

# FAMILY

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

- KEY POINT:**
- 53.7% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are legally married.
  - Around one-third of all Rotorua residents aged 65+ (32.1%) are widowed, which is similar to the national average.

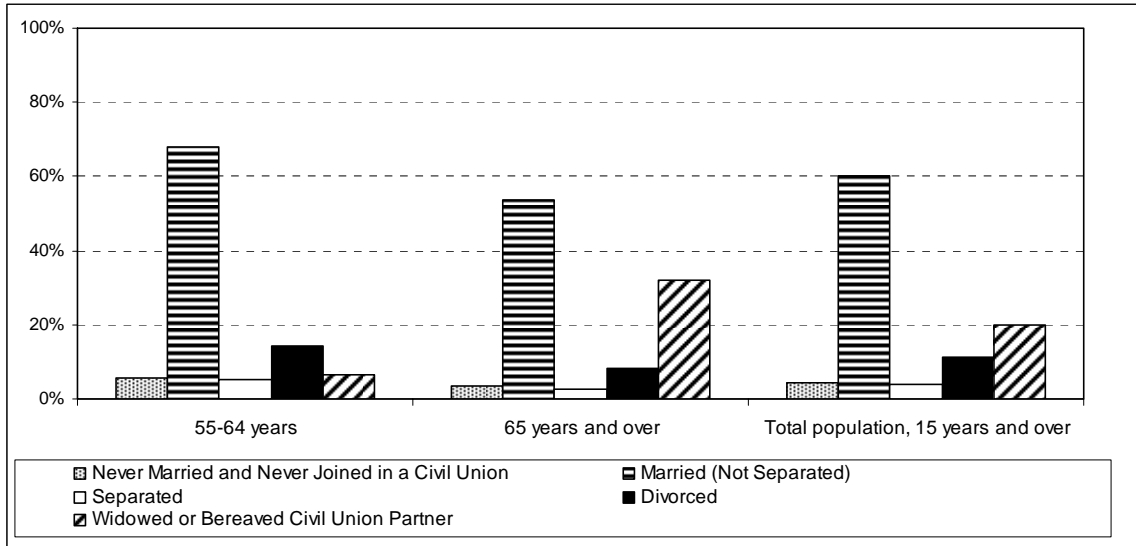


The latest Census results show that 67.8% (3,417) of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are married, and 53.7% (3,309) of residents aged 65+ are married (refer Figure 7). Residents aged 65+ in the Asian ethnic group are more likely than other ethnic groups to be married.

Around one-third of all Rotorua residents aged 65+ (32.1%) are widowed, which is similar to the national average. The percentage of European residents aged 65+ that are widowed is higher than other ethnic groups in

Rotorua (refer Table 3).

**Figure 7: Legal marital status, Rotorua District older people, 2006**



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

**Table 3: Legal marital status by ethnicity, Rotorua District people aged 65+, 2006**

	European		Maori		Pacific Islands		Asian	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Never Married	8640	31.1	7227	54.1	780	54.3	582	32.1
Married (Not Separated)	13554	48.8	3852	28.8	462	32.2	1068	58.8
Separated	1122	4.0	783	5.9	66	4.6	39	2.1
Divorced	2475	8.9	846	6.3	72	5.0	66	3.6
Widowed	2004	7.2	648	4.9	57	4.0	60	3.3
Not Elsewhere Included	1110		1287		153		219	
Total	28905	100.0%	14643	100.0%	1590	100.0%	2034	100.0%

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

Only 6.9% of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are in a non-marriage partnership and only 3.0% of residents aged 65+ are in a non-marriage partnership (refer Table 4). The comparable figure for all ages 15 and over is 14.7%. 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, 2006**

	55 - 64 Years	65+ Years	Total, All Ages
Partnered, Not Further Defined	1.8%	1.6%	2.0%
Legal Spouse	66.7%	53.2%	44.4%
Other Partnership	6.9%	3.0%	14.7%
Non-partnered, Not Further Defined	1.6%	3.5%	3.4%
Non-partnered, Never Married	4.1%	2.6%	22.2%
Non-partnered, Separated	3.5%	1.7%	3.2%
Non-partnered, Divorced	9.9%	6.5%	4.9%
Non-partnered, Widowed	5.6%	28.0%	5.2%
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. This could be due to a number of factors, which could include decreased family cohesion, increasing numbers of older women who in general live longer than men, 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 21.9% of all households in 2001 to 22.3% in 2006.