

Social Deprivation

What this is about...

The New Zealand Social Deprivation Index combines a range of key socio-demographic factors from the 1996 Census and estimates an overall score of material and social deprivation for a particular area, on a scale of 1 (regarded as being least deprived) to 10 (regarded as being the most deprived or experiencing considerable hardship). Social deprivation scores generally reflect the ability of households in an area to achieve positive outcomes in areas such as health, education and employment.

Factors included in the Index are:

- Income: equivalised household income (adjusted for household composition).
- Income: people aged 18-59 receiving a means tested benefit.
- Transport: people with no access to a car.
- Living Space: equivalised household below a bedroom occupancy threshold.
- Owned home: people not living in own home.
- Employment: unemployed people aged 18 to 59 years.
- Qualifications: people aged 18 to 59 years without any qualifications.
- Support: people aged less than 60 years living in a sole parent family.
- Communication: people with no access to a telephone.

What did we find ?

- Auckland and Christchurch Cities follow the national pattern.
- North Shore and Wellington Cities also share a similar trendline - with relatively greater proportions of their populations in the less deprived areas. These two cities have more or less the opposite deprivation trendline to Manukau City. Sixty percent of people in North Shore City and 55% of people in Wellington City live in areas ranked 1 to 3 (least deprived) whereas Manukau City has a marked proportion of its population in deciles 9 and 10 (most deprived).
- In Waitakere City however, a different pattern emerges with a major 'bulge' appearing in deprivation deciles 6 to 8. This reflects a greater share of 'below average' areas - a grouping who have been particularly hard hit by economic and social restructuring over the last ten years.

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION LIVING IN DEPRIVATION INDEX DECILES, BY CITY (1996)

	1 (% least deprived)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (% most deprived)
Auckland	13	11	10	9	9	9	8	10	9	12
Manukau	12	10	7	6	6	6	8	9	13	21
North Shore	20	20	20	14	11	7	4	3	1	1
Waitakere	9	11	8	10	10	13	16	12	8	3
Wellington	26	15	12	10	9	7	8	6	3	4
Christchurch	13	12	11	11	9	10	8	10	10	6

Data Source: Health Services Research Council

There is considerable variation in Deprivation Index rankings at ward level. The following table notes the wards within the six cities that have the highest proportion of 'high need' areas.

**WARDS WITHIN THE SIX CITIES WITH THE HIGHEST
PROPORTION OF MESHBLOCKS IN DECILES 9 AND 10 (1996)**

	City	% of area in decile 9 and 10
Otara	Manukau	84
Mangere	Manukau	71
Tamaki	Auckland	62
Hagley	Christchurch	56
Hauraki Gulf Islands	Auckland	44
Manurewa	Manukau	38

Data Source: Health Services Research Council

There are large volumes of people affected by social deprivation within New Zealand's largest urban areas. The New Zealand Deprivation Index indicates that across New Zealand's six largest cities, nearly one quarter of a million people are living in high need areas. For example, although North Shore City has only 2% of its population living within the 'most deprived' areas (deciles 9 & 10), this equates to 3,777 people experiencing deprivation.