

Population aging and diversity

Robert Didham

Population Insights, Stats NZ

PANZ Conference, 20-21 June, 2019



The context – defining aging in a diverse world

Many people mean many things: Annamaria Berea (2017): the role of communication is central – the distinction between noise and meaningfulness requires the ability to assign a set of values to information – in the present case the set of values we call “age” and its derivatives are both context sensitive and context bound.

Patterns lose people: Friedrich Hayek (1948): individualism and economic order – order is spontaneous – emergence of coherence through the independent action of a large number of individuals, but the penalty is that diversity can become invisible

Not new: Davey and Glasgow (2006): underlying the concept of ageing are concepts of ‘healthy’, ‘successful’, ‘positive’, ‘active’ and ‘productive’

What everyone agrees upon: Daatland and Biggs (2006): there are more older people than ever before and this will be a more diversity population

Median ages continuing to rise

Population projections show median age will continue rise. Using the medium series of projections we see that:

- Half the female population will be aged over
 - 35 years by 2001
 - 40 years by 2028
 - and 45 by 2048
- Male population ageing more slowly – half will be aged over
 - 35 by 2006
 - 40 by 2038
 - and 45 not until 2068

People aged 65 and over fastest growing age group

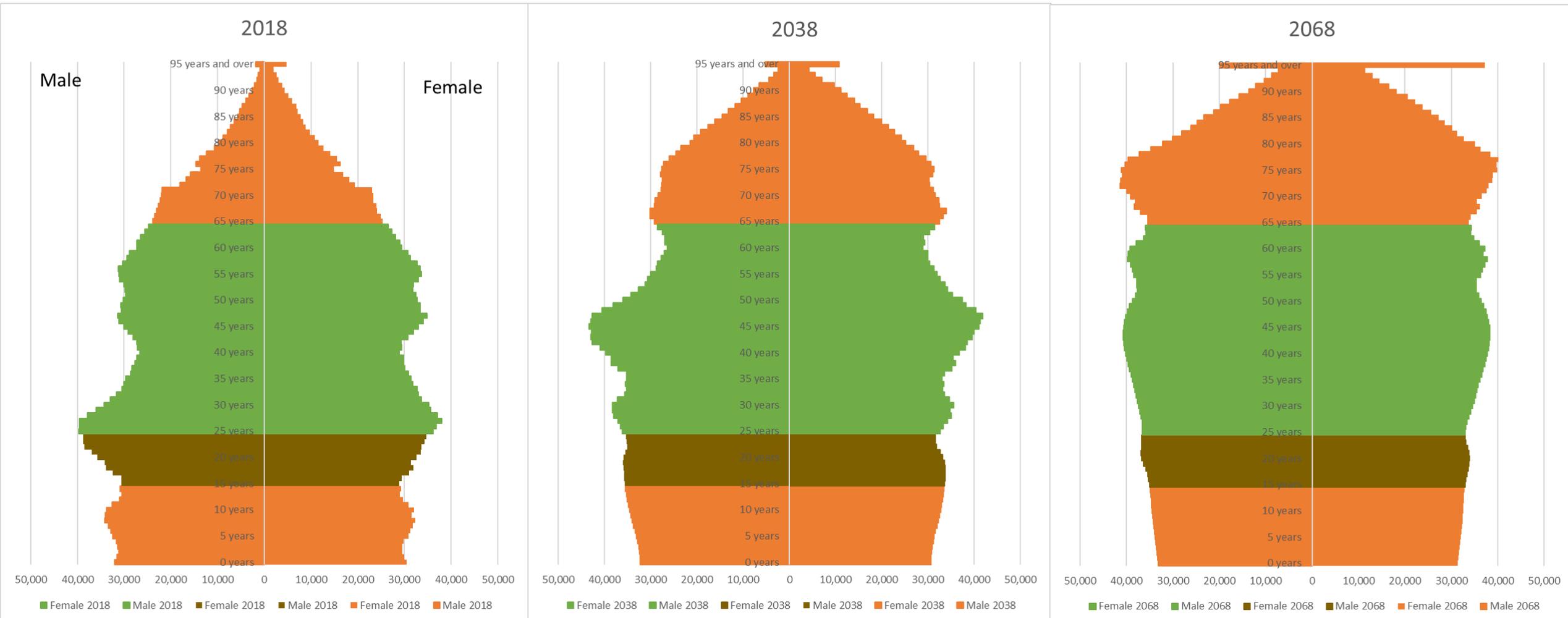
In terms of population size - using the same projections:

- Female population aged 65 years and over
 - In 2018 = 399,300
 - In 2048 = 773,200
 - In 2068 = 947,100
- Male population aged 65 years and over
 - In 2018 = 348,500
 - In 2048 = 652,500
 - In 2068 = 890,900

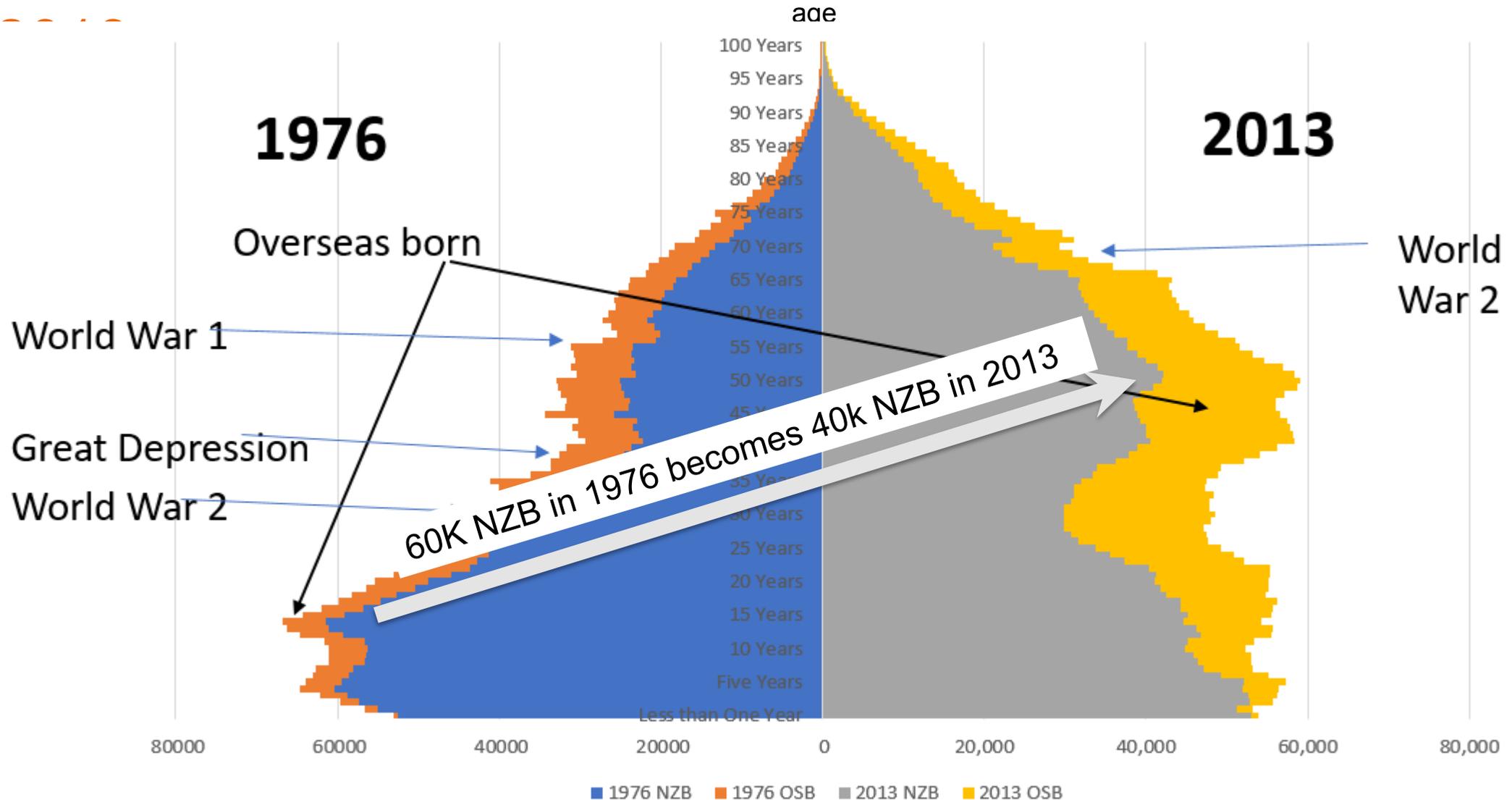
Total projected population for these years: 2018 = 4,864,600, 2048 = 6,060,500, 2068 = 6,515,800

Population growth and change

National population projections, medium series, 2018, 2038 and 2068



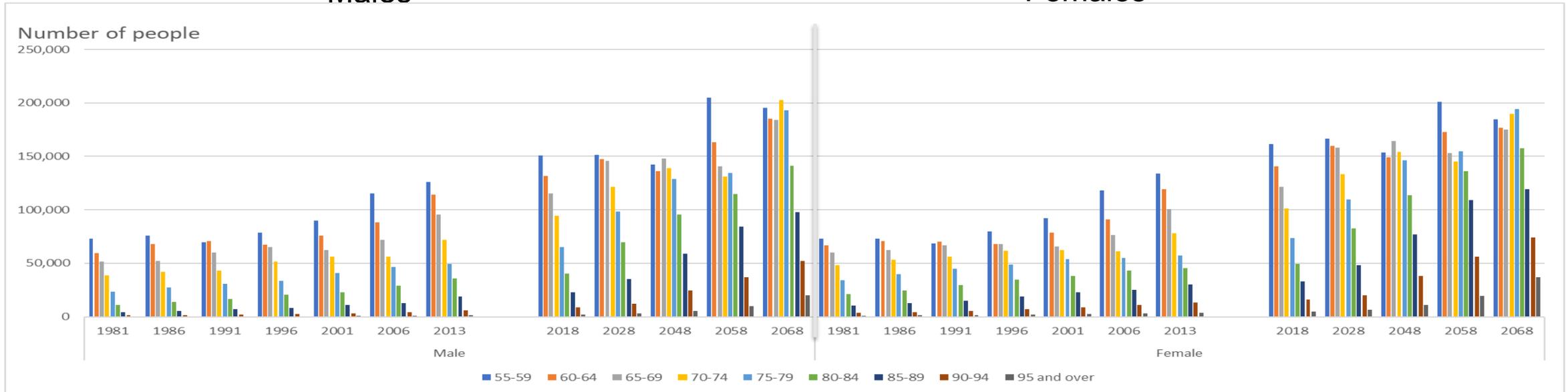
As an illustration of the last point: NZ born versus OS born 1976 and 2013



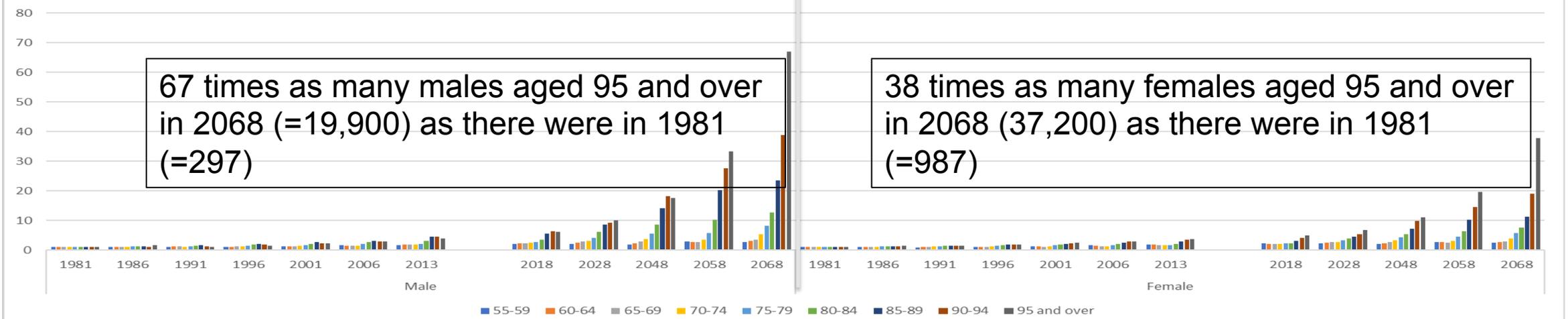
Growth 1981-2068, numbers and magnitude of change

Males

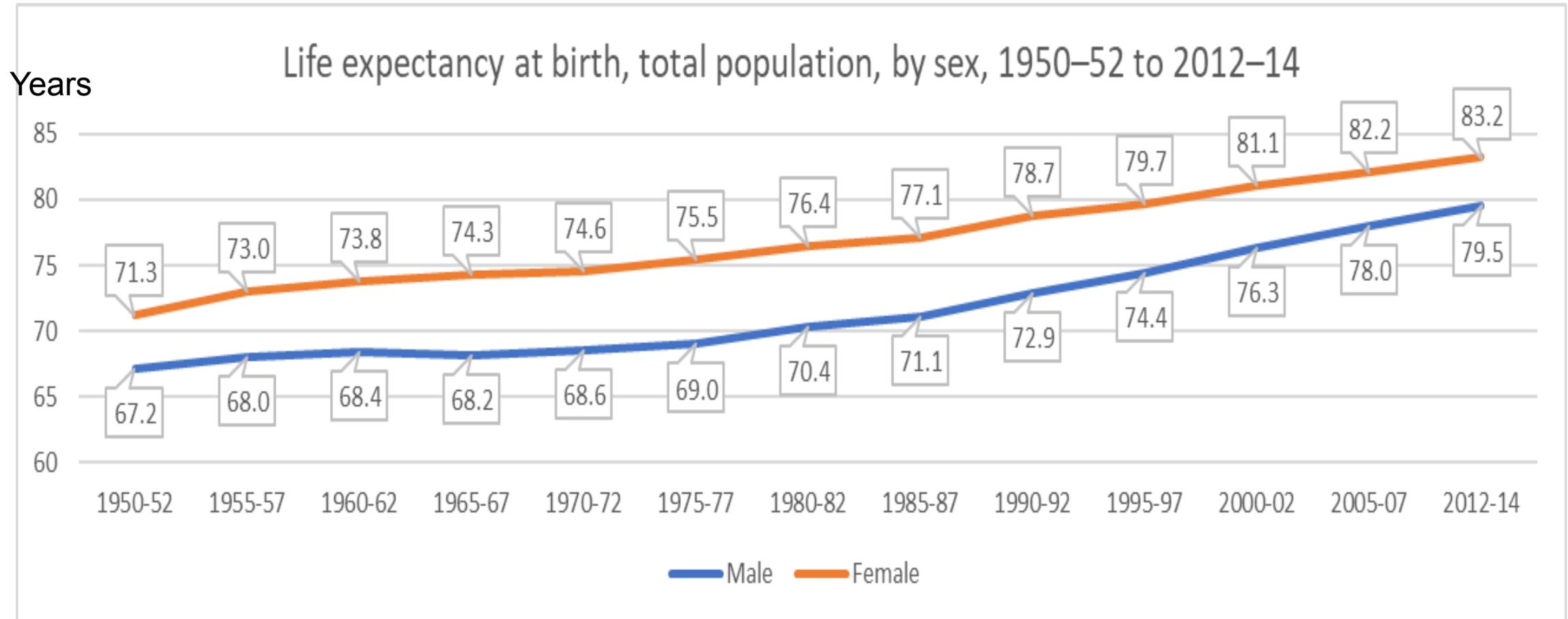
Females



Growth indexed to 1981

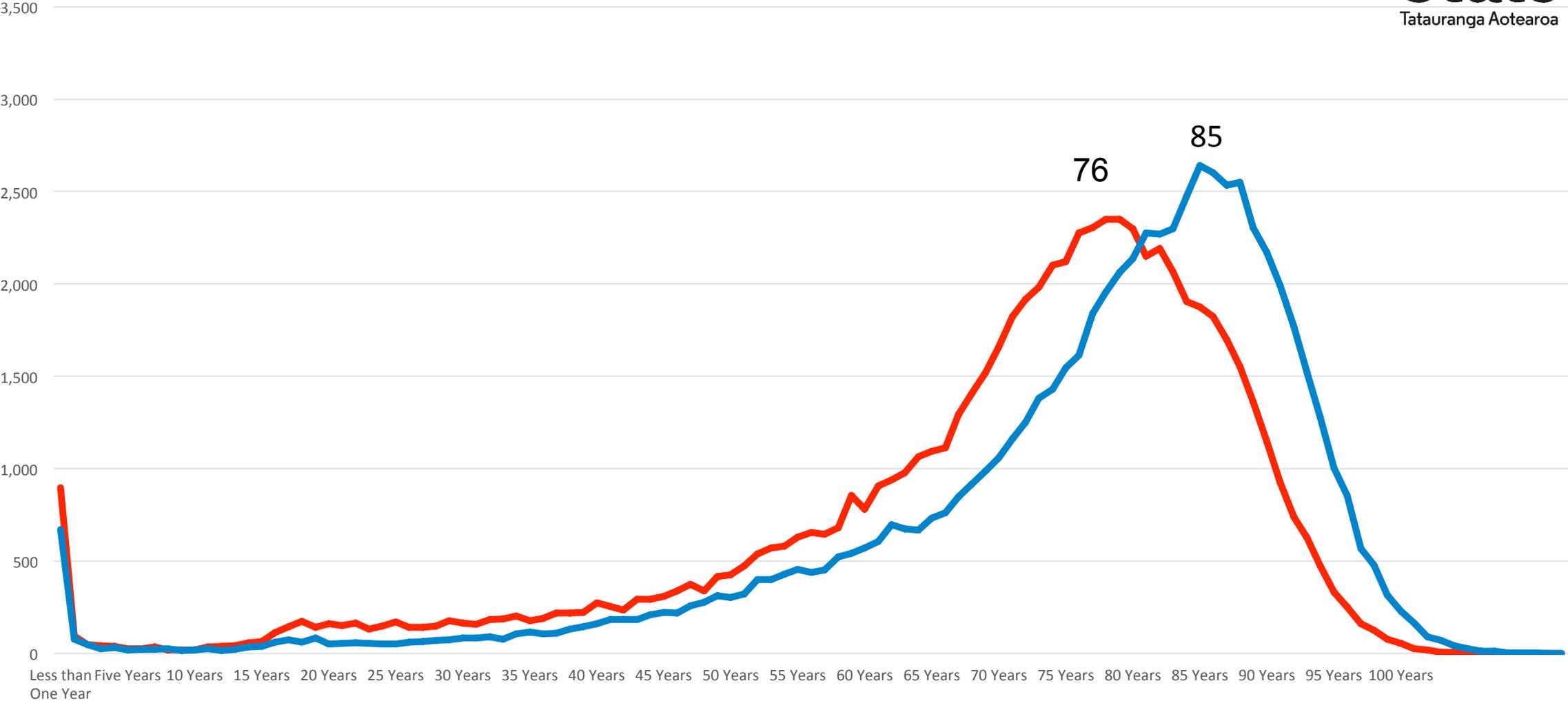


Life expectancy continues to increase



Modal age at death: 1999-2003

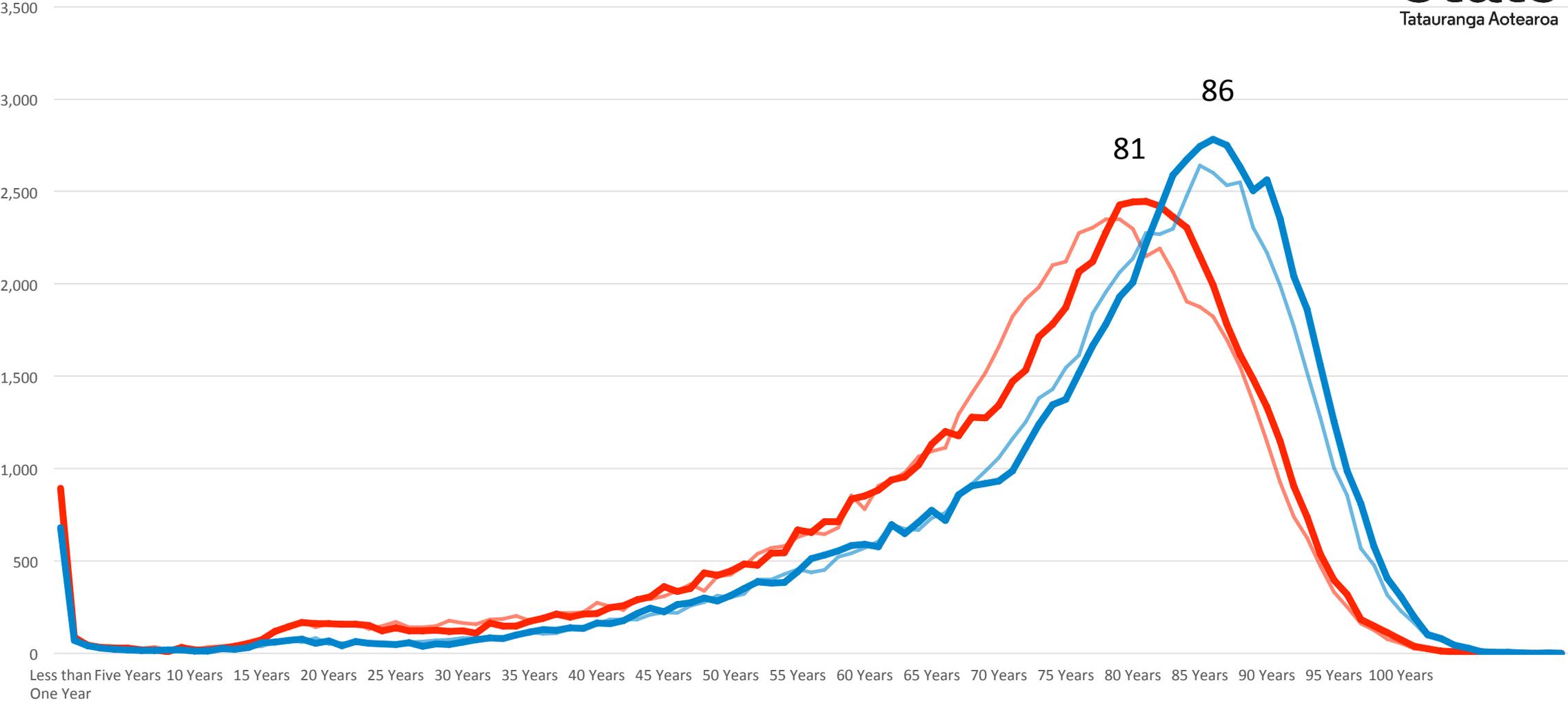
Number of people



Male Female

Modal age at death: 2004-2008

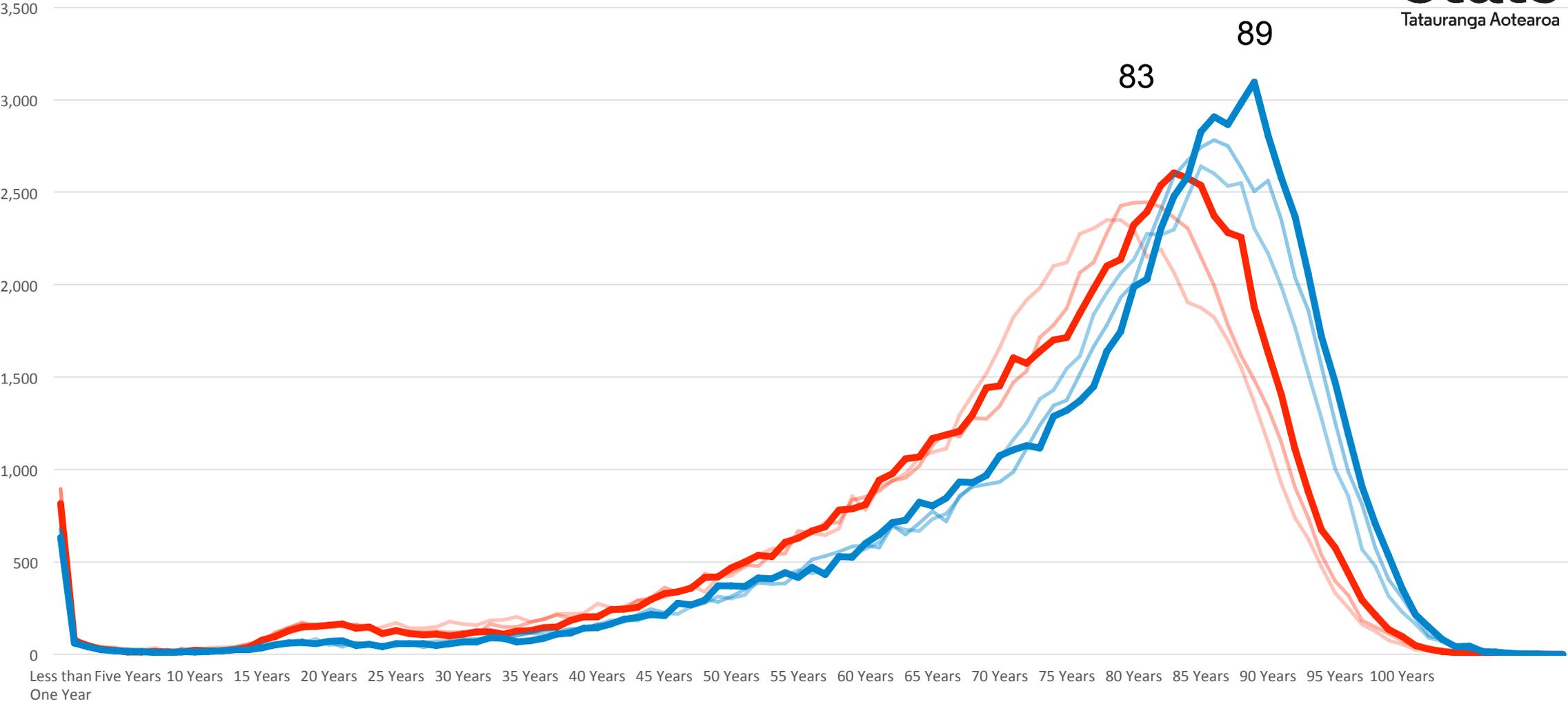
Number of people



Male Male Female Female

Modal age at death: 2009-2013

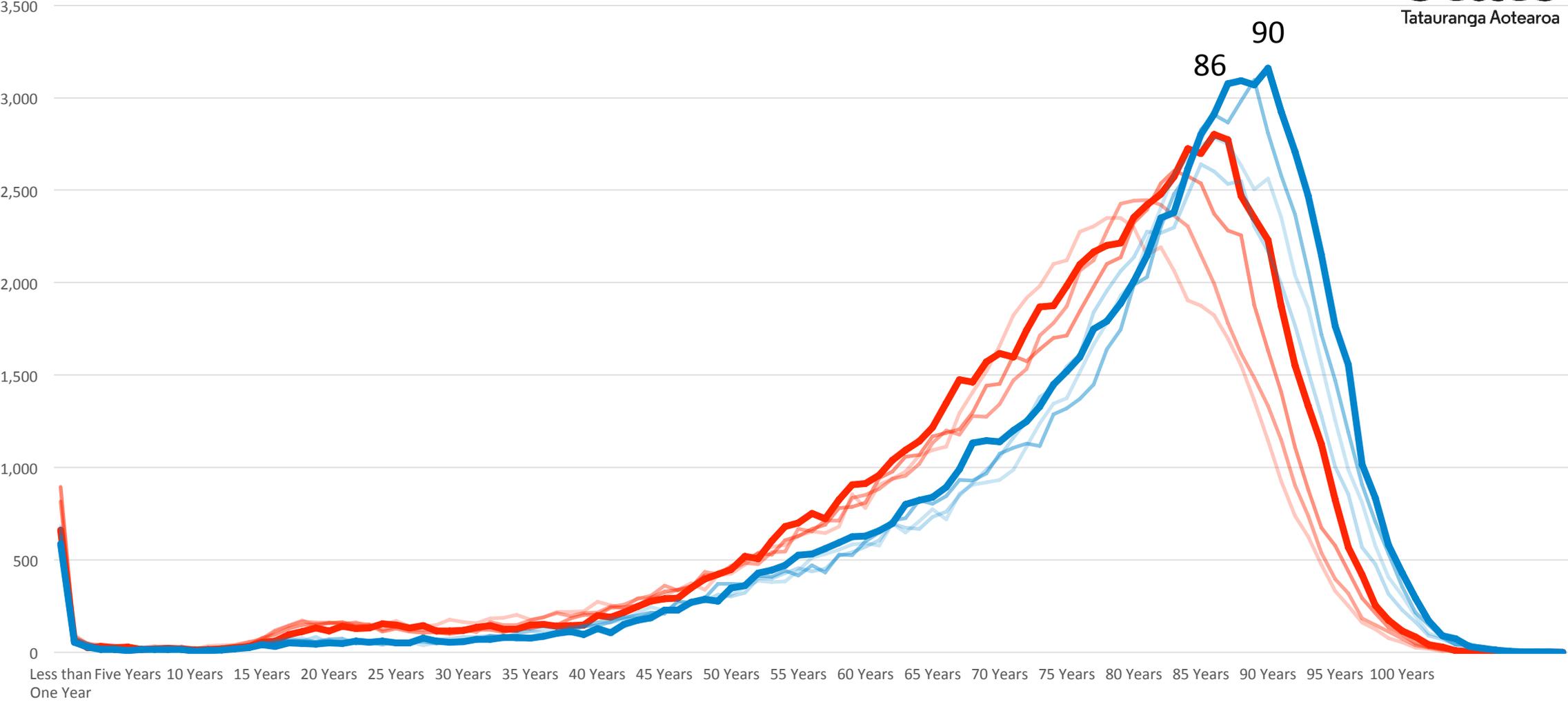
Number of people



Male Male Male Female Female Female

Modal age at death: 2014-2018

Number of people

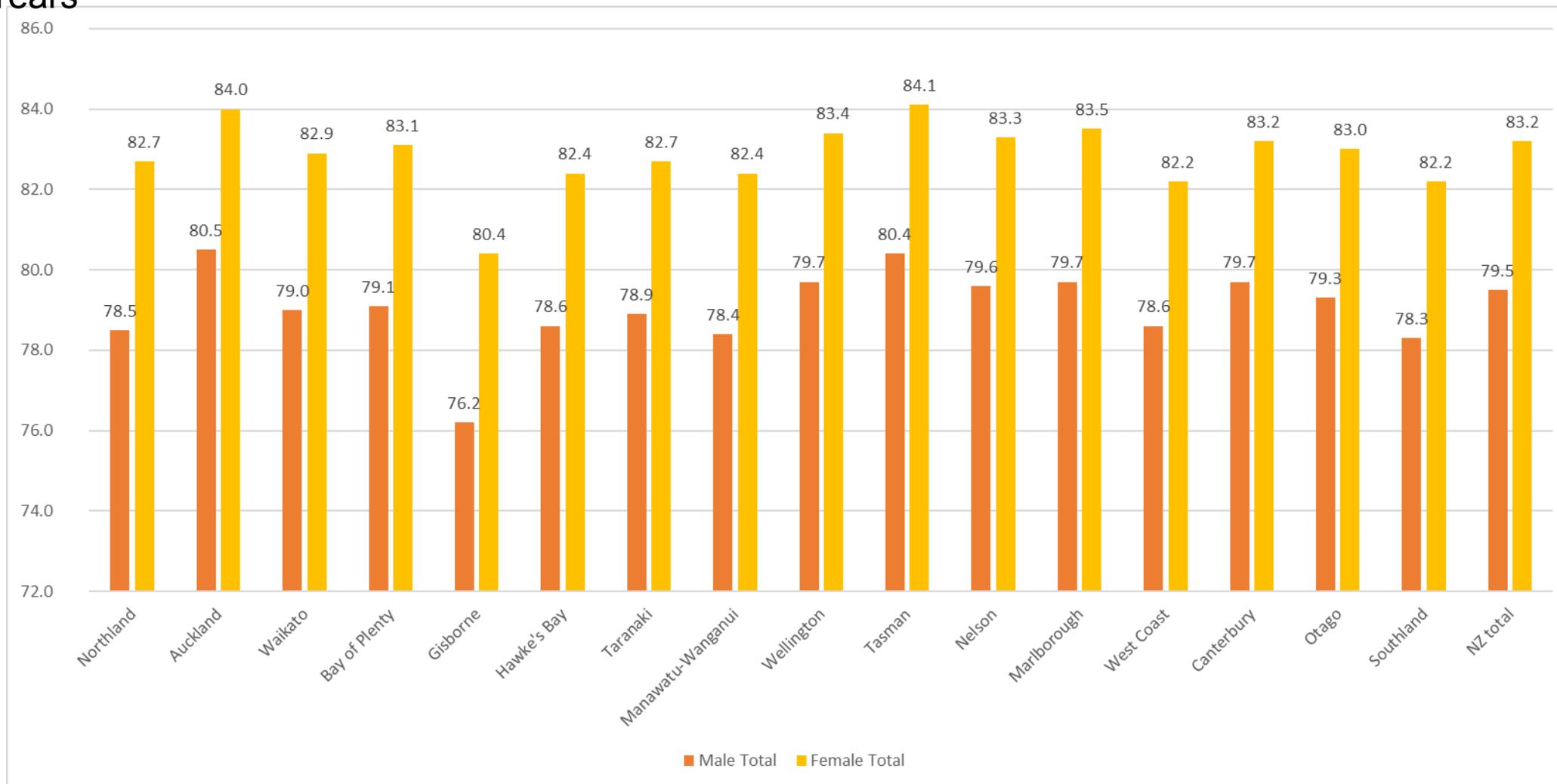


Male Male Male Male Female Female Female Female

Geographic diversity

Median Life Expectancy at Birth (2012-2014)

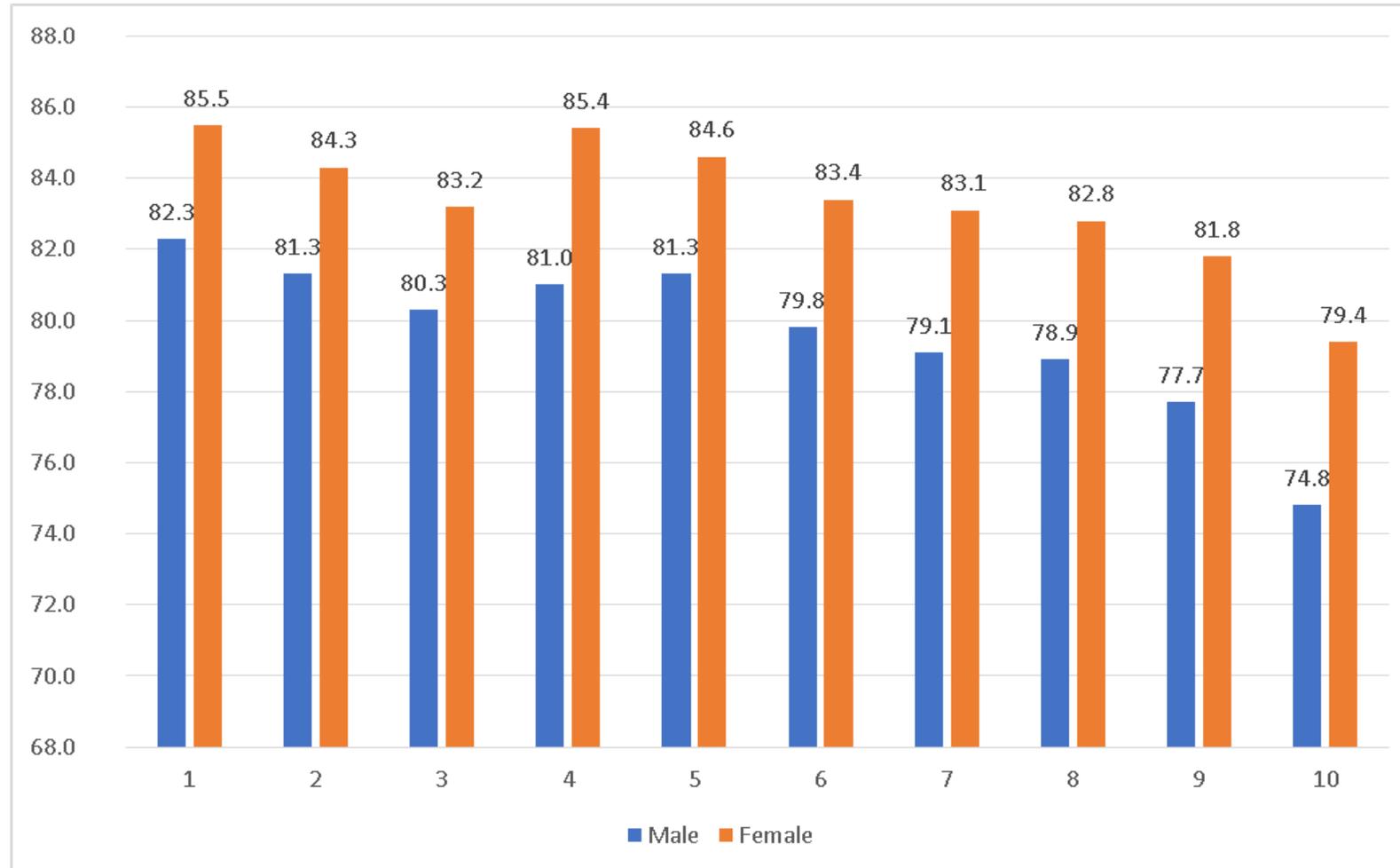
Years



Life expectancy by sex and deprivation index, 2012-2014

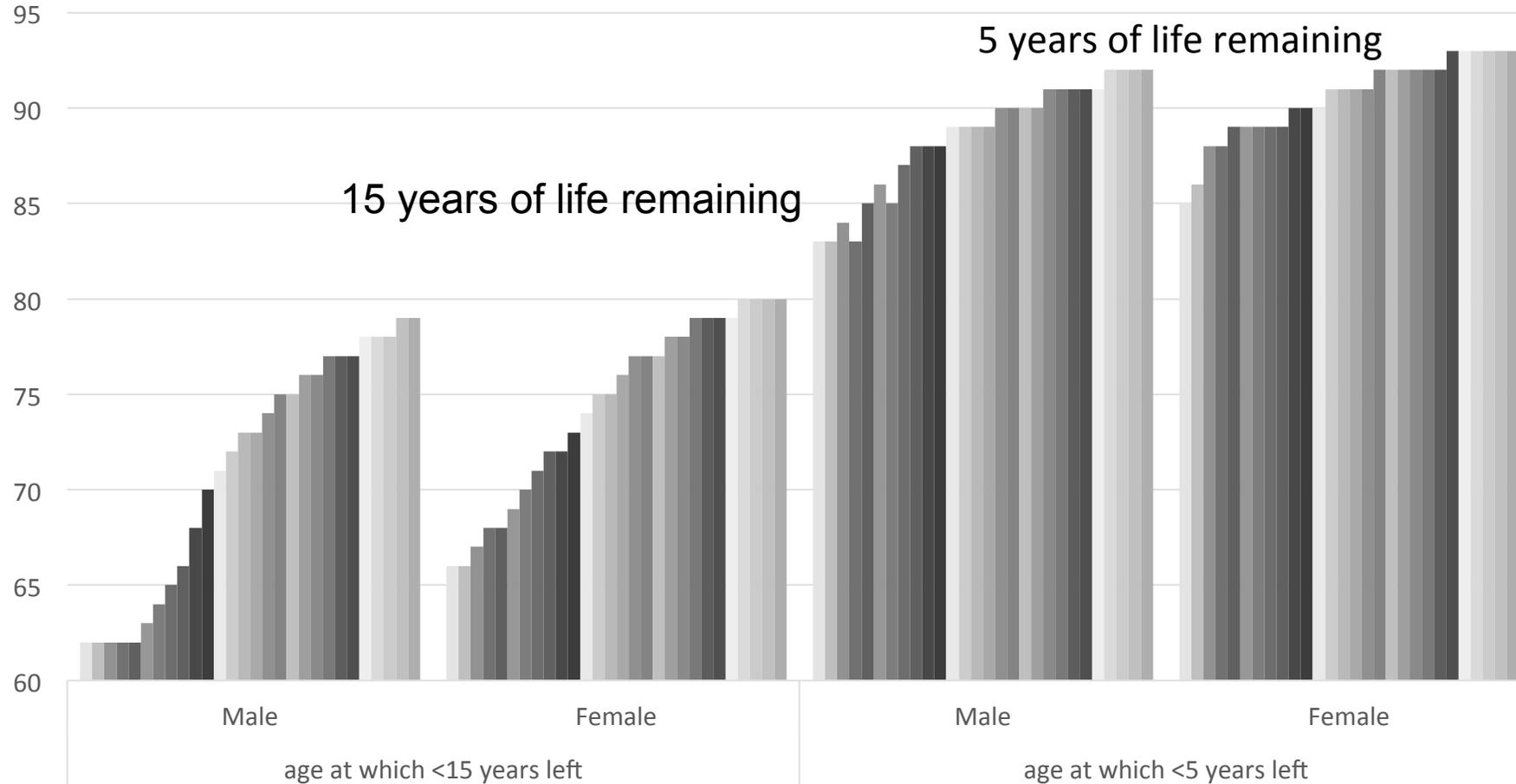
(1 = least deprived)

Years



Age at which fewer than 15 and 5 years of life left, by year of birth (cohort mortality)

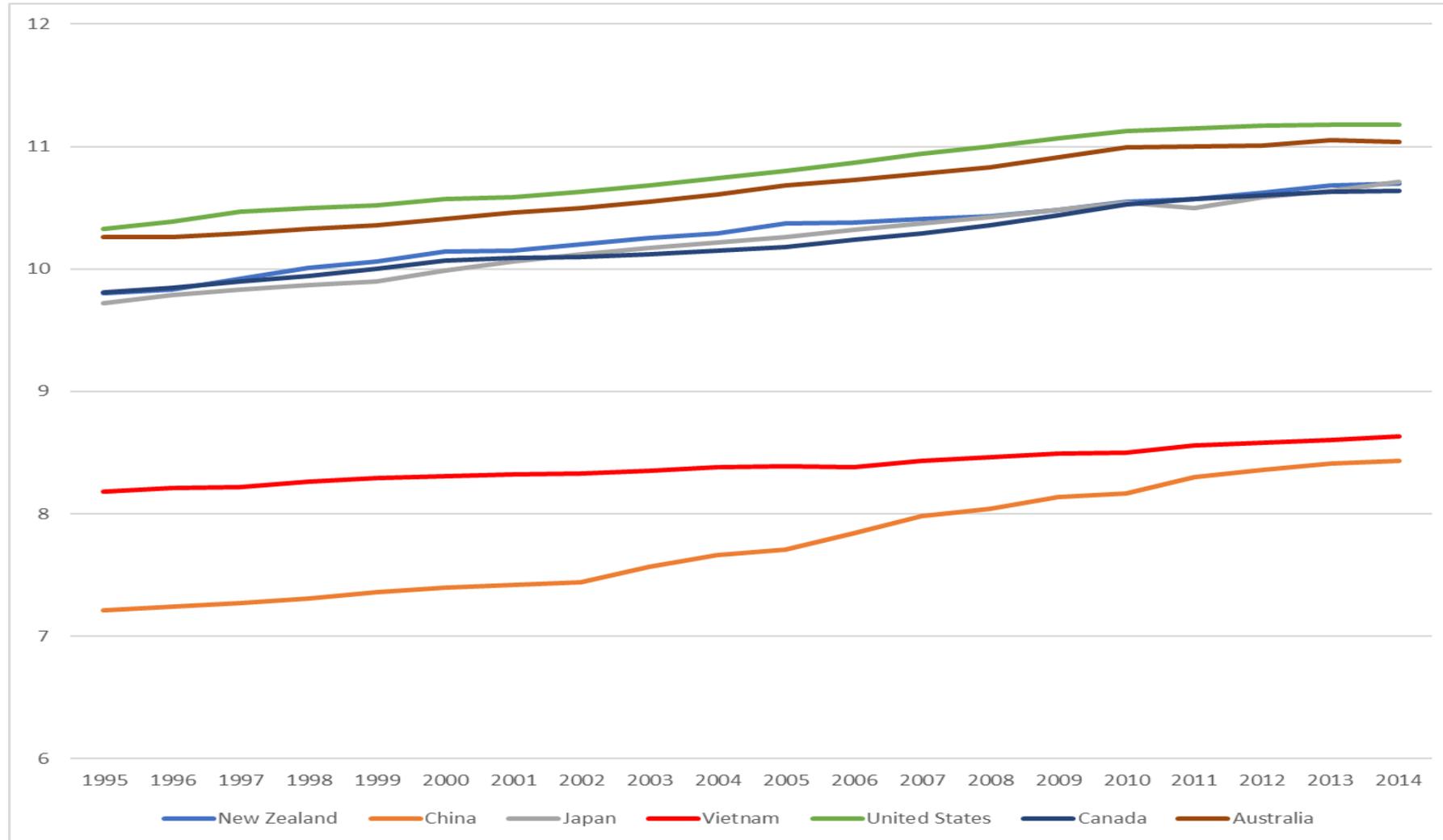
Years



1876 1881 1891 1896 1901 1906 1911 1916 1921 1926 1931 1936 1941 1946
1951 1956 1961 1966 1971 1976 1981 1986 1991 1996 2001 2006 2011 2016

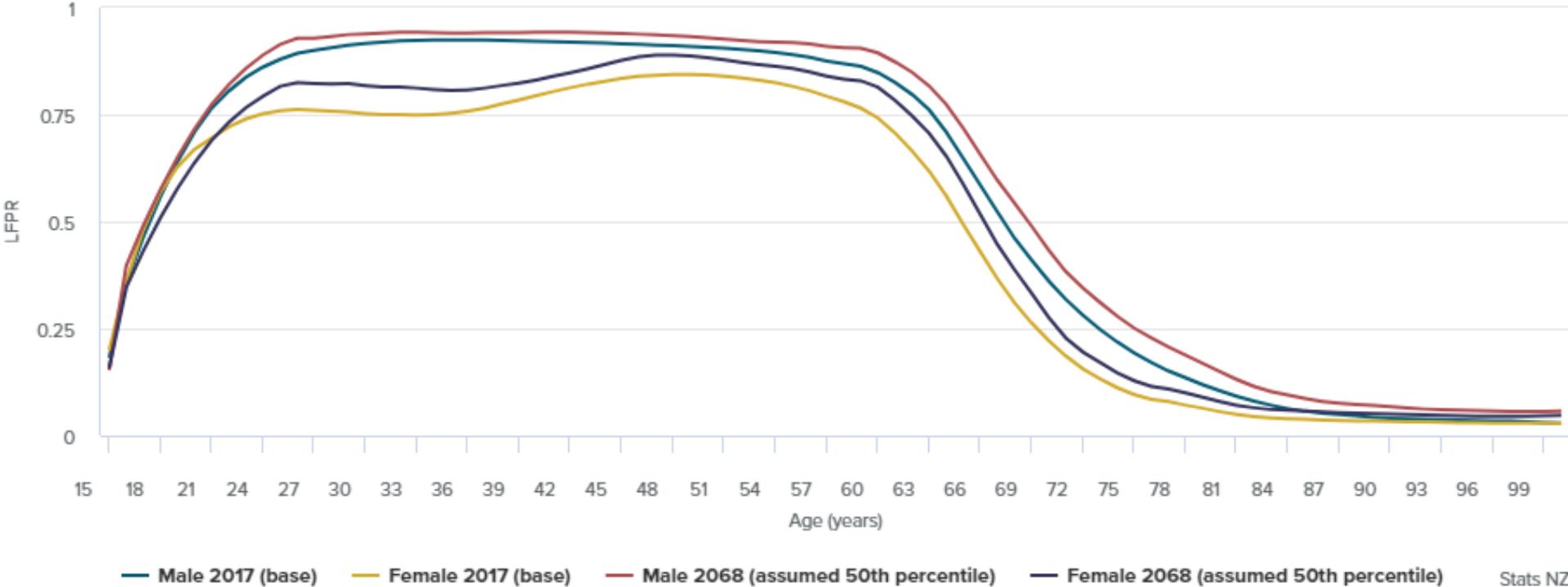
Years lived with disability, selected countries, 1995-2014

Years



People will work longer

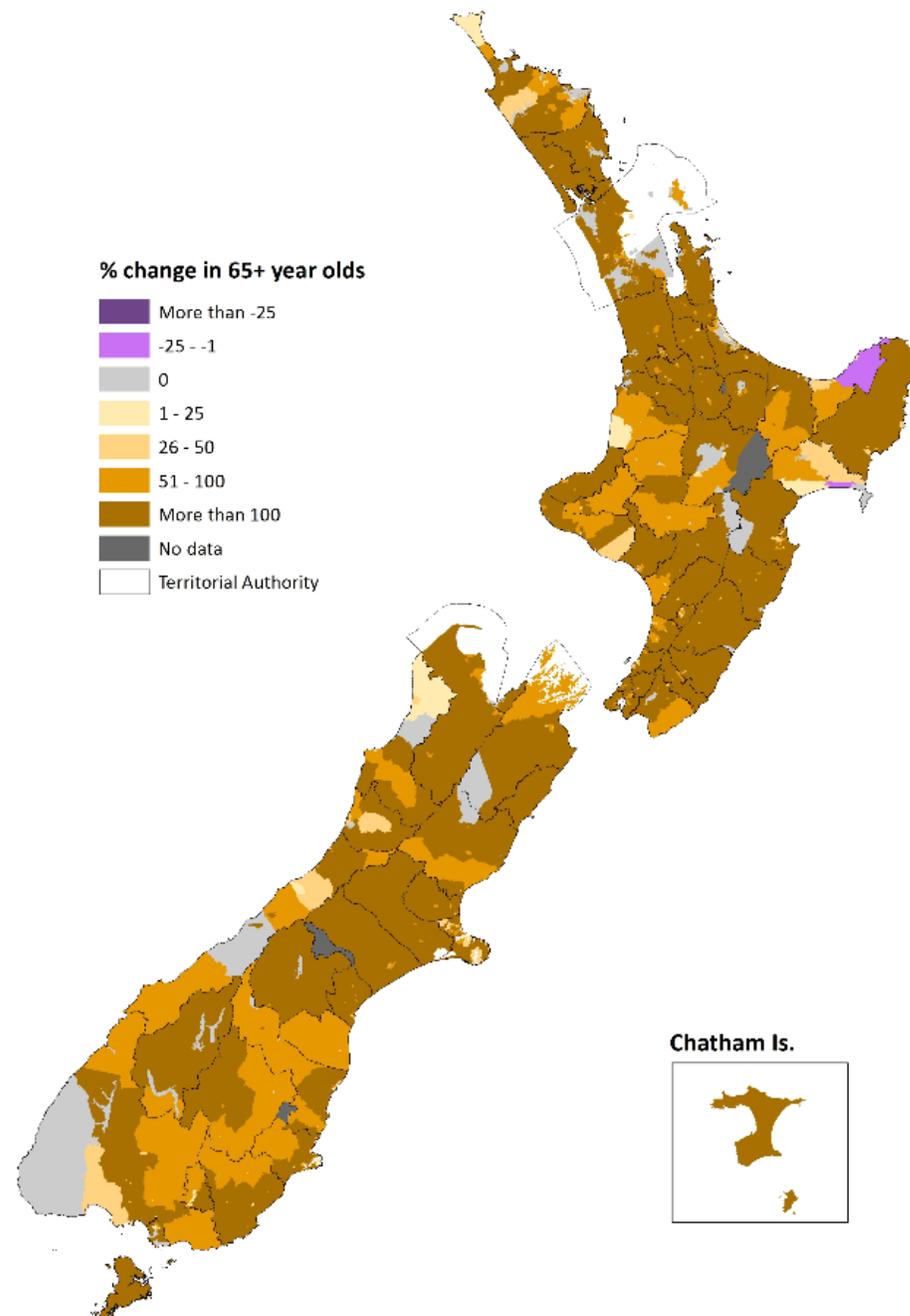
Labour force participation rates, by age and sex, 2017 and 2068



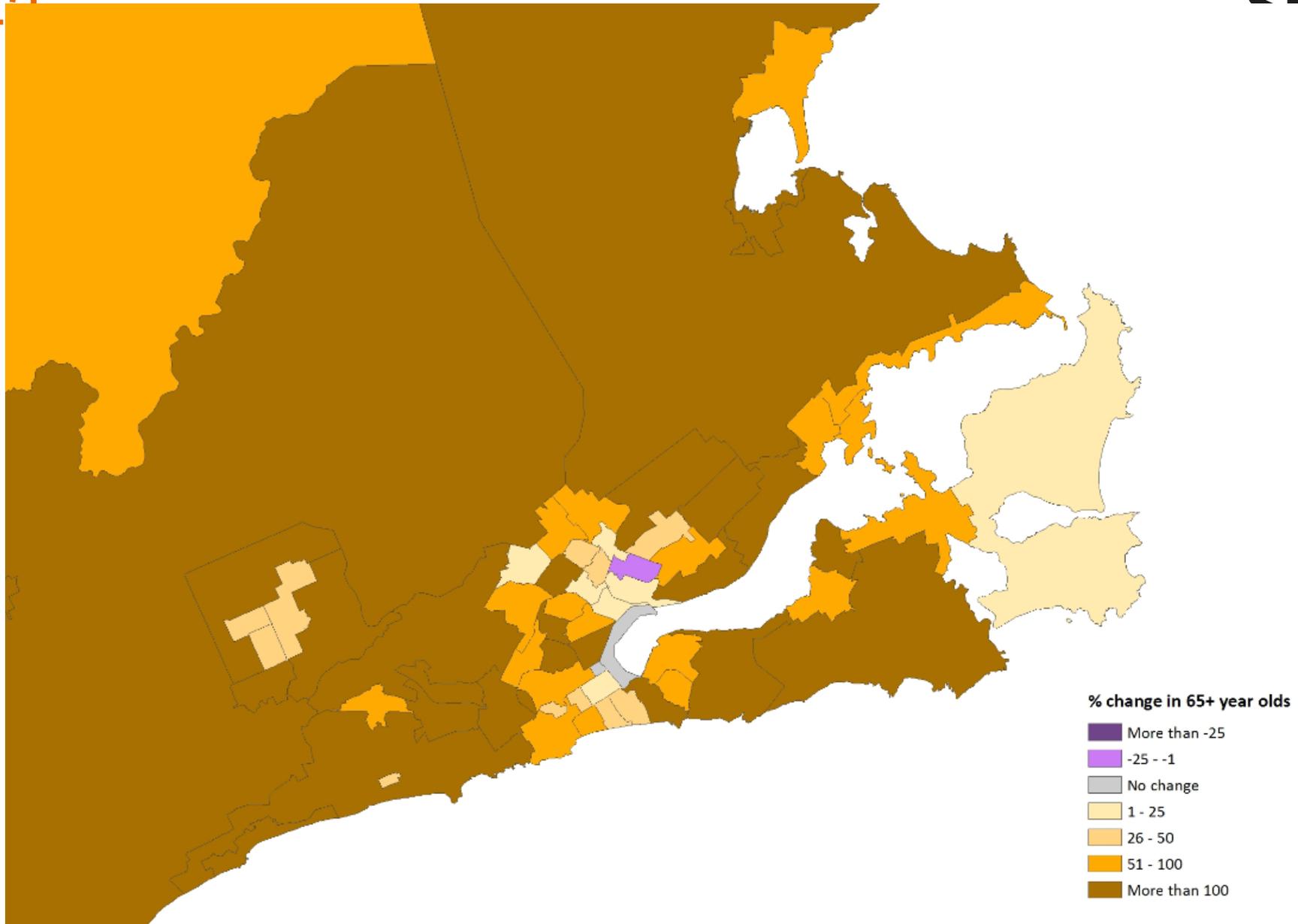
Population growth New Zealand

People aged 65 years and over

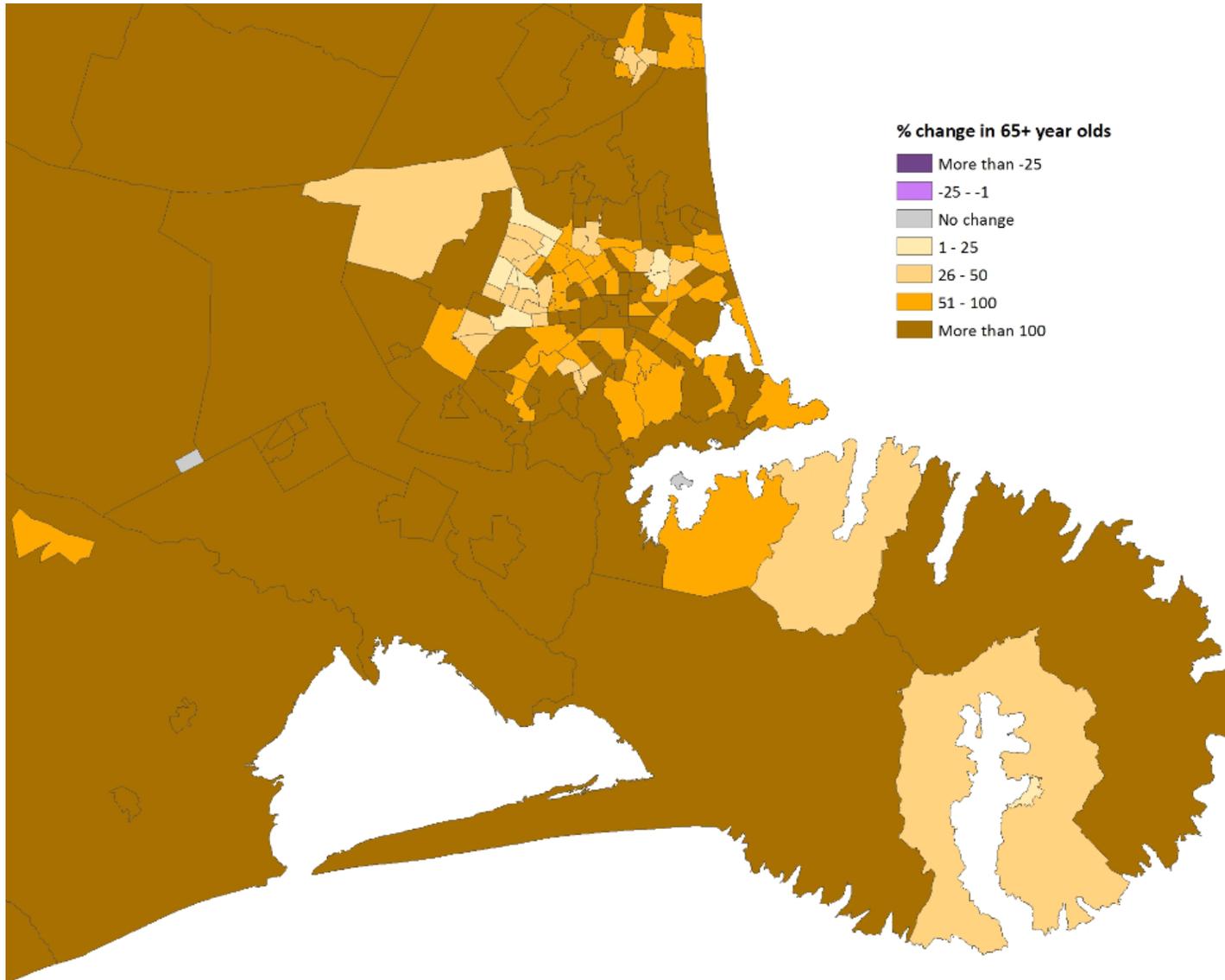
percent change 2013-2043



65plus population percent growth, Dunedin 2013-2042



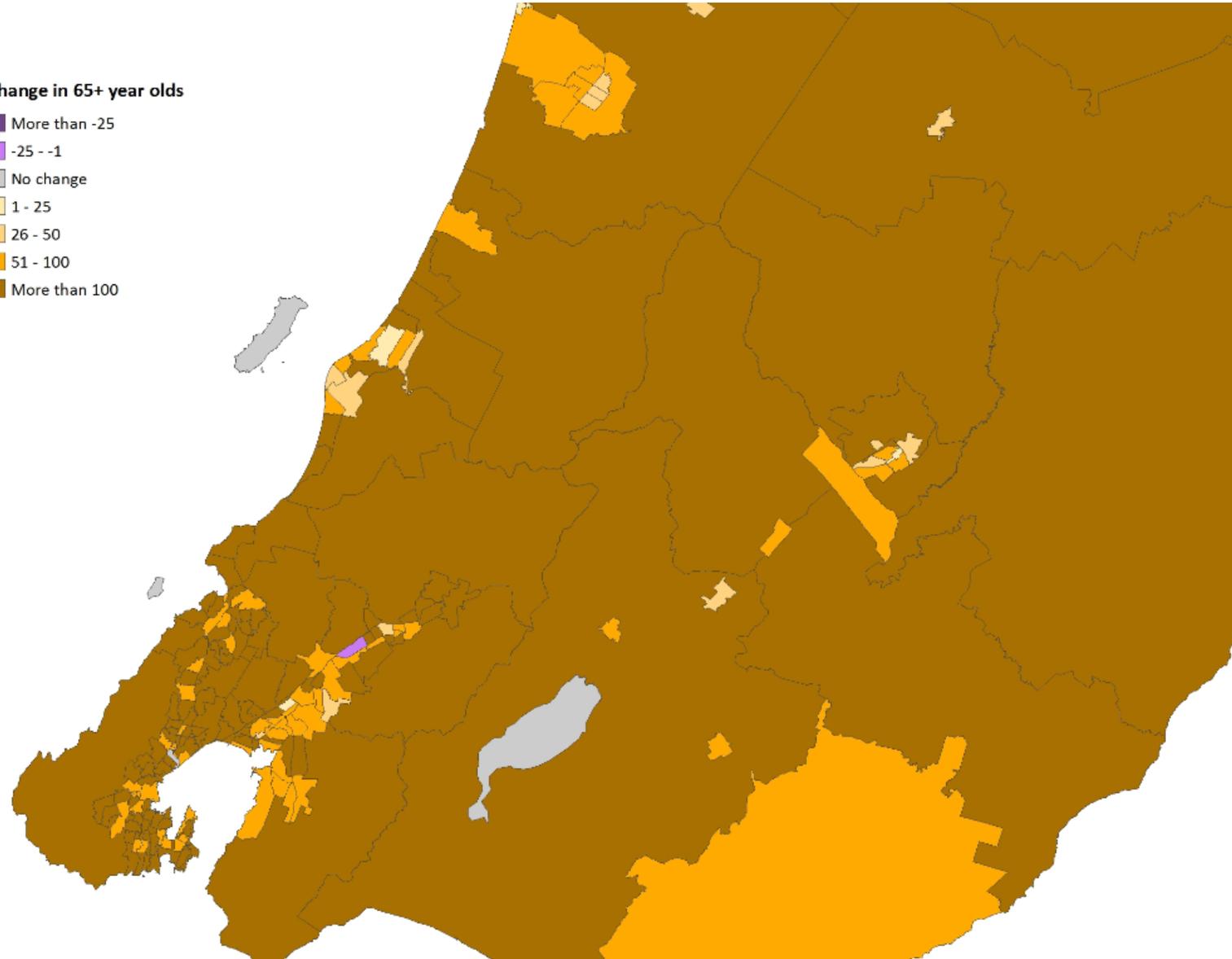
65plus population percent growth, Christchurch 2013-2043



65plus population percent growth, Wellington 2013-2043

% change in 65+ year olds

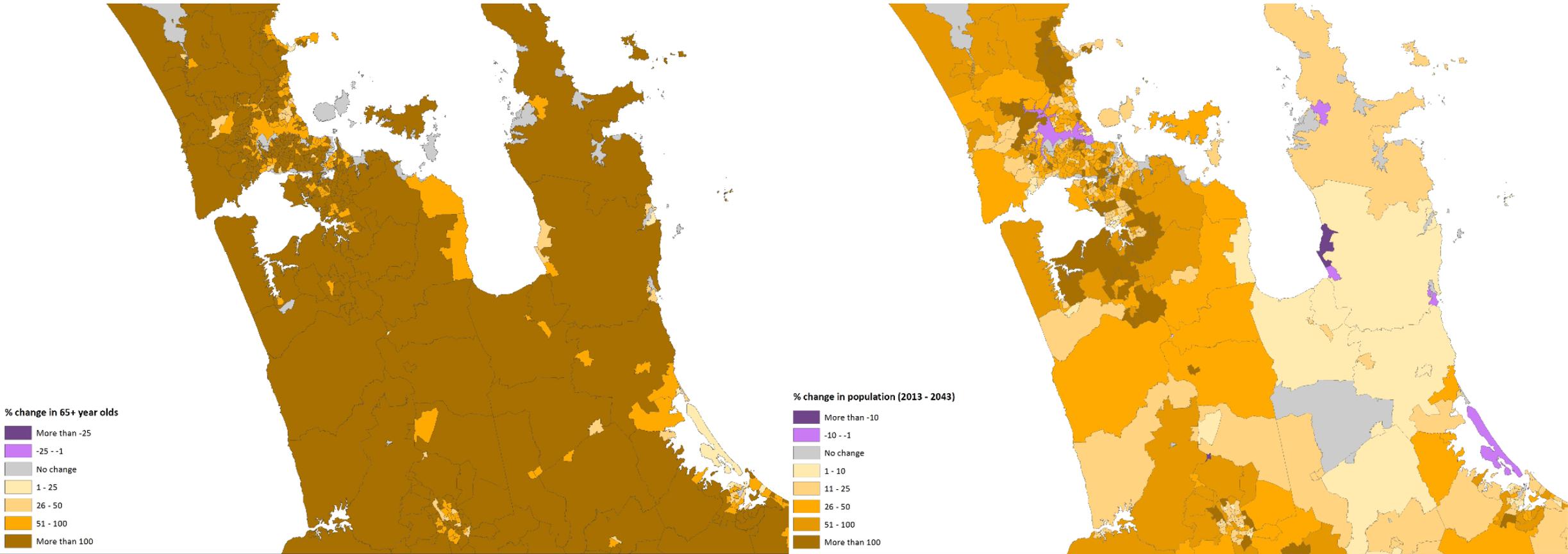
- More than -25
- 25 - -1
- No change
- 1 - 25
- 26 - 50
- 51 - 100
- More than 100



Auckland and Waikato growth comparison, 2013-2043

65 plus population

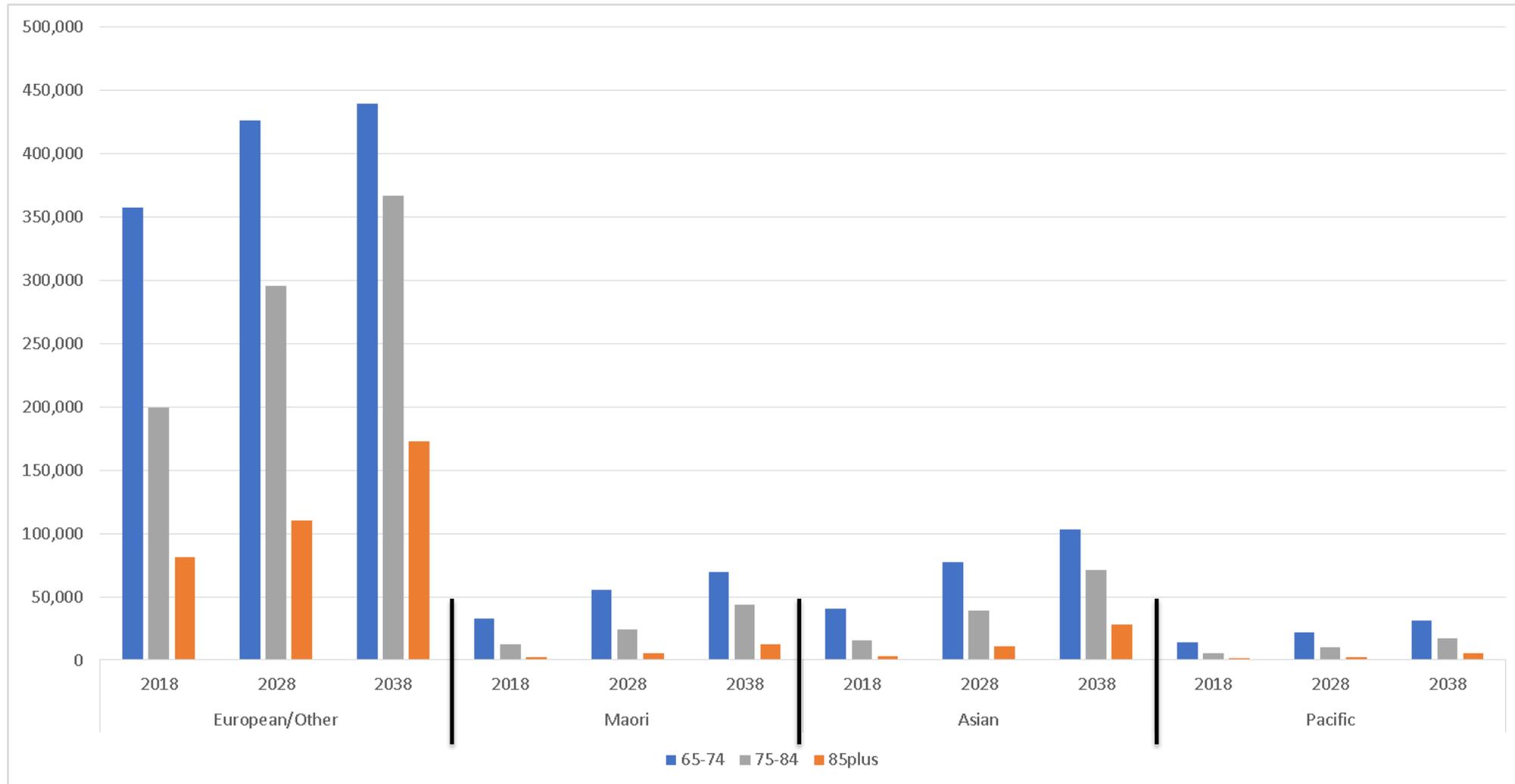
Total resident population



Population growth and change by ethnicity

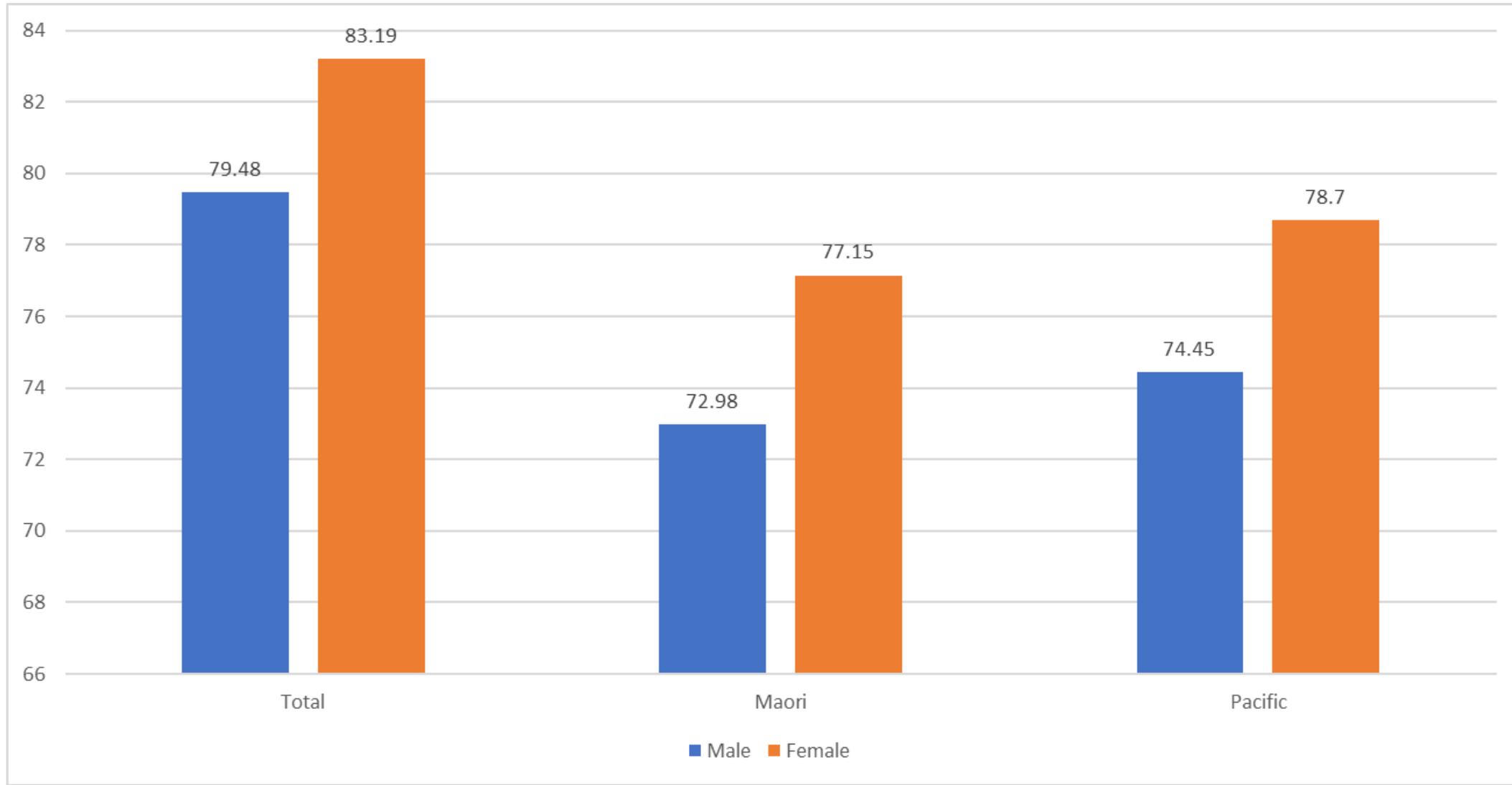
National ethnic population projections, medium series, 2018, 2028 and 2038

Number of people

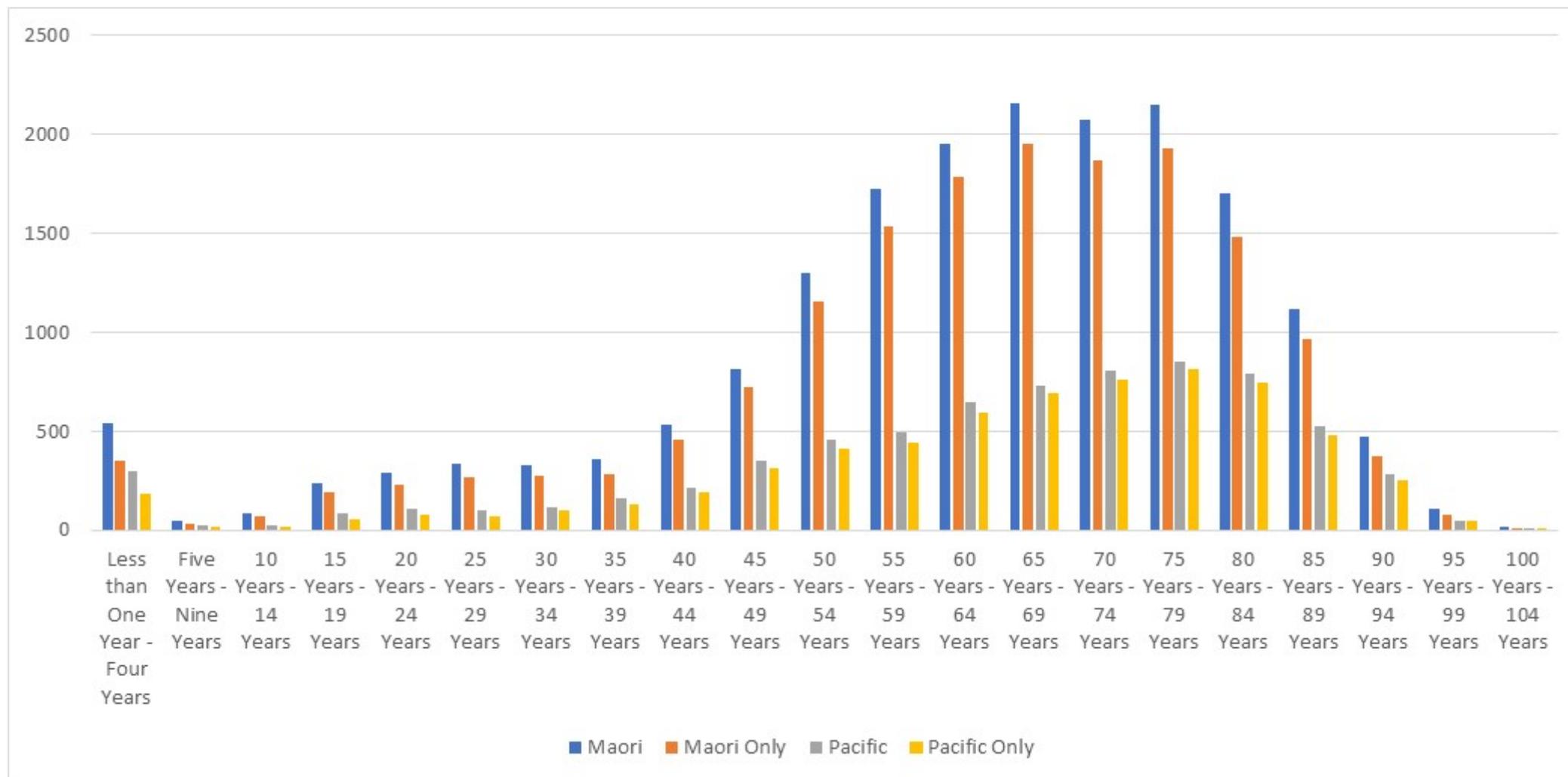


Life expectancy at birth by ethnicity and sex, 2012-14

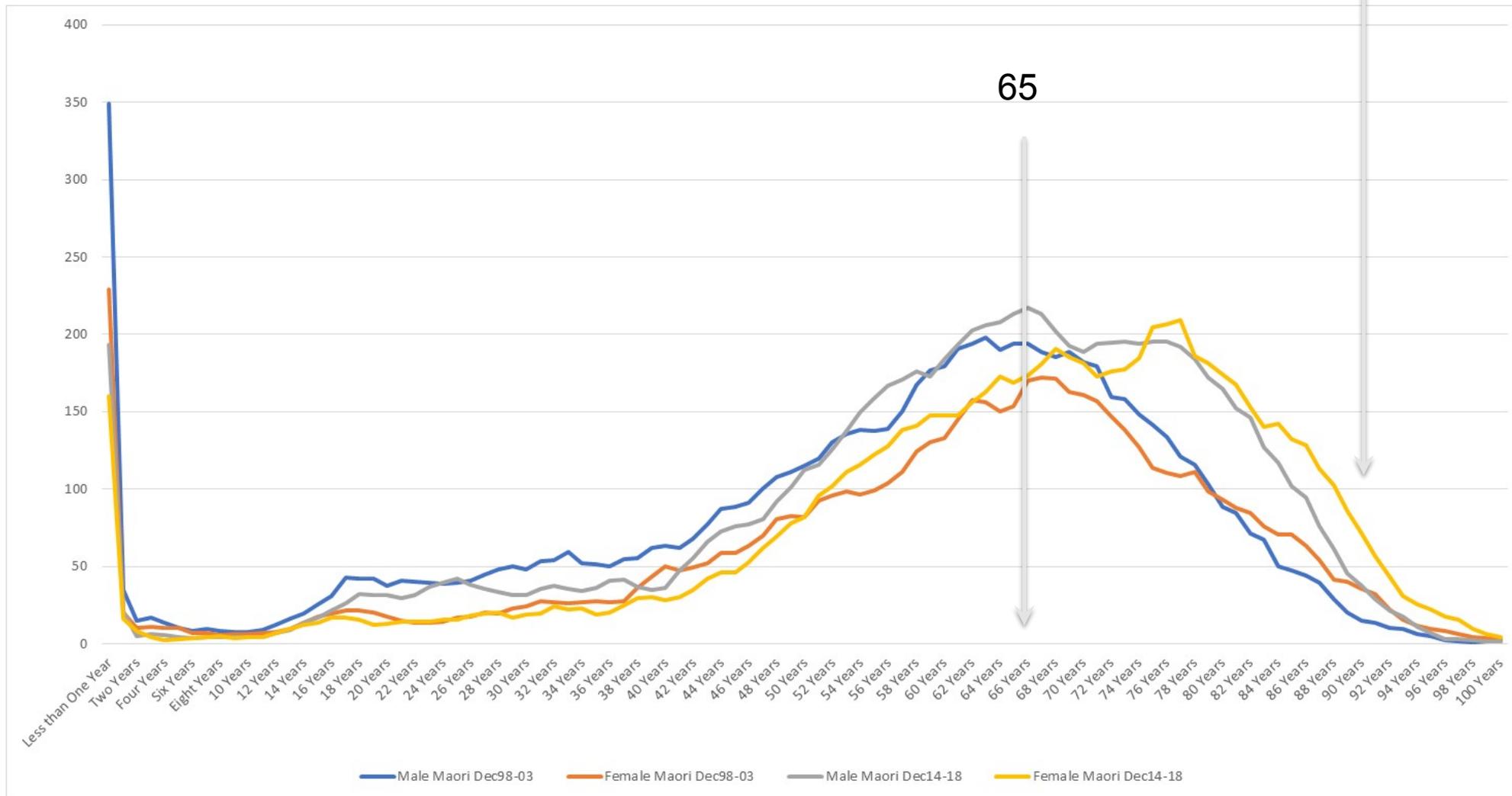
Years



Maori and Pacific (total and sole) deaths March Years 2015-2019



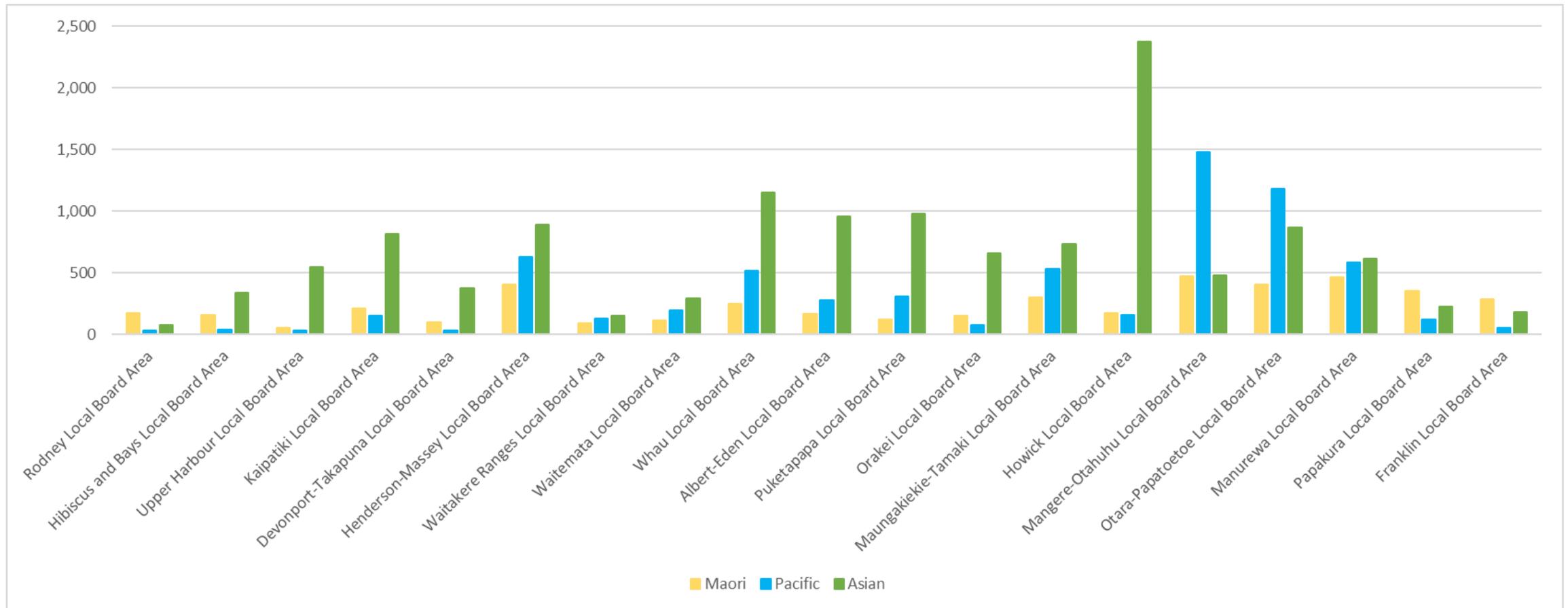
Maori deaths, December years 1998-2003 and 2014-2018



Change is not evenly distributed

People aged 65-74 of Maori, Pacific and Asian ethnicities,
2013 census by Auckland LBA

Number of people



Key aspects for future concern and unmet needs

- **Wellbeing**
 - Coupled with policies of child poverty, housing and ageing strategies
 - Requirement to ensure that needs are identified and measured for older people
 - Growing childlessness
- **Current concerns**
 - Availability of high quality and monitored care
 - Migrant dependency assumes availability of migrants
 - Diaspora – an unmeasured and immeasurably problem but key to wellbeing of older people and their families
 - Identifying changing needs and the relationship between data and measures

Related elements in population ageing

- **Diversity**
 - Ethnic diversity and multiple ethnicities increasing
 - Diversification of diversity: sexual identity, religion, language
- **Two emerging trends**
 - Historical/future changes in fertility, ageing in place of migrants
 - Returning New Zealanders
- **A theme to be revisited**
 - Inter-relationships between carers and cared-for and migrant dependency

Concluding thoughts

More older people than ever before (cliché) applies globally
- but most of Africa has a median age under 16

Population ag(e)ing as a process is becoming more diverse

People individually and culturally are

- more integrated across society
- with a particular sense of self (who they believe themselves to be)
- exposed to many more cultural pathways than previous generations

Diversity is the outcome of cumulative inequalities accrued across life
- and these differences accentuated in later life

Conflict between real life heterogeneity of ageing and stereotyping/expectations
- diversity versus homogeneity

Topic of ongoing work: contrast/interaction between carers and cared-for

Thank you
contact: robert.didham@stats.govt.nz