

Regional Snapshot: Taranaki



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

20,500

people in Taranaki (16%) experience poverty after housing costs are paid

3,000 adults over 65 years old in Taranaki (12.73%) experience poverty after housing costs
6,600 children in Taranaki (19.8%) live in households experiencing poverty after housing costs

11,300

people in Taranaki (8.8%) are unable to afford essential items

1,000 adults over 65 years old in Taranaki (4.24%) are unable to afford the essentials
3,800 children in Taranaki ((11.4%) live in households that are unable to afford the essentials



Employment

More than a third of adults aged 20-24 (37.2%) were not in employment, training or education (almost twice the national average of 19.1%)

Housing

2023 Census data estimates there were about 78 people sleeping rough in New Plymouth in 2023, with a further 40 in other areas districts of Taranaki

Taranaki has the highest proportion of over 65s accessing the accommodation supplement (12.29% compared to 6.19% nationally)

Health

39.1% people in Taranaki had unmet dental treatment due to costs, with this disproportionately impacting 25-34 year olds (62%),

More than 1 in 4 adults aged 25-34 in Taranaki (26.6%) were unable to access a doctor due to cost

28% of people in Taranaki experienced food insecurity in the past year

Income adequacy

The Jobseeker support is estimated to be \$171.61/week short of covering essential living costs like food, housing and power for single adult recipients in Stratford

In the year to June 2026 23,850 special needs grants were approved in Taranaki, for households unable to cover their everyday expenses such as food, medical costs and utilities

People in Taranaki receiving Jobseeker support make up 2.7% of recipients nationally but 4% of sanctions applied

A population bigger than Hāwera are going without the essentials

Visit our website for more information on steps we recommend to help free New Zealanders from poverty
nzccss.org.nz

