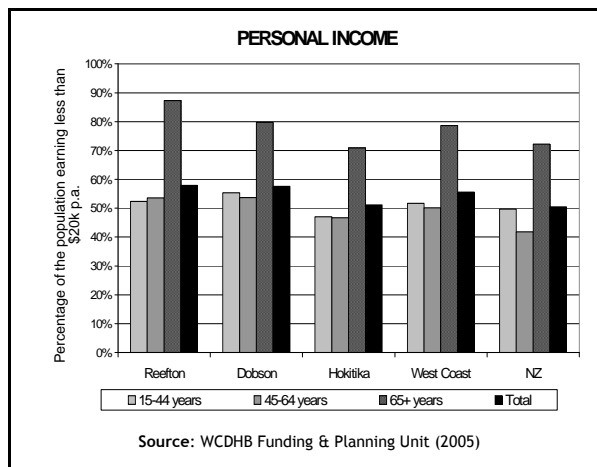


APPENDIX B Demographic profiles for the three localities

As the new role was to be trialled in Reefton, Dobson and Hokitika, the salient characteristics of the population in each locality were reviewed to orient the new Neighbourhood Nurses to health needs.

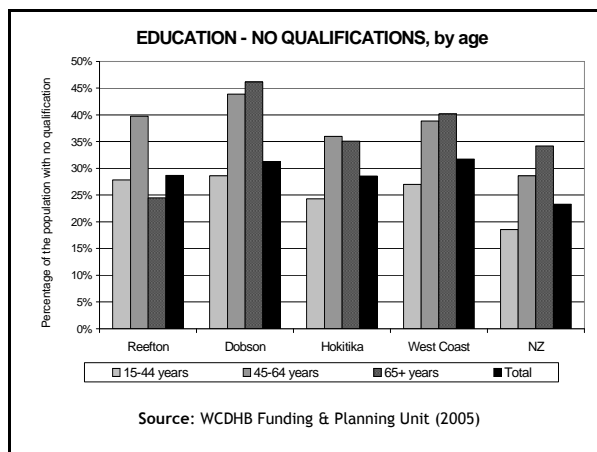
Income was lower than average Overall the population on the Coast was less affluent than the rest of the country (opposite).

In all three localities the personal income of those 65+ years was lower than the national average. Residents of all age groups in Reefton and Dobson had lower levels of personal income than those on the West Coast as a whole.



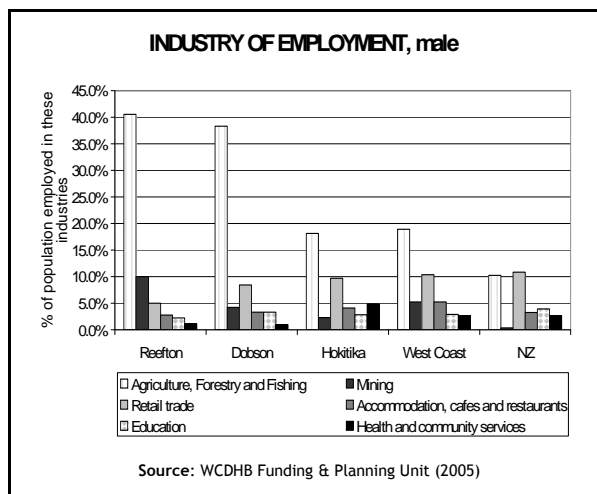
Proportion without educational qualifications was higher than average There was a higher proportion of residents without educational qualifications in the three localities than in New Zealand as a whole (opposite).

A particularly high number in the 15-44 year age groups in Reefton and Dobson had no qualifications.



High risk occupations featured for male employment in Reefton and Dobson Compared with the rest of New Zealand, the majority of employed men in Reefton and Dobson were engaged in high risk occupations (opposite).

Hokitika's profile for male employment was similar to the total Coast population.



The proportion of Maori on the West Coast was half that of the national

The West Coast population identified predominantly as 'European' (opposite). In 2001, only 8.3% of West Coasters identified as Maori, compared with 14.7% in the New Zealand population as a whole (Statistics NZ, 2001) - in other words, just over half the proportion as the rest of New Zealand.

Age and sex profiles

The age and sex profiles of the three localities (opposite) show both Reefton and Dobson to have disproportionately more males than females in the age group 45-64 years. Dobson has more males aged 65+ years.

Overall, what did this mean for the Neighbourhood Nurses?

These communities were generally less affluent when compared with the rest of the country.

While the Hokitika population profile was similar to the rest of the Coast, Dobson and Reefton had

- average lower incomes for all age groups, which meant transport costs would be more likely to inhibit some from accessing health services, especially specialist health and social services based in Greymouth
- a higher proportion of residents with no qualifications
- more working in occupations with greater risk of injury and accident. higher proportions of men in the 45 and over age group.

These profiles suggest implications for nursing services in terms of

- health promotion and health protection activities
- ACC referrals
- home-based environmental assessments and assistance with self-care
- encouragement and assistance to access health services.

