



2026 NATIONAL RISKS PUBLIC SURVEY

Significant Hazards

May 2026



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BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY





Research objectives – Significant hazards

This is the fourth survey the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has commissioned to understand public perceptions of national risks (including both national security threats and significant hazards). While previous surveys focused more on national security threats, the scope has been broadened to include significant hazards. The survey explores:

- New Zealanders' awareness of national risks, including the public's perceived likelihood of these over the short (next 12 months) and long term (next 10 years)
- Public confidence in government agencies' abilities to protect and respond to these threats and hazards
- 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, e.g. 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 1,000 people, in relation to:

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

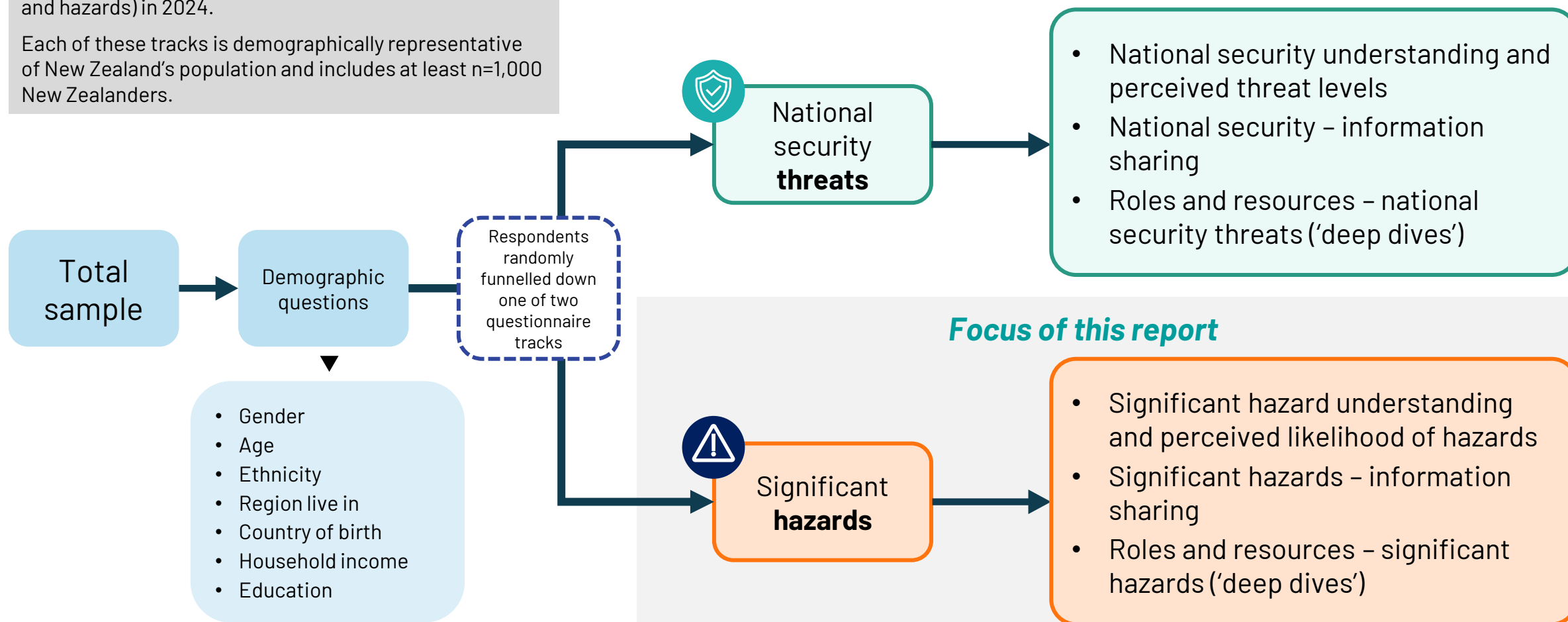




2026 national risks public survey questionnaire flow

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 – Significant hazards



Fieldwork dates

15th February 2026–15th March 2026



Methodology

Online interviews (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=1,000

*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 subgroup analysis section, demographic differences are shown amongst the demographic groups with a base size larger than n=30.
- For ease of navigation, click on the required section on the contents slide; to return to the contents slide, click on the 'hazard' icon at the top of each section divider slide.

Context: What was making the news during fieldwork



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It is likely that 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

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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

Note 1: % reported are weighted data, base sizes are unweighted.

Note 2: NETTs are derived by grouping responses. They count respondents who have selected any of the responses in the group.



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TOTAL SAMPLE
1,000

ETHNICITY



		n=
NETT NZ European/ Pākehā	74%	746
NETT Māori	15%	152
NETT Pacific	7%	54
NETT Asian	17%	179
NETT Other	3%	32

REGION



		n=
Auckland	33%	337
Waikato	10%	89
Wellington	11%	123
Rest of North Island	22%	220
Canterbury	13%	132
Rest of South Island	10%	99

GENDER



		n=
Male	49%	486
Female	50%	509

COUNTRY OF BIRTH



		n=
New Zealand	71%	712
Outside of NZ	29%	288

HOUSEHOLD INCOME



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

AGE



		n=
18-29 years	20%	201
30-49 years	34%	348
50-64 years	25%	232
65+ years	21%	219

REGENCY OF MIGRATION

		n=
NETT New migrant (<7 years in NZ)	17%	50
NETT Established migrant (>7 years in NZ)	83%	239

EDUCATION



		n=
NETT None + Levels 1-3	27%	267
NETT Levels 4-7	50%	500
NETT Levels 8-10	22%	227

EMPLOYMENT STATUS



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

URBAN vs RURAL



		n=
Urban	89%	895
Rural	11%	105

2025 Halifax International Security Forum

Ipsos's 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 consisted of approximately 2,200 individuals, of whom around 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's [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

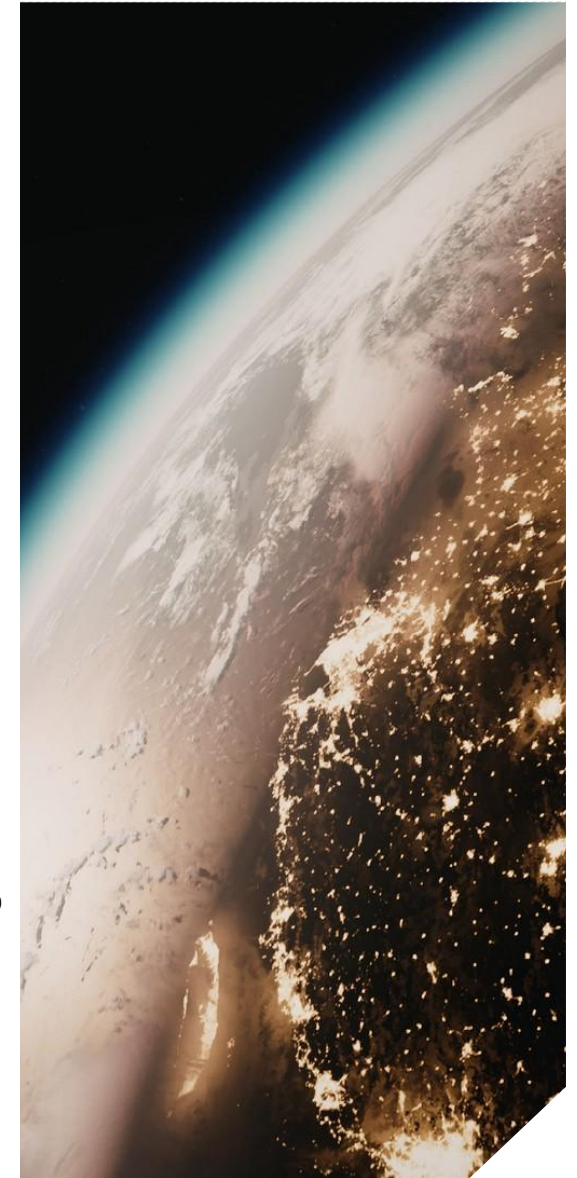
Where possible, we have used the Halifax Report results to compare NZ results with global country averages for perceived likelihood of national risks in the next 12 months.

<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>



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KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY





Overall findings: Perception of hazards in the short & long term

- Seven in 10 New Zealanders (2026: 69%, 2024: 70%) continue to feel the risks from *climate change* have increased over the last year.
- The top-3 hazards deemed to be a very real threat in the next 12 months remain the same as in 2024 – *severe weather & flooding events, earthquakes, and natural disasters*, with New Zealanders being significantly more likely to be concerned about *natural disasters* (86%) than the global country average* (65%).
- There has been a decrease in concerns about *wildfires* (72% vs 83%), *health epidemics* (68% vs 72%), and *droughts* (68% vs 77%) occurring in the next 12 months, and a significant increase in the perceived likelihood of a *space weather event* (55% vs 51%).
- New Zealanders are significantly more likely to be concerned about *health epidemics* (68%) than the global country average* (58%).
- When asked to consider the longer term (next 10 years), respondents chose *severe weather & flooding events, natural disasters, and earthquakes* as the three highest-ranking hazards (with 88%–93% mentions). These are also the top 3 for the short term.
- Most hazards are seen as more likely in the longer than short term. The exceptions are *severe weather & flooding events, earthquakes, and disruptions of critical infrastructure*, which are perceived to be just as likely in either timeframe.

***Note:** Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos-Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2025 (n=18,077).

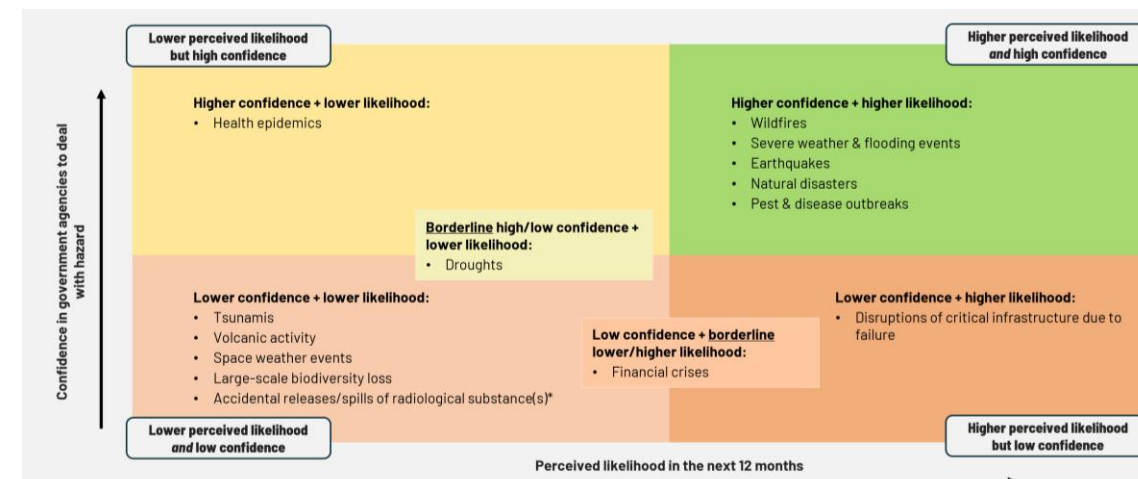




Overall findings: Perceptions of roles, responsibilities, information & resources

- While only 1 in 3 (35%) New Zealanders agree New Zealand's government agencies currently share enough information about significant hazards, this proportion has seen a significant increase since 2024 (30%).
- Desire for and awareness of information have also increased significantly – 66% (vs 61% in 2024) of New Zealanders want more information about significant hazards, while 54% (vs 48% in 2024) state they know where to go to find this information.
- Confidence in government agencies' ability to protect and respond to the top-5 perceived hazards is largely similar to 2024, except for a significant drop in confidence in their ability to protect and respond to natural disasters (60% vs 66%).
 - Across the full list of hazards, confidence is highest for wildfires, earthquakes, and severe weather & flooding events, with 55%–60% being confident.
 - New Zealanders are least confident regarding financial crises, space weather events, and accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s).
- Consistent with previous waves, a majority of New Zealanders view the roles of the NZ government and its agencies as having the **most responsibility** to protect against the three deep-dive hazards: earthquakes, volcanic activity, and communicable disease outbreak.
- They also view the government and its agencies as being the **best resourced** to protect New Zealanders against these hazards.

- In an analysis of the level of perceived likelihood of hazard versus confidence in government agencies' abilities to respond:
 - Only one hazard is seen to have a higher perceived likelihood but lower relative confidence in government agencies' abilities: *disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure*.
 - Wildfires, severe weather events, earthquakes, natural disasters, and pest & disease outbreak are considered highly likely but with high confidence in the government.
 - Additionally, financial crises is seen as low confidence but borderline between higher and lower perceived likelihood.





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



WHAT DOES 'NATIONAL RISK' MEAN TO NEW ZEALANDERS?



Key findings

What does 'national risk' mean to New Zealanders?

- When asked about what national risk means to them, New Zealanders' most common answers relate to *the negative impacts on the entire country, prevalence of natural phenomena, and the threats posed to the economy.*
- Respondents perceive *severe weather & flooding events, earthquakes, and natural disasters* as the most likely hazards to occur in the next 12 months.
- The top-10 hazard rankings for the next 12 months, and the next 10 years, are very similar to those in 2024.
- More than half of New Zealanders perceive that 13 of the 14 hazards are a threat in the next 12 months ('somewhat' + 'very real').
- Most hazards are seen as more likely in the longer than short term. The exceptions are *severe weather & flooding events, earthquakes, and disruptions of critical infrastructure*, which are perceived to be just as likely in either timeframe.
- The top-5 hazards for short term (12 months) and long term (10 years) are similar. *Severe weather & flooding events* is considered the #1 most likely for both.
- Concern for a *health epidemic* in the next 12 months continues to drop since its introduction in the 2022 survey, while *wildfires* has seen the largest decrease in perceived likelihood this round.
- The risk of *accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s)* was reworded in the 2026 survey. Of the 14 hazards listed, this is the one that New Zealanders were least concerned about.



What 'national risk' means to New Zealanders

Almost all New Zealanders (95%) have a view on what 'national risk' means. The most common themes are *risks/threats/dangers to New Zealand*, followed by *natural phenomena*, *threats to the economy & public health*. There was a significant increase in mentions of *disaster/accident in general*.

What comes to mind when you see the term 'national risk'?		2026	2024	% point difference (2026-2024)
Risks/threats/danger/attacks in general - something that negatively impacts the whole country		41%	37%	+4%
Natural phenomena - weather, cyclones, eruptions, earthquakes, etc.		16%	14%	+2%
Threats to the economy - financial crisis / inflation / cost of living / economic turmoil / economic collapse		13%	12%	+1%
Threats to health - public health / pandemic/COVID/plague/nationwide health issue		8%	11%	-3%
Disaster/accident in general		8%	1%	+7%
Terrorism - terrorist/terrorism / a potential terror threat / terrorist activities		7%	6%	+1%
Threats of war - war against your country / a country at war / things to do with war / war		7%	5%	+2%
Security threats in general - national security / threat level to national security / the country's security		7%	6%	+1%
Government in general - govt / lack of confidence in a political party		6%	6%	0%
An event that will affect us all (no mention of risk/danger / negative impact)		5%	3%	+2%
Don't know / No response		5%	8%	-3%

Q8h: When you see the term 'National Risk', what comes to mind?
Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,178). Note: Responses less than 5% are not shown.

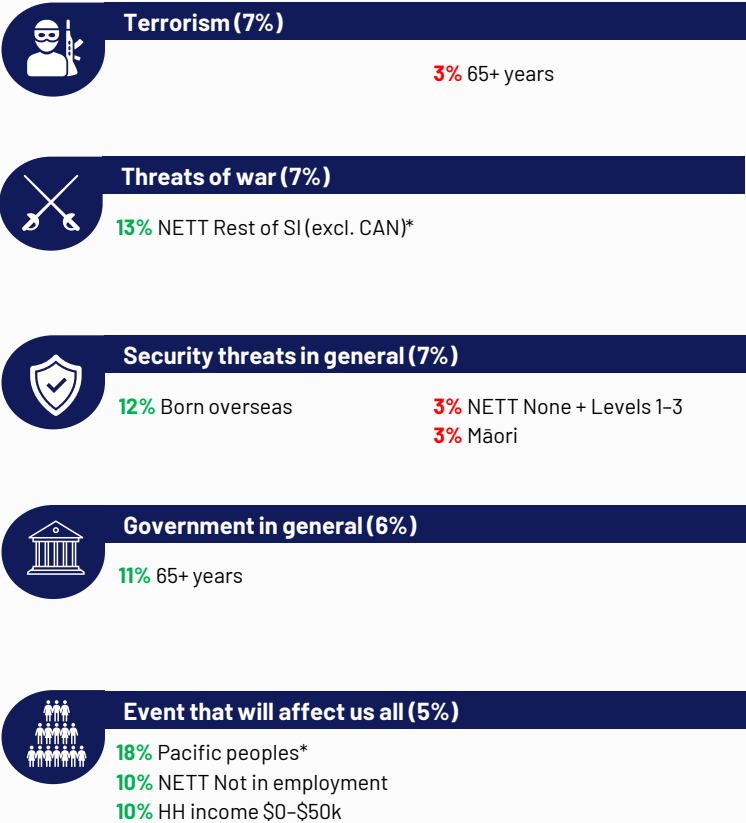
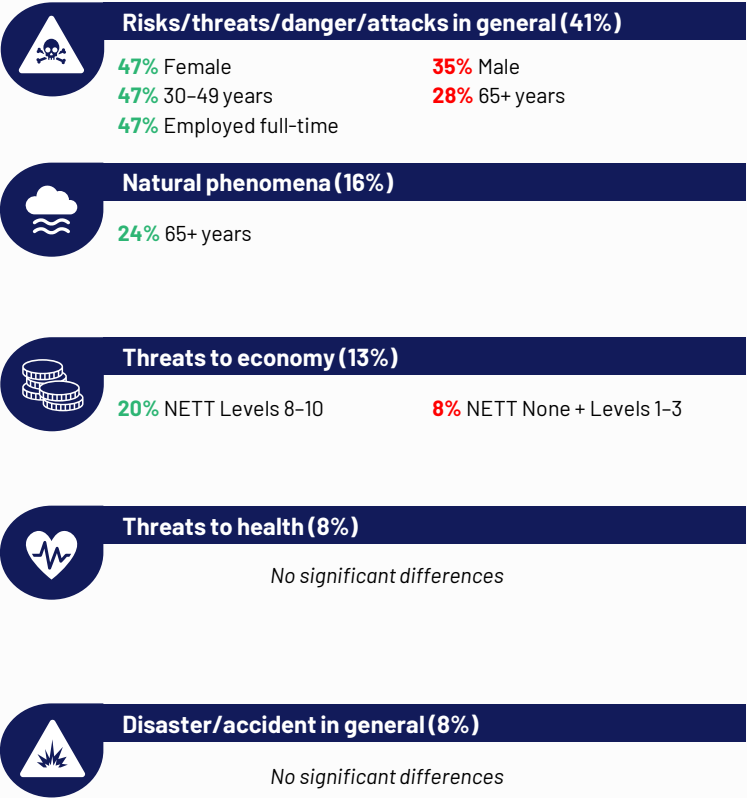
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

Differences in how groups view 'national risk'



Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences



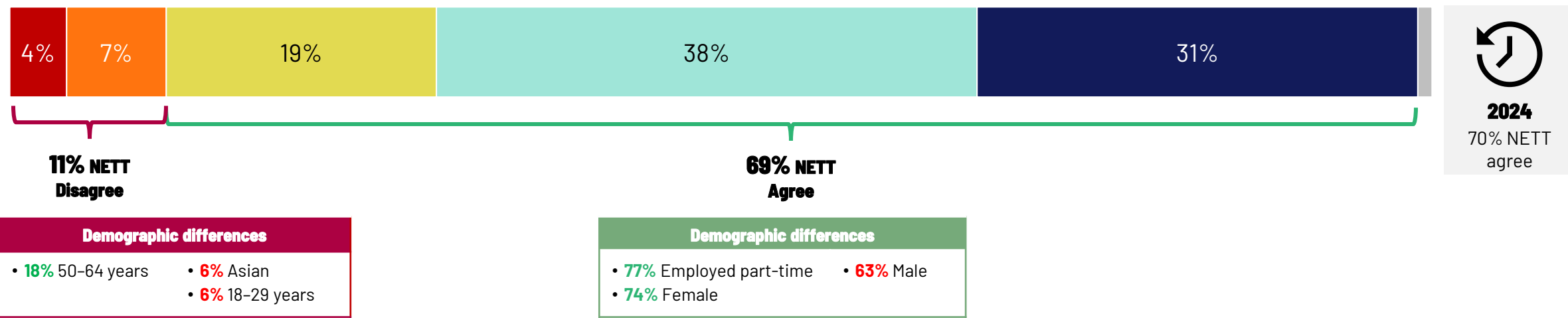
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

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).

New Zealanders’ perceived impact of climate change remains similar to 2024, with close to 7 in 10 agreeing that *the risks from climate change have increased over the last year*.

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

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



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)

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

Full survey wording for 'significant hazards'



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/uncontrolled accidental release/spill of hazardous material* (as in the 2024 survey) was **changed** to *accidental releases/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 of respondents in the threats track of the survey, and were **re-classified** as 'significant hazards' which were asked of respondents who answered the hazards track.
- A **new 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**.

Short-term hazards: Top 10 likely in the next 12 months



Severe weather, earthquakes & natural disasters are the top-3 hazards most commonly perceived as likely to occur in the next 12 months ('somewhat/very real'). This is unchanged from 2024.

The remaining top-10 hazards from 2024 are also in the top 10 in 2026, though their rankings have shifted slightly.

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

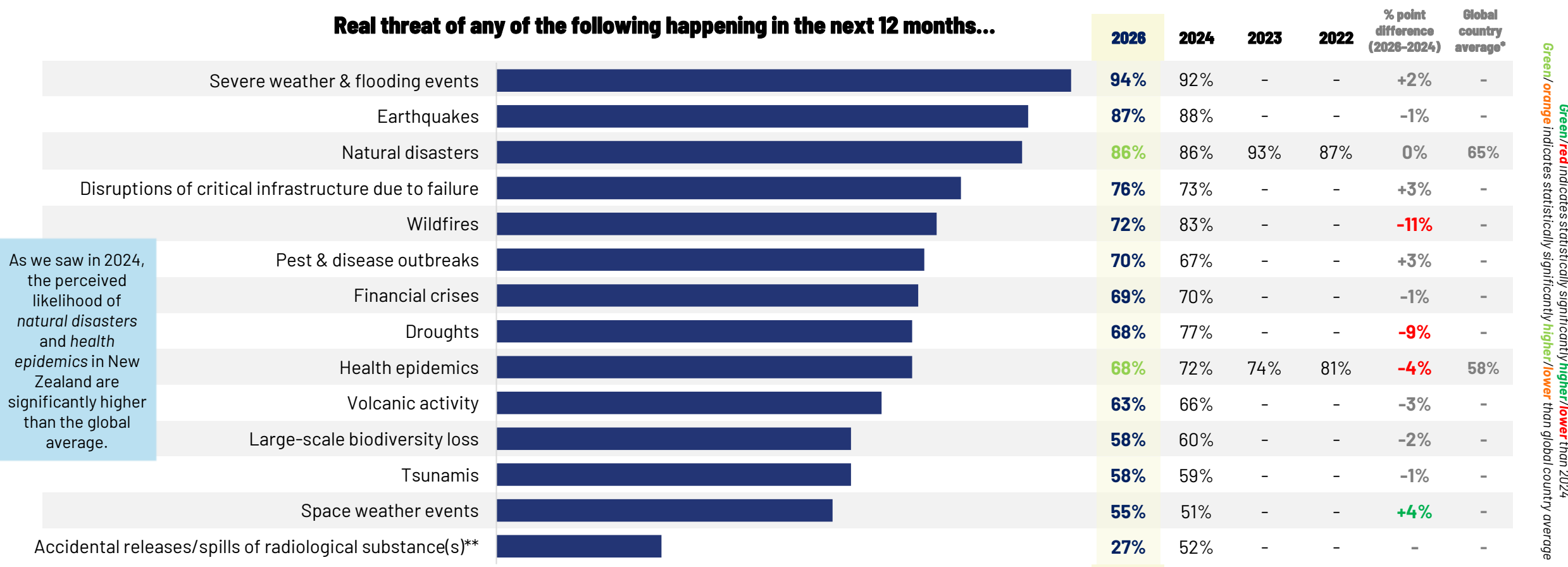
2026 rank		2024 rank	2026 rank		2024 rank
1	Severe weather & flooding events	#1	6	Pest & disease outbreaks	#9
2	Earthquakes	#2	7	Financial crises	#8
3	Natural disasters	#3	8=	Droughts	#5
4	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure	#6	8=	Health epidemics	#7
5	Wildfires	#4	10	Volcanic activity	#10

Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?

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

All 14 hazards (next 12 months): Ranking & comparison

Compared to 2024, New Zealanders are significantly less likely to perceive *wildfires, droughts & health epidemics* as a real threat in the next 12 months & significantly more likely to be concerned about *space weather events*.

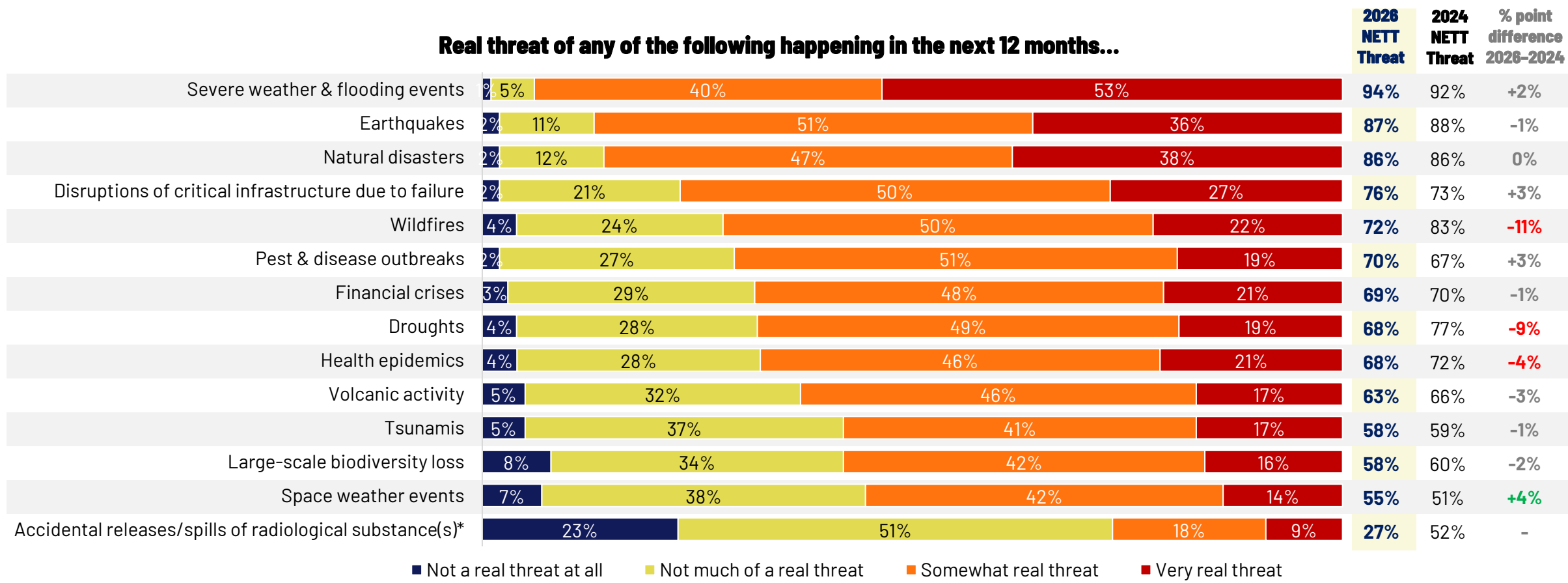


Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,178), 2023 (n=2,370), 2022 (n=1,148). **Note:** Hazards were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. ***Note:** Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos-Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2025 (n=18,077) where applicable. ****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.

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

Perceived level of threats: Next 12 months

More than half of New Zealanders perceive that 13 of the 14 hazards are a threat in the next 12 months (‘somewhat/very real’), except for *accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s)*.



Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?

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. ***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.

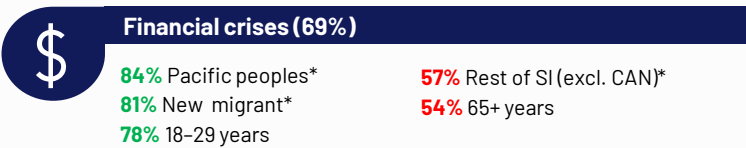
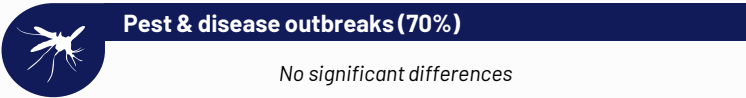
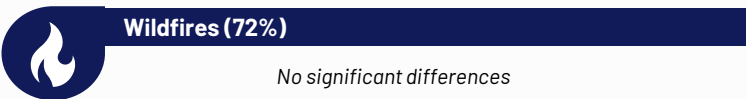
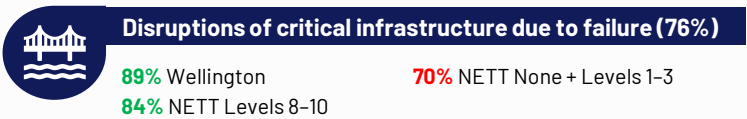
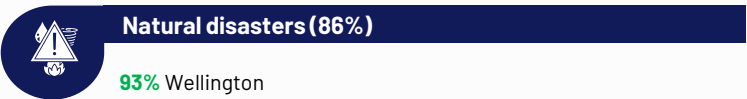
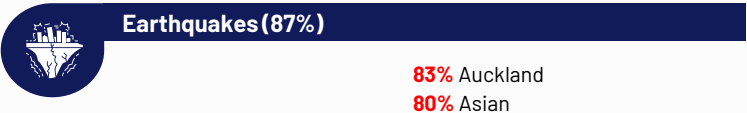
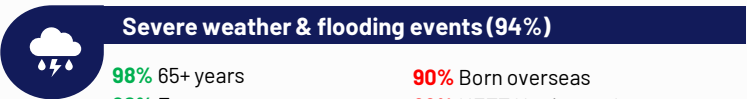
NETT figures represent very + somewhat real threat

Differences in how groups view hazards' likelihood (I)



Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences [Top-2 box: % Somewhat + very real threat]



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

09h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?

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

Differences in how groups view hazards' likelihood (II)



Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences [Top-2 box: % Somewhat + very real threat]



Health epidemics (68%)

No significant differences



Volcanic activity (63%)

79% New migrant*
77% Self-employed
74% Māori



Tsunamis (58%)

64% 30–49 years
49% 65+ years
46% Rest of SI (excl. CAN)*



Large-scale biodiversity loss (58%)

71% New migrant*
66% 18–29 years
64% Female
52% Male
49% 65+ years
44% Self-employed



Space weather events (55%)

No significant differences



Accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s)** (27%)

42% Asian
34% 18–29 years
20% European
17% 65+ years
16% Rest of SI (excl. CAN)*



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

Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months?

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

Top-3 reasons for rating each hazard as a 'very real threat'



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Health epidemic (n=71*)	Natural disaster (n=158)	Earthquake (n=161)	Tsunami (n=46**)	Volcanic activity (n=60*)	Drought (n=69*)	Wildfire (n=77*)
Emergence of / exposure to other diseases (42%)	Natural phenomena (55%)	Geography (52%)	Geography (46%)	Geography (62%)	Natural phenomena (49%)	Natural phenomena (43%)
Complacency (16%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (32%)	Natural phenomena (40%)	Natural phenomena (28%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (19%)	Climate change (36%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (28%)
Residual effects of COVID (15%)	Geography (31%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (26%)	Damage to lives/homes (13%)	Anything is possible / unpredictable (15%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (21%)	Climate change (17%)
Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure (n=106)	Large-scale biodiversity loss (n=66*)	Pest & disease outbreak (n=62*)	Severe weather & flooding (n=285)	Financial crisis (n=76*)	Space weather event (n=32**)	Accidental release/spill of hazardous material ^ (n=27**)
Failing infrastructure (53%)	Damage to ecosystem (53%)	Pests & insects can damage vegetation (27%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (67%)	Economy (57%)	Anything is possible/ unpredictable (25%)	Damage to lives/homes (16%)
Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (40%)	Climate change (18%)	Biosecurity (27%)	Natural phenomena (44%)	Local & national government (16%)	Atmospheric activity (24%)	Public health/safety (16%)
Natural phenomena (25%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (17%)	Have already seen / from past experience / happening now (21%)	Climate change (26%)	Foreign interference (16%)	Failing infrastructure (22%) Natural phenomena (22%)	Damage to ecosystem (9%)

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 'very real threat' at Q9h. **Note:** These are the top-3 % reasons why each hazard is likely to happen in the next 12 months. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (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).

Longer-term hazards: Top 10 likely in the next 10 years

The top-3 longer-term hazards are *severe weather & flooding events, natural disasters & earthquakes*. These were also the top 3 in 2024.

The group of hazards in the top 10 are the same as 2024, with some slight shifts in ranking.

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

2026 rank		2024 rank	2026 rank		2024 rank
1	Severe weather & flooding events	#1=	6	Wildfires	#4=
2	Natural disasters	#3	7=	Health epidemics	#6
3	Earthquakes	#1=	7=	Financial crises	#8=
4	Droughts	#4=	9	Pest & disease outbreaks	#10
5	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure	#7	10	Volcanic activity	#8=

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?

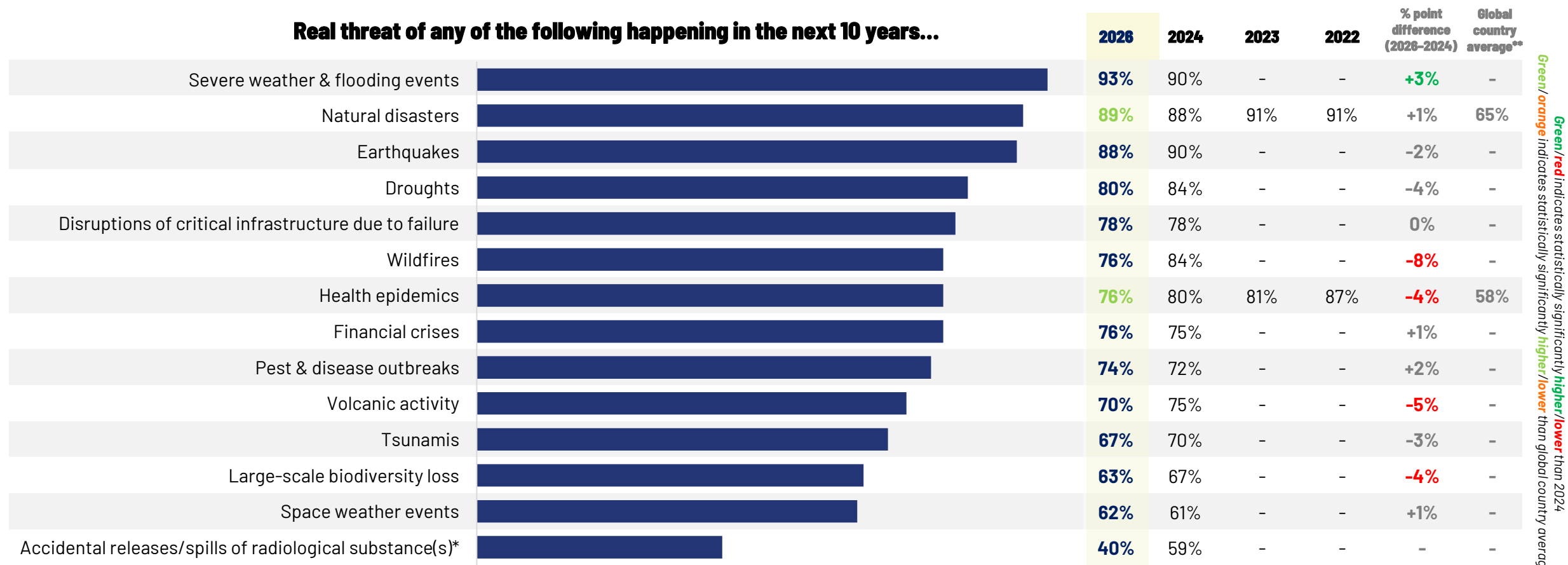
Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,178)

All 14 hazards (next 10 years): Ranking & comparison



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Compared to 2024, long-term concern for most hazards has held steady or dropped significantly. However, concern for severe weather & flooding events has seen a significant increase this year – up 3 % points.



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:** Hazards were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. ***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. ****Note:** Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos–Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2025 (n=18,077) where applicable. These figures represent how real respondents feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the **next 12 months**, whereas this question is about the **next 10 years**.

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

Short-term vs long-term hazards: Top-5 comparison

The top-5 hazards for short term (12 months) & long term (10 years) are similar. *Severe weather & flooding events* is considered the #1 most likely for both. *Earthquakes & natural disasters* round out the top 3 for both timeframes.

In the long term, *drought* is more of a concern than *wildfires*. *Disruption of critical infrastructure due to failure* is a top-5 concern in both the short & long term.

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

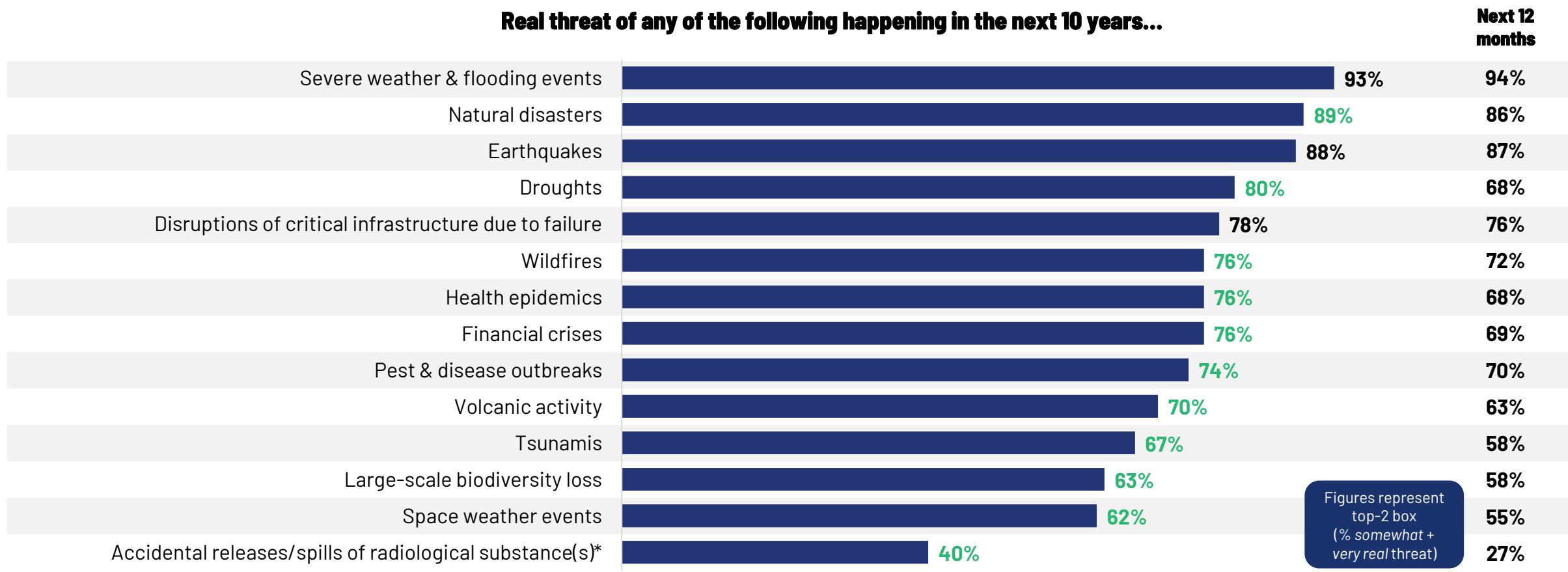
Position	Next 12 months	Next 10 years
1	Severe weather & flooding events	Severe weather & flooding events
2	Earthquakes	Natural disasters
3	Natural disasters	Earthquakes
4	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure	Droughts
5	Wildfires	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure

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 (n=1,000). **Note:** Hazards were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias.

All 14 hazards: Comparing short- & long-term ranking

New Zealanders view most hazards as more likely in the long term than short term. The exceptions are severe weather & flooding events, earthquakes & disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure, which are perceived to be just as likely in either timeframe.



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 12 months?
Base: Total sample (n=1,000). Note: Hazards were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias. *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).



ROLES & RESOURCES

- **EARTHQUAKES**
- **VOLCANIC ACTIVITY**
- **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTBREAK**



Key findings

- To understand views on the perceived **roles** and **resources** of different groups in responding to hazards, we asked follow-up questions about three hazards: *earthquakes*, *volcanic activity*, and *communicable disease outbreak*. Each survey respondent was asked at random about one of these hazard types.
- The majority of people consider the *government* and its *agencies* have the most **responsibility** to protect New Zealand against these hazards. Three quarters (73%) believe *NZ individuals* also have a responsibility for protecting against *communicable disease outbreaks*.
- The *NZ government*, *government agencies*, and *local governments* are seen as the best **resourced** to address these hazards, though more than a third also consider *global organisations* as being well resourced to protect against *earthquakes* and *volcanic activity*.
- While a majority view *individuals* as **responsible** to protect against a *communicable disease outbreak*, less than a third (28%) feel they are well **resourced** to do so. *Global organisations* are also seen as being well **resourced** by more than half (56%).
- New Zealand's *geography*, *past experiences*, and *unpredictability* are key reasons respondents felt **earthquakes** and **volcanic activity** were likely hazards in the next 12 months. *Emergence of other diseases*, *complacency*, and *residual effects of previous outbreaks* were commonly mentioned for **communicable disease outbreak**.

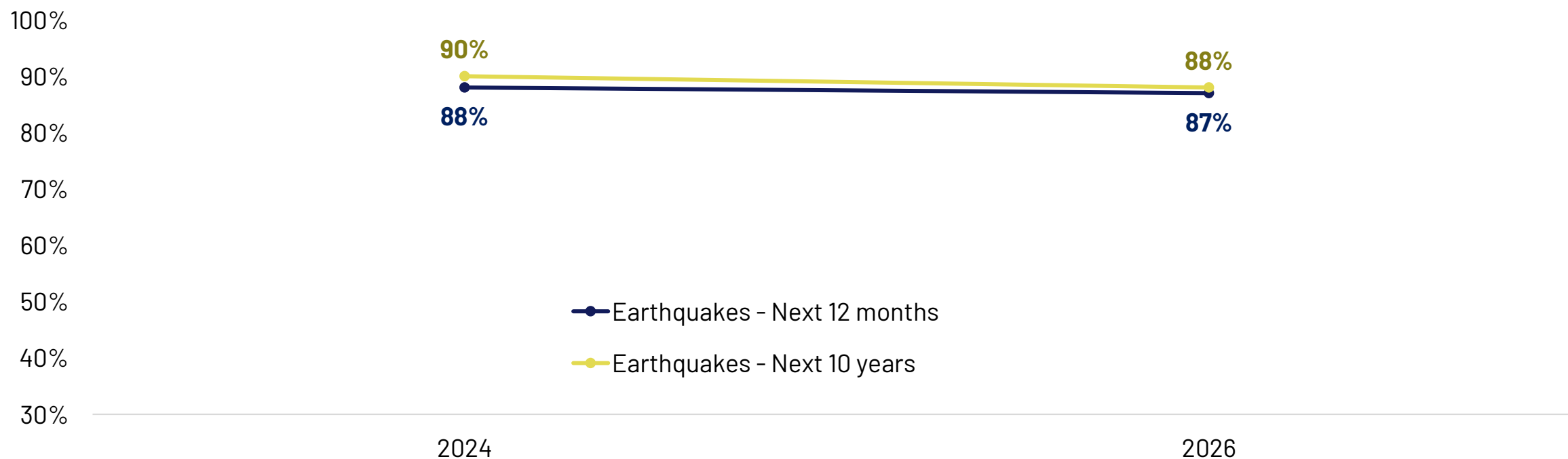


Earthquakes: Perceived threat levels over time



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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?

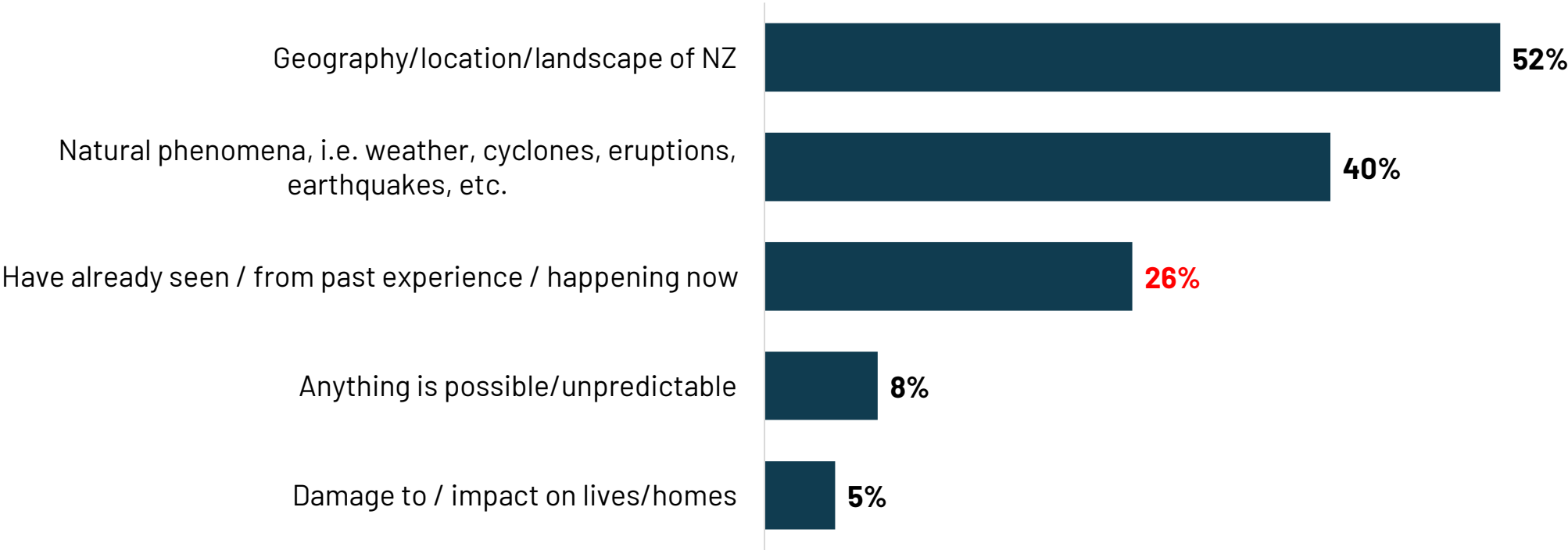
Base: Total sample - 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,178)

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



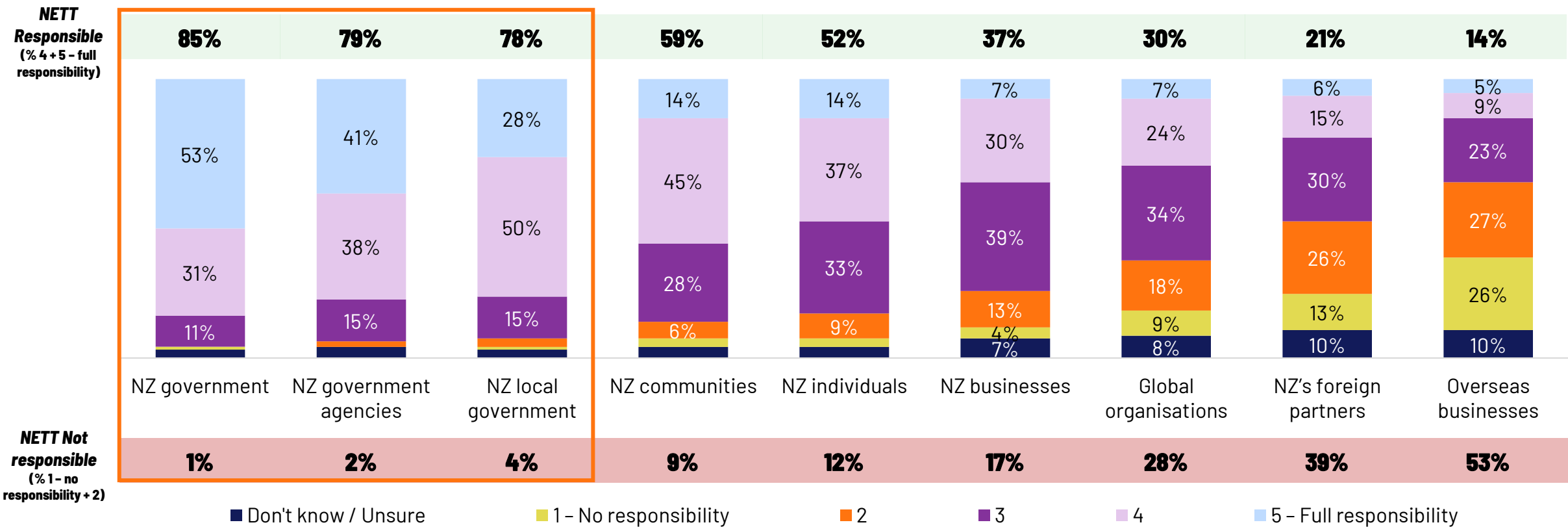
Q10h: And why do you think there is a very real threat of the following happening in the next 12 months?
Base: Those who answered that earthquakes are a ‘very real threat’ (n=161). **Note:** These are the top % reasons why earthquakes are likely to happen in the next 12 months. Reasons less than 5% for 2026 not shown.
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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

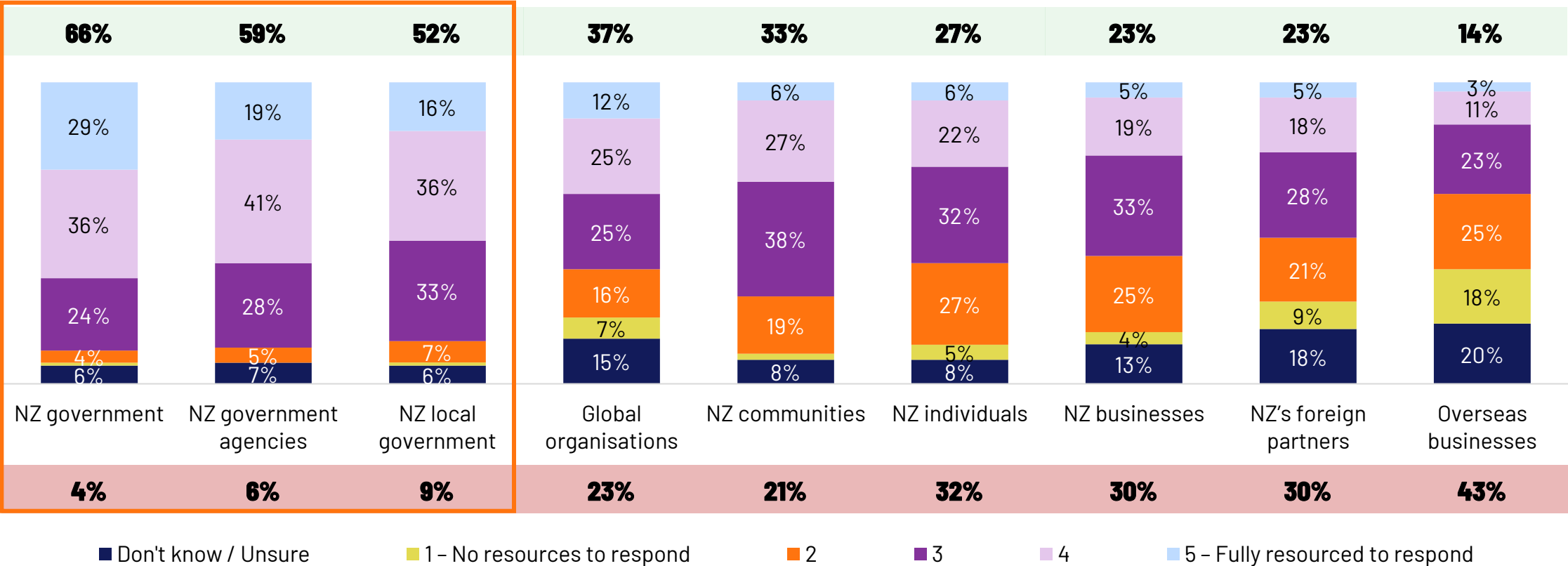


The NZ government, agencies & the local government are perceived as being the most resourced to respond, while local businesses, foreign partners & overseas businesses are seen as the least resourced.

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

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

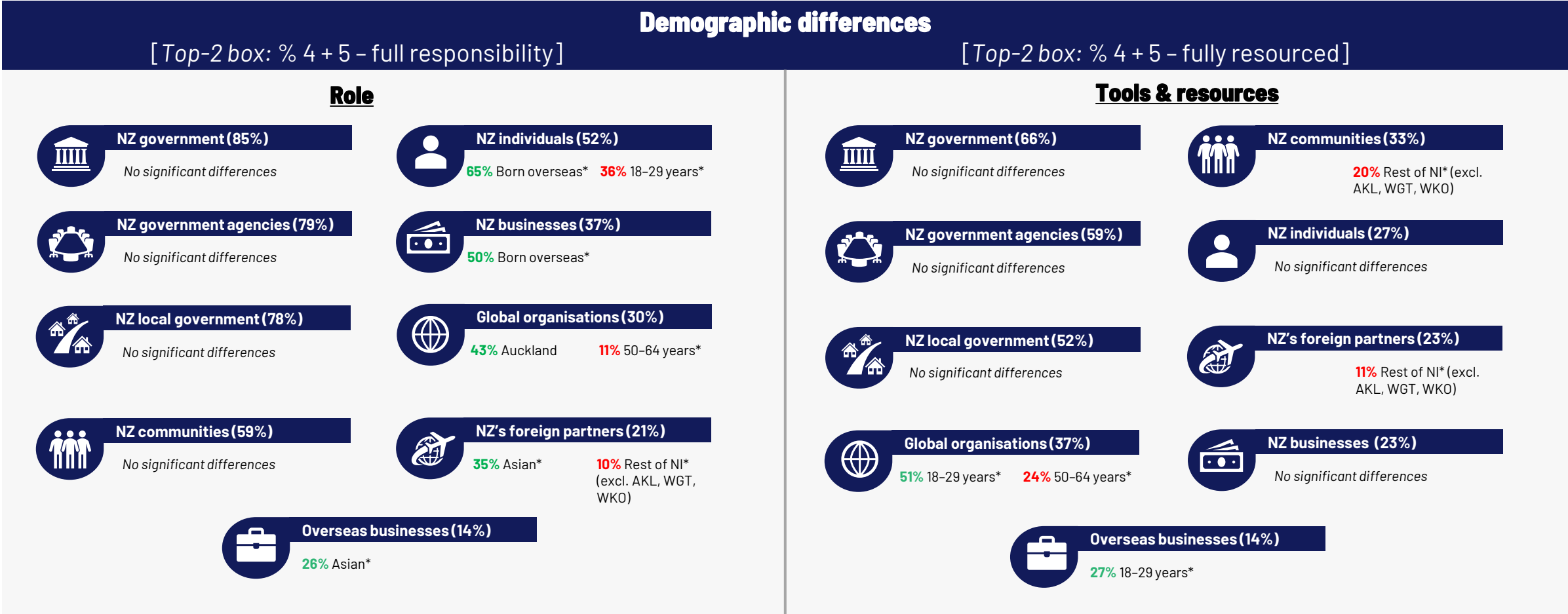
NETT Poorly resourced
(% 1 – no resources to respond + 2)



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



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).

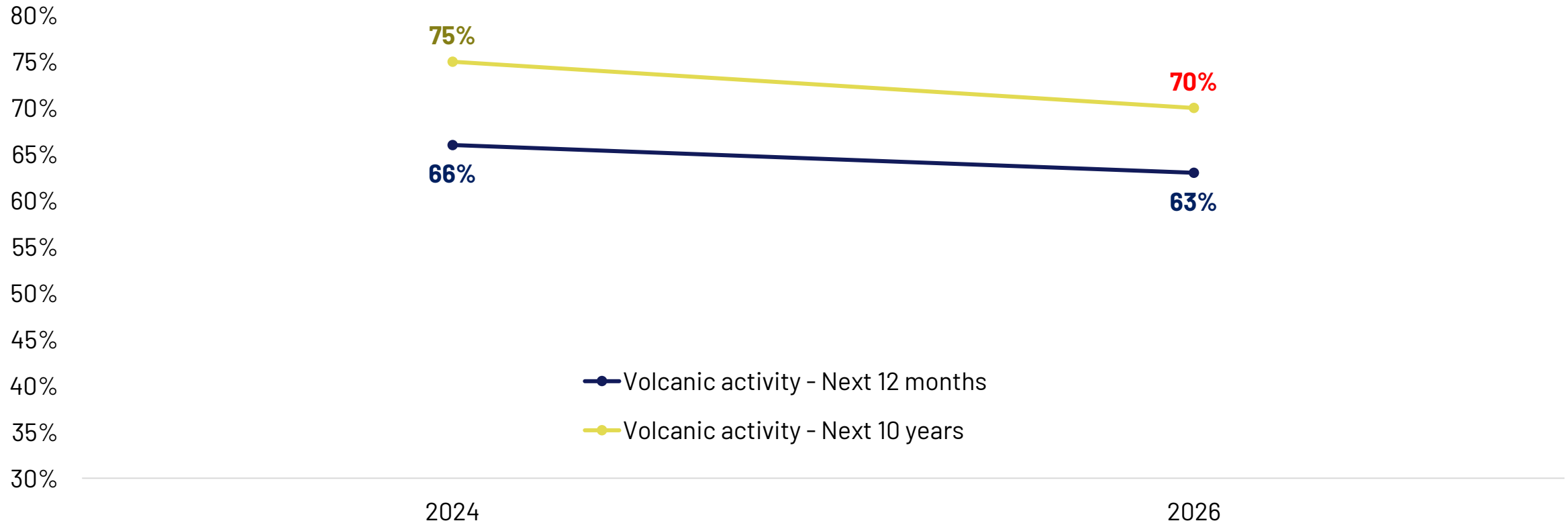
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

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)

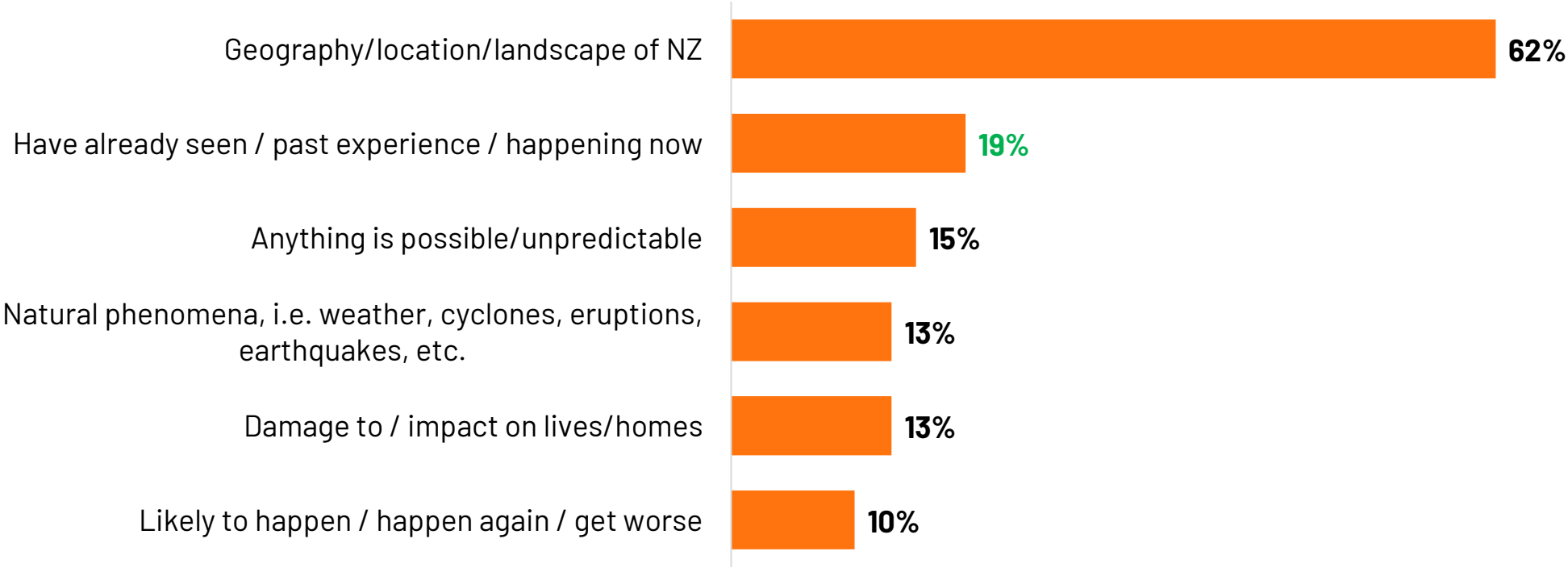
Volcanic activity: Why a ‘very real threat’



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).

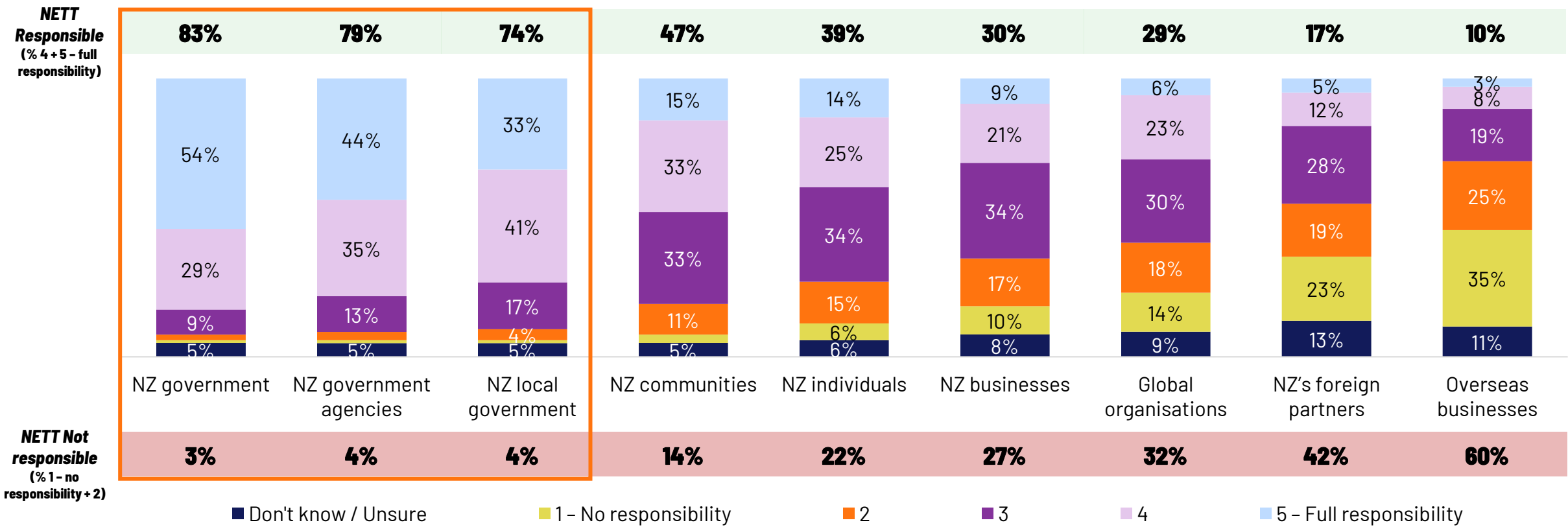
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

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?

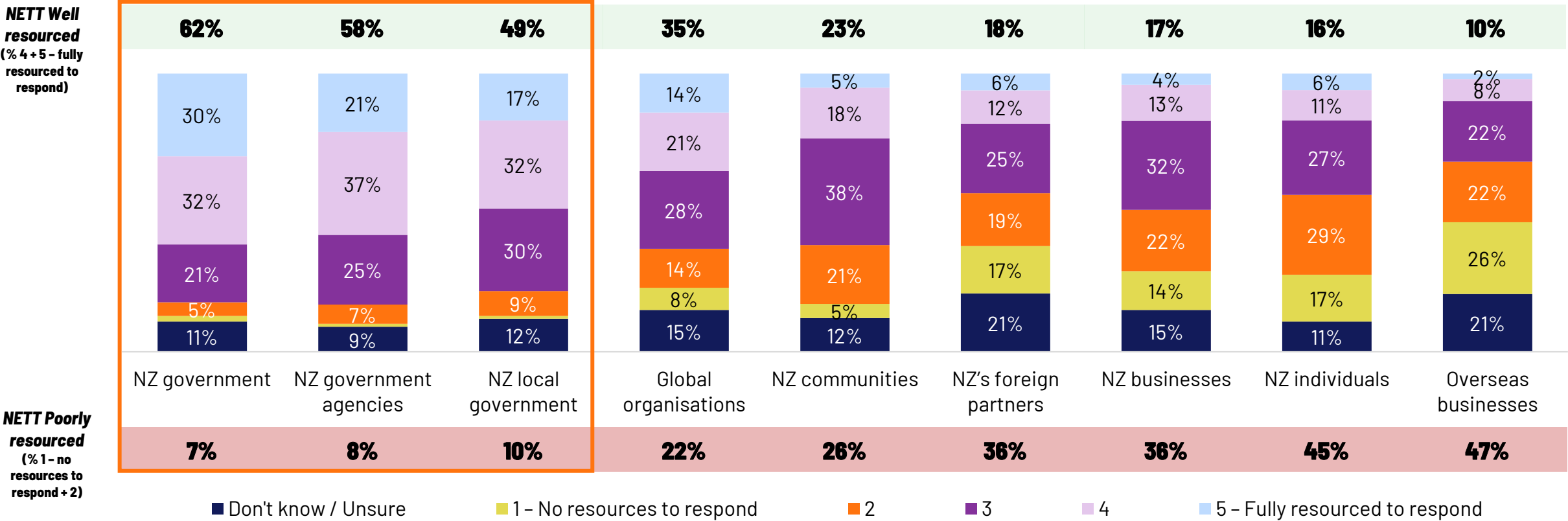
Base: Respondents asked about volcanic activity (n=333). Note: Due to rounding there are some differences (+/- 1%) between NETT figures and more detailed breakdown of results.

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.



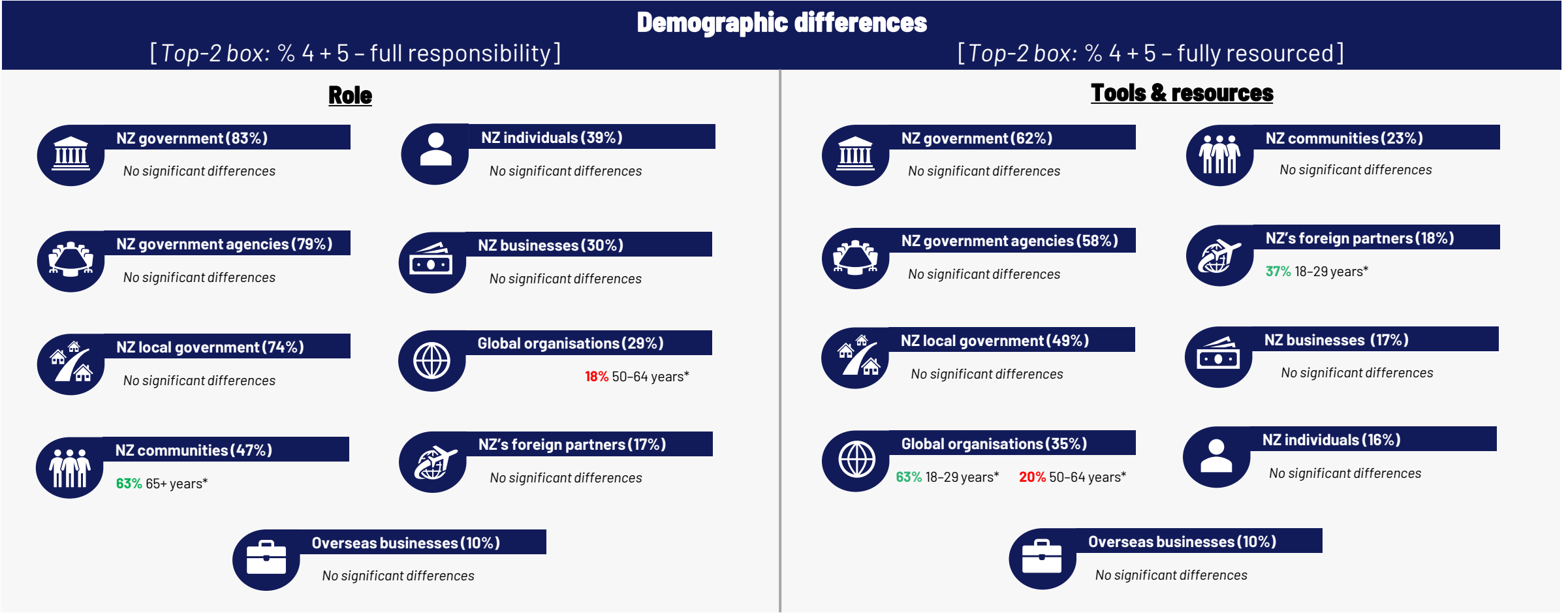
Who has the tools and resources to protect NZ and respond to volcanic activity?



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?

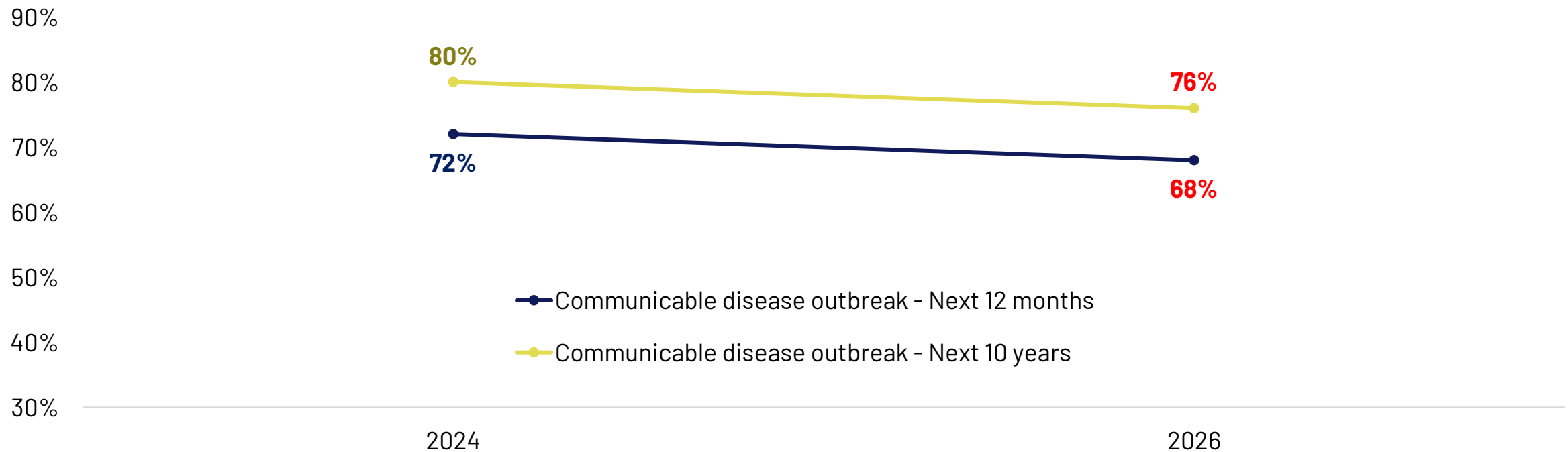
Base: Respondents asked about volcanic activity (n=333). ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

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.



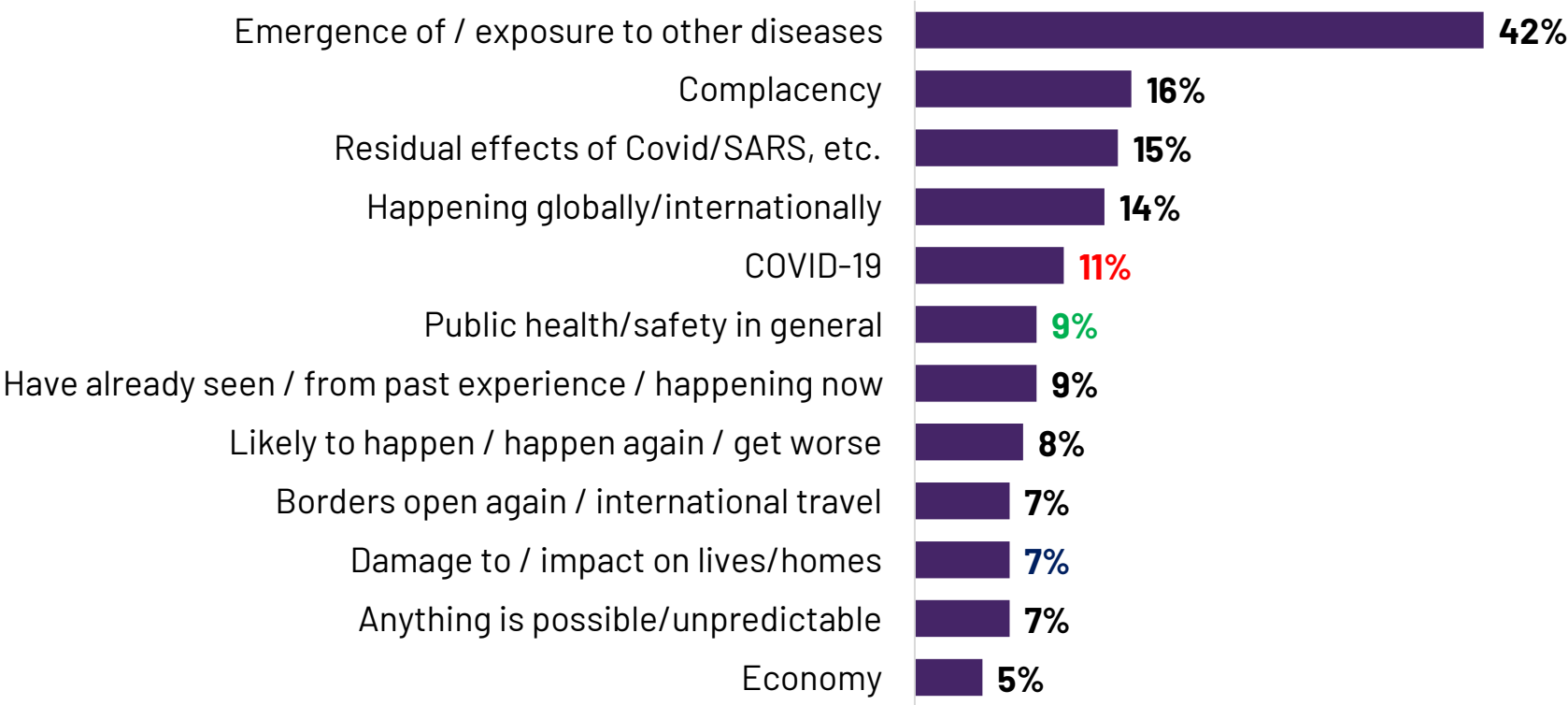
Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months? / **Q17h:** Thinking now about the future, how real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 10 years?

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



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).

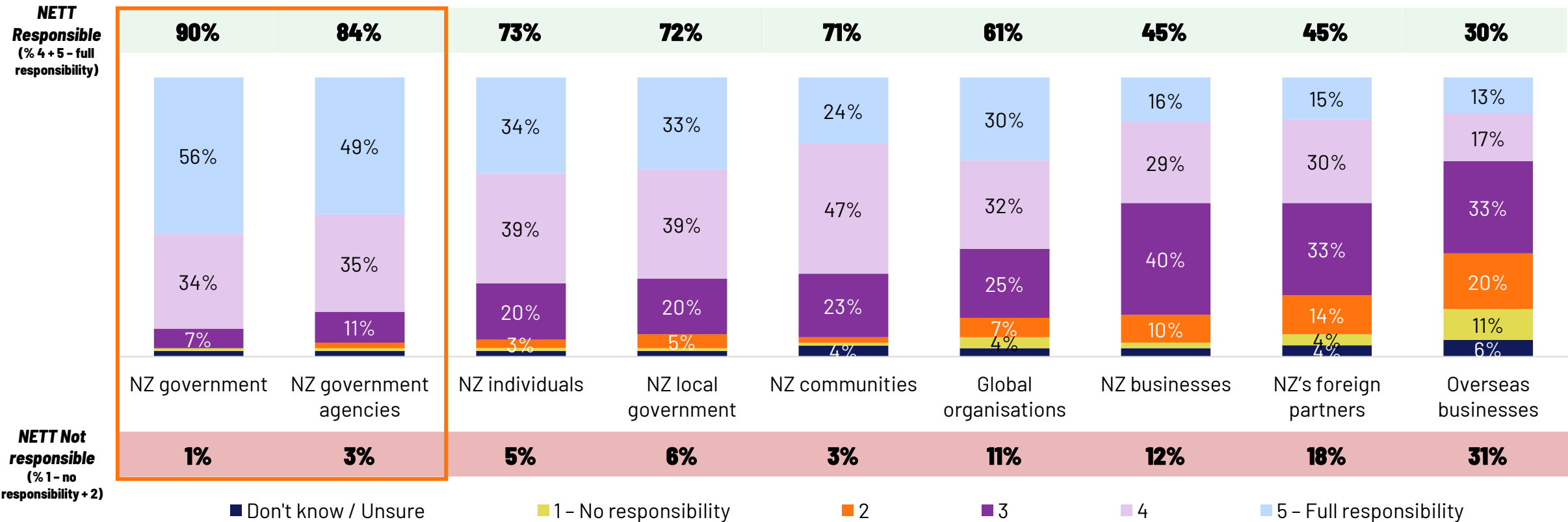
Role to protect against: Communicable disease outbreak



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.



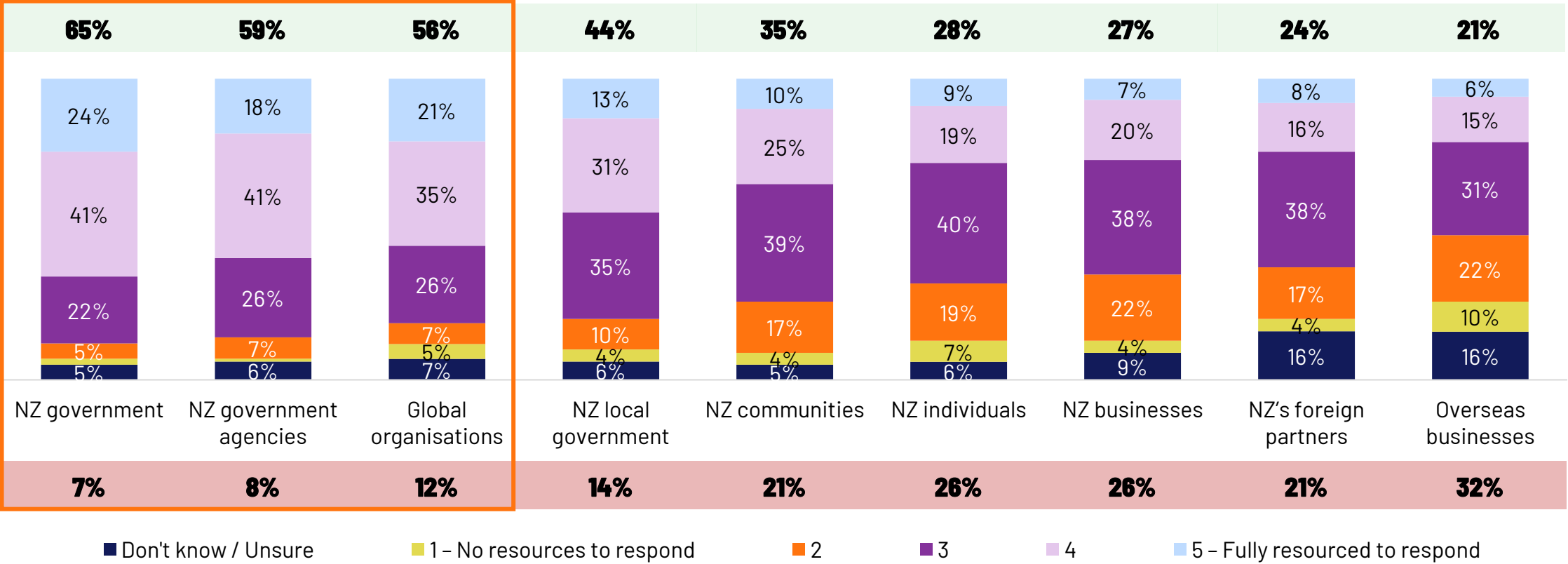
The government, agencies & global organisations are seen to be best resourced to respond to a communicable disease outbreak.



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

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

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

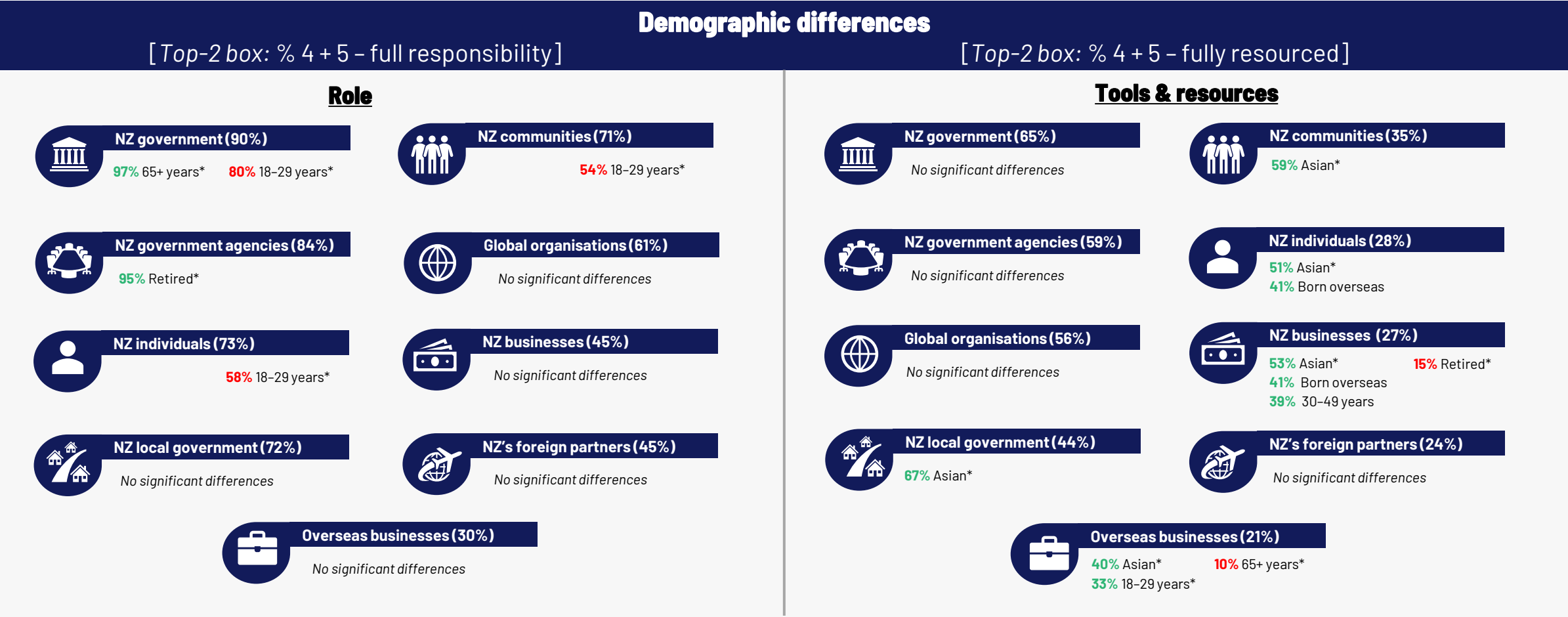


Q26h: In your view, do each of the following have tools and resources to protect New Zealand and respond to a communicable disease outbreak?

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.

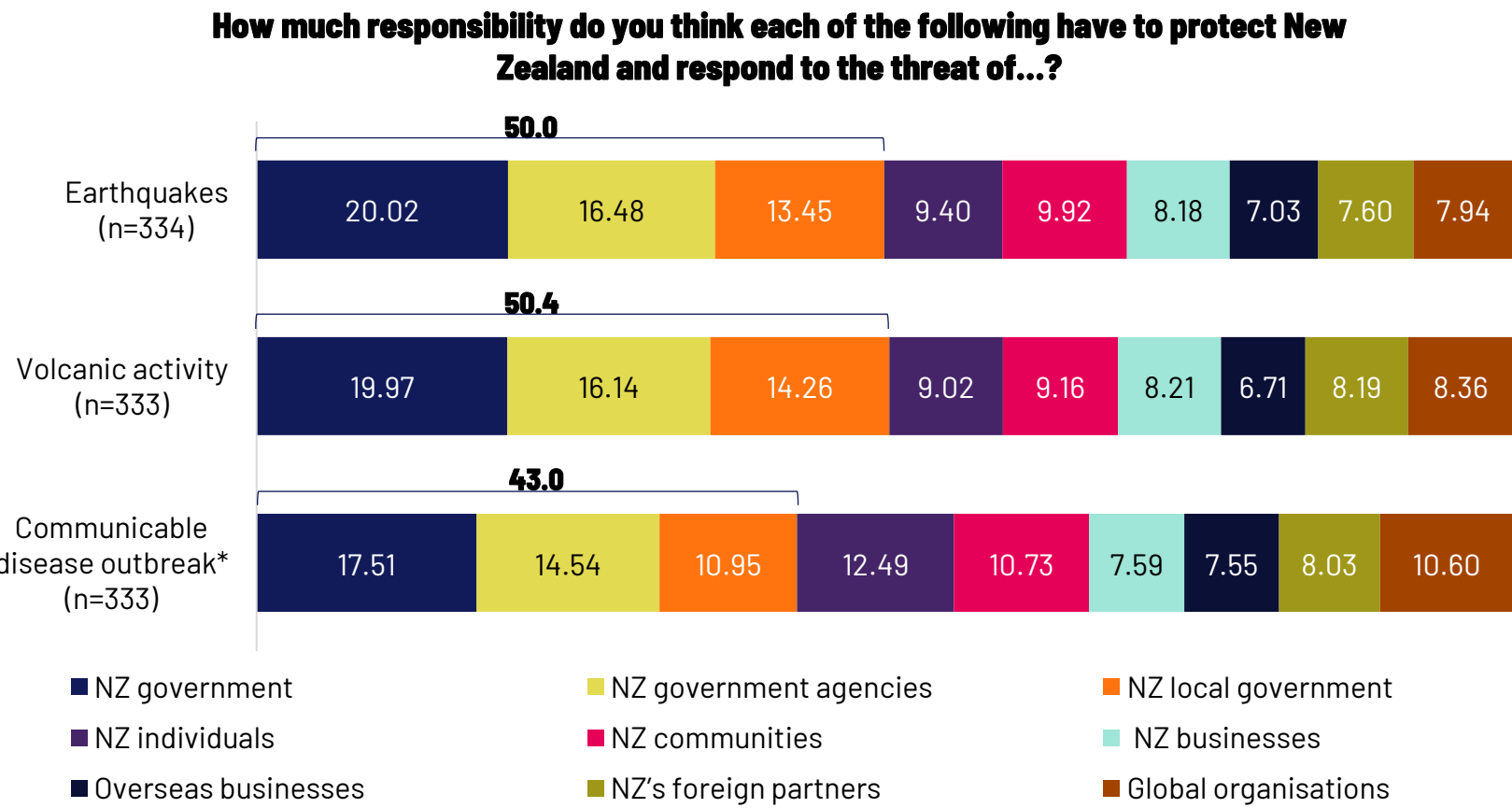


Statistically significant differences



Share of responsibility to respond – by hazard

The *NZ government, agencies & the local government* are seen be the most responsible for responding to *earthquakes & volcanic activity*. They are still seen as being primarily responsible for *communicable disease outbreak*, along with an increased share of responsibility given to *individuals & communities*.



This calculation is based on Ipsos’s 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 to each actor in comparison to others.

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

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

Q25h: How much responsibility do you think each of the following have to protect New Zealand and respond to the threat of...?
Base: Respondents asked about earthquakes (n=334), volcanic activity (n=333), communicable disease outbreak (n=333). ***Note:** Communicable disease outbreak was displayed as health epidemics for these questions.



TRUST/CONFIDENCE & TRANSPARENCY





Key findings

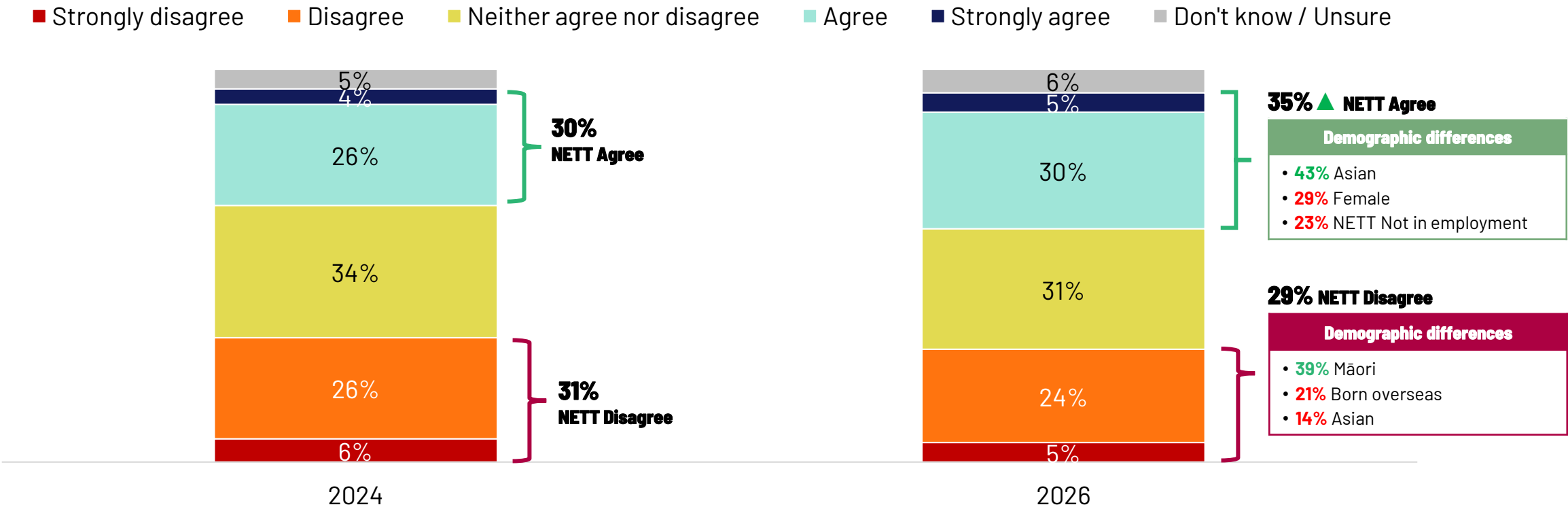
- Compared to 2024, a significantly higher proportion **believe that government agencies share enough information on significant hazards** (35%, up 5 percentage points from 2024).
- **Confidence in government agencies'** ability to protect against or respond to a hazard is **highest** for *wildfires, earthquakes, severe weather & flooding events, natural disasters, and pest & disease outbreaks*. This means there is high confidence for 4 of the top-5 most likely hazards in the next 12 months.
- **Confidence in government agencies'** ability to protect and respond has significantly decreased for 3 of the 14 hazards – *wildfires* has seen the largest decrease, dropping by 6 percentage points.
- However, confidence has remained stable for the majority of hazards surveyed (11 out of 14).
- Compared to 2024, there are fewer hazards with a **higher perceived likelihood** in the next 12 months and **low confidence** in government agencies' ability to respond.
- Perceptions on **how the government can build confidence** in its ability to protect and respond varies by hazard. However, *being prepared / plan / be on the alert* and *inform/communicate/educate/clarity* are the most commonly mentioned ways government agencies can achieve this.



Sufficiency of information about significant hazards

Since 2024, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of New Zealanders who believe that government agencies share enough information on significant hazards – from 30% to 35%. Disagreement has remained relatively stable.

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



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: Result sums to 101 due to rounding.

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

Confidence in government agencies: Top-10 hazards

New Zealanders are most confident in government agencies’ ability to respond to & protect against *wildfires* (the #5 most *likely* hazard), *earthquakes* (#2) & *severe weather & flooding events* (#1).

The top-10 hazards for which New Zealanders show the most confidence have remained largely unchanged since 2024, except for *tsunamis*, 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

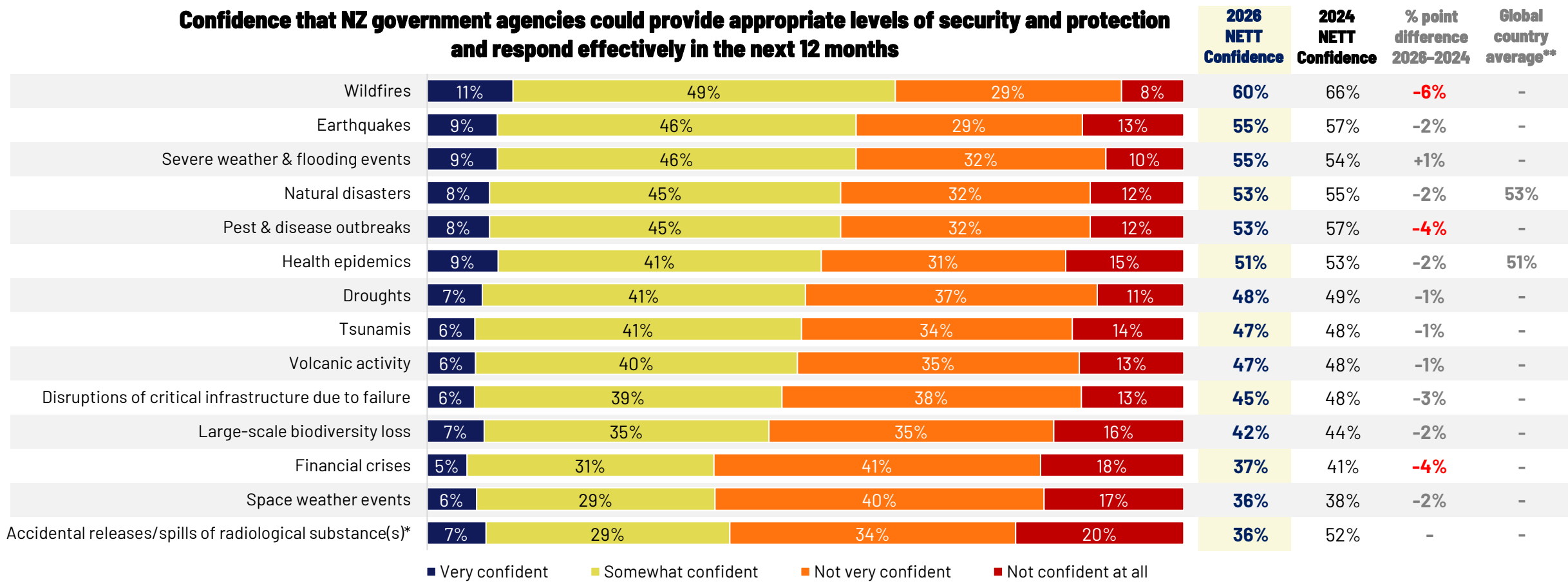
2026 rank		2024 rank	2026 rank		2024 rank
1	Wildfires	#1	6	Health epidemics	#7
2=	Earthquakes	#3=	7	Droughts	#9
2=	Severe weather & flooding events	#6	8=	Tsunamis	#13
4=	Natural disasters	#5	8=	Volcanic activity	#10=
4=	Pest & disease outbreaks	#3=	10	Disruptions of critical infrastructure due to failure	#10=

Q11h: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 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)

Confidence in government agencies: All 14 hazards

Confidence in government agencies' ability to protect New Zealand has significantly decreased for 3 of the 14 hazards – wildfires has seen the largest decrease, dropping by 6 % points.



Q11h: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 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. ***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. ****Note:** Global country average figures are taken from the Ipsos–Halifax World Affairs global survey conducted in October 2025 (n=23,586) where applicable.

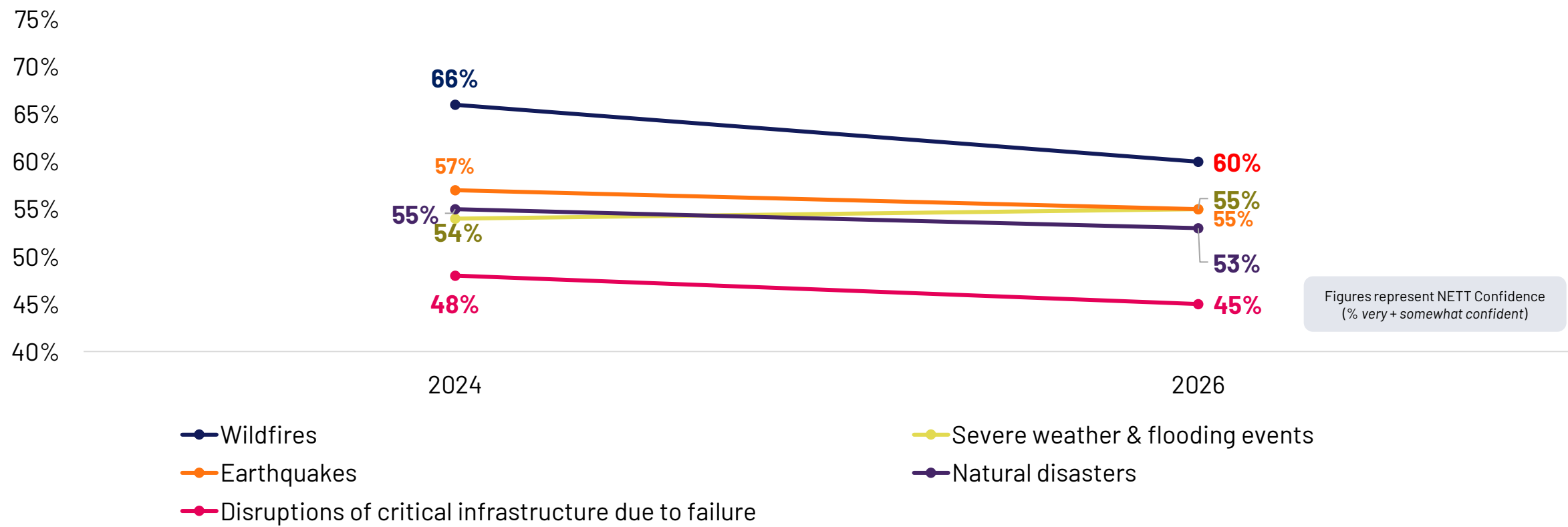
Figures represent NETT Confidence
(% very + somewhat confident)

Confidence in government agencies: Top-5 hazards over time



Confidence in government agencies' ability to respond to & protect against the top-5 hazards remains largely stable. However, confidence in management of *wildfires* has seen a significant decrease – down 6 % points.

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



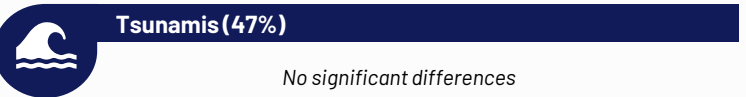
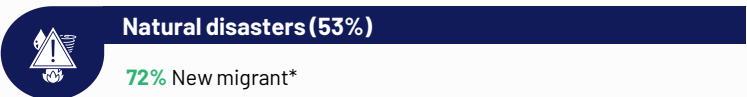
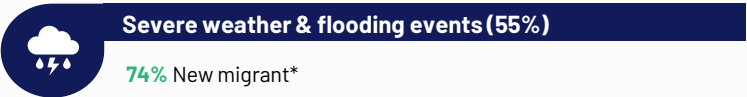
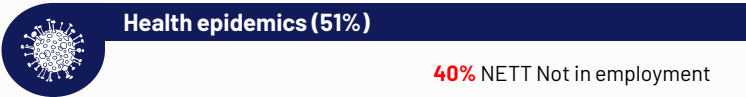
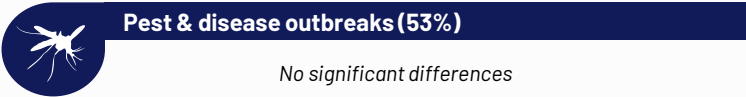
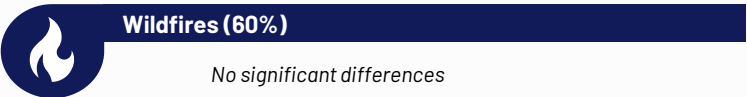
Q11h: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...
Base: Total sample – 2026 (n=1,000), 2024 (n=1,178). **Note:** Hazards were presented one at a time on screen and randomised to reduce response order bias.

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024



Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences [Top-2 box: % Somewhat + very confident]



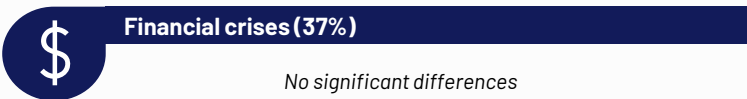
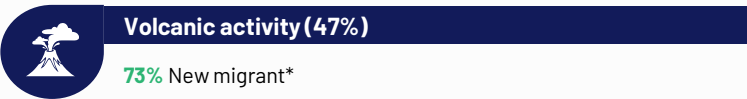
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Q11h: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand’s government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

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

Statistically significant differences

Demographic differences [Top-2 box: % Somewhat + very confident]



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

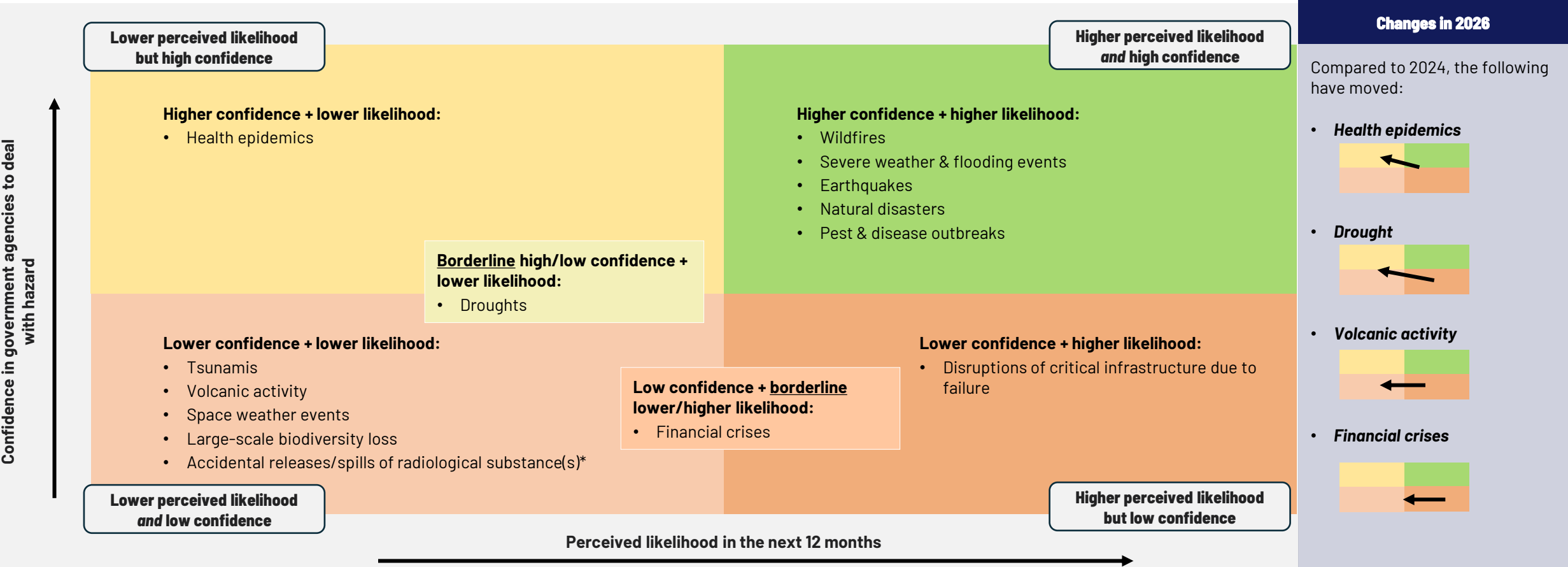
Q11h: If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand's government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

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

Confidence in government – by general level of hazard



When the public’s confidence in government agencies is overlaid with perceived likelihood in the next 12 months, the hazards with high perceived likelihood & high confidence in government’s abilities are wildfires, severe weather & flooding events, earthquakes, natural disasters & pest & disease outbreak. Disruptions of critical infrastructure is the only hazard with a high perceived likelihood & low confidence.



Q9h: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next 12 months? / **Q11h:** If any of the following were to happen in the next 12 months, how confident are you that New Zealand’s government agencies could provide appropriate levels of security and protection and respond effectively to...

Base: Total sample (n=1,000). ***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.

How government agencies can build confidence (I)



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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%	

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

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). **^DATA**

SUPPRESSED: Hazard sample <30, not valid for analysis.

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

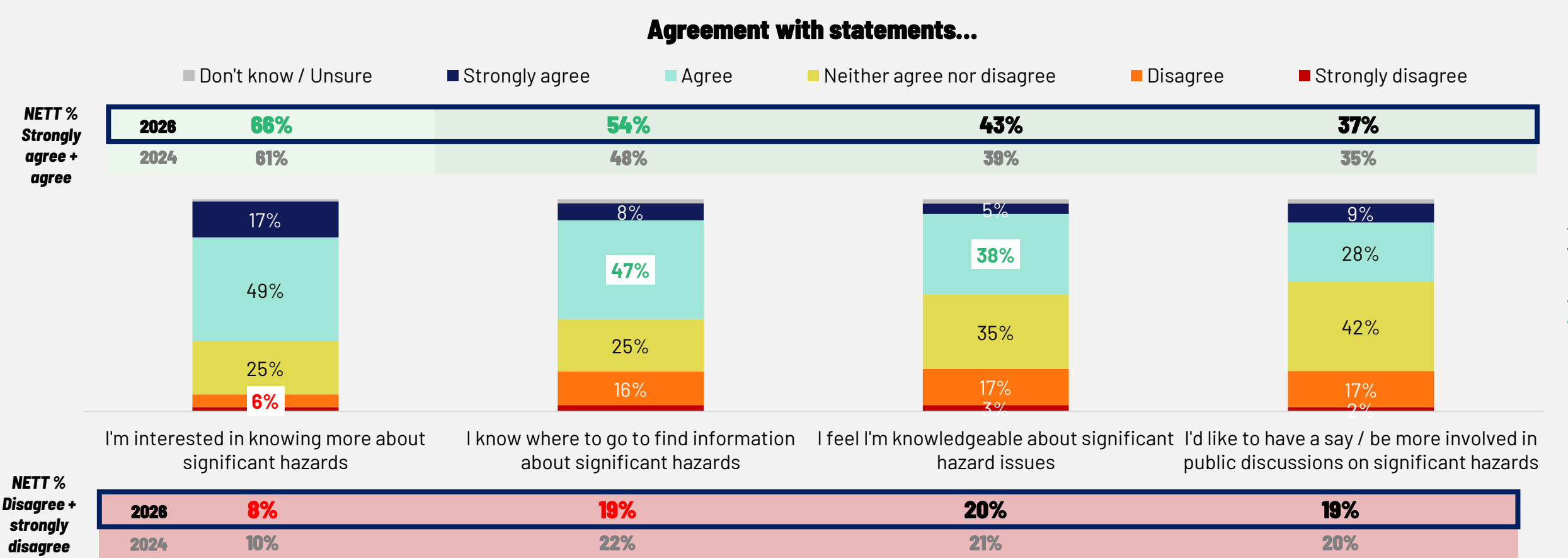


Key findings

- Roughly 2 in 5 New Zealanders (43%) *feel knowledgeable* about significant hazards, which is comparable to 2024. A similar proportion (37%) *would like to have a say / be more involved in public discussions on significant hazards*.
- Awareness of and interest in information have shown a significant increase this year. A significantly higher proportion of New Zealanders state they *are interested in knowing more about significant hazards* (66%, up 5 percentage points) and more than half *know where to go to find this information* (54%, up 6 percentage points).
- More than half of New Zealanders are interested in knowing more about 6 of the 14 hazards surveyed. Interest in knowing about *droughts* has decreased significantly since 2024 (down 5 percentage points).
- When asked about preferred information types, New Zealanders want information from the government on its *plans & preparations, information during the hazard event, and how they can protect & prepare themselves & their community beforehand*.
- There have been significant decreases this year in desire for *government information after the hazard event, ministerial / chief executive speeches, and general information on how New Zealanders can prepare & protect themselves & their community*. The demand for *information on community protection* has dropped notably by 38 percentage points.

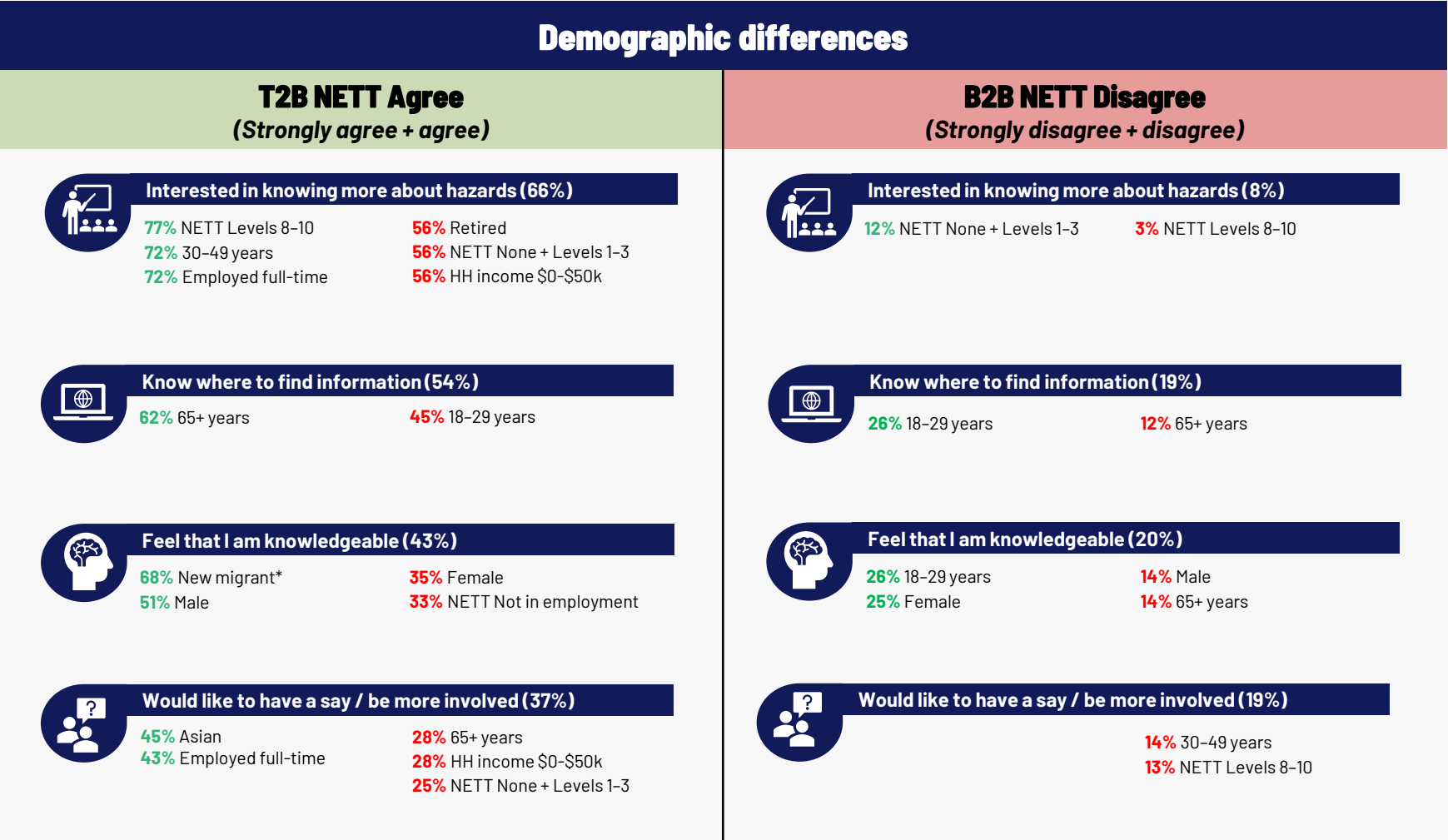


Public interest in knowing more about significant hazards remains high & has increased significantly (up 5 % points) since 2024 - as has interest in knowing where to find information on significant hazards (up 6 % points).



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).



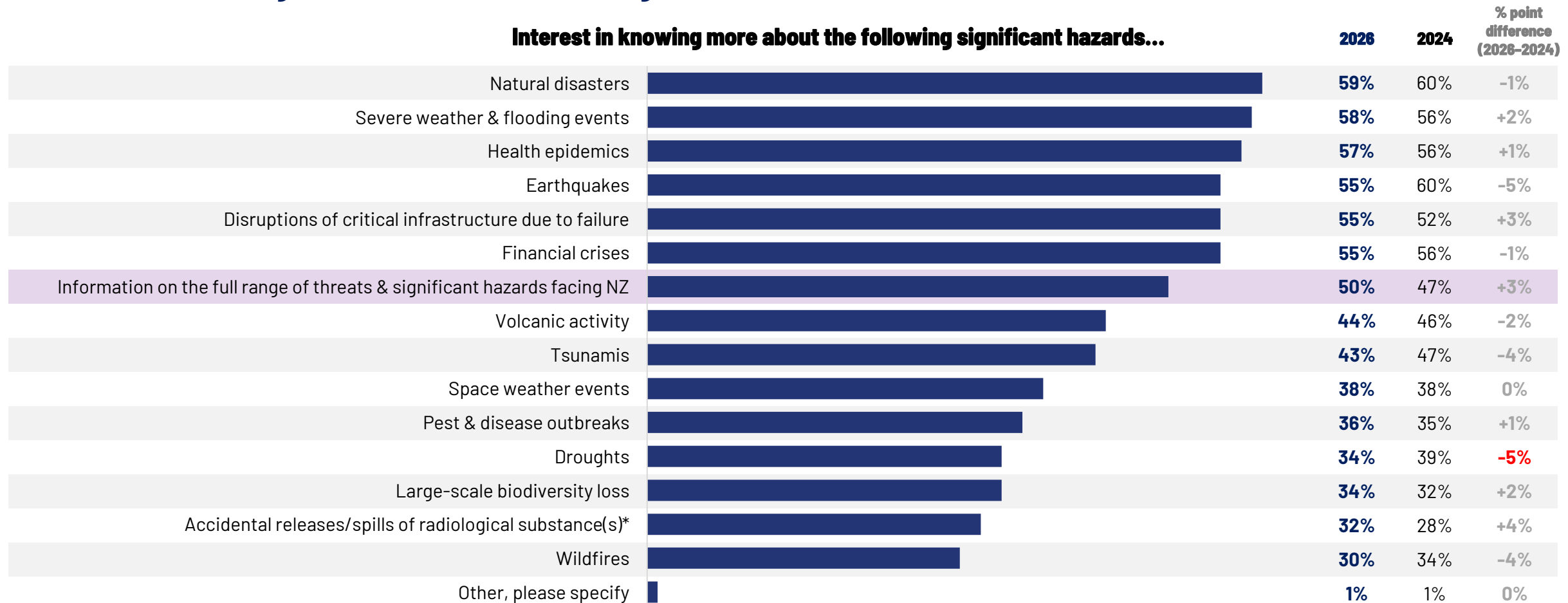
Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than the total

Significant hazards – New Zealanders' interest in knowing more



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1 in 2 New Zealanders are interested in knowing more about the *full range of threats & significant hazards facing NZ*, similar to 2024. Interest in *droughts* information has seen a significant decrease in 2026.



Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

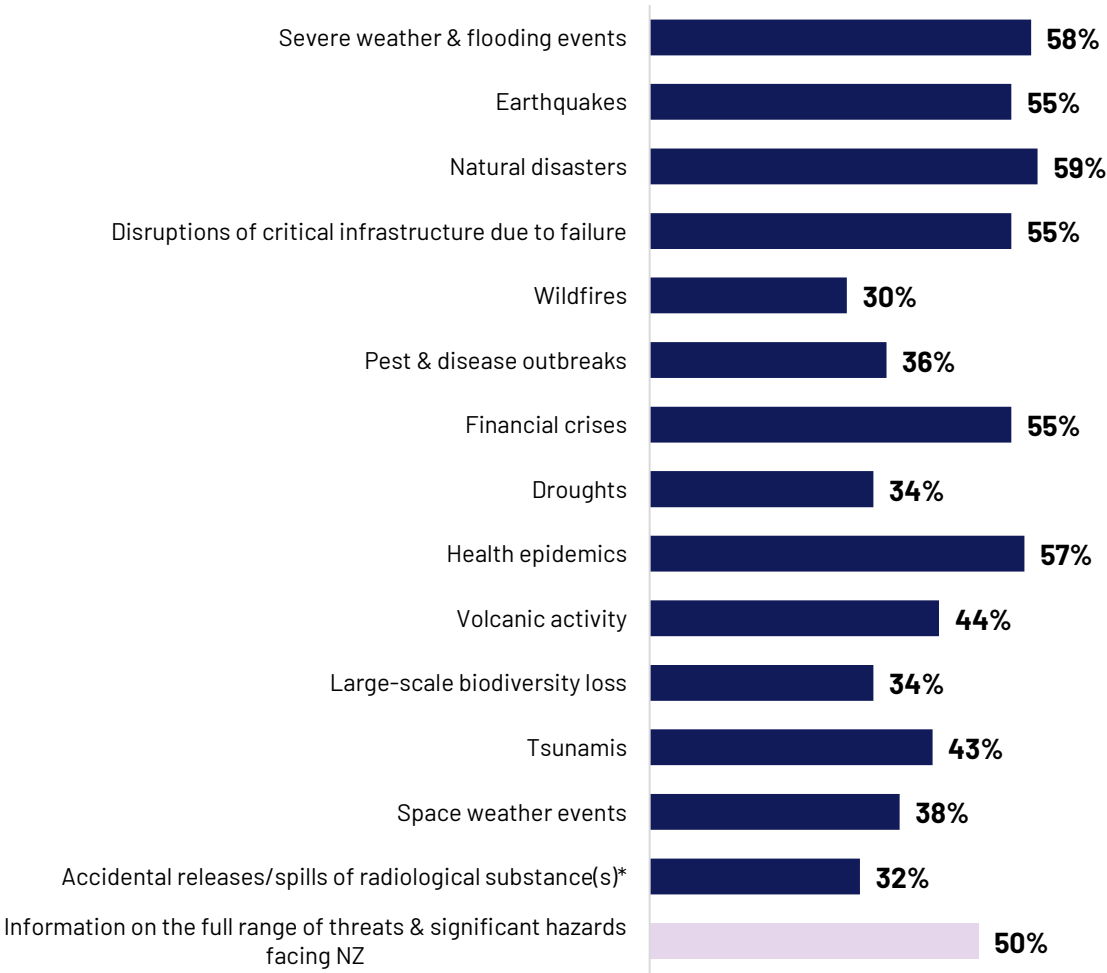
Q21h: Which of the following significant hazards are you interested in knowing more about?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant hazards in Q20h – 2026 (n=659), 2024 (n=721). ***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.

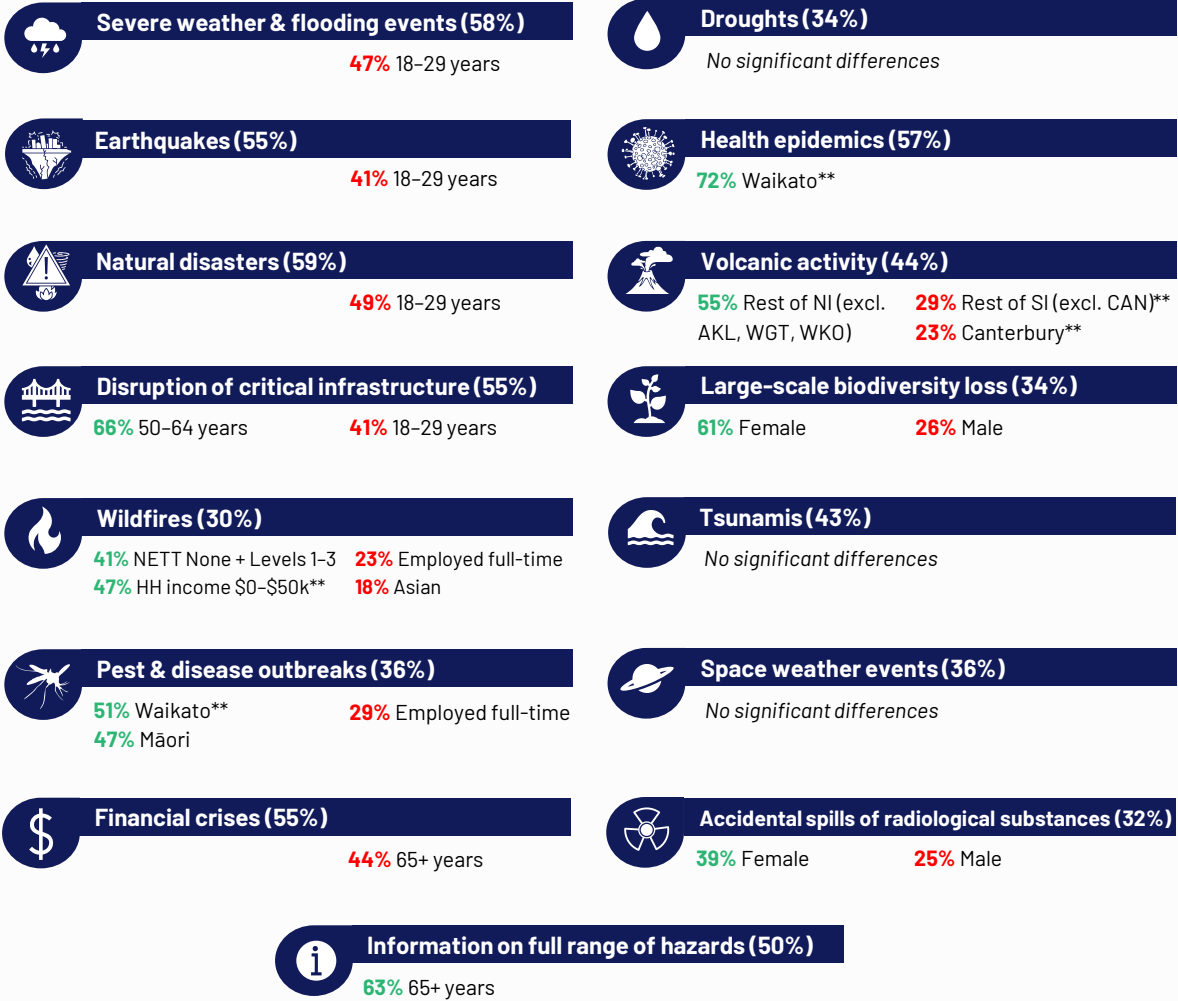
Seeking more information – by perceived level of threat

ORDERED FROM HIGHEST TO LOWEST LEVEL OF PERCEIVED THREAT

Significant hazards interested in knowing more about...



Demographic differences



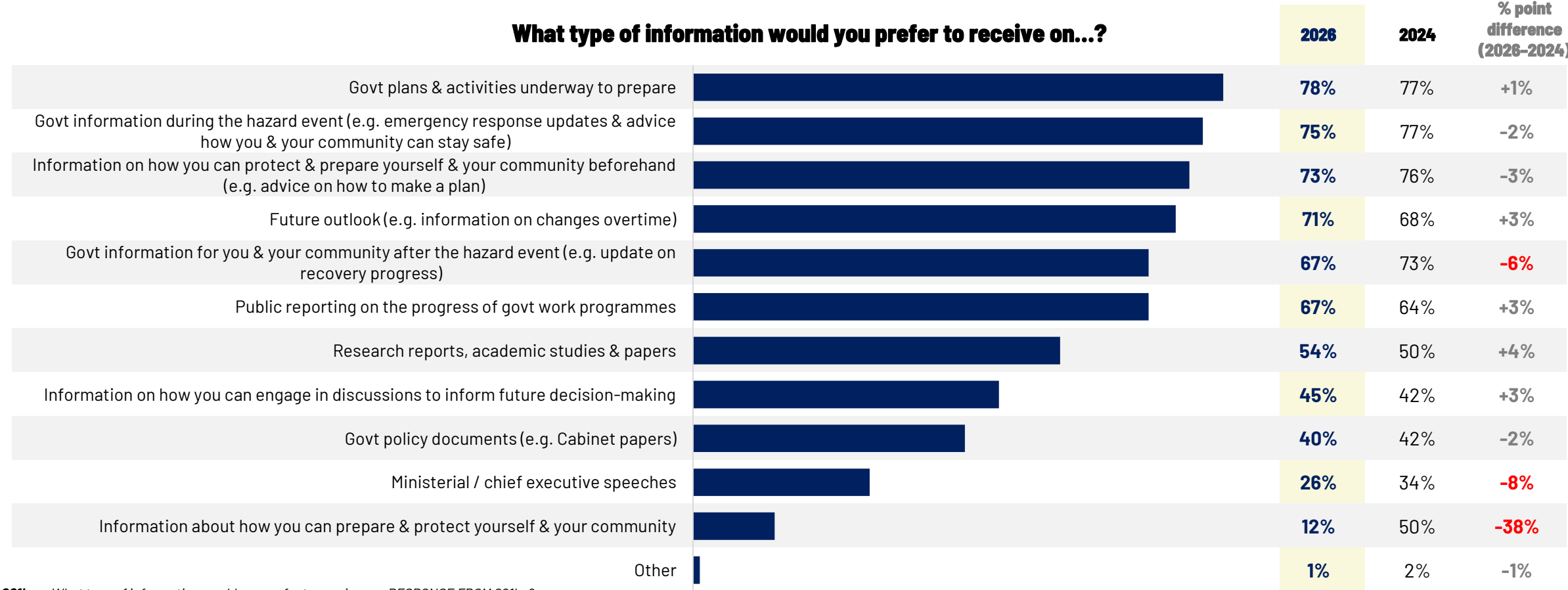
Q21h: Which of the following significant hazards are you interested in knowing more about?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant hazards in Q20h (n=659). *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). **Caution: Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).

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

Preferred information types & topics

More than 3 in 4 New Zealanders want information on the government’s plans & activities underway to prepare for hazards. There have been significant decreases in preference for government information after the hazard event & ministerial / chief executive speeches & a striking decrease of 38 % points for information on how New Zealanders can prepare & protect themselves & their community.



Q21h_a: What type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21h>
Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant hazards in Q21h – 2026 (n=622), 2024 (n=687)

Green/red indicates statistically significantly higher/lower than 2024

Significant hazards – Preferred information format (I)

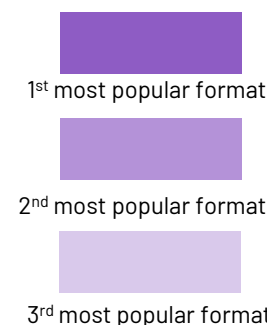


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The type of information New Zealanders would prefer to receive focuses largely on *government information during the hazard event, plans to prepare for the hazard & information on how New Zealanders can protect themselves & their communities beforehand*. The type of information differs for wildfires, where *future outlook & 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 & 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	48%	57%	59%	58%	54%	58%	0%
Information about how you can prepare & protect yourself & 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)

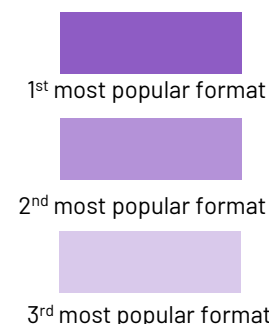
Significant hazards – Preferred information format (II)



For financial crises, the public are interested in information on how they can prepare & protect themselves & their community, while research reports, academic studies & papers are preferred for large-scale biodiversity loss.

	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=)	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 & 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	49%	0%	60%	50%	0%	51%	61%
Information about how you can prepare & protect yourself & your community	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%
Other	2%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	2%

Key:

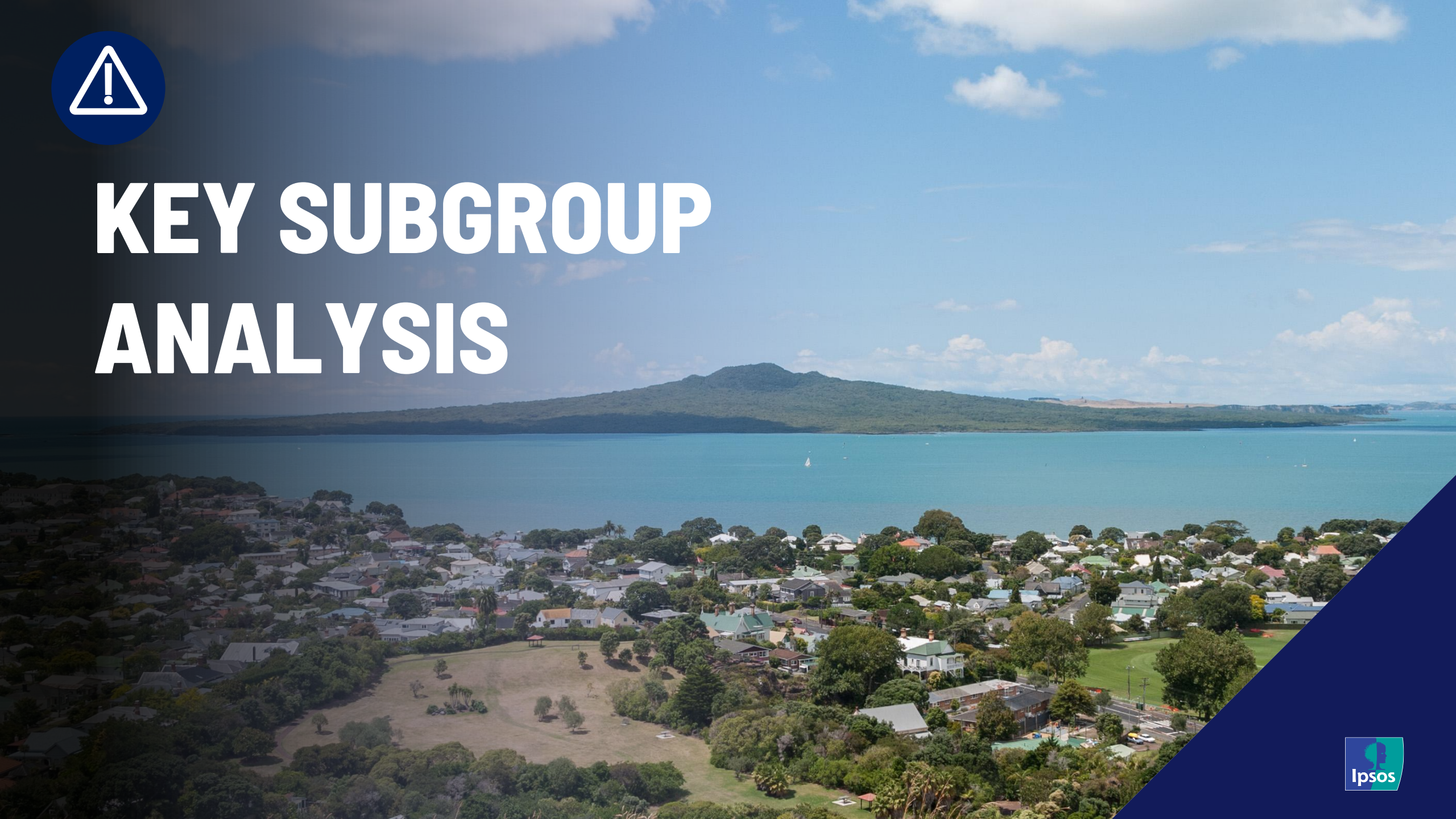


Q21h_a: And what type of information would you prefer to receive on <RESPONSE FROM Q21h>?

Base: Those who indicated they were interested in knowing more about significant hazards in Q21h (n=622). ***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).



KEY SUBGROUP ANALYSIS





Key subgroup analysis

- ❑ 18–29-year-olds, Māori, Pacific peoples, and Asians are demographic subgroups identified as significant and growing segments of the NZ population.
 - *18–29-year-olds*: More than 16.5% of New Zealanders are aged between 18 and 29 years.
 - *Māori*: Māori are the tāngata whenua (people of the land) / indigenous people of New Zealand and a partner with the British Crown under the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi; they comprise over 17% of the total population.
 - *Pacific peoples*: More than 9% of New Zealanders identify as Pacific peoples, and 60% of New Zealanders who identify as Pacific peoples were born in New Zealand.
 - *Asian*: More than 15% of New Zealanders identify as Asian and continue to remain a fast-growing segment of New Zealand's population.
- ❑ Focusing on these demographic subgroups provides valuable insights into the perspectives of these significant and growing segments of NZ society. These groups reflect the country's increasing ethnic diversity and, as such, understanding their perspectives is important for hearing and considering these perspectives in future decision-making processes.

- Statistically significantly **higher/lower** figures are reported at 95% confidence.
- 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.
- Demographic differences are shown amongst the demographic groups that have a base size larger than n=30. Sample sizes vary, we advise caution where the base size is lower than n=100.



Subgroup summary – 18–29 years



Subgroup summary

New Zealanders under 30 years felt **less informed** and **less sure about where to go for information** about hazards as a whole.

In terms of threat perception, New Zealanders under 30 years perceived a higher likelihood of *large-scale biodiversity loss* and *accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s)* occurring in the next 12 months and 10 years.

New Zealanders under 30 years were more likely to view **global entities** as having the tools and resources to protect against *earthquakes*, *volcanic activity*, and *communicable disease outbreak*. They were less likely to hold **NZ individuals** responsible for protection and response.



New Zealanders under 30 years* were less likely to hold **NZ individuals** (**36%** vs 52%) as responsible for protecting against earthquakes. They were more likely to view **global organisations** (**51%** vs 37%) and **overseas businesses** (**27%** vs 14%) as being well resourced to protect against earthquakes.



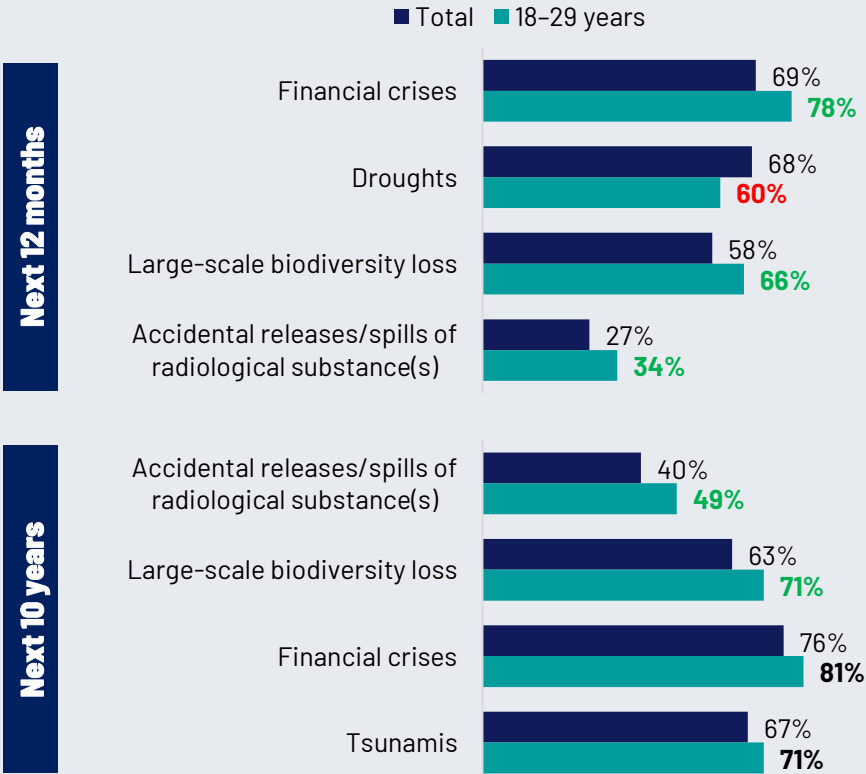
New Zealanders under 30 years* were less likely to see **global organisations** (**18%** vs 32%) as having low responsibility for protecting against volcanic activity. They were also more likely to view **global organisations** (**63%** vs 35%) and **NZ's foreign partners** (**37%** vs 18%) as being well resourced to protect against volcanic activity.



New Zealanders under 30 years* were less likely to hold the **government** (**80%** vs 90%), **NZ individuals** (**58%** vs 73%), and **NZ communities** (**54%** vs 71%) as responsible for protecting against communicable disease outbreak. They were more likely to view **overseas businesses** (**33%** vs 21%) as being well resourced to protect against disease outbreak.

Likelihood of threats

18–29 years vs total (biggest differences displayed)



Government information



New Zealanders under 30 years were less likely to **agree** that they **know where to go to find information about significant hazards** (**45%** vs 54% total) and also more likely to **disagree** that they **feel knowledgeable about significant hazard issues** (**26%** vs 20% total).

Base: Total sample (n=1,000), 18–29 years – total (n=201), earthquakes (n=68*), volcanic activity (n=66*), communicable disease outbreaks (n=67*)

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



Subgroup summary

4 in 10 Māori disagreed that **government agencies share enough information about significant hazards** (vs 3 in 10 for the total sample). This proportion is significantly higher than the total population.

Māori were more likely to specifically **want more information** on *pest & disease outbreaks*.

Māori were more likely to perceive *volcanic activity* as a real threat in the next 12 months and *large-scale biodiversity loss* as a long-term concern.

While Māori did not consider any actors as significantly more responsible or well resourced to protect against *volcanic activity* and *communicable disease outbreak*, they were less likely to assign low responsibility to **NZ businesses** for protecting against *earthquakes*.



Māori* were less likely to see **NZ businesses** (5% vs 17%) as having low responsibility for protecting against earthquakes. They did not differ statistically from the total in their perceptions of which actors have the tools and resources to protect against this threat.



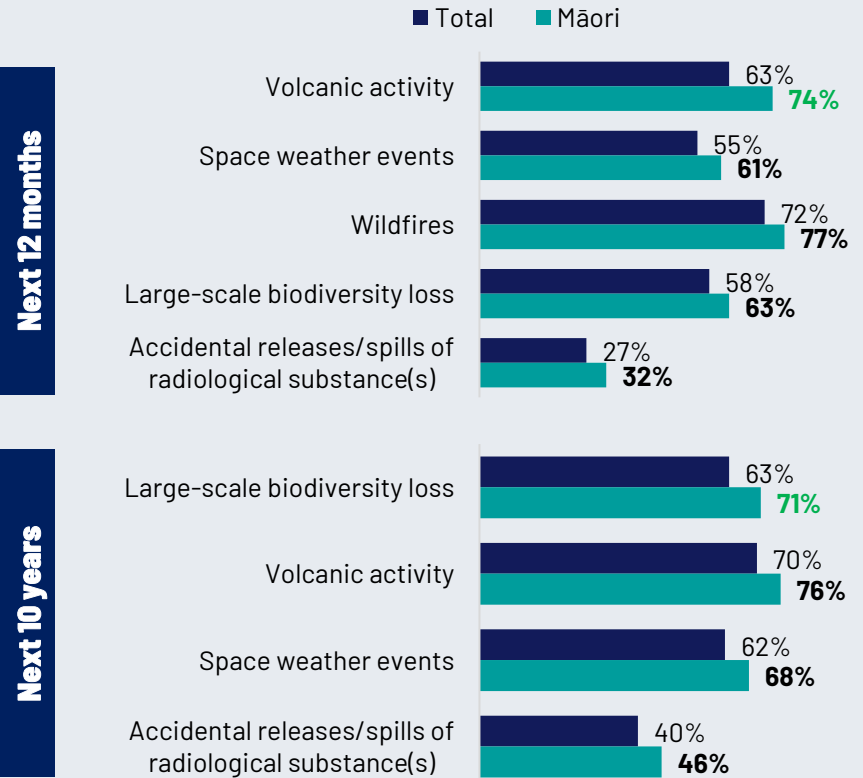
Māori* did not differ statistically from the total in their perceptions of which actors are responsible for protecting against volcanic activity and communicable disease outbreak or which actors have the tools and resources to protect against these threats.



Māori* were significantly more likely to want information on *pest & disease outbreaks* (47% vs 36%).

Likelihood of threats

Māori vs total (biggest differences displayed)



Government information



Māori were more likely to **disagree** that **NZ government agencies currently share enough information about significant hazards with New Zealanders** (39% vs 29% total).

Subgroup summary – Pacific peoples



Subgroup summary

Pacific peoples* were significantly more likely to perceive *financial crises* as a real threat in the short and long term. They were also more concerned about *accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s)* and *space weather events* as real threats in the next 10 years.

Pacific peoples* expressed a significantly higher preference for **receiving information** about hazards via *ministerial/chief executive speeches*. They were also more likely to **want information** on *financial crises, pest & disease outbreaks, and accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s)*.

While Pacific peoples* generally have similar confidence in **government agencies** to the total population, they were significantly more likely to have **lower confidence** in their ability to protect against *tsunamis*.



Note: The sample sizes of Pacific peoples who were asked about each of the three deep-dive hazards are below n=30 and, as such, have not been reported on.

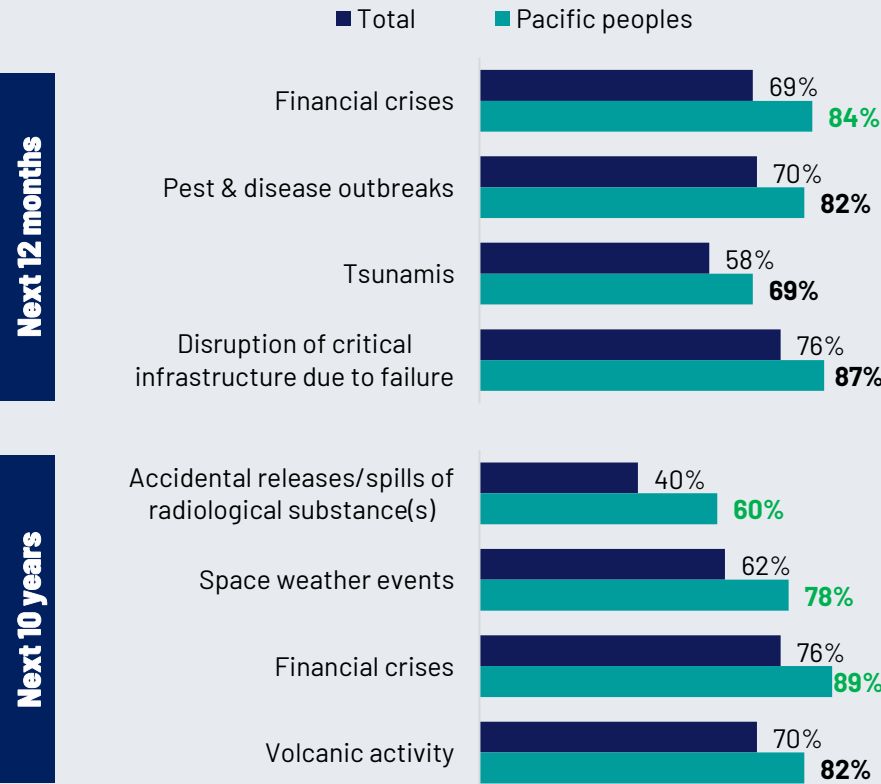
Pacific peoples* were significantly more likely to want information on *financial crises* (**76%** vs 55%), *pest & disease outbreaks* (**60%** vs 36%), and *accidental releases/spills of radiological substance(s)* (**50%** vs 32%).



Pacific peoples* were significantly more likely to prefer receiving information about hazards via **ministerial / chief executive speeches** (**44%** vs 26%).

Likelihood of threats

Pacific peoples* vs total (biggest differences displayed)



Confidence in government agencies



Pacific peoples* were more likely to have **low confidence** in **government agencies'** ability to protect against *tsunamis* (**64%** vs 48% total).

Subgroup summary – Asian



Subgroup summary

Asians were significantly more likely to perceive that **government agencies share enough information about hazards** and had a stronger preference for **being involved in public discussions about significant hazards**.

They were more concerned about *accidental releases/spills(s) of radiological substances* in the short and long term. They were significantly less likely to view *earthquakes* and *severe weather & flooding events* as a real threat in the next 12 months and 10 years.

Asians were more likely to view **international entities** as responsible for protecting against *earthquakes*. They also were less likely to think **global organisations** are poorly resourced to protect against *volcanic activity*. For *communicable disease outbreak*, they were more likely view a large range of actors as well resourced to protect against this threat.



Asians* were more likely to hold **NZ's foreign partners (35% vs 21%)** and **overseas businesses (26% vs 14%)** responsible for protecting against earthquakes, and less likely to see **global organisations (15% vs 28%)** as less responsible. They were less likely to view **overseas businesses (28% vs 43%)**, **NZ businesses (14% vs 30%)**, and **NZ communities (8% vs 21%)** as poorly resourced to protect against earthquakes.



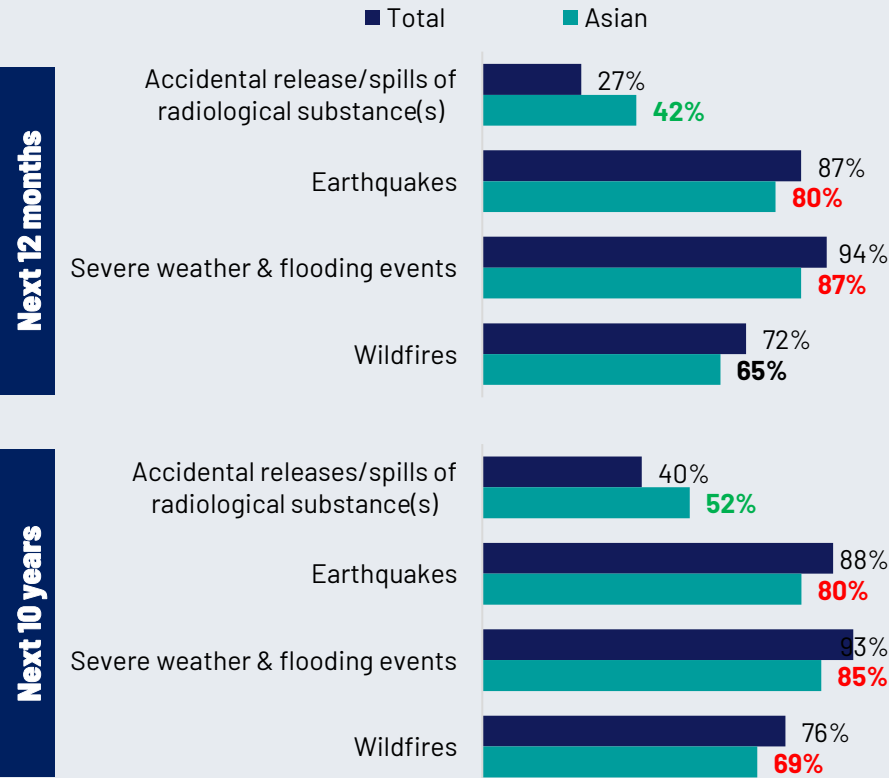
Asians* were less likely to see **global organisations (13% vs 32%)** and **NZ businesses (12% vs 27%)** as having a low responsibility for protecting against volcanic activity. They were also less likely to view **global organisations (9% vs 22%)** as being poorly resourced to protect against volcanic activity.



Asians* did not differ statistically from the total in their perceptions of which actors are responsible for protecting against communicable disease outbreaks. They were more likely to view **NZ local governments (67% vs 44%)**, **NZ communities (59% vs 35%)**, **NZ businesses (53% vs 27%)**, **NZ individuals (51% vs 28%)**, and **overseas businesses (40% vs 21%)** as being well resourced to protect against disease outbreaks.

Likelihood of threats

Asian vs total (biggest differences displayed)



Government information



Asians were more likely to **agree** that they **would like to have a say/be more involved in public discussions on significant hazards (45% vs 37% total)** and that **NZ government agencies currently share enough information about significant hazards with New Zealanders (43% vs 35% total)**.

Base: Total sample (n=1,000), Asian - total (n=179), earthquakes (n=68*), volcanic activity (n=55*), communicable disease outbreaks (n=56*)
Green/red indicates statistically significantly **higher/lower** than the total. ***Caution:** Low base size, results indicative only (50 ≤ n < 100).



APPENDIX 1

CHANGES TO DEEP DIVES SINCE 2024



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
Severe 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

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 people 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.

ABOUT IPSOS

Ipsos is the third-largest market research company in the world, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers, or employees. Our 75 business solutions are based on primary data coming from our surveys, social media monitoring, and qualitative or observational techniques.

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You act better when you are sure.

THANK YOU