Safety: Perceptions of safety

Downloaded from https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/our-wellbeing/safety/perceptions-of-safety/ on 30/03/2024 4:39 AM

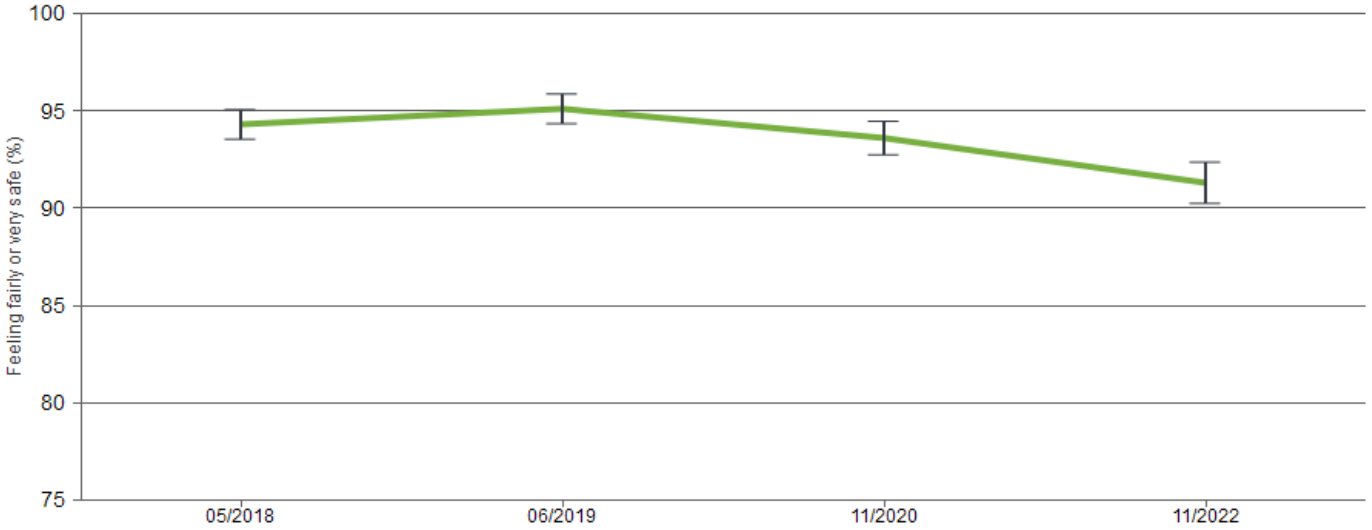
The wellbeing of individuals may be affected not only as a result of direct experience of harm but also as a result of a fear of harm. Individuals' perceptions of safety involves generalised judgements about the chance of injury or loss [9].

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.

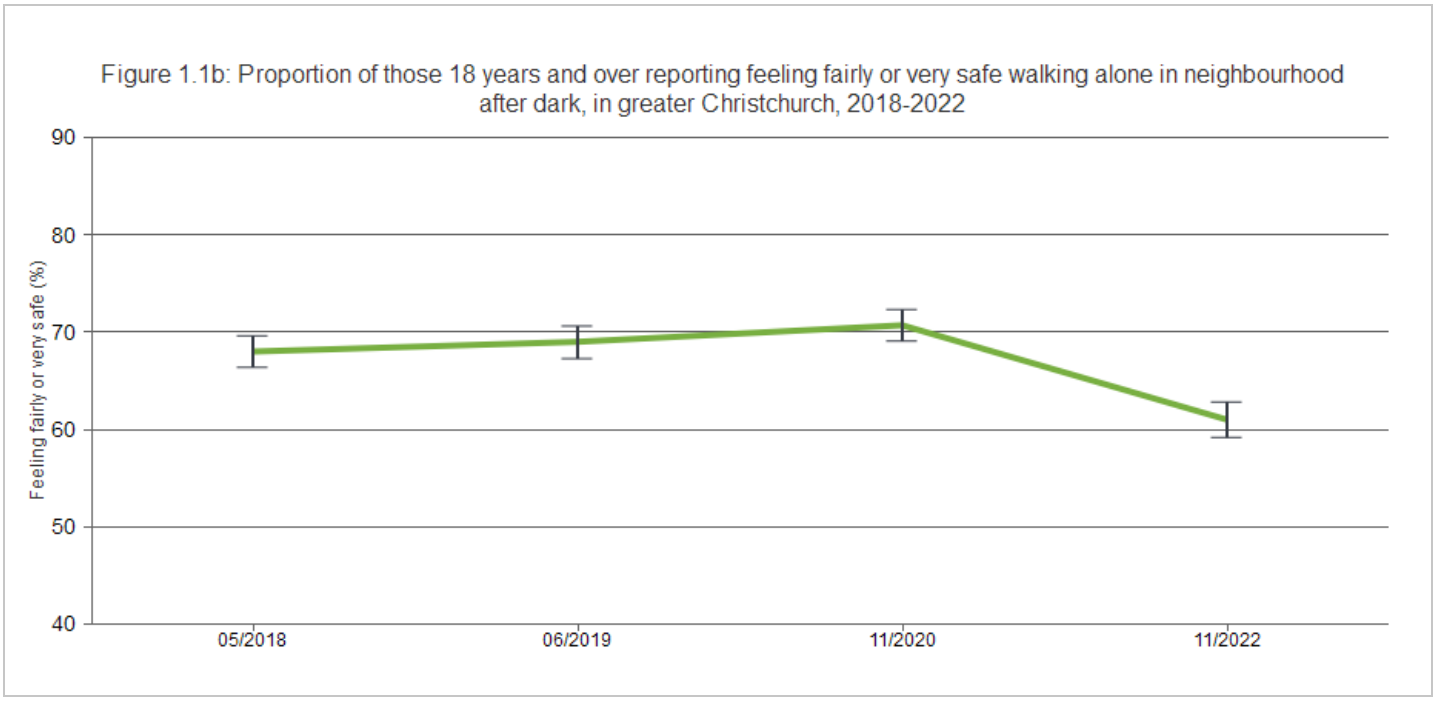
In own home after dark

Figure 1.1a: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in own home, after dark, in greater Christchurch, 2018-2022



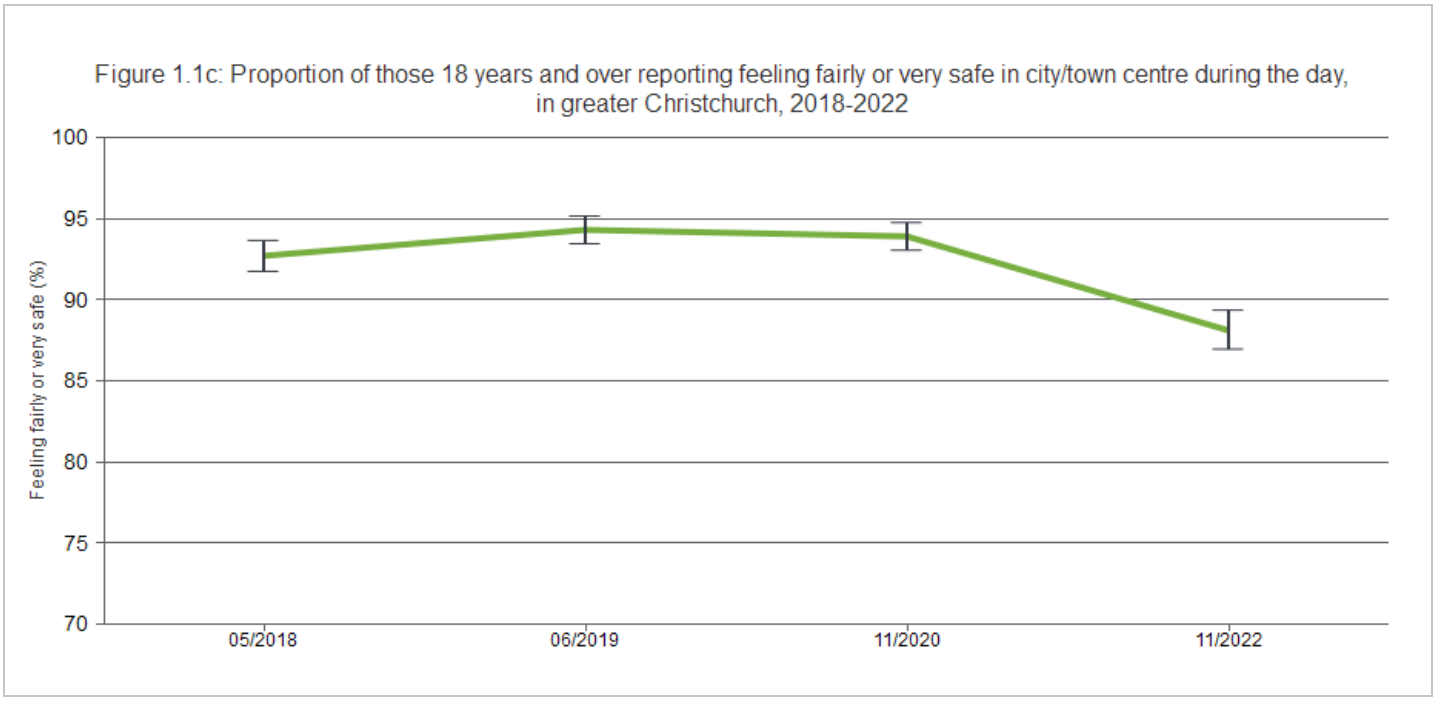
The figure shows that almost all respondents (91.3%) felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in 2022 (although statistically significantly lower than in 2019, 95.1%).

Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



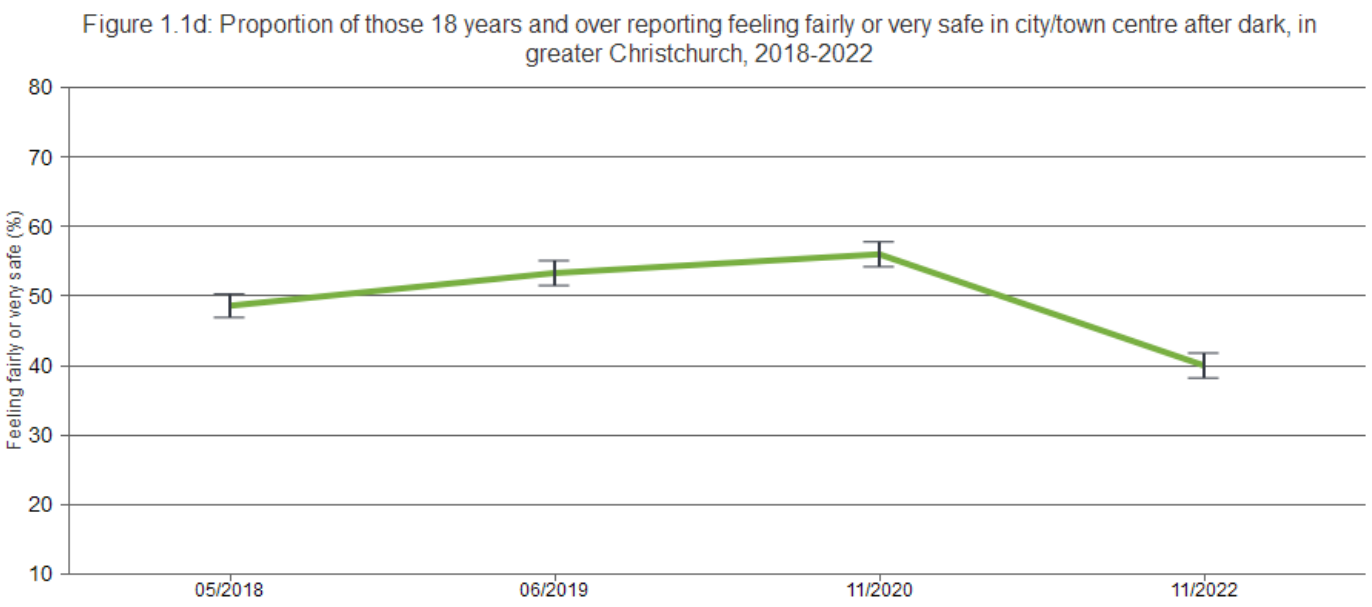
The figure shows that approximately two-thirds (61%) of respondents felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in 2022 (although notably and statistically significantly lower than the 2020 result of 70.7%).

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



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%).

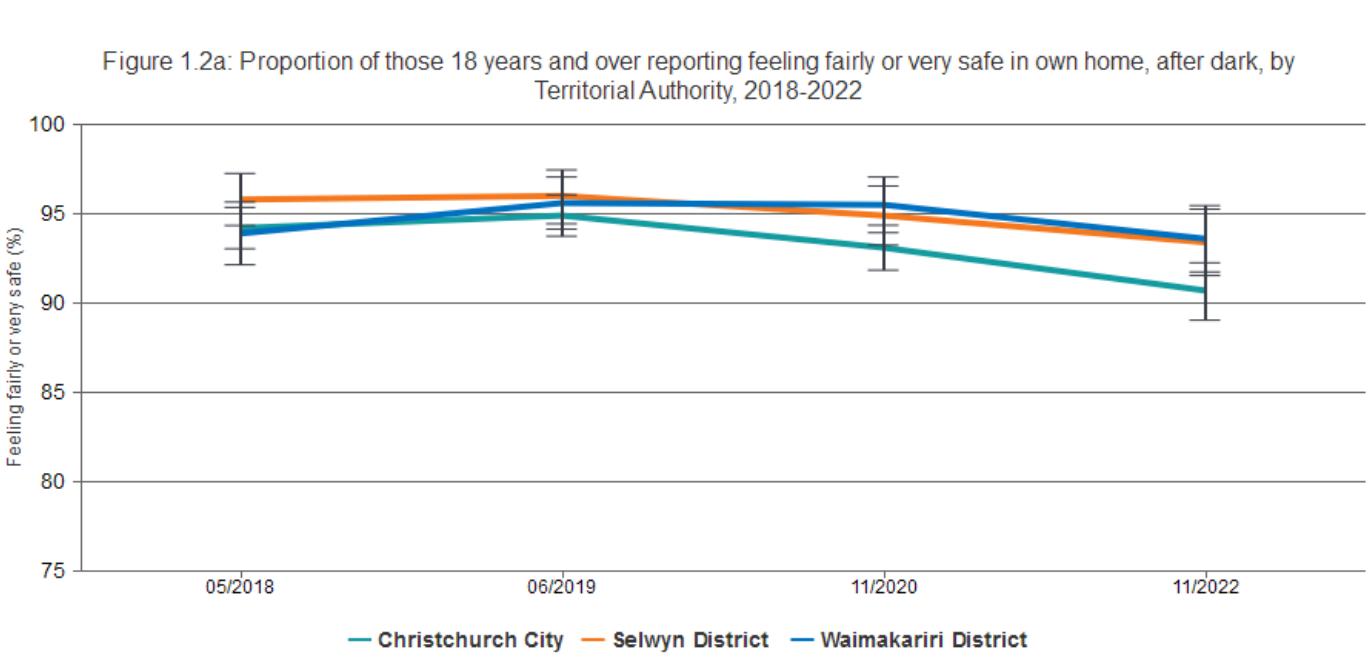
Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



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%).

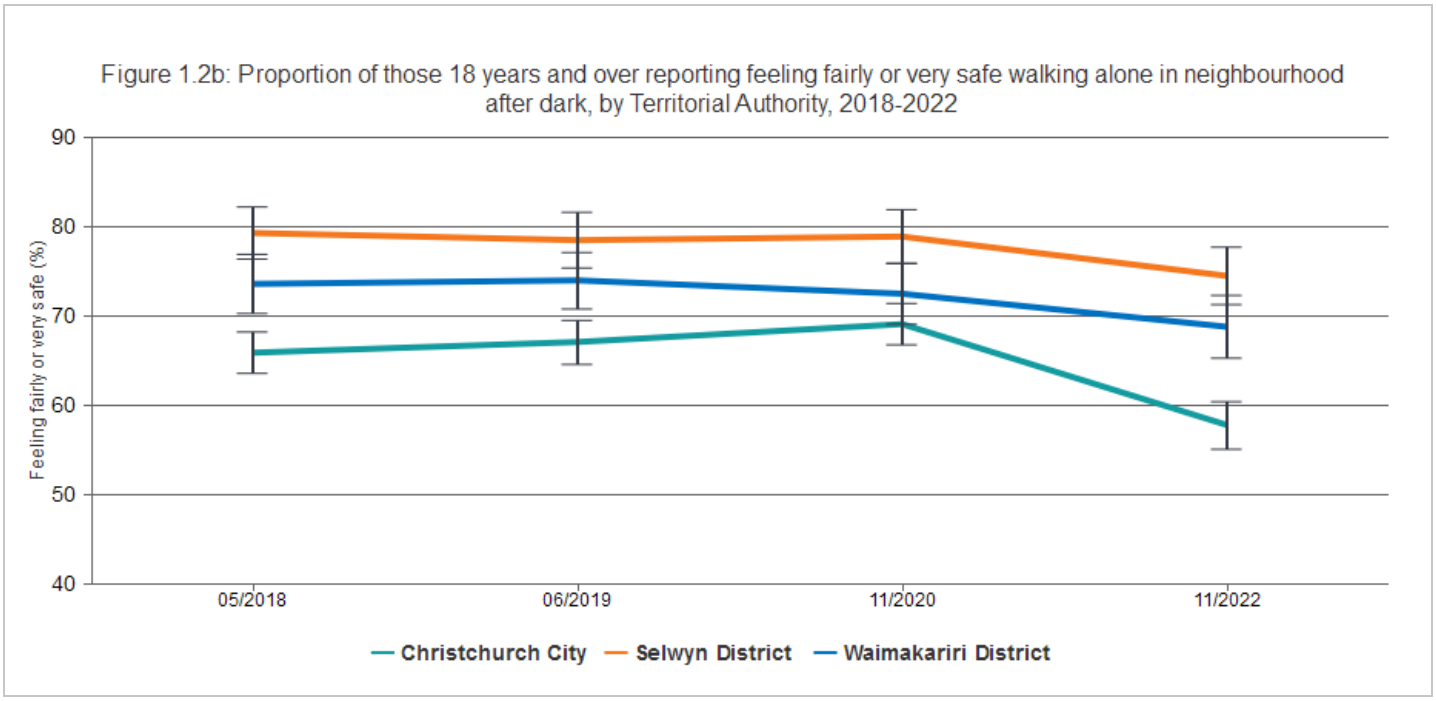
Breakdown by Territorial Authority

In own home after dark



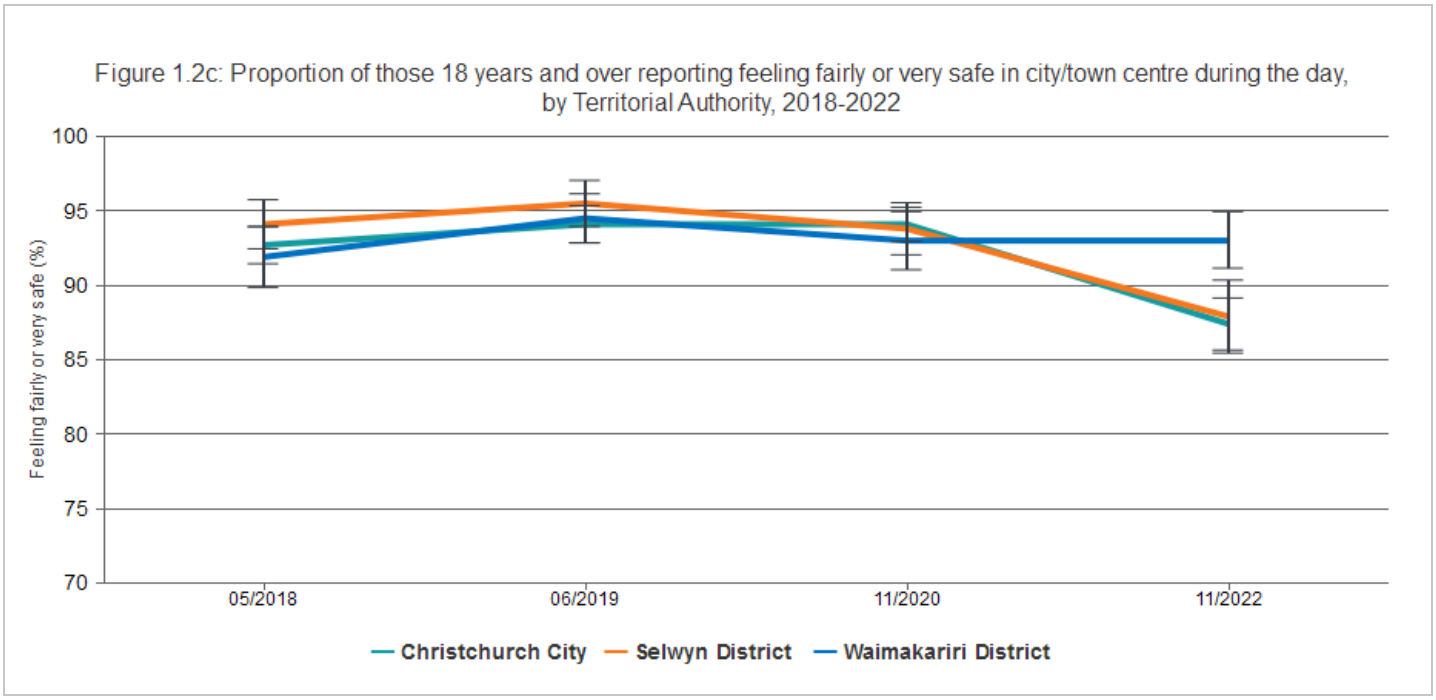
The figure shows similar proportions of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in Christchurch City, Selwyn District and Waimakariri District. in 2022 (90.7%, 93.4%, and 93.6% respectively).

Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



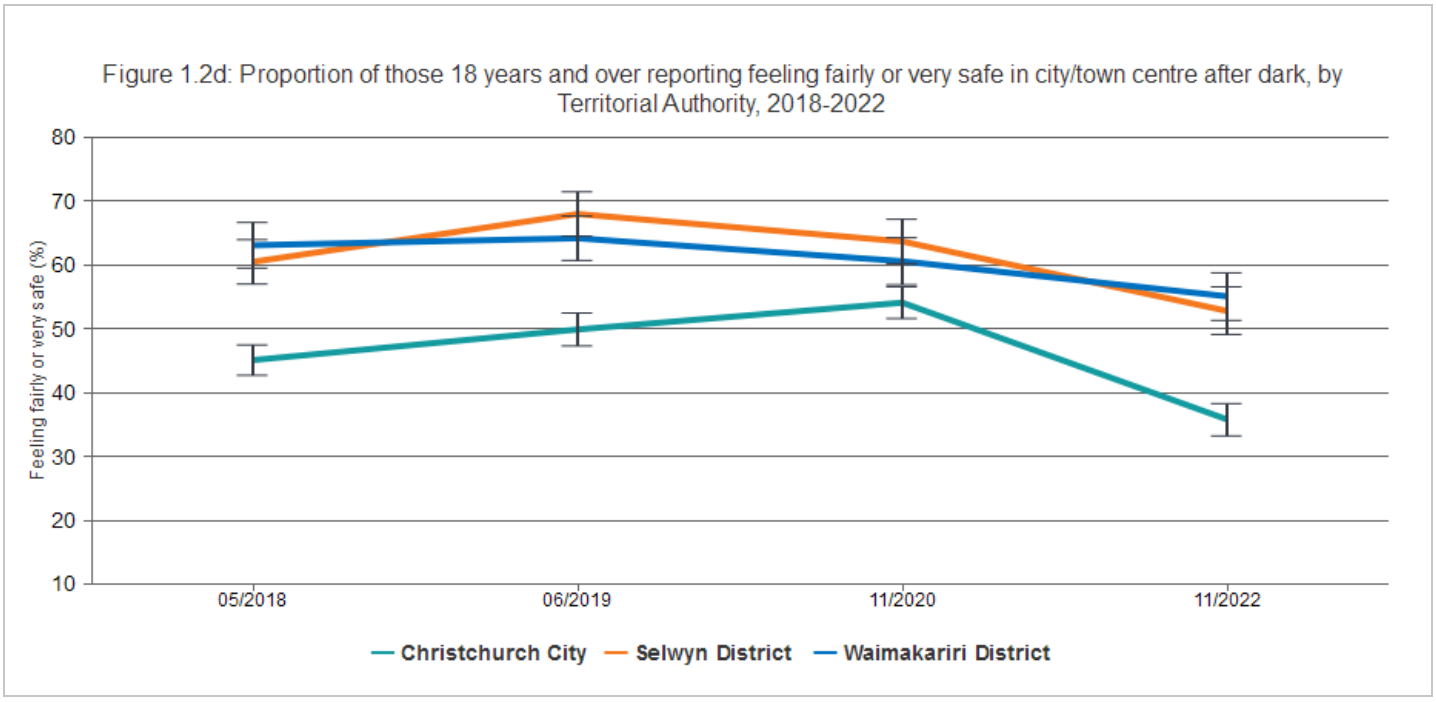
The figure shows differences in the proportions of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in Christchurch City, Waimakariri District, and Selwyn District, from 2018 to 2022 (57.8%, 68.8%, and 74.5% respectively, in 2022). The proportion 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



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).

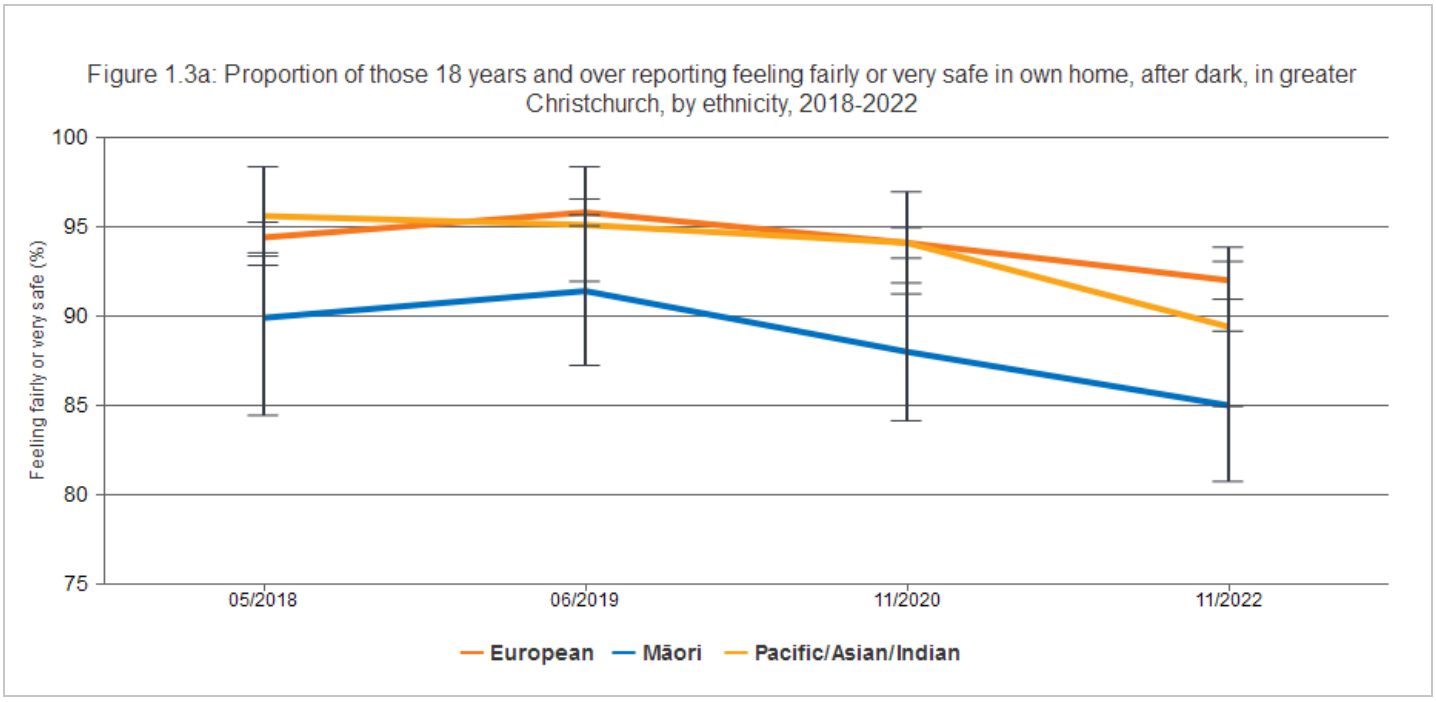
Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



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).

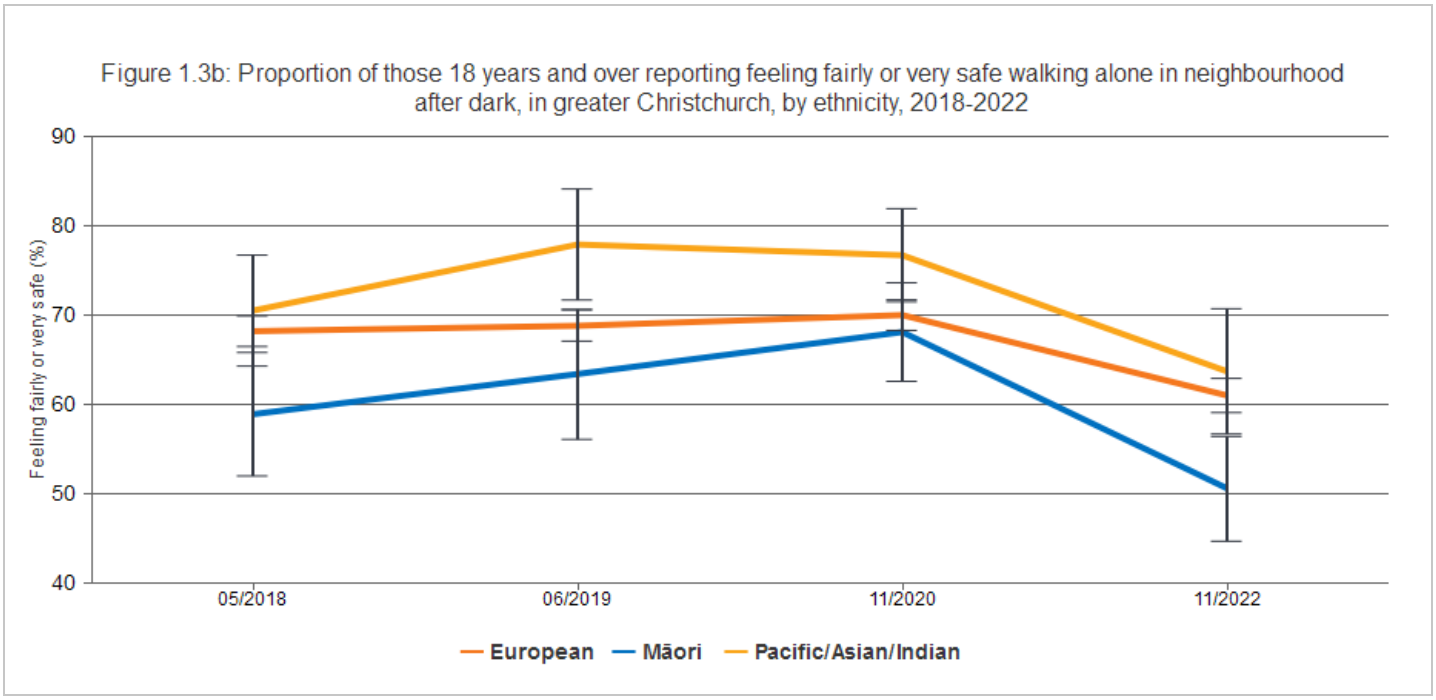
Breakdown by ethnicity

In own home after dark



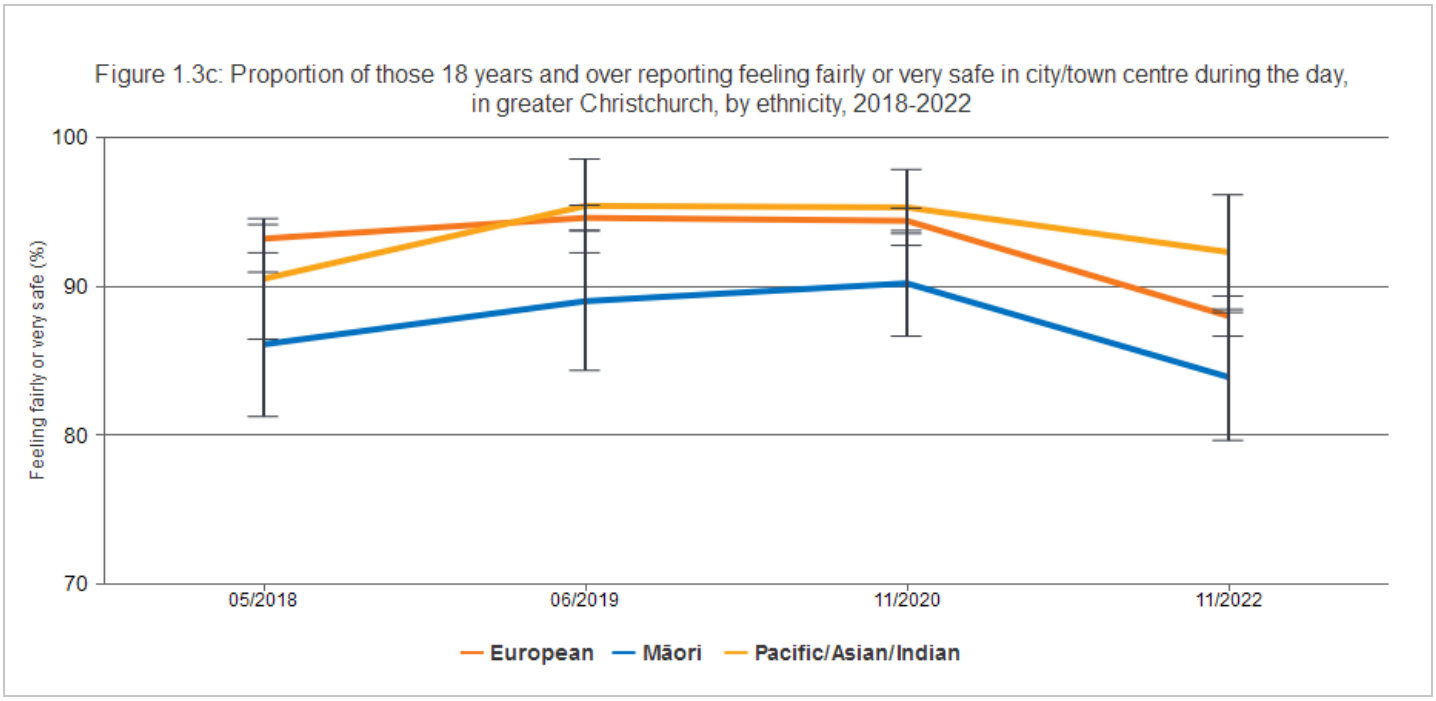
The figure shows a clear pattern whereby Māori respondents generally reported lower levels of perceived safety (proportion feeling fairly or very safe) than European and Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents across the time series shown. In 2020 and 2022, a statistically significantly lower proportion of 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



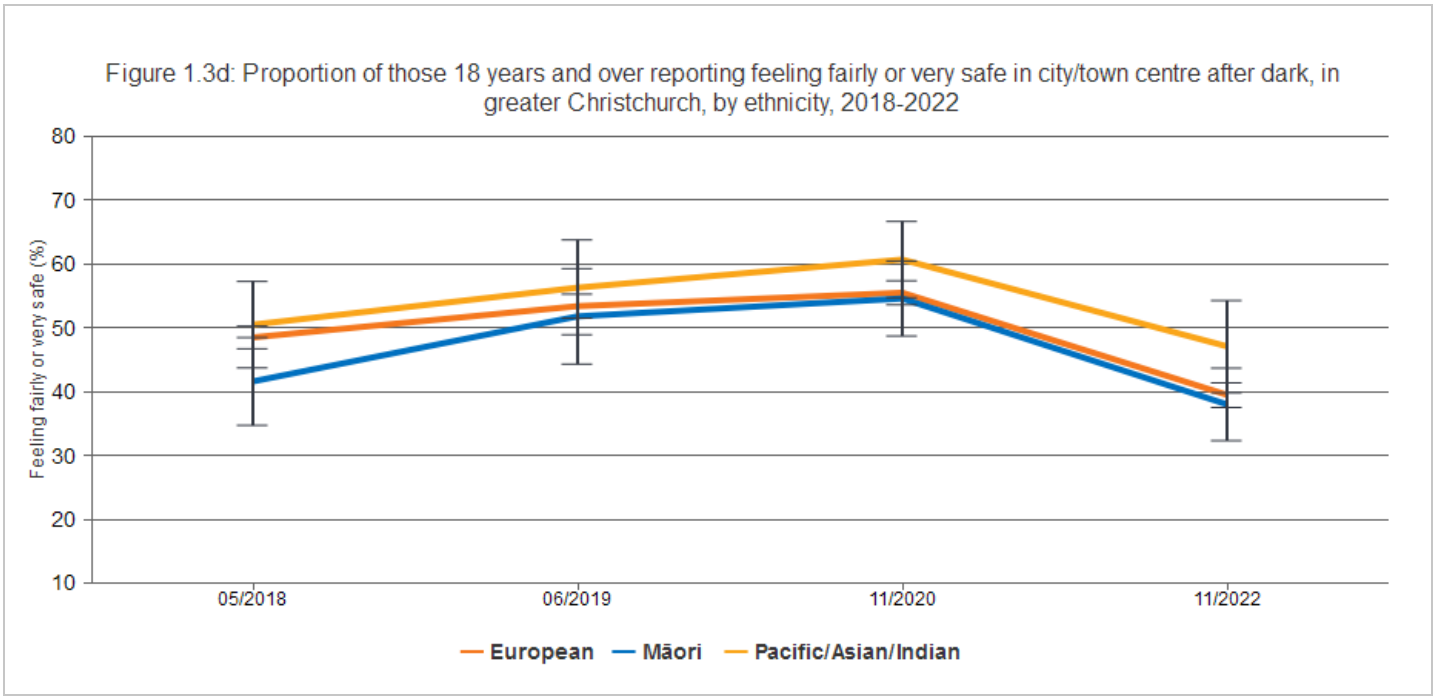
The figure shows a general pattern whereby Māori respondents reported lower levels of feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark than European and Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents, across the time series shown. In 2022, a statistically significantly lower proportion of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

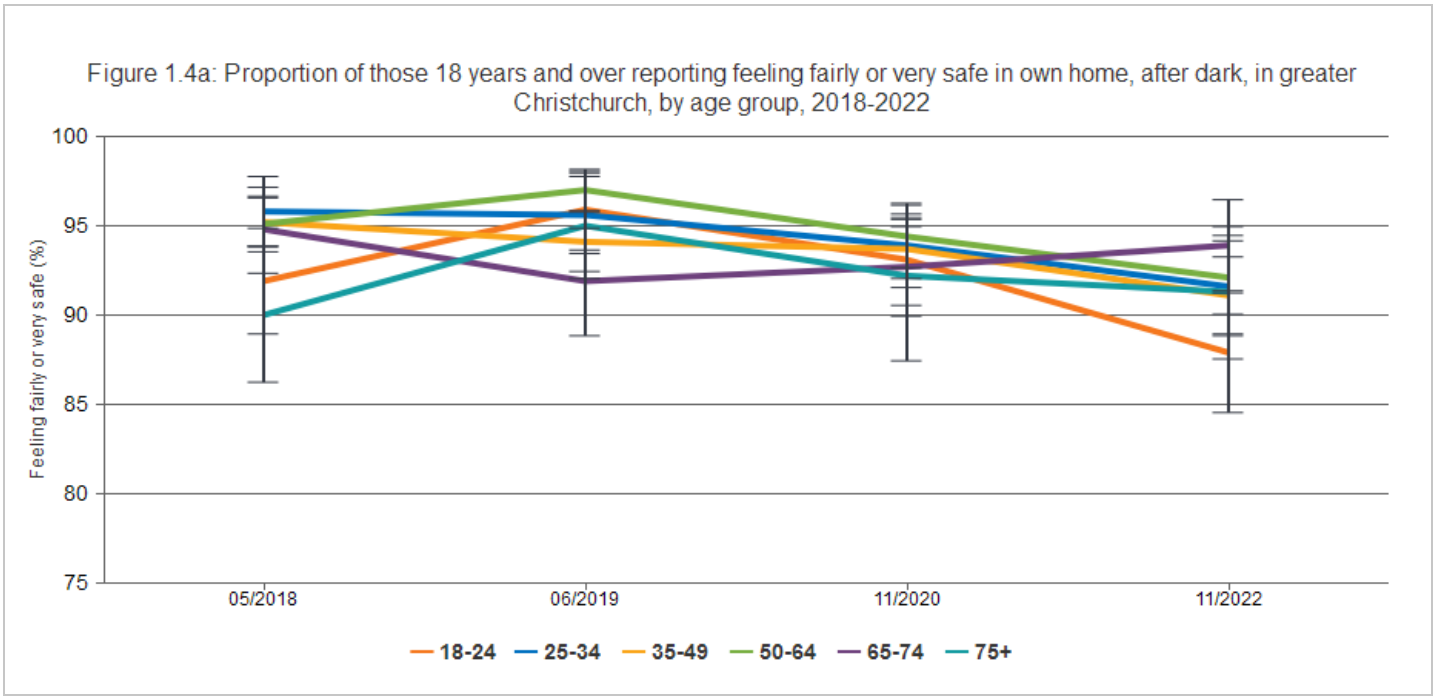
Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



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).

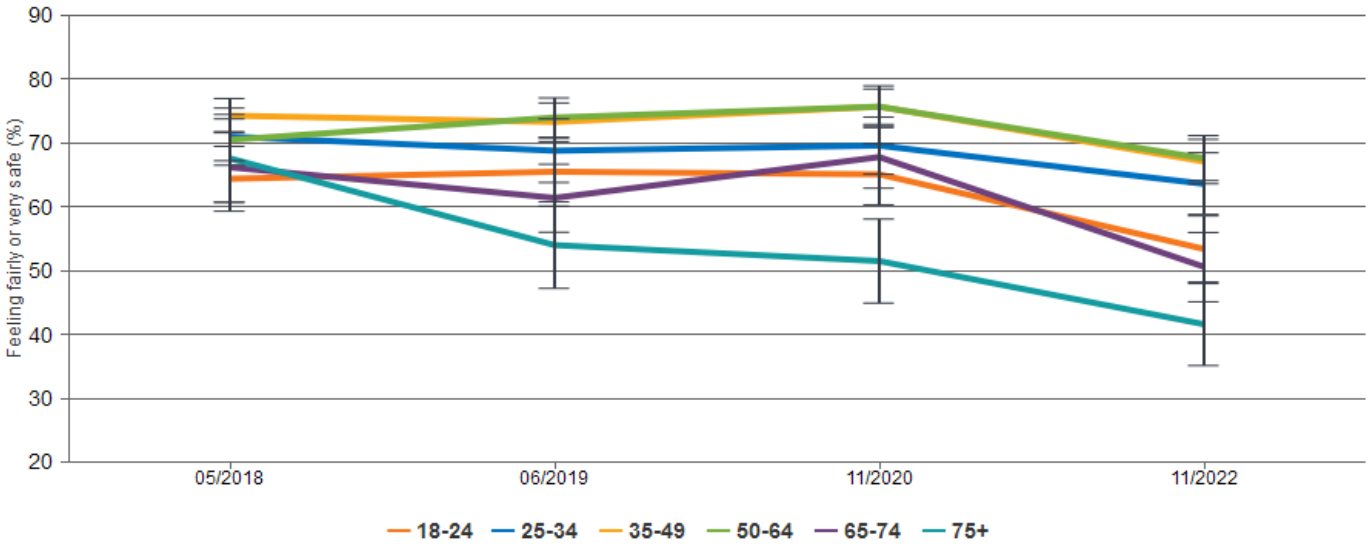
Breakdown by age

In own home after dark



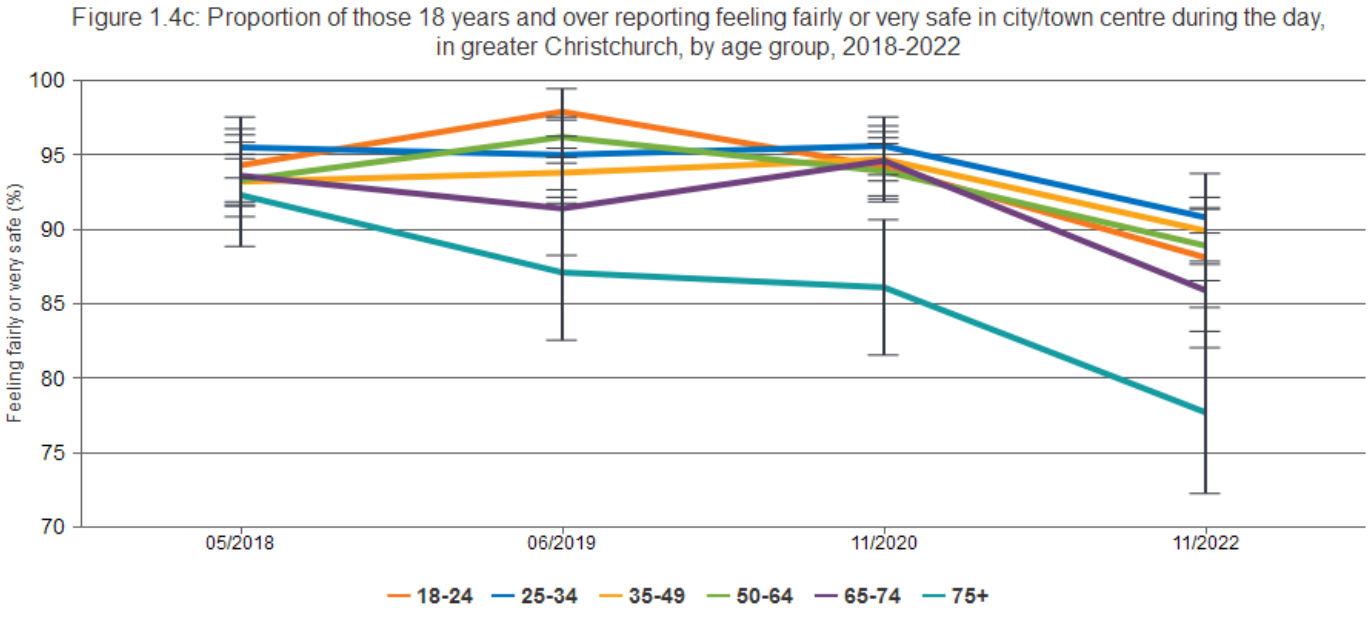
The figure shows generally similar proportions of respondents in the middle age groups reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in greater Christchurch. While the youngest respondents (18–24 years) have generally reported lower levels of perceived safety (proportion 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



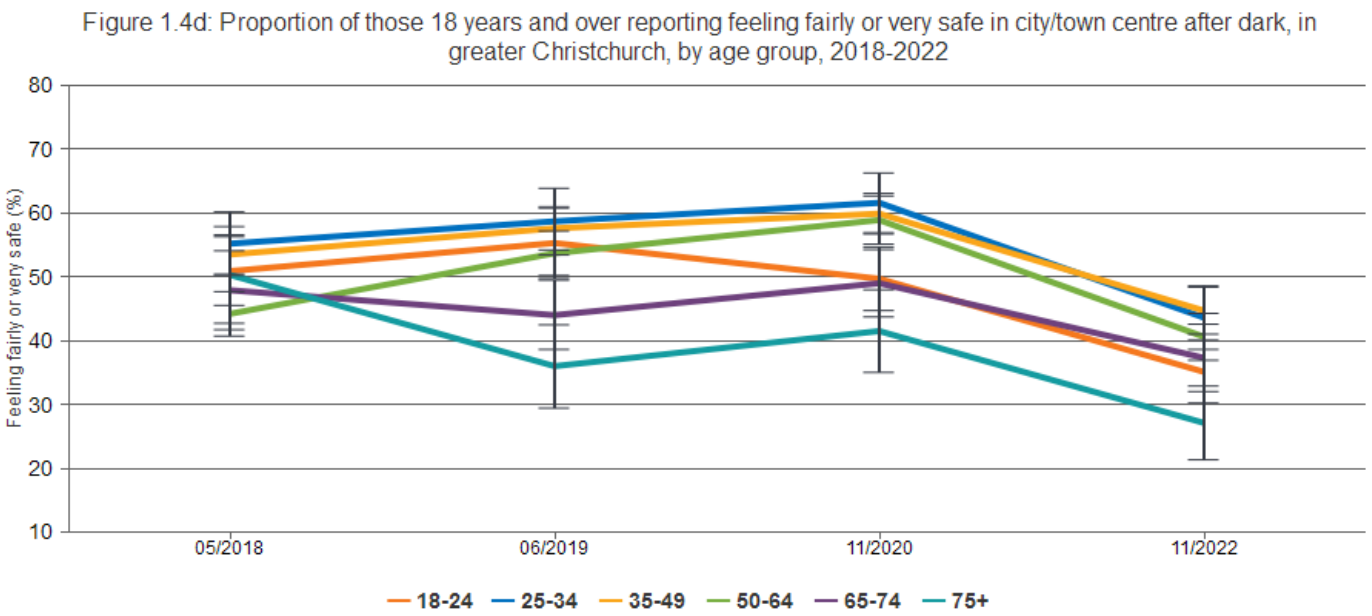
The figure shows a pattern of generally lower proportions of respondents reporting feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, for the two oldest age groups (65–74 years, 50.6% and 75+ years, 41.6%, in 2022) and the youngest age group (18–24 years, 53.4%, in 2022) compared 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



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).

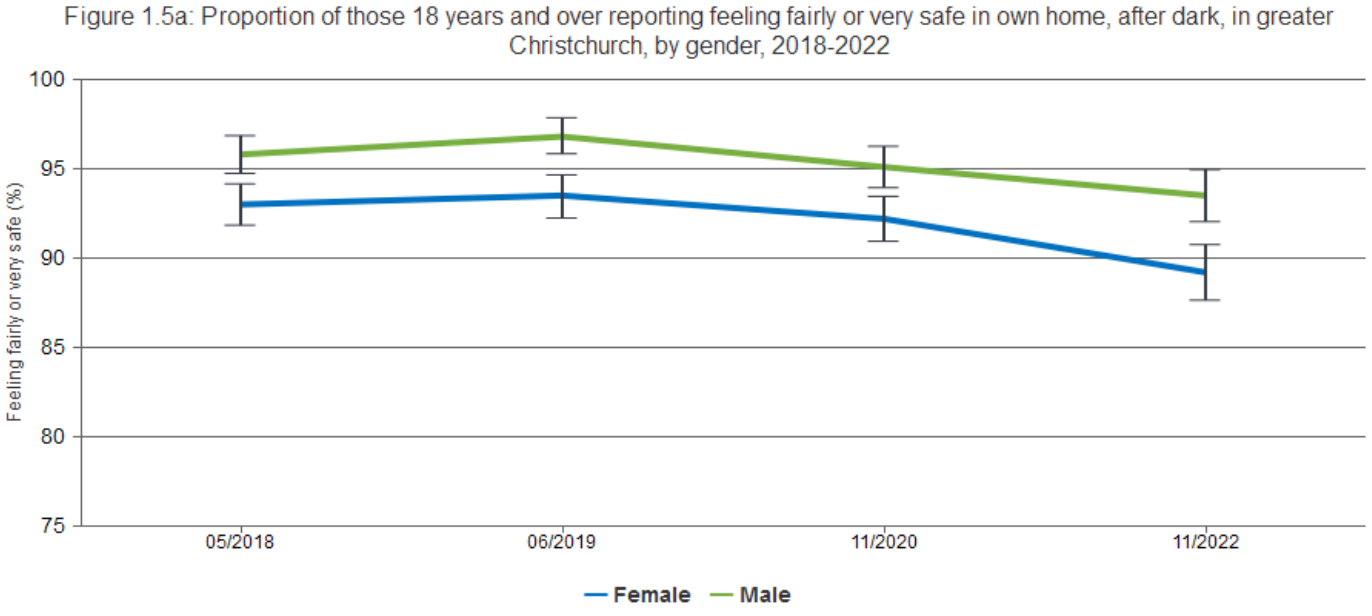
Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



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

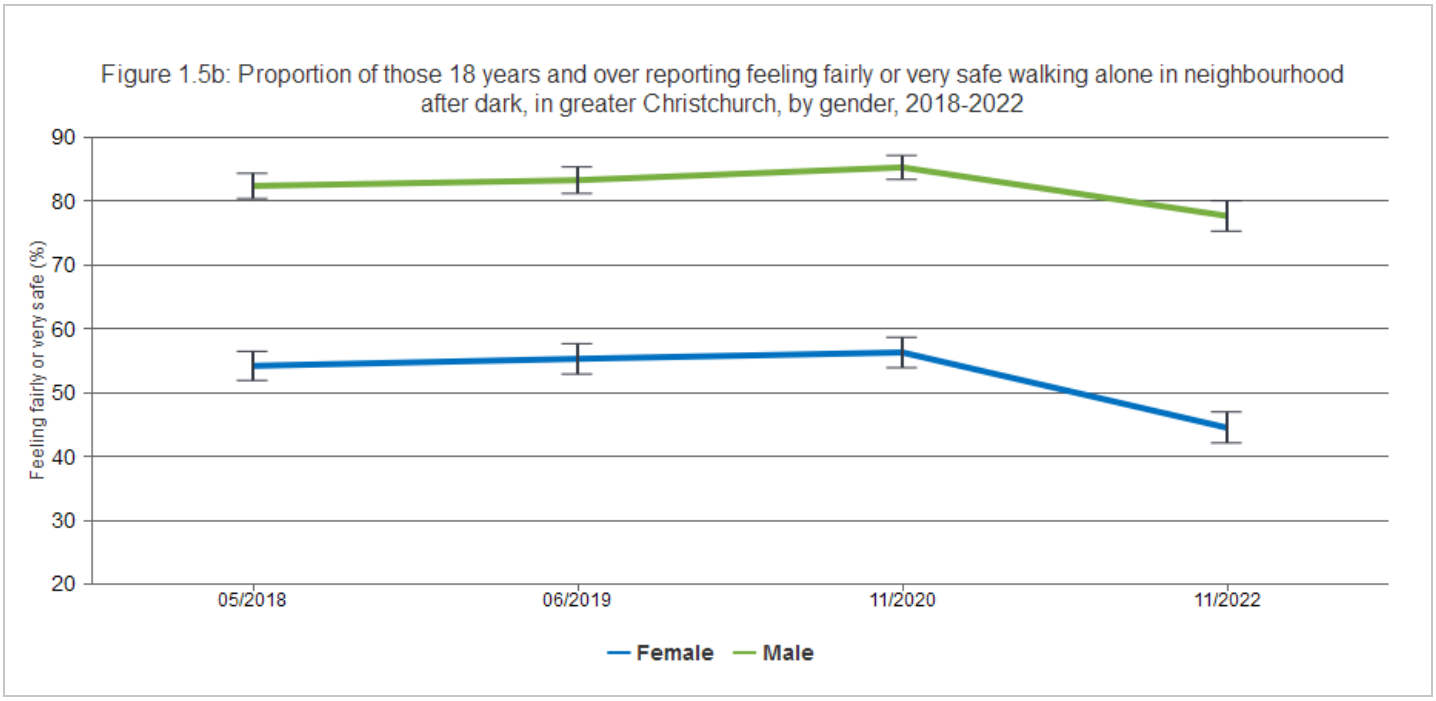
In own home after dark



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%

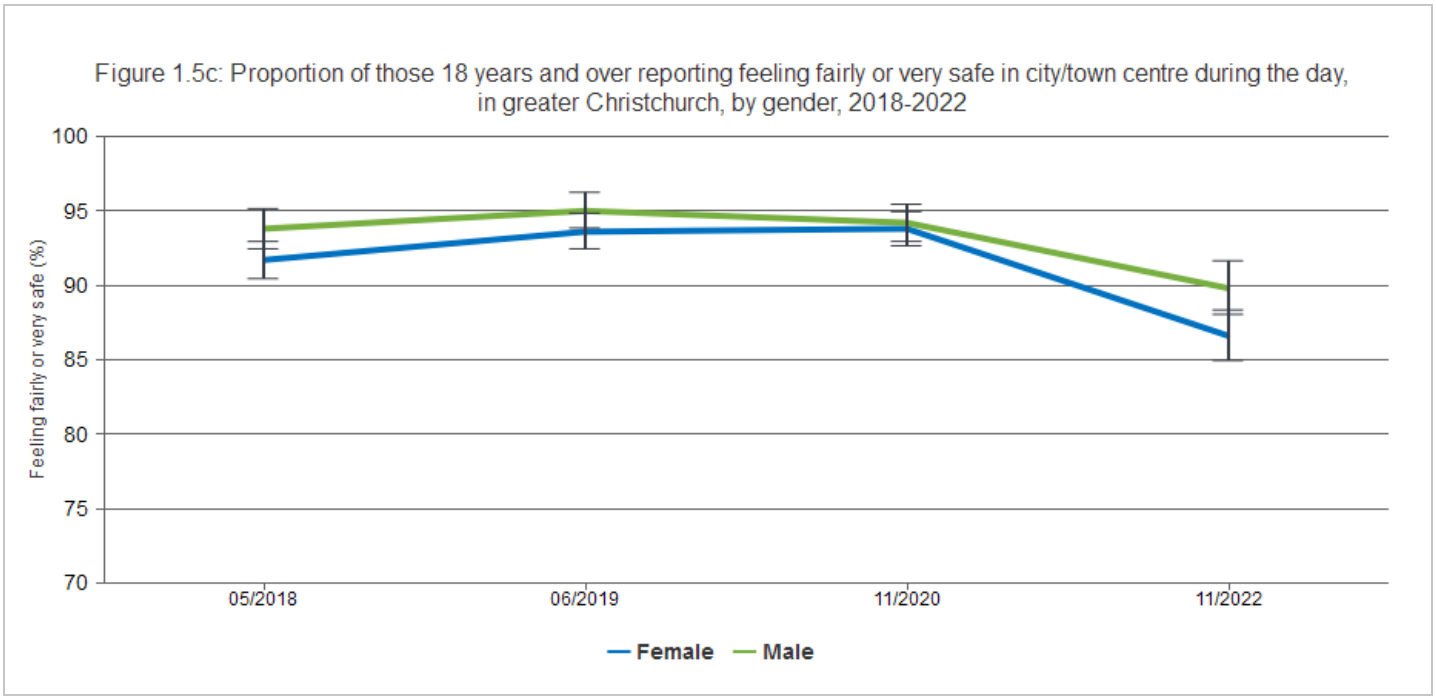
and 93.5% in 2022, respectively).

Walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



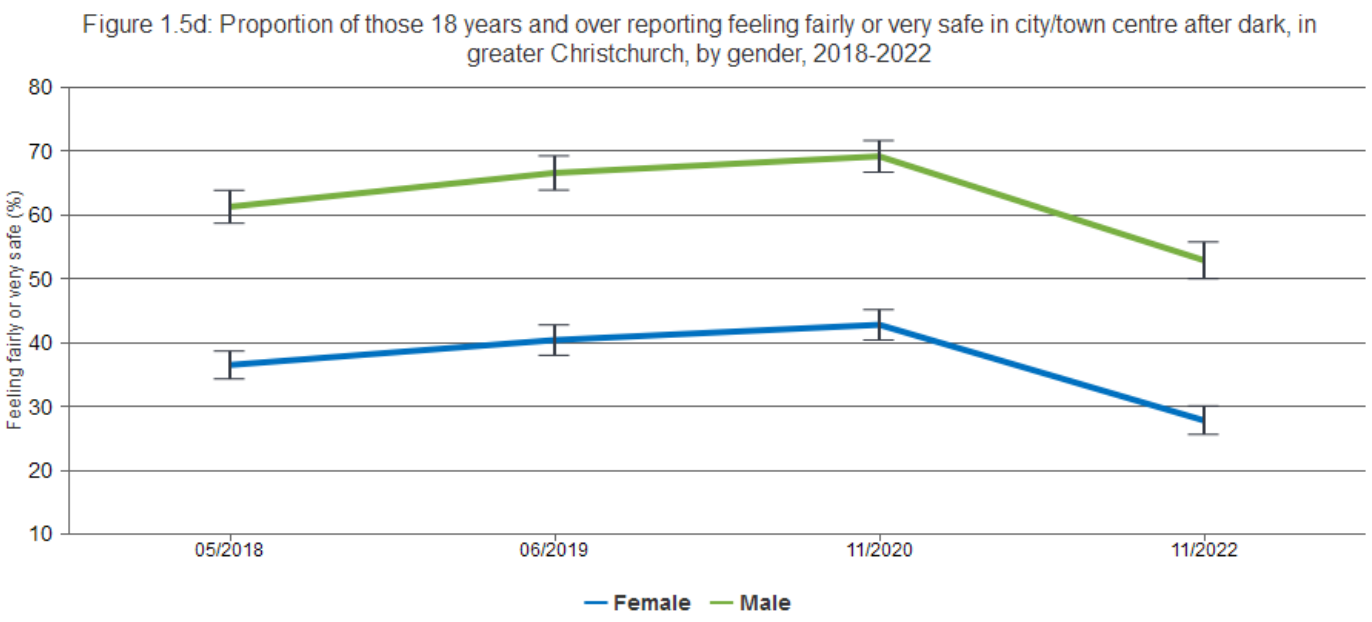
The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in greater Christchurch, is substantially and statistically significantly lower for females compared with males, for the years shown in the time series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

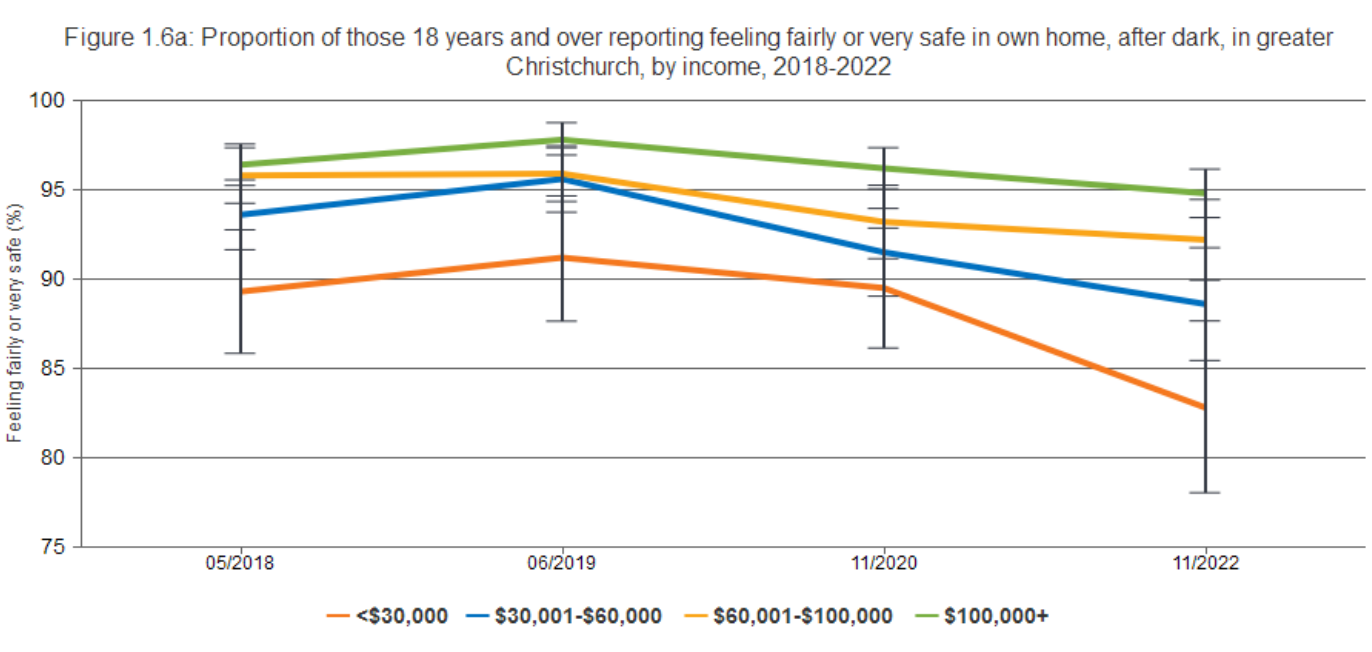
Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



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).

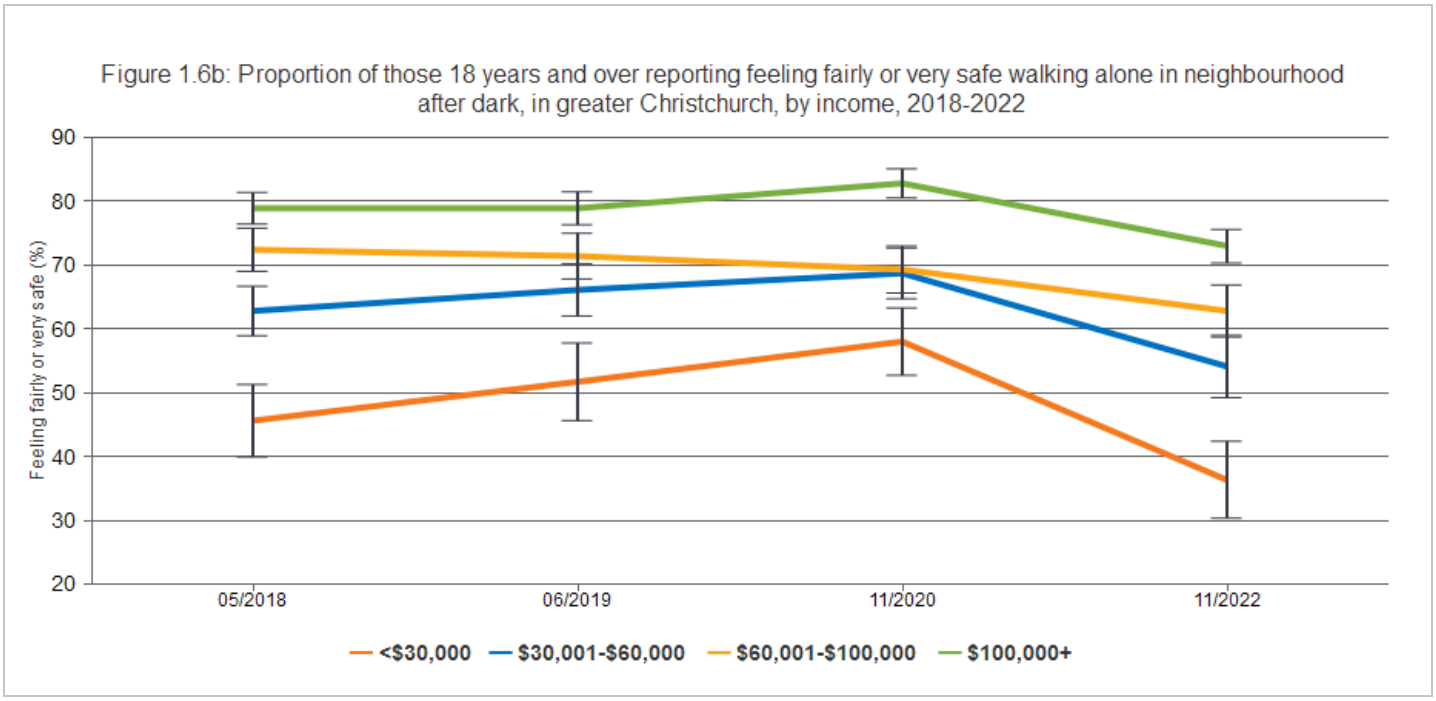
Breakdown by income

In own home after dark



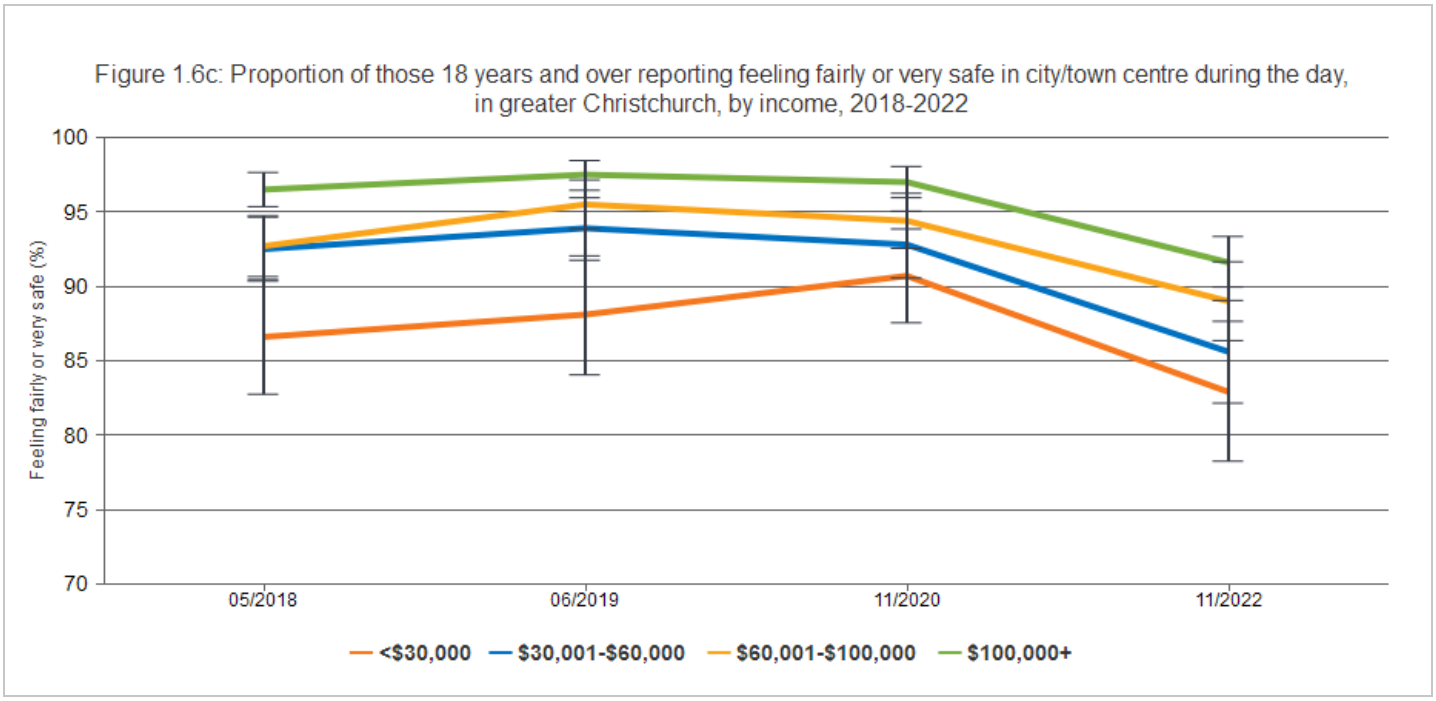
The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in greater Christchurch, generally increases with increasing annual household income. The differences between the lowest income groups and the two highest income groups 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



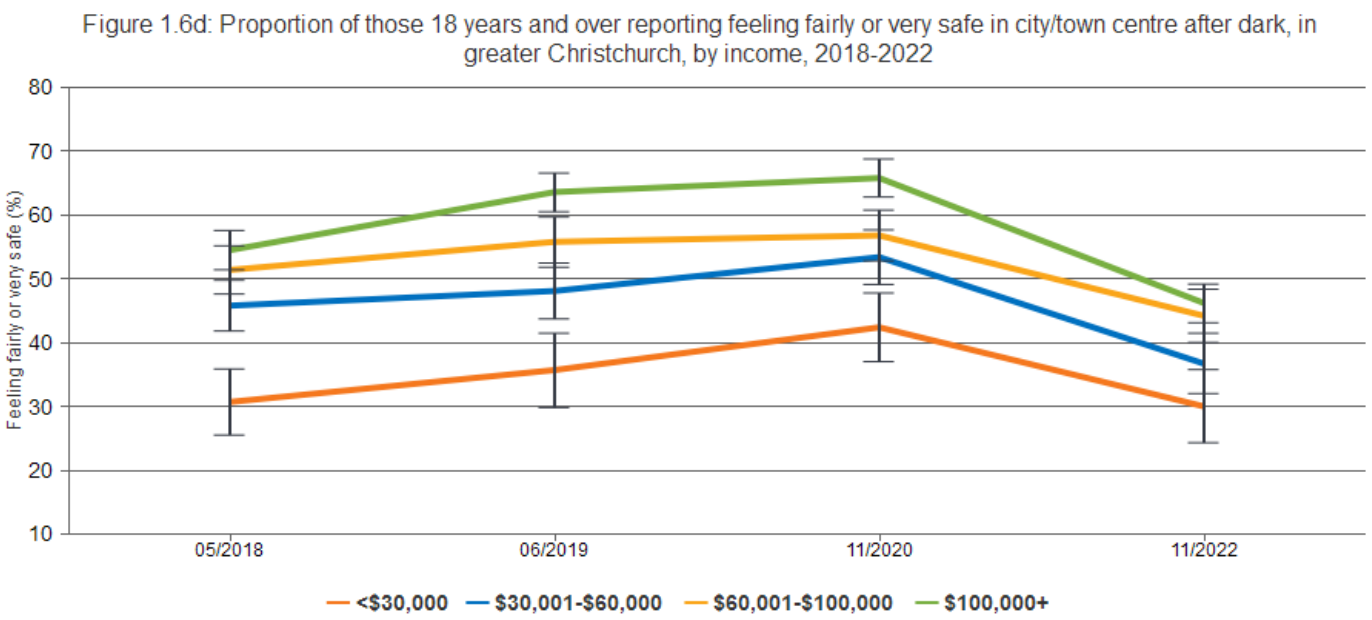
The figure shows that the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in greater Christchurch, generally increases with increasing annual household income. The differences between the lowest two income groups and the highest 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



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).

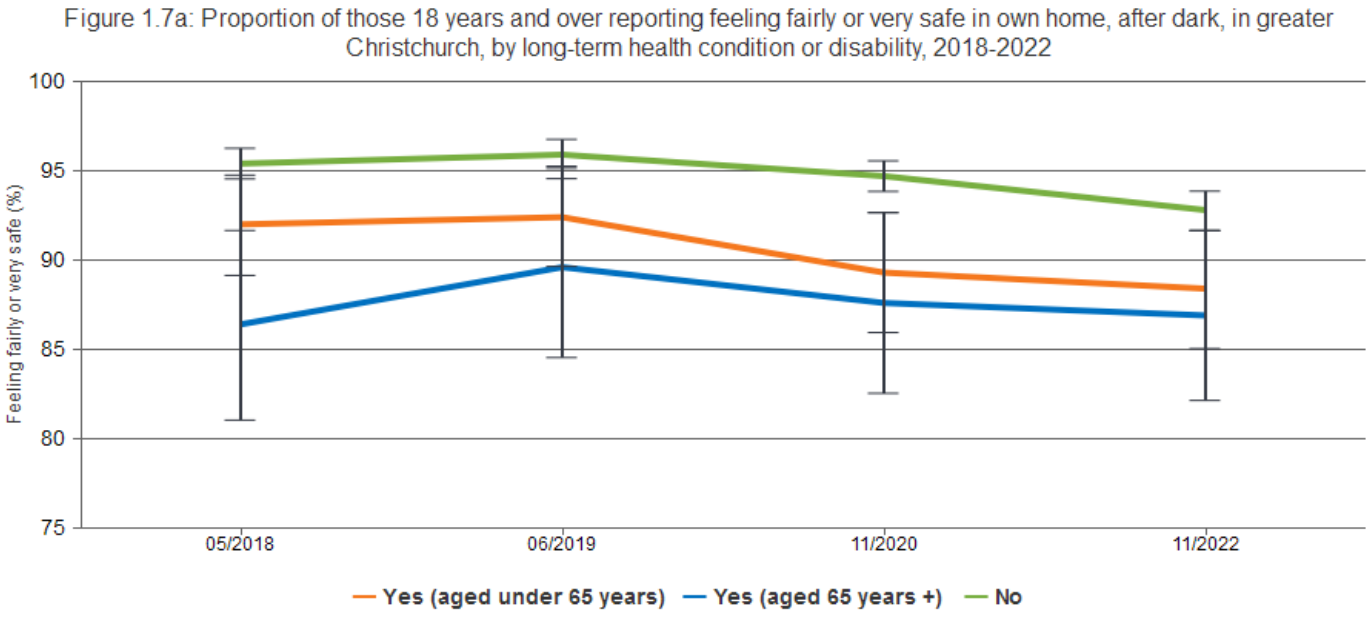
Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre after dark



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

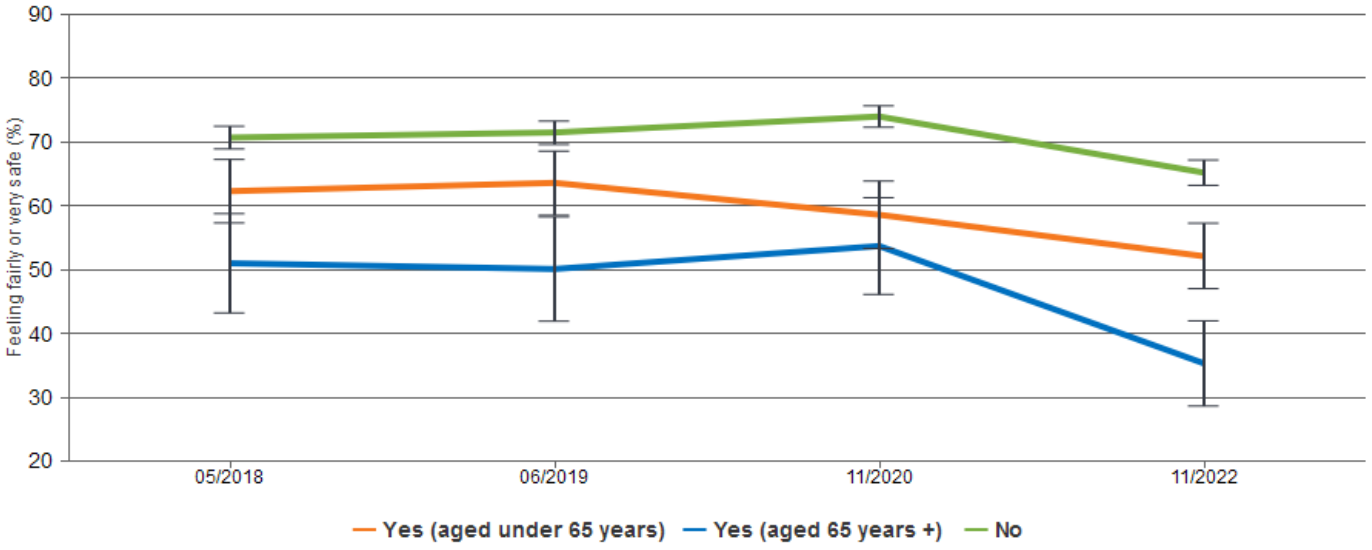


The figure shows that the proportions of respondents reporting that they felt fairly safe or very safe in their own home after dark, in greater Christchurch, are generally smaller for respondents with a disability or long-term health condition (irrespective of age) compared with those without a disability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

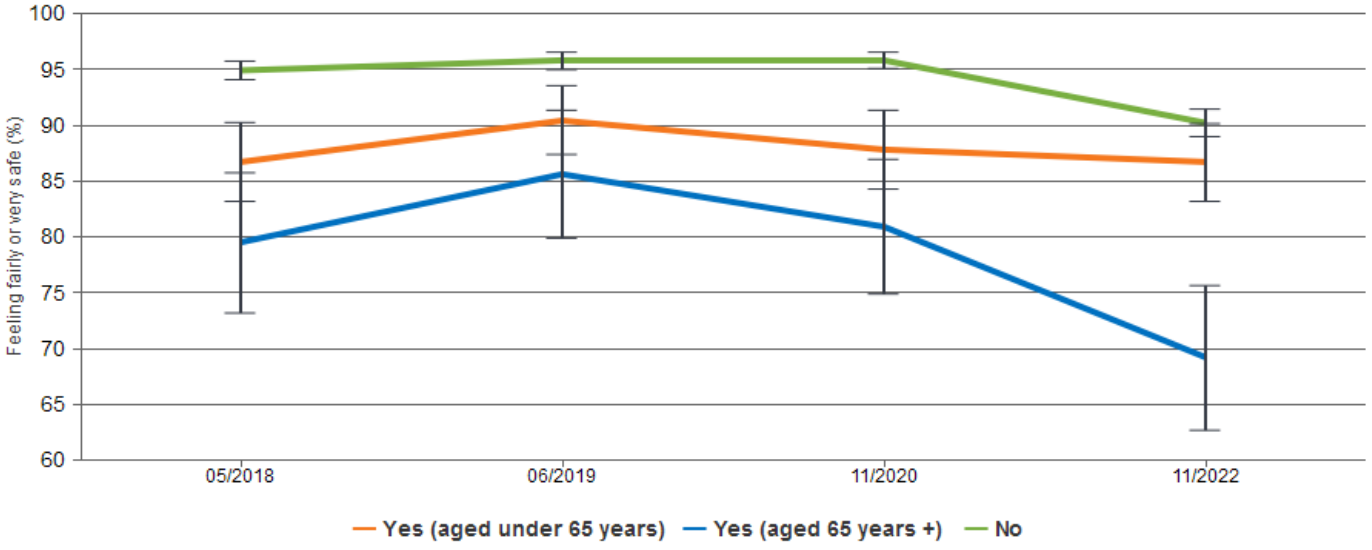
Figure 1.7b: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe walking alone in neighbourhood after dark, in greater Christchurch, by long-term health condition or disability, 2018-2022



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, 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%).

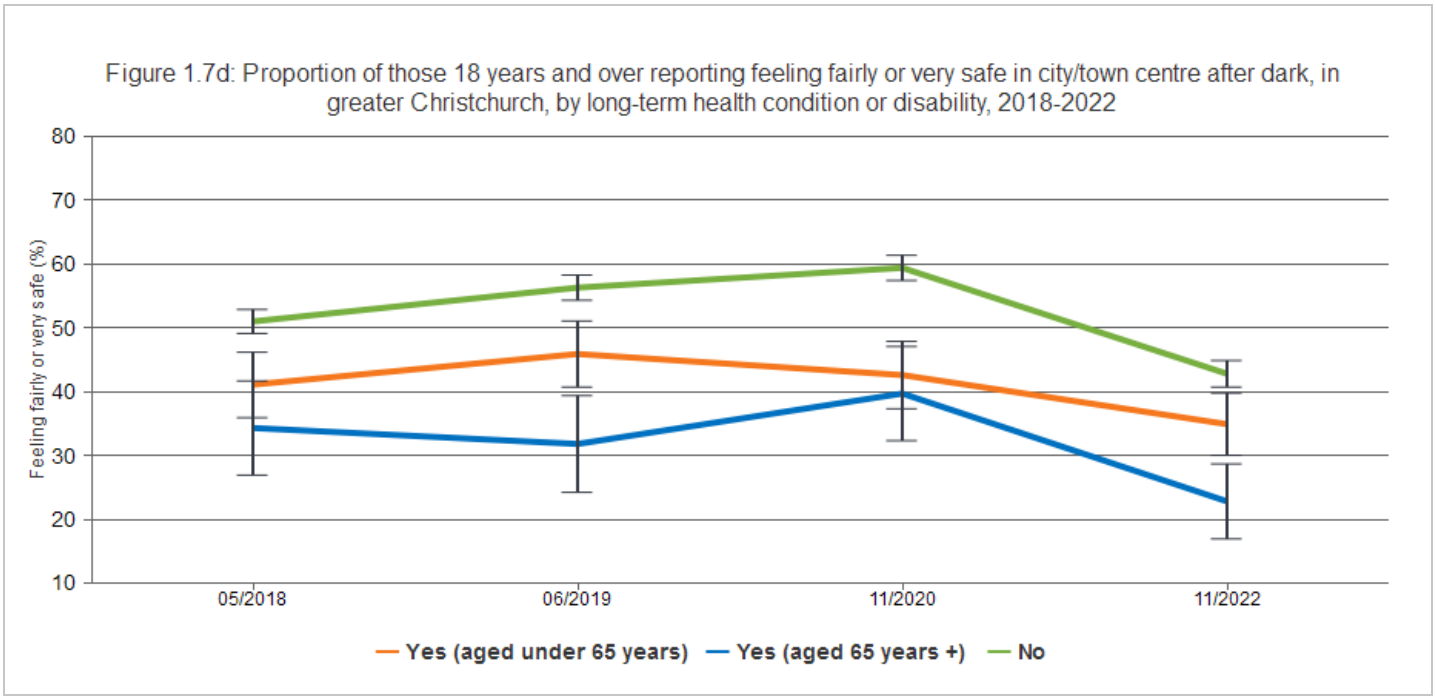
Feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day

Figure 1.7c: Proportion of those 18 years and over reporting feeling fairly or very safe in city/town centre during the day, in greater Christchurch, by long-term health condition or disability, 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, 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/
Source data frequency: Annually.

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

REFERENCES

This is the full reference list for **Safety**.

1 Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform (2009) *Fear of Crime in Ireland and its Impact on Quality of Life: A Report Commissioned by the National Crime Council* Dublin: The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

2 Schweitzer J, Kim J,Mackin J (1999) The impact of the built environment on crime and fear of crime in urban neighbourhoods. *Journal of Urban Technology* 6: 59–73.

3 Parkes A, Kearns A,Atkinson R (2002) What makes people dissatisfied with their neighbourhoods? *Urban Studies* 39: 2413–2438.

4 Permentier M, Bolt G,van Ham M (2011) Determinants of neighbourhood satisfaction and perception of neighbourhood reputation. *Urban Studies* 48: 977–996.

5 Taylor R (1995) The impact of crime on communities. *The American Academy of Political and Social Science* 593: 28–45.

6 McGahey R (1986) Economic conditions, neighborhood organization, and urban crime. *Communities and Crime* 8: 231–270.

7 Porter M (1996) The competitive advantage of the inner city. In: Gate, RL,Stout, F, editors. *The city reader*. 5 ed. Oxford: Routledge.

8 Turner R (1999) Entrepreneurial neighborhood initiatives: Political capital in community development. *Economic Development Quarterly* 13: 15–22.

9 Ferraro KF (1995) *Fear of Crime: Interpreting Victimization Risk*. Albany: State University of New York: University of New York Press.

10 Jewkes Y (2011) *Key approaches to criminology*. Los Angeles ; London: SAGE.

11 Pink B (2011) *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) Australia 2011 (Third edition)*. Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

12 Lauritsen JL,Rezey ML (2018) Victimization Trends and Correlates: Macro- and Microinfluences and New Directions for Research. *Annual Review of Criminology* 1: 103-121.

13 OECD Family Database (2013) SF3.4: Family violence. In: OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, LaSA, editor.

14 Bachman R,Saltzman L (1995) *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Violence against women: Estimates from the redesigned survey (NCJ-154348)*. Washington, DC: Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

15 Bowes L, Arseneault L, Maughan B, Taylor A, Caspi A, et al. (2009) School, neighborhood, and family factors are associated with children's bullying involvement: A nationally representative longitudinal study. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry* 48: 545-553.

16 Hipp JR, Bauer DJ, Curran PJ,Bollen KA (2004) Crimes of Opportunity or Crimes of Emotion? Testing Two Explanations of Seasonal Change in Crime. *Social Forces* 82: 1333-1372.

© Crown copyright 2024 Printed on: 30/03/2024