

# Pacific housing: people, place, and wellbeing

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## We will cover

1. Introduction –Key points from the Report
2. People – demography, language, families and households
3. Place – housing affordability, quality and suitability
4. Wellbeing – how housing intersects with wellbeing

Note: Most of the data comes from 2018 NZ General Social Survey and 2018 Census of Population and Dwellings



## Key points from the report

- Intergenerational living supports culture and language transmission
- Living in extended families is very important for Pacific peoples, and they rate their family wellbeing highly
- Pacific peoples tend to live in larger households, so have greater space requirements
- BUT Most Pacific peoples live in cities such as Auckland which have expensive housing markets so accessing suitable housing can be difficult
- Pacific peoples' income is lower on average which makes housing affordability challenging
- Too often Pacific peoples live in housing which is too small, and which may be damp, mouldy, and cold

# People

People looks at Pacific peoples' demography, culture, language, families, households, and intergenerational living.



# People

Pacific people are a growing population with a presence in NZ for over 150 years

1936	1,110	
1951	4,539	
1971	50,433	(38.2% NZ born)
2018	381,642	(66.4% NZ born)
2023	469,500	(projected)
2043	664,600	(projected)

## A diverse population

Around 41% are multi-ethnic,  
Birthplace varies – contrast Niuean 83.0% NZ born  
with ni-Vanuatu at just over 15.4%

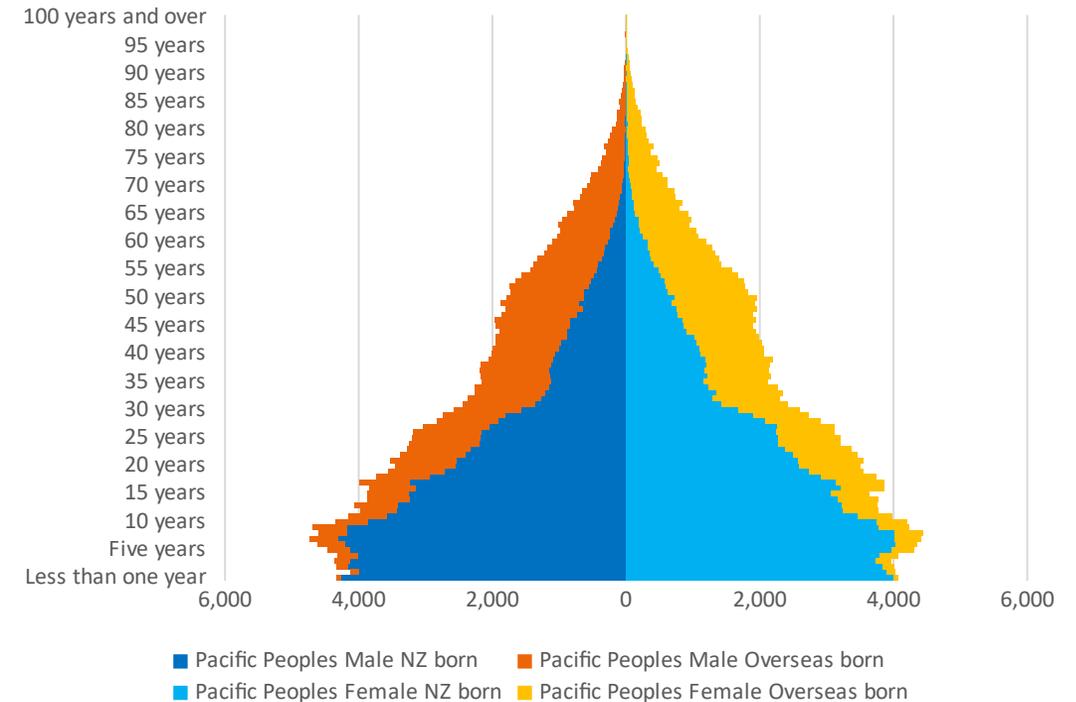
## A young population

Median age: 23.4 years (cf CURP 37.4 years)

And a **growing proportion** of our population:

2006 6.9% of the usually resident population,  
2018 8.1% of the usually resident population,  
2043 11.2% projected resident population

Pacific by birthplace

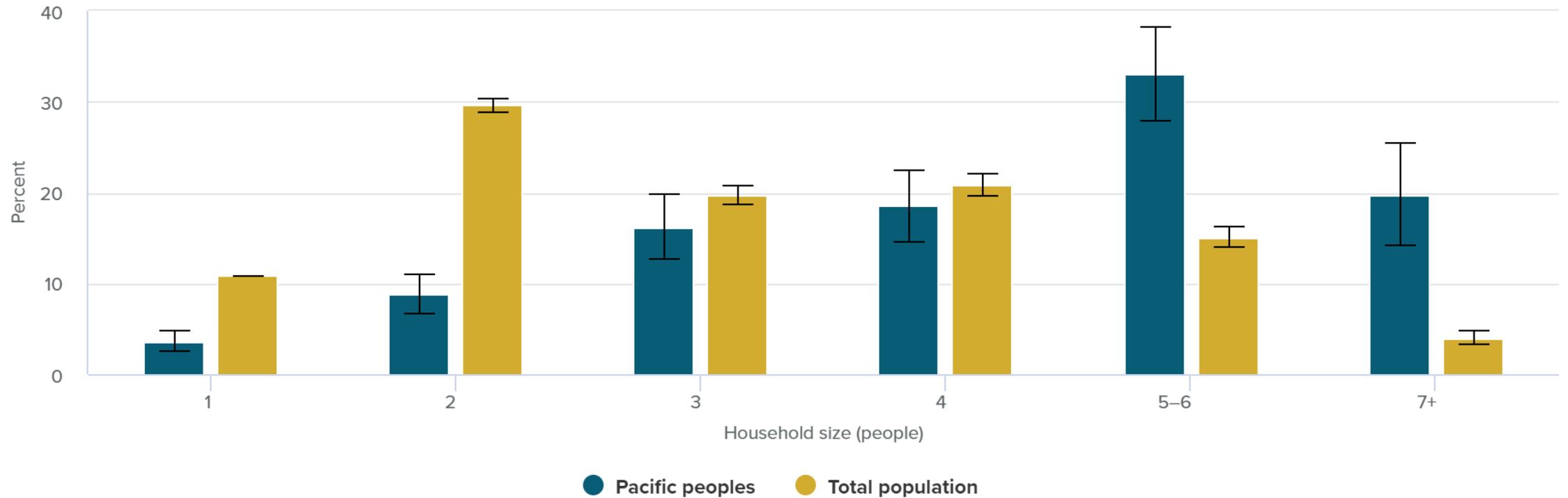


# Importance of Intergenerational living

- Intergenerational living, where grandparents, parents, and children live in the same household, can be important for sharing language, culture, and caring responsibilities.
  - In 2018, 275,199 Pacific peoples lived in a family, with around one-third (89,508 people) living in an extended family.
  - Children were more likely to speak a Pacific language if they lived in an extended family and both parents and at least one other person also spoke the language.
  - In the 2018 GSS almost half of Pacific peoples (46 percent) said that they had 11 or more people (not counting themselves) in their family. They were also more likely than the total population to count aunts and uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces, and other in-laws as their family (54 percent compared with 27 percent).
- Pacific peoples rated their family wellbeing highly: with a mean of 8.1 out of 10, compared with 7.7 out of 10 for the total population.

# Households

Percentage of Pacific peoples and total population, by number of people in their household, 2018



Error bars represent variability in estimates.

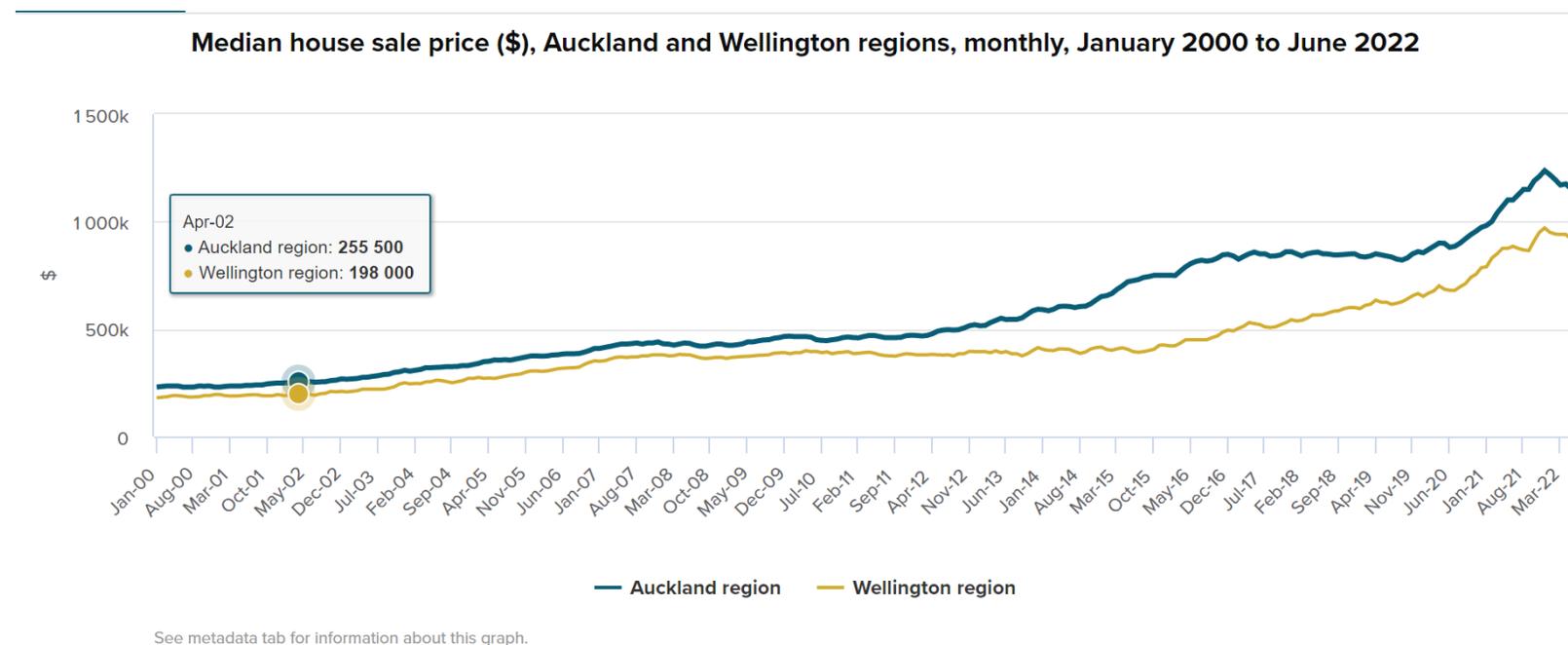
## Place: homes

Place is about the adequacy and accessibility of the homes Pacific people live in, covering tenure security, affordability, habitability, suitability, and homelessness.



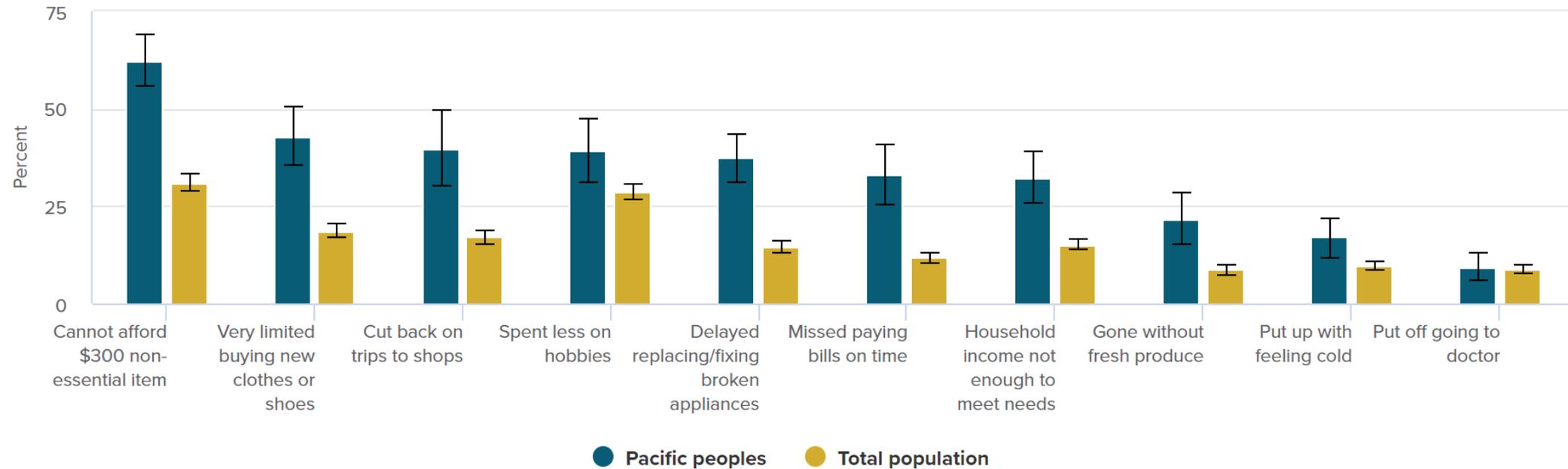
# Home ownership and affordability

- Home ownership has fallen for all New Zealanders but has fallen more for Pacific peoples. In 2018, 35 percent of Pacific peoples lived in an owner-occupied home – compared with 51 percent in 1986
- Location in larger cities with expensive housing markets combined with lower incomes makes affordability challenging



# Living in unaffordable housing affects wellbeing

Percentage of people who lived in less affordable housing and experienced selected financial deprivation, by Pacific peoples and total population, 2018

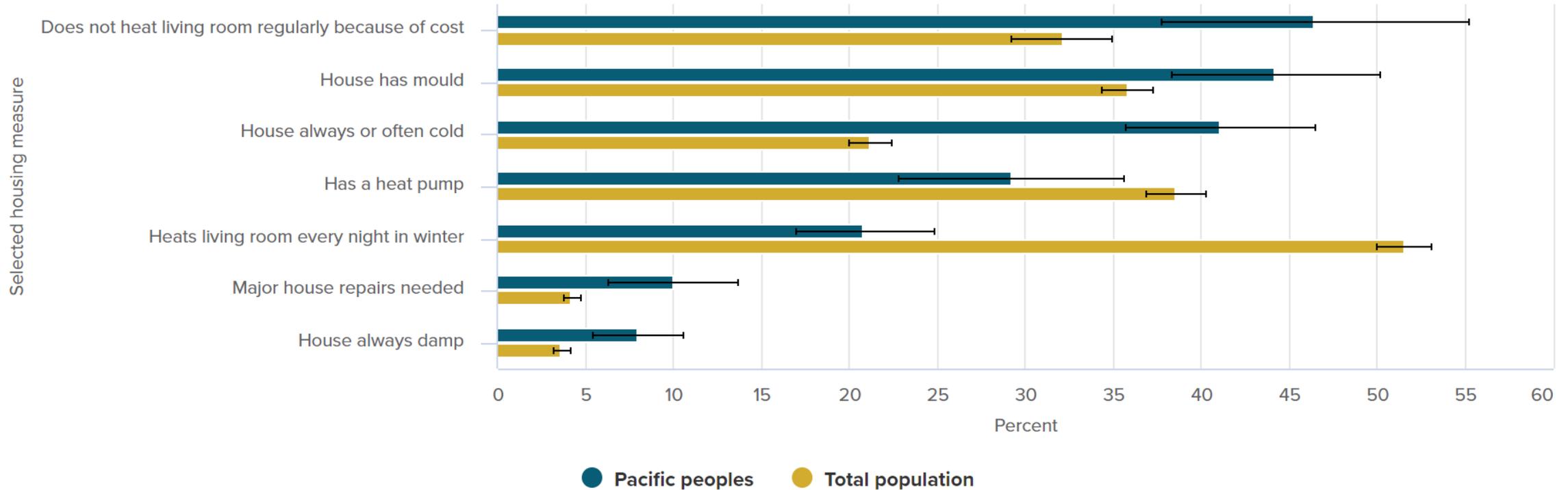


See metadata tab for information about this graph.

Stats NZ, 2018 General Social Survey

# Housing habitability

Percentage of people by selected housing measures and by Pacific peoples and total population, 2018

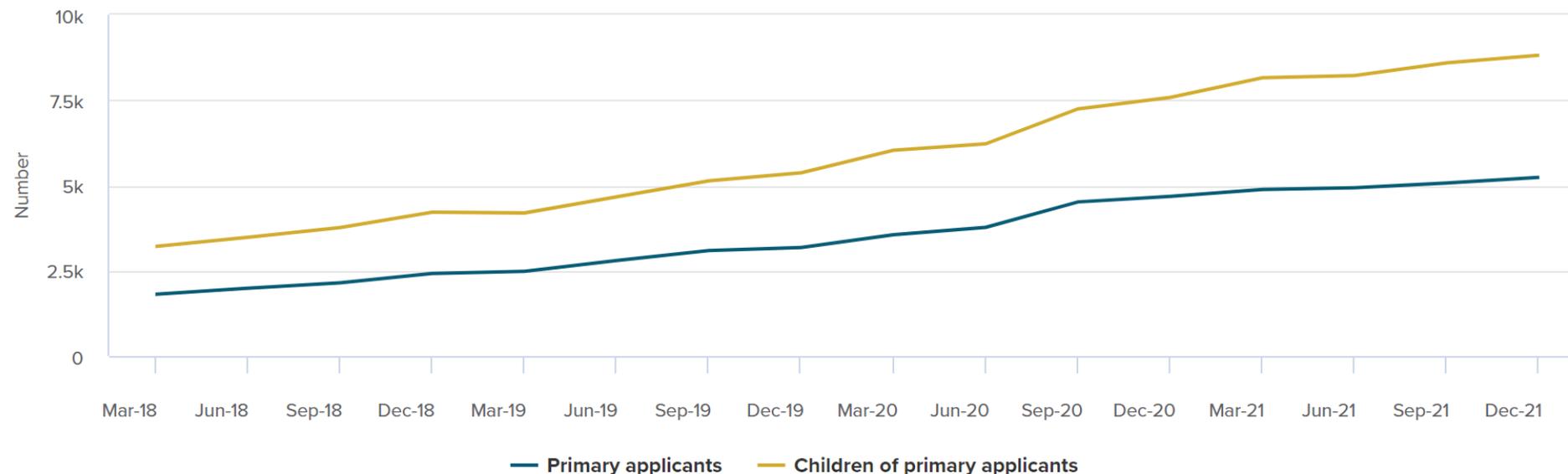


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# Severe housing deprivation/homelessness

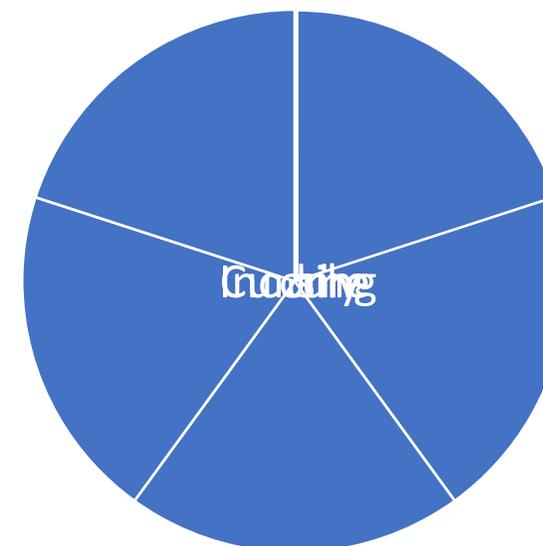
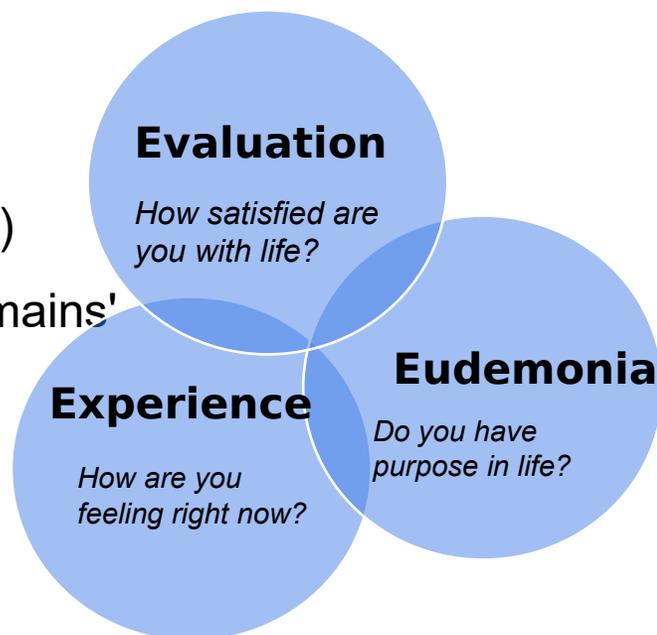
- Pacific peoples had the highest severe housing deprivation rate: at 578 people per 10,000 compared with 217 per 10,000 for the total population.
- This was largely because of the need to accommodate family, inadequate housing, and higher proportions living in housing lacking basic amenities (uninhabitable housing)

Number of Pacific applicants on the social housing register, by primary applicants and children of primary applicants, 2018–2021



# Measuring wellbeing

- Wellbeing is a complex, non-standardised concept. It is multidimensional, both subjective and objective
- Many frameworks exist that define these dimensions, differing in target populations and focus e.g Treasury Living Standards Framework. Many focused around health such as fonofale models,
- We focused on interactions with:
  - Subjective wellbeing (3 parts)
  - Five important wellbeing 'domains'



# Interaction between housing and wellbeing

## Housing problems

For Pacific peoples living in homes with **at least one major housing problem** vs Pacific peoples **living in homes without housing problems**:

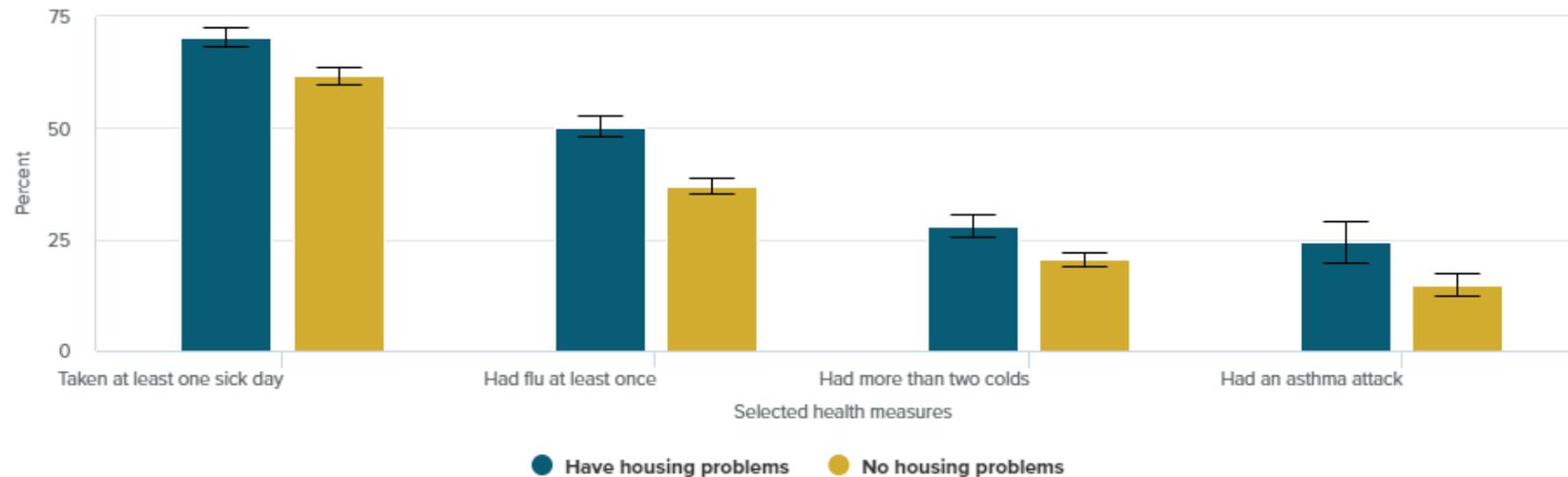
 **22%** gave a low rating for physical health, compared with **12%**

 **29%** have poor overall mental wellbeing, compared with **13%**

 **31%** gave a low rating for life satisfaction compared with **12%**.

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/infographics/pacific-housing/>

Percentage of total population with selected health issues in the previous 12 months, by those with or without major housing problems, 2018



# Interaction between housing and wellbeing

## Home ownership

For Pacific peoples living in a non-owner-occupied dwelling vs those living in an owner-occupied dwelling:

- rated their life satisfaction 7.3 out of 10 on average, compared with 7.8
- 23% had enough money to meet everyday needs, compared with 38%

## Housing affordability

For Pacific peoples who rated their housing affordability between 0 to 4 out of 10 vs those who rated it between 8 to 10:

- gave an average mental wellbeing score of 58/100 (WHO-5), compared with 68/100

## Household crowding

For Pacific peoples living in a crowded house vs those not in a crowded house:

- 54% had at least one major problem with their house, compared with 30%
- 81% never felt lonely, compared with 64%

# Conclusions and themes from report and consultation

- When we began work on this report, we talked to a range of groups who reiterated to us:
  - The importance of housing and home ownership to Pacific Peoples
  - The need for more data on Pacific people and housing at a more detailed level – for the different Pacific groupings and by region/TA
  - That Pacific people are experiencing a crisis: with real challenges around housing including affordability, poor housing quality, and homelessness
  - The urban development of more intensive housing raises issues of lack of space for larger families and challenges around maintain cultural practices

We have covered these themes where possible



This report also includes data tables in order to provide some information to cover these concerns

We hope the information provided can inform policy decisions to make housing better.

- [Pacific housing: People, place, and wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand | Stats NZ](#) for Pacific peoples