

Participation in Community Education

What this is about...

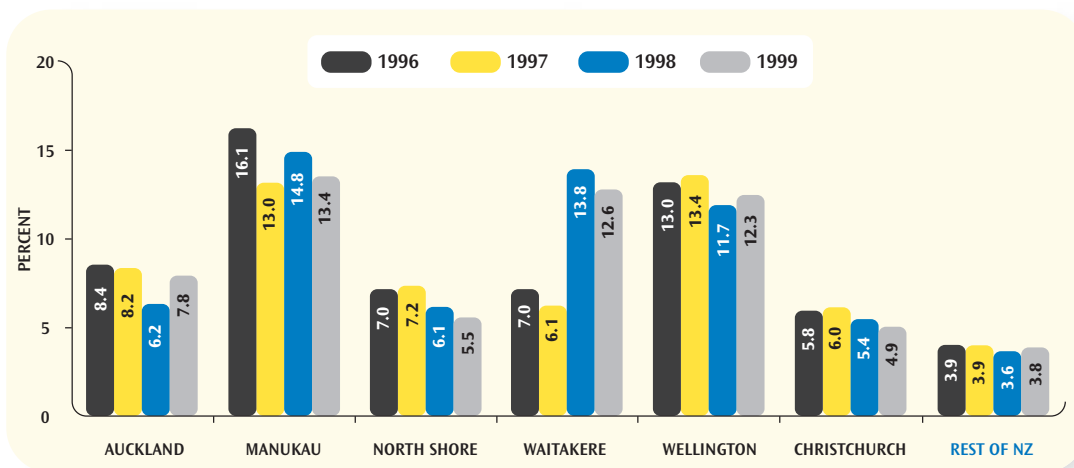
In recent years, on-going education and learning have become increasingly regarded as significant contributors to life enrichment and as essential requirements for competitive advantage. The changing nature of the economy means that it is important that people up-skill and re-skill to retain their employment position. No or low qualifications can restrict a person's employability and their ability to generate a livable income.

This indicator shows percentage of the population aged 15 years and over who have participated in community education. Community education includes study post secondary school, but not study for degree or higher level qualifications.¹¹⁰

What did we find ?

- Participation rates across the six largest cities vary widely and are generally higher than in the rest of New Zealand.
- There was a decline in participation in North Shore and Christchurch Cities between 1995 and 1999.
- The proportion of adult population participating in community education appeared to double between 1997 and 1998 in Waitakere City. This may be due to data collection or recording issues.

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER WHO PARTICIPATED IN COMMUNITY EDUCATION, BY CITY (1996 TO 1999)¹¹¹



Data Source: Ministry of Education

Data breakdowns for gender show that participation rates for females are universally higher, and that they are particularly high in the cities of Waitakere, Wellington and North Shore. Some investigation may be warranted to find out why this difference exists.

Levels of educational achievement in the six cities show that participation rates are high in cities that already have residents with more qualifications, the notable exception being Waitakere City.

110 Community education data is collected by the Ministry of Education and covers a wide variety of subjects, for example: **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**, **School subjects** - e.g. School Certificate English and Sixth Form Accountancy, **Art, music and crafts** - e.g. pottery, guitar, carving and photography, **Business office skills** - e.g. word processing and spreadsheets, **Fitness sport and recreation** - e.g. aerobics and self defense, **Transport certificates** - e.g. defensive driving and boatmasters.

111 Total population figures for the 1996 year are taken from 1996 Census and for 1997, 1998 and 1999 years are based on medium growth projections calculated by Statistics New Zealand for each year.