

Regional data analysis: Emergency and public housing January - December 2021

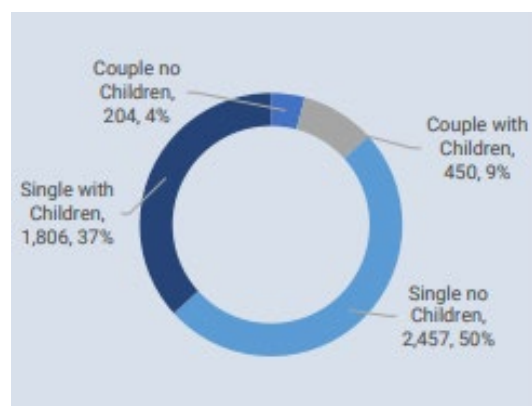
Key insights from regional analysis of emergency and public housing – January to December 2021

- As of 31 December 2021, there were 4,911 households (5,562 adults and 4,464 children) in receipt of an EH SNG and 30,750 applicants on the Public Housing Register.¹
- As of 31 December 2021, there were 5,102 Transitional Housing places, 893 motel places contracted as part of the COVID-19 response, and 300 contracted motel units to support 200 whānau as part of the Rotorua pilot.

The data provides some insight into the type of housing that is needed in each region
Household composition

- At the national level, households receiving an EH SNG are reasonably evenly split between those with children (46 percent) and those without (54 percent).
- By region, there is considerable variation. Wellington has the lowest proportion of households with children (27 percent) and Southern (89 percent) has the highest.

Figure 1: Household composition in emergency housing (31 December 2021)



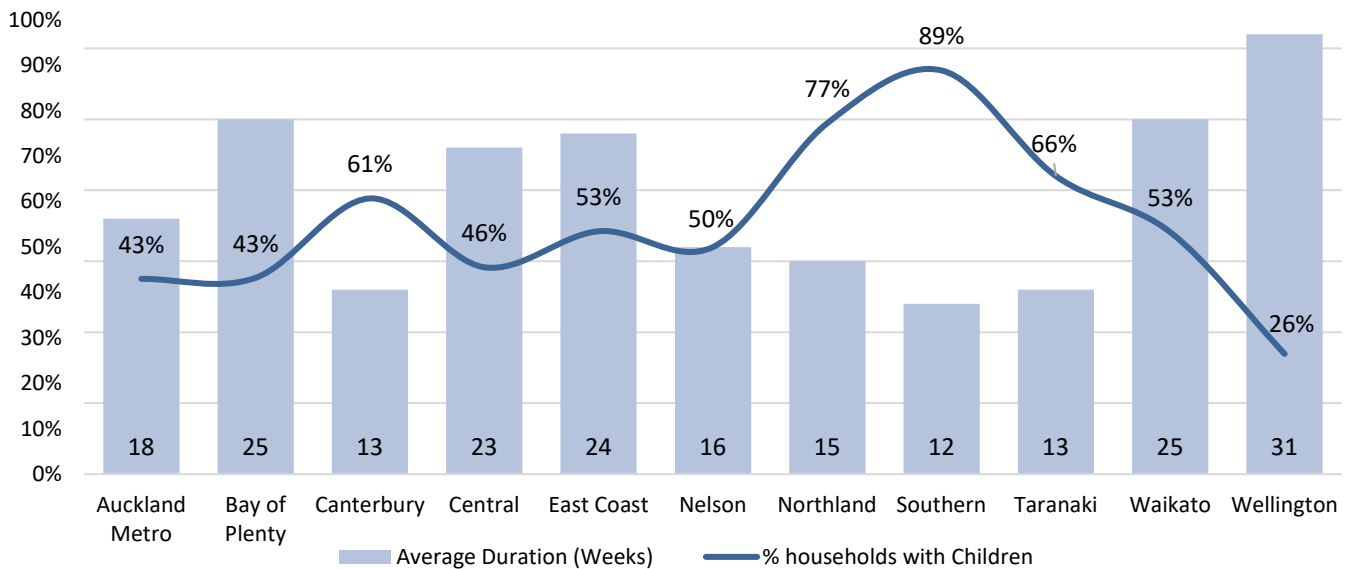
- Regions with a larger proportion of households with children tend to have a shorter average Emergency Housing duration than regions with a smaller proportion of households with children.² This may reflect the type of housing supply available in the

¹ This total includes applicants on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register. The Housing Register includes applicants not currently in public housing who have been assessed as eligible and are ready to be matched to a suitable property (25,527 in December 2021). The Transfer Register includes those who already in public housing but have applied and are eligible to transfer to another property (5,226 applicants in December 2021).

² This duration (consecutive weeks) calculation is based on the clients most recent grant within a quarter. They may have had multiple grants in a quarter. A client's total stay may cross more than one quarter. The length of stay at the time of their last grant in each quarter is what is used to calculate the average time here. Post 29 March 2020, consecutive weeks is calculated based on the check in and check out dates for which emergency housing grants

region, or operational decisions around which households to prioritise into other forms of housing such as Contracted Emergency Housing and Transitional Housing.

Figure 2: Percentage of households with children vs. average duration of stay (weeks) receiving an EH SNG by region (31 December 2021)

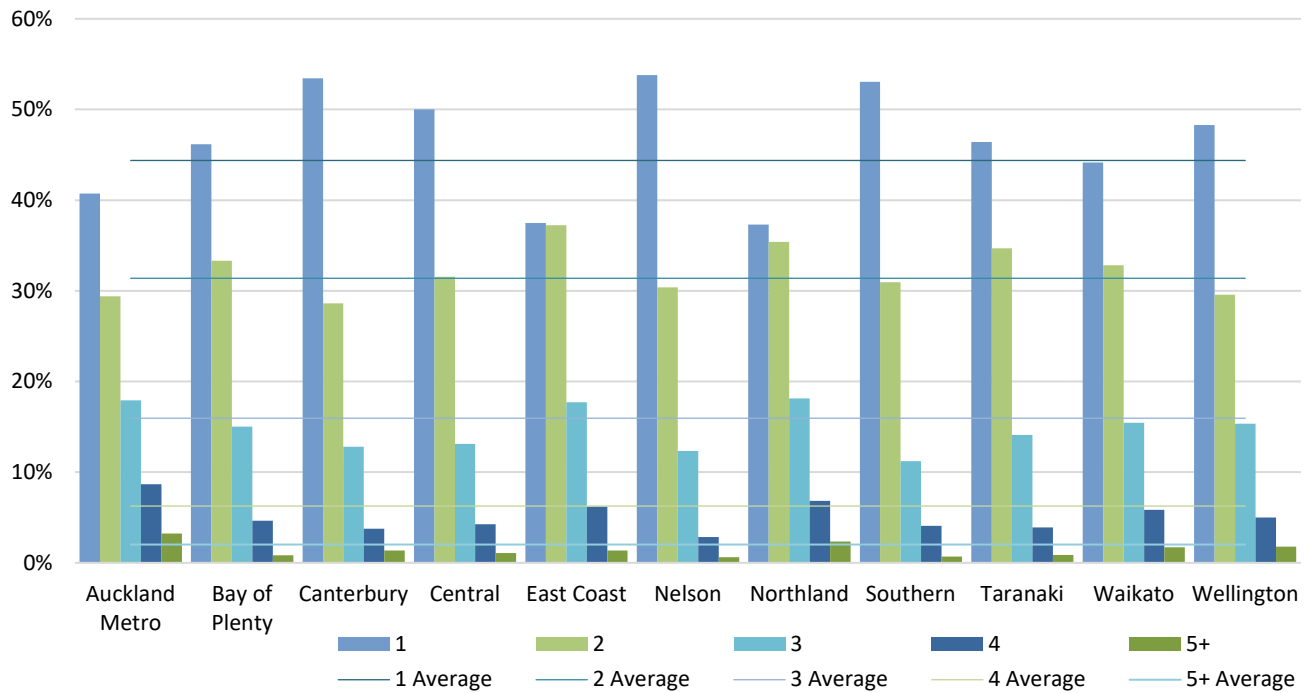


- Household composition of EH SNG recipients generally mirrors the number of bedrooms required by Public Housing Register applicants. Demand is highest for single bedroom properties across all regions, with only Auckland falling below the national average. Northland and Auckland exceed the national average in the proportion of clients requiring four bedrooms or more.³ Southern is the only region that does not follow this pattern. Although 78 percent of households in emergency housing have children (the highest in the country), the proportion of clients requiring more bedrooms is lower than the national average.

have been granted. The consecutive weeks calculation is operational and as such can change slightly over time.

³ Note that a household in emergency housing is defined by benefit system legislation, whereas in Public Housing a household is defined by the applicant.

Figure 3: Public Housing Register applicants by required bedrooms and region (31 December 2021)



Modifications

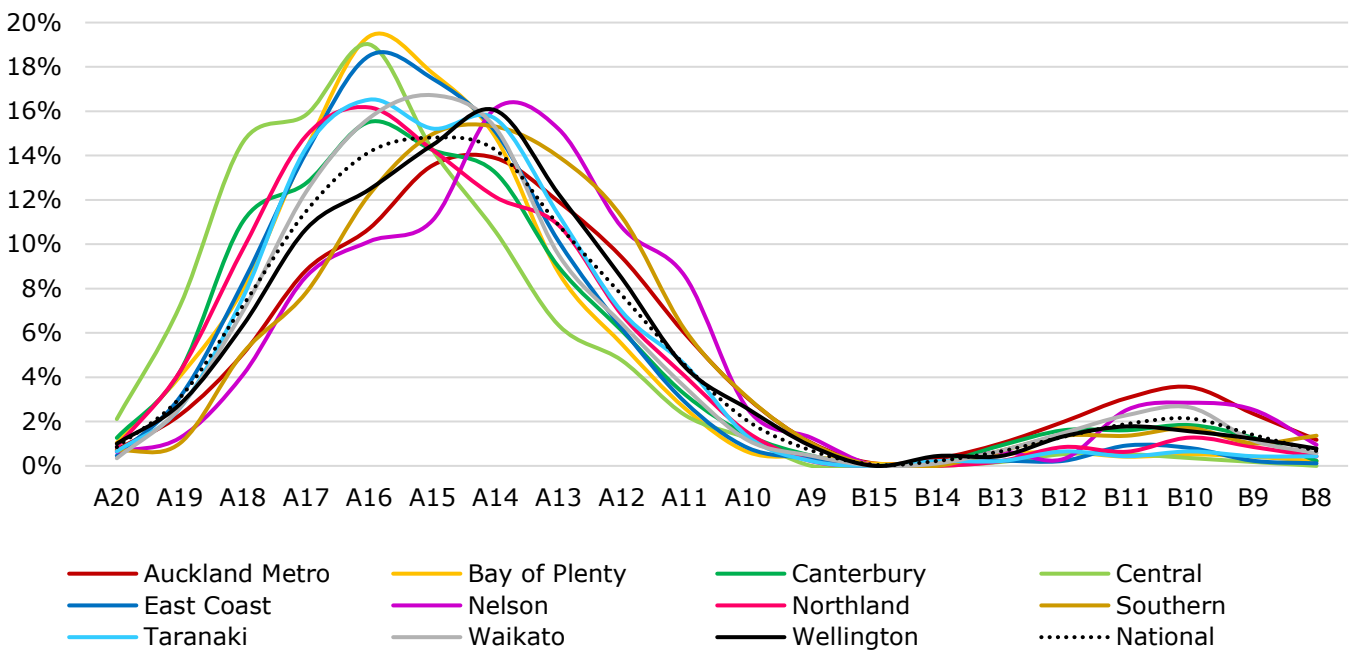
- Nationally, 5.2 percent of applications on the Public Housing Register require a modified property.⁴ In Central this increases to 9.5 percent of applications, followed by Taranaki with 8.5 percent. Nelson (2.5 percent) and Canterbury (3.2 percent) have the lowest levels of applications requiring a modified property.

Priority ratings

- Auckland, Nelson, and Waikato have on average lower priority ratings than the national average. Priority distributions in Wellington region closely match the national distribution. Bay of Plenty, Canterbury, Central, East Coast, Northland, Southern, Taranaki and Wellington have higher proportions of applications with higher scores than the national average, indicating higher levels of need in these regions.

⁴ A modified property could include things such as wheelchair ramps, wet bathrooms, or rails to assist with movement.

Figure 4: Proportion of Public Housing Register Applicants by priority rating and region (31 December 2021)



Client demographics

Ethnicity

- When compared to national averages, Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, and East Coast have a higher proportion of Māori, Auckland has a higher proportion of Pacific People and Canterbury, Central, Nelson, Southern, Taranaki and Wellington have a higher proportion of NZ Europeans in both emergency housing and on the Public Housing Register. These trends generally follow overall population demographics for each region.
- From data included in the dashboards, Northland, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty show the most significant overrepresentation of Māori, with a difference of between 42 and 48 percentage points between the share of Māori in the regional population and the share of Māori receiving EH SNGs or on the Public Housing Register.

Figure 5: Percentage of Māori receiving an EH SNG (31 December 2021)

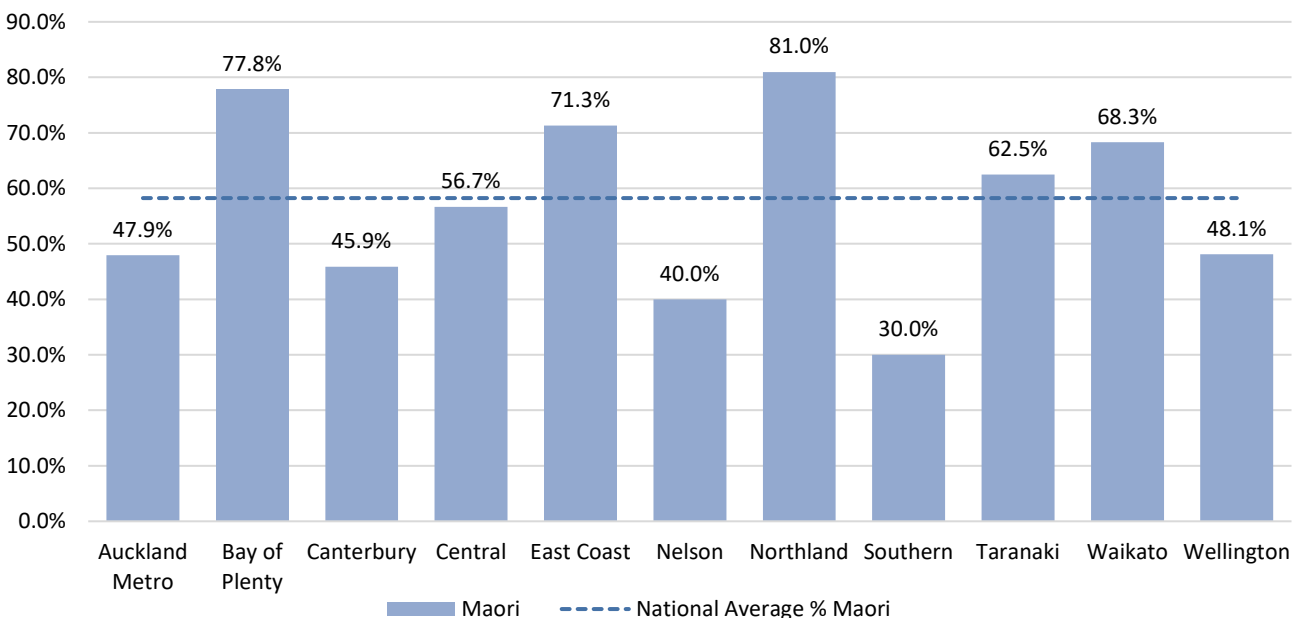
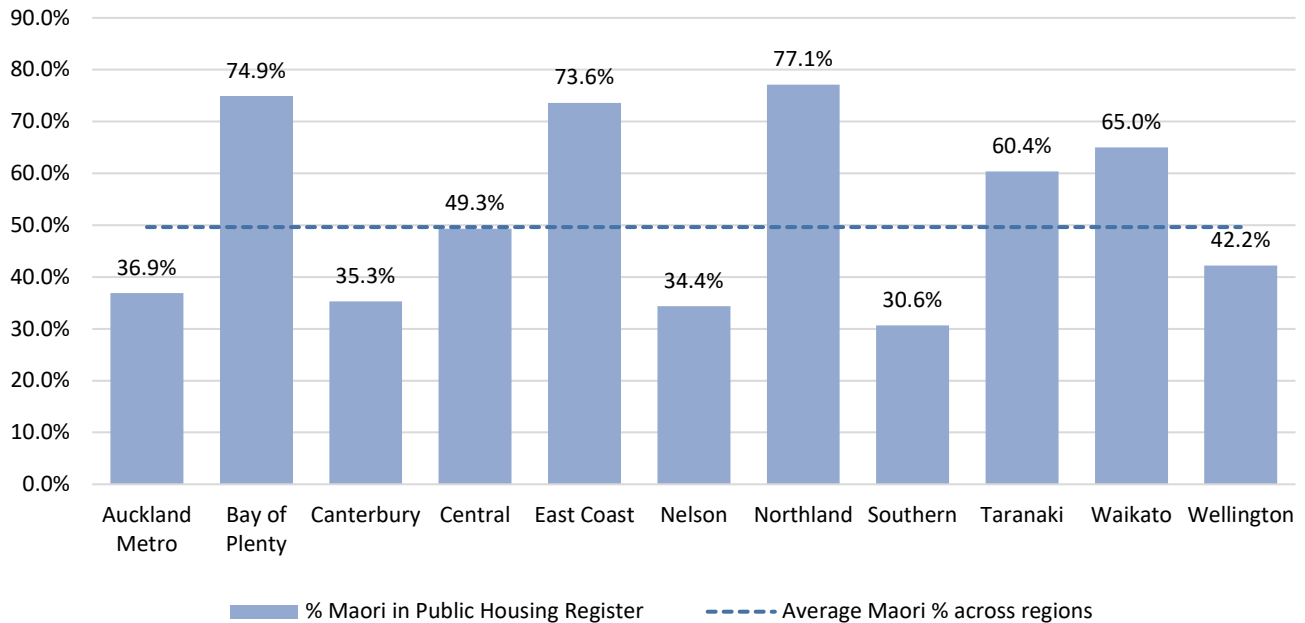


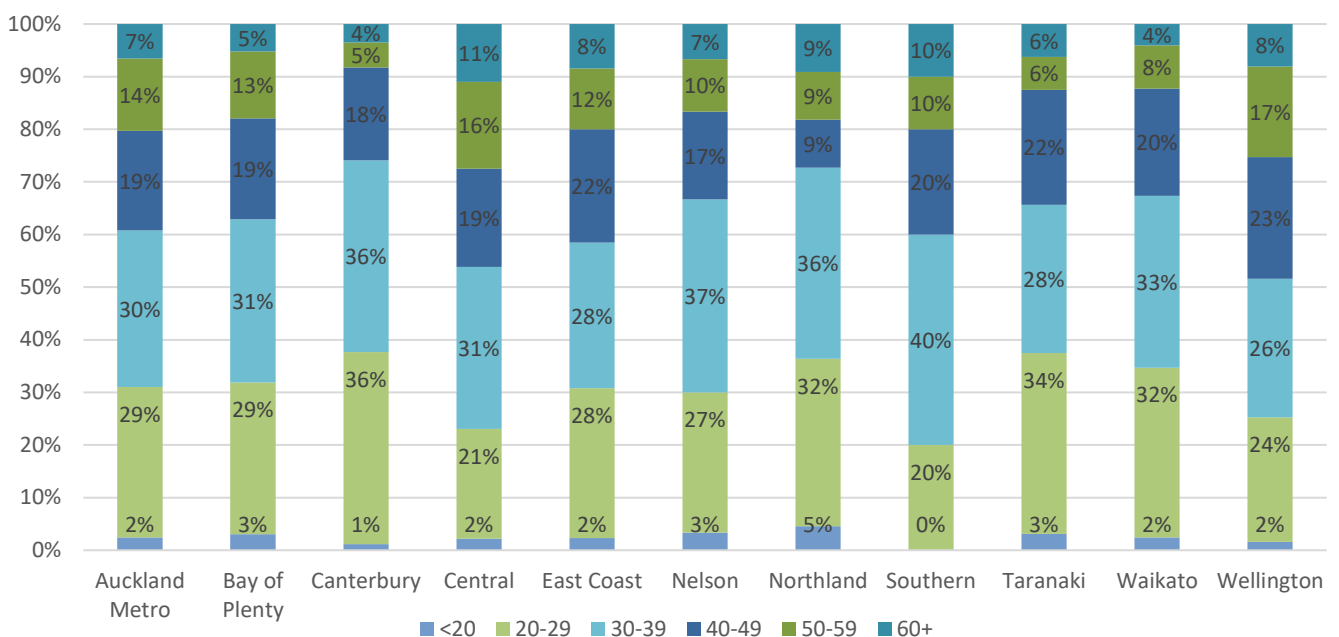
Figure 6: Percentage of Māori on the Public Housing Register (31 December 2021)



Age

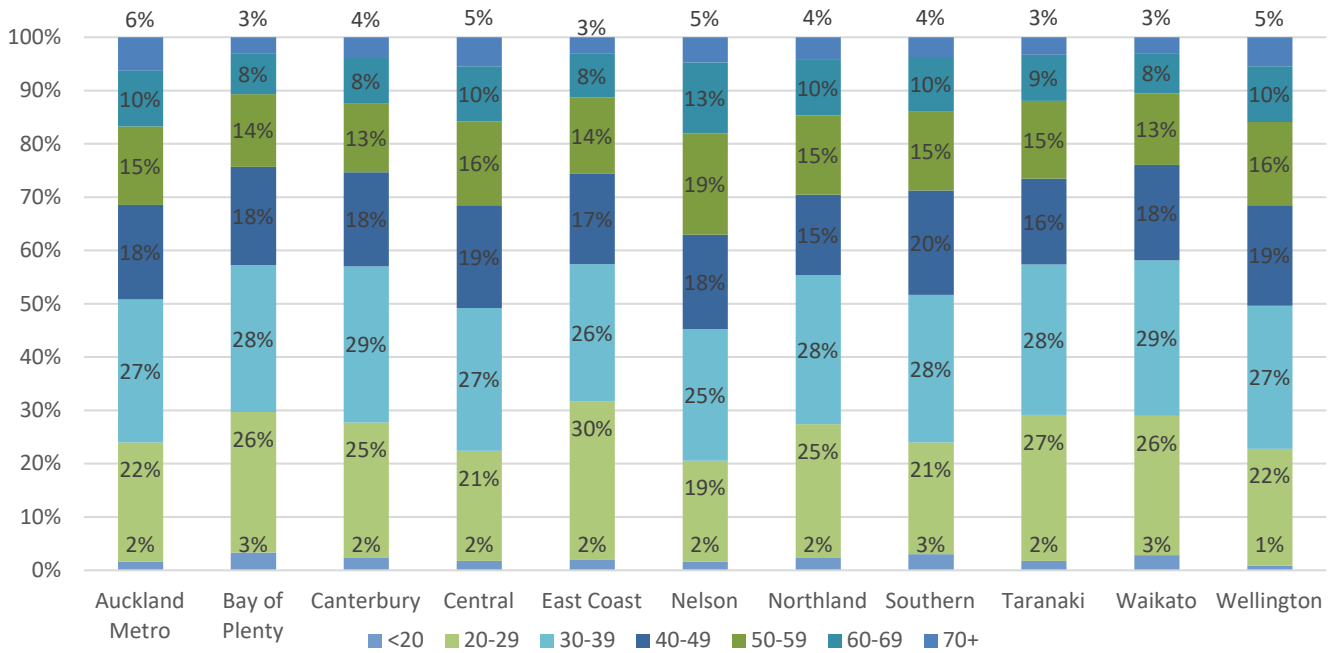
- At a national level, most of those who are receiving an EH SNG or on the Public Housing Register are aged between 20-39.⁵ By region, Wellington has a lower proportion of younger clients in emergency housing than the national average and Canterbury has a higher proportion of younger clients. Central, Southern, Northland, East Coast, Wellington, Nelson, and Auckland all have higher than average proportions of over 60-year-olds in emergency housing. For the Public Housing Register, age distribution follows a similar pattern, with the notable difference being the East Coast with the largest proportion of clients aged 20-29.

Figure 7: Age distribution of EH SNG recipients (main applicants) as of December 2021



⁵ Note this is based on main applicant and does not include other household members.

Figure 8: Age distribution of Public Housing Register applicants as of December 2021



Benefit status

- Most of those receiving an EH SNG and on the Public Housing Register are main benefit clients (89 percent and 81 percent respectively). Most of those receiving an EH SNG or on the Public Housing Register are main benefit clients (87 percent and 81 percent respectively). In comparison, 57 percent of Public Housing tenants are receiving the main benefit. Public Housing tenants are more likely to be receiving New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran’s Pension (23 percent) when compared to Public Housing Register applicants (9 percent) or those receiving an EH SNG (3 percent). In emergency housing there are more non-beneficiaries (6 percent) than on the Public Housing Register (4 percent) or in Public Housing (1 percent).

Figure 9: Benefit distribution of EH SNG recipients as of December 2021

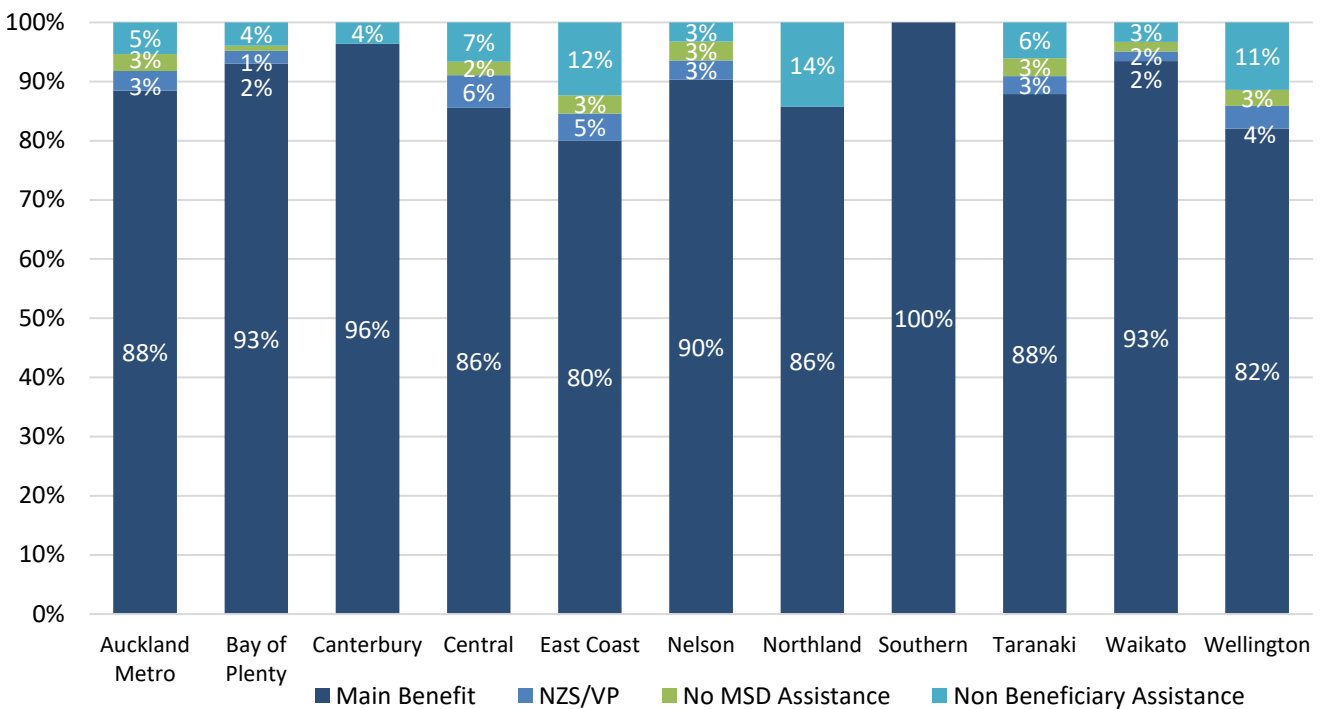
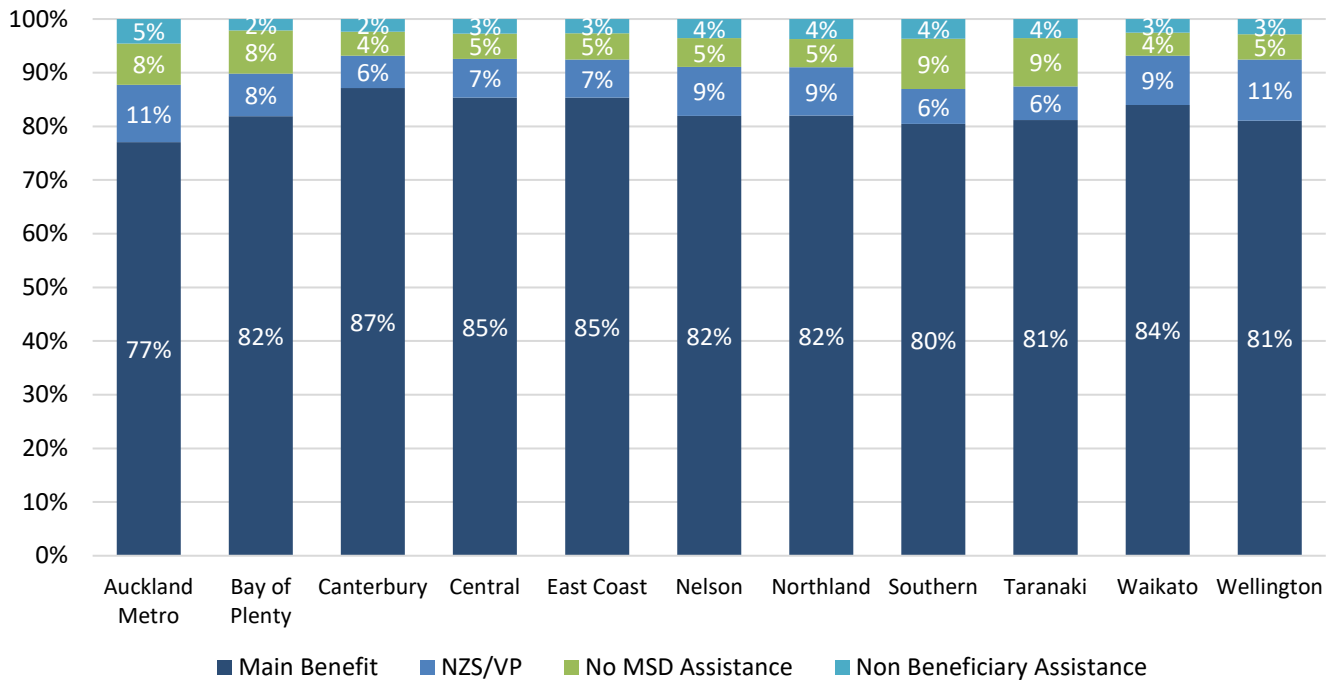


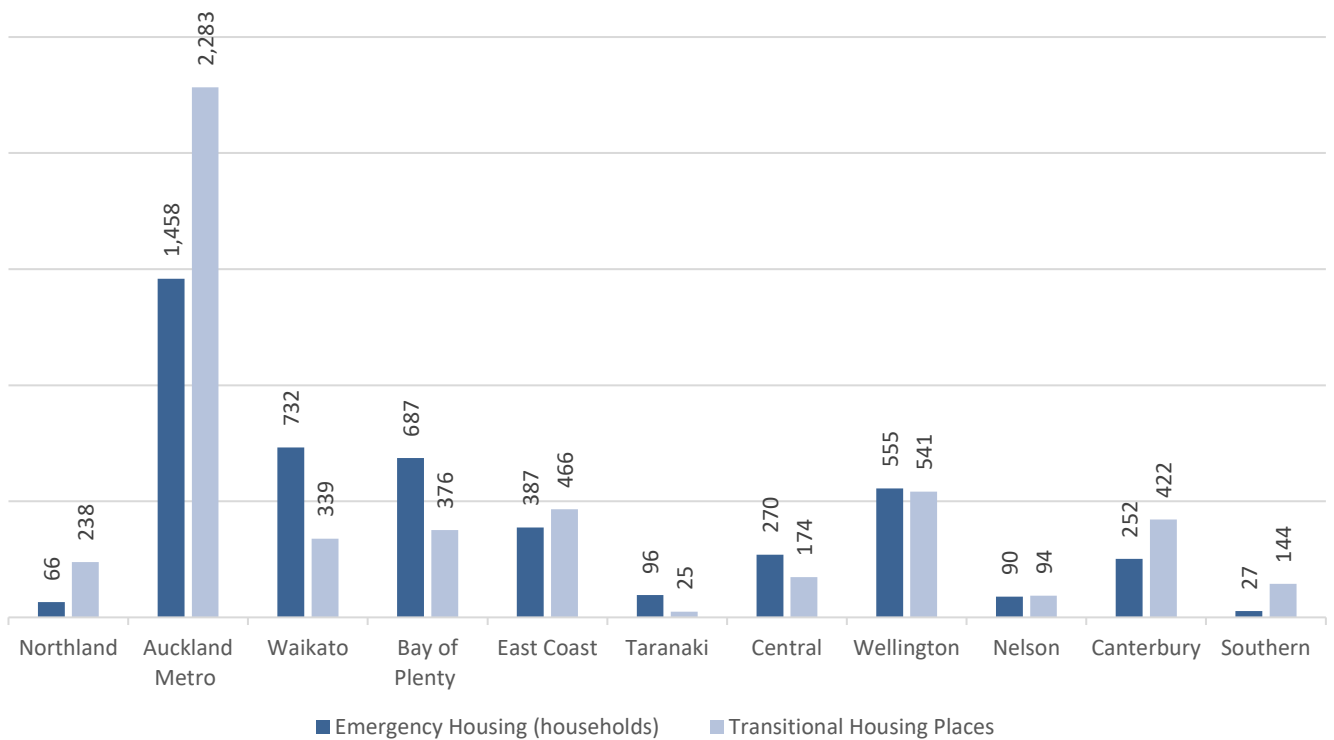
Figure 10: Benefit distribution of Public Housing Register applicants as of December 2021



Most of the people in emergency housing need a place in Transitional Housing, supported housing or Public Housing

- Emergency housing is being used to accommodate a significant number of people who require additional, ongoing support. At present, there are not enough Transitional Housing or supported housing places (including addiction or mental health based supported housing) to meet the level of need in the system.

Figure 11: EH SNG households vs available TH supply by region as of December 2021⁶



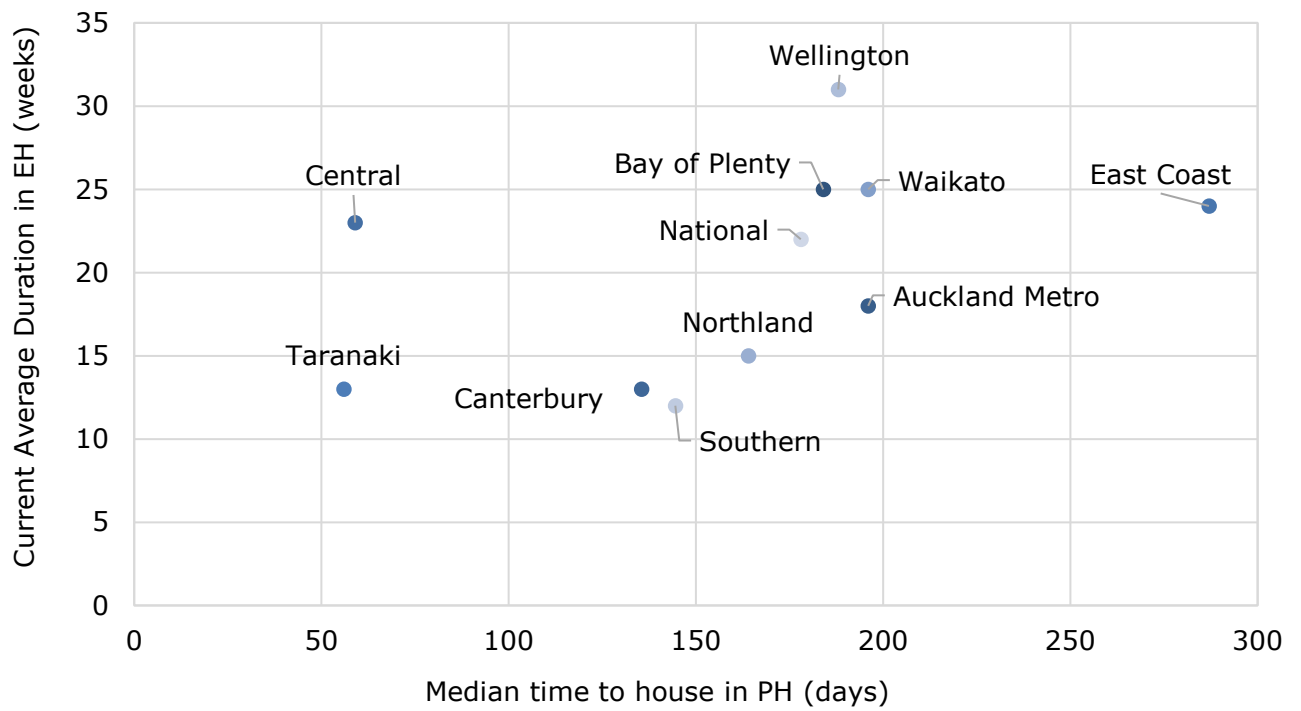
There is a perceived reliance on Public Housing to exit people from EH SNGs and Transitional Housing

- The national median time to house in Public Housing for the year ending 31 December 2021 was 178 (up from 168 days as of 30 June 2021). On the East Coast it took an average of 287 days to house an applicant in Public Housing. In contrast, the Nelson (15), Taranaki (56) and Central (59) regions housed applications in less than three months.
- Median time to house is driven by many factors, including local supply and demand for Public Housing, applicant need for modifications, and the size of the houses needed versus size of houses available (i.e., applicants need only 1 or 2 bedrooms but there are only larger houses available in the applicants preferred areas). Smaller regions that have lower levels of demand can often house people faster as there is less competition. Applicants also have the right to decline a property if they have a good and sufficient reason and may turn down several properties that MSD or KO consider suitable.⁷
- For the most part, the average duration spent in receipt of an EH SNG correlates with the median time to house in the region. The longer it takes to be housed in Public Housing, the longer clients receive an EH SNG. Central is the exception to this, where clients are receiving EH SNGs longer than the national average, but those on the Public Housing Register are being housed more quickly.

⁶ Note that this data does not necessarily capture unmet need as emergency and transitional housing numbers are driven by supply.

⁷ If the applicant does not have a good reason for declining a property, they may be removed from the register.

Figure 12: Median time to house in Public Housing (days) vs average duration in receipt of an EH SNG (weeks) by region for the 2021 calendar year



- There is opportunity to complete further analysis focusing on the length of time of those on the register have been waiting for to be housed and barriers or requirements that may be having an impact on time to house.