



research
NEW ZEALAND

The Social Report 2007
A summary





Contents

Contents	2
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 The Social Report 2001 - 2006	4
3.0 The Social Report 2007: Desired social outcomes and statistical indicators	5
4.0 The Social Report 2007: Summary of results	7
4.1 Health	7
4.2 Knowledge and skills	10
4.3 Paid work	12
4.4 Civil and political rights	17
4.5 Leisure and recreation	20
4.6 Social connectedness	22
4.7 Conclusion	26
4.8 New Zealand compared to OECD Countries	27



1.0 Introduction

The Ministry of Social Development has published *The Social Report* on an annual basis since 2001. In the Chief Executive's Preface to *The Social Report 2007* is described as providing "a comprehensive picture of social wellbeing in New Zealand [and showing] how social conditions are changing over time, how different regions and communities are faring, and how we compare to other countries".

The information included in *The Social Report* is important to all New Zealanders. As a document *The Social Report* is especially important to Research New Zealand because the information it includes provides us with an important context for much of our client work.

This summary has been prepared as a source of information for clients and visitors to our website. It includes background information on the development of *The Social Report*, a summary of and comment on some of the key findings of *The Social Report 2007*, and where available, hyperlinks to original data sources.

Not all of the desired social outcomes and indicators included in *The Social Report 2007* are summarised and discussed in this summary document. The domains that are included are those that have particular relevance to our client base and the work undertaken by our company.



2.0 The Social Report 2001 - 2006

The Social Report was first published by the Ministry of Social Policy (now the Ministry of Social Development) in 2001. The first prototype report followed an approach to social monitoring already being taken by other countries and international organisations, based on defining and agreeing on desired social outcomes for a society are defined and agreed to and social indicators are used to measure the overall social health and well-being of that society.

The Social Report 2001 was based on nine desired social outcomes which were informed by the findings from the 1972 and 1988 Royal Commissions on Social Security and Social Policy respectively, local and international research, and developed in consultation with a range of government and non-government social policy experts. Indicators were selected to measure each of the desired social outcomes.

Subsequent to the publication of *The Social Report 2001*, public consultation was held during 2002 to debate how accurately the prototype report reflected the values and aspirations of New Zealanders and whether the social outcome and indicators needed to be revised or refined for future reports. *The Social Report 2001* highlighted significant gaps in the collection of social statistics in New Zealand. The need for improved specification and collection of social statistics was acknowledged in the report and the improvement of the social statistics database was highlighted as being a key component of subsequent social reports. In 2002, an update to *The Social Report 2001* was published as the Ministry of Social Development was still revising the social outcomes and indicators in-line with the feedback received during consultation.

The Social Report 2003 was the second full Social Report. It included a number of changes to the desired social outcomes and indicators as a result of the feedback. In 2005, a significant addition to the report was the inclusion of additional information on regional social wellbeing to assist local government with future planning. At the same time, data on social wellbeing at a subnational level was made available on the social report website (www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz) in both tabular and map formats.

In 2006, for the first time, data from the early 1980's was included to provide a comparison of social conditions of New Zealanders today with those before the economic reforms of the 1980s and 1990s.



3.0 The Social Report 2007: Desired social outcomes and statistical indicators

The Social Report 2007 is the sixth and latest full report in the annual series. Since 2003, the Social Report has had four key aims:

- ◆ To provide and monitor over time measures of wellbeing and quality of life that complement existing economic and environmental indicators.
- ◆ To compare New Zealand with other countries on measures of wellbeing.
- ◆ To provide greater transparency in government and to contribute to better informed public debate.
- ◆ To help identify key issues and areas where we need to take action, which can in turn help with planning and decision making.

Desired social outcomes and statistical indicators

As with the previous reports, *The Social Report 2007* uses a set of indicators to monitor trends across ten desired social outcomes. Listed below are the ten desired social outcomes and the associated indicators included in *The Social Report 2007*.

1. **Health: Desired outcome:** Everybody has the opportunity to enjoy a long and healthy life. Avoidable deaths, disease and injuries are prevented. Everybody has the ability to function, participate and live independently or appropriately supported in society.

Indicators: Health expectancy; Life expectancy; Suicide; Cigarette smoking; Obesity.

2. **Knowledge and skills: Desired outcome:** Everybody has the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society. Lifelong learning and education are valued and supported.

Indicators: Participation in early childhood education; School leavers with higher qualifications; Participation in tertiary education; Educational attainment of the adult population.

3. **Paid work: Desired outcome:** Everybody has access to meaningful, rewarding and safe employment. An appropriate balance is maintained between paid work and other aspects of life.

Indicators: Unemployment; Employment; Median hourly earnings; Workplace injury claims; Satisfaction with work-life balance.



4. **Economic standard of living: Desired outcome:** New Zealand is a prosperous society, reflecting the value of both paid and unpaid work. Everybody has access to an adequate income and decent affordable housing that meets their needs. With an adequate standard of living, people are well-placed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how they live their lives.

Indicators: Market income per person; Income inequality; Population with low incomes; Housing affordability; Household crowding.

5. **Civil and Political Rights: Desired outcome:** Everybody enjoys civil and political rights. Mechanisms to regulate and arbitrate people's rights in respect of each other are trustworthy.

Indicators: Voter turnout; Representation of women in Government; Perceived discrimination; Perceived corruption.

6. **Cultural identity: Desired outcome:** New Zealander's share a strong national identity, have a sense of belonging and value cultural diversity. Everybody is able to pass their cultural traditions on to future generations. Maori culture is valued and protected.

Indicators: Local content programming on New Zealand television; Maori language speakers; Language retention.

7. **Leisure and recreation: Desired outcome:** Everybody is satisfied with their participation in leisure and recreation activities. They have sufficient time to do what they want to do and can access an adequate range of opportunities for leisure and recreation.

Indicators: Satisfaction with leisure time; Participation in physical activity; Participation in cultural and arts activities.

8. **Physical environment: Desired outcome:** The natural and built environment in which people live is clean, healthy and beautiful. Everybody is able to access natural areas and public spaces.

Indicators: Air quality; Drinking water quality.

9. **Safety: Desired outcome:** Everybody enjoys physical safety and feels secure. People are free from victimisation, abuse, violence and avoidable injury.

Indicators: Assault mortality; Criminal victimisation; Fear of crime; Road casualties.

10. **Social connectedness: Desired outcome:** People enjoy constructive relationships with others in their families, whānau, communities, iwi and workplaces. Families support and nurture those in need of care. New Zealand is an inclusive society where people are able to access information and support.

Indicators: Telephone and Internet access in the home; Regular contact with family/friends; Trust in others; Loneliness; Contact between young people and their parents.



4.0 The Social Report 2007: Summary of results

Not all of the desired social outcomes and indicators included in *The Social Report 2007* are summarised and discussed in this report. The domains that are included are those that have particular relevance to the work undertaken by Research New Zealand (Health; Knowledge and skills; Paid work; Civil and political rights; Leisure and recreation; and Social connectedness).

The Social Report 2007 also includes a section on People, that contains background information on the size and characteristics of the population. Much of the data used for this section has come from the *2006 Census*. As Research New Zealand has already produced a Special Report on the *2006 Census*, please refer to this report¹.

4.1 Health²

Desired outcome: Everybody has the opportunity to enjoy a long and healthy life. Avoidable deaths, disease and injuries are prevented. Everybody has the ability to function, participate and live independently or appropriately supported in society.

Indicators: Life expectancy; Suicide; Cigarette smoking; Obesity.

Life expectancy is increasing

Life expectancy is a measure of how long people live. Statistics New Zealand data shows that in the period 2004-2006, life expectancy for New Zealand males was 77.9 years, and for females 81.9 years. Compared to 1985-1987, life expectancy had increased by 6.8 years for males and 4.8 years for females. The extended lifespan of the population since the 1980's is mainly due to reduced mortality in the middle-aged and older age groups (45-84 years).

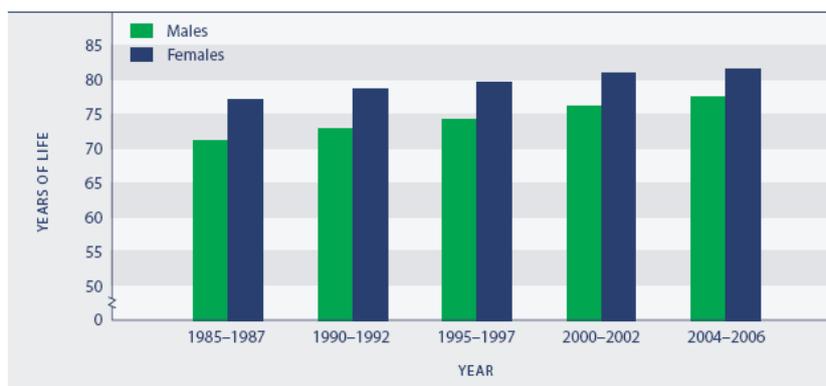
In 2001-2002, life expectancy for Māori males was 69.0 compared to 77.2 years for non-Māori males. Female life expectancy for Māori was 73.2 years compared to 81.9 years for non-Māori. Although Māori life expectancy continues to be less than for non-Māori, there has been a dramatic improvement in life expectancy for Māori from 1995-1997 to 2000-2002 with Māori gaining more than non-Māori over this period.

¹Research New Zealand. (2007). *Special report on the 2006 Census of New Zealand's Population and Dwellings*. <http://www.researchnz.com/census.html>

² See pages 20-31 of *The Social Report 2007* or use this link to access the section on health in the full report. <http://www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz/health/index.html>



Life expectancy at birth, by sex, selected years, 1985–1987 to 2004–2006



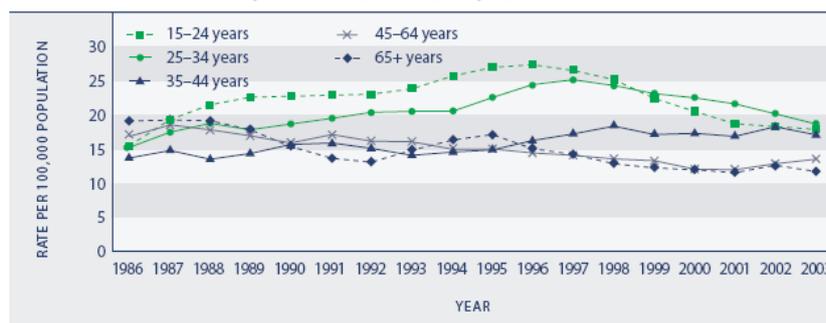
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Suicide death rates have declined

The suicide death rate can be taken as an indication of the social wellbeing of a society. Ministry of Health data shows that between 2004 and 2003 the number of people who died from suicide declined from 517 to 486. This is an improved outcome compared to the 1980s-1990s when there was an upward trend in the suicide death rate. Māori deaths from suicide accounted for 23 percent of all suicide deaths in 2004.

During the late 1980's there was a steep increase in youth (15-24 year olds) suicide, peaking in 1995-1997 at 27.2 per 100,000 people aged 15-24 years. The youth suicide rate has since fallen by 35 percent, but is still higher than it was in 1985-1987 (15.8 per 100,000). In 2004 the suicide death rate for non-Māori youth was 14.3 per 100,000 compared to 32.3 per 100,000 for Māori youth.

Suicide death rate, three-year moving average, by age, 1985–2004



Source: Ministry of Health, New Zealand Health Information Service

Notes: (1) Age-specific three-year moving average rates, plotted on the mid-point year (eg 2003 is the mid-point year of 2002–2004)
 (2) 2004 figures are provisional

The number of cigarette smokers continues to decline

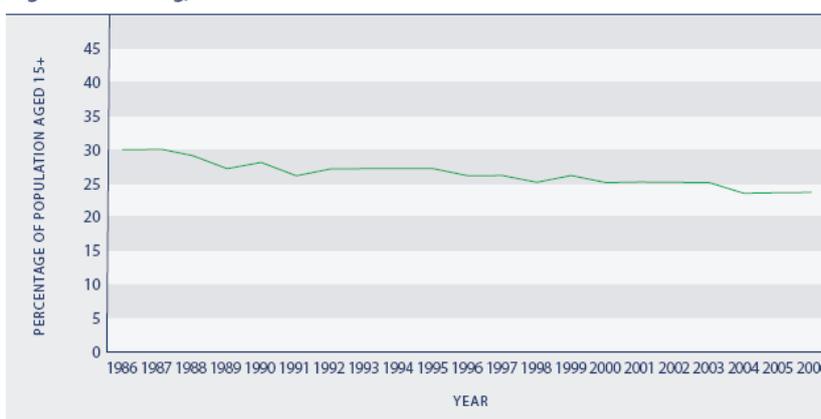
Cigarette smoking is widely recognised as being linked to poor health outcomes, and is a risk factor for many cancers, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, low birth weight and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Ministry of Health data shows that the number of cigarette smokers in New Zealand has continued to decline in New Zealand since 1986, with 30 percent of the population smoking in 1986 compared to 24 percent of the population in 2006.



Whole population smoking rates between males and females have been similar since the mid-1980s, however amongst ethnic groups Māori women having the highest smoking rate (50 percent in 2006) and Māori men the second highest smoking rate (40 percent in 2006).

In terms of age, people aged 20-29 are more likely to smoke than those aged 50 and over. While the greatest decline in smoking rates over the last 20 years has been in the 50 years and over age group, between 2002 and 2006 the largest decrease in smoking was in the 15-24 age group.

Cigarette smoking, 1986–2006



Source: Ministry of Health (2006c) Tables B1, C2

Notes: (1) Data not standardised for age (2) 1986–2005: population aged 15+ years; 2006: population aged 15–64 years

Rate of obesity continues to rise

Obesity is linked to poor health outcomes, including heart disease, diabetes, strokes and some cancers. The prevalence of obesity in New Zealand is increasing. Ministry of Health data shows that 21 percent of adults aged 15 and over were obese in 2003, compared to 17 percent in 1997.

While there is no significant difference between males and females in the proportion of adults who are obese, amongst children (7-14 years), data from 2002 showed that females are more likely to be obese than males. Amongst ethnic groups Pacific peoples and Māori are more likely to be obese.

Prevalence of obesity, total population aged 15–74 years, by sex, 1977–2003



Source: Ministry of Health (2004b) Table 19, p 89



4.2 Knowledge and skills³

Desired outcome: Everybody has the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society. Lifelong learning and education are valued and supported.

Indicators: Participation in early childhood education; School leavers with higher qualifications; Participation in tertiary education; Educational attainment of the adult population.

Substantial increase in the number of children participating in early childhood education

Participating in quality early childhood education programmes that develop children socially, physically and academically is recognised as an important precursor to attending primary school. Data from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development shows that there has been a substantial increase in the number of children participating in early childhood education, compared to 43 percent of 3 year olds and 73 percent of 4 year olds were participating in early childhood education, compared to 97 percent of 3 year olds and 103 percent of 4 year olds participating in 2006.⁴

Amongst ethnic groups, 98 percent of New Zealand European children, 90 percent of Māori children and 84 percent of Pacific children attended an early childhood education service in 2006.

Early childhood education apparent participation rate, 3 and 4 year olds, 1986–2006



Sources: Ministry of Education; Ministry of Social Development

Note: These figures overestimate the true participation rate. Rates in excess of 100 percent are possible because children can be enrolled in more than one service

Proportion of school leavers leaving with higher qualifications increasing

Upper secondary school qualifications prepare students for higher learning, and a greater chance of employment in the labour market. Ministry of Education data shows that in 2006 60 percent of school leavers left school with a qualification at NCEA Level 2 or above compared to 57 percent in 2005.

³ See pages 32–41 of *The Social Report 2007* or use this link to access the section on knowledge and skills in the full report. <http://www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz/knowledge-skills/index.html>

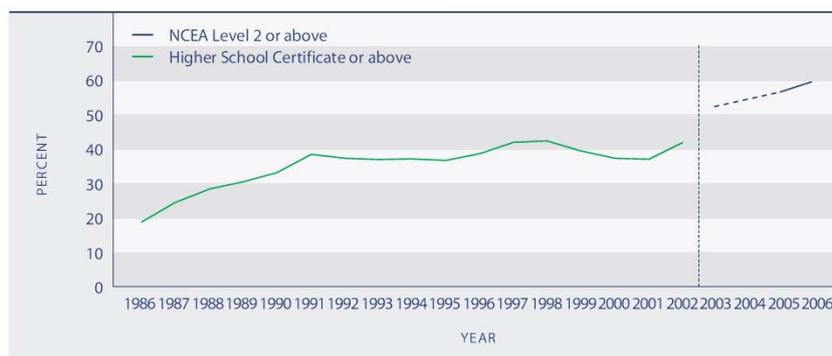
⁴ Rates in excess of 100 percent are possible because a child can be enrolled in more than one service.



In 2006, 55.8 percent of male students left school with a qualification at NCEA Level 2 or above, compared to 64.5 percent of female students.

Amongst ethnic groups, 82.2 percent of Asian school leavers, 65.4 percent of European school leavers, 49.6 percent of Pacific school leavers and 36.7 percent of Māori school leavers left school with a qualification at NCEA Level 2 or above.

Proportion of school leavers with Higher School Certificate or above, 1986–2002, and NCEA Level 2 or above, 2003, 2005–2006



Source: Ministry of Education

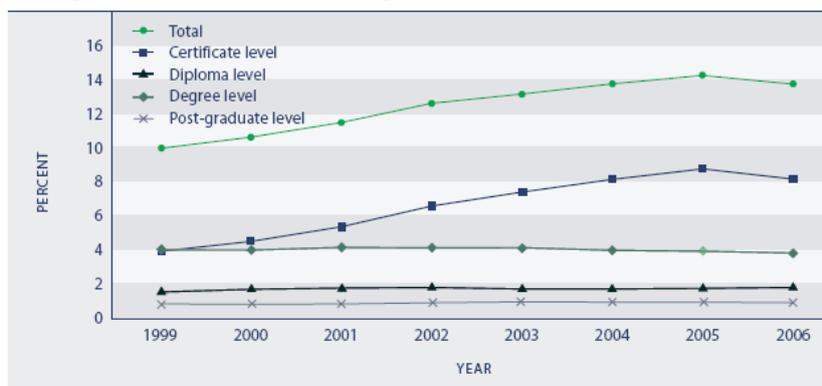
Notes: (1) A direct comparison cannot be made between rates up to and including 2002 with rates for 2003 on, due to the change in the qualification structure (see Appendix 2 for details) (2) Because of methodological changes, 2004 is not comparable with other years and has been omitted

Percentage of people enrolled in tertiary education slightly down

Tertiary education provides people with the training and skills they need to participate in the workforce. It also provides opportunities for lifelong learning. Ministry of Education data shows that the percentage of people enrolled in formal education in 2006 (13.7 percent of people aged 15 years and over) was slightly down on those attending in 2005 (14.2 percent of people aged 15 years and over).

Those aged 18-24 years of age have the highest participation rate in tertiary education (36.5 percent in 2006), although since 1999 the participation in tertiary education for those aged 25-39 and 40 years and over has increased significantly.

Tertiary education participation rate, by qualification level, 1999–2006



Source: Ministry of Education

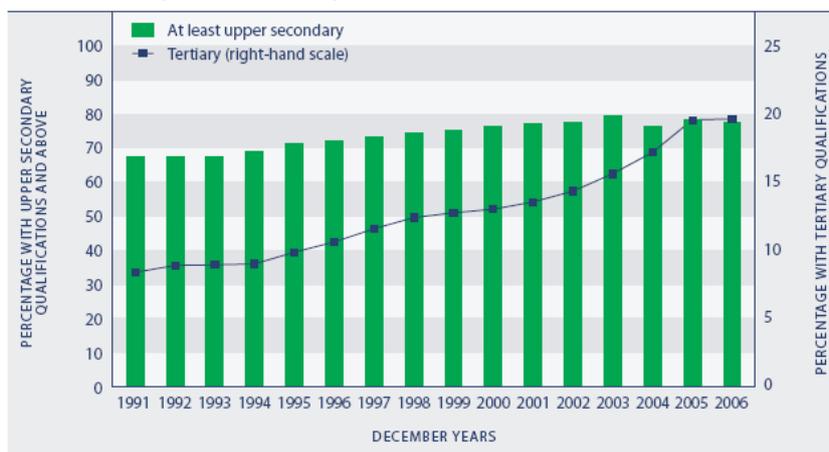


Substantial increase in the educational attainment of the adult population

The educational attainment of the adult population provides a measure of the skills available in the economy. The Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey⁵ shows that since 1991 there has been a substantial increase in the percentage of the population aged 25-64 years who hold an educational qualification at upper secondary level (67 percent in 1991 compared to 77 percent in 2006).

Amongst ethnic groups, 2006 data shows that 80 percent of Europeans, 61 percent of Māori and 54 percent of Pacific adults aged 25-64 held at least upper secondary school qualifications. 19 percent of Europeans, 9 percent of Māori and 7 percent of Pacific adults held a tertiary qualification at bachelor's degree level or above.

Proportion of adults aged 25–64 years with an educational attainment of at least upper secondary level and tertiary level, 1991–2006



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey

Notes: (1) Tertiary equals bachelor's degree or higher (2) This measure has been revised – see Appendix 2 for details

4.3 Paid work⁶

Desired outcome: Everybody has access to meaningful, rewarding and safe employment. An appropriate balance is maintained between paid work and other aspects of life.

Indicators: Unemployment; Employment; Median hourly earnings; Workplace injury claims; Satisfaction with work-life balance.

⁵ Link to the Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey <http://www.stats.govt.nz/datasets/work-income/household-labour-force-survey.htm>

⁶ See pages 42-53 of *The Social Report 2007* or use this link to access the section on paid work in the full report. <http://www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz/paid-work/index.html>



Unemployment rate in steady decline

The rate of unemployment in an economy is a key indicator of labour market outcomes. Data from the Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey shows that unemployment peaked in 1992 (10.4 percent) but has been declining steadily since 1998. In 2006, the rate (3.8 percent) is lower than in 1986 when the rate of unemployment was first recorded.

Amongst ethnic groups, 2.7 percent of Europeans, 6.4 percent of Pacific peoples and 7.9 percent of Māori were unemployed in 2006.

With a standardised unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, New Zealand rates third out of 27 OECD countries.

Unemployment rate, 1986–2006



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey

Employment rate steadily rising

The rate of employment in an economy is a key indicator of the prevalence of paid employment. Data from the Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey shows that, apart from 1997/1998 when there was an economic downturn, the employment rate has been rising steadily since 1992. In 2006, 75.2 percent of 15-64year olds were employed.

Women are still strongly represented in the part-time employment rate (23.5 percent in 2006). Men are less likely to work part-time (7.7 percent in 2006), but this option has become more popular, with the part-time employment rate for men doubling since 1986.

Among ethnic groups, 79 percent of Europeans, 64.6 percent of Māori and 61.6 percent on Pacific peoples were employed in 2006.

With an employment rate of 74.6 percent in 2005, New Zealand rated 5th highest out of 30 OECD countries.



Employment rate, 1986–2006



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey
Note: Based on population aged 15–64 years

Median hourly earnings increasing

Median hourly earnings from wage and salary jobs provide an indication of what specific groups in society are earning for paid employment, independent of the number of hours worked. The Statistics New Zealand, New Zealand Income Survey⁷ shows that between 1997 and 2006, median hourly earnings for this group increased by \$1.93 an hour (13 percent).

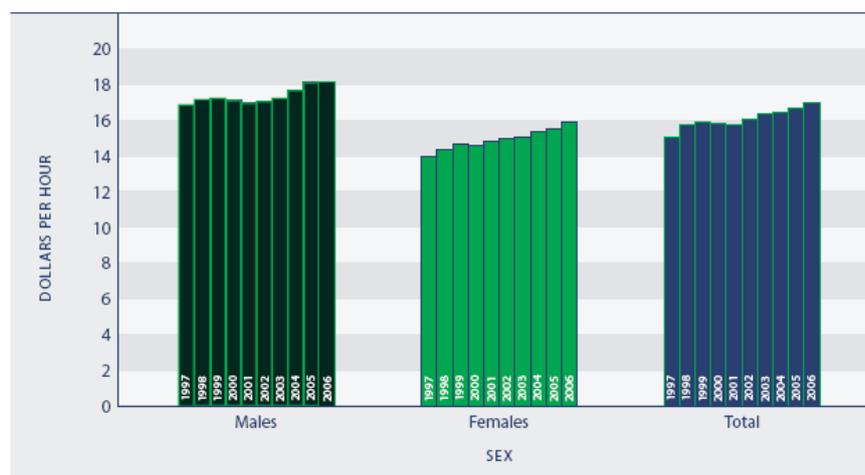
In 2006, women lagged behind men in regard to their median hourly wage (\$15.88 for female employees compared to \$18.13 for male employees), however women's earnings have been increasing at almost twice the rate of men's since 1977 (14 percent for women compared to 8 percent for men).

Among ethnic groups, European wage and salary earners earned \$17.74 an hour, Māori earned \$15.15 an hour and Pacific peoples earned \$14.50 an hour in 2006.

⁷ Link to the Statistics New Zealand, New Zealand Income Survey <http://www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/info-releases/nzis-info-releases.htm>



Median hourly earnings from wage and salary jobs (in June 2006 dollars), by sex, June 1997 to June 2006



Source: Statistics New Zealand, New Zealand Income Survey

Workplace injury claims decreasing

The number of workplace injury claims gives an indication of workplace safety and of the quality of employment for the employee. Workplace injury claims have been decreasing since 2001. Provisional data from Statistics New Zealand shows that there were 242,600 work-related injury claims reported to ACC by 31 March 2006.

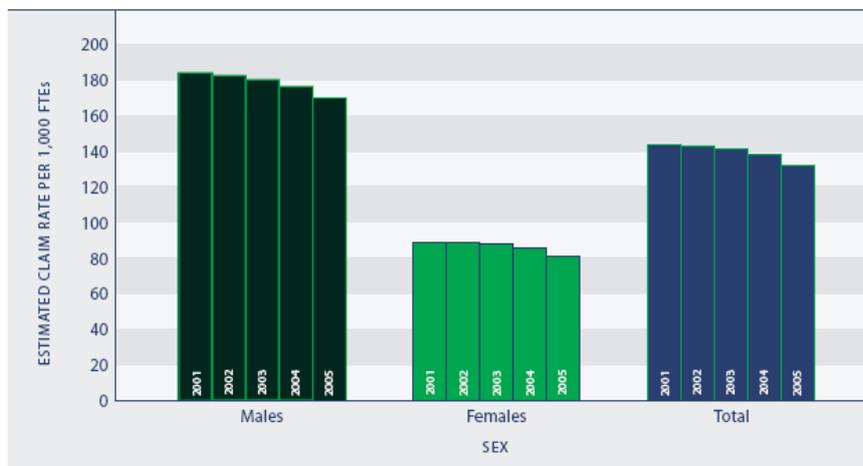
The workplaces generating the greatest number of claims were construction (23 percent) and agriculture (23 percent). Other significant claimant industries were manufacturing (19 percent) and transport and storage (16 percent).

Men are significantly more likely to suffer a workplace injury resulting in a claim to ACC than women (170 per 1,000 FTE's for males compared with 81 per 1,000 FTE's for females).

Among Ethnic groups, Māori have a claim rate of 182 per 1,000 FTE's, Pacific peoples have a claim rate of 158 per 1,000 FTE's and Europeans have a claim rate of 119 per 1,000 FTE's.



Estimated claim rate per 1,000 FTEs, by sex, 2001–2005



Source: Statistics New Zealand (2006a)
 Note: 2005 data is provisional and subject to change

New Zealanders satisfied with work-life balance

Work-life balance is an indicator of quality of life. It is the equilibrium a person finds between paid work and other aspects of their life. The Quality of Life Survey, 2006⁸, shows that New Zealanders are generally happy with their work-life balance (75 percent).

Groups that are most satisfied with their work-life balance are those in part-time employment (83 percent compared to 71 percent of those in full-time employment), and those aged 65 years and over.

Among ethnic groups, 76 percent of Pacific peoples, 75 percent of Europeans, 74 percent of Asian and other ethnic groups and 71 percent of Māori were satisfied with their work-life balance.

Satisfaction with work-life balance, by employment status, 2006



Source: Quality of Life Survey 2006

⁸ Link to the Quality of Life Survey <http://www.qualityoflifeproject.govt.nz/>



4.4 Civil and political rights⁹

Desired outcome: Everybody enjoys civil and political rights. Mechanisms to regulate and arbitrate people's rights in respect of each other are trustworthy.

Indicators: Voter turnout; Representation of women in Government; Perceived discrimination; Perceived corruption.

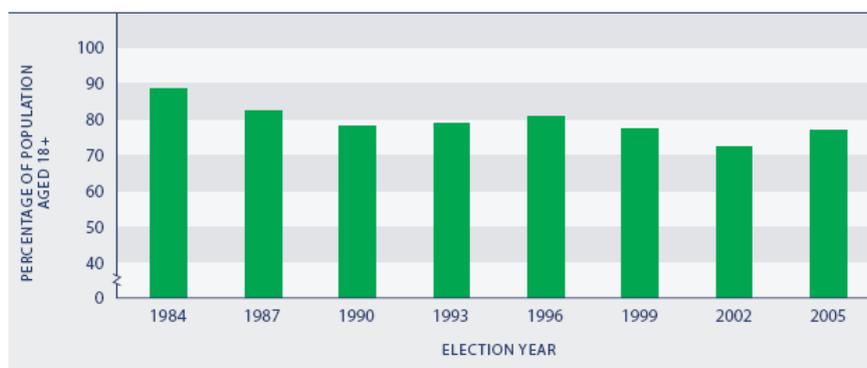
Voter turnout fluctuating

In a democracy, voting is a fundamental right of citizens. The size of voter turnout at an election is an indicator of the interest and confidence the population has in politics and in the nation's political institutions.

Data from the Electoral Commission shows that voter turnout in New Zealand in general elections has been fluctuating over the last twenty years. In 1984 the voter turnout was 89 percent, it dropped in 1990 to 78 percent, rose slightly in 1996 to 81 percent, before dropping sharply in 2002 to 72.5 percent. In 2005, voter turnout increased again to 77 percent.

Data from the Department of Internal Affairs shows that in local authority elections the voter turnout is considerably lower than in general elections. Voter turnout peaked in 1992 at 61 percent, but has generally been declining. In 2004, turnout was the lowest since 1989 and at 46 percent, was the first time since 1989 that turnout had dropped below 50 percent.

Proportion of estimated voting-age population who cast votes, 1984–2005



Sources: Electoral Commission (2002); Electoral Commission (2005)
Note: 1984 and 2005 figures calculated by the Ministry of Social Development

Representation of women in government continues to rise

Women are one group within the community. Measuring the number of women in elected positions in parliament and local authorities provides an indication of how well specific groups within the community are represented in government.

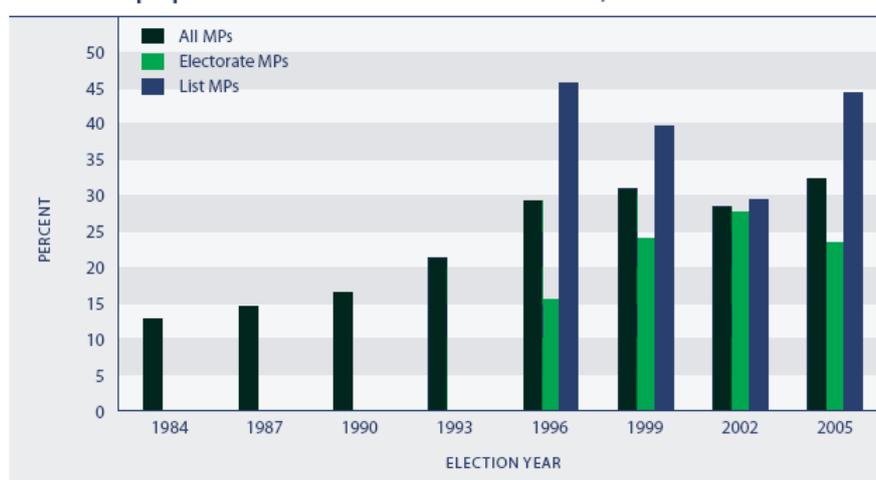
⁹ See pages 66-75 of *The Social Report 2007* or use this link to access the section on civil and political rights in the full report. <http://www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz/civil-political-rights/index.html>



Data from the Electoral Commission shows that the introduction of MMP saw a sharp rise in the number of women elected to parliament. In 1984 under the first past the post system women's representation in parliament was 13 percent. Under the same system it rose to 21 percent in 1993. With the introduction of MMP in 1996 it rose to 29 percent. Apart from a decline in 2002 it has continued to rise, peaking in 2005 at 32 percent. This was well above the OECD median (22 percent) and ranked New Zealand 9th equal out of 30 OECD countries.

The proportion of women being elected to local government in 1989 was 25 percent. By 1998 it was 31 percent and has remained at that level in the 2001 and 2004 elections.

Women as a proportion of elected Members of Parliament, 1984–2005



Sources: Electoral Commission (2002) p176; Electoral Commission (2006)

Perceived discrimination reducing

A core principle of a democratic society is freedom from unlawful discrimination. Surveys on perceived discrimination provide an indication of the level and type of discrimination in certain groups of people experience in New Zealand.

The Human Rights Commission Survey 2006 shows that all groups are perceived to experience less discrimination in 2006 than they did in 2001. The largest falls being for Māori, Pacific peoples, gays and lesbians, and people on welfare.

The data shows that in 2006 Asian people were perceived to be the group who experienced the greatest discrimination in New Zealand (72 percent of respondents to the Human Rights Commission Survey), followed by recent immigrants (70 percent). Other groups perceived to experience discrimination were refugees and people on welfare (63 percent), overweight people (59 percent), gays and lesbians (57 percent), Pacific peoples (54 percent), people with disabilities (53 percent), Māori (51 percent), older people (44 percent), women (38 percent) and men (30 percent).



Proportion (%) of survey respondents who perceived selected groups as being subject to a great deal or some discrimination, December 2000–February 2006

Group	Dec 2000	Dec 2001	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Feb 2006
Asians	73	73	79	78	72
Recent immigrants	–	68	77	72	70
Refugees	–	68	72	70	63
People on welfare	75	70	68	66	63
People who are overweight	72	65	65	68	59
Gays and lesbians	74	65	61	58	57
Pacific peoples	71	65	65	57	54
People with disabilities	61	55	53	55	53
Māori	70	62	57	53	51
Older people	53	48	49	46	44
Women	50	44	41	38	38
Men	–	–	–	–	30

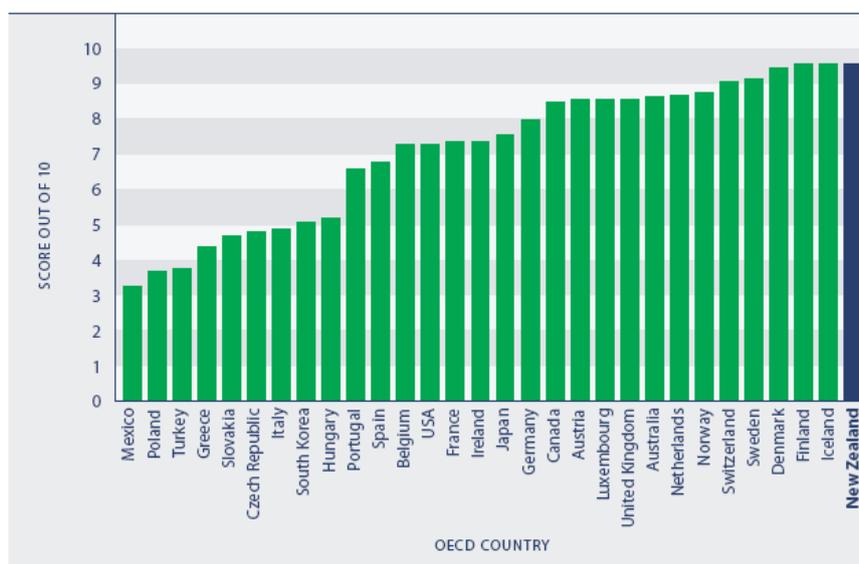
Source: Human Rights Commission (2006)

New Zealand perceived as one of the least corrupt nations

Corruption in a society can affect a country’s political, social and economic framework. Data from Transparency International shows that in 2006 New Zealand ranked first equal with Finland and Iceland as the least corrupt nations in the OECD.

New Zealand has ranked as one of the top four least corrupt nations since 1995.

Corruption Perceptions Index scores (0=highly corrupt, 10=highly clean), OECD countries, 2006



Source: Transparency International (2006)



4.5 Leisure and recreation¹⁰

Desired outcome: Everybody is satisfied with their participation in leisure and recreation activities. They have sufficient time to do what they want to do and can access an adequate range of opportunities for leisure and recreation.

Indicators: Satisfaction with leisure time; Participation in physical activity; Participation in cultural and arts activities.

New Zealanders generally satisfied with leisure time

Having time to engage in leisure activities is an important component of a healthy lifestyle. Data from the Quality of Life Survey, 2006 shows that a large proportion of New Zealanders (73 percent) are satisfied with their leisure time. Those who reported being most satisfied were people aged 65 years and over, and those least satisfied were in the 25-49 year age group. Both men and women reported similar satisfaction with their leisure time (74 percent and 72 percent respectively).

Amongst ethnic groups, Europeans had the highest level of satisfaction with their leisure time (75 percent), followed by Pacific peoples (73 percent), Māori (68 percent), and Asian New Zealanders (63 percent).

Satisfaction with leisure time, people aged 15 years and over, 2006



Source: Quality of Life Survey 2006

Level of participation in physical activity stable

Physical activity is an important component of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Peoples reported participation in physical activity provides an overall picture of how active New Zealanders are. Data from the Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC) Continuous Monitoring Survey¹¹ shows that

¹⁰ See pages 84-91 of *The Social Report 2007* or use this link to access the section on leisure and recreation in the full report. <http://www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz/leisure-recreation/index.html>

¹¹ Link to the Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC) Continuous Monitoring Survey <http://www.sparc.org.nz/research-policy/research-active-new-zealand>



in 2006, almost three quarters of New Zealanders (72 percent of adults aged 15 years and over) were reported to be sufficiently active, and nearly half (46 percent) were reported as highly active.

Between the sexes, men are more active than women. Seventy-six percent of men were sufficiently active compared to 67 percent of women, and 53 percent of men were highly active compared to 39 percent of women.

Among ethnic groups, Europeans rated highest in terms of being either sufficiently active or highly active (74 percent). They were followed by Māori (72 percent), Pacific peoples (66 percent) and Asian (65 percent).

The data shows that those groups most likely to be active are in the top two income brackets of \$50,000-\$70,000 and \$70,000 or more (76 percent and 77 percent respectively). Those least like least likely to be active are those on the lowest income bracket of \$20,000 or less (66 percent).

Activity level (%) of adults, by sex, 2006

Activity level	Adults 15 years and over		
	Males	Females	All
Sedentary	5	6	6
Insufficiently active	17	24	21
Sufficiently active	23	28	26
Highly active	53	39	46
Don't know	2	2	2
Active	76	67	72
Inactive	22	30	27

Source: Sport and Recreation New Zealand (2007)

Nearly all New Zealanders participate in cultural and arts activities

An important part of many New Zealanders leisure and recreation involves participating in cultural activities. Data from the Statistics New Zealand, 2002 Cultural Experiences Survey¹² shows that nearly all New Zealanders over the age of 15 (93 percent) partake in some form of cultural activity. The data shows that in the four weeks preceding the survey people were most likely to have either purchased a book (43 percent) or visited a public library (39 percent), but over the past year, the most preferred activity was visiting an art gallery or museum (48 percent).

There was little difference between the sexes, with 95 percent of women likely to experience one or more of the cultural activities included in the survey, compared to 92 percent of men. Young people (98 percent) were more likely to participate in one or more cultural activity, while those least likely were aged 65 years and over (81 percent).

Among the ethnic groups, Māori had the highest participation rate for cultural activities (97 percent), followed by Europeans (93 percent) and Pacific peoples (92 percent). Visiting the marae was the most popular activity reported by Māori (69 percent). For Europeans the most popular activity was

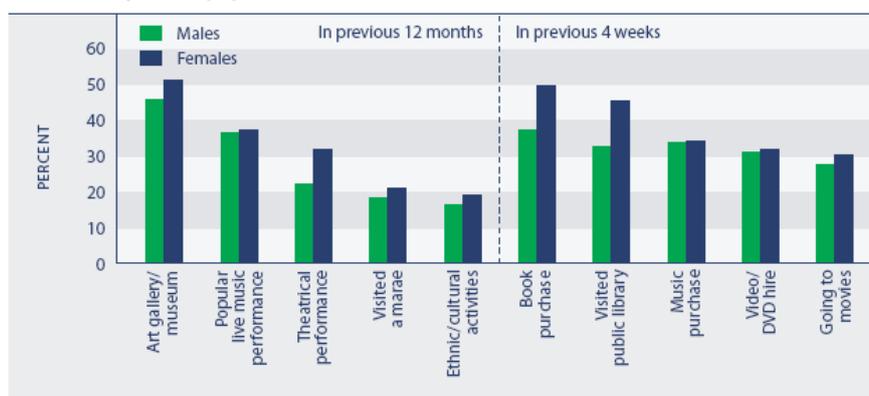
¹² Link to the Statistics New Zealand, 2002 Cultural experiences survey

<http://www2.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/PASFull/pasfull.nsf/7cf46ae26dcb6800cc256a62000a2248/4c2567ef00247c6acc256beb007be930?OpenDocument>



visiting an art gallery or museum. For Pacific peoples the most popular activity was community-based ethnic or cultural activities (39 percent).

Proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who experienced cultural activities, by activity type and sex, 2002



Source: Statistics New Zealand (2002a)

4.6 Social connectedness¹³

Desired outcome: People enjoy constructive relationships with others in their families, whānau, communities, iwi and workplaces. Families support and nurture those in need of care. New Zealand is an inclusive society where people are able to access information and support.

Indicators: Telephone and Internet access in the home; Regular contact with family/friends; Trust in others; Loneliness; Contact between young people and their parents.

Considerable increase in internet access

Telephone and/or internet services in the home allow people to remain socially connected to others in the absence of face-to-face contact. Data from the New Zealand Living Standards Survey¹⁴, shows that between 2000 and 2004, there has been almost no change in telephone access (97 and 96 percent respectively). However, internet access has increased considerably. In 2000, 37 percent of adults had access to the internet. By 2004 access had almost doubled (65 percent).

In terms of telephone usage, the telephone is a more likely source of communication for those over 65 years than those aged 18-64 years. Among ethnic groups, European economic families had the highest rates of telephone access (97 percent in 2004), followed by other economic families (96 percent), Pacific economic families (89 percent) and Māori economic families (84 percent).

In terms of internet usage, adults aged 18-64 had greater access to the internet at home than those over 65 years (71 percent compared to 34 percent respectively). However, the greatest increase in

¹³ See pages 108-119 of *The Social Report 2007* or use this link to access the section on social connectedness in the full report. <http://www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz/social-connectedness/index.html>

¹⁴ Link to the New Zealand Living Standards Survey <http://www.msd.govt.nz/work-areas/social-research/living-standards/living-standards-2004.html>



internet usage between 2000 and 2004 was experienced by older people who had an income level above New Zealand Superannuation. Among ethnic groups, other economic families had the highest rates of internet access (80 percent in 2004), followed by European economic families (63 percent), Māori economic families (45 percent) and Pacific economic families (39.5 percent). However, Pacific economic families had the greatest increases in internet usage between 2000 and 2004.

Proportion (%) of the population with telephone and internet access in the home, by population characteristics, 2000 and 2004

	Telephone access		Internet access	
	2000	2004	2000	2004
Population estimates				
Total adult population 18 years and over	96.6	95.6	36.5	65.1
Dependent children	94.7	91.3	38.8	66.0
Age groupings				
Adults 18–64 years	96.2	94.9	40.9	70.6
Adults 65 years and over	99.2	99.5	11.4	33.6
Economic family ethnicity				
Māori economic family	90.4	83.7	26.9	45.5
Pacific economic family	82.2	89.0	11.0	39.5
European economic family	98.0	96.9	36.8	63.1
Other economic family	98.3	96.4	50.5	79.6
Families with dependent children				
One-parent with dependent children	89.3	88.7	22.8	50.2
Two parents with dependent children	97.4	94.9	46.5	77.7
All families with dependent children	95.1	93.0	39.7	69.4
Family employment/income status				
18–64 year olds, main income earner in full-time employment	97.7	95.4	42.6	73.5
18–64 year olds, main income earner not in full-time employment	92.0	92.1	32.5	59.0
65 year olds and over, with employment or other income (in addition to New Zealand Superannuation)	99.3	100.0	20.5	54.2
65 year olds and over, with little or no other income (in addition to New Zealand Superannuation)	98.9	99.1	9.1	30.6

Sources: Ministry of Social Development (2003b); Ministry of Social Development (2006)
 Note: Revisions to the weights of the New Zealand Living Standards 2000 data mean that data in this table will not agree with data published in The Social Report 2005

Rate of regular contact with family/friends remains constant

The regularity in which people socialise with family and friends is important indicator of their social connectedness. Data from the New Zealand Living Standards Survey, shows that the proportion of adults having family or friends over for a meal at least once a month has remained constant between 2000 (70 percent) and 2004 (69 percent).

In terms of age and income, older people (aged 65 years and older) who had income greater than the New Zealand Superannuation were the most likely to have people over for a meal (80 percent). Those least likely to entertain family and friends at home were those aged 65 years and older who relied almost totally on the New Zealand Superannuation for their income (62 percent) and those aged 18-64 years where the main income earner was not in full-time employment (63 percent).



Among ethnic groups, other economic families were those most likely to have family or friends over for a meal (78 percent), followed by Māori economic families (73 percent), Pacific families (70 percent) and European families (66 percent).

Proportion (%) of the population having family/friends over for a meal, by population characteristics, 2000 and 2004

	Have family/friends over for a meal	
	2000	2004
Population estimates		
Total population aged 18 and over	68.6	70.0
Age groupings		
Adults aged 18–64 years	70.0	71.1
Adults 65 years and over	60.2	63.7
Economic family ethnicity		
Māori economic family	70.2	73.3
Pacific economic family	79.5	69.9
European economic family	65.8	65.8
Other economic family	68.2	78.0
Families with dependent children		
One-parent with dependent children	64.8	64.8
Two parents with dependent children	70.8	73.4
All families with dependent children	69.1	70.8
Family employment/income status		
18–64 year olds, main income earner in full-time employment	69.4	72.4
18–64 year olds, main income earner not in full-time employment	67.7	62.9
65 year olds and over, with employment or other income (above New Zealand Superannuation)	75.3	79.7
65 year olds and over, with little or no other income (above New Zealand Superannuation)	56.5	61.8

Sources: Ministry of Social Development (2003b); Ministry of Social Development (2006)

Most New Zealanders believe that people can be trusted

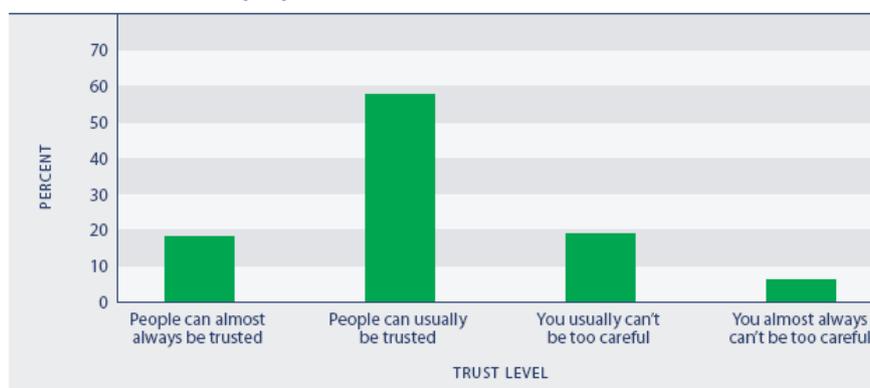
People being able to trust others to act fairly and honestly is an important and necessary component of a healthy society. Data from the Quality of Life Survey, 2006, shows that three-quarters of New Zealanders (76 percent) believed that people could be trusted.

Between the sexes, there was little difference in people's level of trust (76 percent of females and 75 percent of males). This trend continues amongst ethnic groups, with people in European and other ethnic group reporting the highest level of trust (77 percent), followed by Māori (72 percent), Asian peoples (68 percent) and Pacific peoples (67 percent). There was also little difference in people's level of trust in terms of income, although people with incomes over \$70,000 had the highest level of trust (82 percent) and people with incomes of \$20,000 or less reported the lowest (74 percent).

In 2005 New Zealand ranked seventh highest out of 25 OECD countries in reported level of trust in other people.



Levels of trust in other people, 2006



Source: Quality of Life Survey 2006

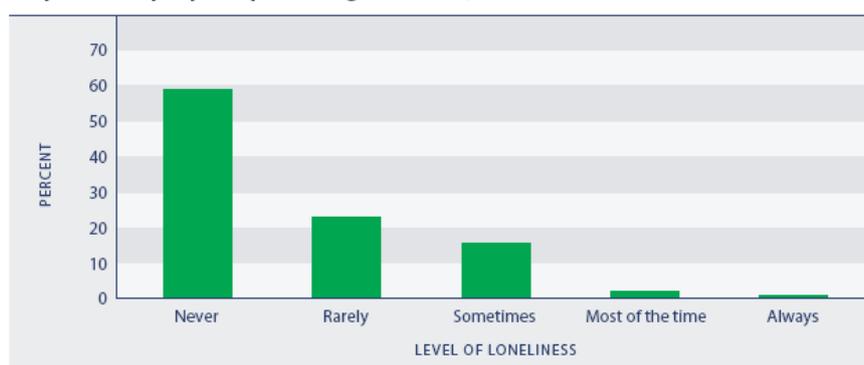
Young more likely to feel lonely

Loneliness undermines overall wellbeing. It is an indicator people's quantity and quality of social connectedness. Data from the Quality of Life Survey, 2006, shows that 18 percent of New Zealanders reported that they had felt lonely over the last 12 months.

The data shows that people are more likely to feel lonely if they are younger (25 percent of 15-24 year olds) and females (20 percent) are more likely to feel lonely than males (16 percent). Amongst ethnic groups, Asian peoples are most likely to feel lonely (16 percent), followed by Pacific peoples (23 percent), other ethnic group (22 percent), Māori (18 percent) and European (16 percent).

The data also shows that people's loneliness decreases as their income rises with 24 percent of people with an income level of \$20,000 or less reporting loneliness compared to 7 percent of those with an income of \$70,000 or more.

Proportion of people experiencing loneliness, 2006



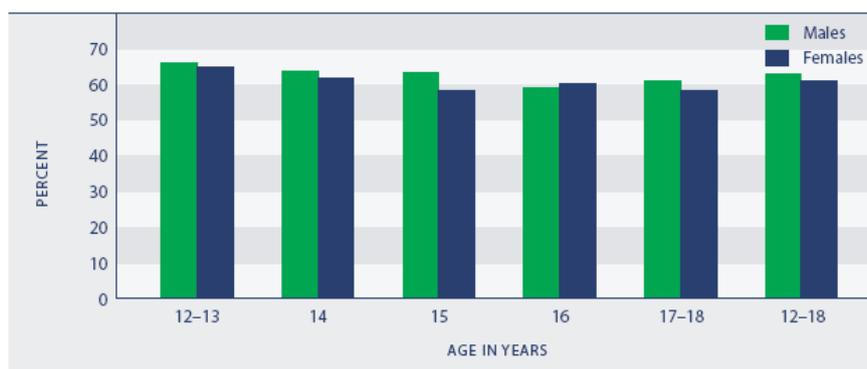
Source: Quality of Life Survey 2006



Just over half of young people feel that they spend enough time with their parents

The quantity and quality of time that young people spend with their parents is an indicator of the extent to which they are receiving care and support. Data from Youth2000: New Zealand Youth: A Profile of their Health and Wellbeing¹⁵ shows that the percentage of male and female secondary school students reporting that they spend enough time with at least one parent on a weekly basis is similar (63 percent and 61 percent respectively).

Students reporting they spent enough time with their parent(s), by age and sex, 2001



Source: Adolescent Health Research Group (2003a)

4.7 Conclusion

Social outcomes have generally improved since the mid-1990s. Indicators (where ten year trends are available) showing marked improvement are:

- ◆ Suicide
- ◆ Road casualties
- ◆ Unemployment
- ◆ Population with low incomes
- ◆ Participation in tertiary education
- ◆ Educational attainment of the adult population (tertiary)

The only indicators to deteriorate over this period are:

- ◆ Obesity

¹⁵ Link to Youth2000: New Zealand Youth: A Profile of their Health and Wellbeing
http://www.youth2000.ac.nz/pdf/Y2000_17_28.pdf



- ◆ Income inequality
- ◆ Voter turnout

Overall, New Zealanders have a good level of social wellbeing, particularly in the Health, Paid work and Safety domains, although, some outcomes have levelled off after several years of steady growth. The domains that have remained relatively static or show small declines are Knowledge and skills and Economic standard of living.

4.8 New Zealand compared to OECD Countries

When compared to other OECD countries, the life expectancy of New Zealander males (77.0 years in 2003-2004) is slightly above the median (76.1 years), while the life expectancy of New Zealand females (81.3 years in 2003-2004) is about the same as the median (81.4 years).

In 2003, New Zealand's suicide death rate was the fourth highest for males and females amongst 14 OECD countries. New Zealand had the highest female youth and third highest male youth suicide death rate.

In 2003, New Zealand was ranked eighth lowest out of thirty OECD countries.(smoking)

New Zealand's rate of obesity (21 percent) is high compared with other OECD countries and the OECD median (13 percent). However New Zealand is one of only four OECD countries that use actual measurements recorded by an interviewer rather than a self-reporting method to measure obesity.

Out of 30 OECD countries New Zealand ranks 12th equal in the proportion of adults who have at least upper secondary school qualifications and in the proportion of adults who have bachelor's degrees or higher.

With a standardised unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, New Zealand rates third out of 27 OECD countries.

With an employment rate of 74.6 percent in 2005, New Zealand rated 5th highest out of 30 OECD countries.

New Zealand has ranked as one of the top four least corrupt nations since 1995.



Figure C01 Social wellbeing in New Zealand, relative to the OECD



Interpreting "Social wellbeing in New Zealand, relative to the OECD"

This figure shows New Zealanders' social wellbeing relative to the OECD for 20 indicators. The circle \bigcirc represents the OECD median for each indicator, and the spokes $\text{—}\blacksquare$ represent New Zealand's outcomes relative to the OECD median. The irregularly shaped line --- outside the OECD median circle represents outcomes of the OECD upper quartile relative to the OECD median. Where a spoke falls inside the circle, New Zealand is in the bottom half of the OECD. Where the spoke falls outside the circle, outcomes in New Zealand are better than the OECD median.

Where a spoke falls past the irregularly shaped line, New Zealand is in the top quarter of OECD outcomes. For each indicator, the most recent data has been used where possible. Most of the data comes from between 2003 and 2006, but the population with low incomes and income inequality data comes from 1999–2002. **SOME CAUTION IS REQUIRED WITH THIS DATA:** international comparisons are difficult to interpret because of the different methods countries use to collect, classify and record social data.