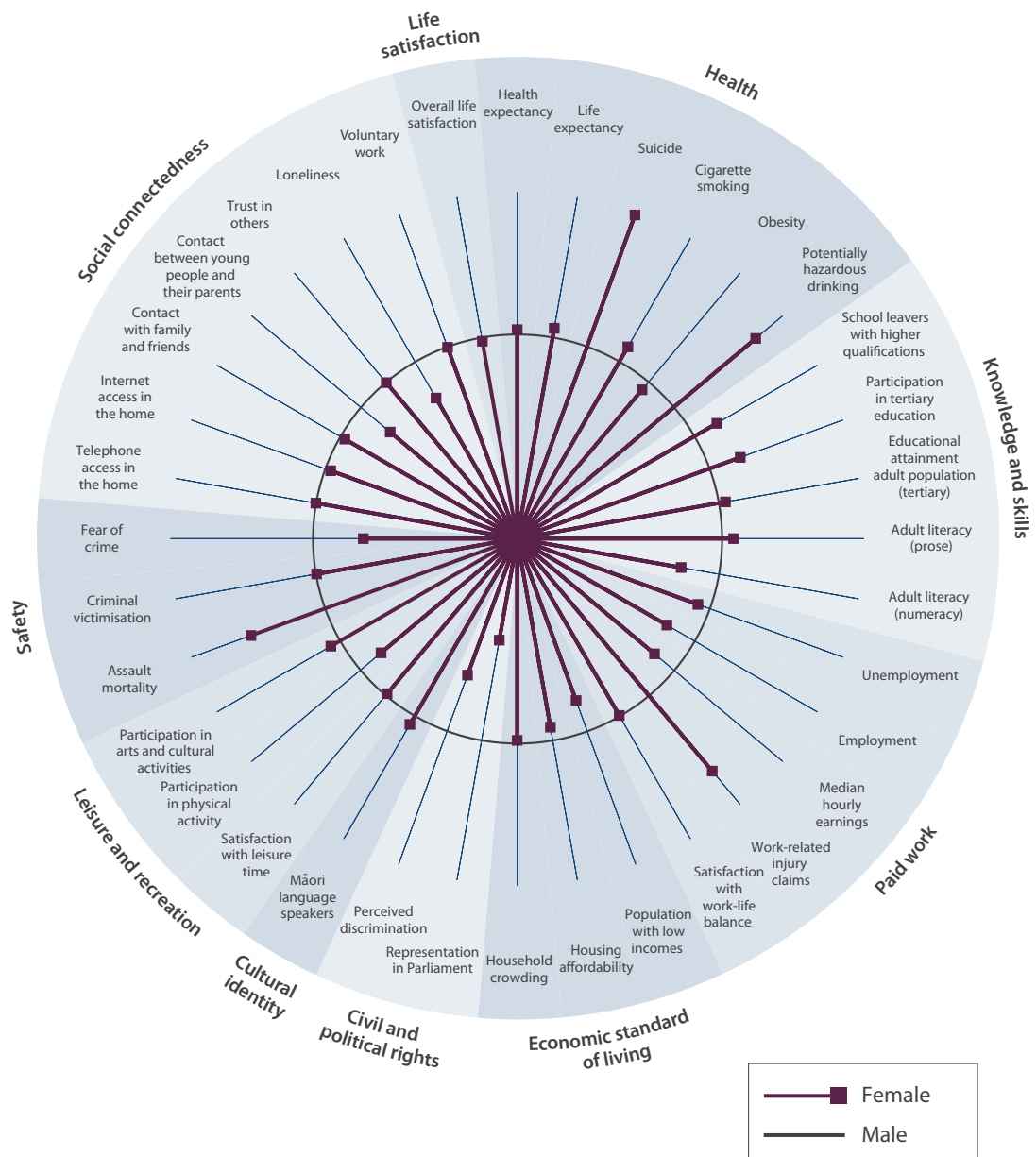
In 2006/2007, males were significantly more likely than females to meet physical activity guidelines. There was no change in physical activity levels for either sex from the previous survey in 2002/2003. In 2008, there was very little difference between the sexes in reported satisfaction with leisure time. Women and men had similar levels of attendance at arts events and participation in arts and cultural activities in 2008.

In the Safety domain, males and females were equally likely to experience some form of criminal victimisation in 2005. With confrontational offences, men were as likely as women to have been victimised at least once by a partner, but women experienced more offences than men did. Females were twice as likely as males to be the victims of sexual offences, while males were more likely to be the victims of confrontational offences by people they did not know. Women were more likely than men to report that fear of crime impacted on their quality of life. Males are more likely than females to die from an assault or intentional injury and they are more likely to be injured or killed in motor vehicle accidents. Although road accident deaths have declined substantially for both sexes, the male road user death rate remained double that for females in 2009.

In the Social Connectedness domain, men and women reported a similar level of trust in others in 2008, but women were more likely than men to have felt lonely during the past 12 months. There is little difference between men and women in having access to the internet and a telephone in their homes except at older ages, where women were less likely than men to have internet access. In 2008, there was no sex difference in the proportion of adults who felt the amount of contact they have with family and friends is about right. Among secondary school students, females were less likely than males to report that most of the time they get enough time with at least one parent, and this sex difference increased between 2001 and 2007. In the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey, there was no difference by sex in the proportion of adults who had done voluntary work for groups or organisations in the past four weeks.

Males (85 percent) and females (86 percent) reported similarly high levels of overall life satisfaction in 2008.

Figure SU.5 **Social wellbeing for females relative to males, 2007–2009**



Interpreting “Social wellbeing for females relative to males, 2007–2009”

The circle ○ represents average outcomes for males. The spokes ■ represent average outcomes for females. Where a spoke falls outside the circle, the outcome for females is better than the outcome for males. The further the spoke is from the circle, the better the outcome for females relative to males. Where a spoke falls inside the circle, the outcome for females is worse than the outcome for males. An important

limitation on this style of presentation is that we cannot directly compare the size of sex differences for different indicators. Where possible, the data represents three-yearly averages. Most of the data is for the period 2007–2009 except for suicide and assault mortality (both for 2005–2007), criminal victimisation and fear of crime (both 2005) and adult literacy (2006).

Socio-economic differences

People living in deprived areas generally experience poorer outcomes, particularly in health

Seventeen indicators in this report include information on differences in wellbeing outcomes by socio-economic status. Two different area-based measures of socio-economic difference are used: the New Zealand Index of Deprivation (NZDep), and the Ministry of Education's school decile index.¹¹⁹ For some indicators, the measures of socio-economic differences are based on the distribution of individual or household incomes.

Health-related outcomes tend to worsen with rising levels of neighbourhood deprivation. Life expectancy at birth is considerably lower for people living in NZDep2006 decile 10 areas (the most deprived 10th of small areas in New Zealand) than for those living in decile 1 areas (the least deprived 10th). In 2005–2007, the difference was 8.8 years for males and 5.9 years for females.

The prevalence of cigarette smoking in 2008 was almost three times higher for people aged 15–64 years living in the most deprived fifth of areas than for those living in the least deprived fifth. Among 14–15 year olds in 2009, daily smoking rates were four times higher for girls and more than twice as high for boys at low-decile schools (those drawn from low socio-economic communities) than for boys and girls at high-decile schools. In 2006/2007, the prevalence of obesity and potentially hazardous drinking among people aged 15 years and over were both significantly higher in NZDep2006 quintile 5 areas (the most deprived fifth) than in all other areas (quintiles 1–4). On the other hand, there was no association between the proportion of people who met physical activity guidelines and the level of neighbourhood deprivation.

Year 1 students in schools drawn from low socio-economic communities are less likely to have attended early childhood education services than Year 1 students in schools drawn from high socio-economic communities. School leavers from low decile secondary schools are less likely to have a qualification at NCEA Level 2 or above than school leavers from high decile schools.

Housing affordability is an issue of particular concern for low-income households as high housing costs relative to income can mean there is insufficient income left to meet other basic needs, such as food, transport and heating in winter. In 2009, the proportion of households in the lowest 20 percent (lowest quintile) of the equivalised household income distribution spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing was 33 percent, compared to 27 percent for all New Zealand households.

In 2006, households in the lowest fifth of household incomes (adjusted for household size and composition) were five times more likely to be crowded than households in the highest fifth of household incomes.

In 2005, people living in the most deprived areas of New Zealand (NZDep quintile 5) were more likely than people living in the least deprived areas to report being victims of crime. They were also more likely to report that fear of crime affected their quality of life.

Some indicators show an association between levels of personal income and wellbeing outcomes, although there is no clear pattern. In 2008, full-time employees with personal incomes of \$30,000 or less had the highest level of satisfaction with work-life balance across the income scale. Satisfaction with leisure time was also highest for people in this income group, although in this case the proportion included people of retirement age and students. In the same year, people with personal incomes over \$100,000 reported the highest overall level of trust and the lowest level of loneliness. In the 2008 New Zealand General Social Survey, people with personal incomes of \$70,001 or more were significantly more likely to report having done voluntary work than those with incomes of \$30,000 or less. But there was little variation by income in personal experience of discrimination, and no difference by income in the proportion of adults who said the amount of contact they have with family and friends is about right. Finally, the 2008 survey on New Zealanders and the arts found no substantial relationship between income and participation in the arts.

Summary table of indicators

Indicators	Current level of updated indicators (most recent year) and the change from the previous result ☺ better ☹ same ☹ worse ☹ not updated ⊖ not comparable	Longer-term change	Variation within the population	Comparison with the OECD
Health				
Health expectancy	☹ Males 67.4 years Females 69.2 years (2006)	Improved, faster for males than for females	Lower for males and Māori	No comparison available
Life expectancy	☺ Males 78.4 years Females 82.4 years (2007–2009)	Improved, faster for males than for females	Lower for males, Māori and people living in deprived areas	Similar to OECD median
Suicide	☺ 11.0 deaths per 100,000 (age-standardised rate for all ages) (2007) ☺ Youth 15–24 years, 15.3 deaths per 100,000 (2007)	Improved since 1998, below the 1986 level	Suicide deaths higher for males, youth, young adults and Māori; intentional self-harm hospitalisations higher for females	Higher than OECD median for males; relatively high for youth of both sexes
Cigarette smoking	☺ 22 percent of population aged 15–64 years (2009) ☹ 21 percent of population aged 15 years and over (2008) ☺ 6 percent of girls, 5 percent of boys aged 14–15 years (daily rate) (2009)	15–64 years population: improved from 2006 to 2009 15 years and over population: improved to 1991, steady to 2003, improved to 2007 14–15 year olds: big drop since 1999	Higher rates among younger adults, Māori, Pacific peoples and people living in deprived areas	Daily smoking rate lower than OECD median overall; much lower than OECD median for males, similar to OECD median for females
Obesity	☹ 25 percent of population aged 15 years and over (age-standardised rate) (2006/2007) 8 percent of children aged 5–14 years (2006/2007)	Increased since 1997 but no statistically significant increase in age-adjusted rate between 2002/2003 and 2006/2007 Children: Similar to rate in 2002	Higher for Pacific peoples, Māori, and people living in deprived areas	Higher than OECD median for 12 countries with measured obesity rate
Potentially hazardous drinking	☹ 22.9 percent of drinkers aged 15 years and over (2006/2007)	Similar to levels in 1996/1997 and 2002/2003	Higher among males, young people, Māori, Pacific peoples, those in deprived areas	Alcohol consumption lower than OECD median
Knowledge and skills				
Participation in early childhood education	☺ Enrolment rate in licensed services: 92 percent for 3 year olds and 100 percent for 4 year olds (2009)	Improved	Māori and Pacific rates lower than European	No robust comparison available
School leavers with higher qualifications	☺ 71 percent of school leavers with NCEA Level 2 or above (2008)	No comparable longer-term trend available	Proportions lower for males, Māori, Pacific school leavers and those at low-decile schools	No comparison available
Participation in tertiary education	☺ 12.4 percent of population aged 15 years and over enrolled in tertiary education institutions (age-standardised rate) (2009)	Improved	Lower rates for males, higher for Māori at ages under 18 years and over 25 years	No direct comparison available. Higher than OECD median for 20–29 year olds
Educational attainment of the adult population	☺ 75 percent of the population aged 25–64 years with at least an upper secondary qualification (2009) ☺ 22 percent of the population aged 25–64 years with tertiary (bachelor's degree+) qualifications (2009)	Improved	Proportions lower for people aged 55–64 years, particularly women; Māori and Pacific peoples; Asian/Other adults had the highest proportion with tertiary qualifications	Similar to OECD median for upper secondary and above; higher than OECD median for tertiary (bachelor's degree+)
Adult literacy skills in English	☹ 56 percent of 16–65 year olds with higher prose literacy skills (Level 3+) ☹ 57 percent with higher document skills ⊖ 49 percent with higher numeracy skills (2006)	Improvement since 1996 for prose and document literacy; no trend data for numeracy	Proportions lower for youngest and oldest age groups and ethnic groups other than New Zealand European	Similar to Australia, Canada, higher than United States

Paid work				
Unemployment	⊖ 6.1 percent of the labour force (year ended December 2009)	Improved since 1998, but above mid-1980s levels	Higher rates for youth aged 15–24 years, Māori, Pacific peoples	Lower than OECD median
Employment	⊖ 72.9 percent of the population aged 15–64 years (year ended December 2009)	Improved since 1998, similar to mid-1980s levels	Lower rates for young people, women and ethnic groups other than European	Well above OECD median, for males and females
Median hourly earnings	⊕ \$19.47 an hour for wage and salary earners (\$20.53 for males; \$18.22 for females) (June quarter 2009)	Improved since 1997	Lower for Pacific peoples, Māori, youth and females over 20 years	No comparison available
Work-related injury claims	⊕ 117 claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees (2008 provisional)	Improved since 2002	Higher rates for men, ethnic groups other than European	No comparison available
Satisfaction with work-life balance	⊖ 78 percent of employed people said they were satisfied with their work-life balance (2008)	Steady	Full-time employed people and people aged 35–54 years are less likely to be satisfied with their work-life balance	No comparison available
Economic standard of living				
Market income per person	⊖ RGNDI of \$29,836 per person (in constant 1995/1996 dollars) (year ended December 2009)	Improved since the mid-1990s, higher than the late 1980s	Not measured	Well below OECD median
Income inequality	⊕ The equivalised disposable income of a household at the 80th percentile was 2.5 times larger than the income of a household at the 20th percentile (2009)	Around the same as the mid-1990s	Not relevant	Higher inequality than OECD median (around 2004)
Population with low incomes	⊕ 15 percent of population lives in households with incomes below 60 percent of the 2007 median, after adjusting for housing costs (2009)	Improved considerably since the mid-1990s	Higher rates for children, sole-parent families and large families	Slightly higher than OECD median, using a 50 percent of median measure (2004)
Housing affordability	⊕ 27 percent of all households spend more than 30 percent of income on housing (2009) ⊕ 33 percent of low-income households spend more than 30 percent of income on housing (2009)	Improved from 1998 to 2004, worsened between 2004 and 2007, steady in 2009 Low-income households: improved between 1994 and 2004, steady in 2007 and 2009	Higher proportions for low-income households, Pacific peoples and Other ethnic groups,	No comparison available
Household crowding	⊖ 10 percent of individuals live in households requiring one or more additional bedrooms (2006)	Improved	More common among families with young children, youth, people in rental housing, Māori and Pacific peoples and in Manukau City	No comparison available
Civil and political rights				
Voter turnout (general elections)	⊖ 76 percent of the population eligible to vote (2008)	Fallen	Asian people, the unemployed and people on low incomes less likely to vote	Higher than OECD median for general election
Voter turnout (local authority elections)	⊖ 44 percent of enrolled electors (2007)	Fallen		
Representation of women in government	⊖ 34 percent of seats in Parliament (2008 general election) ⊖ 32 percent of elected members (2007 local authority elections)	Improved Improved	Not relevant	Well above OECD median for women in parliament
Representation of ethnic groups in government	⊖ 25 percent of MPs identified as Māori, Pacific peoples or Asian	Improved	Pacific peoples and Asians under-represented	No comparison available
Perceived discrimination	⊖ Asians most common group perceived to be subject to discrimination (2008) (new) 10 percent of people aged 15 years and over report being discriminated against (2008)	Improved No trend available	Highest for Asians, people on welfare Higher for Asians, Māori, Pacific people, youth, unemployed, sole parents, people in rental housing	Group discrimination: no comparison available Personal discrimination: well below median for 19 European OECD countries
Perceived corruption	⊕ New Zealand ranked first as least corrupt nation with a Corruption Perceptions Index score of 9.4 (2009)	Steady	Not relevant	Well above OECD median

Cultural identity				
Local content programming on New Zealand television	⊕ 39 percent of the prime-time schedule (2009)	Improved	Not relevant	Below average (1999)
Māori language speakers	⊖ 24 percent of Māori report ability to converse in Māori (2006)	Slightly lower in 2006 than in 2001	Speakers more likely to be older	Not relevant
Language retention	⊖ Varied from 16 percent of Cook Islands Māori to 84 percent of Koreans (2006)	Little change for most ethnic groups	Not relevant	No comparison available
Leisure and recreation				
Satisfaction with leisure time	⊖ 75 percent of the population aged 15 years and over are satisfied overall with their leisure time (2008)	Steady	Those aged 25–54 years and Asians report lower satisfaction rates	No comparison available
Participation in physical activity	⊖ 51 percent of the population aged 15 years and over were physically active (age-standardised rate) (2006/2007)	Steady	Women, Asians and older people were less likely to be physically active than men and young people	No comparison available
Participation in arts and cultural activities (new data source)	83 percent of people aged 15 years and over had attended an arts event 48 percent had actively participated in arts and cultural activities	Steady	Attendance lower for Asian people, those with no qualifications; participation higher for Māori, Pacific peoples	Higher than Australia, England, Scotland
Safety				
Assault mortality	⊕ All ages: Age-standardised rate of 1.3 deaths per 100,000 people (2007, provisional)	Improved since early 1990s	Highest among males, youth aged 15–24 years and Māori	Higher than OECD median, especially for females; no recent comparison for children
	⊕ Children under 15 years: five-year average annual rate of 0.8 deaths per 100,000 (2003–2007)	Improved		
Criminal victimisation	⊖ 39 percent of population aged 15 years and over were victims of criminal offending, either as individuals or members of households (2005)	No trend available	Young people, Māori and Pacific peoples more likely to have been a victim of crime	No reliable comparison available
Fear of crime	⊖ 40 percent of adults said that fear of crime had a moderate or high impact on their quality of life (2005)	No trend available	Fear higher among females, Asians, Māori, Pacific peoples and those in socio-economically deprived areas	No comparison available
Road casualties	⊕ 8.9 deaths per 100,000 population (2009) ⊖ 337 injuries per 100,000 population (2009, provisional)	Improved Improved since mid-1980s	High rates among men, young people, Māori and those aged 65 years and over	Road user death rate higher than the OECD median for all ages; highest of 24 OECD countries for children under 15 years and youth 15–17 years

Social connectedness				
Telephone and internet access in the home	☺ 85 percent of adults had the personal use of a mobile phone (2009) ☺ 75 percent of households had internet access (2009)	Big improvement for internet access	Access less likely among Māori and Pacific families, families with unemployed adults and sole-parent families	Well above OECD median for household internet access
Contact with family and friends (new data source)	60 percent of people aged 15 years and over said the amount of contact they have with non-resident family and friends is about right	No trend available	Māori and the unemployed less likely to report the amount of contact was about right	No comparison available
Contact between young people and their parents	☹ 57 percent of secondary school students said they spent enough time with their Mum and/or Dad (2007)	Fallen	Māori, Pacific and Asian students more likely to report not getting enough time with their Mum and/or Dad	No comparison available
Trust in others	☹ 78 percent of people aged 15 years and over reported that people can be trusted (2008)	Steady	Māori, Pacific peoples, Asians and those with incomes less than \$30,000 reported lower levels of trust	Well above the median for 25 European OECD countries
Loneliness	☹ 16 percent of people aged 15 years and over reported having felt lonely in the past 12 months (2008)	Steady	Pacific peoples, Asians, females and people who rated their health as poor reported higher levels of loneliness	No comparison available
Voluntary work	(new) 33 percent of population aged 15 years and over had done voluntary work for a group or organisation in the last four weeks	No trend available	Higher among older people, Pacific people, those with higher education and people with higher incomes	Similar to Australia
Life satisfaction				
Overall life satisfaction	(new) 86 percent of population aged 15 years and over were satisfied with their life overall (2008)	No trend available	Lower for the unemployed, sole parents, people with no qualifications, people in rented housing	Above the OECD median