

# Access to Leisure and Recreation Opportunities

## What this is about...

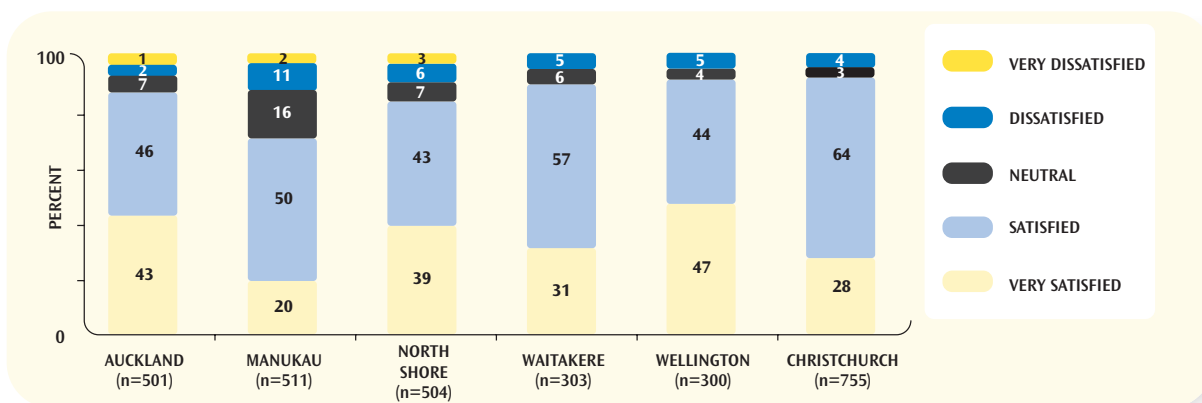
Access to leisure and recreation opportunities such as parks, beaches, clubs, sports, cafes, galleries and any other leisure activities enhances the health and wellbeing of people. These activities also provide opportunities for socialisation and contribute to social cohesion.

Respondents to a citizens' survey conducted in each of the six cities were asked how satisfied they were with access to leisure and recreation opportunities in their city.<sup>165</sup> The data doesn't recognise the availability of leisure and recreation opportunities in adjacent local authority areas, which is significant because residents do enjoy leisure and recreation outside of their city.

## What did we find ?

- High proportions of respondents to all surveys were satisfied with their access to leisure and recreation opportunities.
- Relative to the other cities, a larger proportion of respondents to the Manukau City survey indicated that they were dissatisfied.<sup>166</sup>
- Reasons given for dissatisfaction in all cities included:
  - issues of availability of recreation opportunities
  - affordability
  - proximity and transport issues
  - safety
  - in addition, several respondents to the North Shore City survey commented that they were dissatisfied as the beaches were polluted or unsafe to swim in.

### CITIZENS' SATISFACTION WITH ACCESS TO LEISURE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES (2000)



Data Source: Citizens' surveys.

These findings link in with citizens' satisfaction with the overall look and feel of the city, the availability of open space, and personal income. For example, Wellington City has: the highest level of satisfaction with access to leisure and recreation opportunities; correspondingly high satisfaction with the overall look and feel of the city; the largest available open space; and only 27% of its population with personal income less than \$10,000. Manukau City has the lowest level of satisfaction with access to leisure and recreation opportunities; correspondingly low satisfaction with the overall look and feel of the city; the second lowest available open space; and 34% of its population with personal income less than \$10,000.

165 "Leisure and recreation opportunities" were very broadly defined as access to "parks, beaches, clubs, sports, cafes, galleries and any other leisure activities".

166 This may be a result of difference in wording of the question. The Manukau survey asked respondents "How satisfied are you with your ability to both get to and afford to go to, the leisure and recreational opportunities that you want?" and was the only survey to ask respondents about affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities. It is unclear with which part of this question respondents were dissatisfied - affordability or accessibility.