

The majority (75%) of those in a partnership were legally married, but one in five was not legally married, and a small number did not specify their legal relationship status (Table 3).

**Table 3 Partnership status**

	2006	2013
Total partnered	61	61
Non-partnered and never married	23	24
Other currently non-partnered	16	15

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 2006, 2013

## Same-sex couples

Comparable data was first collected on same-sex couples in NZ from the 2006 census following the introduction of civil unions in 2004.

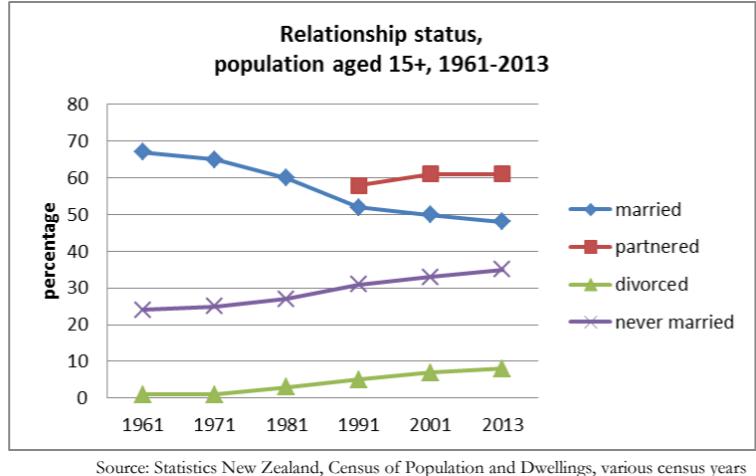
Same-sex couples made up 1% of all couples in both 2006 and 2013. Female couples predominate (56% in 2013), but there has been an increase of one percentage point in the proportion of male couples since 2006.

## Longer term partnership trends

The proportion of our population in a partnership like a marriage has been relatively stable since 1981, though legal marriage has declined (Figure 5).

There has been a continuing increase in divorced and never married people since 1981.

**Figure 5**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, various census years

## Summary

Family change is a long term phenomenon. Trends are moving away from traditional 'marriage-plus-children' family types.

More detailed analysis of family trends in New Zealand will be carried out by NIDEA during 2014.

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NIDEA undertakes research at the interface of population and economics to help inform choices and responses to the demographic, social and economic interactions that are shaping New Zealand's future.

### References

All data in this paper is sourced from Statistics New Zealand.

### Disclaimer

While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure that information contained in this document is true and accurate at the time of publication/release, changed circumstances after publication may impact on the accuracy of that information.

<http://www.waikato.ac.nz/nidea/>

## FAMILIES - CENSUS 2013

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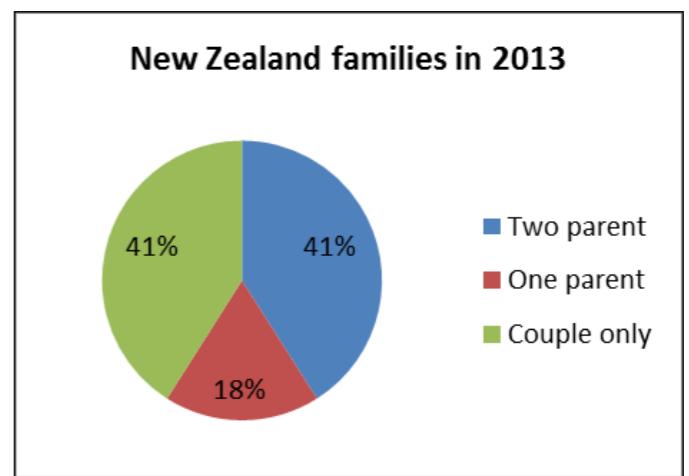
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## Families in the census

The broad definition of families in the census is not dependent on the presence or the age of children in the family. It includes couples without children and at least one parent with unpartnered children living at home, without children of their own. This could, then, include an elderly parent and adult child.

Using this definition New Zealand families in 2013 were equally split between couples without children and couples with children, with one parent families making up just 18% (Figure 1).

**Figure 1**

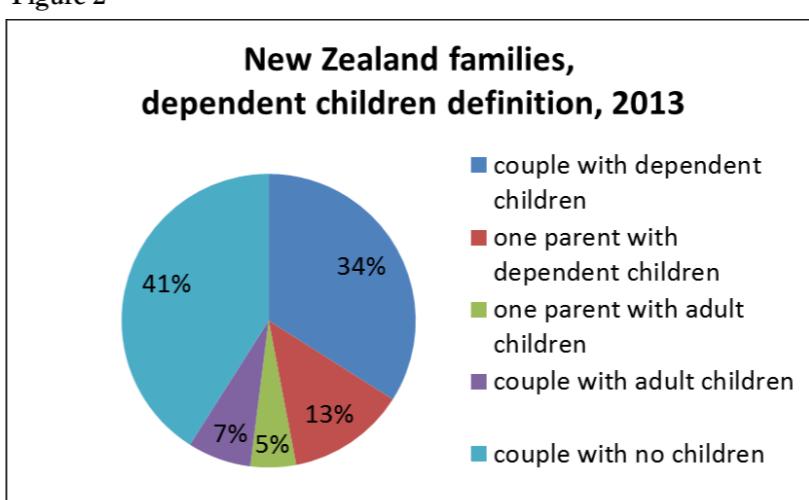


Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2013 Census QuickStats about national highlights

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**Figure 2**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2013 customised data

## Since the last census

Little has changed for New Zealand family structures from 2006 to 2013. Transitions in family structures are a longer term phenomenon. Intercensal changes may have occurred between and within age groups or ethnic groups, topics which will be analysed during 2014 as more detailed data become available.

### Comparing 2006 to 2013 — key points:

- ♦ **More couples without children**

At one point in time, couples are more likely not to have dependent children than to have them.

- ♦ **One parent families plateaued**

One parent families as a proportion of all families with dependent children have plateaued at just over one in four (27% in 2013, from 28% in 2006).

Consistent with this trend is a stabilisation from 2006 to 2013 in the proportion of people receiving a Domestic Purposes Benefit at 3% of the population .

- ♦ **Number of children not changed**

There has been virtually no change in the number of children born alive to a New Zealand woman since 2006, with a one percentage point decline in having more than two children, matched by a similar increase in having two children, and no change in the proportions having one or no children (Figure 4).

## A longer term perspective

Figure 3a

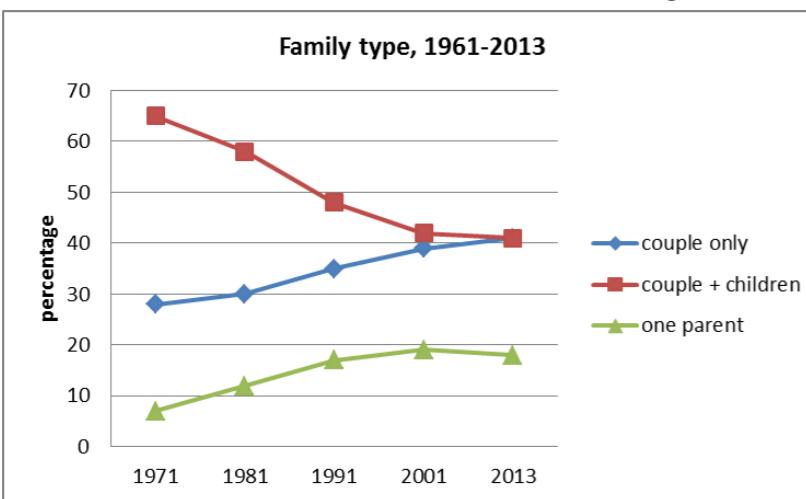
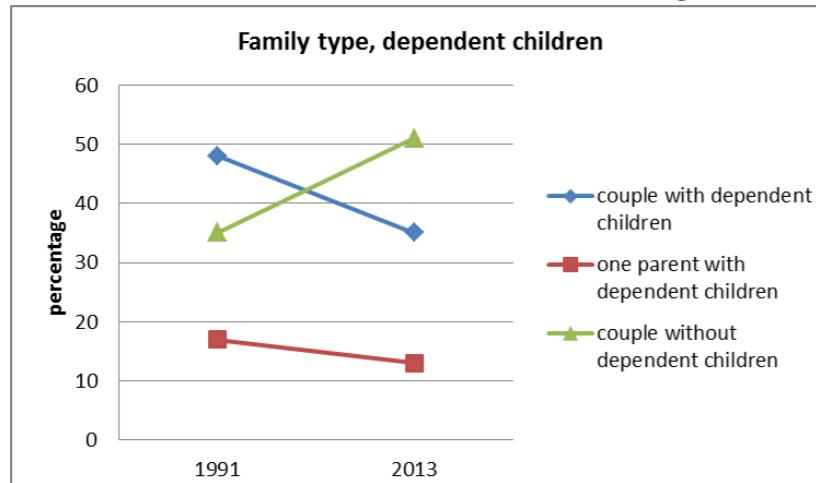


Figure 3b



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, various years.



One parent families have plateaued



When families are defined by dependent children, the longer term trends are even more interesting (Figure 3b):

- ♦ There has been a marked increase in couples without dependent children.
- ♦ This is matched by a marked decline in couples with dependent children.
- ♦ One parent families with dependent children are declining as a proportion of all families, but stable as a proportion of just those families with dependent children, that is, in relation to two parent families (Table 1).

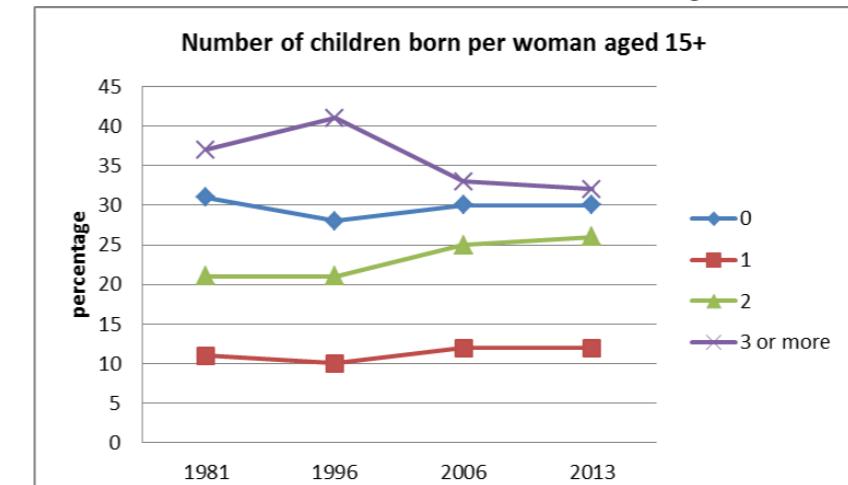
Table 1 Families with dependent children

	One parent	Two parent
1981	14	86
1991	26	74
2001	29	71
2013	27	73

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, various years.

## Number of children

Figure 4



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, various years.

In the longer term there has been a decline in women having three or more children. This is mainly replaced by having two children, with a smaller increase in one child. The proportion of women without children is relatively stable at just under one in three (Figure 4).

There are now as many couples without children as with children

## Marriage and partnership

There has been a less than one percentage point shift in legally registered relationship status between 2006 and 2013. These shifts include slight declines in married, separated and widowed with equivalent slight upturns in divorce and never married categories (Table 2). Just under half (48%) are legally married, 6% widowed, 8% divorced, 4% separated and just over a third (35%) have never married or entered a civil union.

Partnership status better captures social reality as more people at all ages choose to live together outside of legal marriage. A total of 61% were in a partnership, that is, “residing as a couple in a relationship in the nature of marriage or civil union and not married to or in a civil union with the other person”.

Table 2 Marriage and partnership

	Legally registered		Partnership	
	2006	2013	2006	2013
Partnered nfd*			2	2
De facto partner			13	13
Married	49	48	47	46
Separated	4	4	3	3
Divorced	8	8	5	5
Widowed	6	6	5	5
Never married or registered civil union	34	35	23	24
Non-partnered nfd			3	3

\*Nfd = not further defined

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 2006, 2013