Graffiti

- Graffiti is perceived as problematic in five out of the eight cities - Waitakere, Auckland, Manukau, Christchurch and Hamilton.

WHAT THIS IS ABOUT
Graffiti strongly impacts on the way people feel about where they live. It is perceived as an act of vandalism and can contribute to people feeling unsafe in their neighbourhood - impacting negatively on their wellbeing.

This indicator presents survey results of how residents rate graffiti in their neighbourhood. Respondents to the Eight Cities Quality of Life Survey 2002 were asked to rate how much of a problem graffiti has been in their neighbourhood in the previous twelve months, on a five point scale from ‘a big problem’ to ‘not a problem at all’.

WHAT DID WE FIND?
The percentage of residents who perceived that graffiti was a problem or a big problem in their neighbourhood varied across the eight cities. Almost three quarters (72%) of Dunedin residents felt that it was not much of a problem at all.

Over half of the residents surveyed in Manukau (62%) and Auckland (52%) stated that graffiti was a problem or a big problem in their neighbourhood.

Ethnicity was a key factor influencing people’s perception of graffiti. Maori and Pacific Islands people were more likely to feel that graffiti was an issue. Around half of all Pacific Islands people and Maori (57% and 52% respectively) rated graffiti as a problem or a big problem in their neighbourhood, compared with European (39%) and Asian/Indian (29%) people.

RESIDENTS’ RATING OF GRAFFITI AS A PROBLEM IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD (2002)

Data source: Eight Cities Quality of Life Survey 2002. ‘Don’t know’ responses are not shown in graph therefore figures might not add to 100 percent

The level of graffiti in a city can affect residents’ satisfaction with conditions in their neighbourhood. While perpetrators of graffiti are often juveniles, graffiti is a problem that affects the entire community. It can be related to school dropout rates, crime levels, and juvenile offending.