

Quality of Life Survey 2016

FAQs

What is the Quality of Life Survey?

It is an annual survey carried out by Colmar Brunton on behalf of Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Hutt, Porirua, Christchurch and Dunedin City Councils and the Waikato and Greater Wellington Regional Councils.

Why does Hamilton City Council take part in the survey?

By taking part in this survey, Hamilton results are able to be benchmarked against the other major cities in New Zealand.

Which councils are Hamilton benchmarked against?

The benchmarking involves the seven cities – Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Hutt, Porirua, Christchurch and Dunedin.

When was the data collected for the survey?

The fieldwork was carried out between 14 March and 22 June 2016.

How many people were involved?

The total number of respondents was 7155. The total in the seven cities was 5904 and the number of people surveyed in Hamilton was 537.

What is the margin of error with the results?

The seven cities figures are subject to a 1.3% sampling error at the 95% confidence level. The Hamilton figures have a maximum error of 4.2% at the 95% confidence level.

How does Hamilton compare with the other cities?

- In most areas Hamilton residents feel their quality of life is better than in the other cities.
- Overall, 82% of Hamiltonians say they have a good quality of life and 32% say their quality of life has improved over the past year – both results marginally better than elsewhere.
- Sixty-one per cent of people in Hamilton felt that their housing costs were affordable, compared to an average of 47% of people across the seven cities. Housing costs are perceived as being more affordable in Hamilton than all other cities except Dunedin.

- On other economic wellbeing indicators, Hamilton scores the same or better across all measures than the average of the seven cities.
- When it comes to governance, 47% of respondents have confidence in Council decision making, compared to an average of 39% across the seven cities.

What the survey said about perceptions of Safety – and what we’re already doing about creating a safe central city

- Perception of crime as a problem in Hamilton is higher than the average of the seven cities across a range of measures. However, 89% of people in Hamilton feel safe in their homes after dark, which is equal to the average result across the seven cities.
- Eighty-one per cent of people feel safe in the central city during the day. Council’s own Central City Safety Plan monitoring has shown a 44% increase in the number of people who feel safer in the CBD.
- People’s perceptions of safety in the city centre at night was lower in Hamilton than in the other cities, However, Police statistics show that reported crime in the central city has reduced by 32% since Council adopted the City Safety Plan in 2014.

What has the Central City Safety Plan accomplished over the past year?

- The People’s Project has housed 103 additional people since August 2015, with a total of 211 since 2014.
- Increased police foot patrols are said to have resulted in a further 2.5% reduction in crime since 2015.
- Unofficial police statistics suggest there has been a 24% reduction in reported nuisance behaviours since 2015.
- A Hamilton Central Business Association survey in May 2015 showed perceptions of Safety during various times over the 24 hour time period show a marked improvement during night time and early hours, but an increase in safety concerns during the daytime. This was a significant improvement on the original survey responses from September 2014.
- There have been no infringements or prosecutions under the Safety in Public Places Bylaw or under the Litter Infringement Policy. City Safe continues to work with people to change behaviour and the continued presence of City Safe has vastly improved behaviour.

- Zeal opened its door in March 2015, and since then 2015 has implemented 35 youth events with a total of 2,400 attendees, 100 creative workshops with a total of 46 recipients, and has provided 30 weeks of after-school hang outs with an average of 49 visits per week. Staff are working with Zeal to increase Youth engagement in the CBD.
- An additional action to the Plan to support the Library staff to develop strategies to effectively deal with anti-social behaviour has commenced and will be supported by the City Safe team.
- Council has allocated a further \$48,000 to expand the CBD CCTV coverage area.