

# Older Aucklanders: a quality of life status report

August 2022



Research and  
Evaluation Unit

**RIMU**





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Technical Report 2022/22

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Technical Report 2022/22

ISSN 2230-4525 (Print)

ISSN 2230-4533 (Online)

ISBN 978-1-99-110170-9 (Print)

ISBN 978-1-99-110171-6 (PDF)

This report has been peer reviewed by the Peer Review Panel.
Review completed on 10 August 2022 Reviewed by two reviewers
Approved for Auckland Council publication by: Name: Dr Jonathan Bengé Position: Head of Research, Evaluation and Monitoring (RIMU)
Name: Alison Reid Position: Team Manager, Economic and Social Research and Evaluation (RIMU)
Date: 22 August 2022

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### **Recommended citation:**

Prakash, A. and K. Ovenden (2022). Older Aucklanders: a quality of life status report. Auckland Council technical report, TR2022/22

### **Acknowledgements:**

NielsenIQ commissioned to undertake data collection.

Dr Claire Dale for her review of this report.

All images by Auckland Council. Thanks to Communications Department photographers.







# Executive summary

**Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland is undergoing significant changes in its population structure.** In Auckland, it is expected that there will be rapid growth in the coming decades among those aged 65 and over, from 12 per cent in 2018 to a projected 19 per cent by 2048. This is unprecedented in New Zealand but is consistent with overseas trends. Auckland Council has a clear strategic directive to recognise what older people can offer to the community and to respond to their needs, particularly as they constitute a growing proportion of Auckland's population. This directive is outlined in the Auckland Plan 2050 and the Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua - Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan. One of the aims of the Age-friendly Action Plan is to improve the quality of life for older Aucklanders, which will help guide actions to support this group.

**Understanding the quality of life of older Aucklanders is a key strategic focus for council.** Council's Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU) conducted a baseline study in 2016-2017 to develop an evidence base about the quality of life of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over. Auckland's demographic, social, and economic landscape has undergone substantial change over the six years since the baseline study. Factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, housing affordability, the increasing cost of living, and climate change all have a growing and ongoing impact on quality of life. The baseline dataset required updating to monitor changes over time and understand the current state of older Aucklanders' quality of life.

**This report explores the current state of older Aucklanders' quality of life.** We analysed data from secondary sources as well as primary data

from a survey of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over. The 2021 survey collected responses from over 1400 older Aucklanders. We also compared survey responses, where possible, to results from the baseline 2016 survey (where 846 people responded).

**Findings revealed that although older Aucklanders as a broader group experience a high level of quality of life, there is also a considerable amount of diversity in their lived experiences.** For instance, older people living in the central and northern areas of Auckland were generally more positive about the different domains contributing to quality of life. Meanwhile, residents in the eastern, southern, and western parts of Auckland reported more negative experiences, particularly concerning housing affordability, economic living standards, and perceptions of safety at home and in their local neighbourhoods.

## Quality of Life of Older Māori in Auckland

An additional qualitative research study was undertaken to explore the quality of life for older Māori, to support the kaumātua domain of the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan and provide deeper insight into the wellbeing of older mana whenua (iwi and hapū with historic and territorial rights in Tāmaki Makaurau), and mataawaka (urban Māori). This research on the quality of life of older Māori Aucklanders was led by Māori researchers, and guided by a Rōpū Kaumātua. The Quality of Life of Older Māori in Auckland report can be found on the Knowledge Auckland website.

# Key findings

1. **Kaumātua:** Most told us they had a good quality of life, but there were some notable areas that could be improved. For example, they were less satisfied with their local green spaces, had more negative views of public transport, and were less likely to be able to adequately heat their homes during winter, compared to other older Aucklanders.
2. **Culture and diversity:** Around three in five older Aucklanders told us that they felt accepted and valued in their communities. Meanwhile, around three in four older Aucklanders were positive about Auckland Council, saying that staff treated them with kindness and communicated in their preferred language. However, there was room to improve council services' ability to meet their cultural and accessibility needs.
3. **Te Taiao—the natural and built environments:** In general, older Aucklanders were satisfied with the quality and cleanliness of green spaces around them, although there were clear differences by area and ethnic group. Many participants were concerned about water and noise pollution, as well as climate change.
4. **Transport:** Use of public transport amongst older Aucklanders more than halved since the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions in August 2021. Use of and perceptions about public transport were more positive among Central Auckland residents but lower among South/East Auckland residents.
5. **Housing:** Only three in every five older Aucklanders agreed that their housing costs were affordable. Again, this varied according to age, area, and ethnic group. A higher proportion agreed they could afford to heat their homes in winter, but there was less agreement amongst older Māori and Pacific peoples. Additionally, feeling safe at home was more common among those living in North Auckland and less common amongst West Auckland residents.
6. **Social participation:** Older Aucklanders had a high level of social participation and connection. Most agreed they were visited by friends and family as often as they wanted. Additionally, two in three never or rarely felt lonely in the last 12 months, and most participated in some type of social network. However, older Aucklanders felt less safe in their local neighbourhoods after dark, particularly those living in South, East, and West Auckland.
7. **Respect and social inclusion:** Most older Aucklanders told us they had not experienced any form of discrimination in the last 12 months. Of the small proportion who did, one in five experienced age-based discrimination and one in 10 had experienced ethnic-based discrimination.



8. **Civic participation and employment:** More Aucklanders aged 65-74 are remaining in the labour workforce over time. Only three in every five said they had enough or more than enough money to meet their everyday needs. Older Aucklanders also have high civic participation, with high voting turnout at elections. Survey participants largely had positive perceptions that they had opportunities to play a valued role as an elder within their families and communities.
9. **Communication and information:** Older people have increasing access to and use of the Internet. They also have a high level of confidence in using the Internet to make transactions and keep connected to other people. However, access, use, and confidence was lower among those aged 85 and over, as well as Māori, Pacific, and South/East Auckland residents.
10. **Community support and health services:** A high level of older Aucklanders rated various domains of their health positively (including their physical, mental and emotional, spiritual, and family and relationship health). They had a high level of access to primary care and support when they needed it.

### COVID-19 impacts

Lockdown restrictions had the largest impacts on older Aucklanders' ability to maintain relationships and their mental health. On the other hand, many told us that COVID-19 restrictions had no impact on their physical health, financial situations, and job security. Older Pacific Aucklanders reported the most positive impacts from COVID-19 (out of all ethnic groups), namely regarding their mental health, physical health, social ties, and financial situation.

### Differences across geographic areas

The results indicated that there are substantial differences in quality of life for older Aucklanders residing in different parts of Auckland. Our data showed heightened disparities for those living in the southern, eastern, and western parts of Auckland in particular. Older residents in those areas had greater perceptions of housing unaffordability, lack of safety, and challenges meeting their everyday needs.

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# Introduction

## What is Quality of Life?

Quality of Life is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) 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'<sup>1</sup>. There are many aspects which can contribute to an individual's quality of life including, for example, relationships, mental and physical health, safety, and sense of belonging in a community.

Quality of life studies aim to monitor a suite of indicators that describe aspects that impact quality of life. Information collected by such studies is used by governments and NGOs internationally to inform policies, plans and other initiatives aiming to improve quality of life.



<sup>1</sup><https://www.who.int/tools/whoqol>



## Understanding Quality of Life for older Aucklanders

Understanding the quality of life of older Aucklanders is a key strategic focus for council. In 2016-2017, Council's Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU) undertook a baseline study to develop an evidence base about the quality of life of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over. This baseline study involved conducting a literature review of existing evidence about older people's quality of life, as well as engaging with stakeholders to develop a suite of indicators to measure older people's quality of life in Auckland<sup>2</sup>. This formed the basis of a survey that was administered to a representative sample of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over, which was analysed alongside secondary datasets, including the New Zealand Census, the Quality of Life in New Zealand Cities survey, and Te Kupenga – the Māori Social Survey. The findings from these studies provided an initial understanding of older Aucklanders' wellbeing.

Auckland's demographic, social, and economic landscape has undergone substantial change over the six years since the baseline study. Recent critical factors contributing to quality of life include COVID-19, housing unaffordability, the increasing cost of living, and climate change. The baseline dataset required updating to monitor changes over time and understand the current state of older Aucklanders quality of life. The findings in this report provides evidence about older people in Auckland that can be used not only by Auckland Council, but also other government

agencies, community organisations and businesses to inform services, programmes, and products.

This report provides an update on the quality of life of older people in Auckland. The domains outlined in Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua form the basis of an indicator framework which sets the parameters of this study. The indicators and associated measures were developed in consultation with Auckland Council's Seniors' Advisory Panel and aim to reflect aspects impacting quality of life currently such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Quality of Life of Older Māori in Auckland

An additional qualitative research study was undertaken to explore the quality of life for older Māori, to support the kaumātua domain of the Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan and provide deeper insight into the wellbeing of older mana whenua (iwi and hapū with historic and territorial rights in Tāmaki Makaurau), and mataawaka (urban Māori). This research on the quality of life of older Māori Aucklanders was led by Māori researchers, and guided by a Rōpū Kaumātua. The Quality of Life of Older Māori in Auckland report can be found on the Knowledge Auckland website.

<sup>2</sup> Reports from previous studies can be found:

<https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/determinants-of-wellbeing-for-older-aucklanders/>

<https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/older-aucklanders-a-quality-of-life-status-report/>

# Factors impacting quality of life



## COVID-19 Pandemic

The early 2020s in Tāmaki Makaurau have been shaped by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of which can have a significant impact on quality of life. The survey administered for this report collected data during the Delta variant outbreak.



## Housing

Tāmaki Makaurau’s housing supply has not kept pace with increases in population or demand for investment, which has resulted in the current housing crisis. Available housing stock often does not meet the needs of older people and the quality of housing stock is poor, resulting in negative health and safety consequences.



## Cost of living

Some have described Aotearoa as facing a ‘cost of living crisis’ with the consumers price index recording an annual change of +5.9 per cent in December 2021, the biggest movement since 1990. Many older people are on fixed incomes and as such are expected to experience the greatest impact.



## Climate change

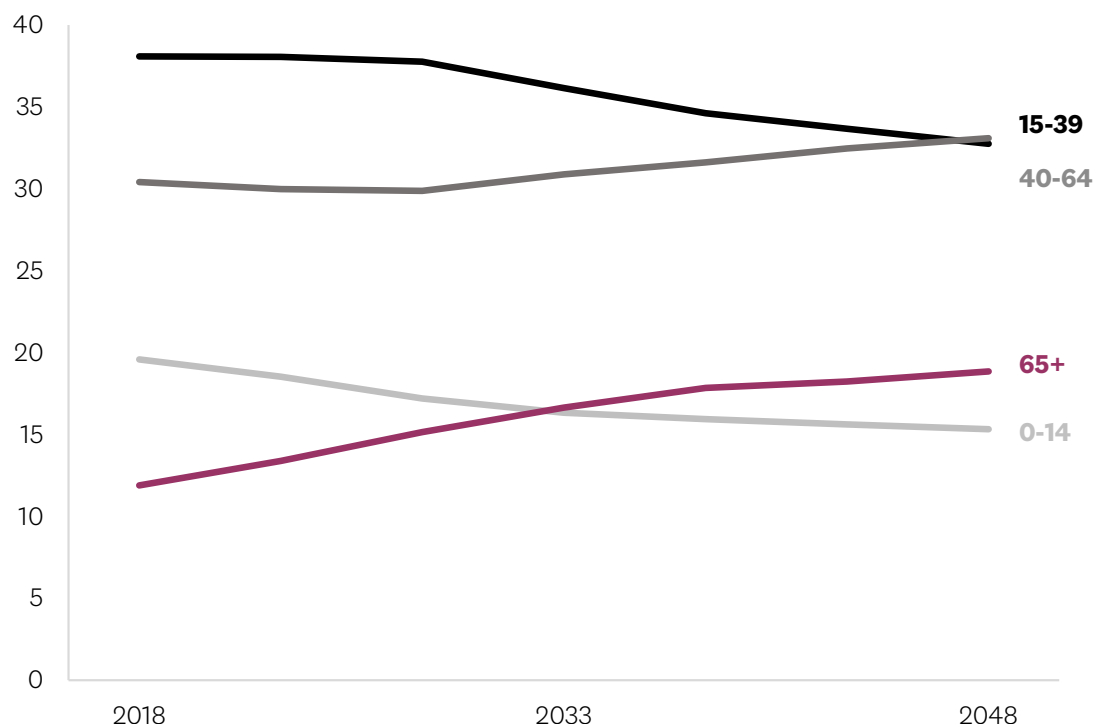
A climate change emergency was declared in 2020, and 2021 was Aotearoa’s warmest year on record. Our more vulnerable communities, such as those aged 85+ years, will be most affected by the impacts of climate change<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup>See Environmental Health Intelligence New Zealand: <https://www.ehinz.ac.nz/indicators/climate-change/vulnerability/#ref1>

## Demographic context

Tāmaki Makaurau, and indeed Aotearoa overall, is undergoing significant changes in its population structure. Like many international cities, Auckland is experiencing a trend of population ageing, whereby those aged 65 years and over are increasingly constituting a larger proportion of the overall population. According to the 2018 Census, there were 189,177 usual residents aged 65 years and over in Auckland (12% of the total Auckland

population). Rapid growth in this population is expected to occur in the coming decades, as indicated by Figure 1. It is projected that this group will reach a total of 434,000 by 2048 (19% of the total projected Auckland population). This means that older Aucklanders will comprise a greater proportion of the population, which is unprecedented in New Zealand but consistent with international trends.



### What is population ageing and why does it matter?

Population ageing describes a population structure where an increasingly large proportion of the population is aged 65 years and over. Older people tend to require support in the form of superannuation, aged care facilities, and healthcare. These requirements have financial implications and maintaining the provision of such services can generate pressure on working age people, such as higher taxes or providing care to relatives.

A greater quality of life is associated with higher levels of health, economic independence and consequently less reliance on government-funded services. Monitoring the quality of life of older people enables planning and delivery of services to best meet the changing needs of our population.

Figure 1: Age distribution of Auckland population 2018-2048 (%).

Source: Stats NZ.

# Tāmaki Makaurau Tauawhi Kaumātua / Age-Friendly Auckland Action Plan



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<sup>4</sup>, a 30-year vision for making Tāmaki Makaurau/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 the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Framework and Te Whare Tapa Whā, a Māori framework of wellbeing. It integrates the domains of wellbeing outlined in each model to provide a holistic way to frame the plan. The primary aims of the plan are to:

- Improve the 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.

In order to achieve these aims, the plan identifies relevant actions for council, organisations, individuals, and communities to take to address the 10 domains of wellbeing (see Table 1). Auckland was accepted into the World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) in March 2022.

<sup>4</sup> The Auckland Plan 2050 can be found at: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/auckland-plan/Pages/default.aspx>



# Methods

An indicator framework was developed for the baseline study<sup>5</sup> on the status of older Aucklanders. The framework underpinned the research by enumerating the factors contributing to the social and economic wellbeing of older people in Auckland. The first iteration of the framework was developed using:

- A comprehensive literature review of the determinants of wellbeing for older people<sup>6</sup>
- A review of the domains and indicators in the New Zealand Government's Positive Ageing Strategy and the WHO Age-friendly Cities materials
- Consultation with a range of external stakeholders who worked with or advocated for older people in Auckland.

The framework outlined over 40 indicators of wellbeing across eight broad domains. The current iteration of the indicator framework (Table 1) was revised to align with the ten domains in Auckland Council's Age-friendly Action Plan. As part of this review, Auckland Council's Seniors' Advisory Panel was consulted in order to ensure the ten domains of wellbeing, along with the proposed indicators and measures, were relevant for measuring older people's quality of life, as well as to identify and fill any gaps in the framework.

The findings in this report are structured by these domains, indicators, and their accompanying measures. A brief explanation of each of these terms is provided below.






- **Ngā rohe/Domains:** The broad themes contributing to quality of life. *Example: Housing.*
- **Indicators:** These describe the areas of focus in each domain. *Example: Housing tenure.*
- **Measures:** These describe the data (which can be quantitative or qualitative) that we will collect to understand each indicator. *Example: The proportion of older Aucklanders who own, or partly own, their residence.*


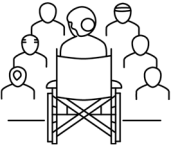



This report contains a range of primary and secondary data. Many of the indicators are able to be measured using publicly available data, such as the New Zealand Census (see Appendix D for a list of secondary data sources). Other indicators are informed by data from our survey of older Aucklanders, which had a final weighted sample of 1403 responses (see Appendix A for more details about the survey).

<sup>5</sup> Available at: <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/older-aucklanders-a-quality-of-life-status-report/>

<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/determinants-of-wellbeing-for-older-aucklanders/>

Table 1: The revised indicator framework

Ngā rohe/Domains	Description	Indicators
Kaumātua 	<p><i>We are tangata whenua, and our unique cultural identity, tikanga and world view are recognised, respected and guaranteed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement in te ao Māori</li> <li>• Te reo Māori</li> <li>• Whanaungatanga</li> <li>• Wairua</li> <li>• Mana</li> <li>• Mauri</li> <li>• Hinengaro</li> <li>• Whatumanawa</li> <li>• Tinana</li> <li>• Hā a koro ma, a kui ma/taonga tuku iho</li> </ul>
Culture and Diversity 	<p><i>We are respected and able to stay connected, active and engaged in our culture, identity and customs.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethnic and cultural diversity</li> <li>• Feeling respected</li> <li>• Feeling safe and supported</li> <li>• Culturally appropriate services</li> <li>• Cultural participation and expression</li> </ul>
Te Taiao 	<p><i>We live in healthy natural and built environments that provide public amenities that are safe and encourage us to stay active.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of green spaces</li> <li>• Cleanliness of green spaces</li> <li>• Perceptions of pollution</li> <li>• Climate change</li> </ul>
Transport 	<p><i>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.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of public transport</li> <li>• Perceptions of public transport</li> <li>• Walkability</li> <li>• Licensed drivers</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> </ul>
Housing 	<p><i>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.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing type and tenure</li> <li>• Household composition</li> <li>• Crowding</li> <li>• Perceptions of safety</li> <li>• Affordability</li> <li>• Housing quality and suitability</li> </ul>

Ngā rohe/Domains	Description	Indicators
Social Participation 	<i>We have places to go, things to do and people to meet outside our homes to keep us active, stimulated, connected and healthy.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact with others</li> <li>• Social connectedness</li> <li>• Trust in others</li> <li>• Community strength and spirit</li> <li>• Perceptions of safety</li> </ul>
Respect and Social Inclusion 	<i>We are visible; our decisions, diversity and experience are respected and appreciated.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrimination</li> <li>• Victims of crime</li> <li>• Elder abuse</li> </ul>
Civic Participation and Employment 	<i>We have an active role in our community for as long as we choose regardless of our background, health and abilities, or first language.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic participation</li> <li>• Valued contribution</li> <li>• Unpaid work/volunteering</li> <li>• Income</li> <li>• Living standards</li> <li>• Paid employment</li> </ul>
Communication and information 	<i>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.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to telecommunications</li> </ul>
Community support and health services 	<i>We can proactively stay well and get wellbeing support when we want it regardless of our income or where we live.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life expectancy at age 65</li> <li>• Harmful behaviours</li> <li>• Self-rated holistic health status</li> <li>• Emotional and mental health</li> <li>• Accidental injuries</li> <li>• Access to support and services</li> <li>• Levels of physical activity</li> </ul>

## Presentation of data

**Data labels:** Labels of less than 5 per cent were removed from charts to reduce visual clutter.

**Rounding:** Percentages shown in charts may not always add to 100 due to the effects of rounding.

**Net counts:** These aggregated scores were calculated by creating a proportion of the total number of respondents. Net counts may differ slightly from the sum of the corresponding figures in the charts, due to rounding.

**Total response ethnicity:** This approach was used to allow people to report multiple ethnicities, so percentages may exceed 100 per cent.

**Base sizes:** All base sizes shown on charts are weighted base sizes.

Please note that any base size of under n=100 is considered small, and under n=50 is extremely small. These results are indicative only. Small base sizes are shown on charts with an asterisk (\*).

**Significant differences:** A plus sign ('+') indicates a net result that is statistically higher than the Auckland total, while a minus sign ('-') shows a net result statistically lower than the Auckland total. Statistical differences are only highlighted when the difference is statistically significant at the 95 per cent confidence level and the difference in the results is five percentage points or higher.

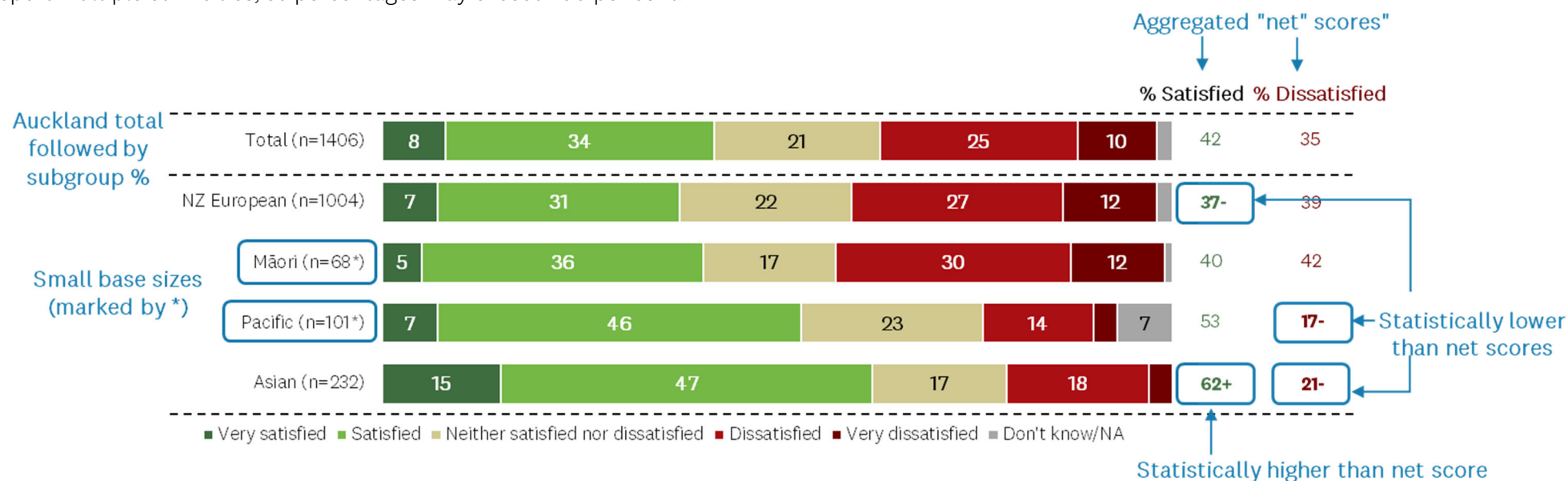


Figure 2: Example annotated chart.





# Overarching findings

## There are key differences by geographic area

Results highlighted that older people living in the central and northern areas of Auckland were generally more positive about the different domains contributing to quality of life. Meanwhile, residents in the eastern, southern, and western parts of Auckland reported more negative experiences, particularly concerning housing affordability, economic living standards, and perceptions of safety at home and in their local neighbourhoods. The following pages highlight some key findings relating to older Aucklanders' quality of life and this primary theme of geographic area differences.

Please note that South and East Auckland were combined for analysis purposes. Although South and East Auckland have different social and economic contexts, creating a separate East Auckland analytical category would create imbalanced sample sizes across the geographic areas, as it would have a very small sample size for analysis.

## Possible associations between geographic area and ethnicity

Recent research has shown that some ethnic communities often congregate residentially<sup>7</sup>, and there are some indications of this in our data (Table 2). For instance, there were larger proportions of non-European respondents (Māori, Pacific, and Asian combined) and smaller proportions of New Zealand Europeans in South/East and West Auckland. The converse was observed in Central and North Auckland.

To illustrate this, non-European respondents comprised 31 per cent of South/East Auckland respondents, but only 11 and 21 per cent of North and Central Auckland respectively. Meanwhile, higher proportions of New Zealand European respondents lived in North (86%) and Central (75%) Auckland, than in South/East (65%) and West (69%) Auckland (Table 2).

However, due to the small sample sizes of Māori and Pacific respondents in our study, all findings about the experiences of these groups are indicative only.

**Table 2: Percentage (%) of respondents from each ethnic group, by geographic area**

	Central	North	South/East	West	Total sample
New Zealand European	75	86	65	69	<b>74</b>
Māori	8	5	13	6	<b>8</b>
Pacific	4	1	10	7	<b>5</b>
Asian	9	5	9	13	<b>8</b>
<i>Non-NZ European</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>26</i>	<b><i>22</i></b>

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

Note: Respondents can report multiple ethnicities and so columns do not total to 100%. 'Total sample' shows the percentage of ethnic groups for the Auckland region, which is an average of the four areas.

<sup>7</sup> For example, see Stone et al. (2021): [https://www.waikato.ac.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/823206/CaDDANZ-report-FINAL.pdf](https://www.waikato.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/823206/CaDDANZ-report-FINAL.pdf)

## Correlations between geographic area and deprivation

There are links between geographic area and deprivation quintile in our data. Our data suggest that there were higher proportions of Quintile 1 and 2 areas in Central and North Auckland, while there were higher proportions of Quintile 4 and 5 areas in South/East and West Auckland (Table 3). For instance, although 24 per cent of all respondents in the sample lived in a Quintile 1 area, higher proportions lived in Central and North Auckland, while much lower proportions lived in West Auckland. Similarly, although 16 per cent of the total sample lived in a Quintile 5 area, many more lived in South/East and West Auckland, while hardly any at all lived in North Auckland. These associations between area and deprivation may explain part of the greater negative experiences of residents in these areas.

## What are Quintiles in the NZDep Index?

The New Zealand Deprivation Index (NZDep) measures socioeconomic deprivation by measuring the level of deprivation for people in different areas. The index uses a scale of 1-10, where 1 represents the least deprived areas and 10 represents the most deprived areas. Quintiles combine two scores (e.g. Quintile 1 combines deprivation scores of 1-2, resulting in the top two least deprived areas, while Quintile 5 combines scores of 9-10, resulting in the top two most deprived areas).

**Table 3: Percentage (%) of respondents living in each NZDep Index quintile, by geographic area**

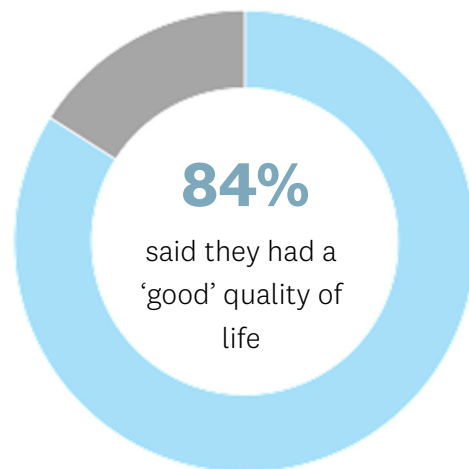
	Central	North	South/East	West	Total sample
Quintile 1	31	30	20	9	24
Quintile 2	21	31	23	19	24
Quintile 3	20	27	21	29	24
Quintile 4	13	10	11	18	12
Quintile 5	14	3	25	26	16
<i>Quintiles 1-2</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Quintiles 4-5</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>28</i>

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

Note: 'Total sample' shows the percentage of each quintile for the Auckland region, this is an average of the four areas.

# Older Aucklanders experienced varying quality of life depending on where they live

## North Auckland



More likely to



Be more satisfied  
with green spaces,  
but also more  
likely to view  
water pollution as  
a problem



Feel safe at home,  
in their local  
neighbourhoods  
and in their town  
centres



Be more  
confident using  
the Internet

## Central Auckland



More likely to



Have high cultural  
participation



Be satisfied with  
green spaces



Agree housing is  
affordable



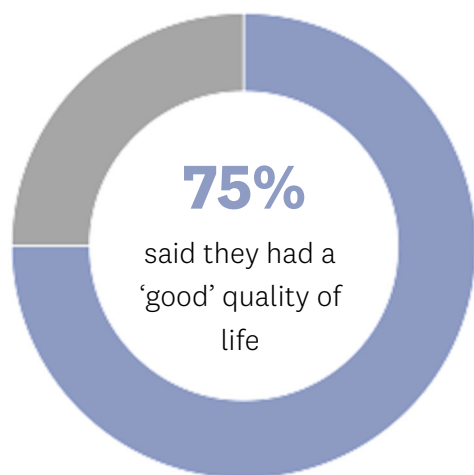
Be positive about and  
have higher usage of  
public transport



Have enough  
income to meet  
everyday needs



## South/East Auckland



More likely to



Be dissatisfied with  
green spaces



Have low trust in  
others and feel  
unsafe



Not have enough  
income to meet needs



Be negative about and  
have low usage of  
public transport



Have low access to and  
confidence in using the  
Internet

## West Auckland



More likely to



Feel unsafe at home  
and in their local area



Say they have poor/  
fair physical health

Less likely to



Feel a sense of  
community



Agree that housing costs  
are affordable

# Detailed results

## Overall Quality of Life

## Impacts of COVID-19

## 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

This section describes the results for each domain and indicator in turn.

You can click on the navigation pane to the left to take you to the results for each domain. When you click on a domain name, it will take you to its summary page.

Each domain summary has overview statistics. Clicking on the icons to take you to detailed results for that measure.

## Overall Quality of Life

In 2021, eight in ten older Aucklanders reported a ‘good’ quality of life. This was similar to 2016. Higher quality of life was more common in those aged 75-84, New Zealand Europeans, and those living in North Auckland. On the other hand, Asians and those living in West Auckland were less likely to report a good quality of life.

Having a positive quality of life was driven by family relationships, enjoying life, good health, and having enough to meet their needs. A negative quality of life was driven by poor financial wellbeing, poor health, and losing independence.

## COVID-19 impacts

COVID-19 restrictions had a negative impact on older Aucklanders’ ability to maintain relationships and mental health.

On the other hand, large proportions of older Aucklanders told us that COVID-19 restrictions had no impact on their physical health, financial situations and job security.

Older Pacific Aucklanders reported the most positive impacts experienced from COVID-19 restrictions, namely regarding their mental health, physical health, social ties, and financial situation.

## Overall quality of life

Most Aucklanders aged 65 years and above (79%) rated their overall quality of life positively—a small, insignificant decrease since 2016 from 83 per cent.

Only a small proportion (4%) rated their overall quality of life in a negative light. There were some subgroup differences:

- **Age group:** those aged 75-84 years were more likely to rate their quality of life positively than younger and older respondents.
- **Ethnic group:** New Zealand European respondents were more positive and Asian respondents were less positive about their quality of life.
- **Area:** West Aucklanders were significantly less positive about their quality of life, while those living in the northern parts of Auckland reported enjoying a more positive quality of life.

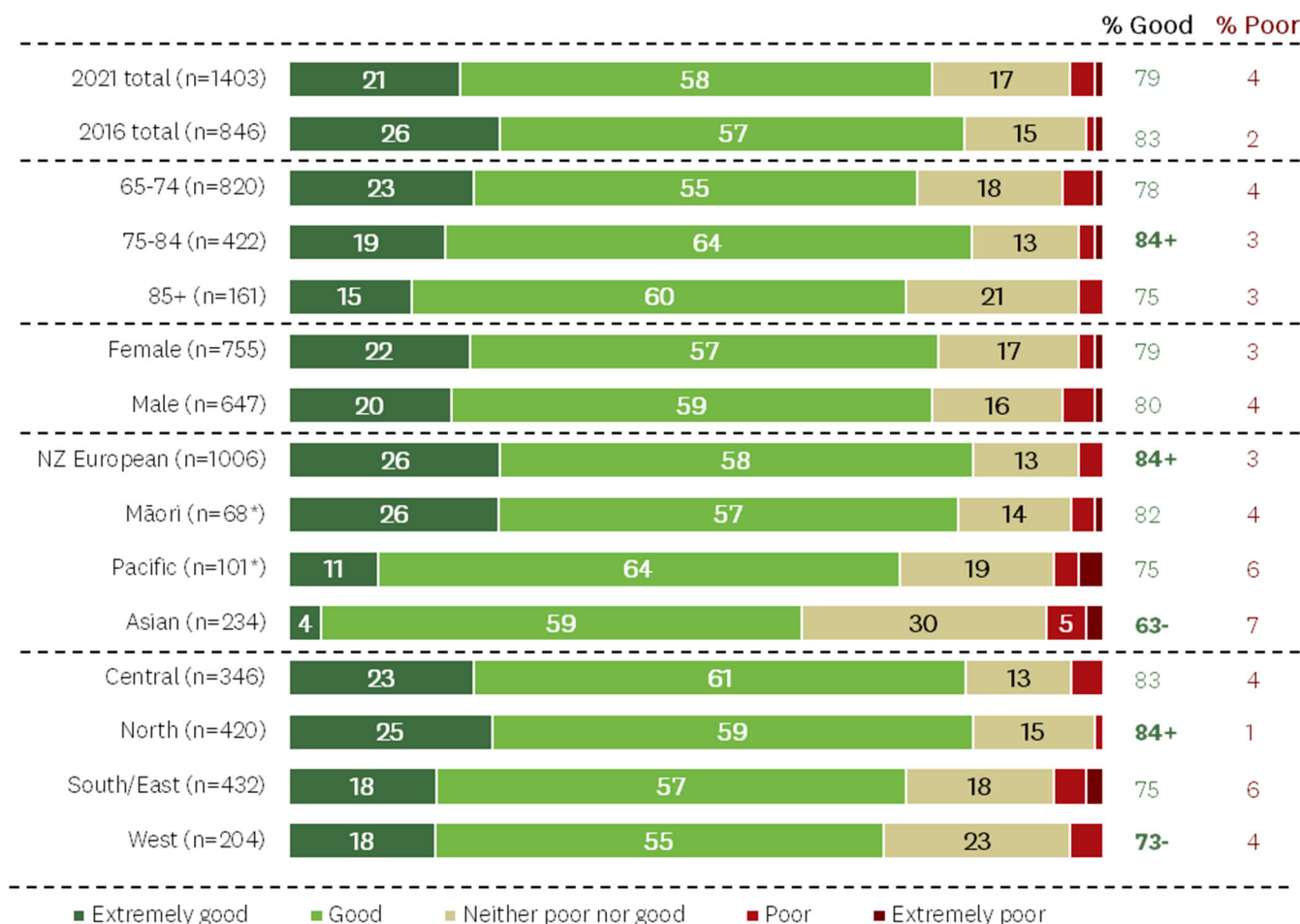


Figure 3: Overall quality of life (%) (2021 n=1403, 2016 n=846).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

## Reasons for having a positive quality of life

We asked respondents for the reasons why they had rated their quality of life as 'good' or 'extremely good'. The top reason provided (by 24% of respondents) was that their family, children, and wider support networks made their quality of life good, followed by a general feeling that they were happy with life (noted by 21% of respondents). The same proportion also felt their quality of life was good due to their good health. Other top reasons pertained to having important necessities, while smaller proportions also noted having positive and healthy relationships, being physically active, and continuing to have freedom and independence.

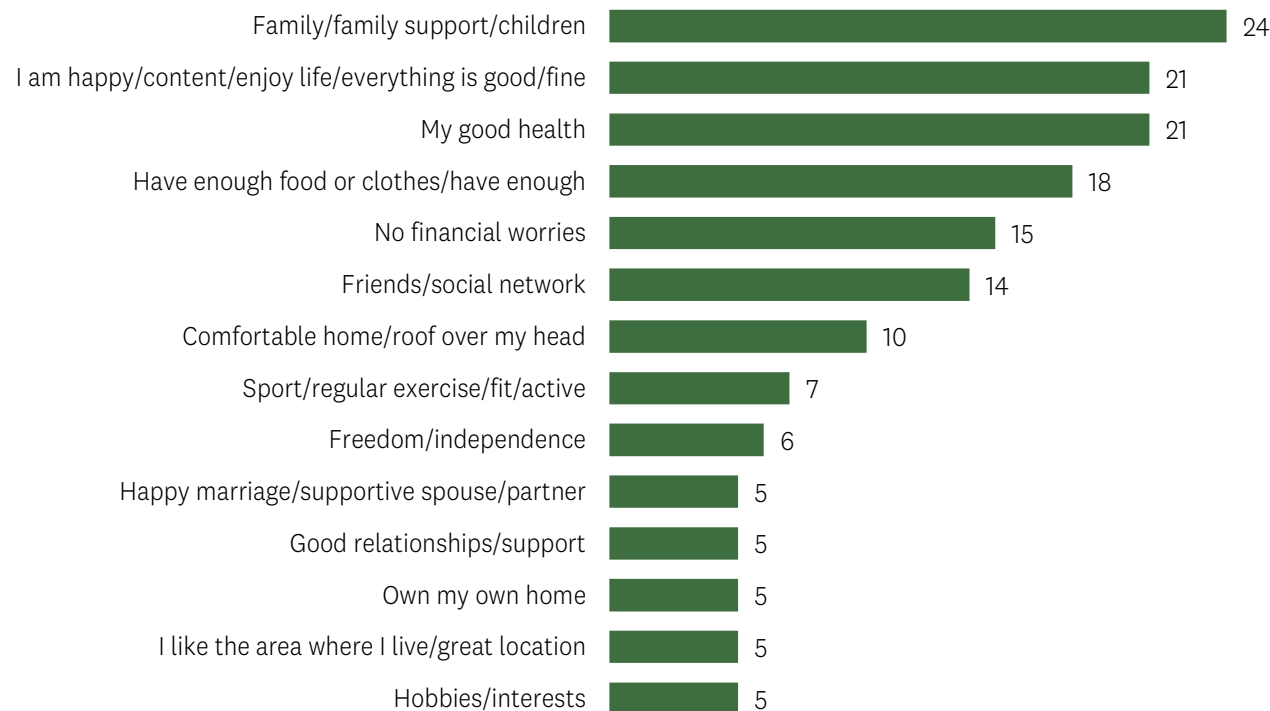
*I live in a beautiful place surrounded by a great community, and have plenty of creative stuff to do. What else could I want for? (70-74 year old woman)*

*Living in a small apartment close to shops, cafes, and public transport. Keeping fit by walking to most places. Plenty of opportunities to travel. (65-69 year old man)*

*All our needs for a safe and comfortable life are met. Not a luxurious life, just a good [life] and lack nothing we need life. (80-84 year old man)*

*I have minimal health problems and a very sound and loving relationship with my husband. (65-69 year old woman)*

*I have a warm comfortable home mortgage free, close family nearby and belong to the local golf club. I have good health. (75-79 year old woman)*



**Figure 4: Reasons for rating overall quality of life as 'good' or 'extremely good' (%) (n=769).**

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Reasons for having a negative quality of life

A very small proportion (4%) of respondents rated their overall quality of life as poor or extremely poor. When asked for reasons why, the main reason was having poor financial wellbeing (27%), followed by poor or declining health (23%), and loss of freedom and independence (23%). A small number pointed to feelings of social isolation. Even smaller proportions rated their quality of life as poor due to mental health issues, having to take precautions against COVID-19, their age in general, and lack of job security. A small number also had negative comments about central and local government.

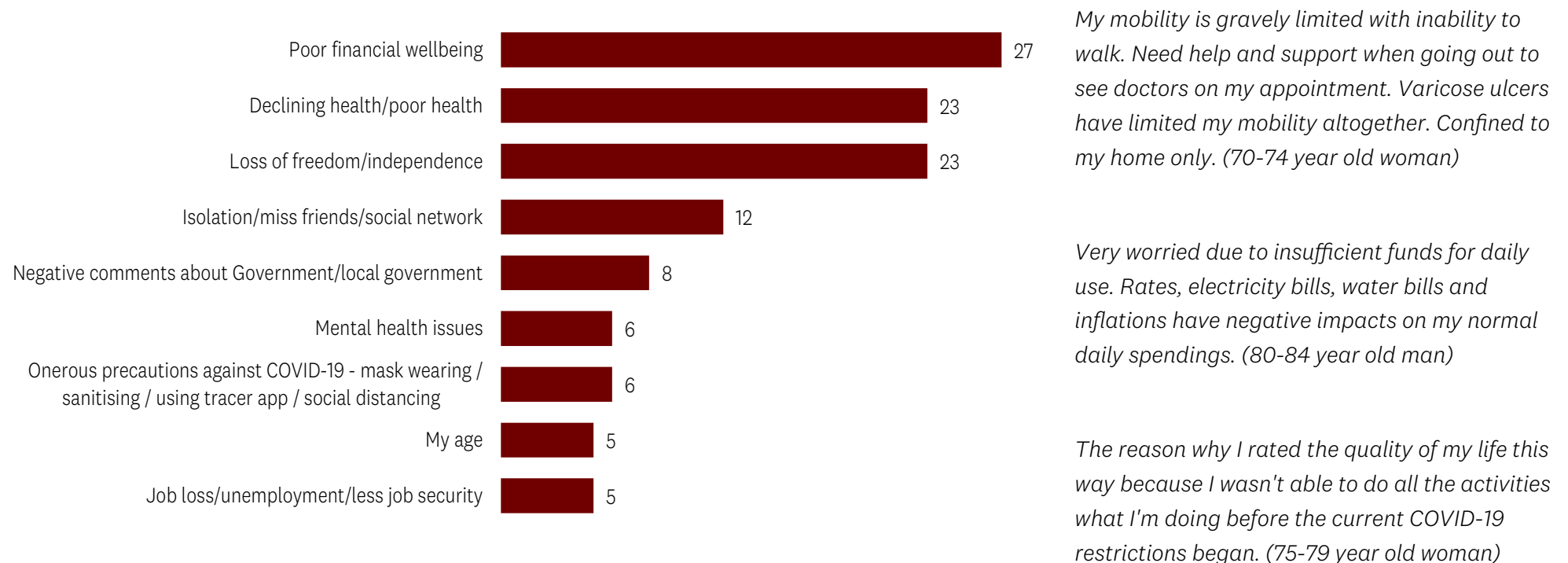


Figure 5: Reasons for rating overall quality of life as 'poor' or 'extremely poor' (%) (n=52).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

## Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions: Mental health

More than half (54%) of respondents said the pandemic had negatively impacted their mental health, with only 7 per cent noting a positive impact.

Some groups were less likely to say the pandemic had negatively impacted their mental health, such as those aged 75-84 (47% noted a negative impact) and men (48%).

Findings for Pacific respondents were also of note, although they should be interpreted cautiously due to the small base size. A larger proportion (19%) of Pacific respondents noted a positive impact of the pandemic on their mental health, while at the same time, fewer (40%) reported a negative impact on their mental health.

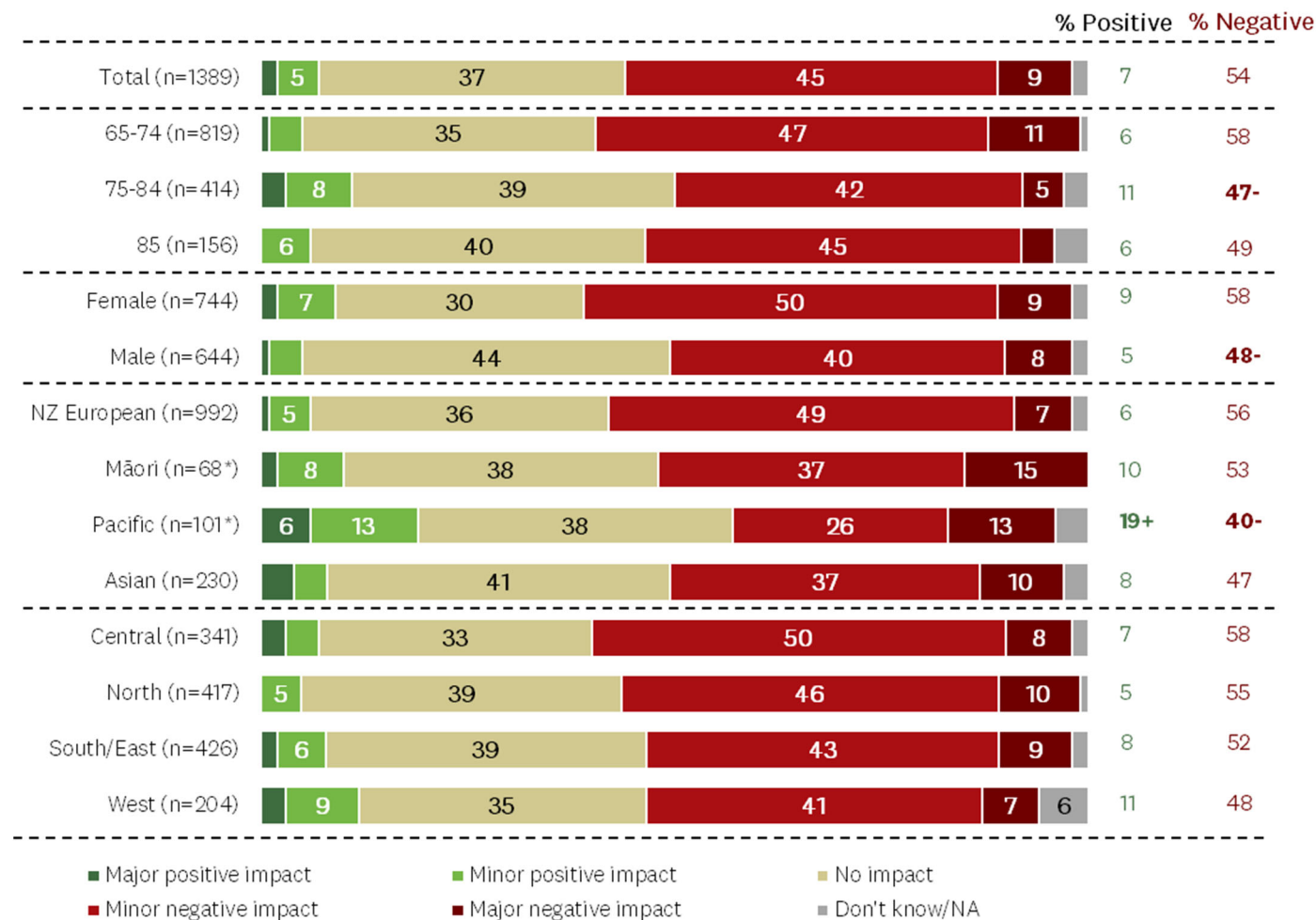


Figure 6: COVID-19 impacts on respondents' mental health (n=1389).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

## Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions: Physical health

More than one-third (37%) of respondents said the pandemic had negatively impacted their physical health, with 10 per cent noting a positive impact.

Older Aucklanders from different subgroups largely responded similarly to this question. The only difference, although this was indicative, was that a larger proportion of Pacific respondents (22%) said the pandemic had positively impacted their physical health, compared to 10 per cent of all respondents.

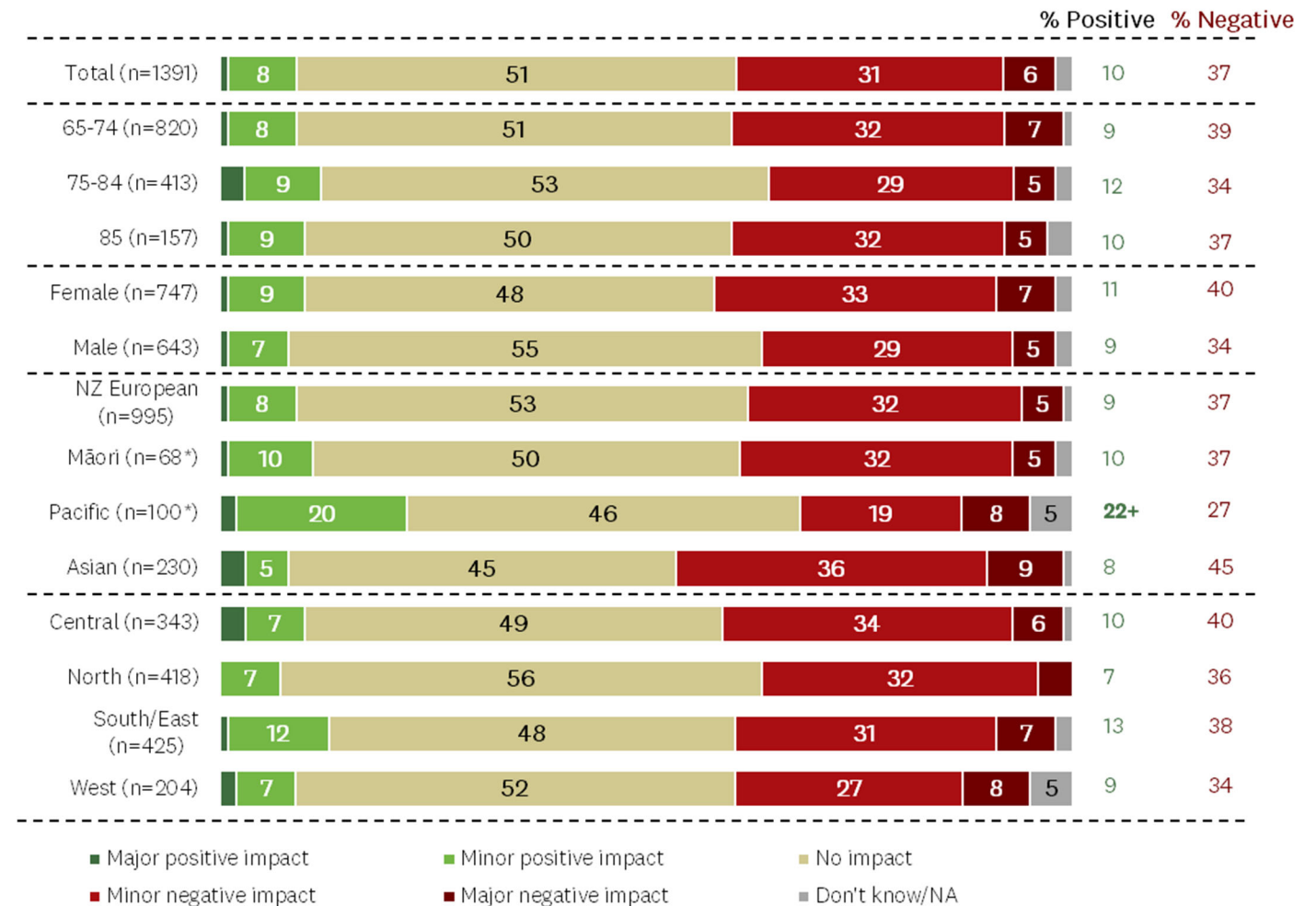


Figure 7: COVID-19 impacts on respondents' physical health (n=1391).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

## Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions: Maintaining social ties

The ability to maintain social ties revealed the largest negative impact of COVID-19, with 75 per cent of respondents saying the pandemic negatively impacted this aspect.

New Zealand Europeans were more likely to state a negative impact (80%), as were residents living in the northern parts of Auckland (81% noting a negative impact).

Meanwhile, a significantly smaller proportion of South/East Auckland residents (70%) said the pandemic negatively impacted their ability to maintain social ties, although this remained relatively high.

The only two groups reporting a larger positive impact were Pacific respondents (26% noted a positive impact—indicative only) and respondents aged 75-84 (14% reporting a positive impact).

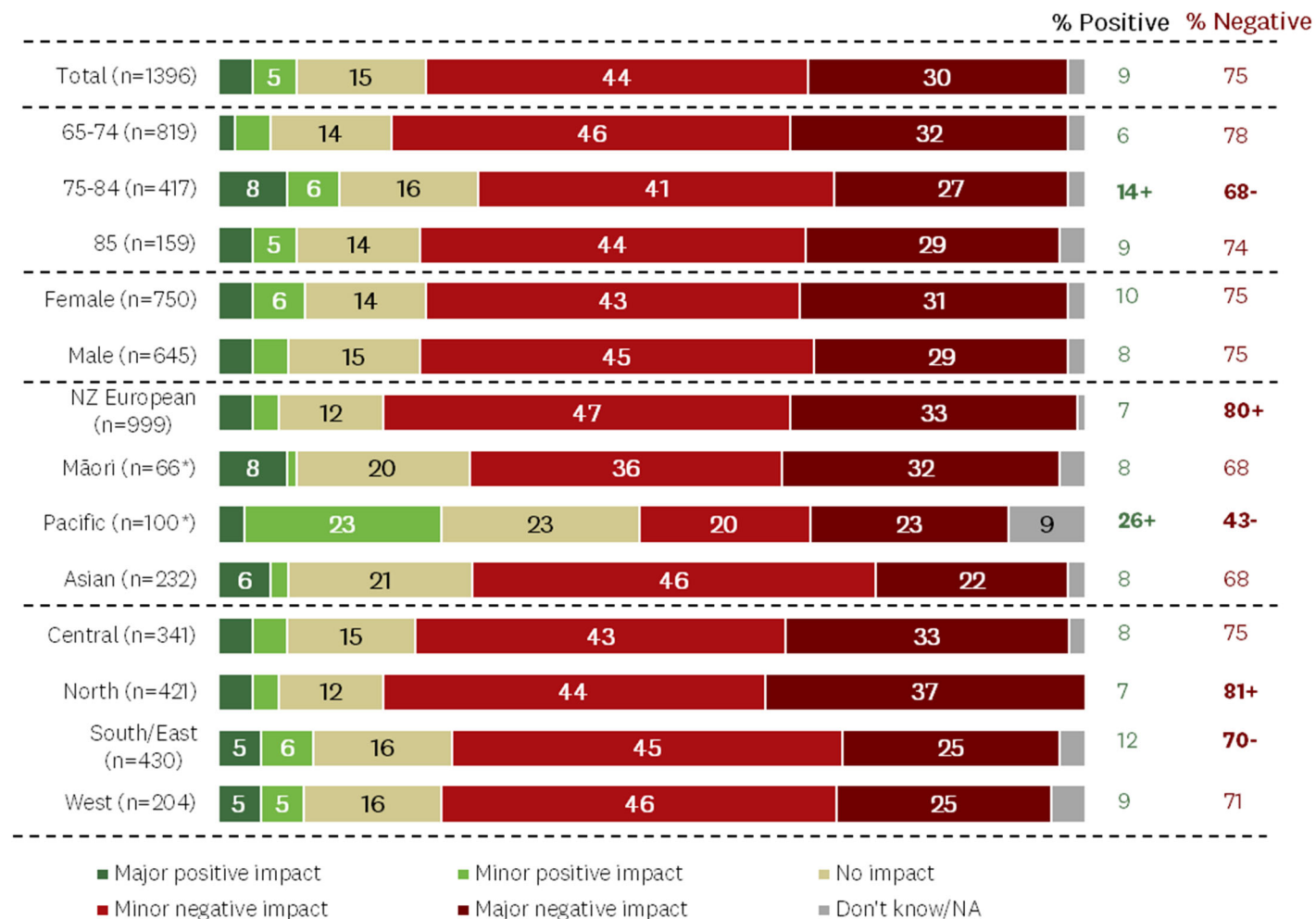


Figure 8: COVID-19 impacts on respondents' ability to maintain social ties (n=1396).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

## Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions: Financial situation

Almost three-fifths (57%) of older Aucklanders said the pandemic had no impact on their financial situation, with varying proportions across the different subgroups. Thus, smaller proportions felt that the pandemic had a positive (11%) or negative (28%) impact.

Younger respondents (those aged 65-74) were more likely to report a greater negative impact on their financial situations, with one-third (34%) stating a negative impact. In contrast, older respondents were less likely to report that the pandemic had a negative impact on their financial situations (19% of those aged 75-84 and 20% of those aged 85+ reported a negative impact).

Māori respondents also reported a greater negative impact on their financial situations (38% of this group—indicative only).

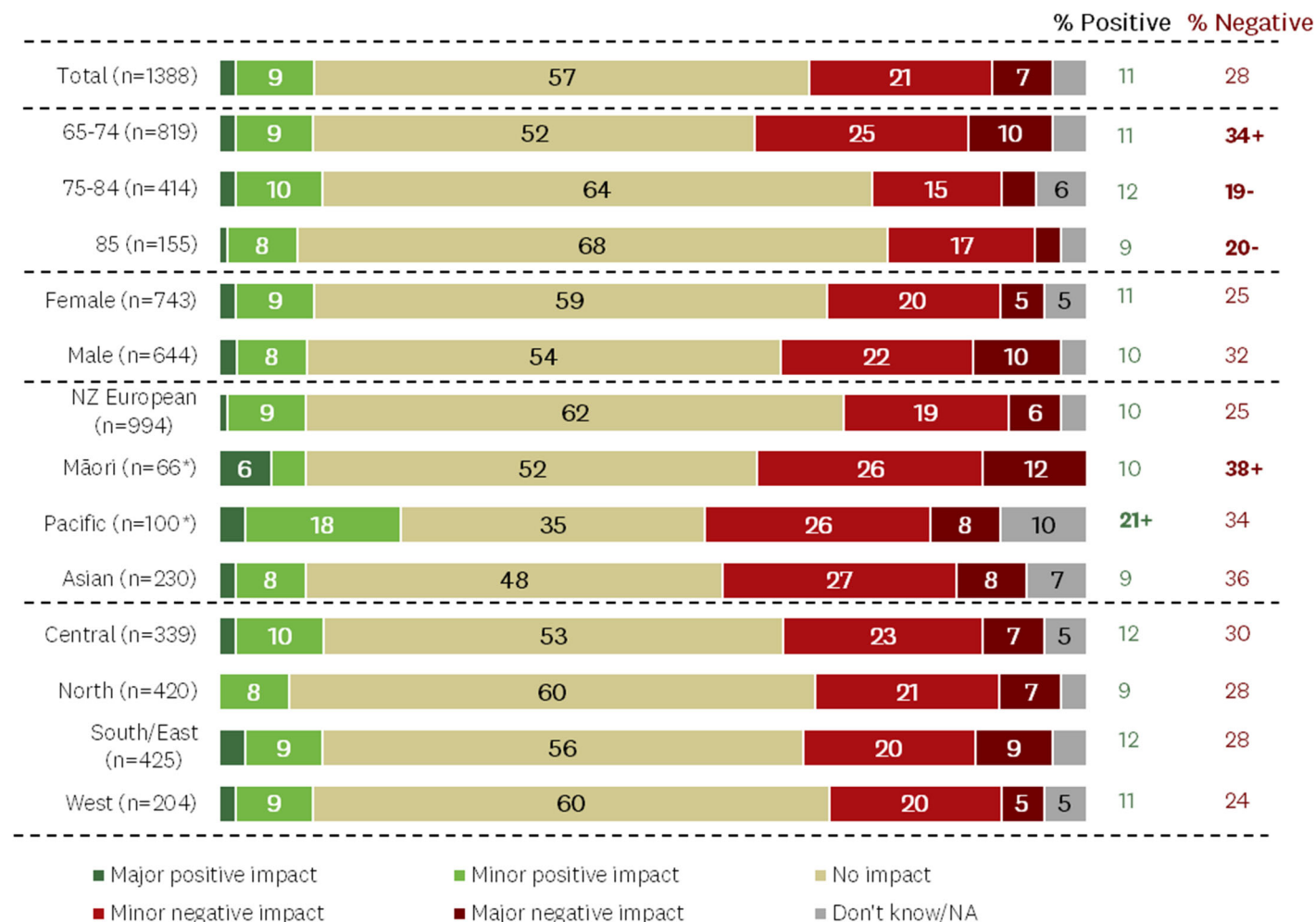


Figure 9: COVID-19 impacts on respondents' financial situations (n=1388).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions: Job security

When asked about the impact of COVID on their job security, a large proportion said they did not know or that this was not applicable for them. Figure 10 therefore excludes those who selected this answer option.

Of those remaining, very few (4%) reported a positive impact, while one-quarter (24%) reported a negative impact on their job security. However, a substantial proportion (72%) said that COVID had no impact on their job security.

Differences across subgroups should be interpreted with caution due to very small sample sizes. However, it appears that smaller proportions of some groups reported negative impacts: those aged 75 and over, as well as Māori and Pacific respondents.

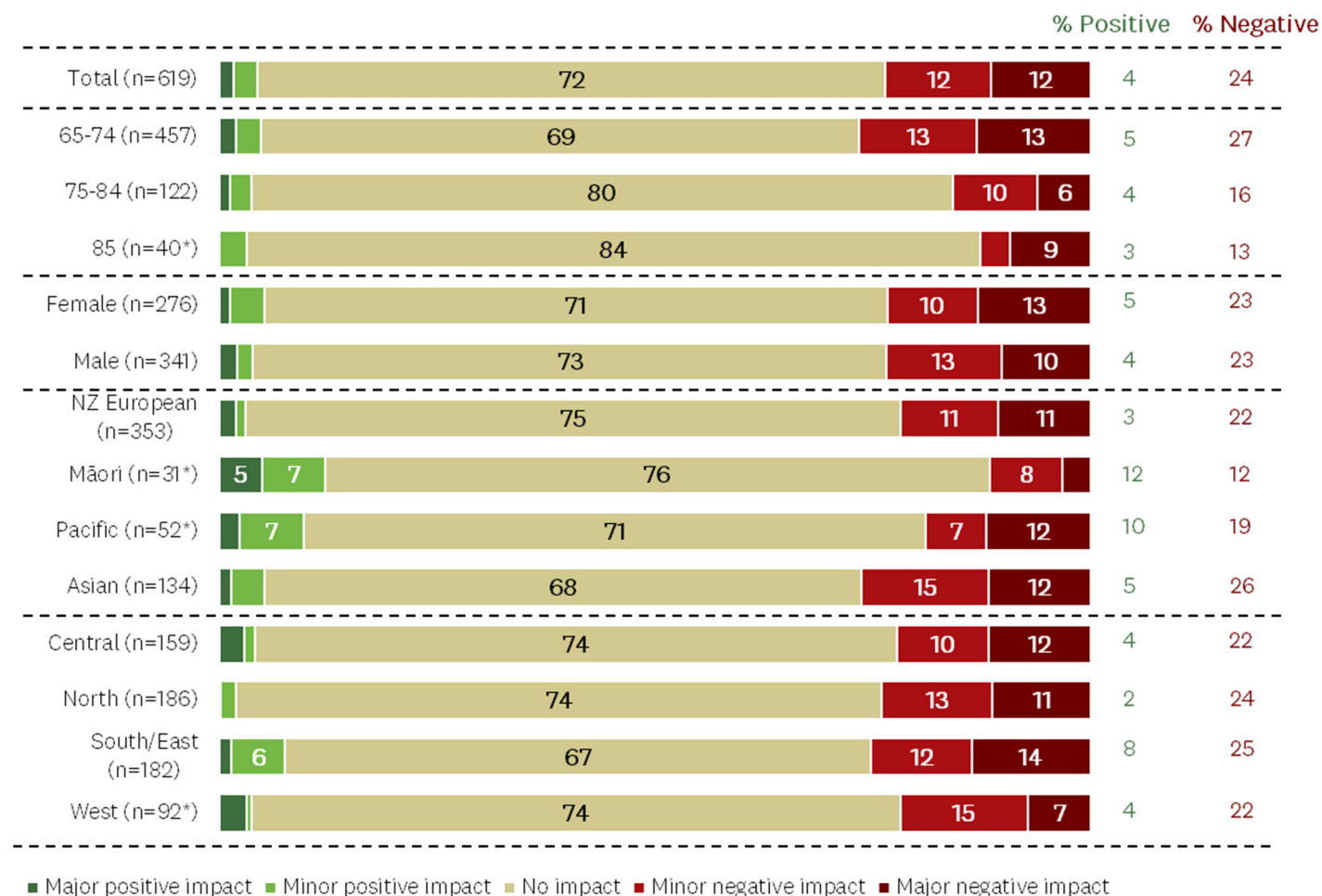


Figure 10: COVID-19 impacts on respondents' job security (n=619, excluding "Don't know/NA").

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

## Impact of COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions: New Zealand economy

Respondents perceived that the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions had a substantial negative impact on New Zealand's economy (70% - with 49% perceiving that this had been a major negative impact). Only one-tenth (11%) said there had been a positive impact.

Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to say there had been a negative impact (75% of those aged 65-74, compared to 64% of those aged 75-84 and 56% of those aged 85+).

Similarly, those living in the northern parts of Auckland were also slightly more likely to state there had been a negative impact (75%, compared to 70% of all respondents).

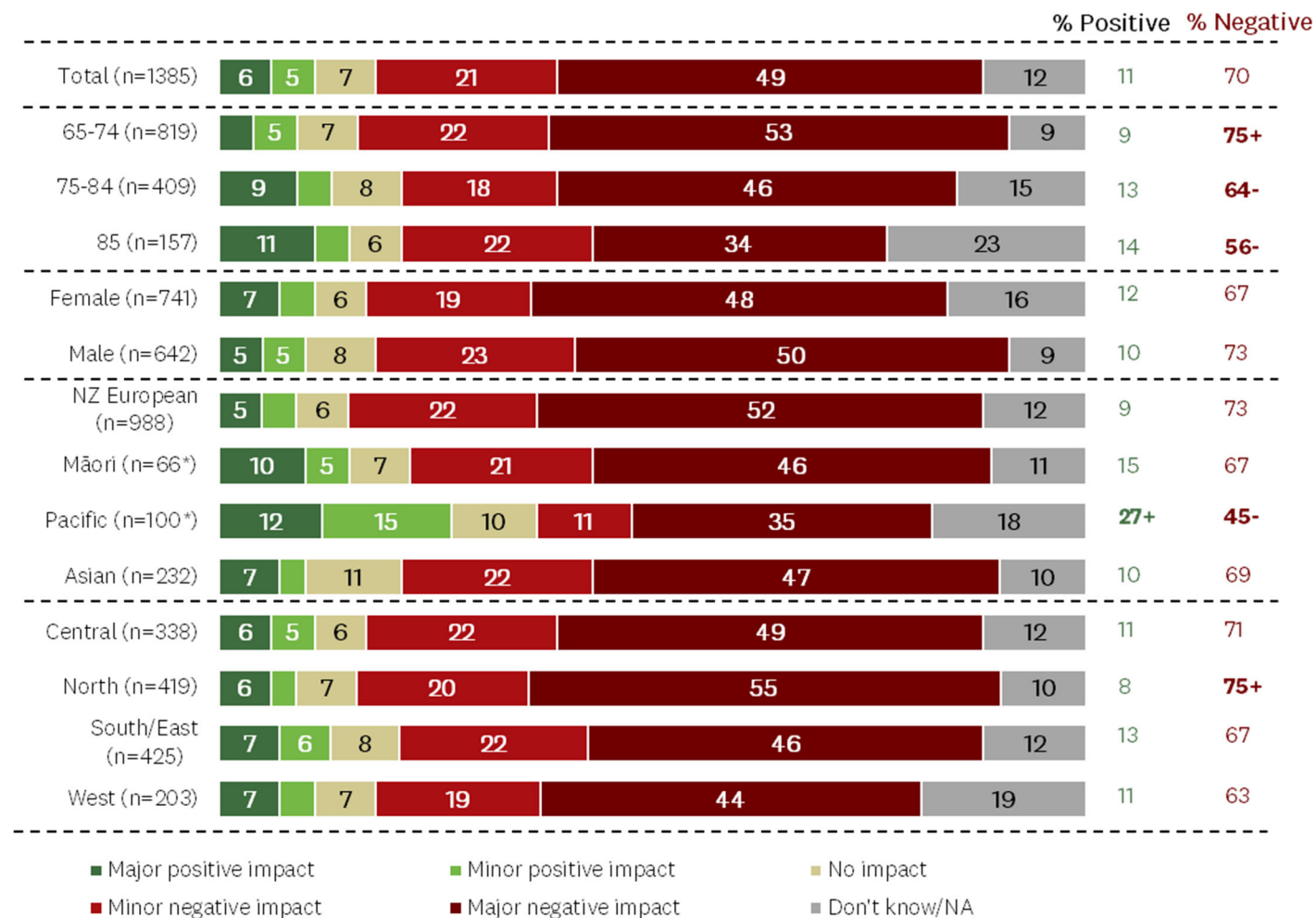


Figure 11: Respondents' perceptions of COVID-19 impacts on New Zealand's economy (n=1385).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



**Overall Quality of Life**

**Impacts of COVID-19**

**Kaumātua**

**Culture and diversity**

**Te Taiao**

**Transport**

**Housing**

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**Respect and social inclusion**

**Civic participation and employment**

**Communication and information**

**Community support and health services**

# Kaumātua





## Older Māori had similar quality of life outcomes to non-Māori older Aucklanders



**Most older Māori (82%) said they had a good quality of life.**

But like all older Aucklanders, COVID-19 negatively impacted them (especially their mental health and social ties).



**Overall, many reported having good health.**

However, fewer (66%) said they had good physical health, compared to all older Aucklanders (72%).



**Older Māori were well connected.**

They participated in different social networks and groups, especially professional and parent/grandparent networks. However, they had less trust in others (62%), compared to older Aucklanders in general (78%).



**A high proportion (71%) felt they had opportunities to play a valued role as an elder in their whānau and communities.**



**More older Māori (28%) were dissatisfied with how clean their green spaces were, compared to all older Aucklanders (20%).**



**Older Māori tended to have negative experiences with public transport, especially with safety and accessibility.**

47% felt that it was safe while waiting for public transport (compared to 58% of the total sample) and 46% thought public transport was accessible (compared to 58% of all older Aucklanders).



**They were also less likely to agree they could afford to heat their homes in winter (66%), compared to 76% of all older Aucklanders.**



**Older Māori had lower access to the Internet (19%) than all older Aucklanders (12%).**



## Engagement in te ao Māori

The ability of older Māori to trace their whakapapa is similar to younger Māori according to the 2018 Te Kupenga survey (a post-censal national survey of Māori wellbeing).

**In Te Kupenga, 83% of older Māori knew their iwi (similar to the 89% that knew their iwi in the Older Aucklanders survey).**

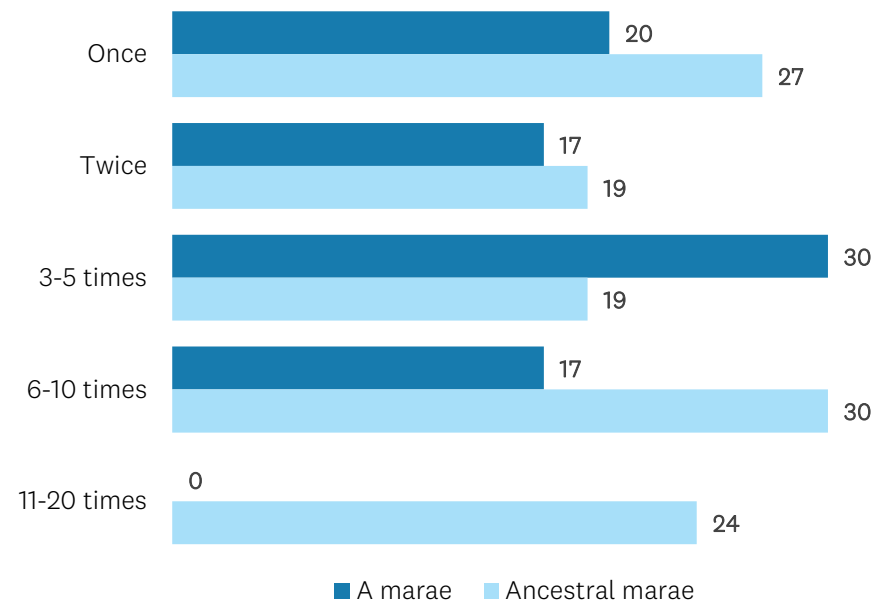
**56% know hapū      49% know waka**  
**50% know maunga      64% know tīpuna**  
**56% know awa**

According to Te Kupenga 2018:

- **Marae participation:** Nine in ten had been to a marae during their life. Around half (47%) had been to a marae in the last 12 months. Older Māori visited a marae slightly less often than other age groups.
- **Tūrangawaewae (ancestral marae):** 77 per cent had an ancestral marae they thought of as their tūrangawaewae. The connection with tūrangawaewae is slightly stronger for older Māori than other age groups.

Of those who had ever visited, 82 per cent had been to their ancestral marae in the last 12 months. Like marae participation generally, older Māori visited their ancestral marae slightly less often than other age groups.

In addition, 59 per cent of older Māori would have liked to visit their ancestral marae in the last 12 months.



**Figure 12: Frequency of visits to a marae and ancestral marae for Māori in Auckland aged 65+ in the last 12 months.**

Source: Te Kupenga 2018, customised request.





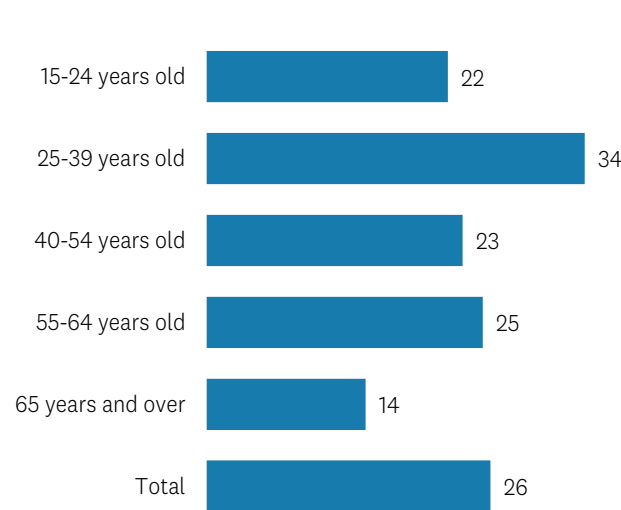
## Te reo Māori

Being able to speak and understand te reo Māori is an important indicator of engagement and immersion within te ao Māori. However, assimilation policies in Aotearoa New Zealand resulted in the near elimination of te reo among many older generations. For example, the Native Schools Act 1867 required all schooling to be conducted in English where practical. Although there was no official legislation banning children from speaking te reo, many suffered physical punishment for doing so, resulting in the loss over time of te reo.

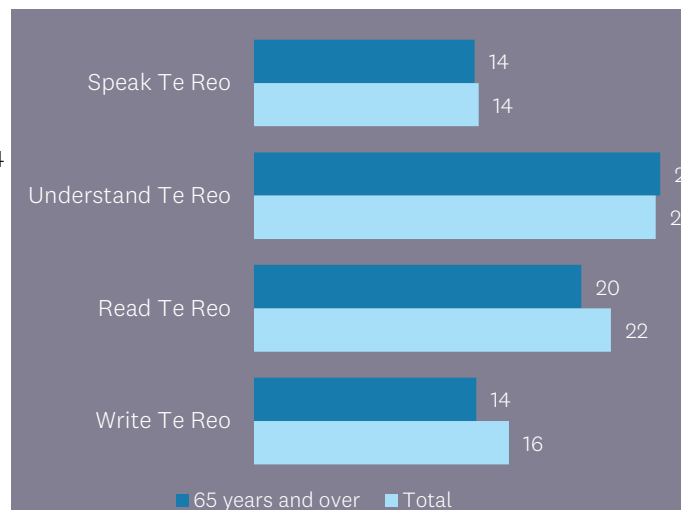
The impacts of such policies are reflected in Te Kupenga data, showing low use of te reo among older age groups in particular, while there is

stronger use of it among younger generations. Among those aged 65 and over:

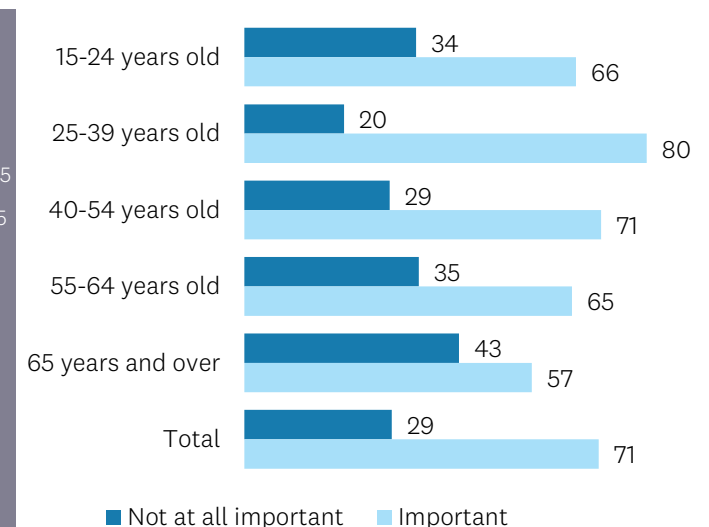
- 14 per cent had te reo spoken regularly at home, compared to 26 per cent of all respondents (Figure 13)
- There were similar proportions to the total sample who could speak, understand, read and write te reo (Figure 14)
- 57 per cent said te reo was ‘somewhat’, ‘quite’ or ‘very’ important, compared to 71 per cent of all respondents (Figure 15).



**Figure 13: Proportion of Te Reo regularly spoken at home for Māori Aucklanders, by age group.**



**Figure 14: Ability to speak, understand, read and write Te Reo well or very well for Māori Aucklanders aged 65+.**



**Figure 15: Rating of importance of Te Reo by Māori Aucklanders, by age group.**



# Whanāungatanga

Te Kupenga 2018 asked respondents whether they had seen any of their whānau in person in the last four weeks. Over three-quarters (78%) said they had. Frequency of contact for older Māori was similar to the average across all age groups, and indicated a high level of contact with whānau.

The survey also asked respondents how satisfied they felt with the amount of contact with whānau over the last four weeks. Around two-thirds (69%) felt they had ‘about the right amount’ of contact, while 30 per cent said they had ‘not enough’ contact. These were again similar proportions observed across other age groups.

**Quality of Life of Older Māori in Auckland**

The results in this section are based on the Older Aucklanders survey and Te Kupenga. For more detailed information about the quality of life of older Māori in Auckland, please refer to the findings of our qualitative study, which can be found on the Knowledge Auckland website.

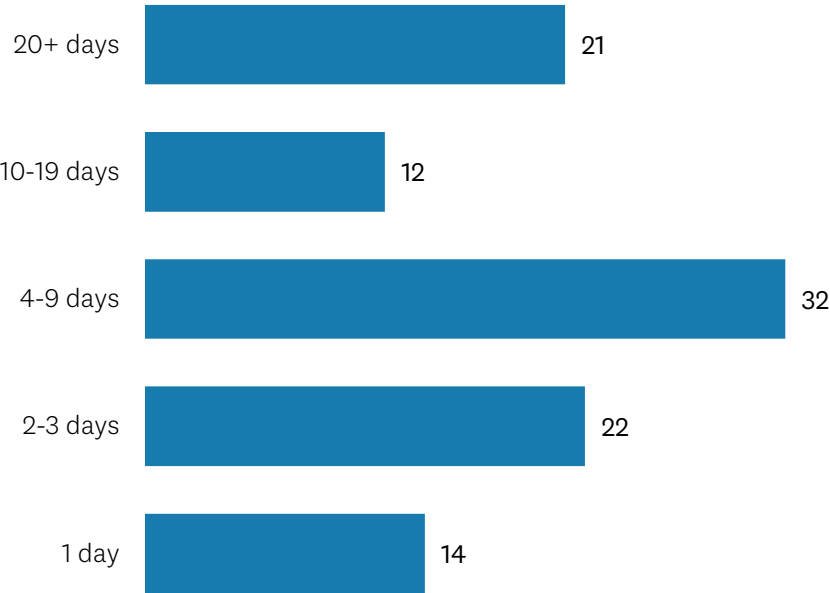


Figure 16: Frequency of contact with whānau for Māori in Auckland aged 65+ in last four weeks (%).

Source: Te Kupenga 2018, customised request.





**Overall Quality of Life**

**Impacts of COVID-19**

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**Communication and information**

**Community support and health services**

# Culture and Diversity

A woman with a large, vibrant lei of yellow and pink flowers is looking upwards and to the left. She is wearing a red and yellow patterned dress and a necklace of black and green beads. The background shows a bookshelf with various books, including one titled 'Paws and Whiskers' and another 'The Secret Garden'.



## Older Aucklanders are growing in ethnic diversity



### Proportion of Māori, Pacific, and Asian ethnic groups are growing:

Older Māori grew from 3% in 2006 to 5% in 2018.

Older Pacific grew from 6% in 2006 to 7% in 2018.

Older Asians grew from 8% in 2006 to 17% in 2018.



**Around three in every five older Aucklanders told us they feel accepted and valued in their community.** Those who felt this way were more likely to be Central Aucklanders.



**Two in every three felt they could participate in activities and events of their own culture.** This has improved substantially since 2016.



**Two-thirds said they feel safe and supported.** However, those less likely to feel supported tended to be 65-74, with a bigger proportion living in West Auckland.



**Three-quarters felt that council services treated them with kindness and communicated in their preferred language.** A lower proportion thought that Council services met their cultural (56%) or accessibility (58%) needs.



**Three in every four told us they felt comfortable dressing in a way that expressed their identity in public.**

Asian older Aucklanders, plus those living in Central Auckland, were especially positive.



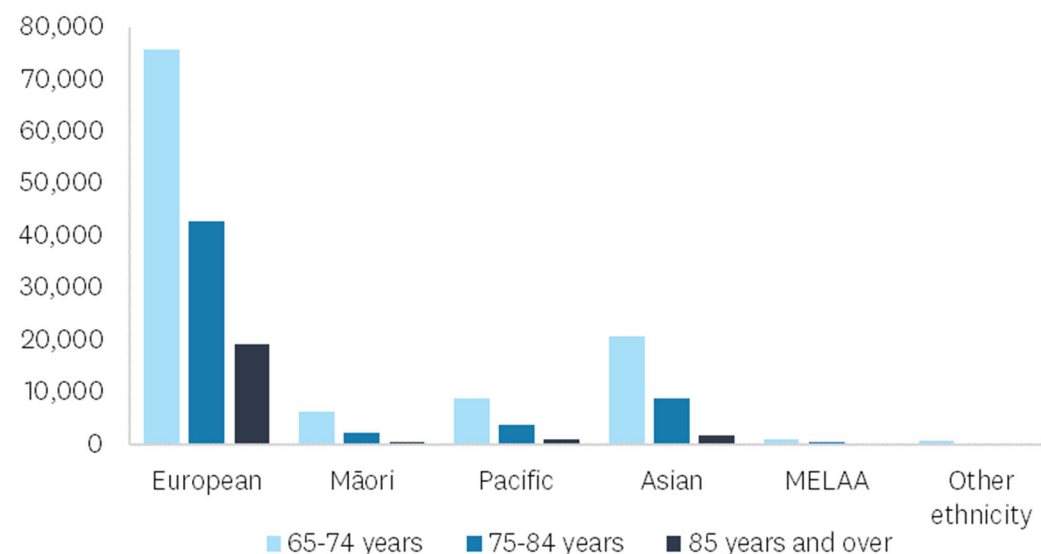


## Ethnic composition

According to the 2018 Census, almost three-quarters (73% or 137,778 people) of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over identified as European. Among the broad European category, the majority identified as New Zealand European (125,931 people); the next two largest subgroups were British and Irish (5073 people) and Other European (2961 people). Among older Aucklanders, the next largest broad ethnic group in 2018 was Asian (17%), followed by Pacific (7%) and Māori (5%). Those identifying as the broad Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) group comprised less than 1 per cent, as did those identifying as ‘Other’.

- Among the broad Pacific ethnic group, most were Samoan (6546 people), followed by Tongan (2994 people), Cook Islands Māori (2100 people), and Niuean (1173 people).
- Among the broad Asian ethnic group, most were Chinese (16,836 people). Smaller numbers were Indian (9345 people), Korean (1434 people), and Filipino (891 people).

Figure 18 indicates that older European Aucklanders comprise the majority when broken down into three age groups: “young-old” (65-74 years old), “old” (75-84 years) and “old-old” (85 years and over).



**Figure 17: Number of older Aucklanders in each ethnic group, by age group (2018).**

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

People could identify with more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive.



According to the census, over time, the proportion of older Aucklanders identifying as European has remained fairly stable (Table 4). However, there have been small proportional increases in those identifying as other ethnic groups, particularly Asian. The proportion of older Aucklanders identifying as Asian almost doubled between 2006 and 2018. On the other hand, there have been much smaller increases numerically and proportionately in the Māori and Pacific groups.

**Table 4: Ethnicity of older Aucklanders (aged 65 years and over) (2006, 2013, 2018).**

	2006	2013	2018	2006	2013	2018
	Number			Percentage		
European	94,302	120,312	137,778	73	74	73
Māori	4239	6264	9141	3	4	5
Pacific	7170	9792	13,563	6	6	7
Asian	10,752	18,924	31,353	8	12	17
MELAA	570	951	1563	<1	<1	<1
Other	9120	1830	1149	7	1	<1
<b>Total people stated</b>	<b>128,544</b>	<b>163,158</b>	<b>189,177</b>			

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

People could identify with more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive.

**Ethnicity results in the older Aucklanders survey:** Unweighted results showed that the respondent sample was predominantly New Zealand European, with 74 per cent of respondents identifying with this ethnicity. In addition, 8 per cent were Māori, followed by Asian (8%) and Pacific (5%).

Of the Māori respondents, 89 per cent knew their iwi. When breaking down the Asian and Pacific respondents further:

- Pacific respondents: Of the 73 respondents who identified as Pacific, 44 per cent were Samoan, followed by Cook Islands Māori (21%), Tongan (15%), Niuean (11%), and Fijian (7%). An additional 6 per cent were of other Pacific ethnicities, such as Tuvaluan and I-Kiribati.
- Asian respondents: Of the 115 respondents classified as Asian, 43 per cent were Chinese, followed by Indian (32%), Korean (6%), Filipino (3%), and Japanese (1%). An additional 16 per cent were of other Asian ethnicities, such as Sri Lankan, Malaysian, and Indonesian.



## Language

The range of languages spoken by older Aucklanders is another reflection of their ethnic and cultural composition. Nine-tenths (90%) of Aucklanders aged 65 years and over speak English (Table 5). There exists a substantial gap between the proportions who speak the two most common languages. As indicated by Table 5, a much smaller proportion (4%) of older Aucklanders speak the next most common language, Northern Chinese. This is followed by Samoan (3%) and Yue (3%).

**Table 5: Languages spoken by older Aucklanders (2018).**

Language	Number	% of older people in Auckland
English	170,100	90
Northern Chinese	7116	4
Samoan	6270	3
Yue	5751	3
Sinitic not further defined	3480	2
Māori	3429	2
French	3216	2
Hindi	3153	2
Tongan	2409	1
German	1893	1
Afrikaans	1239	<1
Punjabi	1176	<1
Spanish	822	<1
Tagalog	750	<1
New Zealand Sign Language	492	<1
Other	19,020	10
None	366	<1
Total people stated	189,171	100
Not elsewhere included	3	
<b>Total people</b>	<b>189,177</b>	

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

Percentage totals do not add to 100 per cent because people can speak multiple languages.



## Birthplace

In 2018, just over two in every five older Aucklanders were born overseas (44% or 82,917 people). Of this group of overseas-born people (Table 6):

- Almost one-third (31% or 25,878 people) were born in Asia – the main countries included China (11,073 people) and India (4713 people).
- A similar proportion (31% or 25,287 people) were born in the United Kingdom and Ireland – most of this group were born in England (19,656 people).
- One-fifth (20% or 16,332 people) were born in the Pacific Islands – the main countries included Samoa (5787 people), Fiji (4926 people), and Tonga (2622 people).
- The majority of those born overseas (94% or 78,075 people) had arrived in New Zealand five years or more ago since the most recent census. A slightly larger proportion of older Aucklanders who had arrived less than five years ago were Asian compared to other ethnic groups.

**Table 6: Place of birth for overseas-born older Aucklanders and years since arrival (2018).**

Place of birth	<5 years since arrival	5+ years since arrival	Total people stated
Australia	42	2679	2781
Pacific Islands	261	15,297	16,332
United Kingdom and Ireland	396	24,567	25,287
Europe (excl. United Kingdom and Ireland)	117	5652	5883
North America	78	1305	1437
Asia	1731	23,673	25,878
Middle East and Africa	336	4503	4890
Other	15	402	432
<b>Total people stated – overseas-born</b>	<b>2985</b>	<b>78,075</b>	<b>82,917</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.



## Feeling respected

Almost three in five (58%) older Aucklanders agreed that they felt accepted and valued in their communities. Interestingly, a substantial proportion neither agreed nor disagreed about feeling accepted and valued (21%). This proportion was similar across most subgroups that were analysed.

There were no notable differences in feeling accepted and valued by gender or ethnic group. However, age group differences were apparent. Among younger respondents, 53 per cent agreed that they felt accepted and valued, while those in the middle age bracket were significantly more likely to feel valued in their communities.

Those living in Central Auckland were also more likely to feel valued than those in other parts of Auckland, with 64 per cent agreeing that they felt accepted and valued, compared to 58 per cent of the total sample.

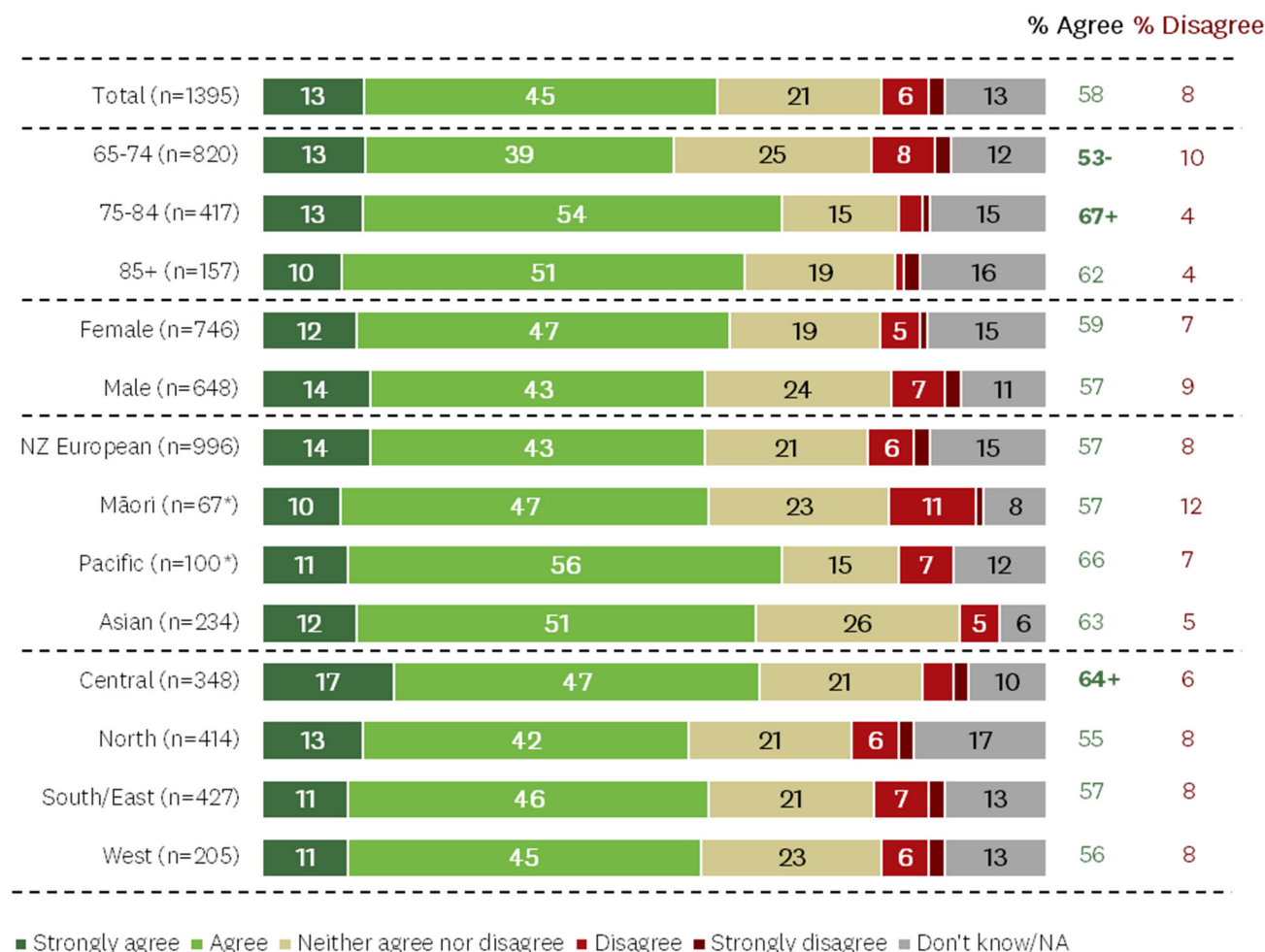


Figure 18: Respondent perceptions of feeling accepted and valued in their communities (n=1395)

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.





## Safety and support

Two-thirds (67%) of older Aucklanders agreed that they felt safe, supported and respected in their communities. Again, this proportion was significantly lower for those aged 65-74 years (62%) but higher for older respondents.

A larger proportion of Asian respondents said that they felt safe, supported and respected (73%) compared to other ethnic groups, but this was not a significant difference.

However, respondents in West Auckland expressed a significantly lower degree of feeling safe and supported in their communities, compared to other Aucklanders.

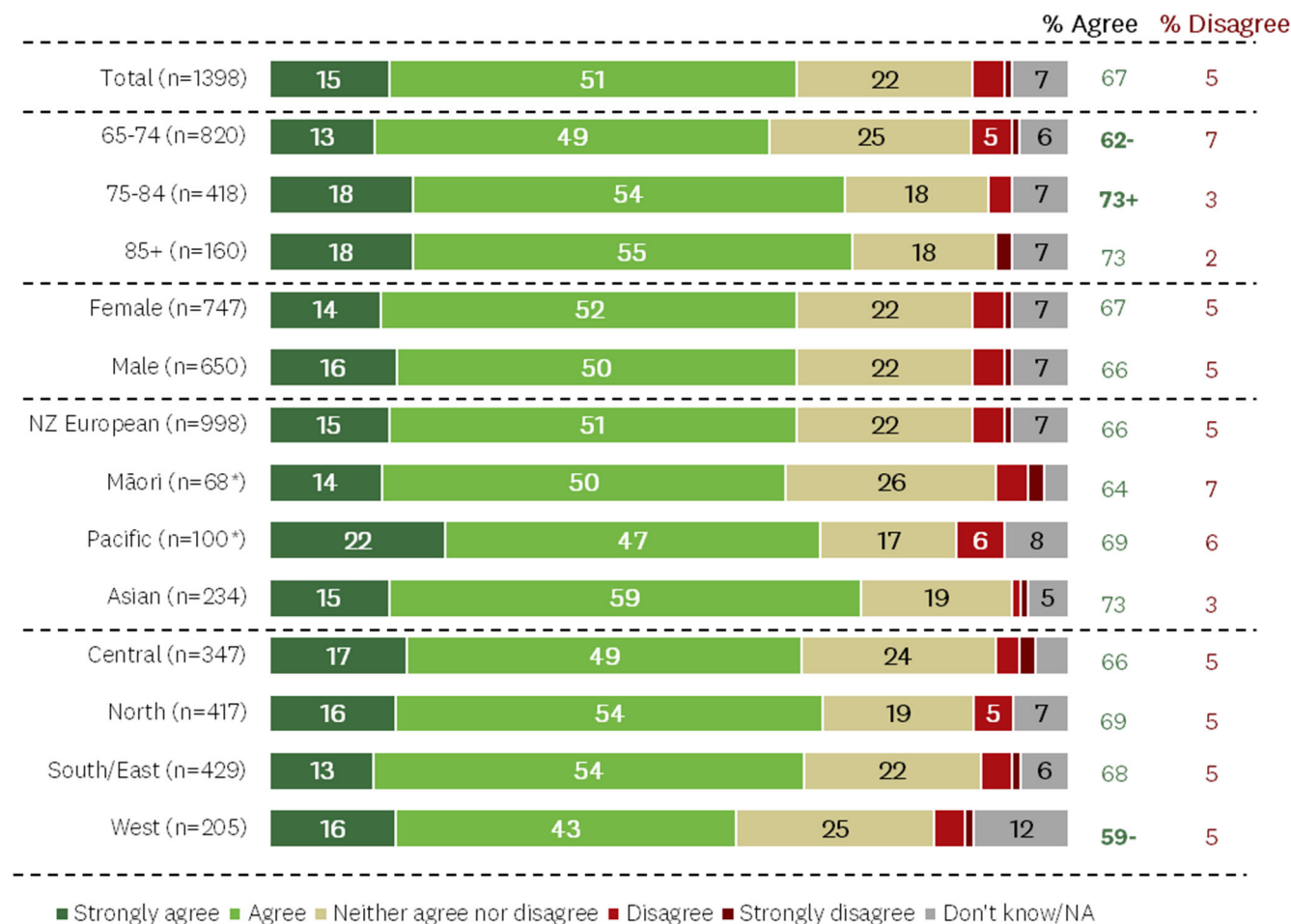


Figure 19: Respondent perceptions of feeling safe, supported, and respected (n=1398)

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Culturally appropriate services: Being treated with kindness

In order to understand whether older Aucklanders perceive Auckland Council services as being culturally responsive, we asked them about their interactions with such services in the last 12 months. Responses are displayed in Figure 20 to Figure 23. Those who selected the answer option “I haven’t interacted with Auckland Council services” are excluded from these figures.

Of those reporting an interaction with council services, around three-quarters (77%) agreed that they had been treated with kindness. This proportion was slightly lower among Māori respondents, but must be treated with caution due to the very small sample size.

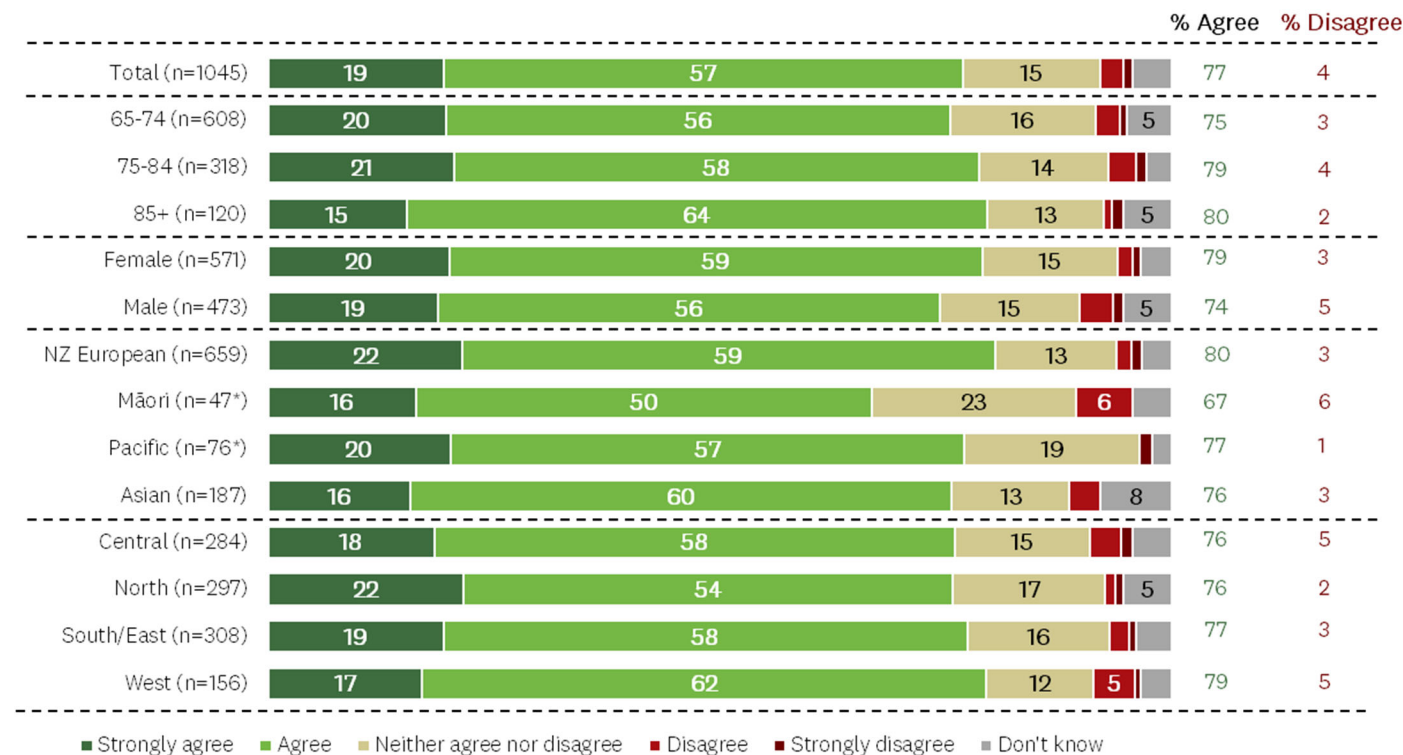


Figure 20: Perceptions of whether council services treated respondents with kindness (n=1045).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## 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 (77%) agreed they had. There were few differences between groups, although a smaller proportion of those aged 85 and over (71%) and Asian residents (72%) agreed with this statement. Meanwhile, a slightly larger proportion of New Zealand Europeans (82%) agreed with this statement.

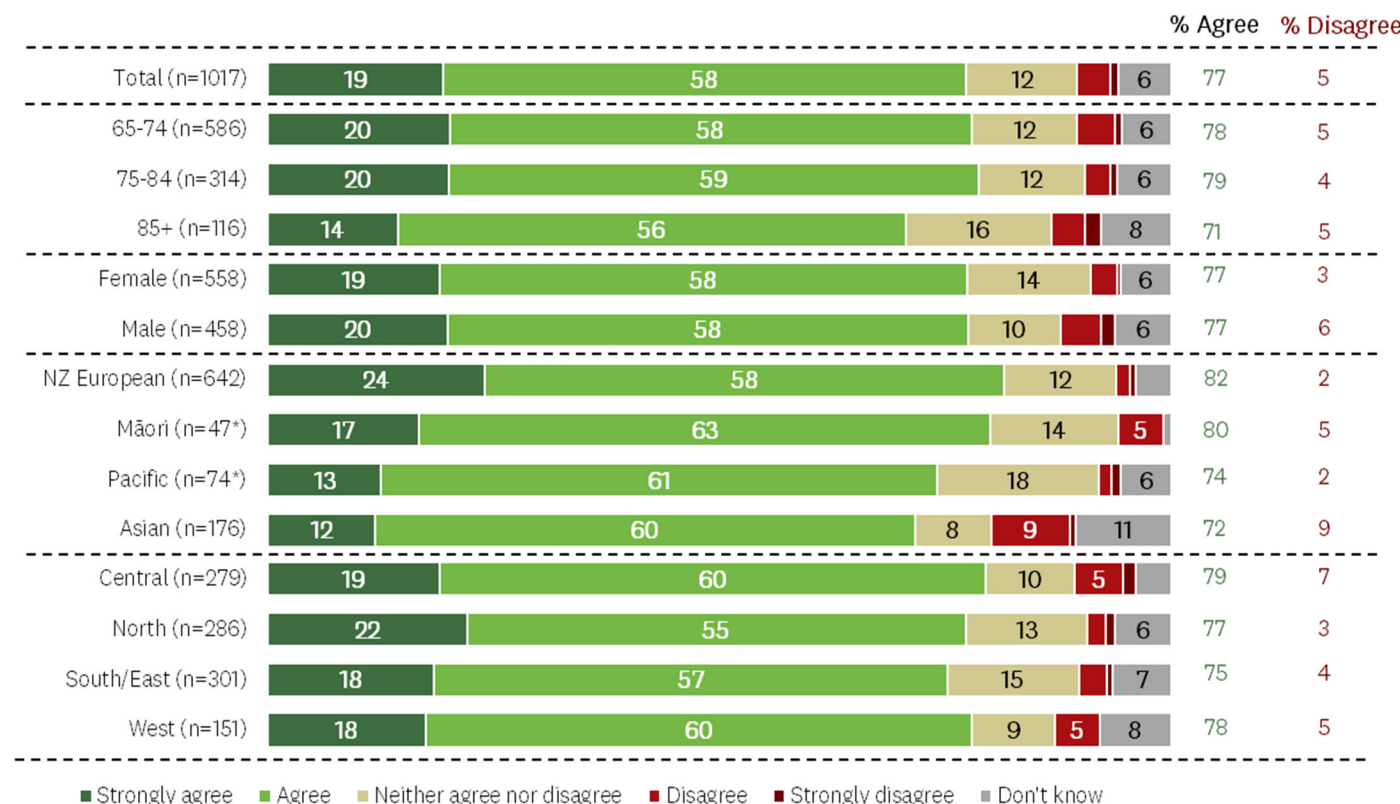


Figure 21: Perceptions that council services communicated in respondents' preferred language (n=1017).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Culturally appropriate services: Having cultural needs met

Respondents were asked whether council services had met their cultural needs during these interactions in the last 12 months. Over half of respondents (56%) agreed with this statement. Asian respondents were more likely to agree, with 68 per cent of Asian respondents agreeing that council services had met their cultural needs.

Again, a smaller proportion (46%) of those aged 85 and over agreed that council services had met their cultural needs.

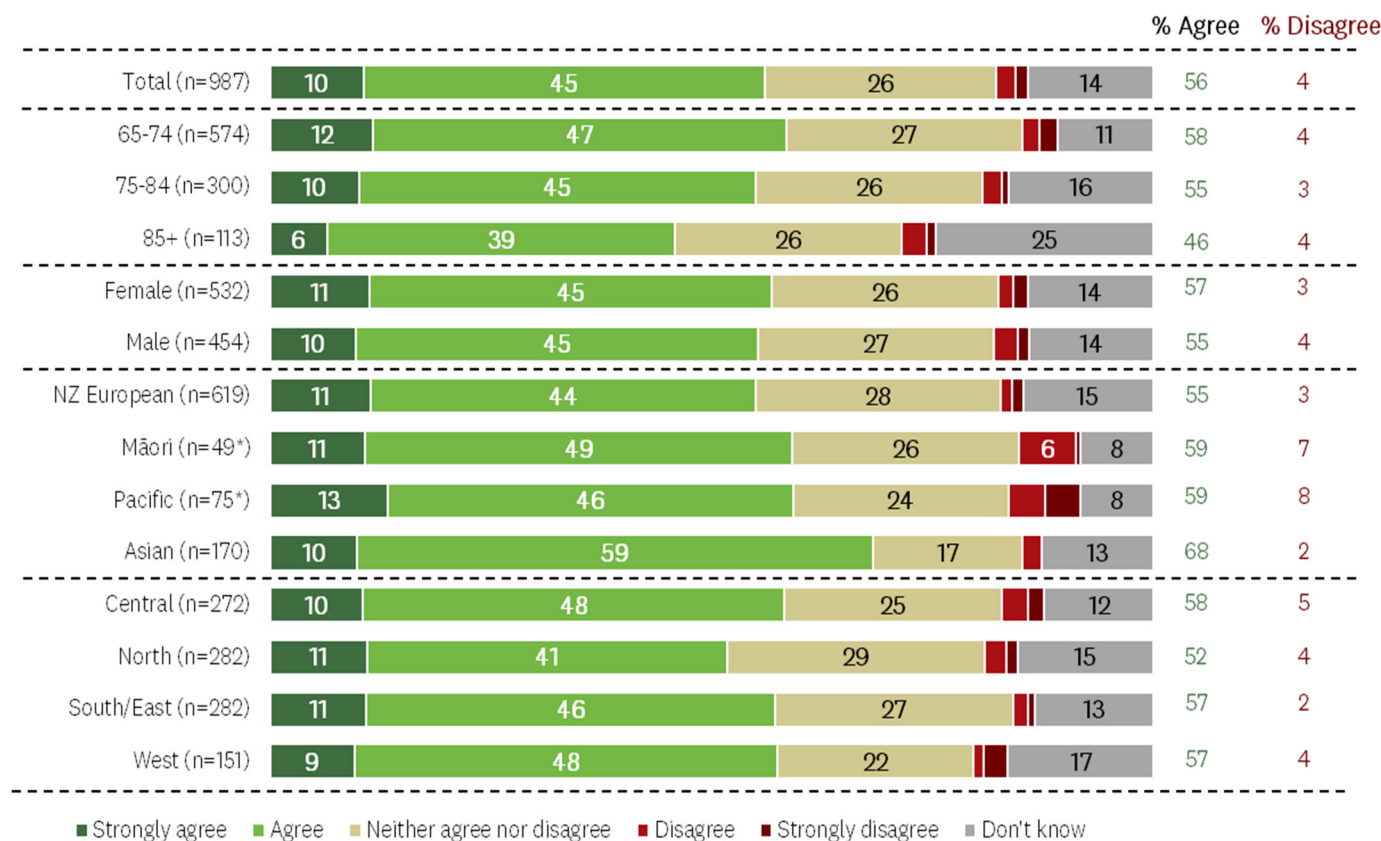


Figure 22: Perceptions that council services met respondents' cultural needs (n=987).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Culturally appropriate services: Accessibility of services

Finally, we asked respondents whether they found council services to be accessible for those who were hard of hearing, had low vision, mobility needs, and so on. Again, over half (58%) of participants agreed with this statement. This proportion was higher again for Asian respondents, with 70 per cent agreeing with this statement.

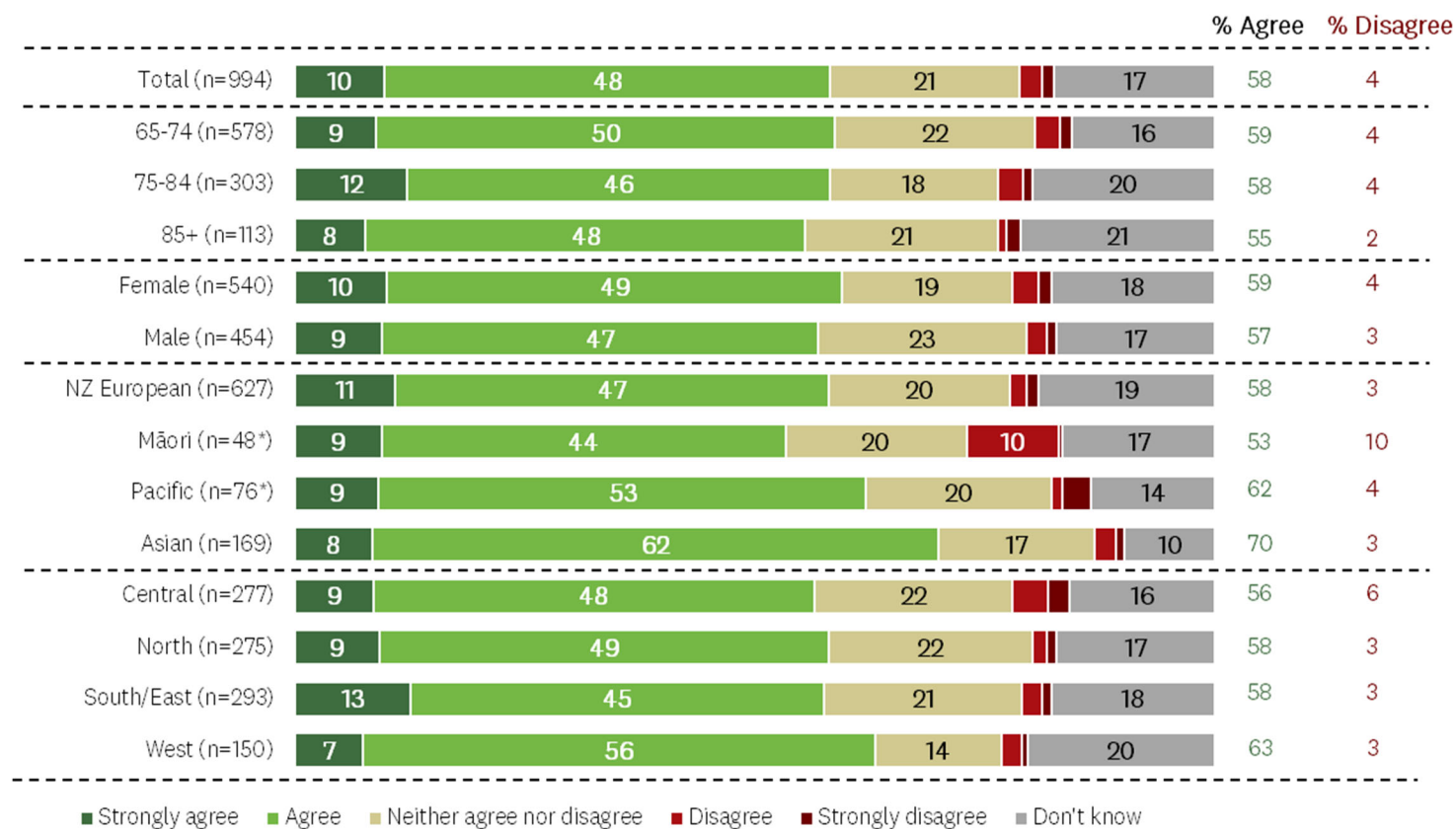


Figure 23: Perceptions that council services are accessible (n=994).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.





## Ability to participate in events of own culture

Respondents were asked about their ability to participate in events, activities and traditions from their own culture, prior to the August 2021 COVID-19 lockdown—67 per cent agreed they could, which was considerably higher than the equivalent 2016 survey question, where only 38 per cent agreed with this statement. This increase is stark. It is possible that in 2021, changes in wording asking respondents to consider experiences pre-lockdown may have resulted in positive memory biases of what life was like.

In 2021, significant differences were apparent for:

- **Age:** Those aged 85 years and over were less likely to agree with this statement.
- **Ethnic group:** Significantly more Asian respondents (77%) agreed, while more Pacific respondents (12%) disagreed.
- **Area:** Central Aucklanders were more likely to agree and West Aucklanders were less likely to agree.

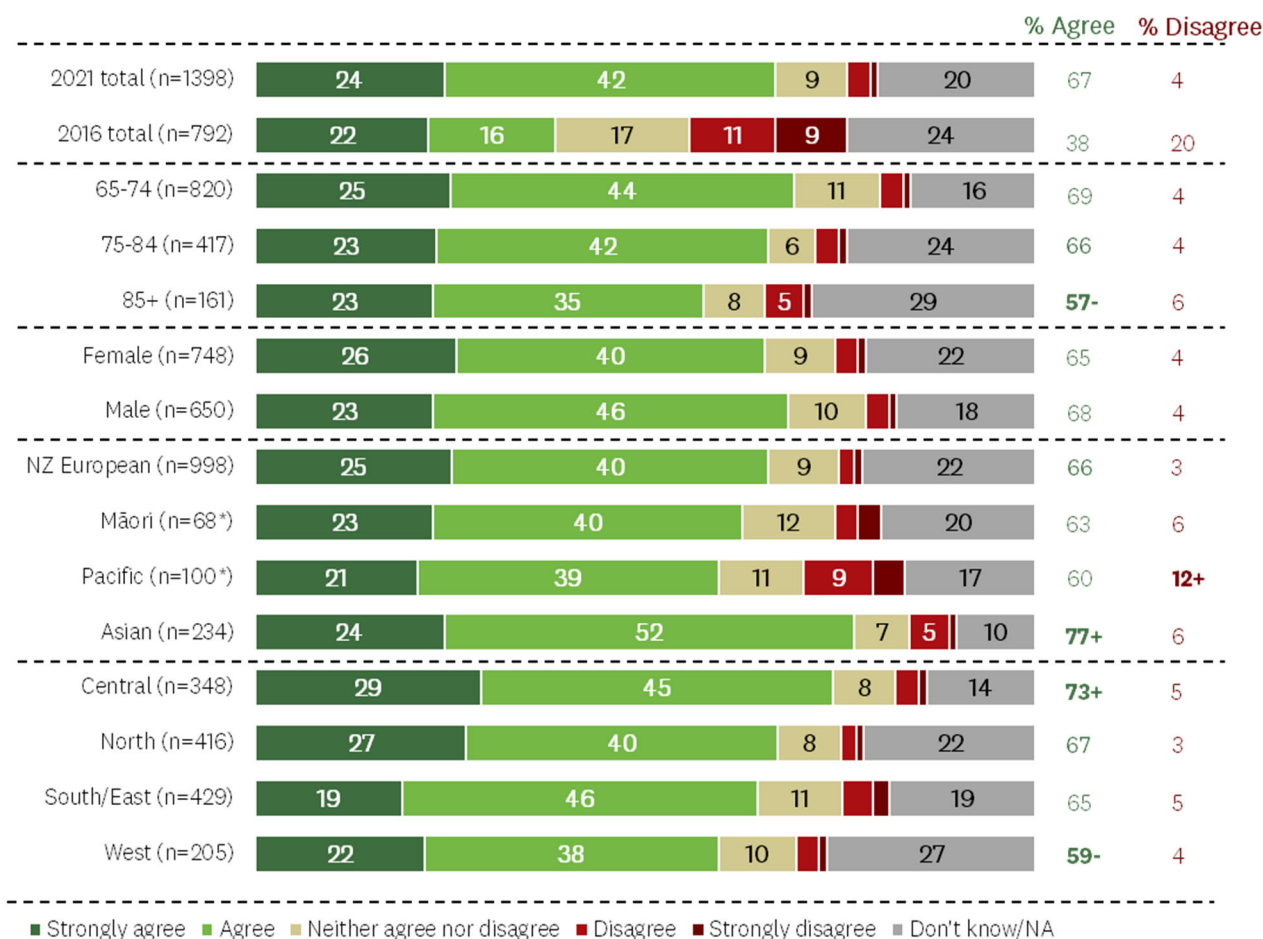


Figure 24: Respondent participation in activities from their own culture (2021 n=1398, 2016 n=792).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Ability to participate in events of other cultures

Respondents were also asked about their ability to participate in events, activities and traditions from other cultures, prior to the August 2021 COVID-19 lockdown. Almost two-thirds (64%) agreed they were able to participate in such cultural activities. Again, older people aged 85 years and over were less likely to agree with this statement.

The same ethnic group differences in Figure 25 were observed for this question as well. Asian respondents were significantly more likely to agree (75%) with this statement. In contrast, Pacific respondents were more likely to disagree that they could participate in such activities from other cultures (14% disagreed, compared to 4 per cent of all respondents).

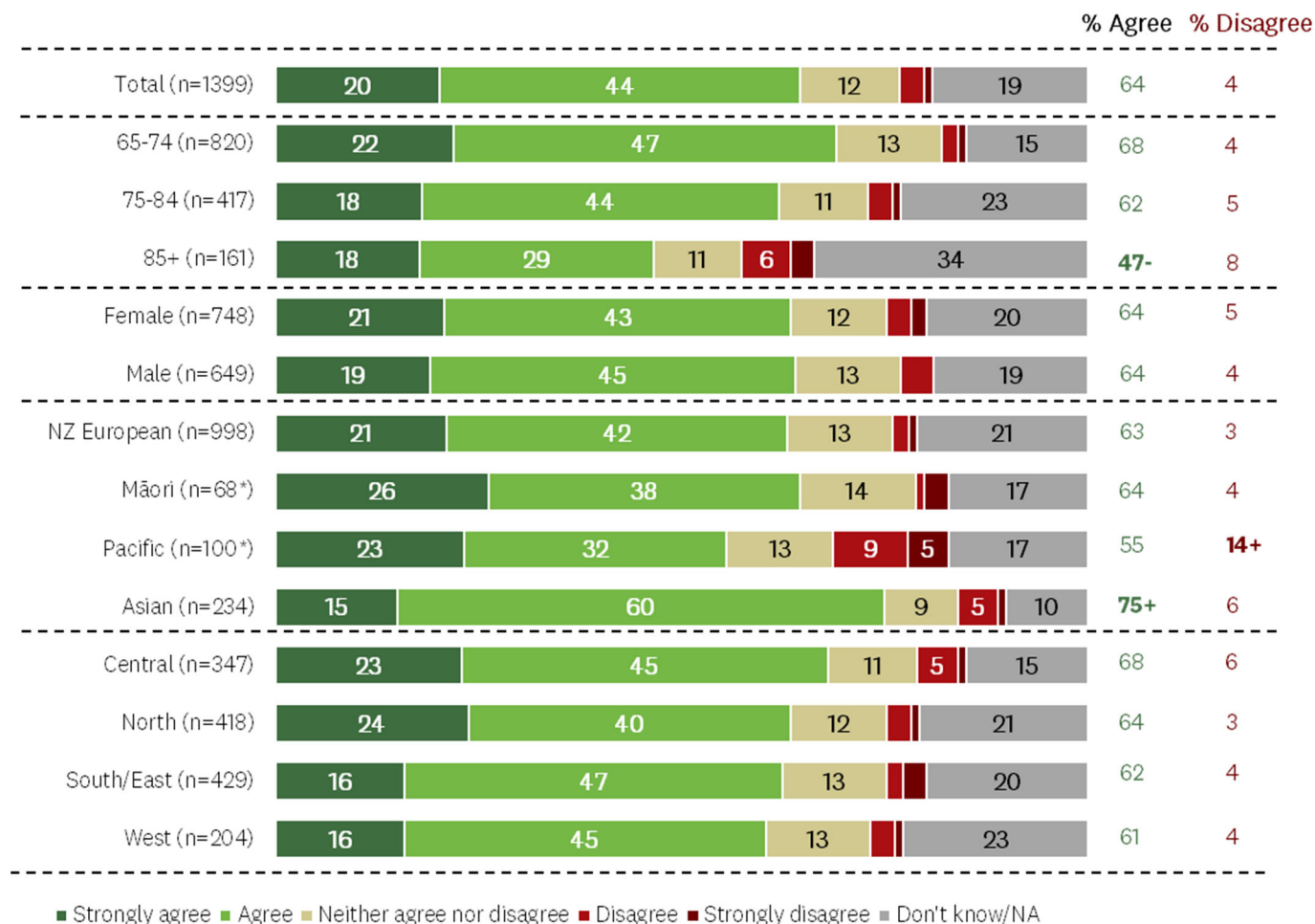


Figure 25: Respondent participation in activities from other cultures (n=1399).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Comfort expressing identity in public

A high level of respondents were comfortable dressing in a way that expressed their identity in public with almost three-quarters (74%) agreeing with this statement. “Identity” could include dressing in a way to express individual or social identity, or a cultural/ethnic/faith identity.

There were similar levels of agreement across the subgroups that were analysed. A slightly higher proportion of older Aucklanders in Central Auckland agreed with this statement (79%), compared to older people living in other parts of Auckland.

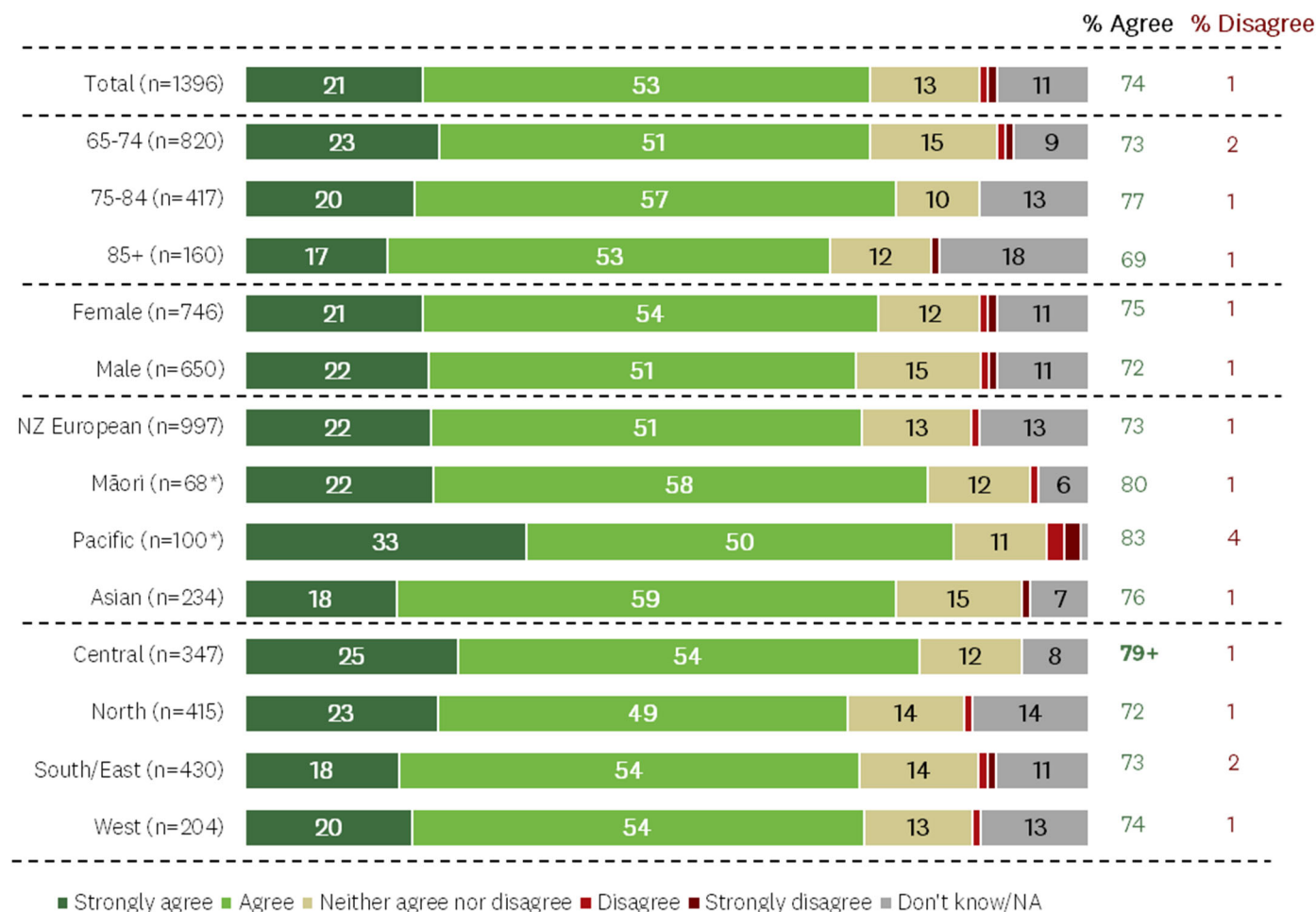


Figure 26: Respondent comfort with dressing in a way to express their identity in public (n=1396).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.







**Overall Quality of Life**

**Impacts of COVID-19**

**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**



# Te Taiao





## The natural and built environments are of concern to older Aucklanders



**In general, older Aucklanders were satisfied with the quality and cleanliness of green spaces around them.**

There were clear differences by area and ethnic group. Satisfaction was higher among Asians and those living in North or Central Auckland, but was lower among Māori, Pacific and South/East Aucklanders.



**Older Aucklanders were concerned about noise and water pollution.**

Females were more concerned than males about pollution, as were Pacific and New Zealand European older Aucklanders.



**Close to half of our participants said they were worried about climate change.**

Pacific older Aucklanders were most likely out of all ethnic groups to say they did not know enough about climate change.



**Three in every five older Aucklanders told us they made sustainable consumption choices in their daily lives.**

This was more common among female respondents, and less common among males, Pacific participants, and those aged 85 years and over.



## Quality of green spaces

Almost three-quarters (74%) of respondents were satisfied with the quality of green spaces in their local area. Green spaces included parks, community gardens, reserves, playgrounds, trees and plants around streets, and so on. Only one in ten (11%) were dissatisfied with such spaces.

Those living in Central Auckland were slightly more satisfied with green spaces in their local area, with 80 per cent of respondents expressing satisfaction. There were no other significant differences between subgroups.

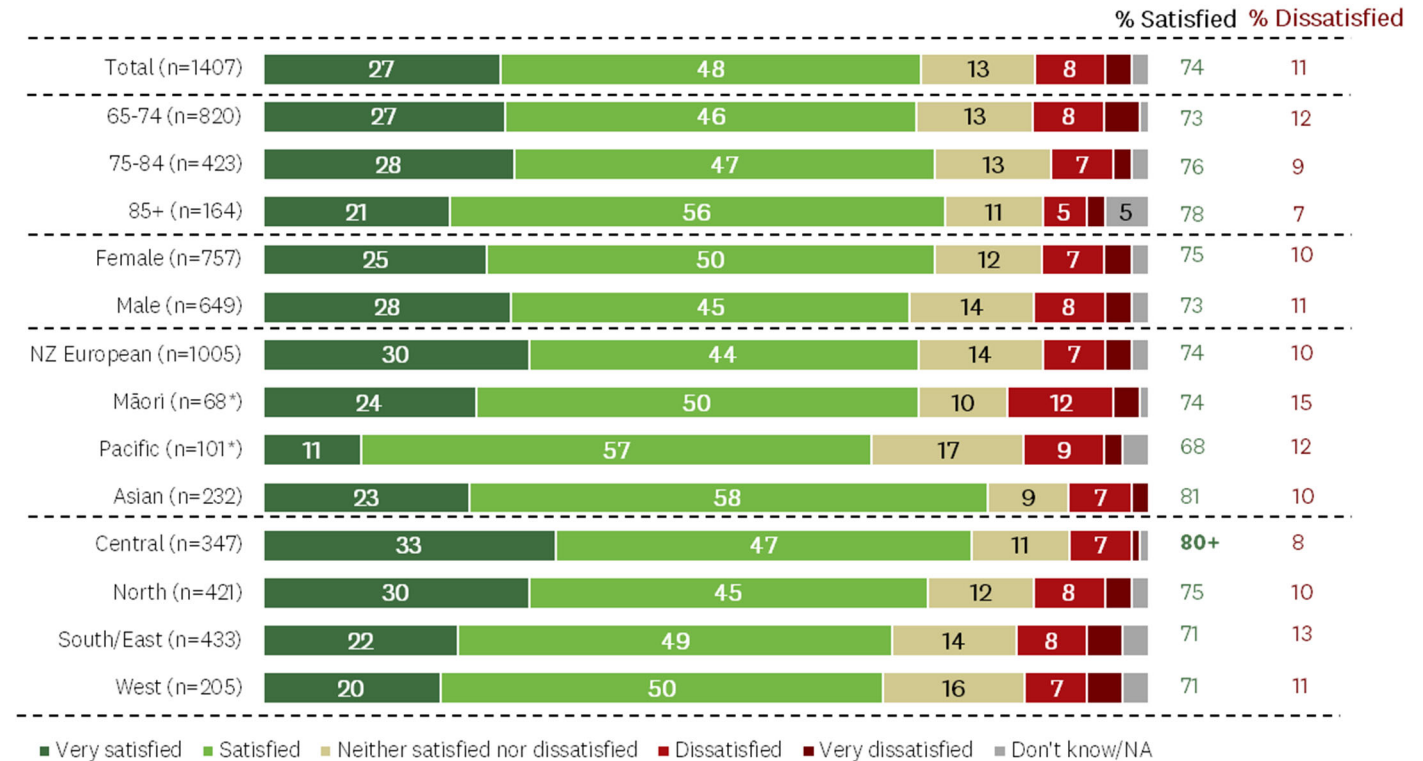


Figure 27: Respondent satisfaction with the quality of green spaces (n=1407).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Cleanliness of green spaces

Around three-fifths (63%) of respondents were satisfied with the cleanliness of green spaces in their local area. However, 20 per cent were dissatisfied. Notably, there were differences in satisfaction between ethnic groups and residents of different parts of Auckland.

- **Ethnic group:** More Māori respondents (28%) were dissatisfied with the cleanliness of local areas. Similarly, Pacific respondents were less likely to agree that they were satisfied (only 49% satisfied). Meanwhile, Asian respondents were much more likely to be satisfied.
- **Area:** Residents in North Auckland were more satisfied, while those in South/East Auckland expressed greater dissatisfaction.

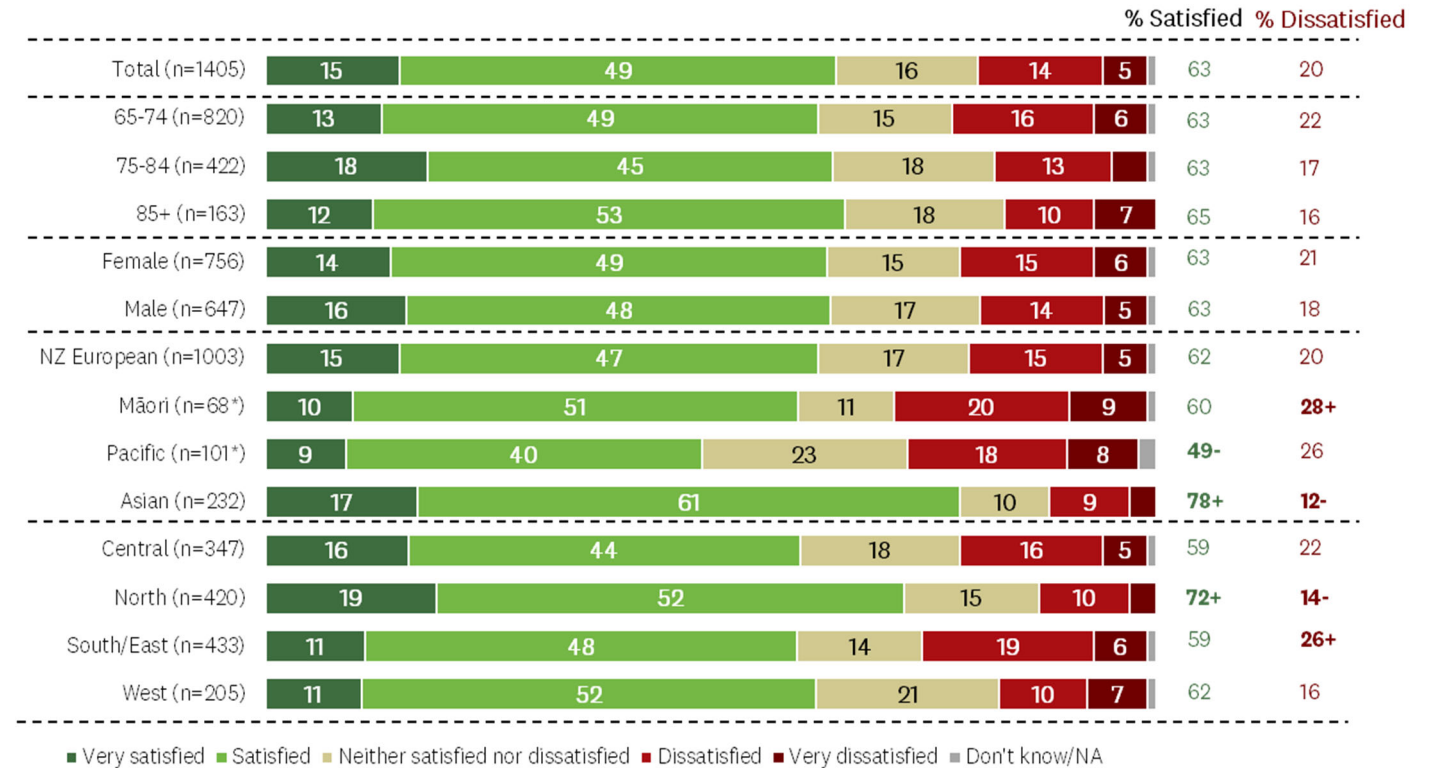


Figure 28: Respondent satisfaction with the cleanliness of green spaces (n=1405).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Perceptions of pollution: Air pollution

Respondents were asked about their perceptions of air pollution, water pollution, and noise pollution in their local area over the last 12 months. Figures 29 to 31 show respondents' answers. Just under one-fifth (18%) of older Aucklanders believed that air pollution had been a problem in their local area during this time.

There were indicative gender differences in respondents' perceptions of whether air pollution had been a problem—21 per cent of female respondents compared to 14 per cent of male respondents thought it had been a problem.

A larger proportion of Pacific respondents also thought that air pollution had been a problem (34%), compared to other ethnic groups. These results should be treated with caution, however, due to the small base number of Pacific respondents.

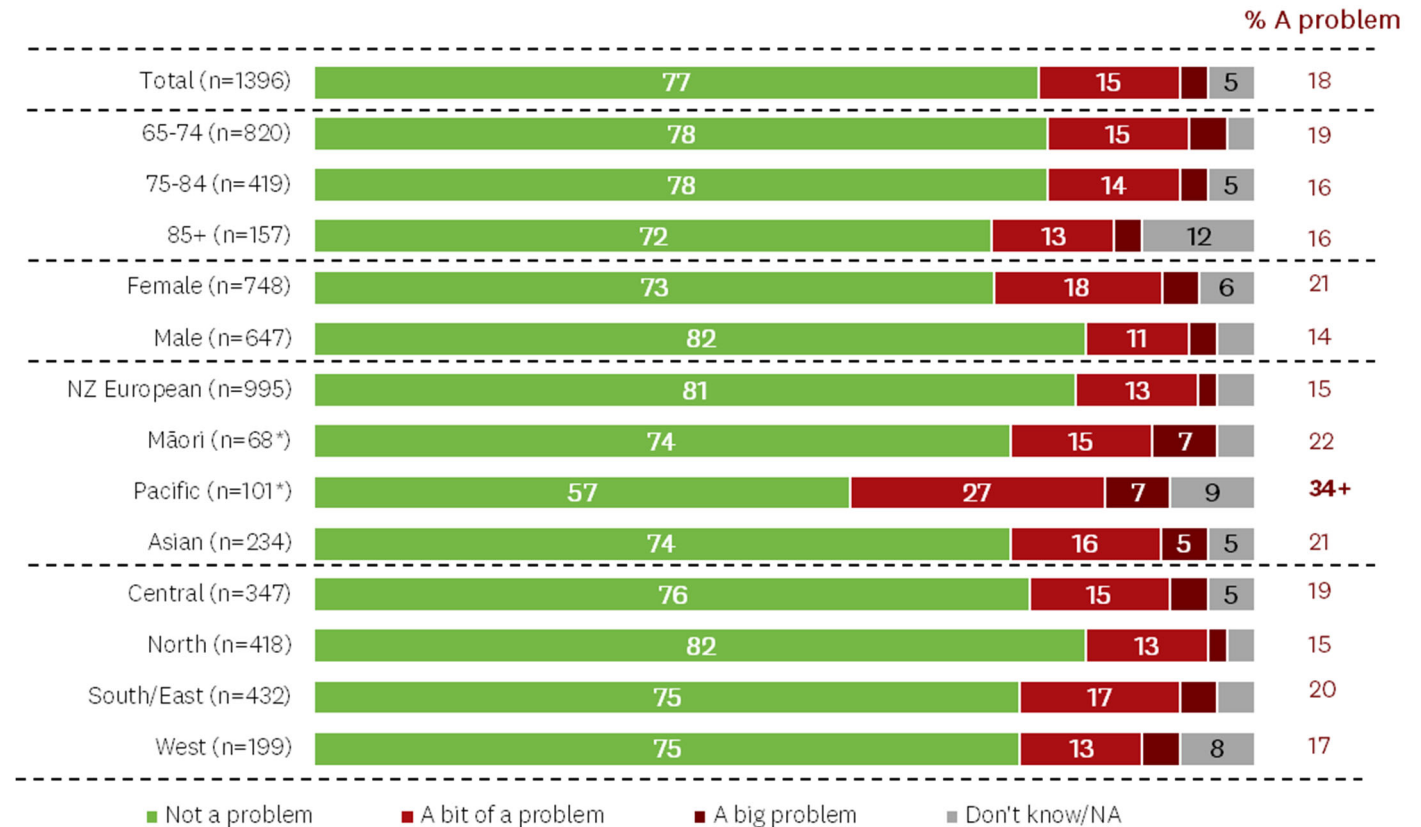


Figure 29: Respondent perceptions of air pollution in their local area over the last 12 months (n=1396).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Perceptions of pollution: Water pollution

Compared to air pollution, around twice as many respondents (37%) perceived that water pollution had been a problem in their local area over the last 12 months. Further analysis of the data revealed that some groups of respondents were more likely to perceive that water pollution had been a problem in their local area during this time.

For example, larger proportions of women (41%), New Zealand Europeans (42%), and older Aucklanders living in northern local board areas (44%) thought that water pollution had been a problem.

In contrast, those aged 85 years and over (25%), men (32%), Asians (19%), and those living in South/East Auckland (31%) were less likely to agree that water pollution had been a problem.

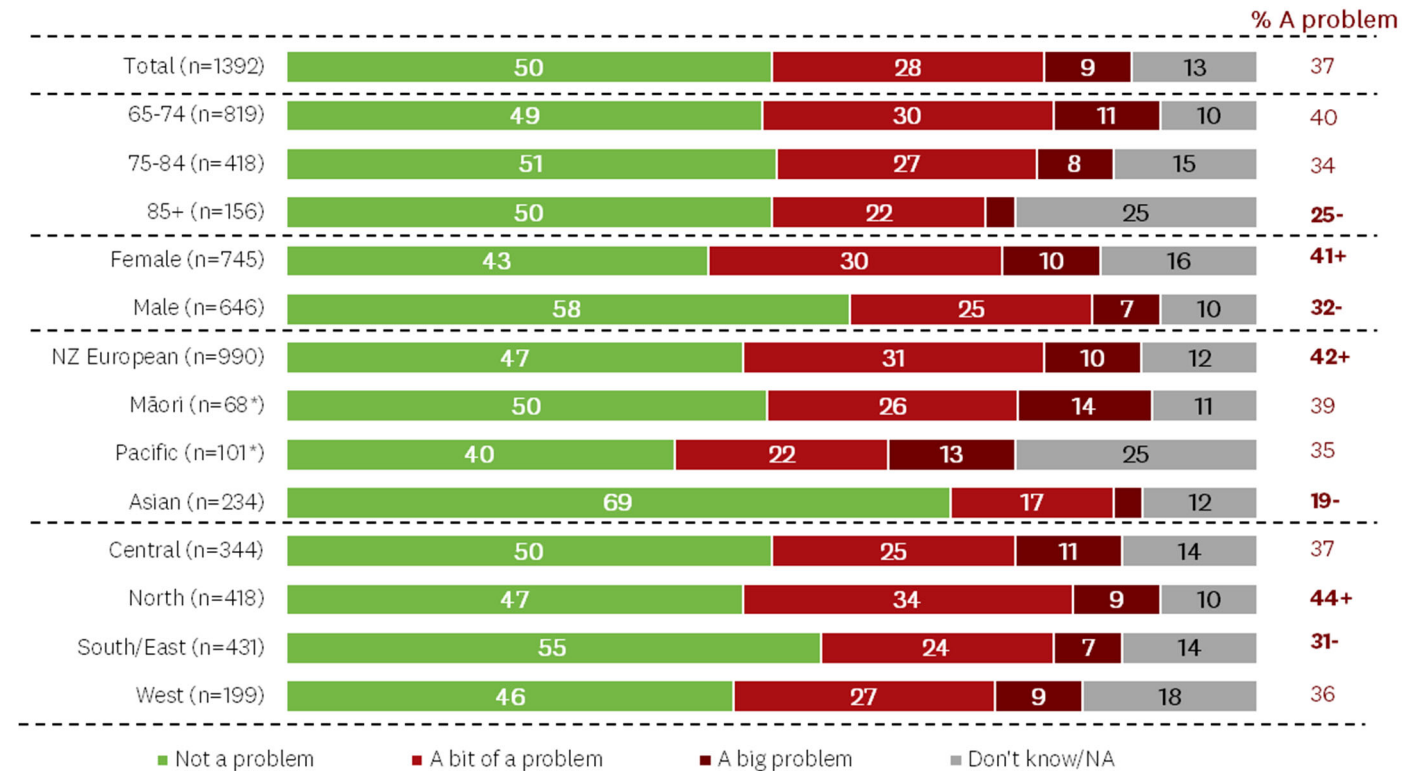


Figure 30: Respondent perceptions of water pollution in their local area over the last 12 months (n=1392).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.





## Perceptions of pollution: Noise pollution

Noise pollution was perceived by older Aucklanders to be the most serious type of pollution in their local area. Just under half (49%) of respondents said that noise pollution had been a problem in their local area in the last 12 months.

Pacific respondents expressed the most concern about noise pollution compared to other groups—67 per cent said that noise pollution had been a problem. However, this result should be interpreted cautiously due to the small base size of Pacific respondents.

Survey respondents aged 85 years and over were less likely to believe that noise pollution had been a problem, with only 37 per cent expressing concern.

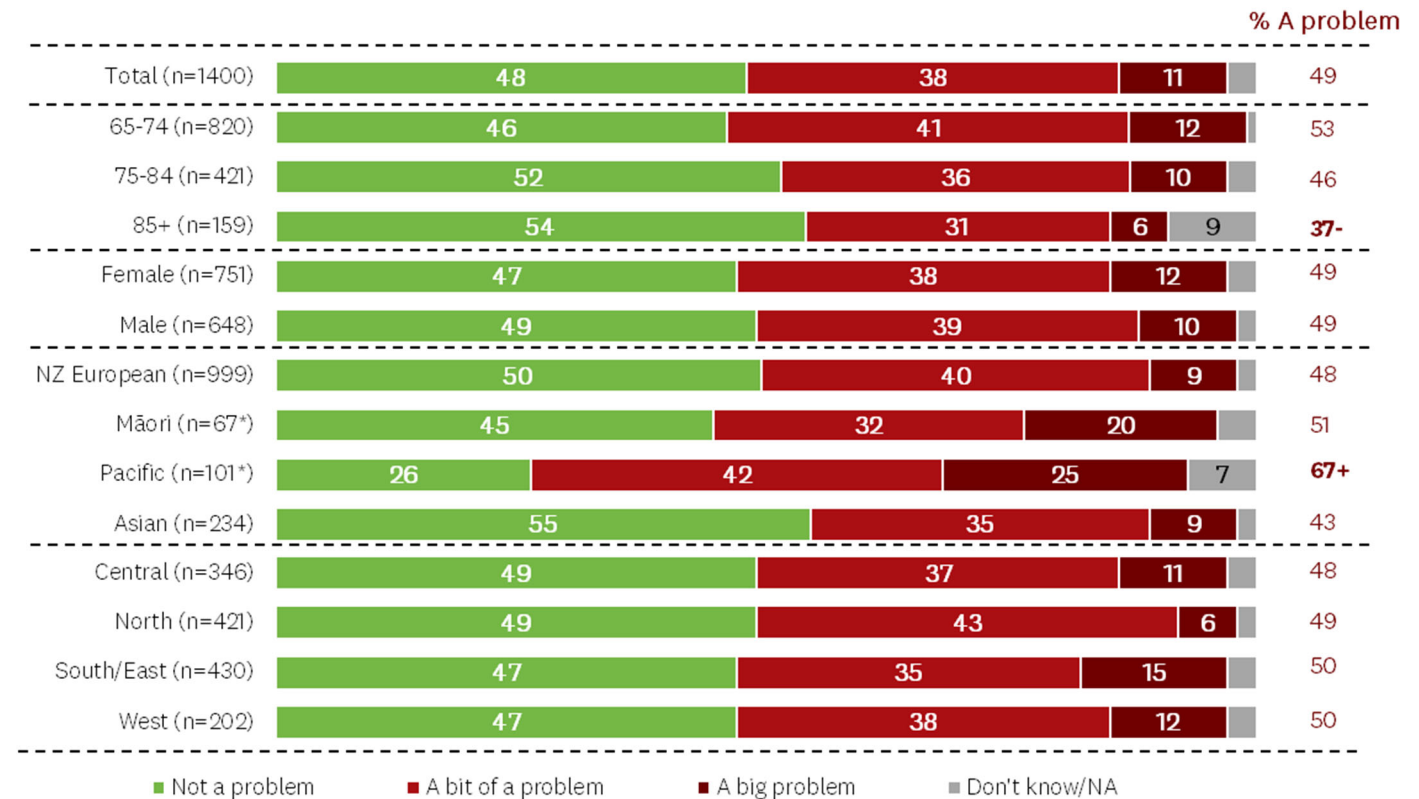


Figure 31: Respondent perceptions of noise pollution in their local area over the last 12 months (n=1400).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Climate change: Sustainable consumption choices

Approximately three in every five (59%) of respondents reported that they often considered sustainability and the environment when making consumption choices in their daily life. One-tenth (10%) reported that they rarely made such considerations.

- **Age:** Additionally, significantly fewer people aged 85 years and over (47%) said they often considered sustainability and the environment.
- **Gender:** More female respondents (64%) reported that they often considered such impacts than males (53%).
- **Ethnic group:** Fewer Pacific respondents (46%) said that they often considered these impacts, although this finding is indicative only.

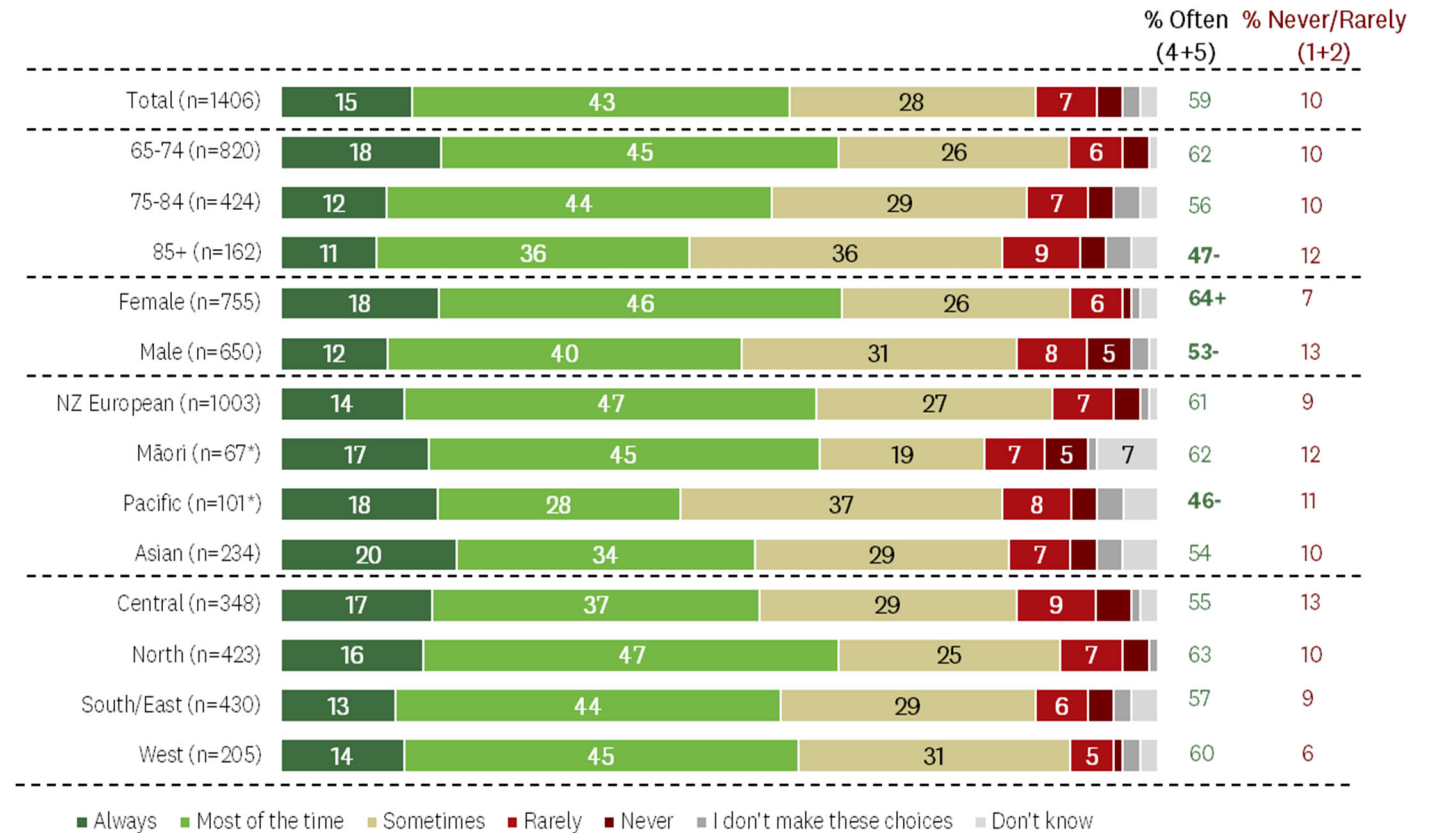


Figure 32: Respondent reports of sustainable consumption choices (n=1406).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Climate change: Worry about impact of climate change

Just under half (48%) of survey respondents expressed that they were worried or very worried about the impact of climate change on the future of Auckland and its residents. Additionally, 5 per cent expressed that they did not know enough about climate change to answer this question. There were no significant differences across genders, age groups, ethnic groups and geographic areas regarding those that were worried (or not worried) about climate change.

However, there were differences among those that said they did not know enough about climate change. For example, larger proportions of those aged 85 years and over (11%) and Pacific respondents (12%) said they did not know enough about climate change, compared to other age or ethnic groups. This finding about Pacific respondents is indicative only.

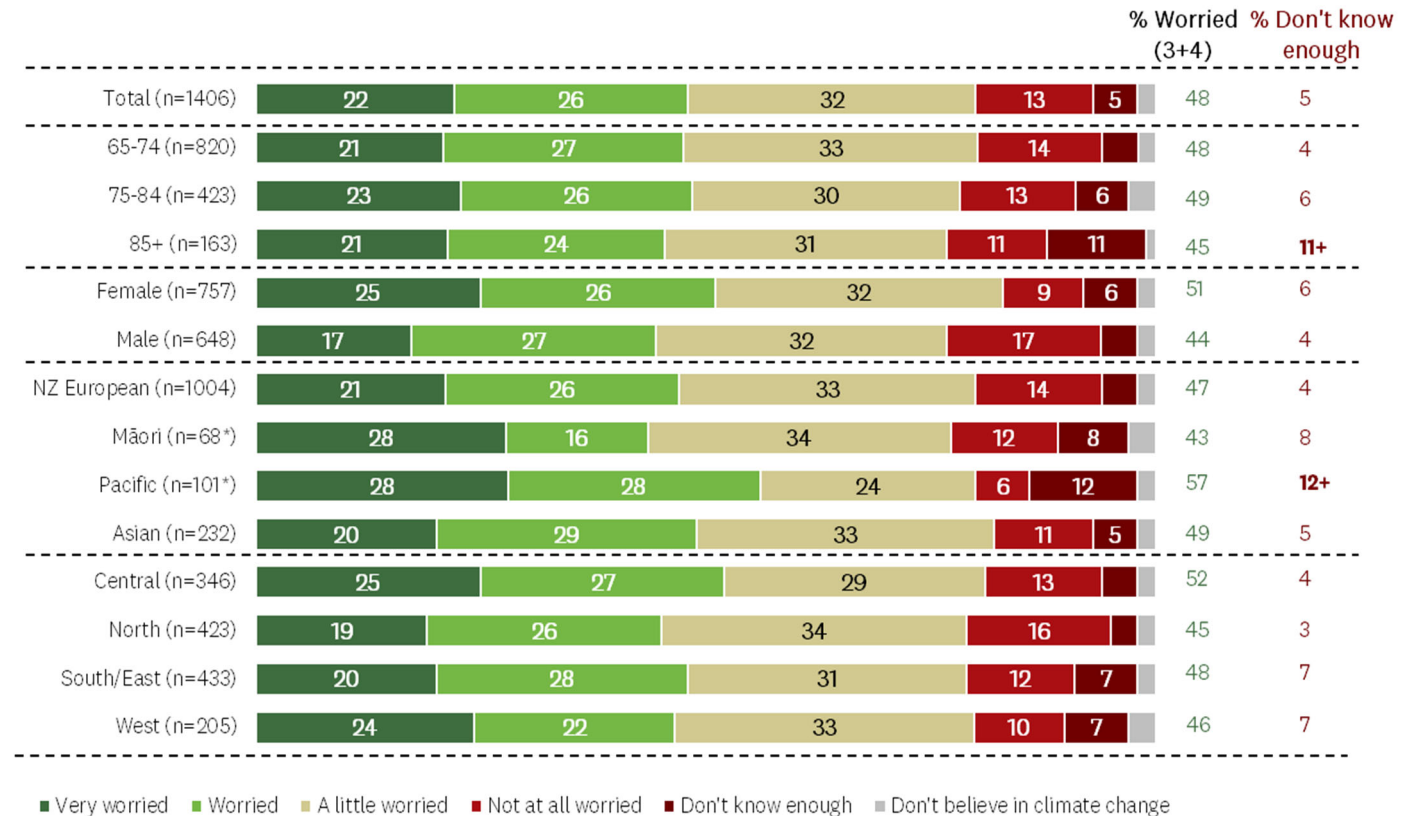


Figure 33: Respondent worries about climate change (n=1406).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.







A photograph of two elderly women on a bus. The woman in the foreground has short white hair, is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt with a bird pattern, a necklace with a large green pendant, and a red backpack. She is looking out the window. The woman behind her has white hair and glasses, wearing a red patterned shirt and a black cardigan. They are both smiling. The bus interior and a city street with a bicycle are visible through the window.

**Overall Quality of Life**

**Impacts of COVID-19**

**Kaumātua**

**Culture and diversity**

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**Transport**

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**Social participation**

**Respect and social inclusion**

**Civic participation and employment**

**Communication and information**

**Community support and health services**

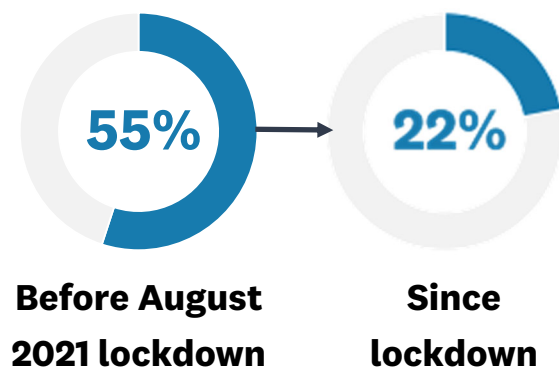
# Transport





## There is a need for accessible footpaths, tracks and public transport

### Use of public transport

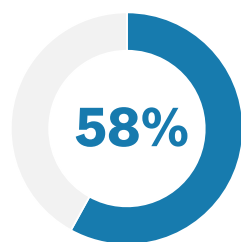


### Accessible mobility of the neighbourhood

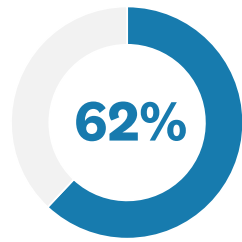


Fewer than half of the respondents were satisfied with the quality of footpaths and accessible tracks in their neighbourhood. Those who were satisfied were more likely to be Asian, and less likely to be New Zealand European or Pacific.

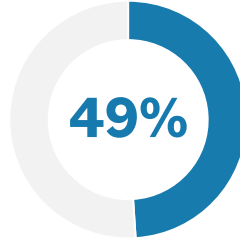
### Older Aucklanders' perceptions of public transport



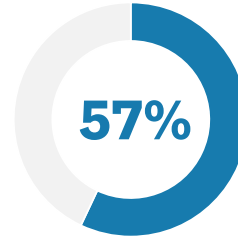
Agreed it was safe while waiting for public transport to arrive



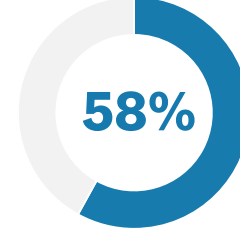
Agreed it was safe when on public transport



Agreed it was comfortable



Agreed it was affordable



Agreed it met accessibility needs

**More positive perceptions among Central Auckland residents and less positive perceptions among South/East Auckland residents.**



## Use of public transport: pre-COVID-19 lockdown

We asked respondents how often they used public transport before the August 2021 COVID-19 lockdown. Roughly equal proportions said they used public transport (55%) as those that did not (45%). Results from 2016 show that public transport use was higher—61 per cent had used public transport in the 12 months prior, while 37 per cent did not. This is only somewhat higher than 2021 results and are notable given the context of COVID-19 potentially impacting on public transport use. Please note that the 2016 bar is not shown below due to different answer options for the question.

**Age:** Older respondents (85 years and over) were less likely to say they used public transport (41%, compared to 55% of all respondents).

**Ethnicity:** Māori and Pacific respondents were also less likely to use public transport before this time.

**Area:** Those living in South and East Auckland were also less likely to use public transport. Meanwhile, those living in Central Auckland were more likely to use public transport before the COVID-19 lockdown.

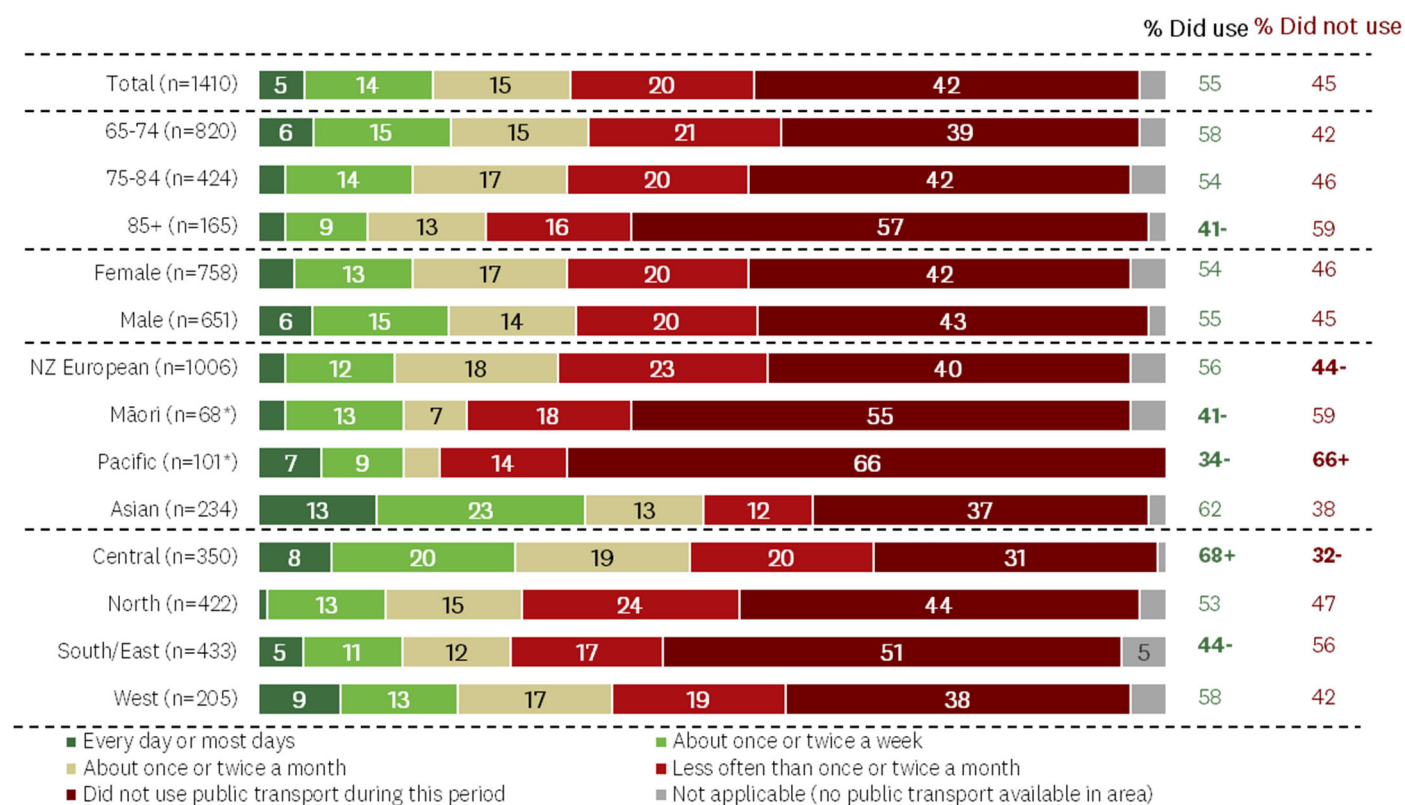


Figure 34: Use of public transport before 18 August 2021 (n=1410).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Use of public transport: since COVID-19 lockdown

We asked respondents how often they used public transport since the August 2021 COVID-19 lockdown. The results indicate that older Aucklanders' use of public transport reduced drastically since then, with only 22 per cent saying they had used public transport.

The use of public transport was similarly low across most subgroups. Exceptions were Asian respondents and Central Aucklanders, for whom reported public transport use was higher than other ethnic groups and geographical areas since the lockdown began—32 per cent of Asians and 30 per cent of Central Aucklanders said they used public transport since this time.

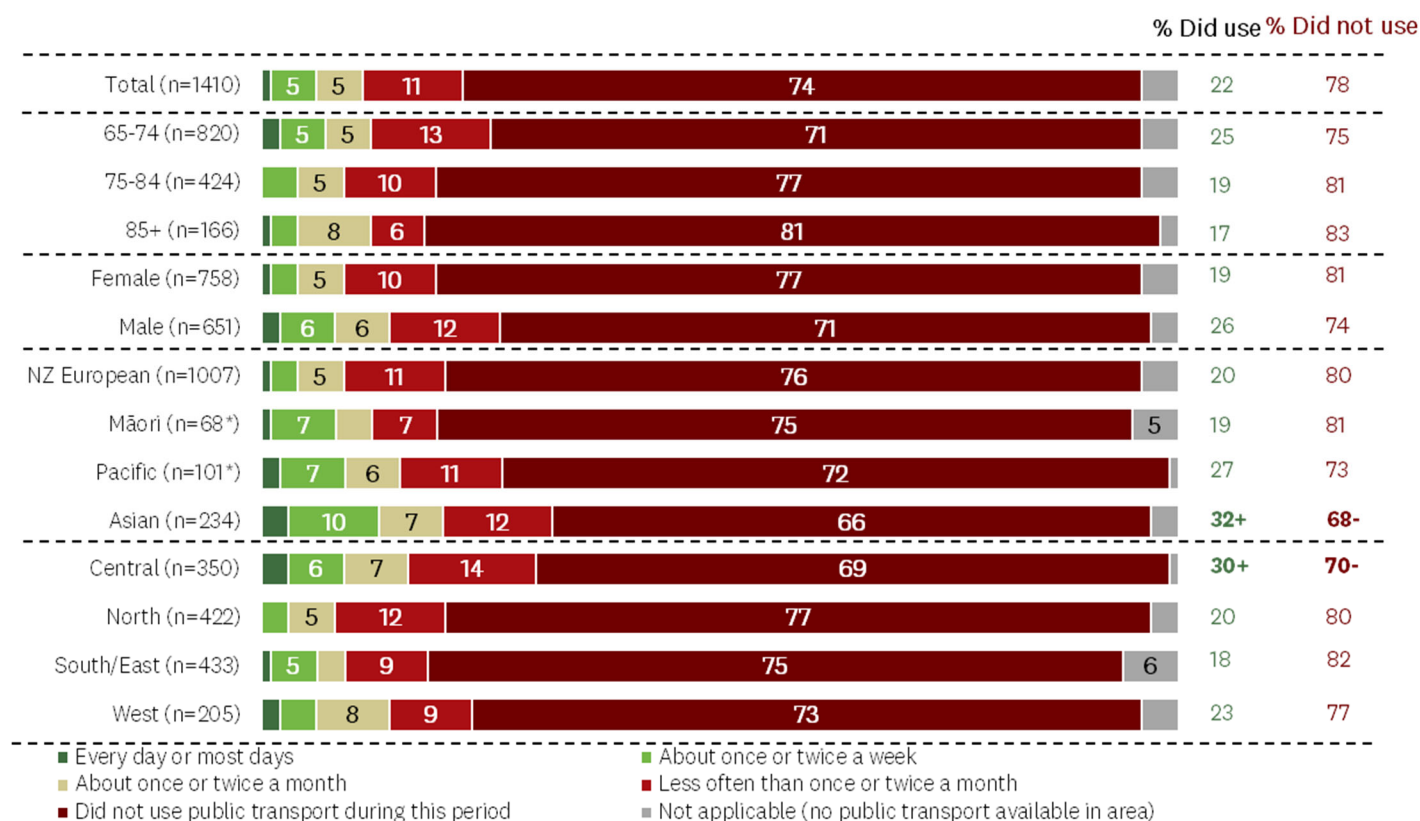


Figure 35: Use of public transport since 18 August 2021 (n=1410).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Perceptions of public transport: Safe while waiting for transport to arrive

Almost three-fifths (58%) of older Aucklanders agreed that public transport was safe (while waiting for it to arrive), while about one-quarter (24%) were not sure. Please note that there is no equivalent 2016 question, as the 2016 survey did not differentiate between feelings of safety while waiting for transport to arrive and while on the transport itself.

Feelings of safety while waiting for transport to arrive were significantly lower among Māori and Pacific respondents, as well as those living in South and East Auckland. Less than half of Māori (47%) and Pacific (42%) of respondents agreed that it was safe to wait for public transport. This aligned with the 47 per cent agreeing that it was safe among South/East Aucklanders. In contrast, 70 per cent of those in Central Auckland agreed that it was safe.

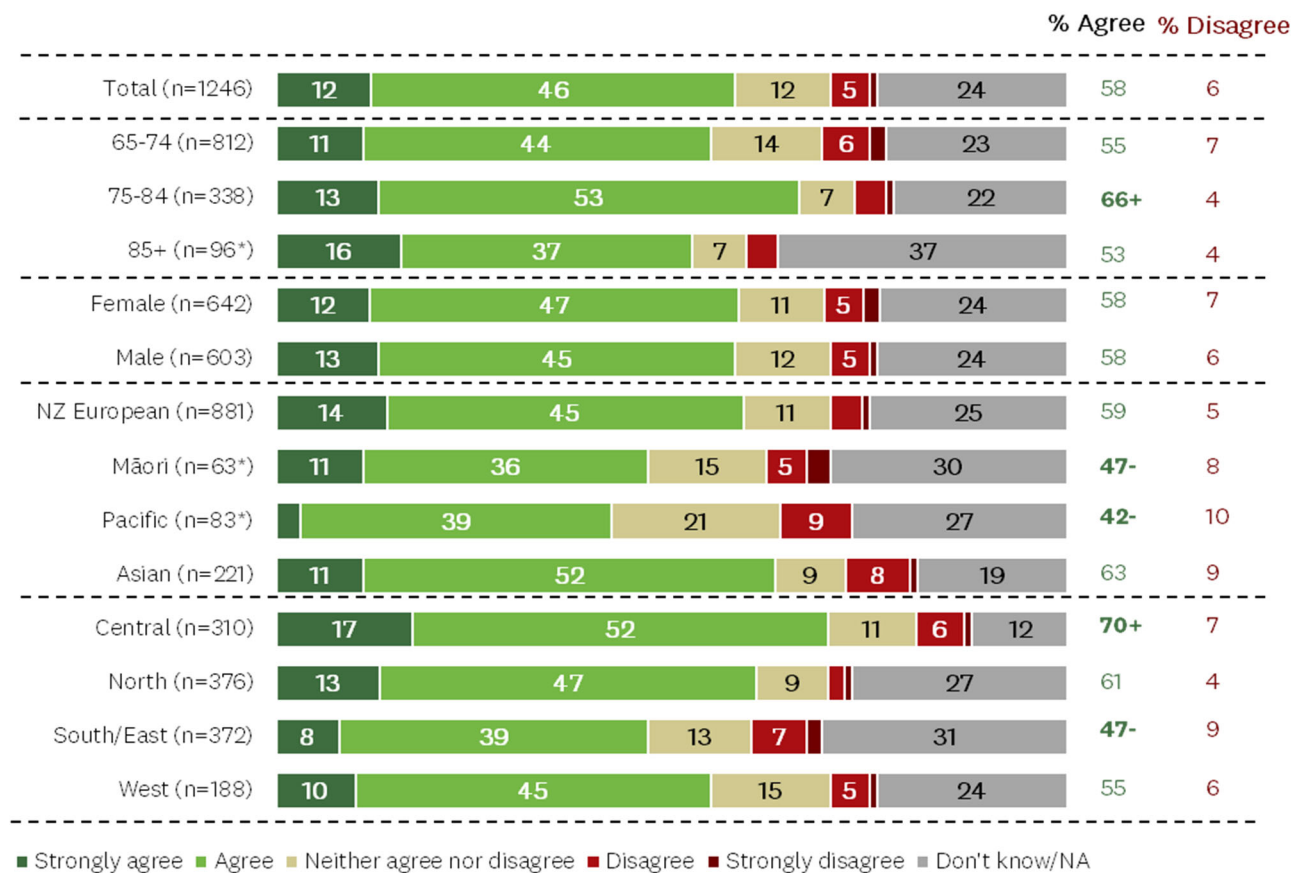


Figure 36: Perceptions that public transport is safe when waiting for transport to arrive (n=1246).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Perceptions of public transport: Safe while on public transport

When asked whether they thought public transport was safe while on the transport itself, almost two-thirds (62%) of respondents agreed. This proportion was significantly higher among those aged 75-84 years old (70%), as well as those living in Central Auckland (75%).

Once again, this perception was lower amongst Pacific respondents and those living in South/East Auckland. Only 43 per cent of Pacific respondents and 51 per cent of South/East Auckland residents agreed that public transport was safe (while on the transport itself).

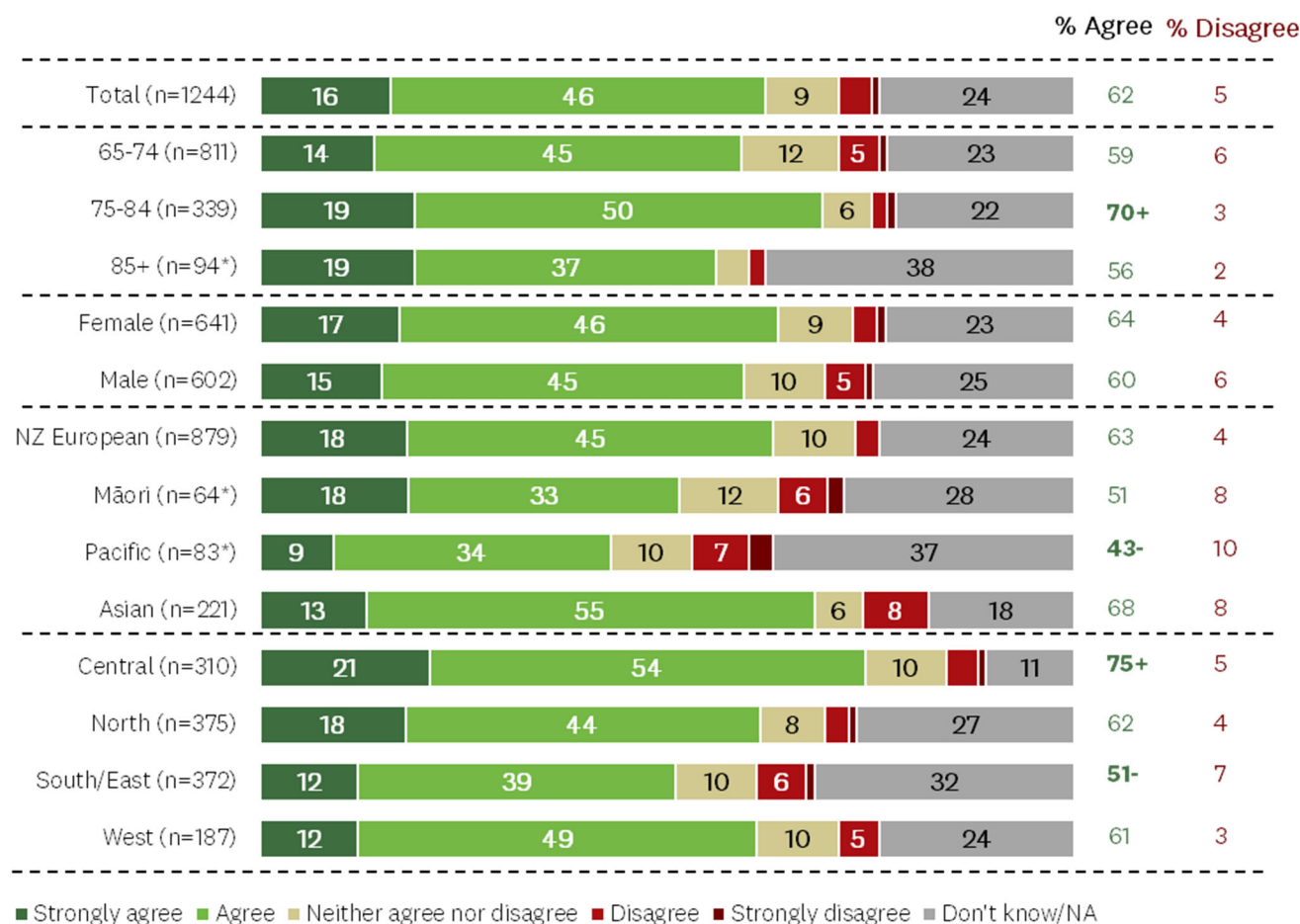


Figure 37: Perceptions that public transport is safe when on public transport (n=1244).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.





## Perceptions of public transport: Comfort

A much lower proportion (49%) of respondents agreed that public transport is comfortable. However, please note that significant proportions of respondents were not sure about whether public transport was comfortable (24% of all respondents, with variances among subgroups).

Differences among subgroups mimic those observed in previous public transport perception items. Significantly larger proportions of Central Auckland residents (57%) and those aged 75-84 years (55%) agreed that public transport was comfortable, while significantly smaller proportions of South/East Auckland residents (40%) agreed with this statement.

Changes since 2016 are not shown here as there was no equivalent survey item in that previous survey.

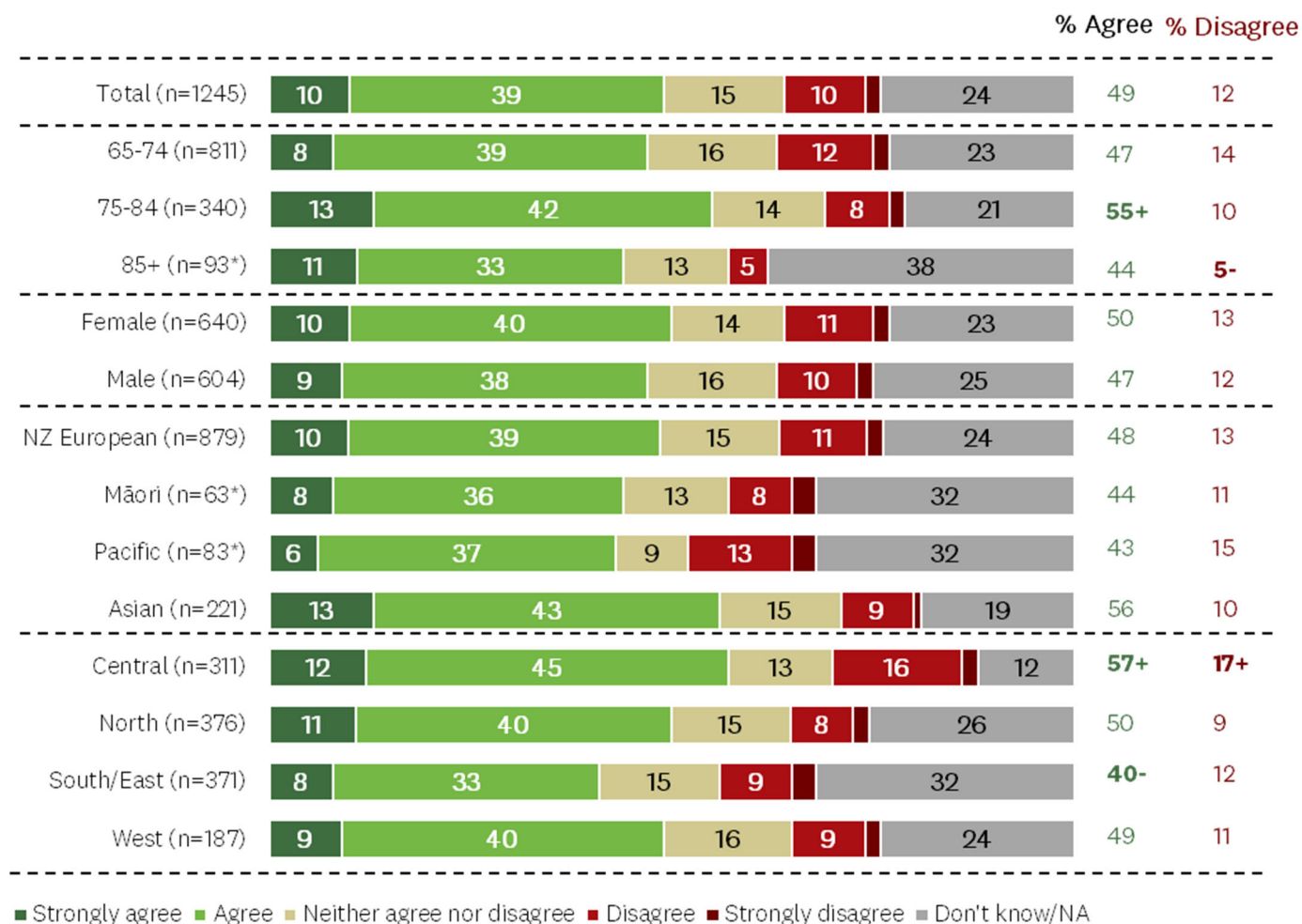


Figure 38: Perceptions that public transport is comfortable (n=1245).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Perceptions of public transport: Affordability

Almost three in every five respondents (57%) agreed that public transport was affordable, with only 6 per cent disagreeing with this statement. Only 57 per cent agreement may seem unusual, given that those aged 65 years and over may be eligible for free public transport through the SuperGold card. However, this may be due to respondents interpreting the survey question broadly to encompass all age groups.

A lower proportion of 2016 survey respondents agreed that public transport was affordable (44%) while in contrast, a similar proportion (4%) disagreed that it was affordable.

In 2021, similar patterns among subgroups were observed when contrasted with other public transport perception items. South/East Auckland residents were less likely to agree that public transport was affordable, with 49 per cent agreeing with this statement. Public transport was viewed as more affordable by a greater proportion of Central Aucklanders (67%) and those aged 75-84 (62%).

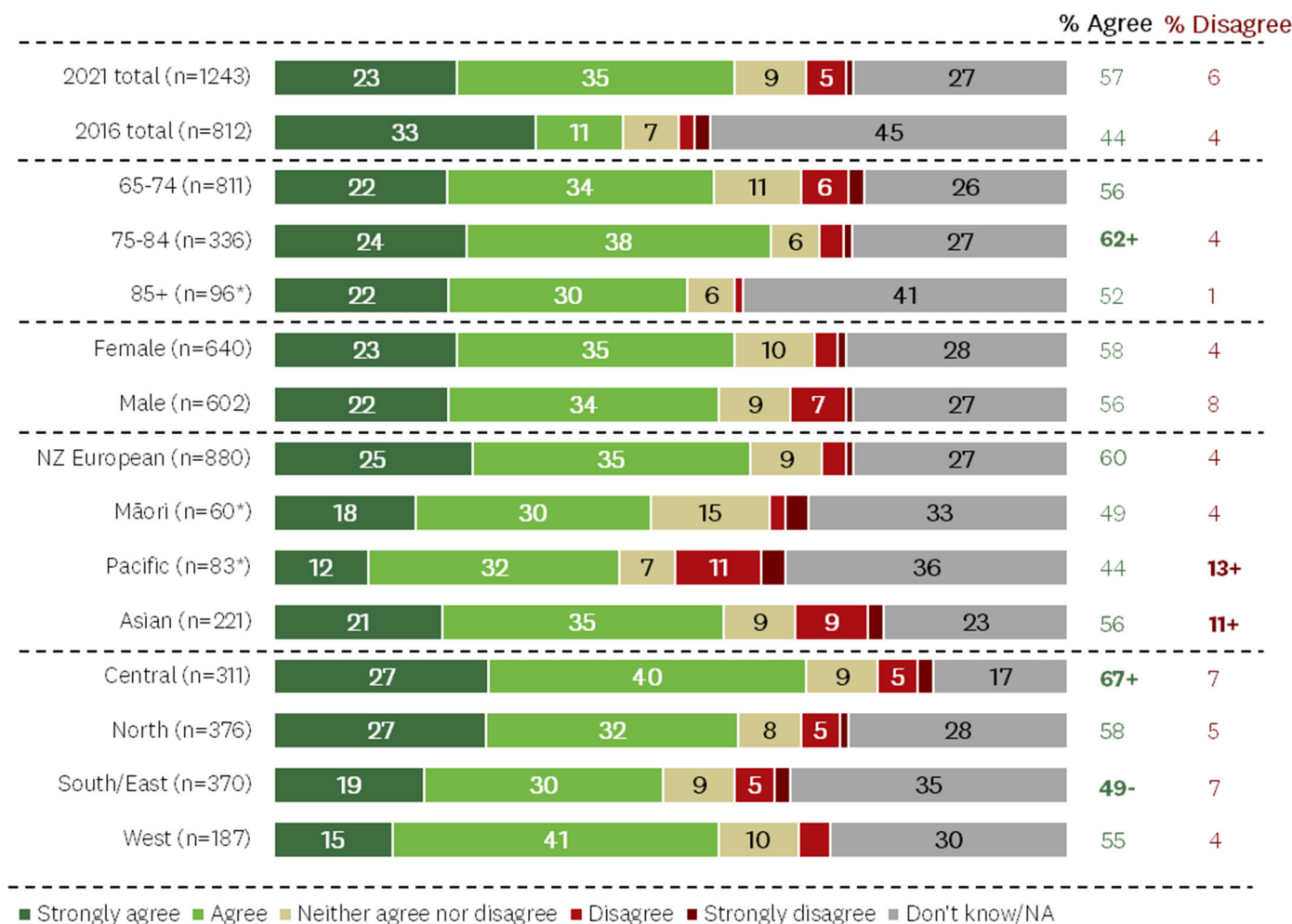


Figure 39: Perceptions that public transport is affordable (2021 n=1243, 2016 n=812).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Perceptions of public transport: Accessibility

Finally, 58 per cent of respondents agreed that public transport met their accessibility needs, with again only 5 per cent disagreeing with this statement. There was no equivalent 2016 question for comparing changes over time.

The same ethnic group and geographical area differences were observed. South/East Auckland residents and Māori respondents were less likely to agree, half (50%) of South/East Aucklanders and 46 per cent of Māori respondents agreeing with this statement.

In contrast, larger proportions of Central Auckland residents (69%) and those aged 75-84 (63%) agreed that public transport met their accessibility needs.

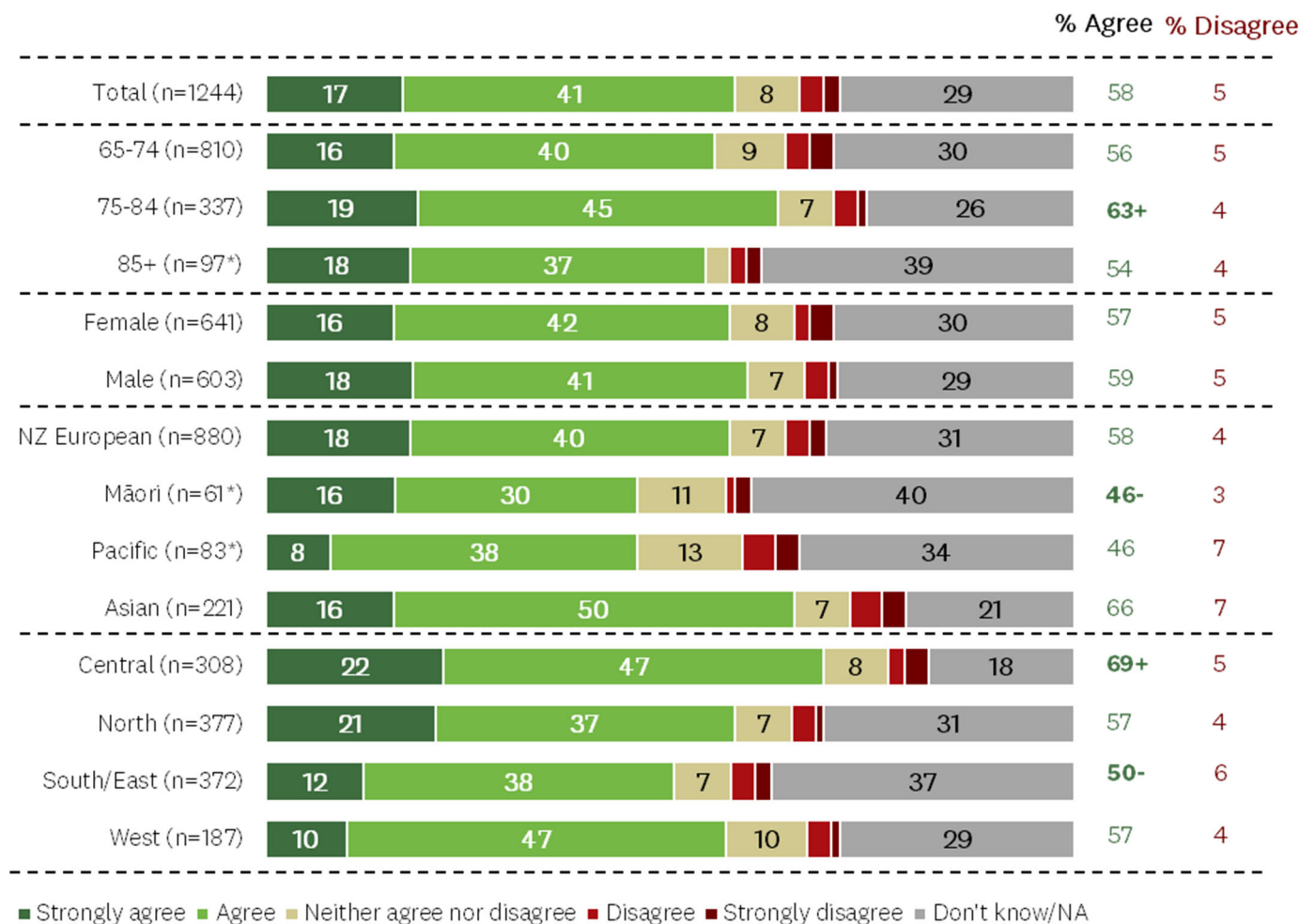


Figure 40: Perceptions that public transport meets respondents' accessibility needs (n=1244).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

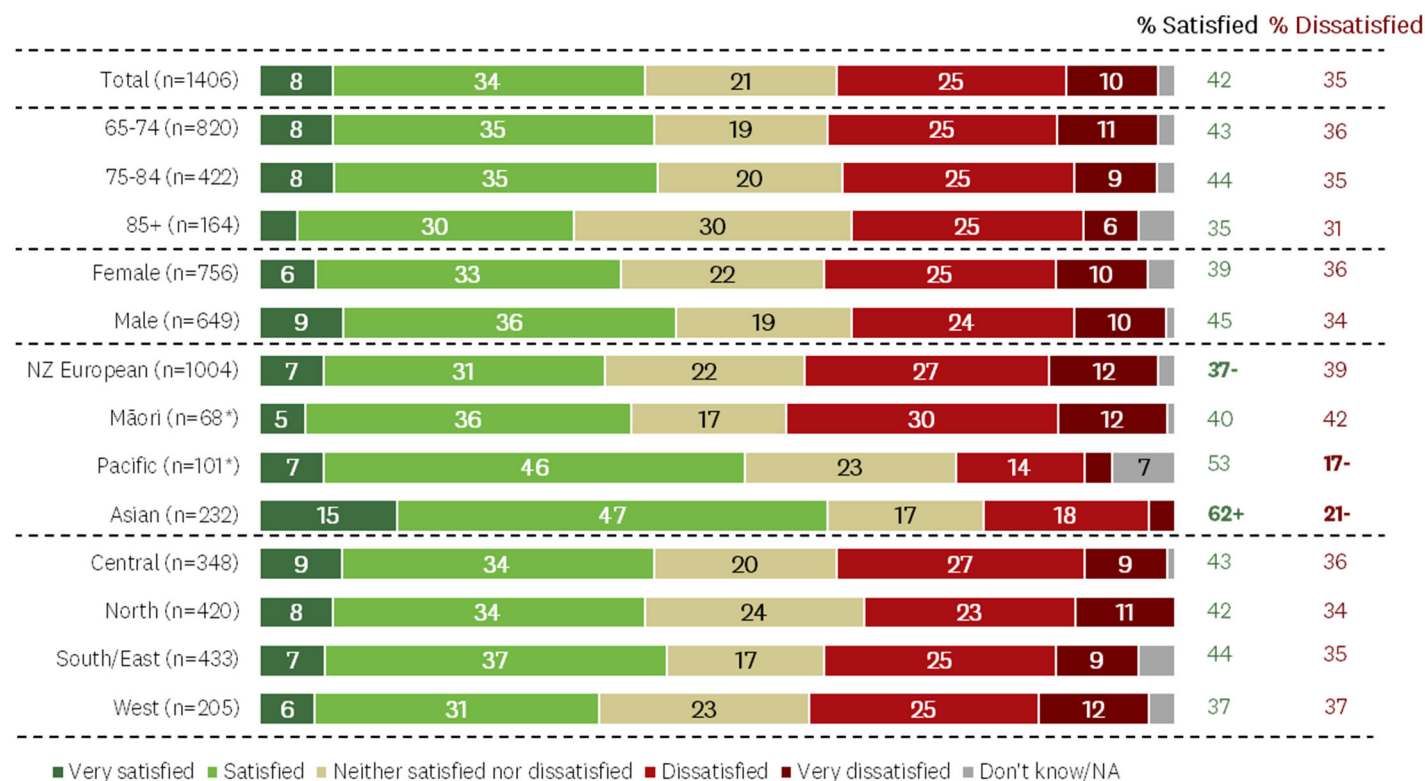


## Walkability of the neighbourhood

There were mixed views amongst older Aucklanders about how satisfied they were with the walkability of their neighbourhood. Similar proportions of older Aucklanders were satisfied (42%) and dissatisfied (35%) with the quality of footpaths and walking tracks in their local area, suggesting that the quality of footpaths and walking tracks is consistent throughout Auckland.

Older New Zealand European respondents in particular were less satisfied with the quality of footpaths in their local area, with just over one-third (37%) expressing satisfaction. Asian respondents, on the other hand, were much more satisfied (62%).

Pacific respondents expressed a much lower degree of dissatisfaction (17%), but these results are indicative only due to the small base size of Pacific respondents.



**Figure 41: Respondent satisfaction with the quality of footpaths and walking tracks (n=1406).**

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Licensed drivers

As of the year ending 1 July 2021, there were 168,930 Aucklanders aged 65 years and over who held a current driver's licence (Motor Cars and Light Motor Vehicles only) – 67 per cent (112,624 people) were 65-74 years old, while the remaining one-third (33% or 56,306 people) were 75 years and over. Using 2021 subnational population estimates by age and sex (where it was estimated that there were 220,800 Aucklanders aged 65 and over), this was 77 per cent of all older Aucklanders with a driver's licence.

Similar proportions between each age group held a full licence: 98 per cent of those aged 65 years and over held a full licence, compared to 99 per cent of those aged 75 years and over. A slightly higher proportion of those aged 65-74 years, therefore, held a restricted or learner licence (2%), compared to 1 per cent of those aged 75 years and over.





## Accessibility

The Total Mobility Scheme is a nationwide scheme that supports people who cannot use public transport to travel all or some of the time. In Auckland, eligible individuals receive a subsidised rate on contracted taxis for door to door transport, as well as an accessible concession for discounted public transport travel.

As of 9 December 2021, there were 15,672 Aucklanders aged 65 years and over who were registered users of the Total Mobility Scheme (7% of the total 65+ population in Auckland, using 2021 subnational population projections). There were more registered users among the group aged 81-90 compared to other groups, likely due to having a larger proportion of individuals with sharply declining mobility.

**Overall Quality of Life**

**Impacts of COVID-19**

**Kaumātua**

**Culture and diversity**

**Te Taiao**

**Transport**

**Housing**

**Social participation**

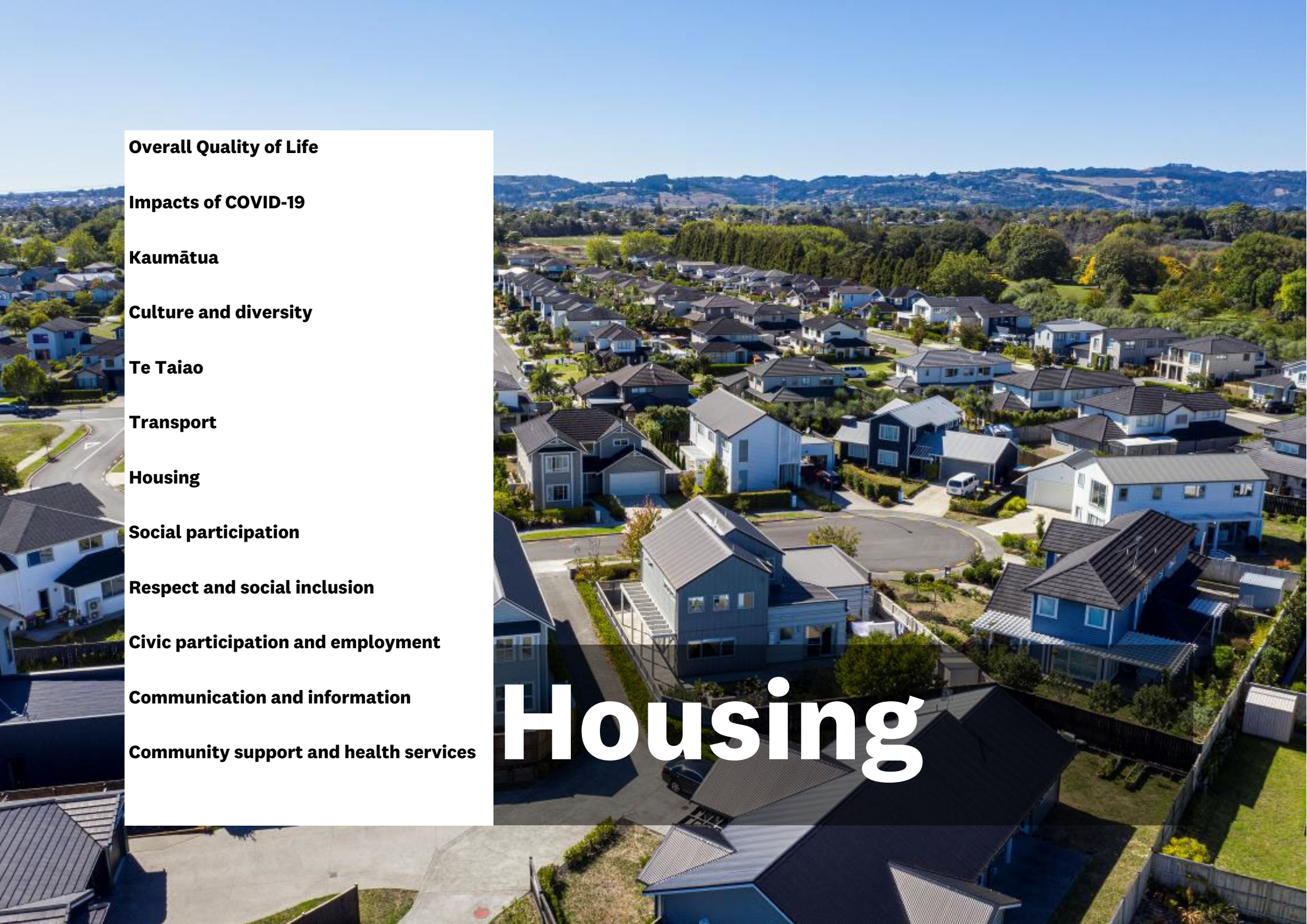
**Respect and social inclusion**

**Civic participation and employment**

**Communication and information**

**Community support and health services**

# Housing





## Forty per cent of older Aucklanders disagree that their housing costs are affordable



Two in every three people in our sample lived in a standalone home. Most people said they owned their own home.



Only three in every five agreed their housing costs were affordable. Clear differences by age, area, and ethnic group included lower perceptions of affordability among Pacific (45%) and Asian (50%) older Aucklanders, as well as those aged 65-74 (55%).



More than half of all respondents lived with just one other person. This was more common among males, New Zealand Europeans, and those living in North Auckland.



Three in every four agreed they could afford to heat their homes in winter. Respondents were much less likely to be Māori (66%) and Pacific (56%).



Older Aucklanders felt safer at home during the day than at home after dark. Feeling safe was more common among North Auckland residents, and less common among West Auckland residents.



Most older Aucklanders agreed their house suited their household's needs (87%). Pacific older Aucklanders were more likely to disagree that their house met their household's needs, compared to other ethnic groups (14% versus 6%).





## Housing type

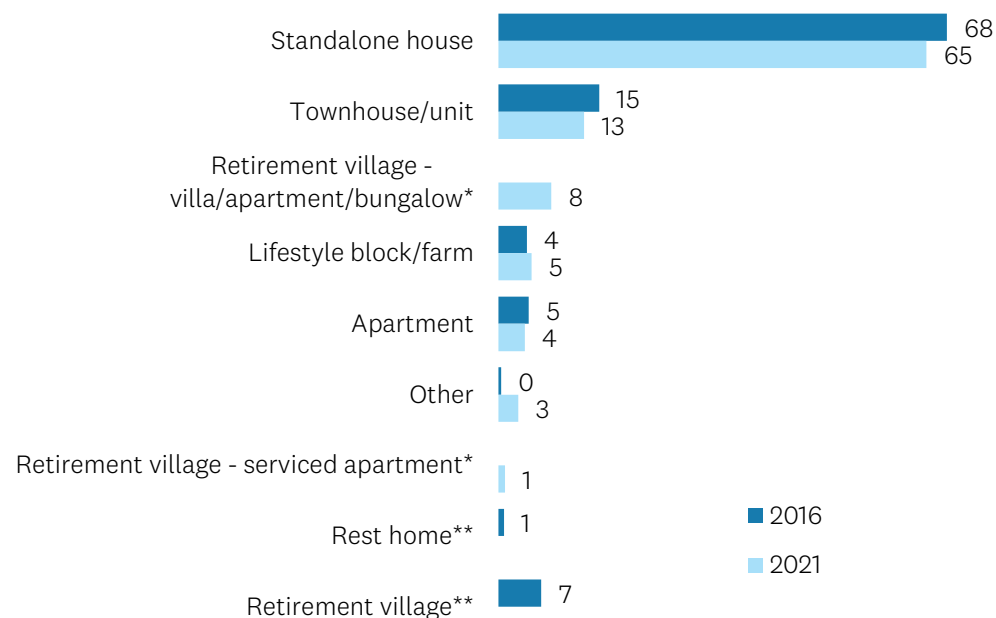
Almost two-thirds (65%) of respondents lived in a standalone house. Some types of respondents were more likely to live in a standalone house—this included respondents who were male (70% lived in this type of home), Asian (74%), aged 65-74 years (71%), and residents of South/East Auckland (72%) or West Auckland (76%). Those living in a standalone house were also more likely to be owner-occupiers (75%).

Meanwhile, those less likely to live in a standalone house included older respondents (61% of those aged 75-84 and 50% of those aged 85+ lived in a standalone house), Central (59%) and North Auckland (59%) residents, those living alone (40%), and those renting privately (53%).

There were also differences in the types of respondents who lived in the following housing types:

- **Townhouses/units:** Respondents were more likely to be Central Auckland residents (19%) and those living alone (23%). They were also less likely to be those living in a household of 4 or more people (6%).
- **Residents of retirement villages and rest homes:** Respondents were more likely to be 75-84 (17%) or 85+ (24%), and those living alone (21%). Meanwhile, they were also less likely to be 65-74 (3%), Pacific (4%), or Asian (3%).
- **Apartments:** Respondents were again more likely to be Central Auckland residents (10%) and those renting privately (11%).

There were no significant changes over time since the 2016 survey in the proportions of respondents living in different housing types.



**Figure 42: Proportion of respondents living in different housing types (2021 n=1408, 2016 n=843).**

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

Asterisks indicate that answer options changed between 2016 and 2021, so some housing types only have data for one year: \* indicates a 2021 option only while \*\* indicates a 2016 option only.





## Housing tenure

According to the 2018 Census, around two-thirds (67%) of older Aucklanders aged 65 years and over either owned/part-owned their home or held it in a family trust (Table 7). The rate of home ownership (own/part-own and holding in a family trust) has remained relatively stable among this age group over the last three censuses, although there has been a slight drop in home ownership in 2006 (from 70% in 2006 to 67% in 2018).

However, there are clear differences in home ownership between ethnic groups (Figure 44). In 2018, older European Aucklanders had the highest rate of individual home ownership (75%) compared to all other ethnic groups. In contrast, older Pacific and Asian Aucklanders had the lowest rates of individual home ownership—40 per cent of Pacific and 44 per cent of Asians either owned/part-owned their home or held it in a family trust.

Table 7: Individual home ownership among older Aucklanders (2006, 2013, 2018).

Individual home ownership	2006		2013		2018	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Hold in a family trust	0	0	0	0	29,385	18
Own or partly own	83,607	70	103,602	67	81,063	49
Do not own/do not hold in a family trust	35,685	30	50,442	33	54,480	33
<i>Total people stated</i>	<i>119,292</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>154,044</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>164,928</i>	<i>100</i>
Not elsewhere included	9,252	-	9,111	-	24,249	-
<b>Total people</b>	<b>128,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>163,158</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>189,177</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.

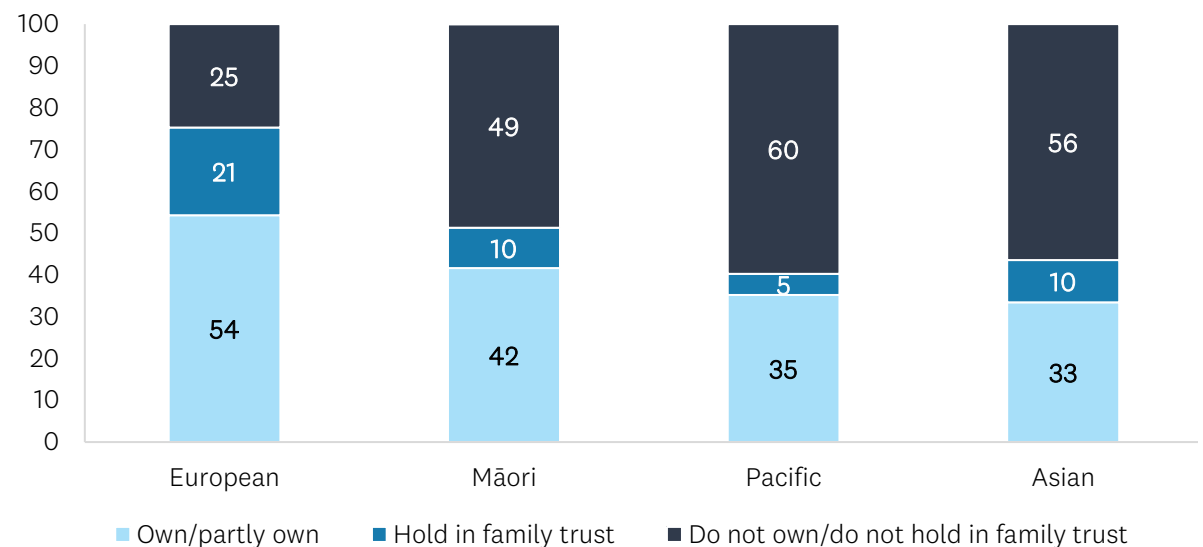


Figure 43: Individual home ownership among older Aucklanders, by ethnic group (%) (2018).

Source: Stats NZ, Census of Population and Dwellings.



## Housing tenure

We asked respondents about their housing tenure. Survey results showed that a higher proportion of respondents were owner-occupiers (80%), in comparison to 2018 Census data. Owner-occupiers included those who were sole or joint owners (with or without mortgages), those living in a home owned by a relative or partner, and those living in a home held by a family trust. The remaining sample either lived in a home owned by a retirement village or rest home (8%), rented from a private landlord (6%) or were social renters (5%).

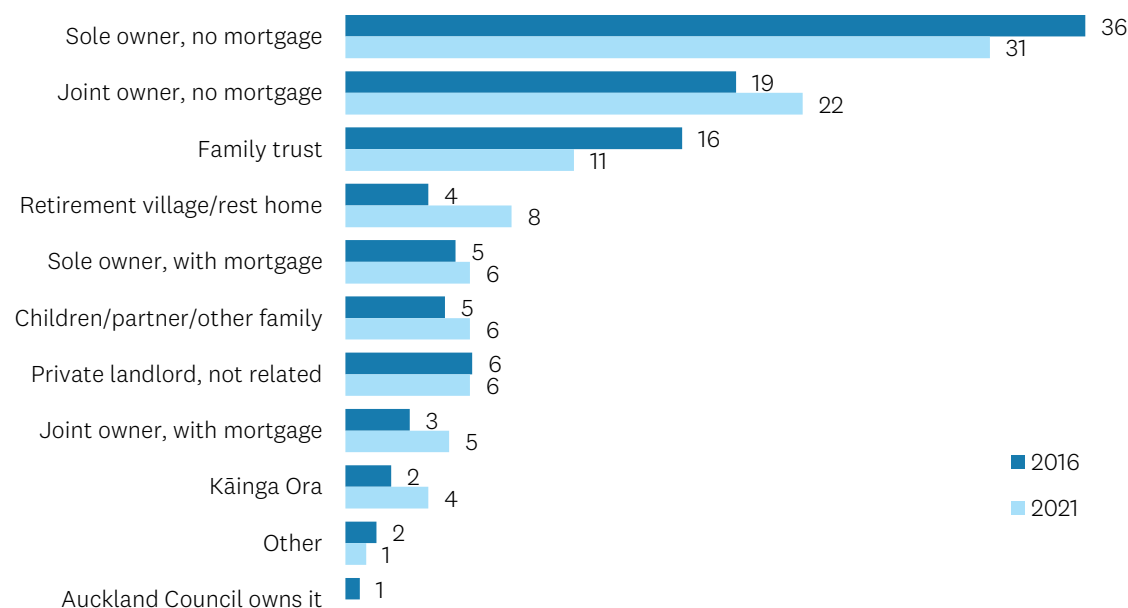
When compared to 2016 survey results, there were no significant changes over time in housing tenure: 85 per cent of respondents were owner-occupiers (slightly higher than the 2021 proportion), while 6 per cent were private renters.

According to the survey results, differences between owner-occupiers and those living in retirement villages/rest homes included:

**Owner-occupiers:** Respondents were more likely to be 65-74 years old (86%), residents of West Auckland (86%), those living with just one other person (86%), and those living in the least deprived areas (Quintile 1) of Auckland (90%).

Meanwhile, owner-occupiers were less likely to be: older respondents (73% of those aged 75-84 and 64% of those 85+), Pacific (55%), residents of South/East Auckland (75%), those living alone (65%), and those living in the three top most deprived areas of Auckland (71% of Quintile 3 residents, 65 of Quintile 4 residents, and 54% of Quintile 5 residents).

**Retirement/rest home residents:** There were greater proportions of respondents who were 75-84 (15%) and 85+ (20%). However, smaller proportions were Māori (3%), Pacific (1%), Asian (2%), and 65-74 years (2%).



**Figure 44: Proportion of respondents in different housing tenure (2021 n=1406, 2016 n=834).**

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Public housing

Public housing in New Zealand refers to homes provided through Kāinga Ora (formerly Housing New Zealand) and community housing providers (normally not-for-profit organisations).

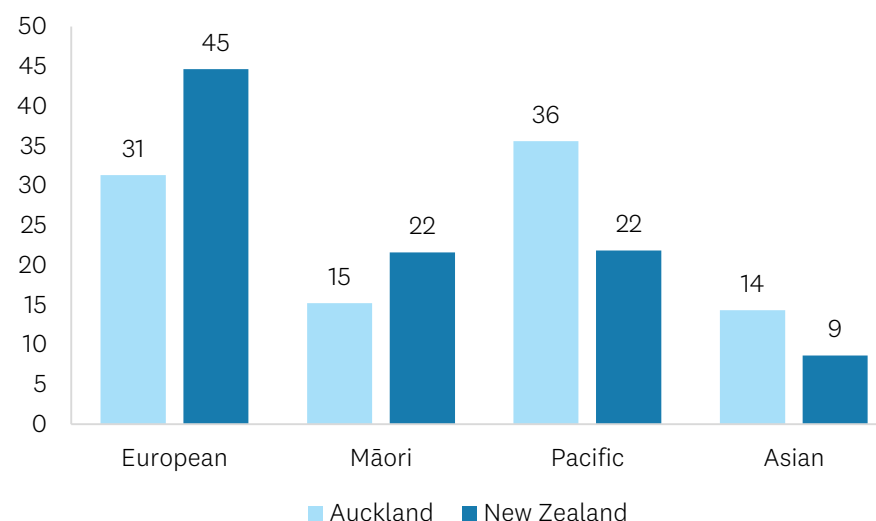
The Housing Register records information about those who have been assessed as eligible for public housing, but who are not currently living in public housing. This register is dynamic, rather than static, as people's circumstances often change. This means that the length of time waiting on the register can vary, as people are prioritised depending on their need for housing, as well as the type of home that they need balanced against what housing stock is available

Table 8 shows the numbers of older Aucklanders living in public housing and those on the Housing Register, as of September 2021.

**Table 8: Number of applicants aged 65 years and over on the Housing Register or living in Public Housing, quarter ending September 2021.**

	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian	Other	Total
<i>Number of applicants on the Housing Register</i>						
Auckland Region	330	141	195	216	111	936
New Zealand	987	495	261	270	198	2,082
<i>Number of applicants currently living in Public Housing</i>						
Auckland Region	2,562	1,245	2,910	1,170	744	8,181
New Zealand	7,374	3,567	3,603	1,425	1,470	16,512

Source: Ministry of Social Development, customised request under the Official Information Act.



**Figure 45: Comparison of those currently living in Public Housing aged 65 years and over between Auckland Region and New Zealand total, quarter ending September 2021.**

Source: Ministry of Social Development, customised request under the Official Information Act.



## Household composition

Census data since 2006 indicates that 2-person households are the most common composition type for Aucklanders aged 65 years and over (Table 9), followed by living alone. However, it has become increasingly common for older Aucklanders to live in multi-person, multi-generational households.

Data from the older Aucklanders survey supported Census data, showing that 2-person households were also the most common in the sample (Figure 47). This was similar to 2016, where 54 per cent lived with one other person, followed by 28 per cent living alone (slightly higher than the 23 per cent in 2021 living alone).

**Table 9: Proportion of older Aucklanders living in different household compositions.**

Household composition	2006	2013	2018
One-person household	28	25	22
Couple only	43	44	42
Couple only and other person(s)	3	3	4
Couple with child(ren)	6	7	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 (with or without other people)	7	8	9
Three or more family household (with or without other people)	<1	1	1
Other multi-person household	3	3	4
<b>Total people in households stated</b>	<b>115,158</b>	<b>148,011</b>	<b>172,347</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings.



Respondents were more likely to be:

- 85 years and over (47%)
- Female (32%)
- Living in Central Auckland (29%)
- New Zealand European (28%)
- Born in New Zealand (28%)



Respondents were more likely to be:

- Living in the two least deprived areas (65% Quintile 1, 63% Quintile 2)
- Living in North Auckland (62%)
- Male (61%)
- New Zealand European (60%)
- Born in New Zealand (58%)



Respondents were more likely to be:

- Māori (19%)
- Asian (17%)
- Living in the most deprived areas of Auckland (15%)



Respondents were more likely to be:

- Pacific (29%)
- Living in the most deprived areas of Auckland (16%)
- Māori (13%)
- Asian (13%)

**Figure 47: Older Aucklanders and household composition (n=1406).**

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.





# Overcrowding

Overcrowding is a significant problem in Auckland and disproportionately affects people of certain ethnic groups. The Auckland region accounts for almost half of all crowded households in the country—in 2018, 42,100 Auckland households were classified as crowded (9% of all Auckland households). This equated to 16 per cent of all Aucklanders living in crowded conditions (209,000 people) (Stats NZ, 2020).<sup>8</sup>

Nationally, household crowding affects Pacific and Māori peoples more so than the total population, with 44 per cent of Pacific peoples and 26 per cent of Māori peoples living in crowded households.

There is little publicly available data about older Aucklanders and overcrowding. However, national-level data show that older Pacific people are more likely to live in a crowded household, compared to older New Zealanders of other ethnic groups. Among Pacific people aged 70 and over, 27 per cent lived in a crowded home, compared to 3 per cent of this age group amongst the total population (Stats NZ, 2020).

## Measuring household crowding in New Zealand:

Stats NZ measures levels of household crowding in using the Canadian National Occupancy Standard (considered the best fit for the New Zealand social context).

In this standard, children under 5 of either sex may share a bedroom, but children between 5 and 18 should only share a bedroom if they are of the same sex. Couples and people aged 18 and over are also allocated a bedroom. The household is defined as crowded if these definitions are not met.<sup>9</sup>

## Overcrowding can impact many aspects of wellbeing:

- Taha tinana / physical wellbeing: overcrowding is associated with a greater risk of transmitting infections diseases (e.g. TB, RSV, and COVID-19) and disrupted sleep
- Taha whānau / relationships can be strained
- Taha hinengaro / mental wellbeing: stress associated with overcrowding can be detrimental for mental health

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.stats.govt.nz/reports/housing-in-aotearoa-2020>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.stats.govt.nz/research/finding-the-crowding-index-that-works-best-for-new-zealand-applying-different-crowding-indexes-to-census-of-population-and-dwellings-data-for-19862006>



## Perceptions of safety: At home during the day

Most older Aucklanders told us that they felt safe at home during the day (87% said they felt safe in this situation, and only 2% felt unsafe). A slightly larger proportion of 2016 respondents felt safe in this situation (92%), while 1 per cent felt unsafe.

In 2021, residents of North Auckland felt significantly safer in their home during the day, with 92 per cent agreeing they felt safe. West Auckland residents felt slightly less safe, with 76 per cent agreeing. However, despite these differences, the level of safety felt by West Auckland residents remained very high.

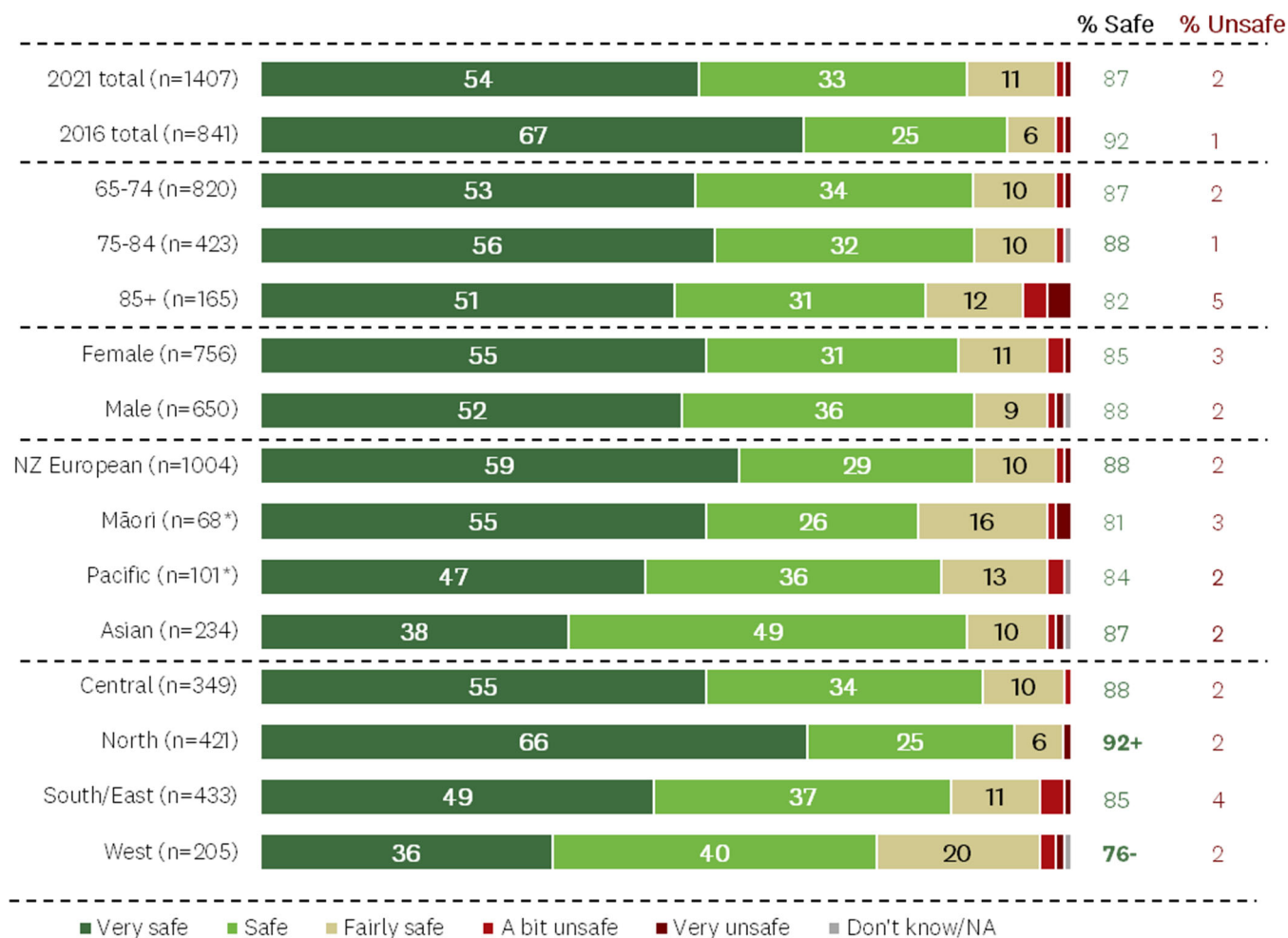


Figure 46: Perceptions of safety at home during the day (2021 n=1407, 2016 n=841).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Perceptions of safety: At home after dark

Slightly fewer older Aucklanders told us that they felt safe at home after dark, compared to during the day (79% said they felt safe at home after dark, with 6% feeling unsafe). In 2016, a larger proportion of respondents felt safe in their homes after dark (84%, while 4% felt unsafe).

Māori and Pacific respondents were more likely to say they felt unsafe, with 12 per cent of each group saying that they felt unsafe. Meanwhile, Asian respondents also said they felt slightly less safe compared to other groups.

There were again notable geographical differences. North Aucklanders (84%) were more likely to agree they felt safe at home after dark, while West Auckland residents (65%) were less likely to do so.

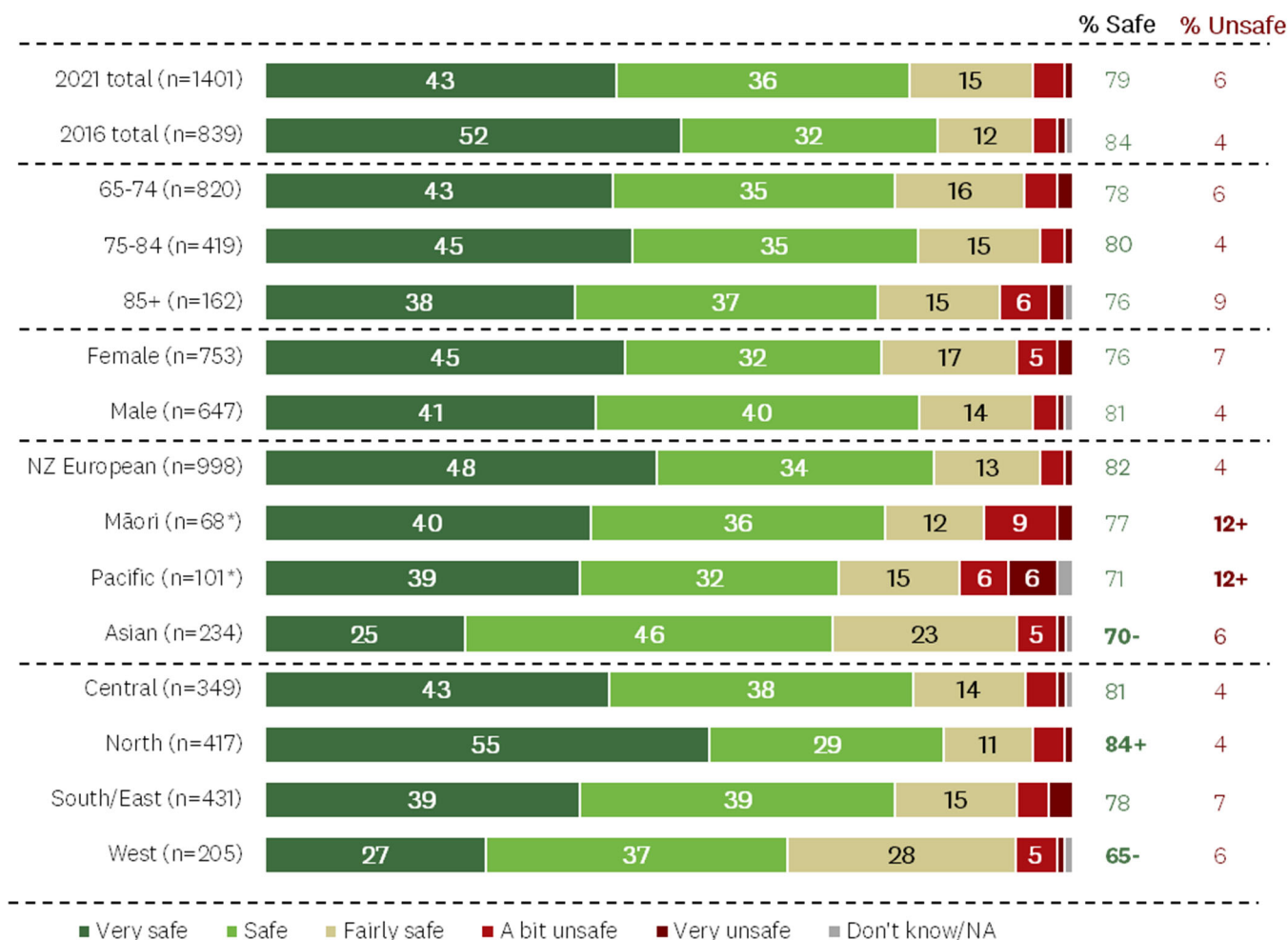


Figure 47: Perceptions of safety at home after dark (2021 n=1401, 2016 n=839).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Perceptions of safety: When entering or leaving home

Again, 79 per cent of respondents said they felt safe when entering or leaving their home, with 4 per cent feeling unsafe in this situation. There was no equivalent question in the 2016 survey so we cannot examine changes over time.

Similar differences by geographical area and ethnic groups were again observed. A greater proportion of North Auckland residents felt safe in this situation (88%), while fewer West Auckland residents felt safe (65%).

Fewer Asian respondents felt unsafe when entering or leaving their home (69%) compared to the total, while a greater proportion of Pacific respondents (11%) said they felt unsafe compared to other groups.

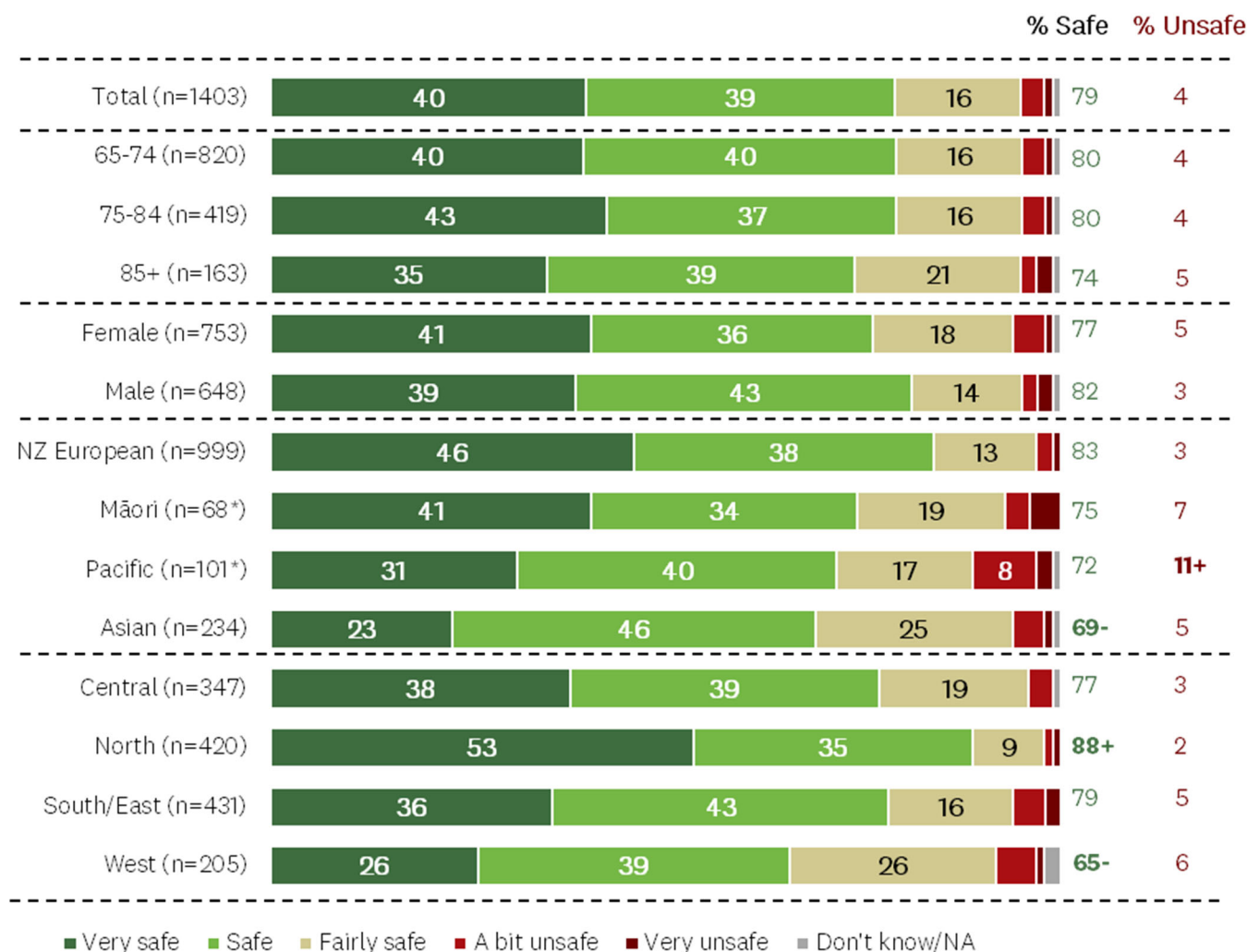


Figure 48: Perceptions of safety when entering or leaving home (n=1403).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.





## Housing affordability

Just over three-fifths (61%) of older Aucklanders agreed that their housing costs were affordable, with one-fifth (20%) disagreeing. There were no significant changes over time—in 2016, 59 per cent agreed and 17 per cent disagreed that their housing costs were affordable.

Differences between groups of respondents were many and significant:

- **Age group:** A lower proportion (55%) of younger respondents (those aged 65-74) believed that housing costs were affordable. In contrast, greater proportions of those aged 75-84 (69%) and 85+ (71%) agreed that housing costs were affordable.
- **Ethnic group:** New Zealand Europeans were also more likely to agree that housing costs were affordable (66%), while Pacific (45%) and Asian (50%) respondents were less likely to agree.

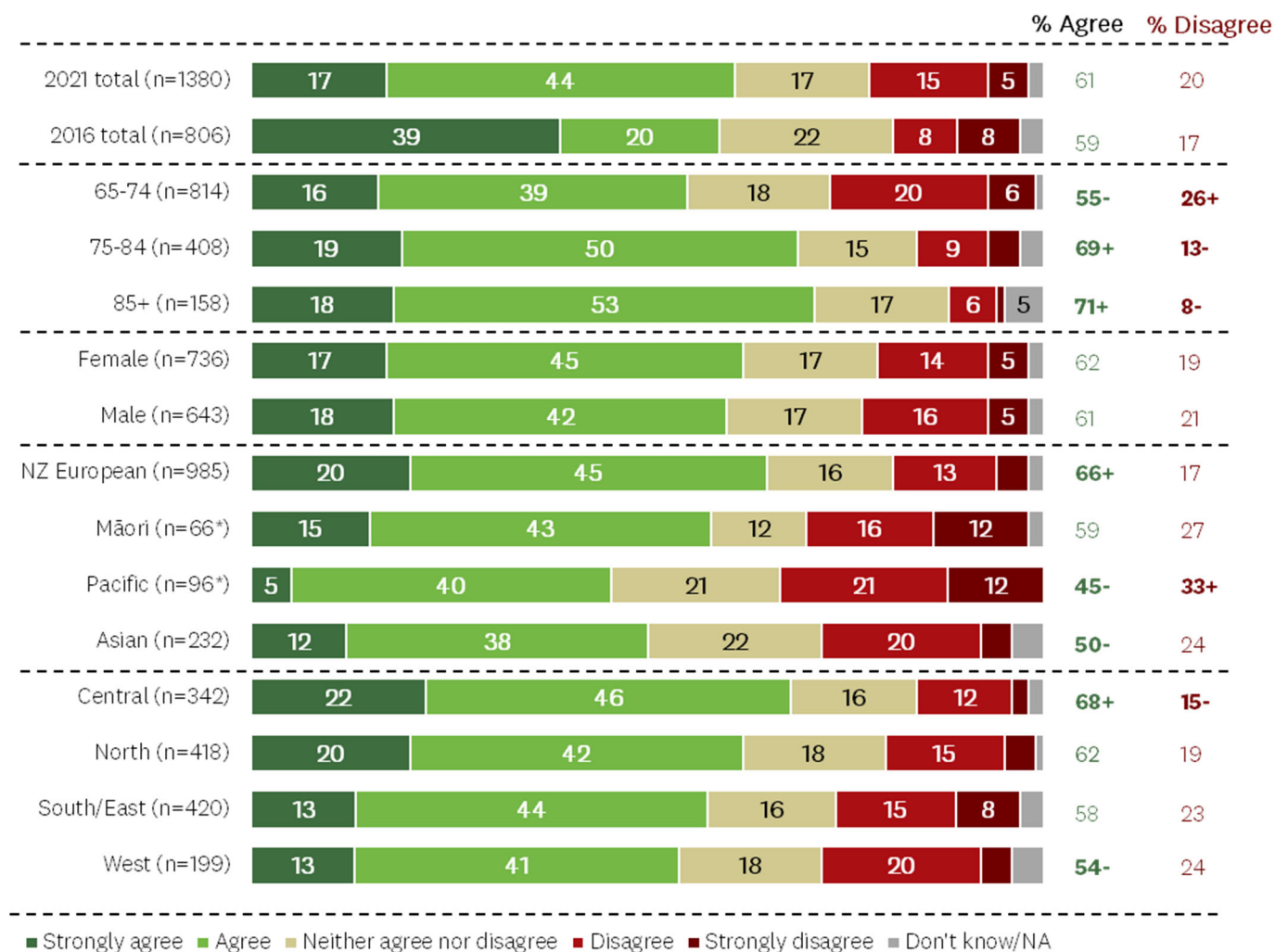


Figure 49: Agreement about whether housing costs are affordable (2021 n=1380, 2016 n=806).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Housing quality

Around three-quarters (76%) of respondents agreed that they were able to heat their homes during winter. This proportion was higher for those aged 75-84 (82%). However, these proportions were lower for Māori and Pacific respondents, with 66 per cent and 56 per cent respectively agreeing that they could adequately heat their homes during winter.

Compared to 2016 survey results, a larger proportion in 2021 agreed that they could heat their homes during winter (76% in 2021, compared to 67% in 2016). The proportion that disagreed was lower in 2021 too—13 per cent disagreed, compared to 18 per cent in 2016.

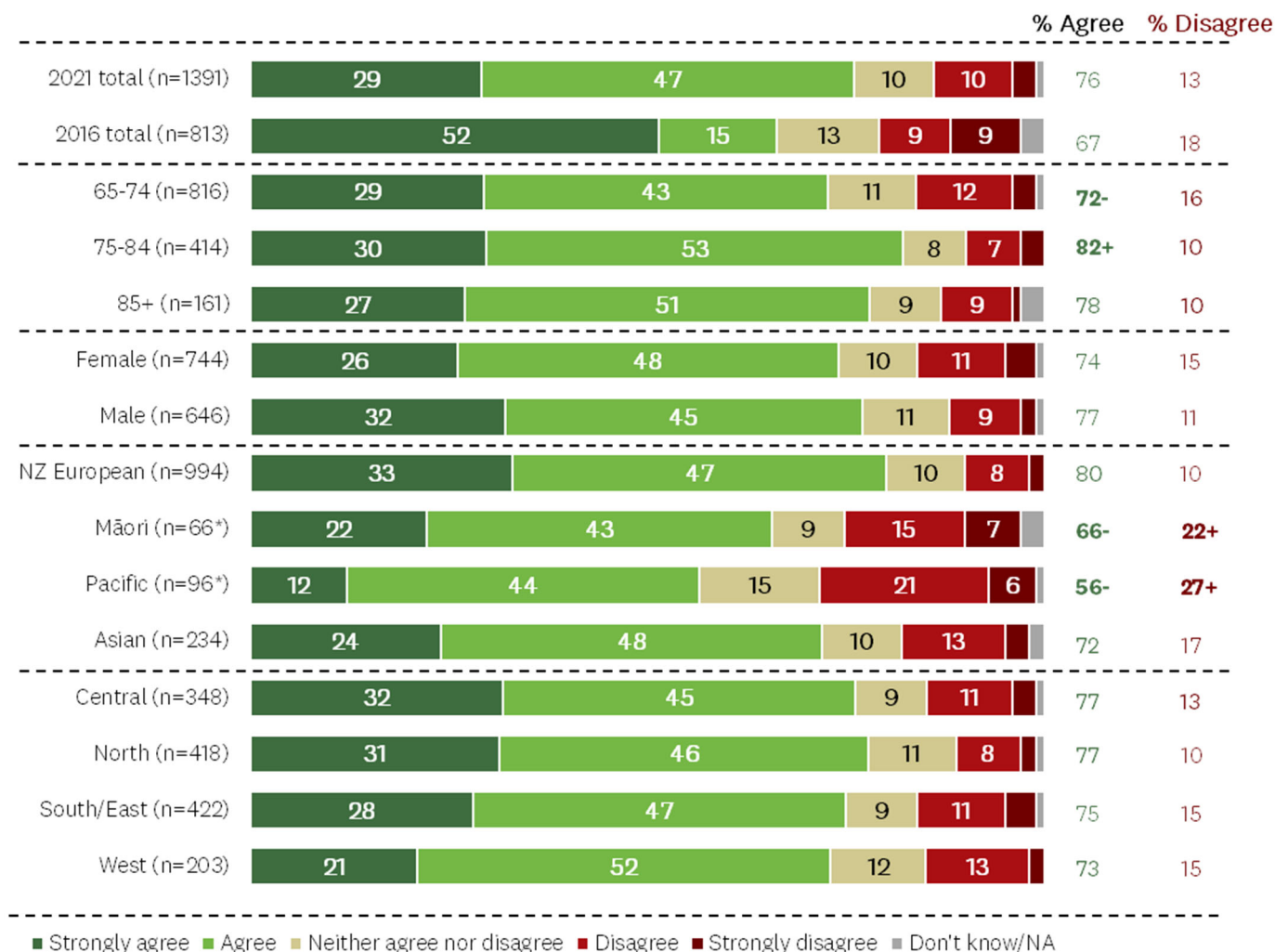


Figure 50: Agreement about ability to heat home during winter (2021 n=1391, 2016 n=813).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.



## Housing suitability

A larger proportion of respondents (87%) agreed that their home suited their needs and the needs of others in their household.

There were no real significant differences in the way that different groups of respondents answered this question. Although a larger proportion of Pacific respondents disagreed with this statement (14%) compared with the total (6%), these results are indicative only due to the small base size of Pacific respondents.

Changes over time indicate that a larger proportion (87%) of respondents in 2021 agreed that their house suited their needs and those of others in their household, compared to 2016 (82% of respondents).

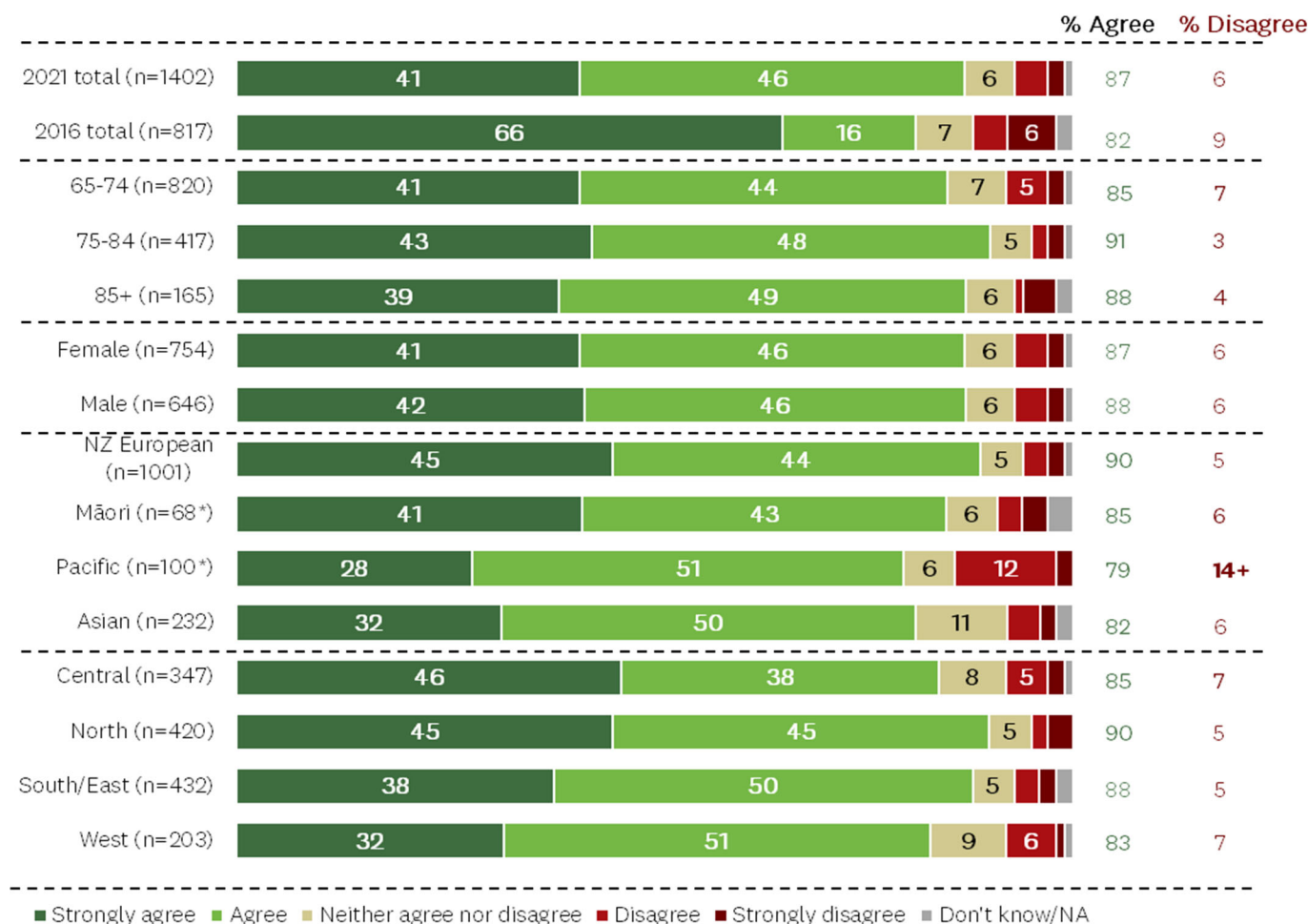


Figure 51: Agreement about whether house suits own needs and those of others in household (2021 n=1402, 2016 n=817).

Source: Older Aucklanders survey.

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