

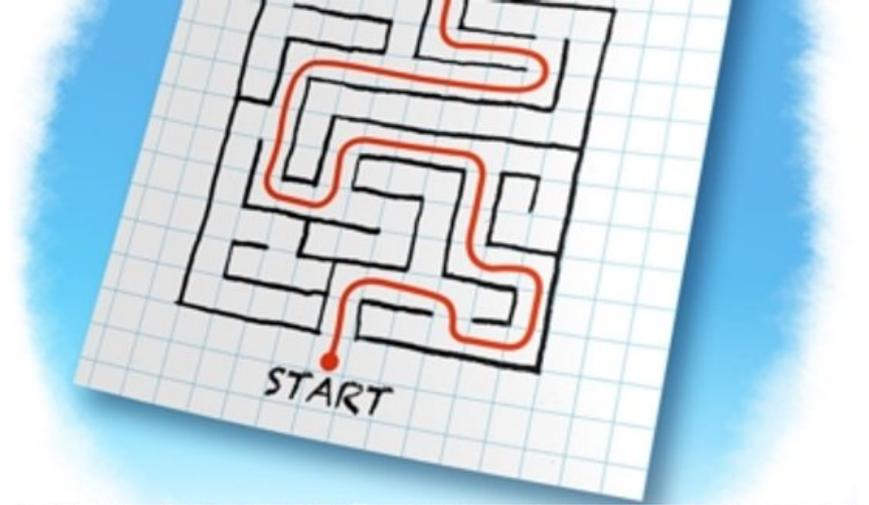
What does the 2018 Quality of Life Survey tell us about us?

Presentation to the 2019 NZ Population Conference
Te Papa
20 June 2019

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Purpose



- Dig into 2018 Quality of Life Survey to look at sub-population characteristics and issues
- Do the headlines mask important sub-plots?

Source: Grimmond D (2019) *Cluster Analysis of National Responses to the 2018 Quality of Life Survey*, GWRC, Economic Working Paper 19/2

2018 Quality of Life Survey

- Biennial survey since 2004
- 7615 respondents
- Funded by 9 councils (Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, Porirua, Hutt, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, GWRC)
- Conducted by Nielsen
- In the field: April – June 2018



Survey measures perceptions of

- Overall quality of life
- Environment (built and natural)
- Housing
- Public transport
- Health and wellbeing
- Crime and safety
- Community, culture and social networks
- Economic wellbeing, and
- Council decision-making processes



Results positive, especially for Wellington region

	Wellington	
	region	National
Quality of Life	86	80
Change in Quality of Life	17	17
Great place to live	85	74
Change in perception about city	14	4
Confidence in council decisions	19	-1
Public influence on council decisions	32	16

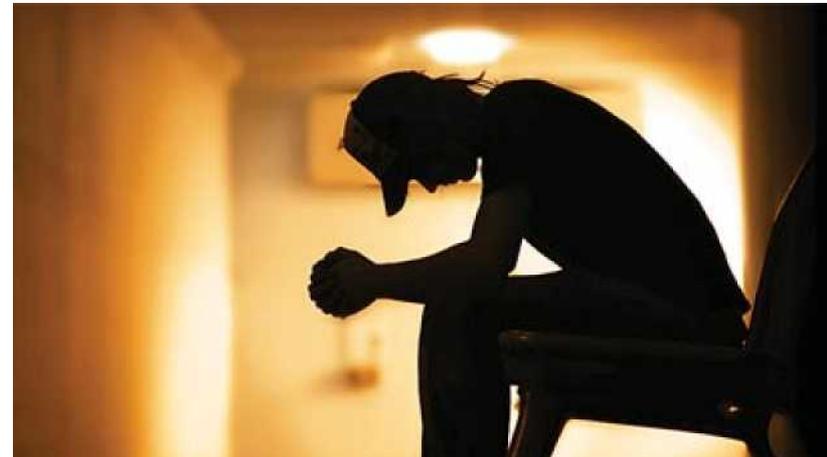
Net balance measures = % positive - % negative

Headlines can hide issues

The largest group identified in the Wellington region (3% of region sample) faces considerable challenges.

Group characteristics:

- Living in Porirua City
- Aged under 25
- Not in paid employment
- Find their income inadequate
- Their housing is cold, damp, overcrowded and expensive
- Have issues about the safety of their city and neighbourhood,
- Most of the time feel lonely.



Approach

- Analyses (confidentialised) individual 0/1 responses
- Begins with full sample
- Focus on response to one question (eg QoL)
- Group into positive/negative responses
- Conduct PCA on each group to identify clusters
- Investigate characteristics of clusters

Council	Survey respondents
Auckland	2864
Tauranga	562
Hamilton	572
Christchurch	495
Dunedin	702
Kapiti Coast	254
Porirua	583
Wellington	564
Hutt	552
Upper Hutt	247
South Wairarapa	50
Carterton	45
Masterton	125
Wellington Region	2420
Total	7615

Examples of questions examined

Question	Response definition
Q38. Overall quality of life...	Negative: = Poor (1,2,3) N = 289 Positive: = Good (5,6,7) N = 6532
Q40. Quality of life compared to 12 months ago	Negative: = Decreased (1,2) N = 989 Positive: = Increased (4,5) N = 2194
Q7. City/local area is a great place to live	Negative: = Disagree (1,2) N = 357 Positive: = Agree (4,5) N = 6180
Q71. City/local area has got better, worse or stayed the same	Negative: = Worse (1,2) N = 1836 Positive: = Better (4,5) N = 2161
Q16a. Confidence in local or district council decision making	Negative: = Disagree (1,2): N = 2386 Positive: = Agree (4,5): N = 2434

Good quality of Life (84%)

Groups

1. 2.7% Tertiary students, renting
2. 1.7% Graduates, 20s, FT work, good finances
3. 1.6% Retired, alone, retirement home?

Issues

1. Money issues, poor house quality, unreliable PT, stress, loneliness
2. Poor house quality, unreliable PT, loneliness
3. Isolation



Having a good quality of life does not preclude having problems

Poor quality of life (4%)

Groups

- Early 20s, FT employment, shared rental, minimum wage?

Issues

- Poor housing quality, safety issues, unreliable PT, poor work life balance



Improving quality of life (29%)

Groups

1. 3.2% Early 20s, Pacific, good QoL
2. 1.7% Maori superannuitants, state house
3. 1.7% Asian students living in Halls of residence in Auckland?

Issues

1. Crowded, cold, damp house. Poor sense of community, safety issues, unreliable PT
2. Good health, well connected
3. No art scene, cold house, lonely

Declining quality of life (13%)

Groups

- Early 30s, Pacific, state house, 6 people including pre-schoolers

Issues

- Poor QoL, poor health, cold house, inadequate income, PT unreliable, safety issues, little sense of community



Live in a great city (81%)

Groups

1. 3.0% Pacific NEETs living in Hamilton
2. 1.7% Superannuitant couples, mortgage free, Tauranga
3. 1.7% Superannuitant living alone, mortgage free, Kapiti

Issues

1. Money issues, cold house, poor neighbourhood
2. Very good QoL, don't trust council
3. Never lonely, housing good

Live in a poor city (5%)

Groups

- No qualifications, not in work, state house, poor health

Issues

- Unsafe neighbourhood, money issues, poor housing



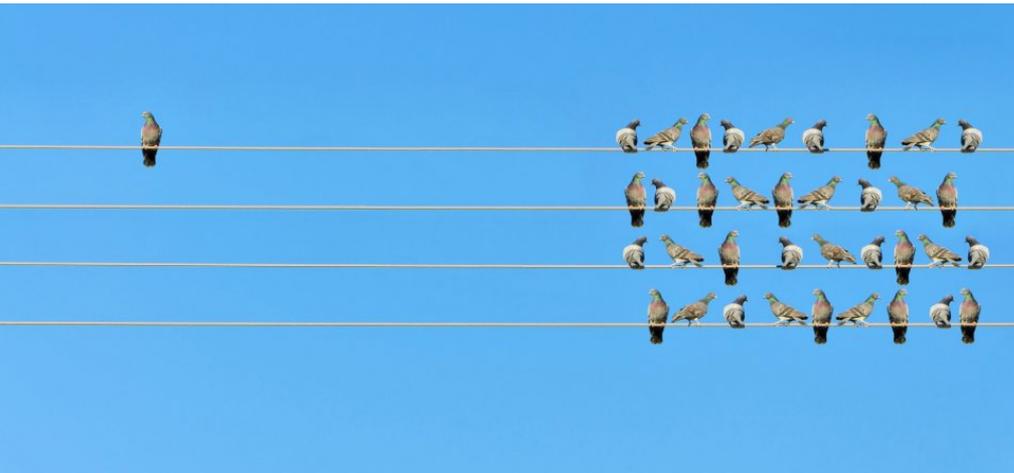
Feeling lonely (6%)

Group

- Graduates recently arrived in Auckland, shared rental, FT work,

Issues

- Good QoL, no financial issues, reliant on work networks, not that positive about city



Prospects are pretty good for this group and loneliness is perhaps just a temporary problem

Diversity makes place worse (12%)

Groups

- Retired farmers/lifestylers, other ethnicity,

Issues

- Very good QoL, sound finances, good health, proud of their area, trust council

Life seems pretty good

Diversity concerns perhaps more of a fear of the unknown?

Poor health (4%)

Groups

- Early 30s, Pacific

Issues

- Not enough money, poor housing, loneliness,



Inadequate income (15%)

Group

- Elderly (70+), home owned by family trust

Issues

- Very good QOL, suitable neighbourhood, home too big (asset rich/income poor?)

Too many assets tied up in home owned by family trust?

Asset rich/income poor?



Some conclusions

- Survey headline results can mask considerable variation in lifestyles
- A positive life perspective does not preclude people having problems
- Problems tend to involve housing quality, sense of safety, reliability of PT, and isolation
- Thinking that you live in a poor area appears to be a useful marker of those at risk
- The survey does not suggest systemic issues relating to loneliness, discrimination, or income inadequacy