He Tohu Ora: Access to natural environment

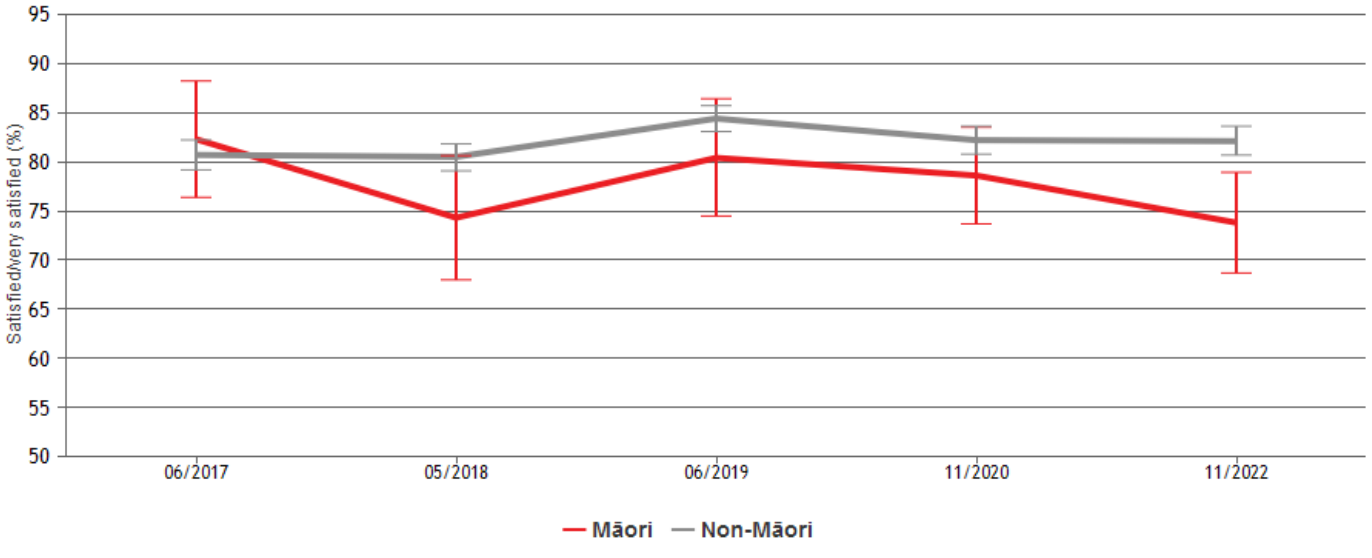
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The natural environment is essential to the wellbeing and identity of Māori as part of their whakapapa (genealogy) and the bond of kinship between all things [30]. Ensuring access to a healthy and clean natural environment (e.g., rivers, lakes, mountains, 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.

Figure 19: Proportion of Māori and non-Māori aged 18 years and over satisfied/very satisfied with ease of access to the natural environment, in greater Christchurch, 2017-2022



The proportion of Māori and non-Māori respondents satisfied or very satisfied with their ease of access to the natural environment has not changed significantly between 2017 and 2022. There are no statistically significant differences between the proportions for non-Māori and Māori during the period 2017 to 2020. However, in 2022, satisfaction with ease of access to the natural environment declined to 73.8 percent for Māori respondents compared to 82.1 percent for non-Māori respondents, a statistically significant difference between the groups.

Data Sources

Source: Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Canterbury.
Survey/data set: Canterbury Wellbeing Survey to 2022. Access publicly available data from Te Mana Ora | Community and Public Health 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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