

### Indicator Datasheet: New Zealand population and ethnicity

<b>Type of Indicator</b>	Population
<b>Definition and units</b>	Population is the Usual Resident Population on Census night Ethnicity recorded as total count (ie an individual can select more than one ethnicity)
<b>Data source</b>	Statistics New Zealand (NZ)
<b>Geographic Scope</b>	New Zealand, and broken down into 71 Territorial Authorities (TAs)
<b>Temporal Scope</b>	Census is undertaken every 5 years, except that the 2011 census was delayed until 2013 following the Canterbury earthquakes. 2013 data are used where possible; in all cases, the year of the data is given.
<b>Rationale</b>	Information about our population is important for Environmental Health. People and the environment we live in are part of the same large ecosystem: Earth. In ecosystems, living things interact with each other and affect each other: a 'push' in one part of the system results in a 'pull' in another part. The environment is affected by the people that live in it, and people are affected by the environment in which they live. Some groups within the population are more vulnerable than others, so it is important to look at relevant population subgroups.
<b>Methodology</b>	Data are collected by Statistics NZ as part of the 5-yearly national census, and are available for download. Methodological information is available from Statistics NZ.  Mapping was undertaken using ArcGIS software.
<b>Use of measures</b>	Indicators give us information to help guide decisions. We can use population indicators to determine how much of an impact people are having on the environment— for example, population growth tells us how much strain we might put on natural resources. We can also use population data to help us decide how people are being affected by the environment— for example, how many children live in rural areas prone to water-borne disease, or how many elderly people are at risk from extreme heat in a region.  We plan to continue to report on population indicators over time.
<b>Limitations of measures</b>	Total ethnicity counting results in over-counting ethnic groups (ie totals add up to more than 100%), but is generally a useful measure for environmental health purposes.
<b>Limitations of data source</b>	Refer to Statistics NZ website. Census data are widely considered to be a very reliable source.
<b>Recommendations for future development of indicators</b>	Population indicators are best viewed in conjunction with a range of environmental health indicators, to see the interaction between people and the environment.  In the future we plan to use population data in conjunction with environmental data to produce models.
<b>References</b>	Statistics NZ website: <a href="http://stats.govt.nz/census">stats.govt.nz/census</a>