

# A Profile of Children and Young People in Auckland

July 2016

Technical Report 2016/022



**Auckland  
Council**  
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau







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# A Profile of Children and Young People in Auckland

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# Executive summary

Auckland's children and young people are its future, and Auckland Council has a clear commitment to ensuring that future is a bright one. The Auckland Plan identifies the 'dramatic acceleration of the prospects of Auckland's children and young people' as a fundamental transformational shift required in Auckland, and identifies a series of relevant actions and targets. In addition, the well-being and success of children and young people is a particular focus in the Southern Initiative, an area of Auckland with significant economic opportunity yet high levels of socio-economic disadvantage. The Southern Initiative is also home to almost a quarter (23.3%) of Auckland's children and young people.

This report presents key trends in demography, education and employment, and also briefly discusses the topics of health, poverty and safety, in relation to children and young people in Auckland. Children are identified as aged 0 to 14 years and young people as aged between 15 and 24 years.

At the time of the 2013 Census, a third (33.4%) of all children and young people in New Zealand lived in Auckland. In turn, children and young people made up over a third (35.9%) of the Auckland population. The combined demographic forces of population growth and structural ageing means that while there will be more children and young people living in Auckland in the next few decades, the proportion of Aucklanders who are children and young people will decrease.

In 2013, a quarter of all family households in Auckland with 'dependent' children (that is, aged up to 18 years and not employed full-time) were sole-parent families. Over 11,400 young people were parents themselves, and of this group 43.1 per cent stated they were sole parent families.

Auckland's younger populations are ethnically diverse. In 2013, just over half (54.3%) of those in this age group in Auckland were in the broad European ethnic category. The next largest groups were those classified as Asian (24.2%), followed by Pacific (22.1%) and Māori (15.7%). Almost a quarter of children and young people were born overseas.

There have been improvements in education outcomes in recent years for Auckland's children, although the qualifications achieved by Pacific and Māori children and young people remain an area of strategic focus. In 2015, there were high levels of participation in Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Auckland. Although the rates for Pacific and Māori children participation in ECE remain a little lower than for other groups, they have experienced significant gains since 2012.

There has been a gradual increase in the numbers and proportions of young people leaving school in Auckland with NCEA Level 3 or higher qualifications. In 2014, 57.7 per cent of Auckland school leavers held Level 3 or over, although there were differences in formal school achievement across gender and ethnic groups, and across different parts of Auckland. The achievements of males lagged behind that of females, and Māori and Pacific youth also had lower levels of educational attainment than other ethnic groups, although all of these gaps are showing evidence of declining.

Young workers were hit hard by the post-Global Financial Crisis recession and the difficult labour market conditions that followed it. Recent data suggests that youth employment in Auckland has begun to improve, however youth unemployment remains significantly above that of the total population. As at December 2015, the rate of young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) was found to be 9.8 per cent for young people aged 15 to 24 in

Auckland. The NEET rate varies by gender, as females are generally more likely to be NEET than males, particularly those aged 20-24. It also varies greatly by ethnic group with Pacific and Māori young people facing higher NEET rates than other groups of Auckland youth.

Healthy housing, growing up free from exposure to cigarette smoke and engaging in regular physical activity are all known to contribute to positive health outcomes for young people. Young people and children in Auckland experienced the highest levels of crowding in 2013 compared to other age groups, and this was particularly the case amongst Pacific people where half of those aged under 24 were living in a crowded household. In Auckland, the proportion of children aged 14 and under who live in a household with a smoker ranges from 18.4 to 31.7 per cent, depending on the district health board area. A majority of Auckland's young people (85.3%) were found to spend 3 or more hours a week in both informal and formal sports activities combined, according to a Sport New Zealand study carried out in 2011 (Sport New Zealand, 2013).

Large numbers of children and young people in Auckland are growing up in relative socio-economic deprivation. In 2013, 19 per cent of children aged 0 to 14 in Auckland lived in households with annual household incomes of \$40,000 or less, well below the \$78,600 median. Children and young people in Auckland are more likely than the rest of Aucklanders to live in areas with the highest levels of deprivation.

It is difficult to gauge the overall levels of family violence as well as child abuse and neglect amongst children in Auckland. In 2015, there were over 40,757 notifications received at Child, Youth and Family (CYF) in the three District Health Board (DHB) areas that coincide most closely with the boundaries of Auckland. The data also suggests that witnessing, perpetrating or being a victim of assault is a relatively common occurrence for young people in New Zealand. In the Auckland area DHBs, 1735 young people aged 15-24 were admitted to hospital for assault injuries (excluding emergency department cases) between 2009 and 2013 (Simpson et al., 2014: 407).

All young people contribute to the vitality of the city and many are thriving. There are nonetheless areas in which the needs and aspirations of Auckland's children and young people need to be further supported. Too many of Auckland's children and young people are living in low income households and in areas with high deprivation, and are vulnerable to poor future employment and health outcomes. This is particularly the case for many children and young people of Māori and Pacific ethnicity who are growing up in families that have borne the brunt of economic restructuring, the disappearance of manufacturing jobs and high rates unemployment. There is also more to be done to reach equitable economic, health, education and employment outcomes for children of all ethnic backgrounds to foster a strong and prosperous future.

# Table of contents

1.0	Background.....	1
1.1	This report .....	2
2.0	Demographics.....	3
2.1	Over a third of Aucklanders are children and young people .....	3
2.2	Numbers of children and young people will increase.....	4
2.3	A quarter live in the Southern Initiative area .....	5
3.0	Ethnic and Cultural Diversity .....	9
3.1	Just over half are European .....	9
3.2	Significant increase in numbers of Asian children and young people.....	10
3.3	Almost a quarter born overseas .....	11
4.0	Family Households .....	12
4.1	A quarter of families with dependent children were sole parent .....	12
4.2	Teenage birth rates are declining.....	13
5.0	Education.....	14
5.1	Relatively high rates of participation in early childhood education .....	14
5.2	A quarter of Auckland children are enrolled in low-decile schools.....	15
5.3	Gradual increase in levels of formal educational achievement.....	16
5.4	Significant differences in educational achievement across ethnic groups.....	17
5.5	Improvements in attainment in the Southern Initiative area.....	19
5.6	Youth Guarantee has made a difference .....	19
6.0	Employment.....	21
6.1	Decrease in labour force participation among 15 to 19 year olds.....	21
6.2	Decrease in full-time employment levels among 20 to 24 year olds.....	23
6.3	Youth unemployment beginning to improve.....	26
6.4	Almost one in ten not in employment, education or training .....	27
7.0	Health .....	29
7.1	Half of young Pacific people live in a crowded household.....	29
7.2	Variation across Auckland in rates of smoking .....	29
7.3	15 to 18 year olds less likely to engage in sport than younger children .....	31
7.4	New Zealand Health Survey .....	31
8.0	Child Poverty .....	32
8.1	A third of children live in areas of high socio-economic deprivation .....	32
8.2	Almost 1 in 5 children living in low income households .....	33
9.0	Safety and Family Violence .....	36
9.1	Over 40,000 notifications to CYF in 2015 .....	36
9.2	New Zealand's youth suicide rates are of concern .....	37
9.3	Social networks and support .....	37
10.0	Conclusion .....	38



11.0   References ..... 39

Appendix A    Health indicators for children 14 and under (New Zealand Health Survey Data) ..... 42

Appendix B    NZ Dep Index Map (2013) ..... 43

# 1.0 Background

Auckland's children and young people are its future, and Auckland Council has a clear commitment to ensuring that future is a bright one.

Putting children and young people first is a priority in the Auckland Plan, a 30-year vision to make Auckland / Tāmaki Makaurau 'the world's most liveable city' (Auckland Council, 2012). The plan recognises that all children are entitled to the basic needs of love, shelter, food and safety, as well as education and skill development, to instil confidence and pride. Auckland needs strong, healthy communities to achieve this, and the plan emphasises that families, whānau and the wider community share the responsibility to ensure that every child can reach their potential. It also identifies the dramatic acceleration of the prospects of Auckland's children and young people as a fundamental transformational shift that is required in Auckland, and identifies a series of relevant actions and targets.

In addition, the well-being and success of children and young people is a particular focus in the Southern Initiative, one of two big place-based initiatives in the Auckland Plan. It covers the four neighbouring local board areas of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Papakura. Together these cover an area of Auckland with significant economic opportunity yet high levels of socio-economic disadvantage. It is also home to almost a quarter (23.3%) of Auckland's children and young people.

Following the release of the Auckland Plan in 2012, Auckland Council, in co-governance with the Youth Advisory Panel, and alongside 6000 children and young people, brought together a strategic action plan called 'I Am Auckland', launched in 2014. This action plan outlines Auckland Council's region-wide commitments to children and young people in Auckland and includes seven goals (Auckland Council, 2014), expressed as follows:

1. I have a voice, am valued and contribute.
2. I am important, belong, am cared about and feel safe
3. I am happy, healthy and thriving
4. I am given equal opportunities to succeed and to have a fair go
5. I can get around and get connected
6. Auckland is my playground
7. Rangitahi tū rangatira (All Rangatahi will thrive).

It has been almost four years since the Auckland Plan was released, and since then the city has continued to grow and to change. The release of data from the 2013 Census, combined with available data and research from agencies such as the Ministry of Education, provides this opportunity to update our understanding of how Auckland's children and young people are succeeding.

## 1.1 This report

This report presents an overview of key trends in demography, education and employment in relation to Auckland's children and young people. It also includes short sections on health, poverty and safety.

The focus of this report is on children and young people in Auckland up to 24 years old – the life period spanning infancy, early childhood, childhood and the transition years from teen to young adulthood. It includes the foundational education years, early career formation and, for some, early family formation. A summary report such as this, based on available data and attempting to cover such a range of age groups and topics, cannot possibly capture the true diversity of lived experiences among Auckland's 500,000 children and young people. To that end, we suggest freely available reports for further reading on a particular topic in more detail throughout the report.

All young people contribute to the vitality of the city, and many are thriving. As will be highlighted in this report, however, there are areas in which the needs and aspirations of Auckland's children and young people need to be further supported.

The number and proportion of Auckland's children and young people growing up in disadvantaged circumstances poses a challenge to Auckland's aim to foster an equitable and inclusive society. In comparison to other groups, Auckland's Māori and Pacific children and young people in particular face marked disparities in education and labour market outcomes. There are many drivers behind these outcomes, including social and economic vulnerability to economic recessions and restructuring. The situation of Māori young people is of particular importance because the Auckland Plan seeks to enable and support mana whenua and mataawaka aspirations in recognising Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi and to ensure Māori have opportunities to contribute to the city.

## 2.0 Demographics

### 2.1 Over a third of Aucklanders are children and young people

Auckland's population is relatively youthful. The 2013 Census counted 507,495 children and young people under the age of 24 years living in Auckland, representing 35.9 per cent of the Auckland population.

In line with general population growth, the numbers of children and young people in Auckland continues to increase. For example, during the seven year period between the 2006 and 2013 censuses, the number of children and young people living in Auckland increased by 19,875 (4.1%, compared with 8.5% population growth overall). Growth was particularly strong in the numbers of children aged 0 to 4 years (8.8%) and those aged 20 to 24 years (9.2%), as shown in Table 1 below.<sup>1</sup>

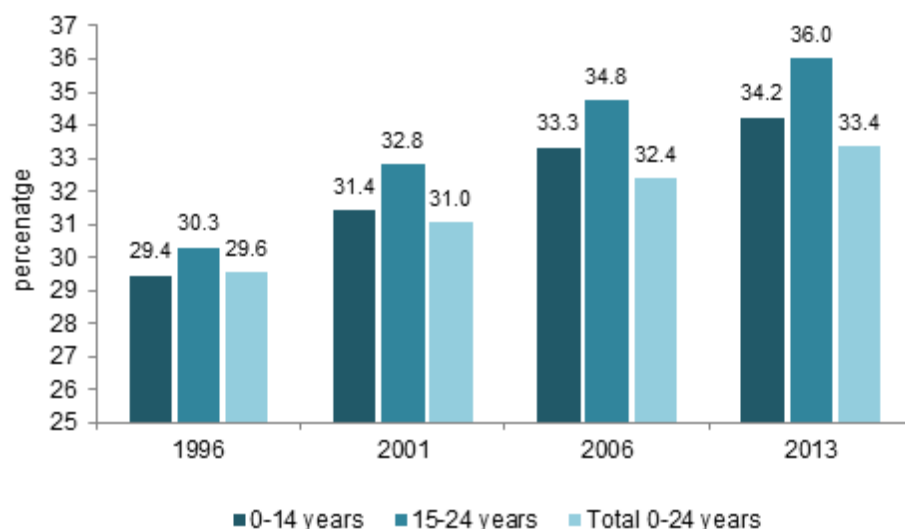
**Table 1: Number of children and young people in Auckland, by age group (2006 and 2013)**

	2006	2013	change 2006 to 2013	
	number	number	number	%
0–4 years	94,074	102,357	8283	8.8
5–9 years	95,328	97,590	2262	2.4
10–14 years	99,711	96,405	-3306	-3.3
15–19 years	99,444	102,918	3474	3.5
20–24 years	99,060	108,222	9162	9.2
Total children and young people	487,617	507,492	19,875	4.1
Total Auckland population	1,304,964	1,415,544	110,580	8.5

Auckland continues to be home to an increasing share of the New Zealand population, including children and young people, as shown in Figure 1. For example, in 1996, 29.6 per cent of all New Zealand children aged 0 to 14 years lived in Auckland – this reached 34.2 per cent by 2013.

<sup>1</sup> It is interesting to note that while the number of children aged 0 to 14 years increased by 7239 in Auckland during the period between the 2006 and 2013 censuses, there was an overall decrease nationally in this age group (dropping from 867,576 in 2006 to 865,632 in 2013). Most regions in New Zealand experienced a decrease in the numbers of children with the exception of Auckland, Waikato, Taranaki, Nelson and Otago. This was mostly driven by a decrease in the numbers aged between 10 and 14 years (all regions recorded fewer children in this age group, including Auckland).

**Figure 1: Percentage of New Zealand children and young people who live in Auckland (1996, 2001, 2006, 2013)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings

## 2.2 Numbers of children and young people will increase

In future decades, the number of children and young people living in Auckland is expected to increase, driven by Auckland's generally youthful age structure, in-migration from other parts of New Zealand and overseas, and the relatively high fertility rates of the Pacific and Māori populations.

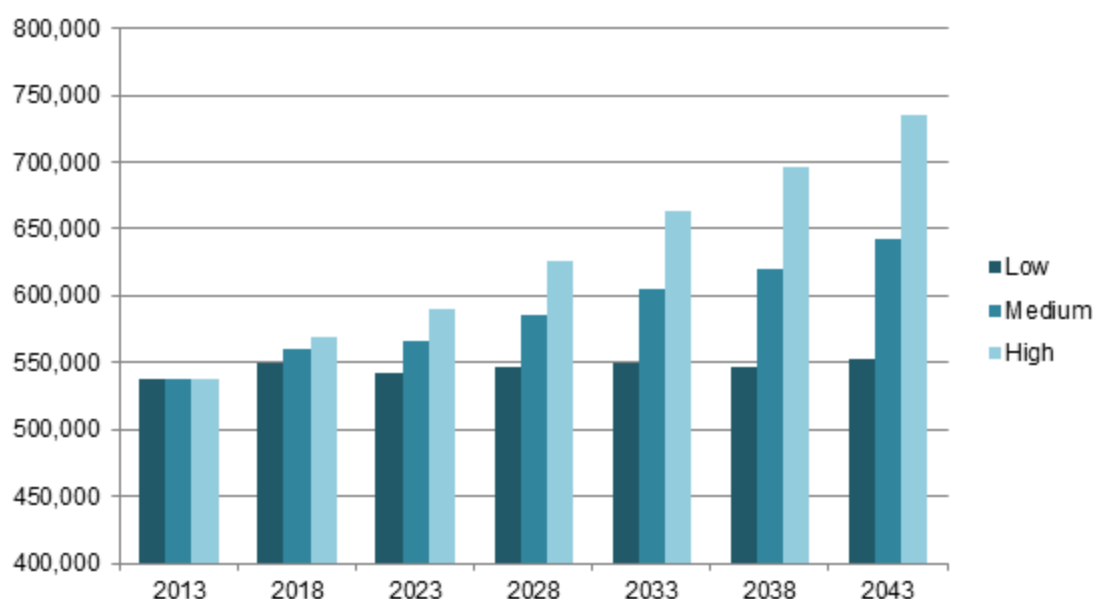
Statistics New Zealand population projections (medium series) suggest that the number of children and young people may reach 641,810 by 2043, representing a 26.5 per cent increase over the 2013 numbers (refer to Figure 2).

However, the proportion of Auckland's population who are children and young people is expected to decrease, from 35.9 per cent in 2013 to 28.8 per cent by 2043, as a result of the broader demographic trend of population ageing.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the rate of growth in the numbers of children and young people in Auckland is not anticipated to be as rapid as the rate of growth in the numbers of older people in the next 2 or 3 decades (Statistics New Zealand, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> 'Population ageing' refers to a well-recognised and long-term demographic trend occurring nationally and in many other countries with developed economies. It is caused by a gradual transition from historically high birth and death rates to lower birth and death rates. As people live longer and fertility rates decline, there will be numerically and proportionately more people in older age groups over the next few decades. In addition, the 'baby boom' cohort is beginning to enter older age groups which will exacerbate the effects of population ageing. The overall age structure of main centres such as Auckland are not expected to be severely affected by population ageing as quickly or as much as non-urban New Zealand (Jackson, 2011).



**Figure 2: Projected numbers of children and young people in Auckland (2013 to 2043)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, sub-national population projections

## 2.3 A quarter live in the Southern Initiative area

The proportion of local communities who are children and young people varies significantly across Auckland's 21 local board areas.

As Table 2 shows, in 2013, the local board areas with the greatest numbers of children and young people were Howick (43,200) and Henderson-Massey (40,530). This is perhaps in line with their relative population size overall – Howick has by far the largest population (127,125 residents in 2013).

The four local board areas that constitute the 'Southern Initiative' area had the highest proportions of children and young people.<sup>3</sup> These four areas are Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (45.4%), followed by Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Manurewa (both 43.2%), and Papakura (39.2%). In addition, Henderson-Massey also had a relatively high proportion of children and young people (37.6%). This is a result of a combination of factors, including concentrations of Māori and Pacific peoples living in these areas (both groups have relatively high fertility rates and larger families) and fewer people at older ages. Altogether, almost a quarter (23.3%) of Auckland's children and young people lived in the Southern Initiative area.

It is worth noting that while not otherwise an overly youthful local board area, 23.3 per cent of the Waitematā local board area consists of young people aged 15 to 24 years. This will be due to large student populations living in the city centre area.

<sup>3</sup> The Southern Initiative is one of two big place-based initiatives in the Auckland Plan. It covers the four neighbouring local board areas of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Papakura. Together these cover an area of Auckland with significant economic opportunity yet high social need. The purpose of the Southern Initiative is to plan and deliver a long-term programme of coordinated investment and actions to bring about transformational social, economic and physical change.

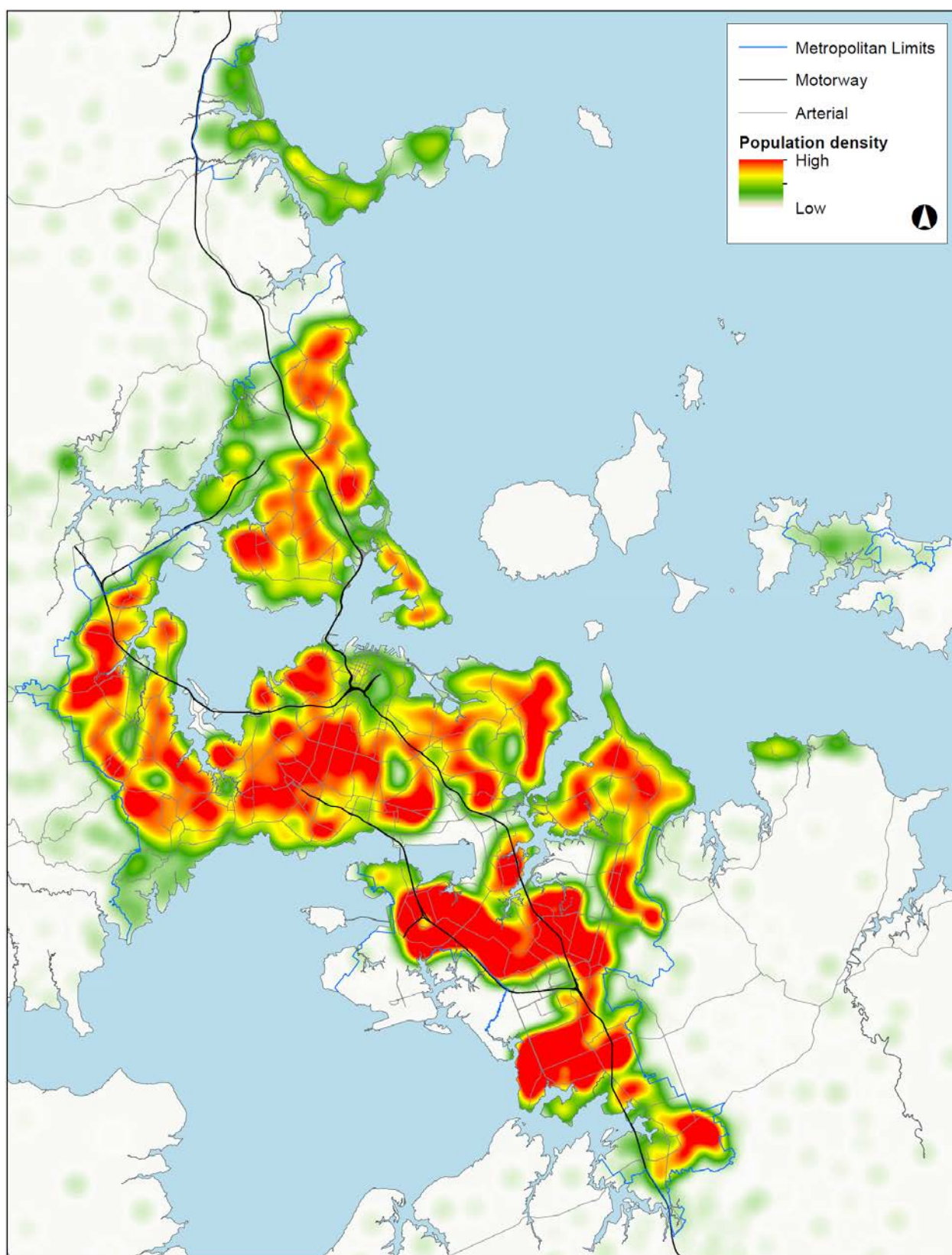
**Table 2: Children and young people, by local board area (2013)**

Local board area	Number			Proportion of total local board area population		
	0-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	0-24 yrs total	0-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	0-24 yrs total
Rodney	11,415	6066	17,481	20.8	11.1	31.9
Hibiscus and Bays	17,004	11,580	28,584	18.9	12.9	31.8
Upper Harbour	10,596	8322	18,918	19.7	15.5	35.2
Kaipātiki	15,996	11,646	27,642	19.4	14.1	33.5
Devonport-Takapuna	10,284	7689	17,973	18.5	13.9	32.4
Henderson-Massey	24,924	15,606	40,530	23.1	14.5	37.6
Waitākere Ranges	11,004	6312	17,316	22.7	13.0	35.8
Great Barrier	147	30	177	15.7	3.2	18.8
Waiheke	1467	747	2214	17.6	9.0	26.6
Waitematā	7881	17,937	25,818	10.2	23.3	33.5
Whau	14,511	10,707	25,218	20.0	14.7	34.7
Albert-Eden	17,862	15,276	33,138	18.9	16.1	35.0
Puketāpapa	10,032	8841	18,873	19.0	16.7	35.7
Ōrākei	15,339	9486	24,825	19.3	11.9	31.2
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	15,156	9588	24,744	21.6	13.7	35.3
Howick	25,194	18,006	43,200	19.8	14.2	34.0
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	19,968	12,249	32,217	28.1	17.3	45.4
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	19,602	13,116	32,718	25.9	17.3	43.2
Manurewa	22,188	13,353	35,541	27.0	16.2	43.2
Papakura	11,139	6735	17,874	24.4	14.8	39.2
Franklin	14,634	7845	22,479	22.4	12.0	34.4
<b>Auckland total</b>	<b>296,352</b>	<b>211,140</b>	<b>507,492</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>35.9</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings

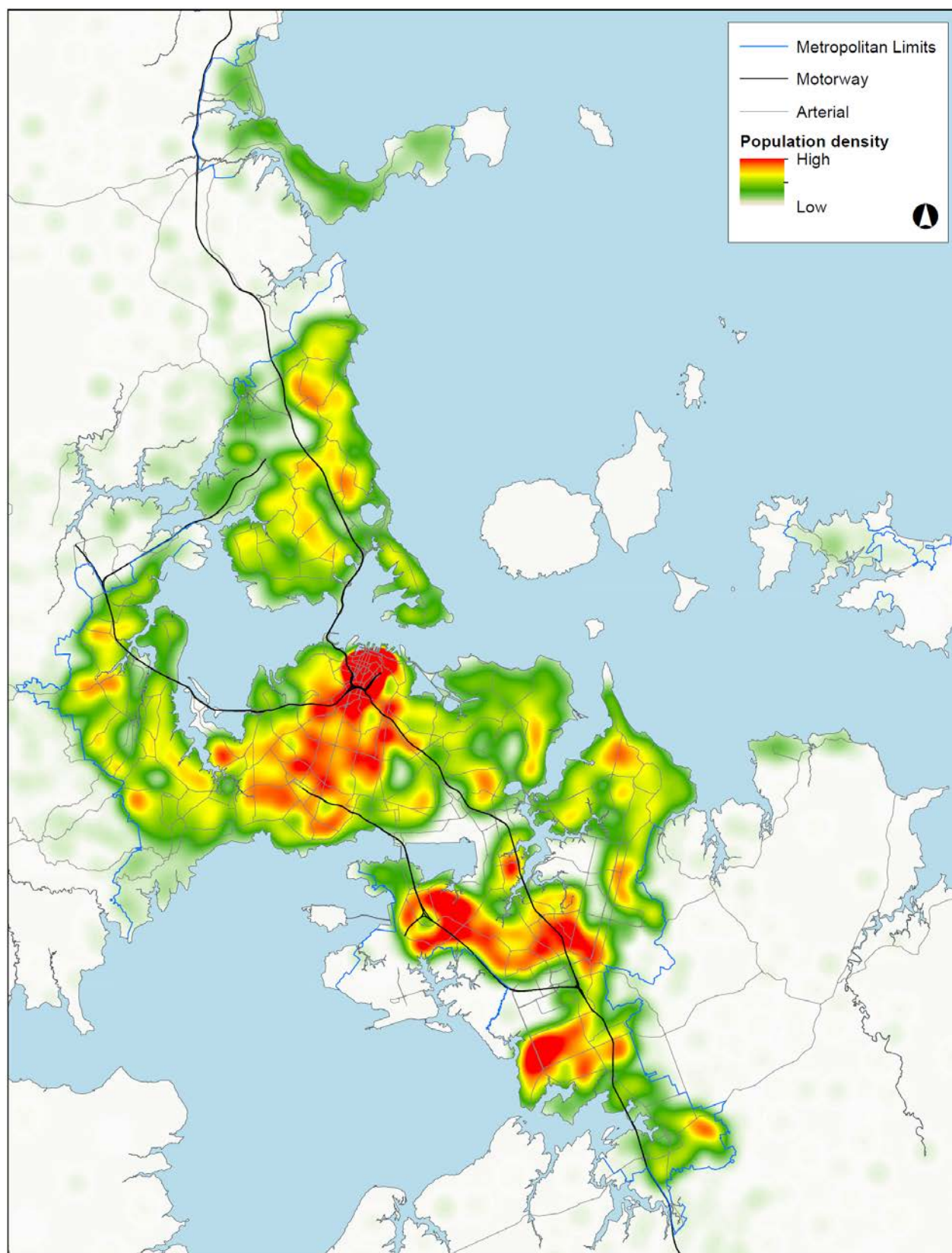
The following maps (Figures 3 and 4) show the locations in Auckland's urban area where children aged 0 to 14 and young people aged 15 to 24 years are found at relatively higher concentrations. As Figure 3 illustrates, children are relatively well distributed across the urban area, but are found at particularly high concentrations in the south. Figure 4 shows a concentration of young people in the city centre, reflecting the high numbers of student populations associated with tertiary education institutions located there.

**Figure 3: Population heat map of children (0 - 14 years) for Auckland's Urban Area (2013)**



Density calculations undertaken using 2013 Census meshblock centroids and population counts sourced from Statistics New Zealand.

**Figure 4: Population heat map of young people (15 - 24 years) for Auckland's Urban Area (2013)**



Density calculations undertaken using 2013 Census meshblock centroids and population counts sourced from Statistics New Zealand.



## 3.0 Ethnic and Cultural Diversity

Aucklanders are ethnically and culturally diverse, and this is especially true among the city's younger residents.

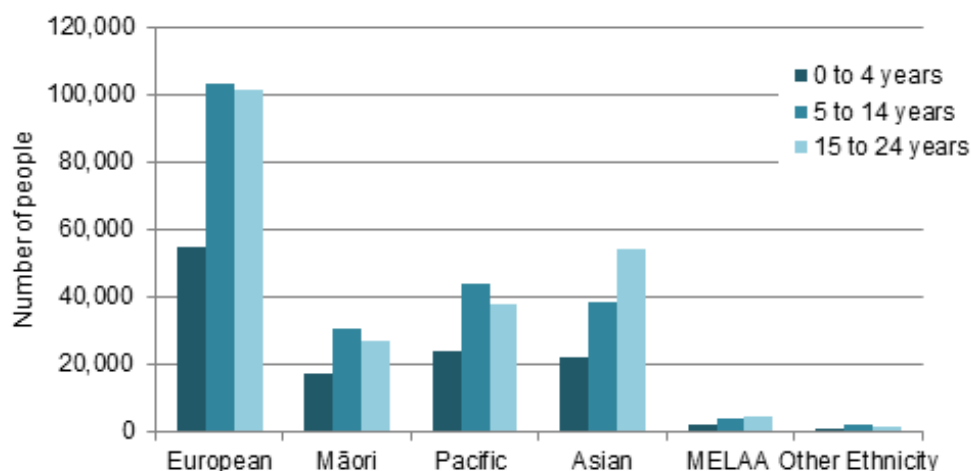
### 3.1 Just over half are European

In 2013, just over half of those aged 0 to 24 years were in the broad European ethnic category (259,026 people or 54.3%). The next largest group were those classified under the broad Asian category (24.2%), followed by Pacific (22.1%) and Māori (15.7%). The Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) group combined to 2.2 per cent of this age group overall.

Figure 5 below shows this in more detail across each age group. It indicates that diversity is more pronounced among younger age groups, particularly those aged under 5 years.

It should be noted that children and young people could identify, or be identified by their parents, as belonging to more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive.

**Figure 5: Number of people in each ethnic group, by age group (2013)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

Notes: MELAA stands for Middle Eastern, Latin American and African.

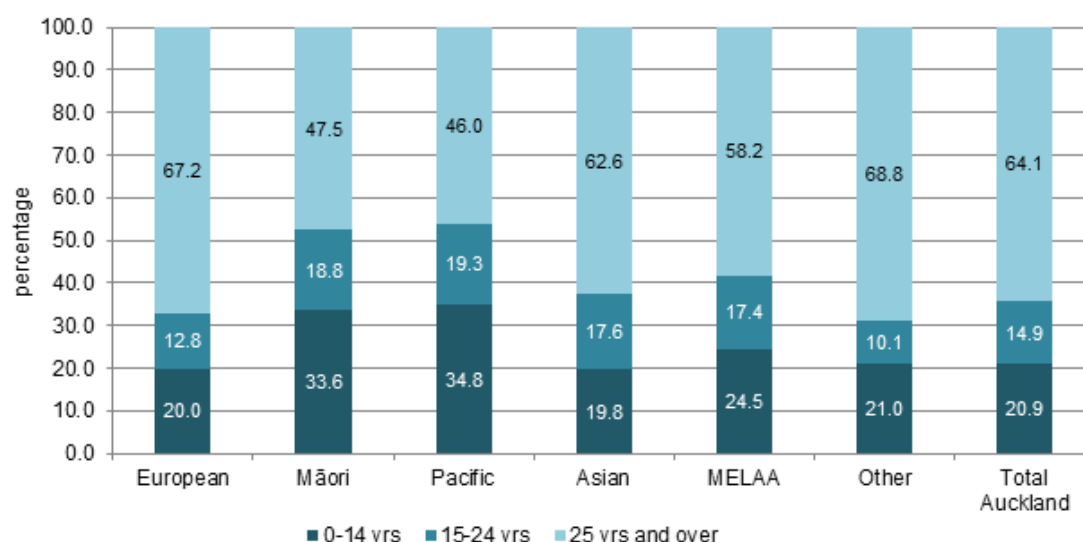
People could identify with more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive.

While numerically there are greater numbers of European children and young people in Auckland compared to other ethnic groupings, some ethnic groups, particularly Pacific and Māori, have relatively high proportions of children and young people. As Figure 6 reveals, in 2013 over half of all those who identified as belonging to a Pacific ethnicity (54.0%) or as Māori (52.5%) in Auckland were children and young people, compared with 35.9 per cent for Auckland overall.



High proportions of Auckland's Māori and Pacific children and young people live in the Southern Initiative area. In 2013, just over a third (37.9%) of Auckland's Māori children and young people and over half (53.4%) of Auckland's Pacific children and young people lived in this area, compared with 11.4 per cent of European and 18.4 per cent of Asian children and young people.

**Figure 6: Proportion of ethnic group who were children and young people (2013)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

Notes: MELAA stands for Middle Eastern, Latin American and African.

People could identify with more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive.

### 3.2 Significant increase in numbers of Asian children and young people

There has been an increase in the number of children and young people in all main ethnic groupings over the last three censuses, in line with general population trends. Although the number of children and young people who identified with a European ethnicity increased since 2001, their proportionate share has dropped from 61.1 per cent in 2001, to 50.8 per cent in 2006 and 54.3 per cent in 2013 (refer to Table 3).

There has been a significant increase in the numbers of Asian children and young people from 66,996 in 2001 to 115,002 in 2013. Table 3 also indicates a rise in the number who identified with an 'Other' ethnicity between 2001 and 2006, and a subsequent drop between 2006 and 2013. This may be partially related to a substantial drop in the numbers who identified as 'New Zealander'.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Across the total Auckland population, almost all 'Other' responses in 2006 and 2013 were 'New Zealander'. However, the numbers of 'New Zealander' responses declined between 2006 and 2013 (a high number were recorded in the 2006 Census following an email campaign and public discussion in the lead up to the census). This was also a national trend.

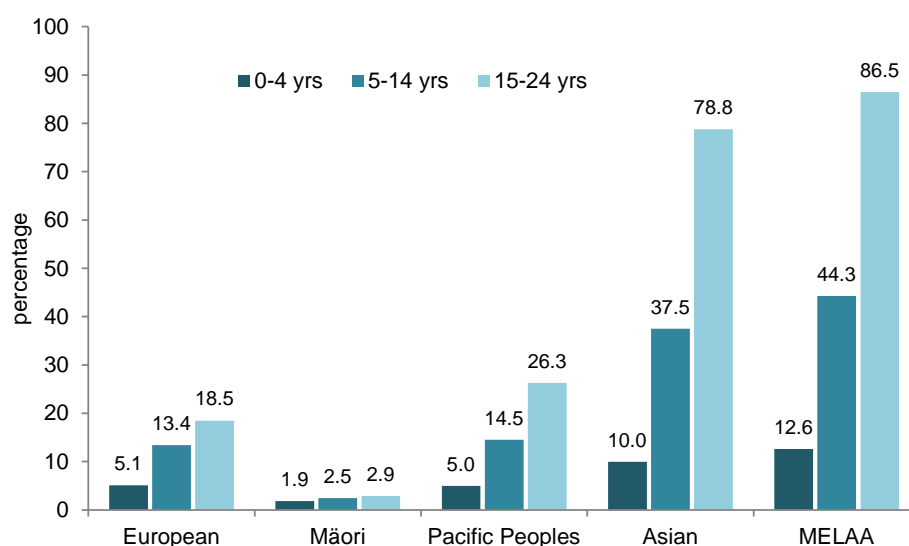
**Table 3: Ethnicity of Auckland children and young people (2001, 2006, 2013)**

	2001	2006	2013	2001	2006	2013
	number			percentage		
European	252,768	235,473	259,029	61.1	50.8	54.3
Māori	69,984	73,713	74,919	16.9	15.9	15.7
Pacific peoples	86,391	98,034	105,327	20.9	21.2	22.1
Asian	66,996	99,657	115,002	16.2	21.5	24.1
MELAA	6168	8406	10,431	1.5	1.8	2.2
Other	117	29,541	4875	0.0	6.4	1.0
<b>Total stated</b>	<b>413,970</b>	<b>463,158</b>	<b>476,598</b>			

### 3.3 Almost a quarter born overseas

In 2013, almost one quarter (115,464 people or 24.4%) of Auckland's children and young people were born overseas. The majority (63.9%) of the overseas-born were young people aged 15 to 24 years. Most (85.0%) children aged 0 to 14 years were born in New Zealand.

The patterns of birthplace across main ethnic groups relate to broader patterns of migration to and from New Zealand. As Figure 7 shows, relatively high proportions of children and young people who identified with an ethnicity in the broad Asian or MELAA groups were born overseas. This was particularly pronounced among young people aged 15 to 24 years – almost all MELAA young people were born overseas (86.5%). A relatively high proportion (26.3%) of Pacific young people were born overseas.

**Figure 7: Proportion of ethnic group who were born overseas, by age group (2013)**

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

Notes: MELAA stands for Middle Eastern, Latin American and African.

People could identify with more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive.

## 4.0 Family Households

This broad age group from 0 to 24 years spans several life stages, from early years living at home with families and whānau, as well as the period where many young people leave home, and some may start their own families.

In the census, information is collected on the relationships between people living in private dwellings. Statistics New Zealand uses this to produce information about families and households. The Statistics New Zealand definition of a 'family' is two or more people living in the same household, who are either a couple, with or without children, or one parent and their children. A 'child' in a family is someone of any age who lives with their parent(s) and who does not have a partner or children of their own living in the same household. A 'dependent' child refers to people aged up to 18 years, living in a family situation and not employed full-time.

### 4.1 A quarter of families with dependent children were sole parent

In 2013, there was a total of 183,084 family households in Auckland with at least one dependent child (with or without additional adult children aged 18 or over). Three quarters of these family households were couples with children (136,377 families) and a quarter were one parent families (46,707). The majority of the families (154,161, or 84.2%) had dependent children aged under 18 only living with them (114,924 were couples and 39,237 were one parent families).

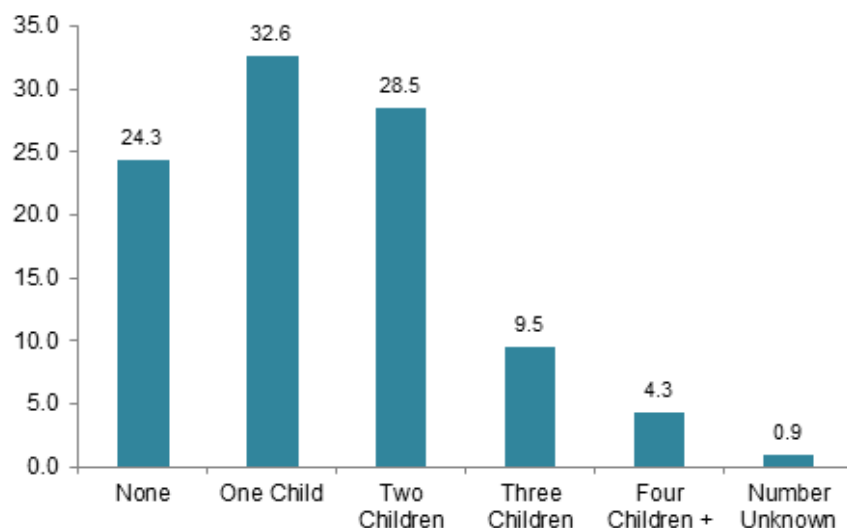
The frequency of sole-parenthood is significant because children in sole-parent families are more likely to experience poverty than those with two parents (Children's Commissioner Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty, 2012). According to the 2013 Census, in New Zealand, 84.2 per cent of sole-parent families were headed by women (Dwyer, 2015). Dwyer examines the factors that make it particularly challenging for sole-parents to escape from poverty, arguing that gender bias is a contributing factor. In particular, she finds that 'having sole charge of a young child or children is a barrier to education, work and other activities' and that the impact of this on sole parents, who are mostly women, is overlooked in a range of education, employment, income and childcare policies (Dwyer, 2015:20).<sup>5</sup>

It is interesting to note that while the overall number of one-parent families in Auckland increased in the seven-year period between 2006 and 2013 by 7.5 per cent, there was a relatively small increase in the numbers of sole parent families with dependent children only (309 families or 0.8% growth). Most of the growth was in families with adult child(ren) only.

<sup>5</sup> As she explains, 'for too many there is no visible pathway into decent work and off the benefit' (Dwyer, 2015: 23). An example of this includes government policies in place to support people to obtain, or advance, their educational credentials and therefore secure higher earnings in the labour market. Dwyer finds that supports that are available are most suitable for those who can enrol in full-time training opportunities and are less helpful for those seeking part-time studies, as would be the case for sole-parents with children to care for. Dwyer also identifies the negative impact of the 'Better Public Service goal of reducing long-term welfare dependency' (2015:23). The result of this policy aim tends to be restricted access to benefits but there is no monitoring in place to ensure sole parents are securing adequate total incomes with less welfare support.

At the 2013 Census most (61.1%) families in Auckland with dependent children aged 18 and under had one or two children living at home, while 9.5 per cent had three and 4.3 per cent had four or more. Figure 8 shows the proportion of families (both couples and sole-parents) with children by number of dependent children aged 18 and under.

**Figure 8: Proportion of families with children by number of dependent children (2013)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

## 4.2 Teenage birth rates are declining

Many young people are parents themselves. In 2013, the census recorded 11,442 parents aged under 25 living in families with dependent children – of this group 43.1 per cent (4932) stated they were in one parent family households.

Auckland, Wellington and Canterbury regions, along with the rest of the South Island, had teenage birth rates well below the national average.

Analysis of birth registration data undertaken by the University of Waikato for the Families Commission found that there has been a steady decline in the birth rates among teenagers in New Zealand since 2002, in line with broader international trends (National Institute for Demographic and Economic Analysis, 2015). The authors found that nationally, the decline in teenage fertility is greatest for younger teenagers aged under 17 years. They also found that the Māori teenage birth rate is higher than the national rate, but both rates are declining, and the gap between them is narrowing. Factors influencing these trends are likely the increased use of contraception as well as a reported decline in sexual activity amongst young people (National Institute for Demographic and Economic Analysis, 2015).

## 5.0 Education

There are clear and strong links between children and young people's achievement and engagement in the formal education system and their future prospects for employment, skills development and participation in life-long learning. Levels of formal education attained at secondary school are related to labour force status and income levels later in life. Those who leave school early with few qualifications are at a much greater risk of unemployment or vulnerability in the labour force.

The engagement and educational achievements of Māori and Pacific children and young people is a particular strategic focus for the Ministry of Education (MoE). The MoE maintains a comprehensive system of monitoring and tracking educational achievement across New Zealand, from early childhood education through to formal achievement at school, as well as home schooling, much of which is freely available on their 'Education Counts' website.<sup>6</sup>

### 5.1 Relatively high rates of participation in early childhood education

Participation in high quality early childhood education (ECE) has significant benefits for children and their future learning ability. The Centre for the Developing Child at Harvard University identifies high quality ECE as encompassing a combination of some of the following characteristics:

- highly skilled teachers
- small class sizes and high adult-to-child ratios
- age-appropriate curricula and stimulating materials in a safe physical setting
- a language-rich environment
- warm, responsive interactions between staff and children
- high and consistent levels of child participation (2007:4).

The majority of children in Auckland (95.2%) take part in ECE, although the rates for Pacific and Māori children are a little lower than for other groups. At March 2015, 91.9 per cent of Māori, 89.5 per cent of Pacific, 97.7 per cent of Asian and 98.6 per cent of European/Pākehā children in Auckland were engaged in early childhood education prior to enrolling in school (Ministry of Education, 2015).

ECE participation has been identified as a key factor in supporting vulnerable children by the New Zealand Government, which led to its inclusion in the Better Public Services targets, launched in 2012. The target for 2016 was that 98 per cent of children starting school will have participated in quality early childhood education (ECE). To help achieve this target, the Ministry has created several participation initiatives that make it easier for families to find an ECE service they like that meets their needs. It has also set up the Early Learning Taskforce, who work with communities to help more children participate in early learning (Ministry of Education, 2016). Consequently, there have been steady rises in ECE

<sup>6</sup> [www.educationcounts.govt.nz](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz)



participation rates in Auckland and across New Zealand since 2012. In addition, the time that children spend in ECE per week has been increasing.<sup>7</sup>

Although Māori and Pacific children continue to be the least likely to attend ECE, participation rates among these groups have experienced significant gains since 2012, which may reflect the impact of participation initiatives introduced since 2010. The ECE Participation Programme was introduced in 2010 to improve participation in ECE, by targeting specific local areas where participation is low. This programme is made up of various initiatives that aim to support Māori, Pasifika, and low-income families to enrol their children in ECE.<sup>8</sup>

## **5.2 A quarter of Auckland children are enrolled in low-decile schools**

In 2015 there were approximately 546 schools in Auckland, including 404 primary, 92 secondary, 35 composite and 15 special schools, and a total of 266,105 children and young people enrolled in schools. Just over a third (34.3%) of all children and young people enrolled in school in New Zealand attend school in Auckland.

The MoE targets funding to state and state integrated schools through a decile rating system. A school's decile rating is a measure of the socio-economic position of the school's student community relative to other schools throughout the country. Decile 1 schools are the 10 per cent of schools nationally with the highest proportion of students from low socio-economic communities, and decile 10 schools are the 10 per cent of schools that have students from the highest socio-economic communities nationally. The distribution of Auckland students across school deciles as at June 2015 is shown in Figure 9. As it indicates, while relatively large proportions were attending higher decile schools (rated 9 or 10), over a quarter (29.4%, or 76,755 students) were attending low decile schools (rated 1, 2 or 3).

Auckland has a disproportionate share of decile 1 schools. In 2015, 21.5 per cent of all schools in New Zealand were in Auckland (546 out of 2,538), however 31.5 per cent of all decile 1 schools in New Zealand (91 out of 289 decile 1 schools) were in Auckland. The proportion of national decile 1 schools that are in Auckland has increased since the recent recalculation in decile ratings by the MoE.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> For more information visit the Ministry of Education's Education Counts website:

<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/indicators/main/student-engagement-participation/1923>

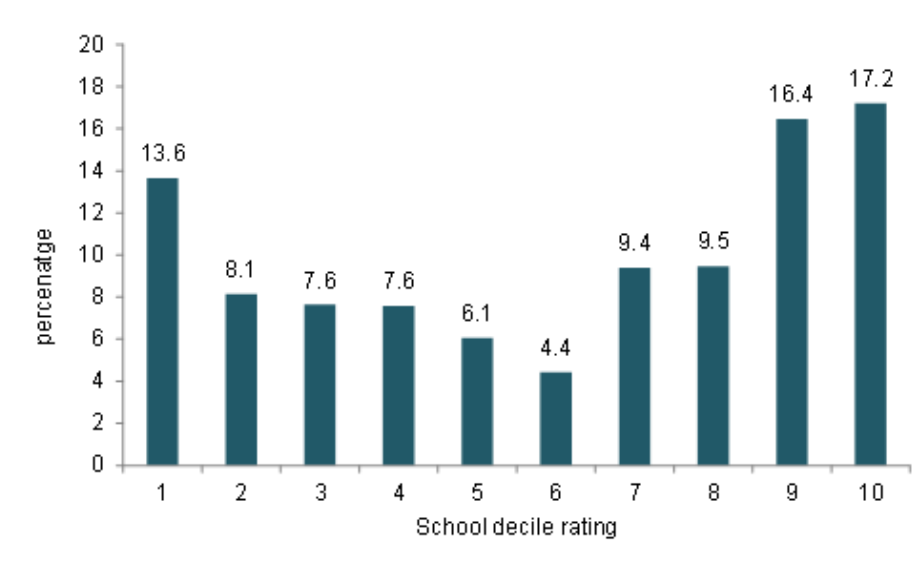
<sup>8</sup> To find out more about this programme, refer to <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/ECE/ece-participation-programme-evaluation>

<sup>9</sup> The Ministry of Education recalculates deciles for all schools following the Census of Population and Dwellings, and therefore decile ratings changed in 2014. This means that some schools in Auckland will have moved to a lower decile while others will have moved to a higher decile, or will have experienced no change. This of course has flow-on effects for the amount of funding that the schools receive from the Ministry of Education. The changes in decile ratings, along with other factors such as general population change in school age cohorts, has resulted in a substantial increase in the numbers of children enrolled in decile 1, 2 or 3 schools in Auckland in the period between 1 July 2014 and 1 July 2015 (an increase of 9126), whereas there was a corresponding decrease in students enrolled in schools rated 8, 9 or 10 (11,793 fewer).

For more information on school deciles refer to the Ministry of Education website.

<http://www.education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/resourcing/operational-funding/school-decile-ratings/>

**Figure 9: Proportion of Auckland students enrolled in schools, by school decile (2015)**



Source: Ministry of Education, School roll data.

Māori and Pacific children are more likely than others to attend low-decile schools. As of July 1 2015, approximately 71 per cent of Auckland's Pacific students and 50 per cent of Māori students attended decile 1,2 or 3 schools (this includes primary and secondary schools), compared to only 6 per cent of European/Pākehā students<sup>10</sup>.

The Tertiary Education Commission finds that across the school deciles, a larger proportion of high decile school leavers are engaging in provider based tertiary education (that is, tertiary education that occurs on-campus rather than in the workplace), while a larger proportion of low decile school leavers are studying through industry training and school-based vocational education programmes (TEC, 2010). The report concludes that while school achievement has a direct impact, 'the socio-economic impact on the individual's tertiary education choices are important to the understanding of not only how and what tertiary participation looks like but what progression and success looks like once they get there' (TEC, 2010:22).

### **5.3 Gradual increase in levels of formal educational achievement**

A formal school qualification is a measure of the extent to which young adults have completed a basic prerequisite for higher education and training and many entry-level jobs. The main qualification available to secondary school students is the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA), which encompasses a wide range of learning.<sup>11</sup> NCEA enables students to undertake multi-level study to attain credits, perhaps at different levels in any one year, towards an NCEA qualification. Students can attain credits through internal and external assessment, and they can accumulate these credits both within and across

<sup>10</sup> For this data, reported ethnicity is prioritised in the order of Māori, Pacific, Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA), other groups except European/Pākehā, and European/Pākehā.

<sup>11</sup> Some secondary schools in New Zealand have chosen to also offer their students the choice of Cambridge International Examinations or the International Baccalaureate alongside NCEA.

years. Future educational and job prospects will be limited for those who leave school without Level 2 NCEA.<sup>12</sup>

In 2014, a total of 20,308 young people left school in Auckland. Of this group, 81.6 per cent had achieved NCEA Level 2 (or equivalent) or above – up 2.1 per cent from the previous year. Almost half (46.2%) had attained University Entrance standard (see Table 4).

Table 4 also shows that there has been a gradual increase overall in the numbers and proportions of young people leaving school in Auckland with Level 3 or higher qualifications (including University Entrance), for example increasing from 47.3 per cent in 2010 to 57.7 per cent in 2014.

**Table 4: Highest educational qualification attainment by Auckland school leavers (2010, 2012, 2014)**

	<b>2010 (n=20,135)</b>	<b>2012 (n=19,927)</b>	<b>2014 (n=20,308)</b>
University Entrance standard	43.0	48.0	46.1
Level 3 qualification or higher	6.3	7.8	12.0
Halfway to a Level 3 qualification	11.3	10.6	11.0
Level 2 qualification	13.5	12.5	12.6
Halfway to a Level 2 qualification	6.9	5.2	4.7
Level 1 qualification	3.9	3.6	3.4
Halfway to a Level 1 qualification	5.3	3.7	3.3
Less than halfway to a Level 1 qualification (with at least 14 credits)	4.0	3.5	2.6
Little or no formal attainment	5.6	5.0	4.4
<b>Total leavers</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Education, School leaver data.

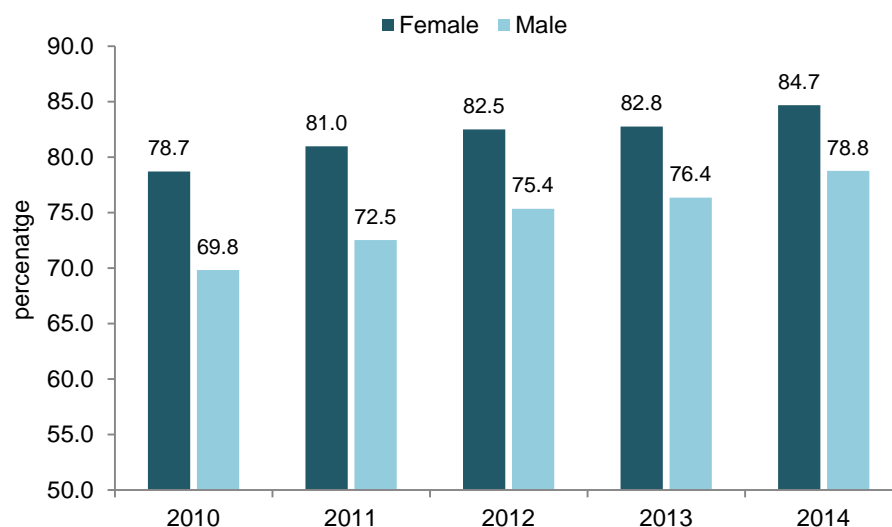
## 5.4 Significant differences in educational achievement across ethnic groups

There are substantial differences in formal school achievement across gender and ethnic groups, and across different parts of Auckland.

In 2014, higher proportions of female school leavers had achieved at least a NCEA Level 2 or equivalent than males (84.7% compared with 78.9%). This trend has been in evidence for a while, as Figure 10 shows. It also shows that overall, levels of attainment among school leavers has been increasing for both genders, and levels of educational achievement among male school leavers are increasing at a faster rate than females.

<sup>12</sup> Wording taken from Ministry of Education website.  
<http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/indicators/main/education-and-learning-outcomes/1781>

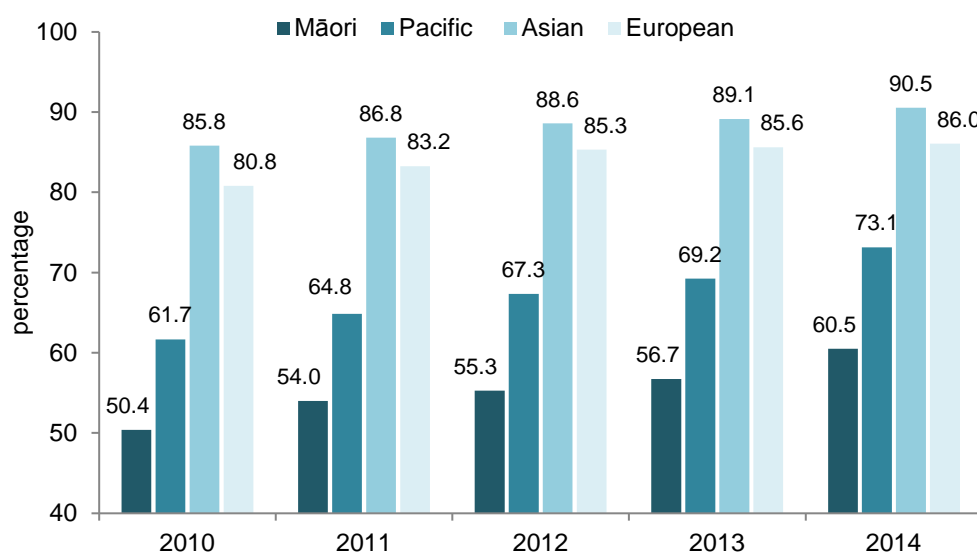
**Figure 10: Proportion of Auckland school leavers who had gained NCEA Level 2 or above, by gender (2010 to 2014)**



Source: Ministry of Education, School leaver data.

As Figure 11 indicates, rates of formal educational achievement vary significantly across the different ethnic groups. In 2014, 60.5 per cent of Māori, 73.1 per cent of Pacific, 86.0 per cent of European/Pākehā and 90.5 per cent of Asian school leavers in Auckland qualified for NCEA Level 2 or equivalent. Again, this pattern has been evident for some time, and although levels of educational attainment are increasing across all groups, particularly among Māori and Pacific, these differences remain.

**Figure 11: Proportion of Auckland school leavers who had gained NCEA Level 2 or above, by ethnicity (2010 to 2014)**



Source: Ministry of Education, School leaver data

Note: Students could belong to more than one ethnic group so percentages may total more than 100.

## 5.5 Improvements in attainment in the Southern Initiative area

Significant proportions of Auckland's Māori and Pacific school leavers are from schools in the Southern Initiative area – in 2014, the Southern Initiative area accounted for over a third (38.1 %) of all Māori school leavers and almost half (46.6%) of all Pacific school leavers (overall, 21.5 %) of school leavers were from schools in this area).

In the Southern Initiative, relatively large proportions of Māori and Pacific young people are leaving school with low, or no, qualifications, when compared with other ethnic groups, and compared to school leavers from other areas. For example, in 2014, a third (33.0%) of Māori school leavers left school without NCEA Level 1, as did 19 per cent of Pacific students. These figures are an improvement on previous years, however, particularly among Māori school leavers.<sup>13</sup>

**Table 5: School leaver attainment among school leavers from schools in the Southern Initiative and Auckland, by ethnicity (2014) (%)**

	<b>Below NCEA Level 1</b>	<b>Level 1 and working towards Level 2</b>	<b>NCEA Level 2 or above</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Southern Initiative</b>				
Māori	33	17	50	100
Pacific	19	12	69	100
Other ethnicities	11	10	79	100
Total	19	12	69	100
<b>Rest of Auckland</b>				
Māori	20	13	67	100
Pacific	13	9	77	100
Other ethnicities	6	6	88	100
Total	8	7	85	100

Source: Wilson, Reid and Bishop (2016), using Ministry of Education data.

Note students could belong to more than one ethnic group.

## 5.6 Youth Guarantee has made a difference

Tertiary education plays a central role in equipping young people with the key employability skills and qualifications they need to begin a career (New Zealand Government, 2014).

The tertiary education system in New Zealand includes multiple forms of post-secondary school education and training and is open to adults of all ages. Auckland is a major centre of tertiary education and training and is home to many tertiary education organisations including universities, institutes of technology and polytechnics, wānanga,<sup>14</sup> private training

<sup>13</sup> This is an indicator of progress against an educational target for young people living in the Southern Initiative, as outlined in the Auckland Plan. Refer to Wilson, Reid and Bishop (2016) for further details.

<sup>14</sup> Wānanga are recognised as tertiary institutions under section 162 of the Education Act 1989. As such, wānanga are regarded as the peers of universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education. Under the Act, a



establishments, industry training organisations, and various other organisations including adult and community education providers. Auckland experiences substantial in-migration from other parts of New Zealand, as well as from overseas, of young people who wish to take up educational and training opportunities. The 2013 Census recorded 171,108 young people aged 15 to 24 in Auckland who were engaged in study. Three quarters (76.1%) were engaged in full time study.

The New Zealand Government's *Tertiary Education Strategy 2014-2019* sets out the Government's long-term strategic direction for tertiary education. It notes that as New Zealand's economy moves out of the global financial crisis, employers are finding it difficult to attract people with an appropriate range of both specific and transferable skills (New Zealand Government, 2014). The challenge for the tertiary education system is to retain the recent increased focus on student achievement while doing more to help students and their families, and those in need of up-skilling or re-skilling, to make informed study choices. The strategy also includes a specific priority to 'get at-risk young people into a career'. In recent years the government has supported increased participation in tertiary education through providing better information to support young people's career choices, and through interventions such as the Youth Guarantee<sup>15</sup>.

Nationally, tertiary education providers that delivered Youth Guarantee in 2010 and 2011 saw significant performance improvements from the learners in these programmes in 2012, including improved rates of course completion (from 63% in 2010 to 70% in 2012) and qualification completion (from 48% in 2010 to 64% in 2012). These rates reflected substantial gains in performance for Māori and Pacific learners (ibid, 2014). The government notes however, that more needs to be done to reduce the number of young people not gaining the qualifications or work experience they need for a career. While the number of people aged 15-24 not in employment, education or training has decreased, a substantial number of young people are still at risk. As nearly all of the decrease has been in the under 20 age group, a greater focus is needed to improve education and employment outcomes for 20-24 year olds.<sup>16</sup>

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## 1.0

wānanga is characterised by teaching and research that maintains, advances, and disseminates knowledge and develops intellectual independence, and assists the application of knowledge regarding ahuatanga Māori (Māori tradition) according to tikanga Māori (Māori custom).

<sup>15</sup> The Youth Guarantee is intended to increase the educational achievement of 16 and 17 year olds by making the education system more responsive to their needs. It aims to provide learners with *more choices, ways and places* to achieve NCEA level 2 or equivalent. A number of initiatives were introduced in 2010 to support the objectives; these included fees-free tertiary courses, secondary-tertiary programmes and Manukau Institute of Technology's tertiary high school programme. <http://youthguarantee.net.nz/start-your-journey/about>

<sup>16</sup> See also the Tertiary Education Commission's *Briefing to the Incoming Minister 2014* for an overview of the tertiary sector in New Zealand, and brief discussion of the two central challenges facing the tertiary system, namely boosting the system's contribution to economic growth and supporting priority learners, especially Māori and Pasifika to successfully participate in the study levels and disciplines 'most likely to lead to better outcomes'.

## 6.0 Employment

Many young people in Auckland are engaged in work, paid and unpaid, part-time and full-time, dependent on their circumstances and the opportunities provided by the labour market. At the 2013 Census, 82,455 of those aged 15 to 24 years overall were paid employees (working one or more hours a week), over 2,406 were self-employed, 396 stated that they were employers and 1395 reported that they were unpaid family workers.

Young people were hit hard by the post-Global Financial Crisis recession and the difficult labour market conditions that followed it, both in Auckland, as in the rest of New Zealand. Given a choice, employers often prefer to hire, or keep on, more experienced workers over younger ones, and younger workers tend to have lower levels of qualifications. As a result, young people, along with Māori and Pacific communities, were disproportionately affected by the loss of lower-skilled jobs in Auckland from 2008 onwards (Wilson, 2014, see also McPherson, 2011).

This section discusses current work and labour force outcomes for people aged 15-19 and 20-24 separately, as there are differences in unemployment rates and labour force participation for the two age groups.

### 6.1 Decrease in labour force participation among 15 to 19 year olds

As most people aged 15 to 19 years tend to be completing secondary school qualifications and beginning tertiary study or training, those who are seeking work at this age are unlikely to have qualifications, skills or much work experience, contributing to low labour force participation rates (39.1% at the 2013 Census) and relatively high unemployment levels (30.5% at the 2013 Census).

In 2013, there were almost 38,000 young Aucklanders aged 15 to 19 in the labour force (see Table 6). This means they were either employed full-time or part-time, or they were unemployed and looking for work. It is interesting to note that although there was an increase in the numbers of those aged 15 to 19 years in Auckland between 2006 and 2013, economic conditions meant that labour force participation fell dramatically and the number who reported they were not in the labour force increased substantially during that time.

Among this age group, Pacific and Asian youth were least likely to be in the labour force (32.7% and 28.0% labour force participation respectively, compared with 42.4% for Māori and 47.3% for European), but Pacific and Māori had the highest unemployment rates (44.4% and 39.2% respectively). See Figure 12 and section 6.3 on youth unemployment for further details.

**Table 6: Work and labour force status for young Aucklanders aged 15 to 19 years (2006 and 2013)**

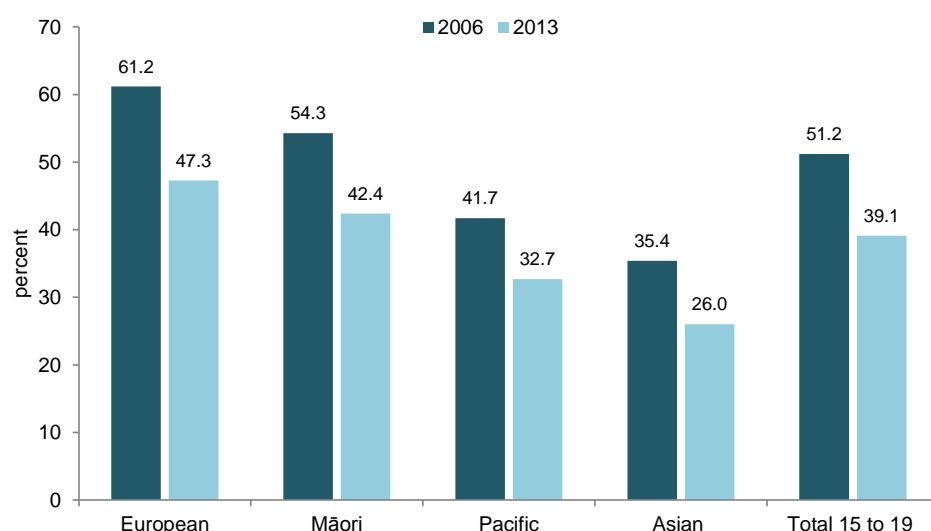
	2006		2013	
	Count	%	Count	%
Employed full-time	15,909	16.7	8,625	8.9
Employed part-time	23,043	24.1	17,757	18.3
Unemployed	9,879	10.4	11,574	11.9
Not in labour force	46,611	48.8	59,163	60.9
Total people stated	95,442	100.0	97,119	100.0
Work and labour force status unidentifiable	4,002		5,802	
Total people	99,444		102,921	
<i>Subtotals</i>				
Total people in labour force	48,831	51.2	37,956	39.1
Total people employed	38,952	40.8	26,382	27.2
<i>Unemployment rate</i> <sup>(2)</sup>		20.2		30.5

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

Notes:

- 1) A person's work and labour force status in the seven days ending 5 March 2006 and 3 March 2013.
- 2) The proportion of young adults in the labour force who are unemployed. The unemployment rate is calculated as a proportion of 'Total people in labour force'.

**Figure 12: Labour force participation rates among 15 to 19 year olds in Auckland, by ethnicity (2006 and 2013)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

Notes: People could choose more than one ethnicity and categories are not exclusive. Percentages will add to more than 100. Percentages exclude 'not elsewhere included' responses.

Just over two thirds (67.3%) of those aged 15 to 19 who were employed at the 2013 Census were employed part-time – particularly among those who identified with an Asian ethnicity (81.2%). The two most common occupational categories among this group were sales workers (31.9%), and labourers (19.4%). In 2013, one in four (25.2%) were employed as a part-time sales worker.

## 6.2 Decrease in full-time employment levels among 20 to 24 year olds

Labour force participation is generally higher among this group of young people as many will have completed their formal education and/or training.

In 2013, there were just over 74,000 young Aucklanders aged 20 to 24 in the labour force. This means they were either employed full-time or part-time, or they were unemployed and looking for work. Levels of labour force participation were relatively similar as they had been at 2006, although there was numerically and proportionately fewer people employed full-time, and a proportionate shift in numbers who were unemployed. Refer to Table 7 and section 6.3 on youth unemployment for more detail.

**Table 7: Work and labour force status for young Aucklanders aged 20 to 24 years (2013)**

	2006		2013	
	Count	%	Count	%
Employed full-time	46,491	49.7	44,046	43.7
Employed part-time	15,951	17.1	18,900	18.8
Unemployed	7,107	7.6	11,241	11.2
Not in labour force	23,946	25.6	26,559	26.4
Total people stated	93,495	100.0	100,746	100.0
Work and labour force status unidentifiable	5,565		7,476	
Total people	99,060		108,222	
<i>Subtotals</i>				
Total people in labour force	69,549	74.4	74,187	73.6
Total people employed	62,442	66.8	62,946	62.5
<i>Unemployment rate</i> <sup>(2)</sup>		10.2		15.2

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

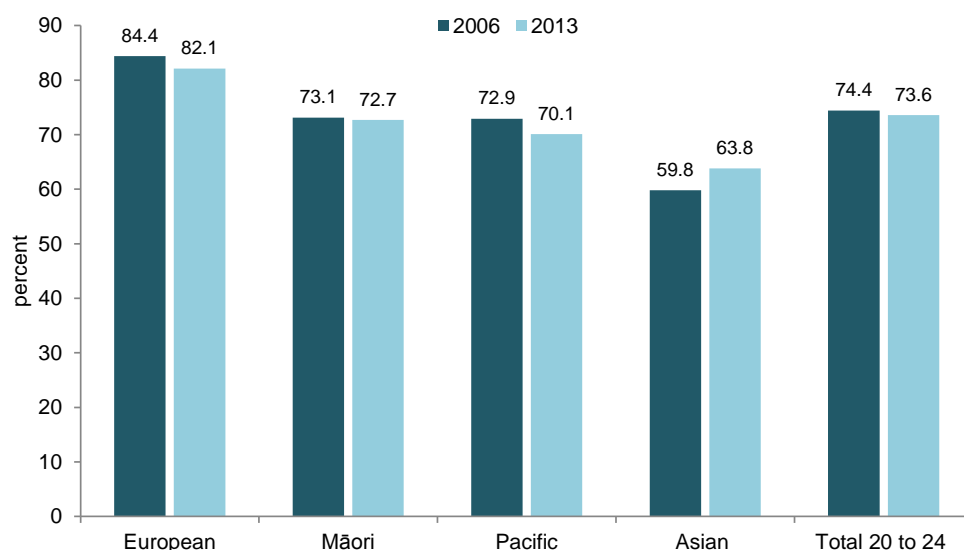
Notes:

- 1) A person's work and labour force status in the seven days ending 5 March 2006 and 3 March 2013.
- 2) The proportion of young adults in the labour force who are unemployed. The unemployment rate is calculated as a proportion of 'Total people in labour force'.

Levels of full-time employment were much higher among this group than the 15 to 19 year group. In 2013, 70.0 per cent of those aged 20 to 24 who were employed were full-time employed. Proportions of full-time employment were particularly high among Māori and Pacific young people (76.1% and 74.3% respectively).

Again, there were notable differences by ethnic groupings. Asian young people had the lowest labour force participation rate (63.8%) while the highest was among European (82.1%) (see Figure 13). Pacific and Māori young people had the highest unemployment rates (25.1% and 22.9% respectively, compared with 15.2% overall).

**Figure 13: Labour force participation rates among 20 to 24 year olds in Auckland, by ethnicity, 2006 and 2013**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

Notes:

MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American and African.

People could choose more than one ethnicity and categories are not exclusive. Percentages will add to more than 100.

Percentages exclude 'not elsewhere included' responses.

The two most common occupational categories among young people aged 20 to 24 were sales workers (20.1%), and professionals (18.3%).

There were also notable differences by local board area. As Table 8 indicates, labour force participation among 20 to 24 year olds was particularly high in the local board areas of Franklin, Rodney and Hibiscus and Bays (82.2%, 81.5% and 81.0% respectively), and lowest in Great Barrier, Waitematā and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (60.0%, 64.6% and 69.6%). The differences across local boards area even more stark when unemployment rates are observed – varying from 9.1 per cent in Ōrākei and 9.6 per cent in Rodney to 26.0 per cent in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and 22.3 per cent in Manurewa.

Table 8 also includes the proportion within the local 20 to 24 population who were not in the labour force as at the 2013 Census. People were defined as 'not in the labour force' if they were not employed and were not actively seeking work. This includes students, people caring for children or other family members, retired people, and people who were unable to work for some reason such as illness or disability.

**Table 8: Participation in the labour force for 20 to 24 year olds, by local board area (2013)**

Local board area	Total stated (number)	Labour force participation (%)	Not in labour force (%)	Unemployed (%)
Rodney	2,304	81.5	18.5	9.6
Hibiscus and Bays	4,764	81.0	19.0	10.3
Upper Harbour	3,957	72.1	27.9	10.7
Kaipātiki	5,919	75.3	24.7	11.8
Devonport-Takapuna	3,549	79.4	20.6	10.4
Henderson-Massey	7,182	73.3	26.7	18.6
Waitākere Ranges	2,727	79.5	20.5	14.7
Great Barrier	15	60.0	40.0	0.0
Waiheke	300	78.0	22.0	12.8
Waitematā	11,154	64.6	35.4	13.6
Whau	5,256	71.2	28.8	17.7
Albert-Eden	7,866	74.1	25.9	12.9
Puketāpapa	4,548	71.6	28.4	16.0
Ōrākei	4,464	78.4	21.6	9.1
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	4,800	73.9	26.1	16.6
Howick	8,037	77.3	22.7	12.7
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	5,481	69.6	30.4	26.0
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	6,117	71.4	28.6	21.0
Manurewa	6,042	70.2	29.7	22.3
Papakura	3,174	75.4	24.6	18.4
Franklin	3,093	82.2	17.8	11.6
<b>Auckland total</b>	<b>100,746</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>15.2</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings

Notes:

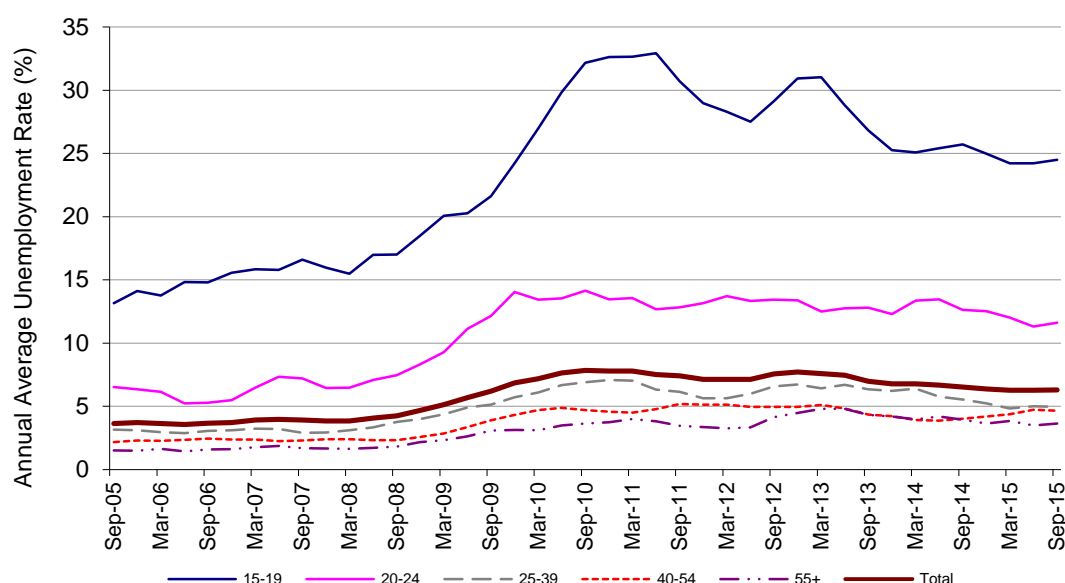
- 1) A person's work and labour force status in the seven days ending 5 March 2006 and 3 March 2013.
- 2) The proportion of young adults in the labour force who are unemployed. The unemployment rate is calculated as a proportion of 'Total people in labour force'.

## 6.3 Youth unemployment beginning to improve

In New Zealand, the official unemployment rate is measured using the results of the Statistics New Zealand Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS). Recent HLFS figures suggest that the employment situation for youth is beginning to improve since the peak of unemployment rates that were reached after the Global Financial Crisis, but that it has not yet recovered as much as for other age groups.

Figure 14 shows the unemployment rate for different age groups in Auckland between 2005 and 2015, including 15 to 19 years and 20 to 24 years. The chart shows clearly that the unemployment rate of young people in Auckland (particularly 15 to 19 year olds) is higher than the rate for other age groups, and has been for some time. For youth aged 15 to 19, unemployment rates in March 2005 were at 16.0 per cent, they peaked at 33.3 per cent in December 2010, and were down to 25.0 per cent in September 2015. For young people aged 20 to 24, unemployment was at 7.3 per cent in March 2005, it peaked at 15.5 per cent in June 2009 and was at 12.7 per cent in September 2015. For young people aged 25 to 39, unemployment was at 3.5 per cent in March 2005, it peaked at 7.5 per cent in June 2009 and was at 6.5 per cent in September 2015. For young people aged 40 to 54, unemployment was at 2.5 per cent in March 2005, it peaked at 5.5 per cent in June 2009 and was at 4.5 per cent in September 2015. For young people aged 55+, unemployment was at 1.5 per cent in March 2005, it peaked at 4.5 per cent in June 2009 and was at 3.5 per cent in September 2015. The total unemployment rate was at 4.5 per cent in March 2005, it peaked at 7.5 per cent in June 2009 and was at 6.5 per cent in September 2015.

**Figure 14: Unemployment rate by age group in Auckland (September 2005- 2015)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey, custom dataset for Auckland Council, 2015 (1994-2015)

Māori and Pacific young people are facing challenges in finding work in Auckland as their unemployment rate is nearly double that of other groups. This will be a result of a combination of drivers, including the lower levels of educational credentials held by Māori and Pacific young people relative to other ethnic groups. Employer discrimination is another likely factor contributing to the relatively poor employment outcomes of Māori and Pacific workers. Robson, Cormack and Cram note that research points to Māori facing discrimination in the labour market, 'in getting a job, in the type of job obtained, and the wages paid for a particular type of work' (2007:23). Research undertaken by the Equal



Employment Opportunities Trust (2011) also found that young Pacific migrant workers perceive discrimination as a barrier that they face in the workplace.

## 6.4 Almost one in ten not in employment, education or training

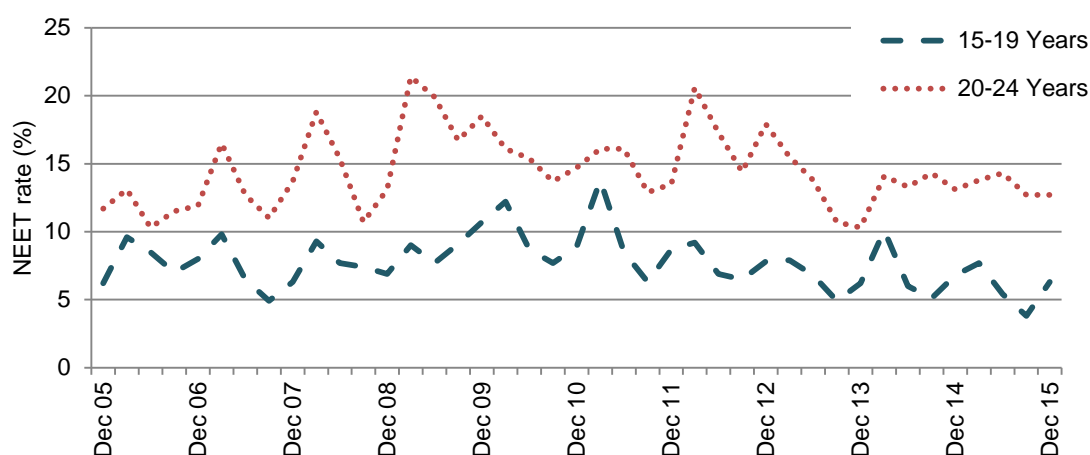
Results from HLFS are also used to measure levels of people who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET). The NEET rate provides an indication of the proportion of young people who are excluded and/or disengaged from both work and education. NEET status for young people, particularly if it is long term (5 months or more), is associated with future disadvantage in relation to lower future wages and higher rates of unemployment (Pacheco, 2015).

As at December 2015, the overall NEET rate for young people aged 15 to 24 in Auckland was 9.8 per cent.

Female NEET rates are generally higher than that of males, particularly for those aged 20-24 in New Zealand, as elsewhere. This is likely due to parenting or wider caregiving roles which prevent young females from participating in education and training or employment (Molloy and Potter, 2014). Young parents can experience difficulties in securing work or enrolling in education without access to childcare (Molloy and Potter, 2014).

The NEET rate also differs across the age groups, as Figure 15 shows. In December 2015, the rate was 5.8 per cent among those aged 15 to 19 years and 13.4 per cent among those aged 20 to 24 years. Figure 15 also illustrates that since 2013 there has been a downward trend in NEET levels (see also Wilson, 2014).

**Figure 15: NEET rate for Auckland (December 2005 to 2015)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey (2015)

Exclusion and disengagement from education and employment varies greatly across ethnic groups in Auckland, although these figures need to be read with some caution as there is a relatively high sampling error associated with estimating NEET rates by ethnicity and age, due to small sample sizes.

In 2015, the proportion of youth aged 15 to 24 who were NEET was approximately 16.7 per cent for those identifying as Pacific and 17.6 per cent for those who identify as Māori. These rates were above the overall average annual rate for Auckland youth in 2015 of 9.8 per cent. The NEET figures for Māori and Pacific youth aged 20-24 in Auckland were particularly high at 26.5 per cent of Māori and 27.3 per cent of Pacific, compared to 13.4 per cent of Auckland youth in these age groups overall. The reasons for the over-representation of Māori and Pacific young people having NEET status is related to these groups leaving the education system earlier, being unable to work or study due to caregiving responsibilities at a younger age and also facing longer durations of unemployment than their Pākehā counterparts (Pacheco, 2015). Discrimination may also be playing a part in the higher proportions of Māori and Pacific young people who become disengaged from the labour market (Robson, Cormack and Cram, 2007).

## 7.0 Health

In its broadest sense, children and young people's health is the result of the inter-relationships and synergies between physical, mental and emotional dimensions of well-being. It is difficult to capture these variables and the connections between them in a report such as this. Much of the information that is available in New Zealand concerns children and young people's physical health outcomes. This section touches on just a few drivers of health outcomes including housing, smoking and physical activity. Much of what is reported here has been taken from a comprehensive report into the determinants of health for children and young people prepared by the New Zealand Children and Youth Epidemiology Service and the University of Otago. It is recommended that the reader access that 400 page report for more detailed information (refer to Simpson et al, 2014).

### 7.1 Half of young Pacific people live in a crowded household

As noted in the Auckland Plan, housing is one of the key determinants of health. There is a strong link between asthma and respiratory and contagious illness, and damp, poorly ventilated homes. Much of Auckland's housing stock is not adequately insulated and is poorly ventilated, and was often not designed to house large numbers of occupants. It is estimated that there are about 432,000 inadequately insulated homes within the Auckland area (Auckland Council, 2012).

There are also recognised links between living in crowded houses and poor health outcomes, such as respiratory illness. Statistics New Zealand measures levels of household crowding in New Zealand, using the Canadian National Occupancy Standard.<sup>17</sup> At the 2013 Census, they counted 61,272 children under 14 (22.3%) living in crowded households in Auckland (Simpson et al., 2014: 102). Young people and children in Auckland experienced the highest levels of crowding in 2013 compared to other age groups. This was particularly the case among Pacific peoples – half of people of Pacific ethnicity aged 0 to 24 years in Auckland were living in a crowded household (Goodyear and Fabian, 2014: 82). The rate of crowding among children had decreased since 2006, but it had increased among those aged 20 to 24 years. This was likely to be a result of changes in the composition and structure of Auckland's population.

### 7.2 Variation across Auckland in rates of smoking

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable and premature death in New Zealand and internationally (Simpson et al., 2014). While many of the serious health consequences of smoking, such as lung cancer and heart disease, tend to affect older people, there are health consequences for young smokers, including reduced lung function and growth.

<sup>17</sup> Statistics New Zealand considers that the Canadian National Occupancy Standard provides the best fit for the New Zealand social context, 'although it may not fully align with all social and cultural norms'. In this standard, children under 5 of either sex may share a bedroom, but children between 5 and 18 should only share a bedroom if they are of the same sex. Couples and people aged 18 and over are also allocated a bedroom. The household is defined as crowded if these definitions are not met. For further information please refer to Goodyear, Fabian and Hay, 2012.

Children exposed to second-hand smoke have higher rates of sudden infant death, respiratory infections, asthma, middle ear infections and meningitis. Children who grow up in households with a smoker are also likely to become a smoker themselves (Simpson et al., 2014).

In the three District Health Board (DHB) areas that overlap with Auckland's boundaries, the proportion of children 14 and under living in a household with a smoker ranges from 18.4 per cent to 31.7 per cent (see Table 8) (Simpson et al., 2014: 326). The proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 who reported that they were regular smokers themselves ranged from 9.3 to 13.7 per cent (see Table 9), and while below the rates for New Zealand overall, they remain troubling.<sup>18</sup>

**Table 9: Children aged 0 to 14 living in a household with a smoker, Auckland's District Health Boards and New Zealand (2013)**

District Health Board	Number of young people	% of young people	Rate ratio	95% confidence interval
Waitematā	21,993	20.7	0.77	0.76-0.78
Auckland	14,091	18.4	0.69	0.68-0.70
Counties Manukau	35,175	31.7	1.19	1.18-1.20
New Zealand	225,048	26.7	1.00	

Source: Simpson et al. 2014: 298 using 2013 Census data

**Table 10: Young people aged 15 to 24 who were regular smokers, Auckland's District Health Boards and New Zealand (2013)**

District Health Board	Number of young people	% of young people	Rate ratio	95% confidence interval
Waitematā	7,503	10.5	0.74	0.72-0.76
Auckland	6,570	9.3	0.66	0.65-0.68
Counties Manukau	9,675	13.7	0.97	0.95-0.99
New Zealand	82,896	14.1	1.00	

Source: Simpson et al. 2014: 311 using 2013 Census data

<sup>18</sup> See also analysis undertaken by the Auckland Cancer Society of rates of smoking across Auckland's 21 local board areas (for all adults aged 15 years and over). The Cancer Society has a strategic focus on the four local board areas that make up the Southern Initiative, as smoking rates are highest in these areas. <https://auckland-northland.cancernz.org.nz/en/reducing-cancer-risk/what-we-are-doing/smokefree-auckland/auckland-smoking-statistics/>

### 7.3 15 to 18 year olds less likely to engage in sport than younger children

Regular exercise is associated with positive outcomes for health and well-being, including promoting a healthy body weight and reducing the risk of chronic disease. The Ministry of Health (MoH) physical activity guidelines for children and young people are:

- throughout each day, do 60 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity
- be active in as many ways as possible, for example, through play, cultural activities, dance, sport, recreation, jobs and going from place to place
- be active with friends and whānau, at home, school and in their communities
- spend less than 2 hours a day (out of school hours) in front of the television, computers, and game consoles.<sup>19</sup>

A significant study undertaken by Sport New Zealand in 2011 into young people's participation in sport and recreation found that as elsewhere in the country, overall participation among young people in Auckland in informal and organised sport was high. However, in line with national results, the survey found that 15 to 18 year olds spend less time playing sports and are less likely to say they 'like playing a lot'. A majority (85.3%) of young people in the Auckland region spent 3 or more hours a week when time for informal and organised sports/activities was combined. Around one in ten (12.4%) spent less than 3 hours a week, and very few (2.3%) spent no time at all. There were no significant differences for spending 3+ hours a week when comparing boys with girls (85.2% compared with 85.5%) and when comparing students attending different decile schools (low- 85.1%, medium - 80.9%, high-87.9%). 15 to 18-year-olds (70.8%) were less likely than 5 to 10-year-olds (90.7%) and 11 to 14-year-olds (90.8%) to spend 3 or more hours a week when time is combined for sport and recreation (Sport New Zealand, 2013).

### 7.4 New Zealand Health Survey

The New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS) is an annual face-to-face survey of 13,000 adults and the parents or caregivers of over 4000 children across New Zealand. It collects a wealth of information on the health and well-being of New Zealanders and their use of health services, and includes physical measurements such as height and weight.

The majority of parents in the Auckland area reported their children aged 14 and under as having excellent, very good or good health at 98.4 per cent over the period of 2011-14.<sup>20</sup> Further data from the NZHS relating to Auckland children has been included in this report in Appendix A.

<sup>19</sup> New Zealand physical activity guidelines for children and young people (aged 5–18 years) were developed by Sport New Zealand and the Ministries of Health and Education in 2007. Refer to <http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/physical-activity>.

<sup>20</sup> 95% Confidence Interval (97.9-98.8)

## 8.0 Child Poverty

In 2012, the Children's Commissioner established an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Solutions to Child Poverty. He sought advice from this group that resulted in a systemic approach to defining the causes and consequences of child poverty, drawing on the best available local and international evidence, including actions taken in similar countries. The EAG noted that New Zealand has no agreed definition of poverty or official poverty measures, however their view was that child poverty should be defined as follows:

Children living in poverty are those who experience deprivation of the material resources and income that is required for them to develop and thrive, leaving such children unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential and participate as equal members of New Zealand society (Children's Commissioner Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty, 2012:2).

According to this view, poverty means, for instance, a much higher chance of having insufficient nutritious food, going to school hungry, wearing worn-out shoes or going barefoot, having inadequate clothing, living in a cold, damp house and sleeping in a shared bed. It often means missing out on activities that many New Zealanders take for granted, like playing sport and having a birthday party. It can also mean much narrower horizons – such as rarely travelling far from home.<sup>21</sup> As mentioned above, there are no official poverty measures in New Zealand, however, available census data relating to income can provide a broad outline of socio-economic disparities across Auckland households.

### 8.1 A third of children live in areas of high socio-economic deprivation

Children and young people in Auckland are more likely than the rest of Aucklanders to live in areas with the highest levels of socio-economic deprivation. The New Zealand Deprivation Index 2013 (NZDep, 2013) provides an indication of relative levels of socio-economic advantage across New Zealand. It is measured at the household level and combines nine variables from the 2013 Census which reflect eight dimensions of deprivation: communication (internet access), income, employment, qualifications, home ownership, support, living space and transport. The deprivation ordinal scale ranges from 1 to 10, where 1 represents the areas with the least deprived scores and 10 the areas with the most deprived scores.<sup>22</sup>

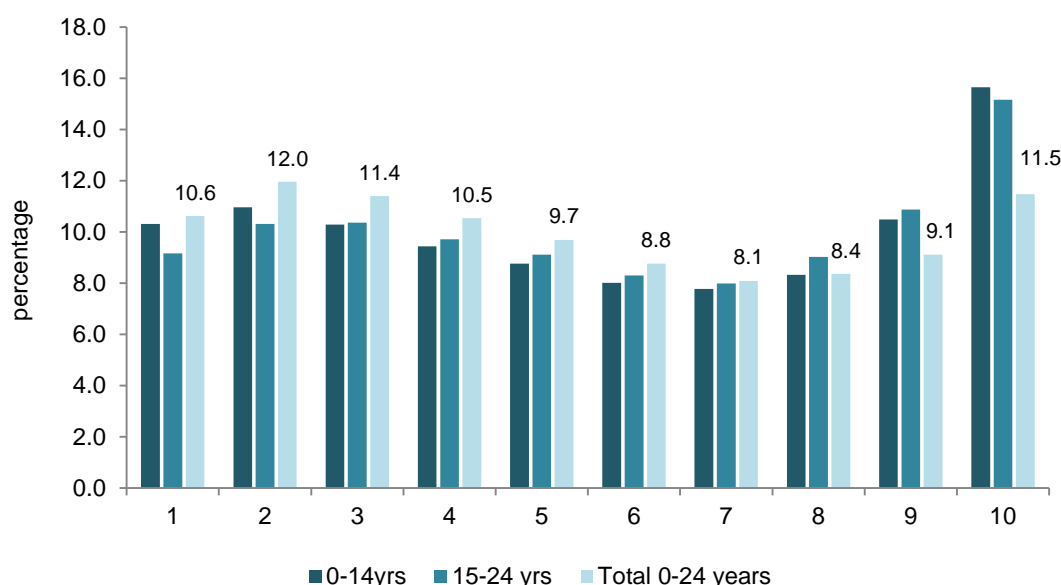
As shown in Figure 16, just over a third of Auckland's children aged 0 to 14 (34.5%) lived in meshblocks with deprivation indexes calculated at 8, 9 or 10 (most deprived areas). Furthermore, 15.7 per cent of children lived in meshblocks rated 10. The distribution was similar among young people aged 15-24.

<sup>21</sup> The Child Poverty Action Group have a substantial amount of resources available on their website for those interested in further details, including research and policy reports: <http://www.cpag.org.nz/resources-publications/>

<sup>22</sup> For further information on the NZ Dep index refer to the University of Otago website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/wellington/departments/publichealth/research/hirp/otago020194.html>

It should be noted that a large proportion of the meshblocks rated 8, 9 or 10 are in the western and southern parts of the urban area. Refer to the map in Appendix B.

**Figure 16: Distribution of people in each age group across NZ Dep deciles (2013)**



Source: Department of Public Health, University of Otago (Wellington).

Notes: A score of 1 is low deprivation and 10 is high deprivation. Data labels showing in chart are for the total 0 to 24 year group only.

## 8.2 Almost 1 in 5 children living in low income households

Large numbers of children and young people in Auckland are growing up in poor households. One way to measure this is by reported household income levels in the Census of Population and Dwellings.<sup>23</sup> In 2013, 19 per cent of children aged 0 to 14 in Auckland lived in households with annual household incomes of \$40,000 or less, well below the \$78,600 median.

The proportion of children living in households with household incomes of \$40,000 or less varies by ethnicity. The proportion of European/Pākehā children living in households with incomes of \$40,000 or less is 12 per cent, while minority groups reported higher proportions: 35 per cent of MELAA children, 31 per cent of Pacific children, 29 per cent of Māori children, 23 per cent of Asian children and 16 per cent of those captured in the 'Other' category were in this type of household.

The proportions vary across the local boards, as seen in Table 10 and Figure 16. The highest proportion was found in Great Barrier Island, where just over half (51%) of all children aged 0 to 14 lived in low income households, however the numbers of children in

<sup>23</sup> Statistics New Zealand warn that some caveats must be applied to the use of household income data from the Census, largely because of a high non-response rate. The data quality is rated as 'poor' (see Census: Information by Variable, at [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)).

this area are relatively small. While proportions were smaller, there were significant numbers of children living in low income households in the four local boards that make up the Southern Initiative area – as shown in Table 10.

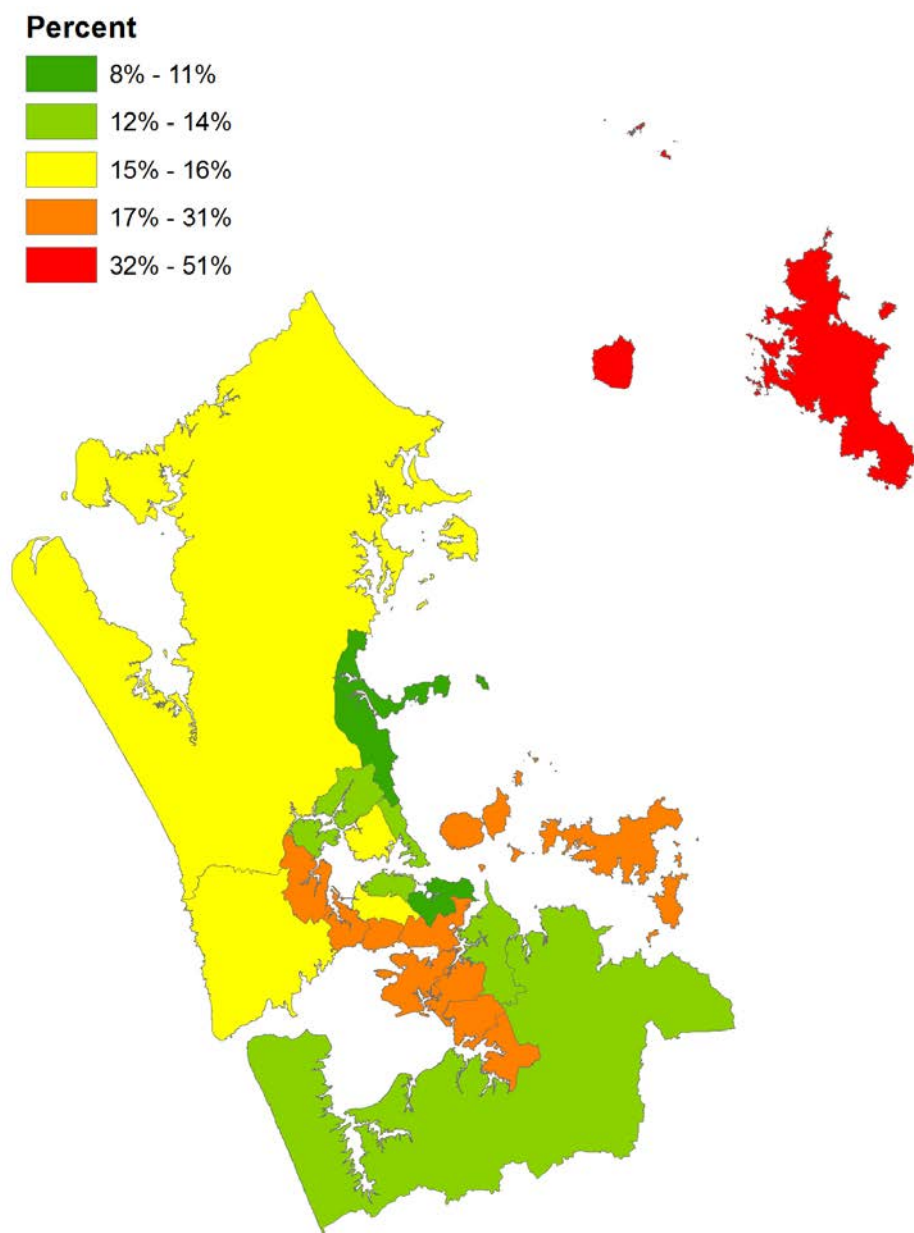
**Table 11: Percentage of children aged 0 to 14 who live in households with a total income of \$40,000 or less, by local board area (2013)**

Local board area	Number	% of all children in local board
Rodney	9,564	16.5
Hibiscus and Bays	14,928	11.3
Upper Harbour	9,246	13.2
Kaipātiki	13,548	16.0
Devonport-Takapuna	9,060	12.6
Henderson-Massey	19,248	23.8
Waitākere Ranges	9,258	16.4
Great Barrier	111	51.4
Waiheke	1,245	25.5
Waitematā	6,513	12.9
Whau	11,280	22.8
Albert-Eden	14,838	15.0
Puketāpapa	7,968	25.6
Ōrākei	13,338	8.4
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	11,292	25.7
Howick	21,735	14.2
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	12,489	30.8
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	12,981	29.5
Manurewa	15,282	30.2
Papakura	8,304	27.0
Franklin	12,222	14.5
<b>Auckland total</b>	<b>234,441</b>	<b>19.3</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings



**Figure 17: Per cent of local board population aged 0-14 yrs living in households with a total income of \$40,000 or less (2013)**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings

## 9.0 Safety and Family Violence

Feeling safe and free from violence and abuse at home, in the neighbourhood where they live, as well as in the city as a whole, is an important dimension of children and young people's well-being in Auckland.

### 9.1 Over 40,000 notifications to CYF in 2015

Family violence is a major problem in New Zealand that adversely affects the well-being of children and young people (Simpson et al., 2014). Table 11 shows the proportion of family violence investigations undertaken by the police in which involved situations in which children were present, or usually residing with the victim.

**Table 12: Family violence investigations (FVI), 2013**

Police Area	% of FVI where children were present*
North Shore	55.8
Rodney	60.8
Waitākere	62.0
Auckland Motorways	33.3
Auckland Central Area	39.3
Auckland East Area	55.2
Auckland West Area	54.2
Counties Manukau Central	69.0
Counties Manukau East	63.9
Counties Manukau South	64.4
Counties Manukau West	61.5

Source: New Zealand Police in Simpson et al., 2014: 428

Note: \*Children were present or usually residing with the victim

It is difficult to assess the proportion of children who are victims of assault, and/or who face maltreatment and neglect in Auckland. Child, Youth and Family (CYF) is a service of the Ministry of Social Development with the role of promoting the well-being of children, young people and their families and working to prevent child abuse and neglect. NZ Police, health and education professionals, social service providers, family members and friends, and members of the public all report cases to CYF in which they suspect children's well-being may be at risk. In 2015, there were a total of 40,757 such notifications<sup>24</sup> with Waitematā

<sup>24</sup> According to the Ministry of Social Development, notifications comprise "reports of concern" (which may require action by Child, Youth and Family) and "Police family violence referrals" (which do not require action by

reporting 17,601 and Counties Manukau 23,156 (MSD, 2015). Another indicator of the prevalence of the abuse of children is the number of hospital admissions attributable to the effects of assault, neglect, or maltreatment of children. Based on data for the three district health boards that fall within Auckland (Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau), there were 216 hospital admissions (excluding emergency department cases) for injuries arising from the assault, neglect, or maltreatment of children aged 0–14 years over 2009–2013 (Simpson et al., 2014: 392).

Research suggests that witnessing, perpetrating, or being a victim of assault is a relatively common experience for young people in New Zealand (Simpson et al., 2014). Based on DHB data for Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau, 1735 young people in the Auckland area aged 15 to 24 were admitted to hospital for assault injuries (excluding emergency department cases) over 2009–2013 (Simpson et al., 2014: 407).

## **9.2 New Zealand's youth suicide rates are of concern**

New Zealand's youth suicide rates are of concern. In 2012, youth had the highest rate of suicide compared to other age groups, at 23.4 per 100,000 people aged 15–24 years. In that year, the youth suicide rate differed by gender, at 32.3 per 100,000 male youth population and 13.8 per 100,000 female youth population (Ministry of Health, 2015b). In 2012, the Māori youth suicide rate was 2.8 times that of the non-Māori youth rate. Two of Auckland region's three DHBs, Waitematā and Auckland, reported lower suicide rates than the national average in 2012 (Ministry of Health, 2015b). The Ministry of Health has published a series of reports exploring the social and epidemiological explanations for suicide trends in New Zealand, which provide further information on this issue (Ministry of Health, 2005). This series includes a report by Hirini and Collings (2005) which examines key variables influencing Māori suicide rates.

## **9.3 Social networks and support**

Results from the 2014 Quality of Life survey found that 92 per cent of young people aged 18 to 24 felt they had someone to turn to for help if they were faced with a serious illness or injury, or need emotional support during a difficult time (Nielsen Research, 2014). This is in line with what the older age groups reported. However, on many measures of sense of community and connection to neighbourhood, young people had less positive responses than other age groups. The 18 to 24 year olds were more likely than others to disagree that they feel a sense of community with others in their local neighbourhood at 27 per cent compared to 19 per cent for all of Aucklanders (Nielsen Research, 2014). Young people in this age group were also less likely than others to respond that they have had some positive contact with people in their neighbourhood, at 86 per cent compared to 93 per cent for Auckland residents overall. Finally, only 58 per cent of those aged 18 to 24 reported rarely or never feeling isolated, compared to 69 per cent of Aucklanders overall, making this age group more likely to feel isolated than older age groups in Auckland.

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### **1.0**

Child, Youth and Family). Some children and young people may have more than one notification in the period shown.

## 10.0 Conclusion

Children and young people make up a significant portion of Auckland's population, and their numbers are projected to grow in the future. There is much to be celebrated with regards to the well-being of children and young people in Auckland. Young people and their parents report that they are engaging regularly in physical activities and are in good health. Gaps amongst ethnic groups are narrowing in terms of participation in ECE as well as in educational achievements, and the overall proportion of young people who are NEET has shown a downward trend. Although many of our young people are thriving, this report has also highlighted some of the dimensions of well-being in which an important portion of younger people in Auckland are not doing as well.

Too many of Auckland's children and young people are living in low income households and in areas with high levels of deprivation. There is also more to be done to increase economic, health, education and employment opportunities amongst children and youth of all ethnic backgrounds to foster a strong, inclusive and equitable society for Auckland's future.

This report has highlighted the educational and employment disparities faced by Māori and Pacific children and young people in Auckland as an area of concern – particularly those living in the southern parts of the city. The well-being of Māori children and young people is also significant in the context of Auckland because they, along with Pacific young people, represent a sizeable portion of the younger generation of the city. Children and young people of Māori and Pacific descent are growing up in families that have borne the brunt of economic restructuring, the disappearance of manufacturing jobs and high rates of unemployment, and this is negatively affecting their health and well-being.

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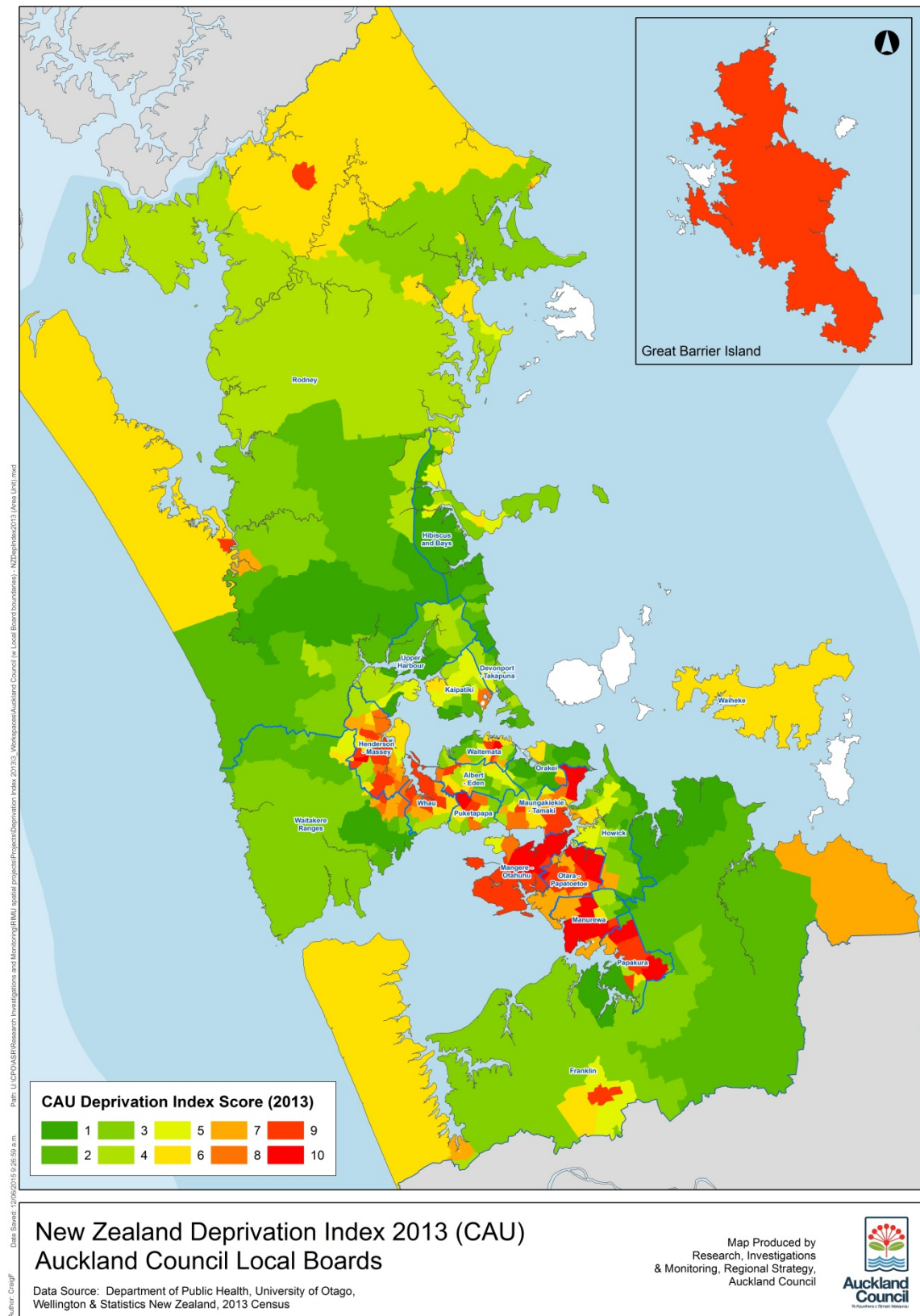
## Appendix A Health indicators for children 14 and under (New Zealand Health Survey Data)

Health indicators for children	Age-standardised prevalence (%), 2011-14		Test of significance (of difference between PHU and NZ rate)*
	Auckland Regional Public Health Service	New Zealand	
Excellent, very good or good parent-rated health (0–14 years)	98.4	98.2	0.39
Given solids before 4 months (4 months-4 years)	8.2	9.4	0.30
Breakfast at home every day in past week (2–14 years)	85.7	86.7	0.36
Usually watched two or more hours of television each day (2-14 years)	46.8	51.6	0.00*↓
Obesity (2-14 years)	11.5	10.4	0.34
Asthma medicated (2-14 years)	12.8	14.6	0.03*↓
Diagnosed emotional or behavioural problems (2-14 years)	3.0	3.9	0.07
Visited a GP in last 12 months (0-14 years)	77.6	74.4	0.00*↑
Visited a practice nurse (without seeing a GP at the same visit) in last 12 months (0-14 years)	18.7	24.6	0.00*↓
Visited an after-hours medical centre in last 12 months (0-14 years)	22.4	21.2	0.26
Unmet need for primary health care (0-14 years)	17.0	20.7	0.00*↓
Unable to get appointment at usual medical centre within 24 hours (0–14 years)	11.0	13.8	0.00*↓
Unmet need for GP services due to cost (0–14 years)	4.3	5.5	0.04*↓
Unmet need for after-hours services due to cost (0–14 years)	3.1	4.2	0.02*
Unfilled prescription due to cost (0-14 years)	4.9	5.1	0.76
Definitely had confidence and trust in GP (0-14 years)	82.2	80.2	0.29
Visited a dental health care worker (1-14 years)	79.9	81.5	0.13
Had one or more teeth removed (1-14 years)	3.6	3.9	0.48

Notes: \*p-values show statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ). ↑ ↓ PHU has a higher (↑) or lower (↓) prevalence than the NZ rate (Statistically significant)

Sources: 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 New Zealand Health Survey

## Appendix B NZ Dep Index Map (2013)





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