Residents in Manukau (34%) and Auckland (31%) felt that noise pollution was a problem or a big problem in their neighbourhood.

In the remaining cities noise pollution is not a major issue.

WHAT THIS IS ABOUT

The emission of noise is an intrinsic part of everyday activities within cities. Although some degree of noise is inevitable and generally accepted in an urban environment, noise can affect the way people feel about the area in which they live and can have a negative impact on their sense of wellbeing. Noise is recognised as both a health and an environmental issue. The trend toward higher density living tends to intensify the issue of noise.

This indicator presents survey results of residents’ rating of noise pollution in their city. Residents in the Eight Cities Quality of Life Survey 2002 were asked to rate how much of a problem noise pollution 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 majority of residents in six of the eight cities said that noise pollution was not a problem at all or not much of a problem in their neighbourhood. These views ranged from 63% in Hamilton to 75% in Dunedin.

Residents in Manukau (34%) and Auckland (31%) were more likely than those from other cities to feel that noise pollution was a problem or a big problem in their neighbourhood.

Just over one third (34%) of all Pacific Islands people stated that noise pollution was a problem or big problem in their neighbourhood, compared with 29% of Maori, 19% of Asian/Indian people and 18% of Europeans.

Population growth, housing intensification and increased use of motor vehicles around urban centres will all have an impact on peoples’ perception of noise as an issue.