



# 2024 NATIONAL RISKS PUBLIC SURVEY SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS



GAME CHANGERS





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# BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

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# 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:

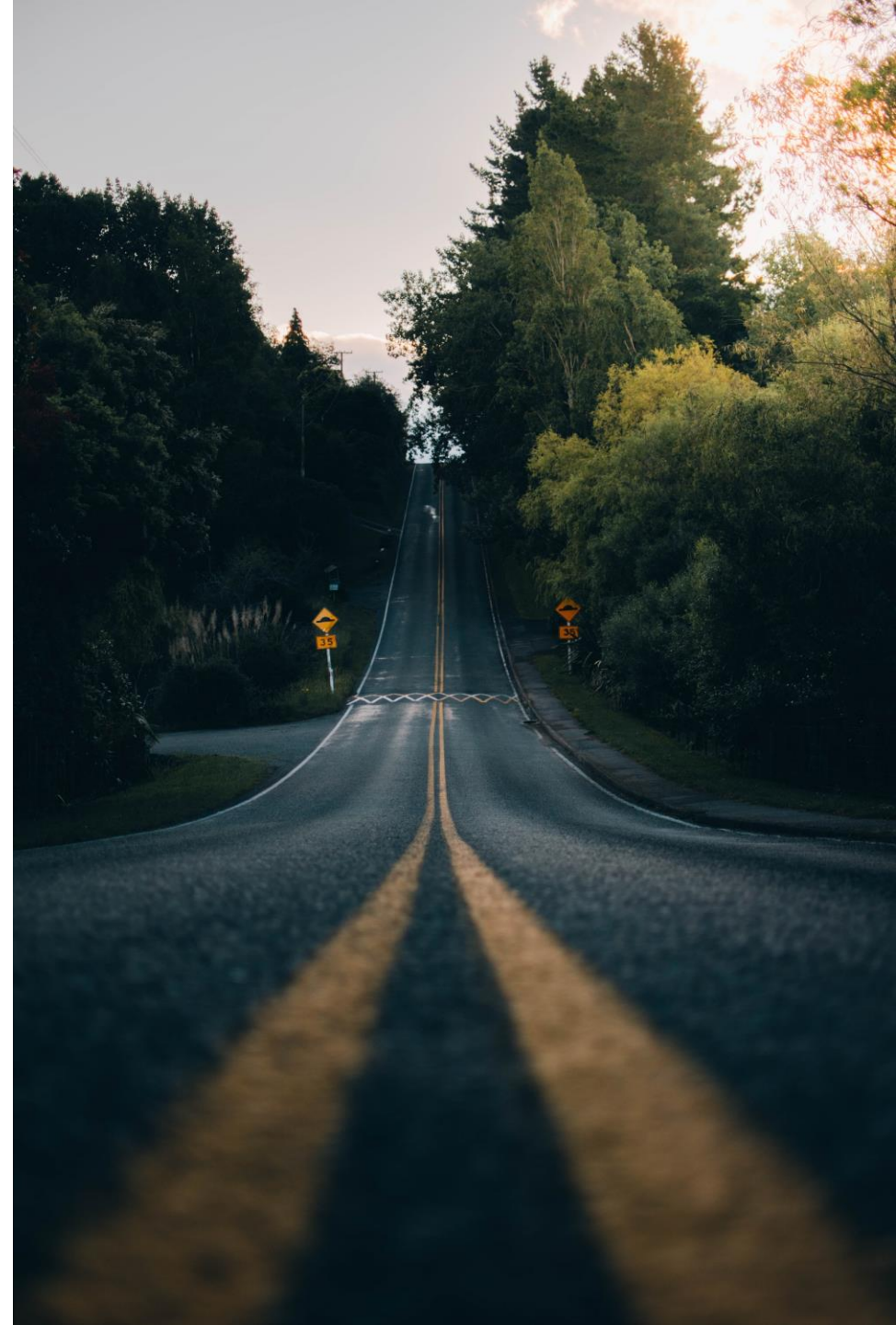
- New Zealanders' awareness of National Risks, including the public's perceived likelihood of these over the short (next 12 months) and long term (next 10 years).
- Public confidence in government agencies' abilities to protect and respond.
- Opportunities to build confidence, share information, and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

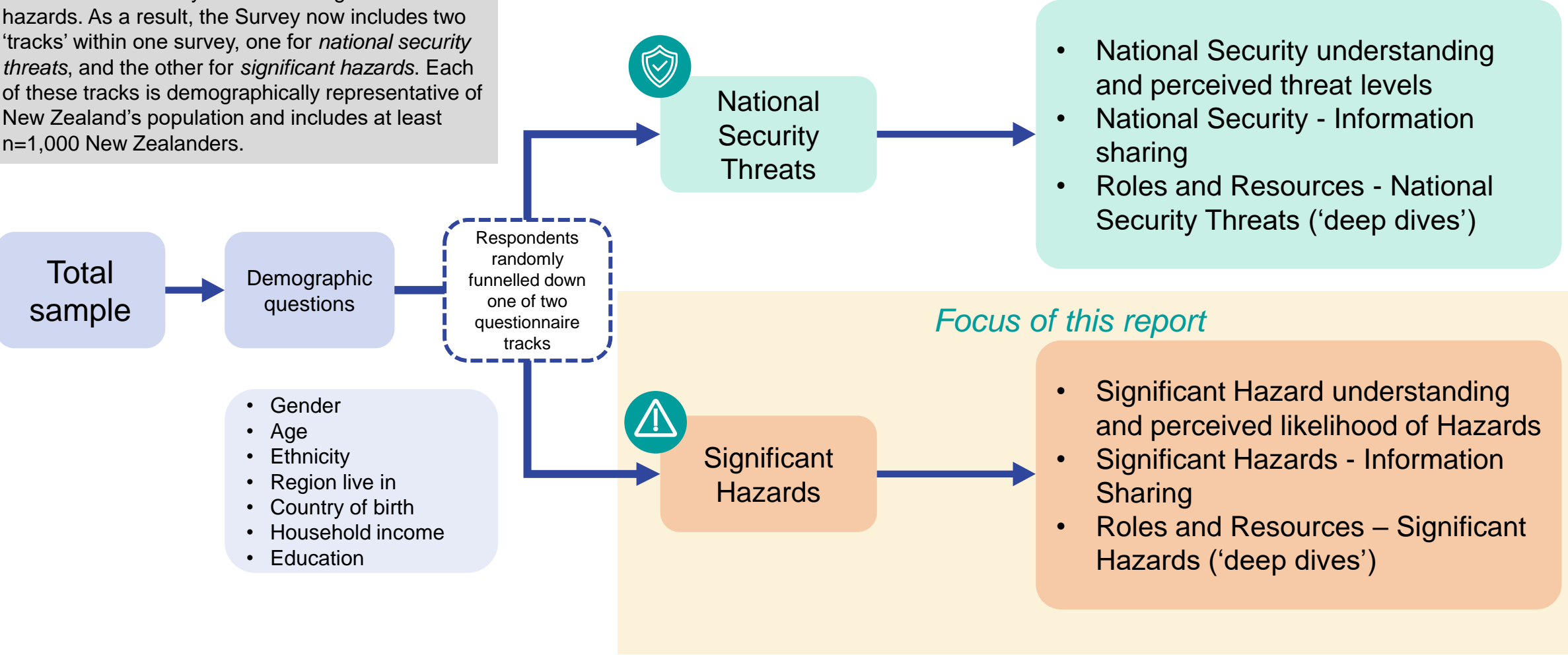
The Survey provides an understanding, across a nationally representative sample of 1,178 people, in relation to:

- 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 New Zealanders would like to receive



# 2024 NATIONAL RISKS PUBLIC SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE FLOW

In 2024, DPMC expanded the Survey to include both national security threats and significant hazards. As a result, the Survey now includes two 'tracks' within one survey, one for *national security threats*, and the other for *significant hazards*. Each of these tracks is demographically representative of New Zealand's population and includes at least n=1,000 New Zealanders.





# METHODOLOGY – SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS



## Fieldwork dates

19<sup>th</sup> February–14<sup>th</sup>  
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.



# CONTEXT – WHAT WAS MAKING THE NEWS DURING FIELDWORK?

It is likely news reporting at the time of surveying may have impacted responses. National headlines during survey fieldwork included the Port Hills fire and the Te Whatu Ora data breach. International headlines included Ukraine and Israel– Hamas conflict.

Friday, 16 February 2024

## Port Hills fire now '70 per cent contained'

Gaza death toll: 29,000  
Palestinians have been killed in Israel-Hamas war

AP  
20 Feb, 2024 10:19 AM © 7 mins to read

Save | Share

## Westpac releases economic overview for 'challenging' year ahead

5:50 am on 21 February 2024

Share this     

Monday, 11 March 2024

## Crews bring Waitaki District fires under control

Te Whatu Ora data breach has vaccinators fearing for their safety

10:16 am on 23 February 2024

Share this     

## Ukraine war: Eastern residents brace for Russian advance

7 March 2024

By James Waterhouse, BBC Ukraine correspondent in the Donetsk region

Share 





# SAMPLE INFORMATION

*\*Note: Where percentages do not add to 100%, this is due to 'don't know' and 'prefer not to say' responses. Percentages reflect the weighted distribution of sample, while the 'n' figures represent the actual number of responses against that demographic variable. As a result, the percentages and the 'n' figures do not map.*



TOTAL SAMPLE  
**1,178**



GENDER			n=
Male	48%	526	
Female	52%	646	



AGE			n=
18–29 years	21%	321	
30–49 years	34%	380	
50–64 years	24%	266	
65+ years	20%	211	



URBAN vs RURAL			n=
Urban	86%	1,009	
Rural	14%	169	



ETHNICITY			n=
NETT NZ European / Pākehā	74%	856	
NETT Māori	13%	194	
NETT Pacific	7%	110	
NETT Asian	15%	175	
NETT Other	2%	15	



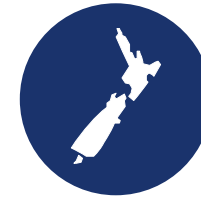
COUNTRY OF BIRTH			n=
New Zealand	73%	885	
Outside of NZ	27%	293	



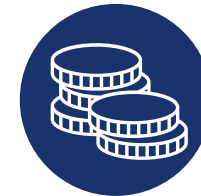
REGENCY OF MIGRATION			n=
NETT New Migrant (<7 years in NZ)	4%	50	
NETT Established Migrant (>7 years in NZ)	22%	243	



EMPLOYMENT STATUS			n=
Employed full-time	45%	540	
Employed part-time	13%	150	
Self employed	7%	80	
Not in employment	14%	167	
Retired	18%	194	
Student	3%	47	



REGION			n=
Auckland	35%	410	
Waikato	9%	103	
Wellington	12%	141	
Rest of North Island	21%	251	
Canterbury	14%	160	
Rest of South Island	9%	113	



HH INCOME*			n=
\$0–50k	22%	252	
\$50k–\$100k	33%	396	
\$100k+	34%	402	



EDUCATION*			n=
NETT None + Levels 1–3	29%	352	
NETT Levels 4–7	48%	567	
NETT Levels 8–10	17%	192	





# 2023 HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FORUM

Ipsos' survey of citizens from 33 countries on behalf of the Halifax International Security Forum provides a useful point of comparison.

A 30-market survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform and, in India, on its IndiaBus platform. Ipsos interviewed a total of 23,220 adults aged 18 years and older in India; 18–74 in Canada, Republic of Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Türkiye and the United States; 20–74 in Thailand; 21–74 in Indonesia and Singapore; and 16–74 in all other countries, between Friday, September 22 and Friday, October 6, 2023.

The sample consisted of approximately 2,000 individuals in Japan, 1,000 individuals each in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, New Zealand, Spain and the US, and 500 individuals each in Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand and Türkiye. The sample in India consists of approximately 2,200 individuals, of whom approximately 1,800 were interviewed face-to-face and 400 were interviewed online.

The data is weighted so each country's sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

The 'Global Country Average' used in this report reflects the average result for all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result. To find out more, visit Ipsos' [website](#)<sup>1</sup> or view the full report [here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

**Where possible, we have used the Halifax Report results to compare New Zealand results with global country averages for perceived likelihood of National Risks in the next 12 months.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipsos.com/en-nz/threats-and-engagement-world-affairs-halifax-international-security-forum-survey>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2023-11/HISF%202023\\_FINAL%20.NZ%20version.pdf](https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2023-11/HISF%202023_FINAL%20.NZ%20version.pdf)





# KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

# 2





# 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.

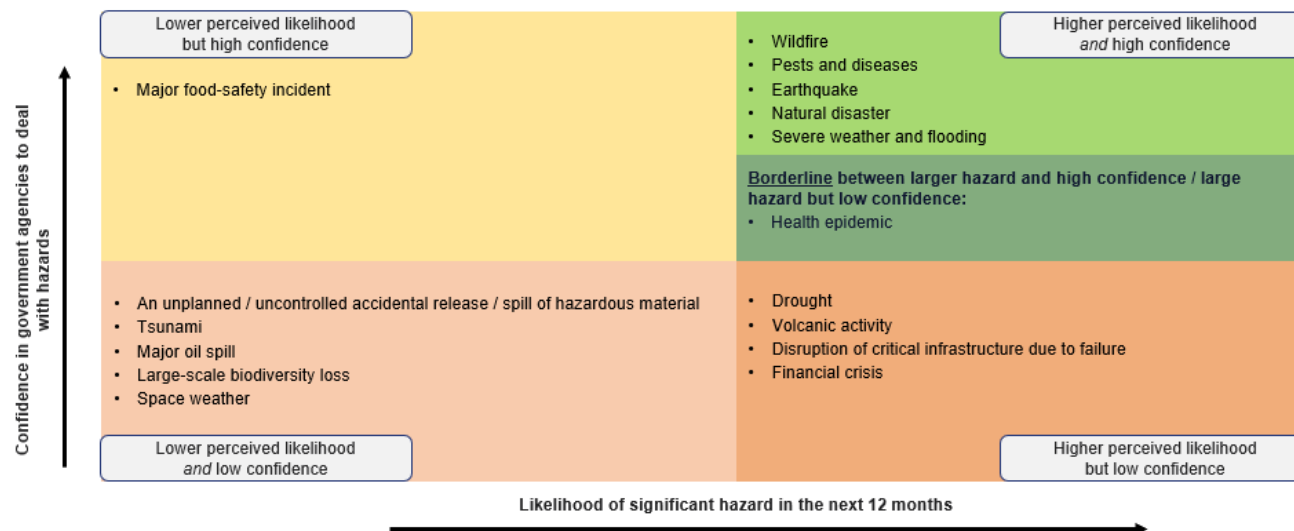




# OVERALL FINDINGS – SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

## 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

1<sup>st</sup> out of 16 hazards surveyed

### Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

12<sup>th</sup> out of 16 hazards surveyed

### Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

11<sup>th</sup> 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

6<sup>th</sup> out of 16 hazards surveyed

### Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

7<sup>th</sup> out of 16 hazards surveyed



# WHAT DOES 'NATIONAL RISK' MEAN TO NEW ZEALANDERS?

# 3



# KEY FINDINGS

## What does 'National Risk' mean to New Zealanders?

- The majority of New Zealanders have an understanding of what 'National Risk' meant to them, with only 8% stating they "don't know"
  - The most commonly mentioned themes related to *risks / threats / danger to New Zealand*. These were followed by more specific themes such as *natural disasters, threats to the economy and public health*.
- When provided with a list of hazards (shown on screen one at a time, in a randomised order), respondents reported *severe weather & flooding* as being most likely and concerning in the next 12 months, with *earthquakes, natural disaster, wildfires* and *drought* rounding out the top-5.
- The perceived risk of a *natural disaster* happening in the next 12 months is much higher than the global average result for New Zealand.
- Regarding the longer term, the level of perceived likelihood of significant hazards over the next 10 years is significantly higher than for the next 12 months. Exceptions to this are *earthquake, severe weather & flooding, natural disaster* and *wildfire*.

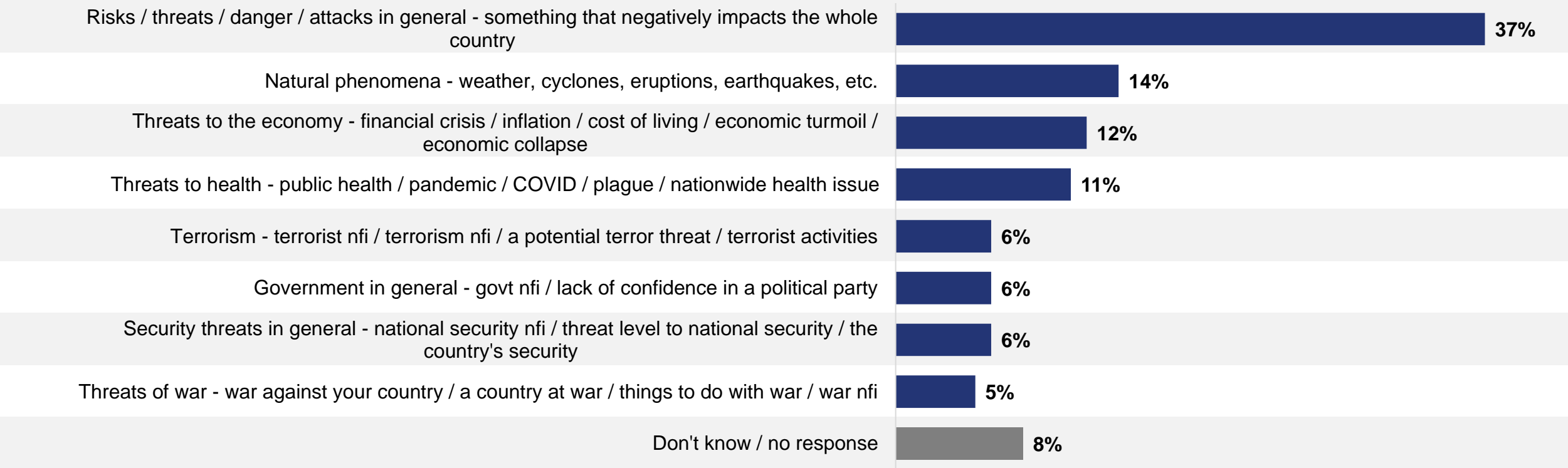




# UNDERSTANDING TERMS: 'NATIONAL RISK'

Most respondents had some idea of what the term *National Risk* meant to them. The most common mentions centre around the *risks / threats / danger to New Zealand*, followed by *natural disasters*, *threats to the economy* and *public health*.

## What comes to mind when you see the term 'National Risk'?\*



Q8h: When you see the term 'National Risk', what comes to mind?

Base: Total sample (n=1,178). Note: Mentions less than 5% not shown.







# WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU SEE THE TERM 'NATIONAL RISK' – STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES

## Demographic Differences



### Risks / threats / danger / attacks in general (37%)

**45%** 18–29 years  
**32%** Male



### Natural phenomena (14%)

**19%** 50–64 years  
**9%** 18–29 years  
**5%** NETT Māori



### Threats to the economy (12%)

**21%** NETT Levels 8–10  
**17%** 65+ years  
**7%** NETT None + Levels 1–3



### Government in general (6%)

**10%** Retired



### Security threats in general (6%)

**11%** Wellington  
**1%** NETT Pacific peoples



### External / foreign threats (4%)

**7%** Born outside of NZ  
**1%** 18–29 years



### Climate change / global warming (4%)

**7%** NETT Levels 8–10  
**1%** NETT None + Levels 1–3



### Threats to the ecosystem (3%)

**6%** Rest of NI (excl. Wellington, Auckland, Waikato)



### We should take notice (1%)

**5%** NETT Pacific peoples



Q8h: When you see the term 'National Risk', what comes to mind?

Base: Total sample (n=1,178). **Green** / **red** indicates statistically significantly **higher** / **lower** than the total.

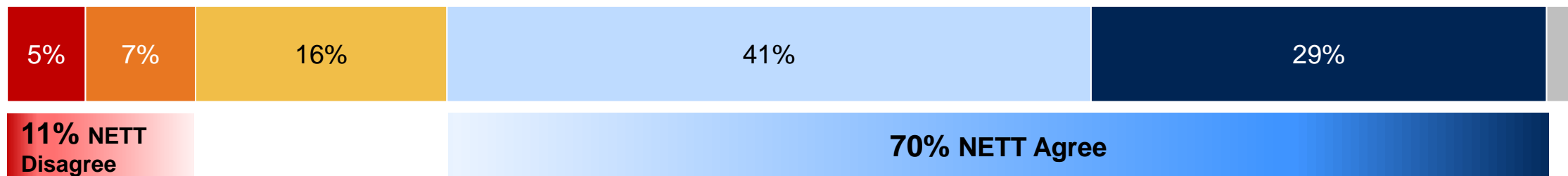


# THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

A large proportion of New Zealanders (70%) agree *the risks from climate change have increased over the last year*, while 11% disagree.

## Over the last year, I feel the risks from climate change have increased

■ Strongly disagree ■ Disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree ■ Don't know / unsure



### NETT Disagree

- 20% Full-time parent / homemaker\*
- 15% Male
- 7% Female
- 6% Employed part-time

### NETT Agree

- 78% NETT Levels 8–10
- 75% Female
- 65% Male / NETT None + Levels 1–3
- 60% NETT Not in employment
- 59% Self-employed\*
- 55% Full-time parent / homemaker\*

Q20h: Thinking again about all the significant hazards we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: Total sample (n=1,178). \*Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).



# SPECIFIC QUESTION WORDING – HAZARDS MEASURED

Respondents' views were sought on a group of potential hazards throughout the survey. The wording of each has been shortened to the bold text in the charts and tables that follow. The full wording used in the survey is as below:

**Health epidemic:** Another major health epidemic breaking out in New Zealand

**Natural disaster:** A major natural disaster occurring in New Zealand

**Earthquake:** A major earthquake resulting in strong and violent ground shaking in New Zealand

**Tsunami:** A major tsunami (a series of large, damaging waves) in New Zealand

**Volcanic activity:** Significant volcanic activity (including release of gases, ash, lava emissions and / or an eruption) in New Zealand

**Drought:** An extended period of drought (unusually dry weather conditions or below normal rainfall) in New Zealand

**Wildfire:** An uncontrolled wildfire in a rural or urban environment in New Zealand

**Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure:** Disruption of New Zealand's critical infrastructure (e.g. water, transport, energy, telecommunications) due to human error or a natural hazard

**Large-scale biodiversity loss:** A significant reduction in the number and variety of plants and animals in New Zealand caused by humans, natural hazard or disease

**Pests and diseases:** An outbreak of agricultural or environmental pests and diseases (e.g. an outbreak of fruit-flies) in New Zealand

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

**Financial crisis:** A financial crisis (e.g. failure of a major bank, insurer or stock market) causing disruption to New Zealand's financial system

**Major oil spill:** A major oil spill on New Zealand's land, at sea, or into waterways due to a shipping, transport or offshore oil and gas accident

**Space weather:** A space weather event that causes disruption or damage to New Zealand's information and communications, power grids and / or global navigation systems

**Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material:** An unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (e.g. corrosive, explosive, toxic or radioactive material) in New Zealand

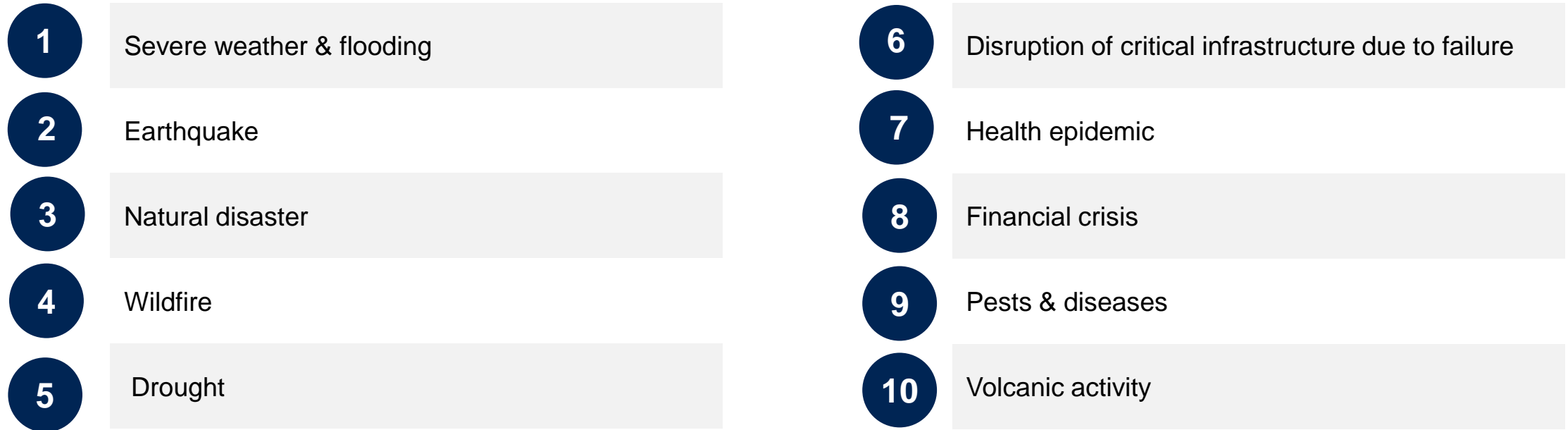
**Major food-safety incident:** A major food-safety incident posing a risk to public health in New Zealand and / or trade with other countries



# TOP-10 SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS – NEXT 12 MONTHS

*Severe weather event, earthquake and non-specific natural disaster* are the top-3 most commonly perceived hazards ('somewhat + very real') likely to occur and of concern in the next 12 months.

**Rank Order | Real threat of any of the following happening in New Zealand in the next 12 months...**



**Q9h:** How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?

**Base:** Total sample (n=1,178)



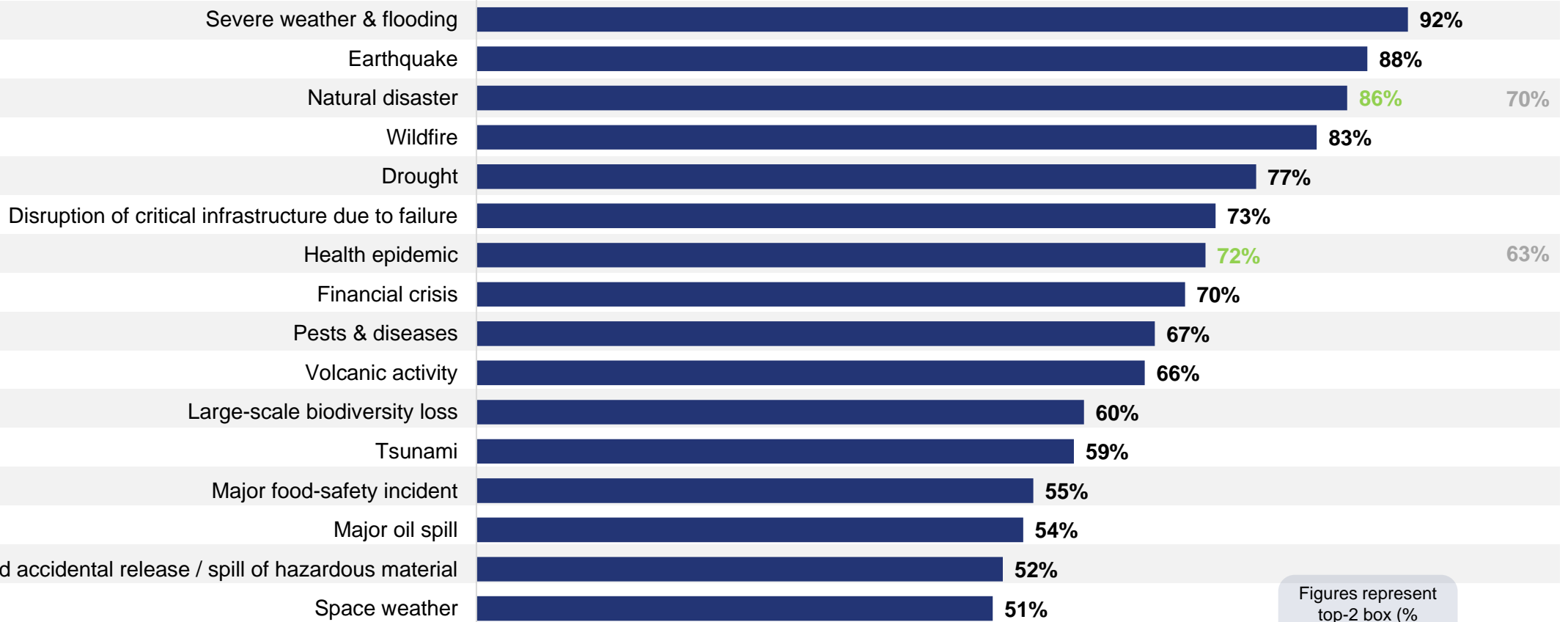
# PERCEIVED LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

Most respondents (92%) see a *severe weather event* as likely in the next 12 months. A large proportion also perceive an *earthquake* (88%) and a *natural disaster* (86%) as highly likely. A *natural disaster* and *health epidemic* are much higher than global average results.

## Real threat of any of the following happening in New Zealand in the next 12 months...

Global country average\*

As in 2023, when compared to the global country average results, the perceived level of threat in NZ is overall higher.



Figures represent top-2 box (% somewhat real + very real threat)

Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?

Base: Total sample (n=1,178). Note: Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. \*Note: Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos-Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2023 (n=32,220) where applicable. Green / orange indicates statistically significantly higher / lower score than global country average.



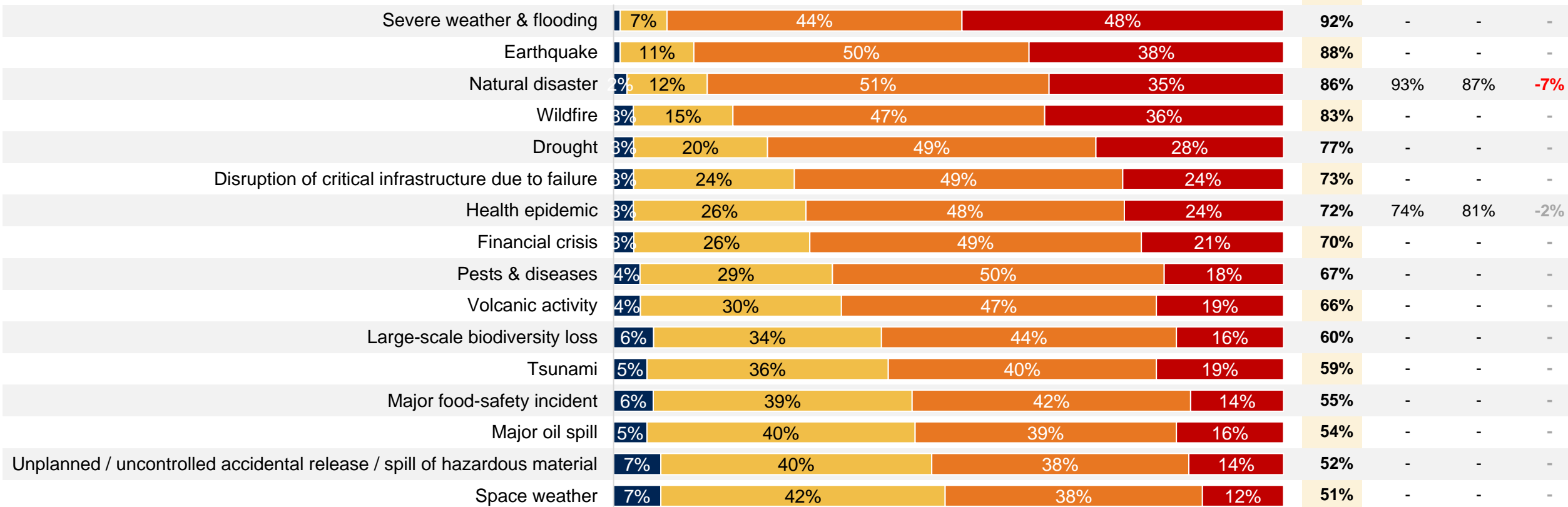


# SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

Severe weather & flooding, earthquake, natural disaster (general) and wildfires are considered a 'very real / somewhat of a threat' in the next 12 months by a large proportion of New Zealanders, with nearly half seeing severe weather & flooding a 'very real threat'.

Real threat of any of the following happening in New Zealand in the next 12 months...

2024 NETT Hazard  
2023 NETT Hazard  
2022 NETT Hazard  
% point difference 2024-2023



■ Not a real threat at all   ■ Not much of a real threat   ■ Somewhat real threat   ■ Very real threat

NETT figures represent very real + somewhat real threat

Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?

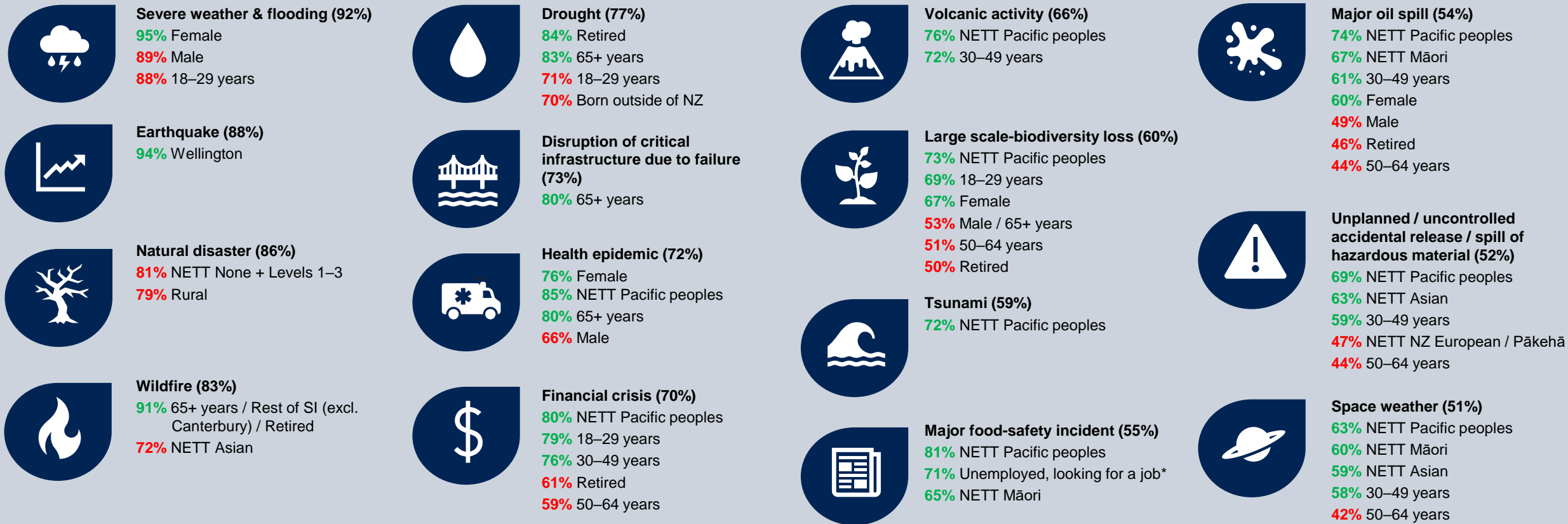
Base: Total sample – 2024 (n=1,178), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). Note: Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than 2023.





# SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS – PERCEIVED LIKELIHOOD IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

## Demographic Differences



Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?

Base: Total sample (n=1,178). Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total. \*Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Figures represent top-2 box (% somewhat real + very real threat)



# TOP-3 REASONS WHY RATED AS A 'VERY REAL THREAT'

Health epidemic (n=92*)	Natural disaster (n=150)	Earthquake (n=160)	Tsunami (n=66*)	Volcanic activity (n=56*)	Drought (n=108)	Wildfire (n=169)	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure (n=84*)
COVID-19 (36%)	Natural phenomena (44%)	Geography (51%)	Geography (38%)	Geography (66%)	Natural phenomena (55%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (55%)	Failing infrastructure (36%)
Emergence of / exposure to other diseases (27%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (35%)	Natural phenomena (43%)	Natural phenomena (38%)	Anything is possible / unpredictable (18%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (40%)	Natural phenomena (44%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (31%)
Complacency (15%)	Geography (25%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (37%)	Anything is possible / unpredictable (16%)	Natural phenomena (13%)	Climate change (22%)	Human error (14%)	Natural phenomena (25%)
Large-scale biodiversity loss (n=71*)	Pests & diseases (n=63*)	Severe weather & flooding (n=257)	Financial crisis (n=116)	Major oil spill (n=56*)	Space weather (n=41**)	Unplanned / uncontrolled accidental release / spill of hazardous material (n=49**)	Major food-safety incident (n=46**)
Damage to ecosystem (62%)	Biosecurity (24%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (59%)	Economy (73%)	Shipping (25%)	Atmospheric activity (22%)	Human error (25%)	Public health / safety (35%)
Human error (19%)	Borders open again (15%)	Natural phenomena (52%)	Global issues (18%)	Fuel exploration (19%)	Failing infrastructure (17%)	Damage to lives / homes (15%)	Trade (17%)
Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (19%)	Damage to primary industries / Pests & insects (14%)	Climate change (37%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (16%)	Damage to ecosystem (19%)	Anything is possible / unpredictable (14%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (13%)	Anything is possible / unpredictable (9%)

**Q10h:** And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next twelve months?

**Base:** Those who answered 'very real threat' at Q9h. **Note:** These are the top-3 % reasons why each hazard is likely to happen in the next 12 months. **\*Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100). **\*\*Caution:** Very low base size, results indicative only (n < 50).







# TOP-10 SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS – NEXT 10 YEARS

Earthquake, severe weather & flooding and natural disasters are seen as the top-3 hazards most likely and of concern in the next 10 years.

**Real threat of any of the following happening in New Zealand in the next 10 years...**



**Q17h:** Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?

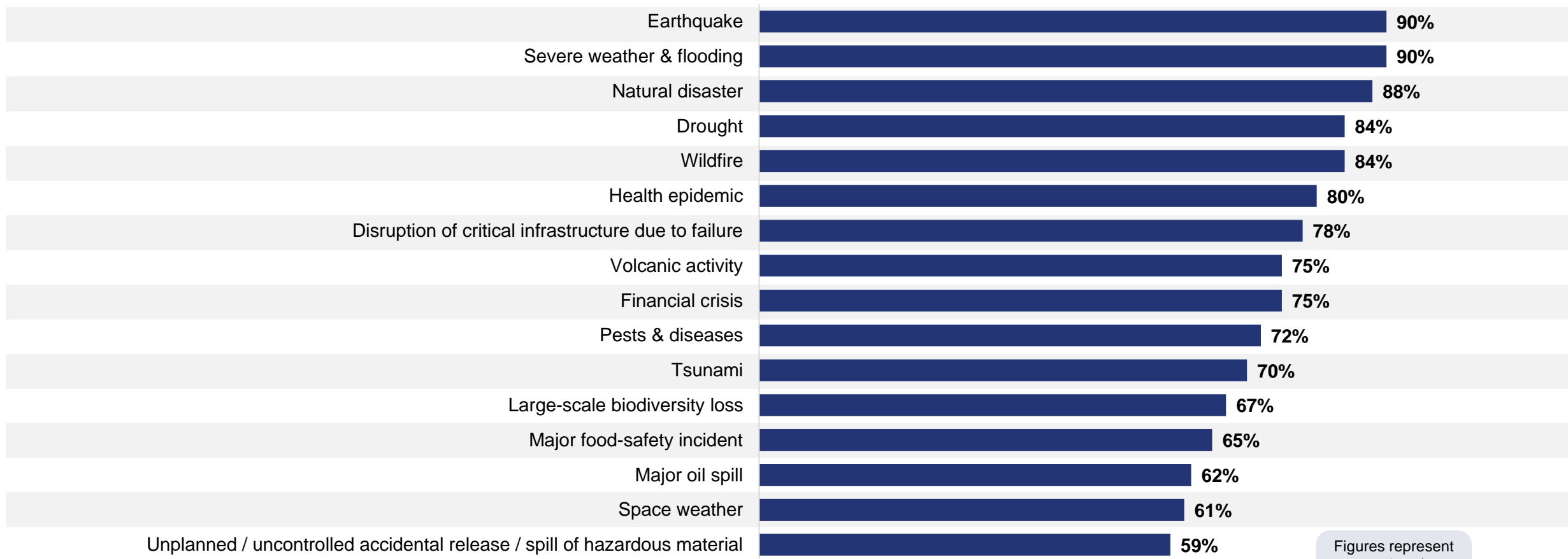
**Base:** Total sample (n=1,178)



# HAZARDS – NEXT 10 YEARS

For most hazards, the perceived likelihood of these happening over the next 10 years is high.

## Real threat of any of the following happening in New Zealand in the next 10 years...



Figures represent top-2 box (% somewhat real + very real threat)

Q17h: Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?

Base: Total sample (n=1,178). Note: Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias.





# TOP-5 SHORT-TERM VS LONG-TERM HAZARDS

Severe weather, earthquake, natural disaster, wildfire and drought are considered the top-5 hazards both now & in the future.

**Real threat of any of the following happening in the next 12 months / 10 years...**

Position	Next 12 months	Next 10 years
1	Severe weather & flooding	Earthquake
2	Earthquake	Severe weather & flooding
3	Natural disaster	Natural disaster
4	Wildfire	Drought
5	Drought	Wildfire

**Q9h:** How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / **Q17h:** Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?

**Base:** Total sample (n=1,178). **Note:** Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias.



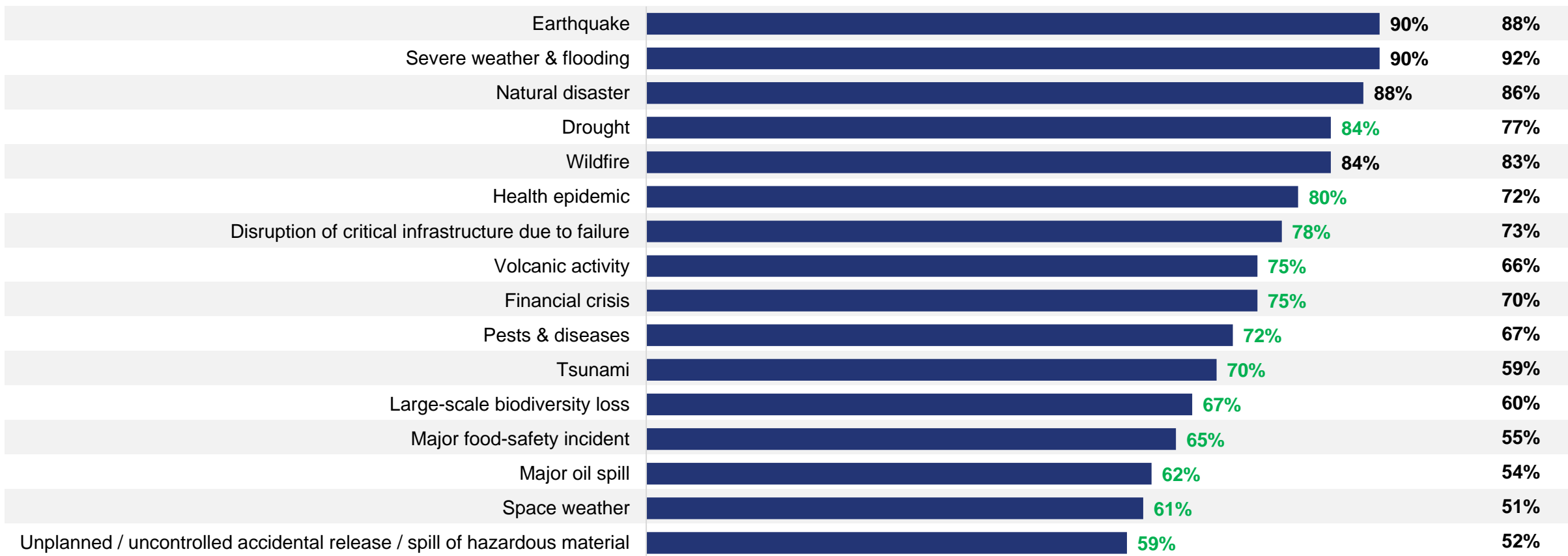
# SHORT-TERM VS LONG-TERM HAZARDS

For all hazards, the level of perceived likelihood is higher in the next 10 years than the next 12 months.

Figures represent top-2 box (% somewhat real + very real threat)

## Real threat of any of the following happening in New Zealand in the next 10 years...

### Next 12 months



Q17h: Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years? / Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?

Base: Total sample (n=1,178). Note: Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than 'next 12 months'.





# ROLES & RESOURCES

# 4

- SEVERE WEATHER & FLOODING
- TSUNAMI
- DISRUPTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DUE TO FAILURE





# KEY FINDINGS

We explored three significant hazards in more detail, to understand New Zealanders' views on roles and resources.

- To understand views on the perceived roles of different groups in protection from and responding to hazards, we asked about three in more detail:
  - *Severe weather & flooding,*
  - *Tsunami*
  - *Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure.*
- Each respondent was asked at random about one of these significant hazards.
- Most respondents consider the *government* (central and local) and its *agencies* as most **responsible** for protecting New Zealand against *severe weather & flooding, tsunami* and *disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure*, while fewer believe these entities are fully **resourced** to do so.
- However, across all three significant hazards, the *government* is perceived to be better resourced to protect New Zealand than *global organisations, NZ or overseas businesses, communities* and *individuals*.

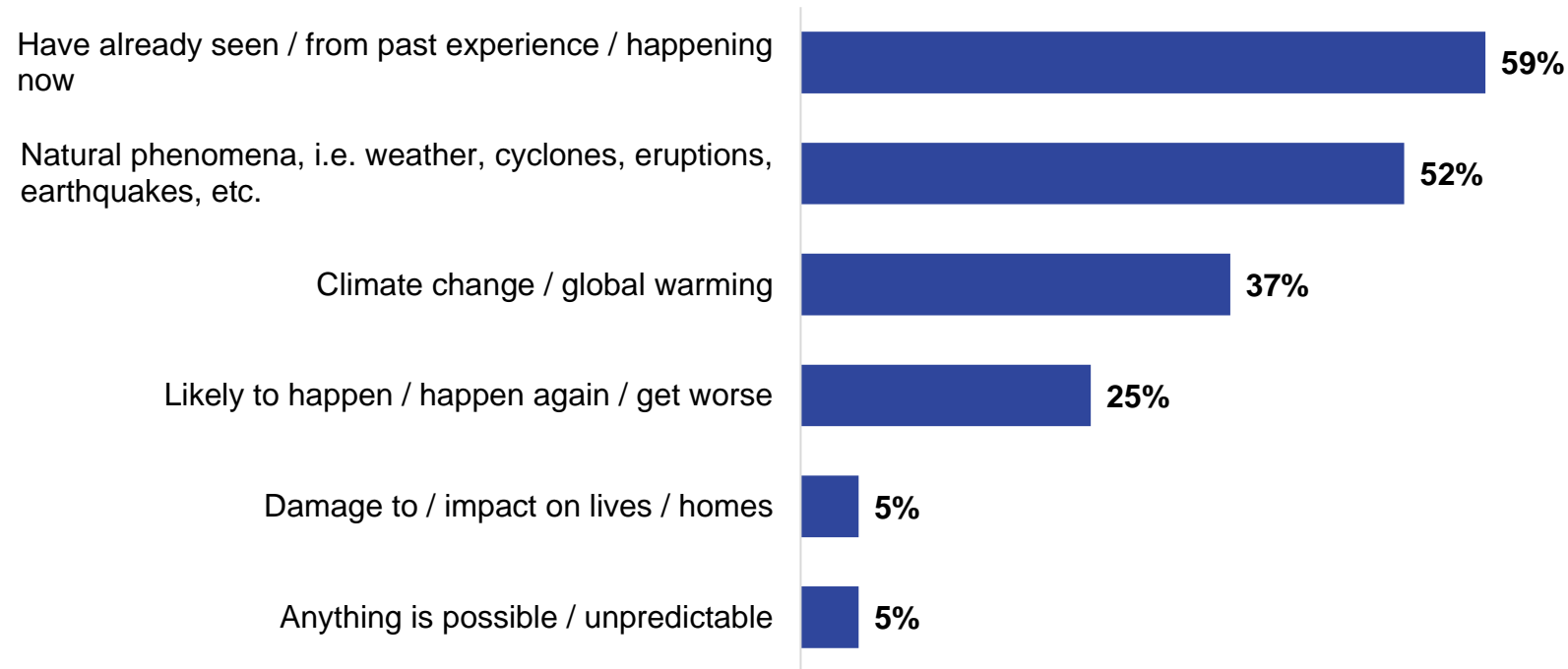




# WHY A VERY REAL THREAT – SEVERE WEATHER & FLOODING

Having already seen / felt the effects (59%) of this hazard and *natural phenomena* (52%) were stated as the main reasons for a severe weather event happening the next 12 months. The next most commonly stated reason was *climate change / global warming*.

## Reasons for a very real threat of 'severe weather and flooding' happening in the next 12 months



**Q10h:** And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next twelve months?

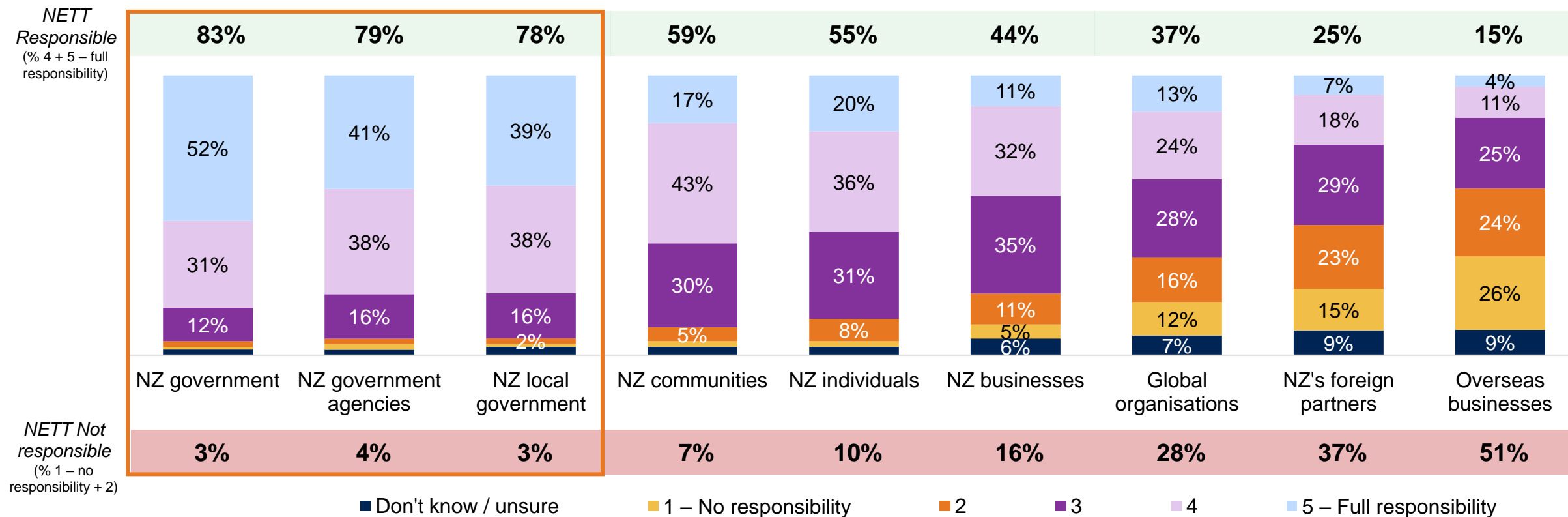
**Base:** Those who answered that severe weather and flooding is a 'very real threat' (n=257). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why severe weather and flooding is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% not shown.



# ROLE TO PROTECT AGAINST – SEVERE WEATHER & FLOODING

New Zealanders believe that the *government* and *its agencies* are the most responsible for protecting NZ and responding to severe weather and flooding, while *overseas businesses* and *NZ's foreign partners* are the least responsible.

How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to severe weather and flooding?



Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to severe weather?

Base: Respondents asked about severe weather and flooding (n=391). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+ / - 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.







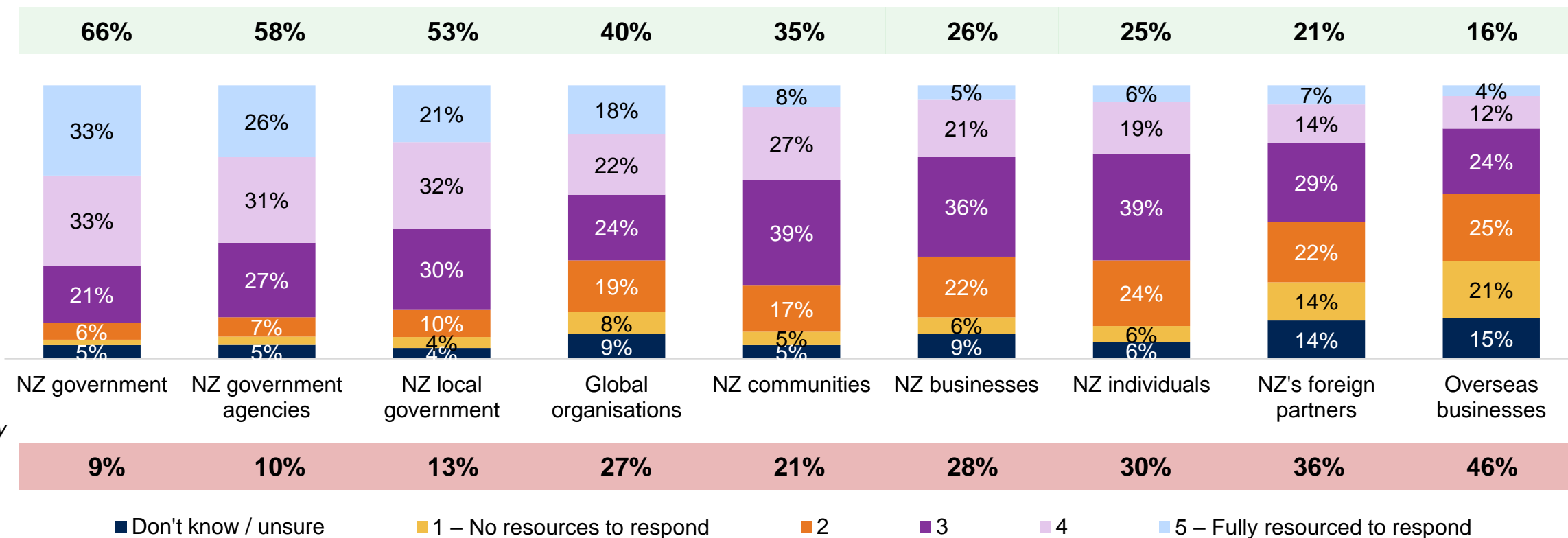
# TOOLS & RESOURCES TO PROTECT AGAINST – SEVERE WEATHER & FLOODING



New Zealanders believe that the *government* and *its agencies* have more tools and resources to protect NZ and respond to severe weather and flooding, while *overseas businesses* and *NZ's foreign partners* are the least equipped to do so.

Who has the tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to severe weather and flooding?

NETT Well resourced (% 4 + 5 – fully resourced to respond)



Q26h: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to severe weather?

Base: Respondents asked about severe weather and flooding (n=391). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+ / - 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.





# ROLE / TOOLS & RESOURCES TO PROTECT AGAINST – SEVERE WEATHER & FLOODING



## Demographic Differences

### Role



**NZ government agencies (79%)**  
89% 65+ years\*



**NZ local government (78%)**  
66% 18–29 years



**NZ individuals (55%)**  
69% Retired\*  
62% 65+ years\*  
44% 18–29 years  
39% Canterbury\*



**NZ businesses (44%)**  
62% NETT Asian\*

Figures represent NETT Responsible (% 4+ 5 – full responsibility)



**Global organisations (37%)**  
48% 30–49 years  
24% 50–64 years\*



**NZ's foreign partners (25%)**  
33% NETT Levels 4–7  
16% NETT None + Levels 1–3  
13% HH income \$0–\$50k\*

### Tools & resources



**Global organisations (40%)**  
51% 30–49 years  
50% 18–29 years  
26% Retired\*  
24% 65+ years\*



**NZ's foreign partners (21%)**  
30% 30–49 years



**Overseas businesses (16%)**  
26% 18–29 years

Figures represent NETT Well resourced (% 4+ 5 – fully resourced to respond)

**Q25h:** How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to severe weather? / **Q26h:** In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to severe weather?

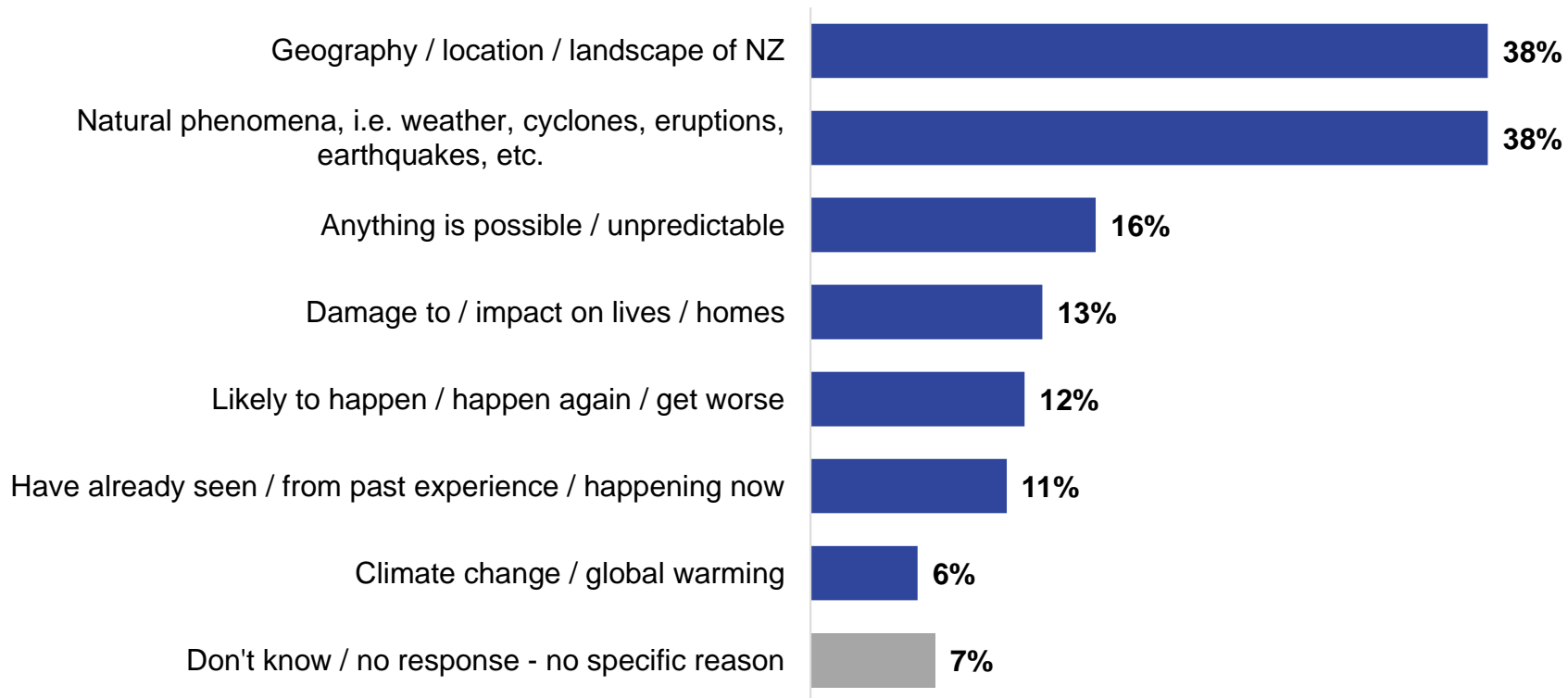
**Base:** Respondents randomly asked about severe weather and flooding (n=391). **\*Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100). Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total.



# WHY A VERY REAL THREAT – TSUNAMI

Geography and natural phenomena are stated as the top reasons for seeing a tsunami as a 'very real threat' in next 12 months.

## Reasons for a very real threat of 'tsunami' happening in the next 12 months



**Q10h:** And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next twelve months?

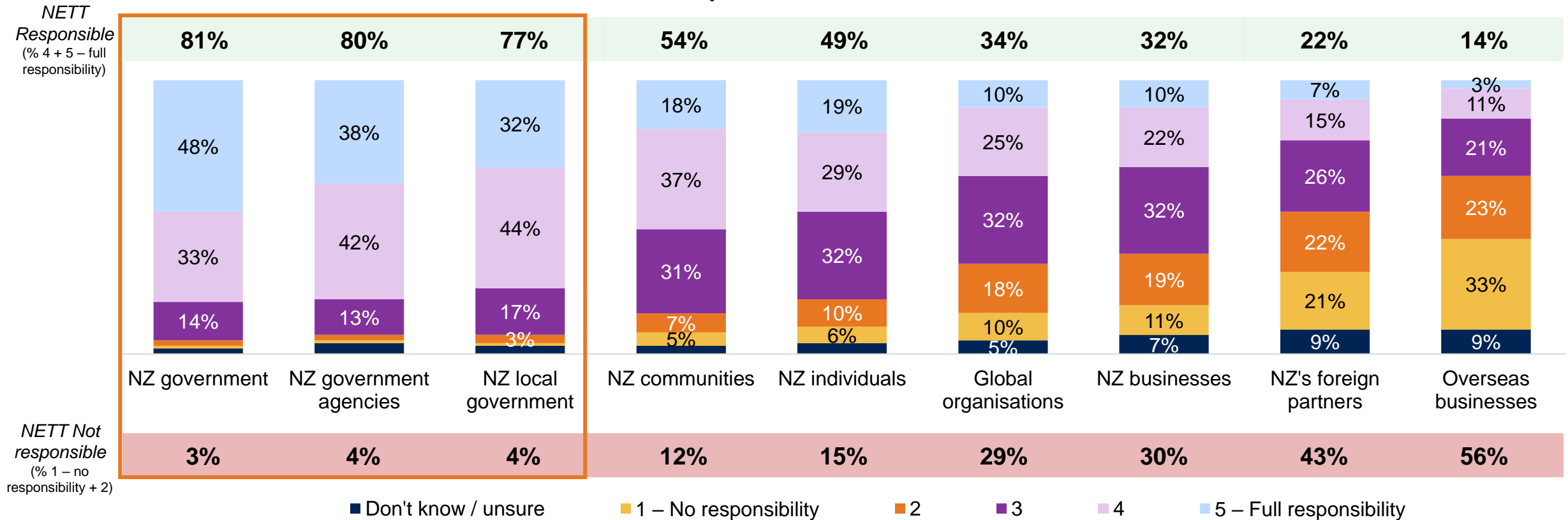
**Base:** Those who answered that tsunami is a 'very real threat' (n=66\*). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why a tsunami is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% not shown. **\*Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).



# ROLE TO PROTECT AGAINST – TSUNAMI

New Zealanders believe that the *government* (central and local) and *its agencies* have the most responsibility to protect NZ and respond to a tsunami, while *overseas businesses* and *NZ's foreign partners* have the least responsibility.

How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to a tsunami?



Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to a tsunami?

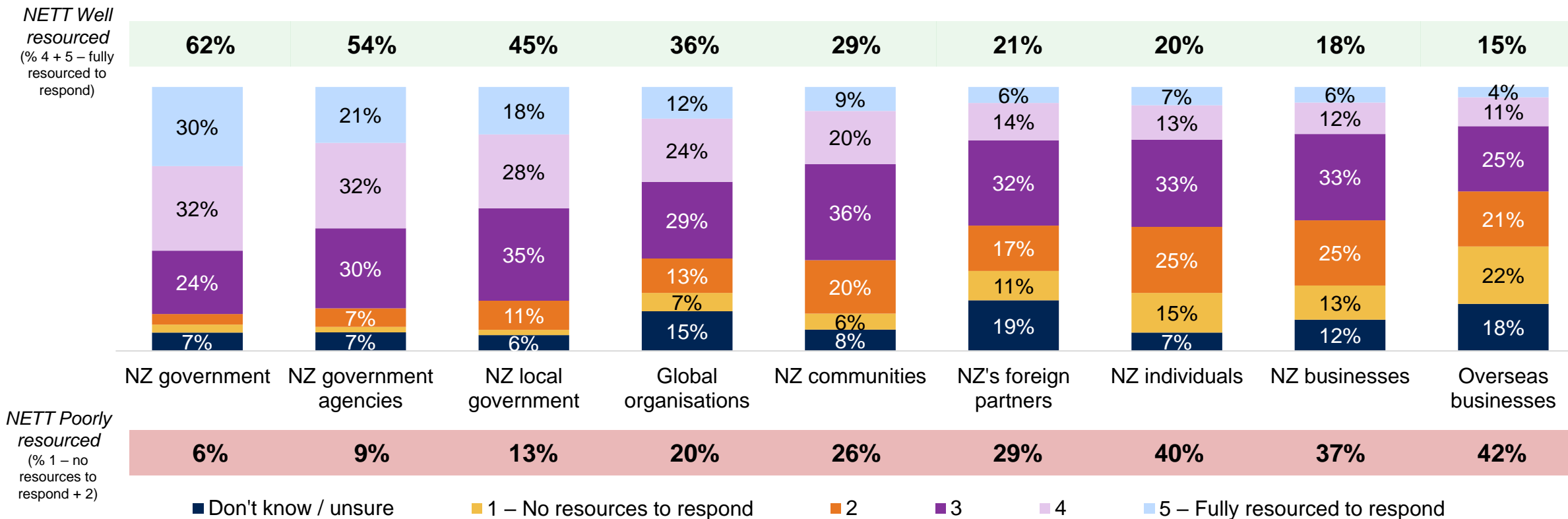
Base: Respondents asked about tsunami (n=392). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+ / - 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



# TOOLS & RESOURCES TO PROTECT AGAINST – TSUNAMI

New Zealanders believe that the *government* (central and local) and *its agencies* have more tools to protect NZ and respond to a tsunami, while *overseas and NZ businesses* as well as *NZ individuals* are the least equipped to do so.

## Who has the tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a tsunami?



Q26h: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a tsunami?

Base: Respondents asked about tsunami (n=392). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+ / - 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



# ROLE / TOOLS & RESOURCES TO PROTECT AGAINST – TSUNAMI



## Demographic Differences

### Role



**NZ government agencies (80%)**  
**65%** 18–29 years

Figures represent  
NETT Responsible  
(% 4+ 5 – full  
responsibility)



**NZ communities (54%)**  
**72%** 65+ years\*  
**69%** Retired\*  
**39%** NETT Levels 8–10\*



**Overseas businesses (15%)**  
**26%** NETT Asian\*



**NZ businesses (32%)**  
**46%** NETT Not in employment\*

### Tools & resources



**NZ's foreign partners (21%)**  
**32%** 18–29 years  
**9%** 65+ years\*

Figures represent  
NETT Well resourced  
(% 4+ 5 – fully resourced  
to respond)



**Overseas businesses (15%)**  
**27%** NETT Asian\*  
**3%** Retired\*  
**2%** 65+ years\*

**Q25h:** How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to a tsunami? / **Q26h:** In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a tsunami?

**Base:** Respondents randomly asked about tsunami (n=392). **\*Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100). **Green / red** indicates statistically significantly **higher / lower** than the total.

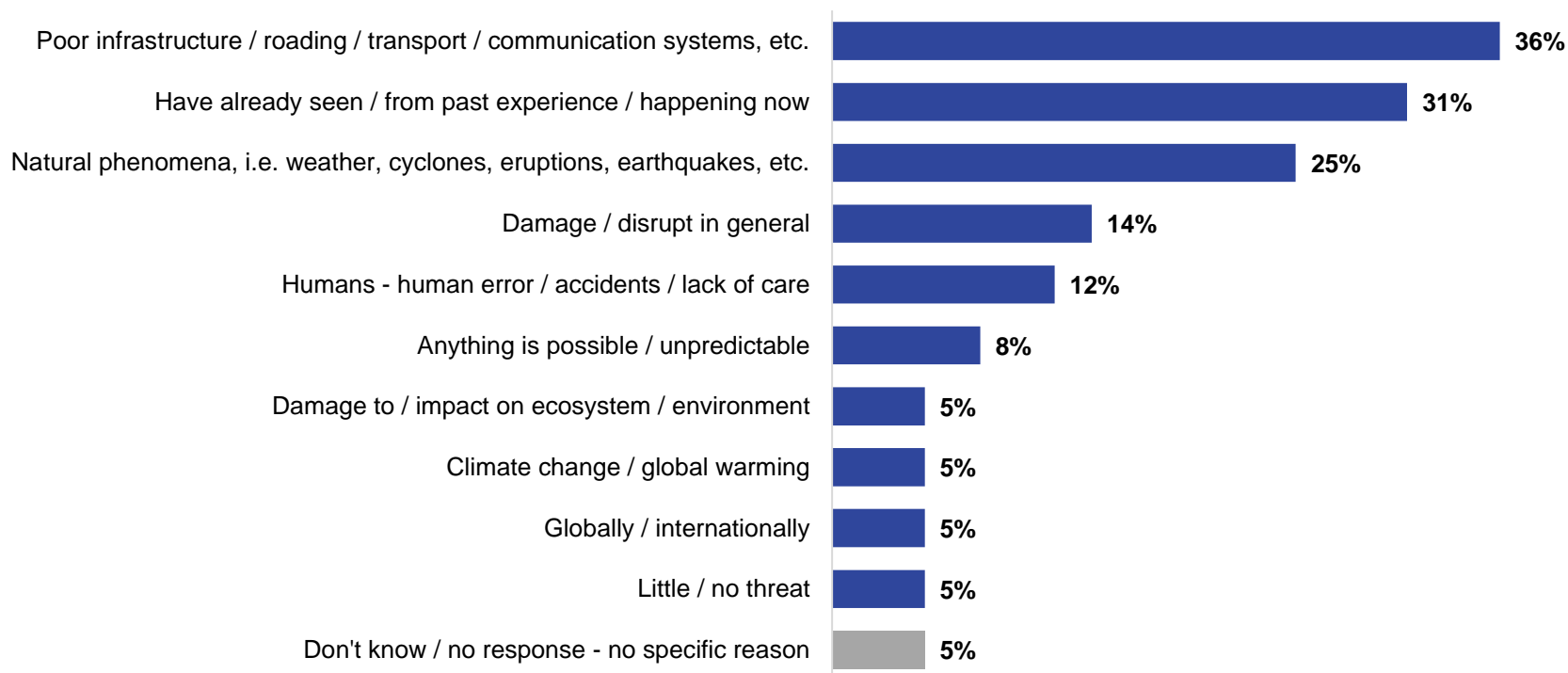


# WHY A VERY REAL THREAT – CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (FAILURE)



New Zealanders stated that *poor infrastructure, feeling the recent effect of this and natural phenomena* are the main reasons they considered *disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure* a ‘very real threat’ in the next 12 months.

## Reasons for a very real threat of ‘disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure’ in the next 12 months



**Q10h:** And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next twelve months?

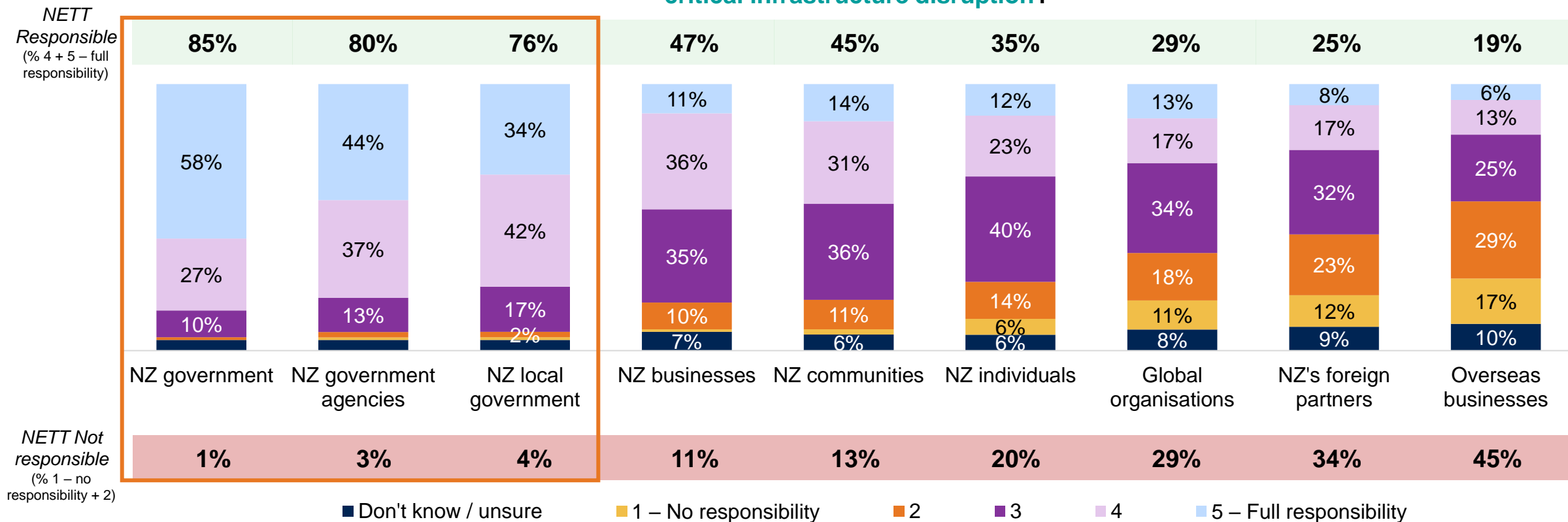
**Base:** Those who answered disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure is a ‘very real threat’ (n=84\*). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% not shown. **\*Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).



# ROLE TO PROTECT AGAINST – CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (FAILURE)

New Zealanders believe the *government* (central and local) and *its agencies* have the most responsibility to *protect NZ against the threat of disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure*, while *overseas businesses* and *NZ's foreign partners* are least responsible.

How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to critical infrastructure disruption?



Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to critical infrastructure disruption?

Base: Respondents randomly asked about 'critical infrastructure disruption' (n=395). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+ / - 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



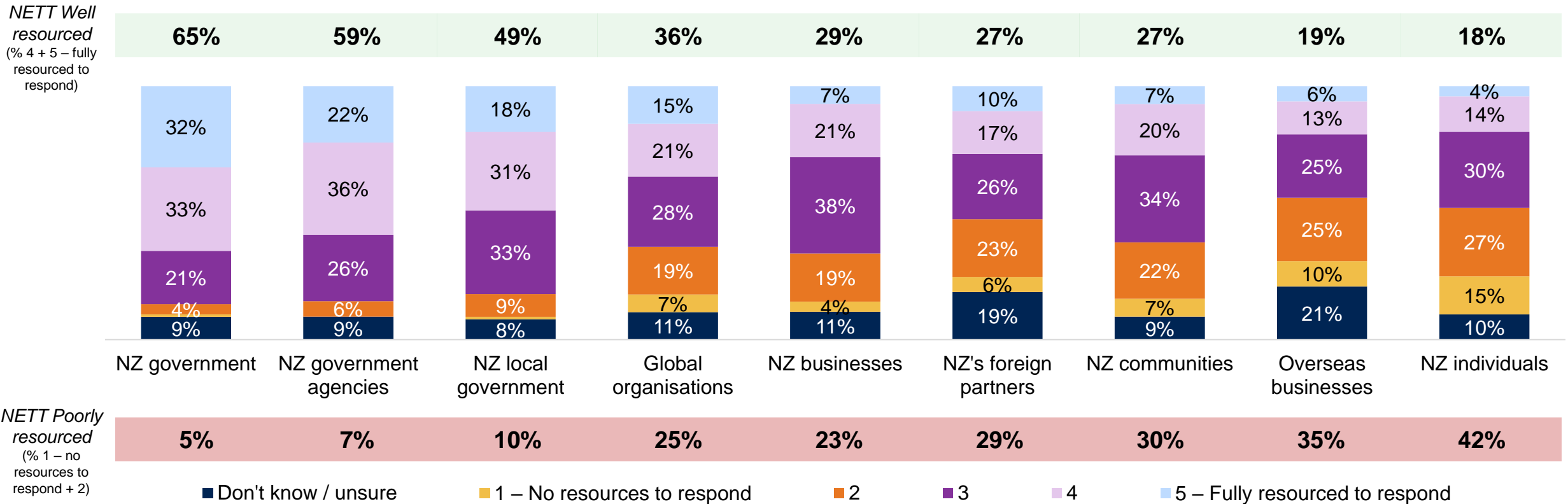


# TOOLS & RESOURCES TO PROTECT AGAINST – CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (FAILURE)



New Zealanders believe that the *government* (central and local) and *its agencies* have more *tools to protect NZ against the threat disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure*, while *NZ individuals* and *overseas businesses* are the least equipped to do so.

## Who has the tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to critical infrastructure disruption?



**Q26h:** In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to critical infrastructure disruption?

**Base:** Respondents asked about critical infrastructure disruption (n=395). **Note:** Due to rounding there are some differences (+ / - 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



# ROLE / TOOLS & RESOURCES TO PROTECT AGAINST – CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (FAILURE)



## Demographic Differences

### Role



**NZ government (85%)**  
96% Retired\*  
67% NETT Not in employment\*



**NZ government agencies (80%)**  
93% Retired\*  
92% 65+ years\*  
69% 18–29 years



**NZ local government (76%)**  
87% 50–64 years\*



**NZ's foreign partners (25%)**  
38% NETT None + Levels 1–3



**Overseas businesses (19%)**  
7% Retired\*

Figures represent NETT Responsible (% 4+ 5 – full responsibility)

### Tools & resources



**NZ government (65%)**  
51% NETT Not in employment\*



**Global organisations (36%)**  
46% NETT None + Levels 1–3  
22% NETT Levels 8–10\*



**NZ businesses (29%)**  
42% NETT Asian\*



**NZ's foreign partners (27%)**  
40% NETT Māori\*



**NZ communities (27%)**  
48% NETT Asian\*  
38% Born outside of NZ\*  
37% 30–49 years



**Overseas businesses (19%)**  
39% Employed part-time\*  
8% NETT Levels 8–10\*  
6% 65+ years\* / Retired\*



**NZ individuals (18%)**  
7% Rural\*

Figures represent NETT Well resourced (% 4+ 5 – fully resourced to respond)

**Q25h:** How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to critical infrastructure disruption? / **Q26h:** In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to critical infrastructure disruption?

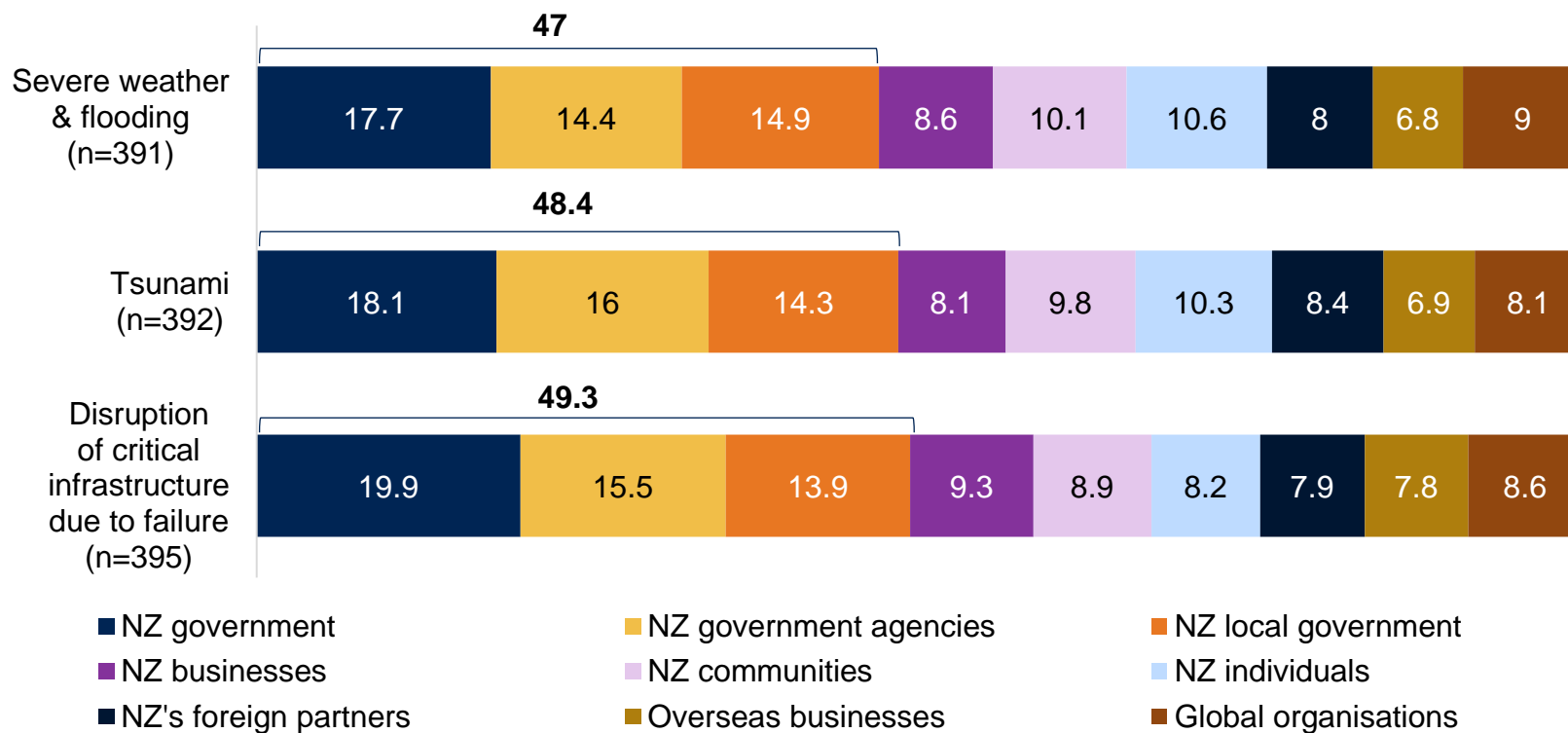
**Base:** Respondents asked about critical infrastructure disruption (n=395). **\*Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100). Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total.



# SUMMARY – SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND BY HAZARD

The highest share of responsibility for addressing *severe weather & flooding, tsunami and disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure* is considered to rest with the *government & its agencies, both centrally & locally.*

How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to ...?



This calculation is based on Ipsos' approach to calculating a brand's share of brand desire (awareness, closeness, and performance) in the market. While it was not designed for this purpose, running the analysis based on ranking and responsibility score allows us to estimate the share of 'full responsibility' in the same way.

To calculate the share of responsibility, we have looked at the level of responsibility assigned to each actor by each respondent, as well as the rank, by taking into account the amount of responsibility each respondent assigned each actor in comparison to others.

**As such, this a measure of 'relative share' based on the level of responsibility they assigned to an actor individually and how that compares to the responsibility they assigned to each of the other actors.**

These details have been used to calculate a *relative share of 'full responsibility'* by actor.

Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to <SIGNIFICANT HAZARD NAME>?

Base: Respondents asked about disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure (n=395), tsunami (n=392), severe weather and flooding (n=391)





# TRUST / CONFIDENCE & TRANSPARENCY

5



# KEY FINDINGS

- A third of New Zealanders believe government agencies do share enough information about significant hazards, while a third believe they do not.
- **Confidence** in government agencies' abilities to protect or respond is highest for *wildfire, food safety, pests & diseases* and *earthquake*, and lowest for *large-scale biodiversity loss, financial crisis* and *space weather*.
- Areas where **likelihood** over the next 12 months is perceived to be the highest, but **confidence** in government agencies is relatively low, include: *drought, volcanic activity, disruption of critical infrastructure* and *financial crisis*.
- Responses for how government agencies can build confidence vary by hazard; however, *be prepared & alert* and *being more informed / educated* are most commonly mentioned.



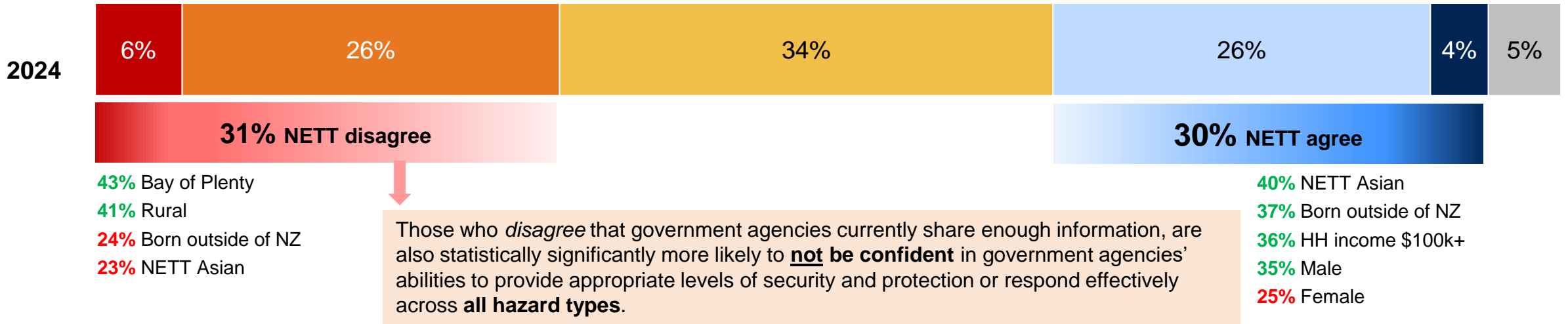


# SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

A third of respondents (31%) do not believe NZ's government agencies share enough information about significant hazards with New Zealanders. The same proportion of respondents (30%) believe they do.

## New Zealand's government agencies currently share enough information about significant hazards with New Zealanders

■ Strongly disagree ■ Disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree ■ Don't know / unsure



Q20h: Thinking again about all the significant hazards we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

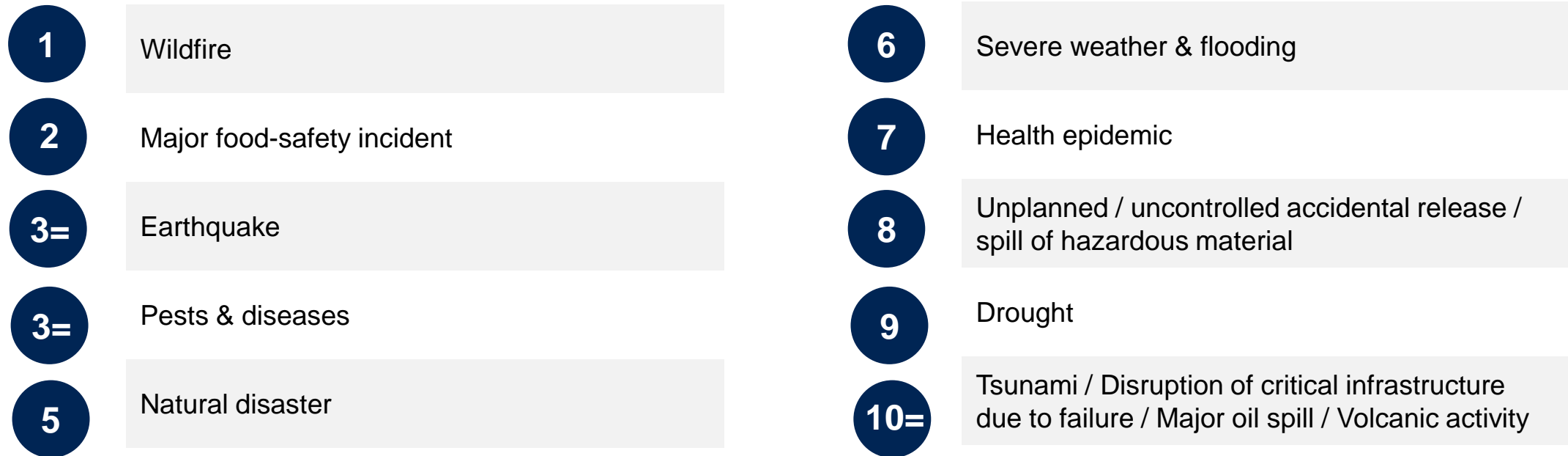
Base: Total sample (n=1,178). Note: Result sums to 101 due to rounding. Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total.



# TOP-10 SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS – CONFIDENCE IN AGENCIES

New Zealanders are most confident that government agencies could protect and respond to *wildfire, food safety, pests & diseases and earthquake*.

## Confidence that NZ government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to in the next 12 months



**Q11h:** If any of the following were to happen in the next twelve months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

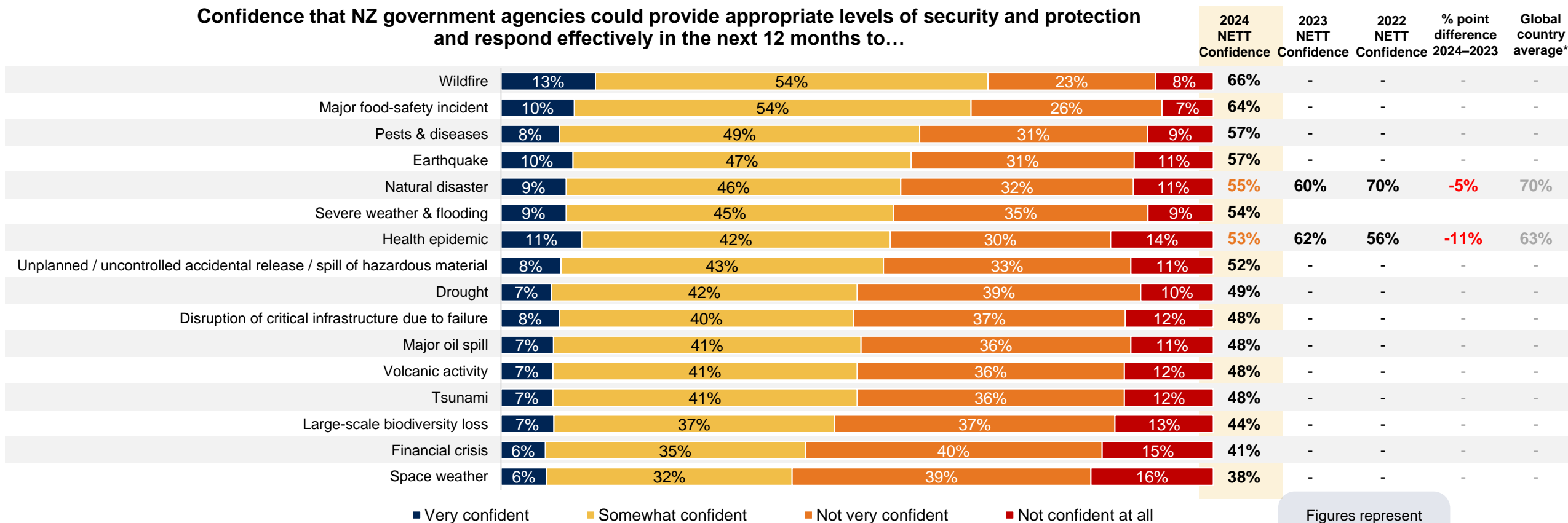
**Base:** Total sample (n=1,178)



# SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS – CONFIDENCE IN AGENCIES

New Zealanders are most confident in government agencies in relation to *wildfire, major food-safety incidents* and *pests & diseases*. They are least confident regarding *space weather, financial crises* and *large-scale biodiversity loss*. Compared to global average results, confidence in relation to *natural disaster* and *health epidemic* is lower for New Zealand.

**Confidence that NZ government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively in the next 12 months to...**



Figures represent NETT Confidence (% very + somewhat confident)

**Q11h:** If any of the following were to happen in the next twelve months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

**Base:** Total sample – 2024 (n=1,178), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). **Note:** Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. **\*Note:** Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos-Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2023 (n=23,220) where applicable. **Green / red** indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than 2023. **Green / orange** indicates statistically significantly higher / lower score than global country average.







# CONFIDENCE IN AGENCIES – SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES

## Demographic Differences



**Wildfire (66%)**  
73% 50–64 years



**Major food safety (64%)**  
54% Rural



**Pests & diseases (57%)**  
64% 50–64 years  
51% 18–29 years  
47% Rural



**Severe weather & flooding (54%)**  
59% Employed full-time  
45% Retired



**Unplanned / uncontrolled accidental release / spill of hazardous material (52%)**  
58% Male  
46% Female  
45% 18–29 years



**Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure (48%)**  
59% NETT Pacific peoples / Waikato



**Tsunami (48%)**  
59% Waikato



**Major oil spill (48%)**  
61% Waikato  
55% Born outside of NZ  
42% 18–29 years



**Large-scale biodiversity loss (44%)**  
55% NETT Asian  
54% Born outside of NZ  
34% Rural



**Financial crisis (41%)**  
47% Male  
36% Female  
28% Employed part-time



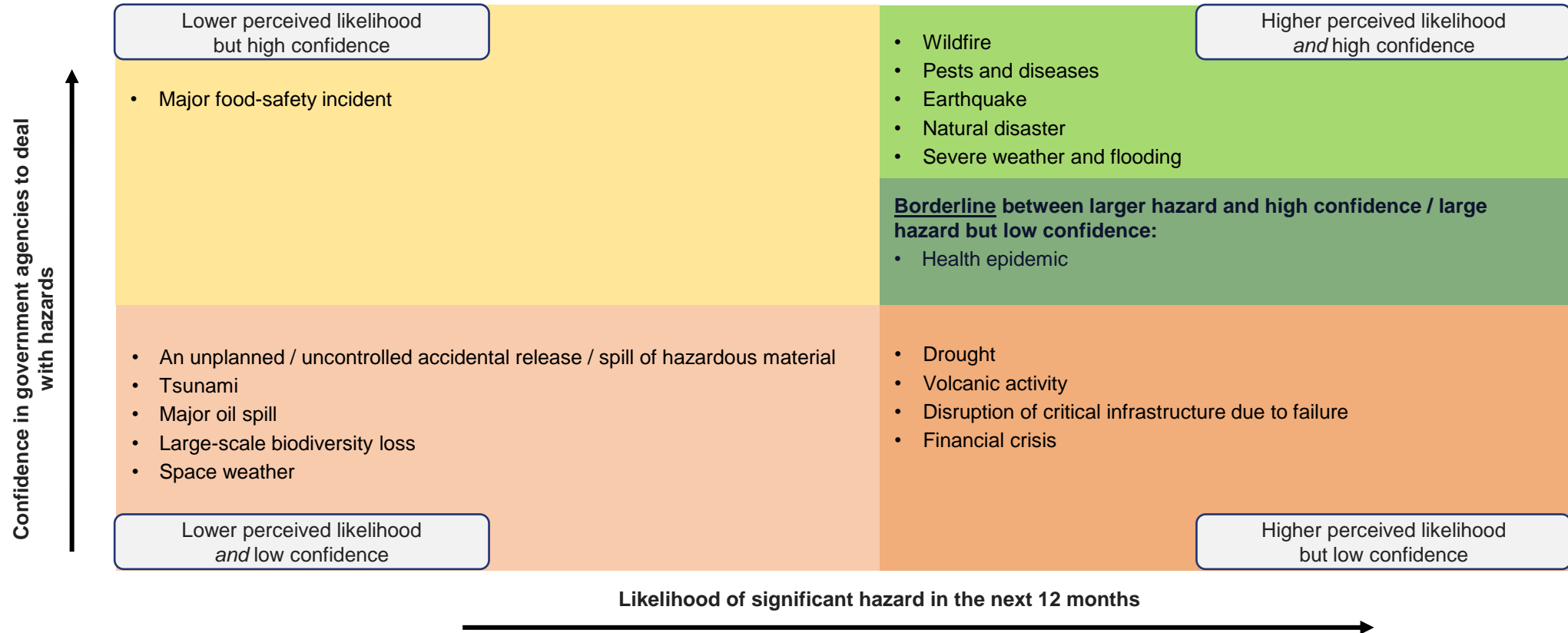
Q11h: If any of the following were to happen in the next twelve months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

Base: Total sample (n=1,178). Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total.



# CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT BY PERCEIVED LIKELIHOOD

When confidence is overlaid with the perceived likelihood of hazards in the next 12 months, *wildfire, earthquakes, pests & diseases, natural disasters* and *severe weather & flooding* have a high level of perceived likelihood but also a high level of confidence in government agencies. However, there are a number of hazards with a perceived high likelihood but lower confidence, such as *financial crisis, disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure, volcanic activity* and *drought*.



**Q9h:** How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / **Q11h:** If any of the following were to happen in the next twelve months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

**Base:** Total sample (n=1,178)



# HOW GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CAN BUILD CONFIDENCE (I)

There are a range of ways government can build confidence amongst New Zealanders; however, *being prepared & alert* and *being more informed / educated* are the most commonly mentioned ways to build confidence when it comes to significant hazards.

	Total	Health epidemic	Natural disaster	Earthquake	Tsunami	Volcanic activity	Drought	Wildfire	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure
Base (n=)	540	84*	45**	44**	73*	63*	42**	33**	58*
Be prepared / plan / be on the alert	22%	5%	32%	18%	16%	18%	26%	14%	16%
Inform / communicate / educate / clarity	19%	5%	8%	20%	23%	21%	14%	9%	11%
No confidence in government	16%	23%	4%	9%	6%	7%	6%	8%	13%
Take action / control	15%	9%	9%	19%	1%	8%	17%	7%	15%
Emergency services / systems / equipment in general	12%	3%	12%	21%	21%	10%	0%	37%	8%
Funding / financial assistance / resources	10%	7%	9%	5%	1%	2%	14%	9%	16%
It is out of their control	10%	2%	7%	7%	14%	14%	10%	4%	4%
Safety / protection	9%	1%	3%	6%	12%	6%	7%	0%	5%
Do a better job / learn from past experiences / events	7%	8%	12%	5%	9%	4%	1%	6%	5%
Better infrastructure	7%	0%	5%	3%	3%	0%	8%	0%	33%
Expertise / knowledge / provide the necessary skilled people	7%	3%	3%	2%	3%	7%	7%	7%	4%
Laws / rules / regulations / penalties in general	6%	2%	2%	4%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Have back-ups / use alternatives	6%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	16%	0%	8%
The economy / employment in general	6%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Support the people of NZ	5%	5%	4%	8%	0%	4%	5%	3%	0%
Other	11%	6%	5%	7%	2%	9%	11%	13%	12%
Nothing	5%	0%	5%	3%	3%	3%	3%	0%	4%
DK / NR	14%	6%	13%	16%	7%	15%	3%	14%	6%

Q12h: And what could New Zealand's government agencies do to make you feel more confident in their security / protection against, or response to the following?

Base: Those who are not confident at all in the government regarding hazards (n=540). Note: Responses less than 5% for the total are not shown. \*Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100). \*\*Caution: Very low base size, results indicative only (n < 50). Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total.





# HOW GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CAN BUILD CONFIDENCE (II)

There are a range of ways government can build confidence amongst New Zealanders; however, *being prepared & alert* and *being more informed / educated* are the most commonly mentioned ways to build confidence when it comes to significant hazards.

	Total	Large-scale biodiversity loss	Pests & diseases	Severe weather & flooding	Financial crisis	Major oil spill	Space weather	Unplanned / uncontrolled accidental release / spill of hazardous material	Major food-safety incident
Base (n=)	540	77*	35**	31**	91*	56*	99*	50*	34**
Be prepared / plan / be on the alert	22%	6%	9%	3%	11%	19%	26%	18%	8%
Inform / communicate / educate / clarity	19%	10%	8%	3%	9%	25%	19%	10%	5%
No confidence in government	16%	15%	12%	14%	18%	18%	9%	11%	7%
Take action / control	15%	5%	2%	16%	9%	18%	6%	8%	12%
Emergency services / systems / equipment in general	12%	0%	0%	19%	0%	7%	1%	5%	3%
Funding / financial assistance / resources	10%	12%	10%	17%	7%	5%	2%	4%	4%
It is out of their control	10%	4%	4%	4%	9%	0%	7%	4%	2%
Safety / protection	9%	14%	0%	6%	4%	10%	2%	7%	9%
Do a better job / learn from past experiences / events	7%	1%	8%	6%	4%	4%	1%	2%	0%
Better infrastructure	7%	0%	0%	11%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%
Expertise / knowledge / provide the necessary skilled people	7%	4%	3%	3%	1%	8%	1%	9%	7%
Laws / rules / regulations / penalties in general	6%	8%	8%	9%	5%	9%	0%	15%	8%
Have back-ups / use alternatives	6%	2%	0%	0%	2%	2%	13%	0%	0%
The economy / employment in general	6%	0%	5%	0%	21%	0%	2%	2%	11%
Support the people of NZ	5%	1%	3%	9%	3%	0%	1%	2%	3%
Other	11%	7%	5%	13%	5%	5%	7%	0%	9%
Nothing	5%	2%	6%	0%	0%	0%	9%	4%	6%
DK / NR	14%	7%	5%	4%	16%	9%	12%	15%	18%

Q12h: And what could New Zealand's government agencies do to make you feel more confident in their security / protection against, or response to the following?

Base: Those who are not confident at all in the government regarding hazards (n=540). Note: Responses less than 5% for the total are not shown. \*Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100). \*\*Caution: Very low base size, results indicative only (n < 50). Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total.





# CURRENT & FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

6





# KEY FINDINGS

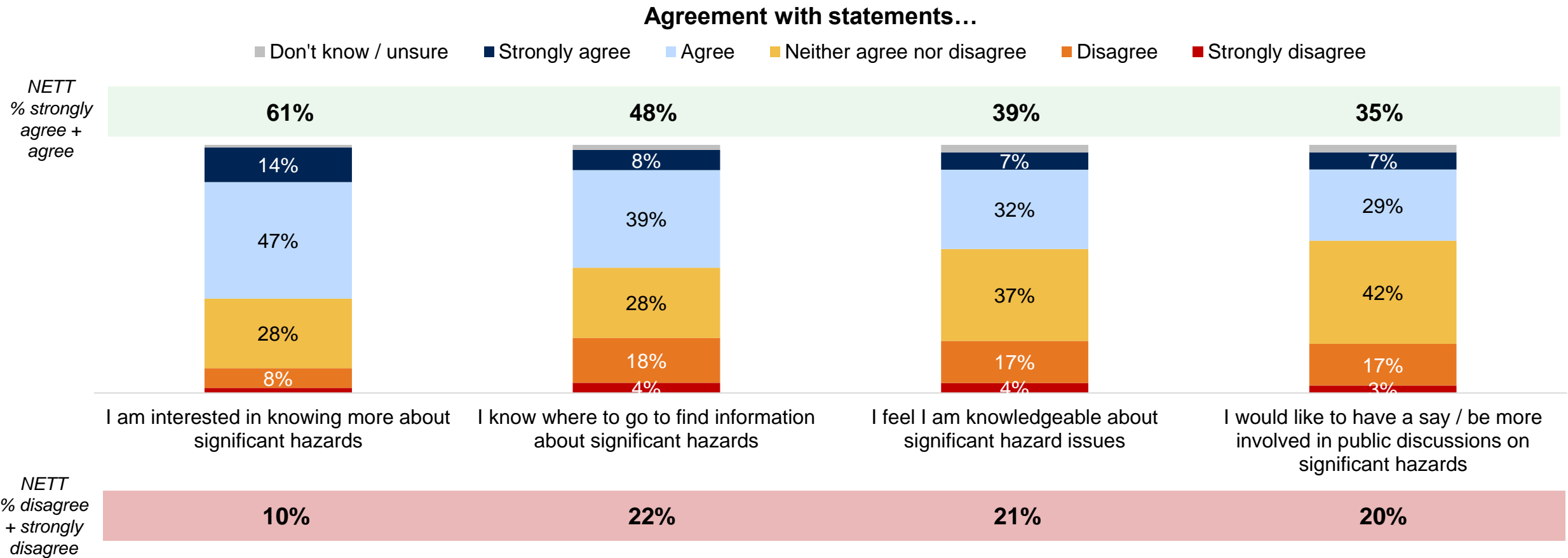
- Just under 40% of New Zealanders report they feel knowledgeable about significant hazards and less than half (48%) know where to find information about significant hazards.
- However, well over half (61%) are interested in *finding out more about* significant hazards, and over a third (35%) would like to *be involved in public discussion* on the topic.
- Overall, people would like more information on the hazards they perceive as most likely in the next 12 months.
- The type of information New Zealanders would prefer focus on government communications around *plans to prepare, information prior and during the event* as well as information regarding *recovery* after an event.





# INFORMATION ON SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS

Two out of three New Zealanders are interested in knowing more about significant hazards. Just under half of New Zealanders know where to go to find information about significant hazards.



**Q20h:** Thinking again about all the significant hazards we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

**Base:** Total sample (n=1,178). **Note:** Due to rounding there are some differences (+ / - 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



# INFORMATION ON SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS – STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES

## Demographic Differences

### NETT Agree (Strongly agree + agree)



**I am interested in knowing more about significant hazards (61%)**

**71%** NETT Asian  
**70%** Born outside of NZ  
**70%** NETT Levels 8–10  
**53%** 50–64 years / NETT None + Levels 1–3  
**49%** NETT Not in employment  
**40%** Full-time parent / homemaker\*



**I know where to go to find information about significant hazards (48%)**

**58%** NETT Levels 8–10  
**53%** HH income \$100k+  
**41%** 18–29 years  
**37%** NETT Not in employment  
**31%** Full-time parent / homemaker\*



**I feel that I am knowledgeable about significant hazard issues (39%)**

**47%** NETT Levels 8–10  
**46%** Male / HH income \$100k+  
**33%** Female  
**30%** Wellington  
**29%** NETT Not in employment  
**22%** Full-time parent / homemaker\*



**I would like to have a say / be more involved in public discussions on significant hazards (35%)**

**43%** NETT Māori  
**29%** NETT None + Levels 1–3  
**25%** NETT Not in employment  
**14%** Full-time parent / homemaker\*

### NETT Disagree (Strongly disagree + disagree)



**I know where to go to find information about significant hazards (22%)**

**30%** Employed part-time  
**28%** 18–29 years



**I feel that I am knowledgeable about significant hazard issues (21%)**

**28%** 18–29 years  
**25%** Female  
**16%** Male  
**14%** 65+ years  
**12%** Retired



**I would like to have a say / be more involved in public discussions on significant hazards (20%)**

**43%** Full-time parent / homemaker\*  
**31%** NETT Not in employment  
**15%** Born outside of NZ



**Q20h:** Thinking again about all the significant hazards we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

**Base:** Total sample (n=1,178). \***CAUTION:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100). **Green / red** indicates statistically significantly **higher / lower** than the total.

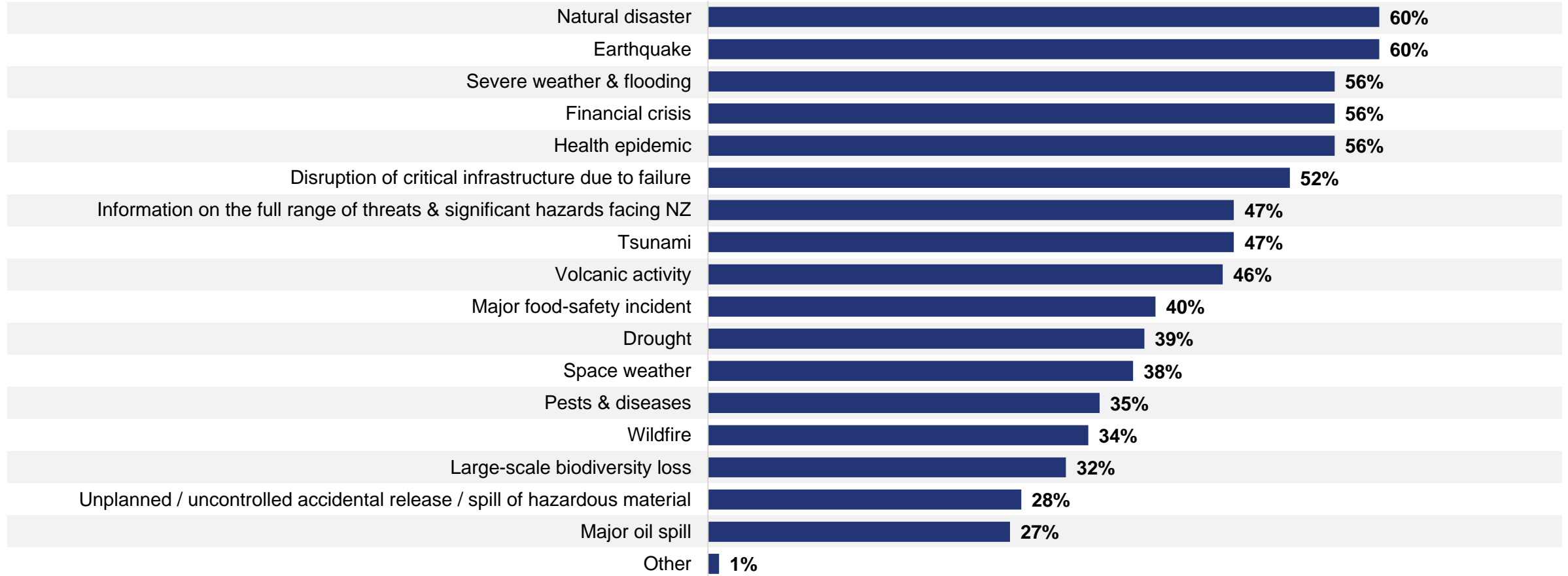




# HAZARDS – SEEKING MORE INFORMATION OVERALL

Respondents are most interested in knowing about *natural disasters (general)* and *earthquakes*, as well as *severe weather & flooding*, *financial crisis* and a *health epidemic*.

## Interest in knowing more about the following hazards...



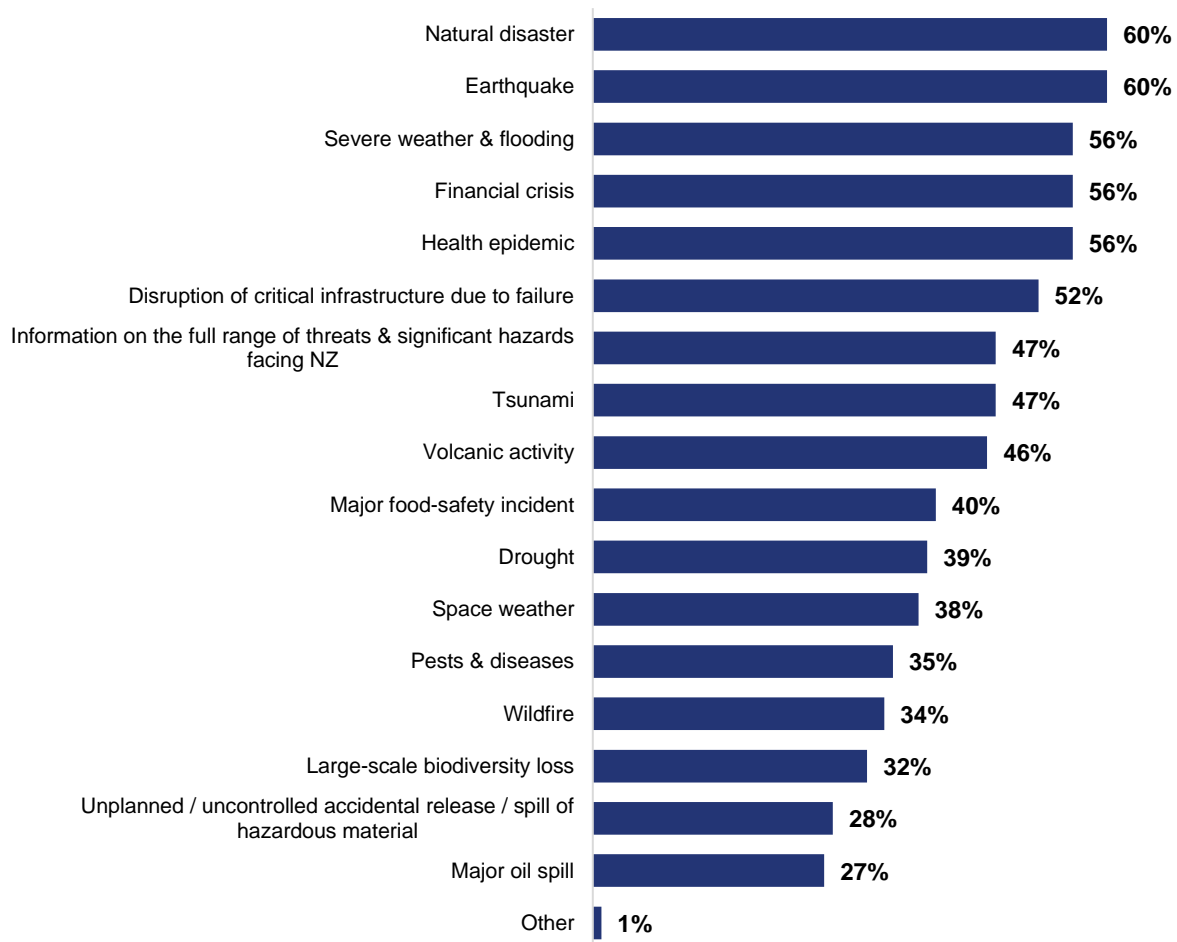
**Q21h:** Which of the following significant hazards are you interested in knowing more about?

**Base:** Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant hazards at Q20h (n=721)



# HAZARDS – SEEKING MORE INFORMATION

## Interest in knowing more about the following hazards...



## Demographic Differences



### Financial crisis (56%)

69% NETT Pacific peoples\*  
40% Wellington\*



### Volcanic activity (46%)

57% 65+ years / Retired



### Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure (52%)

44% 18–29 years / NETT None + Levels 1–3



### Major food safety incident (40%)

59% NETT Pacific peoples\*



### Information on all threats & hazards (47%)

62% 65+ years / Employed part-time\*  
40% Male  
39% HH income \$100k+  
38% Employed full-time  
35% 18–29 years / NETT Asian



### Drought (39%)

53% Waikato\*



### Wildfire (34%)

49% NETT Pacific peoples\*  
40% Female



### Tsunami (47%)

38% 18–29 years

**Q21h:** Which of the following significant hazards are you interested in knowing more about?

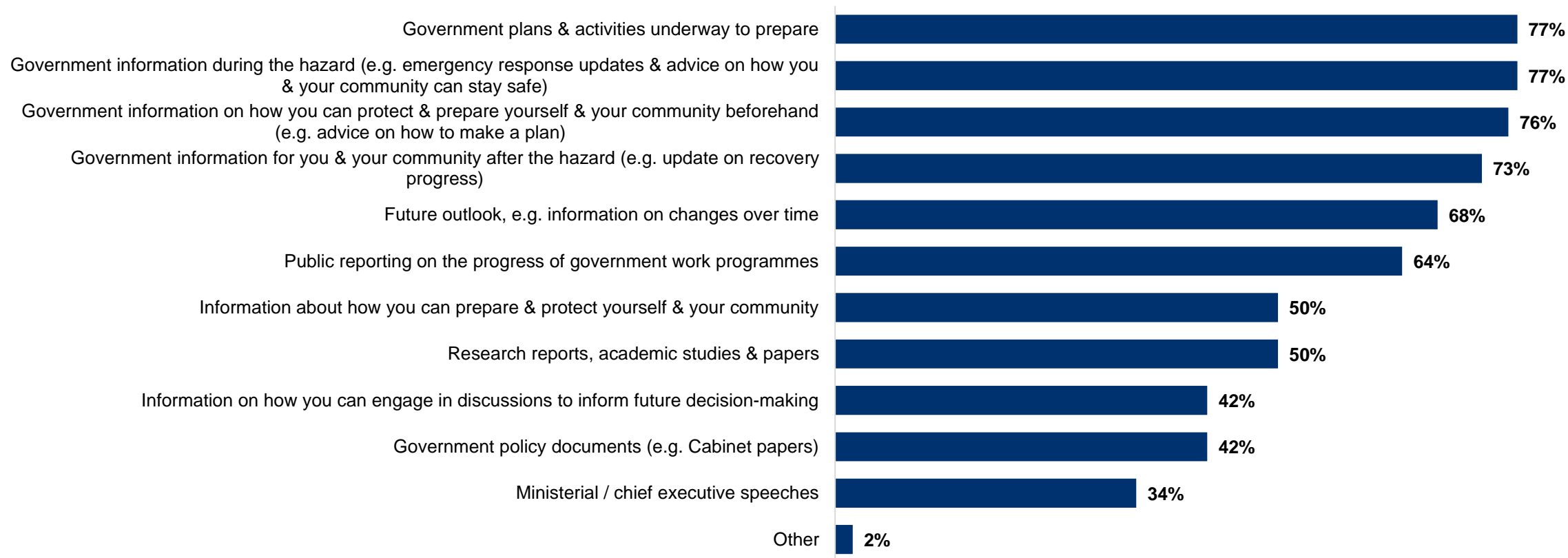
**Base:** Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about national security in Q20h (n=721). \***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100). Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total.



# SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS – PREFERRED INFORMATION FORMAT

The type of information New Zealanders prefer to receive on significant hazards focus on *government communications* around *plans to prepare for a hazard event, information prior and during the event* and information regarding *recovery* after the event.

What type of information would you prefer to receive on \_\_\_\_\_?



**Q21h\_a:** What type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21h>?

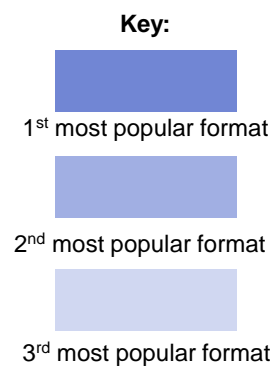
**Base:** Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant hazards in Q21h (n=687)



# SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS – PREFERRED INFORMATION FORMAT (I)

The type of information New Zealanders would prefer to receive on significant hazards focus on *government* communications around *plans to prepare for the hazard, information prior and during the hazard event* and information regarding *hazard recovery*.

	Health epidemic	Natural disaster	Earthquake	Tsunami	Volcanic activity	Drought	Wildfire	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure
Base (n=)	123	130	132	120	120	119	109	125
Government plans & activities underway to prepare	70%	67%	61%	67%	54%	60%	58%	60%
Government information during the hazard (e.g. emergency response updates & advice on how you & your community can stay safe)	72%	59%	64%	60%	67%	69%	N/A	65%
Government information on how you can protect & prepare yourself & your community beforehand (e.g. advice on how to make a plan)	69%	58%	57%	65%	64%	66%	N/A	58%
Government information for you & your community after the hazard (e.g. update on recovery progress)	54%	56%	54%	55%	57%	54%	N/A	57%
Future outlook, e.g. information on changes over time	45%	48%	34%	40%	51%	46%	53%	42%
Public reporting on the progress of government work programmes	52%	46%	34%	43%	41%	47%	53%	55%
Information about how you can prepare & protect yourself & your community	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Research reports, academic studies & papers	39%	34%	29%	30%	33%	26%	30%	27%
Information on how you can engage in discussions to inform future decision-making	26%	20%	27%	26%	28%	25%	28%	28%
Government policy documents (e.g. Cabinet papers)	36%	28%	18%	21%	22%	23%	26%	25%
Ministerial / chief executive speeches	26%	18%	13%	18%	20%	17%	18%	21%
Other	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	0%



Q21h\_a: And what type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21h>?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant hazards in Q21h (n=687)



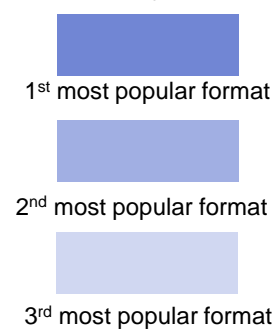


# SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS – PREFERRED INFORMATION FORMAT (II)

The type of information New Zealanders would prefer to receive on significant hazards focus on *government* communications around *plans to prepare for the hazard event*.

	Large-scale biodiversity loss	Pests & diseases	Severe weather & flooding	Financial crisis	Major oil spill	Space weather	An unplanned / uncontrolled accidental release / spill of hazardous material	Major food-safety incident
Base (n=)	118	114	127	133	109	120	109	118
Government plans & activities underway to prepare	60%	60%	63%	53%	62%	64%	59%	56%
Government information during the hazard (e.g. emergency response updates & advice on how you & your community can stay safe)	N/A	59%	63%	N/A	N/A	62%	60%	N/A
Government information on how you can protect & prepare yourself & your community beforehand (e.g. advice on how to make a plan)	N/A	56%	60%	N/A	N/A	63%	62%	N/A
Government information for you & your community after the hazard (e.g. update on recovery progress)	N/A	62%	57%	N/A	N/A	55%	60%	N/A
Future outlook, e.g. information on changes over time	62%	56%	51%	45%	47%	58%	42%	56%
Public reporting on the progress of government work programmes	59%	54%	44%	45%	51%	49%	51%	52%
Information about how you can prepare & protect yourself & your community	N/A	N/A	N/A	62%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Research reports, academic studies & papers	52%	46%	28%	30%	43%	39%	33%	44%
Information on how you can engage in discussions to inform future decision-making	38%	35%	20%	28%	38%	26%	37%	36%
Government policy documents (e.g. Cabinet papers)	34%	34%	22%	30%	37%	31%	36%	30%
Ministerial / chief executive speeches	31%	26%	14%	25%	32%	23%	32%	32%
Other	0%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%

Key:



Q21h\_a: And what type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21h>?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant hazards in Q21h (n=687)



# APPENDIX 1 – CHANGES TO SURVEY SINCE 2023

# 8

# CHANGES TO SURVEY SUMMARY

Since 2023, a few changes have been made to the survey:

- Respondents are now assigned to one of the two ‘tracks’ – one track is about *national security threats* and the other track is about *significant hazards*. Questions are identical but asked in the context of a different list (either a *threats* list or a *hazards* list). The total survey sample is split between both tracks.
- The statements ‘Another major health epidemic breaking out in New Zealand’ and ‘A major natural disaster occurring in New Zealand’ have been **moved** from the list of *national security threats* asked to the respondents in the *threats track* and have been re-classified as *significant hazards* which are now asked of the respondents who answer the *hazards track*.
- The question ‘Which of the following threats are you interested in knowing more about?’ now has an **additional answer option** ‘Information on the full range of threats and significant hazards facing New Zealand’.
- The question ‘And what type of information would you prefer to receive on x?’ was **added**.
- The questions ‘And in what format would you prefer for information on x?’ and ‘Where would you like to receive information about the threats we have discussed during the survey?’ have been **removed**.



# ADDITIONS / WORDING CHANGES IN SURVEY – HAZARDS TRACK

## Question (in order of questionnaire):

## New questions:

All questions asked of respondents in the 2023 version of the survey (which are now referred to as questions in the *threats track*) and that were not removed have been **replicated to an equivalent question specific to the list of significant hazards** asked only of respondents who were shown the *hazards track*. Half of the sample were asked these questions. The hazards track asks the same questions as the threats track, but in relation to the list of hazards:

- *Another major health epidemic breaking out in New Zealand*
- *A major natural disaster occurring in New Zealand*
- *A major earthquake resulting in strong and violent ground shaking in New Zealand*
- *A major tsunami (a series of large, damaging waves) in New Zealand*
- *Significant volcanic activity (including release of gases, ash, lava emissions and / or an eruption) in New Zealand*
- *An extended period of drought (unusually dry weather conditions or below normal rainfall) in New Zealand*
- *An uncontrolled wildfire in a rural or urban environment in New Zealand*
- *Disruption of New Zealand’s critical infrastructure (e.g. water, transport, energy, telecommunications) due to human error or a natural hazard*
- *A significant reduction in the number and variety of plants and animals in New Zealand caused by humans, natural hazard or disease*
- *An outbreak of agricultural or environmental pests and diseases (e.g. an outbreak of fruit-flies) in New Zealand*
- *A severe weather event (e.g. strong winds, heavy rain, snow, landslides and / or flooding) in New Zealand*
- *A financial crisis (e.g. failure of a major bank, insurer or stock market) causing disruption to New Zealand’s financial system*
- *A space weather event that causes disruption or damage to New Zealand’s information and communications, power grids and / or global navigation systems*
- *An unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (e.g. corrosive, explosive, toxic or radioactive material) in New Zealand*
- *A major food-safety incident posing a risk to public health in New Zealand and / or trade with other countries*

- **Q8h:** ‘When you see the term “National Risk” what comes to mind?’
- **Q9h:** ‘How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?’
- **Q10h:** ‘And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next twelve months?’
- **Q11h:** ‘If any of the following were to happen in the next twelve months, how confident are you that New Zealand’s government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to:’
- **Q12h:** ‘And what could New Zealand’s government agencies do to make you feel more confident in their security / protection against, or response to the following?’
- **Q17h:** ‘Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?’
- **Q20h:** ‘Thinking again about all the significant hazards we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?’
- **Q21h:** ‘Which of the following significant hazards are you interested in knowing more about?’
- **Q21h\_a:** And what type of information would you prefer to receive on <INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q21h>?’
- **Q25h:** The next couple of questions are about ‘<INSERT SIGNIFICANT HAZARD NAME>’
- **Q26h:** In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to <INSERT SIGNIFICANT HAZARD NAME FROM Q25h>?’

These questions have ‘h’ on the end of the numbers to indicate that these are equivalent questions of the threats track for the hazards track.





# APPENDIX 2 – PANEL DETAILS

# 9

# PANEL DETAILS



## Methodology

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

The purpose of this research is to help the national security sector understand New Zealanders' attitudes and opinions relating to national security risks, challenges and opportunities. In order to achieve this objective, we conducted an online survey using a sample of respondents from both research panels and non-panel sample sources (river sampling).

Panel respondents are recruited from actively managed research panels (not a just lists or databases of individuals). They are individuals who have volunteered to take part in market research surveys. The panels are created and managed for long-term use and access, and extensively profiled to efficiently target respondents.

This research used a blend of reputable online panels (Ipsos iSay and Consumer Link), which ensures better representation and reach than a single source. River sampling was also used to recruit respondents who are not members of online panels, which is particularly useful for harder-to-reach demographics (e.g. young males).

River sampling uses in-app rewards to encourage respondents to take part in surveys. River sampling recruits respondents in real time from in-app- and in-browser-based advertisements on gaming / social sites or reward and loyalty programme sites. Respondents are rewarded by the app / site from which they were recruited (for example, they may receive extra lives from a gaming site if recruited from a gaming site).

Blending panel suppliers and non-panel sources (river sampling) allowed us to reduce online panel biases by reaching people who are not online panel members. The sample comprised a blend of high-quality online panel samples (81%) and river sampling of non-panel sources (19%).

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**You act better when you are sure.**

**THANK  
YOU**

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