

1. Introduction

1.1 What is this Demographic Profile?

The demographic profile provides statistics and a description of the key population characteristics on Census Night 2006 (Tuesday March 7, 2006). There is information on the people who live in Lower Hutt City including their age, ethnicity, employment, income, their homes, and more. The demographics of the area can be useful to a wide range of people and organisations; from individuals and community groups, right through to businesses trying to identify their potential market, and service providers such as the Council.

1.2 Source of Data

The national Census of Population and Dwellings is carried out every five years by Statistics New Zealand. The area unit, territorial authority, and New Zealand information included in this Profile is from the 2006 Census data provided by Statistics New Zealand.

The totals for Petone and Stokes Valley have been generated from the area unit data. Data for the Wards is provided by Statistics New Zealand. Due to various rounding procedures, some of the area unit totals do not add up to the Ward totals.

1.3 Definitions and Terms Used

Geographical Areas

Meshblock is the smallest geographical area that Statistics New Zealand uses to process and release Census information. A geographic area defines a meshblock. In urban areas, meshblocks usually include either part of a street block or a complete street block. There are 1062 meshblocks within Hutt City.

Area Unit is the smallest geographic area included in the demographic profile. Area units are defined by Statistics New Zealand. Statistics New Zealand makes no attempt to have area units of equal size, either in terms of land area or population. In urban areas, area units generally represent a suburb or part of a suburb. Hutt City contains 43 area units. The 2006 data saw the addition of the area units of Tirohanga and Seaview Marina, both of which were not present in the 2001 census.

Petone is an aggregation of the area units: Wilford, Esplanade, and Petone Central.

Stokes Valley is an aggregation of the: Tawhai, Holborn, Delaney, and Manuka area units.

Wards are the boundaries used by Hutt City Council for electoral purposes. The six ward

boundaries in Hutt City encompass identified communities within the territorial authority boundary. The Local Government Commission must approve the final boundaries.

Territorial Authority is the area governed by a city or district council. New Zealand has 74 Territorial Authorities, 15 City Councils and 59 District Councils. The Local Government Commission considered the 'community of interest' when setting the current boundaries in 1989. For comparison, totals for Upper Hutt City, Wellington City, Kapiti Coast District, and Porirua City are included in this Profile.

New Zealand totals have also been included in this Profile for comparison.

Terms Used

Mean average is the sum of all the responses divided by the number of the responses.

Median average is the middle value of all the responses when the responses have been ranked from smallest to largest.

Total Response is a term used by Statistics New Zealand to describe when multiple answers were allowed for a Census question and all the responses have been included in the Census data. Percentages in the total response tables have been based on the population of the area rather than the total number of responses.

Usually Resident Population is a count of the people who usually live in the area. Statistics New Zealand also produces Census Night Population figures based on the number of people in the area on Census Night. This profile uses the Usually Resident Population rather than the Census Night population.

Workplace Population is based on the physical address where the person 'mainly worked', for the job that they 'worked the most hours in', rather than where a person lives.

1.4 Notes on Interpretation

Within Hutt City, meshblocks can be aggregated into area units, area units into wards, and wards into the territorial authority area. This is not the case for all territorial authority areas. For the majority of Census variables, this Profile includes totals for the geographical areas at area unit level and above.

The area unit and territorial authority data is randomly rounded to base three. The Petone, Stokes Valley, and ward totals may contain rounding errors carried forward from the area unit data. Statistics New Zealand randomly rounds all the Census data that it releases to base 3 to protect individual identities. The only data that does not get rounded are averages.

The random rounding is the reason that in some cases the totals for the same information do not

match. For instance, the territorial authority population for Hutt City is 97,701 but the total area unit population for Hutt City is 97,710. Statistics New Zealand provided both totals. In some cases, totals do not match the sum of individual area unit or category data due to the random rounding. The differences caused by this system do not materially affect the analysis in this profile.

The averages for Petone and Stokes Valley were calculated from area unit data and not the individual responses. There may be differences between the true averages and the averages calculated by this method.

The area units vary significantly in size. Some, such as Gracefield and Seaview Marina have a small population and so the percentages can over-exaggerate the actual numbers and/or changes over time. The change in population between 2006 and 2001 is an example of this. Seaview Marina had a 100% increase in population, but the population count only increased by 15. Homedale had the largest population increase (633) and a 25% increase. Therefore, caution must be used when comparison is made between the different area units. Due to the small population of Seaview Marina (only 15), this area unit is often excluded from the figures and discussions on comparisons between the different area units.

Between the 2001 and the 2006 Census, the area unit of Tirohanga was home to a large new subdivision, which resulted in a population of 1200 and Tirohanga being classified as an area unit.

Any comparisons with previous Census data are based on the 2006 Census boundaries. Where there has been a boundary change between the historic Census area and the 2006 Census area the historic data was recalculated (by Statistics New Zealand) to match the 2006 boundary.

Categories such as 'Not Stated' and 'Unidentifiable' are generally excluded from the tables in this Profile. This and rounding errors explains why some of the percentage tables do not add up to 100%. Total Response tables will also not add up to 100%.

Some Census data only includes the population that is aged 15 years and over. This includes the Income, Qualification, and Employment data. The Industry, Occupation, Workplace, and Means of travel to Work variables are also limited to only the portion of the population that is gainfully employed.

Statistics New Zealand states that there was approximately a 2.0% undercount in the 2006 Census, estimated at 81,000 people. No allowance has been made in this Demographic Profile for the undercount.