

Contact with Neighbours

What this is about...

One vital component of community cohesion is the relationship between neighbours. Positive relationships between neighbours, even at a minimal level, encourage community strength and support.

Respondents to a survey conducted in the six largest cities were asked to rate the type of 'positive contact' they had with their neighbours on a five point scale of 'lots of positive contact' to 'no positive contact'.¹⁷²

What did we find ?

- Overall, about two thirds of respondents to the survey indicated that they had 'some' or 'lots' of 'positive contact' with their neighbours - in particular, residents of North Shore, Wellington and Waitakere Cities.
- It is interesting to note that in Auckland, while one quarter of residents (27%) felt they had lots of positive contact with their neighbours a further 11% felt that they had no positive contact at all.
- Very few respondents to surveys indicated they had 'no' positive contact at all with their neighbours.

TYPE OF CONTACT WITH NEIGHBOURS, BY CITY (2000)

	Auckland (n=501) %	Manukau (n=511) %	North Shore (n=504) %	Waitakere (n=303) %	Wellington (n=300) %	Christchurch (n=755) %
Lots of positive contact (socialise with neighbours, part of social network)	27	22	28	20	24	20
Some positive contact (stop and chat, tell them when you are going away, asking small favours)	35	42	42	49	44	45
Limited positive contact (give a nod, sometimes say hello)	25	29	26	26	24	27
No positive contact	11	7	5	4	7	8

Data Source: Citizens' Surveys

Relationships with neighbours can be affected by factors such as length of time spent in a dwelling, accessibility to neighbours, language barriers or perceptions of each other.

172 Respondents were not asked to indicate levels of 'negative' contact with their neighbours.