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## QuickStats About Culture and Identity

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2006

## Citizens increasingly identify as 'New Zealanders'

*QuickStats About Culture and Identity* looks at New Zealand's increasingly diverse population. These statistics cover how people have identified themselves in terms of their ethnic group(s), where people were born, what languages they speak, and their religious affiliations. Some comparisons with previous censuses are included.

Information in this *QuickStats* is based on New Zealand's 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings, held on 7 March 2006.



Statistics  
New Zealand  
TATAURANGA AOTEAROA



## QuickStats About Culture and Identity 2006 Census

*QuickStats About Culture and Identity* looks at New Zealand's increasingly diverse population. These statistics cover how people have identified themselves in terms of their ethnic group(s), where people were born, what languages they speak, and their religious affiliations. Some comparisons with previous censuses are included.

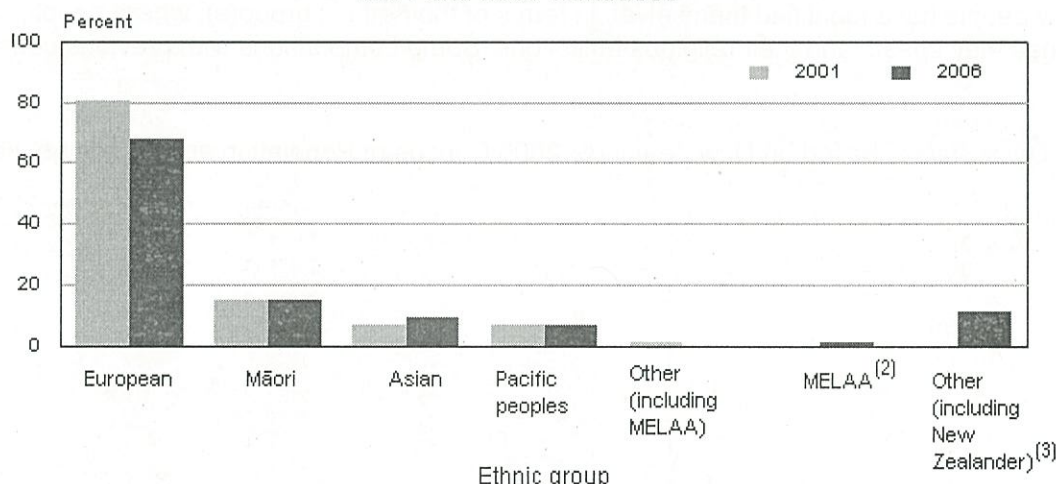
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## Ethnic groups in New Zealand

- New Zealand's ethnic make-up has continued to change, according to 2006 Census results.
- European remained the largest of the major ethnic groups, with 2,609,592 people (67.6 percent of the population) in 2006. The Māori ethnic group is the second largest, with 565,329 people (or 14.6 percent).
- Of the major ethnic groups, the Asian ethnic group grew the fastest between 2001 and 2006, increasing from 238,176 people in 2001 to reach 354,552 people in 2006 (an increase of almost 50 percent).
- Those identifying with the Pacific peoples ethnic group had the second-largest increase from the 2001 Census, up 14.7 percent to total 265,974 people.

**Ethnic Group as a Percentage of the Total Population <sup>(1)</sup>**  
2001 and 2006 Censuses



(1) People were able to identify with more than one ethnic group, therefore percentages do not add up to 100.

(2) MELAA, or Middle Eastern, Latin American and African, was introduced as a new category for the 2006 Census. Previously, 'MELAA' responses were allocated to the 'Other ethnicity' category.

(3) 'New Zealander' was introduced as a new response option for the 2006 Census. 'New Zealander' responses form part of the 'Other ethnicity' category. For 2006, 'New Zealander' responses had the largest contribution towards the 'Other ethnicity' category. For 2001, and previous censuses, 'New Zealander' was counted with the 'European' category.

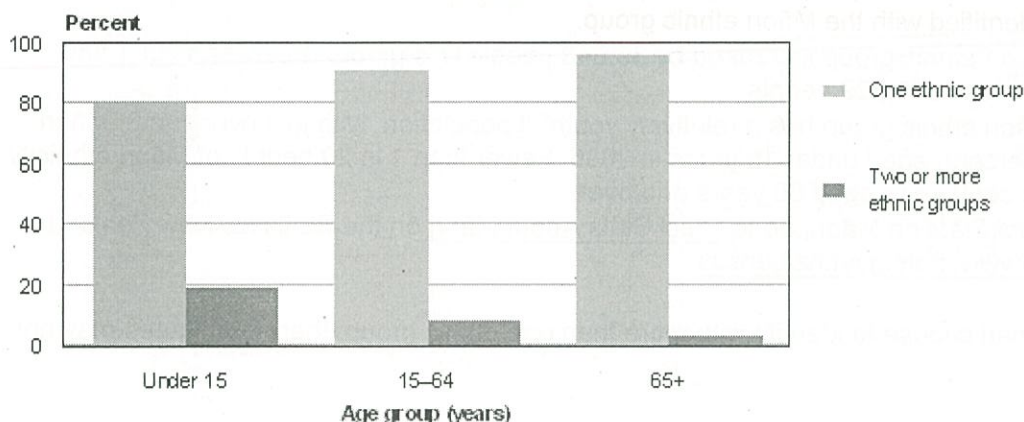
- Auckland was the most ethnically diverse region in New Zealand, with 56.5 percent of its population identifying with the European ethnic group, 18.9 percent with the Asian ethnic group, 14.4 percent with the Pacific peoples ethnic group, and 11.1 percent with the Māori ethnic group.
- Around 1 in 10, or 10.4 percent of people, identified with more than one ethnic group in 2006, compared with 9.0 percent in 2001.
- People aged 0 to 14 years were more likely than people aged 15 years and over to belong to more than one ethnic group. The differences between the youngest and oldest age groups are the most pronounced. In 2006, 19.7 percent of children were reported as belonging to two or more ethnic groups, compared with 3.5 percent of people 65 years of age and over.



## Number of Ethnic Groups People Identify With

By age group

2006 Census



**Note:** People can choose to identify with more than one ethnic group, therefore figures may not sum to totals.

## European

- The European ethnic group was the largest of the major ethnic groupings, totalling 2,609,592 people (67.6 percent of the population) in 2006.
- New Zealand European was the country's largest individual ethnic group, with 2,381,076 people identifying with this group. The number and proportion of people identifying with this group decreased since the 2001 Census, largely because of the introduction of the New Zealander category in 2006. (New Zealander responses, which totalled 429,429 in 2006, were previously counted in the New Zealand European category.)

**Five Largest European Ethnic Groups**  
2001-2006 Censuses

Ethnic group	2001 count	2006 count	Percentage change 2001-2006
New Zealand European(1)	2,696,724	2,381,076	-11.7
English	35,082	44,202	26.0
Dutch	27,504	28,641	4.1
British	16,572	27,189	64.1
Australian	20,784	26,355	26.8

1. In 2001, and previous censuses, New Zealander was counted in the New Zealand European category. The 2001 Census data for New Zealand European therefore includes approximately 80,000 New Zealander responses. New Zealander was a separate category for the first time in the 2006 Census, and forms part of the Other Ethnicity category.

**Note:** People can choose to identify with more than one ethnic group, therefore figures may not sum to totals.

## Māori

- More than one in seven people (14.6 percent) usually living in New Zealand in 2006 identified with the Māori ethnic group.
- The Māori ethnic group increased by 39,048 people (7.4 percent) between 2001 and 2006, to total 565,329 people.
- The Māori ethnic group has a relatively youthful population, with just over 1 in 3 Māori (35.4 percent) aged under 15 years in 2006. Fewer than 1 in 20 people of Māori ethnicity (4.1 percent) were aged 65 years and over.

For further *QuickStats* on Māori, go to [QuickStats About Māori](http://www.stats.govt.nz/census) on the Statistics New Zealand website: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/census>.

**Note:** People can choose to identify with more than one ethnic group, therefore figures may not sum to totals.

## Asian

- The Asian ethnic group was New Zealand's fourth largest major ethnic group after European, Māori, and Other Ethnicity, totalling 354,552 people (9.2 percent) in 2006.
- There was a high proportion of young adults in the Asian ethnic group, with 3 in 10 people (31.0 percent) aged between 15 and 29 years.
- Two-thirds of people (66.1 percent or 234,222 people) who identified with one or more Asian ethnic group(s) usually lived in the Auckland Region.
- Almost 1 in 5 people (18.9 percent or 234,222 people) in the Auckland Region identified with one or more Asian ethnic group(s), the highest proportion of all the regions.

Seven Largest Asian Ethnic Groups 2001–2006 Censuses			
Ethnic group	2001 count	2006 count	Percentage change 2001–2006
Chinese	105,057	147,570	40.5
Indian	62,190	104,583	68.2
Korean	19,026	30,792	61.8
Filipino	11,091	16,938	52.7
Japanese	10,023	11,910	18.8
Sri Lankan	7,011	8,310	18.5
Cambodian	5,268	6,918	31.3

**Note:** People can choose to identify with more than one ethnic group, therefore figures may not sum to totals.



## Pacific peoples

- In 2006, 265,974 people identified with the Pacific peoples ethnic group, representing 6.9 percent of the total New Zealand population. In 2001, there were 231,801 Pacific peoples, comprising 6.5 percent of the total population.
- Over 9 in 10 Pacific peoples (93.4 percent) living in New Zealand in 2006 lived in the North Island. Two-thirds (66.9 percent) of Pacific peoples lived in the Auckland Region.
- The Pacific ethnic group had the highest proportion of children (people aged 0 to 14 years) of all of the major ethnic groups, at 37.7 percent.

Seven Largest Pacific Peoples Ethnic Groups 2001–2006 Censuses			
Ethnic group	2001 count	2006 count	Percentage change 2001–2006
Samoan	115,017	131,103	14.0
Cook Islands Maori	52,569	58,008	10.3
Tongan	40,719	50,481	24.0
Niuean	20,148	22,476	11.6
Fijian	7,041	9,864	40.1
Tokelauan	6,204	6,819	9.9
Tuvaluan	1,965	2,628	33.7

**Note:** People can choose to identify with more than one ethnic group, therefore figures may not sum to totals.

## Other ethnic groups

### New Zealander

- In the 2006 Census the New Zealander ethnic group totalled 429,429 people, and made up a large share of the 'Other Ethnicity' category, which totals 430,881 people. In 2001, and previous censuses, the New Zealander ethnic group was counted in the European category.
- Of those who identified themselves as New Zealanders, 12.9 percent also identified with at least one other ethnic group.
- Although the Auckland Region had the largest number of people (99,258) in the New Zealander ethnic group, South Island regions reported higher proportions overall. One in six people in the West Coast Region identified themselves as New Zealanders (16.7 percent), followed closely by Marlborough (16.2 percent), and Southland (15.7 percent) Regions.
- The distribution of the New Zealander ethnic group by age group differed from the population as a whole. There was a slightly lower proportion of people aged 0 to 14 years (19.0 percent) in the New Zealander ethnic group, compared with the total population (21.5 percent). The New Zealander ethnic group also had a higher proportion of people in the middle age groups (30 to 59 years) at 49.9 percent, compared with their proportion of New Zealand's total population (41.5 percent).
- The proportion of males and females in the New Zealander ethnic group was also different from the population as a whole, with more males than females identifying with this group.

People identifying with the New Zealander Ethnic Group 2006 Census		
Sex	New Zealander ethnic group percent	Total population percent
Male	51.9	48.8
Female	48.1	51.2

### Middle Eastern, Latin American and African

- The Middle Eastern, Latin American and African grouping with 34,743 people totalled 0.9 percent of New Zealand's usually resident population.
- Within the Middle Eastern, Latin American and African grouping, there were 17,514 people who identified with Middle Eastern ethnic groups, 6,657 people with Latin American groups, and 10,647 people with African groups.

**Note:** People can choose to identify with more than one ethnic group, therefore figures may not sum to totals.

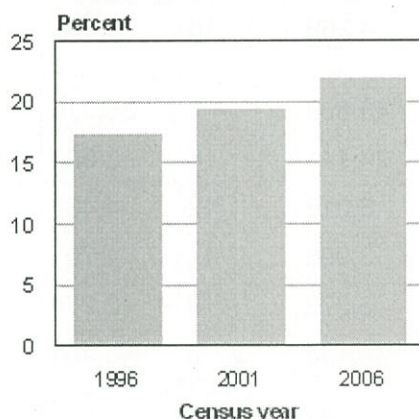


## Birthplace and people born overseas

- The number and proportion of people who were born overseas and are now living in New Zealand has continued to increase. In 2006, 22.9 percent of people usually living in New Zealand (or 879,543 people) were born overseas, compared with 19.5 percent in 2001 and 17.5 percent in 1996.

### Percentage of Population Born Overseas

1996–2006 Censuses



- Areas from which overseas-born people (now living in New Zealand) came from are changing. In 2001, almost one-third (32.2 percent) of people born overseas were born in the United Kingdom and Ireland (New Zealand's most significant source of migrants historically), but by 2006, the proportion from this area had dropped to 28.6 percent. In contrast, the proportion of overseas-born people who were born in Asia increased from 23.7 percent in 2001 to reach 28.6 percent in 2006, and equalled the proportion born in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Source countries of people born overseas have also changed. In 2006, England remained the most common overseas birthplace, but the People's Republic of China moved from the fourth most common birthplace in 2001, to the second most common in 2006 (after England) – with the number of people born there more than doubling during this period. Australia and Samoa have dropped one place each to third and fourth, respectively in 2006.
- The number of people born in India who were living in New Zealand, more than doubled between 2001 and 2006. The number of people born in the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Fiji also increased significantly.



**Rankings of Nine Most Common Overseas Birthplaces in the 2006 Census, Compared  
with Selected Censuses**  
*2006, 2001, 1981 and 1956 Censuses*

Birthplace	2006		2001		1981		1956	
	Count	Rank	Count	Rank	Count	Rank	Count	Rank
England	202,401	1	178,203	1	173,181	1	144,030	1
People's Republic of China(1)	78,117	2	38,949	4	4,269	16	3,882	9
Australia(2)	62,742	3	56,259	2	43,809	2	35,916	3
Samoa	50,649	4	47,118	3	24,141	4	2,994	11
India	43,344	5	20,892	9	6,018	12	4,467	8
South Africa	41,676	6	26,061	6	3,996	17	1,701	19
Fiji	37,746	7	25,725	7	6,372	9	2,274	13
Scotland	29,016	8	28,680	5	39,138	3	46,401	2
Republic of Korea	28,806	9	17,931	11	87	89	..	..

1. The 1981 figure includes Taiwan.

2. Includes Australian External Territories.

**Symbol:**

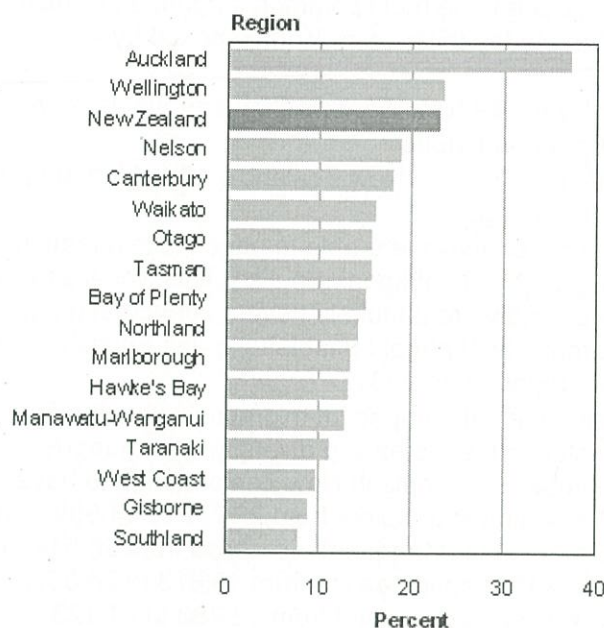
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## Location

- Over one-third (37.0 percent) of people who lived in the Auckland Region were born overseas, compared with the Southland Region, where around 1 in 13 people (7.6 percent) were born overseas.
- The Auckland Region had the highest proportion of usual residents born in the Pacific Islands (8.1 percent) and Asia (13.5 percent). Nelson Region had the highest proportion of usual residents born in the United Kingdom and Ireland (9.1 percent).
- Of the cities and districts, Manukau City had the highest proportion of usual residents born in the Pacific Islands (16.0 percent), while Kapiti Coast and Rodney Districts had the highest proportions born in the United Kingdom and Ireland (12.7 and 12.6 percent, respectively). Almost 1 in 5 people (18.4 percent) usually living in Auckland City were born in Asia. Queenstown-Lakes District had the highest proportion of usual residents born in Australia (4.2 percent).

## Percentage of Population Born Overseas by Region

2006 Census



## Characteristics of people born overseas

- There were more new migrants in New Zealand at the time of the 2006 Census than at the time of the 2001 Census. In 2006, almost one-third (32.3 percent) of people born overseas had been living in New Zealand for four years or less, compared with 27.5 percent in 2001.
- In 2006, one-third of those born overseas (33.0 percent) had been living in New Zealand for 20 years or more.
- The median age (half are younger, and half older, than this age) of people arriving to live in New Zealand differed, depending on the area they were from. In 2006, the median age of both people born in Asia and of people born in the Pacific Islands who had been living in New Zealand for four years or less, was 26.2 years. Those from the United Kingdom and Ireland tended to be older, with a median age of 32.4 years.



## Languages spoken

- After English (spoken by 95.9 percent of people), the most common language in which people could have a conversation about everyday things was Māori, spoken by 4.1 percent (157,110 people).
- A total of 24,090 people reported the ability to use New Zealand Sign Language, New Zealand's third official language after English and Māori.
- A total of 6,057 people can communicate in all three of New Zealand's official languages – English, Māori and New Zealand Sign Language.
- In 2006, 2.2 percent of those people who stated they were able to have a conversation about everyday things in at least one language did not speak English. This was a similar proportion to 2001, when 1.8 percent of people were unable to have a conversation about everyday things in English. In 2006, the majority of people unable to speak English were born overseas (80.3 percent) – a similar proportion to 2001.
- New Zealand's changing ethnic composition and the impact of migration within the five years between 2001 and 2006 was reflected in the increasing diversity of languages spoken. Between 2001 and 2006, the numbers of people in New Zealand able to have a conversation about everyday things in Hindi almost doubled, from 22,749 to 44,589. The number of people able to speak Northern Chinese (Mandarin) increased from 26,514 to 41,391, the number of people able to speak Korean increased from 15,873 to 26,967, and the number of people able to speak Afrikaans increased from 12,783 to 21,123.

## Number of languages spoken

- The number of multilingual (people who can speak two or more languages) has continued to increase. Between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, the number of multilingual people increased by 19.5 percent, to reach 671,658 people. In the ten years between 1996 and 2006, this number increased by 43.3 percent, from 468,711 people in 1996 to reach 671,658 people in 2006.

Percentage Speaking No, One, or Two or More Languages 1996–2006 Censuses			
Number of languages spoken	1996 Census	2001 Census	2006 Census
None	2.6	2.1	2.0
One language	83.8	82.1	80.5
Two or more languages	13.6	15.8	17.5

- The Auckland Region, which in 2006 had the highest proportion of usual residents born overseas and the greatest diversity of ethnic groups, also reported the highest proportion of people able to speak two or more languages of all the regions (27.1 percent, or 331,914 people).
- Overseas-born usual residents were more likely than New Zealand-born usual residents to be able to speak two or more languages. Over one-third (35.0 percent) of overseas-born children (aged 0 to 14 years) were able to speak two or more languages, compared with 11.5 percent of New Zealand-born children. This was also the case for people in the working-age population (15 to 64 years), where almost half of overseas-born people (48.5 percent) were multilingual, compared with 10.0 percent of New Zealand-born people.



## Religious affiliation

*The religious affiliation question in the 2006 Census, in addition to options for several religious affiliations, included options for people to indicate that they had no religion or objected to answering the question.*

### Christian religions

- In the 2006 Census, just over 2 million people, or 55.6 percent of those answering the religious affiliation question, affiliated with a Christian religion (including Māori Christian). This compares with the 2001 Census, when 60.6 percent of people affiliated with a Christian religion.
- Despite an overall decrease in people affiliating with Christian religions, some Christian denominations increased and some decreased.
- The five largest Christian denominations in 2001 remained the largest in 2006. There were increases in the number of people affiliating with Catholic and Methodist denominations, but decreases in the number of people affiliating with the Anglican denomination, the Presbyterian, Congregation and Reformed denomination, and with Christian not further defined (Christian, with no denomination stated).

Five Largest Christian Denominations 2001–2006 Censuses			
Religious affiliation	2001 Count	2006 Count	Percentage change 2001-2006
Anglican	584,793	554,925	-5.1
Catholic	485,637	508,437	4.7
Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed	431,139	400,839	-7.0
Christian not further defined	192,165	186,234	-3.1
Methodist	120,546	121,806	1.0

- There were, however, larger increases in affiliations with other Christian denominations between 2001 and 2006. The number of people affiliating with Orthodox Christian religions increased by 37.8 percent, affiliation with Evangelical, Born Again and Fundamentalist religions increased by 25.6 percent, and affiliation with Pentecostal religions increased by 17.8 percent.
- Just over 8 in 10 Pacific peoples (80.2 percent or 199,983 people) who answered the religious affiliation question identified with Christian religions.
- Of the people of Māori ethnicity who answered the religious affiliation question, 11.1 percent identified with a Māori Christian religion, such as Ratana and Ringatū.



## Other religions

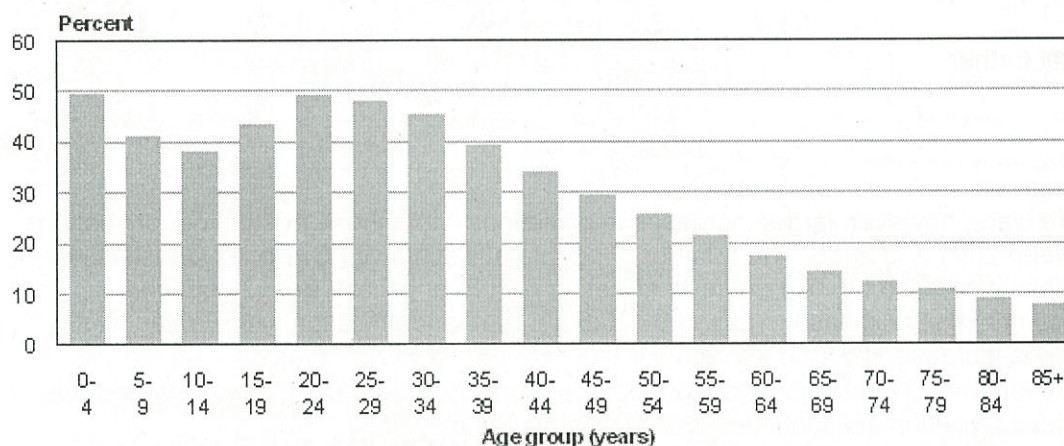
- In contrast with the small decrease in people affiliating with Christian religions between 2001 and 2006, there was an increase in people affiliating with non-Christian religions.
- The number of people indicating an affiliation with the Sikh religion increased from 5,196 to 9,507 (up 83.0 percent) between 2001 and 2006, while people affiliated with either Hinduism (up from 39,798 to 64,392) or Islam (up from 23,631 to 36,072) also increased by more than 50 percent (61.8 percent and 52.6 percent, respectively).
- The increases in people affiliating with these non-Christian religions is mainly attributed to migrants, particularly from Asia. Almost 8 in 10 people (78.8 percent) affiliated with the Hindu religion were born overseas, particularly in Southern Asia and the Pacific Islands. A similar proportion of people affiliating with Islam (77.0 percent) were born overseas, mainly in Southern Asia, but also in the Middle East. The majority of people born overseas affiliating with Buddhism (37,590 people) were born in Asia (34,422 people).
- Of the people born overseas affiliating with Hindu and Muslim religions, almost half (49.8 percent and 48.0 percent, respectively) had arrived in New Zealand less than five years ago. More than one-third (36.1 percent) of overseas-born Buddhists arrived in New Zealand less than five years ago.

## No religion

- The number and proportion of people indicating that they had no religion continued to increase in the 2006 Census. In 2006, 1,297,104 people (34.7 percent) stated that they had no religion, compared with 1,028,052 people (29.6 percent) in the 2001 Census.
- Younger people were more likely to be recorded as having no religion. Over 4 in 10 (43.0 percent) children (aged 0 to 14 years) were recorded as having no religion, compared with over 1 in 10 (11.8 percent) people aged 65 years and over.

**Percentage Stating No Religion by Age Group**

*2006 Census*



- The European and New Zealander ethnic groups had the highest proportions of people stating that they had no religion, at 37.7 percent (955,260 people) and 37.6 percent (155,268 people), respectively. People in the Middle Eastern, Latin American and African ethnic grouping were least likely to state that they had no religion, with 11.0 percent or 3,651 people in this group giving this response in the 2006 Census.

**Next release ...**

*2006 Census: QuickStats About Housing* will be released on 2 May 2007.

**For further information ...**

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# Tables

The following tables are available on the Statistics New Zealand website ([www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)) in downloadable Microsoft Excel 97 format.

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