

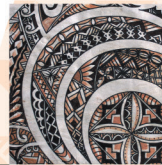


Te Ope Whakaora

# Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

# STATE of PACIFIC PEOPLES



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October 2024

**We welcome your feedback**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The story of Pacific peoples in New Zealand has become a uniquely Kiwi narrative, deeply woven into the nation's history. It's a testament to the resilience and contributions of a community now integral to New Zealand society. Pacific communities have enriched the country through cultural influence, advancements in education, political leadership, the arts, music, economic impact and sports. As the Pacific population has grown to 9 percent of New Zealand's total population, their influence has strengthened across sectors, shaping cultural events, business and policymaking. This growing presence highlights their pivotal role in New Zealand's future. Despite their contributions and successes, Pacific communities continue to face social issues and disparities in areas such as education, health, housing and income. These persistent challenges remind us that while progress has been made, there is still work to be done to achieve wellbeing for all New Zealanders, including Pacific people.

In 2013, The Salvation Army's Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit (SPPU) released the report *More Than Churches, Rugby and Festivals*, offering an in-depth analysis of the social progress of Pacific peoples in New Zealand. This report aimed to inform, challenge and inspire action to improve the wellbeing of all New Zealanders, particularly Pacific communities. It was followed in 2014 by the *This Is Home* report, which highlighted various social issues facing Pacific communities while also showcasing community initiatives working to uplift Pacific people.

*State of Pacific Peoples* updates previous efforts, acknowledging both the progress made and the ongoing challenges Pacific peoples face. This report attempts to piece together the complex social issues facing Pacific communities, highlighting that these issues are all interrelated—addressing or alleviating one area will inevitably impact another. The report identifies clear trends in some areas where solutions are already being implemented, while noting the need for further understanding and action in others. In doing so, we want to ensure that

this report does not aim to perpetuate stereotypes but instead encourages reflection and action from both Pacific and non-Pacific communities.

The report examines five categories: **Children and Youth, Work and Income, Housing, Crime and Punishment**, and **Social Hazards**.

The **Children and Youth** section highlights both progress and challenges for Pacific children and youth in New Zealand. While there have been positive strides, such as a 90 percent participation rate in early childhood education, 29 percent of Pacific children live in material hardship—three times the rate of their European peers. Educational disparities persist, with only 32 percent of Pacific students regularly attending school and 20 percent achieving University Entrance. The impact of Covid-19 has further affected Pacific students' education, impacting attendance and achievement levels. With Pacific children making up 14.5 percent of the total population under 14, addressing these challenges is crucial for their future and the wellbeing of Aotearoa.

The **Work and Income** section highlights the progress and challenges in employment and income among Pacific communities. Employment has nearly doubled over the past decade, with 182,400 Pacific peoples employed in 2023. However, unemployment remains at 6 percent and reliance on Jobseeker Support has increased by 143 percent, due to many who are underemployed. While mean annual earnings have risen by 54 percent, they still fall short compared to the general population. Despite these challenges, more Pacific peoples are entering skilled and managerial roles, signalling positive steps toward economic resilience. Continued focus on closing income and employment gaps is crucial for future prosperity.

The **Housing** section highlights significant challenges and trends in housing for Pacific peoples. Homeownership among Pacific peoples has decreased, with an estimated 35 percent owning homes in 2023, while 65 percent live in rental properties, often facing unaffordable rent

increases. The demand for social housing has surged by 516 percent over the past decade, with 3888 Pacific peoples now on the social Housing Register. Despite a decrease in the number of Pacific individuals in emergency housing, housing affordability remains a critical issue. In suburbs with predominantly Pacific populations, almost all the suburbs reviewed are considered unaffordable. A significant proportion of Pacific families are on the sharper end of the housing spectrum, facing overcrowded and unstable living conditions. To address these challenges, it is crucial to implement strategies that better support Pacific families in progressing toward homeownership, and affordable housing providing long-term stability and economic security.

The **Crime and Punishment** section highlights trends in crime and justice outcomes for Pacific peoples. Over the past decade, the number of Pacific offenders has decreased by 34 percent and convictions have dropped by 45 percent, largely due to shifts in policy that aim to divert less serious cases away from the justice system. However, this means that those who do move forward within the justice process often face more serious charges, which may explain why the number of Pacific peoples in prison has increased by 10 percent, along with a 17 percent rise in remand rates. While recidivism rates have improved, with a 31 percent decrease over the past decade, family violence remains a critical issue, with a 30 percent increase

in victimisations. Despite these mixed outcomes, the overall reduction in crime and the shift towards community sentences suggest progress, but further efforts are needed to address the root causes of crime and support Pacific communities in achieving better outcomes.

The **Social Hazards** section examines the challenges of alcohol, drug use and gambling in Pacific communities. Hazardous drinking and heavy episodic drinking are more prevalent among Pacific individuals and while cannabis use increased between 2018 and 2022, it has recently declined slightly. Gambling also disproportionately affects Pacific peoples, particularly in high-deprivation areas with many pokie machines. The prevalence of hazardous franchises, such as bottle stores and pokie machines in Pacific communities predisposes individuals to these types of harms, exacerbating the existing challenges.

Looking forward, continued investment in Pacific communities is crucial for their prosperity and the overall progress of New Zealand. By addressing key areas such as Children and Youth, Work and Income, Housing, Crime and Punishment, and Social Hazards, we can ensure that Pacific peoples thrive and contribute to building a more prosperous society for all New Zealanders. This journey requires a shared commitment to fostering social progress, safety and wellbeing for everyone.

## THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Reflecting on Pacific peoples and the attributes that are common across our diverse cultures, the word *koinōnia* comes to mind. *Koinōnia* is a Greek word meaning fellowship, association and community<sup>1</sup>—concepts deeply ingrained in Pacific culture. Pacific peoples naturally excel in these areas. In the Bible, *koinōnia* appears 20 times across 18 verses, first mentioned in Acts 2:42: ‘And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.’

These foundational practices—teaching, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer—are integral to Pacific communities as well. Just as the early church gathered to understand and live out the apostles’ teachings about Jesus Christ, Pacific peoples regularly attend church to deepen their faith. In Aotearoa, Māori have a deep connection to their marae as a place of identity and community. Similarly, when many Pacific peoples came to New Zealand, their churches became their marae—centres of spiritual, cultural and communal life. Fellowship and community are central to their way of life and breaking bread together is a fundamental aspect of Pacific culture, symbolising unity, hospitality and shared life. These elements continue to nurture their faith and strengthen connections, safeguarding the community and providing a solid foundation for moral values.

Later in Acts 2, the early church is described as selling their possessions and distributing the

proceeds to those in need. This isn’t a call to sell possessions today to address social issues for the Pacific community, but rather a reminder that these communities have solutions within them. They have the capacity to lift each other’s burdens and support one another, just as the early church did for each other. This is why gathering together through the church is vital to Pacific communities.

William Booth, the co-founder of The Salvation Army, profoundly stated, ‘*My only hope for the permanent deliverance of mankind from misery, either in this world or the next, is the regeneration or remaking of the individual by the power of the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ. But in providing for the relief of temporal misery I reckon that I am only making it easy where it is now difficult and possible where it is now all but impossible, for men and women to find their way to the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*’<sup>2</sup>

The issues Pacific communities face are real, but so is the power of God to bring about transformation—both in people’s hearts and in their communities. This report is a call to action, not just for practical solutions to address temporal issues, but for a deeper engagement with the gospel, which offers the ultimate hope and renewal. May these efforts be guided by faith, driven by love and strengthened by the *koinōnia*—the fellowship—shared in Jesus Christ.

## PACIFIC PEOPLES AND COVID-19

In 2020, terms like ‘unprecedented’ and ‘lockdown’ became common as the world faced the Covid-19 pandemic—a crisis that affected almost every aspect of society, including food security, employment, housing and education. New Zealand responded with strict measures like nationwide lockdowns, regional restrictions, quarantine and a major vaccination campaign. While these actions were necessary for public health, they also brought significant challenges and increased social polarisation.

Pacific families in New Zealand were hit particularly hard, with the pandemic worsening existing social and financial challenges. Already struggling with overcrowded housing and lower incomes, Pacific communities were vulnerable to the virus’ health and economic impacts. Many Pacific peoples were essential workers, which increased their exposure to risk. Job losses and reduced hours in sectors like hospitality, retail and manufacturing led to financial

instability, greater reliance on government aid and higher poverty levels. Education for Pacific students also suffered, with limited access to digital devices and reliable internet hindering remote learning. Crowded homes made studying difficult, leading to learning gaps and long-term effects on educational achievement. Socially and economically, Pacific communities were already behind the general population and the pandemic has only deepened these disparities.

Though the pandemic was four years ago, the recovery is still ongoing. After the Global Financial Crisis in 2008, it took New Zealand until around 2014 to see significant recovery. Similarly, the long-term effects of Covid-19 on social indicators continue to emerge. This report will examine a range of indicators across different social areas for Pacific people, all likely impacted by Covid-19, as Aotearoa continues its recovery.

# THE SALVATION ARMY AND PACIFIC PEOPLES

The Salvation Army has been serving communities across Aotearoa for over 140 years. Our mission is to care for people, transform lives and reform society by God’s power. We are a Christian church and social service agency dedicated to supporting vulnerable communities in Aotearoa. In the year ending June 2023, we assisted over 150,000 people across the country. Through our 70 foodbanks, we provided 83,000 food parcels to 36,000 households. Our 17 Bridge locations supported over 4600 people with alcohol and drug issues, and we helped 500 individuals transitioning out of prison. We also provided housing for over 2300 households and offered 8000 financial mentoring sessions across 29 locations. Our work is further supported by 129 Family Stores and 89 corps (churches).<sup>3</sup>

The Salvation Army is deeply committed to supporting all New Zealanders, including Pacific communities. The territory of The Salvation Army New Zealand also includes Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

Many Pacific families consider The Salvation Army their home church, with significant Pacific representation within our corps, including among our corps officers (pastors). Additionally, The Salvation Army employs 136 staff of Pacific background across various roles, including social workers, team leaders and clinicians. The Salvation Army serves many in the Pacific community through our broad range of social services. **Table 1** provides a summary of Pacific peoples that come through our services which has increased by 31 percent in the past 10 years.

The increasing engagement of Pacific communities with The Salvation Army’s services emphasises our commitment to addressing their unique needs. As more Pacific individuals and families turn to us for support, we remain focused on providing holistic support to uplift Pacific communities where we can across Aotearoa.

**Table 1: Pacific peoples accessing The Salvation Army social services—2015–2024<sup>4</sup>**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	10Y
Pacific peoples	5611	5985	6108	6572	6399	9142	7516	8167	7157	7361	31%

# COUNTING PACIFIC PEOPLES

## Ethnicity

Statistics New Zealand defines ethnicity as the ethnic group or groups a person identifies with, or has a sense of belonging to. It is a measure of cultural affiliation, distinct from race, ancestry, nationality or citizenship. Ethnicity is self-perceived, and individuals can belong to more than one ethnic group. Anyone who identifies with any of the following groups—Samoan, Cook Islands Māori, Tongan, Niuean, Tokelau people, Fijian and other Pacific peoples which include indigenous Australian, Hawaiian, Kiribati, Nauruan, Papa New Guinean, Pitcairn Islander, Rotuman, Tahitian, Solomon Islanders, Tuvalu people, Ni Vanuatu and Pacific peoples not elsewhere classified (NEC), or the general category Pacific peoples not further defined (NFD)—would be classified as Pacific peoples.<sup>5</sup>

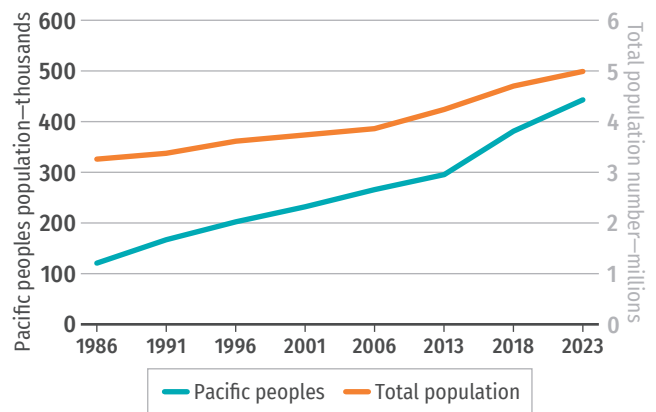
The data in this report focuses on Pacific peoples as a whole, rather than breaking it down into individual ethnic groups. We have drawn data from various sources, such as Stats NZ, the Ministry of Education, police data, the Ministry of Social Development, Dot Loves Data, Infometrics and Kāinga Ora, each of which may have slight variations in how they define Pacific peoples.

We acknowledge that ‘Pacific peoples’ is a term shaped by Western frameworks to simplify categorisation. To avoid overcomplicating things, we use the term ‘Pacific peoples’ as reported in these data sets; our goal is to paint a clear picture for the community. However, we do recognise that under the umbrella of Pacific peoples, there are many different ethnic groups—each with its own culture, language and identity.

## Rapid growth of Pacific peoples

Pacific peoples are an established part of New Zealand society, now representing nine percent of the total population. From 2013 to 2023, the Pacific population grew markedly by 146,691 individuals, marking a 49.6 percent increase (Figure 1). In contrast, the total population of New Zealand increased by 751,875 people, representing a growth rate of 17.7 percent over the same period. This fast growth among Pacific communities highlights their higher birthrates and a younger population.

Figure 1: A summary of key population estimates for Pacific and total population—1986–2023<sup>6</sup>



Pacific peoples have been growing in number twice as fast as the general population. This is partly because they have higher birth rates. In 2024, for every 100 mothers who gave birth in the total population, there were on average 100 live births. In comparison, for every 100 Pacific women who gave birth, there were on average 135 live births. Table 2 presents trends in the percentage of mothers who are Pacific and the percentage of live births where the child is Pacific. It shows a consistent and

Table 2: Pacific (live) births—2015–2024 (March years)<sup>7,8</sup>

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Percentage of mothers who are Pacific	11.3%	11.3%	11.0%	11.3%	11.4%	11.5%	11.5%	11.4%	12.1%	13.3%
Percentage of live births the child is Pacific	15.3%	15.2%	14.8%	15.3%	15.4%	15.6%	15.8%	15.6%	16.6%	17.9%

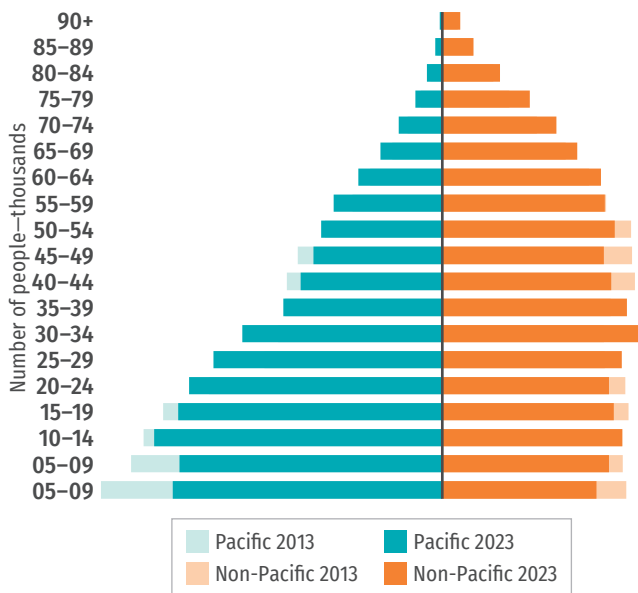


slightly increasing trend in both for the past 10 years. The rise from 11.3 percent to 13.3 percent in the percentage of mothers who are Pacific reflects a gradual demographic shift and highlights higher fertility rates of Pacific peoples. Similarly, the percentage of live births where the child is Pacific increased, rising from 15.3 percent to 17.9 percent.

### Youthfulness of Pacific peoples

Pacific peoples are the youngest group in New Zealand. In 2023, the median age for Pacific peoples was 24.9 years, which has increased from 22.1 years in 2013. For the total population, the median age was 38.1 years old. This is further shown in Figure 2, which shows the age distribution of Pacific and non-Pacific people in New Zealand. In the year 2023, more than 40 percent of Pacific peoples were under the age of 19 years old, compared to 25 percent for non-Pacific people. On the other end, about 6 percent of Pacific peoples were retired or 65+ years old compared to 17.5 percent of non-Pacific people.

Figure 2: Age distribution by percentage of Pacific and non-Pacific peoples—2013 and 2023<sup>6,9</sup>



Given their youthful population, Pacific communities experience a higher demand for education, youth services and childcare. The youthful population also suggests a growing future workforce that could boost economic growth if supported through adequate education and training. The significant proportion of young Pacific peoples shows rapid growth, whereas the higher percentage of older

non-Pacific peoples points to potential challenges related to aging, such as increased healthcare costs and a shrinking workforce. When analysing income, employment, homeownership and wealth among the Pacific population, it’s crucial to consider the youthful demographic. These factors often improve with age, particularly after individuals reach their 40s or 50s.<sup>10</sup>

Furthermore, Table 3 shows in 10-year changes in age groups from 2013 to 2023, Pacific populations show substantial growth in the 20–39 age ranges, indicating again an increasing labour work force. Conversely, non-Pacific populations demonstrate more modest changes across most age groups, which reiterates stable demographic patterns with gradual aging effects as mentioned prior.

Table 3: Percentage change in age groups, Pacific and non-Pacific peoples—2013–2023<sup>6,9</sup>

Age group	Pacific	Non-Pacific	Age group	Pacific	Non-Pacific
0–4	18.1%	-4.1%	50–54	54.5%	5.4%
5–9	26.2%	6.3%	55–59	81.0%	14.3%
10–14	44.2%	13.7%	60–64	74.1%	25.5%
15–19	41.5%	4.5%	65–69	85.0%	27.2%
20–24	62.4%	1.9%	70–74	87.4%	41.0%
25–29	92.6%	24.9%	75–79	86.8%	52.8%
30–34	82.2%	43.0%	80–84	90.6%	32.3%
35–39	51.2%	27.6%	85–89	102.6%	17.2%
40–44	36.4%	1.3%	90+	130.3%	35.5%
45–49	33.3%	-1.7%	Total	49.6%	15.3%

### The dispersion of Pacific peoples

Figure 3 shows the estimated Pacific populations across regions in New Zealand. Auckland has a significant majority of the Pacific population, though its percentage decreased slightly from 65.9 percent in 2013 to 62.1 percent in 2023. Wellington has the second biggest Pacific population with 10.7 percent, followed by the Waikato region with 5.9 percent and Christchurch at 5.4 percent. Figure 4 shows the percentage change in population from 2013 to 2023 for the different regions. The Pacific

population has grown in every region, with smaller regions such as Northland and Tasman showing large percentage increases. This growth reflects the employment opportunities in these areas, where the largest industries are manufacturing,

agriculture, forestry and fishing.<sup>11,12</sup> Manufacturing is one of the main industries employing Pacific peoples. Additionally, there has been an increase in Pacific peoples working in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining sectors.<sup>13</sup>

Figure 3: Estimated Pacific population—2023<sup>6,9</sup>

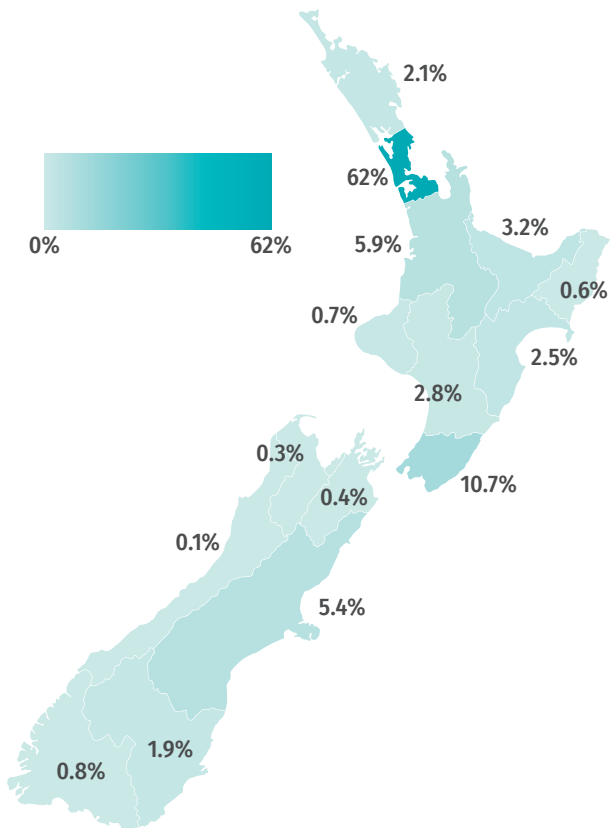
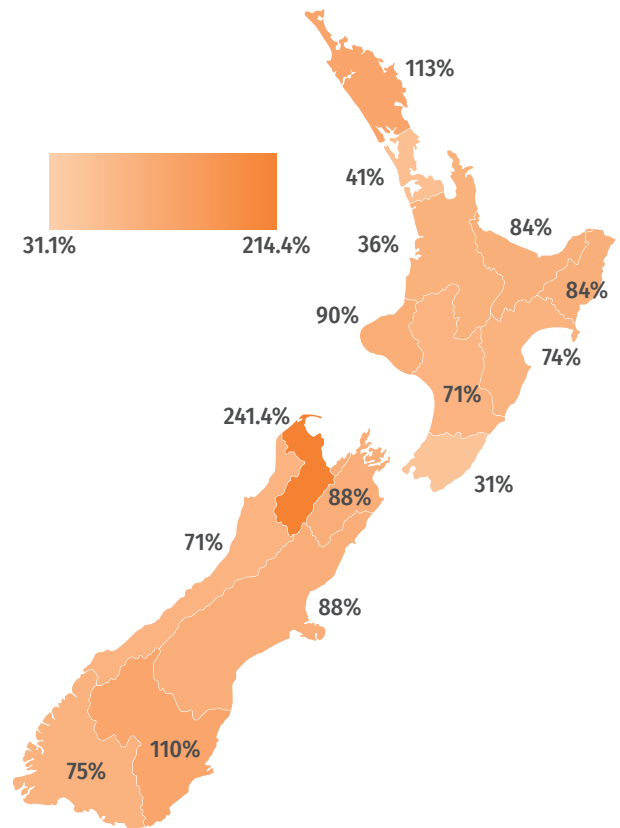


Figure 4: Ten-year change in Pacific population—2013–2023<sup>6,9</sup>



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Child poverty		Welfare households		Children in state care	
↑ 12% (5 years)	1 in 4 in material hardship (2023)	↑ 20% (10 years)	38,448 receiving main benefits with children (2024)	↓ 21% (10 years)	1 in 230 are in state care (2024)
Child abuse and neglect		Youth offending		Early childhood education	
↓ 37% (10 years)	1 in 65 with findings of abuse (2024)	↓ 67% (10 years)	127 aged 10–14 proceeded against by police (2024)	↓ 1% (10 years)	90% engage in ECE (2024)
School attendance		School achievement		University Entrance	
↓ 46% (10 years)	32.3% students attending more than 90% (2023)	↓ 3.4% (10 years)	80% achieved NCEA Level 2 and higher (2022)	↓ 5% (10 years)	20% achieved University Entrance (2022)
Tertiary education		Teenage pregnancy		Youth suicide rates	
↓ 10% (10 years)	33% of 18–19 years enrolled in tertiary education (2022)	↓ 3% (10 years)	6.2% of Pacific mothers are under the age of 20 years old (2024)	↓ 12% (10 years)	11.9 suspected suicide rate per 100,000 population (2022)

## Child poverty

It is estimated that Pacific peoples make up 9 percent of the New Zealand population, however Pacific children represent 14.5 percent of all children 14 years and under, and this has incrementally grown over the years. Evidence shows that the experience of persistent poverty has an adverse impact on the lives of children, and the harmful effects also damage the social fabric and economic performance of the country.<sup>14</sup>

### MATERIAL HARDSHIP

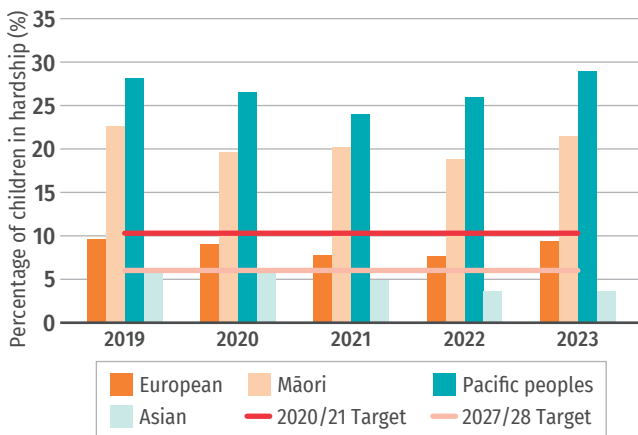
Material hardship is one of the primary measures of child poverty in New Zealand, as defined by the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 (see [Table 4](#)).<sup>15</sup> Material hardship is a significant indicator of wellbeing that assesses the everyday challenges faced by children. It encompasses situations where children in households must forgo six or more of 17 essential items for wellbeing. These can include postponing visits to doctors or dentists, inability to pay utility bills, not using heating at home and not being able to repair or replace essential appliances.<sup>16</sup>

**Table 4: Material hardship—2019 and 2023<sup>17</sup>**

	2019	2023	Change	All Children
European	70,900	69,700	-1200	744,000
Māori	65,700	61,900	-3800	287,400
Pacific peoples	39,700	44,600	4900	154,200
Asian	11,300	8100	-3200	219,800
<b>All</b>	<b>149,400</b>	<b>143,700</b>	<b>-5,700</b>	<b>1,151,400</b>

In 2023, approximately 143,700 children were living in material hardship, marking a decrease of 3.8 percent since 2019. This improvement means over 5000 children have transitioned out of material hardship. While material hardship has decreased across all ethnicities since 2019, the number of Pacific children experiencing material hardship has increased by nearly 5000. As a result, 29 percent of Pacific children—or one in three—now live in material hardship, which is three times higher than the rate for European children, and seven times higher than that for Asian children as shown in [Figure 5](#).

Figure 5: Material hardship by ethnicities—2019–2023<sup>17</sup>



When examining Figure 5, we see that while European and Asian children have successfully met the 2021 target (10%) of reducing material hardship, Pacific and Māori children continue to experience high rates of hardship, falling short of the goal.<sup>18</sup> With the government’s recent decision to relax the target from 9 percent to 11 percent by 2026/27, around 23,000 children will be left behind to face material hardship.<sup>19</sup> Given the lack of improvement in material hardship for Pacific children, it will most likely be Māori and Pacific children who are left behind by these revised targets.

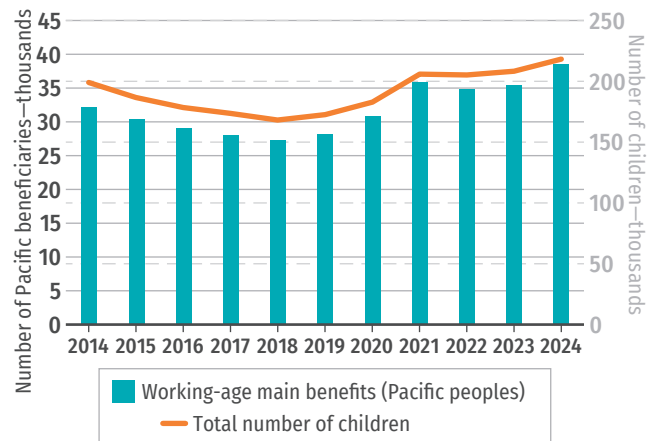
The reasons why Pacific children in New Zealand often face material hardship are complex. The Pacific population in New Zealand is generally youthful and higher wages on average correlate with age in the working population. Additionally, the median household income for Pacific families is significantly lower than for the rest of the population. Many Pacific peoples work in low-skilled or unskilled jobs, which contribute to lower incomes. These factors, among others, are interrelated and significantly contribute to the material hardship experienced by Pacific children. Alleviating material hardship for Pacific children requires a multifaceted approach. Solutions must address several key areas, including income levels, education and training, and housing.

**CHILDREN IN BENEFIT HOUSEHOLDS**

As of March 2024, there are over 218,000 children living in household’s dependent on benefits, marking a 9 percent increase from 2014, as shown

in Figure 6. Approximately 19 percent of all children in New Zealand (1 in 5) reside in households reliant on welfare support. Figure 6 also illustrates that in March 2024, there were 38,448 Pacific peoples receiving main benefits with children, reflecting a 20 percent increase since 2014. These 38,448 Pacific peoples represent about 14 percent of the Pacific working-age population. Pacific peoples represent 18 percent of parents that are on a main benefit supporting the 218,000 children in New Zealand in welfare-dependent households. With a high percentage of Pacific households dependent on welfare, the role of welfare policies—such as sanctions or fiscal austerity measures in the welfare system—is important. These policies directly impact the incomes of these families and their ability to move out of poverty. Sanctions can reduce or cut off benefits for not meeting certain requirements, while fiscal austerity measures can limit or reduce welfare spending, both of which can worsen financial hardship for all those on a main benefit, including Pacific households.

Figure 6: Pacific peoples on main benefits with children, and total children—2014–2024 (March years)<sup>20</sup>



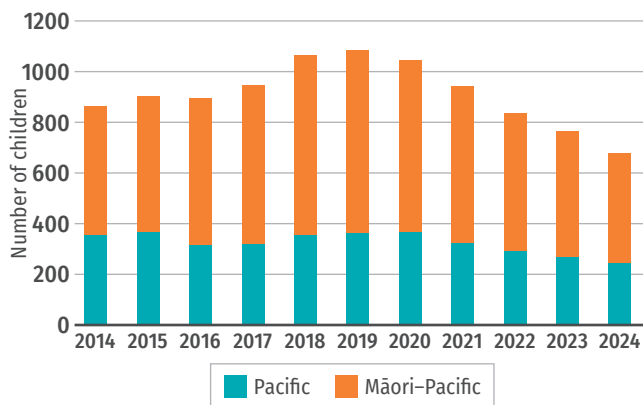
**Children at risk**

**CHILDREN IN STATE CARE**

Oranga Tamariki records children who identify as Pacific in two key categories: Pacific–Māori and Pacific. As of March 2024, there are 678 children in state care who identify as Pacific (see Figure 7). The proportion of children who are solely Pacific continues to decline yearly, while the number of children who are both Pacific and Māori has

increased. Since reaching a peak of 1083 Pacific children in 2019, the number has dropped by 37 percent, now at its lowest level in 2024.

**Figure 7: Pacific children in state care—2014–2024 (March years)<sup>21</sup>**



The reason why Pacific children are exiting state care faster than Māori-Pacific children isn’t entirely clear. The Oranga Tamariki report *Talanoa Mai Tamaiki*<sup>22</sup> highlights the crucial role that family, culture, values and faith play in Pacific children’s lives; this report included Pacific and Māori-Pacific. Additionally, the *Engaging All New Zealanders: Children in New Zealand Communities 2022*<sup>23</sup> survey showed that 77 percent of Pacific respondents believe everyone should care for local children and 73 percent want to contribute more to community support for children. This reflects Pacific peoples’ active involvement, along with a strong emphasis on cultural ties (83%), which likely helps reduce the need for state care by strengthening family and community networks for children and young people in state care.

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Reports of concern (ROC) for potential abuse and neglect of Pacific children have significantly declined over the past 10 years, dropping by 28 percent in the number of reports and 27 percent in the number of affected children (see **Table 5**). The proportion of ROCs requiring further investigation has decreased from 78 percent in 2014 to 71 percent in 2024. Additionally, the number of children requiring further action has also decreased, from 78 percent in 2014 to 70 percent in 2024.

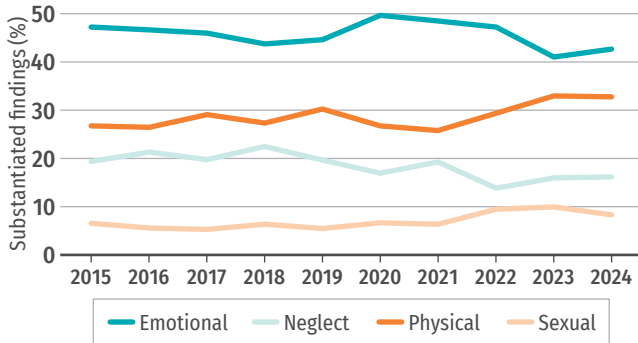
**Figure 8** shows the types of abuse among Pacific children with substantiated findings from ROCs. The most prevalent types of abuse are emotional and physical abuse. In 2024, emotional abuse represents about 43 percent of cases, while physical abuse accounts for about 33 percent. The number of substantiated findings of abuse among Pacific children has declined over the past 10 years: emotional abuse has decreased by 49 percent and neglect has decreased by 53 percent. Physical abuse has remained relatively unchanged, but cases of sexual abuse have increased by 17 percent during the same period.

Trends show an increase in reports of sexual abuse for children correlated with an increase in sexual assaults and related offences reported to the police following the Covid-19 lockdowns.<sup>24</sup> It is important to note that only eight percent of adults who experience sexual assault report it.<sup>24</sup> For children and young people, the reporting rate would be significantly lower. This means that reports of sexual abuse are likely significantly underestimated.

**Table 5: Substantiated ROCs for Pacific children (Pacific and Māori-Pacific)—2014, 2019 and 2024<sup>21</sup>**

	2014	2019	2024	5Y	10Y
Number of distinct children for whom a ROC was received	10,134	9927	7395	-25.5%	-27.0%
Total ROCs received	13,954	13,988	10,001	-28.5%	-28.3%
ROCs that required further action or investigation	9764	7541	6336	-16.0%	-35.1%
Number of distinct children that were referred for further action or investigation	7892	6273	5234	-16.6%	-33.7%

**Figure 8: Number of distinct Pacific children (Māori–Pacific and Pacific) with substantiated findings of abuse, by abuse type—2015–2024<sup>21</sup>**



Note: a child can be counted in more than one abuse type for the reporting period.

## Children, young people and education

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Participating in early childhood education (ECE) before starting school greatly affects a child’s future academic success. High-quality ECE boosts social skills, emotional development and cognitive abilities. This is especially important for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, as it helps close the gap and provides a strong start for their future learning.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, looking at ECE participation rates can indicate how well Pacific children might do in the future.

Figure 9 shows the prior participation rate in ECE. Participation rate is the percentage of children who regularly attended ECE in the six months before starting school. Over the past decade, Pacific participation in ECE increased, peaking at 93.2 percent in 2018 and remaining relatively high in subsequent years. However, in 2023, the participation rate for Pacific children dropped to 90 percent and has stayed relatively unchanged into 2024. Overall participation rates in New Zealand also dropped in 2023 but remained relatively high. According to the Ministry of Education, the decline in participation levels was due to several factors, including Covid-19, a decrease in the number of licensed ECE services and a decline in qualified ECE teachers as of June 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**Figure 9: Participation in ECE—2013–2024 (March years)<sup>26</sup>**

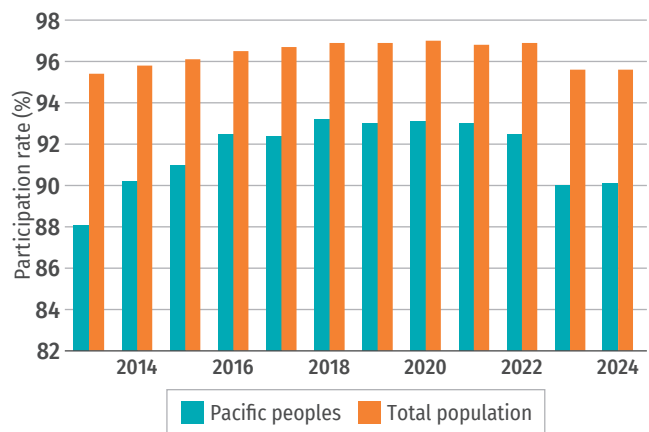
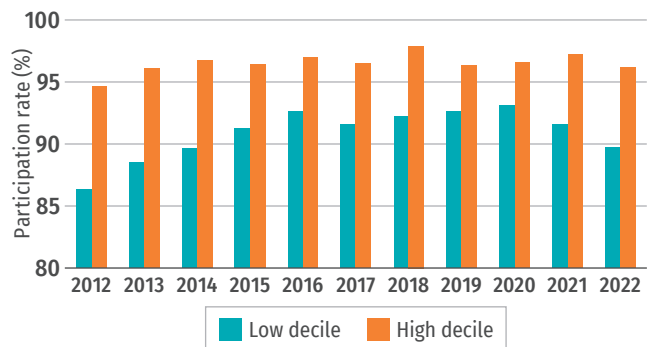


Figure 10 shows ECE participation rates by decile levels, which indicate social and economic deprivation. In low decile areas, which are more deprived, ECE participation is lower compared with high decile areas, which are less deprived. In 2022, Pacific children in high decile areas had a participation rate of 96.2 percent, similar to European and Asian rates, while Pacific children in low decile areas had a rate of 89.7 percent. This disparity in ECE participation rates means Pacific children in lower decile areas may start school with less-developed skills, leading to educational disadvantage.

**Figure 10: Pacific ECE participation rates by decile—2012–2022<sup>26</sup>**



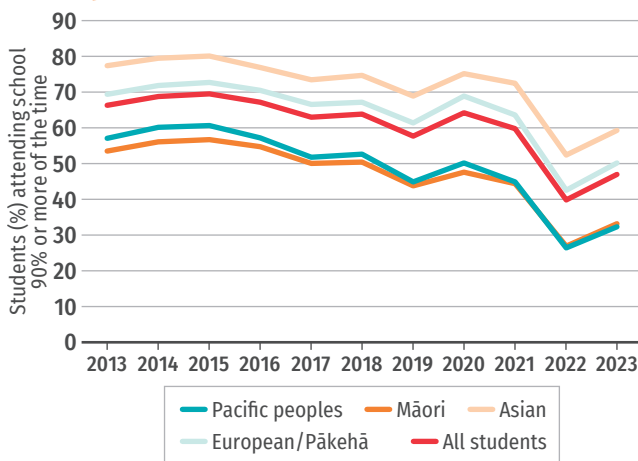
### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LEVELS

Regular school attendance is a key measure of educational success, but the Covid-19 pandemic significantly impacted attendance levels for all students. Pacific students have consistently had the lowest attendance rates compared to other ethnic groups over the past two years. By 2023, only 32.3 percent of Pacific students attended school

for more than 90 percent of Term 2. The decline in attendance has been gradual, but it worsened notably post-Covid-19. However, there has been a recent increase in attendance levels across all ethnicities in 2023, indicating a positive trend after a period of decline (see [Figure 11](#)).

To improve school attendance, the previous government committed \$74 million, including funding for attendance officers.<sup>27</sup> The current government is also focusing on this issue by publishing weekly attendance data and launching campaigns to highlight the importance of attending school as part of their broader strategy.<sup>28</sup> Improving attendance levels remains a primary focus across parliament. Despite these efforts, there remains a significant disparity in attendance rates between Māori and Pacific students compared to others. To close this gap, targeted support and resources for Māori and Pacific communities are essential. Additionally, Māori and Pacific communities need to take accountability for supporting their children and young people in improving attendance.

**Figure 11: Percentage of students attending school more than 90 percent of Term 2—2013–2023<sup>29</sup>**



**SECONDARY SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT**

Earning a formal school qualification is crucial for youth moving into higher education, training or entry-level jobs. The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is a key credential for secondary school students, leading to better opportunities in education, employment and income.<sup>14</sup>

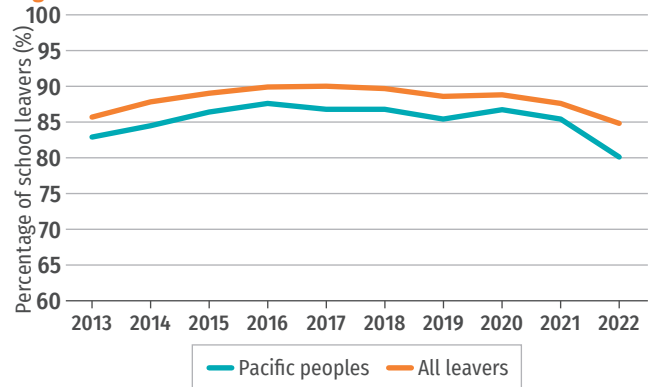
Pacific school leavers have a lower achievement rate for NCEA Level One or higher compared to the

general population (see [Figure 12](#)). Over the past decade, while the achievement rate for NCEA Level One or higher was relatively stable, it has gradually declined since 2020. In 2020, 86.7 percent of Pacific students achieved NCEA Level One or higher, compared to 88.8 percent for all students. By 2023, these rates had dropped to 80.1 percent for Pacific students and 84.8 percent for all students.

Both Pacific students and the broader population have been impacted by Covid-19. Recent disruptions from the pandemic and natural disasters have particularly affected educational achievement in Auckland, where many Pacific students live.

A report by the Education Review Office, *The Impact of Covid-19 on Pacific Learners* (May 2022), showed that Pacific students’ achievement levels were significantly affected during the pandemic.<sup>30</sup> The report highlighted several challenges, including disruptions from restrictions on community gatherings, difficulties with online learning due to inadequate devices and poor internet, and challenges with engaging in virtual classrooms. Additionally, the home environment, with limited space and noise, made it hard to concentrate. Many Pacific students also had to take on extra responsibilities at home, as their parents were essential workers and financial stress impacted their focus on schoolwork. These factors have disrupted Pacific students’ learning and ongoing achievement levels, contributing to their lower and continually declining achievement rates.

**Figure 12: Students leaving school with NCEA Level One or higher—2013–2022<sup>31</sup>**

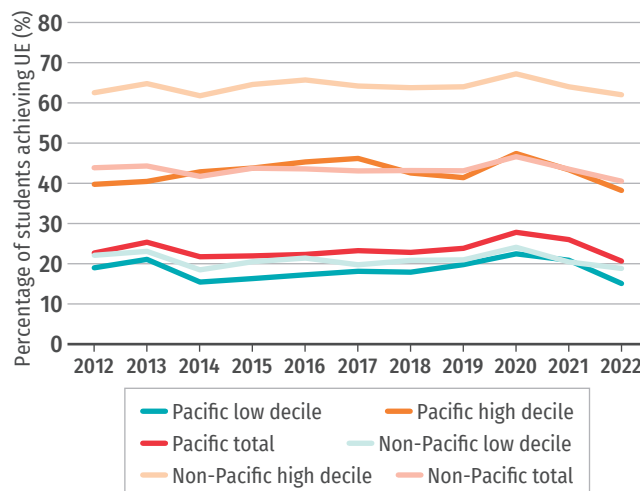


### TERTIARY QUALIFICATION

Between 2012 and 2022, there has been a consistent disparity in achieving University Entrance (UE) rates between Pacific and non-Pacific students, with non-Pacific students consistently achieving higher rates (Figure 13). For Pacific students, UE rates fluctuated between 20.7 percent and 27.8 percent, while non-Pacific students ranged from 40.5 percent to 46.6 percent. Notably, Pacific students from high decile schools perform at an average level comparable to non-Pacific students overall, whereas non-Pacific students from high decile schools perform significantly higher than their Pacific peers. Both groups showed improved outcomes in high decile schools compared to low decile schools, indicating the significant role socio-economic status has on education.

UE rates peaked in 2020 for both groups. Due to Covid-19-related lockdowns and disruptions, there was a temporary modification to UE requirements, allowing students to gain UE with just 12 credits instead of the usual 14 credits in three approved subjects—along with the addition of Learning Recognition Credits to achieve NCEA Level Three requirements.<sup>32</sup> A report by Universities New Zealand–Te Pūkai Tara and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (published July 2022) found that 27.5 percent of Pacific students entered university with modified UE, compared to 16.9 percent of the general population. This indicates that Pacific students benefitted more from the modified UE. In fact, 37 percent of Pacific students with modified UE showed improvement when comparing their NCEA grades to their first-year university grade point average (GPA), compared to 25 percent of those with unmodified UE. This suggests that the modification allowed more Pacific students to access university, where they were able to receive the support needed to improve their academic performance—an opportunity they might not have received if they hadn't met the unmodified UE criteria. Additionally, modified UE was not a significant predictor of first-year GPA for Pacific students. Factors that decreased GPA included attending low-decile public schools, while studying away from home improved GPA.

Figure 13: Achieving University Entrance by decile for Pacific and non-Pacific students—2012–2022<sup>13</sup>

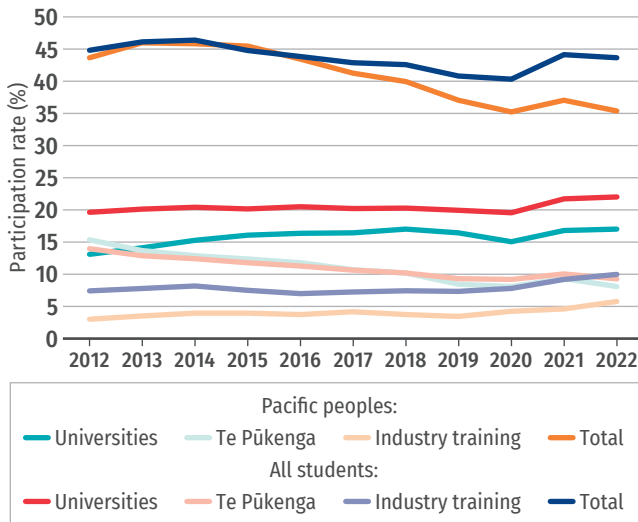


### TERTIARY PARTICIPATION RATES

As shown in Figure 14, about 40 percent of 18- to 19-year-olds who leave high school continue their education and training in tertiary institutions. These institutions provide qualifications and skills that help young people upskill and access better job opportunities. Pacific university participation rose from 2012 to 2018, fell in 2020 and then recovered to 17 percent, while the general population reached its highest rate in the past decade at 22 percent. Participation in Te Pūkenga dropped significantly for all. This decline is not necessarily a reflection on the students but highlights significant ongoing issues within vocational training in New Zealand. Meanwhile, industry training participation increased for both Pacific peoples and the general population as more sought practical skills and direct employment opportunities. Over the past decade, participation in tertiary education and training has generally declined for both Pacific students and the overall population. Even with the introduction of the Fees-Free first-year policy in 2018, there were no significant changes in participation levels. Pacific participation in tertiary education matched the general population until 2017–2018. After that, Pacific participation rates began to decline, which may be linked to decreasing enrolment in polytechnics.



**Figure 14: Tertiary participation by sector for 18- to 19-year-olds—2012–2022<sup>33</sup>**

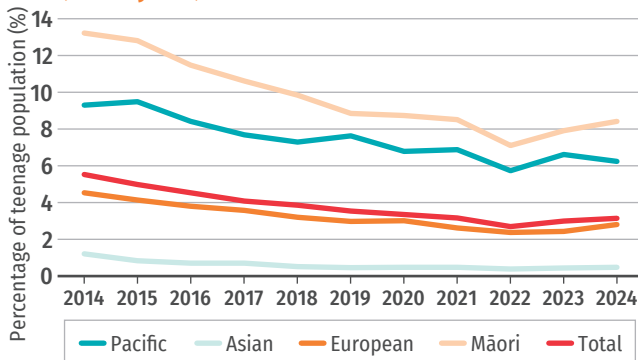


## Young people’s health indicators

### TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Figure 15 displays teenage pregnancy rates (aged under 20 years old) over the past decade, by ethnicity. While New Zealand previously had one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates among OECD countries, there has been a gradual decline over time. Māori consistently report the highest rates of teenage pregnancy, followed by Pacific peoples. Over the past decade, teenage pregnancy rates among Pacific peoples have decreased by 3.1 percent. According to Youth19, inconsistent use of contraception is high among Pacific students (69.7%) compared to Pākehā students (38.4%); this might be a contributing factor to the disparity seen. However, young people are delaying the initiation of sexual activity, reflecting a shift in young people’s behaviours, with the proportion of Pacific students who have engaged in sexual activity decreasing from 36 percent in 2001 to 25.2 percent in 2019.<sup>34</sup>

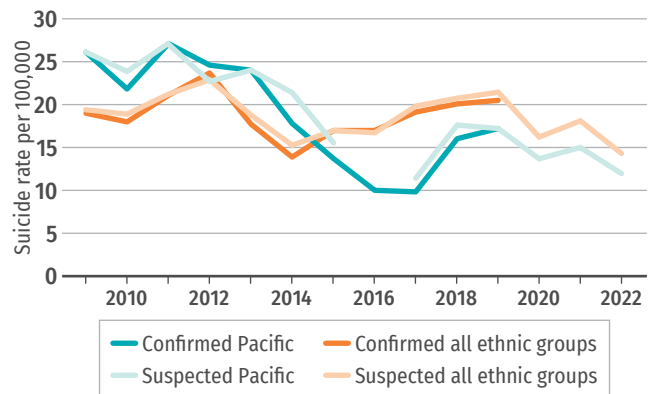
**Figure 15: Teenage pregnancies, under 20 years old—2014–2024 (March years)<sup>7</sup>**



### YOUTH SUICIDES

Suicides among those under 25 declined for both Pacific peoples and the general population. Figure 16 shows confirmed and suspected suicides among those aged 15 to 24, by Pacific peoples and all ethnicities. Confirmed suicides are determined by the coroner, while suspected suicides are not yet confirmed. In 2013, suicide rates among Pacific youth notably decreased, then gradually rose in 2017. This 2013 decline, which brought Pacific youth suicide rates below the general population, was influenced by various factors including Le Va’s FLO: Pasifika for Life programme, providing culturally tailored support introduced that year.<sup>35</sup> Youth19 highlighted a rise in serious thoughts of suicide among Pacific students from 18.8 percent in 2007 to 26.4 percent in 2019, indicating a mental health crisis that may explain the increases seen from 2017 to 2019.<sup>34</sup> While today’s mental health support is better than in 2007, more resources and tailored approaches like FLO by Le Va are still needed to continue making a positive impact.

**Figure 16: Youth (ages 15–24) suicide rates—2009–2022<sup>36</sup>**



# WORK AND INCOME

Employment		Unemployment		Welfare	
↑ 88% (10 years)	182,400 people employed (2023)	↓ 8.4% (10 years)	6% unemployment rate (2023)	↑ 81% (10 years)	43,000 people on main benefits (2024)
Jobseeker		Superannuation		NEET rates	
↑ 143% (10 years)	22,873 on Jobseeker Support (2024)	↑ 84% (10 years)	3% on superannuation (2024)	↓ 2% (10 years)	13,500 (16.8%) young people categorised as NEET (2024)
Income		Employment sectors		Food security	
↑ 54% (10 years)	\$64,899 mean annual earning (2023)	↑ 3% (10 years)	14% employed in manufacturing (2023)	↓ 10% (10 years)	40% food runs out—often or sometimes (2023)

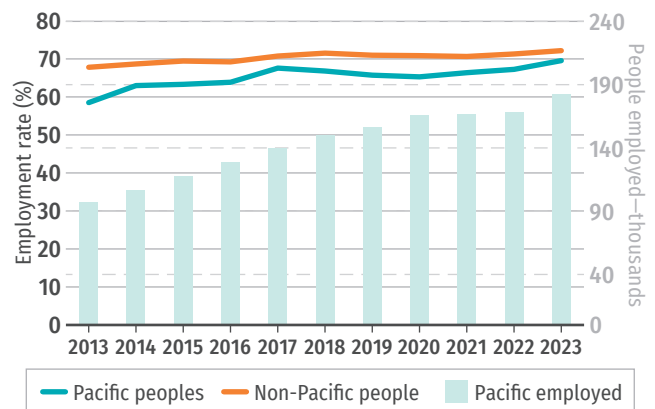
## Employment

### LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES

Examining employment levels among Pacific peoples is important because they serve as a key indicator of financial and individual wellbeing, reflecting the availability of job opportunities and the capacity of Pacific communities to support themselves, their families and contribute to society.

Figure 17 shows the number of people employed and the employment rate from 2013 to 2023. Over the past 10 years, the employment of Pacific peoples in New Zealand has shown a significant upward trend, with the number of people employed almost doubling from 96,600 to 182,400, and their employment rate increasing from 58 percent to 70 percent. Over this same period, the working-age population increased by 20 percent. The non-Pacific employment rate also rose steadily from 68 percent to 72 percent. Despite these improvements, the Pacific population’s employment rate remains lower than that of the non-Pacific population, indicating an ongoing disparity. However, the Pacific employment rate has risen faster and the gap in employment levels is closing.

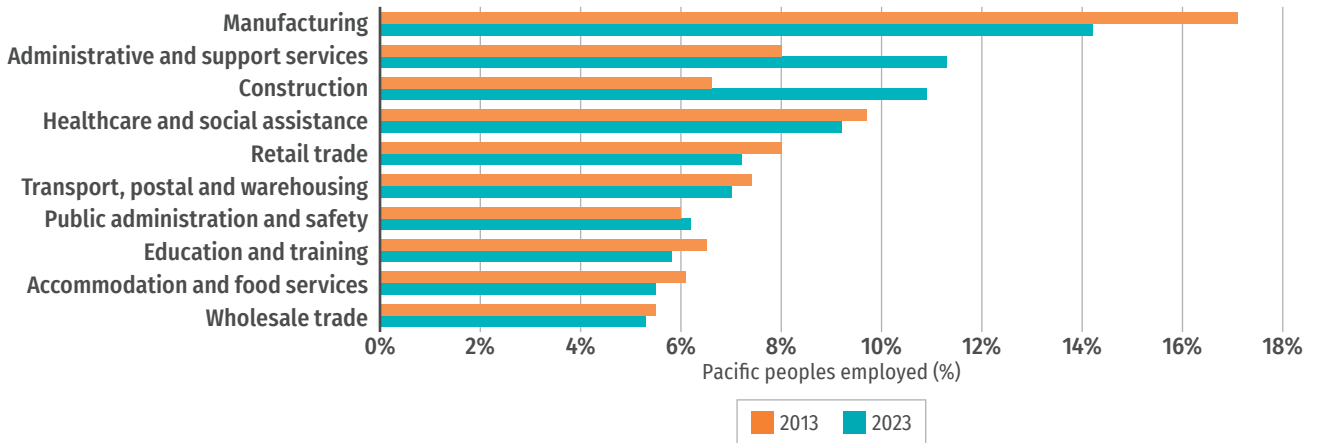
Figure 17: Pacific peoples employed in labour force—2013–2023 (March years)<sup>37</sup>



### DOMINANT INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS

The majority of Pacific peoples are employed in the manufacturing industry, as shown in Figure 18, which highlights the top ten industries where Pacific peoples work. Employment trends from 2013 to 2023 reveal significant shifts. Administrative and support services have increased from 8 percent to 11 percent and construction has risen from 7 percent to 11 percent. Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector has declined from 17 percent to 14 percent, likely due to automation, globalisation and a shift towards service-oriented industries. The shift to administrative roles may be due to education and training, enabling Pacific peoples to qualify for a broader range of occupations. Additionally, the

Figure 18: Industries employing Pacific peoples—2013 and 2023<sup>38</sup>



growth of the construction sector in New Zealand has created more job opportunities. These sectors potentially offer more attractive and stable employment compared to manufacturing, which is often physically demanding. Most other sectors have seen growth, suggesting a diversification of employment opportunities for Pacific peoples, moving away from traditional sectors.

From 2013 to 2023, Pacific peoples saw shifts in occupation levels, as shown in Figure 19. Sales workers increased from 8.5 percent to 9.9 percent, while managerial roles grew slightly from 9.7 percent to 10.1 percent. Occupation trends reiterate the shift towards more stable and skilled occupations, reflecting diversification, upward mobility and improved educational attainment; this has broadened employment opportunities for Pacific peoples.

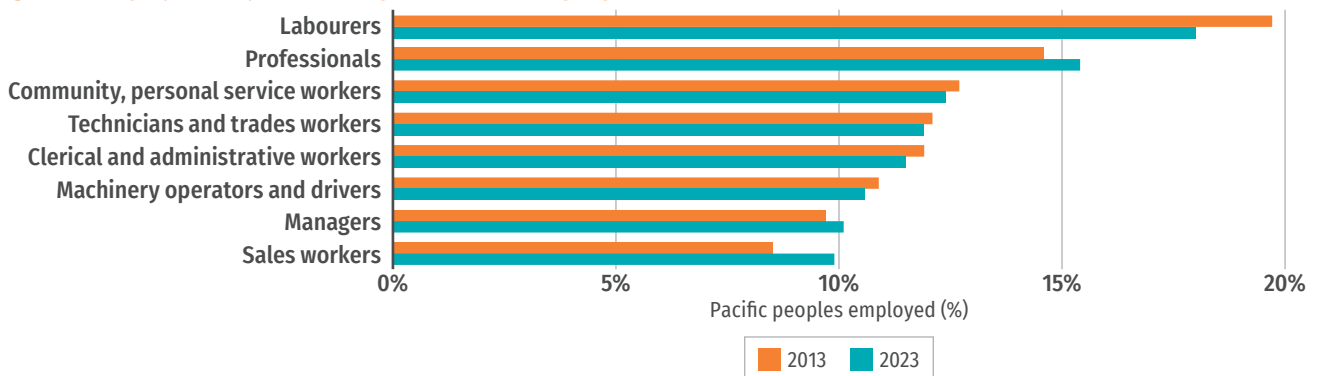
Building on this progress, moving more Pacific peoples into leadership and management positions could be a key focus to further address income

disparities and enhance their representation and influence within industries. Initiatives like TupuToa<sup>39</sup> and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples’ programmes, such as Tupu Aotearoa,<sup>40</sup> are doing important work by supporting Pacific peoples into employment through training, internships and mentoring. These programmes are a good start, but there is a need for more initiatives that focus on long-term career development, specifically aimed at progressing Pacific peoples into managerial and leadership roles. Partnering with tertiary education providers, public and private sectors and Pacific organisations to build pathways into high-growth sectors such as Kia Tupu Kia Toa<sup>39</sup> could be highly effective.

**SKILLS**

Different occupations can be broken down into skill categories, as shown in Figure 20 for Pacific peoples from 2013–2023. Over the past decade, there has been significant growth in the number of Pacific peoples in highly skilled and skilled occupations, increasing by 96 percent. Highly skilled

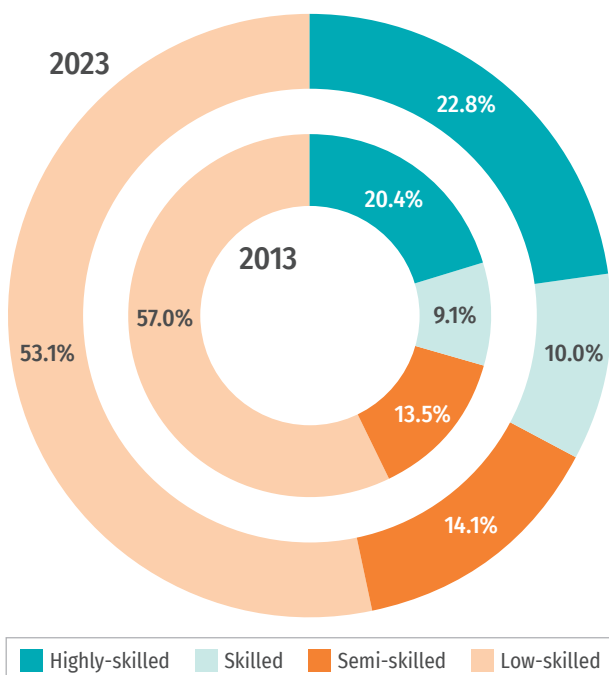
Figure 19: Employment by broad occupation for Pacific peoples—2013 and 2023<sup>41</sup>



jobs (which typically require a bachelor’s degree or higher) include roles such as accountants, teachers, engineers and managers. Skilled occupations, like retail managers, ICT support technicians and dental hygienists (which often require a diploma or higher) have risen by 93 percent. This shift in skills suggests that Pacific peoples have better access and participation in higher education and training, leading to more technical skills and qualifications.

Despite these positive trends, more than half (53%) of Pacific peoples remain in low-skilled occupations compared to 57 percent in 2013. These jobs, which include roles such as general clerks, caregivers, sales assistants, cleaners and labourers, are still prevalent in Pacific communities. Several factors contribute to this, including educational barriers, financial hardship that pushes individuals into readily available low-skilled jobs, and a lack of opportunities. Additionally, cultural factors might also influence employment choices, as Pacific peoples often prioritise jobs that align with their communal values and allow them to support their communities—even if these roles are lower-paid or less skilled. This means they may choose community-focused jobs, which may not offer high salaries but are valued for their contribution to the wellbeing and cohesion of their communities. Therefore, in some cases occupation doesn’t necessarily reflect their skills or qualifications.

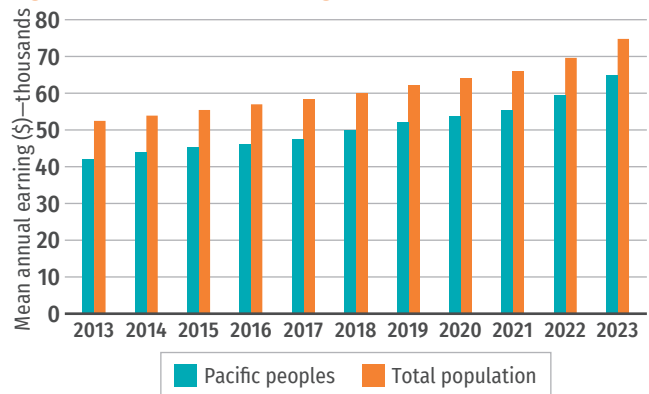
**Figure 20: Broad skill level for Pacific peoples in employment—2013 and 2023<sup>42</sup>**



**EARNINGS**

Higher skilled jobs often reflect higher earning potential and a higher standard of living. **Figure 21** looks at the mean individual annual earnings for Pacific peoples compared to the New Zealand population. Pacific peoples consistently earn less than the general New Zealand population. In 2023, Pacific peoples earned mean annual earnings of \$64,899 and the general population’s annual earning was almost \$10,000 more at \$74,754.

**Figure 21: Mean annual earning—2013–2023<sup>43</sup>**



The lower earning capacity of Pacific peoples is clear when looking at household equivalised disposable income, which adjusts a household’s total income (based on its size and composition) to compare living standards fairly. **Figure 22** shows the 2023 household equivalised disposable income quintiles for Pacific and non-Pacific households. There are notable disparities: 29 percent of Pacific households fall into the \$28,900 to \$41,299 disposable income band, compared to just 19 percent of non-Pacific households, meaning Pacific households generally have less money to spend on daily living expenses. Additionally, 21 percent of non-Pacific households have disposable incomes over \$72,900, while only 9 percent of Pacific households reach this level, highlighting the under-representation of Pacific households in higher-income brackets. This gap is likely due to factors seen prior, where Pacific peoples are concentrated in lower-paying, lower-skilled jobs and have lower participation in higher education. Additionally, cultural factors play a role, as many Pacific peoples value humility, respect for authority and community over individual advancement, making them less likely to negotiate for higher wages or seek promotions.

**Figure 22: Household equivalised disposable income quintiles for Pacific and non-Pacific—2023 (June year)<sup>44</sup>**

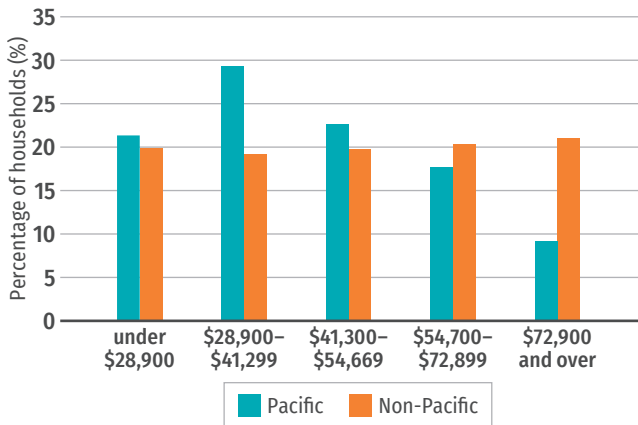
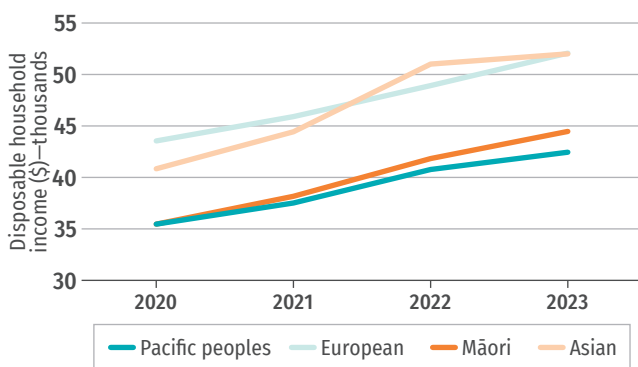


Figure 23 shows median household equivalised disposable income by ethnicity from 2020 to 2023. Asian households experienced the largest growth with an increase of \$11,165, and European households saw an increase of \$8531. Māori households saw an increase of \$9013, while Pacific households grew by \$6983 over the same period. Despite these increases, significant disparities persist, with Māori and Pacific households still earning less than their European and Asian counterparts. Pacific households continue to have the lowest median disposable income, reflecting ongoing financial challenges. These trends indicate that while household disposable incomes are rising, the gains are not evenly distributed, highlighting the need for policies to address factors like education and employment.

**Figure 23: Median household equivalised disposable income by ethnicity—2020–2023 (June years)<sup>44</sup>**



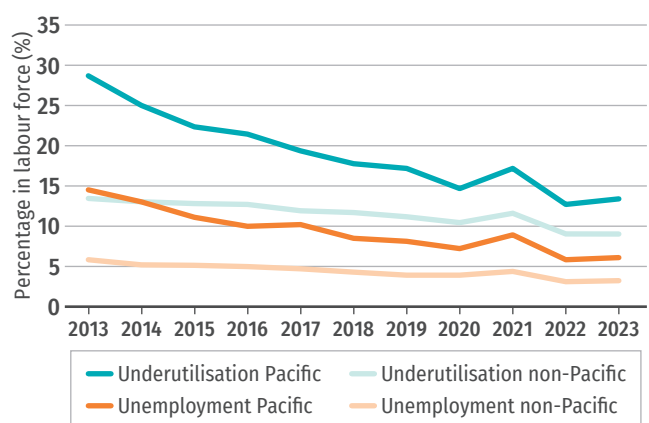
## Unemployment

### UNDERUTILISATION

Figure 24 shows the trends of underutilisation and unemployment rates for Pacific and non-Pacific populations from 2013 to 2023. Underutilisation refers to the broader measure of labour market slack, which includes not only the unemployed but also those who are underemployed (working fewer hours than they would like) and those who are available to work but not actively seeking employment.

Figure 24 also shows that while underutilisation and unemployment rates for Pacific peoples have improved from 2013 to 2023, in closing the gap with non-Pacific populations disparities still exist. Underutilisation for Pacific peoples decreased from 29 percent to 13 percent and unemployment dropped from 15 percent to 6 percent. However, these rates remain higher than those of non-Pacific peoples, who saw more stable and lower rates over the same period. The impact of Covid-19 is evident in 2021, where both underutilisation and unemployment rates for Pacific peoples increased at twice the rate seen in non-Pacific people, reflecting the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Pacific peoples. Overall, these rates suggest that while more Pacific peoples are entering the workforce, they are still more likely to be in part-time, casual or unstable jobs. Addressing these disparities requires focusing not only on reducing unemployment but also on improving job quality and ensuring Pacific peoples have access to full-time, stable employment opportunities.

**Figure 24: Pacific peoples unemployment and underutilisation—2013–2023 (June years)<sup>37</sup>**

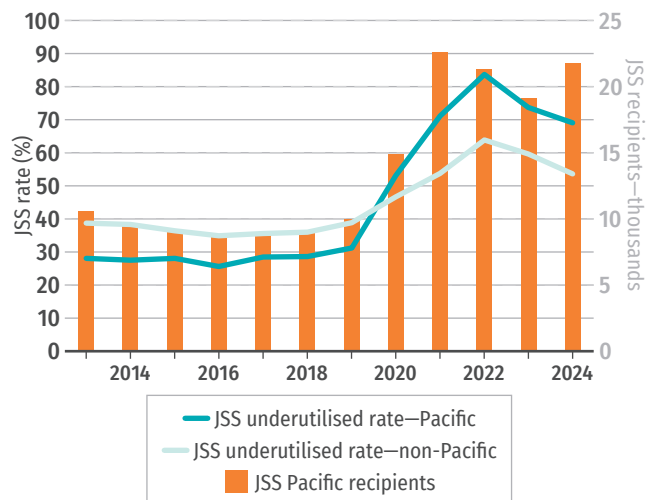


**JOBSEEKER**

Jobseeker Support (JSS) is a benefit to assist people who are actively looking for work but are currently unemployed or working fewer hours than they would like. It provides financial assistance to help cover living costs while individuals search for employment or increase their work hours. **Figure 25** shows trends in the rate of JSS recipients that is part of the underutilised labour force for Pacific and non-Pacific peoples and JSS Pacific recipients. Over the past decade, the underutilised Pacific workforce on JSS has seen a significant increase. Initially, the JSS rate for Pacific peoples was lower than that for non-Pacific. However, the Covid-19 pandemic significantly altered this dynamic, with the Pacific JSS rate surging past the non-Pacific rate, peaking at 84 percent in 2022. Meanwhile, the non-Pacific rate increased more modestly, peaking at 64 percent in 2022. The number of Pacific recipients on JSS also more than doubled from 9551 in 2014 to 21,757 in 2024, with a significant increase happening in 2020 and 2021, highlighting the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Pacific communities.

The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated existing vulnerabilities among Pacific peoples. Despite some recovery, the Pacific JSS rate has not returned to pre-Covid-19 levels, indicating ongoing financial challenges. This prolonged disparity suggests that Pacific communities face more barriers to recovery, including difficulties in securing stable employment. The slower recovery may lead to prolonged financial hardship, impacting not only individuals but also their broader communities and future opportunities. Addressing these disparities is crucial for ensuring that Pacific peoples are not left behind.

**Figure 25: Jobseeker Support rates and recipients among Pacific and non-Pacific –2013–2023<sup>45</sup>**



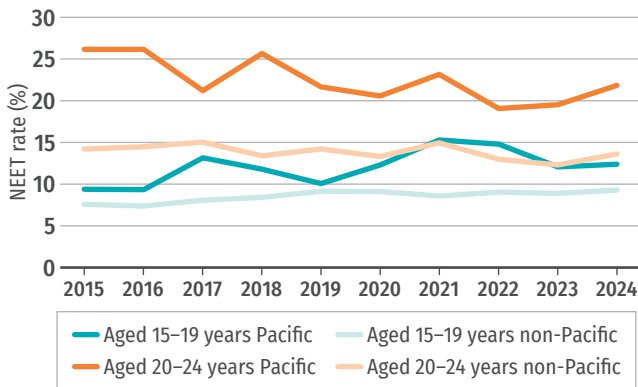
**NEET RATES**

**Figure 26** shows NEET (not in employment, education or training) rates for Pacific and non-Pacific for the past decade. Among Pacific youth aged 15–19, NEET rates have fluctuated, peaking at 15.3 percent in 2021, before gradually declining to 12.4 percent by 2024, marking a 32 percent overall increase over the past 10 years. However, the disparity between Pacific and non-Pacific youth is smaller in this age group compared to the 20–24 age group, where the gap is more pronounced. NEET rates for non-Pacific youth in the 15–19 age group remain relatively stable, whereas in the 20–24 age group, Pacific youth consistently experience higher NEET rates, fluctuating between 19.1 percent and 26.2 percent. NEET rates for non-Pacific youth have gradually declined, reaching a low of 12.3 percent in 2023 before slightly increasing to 13.6 percent in 2024.

The sharp increase in NEET rates for Pacific youth in 2021 coincides with the Covid-19 lockdowns, which likely exacerbated the challenges they faced in securing employment or continuing education. This increase was less pronounced among non-Pacific youth. Industries such as hospitality and retail, which employ a significant number of Pacific peoples, were among the hardest hit by the pandemic, reducing job opportunities for young Pacific peoples. Additionally, the Auckland region, home to a large Pacific population, experienced extended and stricter lockdowns in 2021. This, combined with added stress and health concerns

within families (as Pacific peoples often live in multi-generational homes), may have led to disengagement from education and training among Pacific peoples, as highlighted in the Children and Youth section.

**Figure 26: NEET rate by age group for Pacific and non-Pacific youth (15–24 years)—2015–2024 (March years)<sup>46</sup>**

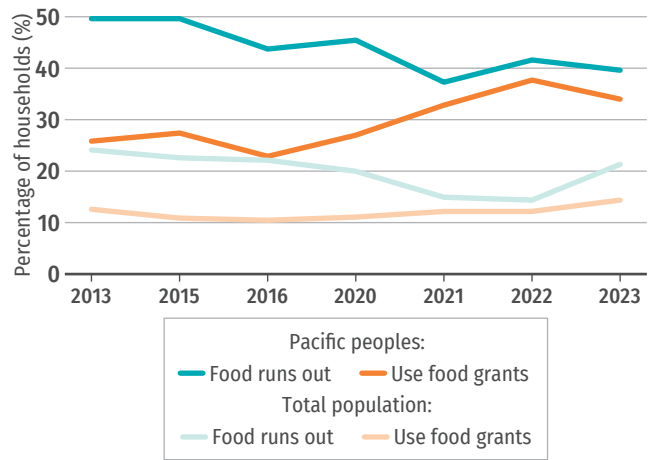


### Hardship and food security

Financial hardship often shows up in a family’s struggle to cover basic needs like paying bills, buying school supplies and putting healthy food on the table. Food security, or having enough nutritious food, is a key sign of these financial struggles.

Figure 27 shows the percentage of households experiencing food insecurity, particularly where food runs out or they use food grants sometimes or often, from 2013 to 2023. It highlights persistent food insecurity among Pacific peoples, with nearly 40 percent of households regularly running out of food and 34 percent relying on food grants to get by in 2023, compared to about half those rates for the general population. While there have been improvements since 2013 (with a 20-percentage point decrease in food running out for Pacific households compared to a 12-percentage point decrease for the general population), this has coincided with a significant increase in the use of food grants—32-percentage points for Pacific peoples versus a 14-percentage point increase for the total population. These trends suggest that food insecurity is more pronounced among Pacific communities, indicating a continued strain on household budgets. This underscores the need for sustained and targeted support to address the underlying causes such as income and housing.

**Figure 27: Trends in food insecurity: Pacific peoples and total population—2013–2023<sup>47</sup>**



### THE SALVATION ARMY AND FOOD INSECURITY AMONGST PACIFIC PEOPLES

The Salvation Army’s network of 70 Community Ministries and centres across the country distributed over 9000 food parcels to more than 4000 Pacific individuals and families in the year ending June 2024, as shown in Figure 28. Over the past 10 years, the number of Pacific peoples accessing our support for food has increased by 32 percent and the number of food parcels distributed to Pacific families has risen by nearly 50 percent. There was a significant jump in food parcels given out in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with a 60 percent increase in food parcels from 2019 to 2020; nearly twice as many Pacific peoples were helped during that time. Although the demand for food declined slightly in 2021, it remained much higher than pre-Covid-19 levels and continued to grow through 2024. This indicates that Pacific peoples are still recovering from the economic challenges brought on by the pandemic. Additionally, the situation has been further compounded by rising housing and living costs, which have made recovery even more difficult.

**Figure 28: Number of food parcels provided and Pacific peoples served by The Salvation Army—2015–2024 (June years)<sup>4</sup>**



When people seek food support, our services identify this as a presenting issue, but there are often underlying causes contributing to the food insecurity of the individuals and families we support. **Table 6** shows some key themes we observe among Pacific peoples accessing our services for food, highlighting the root causes of their struggle to obtain enough food.

**Table 6: Key themes of Pacific peoples requesting food at The Salvation Army foodbanks<sup>4</sup>**

**1. Financial hardship**

**Insufficient income:** Many individuals and families struggle with low or inconsistent income, often relying on inadequate benefits. Single parents, part-time and seasonal workers and those in temporary housing frequently find their income doesn't stretch to cover basic needs.

**Unexpected expenses:** Sudden costs like car repairs, power bills, funerals or emergency travel can quickly deplete limited finances, leaving little for groceries.

'Malia's partner's income only lasts a week and there are days when they don't have enough money for food.'

'James gets paid fortnightly but has just returned from a funeral and was short on funds to manage food expenses.'

'Emily had to pay a large lump sum for their power bill to avoid disconnection, leaving her short on food money.'

'Tavita is working as a casual employee and recently experienced the loss of a family member. They have been struggling financially, having used their last bit of money to give for the funeral. After seeking help from Work and Income, they were informed that no further entitlements were available. Tavita supports a large family.'

**2. Lack of access to support**

**Challenges with welfare systems:** Many people experience difficulties accessing government support, such as food grants, due to declines, long wait times or confusion about their entitlements.

**Limited or no benefit:** Some individuals are not receiving any form of benefit or are ineligible due to age, employment or other factors. This leaves them with little or no income, making it difficult to afford food.

'Loto mentioned that they were unable to get any response regarding their food grant application, despite repeated attempts and complaints.'

'Alofa gets paid on Wednesday, but her part-time work and past advances with WINZ have left her ineligible for further help. She's struggling with bills and has no money left for food.'

'Olivia is not eligible for any benefit or student allowance, relying only on a small allowance from a parent because she is too young.'

'Jake is working full time, but his income is not sufficient to cover his high rent, car payments and food expenses. Despite his financial struggles, he is not entitled to any form of welfare support due to his employment.'



### 3. Housing instability

**Temporary and inadequate housing:** A few people are living in temporary or emergency housing, such as motels, where cooking facilities are minimal or non-existent.

**High housing costs:** High rent and utility costs leave little for food, especially for those also supporting extended family members.

‘Malo is distressed about living in a motel and having to rely on food assistance from others just to get by.’

‘Hana recently moved into a new private rental. After paying rent and covering additional expenses for a family funeral, she and her husband were left without enough money for food. Their financial situation is further strained as her husband only gets paid fortnightly and this week is an “off week”.’

‘Sophia used her entire benefit payment for rent and an unexpectedly high power bill, leaving nothing for groceries.’

### 4. Health and wellbeing issues

**Mental health and physical illness:** Mental health challenges and chronic illnesses can complicate financial management and access to support, contributing to food insecurity.

**Caring responsibilities:** Caring for children, elderly relatives or others with special needs adds to financial and emotional stress, often leaving little for food.

‘Manu, who has significant mental health challenges, requires constant support but still struggles to make ends meet.’

‘Lina, who is very sick and caring for a young child, talked about the difficulties of getting out due to poor health and a lack of transportation options.’

‘James recently gained custody of his younger cousin and shared the strain of buying essential items like Chromebooks for school, leaving him without enough money for food.’

‘Talia and her partner, new parents with a baby, have very low income and are living in temporary housing while they await their benefit.’

### 5. Community and social support

**Reliance on extended family:** Supporting extended family can strain finances, especially when family members do not or cannot contribute.

**Social isolation:** A lack of community or social support drives some individuals to seek food assistance as a last resort.

‘Sione ended up supporting some family members financially, after a family conflict which left him struggling to afford food.’

‘Emily, whose partner is out of work, has had a family member move in with them but is not receiving support from them, which has added to their financial difficulties.’

‘Leilani, who recently arrived from the islands, mentioned that she is in limbo, waiting for her family to come from the islands and has no other support.’

When families can’t consistently afford enough healthy food, it highlights bigger issues with financial stability and access to essential resources. Ensuring food security is important, not just for keeping people healthy, but also for addressing the financial problems that lead to that food insecurity in the first place.

#### THE SALVATION ARMY AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Financial hardship is a common challenge for many Pacific families we support. While there is no broad data to capture this fully, our work in financial mentoring gives us a clear view of the financial struggles these families face. It is important to clarify that this doesn’t represent all Pacific peoples, but rather the families we work with.

Many of these families rely heavily on welfare support or earn low wages from part-time or casual

jobs, leading to financial instability. This often forces them to take on debt to meet daily expenses and handle emergencies. Common types of debt include loans from finance companies, car loans, high-interest payday loans and overdue bills for essential services like electricity.

Key lenders that Pacific families owe money to include companies like Instant Finance, Cash Converters and Baycorp, as well as utility providers. The high interest rates on these debts add further strain to already tight budgets, making it difficult for families to save or cover unexpected costs. Addressing these financial challenges is crucial to helping Pacific families overcome broader social and economic difficulties. [Table 7](#) shows some of the key debt trends we see among the families we support.

Table 7: Key themes for Pacific peoples accessing financial mentoring<sup>4</sup>

Key themes	Cases
<p><b>Struggling to meet basic living costs</b></p> <p>Even with income from welfare or employment, many Pacific families struggle to cover basic living expenses such as rent, food and utilities. This struggle is exacerbated by large debt payments, leaving families with little to no disposable income for emergencies or savings.</p>	<p>‘Ana expressed that she and her family barely manage to survive on their combined income. They have almost \$40,000 in debt that keeps piling up.’</p>
<p><b>Use of high-interest loans and car finance</b></p> <p>Many Pacific families resort to high-interest loans and car finance deals, often due to immediate needs like transportation. These financial products can offer quick access to money or a vehicle but come with steep interest rates and challenging repayment terms, trapping families in long-term debt.</p>	<p>‘Talia noted that she didn’t check the oil and when the motor blew up, she was left with a \$5000 repair bill that she couldn’t afford.’</p>
<p><b>Accumulating arrears on essential services</b></p> <p>As debts grow, families may begin to fall behind on essential bills like power, water and rent. This can lead to service disconnections or housing insecurity, adding to the financial stress and creating a cycle of debt and arrears.</p>	<p>‘Fetu is concerned about his power bill which has exceeded \$1000. He is struggling to pay it off and is worried about a potential disconnection.’</p>
<p><b>Impact of informal debts and family obligations</b></p> <p>Beyond formal loans, Pacific families often face additional financial pressure from informal debts owed to family members or obligations to send money back to relatives in their home countries. This practice, deeply rooted in cultural expectations, can further strain their financial resources.</p>	<p>‘Sila discussed how they had to take out loans to send money back to family in Samoa, but now they are struggling to keep up with their payments in New Zealand.’</p>
<p><b>Limited financial literacy and poor financial decisions</b></p> <p>Financial literacy issues contribute to poor financial decisions, such as the overuse of Afterpay or signing up for high-interest loans. This lack of understanding can lead to increased debt and difficulty in managing finances effectively.</p>	<p>‘Leilani struggled to understand the terms of her car loan and ended up with unexpectedly high-interest rates, realising too late how much extra she was paying each week as the statements piled up.’</p>
<p><b>High debt levels across multiple lenders</b></p> <p>Pacific families are often burdened with high levels of debt spread across multiple lenders. This includes loans from traditional banks, payday lenders, finance companies and even family members. The debts are often substantial, with some individuals owing tens of thousands of dollars.</p>	<p>‘Losa had accumulated over \$20,000 in debt across various lenders, including Instant Finance and Work and Income. She struggled to manage these payments on top of her regular living expenses.’</p>
<p><b>Low income and dependency on welfare benefits</b></p> <p>Many Pacific families are dependent on welfare benefits as their primary source of income. This dependency makes it difficult to manage debts and meet basic needs, leading to a cycle of financial hardship. Even those who are employed often have low incomes that do not suffice to cover their expenses, leading to further borrowing.</p>	<p>‘Jane was living on a sole parent benefit and struggled to make ends meet. With over \$9000 in debt, she had to rely on food parcels from community organisations to feed her children.’</p>
<p><b>Use of Afterpay and other buy-now-pay-later services</b></p> <p>There is a growing trend of using Afterpay and other buy-now-pay-later services among Pacific families. While these services provide short-term relief, they often lead to increased financial pressure when repayments accumulate, especially when multiple transactions are made in a short period.</p>	<p>‘Malia frequently used Afterpay to manage her household expenses but soon found herself overwhelmed by the accumulated payments, adding to her existing debt load.’</p>
<p><b>Frequent refinancing and debt consolidation attempts</b></p> <p>There is a pattern of attempting to consolidate debt or refinance loans to manage repayments better. However, these attempts often do not lead to long-term relief and sometimes result in even more debt.</p>	<p>‘Sela considered refinancing her car loan to ease the financial burden, but after looking into it, she realised that the new loan terms would only extend the debt further, making it harder to pay off.’</p>
<p><b>Withdrawal from KiwiSaver to manage debt</b></p> <p>Some Pacific individuals are forced to withdraw from their KiwiSaver accounts to pay off urgent debts. This trend is concerning as it provides short-term relief but jeopardises their long-term financial security, leaving them worse off in the future.</p>	<p>‘Sione withdrew \$47,000 from his KiwiSaver to pay off debts to ASB, Cash Converters and Go Car Finance, but now worries about his financial security in retirement.’</p>

## FINANCIAL HOPE

Although much of this section highlights trends of why families struggle with financial debt, we also see many families we work alongside being freed from significant levels of debt. Financial literacy programmes are essential, helping families work through budgets and supporting them with food if needed as they regain control. Many Pacific families face significant challenges with financial debt, often due to high-cost loans that were granted without proper affordability checks. However, there are numerous programmes and organisations that provide essential support, advocacy to lenders and assistance with budgeting.

Organisations like Christians Against Poverty, Māngere Budgeting Services, Vaka Tautua, Ngā Tāngata Microfinance and The Fono offer tailored support to Pacific families. Additionally, Good Shepherd provides low- or no-interest loans, helping families consolidate debt or make necessary purchases. These services are crucial in helping families regain control of their finances, advocating for fairer lending practices and preventing future financial distress. Continued support for financial literacy and stronger regulations are key to safeguarding Pacific families from falling into debt.

**Case Study:** The Tuitama family was overwhelmed by high-interest loans and mounting debt, making it difficult for them to meet their financial obligations. They didn't know that negotiating with lenders to create a new payment schedule or applying for hardship assistance were even options available to them. With the help of a financial mentor, they created a realistic budget, received financial literacy support and were guided through the process of negotiating with lenders to lower interest rates and extend repayment terms. A key part of their support was consolidating some of their debt through a low-interest loan from Good Shepherd, which made their payments more manageable. Over time, the Tuitamas successfully paid off their debt, built up savings and are now in a much better place financially.

## PACIFIC PEOPLES' FINANCIAL WELLBEING CONFLICTING WITH SOCIAL AND CULTURAL OBLIGATIONS

In previous sections, trends have highlighted how the cultural and family obligations of Pacific peoples often come at the expense of their financial wellbeing. This section briefly highlights the tension to provide an insight between cultural obligations and financial wellbeing, drawing from a study by Victoria Ongolea and Carla Houkamau, *Balancing anga faka-Tonga (the Tongan way of life) with financial wellbeing*.<sup>48</sup> While the study focuses on Tongans, the themes discussed resonate across other Pacific nations as well.

Traditional Tongan values, encapsulated in anga faka-Tonga, tend to prioritise obligations to family, church and community over personal financial wellbeing. The study highlights how cultural beliefs strongly influence financial decisions, leading many Tongans to prioritise social reciprocity and obligations even at the cost of financial hardship. Historically in Tonga, these obligations involved the exchange of valuable items like fine mats (koloa faka-Tonga)—gifts given out of their own means and resources, rather than financial contributions. The shift from material goods to financial contributions reflects broader changes in how cultural practices are sustained within Pacific communities in Aotearoa.

While these practices promote and sustain social cohesion, they can also lead to financial strain and indebtedness as families strive to meet expectations of gifting, remittances and church contributions. However, this same social reciprocity ensures that when significant life events occur, Pacific individuals and families are often supported by their wider community. This evolution shows that while the mode of giving has shifted towards financial contributions in Aotearoa, the values underpinning social reciprocity remain strong in Pacific communities. The older generation often values maintaining these cultural practices over financial wellbeing, whereas the younger generation raised in New Zealand shows a notable shift—still striving to uphold cultural obligations but not at the cost of financial hardship to themselves or their families. The ongoing challenge is finding a balance that honours cultural and family responsibilities while ensuring financial wellbeing and security.

# HOUSING

Homeownership		Rental		Social housing	
↑ 4% (10 years)	35% homeowners (2023)	↑ 2% (10 years)	65% live in rental property (2023)	↑ 6.6% (7 years)	26% are Kainga Ora tenants (2024)
Social Housing Register		Homelessness		Housing affordability	
↑ 612% (10 years)	3888 on the Housing Register (2024)	↓ 2% (3 years)	312 in emergency housing (2024)	↑ 31% (4 years)	55% in unaffordable housing (2021)

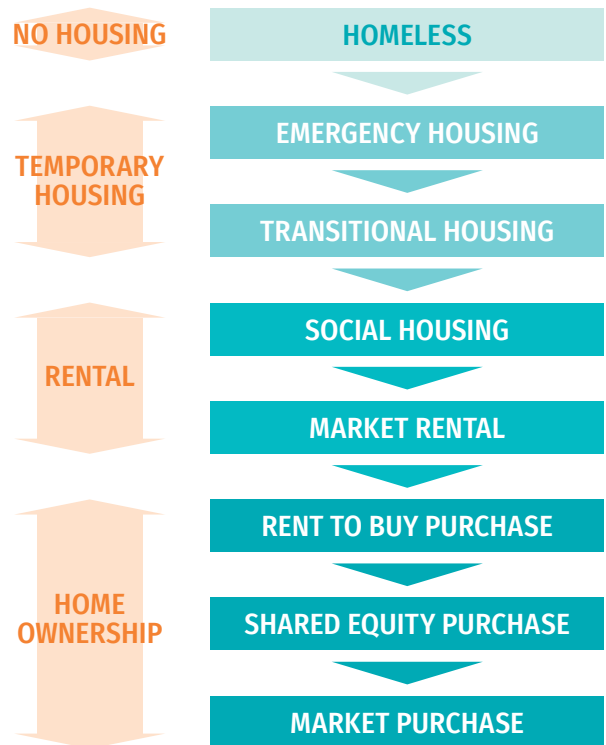
## Housing in New Zealand

Housing in New Zealand has become a critical issue, with a significant shortage of affordable homes and soaring property prices making it difficult for many to secure stable housing. Over the past decade, house prices have nearly doubled in some areas, driven by a combination of high demand, limited supply and immigration. Efforts by the government to cool the market, such as stricter lending criteria and increasing the supply of new homes, have not fully alleviated the challenges. Renters are significantly affected, as rents have risen faster than incomes, leading to increased housing stress, overcrowding and homelessness.

The housing crisis has deepened inequality, particularly affecting vulnerable populations like Pacific communities, who face greater challenges in accessing affordable, quality housing. These communities often experience overcrowding and lower income levels, making stable housing even more difficult to attain. **Figure 29** presents a simplified version of the housing spectrum, illustrating how different factors influence various parts of the spectrum. Changes in one area can directly or indirectly affect others, underscoring the complexity and interconnectedness of the housing situation. While the ultimate goal is to help people move further along the spectrum toward homeownership, many are unlikely to reach that threshold in the current housing crisis and some are even slipping backwards into housing insecurity. The continuum suggests a linear progression, where advancement correlates with financial means. However, our experience supporting vulnerable

communities reveals that housing progression or regression is often circular and does not follow a straightforward, linear model.

**Figure 29: The Salvation Army version of the housing continuum in Aotearoa<sup>49</sup>**



## Historical homeownership policies and Pacific peoples in New Zealand

It is important to understand the historical context of New Zealand’s housing policies from the 1950s to the early 1990s, as they have significantly contributed to the disparities we see today in

homeownership rates. During this period, the government heavily promoted homeownership through government-backed mortgages, low-interest loans and initiatives like the Family Benefit capitalisation scheme, which allowed families to use their family benefit payments as a deposit on a home. The government also developed suburban areas with affordable housing options and encouraged the sale of state houses to tenants, further boosting homeownership rates. At the same time, New Zealand saw a significant influx of Pacific peoples, primarily recruited for low-wage jobs to address labour shortages. While these policies did provide some Pacific families with a pathway to homeownership, resulting in a 50.8 percent homeownership rate among Pacific peoples in 1986, this was still significantly lower than the 75.2 percent rate for the general population.

By the mid-1980s, New Zealand's housing policy began shifting towards a more market-driven approach, leading to a reduction in government involvement in the housing market, including the phasing out of supportive policies and selling off of state houses. In 1993, the introduction of market rents for state-owned properties further compounded the challenges for those reliant on state housing. At the same time, Pacific peoples transitioned from a predominantly migrant population to an established local community, with a majority being New Zealand-born by the early 1990s. However, they faced an increasingly challenging housing landscape due to these shifts in government policy. These changes disproportionately impacted Pacific communities, who were more likely to rely on state housing and subsequently faced significant financial burdens. The reduction in state housing stock and rising housing costs led to increased overcrowding and declining homeownership rates among Pacific peoples, which incrementally started dropping.

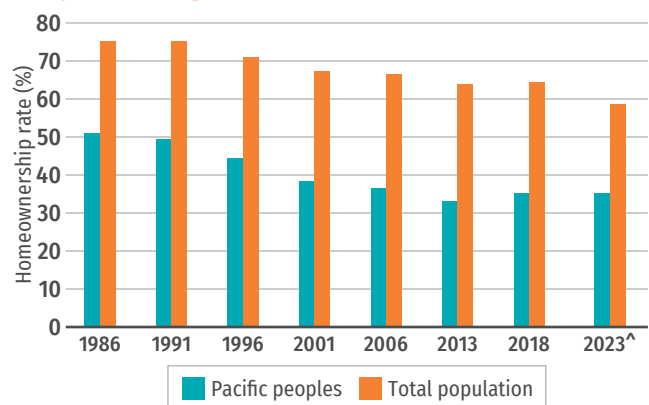
Those who were able to take advantage of the housing policies in the 1970s and 1980s gained a significant head start in building generational wealth, as homeownership not only provided immediate stability but also allowed for the accumulation of wealth that could be passed down

to future generations. In contrast, those who were unable to benefit from these policies are now playing catch-up, facing a housing market where costs have significantly increased across New Zealand, making it even more challenging to achieve homeownership and build intergenerational wealth.

## Homeownership today

From 1986 to 2023, the homeownership rate among Pacific peoples in New Zealand dropped significantly from 50.8 percent to 35 percent as shown in [Figure 30](#). During the same period, the overall population's homeownership rate also declined, from 75.2 percent to 58.7 percent. Several factors have contributed to this trend, including rising housing costs, land and building regulations, and an increase in property investment.

**Figure 30: Percentage of people who lived in an owner-occupied dwelling—1986–2023<sup>10,50</sup>**



<sup>^</sup> At the time this report was written, the 2023 Census data for housing has not yet been released, so the 2023 figure is sourced from the Deloitte report titled *Next Step Forward: Westpac NZ Shared Homeownership Report*. To account for the delay in the 2023 Census data, this report has used the homeownership rates calculated from our custom data request using the Household Economic Survey.

To understand the underlying factors contributing to the homeownership levels for Pacific peoples, [Table 8](#) highlights housing trends for a selection of areas with high Pacific populations (the full analysis, covering the 50 statistical areas with the highest Pacific populations, can be found in [Appendix I](#)). The levels of low homeownership are evident even when looking at smaller areas. In areas like Ōtara Central and Ōtara South, homeownership rates are as low as 13 percent and

17 percent, respectively. These figures highlight the significant barriers Pacific families face in securing long-term housing stability. A major challenge is the rapid increase in property prices, which is outpacing income growth. For example, Rongomai West has experienced a 79 percent increase in median sale prices over the past five years, making homeownership even more unattainable. Even in areas like Māngere West, where homeownership might seem more achievable due to higher incomes, a 57 percent increase in property prices continues to push this goal further out of reach.

The low rates of homeownership have broader implications for Pacific families. Homeownership is closely tied to financial security, wealth accumulation and the ability to pass on assets to future generations. Without the ability to buy homes, Pacific families miss out on critical opportunities for economic stability. Instead, many are left to rent, facing rising rents that consume a significant portion of their income, making it difficult to save for a deposit. In areas like Ōtara Central and Wiri East, it now takes 18 and 19 years respectively to save for a 20 percent deposit,

compared to 11 years nationally based on median incomes. By the time families manage to save the required deposit, rising house prices have likely pushed homeownership even further out of reach and a generation of renters is becoming increasingly apparent. The issue of getting into the housing market is not unique to Pacific people; it is becoming increasingly difficult for all first-time home buyers, with only 26 percent of house sales over the first three months of 2024 going to first-time buyers.

### AFFORDABILITY

When comparing rent affordability (defined as the percentage of annual median household income spent on rent) with purchasing affordability (the percentage spent on mortgage repayments), the difference in financial burden is generally modest. However, this straightforward comparison doesn't account for the many complexities that can impact mortgage payments, such as fluctuating interest rates, property taxes, insurance and maintenance costs. These factors can significantly alter the actual financial burden of owning a home.

**Table 8: Housing trends for statistical areas with highest Pacific populations in New Zealand—selection<sup>51</sup>**

Statistical Area (2018)	Pacific population (2018)	Median household income (2024)	Median rent 5 year change	Rent affordability (2024)	Home-ownership (2018)	Median sale price 5 year change	Purchasing affordability (2024)	Years to save for a deposit (2024)
National	8%	\$99,938	29%	29%	41%	43%	35%	11
Auckland territorial authority (TA)	15%	\$123,966	18%	26%	43%	22%	37%	11
Porirua territorial authority (TA)	25%	\$121,722	17%	27%	42%	57%	30%	11
Rongomai West	77%	\$98,354	19%	33%	15%	79%	48%	12
Ōtara South	76%	\$79,343	43%	46%	17%	22%	42%	17
Māngere West	74%	\$97,298	38%	36%	16%	57%	49%	14
Ōtara Central	73%	\$71,554	9%	36%	13%	38%	53%	18
Favona West	66%	\$108,520	11%	27%	21%	29%	33%	10
Cannons Creek East	65%	\$74,459	32%	42%	22%	61%	38%	14
Wiri East	52%	\$69,442	19%	45%	15%	14%	47%	19

In 36 of the 50 areas analysed (see [Appendix I](#)), mortgage payments take up a higher percentage of income than rent, while in 14 areas, renting is either more expensive or costs about the same. Where mortgage costs are higher, the difference is 5 percent or less in 16 areas, averaging less than \$30 more per week; 6 percent to 10 percent in 10 areas, averaging less than \$60 more per week; and 11 percent or more in another 10 areas, reflecting varying affordability challenges by area. Mortgage payments are generally higher, with an average additional cost of around \$60 per week compared to rent, which might be substantial for low-income households. However, the benefits of securing stable, long-term housing and investing in future generations often make this incremental increase worthwhile.

Reviewing these affordability numbers suggests that many households currently managing significant rental costs might also be capable of servicing mortgage payments for their own homes. However, the primary initial obstacle is often not the ability to make mortgage payments but the challenge of securing a mortgage, particularly due to the difficulty of saving for a deposit as mentioned prior. Addressing this barrier could be crucial in helping Pacific families enter the housing market.

### **PROGRESSIVE HOMEOWNERSHIP**

Progressive homeownership in New Zealand is an innovative approach to making homeownership more accessible, particularly for those who might struggle to enter the traditional property market, such as Pacific families. This model involves a housing provider investing equity alongside first home buyers to make purchasing the home more affordable. It includes options like shared ownership and rent-to-buy, where families co-purchase a home and gradually increase their ownership share over time, reducing the deposit amount required to purchase.<sup>50</sup> Programmes like Habitat for Humanity's rent-to-buy scheme<sup>52</sup> and the New Zealand Housing Foundation's shared equity model<sup>53</sup> have helped to make homeownership more accessible and attainable for more families in New Zealand.

As progressive homeownership models in New Zealand expand, the options remain limited, particularly in securing necessary equity. Community housing providers typically rely on government funding, financial institutions and charities, but what if Pacific communities took a more active role? Could a Pacific KiwiSaver management fund, created by and for Pacific people, be a viable option? Such a fund could invest directly in progressive homeownership schemes tailored for Pacific families, offering a sustainable, community-driven path to homeownership.

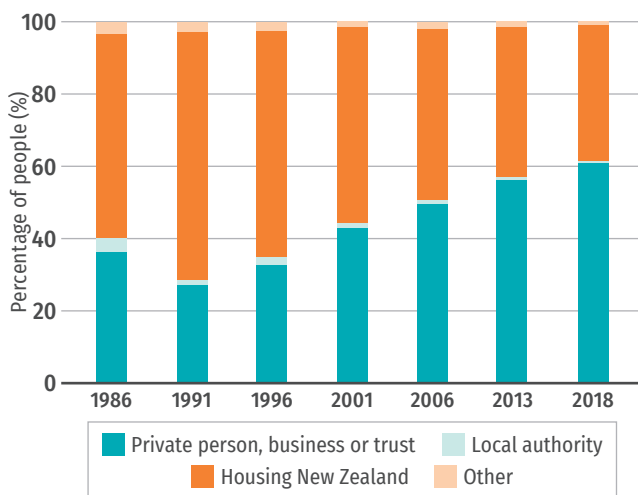
Given that around 26 percent of KiwiSaver members end up in default schemes or those suggested by employers,<sup>54</sup> what if Pacific peoples had the option to choose a fund that invests directly in their own communities? With a young and growing population, this could be a powerful way for Pacific communities to build wealth and stability together. Imagine Pacific community housing providers like Penina Health Trust and Central Pacific Collective, who are already active in the housing space, offering progressive homeownership options that aren't reliant on government or external entities, but are instead backed by their own community. Could this approach address both economic and social challenges within Pacific communities around homeownership?

A lot of the focus on Pacific housing is primarily on the sharp end of the housing spectrum, which is understandable because many Pacific families are struggling at that level. However, we need investment at both ends because one impacts the other. Over the past decade, in the employment sector, much of the investment was aimed at getting Pacific peoples into work, but not necessarily on career development. As a result, many in the Pacific community are employed but continue to be in low-skilled jobs, leading to lower incomes. Similarly, in housing, while it's crucial to ensure Pacific families are being housed, we also need to invest at the other end in helping families transition into homeownership.

## Private Rental

Census 2018 estimated that 65 percent of Pacific peoples were renting, compared to 36 percent of the total population. **Figure 31** shows the different rental dwellings by landlord type from 1986 to 2018, where the rental housing situation for Pacific peoples in New Zealand shifted significantly from public housing to private rentals. The proportion living in private rentals increased from 36.3 percent to 65.2 percent while those in Kainga Ora properties dropped from 56.8 percent to 36.9 percent. This shift can be attributed to a reduction in public housing availability, an increase in population and shifts further south for Pacific families for employment opportunities. The challenge with private rental properties is that over time their availability is declining, which leads to increased rental prices. As a result, private rentals have become less stable and more expensive.<sup>10</sup>

**Figure 31: Percentage of Pacific peoples in a rented dwelling by landlord type—1986–2018<sup>10</sup>**



To gain a better understanding of Pacific communities in private rental housing, **Table 9** presents a summary of various areas with high Pacific populations across the country (refer to **Appendix I**) and their median rent. Among the 50 suburbs analysed, areas like Cannons Creek East,

Cannons Creek North and Cannons Creek South in Wellington experienced the highest rental increases over the past decade. However, similar trends are observed in Auckland suburbs, where rental prices also rose significantly—albeit from a higher starting point. These sharp increases, particularly in Wellington, can be largely attributed to the limited supply of housing in the area, where geographic constraints and restricted development have made it difficult to keep up with growing demand.

Rental affordability is a key concern, as it highlights the proportion of household income spent on rent. Ideally, rent should consume no more than 30 percent of household income to be considered affordable, but the majority of these areas exceed this threshold.<sup>55</sup> For example, Cannons Creek North and South both have rental affordability rates of 44 percent and 42 percent, respectively, while Clover Park North, one of the more ‘affordable’ areas, still has a rate of 31 percent (slightly above the ideal threshold), which highlights the growing financial strain on households. These figures reflect a broader issue across the country where rising rental costs, coupled with stagnant income growth in many Pacific communities, are making it increasingly difficult for families to afford housing.

Interestingly, in areas like Sutton Park and Massey Road South there has been minimal fluctuation in rent—with a decrease of 10 percent and 1 percent, respectively; this stability may be attributed to a high proportion of social housing or just little to no movement out of the area. Social housing rental rates tend to be more stable compared to private rentals, which could also explain the low homeownership rates in these areas. Compared to the national average, which saw a 52 percent increase in median rental prices, these areas show that the affordability crisis is particularly acute in areas with high Pacific populations, exacerbating concerns about housing stability for these communities.



Table 9: Median rent for statistical areas with highest Pacific populations in New Zealand—selection<sup>51</sup>

Statistical Area	2018 Pacific population	Median household income (2024)	2015	2024	10-year change	Rent affordability
Cannons Creek East	65%	\$74,459	\$280	\$599	114%	42%
Cannons Creek North	56%	\$65,085	\$265	\$555	110%	44%
Cannons Creek South	58%	\$80,136	\$340	\$640	88%	42%
Clover Park North	67%	\$110,500	\$470	\$663	41%	31%
Rongomai West	77%	\$98,354	\$450	\$632	40%	33%
Ferguson	75%	\$85,812	\$430	\$602	40%	36%
Ōtara Central	73%	\$71,554	\$440	\$494	12%	36%
Massey Road South	65%	\$102,579	\$515	\$511	-1%	26%
Sutton Park	75%	\$110,104	\$490	\$441	-10%	21%
<b>National</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>\$99,938</b>	<b>\$370</b>	<b>\$562</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>29%</b>

## Social Housing

Social housing, managed by Kāinga Ora and community housing providers, offers affordable, long-term housing for low-income individuals and families. Kāinga Ora currently manages over 75,000 properties across the country, reflecting a 12 percent increase in properties over the past 10 years, with more than 4000 additional homes under construction.<sup>56</sup> These homes provide crucial stability and long-term security for Pacific families, many of whom have been living in Kāinga Ora homes for extended periods. About one third (34%) of Pacific tenants in Kāinga Ora homes have lived in their homes for 10 years or more, compared to only 7.9 percent in private rentals.<sup>10</sup> These homes are often seen as ‘homes for life’ due to their affordability.

People who want to access social housing must apply and, if eligible, are placed on the social Housing Register, which serves as a waiting list for placement. As of June 2024, there are almost 23,000 applicants on the register, with a median waiting time of 219 days for placement.<sup>57</sup> Figure 32 illustrates the number of Pacific applicants on the social Housing Register and their percentage of the total register over the past 10 years. Since 2015, the number of Pacific peoples on the register has risen from 547 to 3897 in 2024, marking a 612 percent increase, compared to a 584 percent increase for

the total register. It is important to note that the register only accounts for the applicants, but the actual impact is much greater, as each applicant often represents an entire family.

Figure 32: Pacific peoples on the social Housing Register—2015–2024 (June years)<sup>58</sup>

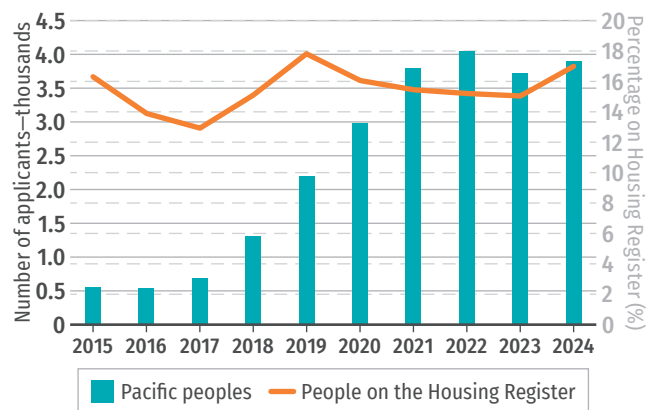
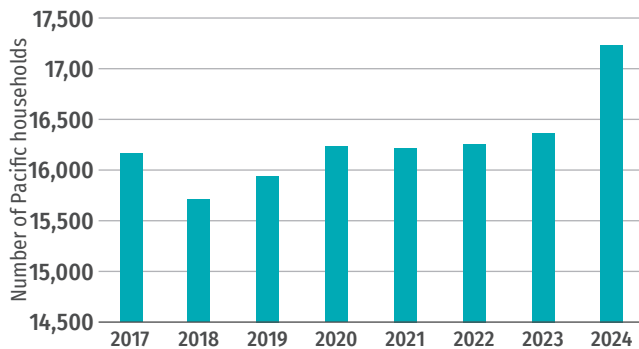


Figure 33 shows the number of estimated Pacific peoples living in social housing. While the number of Pacific tenants in Kāinga Ora housing has increased by 6.6 percent from 2017 to 2024, the number of Pacific peoples on the social Housing Register has surged dramatically since 2018. This discrepancy highlights a growing mismatch between the demand for social housing and the available supply. As demand for social housing grows, particularly among Pacific families, the supply of Kāinga Ora housing has not kept pace.

**Figure 33: Estimated Pacific households in Kāinga Ora homes—2017–2024 (June years)**



Note: The Pacific Kāinga Ora tenants are calculated by multiplying the percentage breakdown of tenants by the total occupied houses, as Kāinga Ora does not publicly provide raw tenant numbers by ethnicity.<sup>57</sup>

A review of Kāinga Ora’s stock as of June 2024 indicates that while the number of 4- and 5-bedroom homes has increased, they still make up only 14 percent of the total stock. This is significant because Pacific families often have larger households and require bigger homes. However, the majority of the demand on the social Housing Register is for smaller homes, with about 80 percent of applications being for 1- and 2-bedroom units and only 7 percent for 4- and 5-bedroom homes.<sup>56</sup> The relatively flat growth in the number of Pacific tenants in Kāinga Ora homes prior to 2024 may also reflect the limited new construction of social housing, leaving many Pacific families on waiting lists without adequate housing options or support.

The surge in demand for public housing underscores the growing challenges in accessing affordable housing, as private rental costs have outpaced income growth, driving more people to seek social housing. Addressing these challenges requires solutions across the entire housing spectrum. Increasing the availability of affordable rental housing could reduce the pressure on the social housing system, thereby freeing up resources for those in the most urgent need.

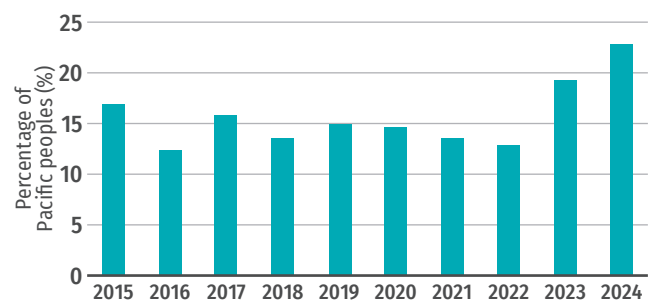
### Transitional Housing

Transitional housing (TH) is funded by the government and provides temporary accommodation and comprehensive support to individuals and families as they work toward securing long-term, affordable

housing. The Salvation Army’s TH service has seen fluctuations in the number of Pacific peoples over the years, as shown in Figure 34, with a significant increase to 23 percent of all TH clients in 2024. This is up from 17 percent in 2015, potentially due to greater investment in TH by the government and more TH offered in Auckland, where most Pacific peoples live. Over 80 percent of Pacific peoples we support are families with children.

Although the goal for TH is to secure long-term housing within 12 weeks, challenges in affordability, availability and family or individual complexities often extend this period, with the average stay for The Salvation Army TH service being 20 weeks in June 2024.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 34: Percentage of Pacific peoples in Salvation Army Transitional Housing—2015–2024<sup>4</sup>**

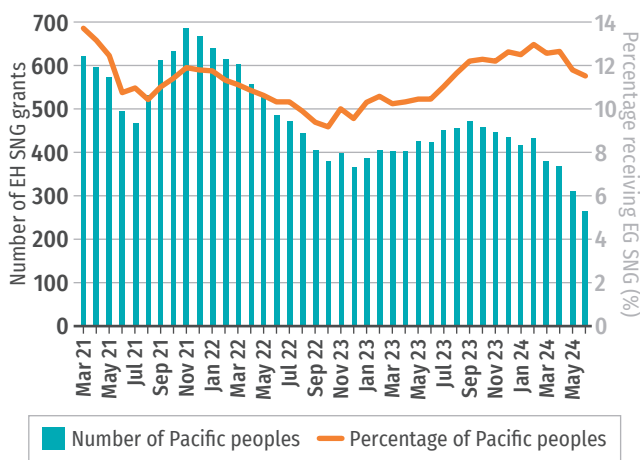


### Emergency Housing

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH grant) is an important support measure, providing temporary accommodation to those in urgent need while longer-term housing solutions are sought. Figure 35 shows the distribution of EH grants for Pacific peoples from March 2021 to June 2024 (beginning in March 2021 due to data availability, even though the grants started in 2016). The number of EH grants for Pacific peoples peaked at 687 in November 2021 and declined by 62 percent to 264 by June 2024. Despite the drop in numbers, the percentage of EH grants allocated to Pacific peoples remained relatively stable over this period. This decline may indicate a reduced need, but also could be linked to a shift in government policy away from large-scale emergency housing use and towards transitional and social housing, or affordable housing options. The minor changes in the

percentage of Pacific peoples receiving EH grants highlights the ongoing housing insecurity they face, and their representation at the sharper end of the housing spectrum, which requires continued attention. The challenge, however, is ensuring that Pacific people are phased out of emergency housing, they are effectively transitioned to other options like transitional housing and not left without adequate support.

**Figure 35: Emergency housing grants for Pacific peoples—March 2021–June 2024<sup>59</sup>**

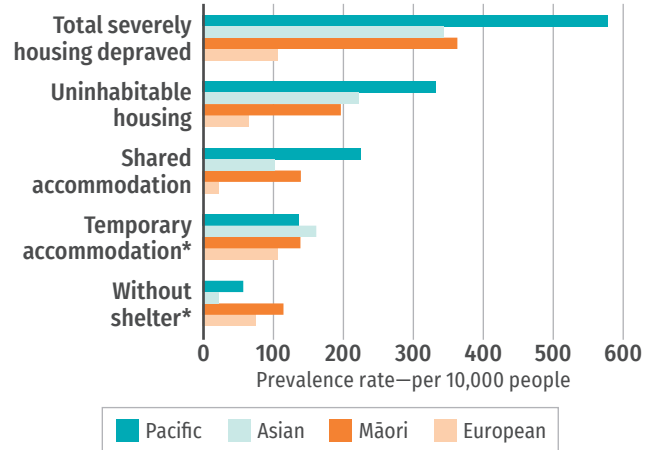


## Homelessness

Homelessness in Aotearoa is measured as severe housing deprivation, which includes four main categories: without shelter, temporary accommodation, sharing accommodation and uninhabitable housing.<sup>60</sup> Research based on the 2018 Census by the University of Otago showed that 2.2 percent of the population were identified as severely housing deprived.<sup>60</sup> The Pacific population faces particularly high levels of severe housing deprivation,

with 22,058 individuals affected, translating to a prevalence rate of 578 per 10,000 Pacific people—the highest among all ethnic groups, as shown in **Figure 36**. The most challenging issues are seen in sharing accommodation and uninhabitable housing. Young people are especially vulnerable, with nearly 50 percent of the severely housing-deprived population under the age of 25. This situation is further exacerbated by the younger demographic makeup of the Pacific population, with a larger proportion of their communities being children and young adults, often living in multigenerational homes with extended family members.<sup>10</sup>

**Figure 36: Severe housing deprivation category and ethnicity—prevalence rate (2018)<sup>60</sup>**



Note: categories with an asterisk (\*) have a prevalence rate per 100,000; categories without an asterisk have a prevalence rate per 10,000.

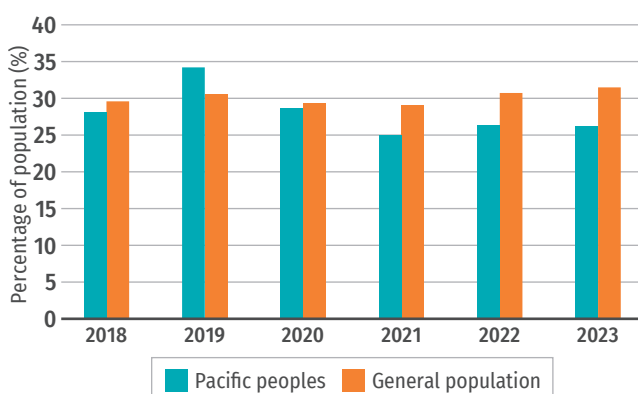
# CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Crime experienced		Offenders		Proceedings	
↓ 7% (5 years)	26% experienced crime (2023)	↓ 34% (8 years)	4673 offenders (2024)	↓ 32% (8 years)	10,129 offences by Pacific peoples (2024)
Convictions		Family violence		Community sentence	
↓ 45% (10 years)	4881 people convicted (2023)	↑ 30% (7 years)	3604 vicmisations of family violence (2023)	↓ 37% (10 years)	2335 Pacific peoples given a community sentence (2023)
Imprisonment		Remand		Recidivism	
↑ 10% (10 years)	1103 people in prison (2024)	↑ 17% (10 years)	1566 remanded in prison (2023)	↓ 31% (10 years)	16% reimprisoned after 12 months

## Overall Crime

It is estimated that only 28 percent of crime experienced in the community is reported to police. The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) provides a comprehensive source of crime reported and unreported. The NZCVS, currently in its sixth cycle, estimates that over a third of New Zealanders have experienced 1.34 million offences in the past year. Although all New Zealanders encounter crime, the prevalence varies among different populations. **Figure 37** shows the prevalence of experiencing at least one offence for Pacific peoples, and for the total population. Over the past six years, the prevalence of offences experienced by Pacific peoples has declined by 6.8 percentage points, now standing at 26.1 percent, the lowest among all ethnic groups.

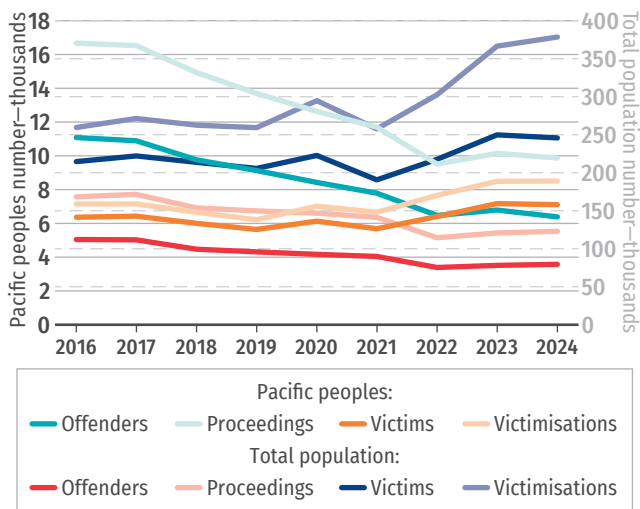
**Figure 37: All offences prevalence rate, who experiences crime by ethnicity—2018–2023<sup>61</sup>**



A summary of police proceedings for Pacific offenders and Pacific victims reported to police from 2016–2024 is shown in **Figure 38**. Since 2016, the number of Pacific offenders, and proceedings against alleged Pacific offenders, has significantly declined by 42 percent and 41 percent, respectively. The same trend is seen in the general population, but the declines have not been as substantial as those seen with Pacific peoples.

The number of victims and people being victimised that identify as Pacific has increased over the same period with an increase of 12 percent and 19 percent, respectively. These are similar trends in comparison to the general population. A stark difference, however, is that the number of Pacific victims and those being victimised is significantly lower than offenders and proceedings by police in comparison to the general population. Again, this reiterates the findings of NZCVS that the prevalence of Pacific peoples experiencing offences is lower than other ethnic groups.

**Figure 38: Summary of police proceedings and reports of victimisations for Pacific peoples—2016–2024 (March years)<sup>62</sup>**



**OFFENDER:** A person or organisation that police apprehend because police allege the person or organisation have perpetrated a criminal incident involving one or more offences (please note these are alleged offenders so may not be formally charged).

**PROCEEDING:** A legal action initiated against an alleged offender for an offence(s). Each proceeding is classified to a principal offence and principal method of proceeding. It does not represent a count of offences.

**VICTIMISATION:** An instance of a person or organisation being victimised for a given type of offence. Our analysis treats victimisation as a proxy to crime levels.

**VICTIM:** A unique person or organisation recorded as being a victim of a given type of offence.

**VIOLENT OFFENCES** include homicide and related offences, acts intended to cause injury, sexual assault and related offences, abduction, harassment and other related offences against a person and dangerous and negligent acts endangering persons.

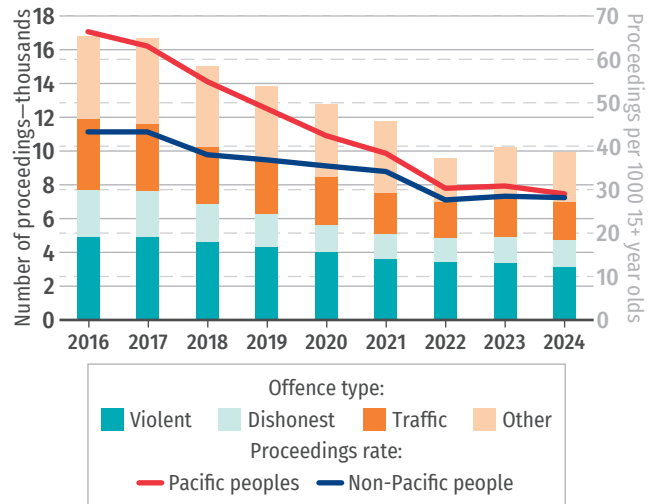
**DISHONESTY OFFENCES** include robbery, extortion and related offences, unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter, theft and related offences and fraud, deception and related offences.

The proportion of dishonest offences, traffic offences and other types of offences among Pacific peoples has gradually declined over time. However, violent offences, which peaked at 36 percent of all proceedings in 2022, have now become the most common type of offence, representing 32 percent of all proceedings against Pacific offenders in 2024 (shown in Figure 39). Additionally, when considering population growth, the rate of proceedings against Pacific offenders has significantly declined,

contributing to a narrowing disparity between Pacific and non-Pacific offenders in recent years.

This closing disparity could potentially be attributed to the declining offence levels among Pacific people. However, it may also reflect changes in police strategies, with a shift in focus from minor offences to more serious crimes. This shift could explain why violent offences have become the most predominant type of offence among Pacific peoples, while other offences have gradually decreased.

**Figure 39: Proceedings against Pacific offenders by offence types—2016–2024 (March years)<sup>62</sup>**



Breaking down these offences further reveals a more detailed picture of offending by Pacific offenders. Most violent offences, such as acts intended to cause injury and sexual assault, have declined, although homicide offences have increased. It's important to acknowledge that while the number of homicides is small, it is a category four offence and the severity of such violent crimes (along with their profound impact on victims) cannot be understated. Dishonesty offences, including theft and fraud, also saw significant reductions. Public order offences experienced the largest decrease at nearly 70 percent, while traffic and vehicle offences were almost halved. However, some categories, like illicit drug offences, remained stable, suggesting areas for ongoing focus in policing and preventive strategies (see Table 10).

It's also important to consider that while proceedings against offenders provide a good indication of the types of offences being

committed, they may also reflect the influence of varying police priorities. Therefore, the numbers of proceedings might indicate a particular focus by the police rather than changes in offending behaviour itself, as mentioned prior.

**Table 10: Proceedings against alleged Pacific offenders—2016 and 2024 (March years)<sup>62</sup>**

Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC)	2016	2024	8 years
<b>Violent offences</b>			
Homicide and related offences	4	24	500.0%
Acts intended to cause injury	3071	1823	-40.6%
Sexual assault and related offences	228	181	-20.6%
Abduction, harassment and other related offences against a person	502	351	-30.1%
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	1050	781	-25.6%
<b>Dishonest offences</b>			
Robbery, extortion and related offences	243	215	-11.5%
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	560	329	-41.3%
Theft and related offences	1778	867	-51.2%
Fraud, deception and related offences	201	115	-42.8%
<b>Other offences</b>			
Illicit drug offences	385	384	-0.3%
Miscellaneous offences	30	75	150.0%
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	1615	1373	-15.0%
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	305	240	-21.3%
Property damage and environmental pollution	742	297	-60.0%
Public order offences	1786	541	-69.7%
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	4181	2276	-45.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,681</b>	<b>9872</b>	<b>-40.8%</b>

## Convictions

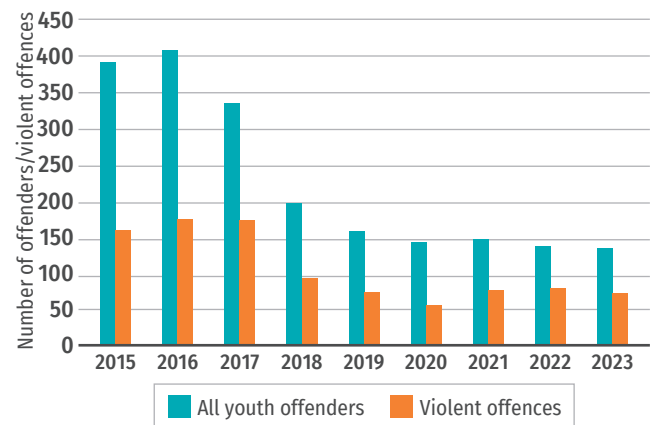
Since 2013, the number of convictions for Pacific offenders has declined by 44.4 percent, with 4881 adults convicted in 2023 compared to 8773 in 2013, as shown in [Table 11](#). While this overall reduction is significant, there are two concerning categories where convictions have increased: homicide and related offences, and sexual assault and related offences. These increases are particularly troubling as they represent some of the most serious and harmful crimes, with profound and lasting impacts on the victims and their families.

## YOUTH OFFENDING

Despite the general narrative, only a small proportion of young people in New Zealand come into contact with the justice system, and youth offending has seen significant changes. [Figure 40](#) shows that the number of Pacific youth offenders proceeded against by the police has declined by 67 percent since 2015 and violent offending by youth offenders has decreased by 56 percent over the same period. Although there have been recent fluctuations, these figures are still significantly lower compared to previous years.

The decline in youth offending in New Zealand is due to the adoption of restorative justice practices. These practices focus on holding offenders accountable, reconciling with victims and involving everyone affected. This aims to divert youth from traditional criminal justice processes and address the harm caused by the offence. The police try alternative methods before proceeding against young people, so if they do proceed, the offences are usually of a serious nature. This is why, in **Figure 40**, the number of Pacific youth offenders has significantly decreased, but the proportion committing violent offences has increased.

**Figure 40: Pacific youth offending under 14 years old—2015–2023 (June years)<sup>62</sup>**



**Table 11: Adults convicted in court by offence type, most serious offences—2013 and 2023 (June years)<sup>63</sup>**

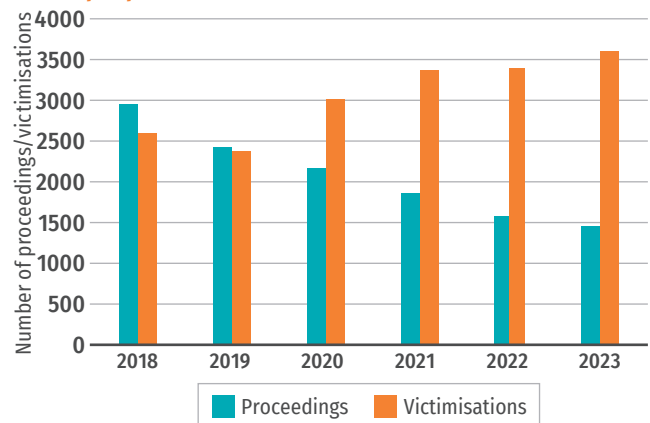
Convictions	2013	2023	10 years
Homicide and related offences	12	18	50.0%
Acts intended to cause injury	1291	812	-37.1%
Sexual assault and related offences	97	106	9.3%
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	336	238	-29.2%
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	126	105	-16.7%
Robbery, extortion and related offences	124	45	-63.7%
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	302	113	-62.6%
Theft and related offences	555	262	-52.8%
Fraud, deception and related offences	95	40	-57.9%
Illicit drug offences	207	120	-42.0%
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	100	99	-1.0%
Property damage and environmental pollution	292	130	-55.5%
Public order offences	252	95	-62.3%
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	4017	2146	-46.6%
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	962	548	-43.0%
Miscellaneous offences	5	4	-20.0%
<b>Total offences</b>	<b>8773</b>	<b>4881</b>	<b>-44.4%</b>

## Family Violence

According to the Family Violence Act 2018, family violence refers to physical, sexual or psychological abuse inflicted on a person by someone with whom they have a family relationship, including behaviours that are coercive, controlling or cause cumulative harm.<sup>64</sup> Family violence remains a significant challenge in New Zealand, with police responding to such incidents approximately every three minutes. The prevalence of family violence varies among different societal groups. Research indicates that Pacific and Māori communities experience higher rates of family violence compared to other groups.<sup>14</sup> Young people and children exposed to family violence tend to have poorer life outcomes. Pacific young people are more than twice as likely as European young people to witness adults engaging in child abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse. This higher exposure is reflected in the elevated hospitalisation rates of Pacific youth for assault, neglect and maltreatment (24.36 per 100,000) compared to European youth (11.71 per 100,000).<sup>65</sup> Therefore, protecting all communities, especially Pacific communities with their large youth populations is crucial for the wellbeing of not only these communities, but society as a whole.

In the past five years, proceedings for family harm for Pacific offenders has declined 50.9 percent (37.4% for the general population), whilst the number of Pacific victims being victimised by family harm has increased by 38.6 percent (68.2% for the general population). The changes in these trends (shown in **Figure 41**) are noticeable not only among Pacific populations but also in the general population, across many justice-related indicators. The police have acknowledged that the justice system is not the ideal avenue for addressing family violence and alternative approaches are needed. Redirecting those impacted by family violence to other social services may explain why police proceedings in this area have declined, despite an increase in victimisations.

**Figure 41: Family Harm proceedings and victimisations for Pacific peoples—2018–2023<sup>66</sup>**



**Table 12** shows the number of people charged and convicted for family violence offences, comparing Pacific peoples to the general population. For both groups, the number of people charged and convicted has declined over the past five years. Specifically, the number of Pacific peoples charged has decreased by 9 percent, while for the general population, it has decreased by 10.9 percent. The number of Pacific peoples convicted has declined by 16.3 percent, compared to a 14.6 percent decrease for the general population. Despite accounting for population differences, Pacific communities still have higher rates of charges and convictions for family violence offences compared to the general population, although these rates are declining.

**Table 12: Pacific peoples charged and convicted for family violence offences—2018 and 2023<sup>67</sup>**

	2018	2023	5 years	2018	2023	5 years
	Pacific peoples			General population		
Charged	1593	1449	-9.0%	14,715	13,115	-10.9%
Rate per 1000	4.17	3.27	-21.6%	3.13	2.63	-16.1%
Convicted	1150	963	-16.3%	10,667	9109	-14.6%
Rate per 1000	3.01	2.18	-27.8%	2.27	1.82	-19.6%

Pacific families are disproportionately affected by family violence, with Pacific peoples being twice as likely to commit a serious crime against a family member. Additionally, Pacific children are five times more likely to die from child abuse or neglect. These stark figures underscore the severity of family violence within Pacific communities and highlight a deeply troubling pattern.<sup>65,68</sup>



Several underlying factors contribute to the high rates of family violence in Pacific communities. One significant factor is alcohol abuse; while Pacific adults are less likely to drink alcohol compared to the general population, those who do drink are more likely to engage in hazardous drinking. This hazardous drinking can exacerbate tensions within families, leading to a higher incidence of violence. Additionally, financial pressures, cultural expectations and intergenerational trauma further compound these issues, creating environments where violence can become normalised.

The prevalence of both victims and perpetrators within Pacific families sets a concerning precedent, where exposure to such violence at a young age normalises abusive behaviours and increases the likelihood of perpetuating the cycle of violence in future generations. The impact of alcohol, combined with other stressors, can amplify the severity of these situations, making it even more difficult to break the cycle. This persistent cycle of violence creates a legacy of trauma and harm that reverberates through generations, establishing a pattern that is challenging to disrupt and poses significant risks to the long-term wellbeing of Pacific communities.

## Sentencing

**Table 13** examines sentencing and imprisonment levels for Pacific peoples. Over the past 10 years, the number of Pacific peoples convicted has declined by 44.4 percent and the number of those convicted and subsequently imprisoned has decreased by 42.3 percent. In 2023, approximately 10 percent of convicted Pacific peoples received prison sentences, compared to 11 percent for the general population. The percentage of Pacific peoples who were convicted and then imprisoned has seen a relative increase, which could be linked to the rise in convictions for serious crimes such as homicide and related offences and sexual assaults (as discussed in previous sections). While imprisonment levels have declined overall, there has been a notable increase in community sentences, with a 36.6 percent rise in the number of

Pacific peoples receiving such sentences over the past decade. In 2023, nearly half of the convicted Pacific peoples were given community sentences, a higher proportion than in the general population.

This shift reflects an overall trend in the justice system towards focusing on and convicting more serious offences. Additionally, it is important to note that a significant factor influencing sentencing statistics for Pacific peoples is that a third of the proceedings are traffic offences, which typically result in community sentences rather than imprisonment.

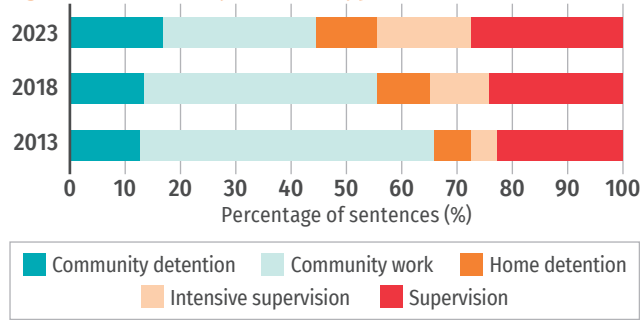
**Table 13: Sentencing and Imprisonment—2013 and 2023<sup>63</sup>**

	2013	2023	10 years
Convictions	8773	4881	-44.4%
Imprisonment	835	482	-42.3%
Percentage of Pacific convicted that are imprisoned	9.5%	9.9%	3.8%
Percentage of all convicted that are imprisoned	10.2%	11.0%	8.5%
Community sentences	3683	2335	-36.6%
Percentage of Pacific convicted given community sentence	42.0%	47.8%	14.0%
Percentage of all convicted given community sentence	41.6%	44.5%	7.0%

The proportion of convictions resulting in community sentences has gradually increased over the past decade. While most community sentences used to involve community work, there has been a shift towards more intensive supervision and standard supervision. Intensive supervision provides a higher level of oversight, support and monitoring than standard supervision—which involves regular meetings and compliance checks with a probation officer. With an increase in community sentences, it would be beneficial to explore the impact these types of sentences have on the convicted individuals and their communities. For more detailed insights, see the [Recidivism](#) section (page 43), which specifically examines recidivism rates for community-based sentences.

Figure 42 shows the types of community sentences given to Pacific peoples over the past 10 years. Compared to previous years, there has been a decrease in community work sentences and an increase in supervision and intensive supervision sentences.

Figure 42: Community sentence types—2013–2023<sup>69</sup>



**IMPRISONMENT**

Over the past ten years, Pacific peoples have consistently represented about 12 percent of the prison population, which equates to roughly around 1000 prisoners as shown in Figure 43. As of March 2024, there are approximately 1103 Pacific prisoners on the muster. When examining the imprisonment rate for Pacific peoples, it was 2.26 per 1000 persons in 2023, reflecting a 33.5 percent decline over the past 10 years. For the general population, the incarceration rate was 1.7 per 1000 persons, which has decreased by 14.9 percent over the same period. This indicates that the incarceration rate for Pacific peoples remains higher than that of the general population, despite the gradual decline in the past few years. This may be related to the increase in more serious and more violent offences as mentioned prior.

Figure 43: Pacific prison muster—March 2013–March 2024 (quarterly)<sup>70</sup>

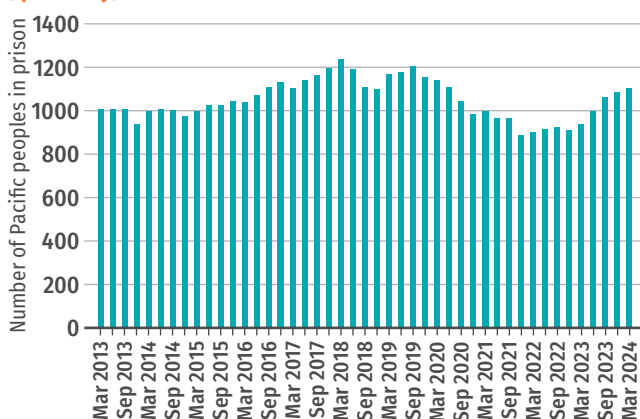
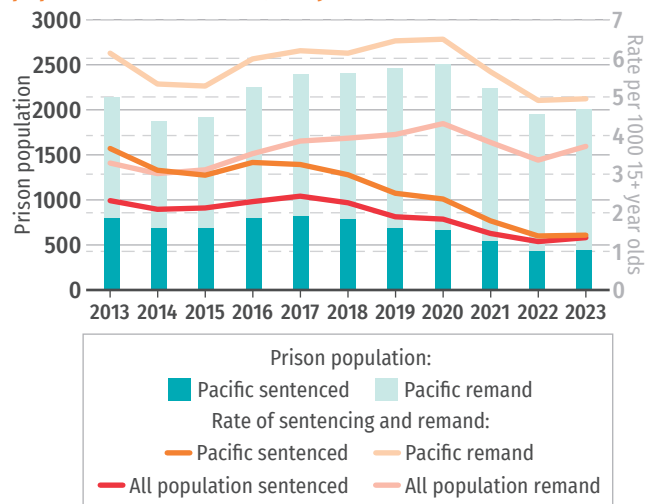


Figure 44 shows the annual number of Pacific prisoners both remanded and sentenced. The proportion of Pacific peoples in prison who are remanded has continued to increase year by year, while the number of those being sentenced has continued to decline.

Remanding people in prison creates numerous challenges, such as prison overcrowding and disruption of employment and family life. In addition, there are limitations in programme options and resources for those remanded while incarcerated compared to those who are sentenced. In 2023, 1566 Pacific peoples were remanded in prison for a period of time, while 447 were sentenced to prison. Since 2013, the number of Pacific peoples being sentenced annually has declined significantly by 44 percent, while those being remanded has increased by 17 percent. Despite this increase it is important to note that there were only about 30 percent of people remanded in custody—the reasons are often due to the safety of victims and the community, potential flight risk or severity of offence. The severity of offences is potentially the cause as to why custodial remand for Pacific peoples is higher.

Figure 44: Annual remand and sentenced Pacific prison population—2013–2023 (June years)<sup>71</sup>



To account for the population differences between the general and Pacific populations, Figure 44 shows the sentencing and remand rates per 1000 persons (15+ years old). The sentencing rates for both groups have significantly declined over the past 10 years and are now roughly the same.

However, remand rates for Pacific peoples continue to remain higher than those for the general population, although they have gradually decreased over the past decade. Currently, the remand rate for the general population is 3 per 1000, while for Pacific people, it is 5 per 1000, indicating a higher likelihood of Pacific peoples being remanded compared to the general population.

Remand rates have remained high or even increased for both populations, influenced by challenges such as the after-effects of Covid-19, court backlogs and advancements in technology. The ongoing discrepancy between Pacific peoples and the general population for remand and sentencing rates suggests that while fewer Pacific peoples are being sentenced, a significant number are still being held in custody on remand. This raises concerns about the fairness and equity of the remand process, as Pacific peoples are more likely to be detained pre-trial without necessarily being convicted at higher rates. Several factors may contribute to the higher remand rates among Pacific peoples, including judicial discretion and risk assessments, where Pacific peoples might be perceived as higher flight risks or more likely to reoffend, leading to more frequent remand decisions. Additionally, socio-economic challenges such as poverty and limited access to legal resources can make it difficult for Pacific peoples to meet bail conditions, resulting in higher remand rates. The types of offences more commonly associated with Pacific peoples: particularly serious or violent crimes, might also influence the courts' decisions to remand them in custody while awaiting trial.

The overall decrease in the number of Pacific peoples sentenced suggests a shift towards alternatives to imprisonment, such as community-based sentences or other diversionary measures. However, the persistently high remand rates indicate that many Pacific peoples are still being held in custody before these alternatives are considered. Despite these higher remand rates, it is important to note that Pacific peoples generally have a lower recidivism rate than the general public, which is discussed in the next section.

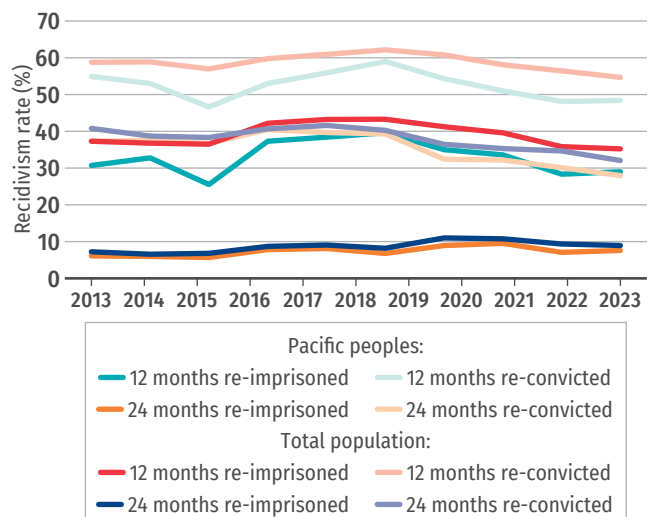
## Recidivism

Recidivism refers to the tendency of previously incarcerated individuals to reoffend and return to prison. It is an important metric because it helps to assess the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes and the criminal justice system in preventing repeat offences.

The recidivism rates for Pacific peoples are consistently lower than those for the general population. At the 12-month follow-up for those who were reimprisoned, the recidivism rates have declined by 30.5 percent for Pacific peoples and by 19.1 percent for the general population (as shown in Figure 45). For those reconvicted within 12 months of being released from prison, the Pacific recidivism rate has declined by 38.7 percent, while the rate for the general population has declined by 26 percent.

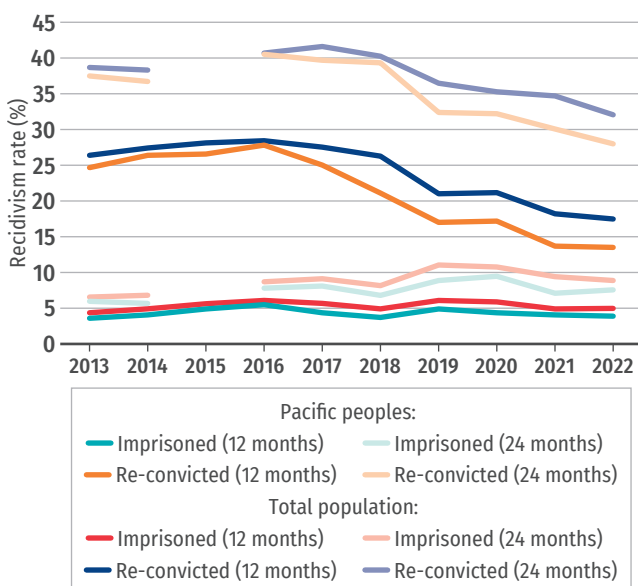
At the 24-month follow-up, the recidivism rates for Pacific peoples remain significantly lower than those for the general population, although both groups have seen a decline over the past 10 years. This may indicate that Pacific peoples tend to have stronger family and community ties, which provide a robust support system that helps individuals reintegrate and avoid reoffending. Culturally appropriate rehabilitation programmes and restorative justice approaches, which emphasise repairing harm and restoring relationships, resonate well with Pacific values and contribute to more effective outcomes.

Figure 45: Recidivism rates for Pacific peoples after imprisonment—2013–2023<sup>72</sup>



Given that a large proportion of Pacific offenders are sentenced to community-based sentences, it is crucial to examine recidivism rates for those entering these sentences. **Figure 46** shows that while community-based sentences for Pacific peoples may reduce short-term imprisonment, they are less effective in preventing long-term reoffending, as evidenced by consistently high reconviction rates at the 24-month mark. However, it is important to note that despite the high reconviction rates, they have been steadily declining over the past 10 years. The minimal increase in imprisonment rates between 12 and 24 months suggests that if a Pacific offender is going to be reimprisoned, this is most likely to happen within the first year—indicating that those not imprisoned within this period are less likely to face imprisonment later. This trend highlights the need for ongoing support and interventions beyond the initial 12 months to address the underlying issues contributing to recidivism. Moreover, it is also crucial to recognise that the effectiveness of community-based sentences can vary significantly depending on the type of offending, with different offences requiring tailored approaches and interventions.

**Figure 46: Recidivism rates for Pacific peoples after community sentences—2013–2022<sup>22</sup>**



# SOCIAL HAZARDS

Hazardous drinking		Heavy episodic drinking		DUI convictions	
↓ 2% (7 years)	21.5% of Pacific people drink hazardously (2023)	↓ 0.9% (7 years)	11% drink heavily weekly (2023)	↓ 29% (10 years)	1454 convicted of driving under the influence (2023)
Illicit drug use		Illicit drug conviction		Gambling	
↑ 41% (7 years)	16.8% use cannabis (2024)	↓ 16% (10 years)	261 convicted of drug offences (2023)	↓ 38% (10 years)	8000 estimated problem gamblers (2020)

## Alcohol

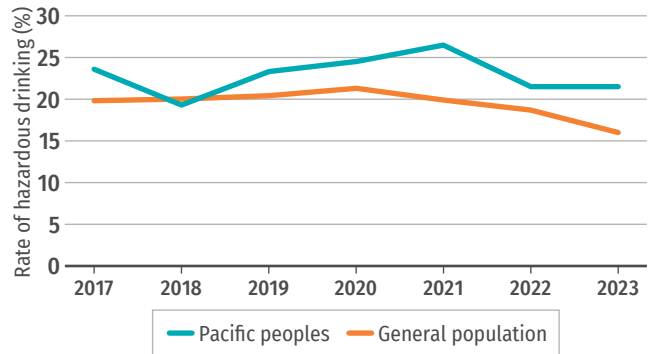
Alcohol causes approximately \$9 billion in social harm and is considered the most harmful drug in New Zealand.<sup>73</sup> Despite this, it remains deeply ingrained in New Zealand culture, being easily accessible and affordable. While about 76 percent of New Zealanders drink alcohol, only 61 percent of Pacific peoples do.<sup>74</sup> However, Pacific peoples who do consume alcohol are more prone to hazardous drinking behaviours and experience higher rates of alcohol-related harm compared to the broader population. Acculturation, the process of adopting the behaviours and practices of a new culture, significantly influences these patterns, with New Zealand-born Pacific peoples and those from Pacific realm countries, such as the Cook Islands and Niue, more likely to engage in risky drinking as they assimilate to New Zealand’s drinking culture.<sup>75,76</sup> The social environment in New Zealand, characterised by binge drinking norms and the easy availability of alcohol, exacerbates hazardous drinking behaviours, particularly concerning the strong link between alcohol abuse and violence, including family and intimate partner violence, which disproportionately affects Māori and Pacific communities.<sup>77</sup> New Zealand police estimate that about a third of family harm incidences they attend involve alcohol. Ultimately, cultural influence, accessibility and social norms contribute to a disproportionately high burden of alcohol-related harm within Pacific communities.

### HAZARDOUS DRINKING

Hazardous drinking in New Zealand is defined as a pattern of alcohol consumption that increases

the risk of harm. **Figure 47** shows the hazardous drinking levels for Pacific peoples compared to the general population.

**Figure 47: Hazardous drinking rates for Pacific peoples and the general population—2017–2023<sup>74</sup>**



Hazardous drinking rates among Pacific peoples have fluctuated over the years, with Pacific peoples consistently exhibiting higher rates compared to the general population. In 2023, 21.5 percent of Pacific individuals reported hazardous drinking, significantly higher than the 16 percent observed in the general population. Although there has been a decline in hazardous drinking levels since 2017, the reduction has been slower for Pacific peoples compared to the general population. This trend suggests that while overall hazardous drinking has decreased, Pacific communities have not experienced the same level of improvement.

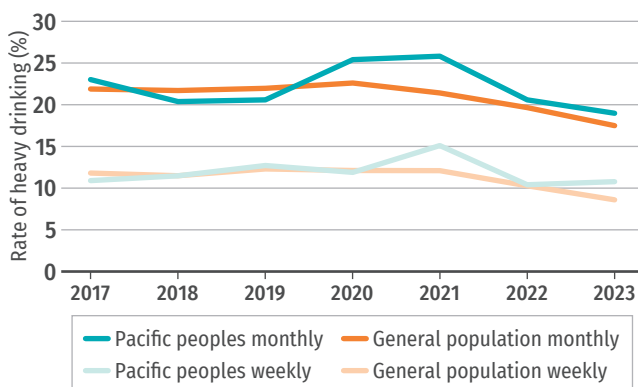
Notably, hazardous drinking levels are highest among men aged 25 to 34 years, a demographic where Pacific peoples have a larger proportion compared to the general population. Additionally, those living in the most deprived communities are

more frequently impacted, and the concentration of liquor stores in these areas likely exacerbates the problem by making alcohol more accessible. The Covid-19 pandemic likely played a role in these trends, particularly the significant increase in hazardous drinking rates from 2019 to 2021.

### HEAVY EPISODIC DRINKING

Heavy episodic drinking is defined as consuming six or more drinks on one occasion, either monthly or weekly. As shown in **Figure 48**, heavy episodic drinking among the Pacific population was relatively similar to that of the general population before 2019. However, after 2020, both monthly and weekly heavy episodic drinking rates became higher among the Pacific population compared to the general population.

**Figure 48: Heavy episodic drinking for Pacific peoples, and the general population—2017–2023 (monthly and weekly)<sup>74</sup>**



Since 2017, the percentage of Pacific peoples who engage in heavy episodic drinking once a month has declined to 19 percent compared to a decline to 17.5 percent in the general population. However, when looking at those who drink heavily on a weekly basis, the rates among the Pacific population have remained relatively unchanged, while they have decreased in the general population. The consistently high rates of weekly heavy episodic drinking in Pacific communities may be linked to cultural and social norms where frequent gatherings and celebrations often involve alcohol consumption. Additionally, the high concentration of liquor stores in high-deprivation areas where many Pacific communities live, increases the accessibility and prevalence of alcohol use. Local

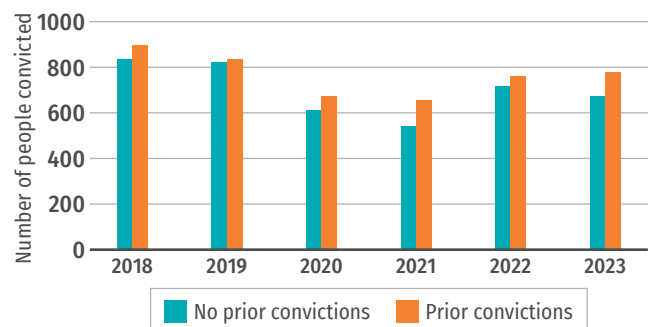
alcohol policies by councils, aimed at restricting how and where alcohol is sold, are crucial for minimising alcohol-related harm, especially in vulnerable communities.

For example, Auckland Council’s Local Alcohol Policy, which is now in effect after a 10-year legal battle with the supermarket duopoly and the liquor industry, includes priority overlay areas such as Māngere, Ōtara, Ōtāhuhu, and Manurewa, which have significant Pacific populations. These areas are subject to specific policies, including a temporary freeze on new off-licences and discretionary conditions for existing licences. These measures aim to address the high affordability and accessibility of alcohol in these communities.

### DRUNK DRIVING

In terms of convictions for drunk driving amongst Pacific peoples, those with prior convictions consistently outnumber first-time offenders, indicating a high level of recidivism in driving under the influence (DUI) cases (shown in **Figure 49**). However, over the past five years, there has been a gradual 16 percent decline in the number of Pacific peoples convicted of DUI offences.

**Figure 49: Pacific peoples convicted of driving under the influence—2018–2023<sup>78</sup>**

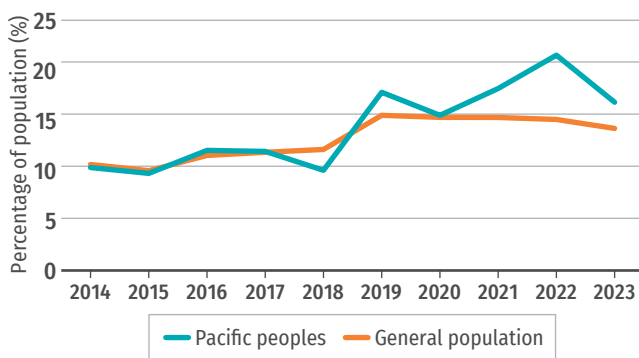


### Illicit drug use

Illicit drug use among Pacific peoples in New Zealand is a growing concern, with increasing prevalence of substances like cannabis, synthetic cannabinoids and methamphetamine. The rise in drug use, which is not traditionally part of Pacific culture, is exacerbated by social inequities and the availability of synthetic drugs.<sup>79</sup> Cannabis use among Pacific peoples started at 10 percent

in 2014 and gradually increased, peaking at 21.5 percent in 2022 before declining to 16.8 percent in 2023. Overall, cannabis use among Pacific peoples has generally been higher compared to the total population, especially in recent years, where the usage rate significantly surpassed the general population’s rate of 14.2 percent in 2023. This is shown in **Figure 50**.

**Figure 50: Cannabis use in the past 12 months for Pacific peoples, and the general population—2014–2023<sup>74</sup>**



Use of other illicit drugs among Pacific peoples has shown variability, with relatively low but notable increases over the years. Cocaine use spiked in 2019 at 1.9 percent and again in 2022 at 3.8 percent. Similarly, the use of ecstasy/MDMA rose from 1.3 percent in 2013 to a peak of 4.9 percent in 2022, while amphetamine-type stimulant use remained relatively low but saw increases in 2019 (1.9%) and 2022 (2.3%)—as shown in **Table 14**. Even with the margin of error due to small sample sizes of Pacific peoples, it’s still important to examine illicit drug use within Pacific communities and there is a need for more detailed research to better understand these patterns.

**Table 14: Other illicit drug use for Pacific peoples—2014–2023<sup>74</sup>**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cocaine	0.4*	S	0.3*	0.1*	0.2*	1.9*	0.6*	0.9*	3.8*	1.8*
Ecstasy/MDMA	1.2*	1.2*	1.4*	1.3*	1.1*	3	2.0*	3.5*	4.9*	3.6*
Amphetamine-type stimulant	0.4*	0.1*	1.1*	0.4*	1.2*	1.9*	0.9*	0.7*	2.3*	0.9*

\* Margin of Error—Caution. S = suppressed (not enough data obtained)

## Gambling

Gambling disproportionately affects Pacific peoples. Pacific individuals are twice as likely to experience gambling-related harm compared to those identifying as European or other ethnicities. Additionally, Pacific communities often live in areas with higher socio-economic deprivation and increased access to gambling opportunities.<sup>80</sup> This combination of factors, along with barriers to accessing support, exacerbates the potential harm from gambling within these communities.

There are four primary gambling activities that are monitored in New Zealand: TAB, New Zealand Lotteries Commission, gaming machines and casinos. Nearly 40 percent of expenditure from gambling comes from gaming machines or pokie machines.

**Table 15** shows trends around pokie machine and gaming machine profits per capita by local board and territorial authority, highlighting areas with high Pacific populations. Areas such as Mangere–Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara–Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Porirua City have experienced significant increases in gambling losses per machine and per capita compared to the national average over the past nine years. Even with fewer gaming machines, these areas have seen substantial growth in losses per machine—67 percent in Mangere–Ōtāhuhu and 77 percent in Manurewa—making the remaining machines more profitable. The loss per capita in these communities also surpasses the national average, with Mangere–Ōtāhuhu and Porirua City recording increases of 35 percent and 26 percent, respectively. These communities lose on average around \$230 per person annually, and this has been increasing every year. In addition, despite representing less than 14 percent of gaming venues and less than 15 percent of gaming machines across the country, these areas contribute 22 percent of the national gross machine profits

Table 15: GMP per capita by local board or territorial authority—2015 and 2023<sup>81</sup>

	Pacific population	Change over 9 years		Loss per machine—9 years		Loss per capita—9 years			
		Venues	EGM	2015	2023	2015	2023		
<b>National</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>-246.75</b>	<b>-2169.5</b>	<b>\$50,164</b>	<b>\$73,613</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>\$178</b>	<b>\$199</b>	<b>12%</b>
Mangere—Ōtāhuhu	60.1%	-4	-16	\$82,273	\$137,160	67%	\$225	\$304	35%
Ōtara—Papatoetoe	45.7%	-2	-20	\$91,118	\$128,567	41%	\$297	\$338	14%
Manurewa	33.0%	-5	-67	\$77,016	\$136,305	77%	\$193	\$199	3%
Porirua City	26.2%	-2	-2	\$71,919	\$102,712	43%	\$204	\$257	26%
Maungakiekie—Tamaki	25.9%	-3	-40	\$73,398	\$97,420	33%	\$263	\$269	2%
Henderson—Massey	19.5%	-5	-66	\$80,787	\$130,094	61%	\$172	\$183	7%
Whau	18.4%	-3	-21	\$68,379	\$92,128	35%	\$140	\$152	8%
Puketapapa	15.9%	-1	-6	\$134,819	\$165,478	23%	\$76	\$73	-4%
Papakura	14.5%	-3	-49	\$58,901	\$92,973	58%	\$254	\$221	-13%
South Waikato District	12.1%	-3	-36	\$38,940	\$60,006	54%	\$291	\$328	13%
Lower Hutt City	11.0%	-6	-64	\$50,845	\$79,987	57%	\$239	\$297	24%
Waitakere Ranges	10.9%	-1	-20	\$56,369	\$92,115	63%	\$110	\$136	23%

(GMP), highlighting the disproportionate impact of gambling in these communities.

Although the sinking lid policy was introduced to gradually reduce the number of gaming machines, it has not effectively curbed gambling-related harm in these Pacific-dense areas. Instead, the remaining machines have become more profitable, indicating that the policy alone may not be sufficient to address the growing concentration of gambling harm.

### PROBLEM GAMBLING

Problem gambling is defined as experiencing moderate to severe gambling-related harm, measured using the Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI), which assesses issues like betting more than one can afford to lose. Household gambling harm refers to negative impacts within a household, such as arguments or financial strain caused by another person's gambling.<sup>82</sup>

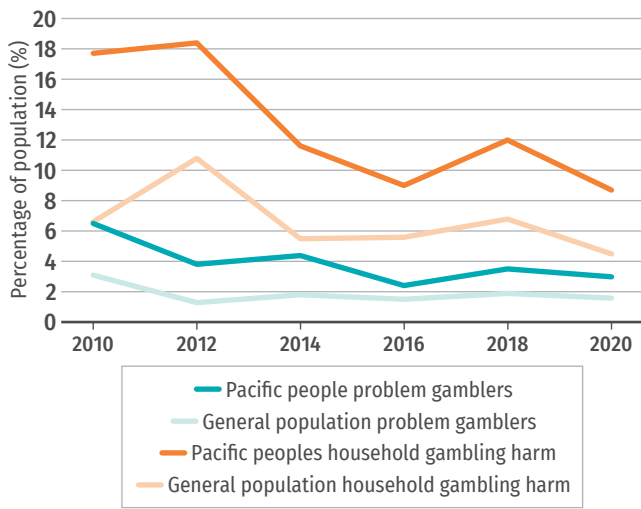
Figure 51 shows that both individual and household gambling-related harm have been consistently higher among Pacific peoples compared to the general population. Pacific individuals are more likely to experience severe gambling-related issues, with rates around twice as high as the rest of New

Zealand. Similarly, household gambling harm is significantly more prevalent in Pacific households, with rates as high as 8.7 percent in 2020 compared to 4.5 percent in the general population. The persistent nature of these issues, despite some fluctuations over the years, highlights the need for ongoing, targeted interventions to address the unique challenges faced by Pacific peoples regarding gambling harm.

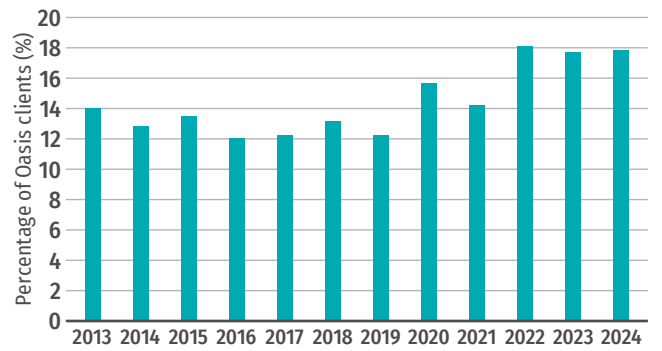
The Salvation Army previously ran the Oasis programme to support individuals struggling with problem gambling. Figure 52 shows the percentage of Pacific clients accessing our services for problem gambling support. The need for these services among the Pacific community gradually increased each year and by the time the service closed in 2023, Pacific peoples represented 18.8 percent of our clientele. This increase aligns with the rising gambling losses within Pacific communities and the high levels of gambling harm experienced by Pacific families. Addressing this growing need within the Pacific community remains crucial, as the impact of gambling continues to affect individuals and households significantly.



**Figure 51: Trends in problem gambling and household gambling harm among Pacific peoples and the general population—2010–2020<sup>82</sup>**



**Figure 52: Pacific Oasis clients—2013–2024 (December years)<sup>4</sup>**



# APPENDIX I

Housing trends for the top 50 Statistical Areas with the highest Pacific populations in New Zealand

Statistical Area (2018) <sup>a</sup>	Pacific population (2018) <sup>b</sup>	Median household income (2024) <sup>c</sup>		Median rent <sup>d</sup>		Rent affordability (2024) <sup>e</sup>	Home-ownership (2018) <sup>f</sup>	Median sale price (\$) – thousands <sup>g</sup>		5 year change	Purchasing affordability (2024) <sup>h</sup>	Years to save for a deposit 2024 <sup>i</sup>
		2015	2024	2015	2024			2019	2024			
National	8%	\$99,938	\$562	\$370	\$562	29%	41%	\$532	\$763	43%	35%	11
Auckland territorial authority (TA)	15%	\$123,966	\$626	\$470	\$626	26%	43%	\$812	\$990	22%	37%	11
Porirua territorial authority (TA)	25%	\$121,722	\$562	\$350	\$562	27%	42%	\$517	\$810	57%	30%	11
1 Harania North	79%	\$107,067	\$627	\$470	\$627	30%	18%	\$619	\$842	36%	36%	11
2 Rongomai West	77%	\$98,354	\$632	\$450	\$632	33%	15%	\$571	\$1024	79%	48%	12
3 Ōtara South	76%	\$79,343	\$700	\$390	\$700	46%	17%	\$592	\$722	22%	42%	17
4 Ferguson	75%	\$85,812	\$602	\$430	\$602	36%	16%	\$576	\$795	38%	42%	15
5 Ōtara East	75%	\$90,697	\$664	\$453	\$664	38%	17%	\$560	\$769	37%	39%	13
6 Suttion Park	75%	\$110,104	\$441	\$490	\$441	21%	22%	\$620	\$800	29%	33%	9
7 Māngere West	74%	\$97,298	\$664	\$450	\$664	36%	16%	\$667	\$1045	57%	49%	14
8 Ōtara West	74%	\$75,647	\$632	\$398	\$632	43%	15%	\$529	\$695	32%	42%	17
9 Ōtara Central	73%	\$71,554	\$494	\$440	\$494	36%	13%	\$595	\$823	38%	53%	18
10 Māngere North	72%	\$85,680	\$570	\$438	\$570	35%	18%	\$639	\$760	19%	41%	14
11 Māngere Central	70%	\$101,127	\$680	\$520	\$680	35%	24%	\$650	\$758	19%	34%	12
12 Māngere Mascot	70%	\$96,902	\$557	\$490	\$557	30%	24%	\$640	\$842	32%	40%	12
13 Clover Park North	67%	\$110,500	\$663	\$470	\$663	31%	25%	\$605	\$767	27%	32%	10
14 Harania South	66%	\$103,239	\$669	\$440	\$669	34%	23%	\$635	\$904	42%	40%	13
15 Favona West	66%	\$108,520	\$574	\$420	\$574	27%	21%	\$602	\$777	29%	33%	10
16 Cannons Creek East	65%	\$74,459	\$599	\$280	\$599	42%	22%	\$387	\$622	61%	38%	14
17 Massey Road South	65%	\$102,579	\$511	\$515	\$511	26%	23%	\$840	\$1150	37%	51%	14
18 Aorere North	63%	\$101,259	\$642	\$430	\$642	33%	22%	\$674	\$767	14%	35%	11
19 Waitangiria	63%	\$75,119	\$545	\$300	\$545	38%	17%	\$371	\$613	65%	37%	13
20 Favona North	62%	\$101,259	\$686	\$400	\$686	35%	25%	\$722	\$823	14%	37%	12
21 Massey Road West	62%	\$85,152	\$610	\$410	\$610	37%	18%	\$660	\$793	20%	43%	15
22 Rongomai East	62%	\$84,756	\$664	\$445	\$664	41%	17%	\$592	\$773	31%	42%	15
23 Grange	61%	\$101,391	\$577	\$480	\$577	30%	21%	\$800	\$805	1%	36%	11

Statistical Area (2018) <sup>a</sup>	Pacific population (2018) <sup>b</sup>	Median household income (2024) <sup>c</sup>	Median rent <sup>d</sup>		Rent affordability (2024) <sup>e</sup>	Home-ownership (2018) <sup>f</sup>	Median sale price (\$)-thousands <sup>g</sup>		Purchasing affordability (2024) <sup>h</sup>	Years to save for a deposit 2024 <sup>i</sup>
			2015	2024			10 year change	2019		
24 Favona East	58%	\$138,752	\$560	\$794	42%	26%	\$654	\$839	28%	9
25 Cannons Creek South	58%	\$80,136	\$340	\$640	88%	24%	\$390	\$594	52%	13
26 Māngere South	57%	\$112,876	\$510	\$644	26%	21%	\$709	\$830	17%	11
27 Cannons Creek North	56%	\$65,085	\$265	\$555	110%	18%	\$417	\$544	30%	15
28 Clendon Park East	54%	\$77,627	\$445	\$664	49%	19%	\$520	\$633	22%	15
29 Clendon Park North	54%	\$94,262	\$450	\$665	48%	25%	\$529	\$682	29%	11
30 Burbank	53%	\$103,767	\$465	\$697	50%	20%	\$590	\$782	33%	11
31 Rowandale West	52%	\$96,374	\$460	\$623	36%	20%	\$550	\$743	35%	12
32 Wiri East	51%	\$69,442	\$465	\$599	29%	15%	\$630	\$718	14%	19
33 Point England	51%	\$51,751	\$530	\$599	13%	12%	\$815	\$856	5%	42
34 Massey Road North	50%	\$113,140	\$345	\$479	39%	25%	\$652	\$757	16%	9
35 Aorere Central	50%	\$115,253	\$468	\$675	44%	33%	\$682	\$824	21%	10
36 Clendon Park West	49%	\$92,809	\$430	\$642	49%	25%	\$593	\$693	17%	12
37 Mount Wellington South East	48%	\$96,638	\$420	\$628	50%	21%	\$656	\$769	17%	12
38 Māngere South East	48%	\$126,210	\$475	\$640	35%	28%	\$704	\$892	27%	10
39 Ōtāhuhu North	48%	\$69,178	\$350	\$403	15%	15%	\$650	\$797	23%	17
40 Oranga	48%	\$94,658	\$460	\$650	41%	20%	\$939	\$943	0%	16
41 Randwick Park West	47%	\$84,360	\$430	\$654	52%	23%	\$532	\$687	29%	14
42 Ōtāhuhu East	47%	\$103,371	\$470	\$608	29%	23%	\$670	\$716	7%	10
43 Ōtāhuhu South West	46%	\$82,908	\$295	\$450	53%	17%	\$607	\$735	21%	12
44 Ōtāhuhu South	46%	\$76,439	\$320	\$428	34%	22%	\$814	\$899	10%	17
45 Glen Innes East-Wai O Taiki Bay	44%	\$93,337	\$540	\$727	35%	22%	\$1015	\$1179	16%	21
46 Homai West	44%	\$94,658	\$450	\$628	40%	23%	\$618	\$798	29%	13
47 Wattle Downs North	43%	\$88,849	\$475	\$651	37%	25%	\$601	\$785	31%	14
48 Aorere South	43%	\$106,143	\$460	\$628	37%	31%	\$670	\$857	28%	12
49 Weymouth North	43%	\$113,140	\$465	\$622	34%	32%	\$641	\$692	8%	9
50 Rowandale East	42%	\$105,747	\$475	\$635	34%	26%	\$602	\$784	30%	11

KEY

Values worse than the national level

Worse than territorial authority but better than national

Higher-than-average rent or price increases

Homeownership lower than national

Unaffordable based on income ratio

Uncoloured boxes show areas performing better relative to both national and territorial levels.

**NOTES TO THE APPENDIX:**

- a Statistical Area 2 (SA2) 2018 (generalised)** is a mid-level geographic unit in New Zealand used for detailed statistical analysis, representing communities or neighbourhoods with populations typically between 1000 and 4000. More info: <https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/92212-statistical-area-2-2018-generalised/>
- b Pacific population (2018)** is the percentage of Pacific peoples living in the area. Sourced from Community Compass—Dot Loves Data based on statistics from Stats NZ.
- c Median household income (2024)** is for June 2024 defined as the inflation-adjusted median combined income of the household. Sourced from Community Compass—Dot Loves Data based on statistics from Stats NZ.
- d Median rent** for April 2015 and April 2024, defined as the average of the bond-weighted median rate price over the last 12 months. Sourced from Community Compass—Dot Loves Data, based on statistics from Tenancy Services and Tenancy Services.
- e Rent affordability (2024)** for June 2024 is defined as the percentage of annual median household income spent on rent: the higher the percentage, the less affordable the rent. The threshold deemed affordable is 30%. Sourced from Community Compass—Dot Loves Data, based on statistics from Tenancy Services and Stats NZ.
- f Homeownership (2018)** is defined as the percentage of individuals who own their own home. Sourced from Community Compass—Dot Loves Data, based on statistics from Stats NZ.
- g Median sale price (\$)—thousands** for June 2019 and June 2024 is defined as the rolling 12-month median price of sold single residential properties in the area. Sourced from Community Compass—Dot Loves Data, based on statistics from Headway Systems Ltd.
- h Purchasing affordability (2024)** for June 2024 is defined as the percentage of annual median household income that is spent on a mortgage repayment (based on purchasing at the median house price with a 20% deposit over 30 years assuming a fixed interest rate of 4%). The higher the percentage, the less affordable purchasing is. The threshold for affordability is between 30–35%. Sourced from Community Compass—Dot Loves Data, based on statistics from Headway Systems Ltd and Stats NZ.
- i Years to save for a deposit (2024)** for June 2024 is defined as the number of years it would take to save for a 20% deposit on a property based on the median property value saving at an annual rate of 20% median household income minus the annual median rent price. This is assuming the house prices and income remain the same. Sourced from Community Compass – Dot Loves Data, based on statistics from Headway Systems Ltd and Stats NZ.

**Dot Loves Data** is a New Zealand-based data analytics company that provides insights and data from various sources to inform decision-making.

**Community Compass** (a subsidiary of Dot Loves Data) gives detailed information about a community's demographics, socio-economic wellbeing, health, housing, accessibility to services, education, employment, economic and environmental measures. More info: <https://www.dotlovesdata.com/products/community-compass>

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