

# 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.

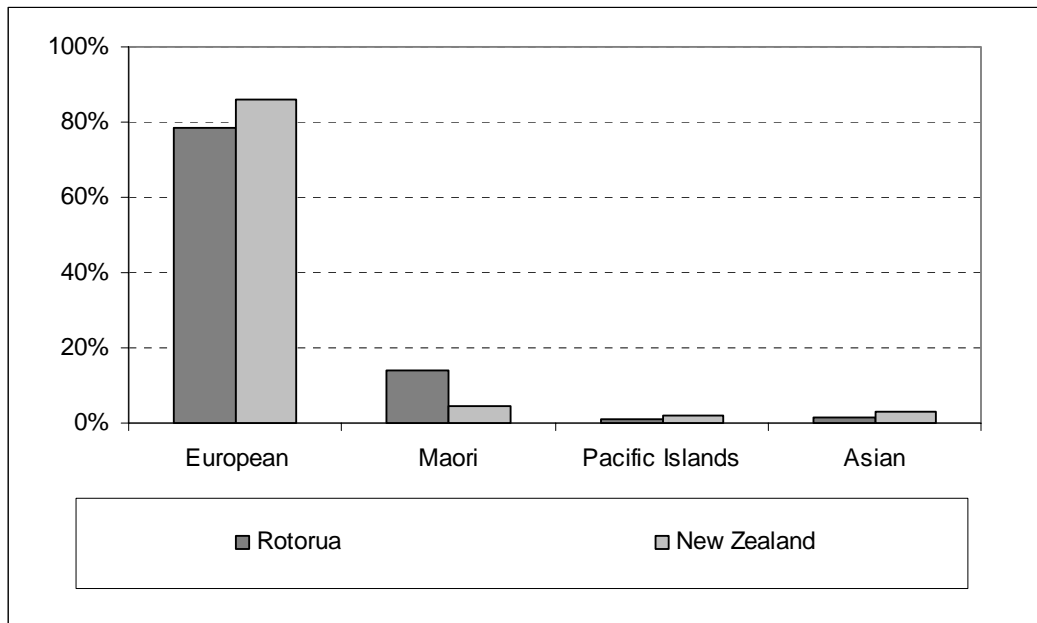
## KEY POINTS:

- 78.4% (5,721) of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are in the European ethnic group compared with 86.1% nationally.
- 13.8% (1,008) of Rotorua people aged 65+ are in the Maori ethnic group compared with 4.7% nationally.

The majority of older people in Rotorua are in the European ethnic group (refer Figure 4). In 2006, 78.4% (5,721) of residents aged 65+ were in the European ethnic group compared with 86.1% for New Zealand as a whole. Around one in every eight Rotorua residents aged 65+ are in the Maori ethnic group compared with one in twenty-five nationally. There are 1.2% (90) of Rotorua residents aged 65+ who are in the Pacific Islands ethnic group and 1.4% (105) in the Asian ethnic group. The comparable national figures are 2.0% and 3.2% respectively.



**Figure 4: Ethnic groups, 65+ years, Rotorua District and New Zealand, 2006**



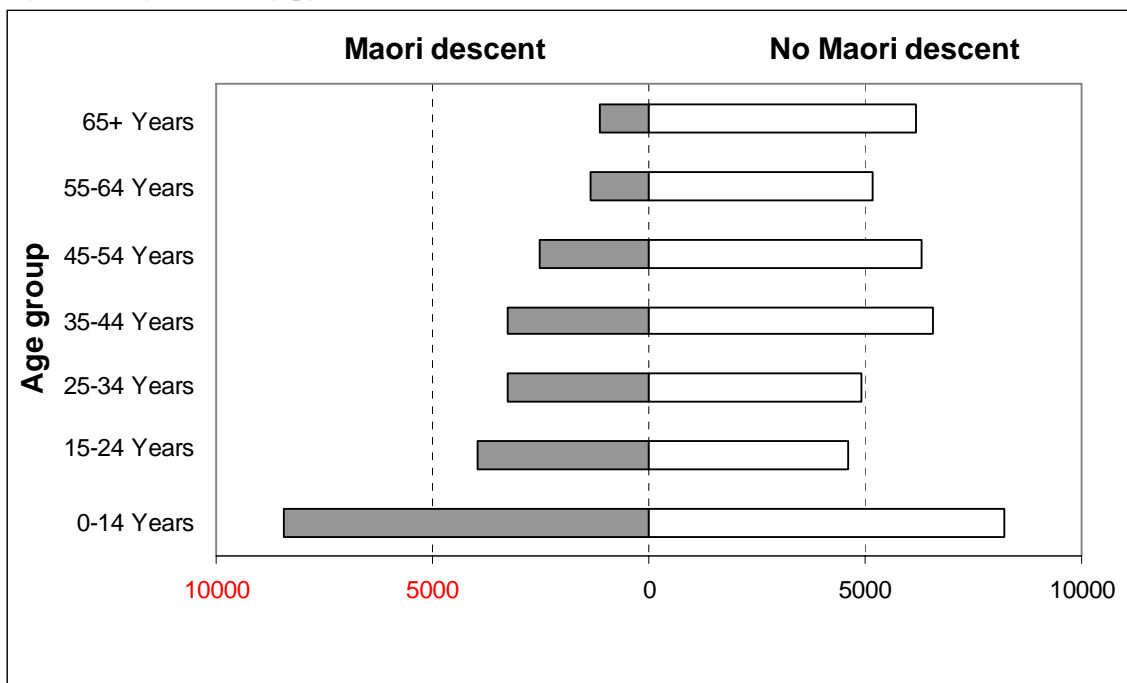
Note: The “Not Elsewhere Included” category was omitted prior to calculation. Percentages sum to more than 100.0% because one person can belong to more than one ethnic group.

**Maori older people**

Overall (all ages), 36.4% of residents in the Rotorua District are in the Maori ethnic group. At present there are many more younger Maori than older Maori (refer Figure 5). 13.8% (1008) of Rotorua people aged 65+ are in the Maori ethnic group compared with 4.7% nationally. In the suburbs of Ngapuna and Ohinemutu, almost one-half of all residents aged 65+ are in the Maori ethnic group. Other parts of the District in which more than one in three older people are Maori include Koutu, Fordlands, Reporoa, and the rural settlement of Kaingaroa Forest. The number of older Maori in New Zealand is projected to triple within the next 15 years as a result of increasing life expectancy.

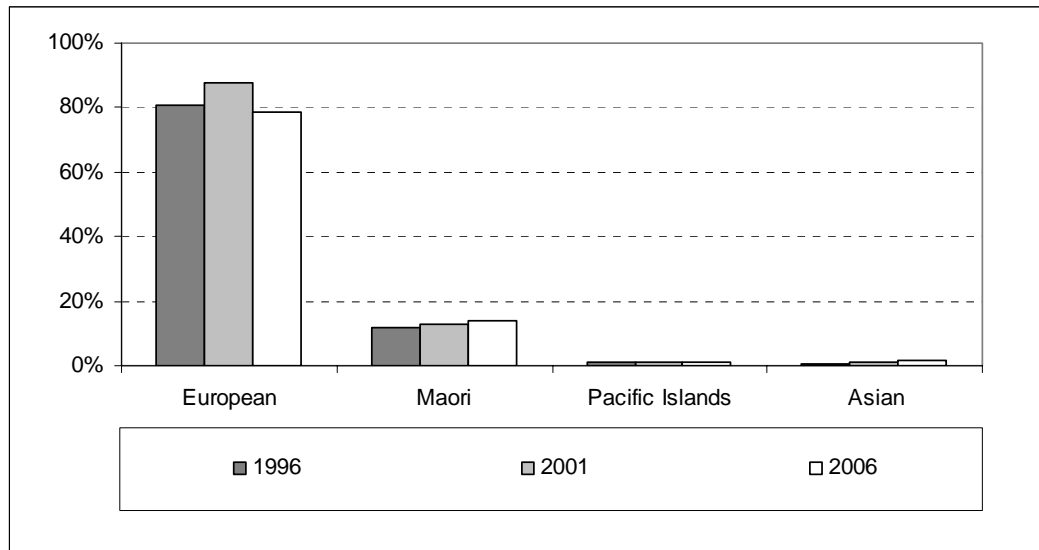


**Figure 5: Age-ethnicity pyramid, Rotorua District, 2006**



**Ethnicity trends**

Figure 6 shows that the number of Rotorua residents aged 65+ in the European ethnic group decreased from 87.4% in 2001 to 78.4% in 2006. The total number of Maori residents in this age range increased, from 747 (11.8%) in 1996 to 1008 (13.8%) in 2006. Rotorua’s older population is projected to become more ethnically diverse in future years. Caution should be taken when interpreting comparisons for the European ethnic group because in the 2006 Census, people who stated they were a New Zealander have been classified as “Other” whereas in 2001 they were provided the category of New Zealander as an option.

**Figure 6: Ethnic groups, 65+ years, Rotorua District, 1996 – 2006**

Note: The “Not Elsewhere Included” category was omitted prior to calculation. Percentages sum to more than 100.0% because one person can belong to more than one ethnic group.

### **Country of birth**

Older age groups in New Zealand have become increasingly multicultural, and this is reflected in birthplace statistics for the Rotorua District (refer Table 2). As at Census 2006, almost three-quarters of Rotorua residents aged 65+ (74.7%) were born in New Zealand, down slightly from 76.0% in 1996. The percentage of older immigrants in Rotorua that are from the UK and Ireland is also slowly falling, from 15.5% in 1996 to 14.9% in 2006. There has been a slight increase compared with 1996 in the number of Rotorua older people, that have migrated from other parts of the world. These include Australia (1.7%), Asia (1.8%), and Polynesia (1.5%).

**Table 2: Birthplace, 65+ years, Rotorua District, 1996 - 2006**

Birthplace	1996	2001	2006
New Zealand	76.0%	75.0%	74.7%
United Kingdom and Ireland	15.5%	15.0%	14.9%
Europe	3.8%	4.3%	4.1%
Australia	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%
Polynesia	1.1%	1.4%	1.5%
Asia	0.8%	1.1%	1.8%
North America	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Other	0.8%	1.0%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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