



2024 NATIONAL RISKS PUBLIC SURVEY SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY



GAME CHANGERS





RESEARCH OBJECTIVES – SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

This is the third annual survey the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) has commissioned to understand public perceptions of National Risks (including both national security threats and significant hazards). While previous surveys focused more on national security threats, the scope has been broadened to include significant hazards.

The survey explores:

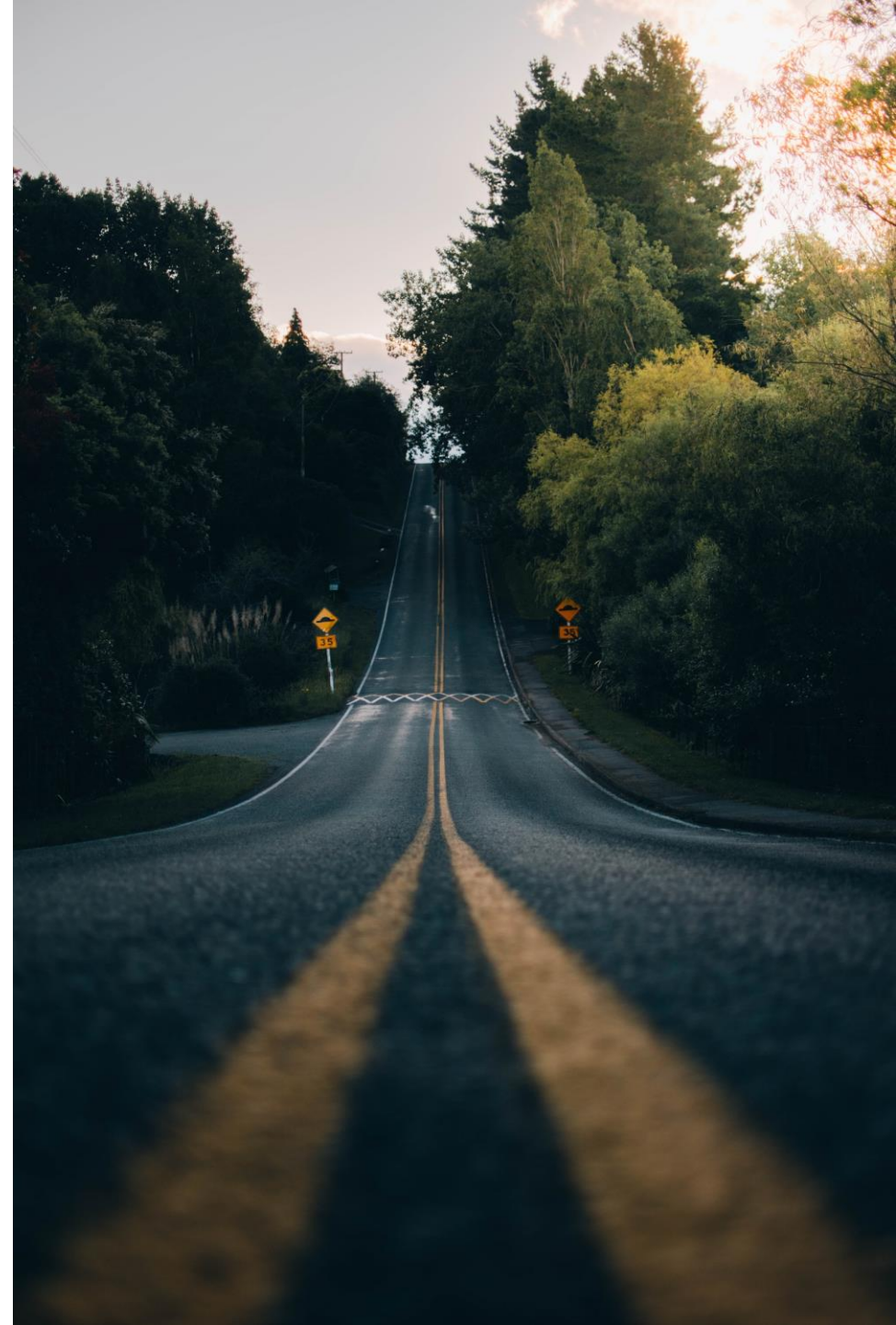
- New Zealanders' awareness of National Risks, including the public's perceived likelihood and concern for these over the short (next 12 months) and long term (next 10 years).
- Public confidence in government agencies' abilities to protect and respond.
- Opportunities to build confidence, share information, and better engage the public.

Survey findings inform the work of the National Hazards Board (NHB) and the National Security Board (NSB), and their agencies.

This report presents results from the first year of surveying on Significant Hazards.

The survey provides an understanding, across a nationally representative sample of 1,178 people, in relation to:

- What 'National Risk' means to New Zealanders, and which hazards they see as most likely, now (next 12 months) and in the future (next 10 years).
- The level of confidence New Zealanders have in the government's ability to manage hazards and what the government can do to build confidence.
- What information (including format) New Zealanders would like to receive.





METHODOLOGY – SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS



Fieldwork dates

19th February–14th
March 2024*



Methodology

Interviews were conducted online (self-completion). Respondents were recruited from Ipsos, Ipsos partner panels and river sampling**



Weighting

The data was weighted to match NZ population for region, ethnicity & gender



Sample achieved

n=1,178

*Notes

- Fieldwork overlapped the Port Hills wildfire in Christchurch of early February 2024. This event may have impacted people's responses, especially in the South Island.
- Statistically significantly **higher** / **lower** figures are reported at 95% confidence.
- We calculate the precision of Ipsos online polls using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points.
- Where results do not sum to 100 or the 'difference' appears to be + / -1 more / less than the actual, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses or the exclusion of 'don't know' or 'not stated' responses.
- Throughout the main report, demographic differences are shown amongst the demographic groups that have a base size larger than n=50.
- **See Appendix for further details on panels.



KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY





OVERALL FINDINGS – SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

Climate change, significant hazards to New Zealand in the short (next 12 months) and longer term (next 10 years)

- 92% of New Zealanders see *severe weather & flooding* as a real threat in the next 12 months.
- *Earthquakes* (88%), *natural disaster* (86%), *wildfires* (83%) and *drought* (77%) round out the top-5 significant hazards seen as most likely.
- New Zealanders cited *New Zealand's geography* and *having already seen / felt the effects* of these hazards as reasons for considering them a very real threat in the next 12 months.
- For *drought* and *severe weather / flooding*, New Zealanders stated *climate change* is playing a role, while for *wildfires* New Zealanders noted this was *happening now* (note: the Port Hills were affected by wildfire during survey fieldwork).
- In terms of the longer-term likelihood of these hazards (within the next 10 years), the same hazards make the top-5 list.
- A large proportion of New Zealanders (70%) agree the risks from climate change have increased over the last year, while 11% disagree.

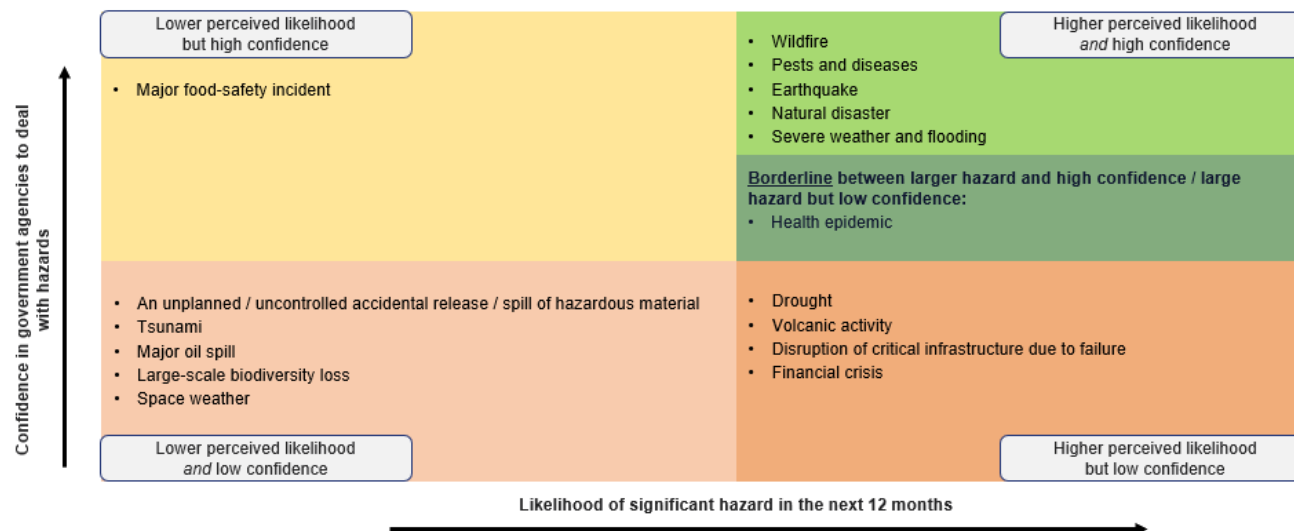




OVERALL FINDINGS – SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

Trust, confidence and transparency

- Only a third of New Zealanders agree government agencies share enough information about significant hazards, and a similar proportion (31%) believe they do not. More than half (61%) would like to find out more, and over a third (35%) would like to be involved in public discussion on significant hazards.
- When comparing perceptions of likelihood with confidence in government agencies to protect and respond, there are a number of hazards where New Zealanders express confidence in government.
- However, *drought, volcanic activity, disruption of critical infrastructure (due to failure) and financial crisis* are all seen as highly likely within the next 12 months, but with lower confidence in government agencies' ability to respond and protect in these situations.





OVERALL FINDINGS – SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

In 2024, we included ‘deep dives’ on *severe weather & flooding*, *tsunami* and *disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure*.

The majority of New Zealanders believe that **the government and its agencies have the most responsibility to protect against or respond to severe weather & flooding, tsunami and disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure**. Fewer believe they are fully resourced to do so.



“A severe weather event (e.g. strong winds, heavy rain, snow, landslides and/or flooding) in New Zealand”

SEVERE WEATHER & FLOODING

New Zealanders who saw *severe weather & flooding* as a very real threat in the next 12 months, cited it as already happening now, a ‘natural phenomenon’, and the effects of climate change / global warming. Another reason was its likelihood to happen again based on past experience and get worse.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

1st out of 16 hazards surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

2nd out of 16 hazards surveyed



“A major tsunami (a series of large, damaging waves) in New Zealand”

TSUNAMI

New Zealanders who stated they view a *tsunami* as a very real threat in the next 12 months, did so because of the geography / location of New Zealand, as well as it being a ‘natural phenomenon’ that is unpredictable.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

12th out of 16 hazards surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

11th out of 16 hazards surveyed



“Disruption of New Zealand’s critical infrastructure (e.g. water, transport, energy, telecommunications) due to human error or a natural hazard ”

DISRUPTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DUE TO FAILURE

New Zealanders who stated they view *disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure* as a very real threat in the next 12 months, did so because of the state of current infrastructure / roads, having already seen the effects of this as well as it being a ‘natural phenomenon’.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

6th out of 16 hazards surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

7th out of 16 hazards surveyed

**THANK
YOU**

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