

South Canterbury Presbytery Community Profile

Geography

This presbytery is equivalent to

- Canterbury Region districts of:
 - Timaru
 - Mackenzie
 - Waimate

It is also

- Within the Canterbury Police District area of Mid-South Canterbury
- Equivalent to the South Canterbury District Health Board

Map of South Canterbury Presbytery





South Canterbury Presbytery region at a glance

Some of the significant highs and lows for the three districts in this presbytery compared with the 72 districts in mainland New Zealand are as follows: (**highest/high** in New Zealand; **lowest/low** in New Zealand). Data is from the 2006 census.

Population general	Timaru District	Mackenzie District	Waimate District
Median age in years (NZ: 35)	42	40	43
% of people 0-24 years old	30.30%	31.47%	22.36%
% of people 25-44 years old	24.19%	26.26%	22.52%
% of people 45-64 years old	27.21%	29.34%	28.85%
% of people 65 years old and over	18.30%	12.85%	19.15%
Population density (people/km ²) (NZ: 9.71)	15.67	0.51	2.01
Population growth (2001-2006)	2.15%	2.26%	1.48%

Work and Education

% receiving income from wages/salary*	57.42%	59.60%	48.75%
% receiving income from self-employment*	15.24%	31.37%	25.11%
% receiving income from investments*	27.36%	28.44%	26.96%
% as full-time students*	6.55%	5.93%	5.36%
% without any educational qualification*	30.73%	24.14%	35.26%
% graduated from university*	6.95%	9.66%	5.51%

Ethnicity

% European	81.25%	77.52%	79.04%
% Maori	6.23%	4.46%	5.33%
% Pacific Islander	0.91%	0.57%	0.60%
% Asian	1.45%	3.90%	0.60%

Family and Household

couples with children (as % of families)	38.11%	40.66%	39.45%
couples without children (as % of families)	48.57%	49.70%	51.01%
% solo parents (as % of families with children)	25.86%	19.64%	19.23%
% widowed, or bereaved civil union*	6.95%	5.47%	6.13%
% who have never married/partnered*	18.19%	19.98%	14.95%
Median family income	\$50,300	\$48,500	\$43,100
Mean weekly rental for households renting	\$147	\$125	\$133
% of households with 6 or more people	1.99%	3.52%	2.62%
% of households with only one occupant	27.03%	26.85%	27.09%

Benefits

% receiving unemployment benefit*	3.36%	2.20%	3.43%
% receiving sickness benefit*	2.00%	1.57%	2.07%
% receiving domestic purposes benefit*	2.59%	1.36%	2.40%
% receiving New Zealand superannuation*	22.27%	16.16%	24.67%

Faith

% Christian	59.62%	56.59%	59.45%
% Maori Christian	0.38%	0.32%	0.33%
% having no religion	29.87%	29.52%	29.02%
% following New Age/Spiritualism	0.41%	0.24%	0.33%
% Hindu	0.15%	0.24%	0.17%
% Islam	0.14%	0.08%	0.04%
% Buddhist	0.31%	1.03%	0.21%

Notes:

- Statistics with (*) are for the population aged 15 years and older
- "family" is defined as the total of couples with children plus couples without children plus solo parents
- Statistics in **bold** are 2nd highest/2nd lowest in New Zealand

General Comments

South Canterbury Presbytery encompasses three districts, and has one large town, extensive rural areas and a large tract of very sparsely populated country in the Mackenzie Basin. The presbytery as a whole has a distinctly old age profile, and the European ethnicity dominates. Educational levels are low and the percentage of people with no qualifications is high. Couples without children dominate the family scene, with low levels of couples with children and solo parents. A high proportion of people have married and the level of bereavement is higher than average. Numbers per household are low, as are household incomes and rentals. Numbers on welfare benefits are also below average.

On a district basis, Timaru and Waimate Districts have many people in the 65 and over age bracket, many NZ Superannuitants and bereaved people. Mackenzie and Waimate Districts have very low ethnic diversity, occupying lowest and second-lowest positions for percentage Maori. The percentage European figures for these districts are somewhat misleading because a very high percentage have chosen the new ethnicity category "New Zealand" (Timaru 16.16%; Mackenzie 18.34%, Waimate 20.41%; New Zealand average 11.16%); without this category the percentage European would be even higher. Of the three districts Waimate has the highest proportion of couples without children and the lowest (also the lowest in New Zealand) of unmarrieds. It also has the highest proportion of households with only one occupant.

South Canterbury District Health Board records a low suicide rate (10.8/100,000 people – the NZ average is 13) and also a relatively low rate of admissions for self-harm (99.6/100,000 – the NZ average is 153).¹

Mackenzie District has a very high number of non-casino gaming machines (118/10,000 people). Timaru is relatively high (74) whereas Waimate is below average with 51.²

Mackenzie District has one of the lowest levels of deprivation in New Zealand, with only 6.1% of the population living in the upper three deciles of deprived meshblocks. Timaru (21.1%) and Waimate (16.8%) are also below average.³

The presbytery has very few followers of non-Christian faiths, with the odd exception of Buddhism in Mackenzie District. The Christian presence is strong in all districts. Figures from the 2001 census show a very strong Presbyterian presence, along with above average percentages of Anglicans and Catholics. Presbyterian statistics over the period 2000-2005 show a steady decline in attendance then a sharp increase in 2006 which may be an erroneous statistic. The congregation age profile is very much older than that of the surrounding presbytery population.

¹ Miranda Devlin. Ministry of Health. 2006. *Suicide Facts: 2004–2005 data*.

Wellington. Suicide statistics are averaged over the years 2002-2004, self-harm statistics are for 2005.

² Kylie Mason. Ministry of Health. 2006. *Problem Gambling Geography of New Zealand 2005*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

³ NZDep2001 Index of Deprivation: A meshblock is the smallest area used for census data, typically contains around 110 people (a city block). The figure is for those living in decile 8-10 meshblocks.

Selected Statistics for South Canterbury Presbytery region

Note: The same statistic for all of New Zealand is given in square brackets e.g. [NZ: 20%]

Population

At the 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings:

- o The census usually resident population count for South Canterbury Presbytery region was 53,880, a change of 2.08% since 2001 [NZ: change = 7.8%].

Numbers of people counted

	South Canterbury	New Zealand
Males	26,430	1,965,648
Females	27,429	2,062,323
Total	53,880	4,027,971

Age profile

At the 2006 Census:

- o 19.4% of people in South Canterbury Presbytery region were **under 15** years old [NZ: 21.5%].
- o 18.0% of people in South Canterbury Presbytery region were **over 65** years old [NZ: 12.3%].

Age of South Canterbury Population in 2006



Employment

At the 2006 Census:

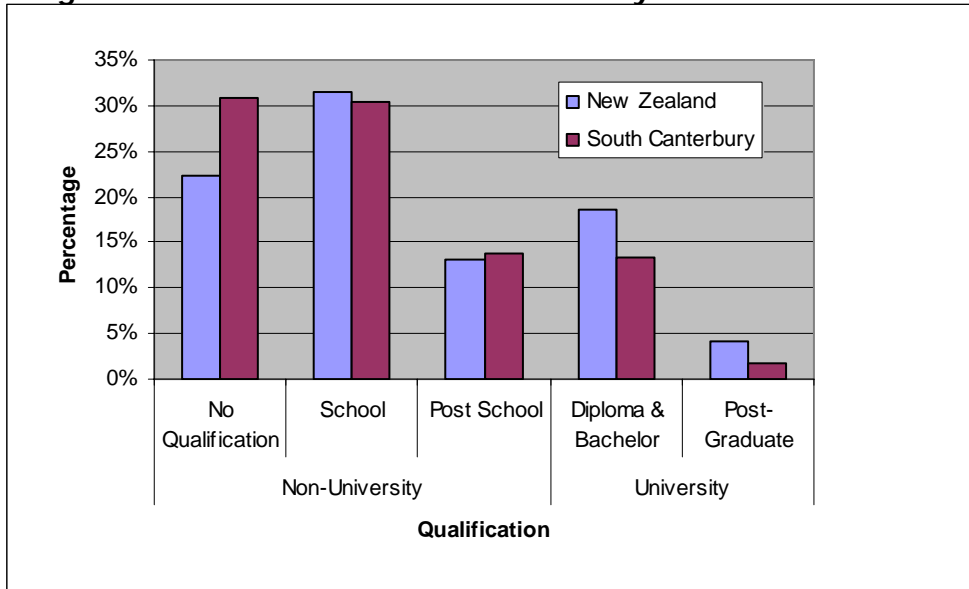
- o The **unemployment rate** in South Canterbury Presbytery region was 3.4% [NZ: 5.4%].
- o The most popular occupational group in South Canterbury Presbytery region was Labourers at 18.4% [NZ: professionals (18.9%)].

Education

At the 2006 Census:

- 28.9% of people aged 15 years and over in South Canterbury Presbytery region had a **post-school qualification** [NZ: 35.8%].

Highest Qualification in South Canterbury and NZ

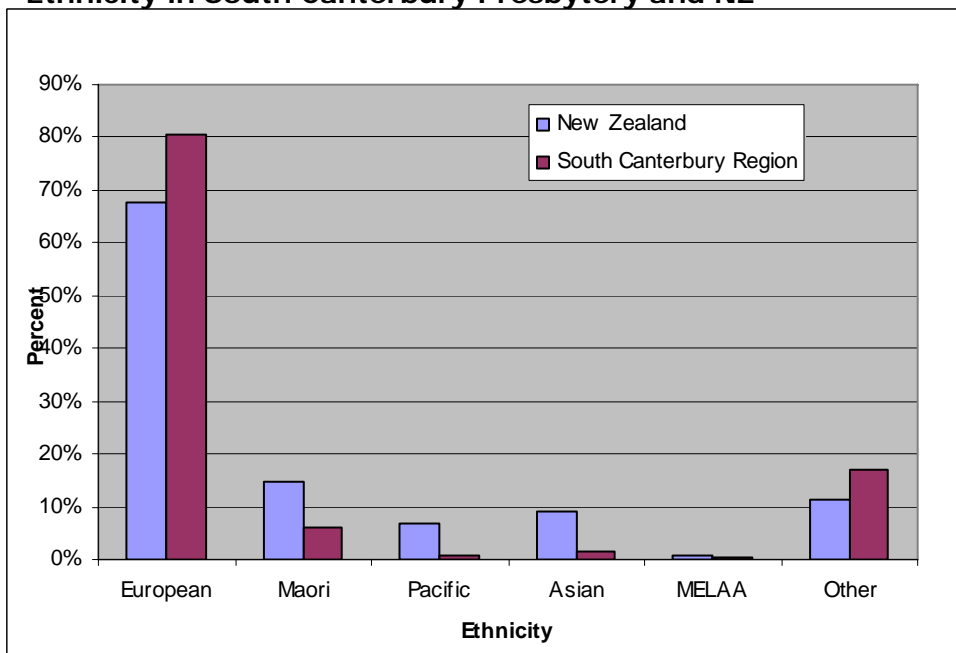


Ethnic groups

At the 2006 Census:

- 80.6% of people in South Canterbury Presbytery region said they belong to the European ethnic group [NZ: 67.6%].

Ethnicity in South Canterbury Presbytery and NZ



MELAA = Middle East, Latin American and African

Families

At the 2006 Census:

- There were 15,285 families in South Canterbury Presbytery region.

Family type

	South Canterbury	New Zealand
Couples with child(ren)	38.4%	42.0%
Couples without children	48.9%	39.9%
1 parent with child(ren)	12.5%	18.1%

Marital Status

	South Canterbury	New Zealand
Never married	24.6%	31.4%
Married (not civil union)	51.7%	44.8%
Previously married/partnered	18.4%	16.0%

'Previously married/partnered' includes separated, divorced and bereaved.

Households

At the 2006 Census, in South Canterbury Presbytery region there were 21,840 households:

- **Mean number of household members:** [NZ: 2.7]

Timaru District	2.4
Mackenzie District	2.4
Waimate District	2.4

- **access to a telephone:** 91.1% of households [NZ: 91.7%].
- **access to the internet:** 52.7% of households [NZ: 60.5%].
- **access to a motor vehicle:** 92.6% of households [NZ: 92.2%].
- **mean weekly rent** for rented permanent private dwellings: [NZ: \$225]

Timaru District	\$147
Mackenzie District	\$125
Waimate District	\$133

- **ownership of dwelling** with or without a mortgage, 74.6% [NZ: 66.9%].

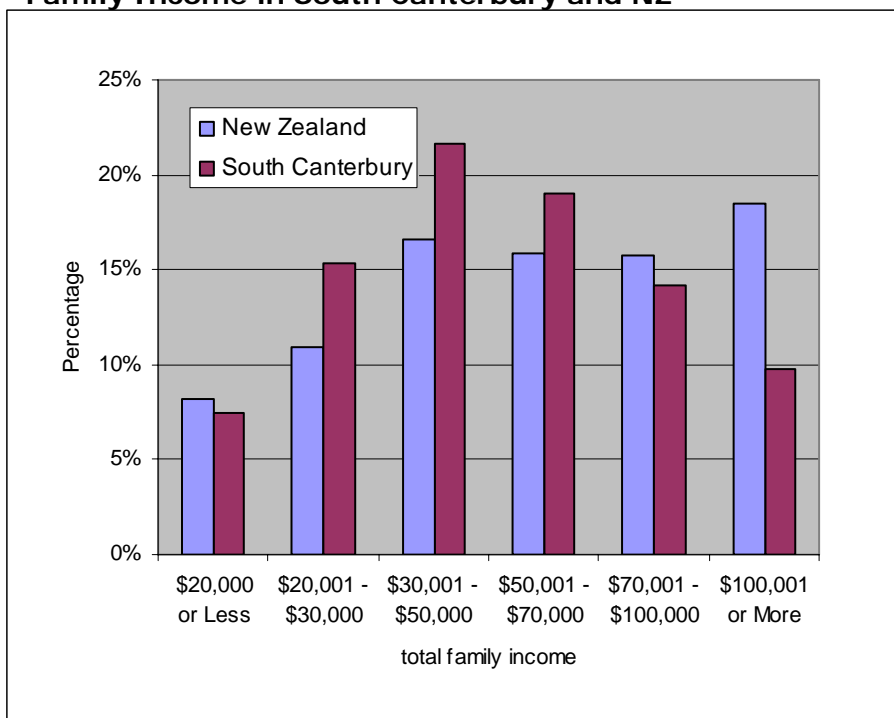
Income

At the 2006 Census:

- The median family income in South Canterbury Presbytery region was: [NZ: \$59,000]

Timaru District	\$50,300
Mackenzie District	\$48,500
Waimate District	\$43,100

Family Income in South Canterbury and NZ



Benefits and Allowances

The percentages of people 15 years of age and over in South Canterbury Presbytery region receiving the following government benefits and allowances are:

Benefits and Allowances

	South Canterbury region	New Zealand
Unemployment Benefit	3.10%	3.11%
Sickness Benefit	1.92%	2.38%
Domestic Purposes Benefit	2.40%	3.14%
Student Allowance	0.74%	2.17%

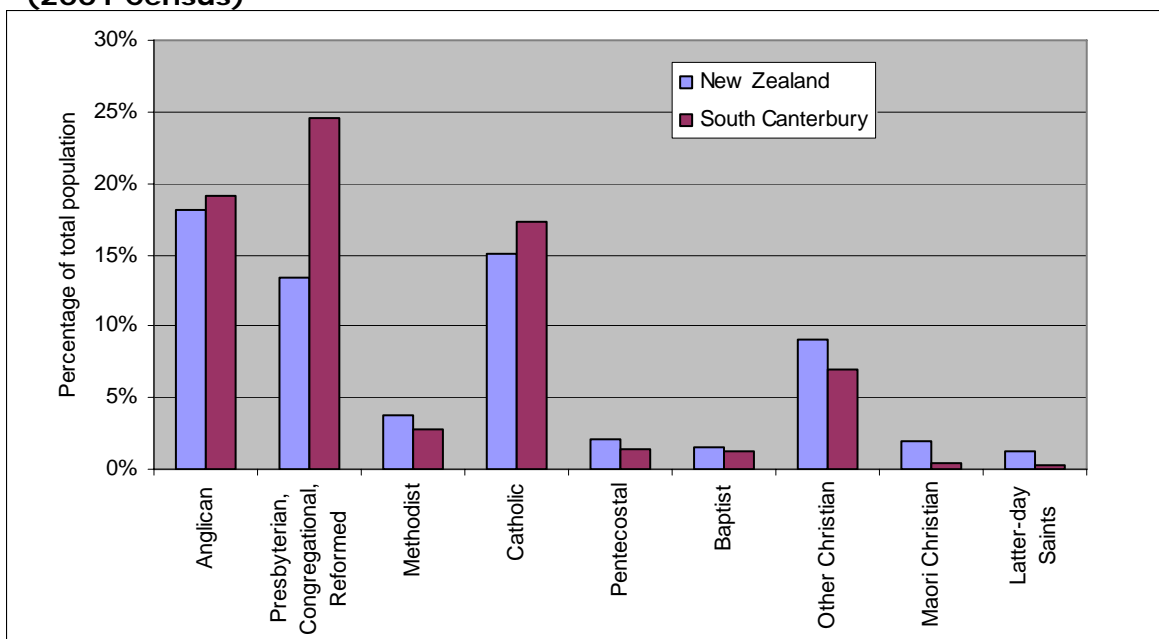
Religion

Religious Affiliation (2006 Census)

	Christian	Māori Christian	*New Age Religions	Judaism	Islam	Hindu	Buddhist	Other Religions	No Religion
New Zealand	58.03%	1.88%	0.57%	0.20%	1.03%	1.84%	1.50%	0.70%	37.13%
South Canterbury	66.87%	0.43%	0.43%	0.06%	0.18%	0.17%	0.41%	0.28%	33.50%

* includes Spiritualism

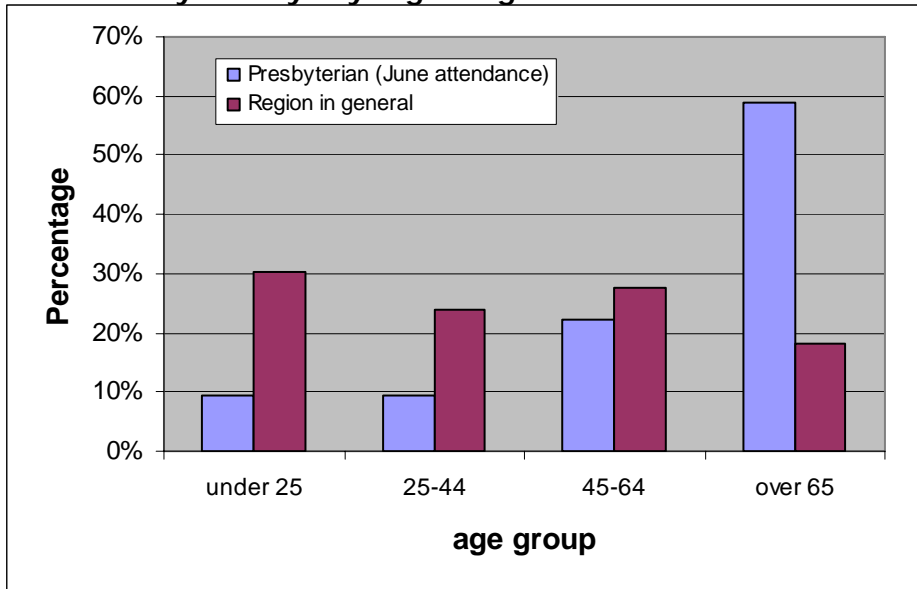
Christian Denomination in South Canterbury Presbytery region and NZ (2001 Census)



“Other Christian” includes Church of Christ, Lutheran, Adventists, Orthodox, Evangelical non-denominational, Reformed, Uniting/Union, Salvation Army, smaller groups and Christians who did not define their denomination further

Presbyterian Church Statistics for South Canterbury Presbytery

Age of those attending worship during June 2005 in South Canterbury Presbytery compared with South Canterbury Presbytery region age structure



Average numbers attending worship in June 2005 were 693.

In the 2001 census, 11,523 people in South Canterbury Presbytery region identified themselves as being Presbyterian. Presbyterian statistics record an average June worship attendance of 944 people in 2001 in the whole of South Canterbury Presbytery.

Average Worship Attendance in South Canterbury Presbytery (June 2000-2006)

