Research Note on Experiences and Attitudes Going Forward with and Beyond Omicron (July)

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Abstract

The attitudinal base of support for the current Covid strategy in NZ is assessed using current and recent survey data – covering attitudes and reports in relation to switching to the traffic light system, vaccination, border-opening, Covid-management issues and the various feelings and views in coping with Omicron. Evidence is compiled, too, on attitudes towards any resetting of New Zealand's Covid-19 regime and possible pivots to alternatives. As NZ develops its way of dealing with the Omicron variant, the attitudinal and behavioural concomitants can be traced based on longitudinal surveys.

Keywords: New Zealand, Auckland, Covid-19, Omicron, lockdowns. Border, mask-wearing, social distancing, stress, economic difficulties, surveys, survey series

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1 Introduction

The array of surveys tracking people's attitudes and behaviours in relation to Covid is gradually fading with only a couple of survey operations still in play. Nevertheless a range of further information is available. Earlier reports are Crothers (2022 and 2021). Although material reported in Crothers 2022 is not repeated here (unless updated) much of the material relates to 2021 data and is not confined to mid-2022 updates.

In summarising each study, some have been converted into tables while for others summaries provided have been included: lightly rewritten. For most available data-sets far more analysis is required.

Of long-running time series both Perceptive (with a further mid-March round added to two 2022 rounds) and NZTA/Waka Kotahi (with March and May rounds) added to their series. NZTA are scheduled to carry out some further 2 rounds of their survey in two waves booked for October 22 and May, 2023. (NZTA have also provided extensive time series and cross-tabulations of these, available for download: see questions in appendix.) HPA had carried out a late 2021 survey round. HPA also carried out a third round in 2021.

However, even as fresh fieldwork data becomes unavailable, various more regular institutionalised surveys have included sections dealing with Covid: e.g. several local authority surveys have included useful data re Covid. Meanwhile studies which collected data in earlier periods of the Covid stretch are now publishing their work. There are many opportunities for 'before/after' studies with appropriate survey series. In addition, polls were carried out by Horizon, Research NZ, VUW, CPAG, Arts, Kea etc.

Further developments re Covid have occurred which could indicate research requirements. These include

- Opening boarders
- Switching to colour system of control
- Easing of mask and crowding rules.

2 Unobtrusive Measures Studies

2.1 Covid Disinformation Project. Covid19 Disinformation in Aotearoa has escalated since Delta outbreak. Hannah et al (2021)

The Disinformation Project, a collaboration between Te Pūnaha Matatini, the department of physics at the University of Auckland and the Centre for Science in Society, Te Herenga Waka, has been monitoring misinformation and disinformation about Covid-19 and the vaccine since February 2020. The research analyses large volumes of data on a range of platforms from Telegram to Facebook and Instagram.

Conspiracy theories about Covid-19 have dramatically escalated since Delta arrived in New Zealand in late August. This has included the seed and spread of 'dangerous speech', hateful expression, and criminal behaviour and it is by order of magnitude more than the content speed and spread over 2020, and the first half of 2021. There was a shift from vaccine hesitancy to vaccine resistance among the core groups. Moreover, the recent Covid-19 outbreak and the roll-out of the Pfizer vaccine were used as symbols to push various far-Right and conservative views from gun control, rural land rights and 1080, Māori Sovereignty land rights, "free speech", abortion, euthanasia and cannabis law reform. Memes were used extensively, offering strong in-group identity markers and providing the opportunity to make fun of out-group members – either the vaccinated or the state. This content ranges from humorous re-purposing of known memes to explicit sexist and racist content, imagery of death and execution, and historic imagery from the Holocaust, the Cold War, and other violent or extremist events. those most active in spreading mis- and disinformation were targeting and scapegoating already marginalised or vulnerable communities – for whom distrust of the state is the result of intergenerational trauma and lived experience of discrimination or harm. Much of the content which framed the Covid-19 response as a fight between the individual and state had been repackaged from US and Australia sources.

3 Polls
3.1 Polls on Direction of Country

Table 3.1

Date	Polling organisation	Sample size	Right direction	Wrong direction	Do not know	Lead
0 May – 26 Jun 2022	Roy Morgan	947	39	**51.5**	9.5	**12.5**
1–12 Jun 2022	Taxpayers' Union–Curia	1,200	36	**50**	14	**14**
2–10 Jun 2022	Talbot Mills	1,200	**50**	42	8	**8**
26 Apr – 22 May 2022	Roy Morgan	934	40	**50**	10	**10**
4–11 May 2022	Taxpayers' Union–Curia	1,000	34	**48**	18	**14**
29 Apr – 10 May 2022	Talbot Mills		**51**	40	9	**11**
28 Mar – 24 Apr 2022	Roy Morgan	913	43	**49.5**	7.5	**6.5**
28 Feb – 27 Mar 2022	Roy Morgan	944	39	**51.5**	9.5	**12.5**
31 Jan – 27 Feb 2022	Roy Morgan	963	42.5	**47.5**	10	**5**

Source: Wikipedia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opinion_polling_for_the_next_New_Zealand_general_election#Forecasts

3.2 IPSOS Most Important Concerns

From 16th to 22nd May, Ipsos conducted fieldwork for their 17th Ipsos NZ Issues Monitor report (n=1,000, aged 18 and older).

Economic issues have become more severe in 2022 while concern with housing lowered mid-year while concern with crime increased. The level of many concerns remains quite constant. Rating of government performance is steadily falling.

Table 3.2 MIP

Month	Year	Housing	Poverty/Inequality	Healthcare/hospitals	Inflation/COL	Crime/law & order	Climate chg concern	En pollution/water concerns	Economy	Unemployment	Petrol prices	drug/alcohol abuse	immigration	trans/infrastructure	hh/pers debt
jul	17	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
sep	17	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
feb	18	41	29	27	22	24	16	13	11	12	8	.	.	.	.
jul	18	50	32	31	26	24	13	17	9	10	16	.	.	.	.
oct	18	45	24	25	29	18	14	12	13	8	31	.	.	.	.
mar	19	49	24	29	26	21	20	16	11	7	11	.	.	.	.
apr	19	41	30	25	28	25	20	13	12	7	11	.	.	.	.
jul	19	42	28	29	24	20	20	17	14	8	14	.	.	.	.
nov	19	42	29	25	25	23	22	20	12	9	12	.	.	.	.
mar	20	49	30	30	25	25	.20	.13	13	8	13	.	.	.	.
apr	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
may	20	33	24	25	23	12	.16	.13	47	41	6	.	.	.	.
jun	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
jly	20	34	26	27	23	16	.13	.14	40	31	7	.	.	.	.
sep	20	37	27	27	22	16	.18	.13	42	27	4	.	.	.	.
nov	20	53	31	26	23	14	.18	.12	34	21	4	.	.	.	.
feb	21	60	28	23	24	16	.21	.13	23	14	8	.	.	.	.
jly	21	53	26	27	27	21	.18	.12	22	11	7	.	.	.	.
oct	21	54	26	35	31	24	23	12	23	7	10	.	.	.	.

oct	21	54	23	28	34	24	19	11	26	.	11	9	9	9	9
feb	22	51	20	27	53	19	16	9	24	5	25	7	5	7	7
May	22	37	22	29	56	26	18	8	23		28				

Table 3.3 Ipsos Rating of Government Performance

Month	*Year*	*Govt performance-ave (Rating)*	*GP:Top*	*Neutral*	*Bottom*	*DK*
jy	17	4.90	26	47	26	.
sep	17	5.00	31	41	30	.
jul	18	5.40	38	36	22	4
oct	18	5.70	42	35	20	4
mar	19	5.50	41	32	23	4
apr	19	6.60	60	24	12	4
jul	19	5.70	43	34	19	4
nov	19	5.70	44	35	18	4
mar	20	5.80	45	34	18	4
may	20	7.60	75	17	6	2
jly	20	7.30	72	17	8	3
sep	20	7.20	70	19	9	2
nov	20	7.30	70	18	8	4
feb	21	6.80	63	23	10	3
jly	21	6.10	58	24	16	3
oct	21	6.20	54	25	18	2
feb	22	5.70	48	27	24	2
May	22	5.30	42	29	28	1

3.3 Horizon: Nearly a quarter of adults planning overseas holidays https://horizonpoll.co.nz/page/643/nearly-a-quarte.

A Horizon survey (April, 2022, n =978) found that 23% of adults are planning an overseas holiday in the next 12 months, with Around 76,900 saying they'll go in May, with September the peak month and 28% unsure of timing. 28% of each of the 25-34, 55-64 and 65-74 year-old age groups intend to holiday overseas, with only 16% of those are aged 35-44 years (presumably because of pressures from mortgages, children and work obligations). Regional proportions include 29% for those in the Auckland region, 28% in Wellington and 24% in Canterbury.

3.4 Research NZ (2022) New Zealand borders to open to all
https://researchnz.com/assets/resources/NZBorders2022.pdf

RNZ surveyed 1,009 respondents 12-16 May 2022 (aged 18 years and over, sourced from Dynata, and conducted online. The maximum margin of error is +/- 3.3% (at the 95% confidence level). The sample has been weighted.) This was after Prime Minister Ardern announced that New Zealand's borders would fully reopen (including to cruise ships and international students) on 31 July 2022. The survey covers attitudes to the timing of the re-opening of borders, and the reasons why they felt this way.

There is strong agreement with reopening of the borders. Reasons given in support of the reopening of the borders are largely economic.

Table 3.4 Opening Borders

It's too early to fully reopen the border	17
The timing is right	30
The borders should have been fully reopened already	28
It doesn't matter to me when the border fully reopens	17
DK	8
Reasons	
Help with the recovery of the New Zealand economy and local businesses (e.g. tourism and hospitality)	51
Help us get our lives back to 'normal'	43
Help relieve New Zealand's skills and supply shortages	41
Make it easier and cheaper to travel and to see friends/family from different parts of the world	30
Result in an increase in the number of Covid cases and our health system may not be able to cope	28
Put vulnerable people at even greater risk of getting Covid	27
Make no difference to me	19
Result in more competition for housing and jobs	18
None of the above.	3

Respondents who considered it too early to fully reopen were more likely to indicate it could result in an increase in the number of Covid cases and our health system may not be able to cope (72%) and put vulnerable people at even greater risk of getting Covid (72%).

All demographic groups based on age, gender and region are in favour of the borders reopening on 31 July (or earlier), although.
- males, younger and North Island (mostly Auckland) are more in favour
Economic reasons and getting back to normality are the most frequently mentioned reasons in favour of the reopening of the borders on 31 July.

Males were more likely to state that the borders 'should have been fully reopened already' (32% and 24% respectively) while Females were more likely than males to state that 'it's too early' (20% and 14% respectively). Younger respondents (18-34) , were more likely to state that the timing 'is right' or that the borders 'should have been fully reopened already' (36%

and 33% respectively) compared with older respondents, aged 55+ (23% and 25% respectively). Respondents in the Upper North Island (mostly Auckland) were significantly more likely to state that the timing 'is right' (e.g. 25% for respondents in the South Island).

4 Ongoing Surveys

4.1 QOL Survey

http://www.qualityoflifeproject.govt.nz/pdfs/QoL-8-City-Topline-FINAL-Interactive-PDF-2020.pdf

The 2020 QOL round from (23 September- 29 November 2020) included several questions on Covid effects:

- QOL over previous 12 months
- Impact of Covid-19 on transport use.
- Impact of COVID-19 on work/financial situation
- Working from home before Covid-19
- Working from home in the future.

Communications to potential respondents acknowledged the impact of COVID-19, but asked respondents to try and consider the previous 12 months as a whole when answering questions.

There were 6930 respondents (aged 18 years and over). The sample design, was a target of n=2500 was set for Auckland and n=500 for the other cities (Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Porirua, Hutt, Christchurch, Dunedin and Wellington Region). An online method was used for respondents aged under 35 years, while a mixed method was used (online and paper) for those 35 years and over. Respondents aged 35 years+ were encouraged to complete the survey online in the first instance and were later offered the option of completing a paper questionnaire. The New Zealand electoral roll was used as the primary sampling frame. Initiatives to help ensure a robust and representative sample, inclusive of demographic groups traditionally less likely to be represented in surveys, included oversampling:

• Mesh blocks with higher proportions of Asian and Pacific residents
• Individuals flagged on the electoral roll as of Māori descent.

Some respondents from harder-to-reach groups, who had participated in 2018 and who had agreed to be re-contacted, were invited to participate in 2020. Specific initiatives were developed to encourage younger residents to take part (e.g. targeted communications, prize draws). 76% completed the survey online, 24% on paper. The overall response rate for the eight cities is 23%.

2020 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fieldwork was originally scheduled for April - May 2020, but was delayed as New Zealand moved into alert level 2 then alert level 4 at the end of March. Fieldwork finally took place between 23 September - 29 November, not long after alert levels had been raised for the second time.

Just under a quarter of respondents living in the eight cities felt their quality of life had increased over the past year, while just over a quarter feel it has decreased. Compared with

2018, the proportion who feel their quality of life has decreased over the past year is significantly higher (doubling from 13% in 2018 to 27% in 2020). Those indicated bettering were asked to describe in their own words why this was so. Their responses were coded into themes (comments could be coded across more than one theme). Most common explanations relate to work (39%), financial wellbeing (38%), relationships (30%), health and wellbeing (25%) and lifestyle (24%). 10% specifically mentioned a benefit related to COVID-19 in their response (e.g. good work/life balance, flexibility to work/ study online from home). Over half (54%) of these respondents experiencing lowered QOL specifically mentioned an issue contributed to by COVID-19 in their response (e.g. lost job due to COVID-19).

Forty-two % feel that their use of a private vehicle has changed, with 28% indicating they use this form of transport more often than before COVID-19 and 14% indicating they use it less often. Public transport is used less often by 22%, while 20% use walking more as a form of transport. Six % are using cycling more often as a form of transport and 3% are using it less often. Public transport is being used less often by 22%, with 4% using this form of transport more often.

As a result of COVID-19, a quarter of respondents say they have lost a source of income, had their income reduced or been made redundant, while Five % have experienced an increase in income. Job security has decreased for 19%, while for 7% it has increased. Additional work pressures have been placed on 21%.

Prior to COVID-19, working from home was not an option for 45% of respondents in paid employment, because of the type of work they do. A third of respondents in paid employment worked from home, 24% some of the time and 10% all the time Six in 10 (62%) respondents in paid employment and in the types of jobs where working from home is possible, indicate that they expect to work more from home in the future than they did in the past.

Table 4.1 QOL 2020

Item	*%*
Q4. And compared to 12 months ago, would you say your quality of life has...	
1 – Decreased significantly	4
2 – Decreased to some extent	19
3 – Stayed about the same	50
4 –Increased to some extent	24
5 – Increased significantly	4
Impact of COVID-19 on work/financial situation	
My income has been temporarily reduced	16
My income has been permanently reduced	6
I have lost a source of income through something other than redundancy (e.g. the business closed down)	5
I have been made redundant (e.g. due to staff or other resourcing cuts)	3
here have been additional work pressures placed on my role (e.g. due to staff or other resourcing cuts)	21
My job security has reduced	19

I am working longer hours	14
I am working fewer hours	10
My job security has improved	7
My income has been increased	5
I have changed employers	4
None of the above	41
Working from home before Covid-19 – 8-city total (%)	
not an option to work from home, due to the type of work I do	45
Yes, and I did work from home occasionally/some of the time	24
Yes, and I did work from home all the time	10
Yes, but my employer didn't allow it	10
Yes, but I chose not to	8
Working from home in the future	
I expect no change in the future	31
I expect to work a bit more from home in the future	37
I expect to work a lot more from home in the future	20
I expect to work exclusively from home in the future	5
I expect to work less from home than before COVID-19 in the future	3

4.2 Perceptive Covid Tracker

A March round was added. Most views remain stable but the last month showed some up-ticks and a few differences have opened up between NZ and Auckland respondents.

Table 4-2	NZ	NZ	NZ	NZ	NZ	Auckld	Auckld	Auckld	Auckld	Aucld
Labels	Dec 2021	Jan 22	Feb 13	Feb 22	March 22	Dec 2021	Jan 22	Feb 13	Feb 22	Arch 22
n	1007	985	1044	1016	1007	392	363	395	369	364
month	12	1	2	2	3	12	1	2	2	3
date	4	28	13	22	16	4	28	13	22	16
Feeling	.	.	.			.	.	.		
Loving	53	56	53	51	52	53	53	51	50	53
Happy	55	55	56	52	53	54	53	57	51	54
Positive	54	53	55	51	50	54	52	54	52	53
Content	44	51	48	47	47	43	47	47	44	49
Stressed	25	25	25	27	29	29	25	25	26	26
Joyful	37	40	37	35	40	35	39	37	36	42
Scared	13	10	9	8	12	19	12	10	8	13
Sad	17	15	16	15	17	21	18	15	15	17
Negative	19	17	17	16	17	26	20	19	16	18
Angry	16	13	13	13	15	21	16	13	13	14
	.	.	.			.	.	.		

Concern (high)	47	41	38	38	38	54	45	48	45	47
Negative impact..	.	.	.			.	.	.		
Other NZers H&WB	70	73	72	74	76	77	73	72	78	78
Globally Health & WB	79	81	81	81	82	83	80	81	82	82
International businesses	78	79	79	81	84	84	79	79	83	87
Local businesses	78	81	82	86	86	88	82	85	86	89
My children's education	31	25	28	27	26	44	34	37	32	36
My friends/families health	51	50	49	54	55	60	53	54	59	61
My ff mental health	54	52	51	54	54	66	58	60	59	60
My health	43	40	43	44	46	53	44	51	49	55
My mental health	45	43	44	46	43	58	51	52	52	51
My/your family's financial situation	46	45	45	49	53	57	50	52	54	62
The global economy	81	82	83	85	87	85	82	84	83	90
NZ economy	77	80	82	85	85	84	79	84	86	88
NZ healthcare system	76	79	78	81	81	82	77	78	80	83
INFORMATION: Government	.	.	.			.	.	.		
I receive a lot but this is necessary	59	53	57	56	53	59	53	62	57	56
I receive a lot of information & feeling overwhelmed	28	29	27	25	27	27	28	25	24	25
I feel I'm not getting enough	9	13	11	13	12	11	14	9	13	12
I am not getting any and prefer this	4	5	5	6	8	4	6	4	6	7
Media	.	.	.			.	.	.		
I receive a lot but this is necessary	54	46	49	47	48	58	51	56	52	55
I receive a lot of information & feeling overwhelmed	34	39	37	37	35	30	34	34	34	29
I feel I'm not getting enough	7	9	9	9	9	8	9	7	8	10
I am not getting any and prefer this	5	6	5	7	8	4	5	4	7	6
Government Performance	.	.	.			.	.	.		
Yes: the government doing as much as it can	51	43	48	45	44	51	42	48	40	44
Yes but should do more	28	31	31	29	23	28	32	31	36	24
No, not enough	15	20	29	17	20	17	20	15	18	22
Don't know/prefer not answer	6	6	17	7	12	4	7	6	5	11

4.3 Health Promotion Agency (2022) Impact of COVID-19 August/September 2021 Topline results – Wave 3 January 2022
https://www.hpa.org.nz/research-library/research-publications/impact-of-covid-19-august-september-2021-topline-results-%E2%80%93-wave-3

This report contains topline survey results for Te Hiringa Hauora 'Impact of COVID-19 August/September 2021' Survey. This is the third survey in a series of three about New Zealanders' habits and behaviours in and around the COVID-19 lockdown periods since April 2020. People were specifically asked about their use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping and gambling.

Results are based on a sample of n=1,401 (unless otherwise stated), including an intentional over-sample of Māori (target sample: n=350; actual: n=396) and Pacific peoples (target sample: n=250; actual: n=229). The sample was sourced by NielsenIQ from external NielsenIQ panel partners. Field work was August-Sept 2021

Results: Alcohol
■ Among those who drank alcohol in the last 4 weeks, 22% reported drinking more than usual during the August 2021 lockdown - This was a similar proportion to the April 2020 lockdown.
■ Among these 23% reported drinking less than usual - fewer than reported in the April 2020 lockdown (34%).
■ 33% reported experiencing harm from their own drinking (33%) and 22% from a household member's drinking (22%).
■ A larger proportion bought alcohol online (29%) during lockdown when compared to April 2020 (17%). [Among online shoppers, 90% reported that it was easy to order alcohol online. The most commonly reported purchase mode was through a shop website (88%).]
■ Participants reported noticing alcohol advertising in a wide variety of modes – the most common being television (including online streaming services), the internet (website, blogs) and social media.
Smoking
■ Half of smokers (47%) reported smoking at the same level they did before the August 2021 lockdown. Almost a quarter of smokers (23%) reported smoking more than usual, and a quarter (26%) reported smoking less than usual. These are similar proportions to the April 2020 lockdown.
■ Among smokers who reported smoking less, 27% identified the August 2021 lockdown as an opportunity to reduce their smoking. Financial and physical health were other frequently chosen reasons for smoking less.
■ More smokers started to worry about their smoking during the August 2021 lockdown (60% compared to 46% in April 2020).
Vaping
■ During the August 2021 lockdown, half of vapers (50%) reported vaping at the same level they did before the August 2021 lockdown, 28% less than usual (28%), and 18% more.
■ The most common reason given for vaping less was not being able to or want to socialise. Boredom and needing help to relax were the most frequently chosen reasons for vaping more.
■ 8% of vapers first tried an e-cigarette/vaping device during the August 2021 lockdown.

Gambling
■ Across all types of gambling, fewer people said they gambled during August 2021 lockdown compared to before lockdown.
■ More online gamblers used NZ TAB during August 2021 lockdown (26%, which is higher than 19% in the April 2020 lockdown). More online gamblers reported buying Instant Kiwi (23%, which is higher than 16% in the April 2020 lockdown).
Mental health and wellbeing
■ A smaller proportion of respondents (77%) reported one or more positive experiences since the August 2021 lockdown began compared with April 2020 (87%). The most common positive experiences were spending more time together with family and friends (39%) and having more time for other activities (37%).

4.4 Statistics NZ: Wellbeing Statistics 4–11 Feb, 2022

In the June 2020-March 2021 quarters SNZ included a selection of wellbeing questions as part of a supplement to the household labour force survey (HLFS N=7115). Data collection started after the COVID-19 alert level 4 lockdown and limited data was collected during alert level 3. The general social survey (GSS) provides the official source of wellbeing data in New Zealand and was previously collected over April 2018 to March 2019, so comparisons with the 2018 GSS can be made, but some caution should be used due to differences in methodology: see Wellbeing statistics: June 2020 quarter | Stats NZ for more detail.

Table 4.3

Item	*HLFS 2020*	*GSS 2018*
rate how worthwhile they found the things they do in their lives (on a 0-10 scale, where 0 is not at all worthwhile and 10 is completely worthwhile)	8.2	8.1
Not felt lonely at any time[1]		
felt lonely most or all of the time	3.8	
overall health 'excellent'	18%	16%
On Mental Health Index, poor mental wellbeing	18	23
received help in the form of food, clothes, or money from an organisation, such as a church or a foodbank at least once in the previous year[2]	4.3	NA
how much they trust most people in New Zealand, (on a scale of 0–10, where 0 is not at all and 10 is completely)	(72%) 7.0	(66%) 6.8
trust in the police	8.1	7.9
trust in the health system	7.4	6.9
trust in parliament	6.6	5.6
trust in the media	5.0	4.8
experienced discrimination in the previous 12 months	17%	17%.

[1] 62% of men and 50+% of women
[2] Of those who received this form of help, 59 % did so more than once in the 12-month period.

SNZ: Wellbeing statistics: June 2020 quarter and GSS 2021
https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/wellbeing-statistics-june-2020-quarter

https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/wellbeing-statistics-2021

One particularly important question concerns the characteristics of households requiring recourse to foodbanks (5.3% overall). These include females, younger, Pacifica and Maori, Northlanders, urbanites, NZers, sole parents (particularly), those experiencing low life satisfactions, the unemployed and those facing likely financial loss.

Table 4.4

Help from organisation such as a church or foodbank in last 12 months: at least once	*%*	*Confidence Interval*
Overall	5.3	0.5
Male	3.9	0.7
Female	6.6	0.7
18–	6.0	1.8
25–	7.7	1.3
35–	6.8	1.3
45–	5.1	1
55–	4.3	1.1
65–	2.7	0.7
75+	1.4	1
Ethnicity Pacific peoples	16.2	3.2
Ethnicity European	3.7	0.5
Ethnicity Māori	15.9	2.2
Ethnicity Asian	2.5	0.9
Northland	7.7	3.4
Auckland	5.8	0.8
Waikato	5.8	1.5
Bay of Plenty	6.0	2.4
Gisborne / Hawke's Bay	5.9	2.6
Taranaki	4.0	2
Manawatu / Whanganui	5.5	2.1
Wellington	4.3	1.4
Nelson/Tasman/Marlborough/West Coast	4.9	1.9
Canterbury	4.5	1.1
Otago	3.3	2.2
Southland	3.3	2
Urban	5.5	0.5
Rural	3.6	1.5
Recent migrant	3.7	2.7
Born in NZ	5.9	0.6
Long-term migrant	3.9	0.7
Father in two-parent family	4.0	1.3
Sole parent	27.3	3.5
Mother in two-parent family	6.8	1.7
Not parent dependent child,	4.2	0.7
Not parent dependent child,	3.4	0.8
Over Life Satisfaction 0-6	13.5	2.1

OLS 7	6.2	1.2
OLS 8	4.0	0.7
OLS 9	1.8	0.7
OLS 10	3.9	1.1
OLS Mean	6.9	0.2
Employed - Total	3.1	0.4
Employed - Full-time	2.5	0.5
Employed - Part-time	5.7	1.5
Unemployed	18.9	5.1
Not in labour force -Caring	19.8	3.7
Not in labour force –Study	11.3	5.7
Not in labour force -Own ill	21.5	5.8
Not in labour force –Retired	1.7	0.7
Not in labour force –Other	15.7	3.4
Not in labour force -Total	9.4	1.2
Potential labour force	14.4	4.8
Underemployed	9.7	3.9
Unemployed	18.9	5.1
Total underutilised	14.5	2.6
SIE Self-employed no employee	2.3	1
SIE Employer	1.8	1.4
Job/business loss low chance	2.3	0.7
Job/business loss Almost certain	7.1	3.6
Job/business loss medium chance	6.3	1.6
Job/business loss almost no chance	2.2	0.6
Job/business loss Don't know	9.2	6.8
Worked all hours outside home	3.8	0.7
Worked all hours from home	2.2	1.1
Worked some hours from home	2.0	1
Employed but worked no hours	2.6	1.1
Worked less hours	4.0	1.4
Worked more hours	4.0	1.7
Worked same hours	2.9	0.6
Employed worked 0 hrs	2.6	1.1

Due to the first nationwide Covid-19 pandemic lockdown in March 2020, face-to-face interviewing for the GSS 2020 data collection (due to begin in April 2020, and end in March 2021) was delayed by a full year (until April 2021), following consultation with stakeholders. Data collection for GSS 2021 (formerly GSS 2020), began on 1 April 2021. However, a second nationwide lockdown began in August 2021, during the Delta variant outbreak, suspending face-to-face interviewing for a second time. Collection stopped on 17 August, meaning the collection period for GSS 2021 was around four and a half months. This meant the sample size for GSS 2021 was significantly smaller than for previous collections: n=3,484.

Results of the comparison with 2018 include:

- Most people in New Zealand still satisfied with their lives
- Most people optimistic for the future

- Life worthwhile unchanged from 2018
- Most families doing well
- More people say they have enough money to meet their needs
- People still rate their general health well-being
- Mental wellbeing has declined
- How affordable people found their housing remained unchanged in 2021
- Majority of people still feel safe at night home alone
- Increases in loneliness and contact with family
- Decrease in peoples' high trust of others
- People becoming more accepting of mental illness.

Table 4.5	*2021*	*2018*
rated overall life satisfaction at 7 or above on a 0 to 10 scale (where 0 is low and 10 is high)	81 (7.7)	7.1
felt strongly that the things they do in life are worthwhile (9 to 10 on a 0 to 10 scale)	40.8	same.
had enough or more than enough money to meet their everyday needs	67.1	62.8
poor mental wellbeing (based on the WHO-5 wellbeing index)[3]	28.2%	22.3.
affordable of housing remained unchanged in 2021	6.5	same.
House or flat was never colder than they would like	45.4	49.1.
felt safe or very safe using or waiting for public transport at night	49.2	52.9.
experienced discrimination in the previous 12 months	20.9	17.4.
Not felt lonely at all in the previous four weeks	56.6	61.0.
face-to-face contact with family at least once a week in the previous four weeks (63.3 %)	63.3	60.2
non-face-to-face contact with family at least once a week in the previous four weeks	82.8	79.8
face-to-face contact with friends	69.6	73.7.
rated their trust of most people in New Zealand	6.7	same
very high trust in other people (9 to 10)	12.5	15.
Trust for the health system (mean)	6.6	6.9
low trust (0 to 4) in the education system	13.1	9.3

[3]

- 15 to 24-year-olds (up 6.3 %age points)
- 25 to 34-year-olds (up 7.2 %age points)
- 35 to 44-year-olds (up 7.2 %age points) and
- 55 to 64-year-olds (up 7.0 %age points).

4.5 Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency COVID-19 transport impact tracker

waka-kotahi-nzta-covid-19-transport-impact-wave-28-20220614.pdf

The purpose of the COVID-19 Tracker research is:
- To understand how travel is changing and evolving in response to COVID-19 on a regular basis such as trip frequency and journey type changes.
- To understand why travel is changing and evolving in response to COVID-19 on a regular basis such as perceptions/attitudes towards COVID-19 and travel options.
- To include sufficient respondent numbers to understand how this varies across region and cohorts of interest such as different employment types (work from home, essential workers, etc), vulnerable groups (elderly, immune compromised, etc), DHB, etc.
- To provide updates in a timely fashion so actions and planning can respond to the evolving situation.

The general questions are also a valuable addition to the range of information available re Covid. The study is an online quantitative survey that is a nationally representative sample of New Zealanders 15+ years old, with a sample of ~n=1259 per wave, using quotas and data weighting. The Sample is sourced from a blend of online panels, including Pure Profile, Ipsos iSay, Dynata and Consumer Link. Average survey duration of between 12-15 mins. Besides core measures, others are included.

Question areas covered in the research (see also appendix):
-Level of personal concern of the impact of COVID-19 to themselves, their families, their work, the country, etc.
- Current essential journeys and domestic travel undertaken and changes (since February 2020).
- Modal shift patterns and perceptual shifts including perceptions of public transport among users perceptions of various transports modes with regards to safety, hygiene, convenience, etc
- perceptions of potential shifts in work flexibility.
- Measuring attitudinal shifts towards COVID-19 to understand current people's current state to facilitate potential interventions.
- Questions to classify into a variety of segments of interest including journey profile, vulnerability, COVID-19 attitudes, economic, etc.
- Ad hoc questions of interest including perceptions of future workplace flexibility, domestic tourism intentions, intention to return children to school, mask ownership, etc.

The results are complex with most fitting a pattern of sharp change with onset of lockdowns followed by gradual recovery towards pre-lockdown pattern.

Table 4.6a Concerns

Fieldwork Period	N	Year	Covid Level	The risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others	The risk of COVID-19 infection to yourself	he impact COVID-19 will have on the world	People have stopped seeing COVID-19 as a threat and are not following guidelines	The economy of New Zealand in general	our personal financial situation
3Apr -8Apr	1264	2020	L4	71%	70%	92%		85%	60%
9Apr -14Apr	1263	2020	L4	64%	64%	93%		83%	52%
16Apr-20Apr	1232	2020	L4	62%	60%	89%		79%	50%
23Apr -26Apr	1301	2020	L4	57%	53%	90%		80%	50%
30Apr -3May	1267	2020	3	57%	56%	91%		81%	48%
7May -10May	1265	2020	3	53%	54%	90%		83%	51%
14May -17May	1263	2020	2	55%	54%	88%		78%	52%
21May -24May	1264	2020	2	49%	49%	89%		77%	49%
28May -1Jun	1255	2020	2	48%	45%	89%		76%	48%
4Jun -7Jun	1261	2020	2	47%	45%	87%		75%	49%
11Jun-14Jun	1268	2020	1	46%	41%	90%		76%	51%
18Jun -21Jun	1263	2020	1	52%	51%	86%		79%	52%
25Jun -28Jun	1263	2020	1	50%	48%	88%		78%	51%
2Jul -5Jul	1230	2020	1	48%	45%	89%		75%	49%
16Jul -19Jul	1273	2020	1	51%	50%	90%		75%	50%
30Jul -2Aug	1264	2020	1	51%	48%	90%		76%	52%
20Aug -23Aug	1254	2020	2.5	56%	53%	88%		76%	50%
27Aug -30Aug	1201	2020	2.5	57%	55%	88%		79%	51%
3Sep -6Sep	1219	2020	2.2	54%	53%	86%		77%	52%
17Sep -20Sep	1407	2020	2.2	54%	52%	87%		77%	52%
24Sep -27Sep	1253	2020	1.5	54%	50%	87%		77%	52%
15Oct -18Oct	1220	2020	1	47%	45%	86%		73%	48%
12Nov -15Nov	1247	2020	1	54%	51%	85%		69%	49%
4Mar -8Mar	1232	2021	2.5	59%	54%	87%	83%	69%	54%
20May -24May	1259	2021	1	50%	46%	83%	69%	65%	60%
2Sep -6Sep	1261	2021	3.5	58%	54%	84%	72%	68%	52%
10Mar-14Mar	1181	2022	R	69%	59%	78%	68%	75%	50%
26May-31May	1223	2022	O	60%	54%	74%	65%	71%	50%

Table 4.6b Travel Behaviour

Fieldwork Period	I can easily get to the places I need to go (Strongly/ mostly agree)	My regular Routine are disrupted	Leaving the house worries me (Strongly/ mostly disagree)	The risk of losing employment of myself or others in household	At least partially self isolating	Travelling by Public Transport	Travelling to work	Travelling to Education	Taking children to/from school	Shopping for groceries
Precovid						21%	57%	18%	21%	88%
3Apr -8Apr	53%	52%	18%	54%	81%	5%	15%			69%
9Apr -14Apr	55%	49%	19%	52%	84%	6%	15%			69%
16Apr-20Apr	53%	42%	25%	54%	78%	6%	16%			69%
23Apr -26Apr	57%	46%	31%	49%	81%	6%	14%			69%
30Apr -3May	53%	36%	26%	48%	69%	7%	21%	2%	1%	70%
7May -10May	55%	36%	30%	50%	61%	7%	23%	1%	2%	72%
14May -17May	48%	29%	28%	53%	65%	10%	29%	1%	13%	73%
21May -24May	49%	20%	30%	46%	48%	14%	39%	6%	17%	77%
28May -1Jun	55%	16%	38%	48%	44%	14%	41%	10%	18%	79%
4Jun -7Jun	53%	15%	40%	47%	42%	15%	43%	9%	19%	80%
11Jun-14Jun	61%	13%	46%	48%	40%	16%	46%	11%	21%	81%
18Jun -21Jun	56%	13%	40%	50%	21%	19%	48%	11%	18%	80%
25Jun -28Jun	57%	10%	43%	49%	21%	18%	51%	10%	19%	79%
2Jul -5Jul	57%	10%	48%	47%	17%	19%	51%	9%	11%	82%
16Jul -19Jul	56%	10%	43%	48%	17%	17%	48%	11%	17%	82%
30Jul -2Aug	59%	15%	45%	52%	25%	23%	45%	14%	14%	80%
20Aug -23Aug	51%	18%	34%	49%	35%	12%	40%	10%	13%	78%
27Aug -30Aug	58%	19%	35%	47%	33%	12%	43%	9%	17%	78%
3Sep -6Sep	56%	15%	35%	49%	31%	16%	44%	12%	20%	78%
17Sep -20Sep	59%	14%	36%	47%	24%	14%	45%	12%	19%	81%
24Sep -27Sep	60%	11%	42%	49%	21%	13%	48%	13%	20%	84%
15Oct -18Oct	55%	8%	41%	43%	17%	16%	48%	14%	22%	83%
12Nov -15Nov	58%	9%	40%	45%	17%	18%	54%	14%	12%	84%
4Mar -8Mar	62%	16%	39%	46%	31%	13%	45%	9%	19%	78%
20May -24May	66%	8%	51%	42%	15%	22%	51%	15%	1%	82%
2Sep -6Sep	59%	39%	29%	41%	72%	7%	23%	2%	14%	76%
10Mar-14Mar	58%	19%	31%	43%	31%	14%	40%	10%	16%	76%
26May-31May	60%	13%	39%	41%	18%	19%	48	14%	21%	79%

Table 4.6c Trip Purpose and Mode, and at Home

Fieldwork Period	Going to med appt	Travel to support vulnerable friend or family	Mainly out of home	Mainly at home	Pvt car	Public Transport	Active Modes
Precovid	47%	20%	89%	9%	94%	21%	71%
3Apr -8Apr	12%	11%	47%	47%	81%	5%	69%
9Apr -14Apr	14%	9%	51%	47%	83%	6%	68%
16Apr-20Apr	14%	10%	51%	46%	83%	6%	68%
23Apr -26Apr	12%	10%	46%	53%	78%	6%	77%
30Apr -3May	14%	12%	54%	44%	84%	7%	74%
7May -10May	14%	12%	53%	46%	87%	7%	73%
14May -17May	15%	11%	59%	40%	88%	10%	72%
21May -24May	19%	9%	69%	31%	91%	14%	70%
28May -1Jun	18%	12%	72%	27%	93%	14%	67%
4Jun -7Jun	20%	14%	73%	27%	94%	15%	67%
11Jun-14Jun	23%	13%	78%	21%	92%	16%	67%
18Jun -21Jun	25%	12%	78%	20%	92%	19%	67%
25Jun -28Jun	25%	12%	78%	21%	95%	18%	63%
2Jul -5Jul	24%	14%	80%	18%	94%	19%	66%
16Jul -19Jul	28%	14%	78%	22%	95%	17%	68%
30Jul -2Aug	28%	15%	79%	20%	93%	23%	70%
20Aug -23Aug	22%	11%	71%	28%	92%	12%	62%
27Aug -30Aug	21%	11%	76%	23%	91%	12%	69%
3Sep -6Sep	23%	11%	76%	23%	93%	16%	67%
17Sep -20Sep	26%	14%	75%	24%	94%	14%	65%
24Sep -27Sep	27%	14%	76%	23%	94%	13%	67%
15Oct -18Oct	28%	13%	79%	20%	92%	16%	67%
12Nov -15Nov	27%	15%	85%	15%	94%	18%	67%
4Mar -8Mar	21%	10%	80%	19%	91%	13%	64%
20May -24May	34%	15%	85%	14%	94%	22%	69%
2Sep -6Sep	18%	9%	68%	30%	81%	7%	72%
10Mar-14Mar	21%	13%	68%	9%	83%	14%	65%
26May-31May	24%	14%	77%	47%	83%	19%	67%

4.6 State of the Arts Survey February/March 2022 & Tāmaki Makaurau report https://www.tetaumatatoiaiwi.org.nz/covid-19-surveys/

This quarterly survey was conducted in February and March 2022, during ongoing red light Covid restrictions across the country.

Both Tāmaki Makaurau as well as national findings, showed a concerning but unsurprising continued decline of optimism across various metrics; notably financial position, achievement of creative goals and appetite for creative work. While emergency funding support has been administered, there are still a large need for longer term systemic and structural change for the arts, creative and cultural sector to rebuild and thrive. While there is a level of hopeful optimism from respondents, these findings echo the need for a long-term sustainable sector strategy and infrastructure.

Respondents rated their outlook on whether their creative work would support their financial position in the next 12 months, Compared to the September-October survey, pessimism increased from 55% to 65%, and optimism fell from 45% to 32%, indicating a declining trend in optimism since the initial June-July survey. Respondents who expect to take on new staff or contractors had decreased (from 44% to 25%) and those who expect staff or contractor numbers to stay the same or reduce had increased (from 34% to 42% and 11% to 19% respectively). Respondents rated their outlook on whether they would achieve their own or their organisations' creative goals in the next 12 months (from 1 meaning very pessimistic to 6 meaning very optimistic) - Compared to the September-October survey, pessimism increased from 41% to 50%, and optimism fell from 57% to 49%. Again, this indicates a declining trend in optimism since the initial June-July survey.

39% reported less audience appetite being less than usual, 26% that it was the more than usual and 22% that it was the same. This is slightly lower than previously.

Respondents shared the things they were most worried about in 2022 in relation to their creative work or the work of their organisations, which were:

- The impacts of the pandemic on their creative work and/or the creative sector more broadly.
- Whether they would have enough money to live on and/or whether their organisations or businesses would survive.
- The extent to which there was enough financial support for the creative sector and about how funding was allocated.
- The impacts of COVID-19 restrictions such as limits on audience numbers, border restrictions, vaccination mandates and passes as well as worries about keeping themselves and others safe.
- The ability to connect with audiences and potential buyers of creative work. Some were worried that audiences won't return and that low visitor numbers meant few purchasers of art and other creative works.
- Systemic issues such as which groups are in decision-making positions in the creative sector and the design of funding structures.

- How the stress of the pandemic was impacting on their well-being, particularly mental well-being, and of others around them.
- = Other themes included: the loss of skilled people from the creative sector as many people were leaving the industry; the lack of value placed on the creative sector; the difficulty with trying to develop a career in the creative sector; increased inequities where privileged groups do well in the current environment and others remain excluded from participating and venues closing.

Respondents shared the things they were feeling most positive about in 2022 in relation to their creative work or the work of their organisation, which were:

- Their creative practice and/or their ability to at least do some work.
- Audience enthusiasm for the creative industries including enthusiasm for Mātauranga Māori, international interest and potentially pent-up market demand for the arts.
- Having the time and space to develop new works, explore ideas or study.
- The lifting of COVID-19 related restrictions, for example, after the Omicron wave and returning to normal.
- The resilience of creative people and the sector. The potential for innovation and creativity and the creative sectors' role to engage with diverse communities.
- The financial and government support they had received and their ability to keep creating.
- Other themes included: the intrinsic value of artists and creative activities; the opportunities created by digital platforms; the move towards indigenous frameworks and valuing Te Ao Māori and any opportunities for performing.

5 Studies
5.1 CAP

McAllister el (2021) provide an extensive review of data relating to the first year of Covid for low-income children.

5.2 VUW: Survey on experiences of people who had COVID-19

More support needed for people with COVID-19, preliminary survey results show
Wednesday 13 April 2022
https://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/article/undoctored/more-support-needed-people-covid-19-preliminary-survey-results-show.
The "Impacts of COVID-19 in Aotearoa—Ngā Kawekawe o Mate Korona" study was launched by Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington in February, 2020. The study is investigating the experiences of people who had COVID-19 before 1 December 2021. Nearly 900 people have participated in the research up to April, 2022 when the survey data-collection will end, with 400 completing a series of four surveys about their experience of the illness. To add to information about people's experience, qualitative data will also be collected through interviews with up to 75 participants.

Many people who have caught COVID-19 feel they did not get the healthcare needed to cope with the illness, preliminary results show 40 % seeing their doctor four or more times. Many respondents also reported needing better access to mental health support with Twenty-nine % saying they did not get mental health support but would have found this useful. Women were twice as likely as men to say this would have helped.

A significant proportion of respondents provided suggestions for other services that would have been useful while they were ill. These suggestions included:
• delivery of food parcels (21 % of respondents)
• help with collecting prescriptions (18 %)
• help with accommodation (14 %)
• support to keep working (12 %)
• help with applying for Work and Income support (11 %)
• childcare assistance (6 %).

5.3 Kea: Exploring Kiwi Survey https://keanewzealand.com/exploring-kiwi-survey/

Kea is surveying the needs of Kiwi leaving New Zealand and how Kea can best support them to grow their offshore networks and stay connected to Aotearoa. The survey is intended for anyone who has left New Zealand recently or who is intending to leave in the next year. Please feel free to share the survey with family, friends or colleagues by sharing this page. Mid-2021 Kea released the *Kea Future Aspirations report* on views of returning NZers**.**
https://keanewzealand.com/fas-kiwi-remain-keen-to-contribute/

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McAllister, Janet; Caitlin Neuwelt-Kearns, Leah Bain, Nikki Turner, Donna Wynd (2021) The first year of Covid-19: Initial outcomes of our collective care for low-income children in Aotearoa New Zealand CPAG
CPAG_2021_1st_year_of_Covid_Initial_outcomes_of_our_collective_care_for_low_income_children_in_Aotearoa_NZ.pdf June 2021.

Appendix: NZTA Questions

Nb: not all are asked in each round, and there may be further ad hoc questions.

https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/covid-19-impacts-on-transport

QAGE. Age group (5 years)
QGENDER. Respondent Gender
QPTUSE3. Concern segmentation
= The risk of COVID-19 infection to yourself
- The risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others
- Your personal financial situation
- The economy of New Zealand in general
- The risk of losing employment of myself or others in household
- Managing living at home through the current COVID-19 lockdown period
- The behaviour of others in my immediate neighbourhood during the lockdown
- The behaviour of others in the wider community during the lock down
- The impact COVID-19 will have on the world
- The risk of any additional cluster/new COVID-19 outbreak in my region
- The risk of additional COVID-19 cluster outbreaks in New Zealand
ISO_1_TRAVEL. Travel behaviour segmentation
Transport Modes: usual/current journeys
QMODE1_1 Travelling to work
QMODE1_2 Travelling to a place of education (school, university, library etc.)
QMODE1_3 Going to a medical appointment
QMODE1_4 Shopping for groceries
QMODE1_7 Travel to support vulnerable friend or family (e.g. deliver groceries, take them to healthcare appointments etc.)
QMODE1_8 Taking children to/from school
QFREQ1. Usual mode QFREQ1_1 Walk of more than 10 minutes (includes wheelchair, mobility scooter)
QFREQ1_2 Bicycle including E bike
QFREQ1_3 Bus
QFREQ1_4 Train
QFREQ1_5 Ferry
QFREQ1_6 Taxi/ Uber
QFREQ1_7 Car, van etc.
QFREQ1_8 Motorcycle, motor scooter etc.
Mode Images
QFREQ1_9 Flying by plane
QPTIMAGE_1 Is safe
QPTIMAGE_2 Is hygienic
QPTIMAGE_3 Is convenient
QPTIMAGE_4 Can get me to where I need to go
QPTIMAGE_5 Let's me travel the way I want to travel
QPTIMAGE_6 Is affordable
QPTIMAGE_7 Is reliable
QPTIMAGE_8 Allows me to keep my distance from others
QPTIMAGE_6 Is affordable

QPTIMAGE_7 Is reliable
ATTITUDINAL BATTERY_1
- I feel confident I know what travel restrictions are in place when it comes to leaving the house
- I am personally very committed to following current travel/movement restrictions
- I don't feel able to get where I need to go
- I am not the type of person who would take a trip that is discouraged under the current alert level
- Leaving the house worries me
- At the moment it's very hard to work out how to get to the places I need to go
- My daily travel routines are disrupted at the moment
- Making changes to the way we get around will reduce the impact of COVID-19 on NZ
- I trust my own judgement when it comes to deciding when I go out and where I go
- I can easily get to the places I need to go
- New Zealanders are looking out for each other by following current restrictions on travel/movement
- Most people are following the guidance around what journeys they can take
- I worry about how I'm going to get the things I need
- The media has exaggerated the extent of the coronavirus or COVID-19 outbreak
- The COVID-19 outbreak will have a financial impact on me and my family
- I travel very differently in the winter to the way I do in the summer
- Most people are following guidance around not leaving the house and travelling around if they display COVID-19 like symptoms
- I was able to adjust better to travel restrictions and get the things I need than I was following the first outbreak of COVID-19
Work
Usual working status
Usual work site
Current work status
Current work site
Social Background
QAREA. Urbanity
QHH1. Household composition
QHH2. Household size
QWSS. Washington Disability Definition – e.g. QWSS_1 Do you have any difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
QVULN. COVID-19 Vulnerability
- QVULN_2 Aged 70+ years
- QVULN_3 Recently returned from overseas or may have been exposed to COVID-19
- QVULN_4 Sick with something other than COVID-19
- QVULN_5 Sick with diagnosed COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19
- QVULN_6 Had COVID-19 but has recovered
QINCOME. Household income