

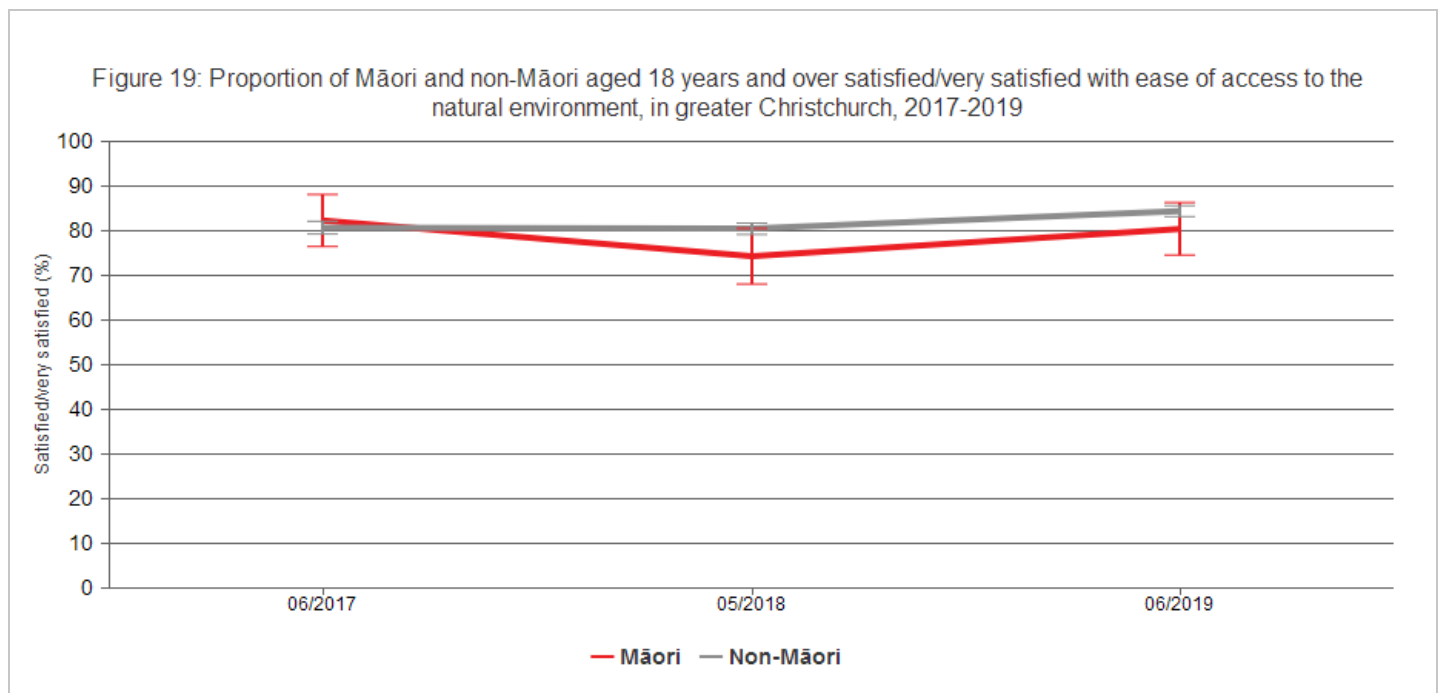
He Tohu Ora: Access to natural environment

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The natural environment is essential to the wellbeing and identity of Māori as part of their whakapapa (genealogy) and the bond of kinship between all things [30]. Ensuring access to a healthy and clean natural environment (e.g., rivers, lakes, mountains, green spaces) positively affects wellbeing. For example, having access to fish from a clean local body of water provides a healthy and fresh kai option for whānau. In 2014, the government recognised the strong links between Māori wellbeing and a clean environment when Wai Ora (healthy environments) became a leading priority in He Korowai Oranga: Māori Health Strategy [31].

The Canterbury Wellbeing Survey asked respondents to rate their satisfaction with their ease of access to the natural environment, broadly defined as “access to rivers, lakes, beaches, wildlife, areas, parks, and walking tracks” [10]. There were five response options ranging from very dissatisfied to very satisfied. Note that this question was first included in 2017.

This indicator presents the proportion of Māori and non-Māori survey respondents who reported being satisfied/very satisfied with their ease of access to the natural environment.



In 2017, 82.3 percent of Māori respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their ease of access to the natural environment, which was slightly higher than the proportion for non-Māori (80.7%). In 2018, the proportion for Māori dropped to 74.3 percent, while the proportion for non-Māori remained stable (80.5%). In 2019, the proportion of Māori respondents who reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their access to the natural environment has increased and converged slightly with the non-Māori proportion (80.4 % and 84.4%, respectively). There are no statistically significant differences between the proportions for non-Māori and Māori for the years 2017 to 2019.

Data Sources

Source: Canterbury District Health Board.

Survey/data set: Canterbury Wellbeing Survey to 2019. Access publicly available data from the Community and Public Health (Canterbury DHB) website www.cph.co.nz/your-health/wellbeing-survey/

Source data frequency: Annually.

Metadata for this indicator is available at <https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/index-data>

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