

# Growing Up in New Zealand: Ethnic and Gender Identity at age 12 years

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# Background



- **Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy 2019:** goals of reducing child poverty, preventing family harm, targeting racism and discrimination, achieving equitable outcomes in the education, social and health sectors
- **Associations with ethnicity and gender** are well known, research and policy tend to treat these as independent, rather than intersecting and developing
- How **ethnic and gender identities** are **measured** and **understood** has important implications for the actions we take as a country to achieve **equity**

**Study aim:** Using data from the *Growing Up in NZ* study to examine:

How does the Growing Up in New Zealand 12Y cohort identify themselves with respect to ethnicity?

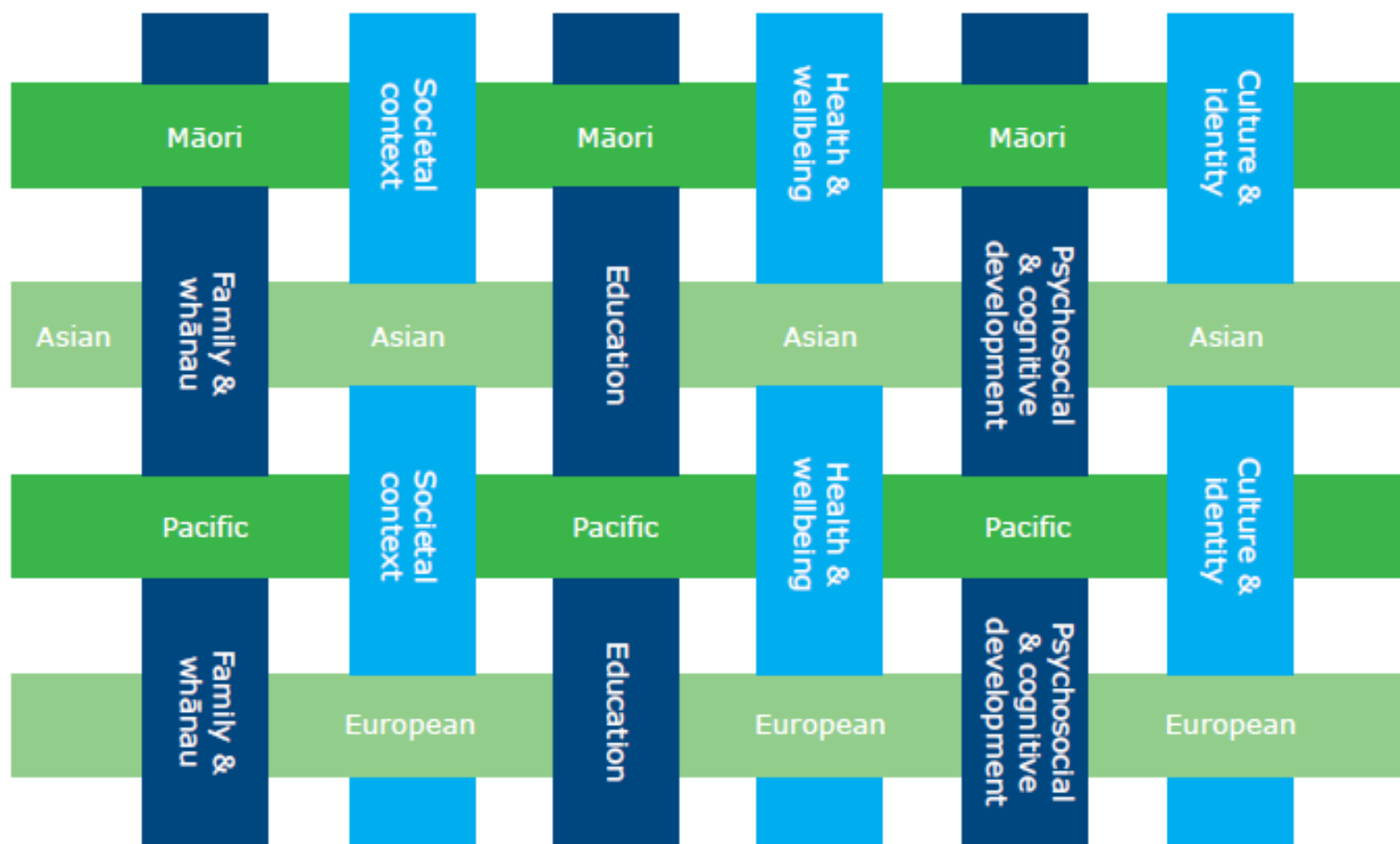
How do young people describe their connection to, and participation with, their ethnic groups/cultures?

How does the Growing Up in New Zealand 12Y cohort identify themselves with respect to gender identity?

# Growing Up in New Zealand



## Research domains and themes



- 2009/2010 recruitment: pregnant mothers (n = 6823) and their partners (n = 4401)
- 6853 cohort children born
- Cohort broadly generalisable to NZ births regarding ethnicity and socioeconomic status
- Today based on the 12 year DCW: n=4500
- <https://www.growingup.co.nz/growing-up-report/ethnic-and-gender-identity-at-12->

# 12 Year Data Collection Wave: Ethnicity



- Modified Census Ethnicity question
- Multiple response provided - participants can identify with more than one ethnicity
- Expression of ethnic identity (Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure)
- Measured longitudinally (since even before born)

## 3.1 Which ethnic group or groups do you belong to?

*(Choose all that apply, there is no wrong answer, you can select as many as you need)*

ETH5\_1\_y12C to ETH5\_974\_

- ☐ 1. New Zealand European
- ☐ 2. Māori
- ☐ 3. Samoan
- ☐ 4. Cook Island Māori
- ☐ 5. Tongan
- ☐ 6. Niuean
- ☐ 7. Chinese
- ☐ 8. Indian
- ☐ 971. Other Ethnicity (Please tell us) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 972. Other Ethnicity (Please tell us) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 973. Other Ethnicity (Please tell us) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 974. Other Ethnicity (Please tell us) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 99. I don't know **Go to 3.4**

# 12 Year Data Collection Wave: Ethnicity

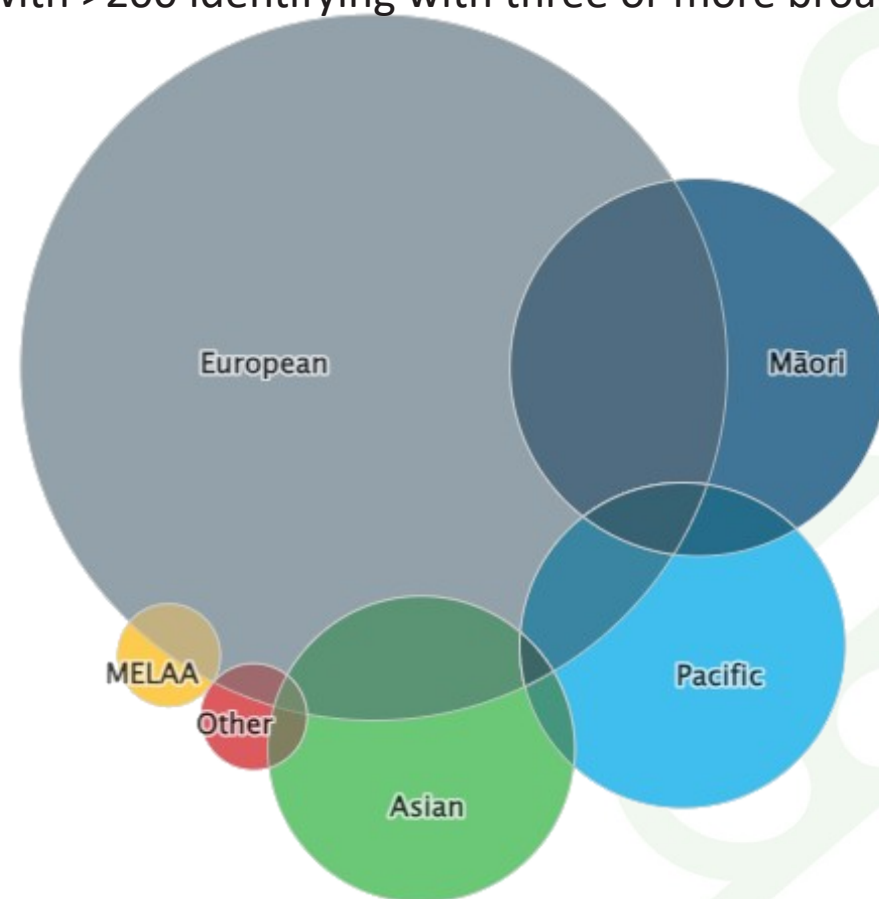
## Total response (Level 1)

- Māori: n=979 (22.4%)
- Pacific: n=728 (16.7%)
- Asian: n=646 (14.8%)
- MELAA\*: n=73 (1.7%)
- Other: n=78 (1.8%)
- Sole European: n=2268 (51.9%)
- I don't know: n=114 (2.6%)

\*Middle Eastern/Latin  
American/African



30% of young people identified with more than one broad ethnic grouping with >200 identifying with three or more broad ethnic groups





# 12 Year Data Collection Wave: Ethnicity



Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
<b>Māori</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>22.4</b>

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
<b>European</b>	<b>3424</b>	<b>78.3</b>
New Zealand European	3365	77.0
British and Irish	133	3.0
Dutch	37	0.9
German	28	0.6
Australian	22	0.5
South Slav	13	0.3
Other European	104	2.4

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
<b>Pacific</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>16.7</b>
Samoa	345	7.9
Tongan	228	5.2
Cook Islands Māori	180	4.1
Niuean	92	2.1
Fijian	49	1.1
Other Pacific Peoples	35	0.8

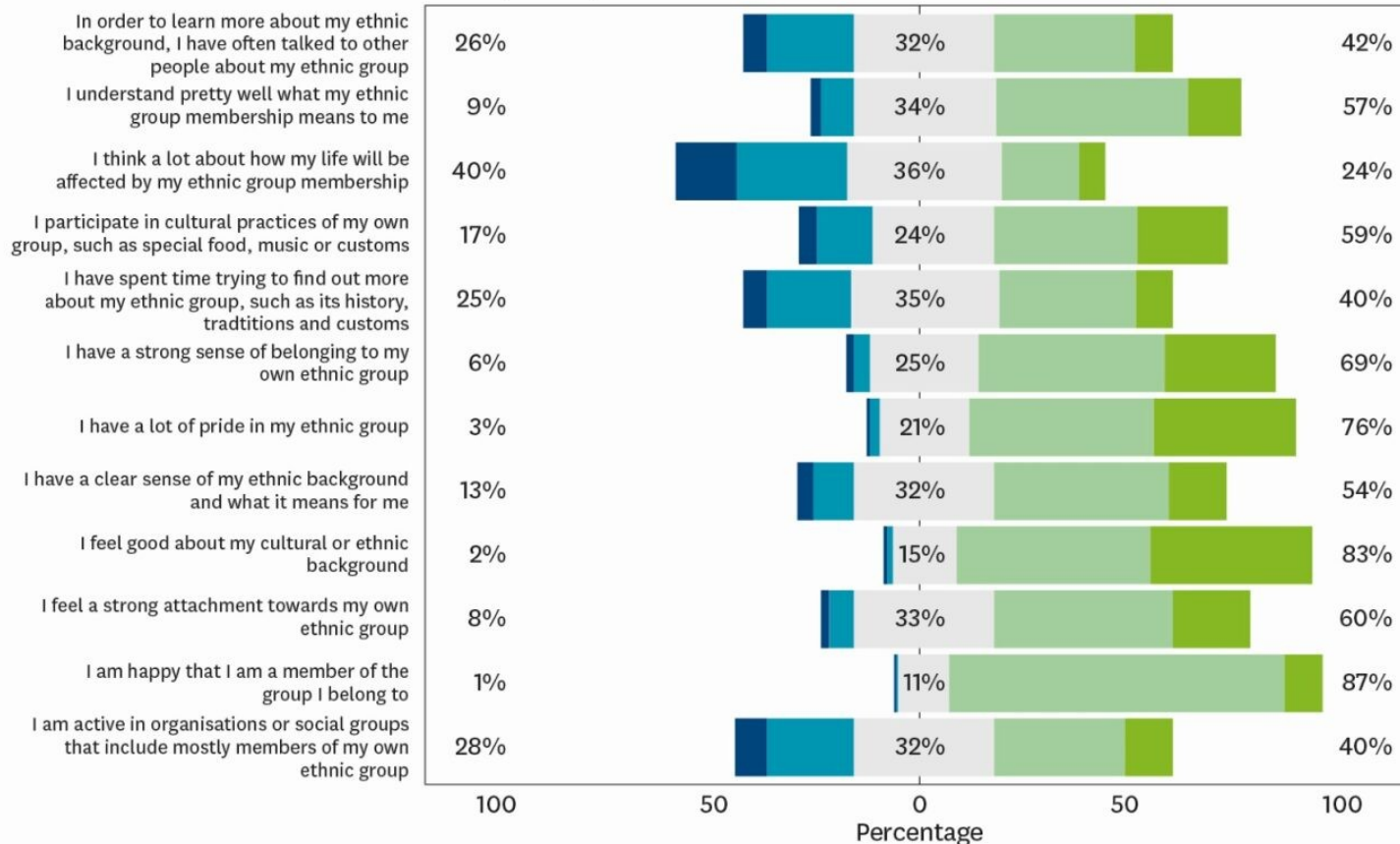
Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
<b>Other</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1.8</b>
New Zealander	39	0.9
Other South African	33	0.8
Indigenous American	<10	<0.3
Mauritian	<10	<0.3

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
<b>Asian</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>14.8</b>
Indian	252	5.8
Chinese	246	5.6
Filipino	48	1.1
Other Southeast Asian	40	0.9
Sri Lankan	23	0.5
Japanese	20	0.5
Korean	14	0.3
Vietnamese	12	0.3
Other Asian	31	0.7

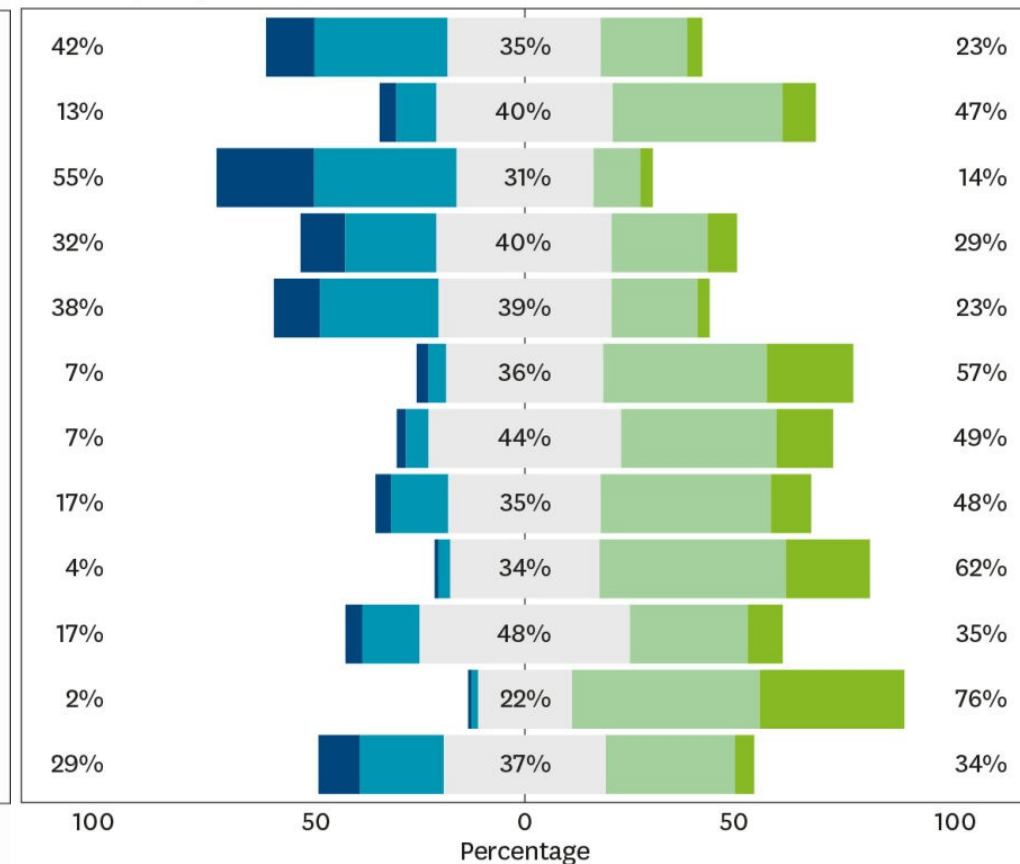
# 12 Year Data Collection Wave: Cultural connectedness



Māori (n = 979)



Sole European (n = 2268)



Self-reported **ethnic and cultural connection** (Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure) at age 12Y for **Māori** (left) and **Sole European** (right).

# 12 Year Data Collection Wave: Gender Identity



## **Sex**

- Determined at birth: biological attributes associated with physiological features including chromosomes, gene expression, hormone function and reproductive/sexual anatomy

## **Gender identity (unipolar)**

- Boy, Mostly boy, Girl, Mostly girl, Non-binary, Unsure
- socially constructed; appropriate where binary gender is relevant to the topic/question but is not appropriate for exploring the impacts of cisgenderism or transphobia
- Measured longitudinally

## **Trans-Non-binary/Cisgender categorisation**

- Determined by responses to the unipolar gender identity question and the sex assigned at birth categorisation: Cisgender boy/girl; Trans boy/girl; Non-binary/Unsure
- Utility greatest where culture, norms, roles, and general ways of being implicated

## **Multipolar**

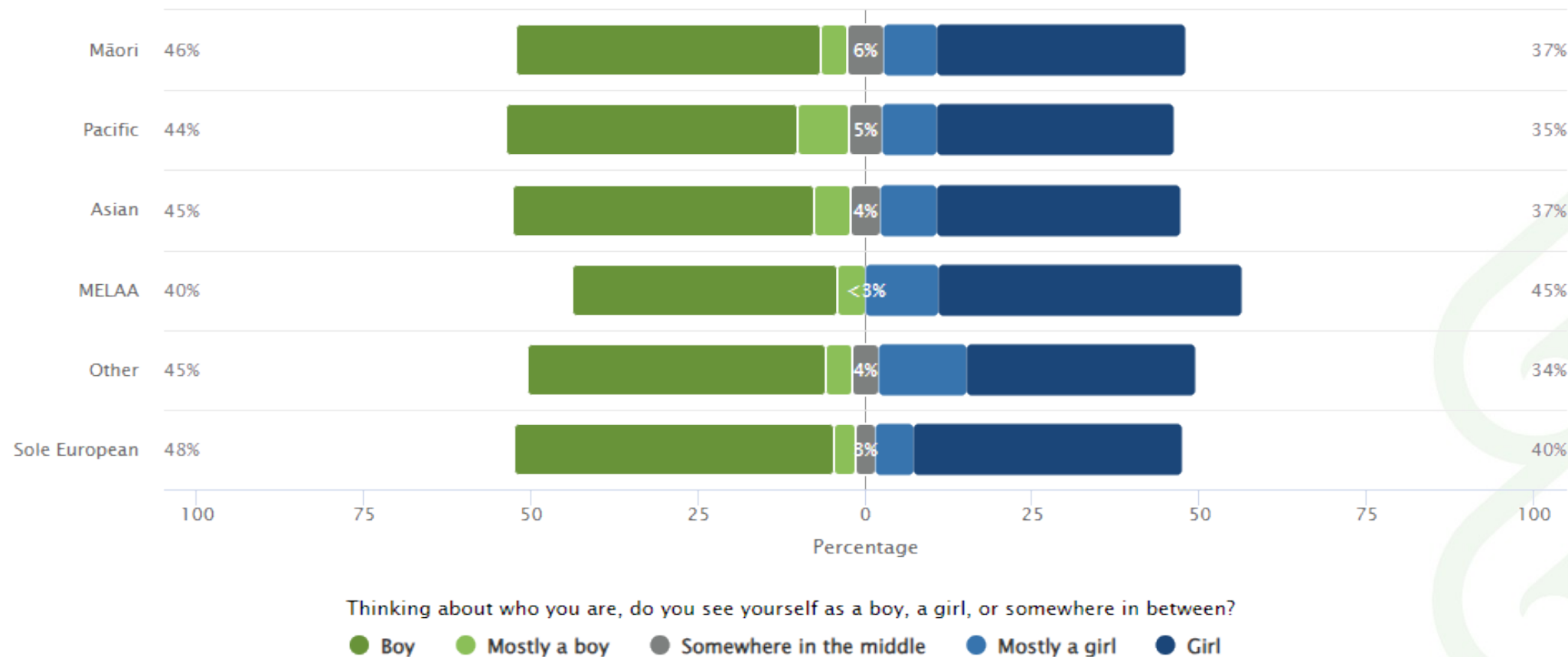
- Expression of gender identity
- May or may not match gender identity
- Measured longitudinally



# 12 Year Data Collection Wave: Gender Identity

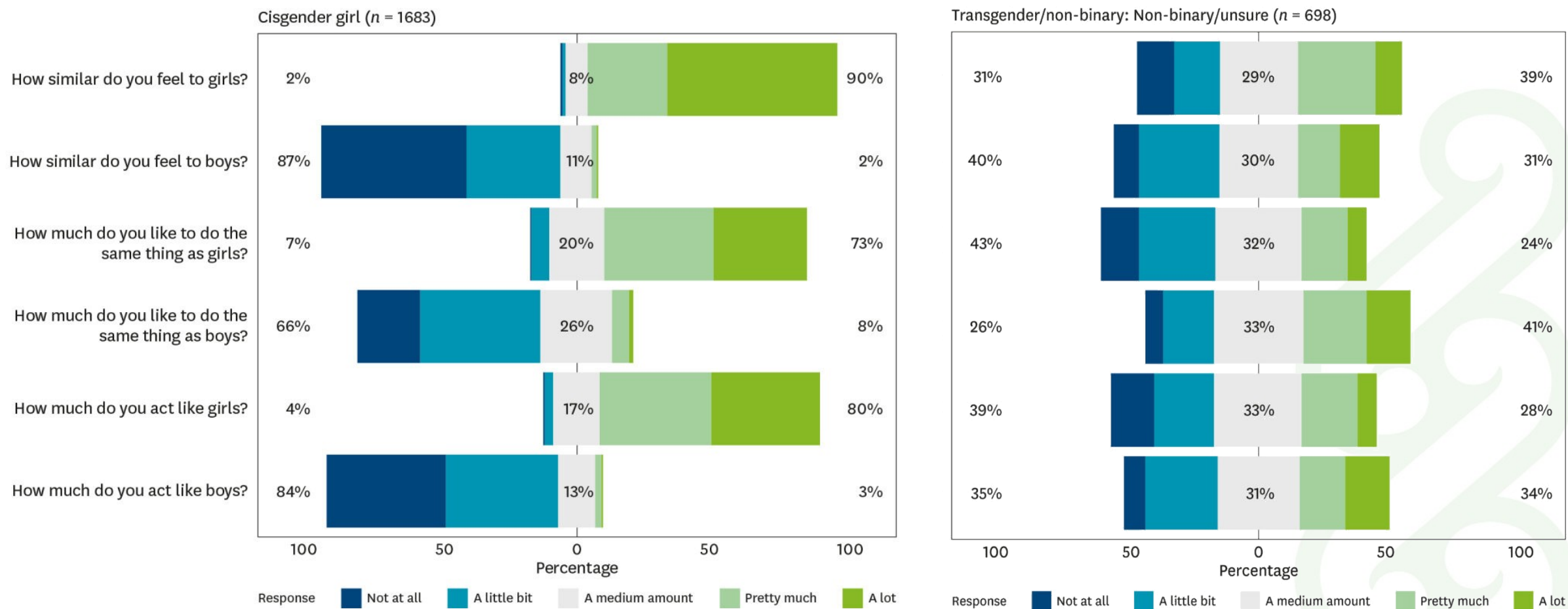


## Unipolar gender identity by ethnicity



Not shown in graph: Percentage of response to I don't know. Māori<0.3%; Pacific=1.4%; Asian<0.3%; MELAA<0.3%; Other<0.3%; Sole European=1.0%.

# 12 Year Data Collection Wave: Gender Identity & Expression



Multipolar gender identity and expression for **Cisgender girls** (left) and **Non-binary/unsure** young people (right).

# Conclusions



- Growing Up in NZ cohort at 12-years of age provides rich information on ethnic and gender identity as well as expression, this has also been collected longitudinally
- Use of the enhanced ethnicity, sex and gender data can enable additional analyses to improve understandings and equity for a wider range of young people
- The choice and type of ethnicity, sex and gender data used in statistical analysis requires careful consideration
- Need for a more critical and nuanced understanding of young people's identities in equity-focused research and policymaking in Aotearoa New Zealand: eg. Understanding of dynamic nature, disaggregation, more expansive identities
- Important that young people can also “see themselves” in the data

# Culture & Identity Domain Selected Research



Year	Publication	Authors
2022	“Seeing” our tamariki in longitudinal studies: exploring the complexity of ethnic identification trajectories within Growing Up in New Zealand. Manuscript under review at The Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand.	Atatoa Carr, P., Langridge, F., Neumann, D., Paine, S.J., Liang, R., Taufa, S., Fa'alili Fidow, J., Fenaughty, J., Kingi, T.K.
2022	Kaitiakitanga – a principle for protecting and promoting tamariki and rangatahi wellbeing in Growing Up in New Zealand. Manuscript under review for publication at The Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand.	Paine, S.J., Neumann, D., Langridge, F., Peters, A., Kingi, T.K.
2021	Demographic discrepancies between administrative-prioritisation and self-prioritisation of multiple ethnic identifications. Social Science Research.	Yao E.S., Meissel K., Bullen P., Clark T.C., Atatoa Carr P., Tiatia-Seath J., Peiris-John R., Morton S.M.B.
2021	Classifying multiple ethnic identifications. Demographic Research.	Yao E.S., Meissel K., Bullen P., Atatoa Carr P.; Clark T.C., Morton S.M.B.
2020	Family structure and change in early childhood and the wellbeing of tamariki Māori. New Zealand Population Review.	Kukutai T., Prickett K., Atatoa Carr P., & Rata, A.
2020	HE ARA KI NGĀ RAUTAKI E ORA TONU AI TE REO MĀORI - Pathways to Retention and Revitalisation of Te Reo Māori.	Simmonds H., Reese E., Atatoa Carr P., Berry S., Kingi T.K.
2015	The intergenerational use of te reo Māori: Evidence from Growing up in New Zealand.	GUINZ Policy Brief
2017	Te Reo Māori: Indigenous language acquisition in the context of New Zealand English. Journal of Child Language.	Reese E., Keegan P., McNaughton S., Kingi T.K., Atatoa Carr P., Schmidt J., Mohal J., Grant C., Morton S.M.B.

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