



Older Aucklanders 2026: Quality of life – status report

Ashleigh Prakash

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Technical Report 2026/12



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Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland continues to undergo significant changes to its population structure. The 2023 Census documented 219,753 usual Auckland residents aged 65 years and over, which accounted for 13% of Auckland’s total population. Moreover, it is projected this group will reach 21% of the total Auckland population by 2053. This means it is expected that the number of older Aucklanders will more than double in the three decades between 2023 and 2053. Such significant growth is not expected in any other age group and is unprecedented in New Zealand history.

Older people in Auckland make significant contributions to the region. Auckland Council has a clear strategic commitment to recognise what older people offer to the city and to respond to their needs, particularly as they constitute an ever-growing proportion of Auckland’s population. This directive is outlined in the Auckland Plan 2050 and Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua – the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan. One of the primary aims of the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan is to improve the quality of life of older Aucklanders.

This study provides up-to-date evidence to support the implementation of the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan. Since 2016, council’s Social and Economic Research and Evaluation team and the Community Policy team have jointly undertaken a study of the quality of life of older Aucklanders. The 2016 study developed a baseline dataset, which was updated in 2021. The 2021 study was particularly important in understanding how older Aucklanders experienced life in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, housing affordability, and the increasing cost of living.

The Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan is due to be refreshed and updated evidence is required to support its development. This is particularly important as Auckland’s demographic, social, and economic landscape has undergone further changes since the 2021 survey. Technological advances, geopolitical disruption, climate-related disasters, and cost-of-living pressures have characterised life for residents, particularly for older people.

This report explores the current state of older Aucklanders’ quality of life. Like the 2021 status report, we explored data from secondary sources, as well as primary data from a survey of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over. The 2026 survey collected responses from 849 older Aucklanders. We also compared survey responses (where possible) to results from the 2016 and 2021 surveys.

Findings from the 2026 survey revealed cross-cutting themes across the data:

- **There were strong associations between ethnicity and location.** Quality of life differed across intersecting axes of ethnicity and location. For instance, results highlighted that older people living in northern areas of Auckland were generally more positive about their quality of life – respondents living here were more likely to be European. Meanwhile, those living in southern, western, and eastern areas were less positive about their quality of life – these respondents were more likely to be of Māori, Pacific, or Asian ethnicity.
- **Furthermore, diversity in lived experiences emerged strongly based on ethnic group.** The data revealed that older Pacific respondents often had distinctive lived experiences compared to other ethnic groups. On the one hand, they experienced poorer outcomes across a wide range of measures when compared to the total sample, such as overall quality of life, housing affordability, ability to heat their homes, housing suitability and accessibility, trust in others, financial wellbeing, emergency savings, Internet access and confidence, and public transport use. Conversely, they also reported good outcomes related to their community connection, social participation, and cultural engagement.
- **Accessibility appears to provide persistent challenges for older Aucklanders.** Survey respondents noted greater dissatisfaction and concerns around issues relating to accessibility, such as concerns around their housing accessibility, the accessibility of public transport, walkability of their neighbourhoods, accessibility of green spaces, and accessibility of council services. More work could be undertaken to understand these issues for older Aucklanders in greater depth.
- **Affordability concerns were also prominent among older Aucklanders.** Older Aucklanders were overall positive across a range of financial indicators. However, the trend over time is one of deterioration in affordability, particularly in regard to housing affordability, home heating affordability, and living standards. Economic pressures appear to be a clear area of decline and a noteworthy challenge for this age group.

These insights present opportunities for further research and consultation, in order to improve how services are planned and delivered in ways that meet the needs of our growing ageing population.

To this end, Auckland Council will continue to work with its varied stakeholders – local communities, central government, and other members of the Age-friendly Network – to understand and respond to these challenges and opportunities.

Executive summary – survey detailed findings

Kaumātua



Most older Māori reported good quality of life. They were well-connected in their communities, lived in suitable homes, and were satisfied with their natural environment. However, they faced challenges with economic wellbeing.

Social Participation



Older Aucklanders were well-connected to whānau, friends, and their community. They had a high level of social participation and trust in other people, and hardly experienced isolation.

Culture & Diversity



Older Aucklanders are increasingly diverse. However, there were mixed views about how accepted, valued, safe, and respected they felt by others in Auckland. There was also variety in how often they felt they could participate in cultural activities.

Respect & Social Inclusion



Most older Aucklanders said they had not experienced any form of discrimination in the last 12 months. Of the small number who did, one in ten said they had experienced either age-based or ethnicity-based discrimination.

Te Taiao



Older Aucklanders were very satisfied with the quality and accessibility of green spaces in their local area. Most reported taking environmental actions in their daily lives. However, few expressed worry about climate change.

Civic Participation & Employment



Older Aucklanders have a high voter turnout rate and many opportunities to play a role as an elder in their whānau and community. However, they had mixed views about their economic wellbeing.

Transport



Two-thirds of older Aucklanders had used public transport in the last 12 months. Those who used public transport had positive views about its safety, affordability, and accessibility. However, they had mixed views of its comfort, reliability, and convenience.

Communication & Information



Older Aucklanders' access to and use of the internet has improved since the 2021 survey. Their confidence to use the internet has also improved, especially when making transactions and keeping connected with others.

Housing



Perceptions of housing affordability declined since the 2021 survey. Older Aucklanders had mixed views about whether they could afford to heat their homes properly during winter. They were positive about how well their home suited their needs.

Community Support & Health Services



Most older Aucklanders rated all aspects of their health positively, especially their family and relationship health. They experienced low levels of stress and had done some form of physical activity in the last week.

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Introduction

This report presents an overview of the quality of life of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over. At the 2023 Census, 27% of all older people in Aotearoa New Zealand lived in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. People aged 65 and over made up 13% of Aucklanders. Demographic trends mean that Auckland will be home to significantly more older people than ever before in the coming decades. Based on Stats NZ’s most recent subnational population projections, by 2053, 33% of New Zealand’s older population will live in Auckland (projected population of 514,200 older Aucklanders, out of 1,549,900 older New Zealanders).

Understanding the quality of life of older people in Auckland is a key strategic focus for council, as outlined in important strategic documents, such as the Auckland Plan 2050 and Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua – Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan.



What is quality of life?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines quality of life as “individuals’ perceptions of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards, and concerns”. There are many aspects that can contribute to a person’s quality of life, such as their relationships, mental and physical health, safety, and sense of belonging and inclusion.

Quality of life studies, such as this one, monitor a suite of indicators relating to overall wellbeing. Information collected by these studies is used by governments and NGOs internationally to inform policies, plans, and other initiatives aiming to improve the quality of life of residents.

Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua: The Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan 2022-27

Auckland Council has a clear directive to “recognise and value the contribution of older people to the community”, as outlined in the Auckland Plan 2050, a 30-year vision for making Auckland the world’s most liveable city.

As part of this, the Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua – Age-Friendly Auckland Action Plan was developed with the intention of responding to the needs of Auckland’s older people. The plan is based on WHO’s Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Framework and Te Whare Tapa Whā, a Māori framework of wellbeing. The plan aims to:

- Improve quality of life for older Aucklanders
- Future-proof the Auckland region so that everyone is supported to age well
- Identify and guide action to support those most in need.

The plan identifies relevant actions for council, organisations, individuals, and communities to take. Auckland was accepted in the WHO’s Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities in March 2022. The Age-Friendly Auckland Action Plan is due to be refreshed in 2027. This study will provide evidence to inform this refresh.

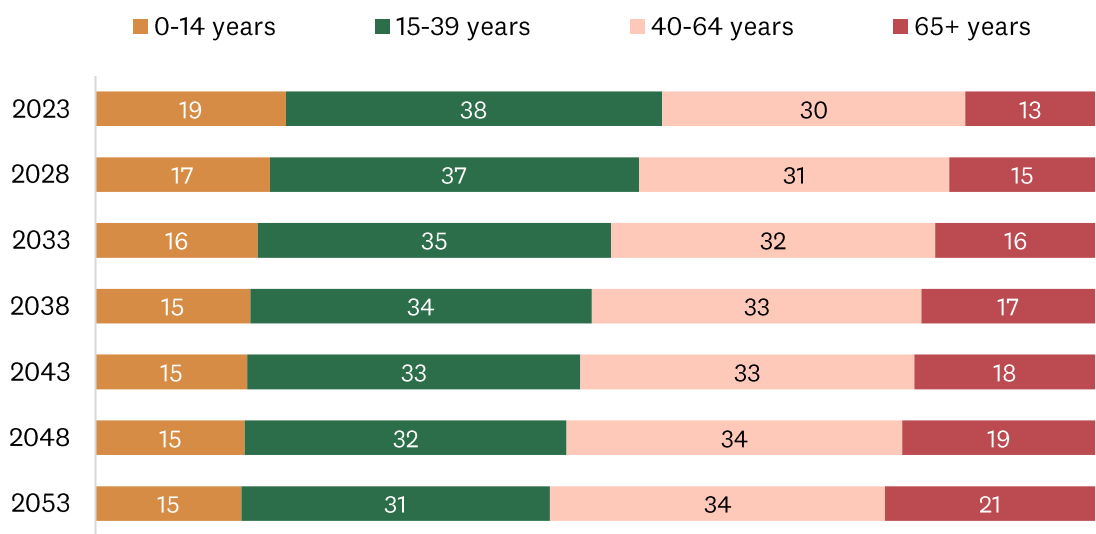


Demographic overview

Like many international cities, Auckland is experiencing population ageing, which describes demographic changes in population structure where increasingly larger proportions of the population are aged 65 years and over. This has socio-economic implications, as older people tend to require support in the form of superannuation, aged care facilities, and healthcare. Maintaining the provision of services and programmes for older people can generate pressure on younger age groups, such as higher taxes, providing care to relatives, and fewer employment opportunities as older people continue to work for longer.

According to the 2023 Census, there were 219,753 usual Auckland residents aged 65 years and over (13% of the total Auckland population). Rapid growth in this population is expected to occur in the coming decades (Figure 1). It is projected this group will reach a total of 514,200 people by 2053 (21% of the total projected population). This means it is anticipated that the number of older Aucklanders will more than double in the three decades between 2023 and 2053. Such significant growth is not expected in any other age group and is unprecedented in New Zealand history (although it is consistent with international trends).

Further information about older Aucklanders can be found in the 2023 Census Older Aucklanders report.¹



Projected age distribution of the Auckland population (2023-2053) (%)

Data source: Stats NZ, Subnational population projections, by age and sex, 2023(base)- 2053 (medium series)

¹ Bade, D. (2025). Older Aucklanders: Results from the 2023 Census. Auckland Council.
<https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/older-aucklanders-results-from-the-2023-census/>

In 2016-17, Auckland Council undertook a baseline study to develop an evidence base about the quality of life of older Aucklanders. This baseline study involved a literature review of existing evidence about older people's wellbeing and engaging with stakeholders to develop a suite of indicators to measure older Aucklanders' wellbeing.² This formed the basis of a survey that was administered to a representative sample of older Aucklanders, which was analysed alongside secondary datasets, like the New Zealand Census, Te Kupenga – the Māori social survey, and the Quality of Life Project.³

In 2021, the indicator framework was refreshed to align with the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan, and the survey was repeated. This was again analysed alongside secondary data, to provide an updated evidence base of older people in Auckland.⁴ An additional qualitative research study was undertaken to explore the quality of life of older Māori in Auckland, to support the kaumātua domain of the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan.⁵

This report provides a third update on the quality of life of older Aucklanders, using survey data collected in 2026 and other secondary data (e.g. New Zealand Census 2023).

² Rootham, E. (2016). Determinants of wellbeing for older Aucklanders. Auckland Council technical report 2016/47. <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/determinants-of-wellbeing-for-older-aucklanders/>

³ Reid, A. (2017). Older Aucklanders: A quality of life status report 2017. Auckland Council technical report 2017/14. <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/older-aucklanders-a-quality-of-life-status-report-2017/>

⁴ Prakash, A., & Ovenden, K. (2022). Older Aucklanders: A quality of life status report. Auckland Council technical report 2022/22. <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/older-aucklanders-a-quality-of-life-status-report/>

⁵ Cram, F., Koopu, A., Phillips, O., Adcock, A., Prakash, A., & Ovenden, K. (2022). Quality of life of older Māori in Auckland. Prepared for Auckland Council. <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/quality-of-life-of-older-maori-in-auckland/>

The indicator framework

An indicator framework (Appendix A) underpinned the research by outlining the factors contributing to the quality of life of older Aucklanders. It is aligned with the ten domains in the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan:

- Kaumātua
- Culture and diversity
- Te taiao
- Transport
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support and health services.

The findings in this report are structured according to these domains.

The report contains primary (survey) and secondary data. Many of the indicators were able to be measured using publicly available data (e.g. the Census) – see Appendix B for a list of secondary data sources. Other indicators are informed by data from our survey of 849 older Aucklanders – see Appendix C for sample characteristics.

Please note that limited data were available to report on indicators and measures under the Kaumātua domain. The main data source, Te Kupenga – the Māori Social Survey, was discontinued and there are currently no other similar data sources to report on older Māori wellbeing in Auckland.

Questionnaire development

The project team for this study reviewed the 2021 questionnaire to determine whether the questions remained fit for purpose and to identify and fill gaps in the indicator framework. This review made a number of important considerations:

- **Survey length:** Efforts were made to balance the need to include important survey questions while also minimising survey fatigue by reducing the questionnaire length.
- **Prioritising secondary data:** Survey questions were developed when no robust secondary data were available.

The review of the 2021 questionnaire resulted in the addition of some questions and removal of others to strengthen the questionnaire’s alignment with the indicator framework and understanding of older Aucklanders’ quality of life.

Survey data collection

The 2026 survey targeted a sample of n=800 responses, consistent with the 2016 and 2021 surveys, with minimum sub-samples of Māori and Pacific peoples. This target was achieved with a final sample of 849 completed responses. A multi-modal approach was used to collect survey responses:

Stage 1: Online Panels

- Online panellists meeting demographic eligibility criteria were invited to complete the survey online – panels included Ipsos iSay and ConsumerLink.
- Auckland Council People's Panel were also invited to participate through an email invitation – 3291 panellists aged 65 and over were invited.
- **Total number of responses from Stage 1: 660.**

Stage 2: Electoral Roll mailout:

- Random sample selected to target quota gaps remaining after Stage 1 – ethnic quotas (Māori, Pacific), age quotas (85+), region quotas.
- Postal invitation sent containing link to complete the survey online or to request a computer-assisted telephone interviewer (CATI).
- Number of invitations sent: 2011.
- **Total number of responses from Stage 2: 78.**

Stage 3: Community Engagement

- Targeted face-to-face approach to ensure sample representativeness of older Aucklanders and to gather responses from harder-to-reach communities (e.g. Māori, Pacific, and Asian).
- Engagement with community groups, faith-based organisations, and local providers to send along interviewers to community venues and organisations, to support attendees to complete the survey in person.
- Number of community organisations engaged: 10.
- **Total number of responses from Stage 3: 111.**

For more information about how the survey was undertaken, please refer to the Older Aucklanders technical report.⁶

⁶ Ipsos New Zealand. (2026). Older Aucklanders quality of life survey 2026: Technical report. Prepared for Auckland Council. <https://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz>

Understanding survey results

Charts: Results are provided at the overall sample level, and broken down into three subgroups (age group, ethnic group, and broad geographic area). These subgroups were selected for display given most statistically significant differences were found among these groups.

In instances where there are statistically significant gender differences, charts also include bars for 'male' and 'female' responses.

Text accompanying charts may also describe additional statistically significant differences for other groups where they are worth noting (e.g. household composition, dwelling type), which are not displayed visually.

Base sizes: Base sizes shown in charts and tables are unweighted, although all results are weighted. Any base size under n=100 is considered small and should be interpreted cautiously.

Rounding: Rounding effects mean that percentages in charts may not always add to 100.

NET counts: Results are presented in charts to indicate the sum of negative and positive responses and may differ slightly from the sum of corresponding figures due to rounding.

Total response ethnicity: This approach was used to allow participants to report multiple ethnicities, so total percentages may exceed 100.

Statistically significant differences: Statistical differences are highlighted only when significant at the 95% confidence level and the difference in results is five percentage points or higher.

- An upward chevron (^) is used to indicate when a result is significantly higher than the Auckland total
- A downwards chevron (v) is used to indicate when a result is significantly lower than the Auckland total.

Changes over time: Key findings showing changes over time from the 2016, 2021, and 2026 surveys are displayed in Appendix D.

In instances where there are noticeable differences between the 2021 and 2026 surveys, charts also include the overall 2021 result.

Findings show strong associations between ethnicity and location. Consistent with the 2021 data, 2026 survey results showed experiences of quality of life differed across intersecting axes of ethnicity and location. For instance, results highlighted that older people living in northern areas of Auckland were generally more positive about their quality of life – respondents living here were more likely to be European/Other (83%, compared to 70% across the whole Auckland sample). Meanwhile, those living in southern, western, and eastern areas were less positive about their quality of life – these respondents were more likely to be of Māori, Pacific, or Asian ethnicity.

	North (n=238)	West (n=158)	Central (n=243)	South (n=130)	East (n=80)	Auckland Total (n=849)
NZ European/Other	83^	48~	70	63	71	70
Māori	9	3	3	9	1	6
Pacific	3~	16^	6	14^	4	8
Asian	13~	35^	22	20	24	21

Proportion of respondents in each ethnic group, by geographic area (%)

Data source: Older Aucklanders survey 2026

Furthermore, diversity in lived experiences emerged strongly based on ethnic group.

The data revealed that older Pacific respondents often had distinctive lived experiences compared to other ethnic groups. On the one hand, they experienced poorer outcomes across a wide range of measures when compared to the total sample, such as overall quality of life, housing affordability, ability to heat their homes, housing suitability and accessibility, trust in others, financial wellbeing, emergency savings, Internet access and confidence, and public transport use. Conversely, they also reported good outcomes related to their community connection, social participation, and cultural engagement.

Accessibility appears to provide persistent challenges for older Aucklanders. Survey respondents noted greater dissatisfaction and concerns around issues relating to accessibility, such as concerns around their housing accessibility, the accessibility of public transport, walkability of their neighbourhoods, accessibility of green spaces, and accessibility of council services. More work could be undertaken to understand these issues for older Aucklanders in greater depth.

Affordability concerns were also prominent among older Aucklanders. Overall, older Aucklanders were positive across a range of financial indicators. However, the trend over time is one of deterioration in affordability, particularly in regard to housing affordability, home heating affordability, and living standards. Economic pressures appear to be a clear area of decline and a noteworthy challenge for this age group.

Findings: Quality of life

This section provides overall results about older Aucklanders and their perceptions of their quality of life and overall wellbeing.

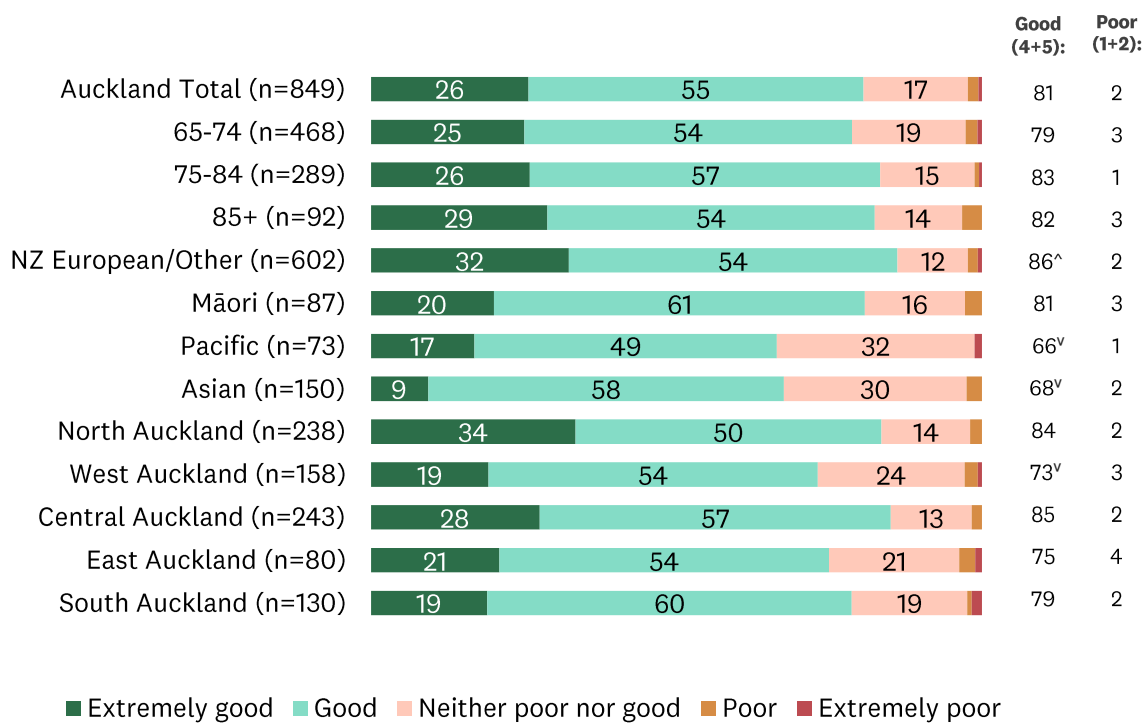


Overall quality of life

Most older Aucklanders (aged 65 years and above) rated their overall quality of life positively (81%). This proportion has remained stable over the 2016 and 2021 surveys, at 83% and 79% respectively. There were some subgroup differences:

- **Ethnic group:** New Zealand European/Other respondents were more positive (86%) and Pacific (66%) and Asian (68%) respondents were less positive about their quality of life than other respondents.
- **Area:** Older Aucklanders living in West Auckland were significantly less positive about their overall quality of life (73%).

Overall quality of life – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q40: Would you say that your overall quality of life is...

(1 – Extremely poor, 2 – Poor, 3 – Neither poor nor good, 4 – Good, 5 – Extremely good)

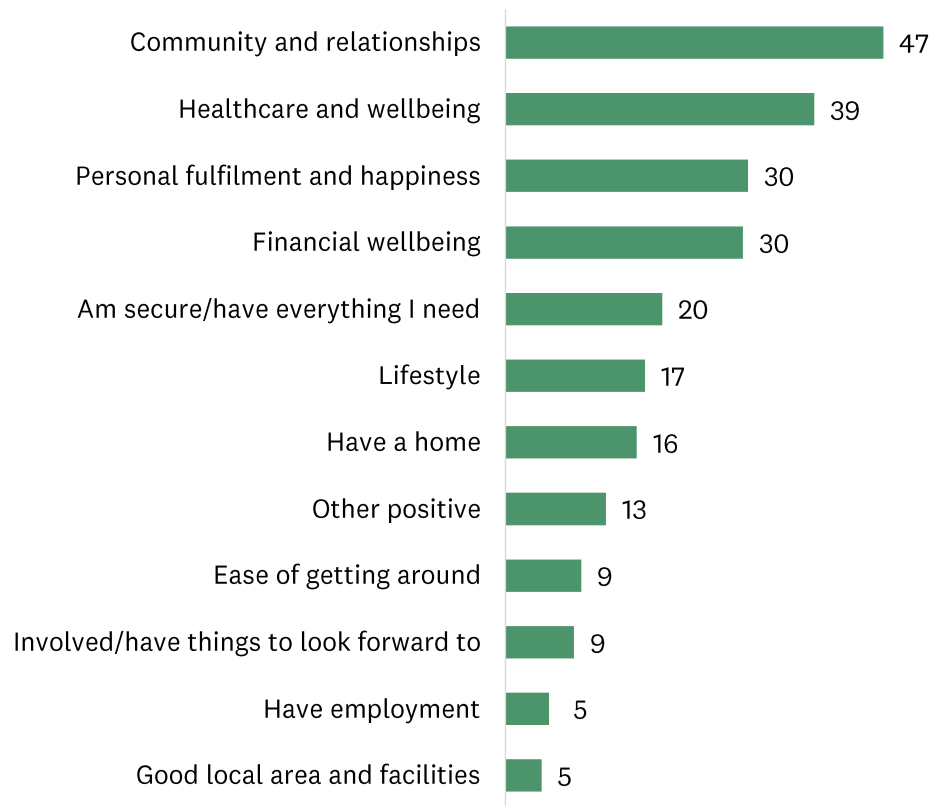
Reasons for having a positive quality of life

We asked respondents why they had rated their overall quality of life as ‘good’ or ‘extremely good’.

The top reason provided (by 47% of these 685 respondents) was that their community and relationships made their quality of life good, followed by their healthcare and wellbeing (39% of respondents), personal fulfilment and happiness (30% of respondents) and financial wellbeing (30% of respondents).

Examples of open-text comments covering these themes are provided on the following page.

Reasons for positive quality of life (%)



(Themes mentioned by 5% or more of respondents)

Base: All respondents who rated their quality of life positively (n=685)
Source: Q41: For what reasons did you rate your quality of life that way?
Note: Comments could be coded to more than one theme so percentages exceed 100.

Reasons for having a positive quality of life – comments

“I enjoy where I live and take advantage of community events. Easy to get to the city and cultural events. Happy to be retired but contribute as a volunteer to help others.”

Male, 70-74 years old

“Safe, comfortable, good environment to live in. Excellent access to public transport, supermarket, library, walks.”

Female, 65-69 years old

“I have financial security, and good health. I enjoy the company of other residents in our retirement village. The move to a village has opened up a community lifestyle that is not available to those still living in their homes.”

Male, 75-79 years old

“I live in a warm healthy house near walking areas, access to libraries, use my computer for hobbies, have hobbies like gardening, can travel a bit.”

Female, 70-74 years old

“I keep busy in retirement villages, wide range of friends/acquaintances, lots to do, close family contacts.”

Male, 75-79 years old

“I enjoy an independent lifestyle in an area with a good library and shopping centre, and nice areas for walking... and good neighbours.”

Female, 85-89 years old

“Clean environment, affordable and good access to health services, relatively safe place to live.”

Male, 65-69 years old

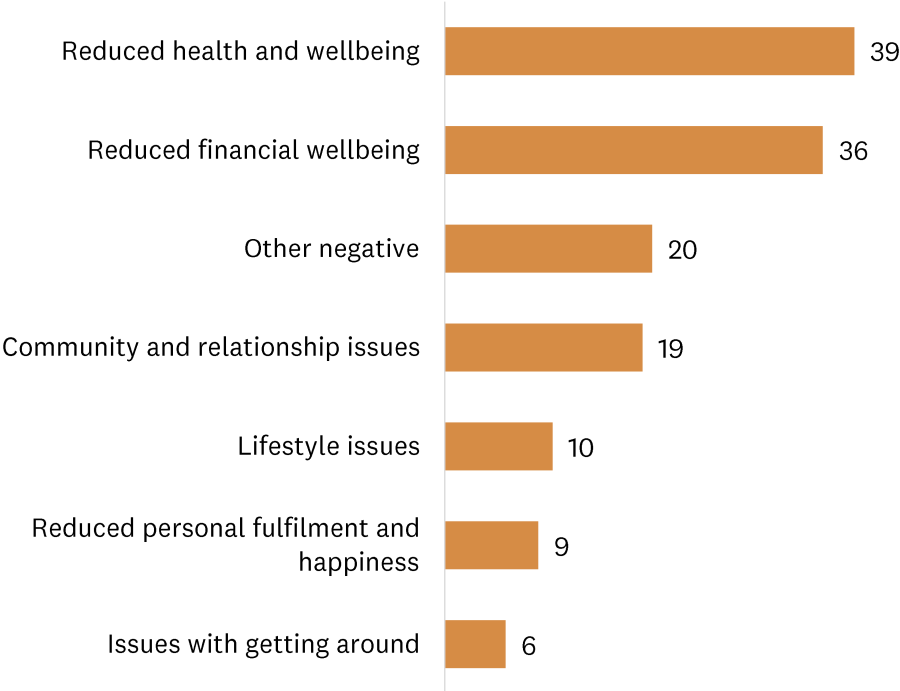
“I am safe, have excellent friends and family, enough money to live reasonably well, live in a beautiful area by a magnificent park and enjoy very good health.”

Female, 70-74 years old

Reasons for having a negative quality of life

A very small proportion of respondents rated their overall quality of life as ‘poor’ or ‘extremely poor’ (2% - 19 respondents). When asked why, reasons for this mainly included reduced health and wellbeing and reduced financial wellbeing. Issues with their communities and relationships were also highlighted. Smaller numbers noted lifestyle and mobility problems as negatively impacting their overall quality of life. Examples of comments covering these themes are shown on the following page.

Reasons for negative quality of life (%)



(Themes mentioned by 5% or more of respondents)

Base: All respondents who rated their quality of life positively (n=19)
Source: Q41: For what reasons did you rate your quality of life that way?
Note: Comments could be coded to more than one theme so percentages exceed 100.

Reasons for having a negative quality of life – comments

“When you live on a fixed income that pays you just enough to get through to the next payment, after paying for all the essentials, there's no room for incidentals. And they always occur.”

Male, 75-79 years old

“I am able to pay basic power, telecommunications and food bills but there is not a lot left over.”

Female, 75-79 years old

“We get by...cannot afford to splash out or do anything like going to concerts or the like. Any unexpected bill would cause a problem for us.”

Male, 80-84 years old

“I have to budget for every cent spent. Have a very poor diet because of the cost of food. Have to go to bed very early to be able to keep warm.”

Female, 85-89 years old

“Some fixed costs keep going up (specifically rates) without anyone actually getting anything as a result of it.”

Male, 65-69 years old

“I am working 30 hours a week and I am able to manage. I lost my job 2 weeks back and might struggle if I depend only upon superannuation, as it's hard to meet the ends.”

Female, 65-69 years old

“While I am in a comfortable situation and stable relationship, there is a general feeling of isolation. This is partially due to the lifestyle property which consumes time and energy.”

Male, 70-74 years old

“Due to my disability I cannot go out much and rely on my husband and close friends for companionship. I am not up to being involved with groups outside the house.”

Female, 80-84 years old

Kaumātua



We are tangata whenua, and our unique cultural identity, tikanga, and world view are recognised, respected, and guaranteed





However, they had mixed views on culture and identity. 57% agreed people in Auckland value them and others of their ethnicity. But fewer (48%) agreed they felt safe, respected, and supported in their community.



Māori respondents were well-connected and reported having strong social ties. Large proportions said they were visited by whānau and friends as often as they want (72%), had an opportunity to play a role as an elder in their community (65%), and trusted others (73%). Most (94%) rated their family and relationship health positively.



Most older Māori agreed their homes suited their needs and the needs of everyone in their household. They also agreed their homes met their accessibility needs. However, smaller proportions agreed their housing costs were affordable (52%) and that they could afford to heat their homes properly in winter (64%).



Older Māori also reported feeling a high level of safety, particularly in their homes. However, they felt less safe in their neighbourhood and also in their local town centre after dark.



They also had a high level of satisfaction with their natural environment. Many were satisfied with the quality of green spaces (86%) and cleanliness of public spaces (71%) in their local area.



A substantial proportion of older Māori said they were working for an employer or were self-employed (39%), higher than other ethnic groups. A smaller proportion said they had enough money to meet their everyday needs (48%, compared to 56% of all respondents). Some said they had often worried about their household's financial circumstances in the last 3 months.



Older Māori were digitally connected and included, with 97% saying they had access to the Internet and could use it. Likewise, they reported a high level of confidence in using the Internet for a range of activities.

At the 2023 Census, 14,403 older Aucklanders reported they were of Māori descent. The proportion of older Aucklanders of Māori descent grew by 48% between 2013 and 2018, and another 25% between 2018 and 2023 (compared to 26% and 10% respectively, for the overall Auckland population indicating they were of Māori descent).

Proportional growth among those of Māori descent aged 85 years and over was particularly high between the 2013 and 2018 Censuses (73% increase), compared to those aged 65 to 74 (44% increase) and 75-84 years (54% increase).

	2013	2018	2023	2013-2018	2018-2023
Age group	Number			Percentage change (%)	
0-14 years	53,736	64,251	65,679	20	2
15-29 years	41,562	54,837	62,088	32	13
30-64 years	60,843	76,581	85,725	26	12
65 years and over	7776	11,514	14,403	48	25
65-74 years	5478	7905	9786	44	24
75-84 years	1929	2973	3753	54	26
85 years and over	369	639	861	73	35
Total Māori descent – stated	163,920	207,183	227,898	26	10

Māori descent indicator of Aucklanders, by age group (2013-2023)

Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

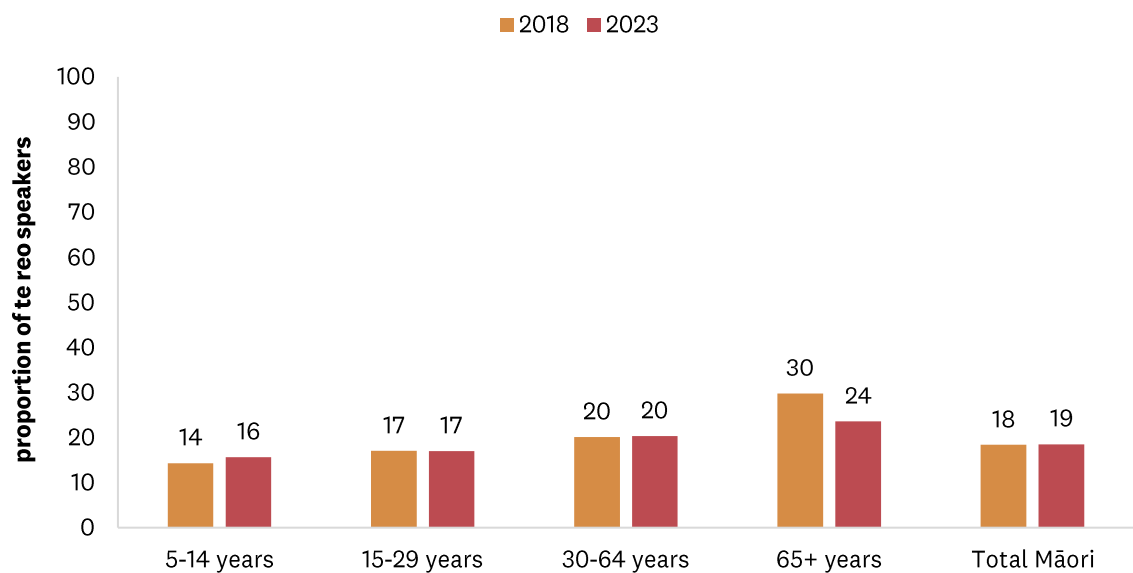
Of all older Aucklanders of Māori descent, 80% said they were also of Māori ethnicity (46% identified as Māori only, while 34% identified as Māori and at least one other ethnic group), and 20% said they were not of Māori ethnicity.

Of all older Aucklanders not of Māori descent, less than 1% said they were also of Māori ethnicity. While a very small group, it is important to consider them. It is possible these people identify as Māori for a variety of reasons, including being raised in a Māori family, marrying into a Māori family, or living in a Māori community.⁷

⁷ Kukutai, T. (2018). The problem of defining an ethnic group for public policy: Who is Māori and why does it matter? *Social Policy Journal*, 23, 86-108. <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj23/23problem-of-defining-an-ethnic-group-for-public-policy-who-is-maori-and-why-does-it-matter-p86-108.html>

Being able to speak and understand te reo Māori is an important indicator of immersion and engagement with te ao Māori. Assimilation policies in Aotearoa New Zealand resulted in the near elimination of te reo among older generations of Māori, resulting in the loss over time of te reo. There has been a resurgence and revitalisation of te reo in recent decades, although this is largely driven by rangatahi. Older Māori often carry the complex weight and cultural trauma associated with historical oppression.⁸

In 2023, around 24% of older Māori in Auckland reported they could speak te reo (slightly down from 30% in 2018). This remained the age group with the most common use of te reo, followed by those aged 30-64 years (20%). Apart from this, there was little change in reported ability among Māori in Auckland to speak te reo between the 2018 and 2023 Censuses.



Proportion of Māori Aucklanders able to speak te reo, by age group (2018, 2023) (%)
Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

⁸ Kukutai, T., & Pawar, S. (2017). Ngāi Tāmanuhiri: A demographic profile of te reo Māori speakers. National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis, The University of Waikato.



Culture and diversity

We are respected and able to stay connected, active, and engaged in our culture, identity, and customs



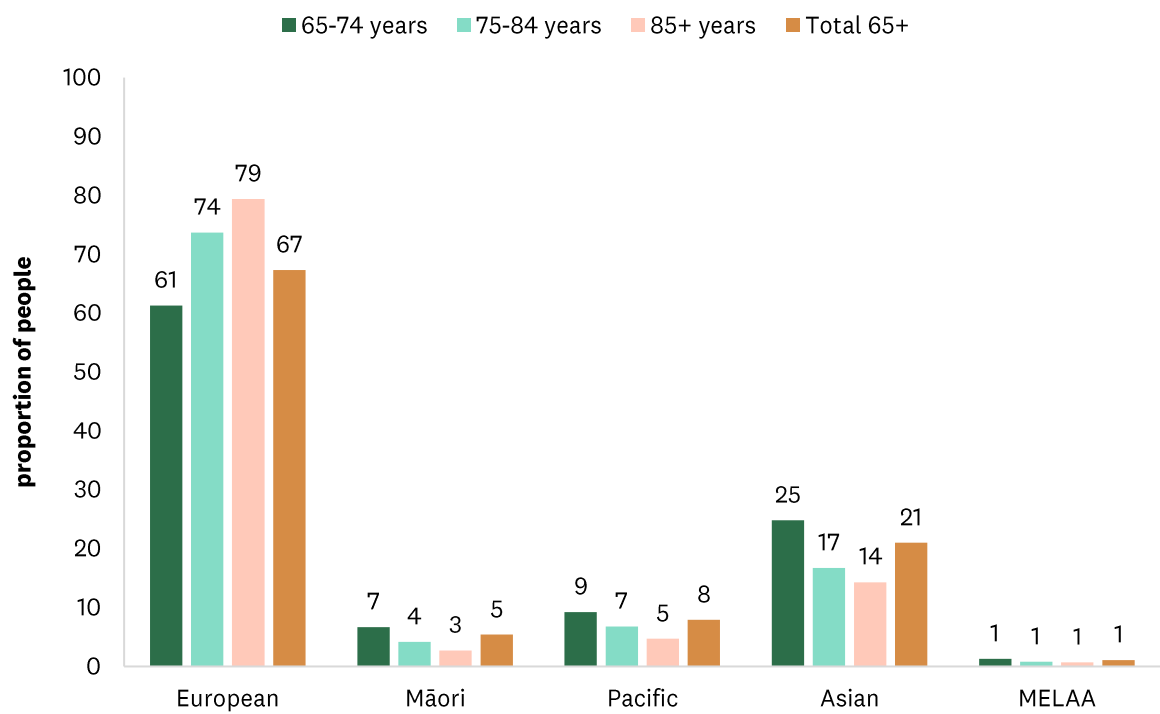
Ethnic composition

At the 2023 Census, 147,948 Aucklanders aged 65 years and over (67% of this total population) identified as European. Among the broad European category, the majority identified as New Zealand European (136,146), followed by British and Irish (4950) and Other European (3663).

The next largest broad ethnic group was Asian (21%), followed by Pacific (8%) and Māori (5%). Those identifying as Middle Eastern, Latin American, or African (MELAA) combined to 1%.

- Among the broad Asian group, most were Chinese (24,609 people) or Indian (13,257 people), followed by Korean (2619), Filipino (1557), and Sri Lankan (1191).
- Among the broad Pacific group, most were Samoan (8301 people), followed by Tongan (3741), Cook Islands Māori (2721), and Niuean (1584).

Older Europeans comprised the majority out of the broad ethnic groups, when broken down into three age groups: the ‘young-old’ (65-74 years), the ‘old’ (75-84 years), and the ‘old-old’ (85+ years).



Proportion of older Aucklanders in each ethnic group, by age (2023) (%)

Data source: Stats NZ, 2023 Census of Population and Dwellings

People could identify with more than one ethnicity, and categories are not exclusive. Percentages will exceed 100.

Ethnic composition

According to the New Zealand Census, the proportion of older Aucklanders identifying as European has declined over time. This is accompanied by a substantial numerical and proportional increase in those identifying as Asian. These trends are in line with the broader Auckland population.

The number of older Aucklanders identifying as Asian doubled in the ten years between 2013 and 2023. There have also been small proportional increases in those identifying as Māori or Pacific.

	2013	2018	2023	2013	2018	2023
Ethnicity	Number			Percentage		
European	120,312	137,778	147,948	78	73	67
Māori	6264	9141	11,907	4	5	5
Pacific	9792	13,563	17,394	6	7	8
Asian	18,924	31,353	46,221	12	17	21
MELAA	951	1563	2394	<1	<1	1
Total people stated	154,839	189,177	219,750			

Ethnicity of older Aucklanders (2013, 2018, 2023)

Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

People could identify with more than one ethnicity, and categories are not exclusive. Percentages will exceed 100.

Older Aucklanders’ 2026 survey sample

Unweighted results showed the sample was largely New Zealand European (63%). However, this represents a smaller proportion of the sample than in the 2021 survey (74%). Other ethnicities making up the sample included Māori (10%), Pacific (8%), and Asian (18%) respondents. We also asked respondents whether they were of Māori descent, and 12% of the sample indicated they were. Of these respondents, 87% indicated they knew their iwi.

When breaking down the Pacific and Asian respondents further:

- Pacific respondents:** Of the 73 respondents identifying with a Pacific ethnicity, 17 were Samoan, 22 were Cook Islands Māori, 9 were Tongan, 7 were Niuean, 10 were Fijian, and 4 identified with another Pacific ethnicity.
- Asian respondents:** Of the 150 respondents identifying with an Asian ethnicity, 76 were Indian, 71 were Chinese, 17 were Southeast Asian, 1 was Korean, 1 was Japanese, and 13 identified as Other Asian.

Languages spoken

Older Aucklanders speak a range of languages, which is another indication of their ethnic and cultural diversity.

Most older Aucklanders (88%) speak English. There is a considerable gap between the proportions who speak the two most common languages, as the next most commonly spoken language by older Aucklanders (Northern Chinese) is spoken by 5% of the total population. This is followed by Yue (4%) and Samoan (3%).

Between the 2013 and 2023 Censuses, there have been small increases in the proportion of older Aucklanders who speak Northern Chinese (from 2% to 5%) and Yue (from 2% to 4%).

Language	Number	Percentage (%)
English	193,761	88
Northern Chinese	10,614	5
Yue	7761	4
Samoan	7566	3
Sinitic not further defined	5529	3
Hindi	4473	2
Māori	3726	2
French	3693	2
Tongan	2964	1
German	2124	1
Panjabi	1713	1
Afrikaans	1656	1
Tagalog	1206	1
Spanish	1047	0
New Zealand Sign Language	564	0
Other	24,618	11
None	474	0
Total stated	219,750	100

Languages spoken by older Aucklanders (2023)

Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

People could speak more than one language, and categories are not exclusive. Percentages will exceed 100.

Birthplace

In 2023, almost half (46%, or 102,078 people) of older Aucklanders were born overseas. Of this group:

- Over one-third (37%, or 38,214 people) were born in Asia. The main countries of birth included China (16,047 people) and India (6276 people).
- Just under one-quarter (24%, or 24,345 people) were born in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Most of this group were born in England (19,434 people), followed by Scotland (2640 people).
- One-fifth (21%, or 21,144 people) were born in the Pacific Islands. The main countries included Samoa (7194 people), Fiji (6783 people), Tonga (3345 people), the Cook Islands (2148 people), and Niue (1167 people).

The majority of those born overseas had arrived in New Zealand ten years or more prior to the 2023 Census (91%, or 92,661 people). A slightly larger proportion of older Aucklanders who had arrived less than ten years earlier were Asian (14%, or 5184 people).

Place of birth	<5 years since arrival	5+ years since arrival	Total people stated	Percentage of total stated (%)
Australia	135	2778	2943	3
Pacific Islands	1149	19,440	21,144	21
United Kingdom and Ireland	639	23,532	24,345	24
Europe (excl. UK and Ireland)	276	5895	6225	6
North America	147	1584	1767	2
Asia	5184	32,751	38,214	37
Middle East and Africa	678	6141	6846	7
Other	51	531	594	1
Total people stated	8253	92,661	102,078	100

Birthplace (broad geographic area) of older Aucklanders and years since arrival (2023)

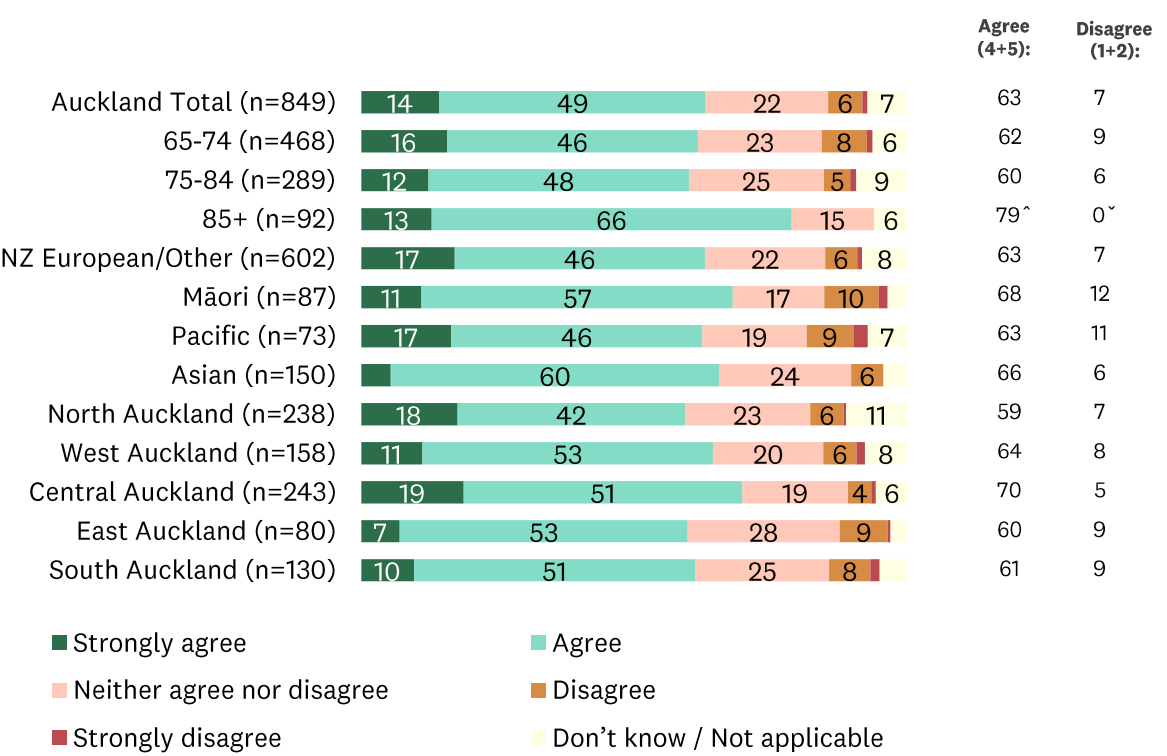
Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

Perceptions of acceptance

Around three in five (63%) older Aucklanders agreed they felt accepted and valued for their ethnicity by others in Auckland. Significantly more respondents aged 85 years and over (79%) agreed they felt this way, with no one in this age group disagreeing with this statement.

One in five (22%) neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement. This proportion was similar across most subgroups analysed.

Perceptions of acceptance – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q26: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: People in Auckland accept and value me and others of my ethnicity

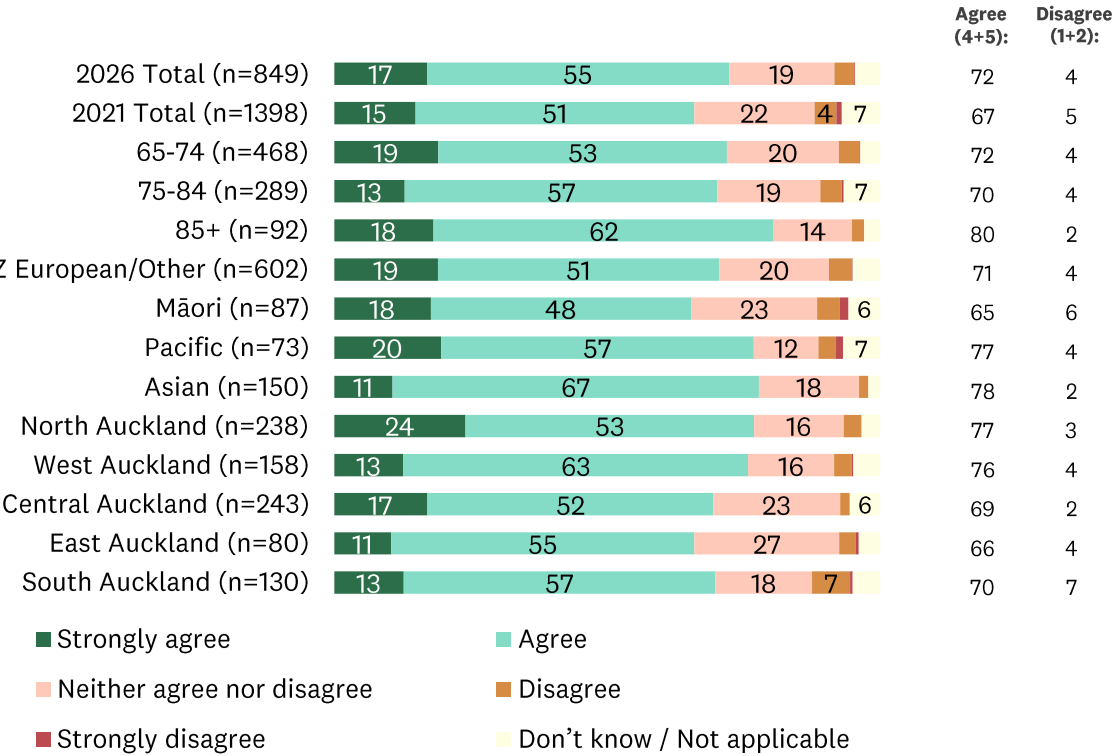
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of safety and support

When asked if they felt safe, respected, and supported in their local community, 72% of respondents agreed. This is a small increase since the 2021 survey, in which 67% of respondents agreed with this statement.

There were no significant differences by age band, ethnic group, or geographic area – agreement with this question was generally high for all subgroups analysed.

Perceptions of safety and support – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q26: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: I feel safe, respected, and supported in my local community

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

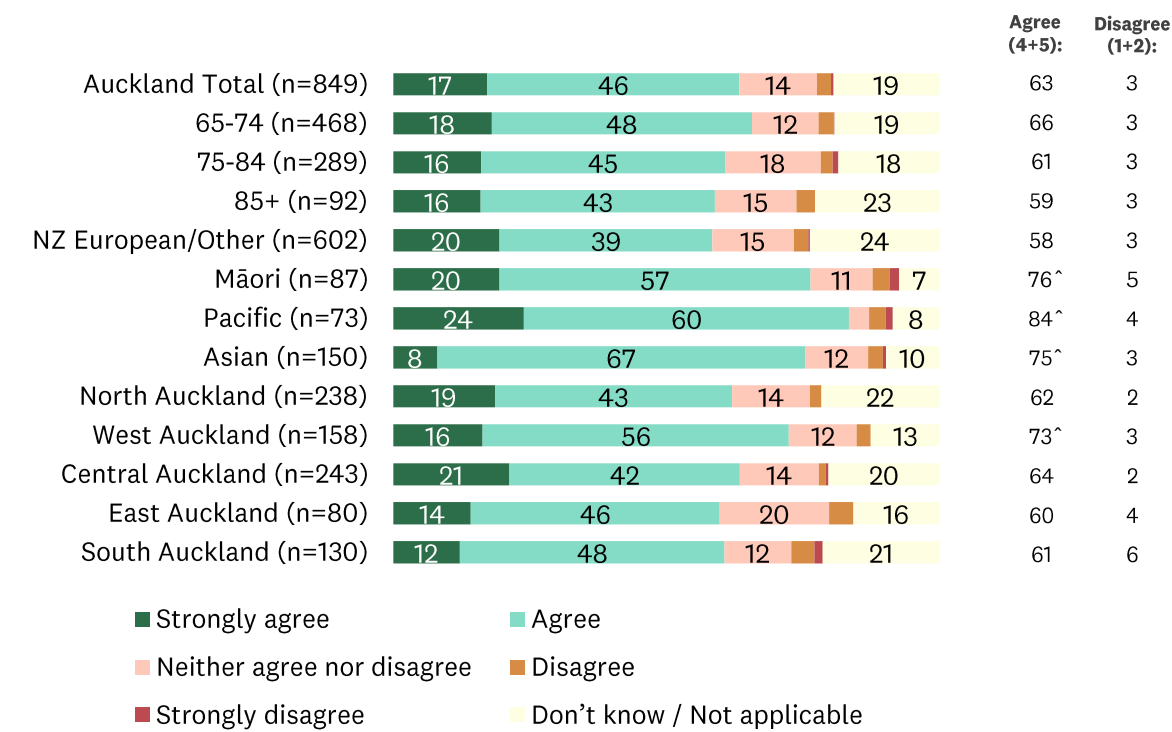
Ability to participate in events: own culture

Respondents were asked about their ability to participate in events, activities, and traditions from their culture as often as they wanted. Overall, 63% of respondents agreed they had these opportunities. This shows no difference to the 2021 survey, in which 67% of respondents agreed with this statement. Only 3% disagreed with this statement.

In 2026, significant differences were apparent for:

- **Ethnic group:** Significantly more Pacific (84%), Māori (76%), and Asian (75%) respondents agreed.
- **Area:** Significantly more West Auckland respondents agreed with this statement (73%).

Ability to participate in own culture – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q26: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: I can participate in events, activities and traditions from my culture as often as I want
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

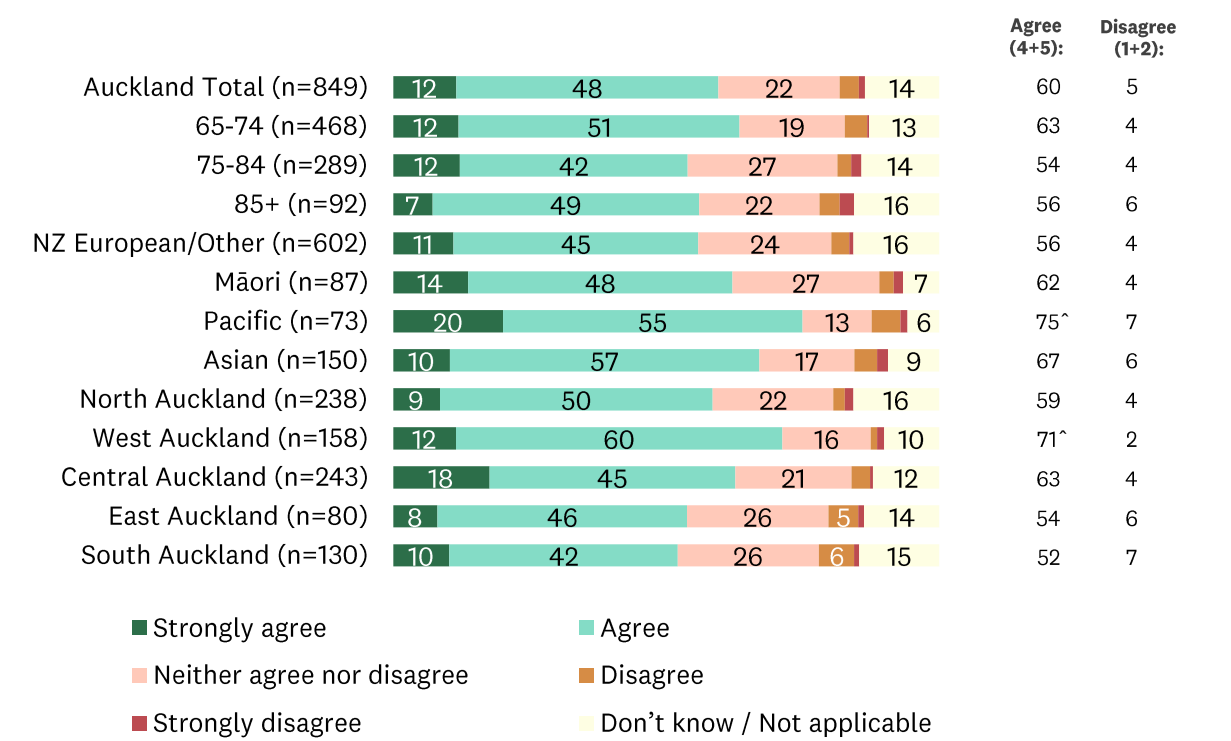
Ability to participate in events: other cultures

Respondents were also asked about their ability to participate in events and activities with other cultures and with people of all ages as often as they wanted. Three in five (60%) agreed they had these opportunities and only 5% disagreed. Again, this is similar to the 2021 survey, in which 64% agreed and 4% disagreed.

Significant differences were apparent for:

- **Ethnic group:** Significantly more Pacific respondents (75%) agreed with this statement, compared to other ethnic groups.
- **Area:** As with the previous question, more respondents from West Auckland (71%) agreed they had these opportunities, compared to those living in other areas.

Ability to participate in other cultures – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)

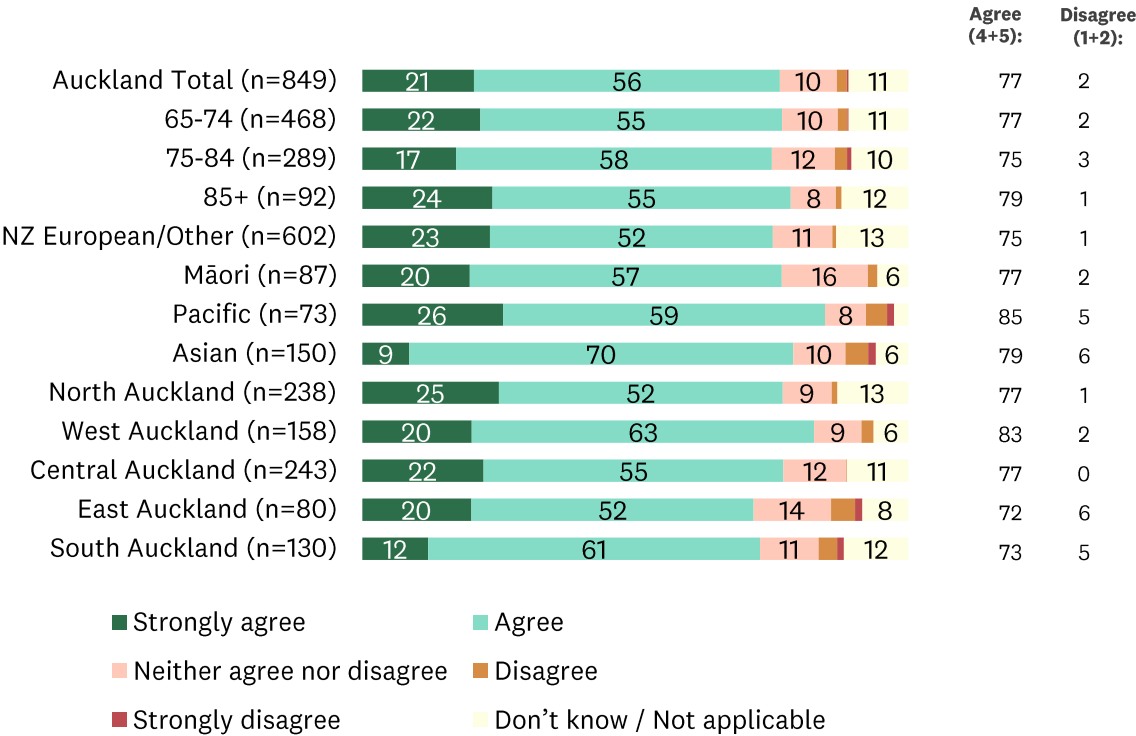


Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q26: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: I can participate in events and activities with other cultures and people of all ages as often as I want
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

Comfort expressing identity in public

A large proportion of respondents agreed they felt comfortable dressing in a way that expresses their identity in public (77%). This was similar to the 2021 survey (74%). There were similar levels of agreement across all subgroups analysed (no statistically significant differences were found).

Comfort expressing identity in public – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

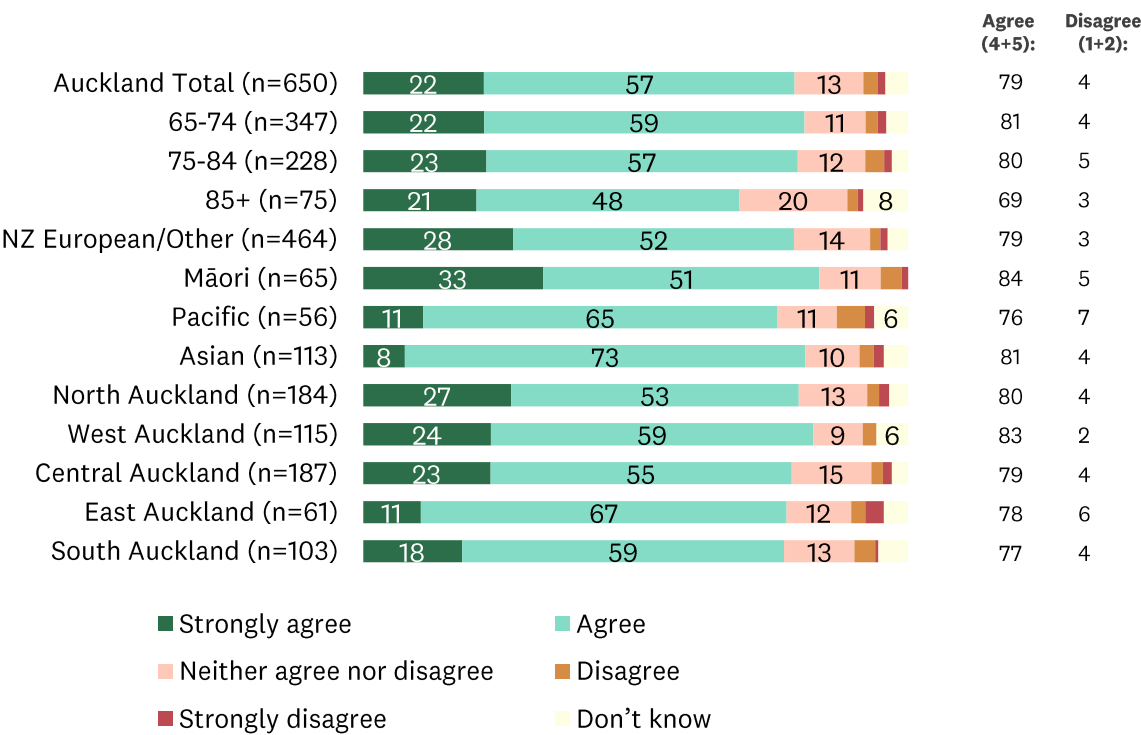
Source: Q26: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: I feel comfortable dressing in a way that expresses my identity in public (e.g. individuality, social, cultural or faith)

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Culturally appropriate services:
Being treated with kindness

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their experiences with Auckland Council services (such as libraries and community centres) in the 12 months prior to completing this survey. Of those reporting an interaction with council services, 79% agreed they had been treated with kindness, understanding, and respect. This is similar to the 77% who agreed in the 2021 survey. There were no significant differences across subgroups.

Being treated with kindness – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (who interacted with council services in the last 12 months) (n=650)

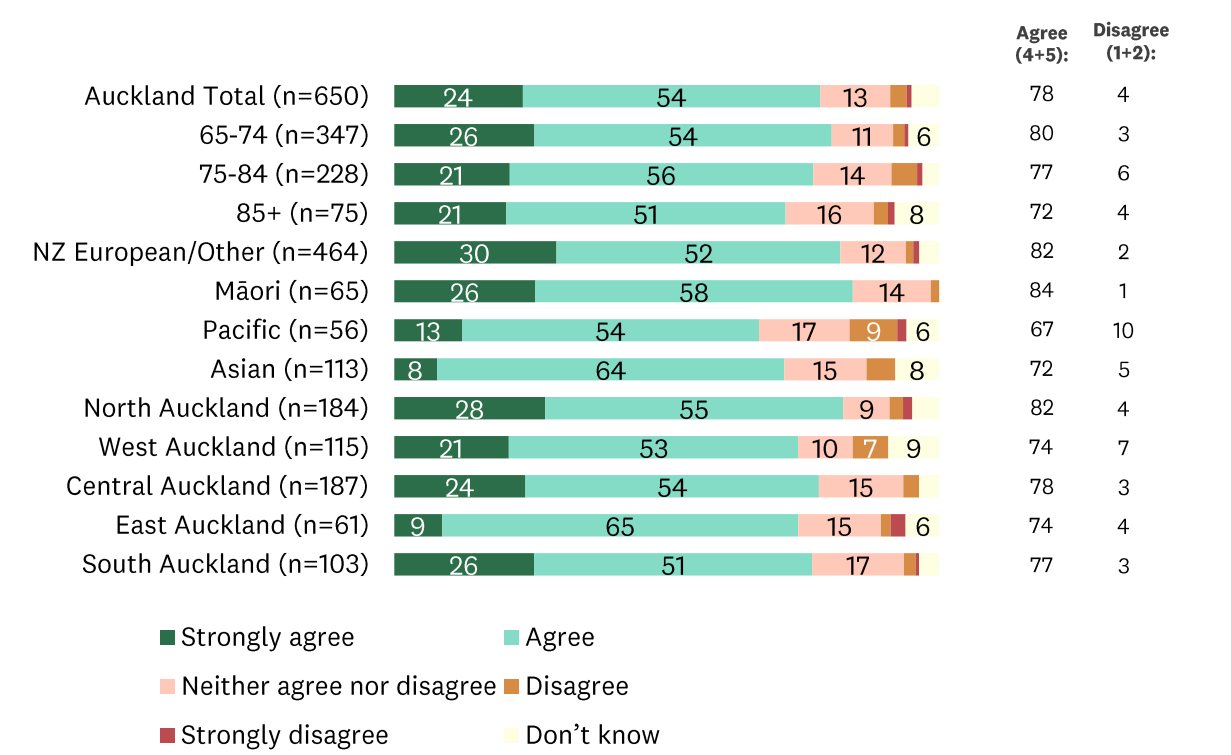
Source: Q28: Thinking about experiences you have had with Auckland Council services (e.g. libraries, community centres, recreational and leisure centres, events, etc.) in the last 12 months, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements. I feel that Auckland Council services I interacted with: Treated me with kindness, understanding, and respect

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 97 – I haven’t interacted with any Auckland Council services in the last 12 months

Culturally appropriate services:
Communication in preferred language

Older Aucklanders were asked if council services had communicated with them in their preferred language during these interactions. Over three-quarters (78%) agreed they had, showing no change since the 2021 survey (77%). There were no significant differences found among different respondent groups.

Communication in preferred language – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (who interacted with council services in the last 12 months) (n=650)

Source: Q28: Thinking about experiences you have had with Auckland Council services (e.g. libraries, community centres, recreational and leisure centres, events, etc.) in the last 12 months, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements. I feel that Auckland Council services I interacted with: Communicated with me in my preferred language (verbally or written)

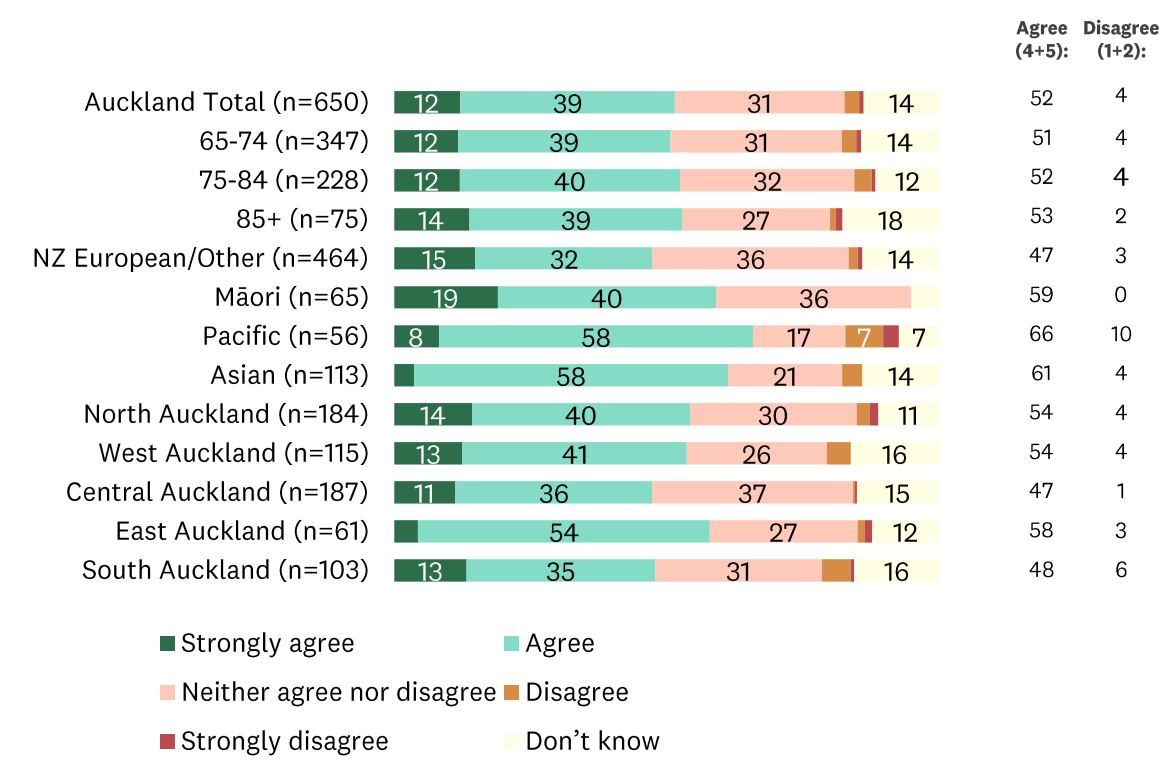
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 97 – I haven’t interacted with any Auckland Council services in the last 12 months

Culturally appropriate services:
Meeting cultural needs

Respondents were asked if council services had met their cultural needs during these interactions. Around half (52%) of respondents agreed with this statement, similar to the 56% who agreed in the 2021 survey.

There were no statistically significant differences across subgroups for this question.

Meeting cultural needs – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (who interacted with council services in the last 12 months) (n=650)

Source: Q28: Thinking about experiences you have had with Auckland Council services (e.g. libraries, community centres, recreational and leisure centres, events, etc.) in the last 12 months, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements. I feel that Auckland Council services I interacted with: Met my cultural needs (e.g. had gender-appropriate facilities, dietary requirements, asked me how to say my name)

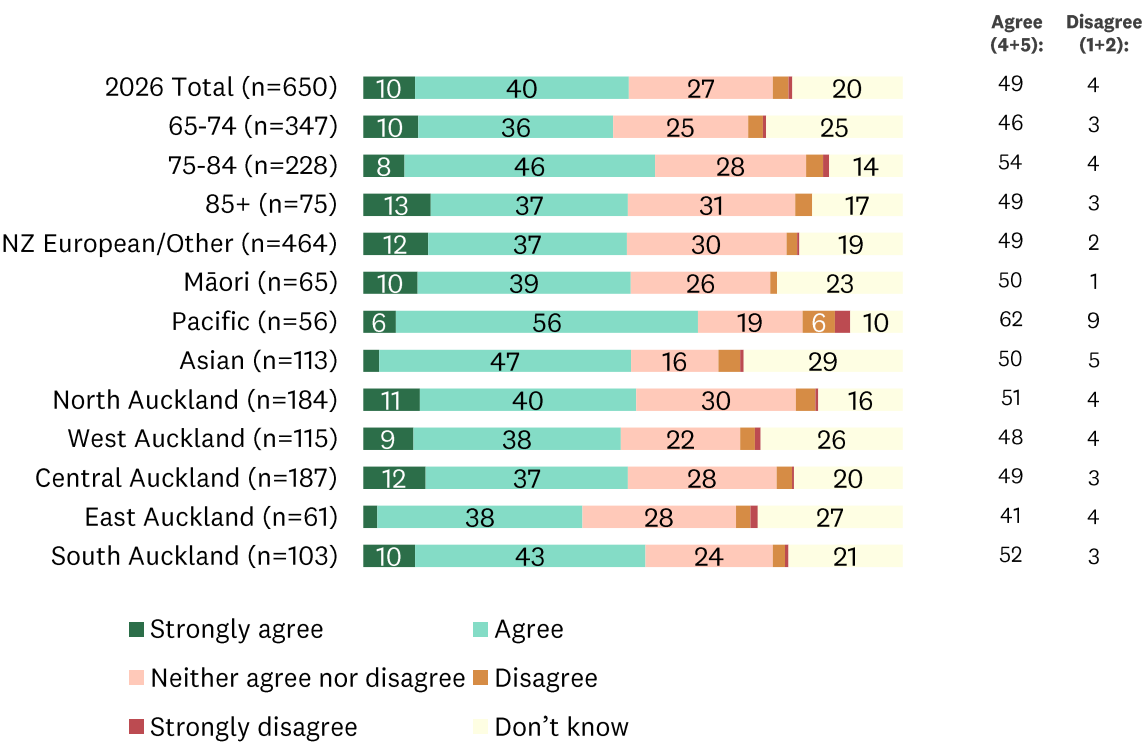
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 97 – I haven’t interacted with any Auckland Council services in the last 12 months

Culturally appropriate services:
Service accessibility

Finally, we asked respondents whether they found council services to be accessible, for example for those hard of hearing, who had low vision, or were wheelchair accessible. Just under half (49%) of respondents agreed with this statement – lower than the 2021 survey, in which 58% of respondents agreed.

No statistically significant differences were found among subgroups.

Service accessibility – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (who interacted with council services in the last 12 months) (n=650)

Source: Q28: Thinking about experiences you have had with Auckland Council services (e.g. libraries, community centres, recreational and leisure centres, events, etc.) in the last 12 months, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements. I feel that Auckland Council services I interacted with: Are accessible (e.g. for hard of hearing or low vision, has wheelchair access)

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 97 – I haven’t interacted with any Auckland Council services in the last 12 months

Te taiao



We live in healthy natural and built environments that provide public amenities that are safe and encourage us to stay active

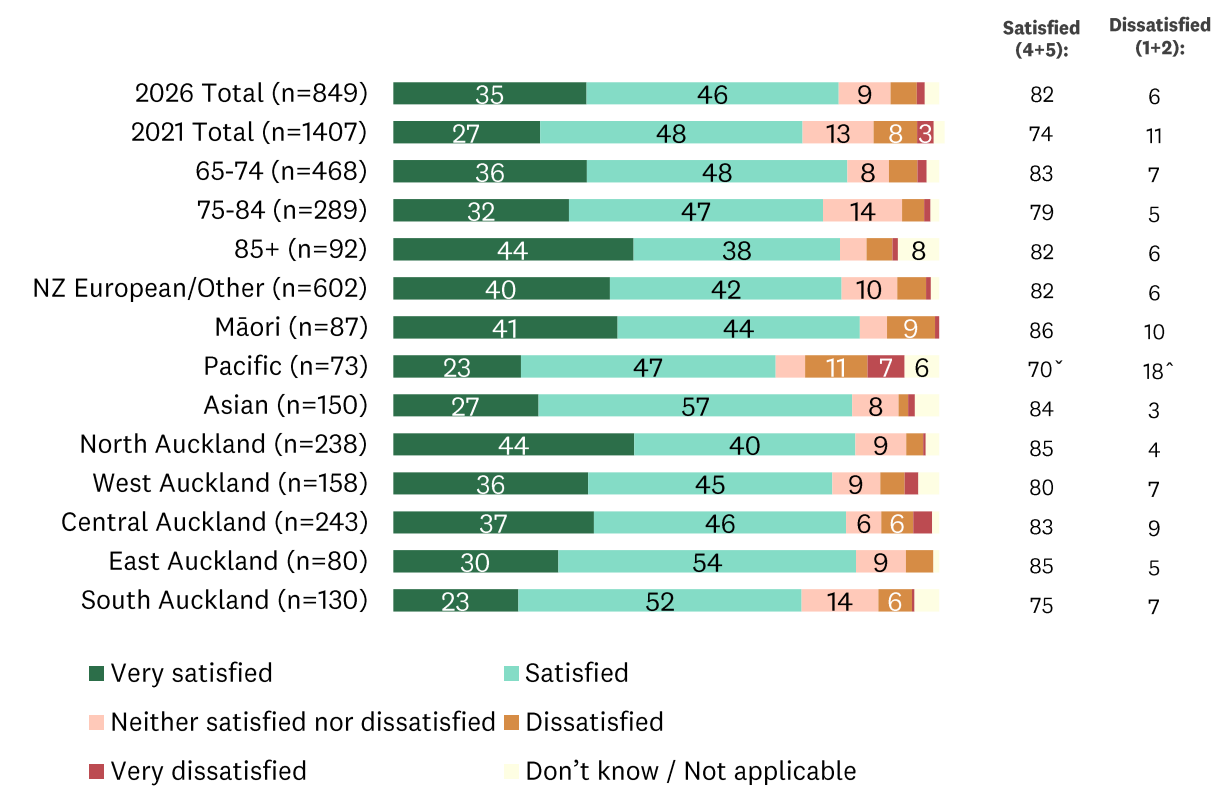


Quality of green spaces

Four in five (82%) respondents agreed they were satisfied with the quality of green spaces in their local area. This was a larger proportion compared to those who were satisfied with this in the 2021 survey (74%).

Significantly fewer Pacific respondents (70%) reported satisfaction with the quality of green spaces in their local area and were also more likely to express dissatisfaction (18%, compared to 6% of all respondents).

Quality of green spaces – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

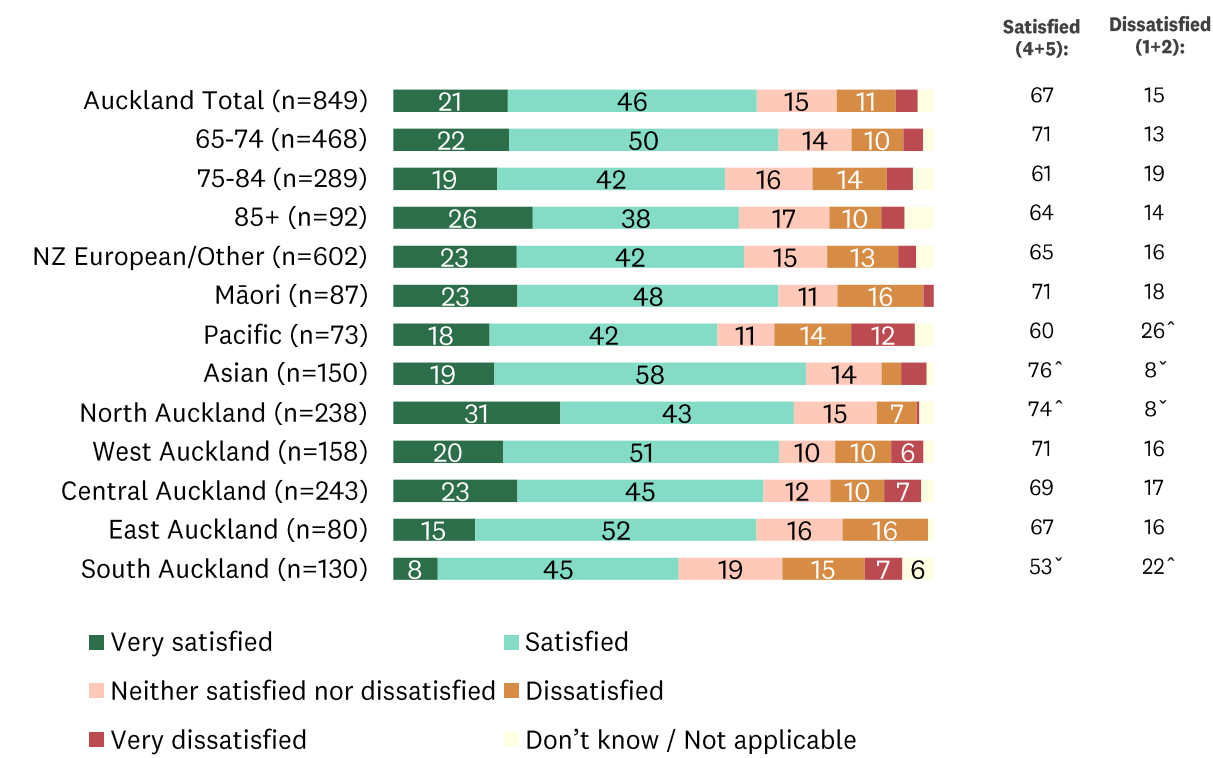
Source: Q14: How satisfied are you with the following in your local area?: The quality of green spaces (e.g. parks, community gardens, reserves, playgrounds, trees and plants around streets, etc.) (1 – Very dissatisfied, 2 – Dissatisfied, 3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 – Satisfied, 5 – Very satisfied, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

Cleanliness of public spaces

Two-thirds (67%) of respondents were satisfied with the cleanliness of public spaces in their local area and 15% were dissatisfied. This is again similar to the 2021 survey, in which 63% of respondents were satisfied and 20% were dissatisfied. Notably, there were significant differences for some groups:

- **Ethnic group:** Pacific respondents were more likely to be dissatisfied with this (26%), compared to other ethnic groups (15%). Meanwhile, Asian respondents were more satisfied (76%) compared to others.
- **Area:** Respondents living in North Auckland were more satisfied (74%), while those in South Auckland were less satisfied (53%), compared to others.

Cleanliness of public spaces – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q14: How satisfied are you with the following in your local area?: The cleanliness of public spaces (e.g. roads and footpaths, parks, town squares)

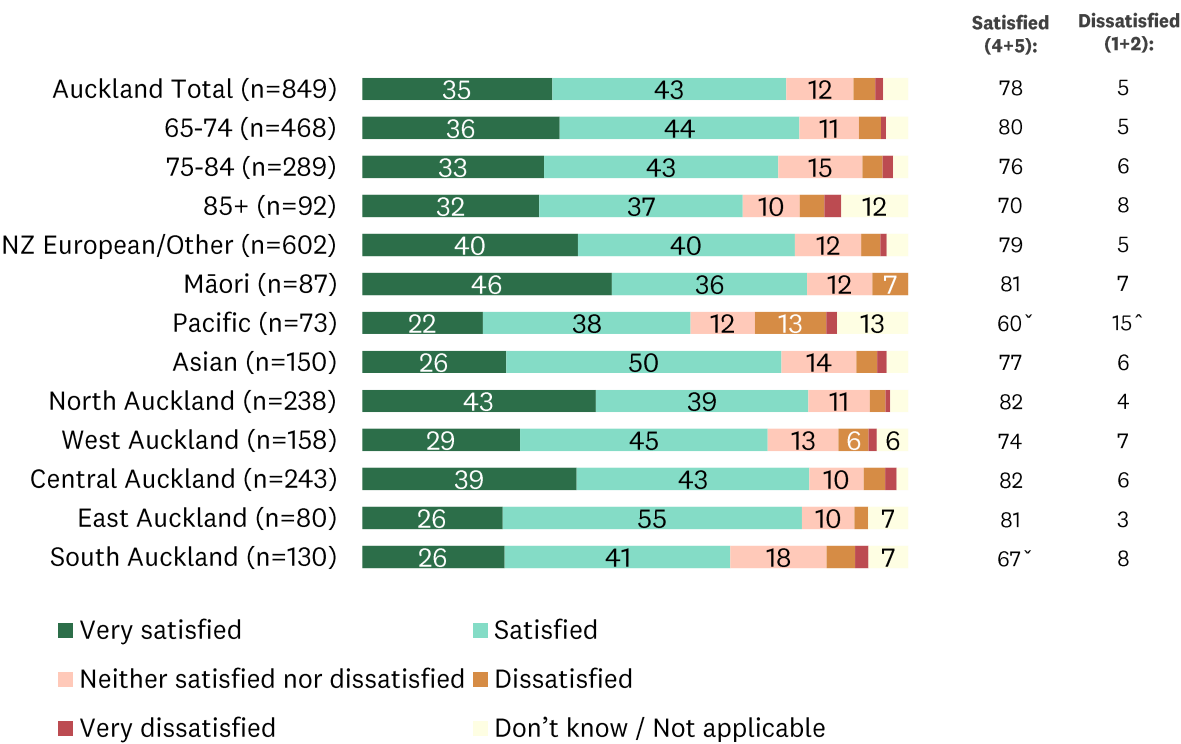
(1 – Very dissatisfied, 2 – Dissatisfied, 3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 – Satisfied, 5 – Very satisfied, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Accessibility of green spaces

Respondents were asked a new question in the 2026 survey, around the ease of getting to and using green space. Over three-quarters (78%) said they were satisfied with this, while only 5% were dissatisfied.

There were high levels of satisfaction with the accessibility of green spaces across most groups. However, Pacific respondents (60%), and those living in South Auckland (67%) were less satisfied with this compared to all respondents.

Accessibility of green spaces – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

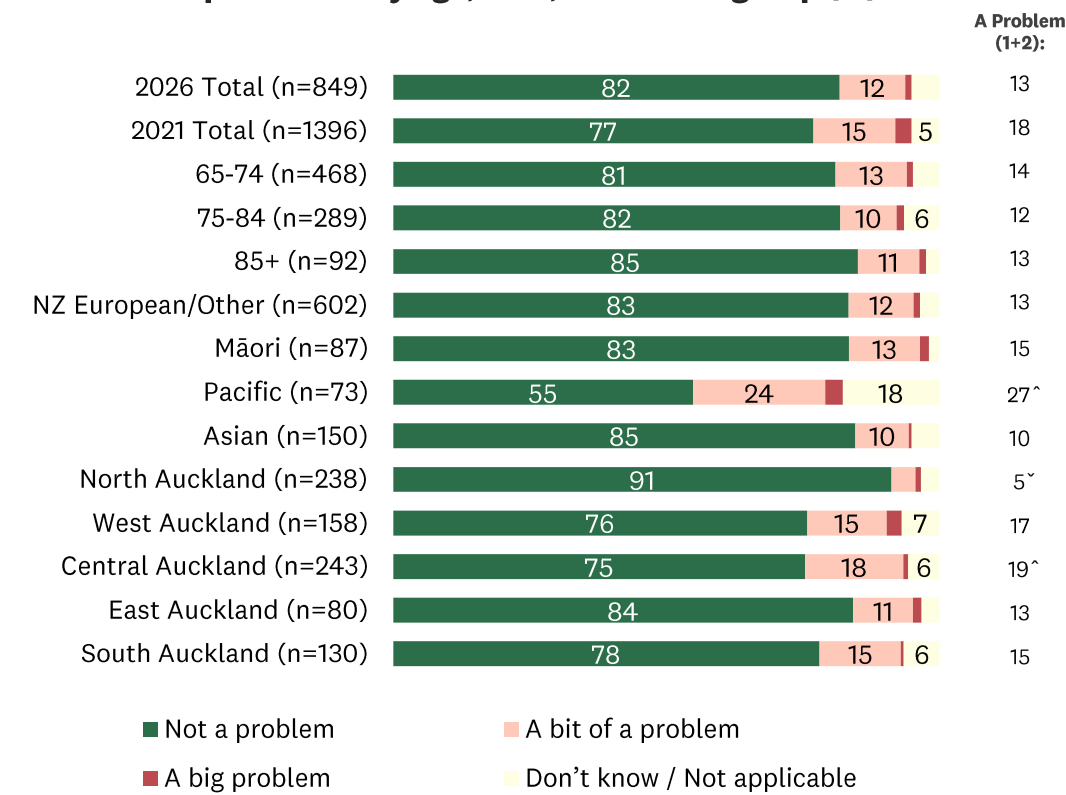
Source: Q14: How satisfied are you with the following in your local area?: The ease of getting to and using green space (e.g. I can get there easily, it is easy to walk/move around)
(1 – Very dissatisfied, 2 – Dissatisfied, 3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 – Satisfied, 5 – Very satisfied, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of air pollution

Respondents were asked about their perceptions of air pollution in their local area in the 12 months prior to the survey. Around one in ten (13%) reported that air pollution had been a problem in their local area during this time. This is a smaller proportion compared to the 2021 survey (18%), showing improvement in positive perceptions of air pollution.

Pacific respondents were significantly more likely than others to say that air pollution had been a problem in their local area (27%), as were respondents living in Central Auckland (19%). Meanwhile, significantly fewer respondents living in North Auckland (5%) said that air pollution had been a problem in their local area.

Perceived air pollution – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q15: To what extent, if at all, has each of the following been a problem in your local area in the last 12 months?: Air pollution

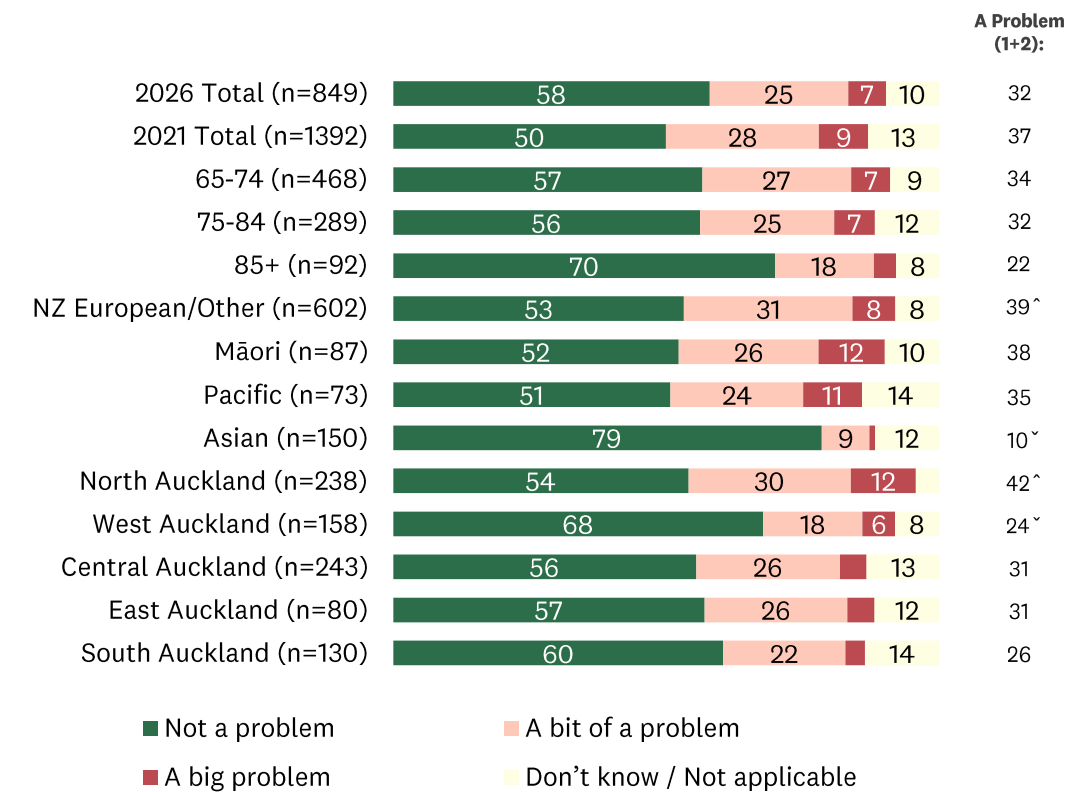
(1 – A big problem, 2 – A bit of a problem, 3 – Not a problem, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of water pollution

Respondents were also asked about their perceptions of water pollution in their local area in the 12 months prior to the survey. Perceptions of this as a problem were much higher (32%) than air pollution. However, this is a slightly smaller proportion compared to the 2021 survey (37%), potentially also showing improvement in positive perceptions of water pollution.

New Zealand European/Other respondents were significantly more likely than others to say that water pollution had been a problem in their local area (39%), as were respondents living in North Auckland (42%). Meanwhile, significantly fewer Asian respondents (10%) and those living in West Auckland (24%) said that water pollution had been a problem in their local area.

Perceived water pollution – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q15: To what extent, if at all, has each of the following been a problem in your local area in the last 12 months?: Water pollution, including pollution in streams, rivers, lakes and in the sea (1 – A big problem, 2 – A bit of a problem, 3 – Not a problem, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

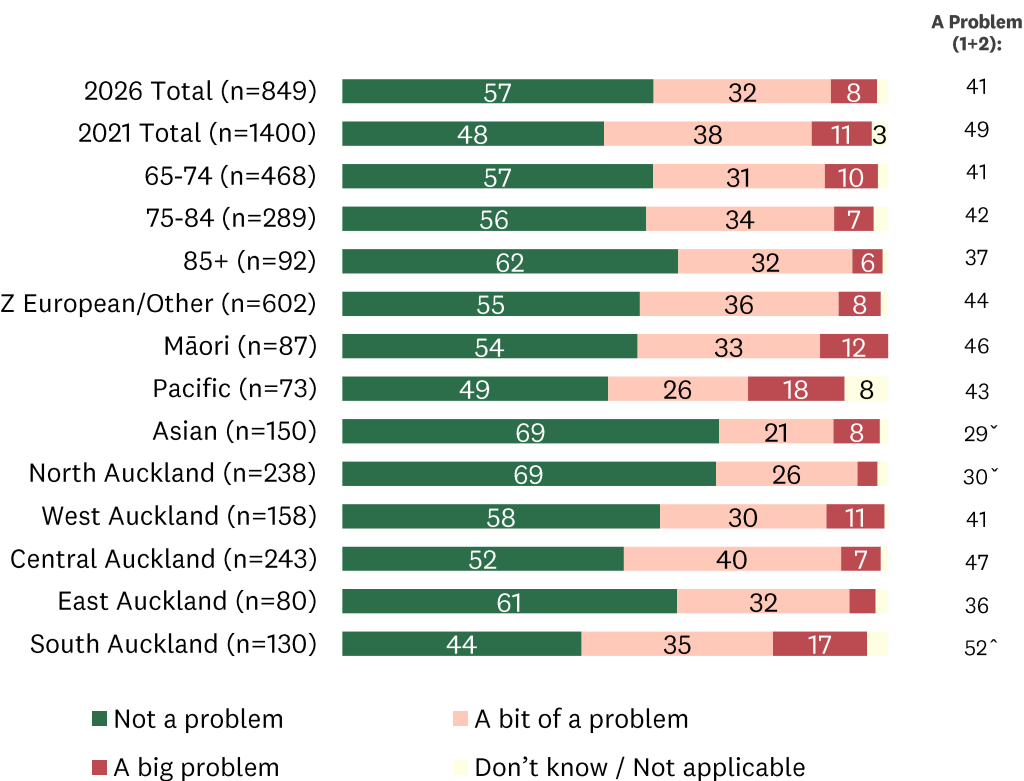
Perceptions of noise pollution

Finally, respondents were asked about their perceptions of noise pollution in their local area in the 12 months prior to the survey. This was the most common problem for older Aucklanders, with two in five (41%) reporting this as a problem.

The proportion of respondents who reported it as a problem has also declined since the 2021 survey, when 49% said it had been a problem in their local area.

South Auckland respondents were significantly more likely than others to say that noise pollution had been a problem in their local area (52%). Meanwhile, significantly fewer Asian respondents (29%) and those living in North Auckland (30%) said that noise pollution had been a problem in their local area.

Perceived noise pollution – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q15: To what extent, if at all, has each of the following been a problem in your local area in the last 12 months?: Noise pollution

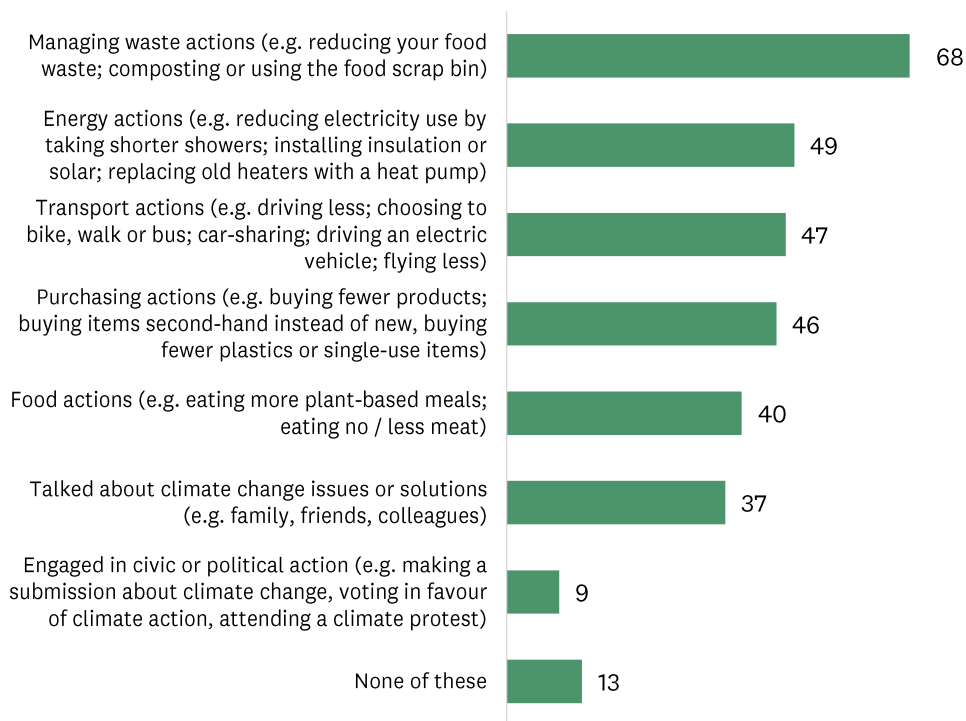
(1 – A big problem, 2 – A bit of a problem, 3 – Not a problem, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Environmental actions

Respondents were asked a new question in the 2026 survey about what (if any) environmental actions they had taken on an ongoing basis in the 12 months prior to the survey. The majority (85%) reported taking at least one type of action. Some significant differences were noted in types of actions taken:

- **Managing waste:** European (73%) respondents were more likely than others (68%) to undertake actions like reducing waste, composting, or using the food scraps bin.
- **Energy actions:** Māori respondents (61%) were more likely than the rest of the sample (49%) to undertake actions like reducing or otherwise managing their energy use.
- **Transport actions:** Residents living in Central Auckland (60%), as well as those living in apartments (61%), were more likely than others (47%) to take transport-related actions. Those aged 85 years and over (35%) were less likely.

Environmental actions – Auckland total (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q16: Over the last 12 months, what environmental actions (if any) have you taken on an ongoing basis?

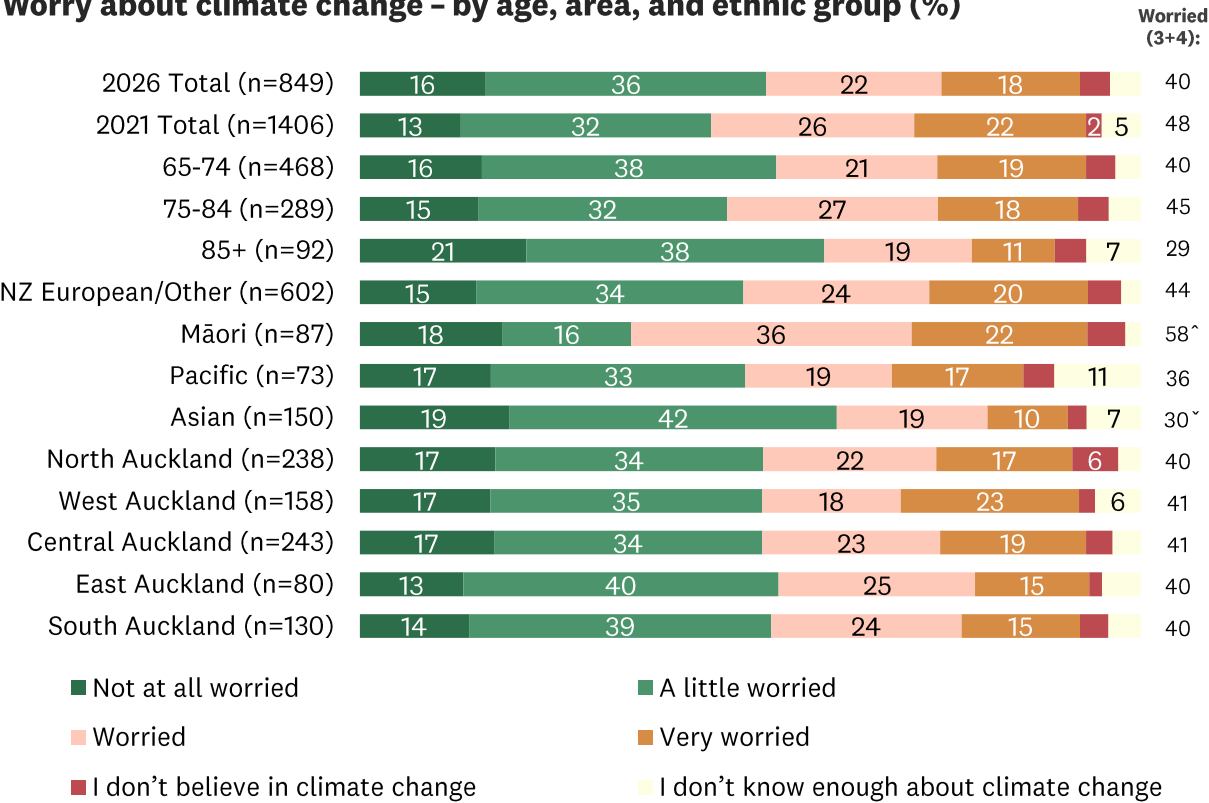
Note: Respondents could select more than one option so percentages exceed 100.

Worry about climate change

Two in five respondents (40%) said they were worried or very worried about the impact of climate change on Auckland residents and the future of Auckland. This is a lower proportion compared to the 2021 survey (48%). Meanwhile, the proportion of those who are ‘not at all worried’ or ‘a little worried’ has increased since the 2021 survey (48% to 52%). Small proportions said they did not believe in climate change (4%) or did not know enough about climate change to feel worried (4%).

Māori respondents were significantly more likely to say they were worried or very worried (58%) compared to others and Asian respondents (30%) were significantly less likely to feel worried.

Worry about climate change – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)

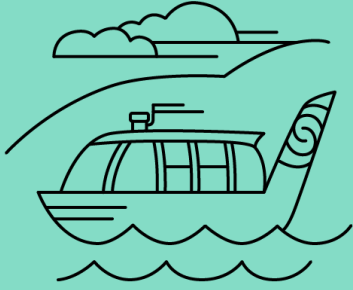


Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q17: To what extent do you personally worry about the impact of climate change on the future of Auckland and residents of Auckland?

(1 – Not at all worried, 2 – A little worried, 3 – Worried, 4 – Very worried, 97 – I don't know enough about climate change, 98 – I don't believe in climate change)

Transport



We can get to where we want to go in a comfortable and timely manner regardless of our abilities, mode of transport, income, time of day, weather or season, and distance to our destination

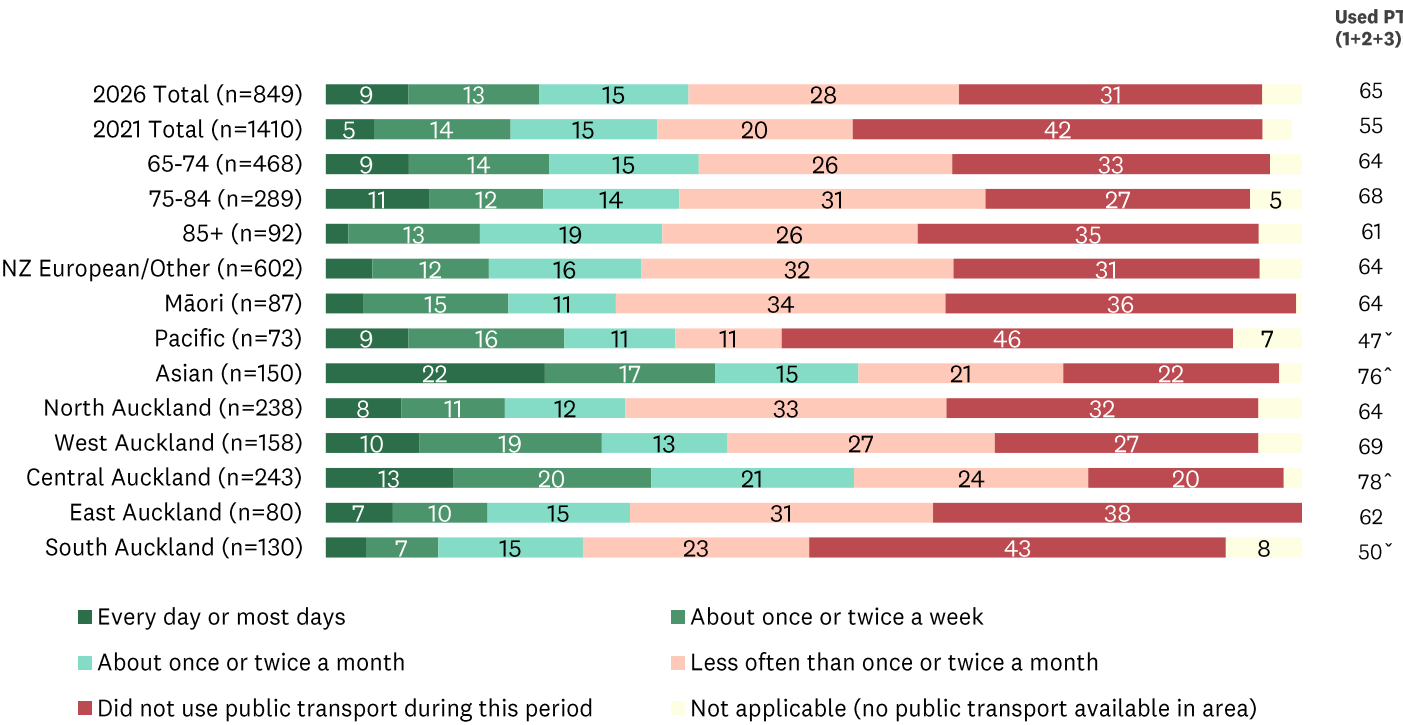


Use of public transport

Older Aucklanders’ reported use of public transport has increased substantially since the 2021 survey. In 2026, 65% of respondents said they had used public transport in the 12 months prior to the survey, compared to 2021, when 55% had used public transport in the 12 months prior to the August 2021 COVID-19 lockdown and 22% had used it post-lockdown. This result is also slightly higher than in 2016, when 61% had used public transport in the 12 months prior to the survey.

In 2026, Asian respondents (76%) and those living in Central Auckland (78%) were significantly more likely than others to have used public transport. Meanwhile, Pacific respondents (47%) and those living in South Auckland (50%) were less likely to have used public transport.

Use of public transport – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q10: In the last 12 months, how often have you used public transport in Auckland?

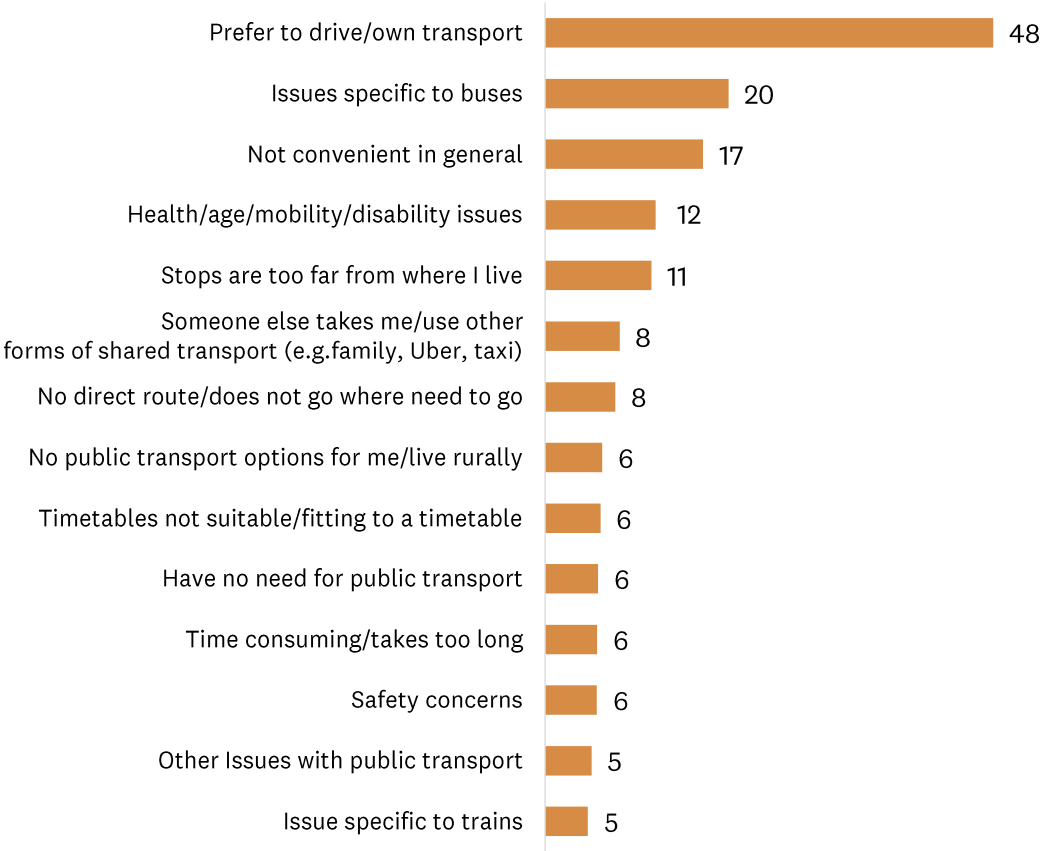
(1 – Every day or most days, 2 – About once or twice a week, 3 – About once or twice a month, 4 – Less often than once or twice a month, 5 – Did not use public transport during this period, 98 – Not applicable [no public transport available in area])

Reasons for not using public transport

In 2026, we asked those who had not used public transport in the 12 months before the survey to tell us why, in their own words. Just under half (49%) said they preferred to drive. Other issues were highlighted around bus-specific issues such as safety, dogs, and carrying groceries (noted by 20% of respondents); lack of convenience of public transport (17%); health, age, mobility or disability issues that made taking public transport challenging (12%); and distance of public transport stops from their homes (11%).

Examples of open-text comments relating to these themes are shown on the following page.

Reasons for not using public transport (%)



(Themes mentioned by 5% or more of respondents)

Base: All respondents who did not use public transport in the last 12 months (n=253)

Source: Q11: And why did you not use public transport in this time period?

Note: Comments could be coded to more than one theme so percentages exceed 100.

Reasons for not using public transport – comments

“Unreliable, takes too long, does not go where I want to go, cannot transport goods or groceries on it.”

Male, 70-74 years old

“Not convenient to go long distances across Auckland on the weekend to see friends - would take me all day. Concerns about safety and dogs on buses.”

Female, 70-74 years old

“Inconvenient and takes too long. No convenient routes to places I want to go.”

Male, 80-84 years old

“I prefer to drive my car. I don’t feel safe on public transport.”

Female, 65-69 years old

“The nearest bus stop is too far to walk comfortably (hills / distance). We each have a car and find that best for us.”

Male, 75-79 years old

“We use our own private car once or twice a week because the nearest bus stop too far from my house. Find it hard to walk down in rainy weather.”

Female, 70-74 years old

“My car is far more convenient, so I do not need to worry about getting to a station or at the right time. Groceries on public transport is difficult and annoying for others.”

Male, 70-74 years old

“It is quite a walk to the bus or train at my age and I would need to use several buses and/or trains to go to places I visit or shop at. Therefore it is more convenient to drive.”

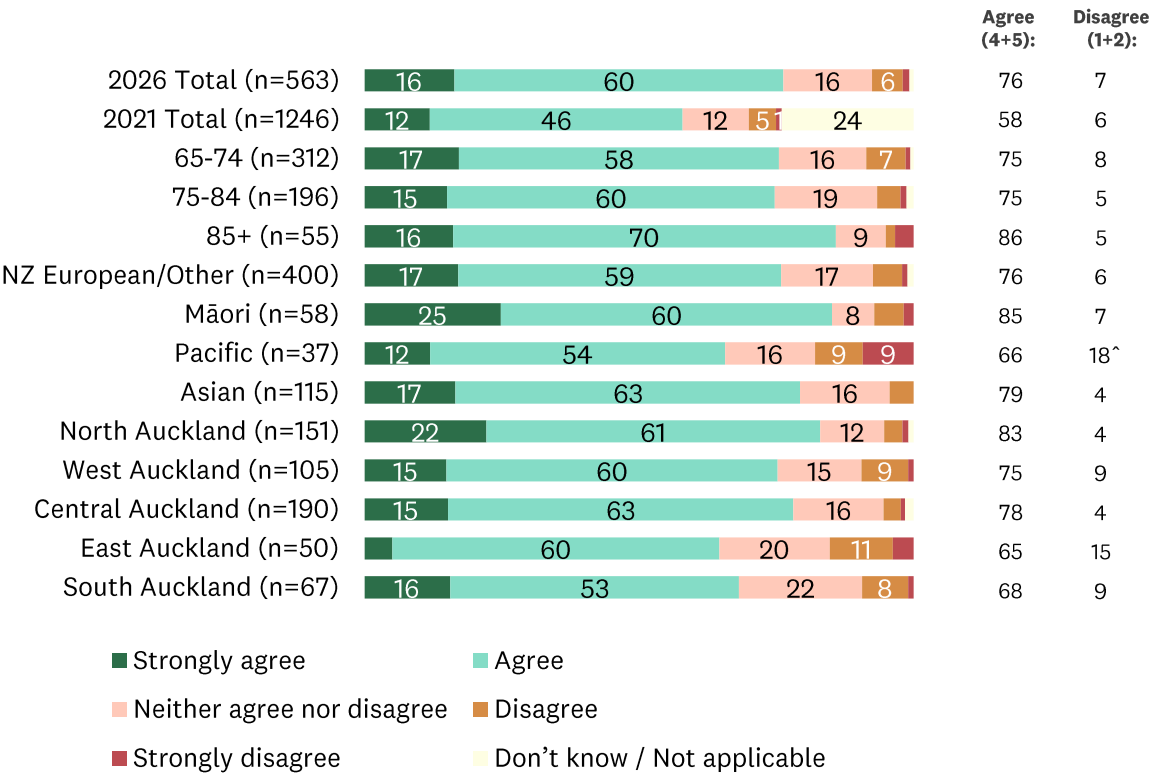
Female, 80-84 years old

Perceptions of public transport: Safe (while waiting for transport to arrive)

All respondents who said they had used public transport in the last 12 months (n=563) were asked to provide their perceptions of public transport (regarding its safety, comfort, affordability, accessibility, reliability, and convenience).

Three-quarters of respondents (78%) agreed that public transport is safe while waiting for the transport to arrive. This perception has improved considerably since 2021 (58% agreed). There were no significant differences among different respondent groups.

Perceptions of safety while waiting for transport to arrive – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents who have used public transport in the last 12 months (n=563)

Source: Q12: Thinking about public transport in Auckland, to what extent do you agree or disagree that public transport and the associated facilities (i.e. buses, trains, and ferries) were...: Safe (when waiting for transport to arrive)

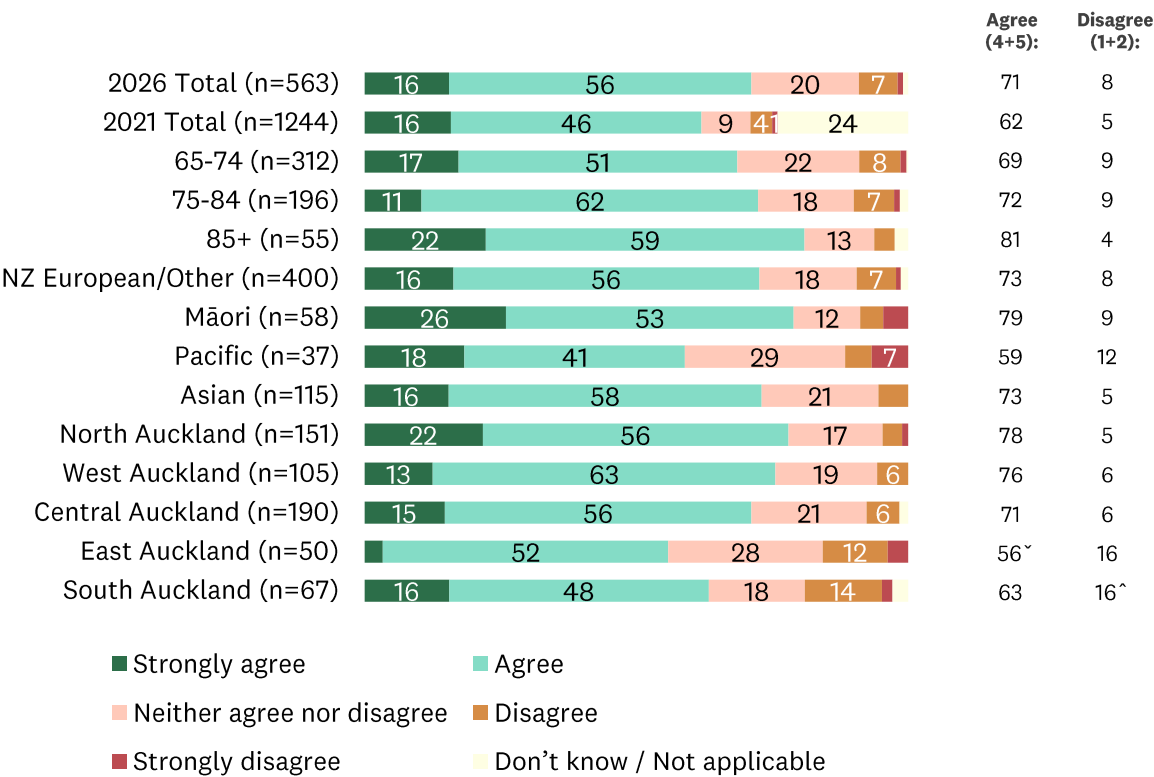
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of public transport: Safe (while travelling)

Almost three-quarters (71%) of respondents agreed that they felt safe while travelling on public transport. This is also an increase since the 2021 survey (62%).

Respondents living in East Auckland were significantly less likely than others to agree they felt safe while travelling on public transport (56%). There were no other significant differences.

Perceptions of safety while travelling – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



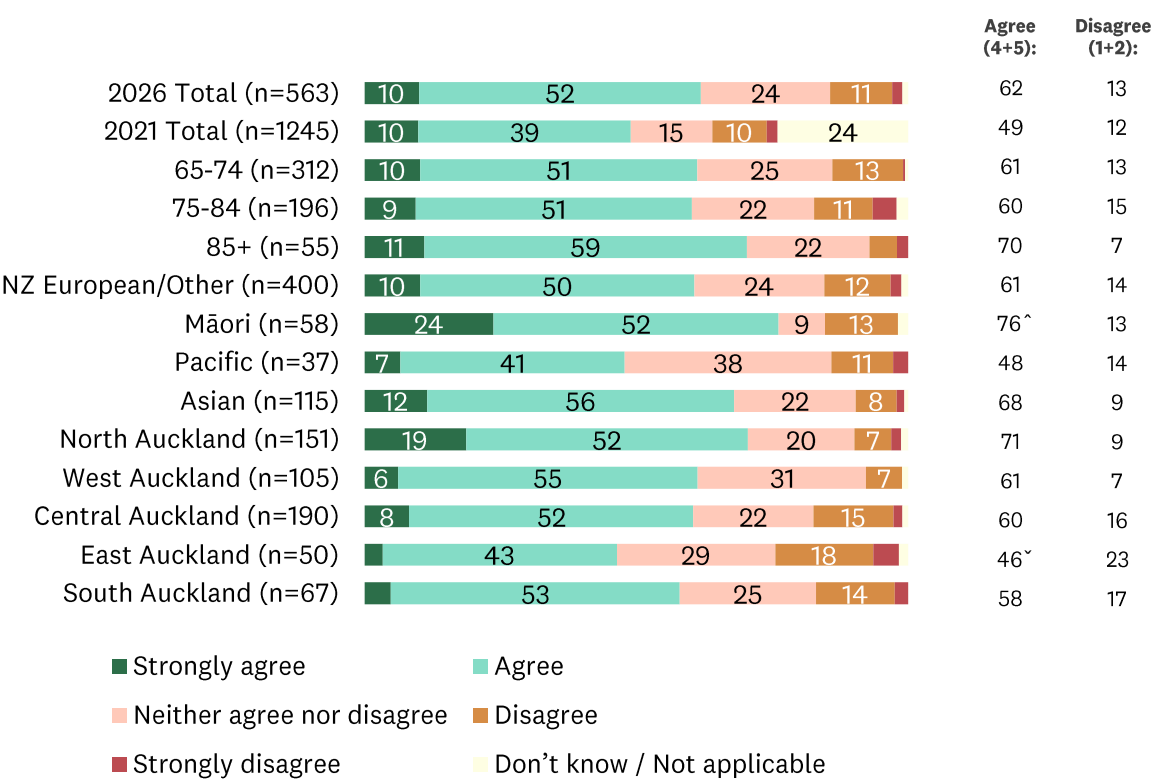
Base: All respondents who have used public transport in the last 12 months (n=563)
Source: Q12: Thinking about public transport in Auckland, to what extent do you agree or disagree that public transport and the associated facilities (i.e. buses, trains, and ferries) were...: Safe (when on the bus, train, ferry)
 (1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of public transport: Comfort

Around three in five (62%) respondents agreed that public transport was comfortable, compared to 49% in 2021.

Perceptions of comfort were significantly higher for Māori respondents (76%) compared to other ethnic groups, and lower among East Auckland respondents (46%) compared to older residents from other areas. There were no other significant differences.

Perceptions of comfort on public transport – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



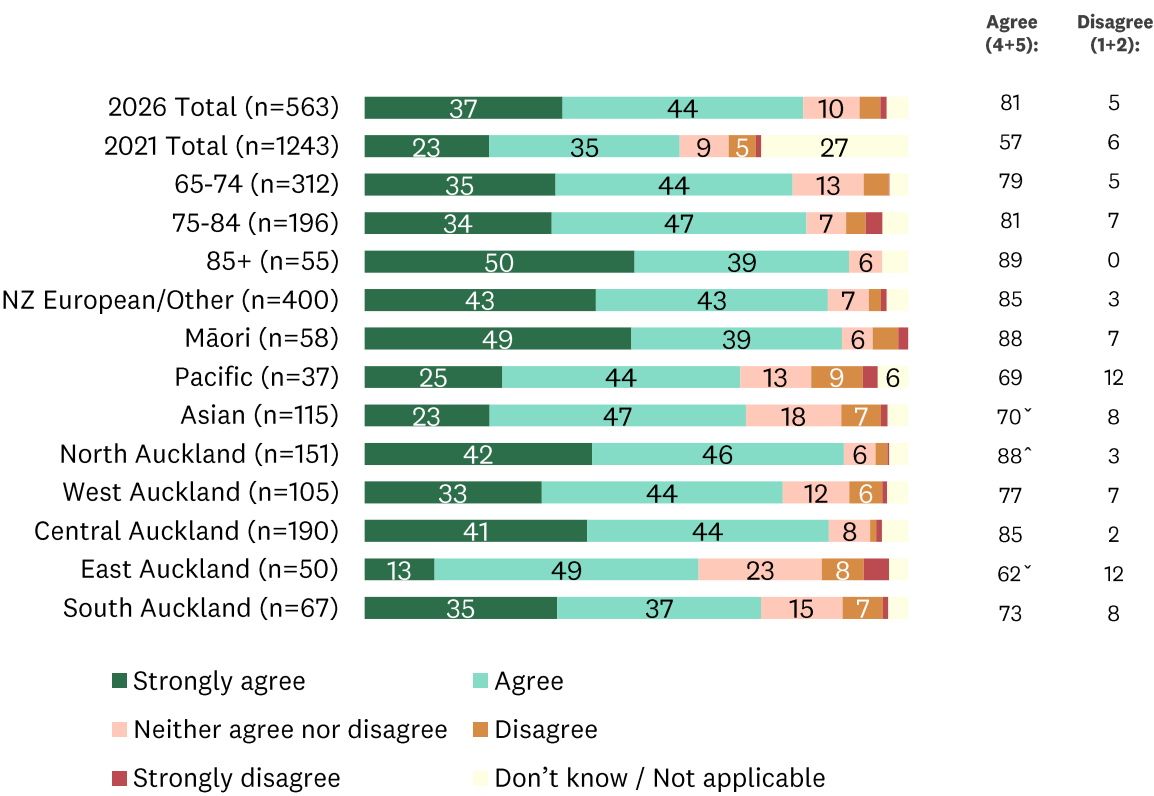
Base: All respondents who have used public transport in the last 12 months (n=563)
Source: Q12: Thinking about public transport in Auckland, to what extent do you agree or disagree that public transport and the associated facilities (i.e. buses, trains, and ferries) were...:
 Comfortable (when waiting for transport to arrive including sheltered dry seating)
 (1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of public transport: Affordability

Perceptions of affordability have also improved substantially since the 2021 survey. In 2026, 81% of older respondents agreed that public transport is affordable, compared to 57% in 2021.

Perceptions of affordability were significantly higher among those living in North Auckland (88%) and lower among those living in East Auckland (62%), compared to other areas. Asian respondents (70%) were significantly less likely to agree that public transport was affordable, compared to respondents of other ethnic groups.

Perceptions of PT affordability – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



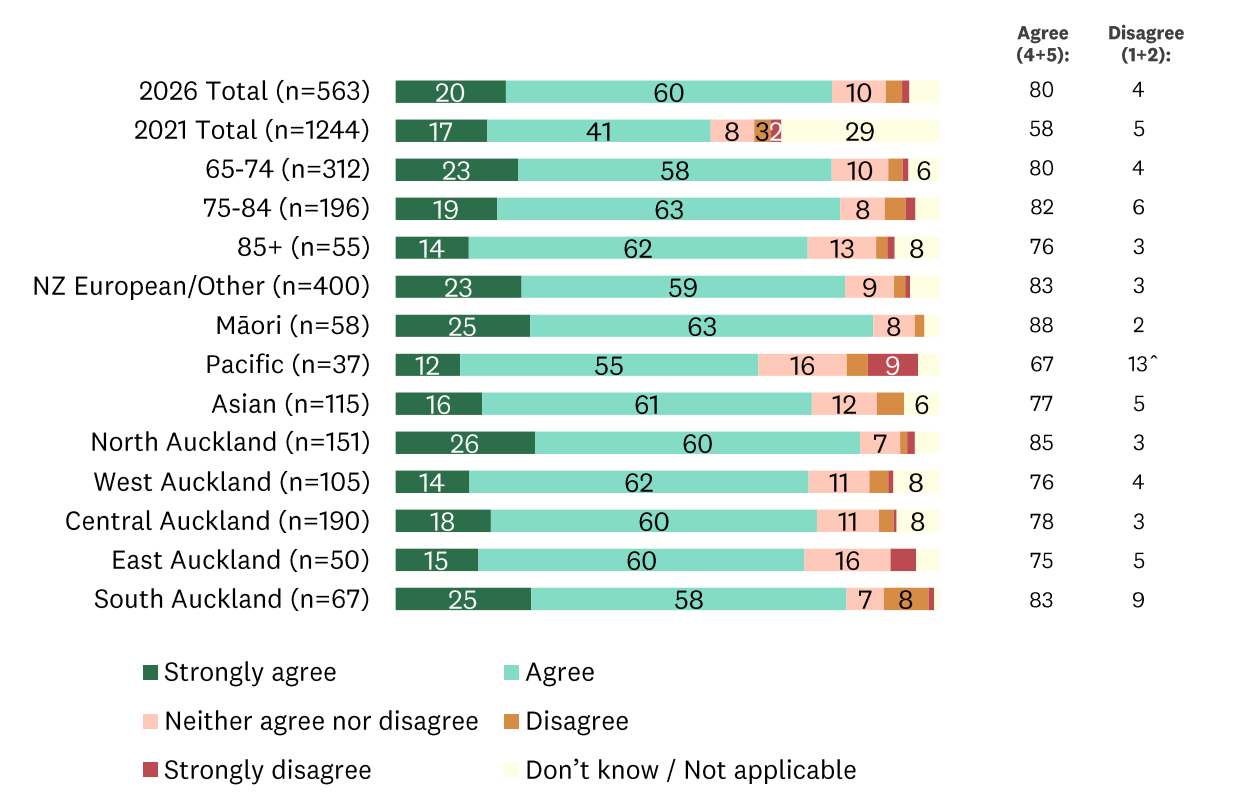
Base: All respondents who have used public transport in the last 12 months (n=563)
Source: Q12: Thinking about public transport in Auckland, to what extent do you agree or disagree that public transport and the associated facilities (i.e. buses, trains, and ferries) were...: Affordable
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of public transport: Accessibility

Perceptions of accessibility (whether public transport met accessibility needs, like physical, sensory, or intellectual needs) have also improved substantially since the 2021 survey. In 2026, 80% of older respondents agreed that public transport is accessible, compared to 58% of 2021 respondents.

There were no significant differences among the subgroups analysed.

Perceptions of PT accessibility – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents who have used public transport in the last 12 months (n=563)

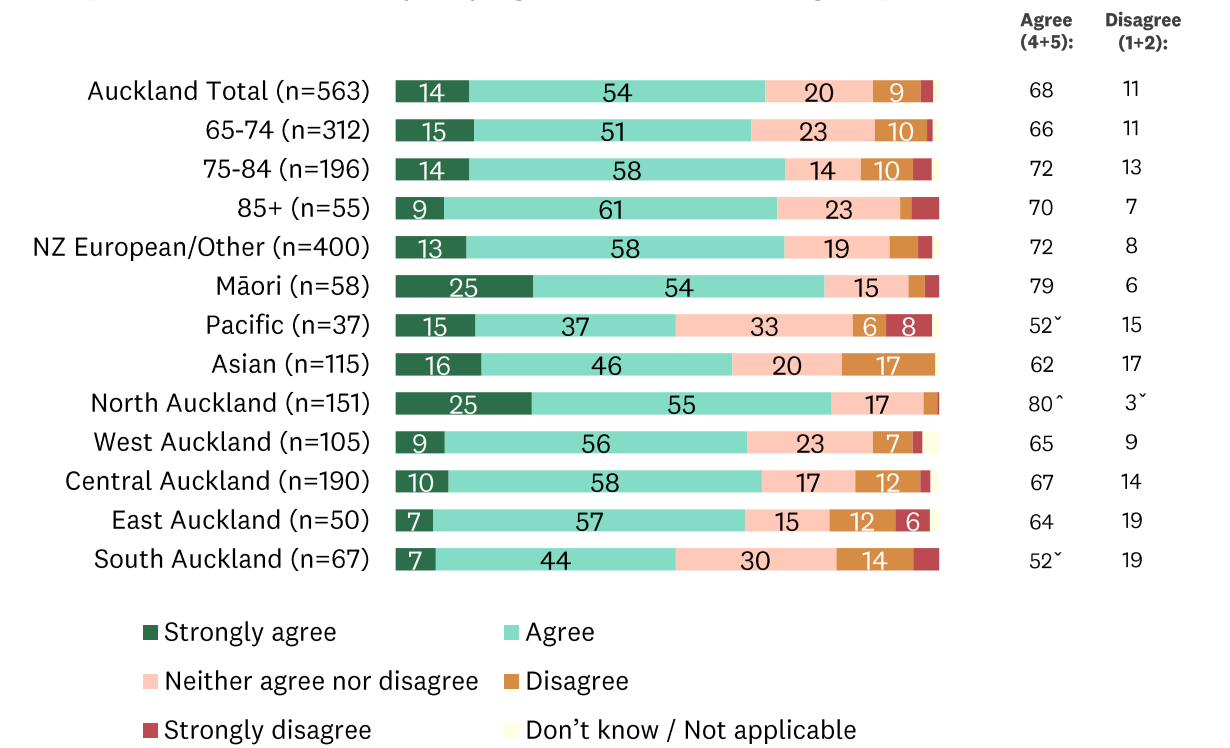
Source: Q12: Thinking about public transport in Auckland, to what extent do you agree or disagree that public transport and the associated facilities (i.e. buses, trains, and ferries) were...: Meeting your accessibility needs (physical, sensory, or intellectual) throughout the journey (1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of public transport: Reliability

In 2026, respondents were asked a new question about their perceptions of whether public transport is reliable (comes on time). Two-thirds (68%) agreed that public transport is reliable and 11% disagreed.

Those living in North Auckland (80%) were more likely to agree that public transport is reliable while those in South Auckland (52%) were less likely to agree, compared to respondents living in other areas. Pacific respondents (52%) were also less likely to agree compared to respondents of other ethnic groups.

Perceptions of PT reliability – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)

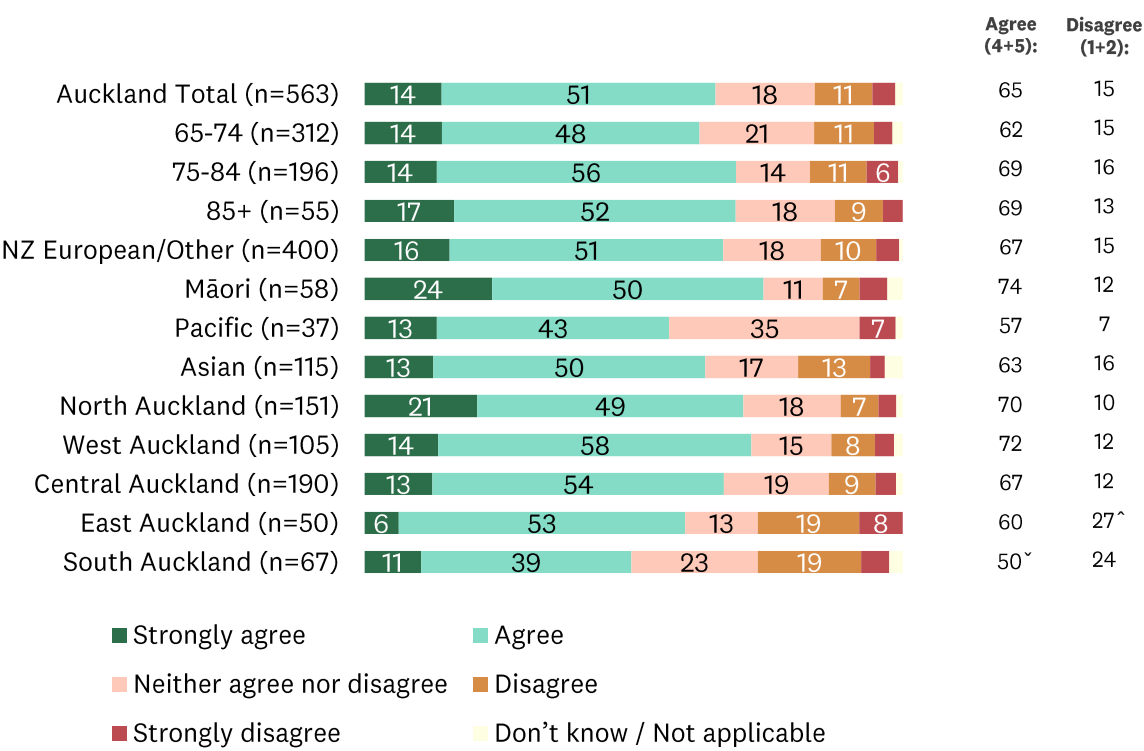


Base: All respondents who have used public transport in the last 12 months (n=563)
Source: Q12: Thinking about public transport in Auckland, to what extent do you agree or disagree that public transport and the associated facilities (i.e. buses, trains, and ferries) were...: Reliable (comes on time)
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of public transport: Convenience

Finally, also new in 2026, respondents were asked whether they thought public transport is convenient. Almost two-thirds (65%) agreed with this statement. South Auckland respondents (50%) were significantly less likely to agree that public transport is convenient. No other statistically significant differences were found.

Perceptions of PT convenience – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents who have used public transport in the last 12 months (n=563)
Source: Q12: Thinking about public transport in Auckland, to what extent do you agree or disagree that public transport and the associated facilities (i.e. buses, trains, and ferries) were....: Convenient for the types of trips you usually need to make (i.e. takes you to where you want to go, good use of time, few transfers at bus stops or train stations)
 (1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

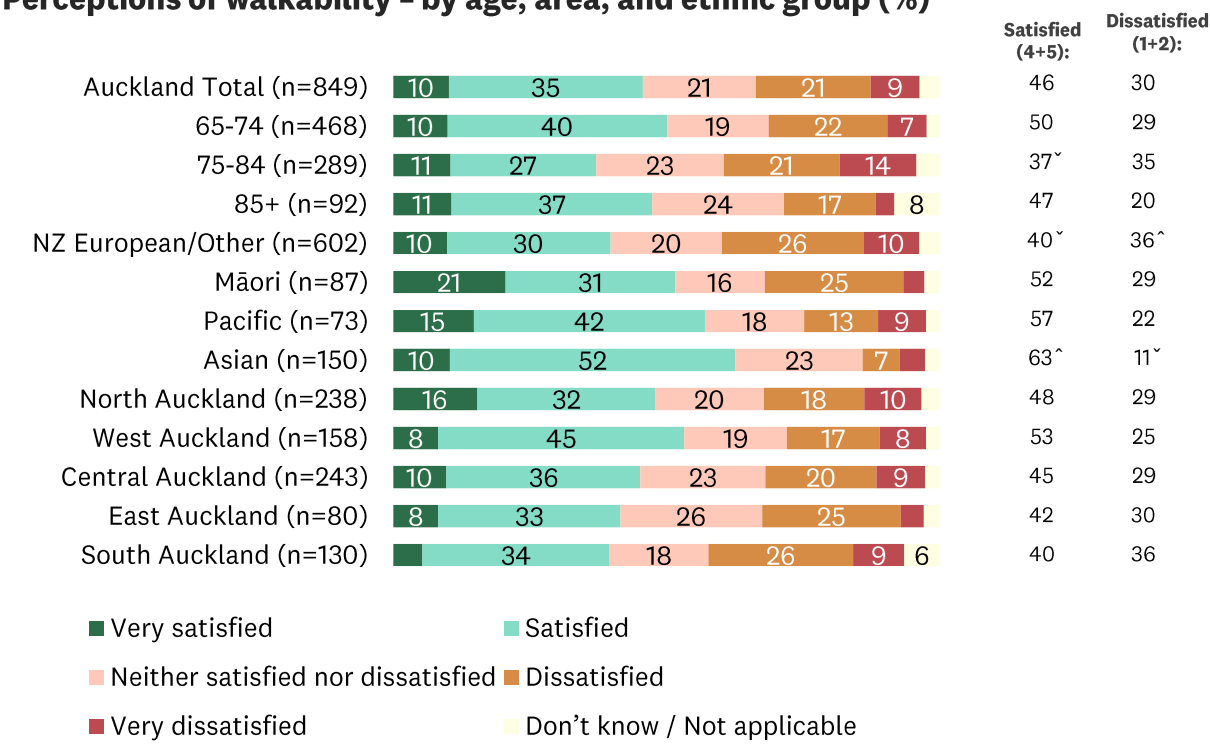
Perceptions of walkability

There were mixed views among older Aucklanders about the walkability of their local area (i.e. the quality of footpaths, pavements, and walking tracks). Just under half (46%) were satisfied and 30% were dissatisfied, while another 21% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. This is similar to the 2021 survey, in which 42% were satisfied and 35% were dissatisfied.

Statistically significant differences were apparent by:

- **Age:** Those aged 75-84 years (37%) were less likely to feel satisfied with the walkability of their local area compared to other age groups.
- **Ethnic groups:** Asian respondents were more likely to feel satisfied (63%) and New Zealand European/Other respondents (40%) were less likely to report satisfaction.

Perceptions of walkability – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



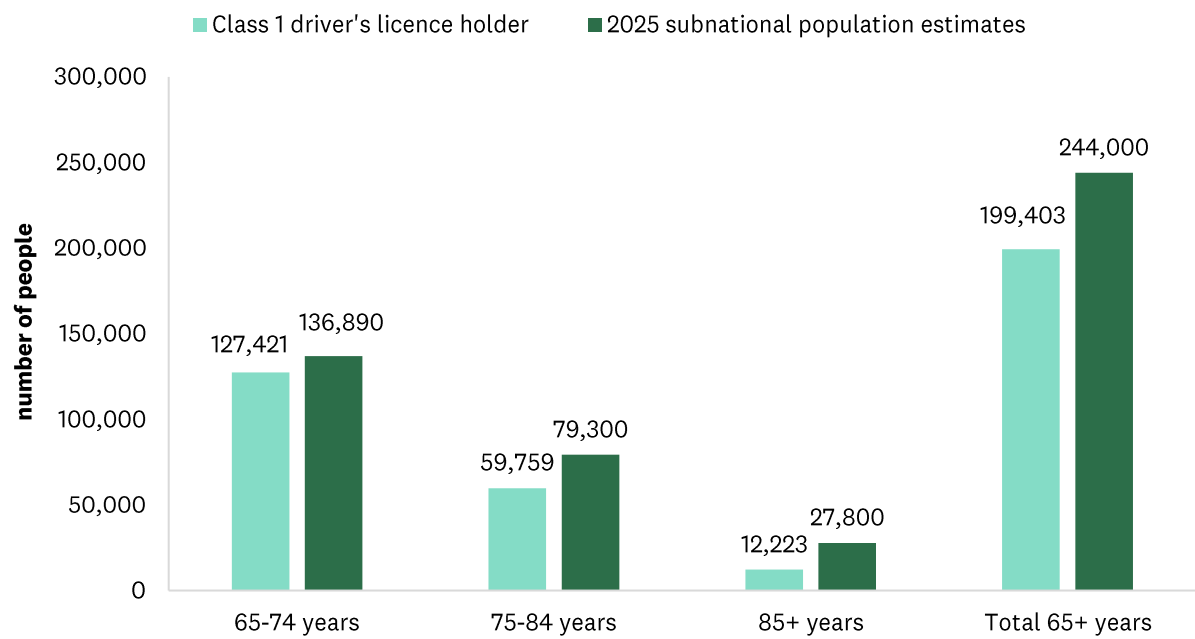
Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q14: How satisfied are you with the following in your local area?: The quality of footpaths, pavements, and walking tracks (e.g. free of cracks/holes, good surface for wheelchairs, wide enough) (1 – Very dissatisfied, 2 – Dissatisfied, 3 – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 – Satisfied, 5 – Very satisfied, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Licensed drivers

As at the year ending 31 December 2025, 199,403 Aucklanders aged 65 years and over held a current driver’s licence (Class 1 – Motor Cars and Light Motor Vehicles only). Using 2025 subnational population estimates by age and sex (where it was estimated that there were 244,000 Aucklanders aged 65 and over), this equates to 82% of all older Aucklanders with a driver’s licence.

Almost two-thirds (64%, or 127,421 people) were 65-74 years old, followed by 30% (59,759 people) who were aged 75-84 years old. The remaining 6% (12,223 people) were 85 years and over. When compared to the 2025 subnational population estimates, a larger proportion of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over held a Class 1 driver’s licence (93% of this age group), compared to those aged 75-84 years (75%) and those aged 85 years and over (44%).



Number of Auckland driver licence holders aged 65 years and over (year ending 31 December 2025)
Data source: Waka Kotahi / New Zealand Transport Agency

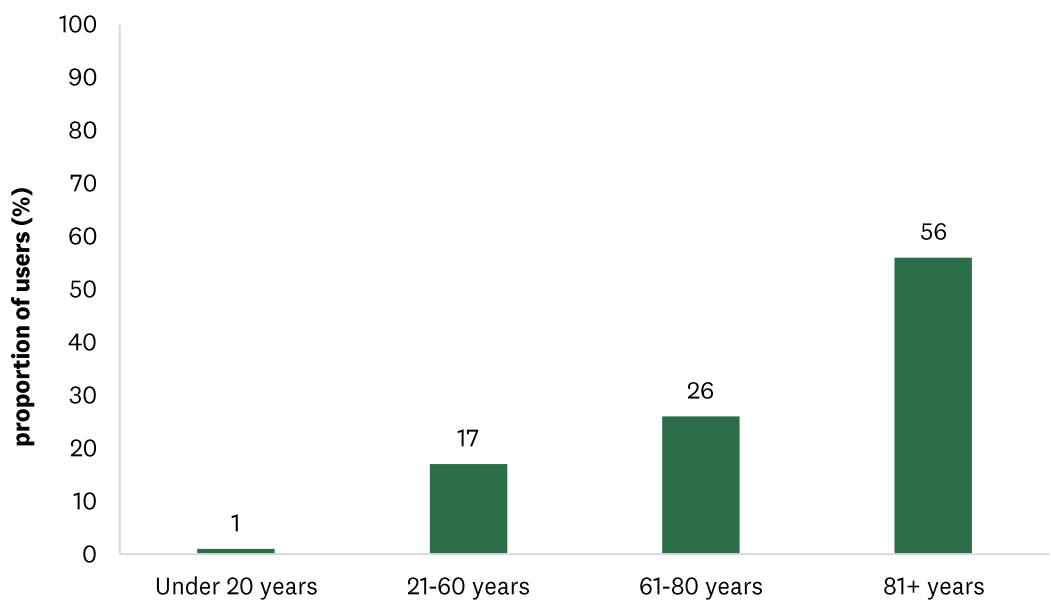
Similar proportions of each age group held a full Class 1 licence – 98% of those aged 65-74 years held a full licence, compared to 99% of those aged 75 years and over. This means a slightly larger proportion of those aged 65-74 years (2%) held a restricted or learner Class 1 licence, compared to 1% of those aged 75 years and over.

The Total Mobility Scheme is a nation-wide scheme that supports people with disabilities and/or impairments to travel within their region. The scheme is administered by Auckland Transport within the Auckland region. In Auckland, people must be Auckland residents and have been assessed as unable to complete one or more stages of a journey due to a long- or short-term disability.

Eligible people receive a card that provides:

- A subsidised rate on participating taxis
- Discounted fares on public transport through the Accessible concession
- Free travel on buses for a companion/carer.

User data from Auckland Transport about the Total Mobility Scheme was available only for users aged 61 years and over. As of 2025, there were 41,982 Aucklanders aged 61 years and over who were registered current users of the Total Mobility Scheme (82% of all registered current users). More than two-thirds of the 61+ group (69%) were aged 81 years and over.



Total Mobility Scheme users by age group (%) (year ending 30 June 2025) (%)
Data source: Auckland Transport

Housing



We have a healthy, comfortable, and secure home where we belong regardless of whether we rent, own a place, or live on our own or with others

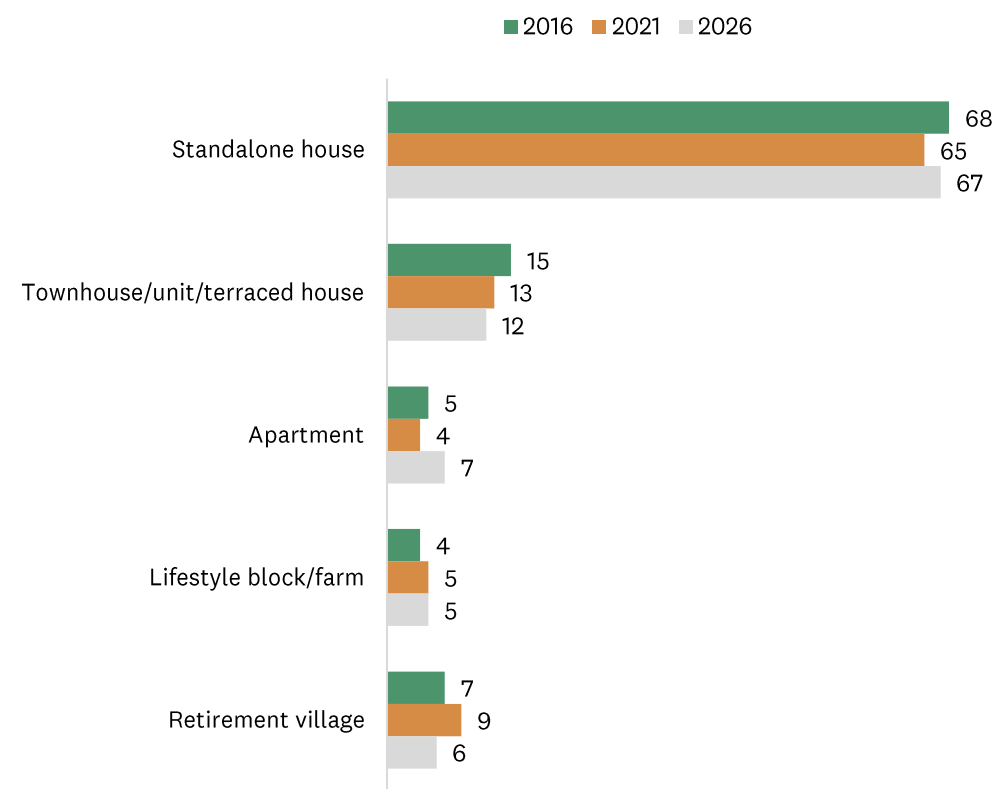


Housing type

Consistent with previous survey rounds, the 2026 survey asked respondents to select the type of dwelling they lived in. Two-thirds (67%) said they lived in a standalone house on a section, similar to previous years (68% in 2016 and 65% in 2021).

There was no real change in the types of dwellings that respondents reported living in, compared to previous years. One-tenth (12%) of respondents said they lived in a townhouse, unit, or terraced house, while 7% said they lived in an apartment. A small proportion (5%) said they lived on a lifestyle block or homestead.

Another 6% of respondents lived in a retirement village or community setting, with most of these living in a villa, apartment or bungalow, and less than 1% saying they lived in a serviced apartment. Only two respondents (less than 1% of the sample) indicated they lived in an assisted living facility.



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849) (%)

Source: Q5: What kind of home do you currently live in?

(1 – Standalone house on a section, 2 – Townhouse, unit, or terraced house, 3 – Apartment, 4 – Retirement village/community [a villa, apartment or bungalow], 5 – Retirement village/community [a serviced apartment], 6 – Assisted living facility [rest home, hospital, hospice, dementia care], 7 – Lifestyle block or farm homestead, 8 – Other)

Housing tenure

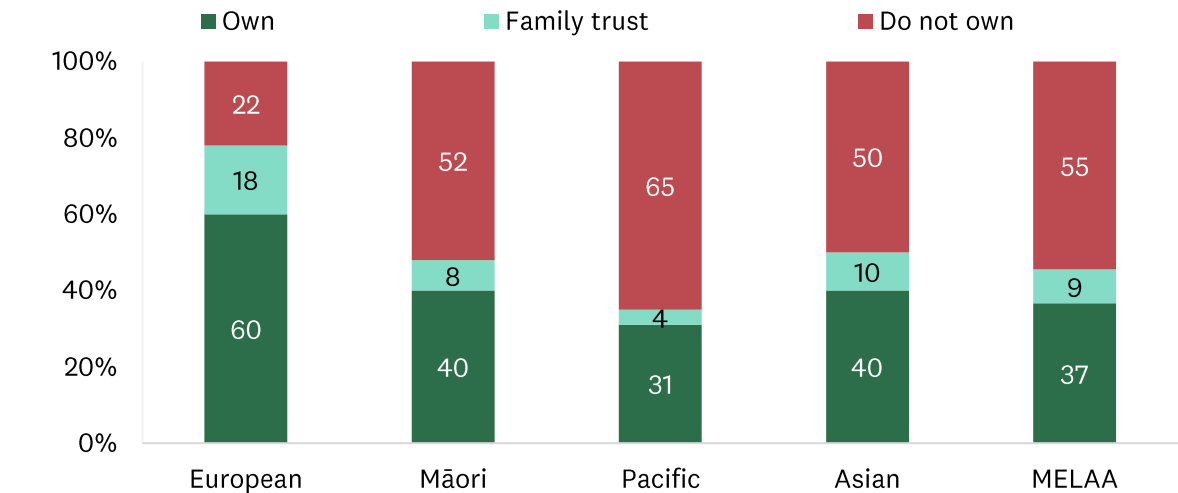
According to the 2023 Census, two-thirds (67%) of older Aucklanders either owned/part-owned their home or held it in a family trust. The rate of individual homeownership has remained stable among this age group for the last four censuses.

	2013		2018		2023	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Hold in a family trust	-	-	29,385	18	31,083	15
Own or partly own	103,602	67	81,063	49	109,158	53
<i>Total own/hold in a family trust</i>	<i>103,602</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>110,448</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>140,241</i>	<i>67</i>
Do not own/do not hold in a family trust	50,442	33	54,480	33	67,536	33
Total stated – individual home ownership	154,044	100	164,928	100	207,777	100

Individual homeownership of older Aucklanders (2013 – 2023)

Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

However, there are clear differences in individual homeownership between ethnic groups. In 2023, older European Aucklanders had the highest rate of individual homeownership compared to other ethnic groups (78%), while older Pacific Aucklanders had the lowest rate of individual homeownership (35%).



Individual homeownership of older Aucklanders, by ethnic group (2023) (%)

Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

In addition to ethnic group differences, the Census shows that individual homeownership varies based on age group among older Aucklanders. In the 2023 Census, a larger proportion of those aged 65-74 years are more likely to own their own home/have it held in a family trust, compared to those aged 85+ years.

Across the 2013 to 2023 Censuses, however, individual homeownership differences in age group have lessened over time. In 2013, 70% of those aged 65-74 years owned their own home/held it in a family trust, compared to 57% of those aged 85+ years. In 2023, more Aucklanders aged 85+ owned their own home/held it in a family trust (61%). This is likely a cohort ageing effect.

	2013			2018			2023		
	65-74	75-84	85+	65-74	75-84	85+	65-74	75-84	85+
Hold in a family trust	-	-	-	20	16	10	16	15	10
Own or partly own	70	67	57	50	48	45	52	55	51
Total own/hold in a family trust	70	67	57	70	65	55	68	69	61
Do not own/do not hold in a family trust	30	33	43	30	35	44	32	31	39
Total stated – individual home ownership	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

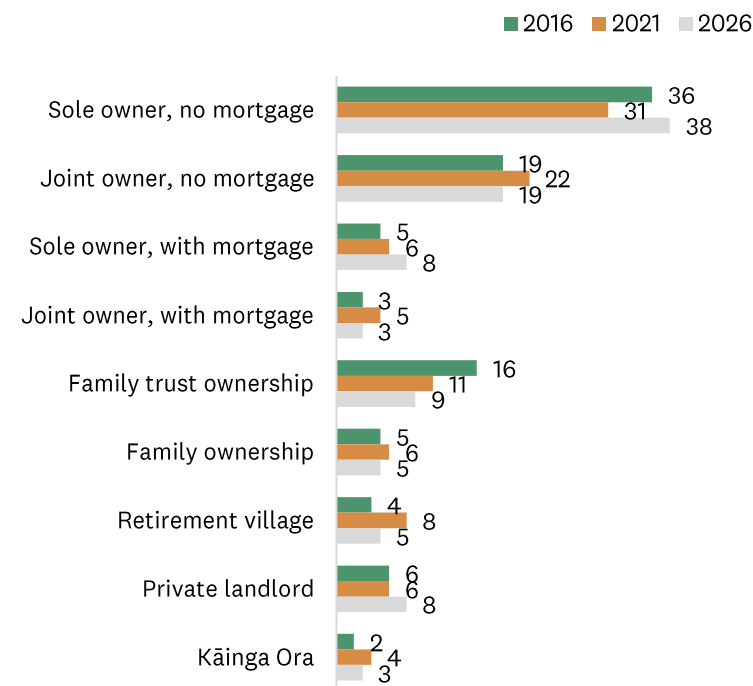
Individual homeownership of older Aucklanders, by age group (2013 – 2023) (%)
Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

Housing tenure

The 2026 survey also asked respondents about their housing tenure, consistent with previous years of the survey.

Our sample reflects a higher level of homeownership compared to the New Zealand Census. The majority of respondents (82%) indicated they were owner-occupiers, meaning they either owned their own homes (with or without a mortgage), or lived in a home owned by family members or a family trust. A small proportion (8%) said they privately rented from a landlord not related to them, and 4% indicated they were social renters (i.e. renting from a central or local government authority, or from a social service agency). Another 5% indicated they lived somewhere owned by their retirement village or rest home. Significant differences were apparent among:

- **Owner-occupiers:** European respondents (86%) were more likely to indicate they were owner-occupiers compared to others, while Pacific respondents (61%) were less likely. Those aged 75-84 years (77%) were also less likely than other age groups to report being owner-occupiers.
- **Private renters:** Māori (18%) and Pacific (16%) respondents were more likely to report they privately rented their homes, compared to other ethnic groups.
- **Social renters:** Pacific respondents (19%) were more likely to report they were social renters compared to others.



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849) (%)

Source: Q6: Who owns the home you live in?

Household composition and size

According to New Zealand Census data, 2-person households are the most common composition type for older Aucklanders, followed by people living alone. Census data over the last decade indicates that multi-person, multi-generational households are also becoming increasingly common for older people in Auckland.

	2013	2018	2023
One-person household	25	22	21
Couple only	44	42	41
Couple only and other person(s)	3	4	4
Couple with child(ren)	7	8	8
Couple with child(ren) and other person(s)	4	4	5
One parent with child(ren)	4	4	4
One parent with child(ren) and other person(s)	2	2	2
Two-family household	8	9	10
Three-family household	1	1	1
Other multi-person household	3	4	4
Total people in households stated	100	100	100

Household composition of older Aucklanders (2013 – 2023) (%)

Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

The 2026 survey also asked respondents about their household size. Consistent with Census data, survey respondents most commonly lived in 2-person households (50%), followed by living alone (27%). One-tenth (10%) said they lived in 3-person households, and the remainder (13%) lived in households of four or more people.

The 2026 survey asked respondents further questions about their households, such as who lived in their households. Consistent with Census data, 58% of respondents said they lived with their partner/spouse, and 27% said they lived alone. Almost one-fifth (18%) of respondents reported they lived with their adult children (aged 18 years and over).

Smaller proportions said they lived with children (under 18 years) related to them (5%) other adults related to them (5%), other adults not related to them (3%), or their parents (2%).

Overcrowding

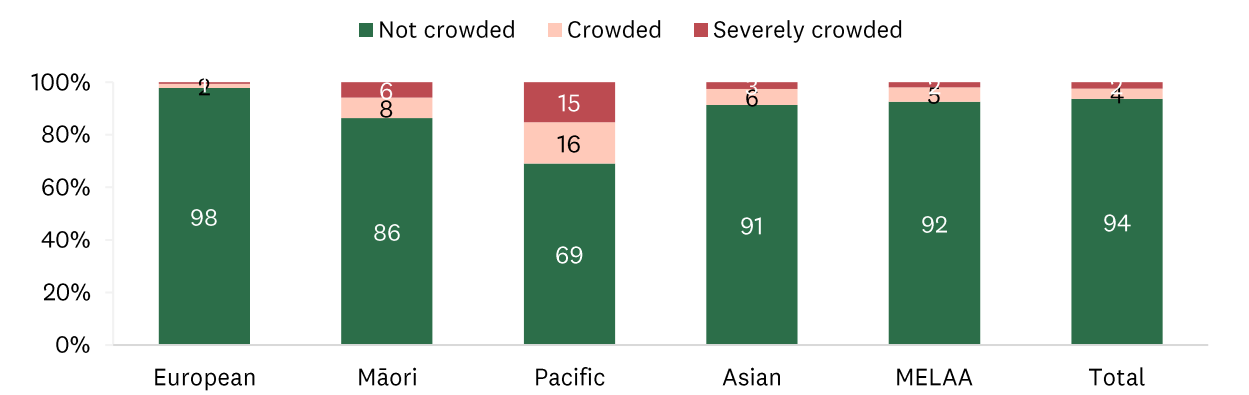
Overcrowding is a significant problem in Auckland, which accounts for 43% of all crowded households in the country. However, the majority of older Aucklanders live in uncrowded housing (94%, of 190,071 older Aucklanders). This proportion has remained relatively stable over the last decade, according to previous censuses.

Census data shows some ethnic groups experience overcrowding more than others (based on overcrowding, as measured by the Canadian Household Crowding Index). Older Pacific Aucklanders, for instance, tend to live in crowded housing more than other ethnic groups – 15% lived in crowded conditions (i.e. their homes needed one additional bedroom) and a further 16% lived in severely crowded conditions (i.e. two or more bedrooms were required in their homes).

	2013		2018		2023	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Crowded (one bedroom needed)	4881	3	6753	4	8001	4
Severely crowded (2+ bedrooms needed)	2733	2	4026	2	4953	2
Total – Crowded	7617	5	10,776	6	12,957	6
Not crowded	136,782	95	160,662	94	190,071	94
Total stated – household crowding index	144,399	100	171,438	100	203,028	100

Household crowding index of older Aucklanders (2013 – 2023)

Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings



Household crowding index of older Aucklanders, by ethnic group (2023) (%)

Data source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

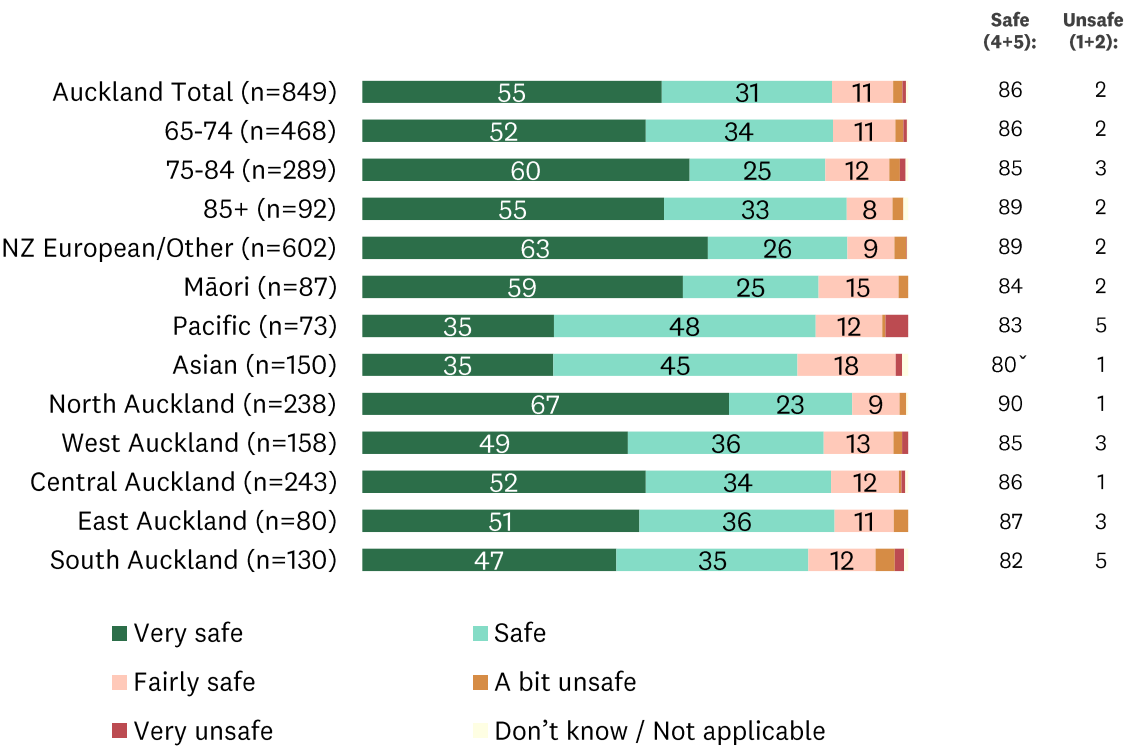
Perceptions of safety: At home during the day

Most survey respondents said they felt safe at home during the day (86%), similar to the 2021 survey (87%). A very small proportion (2%) said they felt unsafe in this situation.

There was an overall high level of safety among respondents regardless of subgroup. However, Asian respondents (80%) were less likely to feel safe at home during the day, noting that this is still a high level of feeling safe. In addition, those living in apartments (96% - not shown on the below chart) were more likely to feel safe at home during the day.

There were no significant differences by gender.

Perceptions of safety at home in daytime – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

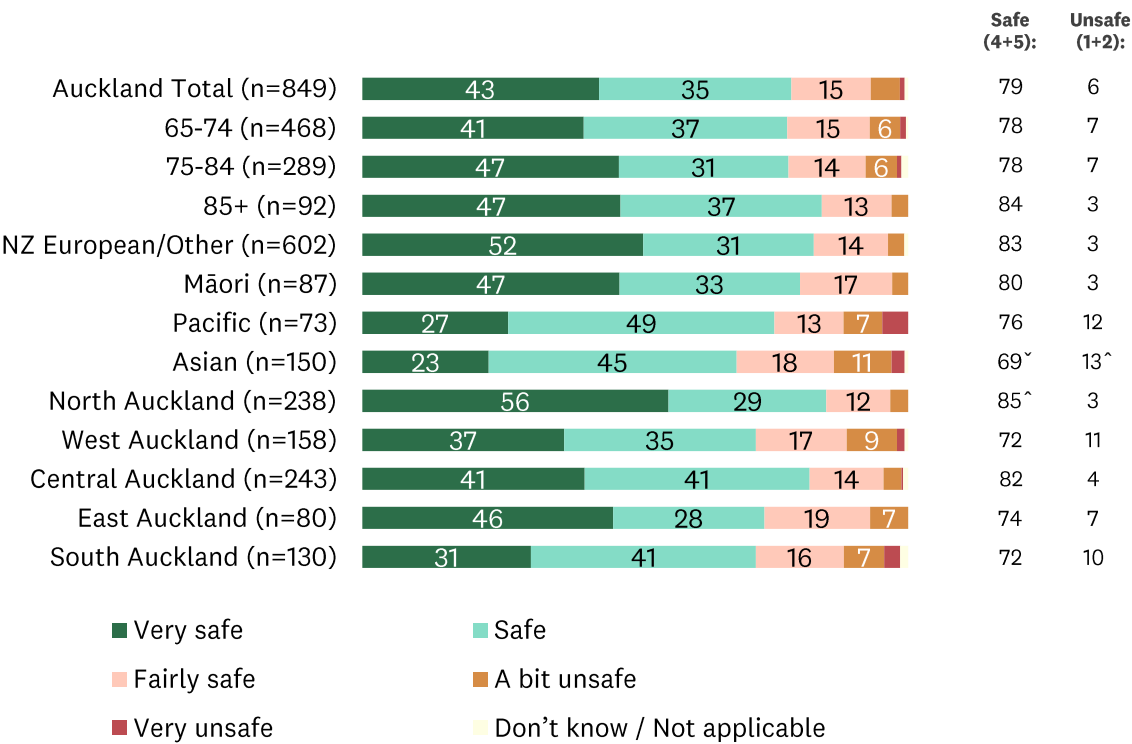
Source: Q13: How safe or unsafe do you feel in the following situations?: In my home during the day (1 – Very unsafe, 2 – A bit unsafe, 3 – Fairly safe, 3 – Safe, 4 – Very safe, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of safety: At home after dark

Eight in ten respondents (79%) said they felt safe at home after dark, which shows no change since the 2021 survey. Those living in North Auckland were more likely to feel safe at home after dark (85%) compared to residents living in other areas. Meanwhile, Asian respondents (69%) were less likely to feel safe at home after dark compared to other ethnic groups.

Significant differences were also found by dwelling type. Those who lived in apartments (90%) and retirement villages or communities (96%) were more likely to feel safe at home after dark, compared to respondents living in other types of dwellings, such as standalone houses, townhouses, or lifestyle blocks.

Perceptions of safety at home after dark – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



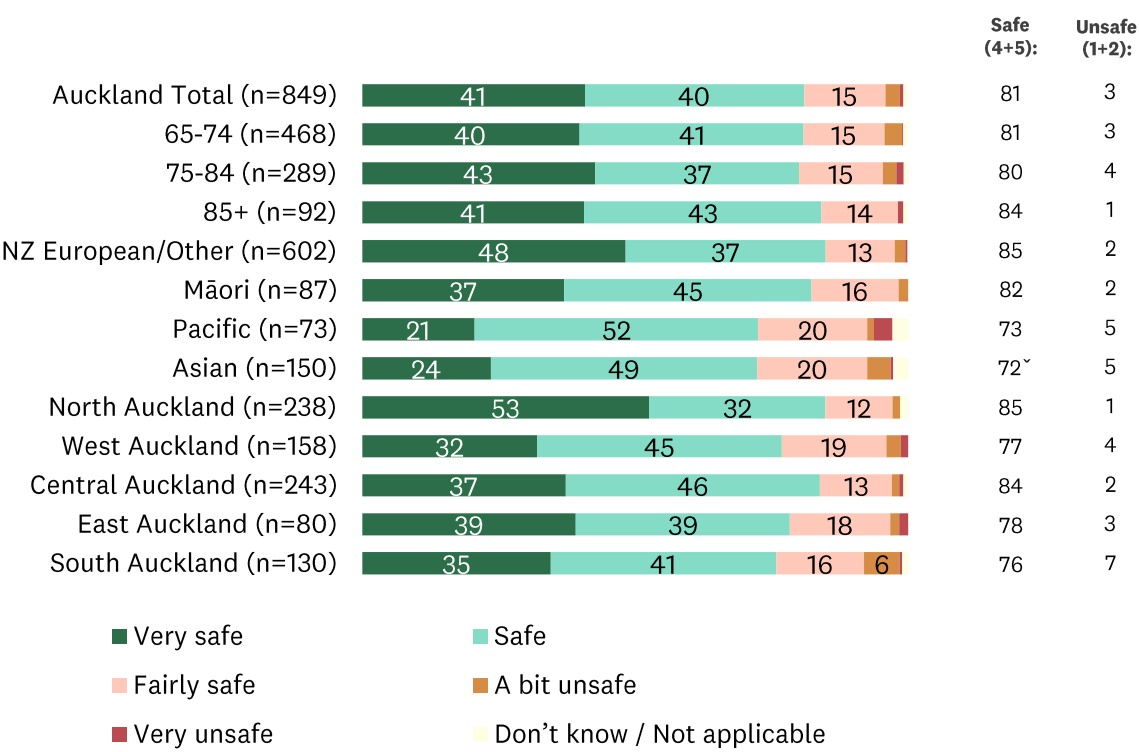
Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q13: How safe or unsafe do you feel in the following situations?: In my home after dark (1 – Very unsafe, 2 – A bit unsafe, 3 – Fairly safe, 3 – Safe, 4 – Very safe, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of safety: When entering or leaving home

The majority of respondents (81%) said they felt safe when entering or leaving their homes, similar to the 2021 survey (79%). Again, Asian respondents (72%) were significantly less likely to feel safe in this situation compared to other respondents. No other statistically significant differences were found.

Perceptions of safety entering or leaving home – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



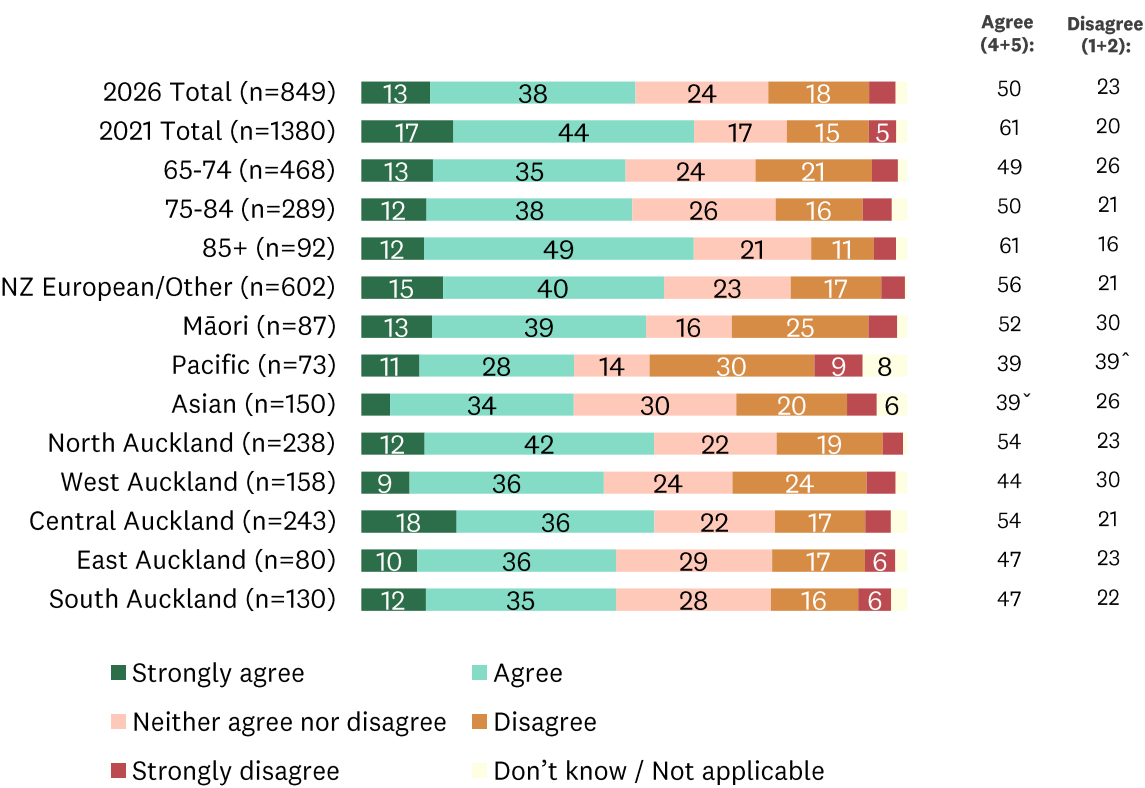
Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q13: How safe or unsafe do you feel in the following situations?: When entering or leaving my home
 (1 – Very unsafe, 2 – A bit unsafe, 3 – Fairly safe, 3 – Safe, 4 – Very safe, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

Housing affordability

Half (50%) of respondents agreed their housing costs were affordable (including costs such as rent, mortgage payments, rates, and maintenance). This presents a decline since the 2021 survey, when 61% agreed their housing costs were affordable.

Differences were apparent by ethnic group. Asian respondents (39%) were significantly less likely than others to report their housing costs were affordable. Significant differences were also noted based on reported household income (not shown in below chart). Those with a household income of less than \$40,000 (39%) were less likely to agree their housing costs were affordable, while those with a household income of more than \$150,000 (76%) were more likely to view their housing costs as affordable.

Housing affordability – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q9: To what extent do you agree or disagree that...: My housing costs are affordable (costs are rent, mortgages, rates, maintenance)

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

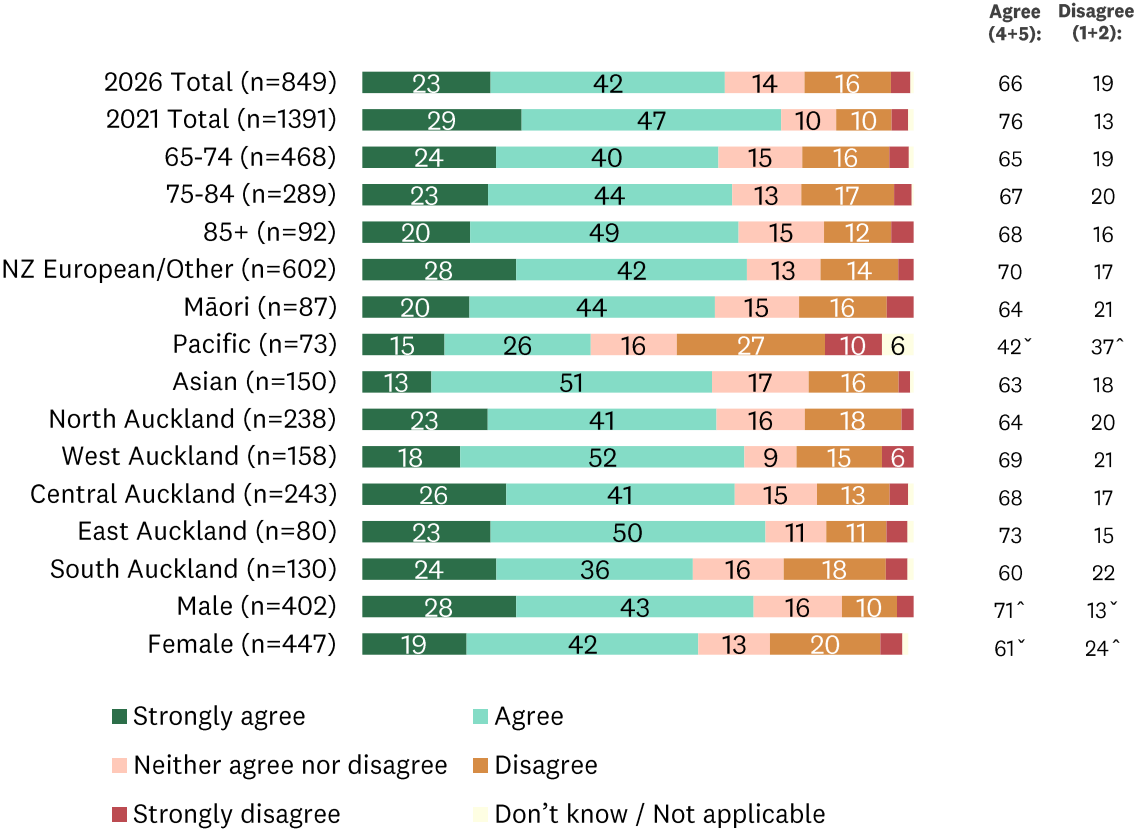
Housing heating affordability

Approximately two-thirds (66%) of respondents agreed that in winter, they could afford to heat their homes properly. This is also a decline since the 2021 survey, when 76% of respondents agreed they could afford to heat their homes properly in winter.

Pacific respondents were significantly less likely than others to agree they could afford to heat their homes properly in winter (42%) and were also more likely to disagree (37%, compared to 19% of all respondents).

In addition, female respondents (24%) were significantly more likely than males (13%) to disagree they could afford to heat their homes properly in winter.

Housing heating affordability - by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q9: To what extent do you agree or disagree that...: During winter, I/we can afford to heat my home properly

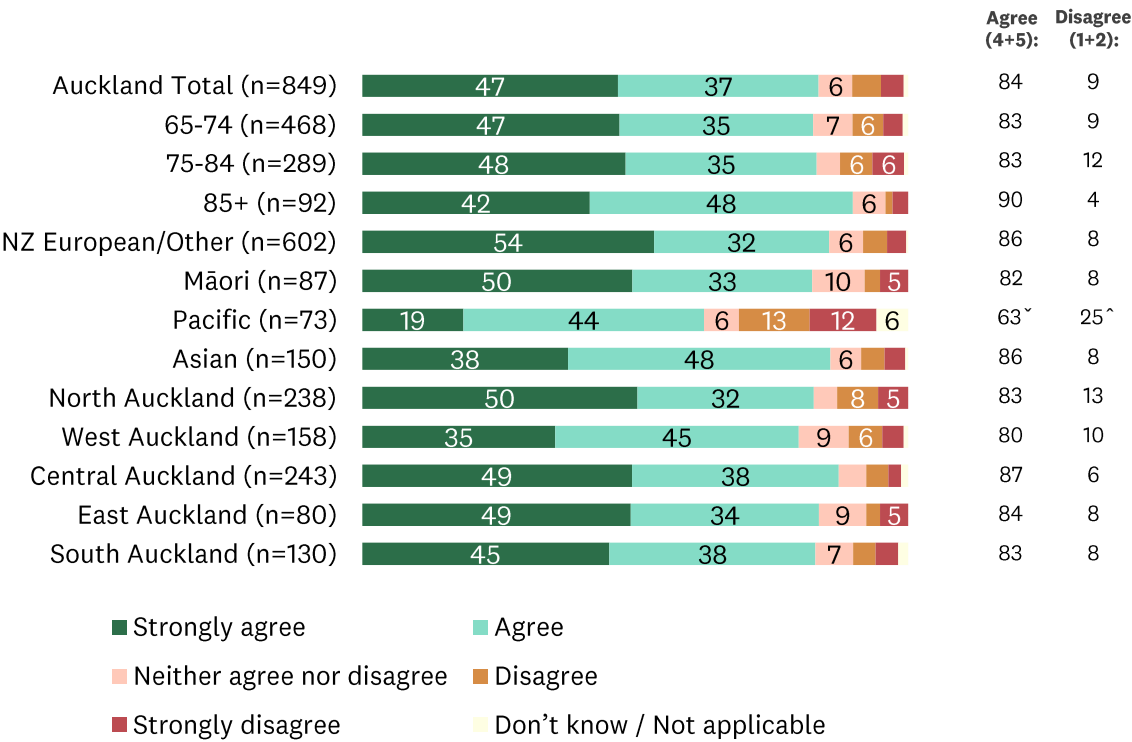
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

Housing suitability

A large proportion (84%) of respondents agreed their homes suited their needs and the needs of everyone in their household – similar to the 2021 survey (87%).

There were very few statistically significant differences. Again, Pacific respondents (63%) were less likely to agree with this statement compared to other ethnic groups, and more likely to disagree (25% disagreed, compared to 9% of all respondents).

Housing suitability – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

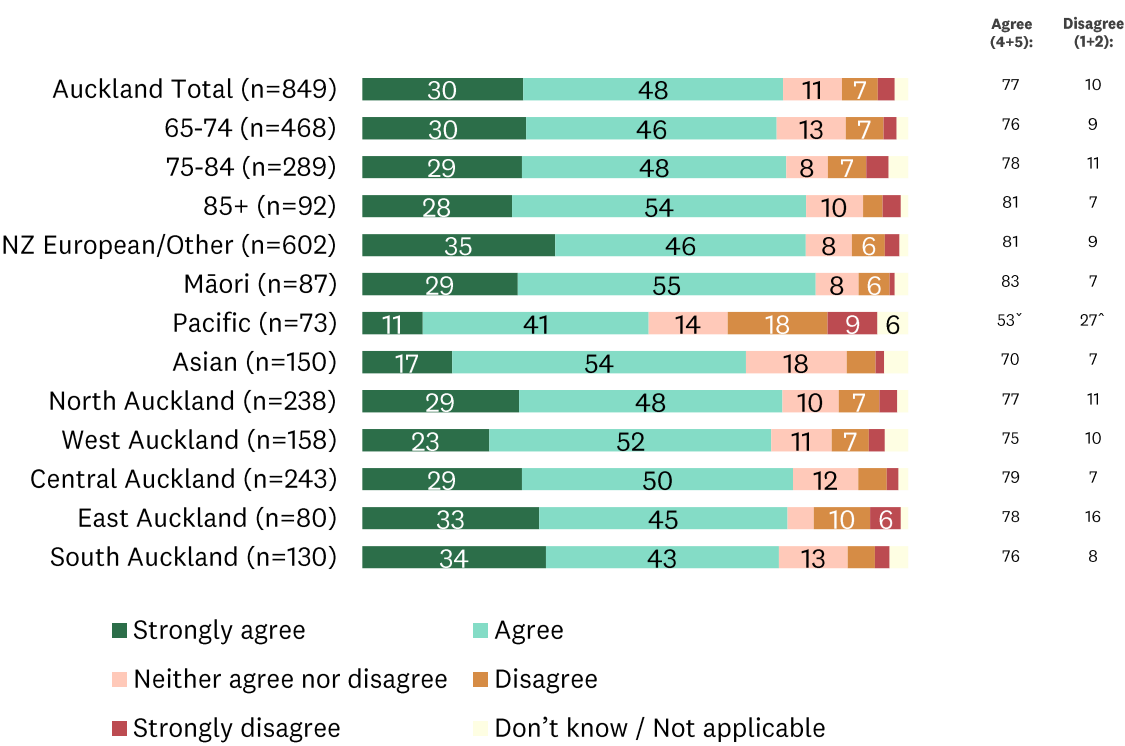
Source: Q9: To what extent do you agree or disagree that...: The type of home I live in suits my household’s needs and the needs of others in my household (e.g. has the right amount of space for everyone, suits maintenance efforts)

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

Housing accessibility – current needs

The 2026 survey asked respondents two new questions about the accessibility features of their homes. Around three-quarters (77%) agreed their homes currently met their accessibility needs, and one in ten (10%) disagreed. Significantly fewer Pacific respondents (53%) agreed their homes were currently meeting their accessibility needs compared to other ethnic groups, and were also more likely to disagree (27%).

Housing accessibility (current needs) – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

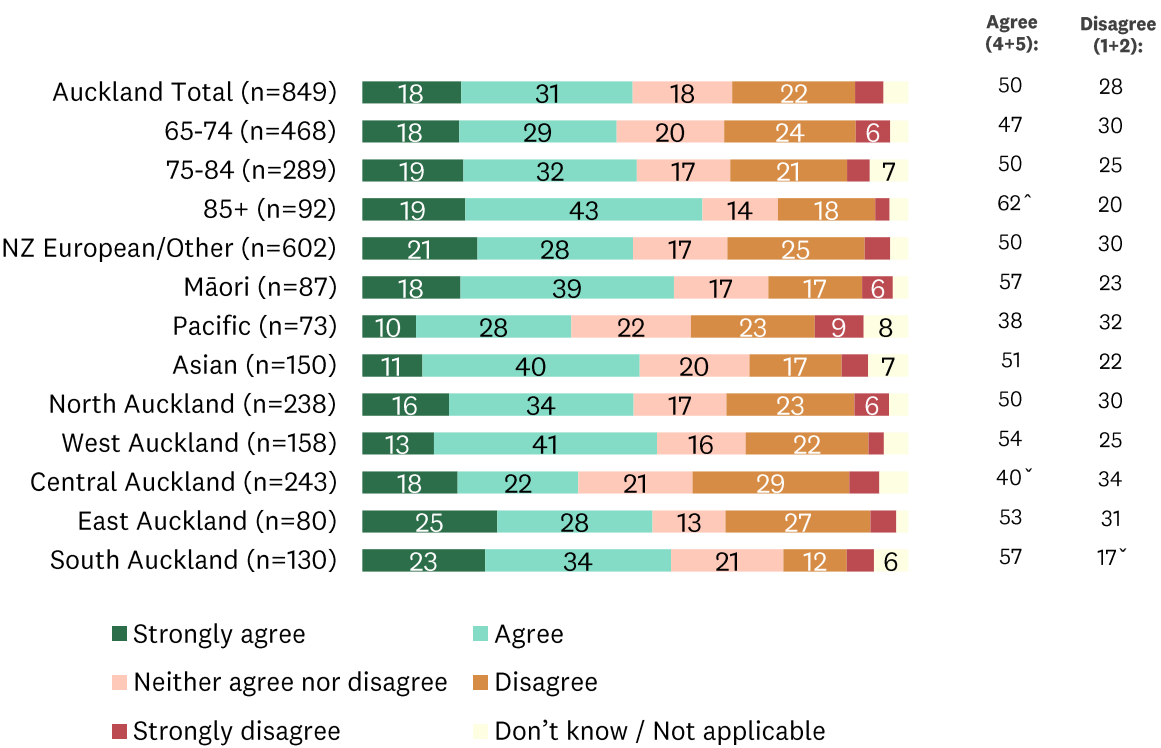
Source: Q9: To what extent do you agree or disagree that...: My home meets my accessibility needs now (e.g. flat entrance, no stairs, wide doorways for wheelchairs, downstairs toilet)
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Housing accessibility – future needs

Lastly, the survey asked respondents whether they agreed their homes would meet their accessibility needs in the future. Fewer respondents agreed (50%) compared to the previous question (77%). Significant differences were found for the following groups:

- **Age:** Those aged 85 years and over (62%) were more likely to agree than younger respondents.
- **Area:** Those living in Central Auckland (40%) were also less likely to agree their homes would meet their accessibility needs in the future, compared to residents in other areas.
- **Dwelling type (not shown in below chart):** Respondents who lived in townhouses, units, or terraced homes (41%) were more likely to disagree than others (10%) that their homes would meet their future accessibility needs. Meanwhile, those living in apartments (69%) and retirement villages (91%) were more likely to agree compared to others (50%).

Housing accessibility (future needs) – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q9: To what extent do you agree or disagree that...: My home will meet my potential accessibility needs in the future (e.g. flat entrance, no stairs, wide doorways for wheelchairs, downstairs toilet)

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Social participation



We have places to go, things to do, and people to meet outside our homes to keep us active, stimulated, connected, and healthy



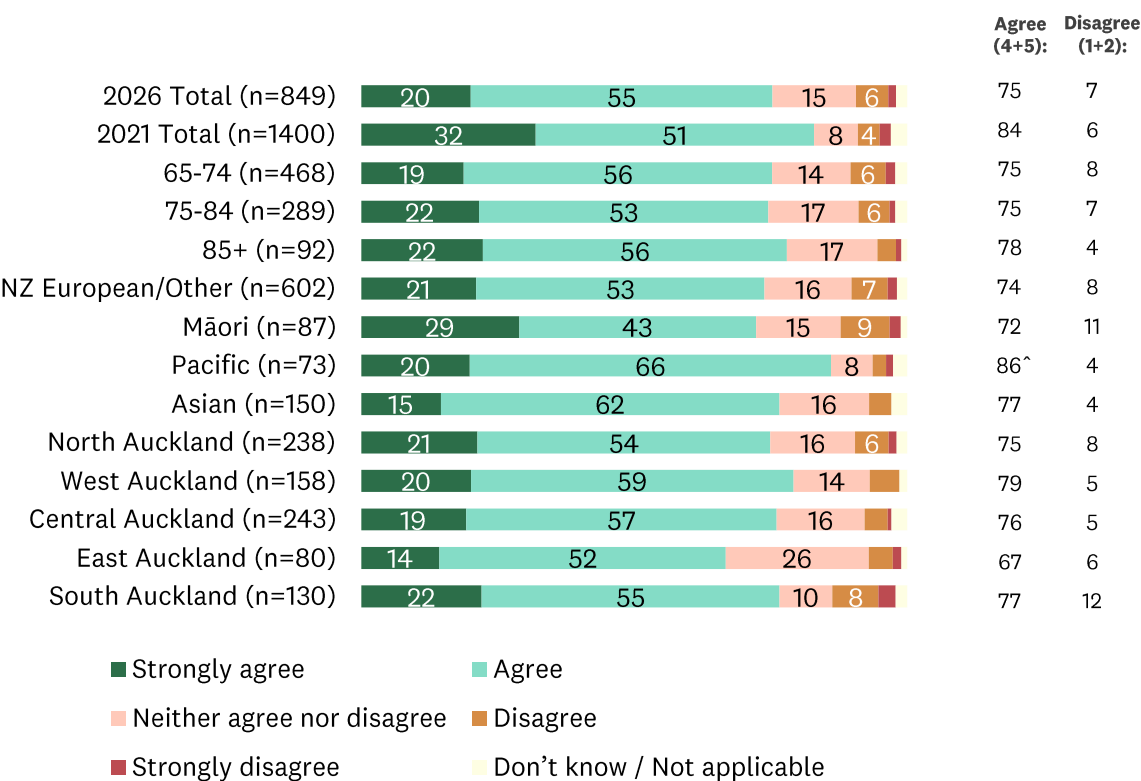
Contact with others

Older Aucklanders who responded to the survey were well-connected to their whānau/family and friends – 75% agreed they were visited by friends, family, and whānau as often as they wanted, while 6% disagreed. The proportion who agreed has decreased slightly since 2021, when 84% of respondents who agreed. This appears to be driven by a larger proportion of respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed (15%, compared to 8% in 2021).

Pacific respondents (86%) were significantly more likely than other ethnic groups to agree with this statement.

Other significant differences (not shown below) were noted based on household composition. For example, respondents living with their partner/spouse (80%) were more likely to agree, while those living alone (65%) were less likely to agree they were visited by friends, family, and whānau as often as they wanted.

Contact with others – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

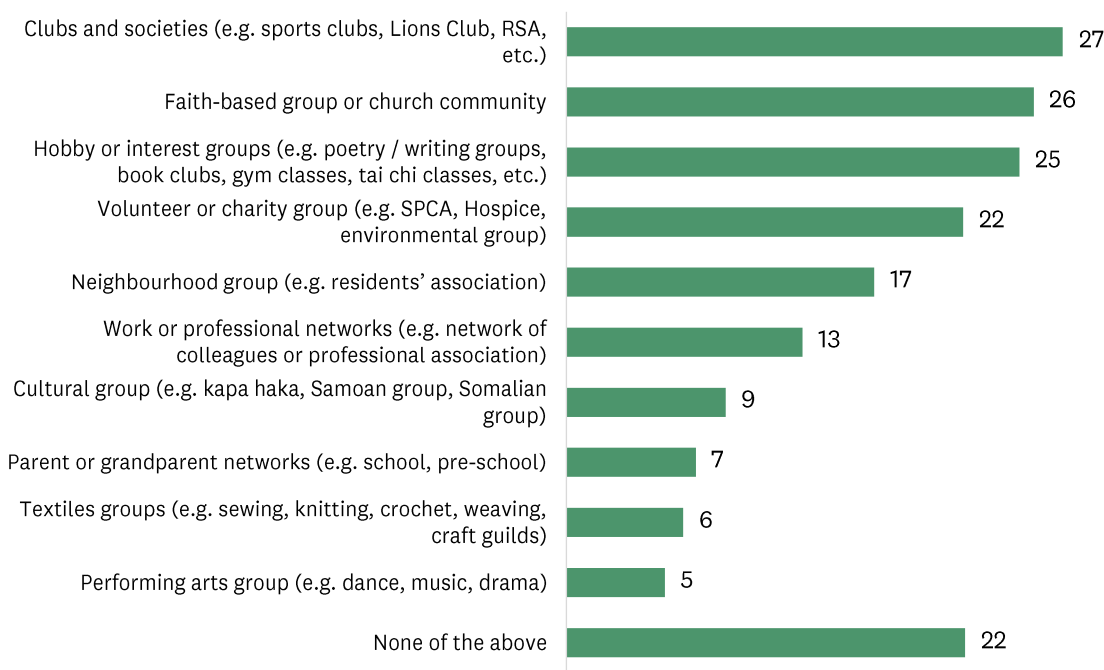
Source: Q26: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: I am visited by friends, family, or whānau as often as I want
(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Belonging to social networks and groups

We asked respondents whether they belonged to any type of social network or group, and 78% selected at least one. One-fifth (22%) selected none. This is similar to the 2021 survey. Significant differences included:

- **Clubs and societies:** Those aged 85+ (39%) were more likely to belong to a club or society, while those aged 65-74 years (22%) were less likely to belong to one.
- **Faith-based groups:** Pacific (67%) and Asian (38%) respondents were more likely to belong, while European (17%) and Māori (15%) respondents were less likely to belong to a faith-based group.
- **Hobby/interest groups:** Female (32%) respondents were more likely to belong to this type of group than males (16%).
- **No social network or group:** Pacific respondents (10%) were less likely to select this option (i.e. they were more likely than other ethnic groups to belong to at least one social network or group).

Social participation – Auckland total (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q23: Thinking about the social networks or groups you are part of (whether online or in person), do you currently belong to any of the following?

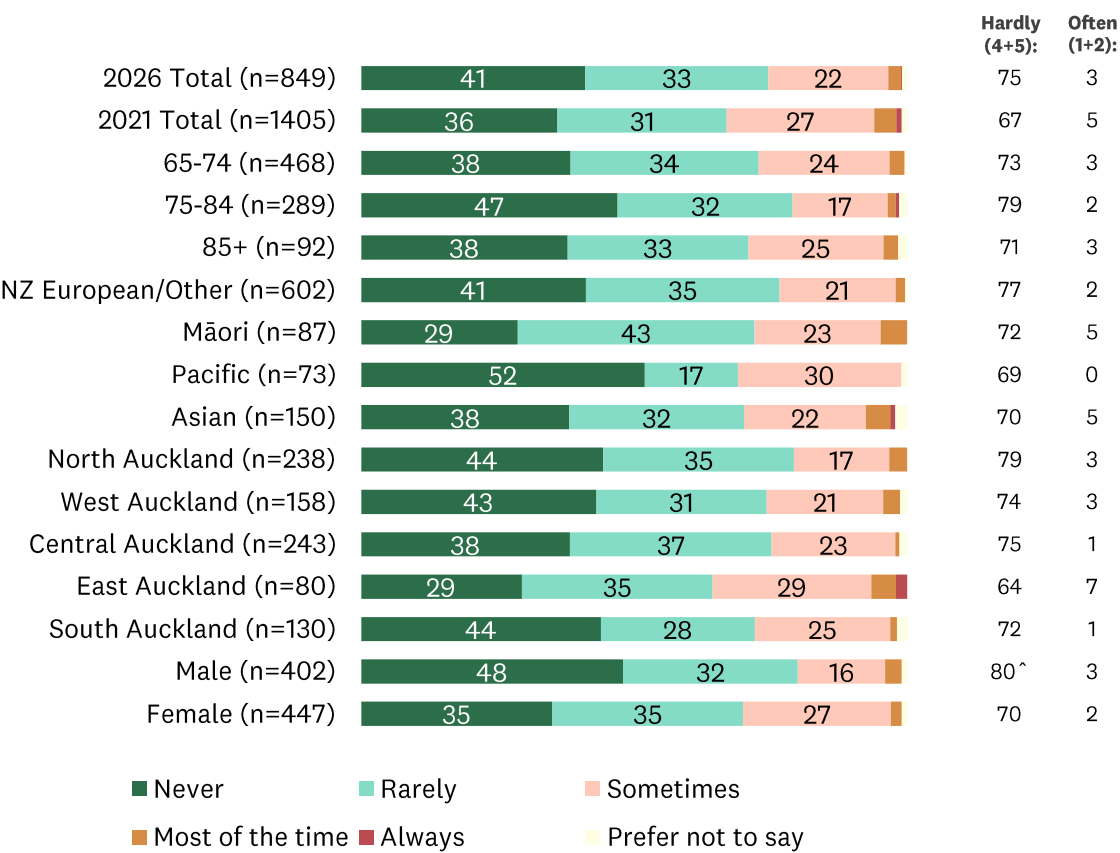
Note: Respondents could select more than one option so percentages exceed 100.

Loneliness and isolation

Three-quarters (75%) of respondents said they had ‘rarely’ or ‘never’ experienced loneliness or isolation in the 12 months prior to the survey. This is the same as the 2016 survey and higher than the 2021 survey (67%).

However, males (80%) were more likely than females (70%) to say they ‘rarely’ or ‘never’ experienced loneliness or isolation in the prior 12 months. No other significant differences were found.

Loneliness and isolation – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

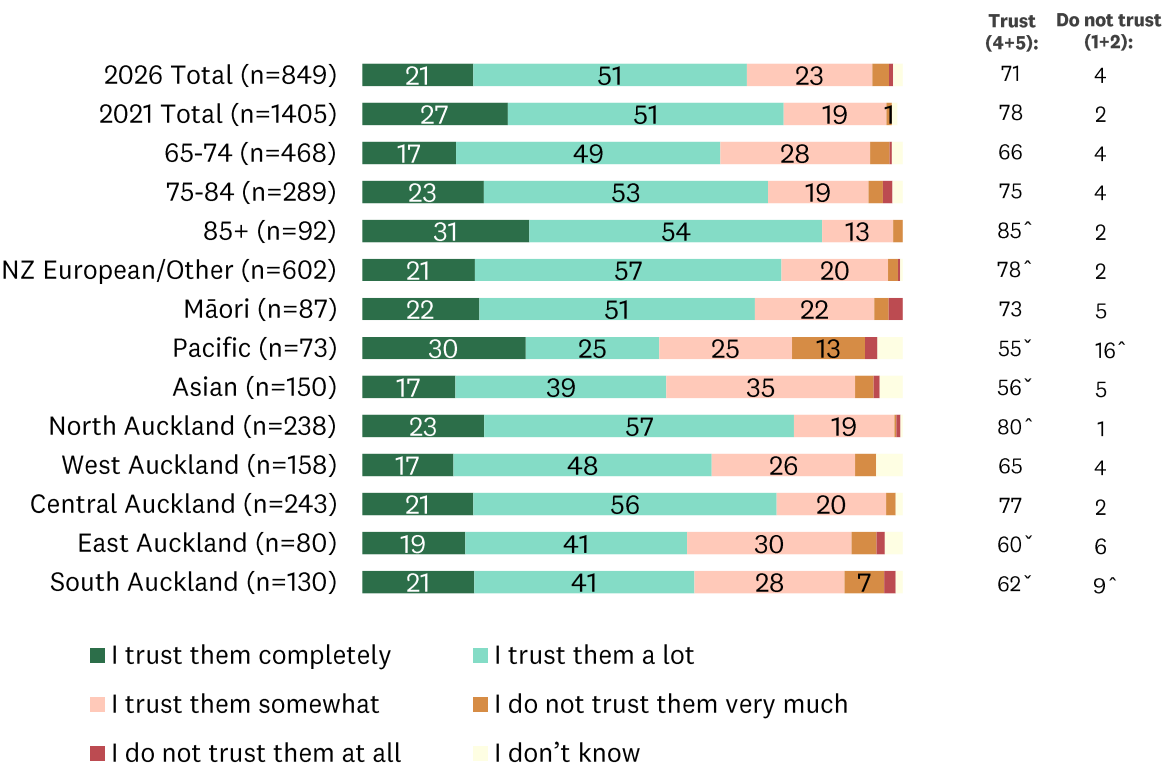
Source: Q24: In the last 12 months, how often, if ever, have you felt lonely or isolated?
(1 – Always, 2 – Most of the time, 3 – Sometimes, 4 – Rarely, 5 – Never, 97 – Prefer not to say)

Trust in others

Almost three-quarters (71%) of older Aucklanders said they trusted other people they dealt with regularly, either ‘completely’ or ‘a lot’. This is slightly lower than in the 2021 survey, when 78% of respondents said they trusted other people they dealt with regularly. Statistically significant differences were found for the following subgroups:

- **Age:** Those aged 85 years and over (85%) were more likely to trust other people compared to younger respondents.
- **Ethnic group:** New Zealand European/Other respondents (78%) were more likely to trust others compared to other ethnic groups, while Pacific (55%) and Asian (56%) respondents were less likely to trust other people.
- **Area:** Residents living in East (60%) and South (62%) Auckland were less likely to trust other people compared to those living in other areas.

Trust in others – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

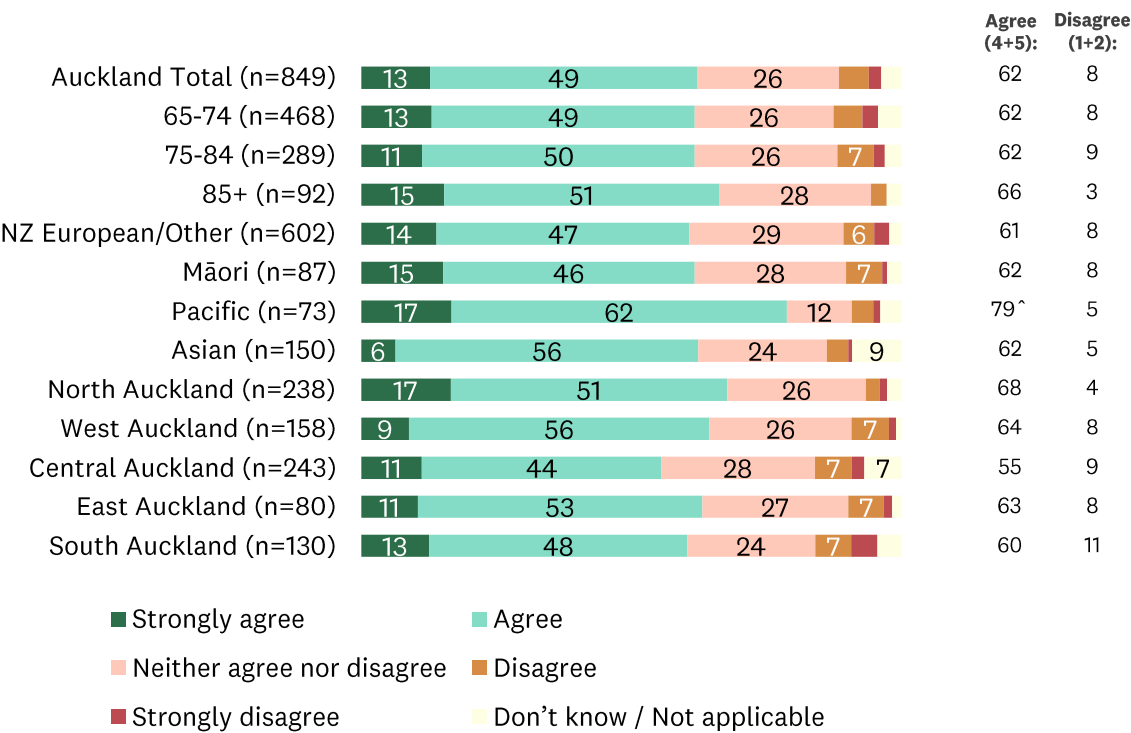
Source: Q25: Which of the following best describes how much you trust most people you deal with regularly?

(1 – I trust them completely, 2 – I trust them a lot, 3 – I trust them somewhat, 4 – I do not trust them very much, 5 – I do not trust them at all, 98 – Don't know)

Community strength and spirit

Around three in five (62%) respondents agreed they felt a sense of community with people in their local area, similar to the 2021 survey where 63% of respondents agreed with this statement. Pacific respondents (79%) were more likely than other ethnic groups to agree they felt a sense of community with other people in their local area.

Community strength and spirit – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q26: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: I feel a sense of community with people in my local area

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of safety: Local neighbourhood after dark

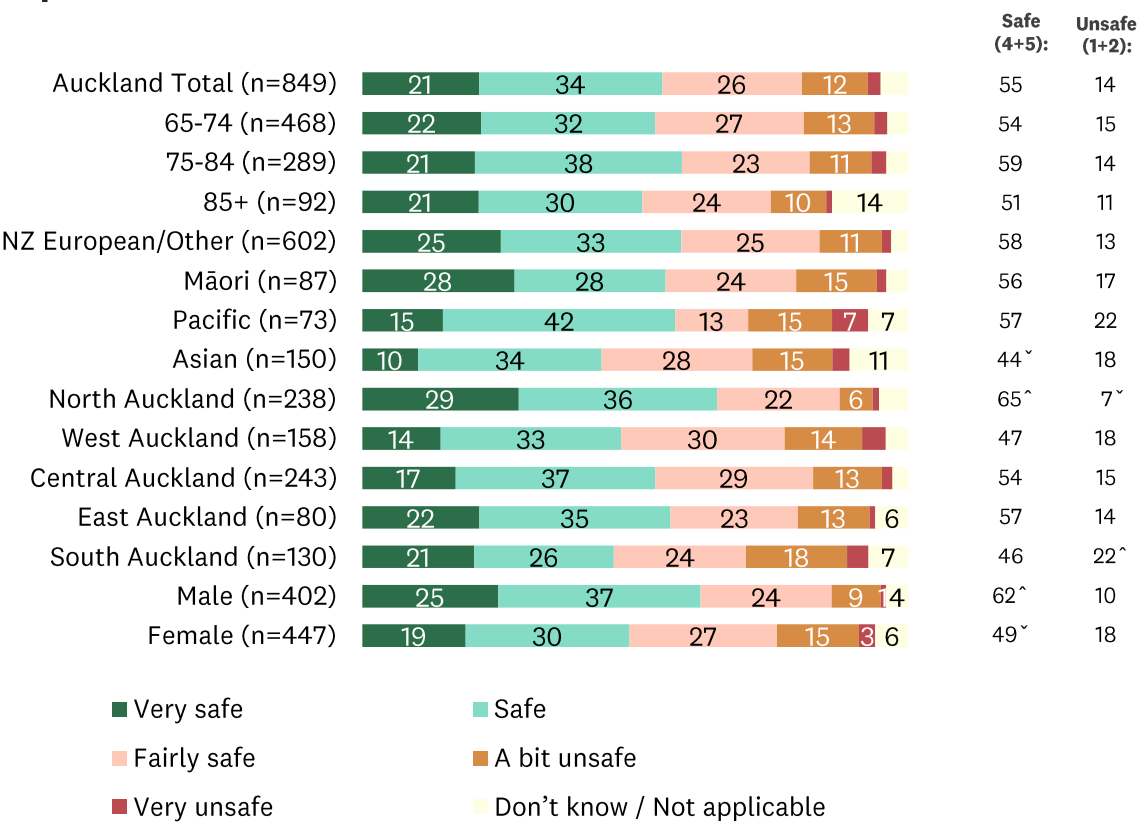
Just over half (55%) of respondents said they felt safe in their local neighbourhood after dark, similar to the 2021 survey, where 56% said they felt safe in this situation.

Respondents living in North Auckland (65%) were more likely than respondents living in other areas to say they felt safe in their local neighbourhood after dark, while respondents living in South Auckland were more likely to say they felt unsafe in this situation (22%).

Asian respondents (44%) were less likely to feel safe in their local neighbourhood after dark compared to residents of other ethnic groups.

Finally, female respondents (49%) were much less likely than males (62%) to say they felt safe in their local neighbourhood after dark.

Perceptions of safety in local neighbourhood after dark – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q13: How safe or unsafe do you feel in the following situations?: In my neighbourhood after dark (outside of my home)

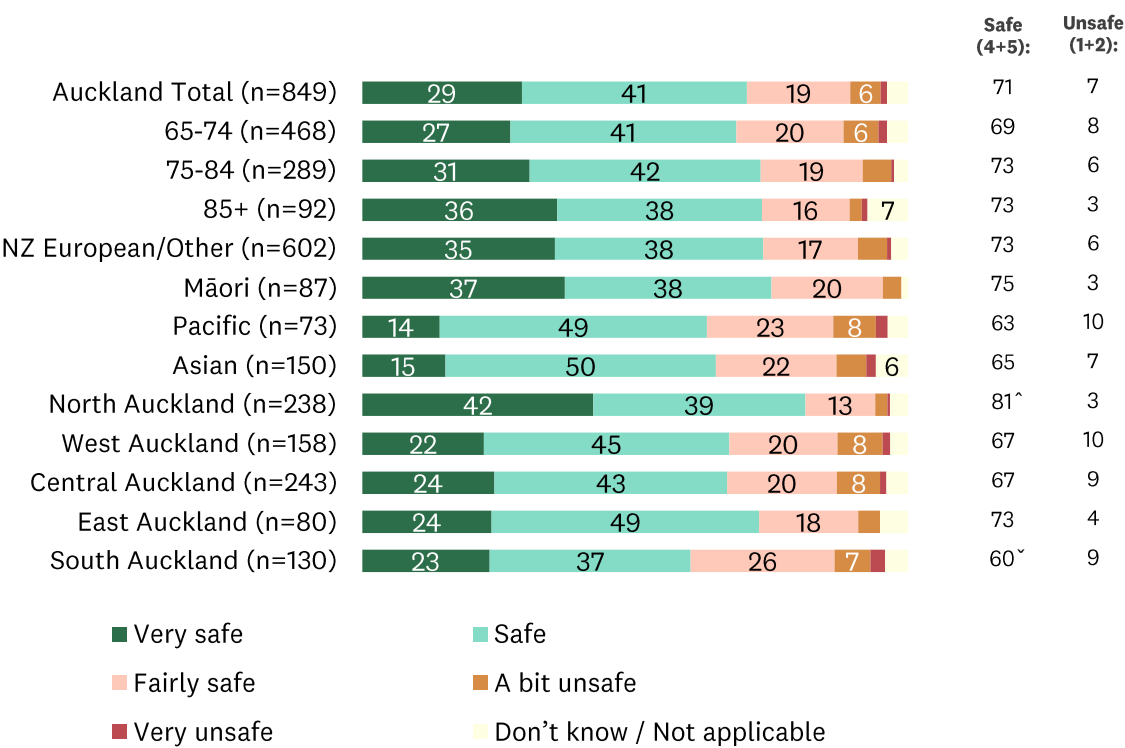
(1 – Very unsafe, 2 – A bit unsafe, 3 – Fairly safe, 3 – Safe, 4 – Very safe, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

Perceptions of safety: Local town centre during the day

Almost three-quarters (71%) of older Aucklanders said they felt safe in their local town centre during the day, showing no real change since the 2021 survey (72% of respondents said they felt safe in their local town centre during the day).

Again, feelings of safety in this situation were significantly higher for North Auckland respondents (81%) and significantly lower for South Auckland respondents (60%), compared to respondents living in other areas of Auckland.

Perceptions of safety in local town centre in daytime – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q13: How safe or unsafe do you feel in the following situations?: In my local town centre during the day
 (1 – Very unsafe, 2 – A bit unsafe, 3 – Fairly safe, 3 – Safe, 4 – Very safe, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

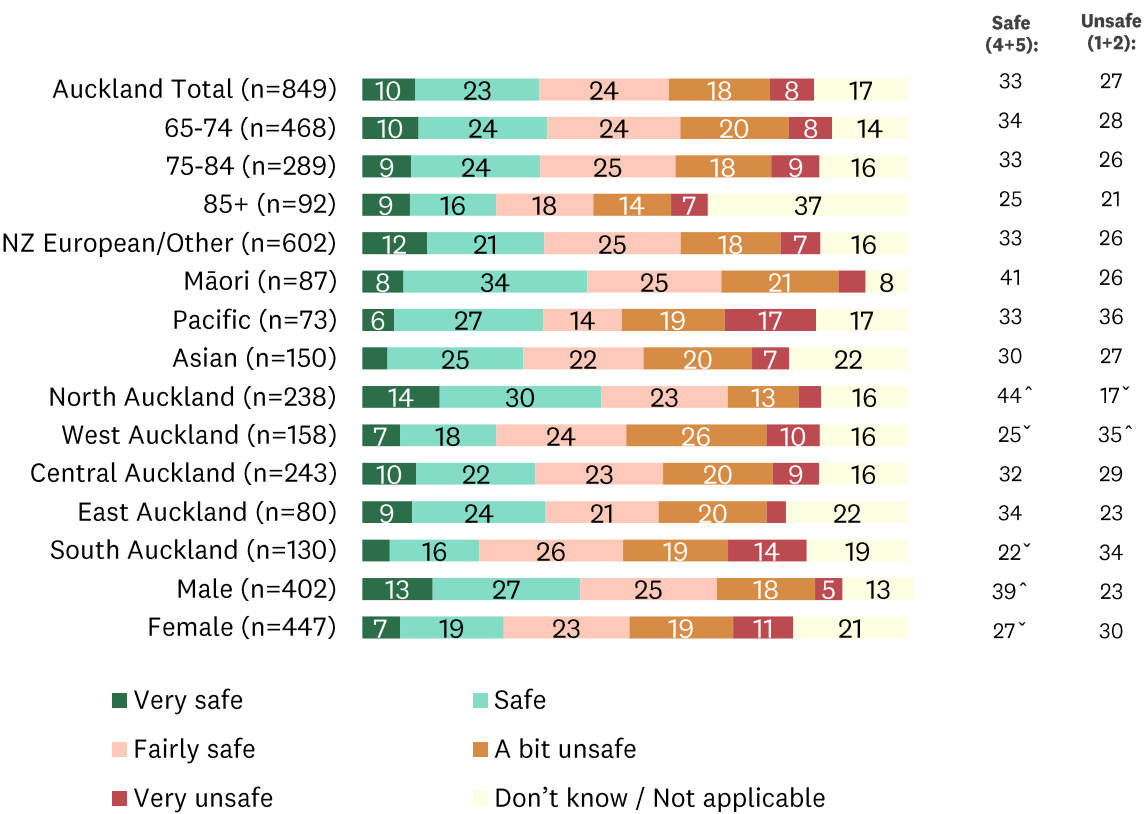
Perceptions of safety:
Local town centre after dark

One-third (33%) of respondents said they felt safe in their local town centre after dark, once again showing no change since the 2021 survey (34%). It is worth noting that around one-fifth (17%) of respondents selected “don’t know/not applicable” for this question, with those aged 85+ years (37%) more likely to do so than other groups.

In line with the previous question, North Auckland respondents (44%) were more likely than other residents to say they felt safe in their local town centre after dark. On the other hand, South (22%) and West (25%) Auckland respondents were less likely than others to say they felt safe in their local town centre after dark.

Other significant differences (not shown below) were found by gender. Female respondents (27%) were less likely than males (39%) to say they felt safe in their local town centre after dark.

Perceptions of safety in local town centre after dark – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q13: How safe or unsafe do you feel in the following situations?: In my local town centre after dark
(1 – Very unsafe, 2 – A bit unsafe, 3 – Fairly safe, 3 – Safe, 4 – Very safe, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

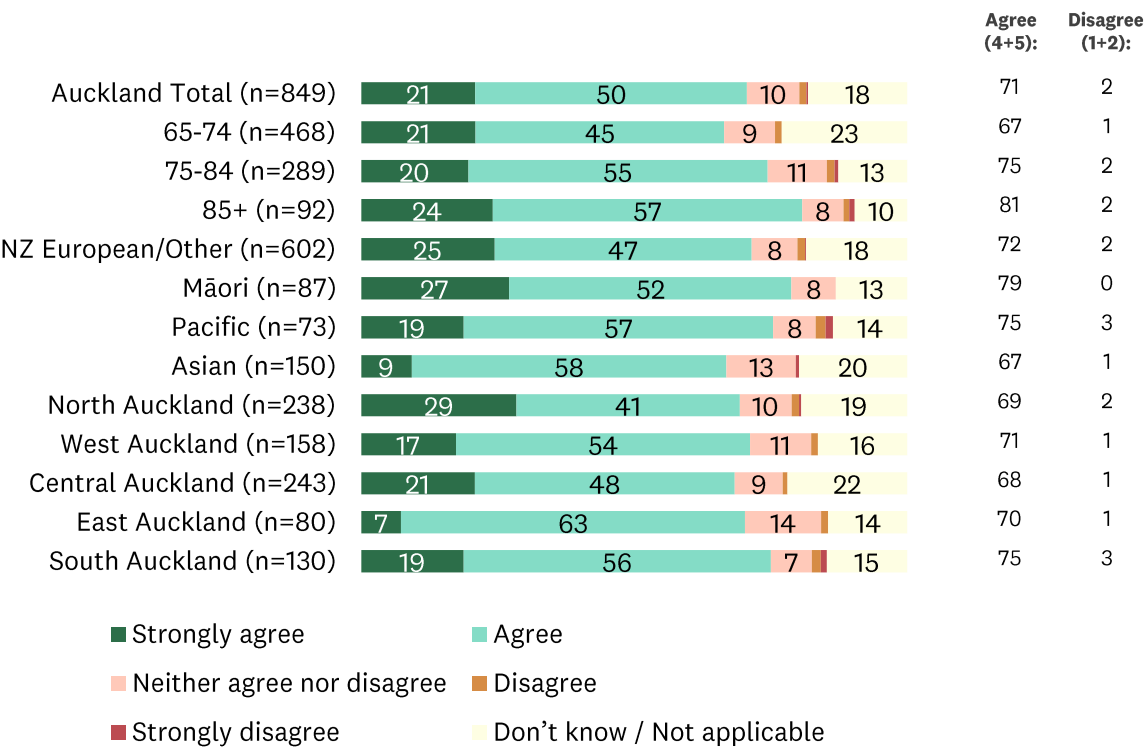
Comfort using accessibility aids in public

Almost three-quarters (71%) of older Aucklanders agreed they felt comfortable publicly using items to improve their accessibility, such as mobility aids, hearing aids, and glasses. This shows no real change since the 2021 survey (67% of respondents agreed). It is worth noting that a substantial proportion (18%) selected “do not know/not applicable”.

Those who reported they lived with a disability (83%) were more likely to agree they felt comfortable using accessibility items in public, compared to those who did not report living with a disability (67%) (not shown below).

There were no other statistically significant differences found.

Comfort using accessibility aids in public – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)

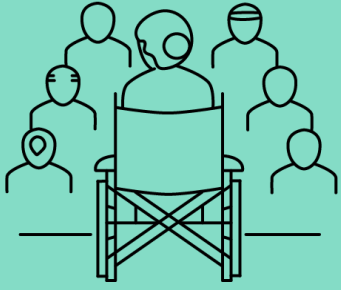


Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q26: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: I feel comfortable using items to improve my accessibility in public (e.g. mobility aids, hearing aids, glasses, etc.)

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Respect and social inclusion



We are visible; our decisions, diversity, and experience are respected and appreciated

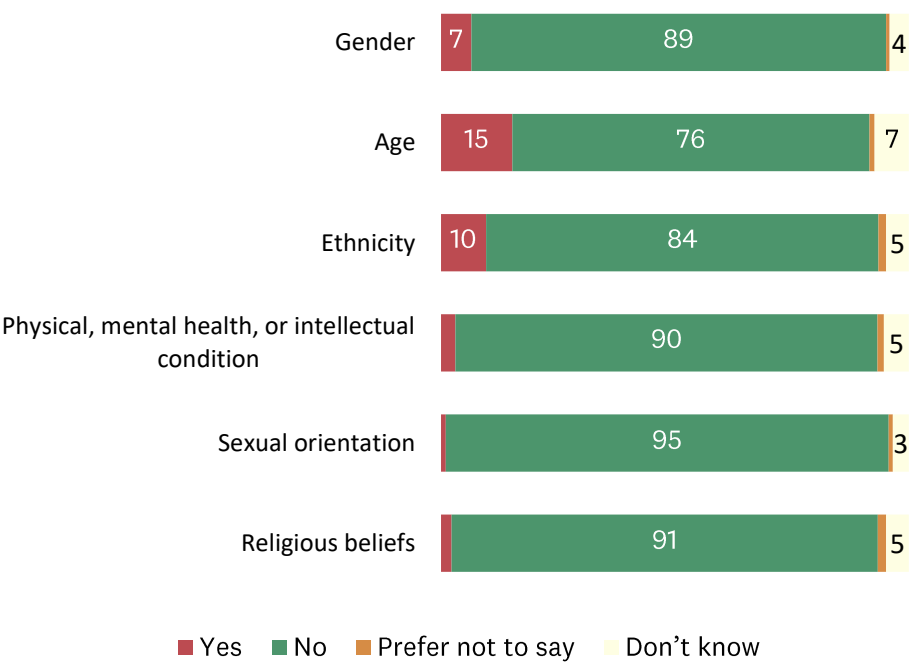


Discrimination

Most older Aucklanders said they had not experienced any form of discrimination in the previous 12 months. A small proportion (15%) said they had experienced age-based discrimination, while 10% had experienced ethnicity-based discrimination. In addition, 7% said they had experienced gender-based discrimination. Very small proportions said they had experienced discrimination due to a physical, mental health, or intellectual condition (3%), their religious beliefs (2%), or due to their sexual orientation (1%).

Significantly more Māori respondents (19%) reported experiencing ethnicity-based discrimination compared to other respondents (10%).

Discrimination – Auckland total (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q27: In the last 12 months, do you feel you have been discriminated against because of your: (1 – Yes, 2 – No, 97 – Prefer not to say, 98 – Don't know)

Crime victimisation

Reported victimisations occurring in the three Auckland police districts (Auckland, Counties/Manukau, and Waitematā) of those aged 65 years and over comprised 5% of all 2025 victimisations (58,055 victimisations). Please note the below data measures reported crime victimisations; it may not be accurate due to potential under-reporting of crime victimisations by specific groups. Additional analysis of the 2025 data highlights further details:

- **Ethnicity:** More older European Aucklanders reported experiencing crime compared to other ethnic groups, with 40% of reported victimisations from Europeans. This was followed by Asian/Indian Aucklanders (12%), Māori (10%), Pacific (6%), and Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African (2%). A large proportion of reported victimisations (30%) did not have ethnicity data.
- **Location:** Slightly more victimisations were reported in Counties/Manukau (36%), followed by Waitematā (33%), and Auckland City (31%).
- **Type of crime:** The most reported crime that occurred to victims was theft (67% of all reported victimisations of older Aucklanders in 2025). This was followed by assault (29%).

Age group	2021		2023		2025		Change 2021-2025	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
0-14 years	2191	4	2793	4	3033	5	842	38
15-24 years	8425	16	9860	15	8367	14	-58	-1
25-34 years	11,460	21	14,080	21	11,294	19	-166	-1
35-49 years	11,251	21	15,187	23	13,335	23	2084	19
50-64 years	6926	13	9167	14	7469	13	543	8
65+ years	2302	4	3243	5	2873	5	571	25
N/A or not specified	10,983	21	12,352	19	11,684	20	701	6
Total reported victimisations	53,538	100	66,682	100	58,055	100	4517	8

Reported victimisations of Aucklanders (2021-2025)
Source: New Zealand Police

Elder abuse is a serious issue in Aotearoa New Zealand, involving the abuse and neglect of older people. This abuse and neglect can take numerous forms, including financial, physical, emotional/verbal, psychological, sexual, and institutional abuse and neglect, and can have devastating consequences for victims. Globally, elder abuse rates are estimated to be within the 5-20% range, but are widely under-reported and undetected. New Zealand lacks sufficient research to provide prevalence rates of elder abuse.

The primary instrument for measuring elder abuse in populations is the International Resident Assessment Instrument – Home Care assessment (interRAI). One New Zealand study used the interRAI to investigate the extent of elder abuse among older people in the Southern District Health Board, but found the instrument only captured 3% of the population, suggesting the instrument was not adequate.⁹

More recently, another nation-wide study analysed existing secondary data to improve the detection of older people at risk of experiencing elder abuse using the interRAI.¹⁰ Using nine years of data, they found that older adults at the highest risk of elder abuse tended to be male, were on average 79.2 years old, living alone, suffering from depression, and assessed as not having independent decision-making. They found that detection rates of elder abuse improved from 2.5% to 5.9%, through adapting how the interRAI was used to measure elder abuse. This is more in line with international estimates.

Elder abuse is under-reported and undetected for a variety of reasons. Qualitative research exploring elder abuse among older Pacific adults in New Zealand found that shame, fear, and loyalty impacted help-seeking behaviours.¹¹ Older people's intellectual capacity can also impact whether they are able to report abuse, and fear of reprisal in institutional settings (e.g. aged care facilities) also contribute to lower levels of reporting and detection.

⁹ Hall, Y., Greco, P., Hau, K., & Barak, Y. (2020). Older adults abuse: analysis of a New Zealand national dataset. *International Psychogeriatrics*, 32 (8), 1003-1008. doi:10.1017/S1041610220001520

¹⁰ Turner, R., Glue, P., & Barak, Y. (2024). Effects of changing criteria on improving interRAI assessment for elder abuse: analysis of a national dataset from Aotearoa New Zealand. *BMJ Open*, 14 (e081791). doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-081791.

¹¹ Thaggard, S., Boon-Nanai, J., Tautolo, E.S., & Montayre, J. (2023). Experiences of Elder Abuse in Pacific Island Communities of Aotearoa New Zealand: a Cultural Lens. *Population Ageing*, 16, 437-458. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12062-020-09318-y>.

Civic participation and employment



We have an active role in our community for as long as we choose regardless of our background, health and abilities, or first language

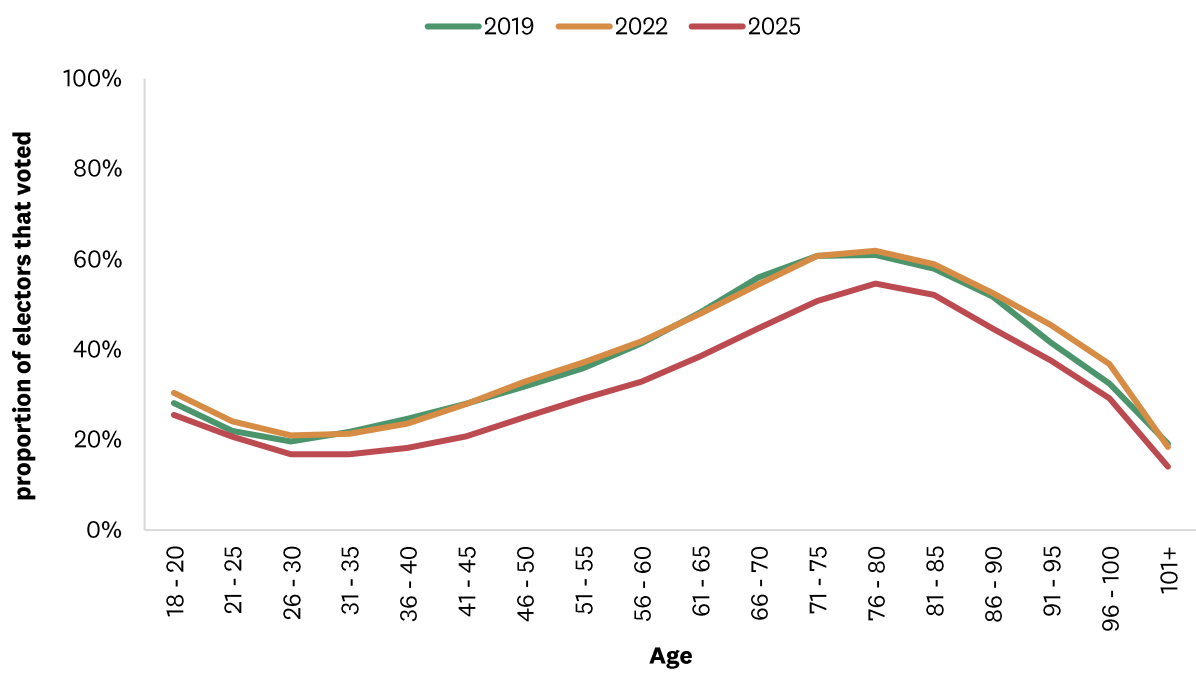


Voter turnout: Local government elections

Age has a strong correlation with voting behaviour, with older age groups more likely to vote compared to younger people. This is consistent with Aucklanders’ voting behaviours. In 2025, almost half (49%) of Aucklanders aged 66 and over who were enrolled to vote participated in local government elections. Voter turnout was highest among those aged 76-80 years (55%).¹²

Examining changes over time shows that there has been a decline in voting in local elections for those aged over 65 years. In 2019, 57% of Auckland electors in this age group voted, compared with 49% in 2025.

Please note that analysis of voter turnout by ethnic group is not possible, as elector ethnicity data is not captured in the New Zealand Electoral Roll.



Voter turnout in Auckland local elections, by 5-year age bands (2019-2025) (%)

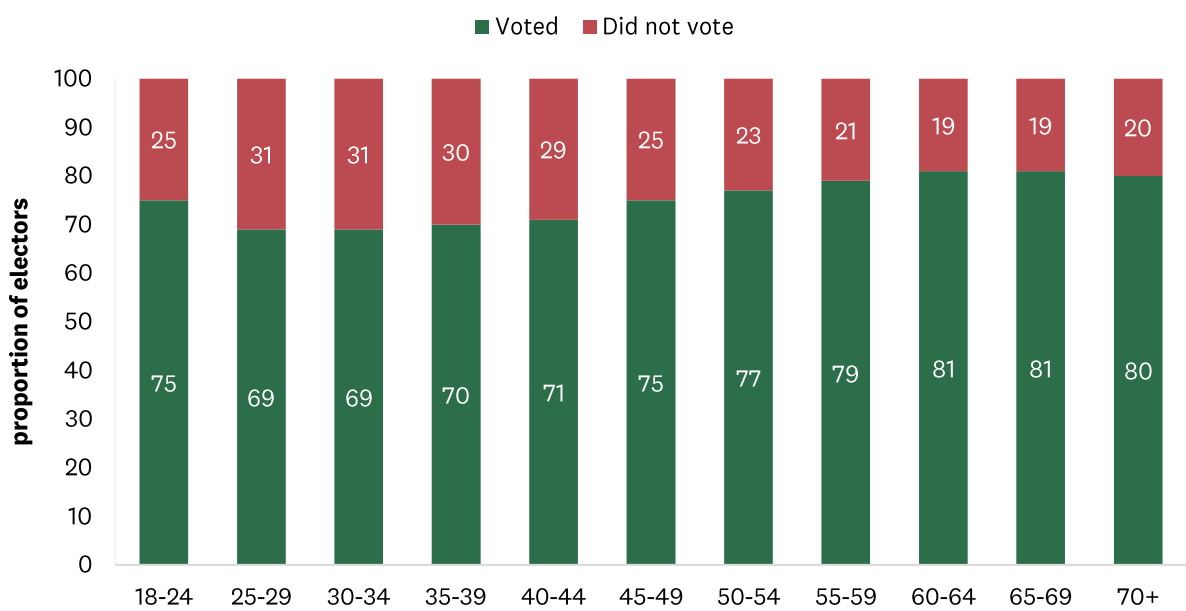
Data source: New Zealand Electoral Commission

Note: 2019 n = 1,063,735; 2022 n = 1,128,255; 2025 n = 1,199,907

¹² Osborne, B., & Prakash, A. (2026). 2025 Auckland local election voter turnout: Who did and did not vote? Auckland Council. <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/2025-auckland-local-election-voter-turnout-who-did-and-did-not-vote/>

Voter turnout: Central government elections

Aucklanders aged 65 years and over have a higher rate of participation in central government elections, compared to local elections. In the 2023 General Election, 81% of enrolled Auckland voters aged 65 and over voted, compared with 75% of all enrolled Aucklanders.



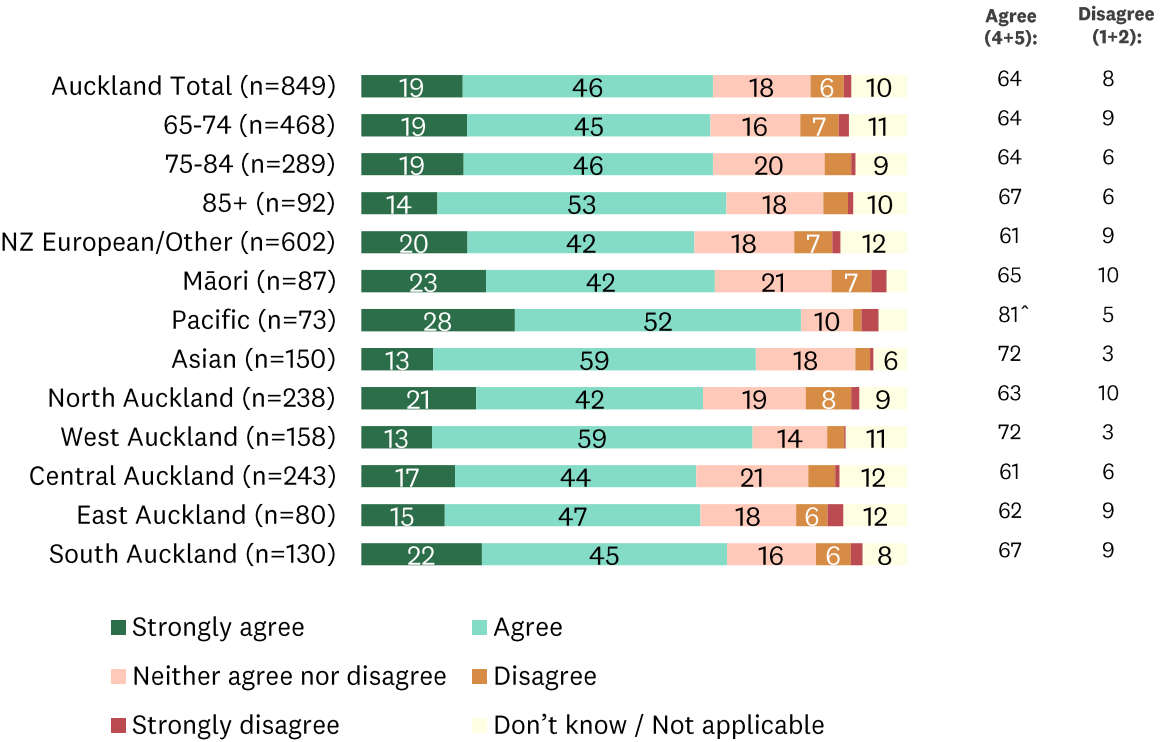
Voter turnout in 2023 General Election of older Aucklanders (2023) (%)
Data source: New Zealand Electoral Commission

Valued contribution to society

Almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents agreed they had an opportunity to play a role as an elder in their family and/or community – no change since the 2021 survey. This was significantly higher among Pacific respondents (81%) compared to other ethnic groups.

Other significant differences were found based on household composition (not shown below). Those living with children (under 18 years) related to them (83%) were more likely than other respondents to agree they had an opportunity to play a role as an elder, as did those living just with their partner/spouse (71%). On the other hand, those living alone (53%) were significantly less likely to say they had an opportunity to play a role as an elder in their family/community.

Valued contribution – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q26: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?: I have the opportunity to play a role as an elder in my family and/or community (e.g. leadership, decision-making for the family, providing advice, caring for grandchildren, etc.)

(1 – Strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 4 – Agree, 5 – Strongly agree, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Unpaid work

At the 2023 Census, around eight in ten Aucklanders aged 65 years and over (82%) said they participated in at least one unpaid activity in the four weeks prior to census day. Most older Aucklanders undertaking unpaid work were doing household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, and other activities relating to their own household. Considerable proportions were looking after children, or other people who were unwell or had a disability.

More older Pacific Aucklanders reported looking after a child in their own household (13%) compared to other ethnic groups, while fewer older European Aucklanders (5%) did so. In addition, more older Māori (10%) and Pacific Aucklanders (12%) were looking after a member of their own household who was ill or had a disability.

	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian	Total stated - ethnicity
Household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, etc., for own household	82	77	70	76	79
Looking after a child who is a member of own household	5	13	21	17	9
Looking after a member of own household who is ill or has a disability	6	10	12	6	7
Looking after a child who does not live in own household	16	16	13	8	14
Helping someone who is ill or has a disability who does not live in own household	9	11	7	2	7
Other helping or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae	15	15	11	6	13
<i>At least one unpaid activity</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>82</i>
<i>No unpaid activities</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>18</i>
Total stated – unpaid activities	130,620	9165	12,813	40,179	189,693

Unpaid activities of older Aucklanders, by ethnic group (2023) (%)

Data source: Stats NZ, New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings

In 2023, the majority of older Aucklanders (83%) said they received income from New Zealand Superannuation or a Veteran’s Pension. There were no differences by gender, but fewer older Pacific (73%) and Asian (65%) Aucklanders said they received this compared to other ethnic groups. Other notable differences included:

- Fewer Older Pacific Aucklanders (5%) received interest, dividends, rent, or other investments compared to other ethnic groups (34%)
- More Older Māori (26%) received wages, salary, commission, bonuses, etc., paid by an employer
- More males (15%) received income through self-employment or their own business, compared to females (6%).

	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian	Male	Female	Total stated
Wages, salary, commission, bonuses, etc., paid by an employer	18	26	20	13	19	16	17
Self-employment or own business	13	8	2	6	15	6	10
Interest, dividends, rent, other investments	43	16	5	20	35	33	34
New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran’s Pension	89	83	73	65	82	84	83
Other superannuation, pensions, or annuities	10	8	12	10	11	9	10
Other government benefits	3	12	15	12	6	7	6
No income sources	1	2	4	9	3	3	3
Total stated	147,948	11,907	17,394	46,221	101,361	118,152	219,750

Sources of personal income of older Aucklanders, by gender and ethnic group (2023) (%)

Data source: Stats NZ, New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings

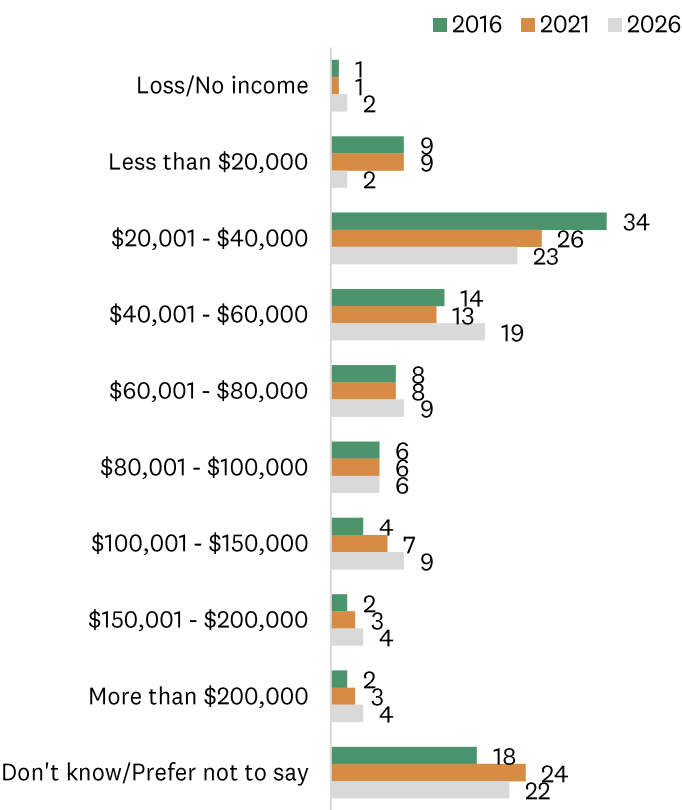
Note: Individuals could report more than one source of income, so percentages exceed 100.

The 2023 Census also provides information about the number of personal income sources, which shows that just under half (46%) of older Aucklanders received one type of income, 38% received two types, 12% received three types, and 2% received four or more. There were no gender differences in the number of personal income sources that older Aucklanders received.

Income – household income

We asked respondents about their household’s annual income before tax. Responses were varied. About one-fifth (23%) reported an annual household income of \$20,001-\$40,000 and another one-fifth either did not know or preferred not to say (22%). There were some significant differences in reported annual household income before tax:

- **Up to \$40,000:** Respondents were more likely to be aged 85 years and over (41%), Asian (37%), female (34%), and residents of West Auckland (37%), compared to the rest of the sample (27%).
- **\$80,001 - \$100,000:** Respondents were more likely to be Māori (28%) compared to other ethnic groups (15%).
- **\$100,001-\$150,000:** Respondents were less likely to be Asian (8%) compared to others (15%).
- **More than \$150,000:** Respondents were more likely to be male (14%) and less likely to be female (3%).

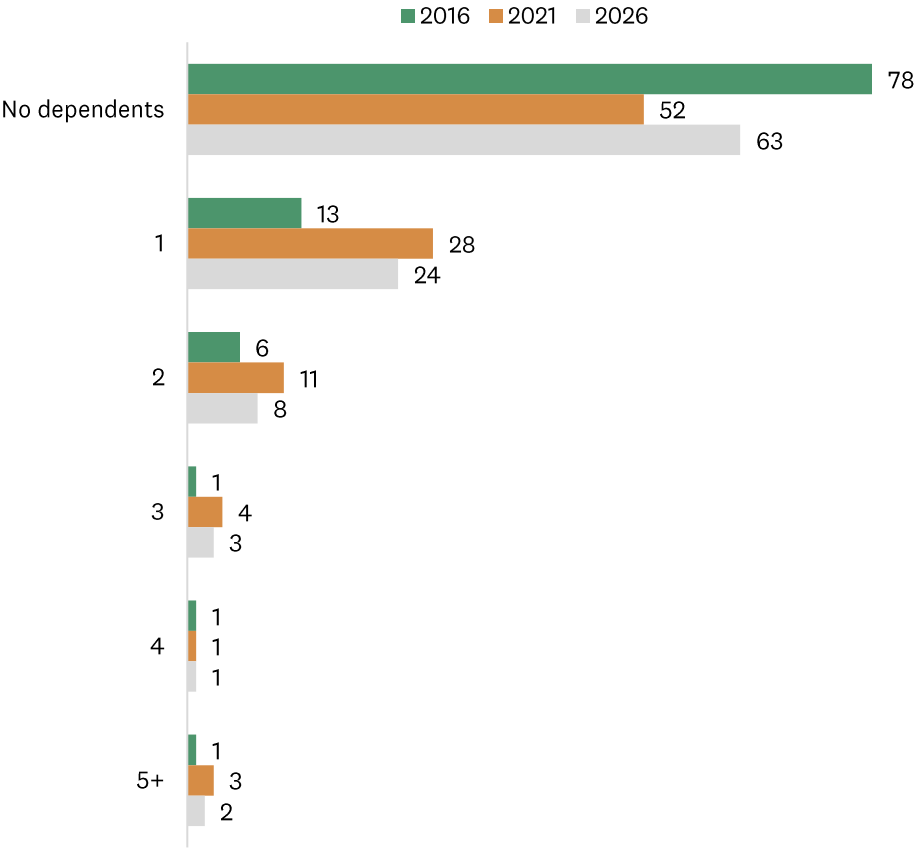


Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (2016 n = 847; 2021 n = 1405; 2026 n=849) (%)
Source: Q32: Which of the following describes your household’s annual income before tax?

Financial dependents

Survey respondents were asked how many people they regularly supported financially (excluding themselves). Almost two-thirds (63%) said they had no other financial dependents, which has fluctuated considerably over the previous years of this survey. Respondents with no financial dependents were less likely to be Pacific (37%) or male (48%) compared to others, and more likely to be female (75%).

One-quarter (24%) of respondents said they had one financial dependent and 8% said they had two dependents. It was more uncommon for respondents to have three or more financial dependents. There were no other significant differences found among the subgroups analysed.



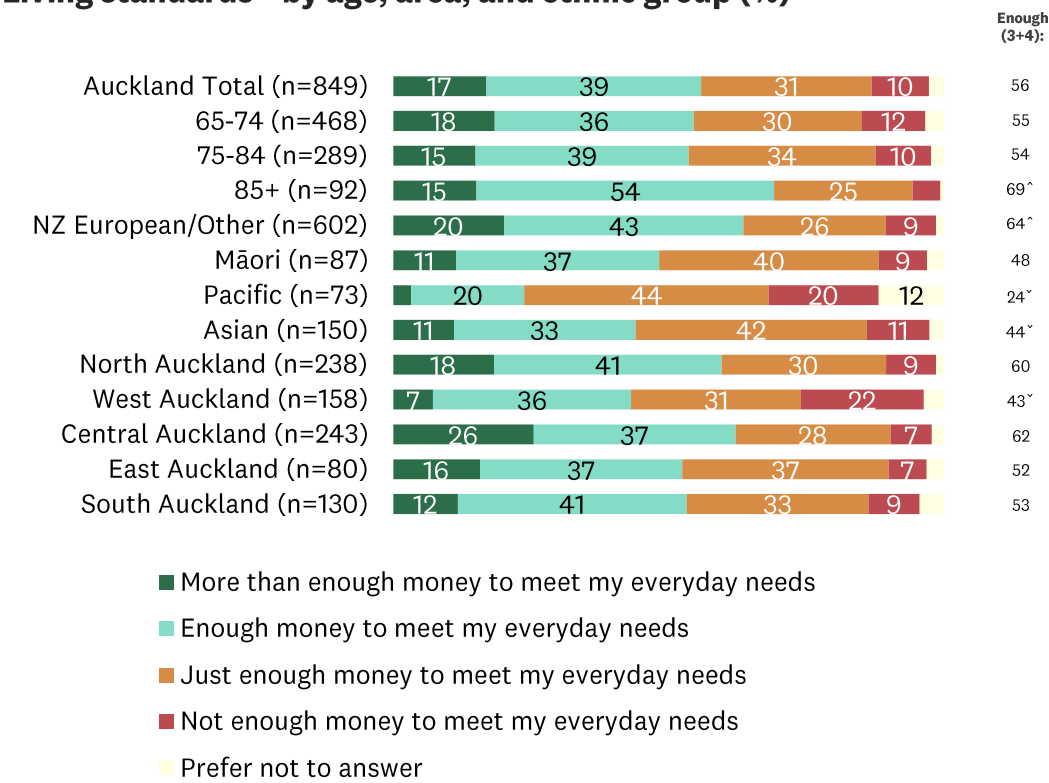
Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=2016 n = 847; 2021 n = 1405; 2026 n = 849) (%)

Source: Q34: Excluding yourself, how many people do you support financially, on a regular basis?

Almost three in five (56%) respondents said they had ‘enough’ or ‘more than enough’ money to meet their everyday needs. This shows no real change since the 2021 survey (58%). There were several statistically significant differences that emerged during analysis:

- **Age:** Those aged 85 years and over (69%) were significantly more likely to say they had enough money to meet their everyday needs compared to others.
- **Ethnic group:** New Zealand European/Other (64%) respondents were more likely to say they had enough money to meet their everyday needs compared to other ethnic groups, while Pacific (24%) and Asian (44%) respondents were less likely.
- **Area:** West Auckland respondents (43%) were less likely to say they had enough money to meet their everyday needs compared to residents in other areas.

Living standards – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q35: Which of the following best describes how well your total income (from all sources) meets your everyday needs?

(1 – Not enough money to meet my everyday needs, 2 – Just enough money to meet my everyday needs, 3 – Enough money to meet my everyday needs, 4 – More than enough money to meet my everyday needs, 97 – Prefer not to answer)

Paid employment: 65-74 years

Since the 2006 Census, increasing proportions of older Aucklanders aged 65-74 years are remaining in the labour force (27% in 2006, not shown below; 36% in 2023). Unemployment appears to be very low among people in this age group (around 1%). The proportion of those in part-time employment has remained stable over time, but the proportion of those in full-time employment has risen over the last few censuses (15% in 2006, rising to 22% in 2023).

Males (42%) were more likely to remain in the labour force than females (30%), particularly in full-time employment (men – 29%, women – 16%). The proportions in part-time employment were similar (12% of men and 14% of women).

Ethnic group differences among this age group were also apparent. European and Māori Aucklanders aged 65-74 years were more likely (41% and 40% respectively) to be in the labour force, while older Pacific (31%) and Asian Aucklanders (24%) were less likely to be in the labour force.

	2013		2018		2023	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Employed full-time	17,886	20	22,485	20	27,414	22
Employed part-time	11,880	13	13,806	13	16,272	13
Employed ²	29,766	33	36,291	33	43,686	35
Unemployed	720	1	876	1	876	1
In the labour force ³	30,486	34	37,167	34	44,562	36
Not in the labour force	60,219	66	72,735	66	80,121	64
Unemployment rate ⁴		2		2		2
Total stated	90,711	100	109,905	100	124,686	100

Work and labour force status¹ for Aucklanders aged 65-74 years (2013-2023) (%)

Source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

Notes:

- 1) A person’s work and labour force status in the seven days ending 3 March 2013, 4 March 2018, and 7 March 2023.
- 2) The ‘Employed’ row sums the ‘Employed full-time’ and ‘Employed part-time’ rows.
- 3) The ‘In the labour force’ row is a sum of the rows ‘Employed full-time’, ‘Employed part-time’, and ‘Unemployed’ rows.
- 4) The proportion of older Aucklanders aged 65-74 years who were unemployed. The unemployment rate is calculated as a proportion of ‘Total people in labour force’.

Paid employment: 75+ years

Aucklanders are working for longer than they used to. Census data indicates that increasing proportions of Aucklanders aged 75 years and over remain in the labour force – 7% were in the labour force in 2013, which increased to 10% in 2023 (4% were in full-time employment and 6% were in part-time employment).

As with those aged 65-74, more males aged 75+ (13%) were in the labour force compared with females aged 75+ (7%). In addition, ethnic group differences were apparent. Again, Māori (14%) and European (11%) Aucklanders of this age group were more likely to be in the labour force, compared to their Pacific (6%) and Asian (5%) counterparts.

	2013		2018		2023	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Employed full-time	1305	2	2160	3	3480	4
Employed part-time	3255	5	3888	5	5487	6
<i>Employed</i>	4560	7	6048	8	8967	9
Unemployed	60	<1	105	<1	165	<1
<i>In the labour force</i>	4620	7	6153	8	9132	10
Not in the labour force	61,059	93	73,119	92	85,932	90
Unemployment rate		1		2		2
Total stated	65,676	100	79,269	100	95,067	100

Work and labour force status¹ for Aucklanders aged 75+ years (2013-2023) (%)

Source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings

Notes:

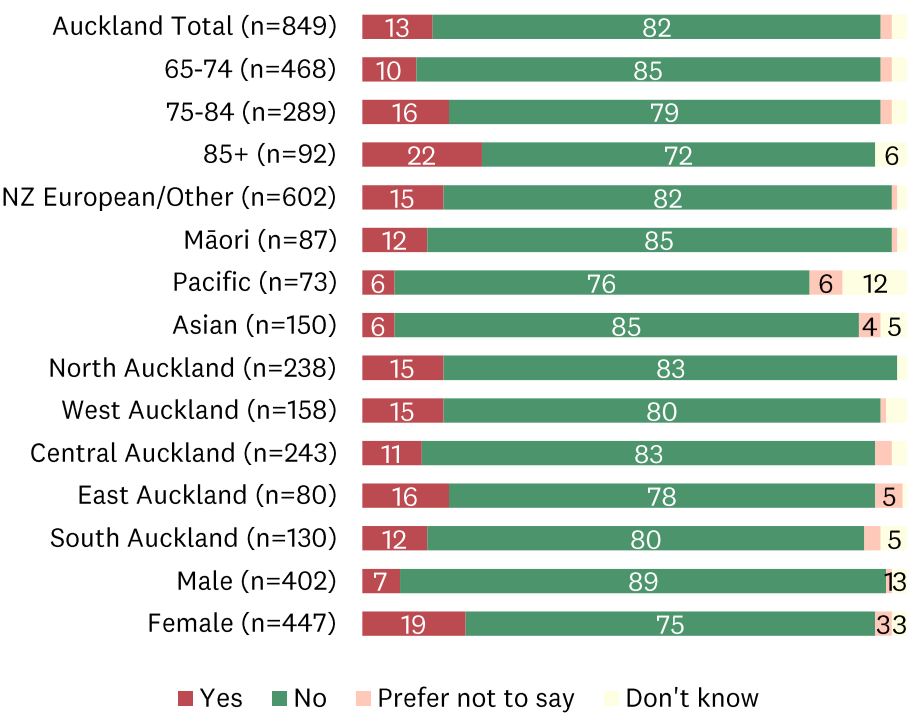
- 1) A person’s work and labour force status in the seven days ending 3 March 2013, 4 March 2018, and 7 March 2023.
- 2) The ‘Employed’ row sums the ‘Employed full-time’ and ‘Employed part-time’ rows.
- 3) The ‘In the labour force’ row is a sum of the rows ‘Employed full-time’, ‘Employed part-time’, and ‘Unemployed’ rows.
- 4) The proportion of older Aucklanders aged 75+ years who are unemployed. The unemployment rate is calculated as a proportion of ‘Total people in labour force’.

For the first time in this study, respondents were asked two questions about financial rebates available to them, specifically whether they had applied for a local government property rates rebate in the last 12 months, and whether they had received one.

Around one-tenth (13%) said they had applied. These respondents were more likely to be aged 85 years and over (22%) compared to younger respondents, and female (19%). On the other hand, they were less likely to be male (7%), Asian (6%), or Pacific (5%). However, Pacific respondents (12%) were also more likely to say they did not know whether they had applied for a rates rebate, compared to others (3%).

Of the respondents who had applied for a property rates rebate, three-quarters (75%) said they received the rebate. There were no significant differences found.

Application for rates rebate – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



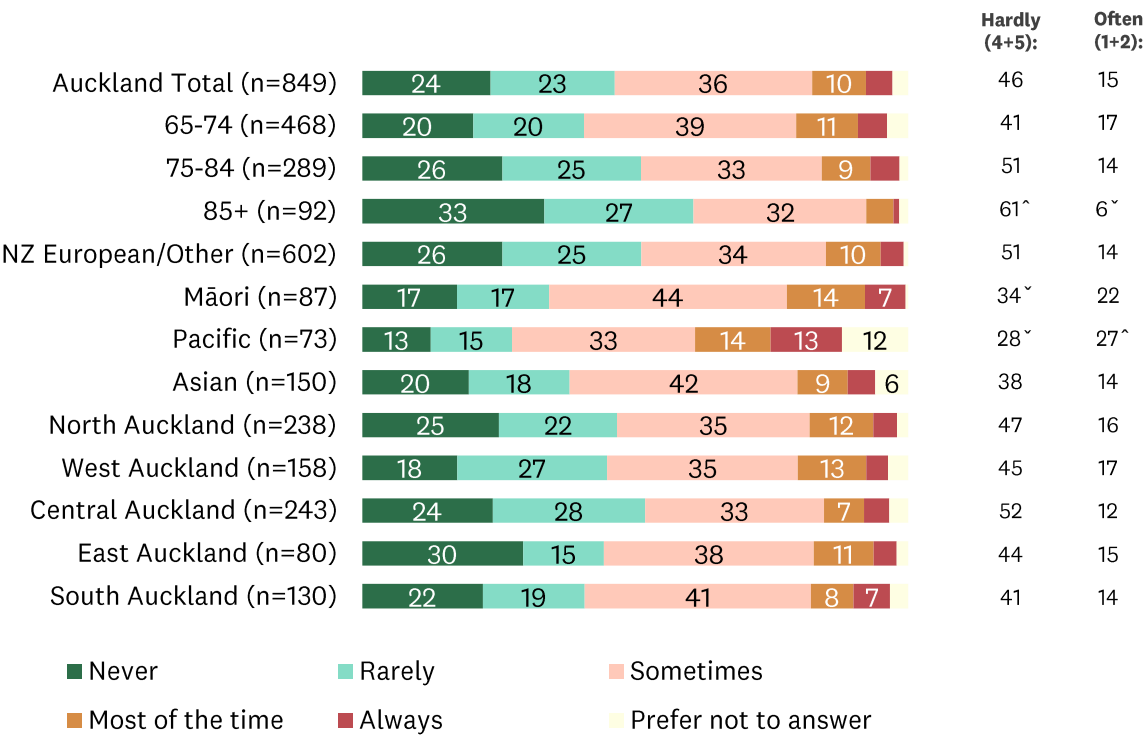
Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q36: In the last 12 months, have you applied for a rates rebate?
(1 – Yes, 2 – No, 97 – Prefer not to answer, 98 – Don't know)

Older Aucklanders were asked a new question in the 2026 survey about how often they had worried about their household’s financial circumstances in the three months prior to the survey. Almost half (46%) of respondents said they had ‘rarely’ or ‘never’ worried, while 15% said they had worried ‘most of the time’ or ‘always’. A small proportion (3%) preferred not to answer.

Pacific respondents were more likely to say they had ‘always’ or ‘most of the time’ worried about their household’s financial circumstances (27%), compared to other ethnic groups. They were also more likely to select ‘prefer not to answer’ (12%) compared to others.

Meanwhile, those aged 85 years and over (61%) were more likely to say they had ‘never’ or ‘rarely’ worried about their household’s financial circumstances in the three months leading up to the survey, compared to younger respondents.

Financial worry – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



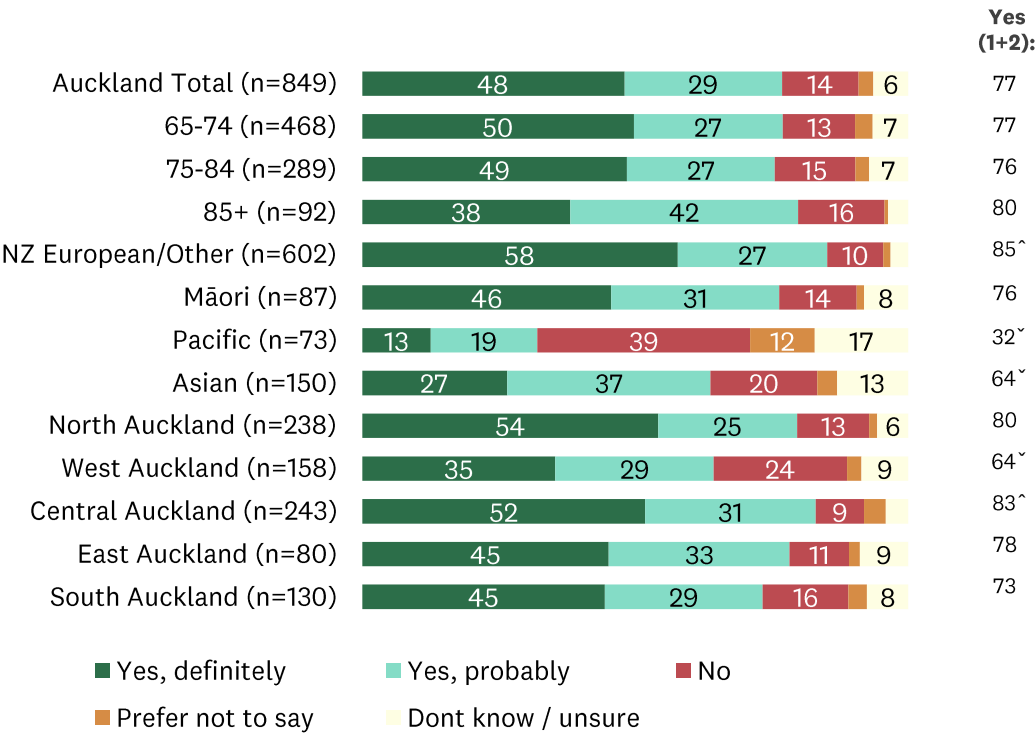
Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q38: In the last 3 months, how often were you worried about your household’s financial circumstances?
(1 – Always, 2 – Most of the time, 3 – Sometimes, 4 – Rarely, 5 – Never, 97 – Prefer not to answer)

Emergency savings

Older Aucklanders were also asked for the first time in this study whether they would be able to access emergency savings (of \$1000) should they need it, within a week and without going into debt. Three-quarters (77%) of respondents said they would be able to do this, with 14% saying they would not, and 9% reporting ‘don’t know’ or ‘prefer not to say’. Significant differences emerged for:

- **Ethnic group:** New Zealand European/Other respondents (85%) were more likely to say they would be able to access emergency savings of \$1000 within a week and without going into debt. Pacific respondents (32%) were much less likely to say they could, as were Asian respondents (64%).
- **Area:** Central Auckland respondents (83%) were also more likely than other residents to say they could access emergency savings within a week and without going into debt, while West Auckland respondents (64%) were less likely.

Emergency savings – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q39: If you had to pay a \$1000 bill unexpectedly, could you access the money within a week and without going into debt?
(1 – Yes, definitely, 2 – Yes, probably, 3 – No, 97 – Prefer not to say, 98 – Don’t know/Unsure)

Communication and information



We can easily find information and support in our community in ways that suit us regardless of our abilities, channel or medium preferences, or first language

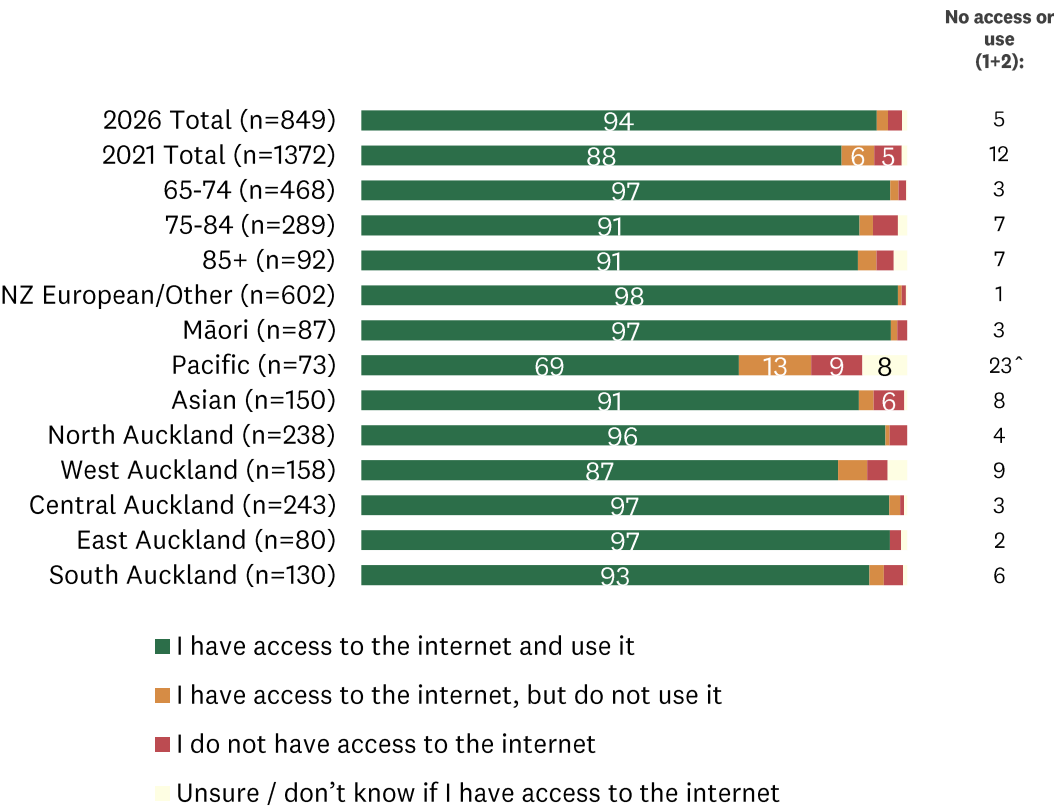


Internet access

Most older Aucklanders reported they had access to and used the internet (94%). This is an increase since the 2021 survey, in which 88% reported access to and use of the internet. Similarly, a very small proportion (5%) said they neither had access nor used the internet (a decline since 2021 – 12%).

Pacific respondents were much more likely to say they had neither access to the internet nor used it (23%), compared to other ethnic groups.

Internet access – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q29: Which of the following best describes your use of the internet (via laptop/PC, tablet, or phone?)

(1 – I do not have access to the internet, 2 – I have access to the internet but do not use it, 3 – I have access to the internet, 98 – Unsure/I don't know if I have access to the internet)

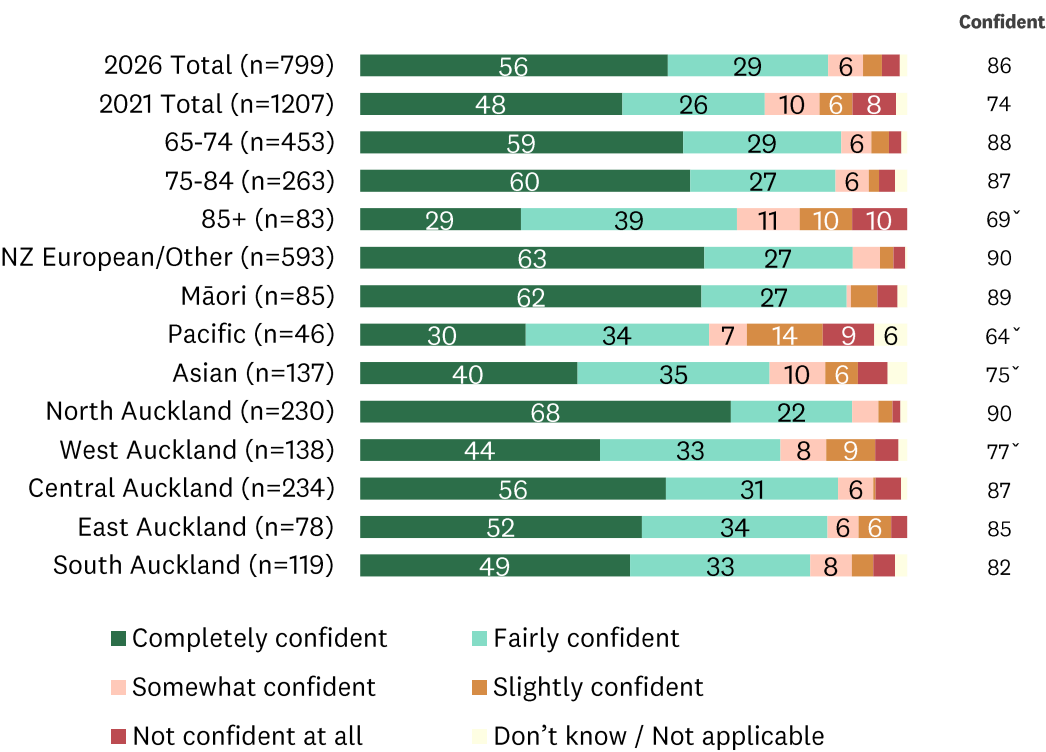
Confidence to use the internet: Transactions

If respondents told us they had access to and used the internet, they were asked a series of questions about their confidence using it for different activities. The majority (86%) of these respondents said they were confident using the internet to make transactions. This marks a substantial increase since the 2021 survey, when 74% said they were confident with this activity.

Statistically significant differences emerged for the following groups:

- **Age:** Those aged 85 years and over (69%) were less likely to be confident in using the internet to make transactions compared to younger respondents.
- **Ethnic group:** Pacific (64%) and Asian (75%) respondents reported they felt less confident making transactions on the internet compared to other ethnic groups.
- **Area:** Older people in West Auckland (77%) also reported less confidence compared to residents living in other areas.

Confidence to use the internet (transactions) – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (who said they have access to the internet and use it) (n=799)
Source: Q30: How confident are you in using the internet for the following activities?: Transactions (1 – Not confident at all, 2 – Slightly confident, 3 – Somewhat confident, 4 – Fairly confident, 5 – Completely confident, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

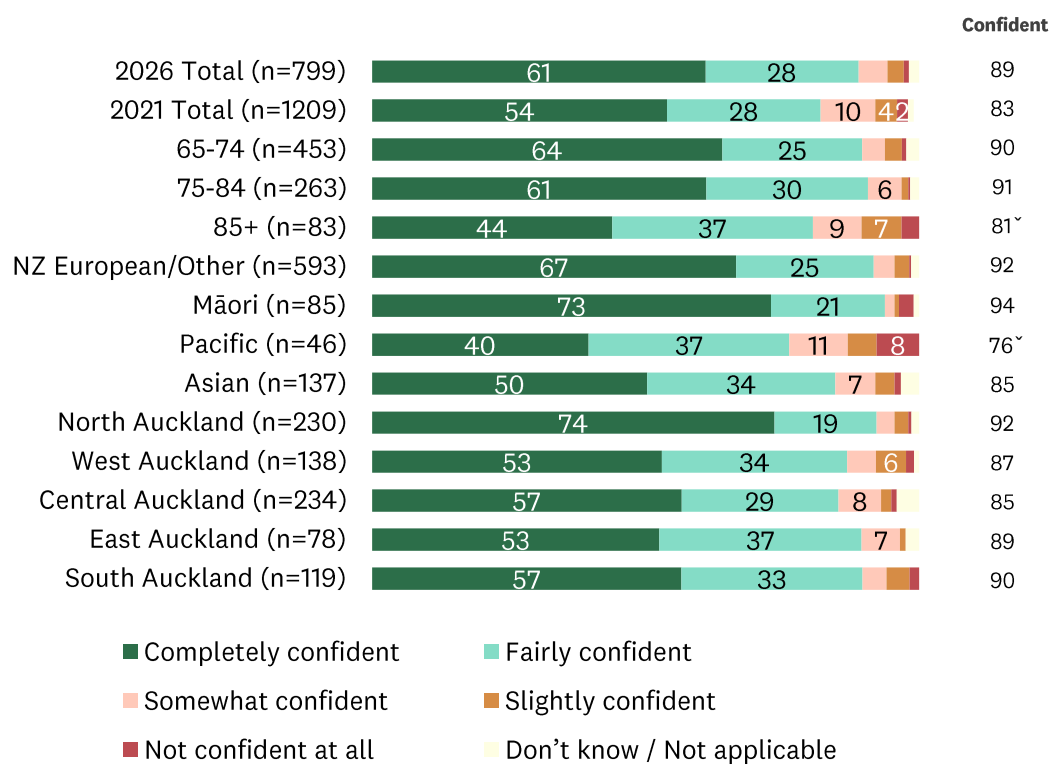
Confidence to use the internet: Keeping connected

The majority (89%) of respondents also said they were confident using the internet to stay connected with friends and family. This is a small increase since the 2021 survey, when 83% said they were confident with this activity.

Statistically significant differences emerged for the following groups:

- **Age:** Those aged 85 years and over (81%) were less likely to be confident in using the internet to make transactions compared to younger respondents.
- **Ethnic group:** Pacific respondents (76%) reported they felt less confident staying connected with friends and family on the internet compared to other ethnic groups.

Confidence to use the internet (connected) – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (who said they have access to the internet and use it) (n=799)
Source: Q30: How confident are you in using the internet for the following activities?: Keeping connected with friends and family
(1 – Not confident at all, 2 – Slightly confident, 3 – Somewhat confident, 4 – Fairly confident, 5 – Completely confident, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Confidence to use the internet:

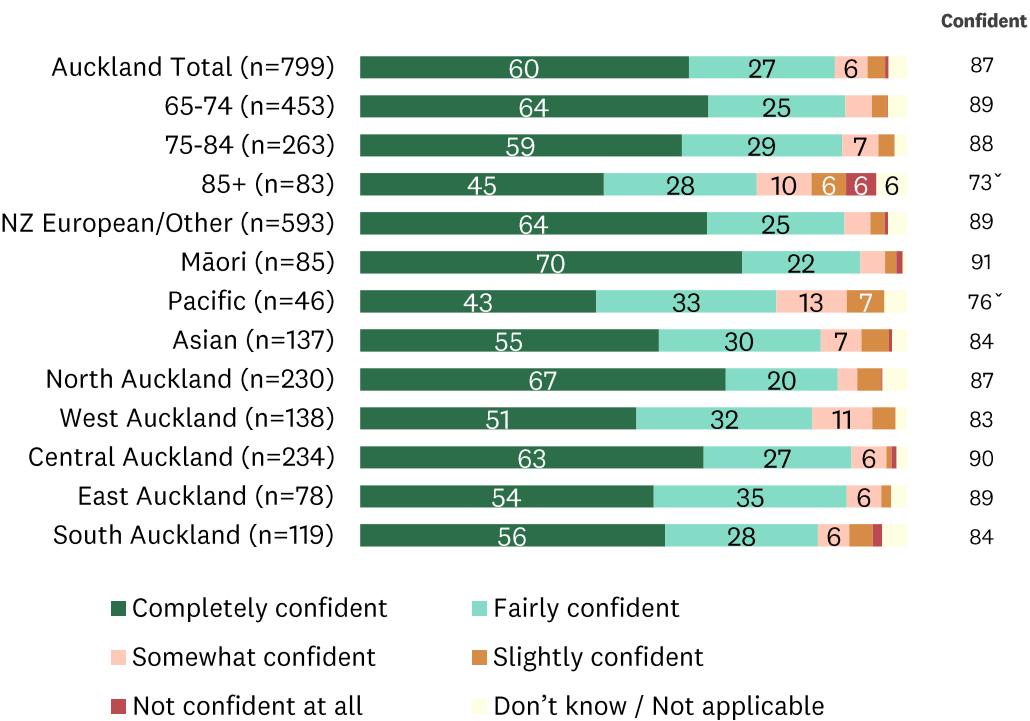
News and entertainment

In addition to asking respondents whether they were confident in using the internet to make transactions and stay connected, respondents in this study were also asked for the first time whether they felt confident using the internet for: 1) accessing news and entertainment, 2) accessing healthcare, and 3) learning and upskilling opportunities.

Most respondents (87%) felt confident using the internet to access news and entertainment. Following the pattern of other internet confidence questions, the following significant differences were found:

- **Age:** Those aged 85 years and over (73%) were less likely to be confident compared to younger respondents.
- **Ethnic group:** Pacific respondents (76%) reported they felt less confident compared to other ethnic groups.

Confidence to use the internet (news) – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (who said they have access to the internet and use it) (n=799)

Source: Q30: How confident are you in using the internet for the following activities?: News and entertainment

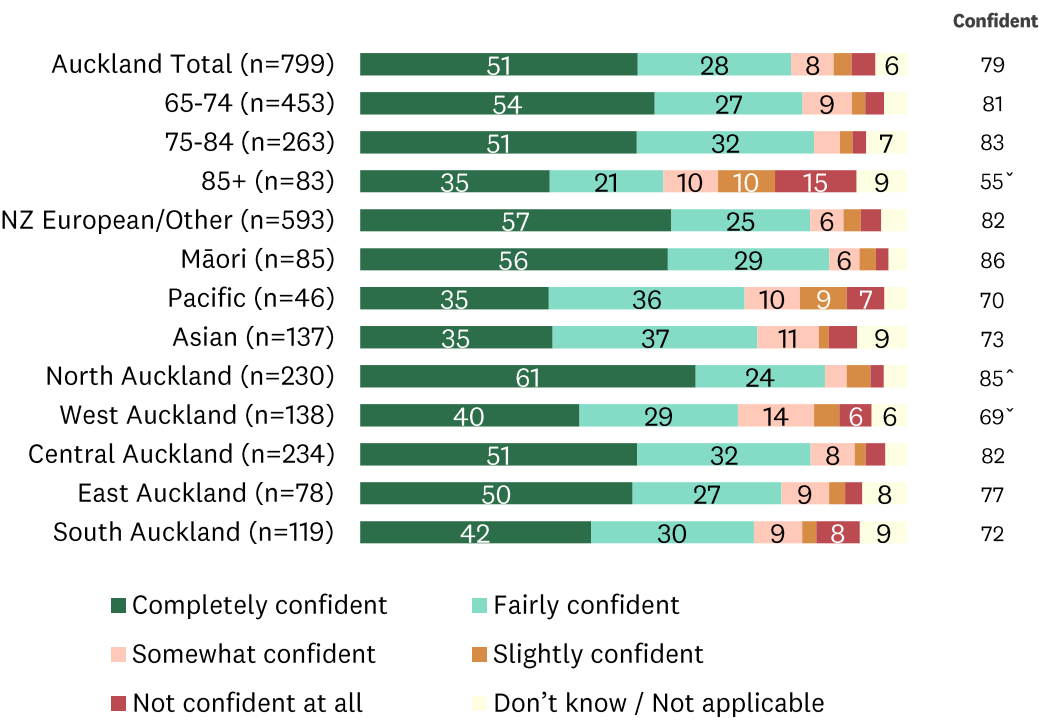
(1 – Not confident at all, 2 – Slightly confident, 3 – Somewhat confident, 4 – Fairly confident, 5 – Completely confident, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Confidence to use the internet: Accessing healthcare

Over three-quarters of respondents (79%) said they felt confident using the internet to access healthcare. Again, respondents aged 85 years and over (55%) were less likely to feel confident to do this compared to younger respondents.

Significant differences based on Auckland area were also noted. North Auckland respondents were more confident (85%), while West Auckland respondents (69%) were less likely to be confident in using the internet to access healthcare, compared to other residents.

Confidence to use the internet (healthcare) – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)

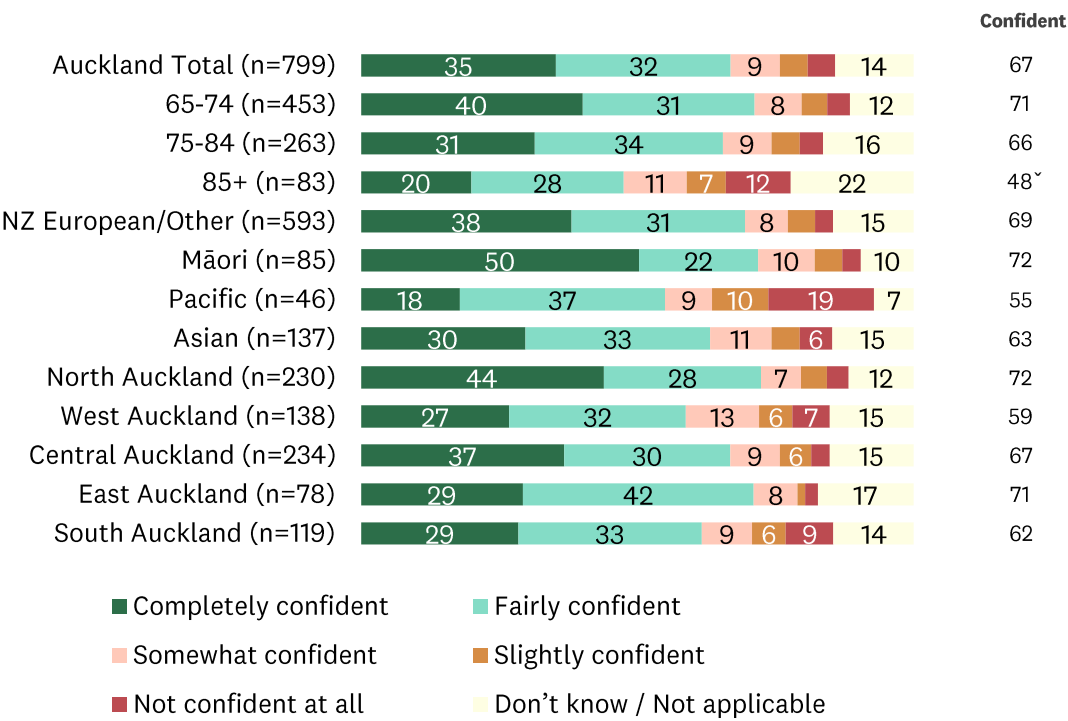


Base: All respondents (who said they have access to the internet and use it) (n=799)
Source: Q30: How confident are you in using the internet for the following activities?: Accessing healthcare
(1 – Not confident at all, 2 – Slightly confident, 3 – Somewhat confident, 4 – Fairly confident, 5 – Completely confident, 98 – Don't know/Not applicable)

Confidence to use the internet:
Learning and upskilling

Finally, we asked respondents about their confidence to use the internet for learning and upskilling themselves. Two-thirds (67%) said they felt confident to do this, with the oldest age group (48%) again more likely to express less confidence. No other significant differences were observed.

Confidence to use the internet (education) – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)

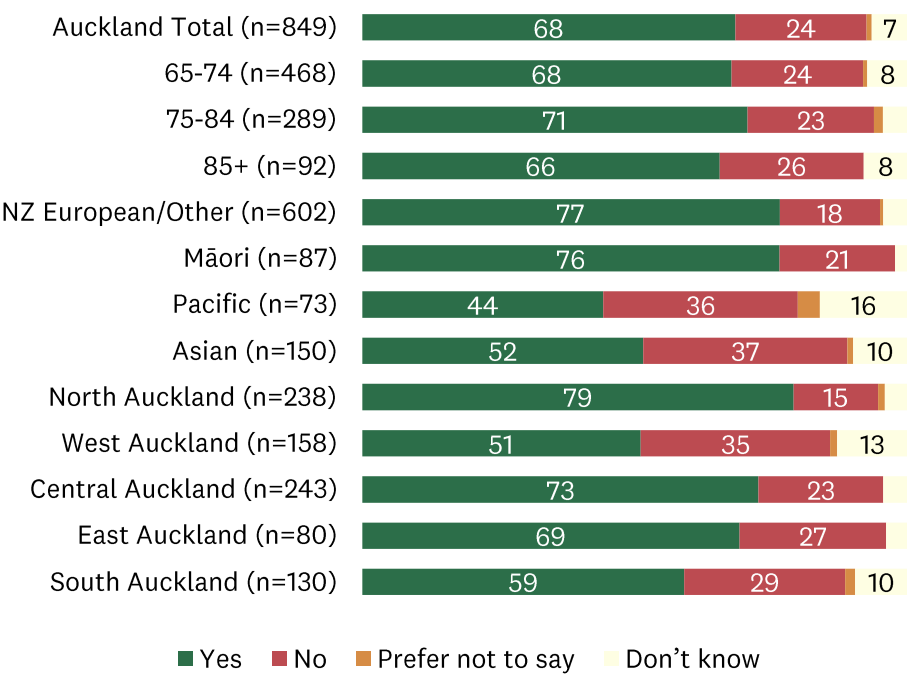


Base: All respondents (who said they have access to the internet and use it) (n=799)
Source: Q30: How confident are you in using the internet for the following activities?: Learning and upskilling
 (1 – Not confident at all, 2 – Slightly confident, 3 – Somewhat confident, 4 – Fairly confident, 5 – Completely confident, 98 – Don’t know/Not applicable)

In the 2026 survey, the study asked another new question regarding whether respondents had, in the last 12 months, been contacted by anyone they suspected was a scammer. Two-thirds (68%) of respondents said they had, and a quarter (24%) said they had not.

New Zealand European/Other respondents (77%) were more likely to say they suspected they had been contacted by a scammer, while Pacific (44%) and Asian (52%) respondents were less likely compared to other ethnic groups.

Cyber-safety – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q31: In the last 12 months, have you been contacted by someone you suspect is a scammer?
(1 – Yes, 2 – No, 97 – Prefer not to say, 98 – Don't know)

Community support and health services

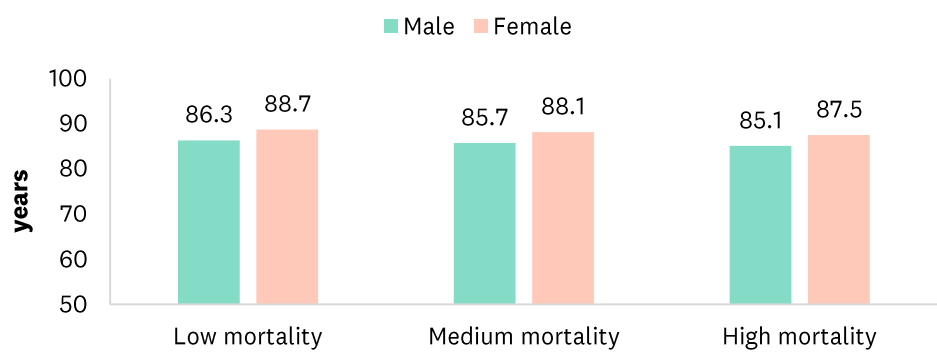


We can proactively stay well and get wellbeing support when we want it regardless of our income or where we live



Life expectancy

Improvements in life expectancy reflect improvements in social and economic conditions, general lifestyle, access to health services, and advances in medical treatment and care. Life expectancy at age 65 indicates the additional number of years a person could expect to live, on average, having reached age 65. This is based on the mortality rates of the population at each age in a given year. The latest cohort life tables available from Stats NZ (1876-2023) indicate that the average length of life for New Zealanders born in 1958 (therefore, 65 years in 2023), is 85.7 years for males and 88.1 years for females, assuming medium mortality rates.



Life expectancy of New Zealanders aged 65 years
Source: Stats NZ, How long will I live calculator (based on Stats NZ complete cohort life tables 1876-2023) and national population projections 2022(base)-2073, mortality assumptions (published July 2022)

Life expectancy is lower for Māori and Pacific peoples in New Zealand, compared to European/Other and Asian peoples. Life expectancy for Māori and Pacific males is lowest out of all displayed categories below, which mirrors the overall trend of lower life expectancy for males than for females that is observed for all ethnic groups.

	Male	Female	Total
European/Other	81.3	84.4	82.8
Māori	73.7	78.0	75.8
Pacific	74.9	78.9	76.9
Asian	85.0	87.6	86.3
Total New Zealanders	80.1	83.5	

Life expectancy at birth for New Zealanders, by ethnic group and sex
Source: Stats NZ, National and subnational period life tables: 2022-2024

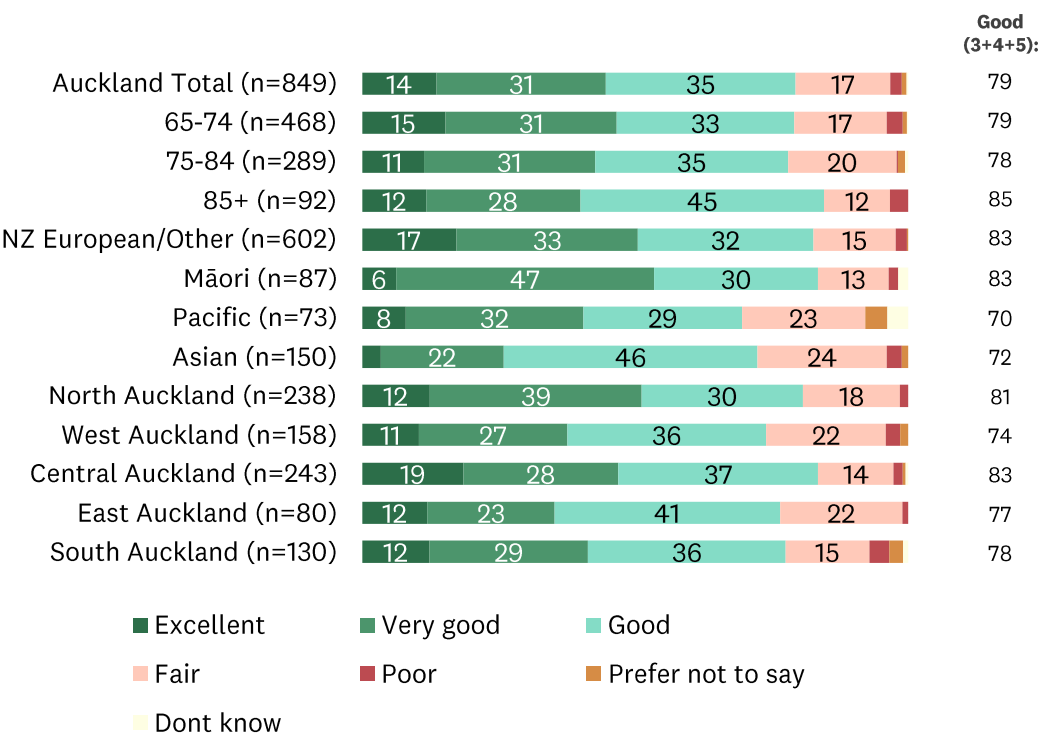
Perceptions of health:

General health

Most (79%) older Aucklanders who responded to the survey rated their health in general as ‘good’, ‘very good’, or ‘excellent’, and one-fifth (19%) rated it as ‘poor’ or ‘fair’. This indicates no change since the 2021 survey.

No statistically significant differences were found among the subgroups analysed.

General health – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q18: There are multiple aspects to people’s personal health. Thinking about your own situation in general, how would you rate each of these aspects of your health during the last two months?: General health

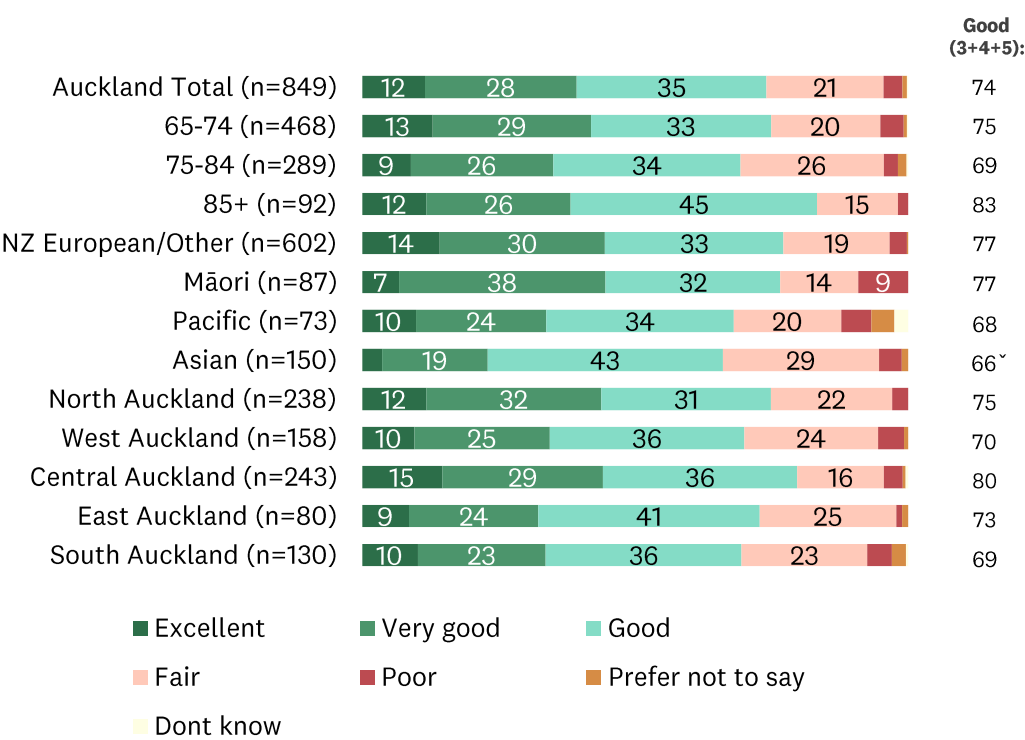
(1 – Poor, 2 – Fair, 3 – Good, 4 – Very good, 5 – Excellent, 97 – Prefer not to say, 98 – Don’t know)

Perceptions of health: Physical health

Three-quarters (74%) of older Aucklanders rated their physical health as ‘good’, ‘very good’, or ‘excellent’, and one-quarter (26%) rated it as ‘poor’ or ‘fair’. This indicates no real change since the 2021 survey.

Asian respondents (66%) were significantly less likely to rate their physical health positively, compared to other ethnic groups.

Physical health – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



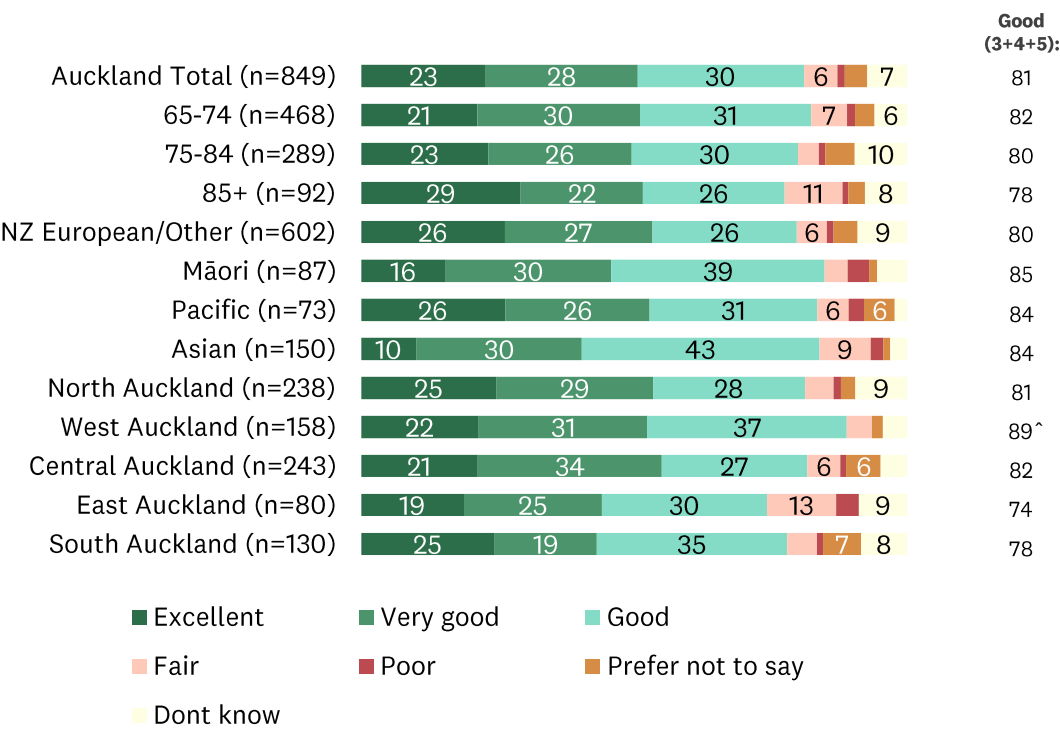
Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q18: There are multiple aspects to people’s personal health. Thinking about your own situation in general, how would you rate each of these aspects of your health during the last two months?: Physical health
(1 – Poor, 2 – Fair, 3 – Good, 4 – Very good, 5 – Excellent, 97 – Prefer not to say, 98 – Don’t know)

Perceptions of health: Spiritual health

Most (81%) older Aucklanders rated their spiritual health as ‘good’, ‘very good’, or ‘excellent’, and one-fifth (19%) rated it as ‘poor’ or ‘fair’. This also indicates no change since the 2021 survey.

Respondents living in West Auckland were more likely to rate their spiritual health positively (89%), compared to residents living in other areas.

Spiritual health – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



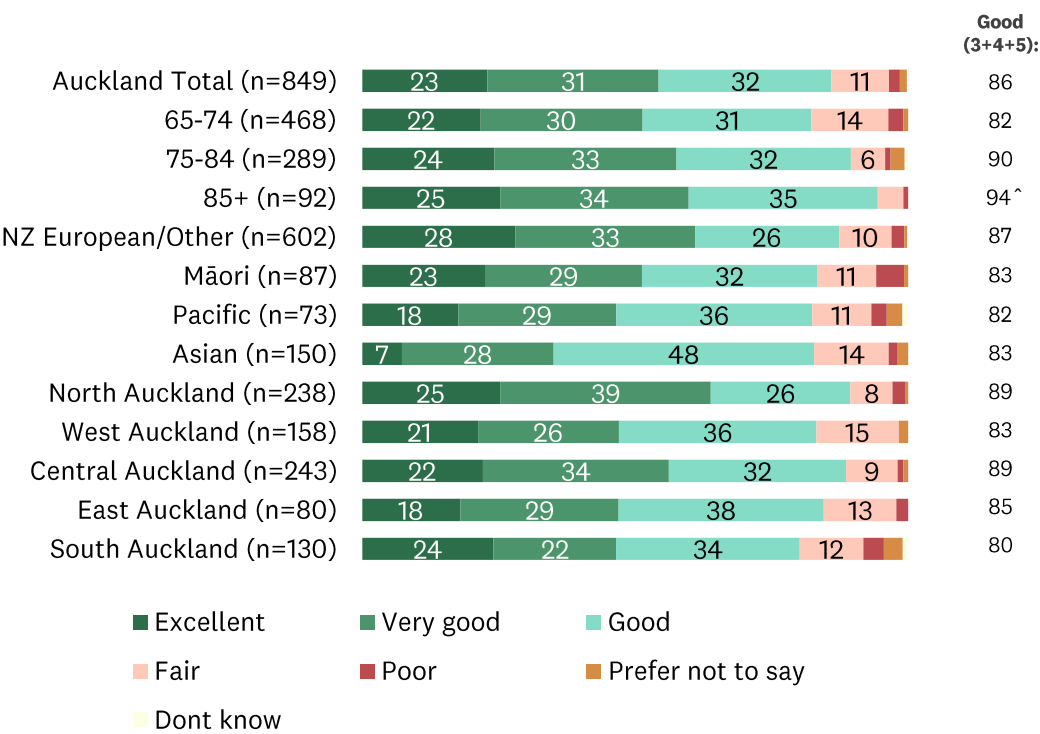
Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q18: There are multiple aspects to people’s personal health. Thinking about your own situation in general, how would you rate each of these aspects of your health during the last two months?: Spiritual health
(1 – Poor, 2 – Fair, 3 – Good, 4 – Very good, 5 – Excellent, 97 – Prefer not to say, 98 – Don’t know)

Perceptions of health:

Mental and emotional health

Most (86%) older Aucklanders also rated their mental and emotional health positively, which shows a small improvement since the 2021 survey, in which 80% of respondents rated this aspect of their health in this way. Those aged 85 years and over (94%) were more likely to rate their mental and emotional health positively compared to younger respondents. No other significant differences were found.

Mental and emotional health – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q18: There are multiple aspects to people’s personal health. Thinking about your own situation in general, how would you rate each of these aspects of your health during the last two months?: Mental and emotional health

(1 – Poor, 2 – Fair, 3 – Good, 4 – Very good, 5 – Excellent, 97 – Prefer not to say, 98 – Don’t know)

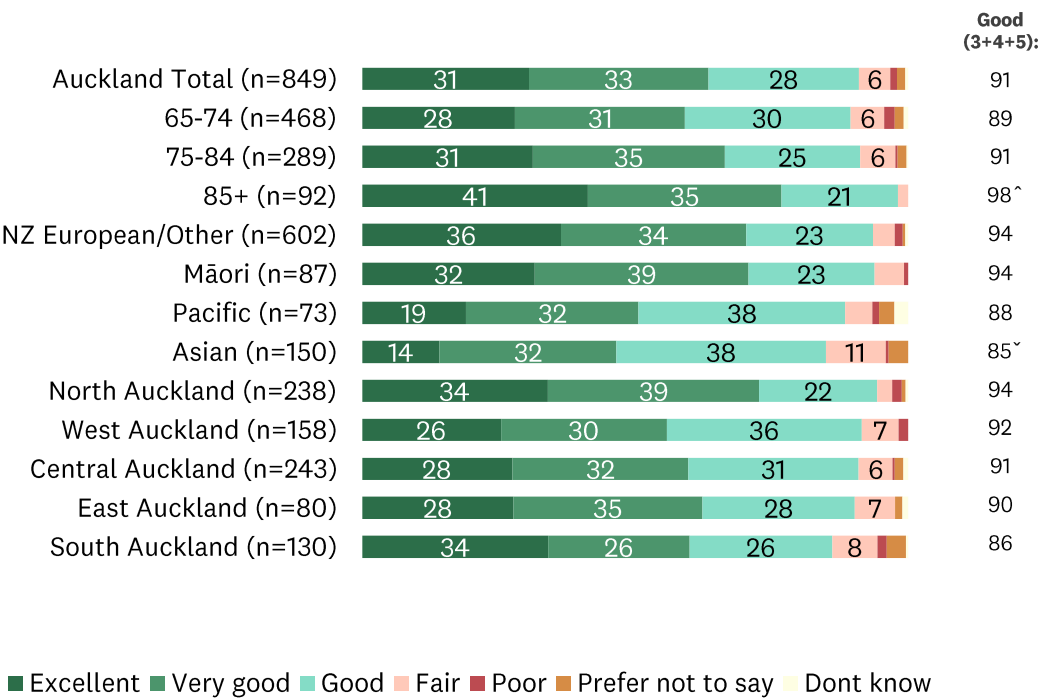
Perceptions of health: Family and relationship health

Finally, when asking about different aspects of respondents’ health, 91% of older Aucklanders rated their family and relationship health positively. This is similar to the 2021 survey (90%).

Those aged 85 years and over (98%) were more likely to rate their family and relationship health in this way compared to younger respondents.

Meanwhile, Asian respondents (85%) were less likely to rate their family and relationship health positively compared to other ethnic groups.

Family and relationship health – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q18: There are multiple aspects to people’s personal health. Thinking about your own situation in general, how would you rate each of these aspects of your health during the last two months?: Family and relationship health

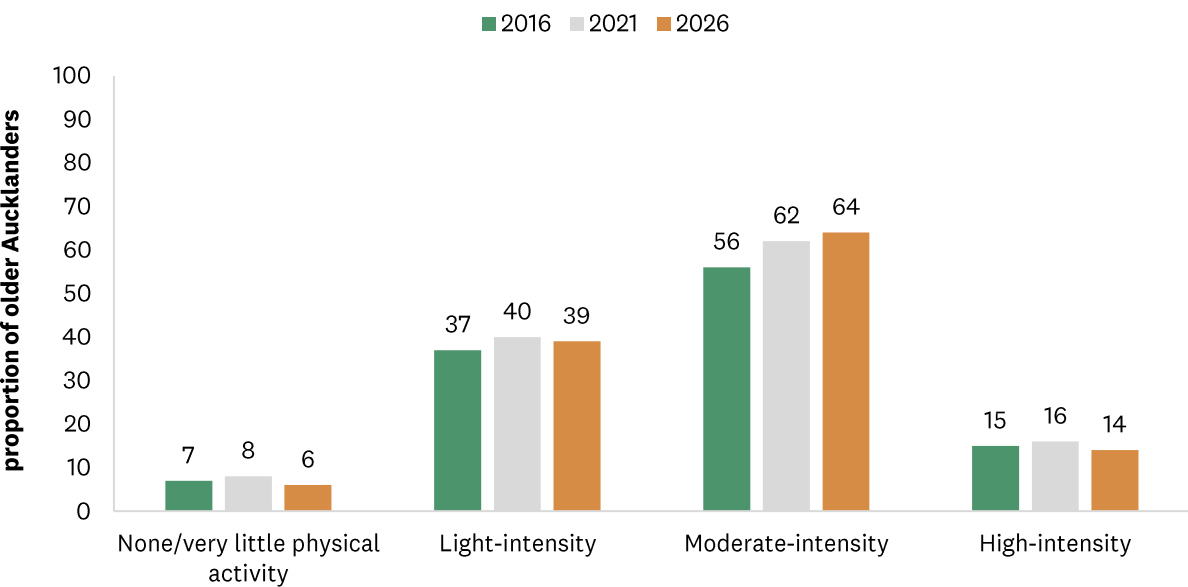
(1 – Poor, 2 – Fair, 3 – Good, 4 – Very good, 5 – Excellent, 97 – Prefer not to say, 98 – Don’t know)

Physical activity

We asked older Aucklanders what types of physical activity they had done in the week leading up to the survey. There was no change since the 2016 or 2021 surveys in the reported levels of physical activity, aside from a small increase in moderate-intensity activities.

A few significant differences were found:

- **None/very little physical activity:** Those aged 85 years and over (12%) were more likely to report this compared to the rest of the sample (6%).
- **High-intensity activities:** Central Auckland respondents (19%) were more likely than other residents to report this level of activity.



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (2016 n = 847; 2021 n = 1405; 2026 n = 849) (%)

Source: Q20: Which of the following types of physical activity have you done in the last week?
(1 – None/very little physical activity, 2 – Light-intensity (day-to-day activities such as carrying shopping or doing housework, 3 – Moderate-intensity (for example, gardening, stretching/tai chi/yoga, or walking to the shops, or playing a slower-paced sport like lawn bowls), 4 – High-intensity (for example, jogging, running, swimming, gym/exercise class, or playing a fast-paced sport like rugby)

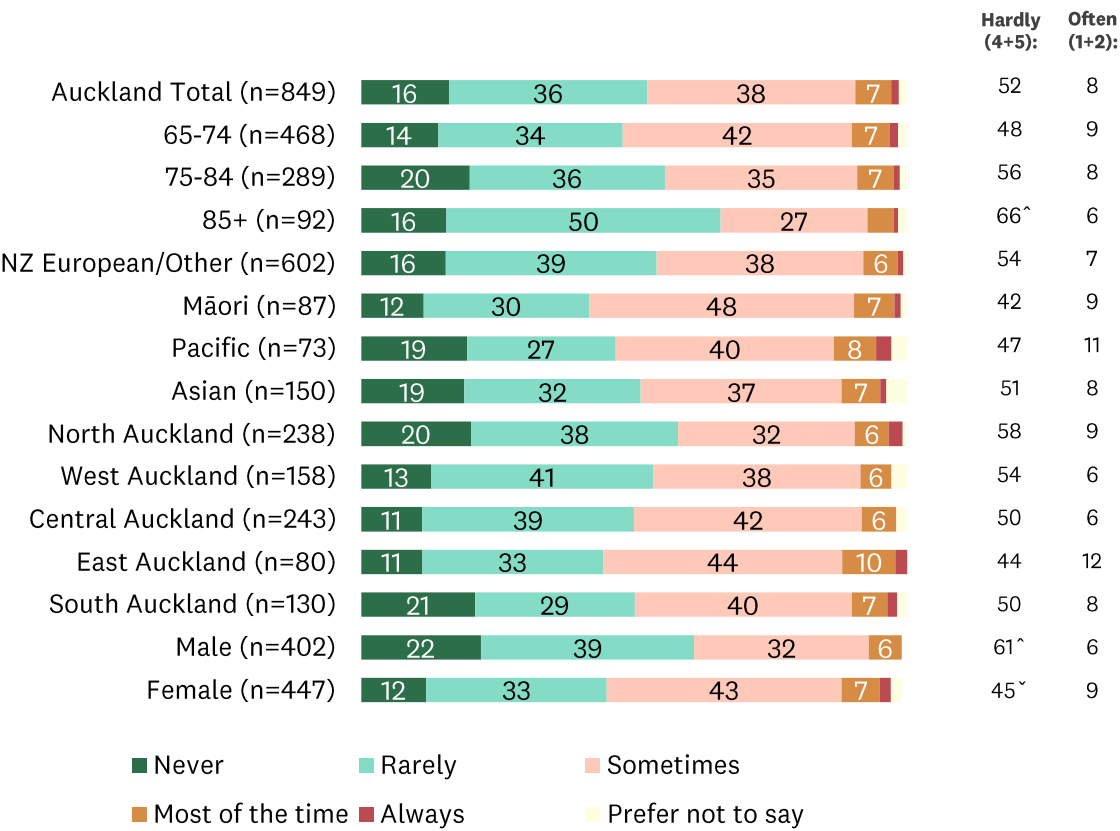
Note: Respondents could select more than one option so percentages exceed 100.

Around half (52%) of respondents said they had ‘never’ or ‘rarely’ experienced stress that had serious and negative impacts on them in the 12 months leading up to the survey, while 8% said they had ‘always’ or ‘most of the time’ experienced this type of stress. These results are similar to the 2021 survey (49% and 7% respectively).

A few significant differences were observed:

- **Age:** Those aged 85 and over (66%) were more likely to state they had ‘never’ or ‘rarely’ experienced stress that had a serious or negative impact in the previous 12 months compared to other age groups.
- **Gender:** Males (61%) were more likely than females (45%) to state they had ‘never’ or ‘rarely’ experienced stress that had a serious or negative impact in the previous 12 months.

Stress – by age, area, and ethnic group (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)

Source: Q19: Which of the following best describes how often in the last 12 months, if ever, you have experienced stress that has had a serious negative impact on you?

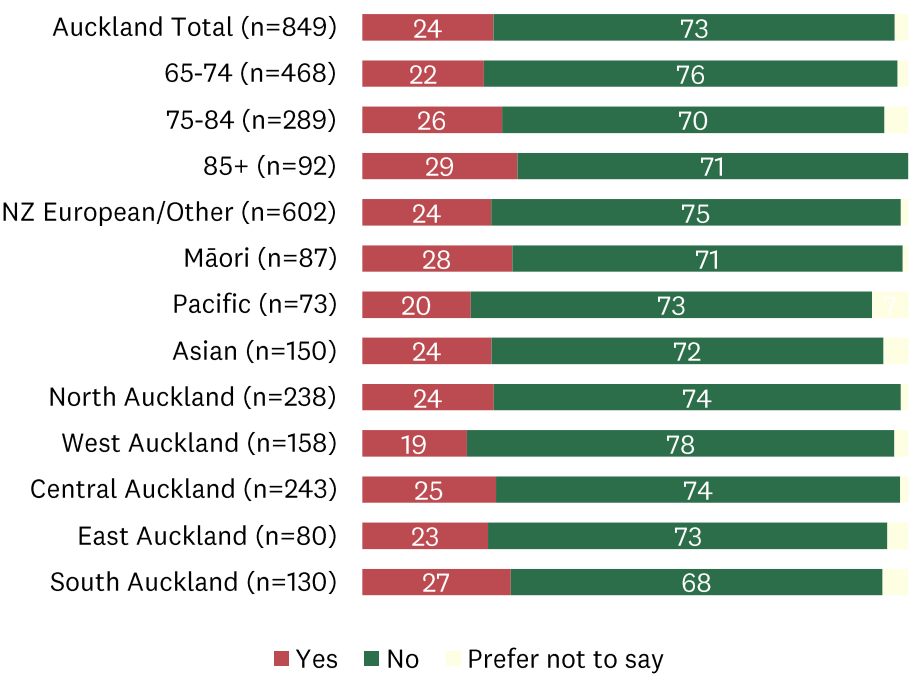
(1 – Always, 2 – Most of the time, 3 – Sometimes, 4 – Rarely, 5 – Never, 97 – Prefer not to say)

Experiences of disability

Approximately one-quarter (24%) of all respondents said they had a disability, long-term condition, or mental health condition that affected their ability to carry out everyday activities. Three-quarters (73%) said they did not, while 3% said they preferred not to say.

There were no statistically significant differences found for any of the subgroups analysed.

Experiences of disability – Auckland total (%)



Base: All respondents (excluding not answered) (n=849)
Source: Q21: Do you have a disability, long-term condition, or mental health condition that affects your ability to carry out everyday activities?
(1 – Yes, 2 – No, 97 – Prefer not to say)

Harmful behaviours

The New Zealand Health survey¹³ provides information about the health of New Zealanders. The 2024/25 data collection wave draws on data collected between July 2024 to July 2025, from 9253 adults and 2805 children. Data concerning those aged 65 years and over are available on a national level and cannot be broken down to examine Auckland respondents only.

These data indicate that there is a low prevalence of smoking behaviours among older New Zealanders. Smoking behaviours are somewhat higher among those aged 65-74 years compared to those 75+, and for both groups, smoking behaviours are slightly higher in females than in males. A larger proportion (74% of those aged 65-74 years and 70% of those aged 75+) had had an alcoholic drink in the last 12 months. Risky drinking behaviours were more apparent in males than in females, and higher among those aged 65-74 years than in those aged 75+).

Indicators	65-74 years			75+ years		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Past-year drinkers	78.9	70.2	74.4	78.0	63.9	70.2
Hazardous drinking pattern (total population)	18.4	4.9	11.5	6.9	1.3 ^e	3.8
Heavy episodic drinking at least monthly (total population)	18.0	4.3	11.0	9.0	1.3 ^e	4.8
Current smokers (at least monthly)	6.3	6.8	6.6	3.1	4.3	3.7
Daily smokers	5.6	6.4	6.0	3.0	3.6	3.3
Monthly vaping	2.4	3.9	3.2	0.8 ^e	0.6 ^e	0.7 ^e
Daily vaping	2.4	3.6	3.0	0.8 ^e	0.4 ^e	0.6 ^e
Daily smoker and/or daily vaper	7.5	9.2	8.5	3.5	3.7	3.7
Cannabis use – past 12 months	10.1	5.1	7.5	2.1 ^e	0.4 ^e	1.2 ^e

Prevalence of harmful behaviours among older New Zealanders, by gender (%)

Source: New Zealand Health Survey 2024/25

Note: ‘e’ means interpret with caution; as the relative sampling error is over 30%.

¹³ Ministry of Health <https://www.health.govt.nz/monitoring-statistics/surveys/new-zealand-health-survey>

Access to support and services

Older New Zealanders reported good access to support and services in the last 12 months, according to the New Zealand Health Survey. The majority of older New Zealanders (99%) have a usual medical centre and most (92%) had visited their general practitioner (GP) in the 12 months prior to the survey. However, smaller proportions had visited a dental healthcare worker for oral healthcare needs in the last 12 months – 61% of those aged 65-74 years and 62% of those aged 75+ years.

Unmet needs for healthcare were more apparent among those aged 65-74 years than in those aged 75+ years. Being unable to visit a GP due to wait times was particularly noticeable – 20% of those aged 65-74 years and 15% of those aged 75+ reported this issue. In addition, 32% of those aged 65-74 years and 24% of those aged 75+ years reported having an unmet need for dental healthcare in the last 12 months, due to cost.

Indicators	65-74 years			75+ years		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
GP visit in last 12 months	87.0	86.5	86.7	93.4	94.1	93.8
Practice nurse visit in last 12 months	48.1	44.4	46.1	51.2	40.6	45.5
Has a usual medical centre	98.5	99.3	98.9	99.0	99.0	99.0
ED visit in last 12 months	21.3	21.0	21.1	23.1	25.5	24.4
Dental healthcare visit in last 12 months	59.1	62.1	60.8	62.9	61.1	61.9
Unmet need for GP – due to cost	4.9	10.5	7.8	4.6	2.3	3.3
Unmet need for GP – due to wait time	16.3	23.6	20.1	14.1	15.2	14.8
Unmet need for professional help for mental health	3.2e	4.2	3.7	2.4e	3.3	2.9
Unmet need for dental healthcare – due to cost	28.2	34.7	31.6	20.3	27.7	24.4

Access to support and services for older New Zealanders in the last 12 months, by gender – prevalence (%)

Source: New Zealand Health Survey 2024/25

Note: ‘e’ means interpret with caution; as the relative sampling error is over 30%.

Accidental injuries

Stats NZ collects national-level information about serious injury outcomes, categorised by types of injuries. The age-standardised rate for all fall injuries in New Zealanders aged 75 years and over was 125.3 per 100,000 people in 2024. This rate has increased since 2000.

Year	Fatal injuries			Serious non-fatal injuries			Total serious injuries		
	0-74	75+	Total	0-74	75+	Total	0-74	75+	Total
2000	1.6	96.6	6.7	33.8	1310.1	103.3	35.4	1406.7	110.0
2004	2.5	116.0	8.7	32.1	1180.4	94.6	34.6	1296.4	103.3
2008	2.4	146.0	10.2	32.1	1078.3	89.0	34.5	1224.3	99.2
2012	1.9	148.8	9.9	37.6	1159.1	98.6	39.4	1307.9	108.5
2016	1.8	139.9	9.3	40.8	1262.4	107.2	42.5	1402.3	116.5
2020	2.0 ^R	173.5 ^R	11.3 ^R	44.6 ^R	1455.0 ^R	121.4 ^R	46.6 ^R	1628.5 ^R	132.7 ^R
2024	-	-	-	49.2 ^P	1447.8 ^P	125.3 ^P	-	-	-

Age-standardised rates of serious (fatal and non-fatal) fall injuries, by broad age groups (2000-2024)
Source: Stats NZ, Serious injury outcome indicators (2000-2024)

Notes:

- 1) Serious non-fatal injuries are those in which a patient admitted to hospital is determined to have a probability of death of at least 6.9%.
- 2) Age-standardised rates are per 100,000 person years at risk.
- 3) ‘P’ indicates a provisional rate.
- 4) ‘R’ indicates a revised rate.

Conclusion

This report updates evidence about the quality of life of older Aucklanders and shows how this group has fared in the last five years since the COVID-19 pandemic. Auckland has continued to encounter issues including the cost-of-living crisis and geopolitical shocks, as well as advances in technology. The broader demographic context of population ageing and an increasingly ethnically and culturally diverse population also poses challenges for the region to face.

Despite these challenges, older Aucklanders as a group appear to be faring well and continue to report good quality of life. However, our data continued to show clear differences across different parts of Auckland and among different ethnic groups, consistent with previous years of the survey. Residents in northern and central parts of the city, as well as those who are European, enjoy a better quality of life across the board, whereas less positive outcomes are experienced by Pacific and Asian older Aucklanders, as well as those in western, southern, and eastern parts of the city.

This presents further opportunities to improve how services are planned and delivered, and that meet the needs of our growing ageing population, as well as more opportunities for collaboration between local government and communities. To this end, Auckland Council will continue to work with its varied stakeholders – local communities, central government, and other members of the Age-friendly Network – to understand and respond to these challenges and opportunities.



Appendix A: Indicator framework

Ngā rohe / Domains	Description	Indicators
Kaumātua	We are tangata whenua, and our unique cultural identity, tikanga and world view are recognised, respected and guaranteed.	- Engagement in te ao Māori - Te reo Māori - Whanaungatanga - Wairua - Mana - Mauri - Hinengaro - Whatumanawa - Tinana - Hā a koro ma, a kui ma/taonga tuku iho
Culture and Diversity	We are respected and able to stay connected, active and engaged in our culture, identity and customs.	- Ethnic and cultural diversity - Feeling respected - Feeling safe and supported - Culturally appropriate services - Cultural participation and expression
Te Taiao	We live in healthy natural and built environments that provide public amenities that are safe and encourage us to stay safe.	- Quality of green spaces - Cleanliness of green spaces - Accessibility of green spaces - Perceptions of pollution - Environmental actions - Climate change
Transport	We can get where we want to go in a comfortable and timely manner regardless of our abilities, mode of transport, income, time of day, weather or season, and distance to our destination.	- Use of public transport - Perceptions of public transport - Walkability - Licensed drivers - Accessibility
Housing	We have a healthy, comfortable and secure home where we belong regardless of whether we rent, own a place or live on our own or with others.	- Housing type and tenure - Household composition and size - Crowding - Public housing - Perceptions of safety - Affordability - Housing quality and suitability

Appendix A: Indicator framework

Ngā rohe / Domains	Description	Indicators
Social Participation	We have places to go, things to do and people to meet outside our homes to keep us active, stimulated, connected and healthy.	• Contact with others • Social connectedness • Loneliness • Trust in others • Community strength and spirit • Perceptions of safety
Respect and Social Inclusion	We are visible; our decisions, diversity and experience are respected and appreciated.	• Discrimination • Victims of crime • Elder abuse
Civic Participation and Employment	We have an active role in our community for as long as we choose regardless of our background, health and abilities or first language.	• Civic participation • Valued contribution • Unpaid work/volunteering • Income • Living standards • Paid employment • Financial security • Financial dependents
Communication and Information	We can easily find information and support in our community in ways that suit us regardless of our abilities, channel or medium preferences, or first language.	• Access to telecommunications • Confidence with telecommunications • Cyber-safety
Community Support and Health Services	We can proactively stay well and get wellbeing support when we want it regardless of our income or where we live.	• Life expectancy • Harmful behaviours • Self-rated holistic health status • Emotional and mental health • Levels of physical activity • Accidental injuries • Access to support and services

Appendix B:

Secondary data sources

Indicators	Secondary data source(s)
Māori descent – Proportion of older Aucklanders who said they were of Māori descent	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Te Reo Māori – Proportion of older Māori Aucklanders who speak Māori	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Ethnic and cultural diversity (Ethnic composition, languages spoken, birthplace)	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Licensed drivers – Proportion of older Aucklanders who have a driver’s licence	Waka Kotahi / New Zealand Transport Agency – customised request
Accessibility – Proportion of older Aucklanders who are current registered users of the Total Mobility Scheme	Auckland Transport – customised request
Housing type and tenure – Individual homeownership rates of older Aucklanders	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Household composition and size – Household composition of older Aucklanders	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Crowding – Household crowding index for older Aucklanders	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Public housing	Ministry of Social Development – customised request
Victims of crime – Reported victimisations of older Aucklanders	New Zealand Police – reported victimisations (demographics – age, ethnicity, boundary) data (2021-2025)
Elder abuse – Estimated prevalence of elder abuse	Existing academic research
Voter turnout – 2023 General Election turnout and 2025 Auckland Council election turnout of older Aucklanders	New Zealand Electoral Commission
Unpaid work – Unpaid activities of older Aucklanders	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Income – Sources of personal income for older Aucklanders	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Paid employment – Work and labour force status of older Aucklanders	New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings
Life expectancy – Life expectancy of older New Zealanders at age 65 and at birth	Stats NZ complete cohort life tables 1876-2023, national population projections 2022(base) - 2073, mortality assumptions, national and subnational period life tables 2000-2024
Harmful behaviours – Prevalence of harmful behaviours of older New Zealanders	New Zealand Health Survey 2024/25
Access to support and services – Access to healthcare services for older New Zealanders	New Zealand Health Survey 2024/25
Accidental injuries – Age-standardised rates of serious (fatal and non-fatal) fall injuries of older Aucklanders	Stats NZ serious injury outcome indicators 2000-2024

Appendix C: Survey participant sample

	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (%)
Gender		
Female	53	54
Male	47	46
Another gender	0	0
Age		
65 – 74 years	55	57
75 – 84 years	34	32
85+ years	11	11
Geographic area		
North	28	31
West	19	14
Central	29	25
South	15	20
East	9	10
Ethnicity		
European	71	70
Māori	11	6
Pacific	8	8
Asian	19	22
Birthplace		
Born in New Zealand	57	55
Born overseas	43	45
Length of time living in New Zealand		
Less than 1 year	0	0
Between 1 and up to 2 years	<1	<1
Between 2 and up to 5 years	1	1
Between 5 and up to 10 years	3	3
10 years or more	96	96
Sexuality		
Heterosexual or straight	92	91
Gay or lesbian	2	1
Bisexual	1	1
Other	5	6

Table 1: Overall quality of life (%)

	2016 (n=846)	2021 (n=1403)	2026 (n=849)
Good	83	79	81
Poor	2	4	2

Table 2: Feeling respected, accepted, and valued (%)

	2021 (n=1395)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	58	63
Disagree	8	7

Table 3: Feelings of safety and support (%)

	2021 (n=1395)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	67	72
Disagree	5	4

Table 4: Culturally appropriate services – agree (%)

	2021	2026
Being treated with kindness	77	79
Communication in preferred language	77	78
Having cultural needs met	56	52
Accessibility of services	58	49

Table 5: Ability to participate in events of own culture(%)

	2016 (n=792)	2021 (n=1398)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	38	67	63
Disagree	20	4	3

Table 6: Ability to participate in events of other cultures (%)

	2021 (n=1399)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	64	60
Disagree	4	5

Table 7: Comfort expressing identity in public (%)

	2021 (n=1396)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	74	77
Disagree	1	2

Table 8: Quality of green spaces (%)

	2021 (n=1407)	2026 (n=849)
Satisfied	74	82
Dissatisfied	11	6

Table 9: Cleanliness of green spaces (%)

	2021 (n=1405)	2026 (n=849)
Satisfied	63	67
Dissatisfied	20	15

Table 10: Perceptions of pollution – a problem (%)

	2021	2026
Air pollution	18	13
Water pollution	37	32
Noise pollution	49	41

Table 11: Worry about impact of climate change (%)

	2021 (n=1406)	2026 (n=849)
Worried	48	40
Don't know enough	5	4

Table 12: Perceptions of public transport – agree (%)

	2021	2026
Safe while waiting for transport to arrive	58	76
Safe while on public transport	62	71
Comfortable	49	62
Affordable	57	81
Accessible	58	80

Table 13: Walkability of the neighbourhood (%)

	2021 (n=1406)	2026 (n=849)
Satisfied	42	46
Dissatisfied	35	30

Table 14: Perceptions of safety at home – safe (%)

	2016	2021	2026
At home during the day	92	87	86
At home after dark	84	79	79
When entering or leaving home	-	79	81

Table 15: Housing affordability (%)

	2016 (n=806)	2021 (n=1380)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	59	61	50
Disagree	17	20	23

Table 16: Housing quality (%)

	2016 (n=813)	2021 (n=1391)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	67	76	66
Disagree	18	13	19

Table 17: Housing suitability (%)

	2016 (n=817)	2021 (n=1402)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	82	87	84
Disagree	9	6	9

Table 18: Contact with others (%)

	2016 (n=824)	2021 (n=1400)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	77	84	75
Disagree	8	6	7

Table 19: Loneliness (%)

	2016 (n=840)	2021 (n=1405)	2026 (n=849)
Never + Rarely	75	67	75
Always + Most of the time	2	5	3

Table 20: Trust in others (%)

	2021 (n=1405)	2026 (n=849)
Trust	78	71
Do not trust	2	4

Table 21: Community strength and spirit (%)

	2016 (n=811)	2021 (n=1397)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	60	63	62
Disagree	12	8	8

Table 22: Perceptions of safety – safe (%)

	2016	2021	2026
Local neighbourhood after dark	60	56	55
Local town centre during the day	60	72	71
Local town centre after dark	18	34	33

Table 23: Comfort using items (%)

	2021 (n=1401)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	67	71
Disagree	2	2

Table 24: Valued contribution (%)

	2016 (n=810)	2021 (n=1402)	2026 (n=849)
Agree	57	64	64
Disagree	14	7	8

Table 25: Living standards (%)

	2021 (n=1406)	2026 (n=849)
Enough + More than enough money	58	56
Not enough money	9	10

Table 26: Access to telecommunications (%)

	2016 (n=831)	2021 (n=1372)	2026 (n=849)
Have access and use the Internet	74	88	94
Do not have access and do not use	18	12	5

Table 27: Confidence to use the Internet for different activities – confident (%)

	2021	2026
Making transactions	74	86
Keeping connected	83	89

Table 28: Self-rated health – good health (%)

	2016	2021	2026
General health	80	79	79
Physical health	-	72	74
Spiritual health	-	79	81
Mental and emotional health	-	80	86
Family and relationship health	-	90	91

Table 29: Stress (%)

	2016 (n=839)	2021 (n=1406)	2026 (n=849)
Never + Rarely	49	49	52
Always + Most of the time	7	7	8



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