



# Regional community profile:

Wellington Community Trust

October 2020

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# 1. Summary of Findings

## Population and projections (2018 Census)

- **Population:** The WCT region is home to around 469,047 people, or 9.8% of New Zealand's population. It has five territorial authority areas. Two thirds of the people in the WCT region reside in two of these five areas – Wellington City (45%) and Lower Hutt City (22%). Porirua has 12% of the WCT population, followed by 11% in Kapiti Coast District and 9% in Upper Hutt City.
- **Population projection:** The WCT region's population will increase by 11% by 2038. Projected population growth in the region is lower than the projected New Zealand average (20%). This means that by 2038, the WCT region is projected to represent a slightly reduced 9.0% of New Zealand's population.
- **Ethnicity:** Porirua (22%) and Lower Hutt (10%) have populations with the highest proportion of Pacific Peoples in the WCT region. Both areas also have the populations with the highest proportion of Māori (18% and 16% respectively). Population projections show that Māori and Pacific communities will grow further in proportion in these two areas by 2038. Wellington City has the highest proportion of Asian and MELAA (Middle Eastern, Latin American and African) communities in the WCT region, at 17% and 3% respectively. Wellington City also has the highest proportion of overseas-born population in the WCT region, at 32%.
- **Age:** The age profile across the WCT region varies considerably by area. A third or more of Porirua's population (37%) and Lower Hutt's population (33%) are children and young people aged 0–24 years. The majority of children and young people in Porirua identify as Māori or Pacific. Wellington City has the largest youth population aged 15–24 years. The age profile of all areas is projected to age. This trend is most noticeable in Kapiti Coast, which has the highest median age. By 2038, the proportion of over 65's in the Kapiti Coast is expected to increase to over a third of the population (34%).

## Indicators of inequity

- **Socio-economic deprivation is highest in Porirua and Lower Hutt, and lowest in Upper Hutt, Wellington City and Kapiti Coast.**

The 2018 NZ Deprivation Index (NZDep18) describes the areas of New Zealand living in areas of highest (decile 10) and lowest (decile 1) deprivation. Lower Hutt has the highest average NZDep18 score in the WCT region of 5.8; with 21% (21,549) of the population in that area living in deciles 9–10. However, 44% of people in Porirua live in deciles 9–10. This equates to 24,891 people and is over twice the national average (10% of the population live in each decile). No-one in Upper Hutt, and only 1% of people in Wellington City live in deciles 9–10.

There are 20 Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) areas within the WCT region that have a decile rating of nine or 10, showing small pockets of high deprivation. Nine of the 20 areas are in Porirua (Ascot Park, Cannons Creek East, Cannons Creek North, Cannons Creek South, Elsdon-Takapuwahia, Porirua Central, Porirua East, Titahi Bay South and Waitangirua); and eight of the 20 areas are in Lower Hutt (Avalon East, Delaney, Moera, Naenae Central, Naenae North, Naenae South, Taita North and Taita South).

- **People who identify as Māori and/or Pacific Peoples are over-represented in areas of highest deprivation. In Porirua, Pacific Peoples are more than three times as likely as NZ Europeans to live in deciles 9–10, and Māori are more than twice as likely.**

Although 44% of people overall in Porirua live in deciles 9–10, people who identify as Pacific, Māori or MELAA are significantly over-represented in areas of highest deprivation; with 83% of Pacific Peoples living in deciles 9–10, 63% of Māori and 60% of MELAA communities, compared with only 26% of NZ Europeans.

A similar trend can be observed in Lower Hutt, where 43% of Pacific Peoples and 30% of Māori live in deciles 9–10, compared with 16% of NZ Europeans.

- **Overall, more children and young people live in areas of highest deprivation than other age groups – particularly in Porirua and Lower Hutt.**

In Porirua, children and young people aged 0–24 years are over-represented in areas of highest deprivation – over half of all children and young people live in deciles 9–10.

This trend is also apparent in Lower Hutt, where a quarter or more of children and young people live in deciles 9–10. Children aged 5–14 years in Lower Hutt are particularly over-represented in areas of highest deprivation (37%).

- **Other indicators point to inequities experienced by children and young people in the WCT region – particularly Māori, Pacific and MELAA children and young people, and those living in Porirua and Lower Hutt.**

Māori and Pacific children have the lowest rates of participation in ECE. Pacific and MELAA children in Porirua have the lowest rates of participation in the WCT region.

Asian and NZ European young people in the WCT region have higher rates of NCEA level 2 achievement than Māori and Pacific young people. NCEA achievement inequities can also be observed for MELAA young people in Wellington City and Upper Hutt.

National data shows that higher numbers of Māori and Pacific children and young people across all age groups between 0–24 years old experience risk factors. Regional risk factor data shows that the highest proportions of children aged 0–14 with two or more risk factors are in Porirua and Lower Hutt. Porirua and Lower Hutt also have the highest proportion of young people aged 15–24 with one or more risk factors. Both areas have the highest proportion of Māori and Pacific children and youth populations in the WCT region.

NEET rates (not in employment, education or training) for young people aged 20–24 years in the WCT are a significant concern. Over a fifth of people in this age group are NEET in Porirua (24%), Kapiti Coast (23%), Lower Hutt (21%) and Upper Hutt (20%).

Porirua has a high proportion of sole-parent households – 19%, compared with 11% in Wellington City.

- **The WCT region has employment and income inequities – with all other ethnic groups having lower rates of employment and lower median personal incomes than NZ Europeans. The greatest inequities are experienced by MELAA communities.**

Median personal incomes are highest for people in Wellington City (\$40,550) and lowest for people in Kapiti Coast (\$30,500).

Employment rates and median incomes are much higher for NZ Europeans than for other ethnic groups in the region.

People who identify as MELAA have the lowest median personal incomes – particularly in Upper Hutt (\$18,050), Lower Hutt (\$18,900) and Porirua (\$20,350).

In Porirua, Pacific median incomes are significantly lower than the area's overall median. In the Kapiti Coast, Asian median incomes are lowest compared to the area's overall median.

- **Inequities in relative housing affordability show that more residents spend over the median income on housing in Porirua and Kapiti Coast, particularly compared to residents of Wellington City. Damp and mould are a significant issue for households in Porirua; and for Pacific and Māori households across the region.**

## 2. Background

This community profile analyses regional indicator data on the people and places in the Wellington Community Trust (WCT) region likely to be experiencing the greatest inequalities and inequity, based on the presence of multiple risk indicators.

### 2.1 Indicator data

Reliable indicator data can help generate a picture of the population groups and/or geographic communities that may experience risk and inequity relative to others; and show how these risks and inequities change over time. We can see how people's life outcomes are shaped by wider systems or conditions that they may experience, but do not design or control.

For funders, this type of data analysis can inform thinking about where their funding might be invested, and which communities or population groups might be prioritised to address the inequity picture. Tracking data over time can also help re-prioritise or sharpen the funding focus, based on changing indicators of risk.

Table 1 below outlines the indicator data that has been used to develop this picture of potential inequities for communities in the WCT region.

*Table 1: Indicator data and sources*

Focus	Indicators	Data source
Population / demographics	Total population	Census 2018
	Population projections (to 2038)	
	Population by ethnic group and by age	
	Median age	
	Population born overseas	
	Regional refugee resettlement	
Socio-economic deprivation	Total population living in areas of highest deprivation	NZ Deprivation Index 2018; Census 2018
	Population living in areas of highest deprivation by ethnic group and age	
Employment and income	Employment	Census 2018
	Median personal income	
Education	Prior participation in ECE rates	Education Counts, 2020
	NCEA level 2 achievement rates	

Focus	Indicators	Data source
	School stand-down rates	
	School transience rates	
Housing	Housing affordability	Census 2018; Quality of Life Project 2018; Housing Affordability Measure (MBIE) 2019
	Housing appropriateness	
	Housing quality (dampness and mould indicators)	
Child and young people	Children and young people at risk of poor future life outcomes	Treasury 2016; Census 2018
	NEET youth	
	Sole-parent households	
Community wellbeing	Quality of life indicators	Quality of Life Project 2018; NZ General Social Survey 2016 and 2018; Indicators Aotearoa 2019
	Regional wellbeing indicators	
	Voter participation	
Environment	Swimmable lakes, rivers and beaches	Land Air Water Aotearoa 2020

It should be noted that indicator data does not always measure the things that people, families and whānau value about their wellbeing and their communities. There are often assumptions within the data – for example, that diverse people in a given community share similar experiences and opportunities on the basis of where they live.

Indicators are typically risk-focused and involve the ‘absence’ of something in a community, rather than its strengths. For example, analysing total personal income may not always be an effective measure of wellbeing in communities that have strong social ties and local food systems, reflecting more self-determining ways of living. As such, this data should be used with caution, alongside other sources of information that explore community aspirations and priorities, to develop meaningful funding priorities.

## 2.2 Interpreting the indicator data tables in this report

Indicator data within this report is presented in tables with additional commentary that explores trends that can be seen in the data. The tables are colour-coded using a red-amber-green scale to visually show which data is highest and lowest. For example, a deprivation index score of 1 (lowest deprivation) would be green and a score of 10 (highest deprivation) would be red:

Deprivation index score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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The colour scale can be reversed in terms of whether green represents the highest or lowest numbers. In most cases – except for Tables 3–9 – the principle is that green indicates where communities appear to be doing well, and red where communities appear to be doing worse.

## 3. Indicator Data

### 3.1 Population

Table 2 highlights some key population statistics for the WCT region, which is home to around 469,047 people, or 9.8% of the total population of New Zealand. Between 2006 and 2018, the WCT region's population grew by 12%. This is a slower rate of growth than the NZ average of 16%.

By 2038, the population of the WCT region is projected to increase by 11% to 519,100. This is a much slower rate of growth than the NZ average of 20%; meaning that the WCT region's share of the total NZ population will decrease to 9.0% by 2038.

Table 2: Key population statistics for the WCT region (Statistics NZ, 2018a)

<b>469,047</b>	<b>+ 12%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
Total population in the WCT region	Increase in the WCT region's population since 2006 (12 years)	The WCT region population as a percentage of the NZ total
<b>519,100</b>	<b>+ 11%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
Total projected population in the WCT region by 2038	Increase in the projected WCT region's population from 2018 to 2038 (20 years)	Projected WCT region's population as a percentage of the NZ total by 2038

Two thirds of the people in the WCT region reside in Wellington City (45%) and Lower Hutt City (22%). Porirua has 12% of the WCT population, followed by 11% in Kapiti Coast District and 9% in Upper Hutt City.

Population analysis at the SA2 area level (Statistical Area Level 2), i.e. the next smallest area unit after territorial local authorities [formerly called census area units], shows that the SA2 areas in the WCT region with highest total population are:

- Porirua: Endeavour, Waitangirua
- Wellington: Karori Park, Mount Victoria, Karori South, Mount Cook West, Dixon Street
- Lower Hutt: Waiwhetu
- Kapiti Coast: Waikanae West, Paraparaumu Beach North.

## Ethnic groups

Tables 3 and 4 below show the WCT region's ethnic group make up. The ethnic group mix varies across the territorial authorities - note that percentages will not always add up to 100% as people can identify with more than one ethnic group.

Kapiti Coast and Upper Hutt have the highest proportion of NZ European populations. Their Māori, Pacific Peoples and Asian populations are lower than the national average.

### Pacific communities

Almost a quarter of Porirua's population identifies as Pacific (22%, 14,868 people). The Pacific population is significantly larger in Porirua than any other area in the WCT region. It is more than double the next highest proportion in Lower Hutt (10%, 12,003 people) and more than triple the national average (7%).

Projected population change by 2038 will continue this trend – with Porirua and Lower Hutt's population projected to include 32% and 16% Pacific Peoples respectively.

Across the WCT region's Pacific population, 62% identify as Samoan, 20% as Cook Island Māori, 10% as Tokelauan, 8% as Tongan, 5% as Niuean, 4% as Fijian, 4% as other Pacific Peoples and 1% as Pacific not further defined.

The 10 SA2 areas with highest total Pacific populations are in Porirua and Lower Hutt:

- Porirua: Waitangirua, Cannons Creek East, Cannons Creek North, Ascot Park, Porirua East, Cannons Creek South, Titahi Bay South
- Lower Hutt: Taita North, Naenae Central, Taita South.

### Māori communities

Porirua (18%, 12,006 people) and Lower Hutt (16%, 19,260 people) have the WCT region's highest proportion of Māori. However, due to the larger size of population in Wellington City, the 8% Māori population is also equivalent to 17,409 people.

By 2038, the proportion of Māori living in Porirua and Lower Hutt will have grown significantly to 27% and 24% respectively. Kapiti Coast's Māori population will also increase to 20%, which will be higher than the projected national average of 18%.

The 10 SA2 areas with highest total Māori populations are:

- Lower Hutt: Glendale, Arakura, Naenae Central
- Kapiti Coast: Otaki
- Porirua: Titahi Bay South, Elsdon-Takapuwhia, Waitangirua, Cannons Creek North, Titahi Bay North, Cannons Creek East.

### Asian and MELAA communities

Wellington City (17%, 37,158) has the region's largest Asian community, followed by Lower Hutt (13%, 15,888). The national average is 13%. By 2038, Wellington City's Asian population is projected to increase to 28%, compared to 22% nationally.

Across the WCT region's Asian population, 34% identify as Indian, 32% as Chinese and 11% as Filipino.

The WCT region's Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) population is double the national average at 2%; whilst Wellington City's MELAA population (3%) is triple the national average.

Table 3: Percentage population by ethnic group and territorial authority, 2018 (Statistics NZ, 2018a)

	NZ European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA
New Zealand	62%	15%	7%	13%	1%
WCT region	70%	14%	9%	14%	2%
Kapiti Coast district	78%	13%	3%	4%	1%
Porirua city	51%	18%	22%	7%	1%
Upper Hutt city	71%	14%	5%	7%	1%
Lower Hutt city	58%	16%	10%	13%	1%
Wellington city	67%	8%	5%	17%	3%

Table 4: Projected percentage population by ethnic group and territorial authority, 2038 (Statistics NZ, 2018a)

	NZ European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian
New Zealand	66%	18%	10%	22%
Kapiti Coast District	85%	20%	5%	9%
Porirua City	64%	27%	32%	13%
Upper Hutt City	84%	18%	7%	13%
Lower Hutt City	68%	24%	16%	20%
Wellington City	67%	10%	5%	28%

### Migrant and refugee communities

Table 5 provides data about the WCT region's migrant (overseas-born) communities. Wellington City has the largest overseas-born population in the WCT region, at 32%. This has increased from 28% in 2013. Across all other territorial authorities in the WCT region, the proportion of overseas-born residents is lower than the national average of 27%.

New migrant communities (living in New Zealand for less than one year) are often considered as having settlement needs that can make them more vulnerable than other communities. Settlement challenges can include things like language barriers, underemployment, social isolation and access to housing (Centre for Social Impact, 2018a). In the WCT region, the highest proportion of new migrants is in Wellington City (7%).

Table 5: Percentage population born overseas by territorial authority and length of time in New Zealand, 2013–2018 (Statistics NZ, 2018a)

	% Born overseas		% Born overseas and living in NZ <1 year	
	2013	2018	2013	2018
New Zealand	23%	27%	5%	6%
Kapiti Coast District	21%	22%	3%	3%
Porirua City	23%	24%	4%	4%
Upper Hutt City	19%	21%	2%	3%
Lower Hutt City	22%	25%	4%	4%
Wellington City	28%	32%	6%	7%

Since 2011–12, the Wellington region has received 25% (=1895) of New Zealand’s refugee resettlement quota. The proportion of the national annual refugee quota population who are resettled in the Wellington region has steadily decreased from 30% in 2011–12, to just 12% in 2019–20. The current border restrictions mean that there have been no quota refugees resettled into Wellington to date in 2020–21. This data does not include people resettling in the region through other resettlement pathways, including those with Refugee and Protected Persons Status (approved claims for asylum) and the Refugee Family Support Category (refugee family reunification).

The majority of quota refugees resettled into the Wellington region in the last five years have been from Syria, Myanmar and Colombia (Immigration NZ, 2020).

## Age

Table 6 shows that the populations of Wellington City and Porirua have the lowest median ages (34.1 and 35.1 years respectively). Both Kapiti Coast (47.9 years) and Upper Hutt (39.1 years) have median ages higher than the New Zealand average. Overall, New Zealand’s median age lowered between 2013 and 2018 by 0.6 years. Porirua, Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt followed suit, with populations becoming slightly younger on average.

Table 6: Difference in the median age of the population by territorial authority, 2013–2018 (Statistics NZ, 2018a)

	2013 Median age	2018 Median age	Difference
New Zealand	38	37.4	-0.6
Kapiti Coast	46.9	47.9	1.0
Porirua City	35.2	35.1	-0.1
Upper Hutt	39.7	39.1	-0.6
Lower Hutt	37.2	36.9	-0.3
Wellington City	33.9	34.1	0.2

Table 7 shows that Porirua’s population has the largest proportion of children aged 0–14 years in the WCT region. A third or more of Porirua’s population (37%) and Lower Hutt’s population (33%) are children and young people aged 0–24 years.

In Porirua, 42% of children aged 0–4 years and 47% of children aged 5–14 years identify as Māori or Pacific, compared to 28% and 32% nationally.

Wellington City has the largest youth population aged 15–24 years (17%), which is higher than the national average of 13%. Within this age group, 67% of Wellington’s young people identify as NZ European, and 14% identify as Asian. In Porirua, 50% of young people aged 15–24 years identify as Māori or Pacific, compared to 28% nationally.

Kapiti Coast has the largest proportion of people aged 65 years and over. The area’s population is also ageing, with the median age increasing by one year since 2013, and the proportion of over 65’s expected to increase to over a third by 2038 (34%). Wellington City’s population is also projected to age, with the proportion of over 65’s set to increase to 18% by 2038.

Table 7: Percentage population by age group and territorial authority, 2018 (Statistics NZ, 2018a)

	0-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-64 years	65+ years
New Zealand	6%	13%	13%	52%	15%
Kapiti Coast District	5%	12%	9%	47%	26%
Porirua City	8%	16%	13%	52%	12%
Upper Hutt City	6%	13%	12%	53%	15%
Lower Hutt City	7%	14%	12%	54%	14%
Wellington City	5%	11%	17%	56%	10%

Table 8: Projected percentage population by age group and territorial authority, 2038 (Statistics NZ, 2018a)

	0-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-64 years	65+ years
New Zealand	5%	12%	12%	48%	23%
Kapiti Coast District	5%	11%	8%	42%	34%
Porirua City	6%	13%	11%	46%	24%
Upper Hutt City	5%	12%	11%	46%	26%
Lower Hutt City	6%	12%	11%	49%	23%
Wellington City	5%	10%	15%	52%	18%

Table 9 details the SA2 areas in the WCT region with the 10 lowest and 10 highest median ages. The lowest median age areas are all in Wellington City and Porirua, with the majority of the highest median age areas in Kapiti Coast.

Table 9: SA2 areas in the WCT region with the lowest and highest median age, 2018 (Statistics NZ, 2018a)

Lowest median age (SA2 areas)			Highest median age (SA2 areas)		
Wellington City	Wellington Botanic Gardens	21.8	Kapiti Coast	Waikanae West	61.8
	Wellington University	22.5		Waikanae Park	58
	Mount Cook East	24.6		Peka Peka	52.1
	Vivian West	25.8		Forest Lakes	52
	Dixon Street	25.9		Waikanae East	51.2
	Wellington Central	26		Paraparaumu Beach West	50.5
	Mount Cook West	27.6		Maungakotukutuku	50.3
Porirua City	Waitangirua	26.4	Te Horo	50.1	
	Cannons Creek North	27.1	Otaki Forks	50	
	Cannons Creek East	27.4	Wellington City	Oriental Bay	50

## 3.2 Socio-economic deprivation

Deprivation indices combine multiple risk indicators to demonstrate relative deprivation across the country. In Aotearoa New Zealand there are two primary deprivation indices:

- The NZ Deprivation Index or NZDep18, developed by the University of Otago, uses nine census data indicators. It was first published in 1991 and is updated with each new census. It uses a decile scoring system where one is the least deprived and 10 is the most deprived (Atkinson, Salmond & Crampton, 2019).
- The NZ Index of Multiple Deprivation or IMD, developed by the University of Auckland in 2013, uses 28 indicators from the Government's integrated data infrastructure (IDI). It uses a quintile scoring system where one is the least deprived and 5 is the most deprived (Exeter, D. J., Zhao, J., Crengle, S., Lee, A., and Browne, M., 2017).

There are a number of differences in how the two indices are compiled, although both provide a similar picture of deprivation. The NZDep18 has been most recently updated and re-published and is therefore used as the primary focus in this report.

Map 1 illustrates the areas of the WCT region that have the highest (deciles 9–10) and lowest (deciles 1–2) socio-economic deprivation based on the NZDep18 decile scores of SA2 areas. An interactive version of this map can be viewed [online](#).

Analysis of the deprivation score of all SA2 areas within each territorial authority provides an average deprivation index score – see Table 10. Lower Hutt has the highest average NZDep18 score in the WCT region of 5.8, with 21% (21,549) of the population in that area live in deciles 9–10 (highest deprivation). However, 44% of people in Porirua live in deciles 9–10 – this equates to 24,891 people and as a proportion is over twice the national average (10% of the population live in each decile). No one in Upper Hutt, and only 1% of people in Wellington City, live in deciles 9–10.

Map 1: NZDep2018 decile in the WCT region by SA2, 2018 (Atkinson et al., 2018)

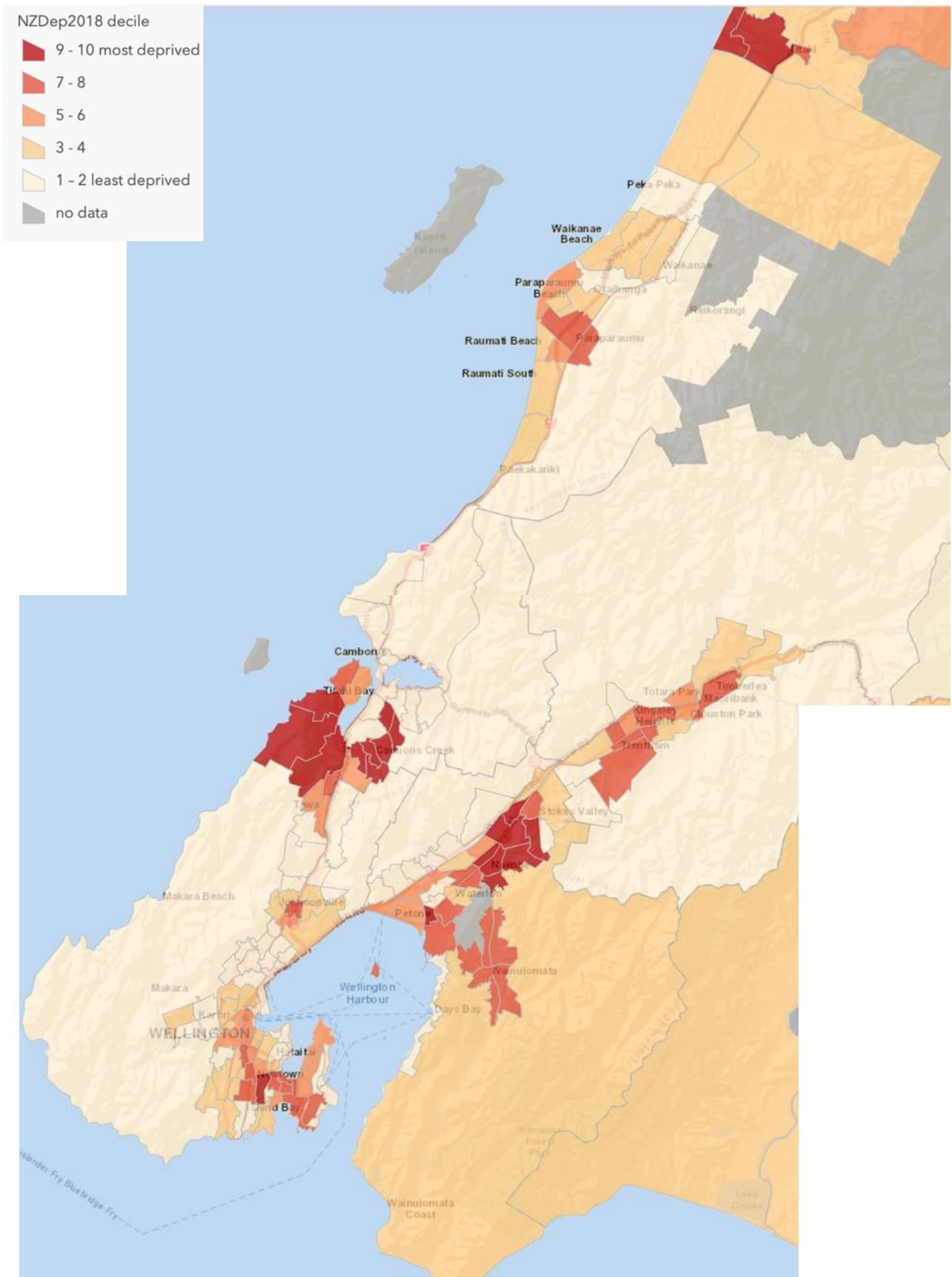


Table 10: Average deprivation index score and percentage of the total population living in deciles 9–10 by territorial authority, 2018 (Atkinson et al., 2018)

	Average NZDep18 score	% Population living in deciles 9-10	Total population living in deciles 9-10
New Zealand	5.0	10%	479,336
Kapiti Coast district	4.6	10%	5,307
Porirua city	5.5	44%	24,891
Upper Hutt city	5.0	0%	-
Lower Hutt city	5.8	21%	21,549
Wellington city	3.8	2%	3,642

In total, there are 20 SA2 areas in the WCT region that are rated as being deciles 9–10 on the NZDep18 index. These areas are:

- Porirua (9): Ascot Park, Cannons Creek East, Cannons Creek North, Cannons Creek South, Elsdon-Takapuwahia, Porirua Central, Porirua East, Titahi Bay South and Waitangirua.
- Lower Hutt (8): Avalon East, Delaney, Moera, Naenae Central, Naenae North, Naenae South, Taita North and Taita South.
- Kapiti Coast (2): Otaki and Otaki Beach.
- Wellington City (1): Newtown South

Tables 11 and 12 detail the percentage of each ethnic group and each age group that are living in deciles 9–10. Although 44% of people overall in Porirua live in deciles 9–10, people who identify as Pacific, Māori or MELAA are significantly over-represented in areas of highest deprivation; with 83% of Pacific Peoples living in deciles 9–10, 63% of Māori and 60% of MELAA communities. Similar inequities can be observed in Lower Hutt.

In Porirua, children and young people aged 0–24 years are over-represented in the areas of highest deprivation – over 50% across all child and youth age groups live in deciles 9–10. This is partly attributable to Porirua’s overall low age profile. This trend is also apparent in Lower Hutt, with children aged 5–14 particularly over-represented in areas of highest deprivation.

Table 11: Percentage population by ethnic group living in deciles 9–10, 2018 (Atkinson et al., 2018; Statistics NZ, 2018a)

	NZ European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA
Kapiti Coast district	8%	27%	18%	10%	7%
Porirua city	26%	63%	83%	47%	60%
Upper Hutt city	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lower Hutt city	16%	30%	43%	19%	37%
Wellington city	1%	2%	4%	2%	8%

Table 12: Percentage population living in deciles 9–10 by age and territorial authority, 2018 (Atkinson et al., 2018; Statistics NZ, 2018a)

	All ages	0-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-64 years	65+ years
Kapiti Coast district	10%	12%	8%	10%	10%	9%
Porirua city	44%	51%	51%	54%	41%	34%
Upper Hutt city	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lower Hutt city	21%	25%	37%	23%	2%	17%
Wellington city	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%

### 3.3 Employment and income

Employment in the WCT is, overall, in line with the New Zealand average – with slightly higher employment in Wellington City and Upper Hutt and slightly lower employment in Porirua. In line with national trends, Māori and Pacific Peoples experience greatest inequalities in terms of employment. Table 13 shows that the most significant employment inequities in the WCT region are experienced by people who identify as MELAA, particularly in Porirua where only 54% of MELAA communities aged 15–64 years are in employment.

Table 13: Percentage population aged 15-64 years in employment (full time or part time), by territorial authority area and ethnic group (Statistics NZ, 2018)

	Total	NZ European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA
New Zealand	75%	78%	66%	66%	69%	67%
Kapiti Coast	75%	76%	68%	70%	75%	72%
Porirua City	73%	78%	64%	64%	68%	54%
Upper Hutt	76%	78%	66%	66%	71%	66%
Lower Hutt	75%	78%	66%	69%	71%	60%
Wellington City	78%	80%	72%	73%	72%	64%

Some income indicators are included within the NZDep18 indicator, however, Table 14 below outlines the median personal income by territorial authority area and ethnic group in further detail, as an indicator of potential income inequality.

Median personal incomes are highest for people in Wellington City (\$40,550) and lowest for people in Kapiti Coast (\$30,500).

Incomes are much higher for NZ Europeans than for other ethnic groups. People who identify as MELAA have the lowest median personal incomes – particularly in Upper Hutt (\$18,050), Lower Hutt (\$18,900) and Porirua (\$20,350).

In Porirua, Pacific median incomes are also significantly lower than the area’s overall median. In the Kapiti Coast, Asian median incomes are lowest compared to the area’s overall median.

Table 14: Median personal income for the population aged 15–64 years, by territorial authority area and ethnic group (Statistics NZ, 2018)

	All ethnic groups	NZ European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA
New Zealand	\$31,250	\$34,550	\$25,250	\$25,350	\$26,550	\$24,550
Kapiti Coast	\$30,500	\$31,450	\$26,950	\$25,650	\$24,400	\$27,300
Porirua City	\$32,000	\$38,000	\$27,300	\$24,250	\$26,300	\$20,350
Upper Hutt City	\$34,250	\$36,350	\$28,100	\$27,300	\$26,700	\$18,050
Lower Hutt City	\$33,050	\$37,050	\$27,000	\$26,500	\$27,850	\$18,900
Wellington City	\$40,550	\$44,900	\$34,650	\$30,350	\$30,950	\$22,000

### 3.4 Education

Education indicators can be a useful tool for understanding potential inequities that exist for children and young people. Education is a key determinant of a person’s future social and economic wellbeing. Educational outcomes can determine social development, future employment opportunities, income/ economic wellbeing and overall personal wellbeing including health and social capital (Centre for Social Impact, 2018b).

New Zealanders with no qualifications have an unemployment rate 48% higher than those whose highest qualification is a school qualification. Average earnings are 24% higher for those with a tertiary qualification. Educational attainment can be influenced by a range of factors including early learning, school transience, stand-downs and suspensions and wider factors including family income (Centre for Social Impact, 2018b).

Table 15 details the percentage of school children who start school at aged five with some prior participation in early childhood education (ECE). Across the WCT region, participation in ECE is generally higher than the New Zealand average. NZ European and Asian children have the region’s highest rates of participation. Māori and Pacific children have the lowest rates of prior participation in ECE. Pacific and MELAA children in Porirua have the lowest overall rates of participation in the WCT region.

Table 15: Percentage of children starting school with prior participation in early childhood education in the year to June 2020, by territorial authority area and ethnic group (Education Counts, 2020a)

	Total	NZ European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA
New Zealand	90%	94%	83%	76%	89%	82%
Kapiti Coast	99%	99%	96%	96%	100%	n/d
Porirua City	97%	99%	96%	94%	96%	94%
Upper Hutt	99%	99%	99%	100%	99%	n/d
Lower Hutt	99%	99%	98%	96%	100%	100%
Wellington City	99%	100%	98%	96%	98%	98%

Table 16 details the percentage of school leavers that have attained NCEA level 2 qualifications. In line with the NZ picture, Asian and NZ European young people in the WCT region have higher rates of

NCEA level 2 achievement than Māori and Pacific young people. NCEA achievement inequities can also be observed for MELAA young people in Wellington City and Upper Hutt.

Table 16: Percentage of young people aged 18 years leaving school with NCEA level 2 or above, by territorial authority area and ethnic group (Education Counts, 2019)

	All leavers	NZ European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA
New Zealand	79%	82%	65%	74%	90%	84%
Kapiti Coast	88%	88%	81%	91%	95%	90%
Porirua City	77%	79%	71%	79%	87%	77%
Upper Hutt City	85%	86%	78%	83%	84%	78%
Lower Hutt City	80%	83%	69%	73%	85%	86%
Wellington City	90%	92%	81%	85%	92%	74%

Table 17 details the rates of student stand-downs across all age groups. Stand-down rates are highest in Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt. They are significantly higher for Māori and Pacific students, especially in these two areas.

Table 17: Age-standardised stand-down rates per 1,000 students, by territorial authority area and ethnic group (Education Counts, 2020b)

	Total	Ethnic Group					Age Group		
		NZ European	Māori	Pacific	Asian	Other	5–9	10–14	15+
New Zealand	29.0	24.4	48.6	34.4	6.0	14.9	12.5	44.1	33.1
Kapiti Coast	10.6	8.5	17.7	4.2	13.2	0.0	5.9	19.5	4.4
Porirua City	26.1	18.1	36.9	25.5	10.7	7.6	4.4	36.3	54.7
Upper Hutt City	32.0	26.7	53.7	42.6	3.1	35.9	16.1	51.9	29.7
Lower Hutt City	35.8	25.7	65.2	44.7	5.0	15.2	8.7	55.5	52.5
Wellington City	7.7	5.4	18.1	16.1	2.7	9.3	3.4	11.6	9.0

Table 18 shows the relative levels of school transience. Transience can be linked to other factors - particularly insecure housing. Regularly changing schools can have a negative impact on student attendance and attainment, as well as transitions between the school levels. Student transience is highest in Porirua and Lower Hutt.

Table 18: School transience rate (number of students per 1,000 who move school more than twice in a year), by territorial authority (Education Counts, 2020c)

	Transience rate
Total	4.0
Kapiti Coast District	6.4
Porirua City	9.0
Upper Hutt City	3.8
Lower Hutt City	6.7
Wellington City	3.6

### 3.5 Housing

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has developed a Housing Affordability Measure (HAM). This identifies the proportion of renters and homeowners who have below the estimated national median equivalised\* income after housing costs such as rent, mortgage payments, body corporate fees, rates and insurance (\*equivalised means that the income remaining after housing costs has been adjusted for the number of adults and children in the household). As such, the HAM is a useful guide for understanding relative housing affordability (in relation to income) between territorial authority areas and regions for both renters and homeowners. HAM data from the WCT region is detailed in Table 19.

Across the wider Wellington region, housing costs relative to income are lower than the NZ average. Within Wellington City homeowners and renters spend below the median income on housing. In Porirua and Kapiti coast, three quarters of home owners and almost two thirds of renters spend above the median income on housing.

Table 19: Share of households spending over the median equivalised income on housing costs in the quarter to December 2019 (HUD, 2019)

	Homeowners spending above median income on housing	Renters spending above median income on housing
New Zealand	71%	57%
Kapiti Coast	74%	62%
Porirua City	75%	62%
Upper Hutt City	71%	59%
Lower Hutt City	70%	59%
Wellington City	54%	41%
Wellington Region	64%	52%

Three of the WCT region’s territorial local authorities (Porirua City, Lower Hutt City and Wellington City) participate in the New Zealand Quality of Life Survey, alongside Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Christchurch and Dunedin. Table 20 details data from this survey in relation to housing affordability and appropriateness. Across the WCT region, residents in Porirua are least likely to think their housing costs are affordable and that their housing meets the needs of their household. Results from residents in Lower Hutt and Wellington City were more positive than the average across the eight cities that participate in this survey.

Table 20: Quality of life housing indicators (Quality of Life Project, 2018)

	Percentage of residents who think their housing costs are affordable	Percentage of residents who think their housing meets the needs of their household
8 City total	47.0%	81.0%
Porirua City	47.0%	80.0%
Lower Hutt City	58.0%	83.0%
Wellington City	51.0%	83.0%

Tables 21 and 22 detail NZ Census data about the condition of housing in terms of dampness and mould respectively. Dampness and mould can be caused by poor quality housing and inadequate heating and ventilation, as well as climate conditions.

Damp and mould are a significant issue for households in Porirua. Pacific and Māori households have a higher instance of households that are always damp and mouldy, followed by MELAA households.

Table 21: Percentage of occupied dwellings that are 'always' damp, by territorial authority and ethnic group (Statistics NZ, 2018)

	Total	NZ European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA
New Zealand	3%	2%	7%	9%	3%	5%
Kapiti Coast	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	0%
Porirua City	5%	3%	8%	11%	3%	9%
Upper Hutt City	2%	2%	6%	7%	3%	4%
Lower Hutt City	3%	2%	7%	9%	3%	4%
Wellington City	3%	3%	5%	8%	3%	7%

Table 22: Percentage of occupied dwellings that 'always' have an area of mould bigger than A4 in size, by territorial authority and ethnic group (Statistics NZ, 2018)

	Total	NZ European	Māori	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA
New Zealand	5%	4%	9%	12%	4%	6%
Kapiti Coast	3%	2%	5%	6%	3%	1%
Porirua City	7%	4%	10%	14%	4%	7%
Upper Hutt City	4%	3%	7%	8%	3%	4%
Lower Hutt City	5%	4%	9%	12%	4%	7%
Wellington City	5%	5%	8%	11%	4%	8%

## 3.6 Children and young people

The New Zealand Treasury (2016) has developed a risk framework to identify children and young people that are most at risk of poor future life outcomes. This framework (Table 23) identifies four risk factors for children aged 0–5 years and 6–14 years, five risk factors for young people aged 15–19 years and five for young people aged 20–24 years.

Table 23: Child and youth risk factors (Treasury, 2016)

Child risk factors	Youth risk factors	
	15–19 years	20–24 years
0–14 years		
Having a Child Youth & Family finding of abuse or neglect	Teenage boys with Youth Justice or Corrections history	Young offenders with a custodial sentence
Being mostly supported by benefits since birth	Teenagers with health, disability issues or special needs	Young offenders with a community sentence and CYF history
Having a parent with a prison or community sentence	Teenage girls supported by benefits	Jobseekers in poor health with CYF history
Having a mother with no formal qualifications	Mental health service users with stand-down or CYF history	Sole parents not in full-time employment with CYF history
	Experienced significant childhood disadvantage	Long-term disability beneficiaries

Children with two or more risk factors and young people with one or more risk factor(s) are more likely to leave school with no qualifications, to spend time on benefit, and to receive a prison or community sentence when they grow up. The more risk factors a child or young person has, the more likely these outcomes are. It is important to note, however, that these risk factors are not a guarantee of poor future outcomes and do not fully consider the presence of other protective factors that might support positive outcomes.

Nationally:

- 13% of children aged 0–5 years have two or more risk factors across all ethnic groups; 33% of children 0–5 with two or more risk factors are Māori, 17% are Pacific and 9% are NZ European.
- 14% of children aged 6–14 years have two or more risk factors; 35% of children 6–14 with two or more risk factors are Māori, 20% are Pacific and 9% are NZ European.
- 14% of young people aged 15–19 years have one or more risk factors; 33% of young people aged 15–19 with one or more risk factors are Māori, 16% are Pacific and 11% are NZ European.
- 8% of young people aged 20–24 years have one or more risk factors; 20% of young people aged 20–24 with one or more risk factors are Māori, 9% are Pacific and 6% are NZ European.

Regional data is also available by age group, as shown in Table 24. This shows that the highest proportions of children aged 0–14 years with two or more risk factors are in Porirua and Lower Hutt. In both areas, Māori and Pacific children make up a significant portion of the 0–14 age group – 43% of children aged 0–4 years and 48% of children aged 5–14 years in Porirua are Māori and Pacific; 30% of children aged 0–4 years and 35% of children aged 5–14 years in Lower Hutt are Māori and Pacific.

Porirua and Lower Hutt also have the highest proportion of young people aged 15–24 with one or more risk factors. In both areas, Māori and Pacific young people make up a significant portion of the 15–24 age group – 50% of young people aged 15–24 years in Porirua are Māori and Pacific, and 35% in Lower Hutt.

Table 24: Percentage of children (0-14 years) with two or more risk factors and percentage of young people (15-24 years) with one or more risk factor (Treasury, 2016b)

	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years
New Zealand	13%	14%	14%	8%
Kapiti Coast	13%	11%	13%	9%
Porirua City	14%	14%	16%	10%
Upper Hutt	9%	10%	14%	7%
Lower Hutt	12%	14%	14%	9%
Wellington City	4%	4%	7%	3%

Table 25 details the percentage of young people aged 15–24 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). NEET rates for young people aged 15–19 years are highest in Porirua, Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt. NEET rates for young people aged 20–24 years are a significant concern. More than a fifth of young people in this age group are NEET in Porirua (24%), Kapiti Coast (23%), Lower Hutt (21%) and Upper Hutt (20%).

Table 25: Percentage of young people (15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Treasury, 2016c)

	15-19 years	20-24 years
Wellington region rank out of 16 regions	10th lowest (7.2%)	14th lowest (16%)
Kapiti Coast	7.4%	22.5%
Porirua City	9.1%	23.9%
Upper Hutt	8.5%	20.4%
Lower Hutt	8.7%	20.8%
Wellington City	5.7%	12.2%

Children in sole-parent households may experience further disadvantage due to lower household income and other related factors such as material hardship or insecure housing. Table 26 shows that Porirua has a high level of sole-parent households (19%), whilst Wellington City has a low percentage (11%).

Table 26: Percentage of people in families with solo-parent households, by territorial authority (Statistics NZ, 2018a)

	Sole-parent households
New Zealand	15%
Kapiti Coast	15%
Porirua City	19%
Upper Hutt	16%
Lower Hutt	16%
Wellington City	11%

## 3.7 Community wellbeing

Tables 27 and 28 detail community wellbeing and quality of life indicator data from two key sources – the New Zealand General Social Survey and the Quality of Life Project (see also section 3.5 on housing). These data sources provide insight into resident’s perceptions of their community’s strengths and challenges.

Table 27: Regional wellbeing indicators for the Wellington region (Indicators Aotearoa NZ, 2019)

Wellbeing indicator		2016	2018
Family wellbeing	People aged 15 years or above who rated their family wellbeing as 7/10 or higher	80.9% (5 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)	81.8% (7 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)
Life satisfaction	People aged 15 years or above who rated their life satisfaction as 7/10 or higher	81.7% (=8 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)	82.1% (4 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)
Sense of purpose	People aged 15 years or above who rated the ‘worthwhileness’ of the things they do as 7/10 or higher	87.9% (4 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)	84.8% (11 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)
Sense of belonging	People aged 15 years or above who rated their sense of belonging to New Zealand as 7/10 or higher	89.5% (5 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)	n/d
Experience of discrimination	People aged 15 years or above who experienced discrimination in the last 12 months	17.1% (6 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)	18.3% (6 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)
Loneliness	People aged 15 years or above who reported feeling lonely some, most or all of the time in the last 4 weeks	17.1% (6 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)	16.9% (6 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)
Social support	People aged 15 years or above who could easily or very easily ask someone for a place to stay	77.3% (8 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)	75.9% (11 <sup>th</sup> highest out of 12 regions)
Cultural participation	People aged 15 years or above participated in traditional cultural activities	67.4% (3 <sup>rd</sup> highest out of 6 regions)	n/d

Analysis of Wellington regional data (Table 27) shows that in 2018, communities compared themselves well to the rest of New Zealand in relation to life satisfaction, experience of discrimination and loneliness; and less well in relation to sense of purpose and access to social support – which noticeably decreased from 2016.

Table 28 details sub-regional data for participating territorial authorities in the WCT region (Porirua, Lower Hutt and Wellington City), where:

- Communities in Porirua self-rated relatively well for access to social support and sense of community; but relatively poorly for community safety and the view that Porirua is a great place to live.
- Communities in Lower Hutt self-rated relatively well for quality of life, community safety and sense of community; but relatively poorly for experience of stress and loneliness.
- Communities in Wellington City self-rated relatively well across all indicators – particularly for the view that Wellington is a great place to live, that cultural diversity makes the city a better place to live, and for community safety.

Table 28: Quality of Life Project indicators across participating areas of the WCT region (Quality of Life Project, 2018)

	People who believe their quality of life is good (extremely good, very good or good)	People who perceived the local area as a great place to live (strongly agree or agree)	People who feel a sense of community (agree or strongly agree)	People who feel cultural diversity makes the area a better place to live (better or much better place)
8 City total	84%	79%	52%	58%
Porirua City	82%	72%	59%	58%
Lower Hutt City	89%	81%	58%	57%
Wellington City	89%	94%	54%	77%
	People with access to support in times of need (definitely or probably)	People who feel safe after dark (very or fairly safe)	People who felt lonely or isolated in the last 12 months (sometimes, most of the time or always)	People who have experienced of stress in the last 12-months that has had a negative impact (sometimes, most of the time or always)
8 City total	93%	48%	35%	72%
Porirua City	94%	33%	34%	70%
Lower Hutt City	93%	53%	32%	68%
Wellington City	95%	73%	37%	72%

Table 29 looks at voter participation across general and Māori electorates that cover the WCT region (and in some cases areas outside of the region), as an indicator of civic engagement. Voter participation is lowest in the Māori electorates Te Tai Hauāuru (Kapiti Coast and Porirua), Ikaroa-Rāwhiti (Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt – but also covering Wairarapa outside of the WCT region) and Te Tai Tonga (Wellington City – but also covering the South Island). Participation is also lower than the national average in Porirua, Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt; but higher across Wellington City.

Table 29: Voter participation in the 2017 general election across the WCT region by General and Māori electorates (Indicators Aotearoa NZ, 2019)

Electorates	Voter participation 2017
Ōtaki (Kapiti Coast)	84%
Te Tai Hauāuru (Māori electorate - Kapiti Coast, Porirua)	69%
Mana (Porirua)	82%
Rimutaka (Upper Hutt)	82%
Hutt South (Lower Hutt)	83%
Ikaroa-Rāwhiti (Māori electorate – Wairarapa, Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt)	68%
Ōhāriu (Wellington City)	85%
Rongotai (Wellington City)	85%
Wellington Central (Wellington City)	86%
Te Tai Tonga (Māori electorate - Wellington City, South Island)	71%

## 3.8 Environment

It is difficult to find detailed environmental data published by region or by local authority in New Zealand. Most regional data is published by Regional Councils via 'State of the Environment' reports – and these are updated infrequently.

Wellington Regional Council's 'State of the Environment' report (2012) provides an overview of some key environmental indicators in the WCT region. Air quality in the region is good 'most of the time' in Wellington, Porirua and Kapiti due to their coastal environments. Air quality can sometimes be lower in Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt due to their locations and the common use of domestic fires during cold weather. Dairying and vegetable growing in the Regional Council area is having a negative impact on soil quality.

Data from Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) shows the current water quality of rivers, lakes and beaches in the WCT region is a significant issue, with only six [monitored sites](#) suitable for swimming (all in central Wellington); whilst nine monitored sites have caution advised for swimming (all central Wellington) and 57 monitored sites are unsuitable for swimming (LAWA, 2020).

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