



What Does MSD Use Census Information for?



MSD Uses:

- Population Counts
- Regional/small area information
- Social and demographic data for whole of population

For:

- Social monitoring/social indicators
- Profiling sub-populations of policy interest
- Calculating rates
- Sample designs for populations of policy interest
- Supporting our Ministers and Leadership Team



2009
the social report
te pūrongo oranga tangata



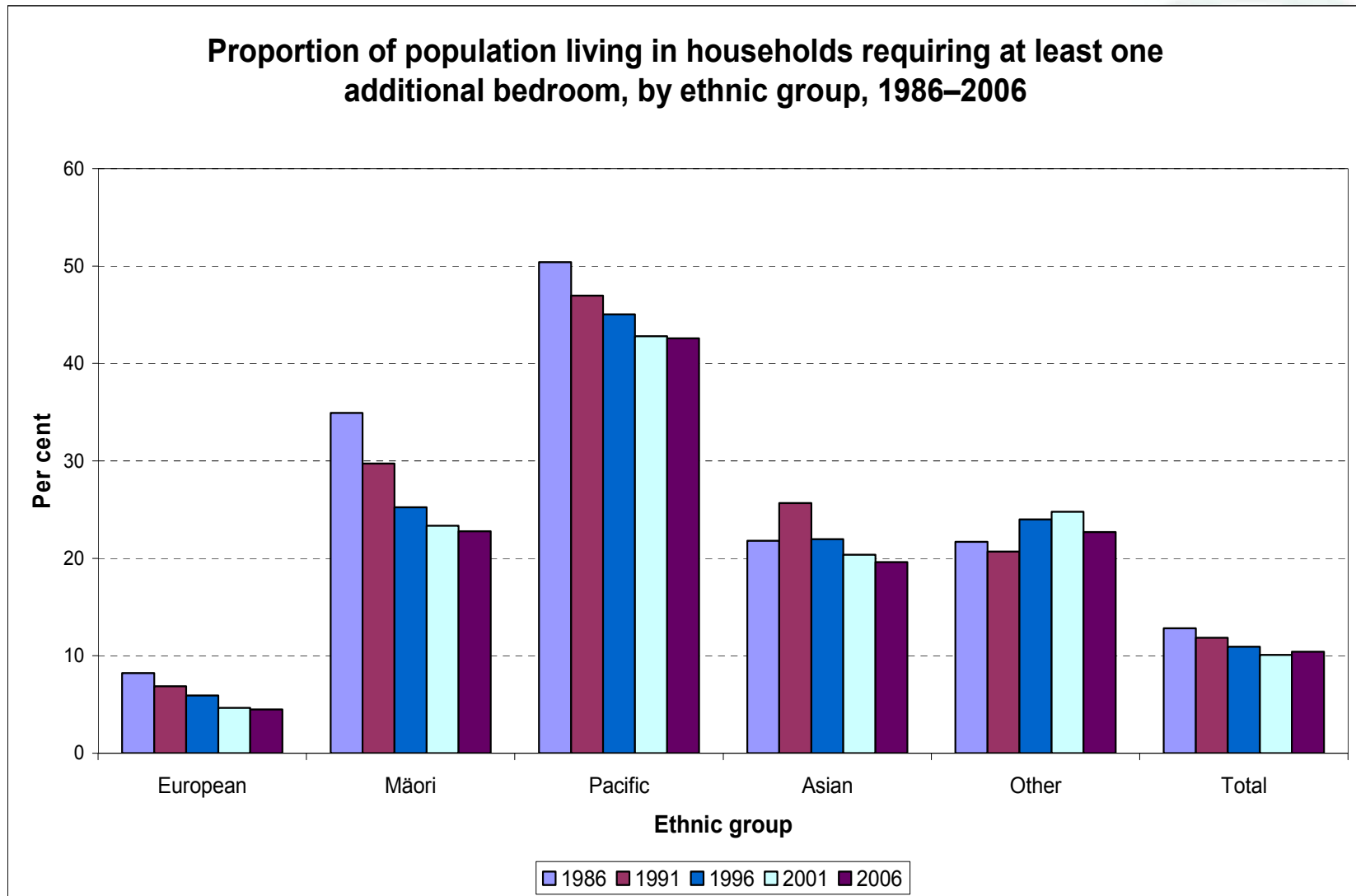


Social Report Indicators Sourced directly from Census

- **Main indicators:**
 - Household Crowding
 - Language Retention
 - Maori Language Speakers
 - Telephone and Internet Access
- **Additional Regional Indicators:**
 - Cigarette Smoking
 - Population with low Incomes

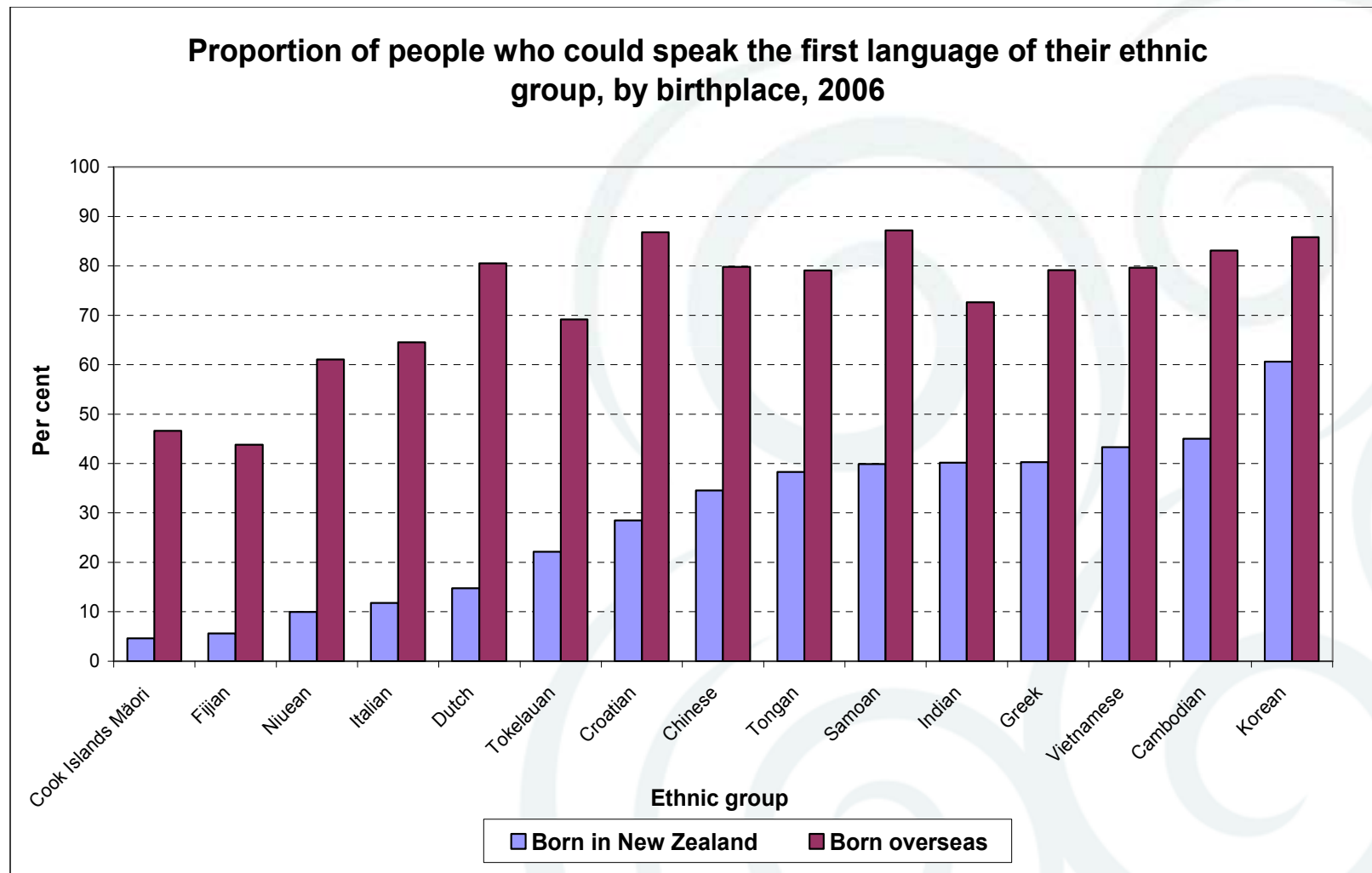


The Social Report: 2009



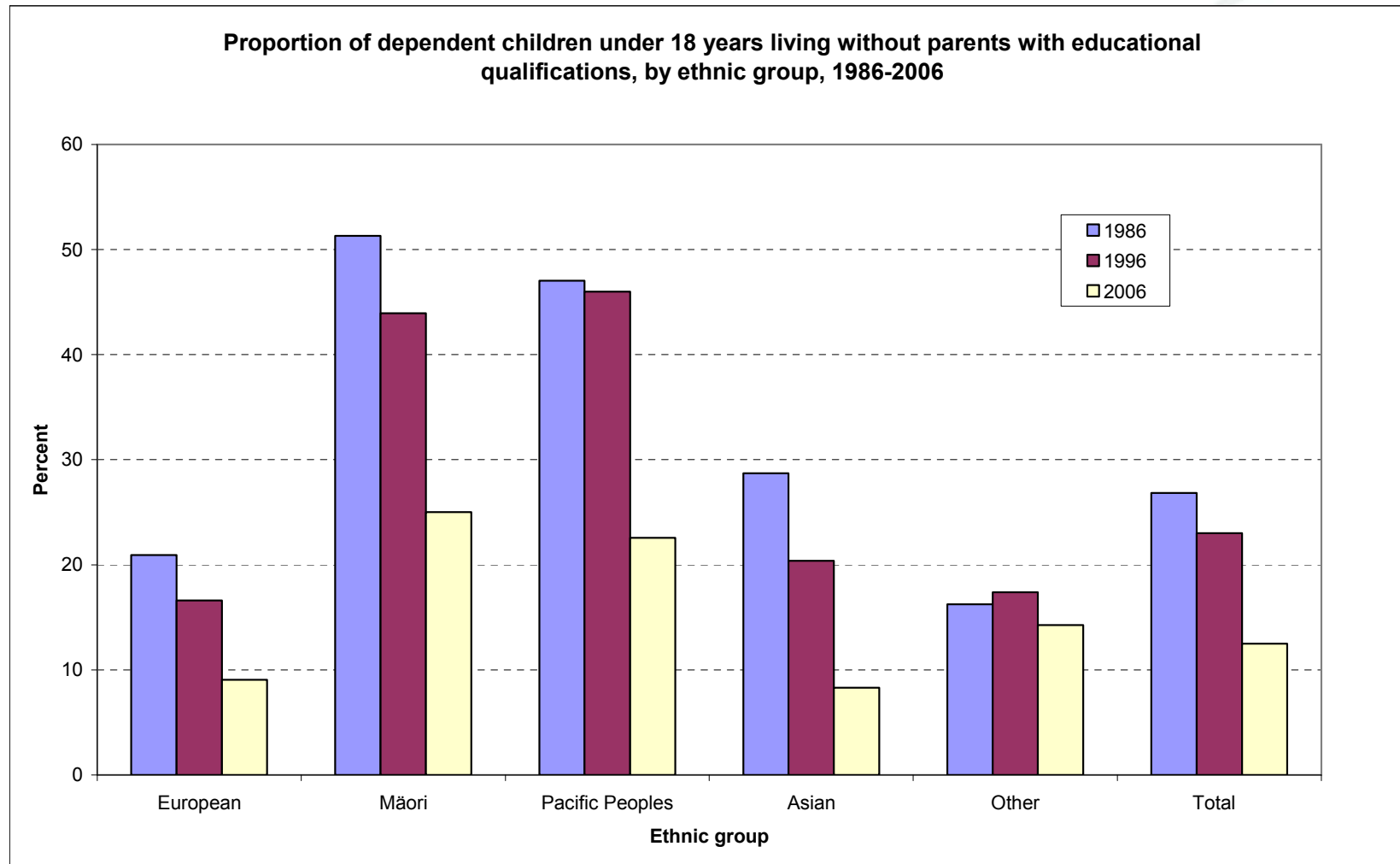


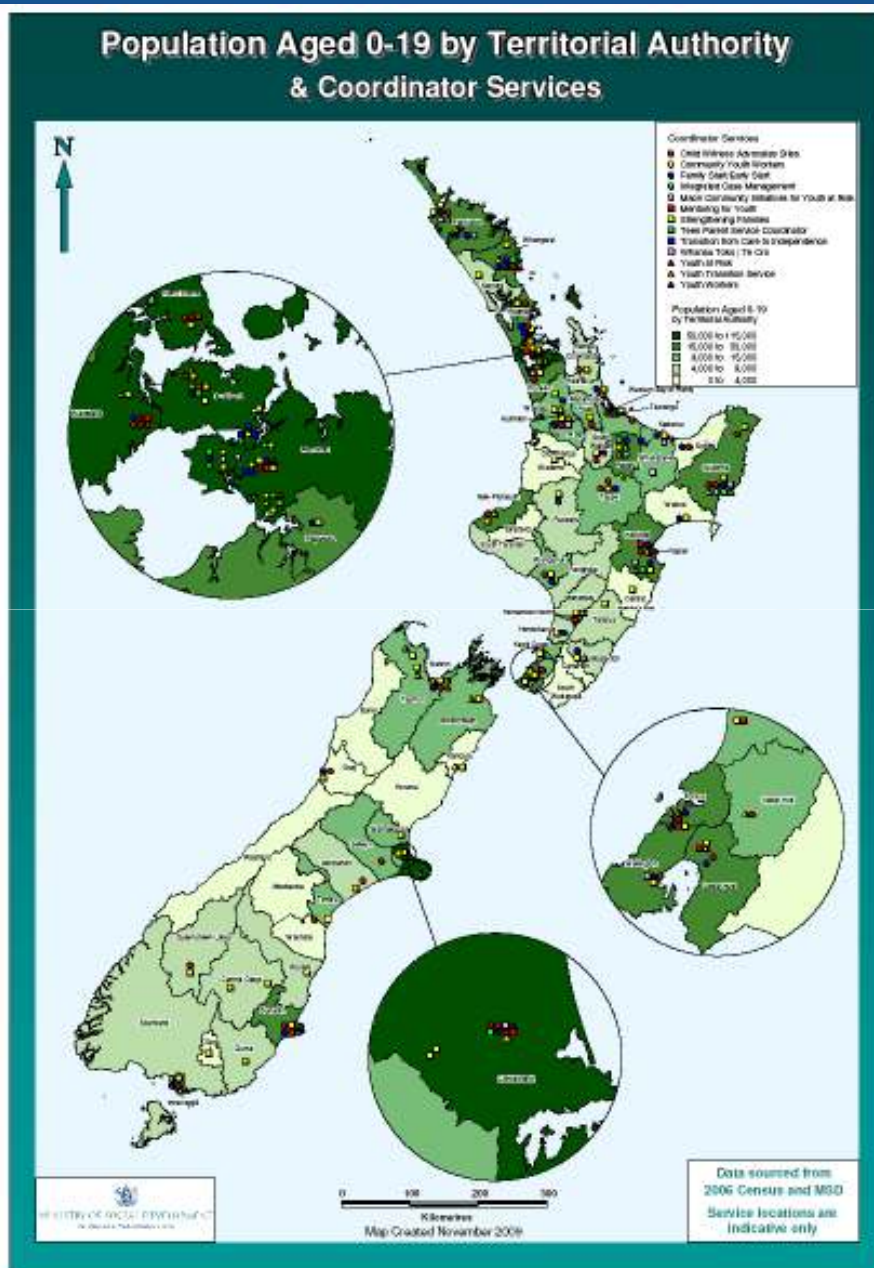
The Social Report: 2009





Children and Young People: Indicators of Well-being in New Zealand, 2008

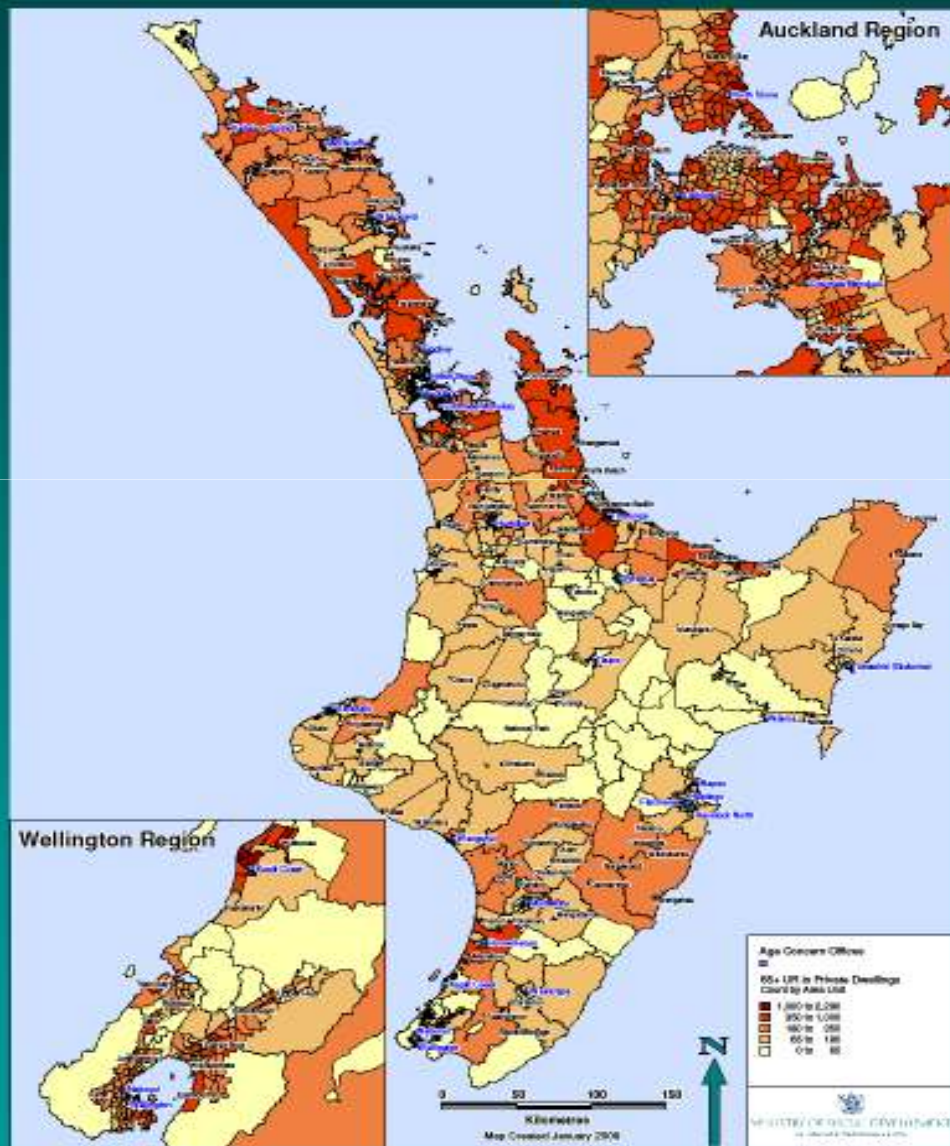




- Service spread against target population
- Whereabouts of MSD funded coordinators for youth services
- Overlaid on density of 0-19 population from Census 2006
- Greener = higher density



Usually Resident 65+ Population in Private Dwellings North Island

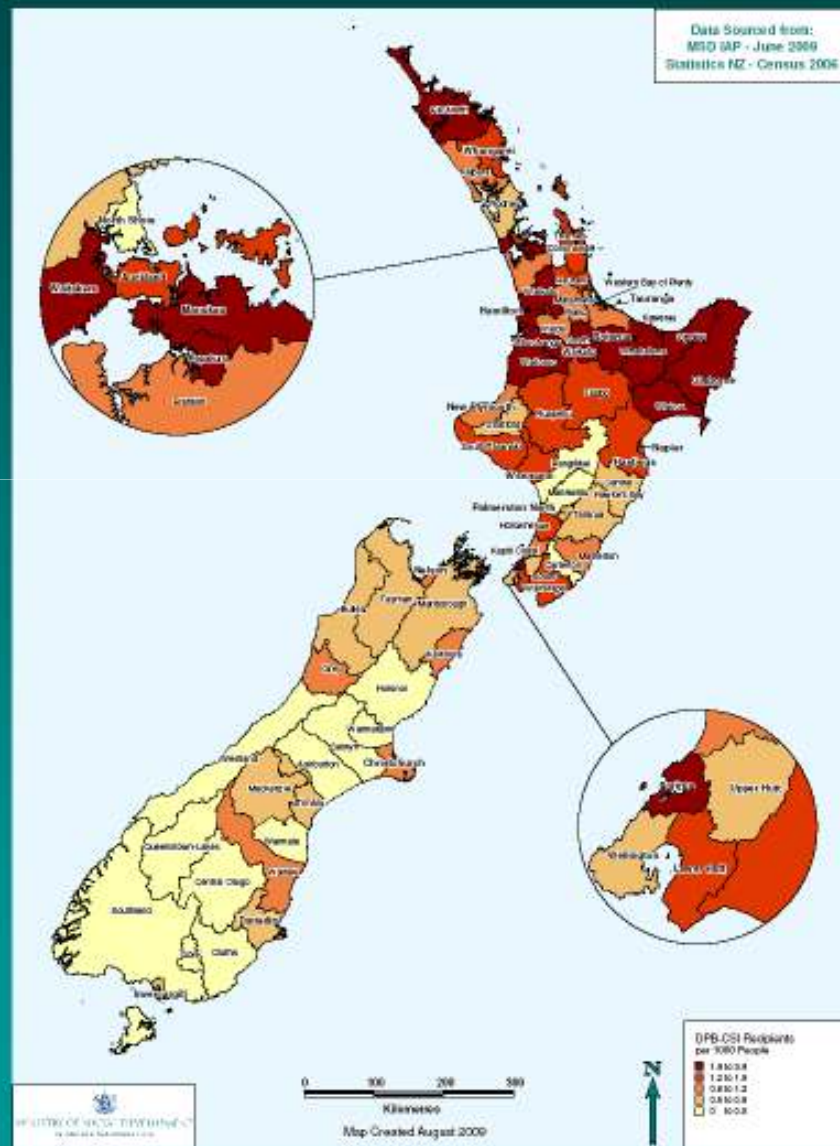


- Usually resident 65+ population density from Census 2006
- (a.k.a. the New Zealand Super population)
- Location of NGO provider sites overlaid
- Redder = higher density of 65+ residents



Recipients of the Domestic Purposes Benefit - Caring for the Sick and Infirm

Ratio of Recipients to the Total Population



- Population proportions for Domestic Purposes – Care of Sick and Infirm
- Administrative data on current clients receiving
- Population from Census 2006
- Redder = higher incidence



And don't forget...

Population estimates and population projections. These are anchored by Census and MSD relies on them as an input to:

- Projections of future client population growth
- Forecasting future social assistance expenditure
- Calculating inter-censal rates
- Calculating population weights
- Model calibration



But can't you just use samples like some overseas countries?

- Not the same richness of big samples in NZ that is possible in larger countries
 - Cost
 - Respondent burden
- Policy analysis in the social assistance arena often interested in sub-populations with particular configurations of family/economic/housing circumstances/...
- The “larger” NZ samples rapidly run out of steam as soon as the focus becomes sub-populations that are not mainstream

(e.g. HES, HLFS, GSS)



Why does MSD care?

- Vanishingly few alternative sources of rich social data based on whole of population
- Census can be used to quantify relatively small sub-populations of policy interest
- Dearth of alternative local area social statistics
- Solid base for projections and estimates (single years of age matter to us)
- So does frequency
- Consistency of time series over extended time period is a plus



What if MSD didn't have it?

- More use of “creativity” and anecdote to base MSD’s business and its advice to government on
- Greater demand for qualitative/judgemental inputs to forecasting baseline expenditure and modelling of new policy
- Less regional analysis
- Less reality checking for work based on smaller samples
- Service coverage less well aligned to client populations
- Increased risk of unintended consequences as the result of policy change



Food for Thought:

- Total appropriation for Census was something like \$89,000,000 over five years = $(89,000,000/5)/52 = \$34,200$ per week
- That's equivalent to a social assistance programme paying an average of \$300 gross per week to 1,140 people per week over the five years
- At the end of the last December quarter there were 345,000 working age people receiving a main benefit from Work and Income and a further 550,000 people receiving New Zealand Superannuation

Questions or Comments?