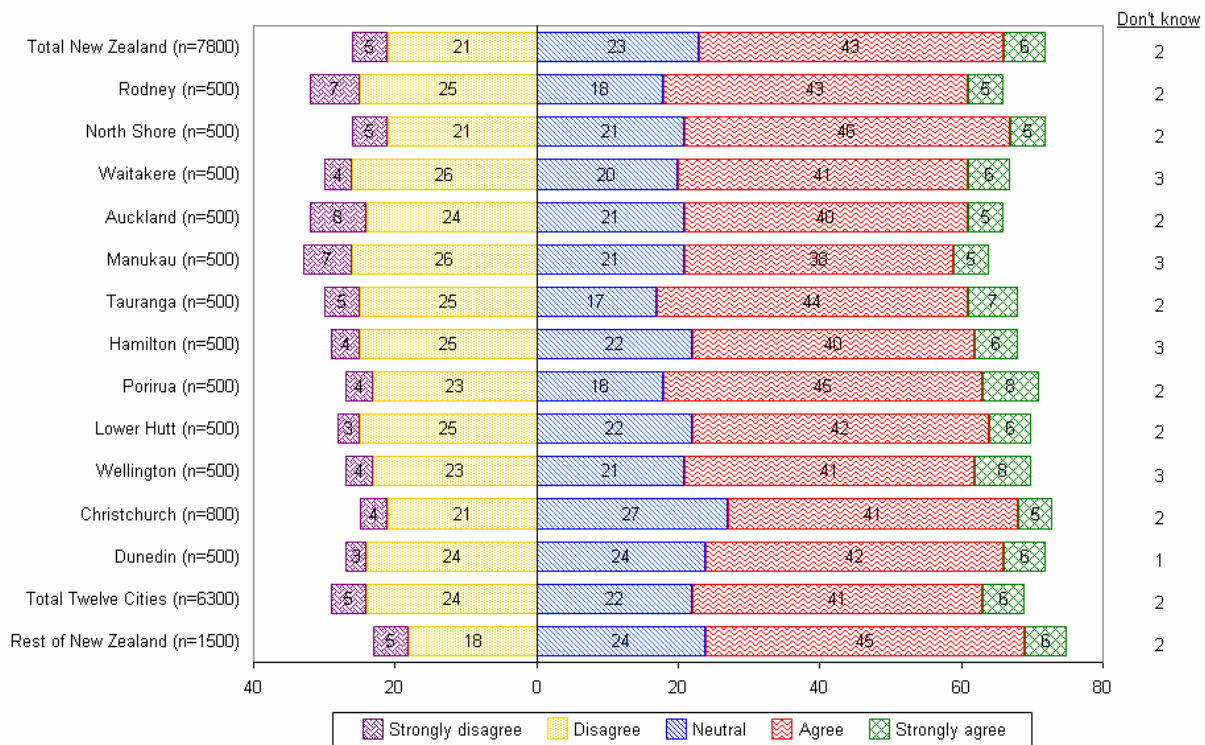


## 8. DEMOCRACY

### 8.1 Perception Of Understanding Of Council Decision-Making Process

Just less than a half of all New Zealand residents (49%) agreed (*agreed or strongly agreed*) that they understood how their respective Council made decisions. Porirua had the highest proportion of residents agreeing that they understood (53% *agree or strongly agree*), whereas Manukau had the lowest proportion (43%). While the difference in the level of agreement between residents of the Twelve Cities (47%) and those living in the rest of New Zealand (51%) was not statistically significant, Twelve Cities' residents were significantly more likely to *disagree/strongly disagree* that they understood their Council's decision making process (29%, compared with 23% of those living in the rest of New Zealand).

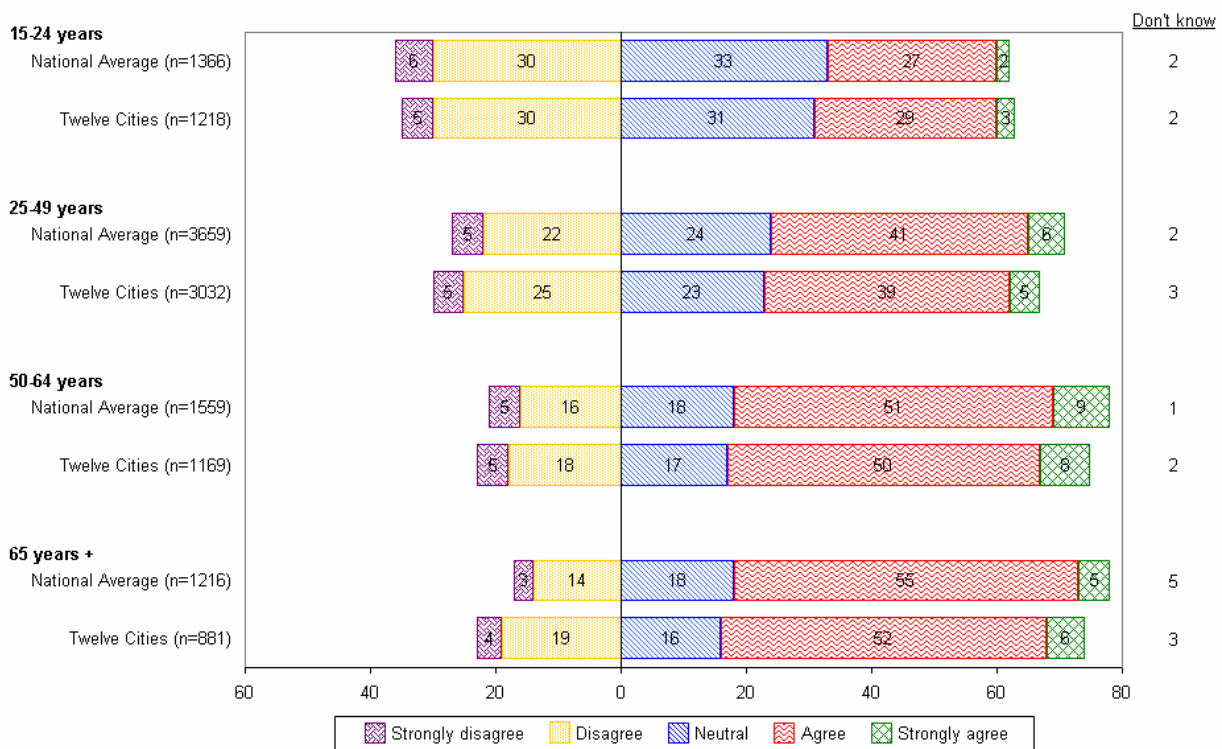
**Figure 8.1: Perception Of Understanding Of Council Decision-Making Process – By Location (%)**



Base: All respondents

At the national level, the results suggest a positive relationship between age and perception of understanding of Councils' decision making processes. Those aged 50 years or over had significantly higher levels of perceived understanding (*agree or strongly agree*) (60%) than all other residents (42% *agree/strongly agree*), particularly those aged 15-24 years (29% *agree/strongly agree*). While not as notable, this positive relationship was also evident among Twelve Cities' residents, 58% of those aged 50 years or over *agreeing/strongly agreeing* that they had an understanding of Councils' decision making processes, compared with 41% of those younger than 50 years – including 32% of Twelve Cities residents aged 15-24 years.

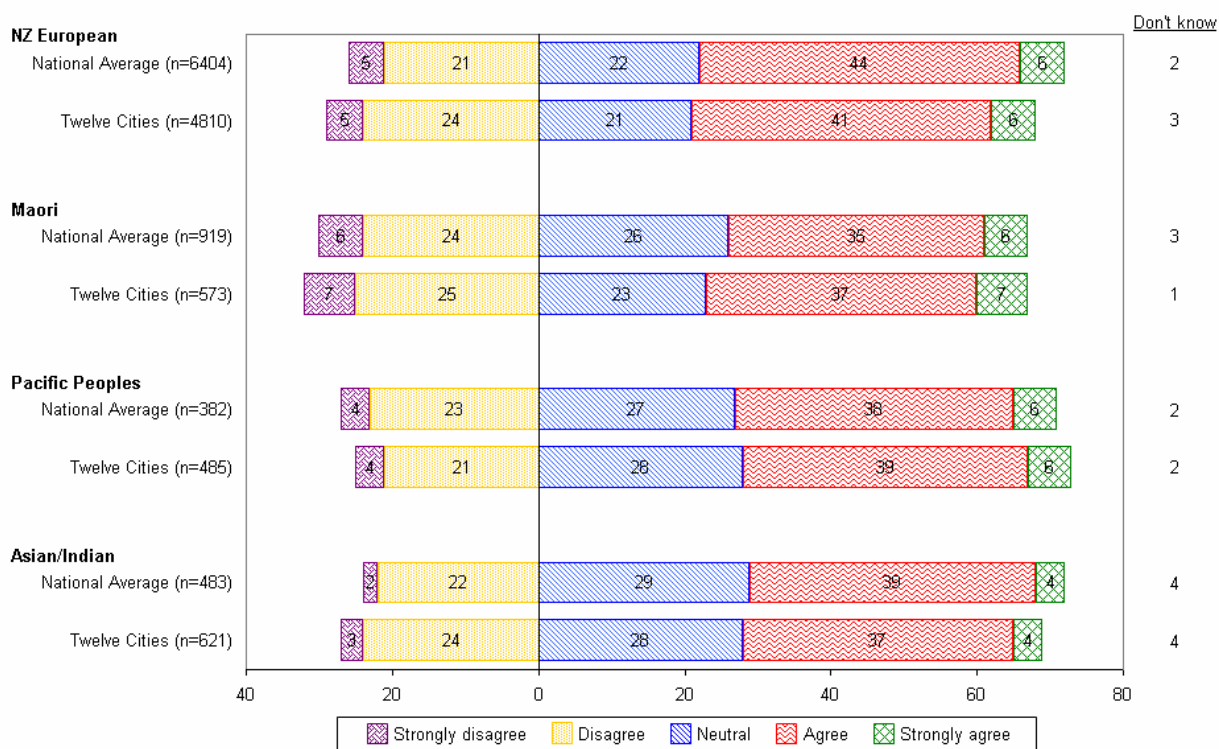
**Figure 8.2: Perception Of Understanding Of Council Decision-Making Process – By Age (%)**



Base: All respondents

Both nationally and at a Twelve Cities' level, New Zealand European residents were significantly more likely to report an understanding of Councils' decision making processes (50% nationally; 47% Twelve Cities) than respondents from all other ethnic groups (43% nationally; 44% Twelve Cities). At a national level, Maori were least likely to report an understanding of Councils' decision making processes (41% *agree/strongly agree*), while at the Twelve Cities' level, Asian/Indian residents were least likely to *agree/strongly agree* (41%).

**Figure 8.3: Perception Of Understanding Of Council Decision-Making Process – By Ethnicity (%)**

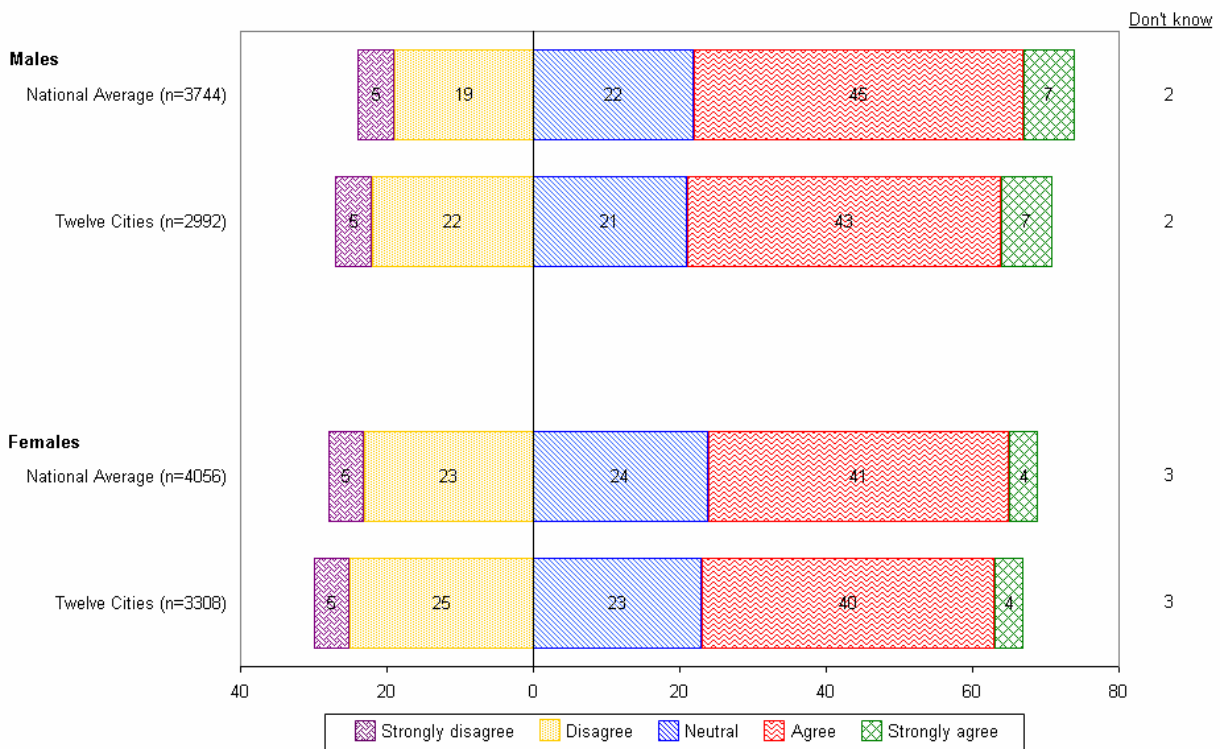


Base: All respondents

Note: Respondents able to select multiple ethnicities. Consequently bases may total more than 100%

At both a national and Twelve Cities' level, perceived understanding of Councils' decision making processes (*agree or strongly agree*) was significantly higher among males (52% nationally; 50% Twelve Cities) than females (45% nationally; 44% Twelve Cities).

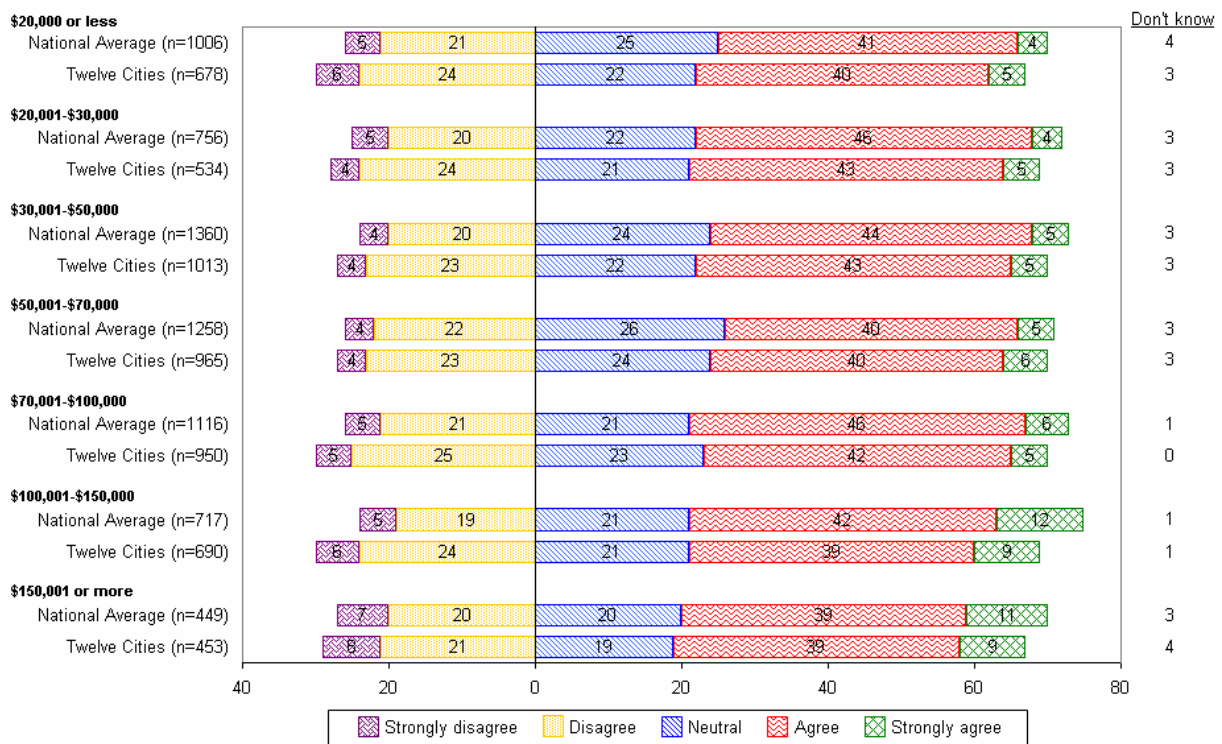
**Figure 8.4: Perception Of Understanding Of Council Decision-Making Process – By Gender (%)**



Base: All respondents

Nationally, residents with an annual household income of \$100,001-\$150,000 were most likely to have a perceived understanding of their Council’s decision making processes (54% *agree or strongly agree*) whereas residents with a household income of \$20,000 or less or \$50,001-\$70,000 were least likely to report an understanding (45%). The two highest income brackets (\$150,001-\$150,000 and \$150,000+) were significantly more likely to *strongly agree* that they understood how their Council made decisions (12% and 11% respectively) than all other residents (4% *strongly agree*). At the Twelve Cities’ level, there were no notable differences in overall understanding by household income, although those with a household income of \$100,001 or more were significantly more likely to *strongly agree* that they had an understanding of how their Council made decisions (9%) than those with a household income of \$100,000 or less (5%).

**Figure 8.5: Perception Of Understanding Of Council Decision-Making Process – By Household Income (%)**

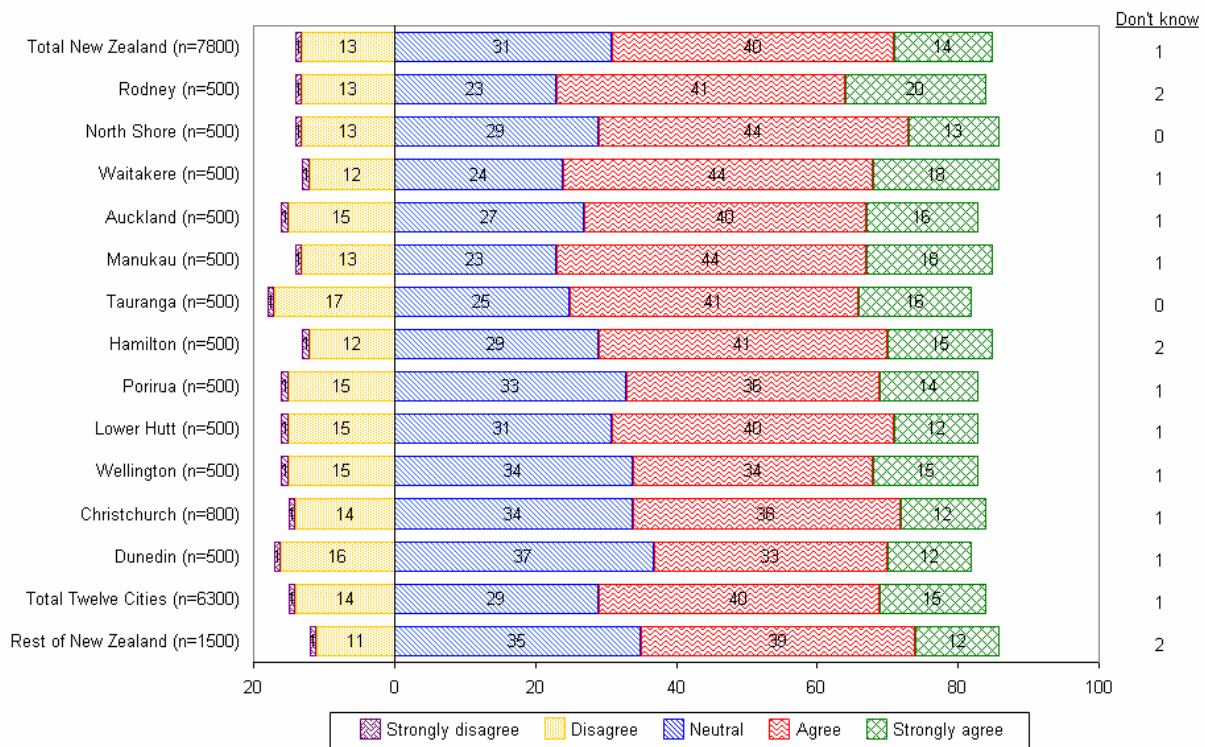


Base: All respondents

## 8.2 Desire To Have More Of A Say In What Council Does

Over half of all New Zealand residents expressed a desire to have more of a say in what their Council does (54% agree/strongly agree). Around one in seven residents (14%) stated that they would not like to have more of a say. Of the Twelve Cities, Manukau residents were most likely to agree/strongly agree that they would like more of a say (62%) while Dunedin residents were least likely to express a desire for more of a say (45%). There were no notable differences in the share expressing a desire to have more of a say in what Council does between Twelve Cities residents (55% agree/strongly agree) and those living in the rest of New Zealand (51%).

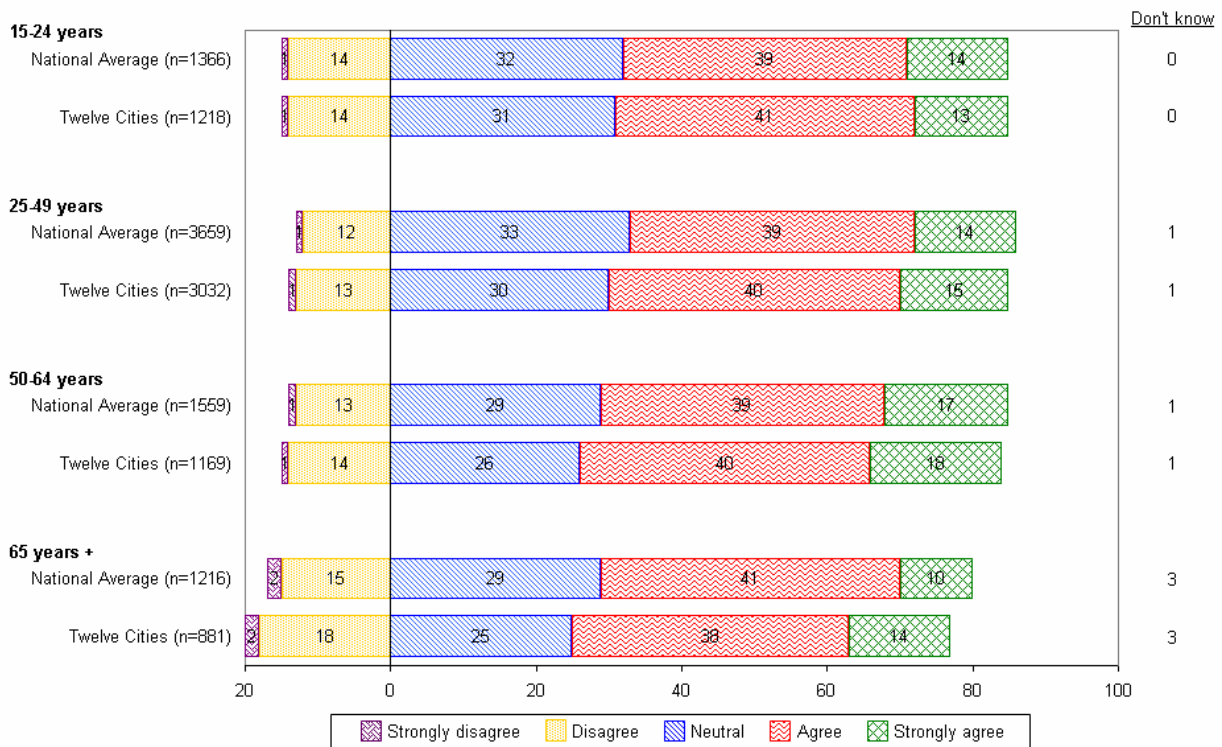
**Figure 8.6: Perception Of Desire To Have More Of A Say In What Council Does – By Location (%)**



Base: All respondents

At both a national and Twelve Cities' level, residents aged 65 years or over were least likely to express a desire for more of a say in what their Council does (51% nationally; 52% Twelve Cities), while residents aged 50-64 years were the most likely (56% nationally; 58% Twelve Cities). At a national level, residents aged 65 years or over were also significantly less likely to *strongly agree* that they desired to have more of a say in what their Council did (10%) than all other residents (15%).

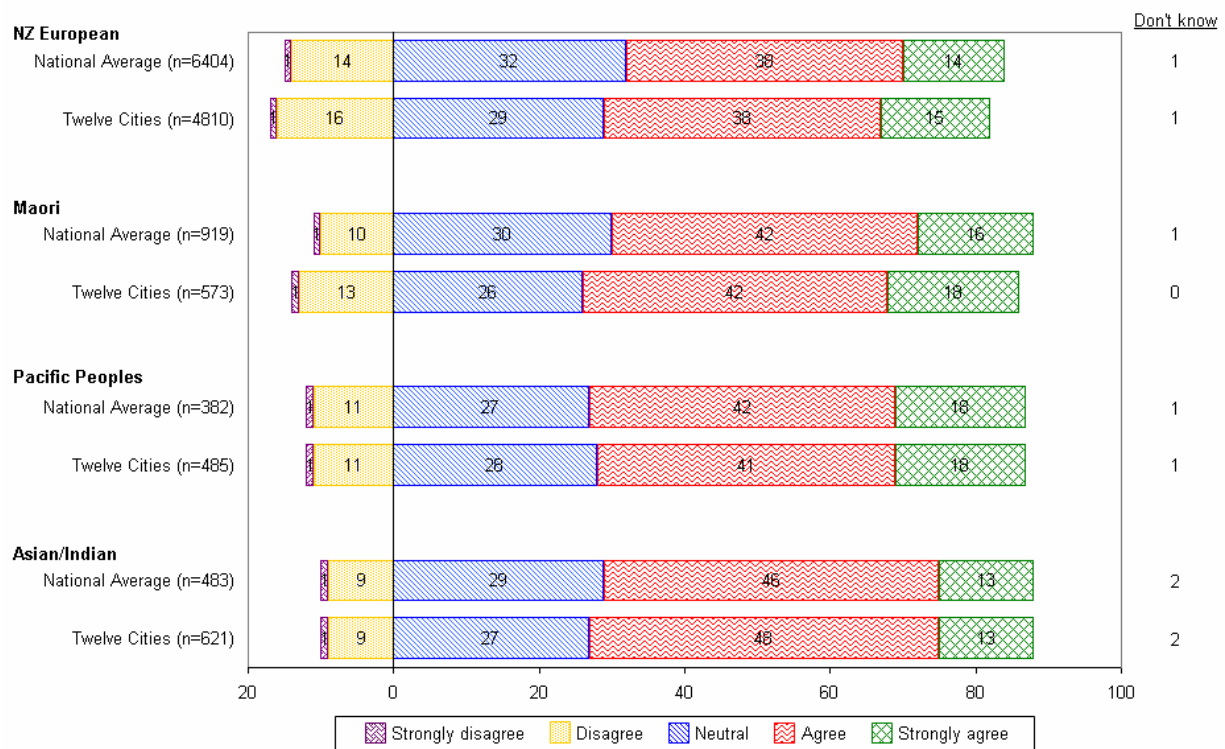
**Figure 8.7: Perception Of Desire To Have More Of A Say In What Council Does - By Age (%)**



Base: All respondents

At both the national and Twelve Cities' levels, New Zealand European residents were significantly less likely to express a desire to have more of a say in what Council does (52% nationally; 53% Twelve Cities) than residents from all other ethnic groups (59% nationally; 60% Twelve Cities). Of the four ethnic groups, Pacific Peoples (18% at both levels) and Maori (16% nationally; 18% Twelve Cities) were most likely to *strongly agree* that they would like more of a say in what Council does.

**Figure 8.8: Perception Of Desire To Have More Of A Say In What Council Does - By Ethnicity (%)**

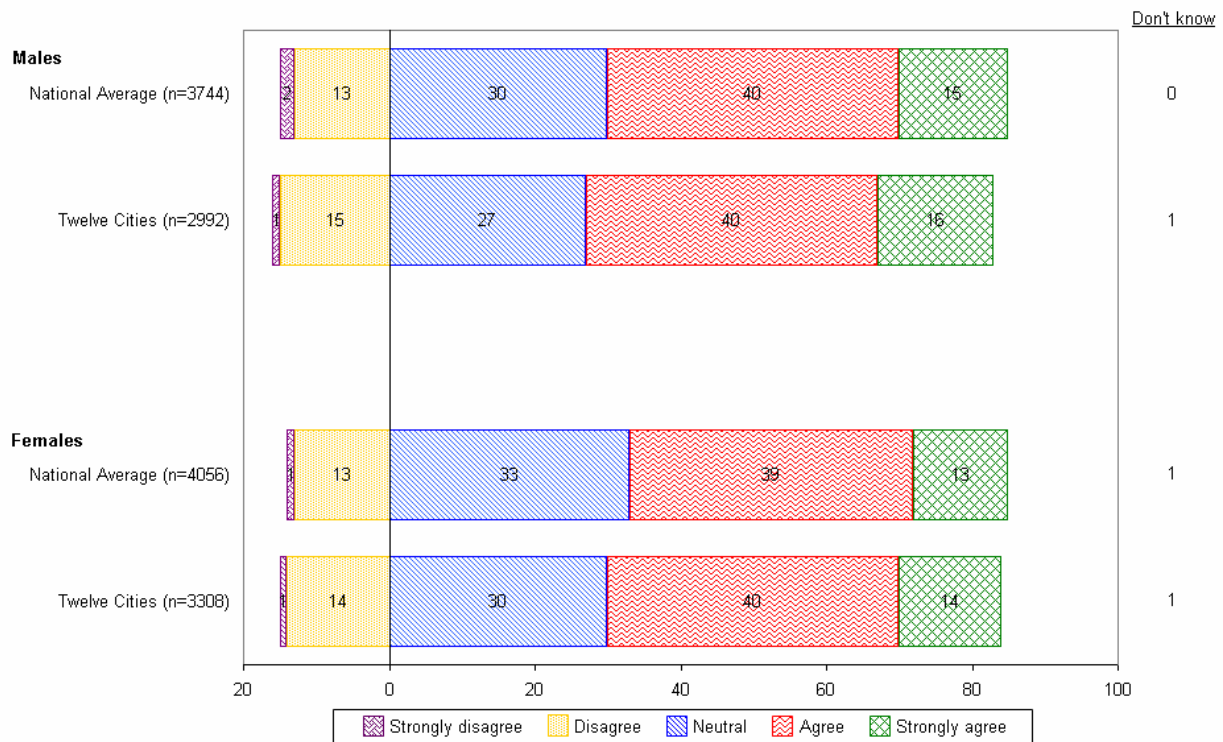


Base: All respondents

Note: Respondents able to select multiple ethnicities. Consequently bases may total more than 100%

At the national level, males were significantly more likely to express a desire to have more say in what their Council does (55% *agree or strongly agree*) than their female counterparts (52%). However, at the Twelve Cities' level, there were no significant differences between males (56%) and females (54%).

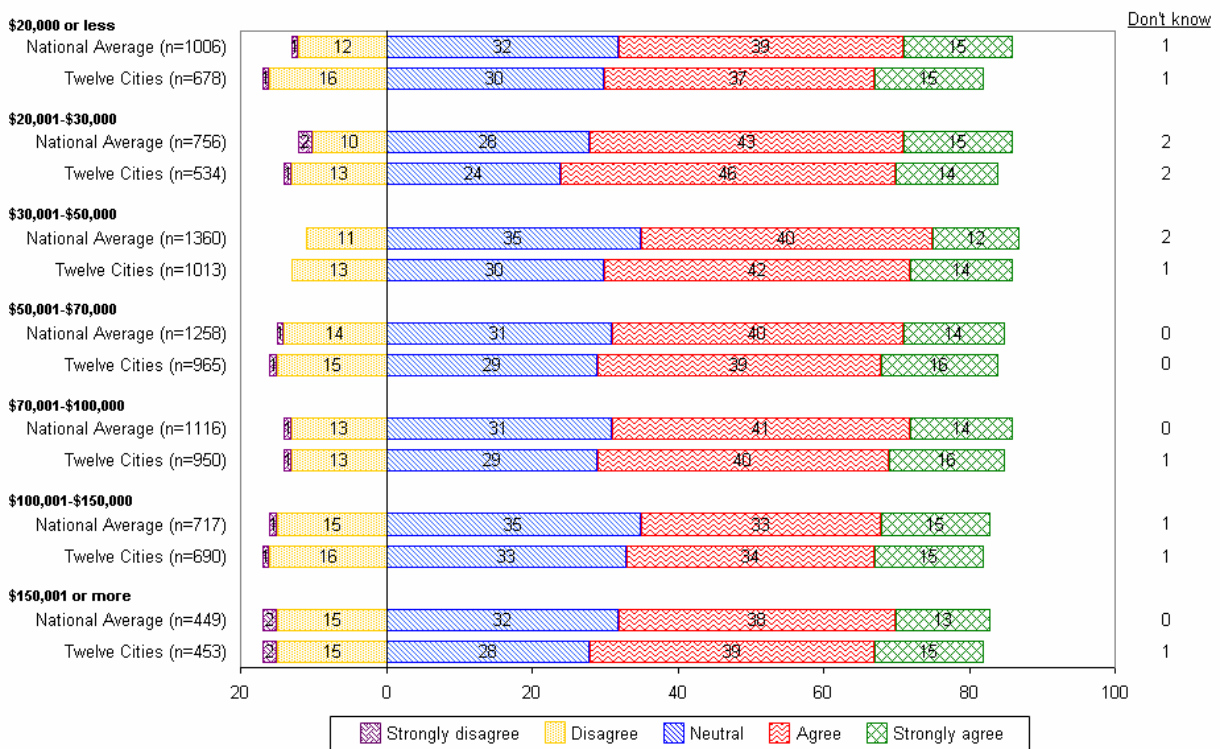
**Figure 8.9: Perception Of Desire To Have More Of A Say In What Council Does - By Gender (%)**



Base: All respondents

There does not appear to be a clear relationship between household income and desire to have more of a say in what Council does. Both nationally and at the Twelve Cities' level, residents with an annual household income of \$20,001-\$30,000 were the most likely to express a desire to have more of a say in what their Council does (58% nationally; 60% Twelve Cities). Residents with a household income of \$100,001-\$150,000 were the least likely to *agree/strongly agree* (48% nationally; 49% Twelve Cities).

**Figure 8.10: Perception Of Desire To Have More Of A Say In What Council Does – By Household Income (%)**

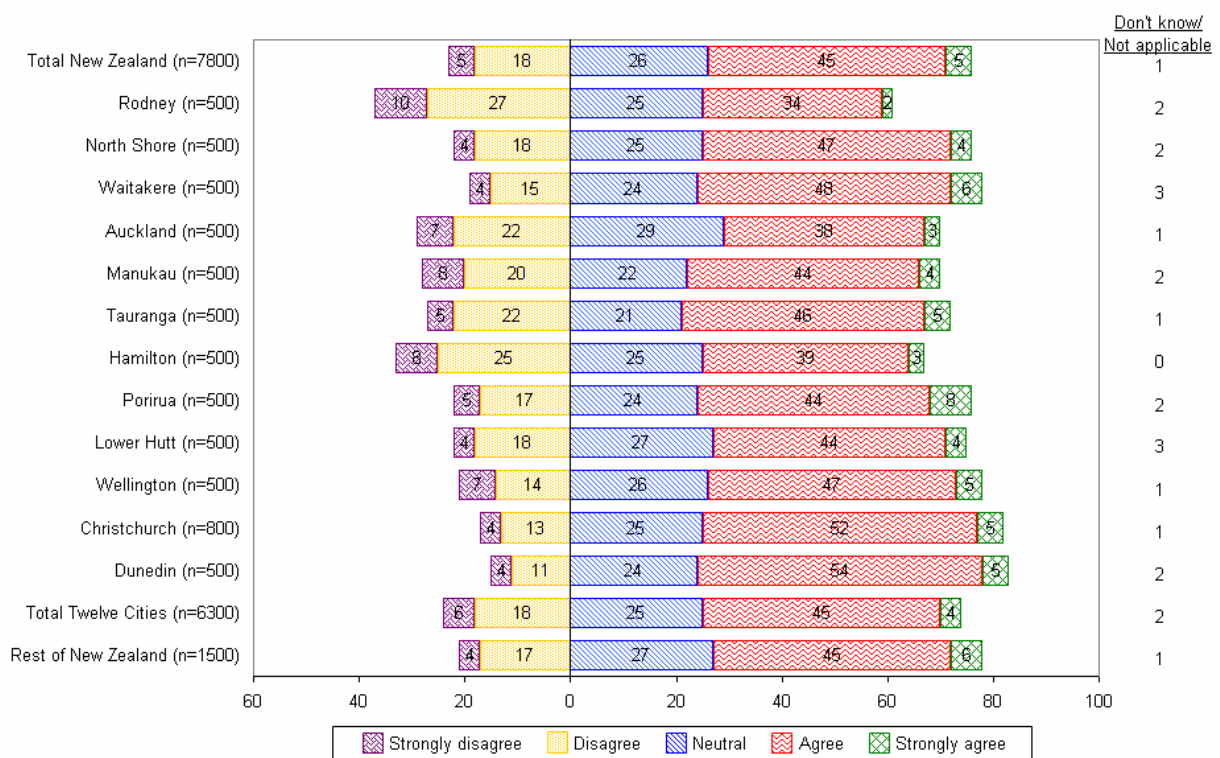


Base: All respondents

### 8.3 Confidence In Council Decision-Making

Half of all residents throughout New Zealand (50%) agreed that they had confidence that their Council made decisions that were in the best interest of their city or district. Just under a quarter (23%) disagreed with the statement to some extent, 5% *strongly agreeing*. The highest levels of agreement were reported in Dunedin (59% *agree/strongly agree*) and Christchurch (57%) with Rodney residents reporting the lowest levels of confidence in Council decision making (36% *agree/strongly agree*). There were no significant differences in residents' confidence of their Council's decision making between those living in the Twelve Cities (49% *agree/strongly agree*) and those living in the rest of New Zealand (51%).

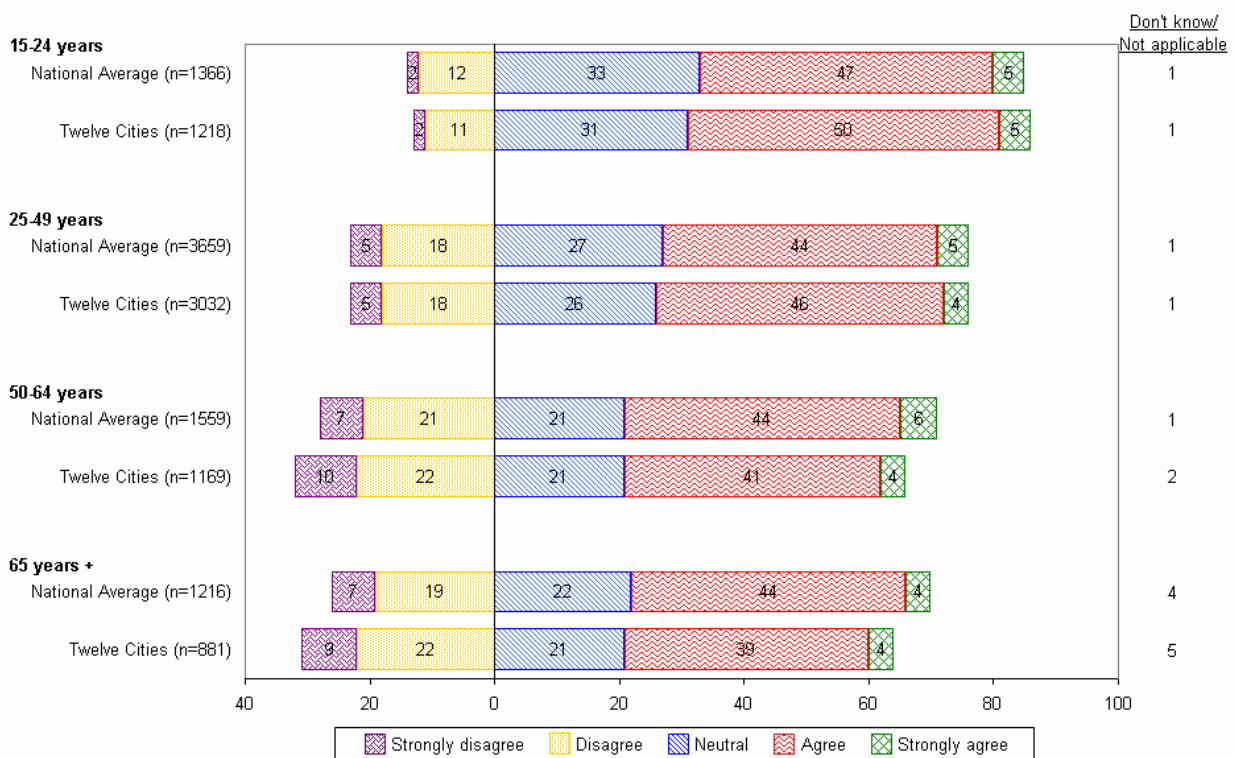
**Figure 8.11: Perception Of Confidence In Council Decision-Making – By Location (%)**



Base: All respondents

There is evidence of an inverse relationship between age and perceptions of confidence in Council decision making, this relationship being most evident at the Twelve Cities level. Residents aged 15-24 years were the most likely to *agree or strongly agree* that they had confidence in their Council's decision making (52% nationally; 55% Twelve Cities) while those aged 65 years or over were least likely to *agree/strongly agree* that they were confident of their Council's decision making ability (48% nationally; 43% Twelve Cities). At the Twelve Cities level, those aged less than 50 years were significantly more likely to express confidence in their Council's decision making (51% *agree/strongly agree*) than those aged 50 years or over (44%).

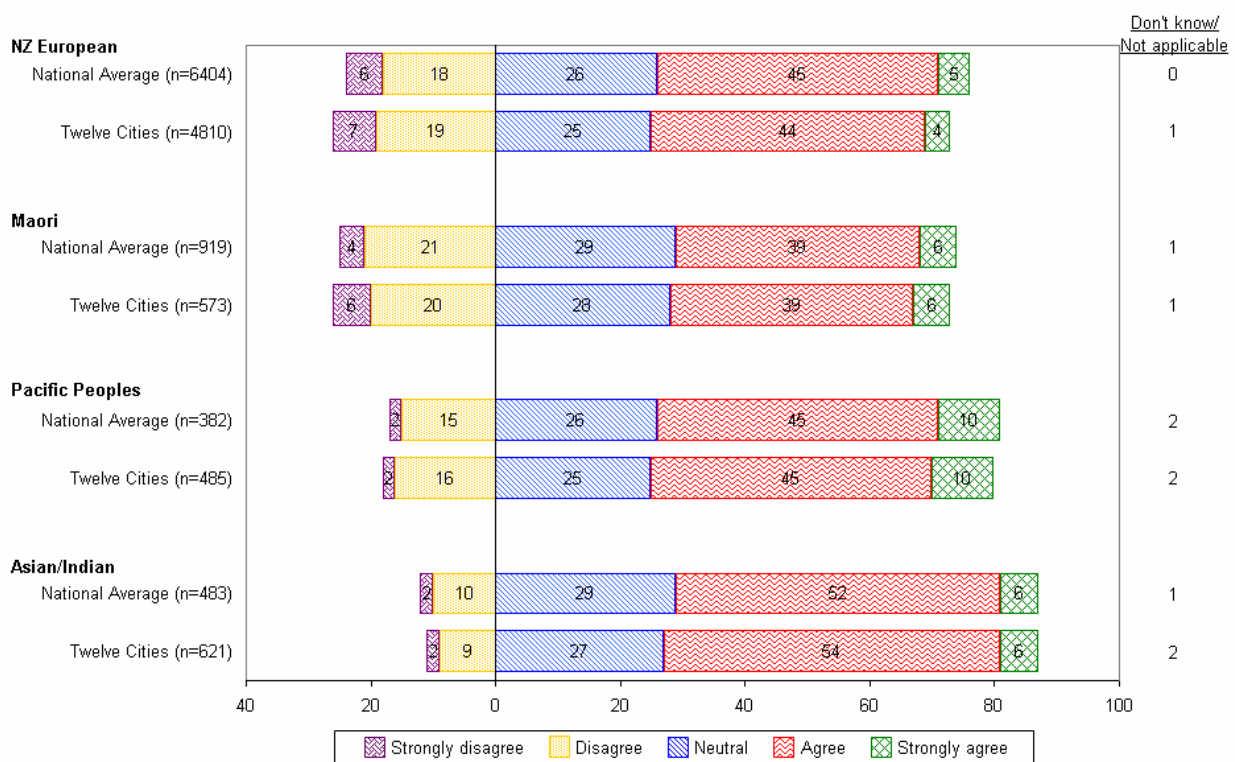
**Figure 8.12: Perception Of Confidence In Council Decision-Making - By Age (%)**



Base: All respondents

At both the national and Twelve Cities levels, Asian/Indian residents were significantly more likely to *agree/strongly agree* that they had confidence in their Council’s decision making (58% nationally; 60% Twelve Cities) than both New Zealand European (50% nationally; 48% Twelve Cities) and Maori residents (45% at both levels). Levels of agreement among Pacific Peoples were also significantly higher (55% at both levels) than for New Zealand European and Maori residents.

**Figure 8.13: Perception Of Confidence In Council Decision-Making - By Ethnicity (%)**

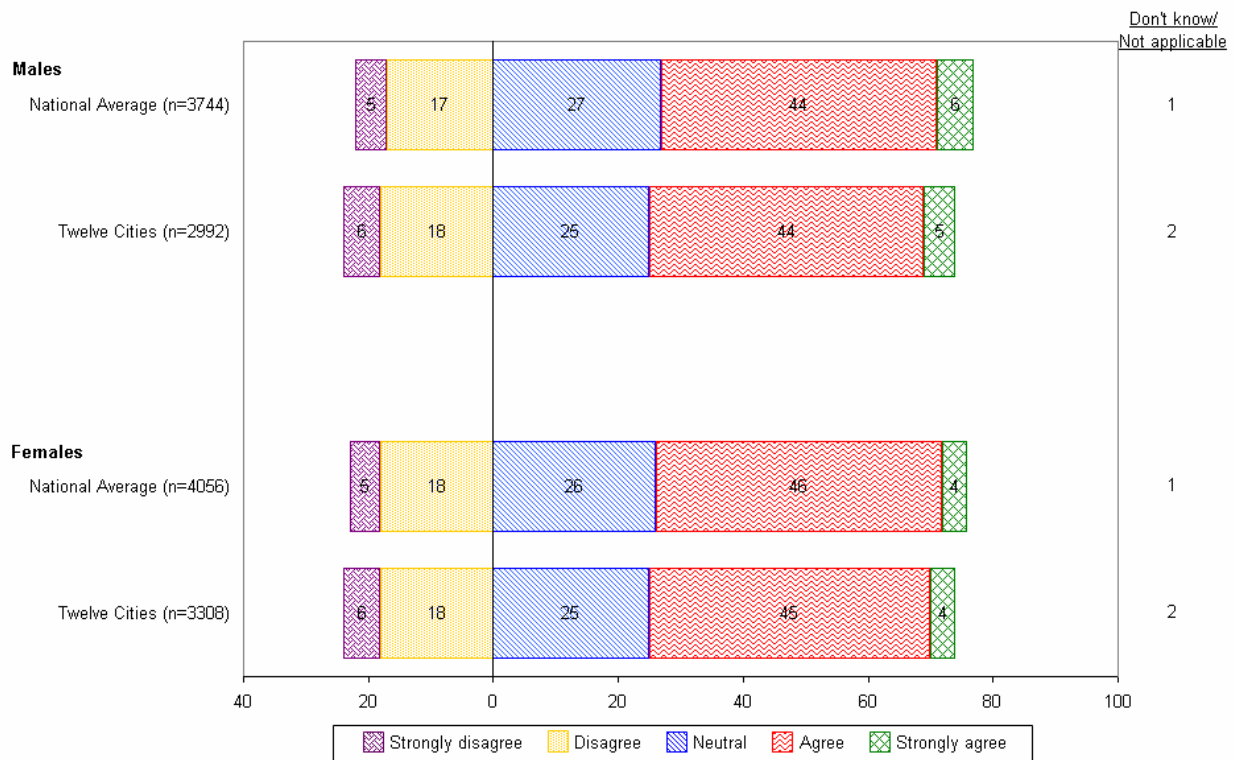


Base: All respondents

Note: Respondents able to select multiple ethnicities. Consequently bases may total more than 100%

Positive perceptions of confidence in Council’s ability to make decisions that were in the best interest of their city or district were the same for both males and females (50% nationally; 49% Twelve Cities).

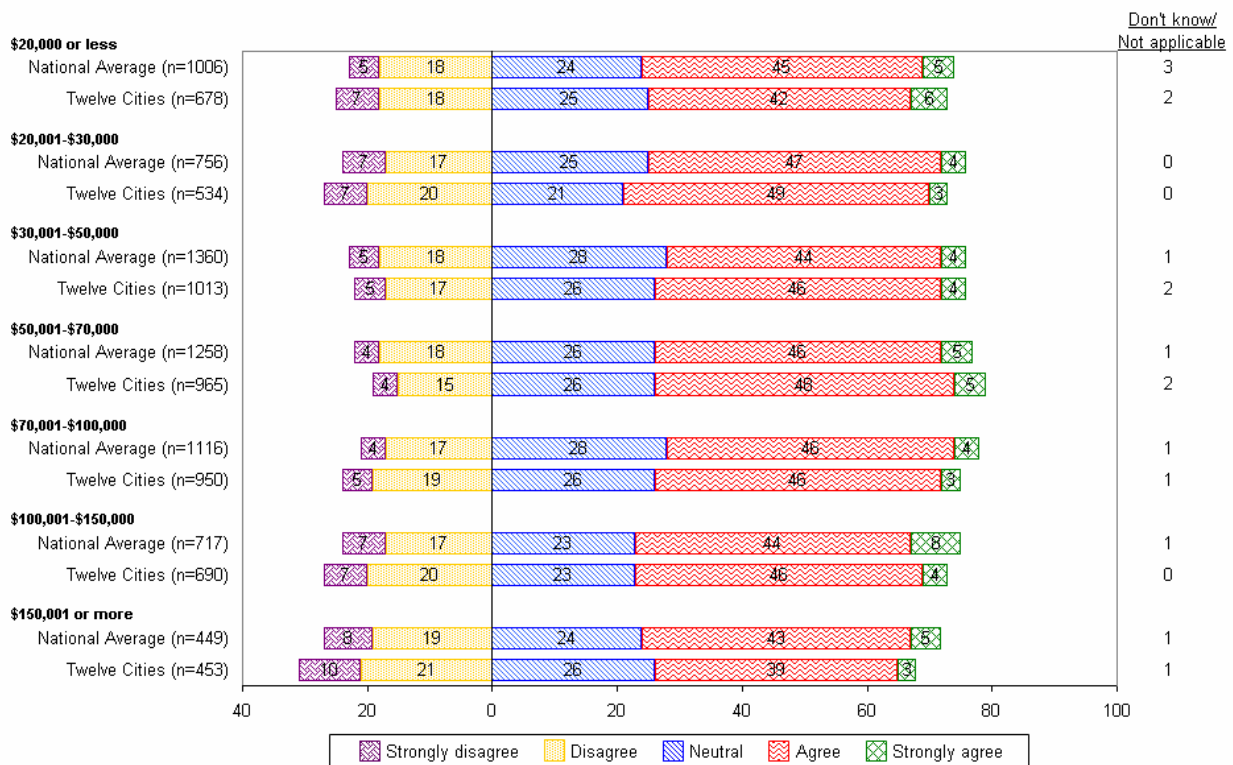
**Figure 8.14: Perception Of Confidence In Council Decision-Making - By Gender (%)**



Base: All respondents

Nationally, residents with an annual household income of \$150,001 or more were the least likely to *agree or strongly agree* that they had confidence in their Council’s decision making (48%) while those with a household income of \$100,001-\$150,000 were most likely to perceive their Council’s decision making ability positively (52% *agree/strongly agree*). Among residents of the Twelve Cities, while those with a household income of \$150,001 or more continued to be least likely to have confidence in Council’s decision making ability (42%), highest levels of confidence were reported among those with a household income of \$50,001-\$70,000 (53%).

**Figure 8.15: Perception Of Confidence In Council Decision-Making - By Household Income (%)**

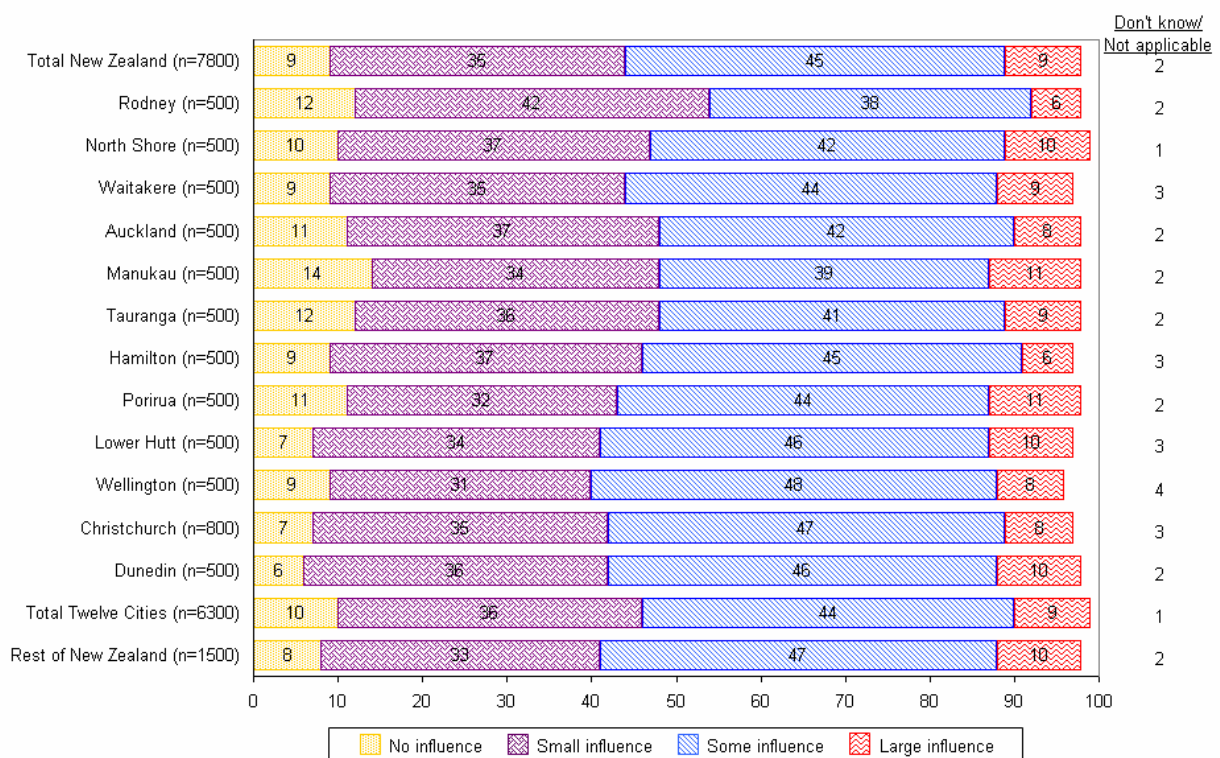


Base: All respondents

## 8.4 Perception Of Public's Influence On Council Decision-Making

Nine in every ten New Zealand residents (89%) perceived that the public had at least a *small influence* (*small influence, some influence or large influence*) on the decisions that Councils made, just over half (54%) perceiving that they had at least *some influence*. Residents in Lower Hutt (56%) and Dunedin (56%) were most likely to state that they felt that they had at least *some influence* on Council's decision making, while residents of Rodney were least likely to feel this way (44% *some or large influence*). While Twelve Cities' residents were less likely to perceive that they had at least *some influence* on Council decision making (53%) than those living in the rest of New Zealand (57%), this difference was not statistically significant.

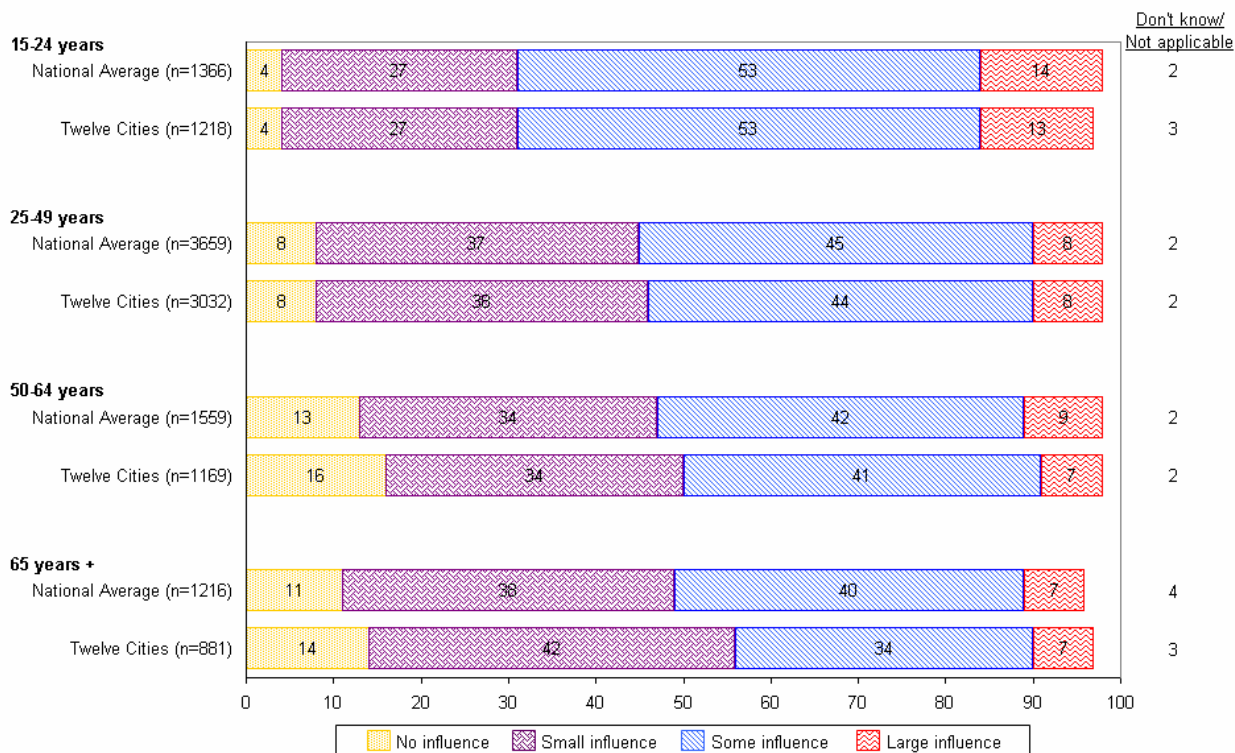
**Figure 8.16: Perception Of Public's Influence On Council Decision-Making – By Location (%)**



Base: All respondents

Results suggest an inverse relationship between age and positive perceptions of an ability to influence Council's decision making. Residents aged 15-24 years were significantly more likely to perceive that they had at least *some influence* over Council's decision making (67% nationally; 66% Twelve Cities) than all other respondents (52% nationally; 49% Twelve Cities). By contrast, residents aged 65 years or over were significantly less likely to perceive that they had at least *some influence* over Council's decision making (47% nationally; 41% Twelve Cities) than those aged under 65 years (55% nationally; 54% Twelve Cities). Residents aged 15-24 years were also twice as likely to perceive that they had a *large influence* over Council's decision making (14% nationally; 13% Twelve Cities) than those aged 65 years or over (7% at both levels).

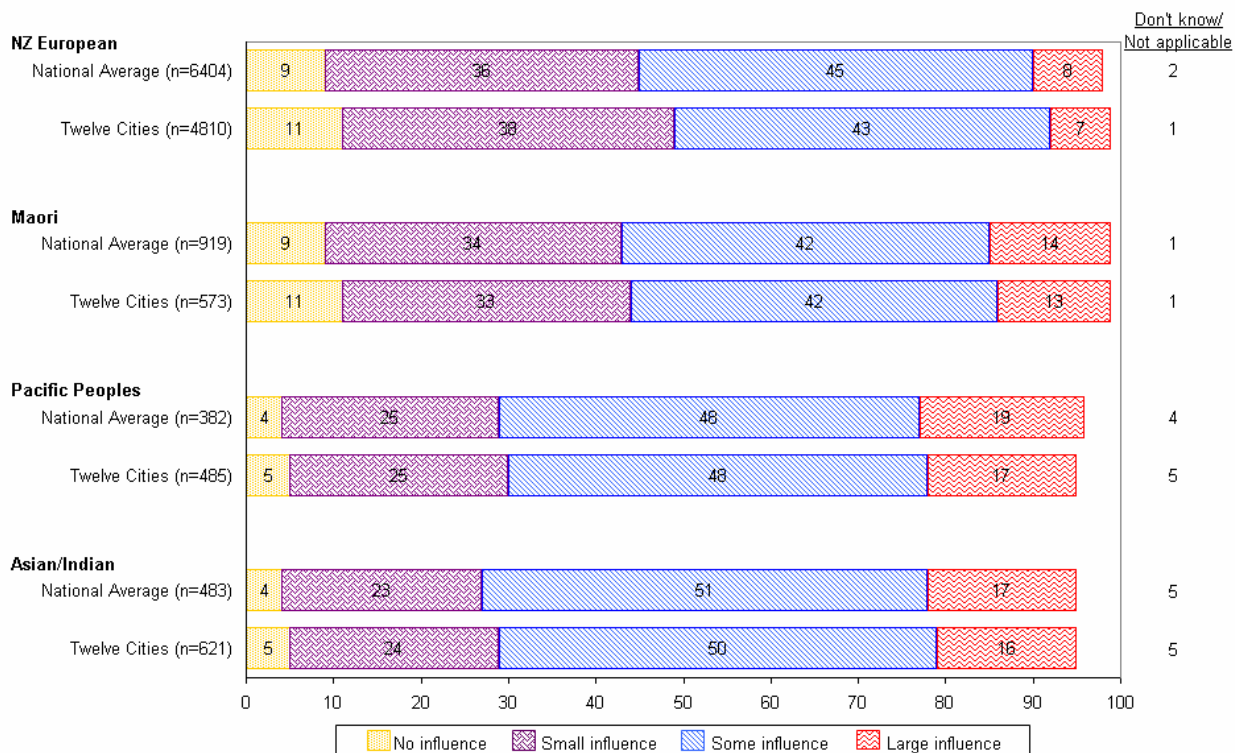
**Figure 8.17: Perception Of Public's Influence On Council Decision-Making – By Age (%)**



Base: All respondents

At both a national and Twelve Cities level, Asian/Indian residents (68% nationally; 66% Twelve Cities) and Pacific Peoples (67% nationally; 65% Twelve Cities) were significantly more likely to perceive that they had at least *some influence* on Council decision making than Maori (56% nationally; 55% Twelve Cities) and New Zealand European residents (53% nationally; 50% Twelve Cities). At a national level, Pacific Peoples were more than twice as likely to state that they felt they had a *large influence* on Council decision making (19%) than New Zealand European residents (8%). At the Twelve Cities level, Maori residents were also significantly more likely to feel that they had at least *some influence* on Council's decision making than New Zealand European residents.

**Figure 8.18: Perception Of Public's Influence On Council Decision-Making – By Ethnicity (%)**

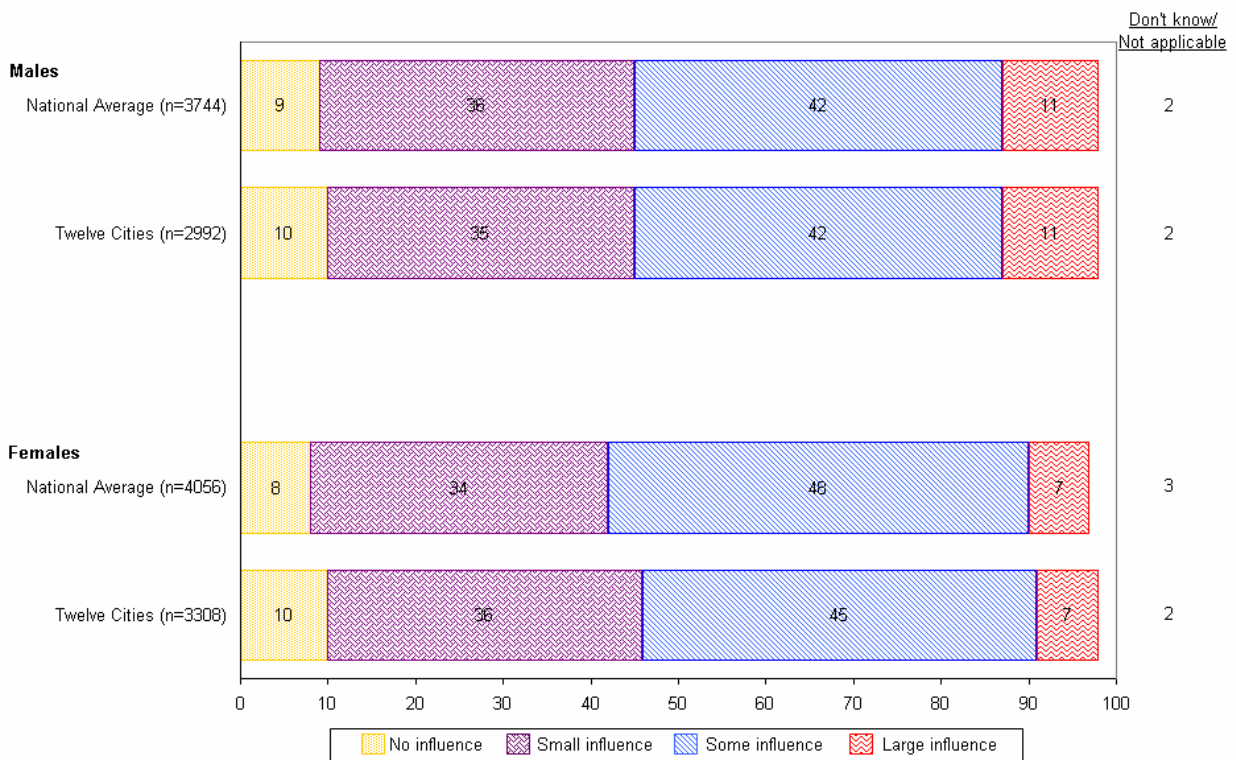


Base: All respondents

Note: Respondents able to select multiple ethnicities. Consequently bases may total more than 100%

At both the national and Twelve Cities levels, males and females were comparable in their perception of the public's influence on Council decision making, 53% of males and 55% of females stating that they felt they had at least *some influence*. However, at both a national and Twelve Cities level, males were significantly more likely to state that they felt they had a *large influence* on Council decision making (11% at both levels) than females (7% at both levels).

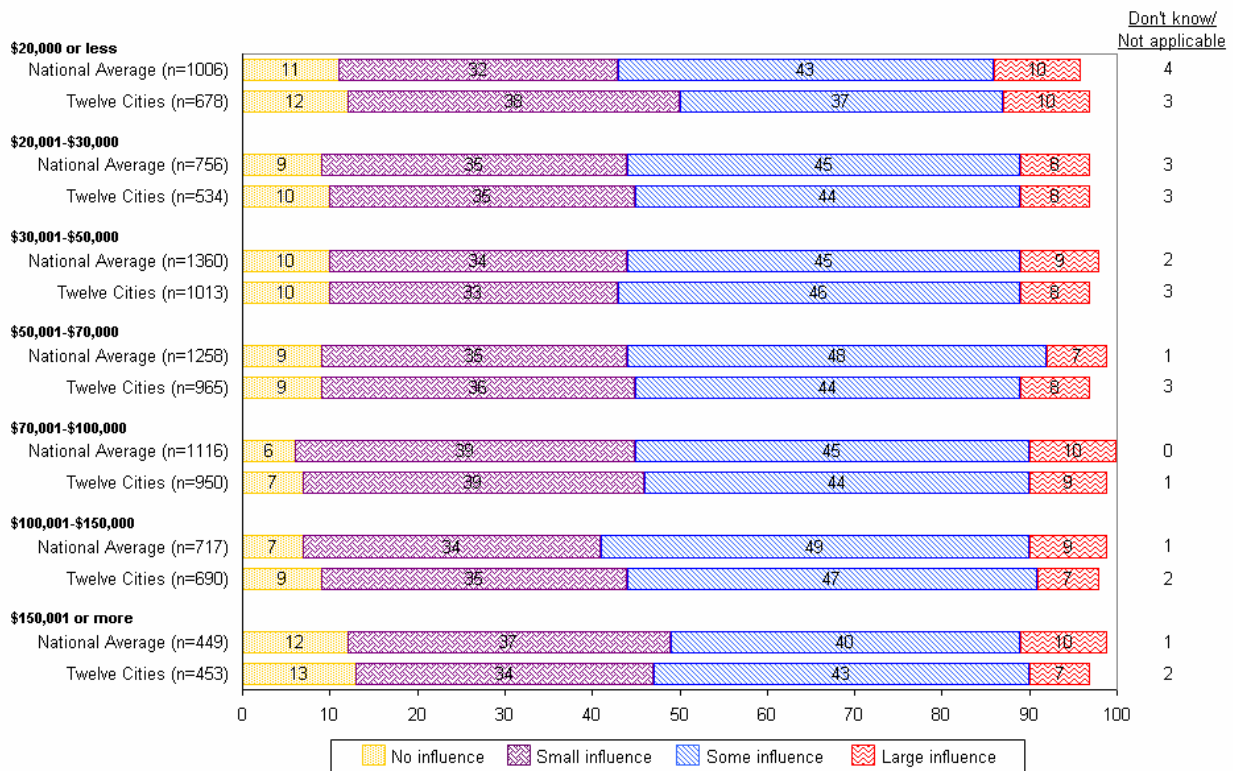
**Figure 8.19: Perception Of Public's Influence On Council Decision-Making – By Gender (%)**



Base: All respondents

Nationally, residents with annual household incomes of \$100,001-150,000 were the most likely to perceive that the public had at least *some influence* on Council decision making (58%) with residents with a household income of \$150,001 or more being the least likely to perceive they have at least *some influence* (50%). At the Twelve Cities' level, perceptions of at least *some influence* were highest among those with a household income of \$30,001-\$50,000 or \$100,001-\$150,000 (54%) and lowest among the lowest income group (\$20,000 or less – 47%).

**Figure 8.20: Perception Of Public's Influence On Council Decision-Making – By Household Income (%)**

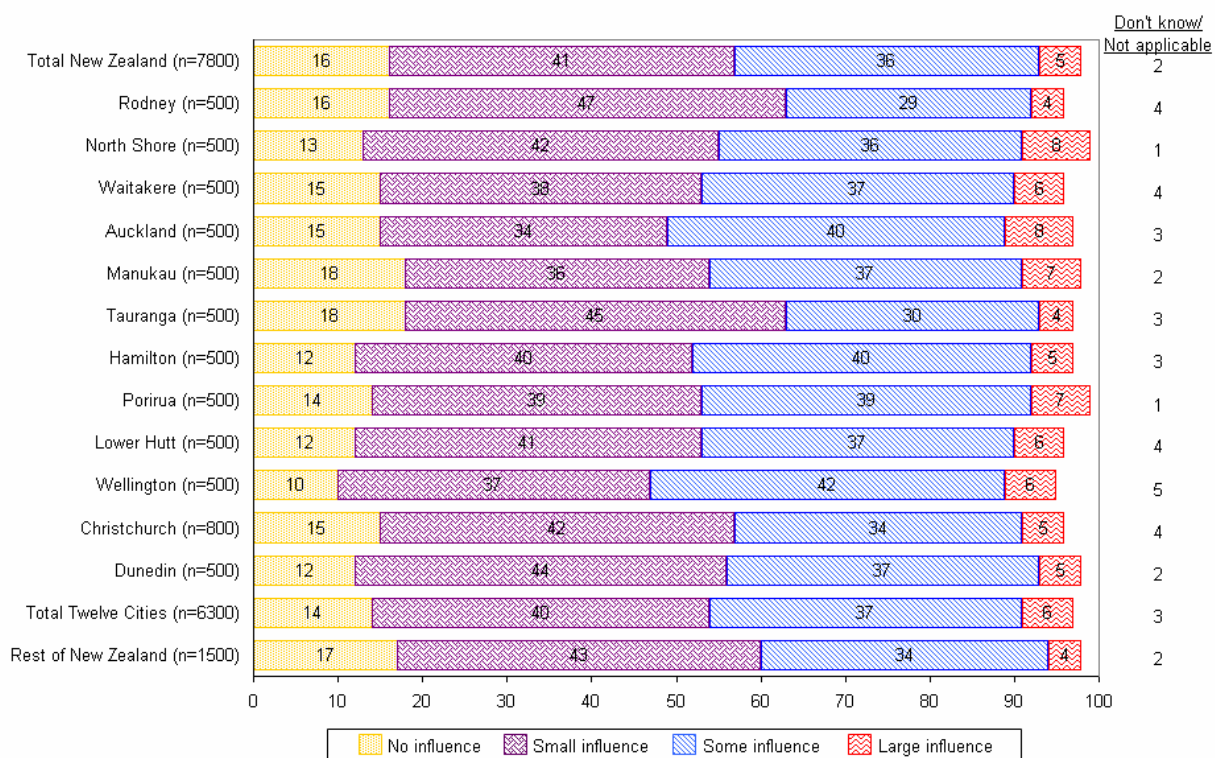


Base: All respondents

## 8.5 Perception Of Public's Influence On Central Government Decision-Making

Just over four in five New Zealand residents perceived that the public had at least a small influence (*small influence, some influence or large influence*) on the decisions that central government make (82%), two in five (41%) perceiving that they had at least *some influence*. Auckland and Wellington residents were most likely to perceive that they had at least *some influence* on central government decision making (48%) while those living in Rodney were least likely to feel this way (33% *some or large influence*). Residents of the Twelve Cities were significantly more likely to perceive that they had at least *some influence* on central government decision making (43%) than those living elsewhere in New Zealand (38%).

**Figure 8.21: Perception Of Public's Influence On Central Government Decision-Making – By Location (%)**

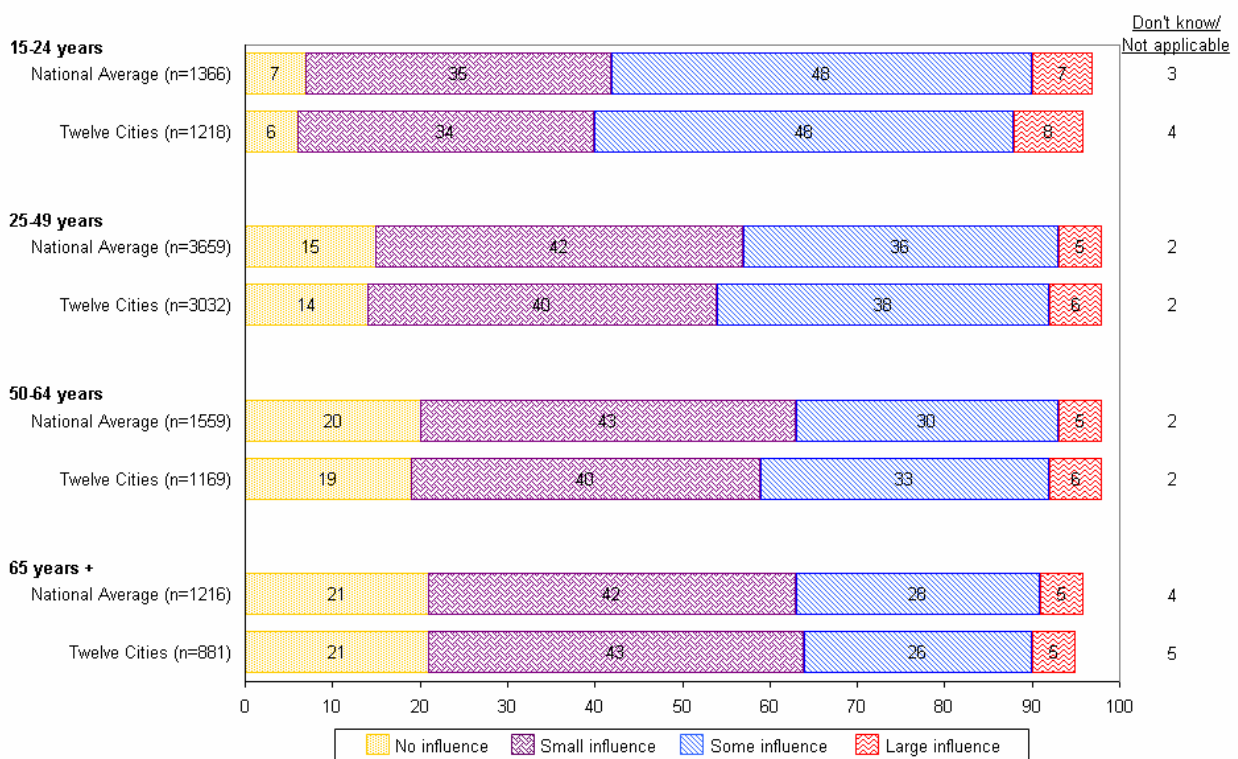


Base: All respondents

A comparison of results for perceptions of ability to influence Council and central government decision making reveals that residents were significantly more likely to perceive that they had at least a *small influence* on Council decision making (89%) than on the decisions made by central government (82%). Similarly, just over half (54%) of all residents perceived that they had at least *some influence* on Council decision making while only 41% felt that they had the same level of influence on central government-made decisions. Perceptions of a greater ability to influence Council decision making than decisions made by central government were also evident at the Twelve Cities' level, 53% of Twelve Cities residents perceiving that they had at least *some influence* on Council decision making compared with 43% perceiving they had the same level of influence over central government decision making.

Results suggest an inverse relationship between age and positive perceptions of the public's influence on central government decision making. Residents aged 15-24 years were significantly more likely to perceive that they had at least *some influence* over decisions made by central government (55% nationally; 56% Twelve Cities) than all other residents (38% nationally; 40% Twelve Cities), particularly those aged 65 years or over (33% nationally; 31% Twelve Cities). Similarly, those aged 15-24 years were significantly less likely to perceive that they had no influence over central government decision making (7% nationally; 6% Twelve Cities) than all other respondents (17% nationally; 16% Twelve Cities).

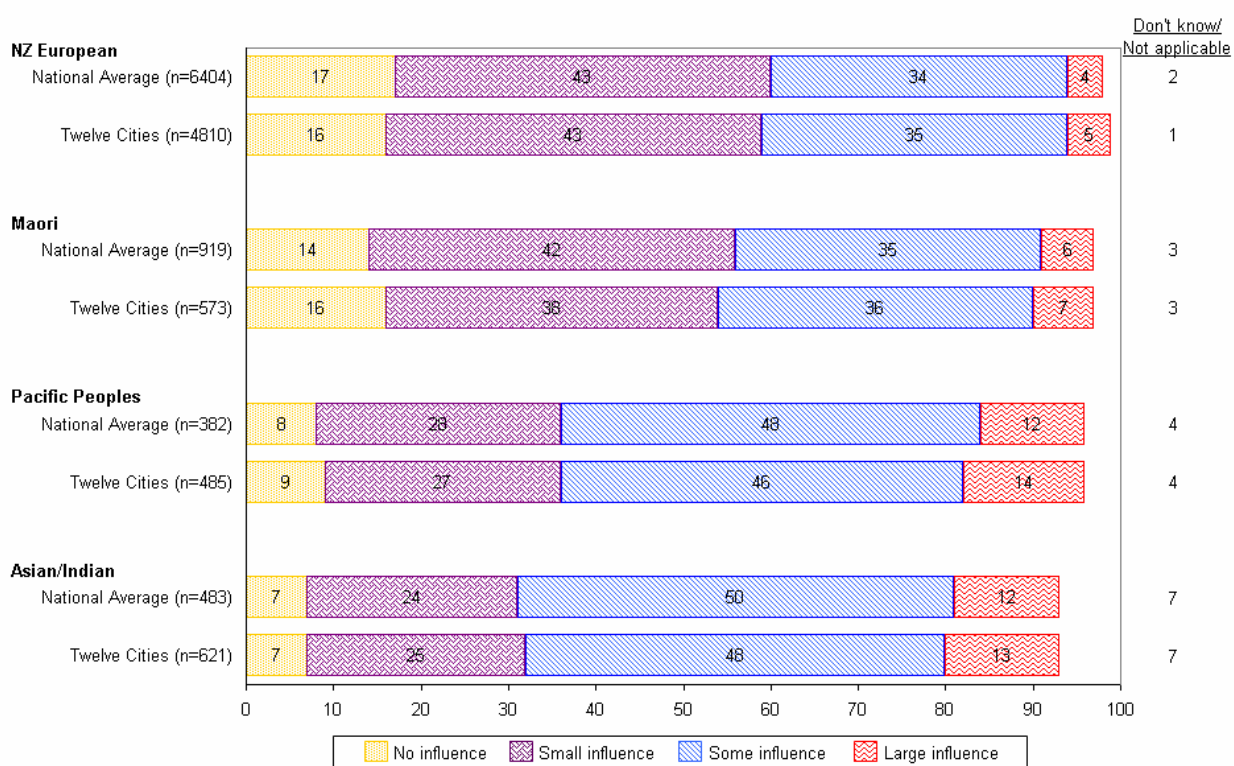
**Figure 8.22: Perception Of Public's Influence On Central Government Decision-Making – By Age (%)**



Base: All respondents

At both a national and Twelve Cities level, Asian/Indian residents (62% nationally; 61% Twelve Cities) and Pacific Peoples (60% at both levels) were significantly more likely to perceive that they had at least *some influence* on central government decision making than Maori (41% nationally; 43% Twelve Cities) and New Zealand European residents (38% nationally; 40% Twelve Cities). Similarly, New Zealand European residents were more than twice as likely as their Pacific Peoples (8% nationally; 9% Twelve Cities) or Asian/Indian counterparts (7% at both levels) to perceive that they had *no influence* over central government decision making (17% nationally; 16% Twelve Cities).

**Figure 8.23: Perception Of Public's Influence On Central Government Decision-Making – By Ethnicity (%)**

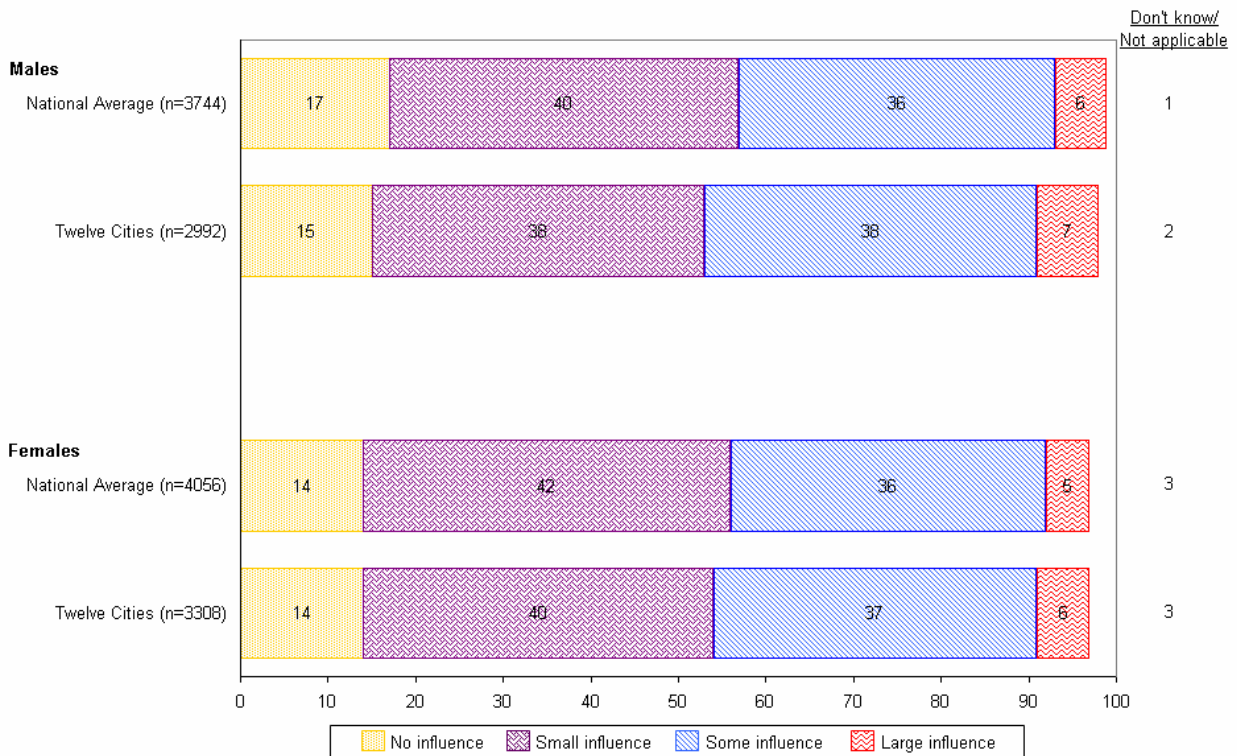


Base: All respondents

Note: Respondents able to select multiple ethnicities. Consequently bases may total more than 100%

At both the national and Twelve Cities levels, males and females were comparable in their perception of the public's influence on central government decision making, 42% of males (45% Twelve Cities) and 41% of females (43% Twelve Cities) stating that they felt they had at least some influence.

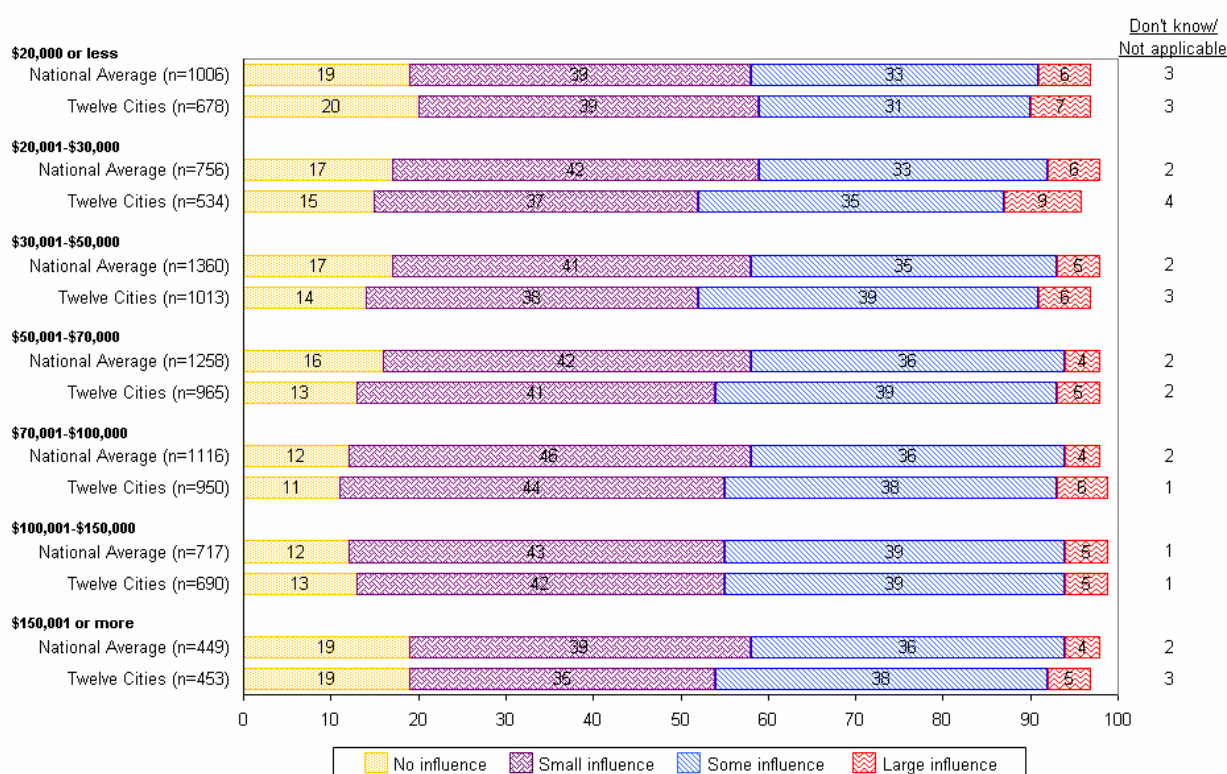
**Figure 8.24: Perception Of Public's Influence On Central Government Decision-Making – By Gender (%)**



Base: All respondents

Nationally, perceptions of the public's influence on central government decision making were relatively consistent by household income, the only exception being among those with a household income of \$100,001-\$150,000, where 44% perceived that they had at least *some influence* (compared with 39% to 40% for all other income groups). At the Twelve Cities' level, perceptions of influence were also relatively consistent (43% to 45%), with the exception of those with a household income of \$20,000 or less, where 38% felt that they had at least *some influence* on central government decision making.

**Figure 8.25: Perception Of Public's Influence On Central Government Decision-Making – By Household Income (%)**

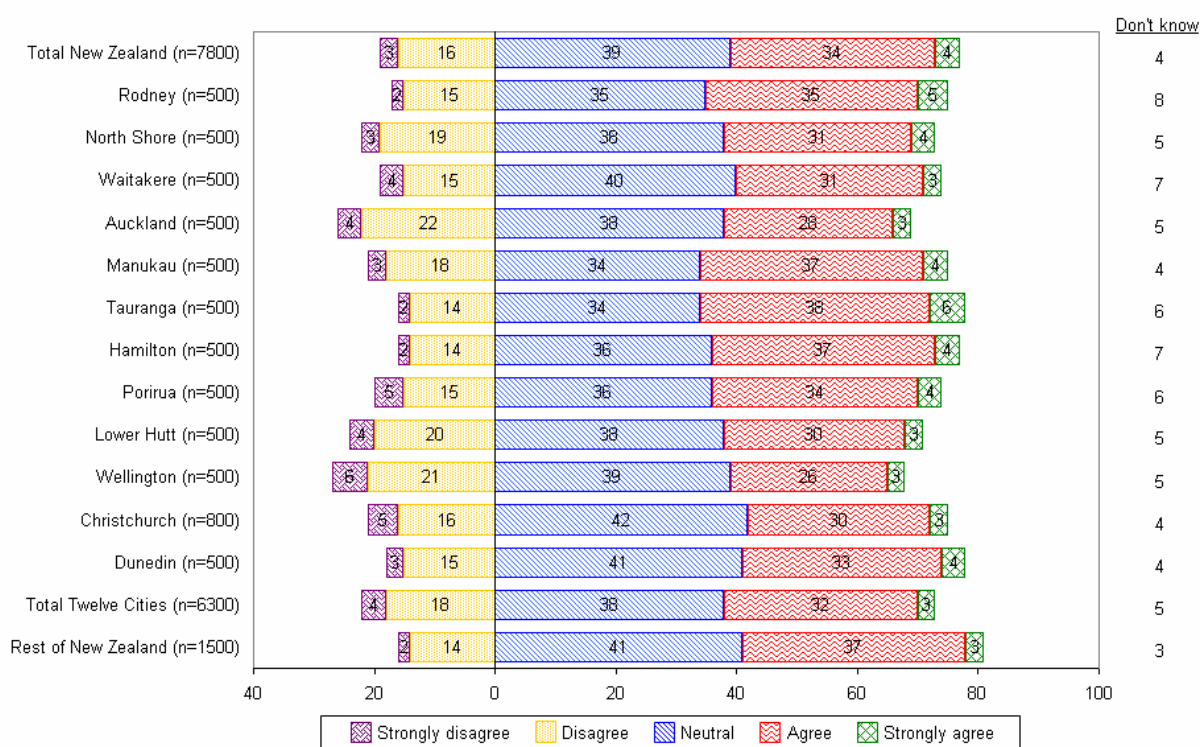


Base: All respondents

## 8.6 Perceptions Of Corporate Ethics And Responsibility

Just less than two in five New Zealand residents (38%) *agreed or strongly agreed* that the private business sector makes decisions in an ethical and responsible manner, one in five (19%) disagreeing with this statement. Of the twelve cities, Tauranga had the highest proportion of its residents in agreement (44%), whilst levels of agreement were lowest in Wellington (29%). Residents of the Twelve Cities were significantly less likely to *agree/strongly agree* that the private sector makes decisions in an ethical and responsible manner (35%) than those living elsewhere in New Zealand (40%).

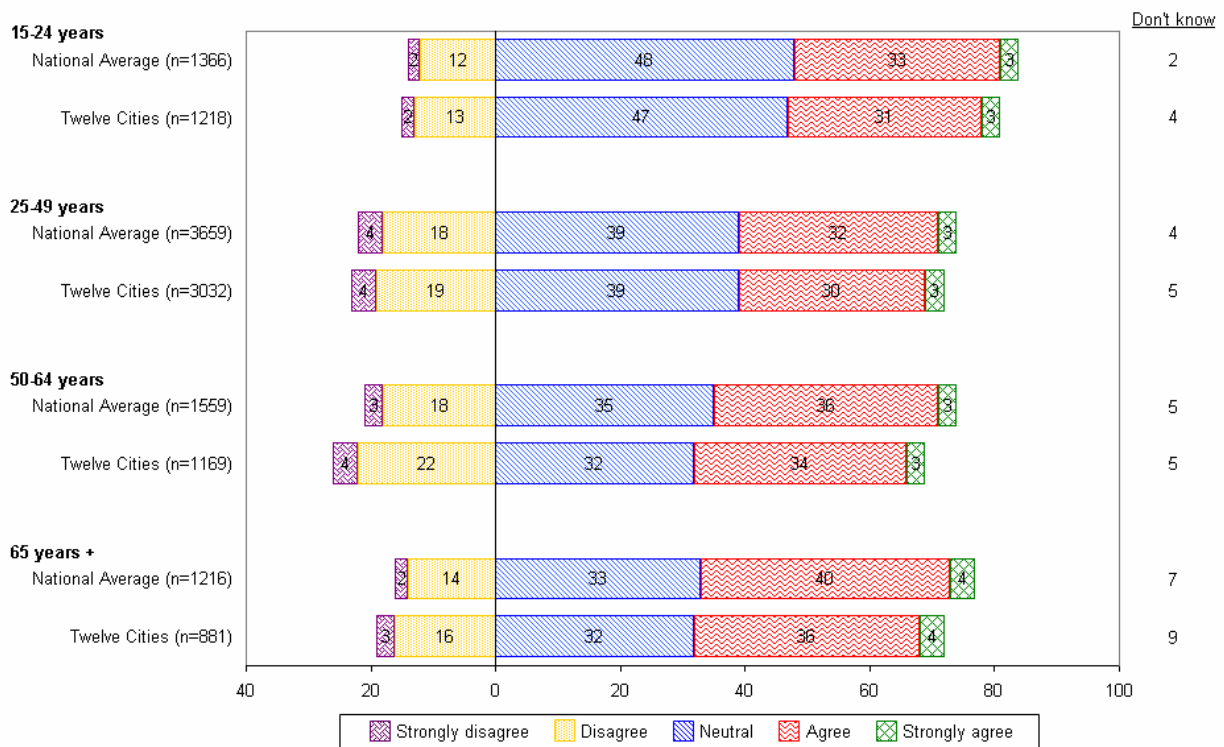
**Figure 8.26: Perceptions Of Corporate Ethics And Responsibility – By Location (%)**



Base: All respondents

Both nationally and at the Twelve Cities level, residents aged 65 years or over were significantly more likely to *agree or strongly agree* that the private business sector makes decisions in an ethical and responsible manner (44% nationally; 40% Twelve Cities) than all other residents (36% nationally; 34% Twelve Cities).

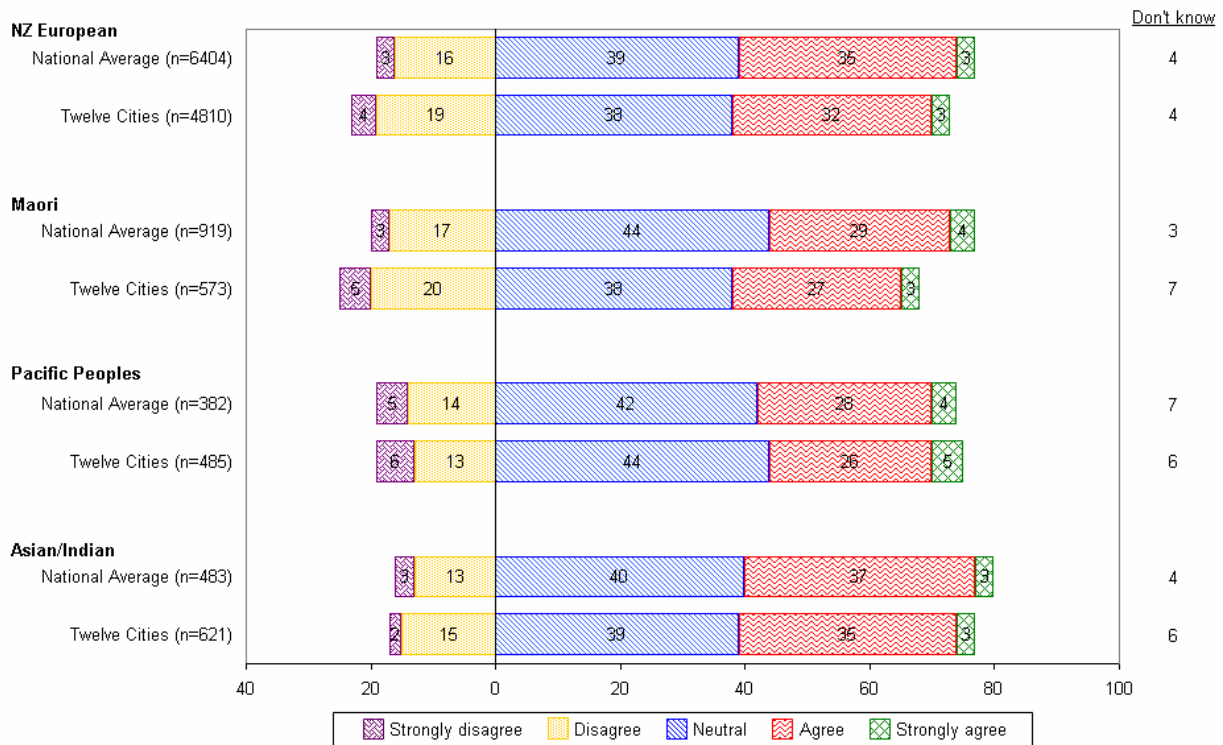
**Figure 8.27: Perceptions Of Corporate Ethics And Responsibility – By Age (%)**



Base: All respondents

At both a national and Twelve Cities level, Asian/Indian (40% nationally; 38% Twelve Cities) and New Zealand European residents (38% nationally; 35% Twelve Cities) were significantly more likely to *agree or strongly agree* that the private business sector makes decisions in an ethical and responsible manner than Maori (33% nationally; 30% Twelve Cities) or Pacific Peoples (32% nationally; 31% Twelve Cities).

**Figure 8.28: Perceptions Of Corporate Ethics And Responsibility – By Ethnicity (%)**

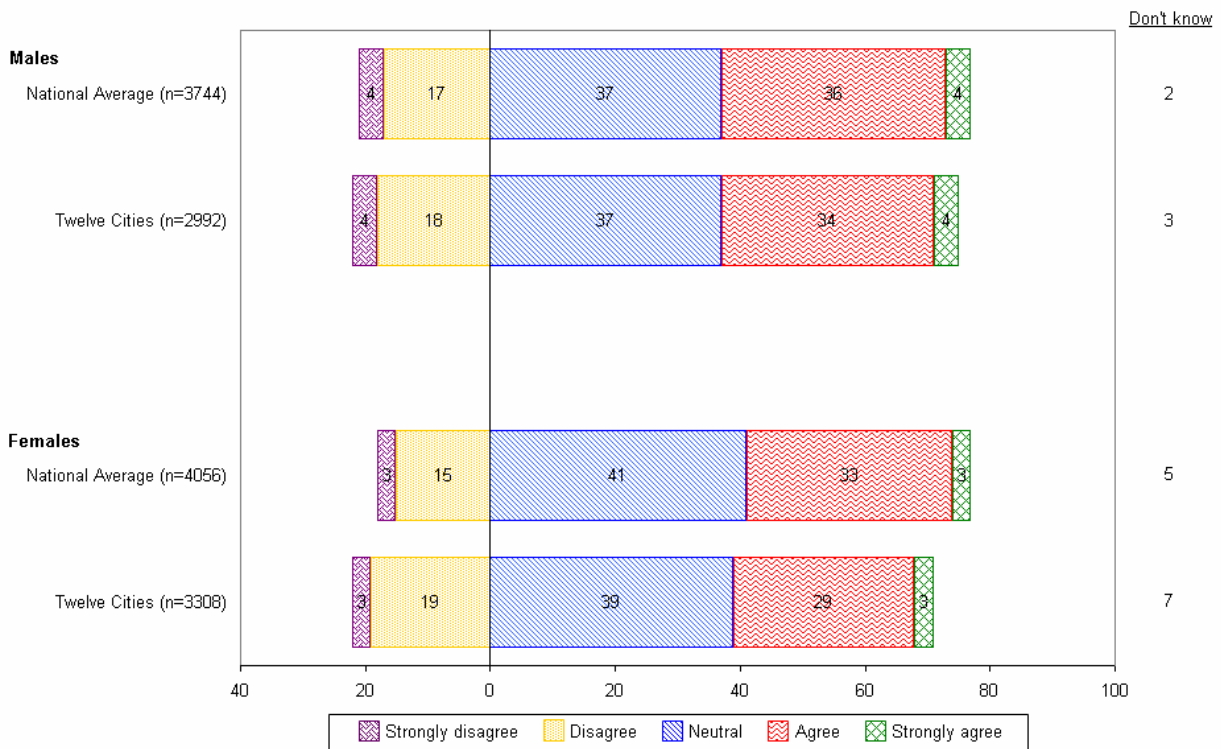


Base: All respondents

Note: Respondents able to select multiple ethnicities. Consequently bases may total more than 100%

At both the national and Twelve Cities levels, males (40% nationally; 38% Twelve Cities) were significantly more likely to *agree or strongly agree* that the private business sector makes decisions in an ethical and responsible manner than females (36% nationally; 32% Twelve Cities). However, at a national level, males were also significantly more likely to *disagree or strongly disagree* with this statement (21%) than their female counterparts (18%).

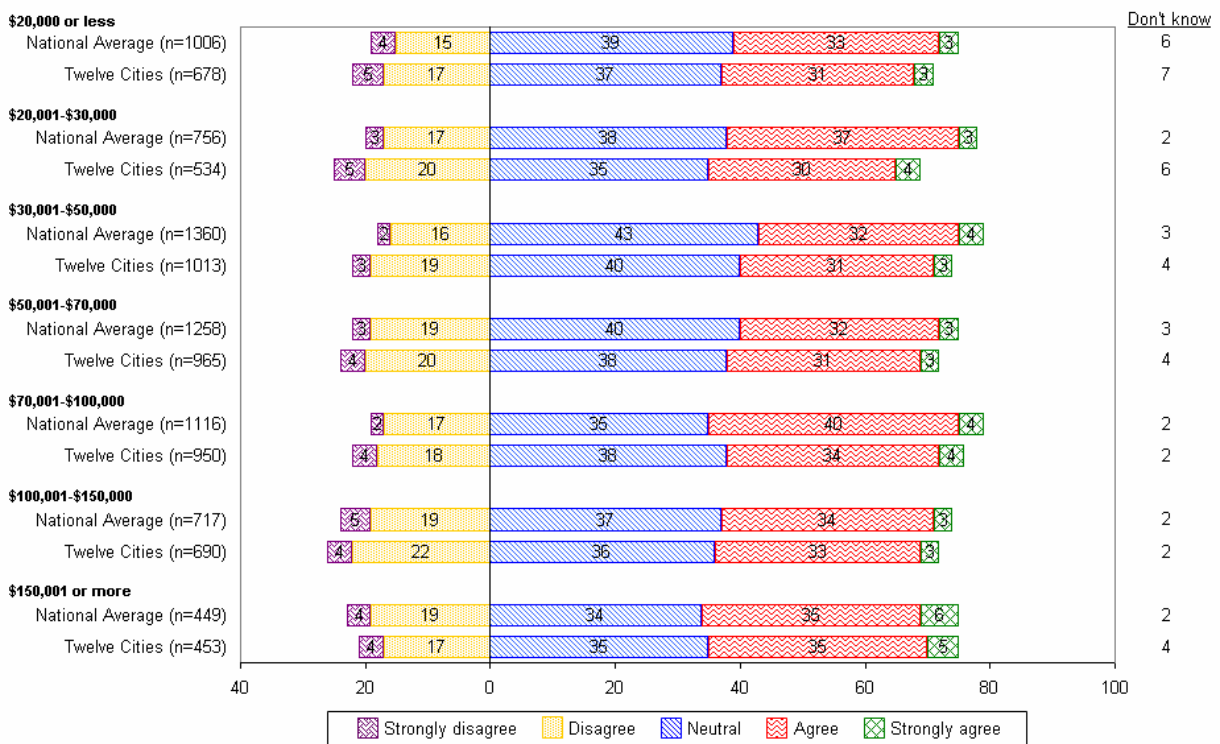
**Figure 8.29: Perceptions Of Corporate Ethics And Responsibility – By Gender (%)**



Base: All respondents

Nationally, residents with annual household incomes of \$70,001-\$100,000 were most likely to *agree/strongly agree* that the private business sector makes decisions in an ethical and responsible manner (44%) followed by residents with household incomes of \$150,001 or more (41%). At a national level, residents with household incomes of \$50,001-70,000 had the lowest proportion of residents agreeing to some extent that the private business sector makes decisions in an ethical and responsible manner (35%). At the Twelve Cities level, a positive relationship between household income and positive perceptions of corporate ethics and responsibility is evident with those with a household income of \$70,001 or more (37%) significantly more likely to *agree/strongly agree* than residents with a household income \$70,000 or less (34%).

**Figure 8.30: Perceptions Of Corporate Ethics And Responsibility – By Household Income (%)**



Base: All respondents