

WHO ARE WE?

*Before we start we need to
know who lives here...*



Christchurch is New Zealand's second largest city. Between 2001 and 2006 the city's population grew by 7.5%.

The earthquakes saw the population fall by 2.4% to an estimated 367, 700 in June 2011.



“The city needs to focus on its changing demographic, in terms of an aging population and cultural diversity.”

We are a multicultural community!

In 2006, 75.4% of Christchurch residents identified as NZ European, compared with 67.6% nationally. Asian people made up the next largest group with 7.9% of the city's population compared with 9.2% nationally; then Maori with 7.6% (14.7% nationally) and Pacific peoples with 2.8% (6.9% nationally). “NZ European” includes people from many groups - British, Irish, South African, Australian and other European nations. The Asian population is also made up of a number of different nationalities, including Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Thai and Malaysian.

We are all getting older!

Christchurch's population is slightly older than the national average: Statistics NZ have provisionally estimated the median age in June 2011 to be 38, projected to rise to 42.3 by 2026. People over 65 made up 14.4% of the population in Christchurch, while 17.5% of Christchurch people were under 15. Christchurch residents in the working age group of 15 to 64 years accounted for 68% of the total population.

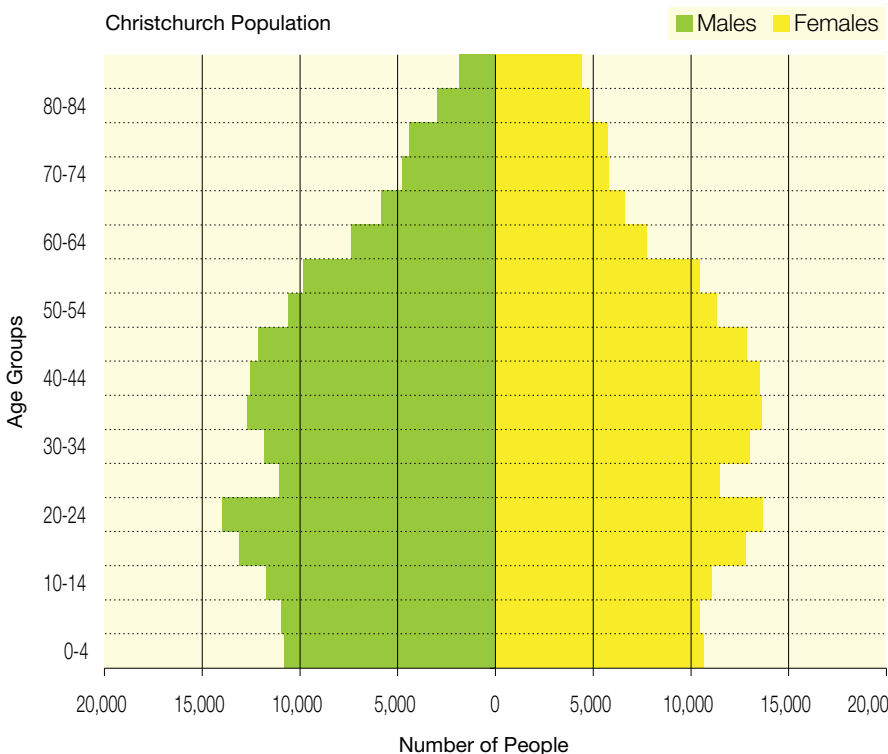
Even though older people are remaining healthier in general, the number of very old people is growing both in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the total population over the age of 65, and will continue to increase. The graph on the following page shows the 2006 population of Christchurch broken down by gender and five-year age groups. There is a large bulge in the 40-44 year age range. This group currently supports the much smaller group in the age range 60 and above. In twenty years time there will be a smaller group of middle aged people supporting a much larger group of elderly people. This alone is a good enough reason for us all to think hard about how to keep our population healthy for as long as possible!



“I am happy that my rates continue to provide equitable services for all, and includes the provision of extra support for low-income families and the disabled.”

The 2006 population of Christchurch broken down by gender and five-year age groups.

Source: Statistics New Zealand



CHRISTCHURCH HAS A HIGHER PROPORTION OF SINGLE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, REFLECTING THE LARGER NUMBER OF ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVING HERE

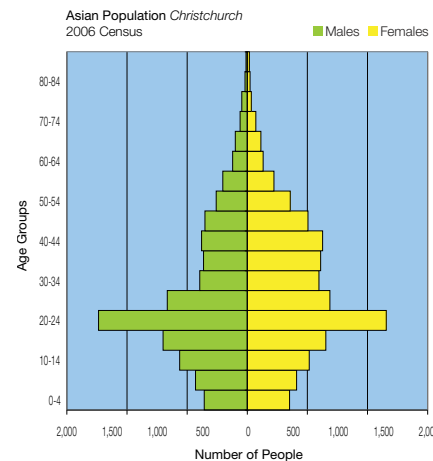
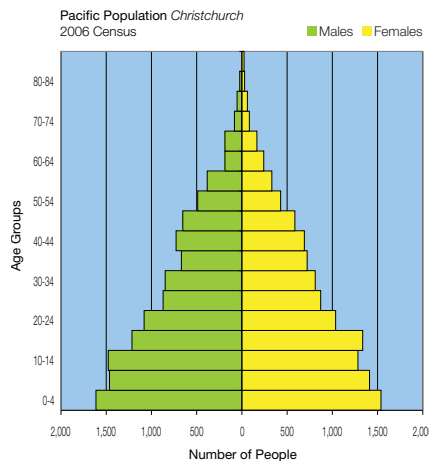
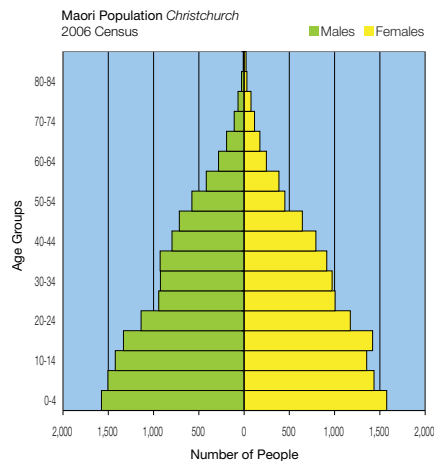
Equivalent graphs for European, Maori, Pacific and Asian residents reveal that the European population, which accounts for 75.4% of Christchurch residents, unsurprisingly mirrors the above chart reasonably closely. Maori and Pacific population graphs are more pyramid-shaped, reflecting the larger percentages of young people in these communities and greater symmetry between males and females.

In particular,

- 34% of Maori and 37% of Pacific people are aged under 15 compared to 18% of Europeans;
- 20% of Maori and Pacific people are aged 15 to 24 compared to 14% of Europeans;
- only 3% of Maori and 2% of Pacific people are aged 65 and over compared with 15% of Europeans.

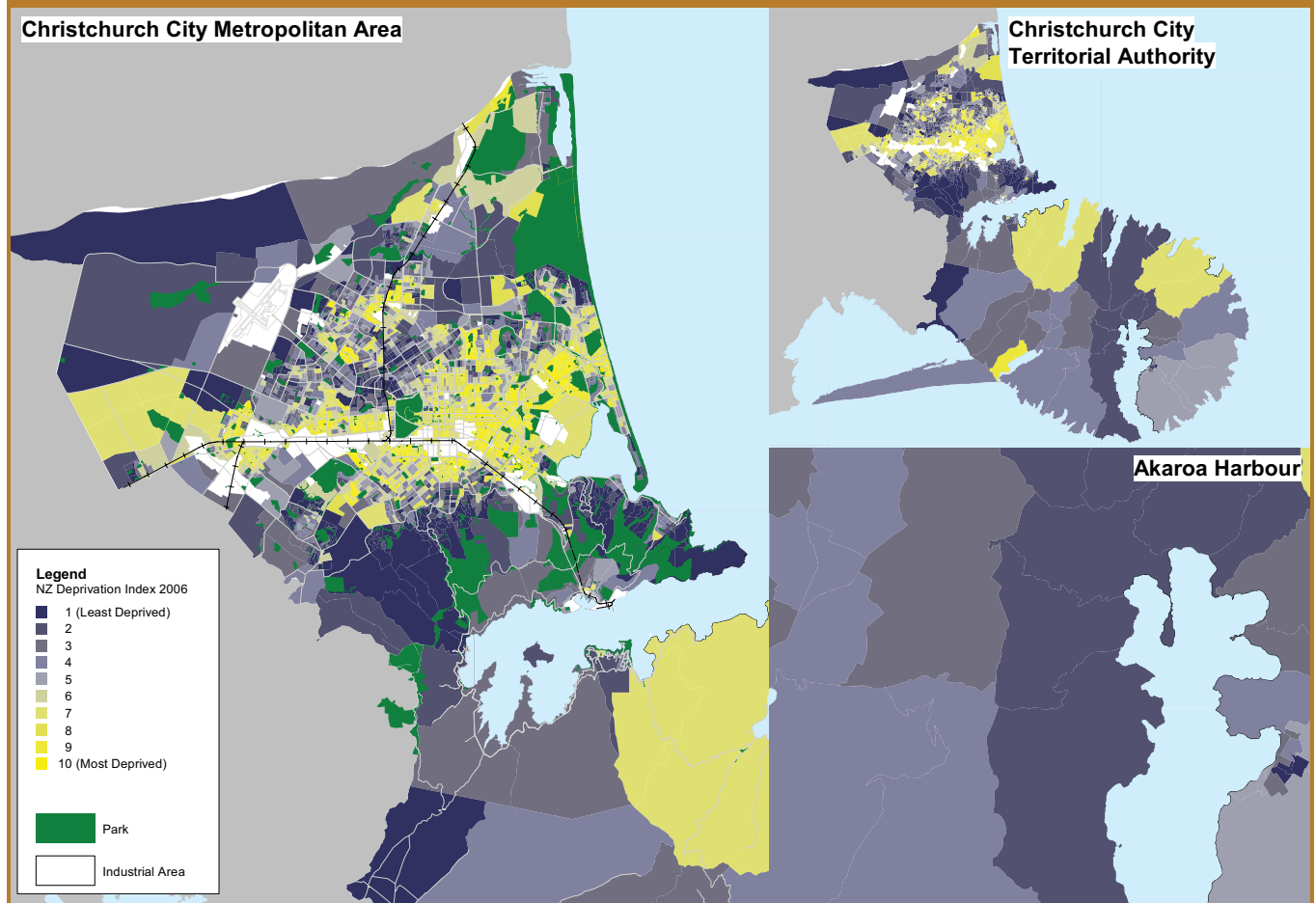
The age profile of the Asian population in Christchurch is a similar shape to that of the wider population, with the exception of a large group aged 20 to 24 who make up 18% of the Asian population, reflecting the numbers of students from overseas.

There are more females than males in all age groups.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

NZ Deprivation Index 2006: Population Distribution By Meshblock



Key Points:

- In 2006, a total of 55,383 people (15.9% of the City's population) lived in areas of high deprivation (deciles 9 and 10). These areas of high deprivation include parts of Hornby, Riccarton, Addington, Sydenham, Linwood, Bromley, Aranui and New Brighton.
- In the north-west sector of Christchurch, which is widely regarded as an affluent part of the City, there are pockets of deprivation in areas such as Jellie Park, Northcote, Casebrook and Harewood.
- In 2006, a total of 76,017 people (21.8%) lived in areas of low deprivation (deciles 1 and 2). This includes much of the Port Hills, and areas in the NW sector of the City, including parts of Fendalton, Deans Bush, Holmwood, and Strowan.
- Banks Peninsula overall tends to be an area of low deprivation, but has pockets of high deprivation within Lyttelton and in Birdlings Flat.

Source: Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington and Christchurch City Council.



Impact of the earthquakes

Prior to the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes, Christchurch's population had been projected to increase to 453,000 by 2041. The 2011 census has been postponed until March 2013 and there is currently no means of exactly assessing the longer term impact of the earthquakes on the population of the city.