



Older Aucklanders: Results from the 2023 Census

David Bade

July 2025

Strategic Advice
and Research

SARU



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ISBN 978-1-991377-90-6 (PDF)

Recommended citation:

Bade, D., (2025). Older Aucklanders: Results from the 2023 Census. Auckland Council.

Cover image credit:

A couple at Papakura train station (Auckland Council, 2023)

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This report is part of a suite of reports covering various topics, based on the 2023 Census data. These are available on the Knowledge Auckland website:

<https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/2023-census-results-for-auckland-summary-reports>

Census data can be accessed from the Stats NZ Aotearoa Data Explorer:

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/2023-census/>.

For further information contact: census@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Executive Summary

This report presents an overview of older Aucklanders (65 years and older) in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, based on data from the 2023 Census. The report outlines changes over time since the 2018 Census, and, where possible, the 2013 Census. For some topics, the older Aucklanders population is divided into three age brackets: 65 to 74 years, 75 to 84 years and 85 years and over, and, in other cases, comparisons are given in five-year subgroups.

In 2023, there were 219,753 Aucklanders aged 65 years and over, 13.3 per cent of the total Auckland population. The total number of older Aucklanders grew significantly between 2013 and 2023 (+56,595, +34.7%).

Key findings from the report are summarised below:

Geographical distribution

- The geographical distribution of older Aucklanders generally followed patterns of the population as a whole, with higher numbers in the isthmus and in the west, and lower numbers in rural areas in northern Auckland, and to the west of the city centre.
- The island local boards had the highest proportion of those 65 years and over of all the local board areas: Aotea / Great Barrier (25.9%) and Waiheke (24.2%).
- The local board areas in the southern urban area of Auckland had the lowest proportion of those 65 years and over: Ōtara-Papatoetoe (8.9%), Manurewa (9.2%), Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (9.5%) and Papakura (9.6%).

Broad demographics

- Slightly more Aucklanders 65 years and over identified as female (93,846, 54.2%) than male (79,146, 45.7%). A small number (234, 0.1%) identified with another gender.
- One in six (33,003, 16.6%) were categorised as disabled. Slightly higher proportion of females (18,912, 17.7%) were disabled compared to males (14,043, 15.3%), and those in the Pacific Peoples (30.2%) ethnic group had the highest proportion with a disability.

Ethnic and cultural diversity

- In 2023, two thirds (67.3%) of older Aucklanders were in the broad European ethnic category, equating to 219,753 people. The next largest group was those classified under the broad Asian category (21.0% or 46,218 people), followed by Pacific Peoples (7.9% or 17,397 people) and Māori (5.4% or 11,907 people).
- Although European ethnicity remains the highest proportion of all the ethnic groups, the proportion is declining steadily and all other ethnic groups increased between 2013 and 2023.
- One in 15 (6.6%) older Aucklanders in 2023 were of Māori descent. This is less than the rest of the population (14.9%).
- A lower proportion of older Aucklanders speak English (88.2%) compared to the rest of the population (92.9%).
- After English, the next most common language spoken was Northern Chinese (10,614 or 4.8%), followed by Yue (7761 or 3.5%) and Samoan (7566 or 3.4%).
- A total of 102,078 (46.9%) older Aucklanders were born overseas. This is a higher proportion than in 2018 (45.5%) and in 2013 (43.1%).

Dwellings and Households

- In 2023, nearly all (200,316 or 95.2%) older Aucklanders lived in private dwellings. The remaining 4.8 per cent (10,188) lived in non-private dwellings.
- While most (73.5%) older Aucklanders living in private dwellings lived in separate houses (147,141), the number living in joined dwellings increased 16,263 (+45.5%) since 2018.
- 78.7 per cent of older Aucklanders lived in a household in which one or more of the household members owned or partly owned the home or was in a family trust, an increase from 2018 (76.0%) and 2013 (77.8%).
- 6.5 per cent of older Aucklanders (or 13,059 people) lived in a registered retirement village in 2023. The proportion was highest among Europeans (9.4%) and lowest among Pacific Peoples (0.5%).
- In 2023, nearly two-thirds (64.1%) of older Aucklanders lived in a one-family household, and just over one in five (20.8%) lived alone.
- 2.4 per cent of Aucklanders 65 years and over lived in a severely crowded household (with two or more bedrooms required). This was a slight increase from 2018 (2.3%) and 2013 (1.9%).
- 2.7 per cent of Aucklanders 65 years and over lived in dwellings which were reported to always have mould, a decrease since 2018 (3.1%).
- The proportion of older Aucklanders living in dwellings which always had dampness declined from 2.2 per cent in 2018 to 1.9 per cent in 2023.
- More than one in five older Aucklanders (22.4%) lived in areas rated least deprived in the New Zealand Deprivation Index (deciles one or two).

Employment and occupation

- At the 2023 Census, 53,697 (24.4%) older Aucklanders were in the labour force, an increase since 2018 (43,323, 22.9%).
- The 65 to 74 year age group had a much higher proportion in the labour force than the older age groups. Over a third (35.0%) of 65 to 74 year olds were in paid employment (22.0% employed full-time and 13.1% part-time), compared to 11.3 per cent of 75 to 84 year olds and 2.4 per cent of those 85 years and over.
- The most common occupation among all those 65 years and over were professionals (29.9%), followed by managers (19.0%) and clerical and administrative workers (12.4%).

Income

- The largest proportion of older Aucklanders had a personal income in the range of \$20,001 to \$25,000 (of all the \$5000 income ranges) (18.6% or 40,776 people).
- The highest median personal incomes were reported by older Aucklanders who were European (\$28,700) and Māori (\$27,500). Lower median incomes were recorded among Pacific Peoples (\$24,000) and Asian (\$20,600) older Aucklanders.
- More than four in five (82.0%) older Aucklanders partook in at least one form of unpaid activity in the four weeks prior to completing their 2023 Census form. Older Aucklanders were most likely to say they had done 'housework, cooking, repairs, gardening etc for their own household' (79.3%). This was followed by 'looking after a child who doesn't live in own household' (14.0%) and 'helping or voluntary work' (12.6%).

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1 Introduction

This report presents an overview of Aucklanders aged 65 years and older in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, based on data from the 2023 New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings.¹ Auckland Council has a commitment to Auckland’s older population as set out in the Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua / Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan 2022-2027.² The plan was created to respond to the needs of older Aucklanders and to enhancing their wellbeing and quality of life, now and in the future. As part of this commitment, it is important for council to maintain an understanding of the demographic profile of this population using available data, such as that from the 2023 Census as detailed in this report.

The 2023 Census provides a snapshot of New Zealand on census day (7 March 2023).³ Respondents filled out an individual form and a form for the dwelling they lived in. Data from alternative sources, such as birth, death and taxation records, is also used by Stats NZ to help produce the highest quality data possible.⁴

This report presents an overview of key findings, and outlines changes over time since the 2018 Census, and, where possible, the 2013 Census. Local board area and Statistical Area 3 (roughly suburb area)⁵ comparisons are provided, where noteworthy. The report is descriptive and does not analyse the drivers behind trends and figures.

The report is organised into seven sections: population numbers and growth, geographical distribution, ethnic and cultural diversity, birthplace, dwellings and households, employment and occupation, and income.

In this report, results are presented for the total population aged 65 and over but are also broken down into three smaller age groups: those aged 65 to 74 years, 75 to 84 years, and 85 years and over. These groups broadly reflect lifestyle and retirement patterns of older Aucklanders. Unless otherwise stated, all percentages in this report exclude responses that cannot be classified (e.g. ‘not stated’, ‘response unidentifiable’, ‘response out of scope’). This is in line with Stats NZ conventions.

¹ The report follows on from [Older Aucklanders: results from the 2018 Census report](#).

² [Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua – Age-friendly Auckland Mahere Mahi – Action Plan](#)

³ The 2023 Census went live on 13 February 2023, which enabled people to complete census forms before census day. The remainder of respondents were able to complete forms until 30 June 2023. See: [Field collection strategies and operations for the 2023 Census](#).

⁴ See: [Using a combined census model for the 2023 Census](#).

⁵ The population size of each SA3 area is not identical and more sparsely populated SA3s can be larger in spatial size than more densely populated SA3s.

2 Numbers and growth

In 2023, there were 219,753 usual residents aged 65 years and over in Auckland, equating to 13.3 per cent of the total Auckland population. Within this age group there were:

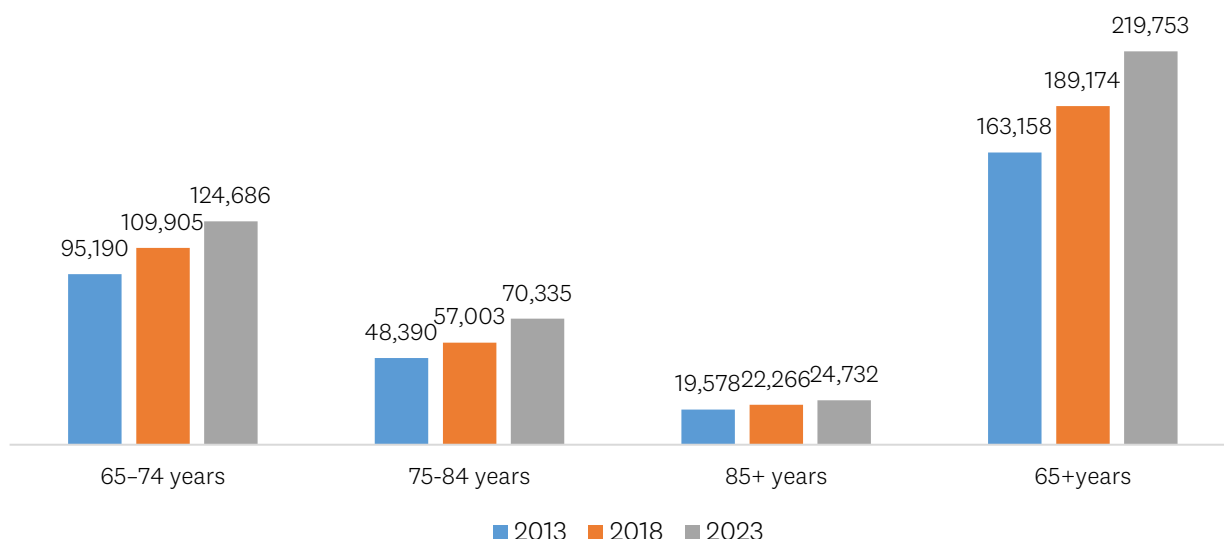
- 124,686 aged between 65 and 74 years (56.7%)
- 70,335 aged between 75 and 84 years (32.0%)
- 24,732 aged 85 years and older (11.3%).

2.1 The number of older Aucklanders growing faster than the total Auckland population

As shown in Figure 1, there was substantial growth in the number of Aucklanders aged 65 and over in the decade between 2013 and 2023 (+56,595, +34.7%). This percentage growth is larger than the growth of the total Auckland population which increased by 17.0 per cent over the same time period.

The largest numerical growth was among those aged 65 to 74 (increasing by 29,496, or +31.0%), and the largest percentage increase was in the numbers of those aged 75 to 84, increasing by 21,945 (+45.4%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Number of usual residents in Auckland aged 65 and over (2013, 2018, 2023)



2.2 Over a quarter of older New Zealanders live in Auckland

In 2023, 26.5 per cent of usual residents in New Zealand aged 65 and over lived in Auckland, similar to 2018 (26.5%) and 2013 (26.9%).

2.3 Auckland’s population structure is ageing

Auckland, and New Zealand more generally, has an ageing population. An ageing population occurs when historically there has been a gradual transition from high birth and death rates to lower birth and death rates. Another factor is the cohort effect of the ‘baby boomer’ generation (born between 1946-1964) continuing to age, with more and more reaching the older adult age range.

Auckland is experiencing an increase in the numbers of those aged 65 and over (numerical ageing) (see section 2.1) and structurally, as illustrated by Figure 2, which shows an increase in the proportion of all age groups aged 55 and over between 2013 and 2023 and a corresponding decrease in the proportions of those aged under 25 years (with the exception of those aged 10 to 14).

This is a long-term trend which is likely to continue, with the proportion of those aged 65 and over increasing relative to the entire Auckland population.

Figure 2: Age structure for Auckland (2013, 2023)

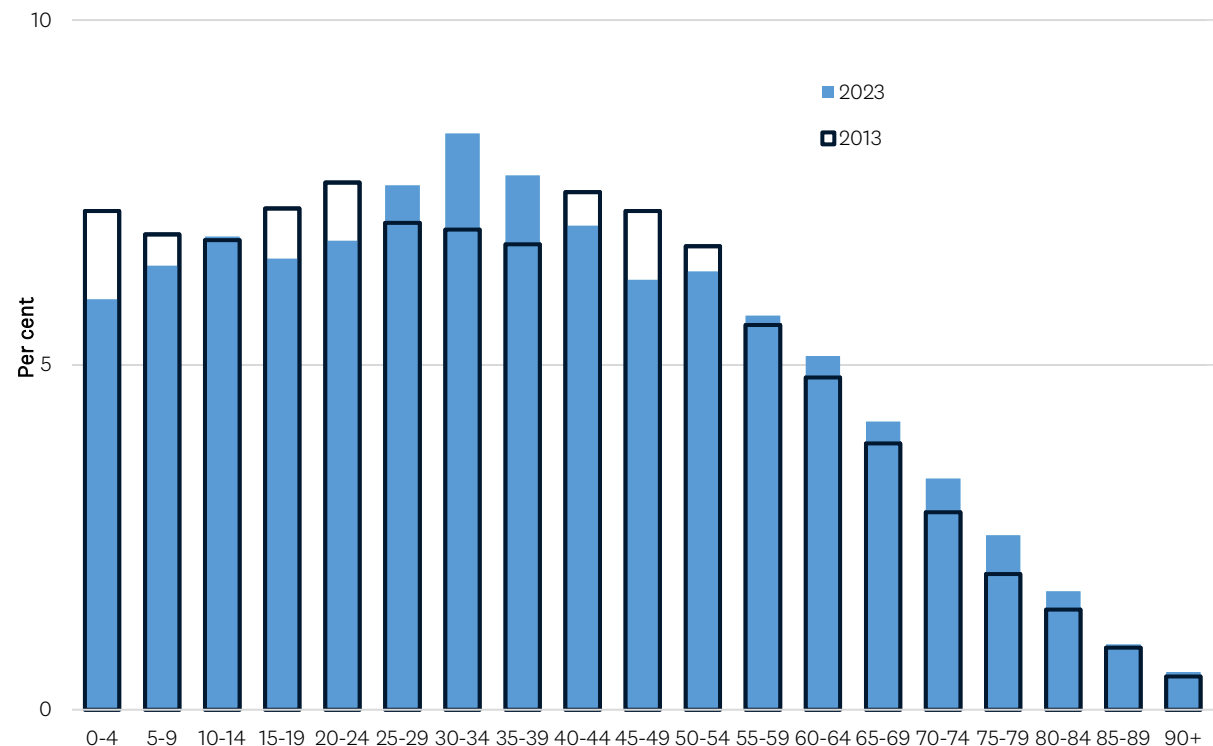
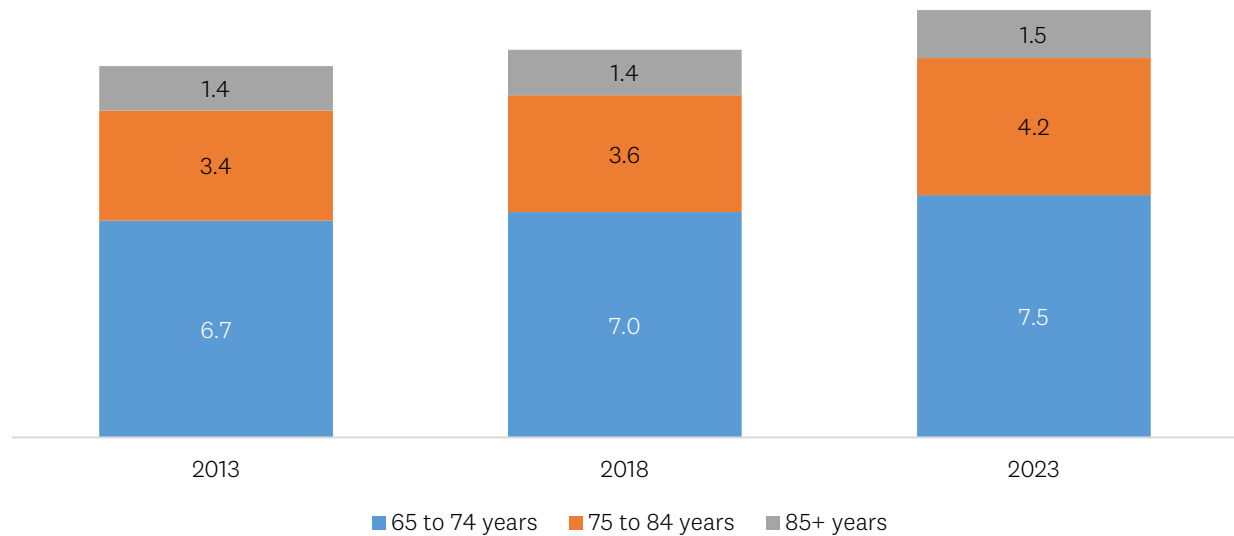


Figure 3 shows the proportion of Auckland’s population who are aged 65 and over, broken down into three broad age groups. Overall, the proportion of Aucklanders 65 years and over increased from 11.5 per cent in 2013 to 12.0 per cent in 2018 and 13.3 per cent in 2023. Of the three groups, those aged 75 to 84 years had the highest percentage growth between 2013 and 2023 (+45.4%).

Figure 3: Proportion of Auckland population in older age groups (2013, 2018, 2023) (%)



2.4 More females than males

As shown in Table 1, the 2023 Census counted more female (118,155, 53.8%) than male (101,364, 46.1%) older Aucklanders. This follows the pattern of previous censuses which also recorded more females than males in the 65 years and over age group (54.1% females in 2013 and 53.4% females in 2018).⁶

The 2023 Census included a question on gender identity for the first time in a New Zealand census. This refers to a person's social and personal identity as male, female, or another gender, or genders that may be non-binary. Previously, censuses only reported sex at birth. Table 1 shows that a relatively lower proportion of Aucklanders aged 65 and over identified as another gender (234, 0.1%) compared with the rest of the Auckland population (5103, 0.5%).

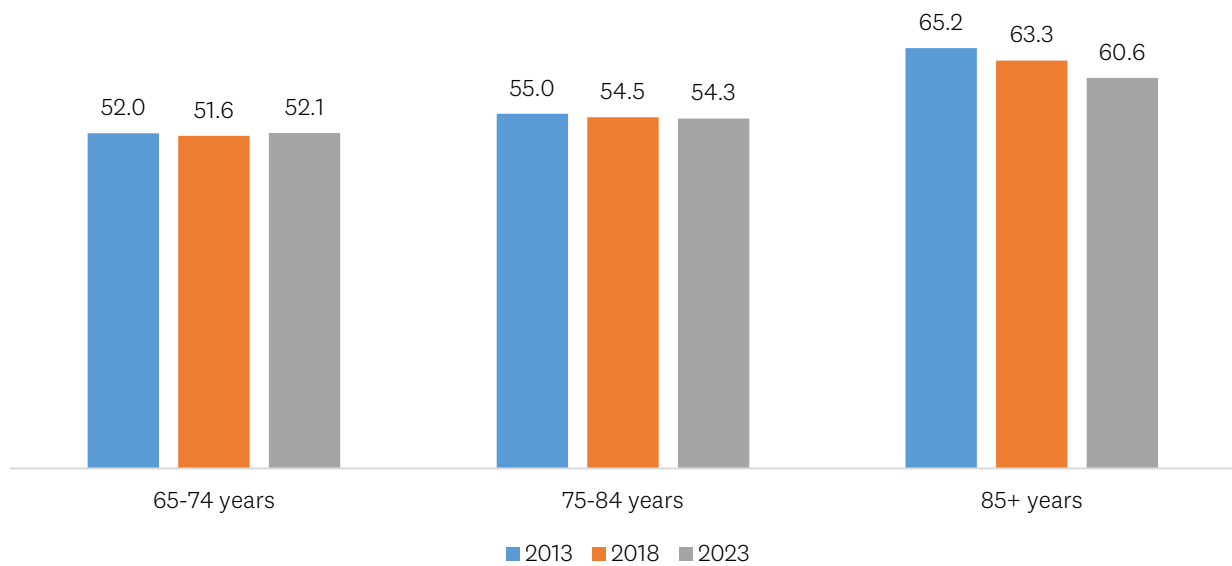
Table 1: Gender identity of those aged 65 and over (2023)

	Male		Female		Other gender	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
65-74 years	59,574	47.8	64,956	52.1	153	0.1
75-84 years	32,076	45.6	38,199	54.3	60	0.1
85 years and over	9714	39.3	15,000	60.6	21	0.1
Total 65 years and over	101,364	46.1	118,155	53.8	234	0.1
Rest of the Auckland population (under 65 years)	553,557	49.5	559,230	50.0	5103	0.5

As Figure 4 shows, higher proportions of those aged 85 and over were females compared with other age groups over the last three censuses. However, there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of those aged 85 and over who were female from 65.2 per cent in 2013 to 60.6 per cent in 2023.

⁶ Noting that there was not the option of "another gender" in the 2013 and 2018 censuses.

Figure 4: The proportion of females across the three older Auckland categories (2023)



There were more females than males aged 65 years and over across all local board areas in 2023 apart from Aotea / Great Barrier (however, the population of this local board area in general has a far greater proportion of males) (Table 2).

Table 2: Gender proportions for those 65 years and over across all local boards (2023) (%)

Local board area	Male	Female	Another gender
Rodney	49.3	50.6	0.1
Hibiscus and Bays	45.5	54.4	0.1
Upper Harbour	45.1	54.8	0.1
Kaipātiki	44.7	55.1	0.1
Devonport-Takapuna	44.8	55.0	0.1
Henderson-Massey	44.6	55.3	0.1
Waitākere Ranges	47.5	52.4	0.1
Aotea / Great Barrier	60.2	39.8	0.0
Waiheke	47.5	52.4	0.0
Waitematā	49.6	50.2	0.1
Whau	45.0	54.9	0.1
Albert-Eden	45.9	54.0	0.1
Puketāpapa	46.4	53.6	0.1
Ōrākei	44.6	55.3	0.1
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	44.6	55.3	0.1
Howick	45.5	54.4	0.1
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	48.2	51.7	0.1
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	46.3	53.6	0.2
Manurewa	46.4	53.5	0.1
Papakura	45.7	54.3	0.1
Franklin	48.4	51.5	0.1
Auckland	46.1	53.8	0.1

2.5 One in six older Aucklanders were disabled

Stats NZ classifies a person as disabled if they respond that they have ‘a lot of difficulty’ or ‘cannot do at all’ one or more of the six activities in the activity limitations questions of the census.

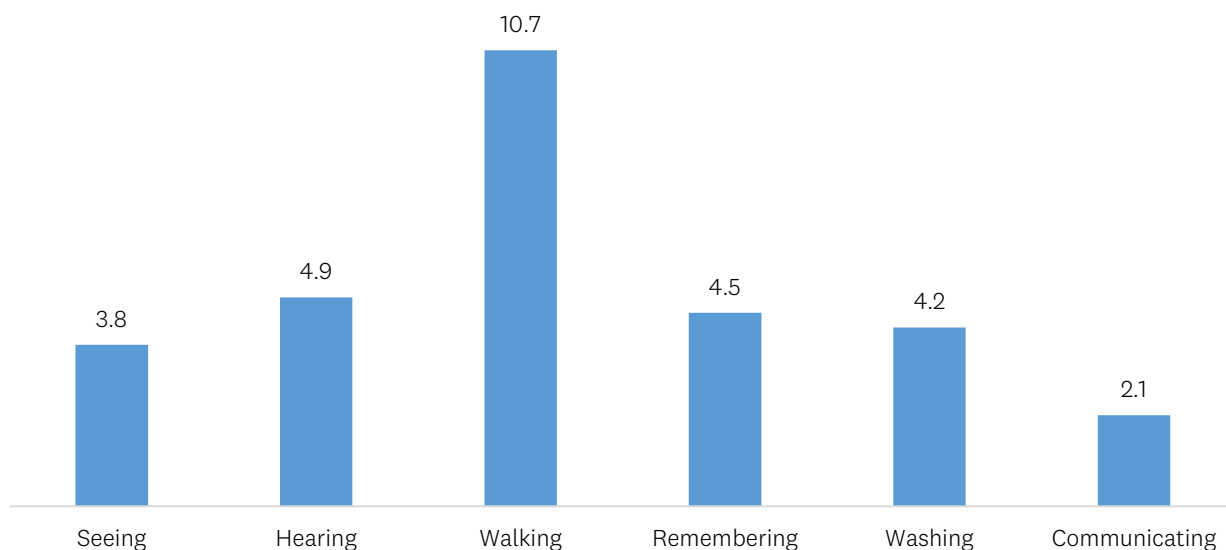
In 2023, 33,003 (16.6%) older Aucklanders were categorised as disabled.⁷ There was a numerical increase of 3747 from 2018, but the proportion was down from 17.4 per cent. The proportion of older Aucklanders with a disability was considerably higher than within younger age groups, for example five to 14 years (3.2%), 15 to 29 years (5.0%) and 30 to 64 years (4.5%).

A slightly greater proportion of older females (18,912, 17.7%) were disabled compared to males (14,043, 15.3%). Over a quarter (26.7%) of older Aucklanders who identified with another gender were disabled.

In terms of ethnicity, older Aucklanders in the Pacific Peoples (30.2%) ethnic group had the highest proportion with a disability, followed by Māori (23.9%). Those in the European ethnic group had the lowest proportion (14.9%).

When broken down by activities, as shown in Figure 5, having a lot of difficulty or not being able to walk was the most common form of disability among older Aucklanders.

Figure 5: Proportion of older Aucklanders reporting 'a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all' for activities (2023) (%)



*People could report difficulty with more than one activity.

⁷ For a summary of this data for Auckland as a whole, see [2023 Census results: Disability status and activity limitations overview for Tamaki Makaurau](#).

3 Geographical distribution

This section outlines where older Aucklanders lived, including distribution by Statistical Area 3 (SA3) (a geographical area introduced by Stats NZ in 2023, which is roughly the equivalent of suburb level⁸), local board area and by broad ethnic group.

3.1 Distribution of older Aucklanders varies by age group

The following four maps show the distribution of those aged 65 and over in 2023 (Figure 6), followed by those aged 65 to 74 (Figure 7), 75 to 84 (Figure 8) and 85 and over (Figure 9). The maps show the numbers in each age group living in each SA3 area.

As Figure 6 shows, higher numbers of older Aucklanders lived in areas in the isthmus and in the west than in other parts of the region. Table 3 provides more detail on the SA3 areas with the highest and lowest numbers. This pattern is broadly replicated across the three broad age groups, although there is a marked concentration of those aged 85 and over in the urban area (Figure 9).

Table 3: The five SA3 areas with the highest and lowest numbers of Aucklanders (65 years and over) (2023)

SA3 area (local board area)	Number
<i>Five highest:</i>	
Henderson (Henderson-Massey)	5370
Remuera (Ōrākei)	4791
Orewa (Hibiscus and Bays)	4533
Papatoetoe (Ōtara-Papatoetoe)	4335
Flat Bush (Ōtara-Papatoetoe)	3993
<i>Five lowest:</i>	
Eden Terrace (Albert-Eden)	135
Kingsland (Albert-Eden)	186
Drury (Papakura)	201
Red Hill (Papakura)	210
North Harbour / Rosedale (Upper Harbour)	225

⁸ It is important to note that the population size of each SA3 area is not identical and that more sparsely populated SA3s can be larger in spatial size than more densely populated SA3s.

Figure 6: Distribution of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over by SA3 (2023)

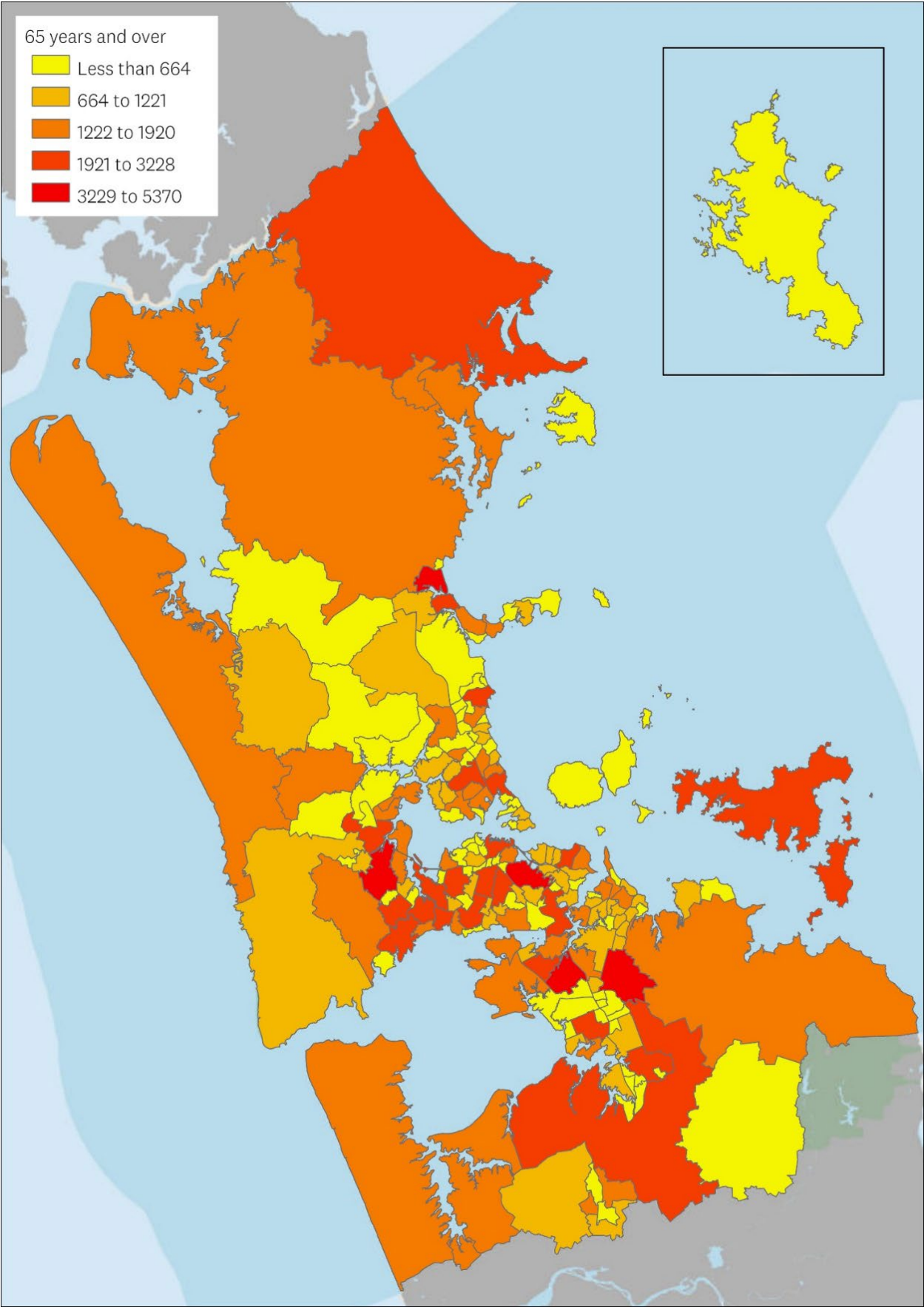


Figure 7: Distribution of Aucklanders aged 65 to 74 years by SA3 (2023)

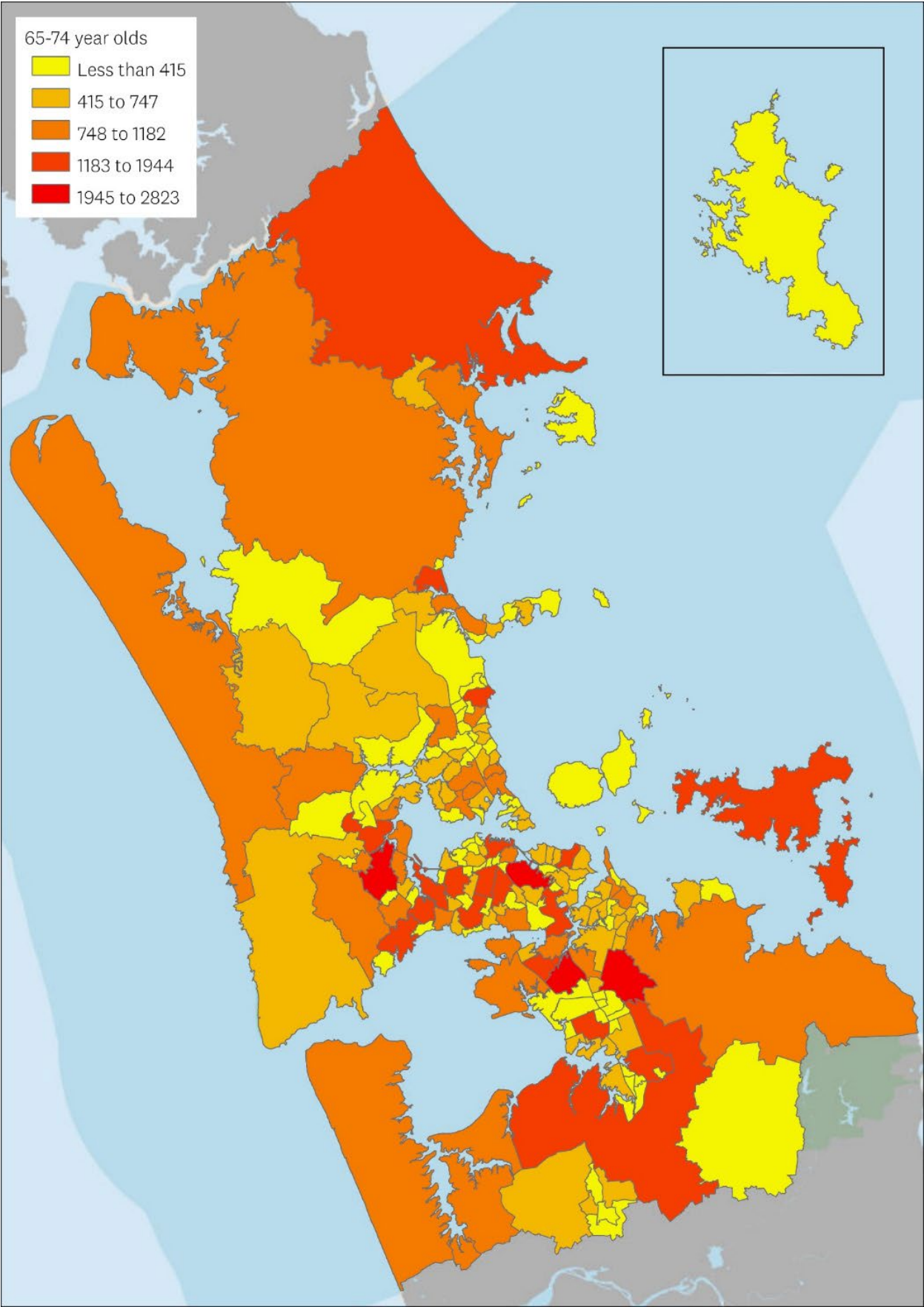


Figure 8: Distribution of Aucklanders aged 75-84 years by SA3 (2023)

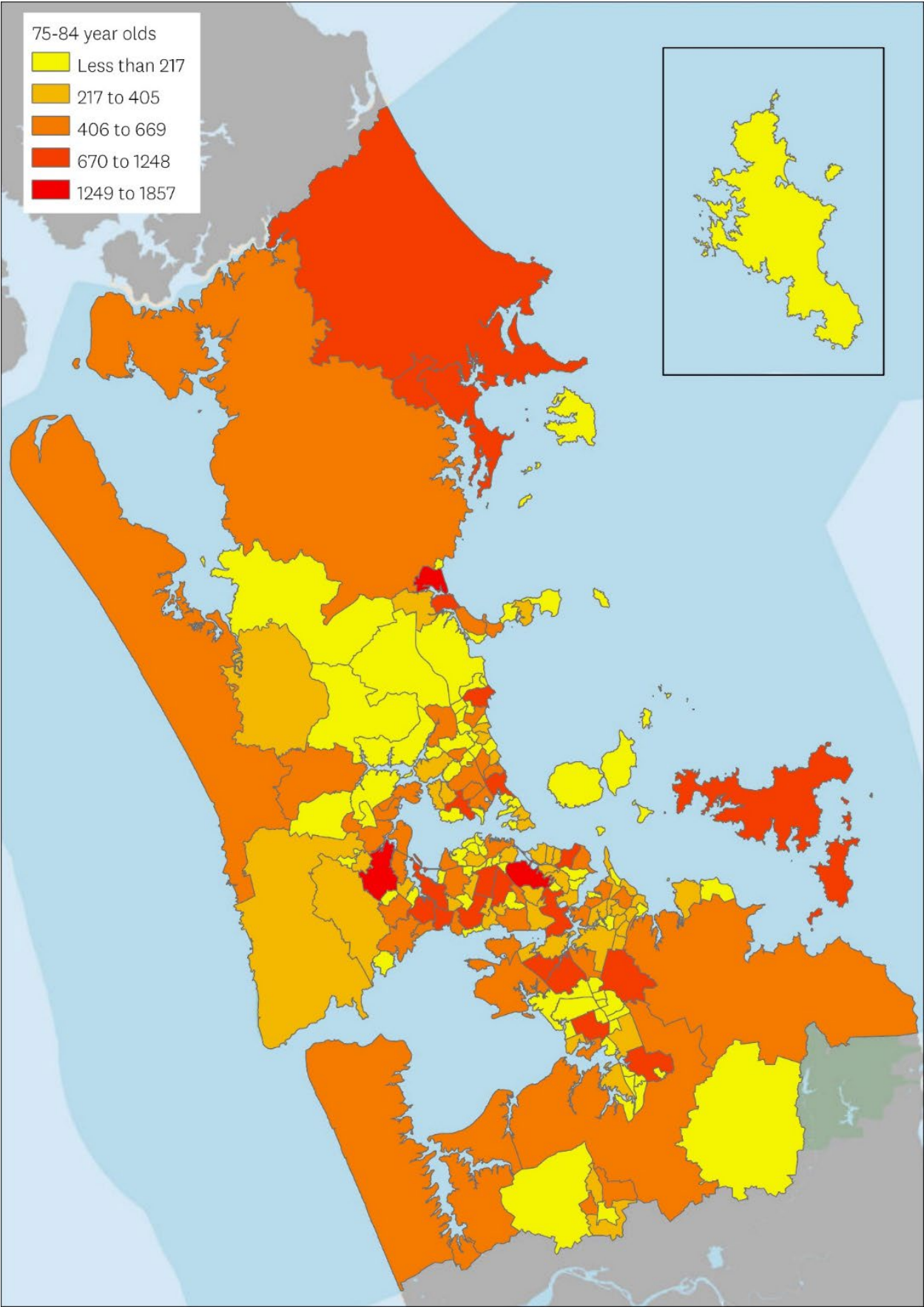
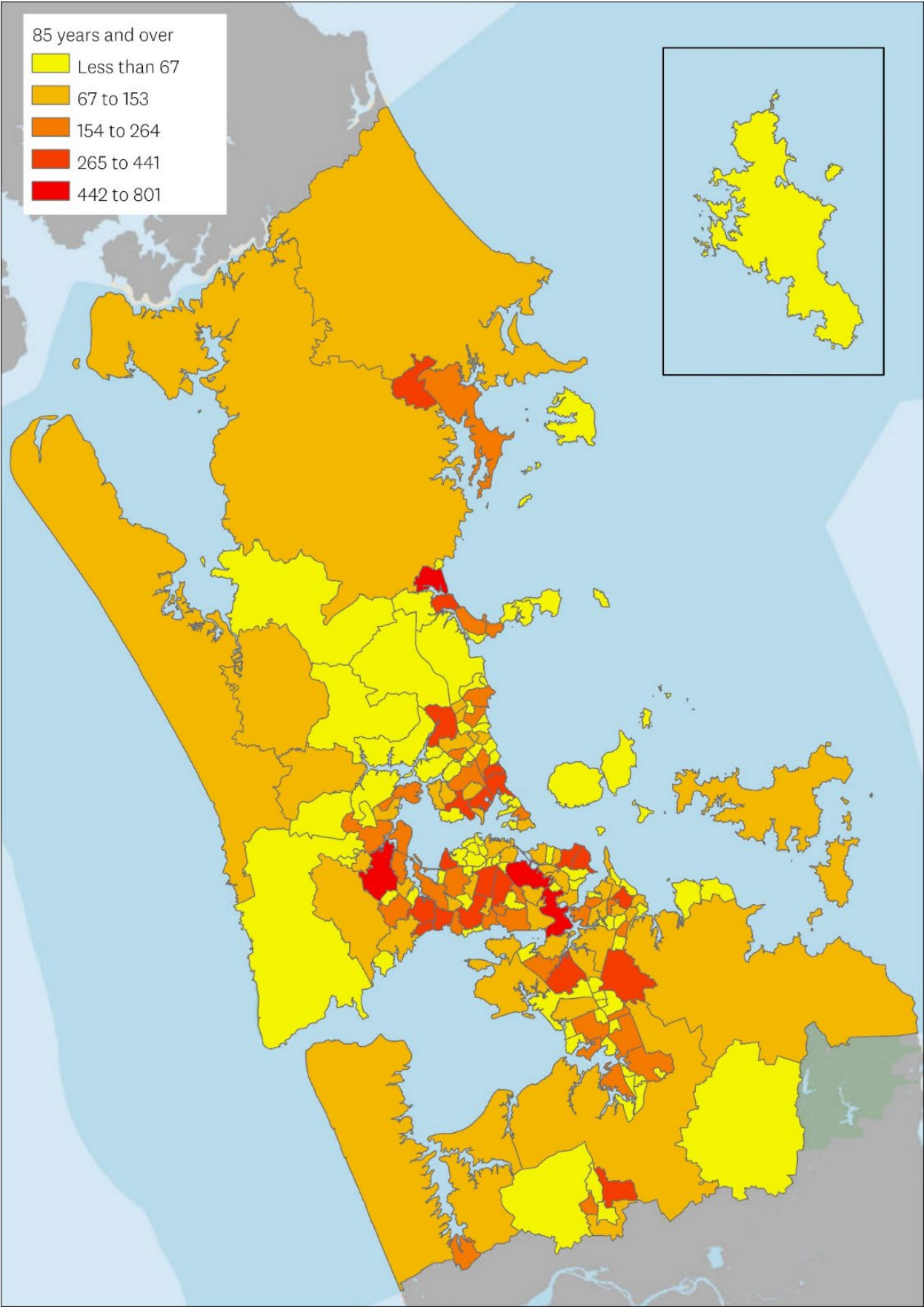


Figure 9: Distribution of Aucklanders aged 85 years and over by SA3 (2023)



3.2 Highest proportions living in island local board areas

As Table 4 shows, the three local board areas with the largest number of usual residents aged 65 and over were Howick (21,915), Hibiscus and Bays (21,213) and Ōrākei (14,553), while Aotea / Great Barrier had the smallest number at 324.

Aotea / Great Barrier had the highest proportion of usual residents aged 65 and over, at 25.9 per cent, followed by Waiheke (24.2%). The local board areas with the lowest proportions were in the southern urban area: Ōtara-Papatoetoe (8.9%), Manurewa (9.2%), Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (9.5%) and Papakura (9.6%).

The local board areas with the highest proportions who were 85 years and over were Devonport-Takapuna (2.4%), Hibiscus and Bays (2.3%) and Ōrākei (2.2%). The island local boards had relatively low proportions of residents aged 85 years and over.

Table 4: The number and proportion of older Aucklanders by local board (ordered north to south) (2023)

	Number				Percentage of total local board area population (%)			
Local board area	65-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years	Total 65 years+	65-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years	Total 65 years+
Rodney	8031	4491	1242	13,764	10.3	5.8	1.6	17.7
Hibiscus and Bays	11,049	7563	2601	21,213	9.7	6.6	2.3	18.6
Upper Harbour	5622	3321	1425	10,368	7.3	4.3	1.9	13.5
Kaipātiki	6144	3753	1389	11,286	7.0	4.3	1.6	12.8
Devonport-Takapuna	5388	3570	1404	10,362	9.3	6.2	2.4	17.9
Henderson-Massey	7971	4287	1602	13,860	6.4	3.4	1.3	11.1
Waitākere Ranges	4149	1893	483	6525	7.7	3.5	0.9	12.1
Aotea / Great Barrier	222	87	15	324	17.7	7.0	1.2	25.9
Waiheke	1344	765	108	2217	14.7	8.3	1.2	24.2
Waitematā	5331	2361	537	8229	6.5	2.9	0.7	10.1
Whau	5730	3387	1488	10,605	7.1	4.2	1.8	13.0
Albert-Eden	6612	3489	1449	11,550	6.8	3.6	1.5	12.0
Puketāpapa	4590	2538	1149	8277	8.1	4.5	2.0	14.5
Ōrākei	7809	4902	1842	14,553	9.4	5.9	2.2	17.5
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	5190	2988	1356	9534	6.6	3.8	1.7	12.2
Howick	12,456	6999	2460	21,915	8.1	4.6	1.6	14.3
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	4665	2250	543	7458	5.9	2.9	0.7	9.5
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	4914	2259	585	7758	5.7	2.6	0.7	8.9
Manurewa	5481	2655	966	9102	5.5	2.7	1.0	9.2
Papakura	3936	2193	804	6933	5.4	3.0	1.1	9.6
Franklin	8046	4599	1284	13,929	9.5	5.5	1.5	16.5
Auckland	124,686	70,335	24,732	219,753	7.5	4.2	1.5	13.3

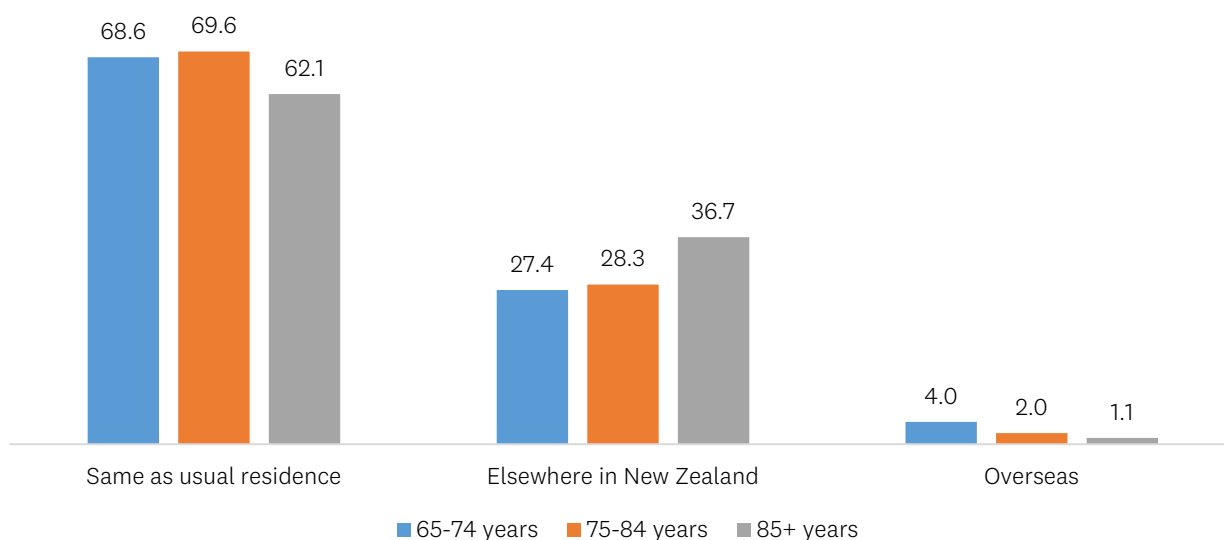
3.3 Greater proportion living in the same residence as they were in 2018

In 2023, more than two thirds (68.2%) of older Aucklanders were living in the same residence as they had been in 2018. Nearly a third (28.7%) were living ‘elsewhere in New Zealand’ (this can include Auckland) in 2018⁹, while 3.0 per cent were living overseas at that time.

Compared to those aged 15 to 64, a greater proportion of older Aucklanders had lived in the same usual residence (68.2% compared to 42.1%), and fewer had lived elsewhere in New Zealand (28.7% compared to 51.3%) or overseas (3.0% compared to 6.6%).

As shown in Figure 10, the older the age group, the higher the proportion who had lived elsewhere in New Zealand five years earlier, which may be reflective of older Aucklanders moving closer to family, health care services, or into an aged-care facility within the previous five years.

Figure 10: Usual residence five years prior, by age group (2023) (%)



For those 65 years and over living in Auckland in 2023, but not in 2018, 10.9 per cent were from Tauranga City, 10.5 per cent from the Whangārei District, and 10.3 per cent from the Far North District. These were also the top three territorial local authorities (TLAs) where those 65 years and over moved to after the 2018 census: 8.5 per cent went to the Whangārei District, 8.2 per cent to the Far North District and 7.9 per cent to Tauranga City. Of all the TLAs Aucklanders moved to between 2018 and 2023 Thames-Coromandel District had the highest proportion who were 65 years or more (57.0%).

⁹ Of these, 8.5 per cent were now in the Whangārei District, 8.2 per cent in the Far North District, 7.9 per cent in Tauranga City, 7.2 per cent in Thames-Coromandel District and 6.7 per cent in the Waikato District.

4 Ethnic and cultural diversity

Ethnicity is identified as a measure of cultural affiliation by Stats NZ, rather than a measure of race, ancestry, nationality or citizenship. Ethnicity is self-perceived, and individuals could identify with more than one ethnicity. As a result, proportions in this section may add to more than 100 per cent.

4.1 The largest number identify as European

In 2023, two thirds (67.3%) of older Aucklanders identified with a European ethnicity, equating to 219,753 people. This proportion is larger than for the rest of the Auckland population (47.1%).

The next largest group were those classified in the broad Asian category (21.0% or 46,218 people), followed by Pacific Peoples (7.9% or 17,397 people) and Māori (5.4% or 11,907 people). The Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) group combined to 1.1 per cent (2394 people) (Table 5).

Table 5: Ethnicity of older Aucklanders (2013, 2018, 2023)

	2013	2018	2023	2013	2018	2023	2013-2023	
Ethnicity	Number			Percentage (%)			Number	% change
European	120,315	137,778	147,951	77.7	72.8	67.3	+27,636	+23.0
Māori	6270	9141	11,907	4.0	4.8	5.4	+5637	+89.9
Pacific Peoples	9789	13,566	17,397	6.3	7.2	7.9	+7608	+77.7
Asian	18,927	31,353	46,218	12.2	16.6	21.0	+27,291	+144.2
MELAA	954	1569	2394	0.6	0.8	1.1	+1440	+150.9
Total stated	154,845	189,174	219,753				+64,908	+41.9

*People could choose more than one ethnicity, and categories are not exclusive. Percentages will add to more than 100.

The broad ethnic groupings shown above can be broken down into more detailed (census level 3) ethnic groups. The following list provides a breakdown of the European, Asian and Pacific Peoples broad ethnic groups for older Aucklanders in 2023 (the percentages are of the broad ethnic group):

- European (147,948)
 - New Zealand European (136,146, 92.0%)
 - British and Irish (4950, 3.3%)
- Asian (46,221)
 - Chinese (24,609, 53.2%)
 - Indian (13,257, 28.7%)
 - Korean (2619, 5.7%)
 - Filipino (1557, 3.4%)
 - Sri Lankan (1191, 2.6%)
- Pacific Peoples (17,393)
 - Samoan (8301, 49.4%)
 - Tongan (3741, 26.7%)
 - Cook Islands Māori (2721, 19.4%)
 - Niuean (1584, 9.3%).

Of these more detailed ethnic groups, the greatest numerical differences between 2013 and 2023 among those 65 and over was New Zealand European (+27,024, +24.8%), Chinese (+14,328, +139.4%) and Indian (+7494, +130.0%) ethnicities. The greatest percentage changes between 2013 and 2023 were those with Korean (+1788, +215.2%) and Filipino (+1059, +212.7%) ethnicities.

As shown in Table 5 and below in Figure 11, there was growth between 2013 and 2023 in the proportions of older Aucklanders across all broad ethnic groups, except for the European group, which experienced a decrease. There has been particularly strong growth in the proportion of older Aucklanders who identify with an ethnicity in the broad Asian ethnic group from 12.2 per cent in 2013 to 21.0 per cent in 2023. This follows the general pattern across Auckland as a whole.

Figure 11: Proportion of Aucklanders aged 65 and over by broad ethnic group (2013, 2018, 2023) (%)

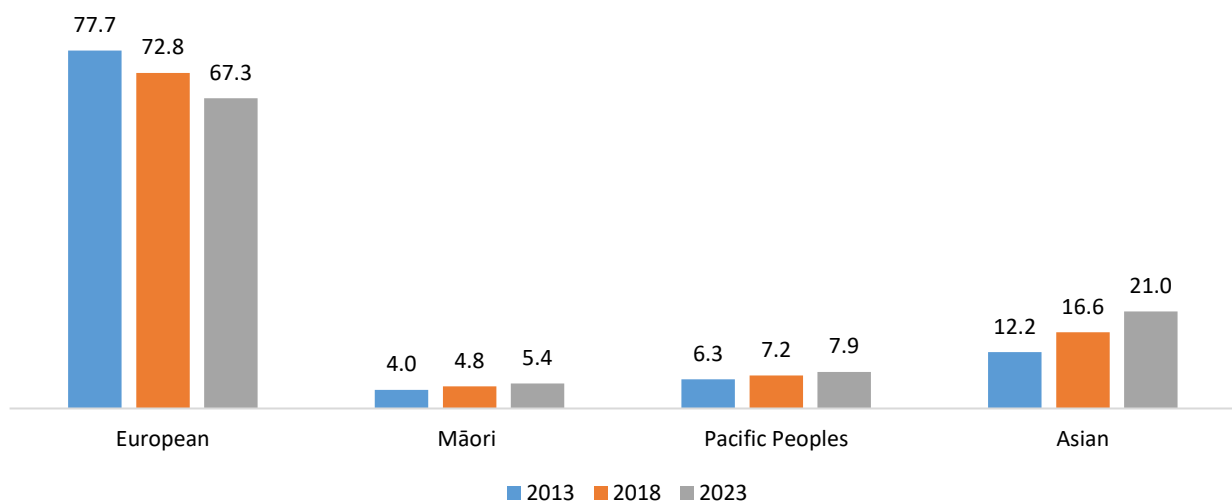
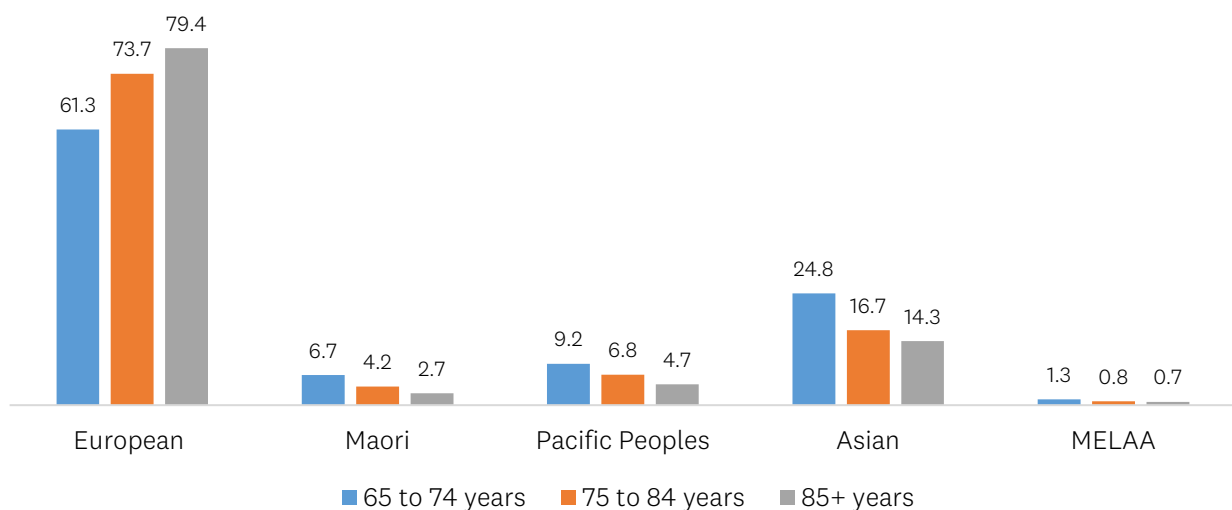


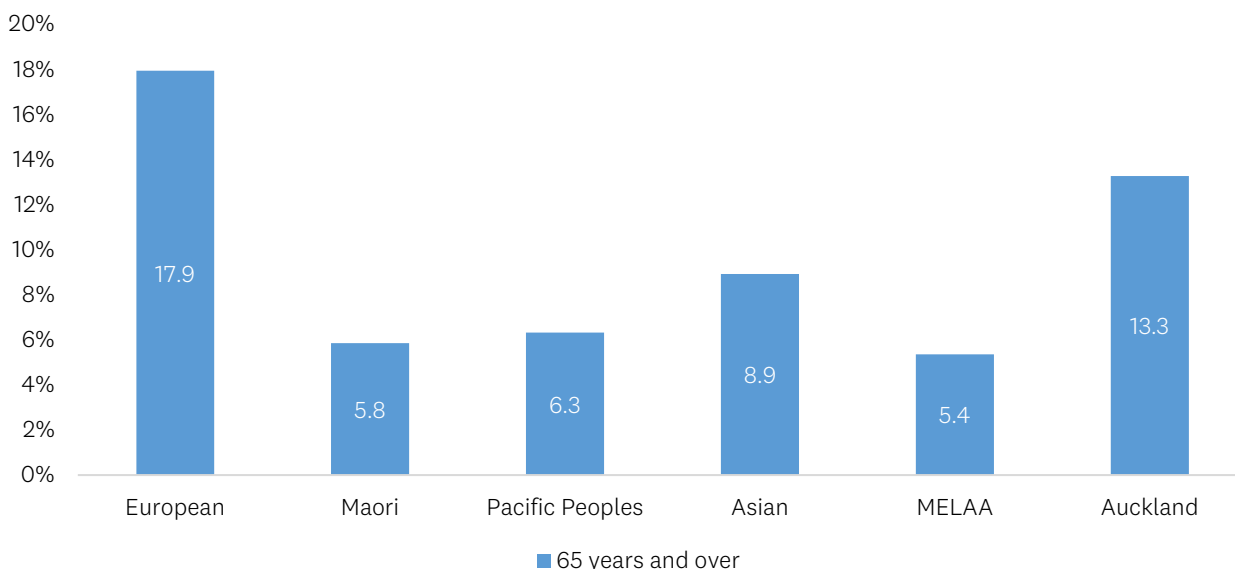
Figure 12 shows the broad ethnic breakdown by age group. It shows that the older the age group, the less ethnically diverse the population. For example, 61.3 per cent of those aged 65 to 74 were of European ethnicity, whereas this figure was 79.4 per cent for those aged 85 and over.

Figure 12: Proportion of Aucklanders aged 65 and over in each ethnic group, by age (2023) (%)



Almost one in five (17.9%) Auckland residents in the European ethnic group were aged 65 and over. The proportion in other broad groups was much lower, as shown in Figure 13. For example, only 5.8 per cent of those who identified with Māori ethnicity were 65 years or over.

Figure 13: Proportion of the largest broad ethnic groups who were 65 years and over (2023) (%)



4.2 A low proportion of older Aucklanders identify with multiple ethnicities

In 2023, a small proportion of older Aucklanders (3.3%) identified as belonging to more than one broad ethnic group.¹⁰ This proportion is considerably lower than the rest of the Auckland population (13.2%). However, the proportion increased slightly from 2.0 per cent in 2013 to 2.7 per cent in 2018.

The most common multiple ethnicity combination of older Aucklanders in 2023 was European / Māori (4539), followed by European / Pacific Peoples (912).

4.3 Regional variances in the distribution of older Aucklanders by ethnic group

The four maps below show the percentage of Aucklanders aged 65 and over within each SA3 area who identify with the four largest broad ethnic groups in Auckland: European (Figure 14), Māori (Figure 15), Pacific Peoples (Figure 16) and Asian (Figure 17). The maps highlight several distribution patterns.

¹⁰ This analysis only uses the six broad ethnic group categories comprising Level 1 of Stats NZ's ethnicity classification – European, Māori, Pacific, Asian, MELAA and Other. Therefore, having multiple ethnicities involves, at minimum, identifying with any two of these categories. This means that the analysis does not account for individuals identifying with multiple Level 2 or higher ethnicity codes in the same Level 1 category (e.g. someone identifying as both Samoan and Tongan would be coded as Pacific only and 'single ethnicity'). This means that the analysis may not fully portray an accurate picture of the numbers of older Aucklanders identifying with multiple ethnicities.

Figure 14: Percentage of Aucklanders aged 65 and over in broad European ethnic group, by SA3 (2023)

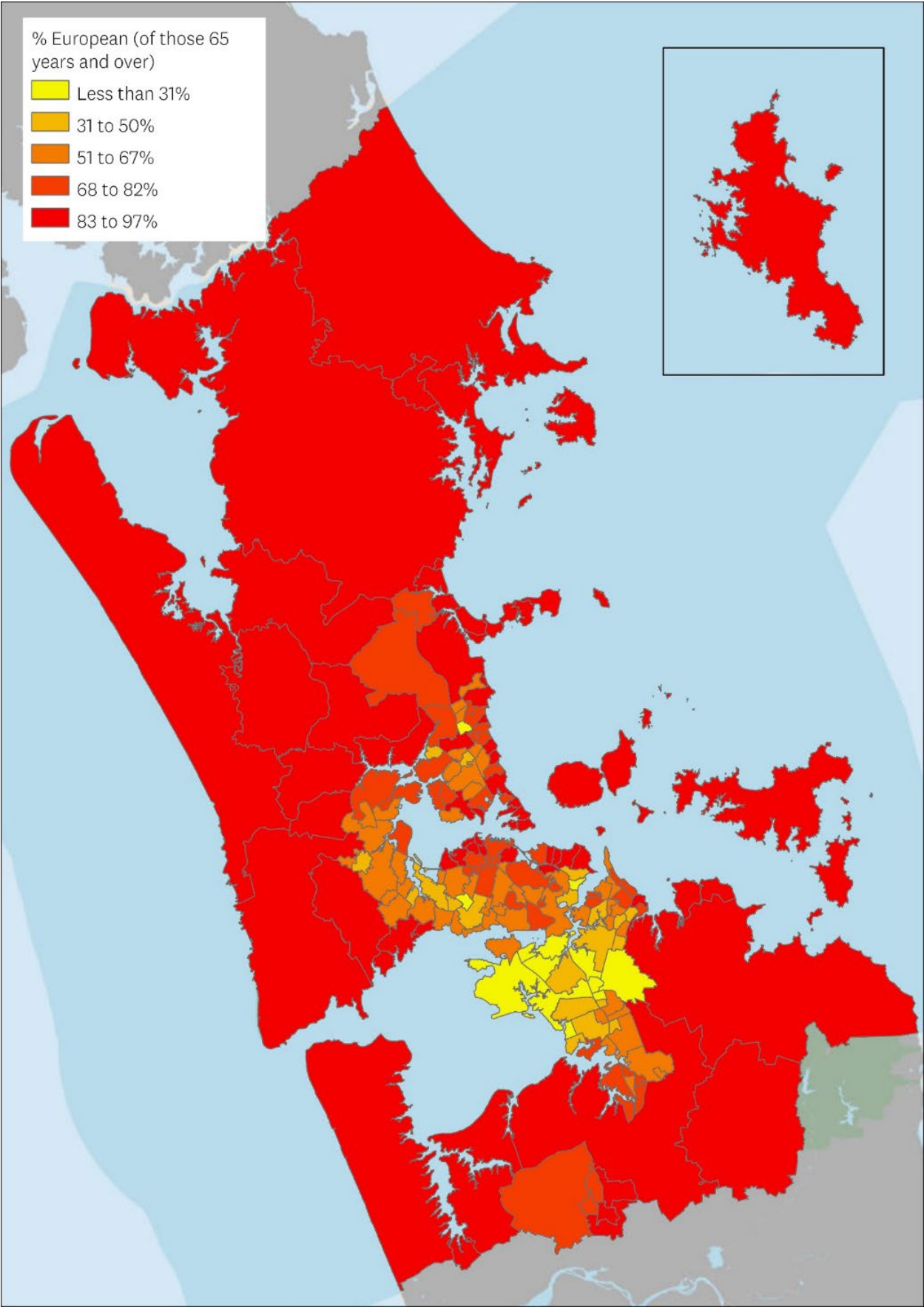


Figure 15: Percentage of Aucklanders aged 65 and over in Māori ethnic group, by SA3 (2023)

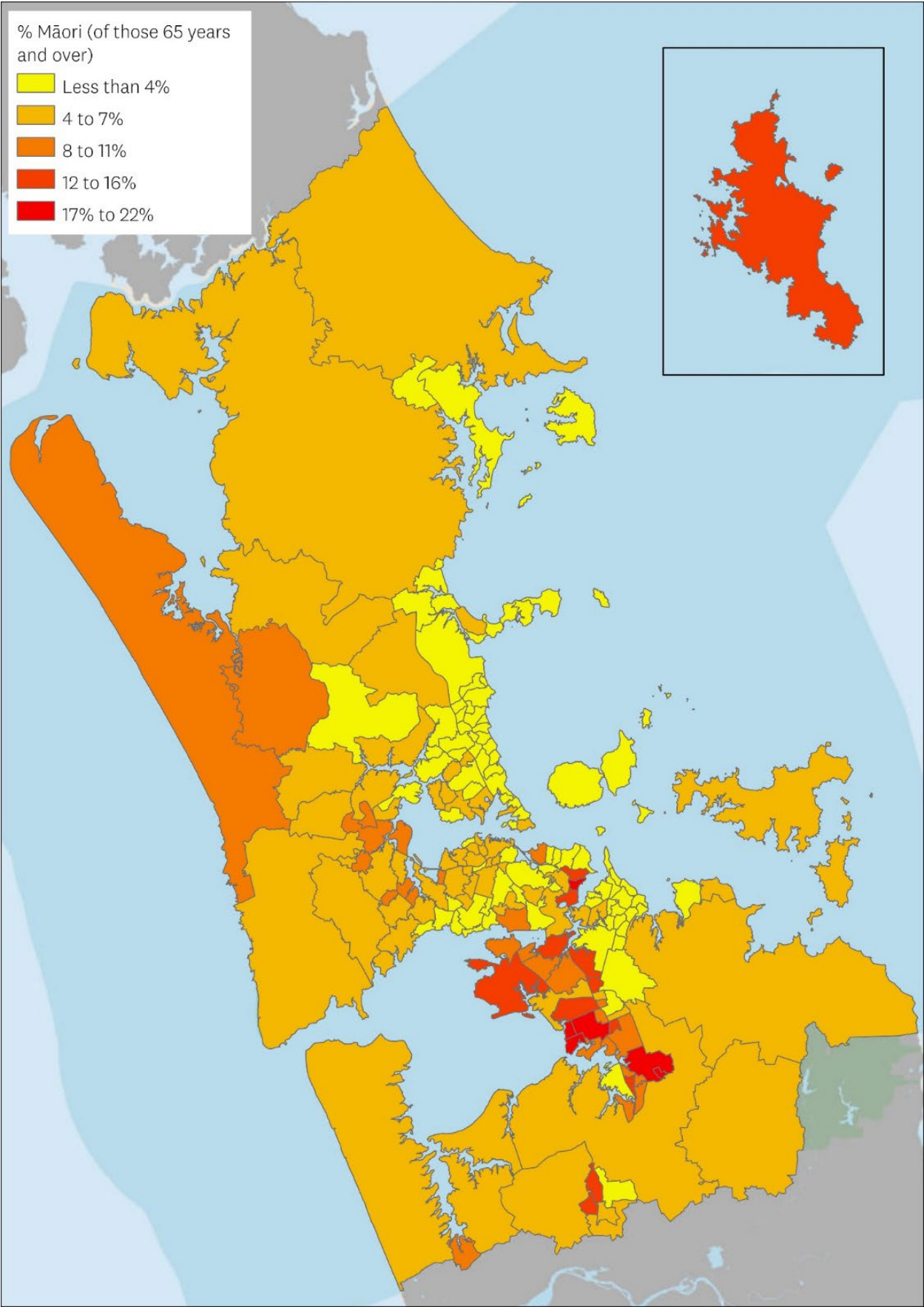


Figure 16: Percentage of Aucklanders aged 65 and over in broad Pacific Peoples ethnic group, by SA3 (2023)

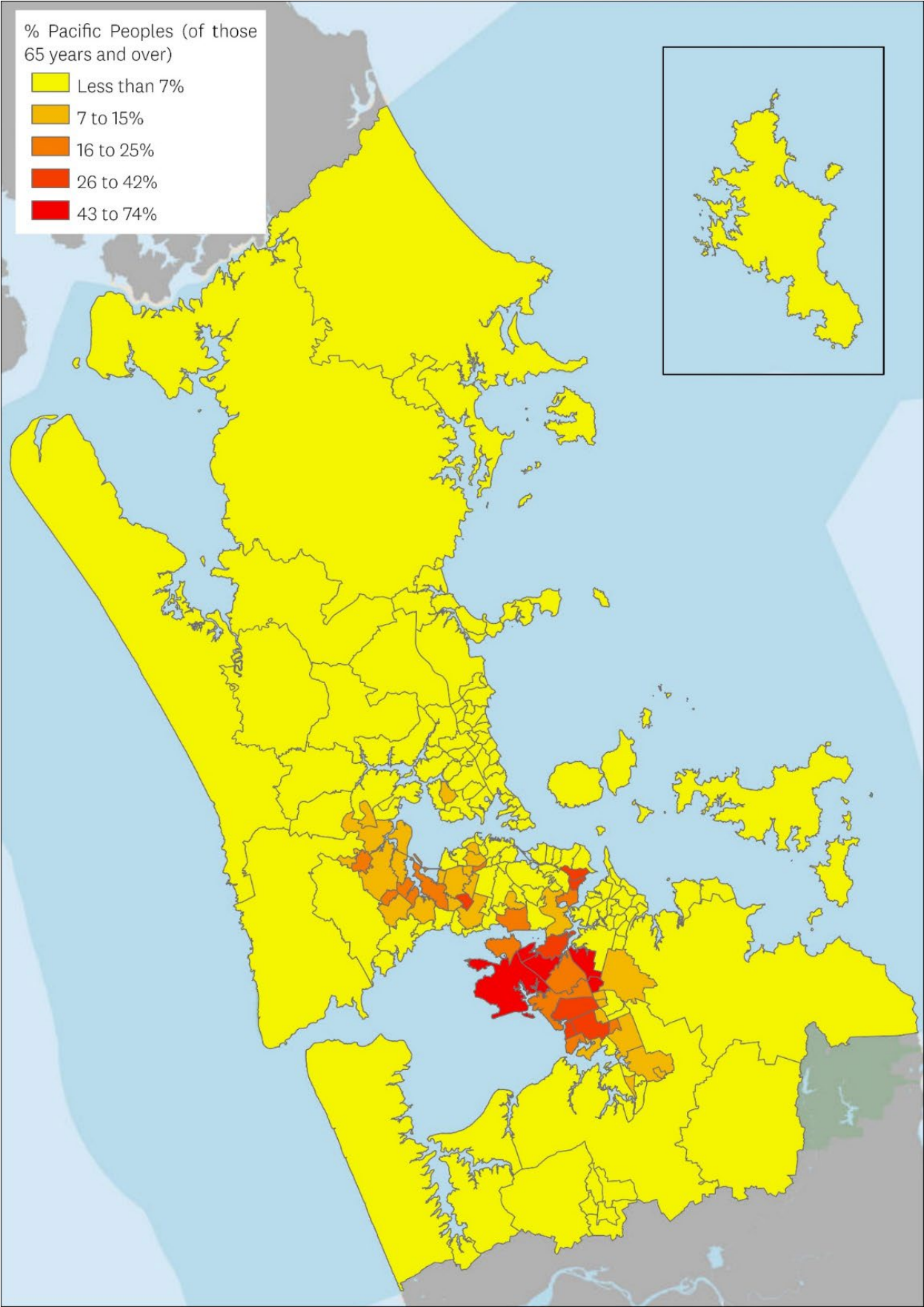


Figure 17: Percentage of Aucklanders aged 65 and over in broad Asian ethnic group, by SA3 (2023)

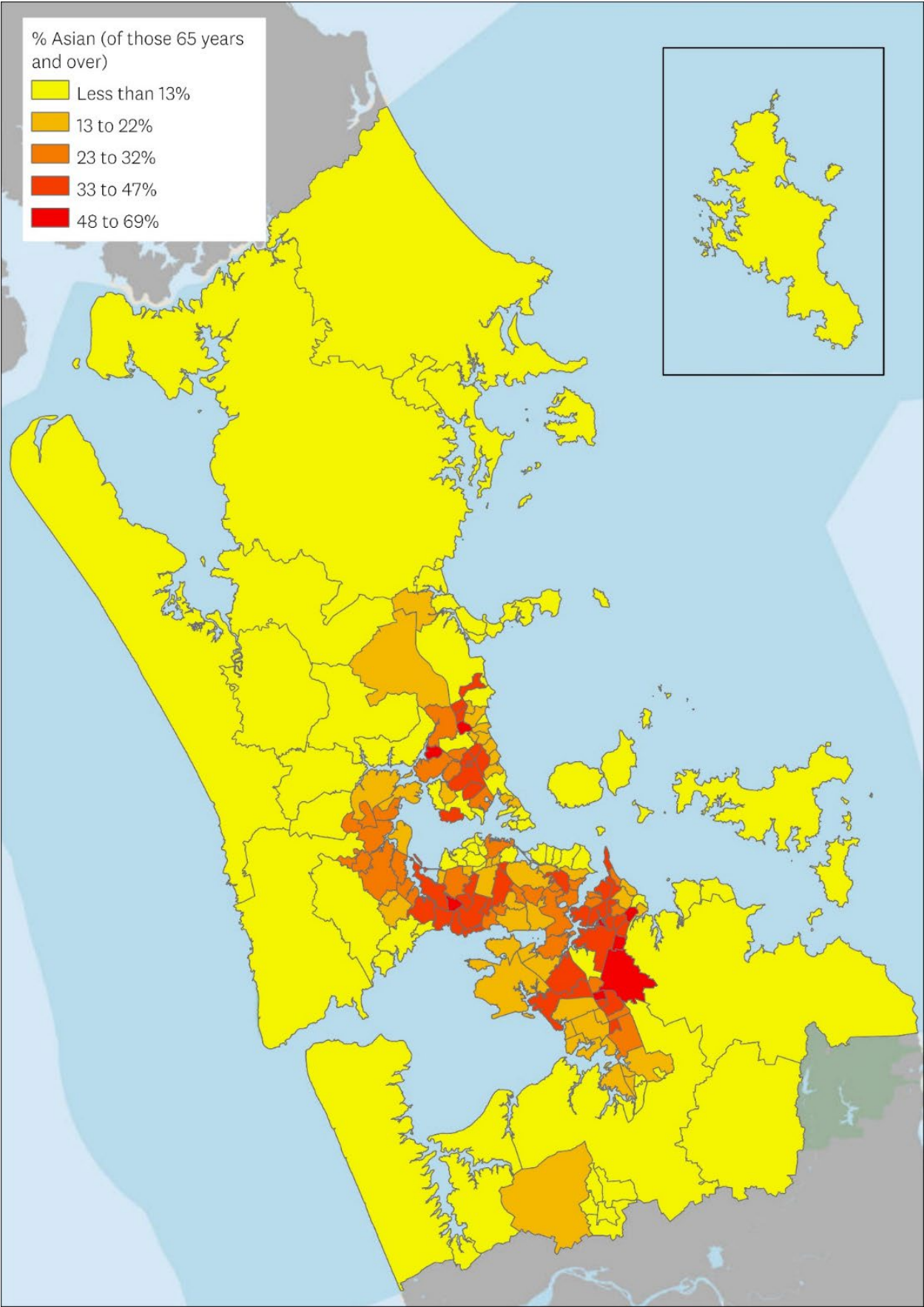


Figure 14 shows that the rural areas of Auckland had relatively high proportions of European older Aucklanders, as well as the northern isthmus and eastern urban areas. There were relatively low proportions in the southern and western urban Auckland SA3s.

The five SA3s with the highest proportions of Europeans among older Aucklanders are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: The five SA3s with the highest proportions Aucklanders aged 65 and over in European ethnic group (2023)

SA3 (local board area)	European ethnicity	
	number	%
Mahurangi Peninsula (Rodney)	1866	97.2
Devonport (Devonport-Takapuna)	1149	97.0
Laingholm (Waitākere Ranges)	285	96.0
Warkworth (Rodney)	1668	95.4
Kaukapakapa-Waitoki (Rodney)	552	95.3

Figure 15 shows high proportions of older Māori are found in southern urban SA3 areas. There are comparatively lower proportions in the North Shore, south-eastern areas of the isthmus and south-eastern areas of urban Auckland. The five SA3s with the highest proportions who identify as Māori among older Aucklanders is shown in Table 7. The SA3 areas with the highest proportions are all in southern urban Auckland.

Table 7: The five SA3s with the highest proportions of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over of Māori ethnicity (2023)

SA3 (local board area)	Māori ethnicity	
	number	%
Five highest proportions:		
Clendon Park (Manurewa)	114	22.0
Red Hill (Papakura)	45	21.4
Papakura (Papakura)	477	18.8
Manurewa (Manurewa)	504	18.6
Weymouth (Manurewa)	165	18.0

Figure 16 shows a concentration of SA3s with a high proportion of older Pacific Peoples in the southern (and to a lesser extent western) urban area of Auckland. Table 8 below shows the five SA3s with the highest proportions of older Aucklanders who identify with a Pacific Peoples ethnicity. Four SA3s recorded no older Pacific Peoples at all¹¹, these were all located in northern Auckland. The five SA3s with the highest proportions are all in the southern urban area of Auckland.

¹¹ Wade Heads-Arkles Bay (Hibiscus and Bays), North Harbour / Rosedale (Upper Harbour), Rothesay Bay (Hibiscus and Bays) and Schnapper Rock (Upper Harbour).

Table 8: The five SA3s with the highest proportions of Aucklanders of Pacific Peoples ethnicity among (2023)

SA3 (local board area)	Pacific Peoples ethnicity	
	number	%
Ōtara (Ōtara-Papatoetoe)	1233	73.9
Māngere (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu)	1077	58.5
Māngere East (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu)	1410	58.4
Favona (Māngere-Ōtāhuhu)	498	57.4
Clover Park (Ōtara-Papatoetoe)	390	47.8

The spatial distribution of older Aucklanders in the broad Asian group is more reflective of the general population distribution across Auckland and is more uniformly spread than other ethnicities (Figure 17). The highest proportions were found in the North Shore, the southern isthmus, and south-eastern urban area of Auckland. The five SA3s with the highest proportions with Asian ethnicity among older Aucklanders is shown in Table 9.

Table 9: The five SA3s with the highest proportions of Aucklanders aged 65 and over in Asian ethnic group (2023)

SA3 (local board area)	Asian ethnicity	
	number	%
Flat Bush (Ōtara-Papatoetoe)	2751	68.9
Pinehill (Upper Harbour)	348	68.2
Burswood (Howick)	138	59.7
East Tamaki Heights (Howick)	447	57.3
Schnapper Rock (Upper Harbour)	186	56.4

4.4 Smaller proportion of Māori descent than the rest of the population

In 2023, one in 15 (6.6%) Aucklanders aged 65 and over were recorded as being of Māori descent. This proportion is lower than the rest of the population (14.9%).

Those of Māori descent have Māori ancestry but may not necessarily identify as being of Māori ethnicity. In 2023, 5.4 per cent of Aucklanders aged 65 and over identified as being of Māori ethnicity.

4.5 Smaller proportion of older Aucklanders speak English than the rest of the population

Being able to speak a language is defined by Stats NZ as an ability to ‘hold a conversation about a lot of everyday things’. After English (193,761 or 88.2%), the next most common language spoken among older Aucklanders was Northern Chinese (10,614 or 4.8%), followed by Yue (7761 or 3.5%) and Samoan (7566 or 3.4%).

As shown in Table 10, while the majority (88.2%) of older Aucklanders spoke English, this proportion was lower than the rest of the Auckland population (92.9%).

Table 10: Languages spoken by Aucklanders aged 65 years and over and the rest of the Auckland population (2023)

Languages spoken	Older Aucklanders (65 years and over)		Rest of the population (under 65 years)	
	number	%	number	%
English	193,761	88.2	1,334,871	92.9
Northern Chinese	10,614	4.8	67,617	4.7
Yue	7761	3.5	30,375	2.1
Samoaan	7566	3.4	67,500	4.7
Sinitic not further defined	5529	2.5	36,192	2.5
Hindi	4473	2.0	45,171	3.1
Māori	3726	1.7	39,837	2.8
French	3693	1.7	13,881	1.0
Tongan	2964	1.3	26,496	1.8
German	2124	1.0	9,468	0.7
Panjabi	1713	0.8	25,593	1.8
Afrikaans	1656	0.8	17,943	1.2
Tagalog	1206	0.5	26,013	1.8
Spanish	1047	0.5	16,365	1.1
New Zealand Sign Language	564	0.3	5,745	0.4
Other	24,618	11.2	183,249	12.8
Total stated	219,750		1,436,736	

*As people can speak more than one language, the percentages add up to over 100.

5 Birthplace

This section outlines the numbers and proportion of older Aucklanders born overseas, and the place of birth among those born outside New Zealand.

5.1 Almost half of older Aucklanders born overseas

A total of 102,078 (46.9%) older Aucklanders were born overseas. This is a slightly higher proportion than in 2018 (45.5%) and in 2013 (43.1%). This is also higher than the rest of the Auckland population (42.3%).

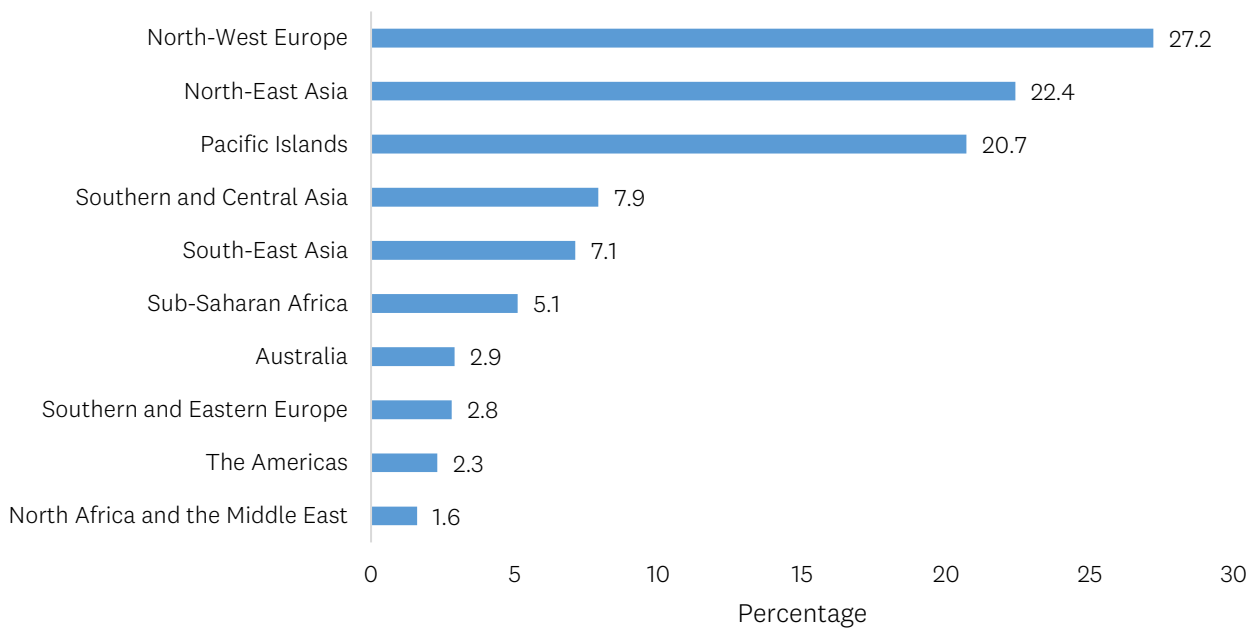
As shown in Table 11, the proportion of those aged 65 to 74 who were born overseas (48.5%) is slightly higher than in the other older age categories.

Table 11: The number and percentage of older Aucklanders born overseas (2023)

	New Zealand born	Overseas born	New Zealand born	Overseas born
	Number		Percentage (%)	
65-74 years	63,579	59,946	51.5	48.5
75-84 years	38,595	31,185	55.3	44.7
85 years and over	13,584	10,947	55.4	44.6
Total aged 65 and over	115,758	102,078	53.1	46.9
Rest of the Auckland population (under 65 years)	821,463	601,347	57.7	42.3

Of the 102,078 older Aucklanders born overseas, 27.2 per cent were born in North-West Europe, 22.4 per cent in North-East Asia and 20.7 per cent in the Pacific Islands (Figure 18). At a more detailed level, the three countries where the most overseas-born older Aucklanders were born were England (19.0%), China (15.7%) and Samoa (7.0%).

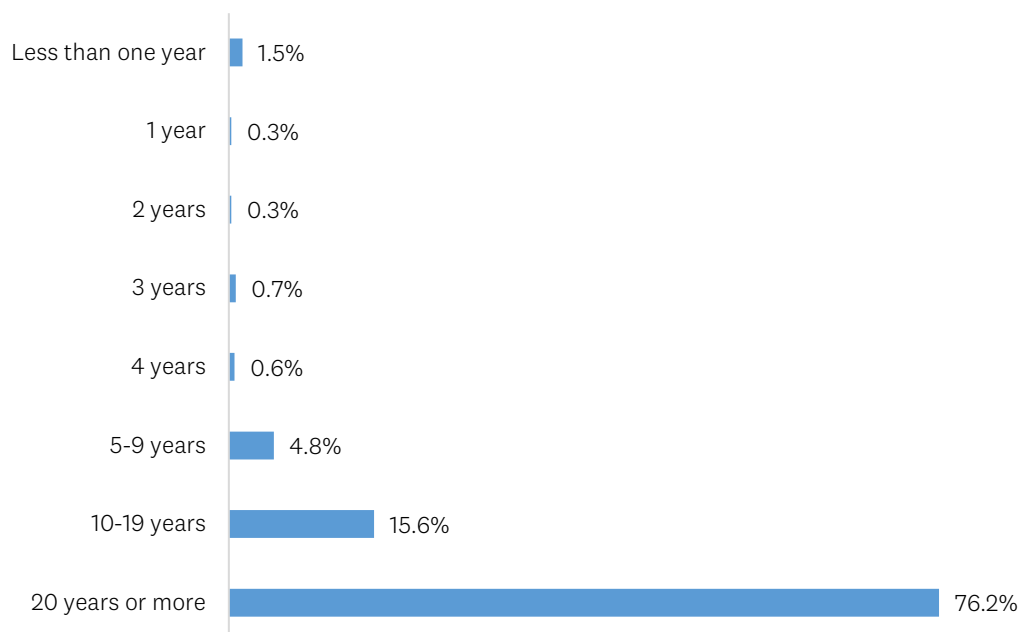
Figure 18: The birthplaces of older Aucklanders born overseas (2023) (%)



5.2 Most overseas-born older Aucklanders had been in New Zealand for 20 years or more

The majority (76.2%) of overseas-born older Aucklanders first arrived in New Zealand more than 20 years ago, and an additional 15.6 per cent arrived between 10 to 19 years ago (Figure 19).

Figure 19: Years since arrival in New Zealand for overseas-born older Aucklanders (2023)



The number of years since arrival to New Zealand differs across the 21 local board areas (Table 12). For example, older adults who were born overseas living in Aotea/Great Barrier (90.9%), Waiheke (86.3%) and Orakei (83.5%) local board areas were most likely to report arriving in New Zealand 20 years ago or longer. Those living in Upper Harbour (12.7%), Papakura (12.5%) and Howick (9.7%) local board areas were most likely to report arriving to New Zealand less than 10 years ago compared to the Auckland total (8.2%).

Table 12: Years since arrival in New Zealand for overseas-born older Aucklanders by local board area (2023)

Years since arrival in New Zealand	Less than 1 year	1 to 9 years	10 to 19 years	20 years or more
Rodney	1.0	6.5	11.6	80.9
Hibiscus and Bays	1.1	7.7	15.2	76.0
Upper Harbour	1.9	10.8	20.4	66.8
Kaipātiki	1.7	7.3	15.8	75.2
Devonport-Takapuna	1.7	6.1	14.5	77.7
Henderson-Massey	1.5	6.5	16.5	75.5
Waitākere Ranges	1.2	4.0	11.8	83.0
Aotea / Great Barrier	0.0	9.1	0.0	90.9
Waiheke	0.4	5.4	7.9	86.3
Waitematā	2.6	6.4	10.7	80.3
Whau	1.4	6.2	18.2	74.1
Albert-Eden	1.3	5.9	13.4	79.3
Puketāpapa	1.3	4.9	14.6	79.2
Ōrākei	1.3	5.0	10.3	83.5
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	1.1	5.3	14.6	79.0
Howick	1.2	8.5	20.7	69.7
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	1.6	4.4	12.4	81.6
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	2.2	5.3	16.3	76.2
Manurewa	1.6	6.4	17.9	74.1
Papakura	2.4	10.1	17.8	69.7
Franklin	1.3	5.6	10.3	82.8
Auckland	1.5	6.7	15.6	76.2

6 Dwellings and households

Adequate housing is an important factor in the health and wellbeing of all Aucklanders. This section discusses the typology of dwellings older Aucklanders lived in, as well as the characteristics of the households they were part of.¹²

In the census, a dwelling is defined as a structure, part of a structure, or group of structures, that is used or intended to be used as a place for human habitation. A dwelling may be private (e.g. home residence) or non-private (short-term or long-term communal or transitory accommodations that are generally available to the public, e.g. hospitals, prisons and communal staff quarters).

The census asks respondents to report the type of dwelling their household lives in, for example a separate house, a joined dwelling (i.e. a townhouse, unit, or apartment) or another private dwelling (e.g. a caravan, boat or tent).¹³ The census does not collect data on the typology of unoccupied dwellings.

6.1 A growing number of older Aucklanders living in joined dwellings

In 2023, nearly all (200,316 or 95.2%) Aucklanders aged 65 and over lived in private dwellings. The remaining 4.8 per cent (10,188) lived in non-private dwellings.

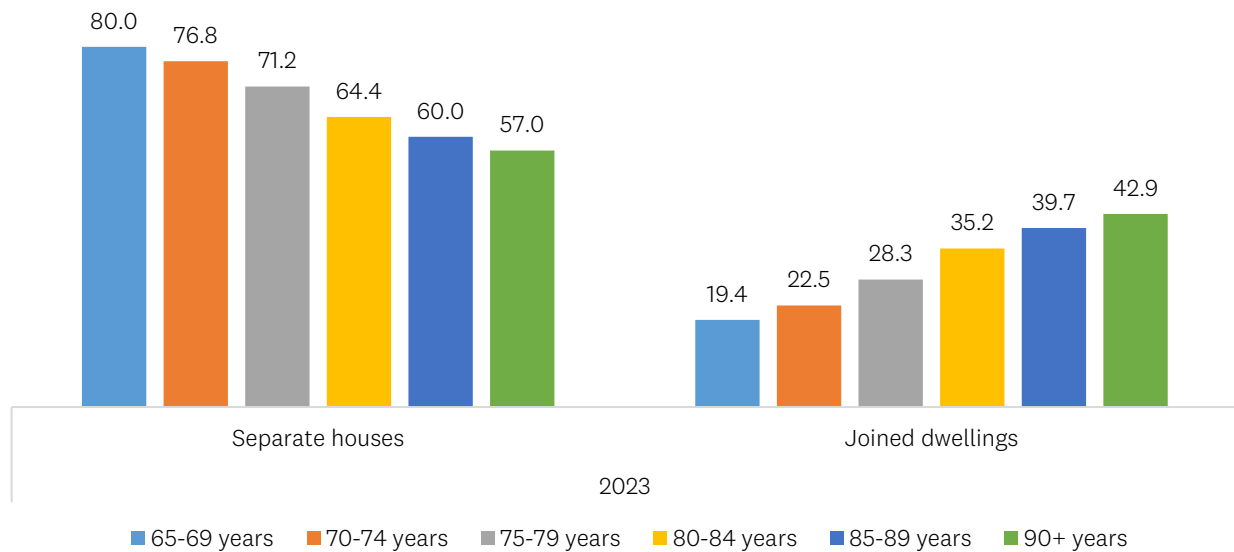
While most (73.5%) of those living in private dwellings lived in a separate house (147,141), the number living in joined dwellings increased in the last intercensal period. In 2023, 52,044 lived in joined dwellings, an increase of 16,263 (+45.5%) since 2018. This is in line with an increase in the number of joined dwellings in Auckland over this period (+57.6%).

Figure 20 shows the proportion of Aucklanders aged 65 and over in each age group who lived in separate houses and joined dwellings in 2023. A clear pattern can be observed of higher proportions living in joined dwellings as ages increase. This pattern is also observed for 2013 and 2018. This may relate to Aucklanders moving into retirement villages as they get older. In 2023, nearly half (42.9%) of those aged 90 or over lived in a joined dwelling.

¹² For further information on dwellings and households, refer to: [Dwellings and households in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland: results from the 2023 census](#).

¹³ Consists of mobile and improvised dwellings, roofless or rough sleepers and dwellings in a motor-camp.

Figure 20: Proportion of older Aucklanders living in separate houses or joined dwellings, by age group in Auckland (2013, 2018, 2023) (other private dwellings excluded from graph)



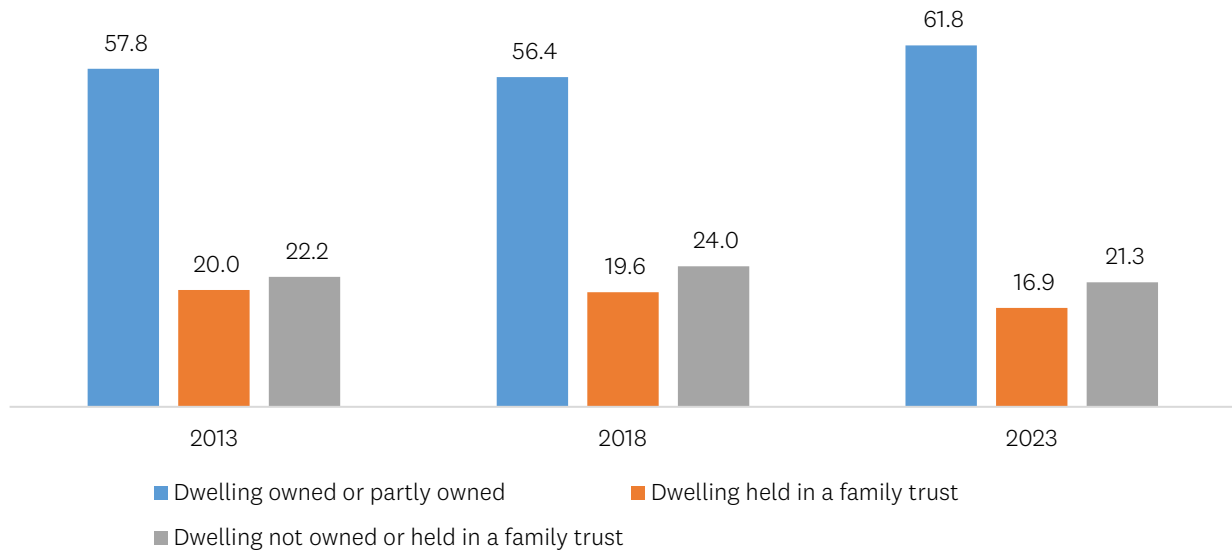
6.2 High home ownership

This section describes home ownership using data taken from the census dwelling form which asks if anyone in the household owns the home or if it is in a family trust.

In 2023, 78.7 per cent of older Aucklanders lived in households where at least one member either owned or partly owned the home, or was in a family trust. This is up slightly from 2018 (76.0%) and 2013 (77.8%) (Figure 21). The proportion in a family trust also decreased between 2013 and 2023 for Auckland overall.¹⁴

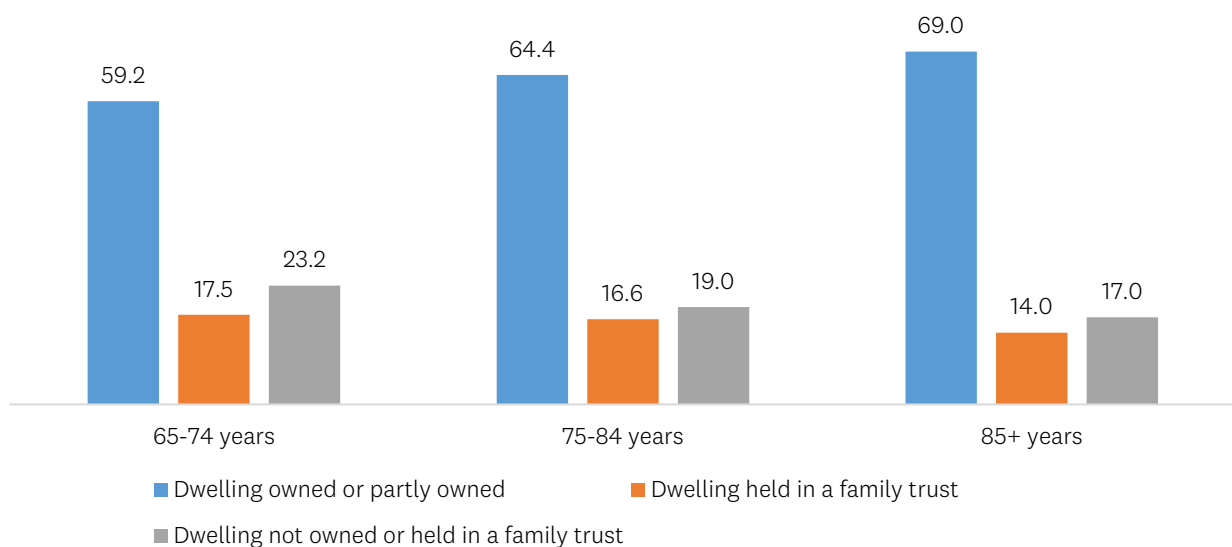
¹⁴ Refer to [Dwellings and households in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland: results from the 2023 census](#) for more details.

Figure 21: Home ownership for older Aucklanders (2013, 2018, 2023) (%)



The proportion of older Aucklanders living in a household in which one or more household members owned or partly owned the home increases as the age groups get older, as shown in Figure 22.

Figure 22: Home ownership for older Aucklanders (2023) (%)



6.3 Over 13,000 older Aucklanders live in registered retirement villages

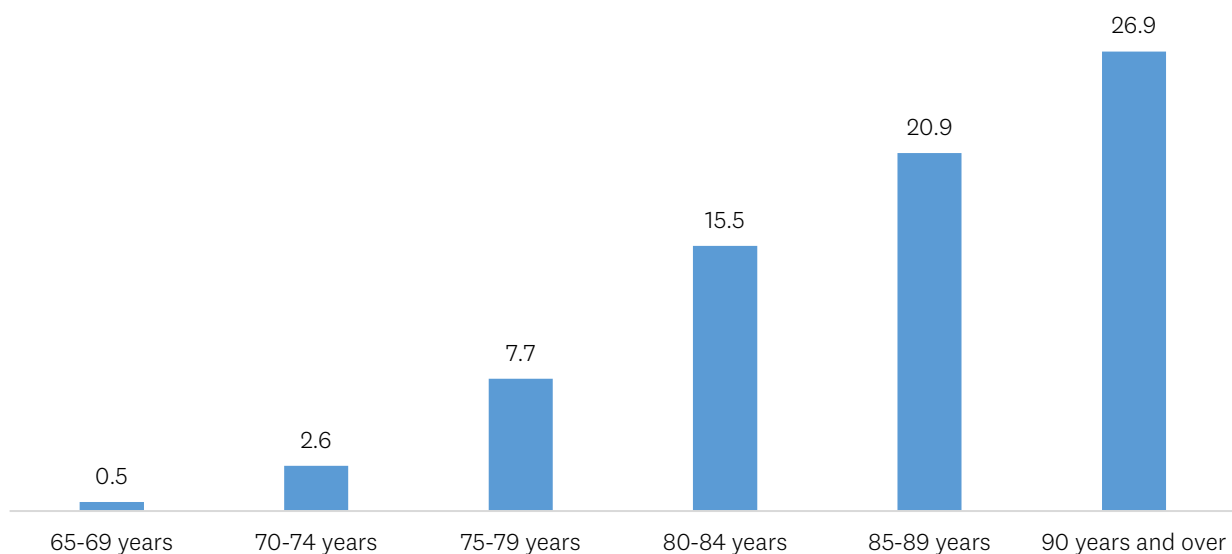
The Census 2023 data provides a count of people living in a dwelling in a ‘registered retirement village’, by age, ethnicity and gender.¹⁵ The data is not available for previous censuses.

¹⁵ The data is for registered retirement villages ‘within a private dwelling’. Therefore, rest homes in ‘non-private dwellings’ are not included in this analysis.

Of those older Aucklanders living in a private dwelling, 6.5 per cent of them (13,059) lived in a registered retirement village. In terms of gender, 8.8 per cent of female older Aucklanders and 5.0 per cent of male older Aucklanders lived in a registered retirement village in 2023.

As shown in Figure 23, greater proportions of those in older age groups were living in a retirement village.

Figure 23: Proportion of older Aucklanders living in a private dwelling that is within a registered retirement village (2023)



There are differences between the proportion of older Aucklanders in registered retirement homes and ethnic groups (Table 13). Older Aucklanders in the broad European ethnic group had the highest proportion in registered retirement homes (9.4%) while older Aucklanders who identified as Pacific Peoples had the lowest proportion (0.5%). This pattern also appears for each five-year group.

Table 13: Proportion of older Aucklanders in registered retirement villages by broad ethnic group and 5-year age groups (2023)* (%)

	European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	All ethnicities
65-69 years	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5
70-74 years	3.7	1.6	0.4	0.8	2.6
75-79 years	10.2	3.8	0.5	1.5	7.7
80-84 years	20.0	5.5	1.2	2.2	15.5
85-89 years	27.0	8.1	1.3	2.5	20.9
90 years and over	31.7	13.0	2.3	2.6	26.9
65 years and over	9.4	2.1	0.5	0.9	6.5

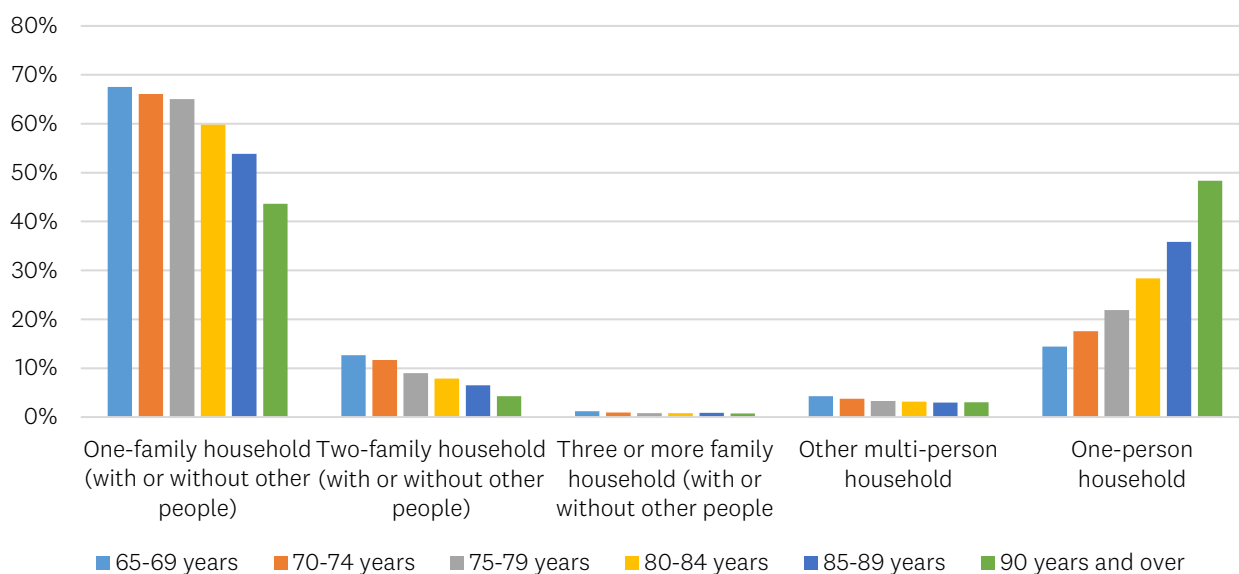
*The broad MELAA ethnic category was excluded from this table as there were only 15 people in registered retirement homes 65 years and over which distort proportions.

6.4 One in five older Aucklanders lived alone

In 2023, nearly two thirds (64.1%) of older Aucklanders lived in a one-family household.¹⁶ This is the same as 2018 (64.1%) and similar to 2013 (63.4%). Just over one in five (20.8%) lived alone, down from 22.0 per cent in 2018 and 24.6 per cent in 2013.

There are clear patterns across age groups, as shown in Figure 24. The proportion of people living in one-family households and two-or-more-family households decreases considerably across the older age groups, while the proportion in one-person households increases. For example, 67.5 per cent of those aged 65 to 69 years were in one-family households and 14.4 per cent were living alone. These proportions change for those aged 90 years and over, with 43.7 per cent living in one-family households and 48.3 per cent living alone.

Figure 24: Household composition of older Aucklanders (2023)



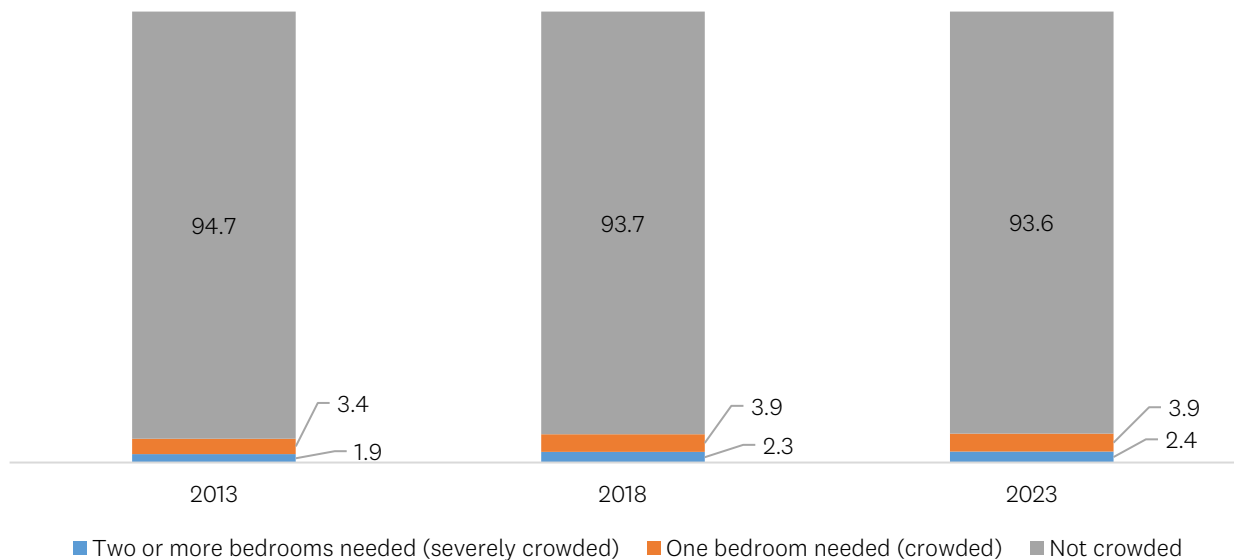
¹⁶ A one-family household can consist of a single family nucleus (e.g. a couple with or without children, or a one-parent family with children) or a family nucleus with other related individuals. An extended family, which includes multiple generations, falls under the definition of a one-family household as long as all members are related and living together.

6.5 Few older Aucklanders live in crowded households

Household crowding as defined by Stats NZ is based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard which provides a derived index of whether a household is crowded or not crowded. The index indicates the number of bedrooms needed based on the composition of the household. It presumes there should be no more than two people in a bedroom, but that couples and children of certain ages can share a bedroom.¹⁷ A household is ‘crowded’ when one or more additional bedrooms are needed and ‘severely crowded’ when they require two or more additional bedrooms.

In 2023, 2.4 per cent of Aucklanders aged 65 and over were living in a severely crowded household (two or more bedrooms needed). This was a slight increase from 2018 (2.3%) and 2013 (1.9%) (Figure 25). In terms of households which were either crowded (one bedroom needed) or severely crowded, the proportion has remained steady between 2023 (6.4%) and 2018 (6.3%) and slightly up from 2013 (5.3%).

Figure 25: The proportion of Aucklanders aged 65 and over living in crowded or severely crowded households in Auckland (2023)



¹⁷ The criteria for the Canadian National Occupancy Standard are:

- There should be no more than two people per bedroom; parents or couples share a bedroom.
- Children aged less than five years, either of same or opposite sex, may reasonably share a bedroom.
- Children aged less than 18 years, of the same sex, may reasonably share a bedroom.
- A child aged five to 17 years should not share a bedroom with one aged under five of the opposite sex.
- Single adults aged 18 years and over, and any unpaired children, require a separate bedroom.

See Goodyear R, Fabian A (2012). *Household crowding in New Zealand compared with selected countries*. Wellington: Statistics New Zealand.

6.6 Fewer older Aucklanders living in a dwelling with mould and dampness since 2018

The census dwelling form asked whether the dwelling that residents were living in was damp or had any mould (larger than A4 size).¹⁸ No time frame was given in the question. A damp dwelling may feel or smell damp or have damp patches on the walls, ceiling, floor or window frames; and mould (mildew) may grow on the walls, ceiling, floor, doors, window frames, curtains or blinds of a dwelling. Data is only available from the 2018 Census onwards.

As shown in Table 14, small proportions of Aucklanders aged 65 and over were living in dwellings reported to always have mould or dampness. In terms of mould, in 2023, 9.2 per cent lived in dwellings which were reported to always have mould, a slight decrease since 2018 (10.4%). Smaller numbers and proportions lived in dwellings which were reported to be always damp. The proportion declined from 2.2 per cent in 2018 to 1.7 per cent in 2023.

Table 14: The number and proportion of older Auckland living in a dwelling which was reported to have mould or dampness (2018, 2023)

	2018		2023	
Dwellings with mould over A4 size	number	%	number	%
Always mould	4965	3.1	5142	2.7
Sometimes mould	16,629	10.4	17,349	9.2
No mould	137,571	86.4	166,587	88.1
Dwellings with dampness				
Always damp	3429	2.2	3225	1.7
Sometimes damp	20,688	13.0	22,092	11.7
No dampness	134,946	84.8	163,545	86.6

6.7 More than one in five lived in areas rated as least deprived on the NZDep Index

The New Zealand index of socioeconomic deprivation (NZDep Index) is a measure of relative socioeconomic deprivation, based on eight census variables:

- Communication - People with no access to the Internet at home
- Income - People aged 18-64 receiving a main means tested benefit; People living in equivalised¹⁹ households with income below an income threshold
- Employment - People aged 18-64 unemployed
- Qualifications - People aged 18-64 without any qualifications
- Owned home - People not living in own home
- Support - People aged <75 living in a sole parent family

¹⁸ This means that results are self-reported and are subjective.

¹⁹ Equivalisation is a statistical method used to control for household composition.

- Living space - People living in equivalised households below a bedroom occupancy threshold (i.e. overcrowding)
- Living condition - People living in dwellings that are always damp and / or always have mould greater than A4 size.

The index is reported as a number (decile) between one and ten. Each decile at the New Zealand-wide level contains around 10 per cent of Statistical Area 1 (SA1) areas. The lowest numbers represent areas which are least deprived, and the higher numbers represent the most deprived.

In 2023, more than one in five older Aucklanders (22.4%) lived in areas rated one or two, similar to 2018 (21.9%) (Table 15). The table also shows that larger proportions of older Aucklanders lived in the least deprived areas than in more deprived areas, and that the overall pattern is similar to 2018.

Table 15: The number and proportion of older Auckland living in NZDep Index areas (2018, 2023)

NZDep Index	2018		2023	
	number	%	number	%
1 - least deprived	18,609	9.8	21,348	9.7
2	22,809	12.1	27,786	12.6
3	22,803	12.1	28,245	12.9
4	22,521	11.9	26,409	12.0
5	21,504	11.4	22,767	10.4
6	20,451	10.8	22,662	10.3
7	17,976	9.5	18,207	8.3
8	14,697	7.8	17,391	7.9
9	13,656	7.2	17,001	7.7
10 - most deprived	14,106	7.5	17,847	8.1

7 Employment and occupation

This section explores the work and labour force status, occupation type, income band and income sources of older Aucklanders.

The labour force consists of those employed full time, part-time and those who are unemployed (employable and actively seeking a job but are unable to find a job). Those who are not in the labour force are those who are not currently employed or looking for work. In the case of older Aucklanders, the majority not in the labour force are not likely to be looking for work as they are retired.

7.1 Over 50,000 older Aucklanders were in the labour force

At the 2023 Census, 53,697 (24.4%) of Aucklanders aged 65 and over were in the labour force. This is an increase of 10,377 or 23.9 per cent since 2018. Nearly all of those in the labour force were in full-time or part-time employment²⁰ (52,659, 98.1%).

As shown in Table 16, those aged 65 to 74 had a much different employment profile than those in older age categories. A higher proportion of this group were in the labour force compared to others. Over a third (35.0%) were in paid employment (22.0% employed full-time and 13.1% part-time), compared to 11.3 per cent of those aged 75 to 84 and 2.4 per cent of those aged 85 and over.

Likewise, of those who were employed, greater proportions of those aged 75 and over were in part-time work than full-time work.

Table 16: Work and labour force status of older Aucklanders (2023)

	65-74 years		75-84 years		85 years and over		Total 65 years and over	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Employed Full-time	27,414	22.0	3135	4.5	345	1.4	30,897	14.1
Employed Part-time	16,272	13.1	4830	6.9	657	1.6	21,762	9.9
Unemployed	876	0.7	135	0.2	30	0.1	1038	0.5
Not in the Labour Force	80,121	64.3	62,232	88.5	23,700	56.5	166,053	75.6
Total stated work and labour force status	124,683		70,332		24,732		219,750	
<i>Subtotals</i>								
Total people in labour force	44,562	35.7	8100	11.5	1032	4.2	53,697	24.4
Total people employed	43,686	35.0	7965	11.3	1002	4.1	52,659	24.0
Unemployment rate ²¹		2.0		1.7		2.9		1.9

²⁰ Employment is defined in the census (individual form) as working for pay, profit or income for an hour or more.

²¹ Please note that the official unemployment rate is produced by Stats NZ based on the *Household labour force survey*, rather than census data. For more information about work and labour force status, please see the Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey quarterly overviews, prepared by Auckland Council and available on [Knowledge Auckland](#).

7.2 Older Aucklanders work in a diverse range of occupations and industries

As shown in Table 17, the most common occupations among all older Aucklanders were professionals (29.9%), followed by managers (19.0%) and clerical and administrative workers (12.4%).²² There was little change among the proportions in each occupation category for each broad age group, however the most notable was the relatively low proportion of those aged 85 and over who were machinery operators and drivers (3.6%), compared to the other two age groups.

The proportions of older Aucklanders across occupation categories in 2023 was generally similar to 2018, however there was a relatively large increase during that time in the number and proportion of those in the professionals category (+4377, +3.1 percentage points).

Table 17: Occupations of older Aucklanders (2023)

Age	65-74 years	75-84 years	85 years and over	Total 65 years and over	65-74 years	75-84 years	85 years and over	Total 65 years and over
Occupation	Number				Proportion (%)			
Managers	8088	1710	222	10,020	18.5	21.5	22.2	19.0
Professionals	13,026	2376	327	15,732	29.8	29.8	32.6	29.9
Technicians and Trades Workers	4332	711	84	5127	9.9	8.9	8.4	9.7
Community and Personal Service Workers	3048	504	54	3606	7.0	6.3	5.4	6.8
Clerical and Administrative Workers	5451	945	123	6519	12.5	11.9	12.3	12.4
Sales Workers	3213	618	99	3930	7.4	7.8	9.9	7.5
Machinery Operators and Drivers	3258	513	36	3801	7.5	6.4	3.6	7.2
Labourers	3273	588	57	3924	7.5	7.4	5.7	7.5
Total stated	43,686	7971	1002	52,659				

In terms of industries, the largest proportion of older Aucklanders were employed in the professional, scientific and technical services industry (11.8%, 6195) followed by health care and social assistance (11.2%, 5883) and education and training (10.5%, 5538)

Table 18 shows some differences in the three older Aucklander age groups. The largest differences being in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (2.2% of those 65 to 74 years, 5.2% of those 75 to 84 years and 6.6% for those 85 years and over), the rental, hiring and real estate services industry

²² Further information on what job fields relate to each occupation category can be found using the [OSCA – Occupation Standard Classification for Australia](#).

(4.4% of those 65 to 74 years, 7.5% of those 75 to 84 years and 7.8% of those 85 years and over) and health care and social assistance industry (11.6% of those 65 to 74 years, 9.1% of those 75 to 84 years and 8.7% of those 85 years and over).

Older Aucklanders make up a noticeable proportion of the entire agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (16.5%) and the rental, hiring and real estate services industry (11.2%).

Table 18: The number and proportion of older Aucklanders by industry (2023)

Age	65-74 years		75-84 years		85 years and over		Total 65 years and over
	number	%	number	%	number	%	
Industry							
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	5055	11.6	1017	12.8	129	12.9	11.8
Health Care and Social Assistance	5070	11.6	726	9.1	87	8.7	11.2
Education and Training	4653	10.7	789	9.9	99	9.9	10.5
Manufacturing	3909	8.9	660	8.3	75	7.5	8.8
Construction	3399	7.8	492	6.2	51	5.1	7.5
Retail Trade	3186	7.3	603	7.6	102	10.2	7.4
Wholesale Trade	2892	6.6	495	6.2	69	6.9	6.6
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	2388	5.5	381	4.8	27	2.7	5.3
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1914	4.4	597	7.5	78	7.8	4.9
Public Administration and Safety	2223	5.1	225	2.8	39	3.9	4.7
Other Services	1923	4.4	441	5.5	60	6.0	4.6
Administrative and Support Services	2010	4.6	312	3.9	24	2.4	4.5
Financial and Insurance Services	1263	2.9	231	2.9	30	3.0	2.9
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	957	2.2	411	5.2	66	6.6	2.7
Accommodation and Food Services	1179	2.7	213	2.7	30	3.0	2.7
Arts and Recreation Services	660	1.5	207	2.6	33	3.3	1.7
Information Media and Telecommunications	684	1.6	114	1.4	12	1.2	1.5
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	279	0.6	36	0.5	3	0.3	0.6
Mining	42	0.1	6	0.1	0	0.0	0.1
Total stated	43,686		7971		1002		

8 Income

Income is self-reported in the census and is measured at the personal and household level. It is before tax and in the 12 months prior to the census.

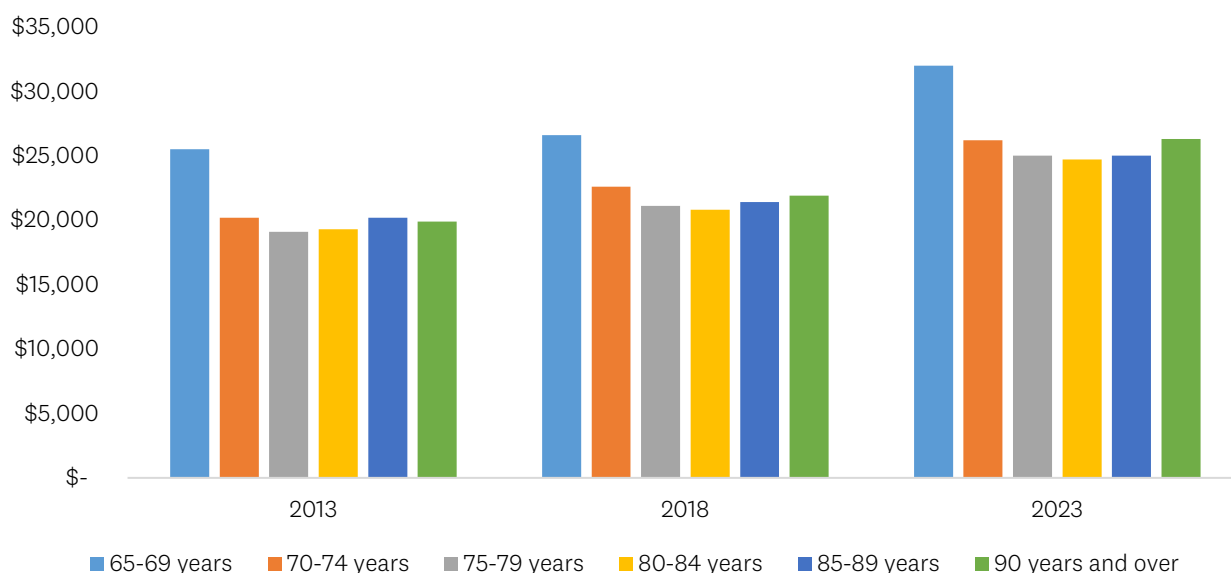
8.1 Median personal income of \$26,600 for older Aucklanders

At the 2023 Census, the median personal income of Aucklanders aged 65 and over was \$26,600 per annum. This is a lot lower compared to the \$44,700 median for Auckland as a whole. As a comparison, there was a median of \$24,100 for those aged 15 to 29 years and \$60,700 for those aged 30 to 64 years.

The median income of older Aucklanders has increased since 2013 (\$20,900), but once this figure is adjusted to 2023 dollars, there has been little change (\$26,584).

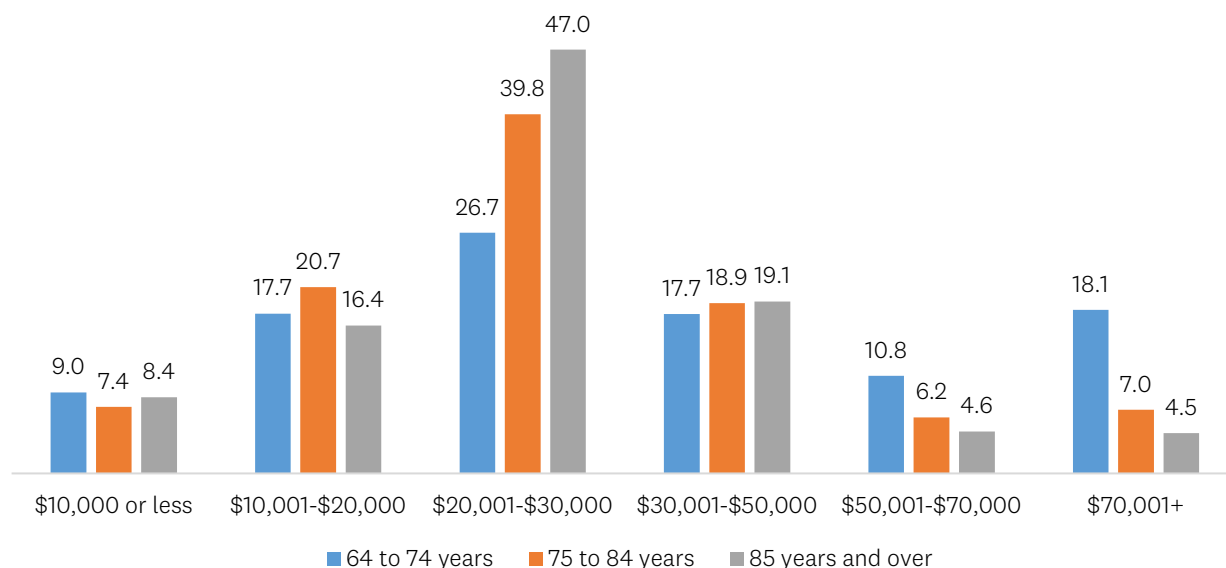
As shown in Figure 26, the reported median income of older Aucklanders has followed a similar pattern across five-year age groups for the past three censuses. Those aged 65 to 69 had the highest median income. The median income is then similar across the rest of the age groups 70 years and over. This is likely the result of a greater proportion of Aucklanders having retired after 70 years of age.

Figure 26: Median personal income for five-year age groups 65 years and over (2013, 2018, 2023)



In 2023, the largest proportion of older Aucklanders (18.6% or 40,776 people) had a personal income in the range of \$20,001 to \$25,000 (of all the \$5000 income ranges). Personal income is not uniform across all age groups, as shown in Figure 27. Those aged 65 to 74 are more likely to be represented in the higher income brackets above \$50,000. This may reflect this age group being more likely to be in paid employment. Nearly half of all those aged 85 years and above had a personal income of between \$20,001 and \$30,000.

Figure 27: Proportion of older Aucklanders in income brackets, by age (2023)



8.2 Higher median income among European and Māori than other ethnic groups

Median personal income also varied by ethnic group. The highest median personal incomes were reported by older Aucklanders who were European (\$28,700) and Māori (\$27,500). Lower median incomes were recorded among those in the broad MELAA (\$24,500), Pacific Peoples (\$24,000), and Asian (\$20,600) groups.

8.3 Most receive income from New Zealand superannuation or a veteran's pension

Table 19 illustrates the range of sources from where older Aucklanders received income in 2023. The majority received income from New Zealand superannuation or a veteran's pension (82.7%). A third (34.0%) received income from interest, dividends, rent or other investments. A relatively high proportion of those aged 65 to 74 reported wages, salary, commissions or bonuses as an income source (26.8%) or from self-employment (14.1%), compared to other older Aucklanders.

Table 19: Proportion of income sources reported by age group (2023) (%)

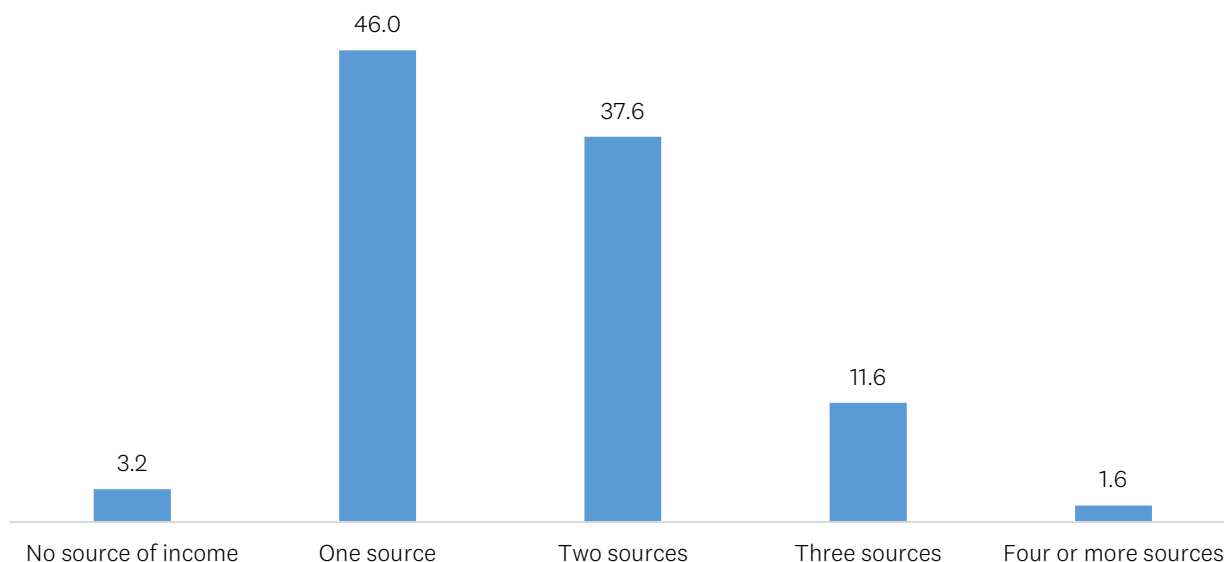
	64-74 years	75-84 years	85 years and over	Total 65 years and over
New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension	78.7	87.6	88.8	82.7
Interest, dividends, rent, other investments	31.2	38.0	37.0	34.0
Wages, salary, commissions, bonuses etc paid by my employer	26.8	6.5	1.7	17.5
Self-employment or business I own and work in	14.1	6.5	1.8	10.3
Other superannuation, pensions, or annuities (other than NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension or war pensions)	8.6	11.0	13.2	9.9
Other government benefits, government income support payments, war pensions or paid parental leave	4.9	3.7	3.5	4.3
No source of income during that time	3.7	2.4	2.7	3.2
Supported Living Payment	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.3
Other sources of income, including support payments from people who do not live in my household	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1
Jobseeker Support	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.7
Regular payments from ACC or a private work accident insurer	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.6
Sole Parent Support	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Student Allowance	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1

Income sources differed by local board area. The proportion of Aucklanders aged 65 and over receiving other government benefits or support payments (excluding superannuation) was highest in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (10.9%) and Ōtara-Papatoetoe (9.9%), compared to Auckland overall (4.3%). These payments include the sickness benefit, invalids benefit, domestic purposes benefit, and other government payments or pensions. Several local board areas also had low proportions who reported receiving income from interest, dividends, rent or other investments. For example, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (11.3%) and Ōtara-Papatoetoe (11.4%) local board areas had much lower proportions compared to all Aucklanders aged 65 and over (34.0%). The local board areas with the highest proportion of older adults receiving income from interest, dividends, rent or other investment were Ōrākei (53.5%), Devonport-Takapuna (47.6%) and Waitemata (46.3%).

8.4 Nearly half of older Aucklanders received income from one source

Almost half (46.0%) of older Aucklanders reported receiving income from one source only, and more than a third (37.6%) reported two sources (Figure 28).

Figure 28: Number of sources of income for older Aucklanders (2023)



The number of income sources varies by local board area. The proportion of those aged 65 years and over who received income from four or more sources was highest among those living in Waitematā (3.2%), Waiheke (3.1%) and Ōrākei (2.6%) local board areas. In contrast, the proportion of those aged 65 years and over who received income from one source was highest among those living in Ōtara-Papatoetoe (64.1%), Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (63.9%) and Manurewa (57.4%) local board areas.

8.5 Most older Aucklanders participated in unpaid activities

More than four in five (82.0%) Aucklanders aged 65 and over undertook at least one form of unpaid activity in the four weeks prior to completing their 2023 Census form (Table 20). The largest group (79.3%) had done 'housework, cooking, repairs, gardening etc for their own household'. This was followed by 'looking after a child who doesn't live in own household' (14.0%) and 'helping or voluntary work' (12.6%).

There has been a steady decrease in the proportion of older Aucklanders who did no activities between 2013 and 2023.

Table 20: Proportion of older Aucklanders doing unpaid activities (2013, 2018, 2023) (%)

	2013	2018	2023
No activities	20.3	18.6	18.0
Household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, etc, for own household	76.3	78.0	79.3
Looking after a child who is a member of own household	8.6	8.9	9.0
Looking after a member of own household who is ill or has a disability	6.4	6.6	6.7
Looking after a child who does not live in own household	14.0	15.3	14.0
Helping someone who is ill or has a disability who does not live in own household	7.8	7.8	7.2
Other helping or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae	15.4	15.3	12.6
Total stated	138,999	160,671	189,693

While overall patterns were similar, there were some differences by gender as shown in Table 21. A higher proportion of female older Aucklanders stated they had looked after a child who did not live in their own household in the previous four weeks, compared with older males (4.9 percentage point difference, 6510 people). Females were also slightly more likely to state they had helped someone who was ill or has a disability who does not live in their own household (2.8 percentage point difference, 3606 people).

Table 21: Proportion of older Aucklanders doing unpaid activities by gender (2023)* (%)

	Males	Females
No activities	18.6	17.5
Household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, etc, for own household	78.5	80.0
Looking after a child who is a member of own household	8.1	9.7
Looking after a member of own household who is ill or has a disability	6.2	7.2
Looking after a child who does not live in own household	11.3	16.3
Helping someone who is ill or has a disability who does not live in own household	5.6	8.5
Other helping or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae	12.1	13.1
Total stated	88,074	101,439

*'Another gender' was excluded as there were a very small number which may distort proportions (n=177).

9 Discussion

Between 2018 and 2023, both the number and proportion of Aucklanders aged 65 and over increased, continuing a long-term trend of structural ageing within the region's population. As a result, older Aucklanders represent a significant and growing segment of the population - one that will play an increasingly important role in the city's future.

This report identified several key trends for older Aucklanders between 2013, 2018 and 2023. One of the most notable trends is the increasing ethnic diversity of Aucklanders 65 years and over. Although European ethnicity remained the highest proportion of all the ethnic groups, the proportion is declining steadily (77.7% in 2013 to 67.3% in 2023) and all other ethnic groups increased between 2013 and 2023. Those in the broad Asian ethnic group experienced the most growth, increasing from 12.2 per cent in 2013 to 21.0 per cent in 2023. Chinese (+14,328, +139.4%) and Indian (+7494, +130.0%) ethnic groups had the greatest numerical growth during this time. A greater proportion of older Aucklanders also have multiple ethnicities, increasing from 2.0 per cent in 2013 to 3.3 per cent in 2023, and were born overseas (43.1% in 2013 to 46.9% in 2023).

In terms of dwellings and households, a greater proportion of those 65 years and over living in private dwellings lived in joined dwellings, an increase of 16,263 (+45.5%) since 2018. There was also an increase in the proportion of older Aucklanders who lived in a household with members that owned or partly owned the home or that was in a family trust (78.7%), an increase from 2013 (76.0%). The proportion living alone also decreased from 2013 (22.0%) to 2023 (20.8%).

Housing quality has also improved. The proportion of older Aucklanders living in dwellings with mould or dampness remains low and also declined between 2013 and 2023. Those living in a dwelling always with mould declined from 3.1 per cent in 2018 to 2.7 per cent in 2023, while those living in a dwelling which was always damp declined from 2.2 per cent in 2018 to 1.7 per cent in 2023.

Most of the census data in this report was able to be analysed by age group within the older Aucklanders category. As individuals age, there is a general increase in the proportion of women, those living alone, and those residing in joined dwellings or retirement villages. At the same time, ethnic diversity and the proportion born overseas decline, as do employment rates and median personal incomes.

Together, these trends highlight the changing profile and contributions of older Aucklanders which underscore the importance of supporting our older residents as committed to in the *Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua / Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan 2022–2027*.

Find out more: research@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
or visit knowledgeauckland.org.nz and
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz