

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CENSUS 2013: NORTHLAND DATA



Dr Clair Mills, Medical Officer of Health

Northland District Health Board

February 2014



HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTHLAND 2013 CENSUS DATA

This report provides a provisional analysis of Census 2013 data for Northland region. Please note the methods used, as described in the endnote. Feedback on any errors or on interpretation of the data is welcome – please email to: clair.mills@northlanddhb.org.nz

POPULATION CHANGES IN NORTHLAND (see population pyramid graphs and map annexed)

- **151,692** people were “usually resident” in Northland at the time of the Census 2013. This is a **3%** increase overall in Northland since 2006 (a 0.43% average increase per annum), lower than the national average growth of 5.3% (0.7% p.a.) in the same period.

However Kaipara District Council’s population has actually fallen by 0.2% since 2006, a loss of 111 people in real terms.

Marked falls in population are also apparent in other areas, with declines to 2001 levels or below, including:

- Central Whangarei, Tikipunga, Otangarei and Raumanga in WDC
- Dargaville, Maungaturoto and coastal Kaipara in KDC
- North Hokianga, Kaitaia, Far North, Russell, Kawakawa, Moerewa and Kaikohe.

Conversely there have been population increases in areas such as Three Mile Bush and Ruakaka in WDC, Mangawhai/Mangawhai Heads in KDC, and Kerikeri, Kapiro and parts of Taipa and Karikari in FNDC.

29.6% of the Northland population identifies as Māori – similar to the 29.3% in 2006.

- 52.2% of those claiming Māori descent in Northland affiliate to Ngapuhi. 3048 more people claim Māori ancestry than identify as Māori.

The number and proportion of the population under 5yrs is much the same as in 2006 (10,659 (7.0%) compared with 10269 (6.9%) in 2006). Maori represent 48.3% of the <5yr population (59.1% in FNDC, 39.9% in KDC and 42.4% in WDC).

Overall the population <15 years has fallen in absolute numbers: 32,478 in 2013 - a fall of 5.8% or 0.8% per annum since 2006; and as a proportion of the total population (now 21.6% compared with 23.4% in 2006). 46.3% of the total <15 year population identify as Maori, ranging from 36.4% in KDC, 29.5% in WDC to 58.2% in FNDC.

In the overall “working age” group (i.e. 20-<65years) there has been a small absolute decline in numbers (-0.1% since 2006), with Maori numbers increasing slightly (0.9% per annum), offset by non-Maori losses.

The age group with the biggest negative change is in the 30-50 year age group, where there has been a net loss of more than 5600 people since 2006 in Northland (a 14% decline). This correlates with the

significant employment (job) losses in Northland since 2006 (see below, and the population pyramid graphs and map annexed).

From age 50 years up, there are increases in populations in each 5 year age band. The largest percentage increase is for Maori over 80 years of age (10.35% per annum) - but this is from a base of small numbers; Maori only make up 14% of the Northland population over 80 years of age.

Non-Maori population growth is highest in the 65-80 year and >80year age groups (>4% per annum).

HOUSEHOLDS AND DWELLINGS

There has been a small decrease in the number of families/whānau in Northland overall (with WDC only showing a small increase); and a very small increase in one parent families (28.5% compared with 27.8% in 2006).

There is a large increase in families with one person or a couple with no dependent children (i.e. no children or adult children), probably reflecting ageing of the population. This is also reflected in the 21.2% (3.0% pa) increase in “one person” households.

There has also been a small increase in households containing two or more whanau (from 2.7% to 2.9% of total households).

There has been a small annual increase in “occupied” dwellings -generally reflecting the population patterns outlined above. However there has also been an increase in “unoccupied” dwellings (= residents absent plus empty dwellings) to 14.5% of all dwellings (compared with 10.6% nationally). This may reflect a higher proportion of holiday residences in Northland (for example in KDC most of the increase is in Mangawhai/Mangawhai Heads).

There has been a decline in home ownership (from 50.7% to 46.3% of occupied dwellings) and conversely, a small increase in private renting (79.4% of rental housing is owned by private landlords).

Housing NZ houses have increased slightly in absolute numbers in Northland- but declined as a proportion of the total rental market (12.2% in 2006 to 10.9% in 2013).

Other government owned housing has declined (by nearly 4% per annum) and TLA-owned social housing remains minimal (2.4% of all rental housing).

EDUCATION

23.3% of the population over 15 years in Northland has no educational qualifications, compared with 27.4% in 2006. This is slightly higher than the national average (20.9%). WDC has the lowest proportion (21.7%), followed by FNDC (24.0%) and KDC (27.3%).

7.4% of Northland’s population had a Bachelor’s degree or equivalent, and 3.1% a post-graduate qualification (an increase from 2.1% since 2006). These figures (although increases from 2006) are

considerably lower than the national average (20.0% of adults in New Zealand had a University degree in 2013).

WORK

In 2013, there were 2985 fewer people in full time employment and 63 fewer in part time employment in Northland, than in 2006.

The unemployment rate¹ in Northland overall in 2013 was 9.7% (11.4% in FNDC, 7.7% in KDC and 9.1% in WDC) compared with 6.5% in 2006. Younger age groups had much higher rates (see tables). This represents 6606 people- over 2000 more people than in 2006.

Only 51.6% of the total population over 15 years was in full or part time employment (compared with 56.6% in 2006).

35.5% of the population over 15 years in Northland were not in the labour force (not employed and not actively seeking work, such as students, carers, retired people, etc) compared with 33.4% in 2006. This compares with 32.9% nationally.

A significant number (7.3%) of people in Northland had “unidentifiable work status”.

There have been declines in absolute numbers in all categories of employment status (employers, employees and self-employed), with the biggest proportionate loss in “employers”.

There has been a decline in numbers in all occupational groups except “professionals” and “community and personal service workers”. Likewise, there has been a decline in work/jobs in all economic sectors (including agriculture, manufacturing, construction, retail trade, financial & insurance services, accommodation and food services etc) except for “health care” and “education and training”.

Many people carry out unpaid voluntary work in the home and community. Over 20,000 people (17% of the population over 15 years in Northland) do unpaid work for community organisations, schools, marae etc.

INCOME

Unsurprisingly, the median household income in Northland is low (\$46,900) – significantly lower than the NZ median of \$63,800, and lower than other provincial centres and south Auckland, for example.

Personal incomes are also low, with large gender differences (\$7,000-\$10,000 greater for men than women, depending on age and location). The median personal income across all ages was \$23,400, an increase of 1.7% pa since 2006.

¹ The unemployment rate is the number of people aged 15+yrs who do not have a paid job, are available for work and are actively seeking work, expressed as a percentage of the labour force (=those employed full or part time plus those unemployed).

Personal median incomes for young adults (25-40years, i.e. the age group most likely to have children) vary from \$19,400-\$42000, with higher median incomes in WDC than in other districts.

The most common source of income was wages and salaries (42.3% of the total population >15 years, compared with 45.9% in 2006), followed by NZ Superannuation (20.2%, increased from 16.9% in 2006), reflecting ageing of the Northland population.

The proportion of people the unemployment benefit was remarkably static (in fact a decline from 4.0% of the total population <15yrs in 2006 to 3.9% in 2013), despite the large increase in unemployment. This may reflect the introduction of more stringent eligibility criteria.

Numbers of people on sickness and invalid benefits increased slightly in absolute numbers but as a proportion of the total population stayed at similar levels to 2006 (around 3% for each)

Numbers of people on the Domestic Purposes Benefit likewise increased slightly but also showed a small drop in percentage terms 94.0% in 2006 to 3.9% in 2013). A large majority were women, compared with other benefits where men outweighed women.

OTHER POINTS...

- 6.9% of households in Northland (the same percentage as in 2006) still have no access to a vehicle- while 47.6% have access to two or more.
 - Internet access in households has increased (to 62.5% overall) but is low by NZ standards (average is 76.8%), and varies between TLAs (lowest at 57.0% of households in FNDC).
 - Telephone access also varies, with 68.7% of FNDC households having mobile phone access compared with 77.5% in WDC and 74.7% in KDC.
 - In line with national trends, the number and proportion of Te Reo speakers in Te Tai Tokerau is declining (8.3% in 2013 compared with 9.1% in 2006).
 - Smoking rates are declining (a fall from 22.7% of the population >15yrs to 16.8% for 'regular smokers', and an increase in the "ex-smoker" and "never smoked" categories). This is seen across both genders, all age groups and in most locations, though varies a little between TLAs. A more detailed analysis (including by ethnicity) will follow.
 - There is a small decline in religious affiliation, especially Christian denominations, in line with national trends.
 - There is a small decrease in the proportion of those married (42.5% in 2013 compared with 44.2% in 2006), and an increase in people stating they are not partnered (34.6% compared with 34.5%) - likely reflecting the ageing demographics of Northland.
 - Further analysis of fertility trends and also where people have shifted to/from is needed. (National data suggests between 4-8000 people have moved to Auckland and vice versa- plus emigration to Australia is also likely to be significant).
-

NOTES ON METHODS: All data is based on the Census 2013 data that is publicly available (as of February 2014) on www.stats.govt.nz.

- Ethnicity definition: for Māori, “prioritised” ethnicity is used (i.e. anyone who stated they identified as Māori, either as the only or one of several ethnic groups they identify with). This analysis usually compares this group with non- Māori (the total population count minus Māori (i.e. all others identifying with other ethnic groups).
- Denominator definitions: The “Usually resident” population denominator is used for Council areas; NB Northland DHB’s boundary is slightly different at the southern end to that of NRC. KDC= Kaipara District Council, WDC = Whangarei District Council, FNDC = Far North District Council; NRC= Northland Regional Council.
- NB The denominator used in this report is the relevant “total population” of the TLA or region, unless otherwise stated. This means that proportions (%) are lower than if the denominator of “total response stated” (i.e. excluding people who did not respond from the denominator) is used (NZ Stats method). Non-response rates do vary by question (for example, there was a 14-15% non-response to education qualifications question, 13-14% for income questions, 6-7% for employment, 7-8% for ethnicity), but the proportion in each case is relatively consistent across both Census years at the regional level.

ANNEX Fig 1: Population pyramid graphs Northland 2006 & 2013 Census by ethnicity



