Māori demography

On the right we present the proportion of the New Zealand population that is Māori, how the population is aged-structured, and give population projections for the future.

We also present measures for neighbourhood deprivation experienced by Māori, followed by socioeconomic indicators and racial discrimination.

Data is sourced from the 2001, 2006 and 2013 censuses, Statistics New Zealand, and from the 2006/07, 2011/12 and 2016/17 New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS), Ministry of Health.

Māori population distribution

In 2013, Māori made up 16 percent of the New Zealand population. Females made up 51 percent of the Māori population, and males 49 percent.

The Māori population is youthful. In 2013, 34 percent of Māori were aged under 15 years. The median age of Māori was 24 years.

Life expectancy at birth was 73 years for Māori males and 77 years for Māori females in 2013.

These patterns did not change much over time.

Māori population projection

Between 2015 and 2030, the Māori population is projected to grow by 16 percent. This is a slightly faster rate than the non-Māori population.

Higher proportions of Māori than non-Māori lived in more deprived areas

In 2013, 24 percent of Māori lived in the most deprived areas, compared with 7 percent of non-Māori.

In 2013, 4 percent of Māori lived in the least deprived areas, compared with 12 percent of non-Māori.

These patterns did not change much over time.

Māori were less advantaged than non-Māori across all socioeconomic indicators

Māori adults had lower rates of school completion and higher rates of unemployment than non-Māori.

More Māori adults than non-Māori had a personal income of less than $10,000, and received income support.

Māori were more likely than non-Māori to live in households without any telecommunications (including internet access) and without motor vehicle access.

More Māori than non-Māori lived in rented accommodation and crowded households.

These patterns did not change much over time.

Racial discrimination

Over time, Māori adults aged 15 and over were more likely than non-Māori to report experiencing any types of racial discrimination, including experiencing any types of ethnically motivated attacks (physical or verbal) and experiencing any unfair treatment on the basis of ethnicity in health, housing and work situations.