

While nearly 30% of the Northern Region population identify with an Asian ethnic group, the composition of the aggregated 'Asian' category differs substantially across the rohe.

Overlooking the complexity within this substantial portion of our population risks leaving these groups largely invisible in regional and national health system planning.

Drawing on the 2018 Census and Health Service Utilisation population, this report aimed to describe the demography of Asian communities living in the rohe of the Northern Region District Health Boards to inform the planning, funding, and implementation of health services in these rohe.

This report provides insights into availability and application of currently available ethnicity data, the geographic/age/gender distribution of Asian communities, and access to the social determinants of health. The examined information points to the need for attention to more nuanced understanding of the health needs of Asian communities locally, regionally, and nationally.

About the speakers:

**Maya Patel** (Health analyst, Population Health Team, Service Improvement and Innovation, Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau)

Maya has been a health analyst for 2 years. Her current projects include working with NZ Health Survey CURF data and programming this through in R and SQL. Her previous experience includes 10 years working as a hospital Pharmacist both in the UK and Aotearoa. Her career change came about when a bunch of friendly programmers persuaded her to follow her love for data and programming. Maya feels a great responsibility in achieving social justice. She is inspired by her strong and kind parents. In her spare time, she can be found tramping through dense bush and resetting pest traps to protect our beautiful taonga for a predator-free Aotearoa. More often than necessary, she can be found tinkering in her shed or reorganising wood.

**Dr Rebekah Jaung** (Public Health Registrar, Health Gain Team, Service Improvement and Innovation, Te Whatu Ora Waitematā / Senior Research Fellow, Te Kupenga Hauora Māori, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland | Waipapa Taumata Rau)

Rebekah is a public health trainee and health researcher based in Tāmaki Makaurau. She has worked in public health roles in the Auckland Regional Public Health Service, Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau and Waitematā. Her research interests include: racism and anti-racism in health, health equity, and developing spaces for Māori-migrant solidarity within health research in Aotearoa. Outside of work, she enjoys pottering around in the kitchen and participates in community organising work with Korean New Zealanders for a Better Future.