

Quality of Life Survey 2018: Waikato results

Prepared by:
Paul Killerby (APR Consultants)
Beat Huser (WRC)

For:
Waikato Regional Council
Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
HAMILTON 3240

May 2019

Document #:14011727

Peer Reviewed by:
Ruth Buckingham

Date April 2019

Approved for release by:
Mark Tamura

Date June 2019

Disclaimer

This technical report has been prepared for the use of Waikato Regional Council as a reference document and as such does not constitute Council's policy.

Council requests that if excerpts or inferences are drawn from this document for further use by individuals or organisations, due care should be taken to ensure that the appropriate context has been preserved, and is accurately reflected and referenced in any subsequent spoken or written communication.

While Waikato Regional Council has exercised all reasonable skill and care in controlling the contents of this report, Council accepts no liability in contract, tort or otherwise, for any loss, damage, injury or expense (whether direct, indirect or consequential) arising out of the provision of this information or its use by you or any other party.

Table of contents

Executive Summary	iii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Report overview	1
1.2 Quality of Life Survey	1
1.3 Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI)	2
1.4 WPI use of Quality of Life Survey data	2
2. Methodology	3
2.1 Sub-regional samples	3
2.2 Data weighting	3
2.3 Missing data	3
2.4 Sampling error	3
2.5 Rounding	3
3. Results	4
3.1 Infographic summary	4
3.2 Waikato regional results	6
3.3 Results by age group, gender and ethnicity	23
4. Results over time – 2006 to 2018	29
4.1 Change to the quality of life scale	29
4.2 Sample demographics 2006 to 2018	30
4.3 Graphs for 2006, 2016 and 2018	31
4.4 Comparing 2006 and 2018 Waikato regional trends	32
5. Conclusion	32
5.1 Key survey findings for the Waikato region	32
6. Next steps	36

List of tables

Table 1: Sample size vs sample error (indicative)	3
Table 2: Comparison of 2006, 2016 and 2018 Waikato regional samples	30

List of figures

Figure 1:	Overall quality of life	7
Figure 2:	Reasons for positive quality of life	7
Figure 3:	Reasons for negative quality of life	7
Figure 4:	Quality of life compared to 12 months ago	7
Figure 5:	Perception of city/local area as a great place to live	8
Figure 6:	City/local area has got better, worse or stayed the same	8
Figure 7:	Why worse as a place to live	8
Figure 8:	Why better as a place to live	8
Figure 9:	Sense of pride in city/local area	9
Figure 10:	Perception of presence of rubbish and pollution	9
Figure 11:	Affordability of housing costs	10
Figure 12:	Home suits needs	10
Figure 13:	Area/neighbourhood suits needs	10
Figure 14:	Why disagree or neutral regarding suitability of home	10
Figure 15:	Why disagree or neutral regarding suitability of area/neighbourhood	11
Figure 16:	Home has a problem with damp or mould	11
Figure 17:	Heating system keeps home warm while in use	11
Figure 18:	Can afford to heat home properly	11
Figure 19:	Frequency of use of public transport	12
Figure 20:	Affordability of public transport	12
Figure 21:	Safety of public transport	12
Figure 22:	Ease of access to public transport	13
Figure 23:	Frequency of public transport	13
Figure 24:	Reliability of public transport	13
Figure 25:	General rating of health	14
Figure 26:	Frequency of doing physical activity	14
Figure 27:	Experienced stress	14
Figure 28:	Availability of support	15
Figure 29:	I have felt cheerful and in good spirits	15
Figure 30:	I have felt calm and relaxed	15
Figure 31:	I have felt active and vigorous	15
Figure 32:	I woke up feeling fresh and rested	16
Figure 33:	My daily life has been filled with things that interest me	16
Figure 34:	Problems of crime and safety in the last 12 months	17
Figure 35:	Perceived safety in home after dark	17
Figure 36:	Perceived safety walking alone in neighbourhood after dark	17
Figure 37:	Perceived safety in city centre during day	18
Figure 38:	Perceived safety in city centre after dark	18
Figure 39:	Importance of sense of community	19
Figure 40:	Sense of community experienced	19
Figure 41:	Participation in social networks and groups	19
Figure 42:	Positivity of contact with people in the neighbourhood	19
Figure 43:	Frequency of feeling isolated	20
Figure 44:	Trust in people	20
Figure 45:	Perception of impact of greater cultural diversity	20
Figure 46:	Culturally rich and diverse arts scene	20
Figure 47:	Employment/Labour force status	21
Figure 48:	Balance between work and other aspects of life	21
Figure 49:	Ability to cover costs of everyday needs	21
Figure 50:	Confidence in Council decision-making	22
Figure 51:	Perception of public's influence on Council decision making	22
Figure 52:	WPI results by age group	24
Figure 53:	WPI results by gender	26
Figure 54:	WPI results by ethnic group	28
Figure 55:	WPI results – Waikato region 2006, 2016 and 2018	31

Executive Summary

This report presents Waikato regional results from a survey undertaken in parallel with the 2018 [Quality of Life Survey](#) (a national partnership between nine New Zealand councils including Hamilton). It includes results at the overall Waikato region level as well as by age group, gender, and ethnic group. Trends for the period 2006 to 2018 are also identified for eight indicators in the survey that are included and reported as part of the [Waikato Progress Indicators \(WPI\)](#). Results for all Waikato local authority areas have been compiled separately for local councils.

A total of 1,416 Waikato regional residents aged 18 years and over completed the survey between April and June 2018, including 572 people (40%) from Hamilton city¹. Questions were asked in relation to:

- Overall quality of life
- Environment (built and natural)
- Housing
- Public Transport
- Health and wellbeing
- Crime and safety
- Community, culture, and social networks
- Economic wellbeing
- Council decision-making processes.

Due to a high level of consistency over time, valid comparisons can be made between the 2006, 2016, and 2018 survey results. The results show that over the period 2006 to 2018, Waikato respondents became:

- Less likely to rate their overall quality of life positively (87% in 2018 compared to 90% in 2006).
- More likely to report feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (64% in 2018 compared to 60% in 2006).
- Less likely to rate their overall health positively (79% in 2018 compared to 90% in 2006).
- Almost unchanged in terms of the percentage who agree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood (62% in 2018 compared to 63% in 2006).
- Less likely to agree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels (62% in 2018 compared to 70% in 2006).
- Less likely to report having been physically active on five or more of the past seven days (40% in 2018 compared to 61% in 2006).
- Less likely to agree that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city/area a better place to live (41% in 2018 compared to 51% in 2006).
- Less likely to agree that the public have an influence over the decisions that their local Council makes (36% in 2018 compared to 62% in 2006).

The 2018 Quality of Life survey results will help inform regional and local government policy and support monitoring towards strategic social, cultural, and economic goals.

¹ The [Hamilton survey](#) was commissioned by Hamilton City Council.

1 Introduction

1.1 Report overview

This report presents Waikato regional results from a survey undertaken in parallel and consistent with the 2018 [Quality of Life Survey](#), including a breakdown of results by age group, gender and ethnic group. Regional trends since 2006 are also identified for the eight indicators that are included in the [Waikato Progress Indicators \(WPI\)](#) initiative. Results for all Waikato local authority areas have been compiled separately for local councils.

The report is structured as follows:

- Section 1 provides a summary background and context around the Quality of Life Survey, WPI initiative and related survey programmes.
- Section 2 presents technical notes to assist with interpretation of the survey results.
- Section 3 provides:
 - results for the Waikato region (in the same order as the [2018 Quality of Life Survey national report](#)); and
 - WPI regional results by age group, gender and ethnic group.
- Section 4 compares the latest 2018 Waikato regional results with earlier 2006 and 2016 results for the eight indicators included in the WPI. This section includes discussion of comparability between the 2018 survey results and earlier Quality of Life surveys.
- Section 5 concludes with a summary of findings and outline of next steps.

1.2 Quality of Life Survey

The [Quality of Life Project](#) was initiated in 1999 in response to growing pressures on urban communities and the effects of these on community wellbeing. It was initially a collaboration between councils represented in Local Government New Zealand's (LGNZ's) Local Government Metro Sector forum.

The first Quality of Life Survey was undertaken in 2003, repeated in 2004 and has since been undertaken every two years with a varying number of participating councils. Hamilton city has participated in every survey round except 2012 and 2014. The Waikato region has previously collected data for the areas outside of Hamilton city in parallel with the 2006 and 2016 surveys.

The 2018 Quality of Life Survey was a collaboration between nine councils (eight cities and one region) and a parallel Waikato survey as follows:²

1. Auckland Council
2. Hamilton City Council
3. Tauranga City Council
4. Hutt City Council
5. Porirua City Council
6. Wellington City Council
7. Christchurch City Council
8. Dunedin City Council

² For data analysis and interpretation, note that the Waikato regional sample includes the Hamilton City Council sample and all other districts in the Waikato region; and the Greater Wellington regional sample includes the Wellington City, Porirua City and Hutt City Council samples. The Greater Wellington regional council area also includes smaller towns as well as rural and semi-rural areas.

9. Greater Wellington Regional Council
10. Waikato region (other than Hamilton City)³.

The 2018 Quality of Life Survey measured the perceptions of more than 7,000 New Zealanders on the following topic areas:

- Overall quality of life
- Environment (built and natural)
- Housing
- Public Transport
- Health and wellbeing
- Crime and safety
- Community, culture and social networks
- Economic wellbeing
- Council decision-making processes.

Results from the survey are used to help inform local government policy and monitor progress towards strategic social, cultural, environmental and economic goals.

1.3 Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI)

The [Waikato Progress Indicators \(WPI\)](#) measure the Waikato region's progress by identifying the current situation and trends across each of 32 key economic, environmental and social aspects. The WPI includes selected key results from the Quality of Life survey and the [Your Environment What Matters](#) survey, along with a wide range of other data sources.

Together, the 32 WPI indicators provide a dashboard picture of the health of the Waikato region and the wellbeing and quality of life of its people and communities. Information was gathered and summarised from 2001 to the latest available data, with a focus on the period since 2006/07. The information is regularly updated and presented online. It is used to support strategic discussions around which aspects the Waikato is doing well in; where the region needs to improve; and how changes in one aspect are linked with or affected by changes in others. The dashboard also assists to gauge progress towards Waikato Regional Council's (WRC's) [Strategic Direction](#), and selected measures relevant to Council's activities are included in WRC's [Annual Report](#). The data and website information are refreshed approximately annually.

1.4 WPI use of Quality of Life Survey data

The following eight Quality of Life Survey items are included as indicators in the WPI programme:

1. Life satisfaction – Overall quality of life
2. Perceptions of safety – Perceived safety walking alone in neighbourhood after dark
3. Perceived health – Perceived overall health
4. Social connectedness – Sense of community experienced
5. Community pride – Pride in look and feel of city/local area
6. Physical activity – Frequency of being physically active
7. Cultural respect – Perception of impact of greater cultural diversity
8. Community engagement – Perception of influence on council decisions.

³ The Waikato regional sample (other than Hamilton City Council) was not undertaken as part of the Quality of Life project but used the same methodology and survey company (Nielsen) and was carried out at the same time.

2. Methodology

2.1 Sub-regional samples

The survey sought a minimum of 50 responses for each territorial local authority (TLA) in the Waikato region. For Rotorua, only respondents living in the part of the district within the region were surveyed. For each of Waitomo and Taupo, where only a few people live in areas outside the Waikato regional boundary, the survey sampled from the whole district.

2.2 Data weighting

To compensate for the disproportionate sizes of different sub-samples compared to population size (as illustrated later in this section), and other reasons such as differences in response rates for certain population groups (e.g. females and older people more likely to respond), a weighting procedure was applied by Nielsen, the company that undertook the survey, to the survey data analysis based on population size by gender, ethnicity, and ward/local board. Details of the weighting procedure are on pages 26-27 of the 2018 Quality of Life Survey [Technical Document](#).

A total of 1,416 Waikato regional residents completed the survey in 2018. Within the unweighted sample, Hamilton's sample size is 572 (i.e. 40 per cent of the Waikato regional sample size). Within the weighted adjusted sample, Hamilton's sample size is 512 (i.e. 36 per cent, very close to the Census population of 35 per cent compared to the region as a whole).

2.3 Missing data

There is a small amount of missing data where respondents have chosen not to answer specific questions. Wherever percentages are reported, the denominator is the number of respondents, hence the results typically add to 100 per cent. Some but not all questions included a 'don't know/not applicable' response, and some of these received relatively large responses (e.g. perceptions of culturally diverse arts scene). 'Don't know/not applicable' responses are included in the denominator for calculating percentages.

2.4 Sampling error

All data presented in this report are point estimates (means). Sub-samples with smaller groups (i.e. cross-tabs with age, gender, or local area data) are less reliable due to higher sampling errors. For further details, refer to the Quality of Life Survey Technical Report. The table below provides a guide to how much sampling error is indicatively associated with different sample sizes (at the 95 per cent confidence level).

Table 1: Sample size vs sample error (indicative)

Sample size	Sample error
6,000	±1.3%
1,300	±2.8%
500	±4.4%
200	±6.9%
100	±9.8%
50	±13.8%

2.5 Rounding

Due to rounding, some columns of percentages do not add perfectly. These have been noted in each instance. This approach is consistent with the [National Quality of Life Topline Report](#).

3. Results

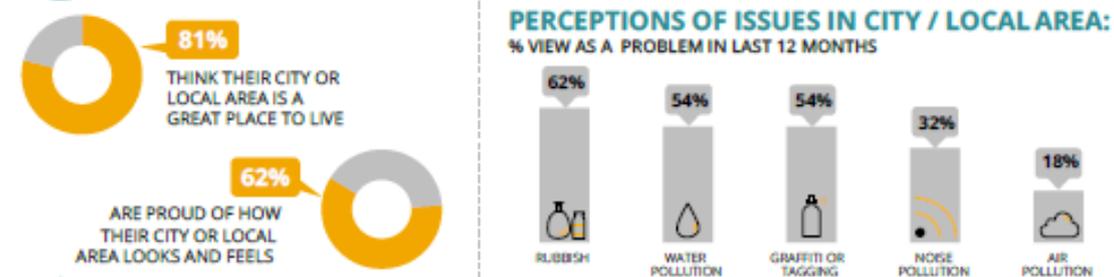
3.1 Infographic summary

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

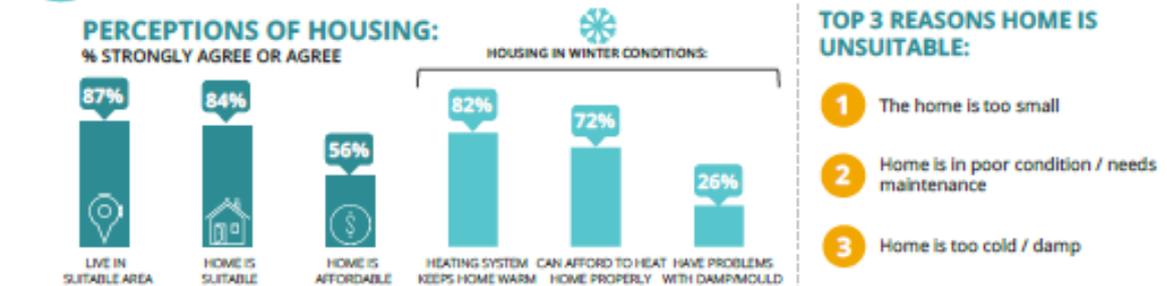
QUALITY OF LIFE



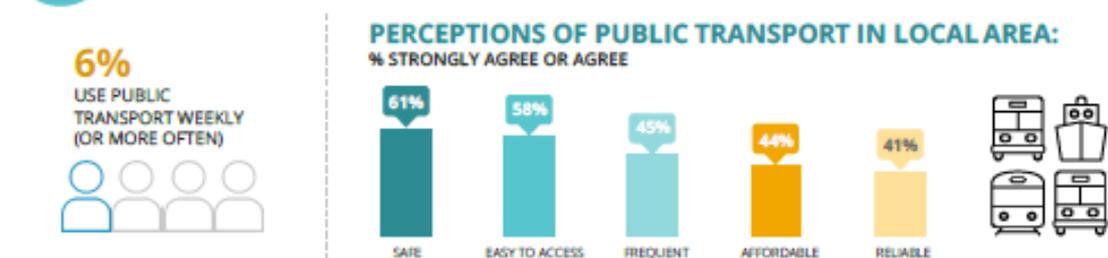
BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



HOUSING



TRANSPORT



The 2018 Quality of Life survey measures people's perceptions over several domains related to quality of life. A random selection of residents were invited to participate either online or via a hardcopy questionnaire. The Waikato survey was completed by 1416 people aged 18 years and over between 10 April – 3 June 2018.

Source: Quality of Life Survey conducted by Nielsen, 2018



HEALTH AND WELLBEING



85%

HAVE SOMEONE TO HELP IF THEY WERE FACED WITH A SERIOUS ILLNESS OR INJURY, OR NEEDED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT



18%

ALWAYS/MOST OF THE TIME EXPERIENCE STRESS WITH A NEGATIVE EFFECT



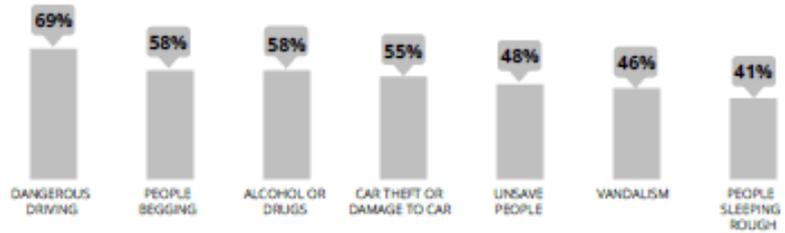
CRIME AND SAFETY

64%

FEEL SAFE IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE AFTER DARK



PERCEPTIONS OF ISSUES IN CITY / LOCAL AREA: % VIEW AS A PROBLEM IN LAST 12 MONTHS



COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND SOCIAL NETWORKS



74%

BELIEVE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD IS IMPORTANT

62%

FEEL A SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD



94%

HAD POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH NEIGHBOURS



68%

NEVER OR RARELY FEEL ISOLATED



41%

SAY CULTURAL DIVERSITY MAKES THEIR CITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE



ECONOMIC WELLBEING



68%

EMPLOYED (FULL OR PART TIME)



60%

SATISFIED WITH WORK/LIFE BALANCE



46%

HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH OR ENOUGH INCOME TO COVER COSTS OF EVERYDAY NEEDS

ADDITIONAL \$36% HAVE 'JUST ENOUGH'



COUNCIL PROCESSES



31%

ARE CONFIDENT IN THEIR LOCAL COUNCIL'S DECISION-MAKING

36%

BELIEVE THE PUBLIC HAS AN INFLUENCE ON COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING



Source: Quality of Life Survey conducted by Nielsen, 2018

3.2 Waikato regional results

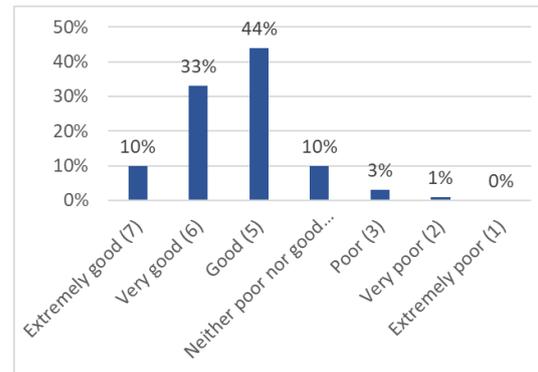
This section presents detailed regional results. Selected results by age group, gender, and ethnicity are presented in Section 3.3, and changes and trends over time are summarised in Section 4. A summary of the results is provided in Section 5. All results are based on weighted data to account for sample demographic differences.

Overall quality of life

Indicator – Quality of life⁴

A large majority (87%) of respondents in the Waikato region rate their overall quality of life positively, with 10% rating it as 'extremely good', 33% 'very good', and 44% 'good'.

Figure 1: Overall quality of life



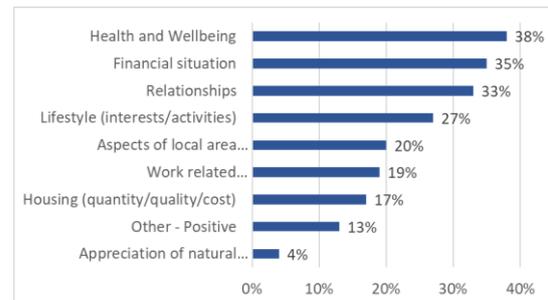
Note: Sums to more than 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – Why this quality of life rating

a) Reasons for positive quality of life rating

Respondents' most common reasons for rating their quality of life positively related to physical health and wellbeing (38%), positive financial situation (35%), and relationships (33%).

Figure 2: Reasons for positive quality of life

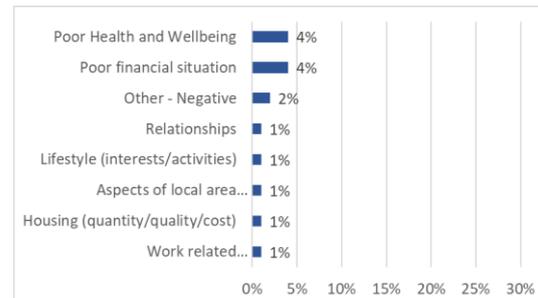


Notes: See below.

b) Negative quality of life rating ('extremely poor' or 'poor')

A relatively small group rated their quality of life as 'poor', 'very poor' or 'extremely poor'. The most common reasons for rating their quality of life poorly related to poor health and wellbeing (4%), poor financial situation (4%), and other negative comments.

Figure 3: Reasons for negative quality of life

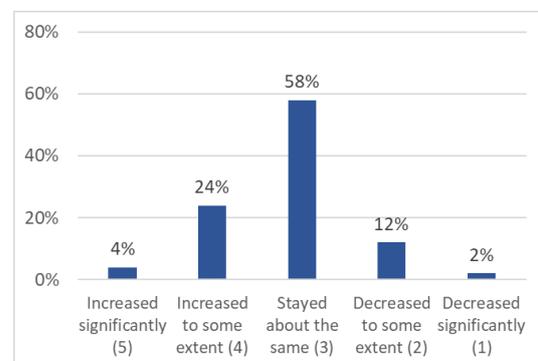


Base is all respondents. Percentages may add to more than 100% as respondents could mention multiple reasons.

Indicator – Quality of life compared to 12 months ago

More than a quarter (28%) of respondents living in the Waikato region felt their quality of life had improved over the past year, compared to 14% who felt their quality of life has decreased.

Figure 4: Quality of life compared to 12 months ago



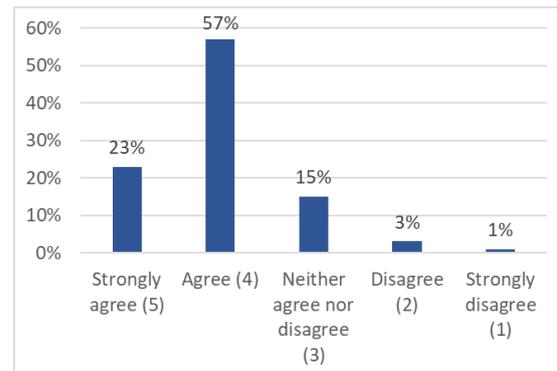
⁴ This indicator is included in the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring programme.

Environment (built and natural)

Indicator – City/local area is a great place to live

Eight in ten (81%) respondents in the Waikato region agreed their local area is a great place to live, with around a quarter (23%) who 'strongly agree' and over half (57%) who 'agree' (note: percentages do not add due to rounding).

Figure 5: Perception of city/local area as a great place to live

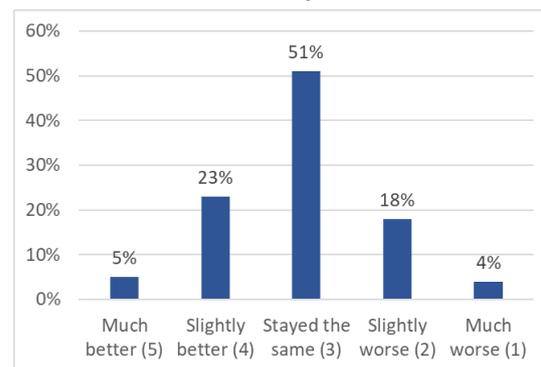


Note: Sums to less than 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – City/local area has got better, worse or stayed the same

Over one quarter (27%) of respondents in the Waikato region agreed their local area improved in the last 12 months (note: percentages do not add due to rounding), compared to around half (51%) who felt it had stayed the same and one in five (22%) who felt it had become worse.

Figure 6: City/local area has got better, worse or stayed the same



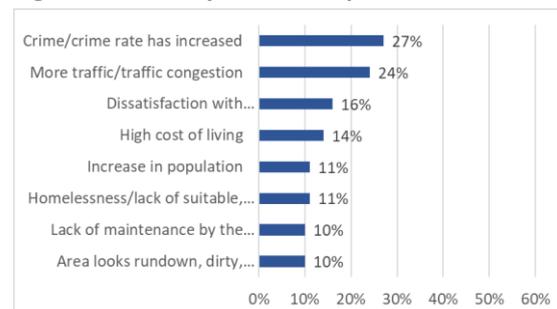
Note: Sums to more than 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – Why worse or better as a place to live

a) Why worse as a place to live

Respondents' most common reasons for feeling that their local area had become worse in the last 12 months related to crime/crime rate has increased (27%), more traffic/traffic congestion (24%), dissatisfaction with Government/local government (16%), and high cost of living (14%).

Figure 7: Why worse as a place to live

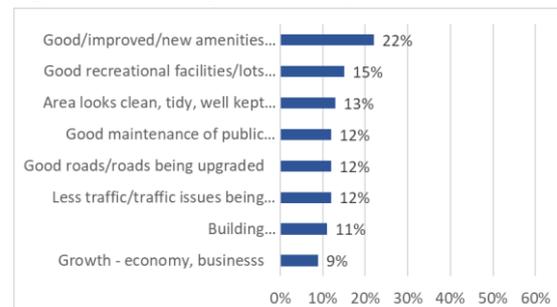


Notes: See below.

b) Why better as a place to live

Respondents' most common reasons for feeling that their local area had become better in the last 12 months related to good/improved/new amenities such as shops, malls, movie theatres, libraries, doctors, hospital etc (22%), good recreational facilities/lots of things to do (15%), and area looks clean, tidy and well kept (13%).

Figure 8: Why better as a place to live

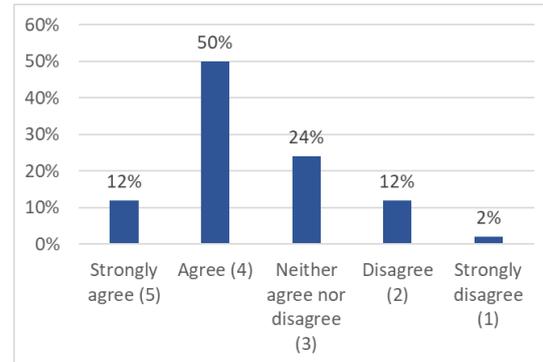


Base is all respondents. Percentages may add to more than 100% as respondents could mention multiple reasons.

Indicator – Sense of pride in city/local area⁵

Across the Waikato region, more than six in ten (62%) respondents agreed they feel a sense of pride in the way their local area looks and feels.

Figure 9: Sense of pride in city/local area

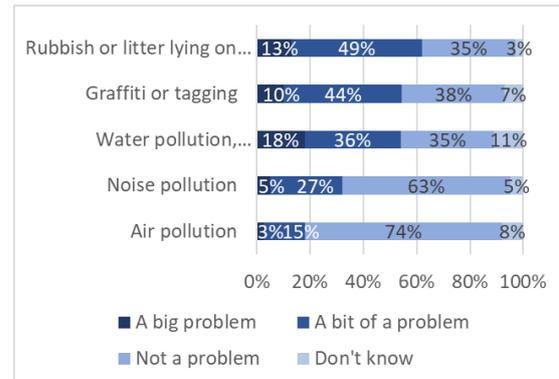


Indicator – Perception of presence of rubbish and pollution

Respondents were asked to what extent each of the various issues had been a problem in their local area in the last 12 months. Results for five issues relating to the natural and built environment are reported in this section (rubbish or litter, graffiti or tagging, air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution). Results for seven other issues are reported in the Crime and Safety section.

Issues most frequently identified as being either a big problem or a bit of a problem were rubbish or litter lying on the streets (62%), graffiti or tagging (54%) and water pollution (including pollution in streams, rivers, lakes, and in the sea) (54%).

Figure 10: Perception of presence of rubbish and pollution



Note: Not all sum to 100% due to rounding.

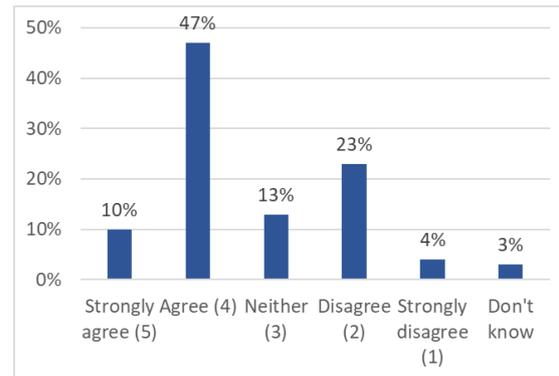
⁵ This indicator is included in the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring programme.

Housing

Indicator – Affordable

Around six in ten (56%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their current housing costs were affordable (this includes aspects such as rent or mortgage, rates, house insurance, and house maintenance). More than one quarter (28%) disagree or strongly disagree that their housing costs are affordable. (note: percentages do not add due to rounding).

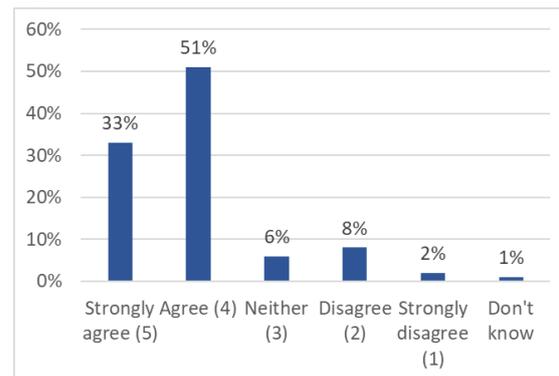
Figure 11: Affordability of housing costs



Indicator – Home suits need

A large proportion (84%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the type of home they lived in suited their needs and the needs of others in their household.

Figure 12: Home suits needs

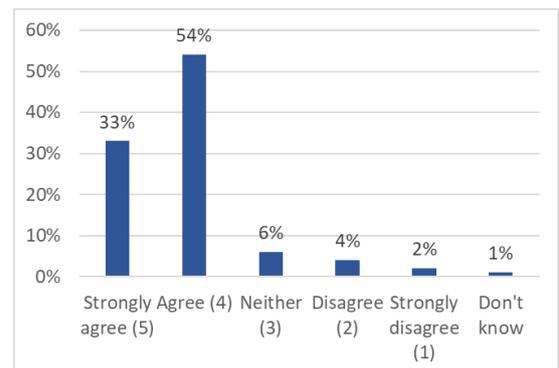


Note: Sums to more than 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – Area/neighbourhood suits needs

Almost nine out of ten (87%) respondents agreed that the general area or neighbourhood their home is in suits their needs and the needs of others in their household.

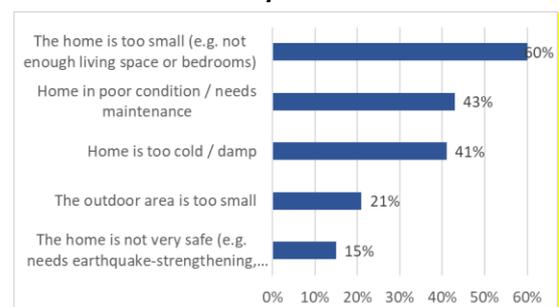
Figure 13: Area/neighbourhood suits needs



Indicator – Why disagree or neutral regarding suitability of home

When asked why they disagreed or were neutral regarding the suitability of their home, the most common responses were the home is too small (e.g. not enough living space or bedrooms) (60%), in poor condition / needs maintenance (43%), or is too cold / damp (41%).

Figure 14: Why disagree or neutral regarding suitability of home

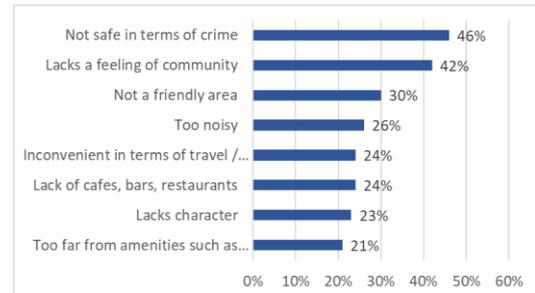


Note: Base is all respondents who disagreed or were neutral regarding the suitability of their home. Percentages may add to more than 100% as respondents could mention multiple reasons.

Indicator – Why disagree or neutral regarding suitability of area/neighbourhood

When asked why they disagreed or were neutral regarding the suitability of their area/ neighbourhood, the most common responses were that it was not safe in terms of crime (46%), lacks a feeling of community (42%), and/or was not a friendly area (30%).

Figure 15: Why disagree or neutral regarding suitability of area/neighbourhood

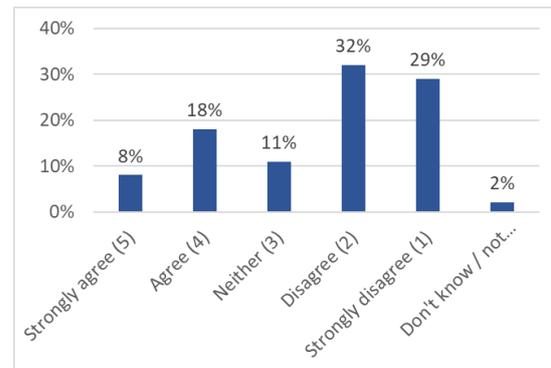


Note: Base is all respondents who disagreed or were neutral regarding the suitability of their area/neighbourhood. Percentages may add to more than 100% as respondents could mention multiple reasons.

Indicator – Home has a problem with damp or mould

Around a quarter (26%) of respondents agreed that they had experienced problems with damp or mould in their home during winter.

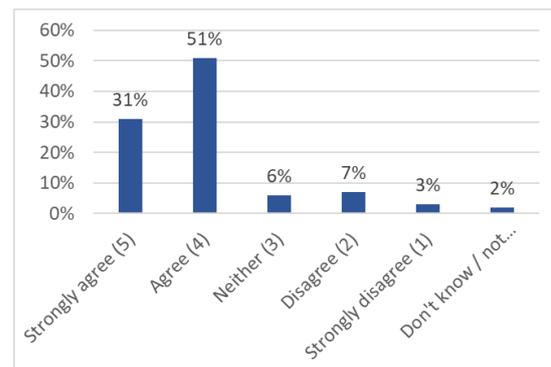
Figure 16: Home has a problem with damp or mould



Indicator – Heating system keeps home warm while in use

Approximately four in five (82%) respondents agreed that their heating system keeps their home warm when it is in use during winter.

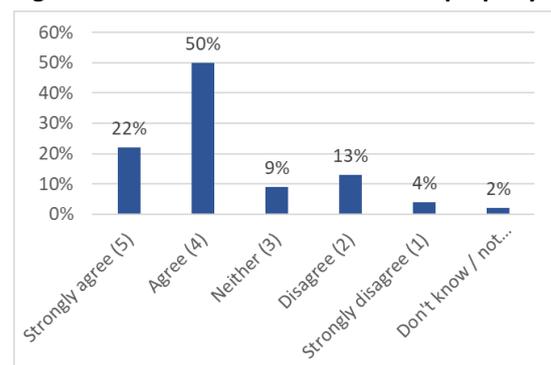
Figure 17: Heating system keeps home warm while in use



Indicator – Can afford to heat my home properly

Around seven in ten (72%) respondents agreed that they can afford to heat their home properly during winter. Nearly one in five (17%) disagree or strongly disagree that they can afford to heat their home properly in winter.

Figure 18: Can afford to heat home properly



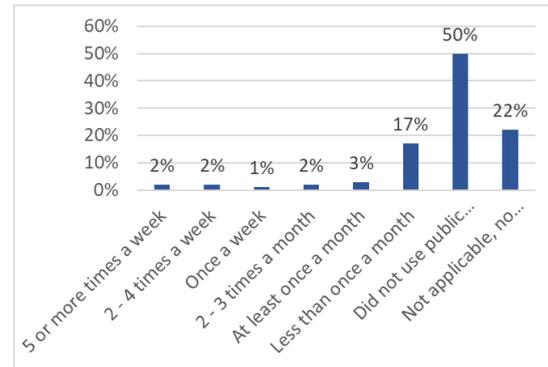
Public transport

Indicator – Frequency of use of public transport

Around one in twenty (6%) respondents in the Waikato region areas had used public transport weekly or more, over the previous 12 months (note: percentages do not add due to rounding).

Half (50%) of respondents had not used public transport in the last 12 months and one fifth (22%) of respondents said this question was not applicable because no public transport was available in their area.

Figure 19: Frequency of use of public transport



Note: Sums to less than 100% due to rounding.

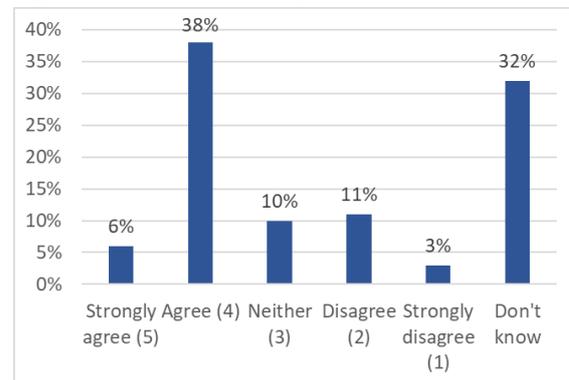
Indicators – Perceptions of public transport

Excluding the approximately one fifth of respondents who said they have no public transport in their area, all other respondents were asked about their perceptions of public transport with respect to affordability, safety, ease of access, frequency, and reliability.

Indicator – Affordable

Less than half (44%) of respondents with access to public transport agreed that public transport was affordable.

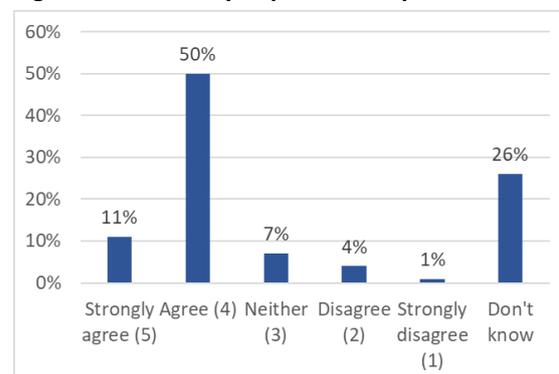
Figure 20: Affordability of public transport



Indicator – Safe

Three fifths (61%) of respondents with access to public transport agreed that public transport was safe.

Figure 21: Safety of public transport

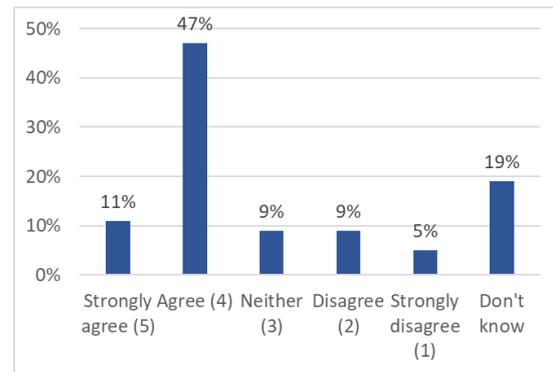


Note: Sums to less than 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – Easy to get to

About six out of ten (58%) respondents with access to public transport agreed that public transport was easy to get to.

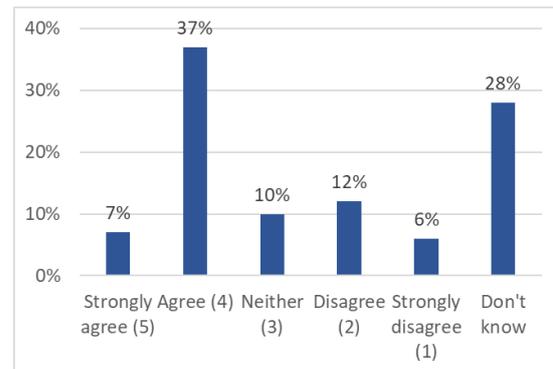
Figure 22: Ease of access to public transport



Indicator – Frequent

Less than half (45%) of respondents with access to public transport agreed that public transport is frequent (note: percentages do not add due to rounding).

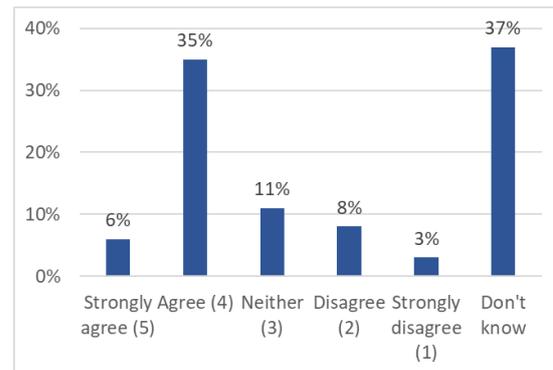
Figure 23: Frequency of public transport



Indicator – Reliable

Two fifths (41%) of respondents in the Waikato region with access to public transport agreed that public transport was reliable (i.e. comes when it says it will).

Figure 24: Reliability of public transport

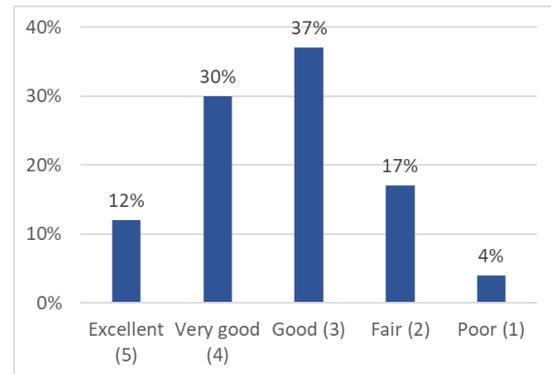


Health and wellbeing

Indicator – Overall health⁶

Across the Waikato region, four in five (79%) respondents rated their health positively; 12% rated their health as 'excellent', 30% as 'very good', and 37% as 'good'.

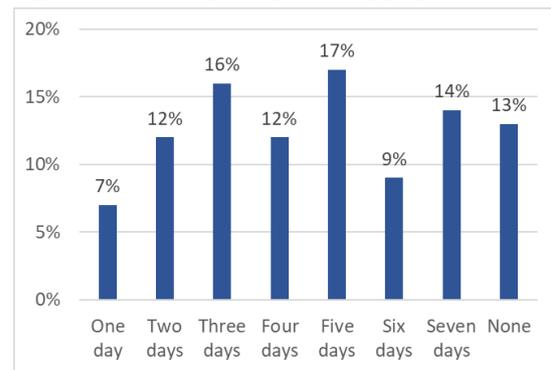
Figure 25: General rating of health



Indicator – Frequency of doing physical activity^{7,8}

When respondents were asked how many days in the previous seven days they had been physically active, two fifths (40%) said they had been active five or more days. 13% of respondents said they had not been active over the previous seven days.

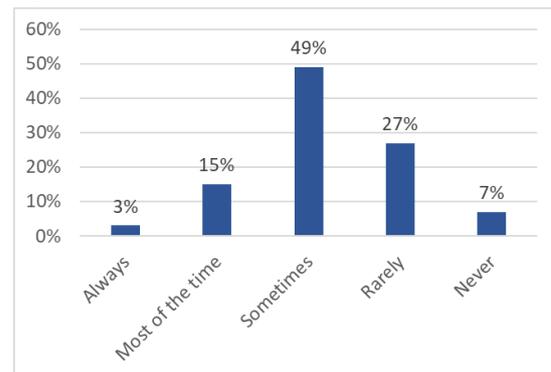
Figure 26: Frequency of doing physical activity



Indicator – Experienced stress

While one fifth (18%) of Waikato region respondents had regularly experienced stress that had a negative impact on them, around a third (34%) rarely or never experienced this.

Figure 27: Experienced stress



Note: Sums to more than 100% due to rounding.

⁶ This indicator is included in the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring programme.

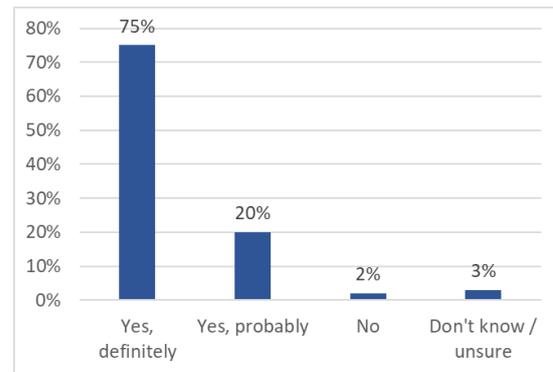
⁷ This indicator is included in the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring programme.

⁸ In the survey questionnaire, 'active' was defined as 15 minutes or more of vigorous activity (an activity which made it a lot harder to breathe than normal), or 30+ minutes of moderate exercise (e.g. an activity that makes you breathe harder than normal, such as brisk walking).

Indicator – Availability of support

More than nine in ten (95%) respondents feel they have someone to rely on for help if faced with physical injury or illness, or if in need of support during an emotionally difficult time.

Figure 28: Availability of support

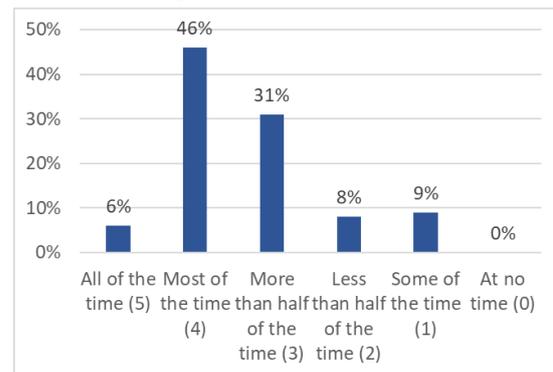


Indicator – Emotional Wellbeing

a) I have felt cheerful and in good spirits

More than half (52%) of respondents said they felt cheerful or in good spirits all or most of the time over the last two weeks, while 17% of respondents felt cheerful or in good spirits less than half of the time.

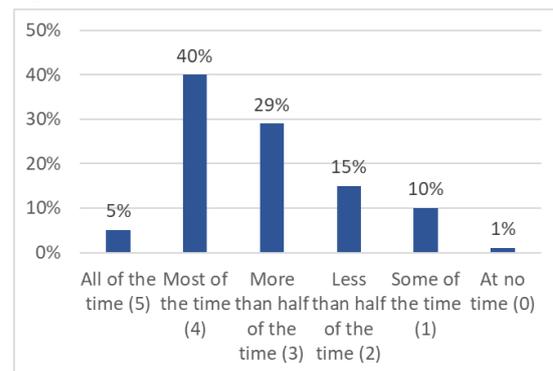
Figure 29: I have felt cheerful and in good spirits



b) I have felt calm and relaxed

Almost half (45%) of respondents said they felt calm and relaxed all or most of the time over the last two weeks, while 26% felt calm and relaxed for less than half of the time.

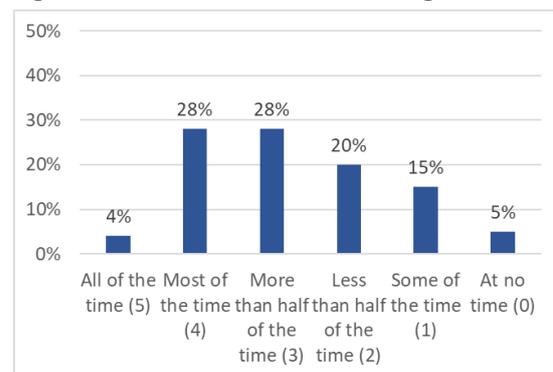
Figure 30: I have felt calm and relaxed



c) I have felt active and vigorous

One third (32%) of respondents said they felt active and vigorous all or most of the time over the last two weeks, while 40% felt active and vigorous less than half of the time.

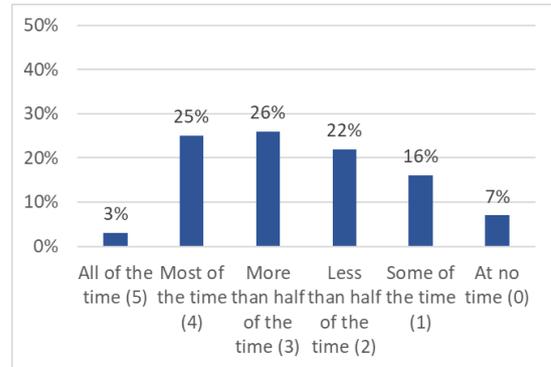
Figure 31: I have felt active and vigorous



d) I woke up feeling fresh and rested

Less than one third (29%) of respondents said they woke up feeling fresh and rested all or most of the time over the last two weeks, while 46% felt they woke up feeling fresh and rested less than half of the time (note: percentages do not add due to rounding).

Figure 32: I woke up feeling fresh and rested

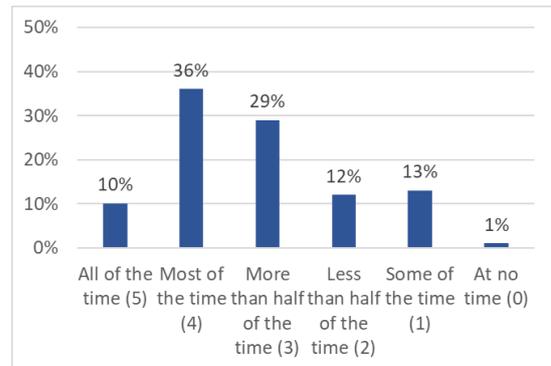


Note: Sums to less than 100% due to rounding.

e) My daily life has been filled with things that interest me

Almost half (46%) of respondents said their daily life had been filled with things that interest them all or most of the time over the last two weeks.

Figure 33: My daily life has been filled with things that interest me



Note: Sums to more than 100% due to rounding.

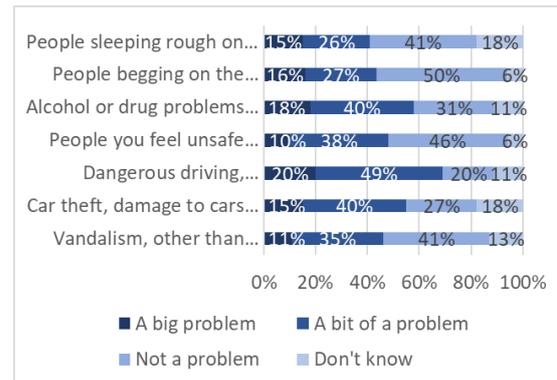
Crime and safety

Indicator – Problems of crime and safety in the last 12 months

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they perceived various possible issues had been a problem in their local area in the last 12 months. Results for seven issues relating to crime and safety are reported in this section (vandalism, car theft and damage, dangerous driving, people perceived to be unsafe, alcohol or drug issues, people begging on the street, and people sleeping rough). Results for five other issues are reported in the Built and Natural Environment section.

Over two thirds (69%) of respondents in the Waikato region perceived dangerous driving as a 'big problem' or a 'bit of a problem' in their city or local area in the previous 12 months, followed by alcohol or drug problems or anti-social behaviour associated with the consumption of alcohol (58%), and car theft, damage to cars, or theft from cars (55%).

Figure 34: Problems of crime and safety in the last 12 months

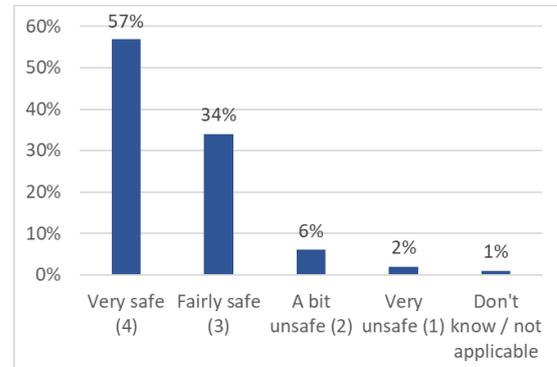


Note: Not all sum to 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – Perceived safety in home after dark

More than nine in ten (92%) respondents in the Waikato region reported that, in general, they feel safe in their home after dark (note: percentages do not add due to rounding).

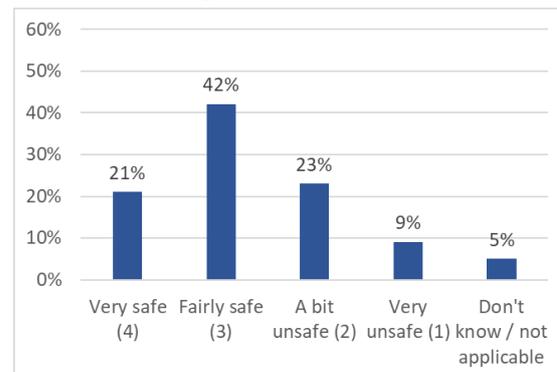
Figure 35: Perceived safety in home after dark



Indicator – Perceived safety walking alone in neighbourhood after dark⁹

Almost two thirds (64%) of respondents feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark while 31% felt a bit or very unsafe (note: percentages do not add due to rounding).

Figure 36: Perceived safety walking alone in neighbourhood after dark

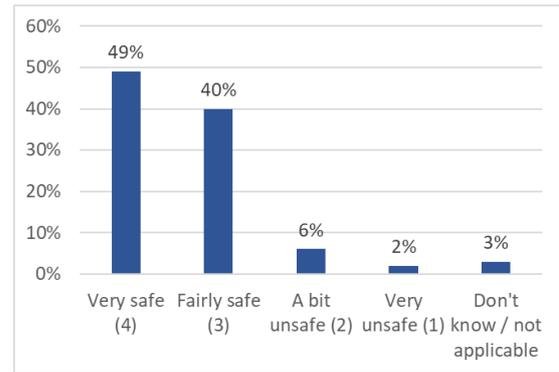


⁹ This indicator is included in the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring programme.

Indicator – Perceived safety in city centre during the day

Nine in ten (90%) respondents across the Waikato region feel safe in their city centre during the day (note: percentages do not add due to rounding).

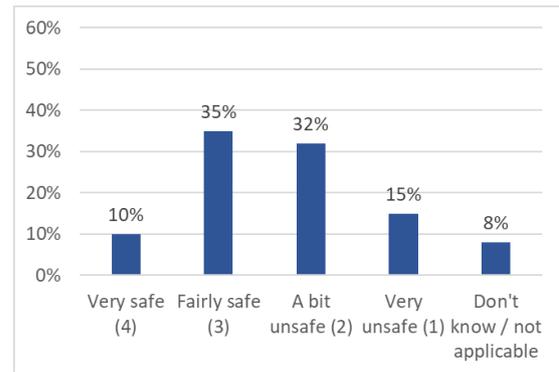
Figure 37: Perceived safety in city centre during day



Indicator – Perceived safety in city centre after dark

Less than half (45%) of respondents across the Waikato region feel safe in their city centre after dark, while nearly half (47%) feel a bit or very unsafe.

Figure 38: Perceived safety in city centre after dark

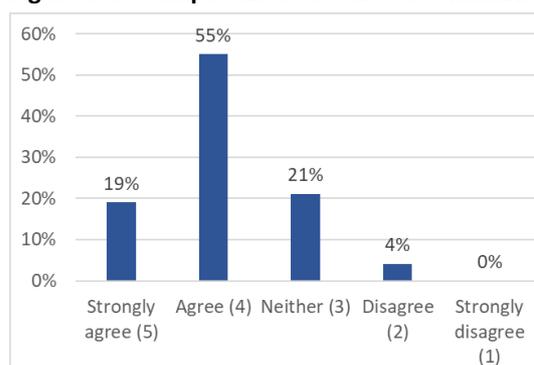


Community, culture and social networks

Indicator – Importance of sense of community

Three quarters (74%) of respondents consider it important to feel a sense of community with people in their neighbourhood.

Figure 39: Importance of sense of community

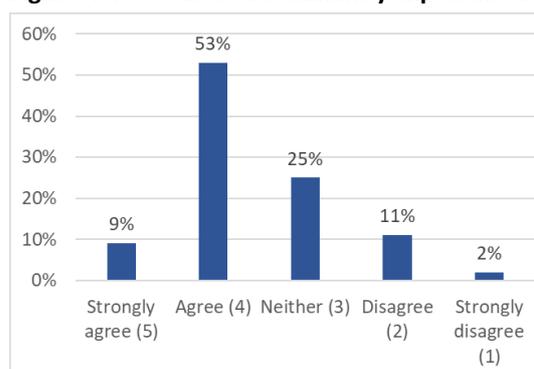


Note: Sums to less than 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – Feel sense of community¹⁰

More than six in ten (62%) respondents in the Waikato region agree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood.

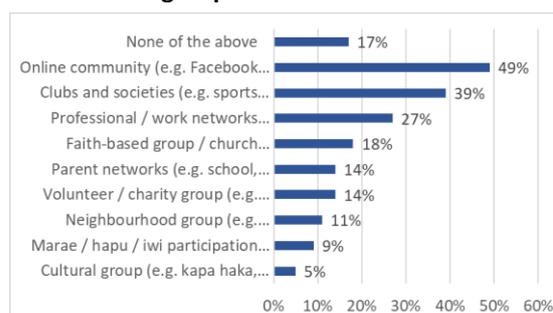
Figure 40: Sense of community experienced



Indicator – Social networks belonged to

Online networks (e.g. websites such as Facebook/Twitter, online gaming communities and forums) were by far the most common social networks (49%) that respondents in the Waikato region felt they were part of, followed by clubs and societies (e.g. sports clubs) (39%).

Figure 41: Participation in social networks and groups

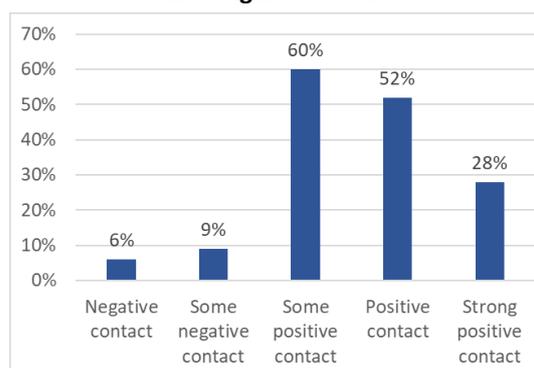


Note: Multiple response question. Percentages will sum to more than 100%.

Indicator –Neighbourhood contact

The majority (94%) of respondents in the Waikato region reported they had some sort of positive contact with people in their neighbourhood in the previous 12 months, with the largest group stating they had some positive contact such as a nod or saying hello (60%).

Figure 42: Positivity of contact with people in the neighbourhood



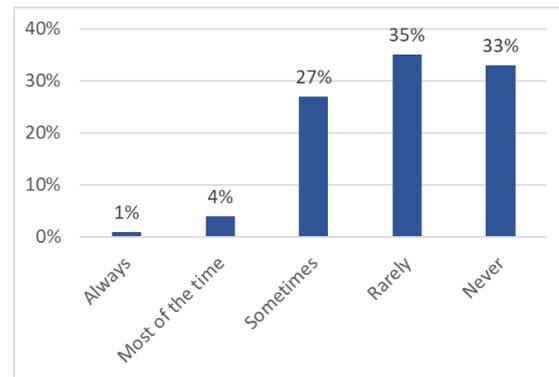
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages will sum to more than 100%.

¹⁰ This indicator is included in the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring programme.

Indicator – Feeling of isolation

Almost seven in ten (68%) respondents in the Waikato region said they had never or rarely felt isolated in the last 12 months.

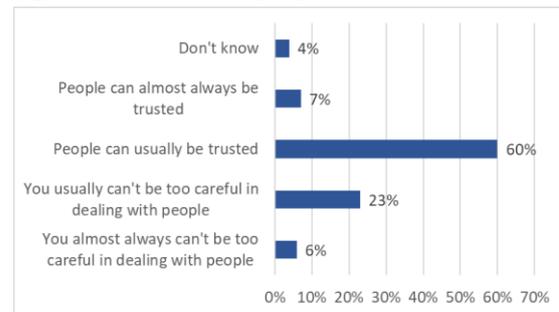
Figure 43: Frequency of feeling isolated



Indicator – Social trust

Respondents were asked whether people can usually be trusted; or you can't be too careful. The results show that two thirds (67%) of respondents agreed that people can usually or almost always be trusted.

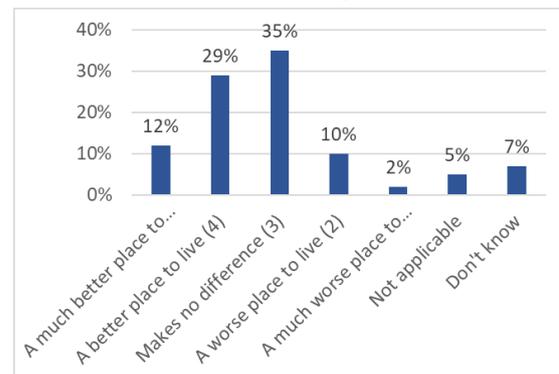
Figure 44: Trust in people



Indicator – Impact of greater cultural diversity¹¹

Four in ten (41%) respondents across the Waikato region considered that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city or local area a better place to live. Two thirds (35%) say it makes no difference, and only one in ten (12%) think it makes it worse.

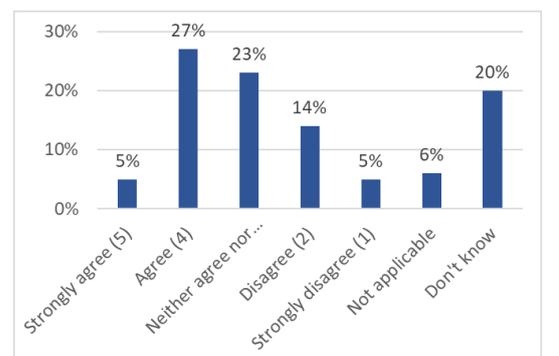
Figure 45: Perception of impact of greater cultural diversity



Indicator – Culturally rich and diverse arts scene

Around one third (32%) of respondents consider their local area to have a diverse and culturally rich arts scene.

Figure 46: Culturally rich and diverse arts scene



¹¹ This indicator is included in the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring programme.

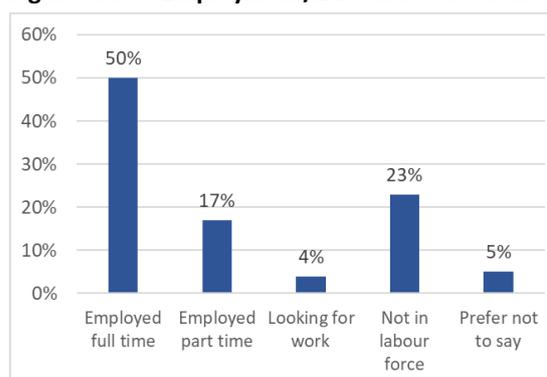
Economic wellbeing

Indicator – Employment/Labour force status

Two thirds (68%) of respondents were employed in either full-time (50%) or part-time (17%) work (note: percentages do not add due to rounding). A further 4% were currently seeking work, 23% were not in paid employment and not looking for work (e.g. full-time parent, retired person), and 5% said they would 'prefer not say'.

Note these figures are similar to the June 2018 Waikato regional Household Labour Force Survey estimates of 70% employed, 3% unemployed (as a percentage of total working-age population) and 27% not in the labour force.

Figure 47: Employment/Labour force status

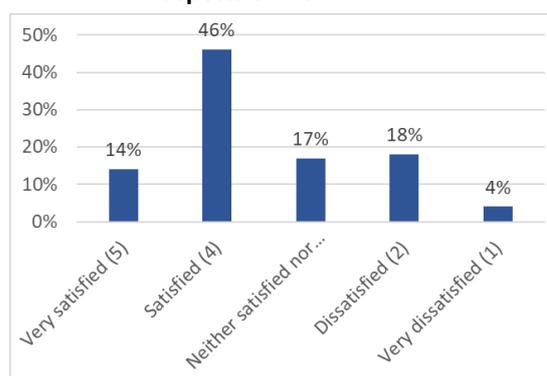


Note: Sums to less than 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – Balance between work and other aspects of life

Six in ten (60%) of the employed respondents were satisfied with the balance of work and other aspects of their life, while 22% of respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Figure 48: Balance between work and other aspects of life

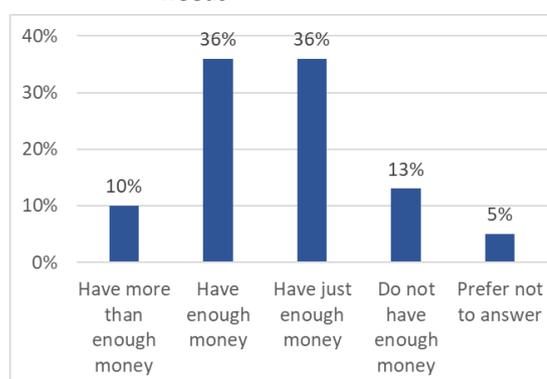


Notes: Base is all respondents in paid employment. Sums to less than 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – Ability to cover costs of everyday needs

Almost half (46%) of respondents in the Waikato region felt that they have enough or more than enough money to meet their everyday needs for things such as accommodation, food, clothing, and other necessities. Around one third (36%) said they have 'just enough money', and more than one in ten (13%) felt they did not have enough money.

Figure 49: Ability to cover costs of everyday needs

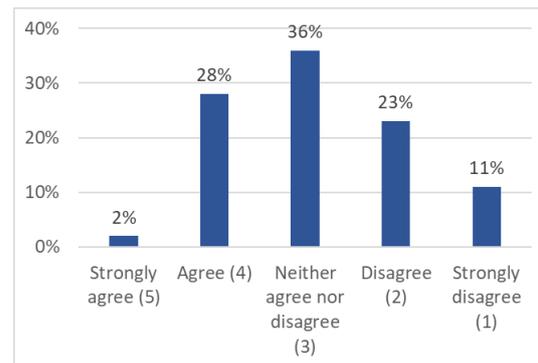


Council decision-making processes

Indicator – Confidence in Council decision-making

Around one third (31%) of respondents have confidence that their local Council makes decisions in the best interests of their area (note: percentages do not add due to rounding), while 34% of respondents disagree or strongly disagree.

Figure 50: Confidence in Council decision-making

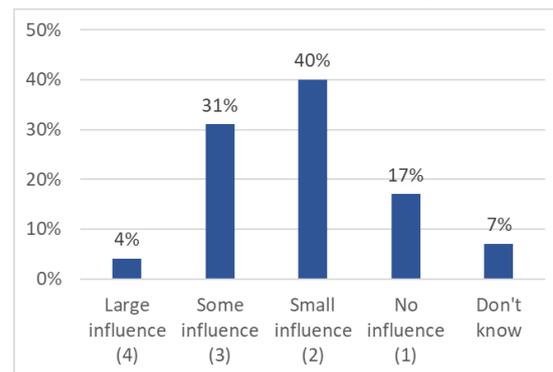


Note: Sums to less than 100% due to rounding.

Indicator – Perception of public's influence on Council decision making¹²

Around one third (36%) of respondents perceive the public have 'large' or 'some' influence over the decisions that their local Council makes (note: percentages do not add due to rounding), while 40% of respondents perceive the public to have a small influence and 17% perceive the public to have no influence.

Figure 51: Perception of public's influence on Council decision making



Note: Sums to less than 100% due to rounding.

¹² This indicator is included in the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring programme.

3.3 Results by age group, gender and ethnicity

This sub-section provides summary results by age group, gender, and ethnicity at the regional level for those 2018 survey results that are included in the WPI indicators (refer Section 1.4). The purpose of this supplementary information is to help inform policy makers. Due to smaller sample sizes these results have a larger sampling error than the overall regional results.

3.3.1 By age group

Respondents **aged under 25** ($N = 155$) were:

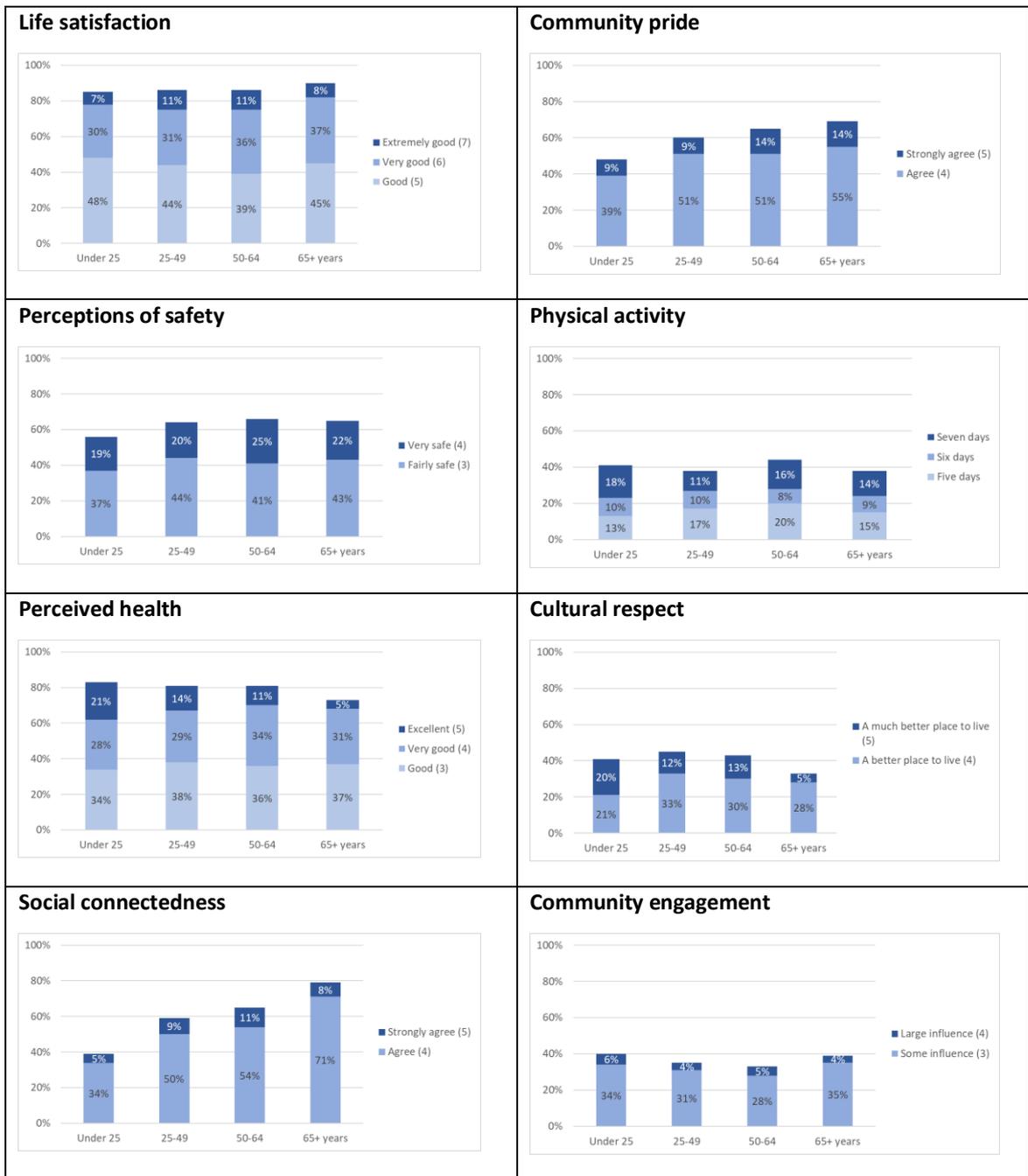
- More likely to agree that they feel unsafe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark (41% compared to 31% for all ages combined).
- More likely to disagree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood (24% compared to 14% for all ages combined); and less likely to agree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood (38% compared to 62% for all ages combined).
- Less likely to agree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels (47% compared to 62% for all ages combined).

Respondents **aged 25 to 49** ($N = 522$) and **aged 50 to 64** ($N = 355$) were not statistically significant from the regional average (for all ages) on any of the eight WPI indicators.

Compared to the regional average (for all ages combined) respondents **aged 65 plus** ($N = 384$) were:

- More likely to rate their overall quality of life positively (90% compared to 87% for all ages combined).
- Less likely to agree that they feel unsafe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark (25% compared to 31% for all ages combined).
- More likely to rate their overall health as being less than good (28% compared to 21% for all ages combined); and less likely to rate their overall health positively (72% compared to 79% for all ages combined).
- More likely to agree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood (79% compared to 62% for all ages combined); and less likely to disagree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood (4% compared to 14% for all ages combined).
- More likely to agree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their local area looks and feels (69% compared to 62% for all ages combined); and less likely to disagree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their local area looks and feels (11% compared to 14% for all ages combined).
- More likely to agree they had been physically active on 'none' of the past seven days (19% compared to 13% for all ages combined).
- Less likely to agree that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city/area a better place to live (33% compared to 41% for all ages combined).
- Less likely to agree that the public have no/small influence over the decisions that their local Council makes (51% compared to 57% for all ages combined).

Figure 52: WPI results by age group



3.3.2 By gender

This sub-section provides summary results by gender at the regional level for the WPI indicators (2018 survey results).

Female respondents ($N = 789$) were:

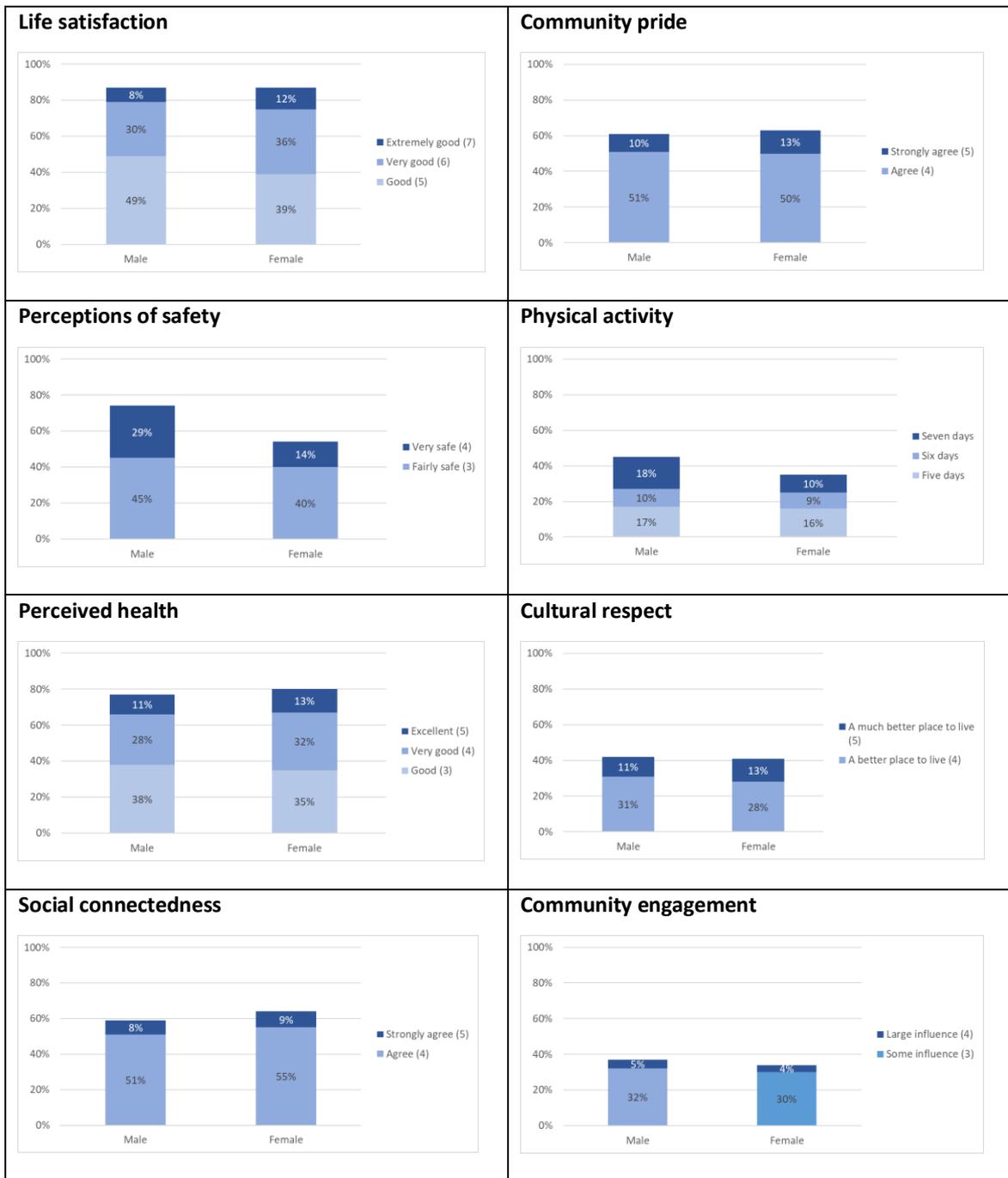
- More likely to agree that their quality of life was 'very good' or 'extremely good' (48% compared to 43% for all respondents).
- More likely to agree that they feel unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (40% compared to 31% for all respondents); and less likely to agree that they feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (54% compared to 64% for all respondents).
- More likely to agree that their overall health is 'very good' or 'excellent' (46% compared to 43% for all respondents).
- More likely to agree they had been physically active on three or four of the past seven days (33% compared to 28%); and less likely to agree they had been physically active on five or more of the past seven days (36% compared to 40% for all respondents).

Male respondents ($N = 625$) were:

- Less likely to agree that their quality of life was 'very good' or 'extremely good' (37% compared to 43% for all respondents).
- More likely to agree that they feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (74% compared to 64% for all respondents); and less likely to agree that they feel unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (22% compared to 31% for all respondents).
- Less likely to agree that their overall health is 'very good' or 'excellent' (39% compared to 43% for all respondents).
- More likely to agree they had been physically active on five or more of the past seven days (45% compared to 40% for all respondents); and less likely to agree they had been physically active on three or four of the past seven days (23% compared to 28% for all respondents).

Males and females were not statistically significant from the regional average (for males and females combined) on any of the other seven WPI indicators.

Figure 53: WPI results by gender



3.3.3 By ethnic group

This sub-section provides summary results by ethnic group at the regional level for the WPI indicators (2018 survey results).

Respondents who identified with the **New Zealand European/ Other ethnic group** ($N = 1176$) were:¹³

- More likely to rate their quality of life positively (88% compared to 87% for all respondents); and less likely to rate their quality of life poorly (3% compared to 4% for all respondents).
- More likely to rate their overall health positively (83% compared to 79% for all respondents); and less likely to rate their overall health as being less than good (17% compared to 21% for all respondents).
- More likely to disagree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood (15% compared to 14% for all respondents).
- More likely to report having been physically active on five or more of the last seven days (42% compared to 40% for all respondents); and less likely to report having been physically active on 'none' of the last seven days (10% compared to 13% for all respondents).

Respondents who identified with the **Māori ethnic group** ($N = 314$) were:

- More likely to rate their quality of life poorly (8% compared to 4% for all respondents); and less likely to rate their quality of life positively (79% compared to 87% for all respondents).
- More likely to rate their overall health as being less than good (35% compared to 21%); and less likely to rate their overall health positively (65% compared to 79% for all respondents).
- Less likely to agree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels (56% compared to 62% for all respondents).
- More likely to report having been physically active on 'none' of the last seven days (17% compared to 13% for all respondents).
- Less likely to agree that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city/area a better place to live (32% compared to 41% for all respondents).

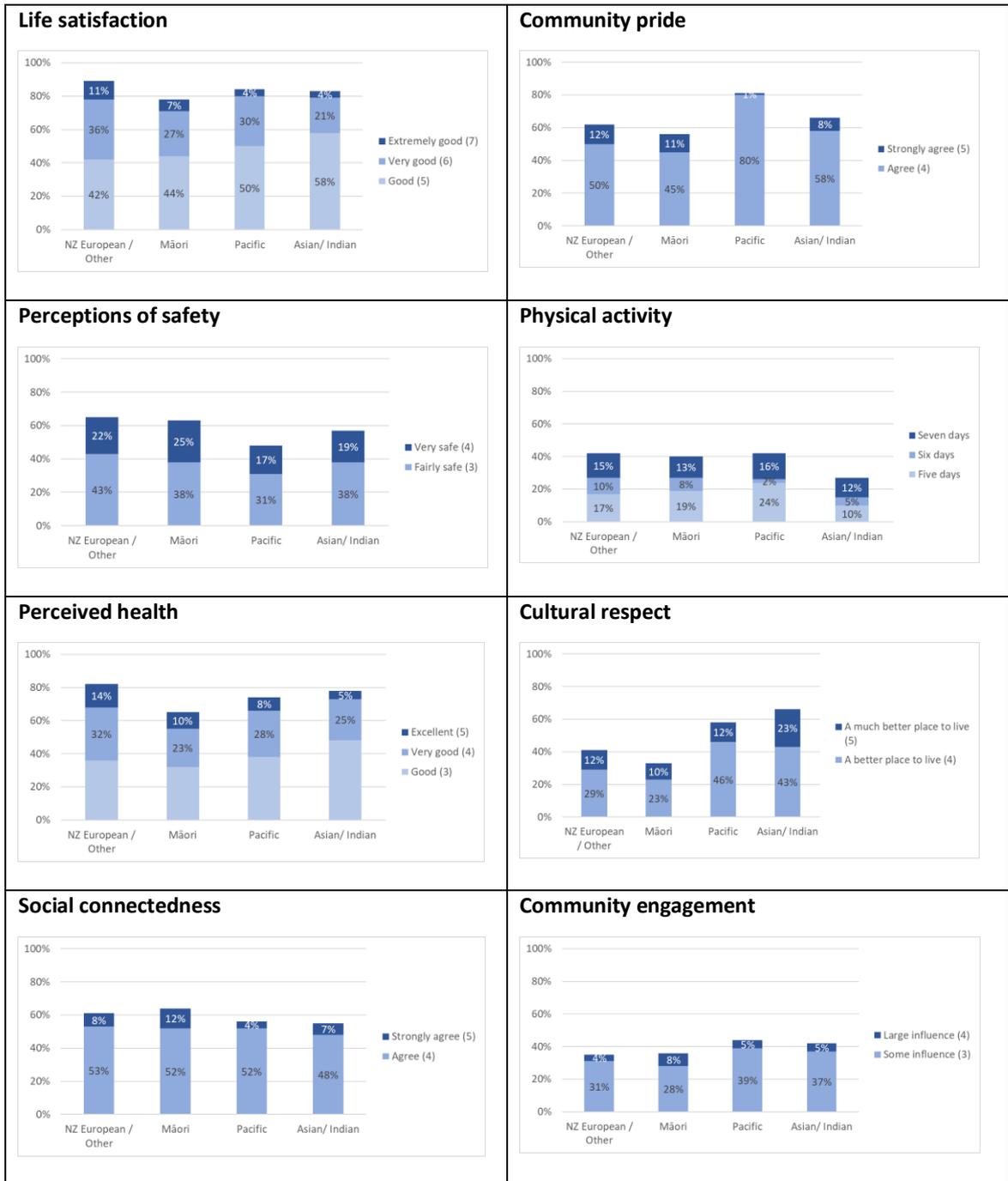
Respondents who identified with the **Pacific ethnic group** ($N = 28$) were not statistically significant from the regional average (for all ethnic groups) on any of the eight WPI indicators. Due to large sample errors the results for this group should be interpreted with caution.

Respondents who identified with the **Asian/Indian ethnic group** ($N = 82$) were:

- Less likely to report having been physically active on five or more of the last seven days (27% compared to 40% for all respondents).
- More likely to agree that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city/area a better place to live (65% compared to 41% for all respondents).

¹³ Due to the large number of New Zealand European / Other ethnic group respondents in the sample, even small differences in results compared to the total sample average can meet the threshold for statistical significance.

Figure 54: WPI results by ethnic group



4. Results over time – 2006 to 2018

The Waikato region participated previously in the 2006 Quality of Life Survey through a regional booster sample, and subsequently in 2016.¹⁴ So long as the 2006 and later results are comparable, this enables regional trends to be identified for the eight indicators included in the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring initiative.

A comparison of survey items over time is included in Waikato Regional Council Technical Report 2017/11 (March 2017). This concluded that overall there should be a relatively high level of validity in comparing 2006 and later Waikato regional results for the WPI items.

4.1 Change to the quality of life scale

The 2018 wave of the Quality of Life Survey introduced a change in the overall quality of life item that is used as a proxy for life satisfaction in the WPI monitoring programme.

According to the 2018 Technical Report:

‘Over a number of years, the overall quality of life measure has been asked on a 5-point scale as follows:

Would you say that your overall quality of life is...

(Extremely poor, Poor, Neither good nor poor, Good, Extremely good).

In 2018, two changes were proposed to the way the question was asked:

- *Change from a 5-point to a 7-point scale*
- *Ask the question at the start of the questionnaire, rather than at the end.*

The change from a 5 to a 7-point scale was accepted and implemented into the 2018 survey.

However, before making the second (re-positioning) change, it was decided to ask the quality of life question both at the start of the survey and in its original position so that differences in the way participants answered could be reviewed.’

4.1.1 No time series break from change to a 7-point scale

The 2018 Technical Report¹⁵ explains that the change to a 7-point scale aimed to help better understand the large proportion of ‘Good’ responses and provide more granularity in the scale. Analysis of the 2016 and 2018 results by Nielsen confirmed that ‘the variation has reduced the use of the ‘Good’ response, but this has not caused systematic changes to push the positive result up or down. There is now more variation across the positive end of the scale.’

4.1.2 Testing the influence of the order of questioning

The 2018 Technical Report¹⁵ further explains that ‘in previous iterations of the Quality of Life survey, the quality of life measure has been asked near the end of the questionnaire. This means that respondents’ opinions about their quality of life can be influenced by the questions

¹⁴ Although the Waikato regional survey data were collected in 2006 by TNS researchers, they were not incorporated into the 2006 Quality of Life Report. Rather, the booster sample was commissioned by Waikato Regional Council for comparison with a regional Perception Survey undertaken jointly with territorial local authorities in the region.

¹⁵ Nielsen. (2018). Quality of Life survey 2018: Technical report. A report prepared on behalf of Auckland Council, Wellington City Council, Christchurch City Council, and Dunedin City Council, pages 8-10.

asked throughout the rest of the survey. Given that the survey content changes slightly each time the survey is conducted, there is a risk that the quality of life measure is being influenced by slightly different things each survey year.

Analysis of the results by Nielsen show that the ‘majority of respondents rated their quality of life positively (ie, rated it as either ‘extremely good’, ‘very good’ or ‘good’) both at the start and end of the survey (86% and 84% respectively).’

For consistency, results for the question asked towards the end of the survey are reported here and in the National Quality of Life 2018 Topline Report¹⁶.

4.2 Sample demographics 2006 to 2018

The table below shows that the 2006, 2016 and 2018 surveys had sufficient sample sizes and demographic representation to make strong inferences. Other methodology aspects were also similar as described in the 2006 and 2016 survey reports.

Table 2: Comparison of 2006, 2016 and 2018 Waikato regional samples

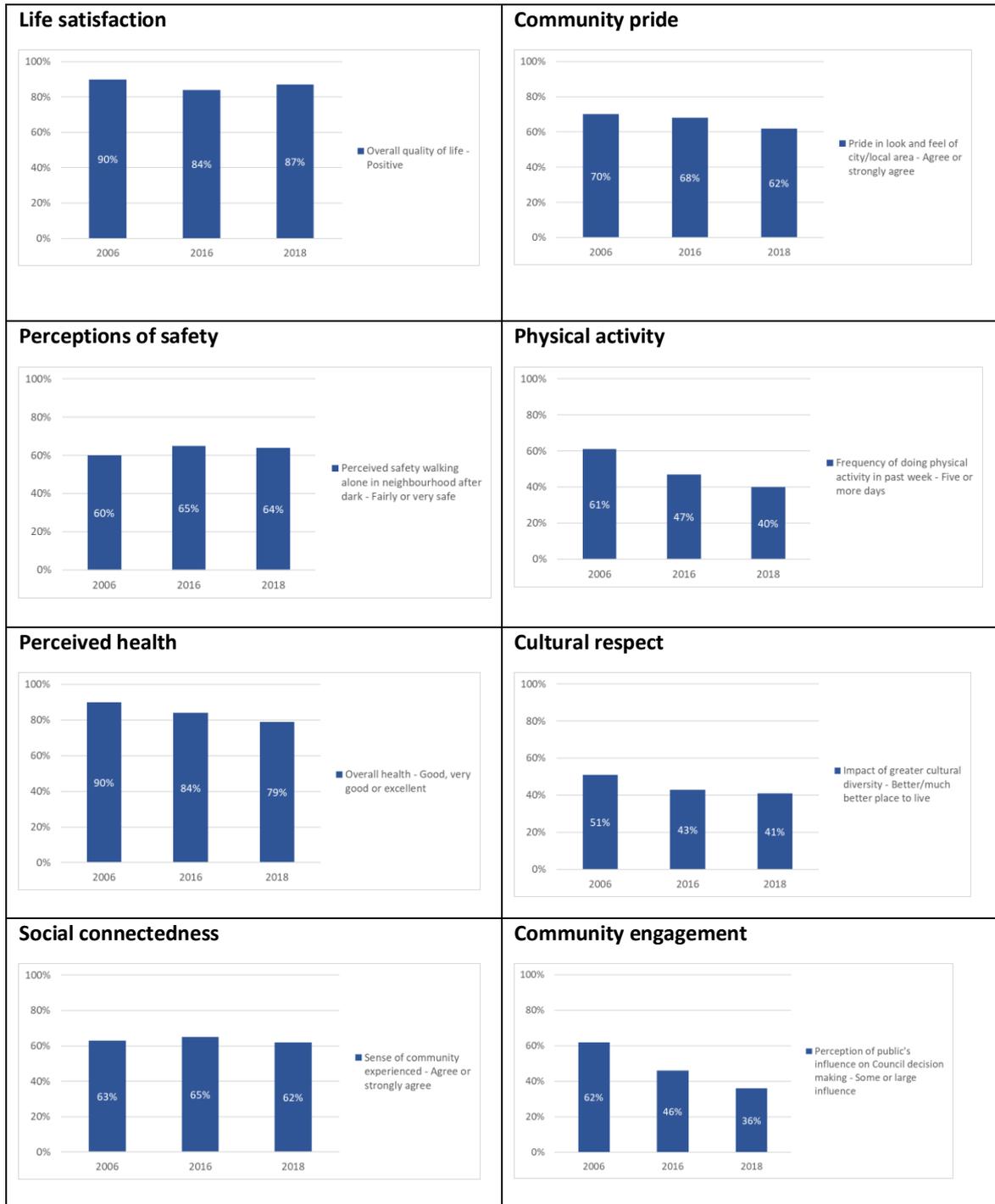
	2006		2016		2018	
Sample size						
Hamilton	237	34%	457	36%	572	40%
Other Waikato Region	455	66%	823	64%	844	60%
Total Waikato Region	692	100%	1280	100%	1416	100%
Age group						
18 to 24	64	9%	188	15%	189	13%
25 to 49	343	50%	393	31%	578	41%
50 to 64	172	25%	329	26%	348	25%
65 plus	113	16%	370	29%	300	21%
Total age groups	692	100%	1280	100%	1415	100%
Ethnic groups*						
NZ European / Other	499	72%	1131	88%	1176	83%
Maori	147	21%	179	14%	314	22%
Pacific	26	4%	24	2%	28	2%
Asian / Indian	19	3%	39	3%	82	6%

Notes: * Denominator for ethnic groups is total respondents (i.e. can add to more than 100% due to people identifying with more than one ethnic group).

¹⁶ Nielsen. (2018). Quality of Life survey 2018: Topline report. A report prepared on behalf of Auckland Council, Wellington City Council, Christchurch City Council, and Dunedin City Council. Wellington, New Zealand.

4.3 Graphs for 2006, 2016 and 2018

Figure 55: WPI results – Waikato region 2006, 2016 and 2018



4.4 Comparing 2006 and 2018 Waikato regional trends

Compared to 2006, Waikato regional survey respondents in 2018 were:

- Less likely to rate their overall quality of life positively (87% in 2018 compared to 90% in 2006).
- A bit more likely to report feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (64% in 2018 compared to 60% in 2006).
- Less likely to rate their overall health positively (79% in 2018 compared to 90% in 2006).
- Almost unchanged in terms of the percentage who agree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood (62% in 2018 compared to 63% in 2006).
- Less likely to agree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels (62% in 2018 compared to 70% in 2006).
- Less likely to report having been physically active on five or more of the past seven days (40% in 2018 compared to 61% in 2006).
- Less likely to agree that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city/area a better place to live (41% in 2018 compared to 51% in 2006).
- Less likely to agree that the public have an influence over the decisions that their local Council makes (36% in 2018 compared to 62% in 2006).

5. Conclusion

5.1 Key survey findings for the Waikato region

Quality of life

- A large majority rate their overall quality of life positively.
- Most common reasons for rating quality of life positively related to physical and mental health and wellbeing, positive financial situation and relationships.
- Among the relatively small group who rated their quality of life poorly, common reasons related to poor health and wellbeing, poor financial situation, and other negative comments.
- More than a quarter felt their quality of life had improved over the past year.

Environment (built and natural)

- Eight in ten agreed their local area is a great place to live.
- Over one quarter agreed their local area improved in the last 12 months.
- The most common reasons for feeling that their local area deteriorated in the last 12 months related to crime/crime rate has increased, more traffic/traffic congestion, dissatisfaction with Government/local government, and high cost of living.
- The most common reasons for feeling that their local area had improved in the last 12 months related to good/improved/new amenities, good recreational facilities/lots of things to do, and area looks clean, tidy and well kept.
- More than six in ten agreed they feel a sense of pride in the way their local area looks and feels.

- Issues most frequently identified as being either a big problem or a bit of a problem were rubbish or litter lying on the streets, graffiti or tagging, and water pollution.

Housing

- Around six in ten agreed that their current housing costs were affordable.
- A large proportion agreed that the type of home they lived in suited their needs and the needs of others in their household.
- Almost nine out of ten agreed that the general area, or neighbourhood, they lived in suited their needs and the needs of others in their household.
- Around a quarter agreed that they had experienced problems with damp or mould in their home during winter.
- Approximately four in five agreed that their heating system keeps their home warm when it is in use during winter.
- Around seven in ten agreed that they can afford to heat their home properly during winter.

Public transport

- Around one in twenty had used public transport weekly or more often over the previous 12 months. Half had not used public transport in the last 12 months and a further one fifth did not have public transport available.
- Less than half of those who had public transport available agreed that public transport was affordable.
- Three fifths agreed that public transport was safe.
- Three fifths agreed that public transport was easy to get to.
- Less than half agreed that public transport is frequent.
- Two fifths agreed that public transport was reliable (that is it comes when it says it will).

Health and wellbeing

- Four in five rated their health positively.
- When asked how many days in the previous seven days they had been physically active, two fifths said they had been active five or more days.
- While one fifth had regularly experienced stress, around a third rarely or never experienced this.
- More than nine in ten feel they have someone to rely on for help if faced with physical injury or illness, or if in need of support during an emotionally difficult time.
- More than half said they felt cheerful or in good spirits all or most of the time.
- Almost half said they felt calm and relaxed.
- One third said they felt active and vigorous.
- Less than one third said they woke up feeling fresh and rested.
- Almost half said their daily life had been filled with things that interest them.

Crime and safety

- Over two thirds perceived dangerous driving as a problem in their city or local area, followed by alcohol or drug problems or anti-social behaviour associated with the consumption of alcohol, and car theft, damage to cars or theft from cars.
- More than nine in ten reported that they feel safe in their home after dark.
- Almost two thirds feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.
- Nine in ten feel safe in their city centre during the day.
- Less than half feel safe in their city centre after dark.

Community, culture and social networks

- Three quarters consider it important to feel a sense of community with people in their neighbourhood.
- More than six in ten agree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood.
- Online networks were by far the most common social networks, followed by clubs and societies (e.g. sports clubs).
- The majority reported they had some sort of positive contact with people in their neighbourhood in the previous 12 months, such as a nod or hello.
- Almost seven in ten had never or rarely felt isolated in the last year.
- Two thirds agreed that people can be trusted.
- Four in ten considered that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city or local area a better place to live.
- Around one third consider their local area to have a diverse and culturally rich arts scene.

Economic wellbeing

- Two thirds were employed in either full-time or part-time work, and a further four per cent were currently seeking work.
- Six in ten of the employed were satisfied with the balance of work and other aspects of their life.
- Almost half felt that they have enough or more than enough money to meet their everyday needs for things such as accommodation, food, clothing and other necessities. More than one in ten felt they did not have enough money.

Council processes

- Around one third have confidence that their local Council makes decisions in the best interests of their area.
- Around one third perceive the public have 'large' or 'some' influence over the decisions that their local Council makes.

Results by age group

- Respondents aged under 25 were more likely to agree that they feel unsafe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark; less likely to agree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood; and less likely to agree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels.
- Respondents aged 65 plus were more likely to rate their overall quality of life positively; less likely to agree that they feel unsafe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark; more likely to rate their overall health as being less than good; more likely to agree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood; more likely to agree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their local area looks and feels; more likely to agree they had been physically active on 'none' of the past seven days ; less likely to agree that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city/area a better place to live; and less likely to agree that the public have no/small influence over the decisions that their local Council makes

Results by gender

- Males were substantially more likely than females to report feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.

Results by ethnic group

- Respondents who identified with the New Zealand European/ Other ethnic group were more likely to rate their quality of life positively; more likely to rate their overall health positively; more likely to disagree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood; and more likely to report having been physically active on five or more of the last seven days.
- Respondents who identified with the Māori ethnic group were more likely to rate their quality of life poorly; more likely to rate their overall health as being less than good; less likely to agree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels; more likely to report having been physically active on 'none' of the last seven days; and less likely to agree that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city/area a better place to live.
- Respondents who identified with the Asian/Indian ethnic group were less likely to report having been physically active on five or more of the last seven days; and more likely to agree that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city/area a better place to live.

Waikato region 2006 to 2018 trends

Compared to 2006, Waikato regional survey respondents in 2018 were:

- Less likely to rate their overall quality of life positively.
- A bit more likely to report feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.
- Less likely to rate their overall health positively.
- Almost unchanged in terms of the percentage who agree that they experience a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood.
- Less likely to agree that they feel a sense of pride in the way their city or local area looks and feels.
- Less likely to report having been physically activity on five or more of the past seven days.
- Less likely to agree that New Zealand becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries makes their city/area a better place to live.
- Less likely to agree that the public have an influence over the decisions that their local Council makes.

6. Next steps

The 2018 Quality of Life survey results give comprehensive up-to-date information on public perceptions, attitudes and behaviours in the Waikato region and other parts of New Zealand.

These results will help inform regional and local government policy and support monitoring towards strategic social, cultural and economic goals.

The latest Waikato regional survey results will be incorporated into the Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) regional wellbeing monitoring update for selected indicators.

Government takes a wellbeing approach to its [Budget 2019](#), supported by the Living Standards Framework (LSF) and LSF dashboard developed by the Treasury, and by Statistics NZ work on [Indicators Aotearoa \(IANZ\)](#). This includes subjective wellbeing data and indicators as gathered through the 2018 Quality of Life survey discussed in this report.

Similarly, the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill aims to restore the purpose of local government to be "to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities". Working closely with Statistics NZ's IANZ project, the [Society of Local Government Managers \(SOLGM\)](#) has initiated work to provide council's with tools to facilitate discussions around wellbeings in their communities.

