

# 2023 Census results

## Disability status and activity limitations overview for Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland

### Disability status

At the 2023 New Zealand Census 6.3% or 82,872 people in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland were categorised as disabled.<sup>1</sup> This is a slight increase from the 2018 Census in which 5.5% of people in Auckland were categorised as disabled (65,832 people). In Aotearoa New Zealand as a whole, 298,980 people or 7.5% of the population were disabled in 2023.

**82,872**

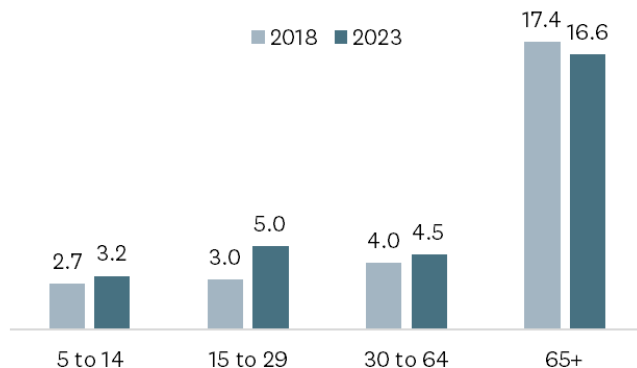
Disabled Auckland residents in 2023

**+17,040 (+5.5%)**  
Since the 2018 Census

### Age

The largest proportion of Aucklanders with a disability were among those aged 65 years and over at 16.6%. The median age of someone with a disability in 2023 was 56.3 years (58.5 years in 2018).

Proportion of disabled people in Auckland, by age (%)



### Gender

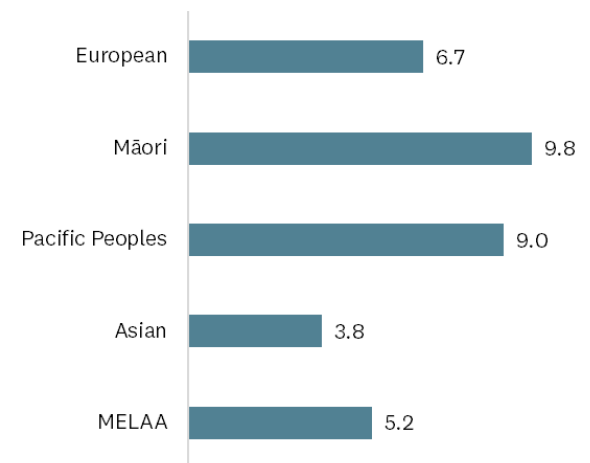
Similar proportions of people in the three gender categories were disabled:

- 6.3% of males
- 5.8% of females
- 6.6% of those who identified with another gender.

### Ethnicity

There were few differences in the proportion of people in each broad ethnic group who have a disability, however Māori and Pacific Peoples had the highest proportions.

Proportion of disabled people in Auckland, by ethnicity (%)



\*MELAA stands for Middle Eastern / Latin American / African People can choose more than one ethnic identity.

<sup>1</sup> The disability indicator reports an individual's disability status as per the Washington Group short set (WGSS). The disability indicator is derived from the activity limitations questions. A person is regarded as disabled if they have 'A lot of difficulty' or 'Cannot do at all' one or more of the six activities in the activity limitations questions. The purpose of the disability indicator derived from the WGSS is to explore whether disabled people are participating in society to a similar extent as non-disabled people. This is not an official measure of the disabled population in New Zealand. For an estimate of the number of disabled people in NZ, refer to the 2023 Household Disability Survey which has a more extensive question set.

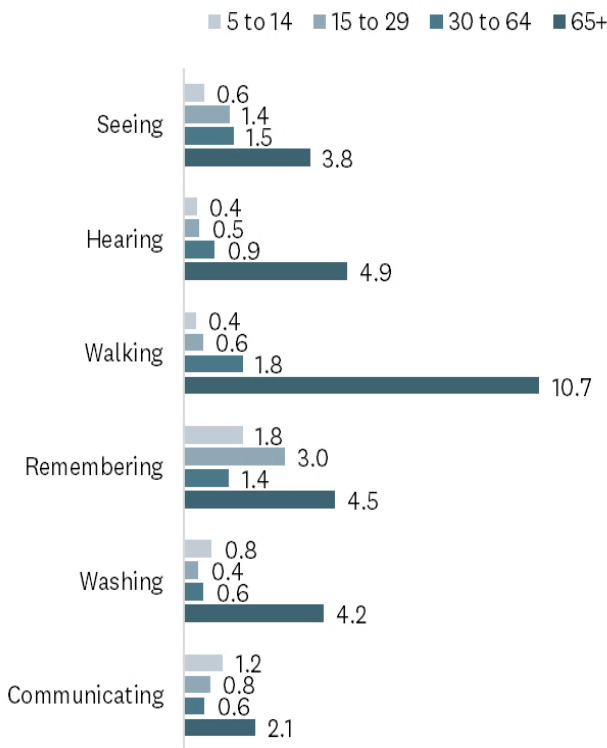
# Activity limitations

Small proportions of Aucklanders reported they had ‘a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all’ (hereafter ‘difficulties’) when undertaking the following activities: Walking (2.6%), Remembering (2.2%), Seeing (1.7%), Hearing (1.3%), Washing (1.1%) and Communicating (1.0%). Proportions across all activities are generally similar to results from the 2018 Census.

## Age

Slightly larger proportions of Aucklanders aged 65 years or over reported difficulties compared with younger age groups, across all activities.

Proportion reporting ‘a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all’ for activities in Auckland, by age (%)

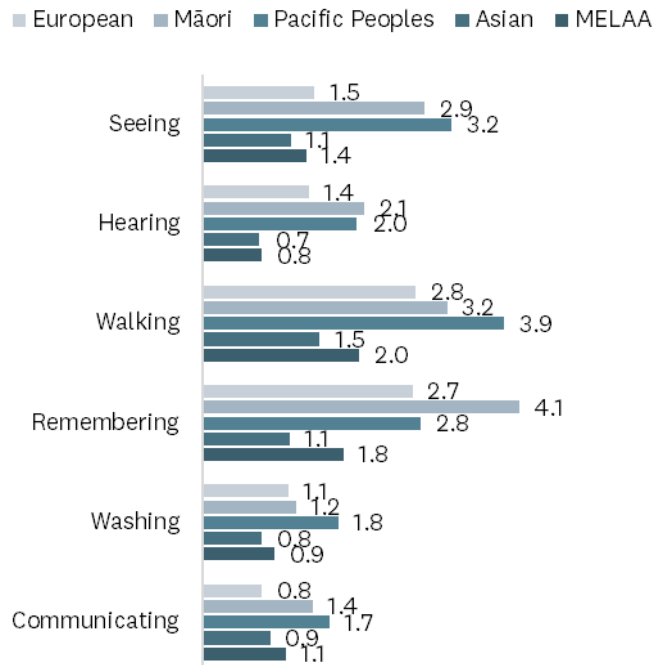


In the 2018 and 2023 Census the median age of those reporting difficulties was similar across all activities, except ‘remembering’. In 2018 the median age of those reporting difficulties for remembering was 54 years and for 2023 this lowered to 40 years.

## Ethnicity

There are few differences in activity limitations across the five largest ethnic groups. Slightly larger proportions of Māori and Pacific Peoples reported difficulties relative to those identifying with European, Asian or MELAA ethnic groups.

Proportion reporting ‘a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all’ for activities in Auckland, by ethnicity (%)



## Gender

The proportion of people who reported difficulties with activities was similar by gender across all activities, with one notable exception: 17.3% of those who identified with another gender reported difficulties remembering compared with 2.1% of males and 2.2% of females.

## Further information

This document was prepared in February 2025 by the Social and Economic Research and Evaluation team at Auckland Council using publicly available census data from Stats NZ’s Aotearoa Data Explorer. For further information please contact us at [census@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:census@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).