



The real life of us

Western Bay of Plenty Social Report
2019

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Introduction

Our rapidly-growing Western Bay of Plenty is populated by diverse communities.

Bordered by Waihi Beach to the north, Paengaroa to the east and Pyes Pa to the south, and encompassing Tauranga City, the Western Bay of Plenty has many different communities and whānau all with their own needs and strengths. In this report the term Western Bay of Plenty (WBOP) refers to the area covered by the Tauranga City and the Western Bay of Plenty District Councils.

The nature and prevalence of social issues such as family harm, drug and alcohol addiction, violence and abuse, poverty and mental illness in the Western Bay of Plenty significantly impacts on the wellbeing and productiveness of our communities, whānau and the population in general. The rapid growth that the area has experienced in recent years is reported to be putting pressure on resources and services in the social sector.

This report was initiated by SocialLink to better understand the social issues in the Western Bay of Plenty and as much as possible compare our experiences with the national average to see how we fare in comparison to other parts of the country. SocialLink believes by presenting an in-depth picture of the issues the region faces we will be in a better position to address the said issues now and in the future.

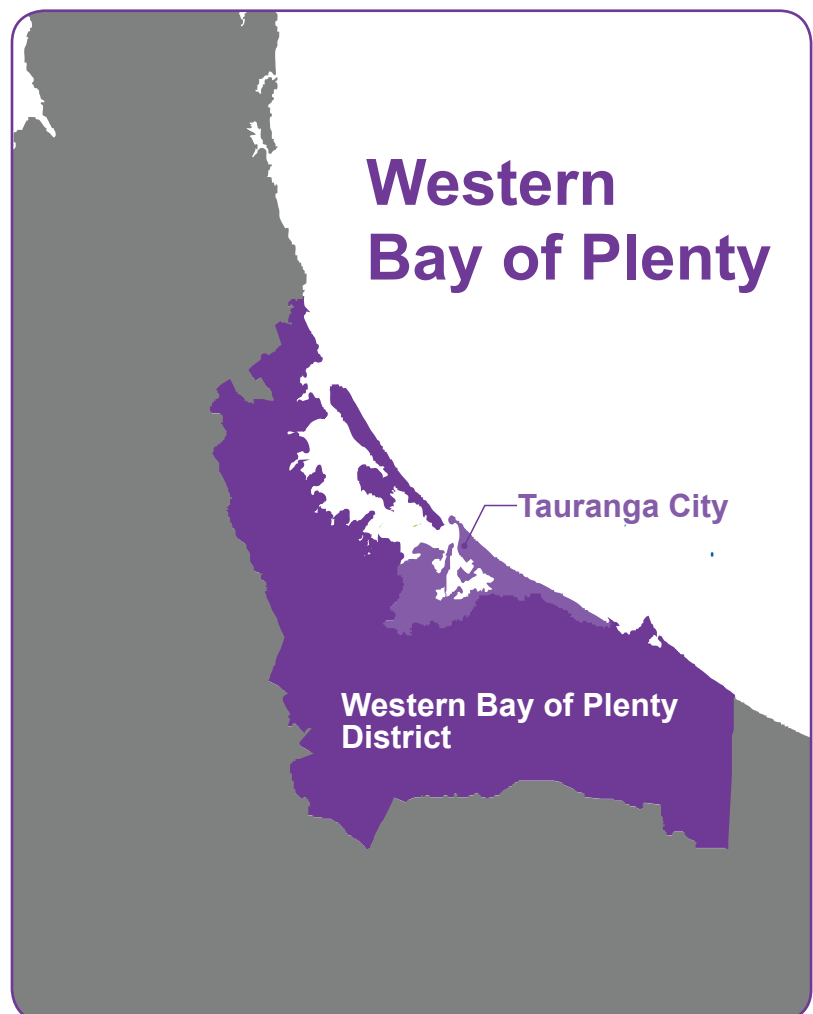
The Government is committed to putting people's wellbeing (and the environment) at the heart of its policies, including reporting against a wider set of wellbeing indicators in future budgets. While at the time of writing the outcomes of these indicators were not yet available SocialLink is committed to provide the information needed to ensure these policies and initiatives are relevant to our region. The Living Standards Framework was utilised to describe the wellbeing domains the government is going to report on in the coming 2019 budget. These domains are interconnected, doing well or poorly in one domain is likely to affect performance in other domains.

This report is based on secondary research from multiple sources including governmental websites, BOP DHB, local organisations and external research. It was a challenge to obtain accurate data for the whole Western Bay of Plenty subregion. This challenge highlights the value which could be delivered to the social services sector if all community and social organisations in the Western Bay of Plenty collected and made available key measures about the services they are providing.

Feedback

Feedback is welcomed on this social report. Comments can be emailed to ciska@sociallink.org.nz

SocialLink Tauranga Moana 2019



Living Standards Framework domains

The Living Standards Framework (LSF) was developed in 2018 by the New Zealand Treasury (The Government's lead economic and financial advisor) to improve the quality of policy advice. LSF achieves this by looking beyond economic drivers to better understand what makes people's lives worthwhile.

The LSF measures wellbeing across three areas: Our people, Our culture and Our future. Our people describes the distribution of wellbeing across nine wellbeing domains for different population groups of New Zealanders. The wellbeing areas are:

1. Subjective well being
2. Civic engagement and governance
3. Cultural identity
4. Health
5. Housing
6. Income and consumption
7. Knowledge and skills
8. Safety and security
9. Social connections; in the future this will include environment, time use, jobs and earnings.

Despite a lack of data on the LSF domains for population groups in the Western Bay of Plenty, SocialLink has prepared this report using LSF's wellbeing areas so its findings can be aligned with national reporting on the LSF.¹

Perceptions of wellbeing in the WBOP

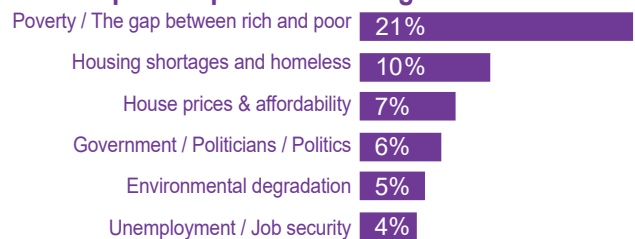
People's perceptions of their life is often as important if not more important than statistics reporting on the prevalence of issues. Vital Signs 2018 reports on the Western Bay of Plenty's communities perceptions of their social, cultural, health and economic wellbeing. All these domains were scored between B- and C+ with B being 'Good, but some improvements could be made and C being 'Average, more effort should be made to address this issue'.²

- Belonging and engagement; B-
- Supporting newcomers; B-
- Supporting children; B-
- Supporting young adults; C+
- Health and Wellness; C
- Safety; C+
- Reducing inequality; C
- Housing; C

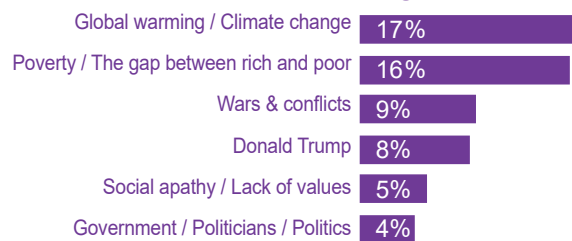
What do New Zealanders see as the biggest issue facing New Zealand in 2018?

Economic issues like poverty, the gap between the rich and poor and housing (including house prices, housing affordability, housing shortages and homelessness) were most commonly mentioned by New Zealanders. This correlates with the Vital Signs report outcomes that showed housing and reducing inequality were rated lowest in all Vital Signs domains. Whilst not directly relevant to this report, it is interesting to note that 'environmental degradation' was the fifth-most important problem in New Zealand yet New Zealanders scored global warming and climate change as the most important problem globally.

Most important problems facing New Zealand²



Most important problems facing the World²



As far as practical this report addresses these issues from a Western Bay of Plenty perspective. When WBOP data is unavailable, Bay of Plenty or national data may be used.

Economic deprivation in the WBOP

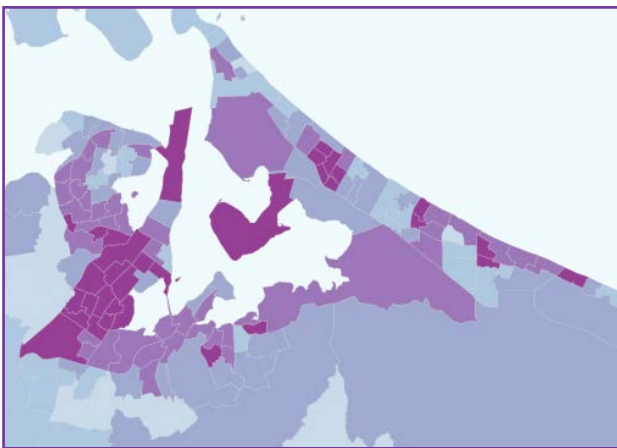
The correlation between economic deprivation and health and social wellbeing in communities has been extensively documented³. The NZ Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) considers employment, income,

crime, housing, health, education and geographical access to give a weighted score at neighbourhood level. Each neighbourhood in New Zealand receives a rank from 1 (the least deprived) to 10 (the most deprived). The light shaded areas represent the least deprived 20%, while dark shading represents the most deprived 20%.

The Western Bay of Plenty is often viewed as an affluent community. In reality there are several areas experiencing the highest level of deprivation in New Zealand with many requiring social support. For example, Tauranga South, Matapihi and Arataki experience the highest level of deprivation while Matua and Papamoa the lowest. Nationally, a fifth of the population are in each of the five deprivation quintiles described in the NZ Deprivation Index 2013. Tauranga, however, reports slightly higher levels of deprivation with 42% living in the two most deprived quintiles, while the national average would be 40%.⁴

The NZ Deprivation Index 2013 determined the annual threshold for income deprivation at \$26,837.

Deprivation Map Tauranga

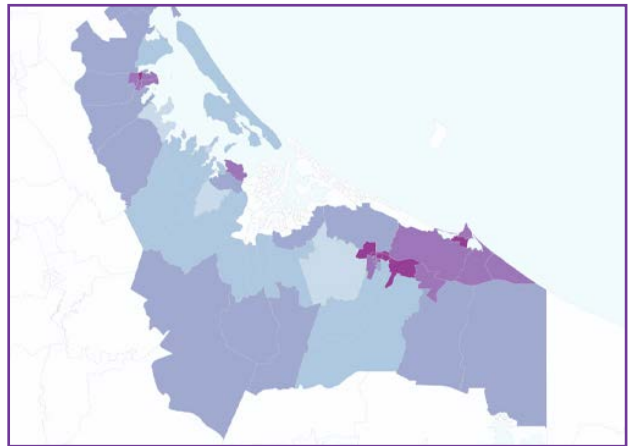


The Western Bay of Plenty District showing a similar pattern with the Te Puke and Maketu community experiencing the highest level of deprivation and Omokoroa the least. 35% of the Western Bay of Plenty District population live in the two most deprived quintiles meaning the district is less deprived than the country as a whole.

Deprivation Map Western Bay of Plenty District

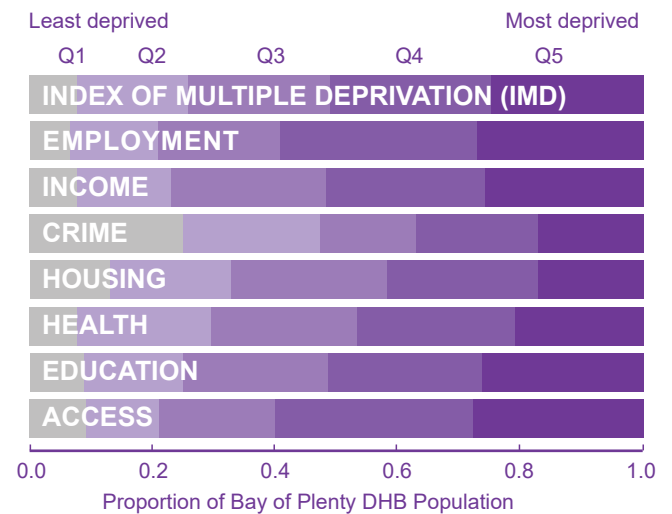
In general, people who live in more deprived areas are more vulnerable to and have a lower capacity to cope with environmental risks, and have fewer resources to protect themselves from environmental hazards, including be able to afford:

- Quality housing or a house large enough for their family.
- Adequate heating and insulation.
- A car to get to health care services.
- They may live closer to environmental hazards such as industrial sites or main transport routes.
- They may work and live with much higher levels of environmental stress (such as noise, overcrowding, and less security), which may put them at higher risk of psycho-social health problems.



According to the Bay of Plenty District Health Board Deprivation Index (see below) the Bay of Plenty experiences higher than national levels of deprivation; in particular for employment, income, health, education access and overall deprivation.

Deprivation Index for the BOPDHB



Please note the BOPDHB area includes the Eastern Bay of Plenty which is known to have high levels of deprivation.

3a. D'Ambrosia & Frick: Subjective Well-Being and Relative Deprivation: An Empirical Link. 2004 Discussion paper. b. Chen: Relative deprivation and individual well-being. IZA World Labor. 2015 Apr; 2015: 140. c. www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/assets/fmhs/soph/epi/hgd/docs/Final_Brief_report_on_the_New_Zealand_IMD.pdf. 4a. www.ehinz.ac.nz/indicators/population-vulnerability/socioeconomic-deprivation-profile/#Regional-differences b. Atkinson, J., Salmond, C and Crampton, P. (2014). NZDEP 2013 Index of Deprivation. University of Otago, New Zealand c. New Zealand index of deprivation (NZDep2013). d. Western Bay of Plenty District Council: Long term Plan 2018-2028.

People



Our region continues to grow as New Zealanders move to enjoy our sunshine, natural environment, quality agricultural and horticultural land, good schooling and our proximity to Auckland ①

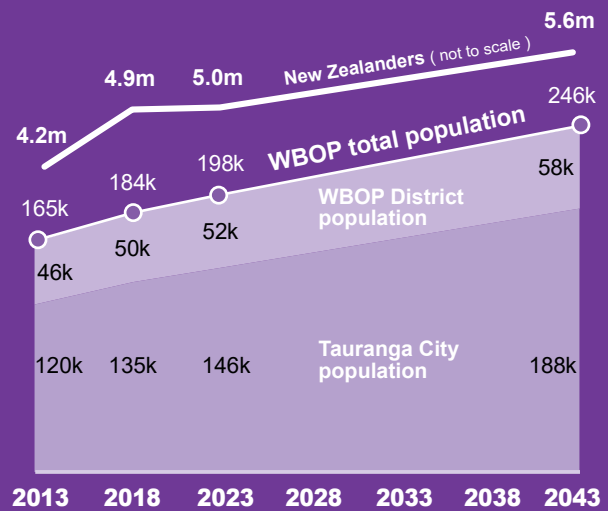
184,000 people living in the Western Bay of Plenty, of which

134,000 live in Tauranga, that's 7 out of every 10 people.

Nearly **200,000** people will be living in the WBOP by 2024.

That's **twice** the population of **Te Puke** moving to the region in the next 5 years.

The Western Bay of Plenty is one of NZ's fastest growing rural areas

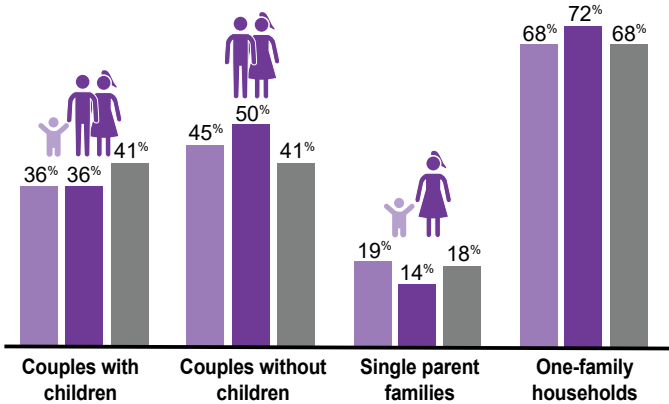


②

Family

We have fewer couples with children

■ Tauranga ■ WBOP District ■ National



The percentage of couples with children is decreasing

Down from 48% nationally in 1991 to 41% today.

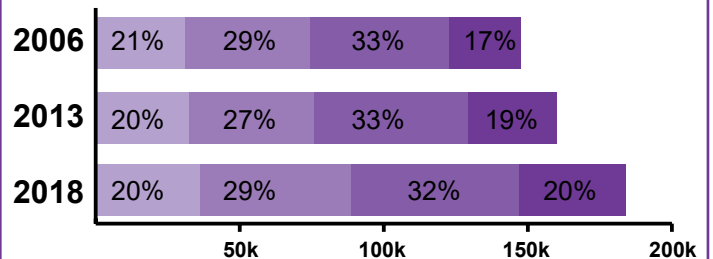
Living alone will be as common as the traditional family

By 2050, according to forecast trends.

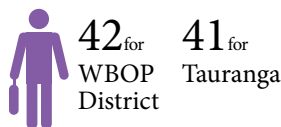
③

Age

Our WBOP population is getting older And is older than the national average



We have an older median age



41 for Tauranga

Compared to 38 for all of New Zealand

Māori have a younger median age



23 for Tauranga

Which is similar for all Māori in NZ

④

1. NZ Herald: Tauranga fastest growing city over 80 years. 30 June 2015. 2. Statistics NZ Subnational Population Projections: 2013(base)-2043 update 2016. 3. Shamubeel Eaqub: Everything will change. North and South: March 2019. 4. Statistics NZ National Population Projections: 2016(base)-2068

1 Subjective wellbeing

A complex, multi-dimensional concept which reflects not only material standards of living, but includes broader aspects of an individual's social, environmental and societal context.

Place plays an important role in subjective wellbeing.

Western Bay of Plenty residents report that;

87% feel supported by whānau and friends

75% rarely or never feel lonely, and

7+ out of 10

is how they rate their life satisfaction.

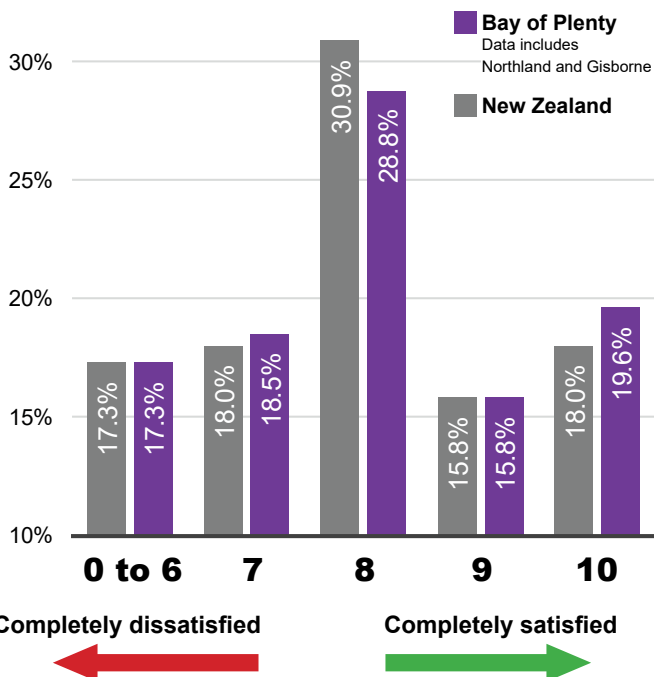
People in Northland, Bay of Plenty and Gisborne had higher 'life worthwhile' ratings than the average New Zealander; 31% rated it 10 out of 10 compared to 24% nationally.



2

1

Overall life satisfaction



2

Māori wellbeing framework

Wairuatanga
Spirituality

52% of Bay of Plenty Māori say Wairuatanga is very important

Tikanga
Customs & practices

55% of Bay of Plenty Māori say Tikanga is very important



Te reo Māori
Language

5% of Bay of Plenty Māori say they speak Maori very well, while 44% say they can only speak a few words or phrases

Whanaungatanga
Social connectedness

55% of Bay of Plenty Māori say being engaged with Maori culture as very important

A second Te Kupenga survey was undertaken August 2018, with results expected late 2019.

3

2 Civic engagement

Our engagement in the governance of our country, how 'good' our governance is perceived to be, and the procedural fairness of our society

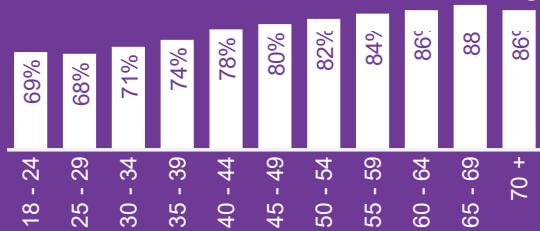
Political participation

is essential for a healthy, democratic society.

Voting

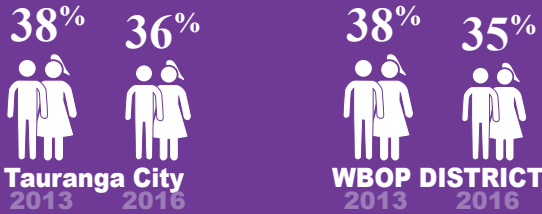
is related to income, ethnicity & age

National voting rates by age 2017 General Elections ¹



83% voter turnout in WBOPD and 81% in Tauranga City electorates, compared to 80% nationally.

Local body voting rates are dropping with under 35s less interested in voting in either national or local elections



Volunteers

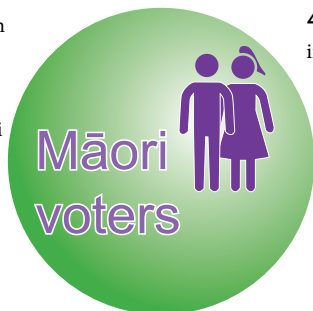
are more likely to be female, between 30 to 39 years old, work part time, be of non-Asian descent, and live a satisfying life.

Māori ¹ 94.1% were enrolled for 2017 general election
477,000 Māori are on the roll

Māori roll
 Voting for Maori seats
 53% enrolled in Māori roll.

General roll
 Voting for general seats
 47% enrolled in general roll

Only 67% of those on the Māori roll voted in the 2017 elections



Lower voting rate
 Lower engagement

Less voters
 Across all age groups

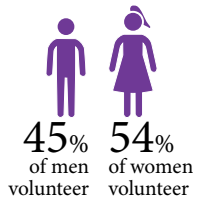


Volunteering

Of OECD countries New Zealand has the highest rate of volunteers.

But volunteer rates are dropping

*We are time poor
 We are retiring later
 Therefore we have less time to volunteer*



Younger people volunteer rates are high

But they like volunteering for a specific task - then moving on

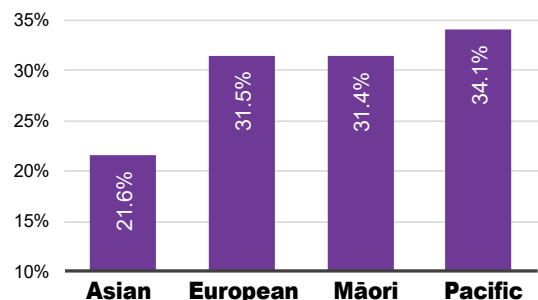
Volunteering BoP 2018/19 statistics

*Their requests for volunteers come from:
 1st retail and sales 2nd education and training 3rd fundraising and events*

Part time workers are more likely to volunteer

Volunteering is not related to income

People of Asian ethnicity are less likely to volunteer



1. Final Results for the 2017 New Zealand General Election, December 2017. 2.a. Volunteering New Zealand. (2018). State of Volunteering in New Zealand 2017; b. www.victoria.ac.nz/news/2017/05/young-kiwis-more-engaged-as-citizens-than-we-think; c. www.stats.govt.nz/news/part-time-workers-most-likely-to-lend-a-hand; d. Statistics NZ: Volunteering and donations by New Zealanders in 2016

3 Cultural identity

A strong sense of identity, belonging and ability to be oneself, and the value of cultural taonga

In the **Western Bay of Plenty** our people identify as

17% Māori

compared to 15% nationally.

82% European

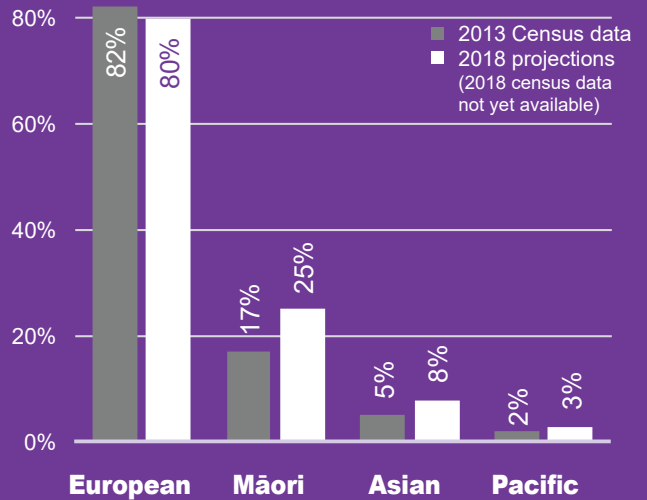
compared to 74% nationally.

20% are immigrants

with 50% of all people saying they have some association with another culture

Lower rates of other ethnicities

Our ethnic mix in the Western Bay of Plenty is changing



Note: numbers don't add to 100% as people will identify with more than one ethnic group.

2

Māori

3

Nationally **50%** of Maori rate their culture and its practices as extremely important, compared to 25% of all New Zealanders.

34% visited their ancestral marae in the last year

84% saw whānau not living with them in the last month

66% felt spirituality was important

Ko te reo te mauri o te mana Māori

The language is the life force of Māori identity

Nationally **55%** of Māori over 55 are able to speak some te reo Māori

Some suffer from language trauma

After decades of having their language oppressed

Te reo Māori is the **2nd most popular language**

in the **WBOP** after English, with Te Wānanga o Aotearoa Tauranga Moana reporting 375 people enrolled in their level 2 te reo classes in April 2019

5.2% te reo Māori speakers in WBOPD

compared to 3.7% both in Tauranga and nationally



Birthplace

4

18% of people living in the Western Bay of Plenty are born overseas, and 20% of the people living in Tauranga

We are being enriched by people who have made our place their home

Bigger range of lifestyles, worldviews and experiences

New migrant communities

2500 people arrived in Tauranga in 2017

720 arrived to the Western Bay of Plenty

Migration being fueled by skill shortages

Particularly in the kiwifruit and avocado industries

Large Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE)

populations from the Pacific during the harvest season

2000 workers staying up to 9 months each year

Indian population associated with owning and operating kiwifruit orchards

Some complain of prejudice, language barriers, and trouble finding a job

4 Health

Good health contributes to quality of life and allows people to participate in society and the economy

57,000 BOP people are obese with 48% of Māori adults obese in NZ

BOP suicide rates have dropped for the first time in 5 years

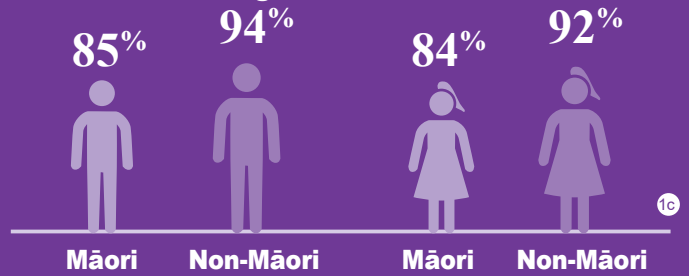


14% of BOP residents smoke which is similar to national levels; 40% of Māori smoke in NZ compared to 17% of Europeans (2013/14)

31,000 BOP adults are hazardous alcohol drinkers

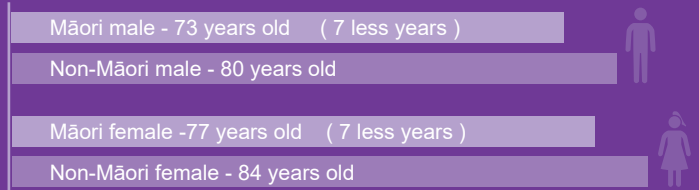
28% of Tauranga people have a disability, of which 1 in 3 are over 60, this is 4% higher than the national average

Most people rate their health as good or better than good *BOP self-reporting of health 2011-14*



But Māori report lower levels of good health *Which may be linked to Māori being less likely to use primary care*

And Māori don't live as long *Which may be linked to people in deprived areas living on average 7 years less*



Obesity

Obesity is linked with heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer, and psychological and social problems.

NZ has the 3rd highest adult obesity rate in the OECD

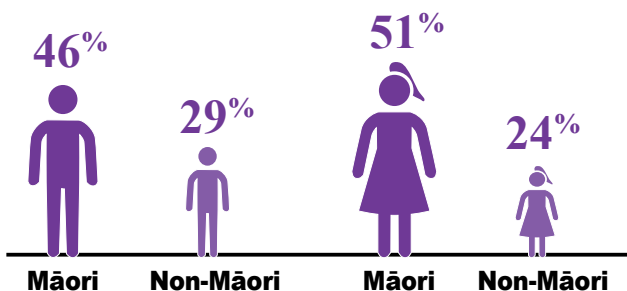
And our obesity rates are increasing

People living in deprived areas are 1.6 times as likely to be obese *Compared to people living in least-deprived areas*

65% of Pacific adults are obese

Māori have higher rates of obesity

Māori women have the highest rates, while non-Māori women have the lowest
WBOP adult obesity rates 2011/14



Alcohol & Drugs

Alcohol and drug misuse is linked to social and emotional harm such as family violence, and can lead to community dysfunction and prison.

The Bay of Plenty has higher rates of hazardous drinking

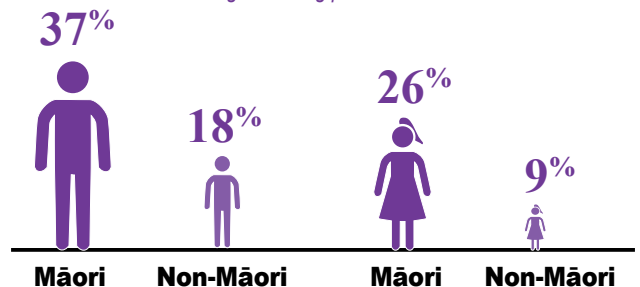
17% in the BOP compared to 15% nationally

Younger people have a bigger drinking problem

More than 30% of BOP youth between 15 to 24 are hazardous drinkers

Hazardous drinking is linked to being Māori and a man

With 37% of Māori men having a drinking problem



BOP people report higher availability of methamphetamine

30% of people surveyed reported they were addicted to P.

BOP people report higher rates of cannabis dependency

37% of people surveyed compared to 35% Northland, 34% Waikato, 33% Gisborne / Hawke's Bay, and 33% Wellington

1. a. www.mentalhealth.org.nz/assets/Suicide/20180824-Provisional-suicide-statistics-2017-18-media-release.pdf. b. Statistics New Zealand: 2013 Census. c. Ministry of Justice (2018) Annual provisional suicide statistics for deaths reported to the Coroner between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2018. d. Bay of Plenty Health and Service Profile 2016 e. Wilkins, C., Prasad, J., Rychert M., Romeo, J and Graydon-Guy, T. (2018). NZ Drug Trends Survey. Massey University f. BOP Times: Wheelchair friendly picnic tables coming to Tauranga. May 18, 2019 2. www.health.govt.nz/our-work/populations/maori-health/tatau-kahukura-maori-health-statistics/nga-ma-na-hauora-tutohu-health-status-indicators/life-expectancy. 3.a. Socialreport.msd.govt.nz/health/obesity.html b. www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/obesity-statistics. 4. Hann, N. & Robertson J. (2017). The Impact of Methamphetamine Use in the Western Bay of Plenty

5 Housing

The influx of people into the WBOP has put pressure on the housing market with increasing numbers of people having difficulty finding suitable and affordable housing.

25% of WBOP people have lived here for less than 5 years

\$635k WBOP district median house price; Tauranga \$656K median house price
Only Maketu has a median value under \$500k

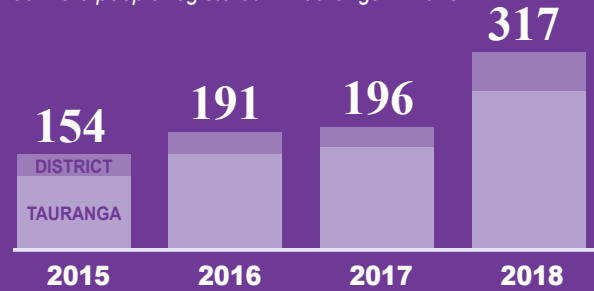
30% of people rent houses in NZ and the number is growing towards 40%

Māori make up **46%** of people on the Social Housing Register

1700 social homes needed in Tauranga to bring it inline with the rest of NZ

62% growth in the number of people on the WBOP Social housing register in 2018

100 more people registered in Tauranga in 2018



Housing New Zealand has sold 1134 Tauranga homes to community provider Accessible Properties
They now only manage 197 houses in the WBOP subregion

280 families are on Accessible Properties' wait list
With families in transitional homes staying longer due to the rental shortage

Tauranga has a social housing shortage
Only 2.5% social housing, compared to 4.5% nationally

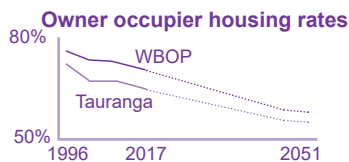
Affordability

Housing affordability is influenced by housing demand and supply, and is a challenge for many New Zealanders, especially Māori and Pacific people

Tauranga has the 8th least affordable housing in the world

Based on house pricing and incomes, with residents spending 8.9 times their annual household income to purchase a house compared to 8.8 times in Auckland

Owner-occupied housing is dropping particularly for Māori



Only 32% of Tauranga homes are mortgage free

Down from 40% in 2017

29% of WBOP Māori own their own homes

National decrease in people 65-79 owning their own home

From 2001 to 2013 Census data. Retiring and paying rent adds financial stress

\$490 average weekly rental in Tauranga; \$418 in WBOP

Compared to \$570 in Auckland & \$530 in Wellington where incomes are higher

Over half of people receiving Accommodation Supplement spend more than 50% of their income on housing

Papamoa Family Services say rents are around 70% of client incomes

Māori are more likely to rent than other ethnic groups

Housing deprivation

Showing areas where people live with high levels of overcrowded housing

10,700 WBOP residents live in overcrowded homes (7%)

2,000 WBOP homes have no heating (3%)

400 people identified as homeless

With at least 70 sleeping rough in Tauranga

Emergency & transitional housing

Providing up to 3 months emergency housing and 6 months transitional housing

Local emergency housing providers are Te Tuinga Whānau Support Services (30 houses), Tauranga Community Housing (18 houses), Tauranga Salvation Army (16 houses), Tauranga Moana Nightshelter (20 beds for men) and Awahina House (12 beds for women)

The Ministry of Social Development has contracts with 4 providers for transitional housing and wrap-around services for 464 Tauranga households each year.

1. a. BOPT. Special Report: Growing Population puts pressure on Tauranga's infrastructure, 24 Nov 2018 b. Shamubeel Eaqub: Everything will change. North and South: Mar 2019. c. Western Bay of Plenty Vital Signs 2018 2. HUD, Housing Quarterly Report, Dec 2018 3. a. www.qv.co.nz/property-trends/rental-analysis b. www.newshub.co.nz/home/money/2018/10/housing-costs-to-blame-for-inequality-report-shows.html c. BOP-DHB: Health and Services Report 2016. c. Research Report: Housing Demand and Need in Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty, December 2017, Livingston and Associates Ltd/Community Housing Solutions Ltd 4. Bay of Plenty Times. 36 houses would solve chronic homelessness in Tauranga today. 15 Feb 2019.

6 Income & consumption

Our standard of living covers our access to goods, services and economic resources, including having sufficient food, clothing and housing for our wellbeing.

800 new businesses established in Tauranga in 2018

5% growth in employment in 2018 compared to 3% nationally

But **17%** of WBOP residents are highly stressed about their personal finances

13,500 used Tauranga Foodbank in 2018; 25% were wage earners

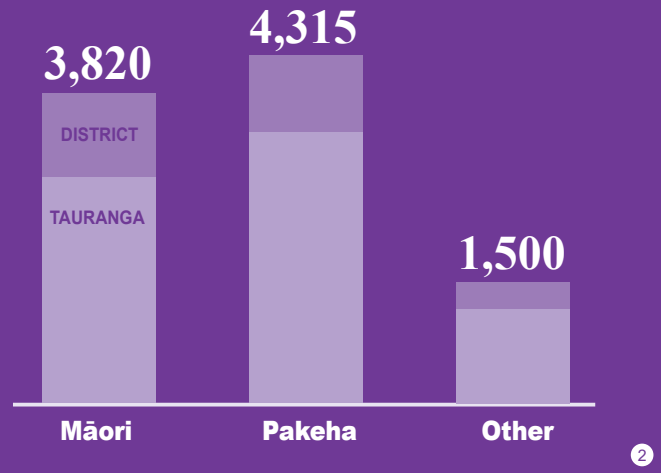
Income deprivation

is worse in the BOP than nationally, especially in rural Te Puke and some Tauranga suburbs

9,635 working-age people on Job Seeker support in WBOP

44% of people getting job seeker support are Māori

Western Bay of Plenty job seekers (December 2018)



Income & spending

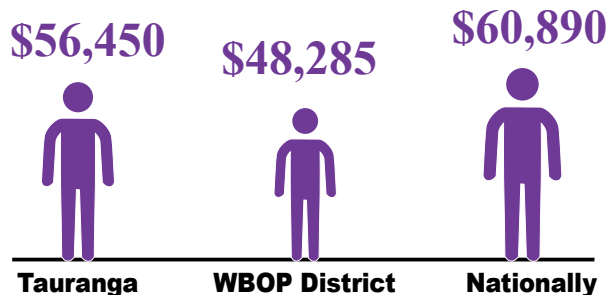
60% of older people rely mainly on Superannuation
And 40% have no other income

More people are retiring with a mortgage or are renting
More than 2% decrease in home ownership in 65 to 79 year olds from 2001 to 2013 (Census data). Mortgages and renting put extra stress on finances

200,000 New Zealanders directly benefited from the April 2019 lift in the minimum wage to \$17.70 - up 7%

500 more people registered with Tauranga Budget Advisory Services in 2018/19. They are working with 2350 people that hold \$29m in debt. Papamoa Family Services has 167 clients with \$2m debt

Median personal income is below national levels



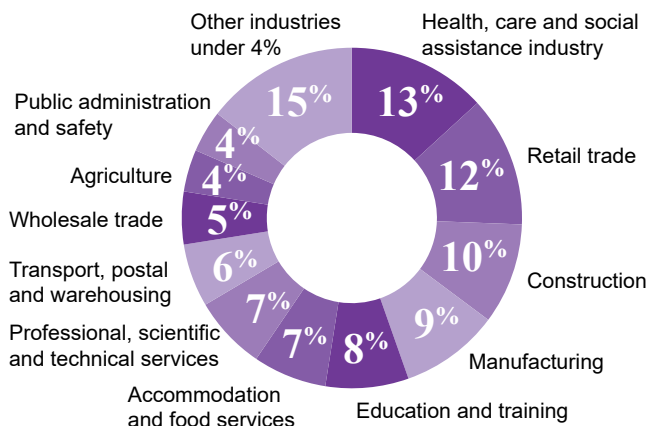
Employment

4.6% unemployment in WBOP and 4.7% in Tauranga
Compared to 4.3% nationally

5% Māori unemployment in WBOP and 5.5% in Tauranga

Only 20% of WBOP Māori work in highly-skilled jobs
Compared to 23% of Māori nationally

Tauranga employed by industry



1.a. www.priorityone.co.nz/our-economy b. Bay of Plenty Times: One month, 1000 people helped. 2 Feb 2019. c. Western Bay of Plenty Vital Signs 2018 d. SmartGrowth: The future of work 2017 e. Saville-Smith, K. & James, B. (2016) The Housing Older People Would Choose: A Review of Selected New Zealand Research 2. Work and Income Tauranga 3.a. TCC: Tauranga Statistical Information Report, May 2018. b. Statistics NZ: Unemployment rate of Māori people in New Zealand 2018

7 Knowledge and skills

Education is a major source of economic prosperity and contributes to social well-being, with schools providing knowledge and skills for economic participation as well as being primary places for socialisation

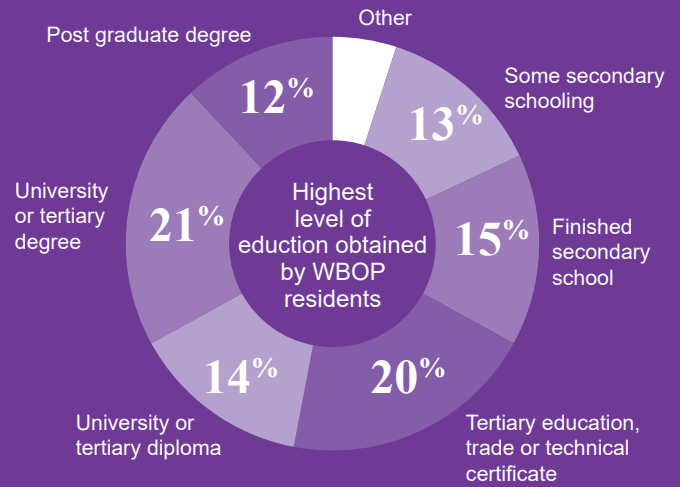
79% of WBOP youth have level 2 NCEA (85% nationally)

69% of WBOP Māori youth have level 2 NCEA (74% nationally)

52% of WBOP youth enrol in tertiary education after leaving school (60% nationally)

104 early child care centres in the WBOP with more centres in low socioeconomic areas

28% of WBOP residents have only a secondary school education, while **47%** have attained a diploma or higher qualification



ECE Early childcare education



ECE is seen by governments as a foundation for future learning Supporting early development of crucial social and emotional regulation skills, and have economic benefits with parents able to participate in the workforce

The number of early childcare centres is increasing with population growth

99% of Tauranga children enrolled in ECE

95% of WBOP children enrolled in ECE

Compared to 97% nationally

Only 90% of WBOP Māori children enrolled in ECE

Compared to 97% for European / Pākeha children

Māori and Pacific children make up a larger proportion of children in ECE in low socioeconomic areas.

Adult education and the knowledge economy

No qualifications leads to poorer social and economic outcomes, particularly in tough economic times

43% of New Zealanders have poor literacy skills

51% have poor numeracy skills

These low levels contribute to our country's low productivity



Education deprived areas

Showing areas with lowest levels of education based on transition to higher education, number of working people with no formal qualifications, and number of youth not in education, employment or training.



The rural areas of Katikati, Te Puke and Maketu along with Tauranga South and Arataki have the highest levels of education deprivation

8 Safety and security

Safety and security are key to achieving a positive state of well-being, with crime and the fear of crime negatively impacting on both our physical and mental health as well as social cohesion.

79% of crime victims have suffered either thefts or burglaries in WBOP

18% are due to assaults

13 reports of family harm happening in the Western Bay of Plenty every day

Children under 5 are more at risk of child abuse in the WBOP ¹

Perceptions of community safety, whether real or perceived, impact on how people feel and the way they interact in their community



Family Violence ³



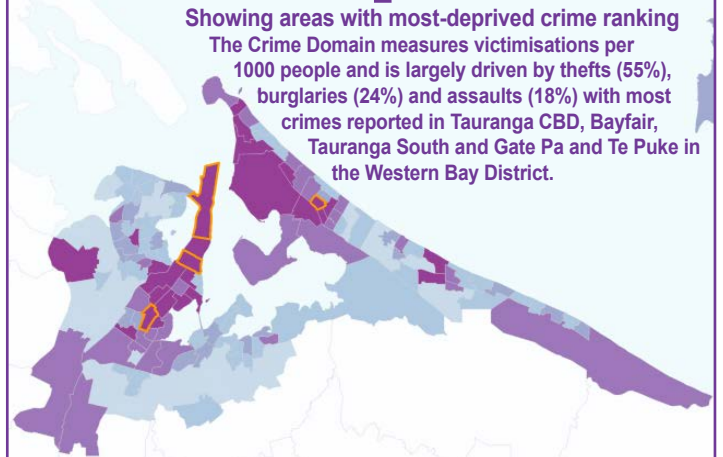
1630 incidents of family violence in 4 months
 From November 2018 to February 2019 in the Western Bay of Plenty. With 13 reports of family harm each day.

76% of family violence is not reported
 According to national research.

Tauranga had the highest number of abuse and family violence notifications of any office in New Zealand in 2017 and has seen a 26% increase in family violence notifications from 2013 to 2017

7408 Tauranga children and young people with notifications in 2017
 Compared to 16,121 in the Bay of Plenty, and 59,317 nationally (2017).
 Child abuse affects personal development and indicates poor outcomes.

Crime hotspots ¹



14,480 WBOP households (28%) engaged in Neighbourhood Support that helps create safe and caring neighbourhoods

1. www.imd.ac.nz/NZIMD_Single_animation_w_logos/atlas.html
 2. Statistics NZ: Criminal Conviction and Sentencing Tables
 3a. Family Works Northern 2018 data.
 b. www.msdc.govt.nz/about-msdc-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/cyfl/notifications.html

9 Social connections

Social connectedness is the relationships people have with others and is a key driver of wellbeing and resilience. Well-connected people and communities are happier and healthier

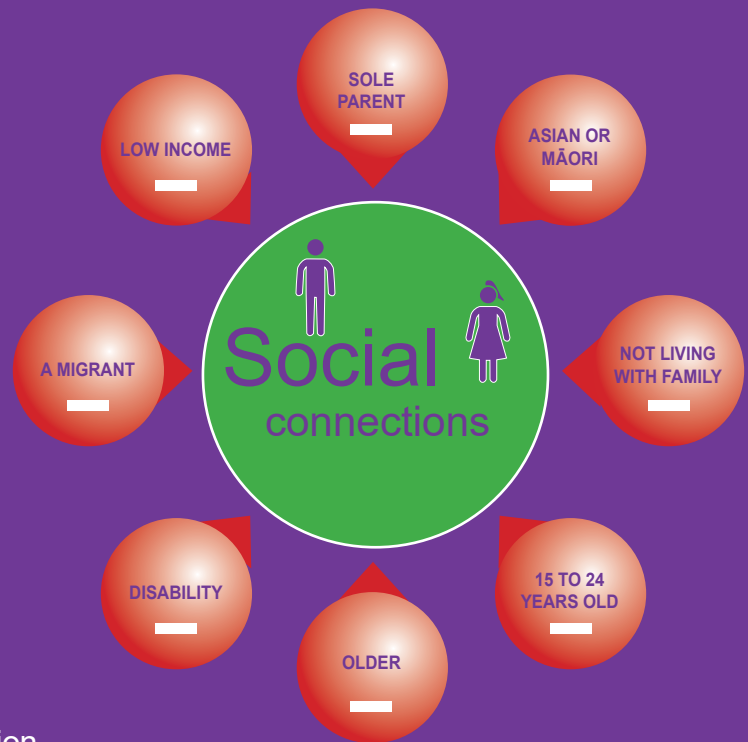
87% of WBOP residents feel supported by their neighbours

But only **50%** know most of their neighbours

We've a **large influx** of new residents and new residential areas

Family matters with most New Zealanders rating it 9 out of 10

People **born overseas** form an increasing proportion of the WBOP population



Loneliness¹

Loneliness is linked to a range of serious conditions

Such as cardiovascular disease, cognitive loss, depression as well as to an increased use of healthcare services.

Many residents in the WBOP say they rarely or never feel lonely (75%)

The percentage of lonely people is linked to age

50% of older people experience loneliness

And 9% says they are lonely all the time

Young people between 15-24 can experience the highest levels of loneliness

Many factors are linked to loneliness

Having a disability, low income, being female, a migrant, identifying as Asian or Maori, not living in a family nucleus, and being a sole parent.

Immigrants make a difference²

Immigrants have a **positive impact** including filling gaps in the labour market and enriching connections

They also bring **potential challenges** to social cohesion from increased diversity

Some groups may not fare as well as others

There may be tension between different groups

Trust in others³

High levels of trust facilitate co-operative behaviour and help people develop positive relationships

63% of people in our region say most people can be trusted, compared to **68%** nationally.