**Horizon Research**

**Police and Māori**

**Produced for The Hui**

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Contents

[KEY FINDINGS 1](#_Toc105166869)

[1. Is the NZ Police force racist toward Māori? 2](#_Toc105166870)

[2. Have you or someone in your whānau ever experience racial discrimination by the NZ Police? 4](#_Toc105166871)

[3. Confidence in the justice system 7](#_Toc105166872)

[4. Victim of crime 9](#_Toc105166873)

[5. Performance of Police when dealing with complaint 11](#_Toc105166874)

[6. How much do you value the work of the NZ Police? 12](#_Toc105166875)

[APPENDIX 1 – SAMPLE 13](#_Toc105166876)

# KEY FINDINGS

Key findings from this online survey of 502 Māori respondents (see Appendix for sample details) were:

A large majority of Māori believe there is racism in the NZ Police force of some kind. However, more than **eight out of ten** Māori value the work police do and seven out of ten who have been victims of crime rate their handling of complaints they laid as good to excellent.

* **72%** of Māori surveyed believe there is racism in the NZ Police force, involving either systemic racism, or individual officers.
* Only **22%** believe there is no racism.
* **79%** of younger Māori (18-34 year olds) believe there is racism in the NZ Police Force compared with **53%** of Māori aged 55+.

**37%** of Māori say they or someone in their immediate whānau has experienced racial discrimination by a member of NZ Police during the past five years. 23% say they have experienced this one or more times while 3% say they have experienced it 10 or more times.

* This rises to **48%** of 18-34 year olds, compared with **18%** of 55+ year olds.
* **46%** of Māori have been a victim of crime and laid a complaint with Police. This is lower for 18-34 year olds (**39%)**.
* Despite the belief that NZ Police is racist toward Māori, **70%** of those who had been victims of a crime and laid a complaint to police, rate police handling of their complaint as good to excellent.
* And an overwhelming **82%** value the work the NZ Police do.

**REPORT**

# Is the NZ Police force racist toward Māori?

Respondents were told:

*“Some say, because NZ Police deal with and arrest more Māori than other ethnic groups, compared with the number of Māori in the population overall, that racism could be causing this. Others say more Māori are being arrested because they have been committing more crime.*

*We’d like to understand your view on this and experiences in dealing with Police…*

*Before you answer the next question, racism is said to usually involve one group thinking their own race is superior to other races and that gives them the right to dominate.*

*Institutional or systemic racism usually means a policy or system of government which favours members of a dominant racial or ethnic group.*

*Prejudice and intolerance can be caused by racism.”*

Respondents were then asked *“Overall, do you believe the NZ Police force is racist toward Māori?”*

72% of Māori surveyed believe there is racism in the NZ Police Force, either caused by the system or individual officers.

22% say there is no racism in the police force and 6% are not sure.

**72%**

*Sample: 502 Māori aged 18+ years*

18-34 year olds are more likely to believe that the NZ Police Force is racist towards Māori, with 46% saying individual officers are racist versus 29% of people over 55 years.

41% of people aged 55+ believe that the NZ Police Force is not racist towards Māori, which is higher than 18-34 year olds (14%) and 35-54 year olds (19%).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | AGE |
|   | 18 to 34 YEAR OLDS | 35 TO 54 YEAR OLDS | 55 AND OVER |
| Yes - it's in the system (institutional or systemic racism) | 29% | 31% | 22% |
| Yes - some individual police are racist toward Māori | 46% | 41% | 29% |
| Yes - all police are racist toward Māori | 4% | 5% | 2% |
| Not at all | 14% | 19% | 41% |
| I don't know | 7% | 3% | 6% |
|  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 156 | 203 | 143 |

77% of females versus 68% of males believe that the NZ Police Force is racist towards Māori.

Females are significantly more likely (47%) to believe that some individual officers are racist toward Māori, than males (33%).

# Have you or someone in your whānau ever experience racial discrimination by the NZ Police?

37% of Māori surveyed say that they or someone in their immediate whānau have experienced racial discrimination by the NZ Police during the past five years.

23% said they had experienced it at least once or twice during this time.

4% said they had experiences five times or more.

47% said they or immediate whanau had never experienced racial discrimination by the NZ Police.

*Sample: 499 Māori aged 18+ years*

48% of 18-34 year olds have experienced racial discrimination in the past five years. This is significantly higher than the 18% of 55+ year olds who have experienced racial discrimination.

37% of people aged 35-54 have experienced racial discrimination by the NZ Police in the last five years.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | AGE |
| 18 to 34 YEARS | 35 TO 54 YEARS | 55 AND OVER |
| Never | 35% | 47% | 68% |
| Once or twice | 27% | 25% | 12% |
| Three to four times | 13% | 5% | 2% |
| Four to five times | 5% | 2% | 1% |
| Five to 10 times | 2% | 2% | 0% |
| Ten times or more | 2% | 3% | 3% |
| I really don't know | 17% | 16% | 14% |
|  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 156 | 202 | 141 |

35% of men say they or someone in their immediate whānau have experienced racial discrimination by NZ Police. The experience for women is at similar levels (39%).

At 60%, higher income households are less likely to have experienced any racial discrimination by the NZ Police.

*Sample: 502 Māori aged 18+ years*

# Confidence in the justice system

Respondents were invited to think of the justice system as involving the courts, police, legal profession and other agencies.

A majority of Māori adults (55%) are not confident the justice system is performing fairly for Māori. 39% are confidence is it.

**55%**

**39%**

*Sample: 502 Māori aged 18+ years*

Similar to other results, there is a difference between age groups. Younger Māori feel less confident the justice system is performing fairly for Māori.

60% of Māori aged 55+ years believe it performs fairly. This is significantly higher than the 28% of 18-34 year olds who believe it performs fairly.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | AGE |
|   | 18 to 34 YEARS | 35 TO 54 YEARS | 55 AND OVER |
| Total confident | 28% | 40% | **60%** |
| Total not confident | **64%** | **57%** | 36% |
| I really don't know | 8% | 4% | 4% |
|  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 156 | 203 | 143 |

There is little difference according to respondents’ personal or household incomes.

# Victim of crime

Overall, 54% of Māori have been a victim of crime. 46% say they have been a victim of crime and laid a complaint with the Police.

61% of 35-54 year olds have been a victim of crime.

50% of Māori aged over 35 have laid a complaint with the Police. This is lower for 18-34 year olds (39%).

Overall, 40% have not been a victim of crime and at 32% this is lower for 35- 54 year olds.

*Sample: 502 Māori aged 18+ years*

At 52%, significantly more men have been victims of crime and laid a complaint versus women (40%).

65% of respondents with higher household incomes have been a victim of crime and 50% have laid a complaint with the Police. This is significantly higher than households with incomes below $50k a year – 50% have been a victim of crime and 45% have laid a complaint.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME |
|   | UNDER $50K | $50K TO $100K | OVER $100k |
|   |   |   |   |
| I have been a victim of crime and laid a complaint with Police | 45% | 44% | **50%** |
| I have been a victim of crime but not laid a complaint with Police | 5% | 8% | **15%** |
| I have not been a victim of crime | 43% | 41% | 34% |
| Prefer not to say | 7% | 8% | 2% |
|   |   |   |   |
|  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 149 | 168 | 151 |

# Performance of Police when dealing with complaint

Among those who had been a victim of crime and had laid a complaint with Police, 69% rated Police’s performance as positive. 31% did not rate the performance as positive.

**31%**

**69%**

*Sample: 230 Māori who laid a complaint with the police*

**Who rated the Police positively in their handling of the complaint?**

* 72% of 35-54 year olds and 77% of people aged 55+ years
* 72% of men versus 66% of women.

# How much do you value the work of the NZ Police?

When asked about how much they valued the work of NZ Police, 82% said they valued it or valued it highly.

**82%**

Value ratings vary by age group.

At 92%, people aged 55+ value the work of Police, compared with 80% of 18-34 year olds and 79% of 35-54 year olds.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 18 to 34 YEARS | 35 TO 54 YEARS | 55 AND OVER |
| Highly value | 34% | 45% | 59% |
| Value | 46% | 34% | 33% |
| **Highly value/value** | **80%** | **79%** | **92%** |
| Little value | 16% | 15% | 5% |
| No value at all | 4% | 3% | 2% |
| I really don't know | 0% | 3% | 1% |
|  |  |  |  |
| N (unweighted) | 156 | 203 | 141 |

There is little difference across other demographic factors: across the board Māori value the work of Police.

# APPENDIX 1 – SAMPLE

**Sample**

Members of the nationwide HorizonPoll and Horizon Research Māori panels, and two third-party panels used for source diversity , who identify as Māori and are all aged 18+, responded to this online survey between 20 and 30 May 2022.

The total sample of 502 respondents is weighted on age, gender, level of education, annual income, region and ethnicity to be representative of the New Zealand Māori population at the 2018 census, extrapolated to the first quarter of 2022. At a 95% confidence level, the survey has a maximum margin of error of ±4.4% overall.

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**Data ownership**

The survey’s results and data are the property of Horizon Research Limited. The Hui has first rights to publish the results in this report.