



Children and Young People in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland: Results from the 2023 Census

David Bade

May 2025

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Strategic Advice
and Research

SARU





Children and Young People in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland: Results from the 2023 Census

May 2025

David Bade

Social and Economic Research and Evaluation Team

Strategic Advice and Research Unit

Policy Department

Auckland Council

ISBN 978-1-991146-53-3 (PDF)

Recommended citation:

Bade, D (2025). Children and Young People in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland: Results from the 2023 Census. Auckland Council

Cover image credit:

Children playing at Ōtāhuhu Playground (Auckland Council, 2023)

© 2025 Auckland Council, New Zealand

Auckland Council disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with any action taken in reliance of this document for any error, deficiency, flaw, or omission contained in it.

This document is licensed for re-use under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

In summary, you are free to copy, distribute and adapt the material, as long as you attribute it to Auckland Council and abide by the other licence terms.



This report is part of a suite of reports covering various topics, based on the 2023 Census data. These are available on the Knowledge Auckland website:

<https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/2023-census-results-for-auckland-summary-reports>

Census data can be accessed from the Stats NZ Aotearoa Data Explorer:

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/2023-census/>.

For further information contact: census@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Executive Summary

This report presents an overview of children (0 to 14 years) and young people (15 to 24 years) in Auckland, based on data from the 2023 Census. The report outlines changes over time since the 2018 Census, and, where possible, the 2013 Census. Key findings from the report are summarised below:

Numbers and growth

- In 2023, there were 539,829 children and young people (0 to 24 years of age) in Auckland, equating to a third (32.6%) of the total Auckland population.
- The overall number of children and young people remained relatively stable between 2018 and 2023, growing by 2304 (+0.4 per cent).
- Although there was a growth in absolute numbers, the proportion of children and young people in Auckland decreased from 35.9 per cent in 2013 to 34.2 per cent in 2018 and 32.6 per cent in 2023.
- There are slightly more children and young people who identify as male (50.8%) than female (48.7%).

Geographical distribution

- The local board areas with the highest proportions of children and young people are in southern urban Auckland¹. The three local board areas with the highest proportions are: Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (40.6%), Manurewa (39.8%) and Ōtara-Papatoetoe (38.9%).
- The local board areas with the lowest proportion of children and young people are in the island local board areas: Waiheke (21.1%) and Aotea/Great Barrier (21.1%).
- A relatively large proportion of those living in Waitematā Local Board area are aged 15 to 24 (19.4%), driven in part by the large student population living in the city centre.

Dwellings and households

- In 2023, nearly all children and young people (500,505 or 99.0 per cent) in Auckland lived in a private dwelling.
- Most (82.9%) children and young people living in private dwellings lived in separate houses (414,813). However, there is a growing number living in joined dwellings, an increase of 34,062 (+66.9 per cent) since 2018.
- In 2023, most (81.6%) children and young people lived in a one-family household. Over one in ten (12.1%) lived in two-family households.
- Just over three quarters of family households with at least one child under 18 years of age consisted of couples with children (77.3% or 154,953 families) while over one in five were single-parent families (22.7% or 45,543 families).
- In 2023, 8.8 per cent of children (0 to 14 years) in Auckland were living in a severely crowded household, similar to 2018 (8.2%). For those aged 15 to 29 years, 9.8 per cent were living in a severely crowded household, down from 10.2 per cent in 2018.
- The proportion of children who lived in dwellings which always have mould (6.9%) or are always damp (4.6%) has declined since 2018 (8.4% and 6.1% respectively). Likewise, the proportion of young people who lived in dwellings which always have mould (7.3%) and

¹ This area covers Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Papakura and Manurewa local board areas. This is the area covered by [The Southern Initiative](#) which champions, stimulates and enables social and community innovation in southern urban Auckland.

dampness (4.6%) declined since 2018 (8.4% and 5.5% respectively). This is part of a general pattern across all households.

- Over a quarter of all children (27.9%) and young people (27.1%) lived in areas rated as relatively deprived on the New Zealand Deprivation Index in 2023

Ethnic and cultural diversity

- In 2023, almost half (47.4%) of those aged 0 to 24 years were in the broad European ethnic category, equating to 255,612 people. The next largest group were those classified under the broad Asian category (30.4% or 163,920 people), followed by Pacific Peoples (25.0% or 134,754 people) and Māori (18.1% or 97,590 people).
- Almost half of all Auckland usual residents in the broad Pacific Peoples ethnic group (49.0%) and in the Māori ethnic group (47.9%) were children and young people in 2023, compared with 31.0 per cent of the broad European group and 31.7 percent of the Asian group.
- One in five (20.8%) children and young people had more than one ethnic identity. This is a considerably higher proportion than the rest of the Auckland population (7.6%).
- After English (90.7% of children and young people), Samoan was the next most common language spoken (26,622 speakers, or 4.9%), followed by Northern Chinese (18,834, or 3.5%) and Māori (16,845, or 3.1%).
- Around one in five children and young people in Auckland were born overseas (21.7%, or 115,971 people). This is lower than in 2018 (23.5%) and 2013 (24.4%).

Educational qualifications

- The most common highest educational qualification among young people was the Level 3 certificate, with 31.0 per cent stating this as their highest qualification.
- Around one in eight (12.9%) had not received any qualification. This is higher among those aged 15 to 19 (21.9%), who may still be working towards a qualification, dropping to six per cent among those aged 20 to 24.
- The proportion of young people who have not received any qualifications has dropped steadily between 2013 and 2023 (from 15.0% to 12.7%).

Employment and income

- At the 2023 Census, 123,546 young people were in paid employment (working one or more hours per week) - 39.9 per cent of those aged 15 to 19 and 71.3 per cent of those aged 20 to 24.
- Young people are highly represented in several occupations, particularly sales workers (33.1% were young people), labourers (28.2%) and community and personal service workers (25.2%).
- The unemployment rate² among those aged 15 to 19 was 16.1 per cent, down from 30.5 per cent in 2013 and 21.2 per cent in 2018. The unemployment rate among those aged 20 to 24 was 8.0 per cent, down from 15.2 per cent in 2013 and 9.6 per cent in 2018.
- The unemployment rate varies across Auckland by local board area, with the highest unemployment rates being in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (15.9%), Manurewa (14.8%), and Papakura (14.7%) and the lowest unemployment rates being in Waiheke (6.8%), Rodney (7.5%) and Devonport-Takapuna (7.7%).

² Note that the official unemployment rate is produced by Stats NZ based on the *Household Labour Force Survey*. For more information about work and labour force status, please see the *Auckland regional household labour force survey: quarterly overview*, available on [Knowledge Auckland](#).

Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Numbers and growth	2
2.1	Number of children and young people growing slower than the Auckland population	2
2.2	A third of New Zealand's children and young people live in Auckland.....	3
2.3	Steady decline in the proportion of Aucklanders who are children and young people.....	3
2.4	More male children and young people than females.....	5
3	Geographical distribution	6
3.1	Distribution of children and young people varies by age	6
3.2	High proportions of children and young people in Auckland's southern urban areas	10
4	Ethnic and cultural diversity	11
4.1	Increasing ethnic diversity among children and young people.....	11
4.2	More children and young people identify with multiple ethnicities than the rest of the population ..	14
4.3	Regional variances in the distribution of children and young people by ethnic group	14
4.4	One in five children and young people are of Māori descent.....	21
4.5	Children and young people in Auckland speak a diverse range of languages	21
5	Birthplace.....	24
5.1	One in five children and young people were born overseas.....	24
5.2	Half of children and young people born overseas were born in Asia	25
6	Dwellings and households.....	27
6.1	A growing number of children and young people living in joined dwellings.....	27
6.2	Most children and young people living in one-family households	28
6.3	More than one in five families with dependent children were sole parent families	29
6.4	Almost one in 10 of those aged between 0 to 29 years living in a severely crowded household.....	29
6.5	Less children and young people living in a dwelling with mould and dampness since 2018	30
6.6	Over a quarter of children and young people lived in areas rated as relatively deprived on the NZDep Index	31
7	Education	33
7.1	A third of young people have a Level 3 certificate as their highest qualification	33
7.2	The proportion of young people without any qualifications has declined.....	34
8	Employment and income	36
8.1	Over 120,000 young people were in the work force.....	36
8.2	Labour force participation for young people varies across the region	38
8.3	Relatively low proportion of Asian young people in the labour force	39
8.4	Young people work in a diverse range of occupations and industries.....	40

8.5	Income bands of young people reflect progression from education to work.....	43
8.6	Higher proportion of male young people in higher income bands than female young people.....	44
8.7	Similar income band proportions among ethnic groups	44
9	Discussion	46

1 Introduction

The report presents an overview of children and young people (aged 0 to 24 years) in Auckland, based on data from the 2023 New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings.³ The findings presented in this report are a fundamental contribution to Auckland Council's ability to uphold its commitment to Auckland's children and young people, as set out in the Auckland Plan 2050⁴ (adopted in June 2018) and the Thriving Rangatahi strategy⁵ (adopted in December 2024). Understanding where our children and young people live, their demographic characteristics, and tracking changes over time with regard to education and employment levels is important.

The 2023 Census provides a snapshot of New Zealand on census day (7 March 2023).⁶ Respondents fill out an individual form and a form for the dwelling they live in. Data from alternative sources, such as birth, death and taxation records, is also used by Stats NZ to help produce the highest quality data possible.⁷

This report presents an overview of key findings, and outlines changes over time since the 2018 Census, and, where possible, the 2013 Census. Local board area and Statistical Area 3 (roughly suburb area)⁸ comparisons are provided, where noteworthy. The report is descriptive and does not analyse the drivers behind trends and figures. 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.

The report is organised into eight sections: population numbers and growth, geographical distribution, ethnic and cultural diversity, birthplace, dwellings and households, education, and employment and income.

In this report, 'children' are defined as those aged 0 to 14 years, and 'young people' are defined as those aged 15 to 24 years. The 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).

³ The report follows on from two publications: [Children and young people in Auckland: results from the 2018 census](#) and [A profile of children and young people in Auckland: 2022 update](#).

⁴ [Auckland Plan 2050](#)

⁵ [Thriving Rangatahi – supporting thriving children and young people](#)

⁶ The 2023 Census went live on 13 February 2023, which enabled people to complete census forms before census day. The remainder of respondents were able to complete forms until 30 June 2023. Census forms for children (under 14 years) could be filled in by an adult (usually a parent). See: [Field collection strategies and operations for the 2023 Census](#).

⁷ See: [Using a combined census model for the 2023 Census](#).

⁸ The population size of each SA3 area is not identical and more sparsely populated SA3s can be larger in spatial size than more densely populated SA3s.

2 Numbers and growth

In 2023, there were 539,829 children and young people (0 to 24 years) in Auckland, equating to a third (32.6%) of the total Auckland population. Within this group there were:

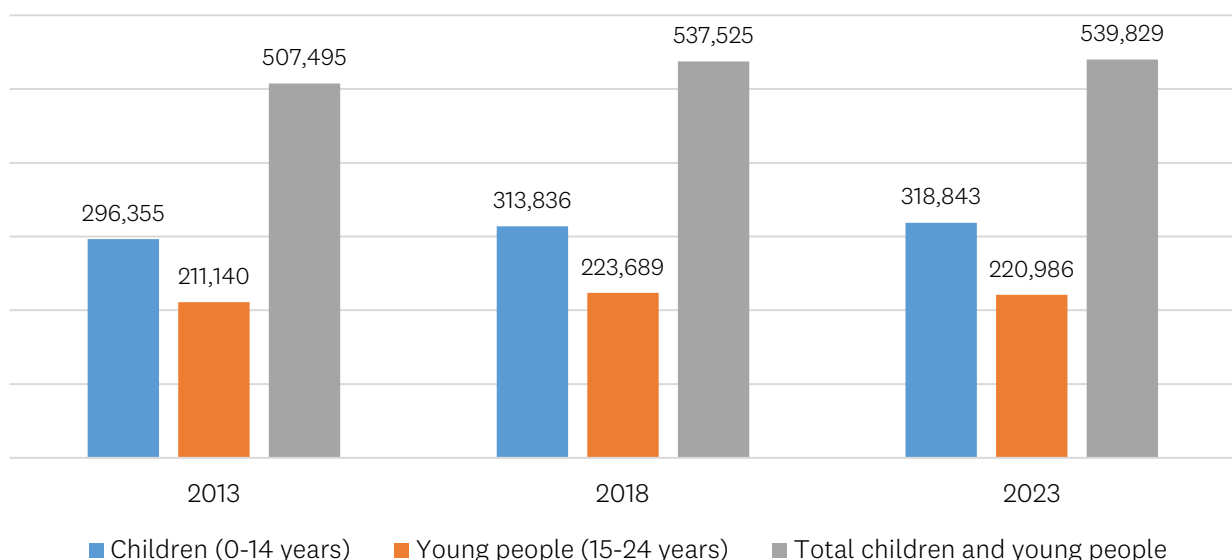
- 318,843 children aged between 0 and 14 years (59.0%)
- 108,339 young people aged between 15 and 19 years (20.1%)
- 112,647 young people aged between 20 and 24 years (20.9%).

2.1 Number of children and young people growing slower than the Auckland population

As shown in Figure 1, the overall number of children and young people living in Auckland remained relatively stable between 2013 and 2023 (+32,334, +6.4%) – particularly between 2018 and 2023, when the number increased by only 2304 (+0.4%). This percentage growth is smaller than the growth of the rest of the Auckland population (25 years and over) which increased by 23.0 per cent between 2013 and 2023 and 8.0 per cent between 2018 and 2023.

The number of children (0 to 14 years) increased by 5007 to 318,843 between 2018 and 2023 (an increase of 1.6%). The number of young people (15 to 24 years) decreased by 2703 to 220,986 (a decrease of 1.2%).

Figure 1: The number of children and young people in Auckland (2013, 2018, 2023)



Although overall growth was stable, there was a variety of changes among five-year age groups, as shown in Table 1. The age group that grew the most rapidly was the 10 to-14 year group, which increased by 11,991 (+11.8%). The greatest decline was in the 20 to 24 year group which declined by 7347 (-6.1%).

Table 1: The number and per cent of children and young people in Auckland (2013, 2018, 2023)

	2013	2018	2023	Change 2013-2018		Change 2018-2023	
	Number			Number	%	Number	%
0-4 years	102,357	102,765	98,565	408	0.4	-4200	-4.1
5-9 years	97,593	109,425	106,641	11,832	12.1	-2784	-2.5
10-14 years	96,405	101,646	113,637	5241	5.4	11,991	11.8
15-19 years	102,918	103,695	108,339	777	0.8	4644	4.5
20-24 years	108,222	119,994	112,647	11,772	10.9	-7347	-6.1
Total children (0-14 years)	296,355	313,836	318,843	17,481	5.9	5007	1.6
Total young people (15-24 years)	211,140	223,689	220,986	12,549	5.9	-2703	-1.2
Total children and young people	507,495	537,525	539,829	30,030	5.9	2304	0.4
Rest of Auckland (25+ years)	908,055	1,034,193	1,116,651	208,596	23.0	82,458	8.0
Total Auckland population	1,415,550	1,571,718	1,656,486	156,168	11.0	84,768	5.4

2.2 A third of New Zealand's children and young people live in Auckland

In 2023, 34.4 per cent of all children and young people in New Zealand were usually resident in Auckland, similar to 2018 (34.8%) and 2013 (34.9%).

Auckland is home to 34.1 per cent of all children (0 to 14 years), 33.8 per cent of those aged 15 to 19 and 36.1 per cent of those aged 20 to 24 in New Zealand.

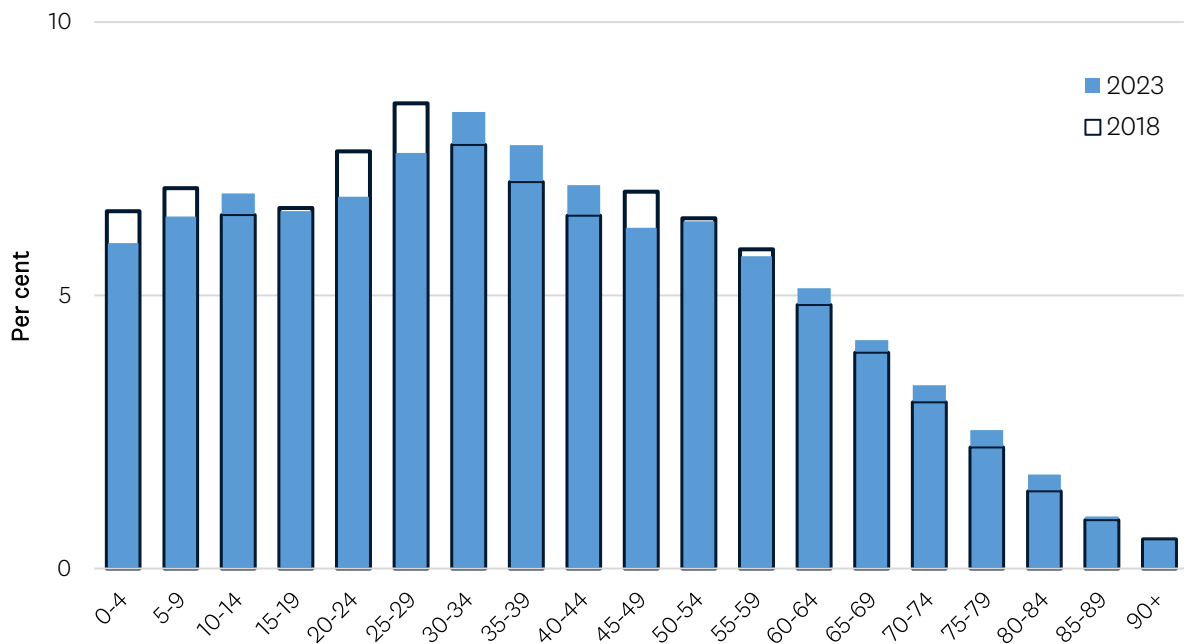
2.3 Steady decline in the proportion of Aucklanders who are children and young people

Figure 2 shows the age distribution of Auckland's overall population in 2018 and 2023. It shows that the proportions of those aged under 20 years decreased while the proportions of those aged 30 to 44 years and 60 years and over increased in that intercensal period.

This is part of a long-term ageing trend. For instance, in 2006, the proportion of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over was 10.0 per cent, increasing to 11.8 per cent in 2013, 12.0 per cent in 2018, and 13.3 per cent in 2023. Auckland's 65 years and over population is projected to increase to 20 per cent of the population by 2048 and 25 per cent by 2073.⁹

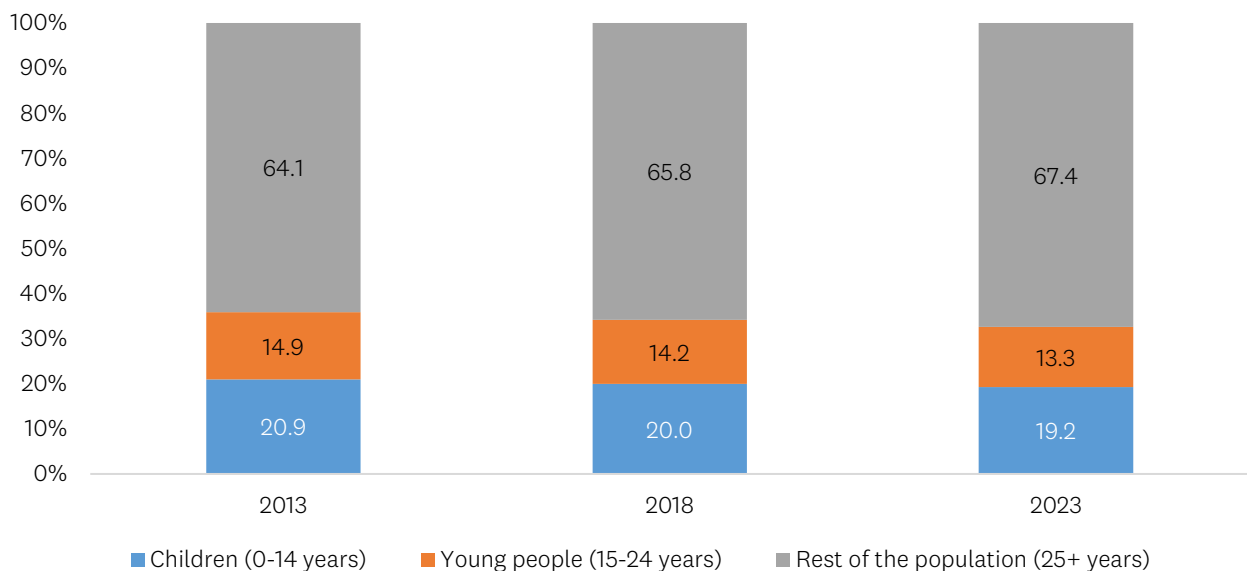
⁹ See: [Auckland Council population projections \(total Auckland\)](#).

Figure 2: Age structure for Auckland (2018, 2023)



As a result of Auckland's ageing population trend, there is a slow but steady downward trend in the proportion of Auckland's population who are children and young people (Figure 3). Although there was growth in absolute numbers between 2013 and 2023 (+32,334), the proportion of children and young people decreased from 35.9 per cent in 2013 to 34.2 per cent in 2018 and 32.6 per cent in 2023.

Figure 3: Percentage of children, young people and the rest of the population (25 years and over) in Auckland (2013, 2018, 2023) (%)



2.4 More male children and young people than females

For the first time in a New Zealand census, the 2023 Census included a question on gender identity. This refers to a person's social and personal identity as male, female, or another gender, or genders that may be non-binary. Previously, censuses only reported sex at birth.

As shown in Table 2, the 2023 Census counted slightly more male (235,665, 50.8%) than female (225,765, 48.7%) children and young people in Auckland. This follows the pattern of previous censuses (50.7% males in 2013 and 51.3% males in 2018).¹⁰ There is a long-standing demographic phenomenon of more males than females in younger ages groups, not only in New Zealand but also in other 'more developed' countries.¹¹

As shown in Table 2, almost half (48.1%) of all individuals who identify with another gender were 24 years and under. Table 2 also shows that there is a relatively larger proportion of young people (15 to 24 years) who identified as another gender (1911, 1.0%) than the rest of the Auckland population (5178, 0.3%).

Table 2: The gender of children and young people in Auckland (2023)

	Male		Female		Other gender	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Children (0-14 years)	138,504	51.2	131,298	48.6	582	0.2
Young people (15-24)	97,161	50.2	94,467	48.8	1911	1.0
Total children and young people (0-24 years)	235,665	50.8	225,765	48.7	2493	0.5
Rest of Auckland (25+ years)	456,825	48.7	478,842	51.0	2685	0.3

¹⁰ There was not the option of 'another gender' in the 2013 and 2018 censuses.

¹¹ See: [More women are over 30, and more men are under 30](#), and [Sex ratio by age, More developed regions, 2023](#).

3 Geographical distribution

This section outlines where children and young people live across Auckland, including distribution by Statistical Area 3 (SA3) (a geographical area introduced by Stats NZ in 2023, which is roughly the equivalent of suburb level¹²), local board area and by broad ethnic group.

3.1 Distribution of children and young people varies by age

The following maps show the distribution of children and young people across the Auckland region in absolute numbers by SA3 area.

Figure 4 shows a pattern of more children and young people living in the western and southern urban areas and the isthmus than in other areas. Figure 5 shows similar patterns to Figure 4, however with fewer children aged 0 to 14 in the city centre. The pattern is slightly different among young people aged 15 to 24 years, as shown in Figure 6. More young people live in the city centre, and fewer in the rural areas of the Auckland region than children.

¹² It is important to note that the population size of each SA3 area is not identical and that more sparsely populated SA3s can be larger in spatial size than more densely populated SA3s.

Figure 4: Distribution of children and young people aged 0 to 24 years by SA3 (2023)

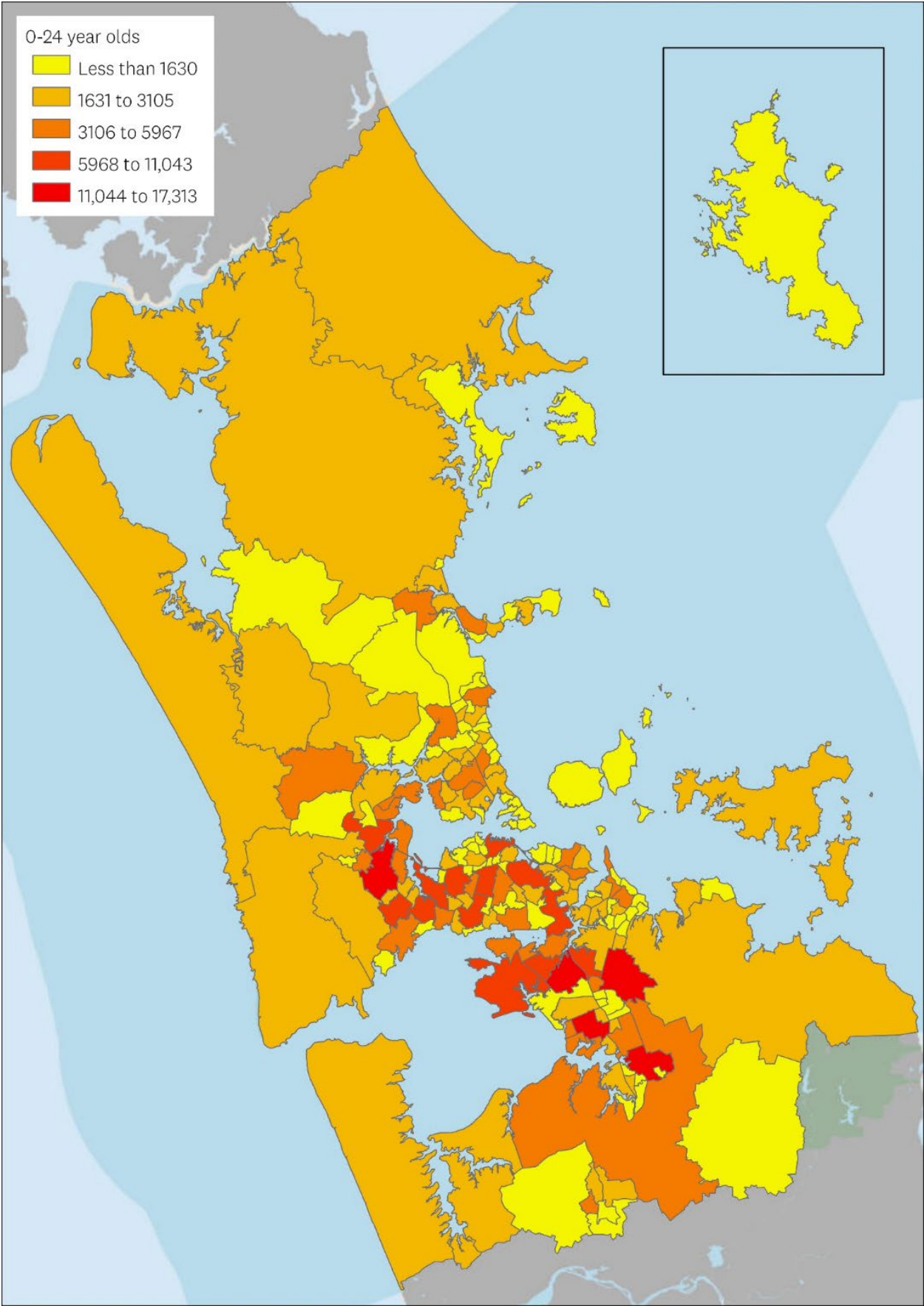


Figure 5: Distribution of children aged 0 to 14 years by SA3 (2023)

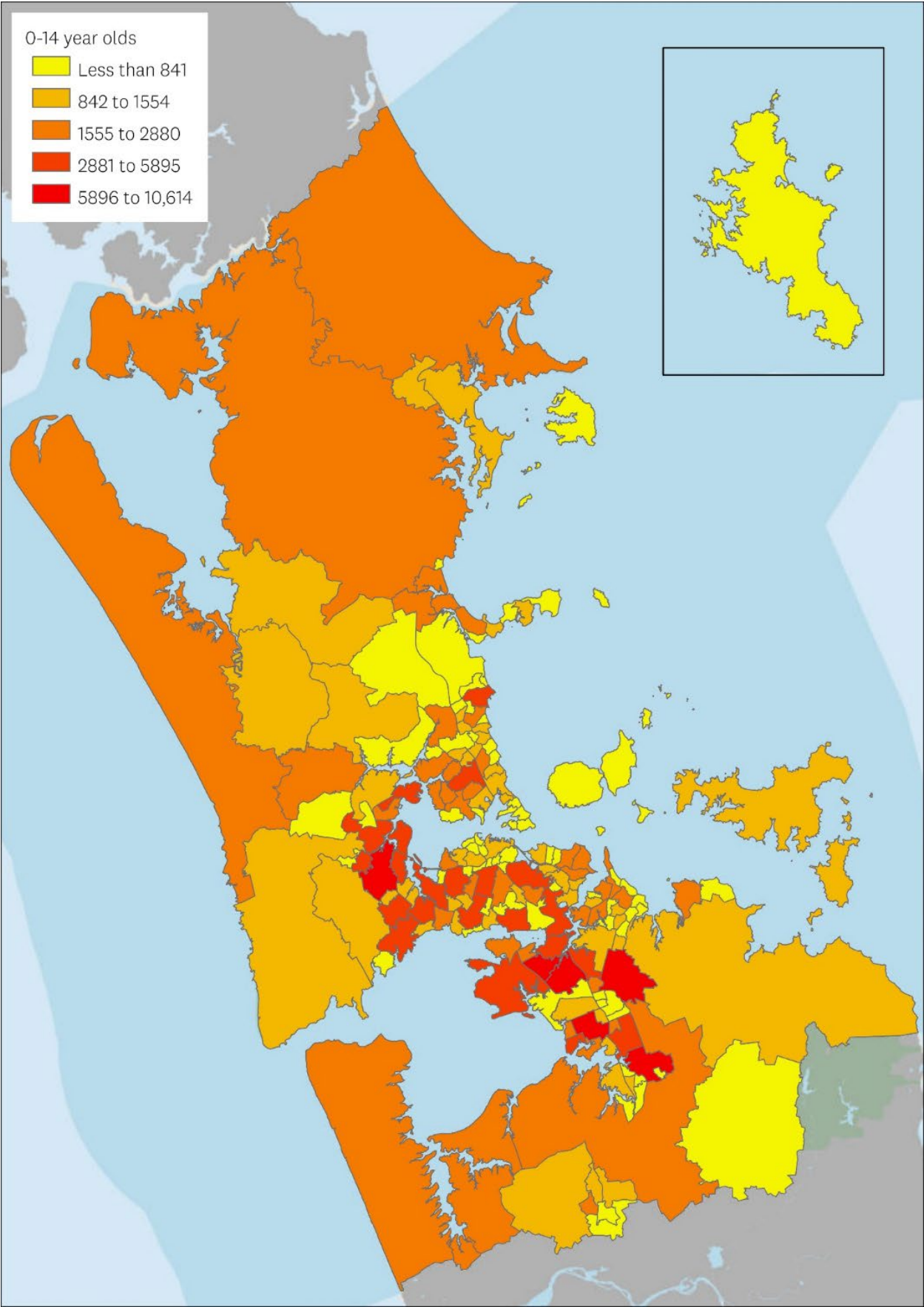
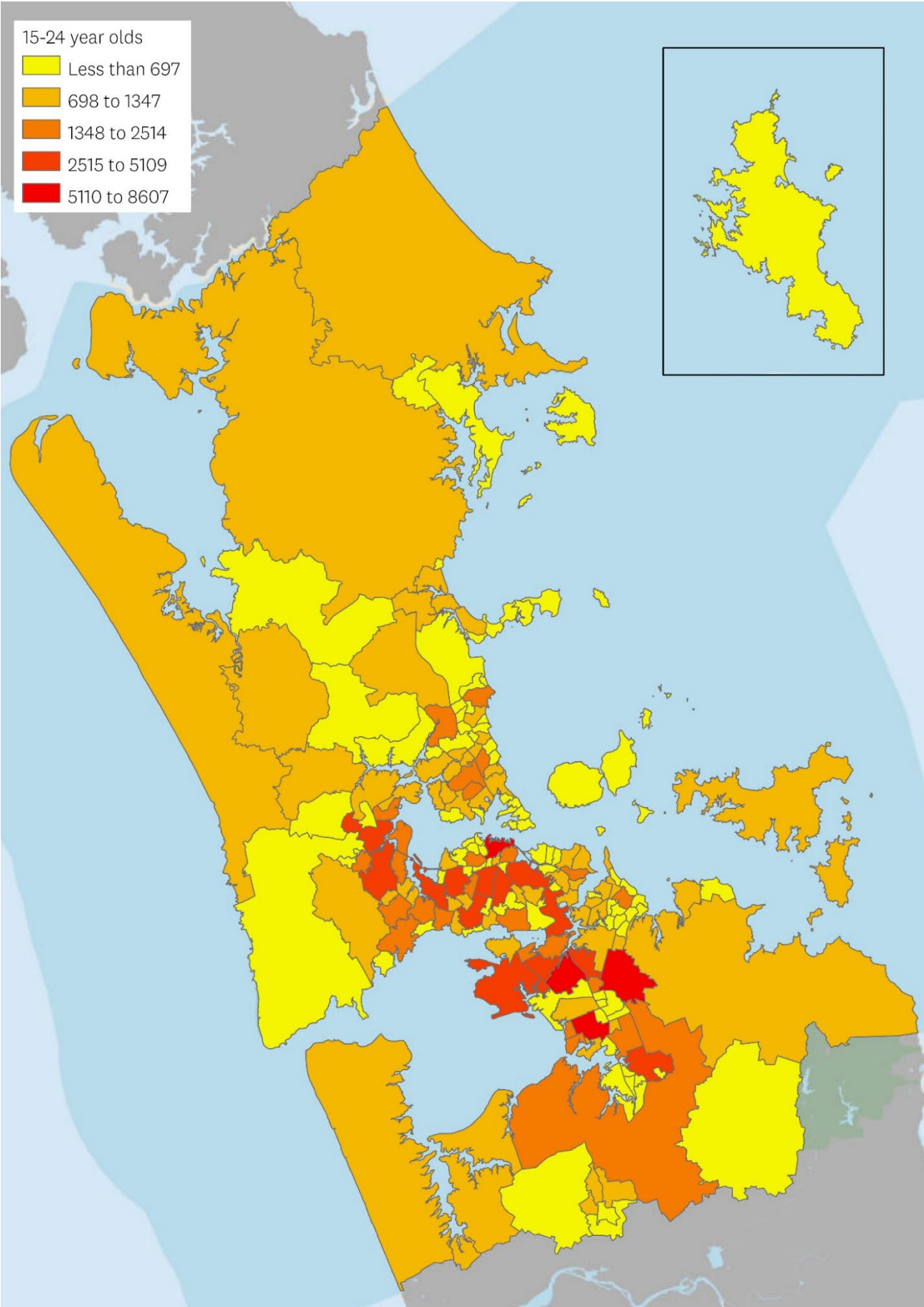


Figure 6: Distribution of young people aged 15 to 24 years by SA3 (2023)



3.2 High proportions of children and young people in Auckland's southern urban areas

The three local board areas with the highest proportions of children and young people were Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (40.6%), Manurewa (39.8%) and Ōtara-Papatoetoe (38.9%) (Table 3). The local board areas with the lowest proportion were the island local board areas of Waiheke (21.1%) and Aotea/Great Barrier (21.1%).

The three local board areas with the highest number of children and young people are Howick (48,927), Henderson-Massey (42,366) and Manurewa (39,360), in line with their large population sizes overall. A relatively large proportion of those living in the Waitemātā Local Board area are aged 15 to 24 (19.4%), related to a large tertiary student population living in the city centre.

Table 3: Number and percentage of children and young people by local board area (ordered north to south) (2023)

Local board area	Number			Percentage of total local board area population (%)		
	0-14 years	15-24 years	0-24 years	0-14 years	15-24 years	0-24 years
Rodney	15,222	8178	23,400	19.5	10.5	30.0
Hibiscus and Bays	21,477	13,086	34,563	18.8	11.5	30.3
Upper Harbour	14,217	9345	23,562	18.5	12.1	30.6
Kaipātiki	16,131	10,566	26,697	18.3	12.0	30.3
Devonport-Takapuna	9954	7434	17,388	17.2	12.8	30.0
Henderson-Massey	26,205	16,161	42,366	21.0	13.0	34.0
Waitākere Ranges	11,058	6606	17,664	20.5	12.3	32.8
Aotea/Great Barrier	165	99	264	13.2	7.9	21.1
Waiheke	1191	741	1932	13.0	8.1	21.1
Waitemātā	7206	15,816	23,022	8.8	19.4	28.2
Whau	15,255	10,119	25,374	18.8	12.5	31.2
Albert-Eden	15,429	14,259	29,688	16.0	14.8	30.7
Puketāpapa	9549	7713	17,262	16.8	13.5	30.3
Ōrākei	14,520	10,398	24,918	17.5	12.5	30.0
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	14,784	9978	24,762	18.9	12.8	31.7
Howick	29,205	19,722	48,927	19.0	12.8	31.9
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	18,756	13,140	31,896	23.8	16.7	40.6
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	20,448	13,347	33,795	23.5	15.4	38.9
Manurewa	24,000	15,360	39,360	24.3	15.5	39.8
Papakura	17,133	9198	26,331	23.7	12.7	36.4
Franklin	16,926	9726	26,652	20.1	11.5	31.6
Auckland total	318,843	220,986	539,829	19.2	13.3	32.6

4 Ethnic and cultural diversity

Children and young people who live in Auckland are ethnically and culturally diverse. 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 can identify with more than one ethnicity. As a result, proportions may add to more than 100 per cent. Forms may have been filled out by caregivers or parents on behalf of children.

4.1 Increasing ethnic diversity among children and young people

In 2023, almost half (47.4%) of those aged 0 to 24 years were in the broad European ethnic category, equating to 255,612 people (Table 4). The next largest group were those classified under the broad Asian category (30.4% or 163,920 people), followed by Pacific Peoples (25.0% or 134,754 people) and Māori (18.1% or 97,590 people). The Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) group combined to 3.0 per cent (15,933 people). As shown in Table 4, the number and proportion of children and young people in the broad European ethnicity category has declined between 2013 and 2023, while other ethnicities have increased, highlighting a trend of increasing ethnic diversity among children and young people in Auckland.

The population of children and young people had a higher proportion of Pacific Peoples (12.4 percentage points higher) and Māori (8.6 percentage points higher) than the rest of the Auckland population (25 years and over) in 2023.

The broad ethnic groupings can be broken down into smaller ethnic groups. The following list provides a breakdown of the European, Asian and Pacific Peoples broad ethnic groups for children and young people in Auckland in 2023:

- European (255,612)
 - New Zealand European (233,097)
 - British and Irish (9513)
- Asian (163,920)
 - Chinese (60,903)
 - Indian (54,885)
 - Filipino (15,618)
 - Korean (7920)
- Pacific Peoples (134,754)
 - Samoan (69,033)
 - Tongan (39,429)
 - Cook Islands Māori (28,467)
 - Niuean (13,527).

Table 4: Ethnicity of Auckland children and young people (2013, 2018, 2023)

	2013	2018	2023	2013	2018	2023	2013-2023	
Ethnicity*	Number			Percentage (%)			Number	% change
European	259,029	267,564	255,612	54.3	49.8	47.4	-3417	-1.3
Māori	74,919	90,849	97,590	15.7	16.9	18.1	+22,671	+30.3
Pacific Peoples	105,327	126,231	134,754	22.1	23.5	25.0	+29,427	+27.9
Asian	115,002	152,331	163,920	24.1	28.3	30.4	+48,918	+42.5
MELAA	10,431	13,293	15,933	2.2	2.5	3.0	+5502	+52.7
Total stated	476,598	537,525	539,829					

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

As shown above and also in Figure 7, there was growth between 2013 and 2023 in the proportions of children and young people across all broad ethnic groups in Auckland, except for the European group, which experienced a decrease. There has been particularly strong growth in the proportion of children and young people who identify with an ethnicity in the broad Asian group from 24.1 per cent in 2013 to 30.4 per cent in 2023. These trends were also found across the total Auckland population.

Figure 7: The proportion of children and young people by ethnic group in Auckland (2013, 2018, 2023)

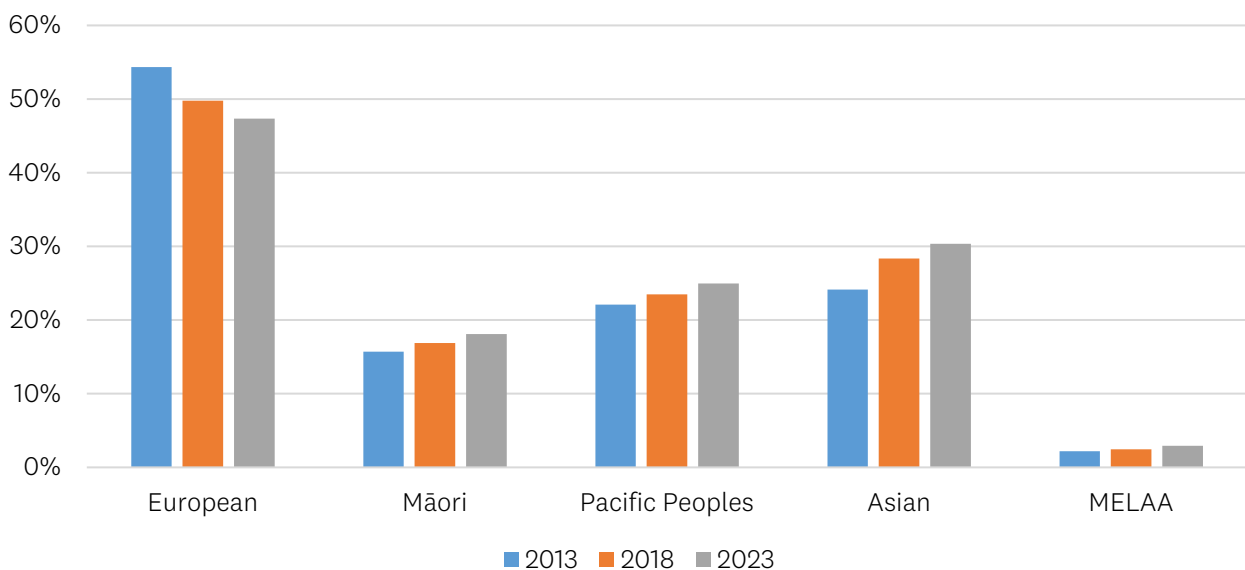
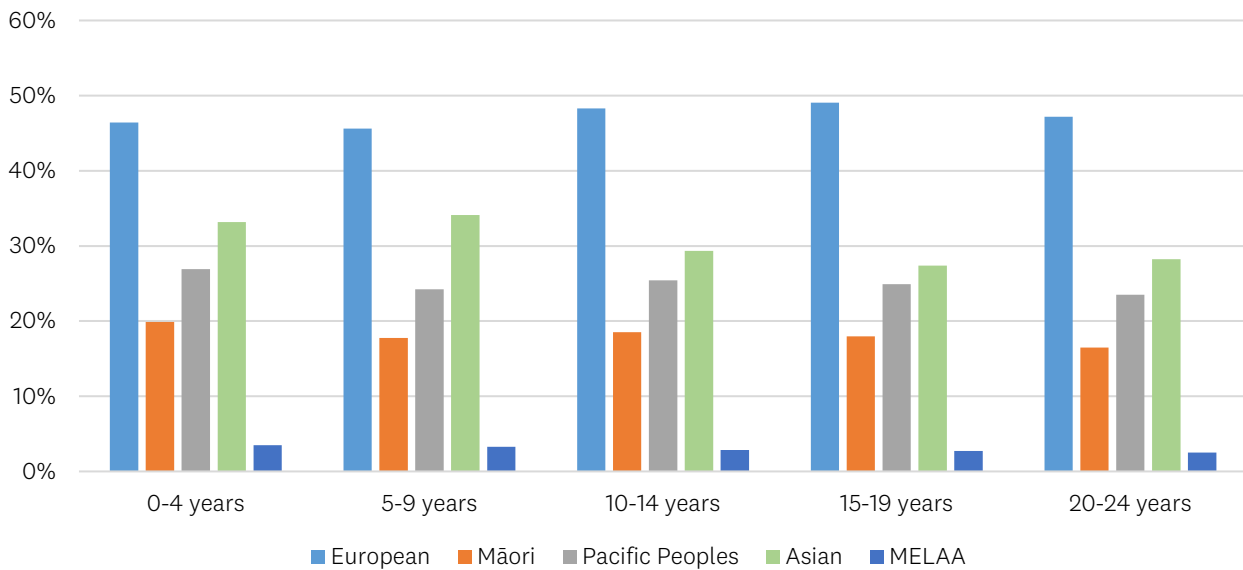


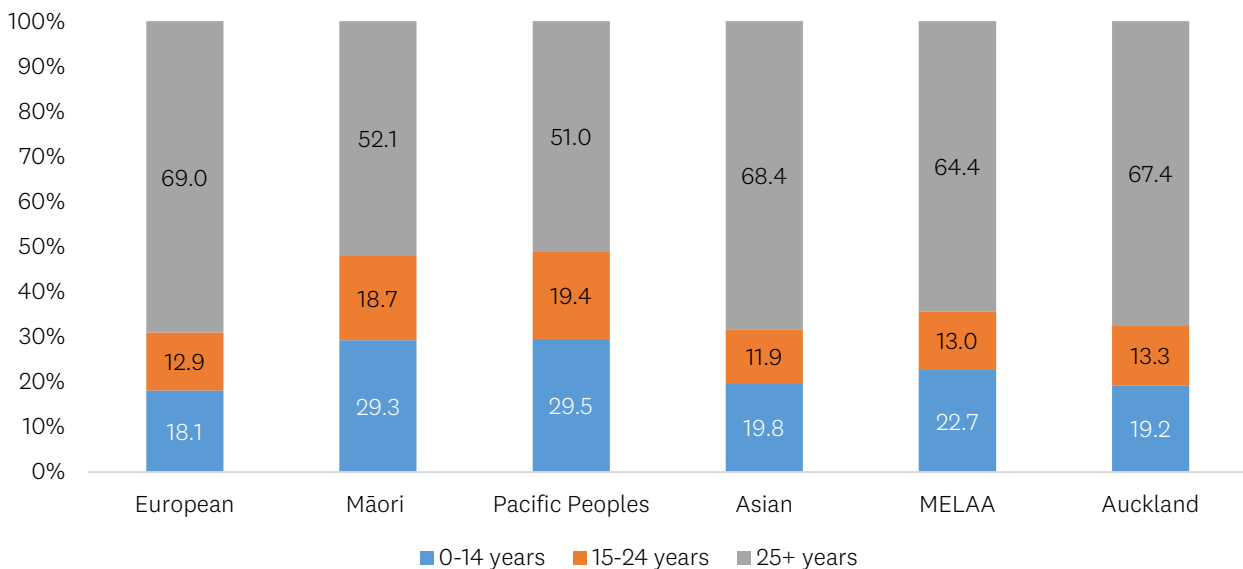
Figure 8 shows the broad ethnic breakdown by age group. It shows that there is little difference in ethnic diversity across the five-year age groups.

Figure 8: Proportion of children and young people in each ethnic group by age (2023)



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 Peoples and Māori, have relatively high proportions of children and young people. As Figure 9 shows, 49.0 per cent of Pacific Peoples and 47.9 per cent of Māori were children and young people.

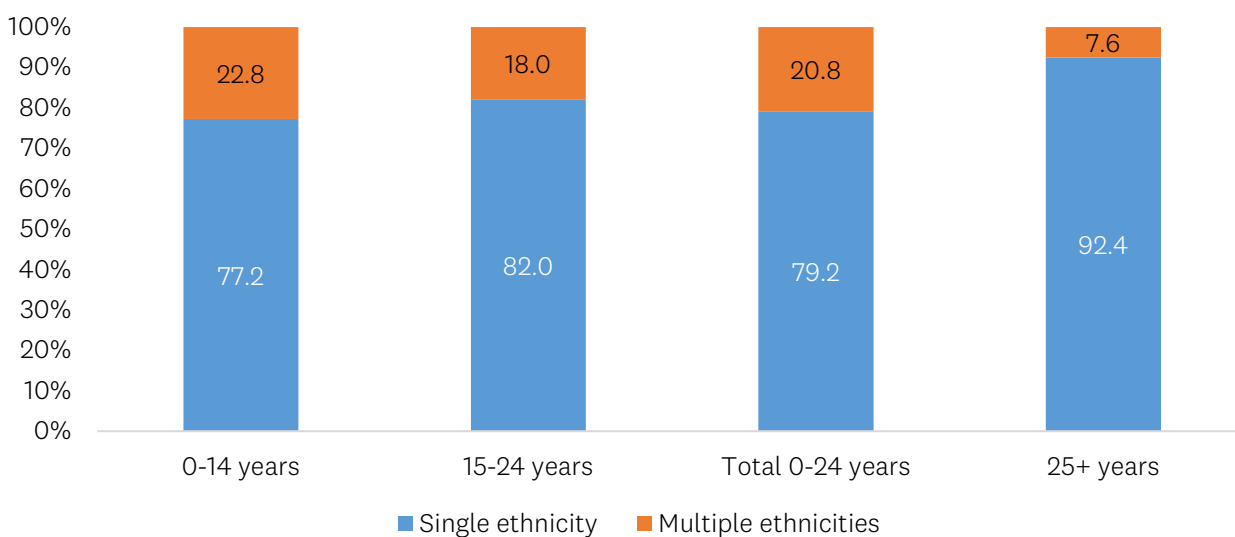
Figure 9: Proportion of each broad ethnic group who were children and young people (2023) (%)



4.2 More children and young people identify with multiple ethnicities than the rest of the population

In 2023, one in five children and young people in Auckland (112,293 or 20.8%) identified, or were identified by their caregivers or parents, as belonging to more than one broad ethnic group (Figure 10).¹³ This proportion is considerably higher than among the rest of the Auckland population (7.6%). As Figure 10 shows there is greater diversity among children (0 to 14 years) than young people (15 to 24 years).

Figure 10: Proportion of multi-ethnic children (0 to 14 years), young people (15 to 24 years) and the rest of the population (25 years and over) in Auckland (2023)



Of those reporting multiple ethnicities, 82.6 per cent reported two ethnicities, 16.3 per cent reported three ethnicities and 1.0 per cent reported four or more ethnicities. The most common multiple ethnicity of children and young people in Auckland in 2023 was European/Māori (37,410), followed by Māori/Pacific Peoples (15,915) and European/Pacific Peoples (15,630).

The proportion of children and young people with more than one ethnic identity has increased from 18.7 per cent in 2018 and 16.7 per cent in 2013.

4.3 Regional variances in the distribution of children and young people by ethnic group

The four maps below show the percentage of children and young people within each SA3 area who identify with the four largest broad ethnic groups in Auckland (European, Asian, Pacific Peoples and Māori). The maps highlight several distribution patterns.

¹³ This analysis uses the six broad ethnic group categories comprising Level 1 of Stats NZ's ethnicity classification – European, Māori, Pacific, Asian, MELAA and Other. Therefore, having multiple ethnicities involves, at minimum, identifying with any two of these categories. This means that the analysis does not account for individuals identifying with multiple Level 2 or higher ethnicity codes in the same Level 1 category (e.g. someone identifying as both Samoan and Tongan would be coded as Pacific only and 'single ethnicity'). This means that the analysis may not fully portray an accurate picture of the numbers of Auckland children and young people identifying with multiple ethnicities.

Figure 11: Percentage of children and young people in broad European ethnic group , by SA3 (2023)

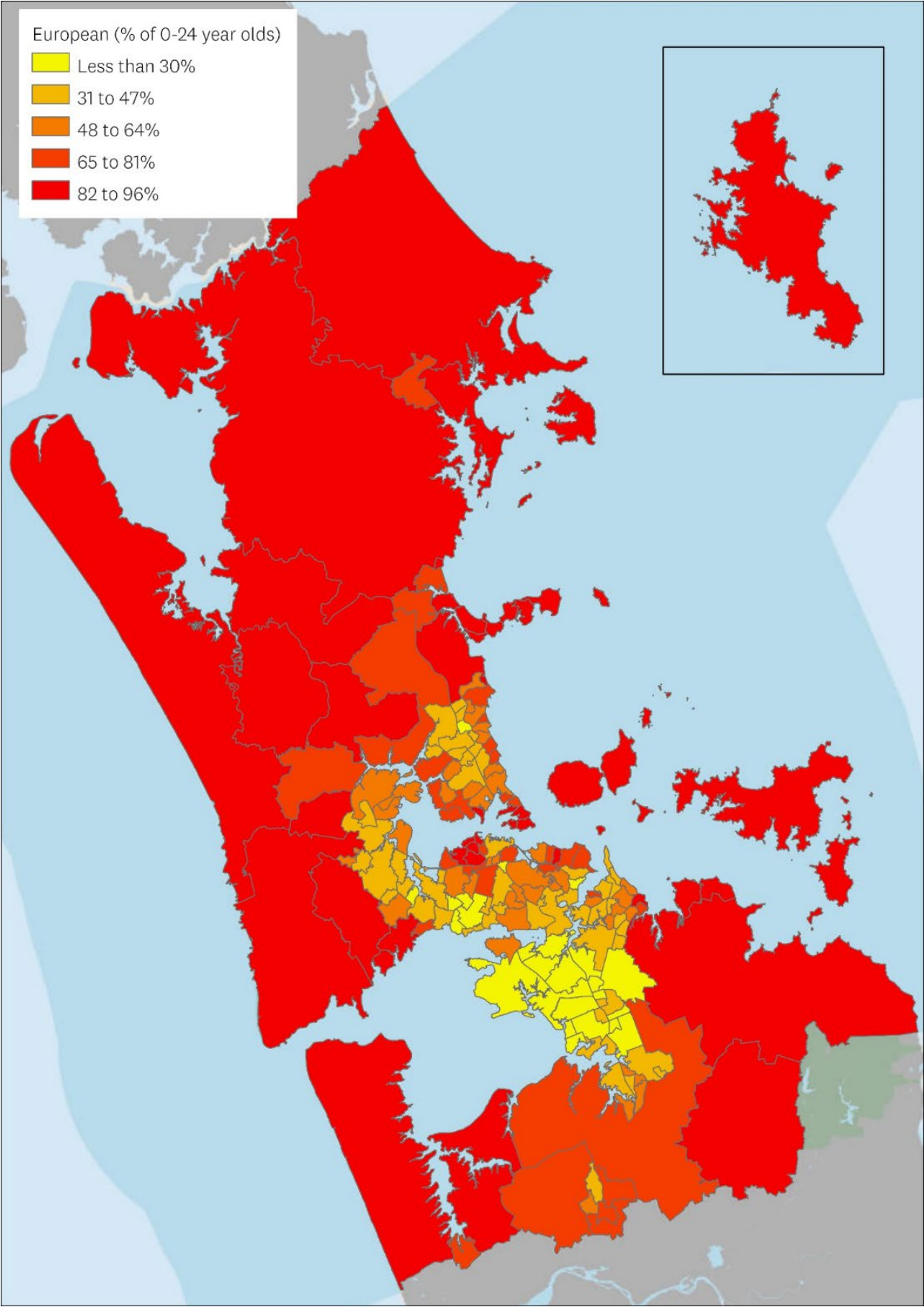


Figure 12: Percentage of children and young people in broad Asian ethnic group, by SA3 (2023)

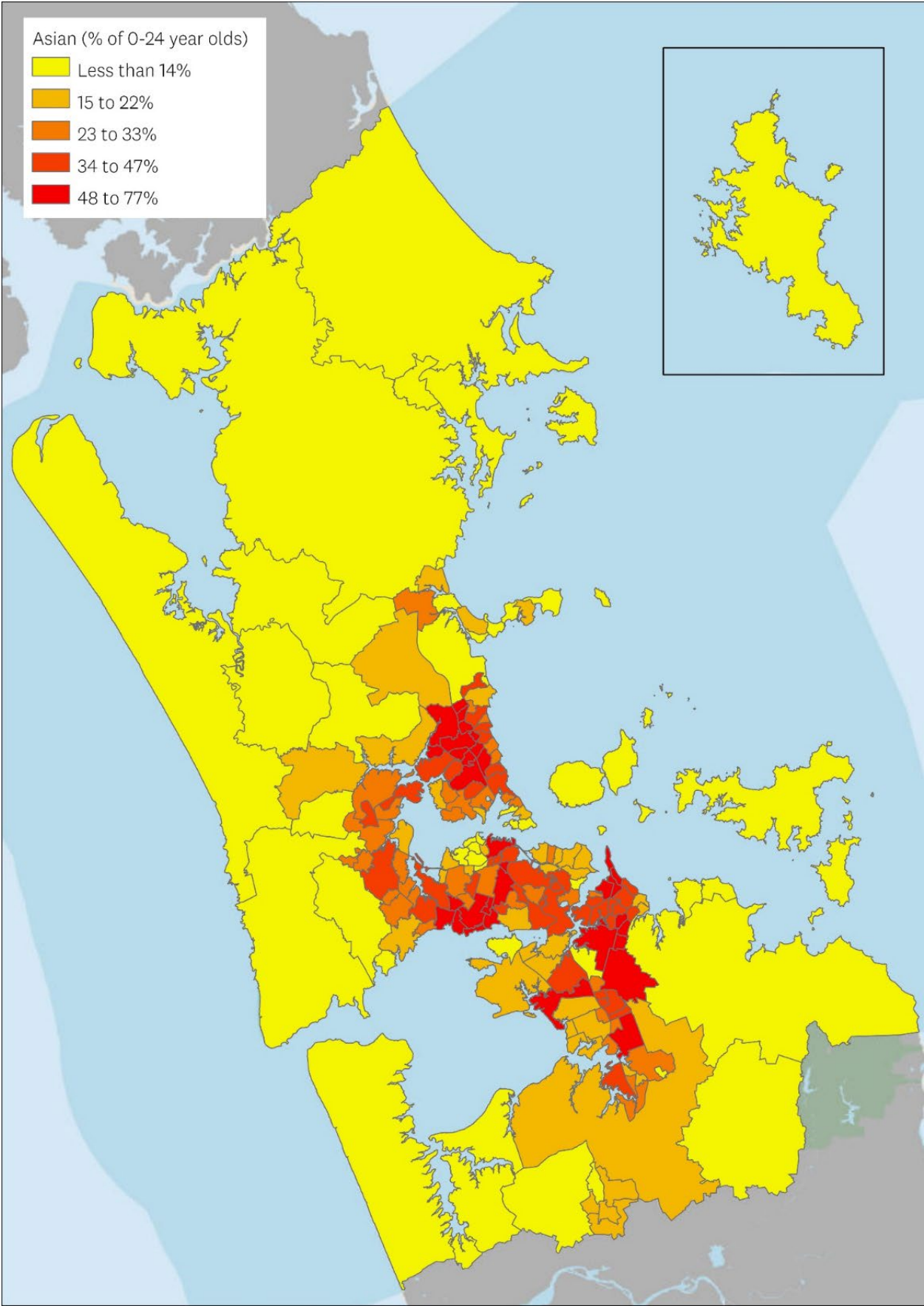


Figure 13: Percentage of children and young people in broad Pacific Peoples ethnic group, by SA3 (2023)

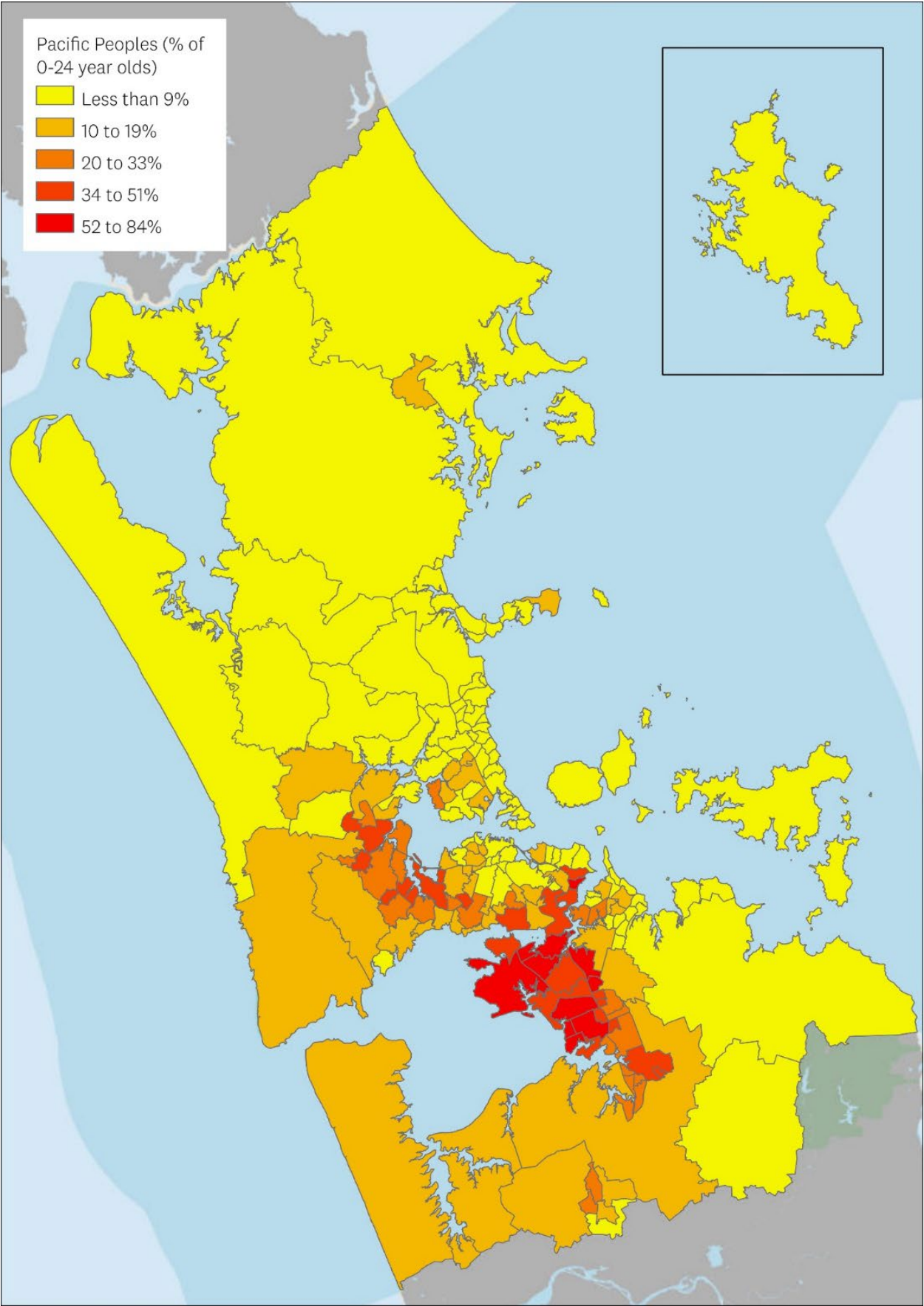
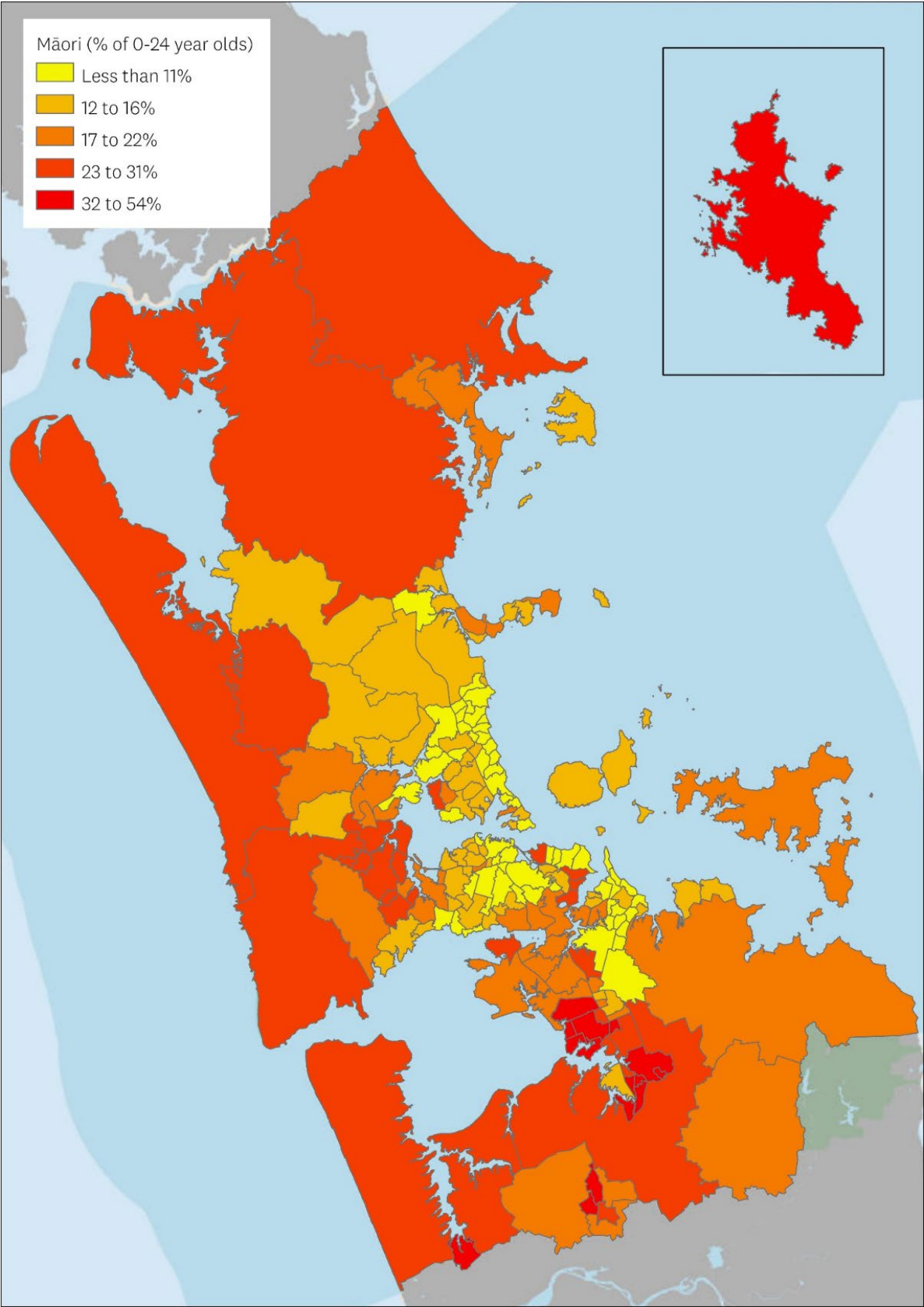


Figure 14: Percentage of children and young people in Māori ethnic group, by SA3 (2023)



The rest of this section describes the pattern of the maps above and identifies the five SA3 areas with the highest and lowest proportions of the broad ethnic groups. Figure 11 shows that rural areas of Auckland have the highest proportion of children and young people with European ethnicity, as well as the Devonport/Belmont area of the North Shore and the Ponsonby/Westmere area to the west of the city centre. There is a relatively low proportion in southern urban Auckland SA3s.

The five SA3s with the highest and lowest proportions of Europeans among children and young people is shown in Table 5. The five with the lowest proportions are all in either Ōtara-Papatoetoe or Māngere-Ōtāhuhu local board areas.

Table 5: Highest and lowest proportions of children and young people in European group, by SA3 (2023)

SA3	European ethnicity	
Five highest proportions:	number	%
Laingholm (Waitākere Ranges Local Board area)	684	96.2
Herne Bay (Waitematā Local Board area)	627	95.4
Kaukapakapa-Waitoki (Rodney Local Board area)	1380	93.3
Barrier Islands (Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board area)	243	93.1
Devonport (Devonport-Takapuna Local Board area)	1272	92.6
Five lowest proportions:	number	%
Ōtara (Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board area)	1140	11.5
Māngere East (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area)	1326	12.0
Māngere (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area)	1131	12.4
Favona (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area)	549	12.6
Clover Park (Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board area)	540	15.0

The proportion of children and young people in the broad Asian ethnic group is reflective of the general population distribution across Auckland and is more uniformly spread than other ethnicities (Figure 12). The highest proportions are found in the North Shore, the southern isthmus, and the south-eastern urban area of Auckland. The five SA3s with the highest and lowest proportions with Asian ethnicity among children and young people is shown in Table 6. The top four SA3 areas with the lowest proportions are in the Rodney Local Board area.

Table 6: Highest and lowest proportions of children and young people in Asian group, by SA3 (2023)

SA3	Asian ethnicity	
Five highest proportions:	number	%
Pinehill (Upper Harbour Local Board area)	1215	77.0
Newmarket (Waitematā Local Board area)	561	74.0
Flat Bush (Ōtara -Papatoetoe Local Board area)	10,296	67.0
Windsor Park (Upper Harbour Local Board area)	297	65.0
Oteha (Upper Harbour Local Board area)	1140	64.0
Five lowest proportions:	number	%
Kaukapakapa-Waitoki (Rodney Local Board area)	75	5.0
Rodney West (Rodney Local Board area)	153	5.0
Rodney North (Rodney Local Board area)	117	5.0
Rodney East (Rodney Local Board area)	87	3.0
Barrier Islands (Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board area)	6	2.0

As Figure 13 shows, there is a concentration of SA3s in the south and western urban area of Auckland with a high proportion of children and young people with Pacific Peoples ethnicity. Conversely, there are low proportions in north Auckland, the central isthmus and south-eastern Auckland. The five SA3s with the highest and lowest proportions of children and young people who identify with a Pacific Peoples ethnicity is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Highest and lowest proportions of children and young people for Pacific Peoples, by SA3 (2023)

SA3	Pacific Peoples ethnicity	
	number	%
Five highest proportions:		
Ōtara (Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board area)	8307	84.0
Favona (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area)	3303	76.0
Māngere East (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area)	8406	76.0
Māngere (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area)	6774	74.0
Clover Park (Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board area)	2412	67.0
Five lowest proportions:		
Rothsay Bay (Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area)	21	2.0
Kohimarama (Ōrākei Local Board area)	18	2.0
Herne Bay (Waitematā Local Board area)	15	2.0
Tindalls-Matakātia (Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area)	12	2.0
Campbells Bay (Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area)	9	1.0

High proportions of Māori children and young people are found in the northern and southern rural areas of the Auckland region, and in the southern urban Auckland area (Figure 14). There are comparatively lower proportions in the North Shore, the isthmus and south-eastern urban Auckland. The five SA3s with the highest and lowest proportions who identify as Māori among children and young people is shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Highest and lowest proportions of young people in Māori ethnic group, by SA3 (2023)

SA3	Māori ethnicity	
	number	%
Five highest proportions:		
Red Hill (Papakura Local Board area)	618	54.0
Pukekohe North West (Franklin Local Board area)	849	45.0
Papakura (Papakura Local Board area)	4995	41.0
Barrier Islands (Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board area)	102	39.0
Rosehill (Papakura Local Board area)	636	37.0
Five lowest proportions:		
Newmarket (Waitematā Local Board area)	27	4.0
Bucklands Beach (Howick Local Board area)	141	4.0
Pinehill (Upper Harbour Local Board area)	66	4.0
Long Bay (Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area)	42	4.0
Windsor Park (Upper Harbour Local Board area)	9	2.0

4.4 One in five children and young people are of Māori descent

In 2023, 20 per cent of children and young people in Auckland were recorded as being of Māori descent (Table 9). This proportion is larger than among the rest of the Auckland population (10.7%) and has increased slightly since 2013 (18.6%) and 2018 (19.0%). Nearly half (47.4%) of all those of Māori descent in Auckland were children or young people.

Table 9: The number and percentage of children and young people in Auckland of Māori descent (2023)

Age group	Number	Percentage (%)
0–4	21,594	21.9
5–9	20,904	19.6
10–14	23,181	20.4
15–19	21,585	19.9
20–24	20,754	18.4
Total 0–24	108,018	20.0
Total 25+	119,877	10.7

Those of Māori descent have Māori ancestry but may not necessarily identify as being of Māori ethnicity. For example, 18.1 per cent of all children and young people were recorded as having Māori ethnicity, fewer than those who have Māori descent.

4.5 Children and young people in Auckland speak a diverse range of languages

Being able to speak a language is defined by Stats NZ as an ability to ‘hold a conversation about a lot of everyday things’. After English (90.7% of children and young people), Samoan was the next most common language spoken (26,622 speakers, or 4.9%), followed by Northern Chinese (18,834, or 3.5%) and Māori (16,845, or 3.1%) (Table 10).

There are some differences between the proportion of children and young people who speak a language compared to the rest of Auckland (25 years and over). A lower proportion speak English (2.4 percentage point difference), Yue (2.4 percentage point difference), German (1.7 percentage point difference), Hindi (1.3 percentage point difference), Māori (1.2 percentage point difference) and French (1.2 percentage point difference), while a higher proportion speak Northern Chinese (1.1 percentage point difference) compared to the rest of Auckland (25 years and over).

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, a high proportion of children and young people who speak Chinese languages in New Zealand live in Auckland – 72.6 per cent of children and young people who speak Northern Chinese live in Auckland, 72.6 per cent of Yue speakers, and 71.3 per cent of Sinitic (not further defined) speakers. This reflects the 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 Tongan (76.6%), Samoan (69.2%) and Hindi (63.2%).

Table 10: The top 15 languages spoken* by children and young people in Auckland (2023)

Language	Number	% of children and young people in Auckland who speak the language	% of children and young people in New Zealand who speak the language	% of Aucklanders 25 years and over who speak the language	% of all children and young people who speak the language live in Auckland
English	489,540	90.7	91.9	93.1	33.9
Samoan	26,622	4.9	2.5	4.3	69.2
Northern Chinese	18,834	3.5	1.7	5.3	72.6
Māori	16,845	3.1	5.3	2.4	20.1
Sinitic not further defined	10,452	1.9	0.9	2.8	71.3
Tongan	10,032	1.9	0.8	1.7	76.6
Hindi	8,031	1.5	0.8	3.7	63.2
Yue	7,056	1.3	0.6	2.8	72.6
Panjabi	6,237	1.2	0.7	1.9	55.6
Tagalog	5,265	1.0	0.8	2.0	43.6
Spanish	3,669	0.7	0.7	1.2	35.8
Afrikaans	3,570	0.7	0.6	1.4	36.6
French	2,742	0.5	0.5	1.3	35.3
German	1,878	0.3	0.4	0.9	28.6
NZ Sign Language	1,878	0.3	0.5	0.4	26.0
Other	47,556	8.8	5.7	14.4	53.3

*As people can speak more than one language, the percentages add up to over 100 per cent.

Of children and young people 18 years and under who cannot speak English, most spoke Samoan (1572), Northern Chinese (1074) and Māori (1017). Table 11 shows the number of children and young people who cannot speak English broken down into 0 to 5 years, 6 to 12 years and 13 to 18 years. For example, the table below shows that of the total people aged 0-5 years who cannot speak English, 13.3 per cent of these can speak Panjabi.

Table 11: Children and young people who don't speak English by languages spoken (2023)

Language spoken*	Number who cannot speak English	Proportion of age group who cannot speak English (%)
0-5 years		
Panjabi	435	13.3
Northern Chinese	432	13.2
Samoaan	408	12.5
Sinitic not further defined	327	10.0
Māori	303	9.3
6-12 years		
Samoaan	570	15.1
Northern Chinese	390	10.3
Māori	384	10.2
Sinitic not further defined	363	9.6
Panjabi	285	7.6
13-18 years		
Samoaan	594	19.7
Māori	330	11.0
Sinitic not further defined	255	8.5
Northern Chinese	252	8.4
Tongan	216	7.2

*“None (e.g. too young to talk)” was excluded from the analysis.

5 Birthplace

This section outlines the numbers and proportion of children and young people born overseas, and their place of birth.

5.1 One in five children and young people were born overseas

A total of 115,971 children and young people (21.7%) were born overseas (Table 12). This proportion is slightly lower than in 2018 (23.5%) and 2013 (24.4%).

The proportion of children born overseas (15.5% or 48,921 children) is lower than among young people (30.7% or 67,050 people). Both these proportions are much smaller than within the rest of the Auckland population (53.1% or 587,454).

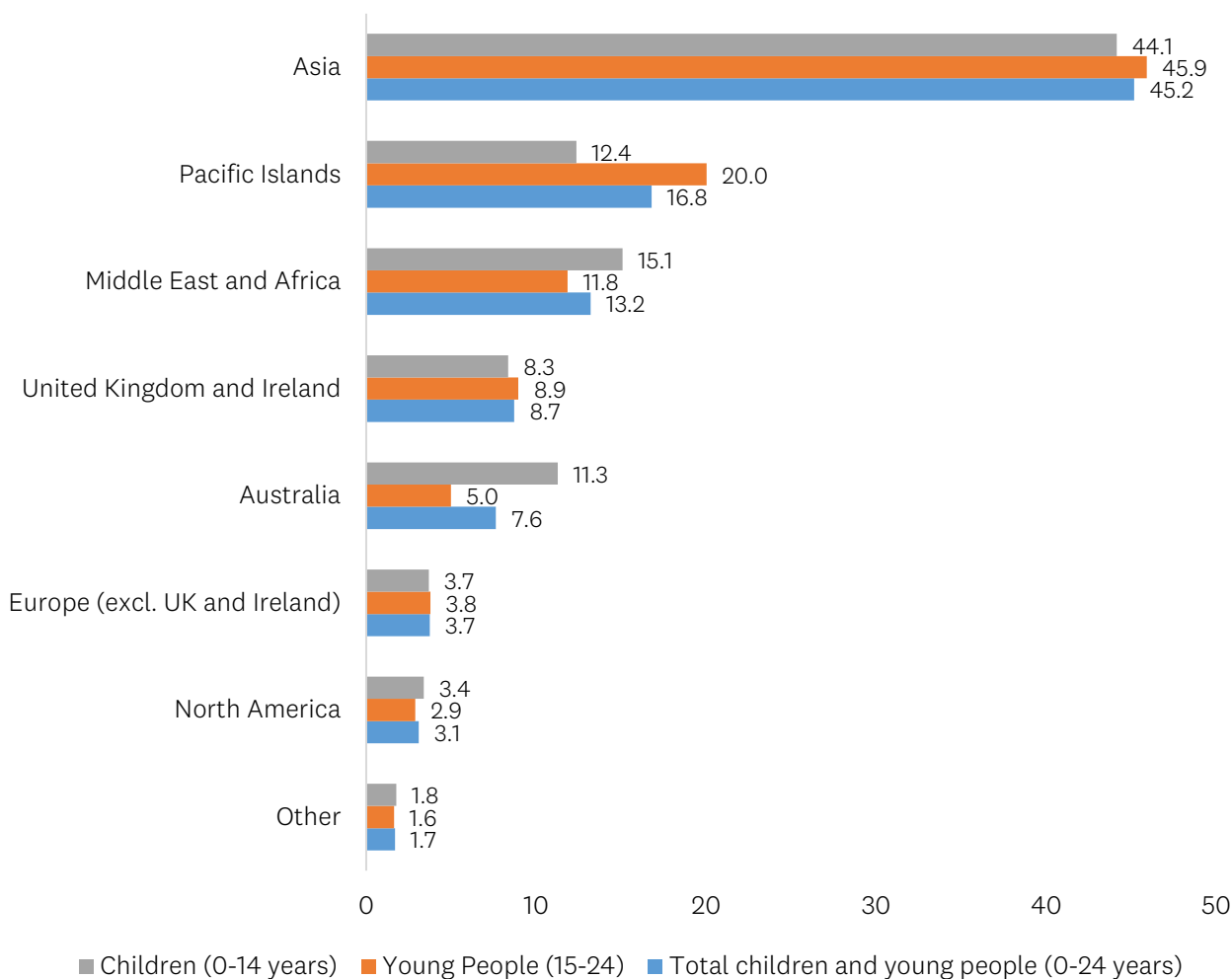
Table 12: The number and percentage of children and young people in Auckland born overseas (2023)

	Overseas born	New Zealand born	Overseas born	New Zealand born
	Number		Percentage (%)	
Children (0-14 years)	48,921	267,099	15.5	84.5
Young people (15-24 years)	67,050	151,263	30.7	69.3
Total children and young people (0-24 years)	115,971	418,362	21.7	78.3
Total rest of the population (25+ years)	587,454	518,859	53.1	46.9
Total in Auckland	703,425	937,221	42.9	57.1

5.2 Half of children and young people born overseas were born in Asia

Of the 115,971 children and young people who were born overseas, almost half (45.2% or 52,371 people) were born in Asia (Figure 15, Table 13).¹⁴ The second-most common birthplace was in the Pacific Islands (16.8% or 19,467 people).

Figure 15: The birthplace of Auckland's children and young people born overseas, by age group (2023) (%)



Among those born in Asia, the largest number were born in the Peoples Republic of China (14,859 people), Philippines (9174 people), India (9066 people) and the Republic of Korea (3411 people). Among those born in the Pacific Islands, the largest numbers included Samoa (8499 people), Fiji (5838 people), and Tonga (3069 people).

As shown in Table 13, the number and proportion of children and young people born in Asia, the United Kingdom and Ireland, and Europe decreased between 2018 and 2023. The greatest numerical and percentage increase was among children and young people born in Australia and the Middle East and Africa.

¹⁴ See: [Country classifications in the census](#).

Table 13: The birthplace of Auckland's children and young people born overseas (2018, 2023)

	2018		2023		2018-2023 difference	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Asia	60,165	47.7	52,371	45.2	-7794	-13.0
Pacific Islands	21,198	16.8	19,467	16.8	-1731	-8.2
Middle East and Africa	14,244	11.3	15,312	13.2	+1068	+7.5
United Kingdom and Ireland	12,510	9.9	10,080	8.7	-2430	-19.4
Australia	7587	6.0	8847	7.6	+1260	+16.6
Europe (excl. UK and Ireland)	5352	4.2	4332	3.7	-1020	-19.1
North America	3360	2.7	3585	3.1	+225	+6.7
Other	1713	1.4	1956	1.7	+243	+14.2

6 Dwellings and households

Adequate housing is an important factor in the health and wellbeing of children and young people.¹⁵ This section outlines the typology of dwellings that children and young people lived in, as well as the characteristics of the households they were part of.¹⁶

In the census, a dwelling is defined as a structure, part of a structure, or group of structures, that is used or intended to be used as a place for human habitation. A dwelling may be private (e.g. home residence) or non-private (short-term or long-term communal or transitory accommodations that are generally available to the public (e.g. hospitals, prisons and communal staff quarters)).

6.1 A growing number of children and young people living in joined dwellings

In 2023, nearly all (500,505 or 99.0%) children and young people in Auckland lived in private dwellings. The remaining 1.0 per cent (5202) lived in non-private dwellings.

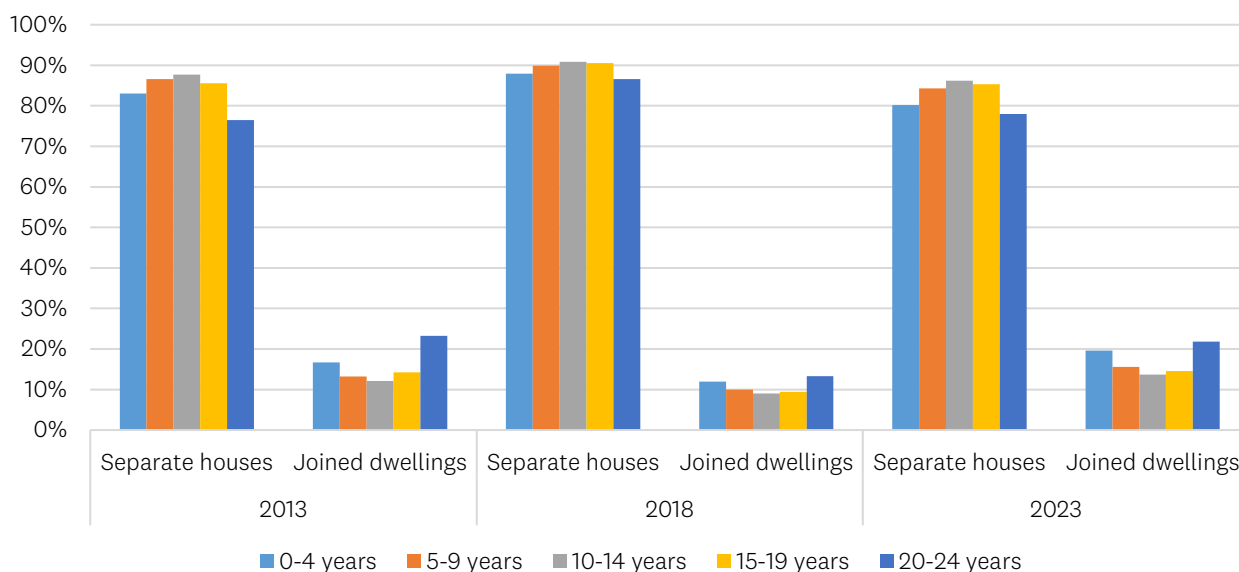
While most (82.9%) children and young people living in private dwellings lived in a separate house (414,813), the number of children and young people living in joined dwellings increased in the last intercensal period. In 2023, 85,014 children and young people lived in joined dwellings, an increase of 34,062 (+66.9 per cent) since 2018. This is in line with an increase in the number of joined dwellings in Auckland over this period.

Figure 16 shows the proportion of children and young people by five-year age groups who lived in separate houses and joined dwellings as at 2013, 2018 and 2023. A general pattern can be observed of higher proportions of those living in separate houses in each age group from 0 to 14, and a decline in proportions among those aged 15 and over. The lowest proportion is among those aged 20 to 24 (this group make up the highest proportion of those in a joined dwelling). This may be due to this age group moving out of home to undertake further study or to join the workforce.

¹⁵ For further information on dwellings and households, refer to: [Dwellings and households in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland: results from the 2023 census](#).

¹⁶ Note that at the time of writing, Census 2023 cross-tab data by age for renting, dwelling dampness and mould were not available, so have not been included in this report. Data on crowding by age for young people was only available for those aged 15 to 29 years, rather than 15 to 24 years, as used elsewhere in this report. However, this data is still presented as it covers the age range of children and young people.

Figure 16: Proportion of children and young people in separate houses or joined dwellings in Auckland (2013, 2018, 2023)

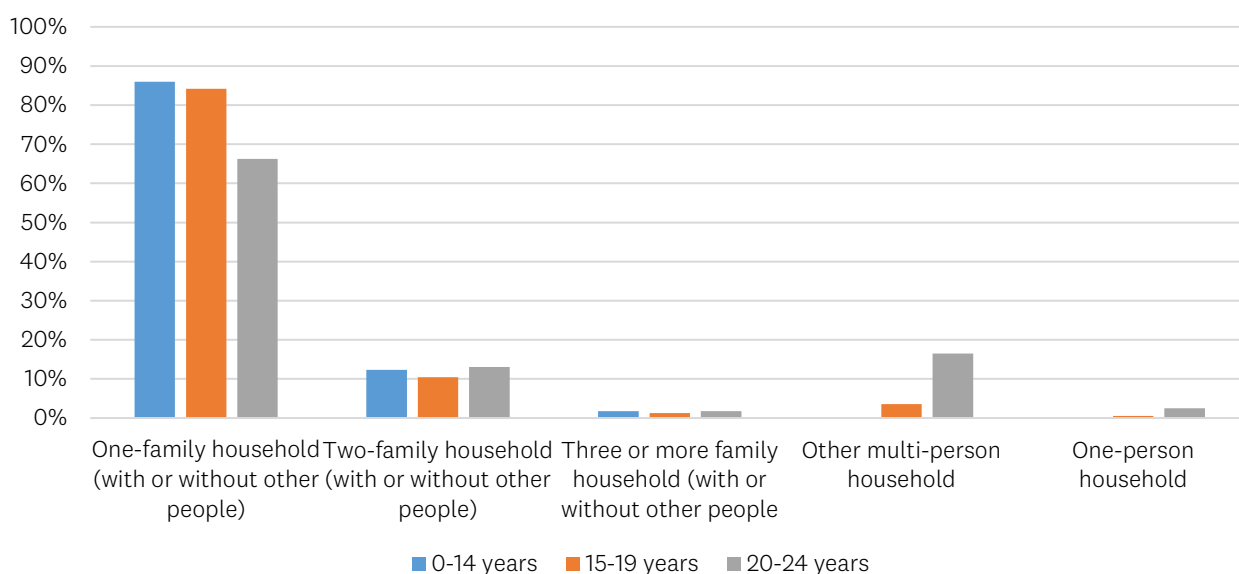


6.2 Most children and young people living in one-family households

In 2023, most (81.6%) children and young people lived in a one-family household. This is similar to 2018 (82.4%) and 2013 (81.0%). Just over one in ten (12.1%) lived in two-family households.

There are differences across age groups, as shown in Figure 17. Children aged 0 to 14 years and young people aged 15 to 19 years have similar profiles, with most (over 80%) living in a one-family household. The majority (66.3%) of young people aged 20 to 24 years were in a one-family household. However, this age group had a much higher proportion in other multi-person households (this may include with flat mates).

Figure 17: Household composition of children and young people in Auckland (2023)



6.3 More than one in five families with dependent children were sole parent families

In the census, information is collected on the relationships between people living in private occupied dwellings. 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.¹⁷

The 2023 Census recorded 200,496 family households in Auckland with at least one child under 18 years of age (with or without additional adult children aged 18 or over). Just over three quarters of these family households consisted of couples with children (77.3% or 154,953 families) while over one in five were one-parent families (22.7% or 45,543 families). These proportions are the same as in 2018.

6.4 Almost one in 10 of those aged between 0 to 29 years living in a severely crowded household

Household crowding as defined by Stats NZ is based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard which provides a derived index of whether a household is crowded or not crowded. The index indicates the number of bedrooms needed based on the composition of the household. It presumes there should be no more than two people in a bedroom, but that couples and children of certain ages can share a bedroom.¹⁸ A household is 'crowded' when one or more additional bedrooms are needed and 'severely crowded' when they require two or more additional bedrooms.

In 2023, 8.8 per cent of children (0 to 14 years) in Auckland were living in a severely crowded household. This was similar to 2018 (8.2%) and 2013 (8.5%). For those aged 15 to 29 years, 9.8 per cent were living in a severely crowded household, down from 10.2 per cent in 2018 and up from 9.0 per cent in 2013.

Overall, as shown in Figure 18 below, the proportions between the two children and young people age groups are relatively similar, with a smaller proportion of the 0 to 14 age group living in crowded households.

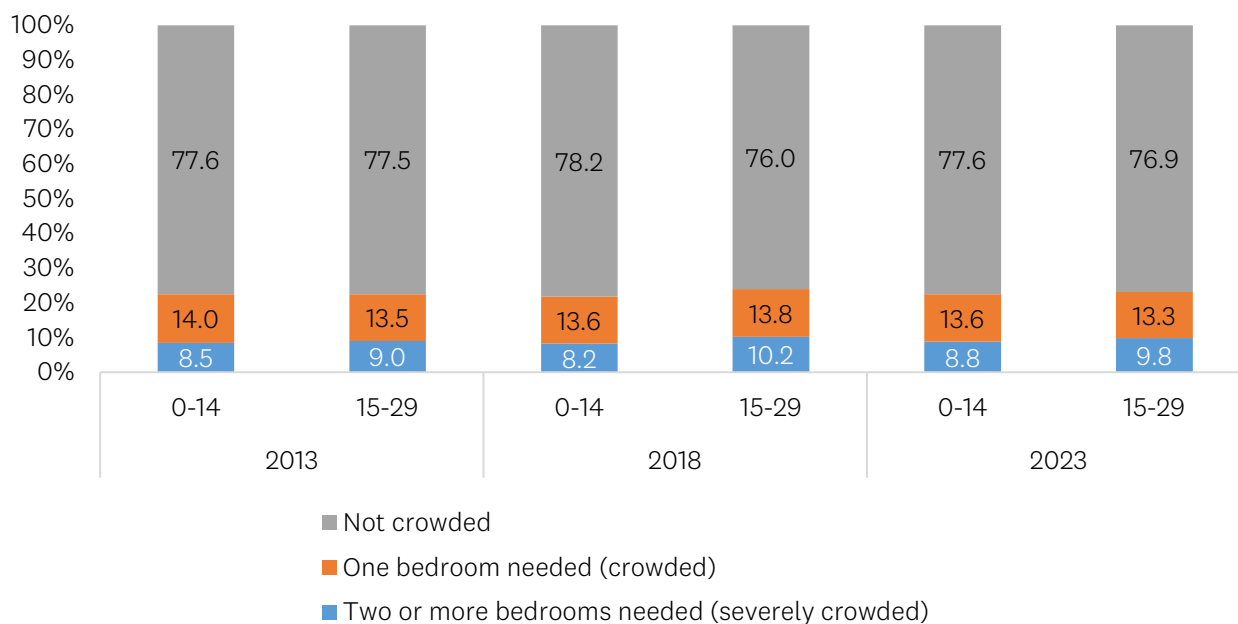
¹⁷ It should be noted that the census represents a snapshot of one night, meaning that it cannot measure the number of children who are co-parented and live across multiple households.

¹⁸ The criteria for the Canadian National Occupancy Standard are:

- There should be no more than two people per bedroom; parents or couples share a bedroom.
- Children aged less than five years, either of same or opposite sex, may reasonably share a bedroom.
- Children aged less than 18 years, of the same sex, may reasonably share a bedroom.
- A child aged five to 17 years should not share a bedroom with one aged under five of the opposite sex.
- Single adults aged 18 years and over, and any unpaired children, require a separate bedroom.

See Goodyear R, Fabian A (2012). *Household crowding in New Zealand compared with selected countries*. Wellington: Statistics New Zealand.

Figure 18: The proportion of those aged 0 to 14 and 15 to 29 living in crowded or severely crowded households in Auckland (2023) (%)



6.5 Less children and young people living in a dwelling with mould and dampness since 2018

The census dwelling form asks whether the dwelling is damp or has any mould (larger than A4 size).¹⁹ No time frame was given in the question. A damp dwelling may feel or smell damp or have damp patches on the walls, ceiling, floor or window frames; and mould (mildew) may grow on the walls, ceiling, floor, doors, window frames, curtains or blinds of a dwelling. Data is only available from the 2018 Census onwards. At the time of writing, dwelling dampness data was only available for those aged 15 to 29 years.

In terms of mould, in 2023, 6.9 per cent of children and 7.3 per cent of young people lived in dwellings which were reported to always have mould (Table 14), a decrease in the number and proportion since 2018.

Table 14: The number and proportion of children and young people living in dwellings in Auckland which were reported to always have mould (2018, 2023)

	2018		2023	
	number	%	number	%
Mould over A4 size - always				
Under 15 years	21,486	8.4	18,705	6.9
15-24 years	14,376	8.4	13,332	7.3

Smaller numbers and proportions of children and those aged 15 to 29 years (4.6% for each group) lived in dwellings which were reported to be always damp (Table 15). This proportion has declined slightly since 2018, as well as in absolute numbers.

¹⁹ This means that results are self-reported and are subjective.

Table 15: The number and proportion of children and young people living in dwellings in Auckland which were reported to be always damp (2018, 2023)

	2018		2023	
	number	%	number	%
Always damp				
Under 15 years	15,318	6.1	12,477	4.6
15-29 years	15,264	5.8	12,813	4.6

6.6 Over a quarter of children and young people lived in areas rated as relatively deprived on the NZDep Index

The New Zealand index of socioeconomic deprivation (NZDep Index) is a measure of relative socioeconomic deprivation, based on eight census variables:

- Communication - People with no access to the Internet at home
- Income - People aged 18-64 receiving a main means tested benefit; People living in equivalised* households with income below an income threshold
- Employment - People aged 18-64 unemployed
- Qualifications - People aged 18-64 without any qualifications
- Owned home - People not living in own home
- Support - People aged <75 living in a sole parent family
- Living space - People living in equivalised* households below a bedroom occupancy threshold (i.e. overcrowding)
- Living condition - People living in dwellings that are always damp and/or always have mould greater than A4 size.

*Equivalisation: methods used to control for household composition.

The index is reported as a number (decile) between one and ten. Each decile contains around 10 per cent of Statistical Area 1 (SA1) areas. The lowest numbers represent areas which are least deprived, and the higher numbers represent the most deprived. Like the crowding and dampness data, at the time of writing data were only available for those aged 0 to 14 years and 15 to 29 years.

Over a quarter of all children (27.9%) and young people (27.1%) lived in areas rated nine or ten in 2023. As shown in Table 16, larger proportions of children and those aged 15 to 29 lived in the most deprived areas compared with less deprived areas.

Table 16: The number and proportion of those aged 0 to 14 and 15 to 29 living in NZDep Index areas (2023)

NZDep Index	0-14 years		15-29 years	
	number	%	number	%
1 - Least deprived	26,685	8.4	22,617	6.5
2	31,266	9.8	30,810	8.9
3	31,737	10.0	33,444	9.6
4	30,042	9.4	34,425	9.9
5	29,328	9.2	33,327	9.6
6	27,099	8.5	32,367	9.3
7	26,367	8.3	31,890	9.2
8	27,462	8.6	34,185	9.9
9	34,389	10.8	39,465	11.4
10 - most deprived	54,390	17.1	54,324	15.7

The proportion of children (under 15 years) living in areas rated 9 and 10 on the NZDep Index (most deprived) (27.9%) was similar to the proportion in 2018 (27.1%). There was a slight increase in the proportion of children living in areas rated 10, from 16.6 per cent in 2018 to 17.1 per cent in 2023.

7 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 in New Zealand attend primary, intermediate and high schools. Those aged 19 to 24 often attend further education in the forms of university, internships, or apprenticeships; or go into paid employment. This section presents results relating to the qualifications among Auckland's young people.

7.1 A third of young people have a Level 3 certificate as their highest qualification

The 2023 Census recorded a Level 3 certificate as the highest qualification for 31.0 per cent of those aged 15 to 24 (Table 17). An additional 29.6 per cent had a Level 1 or 2 certificate as their highest qualification.

Regarding further education, 3.3 per cent received a level 5 or 6 undergraduate diploma as their highest qualification, and 11.7 per cent had a degree-level qualification as their highest qualification.

Around one in eight (12.9%) had not received any qualification. This is higher among those aged 15 to 19 (21.9%), who may still be working towards a qualification, dropping to six per cent among those aged 20 to 24. 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 shown below.

Table 17: Percentage of young people aged 15 to 24 years, by highest qualification (2023) (%)

	15-19 years	20-24 years	Total 15-24
No qualification	20.3	5.4	12.7
Level 1 certificate	20.2	4.7	12.3
Level 2 certificate	19.5	10.0	14.6
Level 3 certificate	25.7	36.1	31.0
Level 4 certificate	0.9	5.5	3.2
Level 5 diploma	0.5	3.9	2.2
Level 6 diploma	0.1	2.1	1.1
Bachelor degree and level 7 qualification	0.1	17.4	8.9
Post-graduate and honours degrees	0.0	4.3	2.2
Masters degree	0.0	1.1	0.5
Doctorate degree	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overseas secondary school qualification	2.5	4.7	3.6

In 2023, a total of 12.7 per cent of children and young people aged 15 to 24 in Auckland had no qualification. This proportion was higher among those in the Māori and Pacific Peoples ethnic groups (16.6% and 14.8% respectively) than other groups (Table 18).

Table 18: Number and percentage of young people by ethnic group with no qualification (2023)

Ethnicity*	No qualification	
	Number	Proportion (%)
European	13,911	13.1
Māori	6315	16.6
Pacific Peoples	7893	14.8
Asian	6156	10.0
MELAA	675	11.6
Total young people (15-24 years)	28,122	12.7

*People could choose more than one ethnicity, and categories are not exclusive.

7.2 The proportion of young people without any qualifications has declined

As shown in Table 19, the proportion of young people who have not received any qualifications has declined between 2013 and 2023 (from 15.0% to 12.7%). This suggests that over time more young people are achieving at least one qualification.

Between 2013 and 2023, the proportion of young people with Level 1 or 2 certificates as their highest qualification decreased and the proportion of young people with Level 3 certificates as their highest qualification increased. This trend suggests that over time more young people are progressing to achieve higher levels of high school grade qualifications.

Although there was an increase in the proportion of young people achieving university level qualifications as their highest qualification between 2013 and 2018, there was a decrease between 2018 and 2023. This may suggest that a greater proportion of young people went into the workforce rather than further study between 2018 and 2023.

Table 19: Highest qualification received by young people aged 15 to 24 years (2013, 2018, 2023) (%)

	2013	2018	2023
No qualification	15.0	12.9	12.7
Level 1 certificate	14.3	12.3	12.3
Level 2 certificate	17.1	14.8	14.6
Level 3 certificate	27.0	29.9	31.0
Level 4 certificate	4.2	5.3	3.2
Level 5 diploma	3.5	3.6	2.2
Level 6 diploma	1.6	2.1	1.1
Bachelor degree and level 7 qualification	9.6	11.3	8.9
Post-graduate and honours degrees	1.4	2.5	2.2
Masters degree	0.4	0.6	0.5
Doctorate degree	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overseas secondary school qualification	6.0	4.6	3.6

8 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.

The labour force consists of those employed full time, part-time and those who are unemployed (employable and actively seeking a job but are unable to find a job). Those who are not in the labour force are those who are not currently employed or looking for work. In the case of young people, the majority not in the labour force are likely to not be looking for work as they are studying towards a qualification.

8.1 Over 120,000 young people were in the work force

At the 2023 Census, 138,792 young people were in the labour force. Of these, 123,546 were in paid employment (working one or more hours per week): 39.9 per cent of those aged 15 to 19 and 71.3 per cent of those aged 20 to 24.

Those aged 15 to 19 years

As shown in Table 20, a substantial proportion of young people aged 15 to 19 were not in the labour force (52.4%), which explains the relatively low proportion in paid employment. It is likely that a large proportion of this group were engaged in education, rather than participating in the labour force.

The proportion who were in the labour force and number employed increased between 2013 and 2023. Correspondingly, the unemployment rate²⁰ among this group was 16.1 per cent, down from 30.5 per cent in 2013 and 21.2 per cent in 2018.

Those aged 20 to 24 years

The proportion of young people aged between 20 to 24 years who were in the labour force (77.4%) was much higher than those aged 15 to 19 years (Table 21).

The unemployment rate for this group was 8.0 per cent, down from 15.2 per cent in 2013 and 9.6 per cent in 2018.

²⁰ Please note that 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 overviews, prepared by Auckland Council and available on [Knowledge Auckland](#).

Table 20: Work and labour force status of those aged 15 to 19 in Auckland (2013, 2018, 2023)

	2013		2018		2023	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Employed Full-time	8625	8.9	12,600	12.2	13,704	12.6
Employed Part-time	17,757	18.3	24,879	24.0	29,577	27.3
Unemployed	11,574	11.9	10,059	9.7	8286	7.6
Not in the Labour Force	59,163	60.9	56,154	54.2	56,772	52.4
Total stated - work and labour force status	97,116		103,695		108,339	
Work and Labour Force Status Unidentifiable	5802		0		0	
Total people	102,921		103,692		108,339	
<i>Subtotals</i>						
Total people in labour force	37,956	39.1	47,538	45.8	51,567	47.6
Total people employed	26,382	27.2	37,479	36.1	43,281	39.9
Unemployment rate		30.5		21.2		16.1

Table 21: Work and labour force status of those aged 20 to 24 in Auckland (2013, 2018, 2023)

	2013		2018		2023	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Employed Full-time	44,046	43.7	60,018	50.0	58,215	51.7
Employed Part-time	18,903	18.8	26,616	22.2	22,050	19.6
Unemployed	11,241	11.2	9156	7.6	6960	6.2
Not in the Labour Force	26,559	26.4	24,207	20.2	25,422	22.6
Total stated - work and labour force status	100,749		119,994		112,647	
Work and Labour Force Status Unidentifiable	7476		0		0	
Total people	108,225		119,997		112,647	
<i>Subtotals</i>						
Total people in labour force	74,190	73.6	95,790	79.8	87,225	77.4
Total people employed	62,949	62.5	86,634	72.2	80,265	71.3
Unemployment rate		15.2		9.6		8.0

8.2 Labour force participation for young people varies across the region

As shown in Table 22, the highest labour force participation rates among young people aged 15 to 24 were in the island local board areas – Aotea/Great Barrier (72.7%) and Waiheke (71.7%), followed by Rodney (71.1%) and Hibiscus and Bays (68.1%). The lowest labour force participation rates were in local board areas located in southern urban Auckland – Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (57.7%), Manurewa (58.2%) and Ōtara-Papatoetoe (58.4%).

The differences in unemployment rates are also substantial, with the highest rates in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (15.9%), Manurewa (14.8%), and Papakura (14.7%) and the lowest in Waiheke (6.8%), Rodney (7.5%) and Devonport-Takapuna (7.7%).

Table 22 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, and people unable to work for any reason, such as illness or disability.

Table 22: Participation in the labour force for young people, by local board area, ordered north to south (2023)

	Total stated	In the labour force	Labour force participation (%)	Not in labour force (%)	Unemployment rate (%)
Rodney	8178	5811	71.1	28.9	7.5
Hibiscus and Bays	13,086	8910	68.1	31.9	7.9
Upper Harbour	9345	5862	62.7	37.3	8.2
Kaipātiki	10,566	6987	66.1	33.9	9.5
Devonport-Takapuna	7434	4809	64.7	35.3	7.7
Henderson-Massey	16,161	9963	61.6	38.	13.3
Waitākere Ranges	6606	4299	65.1	34.9	11.9
Aotea/Great Barrier	99	72	72.7	27.3	12.5
Waiheke	741	531	71.7	28.3	6.8
Waitematā	15,816	9714	61.4	38.6	11.1
Whau	10,119	6240	61.7	38.3	12.5
Albert-Eden	14,259	9249	64.9	35.1	9.7
Puketāpapa	7713	4791	62.1	37.9	9.6
Ōrākei	10,398	6582	63.3	36.7	8.4
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	9978	6405	64.2	35.8	10.6
Howick	19,722	11,901	60.3	39.7	9.5
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	13,140	7584	57.7	42.3	15.9
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	13,347	7791	58.4	41.6	14.1
Manurewa	15,360	8946	58.2	41.8	14.8
Papakura	9198	5787	62.9	37.1	14.7
Franklin	9726	6549	67.3	32.7	9.8
Auckland	220,986	138,792	62.8	37.2	11.0

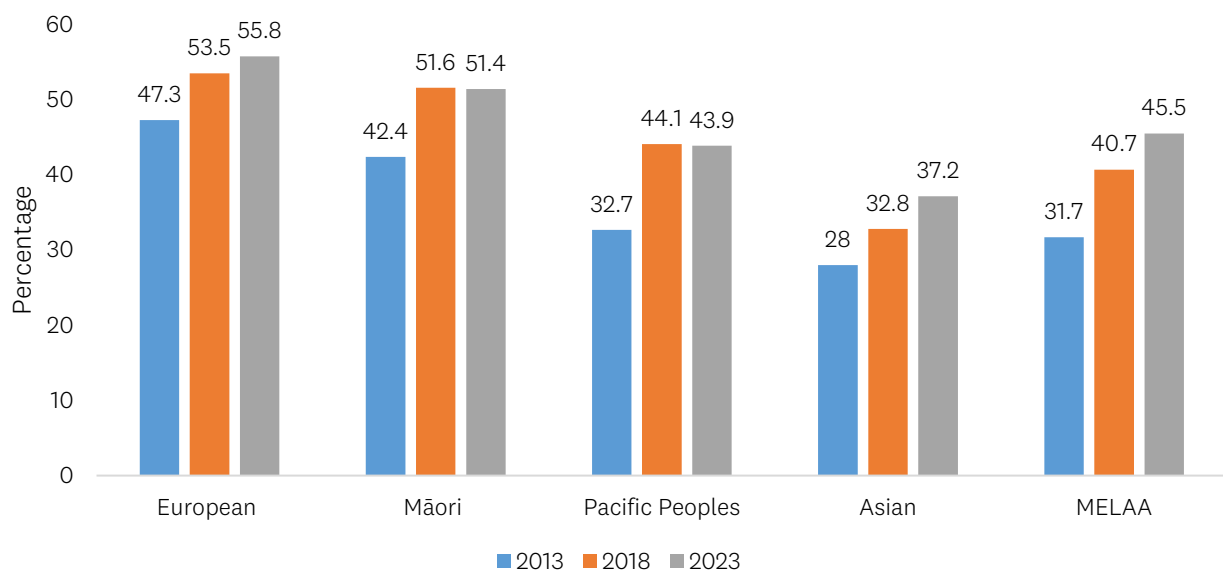
8.3 Relatively low proportion of Asian young people in the labour force

As shown in Figure 19 and Figure 20, there were relatively lower proportions of those of Asian ethnicity in the labour force across both age groups.

Those aged 15 to 19

The proportion of those aged 15 to 19 who were in the labour force increased across all ethnicities between 2013 and 2023 (Figure 19). Between 2018 and 2023, there were increases among those belonging to European, Asian and MELAA ethnic groups; and little change among those of Māori and Pacific Peoples ethnicity. Those of European ethnicity had the highest labour force participation at 55.8 per cent.

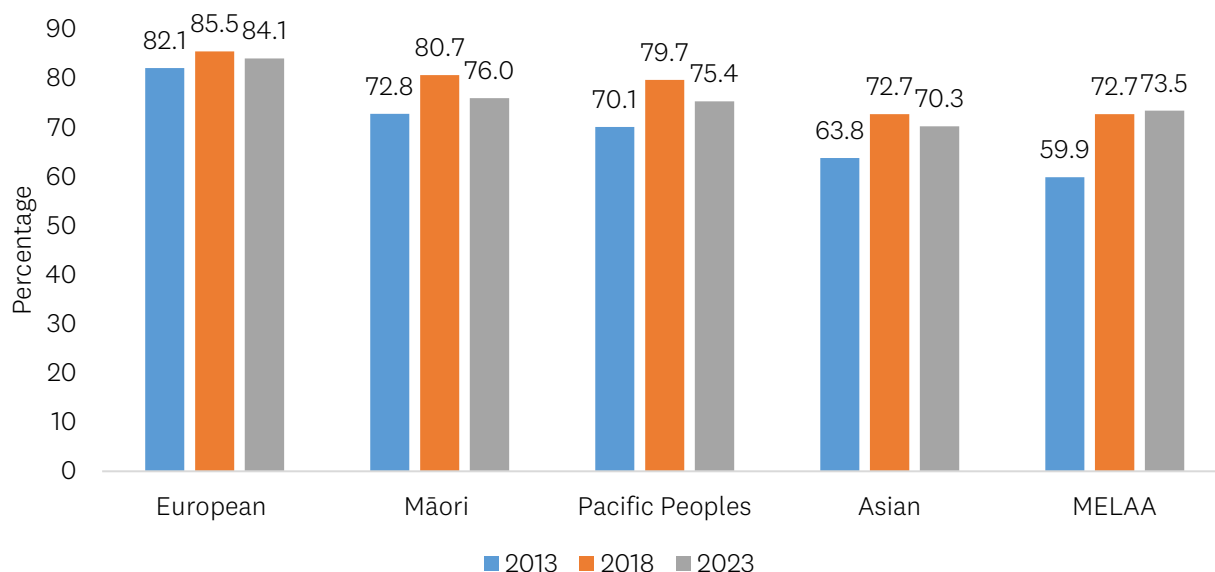
Figure 19: Labour force participation rates among those aged 15 to 19 in Auckland by ethnicity (2013, 2018, 2023) (%)



Those aged 20 to 24

The proportion of those aged 20 to 24 in the labour force also increased across all ethnic groups between 2013 and 2023 (Figure 20). However, there were decreases across all groups (apart from the broad MELAA group) between 2018 and 2023. The ethnic group with the highest labour force participation was the European ethnic group, with 84.1 per cent.

Figure 20: Labour force participation rates among those aged 20 to 24 in Auckland by ethnicity (2013, 2018, 2023) (%)



8.4 Young people work in a diverse range of occupations and industries

As shown in Table 23, the most common occupation among those aged 15 to 19 years was sales worker (27.8%), followed by labourer (21.1%) and community and personal service worker (19.0%).²¹

Among those aged 20 to 24, the most common occupations were professionals (23.4%), sales workers (14.7%), technicians and trades workers (13.1%) and community and personal service workers (13.0%).

Young people make up a sizeable proportion of some occupations. Compared to Auckland as a whole, a greater proportion of young people are employed as sales workers, labourers and community and personal service workers. A third (33.1%) of all sales workers in 2023 were young people, 28.2% of all labourers were young people, and quarter (25.2%) of all community and personal service workers were young people. A low proportion of young people are employed as managers (5.5%) and professionals (8.3%).

The largest changes between 2018 and 2023 were an increase in the number and proportion of professionals (+3537, +2.9 percentage points) and a decrease in the proportion of sales workers (-2547, -2.0 percentage points).

²¹ Further information on what job fields relate to each occupation category can be found using the [OSCA – Occupation Standard Classification for Australia](#).

Table 23: Occupation of children, young people and Auckland (2023)

	15-19 years	20-24 years	Auckland	15-19 years	20-24 years	Auckland (15 years and over)
Occupation	Number			Percentage (%)		
Managers	1,824	6870	158,151	4.2	8.6	18.1
Professionals	2550	18,816	256,947	5.9	23.4	29.4
Technicians and Trades Workers	3828	10,545	102,726	8.8	13.1	11.8
Community and Personal Service Workers	8229	10,398	73,683	19.0	13.0	8.4
Clerical and Administrative Workers	3144	8679	98,412	7.3	10.8	11.3
Sales Workers	12,015	11,826	71,931	27.8	14.7	8.2
Machinery Operators and Drivers	2562	5172	51,597	5.9	6.4	5.9
Labourers	9129	7965	60,612	21.1	9.9	6.9
Total stated - occupation	43,281	80,265	874,056			

In terms of industries, young people make up a sizeable proportion of the accommodation and food services (38.8%), retail trade (29.8%) and arts and recreation services (27.5%) industries (Table 24). Nearly a quarter (23.4%) of those employed in the accommodation and food services industry were aged 15 to 19.

The largest changes between 2018 and 2023 were an increase in the number and proportion in retail trade (+2241, +1.9 percentage points) and a decrease in administrative and support services (-1995, -1.6 percentage points).

Table 24: The number and proportion of young people in Auckland by industry (2023)

Industry	15-19 years		20-24 years		15-24 years		Auckland total (15 years and over)
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	450	5.2	654	7.5	1104	12.7	8679
Mining	6	1.1	36	6.6	42	7.7	546
Manufacturing	2463	3.1	6135	7.8	8598	10.9	78,522
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	126	2.0	360	5.7	486	7.7	6288
Construction	3204	3.6	8757	9.8	11,961	13.4	89,520
Wholesale Trade	1800	3.1	4347	7.5	6147	10.7	57,591
Retail Trade	10,812	13.8	12,570	16.0	23,382	29.8	78,525
Accommodation and Food Services	12,018	23.4	7905	15.4	19,923	38.8	51,345
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	1278	3.1	3510	8.5	4788	11.6	41,331
Information Media and Telecommunications	435	2.2	1521	7.8	1956	10.1	19,452
Financial and Insurance Services	201	0.5	1911	5.2	2112	5.7	37,104
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	495	2.1	1422	6.1	1917	8.3	23,127
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	1368	1.3	8751	8.3	10,119	9.6	105,429
Administrative and Support Services	2082	5.4	3813	9.9	5895	15.4	38,355
Public Administration and Safety	828	1.7	3825	7.8	4653	9.5	49,191
Education and Training	1692	2.6	4464	6.8	6156	9.3	66,132
Health Care and Social Assistance	1146	1.5	5349	7.0	6495	8.5	76,443
Arts and Recreation Services	1749	12.2	2187	15.3	3936	27.5	14,295
Other Services	1122	3.5	2745	8.5	3867	12.0	32,181
<i>Total</i>	<i>43,281</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>80,265</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>123,546</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>874,056</i>

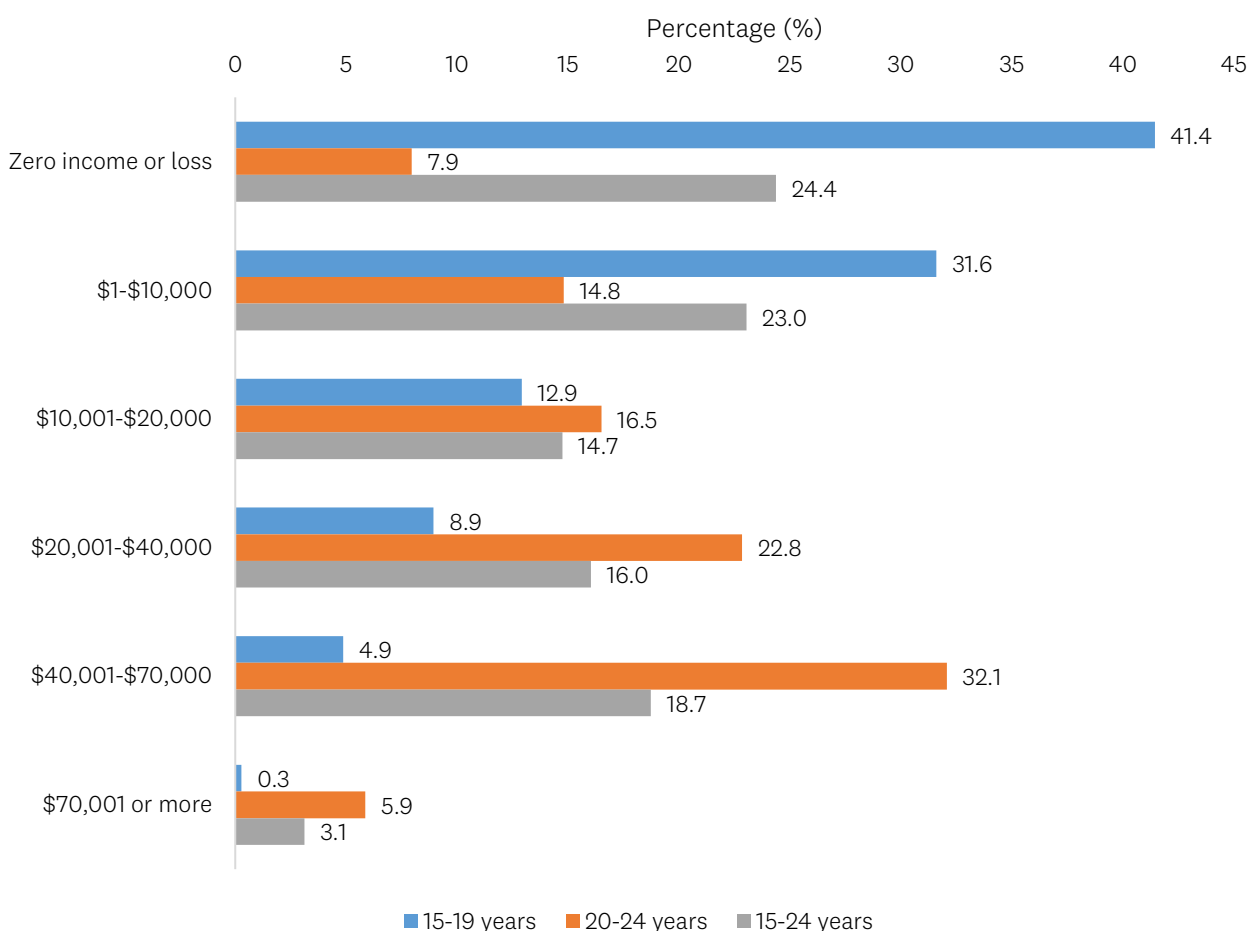
8.5 Income bands of young people reflect progression from education to work

As Figure 21 shows, almost three quarters of young people aged 15 to 19 reported a personal income of \$10,000 or less per annum (79,113 or 73.0%). Reported income among those aged 20 to 24 was varied, with 22.7 per cent reporting an income of \$10,000 or less, and 24.3 per cent reporting an income of between \$40,000 to \$60,000.

The median personal income for those aged 15 to 19 years was \$2700 per annum, while the median personal income for those aged 20 to 24 years was \$29,000. The median income for the entire Auckland population (aged 15 years and over) was \$44,700.

These results may be reflective of young people progressing from education and training into specialised work roles associated with higher pay as they get older.

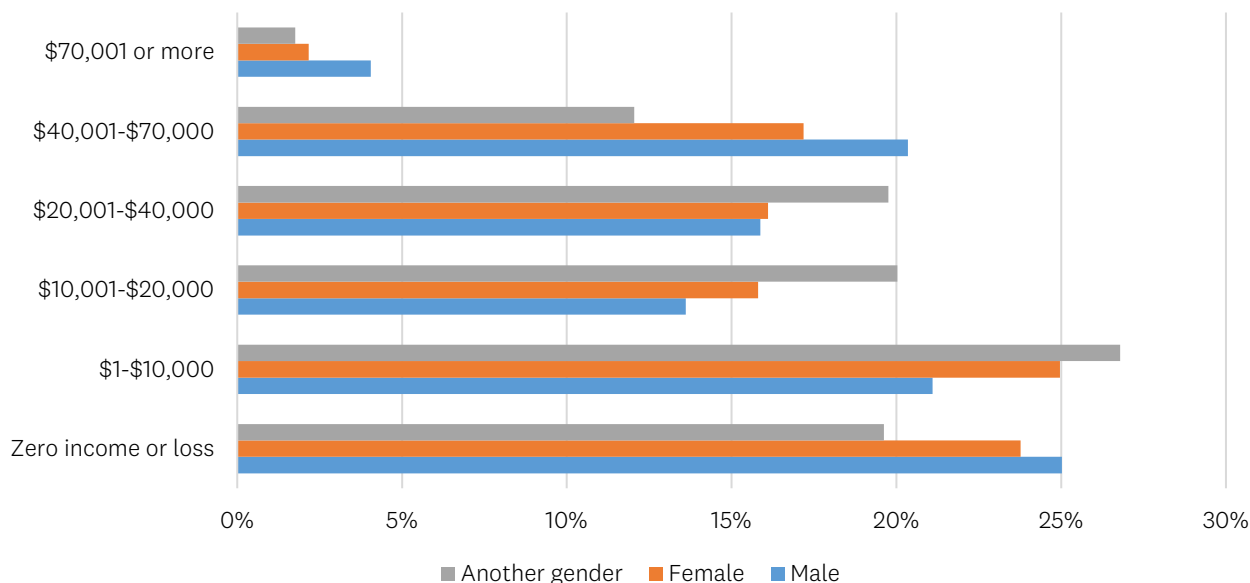
Figure 21: Personal income bands of young people, by age groups (2023)



8.6 Higher proportion of male young people in higher income bands than female young people

As shown in Figure 22, the proportional distribution across the income bands is similar between male and female young people. However, a slightly higher proportion of male young people are in the higher income bands (\$40,000 or more) than female young people.

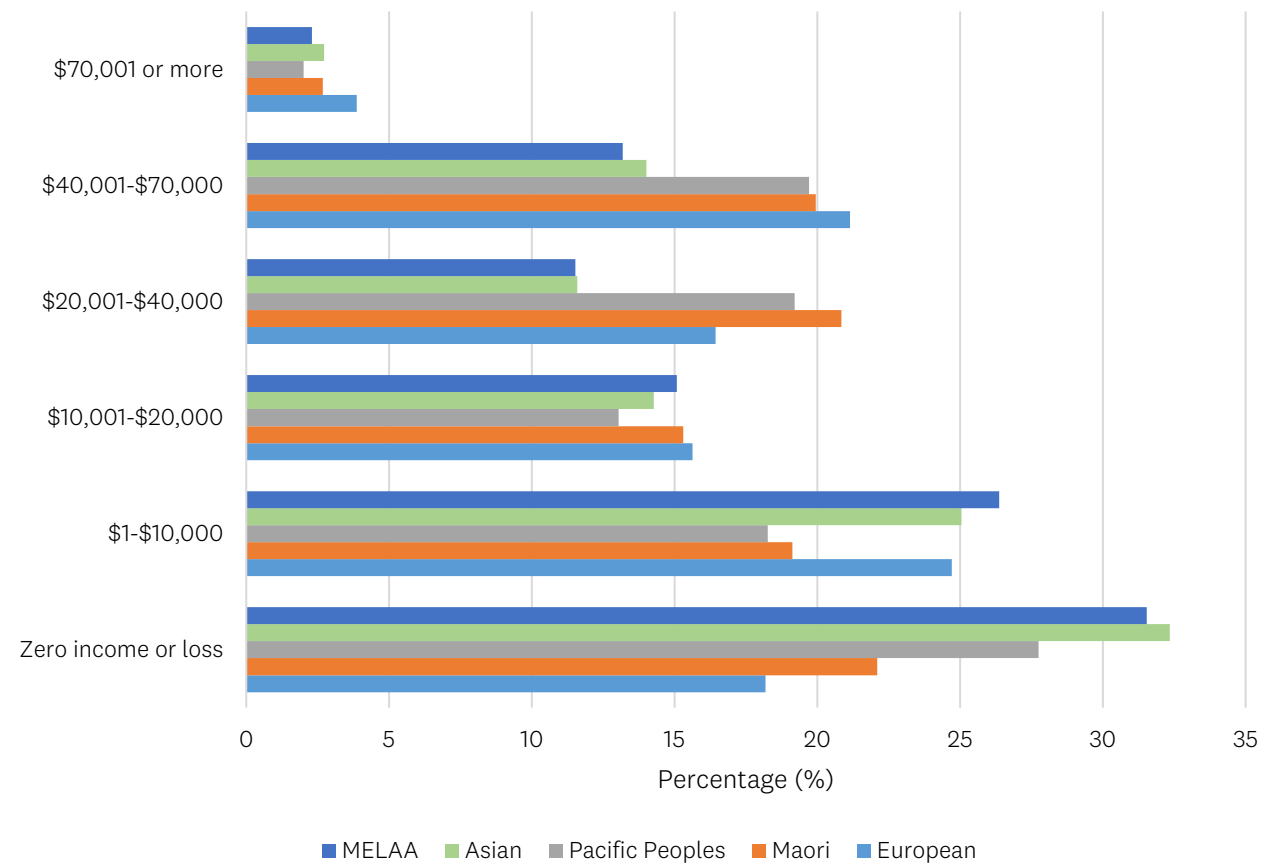
Figure 22: Personal income bands of young people, by gender (2023)



8.7 Similar income band proportions among ethnic groups

Figure 23 shows that the proportion of young people across personal income bands is similar across broad ethnic groups. However, the broad Asian and MELAA ethnic groups had higher proportions of young people who reported an income of \$10,000 or less, and a greater proportion of European young people reported a personal income of \$40,000 or over compared with other ethnicities.

Figure 23: Personal income bands of young people, by broad ethnic group (2023)



9 Discussion

Children (0 to 14 years) and young people (15 to 24 years) make up a third (32.6% or 539,829) of the total Auckland population. Although the proportion of Aucklanders who are children and young people is declining, the number of children and young people continues to grow. The demographic trends and characteristics of this group can shed some light on what the future Auckland population may look like. These include a higher proportion of children and young people:

- being of Māori descent
- identifying as Māori and Pacific Peoples ethnicities
- having multiple ethnic identities
- speaking Samoan, Māori and Tongan
- identifying as ‘another gender’.

In terms of the geographical pattern of the population across the Auckland region, more children and young people live in the western and southern urban periphery and the isthmus than in other areas of the region. The highest proportions of children and young people are in the southern urban Auckland local boards of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Papakura and Manurewa.²²

This report has also identified some less-positive figures for children and young people in Auckland. For example, over a quarter of all children (27.9%) and young people (27.1%) in 2023 lived in areas rated as the most socio-economically deprived areas on the New Zealand Deprivation Index (deciles 9 and 10). In addition, 8.8 per cent of children and 9.8 per cent of young people²³ lived in severely crowded (requiring one or two more bedrooms) households. These proportions have increased from 8.5 per cent and 9.0 per cent in 2013 respectively.

Furthermore, nearly 7.0 per cent of children and 7.3 per cent of young people in 2023 lived in dwellings which always had mould (although there was a decrease in this proportion since 2018). In terms of dampness, 4.6 per cent of children and 4.6 per cent of those aged 15 to 29 years in 2023 lived in dwellings which were always damp. However, this proportion was also slightly lower than in 2018.

There are positive trends relating to education and employment. The proportion of young people who have not received any qualifications has dropped steadily between 2013 and 2023 (from 15.0% to 12.7%). The proportion of those aged 15 to 19 who were in the labour force increased across all ethnicities between 2013 and 2023.

Auckland needs strong, healthy communities to achieve the commitments set out in the Auckland Plan 2050 and the *Thriving Rangatahi strategy*. Knowing the trends and figures of children and young people provides an evidence base to advance these commitments.

²² This is the area covered by [The Southern Initiative](#) which champions, stimulates and enables social and community innovation in southern urban Auckland.

²³ This percentage relates to individuals aged 15 to 29 years. Data were not able to be obtained for those aged 15 to 24 at the time of writing.

Find out more: research@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
or visit knowledgeauckland.org.nz and
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

