

PACIFIC PEOPLES.....	2
Strategic Context	2
Ethnicity Data definitions for Pacific People	2
Demography	3
Socioeconomic Determinants of Health	5
Life Expectancy	6
Mortality	7
Morbidity	8
Respiratory Infections	9
CONCLUSION.....	9

PACIFIC PEOPLES

Key Findings

- **The Pacific population within the Wairarapa DHB at the 2001 Census was 615 or 2% of the DHB total population. Conclusions are difficult to draw about population trends because of the small population number.**
- **Respiratory infections, asthma and congestive heart failure are the three main reasons for hospitalisation.**
- **Ischaemic heart disease, Suicide, Road traffic injury and diabetes are the main causes of avoidable mortality.**

Strategic Context

The Pacific Health and Disability Action Plan¹ sets the strategic direction for improving health outcomes for Pacific peoples. The plan highlights six priority areas where improvements can be made to health and disability services.

These are:

- Child and youth health
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and wellbeing
- Primary health care and preventative services
- Provider and workforce development
- Promoting participation of disabled Pacific peoples
- Health and disability information and research.

The Wairarapa DHB Strategic Plan commits to working to develop links with Pacific communities to ensure that they have opportunities to participate in planning. Due to the small number of Pacific people in the Wairarapa it is envisaged that it is unlikely that there will be dedicated Pacific services within the foreseeable future.

An option is liaison with Pacific services in the Hutt, Wellington and Porirua to support and advise Wairarapa providers on cultural and other matters relevant to Pacific clients.

Ethnicity Data definitions for Pacific People

In this report the term 'Pacific peoples' refers to people living in New Zealand who define themselves as being of Pacific Islands ethnicity (for example Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island Maori, Fijian, Niuean or Tokelauan). The Pacific population in New Zealand comprises more than 20 different ethnic communities, each with its own distinctive culture, language, history of settlement in New Zealand and health status.

Within each of these ethnic communities, there is further diversity between those born in the Pacific Islands and those born in New Zealand. The majority (58%²) of Pacific peoples living in New Zealand now were born here.

There is also a growing proportion of Pacific peoples with multiple ethnicities who identify as belonging to more than one ethnic group. The ethnicity classification for the collation of ethnicity statistics by Statistics New Zealand is subject to 'prioritisation'.

This means that a person who indicated they belonged to Maori and Pacific ethnic groups was categorised as Maori and included in the Maori count.

Pacific peoples are not a homogeneous group. There are differences in the social structures, worldviews, cultures and languages of peoples from the different Pacific nations. Within these ethnic and cultural variations there are also differences in how Pacific models of wellbeing and concepts of disability are viewed and understood.

Demography

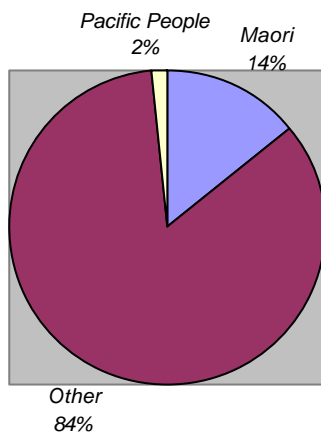
At the time of the 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings one in 16, or about 231,800 people in New Zealand were of Pacific ethnicity, making up 6.5 percent of the total population. The Samoan ethnic group was by far the largest Pacific group, numbering over 115,000 and making up almost half the Pacific population. Cook Island Maori were the next largest group (52,570), followed by Tongan (40,700), Niuean (20,150), Fijian (7,000), Tokelauan (6,200) and Tuvalu Islander (2000).

The majority (58 percent) of the Pacific population living in New Zealand was born in New Zealand. The Cook Island Maori, Niuean and Tokelauan ethnic groups had the highest proportions of New Zealand-born people. People from the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau hold New Zealand citizenship, so have unrestricted rights of resettlement in New Zealand.

The majority of Pacific peoples [67%] live in the area covered by the Auckland regional DHBs, the next biggest Pacific populations live in the Capital and Coast and the Hutt Valley DHB areas.

In contrast the Pacific population within the Wairarapa at the 2001 Census was 615 or 2% of the DHB total population.³

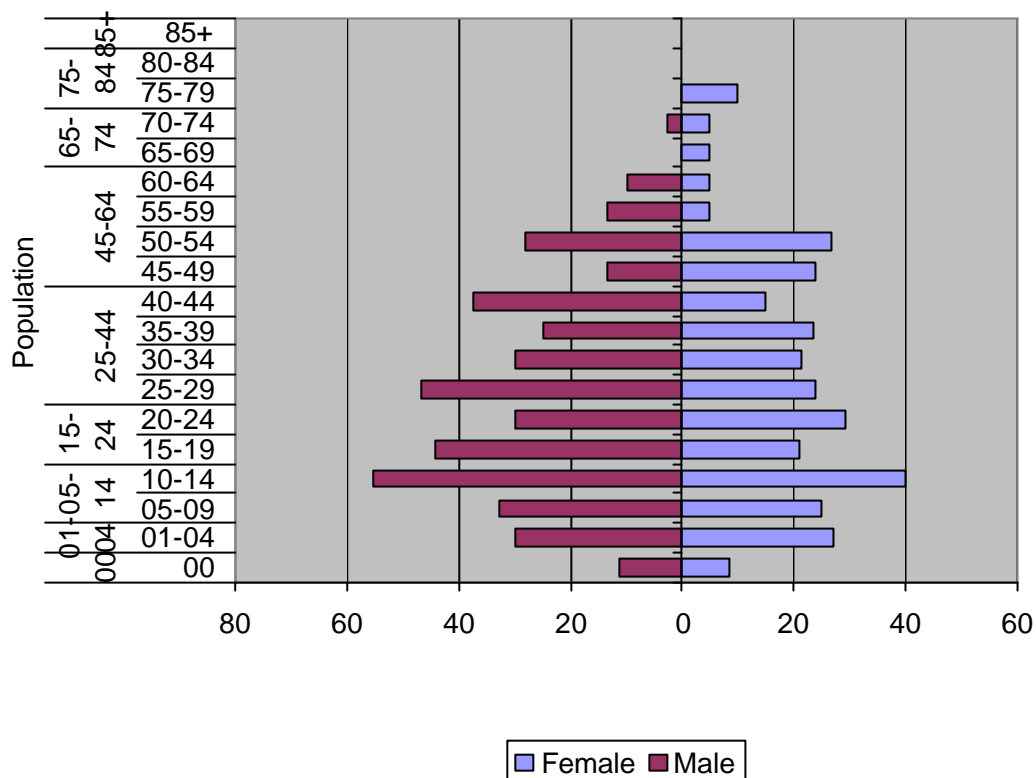
Figure 1: Wairarapa Census 2001 usual resident ethnicity proportions



In comparison with the total New Zealand population, Pacific people have a very youthful population. Only 3% of Pacific People were over the age of 65 in 2001 compared with 12 % of the total population. In contrast 39% of Pacific people were aged under 15 years compared with 23% of the total population. New Zealand born Pacific people have a much younger age profile than overseas born Pacific people.⁴

The Age and Sex distribution of the Wairarapa Pacific population shown in Figure 1 differs from the national profile but conclusions about this are difficult to draw given the small size of the population.

Figure 2: Wairarapa DHB Pacific People Usual Resident Population Age Sex Projection Profiles, 2005.



The Pacific population has a relatively high growth rate. This is contributed to by Pacific women having higher than average fertility rates and the youthful population structure with a relatively large number of women in the reproductive ages.

Pacific people in the Wairarapa are concentrated [68%] in the Masterton urban area.

Socioeconomic Determinants of Health

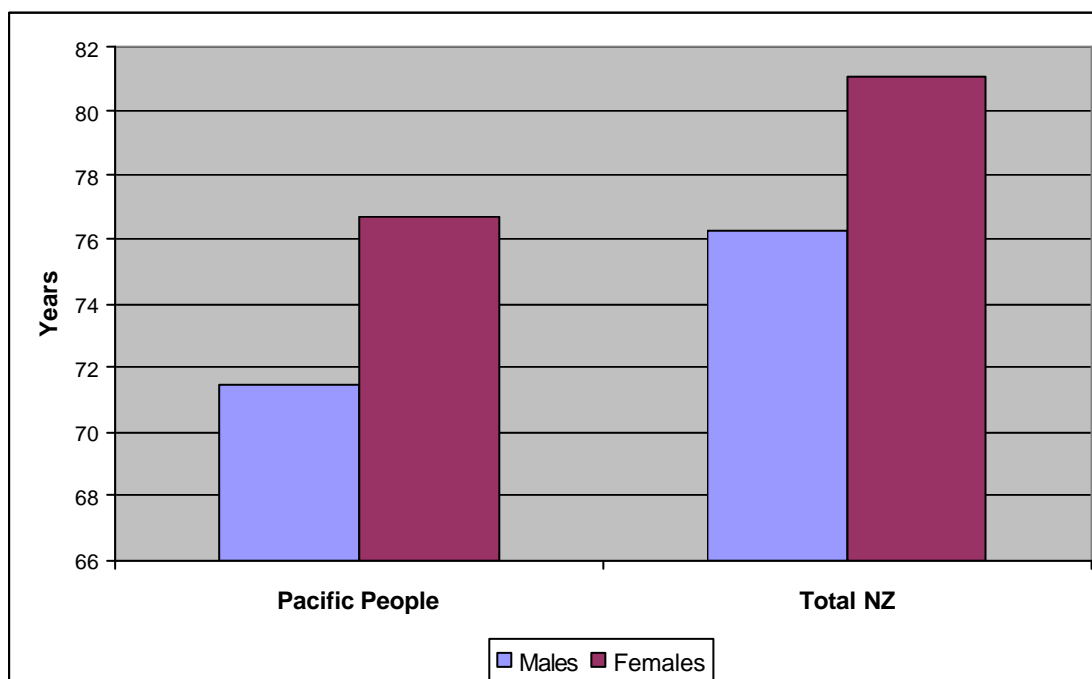
Because the number of Pacific people residing locally in the Wairarapa is small (in a “statistical confidence” sense) it is safer to assess the health of Pacific peoples at a national level. Tupu Ola Moui, the Pacific Health Chart Book provides detailed information about the health and disability needs of Pacific peoples. The underlying cause of poor health is linked to the high deprivation of Pacific peoples:

Figure 3: Wairarapa DHB Pacific people Usual Resident Population Deprivation Projection Proportions

Life Expectancy

There is a gender gap of 5.2 years between Pacific males and Pacific females. Both males and females have a life expectancy at birth lower than the New Zealand average.

Figure 4: Life expectancy at birth, by sex, years 2000-2002



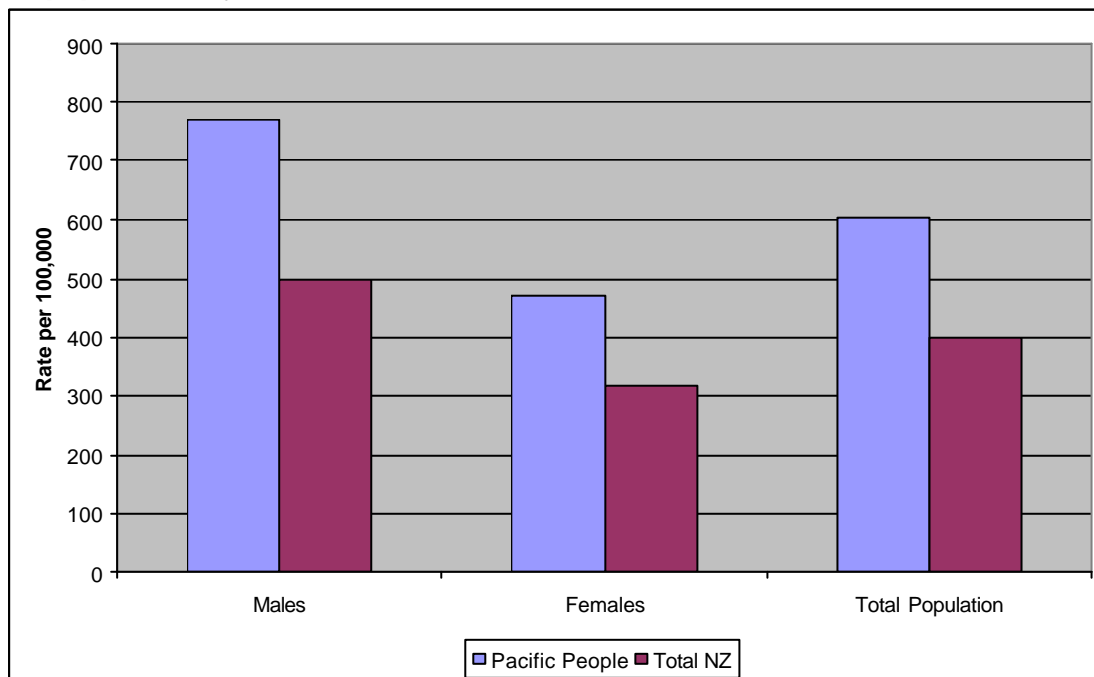
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Mortality

According to the Pacific Health Chart Book highlights the following characteristics of Pacific people's avoidable mortality.

- The causes of avoidable mortality are similar for Pacific peoples and the total New Zealand population.
- Among infant and young children, complications of the perinatal period and birth defects are important causes of avoidable death, along with a range of infectious diseases.
- Injury (intentional and unintentional) dominates the picture in youth and young adults.
- From middle age onwards, stroke, lung cancer, COPD and ischemic heart disease are major causes of death.
- Pacific males and females have significantly higher rates of avoidable mortality than the New Zealand mean.

Figure 5: Age-standardised rate of avoidable mortality for Pacific people and total NZ population, by sex, 1996-2000



The table below show that the causes of avoidable mortality for Pacific people in the Wairarapa are not dissimilar to those of other ethnicities in the Wairarapa. These figures must be treated with great caution however because of the small numbers.

Table 1: Top ten causes of avoidable death for Pacific peoples in the Wairarapa, 1 July 1996 - 31 Dec 2003

Condition	Pacific People Volume	Pacific People as % of DHB Total
Ischaemic heart disease	5	18.5%
Suicide	3	11.1%
Road traffic injury	2	7.4%
CORD	2	7.4%
Diabetes	2	7.4%
Breast cancer	1	3.7%
Colo-rectal cancer	1	3.7%
Low birth weight babies	1	3.7%
Hypertensive disease	1	3.7%
Congenital anomalies	1	3.7%

Morbidity

According to the Pacific Health Chart Book Pacific males and females have high rates of ambulatory sensitive hospitalisation relative to the NZ average.

Figure 6: Ambulatory sensitive hospitalisation rate for Pacific people in the Wairarapa compared with age standardised.

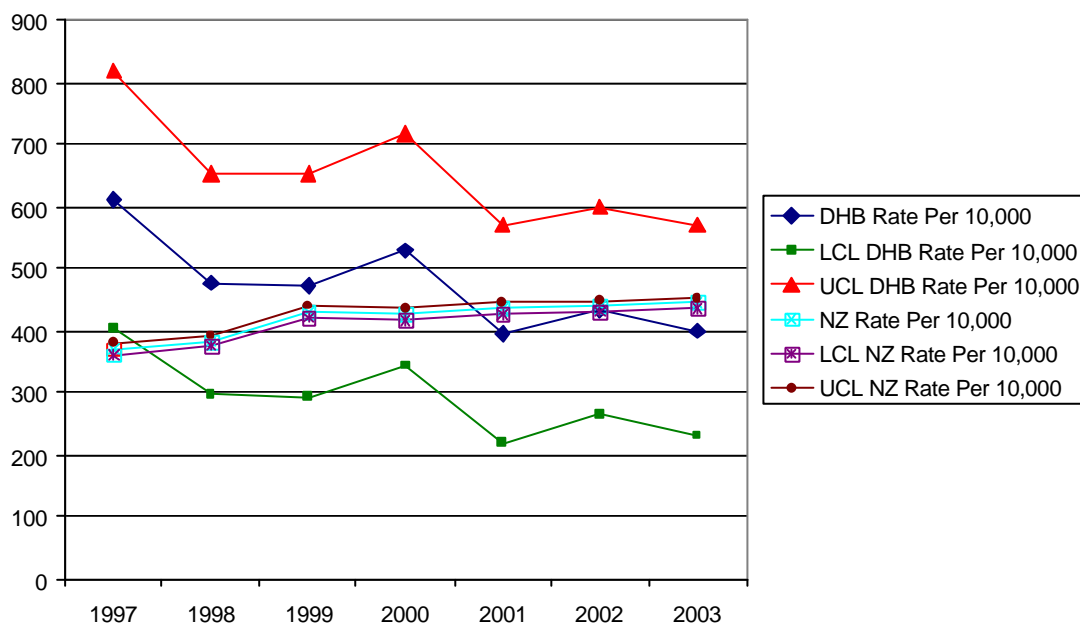


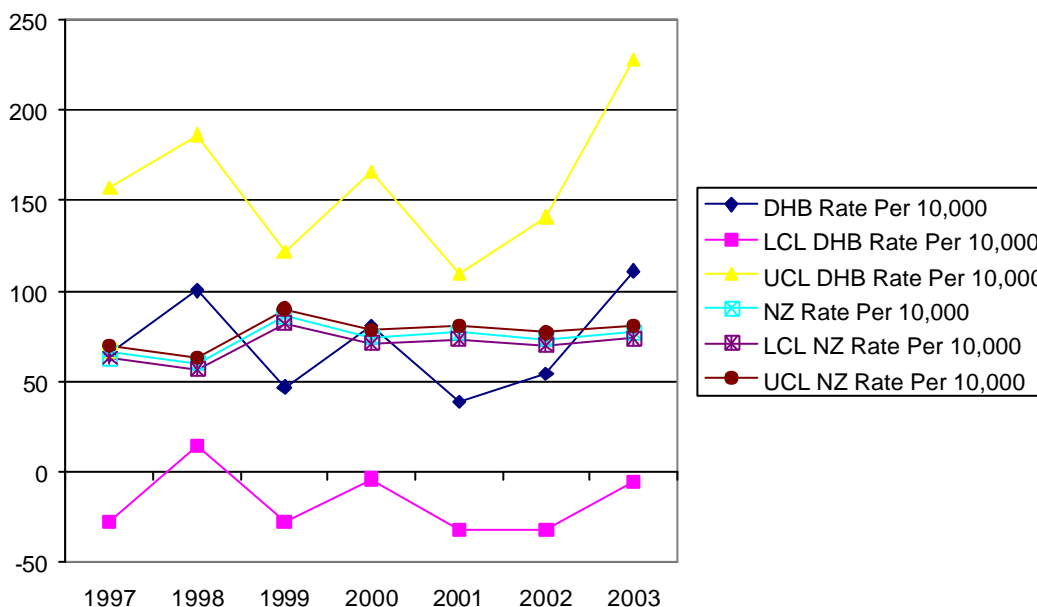
Table 2: Wairarapa DHB Top 10 Avoidable Hospitalisations (1 July 1996 - 31 Dec 2003)

Condition	Pacific People Volume	Pacific People as % of DHB Total	All Ethnicity as % of DHB Total
Respiratory infections	46	5.4%	3.3%
Asthma	36	4.2%	1.4%
Congestive heart failure	29	3.4%	1.6%
Angina	24	2.8%	4.3%
ENT infections	20	2.4%	1.6%
CORD	19	2.2%	1.5%
Cellulitis	19	2.2%	1.3%
Gastroenteritis	17	2.0%	1.7%
Dental conditions	15	1.8%	
Diabetes	10	1.2%	

Respiratory Infections

The standardised rate for respiratory infections is over twice the total ethnicity rate but similar to the Pacific people national rate. The rate is increasing by 1.4 persons per 10,000 in the population per year, less than the national rate of 1.8.

Figure 7: Wairarapa DHB Pacific People Respiratory infections hospitalisations standardised rate.



CONCLUSION

The joint publication by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, "Tupu Ola Moui, the Pacific Health Chart Book", 2004 provides much more extensive

and reliable information on Pacific peoples' health in New Zealand than is available for the statistically small population of the Wairarapa.

Wairarapa information shows similar health and disability issues to those described in Tupu Ola Moui, that publication should serve as the main source of information for assessing, and planning to address, Pacific peoples health and disability needs.

¹ Ministry of Health 2002

² 2001 Census

³ The Pacific Health Chart Book incorrectly gives this figure as .3% of the Wairarapa population.

⁴ Pacific health Chart Book 2004.