

KEY RESULTS

Health

Infant death rate in the Lakes DHB (District Health Board) region was higher than the 2011 national rate.

Life expectancy is gradually increasing but is still below the national average.

Housing

Over the past decade home ownership has fallen substantially at both the local and national level.

Overcrowding has fallen during the past decade at both the national and local level.

Housing New Zealand's social housing stock has stayed at around the same level since 1999 following a period of significant sales of state houses.

Education

More than 40% of Rotorua school students attend a school with a decile rating of 3 or lower.

There has been an increase in the rate of participation in early childhood education services by Rotorua children compared to a year earlier.

The number of students stood down from school has decreased in recent years.

Early leaving exemptions have increased to a total of 18 early leaving exemptions issued in 2011, compared to 4 in 2010, but remained below 95 in 2006.

An increasing proportion of people have a qualification at NCEA Level 1 or above, and the Rotorua figure was slightly above the national average.

Standard of living

Real household income growth in the Rotorua District grew at an average rate of 1.2% per annum over the period 1996-2006 compared to an average rate of 2.1% per annum for New Zealand as a whole.

The Rotorua district unemployment rate fell to 6.6% in 2006 from 8.9% in 2001.

The number of people receiving the Unemployment Benefit in Rotorua was 1,150 in June 2012 from 1,118 in June 2011.

The percentage of Rotorua 0-4 year-olds living in sole-parent families has increased over the past decade.

Almost half of the district's population lives in areas that are considered to be the 30% most deprived in the country.

Community safety

The proportion of residents who feel the Rotorua District is a safe place to live was 80% in 2012 compared to 85% in 2011.

Recorded youth apprehensions have increased marginally.

There has been a decrease in notifications to Child, Youth and Family.

Annual traffic accidents in the Rotorua District are below the national average.

Social connection

Approximately 18% of Rotorua residents undertake voluntary work through an organisation, group or marae.

The proportion of households in the Rotorua District with access to a telephone increased to 96.7% in 2006.

Sixty-one percent of respondents rate Rotorua's community spirit as good or very good, compared with 71% in 2011.

Forty-nine percent of Rotorua residents feel they can trust strangers.

A relatively high proportion of surveyed citizens feel cultural diversity makes Rotorua a much better place to live.

Rotorua has an above average proportion of Maori language speakers when compared to the national average.

Democracy

The Rotorua turnout for national elections was 75% in 2011 compared to 80% in 2008.

Voter turnout for the Rotorua District Council election was 43% in 2010 compared to 44% in 2007, 49% in 2004 and 54% in 1998.

The percentage of residents who rate the mayor and councillors' performance as fairly good or very good was 46% in 2012, on par with 2011 results.

The percentage of surveyed citizens who are satisfied with the way Council involves the public in its decisions was 40% in 2012 compared to 41% in 2011.

The percentage of survey respondents who feel the public has at least some influence on council decisions was 40% in 2012 compared to 47% in 2011.

Where to from here...

The information in this report is kept updated on the Rotorua District Council website, www.rdc.govt.nz (keywords: "publications"). The Social Monitor reporting happens annually and reflects the latest information available about the seven general areas covered.