5. CRIME AND SAFETY
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This section reports on respondents’ perceptions of problems in their city or local area in the previous 12 months, as well as their perceptions of safety in their homes, neighbourhoods and city centre.

5.1 PERCEPTION OF ISSUES IN LOCAL AREA IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which a list of 11 possible issues had been a problem in their local area in the previous 12 months. Results for six issues are reported here (i.e., vandalism, dangerous driving, car theft and damage to cars, people you feel unsafe to be around, alcohol and drug problems and people begging in the street). The rest are reported in Section 8: Built and Natural Environment.

Vandalism

Half (49%) of the respondents living in the Six Council areas view vandalism as a problem within their area over the last 12 months, with 11% indicating it is a big problem and a further 38% indicating it is a bit of a problem in their area.

Figure 5.1.1: Vandalism as a problem (%)

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Those more likely to have rated vandalism as a problem (a big problem or a bit of a problem) are:

- Living in Christchurch (69%)
- Living in Porirua (63%)
• Living in Hutt City (58%).

Those less likely to have rated vandalism as a problem (not a problem) are:
• Living in Auckland (43%).
Car theft, damage to cars or theft from cars

Just over half (55%) of respondents living in the Six Council areas view car theft or damage to cars as a problem within their area over the last 12 months, with 12% indicating it is a big problem and a further 43% indicating it is a bit of a problem in their area.

Figure 5.1.2: Car theft or damage to cars as a problem (%)

Those more likely to view car theft or damage to cars as a problem (a big problem or a bit of a problem) are:

- Living in Porirua (69%)
- Living in Hutt (67%)
**Dangerous driving**

Two thirds (65%) of respondents living in the Six Council areas view dangerous driving, including drink driving and speeding, as a problem within their area over the last 12 months, with 19% indicating it is a *big problem* and a further 46% indicating it is a *bit of a problem* in their area.

Figure 5.1.3: Dangerous driving as a problem (%)

Those more likely to view dangerous driving as a problem (*a big problem or a bit of a problem*) are:
- Living in Dunedin (83%)
- Living in Christchurch (77%).

Those *less* likely to view dangerous driving as a problem (*a big problem or a bit of a problem*) are:
- Living in Wellington (58%).
**Presence of people you feel unsafe around**

Nearly half (45%) of the respondents living in the Six Council areas felt that the presence of people they felt unsafe around (because of attitude or appearance) had been a problem in their area in the last 12 months, with 8% indicating it is a *big problem* and a further 37% indicating it is a *bit of a problem* in their area.

Figure 5.1.4: Perception of presence of unsafe people (%)

Those more likely to perceive the presence of unsafe people as a problem (*a big problem or a bit of a problem*) are:

- Living in Porirua (65%)
- Living in Hutt City (55%)
- Living in Christchurch (52%).
Alcohol or drug problems

Just over half (55%) of respondents living in the total Six Council areas perceive alcohol or drugs (or anti-social behaviour associated with the consumption of alcohol) to be a problem in their area over the last 12 months, with 16% indicating it had been a big problem and a further 39% indicating it had been a bit of a problem in their area.

Figure 5.1.5: Alcohol or drug problems (%)

Those more likely to view alcohol or drugs as a problem (a big problem or a bit of a problem) are:

- Living in Dunedin (81%)
- Living in Wellington (74%)
- Living in Christchurch (71%)
- Living in Porirua (71%)
- Living in Hutt City (62%).
People begging in the street

A third (33%) of respondents living in the Six Council areas perceive people begging on the street to be a problem in their area over the last 12 months, with 9% indicating it is a big problem and a further 24% indicating it is a bit of a problem in their area.

Figure 5.1.6: People begging on the street (%)

Those more likely to view people begging on the street as a problem (a big problem or a bit of a problem) are:
- Living in Wellington (75%)
- Living in Porirua (56%).

Those less likely to view people begging on the streets as a problem (a big problem or a bit of a problem) are:
- Living in Christchurch (24%)
- Living in Dunedin (26%)
- Living in Hutt City (28%).
5.2 SENSE OF SAFETY

Respondents were asked to rate their perceptions of safety in five different environments. The five different environments that respondents rated for safety were ‘in your home during the day’, ‘in your home after dark’, ‘walking alone in your neighbourhood after dark’, ‘in your city centre during the day’ and ‘in your city centre after dark’.

In own home during the day

Almost all (96%) respondents living in the Six Council areas feel safe in their home during the day, responding with a rating of very safe (70%) or fairly safe (26%).

Figure 5.2.1: Sense of safety in your home during the day (%)
In own home after dark

Nine in ten (89%) respondents living in the Six Council areas feel safe in their home after dark, responding with a rating of very safe (51%) or fairly safe (38%).

Figure 5.2.2: Sense of safety in your home after dark (%)

There are no statistically significant differences by location for respondents in the Six Council areas for feeling safe in their home after dark.

Base: All Respondents (excluding not answered)
Walking alone in neighbourhood after dark

Six in ten (59%) respondents living in the Six Council areas feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, responding with a rating of very safe (17%) or fairly safe (42).

Figure 5.2.3: Sense of safety walking alone in your neighbourhood after dark (%)

Those who are more likely to feel safe (very safe or fairly safe) are:

- Living in Wellington (76%)
- Living in Dunedin (70%).
In city centre during the day

Respondents were asked which area they regard as their 'city centre'. A wide range of responses was collected with many indicating their local shopping centre.

The majority (91%) of respondents living in the Six Council areas feel safe in their city centre during the day, responding with a rating of very safe (54%) or fairly safe (37%).

Figure 5.2.4: Sense of safety in your city centre during the day (%)

Base: All Respondents (excluding not answered)

Those more likely to feel safe (very safe or fairly safe) are:
- Living in Wellington (98%)
- Living in Dunedin (95%).
In city centre after dark

Just over four in ten (43%) respondents living in the Six Council areas feel safe in their city centre after dark, responding with a rating of very safe (8%) or fairly safe (35%).

Figure 5.2.5: Sense of safety in your city centre after dark (%)

Those more likely to feel safe (very safe or fairly safe) are:
- Living in Wellington (67%).

Those less likely to feel safe (very safe or fairly safe) are:
- Living in Porirua (31%)
- Living in Christchurch (33%).