

the indian diaspora in new zealand

First Presence, Census History & Changing Demographics



New Zealand India Research Institute & AUT Business School

New Zealand Indian Diaspora Convention

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General myths about post-Māori arrivals in Aotearoa

- ◆ Myth 1: Māori came first, Europeans next, followed by Asian populations
- ◆ Myth 2: Asian arrival generally began with the Otago Goldrush
- ◆ Myth 3: “No one knows who was the first Indian to enter NZ” (McLeod 1986:51)

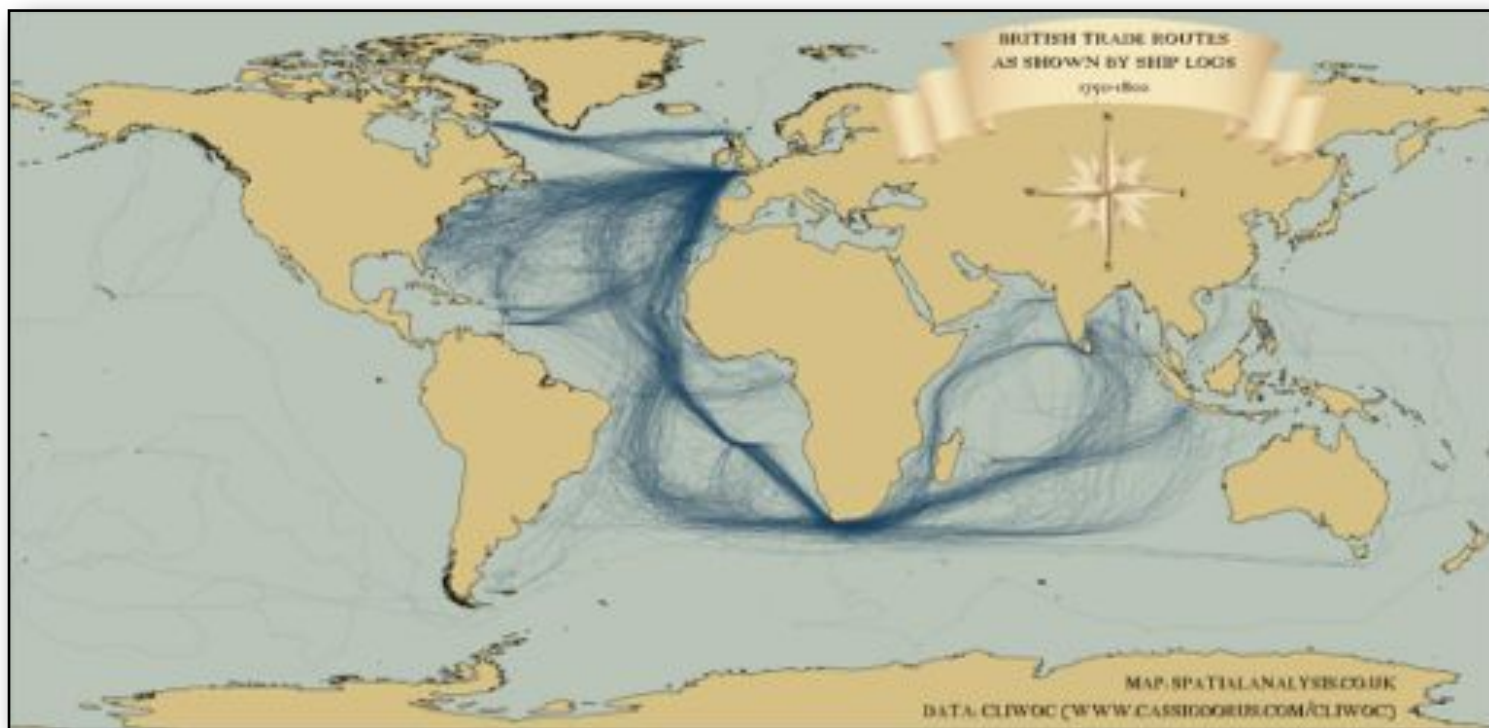
Dispelling these myths...

- ◆ Few realise that small groups of Indians were amongst the first non-Polynesian peoples to arrive in Aotearoa New Zealand
- ◆ that Indian presence is recorded along with the **very first** visits of European vessels to Aotearoa from 1769
- ◆ There were, in fact, hundreds of nameless and unknown Indians that accompanied Europeans on the very earliest voyages of exploration and exploitation

Indian Presence in Aotearoa New Zealand, 1769-1809

◆ How did this come about?

British trade routes, 1750-1800



◆ These ships plied the routes between London and its colonies, included trips to India, Australia and China

- ◆ Many, if not most, were crewed by:
 - ◆ Indian lascars (→ “lashkar” लश्कर) and
 - ◆ sepoy (→ “sipahi” सिपाही)

Indian Presence in Aotearoa New Zealand, 1769-1809

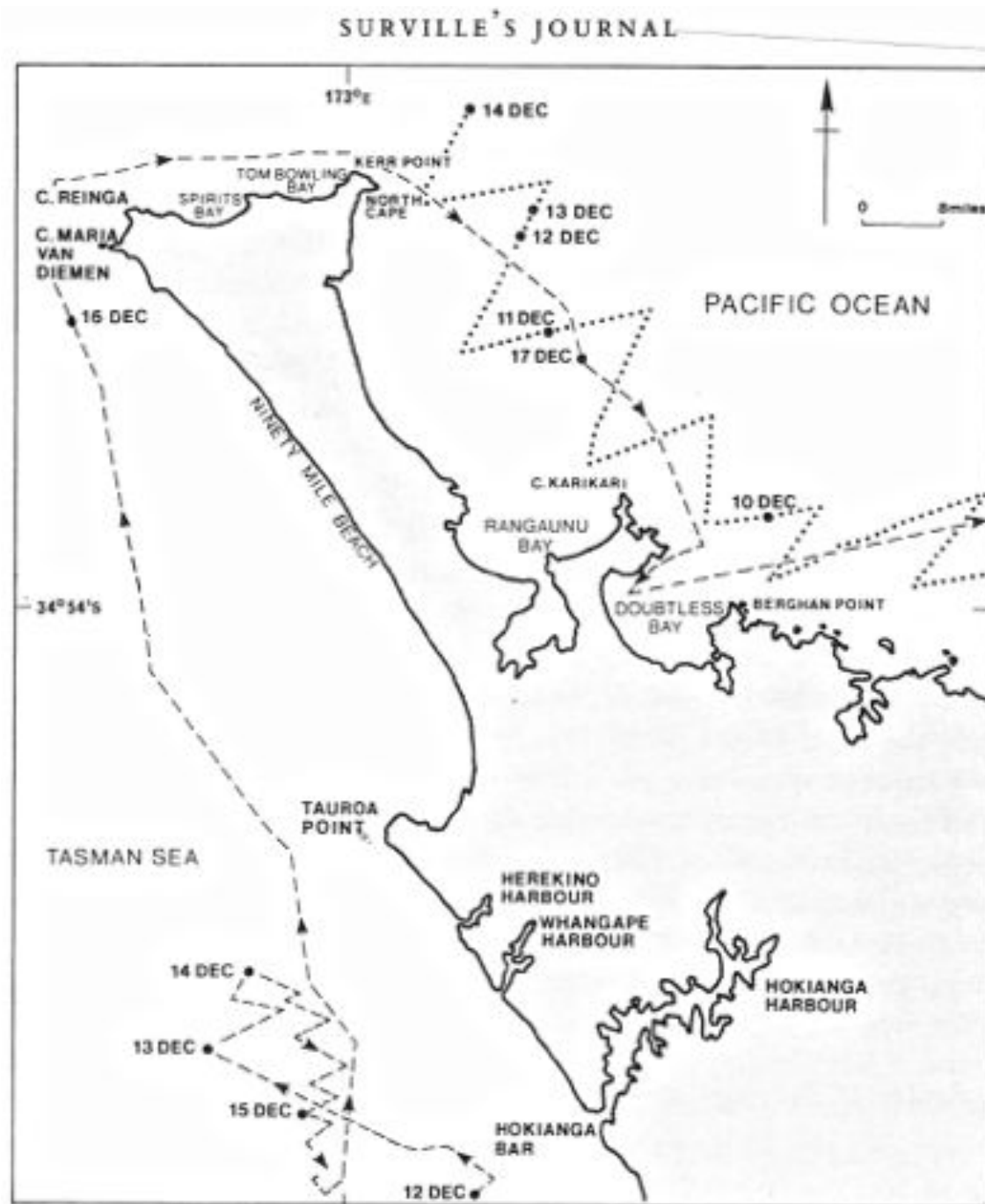
- ◆ French India Company was also engaged in a commercial war w/ the British for power & control of the East, and was also pursuing its interests in South Pacific
- ◆ Captain Jean François Marie de Surville on the *Saint Jean-Baptiste* set sail from the French Colony in Pondicherry, India for New Zealand on 2 June 1769 on a voyage of combined exploration and trade
- ◆ the ship's Muster Roll of the crew lists 53 Indian lascars from a total crew of 232, some of whom are named
(Surville's log, trans. by Dunmore 1981:273-287)
- ◆ crew suffered from scurvy, half of whom died before reaching New Zealand
- ◆ of the 53 lascars, 51 died in Oct-Nov 1769
- ◆ only two lascars survived to reach Aotearoa



Lascars aboard the *RMS Viceroy of India*

Indian Presence in Aotearoa New Zealand, 1769-1809

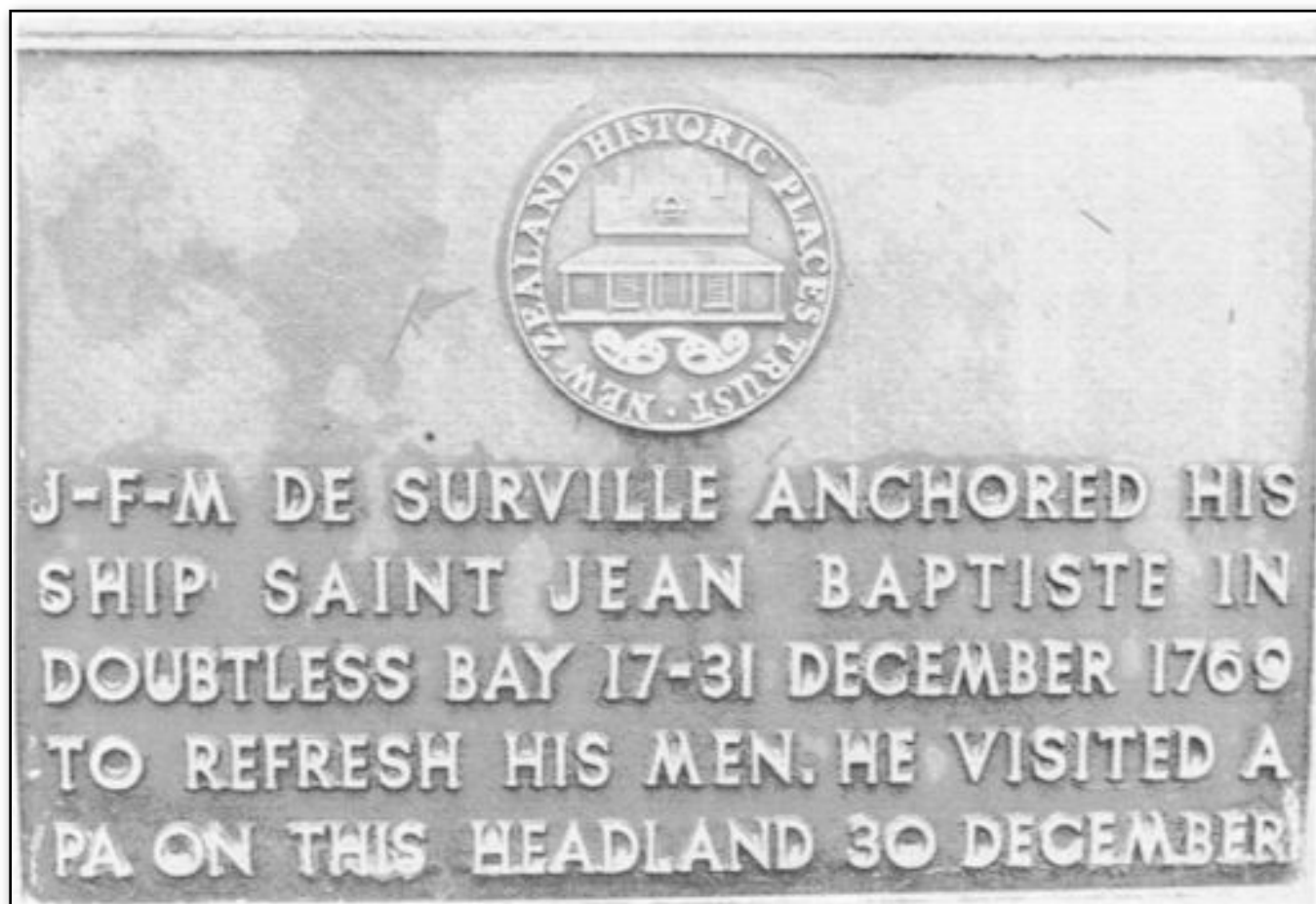
◆ Surville (on the *St Jean Baptist*) and Cook (on the *Endeavor*): Dec 1769



- ◆ Surville arrived in Aotearoan waters on 12 Dec 1769
- ◆ looking for suitable anchorage, set off around North Cape, eventually stopping for two weeks in Doubtless Bay between 17-31 December 1769
- ◆ Surville takes remaining crew, including the 2 lascars, ashore multiple times during the two week visit to collect water and greens that helped restore the remaining crew's health

Indian Presence in Aotearoa New Zealand, 1769-1809

- ◆ Surville's visit to Aotearoa on the *St Jean Baptist*
 - ◆ The two lascars from Pondicherry:
 - ◆ 'Mahmud Qāsim' - born in Pondicherry, born ~1755
 - ◆ 'Nasrin' - Bengali, aged 16-17
 - ◆ Both died in Peruvian waters on 14 April 1770 (Surville's log, Dunmore 1981:287)



- ◆ These two Muslim lascars are the 1st known Indians to set foot in Aotearoa, December 1769

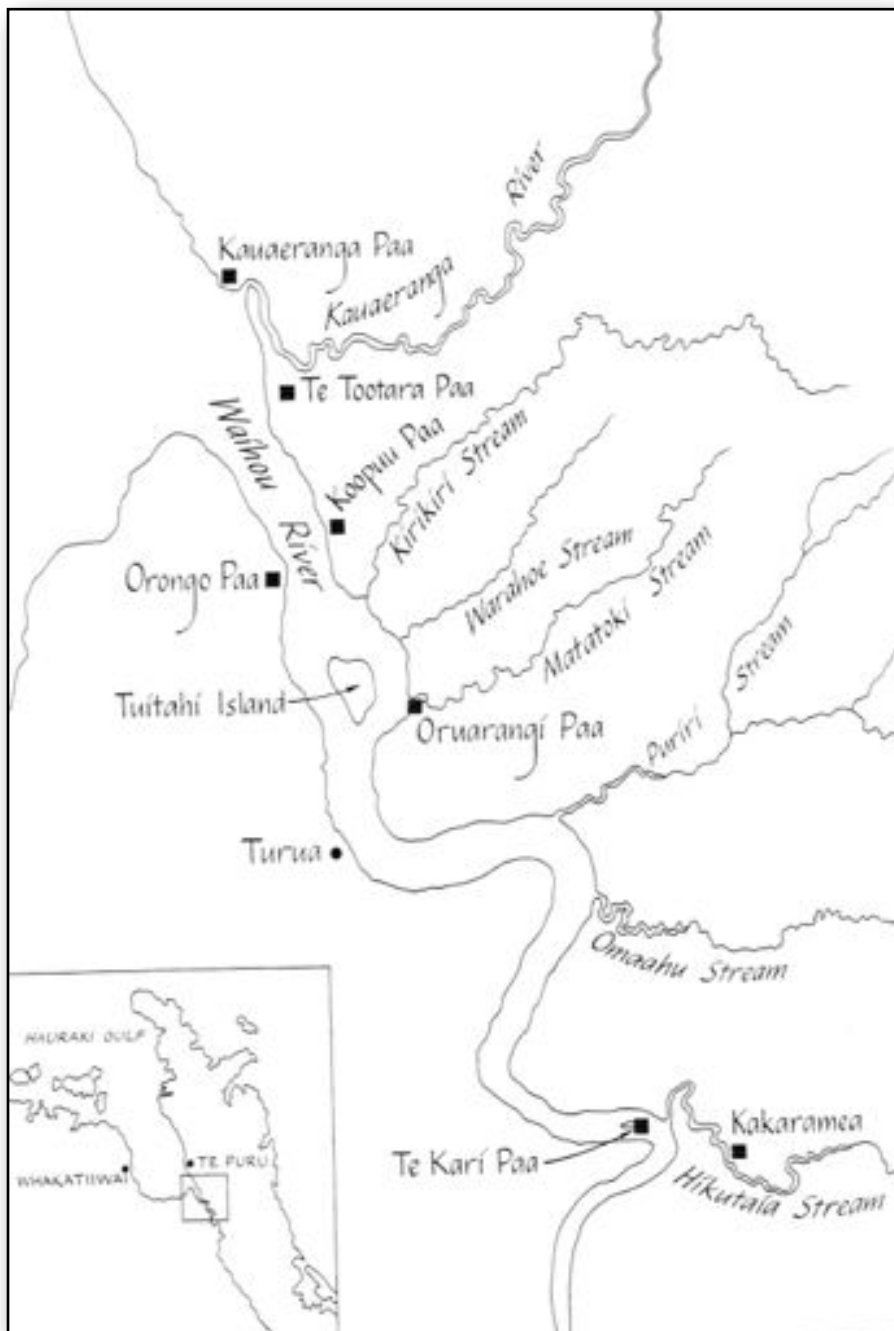
Plaque on Surville Monument, Pātia Head, Tokerau, Doubtless Bay (Dunmore 1981:262).

Indian Presence in Aotearoa New Zealand, 1769-1809

Along The Waihou River, 1794

Source: Ship's log of Captain Dell 1794

- ◆ 23 Nov: "At 4:00am the brig's boats were lowered, and at ten o'clock [we] went off in the longboat accompanied by six Europeans, two Lascars and five Sepoys; and the third officer, Alms, was in the jolly boat with two Europeans and two Lascars, to take soundings of the river"
- ◆ 3 Dec: "Denniston and Alms went with the carpenter, the sawyer, six Lascars & two Sepoys in the longboat to begin felling trees"
- ◆ 5 Dec: "took a party of nine Europeans, a Sepoy and four Lascars up the river, where they cut down two tall trees, and four more at another place where trees had already been felled"



Map: Salmond 1997:244

Tracking Indian Settlement: The New Zealand Census

- ◆ First National Census 1851
- ◆ First Indian appearance on Census: *What we previously thought:*

- ◆ 1897:
“Statistics showing arrivals of Indians before 1897 are not available” (Taher 1970:39)
- ◆ 1881:
Numerous sources cite 6 Indian males, in Canterbury



Sikh peddler in New Zealand
Source: Alexander Turnbull Library, Ref. 1/2-052817; F

Tracking Indian Settlement: The New Zealand Census

Establishing an earlier Census record: Census of 1861, Religious Affiliation

No. 13.

TABLE SHOWING THE RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS OF THE POPULATION (OF EUROPEAN DESCENT) IN NEW ZEALAND, AS ASCERTAINED BY A CENSUS TAKEN IN DECEMBER, 1861.

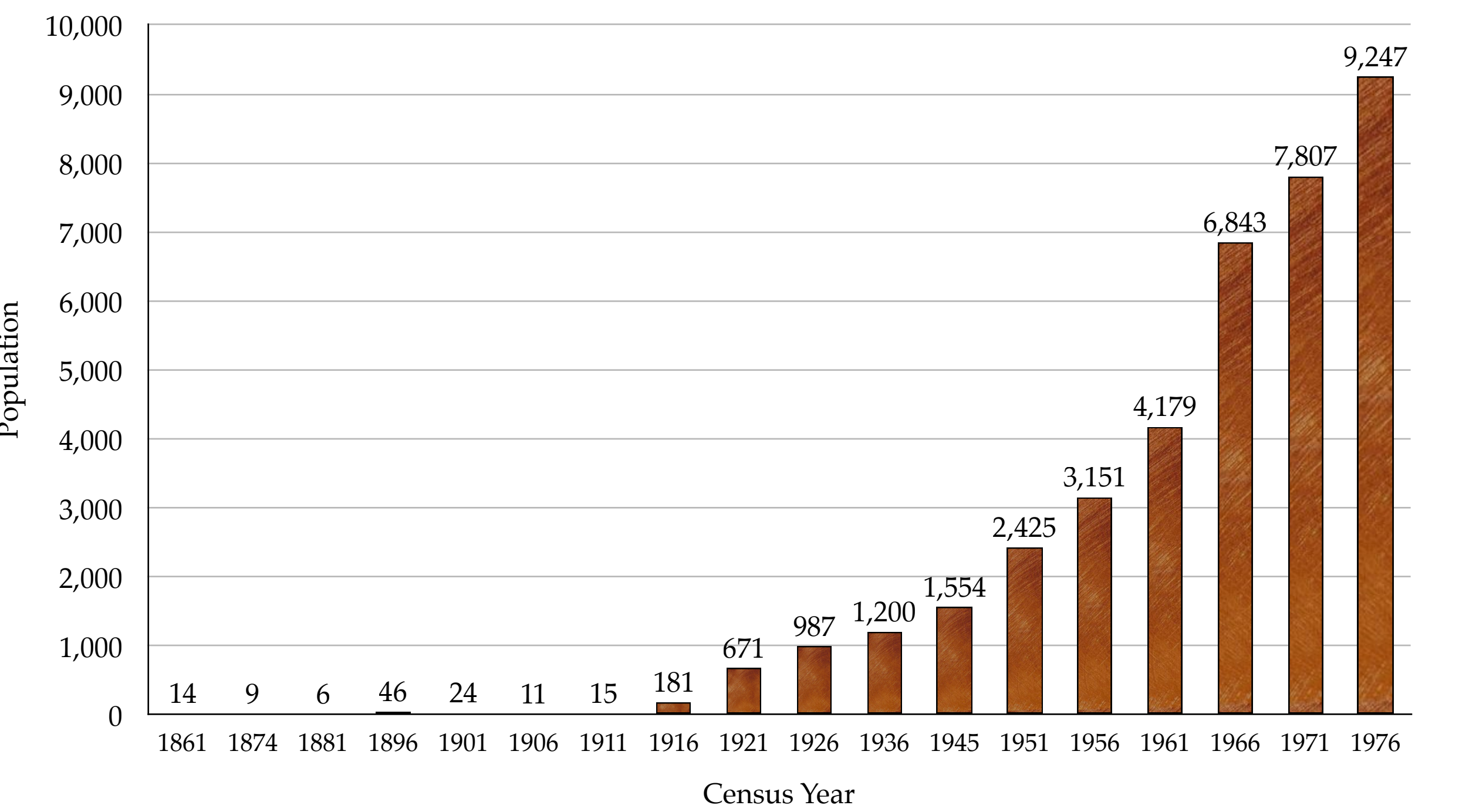
PROVINCES.	Church of England.		Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland, Other Presbyterian. (See Note 1.)		Roman Catholic Church.		Wesleyan Methodists.		Congregational Independents.		Baptists.		Primitive Methodists.		Lutheran Church.		Jews.		Society of Friends.		Protestants (no particular denomination specified).		Otherwise Described, or Not Described. (See Note 2.)		Total Population.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
AUCKLAND	6,378	6,826	1,331	1,288	1,204	1,218	1,345	882	458	486	505	274	63	68	33	9	83	63	13	3	114	41	244	178	24,430
TARANAKI	665	682	28	19	18	30	383	199	41	31	13	9	36	96	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	39	21	3,044
WELLINGTON	8,034	8,761	815	816	716	633	691	743	123	129	82	88	104	119	22	17	13	8	9	2	708	507	175	189	12,566
HAWKE'S BAY	1,043	1,044	391	399	340	128	79	25	28	26	11	2	1	—	4	—	3	2	8	6	—	—	84	7	3,611
Nelson	1,371	1,169	269	474	258	211	603	229	37	51	289	311	58	58	209	105	8	4	4	—	341	309	391	289	3,933
MARLBOROUGH	375	466	202	128	121	66	79	48	37	14	31	18	—	—	3	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	38	12	1,399
CANTERBURY	6,326	6,712	1,128	886	489	390	843	771	134	95	116	103	23	43	21	16	31	11	8	1	—	—	98	43	16,343
Otago	1,374	1,145	6,679	5,917	2,519	228	487	110	280	135	184	88	7	—	113	4	86	17	8	—	1,331	223	1,303	48	27,163
SOUTHLAND	496	381	454	352	73	47	9	8	13	7	9	3	—	—	19	6	3	1	1	—	—	—	27	36	1,829
STEWART'S ISLANDS	15	11	10	10	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38
CHATHAM ISLANDS	9	7	4	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	20
TOTALS EXCLUSIVE OF THE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES	21,988	21,248	16,200	15,441	6,286	5,388	4,381	3,462	1,172	888	1,029	518	362	365	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(1.) The order in the Schedule of "Religious Bodies" appended to "The Marriage Act, 1854," has been followed in the Classification of Friends," but Presbyterians have been brought under one comprehensive heading, there being reason to believe that, in the designations of the several Presbyterian Churches. The actual numbers, as compiled from the Census Schedules, are respectively: Total, 11,297.

(2.) The Numbers under the heading "Otherwise Described or Not Described" are made up as follows, (taking the number of the compilation 1861, viz., 1,331; Males, 1,331; Females, 1,331.)—Christians, 109, viz., Males, 104; Females, 105.—Non-sectarian Protestants, 114, viz., Males, 110; Females, 104.—Unitarians, 161, viz., Males, 112; Females, 49.—Non-sectarians, 113, viz., Males, 43; Females, 70. (Of these 49, viz., Males, 50; Females, 18, are distinguished as "Non-sectarian Protestants," and 10, viz., Males, 13; Females, 27, as "Non-sectarian Christians.")—Dissenters and Non-conformists, 107, viz., Males, 50; Females, 57.—Brethren, 41, viz., Males, 31; Females, 10.—Free Thinkers, 16, viz., Males, 10; Females, 12.—Christian Israelites, 11, viz., Males, 10; Females, 1.—Catholics, 27, viz., Males, 11; Females, 4.—New Church, 19, viz., Males, 13; Females, 12.—Plymouth Brethren, 19, viz., Males, 10; Females, 12.—Mormons, 20, all Male.—Religion of the Bible, and Bible Christians, 18, viz., Males, 8; Females, 11.—Not Decided, 19, viz., Males, 13; Females, 6.—Shintos, 14, viz., Males, 11; Females, 3.—Disciples, 12, viz., Males, 7; Females, 5.—Moorians, 8, viz., Males, 3; Females, 5.—Universalists, 8, all Male.—Mohammedans, 4, all Male.—Buddhists, 3, all Male.—Others, 123, viz., Males 10; Females, 44.

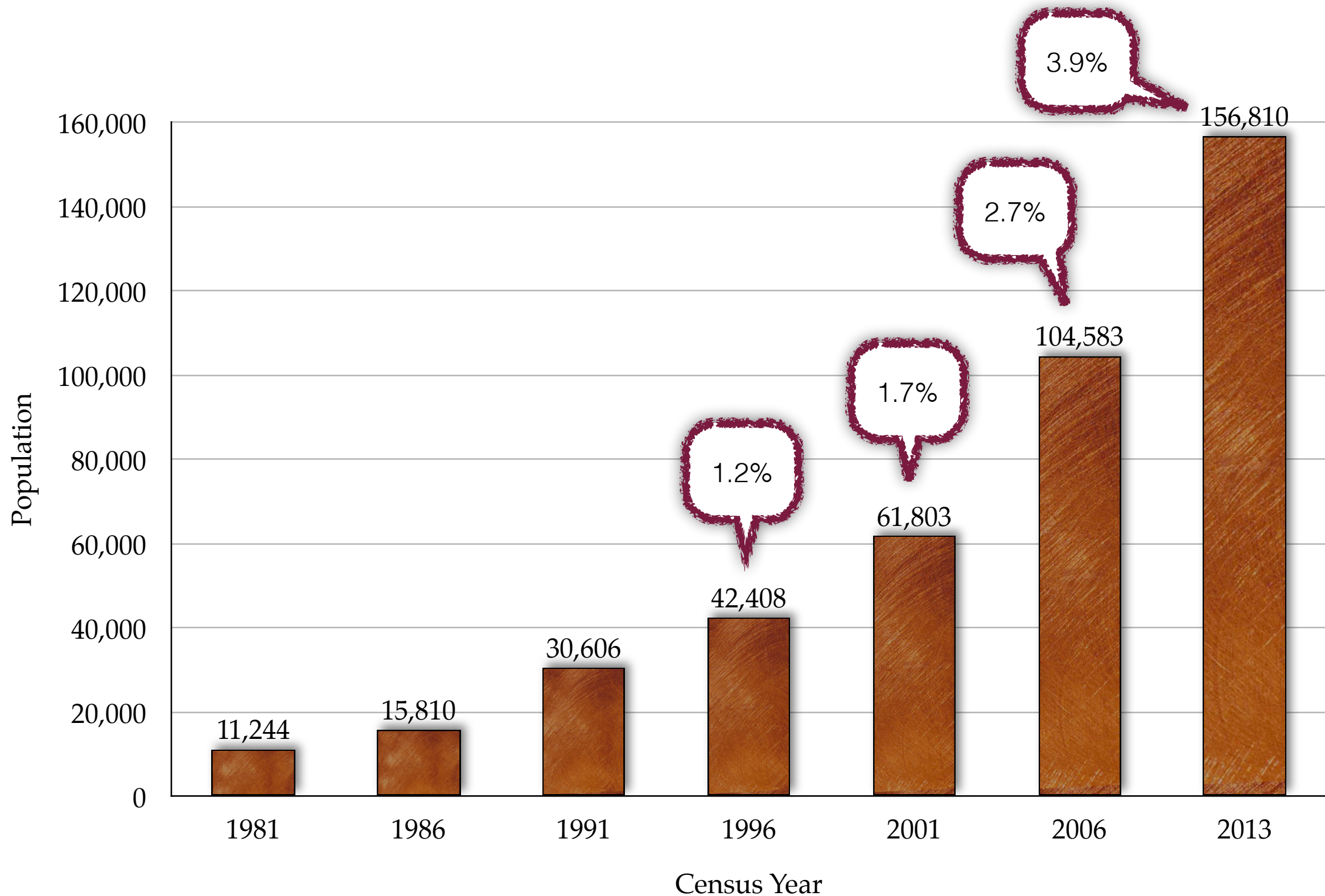
"Hindoos 14, viz. Males, 11; Females 3"

Summary of Indian population growth, 1861-1976 Census



Sources: New Zealand Censuses 1861-1976

Summary of Indian population growth, 1981-2013 Census



Sources: New Zealand Censuses 1981-2013. Note: Percentages are of total stating an ethnicity.

Summary of Indian demographics, 2013 Census

Question 11: Ethnicity, 2013 Census

11 Which ethnic group do you belong to?
Mark the space or spaces which apply to you.

☐ New Zealand European

☐ Māori

☐ Samoan

☐ Cook Island Maori

☐ Tongan

☐ Niuean

☐ Chinese

☐ Indian

☐ other such as *DUTCH, JAPANESE, TOKELAUAN*. Please state:

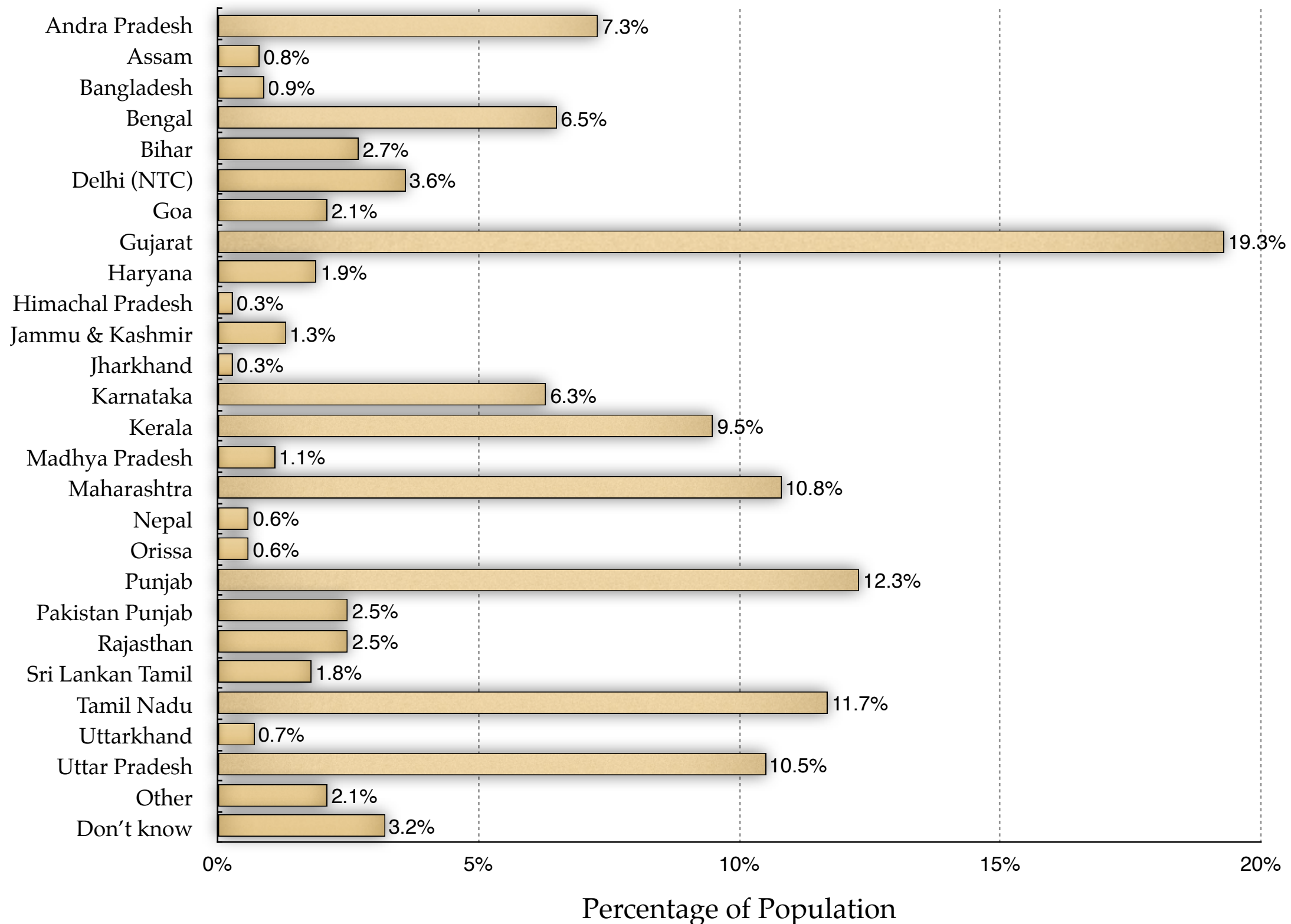
- ◆ 91.7% self-identified as 'Indian' in 2013
- ◆ 8.3% specified a sub-ethnicity, mostly along regional or religious lines, or by a national identification
- ◆ That's up from 6.9% that specified a sub-ethnicity in 2006 Census

Indian ethnicity: sub-categories, 2013 Census

Ethnicity:	Total	
	n	percent
Indian nfd*	143,520	91.7
Bengali	165	0.1
Fijian Indian	10,929	7.0
Gujarati	24	0.0
Indian Tamil	303	0.2
Punjabi	324	0.2
Sikh	213	0.1
Anglo Indian	324	0.2
Indian nec*	765	0.5
TOTAL:	156,567	100.0

Summary of Indian demographics, 2009-2013 Survey

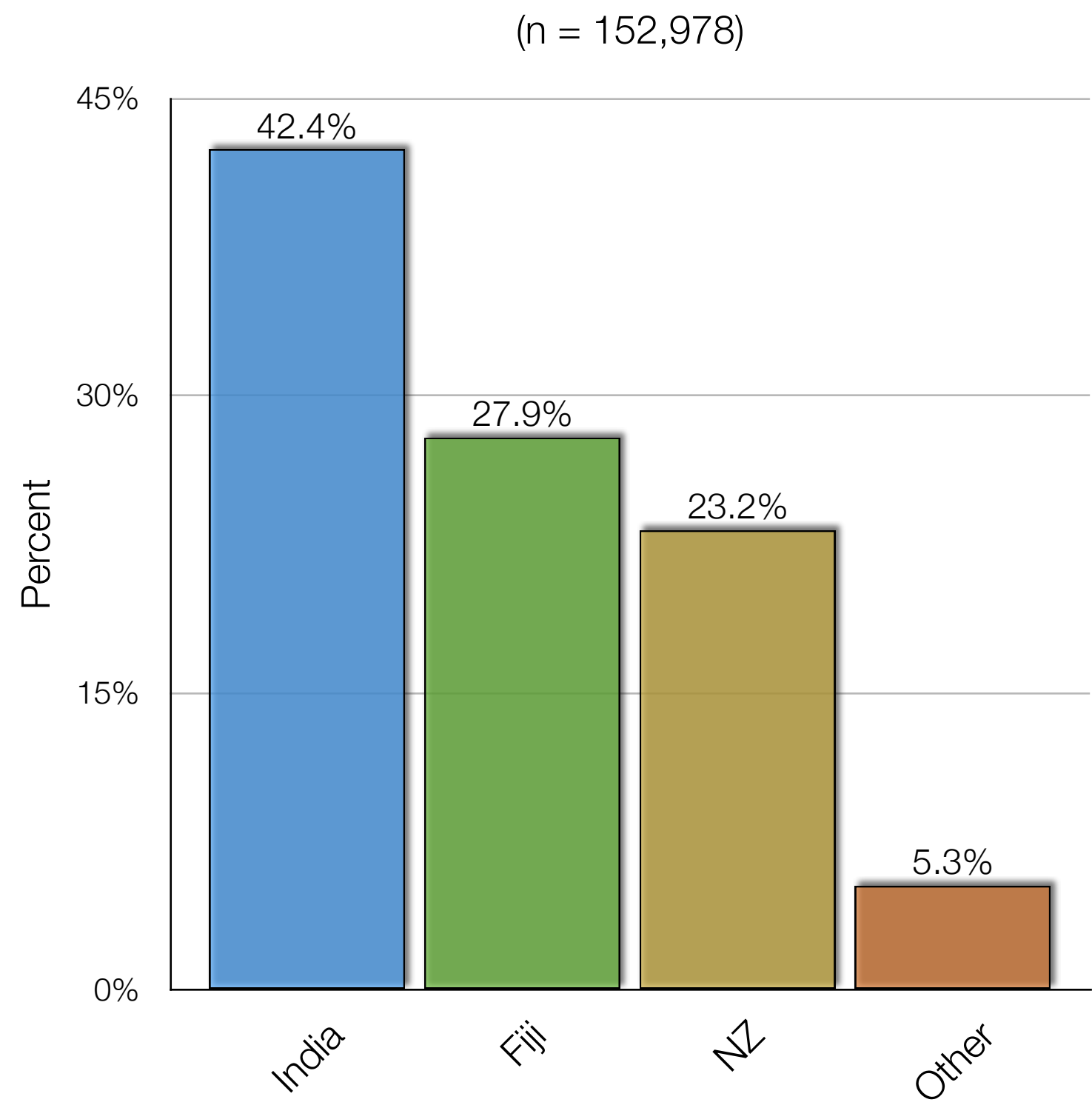
Ancestral Regions of Survey Respondents (n=1054)



Note: Statistics based on percent of cases as respondents could tick more than one ancestral region.

Summary of Indian demographics, 2013 Census

Country of Birth, total Indian population



OTHER:

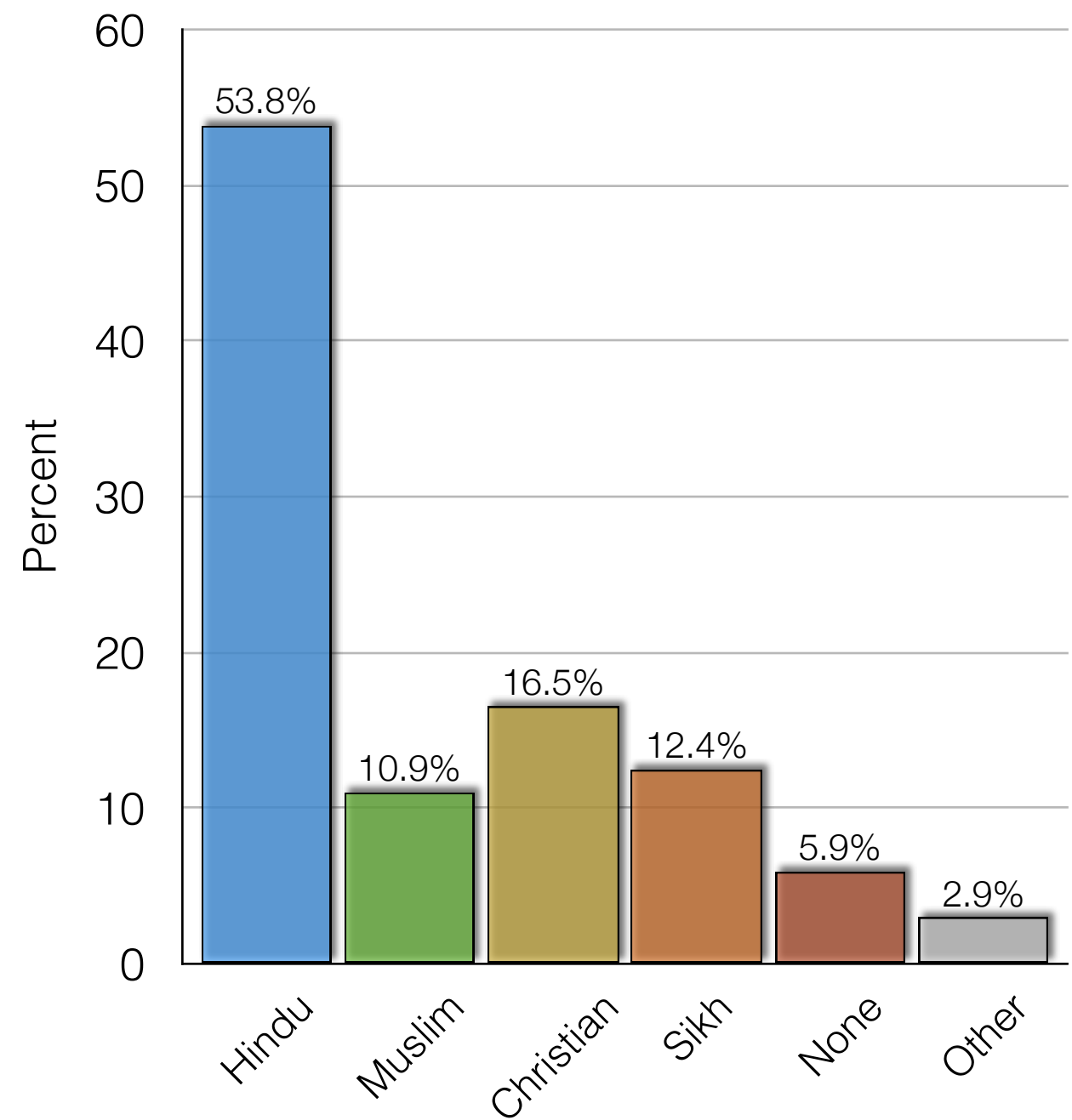
South Africa	2.3%
Southeast Asia	1.2%
Other	1.8%

Over 100 additional birth countries are recognised.

Summary of Indian demographics, 2013 Census

Religious Affiliation of the Indian population

(n = 150,531)



OTHER:

Buddhist	0.4%
Jews	0.1%
Spiritual/New Age	0.1%
Other	0.8%
Object to answering	1.6%

Note: Percentages based on the total of those stating both an Indian ethnicity and a religious affiliation.

Summary of Indian demographics, 2013 Census

Top Ten Languages Spoken in New Zealand

Rank:	2001		2006		2013		Percent Change 2001-2013	
	language	percent	language	percent	language	percent	language	% change
1	English	96.1	English	95.9	English	96.1	English:	0.0
2	Māori	4.5	Māori	4.1	Māori	3.7	Māori:	-17.1
3	Samoan	2.3	Samaon	2.2	Samaon	2.2	Samoan:	-4.4
4	French	1.4	French	1.4	Hindi	1.7	Hindi:	160.9
5	Yue (Cantonese)	1.0	Hindi	1.2	Mandarin Chinese	1.3	Mandarin:	78.4
6	German	1.0	Yue (Cantonese)	1.2	French	1.2	French:	-11.4
7	Mandarin Chinese	0.7	Mandarin Chinese	1.1	Yue (Cantonese)	1.1	Yue (Cantonese)	7.7
8	Tongan	0.7	Sinitic (nfd)	1.0	Sinitic (nfd)	1.1	Sinitic (nfd):	68.8
9	Hindi	0.6	German	1.0	German	0.9	German:	-3.2
10	Sinitic (nfd)	0.6	Tongan	0.8	Tongan	0.8	Tongan:	23.1

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