

Facts Sheet [2012/05/01]

Sole Parents, Teenage Fertility, and Ex-Nuptial Fertility



Sole Parents

- At the 2006 Census, the median age of New Zealand's Sole Parents was 42.9 years.
 - 1.4 per cent were aged less than 19 years
 - 14.6 per cent were aged 20-29 years
 - 84 per cent were aged 30 years and over
- At the 2006 Census, two thirds of New Zealand's Sole Parents had been previously married or in a civil union
 - 8 per cent were still married (median age 43 years)
 - 20 per cent were separated (median age 43 years)
 - 24 per cent were divorced (median age 46 years)
 - 13 per cent were widowed (median age 63 years)
- At the 2006 Census, one third of New Zealand's Sole Parents had never been married or in a civil union. Their median age was 33 years.
 - 3.8 per cent were aged less than 19 years
 - 35 per cent were aged 20-29 years
 - 61 per cent were aged 30 years and over

Teenage and Ex-Nuptial Fertility

- In 2011, 2.8 per cent of New Zealand's teenage women (15-19 years) gave birth. This is higher than Australia (1.7 per cent), similar to the United Kingdom (2.4 per cent), and lower than the USA (3.9 per cent). It is somewhat less than half the level occurring in 1972 (6.9 per cent).
- Teenage fertility should not be confused with 'ex-nuptial' fertility (births born outside marriage). Only 2.5 per cent of New Zealand's teenagers in 2011 had an ex-nuptial birth.
- The majority of ex-nuptial births are to women aged 30-34 years, followed by women aged 25-29 years. Rates are lower than they were in 1972 for every age group except 35-39 and 40-44 years, for whom ex-nuptial births have increased substantially.



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All data sourced from Statistics New Zealand