

School decile ratings



- North Shore and Wellington continue to have a larger proportion of students in high decile schools.
- Manukau and Waitakere continue to have a larger proportion of students in lower decile schools.

WHAT THIS IS ABOUT

Comparing the percentage of students within each of the school deciles illustrates the socio-economic disparities within a city and between cities.²³ Deciles are used to provide funding to state and state integrated schools, to enable them to overcome the barriers to learning faced by students from low socio-economic communities. The lower the school's decile rating, the more funding they receive.

This indicator shows the percentage of pupils within school deciles in 2002. It is used to illustrate the extent to which a school (including primary, intermediate, secondary and special schools) draws its students from low or high socio-economic communities.

WHAT DID WE FIND?

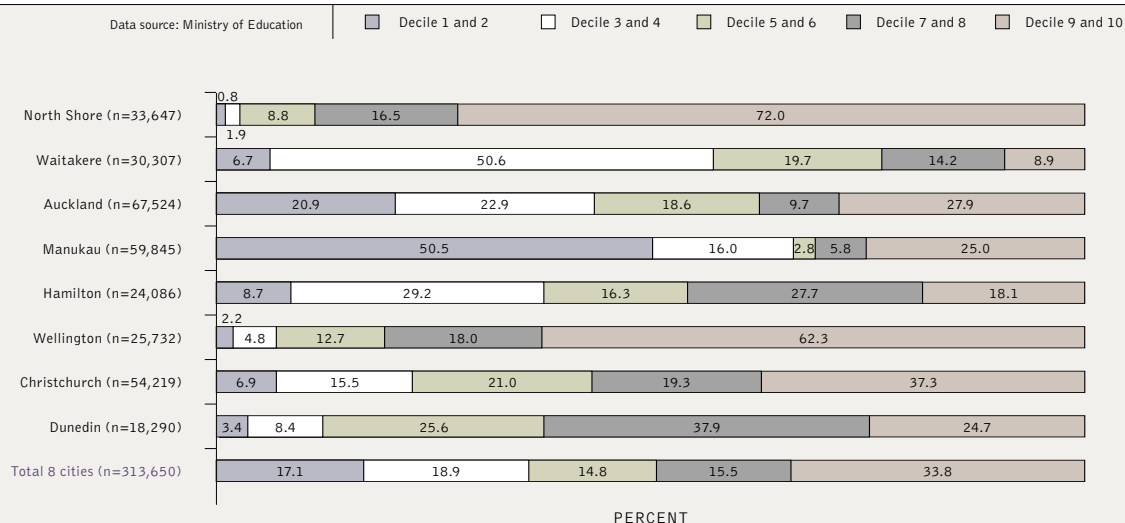
North Shore and Wellington had the major proportion of their students attending schools within the top two deciles at 72.0% and 62.3% respectively. This is high when compared to the average of 34.5% across the eight cities. Manukau (66.5%) and Waitakere (57.3%) continue to have a much larger proportion of students in lower decile schools. This compares to an average of 31.2% across the eight cities.

The eight cities combined had nearly half (49.3%) of all students in higher decile schools (deciles 7 to 10), and just over one third (36.0%) attend lower decile schools (deciles 1 to 4).

The Ministry of Education reports that on average, almost half (46.5%) the parents in decile 1 communities across New Zealand are without educational qualifications, with 36% employed in unskilled manual work compared to 10% and 6% respectively in decile 10 communities.²⁴

Correlations may exist between cities with low socio-economic status, such as Manukau and Waitakere, and lower participation levels in early childhood education, and higher levels of school leavers with no qualifications.

PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS WITHIN SCHOOL DECILE (2002)



²³ The decile rating for a school is used by the Ministry of Education to determine funding to schools and is indirectly comparable with the socio-economic status of an area. Decile 1 schools are the 10% of schools with the highest proportion of students from low socio-economic communities, whereas decile 10 schools are the 10% of schools with the lowest proportion of these students. It is possible that the decile rating system for schools is more divisive than the decile ratings of a local community. The rating is based on families with school aged children and includes household income, occupation, household crowding, educational qualifications, income support and ethnicity. Some "cross boundary" issues may exist, such as boarding schools in main centres with children resident in the area, and (particularly in Auckland) children from one city attending a school in another.

²⁴ Ministry of Education. Frequently asked questions about deciles. www.minedu.govt.nz