

# SAFETY

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Both our perception and experience of safety strongly influence wellbeing. People who hold fears for their personal safety are likely to have a lower quality of life and a decreased sense of wellbeing, and may find it difficult to participate fully in their community [1, 2]. Where offending in a community is perceived to increase, or actually does increase, the community may become less appealing for new residents and for people who go there for recreation or other activities [3-5]. Communities with low levels of offending attract greater investment from the private sector, which in turn creates more employment opportunities and contributes to a higher quality of life, as the community is more stable and healthier [6-8].

## Key trends within safety

In the 2018 to 2020 Canterbury Wellbeing Surveys, respondents from greater Christchurch indicated favourable levels of perceived safety across different locations and times of day (although the Christchurch City centre after dark was perceived as relatively less safe). However, in the 2022 survey, the levels of perceived safety reported declined statistically significantly across the four different location/time-of-day indicators. The crime indicators suggest that there is a downward trend in the number of family violence victimisations for greater Christchurch. However, the number of property-related offences has shown an upward trend, excluding decreases in the number of offences during COVID-19 lockdown periods.

## Key equity issues within safety

The perceptions of safety indicators suggest that having a low income or long-term health condition or disability, or being female, older, or non-European are all associated with lower perceived safety. No breakdown data are available for the remainder of the indicators (property-related offences and family violence victimisations).

## What this means for wellbeing

The relationship between safety indicators and wellbeing is complex. However, lower levels of personal exposure to harm or loss are generally relatable to improved levels of wellbeing. The data show differences in perceptions of safety for some groups (such as for females after dark in their neighbourhood and/or town/city centre, and for people with a long-term health condition or disability). Property-related victimisations data suggest some recent increase in reported harm.

## Indicators in this domain

- **Perceptions of safety**
- **Property-related victimisations**
- **Family violence victimisations**

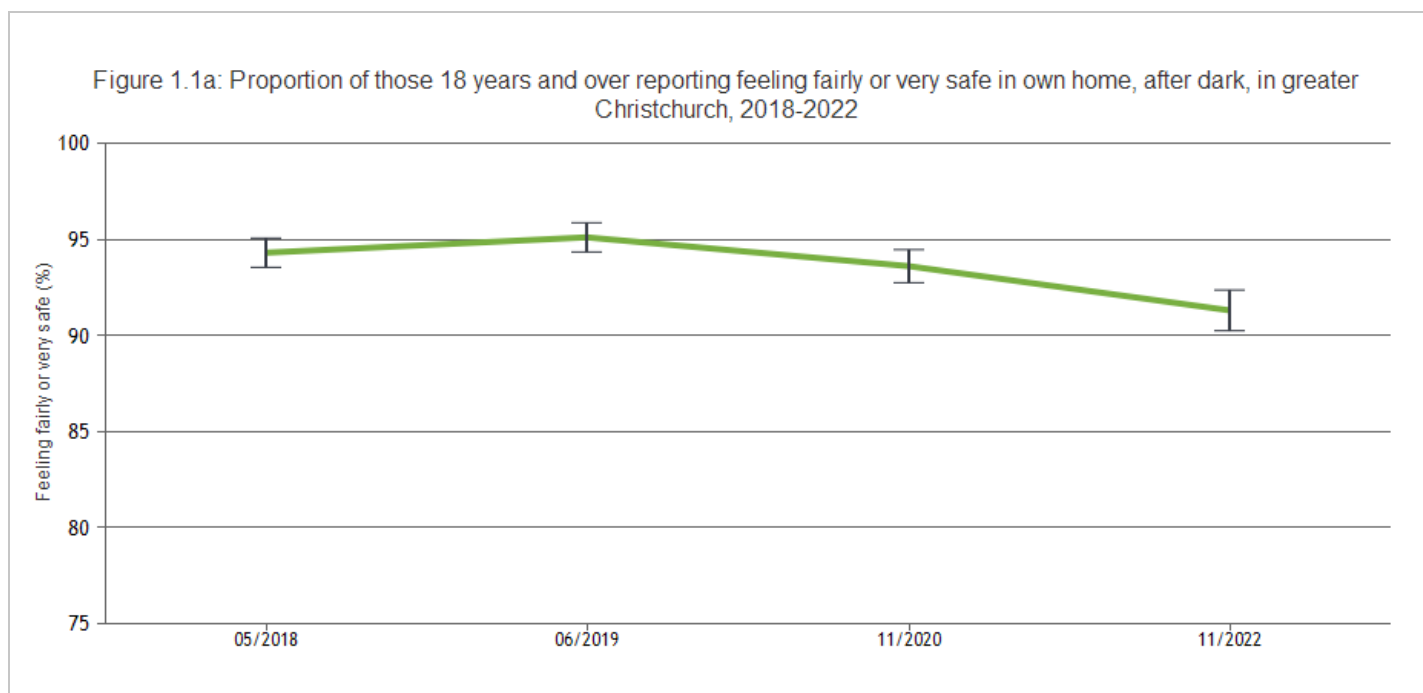
## PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

The wellbeing of individuals may be affected not only as a result of direct experience of harm but also as a result of a fear of harm. Individuals' perceptions of safety involves generalised judgements about the chance of injury or loss [9].

Different circumstances, times of day, and location factors tend to influence individuals' perceptions of safety. Perceptions of safety are particularly sensitive to the physical environment (e.g., one's home vs. public places) because these physical environmental factors are tangible to residents. Fear of crime may cause some people to restrict the choices they make about how to lead their lives, such as avoiding certain areas or avoiding going out at night [9,10]. The fear of crime may have more effect on some residents than actual crime and may have wider impacts on social relations [2].

This indicator presents the proportion of those 18 years and over reporting that they feel fairly or very safe in four different situations: being in their own home after dark, walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, or walking in their city/town centre during the day, and the city/town centre after dark. This question was first included in the Canterbury Wellbeing Survey in 2018.

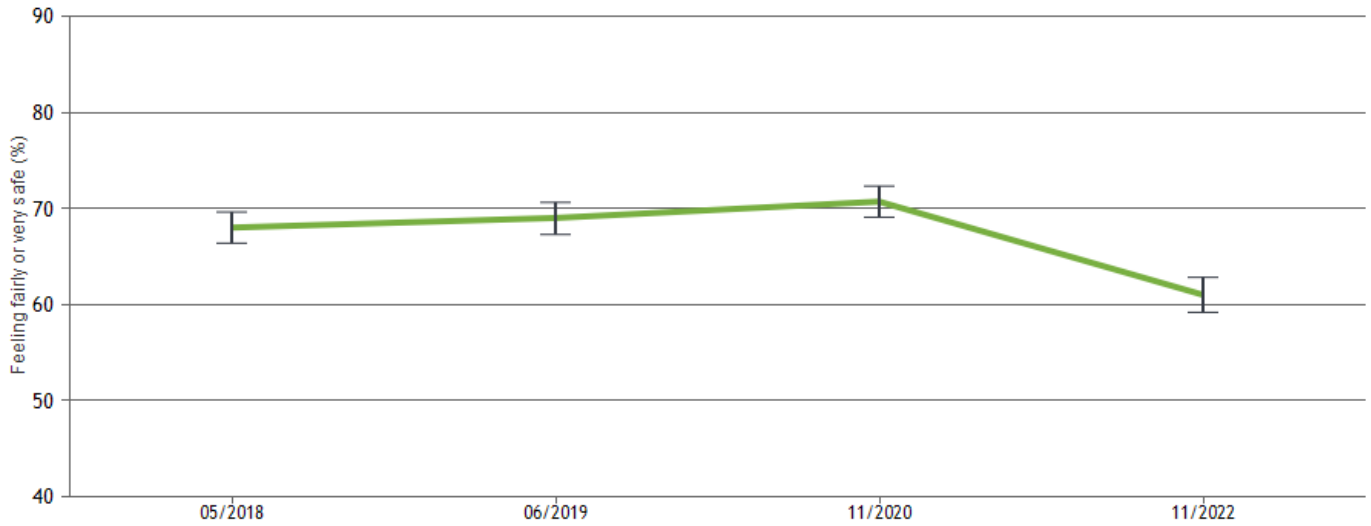
### In own home after dark



The figure shows that almost all respondents (91.3%) felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in 2022 (although statistically significantly lower than in 2019, 95.1%).

### Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark

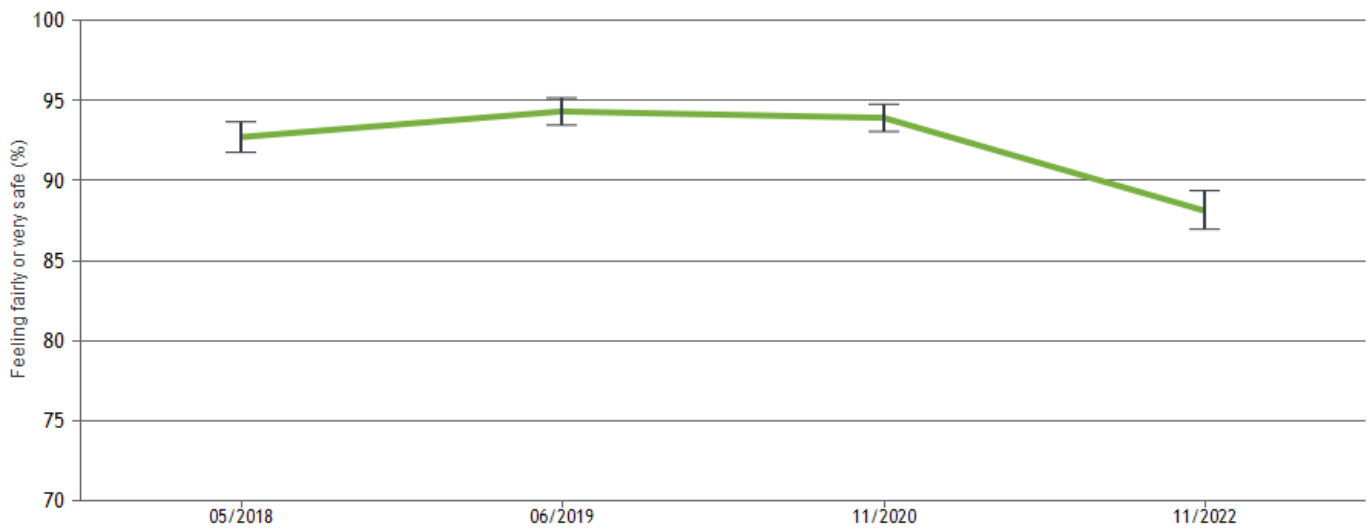
Figure 1.1b: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark, in greater Christchurch, 2018-2022



The figure shows that approximately two-thirds (61%) of respondents felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in 2022 (although notably and statistically significantly lower than the 2020 result of 70.7%).

## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day

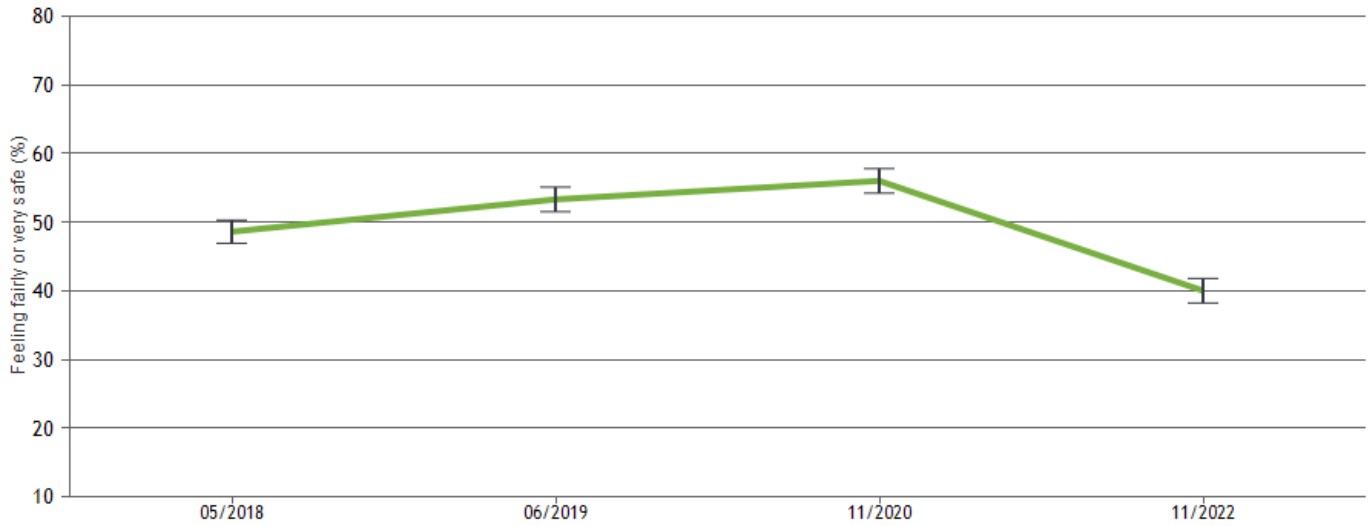
Figure 1.1c: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day, in greater Christchurch, 2018-2022



The figure shows that most respondents (88.1%) felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre during the day, in 2022 (although notably and statistically significantly lower than the 2020 result, 93.9%).

## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark

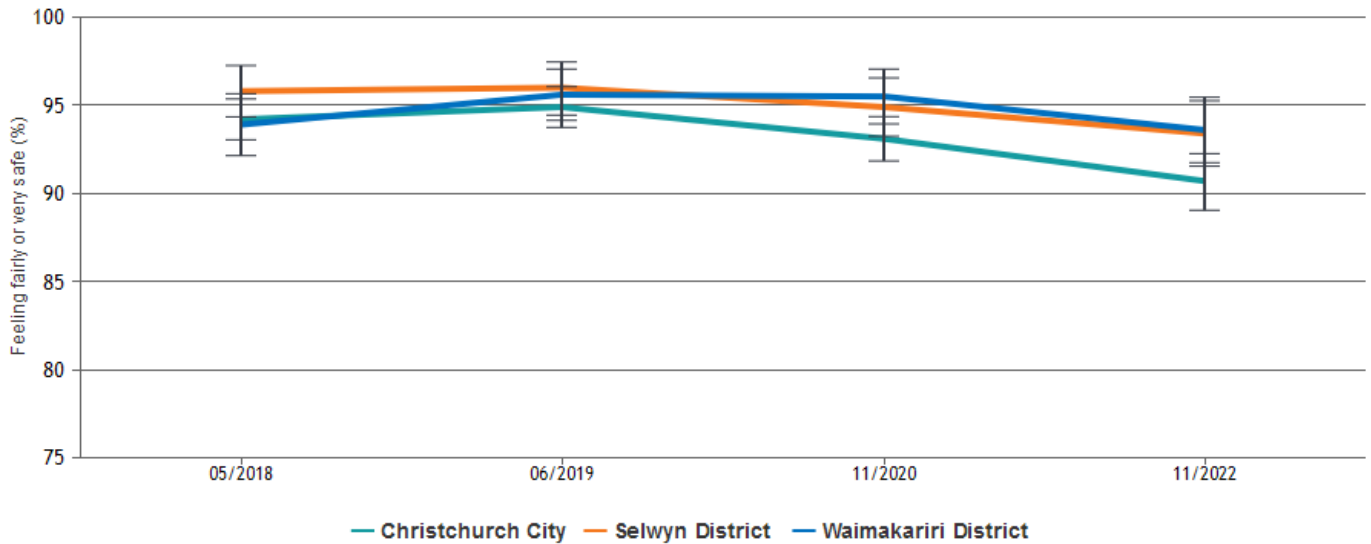
Figure 1.1d: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark, in greater Christchurch, 2018-2022



The figure shows that 4 in 10 respondents felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre after dark, in 2022 (although notably and statistically significantly lower than the 2020 result, 56%).

### Breakdown by Territorial Authority In own home after dark

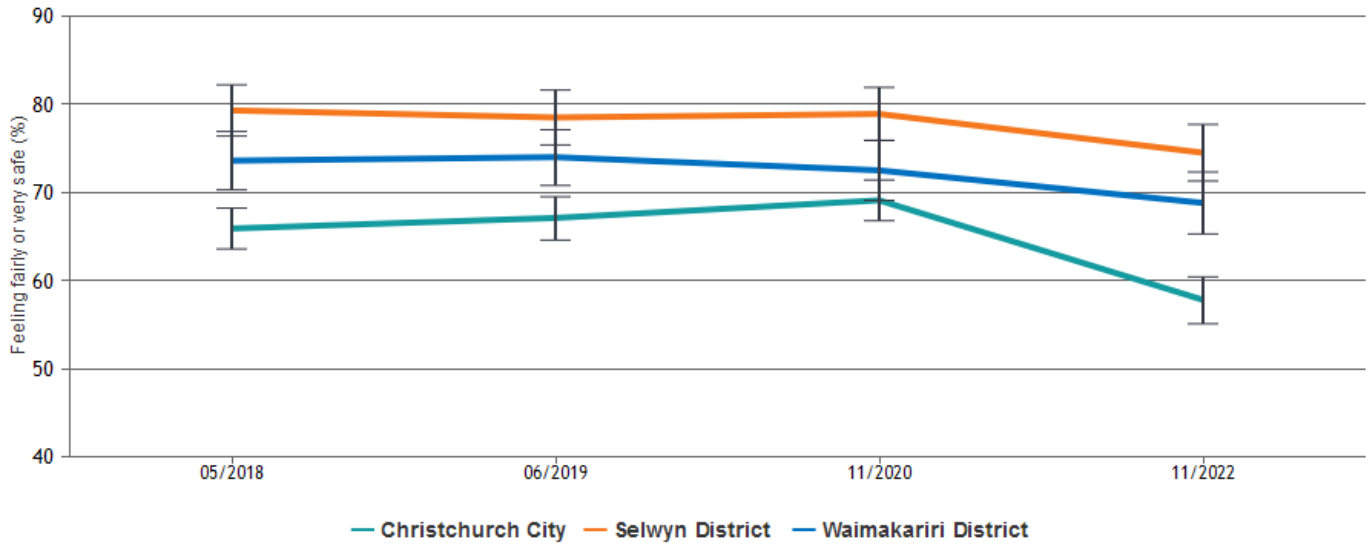
Figure 1.2a: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in own home, after dark, by Territorial Authority, 2018-2022



The figure shows similar proportions of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in Christchurch City, Selwyn District and Waimakariri District. in 2022 (90.7%, 93.4%, and 93.6% respectively).

### Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark

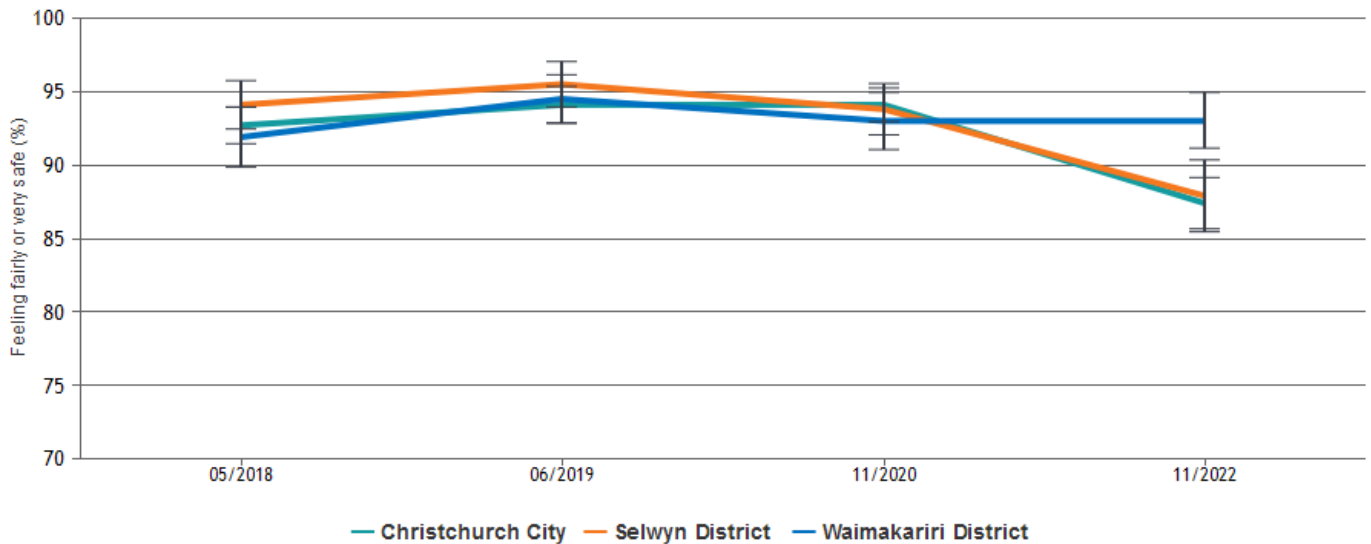
Figure 1.2b: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark, by Territorial Authority, 2018-2022



The figure shows differences in the proportions of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in Christchurch City, Waimakariri District, and Selwyn District, from 2018 to 2022 (57.8%, 68.8%, and 74.5% respectively, in 2022). The proportion of Christchurch City respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark is statistically significantly lower than in Selwyn District at all points across the time series shown; and statistically significantly lower than in Waimakariri District with the exception of 2020.

### Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day

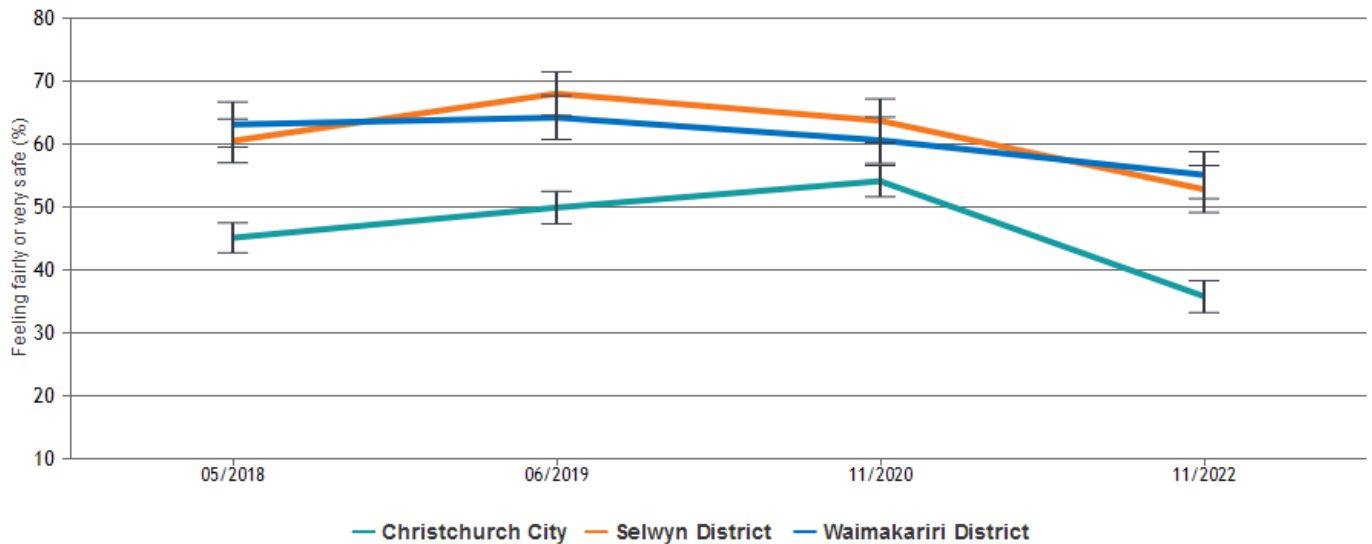
Figure 1.2c: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day, by Territorial Authority, 2018-2022



The figure shows similar proportions of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre during the day, in Christchurch City, Selwyn District and Waimakariri District, across the time series shown. However, in 2022, the proportion of Waimakariri District respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre during the day was statistically significantly higher than Christchurch City and Selwyn District respondents (93.0% vs. 87.4%, and 87.9%, respectively).

### Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark

Figure 1.2d: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark, by Territorial Authority, 2018-2022

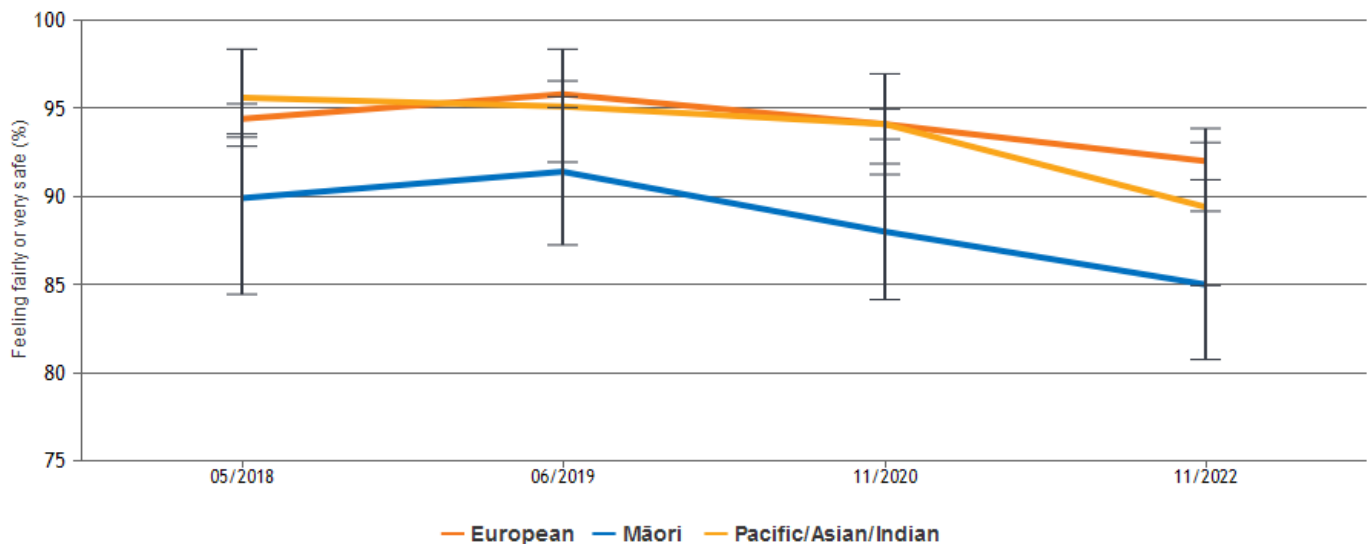


The figure shows similar proportions of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre after dark, in Selwyn District and Waimakariri District, for the period 2018 to 2022 (52.8% and 55.1% in 2022, respectively). However, the proportion of Christchurch City respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre after dark was consistently statistically significantly lower than for the other two Territorial Authorities, over the time series shown. The notable decrease between 2020 and 2022 is statistically significant (35.8% in 2022, down from 54.1% in 2020).

### Breakdown by ethnicity

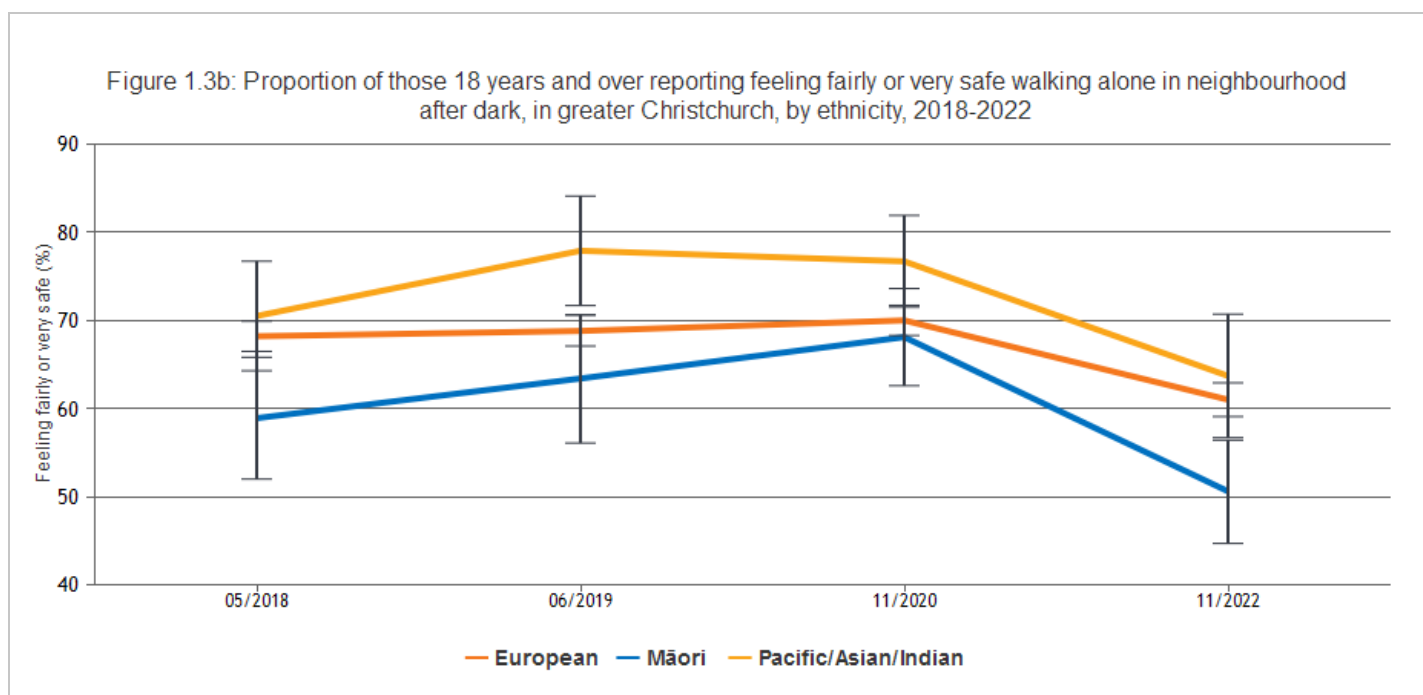
#### In own home after dark

Figure 1.3a: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in own home, after dark, in greater Christchurch, by ethnicity, 2018-2022



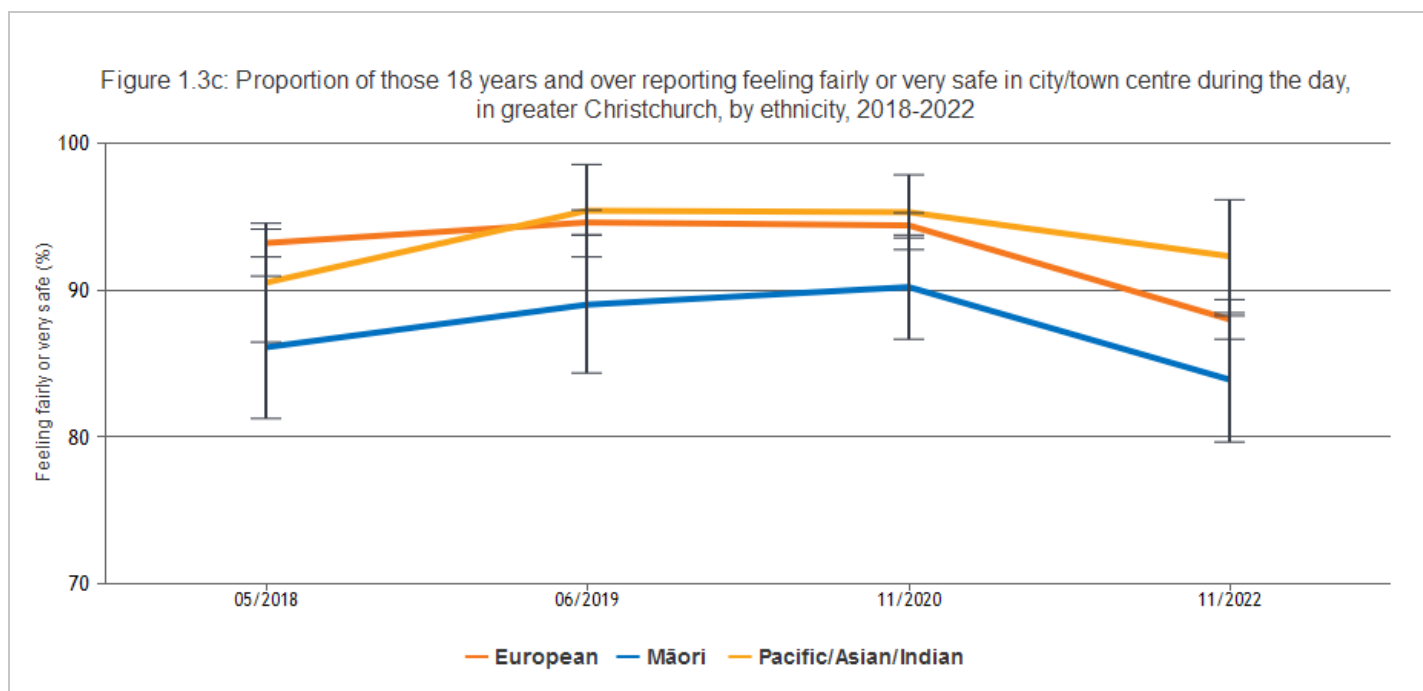
The figure shows a clear pattern whereby Māori respondents generally reported lower levels of perceived safety (proportion feeling fairly or very safe) than European and Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents across the time series shown. In 2020 and 2022, a statistically significantly lower proportion of Māori respondents reported feeling fairly or very safe in their own homes after dark than both European respondents and Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents (for 2022, 85%, 92%, and 89.4%, respectively).

## Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



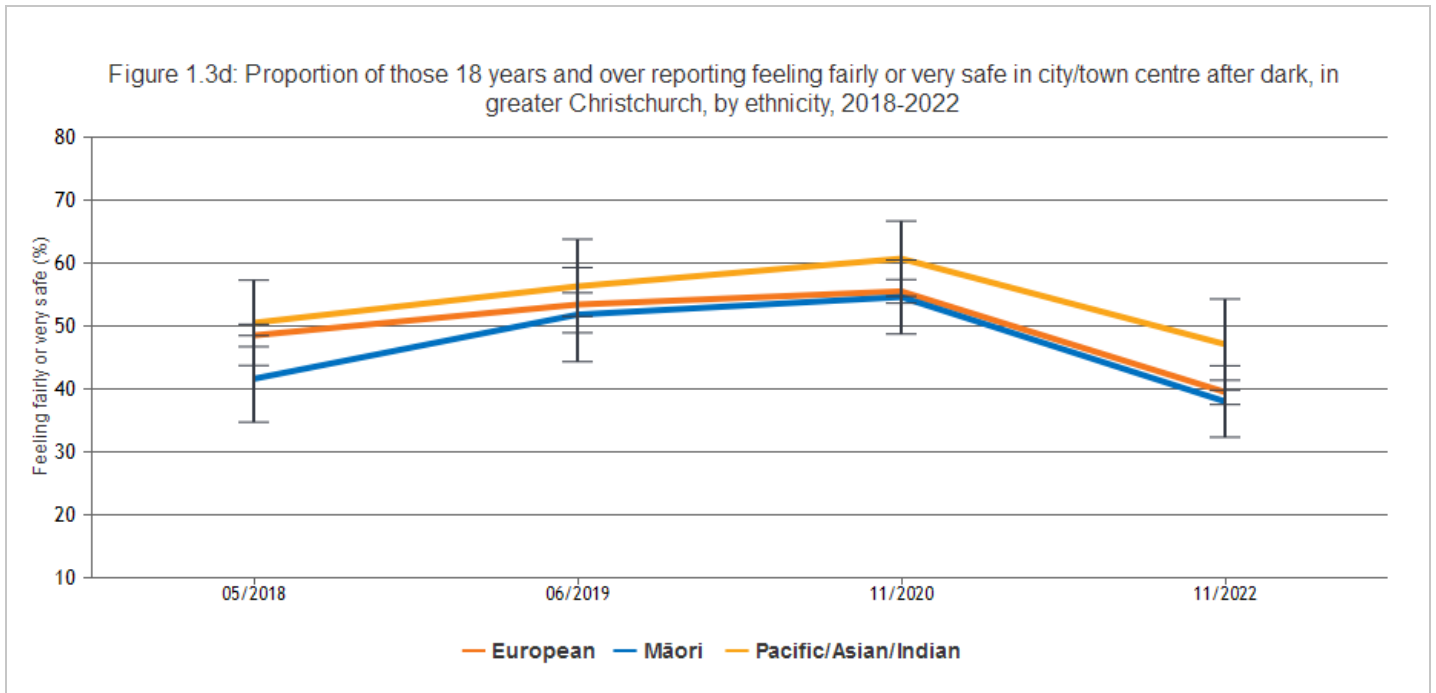
The figure shows a general pattern whereby Māori respondents reported lower levels of feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark than European and Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents, across the time series shown. In 2022, a statistically significantly lower proportion of Māori respondents reported feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark compared with European respondents and Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents (50.6%, 61%, and 63.7%, respectively).

## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day



The figure shows a general pattern whereby Māori respondents reported lower levels of feeling fairly or very safe in the city/town centre during the day than European and Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents, across the time series shown. In 2022, a statistically significantly lower proportion of Māori respondents reported feeling fairly or very safe in the city/town centre during the day compared with Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents but not European respondents (83.9%, 92.3%, and 88%, respectively).

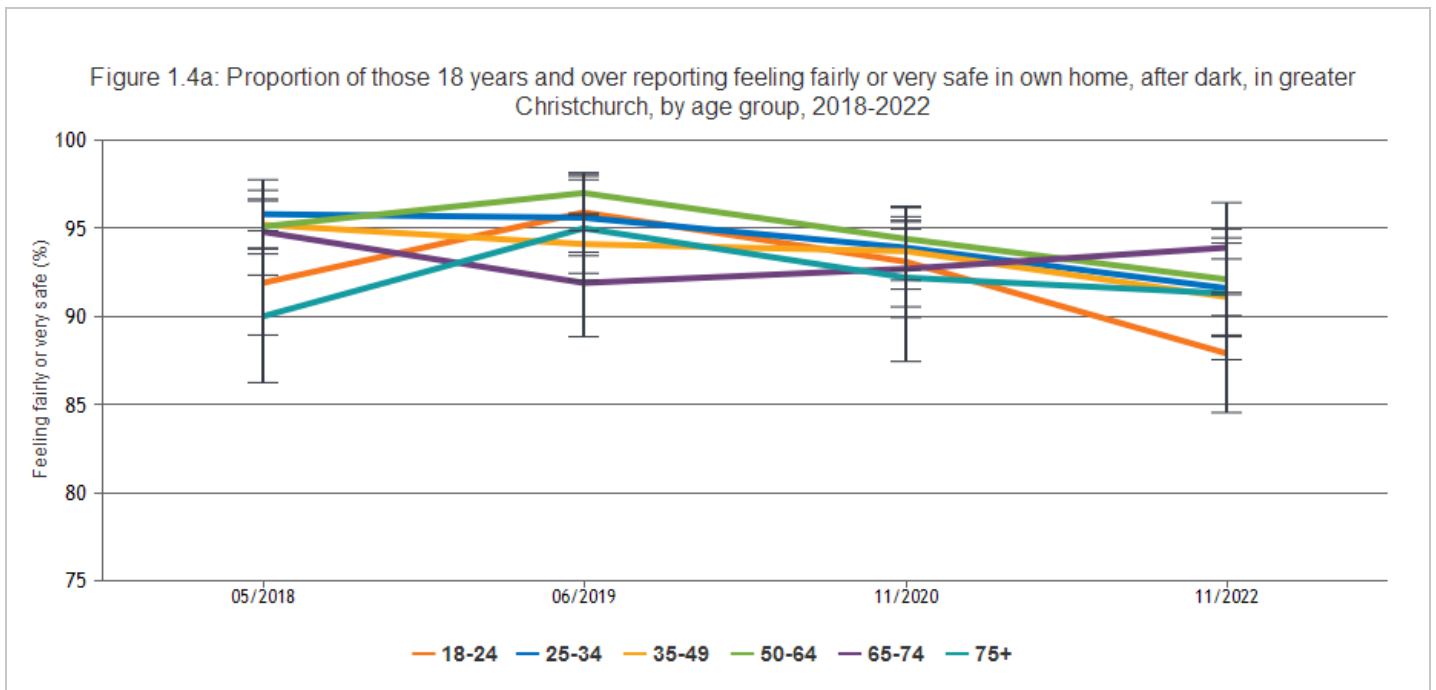
## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



The figure shows generally similar proportions of Māori, European, and Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre after dark, in greater Christchurch, over the time series shown (38%, 39.5%, and 47.1% in 2022, respectively).

### Breakdown by age

## In own home after dark

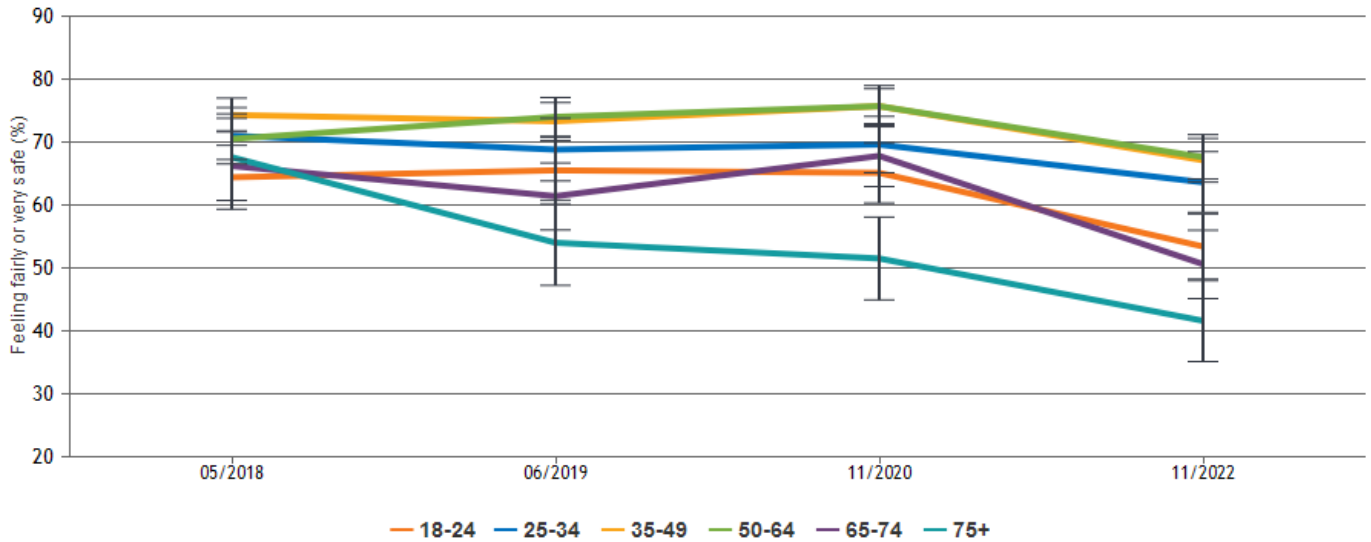


The figure shows generally similar proportions of respondents in the middle age groups reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in greater Christchurch. While the youngest respondents (18–24 years) have generally reported lower levels of perceived safety (proportion feeling fairly or very safe) than the older age groups (18–24 years, 87.9%; 65–74 years, 93.9%, in 2022), the differences are not statistically significant at any timepoint.

## Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



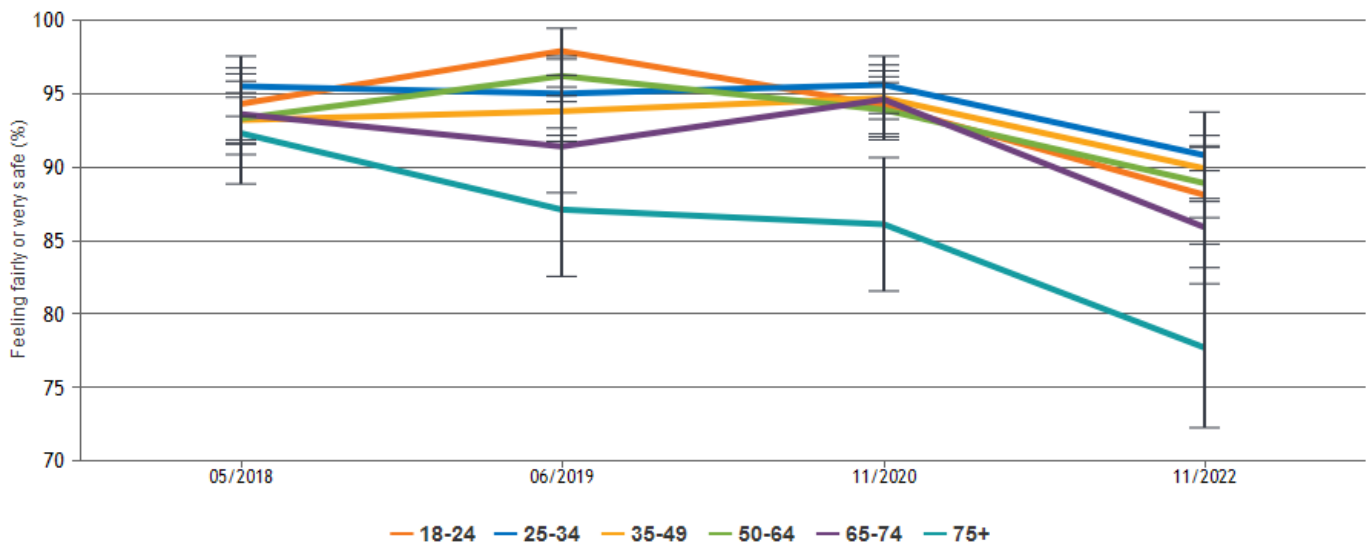
Figure 1.4b: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark, in greater Christchurch, by age group, 2018-2022



The figure shows a pattern of generally lower proportions of respondents reporting feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, for the two oldest age groups (65–74 years, 50.6% and 75+ years, 41.6%, in 2022) and the youngest age group (18–24 years, 53.4%, in 2022) compared with the middle age groups (25–34 years, 63.6%; 35–49 years, 67.1%; and 50–64 years, 67.6%, in 2022). The proportion of respondents in the oldest age group reporting feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark was statistically significantly lower than for the middle three age groups at the 2019, 2020, and 2022 timepoints.

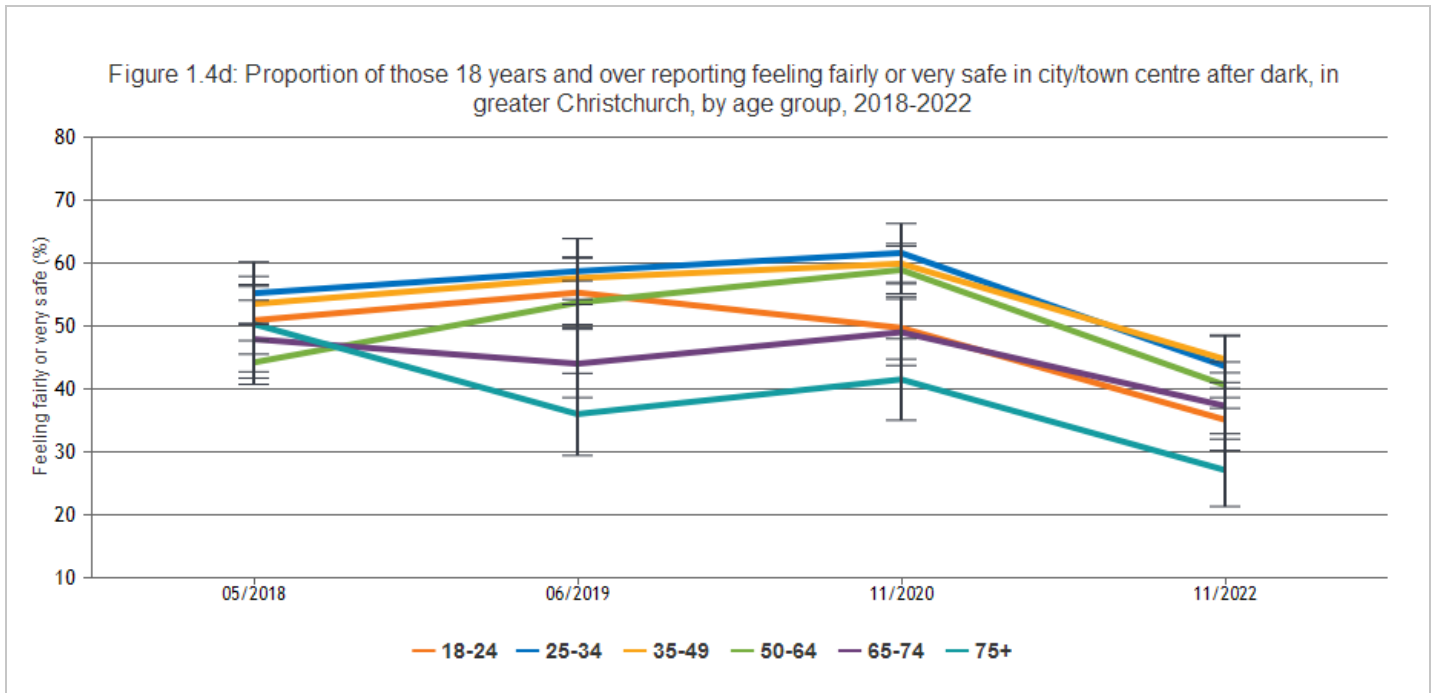
## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day

Figure 1.4c: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day, in greater Christchurch, by age group, 2018-2022



The figure shows a pattern of generally similar proportions of respondents, reporting feeling fairly or very safe in the city/town centre during the day, across the age groups shown (except for the 75+ years group). Perception of safety in the city/town centre during the day for respondents aged over 75 years has been declining steadily over the time series shown and was statistically significantly lower than the younger and middle age groups in 2019, 2020, and 2022 (18–24 years, 88.1%; 25–34 years, 90.8%; 35–49 years, 89.9%; 50–64 years, 88.9%; and 75+ years, 77.7%, in 2022). The difference between the 75+ years age group and the 64 to 74 years age group was statistically significant in 2020 but not in 2022 (65–74 years, 85.9% in 2022).

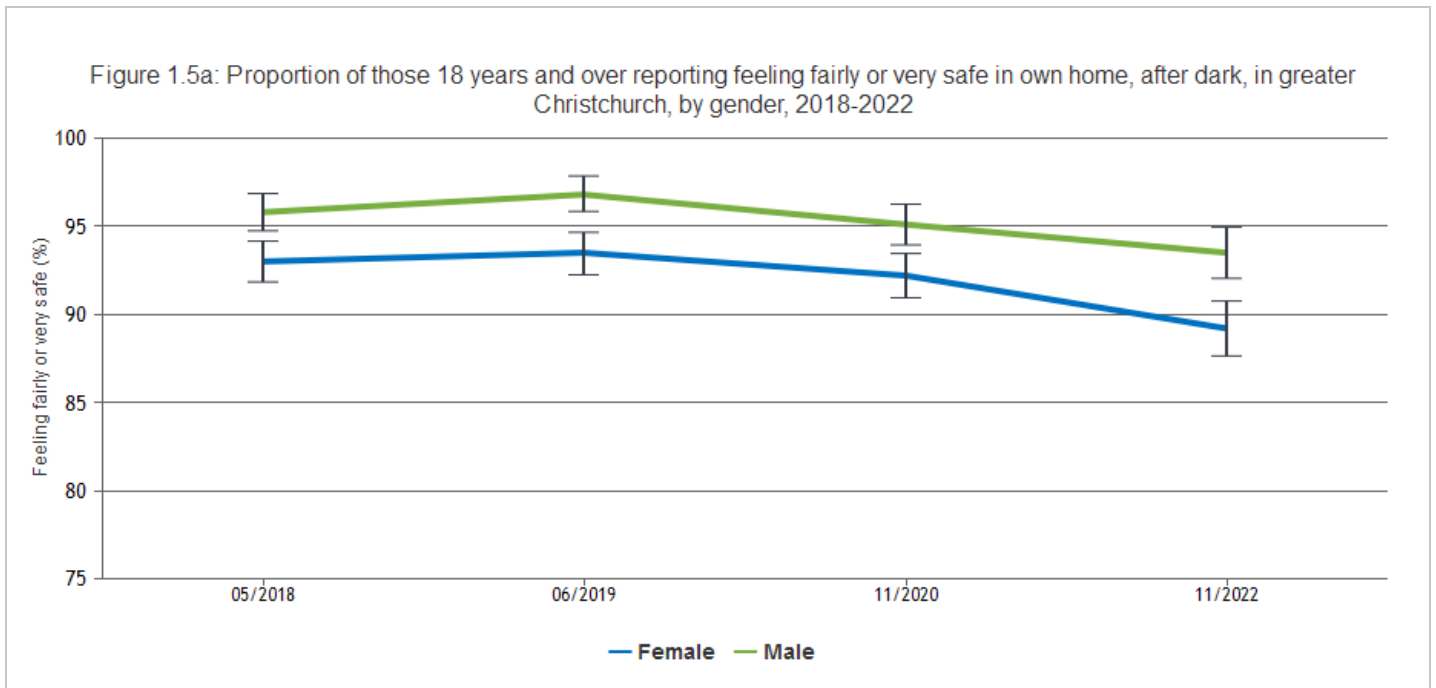
# Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



The figure shows a pattern of generally similar proportions of respondents, reporting feeling fairly or very safe in the city/town centre after dark, across the age groups shown (except for the 75+ years group). Perceptions of safety in the city/town centre after dark for respondents aged 75+ years has been declining steadily over the time series shown and was statistically significantly lower than the middle age groups in 2019, 2020, and 2022 (25–34 years, 43.6%; 35–49 years, 44.7%; 50–64 years, 40.6%; and 75+ years, 27.1% in 2022). Perceptions of safety in the city/town centre after dark for respondents in the 18-24 years group has declined notably (statistically significantly) between 2019 and 2022 (from a high point of 55.3% in 2019 to 35.1% in 2022).

## Breakdown by gender

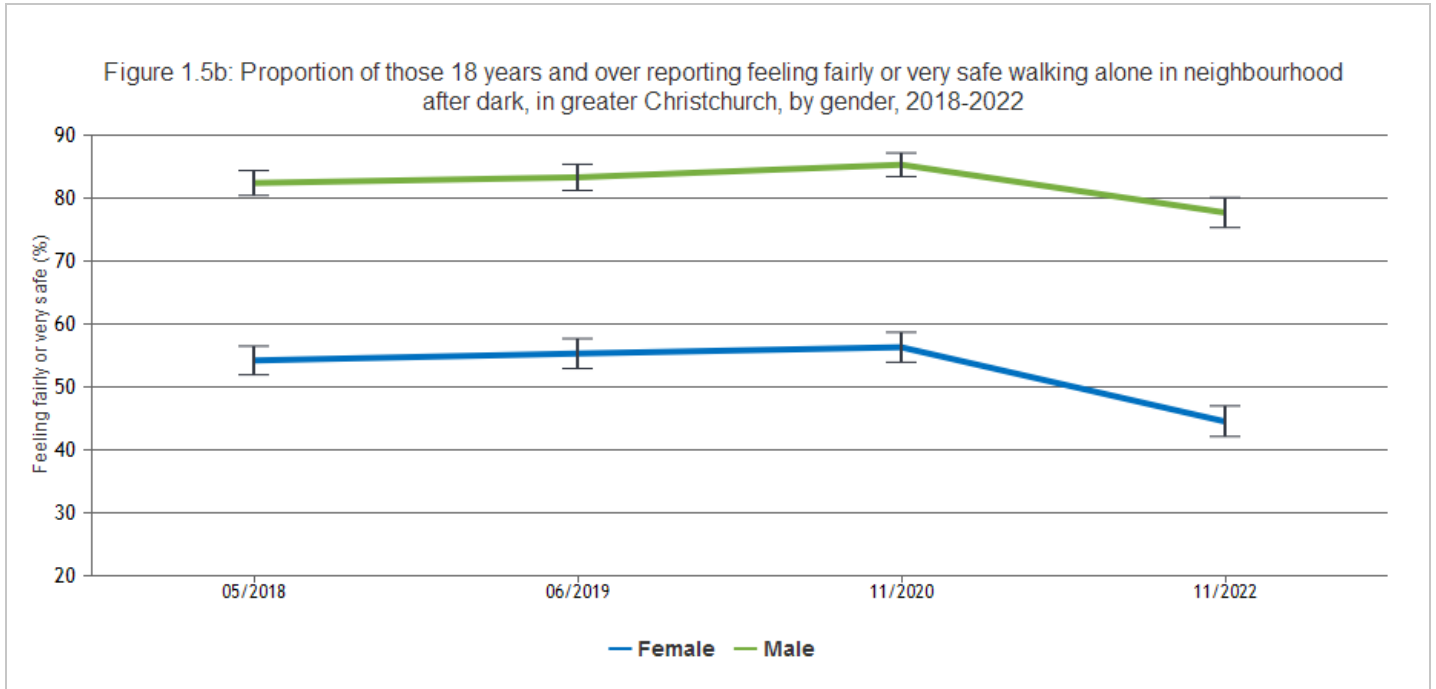
### In own home after dark



The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in greater Christchurch, is statistically significantly lower for females compared with males, throughout the time series (89.2%

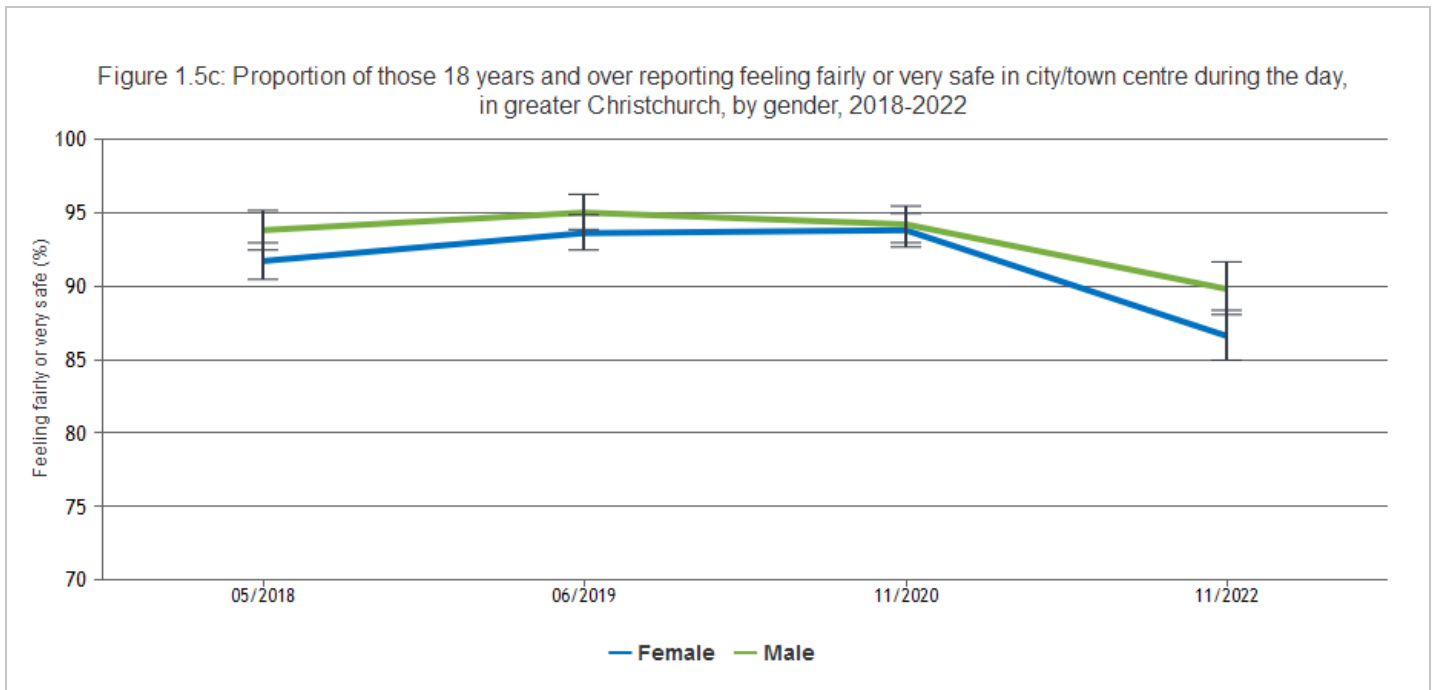
and 93.5% in 2022, respectively).

## Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in greater Christchurch, is substantially and statistically significantly lower for females compared with males, for the years shown in the time series (44.5% and 77.7% in 2022, respectively).

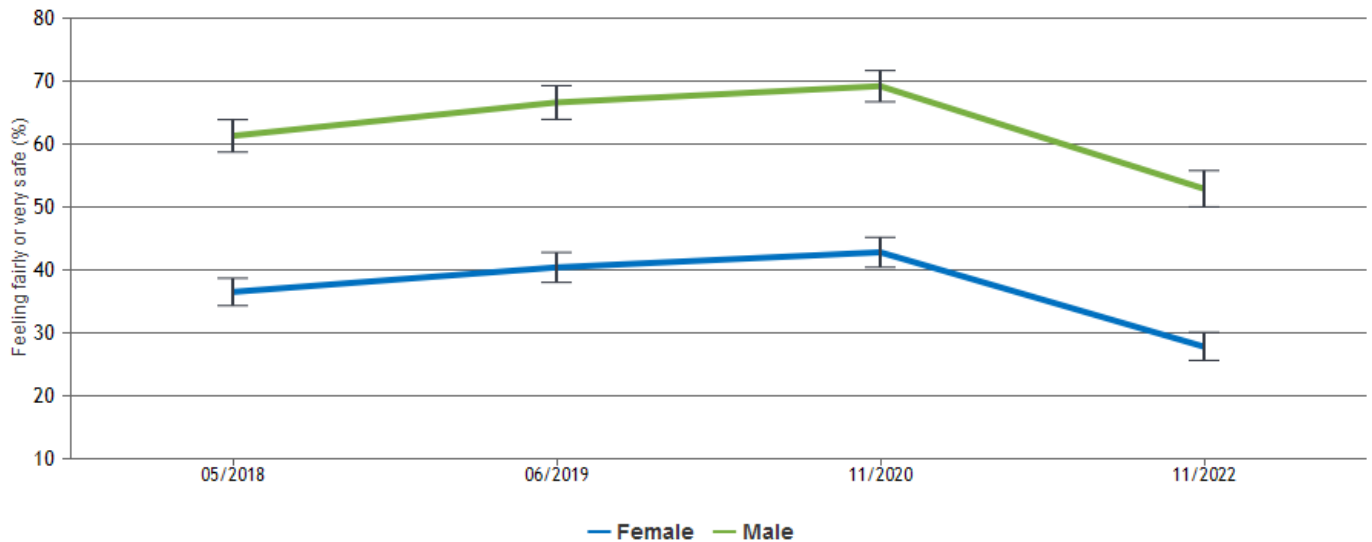
## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day



The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre during the day, in greater Christchurch, was similar for females compared with males, for the years 2018 to 2022 (86.6% and 89.8% in 2022, respectively).

## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark

Figure 1.5d: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark, in greater Christchurch, by gender, 2018-2022

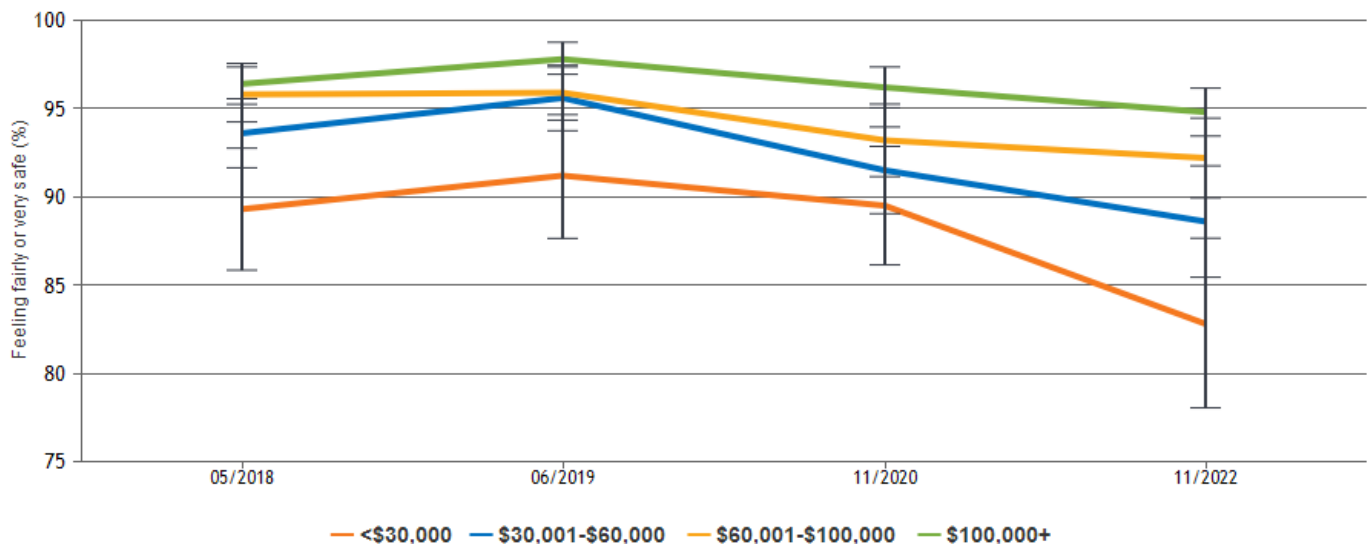


The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre after dark, in greater Christchurch, is substantially and statistically significantly lower for females compared with males, for the years shown in the time series (27.8% and 52.9% in 2022, respectively).

### Breakdown by income

### In own home after dark

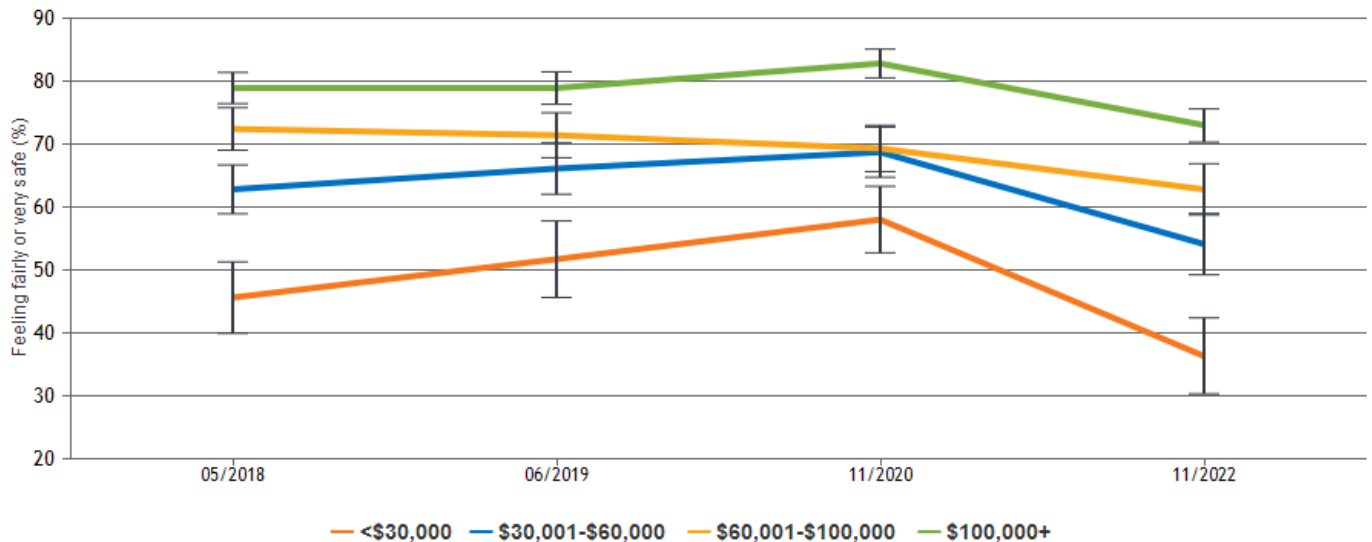
Figure 1.6a: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in own home, after dark, in greater Christchurch, by income, 2018-2022



The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in greater Christchurch, generally increases with increasing annual household income. The differences between the lowest income groups and the two highest income groups are statistically significant in 2020 and 2022. In 2022, a statistically significantly smaller proportion of respondents from the <\$30,000 income group (82.8%) felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark compared with respondents in the \$60,001 to \$100,000 and \$100,000+ income groups (92.2% and 94.8% respectively).

### Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark

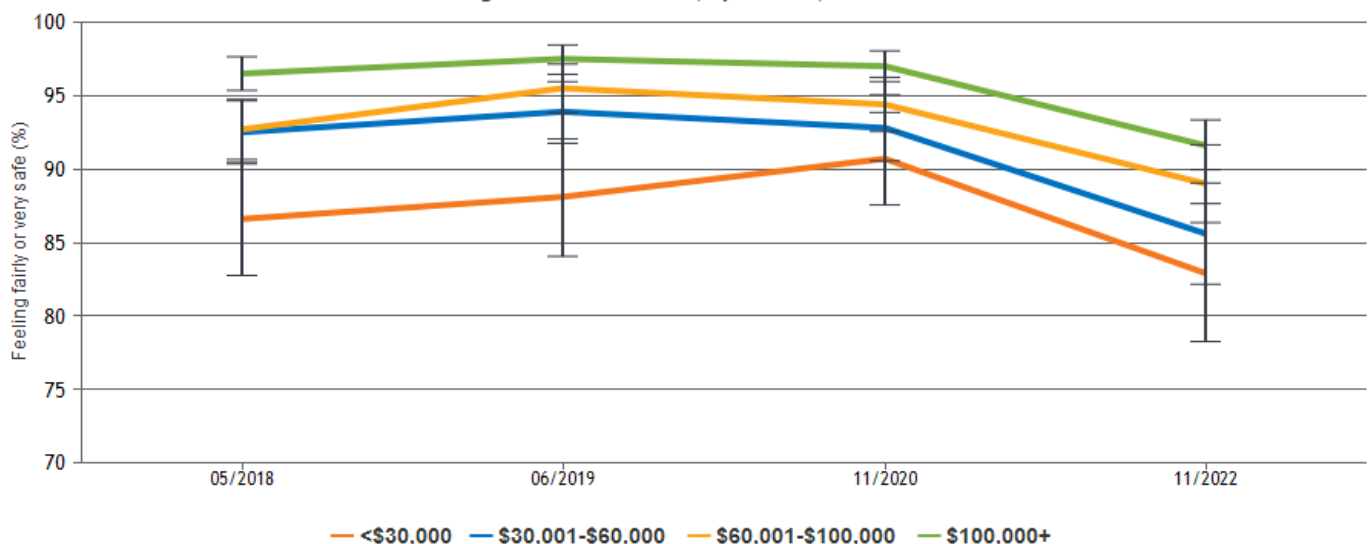
Figure 1.6b: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark, in greater Christchurch, by income, 2018-2022



The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in greater Christchurch, generally increases with increasing annual household income. The differences between the lowest two income groups and the highest income group are statistically significant at all points over the time series shown. In 2022, a statistically significantly smaller proportion of respondents from the <\$30,000 income group (36.3%) felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark compared with respondents in the \$60,001 to \$100,000 and \$100,000+ income groups (62.8% and 73.0% respectively).

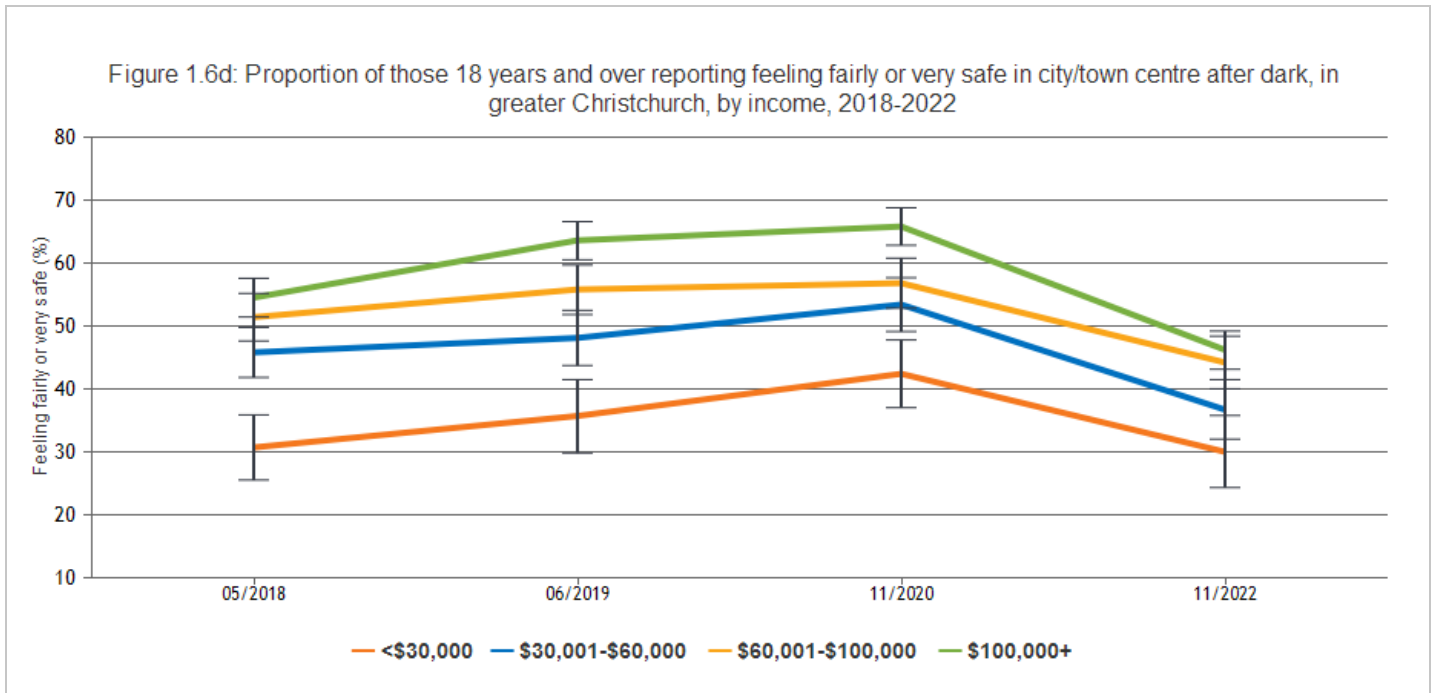
## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day

Figure 1.6c: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day, in greater Christchurch, by income, 2018-2022



The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre during the day in greater Christchurch, generally increases with increasing annual household income. The difference between the lowest income group and the highest income group was statistically significant at all the time-points shown. In 2022, a statistically significantly smaller proportion of respondents from the <\$30,000 income group (82.9%) felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre during the day, compared with respondents in the \$60,001 to \$100,000 and \$100,000+ income groups (89% and 91.6%, respectively).

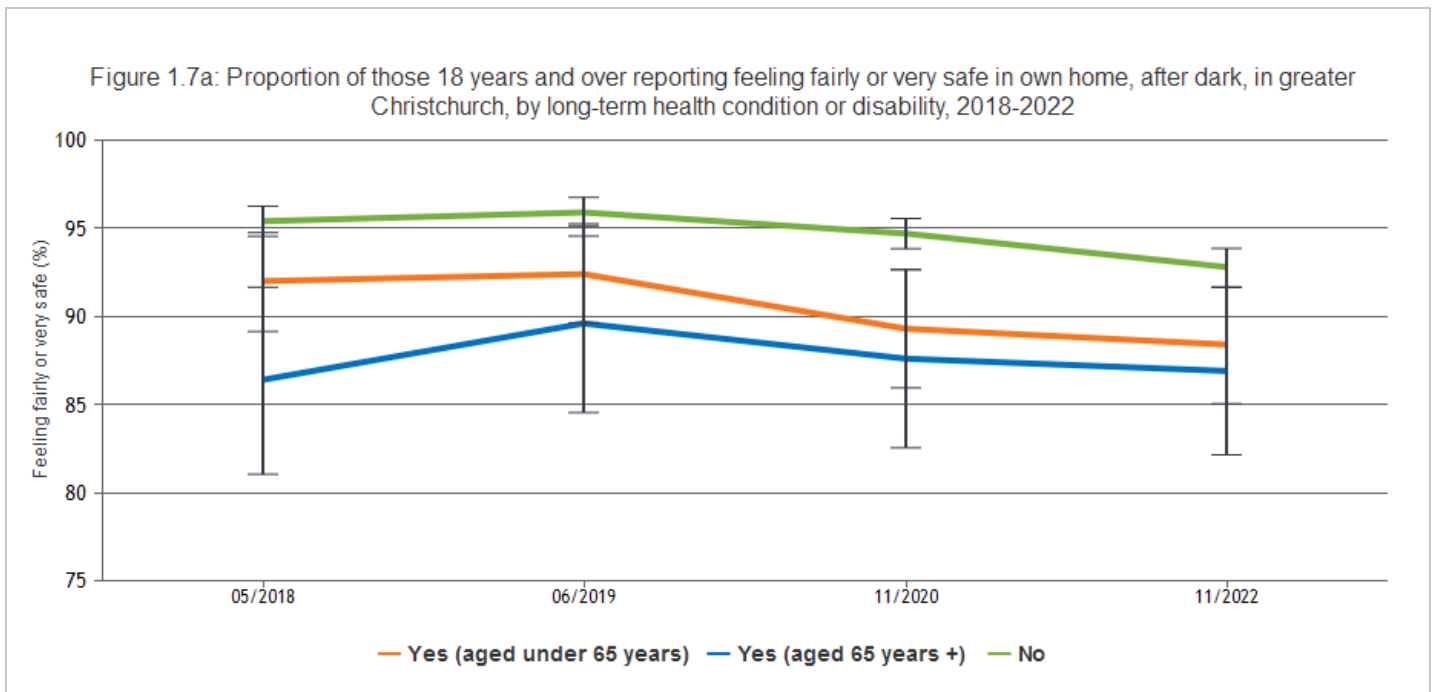
# Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre after dark, in greater Christchurch, generally increases with increasing annual household income. The differences between the lower income group and the two highest income group are statistically significant across the time series shown. In 2022, a statistically significantly smaller proportion of respondents from the <\$30,000 income group (30%) felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre after dark compared with respondents in the \$60,001 to \$100,000 and \$100,000+ income groups (44.2% and 46.2% respectively).

## Breakdown by disability

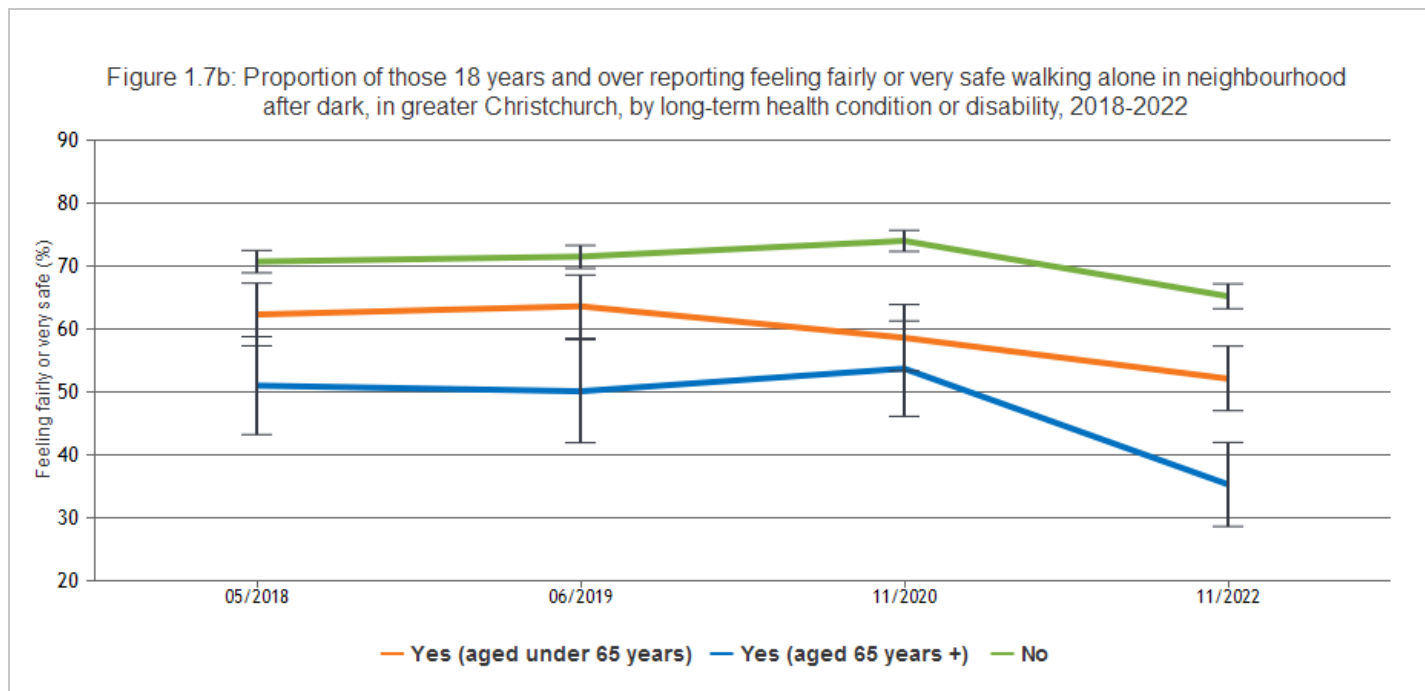
### In own home after dark



The figure shows that the proportions of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in greater Christchurch, are generally smaller for respondents with a disability or long-term health condition (irrespective of age) compared with those without a disability or long-term health condition, over the period 2018 to 2022. Between 2018 and 2020,

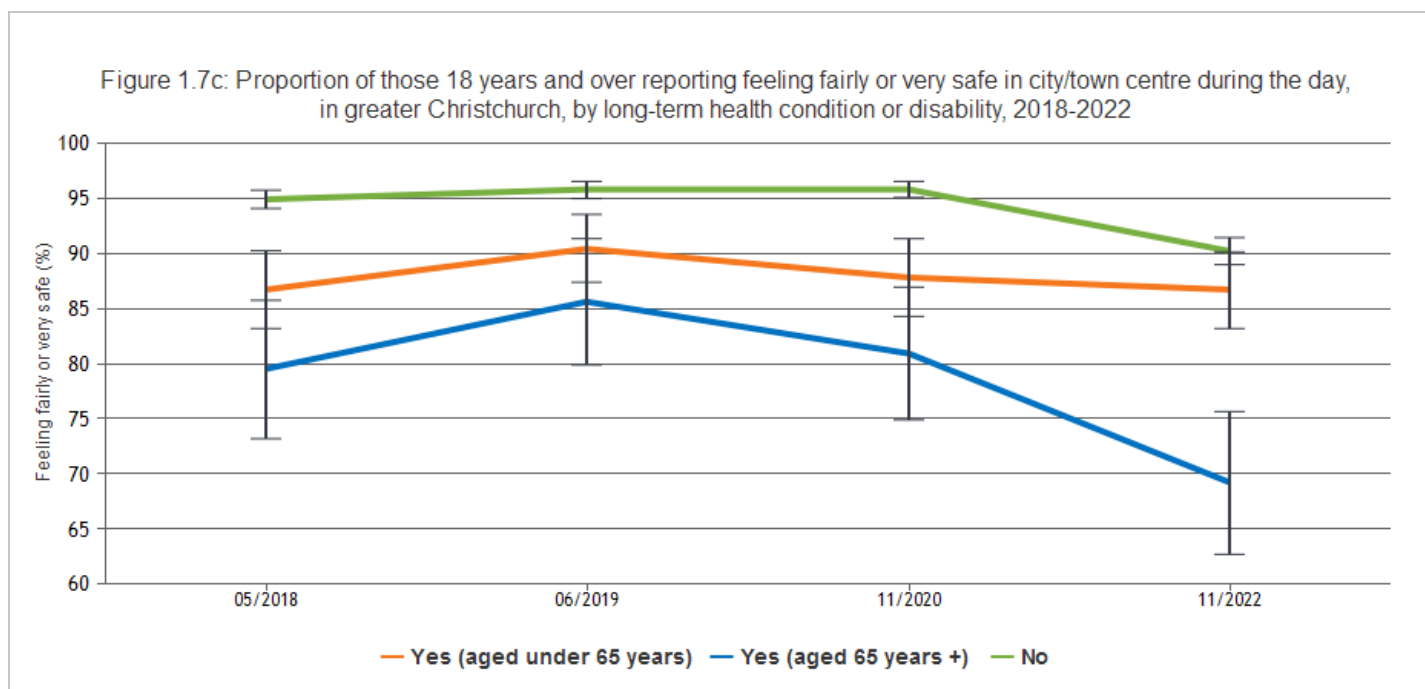
there were statistically significantly lower proportions of respondents with a disability or long-term health condition, aged over 65 years, reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark compared with respondents without a disability or long-term health condition (and lower but not statistically significantly lower in 2022: 86.9% with disability aged 65yrs and over; 88.4% with disability aged under 65yrs vs. no disability 92.8%).

## Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



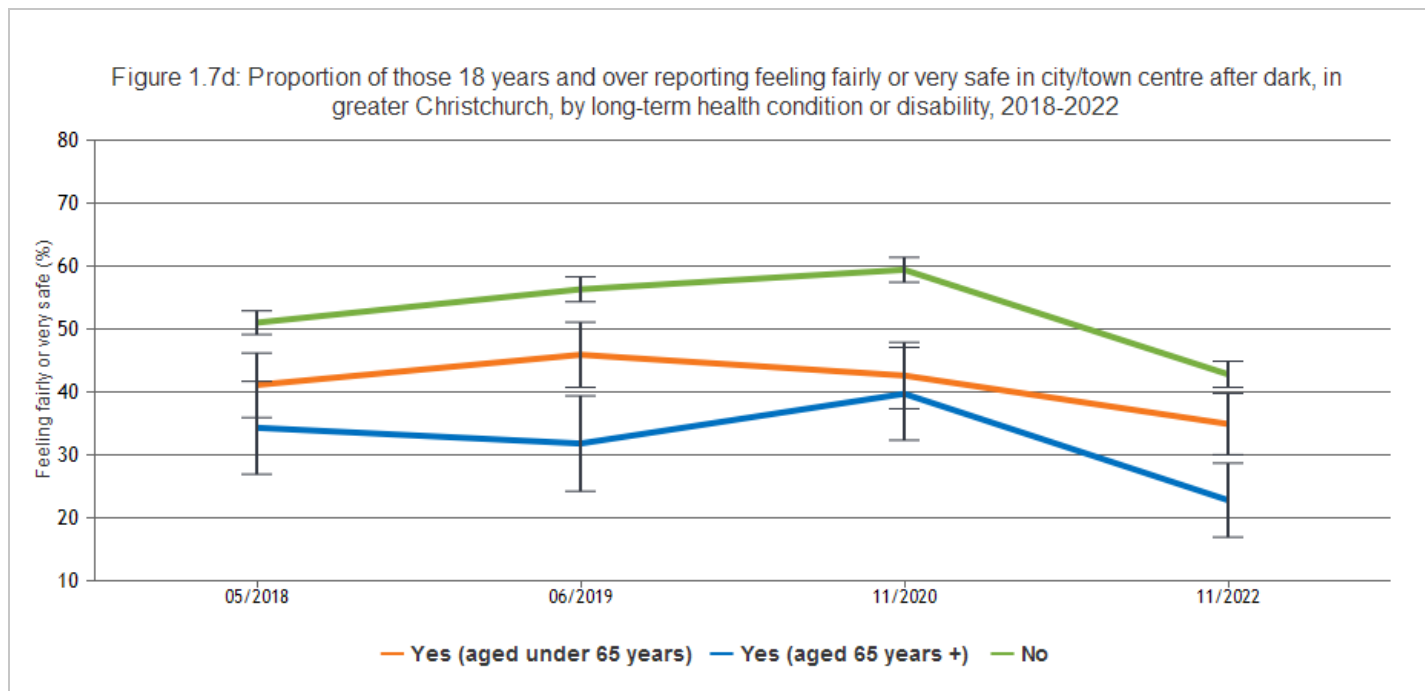
The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in greater Christchurch, was statistically significantly smaller for respondents with a disability or long-term health condition (irrespective of age) compared with those without a disability or long-term health condition, over the period 2018 to 2022. In 2022, there were statistically significant differences in perceived safety (while walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark) between all three groups; those respondents with a disability or long-term health condition, aged over 65 years (35.3%), those with a disability or long-term health condition, aged under 65 years (52.1%), and those respondents without a disability or long-term health condition (65.2%).

## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day



The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre during the day, in greater Christchurch, was statistically significantly smaller for respondents with a disability or long-term health condition (irrespective of age) compared with those without a disability or long-term health condition, over the period 2018 to 2020 (but not statistically significantly different for the under 65 group, 86.7% vs. no disability, 90.2%, in 2022). In 2022, there was a statistically significant difference in perceived safety (when in the city/town centre during the day) between those respondents aged 65 years and over with a disability or long-term health condition, compared with those respondents without a disability or long-term health condition (69.2% and 90.2%, respectively). The decline in perception of safety for the 65 years plus disability group between 2019 and 2022 is statistically significant.

## Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in the city/town centre after dark, in greater Christchurch, was statistically significantly smaller for respondents with a disability or long-term health condition (irrespective of age) compared with those without a disability or long-term health condition, over the period 2018 to 2022 (disability or long-term health condition aged under 65 years, 34.9% and aged over 65 years, 22.8%, and for those respondents without a disability, 42.8% in 2022).

### Data Sources

**Source:** Te Whatu Ora Waitaha - formerly the Canterbury District Health Board.

**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/](http://www.cph.co.nz/your-health/wellbeing-survey/)

**Source data frequency:** Annually.

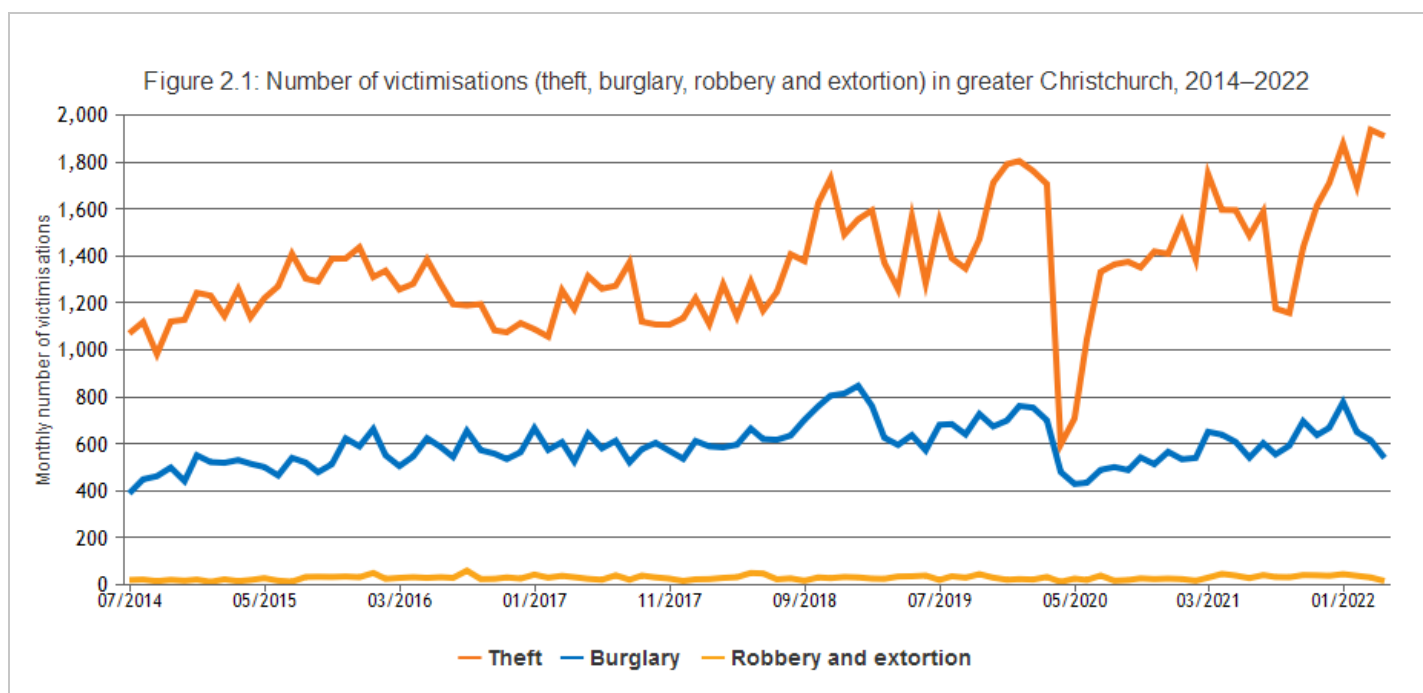
Metadata for this indicator is available at <https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/index-data>



## PROPERTY-RELATED VICTIMISATIONS

A victimisation refers to an instance of a person, organisation or premises being exploited for a given type of offence (where an offence is any act or omission by a person that is subject to a penalty imposed by the New Zealand legal system). Property-related offences are defined as those where the intent of the offence is to obtain property or in some cases to obtain 'a benefit' (an advantage or privilege). The methods of acquisition include theft, the use of extortion or blackmail, or the use of deception [11].

This indicator presents the number of victimisations (theft, burglary, robbery and extortion) by month for the greater Christchurch area (stations from Canterbury Metro Area and Canterbury Rural combined to approximate the greater Christchurch boundary), from July 2014 to April 2022.



Prior to the COVID-19 lockdown in early 2020, the number of victimisations for theft fluctuated from a low of 982 in September 2014 to a high of 1,803 in January 2020. Similarly, the number of victimisations for burglary has ranged from a low of 389 in July 2014 to a high of 847 in January 2019. The figure shows a marked decrease in both theft and burglary victimisations in April 2020 during the national COVID-19 alert level-4 lockdown (to 597 and 480, respectively). There was another decline in theft victimisations in August 2021 during a national COVID-19 lockdown. However, theft victimisations have since increased and reached a high of 1,937 in March 2022. There appears to be a trend of an overall increase in the number of theft and burglary victimisations (excluding lockdown periods). Victimisations for robbery and extortion are recorded at substantially lower numbers. These numbers appear relatively stable, ranging from a low of 12 in January 2015 to a high of 60 in August 2016 (generally less than 40 per month from mid-2018 to April 2022). Note that statistical trend analysis was not available for any of these data. These data are absolute counts of property victimisations rather than rates per head of population and therefore do not reflect changes in population size over time.

The Ministry of Justice also provides information on victimisations from the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS). The NZCVS provides a fuller picture of crime in New Zealand than administrative data because it captures incidents of crime that may not have been reported or recorded elsewhere. The NZCVS is a nationwide, face-to-face, continuous, representative survey of adults aged 15 years and over. Respondents are asked about incidents of crime they experienced in New Zealand during the 12-month period preceding the survey interview. In Canterbury, 30.8 percent of respondents to the fourth NZCVS 2020-21 reported being victimised (all types of offences) once or more during the last 12-months; down from 34.8 percent in the third survey in 2019-20 (New Zealand 29% and 29.3%, respectively). For property offences such as theft and/or damage, 5.6 percent of respondents in Canterbury reported being victimised once or more during the last 12-months in the 2020-21 survey, down from 6 percent in 2019-20 (New Zealand 4.5% and 4.1%, respectively).

## Data Sources

**Source:** New Zealand Police.

**Survey/data set:** Administrative data to April 2022. Access publicly available data from NZ Police website [www.police.govt.nz/about-us/statistics-and-publications/data-and-statistics/victimisations-police-stations](http://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/statistics-and-publications/data-and-statistics/victimisations-police-stations) or from the Ministry of Justice website [www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/](http://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/research-data/nzcvs/resources-and-results/).

**Source data frequency:** Monthly.

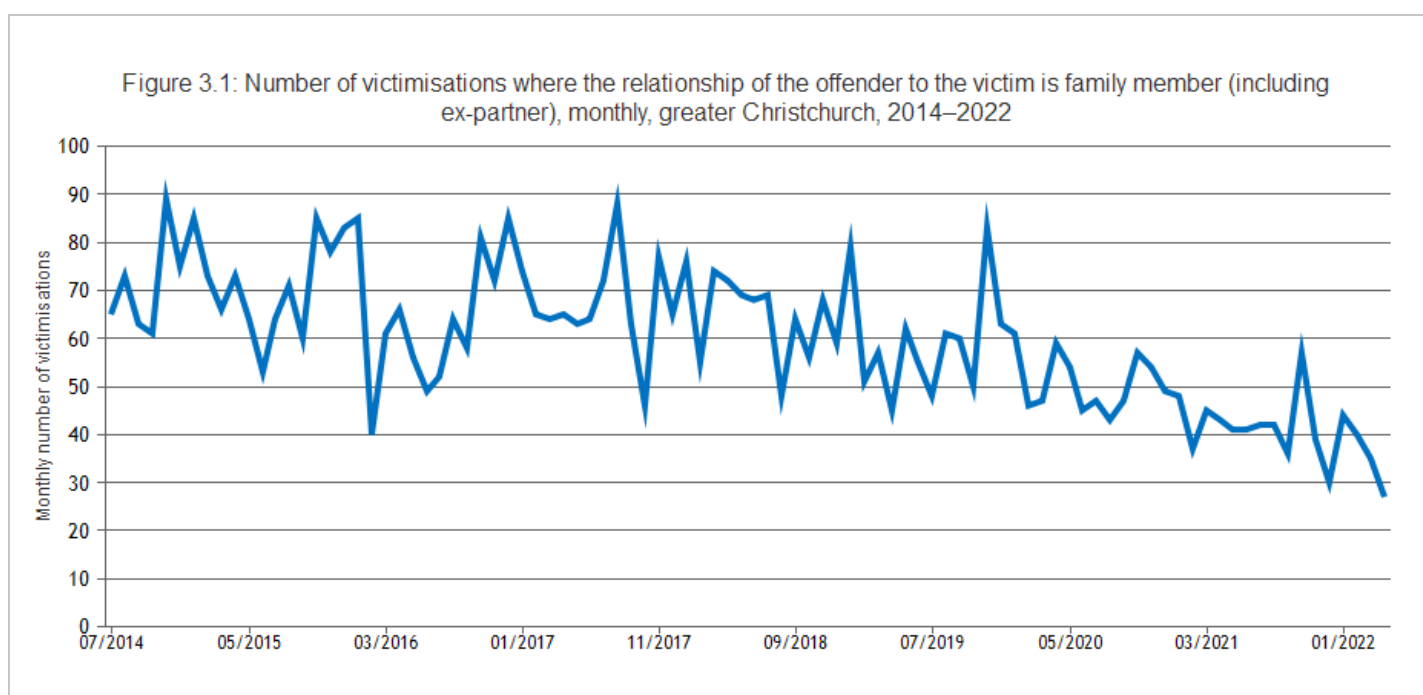
Metadata for this indicator is available at <https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/index-data>

## FAMILY VIOLENCE VICTIMISATIONS

Family violence victimisations are acts intended to cause injury, sexual assault and related offences and abduction, harassment and other related offences against a person where the relationship of the offender to the victim is family member (including ex-partner) [12]. New Zealand has among the highest rates of recorded family violence in the developed world [13] and there are likely many more people affected by family violence than are captured by family violence indicators, as many instances of family violence go unreported [14].

Family violence is linked to a series of negative health and wellbeing outcomes both in the short and long term. For example, children who witness violence between parents or who are victims of parents' violence are at higher risk of experiencing behavioural problems, or bullying other children, or achieving poor school performance [15]. Domestic violence also brings about high public costs for victim support, medical care, mental health services, police, and other losses of productivity [15].

This indicator presents the number of victimisations for acts intended to cause injury, sexual assault and related offences and abduction, harassment and other related offences against a person where the relationship of the offender to the victim is family member (including ex-partner), monthly, in the greater Christchurch area (stations from Canterbury Metro Area and Canterbury Rural combined to approximate the greater Christchurch boundary).



The figure shows that there may have been some overall decline in the recorded number of victimisations for family violence in greater Christchurch between July 2014 and April 2022 (the extent of the time-series data available under the current crime reporting system), however trend analysis is not available for these data. The number of victimisations has fluctuated and ranged between 27 and 89 per month over the period shown. The figure also shows that the number of victimisations for acts of family violence is somewhat higher during the summer months. This is likely to be related to both social and physical environmental factors (related to temperature and changes to patterns of routine activities) [12, 16].

### Data Sources

**Source:** New Zealand Police.

**Survey/data set:** Administrative data to April 2022. Access publicly available data at NZ Police website [www.police.govt.nz/about-us/statistics-and-publications/data-and-statistics/victimisations-police-stations](http://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/statistics-and-publications/data-and-statistics/victimisations-police-stations)

**Source data frequency:** Monthly.

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

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## FIND OUT MORE

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> **NZ Police data**

This interactive website produced by New Zealand Police presents Recorded Crime Victims Statistics (RCVS) and Recorded Crime Offenders Statistics (RCOS) and Demand and Activity data.

> **Family violence data**

The New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse collates a wide range of information about family violence.

> **Integrated Safety Response**

This New Zealand Police website provides information about the intersectoral response to family violence operating in Christchurch.