

Children and Young People in Auckland: Results From the 2018 Census

Laura Roberts

August 2020

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Executive summary

Auckland Council has a commitment to Auckland's children and young people as set out in the Auckland Plan 2050 and *I Am Auckland* – the Children and Young People's Strategic Action Plan. These recognise that all children are entitled to the basic needs of love, shelter, food and safety, as well as education and skill development, and to instil confidence and pride. Auckland needs strong, healthy communities to achieve this, and the plan emphasises that families, whanau and the wider community share the responsibility to ensure that every child can reach their potential.

As part of this commitment, it is important for council to maintain an understanding of the profile of its children and young people available data, such as that from the 2018 Census as detailed in this report.

Numbers and growth

In 2018 there were over half a million children and young people living in Auckland (537,525 people). This includes 313,836 children aged 0 to 14 years, and 223,689 young people aged 15 to 24 years.

Since 2013, the number of children and young people in Auckland has grown by 5.9 per cent, this compares to a growth of 11.0 per cent among the general population over the same time period. So, although the number of children and young people is increasing, it is doing so at a slower rate compared to general population growth.

There is a slow but steady downward trend in the proportion of Auckland's population that are children and young people, dropping from 37.4 per cent in 2006, to 35.9 per cent in 2013, and to 34.2 per cent in 2018. Despite this, more than a third of children and young people in New Zealand live in Auckland (34.8%), consistent with 2013 and 2006.

Geographical distribution

Geographical distribution of children and young people in Auckland is diverse, varying substantially by age and ethnic group. Generally speaking, children and young people tend to live in a peripheral band around the city, with the highest numbers found in the south, on the isthmus and in the west. There are smaller numbers in the north and on the outskirts of the city. This trend is especially the case for children, whereas there is a larger number of young people living on the isthmus and closer to the city centre.

The four local boards with the highest proportion of children and young people living within them are Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (43.2%), Manurewa (41.8%), Ōtara-Papatoetoe (41.4%) and Papakura (37.5%). Together these local boards make up the Southern Initiative area. In total, 130,764 children and young people live in the Southern Initiative area, which makes up about a quarter (24.3%) of the total number of children and young people in Auckland.

In terms of absolute numbers, Howick and Henderson-Massey have the highest numbers of children and young people living within them (46,134 and 42,852 respectively), in line with the large total population sizes of these local board areas.

There is a marked distribution of where children and young people in Auckland live by ethnic group. The largest proportion of European children and young people are found in the north, on the isthmus (particularly on the city fringe), and on the outskirts of the urban area. The trend was similar for both Māori and Pacific children and young people, with the largest proportions found in areas located in the south, on the isthmus and west of the urban area. The distribution among Asian children and young people was more uniformly spread and closely reflected the general population distribution across Auckland, with the largest proportions found in the south and on the isthmus, followed by the north and west.

Ethnic and cultural diversity

About half of all children and young people in Auckland were in the broad European classification (49.8%), followed by Asian (28.3%), Pacific (23.5%), Māori (16.9%), and Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) (2.5%). Although numerically there are more children and young people in the European category in comparison to other ethnic groups, some ethnic groups have relatively high proportions of children and young people, such as Pacific (51.7%) and Māori (50.1%).

Between 2013 and 2018, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of European children and young people (by 4.5 percentage points), while there was a proportionate increase in all other ethnic groups. This indicates increasing levels of ethnic diversity among children and young people in Auckland.

Most notably, the proportion of children and young people who identify as Asian has been increasing relatively quickly over time, from 21.5 per cent in 2006, to 24.1 per cent in 2013 and to 28.3 per cent in 2018. This represents an increase of 6.8 percentage points, or 52,647 people between 2013 and 2018.

Children and young people in Auckland speak a diverse range of languages, but most commonly speak English (90.8%), Samoan (4.9%), Northern Chinese (3.5%) and Māori (2.8%).

Birthplace

Just under a quarter of Auckland's children and young people were born overseas (23.5%), in line with results from 2013 (24.4%). The proportion of children born overseas (14.4%) is smaller than that among young people (36.2%), however both groups have a far smaller proportion born overseas compared to the Auckland adult population (50.9%).

Among those born overseas, almost half (47.7%) were born in Asia, followed by the Pacific Islands (16.8%) and the Middle East and Africa (11.3%).

Education

Almost three in five young people aged 15 and over had received a high school level (Level 1, 2 or 3 certificate) as their highest qualification (57%). Looking at higher education, 11 per cent received a level 4, 5 or 6 diploma, and 15 per cent had received a degree level qualification. Just more than one in ten had not received any qualification (13%). However, it should be noted that a substantial number of young people are likely to still be working towards a qualification higher than that given in this report.

The proportion of young people achieving higher qualifications has been rising steadily from 2006 to 2013 and to 2018, presenting a clear finding that over time young people are achieving higher levels of qualifications. This is likely associated with ongoing education after high school and possibly higher engagement with education generally.

Employment and income

The 2018 Census recorded 36.1 per cent of 15 to 19 year olds and 72.2 per cent of 20 to 24 year olds in paid employment, equating to 124,113 people.

The unemployment rate has dropped for both groups, from 30.5 per cent in 2013 to 21.2 per cent in 2018 among 15 to 19 year olds, and from 15.2 per cent in 2013 to 9.6 per cent in 2018 among 20 to 24 year olds. However the unemployment rate varies by local board area, with Waiheke, Aotea / Great Barrier and Rodney having the lowest unemployment rates (6.2%, 7.7%, and 9.0% respectively), and Manurewa, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and Papakura having the highest rates (18.8%, 17.7% and 15.7% respectively).

At the same time labour force participation rates have also increased among both groups, from 39.1 per cent in 2013 to 45.8 per cent in 2018 among 15 to 19 year olds, and from 73.6 per cent in 2013 to 79.8 per cent in 2018 among 20 to 24 year olds. Increases occurred for all ethnic groups.

Young people work in a diverse range of occupations, with the most common among 15 to 19 year olds being Sales Workers (28.7%), Labourers (21.5%) and Community and Personal Service Workers (28.7%). Among 20 to 24 year olds the most common occupations were Professionals (18.8%), Sales Workers (18.1%) and Community and Personal Service (14.1%).

Looking at income, almost half of employed 15 to 19 year olds report an income of \$5000 or less (46.8%), with the proportion dropping steadily as income band amounts increase. Those aged 20 to 24 years report higher incomes as we would expect, with the largest group of 28.5 per cent reporting an income between \$30,001 to \$50,000, and the majority of the remainder falling into an income band below this.

Conclusion

Children and young people in Auckland are diverse, and this is becoming more so over time. This is especially the case in terms of ethnicity and geographical distribution. It is important to understand and acknowledge the rich variance within this large group which makes up more than a third of Auckland's population.

Such diversity should be valued for what each group brings to enrichen the wider population. As part of Auckland Council's commitment to children and young people, it is important to understand and acknowledge the vast and varied subgroups that exist within the broader term 'children and young people'. This is necessary to ensure each and every child and young person's needs are met and provided with an environment in which they can thrive and reach their full potential.

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1.0 Introduction

This report presents an overview of children and young people in Auckland / Tāmaki Makaurau, based on data from the 2018 Census. It is important for Auckland Council to maintain a comprehensive understanding of the profile of Auckland's children and young people by utilising all available data.

Putting children and young people first is a priority in the 'Auckland Plan 2050'¹, a 30-year vision for Auckland. 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, and 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 strategies.

The Southern Initiative (TSI)² was established in 2012 alongside the first Auckland Plan. This is a place-based initiative covering the local board areas of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Papakura. The purpose of TSI is to plan and deliver a long-term programme of co-ordinated investment and actions to bring about transformational, social, economic and physical change in the area. Although all six of its priorities are expected to benefit the children and young people that live in this area, two of the priorities have a specific focus on children and young people. This perhaps reflects the high number and proportion of children and young people that live in this area. These priorities are early childhood intervention and strong family attachment; and education, training or employment for all young people leaving school.

In addition, Auckland Council has a clear commitment to its children and young people as set out in *I Am Auckland* – the Children and Young People's Strategic Action Plan³. This plan was developed in 2013 in partnership with the Youth Advisory Panel and was reviewed in 2017. This plan is part of council's commitment to help children and young people reach their full potential.

These plans, initiatives and strategies emphasise council's focus on Auckland's children and young people, and assert the need to better understand this group, how they have changed over time and how they may continue to change in the future.

¹ The Auckland Plan is available at: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/auckland-plan

² More information is available about TSI at: www.tsi.nz

³ *I Am Auckland* is available at: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/topic-based-plans-strategies/community-social-development-plans/Pages/children-young-peoples-strategic-action-plan

This report follows *A profile of children and young people in Auckland* (Reid and Rootham, 2016)⁴, which presented key trends in demography, education, employment, health, poverty and safety of children and young people in Auckland as at 2016, using a wide range of data sources.

1.1 This report

Information presented in this report is based on the census usually resident population count from the 2018 New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings. This excludes New Zealand residents who were temporarily overseas on census night.

Children are defined as any individual aged 0 to 14 years, and young people are defined as any individual aged 15 to 24 years. This report presents results of children, young people, and total children and young people to allow for comparisons to be made by age group. In some cases, comparisons are given in smaller subgroups (e.g. 0 to 4 years, 5 to 14 years, 15 to 24 years).

Unless otherwise stated, all percentages in this report exclude responses that cannot be classified (e.g. 'not stated', 'response unidentifiable', 'response out of scope'). This is in line with Stats NZ conventions.

Throughout the report, comparisons from 2018 are made with results from the 2013 and 2006 censuses. Please note that the time period between these censuses differs, with the gap between the 2006 and 2013 Census being seven years, and the gap between the 2013 and 2018 Census being five years. Caution should be exercised when comparing inter-censal change.

Ethnicity is identified as a measure of cultural affiliation by Stats NZ, rather than a measure of race, ancestry, nationality or citizenship. Ethnicity is self-perceived, and individuals could identify with more than one ethnicity. As a result, proportions may add to more than 100 per cent.

The 2018 Census took place in March 2018, well before the Covid-19 pandemic. Results detailed in this report therefore are not influenced by Covid-19 in any way and should not be used to make inferences about the impact of Covid-19 among children and young people.

1.2 Data quality

In response to issues with the 2018 Census, Stats NZ for the first time, used administrative and other data to help fill gaps caused by response rates that were lower than anticipated. More information on data sources used by variable is available on the Stats NZ website⁵. For

⁴ Reid, A and Rootham, E (2016). *A profile of children and young people in Auckland*. Auckland Council technical report, TR2016/022

⁵ www.stats.govt.nz/methods/data-quality-assurance-for-2018-census

the purpose of this report, only variables that have received quality ratings of 'very high', 'high' or in some cases, 'moderate' have been included.

While neither Auckland-specific nor detailed age-group response rates are available, Stats NZ notes that for New Zealand as a whole, response rates were lower for 15-29 year olds (75.0%) than for the population as a whole (83.3%). These 2018 rates compare with 88.5% and 92.2% respectively for 2013.

2.0 Numbers and growth

Auckland's population is relatively youthful compared with the general New Zealand population. In 2018, there were 537,525 usual residents who were children and young people in Auckland. This group made up 34.2 per cent of the total Auckland population and 11.4 per cent of the total New Zealand population.

Within this age group:

- 313,836 were children aged 0 to 14 years (58.4%)
- 103,695 were young people aged 15 to 19 years (19.3%)
- 119,994 were young people aged 20 to 24 years (22.3%).

2.1 Growth by age group

As Figure 1 illustrates, the number of children in Auckland increased by 17,481 between 2013 and 2018 (an increase of 5.9%). The number of young people increased by 12,549 between 2013 and 2018 (also an increase of 5.9%). This shows that the proportion of children and the proportion of young people in Auckland has grown by the same amount between 2013 and 2018, though the absolute number of children has increased to a larger degree compared to that among young people.

Figure 1. Number of children and young people in Auckland (2006, 2013, 2018)

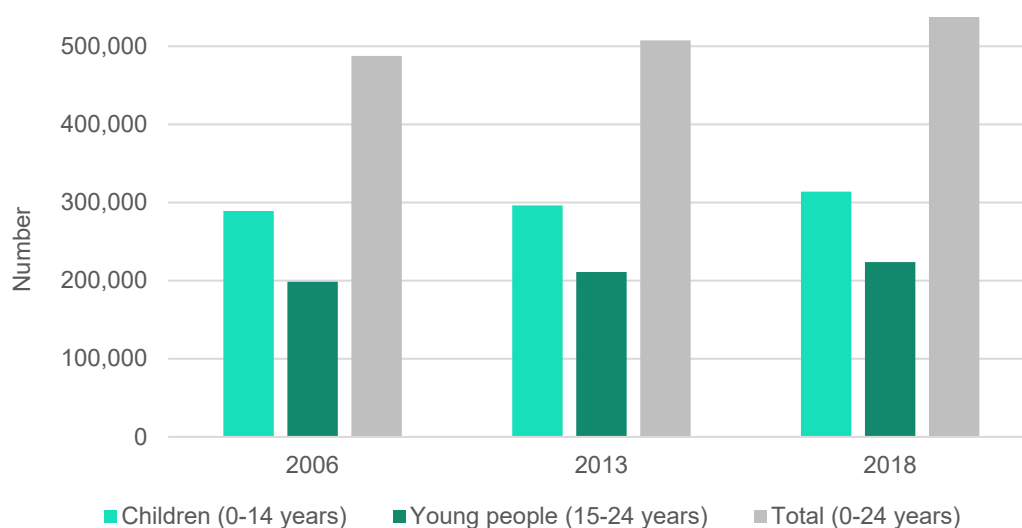


Table 1 illustrates growth in age groups from 2006, to 2013 and 2018. In the five-year period from 2013 to 2018, the 5 to 9 year group grew most rapidly, by 12.1 per cent, followed by the 20 to 24 year age group which grew by 10.9 per cent. Growth within these age groups has occurred more quickly than the total growth among children and young people over the same time period (5.9%), and similar to the general population growth over the same time period (11.0%).

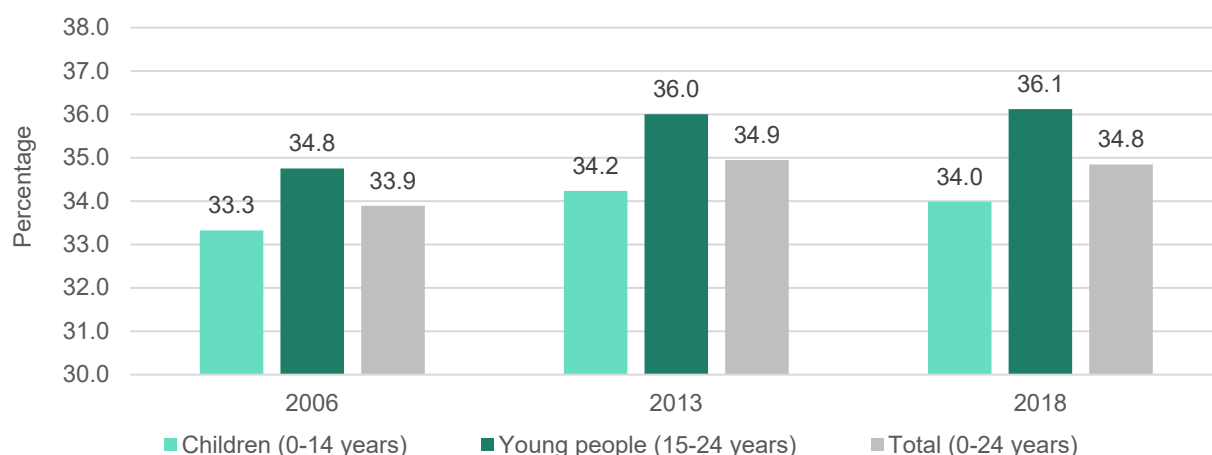
Table 1. Number and per cent of children and young people in Auckland (2006, 2013, 2018)

	2006	2013	2018	Change 2006-2013		Change 2013-2018	
	n			n	%	n	%
0 to 4 years	94,077	102,357	102,765	8280	8.8	408	0.4
5 to 9 years	95,328	97,593	109,425	2265	2.4	11,832	12.1
10 to 14 years	99,711	96,405	101,646	-3306	-3.3	5241	5.4
15 to 19 years	99,444	102,918	103,695	3474	3.5	777	0.8
20 to 24 years	99,060	108,222	119,994	9162	9.2	11,772	10.9
Total children (0 to 14 years)	289,116	296,355	313,836	7239	2.5	17,481	5.9
Total young people (15 to 24 years)	198,504	211,140	223,689	12,636	6.4	12,549	5.9
Total children and young people	487,620	507,495	537,525	19,875	4.1	30,030	5.9
Total Auckland population	1,304,958	1,415,550	1,571,718	110,592	8.5	156,168	11.0

2.2 Children and young people in Auckland

In 2018, 34.8 per cent of all children and young people in New Zealand lived in Auckland, consistent with 2013 (34.9%) and 2006 (33.9%). As in the past, in 2018 Auckland is home to a greater proportion of New Zealand's young people aged 15 to 24 years (36.1%) compared with children aged 0 to 14 years (34.0%).

Figure 2. Percentage of New Zealand's children and young people living in Auckland (2006, 2013, 2018)

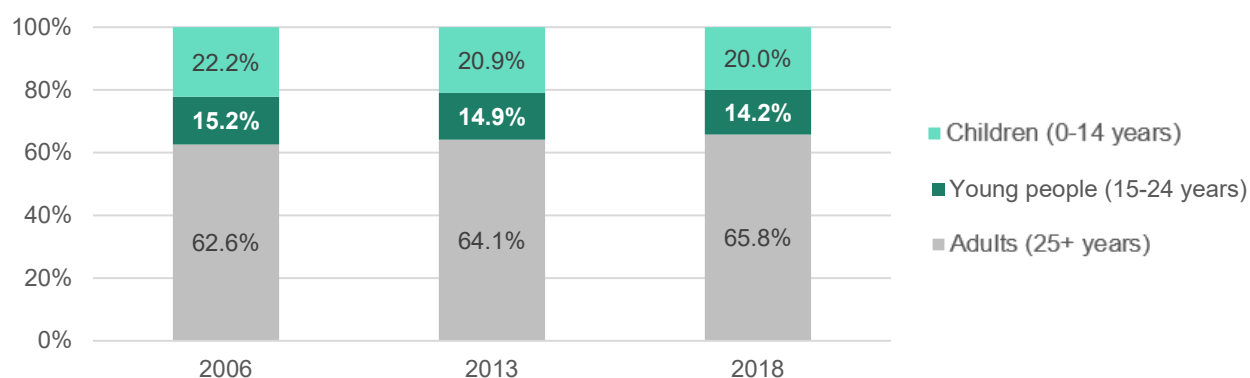


2.3 Growth compared to the Auckland population

There is a slow but steady downwards trend in the proportion of Auckland's population who are children and young people.

In 2006, 37.4 per cent of Auckland's population were children and young people, dropping to 35.9 per cent in 2013, and 34.2 per cent in 2018. It is important to note that while the overall proportion of children and young people in Auckland is gradually declining, the absolute number continues to increase from 487,620 in 2006, to 507,495 in 2013 and 537,525 in 2018.

Figure 3. Percentage of children, young people, and adults in Auckland over time (2006, 2013, 2018)

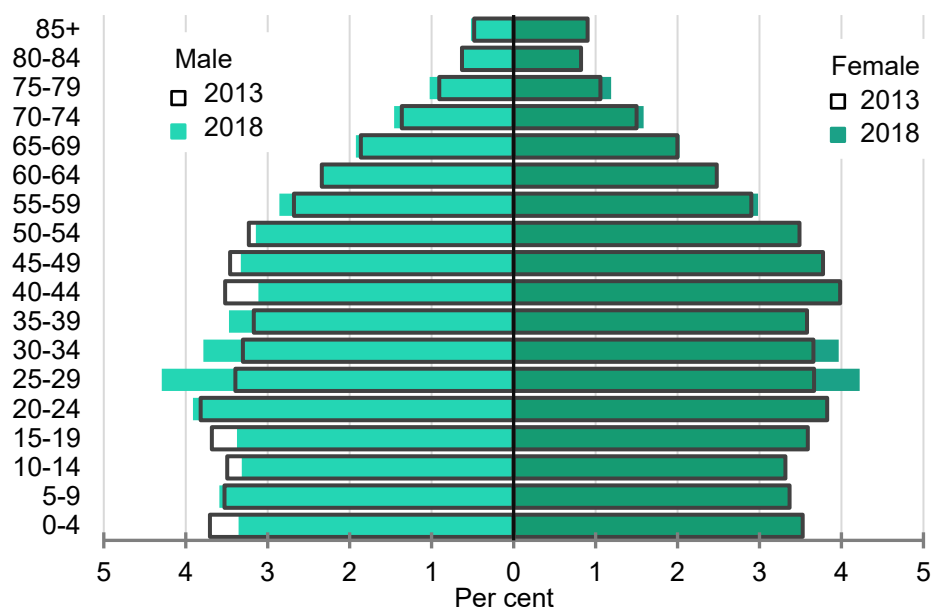


2.4 Age sex structure

The age sex structure below shows the proportion of the population which fall into various age brackets, by gender, in 2013 and 2018. This shows the proportion of female children and young people has stayed consistent in 2018, compared to 2013. Among males, the proportion of 0 to

4, 10 to 14, and 15 to 19 year olds has reduced slightly, while the proportion of 5 to 9 and 20 to 24 year olds has increased slightly.

Figure 4. Age sex structure for Auckland in (2013, 2018)



3.0 Geographical distribution

This section outlines where children and young people live across Auckland, including distribution by Statistical Area 2 (SA2), local board area and by ethnic group.

3.1 Distribution by age group

The distribution of children and young people across Auckland varies by age. Figure 5 shows a clear pattern of children and young people living in a peripheral band around the city centre, with lower numbers near the city centre and also on the outskirts of the urban area. There is a particularly high number living in the south, on the isthmus and in the west, demonstrated by the high concentration of the darkest areas on the map below which represent SA2s where more than 1519 children and young people live. For reference, each SA2 contains up to 5500 residents.

This trend is similar, but even more pronounced when looking specifically at children aged 0 to 14 years (Figure 6). Relatively few children live in the city centre and surrounding area, again with the highest numbers living in the south, on the isthmus and in the west, on the periphery of the city.

The trend is slightly different among young people aged 15 to 24 years, as shown in Figure 7. The key difference is a higher number living on the isthmus, in the city centre and surrounding areas. This may represent a migration of young people inwards as they grow older, engage with higher education or employment, and establish independence from their families. However, it is important to note numbers are still high in the south, with a moderate number in the west and north.

Figure 5. Distribution of children and young people aged 0 to 24 years by SA2 (2018)

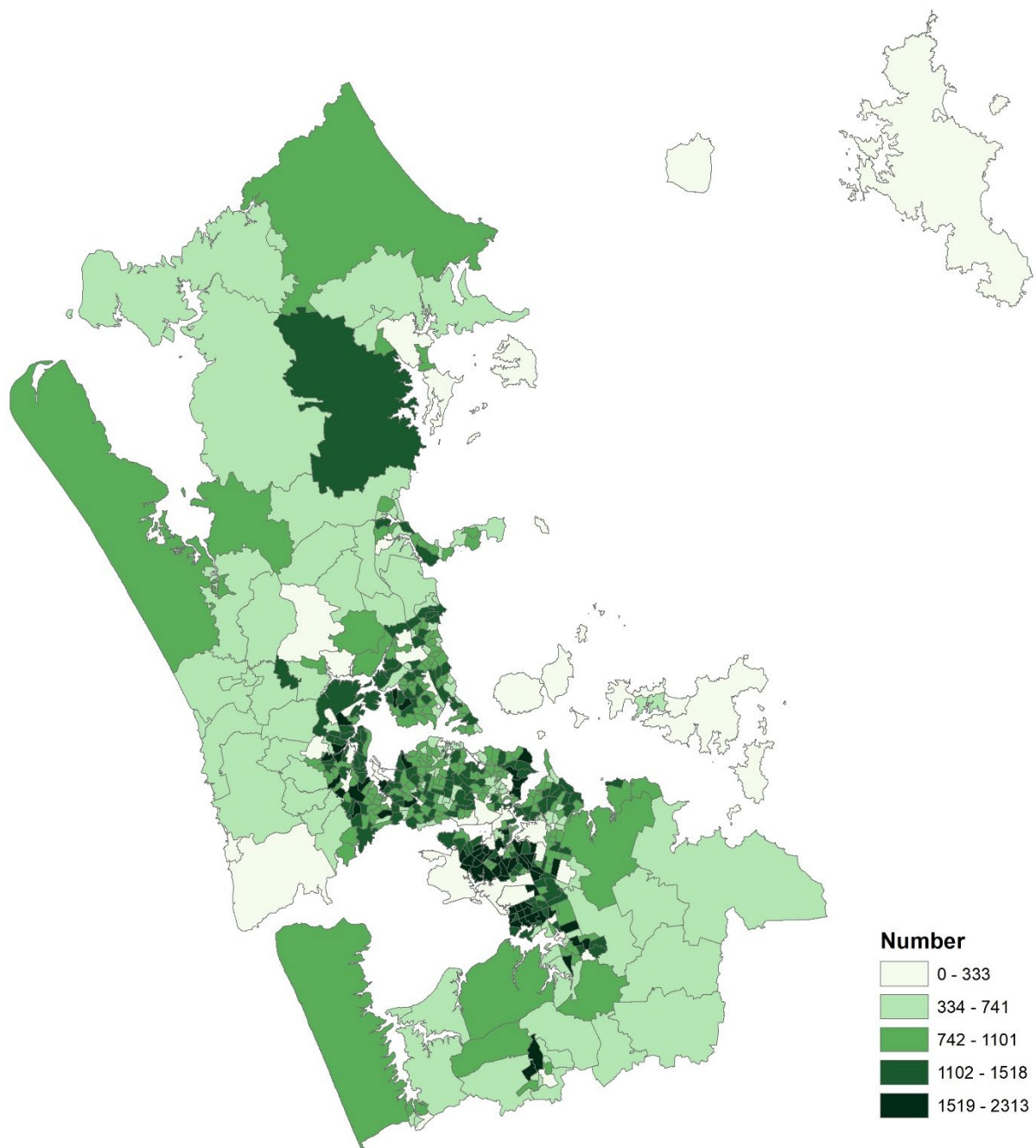


Figure 6. Distribution of children aged 0 to 14 years by SA2 (2018)

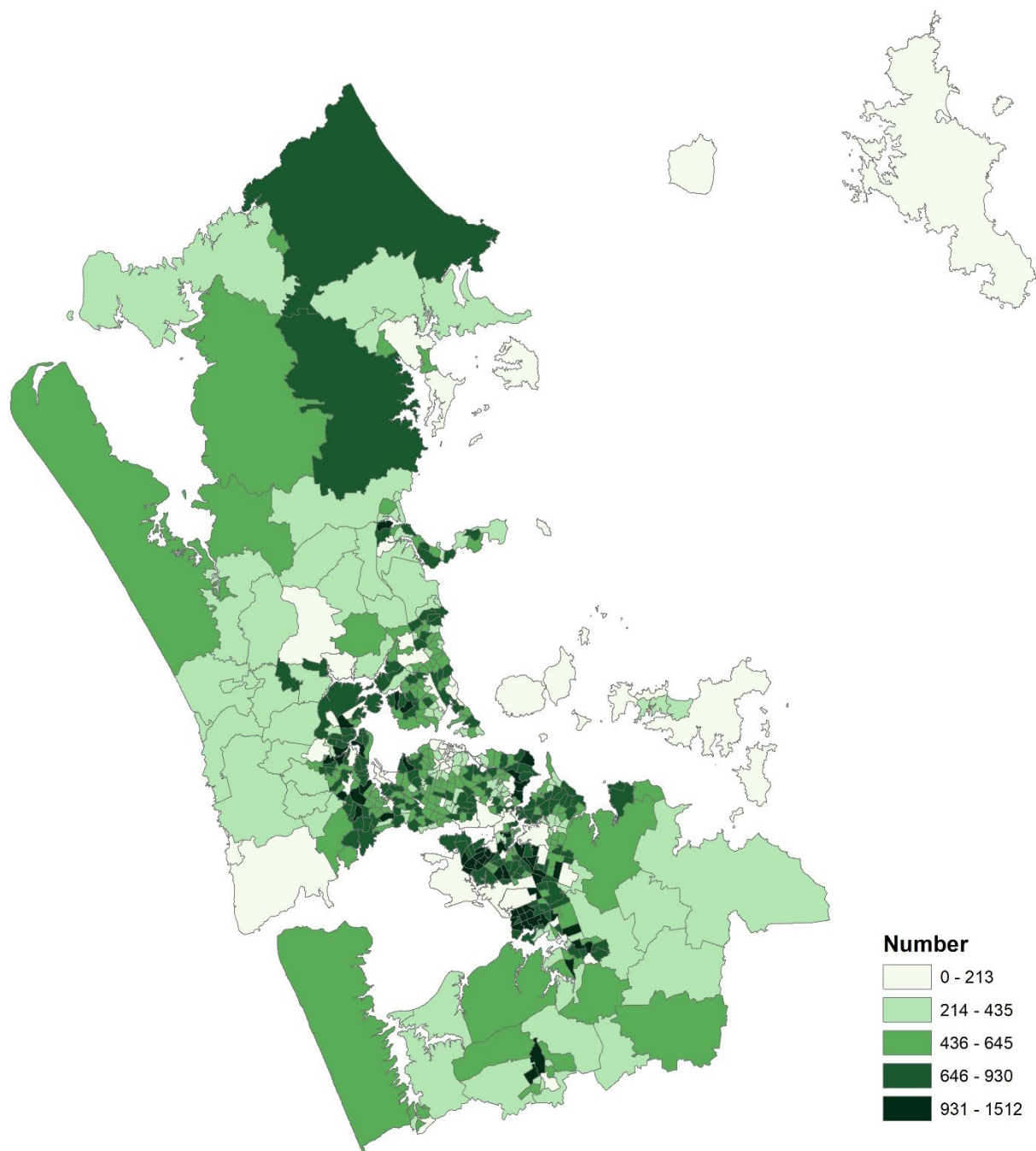
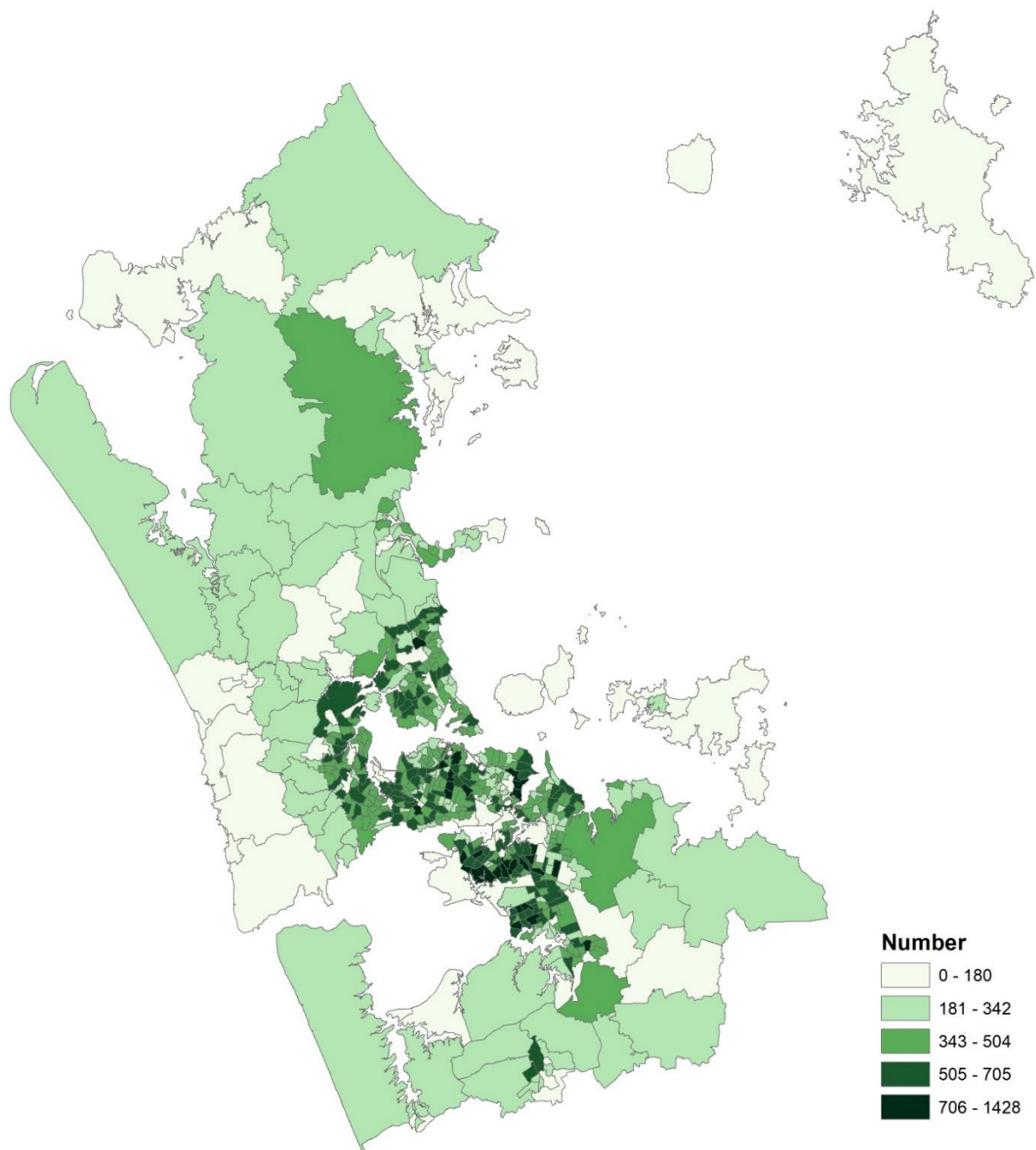


Figure 7. Distribution of young people aged 15 to 24 years by SA2 (2018)



3.2 Distribution by local board

As Table 2 illustrates, the local board areas with the highest proportions of children and young people are Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (43.2%), Manurewa (41.8%), Ōtara-Papatoetoe (41.4%) and Papakura (37.5%). These four local boards make up The Southern Initiative area, of which 41.3 per cent in total are children (25.1%) or young people (16.1%). This is a likely to be a result of a number of factors, including concentration of Māori and Pacific peoples living in these areas (both groups have a relatively high fertility rate and larger families) and fewer people within older age groups. In total, 130,764 children and young people live in the Southern Initiative area, this makes up 24.3 per cent of the total number of children and young people in Auckland.

The local boards with the largest numbers of children and young people are Howick (46,134) and Henderson-Massey (42,852), in line with their relatively large population sizes overall.

Waitematā is made up of a relatively large proportion of 15 to 24 year olds (19.6%), related to a large student population living in the city centre.

Table 2. Number and percentage of children and young people by local board area (2018)

Local board area	Number (n)			Percentage 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	13,254	7,299	20,553	20.0	11.0	30.9
Hibiscus and Bays	19,461	12,759	32,220	18.7	12.3	31.0
Upper Harbour	11,586	9,150	20,736	18.4	14.6	33.0
Kaipātiki	16,446	11,937	28,383	18.6	13.5	32.2
Devonport-Takapuna	10,395	7,734	18,129	17.9	13.3	31.3
Henderson-Massey	26,673	16,179	42,852	22.5	13.7	36.2
Waitākere Ranges	11,337	6,537	17,874	21.8	12.5	34.3
Aotea / Great Barrier	135	51	186	14.4	5.4	19.9
Waiheke	1,437	759	2,196	15.9	8.4	24.2
Waitematā	7,815	16,209	24,024	9.4	19.6	29.0
Whau	15,003	11,178	26,181	18.9	14.1	33.0
Albert-Eden	16,713	15,387	32,100	16.9	15.6	32.5
Puketāpapa	10,098	9,057	19,155	17.5	15.7	33.3
Ōrākei	15,435	10,236	25,671	18.3	12.1	30.4
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	15,384	10,371	25,755	20.2	13.6	33.8
Howick	27,276	18,858	46,134	19.3	13.4	32.7
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	20,700	13,215	33,915	26.4	16.8	43.2
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	20,607	14,646	35,253	24.2	17.2	41.4

Manurewa	24,687	15,312	39,999	25.8	16.0	41.8
Papakura	13,632	7,965	21,597	23.7	13.8	37.5
Franklin	15,762	8,850	24,612	21.1	11.8	32.9
The Southern Initiative	79,626	51,138	130,764	25.1	16.1	41.3
Auckland total	313,836	223,689	537,525	20.0	14.2	34.2

3.3 Distribution by ethnic group

The four maps below show the percentage of children and young people that identify with various ethnic groups (Māori, Pacific, Asian, European), by SA2. These maps demonstrate the substantial distribution of where children and young people who identify with various ethnic groups live in Auckland.

The trend among Māori is clear, with areas in the south, particularly in Māngere and Takanini, showing the highest proportions of youth that identify as Māori. There's also a moderate proportion living in the western suburbs.

The trend among Pacific children and young people is similar to that of Māori, again with the highest proportions in the south, followed by the western suburbs. There is also a moderate proportion living on the outskirts of the isthmus. For both Māori and Pacific, there are low proportions found in the north.

The proportion of children and young people who identify as Asian is more reflective of the general population distribution across Auckland and is far more uniformly spread than that seen among Māori and Pacific. The highest proportions are found on the isthmus (including the city centre and surrounding areas) and in the south, followed by the north and then west.

As a general trend, there are a low proportion of children and young people that identify as Māori Pacific or Asian in the rural outskirts of the city. As shown by Figure 11, these areas are dominated by high proportions of children and young people that identify as European. There are also high proportions of European children and young people on the isthmus (particularly on the city fringe and less so in the city centre itself) and in the north. There is a relatively low proportion in both the south and west of Auckland.

Figure 8. Percentage of 0 to 24 year olds that identify as Māori, by SA2 (2018)

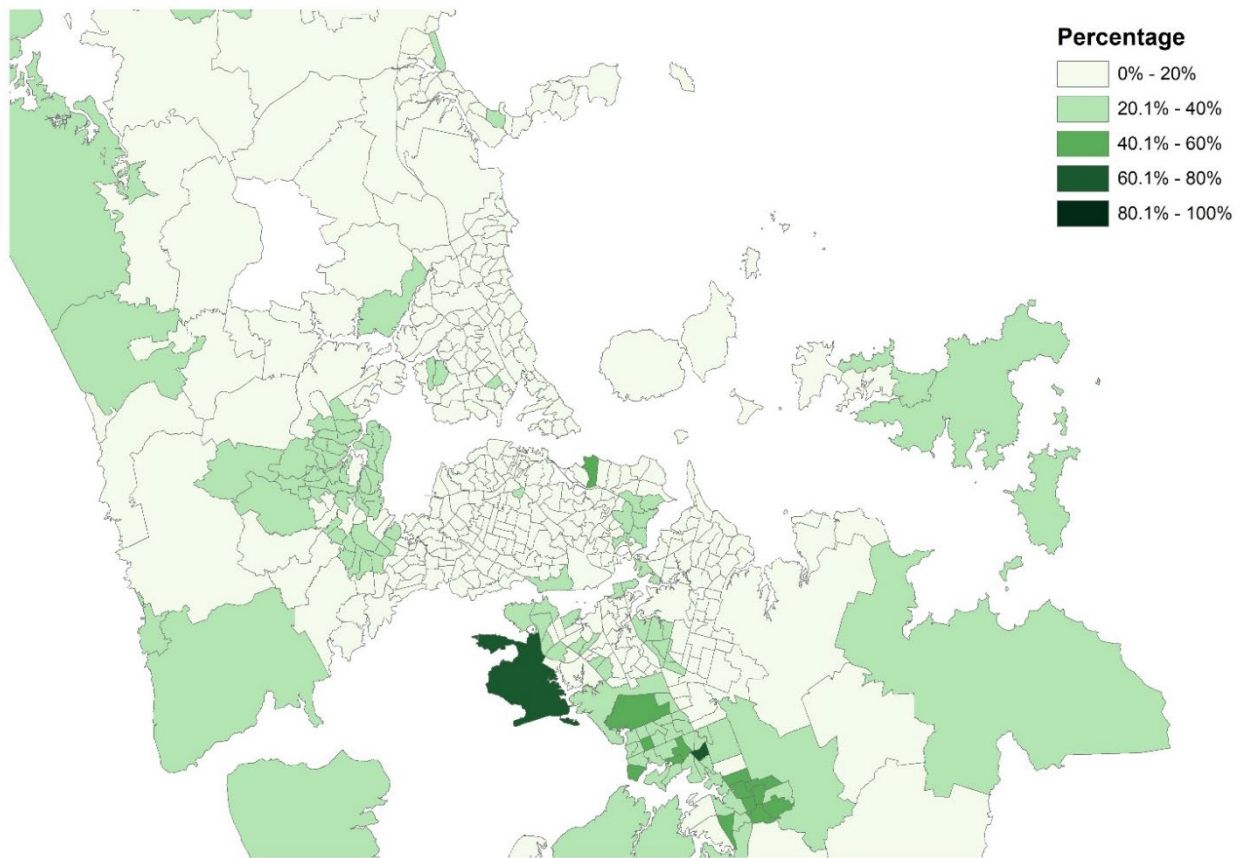


Figure 9. Percentage of 0 to 24 year olds that identify as Pacific, by SA2 (2018)

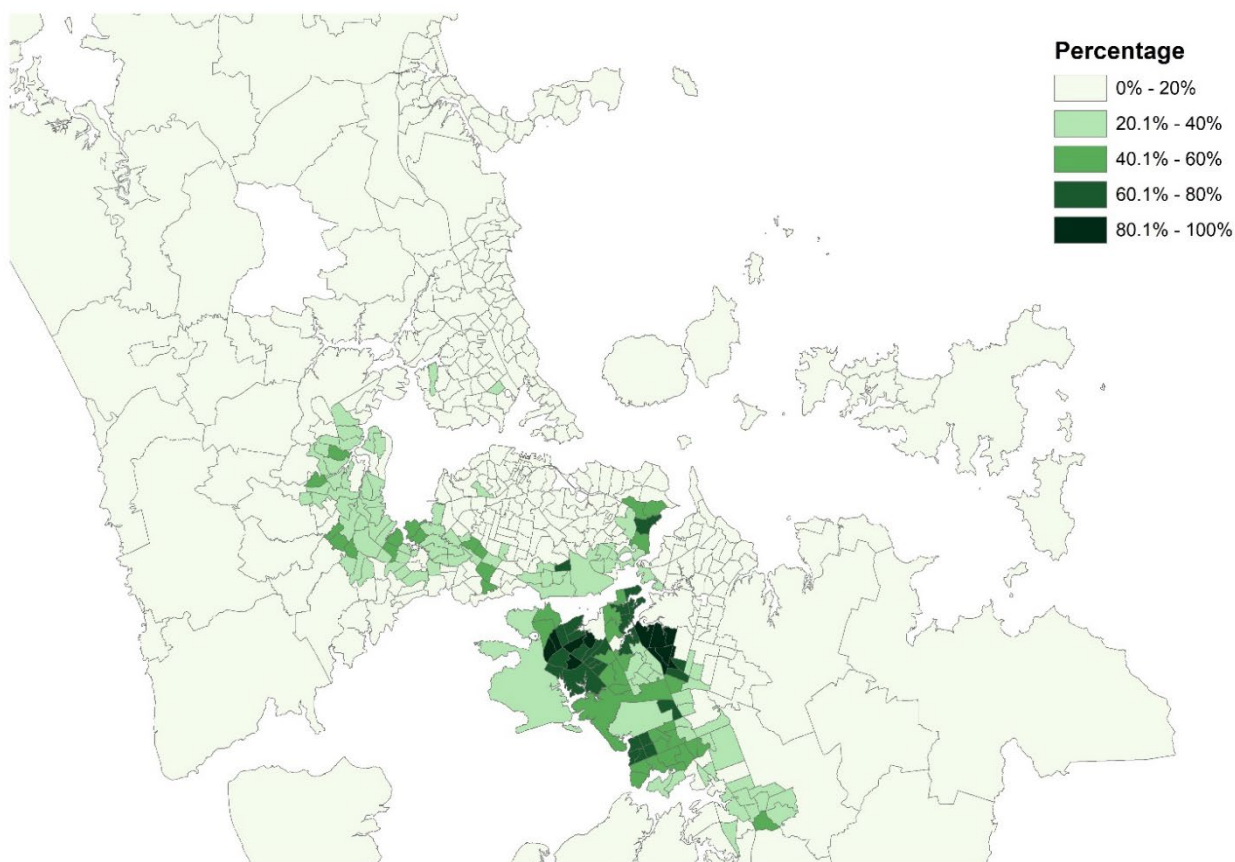


Figure 10. Percentage of 0 to 24 year olds that identify as Asian, by SA2 (2018)

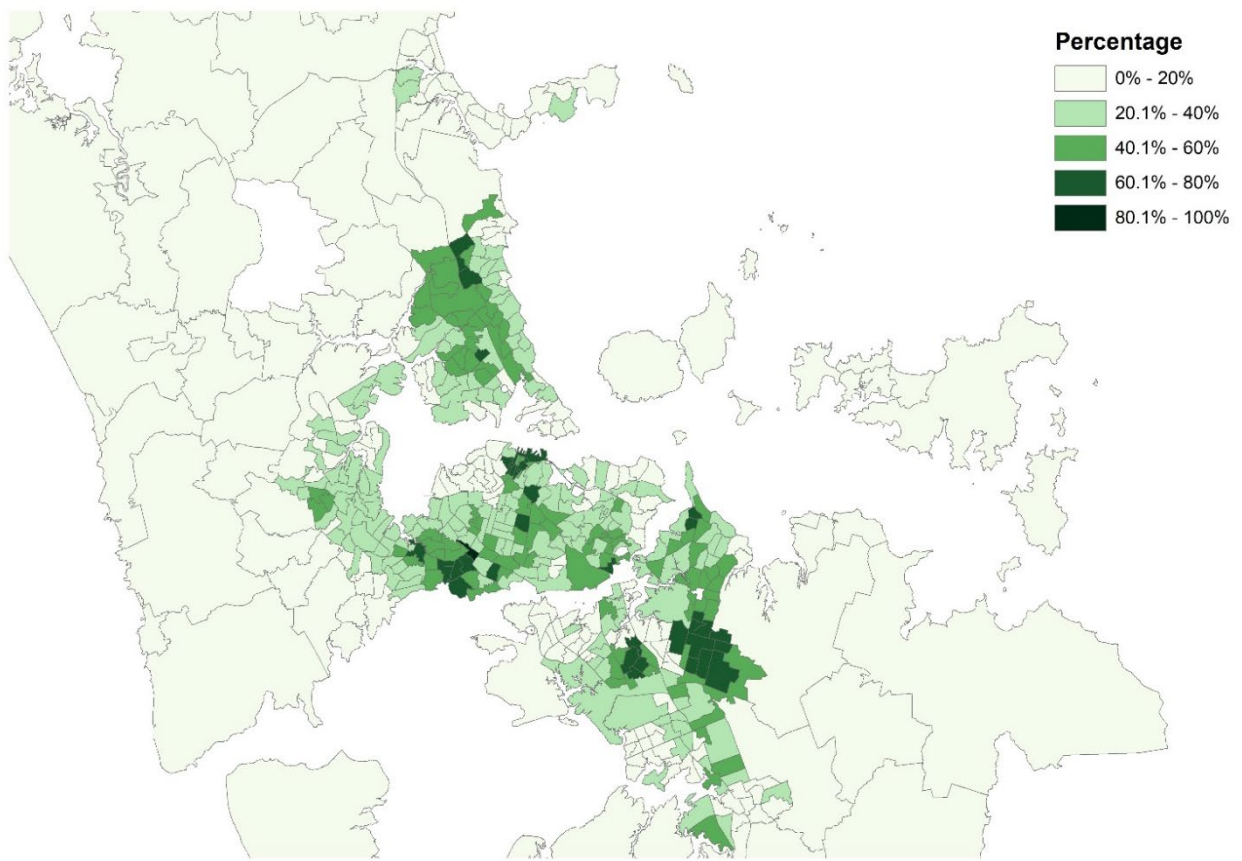
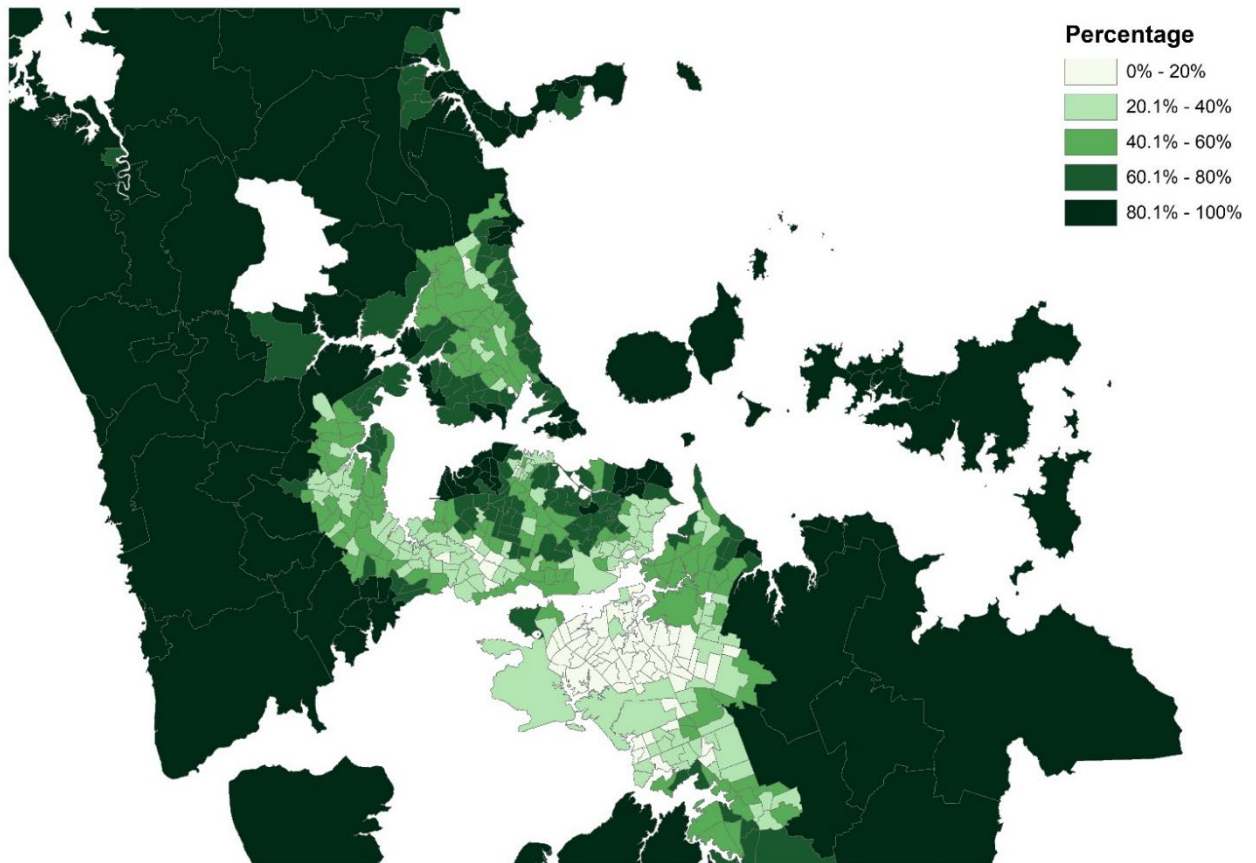


Figure 11. Percentage of 0 to 24 year olds that identify as European, by SA2 (2018)



4.0 Ethnic and cultural diversity

Reflective of the general population, the children and young people who live in Auckland are ethnically and culturally diverse.

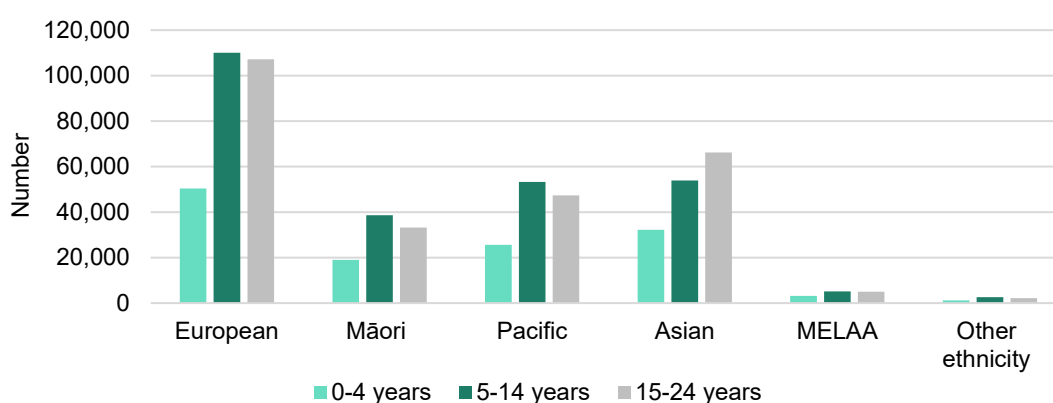
4.1 Ethnic group composition

In 2018, almost half (49.8%) of those aged 0 to 24 years were in the broad European ethnic category, equating to 267,564 people. The next largest group were those classified under the broad Asian category (28.3% or 152,331 people), followed by Pacific (23.5% or 126,231 people) and Māori (16.9% or 90,849 people). The Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) group combined to 2.5 per cent (13,293 people).

Looking at these broad groupings in more detail reveals that the vast majority of those in the European category identified as New Zealand European (244,287 people), followed by British and Irish (9615 people). Among the broad Asian ethnic group, the largest contributors included Chinese (58,053 people), Indian (52,440 people), Filipino (11,169 people), and Korean (8373 people). Finally among the broad Pacific ethnic group, the largest contributors included Samoan (63,033 people), Tongan (35,622 people), Cook Island Māori (26,409 people) and Niuean (12,807 people).

Figure 12 below shows the broad ethnic breakdown by age group. It suggests that diversity is more pronounced among younger age groups, particularly those aged 0 to 4 years. Please note that children and young people could identify /as belonging to more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive.

Figure 12. Number of people in each ethnic group, by age group (2018)

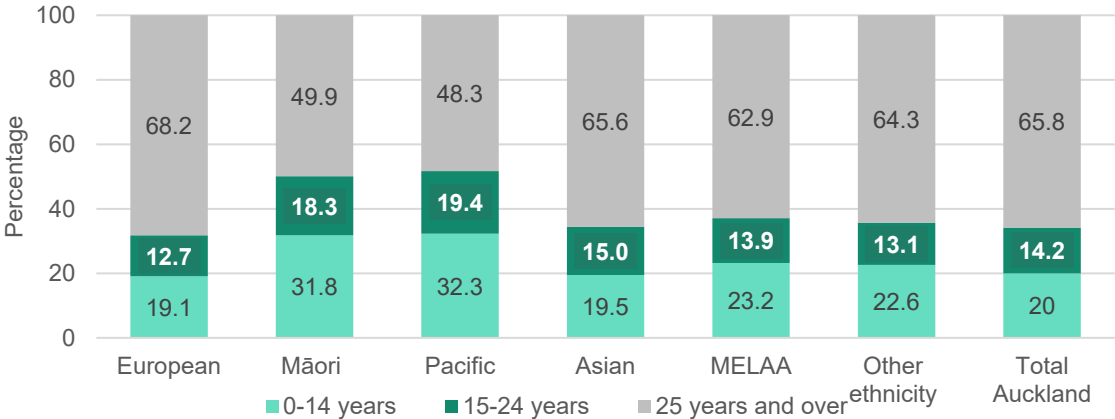


Although numerically there are more children and young people who identify as European in comparison to other ethnic groups, some ethnic groups such as Pacific and Māori have relatively high proportions of children and young people. As Figure 13 shows, 51.7 per cent of Pacific and 50.1 per cent of Māori were children and young people. This compares with 34.2 per cent within the total Auckland population.

High proportions of Auckland's Māori and Pacific children and young people live in the Southern Initiative Area. In 2018, 38.2 per cent of Auckland's Māori children and young people

and over half (54.6%) of Auckland’s Pacific children and young people lived in this area, compared with 11.7 per cent of European and 19.6 per cent of Asian children and young people.

Figure 13. Percentage of ethnic group who were children and young people (2018)



4.2 Change in ethnic composition

In line with general population trends, there has been an increase in the number of children and young people in all main ethnic groups over the last three censuses. However there have been notable shifts in the proportion of children and young people who identify with each ethnic group.

The proportion of children and young people who identify as European has decreased slightly by 4.5 percentage points since 2013 (from 54.3% to 49.8%), while the proportion of children and young people who identify with all other ethnic groups has increased to some extent over this same time period. The largest proportional increase is within the Asian ethnic group, which has grown by 4.2 percentage points between 2013 and 2018, followed by Pacific (1.4% points increase) and Māori (1.2% points). Both MELAA and Other ethnic groups have also seen proportional increases, though to a smaller degree (0.3% points and 0.1% points respectively). These results indicate increasing levels of ethnic diversity among children and young people.

Looking back further to 2006 shows a substantial increase of 6.8 percentage points among the Asian ethnic group, compared to 2018. This equates to an increase of 52,647 people over this time period, this figure far higher than that among all other ethnic groups. This emphasises high growth in both the number and proportion of children and young people that identify as Asian since 2006.

Table 3. Ethnicity of Auckland children and young people (2006, 2013, 2018)

	2006	2013	2018	2006	2013	2018
	Number (n)			Percentage (%)		
European	235,437	259,029	267,564	50.8	54.3	49.8
Māori	73,713	74,919	90,849	15.9	15.7	16.9
Pacific	98,034	105,327	126,231	21.2	22.1	23.5
Asian	99,657	115,002	152,331	21.5	24.1	28.3
MELAA	8406	10,431	13,293	1.8	2.2	2.5
Other	29,541	4875	5979	6.4	1.0	1.1
Total stated	463,158	476,598	537,525			

4.3 Language

Children and young people in Auckland speak a diverse range of languages. Being able to speak a language is defined as an ability to “hold a conversation about a lot of everyday things” by Stats NZ.

After English (90.8% of children and young people), Samoan was the next most common language spoken (26,544 speakers, or 4.9%), followed by Northern Chinese (18,591, or 3.5%) and Māori (14,823, or 2.8%).

Auckland is home to a high concentration of children and young people who speak certain languages relative to the rest of New Zealand, which is reflective of Auckland’s rich cultural makeup. For example, 76.2 per cent of all children and young people in New Zealand who speak Sinitic not further defined (this includes Chinese languages not further defined) live in Auckland. This is followed by 71.6 per cent of all those who speak Northern Chinese (includes Mandarin), and 69.3 per cent who speak Yue (includes Cantonese). This emphasises a high concentration of Chinese language speakers living in Auckland relative to the rest of New Zealand. Other languages with a high proportion of speakers who live in Auckland relative to New Zealand include Samoan (69.3%), Māori (67.3%) and Hindi (66.1%).

Table 4. Top 15 languages spoken by children and young people (2018)

	Number (n)	% of children and young people in Auckland	% of total children and young people in New Zealand
English	488,028	90.8	34.4
Samoan	26,544	4.9	69.3
Northern Chinese ⁽¹⁾	18,591	3.5	71.6
Māori	14,823	2.8	67.3
Tongan	11,022	2.1	14.9
Sinitic not further defined ⁽²⁾	10,644	2.0	76.2
Hindi	10,281	1.9	66.1
Yue ⁽³⁾	8040	1.5	69.3
Panjabi	5880	1.1	59.9
Tagalog	4488	0.8	44.8
Spanish	3570	0.7	36.9
French	3471	0.6	35.1
Afrikaans	2742	0.5	42.3
German	2517	0.5	31.0
New Zealand Sign Language	1896	0.4	26.9
Other	47,934	8.9	55.8
None (e.g. too young to talk)	36,480	6.8	36.9
Total people stated	537,525	129.7	34.8
Not elsewhere included	3		
Total people stated	537,528		

Notes:

1) Includes Mandarin

2) Includes Chinese languages not further defined

3) Includes Cantonese

People could identify speaking more than one language so percentages do not add to 100. Percentages exclude 'not elsewhere included'.

5.0 Birthplace

This section outlines the proportion of children and young people born overseas, and the place of birth among those born outside New Zealand.

5.1 Proportion born overseas

Just under a quarter of Auckland's children and young people were born overseas (23.5%, 126,129 people). This is in line with findings from the 2013 Census, where 24.4 per cent of children and young people were born overseas.

The proportion of children born overseas (14.4% or 45,234 people) is lower than that among young people (36.2% or 80,895 people). However, both groups have a far lower proportion born overseas when compared with the adult Auckland population (25+ years), where just over half are born overseas (50.9%).

Figure 14. Birthplace, by age group (2018)

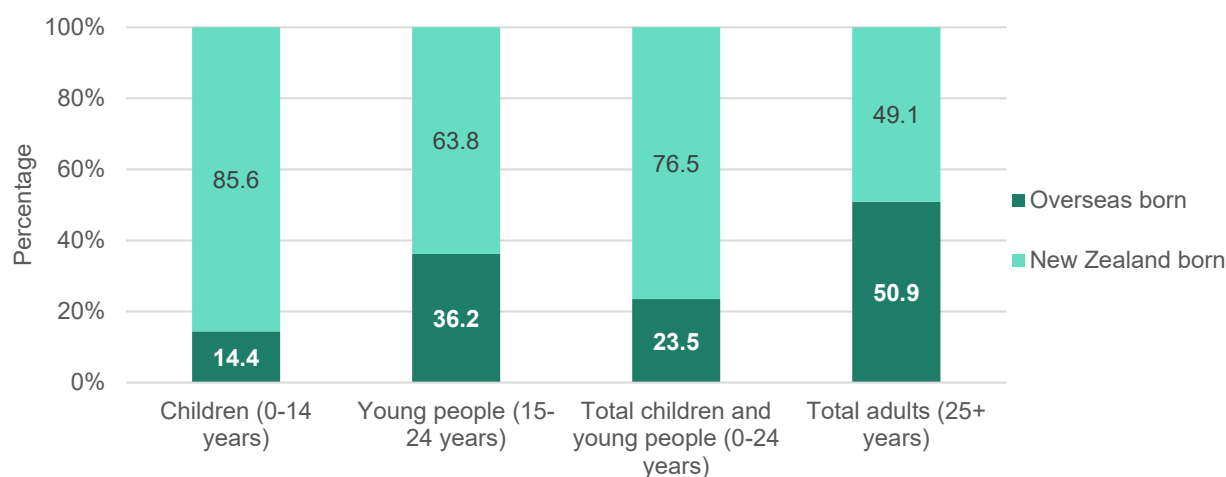


Table 5. Number and proportion of children and young people born overseas and in New Zealand (2018)

	Overseas born	NZ born	Overseas born	NZ born
	Number (n)		Percentage (%)	
Children (0 to 14 years)	45,234	268,602	14.4	85.6
Young people (15 to 24 years)	80,895	142,794	36.2	63.8
Total children and young people (0 to 24 years)	126,129	411,396	23.5	76.5
Total adults (25+ years)	518,220	500,877	50.9	49.1

5.2 Birthplace of those born overseas

Of the 126,129 children and young people who were born overseas, almost half (47.7%) were born in Asia, equating to 60,165 people. This is followed by 16.8 per cent that were born in the Pacific Islands (21,198 people) and 11.3 per cent (14,244 people) born in the Middle East and Africa.

Among those born in Asia, the largest contributing countries include China (18,594 people), India (14,283 people), Philippines (6915 people) and South Korea (4836 people). Among those born in the Pacific Islands, the largest contributing countries include Samoa (8292 people), Fiji (7184 people), and Tonga (3387 people).

Figure 15. Place of birth for overseas born children and young people in Auckland (2018) (%)

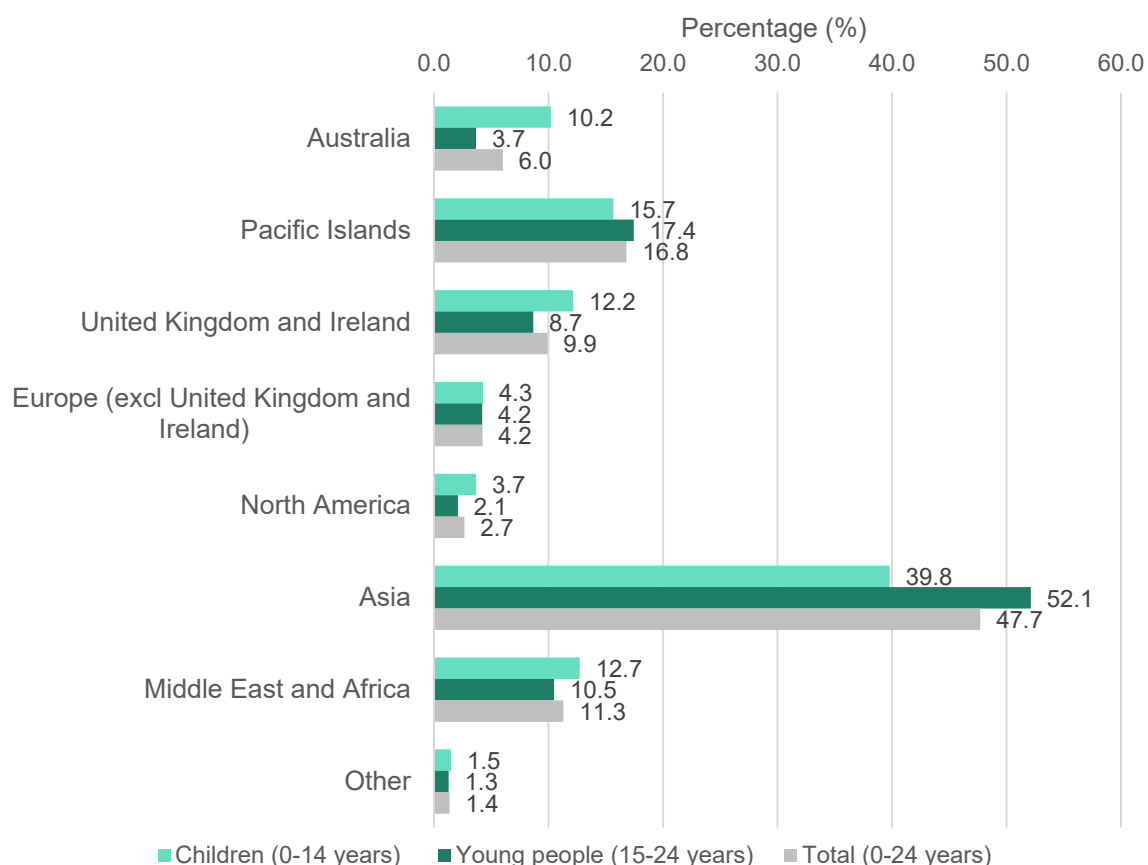


Table 6. Place of birth for overseas born children and young people in Auckland (2018)

	Children (0-14 years)	Young people (15-24 years)	Total (0-24 years)
Australia	4,617	2,970	7,587
Pacific Islands	7,083	14,115	21,198
United Kingdom and Ireland	5,499	7,011	12,510
Europe (excl United Kingdom and Ireland)	1,938	3,414	5,352
North America	1,665	1,695	3,360
Asia	18,003	42,162	60,165
Middle East and Africa	5,754	8,490	14,244
Other	675	1,038	1,713
Total	45,234	80,895	126,129

6.0 Education

Education is a key component in the lives of children and young people. Traditionally from the ages of 5 to 18, children and young people attend primary, intermediate and high schools, including Kōhanga reo. Those aged 19 to 24 often attend further education in the forms of university, internships, or apprenticeships; or go into paid employment.

6.1 Qualifications

As shown in Table 7, almost a third of all young people aged 15 to 24 years (30%) had received a Level 3 certificate as their highest qualification, the most common highest qualification given. An additional 27 per cent had received either a Level 1 or Level 2 certificate.

Looking at further education, six per cent received a level 5 or 6 diploma, and 15 per cent had received a degree level qualification.

Just more than one in ten (13%) had not received any qualification. This is higher among 15 to 19 year olds (22%), who may still be working towards a qualification, dropping to six per cent among 20 to 24 year olds.

It is important to note that a substantial proportion of young people will still be engaged in education and may be working towards a qualification higher than that shown below.

Table 7. Percentage of young people aged 15 to 24 years, by highest qualification (2018) (%)

	15-19 years	20-24 years	Total 15-24 years
No qualification	21.9	6.0	12.9
Level 1 certificate	21.1	5.5	12.3
Level 2 certificate	21.3	9.8	14.8
Level 3 certificate	28.8	30.9	29.9
Level 4 certificate	1.8	8.0	5.3
Level 5 diploma	1.0	5.7	3.6
Level 6 diploma	0.3	3.4	2.1
Bachelor degree and level 7 qualification	0.2	19.9	11.3
Post-graduate and honours degrees	0.1	4.5	2.5
Master degree	0.0	1.1	0.6
Doctorate degree	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overseas secondary school qualification	3.7	5.3	4.6

6.2 Change to qualification levels over time

Table 8 shows that the proportion of young people who have not received any qualifications has dropped substantially over time, from 20 per cent in 2006, to 15 per cent in 2013 and 13

per cent in 2018. This suggests that over time more and more young people are achieving at least one qualification.

Over time the proportion of young people who have received either a Level 1 or 2 certificate as their highest qualification has dropped, meanwhile the proportion who have received a Level 3 certificate as their highest qualification has increased over the same period. This is a positive finding which suggests over time more young people are progressing to achieve higher levels of high school grade qualifications.

Similarly, the proportion of young people achieving university level qualifications, such as a bachelor's degree or level 7 qualification, a post-graduate and honours degree, and a master's degree as their highest qualification increased from both 2006 to 2013 and from 2013 to 2018.

This presents a clear finding that over time young people are achieving higher levels of qualifications, likely associated with ongoing education after high school and possibly higher engagement with education generally.

Table 8. Highest qualification received by young people aged 15 to 24 years, over time (2006, 2013, 2018) (%)

	2006	2013	2018
No qualification	19.8	15.0	12.9
Level 1 certificate	16.7	14.3	12.3
Level 2 certificate	16.0	17.1	14.8
Level 3 certificate	22.5	27.0	29.9
Level 4 certificate	3.9	4.2	5.3
Level 5 diploma	3.2	3.5	3.6
Level 6 diploma	1.6	1.6	2.1
Bachelor degree and level 7 qualification	8.8	9.6	11.3
Post-graduate and honours degrees	0.7	1.4	2.5
Master degree	0.3	0.4	0.6
Doctorate degree	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overseas secondary school qualification	6.5	6.0	4.6

7.0 Employment and income

This section explores the work and labour force status, occupation type, income band and income sources of young people in Auckland. Results are presented by age group (15 to 19 years and 20 to 24 years) to reflect differences in employment outcomes between these two groups.

7.1 Work and labour force status

At the 2018 Census, 124,113 young people were in paid employment (working one or more hours per week). This equates to 36.1 per cent of 15 to 19 year olds and 72.2 per cent of 20 to 24 year olds. It must be noted that a substantial proportion of 15 to 19 year olds are not in the labour force (54.2%), which explains the relatively low proportion in paid employment, compared to 20 to 24 year olds (20.2% not in the labour force). It is expected that a large proportion of those aged 15 to 19 years were engaged in education, rather than participating in the labour force.

Among 15 to 19 year olds the unemployment rate was 21.2 per cent, down from 30.5 per cent in 2013⁶. The unemployment rate among 20 to 24 year olds was 9.6 per cent, down from 15.2 per cent in 2013. This is a positive finding that presents a reduction in the unemployment rate among young people over time.

Table 9. Work and labour force status of 15 to 19 year olds (2013, 2018)

	2013		2018	
	n	%	n	%
Employed Full-time	8,625	8.9	12,600	12.2
Employed Part-time	17,757	18.3	24,879	24.0
Unemployed	11,574	11.9	10,059	9.7
Not in the Labour Force	59,163	60.9	56,154	54.2
Total people stated	97,116	100.0	103,695	100.0
Work and Labour Force Status Unidentifiable	5,802		0	
Total people	102,918		103,695	
<i>Subtotals</i>				
Total people in labour force	37,956	39.1	47,538	45.8
Total people employed	26,382	27.2	37,479	36.1
<i>Unemployment rate</i>		30.5		21.2

⁶ Please note the 'official unemployment rate' is produced by Stats NZ based on the *Household labour force survey*, rather than census data. For more information about work and labour force status, please see the *Auckland regional household labour force survey: quarterly overview*, available on Knowledge Auckland, www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz

Table 10. Work and labour force status of 20 to 24 year olds (2013, 2018)

	2013		2018	
	n	%	n	%
Employed Full-time	44,046	43.7	60,018	50.0
Employed Part-time	18,903	18.8	26,616	22.2
Unemployed	11,241	11.2	9,156	7.6
Not in the Labour Force	26,559	26.4	24,207	20.2
Total people stated	100,749	100.0	119,994	100.0
Work and Labour Force Status Unidentifiable	7,476		0	
Total people	108,222		119,994	
<i>Subtotals</i>				
Total people in labour force	74,190	73.6	95,790	79.8
Total people employed	62,949	62.5	86,634	72.2
<i>Unemployment rate</i>		15.2		9.6

7.2 Employment status of young people by ethnic group

Labour force participation rates have increased for all young people in both the 15 to 19 year old and 20 to 24 year old age groups. Among 15 to 19 year olds, the overall rate of labour force participation has increased from 39.1 per cent in 2013, to 45.8 per cent in 2018. Among 20 to 24 year olds, the rate of labour force participation has increased by a similar margin from 73.6 per cent in 2013 to 79.8 per cent in 2018.

Increases occurred for all ethnic groups. Among 15 to 19 year olds, the largest increase in labour force participation was among the Pacific ethnic group which increased by 11.4 percentage points (from 32.7% in 2013 to 44.1% in 2018). The largest increase among the 20 to 24 age group was for MELAA, which increased by 12.8 percentage points (from 31.7% in 2013 to 40.7% in 2018).

In 2018, the ethnic groups with the highest labour force participation were European (53.5% for 15 to 19 year olds, 85.5% for 20 to 24 year olds) and Māori (51.6% for 15 to 19 year olds, 80.7% for 20 to 24 year olds). Labour force participation rates were lower for Asian, MELAA and Pacific for both age groups.

Figure 16. Labour force participation rates among 15 to 19 year olds in Auckland, by ethnicity (2013, 2018) (%)

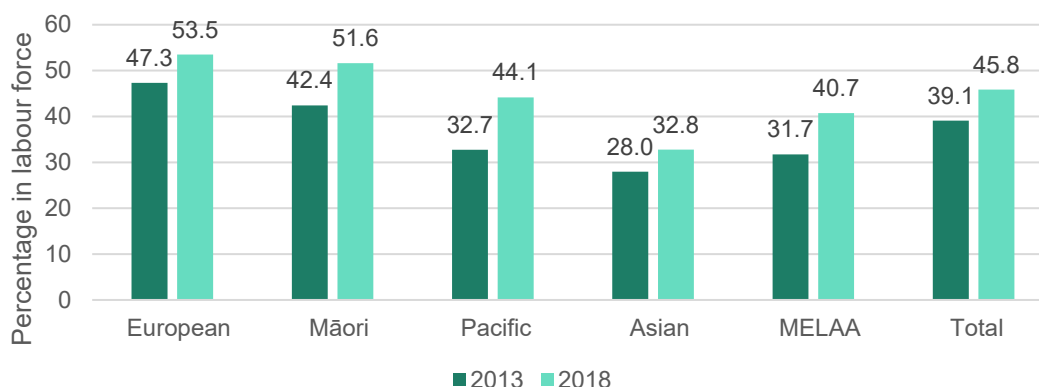
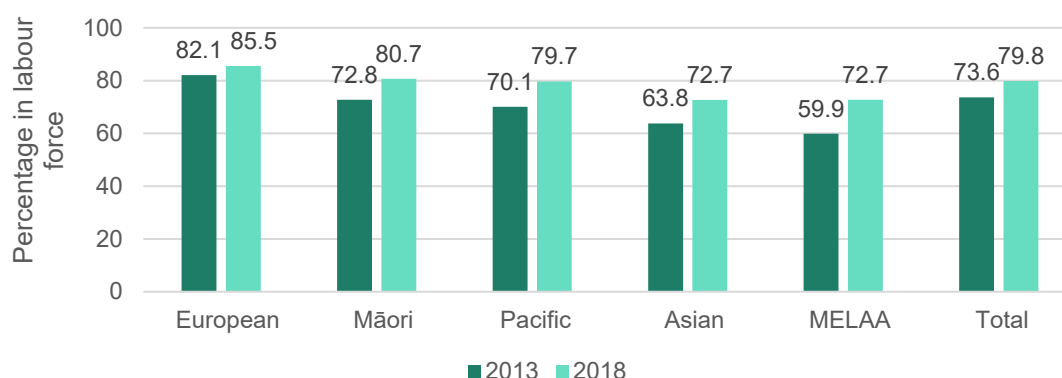


Figure 17. Labour force participation rates among 20 to 24 year olds in Auckland, by ethnicity (2013, 2018) (%)



7.3 Occupation by age group

Young people work in a diverse range of occupations. Among 15 to 19 year olds, the most common occupation was Sales Workers (28.7%), followed by Labourers (21.5%) and Community and Personal Service Workers (20.8%). Among those aged 20 to 24 years the most common occupation was Professionals (18.8%), Sales Workers (18.1%) and Community and Personal Services Workers (14.1%).

Table 11. Occupation, by age group (2018)

	Number			Percentages (%)		
	15-19 years	20-24 years	Total (15-24 years)	15-19 years	20-24 years	Total (15-24 years)
Managers	1,569	7,335	8,904	4.2	8.5	7.2
Professionals	1,548	16,281	17,829	4.1	18.8	14.4
Technicians and Trades Workers	3,261	10,896	14,157	8.7	12.6	11.4
Community and Personal Service Workers	7,803	12,183	19,986	20.8	14.1	16.1
Clerical and Administrative Workers	2,352	9,519	11,871	6.3	11.0	9.6
Sales Workers	10,746	15,642	263,88	28.7	18.1	21.3
Machinery Operators and Drivers	2,142	5,142	7,284	5.7	5.9	5.9
Labourers	8,064	9,636	17,700	21.5	11.1	14.3
Total people stated	37,482	86,634	124,116			

7.4 Labour force participation by local board area

Labour force participation among young people varies across Auckland by local board area, as shown in Table 12. This shows labour force participation was particularly high in Rodney (71.6%), Waiheke (69.2%), Franklin (68.9%) and Hibiscus and Bays (68.7%); and lowest in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (59.6%), Howick (60.5%), Ōrākei (61.1%) and Waitemata (61.9%) as at the census.

The differences in unemployment rate are also substantial, with the lowest unemployment rates associated with Waiheke (6.2%), Aotea / Great Barrier (7.7%) and Rodney (9.0%); while the highest unemployment rates are associated with Manurewa (18.8%), and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (17.7%) and Papakura (15.7%).

Table 12 also shows the proportion of young people not in the labour force, which is defined as those not in employment or actively seeking work. This includes students, people caring for children or family members, retired people, and people unable to work for any reason, such as illness or disability.

Table 12. Participation in the labour force for 15 to 24 year olds, by local board area (2018)

Local board area	Total stated (number)	Labour force participation (%)	Not in labour force (%)	Unemployed (%)
Rodney	7,299	71.6	28.4	9.0
Hibiscus and Bays	12,759	68.7	31.2	10.9
Upper Harbour	9,150	62.1	37.8	11.4
Kaipātiki	11,937	66.4	33.6	11.8
Devonport-Takapuna	7,734	62.7	37.3	10.4
Henderson-Massey	16,179	64.9	35.1	15.5
Waitākere Ranges	6,537	66.6	33.5	13.2
Aotea / Great Barrier	51	64.7	23.5	7.7
Waiheke	759	69.2	30.0	6.2
Waitematā	16,209	61.9	38.1	12.8
Whau	11,178	62.6	37.4	14.5
Albert-Eden	15,387	63.3	36.7	11.6
Puketāpapa	9,057	62.5	37.6	12.8
Ōrākei	10,236	61.1	38.9	10.7
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	10,371	66.8	33.2	14.5
Howick	18,858	60.5	39.5	13.1
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	13,215	59.6	40.5	17.7
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	14,646	64.5	35.4	15.4
Manurewa	15,312	63.2	36.8	18.1
Papakura	7,965	67.0	33.0	15.7
Franklin	8,850	68.9	31.1	11.8
Auckland	223,689	64.1	35.9	13.4

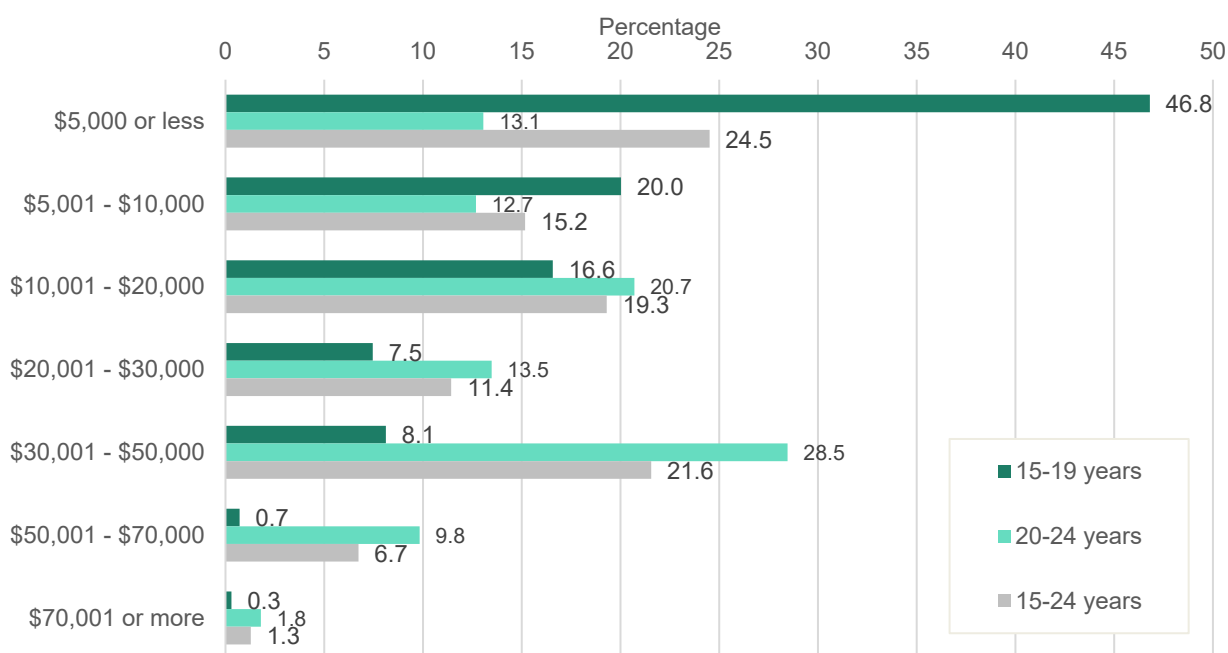
7.5 Income band

This section outlines the levels and sources of personal income reported by young people aged 15 to 24 years old.

As Figure 18 shows, the largest proportion of 15 to 19 year olds report an income of \$5000 or less (46.8% or 26,517 people) and the largest proportion of 20 to 24 year olds report an income of \$30,001 to \$50,000 (28.5% or 313,83 people).

Generally, those in the 15 to 19 years age group tend to have an income within the lower income bands, whereas this is more spread among the 20 to 24 year old age group. This may be reflective of young people progressing from education and training into specialised work roles associated with higher pay as they get older.

Figure 18. Personal income bands of young people, by age groups (2018) (%)



7.6 Income source

The majority of young people aged 15 to 24 years receive income through wages, salary, commissions or bonuses (63.7%), followed by Student Allowance (9.6%) and job seeker support (6.0%).

Just 6.5 per cent of 20 to 24 year olds report not receiving income of any kind over the past 12 months, rising to 43.3 per cent among 15 to 19 year olds. This is likely reflective of individuals in this age group being financially supported by their parents or other guardians.

A minority of young people receive income through other sources, as shown by Table 13 below.

Table 13. Income sources of young people in previous 12 months (2018) (%)

	15-19 years	20-24 years	Total (15-24 years)
Wages, salary, commissions, bonuses etc	45.3	79.6	63.7
Student Allowance	7.2	11.8	9.6
Jobseeker Support	3.1	8.4	6.0
Self-employment or business	2.1	5.9	4.1
Interest, dividends, rent, other investments	2.2	4.1	3.2
Sole Parent Support	2.3	3.1	2.7
Other govt benefits, income support, war pensions, parental leave	1.2	2.2	1.8
Supported Living Payment	1.3	1.9	1.6
Regular payments from ACC or a private work accident insurer	0.6	1.5	1.1
NZ Superannuation or Veteran's Pension	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other superannuation, pensions, or annuities	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other sources of income	2.0	2.7	2.4
No source of income during that time	43.3	6.5	23.5
Total stated	110.6	127.8	119.8

8.0 Discussion

Throughout this report a clear theme has emerged of diversity among Auckland's children and young people, even more so than within the adult population. This diversity was predominantly seen in two key areas: ethnic and cultural identity, and geographical distribution.

Children and young people are at a life phase where they are developing a self-identity and direction that is likely to persist into their adult years and beyond. More diversity among children and young people now, means there will likely be more diversity among the general population in the future as this cohort develops into the Auckland adult population.

Auckland already represents a region of rich ethnic and cultural diversity within the wider context of New Zealand, and this is especially the case among its children and young people. Increasing ethnic and cultural diversity was highlighted by a decrease in the proportion of children and young people who identify as European, and an increase in the proportion who identify as all other main ethnic groups in 2018, compared to 2013. Children and young people are also more likely to identify as Māori or Pacific; and less likely to identify as European compared to the total Auckland population.

The proportion and number of children and young people who identify as Asian continues to grow, easily representing the second largest ethnic group among children and young people in Auckland. This is followed by Pacific, and then Māori with Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) still a minority.

As in previous years, geographical distribution of children and young people varies substantially by age group (including compared to the total Auckland population) and ethnic group. Generally speaking, children and young people tend to live in a peripheral band around the city, with a clear trend showing the highest numbers living in the south, followed by the west. Māori and Pacific children and young people are especially likely to live in the south, followed by the west. Asian children and young people live in a more spread distribution across the region, more closely aligning with general population trends, though still with a large proportion in the south. European children and young people are more likely to live on the isthmus, in the north and on the outskirts of the city.

One clear finding that should be noted is the substantial number of children and young people living in the Southern Initiative area, comprising a large proportion of the total population living in this area. This area is particularly diverse, with a mixture of Māori, Pacific and Asian children and young people predominantly living here.

In the context of Auckland's increasingly diverse population of children and young people, it will be important to continue to foster a culture of welcoming and celebrating diversity, to understand and appreciate the value it brings. An ethnically diverse population of children and young people represents an opportunity to celebrate and embrace difference, and to value what each group brings to enrichen the whole. Ultimately this aligns with one of the key goals in *I Am Auckland*: that all young people will thrive.

Find out more: phone 09 301 0101, email
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aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and knowledgeauckland.org.nz