

Rotorua's Ageing Population



Rotorua District
Older Persons Profile
2002

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DISTRICT
COUNCIL

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FOREWORD

More than six centuries ago the Te Arawa people moved inland and settled in the Rotorua area. Today, Rotorua is a multi-cultural District of over 64,000 people. Rotorua is an international tourism icon and a renowned heartland of Māori culture in New Zealand. Four out of ten Rotorua residents are of Māori descent, and one out of ten are affiliated with Te Arawa. The communities of the District are unique, diverse, and constantly changing as a result of migration and other factors.

This report is part of an expanding series of publications produced by Council's Community Policy & Resources Division to track social trends and assist with community planning. To date these include:

- Good Health! – Directory of Rotorua's Health and Wellbeing Services.
- Rotorua's Changing Communities – Rotorua District Demographic Profile.
- Rotorua's Young People – Rotorua District Youth Demographic Profile.
- Rotorua's Ageing Population – Rotorua District Older Persons Profile.
- Rotorua's Quality of Life – Rotorua District Key Social Indicators.
- Rotorua's Patterns of Disadvantage – Rotorua District Indicators of Low Socio-economic Status.

Rotorua District Council uses these documents to help plan public infrastructure and make social policy decisions. I hope you as local individuals or organisations will also make good use of these reports for the social wellbeing and development of the District.

Naku noa, nā

Grahame Hall



Grahame W. Hall, JP
Mayor of the Rotorua District

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This document is available on the Rotorua District website:
<http://www.rotoruanz.com/downloads/>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This document presents statistics on older people in the Rotorua area, with a focus on people aged 65 and over. The report sets a baseline for monitoring changes in the wellbeing of Rotorua's older people, to help Council and others plan for the future. It was prepared to help inform the development of Rotorua District Council's Older Persons Policy, and is provided as a community resource for the benefit of all older people in the Rotorua District.
- Although Rotorua still has a youthful population profile compared with other parts of New Zealand, its population is gradually growing older. As at Census night 2001, there were 6,822 Rotorua District residents aged 65 and over. This represents 10.6% of the total population, up from 8.9% in 1991. Forecasts shows that by the year 2021 there will be 12,200 people aged 65 and over in the District, or 16% of the overall population. Around 55% of older people in Rotorua are women, and this gender difference is projected to continue.
- Suburbs with particularly high numbers of older people include Springfield, Glenholme and Fenton. These areas contain substantial numbers of pensioner units, retirement villages and rest homes. Over the period 1991 to 2001 there was particularly strong growth in the percentage of residents aged 65 and over in the Fenton area, increasing from 15.9% to 26.3% of all residents.
- 87.4% of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over are in the European ethnic group, and 12.8% are in the Māori ethnic group. Nationally, only 4.1% of people aged 65 and over are in the Māori ethnic group. The number of older Māori in New Zealand is projected to triple within the next 20 years as a result of increasing life expectancy.
- Around one-third of all Rotorua residents aged 65 and over are widowed, which is similar to the national average. There is a national trend towards older people increasingly living alone.
- Compared with the older age groups, Rotorua's younger generation has a higher proportion of people who attain high school qualifications. Around two-fifths of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 have no formal academic qualification. Other features of the education profile for Rotorua's older population include a relatively high number of people with overseas school qualifications, and an above-average proportion with advanced vocational qualifications.
- 12.2% of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over are in paid employment, and 0.3% are unemployed and seeking work. Rotorua industries with strong participation by older workers include agriculture, property and business services, retail trade, education, and health and community services.
- 3.6% of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are unemployed, compared with 2.6% nationally.

- Around four-fifths of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over earn income from NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pension. About the same number earn less than \$20,000 per annum. Only 3% of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over earn more than \$50,000 per annum.
- Real median personal income for people aged 65 and over in the Rotorua District mirrored the national trend over the period 1991 to 2001, increasing from \$11,941 to \$12,565.
- Over the past decade, home ownership has been falling at the national level, and has been falling slightly more quickly at the local level. However, in the 65 and over age group 78.2% of Rotorua homes are still owned by their occupiers, which is above the national average of 76.4% for this age group.
- Only 28.1% of people in the Lakes health region live past 80 years of age compared with 39.8% nationally. The Lakes region has a high proportion of Māori, and despite recent improvements Māori still have a lower life expectancy than the European ethnic group.
- Although older people in the Bay of Plenty Region have an above-average level of physical activity, hospitalisation and mortality rates are higher than average in the Lakes health region. Diseases that dominate in the older age range include diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, and respiratory infections. Most deaths are caused by progressive illnesses that are preventable from an early age.
- According to survey results, 50% of Rotorua District residents aged 55 and over participate in walking as their main sport or physical activity. Other popular activities for older residents in Rotorua include golf, gardening, fishing, swimming, tramping, reading, and playing cards.

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INTRODUCTION

There is no fixed age at which one becomes “old”. In the words of Age Concern New Zealand (A Guide to Positive Ageing, 2001), you can be young at heart at 80 or old before your time at 40.

This document presents statistics on older people in the Rotorua area, with a focus on people aged 65 and over. The report sets a baseline for monitoring changes in the wellbeing of local older people. It was prepared to help inform the development of Rotorua District Council’s Older Persons Policy, and is provided as a community resource for the benefit of all older people in the Rotorua District.

Council acknowledges the many organisations and services with a commitment to Rotorua’s older people. Our hope is that this will be an active document to help plan for Rotorua’s ageing population.

The information in this report describes Rotorua’s age profile and trends, including ethnicity, education, and health. Most of the report relates to Census statistics, including comparisons with New Zealand overall, and trends from 1991 to 2001. Additional information has been sourced from the Lakes District Health Board, and a recent community survey on recreational activities.

Cautionary notes

Two important points should be kept in mind when interpreting the information in this report. First, for confidentiality purposes Statistics New Zealand rounds all Census figures to the nearest multiple of three. This means that the columns and rows of tables often do not sum precisely. Secondly, this report follows the approach of Statistics New Zealand when calculating percentage figures, of first excluding invalid responses such as “Not stated”, “Refused to answer” or “Not elsewhere included”. These categories exist because some Census responses are unclear or unanticipated, and in some cases have been left blank.

ROTORUA DISTRICT AGE PROFILE

Information on Rotorua's age profile is important for measuring economic, social and demographic change.

KEY POINTS:

- Although Rotorua currently has a youthful population profile compared with other parts of New Zealand, the District population is growing older.
- Suburbs with particularly high numbers of older people include Springfield, Glenholme and Fenton.

The median age of Rotorua residents is currently 33.0 years, compared with 34.8 for all of New Zealand. However, the number of people in Rotorua's younger age groups is diminishing over time while older age groups are increasing (refer Table 1). The 55 and over age group in Rotorua increased from 16.6% of the population in 1991 to 19.1% in 2001. The 65 and over age group increased from 8.9% to 10.6% over the same period. Population ageing is a feature of most areas throughout New Zealand.



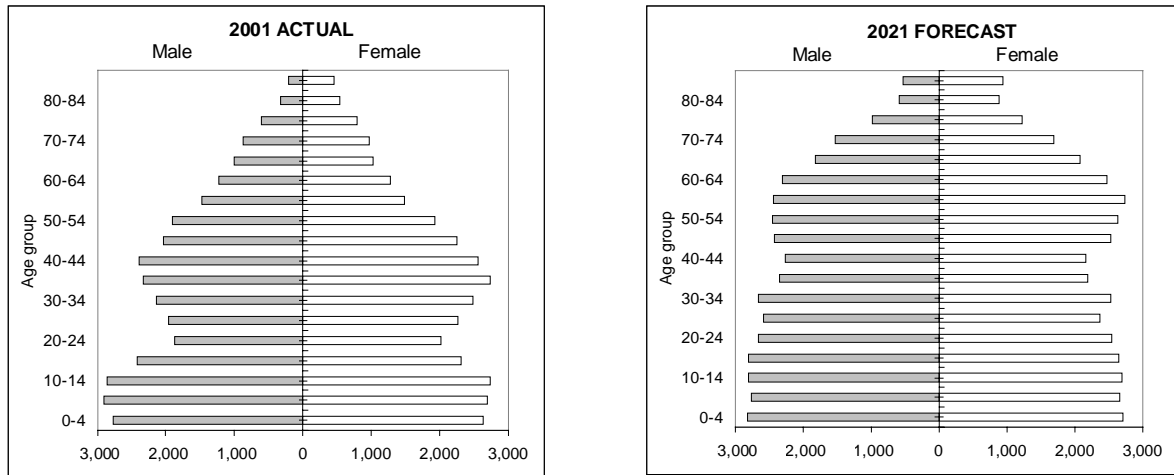
Table 1: Age profile, Rotorua District, 1991-2001

Age range	1991		1996		2001	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Less Than 55	51,363	83.4%	53,310	82.6%	52,191	81.0%
55-59 Years	2,340	3.8%	2,661	4.1%	2,961	4.6%
60-64 Years	2,358	3.8%	2,184	3.4%	2,499	3.9%
65+ Years	5,499	8.9%	6,354	9.9%	6,822	10.6%
Total Population	61,560	100.0%	64,509	100.0%	64,473	100.0%

Population projections

Within the next 20 years, the number of Rotorua people in the over-fifties age group is forecast to almost double (refer Figure 1). Part of this increase is due to the ageing of those currently aged in their 40s and 50s – the baby boomer generations – that appear as a bulge in Rotorua's age profile. Also, due to an increasingly longer life expectancy, the number of people aged 85 and over in Rotorua is projected to more than double by the year 2021 (from 660 to 1,470).

Figure 1: Age-gender profile, Rotorua District, 2001-2021 (projected)



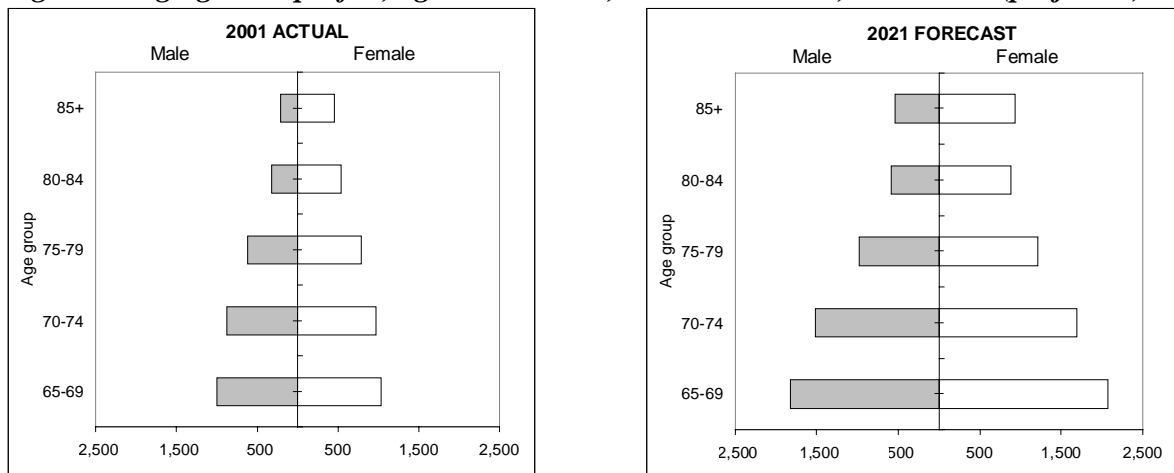
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: 2021 projections are from the 1996 Census base, assuming medium fertility, medium mortality, and medium migration.

Gender

Figure 2 shows more clearly the projected growth in the number of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over. It also shows that there is currently a higher number of females than males in this age group, and that this gender difference is forecast to continue. As at Census night 2001, 55.4% (3,780) of Rotorua people aged 65 and over were women compared with 44.6% (3,039) who were men. This ratio is expected to continue as the overall population ages. By the year 2021 there are expected to be 6,800 women and 5,440 men in Rotorua aged 65 and over.

Figure 2: Age-gender profile, age 65 and over, Rotorua District, 2001-2021 (projected)



Source: Statistics New Zealand

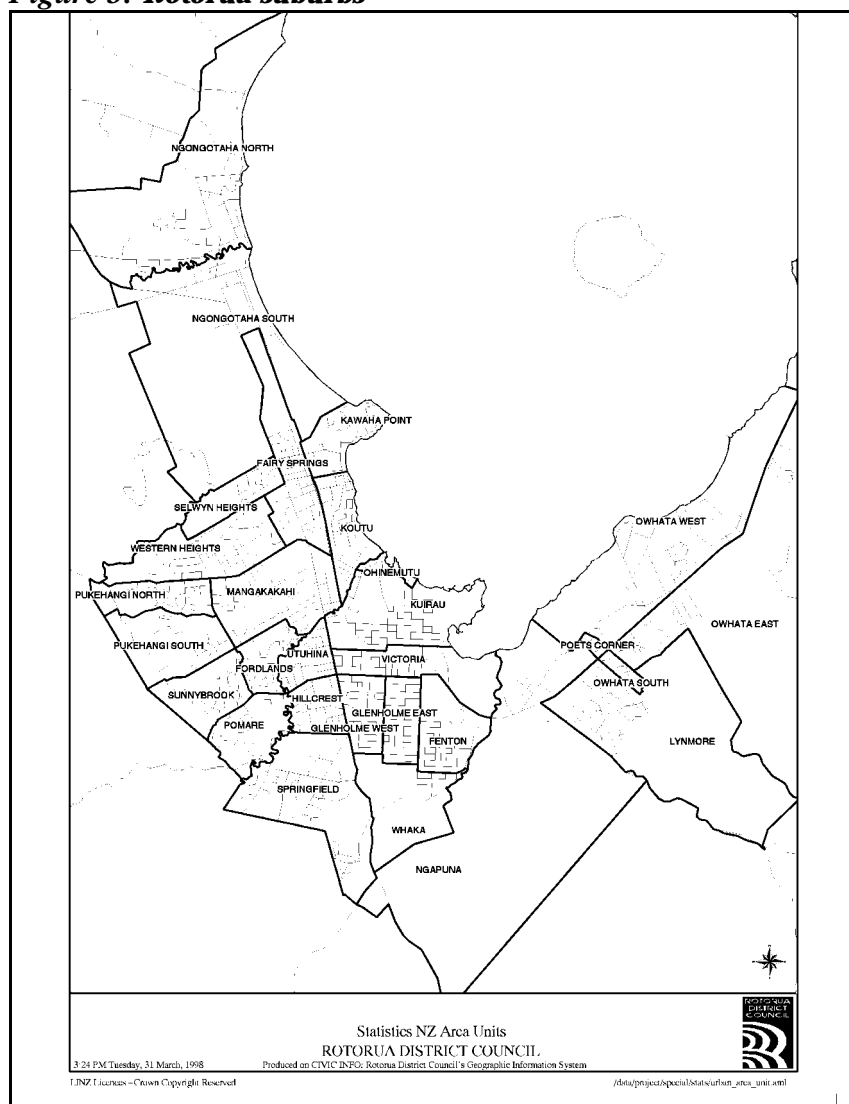
Note: Refer Figure 1.

Suburbs and rural communities

Appendix 1 shows the age profile of different suburbs and rural communities in the Rotorua District. The areas with the highest number of people aged 65 and over as at Census night 2001 include Springfield (657), Glenholme East (528), Glenholme West (402), Fenton (357), Owhata East (339), Western Heights (312), and Lynmore (306). This corresponds with areas of overall high population and/or areas with high numbers of pensioner units, retirement villages and rest homes. The highest *percentages* of people aged 65 and over are in Fenton (26.3% of all residents), Glenholme East (26.2%), and Glenholme West (18.1%).

Over the previous ten-year period, the largest increases in the number of older people in Rotorua were in the Fenton and Lynmore areas. Specifically, the number of Fenton residents aged 65 and over increased from 210 in 1991 to 357 in 2001, and the number of Lynmore residents aged 65 and over increased from 204 to 306 during the same period. The largest *percentage* increases were in Fenton (increasing from 15.9% to 26.3% of all residents) and Utuhina (increasing from 10.3% to 14.6%).

Figure 3: Rotorua suburbs



Note: Based on official statistical areas

ETHNICITY

“Ethnicity” is a label used to distinguish groups within the population on the basis of ancestry, language, cultural values, customs, and other common features.

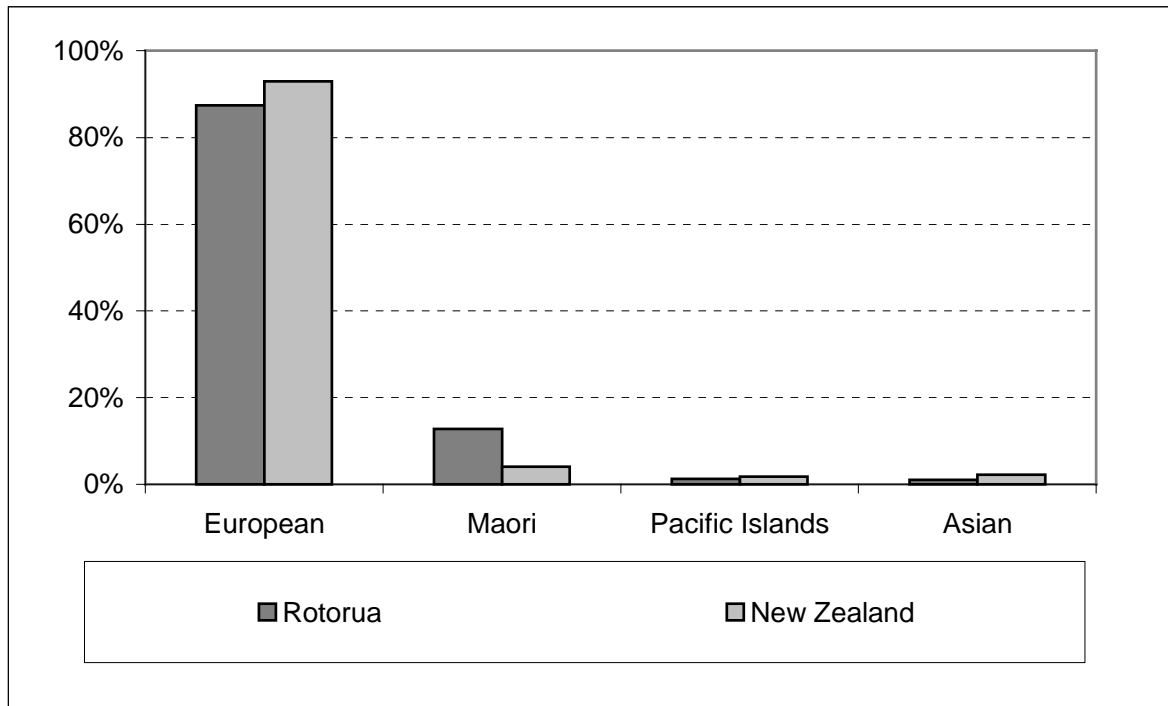
KEY POINTS:

- 87.4% (5,517) of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over are in the European ethnic group.
- 12.8% (810) of Rotorua people aged 65 and over are in the Māori ethnic group compared with just 4.1% nationally.
- Older age groups in Rotorua are becoming increasingly multicultural.

The majority of older people in Rotorua are in the European ethnic group (refer Figure 4). In 2001, 87.4% (5,517) of residents aged 65 and over were in the European ethnic group compared with 92.9% for New Zealand as a whole. Around one in every eight Rotorua residents age 65 and over are in the Māori ethnic group compared with one in twenty-five nationally. Only 1.3% (84) of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over were in the Pacific Islands ethnic group, and only 1.1% (69) in the Asian ethnic group. The comparable national figures are 1.8% and 2.3%.



Figure 4: Ethnic groups, 65+ years, Rotorua District and New Zealand, 2001



Note: The “Not Elsewhere Included” category was omitted prior to calculation. Percentages sum to more than 100% because one person can belong to more than one ethnic group.

Māori older people

Overall (all ages), 35.6% of residents in the Rotorua District are in the Māori ethnic group. At present there are many more younger Māori than older Māori (refer Figure 5). Life expectancy for Māori is still around five years less than non-Māori. Nevertheless, 12.8% (810) of Rotorua people aged 65 and over are in the Māori ethnic group compared with 4.1% nationally. In the suburbs of Ngapuna and Ohinemutu, more than one-half of all residents aged 65 and over are in the Māori ethnic group. Other parts of the District in which more than one in four older people are Māori include Koutu, Fordlands, Tiketere, Fairy Springs, and the rural settlement of Kaingaroa Forest. The number of older Māori in New Zealand is projected to triple within the next 20 years as a result of increasing life expectancy.



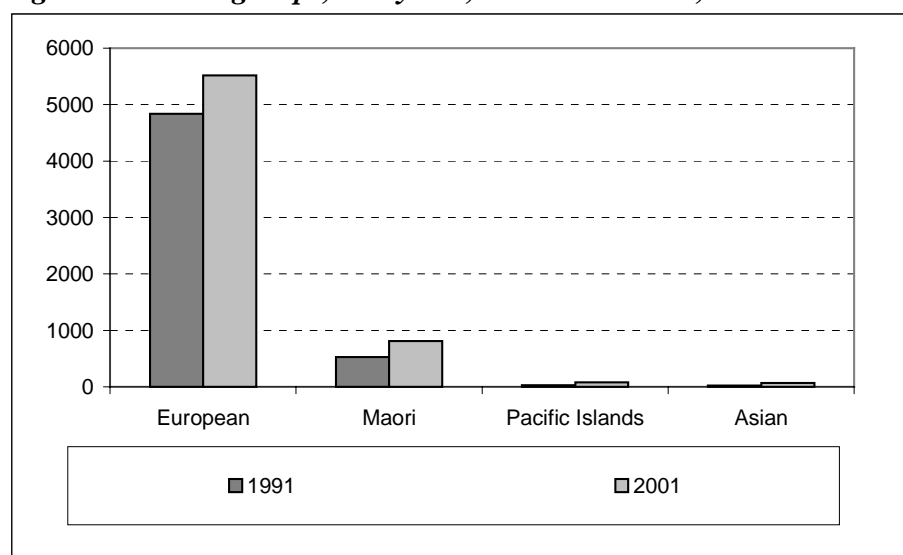
Figure 5: Age-ethnicity pyramid, Rotorua District, 2001



Ethnicity trends

Figure 6 shows that the number of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over in the European ethnic group increased from 4,839 (88.0%) in 1991 to 5,517 (87.4%) in 2001. The total number of Māori residents in this age range also increased markedly, from 531 (9.7%) in 1991 to 810 (12.8%) in 2001. Rotorua's older population is projected to become more ethnically diverse in future years.

Figure 6: Ethnic groups, 65+ years, Rotorua District, 1991-2001



Note: 1996 figures are not shown because of changes to the wording of this Census item

Country of birth

Older age groups in New Zealand are becoming increasingly multicultural, and this is reflected in birthplace statistics for the Rotorua District (refer Table 2). As at Census 2001, three-quarters of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over were born in New Zealand, down slightly from 76.7% in 1991. The percentage of older immigrants in Rotorua that are from the UK and Ireland is also slowly falling, from 16.5% in 1991 to 15.0% in 2001. In contrast, there have been increases in the number of Rotorua older people that have migrated from other parts of the world. These include Europe and the former Soviet states (comprising 270 older people in Rotorua, or 4.3% of all people aged 65 and over), Australia (114 or 1.8%), and Polynesia (87 or 1.4%).

Table 2: Birthplace, 65+ years, Rotorua District, 1991-2001

Birthplace	1991	1996	2001
New Zealand	76.7%	76.0%	75.0%
United Kingdom and Ireland	16.5%	15.5%	15.0%
Europe	2.7%	3.8%	4.3%
Australia	1.6%	1.6%	1.8%
Polynesia	0.8%	1.1%	1.4%
Southern and Central Asia	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%
North-East Asia	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%
North America	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Other	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: The "Not Elsewhere Included" category was omitted prior to calculation.

FAMILY

As people grow older their living arrangements change, which has implications for the availability of support and overall wellbeing.

KEY POINT:

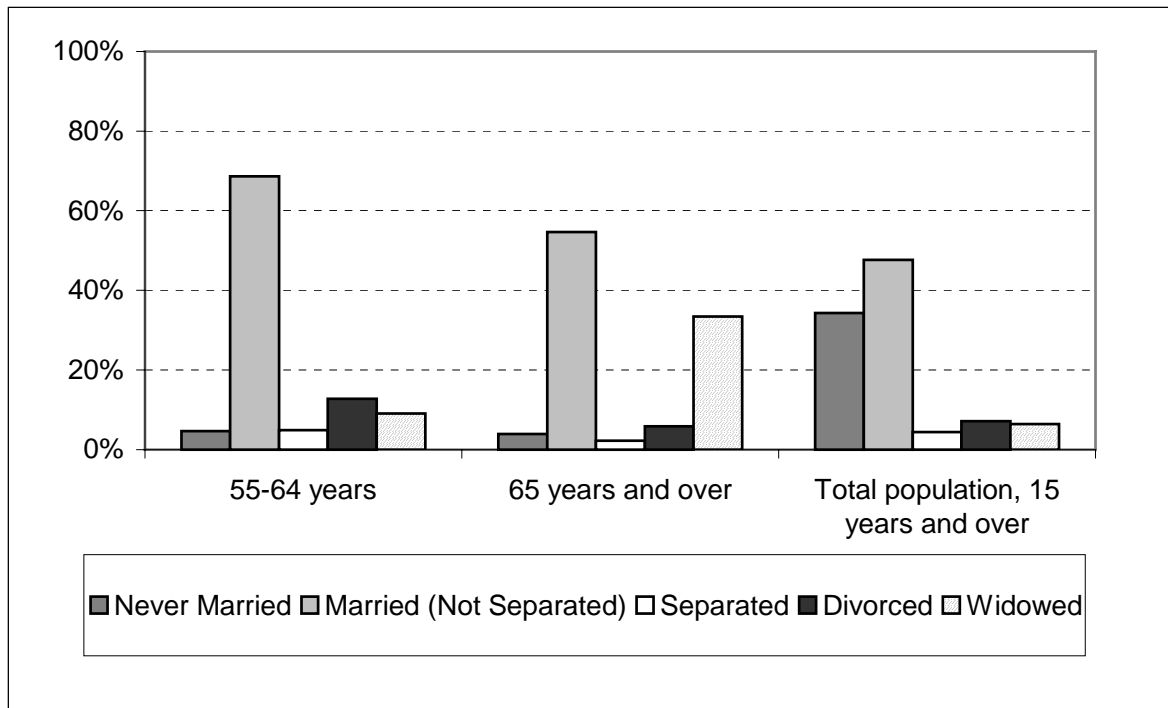
- Almost 55% of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over are legally married.
- Around one-third of all Rotorua residents aged 65 and over are widowed, which is similar to the national average.

The latest Census results show that 68.7% (3,417) of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are married, and 54.6% (3,309) of residents aged 65 and over are married (refer Figure 7). Residents aged 65 and over in the European ethnic group are more likely than other ethnic groups to be married, which is at least partly due to the longer life expectancy of the European ethnic group.



Around one-third of all Rotorua residents aged 65 and over are widowed, which is similar to the national average. The percentage of Pacific Islands and Māori residents aged 65 and over that are widowed is higher than other ethnic groups in Rotorua (refer Table 3), and is also higher than the rate of widowhood for Pacific Islands and Māori residents nationally.

Figure 7: Legal marital status, Rotorua District older people, 2001



Note: The “Not Elsewhere Included” category was omitted prior to calculation.

Table 3: Legal marital status by ethnicity, Rotorua District people aged 65+, 2001

	European		Māori		Pacific Islands		Asian	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Never Married	192	3.7%	36	4.8%	3	4.0%	3	4.5%
Married (Not Separated)	2,964	56.5%	324	42.9%	27	36.0%	33	50.0%
Separated	105	2.0%	30	4.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Divorced	312	5.9%	45	6.0%	6	8.0%	3	4.5%
Widowed	1,668	31.8%	321	42.5%	36	48.0%	24	36.4%
Not Elsewhere Included	276		54		9		6	
Total	5,520	100.0%	810	100.0%	84	100.0%	72	100.0%

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding.

Only 6.5% (324) of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are in a non-marriage partnership, and only 2.5% (147) of residents aged 65 and over are in a non-marriage partnership (refer Table 4). The comparable figure for all ages 15 and over is 13.4%. The rate of non-marriage partnership is slightly higher in Rotorua than nationally, for both older people and all ages combined.

Table 4: Social marital status, Rotorua District older people, 2001

	55-64 Years	65+ Years	Total, All Ages
Partnered, Not Further Defined	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%
Legal Spouse	67.4%	54.6%	46.2%
Other Partnership	6.5%	2.5%	13.4%
Non-partnered, Not Further Defined	1.9%	2.7%	2.9%
Non-partnered, Never Married	3.4%	3.1%	23.3%
Non-partnered, Separated	3.6%	1.7%	3.2%
Non-partnered, Divorced	8.2%	4.7%	4.3%
Non-partnered, Widowed	7.3%	29.2%	5.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding. The "Not Stated" category was omitted prior to calculation.

According to the Ministry of Health, the proportion of New Zealand older people living alone has been increasing since the 1960s.¹ This could be due to a number of factors, including decreased family cohesion, more dispersed family networks, and/or more services supporting older people to live independently. A reflection of this trend may be the increased percentage of one-person households in the Rotorua District (all age groups combined), up from 17.3% of all households in 1991 to 21.9% in 2001.

¹ *Health of Older People: A Statistical Reference*, 2002, page 23.

EDUCATION

Education increases employment opportunities and enhances people's overall wellbeing. Lifelong learning is becoming an important feature of New Zealand society.

KEY POINT:

- Compared with older age groups in Rotorua, the younger generation has a higher proportion of people who have attained a high school qualification.

The 55 and over age group has a relatively high proportion of people with no formal qualification, and a relatively low proportion of people with tertiary qualifications (refer Table 5). In total, 41.8% (1,815) of Rotorua people aged 55-64 have no formal academic qualification, compared with 31.1% for all age groups combined. Between 1991 and 2001 the proportion of Rotorua people aged 65 and over with a formal qualification increased slightly, from 54.3% to 55.1%. Other features of the education profile for Rotorua's older population include a relatively high number of people with overseas school qualifications, and an above-average proportion of people with advanced vocational qualifications.



Table 5: Highest qualification by age group, Rotorua District, 2001

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-plus	Total
No Qualification	29.3%	23.3%	26.1%	31.7%	41.8%	44.9%	31.1%
Fifth Form	21.2%	17.9%	18.1%	16.9%	13.2%	12.1%	17.1%
Sixth Form	17.0%	13.8%	12.7%	8.3%	5.2%	7.9%	11.5%
Higher School Qualification	10.5%	5.0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.5%	3.5%	4.6%
Other NZ School Qual	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Overseas School Qual	2.0%	3.1%	4.0%	5.1%	8.1%	10.9%	4.9%
Basic Vocational Qual	7.8%	7.4%	5.4%	4.2%	3.1%	2.0%	5.3%
Skilled Vocational Qual	2.2%	7.0%	7.6%	7.2%	6.6%	4.1%	5.9%
Intermediate Vocational Qual	3.7%	3.3%	3.2%	2.5%	2.0%	1.0%	2.8%
Advanced Vocational Qual	2.7%	7.6%	9.7%	11.4%	10.8%	8.9%	8.4%
Bachelor Degree	2.9%	8.5%	7.1%	6.6%	4.0%	2.7%	5.7%
Higher Degree	0.6%	3.0%	3.5%	3.5%	2.5%	1.7%	2.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: The "Not Elsewhere Included" category was omitted prior to calculation.

Of the 1,143 Rotorua people aged 65 and over who specified a post-school qualification on their Census questionnaire, the most prevalent qualifications were in the fields of health (273 people), engineering and related technologies (231), education (201), and management and commerce (129).

EMPLOYMENT

Employment provides earned income, self-esteem, and a sense of community connection. This section looks at features and trends in employment and unemployment for Rotorua's older people, including labour force status, industry and occupation.

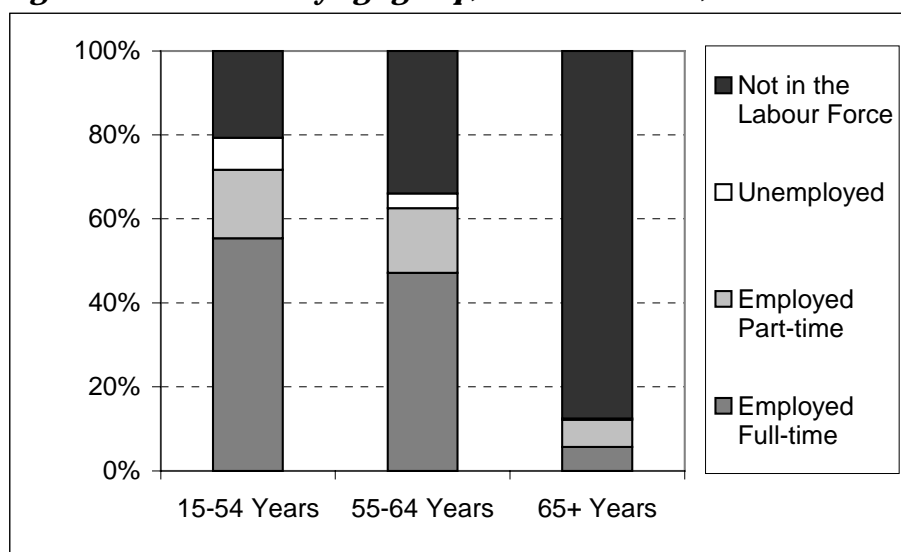
KEY POINTS:

- 6.5% (417) of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over are employed part-time, 5.7% (369) are employed full-time, and 0.3% (18) are unemployed.
- 3.6% (186) of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are unemployed, compared with 2.6% nationally.
- 17.6% (108) of Rotorua workers aged 65 and over are employed in primary industries (e.g. agriculture), compared with 25.2% for New Zealand overall. Other Rotorua industries with strong participation by older workers include property and business services, retail trade, education, and health and community services.

Figure 8 shows that 87.6% (5,655) of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over are not in the labour force (e.g. retired), which is similar to the national average of 88.4%. Rotorua's labour force age 65 and over comprises 6.5% (417) who are employed part-time, 5.7% (369) who are employed full-time, and 0.3% (18) who are unemployed and seeking work. The comparable national figures are 6.1% full-time, 5.3% part-time, and 0.2% unemployed. Summing these, the labour force participation rate for Rotorua people aged 65 and over is equal to 12.5% compared with 11.6% for New Zealand as a whole.



Figure 8: Work status by age group, Rotorua District, 2001

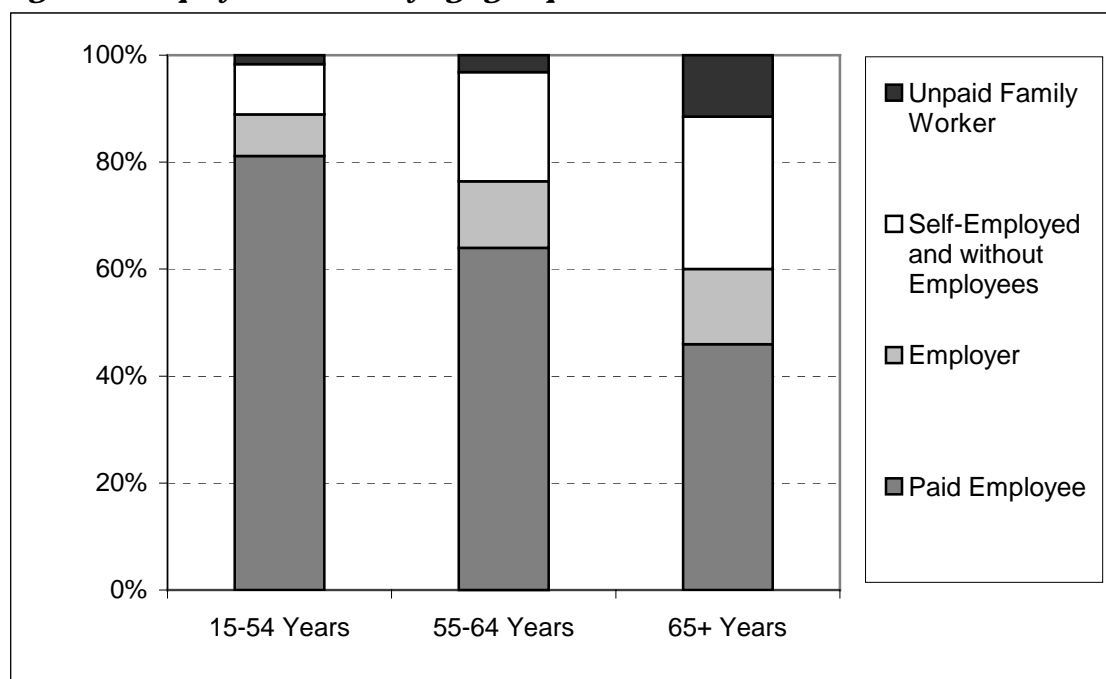


Note: The "Work and Labour Force Status Unidentifiable" category was omitted prior to calculation.

The 55-64 age range is typically a transition period between work and retirement. The proportion of Rotorua people not in the labour force (e.g. retired) is 33.9% in the 55-64 age range compared with just 20.7% in the 15-54 age range. A total of 62.6% (3,252) of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are employed (full-time or part-time) compared with 71.7% in the 15-54 age group who are employed. Labour force participation is lower for females in the 55-64 age group, with 54.8% employed (full-time or part-time) compared with 70.5% of males. Unemployment for the 55-64 age group in Rotorua is 3.6% (186), which is above the national average of 2.6%. Unemployment for the 55-64 age group in Rotorua increased marginally over the past decade, up from 2.9% in 1991.

For residents that remain in the labour force, the pattern of employment status changes with age (refer Figure 9). Paid employment falls from 81.1% in the 15-54 age range to 64.0% (1,992) in the 55-64 age range, to just 46.2% (324) in the 65 and over age range. Balancing this, the proportion of people who are self-employed (with or without employees) increases from 17.2% in the 15-54 age group to 42.7% (300) in the 65 and over age group. Also, the proportion of people engaged in unpaid family work rises from 1.7% in the 15-54 age group to 11.5% in the 65 and over age group.

Figure 9: Employment status by age group, Rotorua District, 2001



Note: Excludes residents who are “Not in the Labour Force”. Also, the “Not Stated” category was omitted prior to calculation of percentages.

Industry and occupation

The agriculture sector is the single largest employer of people aged 65 and over, both locally and nationally. Table 6 shows that 17.6% (108) of Rotorua workers aged 65 and over are employed in the agricultural sector. This compares with 25.2% for New Zealand overall. Other Rotorua industries with strong participation by older workers include property and business services (84 workers aged 65 and over), retail trade (72), education (57), and health and community services (51).

Table 6: Industry by age group, Rotorua District, 2001

	15-54 Years		55-64 Years		65+ Years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture	2,091	9.0%	204	6.8%	108	17.6%
Mining	18	0.1%	9	0.3%	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	3,135	13.5%	324	10.8%	48	7.8%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	87	0.4%	12	0.4%	0	0.0%
Construction	1,350	5.8%	174	5.8%	18	2.9%
Wholesale Trade	1,257	5.4%	186	6.2%	42	6.8%
Retail Trade	3,105	13.4%	360	12.0%	72	11.7%
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	2,043	8.8%	240	8.0%	48	7.8%
Transport and Storage	840	3.6%	141	4.7%	21	3.4%
Communication Services	210	0.9%	18	0.6%	3	0.5%
Finance and Insurance	483	2.1%	45	1.5%	12	2.0%
Property and Business Services	2,133	9.2%	336	11.2%	84	13.7%
Government Administration and Defence	696	3.0%	126	4.2%	21	3.4%
Education	1,923	8.3%	303	10.1%	57	9.3%
Health and Community Services	2,124	9.2%	345	11.5%	51	8.3%
Cultural and Recreational Services	816	3.5%	75	2.5%	15	2.4%
Personal and other Services	831	3.6%	117	3.9%	21	3.4%
Not Elsewhere Included	1,143		243		168	
Total	24,285	100.0%	3,252	100.0%	786	100.0%

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding.

Table 7 shows that 17.4% (108) of Rotorua workers aged 65 and over are in “professional” occupations compared with 13.5% of workers in the 15-54 age group. Also, 15.9% (99) of Rotorua workers aged 65 and over are agriculture workers compared with 8.6% for the 15-54 age group. The largest employment categories for the 55-64 age group are legislators, administrators and managers (17.7%), professionals (14.6%), service and sales (13.5%), and clerks (12.2%). The pattern of employment for older people is similar for New Zealand as a whole.

Table 7: Occupation by age group, Rotorua District, 2001

	15-54 Years		55-64 Years		65+ Years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	2,778	12.1%	531	17.7%	93	15.0%
Professionals	3,099	13.5%	438	14.6%	108	17.4%
Technicians and Associate Professionals	2,445	10.6%	306	10.2%	54	8.7%
Clerks	2,673	11.6%	366	12.2%	45	7.2%
Service and Sales Workers	4,071	17.7%	405	13.5%	60	9.7%
Agriculture Workers	1,986	8.6%	225	7.5%	99	15.9%
Trades Workers	2,118	9.2%	276	9.2%	51	8.2%
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	2,094	9.1%	252	8.4%	45	7.2%
Labourers and Related Elementary Workers	1,743	7.6%	210	7.0%	60	9.7%
Not Elsewhere Included	1,275		249		165	
Total	24,285	100.0%	3,252	100.0%	786	100.0%

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding.

Unpaid activities

The pattern of unpaid activities undertaken by Rotorua residents in the four weeks prior to Census night is similar to that of New Zealand overall. In 2001, 15.0% (1,020) of Rotorua people aged 65 and over reported undertaking voluntary work for or through an organisation, group or marae. The comparable figure for the 15-54 age group is 15.6%.

INCOME AND ASSETS

Income is a key contributor to overall quality of life. It determines how much can be spent on food, transport, clothing, health care, and other goods and services. While income levels for older people are typically low, many older people have the security of owning their own home.

KEY POINTS:

- 78.8% (4,416) of Rotorua people aged 65 and over earn less than \$20,000 per annum.
- 82.8% (5,652) of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over earn income from NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pension, 35.4% (2,418) earn income from interest, dividends, rent and other investments, and 13.0% (888) earn income from other superannuation, pensions and annuities.
- Real median personal income for people aged 65 and over in the Rotorua District mirrored the national trend over the period 1991 to 2001, increasing from \$11,941 to \$12,565.
- In the 65 and over age group, 78.2% of Rotorua homes are owned by their occupiers compared with the national average of 76.4% for this age group.

The age-income profile of the Rotorua District follows a similar pattern to that of New Zealand overall. A total of 51.3% (2,433) of Rotorua people aged 55-64 earn less than \$20,000 per annum. This proportion increases to 78.8% (4,416) in the 65 and over age group (refer Figure 10). The personal income profile for women is lower than that of men, with 85.2% of Rotorua women aged 65 and over earning less than \$20,000 compared with 71.4% of men in this age group. Only 3.0% (168) of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over earn more than \$50,000 per annum, compared with around 11% in younger age groups.

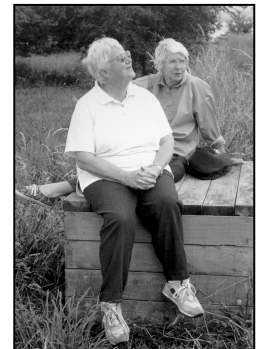
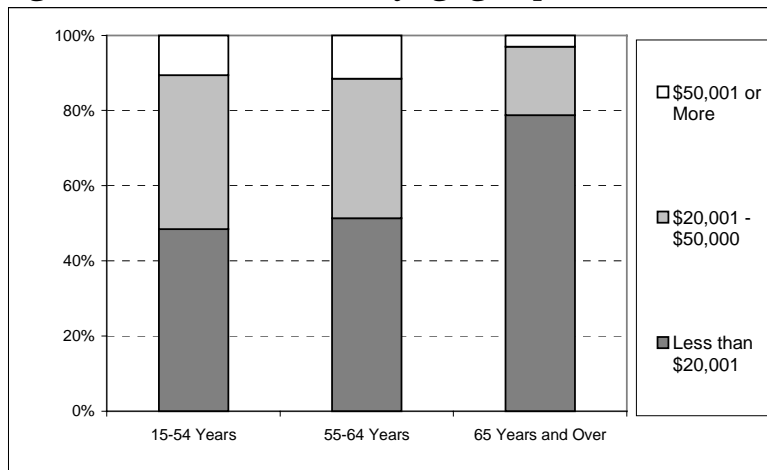


Figure 10: Personal income by age group, Rotorua District, 2001



Note: The "Not Stated" category was omitted prior to calculation.

Income sources

The 2001 Census asked respondents to mark as many spaces as they needed to show all the ways they got income in the previous 12-month period. Table 8 shows how these sources of income vary between different age groups. In the 15-54 age group in Rotorua, the most frequent sources of income are wages, salary, etc (62.9% of residents), interest, dividends, rent and other investments (15.9%) and self-employment (15.4%). In comparison, the 55-64 age group includes relatively higher proportions of people earning income from interest, dividends, rent and other investments (29.9%), and self-employment (22.7%), and has a lower proportion of people earning wages, salary, etc (42.9%). In the 65 and over age group, 82.8% (5,652) of residents earn income from NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pension, 35.4% (2,418) earn income from interest, dividends, rent and other investments, and 13.0% (888) earn income from other superannuation, pensions and annuities. This earnings pattern is similar for New Zealand as a whole.

Table 8: Sources of personal income by age group, Rotorua District, 2001

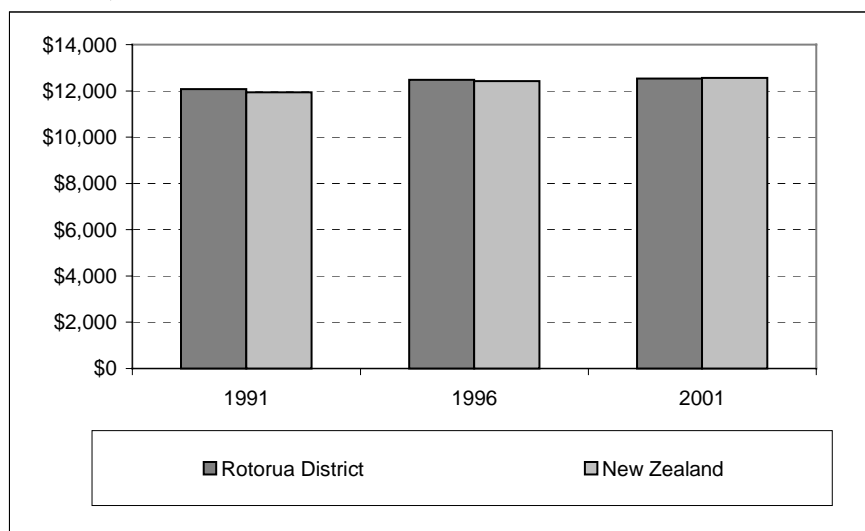
	15-54 Years		55-64 Years		65 Years and Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No source of income	2,139	6.0%	165	3.0%	21	0.3%
Wages, salary, etc	22,371	62.9%	2,340	42.9%	399	5.8%
Self-employment or business	5,463	15.4%	1,239	22.7%	372	5.5%
Interest, dividends, rent, other investments	5,661	15.9%	1,632	29.9%	2,418	35.4%
Regular payments from ACC or private insurer	609	1.7%	153	2.8%	42	0.6%
NZ Superannuation or Veterans Pension	69	0.2%	363	6.6%	5,652	82.8%
Other superannuation, pensions, annuities	81	0.2%	303	5.5%	888	13.0%
Community Wage - Job Seeker	2,949	8.3%	297	5.4%	9	0.1%
Community Wage - Sickness Benefit	789	2.2%	216	4.0%	12	0.2%
Domestic Purposes Benefit	2,559	7.2%	72	1.3%	18	0.3%
Invalids Benefit	597	1.7%	231	4.2%	39	0.6%
Student Allowance	1,050	3.0%	6	0.1%	3	0.0%
Other Government benefits	1,365	3.8%	384	7.0%	243	3.6%
Other sources of income	657	1.8%	45	0.8%	42	0.6%
Income sources not stated	2,994	8.4%	456	8.4%	723	10.6%
Total people	35,586		5,460		6,822	

Note: Columns do not add to 100.0% because this is a multiple-response item.

Income trend

Median income is a measure of the “average” personal income of the population. The median income of Rotorua residents aged 65 and over increased from \$10,658 in 1991 to \$13,081 in 2001, marginally below the national median of \$13,118 for this age group. Figure 11 shows the median personal income trend after adjusting for inflation. In 1999 dollars, median personal income in the Rotorua District increased from \$11,941 in 1991 to \$12,565 in 2001.

Figure 11: Real median personal income, age 65 and over, Rotorua District and New Zealand, 1991 to 2001

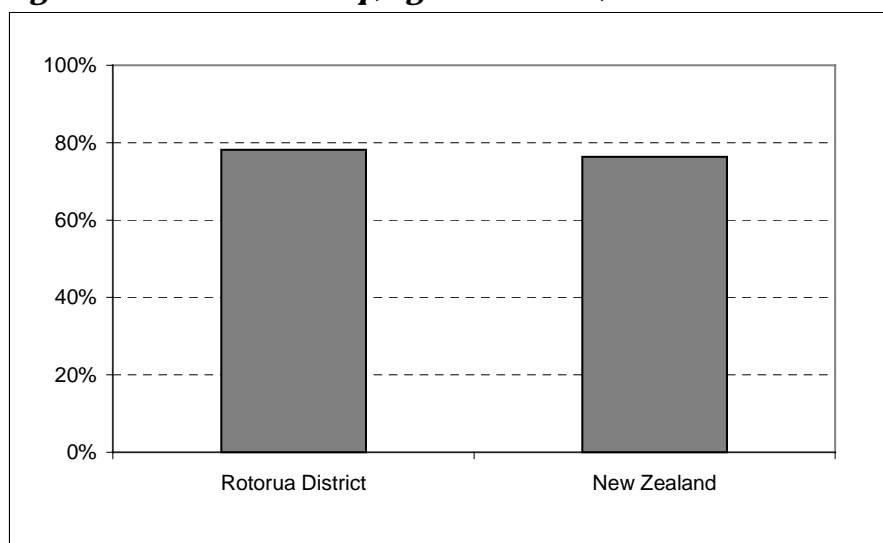


Note: Figures are inflation-adjusted to June 1999 dollars.

Home ownership

Home ownership represents the largest investment decision for most New Zealanders, and is traditionally seen as the most secure form of tenure. A high level of home ownership is indicative of community stability and social cohesion, and is generally reflected in lower crime rates. Over the past decade, home ownership has been falling at the national level, and has been falling slightly more quickly at the local level. In 2001, only 66.1% of Rotorua District households owned their own home compared with 67.8% for the whole of New Zealand. However, in the 65 and over age group, 78.2% of Rotorua homes are still owned by their occupiers, which is above the national average of 76.4% for this age group (refer Figure 12).

Figure 12: Home ownership, age 65 and over, Rotorua District and New Zealand, 2001



Note: The "Not Stated" category was omitted prior to calculation. Historical data for the age group 65 and over was not available.

HEALTH

Older people's quality of life is closely linked with their health status. The majority of older people in Rotorua are fit and healthy, but others require care and disability support.

KEY POINTS:

- Only 28.1% of people in the Lakes health region live past 80 years of age compared with 39.8% nationally. The Lakes region has a high proportion of Māori, and despite recent improvements Māori still have a lower life expectancy than the European ethnic group.
- Diseases that dominate in the older age range include diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, and respiratory infections. Most deaths are caused by progressive illnesses that are preventable from an early age.

The information in this section relates to the health status of the Lakes health region, which includes the Rotorua and Taupo local authority areas. The information was largely sourced from "An Assessment of Health Needs in the Lakes District Health Board Region", published in 2001 by Lakes DHB.

The population of the Lakes region has a below-average life expectancy. Recent estimates show that females in the Lakes DHB health region have a life expectancy at birth of 78.8 years compared with 80.5 years nationally, while the life expectancy for males is 73.5 years compared with 75.2 years nationally.

Although life expectancy is gradually increasing at the national level, in the Lakes region the annual percentage of people who die before age 65 increased from 29.4% of deaths (196) in 1996 to 34.0% (236) in 1998 (refer Figure 13).

The comparable figure nationally for 1998 is just 24.6%. Similarly, only 28.1% of people in the Lakes region live past the age of 80 years compared with 39.8% nationally. Part of the reason is that the Lakes region has a high proportion of Māori, and life expectancy for this ethnic group remains substantially below that of the European ethnic group. This is partly because diseases affecting older people tend to occur at a younger age for Māori. Moreover, Māori in the Lakes region have a shorter life expectancy than Māori nationally. The life expectancy at birth for male Māori in the Lakes region is just 66.0 years compared with 68.6 nationally, and the life expectancy for female Māori is 70.7 years compared with 73.3 years nationally.

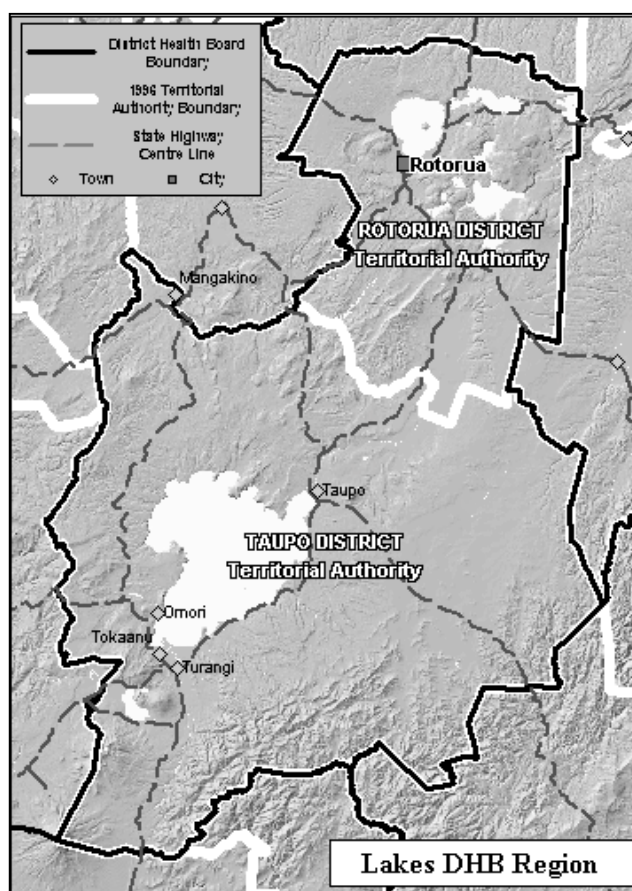


Figure 13: Percentage of deaths before age 65, Lakes region and New Zealand, 1996-1998



Source: NZ Health Information Service

Physical activity

The best available data on physical activity is from the Hillary Commission Push Play survey, which was carried out over the period May 1997 to April 1998. Information was collected from 519 adults living in the Bay of Plenty region (which incorporates much of the Lakes health sub-region), including 194 people aged 50 and over. Table 9 shows that “average” older person in the Bay of Plenty Region engages in an above-average level of physical activity.

Table 9: Physical activity of people aged 50 and over, Bay of Plenty and New Zealand, 1997-1998

	Bay of Plenty Region	New Zealand
Active (2.5+ hours of activity per week)	71%	68%
Active 5 or more days per week	47%	44%
Hours active per week average	10.7	10.1

Source: Lakes DHB/Hillary Commission

Smoking

Cigarette smoking is one of the most significant preventable causes of ill health, particularly for Māori. Smoking is the most common cause of lung cancer, and historical smoking patterns are significant in determining mortality rates. The lung cancer mortality rate in the Lakes region is 33.3 per 100,000 compared with 25.9 nationally. Results from the 1996 Census show that 30.0% of people aged 15 years and over in the Rotorua District smoke cigarettes compared with 23.7% for New Zealand overall.

Cancer

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death for middle to older age groups, and the Lakes region has a higher cancer mortality rate than New Zealand overall. The annual average mortality rate from cancer (all types) in the Lakes region for 1996-98 was 153.1 per 100,000 people, compared with 135.6 nationally. The mortality rate for males is higher than that for females. Also, the mortality rate from cancer for Māori in the Lakes region is 279.3 per 100,000 compared with 128.8 for non-Māori.

Cardiovascular disease and stroke

Although cardiovascular disease is declining in New Zealand, it is still the leading cause of death in New Zealand, mainly due to ischaemic heart disease (coronary artery disease) and stroke. The rate of hospitalisation for cardiovascular disease is 9.0 per 1,000 in the Lakes region compared with 7.3 nationally. The rate for Māori is higher than for non-Māori, and males have more than double the rate of hospitalisations of females.

Stroke mortality is the third most common cause of death in New Zealand following cancer and ischaemic heart disease. The incidence of stroke increases with age, particularly above 65 years old. The hospitalisation rate for stroke in the Lakes region is 8.1 per 1000 compared with 7.8 nationally. Stroke incidence is higher for Māori and Pacific peoples compared with other ethnicities.

Diabetes

Diabetes is a major cause of morbidity and early mortality in developed nations. The commonest type of diabetes is non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (type II), which is diagnosed most frequently in middle and older ages. This form of diabetes accounts for nearly nine out of every ten cases of diabetes. The hospitalisation rate for diabetes is 110.9 per 100,000 in the Lakes region compared with 77.3 nationally. Māori and Pacific Islanders are three to four times more likely to develop diabetes than people in European ethnic groups. The incidence of diabetes in New Zealand is expected to double in the next 20 years.

RECREATION

Sport and recreation is an important contributor to health and wellbeing, for older people and for all ages.

KEY POINT:

- According to survey results, 50% of Rotorua District residents aged 55 and over participate in walking as their main sport or physical activity. Other popular activities for older residents in Rotorua include golf, gardening, fishing, swimming, tramping, reading, and playing cards.

In early 2001, Council commissioned a Recreation Survey to collect background information for the development of a Recreation Strategic Plan. The survey involved 400 telephone interviews, including 151 interviews with people aged 55 and over.

The results of the Recreation Survey show that half of all older people in Rotorua participate in walking as their main sport or physical activity. Other popular activities for older residents include golf (23%), gardening (23%), fishing (10%), swimming (8%), and tramping (7%). A total of 70% of older residents said they undertake their favourite physical activity because they want to meet and spend time with other people, and 45% said they do it to help other people.

Apart from these relatively informal activities, older people also participate in many clubs and organisations in Rotorua. A total of 12% of older respondents said they had been involved in fundraising for a sport or physical activity over the previous 12-month period, and 39% said they had been involved as a supporter (e.g. attending team events). The main sports and activities supported by older people include rugby (34%) and golf (17%).

The Recreation Survey asked people to list the barriers to their increased participation in sports and activities. A substantial number of residents aged 55 and over said that poor health (44%) and old age (35%) were barriers to participation in many physical activities (with the exception of walking).

Apart from physical activity, 84% of respondents in the 55 and over age group said they had participated in a non-physical recreation, pastime or hobby over the previous 12-month period. This compares with 75% for all ages combined. The main non-physical activities mentioned by older people were reading (35%), gardening (24%), and playing cards (12%).



APPENDIX 1: AGE PROFILE OF SUBURBS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Age profile, Rotorua District Area Units, 2001

	55-59 Years	60-64 Years	65+ Years	Total, All Ages
Ngongotaha North	138	99	264	2,916
Ngongotaha South	60	48	132	1,092
Poets Corner	12	12	9	255
Ngapuna	18	15	42	558
Owhata South	15	33	42	504
Lynmore	132	132	306	3,015
Owhata West	105	90	192	3,135
Owhata East	78	87	339	2,127
Hamurana	168	117	195	2,178
Tikitere	165	144	243	2,817
Kaingaroa Forest	24	12	15	549
Tarawera	75	57	117	1,581
Golden Springs	36	24	60	1,206
Reporoa	24	18	24	558
Ngakuru	66	39	72	1,545
Arahiwi	0	0	6	123
Waiwhero	33	27	48	618
Mamaku	39	24	36	693
Selwyn Heights	60	39	48	1,197
Western Heights	132	117	312	3,630
Fairy Springs	96	75	177	2,031
Pukehangi North	72	57	96	2,043
Pukehangi South	108	78	273	2,487
Mangakakahi	99	66	222	2,358
Sunnybrook	114	63	144	1,875
Fordlands	51	69	102	1,998
Utuhina	84	54	195	1,338
Pomare	78	45	159	1,467
Hillcrest	51	45	174	1,575
Springfield	243	213	657	4,293
Kawaha Point	96	78	174	1,650
Koutu	72	75	153	2,064
Ohinemutu	9	21	45	285
Kuirau	51	60	195	1,146
Victoria	72	78	246	1,695
Glenholme East	120	132	528	2,013
Glenholme West	75	84	402	2,226
Fenton	75	54	357	1,356
Whakarewarewa	15	9	24	276
Rotorua District	2,961	2,499	6,822	64,473

People aged 65 and over, Rotorua District Area Units, 1991-2001

	1991		1996		2001	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Ngongotaha North	171	6.1%	219	7.5%	264	9.1%
Ngongotaha South	105	9.1%	114	10.4%	132	12.1%
Poets Corner	15	5.4%	12	4.3%	9	3.5%
Ngapuna	36	5.7%	39	6.2%	42	7.5%
Owhata South	27	5.8%	30	6.2%	42	8.3%
Lynmore	204	8.8%	264	9.5%	306	10.1%
Owhata West	153	5.2%	159	5.1%	192	6.1%
Owhata East	246	12.8%	264	12.5%	339	15.9%
Hamurana	114	6.8%	153	8.0%	195	9.0%
Tikitere	159	6.9%	195	7.1%	243	8.6%
Kaingaroa Forest	6	1.0%	15	2.6%	15	2.7%
Tarawera	96	6.4%	123	7.5%	117	7.4%
Golden Springs	42	3.2%	60	4.7%	60	5.0%
Reporoa	21	3.1%	15	2.6%	24	4.3%
Ngakuru	45	3.2%	51	3.5%	72	4.7%
Arahiwi	3	2.3%	6	4.8%	6	4.9%
Waiwhero	33	6.2%	36	6.0%	48	7.8%
Mamaku	27	4.2%	33	5.4%	36	5.2%
Selwyn Heights	57	4.8%	54	4.5%	48	4.0%
Western Heights	231	6.3%	288	7.5%	312	8.6%
Fairy Springs	156	7.6%	177	8.5%	177	8.7%
Pukehangi North	69	3.1%	87	3.8%	96	4.7%
Pukehangi South	183	10.1%	222	11.3%	273	11.0%
Mangakakahi	162	6.6%	183	7.3%	222	9.4%
Sunnybrook	96	5.0%	123	6.3%	144	7.7%
Fordlands	48	2.3%	84	4.0%	102	5.1%
Utuhina	147	10.3%	174	12.7%	195	14.6%
Pomare	111	8.2%	129	9.1%	159	10.8%
Hillcrest	162	9.9%	198	11.6%	174	11.0%
Springfield	585	14.6%	633	14.9%	657	15.3%
Kawaha Point	141	9.3%	165	11.2%	174	10.5%
Koutu	135	6.8%	129	6.2%	153	7.4%
Ohinemutu	42	15.7%	54	19.6%	45	15.8%
Kuirau	231	17.5%	198	16.3%	195	17.0%
Victoria	255	14.8%	387	19.6%	246	14.5%
Glenholme East	564	29.3%	555	27.4%	528	26.2%
Glenholme West	387	18.2%	408	18.0%	402	18.1%
Fenton	210	15.9%	303	22.2%	357	26.3%
Whakarewarewa	18	6.7%	15	5.8%	24	8.7%
Rotorua District	5,499	8.9%	6,354	9.9%	6,822	10.6%

APPENDIX 2: MYTHS AND REALITIES ABOUT GROWING OLDER

Adapted from “A Guide to Positive Ageing” (2001), written and published by Age Concern New Zealand Incorporated.

Myth	Reality
Families today are less caring for older people than they were in the past.	There are a lot of pressures on the family today but family members are still the main caregivers when older people need support.
Most older people get depressed.	While depression at any age is more common than people think, it is not an inevitable part of growing old. Attitude, adaptability, activity and involvement are important protecting factors.
All older people eventually get mentally confused.	Even among those over 80 years old, only one in five will suffer any form of serious forgetfulness or confusion.
Many older people can't look after themselves.	Around 94 percent of older New Zealanders live in their own accommodation and look after themselves.
Older people do not benefit from regular exercise as much as younger people.	Older people probably benefit more from regular physical activity than any other age group.
All older people are alike.	Every individual is different. Older people are as diverse as any other group in the community.
Osteoarthritis is inevitable as joints wear out.	Joints that receive regular, sensible use maintain their efficiency.
Our arteries inevitably harden as age progresses.	Hardening of the arteries is related more to lifestyle and diet throughout life than age itself. Some people's arteries harden more than others.
Creativity and original thought peak in the late forties and decline thereafter.	Creative people are often at their most original in their 70s and 80s.