

Characteristics of Same-sex Couples in New Zealand

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Statistics New Zealand
Tauranga Aotearoa P O Box 2922
Wellington, New Zealand
info@stats.govt.nz

www.stats.govt.nz

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Introduction

Over recent decades there have been significant changes in the way families form and dissolve. While the proportion of traditional nuclear families has decreased, there has been an increase in more diverse family types, including cohabitation as a common living arrangement, particularly in younger age groups. Marriage has become less central in how people manage their living arrangements, and it is being seen less and less as a prerequisite for cohabitation.

What this report covers

This report will describe some demographic characteristics and the economic well-being of people in New Zealand who reported living in same-sex partnerships, compared with people who reported living in opposite-sex partnerships, at the 2006 Census. The research aims to answer the following questions:

1. What are the demographic differences between people living in same-sex and opposite-sex partnerships and how can these differences be explained?
2. What are the underlying factors that explain the earning power of same-sex couples?
3. Why do same-sex couples appear to be more mobile?

The descriptive analysis of couple families uses a series of demographic variables including age, sex, usual residence, legal marital status, and number of dependent children. Other variables of interest are qualification, occupation, income, and usual residence five years ago.

Legal context of same-sex partnerships in New Zealand

The Crimes Amendment Bill was introduced in 1974 to legalise private 'homosexual acts' between consenting adults. The Homosexual Law Reform Act, which came into effect on 8 August 1986, decriminalised sexual relations between men aged 16 years and over. It became illegal to discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation in 1993 when the Human Rights Act was passed.

The Civil Union Act was passed in April 2005 and provided couples, either of the same sex or opposite sex, to have their relationships formalised through a civil union ceremony officially registered in New Zealand. Following on from the Civil Union Act, the Relationships (Statutory References) Act 2005 included amendments to a series of Acts to allow the same legal protection of civil union partners as spouses or de facto partners. For example, in the Human Rights Act 1993, amendments were made so people in a civil union or de facto relationship were regarded equal to a married person.

Overview of statistics about same-sex couples

There has been a steady number of civil union registrations each year since 2005. In parallel to the legal recognition of same-sex couples, there has been an increasing desire among policy makers to find out certain characteristics of all people in same-sex partnerships, including their well-being.

Since 1996, New Zealand's five-yearly Census of Population and Dwellings has enabled the statistical coding of couple families as either opposite-sex or same-sex couples. The 'Technical notes' in this report describe the system of family coding the census uses to derive the couple type.

The number of people in same-sex couples recorded during the census only includes people who identify themselves as living in this family type and who are in the same household. There is a potential for under-reporting of same-sex couples by census as a result of some people's reluctance to identify as living with a same-sex partner. Self-identification might also have changed with time, so recent census records of same-sex couples would represent a more true record of actual numbers rather than an increase in incidence. From this point of view, comparisons of statistics of people in same-sex or opposite-sex partnerships with earlier census years are of limited value, other than as an indicator of changing social attitude.

Further historical comparisons of statistics of same-sex couples are not possible due to the smaller numbers of same-sex partners recorded at the 1996 and 2001 Censuses. Also any attempt to use recent sample surveys undertaken by Statistics New Zealand's Programme of Official Social Statistics has sample-size limitations in terms of people identifying as living in same-sex partnerships. For these reasons, the 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings is the only statistical source in this report.

Summary of characteristics

Analysis of demographic characteristics and the economic well-being of people who, at the 2006 Census, reported to be living in same-sex partnerships, compared with people who were living in opposite-sex partnerships, are broadly summarised as follows.

People living in same-sex partnerships are younger and likely to have no children. Parents in same-sex partnerships have mostly just one dependent child whereas parents in opposite-sex partnerships are more likely to have two or more dependent children. Same-sex partners tend to live in the Auckland and Wellington main urban areas.

The significant earning power of same-sex partners is explained in the context of the higher level of post-school qualifications attainment among all ages, and the larger proportions employed in professional occupations compared with opposite-sex partners. Subsequently, a larger proportion of same-sex partners without children recorded incomes in the higher personal income ranges (\$50,000 or more) compared with opposite-sex partners without children.

The higher rate of mobility across most age groups of same-sex partners between 2001 and 2006 is a result of the underlying characteristics of same-sex partners. The younger

age structure, the likeliness to be childless, as well as the earning power, lead to an increased propensity to move. There may also have been increased formation of same-sex couples, with associated changes of residential address, during that period.

Quality of 2006 Census data on same-sex couples

Caution is needed when presenting analysis based on small numbers in comparison with equivalent classification groupings that have large numbers. For this reason, analytical comparisons of people living in opposite-sex partnerships with people living in same-sex partnerships have been presented at a broad level. Undertaking more detailed analysis of people in same-sex couples is not recommended.

The 'Technical notes' in this report describe the derivation of the type of couple variable that enables the identification of people living in opposite-sex and same-sex couple families. The Technical notes also provide information on the background to the data quality issues associated with the type of couple derivation at census.

People who recorded as living in same-sex couples

At the 2006 Census less than one percent of people living in couple families had reported to be in a same-sex partnership. Of the 1.7 million people who lived with a partner there were 5,100 males and 6,700 females who reported being in same-sex partnerships. These figures excluded 260 males and 320 females reporting to be in same-sex partnerships who were absent from their usual residence on census night. The equivalent numbers of absentees in opposite-sex partnerships were 22,600 males and 13,600 females. Figures included in the analysis of people in couple families in this report exclude absentees on census night. Where information on absentees on census night is available this is included in the tables listed in appendix 1.

From recordings of total responses to the ethnic groups (European, Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian, and Other Ethnicity), among people in partnerships there was a slightly higher likelihood of people of Māori ethnicity to live in same-sex partnerships (around one percent of people of Māori ethnicity or 1,900 people out of 156,700 people of Māori ethnicity in couples). European, Pacific peoples, and Other Ethnicity all had similar levels of same-sex partnering (below one percent). However, about similar proportions of same-sex and opposite-sex partners had recorded European ethnicities (69 percent each), and a significantly larger proportion of same-sex partners had recorded belonging to the Māori ethnic group (16 percent) compared with the proportion of opposite-sex partners belonging to the Māori ethnic group (9 percent).

Same-sex couples lived in urban centres

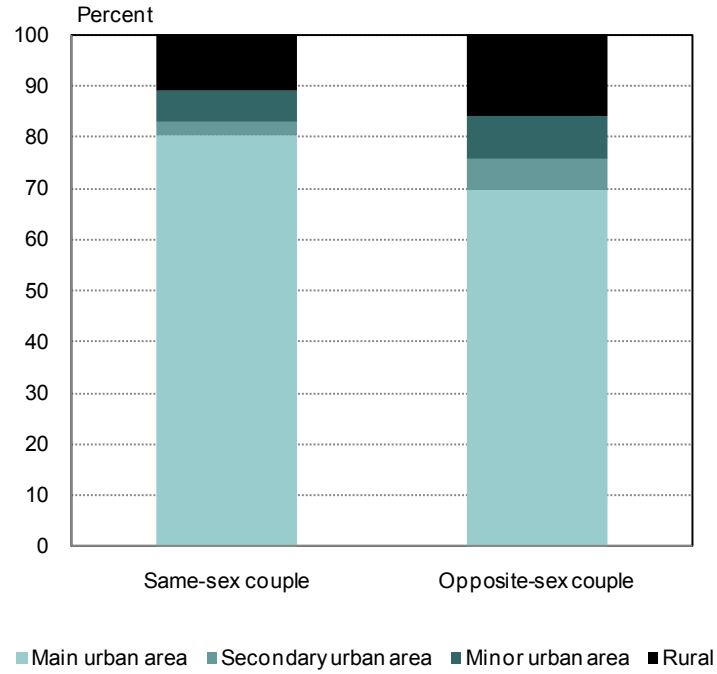
The majority of people who recorded living in a same-sex partnership (80 percent) lived in main urban locations. A slightly smaller proportion of people who lived in an opposite-sex partnership (70 percent) were main urban dwellers. This compared with 11 percent of people in a same-sex partnership, and 16 percent of people in an opposite-sex partnership, who lived in rural locations. Studies of people in same-sex or other non-traditional partnerships in the United States (based on 2000 U.S. Census data) emphasise that they are more geographically mobile than traditional couples, and that non-traditional couples have moved away from parents and communities of origin and towards main urban centres (Rosenfeld, Kim, 2005).

Same-sex couples living in Auckland

Another distinct characteristic of the geographic concentration of same-sex couples was the large number of same-sex partners whose usual residence was in Auckland city (21 percent of people in same-sex partnerships). This compared with 9 percent of people in opposite-sex partnerships who said they lived in Auckland city. A third of people in same-sex partnerships were living in Auckland or Wellington cities compared with just 14 percent of people in opposite-sex partnerships living in those two cities. The concentration of same-sex couples in main urban areas and gravitation to larger cities can be due to the larger social networks, more liberal attitudes toward population minorities, and the greater anonymity available there. These factors might also be leading to increased likelihood of reporting.

Figure 1

Usual residence urban/rural area for people in couples
 By type of couple
 2006 Census



About one-third of New Zealand’s resident population (32 percent) lived in the Auckland region, and a similar proportion (31 percent) of people in partnerships lived in that region. A significantly higher proportion of male same-sex partners (46 percent) lived in the Auckland region, whereas one-third of female same-sex partners lived in Auckland. In total, around 84 percent of males and 79 percent of females in same-sex partnerships lived in the North Island compared with 75 percent of people in opposite-sex partnerships.

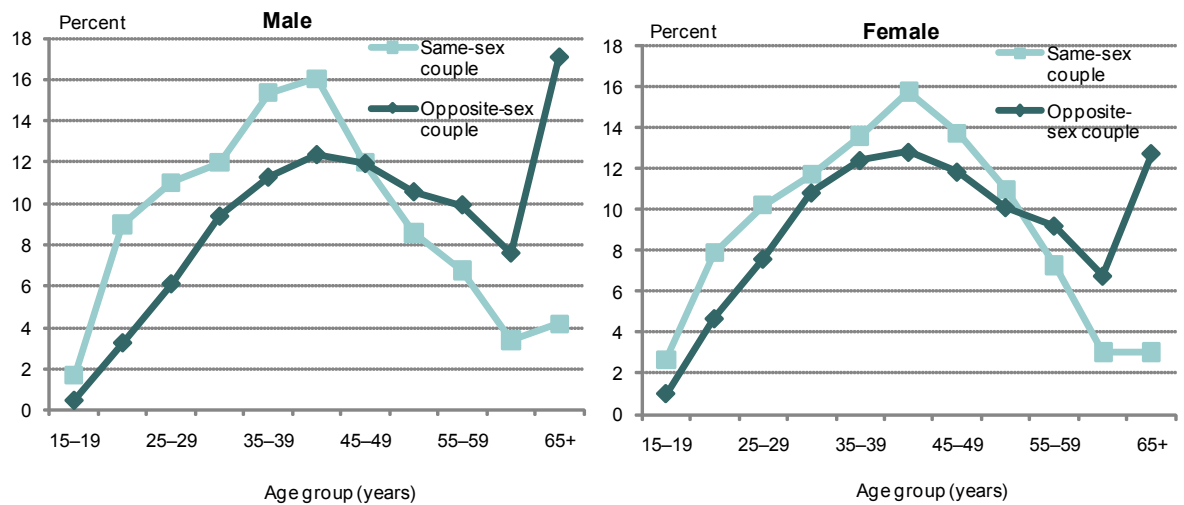
Partners in same-sex couples were younger

People recording as living in same-sex partnerships had a younger age structure than people in opposite-sex partnerships. Around 34 percent of males in same-sex partnerships were aged 45 years or over, compared with 57 percent of males in opposite-sex partnerships. This compared with 38 and 51 percent of females in same- and opposite-sex partnerships, respectively, who were aged 45 years or over. This might partly be a reflection of younger people being more willing to report the nature of their partnership at census. Statistics of same-sex couple families from the Australian 2001 Census of Population and Housing also indicated a younger age structure among partners who recorded as living in same-sex couples¹.

Males in same-sex partnerships were marginally younger than females in same-sex partnerships. The median age for males living in same-sex partnership was 40 years, compared with 48 years for males in opposite-sex partnerships. Equivalent median ages were 41 years and 45 years for females in same-sex and opposite-sex partnerships, respectively.

Figure 2

Age distribution by sex of people in couples
By type of couple
2006 Census



Note: The higher percentage recorded in the last age group category includes all ages at 65 years and over, whereas percentages for other age group categories span over 5 years.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Yearbook Australia 2002.

People who recorded being in a same-sex partnership were more likely to have a legal marital status of 'never married and never joined in a civil union' than people in an opposite-sex partnership. Eighty-two percent of males and 71 percent of females in same-sex partnerships had 'never married and never joined in a civil union'. Only 14 percent of people in opposite-sex partnerships were 'never married and never joined in a civil union'. This partly reflects the fact that it has only been possible to register a same-sex partnership since 2005. Because of the two-year separation requirement, no civil unions could in fact have been dissolved by 2006.

Parents in same-sex couples had fewer dependent children

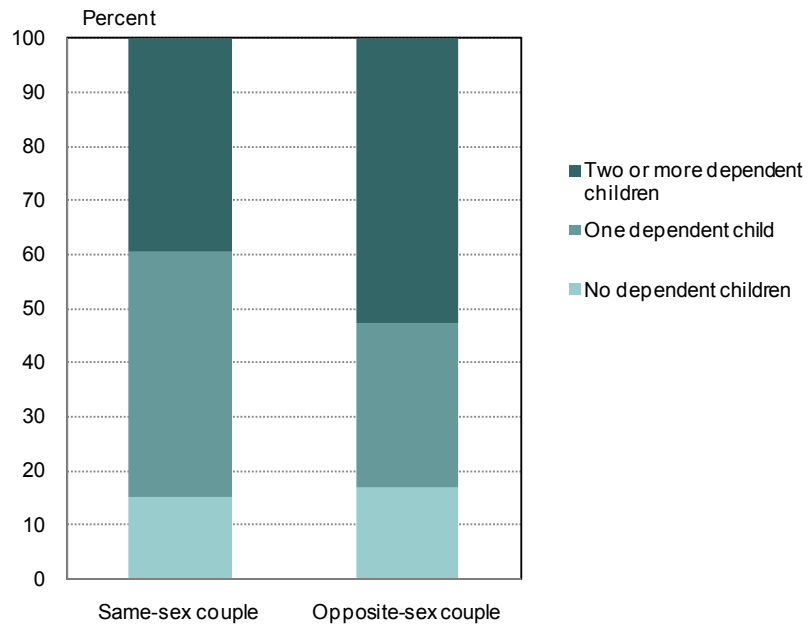
Children living with same-sex couples can be the result of previous opposite-sex partnerships, adoption, surrogate pregnancy, or artificial insemination (for women). However, same-sex partners were less likely to have children than opposite-sex partners. The biological, psychological, and other constraints faced by same-sex couples trying to start or add to their families will generally result in smaller family sizes. The exception perhaps is when both partners bring children to a partnership from previous opposite-sex partnerships.

Males who reported to be living in same-sex partnerships were most likely to have no dependent or adult children living with them. Only 8 percent had at least one child. This compared with just over a half (51 percent) of people in opposite-sex partnerships and around a quarter (26 percent) of females living in a same-sex partnership that had dependent or adult children living with them.

Among people who reported to be parents and living in a partnership, the majority had one or more dependent children in their families (83 percent). Parents in same-sex partnerships were most likely to have just one dependent child living with them (46 percent), whereas parents in opposite-sex partnerships tended to have larger families, with 53 percent indicating that they had two or more dependent children.

Figure 3

Number of dependent children for people in couples with children
 By type of couple
 2006 Census



Note:

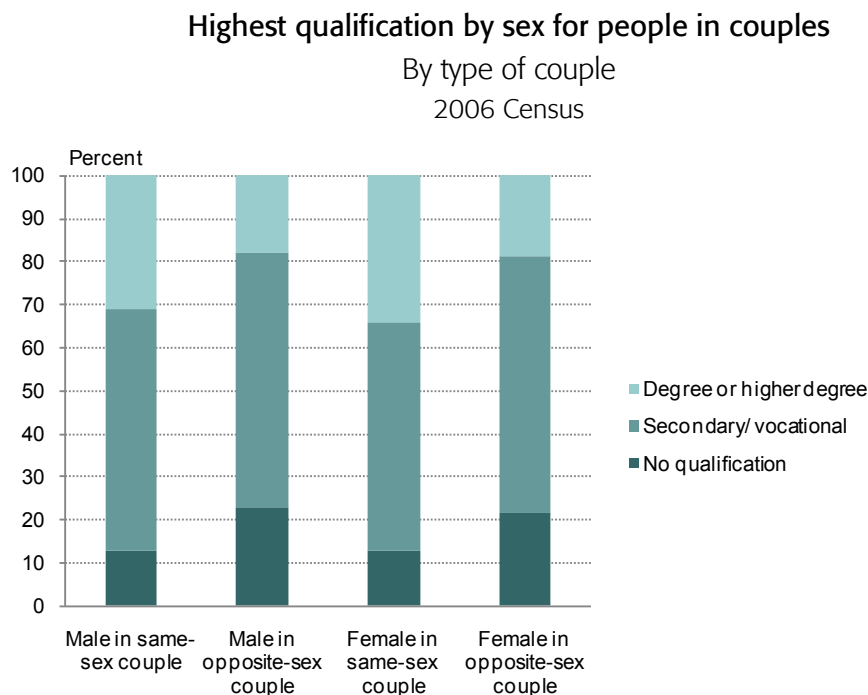
1. People in couples with children may have dependent (aged under 18 years) children and/ or no dependent children.
2. Based on parents living in couples where number of dependent children living with them was able to be determined.

Same-sex couples more likely to be working and highly educated

At the 2006 Census, 13 percent of people recording as living in same-sex partnerships stated that they were not in the labour force. This compared with one quarter of people living in opposite-sex partnerships. This difference in labour force participation was mainly due to the younger age structure of people who reported living in same-sex partnerships, with fewer being of retirement age, and also due to the lower number of dependent children cared for by these couples. Among people in the labour force, employment levels were similar for those living in same-sex partnerships compared with those living in opposite-sex partnerships, 97 percent and 98 percent, respectively. There were distinct differences, however, in the highest qualification levels attained and the occupation groupings recorded among people in the two couple types.

Both males and females in same-sex partnerships were more highly educated than their counterparts in opposite-sex partnerships. More than one-third of females (34 percent) and nearly one-third of males (31 percent) in same-sex partnerships had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with just 18 and 19 percent of males and females, respectively, in opposite-sex partnerships. Correspondingly, there was a significantly lower proportion of people with no post-school qualification among those who reported living in same-sex partnerships (13 percent) compared with 22 percent for people in opposite-sex partnerships.

Figure 4



Note:

1. Percentages are based on people who stated a highest qualification gained in New Zealand, regardless of whether that qualification was gained at school or post-school
2. Secondary / vocational qualifications include Level 1-4 certificates and Level 5-6 diplomas. Figures include those who gained secondary school qualifications overseas.

Overseas data reflects New Zealand's experience

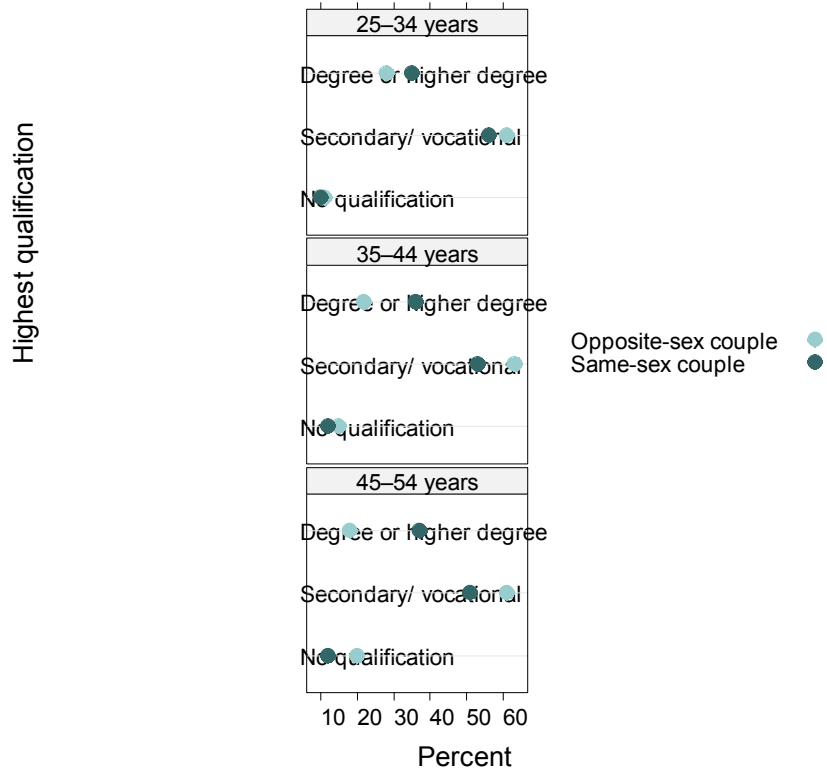
Similarly, overseas studies based on the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census have noted that females in same-sex partnerships display patterns of having higher levels of education, higher wages, and greater labour force attachment than among females in opposite-sex couples. Women, who realised early in life that they would not be forming an opposite-sex partnership, were more likely to undertake a series of career-oriented decisions such as choosing a longer tertiary education study, having continuous labour force attachment, or working longer hours, which could lead to higher market earnings than women who are expecting to live in an opposite-sex partnership (Black, Sanders and Taylor, 2007).

Results from earlier studies using a microdata sample from the 1990 U.S. Census also indicated that both male and female same-sex partners generally have achieved higher levels of education than other individuals. The higher educational attainment for same-sex partners also spanned the distribution of ages 24–34 and 35–44 years. (Black, Gates, Sanders and Taylor, 2000).

Age and qualifications

While realising that people who were recorded as living in same-sex partnerships had a younger age structure, it is important to investigate whether differences in the highest qualification level attained was age dependent. Interestingly, for each of the broad age groups of 25–34, 35–44, and 45–54 years, about 36 percent of same-sex partners had a bachelor's degree or higher. In comparison, among opposite-sex partners there were decreasing proportions who had gained a degree qualification across the age groups (28 percent of ages 25–34 years, 22 percent of ages 35–44 years, and 18 percent of ages 45–54 years).

Figure 5
Highest qualification for selected age groups and people in couples
 By type of couple
 2006 Census



Note:

1. Percentages are based on people who stated a highest qualification gained, regardless of whether that qualification was gained at school or post-school.
2. Secondary / vocational qualifications include Level 1-4 certificates and Level 5-6 diplomas. Figures include those who gained secondary school qualifications overseas.

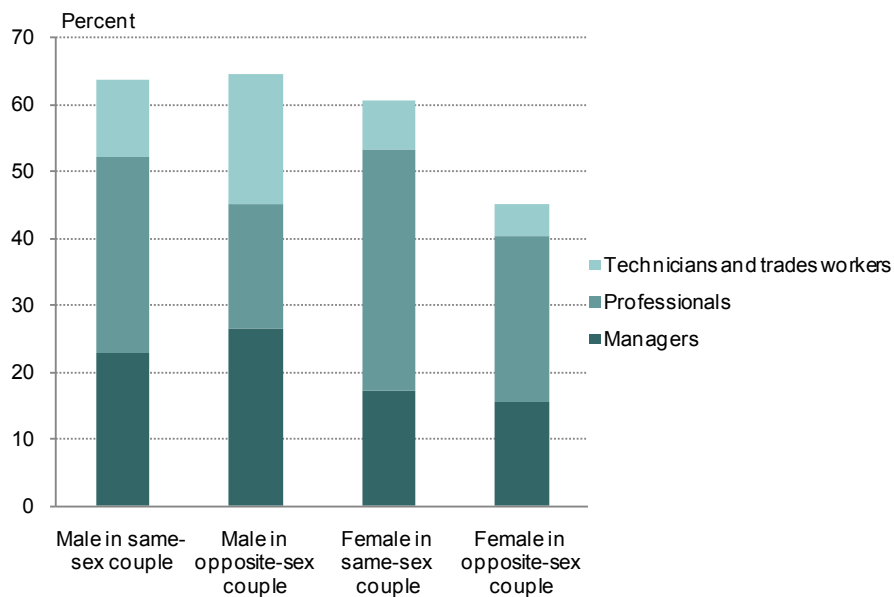
Although younger generations have gained higher levels of education overall, there is a significant and widening gap between the proportions of people who gained a degree qualification, for the two types of living arrangements across the age groups. From these findings it can be concluded that generally people in same-sex couples had a higher educational attainment than people in opposite-sex couples. However, this result might also be a reflection of more highly educated people showing willingness to report their living arrangement type than people in same-sex couples who had no qualification or below degree level. Also, since most same-sex partners were childless, fewer people in this family type will have experienced their education cut short or changed by unplanned pregnancy.

More people in same-sex relationships had higher-level occupations

The high education attainment among same-sex partners was also reflected in them being more likely to state higher level occupations. Sixty-two percent of people in same-sex partnerships were employed in occupations categorised as ‘managers’, ‘professionals’, or ‘technicians and trades workers’. This compared with 56 percent of people in opposite-sex partnerships. However this disparity was due to the much lower proportion of females in opposite-sex partnerships having one of these occupations, partly as a result of child rearing responsibilities.

Figure 6

Proportions of selected occupations for employed people in couples
By type of couple
2006 Census



Note:

1. Occupations have been categorised as per ANZSCO standard and classification.
2. Percentages are based on people who stated an occupation.
3. The remaining occupation categories community and personal service workers, clerical and administrative workers, sales workers, machinery operators and drivers or labourers have been excluded from this figure.

Both males and females living in same-sex partnerships were far more likely to be employed as ‘professionals’ than any other occupation (29 and 36 percent of males and females, respectively). Proportions of people stating professional occupations were much lower for their opposite-sex counterparts, 19 and 25 percent for males and females, respectively.

As previously mentioned, the majority of male and female same-sex partners did not have children (92 percent of males and 74 percent of females). The lack of competing family demands could also be a significant factor in explaining their high levels of education and employment attainment.

Same-sex couples recorded high earnings

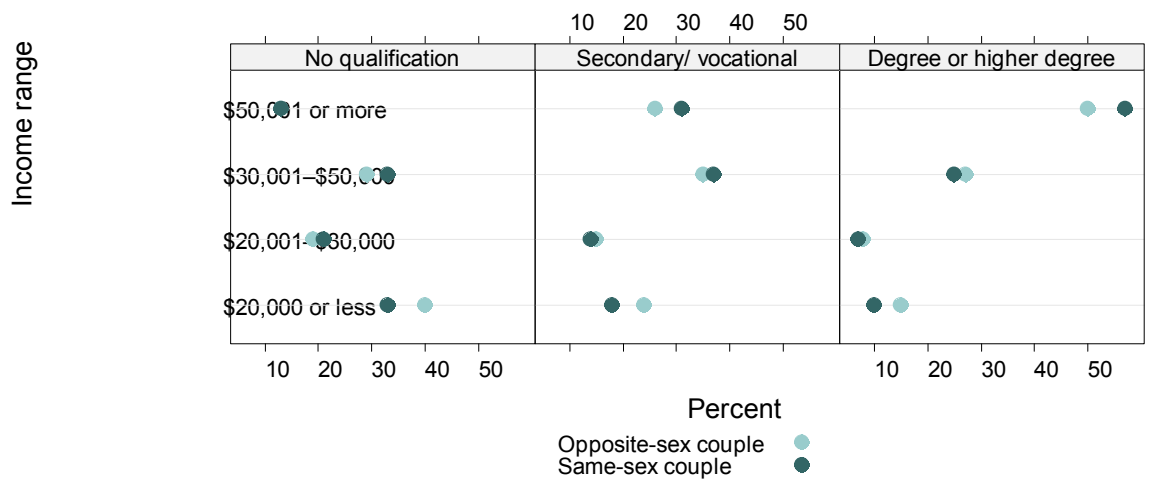
High levels of tertiary qualifications combined with employment in higher occupation groups implied a high earning capacity among people living in same-sex partnerships. As expected, higher proportions of same-sex couples recorded family incomes above \$70,000, compared with opposite-sex couples. Among couples with no children living at home, 58 percent of same-sex couples recorded incomes in this bracket at the 2006 Census. This compared with just 38 percent of opposite-sex couples without children recording incomes above \$70,000. A large proportion of people in opposite-sex partnerships who do not have children living at home have an older age structure, and accompanying health problems may subsequently affect their ability to earn.

More importantly, any realistic comparisons of personal incomes for people in opposite-sex and same-sex partnerships are based on qualification levels attained and age. In this analysis, only people in couple families without children have been included, due to the numbers of same-sex partners with children being small. For similar reasons, analysis has been generalised to include ages 25–64 years rather than several age bands. At each broad educational level (no qualification, secondary/ vocational, and degree or higher degree), people who reported to be in a same-sex partnership were more likely to have personal incomes above \$30,000 than people in opposite-sex partnerships.

Figure 7

Distribution of personal income range by highest qualification

For people aged 25-64 years in couples without children
2006 Census



Note:

1. Percentages are based on people who stated a personal income.
2. People in couples without children may have children not living at home.
3. Secondary / vocational qualifications include Level 1-4 certificates and Level 5-6 diplomas. Percentages include those who gained secondary school qualifications overseas.

The most striking difference in relative earnings appeared for people with a degree qualification. Fifty-seven percent of same-sex partners reported personal incomes above \$50,000, and this compared with 50 percent of opposite-sex partners. The proportion of people with low personal incomes (\$20,000 or less) was consistently higher among opposite-sex partners across the three levels of education groupings. For example, a third of same-sex partners with no qualification had incomes less than \$20,000. This compared with 40 percent of opposite-sex partners.

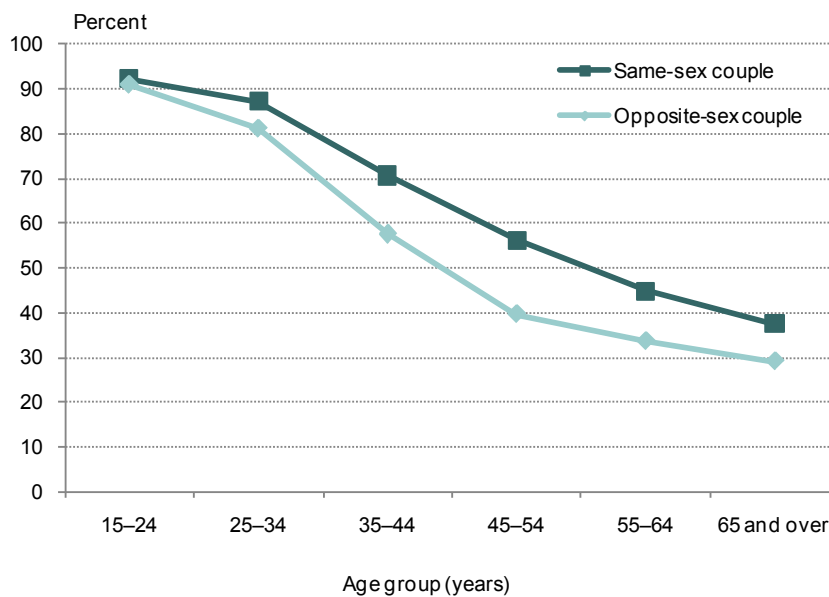
Many partners in same-sex couples had moved

People living in same-sex partnerships were more likely to have moved to a different residence during the previous five years than those living in opposite-sex partnerships. Sixty-nine percent of same-sex partners who stated a New Zealand address five years ago had moved, whereas only 50 percent of opposite-sex partners had moved during that period.

Higher levels of mobility are usually associated with lower levels of home ownership. By far the majority of people (71 percent) in opposite-sex partnerships owned or partly owned their usual residence. This was significantly lower at 51 percent for people in same-sex partnerships.

Figure 8

Proportion of people in couples living elsewhere in NZ five years ago by broad age groups
By type of couple
2006 Census



Note: Proportions are based on residents who stated a New Zealand address five years ago.

For people living in same-sex partnerships who also stated a residence in New Zealand five years earlier at the 2001 Census, there were noticeably higher proportions who were living at a different address across all 10-year age groups above 24 years, compared with people in opposite-sex partnerships. However, the difference in mobility was largest among people aged 45–54 years. Fifty-six percent of people in same-sex partnerships had moved, compared with 40 percent of people in opposite-sex partnerships.

Possible reasons for greater mobility

The higher level of mobility among people living in same-sex partnerships may partly be a result of increased formation of same-sex partnerships during the five-year intercensal period. However, other factors like mainly being childless and being urban dwellers with less likelihood of home-ownership may partly have been the cause of higher mobility among same-sex couples. There is also the possibility that same-sex partners were more likely to have moved in order to seek advancements in employment opportunities or to maintain a high professional engagement in the labour market.

Analysis of historic U.S. census data has documented characteristics of the independent life stage of young adults, which is typified by delayed union formation, post-secondary education, urban residence, high geographic mobility, and non-coresidence with parents. The significance of residential independence among young adults, and the unions which emerge from this period of independence, have also increased the chances of same-sex partnership formation. In general, same-sex couples, as well as other non-traditional partnerships, were found to be more geographically mobile and more urban than opposite-sex couples. (Rosenfield and Kim, 2005).

Conclusion

This report's analysis of the differences in demographics and other characteristics of people living in same-sex and opposite-sex partnerships has been based purely on usual residents who were identifiable as living in the same household and in same-sex or opposite-sex partnerships at the 2006 Census. From this perspective it is important to note that the results presented may be subject to a bias toward people who were prepared to declare that they lived with a same-sex partner at the 2006 Census.

Being aware of this potential under-reporting of people in same-sex partnerships and the limited size of this population group, any detailed conclusions are not possible. Consequently, results have been summarised in an attempt to answer the three research questions initially presented.

- People in same-sex partnerships are more concentrated in main urban centres, with over half living in the Auckland and Wellington main urban areas. From this perspective, people in a same-sex partnership tended to be more geographically concentrated than people in an opposite-sex partnership. In particular, nearly half of all males in same-sex partnerships had Auckland region as their residence.
- The younger age structure of people living in a same-sex partnership can by and large be explained by the type of living arrangement being more commonly accepted in more recent times and in particular among the younger cohabiting population.
- By far the majority (about four-fifths) of people in a same-sex partnership had no dependent or adult children. If people in a same-sex partnership were parents they were most likely to have one dependent child, whereas parents in an opposite-sex partnership were most likely to have at least two dependent children.
- People living in a same-sex partnership were most likely to never have married or registered a civil union (about three-quarters).

This report has examined the relatively higher family incomes that were recorded for same-sex couples compared with opposite-sex couples. The underlying factors explaining the higher earning power of people in same-sex partnerships have been summarised as follows.

- People in same-sex partnerships were more highly educated, with larger proportions having gained a bachelor's degree or higher. Despite the younger age structure of people living in same-sex partnerships, the highest qualification level attained was consistently higher for people in same-sex partnerships across each of the 10-year age groups spanning 25–54 years.
- The higher education level was also reflected in occupation groupings recorded by people in same-sex partnerships. Significantly larger proportions of employed people in same-sex partnerships recorded occupations as professionals, legislators, administrators, or managers.

- Comparing the relative personal income level for people aged 25–64 years in same-sex and opposite sex partnerships without children at three broad qualification levels (no qualification, secondary / vocational, and degree) showed that higher proportions of people in same-sex partnerships recorded incomes of at least \$50,000. Differences in the relative personal income range were particularly marked among partnered people with a degree qualification.

Many of the characteristics of people in same-sex partnerships summarised above, such as the likeliness to be childless, being employed in professional occupations with associated higher personal income, and having a younger age structure, could lead to an increased propensity to move. The higher rate of mobility across most age groups of people in same-sex partnerships between 2001 and 2006 could also indicate an increasing trend of transition to same-sex partnership while at the same time having moved to a different residence. In this context, increased mobility can also be the result of transitions from being single to living in a same-sex partnership and transitions from living in an opposite-sex partnership to a same-sex partnership between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses.

Technical notes

Definitions

Family

It is important to distinguish between the concepts of family and household. A family (or family nucleus) is defined as a couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent and their child(ren), all of whom have usual residence together in the same household. Note that only 'children in a family nucleus' are counted as children. To be a 'child in a family nucleus' a person must have usual residence with at least one parent, and have no partner or child(ren) of their own living in the same household. Children in a family nucleus can be a person of any age.

Household

A household is defined as one person who usually resides alone or two or more people who usually reside together and share facilities (such as eating facilities, cooking facilities, bathroom and toilet facilities, a living area) in a private dwelling. A household can contain one or more families, or can contain no families at all. A household that does not contain a family nucleus could contain unrelated people, related people, or could simply be a person living alone.

Family type

During census processing, the people in each private dwelling (including absentees) have codes allocated to them that indicate who they live with and their roles within families (eg partner, parent, child). This is called family coding and it uses information from relationship to reference person (question 6 and 21 on the 2006 Census Dwelling Form) which is supplemented (where relevant) by the living arrangements information (question 19 on the 2006 Census Individual Form). Usual residence indicator, age and sex are also used in the family coding process. Family type is a derived variable that uses family coding to identify family nuclei within households and determines the family type of each family nucleus according to the presence or absence of couples, parents, and children.

Type of couple

Type of couple is a derived variable that uses family type and family coding to identify couples in each household. Couples are classified as opposite-sex or same-sex (male or female). In this report, couple families refer to couples with or without children.

2006 Census data for people in couple families

Tables presented in this report (see appendix 1) include aggregations of variable categories for types of couples at a level that is ensuring acceptable data quality. The data presented in Tables 1–16 is fit for use, but caution is advised when undertaking detailed analysis. For this reason, detailed analysis of people in same-sex couples has

not been undertaken. This is due to quality issues associated with numbers being small, and the information provided by respondents that was used to derive this data was not always consistent or correct.

Comparability with 1996 and 2001 Census data

In this report, comparisons of statistics about people in couple families at the 2006 Census with other census years have not been carried out. Due to the low number of people recorded as living in same-sex couples, combined with data quality issues, it is not possible to detect any real trend in the formation of same-sex couples.

Additionally, the number of people in same-sex couples recorded at census only included those who were prepared to identify themselves as living in this family type. The trend in self identification of partnership living arrangements may have changed with time so that recent census records of same-sex couples might represent a more true record of actual numbers. From this point of view, comparisons with statistics of people in same-sex couples with earlier census years are of limited value.

Caution in use of small numbers

Caution is needed when presenting analysis based on small numbers in comparison with equivalent classification groupings that have large numbers. Results from analysis based on small numbers may not be as reliable as those produced from analysis based on higher numbers, as there is less data on which to base the calculation. Consequently, results included in this report are often based on collapsed variable categories from associated tables (see appendix 1).

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Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1
Region of residence for people in couples
 By type of couple
 2006 Census

Region	People ⁽¹⁾ in type of couple			Total
	Opposite-sex couple	Male couple	Female couple	
Auckland	543,816	2,466	2,343	548,625
Wellington	191,754	909	1,275	193,941
Rest of North Island	558,939	1,077	1,971	561,987
Canterbury	238,035	585	870	239,487
Rest of South Island	202,563	273	573	203,409
New Zealand ⁽²⁾	1,735,395	5,310	7,032	1,747,737

1. Includes absentees.

2. Includes area outside regional council.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 2
Urban/ rural area for people in couples
 By type of couple
 2006 Census

Urban/ rural area	People ⁽¹⁾ in type of couple			Total
	Opposite-sex couple	Male couple	Female couple	
Main urban	1,182,423	4,242	5,220	1,191,888
Secondary urban	106,716	96	219	107,031
Minor urban	138,297	228	456	138,984
Rural centre and other rural ⁽²⁾	271,755	486	816	273,057
New Zealand	1,699,194	5,052	6,711	1,710,957

1. Excludes absentees.

2. Includes inland water, inlet and oceanic areas.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 3
Age groups of people in couples
 By type of couple and sex
 2006 Census

Age group (years)	People ⁽¹⁾ in type of couple and sex					People in couples		
	Male in opposite-sex couple	Female in opposite-sex couple	Opposite-sex couples	Male in same-sex couple	Female in same-sex couple	Male	Female	Total
15–19	4,134	8,619	12,750	90	189	4,221	8,805	13,029
20–24	28,293	40,470	68,763	477	555	28,770	41,025	69,795
25–29	53,061	65,829	118,890	585	720	53,646	66,549	120,195
30–34	81,435	93,981	175,416	636	825	82,071	94,806	176,877
35–39	97,815	107,781	205,596	816	957	98,631	108,738	207,369
40–44	107,283	111,264	218,547	852	1,110	108,135	112,374	220,509
45–49	103,560	102,825	206,385	636	966	104,199	103,791	207,990
50–54	91,695	87,747	179,442	456	774	92,151	88,521	180,672
55–59	86,205	79,878	166,083	360	513	86,565	80,391	166,956
60–64	65,997	58,584	124,581	180	213	66,177	58,797	124,974
65+	148,218	110,715	258,930	222	213	148,437	110,928	259,365
Total	867,696	867,690	1,735,386	5,310	7,032	873,006	874,722	1,747,728

1. Includes absentees.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 4
Legal marital status for people in couples
 By type of couple and sex
 2006 Census

Legal marital status	People ⁽¹⁾ in type of couple and sex					People in couples		
	Male in opposite-sex couple	Female in opposite-sex couple	Opposite-sex couples	Male in same-sex couple	Female in same-sex couple	Male	Female	Total
Never married and never joined in a civil union ⁽²⁾	116,436	119,301	235,737	3,723	4,311	120,159	123,612	243,771
Married (not separated) ⁽³⁾	654,669	663,528	1,318,197	246	339	654,915	663,867	1,318,785
Separated/divorced/widowed or bereaved civil union partner ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	49,134	50,103	99,237	591	1,410	49,725	51,513	101,238
Not elsewhere included ⁽⁶⁾	24,822	21,195	46,017	489	651	25,311	21,846	47,157
Total	845,064	854,130	1,699,188	5,052	6,711	850,116	860,841	1,710,951

1. Excludes absentees.

2. Information on civil unions was first collected in the 2006 Census.

3. Status of the individual and not necessary the person they are currently in a couple with.

4. Separated people include people who are still legally married but permanently separated. This also applies to civil unions.

5. Divorced people may include civil unions attained overseas that are now dissolved.

6. Includes response unidentifiable, not stated and joined in a civil union (not separated). Additional metadata on legal marital status is available on the Statistics New Zealand website under 'Census/2006 Census Information About Data/Information by Variable'.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 5
Number of dependent children for people in couples with children
 By type of couple
 2006 Census

Number of dependent children ⁽¹⁾	People ⁽²⁾ in type of couple			People in couples
	Opposite-sex couple	Male in same-sex couple	Female in same-sex couple	
No dependent children	149,787	123	273	150,183
One dependent child	268,350	183	858	269,394
Two or more dependent children	464,055	165	735	464,955
Number of dependent children unknown	11,193	21	42	11,256
Total	893,385	492	1,911	895,788

1. A dependent child is a child in a family aged under 18 years and not in full-time employment.
2. Includes absentees.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 6
Ethnicity of people in couples
 By type of couple and sex
 2006 Census

Ethnicity ⁽¹⁾	People ⁽²⁾ in type of couple and sex					People in couples		
	Male in opposite-sex couple	Female in opposite-sex couple	Opposite-sex couples	Male in same-sex couple	Female in same-sex couple	Male	Female	Total
European	572,304	592,878	1,165,179	3,474	4,659	575,775	597,537	1,173,312
Māori	75,783	79,083	154,866	552	1,305	76,335	80,388	156,723
Pacific Peoples	38,847	37,128	75,975	174	276	39,021	37,404	76,425
Asian	69,795	81,357	151,152	507	294	70,302	81,651	151,953
MELAA and other ethnicity ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	126,075	111,930	238,008	648	726	126,723	112,656	239,379
Not else here included ⁽⁵⁾	9,780	7,725	17,505	96	174	9,876	7,899	17,775
People	845,064	854,130	1,699,194	5,052	6,711	850,116	860,841	1,710,957

1. Includes all of the people who stated each ethnic group, whether as their only ethnic group or as one of several ethnic groups. Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, they have been counted in each applicable group.
2. Excludes absentees.
3. MELAA includes people of Middle Eastern, Latin American or African ethnicities.
4. Other Ethnicity includes responses for a number of small ethnic groups and for 'New Zealander'. For 2006, 'New Zealander' responses made the largest contribution towards the Other Ethnicity category.
5. Includes don't know, refused to answer, response unidentifiable, response outside scope, and not stated.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 7
Highest qualification for people in couples
 By type of couple and sex
 2006 Census

Highest qualification ⁽¹⁾	People ⁽²⁾ in type of couple and sex					People in couples		
	Male in opposite-sex couple	Female in opposite-sex couple	Opposite-sex couples	Male in same-sex couple	Female in same-sex	Male	Female	Total
No qualification	182,949	174,408	357,357	615	828	183,564	175,236	358,800
Level 1 certificate	85,986	121,641	207,627	417	621	86,403	122,262	208,665
Level 2 certificate	68,394	89,901	158,295	489	627	68,883	90,525	159,408
Level 3 certificate	47,385	53,019	100,404	510	507	47,895	53,526	101,421
Level 4 certificate	142,512	52,977	195,492	450	423	142,962	53,400	196,362
Level 5 diploma	40,857	31,404	72,261	237	312	41,094	31,716	72,810
Level 6 diploma	35,682	69,852	105,534	261	600	35,943	70,452	106,395
Bachelor degree and level 7 qualification	95,280	108,285	203,565	909	1,242	96,189	109,530	205,719
Post-graduate and honours degrees	16,671	20,172	36,843	210	357	16,881	20,529	37,410
Masters degree	22,854	18,303	41,154	285	429	23,136	18,729	41,868
Doctorate degree	8,931	3,516	12,447	93	123	9,024	3,639	12,663
Overseas secondary school qualification	48,897	63,135	112,032	366	282	49,263	63,417	112,683
Not elsewhere included ⁽³⁾	48,663	47,511	96,174	213	360	48,879	47,871	96,747
Total	845,061	854,127	1,699,188	5,052	6,711	850,113	860,838	1,710,951

1. The data in this table show s highest level of qualification gained, regardless of w hether that qualification w as gained at school or post-school.
2. Excludes absentees.
3. Includes response unidentifiable and not stated.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 8
Highest qualification for selected age groups and people in couples
 By type of couple
 2006 Census

Age group (years)	Highest qualification ⁽¹⁾	People ⁽²⁾ in type of couple		People in couples
		Opposite-sex couple	Same-sex couple	
25–34	No qualification	30,894	249	31,143
	Secondary / vocational ⁽³⁾	171,258	1,428	172,686
	Degree or higher degree	77,469	885	78,354
	Not elsew here included ⁽⁴⁾	10,050	105	10,155
	Total	289,668	2,670	292,338
35–44	No qualification	60,921	405	61,326
	Secondary / vocational ⁽³⁾	251,730	1,812	253,542
	Degree or higher degree	87,423	1,227	88,650
	Not elsew here included ⁽⁴⁾	15,210	138	15,348
	Total	415,281	3,582	418,866
45–54	No qualification	73,578	312	73,893
	Secondary / vocational ⁽³⁾	220,029	1,314	221,346
	Degree or higher degree	65,649	936	66,585
	Not elsew here included ⁽⁴⁾	15,960	123	16,080
	Total	375,216	2,685	377,904

1. The data in this table show s highest level of qualification gained, regardless of w hether that qualification w as gained at school or post-school.

2. Excludes absentees.

3. Secondary / vocational qualifications include Level 1-4 certificates and Level 5-6 diplomas. Figures include those w ho gained secondary school qualifications overseas.

4. Includes response unidentifiable and not stated.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 9
Work and labour force status for people in couples
 By type of couple and sex
 2006 Census

Work and labour force status	People ⁽¹⁾ in type of couple and sex					People in couples		
	Male in opposite-sex couple	Female in opposite-sex couple	Opposite-sex couples	Male in same-sex couple	Female in same-sex couple	Male	Female	Total
Employed full-time	607,995	375,384	983,382	3,720	4,656	611,718	380,043	991,758
Employed part-time	55,032	196,419	251,451	432	870	55,464	197,286	252,750
Unemployed	13,464	17,202	30,666	153	195	13,617	17,400	31,014
Not in the labour force	165,051	262,248	427,299	687	867	165,738	263,115	428,853
Work and labour force status unidentifiable	3,522	2,871	6,393	57	123	3,579	2,994	6,573
Total	845,061	854,127	1,699,188	5,052	6,711	850,113	860,838	1,710,951

1. Excludes absentees.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 10
Occupation for employed people in couples
 By type of couple and sex
 2006 Census

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	People ⁽²⁾ in type of couple and sex					People in couples		
	Male in opposite-sex couple	Female in opposite-sex couple	Opposite-sex couples	Male in same-sex couple	Female in same-sex couple	Male	Female	Total
Managers	168,513	85,005	253,515	918	912	169,428	85,917	255,345
Professionals	117,450	135,012	252,462	1,164	1,920	118,614	136,932	255,543
Technicians and trades workers	121,869	27,405	149,274	462	402	122,331	27,807	150,138
Community and personal service workers	25,071	57,522	82,590	309	495	25,377	58,017	83,394
Clerical and administrative workers	32,760	128,232	160,992	381	669	33,141	128,901	162,039
Sales workers	39,072	55,638	94,710	414	390	39,486	56,028	95,511
Machinery operators and drivers	60,192	11,520	71,715	123	153	60,318	11,676	71,991
Labourers	67,722	46,413	114,135	228	381	67,950	46,797	114,747
Residual categories ⁽³⁾	26,388	22,182	48,570	126	180	26,514	22,362	48,876
Total	659,037	568,929	1,227,966	4,122	5,502	663,159	574,434	1,237,590

1. Occupations have been categorised as per ANZSCO standard and classification.

2. Excludes absentees.

3. Includes response unidentifiable and not stated.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 11
Family type and grouped family income for couple families
 By type of couple
 2006 Census

Family type and grouped family income ⁽¹⁾	Type of couple		All couples
	Opposite-sex couple	Same-sex couple	
Couple without children			
\$30,000 or less	88,803	417	89,220
\$30,001–\$50,000	77,076	636	77,709
\$50,001–\$70,000	71,595	792	72,387
\$70,001–\$100,000	70,179	996	71,175
\$100,001 or more	73,770	1,578	75,345
Not stated ⁽²⁾	39,585	552	40,137
Total	421,002	4,971	425,973
Couple with children			
\$30,000 or less	29,661	78	29,736
\$30,001–\$50,000	61,908	120	62,028
\$50,001–\$70,000	80,145	177	80,322
\$70,001–\$100,000	88,449	204	88,656
\$100,001 or more	116,478	264	116,742
Not stated ⁽²⁾	70,050	354	70,407
Total	446,694	1,200	447,894
Couple families⁽³⁾			
\$30,000 or less	118,461	495	118,956
\$30,001–\$50,000	138,984	756	139,743
\$50,001–\$70,000	151,740	972	152,712
\$70,001–\$100,000	158,628	1,200	159,828
\$100,001 or more	190,245	1,842	192,087
Not stated ⁽²⁾	109,638	906	110,544
Total	867,696	6,171	873,867

1. Family income is derived by aggregating the total personal income of all members of the family nucleus who are aged 15 years and over.

2. Not stated refers to the instances where one or more family members aged 15 years and over were temporarily absent from the dwelling or did not state their income, and the family income was not already in the highest income category.

3. Couple families include 'couples without children' and 'couples with child(ren)'.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 12

Highest qualification and personal income range by type of couple

For people aged 25–64 years in couples without children

2006 Census

Highest qualification ⁽¹⁾	Personal income range	People ⁽²⁾ in type of couple		People in couples without children
		Opposite-sex couple	Same-sex couple	
No qualification	\$20,000 or less	44,973	252	45,225
	\$20,001–\$30,000	21,642	156	21,801
	\$30,001–\$50,000	32,394	249	32,643
	\$50,001 or more	14,385	96	14,484
	Not stated	5,334	39	5,370
	Total	118,728	795	119,523
Secondary / vocational ⁽³⁾	\$20,000 or less	67,065	717	67,782
	\$20,001–\$30,000	42,231	582	42,813
	\$30,001–\$50,000	100,728	1,506	102,237
	\$50,001 or more	74,658	1,269	75,927
	Not stated	7,128	54	7,182
	Total	291,810	4,131	295,941
Degree or higher degree	\$20,000 or less	14,457	285	14,742
	\$20,001–\$30,000	8,097	210	8,307
	\$30,001–\$50,000	27,072	723	27,795
	\$50,001 or more	49,635	1,632	51,264
	Not stated	1,014	21	1,032
	Total	100,272	2,868	103,143
All qualifications ⁽⁴⁾	\$20,000 or less	133,956	1,302	135,258
	\$20,001–\$30,000	75,366	984	76,347
	\$30,001–\$50,000	164,976	2,520	167,493
	\$50,001 or more	140,706	3,012	143,718
	Not stated	20,208	225	20,436
	Total	535,212	8,040	543,252

1. The data in this table show s highest level of qualification gained, regardless of w hether that qualification w as gained at school or post-school.

2. Excludes absentees.

3. Secondary / vocational qualifications include level 1-4 certificates and level 5-6 diplomas. Figures include those w ho gained secondary school qualifications overseas.

4. Includes response unidentifiable and not stated.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 13
Household composition for couple families ⁽¹⁾
 By type of couple
 2006 Census

Household composition ⁽²⁾	Type of couple			Couples
	Opposite-sex couple	Male couple	Female couple	
One-family household (w ith or w ithout other people)	812,895	2,457	3,219	818,571
Tw o- or more family household (w ith or w ithout other people)	54,804	198	297	55,296
Total	867,696	2,655	3,516	873,870

1. Couple families include 'couples w ithout children' and 'couples w ith child(ren)'.
2. Note only household composition categories that apply to couple families have been included.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 14
Tenure holder for people in couples
 By type of couple and sex
 2006 Census

Tenure holder	People ⁽¹⁾ in type of couple and sex					People in couples		
	Male in opposite-sex couple	Female in opposite-sex couple	Opposite-sex couples	Male in same-sex couple	Female in same-sex couple	Male	Female	Total
Ow n or partly ow n usual residence	593,250	589,713	1,182,963	2,496	3,372	595,749	593,085	1,188,831
Do not ow n usual residence	234,981	247,212	482,196	2,424	3,126	237,408	250,335	487,743
Not elsew here included ⁽²⁾	16,827	17,202	34,029	132	213	16,959	17,415	34,377
Total	845,061	854,127	1,699,188	5,052	6,711	850,113	860,838	1,710,951

1. Excludes absentees.
2. Includes response unidentifiable and not stated.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 15
Usual residence five years ago for people in couples
 By type of couple
 2006 Census

Usual residence five years ago indicator	People ⁽²⁾ in type of couple			People in couples
	Opposite-sex couple	Male couple	Female couple	
Same as usual residence	749,139	1,275	1,776	752,190
Elsewhere in New Zealand	742,101	2,763	3,990	748,854
Overseas	165,759	906	816	167,481
Other ⁽¹⁾	42,195	111	129	42,432
Total	1,699,194	5,052	6,711	1,710,957

1. Includes residents who had no fixed abode or did not state a usual residence five years ago.

2. Excludes absentees.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Table 16
Usual residence five years ago for people in couples
 By type of couple and age group
 2006 Census

Usual residence five years ago indicator ⁽¹⁾	Age group (years)	People ⁽²⁾ in type of couple		People in couples
		Opposite-sex couple	Same-sex couple	
Same as usual residence	15–24	6,102	75	6,180
Elsew here in New Zealand	15–24	62,157	930	63,087
Same as usual residence	25–34	42,168	255	42,423
Elsew here in New Zealand	25–34	182,451	1,779	184,230
Same as usual residence	35–44	150,084	879	150,960
Elsew here in New Zealand	35–44	203,007	2,106	205,116
Same as usual residence	45–54	206,016	1,029	207,045
Elsew here in New Zealand	45–54	135,753	1,323	137,076
Same as usual residence	55–64	175,428	591	176,022
Elsew here in New Zealand	55–64	89,046	480	89,526
Same as usual residence	65 and over	169,341	219	169,560
Elsew here in New Zealand	65 and over	69,684	132	69,816
Same as usual residence	All ages	749,136	3,051	752,187
Elsew here in New Zealand	All ages	742,098	6,753	748,851

1. Excludes categories: not born five years ago, overseas, no fixed abode five years ago, and not stated.

2. Excludes absentees.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Source: Statistics New Zealand