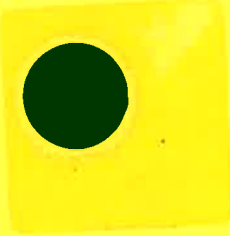


ZPAM Maori
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Maori Information

Youth

NEW ZEALAND

Planning
Council

*Te Kaunihera Whakakaupapa
Mo Aotearoa*

Paper No. 4



Acknowledgements

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Derek Wallace
Tilley Reedy

This paper is drawn from information contained in the following Planning Council publications:

Care and Control

From Birth to Death II

Introduction

Much of the information in this booklet is repeated from earlier booklets in our Maori Information series. There is a very good reason for that.

Youth is still a large group within the Maori population and many of the problems that Maori face today are concentrated amongst the young. The great danger is that the Maori youth of today will continue to be disadvantaged right throughout their lives. We as a people and as a nation should not allow this to happen.

The challenge for all of us is to address these problems and implement solutions to them.

The Maori population

Historical background

Over the last 100 years the Maori population has undergone rapid and traumatic change:

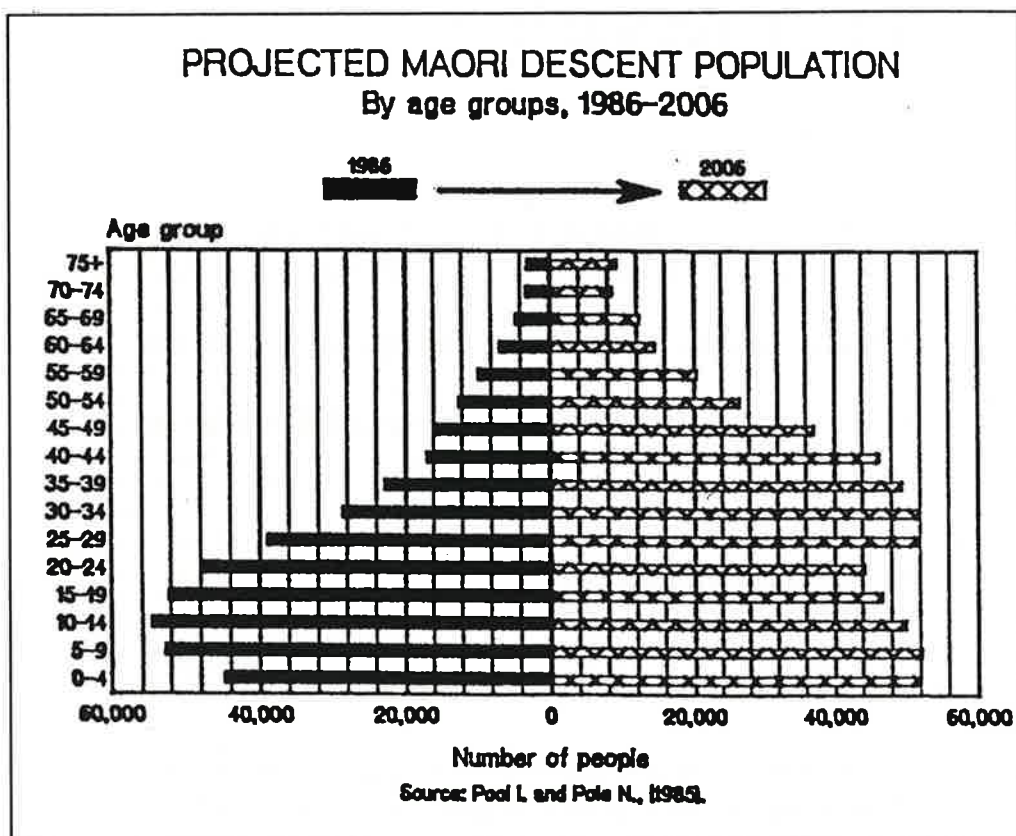
- population size decreased upon contact with the Pakeha in the 19th century
- population size has recovered during the 20th century
- a shift from rural to urban areas has occurred since 1950.

Change is continuing to occur:

- the Maori total fertility rate has dramatically decreased since 1970 (from 5 children per woman to 2 children)
- life expectancy continues to improve (a Maori boy born today can expect to live 67 years and a girl 71 years)
- the Maori population is beginning to age (the number of older Maori is increasing in proportion to the number of younger Maori).

The graph opposite shows the shape of the Maori population as it stood in 1986 (the left-hand side) compared with how it is expected to look in 2006 (the right-hand side).

PROJECTED MAORI DESCENT POPULATION By age groups, 1986-2006



Implications

In 2006 there will be a big increase in the numbers of middle-aged Maori — these are the young people of today. They will all be in need of jobs and houses to support them and their children.

Many of them will want or need education and training opportunities to make up for what they missed out on when they were younger.

The Maori population

Maori youth

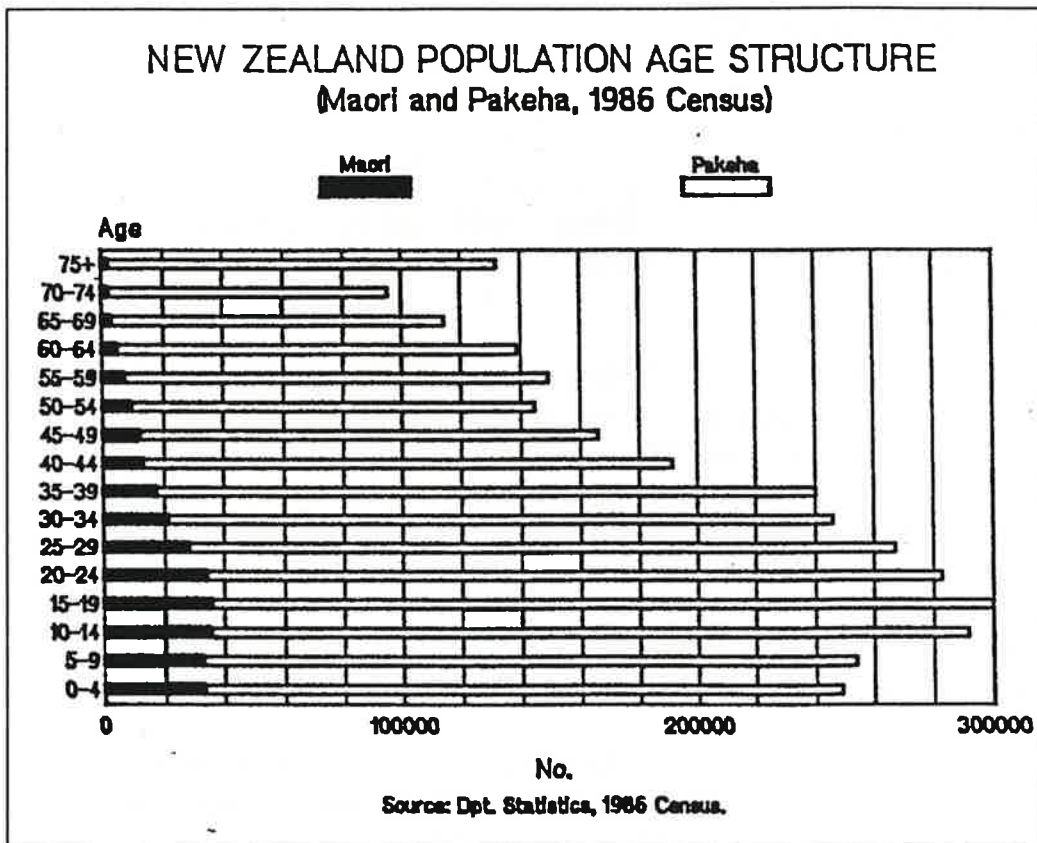
Maori youth comprise a significant proportion of the total Maori population. At the time of the 1986 Census:

- Maori youth (15-24 year-olds) numbered 70,272
- Maori youth comprised a quarter of all Maori in New Zealand.

The graph opposite shows clearly that the bulk of the Maori population at present are young (under 30). It also gives a picture of the size of the Maori population compared with Pakeha (Maori made up 12.3% of the total population in 1986).

More importantly, it shows the somewhat different shape of the Pakeha population. A much larger proportion of Pakeha are in the older age-groups. Look at the over 75 age-group, for example.

NEW ZEALAND POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE (Maori and Pakeha, 1986 Census)



Implications

The Pakeha have different priorities from the Maori because of their different age structure, and they have the numbers to push their case. It is important that Maori continue to remind the powers that be that the priorities of Maori are still their young people.

Maori youth

Ill health

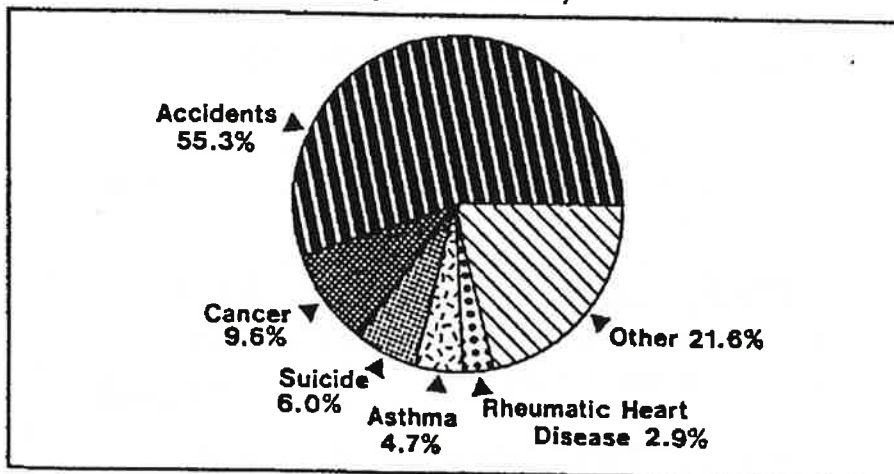
Statistics on hospital admissions indicate Maori youth suffer a higher incidence of ill health than Pakeha youth. In 1986:

- for every 1,000 Maori aged 15-24 years, 142 were admitted into a public hospital (for Pakeha the rate was 76 per 1,000)
- of these admissions, 20% were the result of accidents and other injuries.

Whilst admissions to psychiatric hospitals are declining for Pakeha, they are increasing for Maori. In 1986:

- for every 1,000 Maori aged 15-24 years, 9 were admitted into psychiatric institutions (compared with 6 Pakeha for every 1,000).

**MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH, MAORI POPULATION, 1980-84
(Ages 15-24 Years)**



Source: *Hauora: Maori Standards of Health*, Department of Health, 1988

You can see that a large proportion of the deaths shown in this chart were caused by accidents.

In fact, three-quarters of those who died through accidents were males. This is because of the high number of young men dying as a result of motor vehicle accidents. Of all the young men who died from accidents, 70% were killed on the road.

It is true that the number of Maori deaths from car accidents was cut in half between 1970-74 and 1980-84. But it is still too high.

There are no easy answers but the question needs to be asked ... what can we do?

Maori youth

Criminal offending and imprisonment

Most reported criminal offending is attributed to males aged between 15 and 30 years. A large proportion of those apprehended are Maori.

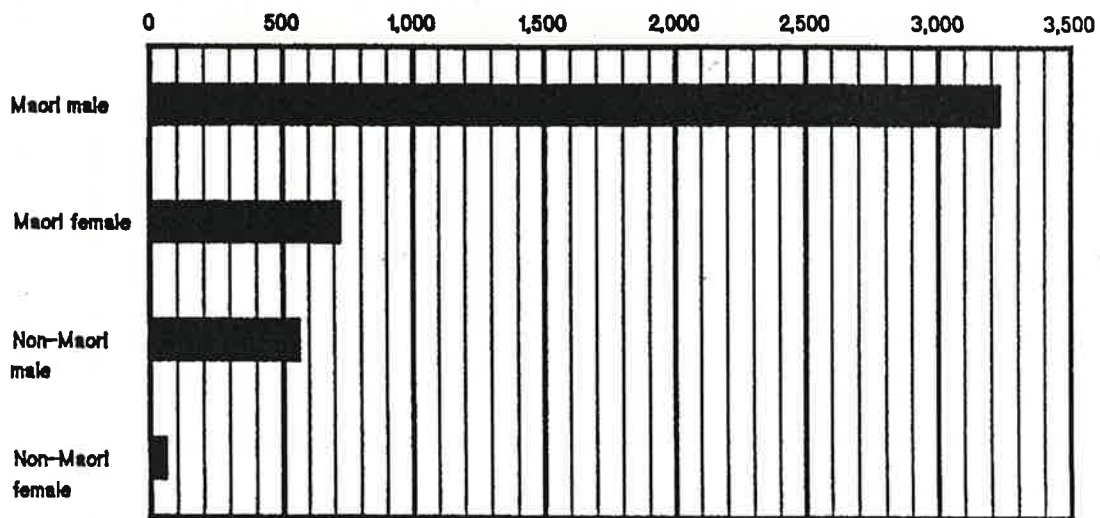
- For every 1,000 Maori males, about 320 are apprehended for criminal offending (55 per 1,000 Pakeha males).

Of all the males apprehended for reported criminal offending, about 6% are imprisoned. Statistics indicate that Maori have a greater chance of being imprisoned than Pakeha. In 1986:

- for every 1,000 Maori males, 27 were in prison at some stage during the year (compared with only 2 per 1,000 Pakeha males)
- whilst 30% of reported criminal offending was attributed to Maori, 53% of prisoners were Maori.

REPORTED CRIMINAL OFFENDING BY ETHNICITY AND SEX
(all offences) 1984

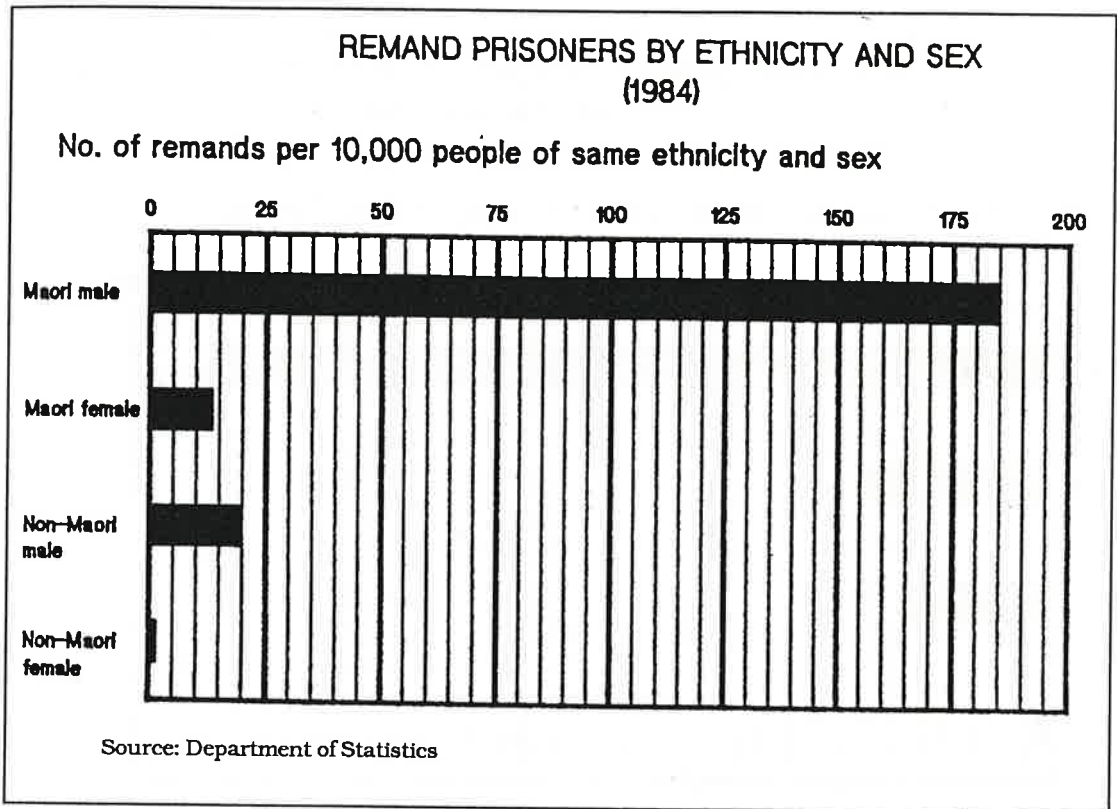
No. of reported offences per 10,000 people of same ethnicity and sex



Source: New Zealand Police, Department of Statistics

These figures show the numbers of people apprehended for a criminal offence in 1984. This means all those people who were suspected of having committed a crime, but who may or may not have been subsequently charged.

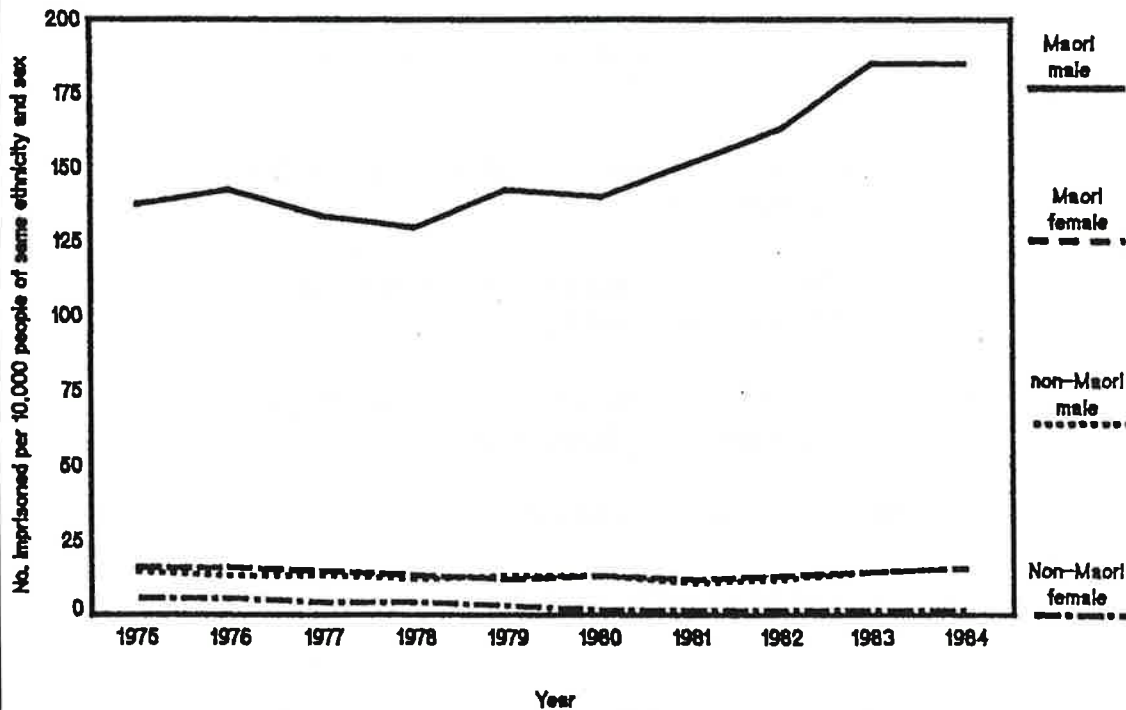
The most common offence for both Maori and Pakeha is stealing in its various forms — burglary, theft, fraud and forgery. These make up about 30% of all offences for both Maori and Pakeha. The second most common offence for both groups is violence, which makes up 20% of offences committed by Maori and 13% of Pakeha offences.



These figures show the numbers of people remanded in 1984. By remanded is meant those people who have been charged with a crime and then jailed awaiting trial, but who are not necessarily guilty. They will have been jailed either because they were refused bail or because they couldn't arrange bail.

There would seem to be room for Maori people to intercede in the justice process at this point: to convince the courts to allow bail and/or organise bail money so that the accused can avoid being held in jail.

SENTENCED PRISONERS BY ETHNICITY AND SEX (1975-1984)



Source: Department of Statistics

This graph shows very clearly that the rate of imprisonment for Maori males is far and away above everyone else. It also shows that while other groups have remained fairly static, the rate for Maori males has increased quite significantly — from about 135 prisoners for every 10,000 Maori males in 1975 to about 180 in 1984, or by approximately a third.

There have been calls for a separate Maori justice system. But even without that, there is something that Maori people can do to reduce the numbers of their young people sent to prison. Solid whanau and iwi presence in court, and evidence of strong support structures and programmes in the home or on marae, can persuade judges to look for more effective sentences than imprisonment.

Maori youth

Unemployment

Currently young Maori adults are bearing the brunt of unemployment.

- All in all, Maori account for about 22% of the total unemployed
- young Maori (15-24 year-olds) account for about 77% of all unemployed Maori
- therefore, around 16% of all unemployed people in New Zealand are young Maori.

The graph opposite shows that in 1986:

- 20% of all unemployed 15-17 year-olds were Maori
- about 17% of all unemployed 18-19 year-olds were Maori
- about 8% of all unemployed people aged 20 or over were Maori.

We do not have figures for the years since 1986, but they are likely to be worse, given the large increase in unemployment since then.



Implications

It is generally agreed that **education** is the key to getting prepared for employment. Research shows that the fastest-growing jobs are those that require **number skills** and **communication skills**. Our 15-24 age-group need these skills **now**.

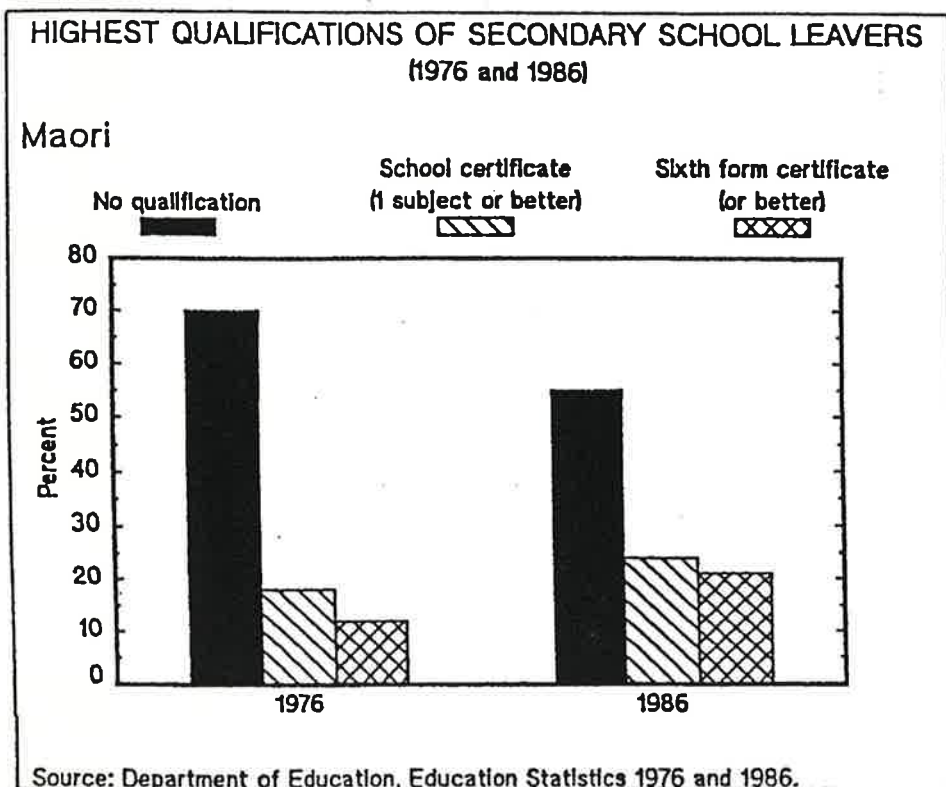
Maori youth

Education

Young Maori leave school today with better qualifications than in the past. The graph opposite shows that there has been improvement since 1976, but over half of Maori still leave school without passing even one subject in School Certificate.

Even so, Maori are ill-prepared in Pakeha educational terms. In 1986:

- 53% of Maori school leavers had no formal qualifications — almost half of these young people left school with only two full years of secondary schooling
- of all Maori school leavers in 1986, 1.5% had university bursary or better
- of all full-time university students, 3% were Maori.



Implications

It is vital that iwi and Maori groups argue for government-supported, well-resourced, alternative education systems for their young people. For example, a flow-on from Kohanga Reo to Kurakaupapa Maori, and on to secondary school, university and polytechnic level.

Our Maori youth should be offered education and training that leads to bicultural excellence and academic success, that combines life skills and vocational skills, and encourages national and international travel.

It is also important that we identify those of our young people who are succeeding in the system and ensure they continue to receive encouragement and support.

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