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**families** commission  
kōmihana ā **whānau**

# moving on

CHANGES IN A YEAR IN FAMILY LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

A FAMILIES COMMISSION REPORT

**The Families Commission was established under the Families Commission Act 2003 and commenced operations on 1 July 2004. Under the Crown Entities Act 2004, the Commission is designated as an autonomous Crown entity.**

**Our main role is to act as an advocate for the interests of families generally (rather than individual families).**

Our specific functions under the Families Commission Act 2003 are to:

- > encourage and facilitate informed debate about families
- > increase public awareness and promote better understanding of matters affecting families
- > encourage and facilitate the development and provision of government policies that promote and serve the interests of families
- > consider any matter relating to the interests of families referred to us by any Minister of the Crown
- > stimulate and promote research into families, for example by funding and undertaking research
- > consult with, or refer matters to, other official bodies or statutory agencies.

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CHANGES IN A YEAR IN FAMILY LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Families are complex units that are forever changing, re-forming and restructuring. Babies are born, people die, children grow up, young people leave the family nest (and possibly return), people partner and some couples separate. These are but a few of the possible scenarios that result in a change to family living arrangements over an individual's lifetime. The Families Commission is interested in learning more about the changes that New Zealand families experience.

The objective of this report is to describe the characteristics of individuals in different family types and to explore differences in the characteristics of those who move from one family type to another. The data used in this research come from waves one and two of Statistics New Zealand's Survey of Family, Income and Employment (SoFIE).

Individuals are categorised as belonging to one of four family types according to their family and household circumstances: 'couple with children', 'one parent with children', 'couple only', or 'not in a family nucleus'. 'Not in a family nucleus' refers to people who are not living with a parent, partner or child. This does not necessarily mean that they don't have a parent, partner or children, only that they are not living with them (or that their children have formed their own family nucleus within the household). This definition means that discussions about changes for extended family members and intergenerational living arrangements are outside the scope of this work.

While the vast majority of New Zealanders were in the same type of family living arrangement in 2003 and 2004, one in 10 New Zealanders changed family living arrangements. This meant that, overall, 392,000 people entered a different family living arrangement. However, an unknown number of people would have made other changes between the two interview points.

It is evident in the analysis that life-cycle changes dominated over other variables as the likely key driver of change in families' household structures. Younger people were more likely to change family type, with 20 percent of 15–34-year-olds doing so compared with 5 percent of those aged 65 or over.

For young people, moving out of home is likely to represent the first major change to their family living arrangement that they initiate themselves. In most cases, this will represent a shift towards increased independence. This appeared to be the most common change for people aged 15–24, with 40 percent of those who made a change leaving a family type with children to enter one without children.

While moving out of home is significant for young people it is also significant for their parents, particularly if the child moving out of home is the last child to leave. This appeared to be common for people aged 35–65, with a quarter of those who changed family type moving from a 'couple with children' to a 'couple only' family. Of those who changed family types, 16 percent of people aged 35–44, 36 percent of people aged 45–54, and 31 percent of people aged 55–64 changed from a 'couple with children' to 'couple only'.

An important milestone for many people is finding a partner and moving in together as a couple. For people aged 15–24, 14 percent of those who changed family type went from being 'not in a family nucleus' to living in a 'couple only' family type, while for people aged 25–34 this figure was 12 percent.

For those who cease to live with a partner, this may be a result of the dissolution of a long-term relationship; it may be the ending of a more transitory relationship; or it may be that the relationship remains intact with only the living arrangements changing. For people aged 15–24, 12 percent went from a ‘couple only’ to ‘not in a family nucleus’, while for people aged 25–34 this figure was 24 percent.

The birth of a child is another major life-cycle event. Almost a quarter of people aged 25–34 and 16 percent of those aged 35–44, who changed family type, went from being in a ‘couple only’ to a ‘couple with children’ family. Small numbers of people went from ‘not in a family nucleus’ to ‘one parent with children’ or from ‘couple only’ to ‘one parent with children’.

Events other than life-cycle effects will also result in changes to family living arrangements. Relationship dissolutions may result in children living with only one parent rather than living with both parents in the same house, while the re-partnering of a separated parent can result in some children living with a step-parent. Between 2003 and 2004, 12 percent of dependent children who were in a ‘one parent with children’ family entered a ‘couple with children’ family (23,000 children) and 5 percent of dependent children who were in a ‘couple with children’ family entered a ‘one parent with children family’ (35,000 children). The ‘one parent with children’ family demonstrated the most change – of those who were in this family type in 2003, 18 percent of adults and 11 percent of dependent children left during the year. One in four males who were in this family type in 2003 were in a different family type 12 months later. In comparison, this figure was 16 percent for females.

This paper is a first step in exploring family dynamics through describing changes in family living arrangements for New Zealanders. While this work is restricted to looking at changes over a one-year period, it provides a starting point that can be built on as subsequent data from the SoFIE longitudinal survey become available. It encourages people to reflect on the changes they have experienced in their family living arrangements and provides a useful resource for policy development in the area of family formation and change.

A summary of the findings of this report can be found in the brochure, *Moving On: Changes in a year in family living arrangements: Summary of findings*. This is the second brochure in a series that looks at family formation and change. The first brochure, *The Changing Face of New Zealand Families*, provides a summary of statistics about changes in family demographics. Both of these brochures are available for download from our website [www.nzfamilies.org.nz](http://www.nzfamilies.org.nz) or in hard copy upon request.



# CHAPTER ONE

## introduction

This report describes the characteristics of individuals in different family types and explores differences in the characteristics of those who move from one family type to another. Data from waves one and two of the Survey of Family, Income and Employment (SoFIE) have been used for this research. The analysis is bounded by the family nucleus within a household. This means that discussions about changes for extended family members and intergenerational living arrangements are outside its scope. The report is a first step in exploring family dynamics through describing changes in family living arrangements for New Zealanders.

# CHAPTER TWO

## family type definitions

The report looks at the family type individuals were in at the time of interview in 2003 and the family type they were in at the time of interview in 2004 (waves one and two of the survey). It only includes those individuals who participated in interviews in both 2003 and 2004. This means that it excludes individuals who were born, died, emigrated or moved into a non-private institution between 2003 and 2004. However, these people still influence the description of family types for those individuals who did participate in both sets of interviews. For example, in the case of a couple having a first child between 2003 and 2004 only the two adults are included in the analysis, however, they would have gone from being in a 'couple only' family to a 'couple with children' family.

An individual was in a different family type if they changed family type during this 12-month period. However, we do not know who the family members were. For example, a person might have been living in a 'couple only' in both 2003 and 2004 but with a different partner at each of these points in time. Furthermore, we do not know what changes might have taken place between 2003 and 2004. This means that the figures for those who were in the same family type in 2003 and 2004 could include an unknown number of people who changed family type during the year but were back in the same family type at the end of the year. We also do not know details about the legal or biological relationship between people – whether couples were married and whether children were biological children or had some other relationship such as step-children. However, this information is largely contained in the SoFIE dataset for those interested in doing a more in-depth analysis in this area.

Although the report refers to those who changed family type between 2003 and 2004 as having left one family type and entered another, these do not necessarily represent physical changes of residence. For example, if a household contained a couple living together on their own in 2003 and then in 2004 they had a child, they would be described as having left a 'couple only' family and entered a 'couple with children' family.

The following family definitions, which are used for the analysis, are those defined by Statistics New Zealand for SoFIE. The family types are limited to those defined by a family nucleus – 'couple only', 'couple with children', 'one parent with children' and those 'not in a family nucleus'. A limitation of these boundaries is that we do not explore more complex family forms such as extended family or intergenerational living arrangements. More information regarding the Survey of Family, Income and Employment can be found in Appendix One.

**Couple only**

If a couple live together and do not usually live with any children of their own (or if their children have a partner or children of their own living with them), then they are considered to be in a 'couple only' family. Note that this does not necessarily mean that the couple will not have any children, only that they are either not living with their children, or if they are living with their children, that their children are also living with a partner and/or child of their own.

**Couple with children**

If a couple are living together with their children, and their children do not have a partner or children of their own living with them, then they are considered to be in a 'couple with children' family. The children in this family may be of any age.

**One parent with children**

If an individual does not live with a partner but does live with their children, and their children do not have a partner or children of their own living with them, then they are considered to be in a 'one parent with children' family. The children in this family may be of any age.

**Not in a family nucleus**

If a person is not living with a parent, partner or child (or if their children have a partner or children of their own living with them), then they are said to be 'not in a family nucleus'. This does not necessarily mean that they don't have a parent, partner or children, only that they are not living with them.

**Dependent children**

A dependent child is someone in a child's role who is under 18 years of age and does not have full-time employment. People who meet this definition in one year but not the other have still been counted as dependent children.

# CHAPTER THREE

## overview

An estimated New Zealand population of 3,718,000 individuals has been used for both 2003 and 2004. This is made up of 2,671,000 adults and 1,047,000 dependent children. While most New Zealanders were in the same type of family living arrangement in 2003 and 2004, one in 10 New Zealanders changed family type.

**FIGURE 1: TRANSITIONS IN AND OUT OF FAMILY TYPES BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**

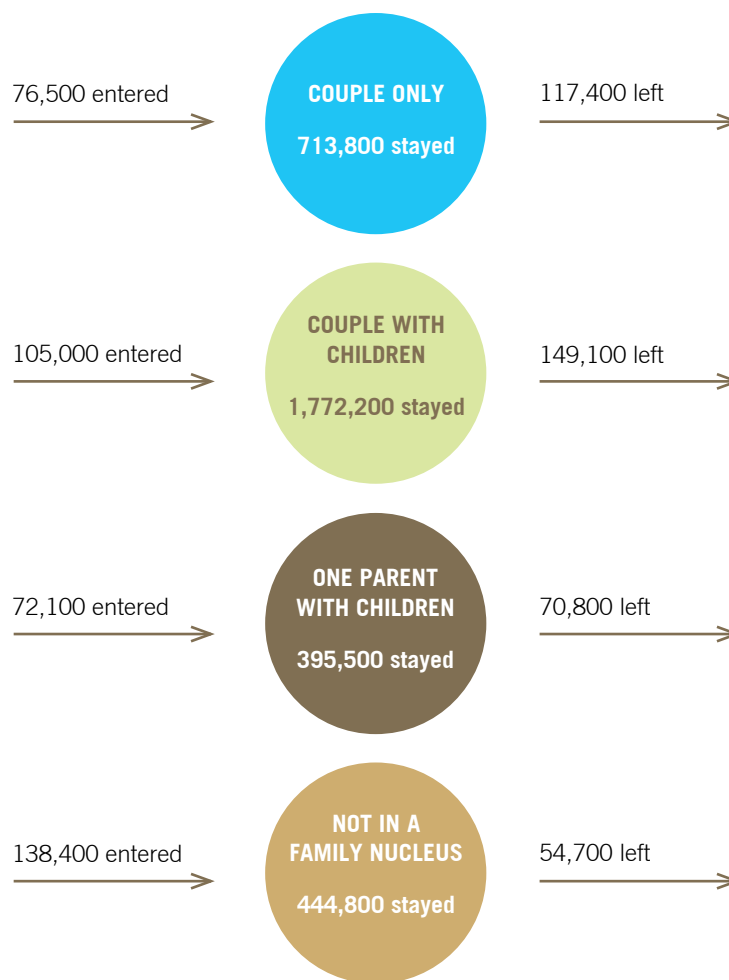


Figure 1 shows the number of people who were in the same family type at the time of both interviews (those who 'stayed') and the number of people who entered and left each family type. Since everyone who left one family type had to enter another family type the numbers of those who left and entered both total 392,000.

**TABLE 1: NEW ZEALAND POPULATION BY FAMILY LIVING ARRANGEMENT IN 2003**

	FAMILY TYPE IN 2003				TOTAL
	COUPLE ONLY	COUPLE WITH CHILDREN	ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN	NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS	
Adults	31%	41%	9%	19%	100%
Dependent children	0%	78%	22%	0%	100%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1 shows the proportions of the adult, dependent children and total populations who were in each of the family types in 2003. Of dependent children, 78 percent were in a 'couple with children' family type. Children in a family could be of any age, which means that some of the 'children' could have been adult, non-dependent sons and daughters living with a parent or parents.

**TABLE 2: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS BY FAMILY TYPE IN 2003 (ADULT POPULATION ONLY)**

SELECTED INDIVIDUALS' CHARACTERISTICS	FAMILY TYPE IN 2003				TOTAL ADULT POPULATION
	COUPLE ONLY	COUPLE WITH CHILDREN	ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN	NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS	
<b>Age</b>					
Aged under 45 years	30%	71%	73%	48%	54%
Aged 45 years or over	70%	29%	27%	52%	46%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Employment status</b>					
Employed <sup>1</sup>	64%	77%	56%	54%	67%
<b>Income</b>					
Low family income <sup>2</sup>	37%	22%	60%	N/A <sup>3</sup>	32% <sup>4</sup>
<b>Highest qualification</b>					
University degree	14%	16%	9%	16%	15%
<b>Ethnicity<sup>5</sup></b>					
European/Pākehā	91%	79%	70%	87%	83%
Māori	7%	11%	26%	9%	11%
Pacific peoples	2%	7%	10%	3%	5%
Asian	4%	9%	5%	5%	6%
Other	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%

1 Employed for at least one hour a week (see Appendix One for full definition).

2 In the bottom two quintiles of family income (a quintile is one-fifth or 20% of the population).

3 An individual not in a family nucleus has an individual income but not a family income. Therefore data on low family income are not comparable for those not in a family nucleus.

4 Excluding people 'not in a family nucleus'.

5 Individuals could select multiple ethnicities.

Source: Survey of Family, Income and Employment, wave one

Table 2 outlines the demographic characteristics of the adult population by family type in 2003. For example, 70 percent of adults in a 'couple only' family type in 2003 were aged 45 years or older, compared with 46 percent of the total adult population. As can be seen, those in the 'couple with children' family type were younger, more likely to be employed and less likely to have a low family income than other family types. Note, however, that this income would have been used to support a greater number of people than in the 'couple only' family type.

People who were in a 'one parent with children' family type tended to be younger, were less likely to be employed, more likely to have a low family income and less likely to have a university degree than other family types. Furthermore, a higher proportion of individuals in this family type identified as Māori and Pacific than was the case for the other family types. This is consistent with research that has been done in New Zealand on one-parent family households. Those 'not in a family nucleus' were less likely to be employed. This reflects the fact that 28 percent of people in this family group were over the age of 65 (and therefore more likely to be retired) and 20 percent were under the age of 25 (and therefore more likely to be studying).

The rest of the report describes each of the four family types and the movements made into and out of these family types in 2004. A complete table of changes in family type between 2003 and 2004 by age can be found in Appendix Two.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## couple only

**If a couple live together and do not usually live with any children of their own (or if their children have a partner or children of their own living with them), then they are considered to be in a 'couple only' family.**

Individuals are likely to enter this family type by moving in with a partner, or by having previously been in a 'couple with children' family and the children have now either moved out of home or formed their own family nucleus within the household (eg a partner moves in). People may leave this family living arrangement by no longer living with their partner or by having children (or both).

### OVERVIEW

In 2003, there were 831,200 individuals living in a 'couple only' family. This represented 22 percent of the total population. Most of these people did not change family type, with 86 percent still in a 'couple only' living arrangement in 2004 (although not necessarily with the same person). Of those people who did change family type, a lot more left the 'couple only' family than entered it between 2003 and 2004.

Over two-thirds of people in this family type in 2003 were aged over 45 years, while there were very few young people aged 15–24 (6 percent). A higher proportion of adults in 'couple only' families (32 percent) had no educational qualifications compared with those in other family types (28 percent) in 2003. This may in part be explained by the larger proportion of people aged over 45 years. In the 2001 Census, 27 percent of those aged 45 years or older had no formal qualifications, compared with 21 percent of those younger than 45.

A lower proportion of adults in this family type in 2003 had a school qualification as the highest qualification obtained (18 percent compared with 23 percent for the total population). A higher proportion of individuals in this family type in 2003 were in the lower family income quintiles than was the case for the total population.

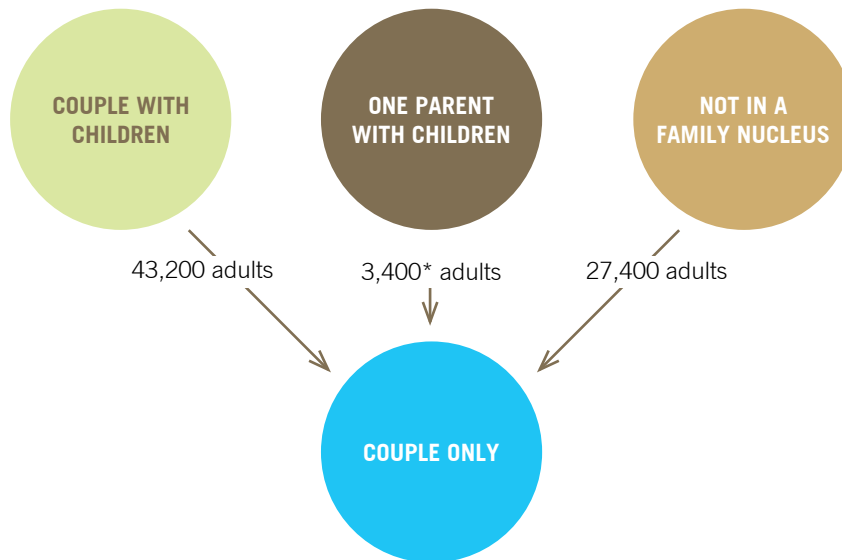
**FIGURE 2: MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT OF 'COUPLE ONLY' FAMILY TYPE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



## ADULTS ENTERING THE 'COUPLE ONLY' FAMILY TYPE

An estimated 76,500 individuals<sup>1</sup> entered the 'couple only' family type between 2003 and 2004.

**FIGURE 3: ADULTS ENTERING THE 'COUPLE ONLY' FAMILY TYPE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



\* A relative sampling error of greater than 30 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent; use data with caution (see Appendix One for a more in-depth explanation).

The majority of people who entered this family type came from a 'couple with children' family living arrangement (43,200). These changes were likely to have resulted from a combination of children moving out of home leaving the couple behind, and adult children moving out of the family home and in with a partner.

**FIGURE 4: ADULTS ENTERING 'COUPLE ONLY', BY AGE GROUP**

**Age distribution of adults entering 'couple only' compared with the age distribution of all adults in this family type in 2004**

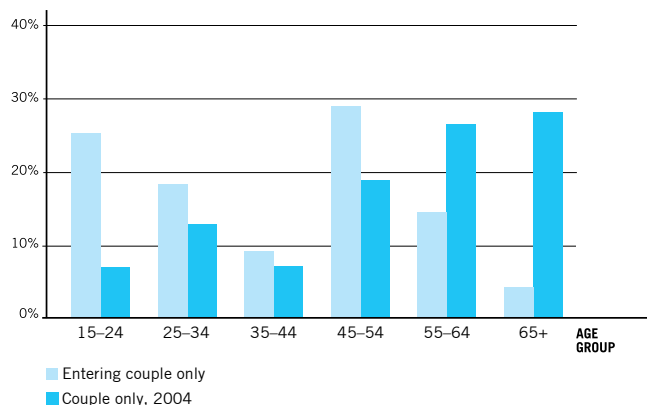


Figure 4 shows adults who entered the 'couple only' family type by age compared with the age groups of all those who were in this family type in 2004. It shows the difference in the age makeup of those entering this family type compared with

<sup>1</sup> Ninety-seven percent of these individuals were adults. Figure 3 does not display the movements of dependent children owing to the small numbers involved. This means there is a small variation between the total number of individuals entering this family type as shown in Figure 2 and the sum of those shown to be entering this family type in Figure 3.



the age makeup of the total population of adults in this family type in 2004. For example, 25 percent of adults who entered this family type in 2004 were aged 15–24 whereas only 7 percent of adults who were in a ‘couple only’ arrangement in 2004 were in this age group.

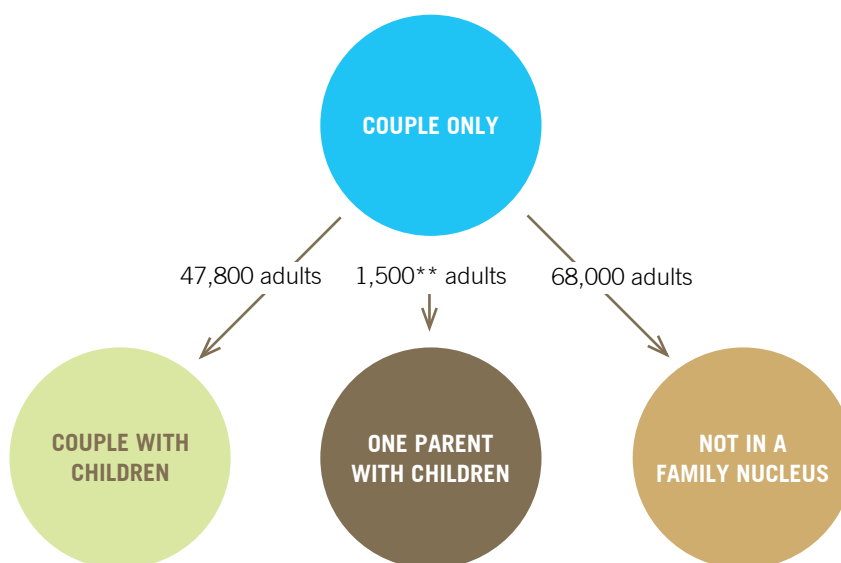
Those entering this family type were mainly people aged 15–24 (25 percent) and 45–54 (29 percent). Most of the younger age group came from being either ‘not in a family nucleus’ (62 percent) or from a ‘couple with children’ (31 percent). Individuals in this age group who entered this family type from a ‘couple with children’ family were probably doing so by moving out of their parents’ home to live with a partner or who had a partner move in with them and their parents.

Most of those in the 45–54-year-old age group came from the ‘couple with children’ (91 percent). These individuals probably entered the ‘couple only’ family when their children moved out of home.

## ADULTS LEAVING THE ‘COUPLE ONLY’ FAMILY TYPE

An estimated 117,400<sup>2</sup> individuals left the ‘couple only’ family type between 2003 and 2004.

**FIGURE 5: ADULTS LEAVING THE ‘COUPLE ONLY’ FAMILY TYPE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



\*\* A relative sampling error of greater than 50 percent; data are too unreliable for most practical purposes.

Most people who left the ‘couple only’ family type entered ‘not in a family nucleus’ (68,000) or ‘couple with children’ (47,800).

<sup>2</sup> About 99.9 percent of these were adults. Figure 5 does not display the movements of dependent children owing to the small numbers involved. This means there is a small variation between the total number of individuals leaving this family type as shown in Figure 2 and the sum of those shown to be leaving this family type in Figure 5.

**FIGURE 6: ADULTS LEAVING 'COUPLE ONLY', BY AGE GROUP**

**Age distribution of adults leaving 'couple only' compared with the age distribution of all adults in this family type in 2003**

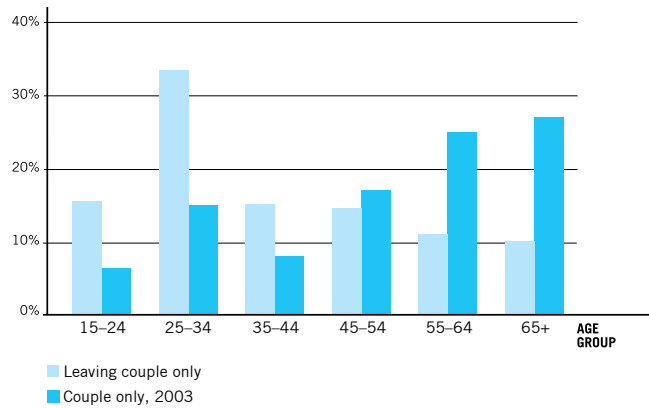


Figure 6 shows those adults who left the 'couple only' family type by age compared with the age groups of all those who were in this family type in 2003. It shows the difference in the age makeup of those leaving this family type compared with the age makeup of the total population of adults in this family type in 2003. For example, 15 percent of adults who left this family type were aged 15–24, whereas only 6 percent of adults who were in a 'couple only' arrangement in 2003 were in this age group.

People aged under 35 dominated those leaving this family type. About half of those aged 25–34 who left this family type appear to have been couples having a first child (those who entered the 'couple with children' family type) and half appear to have been couples separating (those who entered the 'not in a family nucleus' living arrangement).

One in five people with a university degree left this family type, compared with one in 10 people with no formal qualifications. However, this difference is likely to be explained by the fact that a large proportion of those who left were 25–34 years of age. In the 2001 Census, 12 percent of people aged 25–34 had a bachelor degree compared with 7 percent of the population and 16 percent had no formal qualifications compared with 24 percent for the whole population.

More employed people (17 percent) left the 'couple only' family type in 2003, than those who were not in the labour market (8 percent). This may be explained by the fact that there were a lot of people aged over 65 in this family type who were less likely to be in the labour market and who were the least likely to leave the 'couple only' living arrangement.

# CHAPTER FIVE

## couple with children

If a couple are living together with their children, and their children do not have a partner or children of their own living with them, then they are considered to be in a 'couple with children' family. The children in this family may be of any age. A dependent child is someone in a child's role who is under 18 years of age and does not have full-time employment.

Couples are most likely to enter this family type by having a first child. However, they may also move back and forth between this family type and the 'couple only' family type as children move out of home and then back in again, or when older parents move in with an adult child who is not living in their own family nucleus. Individuals may also enter this family type if the parent in a 'one parent with children' family type chooses to live with a partner. Individuals are likely to leave this family type if the children leave home or if the couple separate.

### OVERVIEW

This was the largest family type – in 2003 there were 1,921,300 individuals (52 percent of the total population) in the 'couple with children' family type. Of these, 43 percent were dependent children. This was the family type with the least change, with 90 percent of adults and 95 percent of dependent children still in this family type 12 months later.

The majority of adults in this family type were aged between 25 and 54 (82 percent), with almost half of these aged 35–44 years. Only 7 percent of adults in this family type were over the age of 55.

This family type had a greater proportion of adults in employment (77 percent compared with 67 percent) and a lower proportion not in the labour market (21 percent compared with 31 percent) than the general population. This was probably due to the large numbers of working-age adults in this family type.

A lower proportion of adults in 'couple with children' families (22 percent) had no educational qualifications compared with other family types (28 percent). This may in part be explained by the greater proportion of people between the ages of 25–54. In the 2001 Census, 33 percent of those aged 55 years or over had no formal qualifications, compared with 20 percent of those aged less than 55.

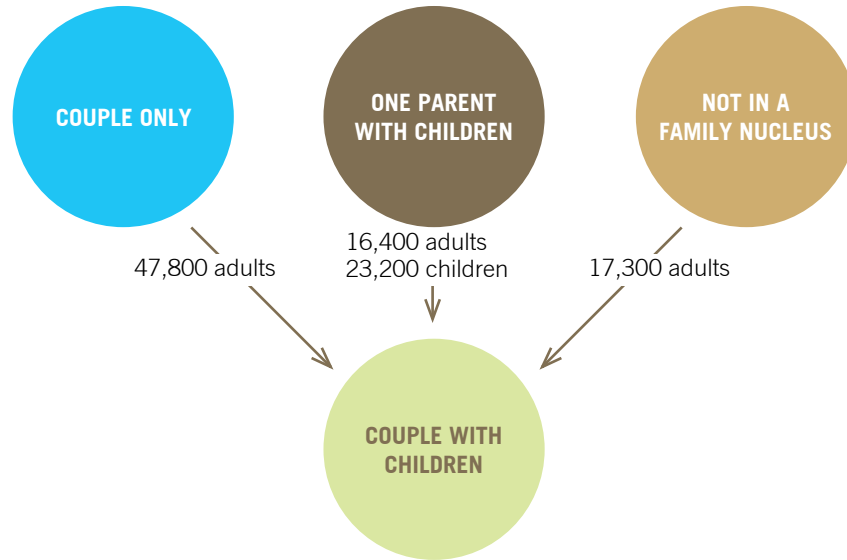
**FIGURE 7: MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT OF 'COUPLE WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



## ADULTS ENTERING THE 'COUPLE WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE

An estimated 105,000 individuals<sup>3</sup> entered the 'couple with children' family type between 2003 and 2004.

**FIGURE 8: INDIVIDUALS ENTERING THE 'COUPLE WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



Most adults who entered 'couple with children' came from the 'couple only' family type. An estimated 23,200 dependent children entered 'couple with children' from the 'one parent with children' family type.

**FIGURE 9: ENTERING 'COUPLE WITH CHILDREN', BY AGE GROUP**

**Age distribution of adults entering 'couple with children' compared with the age distribution of all adults in this family type in 2004**

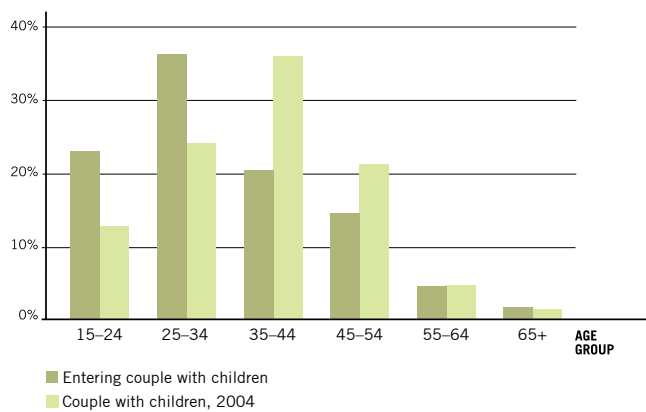


Figure 9 shows adults who entered the 'couple with children' family type by age compared with the age groups of all those who were in this family type in 2004.

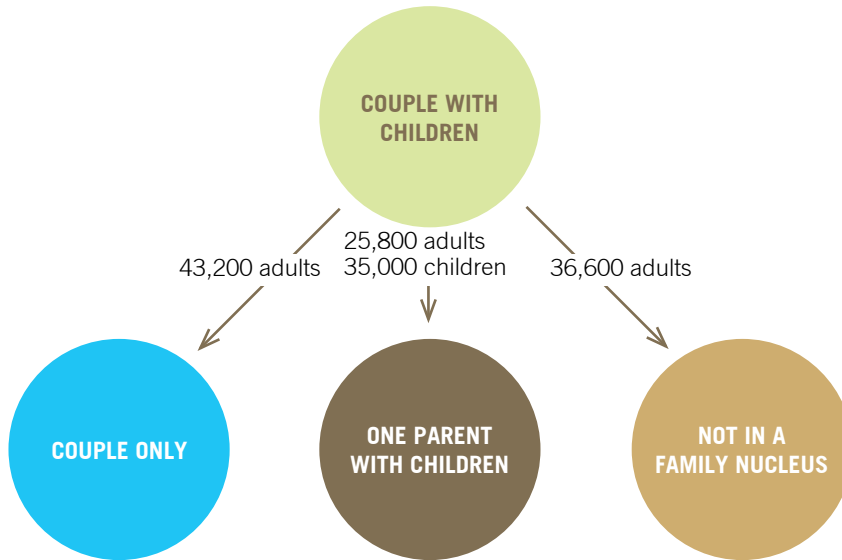
Nearly 60 percent of adults entering this family type were aged 15–34 years and could have been either young people moving back in with their parents, or couples having or adopting a first child.

<sup>3</sup> Figure 8 does not display the movements of dependent children from 'couple only' or 'not in a family nucleus' owing to the small numbers involved. This means there is a small variation between the total number of individuals entering this family type as shown in Figure 7 and the sum of those shown to be entering this family type in Figure 8.

## ADULTS LEAVING THE 'COUPLE WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE

An estimated 149,100<sup>4</sup> individuals left the 'couple with children' family type between 2003 and 2004.

**FIGURE 10: INDIVIDUALS LEAVING THE 'COUPLE WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



The most common movement for people leaving the 'couple with children' family type was to enter the 'couple only' family (43,200 adults). An estimated 35,000 dependent children left the 'couple with children' family type to enter the 'one parent with children' family type.

**FIGURE 11: LEAVING 'COUPLE WITH CHILDREN', BY AGE GROUP**

**Age distribution of adults leaving 'couple with children' compared with the age distribution of all adults in this family type in 2003**

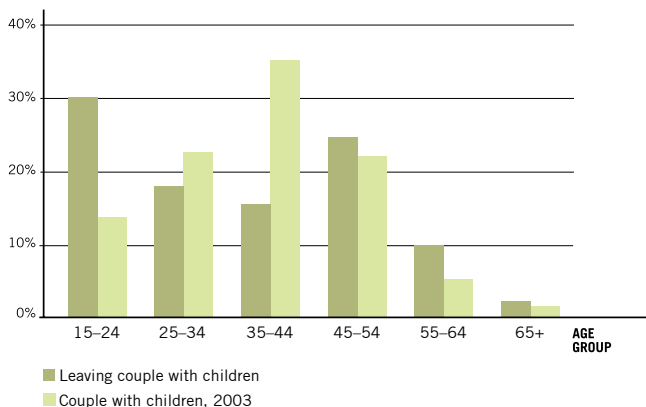
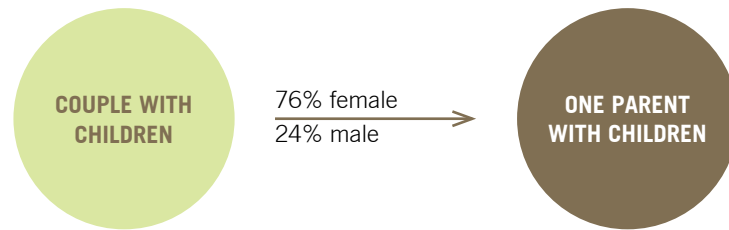


Figure 11 shows those adults who left the 'couple with children' family type by age compared with the age groups of all those who were in this family type in 2003.

<sup>4</sup> Figure 10 does not display the movements of dependent children entering 'couple only' or 'not in a family nucleus' owing to the small numbers involved. This means there is a small variation between the total number of individuals leaving this family type as shown in Figure 7 and the sum of those shown to be leaving this family type in Figure 10.

Adults leaving this family living arrangement were mainly aged between 15–24 and 45–55 (55 percent). Most of those in the younger age group left this family type to enter the ‘not in a family nucleus’ living arrangement. These were likely to be young people leaving the family home. Most of those in the older age group entered the ‘couple only’ family (75 percent). These were probably parents whose children had moved out of home.

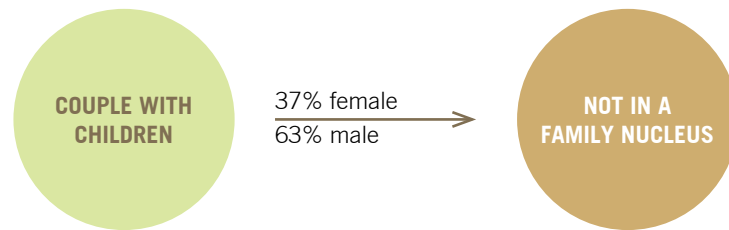
**FIGURE 12: INDIVIDUALS IN ‘COUPLE WITH CHILDREN’ FAMILY TYPE IN 2003 MOVING TO ‘ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN’ IN 2004, BY GENDER**



About three-quarters of adults who went from a ‘couple with children’ family to a ‘one parent with children’ family were female and about a quarter male. In the 2001 Census, 82 percent of one parent families were headed by a female.

There was a higher proportion of people not in the labour market among those who left the ‘couple with children’ family and entered a ‘one parent with children’ family. This may be because mothers are more likely to be in a caring role and less likely to be in the labour market than fathers, and mothers are much more likely to enter this family type than fathers.

**FIGURE 13: INDIVIDUALS IN ‘COUPLE WITH CHILDREN’ FAMILY TYPE IN 2003 MOVING TO ‘NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS’ IN 2004, BY GENDER**



The majority of adults who moved from the ‘couple with children’ family to ‘not in a family nucleus’ were male. This is likely to reflect the other side of the previous diagram.

# CHAPTER SIX

## one parent with children

**If an individual does not live with a partner but does live with their children, and their children do not have a partner or children of their own living with them, then they are considered to be in a 'one parent with children' family. The children in this family may be of any age. A child is defined as a dependent child if they are under 18 years of age and do not have full-time employment.**

Individuals may enter this family type when a couple who have children living with them stop living together, when one of the parents dies, or when a person who is not living with a partner has a child. However, people will also enter this family type if an older parent moves in with their adult child and the 'child' is not living with a partner or children of their own. People leaving this family type will do so if the parent moves in with a partner, or if the children either leave home or form their own family nucleus within the household (eg if they have a partner move in).

### OVERVIEW

In 2003, there were 446,400 individuals (13 percent of the total population) in a 'one parent with children' family type. Of these, 49 percent were dependent children. This family type showed the most change, with 18 percent of adults and 12 percent of children changing family type between 2003 and 2004.

The majority of adults in this family type were under 45 years of age (73 percent), with only 5 percent aged 65 years or older. While some of these people might be older parents and some grandparents caring for grandchildren, others would be people living with an adult child who was not living in a family nucleus of their own.

Of those adults who were in this family type in 2003, 28 percent were male and 72 percent female. One in four males who were in this family type in 2003 were in a different family type 12 months later. In comparison, this figure was 16 percent for females.

**FIGURE 14: MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT OF THE 'ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



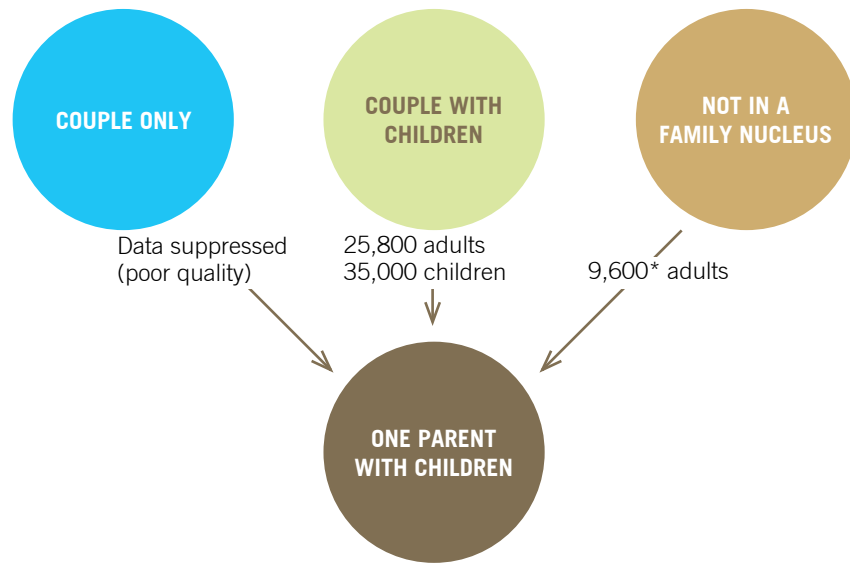
The number of people in the 'one parent with children' family type increased slightly between 2003 and 2004 as 72,100 entered this family type and 70,800 left.

Transitions in and out of this family type by demographic characteristics need to be treated with caution as there are high sampling errors attached to all of these movements due to the small numbers of people moving.

## ADULTS ENTERING THE 'ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE

An estimated 72,100 individuals<sup>5</sup> entered the 'one parent with children' family type between 2003 and 2004.

**FIGURE 15: INDIVIDUALS ENTERING THE 'ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**

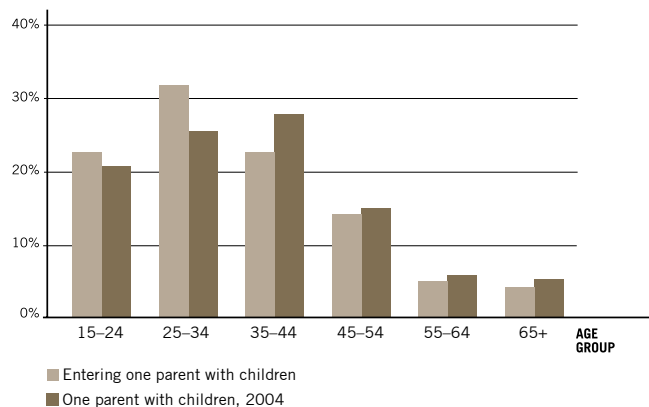


\* A relative sampling error of greater than 30 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent; use data with caution (see Appendix One for a more in-depth explanation).

Of those entering this family type, most adults came from being in a 'couple with children' family type. An estimated 35,000 dependent children entered this family type from a 'couple with children' family.

**FIGURE 16: ADULTS ENTERING 'ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN', BY AGE GROUP**

**Age distribution of adults entering 'one parent with children' compared with the age distribution of all adults in this family type in 2004**



<sup>5</sup> Figure 15 does not display the movements of dependent children from 'couple only' or 'not in a family nucleus' owing to the small numbers involved. This means there is a small variation between the total number of individuals entering this family type as shown in Figure 14 and the sum of those shown to be entering this family type in Figure 15.



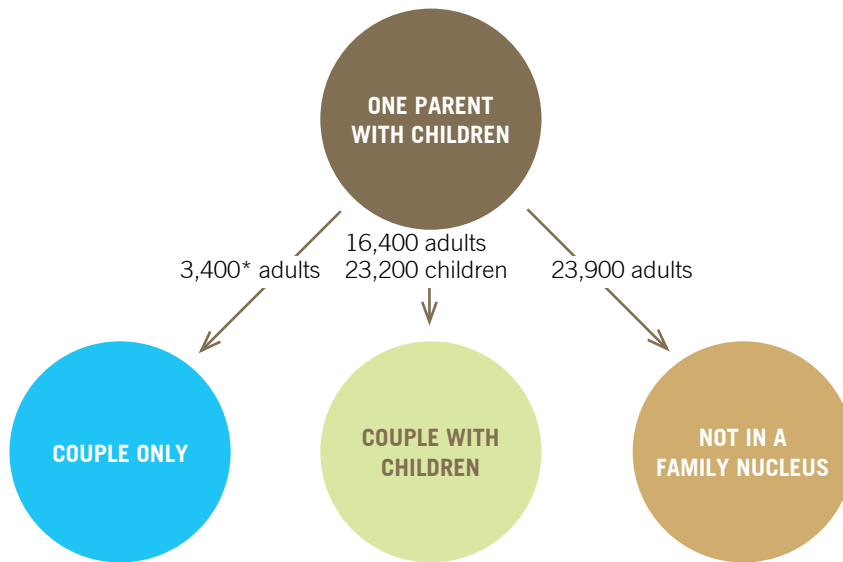
Figure 16 shows those adults who entered the 'one parent with children' family type by age compared with the age groups of all those who were in this family type in 2004.

Most of those entering this family type were under 35, which reflected the age distribution of this family type.

## ADULTS LEAVING THE 'ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE

An estimated 70,900<sup>6</sup> individuals left the 'one parent with children' family type between 2003 and 2004.

**FIGURE 17: INDIVIDUALS LEAVING THE 'ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



\* A relative sampling error of greater than 30 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent; use data with caution (see Appendix One for a more in-depth explanation).

Most adults who left this family type entered the 'not in a family nucleus'. These individuals were likely to be a combination of adult children who were leaving home and parents who were no longer living with children who had left home.

<sup>6</sup> Figure 17 does not display the movements of dependent children entering 'couple only' or 'not in a family nucleus' owing to the small numbers involved. This means there is a small variation between the total number of individuals leaving this family type as shown in Figure 14 and the sum of those shown to be leaving this family type in Figure 17.

**FIGURE 18: ADULTS LEAVING 'ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN', BY AGE GROUP**

**Age distribution of adults leaving 'one parent with children' compared with the age distribution of all adults in this family type in 2003**

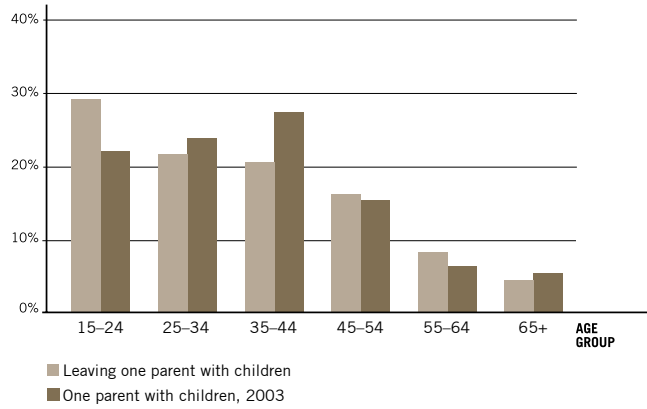
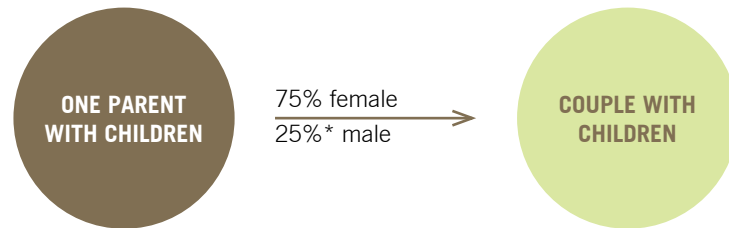


Figure 18 shows those adults who left the 'one parent with children' family type by age compared with the age groups of all those who were in this family type in 2003.

Movements out of this family type largely reflected the proportions of those in each of the age groups in 2003 and 2004. Those aged 15–24 seemed slightly more likely to leave and those aged 35–44 appeared to be less likely to leave. However, we cannot be certain about this as these figures are not very precise estimates.

**FIGURE 19: INDIVIDUALS IN 'ONE PARENT WITH CHILDREN' FAMILY TYPE IN 2003 MOVING TO 'COUPLE WITH CHILDREN' IN 2004, BY GENDER**



\* A relative sampling error of greater than 30 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent; use data with caution (see Appendix One for a more in-depth explanation).

About three-quarters of adults who went from a 'one parent with children' family to a 'couple with children' family were female and about a quarter male. This roughly reflects the proportions of females and males who were in a 'one parent with children' family in 2003, meaning that adult males were just as likely as adult females to make this move.

# CHAPTER SEVEN

## not in a family nucleus

**If a person is not living with a parent, partner or child (or if their children have a partner or children of their own living with them), then they are said to be 'not in a family nucleus'.**

This family living arrangement contains those individuals who do not fit into the other family definitions. It is likely to contain a mix of people living alone, people flatting together, individuals boarding with other people or families, and people living with extended family members.

### OVERVIEW

In 2003, there were 499,500 individuals (13 percent of the total population) living 'not in a family nucleus'. Many of these people did not change family type – 89 percent were still living in this family type in 2004. Over the 12 months, substantially more people entered this family living arrangement than left it, with 138,400 individuals entering and only 54,700 individuals leaving. This is unexpected and with only two data points, caution should be taken in making any interpretations of this result.

This family type had a high proportion of older people, with 31 percent aged over 65. It also had a slightly higher proportion of people aged 15–24 than the total population (20 percent compared with 13 percent). Of the individuals in this family type in 2003, 46 percent were male and 54 percent were female. Males were more likely to change family type with 14 percent doing so, compared with 8 percent of females.

This family type had a lower proportion of adults in employment than the total adult population (54 percent compared with 67 percent) and a higher proportion not in the labour force (43 percent compared with 31 percent). This could be due to the high proportion of people over 65 years of age, many of whom would be retired.

**FIGURE 20: MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT OF 'NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS' BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**

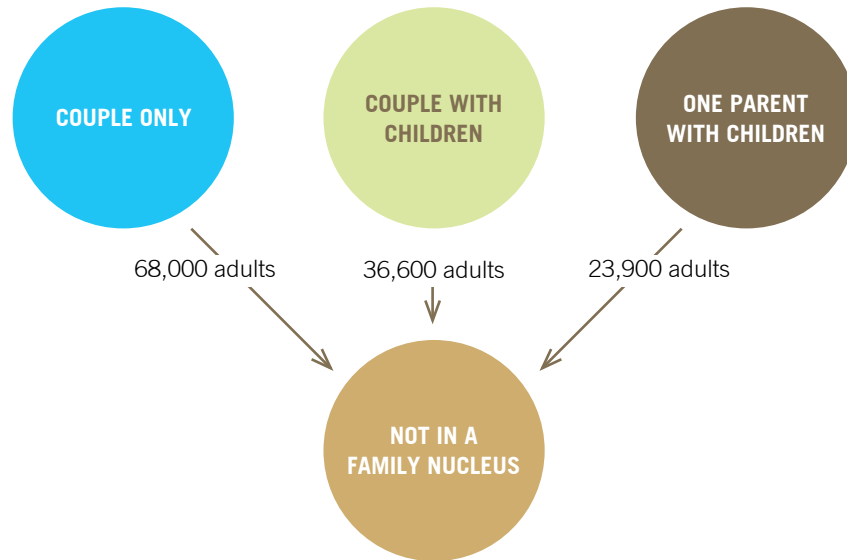


The number of people 'not in a family nucleus' increased substantially between 2003 and 2004.

## ADULTS ENTERING THE 'NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS' FAMILY TYPE

An estimated 138,400 individuals<sup>7</sup> entered the 'not in a family nucleus' living arrangement between 2003 and 2004.

**FIGURE 21: ADULTS ENTERING 'NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS' BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



Most people who entered the 'not in a family nucleus' living arrangement came from a 'couple only' family.

**FIGURE 22: ADULTS ENTERING 'NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS', BY AGE GROUP**

**Age distribution of adults entering 'not in a family nucleus' compared with the age distribution of all adults in this family type in 2004**

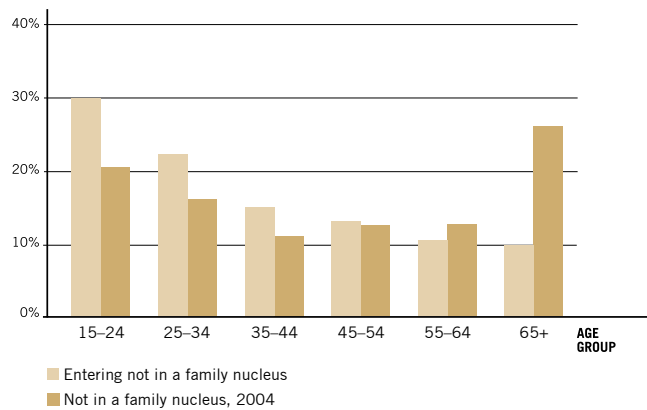


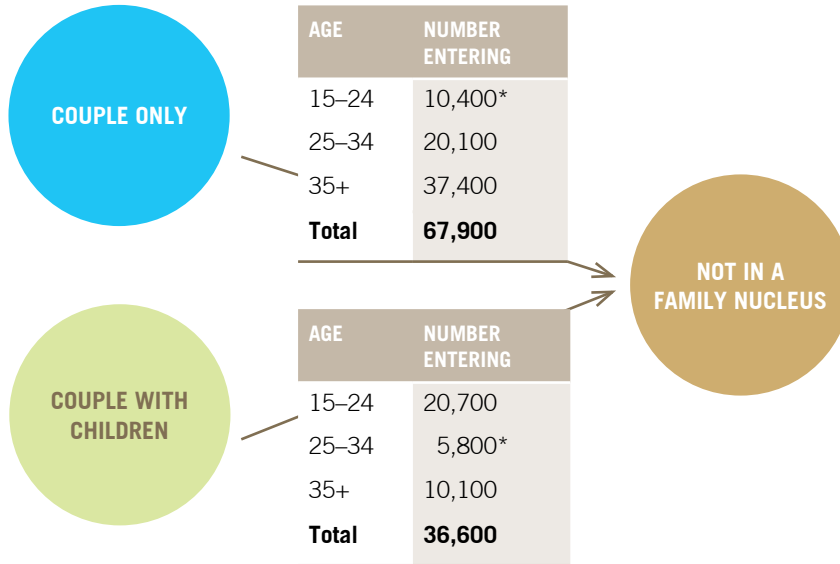
Figure 22 shows those adults who entered 'not in a family nucleus' by age compared with the age groups of all those who were in this family type in 2004.

Individuals entering this family type were mainly young people aged 15–34 (52 percent). The younger age group (15–24 years) came mainly from the 'couple with children' family (54 percent) (probably young people moving out of home)

<sup>7</sup> Ninety-three percent of these individuals were adults. Figure 21 does not display the movements of dependent children owing to the small numbers involved. This means there is a small variation between the total number of individuals entering this family type as shown in Figure 20 and the sum of those shown to be entering this family type in Figure 21.

whereas those in the older age group (25–34 years) came mainly from the ‘couple only’ family (71 percent).

**FIGURE 23: ADULTS ENTERING ‘NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS’ IN 2004 FROM ‘COUPLE ONLY’ AND ‘COUPLE WITH CHILDREN’, BY AGE**

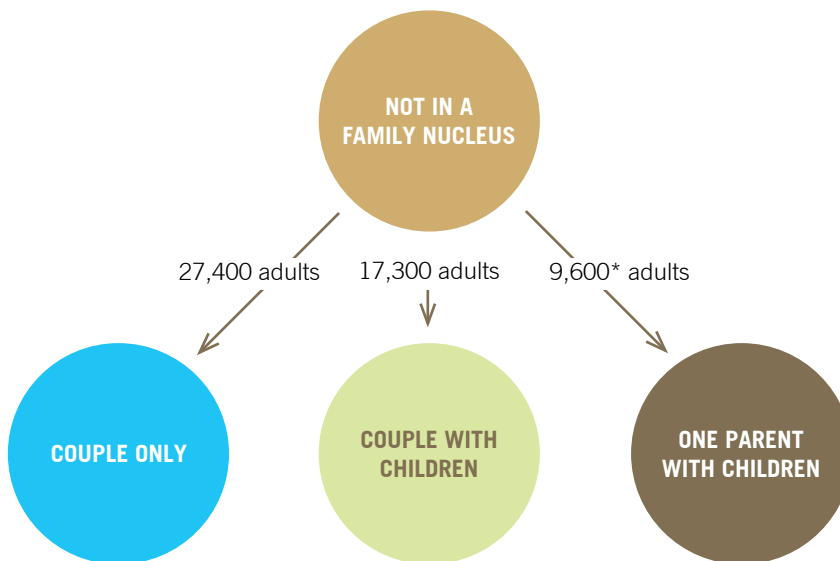


\* A relative sampling error of greater than 30 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent; use data with caution (see Appendix One for a more in-depth explanation).

### ADULTS LEAVING THE ‘NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS’ FAMILY TYPE

An estimated 54,700<sup>8</sup> individuals left the ‘not in a family nucleus’ living arrangement between 2003 and 2004.

**FIGURE 24: ADULTS LEAVING ‘NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS’ BETWEEN 2003 AND 2004**



\* A relative sampling error of greater than 30 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent; use data with caution (see Appendix One for a more in-depth explanation).

<sup>8</sup> About 99 percent of these were adults. Figure 24 does not display the movements of dependent children owing to the small numbers involved. This means there is a small variation between the total number of individuals leaving this family type as shown in Figure 20 and the sum of those shown to be leaving this family type in Figure 24.

Most adults who left the 'not in a family nucleus' living arrangement entered the 'couple only' family type. Over this 12-month period, 27,400 adults made this change.

**FIGURE 25: ADULTS LEAVING 'NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS', BY AGE GROUP**

**Age distribution of adults leaving 'not in a family nucleus' compared with the age distribution of all adults in this family type in 2003**

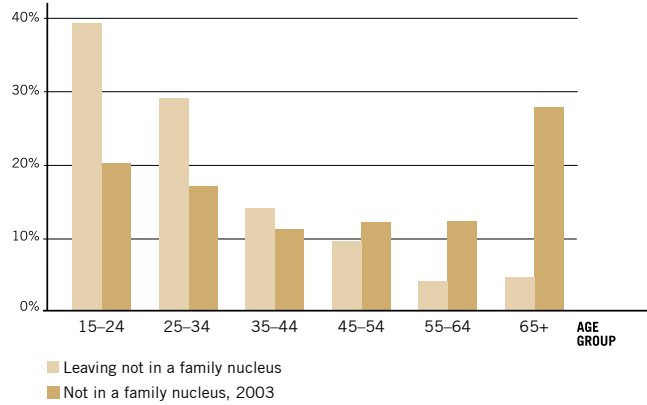
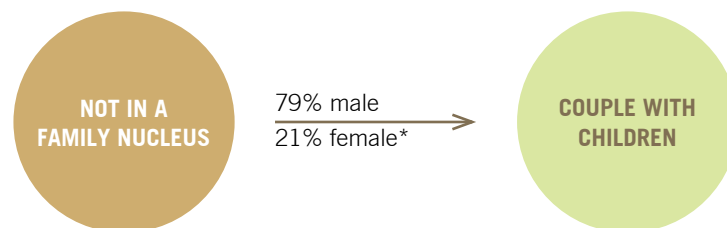


Figure 25 shows those adults who left the 'not in a family nucleus' family type by age compared with the age groups of all those who were in this family type in 2003.

Adults aged 15–34 made up the largest proportion of those who left this family type (68 percent). Younger people were the most mobile, with 20 percent of 15–34-year-olds who were in this family type in 2003 being in a different family type 12 months later. Over half of the 15–34-year-olds who left this family type entered the 'couple only' family (58 percent) with another third entering the 'couple with children' family.

**FIGURE 26: INDIVIDUALS 'NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS' IN 2003 MOVING TO 'COUPLE WITH CHILDREN' IN 2004, BY GENDER**



\* A relative sampling error of greater than 30 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent; use data with caution (see Appendix One for a more in-depth explanation).

Almost 80 percent of those who entered a 'couple with children' family from 'not in a family nucleus' were male. While some of those who made this move were probably young people moving back in with their parents, it seems likely that many would have been a person moving in with a partner and the partner's children.

People are much more likely to move out of being 'not in a family nucleus' if they are employed. About 79 percent of those who moved into a 'couple only' or 'couple with children' family were employed, as were 58 percent of those who moved into a 'one parent with children' family. This may reflect the age of those who changed family types. Most of those changing family type were of working age, and so it follows that they were more likely to be employed.

# CHAPTER EIGHT

## life-cycle changes

The majority of changes in living arrangements observed in this analysis can be explained by life-cycle changes – children growing up and leaving home, partnering, having children, children leaving home.

For those adults aged 15–24, almost half the changes in family type appeared to represent moves out of the family home. Forty percent of those who changed left a family with children to enter one without children. A quarter of those in this age group who changed family type went from being in a ‘couple with children’ family to ‘not in a family nucleus’. The other main moves for people in this age group were moving between a ‘couple only’ living arrangement and ‘not in a family nucleus’.

For individuals aged 25–34, the two main moves were from a ‘couple only’ family to ‘not in a family nucleus’ (24 percent of 25–34-year-olds who changed family type) and from ‘couple only’ to ‘couple with children’ (23 percent). From this information it would appear that over a 12-month period, there were as many 25–34-year-old couples who stopped living together, as those who had a first child. The other main moves for people in this age group were from ‘not in a family nucleus’ to a ‘couple only’ (12 percent) and from ‘couple with children’ to ‘one parent with children’ (12 percent).

Young people were more likely to change family type, with 19 percent of people aged 15–34 changing family type in the 12-month period, compared with 9 percent of those aged 35 years or older.

Individuals aged 35–44 were more diverse in their movements between family types. The most common moves were from a ‘couple only’ to ‘not in a family nucleus’ (19 percent); from a ‘couple only’ to a ‘couple with children’ family type (16 percent); and from a ‘couple with children’ to ‘one parent with children’ (14 percent). Very few people in this age group moved from ‘not in a family nucleus’ to a ‘couple only’.

For individuals aged 45–54, the most common movement was from a ‘couple with children’ to a ‘couple only’ living arrangement (36 percent). This was likely to be the result of children leaving home. The next most common movements for this age group were from a ‘couple only’ to a ‘couple with children’ (16 percent) and a ‘couple only’ to ‘not in a family nucleus’ (14 percent). Some of these changes may have resulted from a couple having a child or grandparents caring for grandchildren. However, it seems likely that most of the individuals moving from ‘couple only’ to ‘couple with children’ would have been adult children moving back home or parents moving in with their adult children (who were not living with a partner or children of their own). However, we cannot say from the data available which one of these was the case.

Relatively few people aged 55 years and older changed family type between 2003 and 2004. Therefore, the proportions of those who changed family type should be treated with caution because of high sampling errors. Of individuals aged 55–64 who changed family type, almost a third went from being in a ‘couple with children’ to a ‘couple only’ living arrangement. A further third went from a ‘couple only’ to ‘not in a family nucleus’. More than half of those aged 65 or older who changed family type went from being in a ‘couple only’ living arrangement to not living in a family nucleus. It is likely that for some of these people their partner moved into a non-private institution such as a hospital or a retirement home.

# CHAPTER NINE

## summary

This paper has investigated the changes that individuals make between four different family living arrangements within a household. While it has focused on those people who changed family types, it is important to note that the vast majority of individuals – 89 percent – did not change family type in 2003-2004. Those who were in a ‘couple with children’ family type in 2003 were most likely to be in the same family type in 2004, with 10 percent of adults and 5 percent of dependent children changing family type, while those in a ‘one parent with children’ family type were most likely to change, with 20 percent of adults and 12 percent of dependent children no longer in this family type 12 months later.

The ‘couple only’ family type showed the second most change, with 14 percent of those who were in this family type in 2003 no longer in it in 2004. Life-cycle factors appear to have driven a lot of the changes with people entering this family type when they moved in with a partner, leaving when they had children, then re-entering when the children left home. The figures reflect this as similar numbers moved from ‘couple only’ to ‘couple with children’ and vice versa. Overall, there were more older people in the ‘couple only’ family type than in others. However, the age structure of those who moved in and out of this family type differed, with one-quarter of those entering aged 15–24. There was also a large group of people who left this family type to enter the ‘not in a family nucleus’ living arrangement (nearly 60 percent of those leaving). Almost a third of these were aged 25–34.

The ‘couple with children’ family type was the largest, with 52 percent of the population living with a partner and children. Over a third of the adults in this family type were aged 34–44, with a high proportion of adults in employment. As might be expected, adults who entered this family type were largely aged 15–34, with many coming from the ‘couple only’ family. Those who left this family type were mostly young people aged 15–24 (probably leaving the family home), and also older people aged 45–54 (probably those whose children had moved out of the home). Those who left this family type to enter a ‘one parent with children’ family type were mainly female (about three-quarters). This reflects the fact that children are more likely to live with their mother when a couple separates.

The ‘one parent with children’ family type showed the most change. Males were more likely to leave this family type (24 percent) compared with females (16 percent). Over a quarter of the adults in this family type were male (28 percent). The majority of adults who entered this family type came from the ‘couple with children’ family type, with the majority of adults leaving this family type going to ‘not in a family nucleus’ (55 percent) although a large proportion (38 percent) went to a ‘couple with children’ living arrangement.

Of those who were ‘not in a family nucleus’, over a quarter were aged 65 or older with a corresponding high number of people who were not in the labour force. Of those who entered the ‘not in a family nucleus’ living arrangement, half were aged 15–34 years.

In this analysis, life-cycle factors appear to dominate over other variables as the likely key driver of change in families’ household structures. However, it is impossible to look for trends in data from only two points in time. As more years of data become available, life-cycle trends can be explored in greater detail.



Moving beyond life-cycle analysis, a multivariate analysis would be the next step for a more in-depth investigation of the characteristics of individuals who change living arrangements. Socio-economic characteristics were used only tentatively in this analysis owing to the impact that age was likely to have on variables such as highest educational qualification obtained and employment status. The ability to control for an individual's age would allow the possible influences of other characteristics to be seen more readily.

This analysis was also limited in the information that was used to contextualise changing family living arrangements. Additional information about household composition, flows of economic resources within households and the ability to distinguish the direction of dependencies between parents and adult children would add more detail to these descriptions. For example, information about household composition (which can be obtained from the SoFIE dataset) would allow an investigation of changes at the household level, as opposed to the family level as has been done here.

This paper is a first step in exploring family dynamics through describing changes in family living arrangements for New Zealanders. While this work is confined to looking at changes over a one-year period, it provides a starting point that can be built on as subsequent data from the SoFIE survey become available.

# APPENDIX ONE

## survey of family, income and employment

The Survey of Family, Income and Employment (SoFIE) is a longitudinal survey by Statistics New Zealand. The overall objective of SoFIE is to obtain information about changes over time in the economic well-being of individuals and their families, and about factors influencing those changes.<sup>9</sup> The survey has a large sample size and is representative of the whole New Zealand population, making it an important dataset in analysing the movements that individuals make between family living arrangements. However, it does not include non-private dwellings such as prisons, hospitals or retirement homes.

In 2002, 22,000 New Zealanders were randomly selected to participate in this survey. Those individuals who agreed to participate are interviewed once a year for eight years – from 2003 to 2011. The first wave of data was collected from October 2002 to September 2003 and the second wave ran from October 2003 to September 2004. For reasons of simplicity, we refer to information from wave one as occurring in 2003 and information from wave two as occurring in 2004.

The following information largely replicates the technical notes from wave two of the survey taken from the Statistics New Zealand website.

### INTRODUCTION

SoFIE is the largest longitudinal survey ever run in New Zealand. Its primary focus is to look at the changes in individual, family and household income, and the factors that influence these changes, such as involvement in the labour force and family composition. The survey interviews the same group of individuals over eight years (or 'waves') in order to build a picture of how their circumstances and lifestyles change over time.

The statistics in the tables in this report present selected information from the first two waves of SoFIE, from October 2002 through to September 2004. For further details regarding SoFIE, please visit [www.stats.govt.nz/additional-information/survey-of-family-income-employment](http://www.stats.govt.nz/additional-information/survey-of-family-income-employment)

### SURVEY SCOPE

The target population for SoFIE is the usually resident population of New Zealand living in private dwellings. This means the survey excludes overseas visitors who intend to stay in New Zealand for less than 12 months, non-New Zealand diplomats and diplomatic staff and their dependants, members of non-New Zealand armed forces stationed in New Zealand and their dependants, and people living in institutions or in establishments such as boarding houses, hotels, motels and hostels.

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<sup>9</sup> Statistics New Zealand. (2001). *A Longitudinal Survey of Income, Employment and Family Dynamics*. Feasibility project final report. Statistics New Zealand, Wellington.  
<http://www.stats.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/CC9A755D-EC0B-4C57-BF1D-BE7FBC2139FB/0/LongSurv.pdf>

For practical reasons, the population surveyed is restricted to people whose usual residence at the time of sample selection is a permanent private dwelling on the North Island, South Island or Waiheke Island.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

At wave one, a total of about 15,000 randomly selected households were approached to take part in SoFIE. Approximately 11,500 households agreed to be interviewed and data were collected from more than 22,000 eligible individuals aged 15 and older. All adults responding at wave one, and children aged less than 15 for whom data were collected in wave one, are known as 'original sample members' (OSMs). The intention is to re-interview all OSMs aged 15 years and over in subsequent years, regardless of changes in their place of residence. OSM children will not be interviewed directly until they turn 15. From the second interview onwards, other members of an OSM's household who are not OSMs ('cohabitants') are also interviewed while they remain living with an OSM. Cohabitants will be asked a reduced set of questions and will not be followed up if they leave the OSM's household.

## COLLECTION METHOD

SoFIE is conducted using computer-assisted interviewing. Interviewers use laptop computers to administer the questionnaire face to face with the respondent in the respondent's home. There are two separate questionnaires used to collect information for SoFIE. The Household Questionnaire is answered by one person in each household and collects household characteristics. A Personal Questionnaire is completed with every OSM in the household aged 15 years and older. A slightly shorter version of the Personal Questionnaire is completed with any adult cohabitating with an OSM adult from wave two onwards. Children aged less than 15 years are not interviewed; instead, a nominated parent/other adult is questioned about them.

The Household Questionnaire contains two sets or modules of questions:

1. Household
2. Standard of living.

The Personal Questionnaire contains eight standard modules:

1. Demographics
2. Child (if the respondent is a nominated adult answering about a child)
3. Labour market history
4. Education
5. Family
6. Labour market
7. Income
8. Contact

The SoFIE questionnaires collect both point-in-time data and spell data. Point-in-time data relate to a single date, usually the interview date (eg the respondent's educational qualifications as at the interview date). Spell data relate to a period of time or time-spell with a defined start and end date reported by the respondent (eg the period of time a respondent lived with a family member, or the length of time a person worked for a particular employer). The analysis in this release

includes uncompleted spells; that is, spells that were ongoing at the time of the second interview.

Over the eight waves of the survey, different modules will be added to gather a more complete picture of the influences on individual and household circumstances. In waves two, four, six and eight a net worth module will be included, and in waves three, five and seven a health module will be included. The net worth module collects information on the type and value of assets and liabilities.

## SURVEY PERIOD

Wave one of SoFIE was conducted from 1 October 2002 to 30 September 2003, and wave two from 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004. The original sample was spread out over the 12 months in the first wave so that interviewing was continuous during the year. The interview for each subsequent wave will always be in roughly the same month as the interview of wave one. At each interview the respondent is asked to recall information about a specific annual reference period. The annual reference period is the 12 months prior to the month of interview. This means that SoFIE data published in this release relate to a two-year period for each respondent that falls somewhere between 1 October 2001 and 30 September 2004.

## RESPONSE RATE

In a longitudinal survey, the response rate for the survey will decline over time as individuals are unable to be located, leave the country or die. Minimising attrition (loss of respondents) is very important, because of the cumulative effect of non-response over time. Statistics New Zealand is putting considerable effort into maintaining contact with respondents in order to be able to interview them in subsequent years, thus maintaining a high response rate for SoFIE.

Despite this, Statistics New Zealand has been unable to collect valid data from all selected eligible individuals. The most common reasons for this were that a respondent was unable to be contacted, or that a respondent was not able to provide all the relevant information asked for.

For wave one, approximately 77 percent of eligible households responded. In the second year of the survey, 87 percent of all respondents from wave one responded again.

## ESTIMATION

A basic survey weight is attached to each record to indicate the probability of that unit being included in the sample. Two types of adjustment are then applied to the basic survey weights to improve the reliability of the survey estimates. The basic weights are first inflated to adjust for non-response, and are then further adjusted to ensure that estimates of relevant population characteristics match known population totals. The population totals used for SoFIE are derived from population estimates produced by Statistics New Zealand's Demography Division for counts for different age-sex groups.

## IMPUTATION

Some respondents are unable to provide complete information. In these cases, missing values are imputed for all key fields. The key fields for SoFIE are age, ethnicity, income and pay details. Where possible, information is imputed deterministically, using other information reported by the respondent to provide a likely estimate for the missing value. When deterministic imputation is not possible, a 'hot deck' imputation method is used. This method involves selecting another respondent with similar characteristics to become the 'donor' and provide the imputed value.

## RELIABILITY OF SURVEY ESTIMATES

The initial SoFIE sample comprised approximately 11,500 responding private households and 22,000 adults sampled within them, on a statistically representative basis from rural and urban areas throughout New Zealand. Information is collected from each member (including children) of a sampled household that falls within the scope of the survey and meets survey coverage rules. In wave two there were just under 20,000 responding OSM adults.

Two types of error are possible in estimates based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. Sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample rather than an entire population is surveyed. All sampling errors for SoFIE are measured at the 95 percent confidence interval. The estimates in the tables have had specific sampling errors calculated for them that are available on request.

Non-sampling errors include errors arising from biases in the patterns of response and non-response, inaccuracies in reporting by respondents, and errors in the recording and coding of data. Statistics New Zealand endeavours to minimise the impact of these errors through the application of best-practice survey methods and monitoring known indicators (eg non-response).

## ROUNDING

Due to rounding procedures, table totals may differ from the sum of individual cells. All counts and values in the tables have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

## DEFINITIONS

A full set of definitions is available from Statistics New Zealand. (The following are restricted to those referred to in this report.)

### Family

The definition of the family is based on the concept of a family nucleus. A family nucleus is a couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent and their child(ren) where the children do not have partners or children of their own living in the same household. Note that the children can be of any age.

Family type describes the type of family a person is living in, not who is in the family. Someone who is in a couple at the first interview of SoFIE, for example, may also be in a couple a year later – however they may have changed partners during the course of the year.

## **Income**

This release covers aspects of annual personal income and weekly employee earnings.

## **Annual family income**

Annual family income is the total income received from all sources by members of a family in the annual reference period. Only those people identified in a family nucleus, and the income of family members aged 15 and over, are included in annual family income statistics. (Note this definition of annual family income is taken from the glossary produced in wave one.)

## **Labour force involvement**

A respondent's labour force involvement is defined as being either employed, not employed but seeking work, or not employed and not seeking work. The definitions for involvement in the labour force are aligned with, but not identical to, the concepts and definitions used in the Household Labour Force Survey.

## **Employed**

This definition includes all individuals in the working-age population who worked for one hour or more, either as employees or in self-employment; or worked without pay for one hour or more in work that contributed directly to the operation of a farm, business or practice owned or operated by a relative; or had a job but were not at work due to own illness or injury, personal or family responsibilities, bad weather or mechanical breakdown, direct involvement in industrial dispute, or leave or holiday.

## **Not employed but seeking work**

This definition includes all individuals in the working-age population who were without a paid job and seeking work. Note that this is not the same as the official measure of unemployment derived from the Household Labour Force Survey because of the difficulty respondents may have in remembering details of their job search activity and availability to start a new job for dates up to a year ago.

## **Not employed and not seeking work**

This definition includes any person in the working-age population who is neither employed nor seeking employment: for example, people who are retired, or have personal or family responsibilities; people attending educational institutions; people permanently unable to work due to disabilities; and people not actively seeking work.

## **Ethnicity**

Ethnicity data are presented as counts of all responses to the ethnicity question. People can provide more than one response to this question and are counted in each group they report. Consequently, the total count is higher than the number of people in the population.

## **Wave**

In a longitudinal survey, interviews are conducted with the same people repeatedly over time. SoFIE is thus made up of cycles, or 'waves', of interviewing. The wave

length (ie the time between each wave) for SoFIE is one year, which means that respondents are interviewed annually. The first time respondents were visited was known as wave one, the second time as wave two, and so on.

## **Quintile**

Income quintiles divide the population into five groups by ranking people in order according to the amount of income they receive. The bottom quintile (quintile 1) is the lowest 20 percent of the population in terms of income, while the top quintile (quintile 5) is the highest 20 percent of the population.

Net worth quintiles divide the population into five groups by ranking people in order of their net worth. The bottom quintile (quintile 1) is the lowest 20 percent of the population in terms of net worth, while the top quintile (quintile 5) is the highest 20 percent of the population.

# APPENDIX TWO

## change in family type by age

TABLE 3: FAMILY TYPE FOR INDIVIDUALS <sup>1</sup> BY AGE <sup>2</sup>					
FAMILY TYPE AS AT WAVE ONE <sup>3,5</sup>	FAMILY TYPE AS AT WAVE TWO <sup>4,5</sup>				
	COUPLE ONLY	COUPLE WITH CHILD(REN) <sup>6</sup>	ONE PARENT WITH CHILD(REN) <sup>6</sup>	NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS <sup>7</sup>	ALL INDIVIDUALS <sup>1,8</sup>
Number (000)					
<b>Couple only</b>					
15–24	34.9	7.4 *	s	10.4	53.2
25–34	87.5	18.8 *	s	20.1	126.7
35–44	48.9	8	s	9.6 *	66.7
45–54	126.8	8.7 *	s	7.8 *	143.8
55–64	197.8	s	s	9.5	211
65+	218	s	s	10.5 *	229.8
<b>Total Couple only</b>	<b>713.8</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>831.2</b>
<b>Couple with children<sup>5</sup></b>					
0–14	s	674	31.7	s	706.9
15–24	7.4	218.3	8.7	26.3	260.7
25–34	2.9 **	229.8	10.2 *	5.8 *	248.7
35–44	4.1 **	372.6	7 *	5.2 *	388.8
45–54	19.6	217.4	2.3	4.1 *	243.4
55–64	9 *	46.6	s	s	56.9
65+	1.9 **	13.5 *	s	s	15.8
<b>Total Couple with children<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>1772.2</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>1921.3</b>
<b>One parent with children<sup>5</sup></b>					
0–14	s	20.5	174.3	1.4	196.2
15–24	1.7	6.8	67.2	9	84.8
25–34	s	6.3 *	47	2.6 **	56.5
35–44	s	4 *	55.9	4.3 *	64.9
45–54	s	1.9 **	29.2	4.8 *	36.3
55–64	s	s	11.3	3.2 *	14.9
65+	s	s	10.6	1.8 *	12.5
<b>Total One parent with children<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>395.5</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>466.4</b>



**TABLE 3: FAMILY TYPE FOR INDIVIDUALS<sup>1</sup> BY AGE<sup>2</sup>**

FAMILY TYPE AS AT WAVE ONE <sup>3,5</sup>	FAMILY TYPE AS AT WAVE TWO <sup>4,5</sup>				ALL INDIVIDUALS <sup>1,8</sup>
	COUPLE ONLY	COUPLE WITH CHILD(REN) <sup>6</sup>	ONE PARENT WITH CHILD(REN) <sup>6</sup>	NOT IN A FAMILY NUCLEUS <sup>7</sup>	
Number (000)					
<b>Not in a family nucleus<sup>6</sup></b>					
15-24	11.6	7.4 *	3	78.6 **	100.6
25-34	10.1 *	4.5 *	1.2	68.6	84.4
35-44	1.9 **	4.6 *	1.1	47.7	55.3
45-54	1.5 **	1.2 **	2.4	54.6	59.7
55-64	1.3 **	s	0.8	58.7	60.8
65+	1.1 **	s	1.3	136.5	138.8
<b>Total Not in a family nucleus<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>444.8</b>	<b>499.6</b>
<b>All individuals<sup>1,7</sup></b>	<b>790.2</b>	<b>1877.3</b>	<b>467.7</b>	<b>583.2</b>	<b>3718.4</b>

Source: Survey of Family, Income and Employment

<sup>1</sup> All individuals in the longitudinally responding population, by stated column category.

<sup>2</sup> Age at wave 1 household interview date.

<sup>3</sup> Family type as at household interview date for wave one.

<sup>4</sup> Family type as at household interview date for wave two.

<sup>5</sup> The concept of family used is based on a family nucleus. A family nucleus is a couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent and their child(ren) where the child(ren) do not have partners or child(ren) of their own living in the same household. Child(ren) can be of any age, including adult child(ren).

<sup>6</sup> Children can be of any age, including adult child(ren).

<sup>7</sup> Individuals who are not living as a couple, with a parent, or with a child(ren).

<sup>8</sup> Row and column totals may not total exactly due to rounding of source data.

s Suppressed (some estimates have been suppressed for confidentiality reasons, some for data quality reasons).

\* A relative sampling error of greater than 30 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent; use data with caution.

\*\* A relative sampling error of greater than 50 percent; data is too unreliable for most practical purposes.



## Families Commission research reports

- 1/05 *Review of New Zealand Longitudinal Studies*, Michelle Poland and Jaimie Legge, May 2005.
- 2/05 *Review of Parenting Programmes*, Anne Kerslake Hendricks and Radha Balakrishnan, June 2005.
- 3/05 *Beyond Zero Tolerance: Key issues and future directions for family violence work in New Zealand*, Janet Fanslow, August 2005.
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- 5/05 *Methodologies for Analysing the Impact of Public Policy on Families: A conceptual review*, Jacqui True, October 2005.
- 1/06 *What Makes Your Family Tick?* Families with dependent children – Successful Outcomes Project. Report on public consultation, Robyn Seth-Purdie, Andrew Cameron and Francis Luketina, March 2006.
- 2/06 *Review of the Empirical Literature Assessing the Impacts of Government Policies on Family Form: A report for the Families Commission*, Jeremy Robertson, Vanessa Rogers and Jan Pryor, April 2006.
- 1/07 *When School's Out: Conversations with parents, carers and children about out of school services*. A Families Commission report, Donella Bellett and Marny Dickson, February 2007.

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