

Fertility Research in Statistics New Zealand

Recent and planned work

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Research topics

- Children ever born – Census data
- Fertility trends – for projections
- Childlessness
- Birth spacing and timing
- Teenage fertility
- Vitals data – late registrations, parity
- Subnational fertility
- Diversity and fertility

Census data

Census children ever born question:

25 If you are male → *go to 26*
If you are female, answer this question.
How many babies have you given birth to?

number born alive

none

object to answering this question → *go to 26*

25 Ko ngā tāne → *haere ki 26*
Mehemea he wahine koe, whakautua tēnei pātai.
Tokohia ō pēpi i whānau mai i a koe?

i whānau ora mai

kāore aku tamariki

kāore au e whakaāe ki te whakautu i tēnei pātai → *haere ki 26*

Previous work

1996 Census data the most recent with a question on children ever born alive

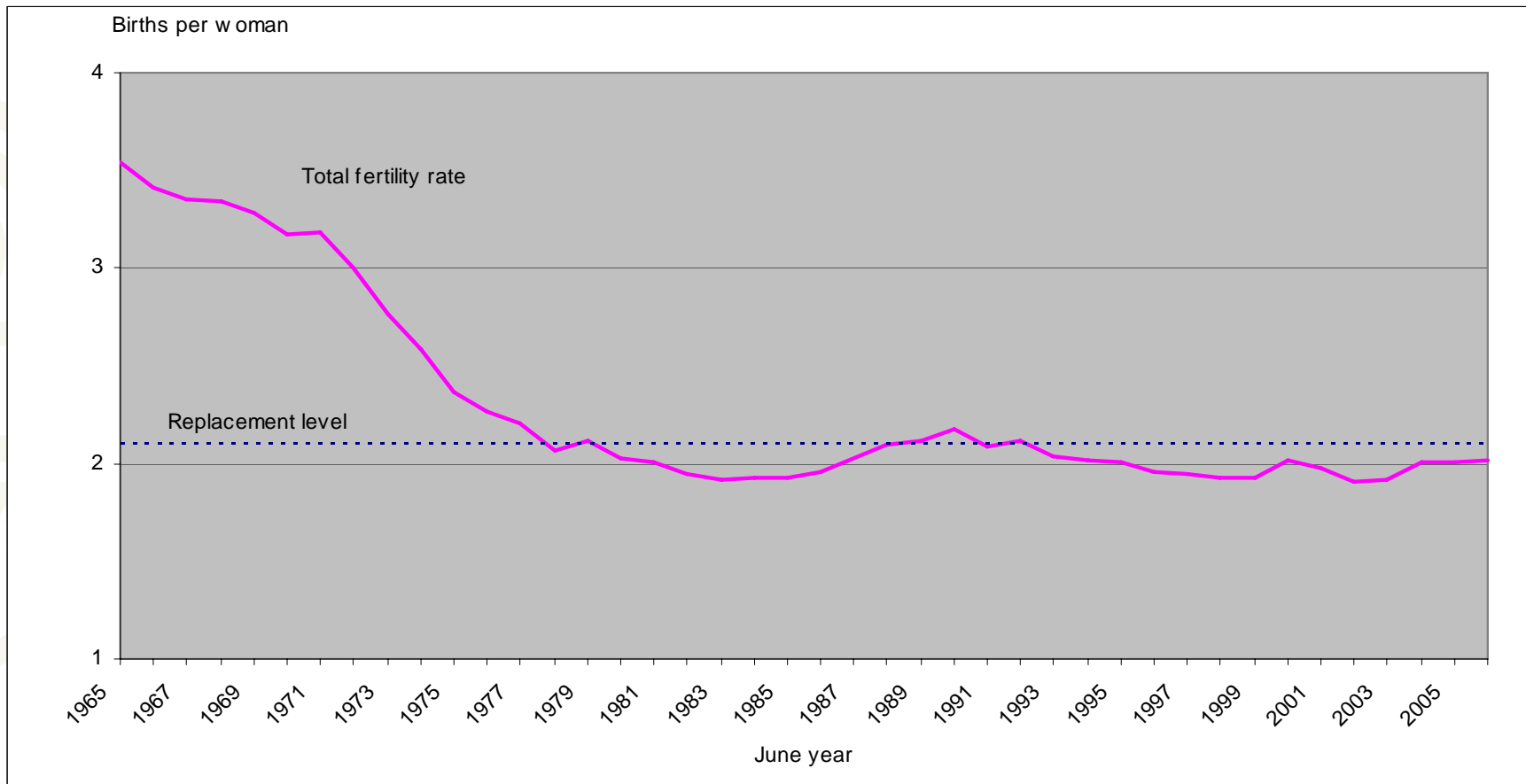
- two research reports published on this data
- 2001: Didham, Boddington, Khawaja: *Socio-economic factor and the fertility of New Zealand women*
- 2004: Didham: *Fertility of New Zealand women by ethnicity*

The 2006 Census used the same question – release scheduled for 6 December 2006

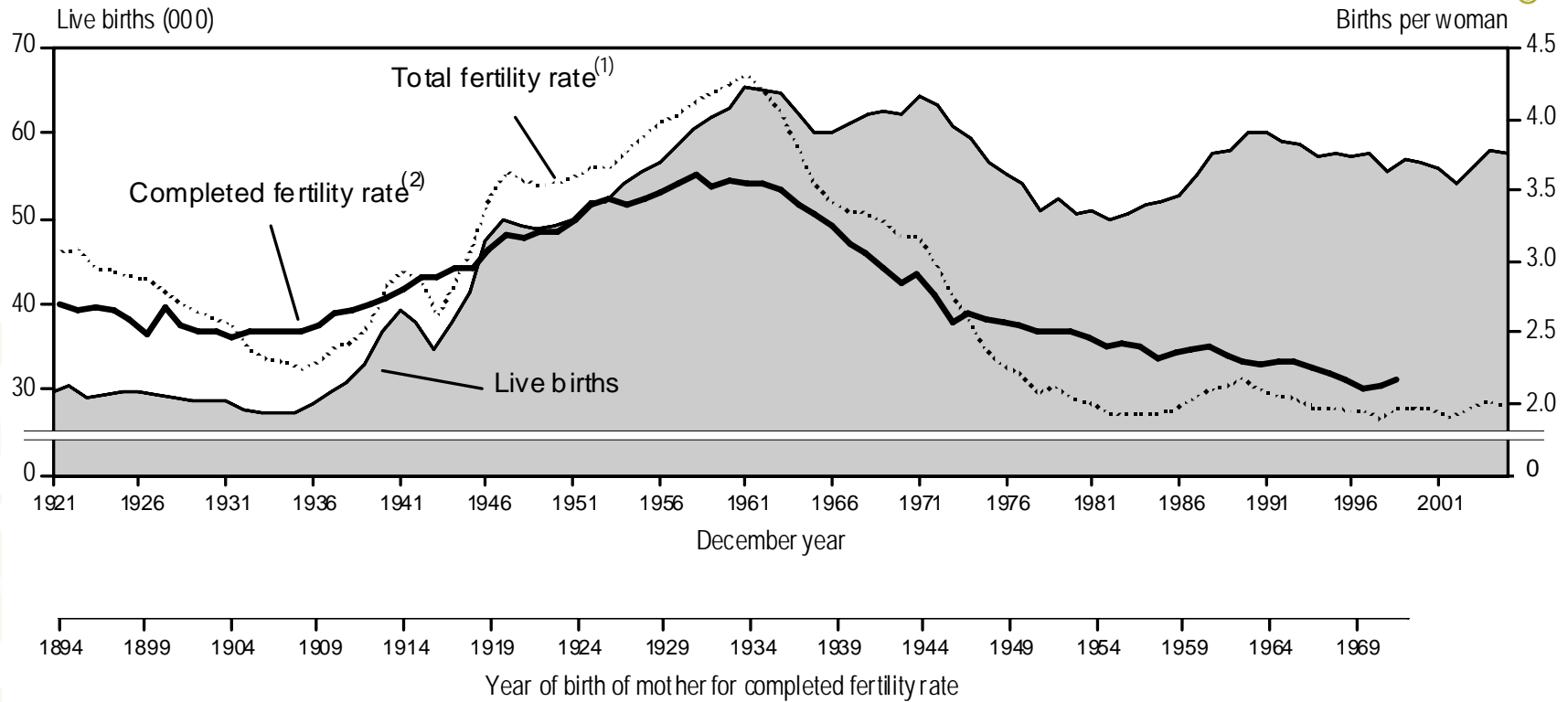
Trends in fertility

- Major use of fertility trend analysis within Statistics NZ is as a component for generating population projections

Total Fertility Rate 1964-2006



Live Births and Fertility Rates 1921–2005



(1) The average number of births a woman would have during her life if she experienced the age-specific fertility rates of that year. It excludes the effects of mortality.

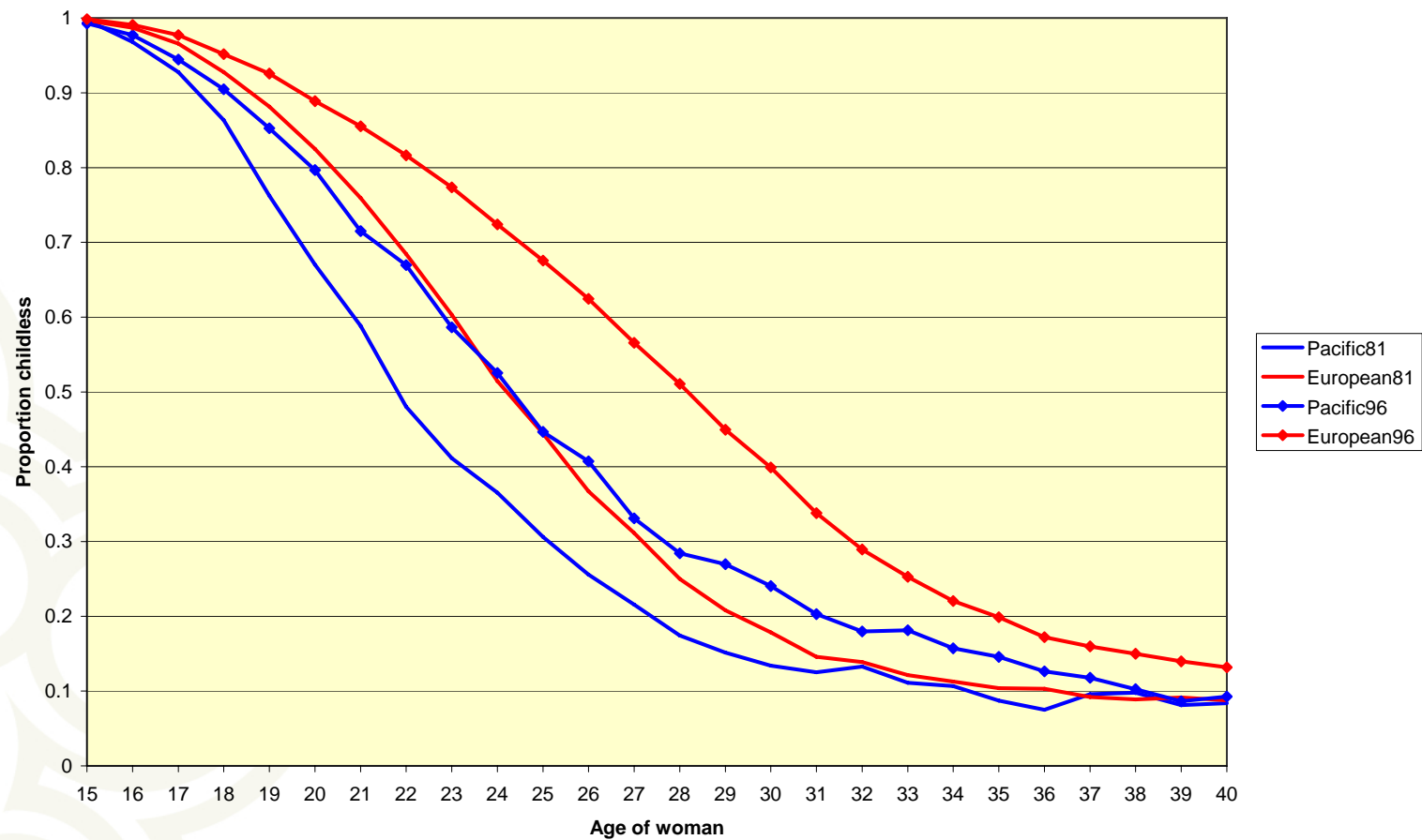
(2) The average number of children a woman born in a particular year has had during her life. The figures for 1957–1972 birth cohorts are estimates only.

Childlessness

- Childless versus childfree
- Themes in childlessness:
 - Levels of childlessness by ethnicity
 - Subnational variations
 - Choice or not?
 - Effect of delayed childbearing

Proportion of women childless

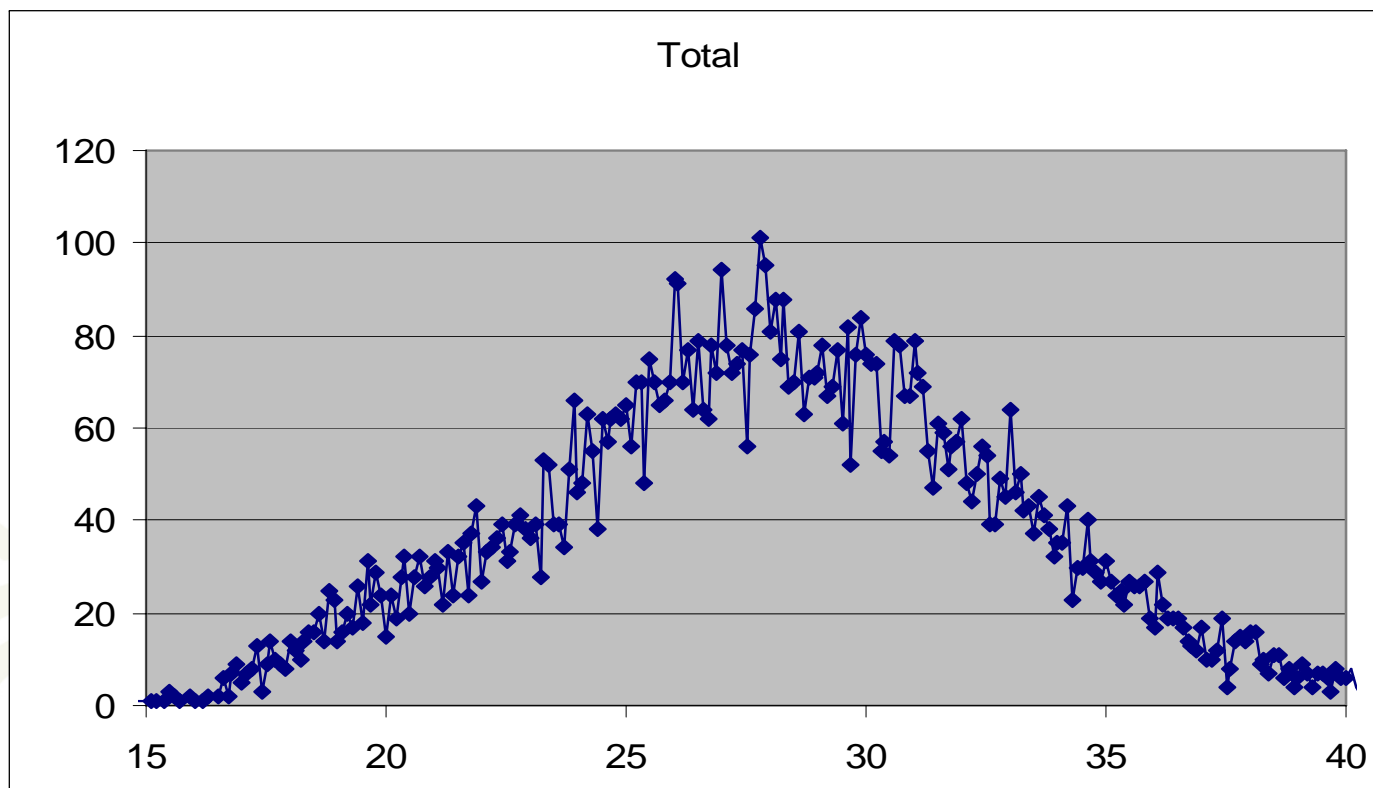
Pacific women and European women
1981 and 1996



Birthspacing and Timing

- Themes:
 - Age of first birth – onset of childbearing
 - Spacing between births by age of mother
 - Change over time (older, compression, primary drivers family size and when)
 - Recent work in Australia, notably by Rebecca Kippen (with Patrick Corr and Peter McDonald)

Timing

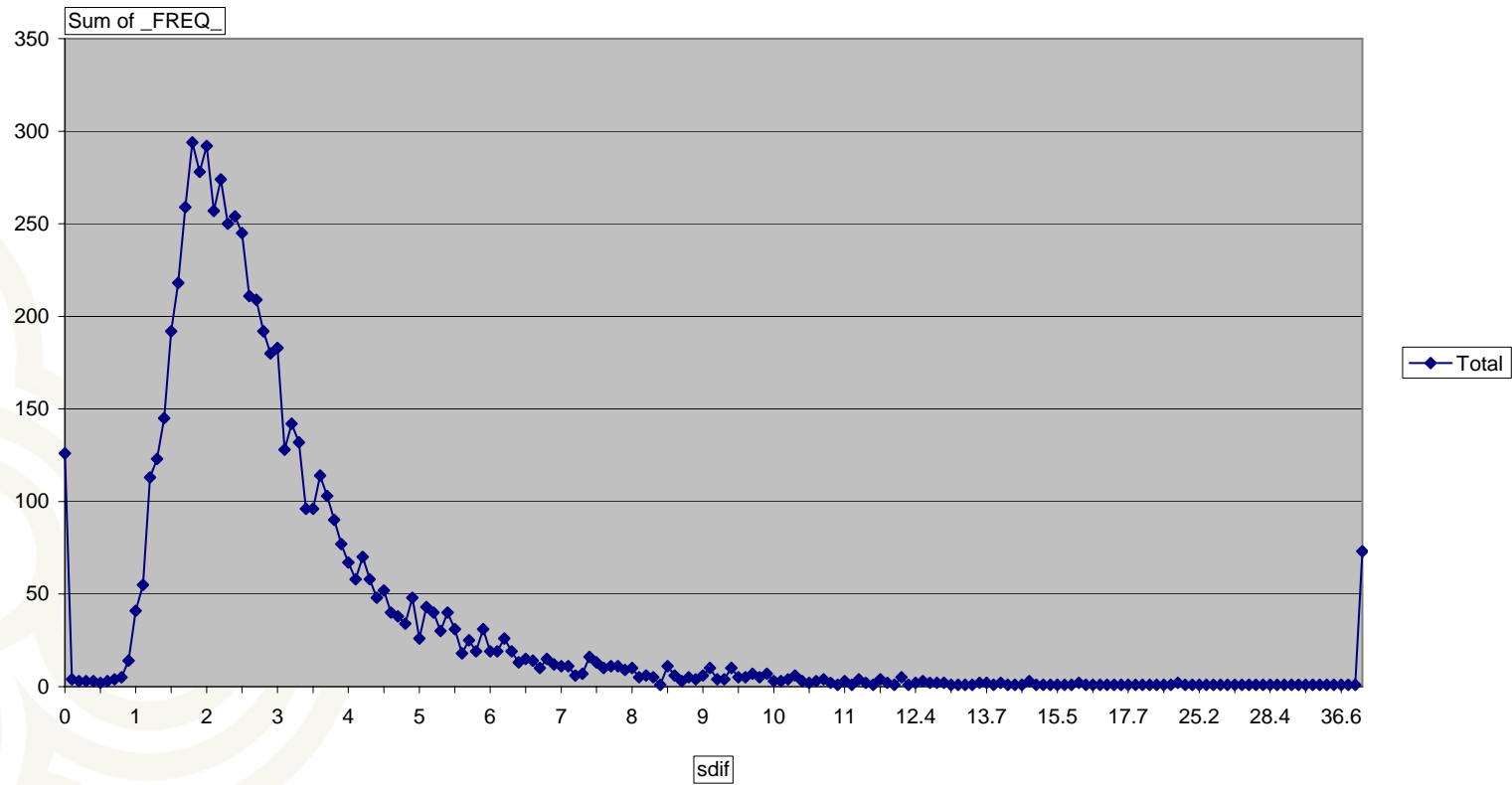


Birthspacing

Between first and second child

childid|2

Total



Teenage fertility

- Ongoing popular interest:
 - Listener
 - Keisha Castle-Hughes
- Approximately 8,000 known pregnancies annually to women under 20 years of age
- Births quite steady at around 4,000 births per year
- Pattern of teenage childbearing relate to age of first birth norms.

Teenage mothers

Of the 4,000 births to teenage mothers:

- 53% of mothers (55% of babies) are of European ethnicities
- 53% of mothers (62% of babies) are Maori
- 15% of mothers (22% of babies) are Pacific
- 3% of mothers (4% of babies) are Asian

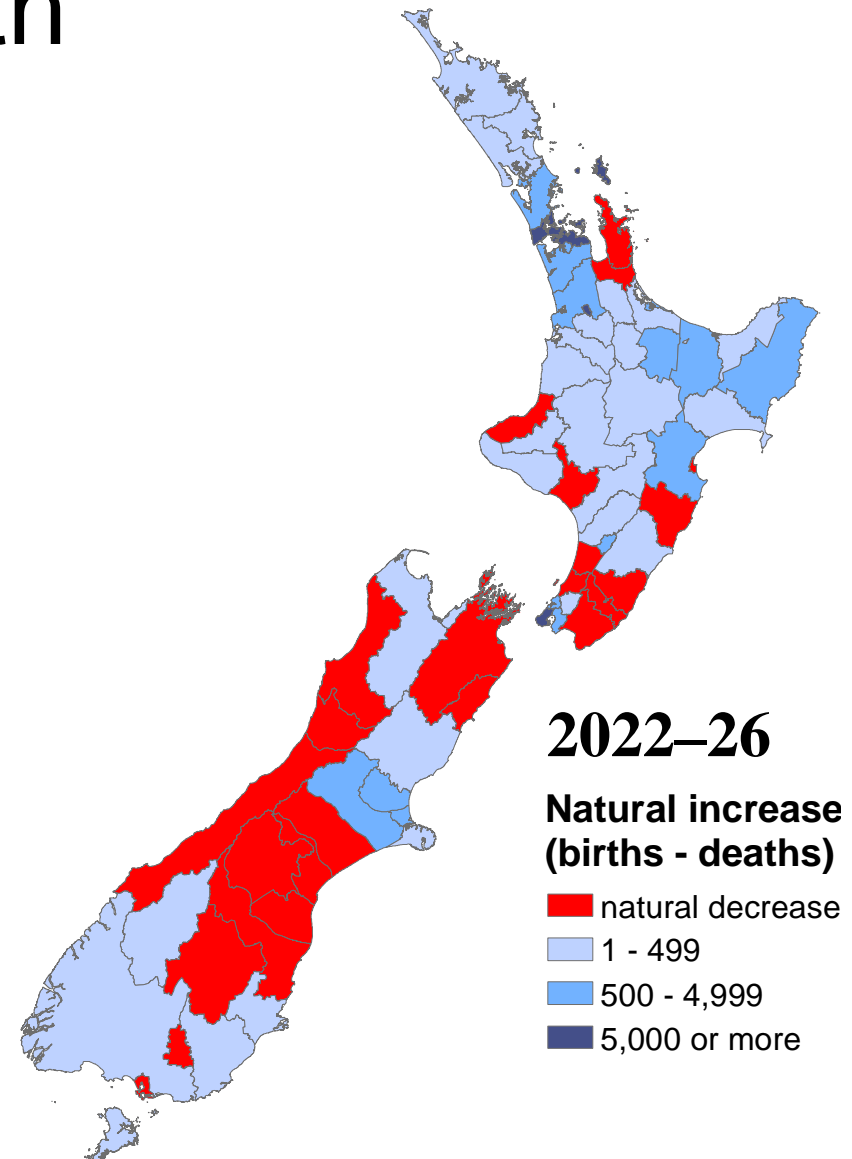
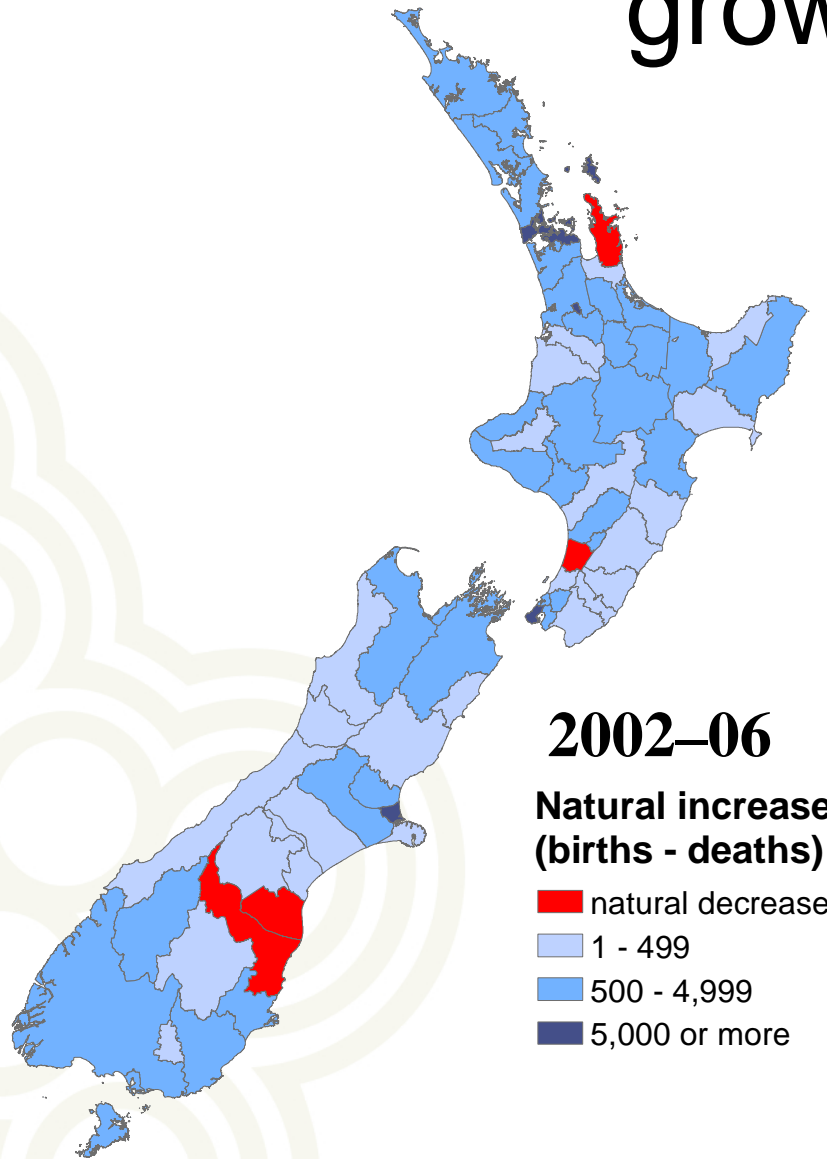
Vitals

- Analysis of changes in birth registration forms
- Parity analysis

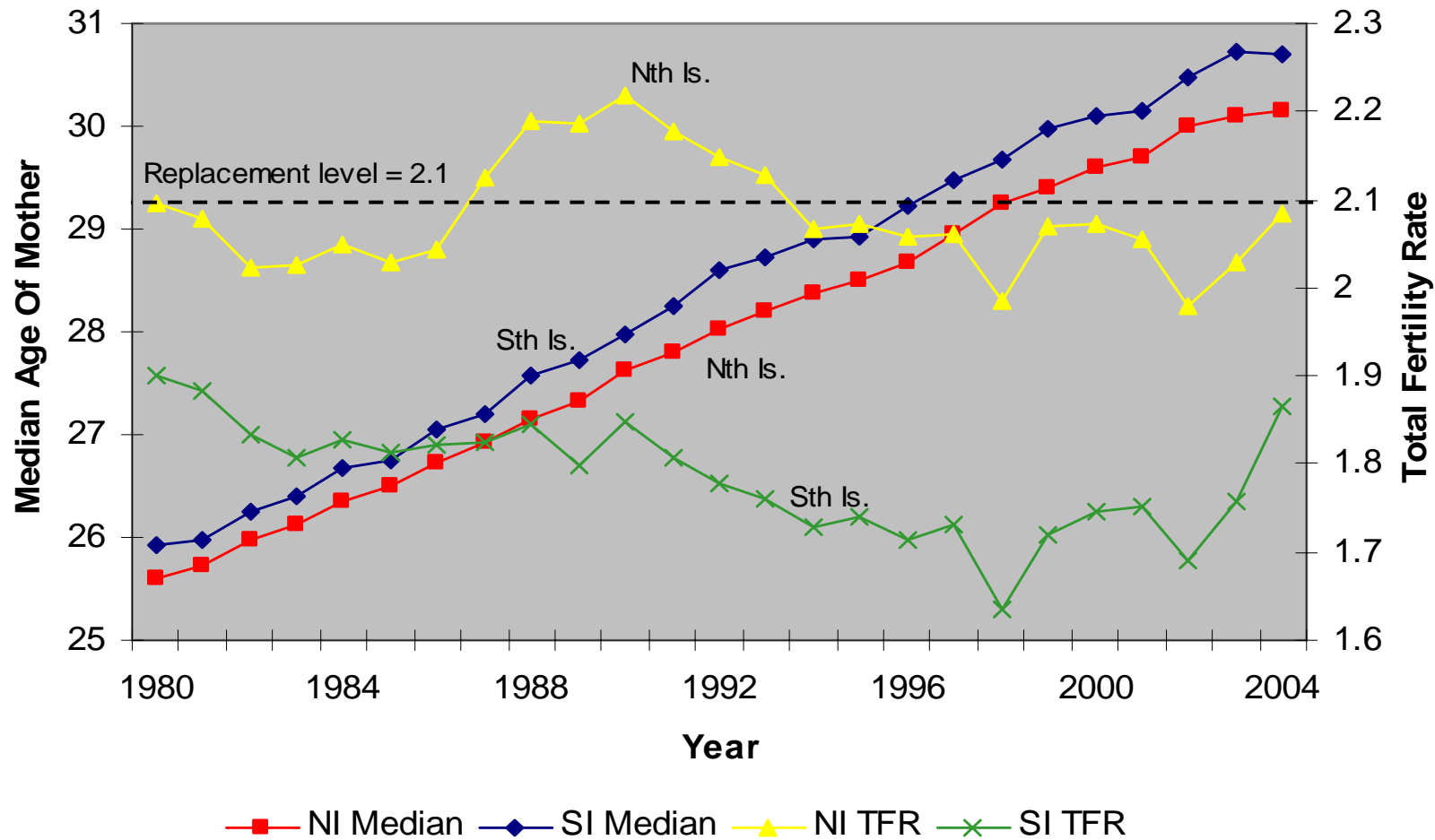
Subnational fertility ...

.... why does it matter?

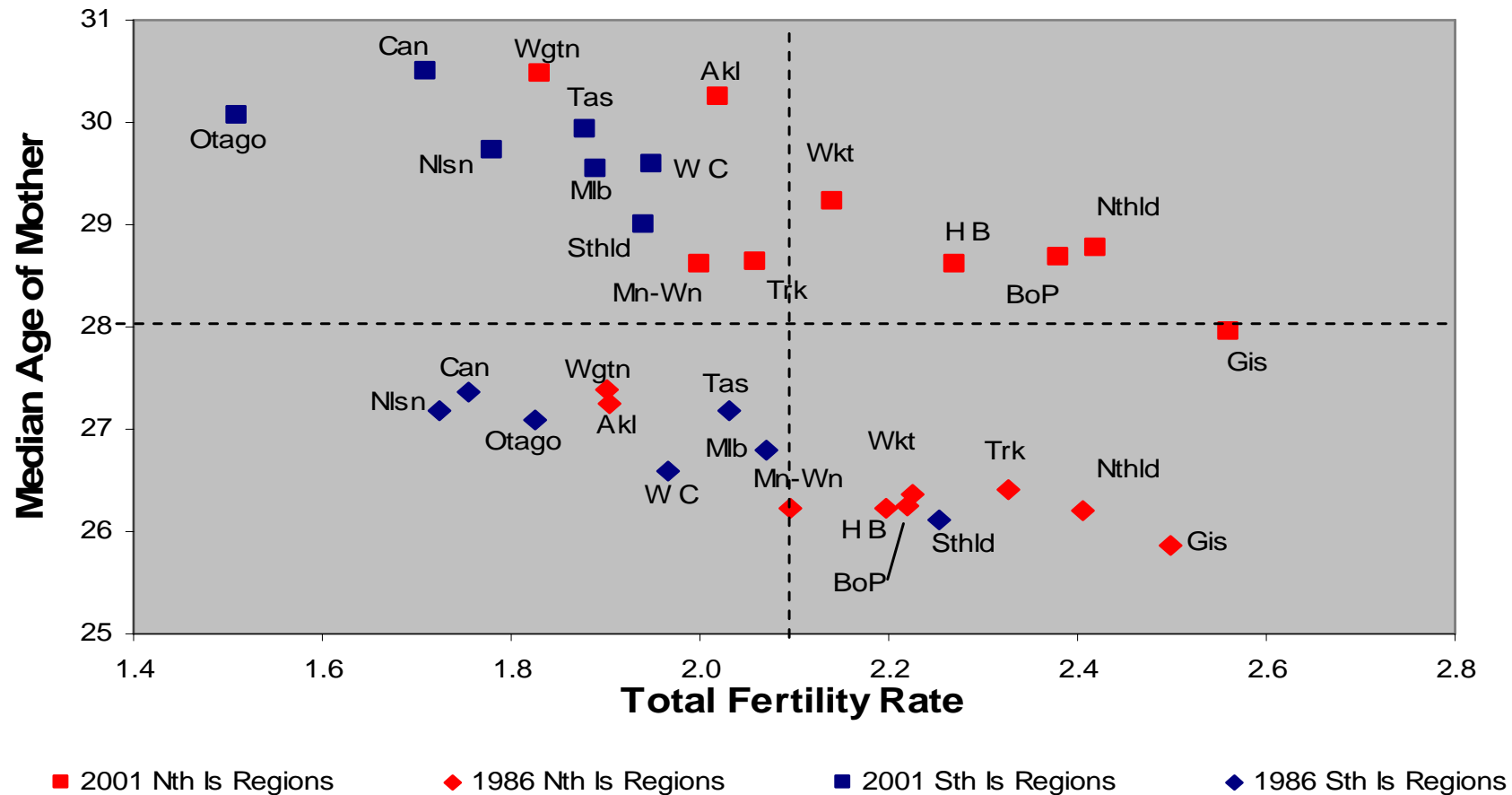
Subnational differentials in growth



Total Fertility Rates & Median Age at Childbearing



Total Fertility Rates & Median Age at Childbearing



Population Mobility and Fertility

- Around half of the population changes address at least once every five years
- Roughly 1/3 of the under fives also move at least once
- How much of changing subnational patterns result from population mobility?
- So many subnational characteristics seem not to change. How are these patterns maintained?

Diversity and fertility

- Themes:
 - What is diversity?
 - Ethnicity
 - Birthplace
 - Subnational diversity
 - Religion
 - Language
 - Age
 - Inter-marriage
 - Diasporic linkages