

Canterbury Wellbeing Index Summary June 2014



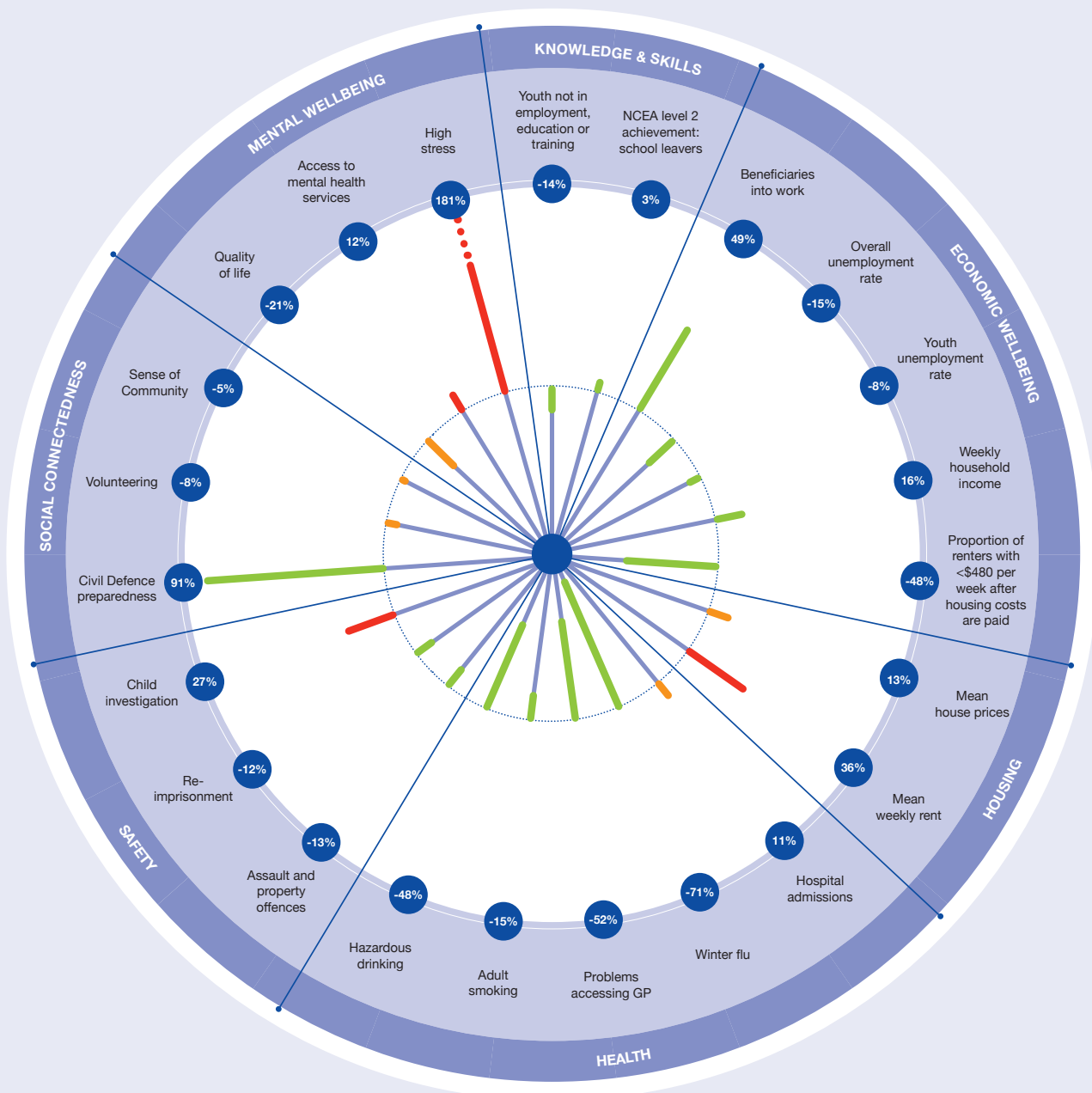
Canterbury Wellbeing Index

Interpreting changes in social recovery 2008-10 to 2013-14

The spider diagram uses 'spokes' to represent changes in each indicator,

- the blue dotted circle represents average data prior to the September 2010 earthquake (where possible using a two year average from January 2008 to September 2010); and
- the spokes represent post-earthquake data where possible using an average from 2013 to June 2014.

Longer spokes represent greater change. However, there is no relationship between indicators in magnitude of change. Spokes extending out from the blue circle indicate increases, and spokes extending inwards indicate decreases.



Pre and Post Earthquake Social Recovery Analysis

- FAVOURABLE** (Green circle)
By comparison to pre-quake and where possible national trends
- NEUTRAL** (Orange circle)
Either changes reflect national trends, the average has not changed or changes are otherwise ambiguous
- LESS FAVOURABLE** (Red circle)
By comparison to pre-quake and where possible national trends

Canterbury Wellbeing Index: an overview¹

Knowledge and skills

Despite considerable disruption to the schooling network, school leavers have consistently achieved NCEA Level 2 or above at higher rates than prior to the earthquakes: 70 per cent in 2009, 72 per cent in 2010, 75 per cent in 2011 and 73 per cent in 2012.

A buoyant employment market generated by the rebuild has led to a drop in the rate of young people not in education, employment, or training to 9.2 per cent in March 2014 compared with 12.8 per cent across New Zealand.

Economic wellbeing

Since 2011 the unemployment rate has lowered significantly, reaching 3.3 per cent in the March 2014 quarter which is well below the national rate (6.2 per cent).

Young people are more likely to find jobs than elsewhere in the country. Only 16.6 per cent of those aged 15-19 years were unemployed in the March 2014 quarter compared with 22.3 per cent across New Zealand. For those aged 20-24 years the rate dropped to 6.1 per cent (compared with 13.1 per cent across New Zealand).

Greater Christchurch has had a 16.6 per cent increase in median equivalised gross weekly household income between 2008 and 2013, while New Zealand overall experienced an 8.1 per cent increase over this period.

For low income earners living in rental accommodation, their income has increased at a higher rate than their housing costs. The proportion of renting households with a gross income of less than \$480 per week after rental housing costs are paid dropped from 39 per cent in 2011 to 19 per cent in 2013.

Housing

The loss of housing stock caused by the earthquakes has stimulated price rises. Mean house prices increased by 16.8 per cent across Christchurch, 32.1 per cent in Selwyn district and 24.4 per cent in Waimakariri district between the November 2010 and November 2013 quarters.

Over the same period, mean weekly rent increased by 35.5 per cent in

Christchurch (an extra \$106 per week on average) and it is increasing at a faster rate than the national average. Increased demand for rental accommodation has come from displaced households and workers arriving to assist with the rebuild. As a result, fewer low-cost rentals are available which is impacting on low income earners.

Health

Physical health indicators selected for the index show little on-going earthquake impact. Hospital admissions (including those for cancer) have resumed a pre-earthquake pattern of increase after dropping immediately following the February 2011 earthquake.

Access to general practice has improved since the time of the earthquakes. Only 8.2 per cent of residents reported that they had been unable to get an appointment in 2012/13 compared with 15.5 per cent in 2011/12.

Both smoking and hazardous drinking rates have declined and are lower than national rates. Smoking rates were 16.2 per cent in 2012/13 compared with 18.7 per cent nationally and hazardous drinking rates were 11.3 per cent compared with 17.3 per cent nationally.

Safety

Total assaults declined by 5 per cent in 2013 from the pre-earthquake period of 2008-2009. Total property offences declined by 16 per cent. Despite fluctuations between 2010 and 2013, there was a 2 per cent reduction in dwelling assaults, compared with a 6 per cent decline nationally.

Canterbury's re-imprisonment rate declined from 27.4 per cent in 2011 to 24.1 in 2013 compared with a decrease from 27.1 per cent to 26.7 per cent nationally during this period. This decline may reflect the focus on finding rebuild-related employment for released prisoners in Canterbury.

Child investigations are counted through notifications requiring further action which may be generated by concerns about child abuse, or the behaviour or mental wellbeing of a child or young person. Notifications requiring further action increased by 27 per cent in the twelve months to June 2013

compared with the pre-earthquake period of the 24 months to June 2010. Over this same period there was an 18 per cent increase nationally. However, looking at just the year prior to the earthquakes, this variance is less significant. When comparing the twelve months to June 2010 with the twelve months to June 2013 there was a 10 per cent increase in notifications requiring further action in Canterbury compared with 12 per cent nationally.

Social connectedness

Residents have experienced significant upheaval and population movement which has reduced social connectedness. The proportion of people reporting a strong sense of community with others in their neighbourhood fell from 57 per cent in 2010 to 47 per cent in April 2014. Those reporting lower levels of connectedness were in temporary housing, young adults aged 18-34, people living with a physical health disability, renters and those who had moved since the September 2010 earthquake.

Mental wellbeing

In 2011 and the first six months of 2012, demand for mental health services remained relatively flat, but it has increased since 2013. The overall proportion of people accessing mental health services increased by 12 per cent in the eight months to August 2013 from the eight months to August 2010. In particular, specialist mental health services for those aged 0-17 years and psychiatric emergency services have experienced increased demand.

By April 2014, 22 per cent of the population were reporting high levels of stress (compared with 18 per cent across New Zealand cities in 2012). Higher levels of stress were reported by those in temporary accommodation, people with a physical health condition or disability, Māori and renters.

By April 2014, 75 per cent of the population were reporting a high quality of life (compared with 80 per cent across New Zealand cities in 2012).

¹Data presented in the summary highlights key information from both the spider diagram and the indicators.

Why do we need the Canterbury Wellbeing Index?

The Canterbury Wellbeing Index was developed by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) with the support of multiple agencies to track the progress of the social recovery in greater Christchurch. Indicators are used to identify emerging social trends and issues to enable agencies to respond in a timely way. The Canterbury Wellbeing Index is also prepared to provide

the greater Christchurch community with accurate and comprehensive information about the social recovery.

The Canterbury Wellbeing Index has been published annually since June 2013. Results can be accessed in full at www.cera.govt.nz/cwi

How was the Canterbury Wellbeing Index developed?

In late 2011 CERA convened a series of meetings with representatives of 28 agencies to identify the social indicators that should be tracked through the recovery. Expert advice was received through the literature review of international best practice “Designing indicators for measuring recovery from disasters”, undertaken by Canterbury District Health Board.

CERA requests and receives administrative and survey data from multiple agencies regularly to form the basis of the indicators in the Canterbury Wellbeing Index. Where possible, indicators are tailored to the greater Christchurch boundaries comprised of Christchurch city, and the Selwyn and Waimakariri districts.

The six-monthly CERA Wellbeing Survey was developed to provide additional recovery-focused data on the wellbeing of the residents of greater Christchurch. It forms a significant part of the Canterbury Wellbeing Index. CERA Wellbeing Survey data are also published in full on the CERA website.

Draft indicators are subjected to peer review and quality assurance processes, and agencies responsible for the indicators review the content prior to public release.

The Canterbury Wellbeing Index is a collaborative project across many government agencies:

Action on Smoking and Health, Canterbury District Health Board, Canterbury Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service, Canterbury Public Health, Child, Youth and Family, Christchurch City Council, Creative New Zealand, Department of Corrections, Department of Internal Affairs, Department of Labour, Earthquake Commission, Electoral Commission, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, Environment Canterbury, Housing New Zealand, Corporation, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Ministry of Social Development, Natural Hazards Research Platform, New Zealand Police, Partnership Health, Selwyn District Council, Sports Canterbury, Sports New Zealand, Statistics New Zealand, Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Waimakariri District Council.

What happens in response to the trends identified in the Canterbury Wellbeing Index?

Emerging trends and issues identified through the Canterbury Wellbeing Index are used to inform decision-making by CERA and other social sector agencies working towards social recovery. Examples of initiatives and decisions that were informed by data collected through the Canterbury Wellbeing Index include the

establishment of the Residential Advisory Service to help property owners progress their home repairs or rebuild; as well as the Government’s Budget 2014 decision to allocate on-going funding for the provision of psychosocial services.