

***Demographics of New Zealand's
Pacific Population
-Pacific Progress 2010-***



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Standards and further information

Percentage changes

Percentage movements are, in a number of cases, calculated using data of greater precision than published. This could result in slight variations.

Rounding procedures

On occasion, figures are rounded to the nearest thousand or some other convenient unit. This may result in a total disagreeing slightly with the total of the individual items as shown in tables. Where figures are rounded the unit is in general expressed in words below the table headings, but where space does not allow this the unit may be shown as (000) for thousands, etc.

All counts in this report have been randomly rounded to base 3 to protect the confidentiality of respondents. For this reason not all figures will sum to stated totals.

Ethnicity data

The ethnicity data used in this report has been sourced from Statistics New Zealand and from administrative data and survey data from government agencies. Statistics New Zealand's data is grouped using a total count method where individuals are counted in each ethnic group they identify with. Ethnicity is self-perceived and people can belong to more than one ethnic group (with up to six ethnic responses counted in official collections).

Administrative data from agencies and some survey data may not use a total count method. Instead individuals are grouped according to a prioritised system. Prioritised ethnic groups involve each person being allocated to a single ethnic group, based on the ethnicities they have identified with, in the prioritised order of Māori, Pacific, Asian and European/Other. For example, if someone identifies as being Chinese and Māori, under the prioritised ethnic group method, they are classified as Māori for the purpose of analysis.

The way that the ethnicity data is prioritised means that the group of prioritised European/Other effectively refers to non-Māori, Non-Pacific, non-Asian people. The aim of prioritisation is to ensure that where some need exists to assign people to a single ethnic group, ethnic groups of policy importance, or of small size, are not swamped by the New Zealand European ethnic group.

Source: <http://www.moh.govt.nz>

Changes of base

Where consecutive figures have been compiled on different bases and are not strictly comparable, a footnote is added indicating the nature of the difference.

Source

All data is compiled by Statistics New Zealand, except where otherwise stated. Both administrative and survey data has been used in this report.

Liability

While all care and diligence has been used in processing, analysing and extracting data and information in this report, Statistics New Zealand gives no warranty it is error free and will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered as a result of the use, directly or indirectly, of information in this report.

Statistics NZ has provided official statistics to inform analysis. MPIA authors have provided commentary and liaised with other government agencies to produce the series.

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Foreword

Pacific Progress 2010 is a series of reports which examine the place of New Zealand's Pacific peoples in a number of sectors. It is a collaborative project in which Statistics NZ has provided much of the data, analytical support, and resources for the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to lead the analysis and commentary. The objective is to inform understanding of how best to improve outcomes for Pacific peoples, a fast-growing population.

The series takes a broader approach than the Annual Aggregate Report, which it replaces. Based on Census 2006 data, it will underpin the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs' future monitoring of the public sector's contribution to Pacific peoples' advancement. Publishing electronically gives the flexibility to refresh regularly. *Pacific Progress 2010* will be updated following each Census. In intervening years the indicators in the Ministry of Social Development's Social Report will enable us to track progress.

While it is intended, in part, to enable the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to fulfil its monitoring role, we hope *Pacific Progress 2010* will prove to be of wider value. We believe its analysis will make a positive contribution to the work of many agencies which already have in place programmes and policies to enhance outcomes for Pacific peoples. For those not already doing so, we hope it may serve as a prompt.

Enhancing outcomes for New Zealand's Pacific peoples is critical: a productive and prosperous New Zealand will be increasingly contingent on productive and prosperous Pacific New Zealanders.



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Chief Executive
Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs



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Government Statistician
Statistics New Zealand

Demography

Summary

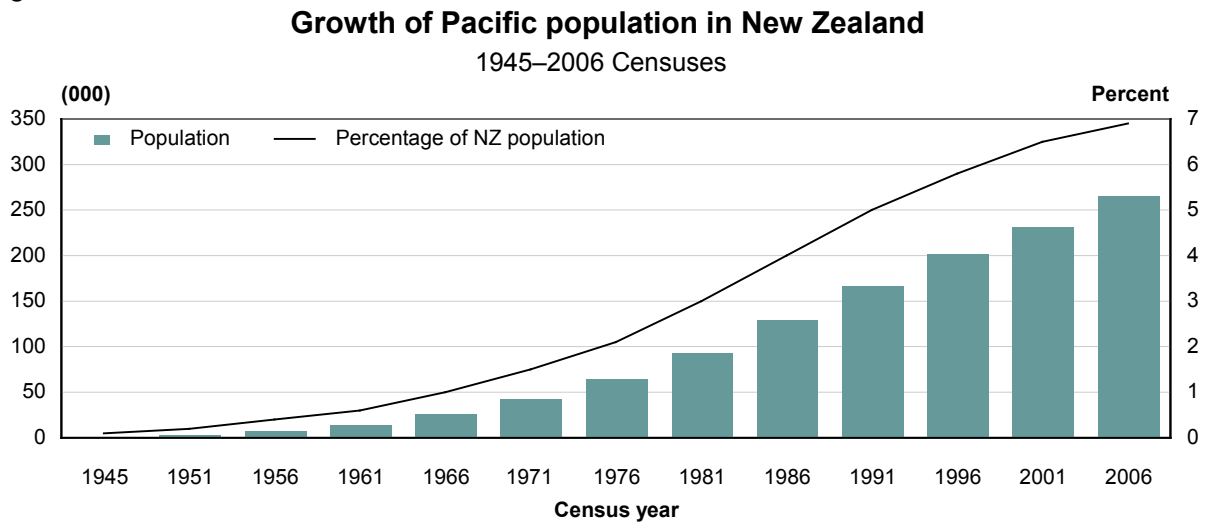
- The Pacific population in New Zealand grew from just 2,200 people to 266,000 between 1945 and 2006 and now makes up 6.9 percent of the total New Zealand population.
- Samoans are the largest Pacific ethnic group in New Zealand, numbering 131,100 in 2006 and making up almost half the Pacific population. Their numbers grew by 98 percent between 1986 and 2006.
- Tongans have been the fastest-growing Pacific ethnic group in New Zealand in recent years, with their numbers increasing more than threefold between 1986 and 2006.
- Three out of five Pacific people living in New Zealand in 2006 were born in this country. Cook Islands people, Niueans and Tokelauans are the most likely to have been born in New Zealand.
- The proportion of Pacific people identifying with only one ethnicity decreased from 80 percent in 1991 to 70 percent in 2006. Multiple ethnicities are more common amongst younger Pacific people.
- The median age of the New Zealand-born Pacific group is 13 years compared with 39 years for the overseas-born. The Pacific group as a whole has a much younger age structure than the total population, having a median age in 2006 of 21 years (36 years for the total population).
- Pacific peoples are highly urbanised, with 97 percent living in urban areas in 2006 and 66 percent living in the Auckland urban areas alone.

Pacific people in New Zealand are a rapidly growing and changing population. From a small immigrant community in the 1940s, they have grown, through migration and a high rate of natural increase, into a population of considerable size and social significance. Today's Pacific population is mostly New Zealand-born, predominantly young, and highly urbanised. It is also a diverse population made up of many different ethnic groups. Understanding these characteristics provides important context for analysing the social and economic position of Pacific people, which will be covered in further reports to be published in 2010.

Population growth

The last half of the 20th century has seen rapid growth in the size of Pacific communities in New Zealand. At the time of the 1945 Census of Population and Dwellings, there were fewer than 2,200 Pacific people living in New Zealand. This population grew steadily, but relatively slowly, until the 1960s, when migration accelerated in response to population pressures in the Pacific nations and demand for labour in New Zealand's expanding secondary industries.

Figure 1.1



Note: Figures from 1945 to 1981 are for the population of Pacific Island Polynesian origin or descent; figures from 1986 to 2006 are for the Pacific Islands/Pacific peoples ethnic group.

Most migration from the Pacific to New Zealand came from the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji. People from the Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau held New Zealand citizenship and therefore had unrestricted rights of entry and settlement in New Zealand. People from other Pacific nations, particularly Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji, entered New Zealand in a range of ways, including temporary permits, quota schemes and family reunification policies.

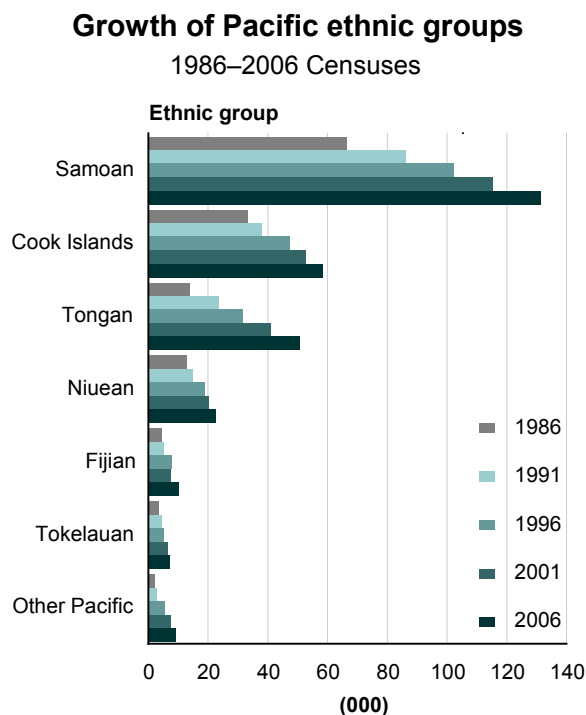
This migration fuelled population growth in the 1960s and 1970s, so that by the time of the 1976 Census there were almost 65,700 Pacific people living in New Zealand, making up 2.1 percent of the total population. Economic downturn in the 1970s resulted in a more restrictive immigration policy, but many Pacific people retained rights of entry to New Zealand, and so migration continued, albeit at lower levels. Since the mid-1990s, net migration gains from the Pacific have averaged 3,300 per year. The Pacific population in New Zealand has continued to grow rapidly, mainly owing to a high rate of natural increase, described below. By the 2006 Census, Pacific people in New Zealand numbered 266,000 and made up 6.9 percent of the population.

As the Pacific population is a young one, with low rates of mortality and high rates of fertility, the excess of births over deaths produces a high natural rate of population growth. Pacific people are more likely than others to be in the age groups when most childbearing takes place and tend to have more children, with a fertility rate of three births per woman, compared with two births per woman for the total population. Because of their younger age structure they have a lower crude death rate of 3.2 deaths per 1,000 people per year, compared with 6.6 per 1,000 for the total population.

Inter-ethnic partnering and inter-ethnic mobility (people changing their ethnic identification over time) also contribute to population growth. Individuals may choose to identify or not identify with Pacific ethnicities for different reasons.

As figure 1.2 shows, Samoans are by far the largest Pacific group in New Zealand, numbering over 131,000 people at the time of the 2006 Census. This was almost half the Pacific population and 3.3 percent of the total New Zealand population. The Samoan population grew by 64,800 people, or 98 percent, between 1986 and 2006. This compares with a growth of 23.4 percent for the total New Zealand population. Because the Samoan population is so much larger than the other groups, it has a substantial impact on the characteristics of the Pacific population as a whole. While there is some variation between the economic positions of the various Pacific ethnic groups, the position of Samoans tends to mirror that of the total Pacific population. This issue will be explored in future reports.

Figure 1.2



Cook Islands people make up the next largest group, with 58,000 living in New Zealand in 2006, an increase of 24,900 since 1986. The fastest rate of growth was in the Tongan community, which grew more than threefold between 1986 and 2006 from 13,600 to over 50,500. While most of the major Pacific groups continued to show steady growth throughout the period, the Fijian population declined slightly from almost 7,700 to just over 7,000 between 1996 and 2001, a period when there was increased

emigration by earlier immigrants.¹ However, from 2001 to 2006 the Fijian population increased to 9,900.

Other Pacific groups outside the six main groups have also increased in numbers, from just under 2,000 in 1986 to almost 9,000 in 2006. The largest of these groups in 2006 were Tuvaluans (2,600), Tahitians (1,300), and I-Kiribati (1,100).²

Table 1.1 shows that there are more Pacific people from Niue, the Cook Islands, and Tokelau living in New Zealand than in their respective home countries. In particular, the Niuean population living in New Zealand is 10 times greater than the population living in Niue.

Table 1.1
Size of main Pacific ethnic groups in New Zealand and estimated resident population in home country 2006

Country	Usual resident population in NZ, 2006 Census	Estimated resident population in home country, 2006 ⁽¹⁾	Ratio of Pacific population in NZ compared to home country
Samoa	131,103	176,908	0.74
Cook Islands	58,008	21,388	2.71
Tonga	50,481	114,689	0.44
Niue	22,476	2,166	10.38
Fiji	9,861	905,949	0.01
Tokelau	6,822	1,392	4.9

(1) Sourced from the Central Intelligence Agency's The World Factbook, available from www.theodora.com/wfb2006/.

Birthplace

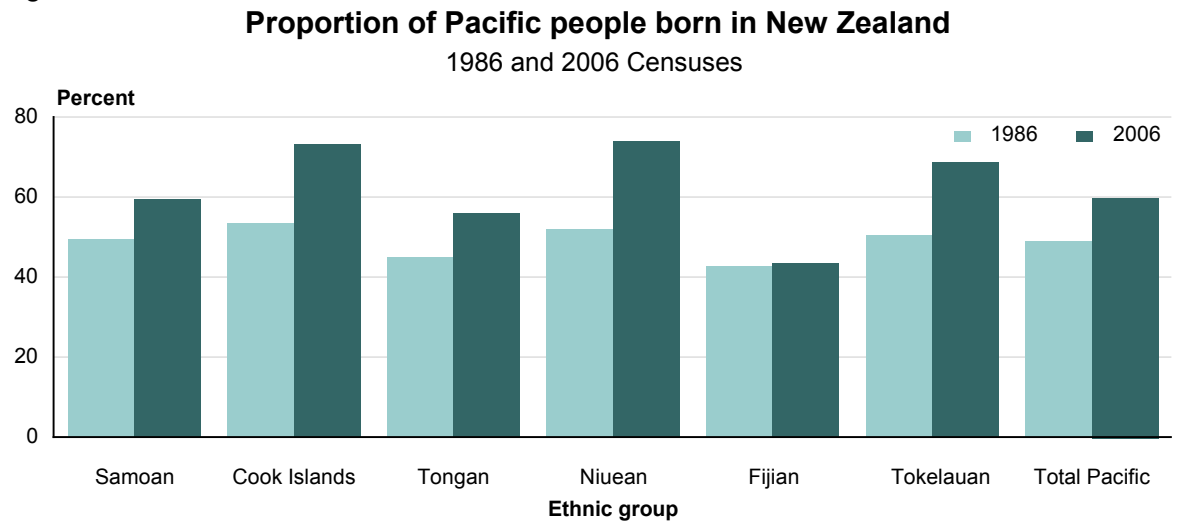
Over time the Pacific population has changed from a mainly migrant group to a largely New Zealand-born population. As figure 1.3 shows, the majority of Pacific people now

¹ Population changes between censuses may be affected by changes in the census ethnicity question. The 1996 question differed slightly from the 1991 and 2001 questions, resulting in more people specifying more than one ethnic group. While this does not appear to have had a major effect on the size of the Pacific population as a whole, it may have resulted in the 1996 figures for some Pacific groups being slightly inflated relative to the 1991 and 2001 figures. This may have contributed to the slight fall in the Fijian population between 1996 and 2001, although it is difficult to quantify this.

² The census allows people to specify more than one ethnic group. All ethnicity data in this report is based on total responses for each group, so if people specified more than one Pacific ethnic group (eg Samoan and Niuean) they are counted in each of these groups.

living in New Zealand were born here, with the proportion increasing from 49 percent to 60 percent between 1986 and 2006.

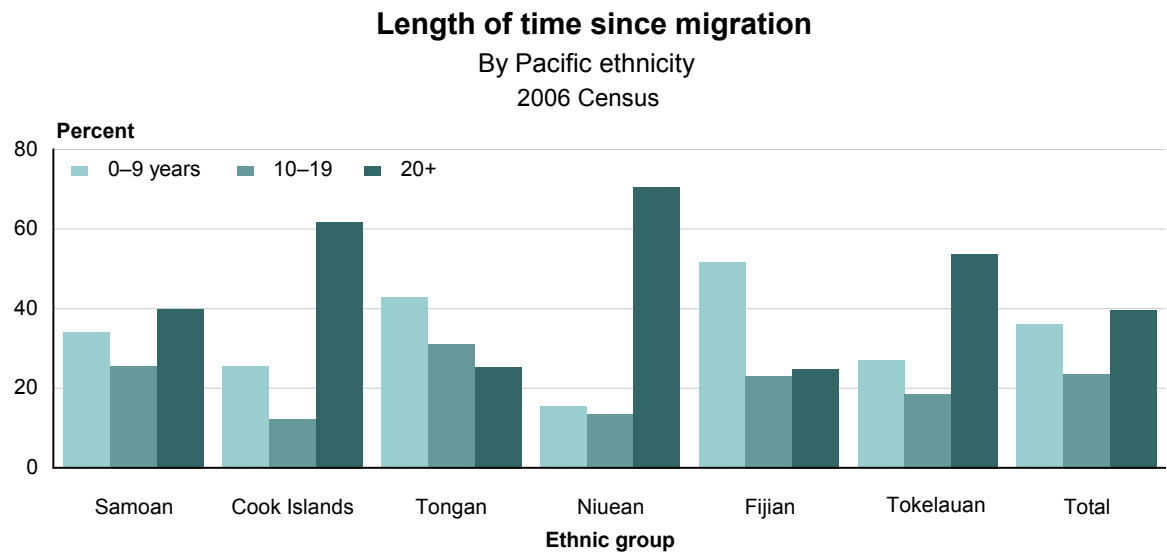
Figure 1.3



The groups with the highest proportions born in New Zealand are those who have always had unrestricted rights of settlement and therefore have had more opportunity to become established. These are namely Cook Islands people and Niueans (of whom 73 percent and 74 percent are born in New Zealand, respectively), as well as Tokelauans (69 percent). The greatest increases in the proportion of New Zealand-born people have been amongst these three groups. Fijians are the only group in which the majority were born overseas, reflecting a historical pattern of temporary labour migration rather than permanent settlement and an increase in migration following the coups of the late 1980s.

Figure 1.4 shows how long ago overseas-born Pacific people migrated to New Zealand. For the Pacific group as a whole, 40 percent have lived in New Zealand for 20 or more years.

Figure 1.4



Within this group, those who are most likely to have lived in New Zealand for this length of time are Niueans (71 percent), Cook Islands people (62 percent), and Tokelauans (54 percent). The median duration of residence is 29 years for Niueans, 27 years for Cook Islands people, 23 years for Tokelauans, 18 years for Samoans, 13 years for Tongans, and nine years for Fijians.

Multiple ethnicity

Over time there has been a decrease in the proportion of Pacific people identifying solely with a Pacific ethnicity. In 1991, 80 percent of Pacific people identified as Pacific only. By 2006 this figure had fallen to 70 percent.

Figure 1.5

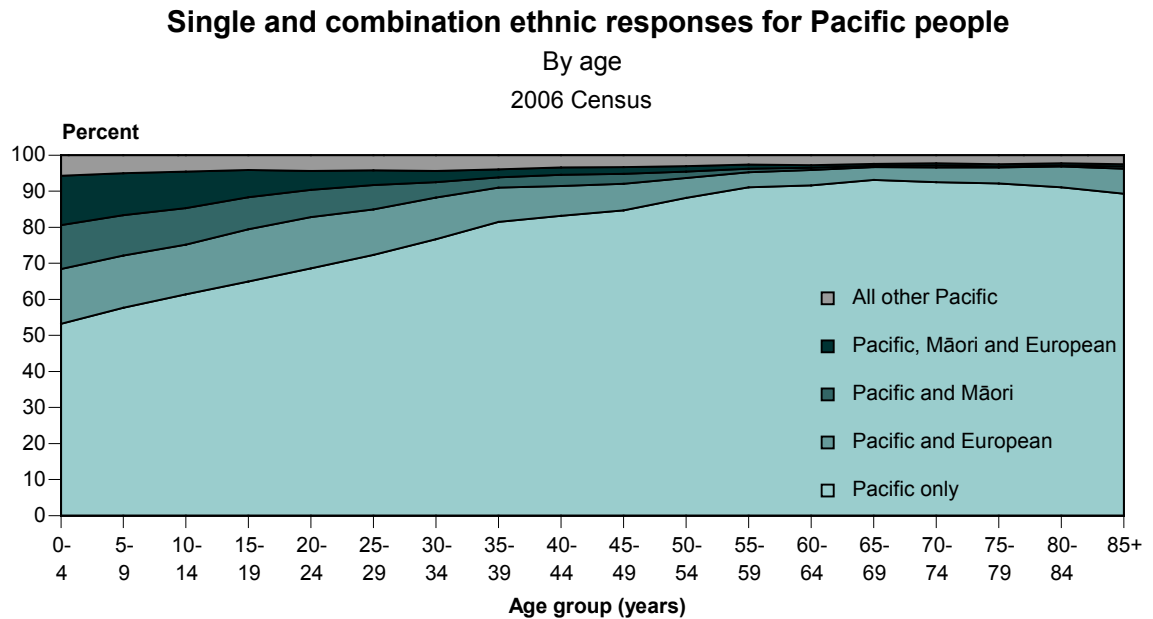


Figure 1.5 shows the proportion of Pacific people identifying solely with a Pacific ethnicity, and those who provided a combination of responses. While multiple ethnicities are present amongst people in all age groups, it is more common for younger Pacific people to have multiple ethnicities. Almost half of Pacific children aged 0–4 years had more than one ethnicity (47 percent). The majority of Pacific people in older age groups identify with one Pacific ethnicity only (93 percent of people aged 65 years and over).

Age

Pacific people have a considerably younger age profile than the total New Zealand population, as a comparison of figures 1.6 and 1.7 shows, with far greater proportions in the younger age groups and smaller proportions in the older age groups. Whereas 38 percent of Pacific people were aged under 15 in 2006, just 22 percent of the total population was in this age group. Conversely, just 4 percent of Pacific people were aged 65 and over, compared with 12 percent of the total population.

Figure 1.6

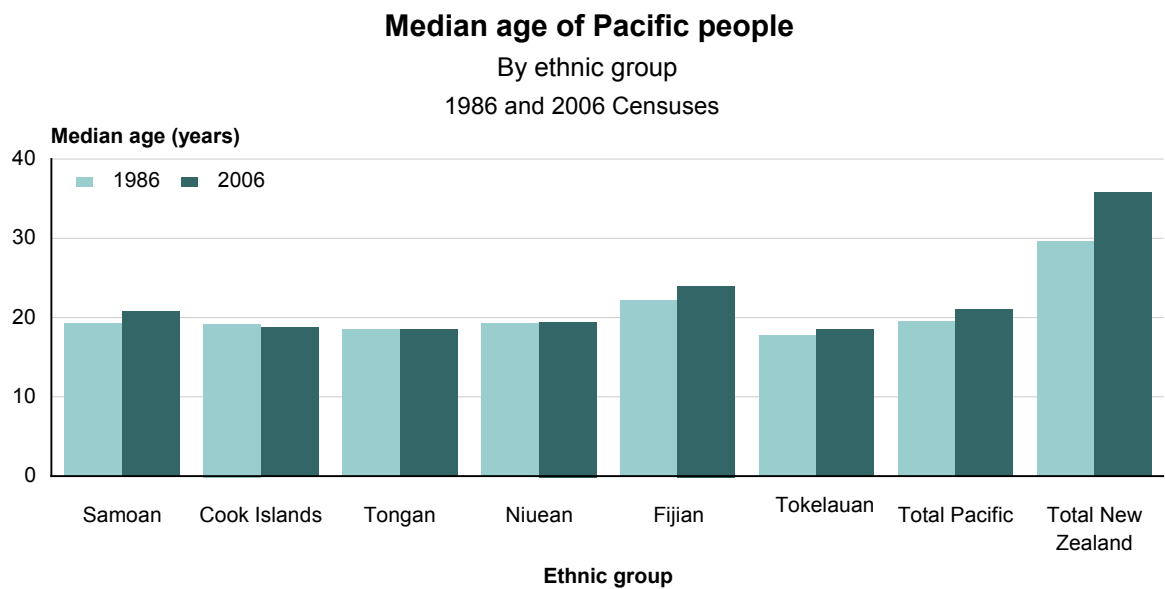


Figure 1.7



This is also reflected in figures for median age as shown in figure 1.8. The median age of Pacific people in New Zealand in 2006 was just 21 years, compared to 36 years for the total population. The Pacific population is ageing slowly, with the median age increasing by only one year between 1986 and 2006. The Cook Islands, Tongan, and Tokelauan populations are the youngest groups, with median ages of 19. The Fijian population has the oldest age profile of the Pacific groups in New Zealand, with a median age of 24 in 2006. This reflects the higher proportion of people who are overseas-born and thus have an older age structure.

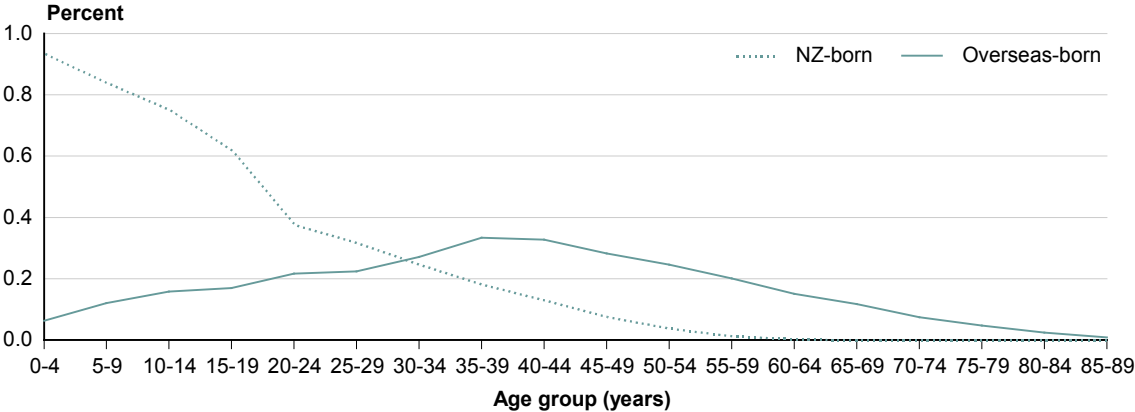
Figure 1.8



Pacific people who were born in New Zealand have a much younger age profile than the overseas-born. The median age of the New Zealand-born group in 2006 was just 13 years, compared with 39 years for the overseas-born. Figure 1.9 reinforces the difference in age structure between the New Zealand-born and overseas-born Pacific population. Of the Pacific people born in New Zealand, 55.4 percent were aged under 15 years. By comparison, just 11.2 percent of the overseas-born were aged under 15. Conversely, the overseas-born had considerably higher proportions in the retirement age groups, with 9.1 percent aged 65 or over, compared with just 0.2 percent of the New Zealand-born.

Figure 1.9

Age distribution of New Zealand-born and overseas-born Pacific population
2006 Census

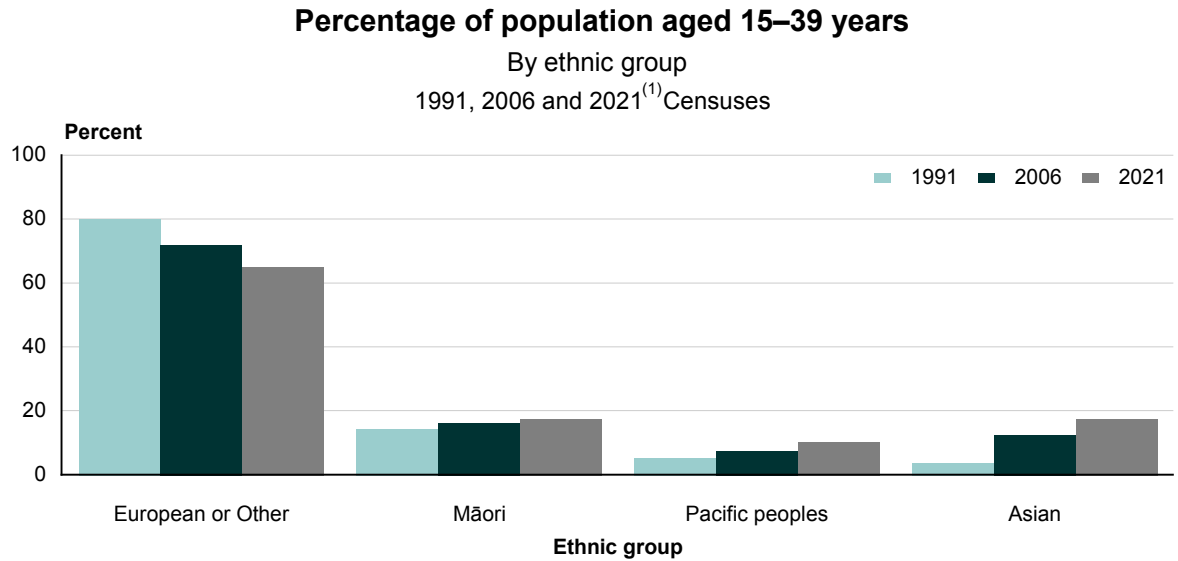


These different age distributions have implications for the makeup of the Pacific labour force in New Zealand. With far greater proportions of the overseas-born being of working age (80 percent compared to 44 percent of the New Zealand-born), they are more strongly represented in the labour force than in the total Pacific population.

Labour force composition

Over time, the ethnic composition of the population in the younger working age group (15–39 years) has been changing, and this will continue in the future. The proportion of people in the European or Other ethnic group is declining over time, however this group remains the largest.

Figure 1.10



(1) Projected.

Note: Projections are 2006-based, series 6 for ethnic projections, and series 5 for total population projections.

The sharpest growth is in the Asian ethnic group, largely due to migration. In 1991 this was the smallest ethnic group (3.8 percent). By 2006, the size of the 15–39 year age group had exceeded the Pacific group (12.6 percent and 7.8 percent respectively). The ethnic population projections indicate that the growth in the Asian group will continue. Even so, the proportion of the Pacific ethnic group in this age bracket is projected to increase to 10.6 percent by 2021.

Geographical distribution

The geographical distribution of Pacific people in New Zealand reflects the settlement patterns of Pacific migrants. Most new migrants from the Pacific have been drawn to the larger centres, particularly Auckland, which is the main arrival destination and the major employment centre. Chain migration has also contributed to this concentration as new migrants tend to settle where they will have the support of family and community networks.

Consequently, 97 percent of the Pacific population is urbanised, with 92 percent in the 25 main urban areas and 66 percent in the Auckland urban areas alone (this is twice the proportion of the total New Zealand population who live in Auckland). All the Pacific groups are highly urbanised, though there are some differences in where they live. Tongans have the greatest concentration in Auckland (78 percent), closely followed by Niueans (77 percent), while Tokelauans have the lowest (26 percent). Half of the Tokelauan population lives in Wellington, and along with Cook Islands people they are

also more likely than others to live in secondary urban areas. Fijians were the most likely to live in rural areas (4.7 percent).

Table 1.2

Urban/rural distribution of Pacific ethnic groups

2006

Usual residence	Samoan	Cook Islands	Tongan	Niuean	Tokelauan	Fijian	Total Pacific	Total NZ
	Percent							
Auckland urban area	66.4	58.8	78.1	77.1	26.5	57.7	65.8	30
Hamilton urban area	1.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	0.8	4.1	2.2	4.6
Wellington urban area	15.7	11.1	4.3	6	49.7	9.5	12.4	9
Christchurch urban area	4.7	2.5	2.1	2.2	1.4	4.6	3.6	9
Dunedin urban area	0.8	1.3	0.8	0.5	1.2	1.3	0.9	2.8
Other main urban areas	5.6	10.7	5.5	4.6	11.5	10.8	7.1	16.6
Total main urban areas	94.9	86.7	93.2	92.7	91.1	88	92	71.8
Secondary urban areas	1.8	5.5	2.7	1.8	5.4	3.3	2.9	6
Minor urban areas	1.6	3.9	2.2	2.5	1.7	4	2.5	8.1
Total urban	98.3	96.1	98.1	97.1	98.2	95.3	97.5	86
Rural centres	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.5	2
Other rural areas	1.4	3	1.5	2.4	1.5	3.9	2	12
Total rural	1.7	3.9	1.9	2.9	1.8	4.7	2.5	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Main urban areas are centred on a city or major urban centre, with a population of 30,000 or more. Secondary urban areas are centred on larger regional centres, and have a population ranging between 10,000 and 29,999. Minor urban areas are urbanised settlements centred around smaller towns with a population between 1,000 and 9,999. Rural centres and other rural areas are areas not specifically designated as 'urban'. They include towns of fewer than 1,000 people.

Figure 1.11 shows the percentage of the population in area units of Auckland identifying with the Pacific ethnicity. The Pacific ethnic group makes up a high percentage of the population in area units of Manukau city. In particular, Pacific people make up a high proportion of the population in areas such as Otara (79.2 percent), Harania (76.5 percent), and Favona (66.4 percent). There are also some area units in Auckland and Waitakere cities where the Pacific population is relatively high.

Figure 1.11

Percentage of Population in Pacific Ethnic Group

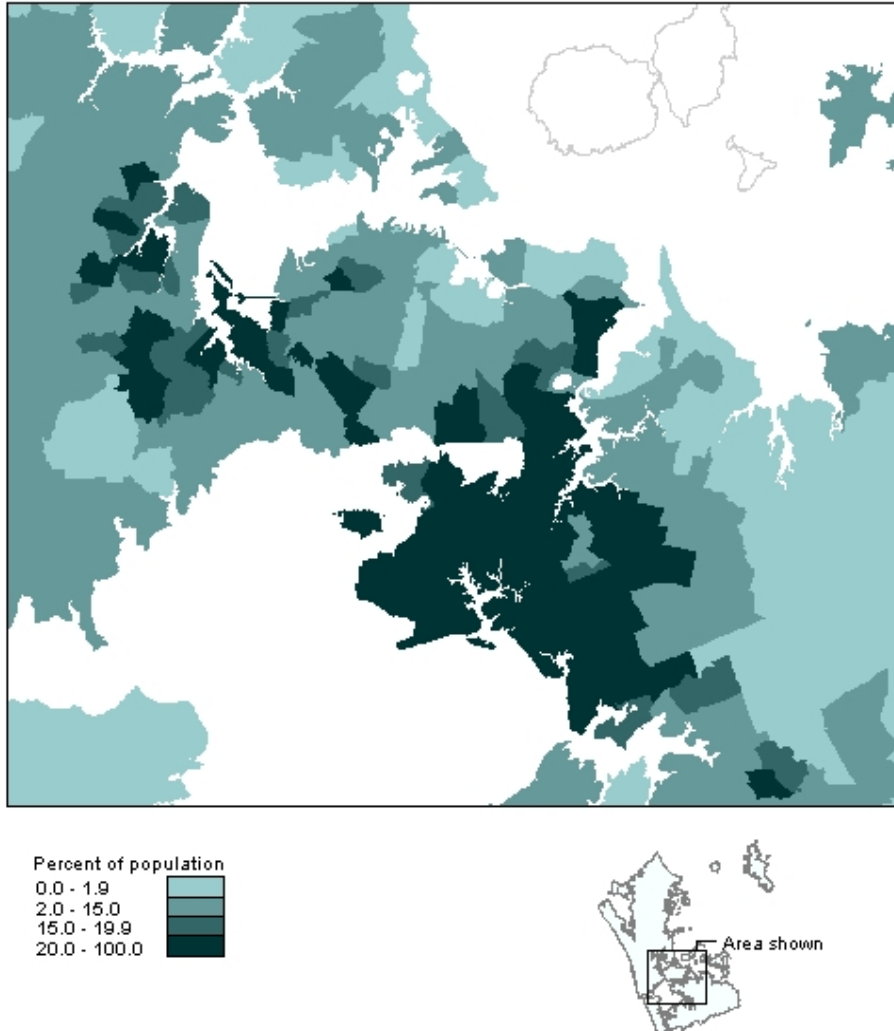
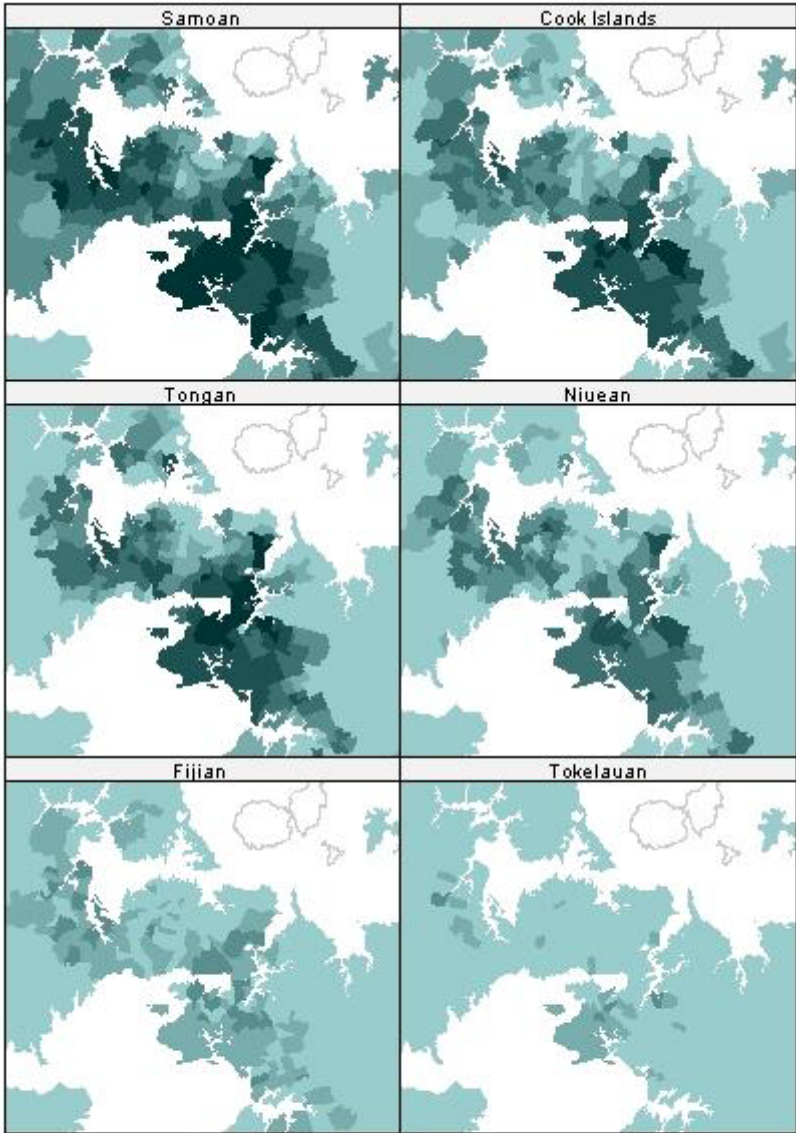
Auckland
2006 Census

Figure 1.12 examines this information for each of the main Pacific ethnic groups. The Samoan group comprises a larger proportion of the population than other groups, since they are the largest Pacific population. There are 54 area units where at least 15 percent of the population are Samoan, mostly in Manukau city. Both the Cook Islands people and Tongan populations have a number of areas where they comprise at least 15 percent of the population, shown by the darker patches on the maps. The Tokelauan ethnic group makes up less than 2 percent of the population, at area unit level. This reflects the small population and the lower percentage living in Auckland.

Figure 1.12

Percentage of Population in Selected Pacific Ethnic Group
Auckland
2006 Census



Percent of population

0.0 - 0.4	Lightest teal
0.5 - 0.9	Light teal
1.0 - 1.9	Medium teal
2.0 - 4.9	Dark teal
5.0 - 14.9	Very dark teal
15.0 - 100.0	Darkest teal

