



2026 NATIONAL RISKS PUBLIC SURVEY

National security threats & Significant Hazards

May 2026



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BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY





Research Objectives

This is the fourth survey 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:

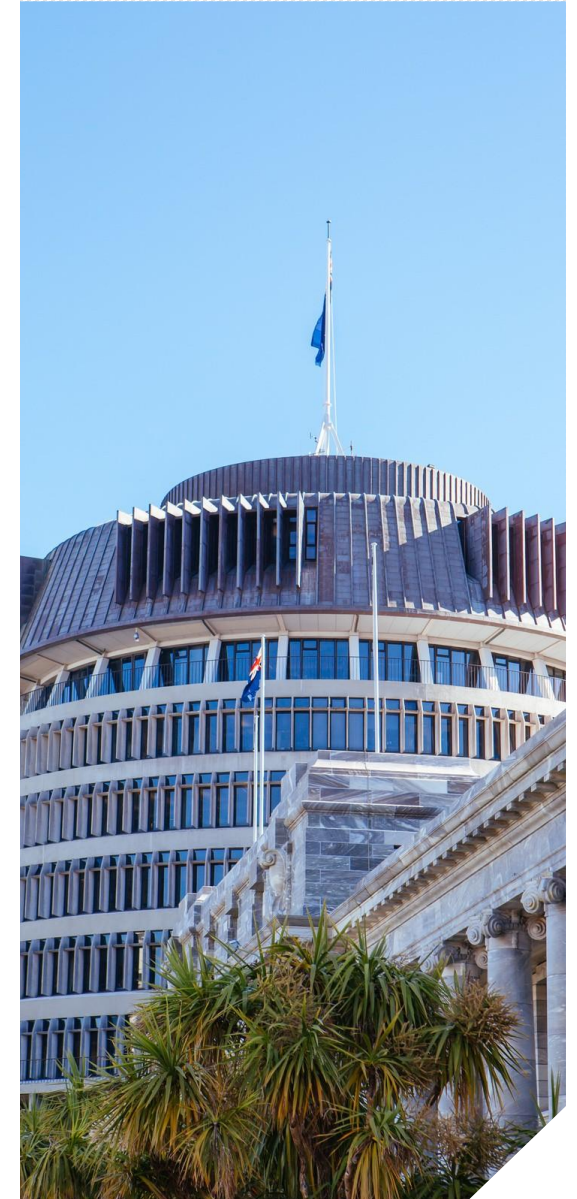
- New Zealanders' awareness of National Risks and Security Threats, including the public's perceived likelihood of these over the short (next 12 months) and long term (next 10 years).
- Public confidence in government agencies' abilities to protect and respond to these.
- Opportunities to build confidence,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

Survey findings inform the work of the Hazard Risk Board (HRB) and the National Security Board (NSB), the National Security Strategy's Programme of Action, and where relevant, other key initiatives such as Catastrophic Event Planning.

This research report presents results from the fourth round of surveying (2026) and compares findings to results from the previous surveys (where applicable).

This report provides information across a nationally representative sample of 2,000 people, in relation to:

- What 'national security & risks' 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 & threats and what the government can do to build confidence
- What information New Zealanders would like to receive on hazards & threats

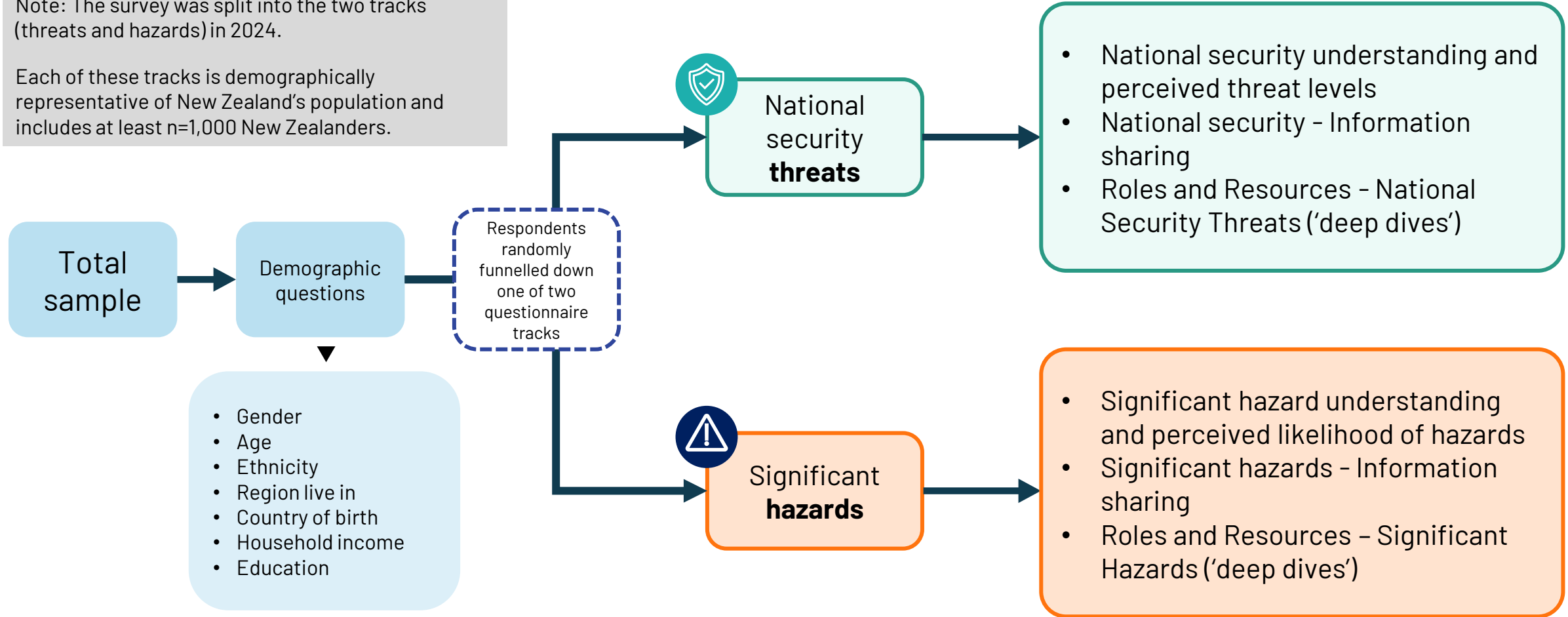




2026 National Risks Public Survey Questionnaire Flow

Note: The survey was split into the two tracks (threats and hazards) in 2024.

Each of these tracks is demographically representative of New Zealand's population and includes at least n=1,000 New Zealanders.





Methodology - Hazards



Fieldwork Dates:

15th February 2026 – 15th March 2026



Methodology:

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



Weighting:

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



Sample Achieved:

n=2,000

*Notes

- 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. In the Case Studies, demographic differences are shown amongst the demographic groups that have a base size larger than n=30.
- See Appendix 2 for further details on panels.



Context – Significant Hazards

What was making the news during fieldwork

It is likely news reporting at the time of the survey, particularly related to the conflict in Iran, impacted responses.

Of note: The conflict in Iran began on 27 February 2026, and remained prominent in news cycles for the remainder of fieldwork. (Fieldwork ran from 15 February – 15 March). 17% of respondents (n=172) completed the survey on or after 28th February 2026.

AI and privacy: Commissioner signs on to global statement on 'potential harms'

8:53 pm on 24 February 2026

Share this

 **Nik Dirga**, Digital Explainer Editor
✉ nik.dirga@rnz.co.nz

BUSINESS

One in two large businesses successfully attacked by cybercriminals in last year

5:00 am on 10 March 2026

Share this

 **Nona Pelletier**, Senior Business Reporter
✉ nona.pelletier@rnz.co.nz

PACIFIC / COOK ISLANDS

Official documents reveal friction between NZ and Cook Islands over Russian vessels

11:05 am on 18 February 2026

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 **Kaya Selby**, RNZ Pacific journalist
✉ kaya.selby@rnz.co.nz

NEW ZEALAND / CRIME AND JUSTICE

Fight continues to stop Christchurch terrorist from giving evidence at inquest

10:43 am on 5 March 2026

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 **Tim Brown**, Senior Reporter
✉ tim.brown@rnz.co.nz

If Iran conflict shuts oil trading route, global economic chaos could follow

Tue, Mar 3

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Trump's latest fire and fury in Iran poses headache for NZ

The coalition's cautious response to US-led strikes on Iran has sparked criticism from some quarters, in another test of NZ diplomacy

 by **Sam Sachdeva** 02/03/2026

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World news | Artificial Intelligence

EU privacy investigation targets Musk's Grok chatbot over sexualized deepfake images

By **KELVIN CHAN** (AP Business Writer)
February 18, 2026 • 2:16am

Copy Link

NZ faces inflation risk as trade bottleneck widens amid Iran conflict

By O+A Reporters | Sun, Mar 8



Context – Significant Hazards

What was making the news during fieldwork

It is likely news reporting at the time of the survey, particularly around a mid-February storm, may have impacted responses.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is here. NZ isn't ready

A serious approach to climate adaptation requires reckoning with the grim reality the future holds: more storms, more floods, more heat



by Marc Daalder 18/02/2026

Share

News / World

Wild storms cause 250mm rainfall and widespread floods in New Zealand



By Yashee Sharma | 4:28pm Feb 16, 2026

Wild New Zealand storm disrupts transport, leaves thousands without power

By Renju Jose

February 16, 2026 1:48 PM GMT+13 · Updated February 16, 2026



NEW ZEALAND / NORTHLAND

Nowhere immune from earthquakes, not even Northland

5:26 pm on 5 March 2026

Share this



Peter de Graaf, Northland reporter
peter.degraaf@rnz.co.nz

NZ news | Infrastructure

This report on NZ's state of repair will 'shock' people, Chris Bishop said. Are you shocked?



Emma Ricketts
February 17, 2026 · 12:13pm

Copy Link

NZ is top-10 for weather disasters – here's why we're top-10 for coping



Kevin Norquay | The Post

February 22, 2026

Comment (1) Share



Sample Information



TOTAL SAMPLE
2,000

ETHNICITY



NETT NZ European / Pākehā	74%	<i>n</i> = 1,493
NETT Māori	15%	299
NETT Pacific	7%	105
NETT Asian	18%	367
NETT Other	3%	60

REGION



Auckland	33%	<i>n</i> = 678
Waikato	10%	171
Wellington	11%	233
Rest of North Island	22%	437
Canterbury	14%	281
Rest of South Island	10%	200

GENDER



Male	49%	<i>n</i> = 969
Female	51%	1,019

COUNTRY OF BIRTH



New Zealand	72%	<i>n</i> = 1,432
Outside of NZ	28%	568

HOUSEHOLD INCOME



\$0-\$50k	19%	<i>n</i> = 384
\$50k-\$100k	28%	565
\$100k+	42%	843

AGE



18-29 years	20%	<i>n</i> = 400
30-49 years	35%	711
50-64 years	24%	448
65+ years	21%	441

REGENCY OF MIGRATION

NETT New Migrant (<7 years in NZ)	17%	<i>n</i> = 95
NETT Established Migrant (>7 years in NZ)	83%	473

EDUCATION



NETT None + Levels 1-3	28%	<i>n</i> = 557
NETT Levels 4-7	50%	995
NETT Levels 8-10	21%	432

EMPLOYMENT STATUS



Employed full-time	44%	<i>n</i> = 879
Employed part-time	14%	285
Self employed	7%	147
Not in employment	13%	250
Retired	18%	359
Student	4%	80

URBAN vs RURAL



Urban	89%	<i>n</i> = 1,788
Rural	11%	212



2025 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. These survey results are used throughout this report to understand New Zealand's results on a global scale.

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 23,586 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 19 and Friday, October 3, 2025.

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.

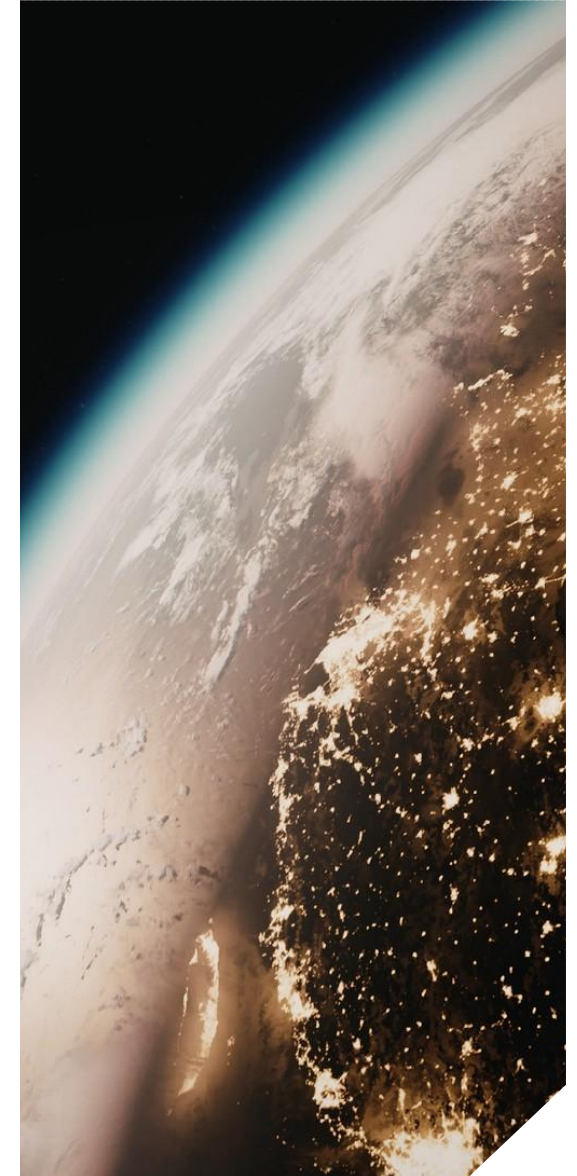
The data is weighted so each country's sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

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](https://www.ipsos.com/en/halifax-report-2025)¹ or view the full report [here](https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2025-11/ipsos-world-affairs-and-security-report-halifax-2025.pdf)².

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.

<https://www.ipsos.com/en/halifax-report-2025>

<https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2025-11/ipsos-world-affairs-and-security-report-halifax-2025.pdf>





KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY





Overall findings: Perception of threats in the short and longer term

- Seven in ten New Zealanders (2026:69%, 2024:70%) continue to feel *the risks from climate change have increased over the last year*. The proportion that think the world has become a more dangerous place over the last year has also remained high (2026: 85%, 2024:80%).
- When looking at the biggest short-term risks, significant hazards dominate the top three concerns.. *Severe weather and flooding events (94%), Earthquakes (87%), and Natural disasters (86%) / Organised crime (86%)* are perceived as the most likely risks in the next 12 months.
- While concern for the top-ranked hazards has remained high but stable since 2024, the perceived *likelihood* of threats in the top-5 has continued to trend upwards over time. This includes – *Organised crime between NZ & another country* and *Hacking into information systems*.
- New Zealanders' concerns about *Severe weather events & flooding events, Earthquakes, and Natural disasters* are consistent over both the short (next 12 months) and long term (next 10 years). The perceived likelihood for most other threats and hazards are higher in the long term, compared to the short term.
- When confidence in government agencies' *ability to respond and protect* is overlaid with perceived *likelihood in the next 12 months*, 5 threats and hazards have lower confidence but higher perceived likelihood. These are – *Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure, Nuclear / biological / chemical attack somewhere in the world, Hacking into information systems, Disinformation* and *Emerging technology*.



Overall findings: Perceptions of roles, responsibilities, information, and resources

- Only one in three (35%) New Zealanders agree *New Zealand's government agencies currently share enough information about significant hazards*, though this proportion has increased since 2024 (30%). In contrast, only 18% believe this is the case for information about national security – a proportion that has remained stable over time.
- Desire for, and awareness of, information on hazards has increased significantly. 66% (up from 61% in 2024) of New Zealanders want *more information about significant hazards*, and 54% (up from 48% in 2024) say they *know where to go to find this information*.
- In contrast, while 62% of New Zealanders want more information on national security threats and over a third want to be involved in public discussion on national security, only a quarter of New Zealanders (25%) know where to look for information on national security.
- Confidence in *government agencies' ability to protect and respond* is highest for managing hazards like *Wildfires* (60%), *Earthquakes* (55%), and *Severe weather & flooding events* (55%). In contrast, confidence is lowest for the threats of *Disruption of space assets* (34%), *Emerging technology* (33%), and *Nuclear / biological / chemical attacks* (30%)
 - Confidence in government agencies' ability to protect NZ has significantly decreased in 2026 for 16 of the 30 threats and hazards surveyed – *NOT including the 2 new threats added in 2026*.
- Consistent with previous rounds of the survey, a majority of New Zealanders view the roles of the NZ government and its agencies as having the **most responsibility** to protect against all six deep dive threats and hazards – *Earthquakes, Volcanic activity, Communicable disease outbreak, Threats to New Zealand's interests in the Pacific, A major maritime security incident, and A breakdown in access to goods / services*.
- They also view the government and its agencies as being the **best resourced** to protect New Zealanders against these threats and hazards.





Overall findings – Significant hazards deep dives

In 2026, we included ‘deep dives’ on earthquakes, volcanic activity & communicable disease outbreaks.

A majority of New Zealanders viewed the **NZ government and its agencies as having the most responsibility to respond to and protect against earthquakes, volcanic activity, and communicable disease outbreaks.** Additionally, three quarters viewed **NZ individuals as highly responsible for communicable disease outbreaks.**



“A major earthquake resulting in strong and violent ground shaking in New Zealand.”

Earthquakes

New Zealanders who perceived this as a very real threat in the next 12 months, cited the country’s geography, location, and landscape; the prevalence of natural phenomena; and previous experience. A small proportion also noted the unpredictable nature of earthquakes and concerns on their impact on lives and homes.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

2nd out of 14 hazards surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

3rd out of 14 hazards surveyed



“Significant volcanic activity (including release of gases, ash, lava emissions and/or an eruption) in New Zealand.”

Volcanic activity

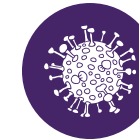
New Zealanders who saw this as a very real threat in the next 12 months, cited the geography, location, and landscape of the country; past experiences; and unpredictability as the primary reasons for their concern. They were also concerned about its impact on lives/homes and the prevalence of natural phenomena as other, albeit less common, reasons.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

10th out of 14 hazards surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

10th out of 14 hazards surveyed



“Another major health epidemic breaking out in New Zealand.”

Communicable disease outbreaks (health epidemics)

Emergence of other diseases was overwhelmingly the primary reason for this being seen as a very real threat in the next 12 months. A smaller proportion of New Zealanders also cited complacency, the residual effects of COVID/SARS, and global/international incidences of outbreaks.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

8th out of 14 hazards surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

7th out of 14 hazards surveyed



Overall findings – National security threats deep dives

In 2026, we included ‘deep dives’ on threat to New Zealand’s interests in the Pacific, major maritime security incidents & breakdown in access to critical goods/services.

A majority of New Zealanders viewed the **NZ government and its agencies as having the most responsibility to respond to and protect against major threats to New Zealand’s interests in the Pacific, major maritime security incidents, and breakdown in access to critical goods/services.**



“Other country/countries threatening New Zealand interests in the Pacific region (e.g. establishing a foreign military base).”

Major threats to New Zealand’s interests in the Pacific

New Zealanders who perceived this as a very real threat in the next 12 months, cited increasing foreign activity in the region and knowledge or intuition that such events leading to such a threat may already be underway. A small proportion also note New Zealand’s vulnerability to foreign interference and coercion.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

9th out of 18 threats surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

9th out of 18 threats surveyed



“Illegal or unauthorised activity in New Zealand waters by a country, company, or group—such as entering our waters without permission or taking resources like fish or minerals.”

Major maritime security incidents

New Zealanders who saw this as a very real threat in the next 12 months, cited an increase in criminal activity in NZ waters, the country’s small size leading to vulnerability to such a threat. Many also had the view that such incidents are already occurring or have occurred in the past.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

6th out of 18 threats surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

5th out of 18 threats surveyed



“A breakdown in access to critical goods and services caused by rising tensions between countries (e.g. through restrictions on trade or other penalties).”

Breakdown in access to critical goods/services

New Zealanders who deemed this to be a very real threat in the next 12 months, cited the recent actions of the American government and growing tensions internationally. They also felt New Zealand was heavily reliant on trade with other countries for critical goods and services, making it vulnerable.

Perceived likelihood in next 12 months

7th out of 18 threats surveyed

Perceived likelihood in next 10 years

6th out of 18 threats surveyed



WHAT DOES 'NATIONAL RISK' & 'NATIONAL SECURITY' MEAN TO NEW ZEALANDERS?



Key Findings

What does 'national risk' and 'national security' mean to New Zealanders?

- When asked what 'national risk' means to them, New Zealanders' most common unprompted associations relate to threats impacting the entire country (41%), natural phenomena such as weather events and earthquakes (16%), and threats to the economy (13%). In contrast, the most commonly mentioned themes for 'national security' related to *protection, general security and safety*.
- A large majority of New Zealanders (85%) believe *the world has become a more dangerous place over the last year* – up 5ppt from 2024. A smaller majority (69%) agree that the *risks from climate change have increased* over the same period.
- *Severe weather and flooding events* (94%), *Earthquakes* (87%), and *Natural disasters* (86%) are perceived as the top three most likely risks in the next 12 months. These are immediately followed by two major national security threats: *Organised crime between NZ & another country* (86%) and *Hacking into information systems* (85%), which round out the top five.
- When asked why they believe there is a 'very real threat', the reasons for these concerns differ between significant hazards and security threats. For top-ranked hazards like *Severe weather events* and *Earthquakes*, the primary drivers are tangible and experiential, with respondents commonly citing past events and New Zealand's geography / landscape. Conversely, anxiety around threats like *Hacking* and *Disinformation* is rooted in more dynamic and evolving factors, including an increase in cyber-crime, the impact of technology, and a volatile global environment.
- The public's primary concerns are consistent over both the short and long term. The same five risks that dominate the 12-month outlook also constitute the top five risks for the next 10 years, led by *Severe weather and flooding events* (93%) as the top concern.



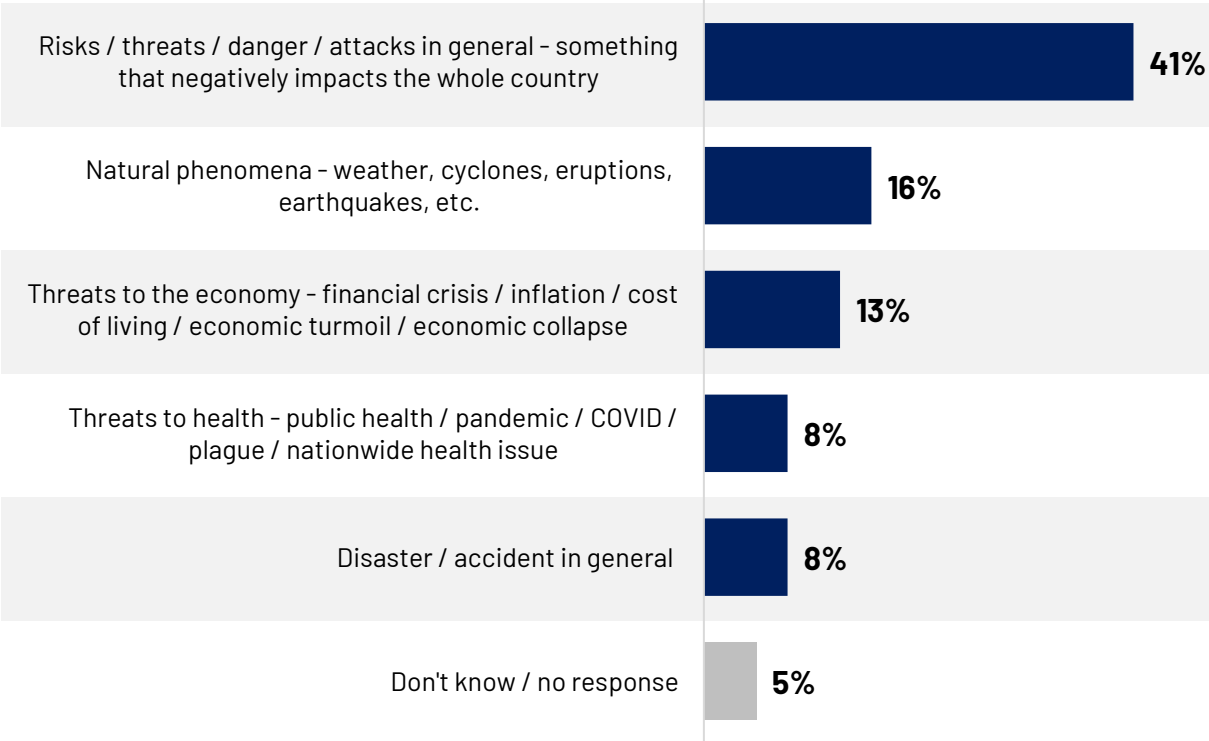
What National Risks and Security mean to New Zealanders



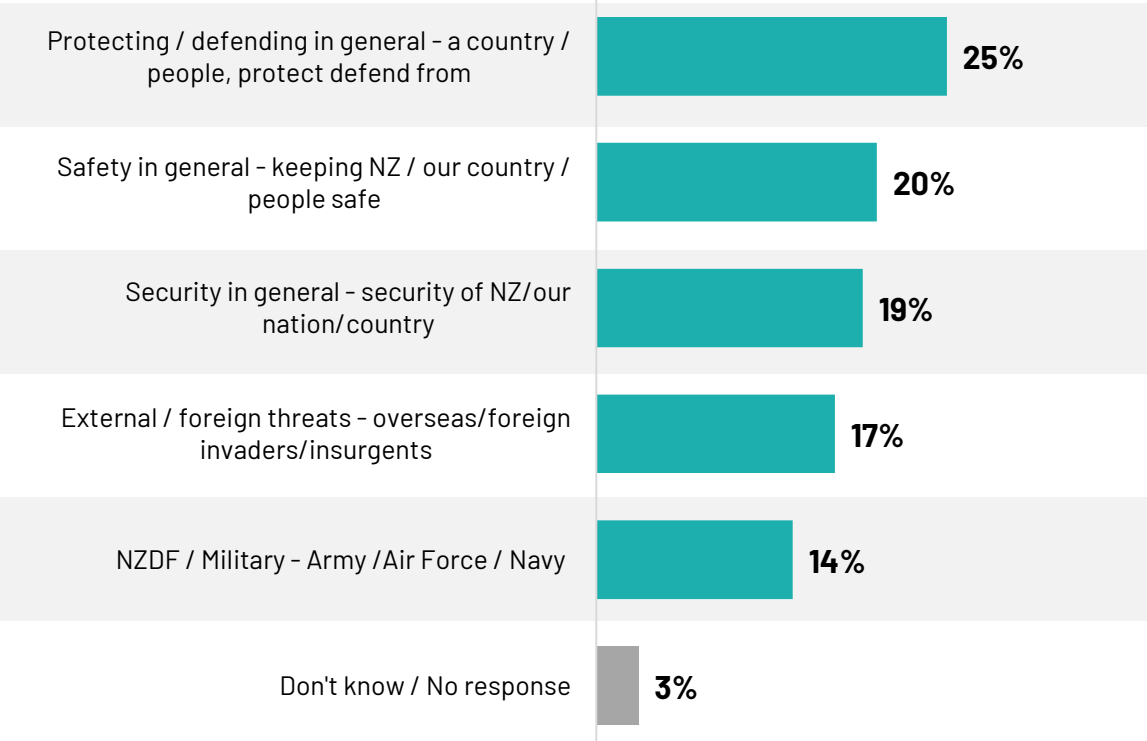
When asked what comes to mind from the term ‘National risk’, the most common themes were *risks / threats / dangers to New Zealand*, followed by *natural phenomena*, *threats to economy* and *public health*. ‘National security’ was interpreted as involving *protection and defence to keep New Zealand and its people safe*. These were followed by more specific concerns such as *external / foreign threats* and *border control*, and mentions of the *NZDF and military*.



What comes to mind when you see the term ‘National Risk’?



What comes to mind when you see the term ‘National Security’?



Q8h: When you see the term ‘National Risk’, what comes to mind? / Q8: When you see the term ‘National Security’, what comes to mind?

Base: Total sample - 2026 (Hazards track n=1,000, threats track n=1,000) Note: Top 5 responses shown excluding Don't know/ No response.

Differences in how groups view 'national security' (I)



Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences



Protecting/defending in general (25%)

No significant differences



External/foreign threats (17%)

26% Wellington

9% 18-29 years

9% NETT None + Levels 1-3



Safety in general (20%)

25% Female

15% Male



NZDF /military (14%)

19% Born overseas



Security in general (19%)

27% Employed part-time



Border control (13%)

No significant differences



Cyber security (12%)

19% 50-64 years

18% 65+ years

7% 30-49 years

5% 18-29 years



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Q8: When you see the term 'National Security', what comes to mind?

Base: Total sample (n=1,000)

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Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences



Government (10%)

16% NETT Not in employment



Intelligence/information safety (7%)

No significant differences



Threats/attacks (10%)

15% 50-64 years



Threats to economy (5%)

No significant differences



Terrorism (9%)

4% 18-29 years



Internal/domestic threats (5%)

13% HH income \$200k-\$250k*



Police (5%)

13% Rural



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Q8: When you see the term 'National Security', what comes to mind?

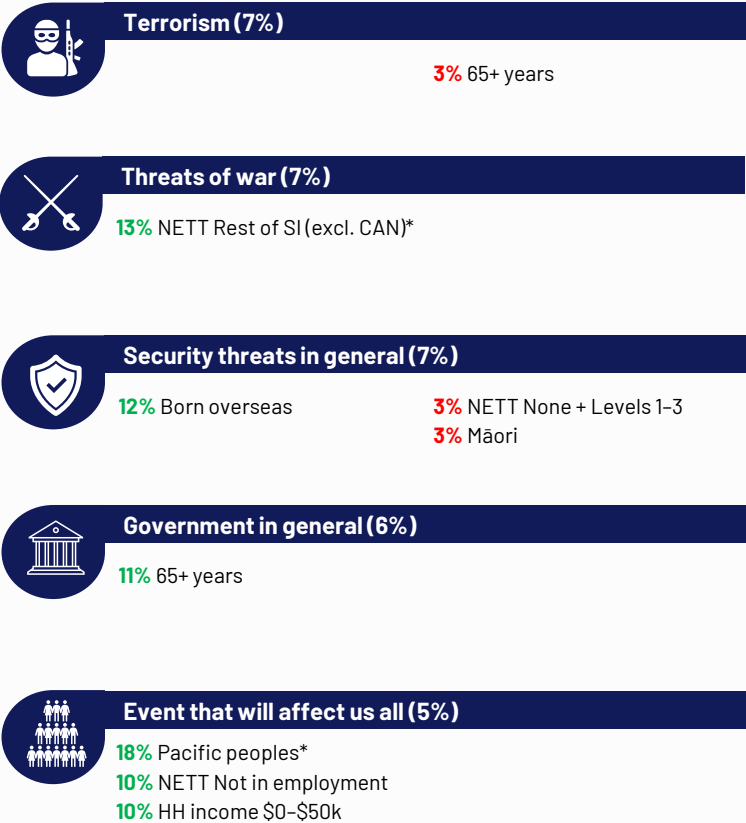
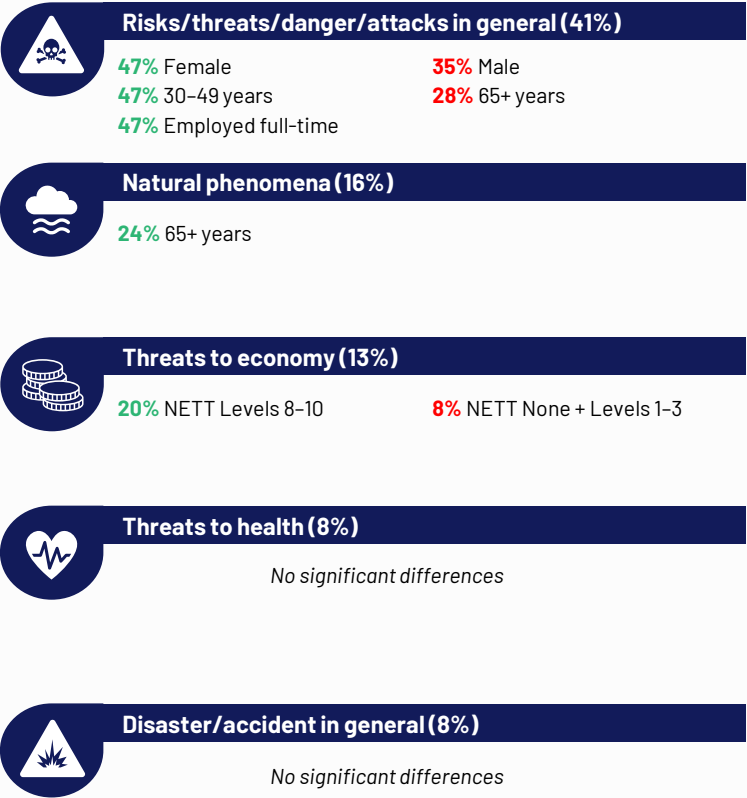
Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Differences in how groups view 'national risk'



Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences

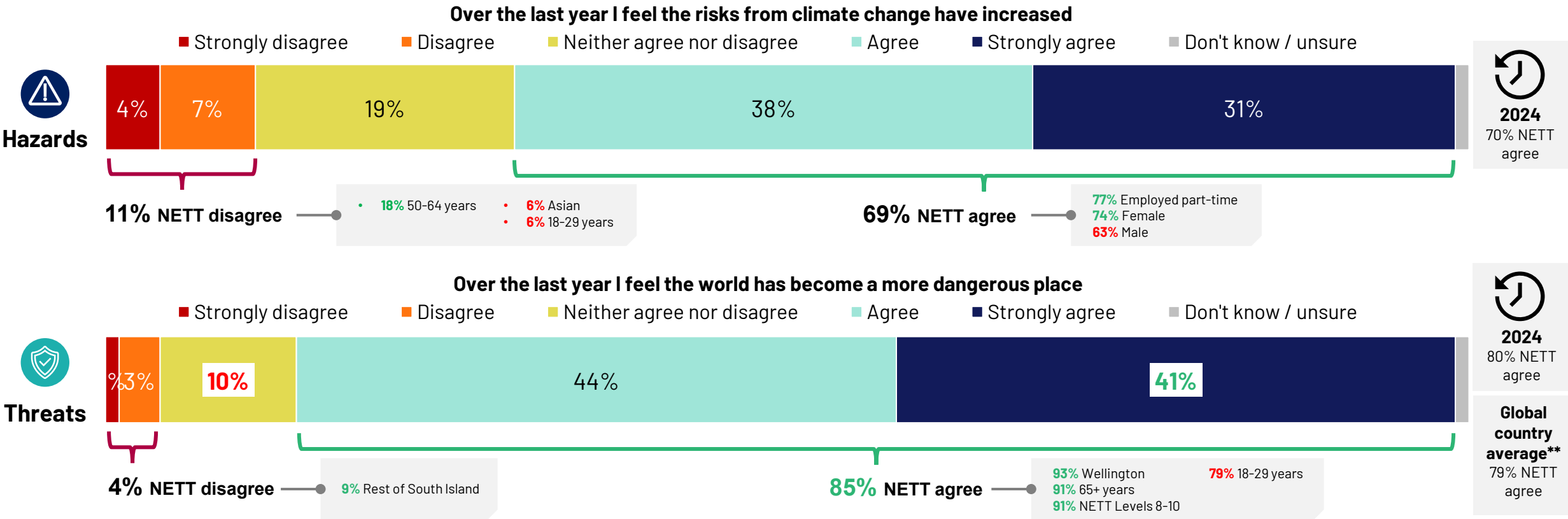


Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

08h: When you see the term 'National Risk', what comes to mind?
Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).



The majority of New Zealanders (69%) agree that climate change risks have increased over the past year, while a larger proportion (85%) believe the world has become more dangerous during the same period.



Q20h: Thinking again about all the significant hazards we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? / Q20: Thinking again about all the threats we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: Total sample - 2026 (Hazards track n=1,000, Threats track n=1,000)

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Full survey wording for 'national security threats'



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PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

Respondents' views were sought on these 18 potential threats throughout the survey. The wording of each has been shortened to the bold text in the charts & tables that follow. The full wording used in the survey is as below:

- **Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ:** A terrorist attack or act of violent extremism taking place in New Zealand.
- **Violent conflict between groups in NZ:** A violent conflict breaking out between groups with different views in New Zealand.
- **NZ involved in armed conflict with another country:** New Zealand being involved in an armed conflict with another nation.
- **Personal safety/security of self/family violated:** The personal safety and security for you or your family members being violated.
- **Hacking into information systems:** Some person, organisation, or country hacking into either a public, private, or personal information system for criminal or espionage purposes.
- **Breach of NZ borders:** A breach of New Zealand's borders (including land, ocean, and/or airspace).
- **Disinformation*:** The spread of disinformation (deliberately sharing false information to mislead or cause harm) in New Zealand (e.g. about elections, armed conflict, climate change).
- **Organised crime between NZ & another country:** Organised crime (such as the illegal movement of money, drugs, or people) happening between New Zealand and another country.
- **Emerging technology:** New Zealand's and/or New Zealanders' security being affected by emerging technology (e.g. artificial intelligence, deep fakes, autonomous weapons).
- **Other countries interfering in NZ affairs:** Other country/ countries interfering in New Zealand's affairs (e.g. interference in general elections or relationships with other countries).
- **Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack:** Disruption of New Zealand's critical infrastructure (e.g. water, transport, energy, telecommunications) due to a malicious attack (e.g. cyber attack on transport system).
- **Foreign country/actor coercing NZ to act against its interests:** A foreign country or actor coercing New Zealand to act against its interests (e.g. by threatening an attack or to cut off trade links).
- **Nuclear/biological/chemical attack:** A nuclear, biological, or chemical attack taking place somewhere in the world.
- **Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific:** Other country/countries threatening New Zealand interests in the Pacific region (e.g. establishing a foreign military base).
- **Breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions:** A breakdown in access to critical goods and services caused by rising tensions between countries (e.g. through restrictions on trade or other penalties).
- **Increasing competition between countries:** Increasing competition between countries that negatively impacts how New Zealand protects its interests internationally and that may lead to military conflict.
- **Disruption of space assets**:** An attack on assets in space that New Zealanders use every day, like GPS or satellite internet.
- **Major maritime security incidents**:** Illegal or unauthorised activity in New Zealand waters by a country, company, or group – such as entering our waters without permission or taking resources like fish or minerals.

Some of this wording has changed over time – changes are set out on the next page.

**Note: In 2023, misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impact on how respondents interpret and answer the question.*

***Note: New threat added in 2026.*

Full survey wording for 'significant hazards'



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PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

Respondents' views were sought on 14 potential hazards throughout the survey. The wording of each has been shortened to the bold text in the charts & tables that follow. The full wording used in the survey is as below:

- **Health epidemics***: Another major health epidemic breaking out in New Zealand.
- **Natural disasters**: A major natural disaster occurring in New Zealand.
- **Earthquakes**: A major earthquake resulting in strong and violent ground shaking in New Zealand.
- **Tsunamis**: 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 eruption) in New Zealand.
- **Droughts**: An extended period of drought (unusually dry weather conditions or below normal rainfall) in New Zealand.
- **Wildfires**: An uncontrolled wildfire in a rural or urban environment in New Zealand.
- **Disruptions 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.
- **Pest & disease outbreaks**: An outbreak of agricultural or environmental pests and diseases (e.g. an outbreak of fruit-flies) in New Zealand.
- **Severe weather & flooding events**: A severe weather event (e.g. strong winds, heavy rain, snow, landslides, and/or flooding) in New Zealand.
- **Financial crises**: A financial crisis (e.g. failure of a major bank, insurer, or stock market) causing disruption to New Zealand's financial system.
- **Space weather events**: A space weather event that causes disruption or damage to New Zealand's information and communications, power grids, and/or global navigation systems.
- **Accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s)****: An accidental release of radioactive materials routinely used in medicine and industry purposes in New Zealand.

**Some of this wording has changed over time
– changes are set out on the next page.**

***Note:** Another major health epidemic breaking out in New Zealand was displayed as **communicable disease outbreaks** for the deep-dive section.

****Note:** In 2026, unplanned/uncontrolled accidental release/spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s); as such, 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024.



Wording changes made in 2026

- In 2026, The wording of *Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material* (as in the 2024 survey) was **changed** to *Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s)*. The accompanying description was also **reworded** from “An unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (e.g. corrosive, explosive, toxic or radioactive material) in New Zealand” to “An accidental release of radioactive materials routinely used in medicine and industry purposes in New Zealand.”
 - Consequently 2026 data for the spill hazard cannot be directly compared to 2024

Wording changes made in 2024

- ‘*Another major health epidemic breaking out in New Zealand*’ and ‘*A major natural disaster occurring in New Zealand*’ were **moved** from the list of *national security threats* asked to the respondents in the *threats track* of the survey, and were re-classified as *significant hazards* which were then asked of the respondents who answer the *hazards track*.
- An **additional answer option** ‘*Information on the full range of threats and significant hazards facing New Zealand*’ was added to the question, ‘*Which of the following threats are you interested in knowing more about?*’
- 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?*’ were **removed**.



Wording changes made in 2026

- In 2026, *Disinformation* updated its examples from “vaccines, elections, climate change” to “elections, armed conflict, climate change.”
- 2 new threats were added in 2026:
 - *Disruption of space assets* was added to the answer options with the following description: *An attack on assets in space that New Zealanders use every day, like GPS or satellite internet.*
 - *Major maritime security incidents* was added to the answer options, with the following description: *Illegal or unauthorised activity in New Zealand waters by a country, company, or group—such as entering our waters without permission or taking resources like fish or minerals.*

Wording changes made in 2024

- *Breakdown in national infrastructure due to an attack* (as included in the 2023 survey) was changed to *disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack*. The accompanying description changed from ‘A breakdown in critical national infrastructure due to a malicious attack (e.g. cyber attack on transport system)’ to ‘*Disruption of New Zealand’s critical infrastructure (e.g. water, transport, energy telecommunications) due to a malicious attack (e.g. cyber attack on transport system)*’ to improve clarity.
- ‘*Artificial intelligence*’ was added to the examples, in the description of *Emerging technology*.

Wording changes made in 2023

- *Misinformation* (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to *disinformation*. This shift has potential impacts on how respondents interpret and respond to the question. This may impact the comparability of results up to 2022 to later years (2023 and beyond).

Top 10 Threats and Hazards: Most likely in the next 12 months



The top-5 most commonly perceived threats and hazards remain unchanged compared to the 2024 survey. Hazards comprise the top-3 concerns, namely: *severe weather, earthquakes, and natural disasters*.

Among the top-10 events New Zealanders perceive as most likely to occur in the next 12 months, 6 are threats. *Breakdown in access to goods / services due to rising tensions* has jumped 9 positions to enter the top 10.

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

2026 rank		2024 rank	2026 rank		2024 rank
1	Severe weather and flooding events	#1	6	Disinformation*	=5
2	Earthquakes	#2	7	Emerging technology	#8
=3	Natural disasters	#3	8	Nuclear / biological / chemical attack somewhere in the world	#10
=3	Organised crime between NZ & another country	#4	9	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure	#11
5	Hacking into information systems	=5	10	Breakdown in access to goods / services due to rising tensions	#19

● National security threat ● Significant hazard

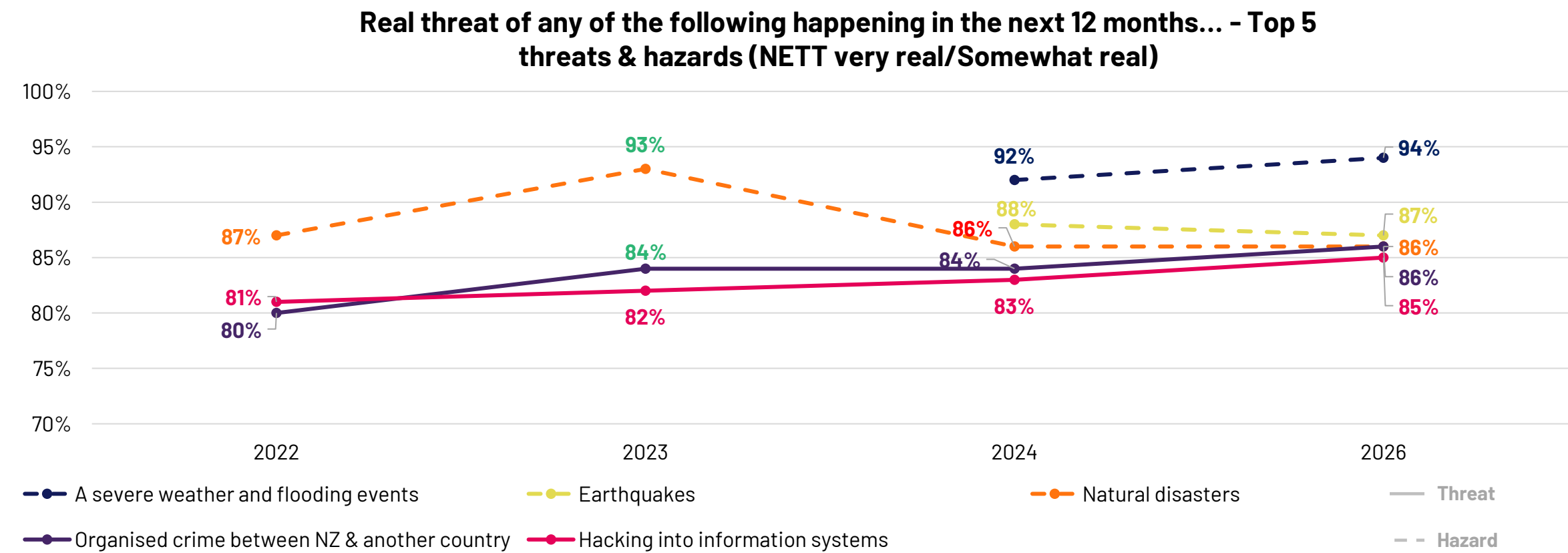
Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?

Base: Total sample – 2026 (Hazards track n=1,000, Threats track n=1,000) *Note: In 2023, Misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation.

Top 5 threats & hazards: Trends over time

The perceived threats of *Organised crime between NZ & another country* and *Hacking into information systems* has continued to trend upward over time as ‘very real’ or ‘somewhat real’ threats.

Concern for the 3 hazards – *Severe weather and flooding events*, *Earthquakes* and *Natural disasters* – has remained relatively stable compared to 2024.



Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=2,000), 2024 (n=2,350), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). Note: Threats & Hazards were presented ‘one at a time’ on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias.

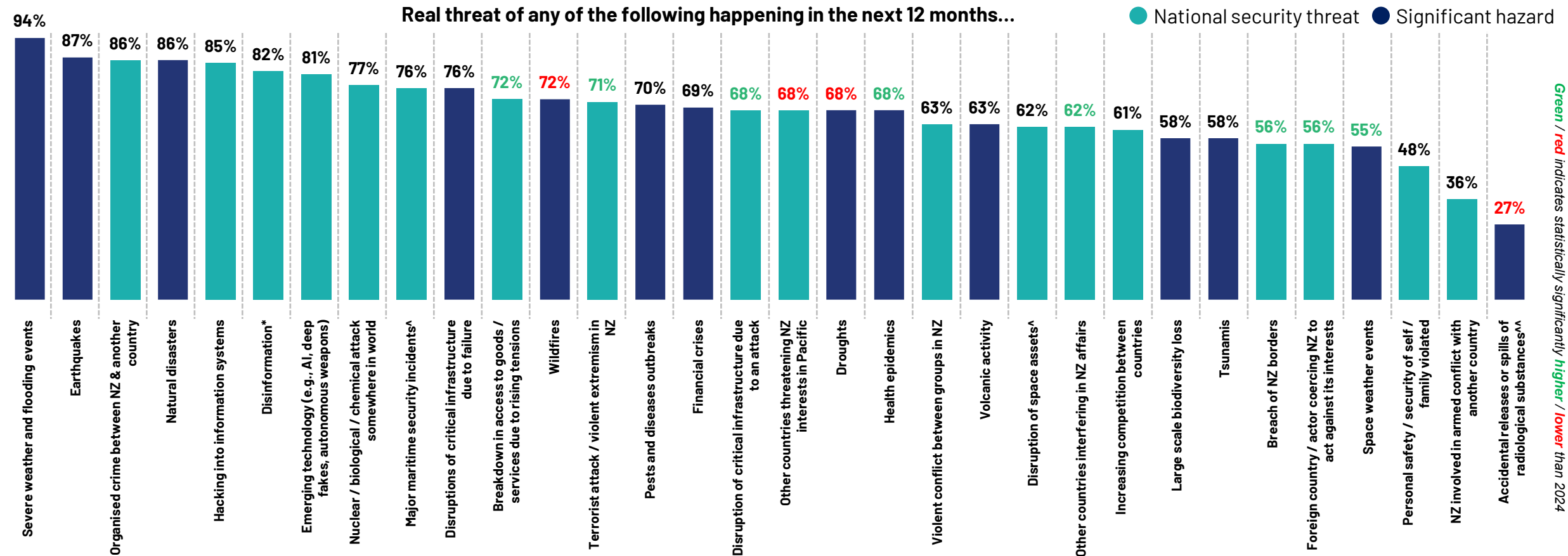
Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the previous wave

All threats & hazards (next 12 months) : Ranking and comparison



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At least one in two New Zealanders perceive a 'somewhat real' or 'very real' threat for 29 of the 32 threats and hazards surveyed. They are most concerned about *Severe weather and flooding events, Earthquakes, Organised crime between NZ & another country, and Natural disasters.*



Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?

Base: Total sample - 2026 (Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000). **Note:** Threats & Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. **^^Note:** In 2026, Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s), consequently 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024.

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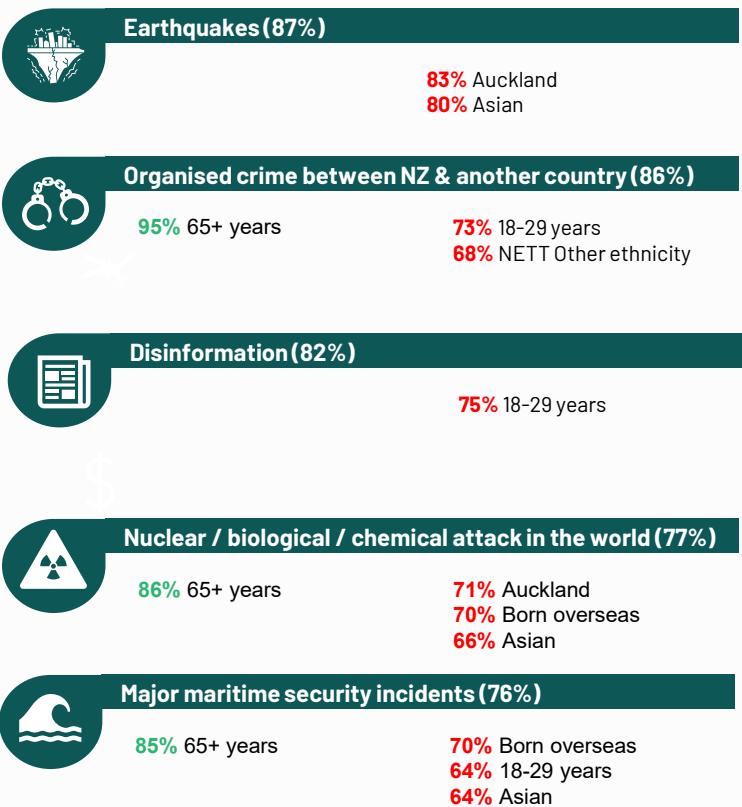
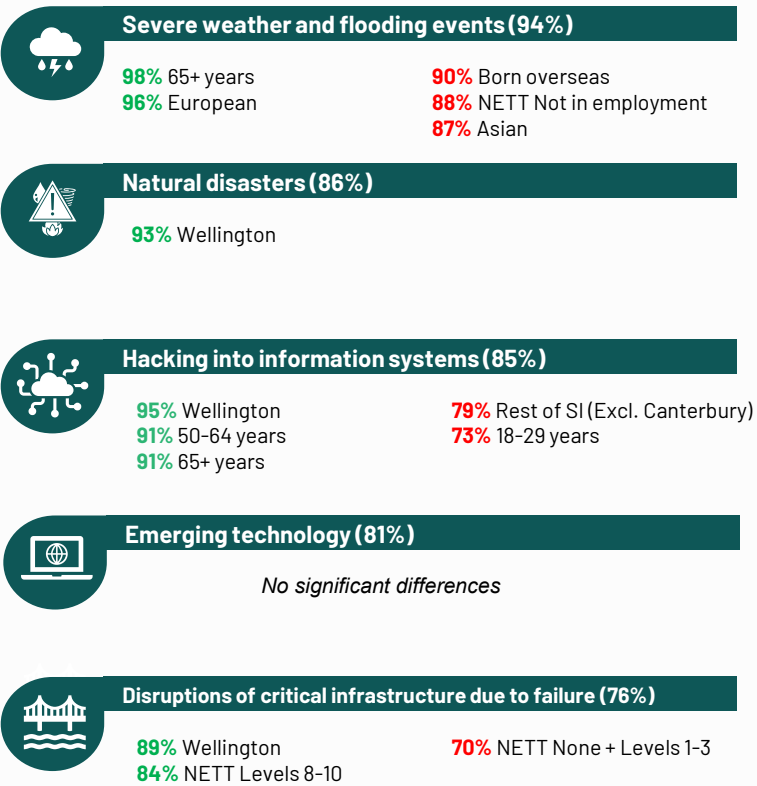
Figures represent top-2 box (% somewhat real + very real threat)

Differences in how groups view likelihood (I)



Statistically significant differences

Demographic Differences [Top-2 Box: % Somewhat real + Very real threat]



Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total

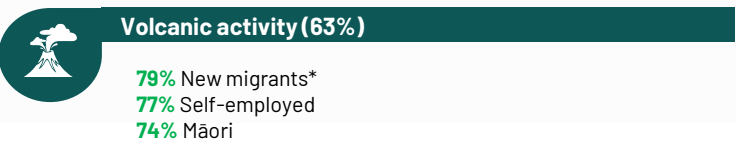
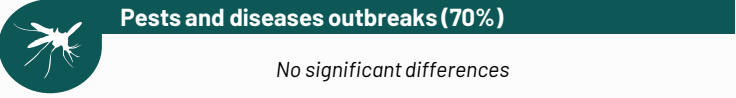
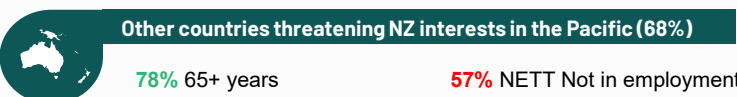
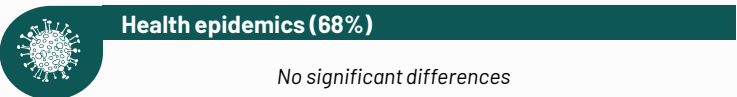
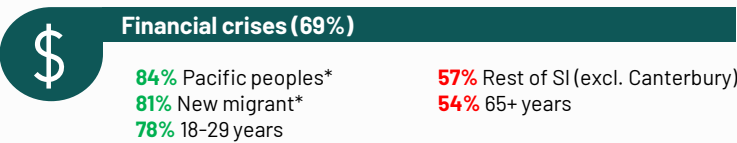
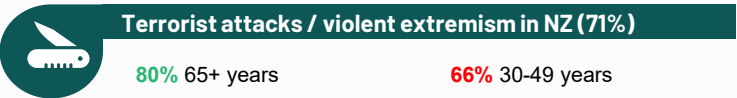
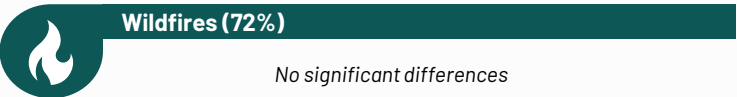
Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?
Base: Total sample - 2026(Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000). *Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50≤n<100).

Differences in how groups view likelihood (II)



Statistically significant differences

Demographic Differences [Top-2 Box: % Somewhat real + Very real threat]



Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total

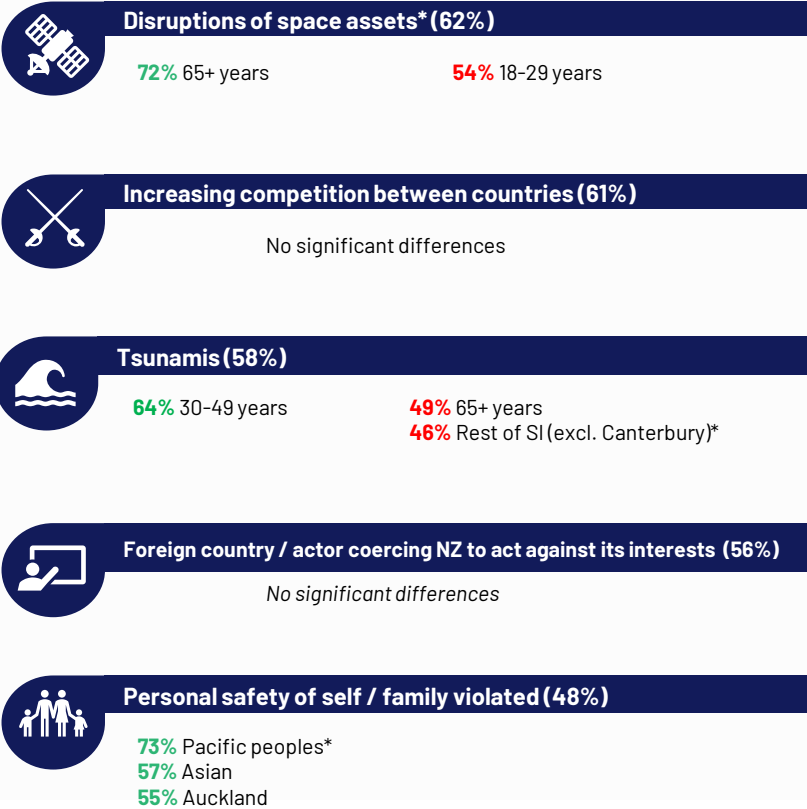
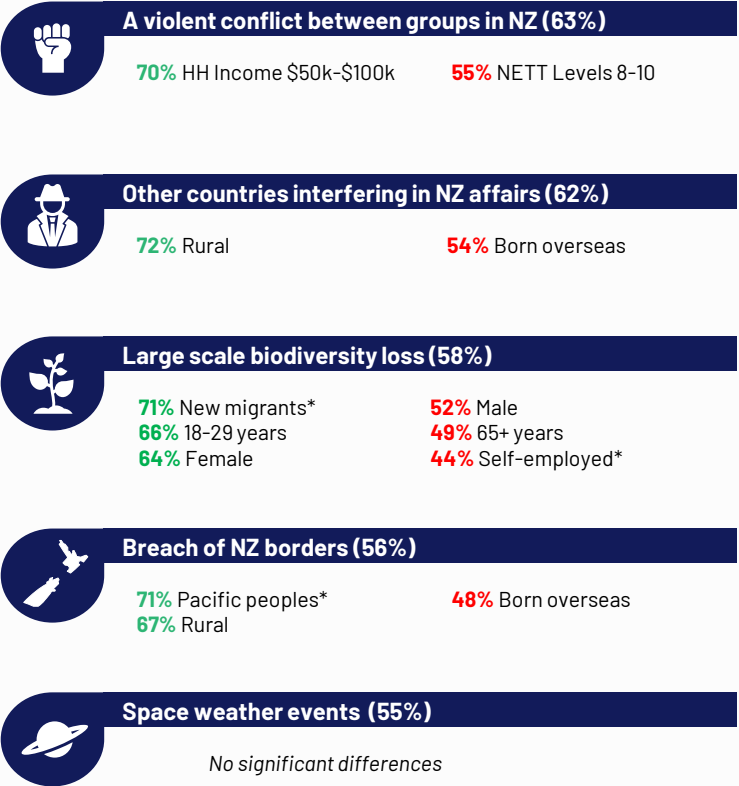
Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?
Base: Total sample - 2026(Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000)..*Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50≤n<100).

Differences in how groups view likelihood (III)



Statistically significant differences

Demographic Differences [Top-2 Box: % Somewhat real + Very real threat]



Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total

Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?
Base: Total sample - 2026(Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000). *Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50≤n<100).
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Statistically significant differences

Demographic Differences [Top-2 Box: % Somewhat real + Very real threat]



NZ involved in armed conflict with another country (39%)

No significant differences



Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s) (27%)

42% Asian
34% 18-29 years

20% European
17% 65+ years
16% Rest of SI (excl. Canterbury)*



Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total

Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months?
Base: Total sample - 2026(Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000)..*Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50≤n <100).
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Top-3 reasons for rating as a 'Very real threat'



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Severe weather & flooding (n=285)	Earthquake (n=161)	Natural disaster (n=158)	Organised crime between NZ & another country (n=96*)	Hacking into information systems (n=85*)	Disinformation (n=94*)	Emerging technology security threats (n=76*)	Nuclear / biological / chemical attacks (n=84*)
Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (67%)	Geography (52%)	Natural phenomena (55%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (64%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (71%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (48%)	Technological advances (66%)	Growing tension overseas (42%)
Natural phenomena (44%)	Natural phenomena (40%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (32%)	Rise in criminal activities (49%)	Cyber crimes & attacks (51%)	Rise in scaremongering / distorted uninformed views (44%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (27%)	Current global events (20%)
Climate change (26%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (26%)	Geography (31%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (11%)	Current global events (9%)	Use of social media / online platforms (29%)	Cyber crimes (23%)	Armed conflict overseas (20%)
Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure (n=106)	Major maritime security incidents (n=77*)	Wildfire (n=77*)	A breakdown in access to critical goods / services (n=77*)	Terrorist attacks / acts of violent extremism (n=74*)	Pests & diseases (n=62*)	Financial crisis (n=76*)	Drought (n=69*)
Failing infrastructure (53%)	Rise in criminal activity (31%)	Natural phenomena (43%)	US administration (36%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (51%)	Pests & insects can damage vegetation (27%)	Economy (57%)	Natural phenomena (49%)
Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (40%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (28%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (28%)	Growing tensions overseas (25%)	Extreme fringe groups (17%)	Biosecurity (27%)	Local and national government (16%)	Climate change (36%)
Natural phenomena (25%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (26%)	Climate change (17%)	Dependent on trade with other countries (25%)	NZ is vulnerable / small / easy target (16%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (21%)	Foreign interference (16%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (21%)

Q10: And why do you think there is a very real threat 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?

Base: Those who answered 'very real threat' at Q9/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-3 reasons for rating as a 'Very real threat'



Health epidemic (n=71*)	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to an attack (n=74*)	Threats to New Zealand's interests in the Pacific (n=73*)	Volcanic activity (n=60*)	A violent conflict between groups (n=72*)	Disruptions of space assets (n=71*)	Foreign interference in New Zealand's affairs (n=74*)	Increasing competition between countries that negatively impact New Zealand (n=70*)
Emergence of / exposure to other diseases (42%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (49%)	Foreign activity in the Pacific (58%)	Geography (62%)	Extreme fringe groups (30%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (23%)	Foreign interference & coercion (49%)	Growing tensions overseas (26%)
Complacency (16%)	Cyber crimes & attacks (43%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (44%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (19%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (23%)	It is a global issue (15%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (25%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (24%)
Residual effects of COVID (15%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (35%)	Foreign interference & coercion (8%)	Anything is possible / unpredictable (15%)	Issues with NZ government (16%)	Cyber crimes & attacks (15%)	NZ is small & vulnerable to attacks (20%)	US administration (20%)
Large-scale biodiversity loss (n=66*)	Tsunami (n=46**)	Breaches of New Zealand's borders (n=70*)	Foreign countries or actors coercing New Zealand to act against its interests (n=73*)	Space weather (n=32**)	Threats to personal safety and security (n=69*)	Armed conflicts with other nations (n=68*)	Unplanned / uncontrolled accidental release / spill of hazardous material (n=27**)
Damage to ecosystem (53%)	Geography (46%)	Rise in criminal activities (29%)	US Administration (41%)	Anything is possible / unpredictable (25%)	Rise in criminal activities (24%)	Growing tensions overseas (42%)	Damage to lives / homes (16%)
Climate change (18%)	Natural phenomena (28%)	Issues with border control (25%)	Foreign interference & coercion (38%)	Atmospheric activity (24%)	General threat exists (21%)	Current global events (18%)	Public health / safety (16%)
Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (17%)	Damage to lives / homes (13%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (18%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (20%)	Failing infrastructure (22%)	Cyber crimes & attacks (14%)	Armed conflict overseas (15%)	Damage to ecosystem (9%)

Q10: And why do you think there is a very real threat 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?

Base: Those who answered 'very real threat' at Q9/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).

Longer term threats & hazards: Top 10 likely in the next 10 years



The top-3 perceived threats and hazards over the next 10 years match the top-3 short term concerns – these are **Severe weather and flooding events**, **Natural disasters** and **Earthquakes**. **Major maritime incidents**, a new threat added to the survey in 2026, is included within the top-10 most likely threats and hazards.

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

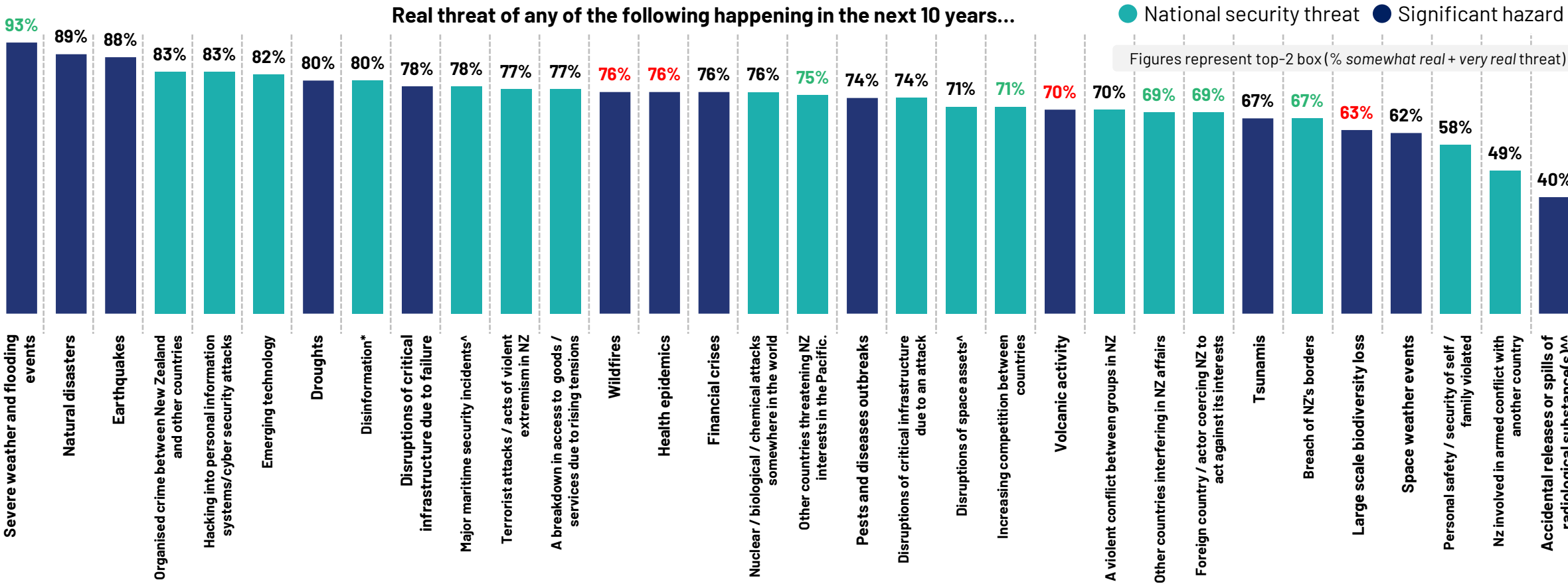
2026 rank		2024 rank	2026 rank		2024 rank
1	Severe weather and flooding events	#1=	6	Emerging technology	#9
2	Natural disasters	#3	7=	Droughts	#4=
3	Earthquakes	#1=	7=	Disinformation*	#7=
4=	Organised crime between New Zealand and other countries	#7=	9=	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure	#12
4=	Hacking into personal information systems/cyber security attacks	#6	9=	Major maritime security incidents^	-

● National security threat ● Significant hazard

Q17: Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening 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 – 2026 (Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000), **Note:** Threats & Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. ***Note:** In 2023, Misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impacts on how respondents interpret and respond to the question. **^Note:** Threats added in 2026 **^^Note:** In 2026, Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s). consequently 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024.

All threats & hazards (next 10 years) : Ranking and comparison

Compared to 2024, long term concern for most threats and hazards has held steady, however, significantly more New Zealanders have become concerned about 5 of the threats and less so about 4 of the hazards. Concern for Severe weather and flooding events has also seen a significant increase.



Q17: Thinking now about the future, how real do you fee the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years? / Q17h: Thinking now about the future, how real do you fee the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?
Base: Total sample - 2026 (Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000). Note: Threats & Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. *Note: In 2023, Misinformation (as included in the 2022 survey) was changed to disinformation. This shift has potential impacts on how respondents interpret and respond to the question. ^Note: Threats added in 2026 ^^Note: In 2026, Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s). consequently 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024.

Short term vs long term hazards: Top 5 comparison



The top-5 threats and hazards for short term (12 months) and long term (10 years) are near identical. *Severe weather and flooding events* is considered the #1 most likely for both. *Earthquakes* and *Natural disasters* round out the top-3 for both timeframes, though *Earthquakes* are seen as a more likely hazard in the short term. *Organised crime between New Zealand and other countries* and *Hacking into information systems* also remain top-5 concerns in both the short and long term.

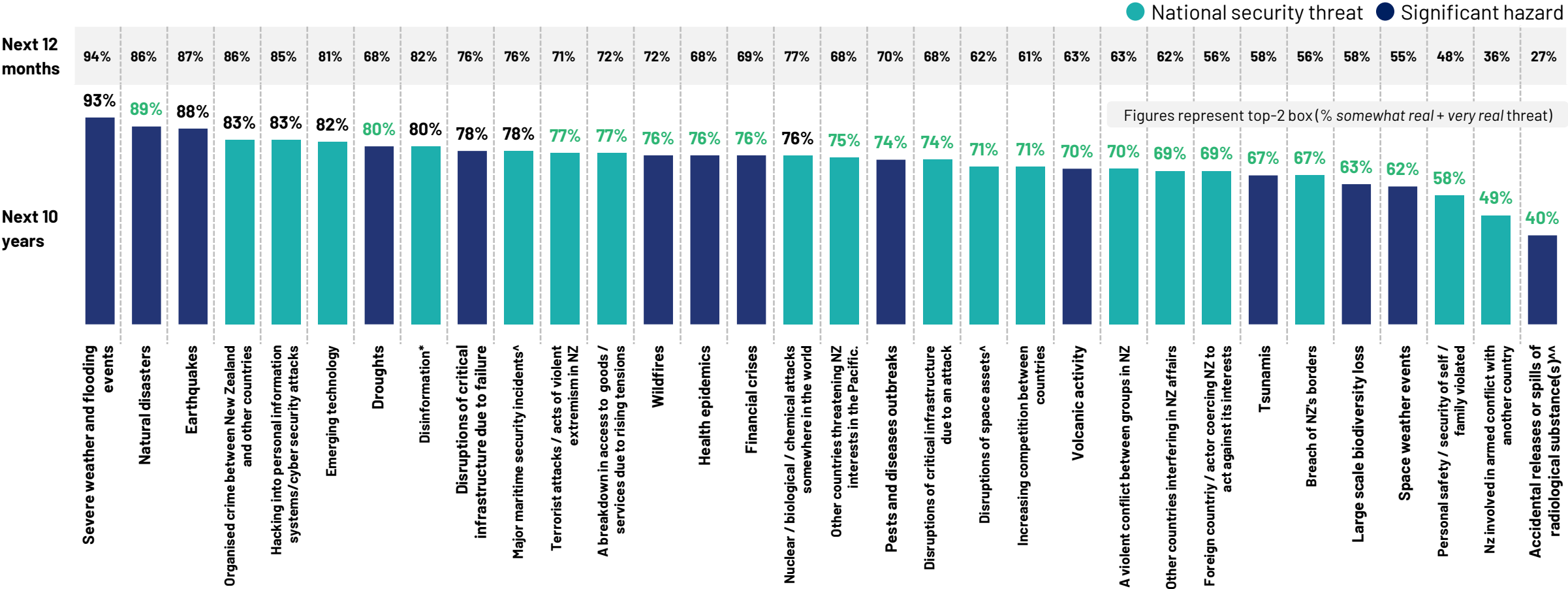
Real threat of any of the following happening in the next 12 months / 10 years...		
Position	Next 12 months	Next 10 years
1	Severe weather and flooding events	Severe weather and flooding events
2	Earthquakes	Natural disasters
3	Natural disasters	Earthquakes
=		
4	Organised crime between NZ & another country	Organised crime between New Zealand and other countries
=		
5	Hacking into information systems	Hacking into information systems

Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / **Q9h:** How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / **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 - 2026 (Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000). **Note:** Threats & Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias.
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All threats & hazards: Comparing short and long term ranking



Most threats and hazards are seen as more likely to occur in the long term (the next 10 years) compared to the short term (the next 12 months).



Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than 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 - 2026 (n=1,000). Note: Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. ^^Note: In 2026, Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s).



ROLES & RESOURCES

FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING THREATS & THREATS:

- **EARTHQUAKES**
- **VOLCANIC ACTIVITY**
- **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTBREAK****
- **OTHER COUNTRIES THREATENING NEW ZEALAND'S INTERESTS IN THE PACIFIC**
- **MAJOR MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENT**
- **BREAKDOWN IN ACCESS TO GOOD AND SERVICES DUE TO RISING TENSIONS**



Key Findings (I)

- To understand views on the perceived **roles** of different groups in responding to hazards, we asked about three hazards and three threats in more detail:
 - Hazards: *Earthquakes, Volcanic activity and Communicable disease outbreak.*
 - Threats: *Threats to New Zealand's interests in the Pacific, A major maritime security incident and A breakdown in access to goods / services.*

Each survey respondent was asked at random about one of these.

- The majority of people consider *the government* and its *agencies* have the most **responsibility** to protect New Zealand against these threats and hazards, with little variation in proportion (NZ govt: 83%-90%, Government agencies: 78%-84%). *Local governments* are also seen as being responsible for 3 of the events - *A major maritime incident, Earthquakes and Volcanic activity.*
- Perceptions of who is *resourced to act* largely mirror perceptions of responsibility. The NZ Government and its agencies are consistently seen as the most equipped to respond to all six deep-dive threats and hazards.
- However, there is a disconnect when it comes to a communicable disease outbreak. – While a majority perceive the NZ public as being *responsible* (73%), only 28% believe they are well-*resourced* to respond.





Key Findings (II)

- The reasons for perceived threat level for the deep dive events align with overall perceptions, differing between the threats and hazards.
 - Concern for natural hazards is rooted in tangible, local factors; for instance, anxiety about Volcanic activity is primarily driven by New Zealand's geography (62%), and concern for Earthquakes is linked to both geography (52%) and direct past experience (26%).
 - Top reasons for the threats are driven by external dynamics, with concern over a Threat to NZ's interests in the Pacific attributed to foreign activity in the region (58%) and a Breakdown in access to goods/services linked to rising overseas tensions (25%) and the actions of foreign governments (36%).



Summary of perceived responsibility to protect against...



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The NZ government and government agencies are seen as having the greatest share of responsibility across all the 6 threats and hazards surveyed in the deep dive. The local government is also seen as being responsible for protecting against A major maritime incident, Earthquakes and Volcanic activity.

	NZ government	NZ government agencies	NZ local government	NZ businesses	NZ communities	NZ individuals	NZ's foreign partners	Overseas businesses	Global organisations
 Threat to NZ's interest in the Pacific (n=334)	83%	78%	38%	29%	32%	27%	53%	23%	56%
 A major maritime incident^ (n=334)	87%	83%	52%	29%	32%	27%	45%	24%	41%
 Breakdown in access to good / services due to rising tensions (n=332)	85%	79%	47%	38%	33%	28%	58%	31%	56%
 Earthquakes (n=334)	85%	79%	78%	37%	59%	52%	21%	14%	30%
 Volcanic activity (n=333)	83%	79%	74%	30%	47%	39%	17%	10%	29%
 A Communicable disease outbreak (n=333)	90%	84%	72%	45%	71%	73%	45%	30%	61%

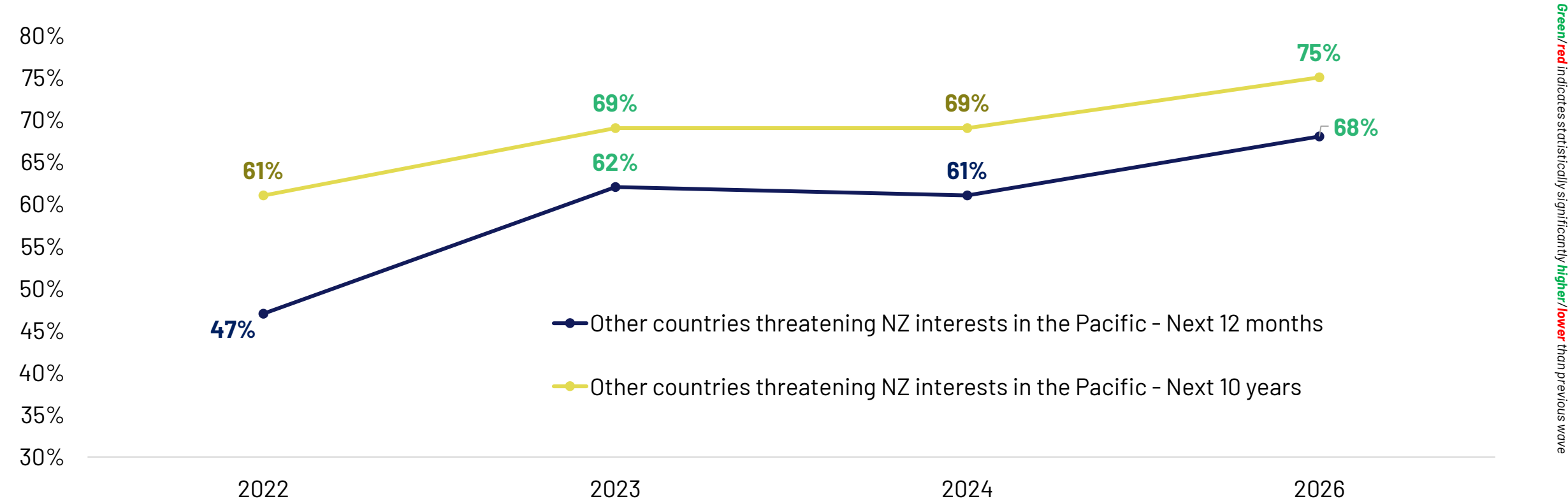
 Threat
 Hazard
 Ranked 1st
 Ranked 2nd
 Ranked 3rd

Q25: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to ... / **Q25h:** How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to ...

Base: Respondents asked about a threat to NZ's interests in the Pacific (n=334), Respondents asked about a major maritime security incident (n=334), Respondents asked about breakdown in access to goods / service (n=332), Respondents asked about earthquakes (n=334), Respondents asked about volcanic activity (n=333), Respondents asked about communicable disease outbreak (n=333).



Concern regarding *threats to NZ interests in the Pacific* has been increasing over time, with 3 in 4 (75%) perceiving this as a real threat in the next 10 years & 68% seeing it as a ‘real/very real’ threat in the next 12 months. Both figures have increased significantly since 2024.



09: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months? / 017: Thinking now about the future, how real do you fee the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?

Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148)

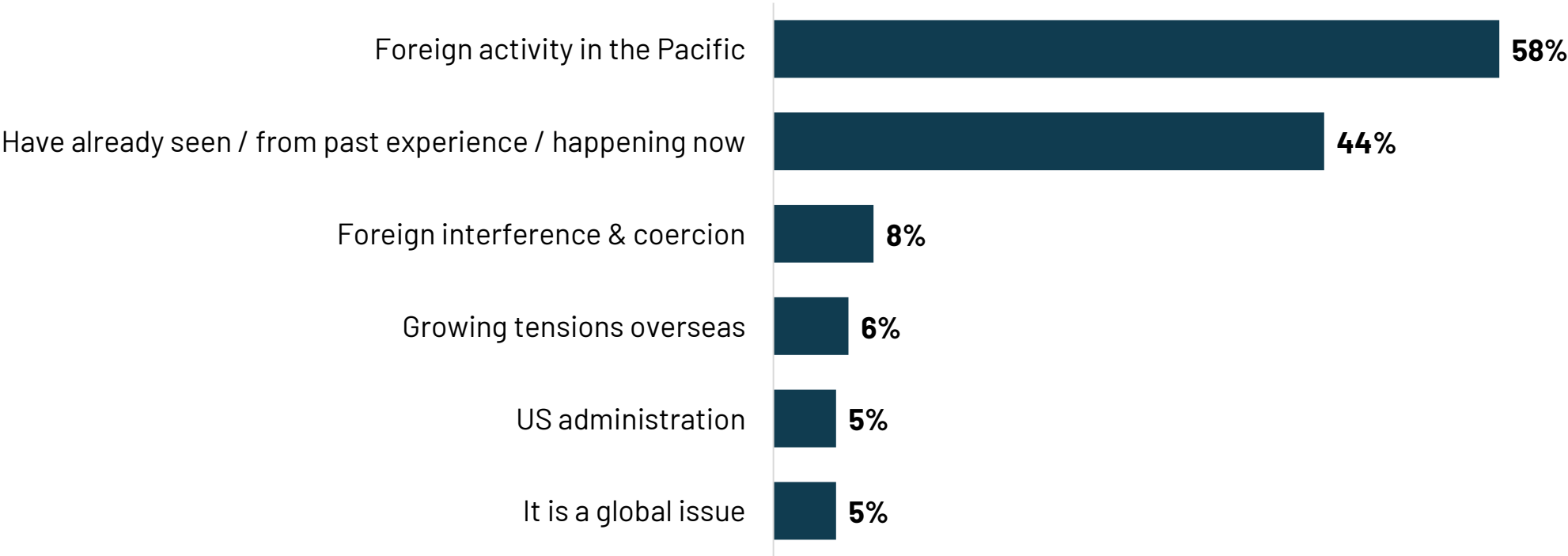
Threats to NZ interests in the Pacific: Why a ‘very real threat’



New Zealanders are primarily concerned about *other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific due to current & past foreign activity in the area.*



Reasons for a very real threat to NZ interests in the Pacific in the next 12 months



Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than 2024.

Q10: And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Those who answered that other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific is a ‘very real threat’ (n=73*). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific 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).

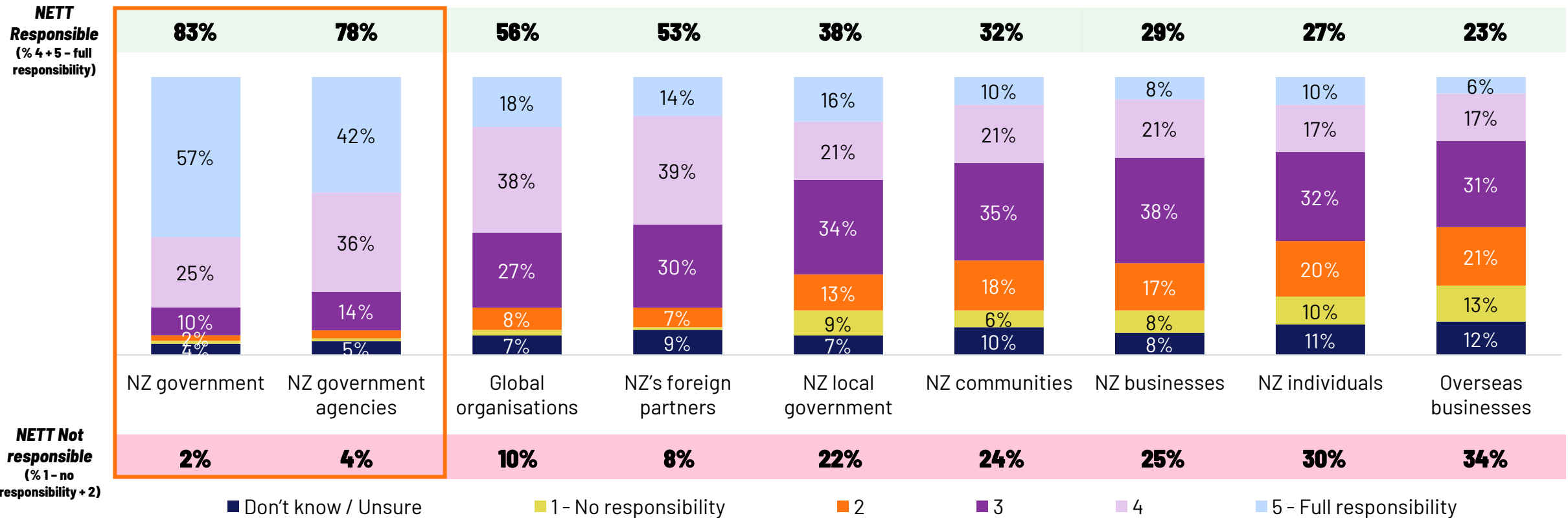
Role to protect against: Threats to NZ interests in the Pacific



The responsibility for protecting NZ & responding to other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific is viewed as primarily belonging to the *NZ government & its agencies*. More than half would like to see *global organisations & NZ’s foreign partners* having some responsibility too.



How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect NZ and respond to other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific?



Q25: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond a threat to New Zealand’s interests in the Pacific?

Base: Respondents asked about other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (n=334). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+ /- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

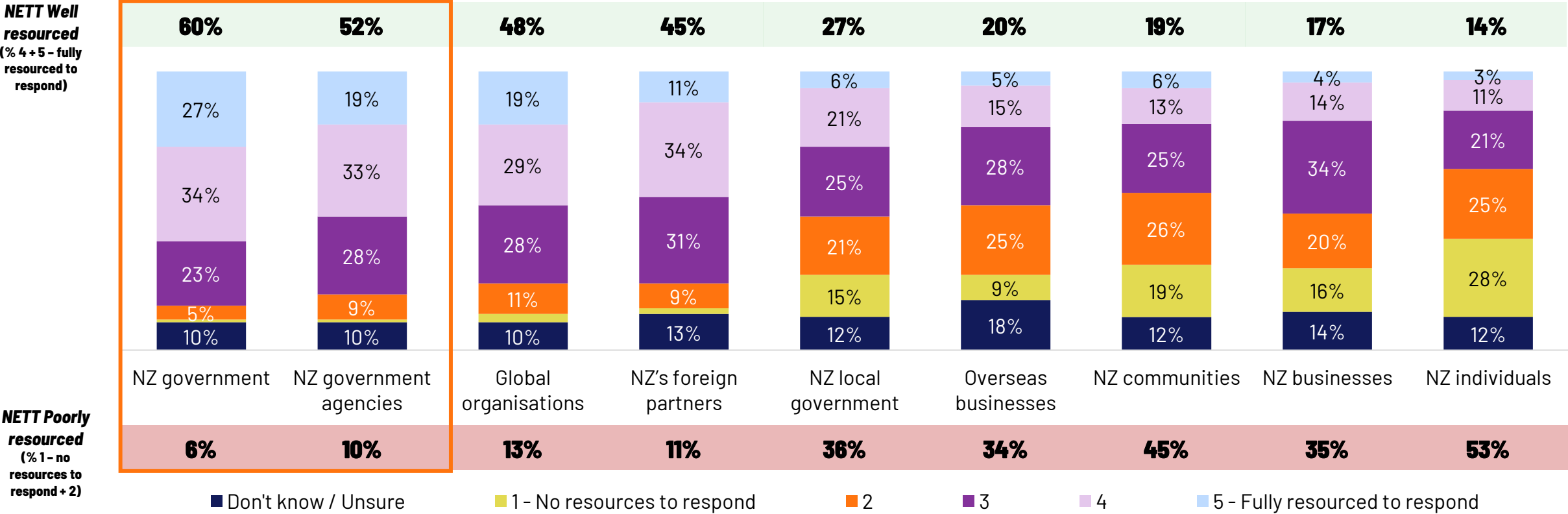
Tools & resources to protect against: Threats to NZ interests in the Pacific



The government is viewed as the most resourced to respond to other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific. NZ communities, businesses & individuals are seen as the least resourced.



Who has the tool and resources to protect NZ and respond to other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific?

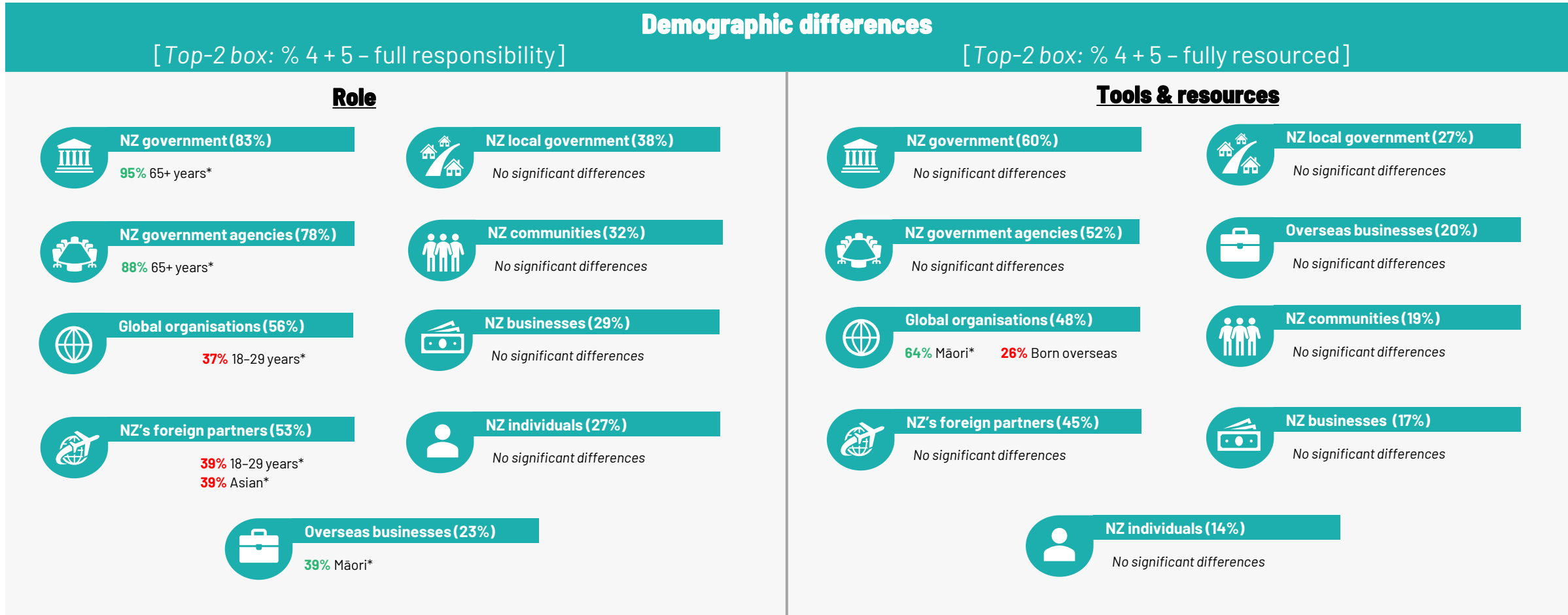


Q26: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a threat to New Zealand's interests in the Pacific?

Base: Respondents asked about other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (n=334). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



Statistically significant differences

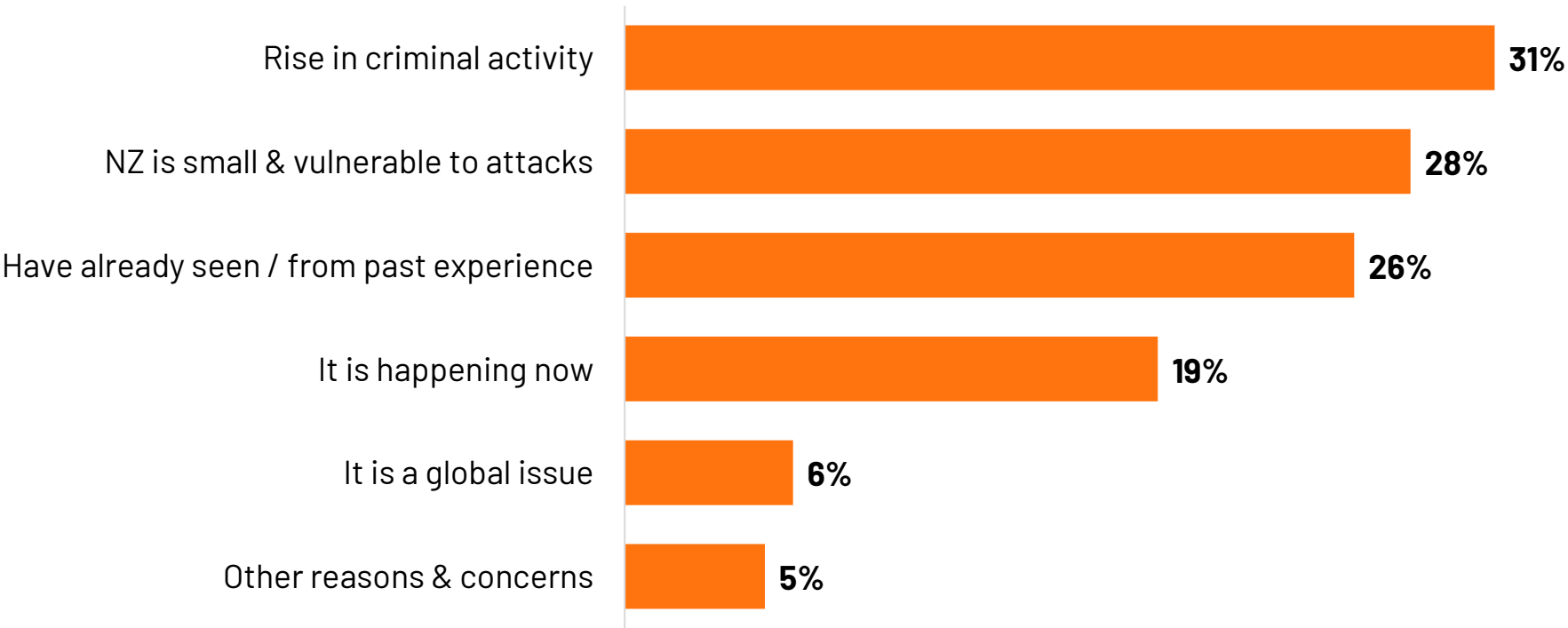


Major maritime security incidents: Why a 'very real threat'

New Zealanders are concerned about major maritime security incidents mainly due to a *rise in illegal criminal activity, past experience, as well as New Zealand being a small country & more vulnerable to attacks.*



Reasons for a very real threat of *major maritime security incidents* happening in the next 12 months

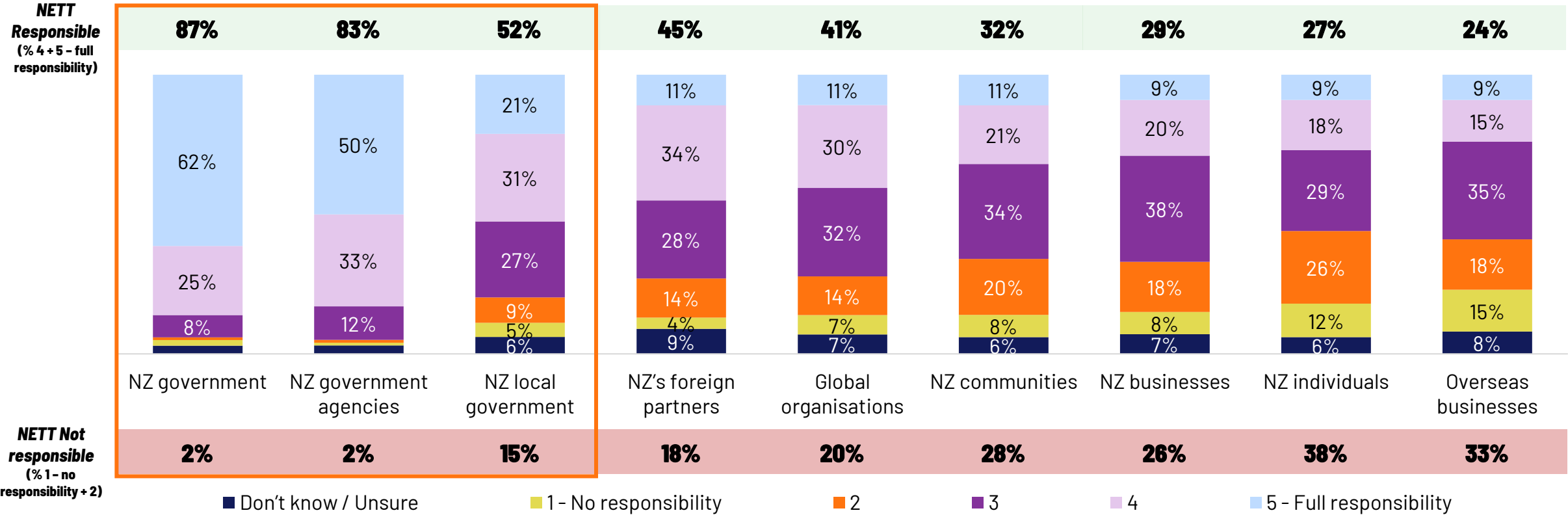


Q10: And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Those who answered that major maritime security incidents is a 'very real threat' (n=77*). **Note 1:** These are the top % reasons why a major maritime security incident is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% not shown. **Note 2:** New threat added in 2026. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

The central government & (to a lesser extent) the local government are seen to be the most responsible for protecting New Zealand against a major maritime security incident. Close to half (45%) also allocate some responsibility to NZ’s foreign partners.



How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect NZ and respond to major maritime security incidents?



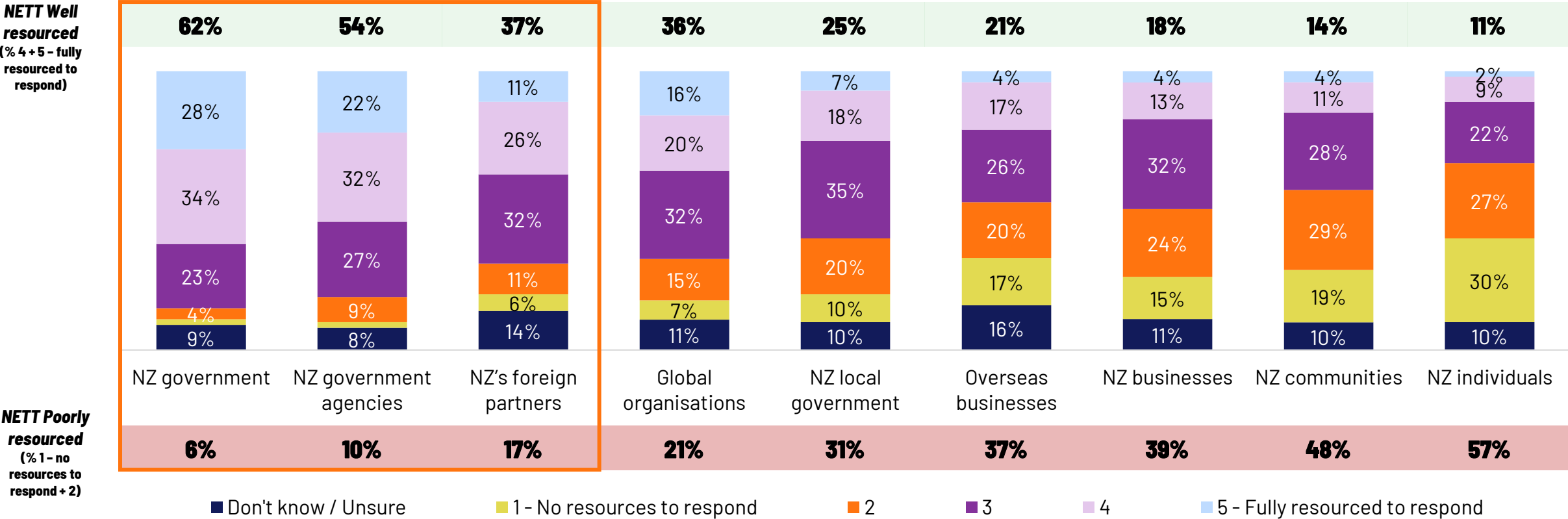
Q25: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to a major maritime security incident?
Base: Respondents asked about major maritime security incidents (n=334). Note 1: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results. Note 2: New threat added in 2026.

Tools & resources to protect against: Major maritime security incidents

In terms of resourcing to respond to major maritime security incidents, the *government & its agencies* are seen as the best placed to do so. Only 25% perceive *local government* as having the tools & resources to protect against this.



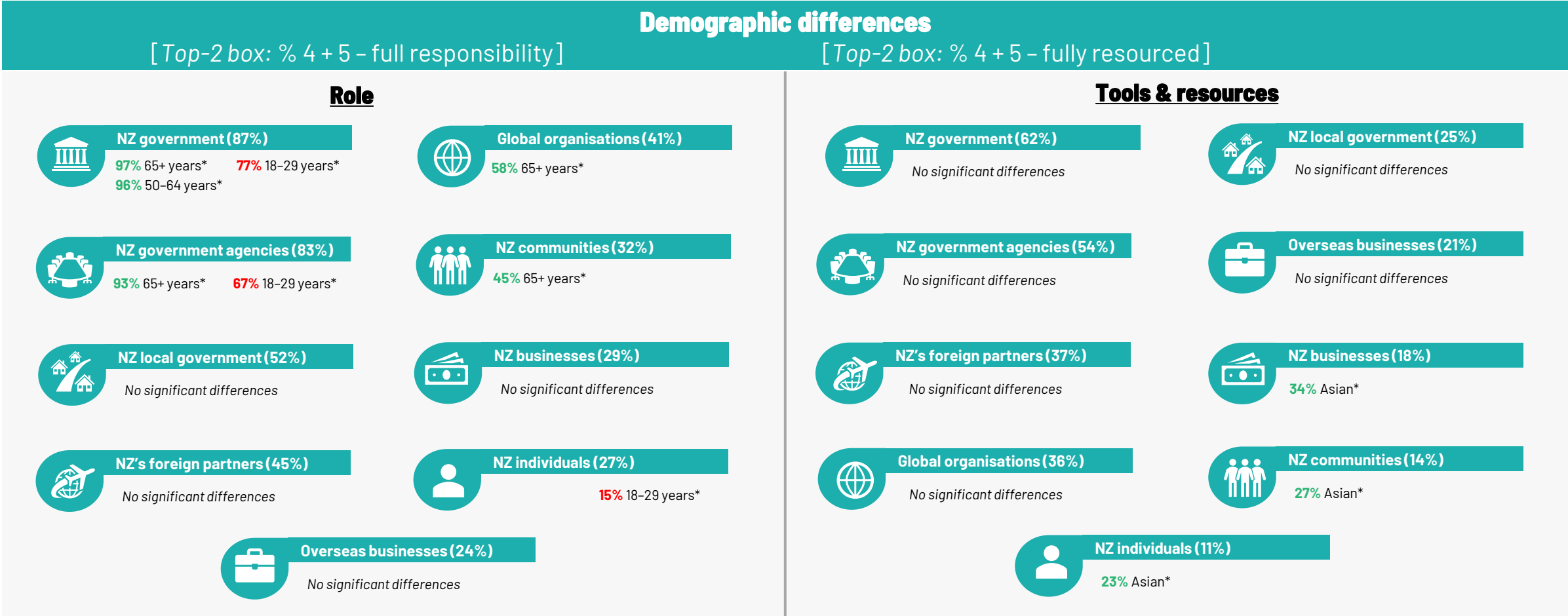
Who has the tool and resources to protect NZ and respond to major maritime security incidents?



Q26: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a major maritime security incident?
Base: Respondents asked about major maritime security incidents (n=334). Note 1: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results. Note 2: New threat added in 2026.



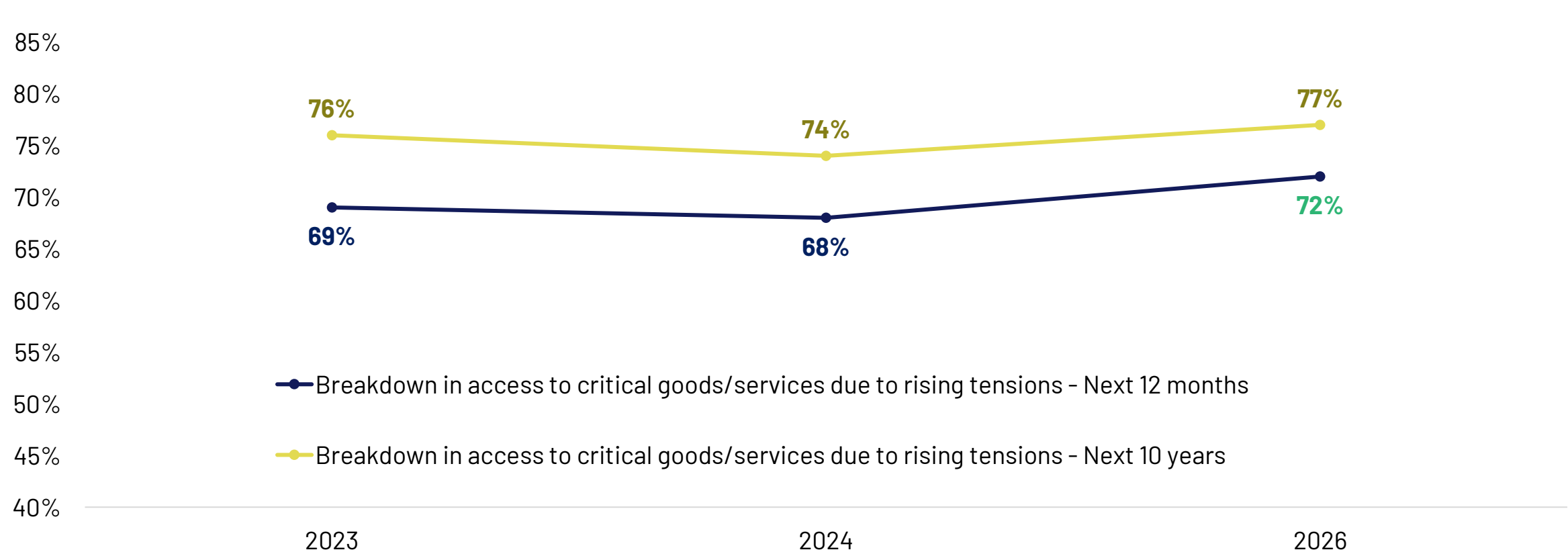
Statistically significant differences



Breakdown in access to goods/services: Perceived threat levels over time



While a *breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions* is seen as more of a long-term concern, since 2024 there has been a significant increase (4 % points) in the feeling of its being a real threat in the next 12 months.



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the previous wave

Q9: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months? / Q17: Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?

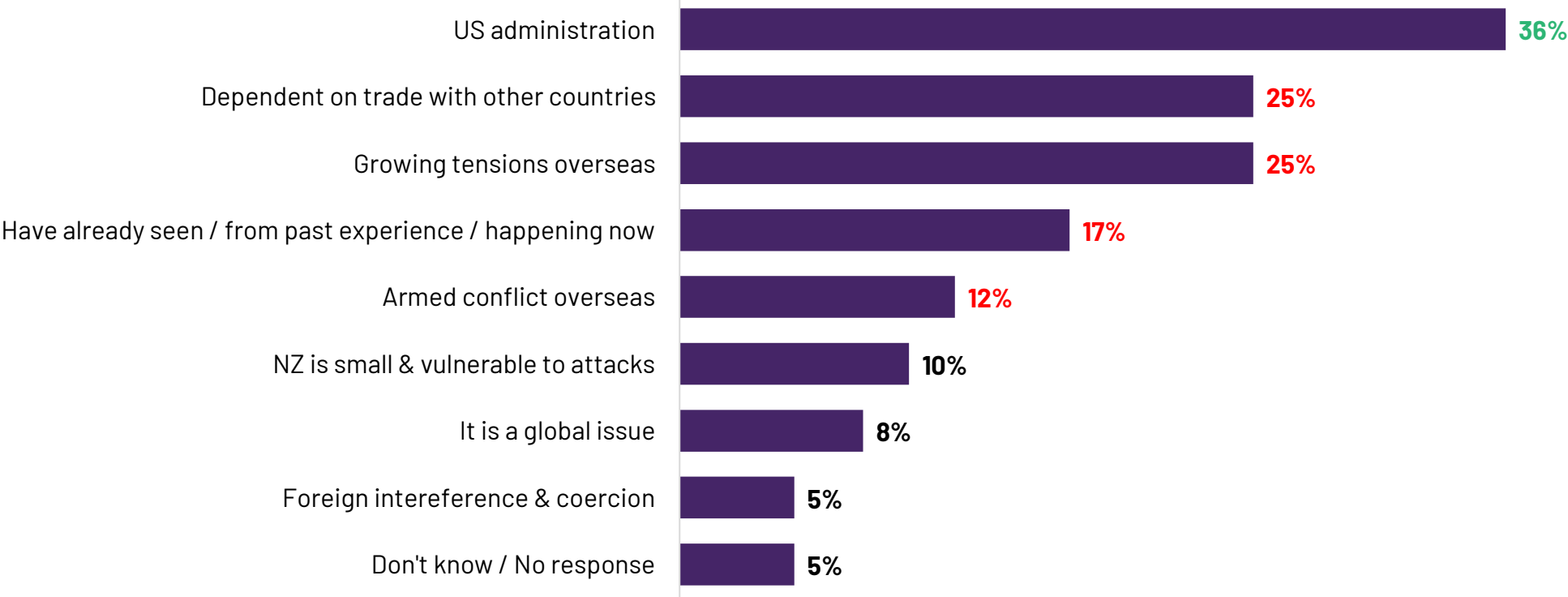
Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370)



The *US administration* is mentioned as the primary reason for a breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions in the next 12 months.



Reasons for a very real threat of *breakdown in access to critical goods/ services* due to rising tensions happening in the next 12 months



Q10: And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next 12 months?

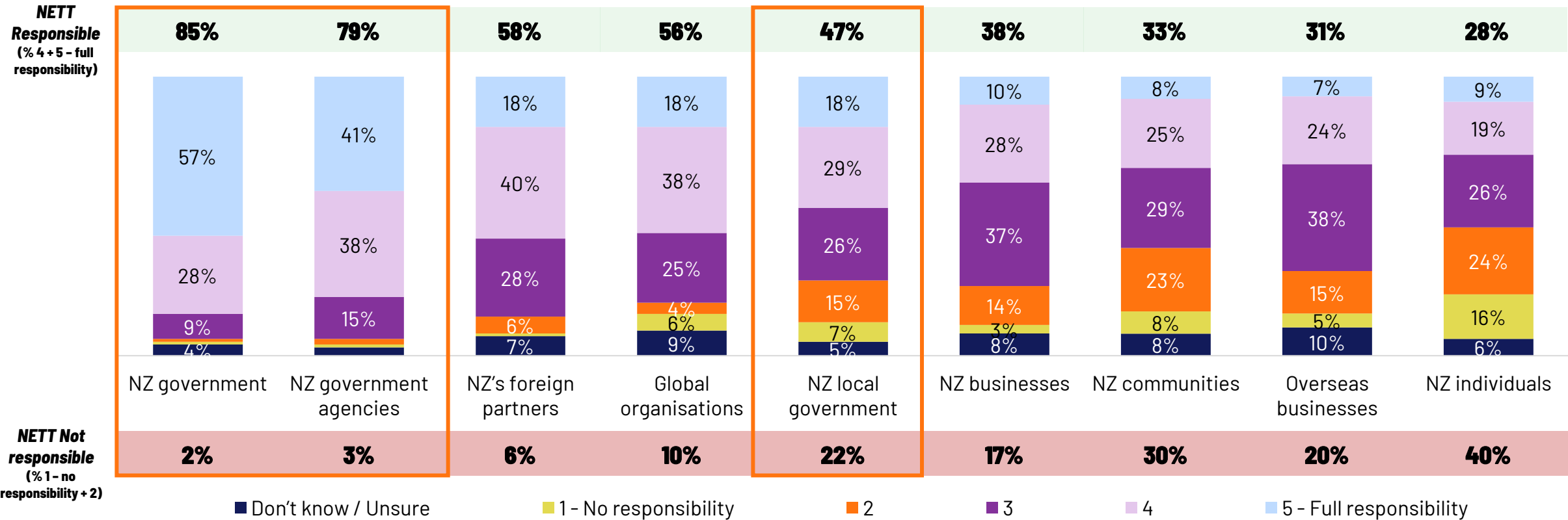
Base: Those who answered that breakdown in access to critical goods/services due to rising tensions is a 'very real threat' (n=77*). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why breakdown in access to critical goods/services due to rising tensions is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% not shown. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Role to protect against: Breakdown in access to goods/services

The responsibility to protect against a breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions is primarily placed in the hands of the central government & its agencies, although around half or more also view NZ's foreign partners, global organisations & local government as responsible.



How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect NZ and respond to a breakdown in access to critical goods/services due to rising tensions?



Q25: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services?
Base: Respondents asked about breakdown in access to goods/service due to rising tensions (n=332). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

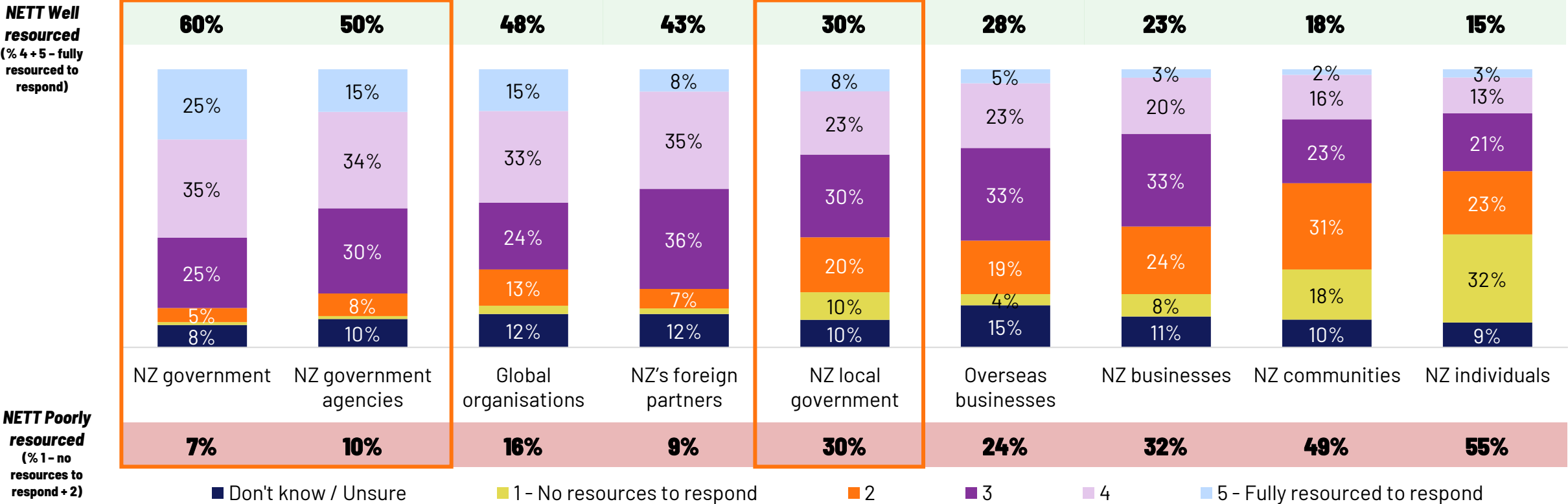
Tools & resources to protect against: Breakdown in access to goods/ services



The government, agencies & global organisations are seen to be best resourced to respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions. Just over 1 in 5 (23%) believe that NZ businesses are equipped to do so.



Who has the tool and resources to protect NZ and respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions?

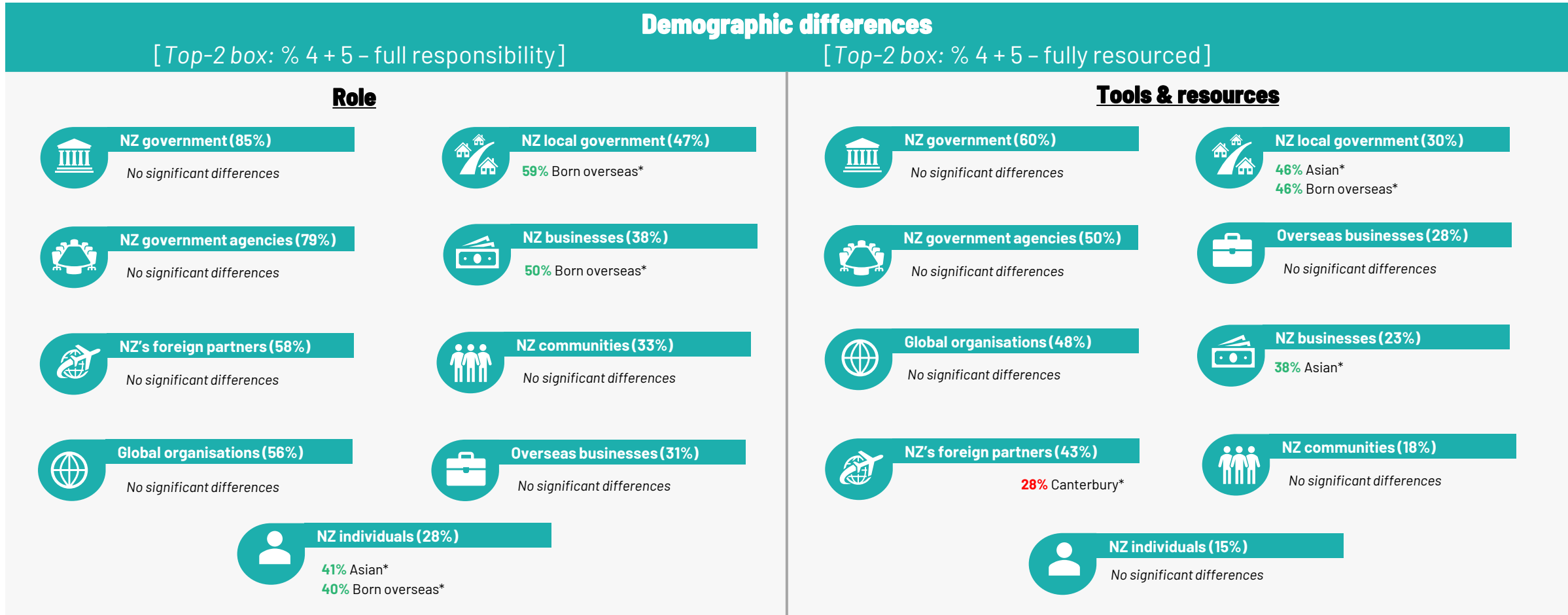


Q26: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a breakdown in access to goods/services?

Base: Respondents asked about breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions (n=332). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



Statistically significant differences

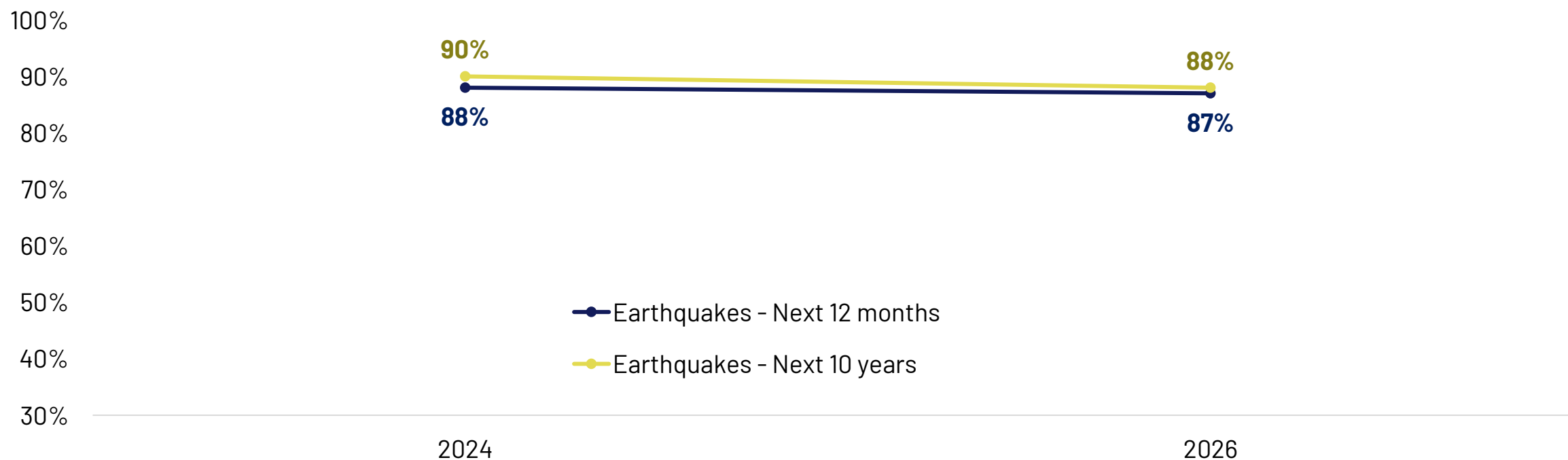


Earthquakes: Perceived threat levels over time



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Both short- & long-term concern for *earthquakes* remains high & stable since 2024. Around 9 in 10 perceive it to be a 'somewhat/very real' threat in the next 12 months & next 10 years.



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

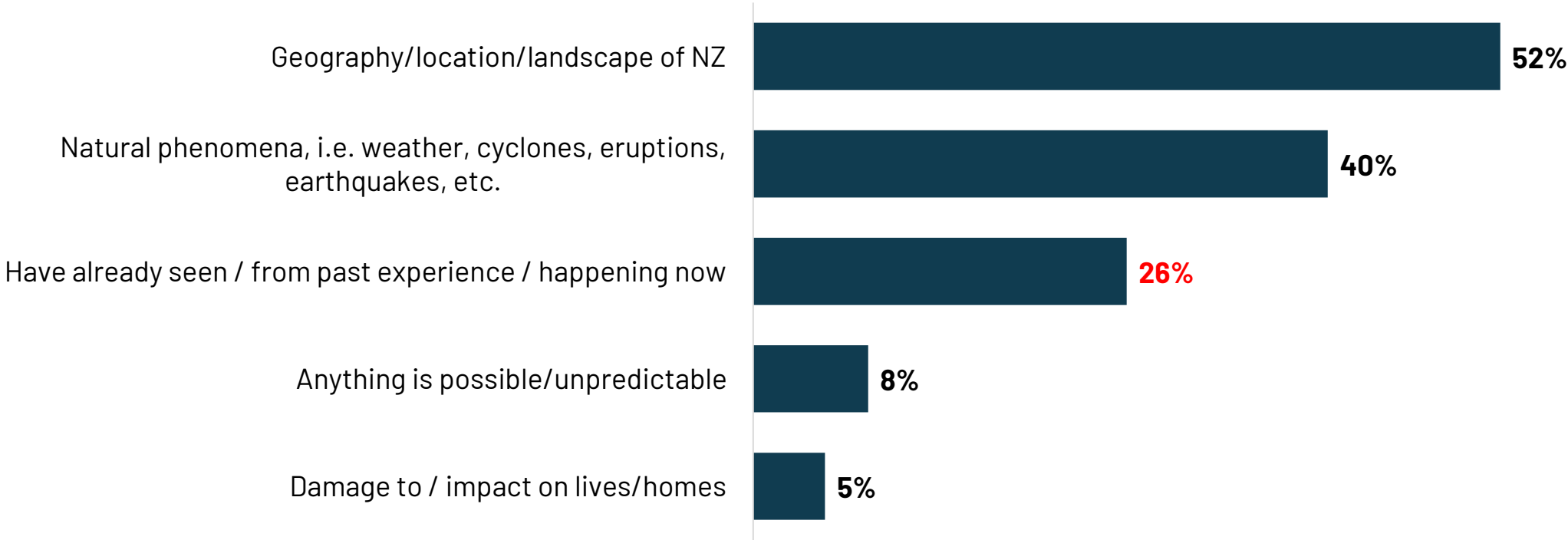
Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,178)

Earthquakes: Why a ‘very real threat’

New Zealand’s *geography/location/landscape* is the primary reason people are concerned about earthquakes.
Natural phenomena (weather events, cyclones, etc.) are top of mind for many.



Reasons for a very real threat of earthquakes 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 12 months?
Base: Those who answered that earthquakes are a ‘very real threat’ (n=161). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why earthquakes are likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% for 2026 not shown.

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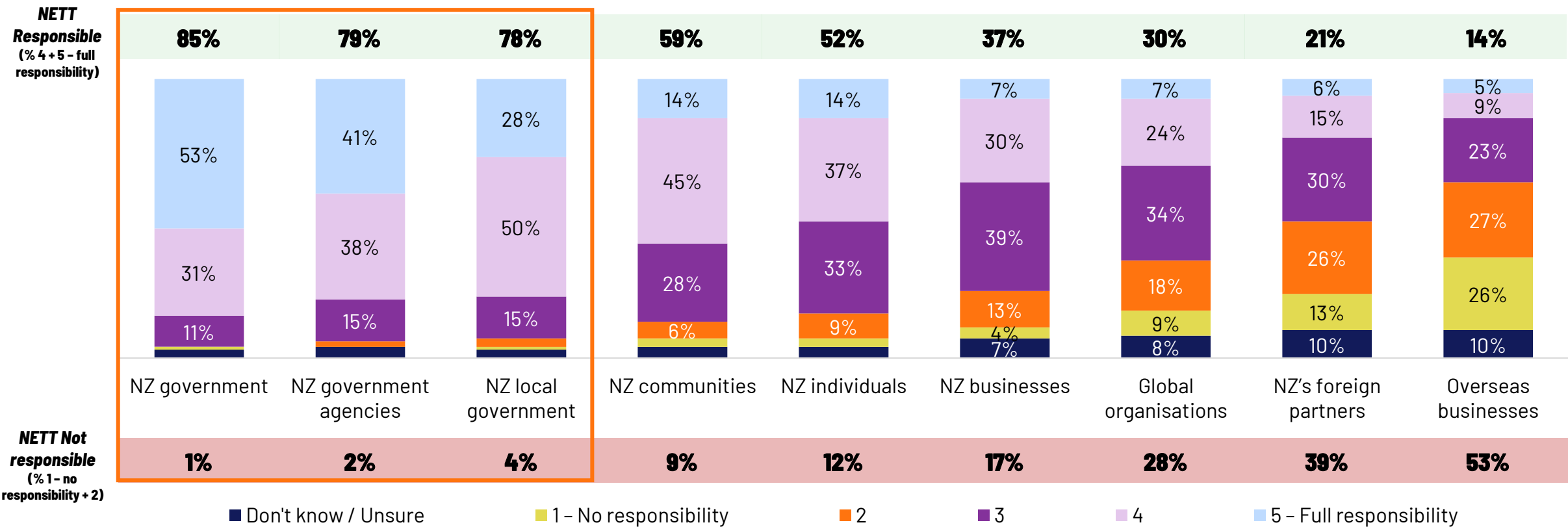
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

Role to protect against: Earthquakes

Responsibility for protecting NZ & responding to earthquakes is seen to rest with *the NZ government, agencies & local government*. More than half place some responsibility with *communities & individuals*.



How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect NZ and respond to earthquakes?



Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to earthquakes?
Base: Respondents asked about earthquakes (n=334). **Note:** Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

Tools & resources to protect against: Earthquakes

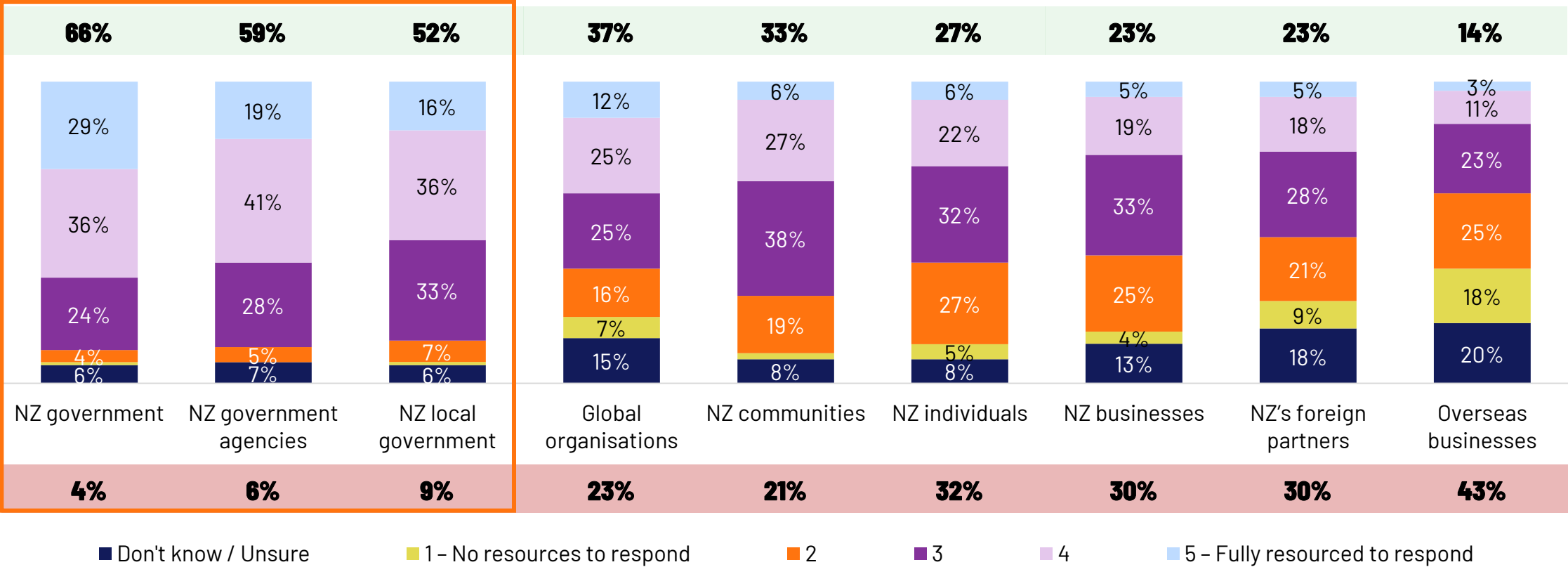


The NZ government, agencies & the local government are perceived as being the most resourced to respond, while local businesses, foreign partners & overseas businesses are seen as the least resourced.

Who has the tools and resources to protect NZ and respond to earthquakes?

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

NETT Poorly resourced
(% 1 – no resources to respond + 2)



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

Base: Respondents asked about earthquakes (n=334). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/-1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



Statistically significant differences

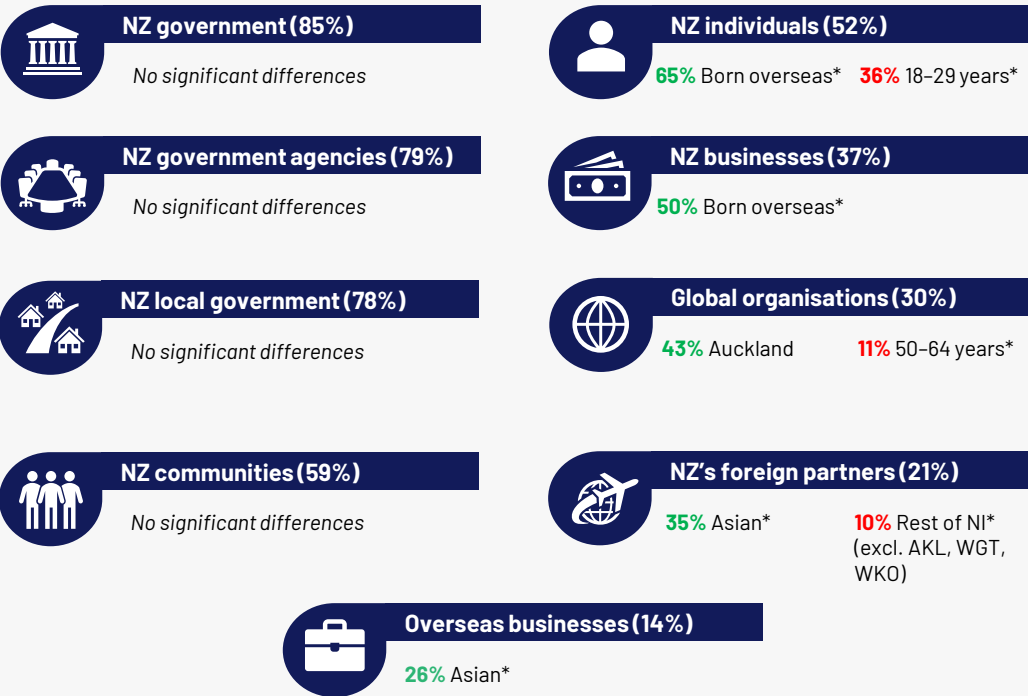


Demographic differences

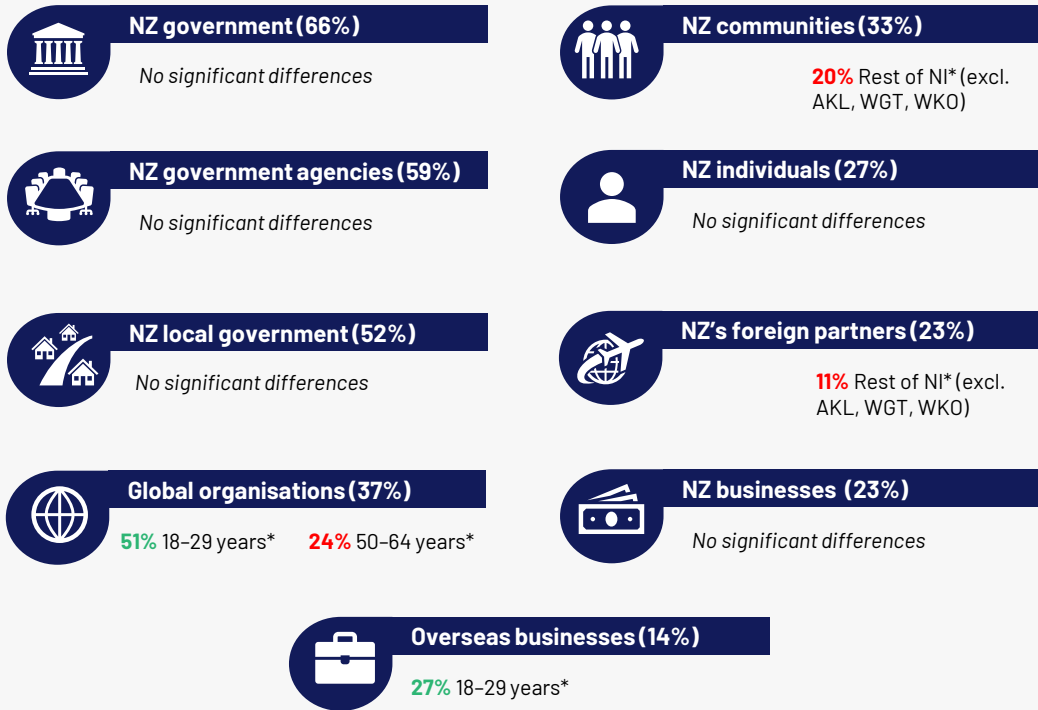
[Top-2 box: % 4 + 5 – full responsibility]

[Top-2 box: % 4 + 5 – fully resourced]

Role



Tools & resources



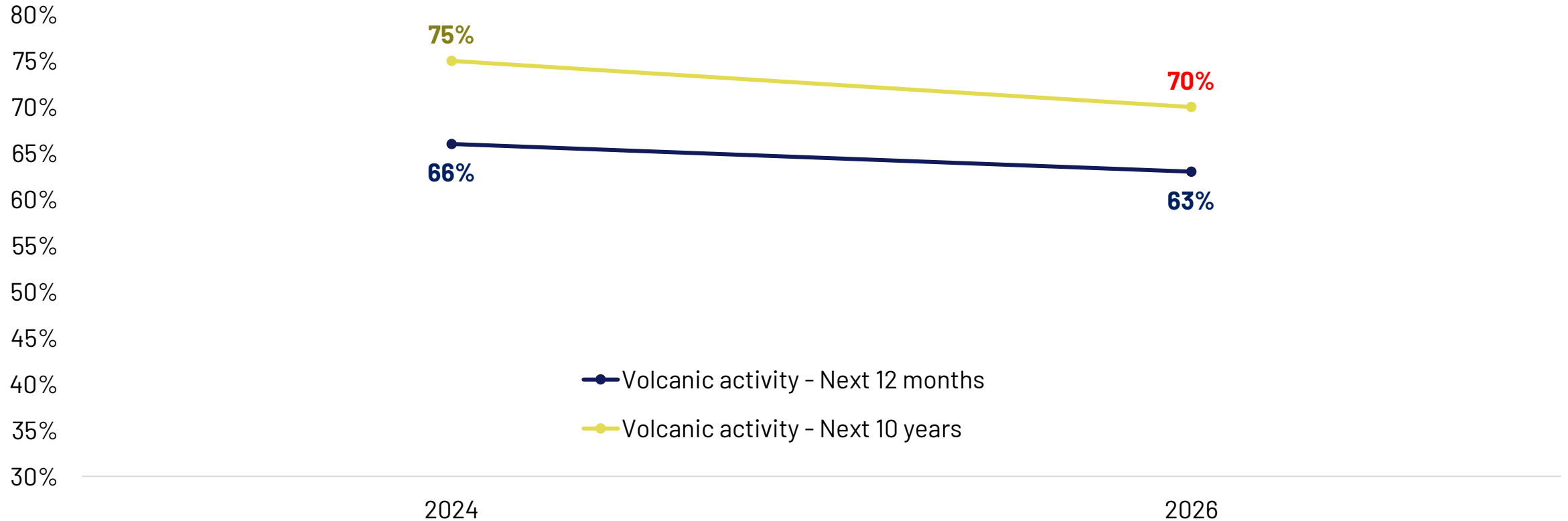
Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to earthquakes? / Q26h: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to earthquakes?
Base: Respondents asked about earthquakes (n=334). *Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Volcanic activity: Perceived threat levels over time



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Long-term concern for *volcanic activity* has significantly decreased among New Zealanders compared to 2024. Short-term concern remains similar, although it shows early signs of trending downward.



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

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

Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,178)

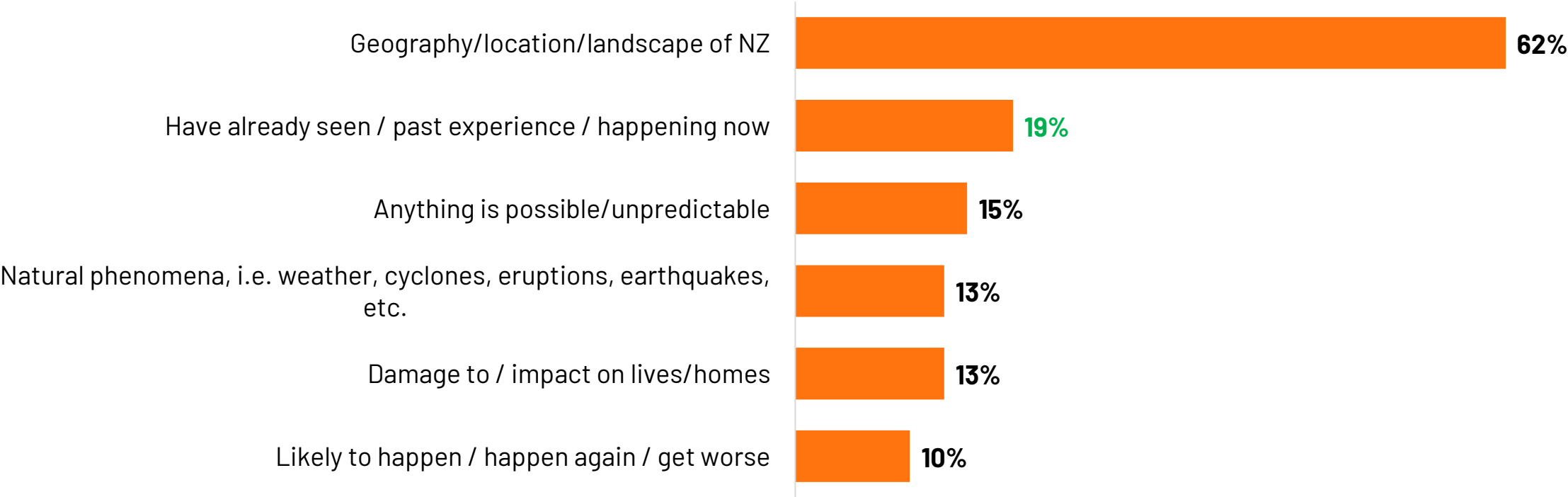
Volcanic activity: Why a ‘very real threat’



New Zealand’s *geography/location/landscape & past experiences* are the main reasons of concern for volcanic activity occurring in the next 12 months. The *unpredictability* of such events was the next most commonly stated reason.



Reasons for a very real threat of volcanic activity happening in the next 12 months



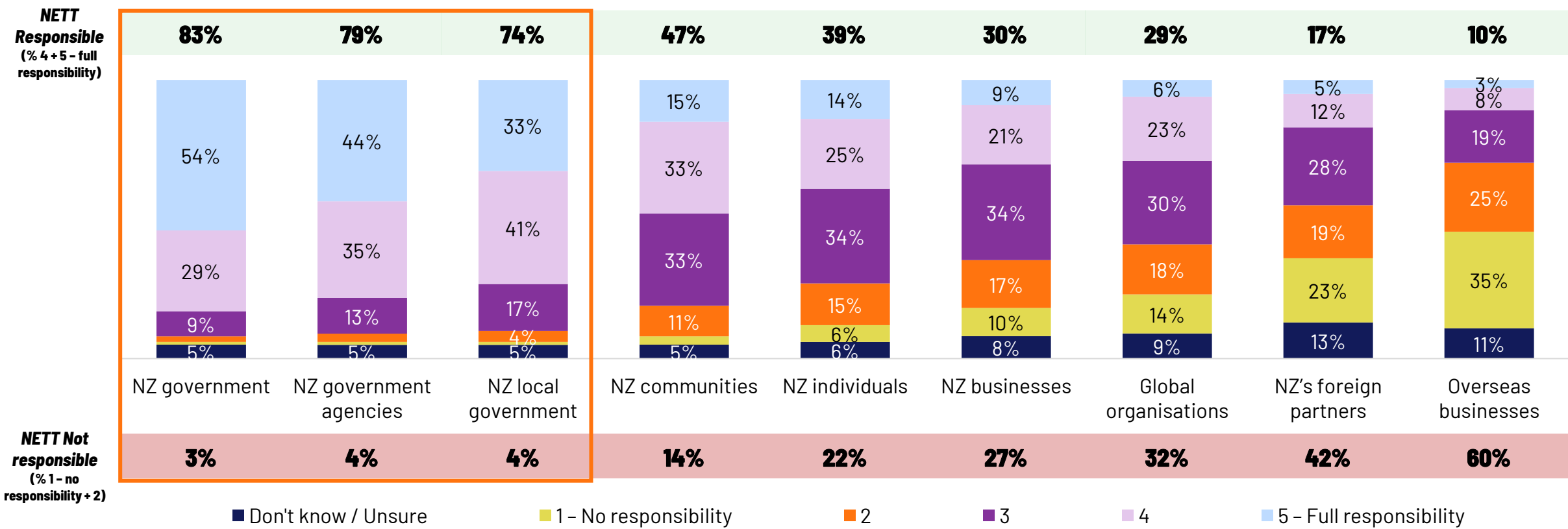
Q10h: And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Those who answered that volcanic activity is a ‘very real threat’ (n=60*). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why volcanic activity is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% for 2026 not shown. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

Role to protect against: Volcanic activity

The NZ government, agencies & local governments are perceived as the most responsible to protect against & respond to volcanic activity. Foreign partners & overseas businesses are seen as the least responsible in this regard.



How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect NZ and respond to volcanic activity?



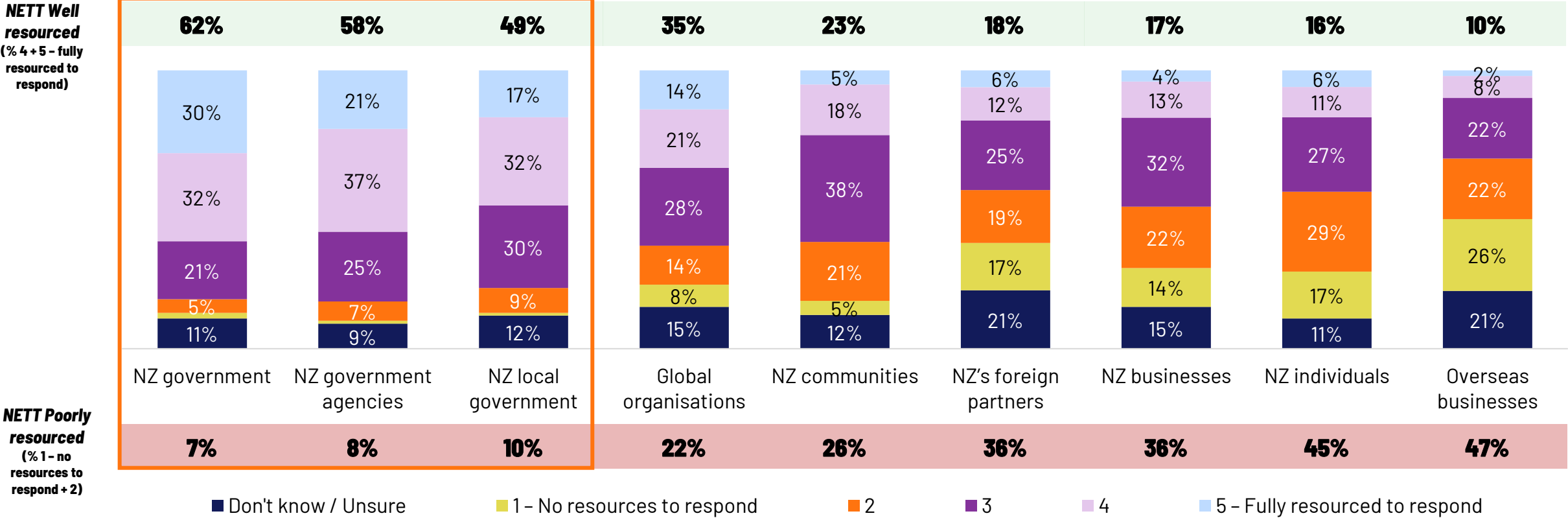
Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to volcanic activity?
Base: Respondents asked about volcanic activity (n=333). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

Tools & resources to protect against: Volcanic activity

The NZ government, agencies & local governments are seen as the most resourced to protect against & respond to volcanic activity. Individuals & overseas businesses are considered poorly resourced.



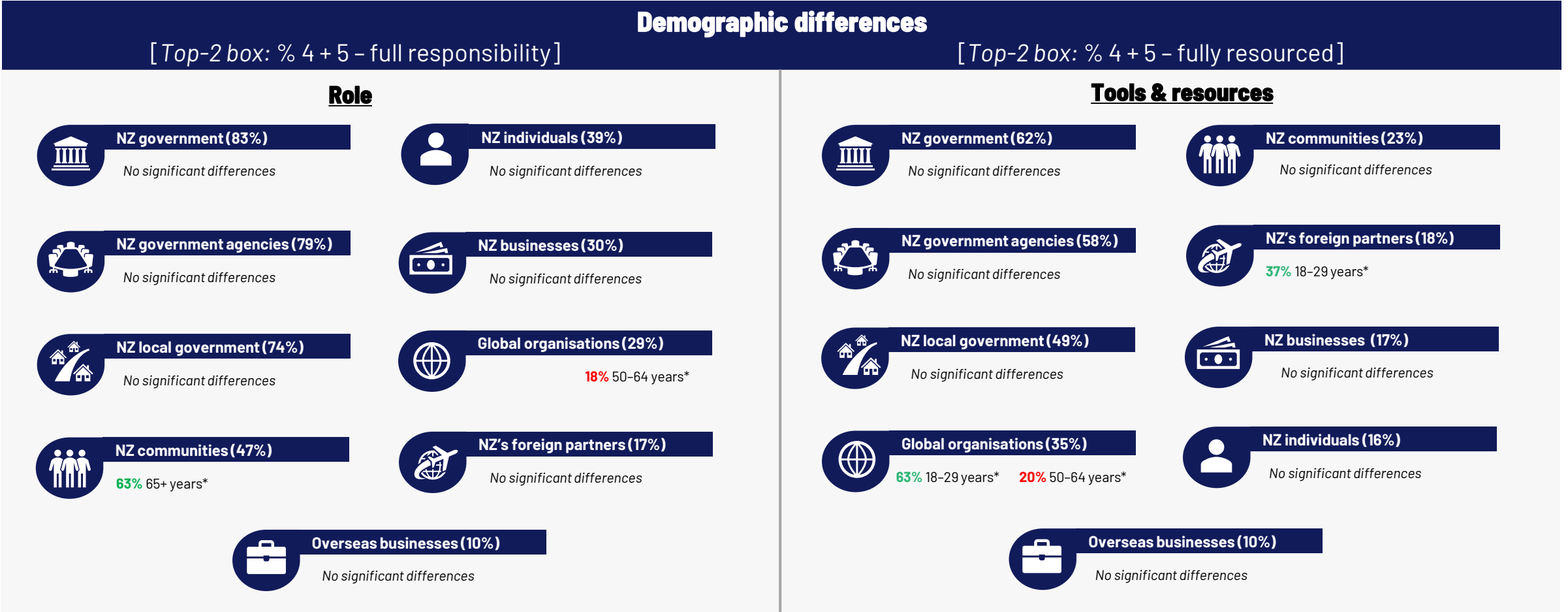
Who has the tools and resources to protect NZ and respond to volcanic activity?



Q26h: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to volcanic activity?
Base: Respondents asked about volcanic activity (n=333). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.
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Statistically significant differences



Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to volcanic activity? / **Q26h:** In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to volcanic activity?
Base: Respondents asked about volcanic activity (n=333). ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

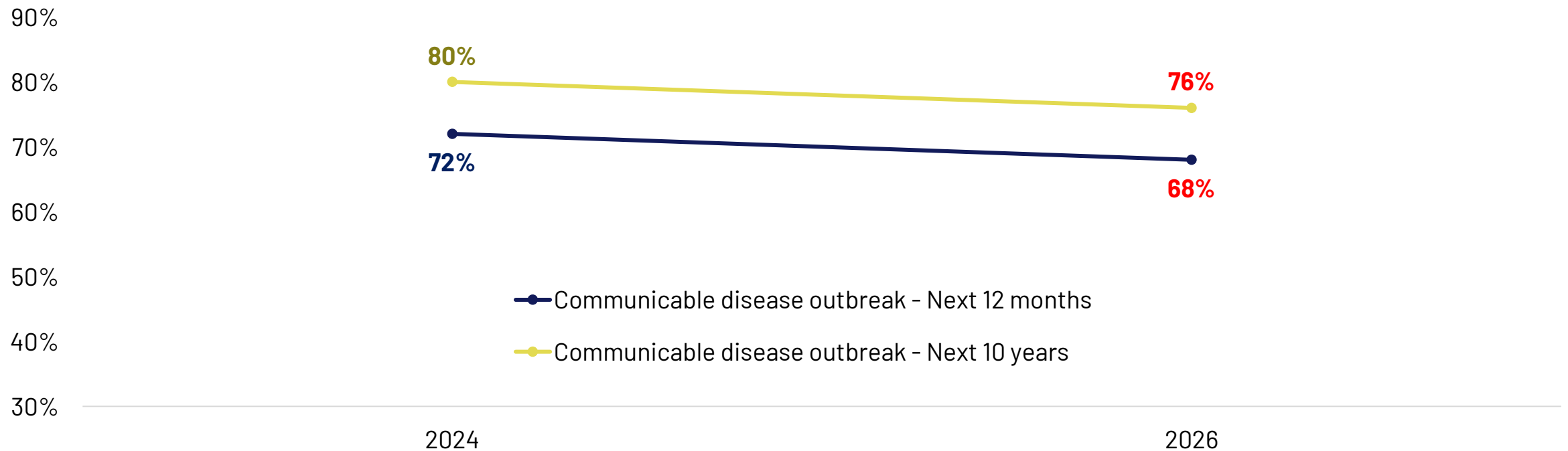
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Communicable disease outbreak: Perceived threat levels over time



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Compared to 2024, concern for a *communicable disease outbreak* has dropped significantly, both in the short & long term. However, it is still seen to be a long-term threat by 3 quarters of New Zealanders.



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

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

Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,178). **Note:** Communicable disease outbreak was displayed as health epidemics for these questions.

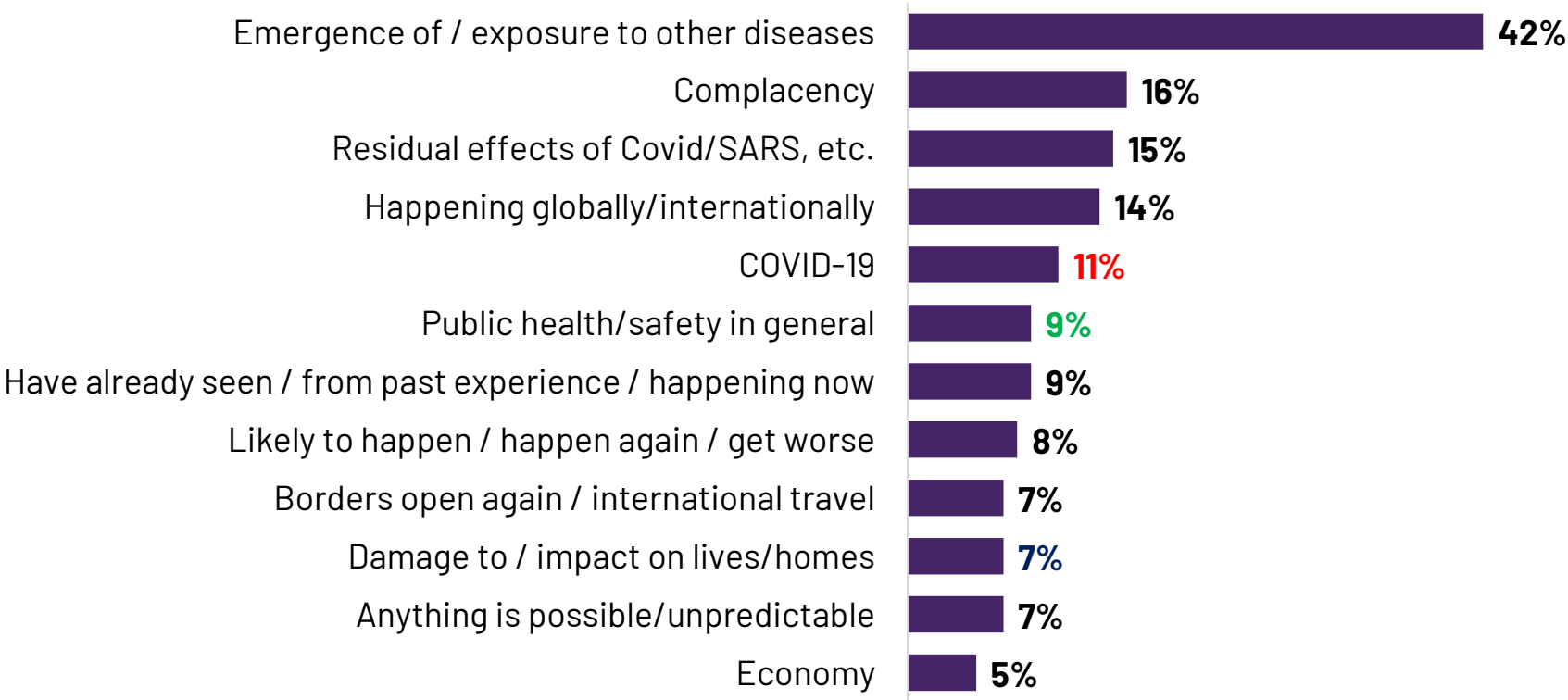
Communicable disease outbreak: Why a 'very real threat'



Emergence of / exposure to other diseases is the most common reason New Zealanders see a very real threat of a communicable disease outbreak in the short term.



Reasons for a very real threat of a *communicable disease outbreak* 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 12 months?

Base: Those who answered that a communicable disease outbreak is a 'very real threat' (n=71*). **Note 1:** These are the top % reasons why a communicable disease outbreak is likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% for 2026 not shown. **Note 2:** Communicable disease outbreak was displayed as health epidemics for these questions. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

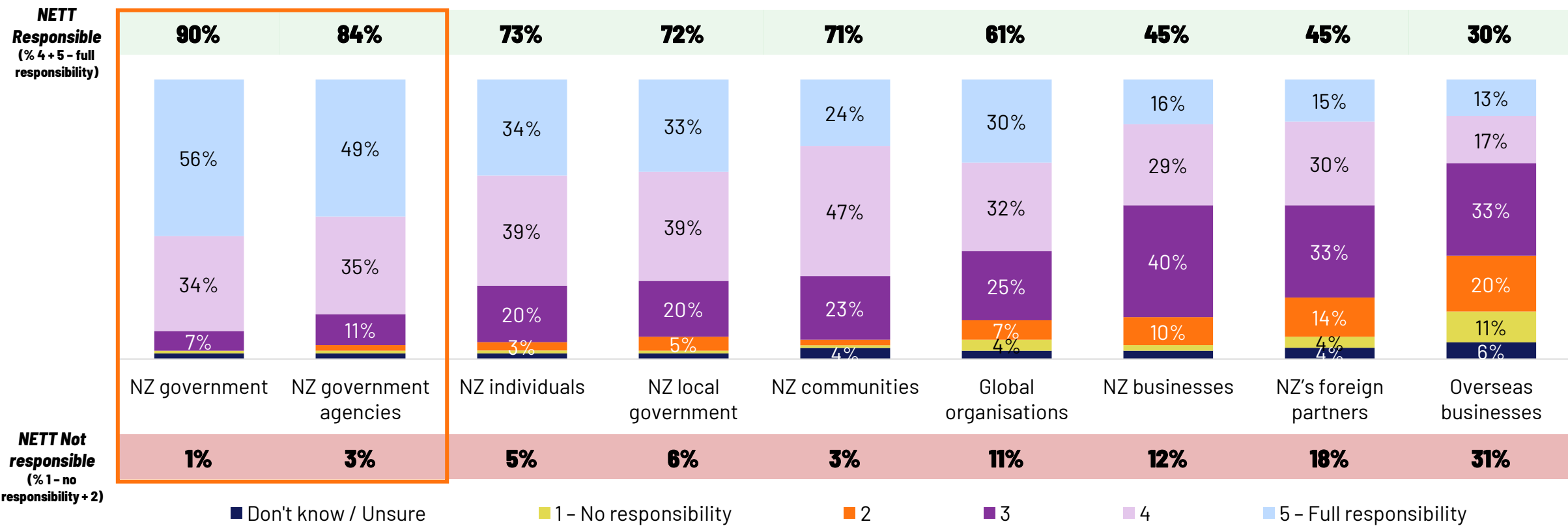
Role to protect against: Communicable disease outbreak



The responsibility to protect against a communicable disease outbreak is primarily placed with the *NZ government & its agencies*. Almost 3 quarters of New Zealanders see *individuals, local government & communities* as responsible.



How much responsibility does each of the following have to protect NZ and respond to a communicable disease outbreak?



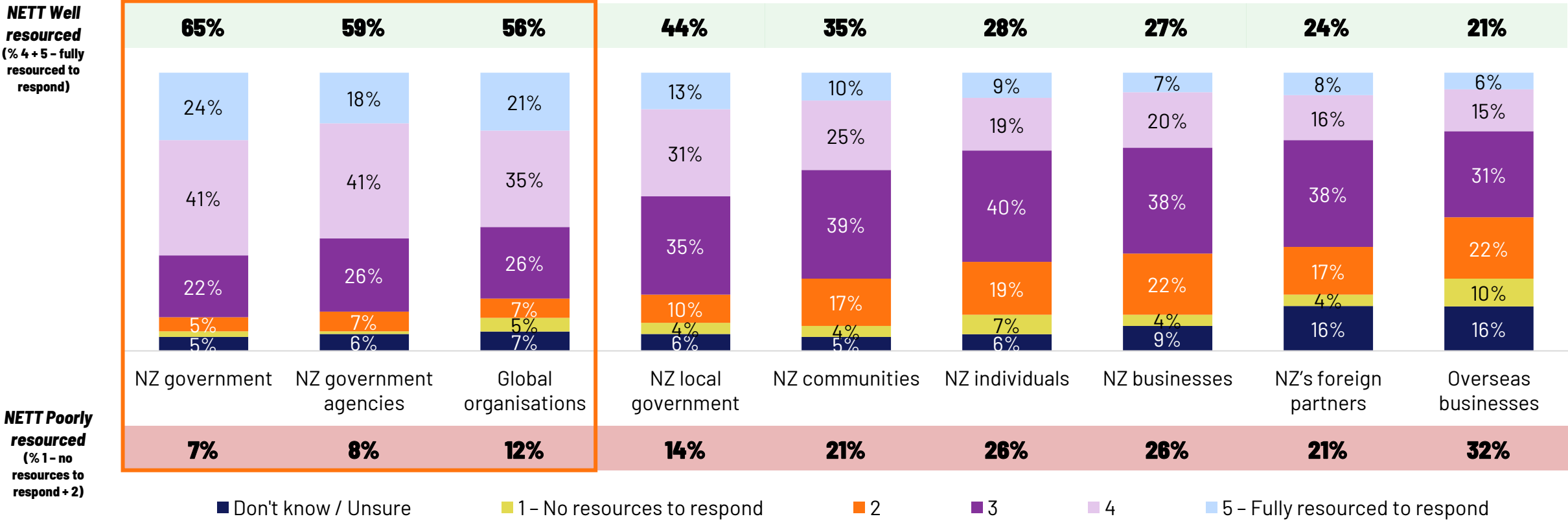
Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to a communicable disease outbreak?

Base: Respondents asked about communicable disease outbreak (n=333). Note 1: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results. Note 2: Communicable disease outbreak was displayed as health epidemics for these questions.



The government, agencies & global organisations are seen to be best resourced to respond to a communicable disease outbreak.

Who has the tools and resources to protect NZ and respond to a communicable disease outbreak?

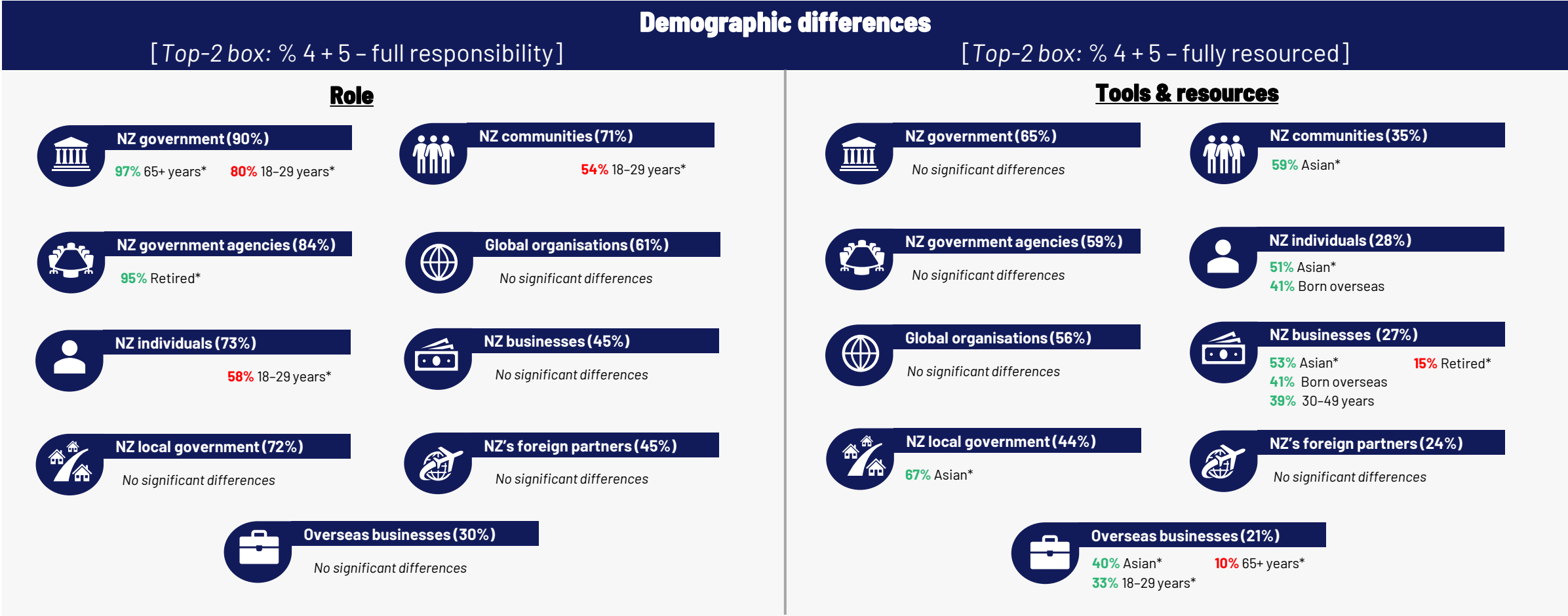


Q26h: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a communicable disease outbreak?

Base: Respondents asked about communicable disease outbreak (n=333). Note 1: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results. Note 2: Communicable disease outbreak was displayed as health epidemics for these questions.

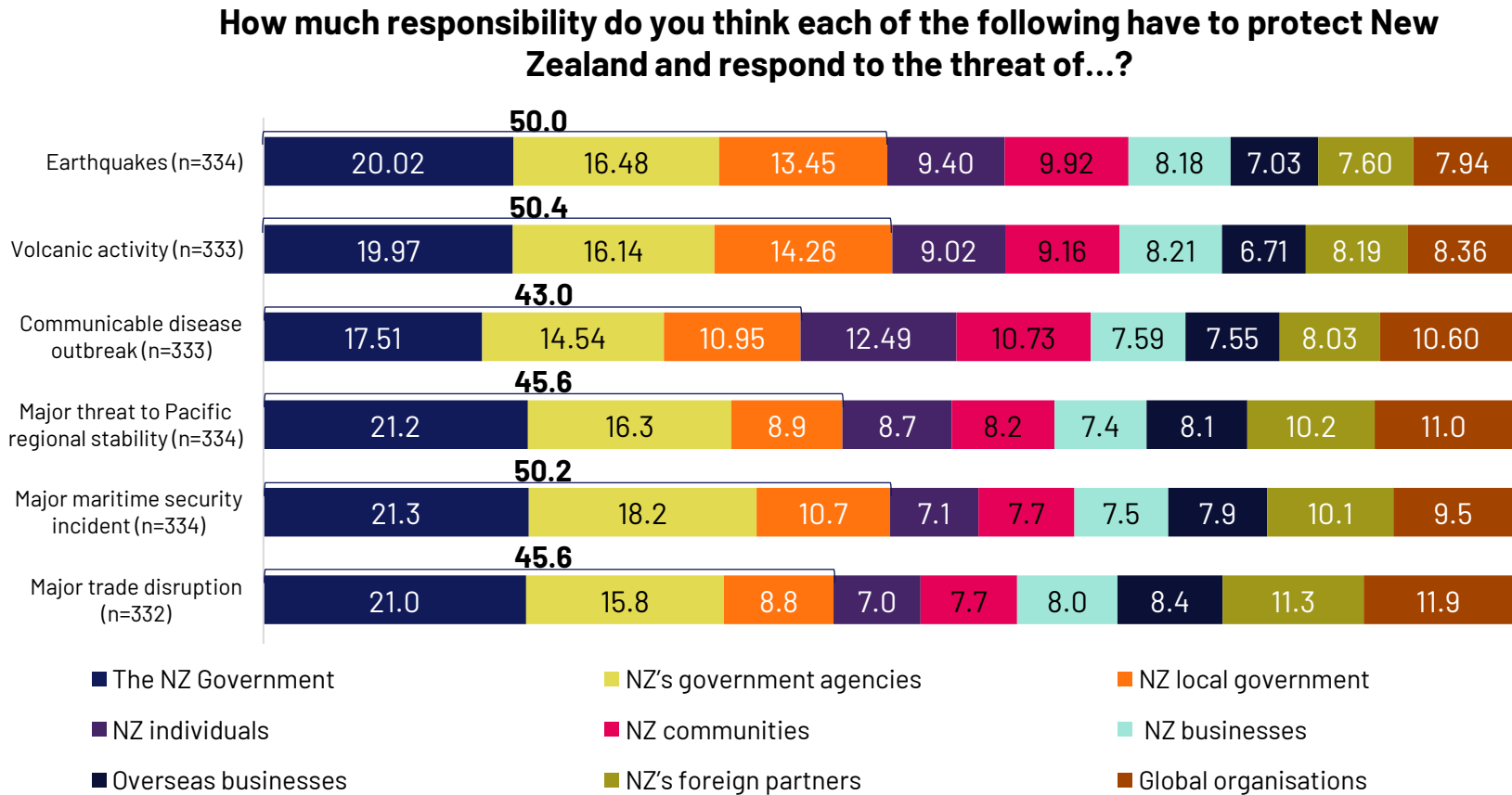


Statistically significant differences



Share of responsibility to respond to threats & hazards

The *government and its agencies* are seen as having the greatest responsibility to protect New Zealand and respond to all threats and hazards. The *local government* is also seen as being responsible, though less, for the deep dive threats and hazards.



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.



TRUST / CONFIDENCE & TRANSPARENCY





Key Findings

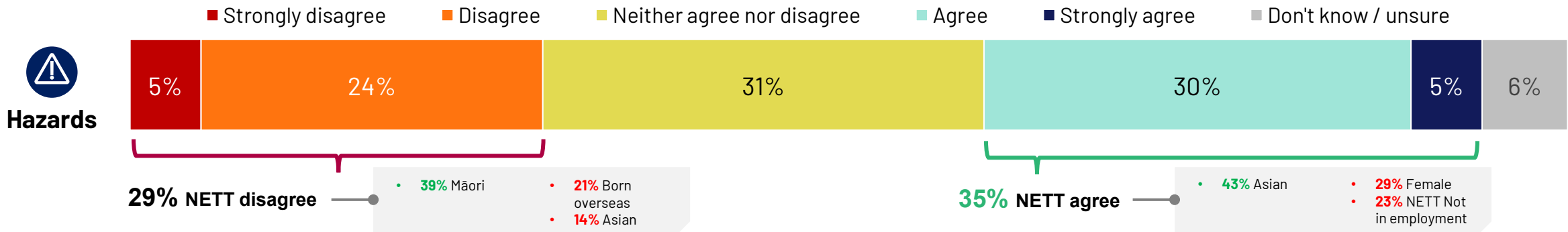
- Compared to 2024, a significantly higher proportion **believe that government agencies share enough information on significant hazards** (35%, up 5ppts from 2024), the figure for national security threats is much lower at 18% and has remained stable since 2024.
- Public **confidence in government agencies' ability to respond to and protect** from these events is highest for the most prominent natural hazards. A majority are confident in the government's ability to respond to *Wildfires* (60%), *Earthquakes* (55%), *Severe weather and flooding events* (55%), and *Pests and diseases outbreaks* (53%).
- **Confidence in government agencies' ability to protect and respond** has significantly decreased for 16 of the 32 threats and hazards surveyed - *wildfires* has seen the largest decrease among the hazards (dropping by 6 ppt), while confidence around *Emerging technology* saw the largest decrease among the threats, and overall (dropping 10 ppt).
- When *confidence* in government agencies is overlaid with perceived *likelihood in the next 12 months*, the **risks with lower confidence and higher perceived likelihood** are dominated by threats more than hazards – Hacking, Disinformation, Nuclear / biological / chemical attack and Emerging technology. Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure is the only hazard in this cross section.
- Perceptions on **how the government can build confidence** in its ability to protect and respond varies by the threat or hazard.
 - To build trust in managing hazards, the focus is on proactive planning and communication, with New Zealanders wanting agencies to be prepared (20%) and to inform and educate (18%).
 - For threats, the pathways to building confidence shifts to calls for quicker action (15%) and more funding and resources (13%).



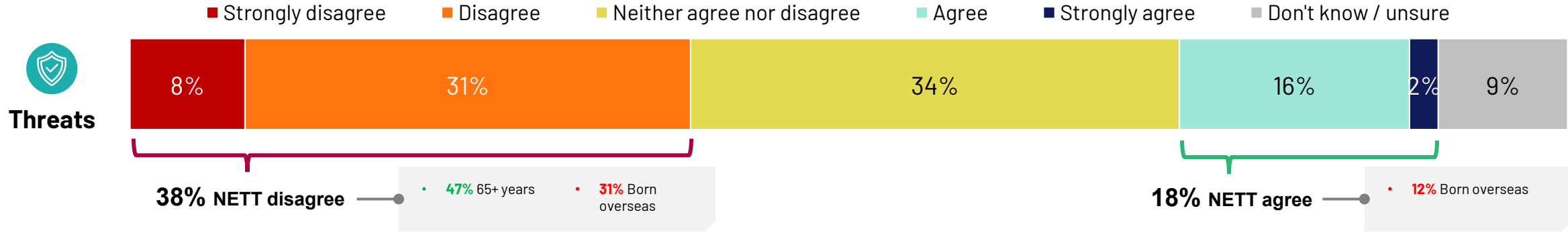
Sufficiency of information about significant hazards

Since 2024, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of NZers who believe that government agencies DO share enough information on significant hazards – from 30% to 35%. 2 in 5 (38%) continue to believe NZ national security agencies DO NOT share enough information about national security threats with New Zealanders

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



NZ's government agencies currently share enough information about national security with New Zealanders



Q20: Thinking again about all the threats we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? / 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 - 2026 (Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000) *Note: Result sums to 101 due to rounding.
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Confidence in government agencies: Top 10 threats & hazards

The top-10 threats and hazards for which NZers have the most confidence in the government have remained largely unchanged since 2024, except for *Major maritime security incident* – asked for the first time in 2026, and *A violent conflict between groups in NZ*, which has now entered the top-10.

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

2026 rank		2024 rank	2026 rank		2024 rank
1	Wildfires	#1	6	Major maritime security incident^	–
2=	Earthquakes	#3=	7	Personal safety / security of self / family violated	#6=
2=	Severe weather and flooding events	#9=	8	Health epidemics	#10=
4=	Natural disasters	#6=	9=	Terrorist attacks / violent extremism in NZ	#9=
4=	Pests and diseases outbreaks	#3=	9=	A violent conflict between groups in NZ	#13=

National security threat

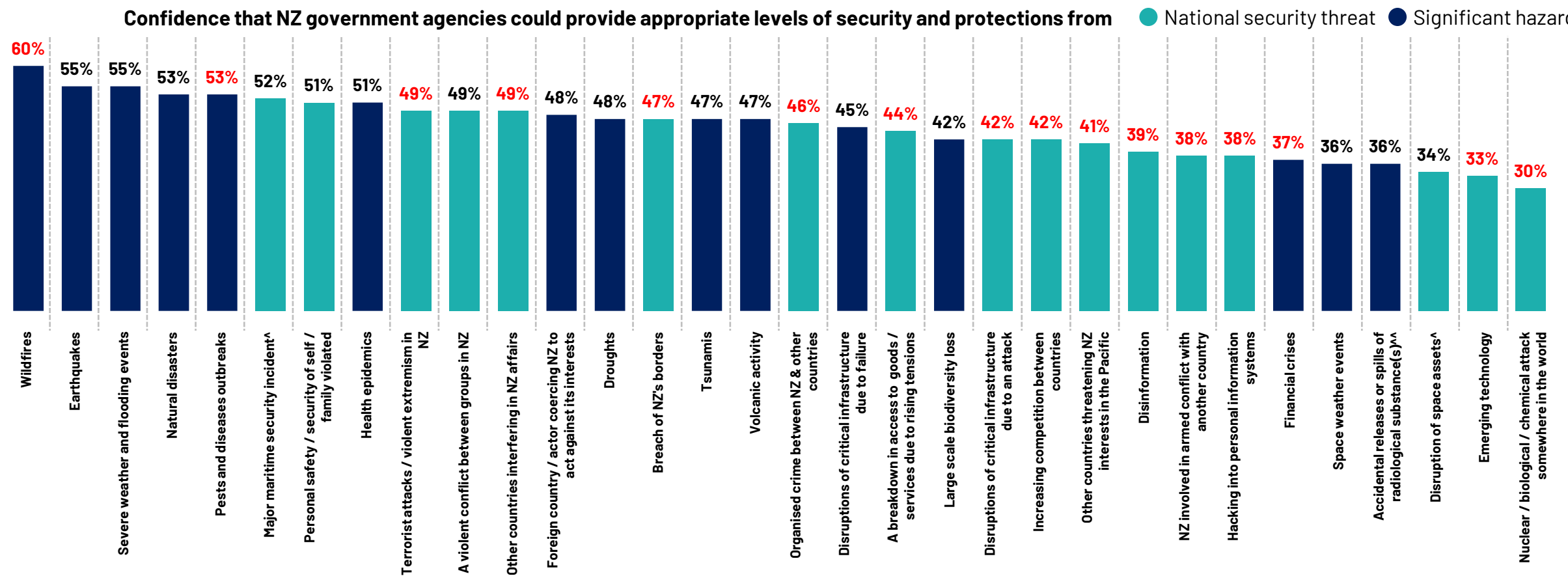
Significant hazard

Q11: 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... / **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 – 2026 (threats track n=1,000, hazards track n=1,000). ***Note:** Threat added in 2026
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Confidence in government agencies: All threats & hazards



Confidence in government agencies' ability to protect NZ has significantly decreased in 2026 for 16 of the 32 threats and hazards surveyed. NZers are most confident in the government to manage *Wildfires* while confidence about responding to a *nuclear / biological / chemical attack* is the lowest, with under 1 in 3 (30%) being somewhat or very confident.



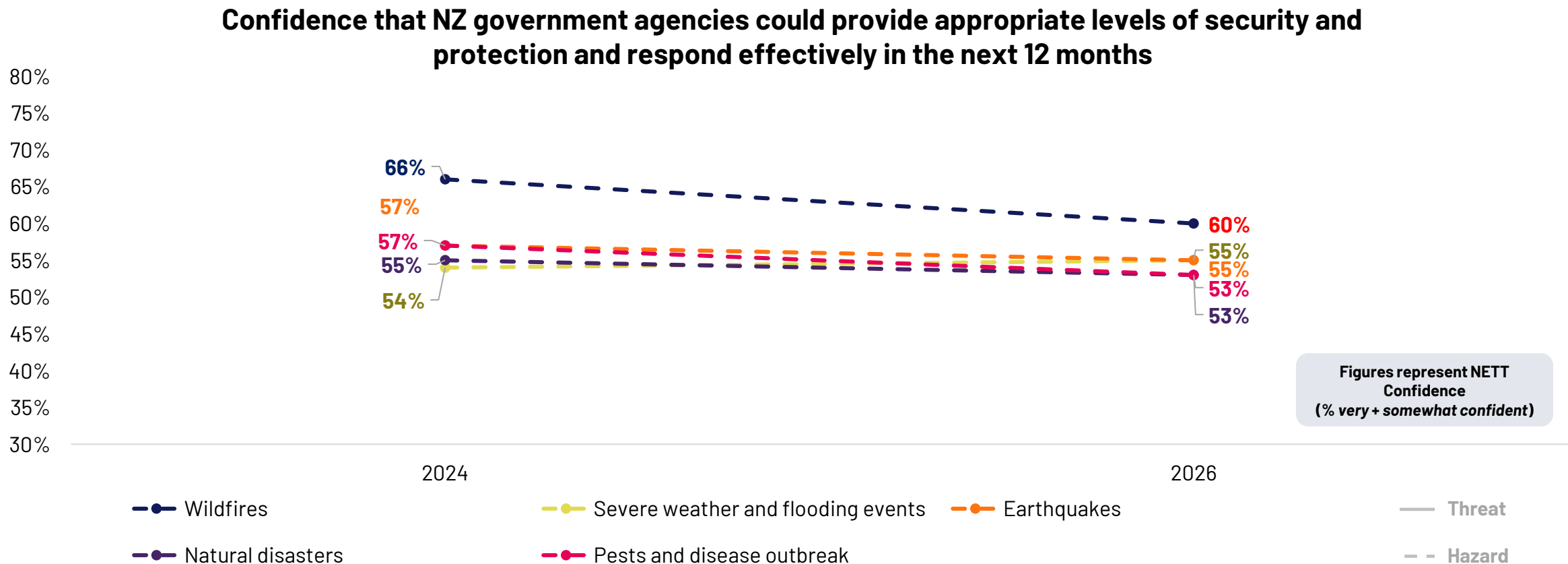
Q11h: If any of the following were to happen in the next twelve months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to... / Q11i: If any of the following were to happen in the next twelve months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...
Base: Total sample – 2026 (Hazards track n=1,000, threats track n=1,000). **Note:** Threats and Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. **^Note:** In 2026, Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s), consequently 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024. **^Note:** Threats added in 2026

Figures represent NETT Confidence (% very + somewhat confident)

Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than 2024

Confidence in government agencies: Top 5 threats & hazards over time

Confidence in government agencies’ ability to respond to and protect against the top 5 perceived threats and hazards in the short term have remained largely stable, compared to the 2024 survey, except *Wildfires* – which has seen a significant decrease, down 6ppt.



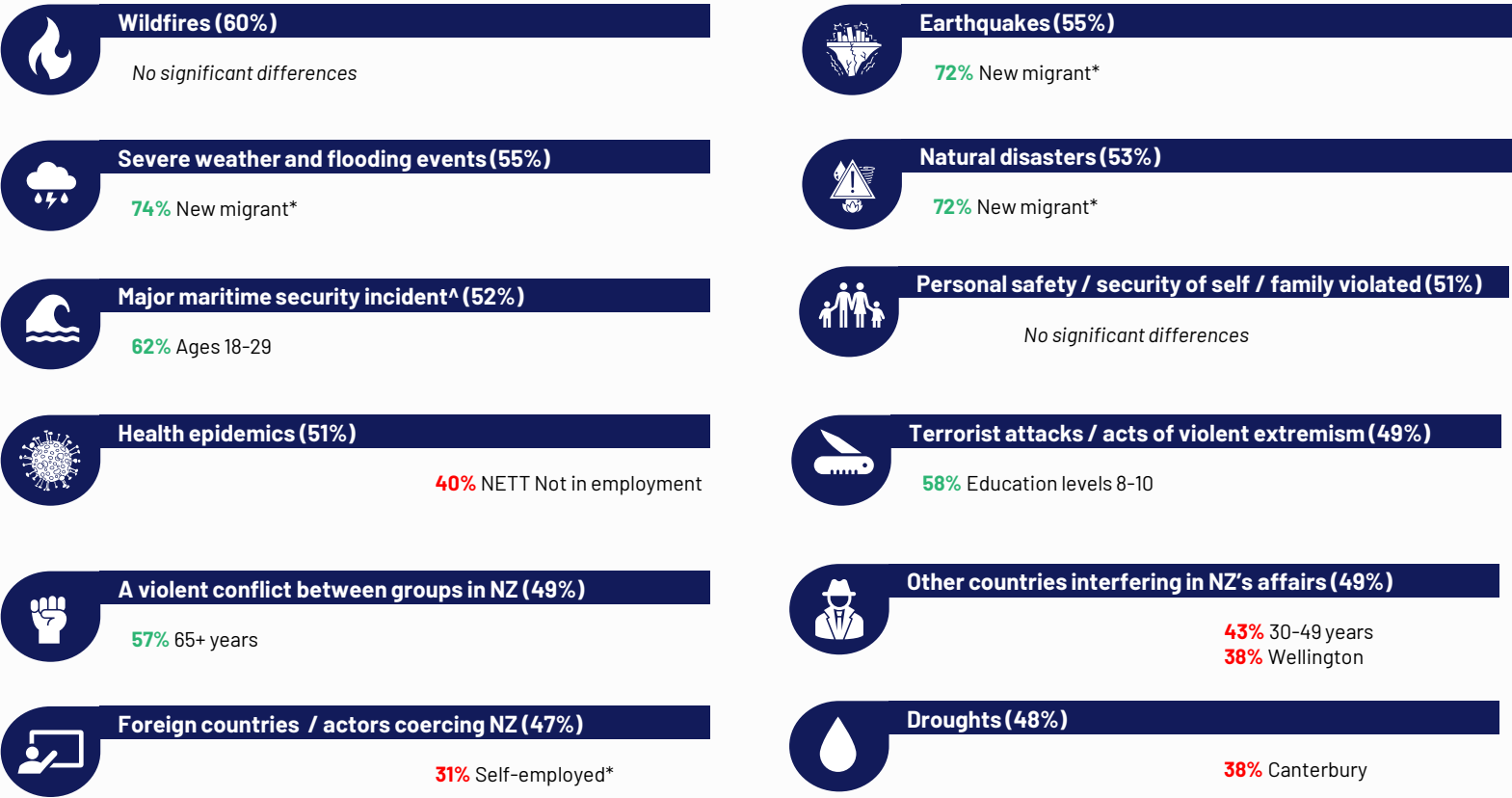
Q11h: If any of the following were to happen in the next twelve months, how confident are you that New Zealand’s government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (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 previous wave

Statistically significant differences

Demographic Differences [Top-2 Box: % Somewhat confident + Very confident]



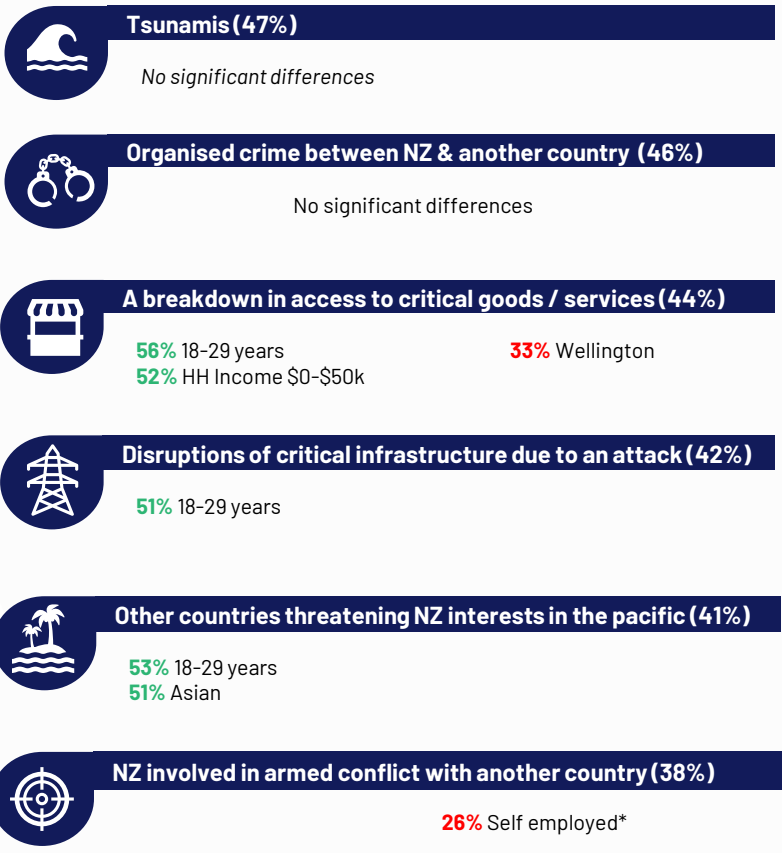
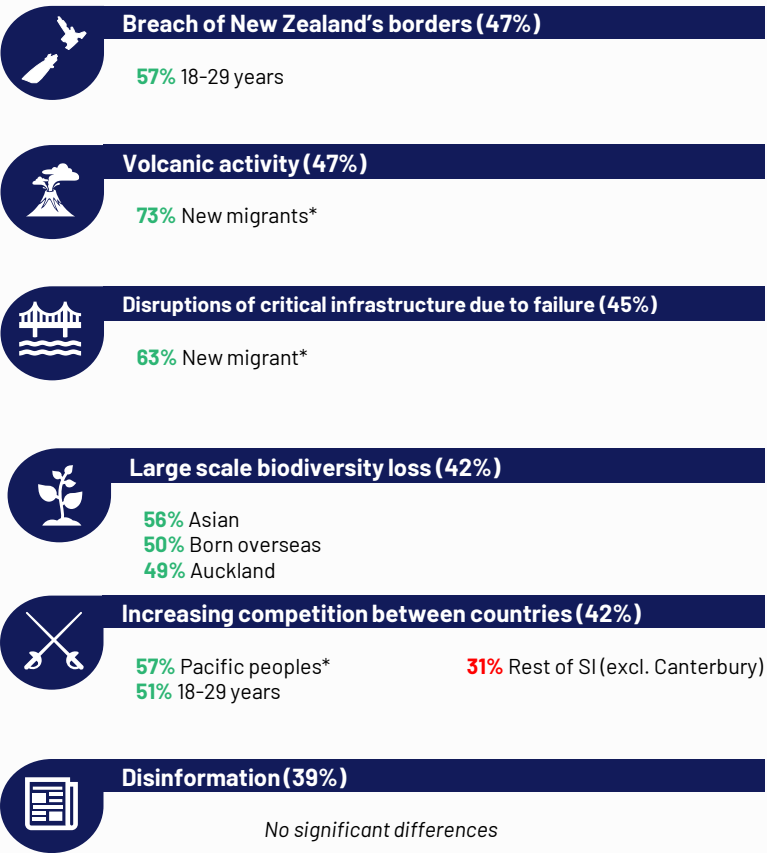
Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total

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... / **Q11:** 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 - 2026 (Hazards track n=1,000, threats track n=1,000). **Note:** Threats and Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. **^^Note:** In 2026, Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s), consequently 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024. **^Note:** Threats added in 2026

Statistically significant differences

Demographic Differences [Top-2 Box: % Somewhat confident + Very confident]



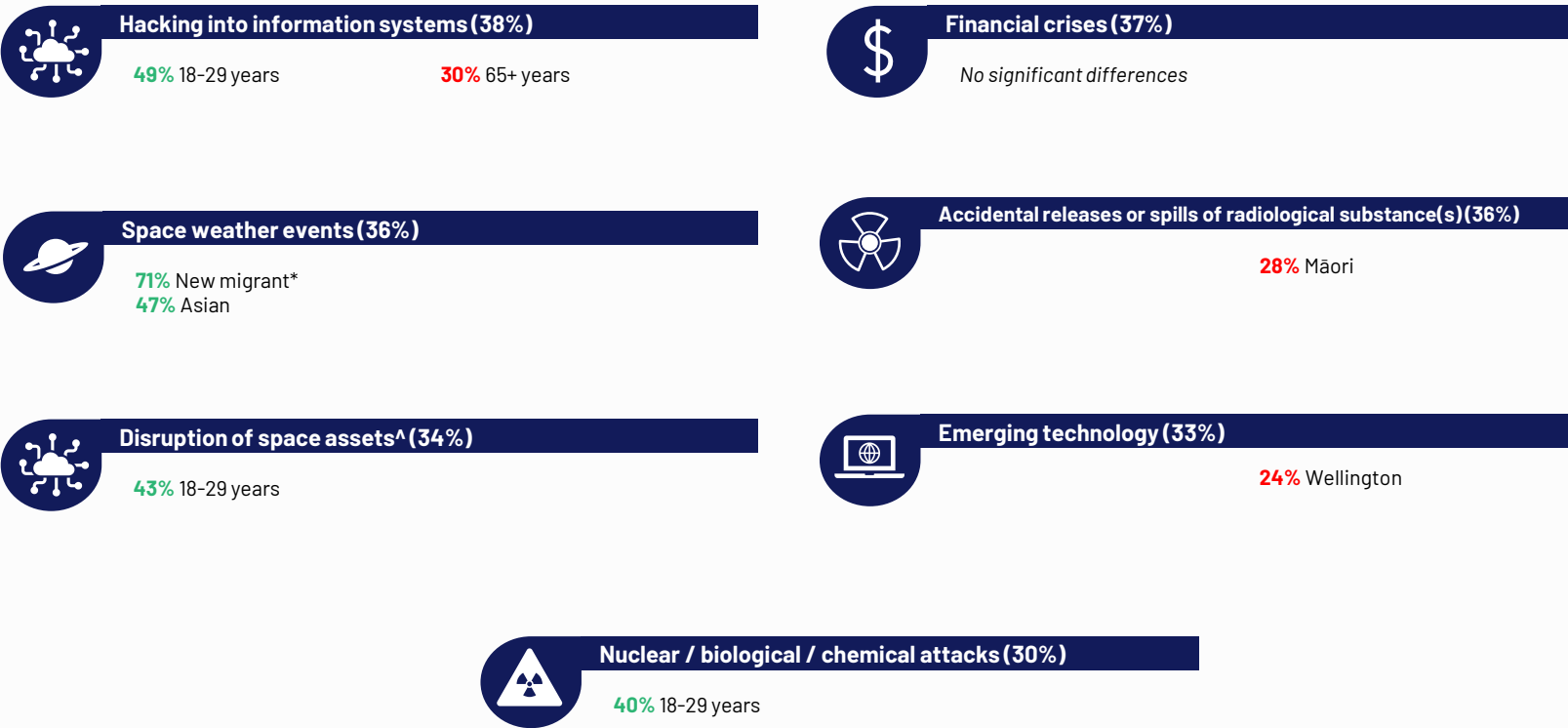
Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total

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... / **Q11i:** 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 - 2026 (Hazards track n=1,000, threats track n=1,000). **Note:** Threats and Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. **^^Note:** In 2026, Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s), consequently 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024. ***Note:** Threats added in 2026

Statistically significant differences

Demographic Differences [Top-2 Box: % Somewhat confident + Very confident]



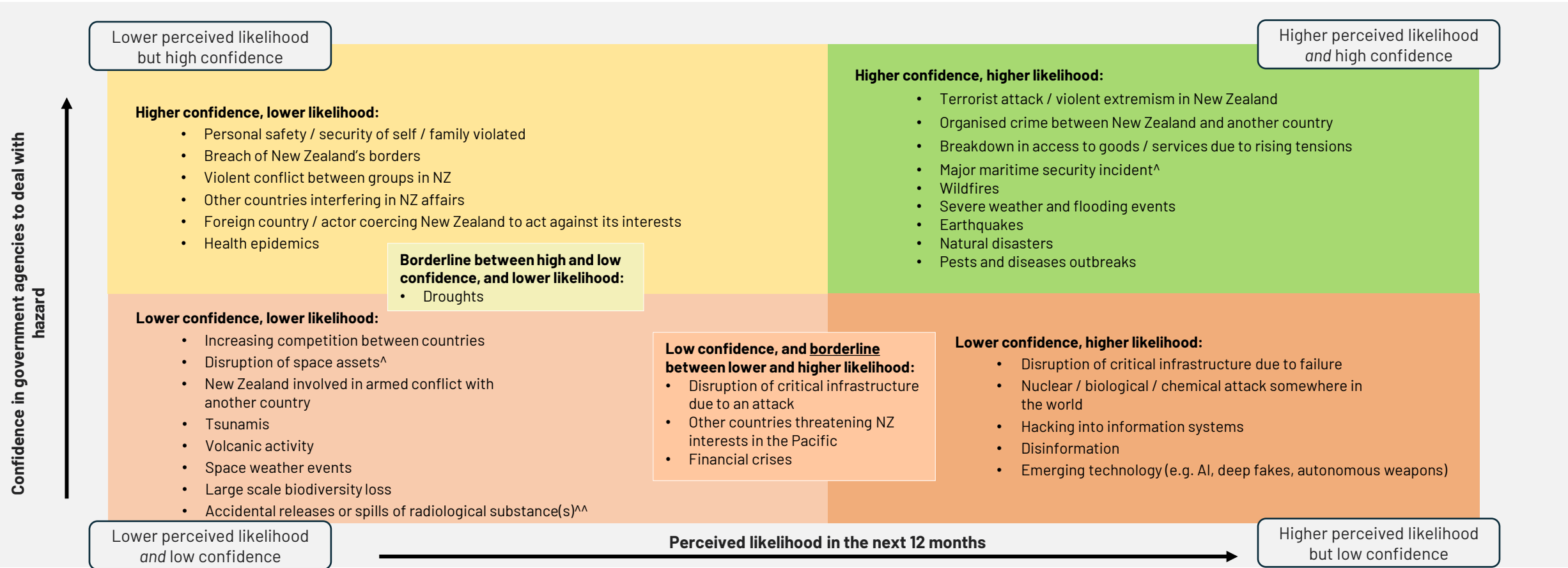
Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total

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... / **Q11i:** 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 - 2026 (Hazards track n=1,000, threats track n=1,000). **Note:** Threats and Hazards were presented 'one at a time' on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. **^^Note:** In 2026, Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s), consequently 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024. **^Note:** Threats added in 2026

Confidence in government by General Level of Threats & Hazard

When the public’s confidence in government agencies is overlaid with perceived likelihood in the next 12 months, 5 threats and hazards have lower confidence but higher perceived likelihood, namely – *Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure, Nuclear / biological / chemical attack somewhere in the world, Hacking into information systems, Disinformation and Emerging technology*



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... **Q9:** How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months? / **Q11:** 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 (Threats track n=1,000, Hazards track n=1,000). **^^Note:** In 2026, Unplanned or uncontrolled accidental release or spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s), consequently 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024 **^Note:** Threats added in 2026

How Government Agencies Can Build Confidence - Threats (I)



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Taking action / responding quickly and funding / financial assistance / resources are the two most commonly mentioned ways that government agencies can build confidence when it comes to national security threats. A small proportion feel NZ does not have the resources (13%) or they have no confidence in government (12%) to address the threats.

	Total	Terrorist attack / violent extremism in New Zealand	Violent conflict between groups in New Zealand	New Zealand involved in armed conflict with another country	Nuclear / biological / chemical attack somewhere in world	Personal safety / security of self / family violated	Hacking into information systems	Breach of New Zealand borders	Disinformation	Organised crime between New Zealand and another country
Base (n=)	546	52*	51*	57*	81*	51*	51*	51*	56*	54*
Take action, quicker responses	15%	8%	7%	9%	4%	11%	13%	6%	19%	16%
Funding / Financial assistance / Resources	13%	4%	4%	19% ▲	5%	5%	14%	30% ▲	3%	15%
NZ is small / Isolated / Does not have the resources	13%	4%	2%	23%	14%	4%	4%	17%	0%	0%
International alliances / Relationship	12%	2%	0%	14%	9%	0%	6%	4%	0%	3%
Have no confidence in government	12%	12%	10%	5%	1%	12%	4%	10%	14% ▲	8%
Laws / Penalties / Policies / Protocols	11%	16%	9%	2%	0%	11%	6%	9%	3%	27%
NZDF / Military	11%	5%	4%	23%	3%	0%	2%	39%	0%	4%
It is out of their control	11%	10%	7%	0%	15%	7%	13%	2%	9%	10%
Inform / Communicate / Educate	9%	2% ▼	4%	5%	10%	0%	9%	10%	14%	2%
Technology / Cyber security	8%	0%	0%	4%	1%	4%	22%	4%	7%	0%
Nothing	7%	2%	5%	8%	8%	7%	0%	0%	7%	4%
DK/NR	18%	8%	10%	6%	10%	10%	16%	4%	7%	14%

Q12: 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 (n=546). **Note:** Responses less than 5% for the total are not shown. ***CAUTION:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

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How Government Agencies Can Build Confidence - Threats (II)



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When focusing on the two new threats added to the survey in 2026 - *Taking action / responding quickly* was cited as the primary way to increase public confidence in the NZ government's ability to protect against a *Major maritime security incident*. *Forming international alliances / relationships* was most commonly reported to drive confidence in protecting against a disruption of space assets.

	Total	Emerging technology (e.g. AI, deep fakes, autonomous weapons)	Other countries interfering in New Zealand affairs	Foreign country / actor coercing New Zealand to act against its interests	Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack	Other countries threatening New Zealand interests in Pacific	Breakdown in access to goods / services due to rising tensions	Increasing competition between countries	Disruption of space assets [^]	Major maritime security incidents [^]
Base (n=)	546	55*	51*	51*	55*	51*	52*	53*	57*	51*
Take action, quicker responses	15%	13%	18%	19%	3%	7%	10%	2%	3%	12%
Funding / Financial assistance / Resources	13%	14%	8%	4%	11%	6%	0%	2%	4%	4%
NZ is small / Isolated / Does not have the resources	13%	4%	4%	12%	7%	14%	2%	17%	12%	6%
International alliances / Relationship	12%	8%	12%	14%	2%	16%	11%	13%	15%	8%
Have no confidence in government	12%	3%	15%	10%	15%▲	6%	6%	11%▲	2%	12%
Laws / Penalties / Policies / Protocols	11%	9%	8%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	10%
NZDF / Military	11%	0%	4%	2%	4%	13%	5%	4%	2%	8%
It is out of their control	11%	7%	6%	4%	7%	2%	6%	3%	8%	8%
Inform / Communicate / Educate	9%	10%	4%	2%	4%	2%	5%	4%	8%	7%
Technology / Cyber security	8%	21%	6%	2%	5%	0%	0%	0%	5%	6%
Nothing	7%	0%	4%	4%	2%	6%	0%	8%	9%	5%
DK/NR	18%	11%	11%	19%	17%	14%	15%	25%	22%	11%

Q12: 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 (n=546). Note: Responses less than 5% for the total are not shown. *CAUTION: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

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How government agencies can build confidence (I)

Being prepared / planning / being alert & informing the public are the two most commonly mentioned ways for the government to build public confidence in responding to these hazards. A smaller proportion also mention *funding / financial assistance & emergency services*.

	Total	Health epidemics	Natural disasters	Earthquakes	Tsunamis	Volcanic activity	Droughts	Wildfires
Base (n=)	456	67*	40**	52*	50*	52*	45**	25^
Be prepared / plan / be on the alert	20%	13%	19%	11%	6%	22%	11%	
Inform/communicate/educate/clarity	18%	7%	12%	11%	22%	15%	9%	
Funding / financial assistance/resources	15%	10%	12%	11%	11%▲	5%	16%	
Emergency services/systems / equipment in general	14%	0%	20%	15%	29%	14%	7%	
Take action/control	11%	3%	17%	4%▼	6%	5%	12%	
No confidence in govt / change the govt	11%	17%	5%	6%	6%	5%	4%	
Safety/protection	8%	3%	6%	5%	8%	6%	7%	
Expertise/knowledge / provide the necessary skilled people	8%	9%	11%	2%	0%	7%	2%	
Biosecurity	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Better infrastructure	7%	3%	3%	6%	4%	0%	12%	
It is out of their control	6%	0%	5%	4%	10%	11%	5%	
Health/COVID	6%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Do a better job / learn from past experience / events	6%	17%	11%	2%	2%	7%	3%	
Have back-ups / use alternatives	6%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	11%	
Support the people of New Zealand	6%	8%	7%	6%	0%	0%	9%	
Laws/rules/regulations/penalties in general	6%	2%	5%	2%	2%	4%	2%	
Other	11%	12%	7%	12%	4%	16%	5%	
DK/NR	15%	3%	5%	11%	10%	13%	5%	

012h: 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 (n=456). 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). ^DATA SUPPRESSED: Hazard sample <30, not valid for analysis.



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total
▲▼ indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

How government agencies can build confidence (II)

	Total	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure	Large-scale biodiversity loss	Pest & disease outbreaks	Severe weather & flooding events	Financial crises	Space weather events	Accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s)^
Base (n=)	456	46**	74*	40**	35**	84*	78*	105
Be prepared / plan / be on the alert	20%	24%	6%	8%	11%	9%	13% ▼	
Inform / communicate / educate / clarity	18%	11%	11%	13%	11%	8%	13%	
Funding /financial assistance / resources	15%	16%	17%	17%	9%	4%	9% ▲	
Emergency services / systems / equipment in general	14%	4%	1%	0%	31%	0%	2%	
Take action / control	11%	13%	10%	7%	12%	7%	7%	
No confidence in govt / change the govt	11%	5%	8%	12%	13%	13%	1% ▼	
Safety / protection	8%	7%	7%	2%	3%	9%	0%	
Expertise / knowledge / provide the necessary skilled people	8%	8%	7%	12%	3%	0%	6%	
Biosecurity	7%	0%	38% ▲	15%	0%	0%	0%	
Better infrastructure	7%	21%	0%	0%	3%	0%	10%	
It is out of their control	6%	2%	0%	2%	0%	1% ▼	11%	
Health / COVID	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Do a better job / learn from past experience / events	6%	7%	0%	2%	7%	1%	2%	
Have back-ups / use alternatives	6%	11%	0%	0%	0%	8%	11%	
Support the people of New Zealand	6%	0%	3%	7%	3%	8%	0%	
Laws / rules / regulations / penalties in general	6%	0%	12%	0%	3%	3%	1%	
Other	11%	9%	3%	5%	5%	5%	11%	
DK / NR	15%	8%	15%	5%	15%	8%	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 (n=456). 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). ^Note: In 2026, unplanned/uncontrolled accidental release/spill of hazardous material (as included in the 2024 survey) was changed to accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s); as such, 2026 data for the hazard cannot be compared to 2024.

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total
▲ ▼ indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024





CURRENT & FUTURE ENGAGEMENT



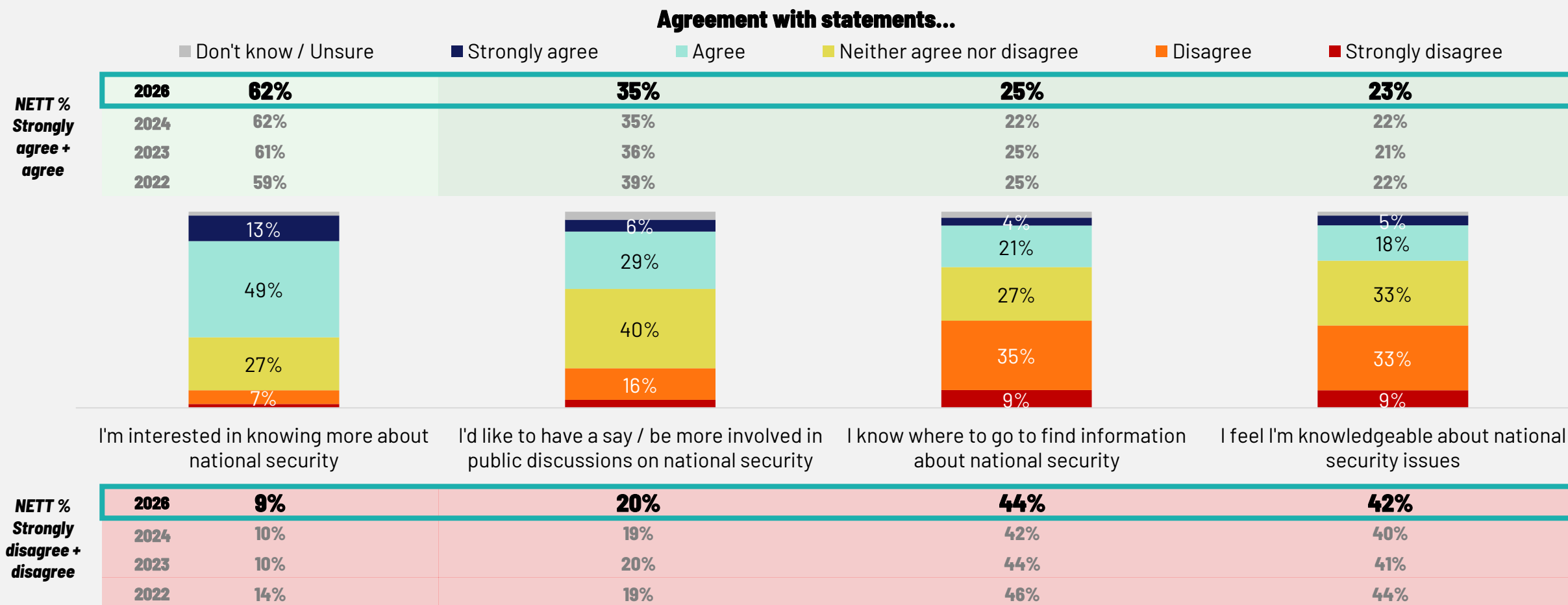


Key Findings

- New Zealanders have similar levels of **interest in knowing more** about hazards and threats – 66% are *interested in knowing more about significant hazards* (up 5 percentage points from 2024), while *interest in national security threats* is slightly lower (62%) and has remained stable.
- When it comes to **finding information**, there's a clear split: people know where to look for information on hazards, but not for threats.
 - Over half of New Zealanders (54%) say they *know where to find information on hazards* (up 6 points compared to 2026)
 - Only a quarter (25%) feel the same about threats. This proportion has remained the same since 2024.
- The public's **desire for information** is highest for the risks perceived as most likely – they are interested in learning most about *Natural disasters* (59%), *Severe weather and flooding events* (58%), and *Health epidemics* (57%), directly aligning with top-of-mind concerns.
- Close to 1 in 2 NZers want **information on the full range** of hazards (50%) and threats (47%).
- The **type of information** desired differs according to the type of risk:
 - For hazards, the demand is for practical, actionable guidance, with 73% wanting to know how to prepare beforehand
 - For threats, the public's focus shifts from personal action to government oversight. The demand for practical guidance is significantly lower, while there is a much stronger appetite for high-level materials like Government policy documents (56% for threats vs. 40% for hazards)



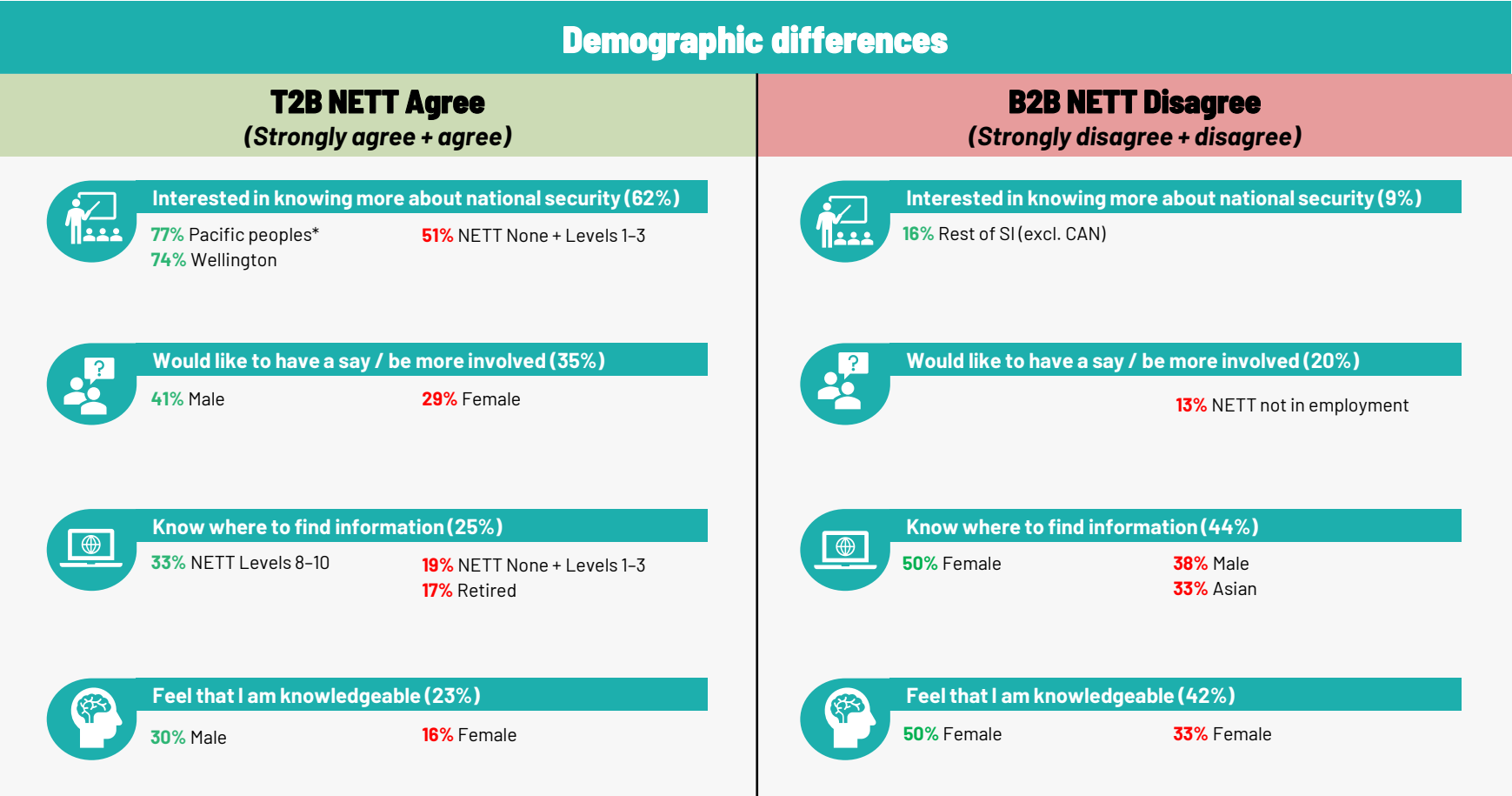
Public interest in knowing more about national security remains high at 62%. More than 4 in 10 New Zealanders don't feel knowledgeable about national security issues (42%) & don't know where to find this information (44%).



Q20: Thinking again about all the threats we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,172), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). **Note:** Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

Statistically significant differences

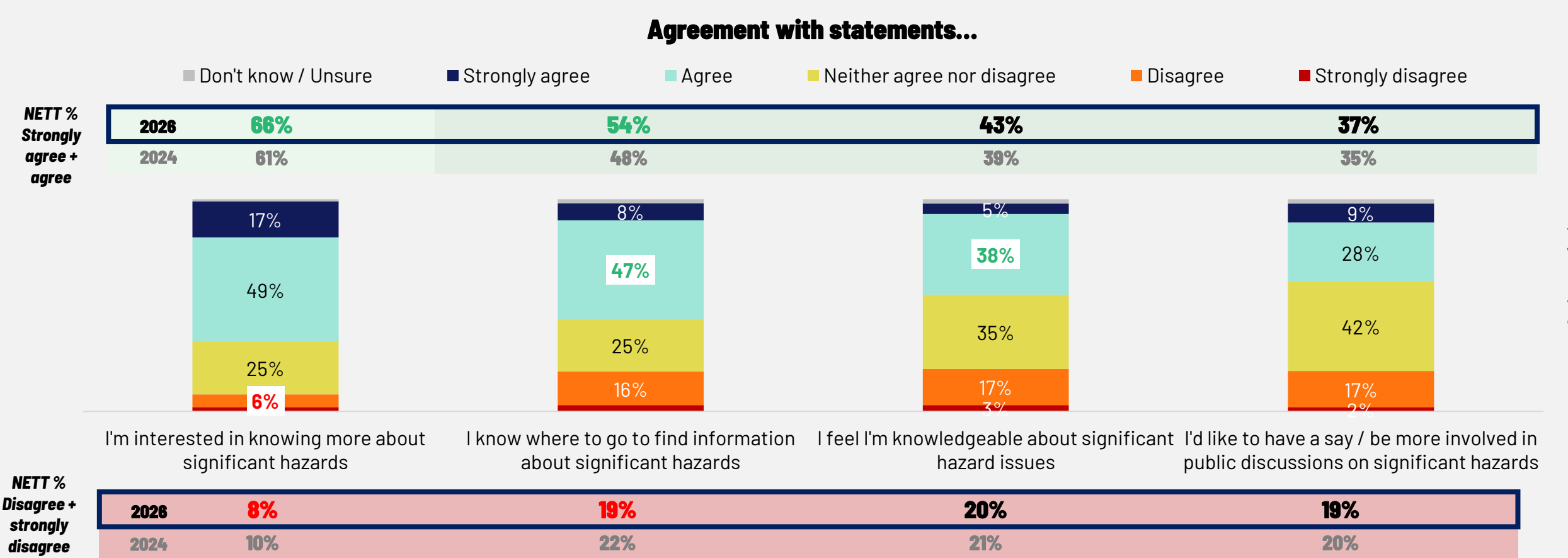


Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Q20: Thinking again about all the threats we have covered so far, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *CAUTION: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

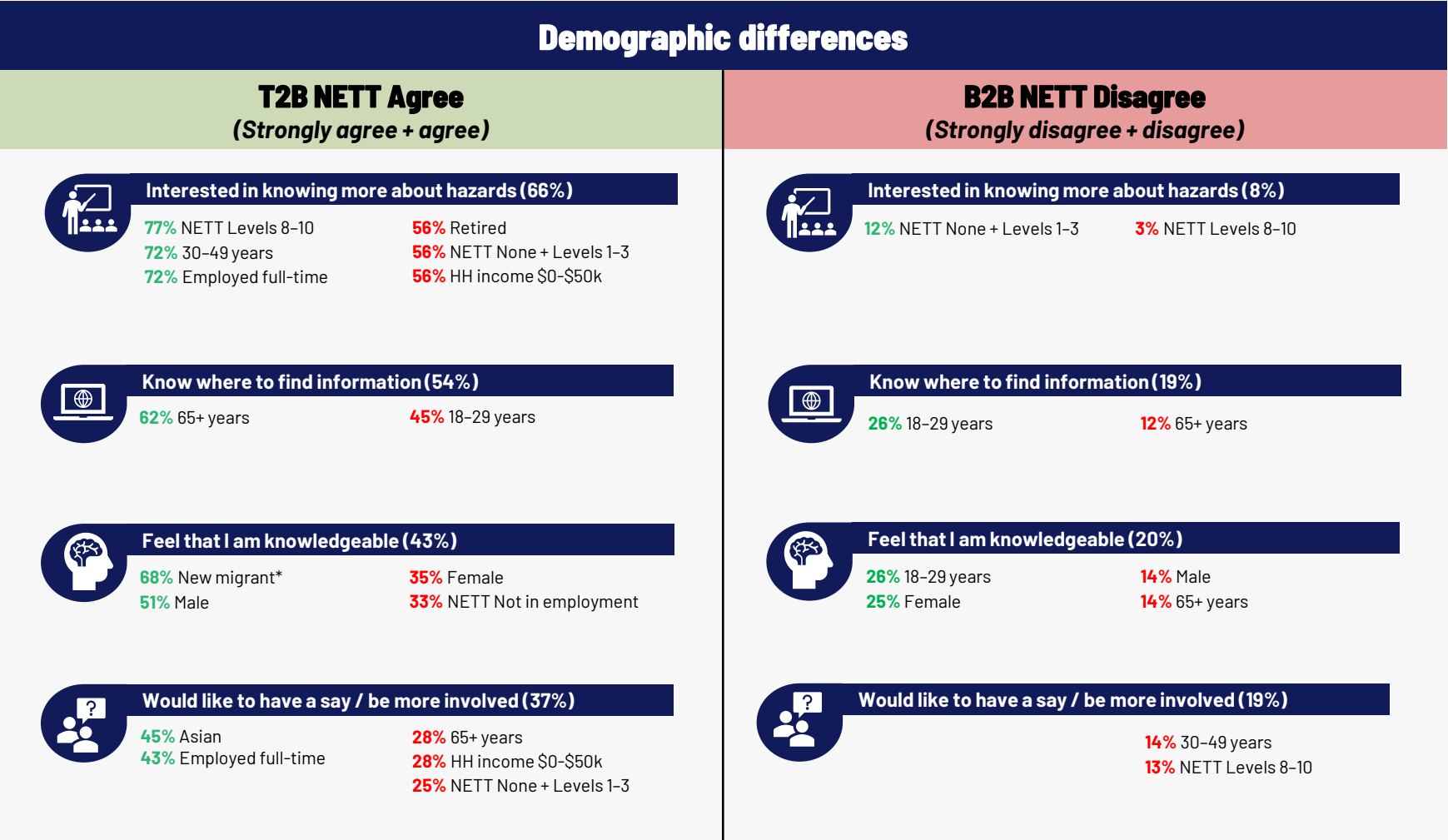
Public interest in knowing more about significant hazards remains high & has increased significantly (up 5 % points) since 2024 - as has interest in knowing where to find information on significant hazards (up 6 % points).



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 – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,178). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.



Statistically significant differences



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

Base: Total sample (n=1,000). *Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

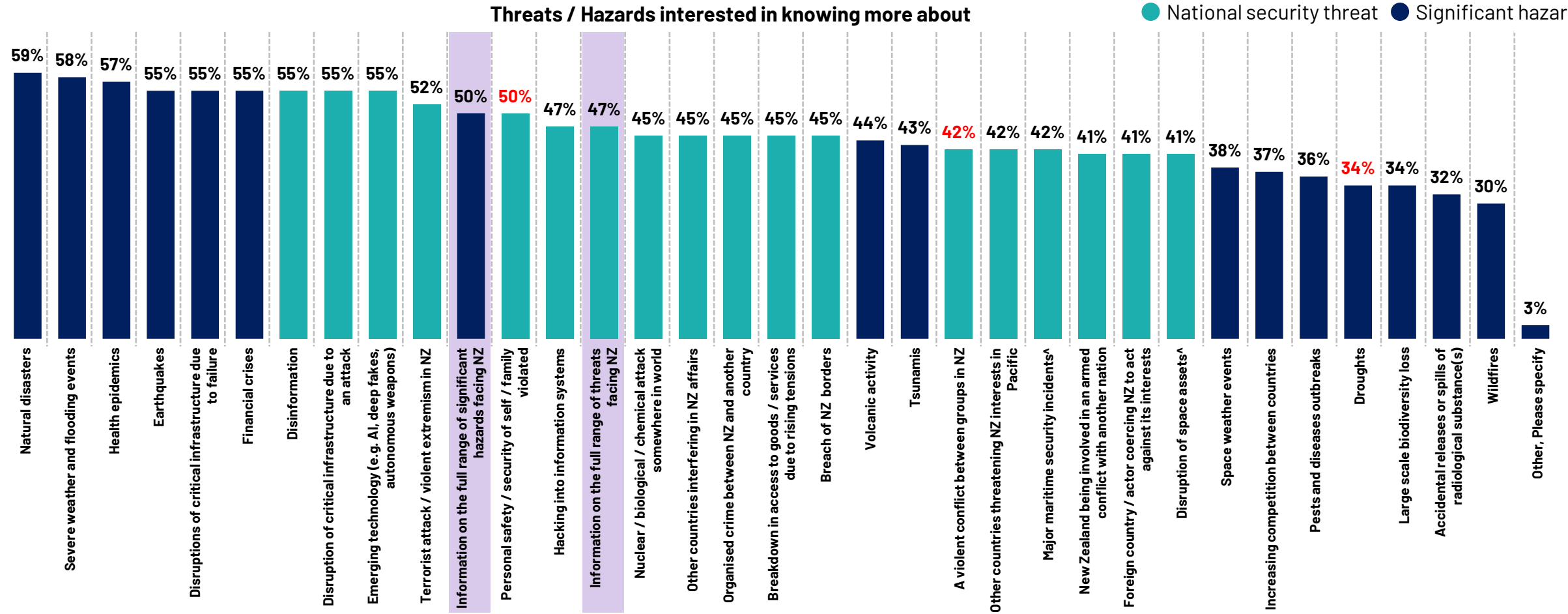


Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Seeking more information – All threats & hazards



Around of New Zealanders are interested in knowing more information on the full range of threats & significant hazards facing NZ in both tracks (Threats track:47%, Hazards track:50%). Interest in knowing more about Personal safety / security of self / family being violated, violent conflicts between groups in NZ and droughts has decreased compared to 2024.



Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than 2024.

Q21: Which of the following threats are you interested in knowing more about? / 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 threats in Q20 – 2026 (n=613), significant hazards in Q20h – 2026 (n=659)

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Demographic differences in seeking more information



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Threats



Organised crime (45%)

62% Retired 36% Employed full-time
60% 65+ years 33% 18-29 years



Hacking into information systems (47%)

63% 65+ years 39% Employed full-time
66% Retired 32% 18-29 years



Disinformation (55%)

70% Retired 47% Employed full-time
67% 65+ years 43% 18-29 years



Emerging technology (55%)

70% Retired 46% Employed full-time
69% 65+ years 41% 18-29 years
39% NET Rest of SI*



Nuclear / biological / chemical attack (45%)

60% NETT Rural*



Major maritime security incident^ (42%)

62% 65+ years 33% 30-49 years
62% NETT Rural* 33% Employed full-time
54% Māori* 23% 18-29 years
52% 50-64 years
53% HH Income \$0-\$50k



Disruption of critical infrastructure due to an attack (55%)

69% 65+ years 46% Employed full-time
68% Retired 43% 18-29 years



Terrorist attack / violent extremism in NZ (52%)

41% 18-29 years



Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific (42%)

66% Retired 34% Employed full-time
58% 65+ years 27% Asian
55% NETT Rural* 25% 18-29 years



Violent conflict (42%)

54% 65+ years 30% 18-29 years
57% Retired



Other countries interfering in NZ affairs (45%)

63% Retired 37% Employed full-time
61% Waikato* 34% Asian
58% 65+ years 27% 18-29 years



Increasing competition between countries (37%)

47% 50-64 years



Breach of NZ borders (45%)

59% Rural* 32% NETT Asian
57% Canterbury*
56% 65+ years
55% Retired



Foreign country / actor coercing NZ to act against its interests (41%)

28% 18-29 years



Personal safety (50%)

65% Rural* 35% 18-29 years
63% Retired
60% 65+ years
60% NETT Rest of NI



NZ involved in armed conflict with another country (41%)

53% Canterbury*

Hazards



Severe weather & flooding events (58%)

47% 18-29 years



Earthquakes (55%)

41% 18-29 years



Natural disasters (59%)

49% 18-29 years



Disruption of critical infrastructure (55%)

66% 50-64 years 41% 18-29 years



Wildfires (30%)

41% NETT None + Levels 1-3 23% Employed full-time
47% HH income \$0-\$50k* 18% Asian



Pests and disease outbreaks (36%)

51% Waikato* 29% Employed full-time
47% Māori



Financial crisis (55%)

44% 65+ years



Droughts (34%)

No significant differences



Health epidemics (57%)

72% Waikato*



Volcanic activity (44%)

55% Rest of NI 29% Rest of SI
(excl. Auckland, Wellington, Waikato) (excl. Canterbury)*
23% Canterbury*



Large scale biodiversity loss (34%)

61% Female 26% Male



Tsunamis (43%)

No significant differences



Space weather events (36%)

No significant differences



Accidental releases of radiological substances (32%)

39% Female 25% Male



Information on full range of hazards (50%)

63% 65+ years

Q21: Which of the following threats are you interested in knowing more about? / Q21h: Which of the following significant hazards are you interested in knowing more about?

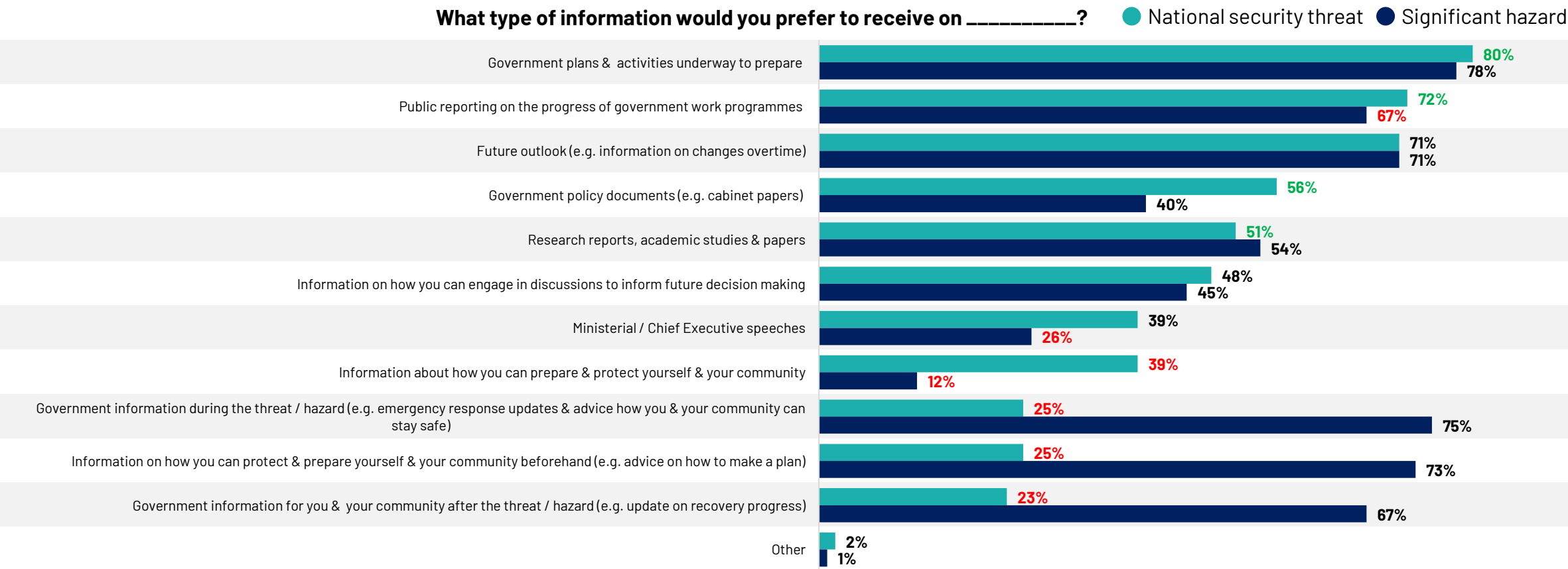
Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about threats in Q20 - 2026 (n=613), significant hazards in Q20h - 2026 (n=659)

Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than the total.

Preferred information types and topics

Government’s plans and activities underway to prepare, is the most sought information for both threats and hazards. New Zealanders are more likely to want Government information during, before and after significant hazard events than national security threats.

Government policy documents, Ministerial / Chief executive speeches, and Information on how NZers can prepare and protect themselves and their community is more sought for threats.



Q21a: What type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21>? / **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 threats in Q21- 2026(n=587), Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant threats in Q21h - 2026 (n=622),

Green / red indicates statistically significantly higher / lower than 2024.

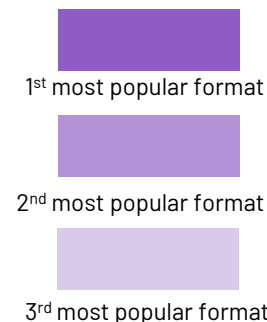
Preferred information by hazard type (I)



The type of information New Zealanders would prefer to receive on hazards focuses largely on *Government information during the hazard event, Plans to prepare for the hazard, and information on how NZers can protect themselves & their communities beforehand*. The type of information differs for Wildfires, where *Future outlook and Public reporting on progress of government work programmes* is preferred.

	Health epidemics	Natural disasters	Earthquakes	Tsunamis	Volcanic activity	Droughts	Wildfires
Base (n=)	125	124	125	124	125	122	121
Future outlook (e.g information on changes overtime)	40%	56%	49%	52%	55%	52%	59%
Government plans & preparation activities underway to prepare	55%	64%	60%	61%	67%	64%	75%
Information on how you can engage in discussions to inform future decision making	25%	27%	21%	27%	27%	33%	36%
Public reporting on the progress of government work programmes	44%	43%	36%	41%	40%	43%	69%
Research reports, academic studies and papers on hazard	38%	28%	34%	38%	41%	35%	40%
Government policy documents (e.g. cabinet papers)	21%	20%	16%	25%	21%	33%	36%
Ministerial / Chief Executive speeches on hazard	16%	18%	14%	16%	7%	16%	18%
Government information on how you can protect & prepare yourself & your community beforehand	57%	61%	62%	65%	63%	67%	0%
Government information during hazard event	65%	70%	74%	66%	68%	67%	0%
Government information for you & your community after hazard event (e.g. update on recovery progress)	48%	57%	59%	58%	54%	58%	0%
Information about how you can prepare and protect yourself and your community	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	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=622)

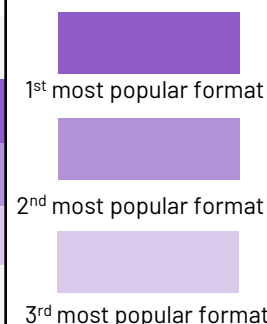
Preferred information by hazard type (II)



For financial crisis, the public are interested in *Information on how they can prepare and protect themselves and their community*, while *Research reports, academic studies and papers* are preferred for Large scale biodiversity loss.

	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure	Large scale biodiversity loss	Pests and diseases outbreaks	Severe weather and flooding events	Financial crises	Space weather events	Accidental releases or spills of radiological substance(s)
Base (n=)	125	122	122	124	125	125	121
Future outlook (e.g information on changes overtime)	38%	67%	55%	51%	38%	50%	52%
Government plans & preparation activities underway to prepare	51%	70%	63%	52%	57%	59%	61%
Information on how you can engage in discussions to inform future decision making	28%	45%	32%	28%	35%	17%	29%
Public reporting on the progress of government work programmes	48%	70%	57%	46%	42%	42%	55%
Research reports, academic studies and papers on hazard	31%	62%	34%	23%	28%	41%	45%
Government policy documents (e.g. cabinet papers)	22%	42%	27%	19%	25%	31%	35%
Ministerial / Chief Executive speeches on hazard	18%	25%	14%	12%	16%	12%	24%
Government information on how you can protect & prepare yourself & your community beforehand	57%	0%	62%	63%	0%	70%	66%
Government information during hazard event	55%	0%	68%	59%	0%	61%	63%
Government information for you & your community after hazard event (e.g. update on recovery progress)	49%	0%	60%	50%	0%	51%	61%
Information about how you can prepare and protect yourself and your community	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%
Other	2%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	2%

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=622)

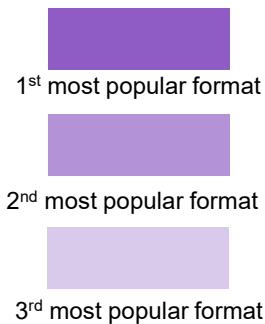
Preferred information by threat type (I)



The type of information New Zealanders would prefer to receive on threats focus largely on **government communications around plans to prepare for the threat**. Government information on how you can protect yourself is preferred for **hacking**, while **Public reporting on the progress of government work programs** is preferred for **organised crime**.

	Terrorist attacks / acts of violent extremism	A violent conflict between groups	Armed conflicts with other nations	Nuclear / biological / chemical attacks	Threats to personal safety and security	Hacking into personal information systems/cyber security attacks	Breaches of New Zealand's borders	The spread of disinformation deliberately shared to cause harm	Organised crime between New Zealand and other countries
Base (n=)	92	91	92	92	90	91	91	91	90
Future outlook (e.g. information on changes over time)	44%	57%	61%	53%	53%	50%	63%	51%	49%
Government plans & activities underway to prepare	60%	70%	66%	80%	63%	51%	67%	68%	60%
Information on how you can engage in discussions to inform future decision-making	27%	35%	34%	30%	35%	30%	41%	35%	30%
Public reporting on the progress of government work programmes	51%	58%	55%	59%	51%	51%	51%	63%	63%
Research reports, academic studies & papers	34%	47%	27%	40%	25%	29%	32%	44%	36%
Government policy documents (e.g. Cabinet papers)	32%	44%	40%	39%	34%	34%	43%	51%	32%
Ministerial / chief executive speeches	21%	34%	37%	25%	14%	25%	27%	27%	23%
Government information on how you can protect & prepare yourself & your community beforehand (e.g. advice on how to make a plan)	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	63%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Government information during the threat (e.g. emergency response updates & advice how you & your community can stay safe)	54%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	57%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Government information for you & your community after the threat (e.g. update on recovery progress)	60%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	51%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Information about how you can prepare & protect yourself & your community	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	70%	N/A	N/A	N/A	55%
Other	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	2%	3%

Key:



Q21a: And what type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21>?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant threats in Q21 (n=587)

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Preferred information by threat type (II)

For Foreign actors coercing NZ the public are interested in public reporting on the progress of government programs.

	Emerging technology security threats	Foreign interference in New Zealand's affairs	Foreign countries or actors coercing New Zealand to act against its interests	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to an attack	Threats to New Zealand's interests in the pacific	A breakdown in access to critical goods / services	Increasing competition between countries that negatively impact New Zealand	Disruptions of space assets^	Major maritime security incidents^
Base (n=)	93	91	91	94	91	91	91	91	91
Future outlook (e.g. information on changes over time)	59%	48%	57%	42%	62%	55%	57%	50%	61%
Government plans & activities underway to prepare	62%	71%	67%	60%	74%	71%	71%	71%	71%
Information on how you can engage in discussions to inform future decision-making	36%	35%	44%	24%	40%	30%	41%	37%	31%
Public reporting on the progress of government work programmes	49%	62%	69%	49%	60%	57%	58%	43%	60%
Research reports, academic studies & papers	42%	38%	51%	27%	42%	35%	40%	36%	41%
Government policy documents (e.g. Cabinet papers)	33%	42%	47%	28%	41%	44%	45%	38%	33%
Ministerial / chief executive speeches	21%	25%	37%	26%	32%	32%	40%	26%	25%
Government information on how you can protect & prepare yourself & your community beforehand (e.g. advice on how to make a plan)	N/A	N/A	N/A	59%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Government information during the threat (e.g. emergency response updates & advice how you & your community can stay safe)	N/A	N/A	N/A	59%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Government information for you & your community after the threat (e.g. update on recovery progress)	N/A	N/A	N/A	54%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Information about how you can prepare & protect yourself & your community	56%	49%	N/A	N/A	N/A	64%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	1%	1%	2%	0%	3%	1%	1%	2%	1%

Q21a: And what type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21>? ^Note: Threats added in 2026

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant threats in Q21 (n=587)

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APPENDIX 1

CHANGES TO DEEP DIVES SINCE 2024



Roles & resources: 3 different national security threats asked about in 2026

This year, the focus was on 3 different threats to understand the perceived role of different groups in responding to threats: *other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific, major maritime security incidents & breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions*. Respondents who were assigned to answer questions in the 'threats track' were randomly selected to answer one of these threats for subsequent questions 25 & 26.

In 2024, respondents were asked about *emerging technology, disruption of critical infrastructure & increasing competition between countries*.

2024

Threat name	Definition
Emerging technology	New Zealand's and/or New Zealanders' security being affected by emerging technology (e.g. artificial intelligence, deep fakes, autonomous weapons)
Disruption of critical infrastructure	Disruption of New Zealand's critical infrastructure (e.g. water, transport, energy, telecommunications) due do a malicious attack (e.g. cyber attack on transport system)
Increasing competition between countries	Increasing competition between countries that negatively impacts how New Zealand protects its interests internationally and that may lead to military conflict

2026

Threat name	Definition
Other countries threatening NZ interests in the Pacific	Other country/countries threatening New Zealand interests in the Pacific region (e.g. establishing a foreign military base)
Major maritime security incidents*	Illegal or unauthorised activity in New Zealand waters by a country, company, or group – such as entering our waters without permission or taking resources like fish or minerals
Breakdown in access to goods/services due to rising tensions	A breakdown in access to critical goods and services caused by rising tensions between countries (e.g. through restrictions on trade or other penalties)

*Note: New threat added in 2026.



Roles & resources: 3 different hazard types asked about in 2026

In 2026, the focus was on 3 different hazards to understand the perceived roles & responsibilities of different groups: *earthquakes, volcanic activity & communicable disease outbreaks*. Respondents who were assigned to answer questions in the 'hazards track' were randomly selected to answer one of these threats for subsequent questions 25h & 26h.

In 2024, respondents were asked about *sever weather & flooding, tsunami & disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure*.

2024

Threat name	Definition
Sever weather & flooding	A severe weather event (e.g. strong winds, heavy rain, snow, landslides, and/or flooding) in New Zealand
Tsunami	A major tsunami (a series of large, damaging waves) 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

2026

Threat name	Definition
Earthquakes	A major earthquake resulting in strong and violent ground shaking in New Zealand
Volcanic activity	Significant volcanic activity (including release of gases, ash, lava emissions, and/or eruption) in New Zealand
Communicable disease outbreak	Another major health epidemic breaking out in New Zealand



APPENDIX 2

PANEL DETAILS



Methodology

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

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 research panels.

Panel respondents are recruited from actively managed research panels (not 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.

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