

Putting it all into context: our population

The usually resident population of Waitakere recorded in the 2006 Census was 186,444. Europeans make up the largest ethnic group in Waitakere, with people of Asian, Maori and Pacific ethnicity also contributing significantly to the city's population. The diversity of these population groups can be seen in a range of areas. For example, the 2006 Census shows us that there are over 9,000 Samoan speakers in Waitakere.

Table 1: Census usually resident population and ethnic composition of Waitakere in 2006

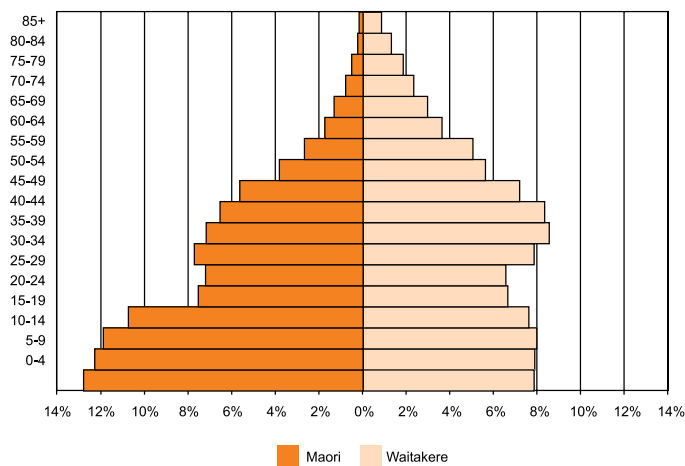
Census usually resident population	European	Asian	Maori	Pacific	MEELA ¹	Other
186,444	59.0%	16.2%	13.1%	15.3%	1.5%	8.4%

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census

Age range

Waitakere's ethnic groups have different age-sex structures. The population pyramid below compares the age structure of the Maori population in Waitakere with the city overall. It shows clearly that the Maori population in Waitakere has many more people in younger age groups compared to the city overall. A similar pattern occurs for residents of Pacific ethnicity.

Figure 1: Population pyramid for Maori and total Waitakere (2006)



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census

Housing

In the area of housing the 2006 Census shows that the proportion of people who own their own home has declined by almost 30% since 1991. Significant ethnic differences in home ownership are also found. Homeownership is much higher amongst European residents compared with Maori and Pacific residents. Research has projected further declines in home ownership in the Auckland region².

A result of the decline in home ownership has been a large increase in people who rent their homes. Median weekly rents in Waitakere, according to the Census are \$270 per week while mean weekly rents are \$254.



"What I like best about Waitakere is the library."

William, Henderson

Table 2: Home ownership in Waitakere (1991-2006)

	1991	1996	2001	2006
Proportion of residents who own their own home	81%	75%	69%	58%

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census

Qualifications

The area of education also shows significant changes. The proportion of residents who report having no qualifications has declined from 32% in 1991 to 24% in 2006. However, significant ethnic differences in qualification levels remain, as the table below shows.

Table 3: Highest qualification by ethnic group in Waitakere 2001 and 2006

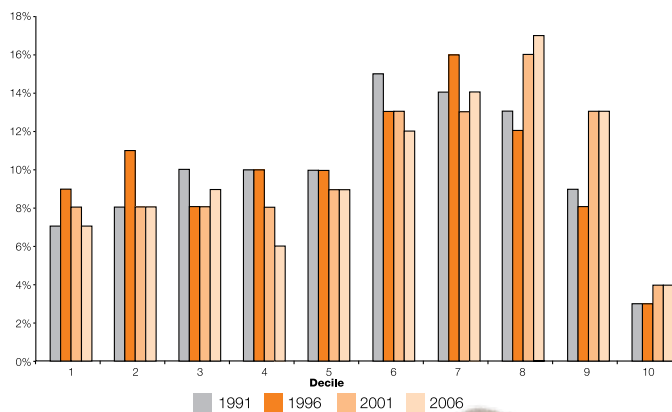
	No qualification		School qualification		Vocational qualification		Bachelor or higher qualification	
	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006
Maori	40%	37%	39%	35%	17%	21%	4%	7%
Pacific	33%	34%	50%	44%	13%	17%	3%	5%
Asian	15%	12%	53%	42%	12%	17%	20%	29%
European	26%	24%	43%	37%	22%	26%	9%	13%

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census

Deprivation

The deprivation index is a combination of key socio-economic variables that provides an overall score of relative deprivation in a particular geographic area³. The scores are on a scale of 1 (least deprived) to 10 (most deprived). There has been a significant increase in the number of residents living in high deprivation. In 1991 the number of residents living in areas of high deprivation (scores of 8, 9, and 10) was approximately 34,000 (25% of the population) and in 2006 it was over 63,000 (34% of the population).

Figure 2: Deprivation profile in Waitakere (1991 to 2006)



Source: University of Otago, Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences



“Would like to see better public transport in Waitakere, like buses.”

Pam & Cecil, Waitakere Village