

# Te Kaikiri me te Whakatoihara i Aotearoa i te Urutā COVID-19: He Aro Ki Ngā Hapori Haina, Āhia Hoki

Racism and Xenophobia Experiences in Aotearoa  
New Zealand during COVID-19: A Focus on Chinese  
and Asian Communities

February 2021



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Te Kāhui Tika Tangata  
Human Rights Commission

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### **New Zealand Human Rights Commission**

PO Box 10424  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143  
New Zealand  
[www.hrc.co.nz](http://www.hrc.co.nz)  
[media@hrc.co.nz](mailto:media@hrc.co.nz)

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**“Taika Waititi got it right when he said NZ is a racist country; it definitely is and has been since colonialism was allowed to ravage this place.”**

Respondent in the research Te Kaikiri me te Whakatoihara i Aotearoa i te Urutā COVID-19: He Aro Ki Ngā Hapori Haina, Āhia Hoki. Racism and Xenophobia Experiences in Aotearoa New Zealand during COVID-19: A Focus on Chinese and Asian Communities

## Foreword

Kua roa ināianei a Aotearoa tangata e whawhai ana kia patua tēnei mea te kaikiri, tae noa ki te whakatoihara. Mai anō i ngā pakanga whenua e pēnei ana ā, ahakoa nō mua rā anō ēnei tāngata me ngā mahi nei. E tika ana kia rangahaua, i pēhea te pā a te mate urutā nei ki waenga i ngā hapori, me aro ki ngā pānga kaikiri ki ērā o tātou e tāmia ana – ngā tāngata Āhia, Moananui hoki, me ētahi anō.

The Human Rights Commission decided to undertake this research at the beginning of 2020, when we were receiving particular complaints about racism and xenophobia being faced in the community. This wasn't a new kind of racism or xenophobia, as marginalised communities have always suffered from various forms of discrimination and hate in Aotearoa New Zealand. But the discrimination had a new reason for which to rear its ugly head. That was—and still is—COVID-19.

The Human Rights Commission received over 100 enquiries and complaints concerning COVID-related discrimination, including experiences of racial harassment and verbal abuse. Many of these have been from Chinese and Asian community members, who asked the Commission what could be done to support their communities. Simultaneously, government agencies were asking each other what evidence was available on Chinese and Asian communities' experiences of discrimination—the answer was very little.

We therefore decided to commission this research to better understand the prevalence, patterns, and impacts of COVID-fuelled racism and xenophobia. While the focus is on the experiences of Chinese and Asian people, we aimed to develop a survey that would address broader discrimination issues, such as those faced by Tangata Whenua, Pacific people, disabled people, and the elderly.

The evidence gleaned from this research will support the Commission's race relations initiatives, including the Give Nothing to Racism 2 and Racism is No Joke anti-racism campaigns as well as the National Action Plan Against Racism (currently in development). The findings from this research will also contribute to the global evidence base on racism and xenophobia in the times of COVID-19.

As demonstrated in this report, racism against Tangata whenua urgently requires tackling; all racism in Aotearoa began with colonisation and represents a contemporary extension of colonial suppression. The Commission will be carrying out a new project dedicated to examining racism toward Tangata Whenua using an approach that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and places Tino rangatiratanga at the forefront.

Nā reira pānuitia mai ngā hua o ngā rangahau nei kia tika ai te kī, ka patua e tātou te kaikiritanga.

Ngā mihi



Meng Foon  
Race Relations Commissioner  
Kaihautū Whakawhanaungatanga ā Iwi

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# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

(INTRODUCTION CO-AUTHORED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION)

### THE ONGOING IMPACT OF COLONISATION

Internationally as well as in New Zealand, indigenous people, including Tangata Whenua, have been subjugated and disenfranchised due to unrelenting racism perpetrated by colonising states and settler peoples. These experiences continue for all indigenous peoples, both in developing countries where the majority of indigenous people exist and in developed nations such as Aotearoa New Zealand, where Tangata Whenua have been profoundly affected by racism over the last 180 years. This is well documented with historical land confiscation (such as that facilitated by the Native Lands Acts 1862 and 1865 and events such as the invasion of Parihaka), continuing with the suppression of tikanga and te reo Māori (e.g. Native Schools Act 1867, Tohunga Suppression Act 1907), manifesting in more contemporary extensions of colonisation such as the over-representation of Tangata Whenua in prisons and state care and the absence of Te Tiriti in our structures and institutions.

Vilification and racism towards Tangata Whenua is woven into the fabric of this country, systemic within the government and state agents, part of 'kiwi culture', and normalised to the degree that it receives little attention. Unfortunately, this is commonplace within post-colonial democracies having pervasive and damaging impacts on indigenous peoples.

Subsequent groups of people who arrived to Aotearoa New Zealand, such as Chinese people, Asians from other countries, and Pacific people have been subject to the colonial settler system and its inherent racism. This is evident through early legislative enactments such as the Chinese Immigrants Act 1881 ('poll tax'), the Immigration Restriction Act 1899, the 1970s Dawn Raids, and, more recently, the 2009 immigration policy that required Middle Eastern and African refugees to have whānau already living in Aotearoa (which was repealed in 2019). Racism toward non-white groups of New Zealanders is prevalent today, with Tangata Whenua and Asian people reporting the highest rates of discrimination.<sup>1</sup> While Pacific people report lower levels of discrimination compared with Tangata Whenua and Asians in some surveys, this may be related to differences in experiencing and interpreting discrimination rather than differences in the prevalence of discrimination. Unequal treatment of Pacific people is evident in the health, income, and education disparities that exist today.<sup>2</sup>

### THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DISCRIMINATION

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic provided another avenue for discrimination, including racism and xenophobia, to rage globally. Aotearoa has been no exception. Media stories<sup>3</sup> described experiences of people of Asian descent being harassed during COVID, and the Human Rights Commission received a number of complaints from Chinese and Asian community members about COVID-fuelled racist and xenophobic abuse. While racism and xenophobia are not new to these groups in Aotearoa, the Commission historically hadn't

<sup>1</sup> In 2018, the percentage of Tangata Whenua, Asian, and Pacific people who reported experiencing discrimination in the previous 12 months were 24.4%, 25.8%, and 16.0%, respectively. Source: Stats NZ. Indicators Aotearoa. <https://wellbeingindicators.stats.govt.nz/en/experience-of-discrimination/>

<sup>2</sup> New Zealand Human Rights Commission. (2020) Talanoa: Human Rights issues for Pacific Peoples in Aotearoa New Zealand. Wellington: Human Rights Commission. Available at: <https://www.hrc.co.nz/resources/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/122110939/the-new-convenient-symbol-of-racism-against-asians-in-new-zealand-is-covid19>

received a large number of complaints in a short amount of time such as what was happening during the early months of COVID-19.

In responding to the pandemic, iwi, hapū and Māori organisations were swift and proactive.<sup>4</sup> In an exercise of tino rangatiratanga, regional iwi set up checkpoints to protect communities and ensure the lockdown rules of 'staying in your bubble' were being followed to prevent the spread of the virus. Concerns about the spread of the virus stemmed at least in part from colonial experiences of Tangata Whenua communities being decimated in the 1700s and 1800s from diseases such as influenza, measles, and venereal diseases brought by European settlers. The checkpoints prompted negative public reaction, with even Members of Parliament<sup>5</sup> expressing their opposition to them, arguing that the checkpoints were unlawful and intimidating. The Commission received complaints relating to these checkpoints, whereby the general public echoed this opposition to this expression of Tino rangatiratanga. The Commission received few complaints related to racism *from* Tangata Whenua during the pandemic, which is demonstrative of a pattern where indigenous people do not raise formal complaints about racism impacting on them. Complaints were also laid with the Commission about perceived 'special treatment' in the form of community funding initiatives and some District Health Boards' decision to prioritise Tangata Whenua and Pacific people for elective surgeries. These communities are susceptible to poorer health due to a range of issues, including systemic racism.

COVID-fuelled racism turned toward the Pacific community amid Auckland's second lockdown in August, as a result of a cluster of new cases that emerged there.<sup>6</sup> Around this time, the Pacific community was reporting instances of discrimination due to people placing blame on them for the re-emergence of the virus. Racist stereotypes and tropes aimed at Pacific people were reminiscent of the xenophobic rhetoric of the 1970s Dawn Raids. Much of the racism and stereotyping that occurred to Pacific people during this time stemmed from a conspiracy theory on social media about the family from South Auckland who was at the centre of the cluster. In addition to facing racism and xenophobia, media reports confirmed that Pacific communities were disproportionately affected by the virus due to exacerbating socioeconomic circumstances. (Unfortunately, this research has not captured these experiences due to the timing of the data collection, which was nearly completed when Auckland's second lockdown occurred. Therefore, a strong word of caution is urged when interpreting results for Pacific respondents, as the findings will likely underestimate the amount racism they experienced.)

## THE ROLE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

As a national human rights institution, the Commission has a role in monitoring the New Zealand government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Human rights, such as the right to freedom of movement and the right to work, were being limited in the interest of rights to health during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the Commission's human rights advocacy functions under the Human Rights Act, the Commission will scrutinise the Government's decisions (and their implementation) for consistency with human rights standards, including whether any limitations on rights are proportionate, necessary and legal, and raise issues that arise with the Government to ensure that human rights and Te Tiriti o Waitangi are upheld during the COVID-19 response.

<sup>4</sup> McMeeking, S, and Savage, C, 'Māori Responses to Covid-19', *Policy Quarterly*, Vol 16, Issue 3, August 2020, at 36.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/calls-police-shut-down-m-ori-led-roadblocks-public-report-they-feel-intimidated>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/425061/meng-foon-racist-stereotypes-on-the-rise-in-the-age-of-covid-19>



The Commission also has a responsibility to monitor COVID-specific racism in light of its statutory function to encourage the maintenance and development of harmonious relations and promote racial equality and cultural diversity in New Zealand. Monitoring and reporting on racism and xenophobia that occurs in the COVID-19 context provides crucial evidence for the Commission to use in its advocacy. Commission stakeholders have expressed concerns that there could be a potential increase in vilification and acts of racism towards certain groups of people post-lockdown. It is therefore important to track experiences of racism over time to understand and document the changes in prevalence and patterns of racism.

The Human Rights Commission's complaints data was one of the only publicly available official data sets for government to reference. This highlights the importance of hate-motivated crime data collection and reporting by the Police to systematically record race-based harassment and violence against Tangata Whenua, ethnic, religious, and other communities. In its absence, communities who experience racism rely on media reports as a way of placing these events on public record. Fortunately, recording and reporting hate crimes are now priorities of the government and Police, as a result of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019.

In response to ongoing concerns about racism, the Commission introduced and launched two anti-racism campaigns in July 2020. '[Racism is No Joke](#)' was launched to address online racism toward Chinese and Asian communities in the wake of COVID-19. The second phase of the 'Give Nothing to Racism' campaign was also launched and features the [Voice of Racism](#) website, which provides real examples of racist statements that New Zealanders have heard in their everyday lives. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness of racist behaviours and of the harm they cause, as well as how to combat racism.

## STUDY OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the research was to generate primary data to help facilitate evidence-based advocacy, intervention, and support activities on behalf of the Commission and others. This evidence will inform the Commission's activities that aim to promote inclusion and harmonious race relations in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The key research objectives were to understand the following:

- The prevalence, nature, and pattern of racism and xenophobia experienced by people in the COVID-19 context, particularly among Tangata Whenua, Chinese, other Asian peoples (apart from Chinese), and Pacific peoples (and potentially others, such as the elderly and disabled people).
- Attitudes and views relating to certain ethnic groups in the COVID-19 context.
- How people react or respond to the COVID-specific racism/xenophobia they receive, including what support mechanisms are used/desired.
- The impact of this racism/xenophobia on the people who have experienced it.



# | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## PREVALENCE AND PATTERNS OF RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

### DISCRIMINATION PRE COVID-19

Before the COVID-19 pandemic reached Aotearoa New Zealand, race discrimination was established as a wide-reaching issue: four in ten respondents (40%) said that they experienced some form of discrimination in Aotearoa in the six months before COVID, and the incidence was higher (around five in ten) among Tangata Whenua<sup>7</sup> and those of Chinese, Asian<sup>8</sup>, or Pacific ethnicity.

**Online negative comments aimed at people like them** was the most common type of discrimination experienced, followed by **negative experiences on the street or in a public place**.

**Ethnicity / race-based discrimination** was the most prevalent reason given for the discrimination experienced pre-COVID-19.

### DISCRIMINATION FROM THE START OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Four in ten respondents (39%) said they have experienced discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. Nearly eight in ten (78%) of those who experienced any discrimination from the start of the outbreak had experienced discrimination pre-COVID-19.

**Online negative comments or abuse targeting people like them** was the most prevalent discrimination situation (of sixteen types measured), followed by feeling **others glaring / staring on the street** and **the general public avoiding some respondents more than others and physically distancing from them more than others**.

Separating out discrimination that could be definitively attributed to COVID-related racism is inherently challenging. But based on respondents' self-reported experiences and perceptions, over half (54%) of those who experienced any discrimination said this was related to an increase in prejudice during the COVID-19 outbreak. In terms of the total sample, one in five overall (21%) said that they have experienced discrimination that was related to an increase in prejudice during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Tangata Whenua and ethnic Chinese respondents appear particularly vulnerable to experiences of discrimination, being more likely than others to say they have experienced this since the start of the outbreak (55% and 54% respectively) and consistently more likely than others to report that their experiences were COVID-related (30% for Tangata Whenua and 40% for Chinese respondents).

Younger respondents (particularly those in the 18 to 34 year age group) were more likely than older respondents to report discrimination during COVID. They may have spent more time out in public during lockdown than older people and they were also more affected by work-related or family role related issues than older people were. There may also be generational differences in how racism is felt, understood and reported.

<sup>7</sup> Note: Respondents who described their ethnicity as Māori in the survey are referred to as Tangata Whenua throughout the report.

<sup>8</sup> For the purpose of this research, findings relating to Chinese respondents were reported separately from findings relating to respondents with ancestries from other Asian countries such as India, Korea, Philippines, Japanese, other Southeast Asia, South Asia and/or Middle East/Southwest Asia

Disabled respondents were also particularly vulnerable to experiencing discrimination: 55% reported this during COVID-19 (compared with 35% of non-disabled respondents), and they were more likely than non-disabled respondents to consider that their discrimination experiences during COVID-19 were COVID-related (36% compared with 17% of non-disabled respondents).

## GENERAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Generally, around two in three respondents (65%) said they make an effort to avoid experiencing discrimination in their daily life. This was consistent across the different ethnicities.

Anecdotes indicated that some people changed their behaviours to avoid risking discrimination during COVID-19. Hence all respondents were asked whether they undertook seven specific actions during COVID-19 and whether that action was because of concerns about discrimination.

Three behaviours were common, with around four in ten respondents saying they did each of the following at least partly due to discrimination concerns. These were:

- **Keeping distance from others deliberately when out in public,**
- **Choosing to stay home**
- **Reducing outings and social activities.**

While not widespread, two actions were more likely than others to be taken due to discrimination-related considerations: **making more of an effort to be friendly to others** and **staying away from people of other ethnic groups more than their own.**

## WHETHER DISCRIMINATION HAS INCREASED DURING COVID

Nearly one in five respondents (18%) who experienced discrimination situations during the COVID outbreak said they have experienced more discrimination since the start of the outbreak, despite many saying they have been going out less. The most common response given was that the level of discrimination personally experienced was the same during COVID as before it (38% said this).

Chinese respondents were more than twice as likely as others to say they have experienced more discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak than before (37% cf. 18% of the total who experienced discrimination), with only 5% saying they have experienced less.

## EXPERIENCES OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY

In total, 16% of all respondents said they knew of, or had witnessed friends and/or family experiencing some form of COVID-related discrimination.

Tangata Whenua were most likely to say they knew of friends/family being discriminated against due to COVID (26% acknowledgment), with higher incidence also among Chinese respondents (24%) and Asian respondents (21%) compared with New Zealand European respondents (14%).

## HOW PEOPLE RESPOND TO COVID-SPECIFIC RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

### RESPONSE TO COVID-SPECIFIC DISCRIMINATION

When asked how they responded to COVID-specific discrimination, over four in ten respondents said that **they ignored it and did nothing at the time.** Doing nothing was more common among those of

Chinese or Asian ethnicity (half of whom ignored it). Some said that they wanted to confront the person at the time, but did not.

The most common more active response was to **talk to a friend or family member**, with one in four handling the situation in this way. People of Asian ethnicity were more likely than others to talk to a friend or family member.

**Staying at home and not going out as much** was a common response, particularly by Tangata Whenua.

**Making some type of active response at the time of the incident** was also common. One in five said they **answered back**, while one in seven said they **made a joke or used humour**. Both of these responses were more common among Māori than those of Chinese or Asian ethnicities.

**More formal courses of action**, such as reporting incidents to the police, the local embassy or the Human Rights Commission were the least common responses to discrimination experiences. Fewer than one in twenty of those who experienced some form of discrimination since the start of COVID-19 took such actions.

## IMPACTS ON PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

COVID-related discrimination (that is, experiences perceived to have happened because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak) has had a direct impact on the mental wellbeing of some respondents who have experienced discrimination, and to a lesser extent on their sense of belonging in Aotearoa New Zealand.

- Nearly one in two (46%) of those who experienced COVID-related discrimination reported a negative **mental wellbeing impact**, compared with 9% reporting a positive impact (the latter possibly due to how others responded or supported them at the time), as per the wording of the question in the survey. The level of negative impact was consistent across respondents of Chinese, Asian and Tangata whenua ethnicities and was higher than average among essential workers and disabled respondents.
- The impact on respondents' **sense of belonging** tended to be either negative (four in ten reporting a negative impact) or neutral (one in two reporting no change in their sense of belonging). Patterns across ethnicities were similar.

Generally, the COVID-19 outbreak has affected some respondents' perceptions of personal safety. Around one in five respondents agreed that they have **felt self-conscious in public** due to worries about how others might perceive them, or that they have been **concerned about their safety due to the blaming of certain groups** and/or that they **worried about how their children and/or other family members might be treated**.

Those affected to a greater extent than the average included respondents of Chinese ethnicity (between four and five in ten agreeing with each), those of Asian ethnicity (one in three agreeing with each) and Tangata Whenua (one in four agreeing with each).

Personal concern about the **level of discrimination in Aotearoa** compared with before the COVID-19 outbreak has increased for one in four respondents (while remaining unchanged for just over one in two). Respondents of Chinese ethnicity and Tangata Whenua were more likely than others to feel increased levels of personal concern.



## SUPPORTING THOSE WHO ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST

When asked how they could be supported through such discriminatory situations, respondents who experienced personal discrimination during COVID talked about the value of connecting with others (community groups, family and friends), talking to people about their experiences (face-to-face or virtually), and reaching out to ask for professional help. Respondents also stressed the importance of practising self-care and repeated the national COVID-19 campaign message of being kind to others.

## ATTITUDES TOWARD CERTAIN ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

### ATTITUDES TOWARDS CERTAIN ETHNIC GROUPS

Over four in ten people felt that there has been more **discrimination against certain ethnic groups during the outbreak** than before. This view was most strongly held by Chinese respondents (both New Zealand and overseas born) and Tangata Whenua than others.

Generally, respondents did not believe that **Chinese people in Aotearoa are at least partly to blame for the COVID-19 outbreak** (two in three disagreeing, but a small proportion agreeing). There was acknowledgment, however, that **the responses of some governments will make life more difficult for Chinese people and Asian people**. This view was more strongly held by Chinese respondents than others.

The majority were aware of the **racist remarks that President Trump has made about COVID-19**, and most were opposed to such views. News media stories about **some groups of people being discriminated against due to COVID-19** were not widely known, but those aware were typically opposed to such discrimination.

### ATTITUDINAL CHANGES TOWARD DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE

When asked about how their **attitudes toward key groups have changed** since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, the vast majority indicated that there has been little change in their attitudes towards **Pacific people, Māori, New Zealand Europeans and Asian people (not including Chinese)**. Among those whose attitudes have changed, more positive attitudes slightly outweighed more negative ones.

Views of **Chinese people in New Zealand** were also largely unchanged, with three in four respondents reporting no change. Among the remaining one in four, however, more positive attitudes were balanced by more negative attitudes.

Attitudes towards **people returning to Aotearoa from overseas during the COVID-19 outbreak**, however, were much less positive, with one in three people saying their attitudes towards such people have become more negative. This finding suggests the importance of monitoring the potential backlash as New Zealanders continue to return home from overseas in the coming months and any negative attitudes driven by racism.

### ATTITUDES TOWARD INITIATIVES DURING COVID

There was high awareness of iwi-organised regional checkpoints during COVID lockdown, which were the subject of some complaints to the Human Rights Commission. Views from Tangata Whenua respondents toward these were generally supportive, but more mixed among other respondents.

When respondents were asked about their attitudes relating to the government's funding initiatives for certain groups to help communities during COVID, this was less well known than iwi-led checkpoints. Those who were aware of funding initiatives showed reasonably strong support for them.

# CONCLUSION

This study indicates that discrimination at a high level has been pervasive during COVID, and at least as widespread as pre-COVID (noting differences in specific questions). Since the start of the outbreak, online abuse has been the biggest issue (as it was pre-COVID), with focus on specific ethnicities, due at least in part to online media and news stories about the source of the outbreak.

Three key respondent groups have been particularly affected by discrimination during the COVID-19 outbreak and may be particularly vulnerable for the foreseeable future: Tangata Whenua, people of Chinese ethnicity (both those born in Aotearoa and those born overseas), and people of Asian descent. Younger people and disabled people also felt vulnerable to discrimination.

The main public messages to date have communicated that racism is not a joke and to be kind to others. There was some recall of the 'Racism is No Joke' campaign developed by the Commission and the Office of Ethnic Communities, with Tangata Whenua and Asian respondents reporting the highest recall. There is opportunity to further the reach of this campaign to Chinese and Asian communities to demonstrate support and to the general public to eliminate the use of online racist jokes. Further work should be considered to address the extensive racism experienced by Tangata Whenua clearly demonstrated in this research.



# **METHODOLOGY**

## **QUANTITATIVE METHOD**

### **METHOD**

We conducted an online survey to provide a snapshot of racism, xenophobia, and other forms of discrimination experienced by people in Aotearoa New Zealand in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

The questionnaire was developed in consultation with the Commission and an external Chinese cultural consultant. Our team, including our cultural consultant, undertook cognitive pretesting, focusing on those who might be expected to experience any discrimination, to ensure that all questions were clear and could be answered.

The questionnaire took just under 12 minutes to complete, on average.

### **SAMPLE**

Respondents were recruited online by Nielsen's external panel partners, Dynata and Toluna.

A total of 1,904 people aged 18 years and over completed the survey. This included minimum samples of 152 Chinese, 306 Asian people (excluding Chinese), 314 Tangata Whenua and 251 Pacific people. Further details about the sample are included in Appendix 1.

### **DATA WEIGHTING**

The survey data were weighted to the correct population proportions for those aged 18 years and over (using 2018 Census data) to ensure final results were representative of the New Zealand population by gender, age, region and ethnicity.

### **FIELDWORK DATES**

Fieldwork dates were from 6 to 19 August 2020.

### **REPORT**

The draft report was reviewed by the Commission and incorporated feedback from its indigenous rights experts and an external Chinese cultural consultant.

## COVID-19 KEY TIMELINES

Critical dates in the COVID-19 outbreak were as follows:

EVENT	DATE
New virus, China	December 2019
First death reported in China	11 January 2020
First cases outside China	13 January
World Health Organization declares the epidemic a global health emergency	30 January
First COVID case confirmed in New Zealand	28 February
New Zealand closes borders	19 March
Alert level system announced in New Zealand: New Zealand at level 2	21 March
New Zealand level 3 (includes lockdown)	23 March
New Zealand level 4 (includes lockdown) and State of National Emergency declared	25 March
First COVID-related death announced in New Zealand	29 March
New Zealand level 3 (includes lockdown)	28 April
New Zealand level 2 restrictions	13 May
New Zealand level 1 restrictions	9 June
Auckland level 3 lockdown; level 2 restrictions elsewhere in New Zealand	12 August
Auckland level 2 with additional restrictions; elsewhere remains at level 2	30 August
Auckland level 2 with additional restrictions removed; elsewhere Level 1	21 September
Auckland joins rest of New Zealand level 1	7 October

## NOTES TO THE REPORT

### METHODOLOGY LIMITATIONS

**A quantitative method (survey)** was used to understand the prevalence and patterns of discriminatory acts toward certain groups of people. This method was selected to provide a quantitative understanding of how pervasive race-specific discrimination was at the time of data collection. Quantitative methods have limitations, however, in that they do not provide an in-depth understanding of context or reasons behind responses. Limitations in survey length meant that some areas could not be included, such as questions around who perpetuated the discrimination reported by respondents.

**An online panel approach** was considered the most efficient and timely way to conduct this survey. Using an online panel as the sample source has some limitations, in particular:

- The exclusion of those without internet access.
- Potential under-representation of those who are generally less likely to respond online (elderly respondents, those with low computer literacy and those of very low socioeconomic status).
- Potential exclusion of other sub groups which could include older migrants, whether Chinese or other nationality as well as people with low English literacy. Such people may have a different experience of racism and may be likely to be more vulnerable to it.
- Those who opt into online research panels may have different attitudes and behaviours from those who do not join such panels.

Given that Tangata Whenua and Pacific people are over-represented in many of the marginalised groups listed above (e.g. without internet access, low computer literacy, low socioeconomic status, etc), this research approach will inevitably limit their representation in the research.

**Sample composition:** Furthermore, the composition of the sample could impact the sensitivity of the analyses. That is, the larger the sub-sample size (e.g. of a particular ethnicity), the greater the chance of detecting statistically significant results compared with other sub groups of respondents.

**Survey data weighting to 2018 Census:** Another limitation lies in the reliability of the 2018 Census and the weighting of the sample to it. Due to methodological issues with the 2018 Census, it is estimated that people of Māori ethnicity had a net undercount of 4.4% (35,300 people).<sup>9</sup> This means that the weighted sample for this research may have resulted in an underestimation of Tangata Whenua responses and impact.

### DEFINITION OF DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination was the term used throughout the questionnaire. It was defined as 'being treated unfairly or differently compared with other people, due to ethnicity/race, gender, age, appearance, sexual orientation, disability, etc.'. The terms 'discrimination' and 'prejudice' have been used synonymously in this report.

The way in which the discrimination questions were asked focused on individual experiences of discrimination. There are collective forms of experiencing discrimination (e.g. by whānau, hapū, and iwi) that have not been addressed in this research. Furthermore, the research does not

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/post-enumeration-survey-2018#:~:text=people%20of%20M%C4%81ori%20ethnicity%20had,undercount%20of%2038%2C900%20\(4.2%20percent\)](https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/post-enumeration-survey-2018#:~:text=people%20of%20M%C4%81ori%20ethnicity%20had,undercount%20of%2038%2C900%20(4.2%20percent))



address the discrimination that goes unnoticed/unreported due to a desensitisation to it over many years, as is the case for many Tangata Whenua and others.

## ETHNICITY AND RELATED DEFINITIONS

Ethnicity was classified using the ‘total ethnicity’ approach, whereby respondents could choose more than one ethnicity with which they identified and there was no prioritisation of ethnicity in analysis for those who indicated multiple ethnicities. This means for example, that a respondent who self-identified as being of ‘Māori’ and ‘Samoaan’ ethnicity is included in data tables as ‘Māori’ and as ‘Pacific’. Treatment of those who identified as ‘Chinese’ and as ‘Other Asian’ was slightly different in the analysis, as outlined below.

- **Chinese respondents:** Respondents who self-identified as Chinese (even if multiple ethnicities were indicated) were prioritised as Chinese in analysis. ‘Chinese’ includes both New Zealand born Chinese and Chinese born overseas. Any statistically significant results between New Zealand and overseas born Chinese are noted in this report.
- **Asian respondents:** ‘Asian’ excludes respondents who self-identified as Chinese. It includes respondents who self-identified as Indian, Korean, Filipino, Japanese, other Southeast Asia, South Asia and/or Middle Eastern/Southwest Asian.
- **Tangata Whenua respondents:** Respondents who self-identified as Māori.
- **Pacific respondents:** Respondents who self-identified as Cook Island Māori, Fijian, Samoaan, Niuean, Tongan, or ‘Other Pacific people’
- **New Zealand European respondents:** Respondents who self identified as New Zealand European.

## DEFINITION OF ‘DISABILITY’

The Washington Group Short Set of questions on disability was used in addition to a self-identify question.

- A respondent was defined as **disabled** if they said that they have *a lot of difficulty* or *cannot do* one of six nominated activities *at all* (seeing even if wearing glasses, hearing even if using a hearing aid, walking or climbing steps, remembering or concentrating, washing all over or dressing, or communicating their usual language) **or** said that they think of themselves as having a disability.
- A respondent was defined as **non-disabled** if they did not have any difficulty doing any of the nominated six activities (or if they had some difficulty doing these activities) and they did not self-identify as disabled. Note: the prevalence of disabled people was 21% among the achieved sample, compared with the national benchmark of 24% of people being disabled.<sup>10</sup> The data were not weighted by disability status.

## ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used.

- New Zealand Human Rights Commission: HRC

<sup>10</sup> Stats NZ. Disability Survey: 2013.

[http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/health/disabilities/DisabilitySurvey\\_HOTP2013.aspx#gsc.tab=0](http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/health/disabilities/DisabilitySurvey_HOTP2013.aspx#gsc.tab=0)

- Aotearoa New Zealand is referred to as Aotearoa
- Cf. indicates a comparison (meaning compared with).

## ANALYSIS

As reported racist experiences during the COVID-19 outbreak were a main driver for this study, sub group analysis has focused on ethnicity, but also considered age group (given COVID lockdown restrictions for older people), gender and disability status. Commentary has also been included about other sub groups (such as essential workers, employment type) as appropriate.

**‘Don’t know’ responses** have been included in this report where relevant (that is, when they are valid responses and add value to the findings). Please refer to the base descriptions on each page for more information.

**Rounding:** In some cases, NET percentages may not add up exactly to the individual response categories and may differ by one percentage point, due to rounding. For example for Q7 about agreement with the extent to which people make an effort to avoid experiencing discrimination in their everyday life the NET total of ‘*agree well*’ and ‘*strongly agree*’ is 65%. However, the individual response categories ‘*agree*’ (38%) and ‘*strongly agree*’ (26%) add to 64%.

**Margin of error:** All sample surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the measure of uncertainty arising from survey estimates because only a sample of the population is observed. The maximum sampling error for the total sample of  $n = 1,904$  is  $\pm 2.2\%$ . This means that there is a 95% chance that the true population value of a result of 50% actually lies between 47.8% and 52.8%. The margin of error increases, as the observed result moves further away from 50%.

**Significance testing:** All sub group differences reported are statistically significant at the 95% confidence interval. This means that the difference is a true difference statistically, and not due to random variation.

- **Blue font** is used in tables to show results that are significantly **higher** than the total.
- **Red font** is used in tables to show results that are significantly **lower** than the total.

**Verbatim comments:** Verbatim comments included in the report are taken from open-ended survey questions.

## COVID-19 CHANGE IN ALERT LEVELS DURING FIELDWORK

In interpreting results, please note there was a change in alert level for COVID-19 on 12 August, when Auckland was placed into level 3 alert due to new cases emerging and the rest of New Zealand into level 2 alert. 1,535 (80%) of the total 1,904 interviews were completed by 11 August, with 369 interviews completed from 12 August onwards.

# | EXPERIENCE LIVING IN NEW ZEALAND

## INTRODUCTION

This section provides context to understanding the incidence of racially based discrimination pre-COVID and discusses the extent to which different groups feel comfortable living in Aotearoa. It focuses on the following questions:

- Whether migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live
- The extent to which people feel comfortable living in Aotearoa
- People's sense of belonging in Aotearoa and in local area
- The extent to which people make an effort to avoid experiencing discrimination in their daily life.

## KEY FINDINGS

**Migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live:** Belief that migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live outweighed the belief that it makes the country a worse place to live: one in two people thought that migration is for the better, while fewer than one in five thought migration made it worse. Respondents of Chinese and/or Asian ethnicity were most inclined to think migration makes for a better place to live, while Tangata Whenua had lower levels of agreement with this statement. Note: HRC have provided commentary on the historical context for Tangata Whenua relating to migration and colonisation and how this relates to the finding.

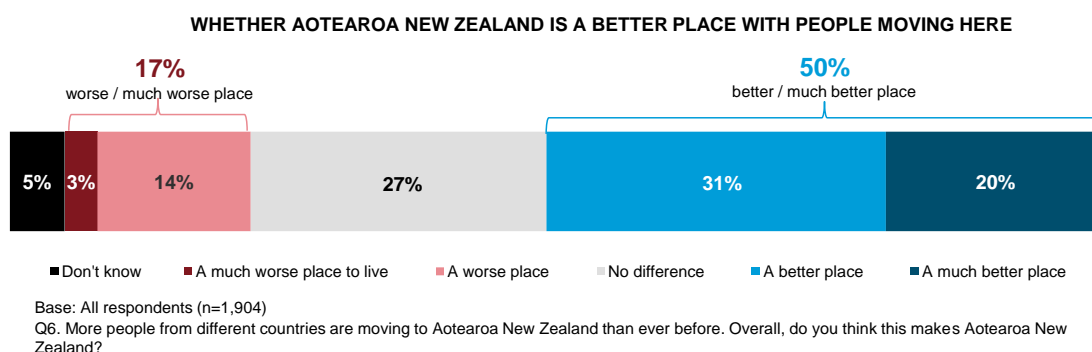
**Sense of belonging:** People of Chinese ethnicity were less likely than others to agree that they feel a sense of belonging in Aotearoa or that they can fully express their identity. Lower than average levels of agreement with both were more apparent among Chinese respondents born in New Zealand than Chinese respondents born overseas.

## WHETHER MIGRATION MAKES AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Overall, migration was considered to have a positive impact, making Aotearoa New Zealand a better place to live, with one in two people (50%) thinking this way, and fewer than one in five (17%) saying that it makes the country a worse place to live.



**Figure 1: Whether migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live**



### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Those with the most positive view of migration were people of Chinese and/or other Asian ethnicities, with around seven in ten of each group (68% of Chinese and 71% of Asian respondents) saying that Aotearoa is a better place to live because of migration.

While two in five Tangata Whenua respondents (40%) responded that migration makes Aotearoa a better place, one in four (25%) responded that it makes Aotearoa a worse place. This latter result for Tangata Whenua was higher than among respondents of other ethnicities.

**Table 1: Whether migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A better place	50	68 <sup>11</sup>	71	40	53	47
A worse place	17	8	9	25	12	19

### HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COMMENTARY ON THE FINDINGS RELATING TO TANGATA WHENUA AND OPINIONS RELATING TO MIGRATION

*This research found that Tangata Whenua respondents had lower levels of agreement that the high levels of migration to Aotearoa New Zealand make the country a better place.*

*Presenting this finding on its own, out of the historical context in which it sits, would be unfair to Tangata Whenua and their experiences of colonisation. As a result of the first waves of migration to Aotearoa, Tangata Whenua have suffered countless acts of violence and oppression as well as dispossession of land, language, taonga, and rights. Continual breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the stripping of Tino rangatiratanga have impacted Tangata Whenua from the 1800s through to today. It is important to consider this history and context when interpreting the above findings.*

<sup>11</sup> Note: results that are significantly higher than the total are shown in blue font, while red font is used to show results that are significantly lower than the total.

Age-wise, attitudes were most positive among people aged between 25 to 49 (56% saying the country is a better place), with the 50 to 64 age group being the least positive (one in four of them thought migration makes Aotearoa a worse place).

**Table 2: Whether migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live, by Age**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,904)	<b>18-24</b> (n=345)	<b>25-34</b> (n=419)	<b>35-49</b> (n=543)	<b>50-64</b> (n=354)	<b>65+</b> (n=243)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A better place	50	52	57	56	43	46
A worse place	17	10	14	16	24	19

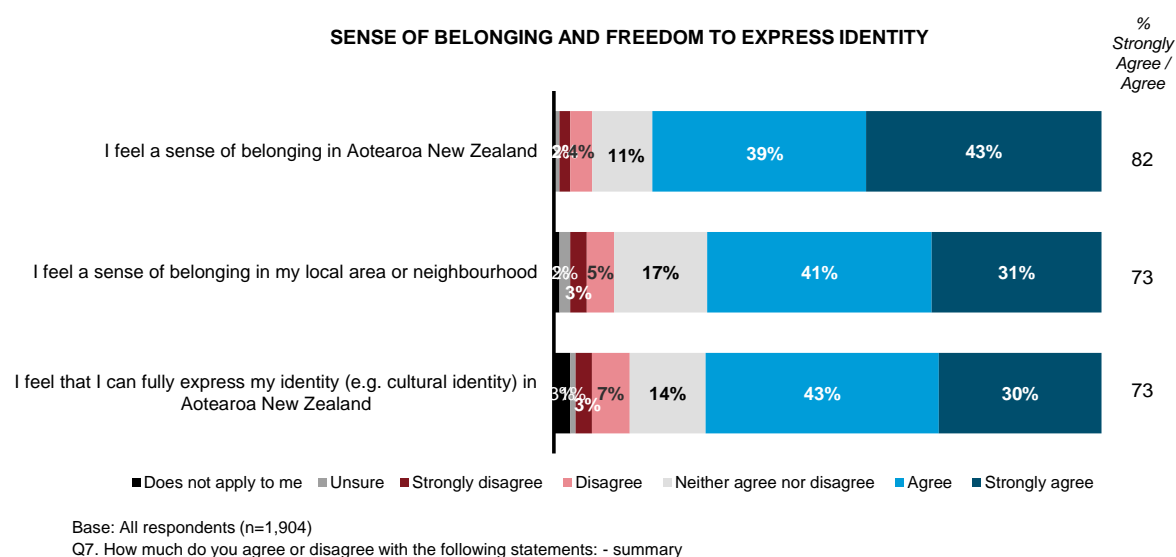
Other demographic differences were apparent:

- Those born outside Aotearoa were more likely to consider that migration makes the country a better place (59% saying it is better, cf. 47% of those born in Aotearoa). Chinese respondents born overseas were particularly likely to think that migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live (71% saying this, cf. 62% of New Zealand born Chinese and 50% of the total sample).
- Males were more likely than females to consider that migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live (54% cf. 47%). One in three females consider migration makes no difference (35% cf. 29% of males thinking this way).
- Those employed in government had a particularly positive view of migration (63% saying it makes Aotearoa a better place).
- People with tertiary qualifications had a more positive opinion of migration than those without (60% and 43% respectively considering migration makes Aotearoa a better place).
- Regional differences were apparent. Those living north of Auckland were less likely to think migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live (42%) in contrast to Aucklanders who were more positive (54%). Those who live rurally were also less positive (40% thinking that migration makes Aotearoa a better place to live).

## SENSE OF BELONGING AND FREEDOM TO EXPRESS IDENTITY

Eight in ten respondents (82%) agreed that they feel a sense of belonging in Aotearoa and over seven in ten (73%) agreed that they feel a sense of belonging in their local neighbourhood. A similar proportion agreed that they can fully express their identity in Aotearoa.

**Figure 2: Sense of belonging and freedom to express identity**



### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

New Zealand European respondents reported the highest rate of belonging in Aotearoa (84%). Respondents of Chinese ethnicity were less likely than others to agree that they feel a sense of belonging in Aotearoa or that they can fully express their identity. (Differences were less marked for sense of belonging in their local area.) Lower than average ratings were apparent by place of birth: New Zealand born Chinese had lower levels of agreement than did Chinese born overseas:

- Only 69% of New Zealand born Chinese agreed that they belong in Aotearoa (cf. 75% among all Chinese and 78% among Chinese born overseas).
- Only 56% of New Zealand born Chinese agreed that they can fully express their identity (cf. 67% among all Chinese and 72% among Chinese born overseas).

**Table 3: Sense of belonging and freedom to express identity, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Belonging in Aotearoa</b>						
Agree (5/4)	82	75	78	82	80	84
Disagree (2/1)	6	8	5	5	8	5
<b>Belonging in local area</b>						
Agree (5/4)	73	69	76	72	70	73
Disagree (2/1)	9	7	7	10	5	8
<b>Fully express identity</b>						
Agree (5/4)	73	67	74	74	71	73
Disagree (2/1)	9	10	5	10	12	9

Some other demographic related differences emerged:

- The 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups felt a lesser sense of belonging in Aotearoa and lesser ability to fully express their identity than did older people, while the 65 plus age group had the most positive view.
- A gender difference was apparent for sense of belonging in Aotearoa: males were less likely to agree that they belong in Aotearoa than females (80% and 85% respectively).

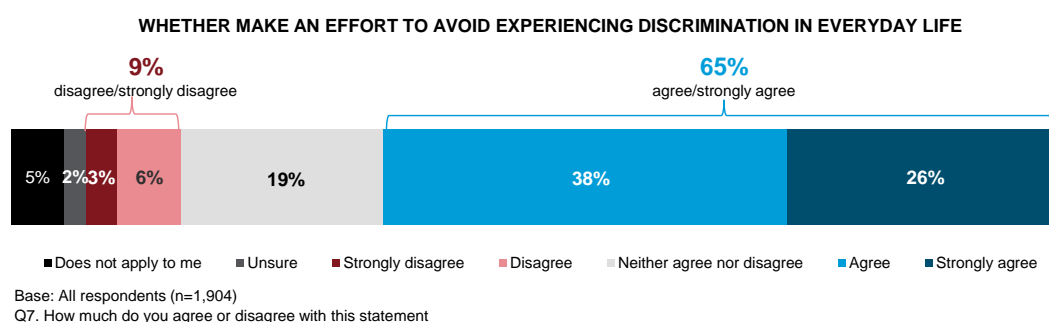
**Table 4: Sense of belonging and freedom to express identity, by Age**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	18-24 (n=345)	25-34 (n=419)	35-49 (n=543)	50-64 (n=354)	65+ (n=243)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Belonging in Aotearoa</b>						
Agree (5/4)	82	78	78	82	82	89
Disagree (2/1)	6	7	6	7	6	2
<b>Belonging in local area</b>						
Agree (5/4)	73	56	69	72	72	87
Disagree (2/1)	9	16	10	9	8	3
<b>Fully express identity</b>						
Agree (5/4)	73	69	75	74	69	76
Disagree (2/1)	9	10	7	10	11	7

## EFFORT MADE TO AVOID EXPERIENCING DISCRIMINATION IN DAILY LIFE

Feedback from some overseas-born people who participated in questionnaire pretesting indicated that some people who might be expected to suffer discrimination during COVID-19 talked of making a conscious effort to avoid discrimination (and hence, did not experience any such situations). Hence, all respondents were asked this to understand the extent to which people practise such behaviours. Nearly two in three people (65%) agreed that they do make an effort to avoid discrimination in their daily lives.

**Figure 3: Effort made to avoid experiencing discrimination in daily life**



### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

However, no significant differences were apparent by ethnicity: making an effort to avoid discrimination was consistent across different ethnic groups, although Pacific respondents were slightly more likely to disagree that they do so.

**Table 5: Effort made to avoid experiencing discrimination in daily life, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree (5/4)	65	67	66	65	61	66
Disagree (2/1)	9	4	12	8	14	7

Some age related differences were apparent. Older people (those over 65) were more likely than others to agree that they make an effort to avoid experiencing discrimination (73% agreeing), while the 18 to 24 age group were much less likely to agree (54% agreeing).



**Table 6: Effort made to avoid experiencing discrimination in daily life, by Age**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,904)	<b>18-24</b> (n=345)	<b>25-34</b> (n=419)	<b>35-49</b> (n=543)	<b>50-64</b> (n=354)	<b>65+</b> (n=243)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree (5/4)	65	54	64	67	63	73
Disagree (2/1)	9	12	11	9	8	4

Being born overseas made no difference. New Zealand born respondents were as likely to make an effort as those not born in Aotearoa.

Disability status did not affect levels of agreement, with 68% of disabled respondents agreeing that they make an effort to avoid discrimination and 64% of non-disabled respondents agreeing.

# PERSONAL DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCES PRE-COVID-19

## INTRODUCTION

This section provides an understanding of the prevalence of discrimination before the COVID-19 outbreak (in relation to the period July to December 2019) to provide context and understand prior experiences of discrimination. It considers:

- Whether people personally experienced discrimination pre-COVID
- The situations in which they experienced such discrimination
- Perceived reasons for that discrimination.

Please note the following terminology in reading this section of the report.

- **'Pre-COVID-19' / 'Before the COVID-19 outbreak':** These terms refer to the six months before January 2020 i.e. July to December 2019. Aotearoa saw its first COVID-19 case on February 28 2020, so the timeframe of July to December 2019 captures New Zealand in its pre-COVID-19 outbreak state.
- **'Total' / 'Respondents' / 'Sample':** Only those who were living in Aotearoa from July to December 2019 (n=1,838) were asked questions regarding their pre-COVID-19 experience. When the term 'total' is used in this section, it refers to the total sample *excluding* those who were not in Aotearoa at the time (n=66).
- **'Discrimination' / 'Prejudice':** These terms have been used synonymously throughout this report.

## KEY FINDINGS

Discrimination was a wide-reaching issue even before the COVID-19 pandemic reached Aotearoa: Four in ten respondents (40%) agreed that they experienced some form of discrimination in Aotearoa before COVID-19. The proportion increased to over half among those of Chinese, Asian, Tangata Whenua or Pacific ethnicities.



*"I have been the subject of racism my whole life given my Tangata Whenua heritage but I am willing to stand up for myself as I am proud to be a woman who is Tangata Whenua in Aotearoa. I will not let the ignorance of a few influence my view of people in our country. I feel there is work to do."*

**– Female, 40-54 years, Tangata Whenua**

*"Growing up in Aotearoa it was not cool to be a Tangata Whenua and many people my age who could pass for being European pretended they were because it was more beneficial to be white. I left NZ at the age of 18 and returned at age 40 and not much has changed. NZ is a racist country whether people living it will admit it or not."*

**– Female, 60-64 years, Tangata Whenua / NZ European**

*"Been here in NZ since 1988, racism will always be with me wherever I go but it doesn't worry me anymore. It's a part of life I think. I don't let anyone drag me down."*

**– Female, 55-59 years, Asian (Filipino)**

*"It's really hard to pin down specific instances of discrimination, especially when you've experienced it for a long time. It kind of just permeates the air."*

**– Female, 30-34 years, Asian (Indian)**

Respondents experienced varied discrimination situations, with **online negative comments towards people like them** being the most commonly reported discrimination situation. Discrimination was also common **on the street** or **in the workplace**.

**Ethnic / race-based discrimination** was the most prevalent reason people gave for believing they were being discriminated against pre-COVID, with **skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin** being mentioned most frequently. **Age-related discrimination** was second most common.

## INCIDENCE OF DISCRIMINATION BEFORE COVID-19

Four of 10 respondents (40%) said that they experienced discrimination in at least one situation during the six months before the COVID outbreak.

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

People of ethnicities other than New Zealand European were significantly more likely to have reported experiencing discrimination. For example, 56% of Tangata Whenua reported experiencing prejudice in at least one setting, followed closely by Chinese (55%) and Asian respondents (54%). The reported incidence was higher among overseas-born Chinese than New Zealand born Chinese (57% and 49% respectively reporting discrimination pre-COVID).

One in three (35%) of New Zealand Europeans reported experiencing any discrimination pre-COVID.

**Table 7: Pre-COVID-19 incidence of discrimination, by Ethnicity**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,838)	<b>CHINESE</b> (n=150)	<b>ASIAN</b> (n=284)	<b>TANGATA WHENUA</b> (n=311)	<b>PACIFIC</b> (n=237)	<b>NZ EUROPEAN</b> (n=966)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Experienced discrimination pre-COVID	40	55	54	56	52	35

Age group comparisons highlight that young people in Aotearoa were more likely to report having experienced some form of discrimination.

Half of those aged 18 to 24 years (50%) reported experiencing at least one form of discrimination pre-COVID-19, and this proportion increased to six out of ten among those aged 25 to 34 years (60%). The majority of respondents aged 65 plus did not report any discrimination, with only 18% reporting any form of prejudice before the Covid-19 outbreak.

**Table 8: Pre-COVID-19 incidence of discrimination, by Age**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,838)	<b>18-24</b> (n=324)	<b>25-34</b> (n=401)	<b>35-49</b> (n=523)	<b>50-64</b> (n=350)	<b>65+</b> (n=240)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Experienced discrimination pre-COVID	40	50	60	47	33	18

**Other groups** who were more likely than the total sample (at 40%) to report experiencing discrimination (pre-COVID-19) included:

- Disabled people (56%)
- Essential workers (50%)
- Those with a tertiary qualification or higher (48%)
- Those with children living at home (46%)
- Those from Auckland (45%), from major centres (43%), and/or urban areas (42%).

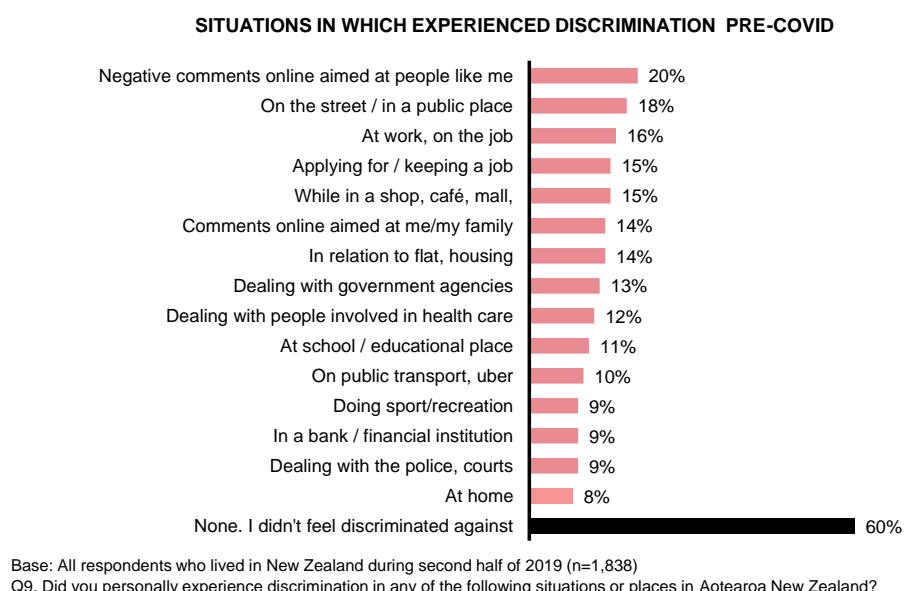
## DISCRIMINATION SITUATIONS BEFORE COVID-19

Respondents were asked about their experiences of discrimination pre-COVID in relation to fifteen different situations. The top five situations in which respondents reported experiencing any discrimination were:

- **Negative comments online aimed at people like me** (20%)
- **On the street or in a public place** (18%)
- **At work or on the job** (16%)
- **Applying for or keeping a job** (15%)
- **While in a shop, café or mall** (15%).

The incidence of experiencing discrimination across the fifteen different situations is shown below.

**Figure 4: Whether personally experienced discrimination in the following situations**



Those who reported any discrimination experiences typically reported multiple situations, with an average of between four and five discrimination situations noted (4.6 was the mean number of different experiences of personal discrimination reported among those who reported at least one experience of discrimination).

Around one in seven respondents (14%) reported experiencing more than five different discrimination situations and 7% reported discrimination experienced in ten or more different settings.

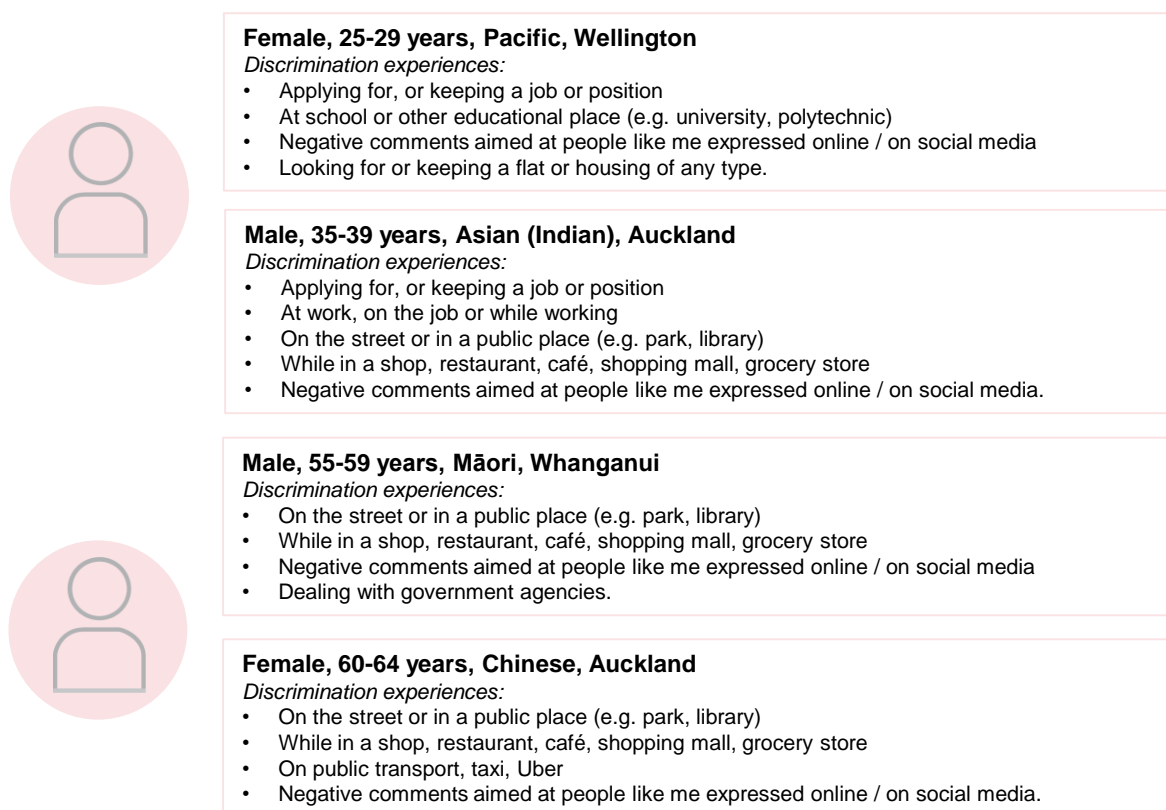
- Tangata Whenua were more likely to report experiencing discrimination across a large number of situations, with 29% reporting at least five different situations
- Disabled respondents were also more likely than others to experience a large number of situations, with 29% reporting at least five different discrimination situations.

The following examples present a snapshot of some of the respondents who reported experiencing between four and five forms of discrimination. As the examples demonstrate, the prejudice occurred



amongst respondents with different mixes of factors such as age, gender, ethnicity and place of residence.

**Figure 5: Pre-COVID-19 examples of discrimination experiences in Aotearoa**



## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

As the chart below highlights, there were common threads across all ethnic groups, such as **online / via social media** discriminatory experiences being the most commonly reported experience by every group except among Chinese respondents.

However, there were some differences across the ethnicities. Chinese respondents were more likely to have experienced discrimination **on the street** than others (33% cf. 18% of the total sample) and while **applying for, or keeping a job or position** (24% cf. 15% of the total sample). Tangata Whenua and Pacific respondents reported experiencing more prejudice than other groups while out **shopping or at restaurant / cafés** (30% and 24% respectively cf. 15% of those living in the country pre-COVID-19).

As indicated, New Zealand Europeans were less likely to experience any discrimination and the incidence of each discriminatory experience was also lower than for those of other ethnicities.

**Table 9: Pre-COVID-19: Top three discrimination experiences, by Ethnicity**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n= 1,838)	<b>CHINESE</b> (n=150)	<b>ASIAN</b> (n=284)	<b>TANGATA WHENUA</b> (n=311)	<b>PACIFIC</b> (n=237)	<b>NZ EUROPEAN</b> (n=966)
1	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (20%)	On the street or in a public place (e.g. park, library) (33%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (27%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (34%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (30%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (16%)
2	On the street/in a public place (e.g. park, library) (18%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (32%)	On the street or in a public place (e.g. park, library) (26%)	While in a shop, restaurant, café, shopping mall, grocery store (30%)	On the street or in a public place (e.g. park, library) (26%)	On the street or in a public place (e.g. park, library) (14%)
3	At work, on the job (16%)	Apply for, or keeping a job or position (24%)	Applying for, or keeping a job or position   At work, on the job or while working (both 26%)	On the street or in a public place (e.g. park, library) (27%)	While in a shop, restaurant, café, shopping mall, grocery store (24%)	At work, on the job or while working (13%)

**Negative online comments on the internet / social media toward people like them** was the main form of discrimination reported across most age groups (20% overall), although among those aged 25 to 34 years experiencing discrimination **in physical public locations** was as common as **in virtual spaces** (31% and 30% respectively).

Other age-specific forms of discrimination were apparent for those aged 18 to 24 years, with their second most reported discrimination experiences occurring **at educational institutions** (23%).

Those aged 65 plus faced discrimination in **dealing with government agencies**. This group did not report work-related discrimination as frequently as the other groups, due to factors specific to the older demographic, such as retirement).

**Table 10: Pre-COVID-19: Top three discrimination experiences, by Age**

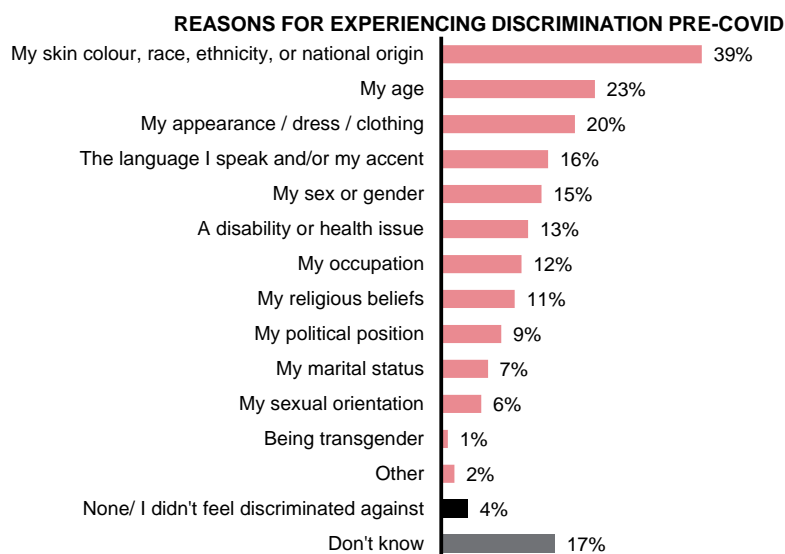
	<b>TOTAL</b> (n= 1,838)	<b>18-24</b> (n=324)	<b>25-34</b> (n=401)	<b>35-49</b> (n=523)	<b>50-64</b> (n=350)	<b>65+</b> (n=240)
1	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (20%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (27%)	On the street or in a public place of any kind (e.g. park, library) (31%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (25%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (16%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (7%)
2	On the street/in a public place (e.g. park, library) (18%)	At school / other educational place (e.g. university, polytechnic) (23%)	Negative comments online/ via social media aimed at people like me (30%)	On the street or in a public place (e.g. park, library) (22%)	On the street or in a public place (e.g. park, library) (12%)	Dealing with government agencies (6%)
3	At work, on the job (16%)	On the street or in a public place (e.g. park, library) (22%)	At work, on the job (29%)	At work, on the job (22%)	At work, on the job (11%)	On the street or in a public place (e.g. park, library) (5%)

## PERCEIVED REASONS FOR DISCRIMINATION (BEFORE COVID-19)

Discrimination due to **skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin** (39%) was the most common reason respondents gave for experiencing any form of discrimination in the six month period leading up to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Age** was also frequently reported as the basis of discrimination (23% of those who were discriminated against said it was due to their age), while two in ten who experienced discrimination (20%) noted that their **appearance, dress or clothing** was the reason for others' prejudice against them.

**Figure 6: Reasons people felt discriminated against during July-December 2019**



Base: Experienced discrimination pre-Covid (July-Dec 2019) (n=1,107)

Q10. For what reasons did you feel discriminated against, over that time period (July-Dec 2019)?

Those who had experienced discrimination during July to December 2019 reported an average of two perceived reasons for the discrimination. Most commonly this was a combination of **skin colour, race, ethnicity or national origin** coupled with **appearance, dress or clothing** (14% of those discriminated against gave both of these reasons).



*"Being a brown or a person of colour makes me, makes us easy targets for discrimination. Unless you have experienced discrimination about the way you look, colour of your skin, the way you talk- you will never understand or know the feeling we go through."*

**– Female, 25-29 years, Pacific**

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Across all ethnic groups **skin colour, race, ethnicity or national origin** was reported as the most common reason for people's discriminatory behaviour before COVID-19. Asian respondents who had experienced discrimination pre-COVID-19 were most likely to note that they experienced discrimination based on their ethnicity (65% cf. 39% of the total who experienced any form of discrimination).

**Table 11: Pre-COVID-19: Top three reasons for discrimination, by Ethnicity**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,107)	<b>CHINESE</b> (n=118)	<b>ASIAN</b> (n=189)	<b>TANGATA WHENUA</b> (n=217)	<b>PACIFIC</b> (n=167)	<b>NZ EUROPEAN</b> (n=508)
1	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (39%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (61%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (65%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (49%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (56%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (28%)
2	My age (23%)	The language I speak and/or my accent (28%)	The language I speak and/or my accent (37%)	My appearance/ dress/clothing (32%)	My appearance/ dress/clothing (31%)	My age (26%)
3	My appearance/ dress/clothing (20%)	Don't know (21%)	My appearance/ dress/clothing (22%)	My age (26%)	My age (21%)	My appearance/ dress/clothing (19%)

In terms of age, respondents aged 25 to 34 years and those aged 35 to 49 years gave similar reasons for their personal discrimination experiences – predominantly based on ethnicity.

Young people (those aged 18 to 24 years) show more issues around **sex or gender** with 30% of those aged 18 to 24 years who reported experiencing discrimination citing this reason.

Respondents aged 50 to 64 years and 65 plus indicated that age was more often the reason they experienced discrimination (26% and 42% respectively of those who were discriminated during mid-to-late 2019 said that age was a factor cf. 23% of the sample).

**Table 12: Pre-COVID-19: Top three reasons for discrimination, by Age**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,107)	<b>18-24</b> (n=118)	<b>25-34</b> (n=189)	<b>35-49</b> (n=217)	<b>50-64</b> (n=167)	<b>65+</b> (n=508)
1	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (39%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (40%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (47%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (41%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (40%)	My age (42%)
2	My age (23%)	My sex or gender (30%)	My appearance/ dress/clothing (46%)	My appearance/ dress/clothing (23%)	My age (26%)	My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin (22%)
3	My appearance/ dress/clothing (20%)	My appearance/ dress/clothing (27%)	The language I speak and/or my accent (21%)	The language I speak and/or my accent (17%)	The language I speak and/or my accent / A disability or health issue (15%)	A disability or health issue (12%)



# | DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCES SINCE THE START OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## INTRODUCTION

Understanding experiences of discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak and the extent to which these were considered to be due to COVID-19 was the main focus of the survey.

The start of the COVID-19 outbreak was defined in the questionnaire as 'early 2020', as pretesting highlighted that awareness of the outbreak varied depended on a range of factors, including general media awareness, whether people have travelled overseas in 2020 and/or have family members in other countries (particularly China).

This section considers:

- Whether people feel they have been personally discriminated against since the start of COVID-19.
- The nature and frequency of such discrimination experiences
- Whether these discrimination experiences were considered to be due to COVID-19.
- How people responded to the experiences.
- Whether or not people feel they have experienced more, the same amount of, or less discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Please note use of the following terminology in this section.

- **'Since the COVID-19 outbreak':** This refers to the time from early 2020 until the date that the respondent completed the survey (between 6 August and 19 August 2020).
- **'Total' / 'Respondents' / 'Sample':** When the term 'total' is used in this section, it refers to all those who completed the survey (n=1,904).

## KEY FINDINGS

Four in ten respondents (39%) reported experiencing a discrimination situation in Aotearoa since the COVID-19 outbreak began, a similar proportion to that experienced pre-COVID (noting that the questions asked were not directly comparable). There was overlap between those who experienced discrimination pre-COVID and during COVID: nearly eight in ten (78%) of those who experienced any discrimination from the start of the COVID outbreak also experienced discrimination pre-COVID-19.

**Online discrimination** was the most prevalent form of discrimination experienced during COVID, followed by **others glaring / staring on the street** and **being avoided more than others**.

Two in ten respondents overall (21%) said that they have experienced discrimination that they considered **related to COVID-19**. Tangata Whenua and Chinese respondents appear particularly

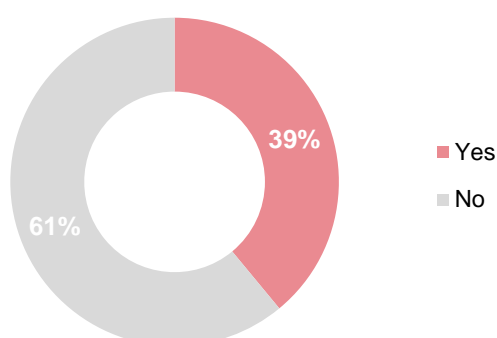
vulnerable to negative impacts of COVID-19 and were consistently more likely to report that their experiences related to COVID-19 than respondents of other ethnicities.

## INCIDENCE OF EXPERIENCING DISCRIMINATION SINCE START OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK

When asked whether they have experienced any discrimination in Aotearoa since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020 (via a prompted list of discrimination behaviours), four in ten respondents (39%) said that they have experienced some form of personal discrimination.

**Figure 7: Overview of discrimination personally experienced since COVID-19**

**HAVE FELT PERSONALLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST SINCE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**



Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways?

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Following the pattern pre-COVID-19, those **not** of New Zealand European ethnicity appeared most strongly impacted by discrimination in Aotearoa since early 2020. Tangata Whenua were most likely to report having experienced some form of discrimination (55% cf. 39% total) followed by respondents of Chinese ethnicity (54%). The incidence was greater among Chinese born overseas than among New Zealand born Chinese (57% and 46% respectively).

(Note that the timing of the data collection resulted in the majority of the sample being achieved before the Auckland COVID cluster that occurred in August. As a result, the experiences of communities impacted by this cluster, such as Pacific communities, are likely not captured in these data.)



*"I felt the COVID 19 gave others an extra excuse to be mean and nasty to me more than they would without the COVID-19."*

**– Female, 50-54 years, Tangata Whenua**

*"People got scared when they were around me because of my Asian face."*

**– Female, 20-24 years, Other South Asian**

**Table 13: Discrimination since start of COVID-19 outbreak, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
Since start of COVID outbreak	%	%	%	%	%	%
Experienced any discrimination	39	54	49	55	50	34

Younger people were more affected by discrimination since the COVID-19 outbreak than those aged over 50 years. Those aged 25 to 34 years were most impacted, with two-thirds (62%) saying they have experienced any form of discrimination during COVID.

While older respondents aged 65 plus reported the lowest rate of discrimination since the start of COVID, there were several comments about the treatment of older people during the outbreak:



*"Because over 70 we told to stay locked up when fitter than people of a younger age."*

– Male, 70-74 years, NZ European

*"I was in a long-term temp assignment before lock-down but lost the job because of it. I am now job-seeking but I feel like I'm age-discriminated against as I am of the older workforce generation, although not yet 65yrs old. If it wasn't for my husband being in full work I would be in a very bad financial way indeed."*

– Female, 60-64 years, NZ European

*"Age related discrimination especially out grocery shopping where you got the distinct impression people thought should not be there."*

– Male, 60-64 years, NZ European

*"Company decided to restructure during COVID and due to my age basically advised that I was not suitable for job."*

– Male, 65-69 years, NZ European

*"I 'm elderly and was made to feel I shouldn't be there."*

– Female, 70-74 years, NZ European

*"It would appear by some comments of some young people that the elderly or compromised are a kind of collateral damage of the COVID-19 virus."*

– Male, 70-74 years, NZ European

*"Because of my age people moved further than the 2 meter required"*

– Female, 80 plus years, NZ European

**Table 14: Discrimination since start of COVID-19 outbreak, by Age**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n= 1,904)	<b>18-24</b> (n=345)	<b>25-34</b> (n=419)	<b>35-49</b> (n=543)	<b>50-64</b> (n=354)	<b>65+</b> (n=243)
<b>Since start of COVID outbreak</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Experienced <b>any</b> discrimination	39	52	62	44	28	16

Other groups of people who were significantly more likely to have experienced any discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak included:

- Those who experienced reduced working hours or lost their job (59%)
- Disabled respondents (55% cf. 35% of non-disabled respondents)
- Essential workers (50% cf. 39% of non-essential workers)
- Those in paid work (43% cf. 34% of those not in paid work)
- Those living in Auckland (45%), major cities (42%) or urban places (42%)
- Heavy social media users (51% cf. 28% among light social media users).

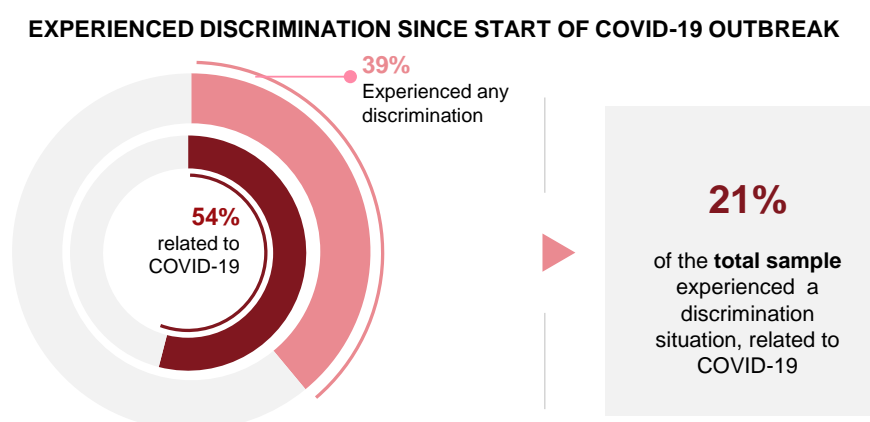
There were no significant differences by gender: 42% of males reported experiencing any discrimination situations since the start of COVID, compared with 39% of females.

Nearly eight in ten (78%) of those who experienced any discrimination from the start of the COVID outbreak also experienced discrimination pre-COVID-19.

## WHETHER DISCRIMINATION WAS CONSIDERED TO RELATE TO COVID-19

As mentioned, four in ten respondents said they have been personally discriminated against since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak and over half of those (54%) considered that any of their discriminatory experiences related to COVID-19. In terms of the total sample, therefore, two in ten respondents considered that any of their discriminatory experiences related to COVID.

**Figure 8: Overview of discrimination personally experienced since COVID-19 outbreak began**



Q11. Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)  
 Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak? Base: (n=247)

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

While Tangata Whenua and Chinese respondents were most likely to have experienced discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in Aotearoa, Chinese respondents were significantly more likely to say that the prejudice they faced **related to COVID-19** (40% cf. 30% Tangata Whenua and 21% of the total), indicating that this group has been more directly affected by COVID-19 than others. In effect, those of Chinese ethnicity were more than twice as likely to have experienced COVID-19-related discrimination than New Zealand Europeans (40% cf. 18% of New Zealand Europeans).

**Table 15: Discrimination since start of COVID-19 outbreak, by Ethnicity**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,904)	<b>CHINESE</b> (n=152)	<b>ASIAN</b> (n=306)	<b>TANGATA WHENUA</b> (n=314)	<b>PACIFIC</b> (n=251)	<b>NZ EUROPEAN</b> (n=988)
<b>Experienced</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Any discrimination</b>	39	54	49	55	50	34
<b>COVID-19-related discrimination</b>	21	40	27	30	26	18

As mentioned, younger people were more affected by discrimination since the COVID-19 outbreak than older people. The likelihood of this discrimination relating to COVID-19 was greatest among those aged 25 to 34 years, with four in ten (38%) saying this, compared with 21% across all age groups.



**Table 16: Discrimination since start of COVID-19 outbreak, by Age**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,904)	<b>18-24</b> (n=345)	<b>25-34</b> (n=419)	<b>35-49</b> (n=543)	<b>50-64</b> (n=354)	<b>65+</b> (n=243)
<b>Experienced</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Any discrimination</b>	39	52	62	44	28	16
<b>COVID-19-related discrimination</b>	21	26	38	24	13	8

Other groups of respondents who were significantly more likely to have experienced COVID-based discrimination (compared with the total sample, at 21%) include:

- Those who had a reduction in the hours they worked or lost their job (38%)
- Disabled respondents (36% compared with 17% of non-disabled respondents)
- Essential workers (31%)
- Those living in Auckland (28%) and those living in major centres (24%).
- Those in paid work (26%)
- The highly educated (tertiary degree or higher) (26%).

## DIFFERENCES BY FIELD DATE

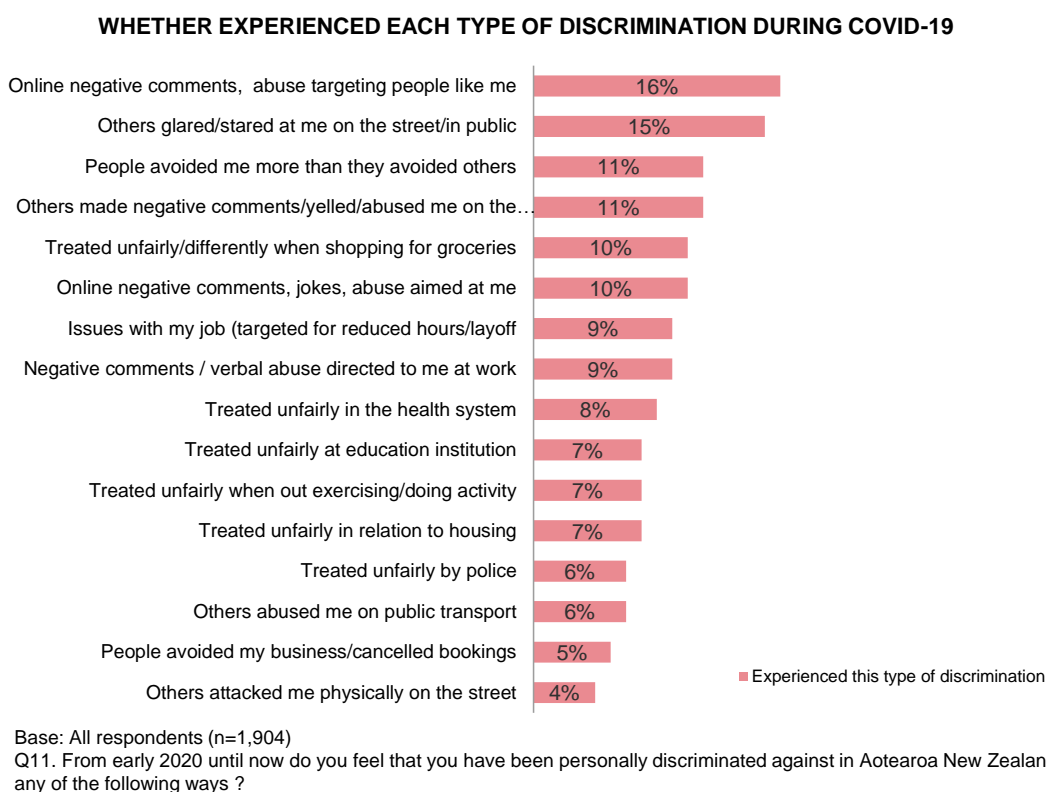
Approximately eighty percent of interviews were completed before 12 August, when Auckland was placed into COVID level 3 alert. Some statistically significant differences were noted in the incidence of experiencing discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak: 41% of respondents surveyed before 12 August indicated having experienced discrimination, compared with 31% of those surveyed from the 12th onwards. Nearly one in four of those surveyed before 12 August considered that the discrimination they experienced was due to COVID-19, compared with 15% of those surveyed from the 12th onwards. The changes in these results could reflect the passing of time from lockdown. But as there were some differences in the demographics of respondents completing the survey before and after this date, this difference could reflect the profile of those surveyed pre- and post-12 August. Insufficient numbers of Pacific respondents were surveyed after the 12<sup>th</sup> to determine whether their experiences of discrimination were different before and after Auckland's second lockdown.

## DISCRIMINATION SITUATIONS EXPERIENCED (FROM START OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK)

As mentioned, respondents were asked to say which of sixteen discriminatory situations, if any, they have experienced since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. Two types were reported more frequently than others:

- **Online negative comments or jokes aimed at specific groups** (16% of the total sample)
- **Others staring or glaring when out on the street or in public** (15% of the sample).

**Figure 9: Discriminatory situations experienced since COVID-19 outbreak**



The following table summarises the three most common types of discrimination experienced by respondent ethnicity.

**Online negative comments or jokes targeting specific groups of people** was the most commonly reported form of discrimination since the COVID-19 outbreak across most ethnicities, but most prevalent for Chinese respondents (32%). However, for Asian respondents, being **stared or glared at on the street** was most common (22% cf. 15%), whereas this tended to be second most common for other ethnicities.

Other differences to note include Pacific people being more likely to say that they were **treated unfairly or differently from others when out shopping for groceries** (16% cf. 10% of the total).

Table 17: Since COVID-19: Top three discriminatory situations experienced, by Ethnicity

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
1	Online negative comments, jokes or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (16%)	Online negative comments, jokes or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (32%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street or out in public (22%)	Online negative comments, jokes or abuse aimed specifically at me (28%)	Online negative comments, jokes or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (23%)	Online negative comments, jokes or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (13%)
2	Others stared or glared at me while on the street / in public (15%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street / in public (24%)	Online negative comments, jokes or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (16%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street or out in public (27%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street or out in public (21%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street / in public (12%)
3	People avoided me more than they avoided others - on the street / in public (11%)	People avoided me more than they avoided others - on the street or out in public (20%)	People avoided me more than they avoided others - on the street / in public (13%)	Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed specifically at me (19%)	I was treated unfairly or differently from others when out shopping for groceries (16%)	People avoided me more than they avoided others - on the street / in public (10%)

Analysis of all sixteen discriminatory situations highlights that Tangata Whenua consistently mentioned specific discriminatory experiences more than respondents of other ethnicities did, while for Chinese respondents, **online negative comments targeting people like me** were the key issue.

New Zealand European respondents were significantly less likely to have experienced any discrimination experiences than respondents of other ethnicities. This finding is consistent for nearly all discriminatory situations asked about in the survey.

**Table 18: Summary table of discriminatory situations experienced since COVID-19, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
Experienced	%	%	%	%	%	%
Online negative comments targeting people like me	16	32	16	28	23	13
Others glared/stared at me on street	15	24	22	27	21	12
People avoided me more than others	11	20	13	18	15	10
Others verbally abused me on the street	11	16	16	17	16	9
Treated unfairly when grocery shopping	10	11	11	18	16	8
Online abuse aimed specifically at me	10	10	8	19	12	8
Issues with my job (hours, etc.)	9	10	13	12	11	7
Verbally abused me at work	9	10	10	16	11	7
Treated unfairly in the health system	8	7	8	15	13	7
Treated unfairly at education institution	7	7	6	15	11	6
Treated unfairly out exercising	7	5	7	14	10	6
Treated unfairly in relation to housing	7	5	9	18	9	5
Treated unfairly by police	6	4	6	14	9	5
Others abused me on public transport	6	8	9	11	9	5
People avoided my business	5	3	5	10	5	5
Others attacked me physically on the street	4	3	3	8	7	4

The incidence of discrimination situations varied slightly across the age groups. For example, those aged 25 to 49 were slightly more likely to say that **others stared or glared at them while they were out in public** than being impacted by **online comments targeting people like them**.

**Negative comments / verbal abuse** appeared in the top three experiences of discrimination for both young people (aged 18 to 24 years) and the older demographic (65 plus). Those aged 35 to 49 years also noted **negative comments / verbal abuse occurring at work**.

**Table 19: Since COVID-19: Top three discriminatory situations experienced, by Age**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,904)	<b>18-24</b> (n=345)	<b>25-34</b> (n=419)	<b>35-49</b> (n=543)	<b>50-64</b> (n=354)	<b>65+</b> (n=243)
1	Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (16%)	Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (25%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street or out in public (26%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street or out in public (19%)	Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (11%)	Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (7%)
2	Others stared or glared at me while on the street / in public (15%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street / in public (24%)	Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. (25%)	Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, eg (18%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street or out in public (8%)	Others made negative comments, yelled out and/or verbally abused me on the street / in a public place (4%)
3	People avoided me more than they avoided others keeping excessive physical distance from me on the street / in public (11%)	Others made negative comments, yelled out and/or verbally abused me on the street or in a public place (19%)	People avoided me more than they avoided others keeping excessive physical distance from me on the street / in public (24%)	Others made negative comments and/or verbally abused me at my work (13%)	I was treated unfairly or differently from others in the health system (e.g. by medical practice, nurse, doctor, hospital, etc.) (7%)	Others stared or glared at me while on the street or out in public (4%)

## FREQUENCY OF EXPERIENCING DISCRIMINATORY SITUATIONS

People who experienced any of the sixteen discrimination situations from the start of the COVID-19 outbreak were asked how frequently these instances occurred. In around one in five instances of discrimination, respondents mentioned that these experiences occurred often rather than only once.

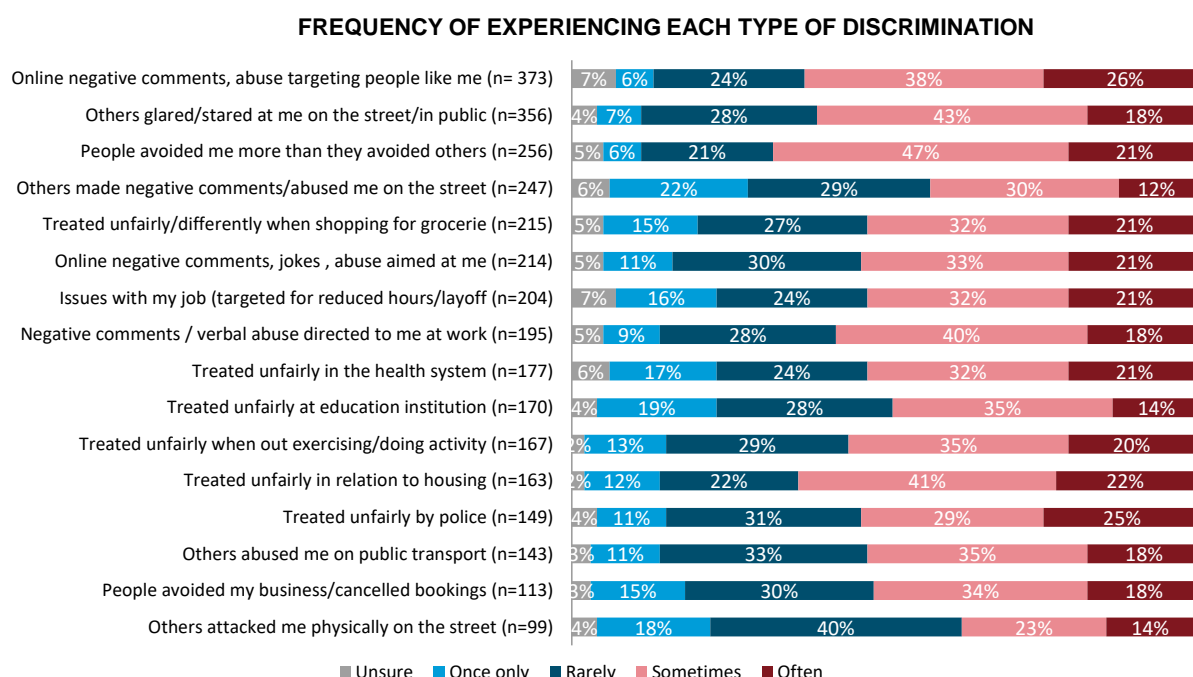
The most common situation was also the most frequent: 26% of those who reported **online negative comments or abuse targeting specific groups of people like them** said that this happened often.

Experiencing **negative comments / abuse from others on the street** and **unfair treatment at an education institution** happened relatively infrequently. The infrequency of these particular instances may be related to the restrictions placed on people's movements and ability to attend spaces (such as education institutions) at the various COVID-19 levels in Aotearoa.

A quarter of those who were **discriminated against by the police** (25%) said that this experience occurred often since the start of COVID-19, but this situation was not common.

**Physical attacks** were the least likely to happen at all and were infrequent if they did take place.

**Figure 10: Frequency of discriminatory situations experienced since COVID-19**



Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q11. Do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand?

Q12B (if yes) How often did it happen to you since the start of the COVID outbreak? (Base: n=99-373)



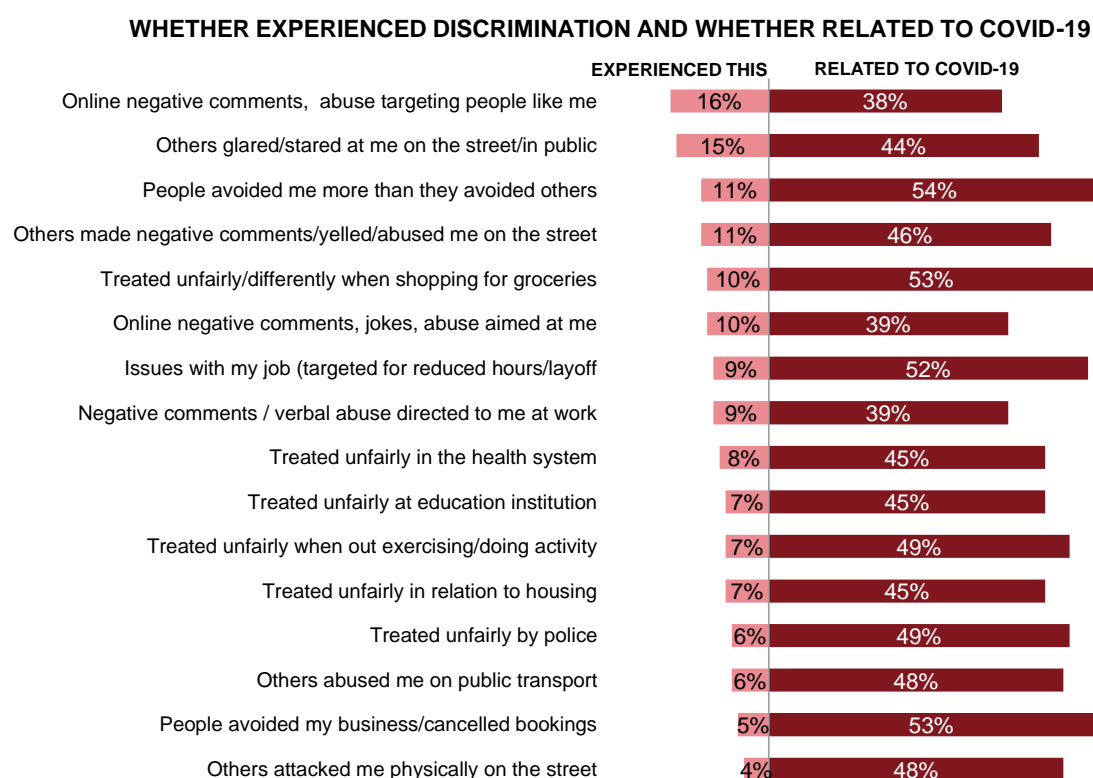
## WHETHER DISCRIMINATION SITUATIONS RELATED TO COVID-19

The chart below summarises the sixteen discrimination situations that respondents were asked about and whether they believed these instances related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Across the different discriminatory situations, between 38% and 54% of those who experienced any of them considered it was COVID-related. Three situations were more likely than others to be considered to be COVID-related.

- **Avoiding me more than they avoided others** (54%)
- **Being treated unfairly / differently when shopping** (53%)
- **People avoiding my business/cancelling bookings** (52%) – noting that the incidence of experiencing this type of discrimination was comparatively low at 5%
- **Having issues with my job (targeted for reduced hours, layoff, etc.)** (52%).

**Figure 11: Discriminatory situations experienced since start of COVID-19 and whether related to COVID-19**



Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak?

Base Q12: those who experienced discrimination Base: (n= 99-373)

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Considering only those who experienced any discrimination since the COVID-19 outbreak in Aotearoa, analysis highlights that Chinese respondents were significantly more likely than respondents from other ethnic groups to say that the main discrimination situations they

experienced were related to COVID-19. For example, 32% of Chinese respondents noted online negative comments targeting people like them, and 71% of these respondents said this was COVID-related, compared with only 38% of all those who noticed this situation.

**Table 20: Summary table: whether discrimination situation related to COVID-19 – among those who experienced each situation, by Ethnicity**

<i>Note: base size for COVID-related is the number who experienced that situation. (*n&lt;25)</i>	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,904)	<b>CHINESE</b> (n=152)	<b>ASIAN</b> (n=306)	<b>TANGATA WENUA</b> (n=314)	<b>PACIFIC</b> (n=251)	<b>NZ EUROPEAN</b> (n=988)
<b>Experienced</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Online negative comments targeting people like me -	16	32	16	28	23	13
COVID- related (n=373)	38	71	44	39	22	33
Others glared/stared at me on street -	15	24	22	27	21	12
COVID-related (n=356)	44	72	51	42	41	39
People avoided me more than others	11	20	13	18	15	10
COVID- related (n=256)	54	81	51	53	52	50
Others verbally abused me on street	11	16	16	17	16	9
COVID- related (n=247)	46	68	46	29	43	46
Treated unfairly when grocery shopping	10	11	11	18	16	8
COVID- related (n=215)	53	75*	36	49	45	52
Online abuse aimed specifically at me	10	10	8	19	12	8
COVID- related (n=214)	39	56*	36*	38	34	39
Issues with my job (hours, etc.)	9	10	13	12	11	7
COVID- related (n=204)	52	66*	38	52	48	53
Verbally abused me at work	9	10	10	16	11	7
COVID- related (n=195)	39	53*	39	46	31	38
Treated unfairly in the health system	8	7	8	15	13	7
COVID- related (n=177)	45	51*	32	39	52	42

Treated unfairly at education institution	7	7	6	15	11	6
<i>COVID- related (n=170)</i>	45	59*	28	44	41	46
Treated unfairly out exercising	7	5	7	14	10	6
<i>COVID- related (n=167)</i>	49	56*	28	47	33*	53
Treated unfairly in relation to housing	7	5	9	18	9	5
<i>COVID- related (n=163)</i>	45	89*	32	43	50*	46
Treated unfairly by police	6	4	6	14	9	5
<i>COVID- related (n=149)</i>	49	45*	62	46	59	46
Others abused me on public transport	6	8	9	11	9	5
<i>COVID- related (n=143)</i>	48	51*	54	52	39	46
People avoided my business	5	3	5	10	5	5
<i>COVID- related (n=113)</i>	53	100*	27	57	38*	49
Others attacked me physically on street	4	3	3	8	7	4
<i>COVID- related (n=99)</i>	48	74*	37*	62	22*	42

The following table summarises **the proportion of the total sample who experienced each discriminatory situation and who felt this experience was COVID-related**. The table below highlights that Chinese respondents and Tangata Whenua were more likely than other ethnicities to consider the discrimination was COVID-related, while New Zealand Europeans were less likely to feel this way.

**Table 21: Summary table: whether discrimination situation related to COVID-19 – as a proportion of the total sample, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
<b>Experienced</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Online negative comments targeting people like me -	16	32	16	28	23	13
COVID- related	6	23	13	11	5	4
Others glared/stared at me on street -	15	24	22	27	21	12
COVID- related	7	17	13	11	9	5
People avoided me more than others	11	20	13	18	15	10
COVID- related	6	16	10	9	8	5
Others verbally abused me on street	11	16	16	17	16	9
COVID- related	5	11	9	5	7	4
Treated unfairly when grocery shopping	10	11	11	18	16	8
COVID- related	5	9	6	9	7	4
Online abuse aimed specifically at me	10	10	8	19	12	8
COVID- related	4	6	4	7	4	3
Issues with my job (hours, etc.)	9	10	13	12	11	7
COVID- related	5	6	5	6	6	4
Verbally abused me at work	9	10	10	16	11	7
COVID- related	3	5	4	7	3	3
Treated unfairly in the health system	8	7	8	15	13	7
COVID- related	4	4	3	6	7	3
Treated unfairly at education institution	7	7	6	15	11	6
COVID- related	3	4	3	7	5	3
Treated unfairly out exercising	7	5	7	14	10	6
COVID- related	4	3	2	6	3	3
Treated unfairly in relation to housing	7	5	9	18	9	5

COVID- related	3	4	3	8	5	2
Treated unfairly by police	6	4	6	14	9	5
COVID- related	3	2	3	7	5	2
Others abused me on public transport	6	8	9	11	9	5
COVID- related	3	4	5	6	3	2
People avoided my business	5	3	5	10	5	5
COVID- related	3	3	2	6	2	2
Others attacked me physically on street	4	3	3	8	7	4
COVID- related	2	2	2	5	1	2

## DEEP DIVE INTO THE DIFFERENT DISCRIMINATION SITUATIONS EXPERIENCED

A brief summary follows for each of the eight most common discrimination situations experienced since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak (those experienced by at least 9% of the total sample).

### ONLINE NEGATIVE COMMENTS TARGETING PEOPLE LIKE ME

Of the 16% who experienced online negative comments or abuse targeted towards a group of people, two out of five (38%) believed that this related to COVID-19. This means that 6% of all respondents experienced COVID-19-related online discrimination towards people like them.

One in three Chinese respondents (32%) experienced online negative comments targeted at people like them. Among these 71% said that these were due to COVID. This is equivalent to 23% of all Chinese respondents experiencing online negative comments towards people like them specifically because of COVID-19.



*“Being Chinese there was a lot of hatred expressed towards the Chinese community online.”*

**–Female, 20-24 years, Chinese**

Nearly three in ten Tangata Whenua (28%) experienced online negative comments / abuse directed at people like them, and 39% said that this related to COVID. This is equivalent to 11% of all Tangata Whenua respondents experiencing online negative comments towards people like them specifically because of COVID-19.

**Figure 12: Experienced discrimination and whether related to COVID-19: Online negative comments targeting people like me**



Q11. Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak? Base: (n=373)

### OTHERS GLARING/STARING AT ME ON THE STREET

In total, 15% of the sample experienced others glaring or staring at them on the street; nearly half (44%) believed that this related to COVID-19. In effect, 7% of all respondents experienced others glaring at them due to COVID-19.

Tangata Whenua were most likely to say that others glared or stared at them on the street since COVID-19 (27% cf. 15% of the total). Four in ten (42%) of these respondents felt it was COVID related, which is equivalent to 11% of all Tangata Whenua respondents experiencing COVID-19-related staring and glaring.

Overall, 24% of Chinese respondents experienced staring and glaring on the street; 72% of those felt this related to COVID-19, equivalent to 17% of all Chinese respondents experiencing COVID-related discrimination of this type (cf. 7% overall).

In total, 22% of Asian respondents experienced such staring and glaring. Half (51%) felt this staring and glaring was COVID-19 related, meaning that 13% of all Asian respondents experienced COVID-related staring or glaring in the street.



*"I live in an affluent suburb but don't have white skin. Someone called the cops on me for suspicious behaviour because I was wearing a hoodie and window shopping as part of exercise."*

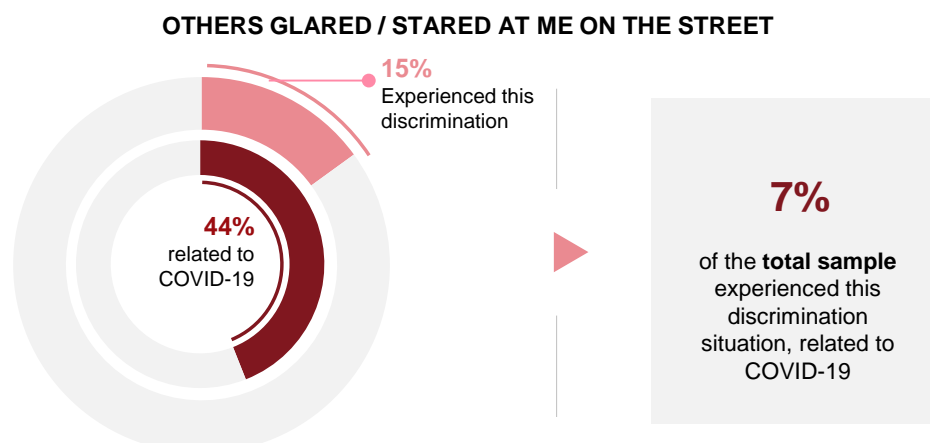
**– Male, 18-19 years, NZ European / Asian (Indian)**

*"I was stared at and looked at glaringly in the mall, and in some fast food restaurants too. They glared at my clothing. I was dressed too modestly. Even then they glared at me and looked disgustingly at my clothing. This happened at Mission Bay too. It feels very bad and hurtful. Even at some department stores, the staff have treated me differently."*

**– Female, 50-54 years, Asian (Indian)**



**Figure 13: Experienced discrimination and whether due to COVID-19: Others glared / stared at me on the street**



Q11. Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak? Base: (n=356)

## PEOPLE AVOIDING ME MORE THAN THEY AVOIDED OTHERS

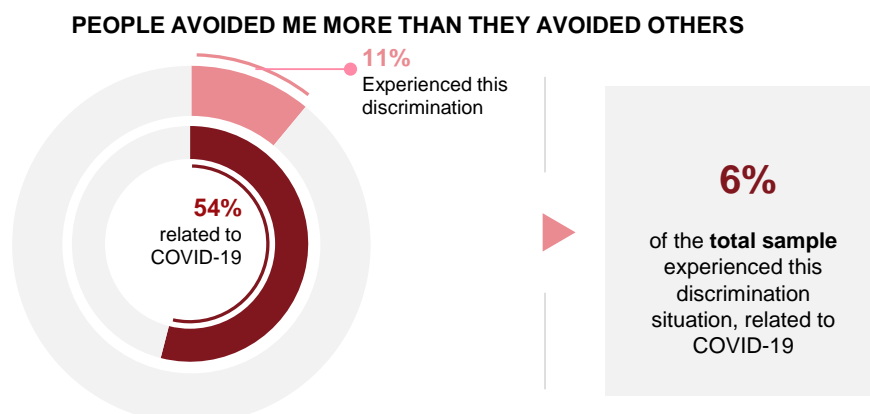
Just over one in ten respondents (11%) said that others avoided them more than they avoided others (keeping excessive physical distance from them while on the street). Of those, more than half (54%) believed that this was due to COVID-19 (the highest proportion for any of the sixteen situations). In effect, 6% of all respondents experienced this type of avoidance.

Chinese respondents were twice as likely to have experienced this type of avoidance (20% cf. 11% of the total), and the majority of them (81%) considered the excessive physical distancing was COVID-related. This means that 16% of all Chinese experienced such excessive physical distancing related to COVID (cf. 6% overall).

Tangata Whenua respondents were also more likely to have experienced people avoiding them more than others compared with the total (18% cf. 11%), with one in two (53%) considering the excessive distancing was COVID related. In effect, 9% of all Tangata Whenua respondents experienced such avoidance related to COVID-19 (cf. 6% total).

Those aged 25 to 34 years and/or those of Asian ethnicity were also more likely compared with the total sample to agree that the excessive avoidance they experienced was COVID-19-related (12% and 10% respectively cf. 6%).

**Figure 14: Experienced discrimination and whether due to COVID-19: People avoided me more than they avoided others**



Q11. Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)  
 Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak? Base: (n=256)

### MAKING NEGATIVE REMARKS TO ME ON THE STREET

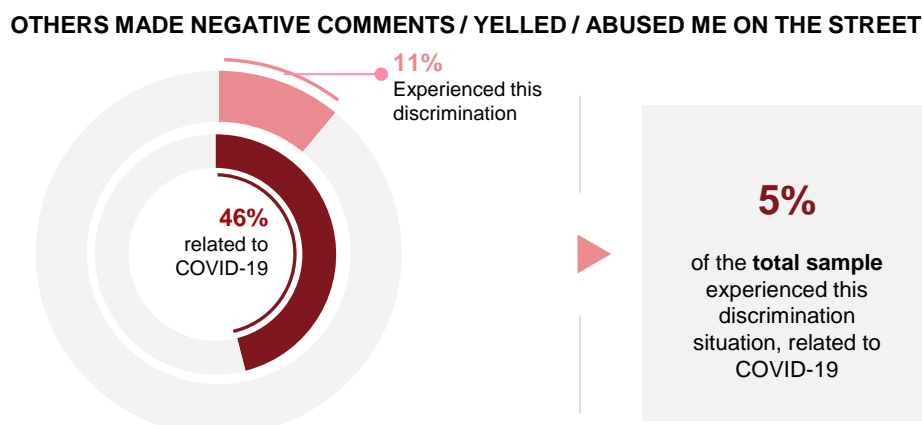
Just over one in ten (11%) experienced others making negative comments or yelling / abusing them on the street. Just under half of them (46%) believed that this was COVID-related. This represents 5% of all respondents who experienced others making COVID-related negative comments or yelling / abusing them on the street.

Chinese respondents were more likely to have experienced others making negative comments or yelling / abusing them on the street since COVID-19 (16% cf. 11% of the total). Two in three of them thought this was COVID-related, which is equivalent to 11% of all Chinese experiencing COVID-related negative comments or yelling / abusing them on the street.

As with Chinese respondents, Asian respondents were also more likely to have experienced negative comments, yelling or verbal abuse on the street compared with the total (16% cf. 11%). However, they were less likely than Chinese respondents to think that this was COVID-related, with 46% saying so. In effect, 9% of Asian respondents experienced COVID-related verbal abuse directed at them personally on the street.

Those aged 25 to 34 years were also more likely than the total sample to experience verbal abuse on the street (26% cf. 11% overall). Just over half (54%) of them said that such verbal abuse they experienced was COVID-19-based, which suggests that 8% of respondents aged 25 to 34 years experienced this (8% cf. 5%).

**Figure 15: Experienced discrimination and whether due to COVID-19: Others made negative comments / yelled / abused me on the street**



Q11. Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)  
Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak? Base: (n=247)

## TREATED UNFAIRLY WHEN SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES

One in ten respondents (10%) were **treated unfairly when shopping for groceries**. More than half (53%) believed that this was COVID-related. This is equivalent to 5% of all respondents experiencing COVID-related unfair treatment when shopping.

Tangata Whenua and Pacific respondents were more likely than other ethnicities to have been treated unfairly when shopping for groceries since COVID-19 (18% and 16% respectively cf. 10% of the total), and around half of these (49% of Tangata Whenua and 46% of Pacific respondents) felt the unfair treatment was COVID-related. This means that 9% of all Tangata Whenua and 7% of Pacific respondents felt that being treated unfairly when shopping was related to COVID (cf. 5% overall).

Despite respondents of Chinese ethnicity not being significantly more likely to have experienced unfair treatment when shopping (11% in total), a higher proportion than the total were likely to think it was COVID-related (75% cf. 53%). This means that 9% of all Chinese felt they experienced COVID-related unfair treatment when shopping (cf. 5% overall).



*"When I go shopping I got strangers come up to me to tell me to go home."*  
– **Female, 40-44 years, Chinese**

Those aged 25 to 34 years were more likely than other age groups to experience unfair treatment during grocery shopping (16% cf. 10% of the total sample). Half of them (50%) felt this was COVID related (a similar proportion to the 53% overall who felt that this was COVID-related). This equates to 8% of all 25 to 34 year olds experiencing Covid-related unfair treatment while shopping (cf. 5%).

**Figure 16: Experienced discrimination and whether due to COVID-19: Treated unfairly when shopping for groceries**



Q11. Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)  
 Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak? Base: (n=215)

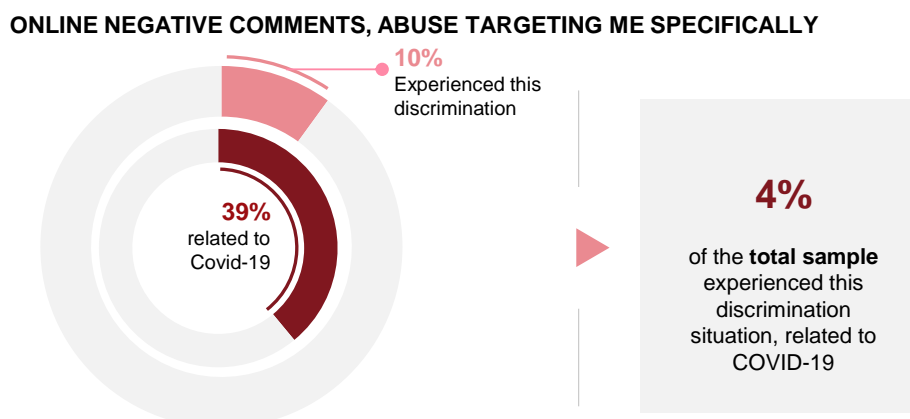
### ONLINE NEGATIVE COMMENTS TARGETING ME SPECIFICALLY

Of the 10% of respondents who experienced **online negative comments or abuse directed towards them specifically**, two in five (39%) believed that this related to COVID-19. This is equivalent to 4% of all respondents experiencing COVID-19-related online discrimination towards them specifically.

Tangata Whenua respondents were nearly twice as likely as respondents of other ethnicities to have experienced targeted online negative comments or abuse towards them personally since COVID-19 (19% cf. 10% of the total). Nearly four in ten (38%) felt the online negative comments towards them were COVID-related, which equates to 7% of all Tangata Whenua respondents feeling this (cf. 4% overall).

Those of Chinese ethnicity were no more likely than others to have experienced personally directed online abuse (10%). But they were more likely than respondents of other ethnicities to consider that such online abuse was COVID-related (56% cf. 39% of all people). This equates to 6% of all Chinese respondents experiencing COVID-related online negative comments directed personally at them.

**Figure 17: Experienced discrimination and whether due to COVID-19: Online negative comments or abuse targeting me specifically**



Q11. Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)  
 Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak? Base: (n=214)

## ISSUES WITH MY JOB

Just under one in ten respondents (9%) experienced issues with their job or were targeted for reduced hours. More than half of these respondents (52%) believed that this was COVID-related, which equates to 5% of all respondents experiencing COVID-19-related issues with their job.



*"Company decided to restructure during COVID and due to my age basically advised that I was not suitable for job."*

**– Male, 65-69 years, NZ European**

*"Felt like I was being pushed into resigning so my hours could be given to others at work."*

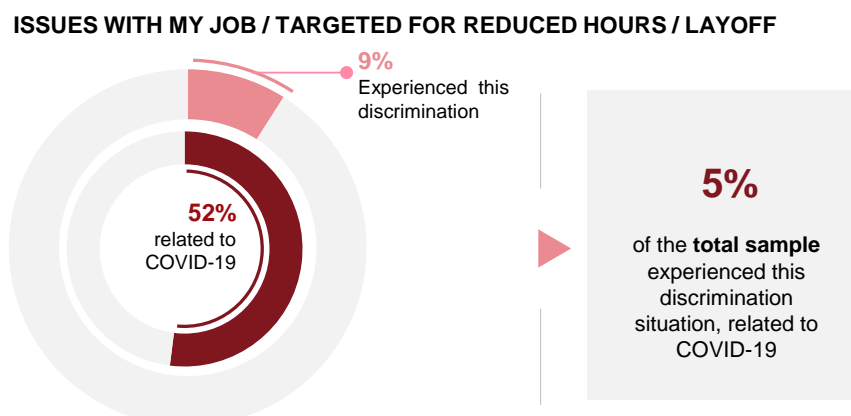
**– Female, 60-64 years, NZ European**

Tangata Whenua respondents were more likely than others to have experienced issues with their job since COVID-19 (12% cf. 9% of the total). One in two (52%) felt this was COVID-related, which is equivalent to 6% of all Tangata Whenua respondents.

While Asian respondents were more likely than others to have experienced job related issues (13% cf. 9% of the total), they were less likely than others to think that such job issues were COVID-related (only 38% thinking this, cf. 52% of all experiencing job related issues).

In contrast, while respondents of Chinese ethnicity were no more likely than others to have experienced job issues (10%), they were more likely than those of other ethnicities to consider that job issues were COVID-related (66% cf. 52% of all people). This equates to 6% of all Chinese respondents experiencing COVID-related issues at work.

**Figure 18: Experienced discrimination and whether due to COVID-19: Issues with my job / targeted for reduced hours / layoff**



Q11. Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)  
 Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak? Base: (n=204)

## VERBAL ABUSE TO ME AT WORK

Just under one in ten respondents (9%) experienced negative comments / verbal abuse directed at them at work. Two out of five (39%) believed that this was related to COVID-19, which equates to 3% of all respondents experiencing COVID-related verbal abuse directed at them at work.

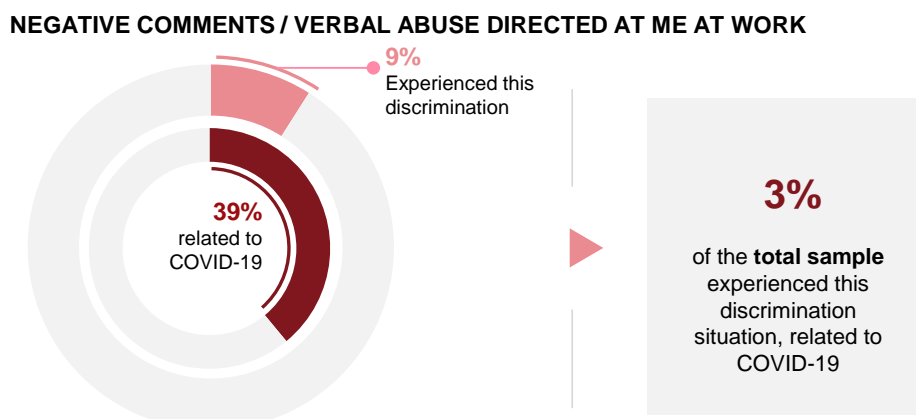
Tangata Whenua were more likely to have experienced negative comments / verbal abuse directed at them at work compared with the total (16% cf. 9%). Nearly one in two (46%) said such abuse was COVID-related, which equates to 7% of all Tangata Whenua respondents saying this (cf. 3% overall).

Those aged 25 to 34 years were the most likely age group to have experienced negative comments / verbal abuse directed at them at work since COVID-19 (17% cf. 9% of the total). 7% of all 25 to 34 year-olds noted that the negative comments / verbal abuse directed at them at work was because of COVID-19 (cf. 3% overall).

Those aged 35 to 49 were also more likely to have experienced negative verbal abuse directed at them at work compared with the total (16% cf. 9% overall) and also to say that they believed this was a result of COVID-19 (6% cf. 3% total).



**Figure 19: Experienced discrimination and whether due to COVID-19: Negative comments / verbal abuse directed at me at work**



Q11. Q11. From early 2020 until now do you feel that you have been personally discriminated against in Aotearoa New Zealand in any of the following ways? Base: All respondents (n=1,904)  
 Q12A (if yes) Did you think that this experience happened to you because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak? Base: (n=195)

## RESPONSE TO DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCES

Those who experienced any of the sixteen discrimination situations from the start of the COVID-19 outbreak were asked how they responded to being discriminated against. (Note: this question was asked overall, not in relation to specific discrimination situations.)

Four in ten respondents (42%) said that **they ignored it and did nothing at the time**. Those of Chinese or Asian ethnicity were significantly more likely than others to have ignored it (52% and 53% respectively cf. 42% of all of those who experienced discrimination). Some said that they wanted to confront the person at the time, but did not.

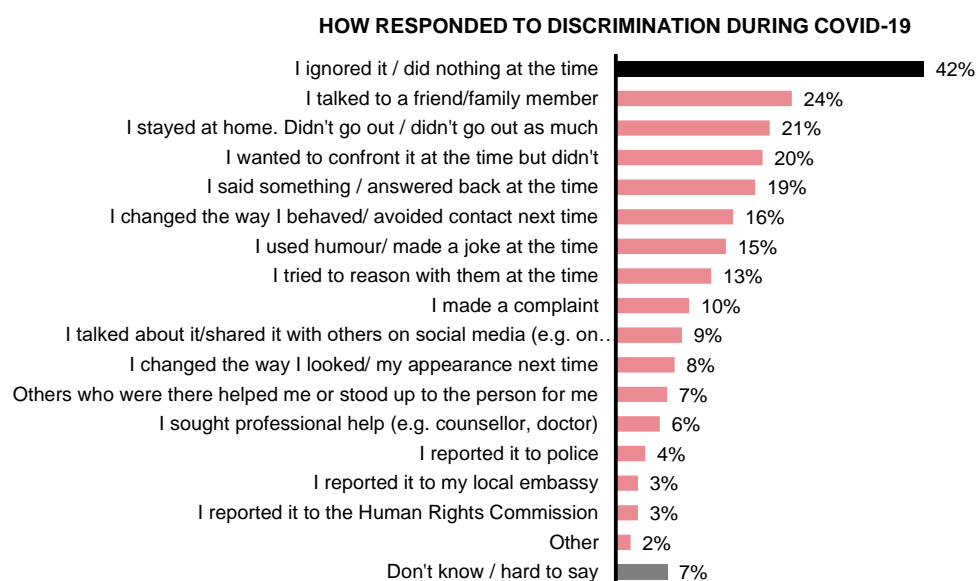
The most common active approach to dealing with a discrimination experience was to **talk to a friend or family member** with one in four (24%) handling the situation in this way. Those of Asian ethnicity were most likely to talk to a friend or family member compared with others (37% cf. 24% of those who experienced discrimination), as were females (29% cf. 20% of males who were discriminated against).

**Staying at home and not going out as much** was the third most common response. Tangata Whenua were more likely than average to have stayed at home and have not gone out as much (30% cf. 21% of all those who experienced discrimination), as were females (25% cf. 18% of males who were discriminated against).

**Making some type of active response at the time** was another strategy used. One in five said they **answered back**, while one in seven said they **made a joke or used humour**. Both of these responses were more common among Tangata Whenua respondents than those of Chinese or Asian ethnicities.

As one might anticipate, **more formal courses of action**, such as reporting incidents to the police, the local embassy, or the Human Rights Commission were the least common courses of action for handling discrimination experiences. Fewer than 5% of those who experienced some form of discrimination since the start of COVID-19 took such actions.

**Figure 20: Response to discrimination experience during COVID-19**

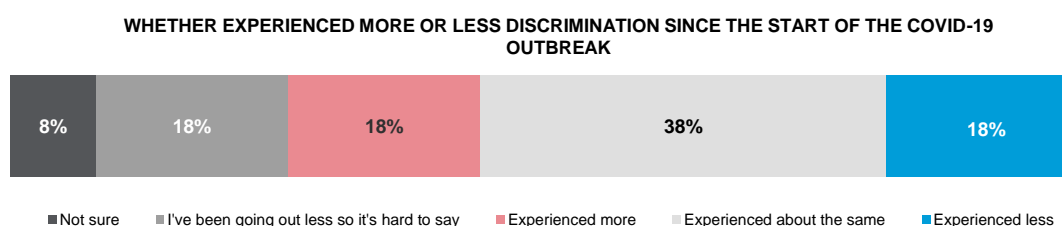


Base: Experienced discrimination since COVID outbreak (early 2020 onward) (n=863)  
Q13. How did you generally respond when you were being discriminated against during COVID-19?

## WHETHER EXPERIENCED MORE OR LESS DISCRIMINATION SINCE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Those who experienced any discrimination situations since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak were asked whether they experienced more or less discrimination since the start of the outbreak. About four in ten (38%) said that the level of discrimination that they personally experienced has remained the same. Equal proportions (18%) said that the level has increased or decreased.

**Figure 21: COVID-19 experience before and since the COVID-19 outbreak in Aotearoa**



Base: Experienced discrimination since COVID outbreak (early 2020 onward) (n=863)  
Q13B. Have you experienced more or less discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak?

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Chinese respondents who experienced some form of discrimination were more than twice as likely as other respondents to say that they experienced **more discrimination** since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak than before (37% of Chinese who experienced discrimination said it had increased cf. 18% of the total who experienced more discrimination).

Tangata Whenua were more likely than other ethnicities to say they experienced less discrimination since the start of the outbreak (28% cf. 18% of all experiencing less).

**Table 22: Whether those who experienced discrimination experienced more or less since start of COVID, by Ethnicity**

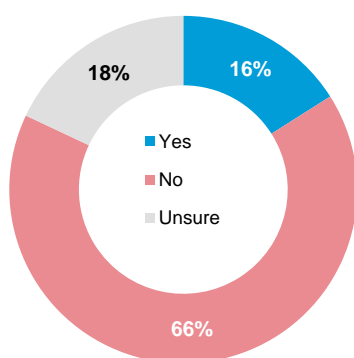
	TOTAL (n=863)	CHINESE (n=89)	ASIAN (n=155)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=185)	PACIFIC (n=135)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=389)
<b>Experienced</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
More discrimination	18	37	14	20	13	17
About the same	38	27	38	31	28	40
Less discrimination	18	5	15	28	23	19
Been going out less	18	25	21	14	23	17

## WHETHER FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS HAVE EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION DUE TO COVID-19

In total, 16% of those who responded to the survey said that they knew of (or had witnessed) friends and/or family experiencing some form of discrimination due to COVID-19.

**Figure 22: Whether friends and/or family have experienced discrimination during COVID-19**

WHETHER OTHER PEOPLE PERSONALLY KNOWN EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION DUE TO COVID-19?



Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q18. Have other people you personally know experienced discrimination due to COVID?

Tangata Whenua were most likely to say that they knew of friends or family who have experienced discrimination since the start of the outbreak that was due to COVID (26% cf. 16% total), followed by those of Chinese ethnicity (24%) and Asian respondents (21%). New Zealand Europeans were less likely than those of other ethnicities to know of friends and family experiencing discrimination due to COVID (14%).

**Table 23: Whether friends and family have experienced discrimination due to COVID, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Know others (family/friends) who experienced discrimination due to COVID	16	24	21	26	20	14

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

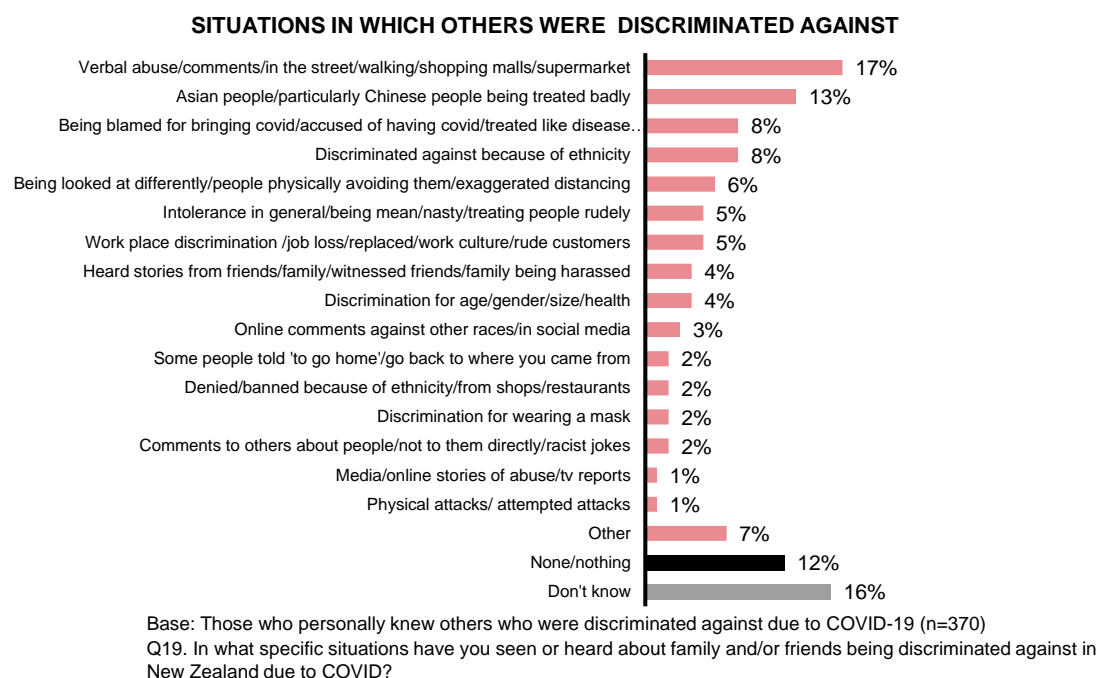
Knowing of friends and family was lower than the average of 16% among people aged 50 or over (8%) and non disabled people (14% cf. 24% among disabled people).

### DISCRIMINATION SITUATIONS FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS EXPERIENCED

Respondents were asked an open ended question about the types of situation in which friends and family members experienced discrimination. The most commonly mentioned discrimination situations included:

- Verbal abuse in a public space (17% knew of friends or family who had experienced this)
- Asian people, particularly Chinese, being treated poorly (13%)
- Specific people being blamed for COVID-19 (8%)
- People being **discriminated against because of ethnicity** (8%).

**Figure 23: Discrimination experiences of family and / or friends since COVID-19**



*"Someone yelled at us and tried to kick my friend. Luckily we walked faster than his action, thus nothing happened."*

**– Female, 35-39 years, Asian (Southeast Asian)**

*"People telling my family and friends that the virus is their fault. It's mostly just verbal abuse but there was this one time this lady tried to spit on my mum."*

**– Female, 18-19 years, Chinese**

*"My partner and his family are Thai x Vietnamese so when we went out together people would avoid him, make comments, make points of covering their face or using hand sanitiser when he came around them. People told him to go home and called him names relating to Corona Virus."*

**– Female, 20-24 years, Tangata Whenua**

*"My aunty was hurled verbal abuse for being Chinese while she was going for a walk."*

**- Female, 20-24 years, Chinese**

*"I have had two workmates told directly that they shouldn't be working (prior to lockdown) because they were Asian. On one instance the customer asked my colleague where he was from and then did his best to keep his distance."*

**– Female, 35-39 years, NZ European / Tangata Whenua**

*"My mother (70) was treated badly in the street while she was out walking for exercise close to her home, treated as though she was rule breaking and irresponsible. She is a fit and healthy person and was allowed to do so."*

**– Female, 45-49 years, NZ European**

*"A Korean girl I know said she had suffered from dirty looks from people because they thought she was Chinese."*

**- Female, 45-49 years, NZ European**

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Chinese respondents were more than three times as likely to report knowing of friends and / or family who have received **verbal abuse in a public space** (47% Chinese cf. 17% overall).

Pacific respondents were more likely to know of friends or family who were discriminated against based on **ethnicity** (20% cf. 8% total), as were females (12% cf. 8% overall).

Those aged 18 to 24 years and females were more likely to know of **Asian people who were treated poorly** (22% and 19% respectively cf. 13% overall – females were also more likely than males to know someone who experienced this form of discrimination with only 9% of males citing this).

Females were also more likely to know of **people who were blamed for COVID-19** (11% females cf. 8% total).



# | PERSONAL IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## INTRODUCTION

This section discusses personal impacts both for those who have experienced discrimination during the COVID-19 outbreak and also among the total sample. It focuses on:

- Impacts on mental wellbeing and on sense of belonging among those who have experienced discrimination.
- Impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on the total sample (in terms of self-consciousness, sense of safety and worry about family members).
- Specific actions people took during COVID-19 and whether they did so out of concern for discrimination.
- How those who have experienced discrimination feel they could be better supported.

## KEY FINDINGS

Discrimination during COVID tended to have a **negative impact** on those experiencing it:

- COVID-related discrimination had a negative impact on **mental wellbeing** for nearly one in two of those who experienced discrimination over this time. This was consistent across Chinese, Asian and Tangata Whenua respondents, and higher than average among essential workers.
- The impact of discrimination experiences for people's **sense of belonging** was negative or neutral, with four in ten noting a negative impact. Patterns across ethnicities were similar.

**Impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on people's perceptions of personal safety:** All respondents were asked their opinions on three aspects of personal safety. Around one in five agreed that they have **felt self-conscious in public due to worries about how others might perceive them**, or that **they have been concerned about their safety due to blaming of certain groups** and/or that **they worried about how their children and/or other family members might be treated**. Between four and five in ten Chinese respondents agreed with each, as did one in three respondents of Asian ethnicity, and one in four Māori.

**Whether people changed behaviours due to discrimination concerns:** As anecdotal stories indicated that people changed some of their behaviours to avoid risking discrimination during COVID-19, all respondents were asked whether they did each of seven specific behaviours during COVID-19 and whether the action was due to concerns about discrimination.

- Three behaviours were common: **keeping distance from others deliberately when out in public, choosing to stay home** and **reducing outings and social activities**. Around four in ten people who said they did each of these actions did so at least partly due to discrimination concerns.
- While more people chose **to wear a face mask** than chose **not to wear a face mask** during COVID-19, **not wearing a face mask** was more likely to be related to discrimination concerns.

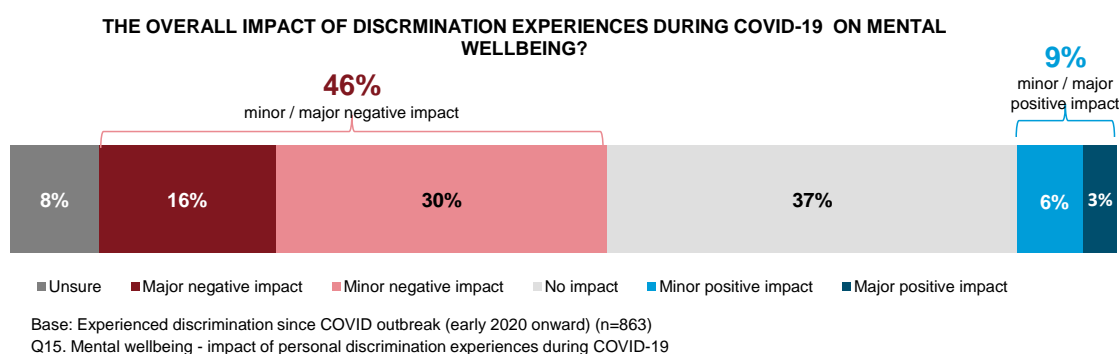
- While less common, two additional actions were taken by some respondents due to discrimination related considerations: **making more of an effort to be friendly to others** and **staying away from people of other ethnic groups more than their own**.

**Strategies to support people:** When asked how people could be supported in relation to discrimination from the COVID-19 outbreak, those who experienced personal discrimination during COVID talked about the value of connecting with others (whether community groups, family and friends) and the need for emotional support: being kind and practising self-care.

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK ON MENTAL WELLBEING

Those who experienced any discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak were asked about its impact on their mental wellbeing. Nearly half (46%) reported a negative impact, compared with 9% reporting a positive impact.

**Figure 24: Impact of COVID-19 on mental wellbeing**



### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Pacific respondents stood out from the rest of the sample in terms of the perceived impact of discrimination on their mental wellbeing. Compared with others, they were less inclined to perceive a negative impact (35% cf. 46% overall) and more inclined to perceive a positive impact (16% cf. 9% overall). Compared with others, New Zealand Europeans were less inclined to perceive a positive impact (6% cf. 9% across the total sample).

**Table 24: Impact of COVID-19 discrimination on mental wellbeing, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=863)	CHINESE (n=89)	ASIAN (n=155)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=185)	PACIFIC (n=135)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=389)
<b>Impact</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Positive (5/4)	9	5	10	12	16	6
Negative (2/1)	46	50	45	48	35	48

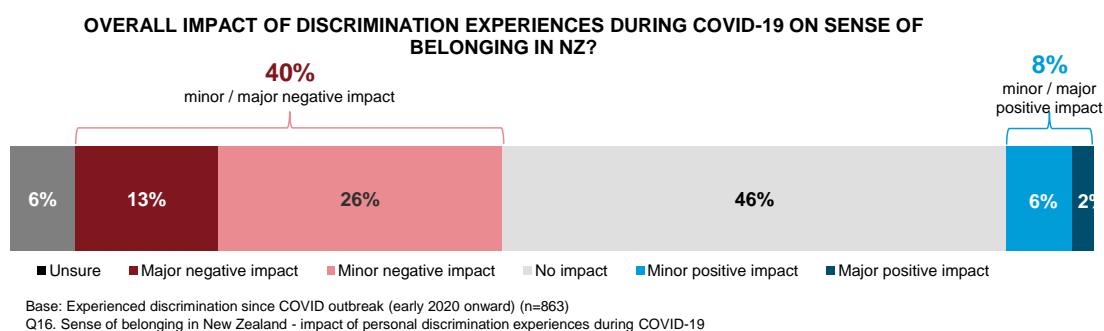
While there were no significant differences in perceptions by age group or gender, there were differences for other sub groups:

- Disabled respondents were more likely to perceive a negative impact on their mental wellbeing (57% noted this cf. 42% of non-disabled respondents).
- Those who suffered job or work hour losses during COVID reported negative impacts on their mental wellbeing (57%).
- Essential workers were also more likely to identify a negative impact on their mental wellbeing (53%).

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK ON SENSE OF BELONGING

The COVID-19 outbreak has had some negative impact on the sense of belonging among those who have experienced any discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, with 40% reporting a negative impact and only 8% reporting a positive impact.

**Figure 25: Impact of COVID-19 on sense of belonging**



### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Compared with respondents of other ethnicities, a higher proportion of Tangata Whenua reported a positive impact on their sense of belonging (13% cf. 8% overall). Asian respondents were more likely to note a negative impact on their sense of belonging than others (48% cf. 40%).



*"I saw comments online since borders are closed and people asking how come people from Philippines or India are still coming in. They are citizens by immigration. It just made me feel like no matter how long I have been living here that I don't still truly belong and Kiwis wouldn't still consider me a kiwi."*

– Female, 25-29 years, Asian (Filipino)

**Table 25: Impact of COVID-19 on sense of belonging, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=863)	CHINESE (n=89)	ASIAN (n=155)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=185)	PACIFIC (n=135)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=389)
<b>Impact</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Positive (5/4)	8	6	8	13	11	7
Negative (2/1)	40	47	48	41	35	39

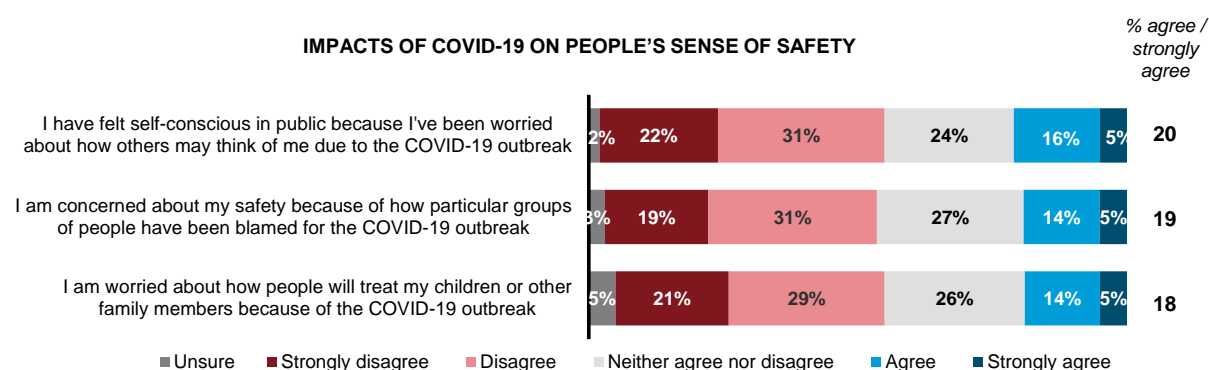
Respondents in the middle age group (35 to 49 years) were more likely than respondents of other age groups to report a negative impact on their sense of belonging during COVID-19 (46% reporting a negative impact), compared with 40% across all of those who experienced discrimination during this time. However, there were no significant differences by presence of children in the household.

Disabled respondents were more likely to perceive a negative impact on their sense of belonging (46% noted this compared with 37% of non-disabled respondents).

Also, those who suffered job or work hour losses during COVID reported negative impacts on their sense of belonging (46%).

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK ON PEOPLE'S SENSE OF SAFETY

All respondents were asked their opinions about the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on people's perceptions of them and their own and their family's safety. Around half of them disagreed that these are issues for them. But around one in five respondents agreed with each safety-related concern.

**Figure 26: Personal impacts of COVID-19 outbreak for people**

Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q22. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - summary

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

There were marked differences in views between New Zealand European respondents and those of other ethnicities. Between four and five in ten Chinese respondents agreed with each:

- 46% said they have **felt self-conscious in public** about how others may think of them due to the outbreak. New Zealand born Chinese felt as self-conscious as overseas born Chinese (47% and 44% respectively).
- 44% agree that they are **concerned about their personal safety due to people being blamed**. New Zealand born Chinese were less concerned about their personal safety than overseas born Chinese (33% and 49% respectively).
- 42% are **worried about how their children or family members may be treated**. Again, New Zealand born Chinese were less concerned about how their children might be treated than overseas born Chinese (31% and 45% respectively).

Over three in ten respondents of Asian ethnicity agreed that each one was an issue, as did around one in four Tangata Whenua.

New Zealand European respondents expressed comparatively low levels of agreement, with around one in seven agreeing with these statements.

**Table 26: Personal concerns due to COVID-19 outbreak, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>I have felt self-conscious in public</b>						
Agree (5/4)	20	46	34	28	19	16
Disagree (2/1)	53	23	34	42	52	59
<b>I am concerned about my safety</b>						
Agree (5/4)	19	44	34	25	22	14
Disagree (2/1)	50	20	32	41	45	57
<b>I am worried about how my children/family members will be treated</b>						
Agree (5/4)	18	42	35	26	26	13
Disagree (2/1)	51	17	31	42	42	57

Essential workers were also more likely to agree with each of the statements: 33% said they felt self-conscious in public, 30% said they have been concerned about their safety, and 29% expressed worry about how their children and/or other family members will be treated because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Those who have experienced any discrimination during the COVID-19 outbreak were more likely to agree with each of the three statements than those who have experienced no

discrimination, indicating that experiencing discrimination is associated with a reduced sense of personal security and safety.

**Table 27: Personal concerns due to COVID-19 outbreak, by Discrimination experience during COVID**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	Experienced discrimination (n=850)	Did not experience discrimination (n=1,054)
	%	%	%
<b>I have felt self-conscious in public</b>			
Agree (5/4)	20	38	9
Disagree (2/1)	53	36	63
<b>I am concerned about my safety</b>			
Agree (5/4)	19	35	10
Disagree (2/1)	50	37	59
<b>I am worried about how my children/family members will be treated</b>			
Agree (5/4)	18	35	8
Disagree (2/1)	51	35	61

## SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN DURING COVID-19 AND WHETHER DUE TO CONCERNS ABOUT DISCRIMINATION

Anecdotal stories during COVID-19 indicated that people of various ethnicities were concerned to avoid behaviours that might make them more conspicuous and at risk of discrimination (such as wearing a mask when others were not, or choosing not to wear a mask in situations where others were doing so). Some of these behaviours were recommended as general precautionary measures by public health professionals to minimise disease spread (e.g. physical distancing and wearing masks), and of course, some activities (such as social outings) were prohibited during lockdown.

Hence, all respondents were asked about whether they did each of seven specific behaviours during COVID-19 and whether this was due to concerns about discrimination. The list of actions was developed during cognitive pretesting.

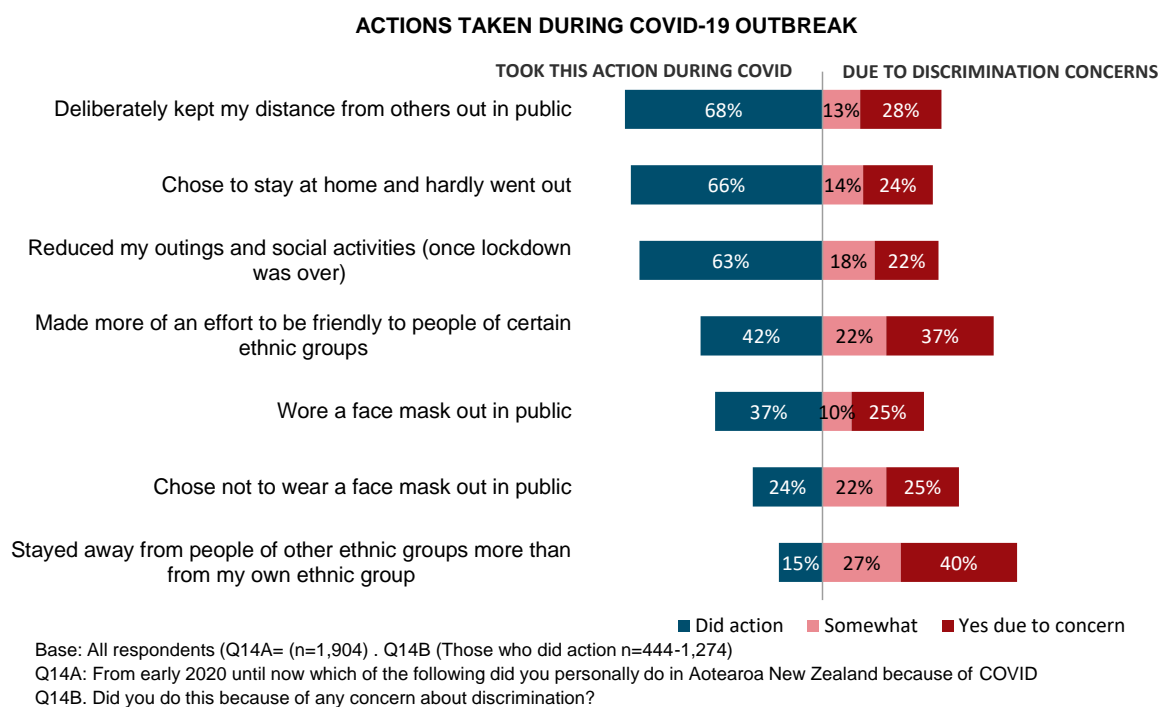
Three behaviours were common: **keeping distance from others deliberately when out in public**, **choosing to stay home** and **reducing outings and social activities**. In each case, around four in ten people said they did this action at least partly due to concerns about discrimination.

More people **chose to wear a face mask** than **chose not to wear a face mask** during COVID-19 (37% cf. 24%), but not wearing a face mask was more likely to be related to discrimination concerns.

As the summary of actions and reasons shown below highlights, two actions were more likely to be taken due to discrimination related considerations: **making more of an effort to be friendly to others** (59% of those who took this action doing so because of discrimination related perceptions) and **staying away from people of other ethnic groups more than**

**their own** (67% of those who did this did so because of discrimination fears). Note, however, that only a small proportion of people who responded to the survey (15%) said they did stay away from other groups more than their own.

**Figure 27: Actions taken during COVID-19 and whether due to concerns about discrimination**



## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Respondents of all ethnicities reported similar rates of taking certain actions during COVID-19.

New Zealand Europeans were more likely than others to deliberately keep their distance from others, Tangata Whenua were more likely to **stay at home** and/or **reduce outings and social activities** because of COVID-19, and Pacific respondents were more likely to **make an effort to be friendly to certain ethnic groups**.

While New Zealand Europeans were as likely as others to take actions, their actions were least likely to be motivated by discrimination concerns. For example, the majority of all non-New Zealand European groups who chose not to wear a face mask did so out of discrimination concerns, but fewer than half of New Zealand Europeans stated discrimination as a potential reason for this.



**Table 28: Whether took actions because of COVID and out of concern about discrimination, by Ethnicity**

<i>Note: * base is the number who experienced that form of discrimination (*=base &lt;n=25)</i>	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,904)	<b>CHINESE</b> (n=152)	<b>ASIAN</b> (n=306)	<b>TANGATA WHENUA</b> (n=314)	<b>PACIFIC</b> (n=251)	<b>NZ EUROPEAN</b> (n=988)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Deliberately kept my distance from others	68	68	62	65	59	71
* Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)	41	37	46	57	57	38
Chose to stay at home	66	65	63	68	69	68
*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)	38	39	40	57	55	34
Reduced my outings and social activities after lockdown	63	68	67	66	73	61
*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)	40	38	44	54	47	36
Made an effort to be friendly to certain ethnic groups	42	41	45	45	53	42
* Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)	59	51	59	70	66	57
Wore a face mask out in public	37	52	50	54	54	32
*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)	35	31	38	40	33	33
Chose not to wear a face mask out in public	24	26	22	20	19	24
*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)	47	70	54	64	63	42
Avoided people of other ethnicities	15	23	24	20	18	30
*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)	66	58	64	71	77	68

Marked differences in levels of action and the reasons for doing them were apparent between respondents who experienced any discrimination during the COVID-19 outbreak and those who did not experience any discrimination.

While three behaviours were common across the total sample—**deliberately keeping distance from others, choosing to stay at home, and reducing outings and social activities**—those who experienced discrimination were much more likely to do these at least partly out of concern about potential discrimination.

The likelihood of doing each of the other five actions and doing so because of concern about discrimination was significantly higher among those who experienced discrimination from the start of the COVID-19 outbreak than among those who did not experience discrimination.

**Table 29: Whether took actions because of COVID and out of concern about discrimination, by Discrimination experience during COVID**

<b>Note: * base is the number who experienced that form of discrimination (*=base &lt;n=25)</b>	<b>TOTAL (n=1,904)</b>	<b>Experienced discrimination (n=850)</b>	<b>Did not experience discrimination (n=1,054)</b>
	%	%	%
Deliberately kept my distance from others	68	69	68
<i>* Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)</i>	41	56	31
Chose to stay at home	66	67	65
<i>*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)</i>	38	55	27
Reduced my outings and social activities after lockdown	63	68	59
<i>*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)</i>	40	53	30
Made an effort to be friendly to certain ethnic groups	42	48	39
<i>* Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)</i>	59	74	48
Wore a face mask out in public	37	47	31
<i>*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)</i>	35	49	21
Chose not to wear a face mask out in public	24	29	20
<i>*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)</i>	47	63	30
Avoided people of other ethnicities	15	26	9
<i>*Due to discrimination concerns (yes/somewhat)</i>	66	75	51

## STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT THOSE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST

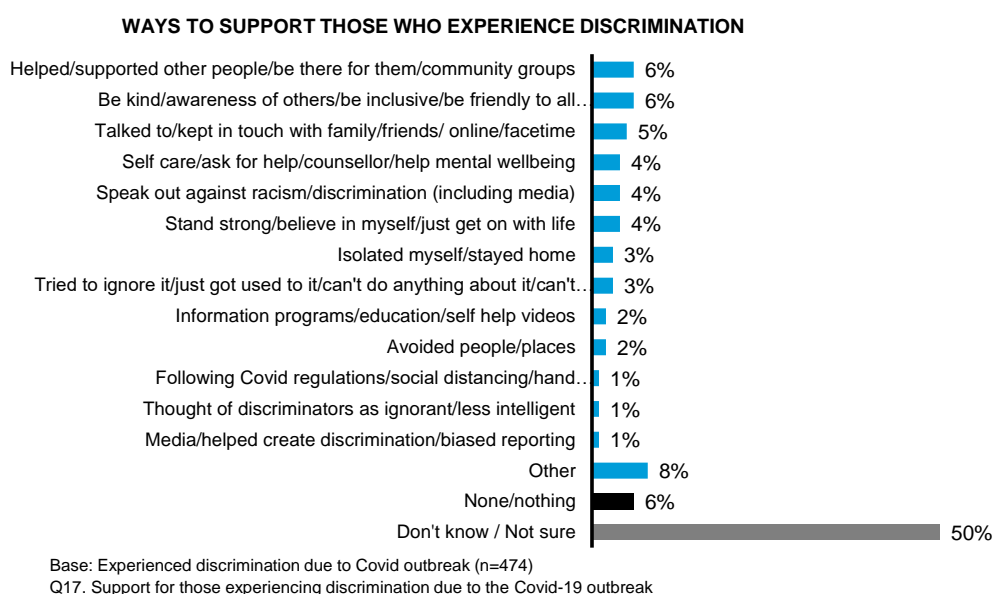
Those who experienced discrimination during COVID-19 were asked (using an open ended question) what they did to support themselves and other people or what might help them feel supported.

Half of those asked were unsure of what could help, and a further 6% thought that nothing would help.

Those who made suggestions put forward mostly generalised solutions such as connecting with others: **being there for others, being part of community groups, or contacting family or friends virtually or in-person.**

**Providing or receiving emotional support:** being kinder and more aware of others or focusing on **self-care** were other suggestions.

**Figure 28: Strategies to support people (among those who experienced discrimination during COVID-19)**



The following verbatim comments provide a more tangible sense of actions people took or think could help support people. Some respondents took proactive action.



*"There is a Facebook group for Asians, where everyone shared the news and feeling of discrimination. It helps and it alerts everyone to avoid the location."*

– Female, 35-39 years, Asian (Southeast Asian)

*"Got professional help for support."* – Male, 60-64 years, Asian (Indian)

*"I have taken to joining many community groups and speaking at meetings to give a better understanding of my whānau, hapū and iwi. Our culture and standing in our community and country. The hardest is our local council to come on board and to acknowledge us. This is not only assisting myself but many in my Hapū and Iwi and this is assisting in my mental stability."*

– Male, 75-79 years, Tangata Whenua

*"Stood in solidarity with those facing discrimination and donated to causes in assisting those who were facing discrimination due to being foreign. also reaching out to those that had negative experiences."*

– Female, 20-24 years, Tangata Whenua

Others focused on talking to friends, family and or with others in a similar situation.



*"Talking to others who have been in the same situation."*

**– Male, 55-59 years, Tangata Whenua**

*"Talk more about it online with friends and family. Been able to talk freely about discrimination without fear of backlash."*

**– Female, 60-64 years, Tangata Whenua**

*"Be with the family and talk to family members."*

**– Female, 30-34 years, Asian (Indian)**

Some people talked of providing a friendly ear for others.



*"Provide them free mental services to help them cope and pull out of the stressful situations."*

**– Female, 20-24 years, Pacific**

*"I offered support if people needed some emotional support, i.e. if they needed someone to talk to."*

**– Female, 25-29 years, NZ European**

*"Be a friendly ear for them to talk to."*

**– Female, 25-29 years, Tangata Whenua**

# ATTITUDES TOWARDS AND CONCERNS RELATING TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## INTRODUCTION

After answering questions about their experiences of discrimination during COVID-19, respondents were asked a series of attitudinal questions about discrimination related to COVID-19. These focused on:

- Whether respondents' concern about the level of discrimination there is in Aotearoa New Zealand has increased or decreased, compared with before the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Whether they think there is likely to be more or less discrimination in Aotearoa New Zealand in the next six months due to COVID-19.
- Whether attitudes have changed towards any specific groups in the wider community since the start of COVID-19.

## KEY FINDINGS

One in seven respondents (14%) agreed that **they have personally experienced more discrimination during COVID-19 than before it**, while 57% disagreed. Agreement was greatest among Chinese respondents, with one in four (26%) saying they have personally experienced more.

Personal concern about the **level of discrimination in Aotearoa compared with before the COVID-19 outbreak** remained unchanged for just over one in two, but a sense of greater concern about discrimination outweighed lesser concern among the others (25% cf. 14%).

While four in ten respondents thought that the **COVID-19 outbreak will cause about the same level of discrimination in Aotearoa over the next six months**, one in three (34%) felt that COVID will result in more discrimination. Only 12% thought it will result in less.

Over four in ten respondents felt that **there has been more discrimination against certain ethnic groups during the outbreak than before**. This view was most strongly held by Chinese respondents (both New Zealand born and those born overseas) and also more strongly held by Tangata Whenua than others.

Generally, respondents did not believe that the **Chinese people in Aotearoa are at least partly to blame for the COVID-19 outbreak** (two in three disagreeing), but a small proportion (12%) agreed with this. Respondents generally agreed that **the responses of some governments will make life more difficult for Chinese people and Asian people**. This view was more strongly held by Chinese respondents than others.

Respondents were asked about how their **attitudes toward key groups have changed** since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak.

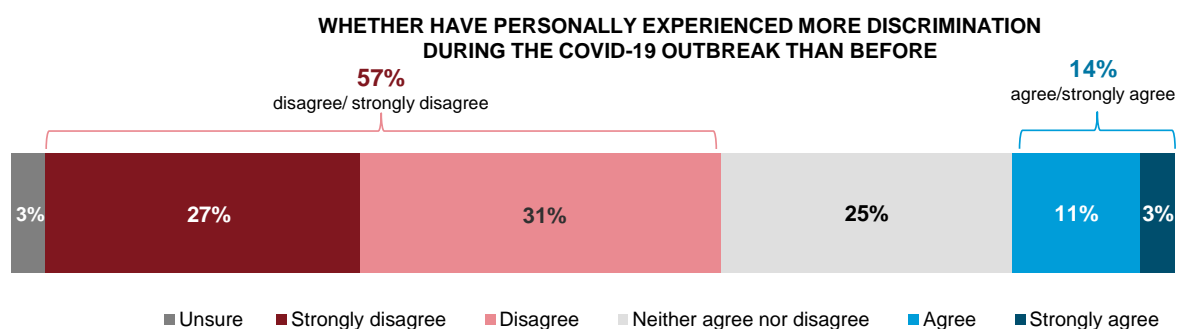
- The vast majority indicated that there was little change in their attitudes **towards Pacific people, Māori, New Zealand Europeans and Asian people (not including Chinese)**. Where there was a change in attitude, more positive attitudes slightly outweighed more negative attitudes.
- Attitudes towards **Chinese people in New Zealand** were also largely unchanged, with three in four respondents saying their attitudes were unchanged. Among the remainder, more positive attitudes were balanced by more negative attitudes.
- However, attitudes towards **people returning to Aotearoa from overseas during the COVID-19 outbreak** were much less positive, with one in three people saying their attitudes towards such people have become more negative.

## WHETHER PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED MORE DISCRIMINATION DURING COVID-19 THAN BEFORE

Everyone was asked whether they have experienced more discrimination during the COVID-19 outbreak than before it. (Note: This question was separate to the statement asked only of those respondents who said they experienced discrimination during COVID-19 about whether they experienced more or less discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak.)

In total, 14% of all respondents agreed that they have experienced more discrimination during the outbreak than before it.

**Figure 29: Whether experienced more discrimination during COVID-19**



Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q24. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I have personally experienced more discrimination during the COVID-19 outbreak than I did before it?

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Chinese respondents (26%) were most likely to think they have experienced more discrimination during the outbreak than previously. Chinese born overseas were more likely to agree than New Zealand born Chinese, but not significantly so (26% cf. 22%).

**Table 30: Whether experienced more discrimination during COVID-19, by Ethnicity**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,904)	<b>CHINESE</b> (n=152)	<b>ASIAN</b> (n=306)	<b>TANGATA WHENUA</b> (n=314)	<b>PACIFIC</b> (n=251)	<b>NZ EUROPEAN</b> (n=988)
<b>Agree (5/4)</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Experienced more discrimination	14	26	19	20	14	12
Neutral	25	37	29	31	28	24
Disagree that experienced more	57	34	47	43	51	62

Respondents aged between 25 and 34 years and those aged 35 to 49 years were more likely than younger and older people to agree that they have experienced more discrimination during COVID-19 than previously.

**Table 31: Whether experienced more discrimination during COVID-19, by Age**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n=1,904)	<b>18-24</b> (n=345)	<b>25-34</b> (n=419)	<b>35-49</b> (n=543)	<b>50-64</b> (n=354)	<b>65+</b> (n=243)
<b>Agree (5/4)</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Experienced more discrimination	14	17	23	19	7	5
Neutral	25	33	31	24	21	21
Disagree that experienced more	57	54	40	52	70	72

As to be expected, those who have experienced discrimination during COVID-19 were more likely than other respondents to agree that they have experienced more discrimination during the outbreak than those who have not experienced discrimination (32% and 3% respectively).



**Table 32: Whether experienced more discrimination during COVID-19, by Discrimination experiences**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	Experienced discrimination during COVID (n=850)	Did not experience discrimination during COVID (n=1,054)	Experienced discrimination pre-COVID (n=843)	Did not experience discrimination pre-COVID (n=995)
<b>Agree (5/4)</b>	%	%	%	%	%
Experienced more discrimination	14	32	3	27	5
Neutral	25	33	20	31	21
Disagree that experienced more	57	32	74	38	72

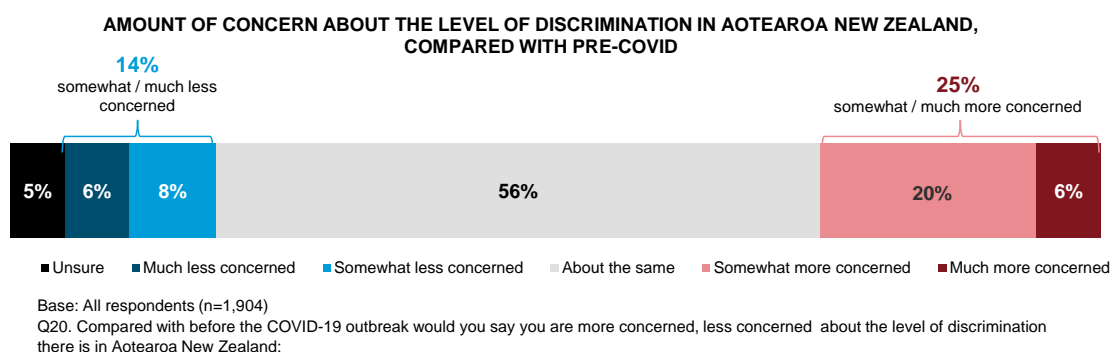
There were differences also by employment status. People who have lost their jobs or lost work hours due to COVID-19 were more likely than other workers to agree that they have experienced more discrimination during COVID-19 (26% cf. 14% across the total sample) as were essential workers (22%) and people with tertiary qualifications (19%).

One in four disabled respondents (23%) agreed that they have experienced more discrimination during COVID-19 than before, compared with only 12% of non-disabled respondents.

## COMPARATIVE LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT DISCRIMINATION SINCE COVID-19

Personal concern about the level of discrimination in Aotearoa compared with before the COVID-19 outbreak remained unchanged for just over half of all respondents (56%). Among others, greater concern about discrimination outweighed lesser concern (25% cf. 14%).

**Figure 30: Concern about level of discrimination since COVID-19**



## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Unsurprisingly, those who have experienced discrimination during COVID-19 were more likely to feel more concerned about the current level of discrimination in Aotearoa than those who have not experienced discrimination (37% and 18% respectively).

A sense of greater concern was highest amongst Chinese respondents (41% feeling more concerned – and only 7% feeling less concerned, cf. 15% overall feeling less concerned). New Zealand born Chinese expressed a greater level of concern than Chinese born overseas (47% cf. 39% expressing greater concern). The sense of greater concern was shared by Tangata Whenua (36%).

**Table 33: Whether more concerned about discrimination than pre-COVID, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
More concerned (5/4)	25	41	23	36	26	24
Less concerned (2/1)	15	7	20	16	22	12

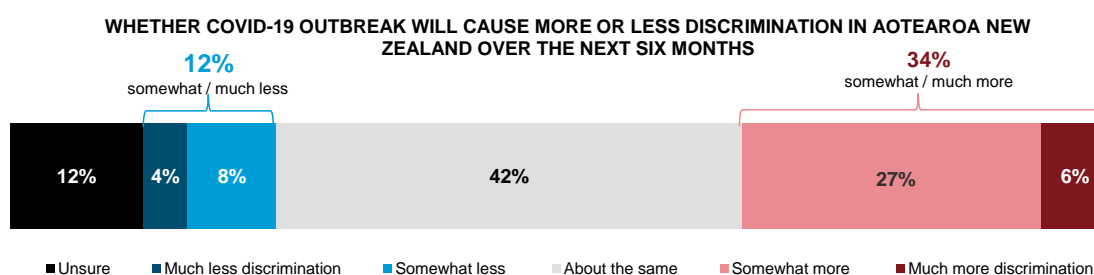
Females were more likely to express greater concern than males (28% cf. 23% feeling more concerned). Age-wise, those under 50 were more likely to feel greater concern than those over 50 years (29% and 22% respectively).

Compared with the total sample, a higher proportion of those who have suffered job or work hours losses, etc. said they feel more concerned about discrimination (35% saying this cf. 25% overall). Note: 18 to 24 year olds were more likely than any other age group to say they have lost their job or suffered a reduction in work hours due to COVID-19 (37% cf. 27% overall).

## WHETHER THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK WILL CAUSE MORE OR LESS DISCRIMINATION OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS

When asked if they think the COVID-19 outbreak will cause more or less discrimination in Aotearoa over the next six months, one in three (34%) felt that the outbreak will result in more discrimination, while only 12% consider it will result in less. Just over four in ten expect levels to remain unchanged.

**Figure 31: Whether the COVID-19 outbreak will cause more or less discrimination**



Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q21. Do you think that the COVID-19 outbreak will cause more or less discrimination in Aotearoa New Zealand over the next six months?

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Again, Chinese respondents were most likely to think that the outbreak will cause more discrimination in Aotearoa in the next six months (46% saying this, compared with only 34% of the total sample). There was little difference in opinion between New Zealand born and overseas born Chinese with 48% and 45%, respectively, feeling this way.

**Table 34: Whether the COVID-19 outbreak will cause more or less discrimination, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
<b>Discrimination</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
More (5/4)	34	46	33	38	34	32
Less (2/1)	12	4	13	15	16	12

Those who experienced any discrimination during COVID-19 were more likely to think that there will be more discrimination in the next six months than those who experienced none (43% and 28% respectively). Results were similar for those who reported any discrimination pre-COVID.

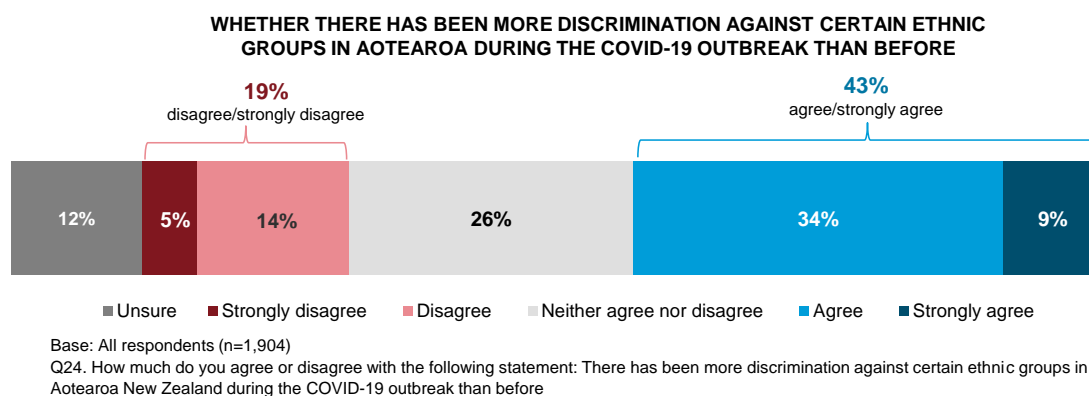
**Table 35: Whether experienced more discrimination during COVID-19, by Discrimination experiences**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	Experienced discrimination during COVID (n=850)	Did not experience discrimination during COVID (n=1,054)	Experienced discrimination pre-COVID (n=843)	Did not experience discrimination pre-COVID (n=995)
<b>Discrimination</b>	%	%	%	%	%
More (5/4)	34	43	28	43	28
Less (2/1)	12	15	10	14	11

## PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION LEVELS AGAINST CERTAIN ETHNIC GROUPS

Over four in ten people agreed that there has been more discrimination against certain ethnic groups in Aotearoa during the COVID-19 outbreak than before it, while only two in ten (19%) disagreed.

**Figure 32: Perceptions of discrimination levels against ethnic groups during COVID-19 outbreak**



### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Agreement was greatest among those of Chinese ethnicity, with over half (58%) agreeing that there has been more discrimination against certain ethnic groups during COVID than before the outbreak. Chinese born overseas were more likely to agree than New Zealand born Chinese, but not statistically significantly so (60% and 55% respectively).

Tangata Whenua were also more likely than the total sample to consider there has been more discrimination against certain ethnic groups (49% agreement).

**Table 36: Perceptions of discrimination levels against ethnic groups during COVID-19 outbreak, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
<b>Agree (5/4)</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
More discrimination against certain ethnic groups during COVID	43	58	37	49	43	42

Those aged between 25 and 34 years and those aged 35 to 49 years were more likely than younger and older respondents to agree that there has been more discrimination against certain ethnic groups during the COVID-19 outbreak than before it.

**Table 37: Perceptions of discrimination levels against ethnic groups during COVID-19 outbreak, by Age**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	18-24 (n=345)	25-34 (n=419)	35-49 (n=543)	50-64 (n=354)	65+ (n=243)
<b>Agree (5/4)</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
More discrimination against certain ethnic groups during COVID	43	46	54	47	36	33

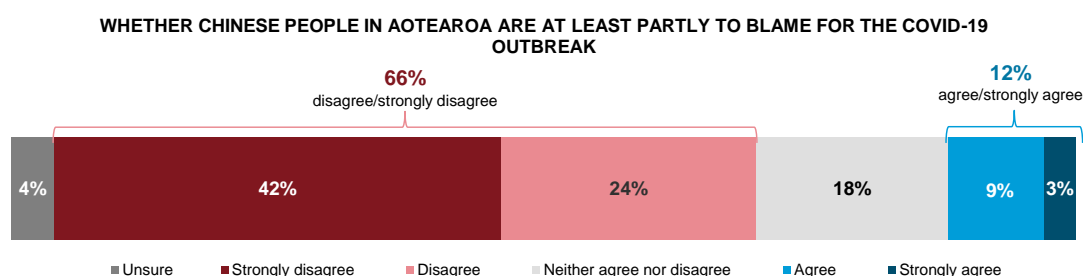
Respondents who have experienced discrimination during COVID-19 were more likely than those who have not to agree that there has been more discrimination against certain ethnic groups (57% and 33% respectively).

Again, workers who have lost their jobs/hours were more likely to agree (50%), as were essential workers (49%) and people with tertiary qualifications (47%).

## WHETHER THE CHINESE ARE PARTLY TO BLAME FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK

While two in three respondents (66%) disagreed that Chinese people in Aotearoa New Zealand are at least partly to blame for the COVID-19 outbreak, a small proportion (12%) agreed with this. Overall, one in three respondents did not disagree, indicating a level of attitude around COVID-19 (either blame or neutrality/uncertainty around blame).

**Figure 33: Whether Chinese people in Aotearoa are partly to blame for COVID**



Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q24. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Chinese people in Aotearoa New Zealand are at least partly to blame for the COVID-19 outbreak

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

While agreement levels were low as outlined above, agreement that Chinese people in Aotearoa are at least partly to blame for the COVID-19 outbreak was higher than average among Chinese respondents (20%) than among respondents of other ethnicities. However, this view was predominantly held by overseas born Chinese (26% agreeing) with very low agreement among New Zealand born Chinese (6% agreeing).

New Zealand Europeans were less likely than respondents of other ethnicity to agree that Chinese people in Aotearoa are partly to blame.

**Table 38: Whether Chinese people in Aotearoa are partly to blame for COVID, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree (5/4)	12	20	16	16	14	11
Disagree (2/1)	66	58	48	54	59	70

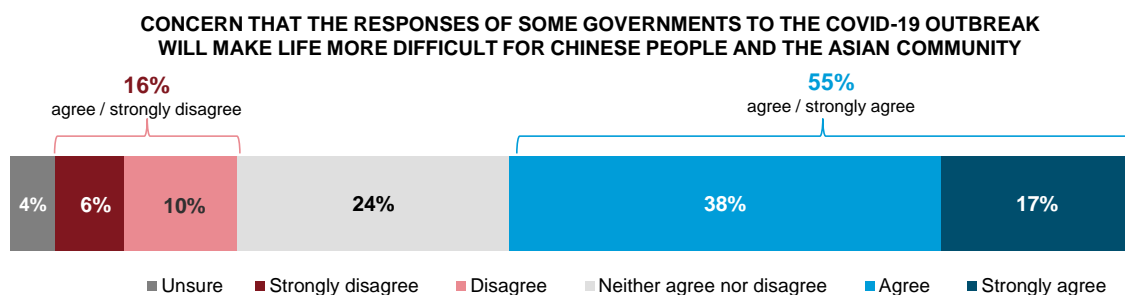
Agreement that Chinese people in Aotearoa are at least partly to blame was higher than average among the following:

- Those who have experienced discrimination during COVID (21%, cf. 6% among those who have not)
- Those who have lost their jobs or working hours (22%)
- Essential workers (20%)
- Males (16%) in contrast to females (9%)
- Younger people aged 25 to 34 years (22%) or 35 to 49 years (16%)
- Those living in Auckland (16%).

## CONCERNS ABOUT IMPACTS OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSES DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

When asked about the potential impact of some governments' responses to the outbreak, over half the sample (55%) agreed that some governments' responses will make life more difficult for the Chinese people and the Asian community. Only 16% disagreed.

**Figure 34: Concern about impact of government responses for Chinese and Asian communities**



Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q22. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I am concerned that the responses of some governments to the COVID-19 outbreak (e.g. blaming China, calling it the 'China virus' or the 'Wuhan virus') will make life more difficult for Chinese people and the Asian community

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Chinese respondents were more likely than others to agree that there could be negative impacts for Chinese people and the Asian community due to some governments' responses, with 66% agreeing and only 11% disagreeing. Overseas born Chinese were most likely to agree (69% agreement compared with 59% agreement among New Zealand born Chinese).

Concern was also heightened among people who had higher levels of agreement that certain groups are being discriminated against during COVID-19 (with 66% agreement), noting that Chinese respondents were over-represented in the group agreeing with that.

**Table 39: Concern about impact of government responses to the outbreak for Chinese and Asian communities, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
<b>Agree (5/4)</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Some governments' responses will make life more difficult for Chinese people and the Asian community	55	66	53	57	53	56



## CHANGES IN ATTITUDE TOWARD DIFFERENT PEOPLES SINCE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

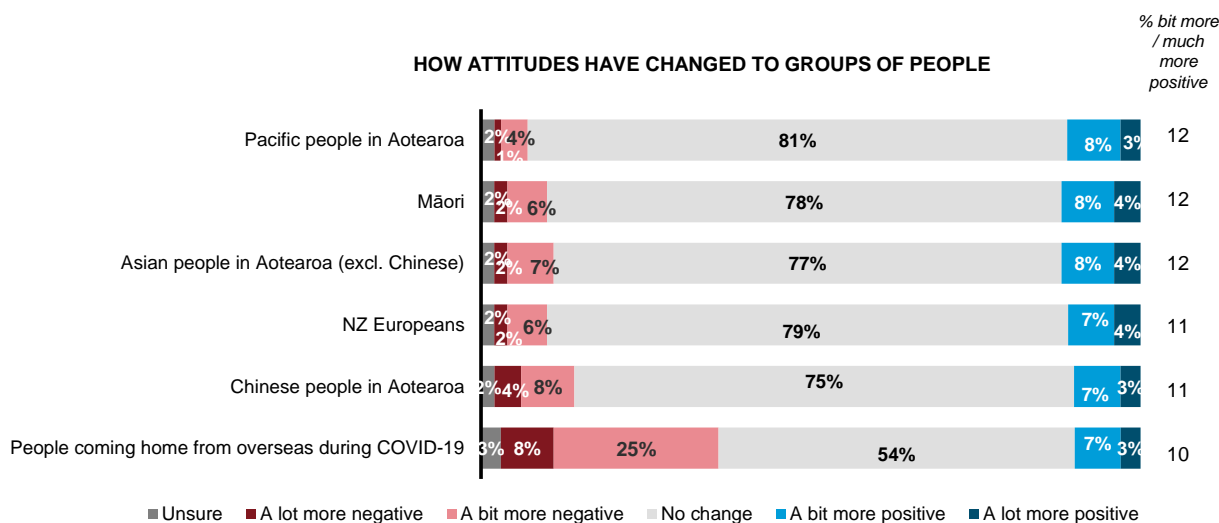
Respondents were asked how their attitudes towards key groups have changed since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, as social and news media have told stories about increasing negativity toward some groups of people. They were asked about their attitudes toward five ethnicities in Aotearoa.

The vast majority indicated no attitudinal change towards **Pacific people, Māori, New Zealand Europeans** or **Asian people (not including Chinese)** - (ranging from 77% no change for **Asian people** to 81% no change for **Pacific people**). More positive attitudes slightly outweighed more negative attitudes among remaining respondents for each of the four ethnicities.

Respondents' attitudes towards **Chinese people in New Zealand** were also largely unchanged, with three in four (75%) saying no change. However, more positive attitudes were balanced by more negative attitudes (11% more positive and 12% more negative) – a slightly more negative result than for the four ethnicities above.

Attitudes towards **people returning to Aotearoa from overseas during the COVID-19 outbreak** were much less positive. One in three respondents (33%) said their attitudes towards such people have become more negative, while only one in ten (10%) indicated more positive attitudes.

**Figure 35: How attitudes have changed to different groups of people since COVID-19 outbreak**



Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q23. Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, how have your attitudes changed towards the following people, if at all?

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Generally, respondents of particular ethnic groups were generally no more likely or less likely to express changed attitudes toward their own ethnicity than were respondents of different ethnic groups. For example, 10% of Chinese said their attitudes toward Chinese people in Aotearoa have become more positive (cf. 11% of the total sample) and 10% said their attitudes have become more negative (cf. 12% of the total sample).

However, Tangata Whenua were more likely to say their attitudes have become more negative towards Chinese people in Aotearoa (16% cf. 12% among the total sample) and also toward Asian people (13% cf. 9% among the total sample) since the COVID-19 outbreak. The vast majority of Tangata Whenua respondents, however, expressed views that were either unchanged or more positive toward people of other ethnic groups.

Tangata Whenua respondents also expressed slightly more negative views toward people returning home during COVID-19 compared with the whole sample (39% cf. 33% across the total sample).

Comparison of attitude changes between those who experienced discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak and those who have not shows that the views of those who have not experienced discrimination remained largely unchanged. While still mainly unchanged, views among those who have reported any discrimination during COVID have moved in both directions.

**Table 40: How attitudes have changed to different groups of people since COVID-19 outbreak, by Discrimination experiences**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	Experienced discrimination during COVID (n=850)	Did not experience discrimination during COVID (n=1,054)
Toward...	%	%	%
<b>Pacific people in Aotearoa</b>			
More positive (5/4)	12	21	6
More negative (2/1)	5	10	3
<b>Māori</b>			
More positive (5/4)	12	23	5
More negative (2/1)	8	14	4
<b>Asian people in Aotearoa (excl. Chinese)</b>			
More positive (5/4)	12	21	5
More negative (2/1)	9	14	6
<b>New Zealand Europeans</b>			
More positive (5/4)	11	20	5
More negative (2/1)	8	15	4
<b>Chinese people in Aotearoa</b>			
More positive (5/4)	11	20	5

More negative (2/1)	12	17	8
<b>People coming home from overseas</b>			
More positive (5/4)	10	19	4
More negative (2/1)	33	37	30

# AWARENESS OF INITIATIVES AND MEDIA STORIES DURING COVID-19

## INTRODUCTION

This section discusses awareness of six COVID-19-related activities and news stories appearing after the start of the outbreak that may have impacted people's attitudes and behaviours, as well as their attitudes towards each.

### Initiatives:

- Iwi organised community checkpoints in some regional areas during lockdown in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Prioritisation of key groups for special government funding to support certain communities during COVID-19 lockdown.

### Online and news media stories:

- Comments online that blamed the Chinese for the COVID-19 outbreak
- News media stories that blamed the Chinese for the COVID-19 outbreak
- News media stories about how some groups of people are being discriminated against due to the COVID-19 outbreak
- President Trump's racist remarks referring to COVID-19 as 'China virus', 'Kung Flu', etc.

## KEY FINDINGS

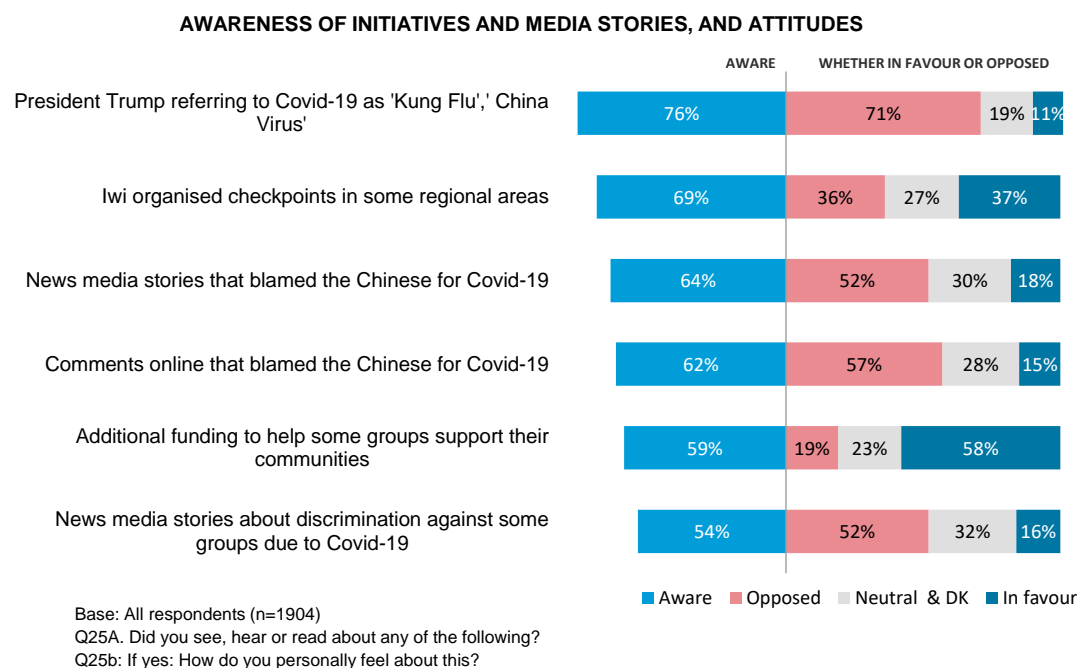
**President Trump's racist references to COVID-19** were the most widely known story, and there was strong opposition to the views expressed. There was also wide awareness of **regional checkpoints organised by iwi** during the COVID lockdown. Views were mixed toward these checkpoints, although Tangata Whenua respondents were generally supportive.

**Additional funding initiatives to help some community groups** were least well known, but there was reasonably strong support for these among those aware. (Of the six initiatives assessed, attitudes were most positive to this initiative).

News media stories about **some groups of people being discriminated against due to COVID-19** were not widely known, but those aware were typically opposed to such discrimination.

The following chart summarises awareness and attitudes towards each one, before discussion of each one separately.

**Figure 36: Summary: awareness of and attitudes towards initiatives and media stories during COVID**



## DEEP DIVE: EACH INITIATIVE AND MEDIA STORY

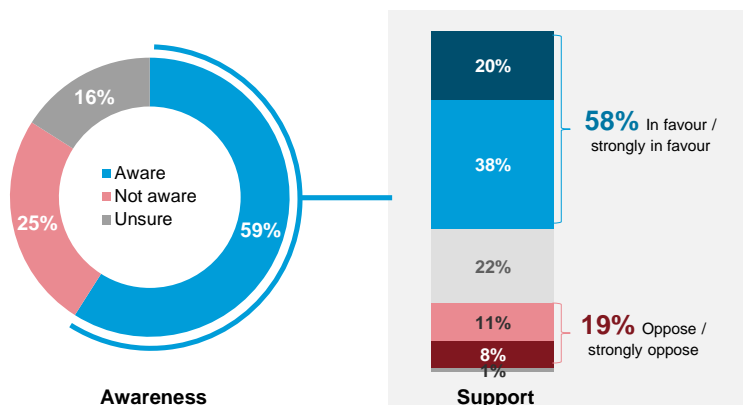
### ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SOME GROUPS TO HELP THEIR COMMUNITIES

Six in ten people (59%) were aware that some groups were prioritised by government to receive special funding to support their communities during COVID-19 lockdown. (Groups included community groups that support Māori, Pacific, older people, those with disabilities or with significant health issues, migrant communities and rurally isolated people.)

There was widespread support for such special funding of community groups, with 58% in favour and only 19% opposed.

**Figure 37: Awareness of additional funding for community groups**

#### ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS



Base: a) All respondents (n=1,904), b) All aware (n=1,061)

Q25. Now some questions about activities and/or news stories you may have heard of during the COVID-19 outbreak.

a) Did you see, hear or read about any of the following? b) How do you personally feel about this?

#### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Awareness was greatest among Tangata Whenua and New Zealand Europeans (56% and 62% respectively), while attitudes were most positive among Tangata Whenua (77% in favour) and Pacific respondents (72% in favour).

**Table 41: Awareness and attitudes toward additional funding for community groups, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
<b>Aware</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Additional funding	59	46	50	56	50	62
<b>Attitude</b>	(n=1,061)	(n=71)	(n=149)	(n=175)	(n=126)	(n=587)
In favour (5/4)	58	60	54	77	72	55
Opposed (2/1)	19	22	16	6	9	20

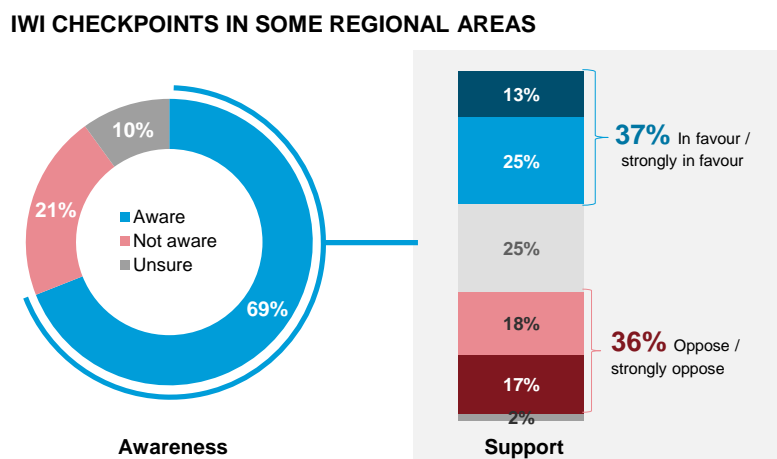
Support was consistent across all age groups, but stronger among females than males (63% cf. 54% among males). Respondents in Auckland (54% in favour) were less positive about the initiative than people in other parts of New Zealand.

#### IWI CHECKPOINTS IN SOME REGIONAL AREAS

During the COVID-19 lockdown, iwi organised community checkpoints in some regional areas in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, with the aim of supporting travel restrictions, protecting at-risk communities and upholding public health controls. The Human Rights Commission received some complaints about these checkpoints.

Awareness of these iwi checkpoints was high, with seven in ten people (69%) aware. Opinion about them was divided.

**Figure 38: Awareness of iwi checkpoints**



Base: a) All respondents (n=1,904), b) All aware (n=1,203)  
 Q25. Now some questions about activities and/or news stories you may have heard of during the COVID-19 outbreak.  
 a) Did you see, hear or read about any of the following? b) How do you personally feel about this?

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Awareness was greatest among New Zealand Europeans (74%).

Tangata Whenua were most strongly in support of the checkpoints (65% in favour). However, views among people of other ethnicities were very mixed. For example, 40% of New Zealand Europeans opposed the checkpoints while 34% were in favour.

**Table 42: Awareness and attitudes by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
<b>Aware</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Iwi checkpoints	69	54	45	71	59	74
<b>Attitude</b>	(n=1,203)	(n=78)	(n=137)	(n=215)	(n=141)	(n=697)
In favour (5/4)	37	29	41	65	50	34
Opposed (2/1)	36	36	23	15	24	40

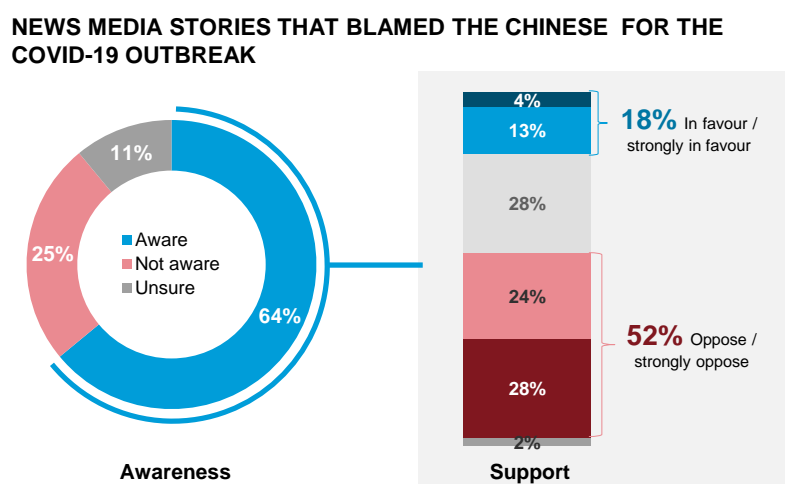
Older people were more likely to be opposed than were younger people (43% opposition among those aged 50 years and over, cf. 28% opposition among those aged 25 to 49 years).



## NEWS MEDIA STORIES BLAMING THE CHINESE FOR THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Just over six in ten respondents were aware of news media stories blaming the Chinese for the COVID-19 outbreak. One in two of those (52%) expressed opposition to Chinese being blamed, while 18% were in favour.

**Figure 39: Awareness of news media stories blaming the Chinese for COVID-19**



Base: a) All respondents (n=1,904), b) All aware (n=1,211)

Q25. Now some questions about activities and/or news stories you may have heard of during the COVID-19 outbreak.

a) Did you see, hear or read about any of the following? b) How do you personally feel about this?

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Awareness was consistent across respondents of all ethnicities. Chinese respondents expressed greatest levels of opposition to the Chinese being blamed in the media (75% opposed, compared with 52% opposition across the total sample).

**Table 43: Awareness and attitudes toward news media stories blaming the Chinese for COVID-19, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
<b>Aware</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Media stories blaming Chinese	64	66	64	67	62	66
<b>Attitude</b>	(n=1,211)	(n=101)	(n=194)	(n=208)	(n=156)	(n=638)
In favour (5/4)	18	8	17	18	20	18
Opposed (2/1)	52	75	46	52	42	52

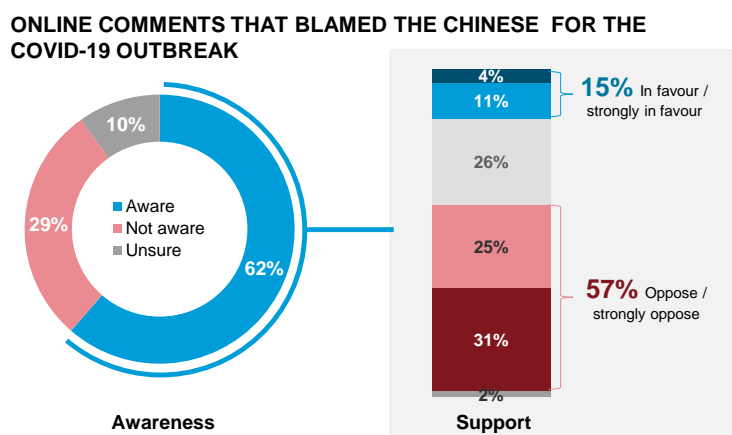
Opposition was also greater than average among young people aged 18 to 24 years (67% opposed).

Awareness was greater among those who have experienced COVID-related discrimination (71% awareness cf. 60% awareness among those who did not). Those who did experience discrimination were slightly more likely to be in favour of news media stories blaming the Chinese than those who did not experience such discrimination (23% and 14% in favour respectively).

### COMMENTS ONLINE BLAMING THE CHINESE FOR THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Awareness of comments online blaming the Chinese for the COVID-19 outbreak was on a par with media stories attributing blame to the Chinese (62% and 64% respectively). Opposition to these comments was slightly stronger than opposition to news media stories, with 57% opposed to seeing the Chinese blamed on social media.

**Figure 40: Awareness of comments online blaming the Chinese for COVID-19**



Base: a) All respondents (n=1,904), b) All aware (n=1,209)  
 Q25. Now some questions about activities and/or news stories you may have heard of during the COVID-19 outbreak.  
 a) Did you see, hear or read about any of the following? b) How do you personally feel about this?

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Awareness of online comments blaming the Chinese was slightly higher among Chinese respondents than respondents of other ethnicities, but not significantly so. As with news media stories, however, they were strongly opposed to seeing Chinese people blamed for COVID-19 on social media (78% opposed). New Zealand born Chinese felt slightly more strongly about this than Chinese people born overseas, but this was not statistically significant (82% and 78% opposed respectively).

**Table 44: Awareness and attitudes toward online comments blaming Chinese, by Ethnicity**

	<b>TOTAL</b> (n= 1,904)	<b>CHINESE</b> (n= 152)	<b>ASIAN</b> (n=306)	<b>TANGATA WHENUA</b> (n=314)	<b>PACIFIC</b> (n=251)	<b>NZ EUROPEAN</b> (n=988)
<b>Aware</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Online comments blaming Chinese	62	69	66	67	66	60
<b>Attitude</b>	(n= 1,209)	(n=107 )	(n= 202)	(n=207 )	(n= 166)	(n=613 )
In favour (5/4)	12	4	17	18	13	14
Opposed (2/1)	57	78	51	51	50	59

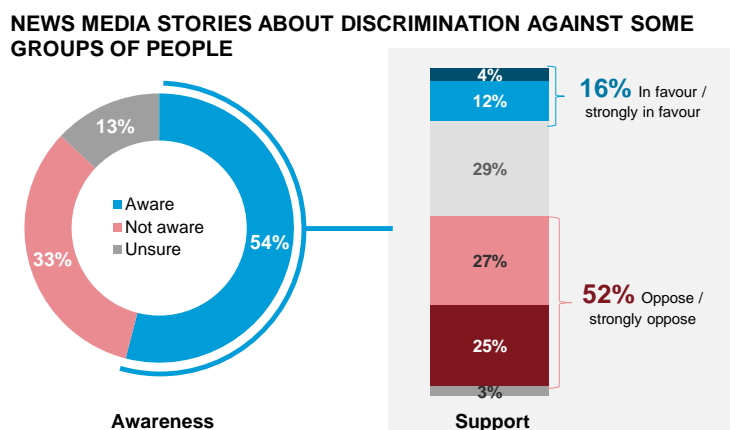
Young people aged under 25 years were also strongly opposed (74%).

As with media stories blaming the Chinese, awareness was greater among those who have experienced COVID-related discrimination (70% awareness cf. 56% awareness among those who did not). Those who did experience discrimination were slightly more likely to be accepting of such blaming than those who did not experience such discrimination (20% and 10% in favour respectively).

## NEWS MEDIA STORIES ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SOME GROUPS

Just over one in two respondents (54%) said they were aware of news media stories about discrimination against some groups of people during COVID-19. Generally, respondents were opposed to the thought of discrimination against groups of people on this basis (52% opposed cf. 16% in favour).

**Figure 41: Awareness of news media stories about discrimination against some groups**



Base: a) All respondents (n=1,904), b) All aware (n=1,055)  
 Q25. Now some questions about activities and/or news stories you may have heard of during the COVID-19 outbreak.  
 a) Did you see, hear or read about any of the following? b) How do you personally feel about this?

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Awareness was again greatest among respondents of Chinese ethnicity (65% aware cf. 54% across the total sample), followed by Asian (60%) and Tangata Whenua (59%) respondents. And they were most strongly opposed (63% opposed) to the idea of different groups being discriminated against.

**Table 45: Awareness and attitudes by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
<b>Aware</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
News media about discrimination of groups	54	65	60	59	50	52
<b>Attitude</b>	(n=1,055)	(n=103)	(n=186)	(n=185)	(n=127)	(n=524)
In favour (5/4)	16	13	14	23	12	16
Opposed (2/1)	52	63	52	47	60	50

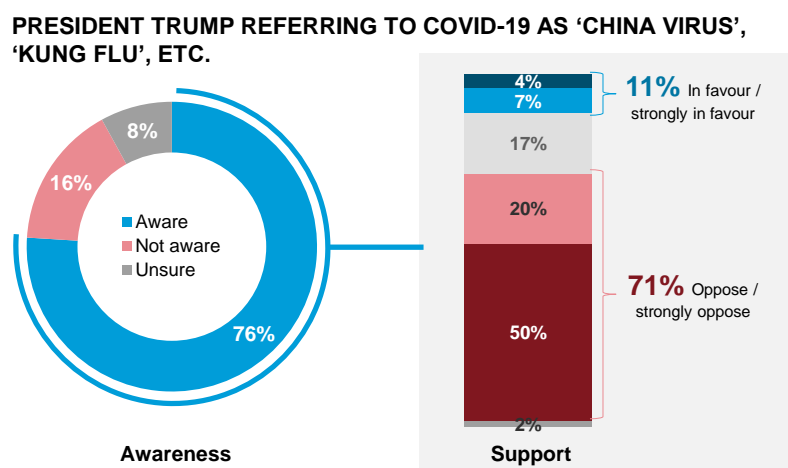
Older people were more strongly opposed to this than were younger people (with 61% of people aged 50 years or more opposed but only 45% of people aged under 34 years saying they were opposed).

Awareness was greater among those who have experienced COVID-related discrimination (61% awareness cf. 49% awareness among those who did not). Those who did experience discrimination were slightly more likely to be accepting of such discrimination stories than those who did not experience such discrimination (24% and 10% in favour respectively).

## FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP'S RACIST REMARKS

Awareness of Former President Trump's racist remarks about COVID-19 as 'China Virus' and Kung flu' was high, with 76% having heard of these. There was little support for such remarks (11% in favour and 71% opposed).

**Figure 42: Awareness of Former President Trump's comments re COVID-19**



Base: a) All respondents (n=1,904), b) All aware (n=1,416)

Q25. Now some questions about activities and/or news stories you may have heard of during the COVID-19 outbreak.

a) Did you see, hear or read about any of the following? b) How do you personally feel about this?

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Chinese respondents had very high awareness of Former President Trump's remarks, with 84% aware, and they had the strongest level of opposition to such references (77% opposed). New Zealand born Chinese reported the highest level of opposition (85%).

**Table 46: Awareness and attitudes toward Former President Trump's comments, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
<b>Aware</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Trump's comments	76	84	74	71	67	77
<b>Attitude</b>	(n=1,416)	(n=127)	(n=228)	(n=212)	(n=167)	(n=750)
In favour (5/4)	11	5	10	12	9	11
Opposed (2/1)	71	77	63	71	68	72

Gender differences were again apparent: while 75% of females were opposed to such comments, only 66% of males were opposed. Those directly impacted by COVID (job loss or loss of work hours)

were also less negative toward Former President Trump's remarks, with 64% expressing opposition and 15% in favour.

There were no differences in awareness levels by whether or not people have suffered COVID-related discrimination.

# AWARENESS OF ANTI-RACISM CAMPAIGNS AND SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE

## INTRODUCTION

This section discusses awareness of the Human Rights Commission's two anti-racism campaigns, 'Voice of Racism' and 'Racism is No Joke' (with the latter being co-developed with the Office of Ethnic Communities).

The 'Racism is No Joke' campaign aims to reduce online racism directed toward people of Chinese and other Asian descent in the context of COVID-19. This section focuses more on this campaign, as it is more directly relevant to COVID-19 and because a separate evaluation survey (outside the scope of this research) is in place for the 'Voice of Racism' campaign.

## KEY FINDINGS

While there was some recall of the Voice of Racism campaign at an unprompted level, it was relatively low.

When prompted with the visual image of Filipino New Zealand comedian James Roque, nearly one in five in total (18%) recalled the 'Racism is No Joke' campaign.

Tangata Whenua and Asian respondents had higher levels of recall of 'Racism is No Joke' than did respondents of other ethnicities. Recall was greater than average among people who said they have experienced discrimination pre-COVID and during COVID-19.

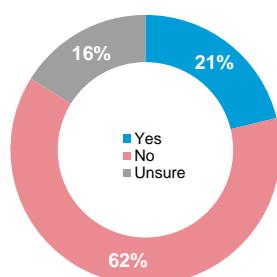
## AWARENESS OF THE CAMPAIGN AIMING TO REDUCE ONLINE RACISM

One in five (21%) of those who responded to the survey recalled seeing, hearing or reading about a campaign aiming to reduce online racism in connection with COVID-19. Note however, as discussed below, recall related to many other events across the globe beyond the Human Rights Commission's campaigns.



**Figure 43: Whether aware of campaign to reduce online racism**

WHETHER RECALL HEARING, READING ABOUT OR SEEING A CAMPAIGN THAT AIMS TO REDUCE ONLINE RACISM IN CONNECTION WITH COVID-19?



Base: All respondents (n=1,904)

Q26. Since mid-July 2020, do you recall hearing, reading about or seeing a campaign that aims to reduce online racism in connection with COVID-19?

### SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Unprompted awareness of anti-racism campaigns was higher among Tangata Whenua respondents (28% recall).

**Table 47: Awareness of campaign aiming to reduce online racism, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Saw campaign / media stories to reduce online racism	21	27	23	28	24	21

Unprompted awareness of campaigns was higher among younger age groups, with highest awareness among the 25 to 34 age group (31%). Given their greater frequency of use of social media tools (see Table 48), higher levels of awareness are to be expected among those aged under 50 years.

**Table 48: Awareness of campaign aiming to reduce online racism, by Age**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	18-24 (n=345)	25-34 (n=419)	35-49 (n=543)	50-64 (n=354)	65+ (n=243)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Saw racism campaign / media stories	21	26	31	27	13	13

Other demographic differences in recall levels were apparent.

- Higher recall among those who experienced racism pre-COVID (31%) and/or during COVID-19 (32%) cf. 15% among those who did not experience any racism during COVID-19. Recall was highest among the group who experienced racism that they considered was due to COVID (41% mention).
- Higher recall among heavy social media users (28% among those using three or more forms at least once a day cf. 16% among light social media users).
- Higher recall among respondents on higher household incomes, peaking at 31% among those on household incomes of \$120,000 or more, and lowest among those on incomes below \$60,000 (17%). This is possibly due to more limited access to online media among those on more limited incomes, as there was 26% recall among those in paid employment but 17% awareness among those without paid employment.
- Higher recall among disabled respondents than among non-disabled (28% cf. 20%).
- Higher recall among those living in a main urban centre than those who live in a rural location (25% cf. 15%).

## WHAT PEOPLE RECALLED

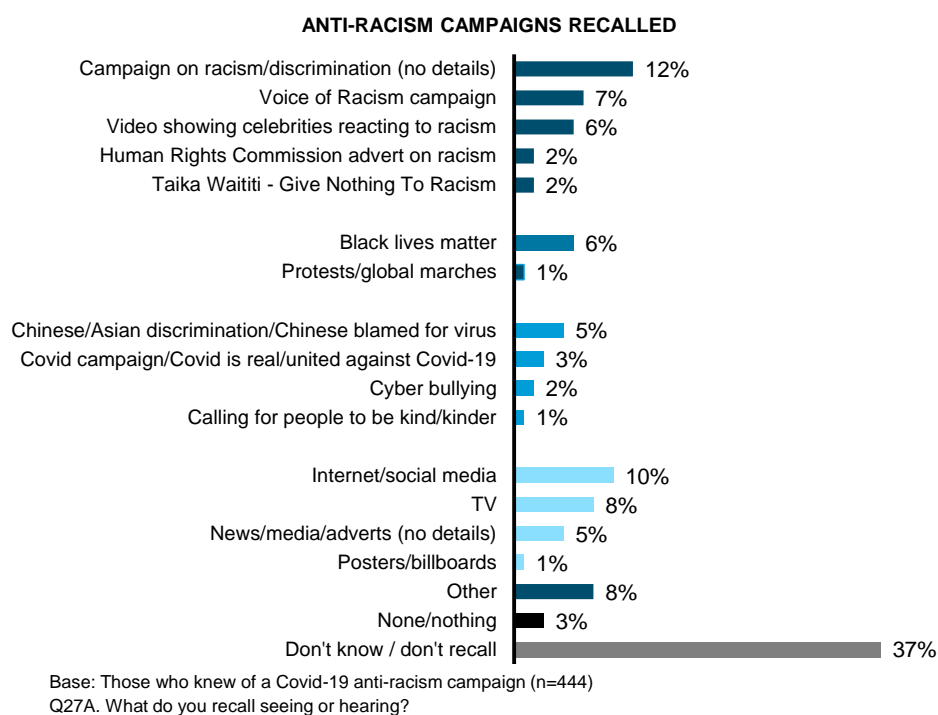
Those who recalled seeing, hearing or reading about the online racism campaign were asked what they recalled. People mentioned a wide range of topics and news media stories that went well beyond the Human Rights Commission's 'Voice of Racism' and 'Racism is No Joke' campaigns. Specific campaigns and stories recalled included:

- The 'Voice of Racism' campaign, including mention of videos recounting celebrities' experiences and talking about how they respond to racism.
- Black Lives Matter movement and global protests: (note: Black Lives Matter marches were held in Auckland and Wellington on 14 June after initial protests in the USA in Minneapolis on 26 May, following the death of George Floyd in police custody, peaking across the country on 6 June).
- Mention of people of Chinese and Asian ethnicities being blamed for COVID-19 (5%). Recall of Chinese related stories was greater among heavy social media users than others (9% of heavy media users recalling such stories).
- Mention of a campaign to unite people against COVID-19.

Some comment was made about the channels on which the campaign appeared, with 10% mention of the internet and social media.

One in three people could not recall any specific details, other than thinking they had read things online on Facebook and other social media.

**Figure 44: What was recalled about online racism campaign**

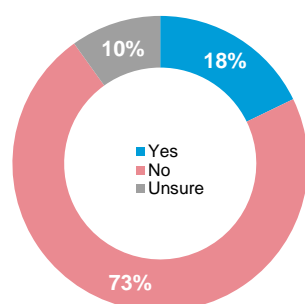


## PROMPTED AWARENESS OF THE 'RACISM IS NO JOKE' CAMPAIGN

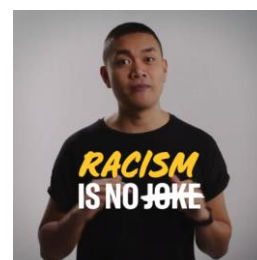
Respondents were shown a visual image from the 'Racism is No Joke' campaign showing New Zealand comedian James Roque and asked if they recalled seeing the campaign. Just fewer than one in five people (18%) said they have.

**Figure 45: Whether aware of the 'Racism is No Joke' campaign**

### WHETHER RECALL SEEING THE 'RACISM IS NO JOKE' CAMPAIGN



Base: All respondents (n=1,838)  
Q27B. Since mid-July 2020 have you seen this campaign 'Racism is no joke', featuring Kiwi comedian James Roque?



(Note: base for this question is n=1,838 as questionnaire routing logic was updated after initial survey launch).

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Prompted awareness of the 'Racism is No Joke' campaign was highest among Māori, with nearly one in four (24%) saying they recalled it, and also higher among Asian people than among the total (22% among Asian people).

**Table 49: Awareness of 'Racism is No Joke' campaign, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,838)	CHINESE (n=144)	ASIAN (n=293)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=308)	PACIFIC (n=249)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=952)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Saw 'Racism is No Joke' campaign	18	18	22	24	21	17

Again, unprompted awareness was higher among younger age groups, with highest awareness among the 25 to 34 age group (28%) and well below average among those aged 50 years plus. It was lowest among those aged 50 and above.

**Table 50: Awareness of 'Racism is No Joke' campaign, by Age**

	TOTAL (n=1,838)	18-24 (n=342)	25-34 (n=408)	35-49 (n=520)	50-64 (n=3387)	65+ (n=230)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Saw 'Racism is No Joke' campaign	18	20	28	20	12	11

Other demographic differences in recall levels were apparent.

- Higher recall among those who experienced racism pre-COVID (24%) and/or during COVID-19 (27%) cf. 12% among those who did not experience any racism during the outbreak. Recall was highest among the group who experienced racism that they considered was due to COVID (33%).
- Higher recall among heavy social media users (26% among those using three or more forms at least once a day cf. 14% among light social media users).
- Higher recall among disabled respondents than among non-disabled (24% cf. 16%).
- Higher recall among those living in Auckland (20%) or a main urban centre than those who live in a rural location (20% cf. 15%).
- Higher recall among people with a tertiary qualification than those without (22% recall) and also among those on higher household incomes, peaking at 29% among those on household incomes between \$120,001 and \$140,000.
- Higher recall among males than females (20% cf. 16%).

## SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE

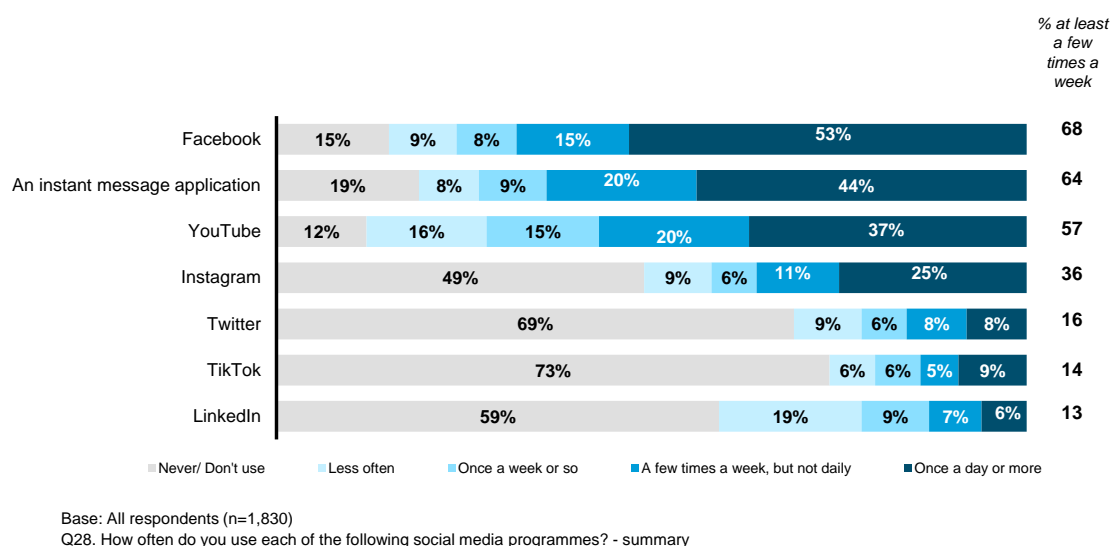
Questions were included to understand the relative frequency of use of seven different social media channels and profile their frequency of use among key sub groups.

**Facebook** and **message applications** were the most widely used social media channels. Over half the sample used Facebook daily or more often (53%) and nearly seven in ten (68%) used it a few times a week or more often. Just under half (44%) used a message application daily, with 64% using one a few times a week or more often.

**YouTube** was the third most widely and most frequently used option, with half (57%) using it at least a few times a week.

**Instagram** was reasonably widely used, with one in three (36%) using it a few times a week or more often.

**Figure 46: Use of social media**



(Note: base for this question is n=1,830 as questionnaire routing logic was updated after initial survey launch).

The majority of the sample said they use at least two different types of social media programmes at least once a day.

**Table 51: Frequency of social media usage**

	TOTAL (n=1,830)
	%
Heavy usage: at least three types once a day or more	39
Medium: one or two types at least once a day	41
Light: less frequent than the above	18
Not at all: no social media usage	2

## SUB GROUP DIFFERENCES

Asian respondents were the most frequent users of the four most popular social media tools, while New Zealand Europeans were the least frequent users (noting the New Zealand European population was an older one overall).

Note: the profile of Asian and Pacific respondents who are on online survey panels is likely to be weighted toward younger, more highly educated people, who are higher social media users.

**Table 52: At least daily usage for key social media tools, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,830)	CHINESE (n=142)	ASIAN (n=292)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=306)	PACIFIC (n=249)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=949)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Facebook	53	50	67	57	52	50
Instant message application	44	62	67	51	49	38
YouTube	37	61	62	43	48	31
Instagram	25	29	43	29	32	23

Age-related differences are also apparent with the 25 to 34 age group being the most frequent users of the main social media tools. Facebook use was most frequent among those aged 25 to 49 years.

**Table 53: At least daily usage for key social media tools, by Age**

	TOTAL (n=1,830)	18-24 (n=342)	25-34 (n=408)	35-49 (n=514)	50-64 (n=337)	65+ (n=229)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Facebook	53	48	59	58	51	44
Instant message application	44	58	62	50	35	19
YouTube	37	63	54	45	26	11
Instagram	25	60	46	24	10	4

Females were more frequent users than males of socially oriented media, like Facebook and message applications, while males were more frequent users than females of YouTube, Twitter and LinkedIn.

# | SURVEY FEEDBACK

Respondents were offered the opportunity to provide any feedback about the topic at the end of the survey.

Responses indicate that people enjoyed completing the questionnaire and highlight the value they attached to the topic and issues raised, as the verbatim comments below attest.

*"The questions were appropriate, direct and easy to understand."* Male, 40-44, New Zealand European

*"I appreciate the survey as the topic is important. This helps to raise awareness around discrimination in Aotearoa."* Female, 20-29 years, New Zealand European

*"Thank you, this survey is absolutely needed to air out a historic issue that's always swept under the carpet."* Female, 40-49 years, Māori

*"We need to see cumulative results of surveys like this published to see how we can tackle people's discrimination against people who are different in any way at all."* Female, 65-69 years, New Zealand European

*"Great survey about discrimination, definitely allows people who experience it spread their word in regards to their situations."* Female, 20-24 years, Māori

*"This is a good survey asking people especially migrants regarding racism. Thank you for making us feel less unwanted here."* Male, 30-34 years, Filipino





# APPENDICES:

- SAMPLE PROFILE
- DETAILED TABLES
- QUESTIONNAIRE

# APPENDIX I: SAMPLE PROFILE

The tables below show details of the sample achieved both the unweighted data and weighted data counts.

**Table 18: Sample profile tables**

<b>GENDER</b>	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Male	851	929	49
Female	1,048	969	51
Another gender	5	6	0*

<b>AGE</b>	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
18-24	345	232	12
25-34	419	325	17
35-49	543	523	27
50-64	354	454	24
65+	243	370	19

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
New Zealand European	988	1,242	65
Māori	314	256	13
Pacific Peoples	251	122	6
Chinese	152	100	5
Asian (excluding Chinese)	306	184	10

<b>BORN IN AOTEAROA (NON CHINESE)</b>	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Yes	1,163	1,279	71
No	589	525	29

<b>PLACE OF BIRTH (THOSE OF CHINESE ETHNICITY)</b>	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Aotearoa New Zealand	50	29	29
Hong Kong	24	17	17
Mainland China	42	29	229
Malaysia	18	13	13
Taiwan	6	4	4
Other country in Asia	10	7	7
Elsewhere/prefer not to say	2	2	1

<b>TIME IN NZ- THOSE BORN OVERSEAS</b>	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
A year or less	49	39	7
About two or three years	68	52	10
Four to five year	60	46	9
Six to nine year	59	42	8
Ten or more years	353	347	66

REGION	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Auckland	829	634	33
Upper North Island (excluding Auckland)	344	394	21
Lower North Island	362	418	22
South Island	327	401	21

URBANISATION	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
A major centre	1,195	1,078	57
A provincial city	323	356	19
A provincial centre	216	283	15
A rural area	170	188	10

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Less than \$40,000	390	429	23
\$40,001- \$60,000	286	293	15
\$60,001- \$80,000	246	245	13
\$80,001- \$100,000	231	220	12
\$100,001- \$120,000	186	192	10
\$120,001- \$140,000	104	92	5
More than \$140,000	161	151	8
Not working/ no personal income	41	27	1

EMPLOYED IN AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Yes	398	376	34
No	748	733	66

REDUCTION IN WORK HOURS RELATED TO COVID-19	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Yes	369	348	27
No	750	739	57
Not applicable	181	182	14
Prefer not to say	49	36	3

HAVE A DISABILITY	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Yes	387	409	21
No	1,517	1,495	79

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Couple without children	437	505	27
Couple with child(ren)	545	492	26
One parent with child(ren)	132	119	6
Two or more adult household	277	270	14
One person household	238	287	15
Other multi-person household	151	129	7
Other	56	51	3

Prefer not to say	68	50	3
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HIGHEST QUALIFICATION	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
No qualification	150	169	9
NCEA level 1 or School Certificate	115	137	7
NCEA level 2 or Sixth Form Certificate	172	179	9
NCEA level 3 or University Entrance bursary or scholarship	207	179	9
Level 4, 5 or 6 - a trade or polytechnic qualification	324	368	19
A bachelor's degree	515	463	24
Postgraduate degree / diploma / certificate or higher (e.g. Masters, Doctorate)	327	314	17
Other	39	50	3
Prefer not to say	55	44	2

OCCUPATION	UNWEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED COUNT	WEIGHTED %
Student (Secondary or tertiary)	184	126	7
Home duties (not otherwise in paid employment)	142	129	7
Beneficiary / Unemployed	203	197	10
Retired / Superannuitant	229	344	18
Clerical, administration worker	148	146	8
Sales worker	96	89	5
Technical or trade worker	116	113	6
Business proprietor or self-employed	67	74	4
Manager or executive	139	136	7
Professional or government official	164	145	8
Teacher / Nurse / Police or other trained service worker	111	107	6
Labourer, Manual, Agricultural or Domestic worker	106	118	6
Farm owner or manager	7	9	0
Other	102	98	5
Prefer not to say	90	74	4

## APPENDIX II: OTHER TABLES

**Table 49: Summary table: whether discrimination situation related to COVID-19, by Ethnicity**

<i>Note: base for each is the number who experienced that situation (*n&lt;25)</i>	TOTAL	CHINESE	ASIAN	TANGATA WHENUA	PACIFIC	NZ EUROPEAN
<b>COVID-19-related</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Online negative comments targeting people like me (n=373)	38	71	44	39	22	33
Others glared/stared at me on street (n=356)	44	72	51	42	41	39
People avoided me more than others (n=256)	54	81	51	53	52	50
Others verbally abused me on the street (n=247)	46	68	46	29	43	46
Treated unfairly when grocery shopping (n=215)	53	75*	36	49	45	52
Online abuse aimed specifically at me (n=214)	39	56*	36*	38	34	39
Issues with my job (hours, etc.) (n=204)	52	66*	38	52	48	53
Verbally abused me at work (n=195)	39	53*	39	46	31	38
Treated unfairly in the health system (n=177)	45	51*	32	39	52	42
Treated unfairly at education institution (n=170)	45	59*	28	44	41	46
Treated unfairly out exercising (n=167)	49	56*	28	47	33*	53
Treated unfairly in relation to housing (n=163)	45	89*	32	43	50*	46
Treated unfairly by police (n=149)	49	45*	62	46	59	46
Others abused me on public transport (n=143)	48	51*	54	52	39	46
People avoided my business (n=113)	53	100*	27	57	38*	49
Others attacked me physically on the street (n=99)	48	74*	37*	62	22*	42

**Table 54: Summary table: whether discrimination situation related to COVID-19 – as a proportion of total sample, by Ethnicity**

	TOTAL (n=1,904)	CHINESE (n=152)	ASIAN (n=306)	TANGATA WHENUA (n=314)	PACIFIC (n=251)	NZ EUROPEAN (n=988)
Related to COVID-19	%	%	%	%	%	%
Online negative comments targeting people like me	6	23	13	11	5	4
Others glared/stared at me on street	7	17	13	11	9	5
People avoided me more than others	6	16	10	9	8	5
Others verbally abused me on the street	5	11	9	5	7	4
Treated unfairly when grocery shopping	5	9	6	9	7	4
Online abuse aimed specifically at me	4	6	4	7	4	3
Issues with my job (hours, etc.)	5	6	5	6	6	4
Verbally abused me at work	3	5	4	7	3	3
Treated unfairly in the health system	4	4	3	6	7	3
Treated unfairly at education institution	3	4	3	7	5	3
Treated unfairly out exercising	4	3	2	6	3	3
Treated unfairly in relation to housing	3	4	3	8	5	2
Treated unfairly by police	3	2	3	7	5	2
Others abused me on public transport	3	4	5	6	3	2
People avoided my business	3	3	2	6	2	2
Others attacked me physically on the street	2	2	2	5	1	2

# APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRE

## INTRODUCTION

This survey is about your opinions about various issues and experiences living in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2020 before the outbreak of COVID-19 and since then. You may find some questions a bit personal, so please remember that your responses are anonymous and confidential.

*To begin, click on the button below. As you move through the survey, please use the buttons at the bottom of each screen. Do not use your browser buttons.*

*If you would like to view our privacy statement, please [click here](#). If you require help at any time during the survey, or would like to contact us, please click on the email image at the bottom of each screen.*

To begin, we have a few questions to make sure we reach a representative cross-section of people.

Q1	Please select the region/city where you currently live from the following list. [SA]	Code	Route
	Whangarei/ Northland.....	1	
	Auckland/ Rodney.....	2	
	Hamilton/ Waikato.....	3	
	Tauranga/ Bay of Plenty.....	4	
	Rotorua/ Taupo.....	5	
	Gisborne.....	6	
	Napier/ Hastings/ Hawke's Bay.....	7	
	New Plymouth/ Taranaki .....	8	
	Whanganui/ Palmerston North/ Manawatu.....	9	
	Wellington/ Wairarapa .....	10	
	Nelson/ Tasman/ Marlborough .....	11	
	West Coast .....	12	
	Christchurch/ Canterbury .....	13	
	Dunedin/ Otago .....	14	
	Invercargill/ Southland.....	15	
	Outside of Aotearoa New Zealand.....	98	Close



Q2	How do you identify your gender? [SA]	Code	Route
	Male.....	1	
	Female .....	2	
	Another gender (specify) .....	3	
	Prefer not to say .....	7	

Q3	<b>ASK ALL</b> Please select your age from the following list? [SA]	Code	Route
	Below 18 years .....	1	CLOSE
	18 – 19 years .....	2	
	20 - 24 years .....	3	
	25 – 29 years .....	4	
	30 - 34 years .....	5	
	35 - 39 years .....	6	
	40 - 44 years .....	7	
	45 - 49 years .....	8	
	50 – 54 years .....	9	
	55 – 59 years .....	10	
	60 - 64 years .....	11	
	65 – 69 years .....	12	
	70 – 74 years .....	13	
	75 - 79 years .....	14	
	80 plus years.....	15	
	Prefer not to say.....	97	

Q4	<b>ASK ALL</b>	Code	Route
	Which ethnicity or ethnicities do you identify with or belong to? [MA]		
	New Zealand European .....	1	Q5
	Māori .....	2	
	Other European (including Australian) .....	3	
	Cook Island Maoriā .....	4	
	Fijian .....	5	
	Samoa .....	6	
	Niuean .....	7	
	Tongan .....	8	
	Other Pacific people .....	9	
	Chinese .....	10	
	Filipino .....	11	
	Indian .....	12	
	Korean .....	13	
	Japanese .....	14	
	Other Southeast Asia (please specify) .....	15	
	Other South Asia (please specify) .....	16	
	Middle Eastern / Southwest Asian .....	17	
	Latin American .....	18	
	African .....	19	
	Other (please specify) .....	98	
	Prefer not to say .....	97	
Q5	<b>IF CHINESE (R10 AT Q4) ASK</b>	Code	Route
	Where were you born? [SA]		
	Aotearoa New Zealand .....	1	
	Hong Kong .....	2	
	Mainland China .....	3	
	Malaysia .....	4	
	Taiwan .....	5	
	Other country in Asia .....	6	
	Elsewhere outside Asia (Specify) .....	7	
	Prefer not to say .....	9	

These first questions are about you and how comfortable you feel living in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Q6	More people from different countries are moving to Aotearoa New Zealand than ever before. Overall, do you think this makes Aotearoa New Zealand...? [SA]	Code	Route
	A much worse place to live.....	1	
	A worse place .....	2	
	No difference.....	3	
	A better place .....	4	
	A much better place .....	5	
	Don't know .....	9	

- Q7 ROTATE  
People in New Zealand have different lifestyles, cultures and beliefs. They also have different backgrounds, ethnicities, genders, ages, and sexual orientations, etc. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about how you feel living in Aotearoa New Zealand?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Unsure	Does not apply to me
(R1) I feel that I can fully express my identity (e.g. cultural identity) in Aotearoa New Zealand.....	1	2	3	4	5	9	-
(R2) I feel a sense of belonging in Aotearoa New Zealand .....	1	2	3	4	5	9	-
(R3) I feel a sense of belonging in my local area or neighbourhood .....	1	2	3	4	5	9	-
(R4) I make an effort to avoid experiencing discrimination in my everyday life .....	1	2	3	4	5	9	7

Q8	Were you living in Aotearoa New Zealand during 2019 (from July to December)?	Code	Route
	Yes .....	1	
	No .....	2	Q11

These next questions are about discrimination that some people may face in Aotearoa New Zealand. By 'discrimination', we mean being treated unfairly or differently compared with other people, due to your ethnicity/race, gender, age, appearance, sexual orientation, disability, etc.

Q9	<b>ROTATE</b> Thinking back over the period July to December 2019 ( <b>before</b> the COVID-19 outbreak), did you personally experience discrimination in any of the following situations or places in Aotearoa New Zealand? Select all that apply. [MA]	Yes	No
	Applying for, or keeping a job or position .....	1	2

At work, on the job or while working .....	1	2
At home .....	1	2
On the street or in a public place of any kind (e.g. park, library) .....	1	2
While in a shop, restaurant, café, shopping mall, grocery store .....	1	2
Dealing with people involved in health care .....	1	2
At school or other educational place (e.g. university, polytechnic) .....	1	2
Dealing with the police, courts or jails .....	1	2
On public transport, taxi, uber .....	1	2
Negative comments aimed at people like me expressed online/on social media .....	1	2
Comments online (e.g. social media) aimed at me/my family members .....	1	2
Looking for or keeping a flat or housing of any type .....	1	2
While doing sport or recreational activity .....	1	2
Dealing with government agencies .....	1	2
In a bank or other financial organisation .....	1	2
Have not experienced any discrimination .....	1	2
Other (specify) .....	1	2

Q10

**ROTATE**

For what reasons did you feel discriminated against, over that time period from July to December 2019? Select all that apply. [MA]

	Code	Route
My age .....	01	
My sex or gender .....	02	
Being transgender .....	03	
My occupation .....	04	
My appearance / dress / clothing .....	05	
My skin colour, race, ethnicity, or national origin .....	06	
The language I speak and/or my accent .....	07	
My religious beliefs .....	08	
A disability or health issue .....	09	
My marital status .....	10	
My sexual orientation .....	11	
My political position .....	12	
Other (specify) .....	98	
Don't know .....	99	

These next questions are about your experiences of discrimination in Aotearoa New Zealand from early 2020 until now (since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak).

**Q11 ROTATE**

From early 2020 until now (since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak), do you feel that you have been **personally discriminated** against due to your ethnicity/race, gender, age, appearance, sexual orientation, disability, etc. in any of the following ways in Aotearoa New Zealand? Or in any other way? *Note: By discrimination we mean being treated unfairly or differently compared with other people.*

	Yes	No	Unsure	Not applicable
(R1) Others made negative comments, yelled out and/or verbally abused me on the street or in a public place .....	1	2	9	7
(R2) Others stared or glared at me while on the street or out in public .....	1	2	9	7
(R3) Others attacked me physically while on the street or out in public .....	1	2	9	7
(R4) People avoided me more than they avoided others – keeping excessive physical distance from me while on the street or out in public .....	1	2	9	7
(R5) Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed specifically at me .....	1	2	9	7
(R6) Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc. ....	1	2	9	7
(R7) Others made negative comments and/or verbally abused me at my work .....	1	2	9	7
(R8) I had issues with my job (e.g. felt I was targeted for reduced hours or redundancy/layoff) .....	1	2	9	7
(R9) I was treated unfairly or differently from others when out shopping for groceries .....	1	2	9	7
(R10) Others made negative comments and/or verbally abused me on public transport, taxi, uber, etc. ....	1	2	9	7
(R11) I was treated unfairly or differently while out exercising or doing activity .....	1	2	9	7
(R12) I was treated unfairly or differently while looking for housing/staying on in housing .....	1	2	9	7
(R13) I was treated unfairly or differently at school or a tertiary education institution (polytechnic, university, etc.) .....	1	2	9	7
(R14) People avoided my business or cancelled bookings .....	1	2	9	7
(R15) I was treated unfairly or differently in the health system (e.g. by medical practice, nurse, doctor, hospital, etc.) .....	1	2	9	7
(R16) I was treated unfairly or differently by police .....	1	2	9	7
(R17) Any other (please provide details) .....	1	2	9	7

If you would like to comment further about your answers, please write this here.

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**Q12 ROTATE – FOR EACH ONE MENTIONED IN Q11 ASK Q12a and Q12b in turn**

a) Did you think that this experience happened to you **because of discrimination relating to the COVID-19 outbreak?**

b) How often did it happen to you (since the start of the COVID outbreak until now)?

	Q12 a			Q12 b				Unsure
	Yes	No	Unsure	Once only	Rarely	Some times	Often	
(R1) Others made negative comments, yelled out and/or verbally abused me on the street or in a public place .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R2) Others stared or glared at me while on the street or out in public .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R3) Others attacked me physically while on the street or out in public .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R4) People avoided me more than they avoided others – keeping excessive physical distance from me while on the street or out in public .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R5) Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed specifically at me .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R6) Online negative comments, jokes, pictures or abuse aimed at people of my ethnic group, age, etc.) .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R7) Others made negative comments and/or verbally abused me at my work .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R8) I had issues with my job (e.g. felt I was targeted for reduced hours or redundancy/layoff) .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R9) I was treated unfairly or differently from others when out shopping for groceries .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R10) Others made negative comments and/or verbally abused me on public transport, taxi, uber, etc. ....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R11) I was treated unfairly or differently while out exercising or doing activity .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R12) I was treated unfairly or differently looking for housing/staying on in housing...	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9

(R13) I was treated unfairly or differently at school or a tertiary education institution (polytechnic, university, etc.) ..	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R14) People avoided my business or cancelled bookings.....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R15) I was treated unfairly or differently in the health system (e.g. by medical practice, nurse, doctor, hospital, etc.) .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9
(R16) I was treated unfairly or differently by police .....								
(R17) Other (as specified in Q11) .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	9

If you would like to comment further about your answers, please write this here.

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Q13	<b>IF EXPERIENCED ANY DISCRIMINATION IN Q11 ASK ROTATE</b> Thinking about all the experiences you mentioned above, how did you generally respond when you were being discriminated against during COVID-19? Please select <b>all</b> that apply [MA]	Yes	Route
	(R1) I ignored it / did nothing at the time .....	01	
	(R2) I wanted to confront it at the time but didn't .....	02	
	(R3) I tried to reason with them at the time .....	03	
	(R4) I used humour/ made a joke at the time .....	04	
	(R5) I said something / answered back at the time .....	05	
	(R6) I talked to a friend/family member .....	06	
	(R7) Others who were there helped me or stood up to the person for me .....	07	
	(R8) I talked about it/shared it with others on social media (e.g. on WeChat, Facebook) .....	08	
	(R9) I reported it to my local embassy .....	09	
	(R10) I reported it to the Human Rights Commission .....	10	
	(R11) I reported it to police .....	11	
	(R12) I made a complaint .....	12	
	(R13) I sought professional help (e.g. counsellor, doctor) .....	13	
	(R14) I changed the way I behaved/ avoided contact next time .....	14	
	(R15) I changed the way I looked/ my appearance next time .....	15	
	(R16) I stayed at home. Didn't go out / didn't go out as much .....	16	



(R17) Other (specify) .....	98	
(R18) Don't know / hard to say .....	99	

**IF EXPERIENCED ANY DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCES IN Q11 (Yes to any of R1 to R17), ASK**

Q13b		Code	Route
Have you experienced more discrimination or less discrimination since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak? [SA]			
<b>Experienced less</b> discrimination than before the COVID outbreak.....	1		
<b>Experienced about the same amount of</b> discrimination as before the COVID outbreak .....	2		
<b>Experienced more</b> discrimination than before the COVID outbreak .....	3		
I have been going out less – so it's hard to say .....	4		
Unsure .....	9		

Q14

**ROTATE – DO NOT SHOW R1 and R2 CONSECUTIVELY AND DO NOT SHOW R3 and R4 CONSECUTIVELY**

a) From early 2020 until now (since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak), which of the following did you personally do in Aotearoa New Zealand **because of COVID-19?** [one answer for each]

b) **PROGRAMMER: FOR EACH ONE TICKED ANSWER B BEFORE SHOWING NEXT ONE IN**

**Q14A LIST:** Did you do this **because of any concern about discrimination?**

	Q14a			Q14b			
	Yes	No	Unsure	Yes	Some-what	No	Unsure
(R1) I wore a face mask out in public.....	1	2	9	1	2	3	9
(R2) I <b>chose not</b> to wear a face mask out in public (so I wouldn't look different from other people) .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	9
(R3) I reduced my outings and social activities (once lockdown was over) .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	9
(R4) I <b>chose</b> to stay at home and hardly went out at all .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	9
(R5) I stayed away from people of other ethnic groups more than I stayed away from with people from my ethnic group.....	1	2	9	1	2	3	9
(R6) I made more of an effort to be friendly towards people of certain ethnic groups (e.g. to show support/solidarity) .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	9
(R7) When out in public places, I deliberately moved further away/kept my distance from other people more than I did before COVID .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	9
(R8) Other action or behaviour (specify) .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	9

**IF HAD NO FIRST HAND DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCES IN Q11, GO TO Q18**

<b>ASK IF EXPERIENCED ANY DISCRIMINATION FIRST HAND IN Q11 (R1-R17)</b>		Code	Route
Q15	Thinking about all your experiences of discrimination in Aotearoa New Zealand during COVID-19 (from early 2020 until now), what do you feel the overall impact of these experiences has been on <b>your mental wellbeing</b> ? [SA]		
	My discrimination experiences had a major negative impact on my mental wellbeing .....	1	
	My discrimination experiences had a minor negative impact on my mental wellbeing .....	2	
	My discrimination experiences did not affect my mental wellbeing .....	3	
	My discrimination experiences and/or the way people responded had a minor positive impact on my mental wellbeing .....	4	
	My discrimination experiences and/or the way people responded had a major positive impact on my mental wellbeing .....	5	
	Unsure .....	9	

		Code	Route
Q16	Thinking about all your experiences of discrimination during the COVID-19 outbreak (from early 2020 until now), what do you feel the overall impact of these experiences has been on <b>your sense of belonging in Aotearoa New Zealand?</b> [SA]		
	My discrimination experiences had a major negative impact on my sense of belonging .....	1	
	My discrimination experiences had a minor negative impact on my sense of belonging .....	2	
	My discrimination experiences did not affect my sense of belonging .....	3	
	My discrimination experiences and/or the way people responded had a minor positive impact on my sense of belonging .....	4	
	My discrimination experiences and/or the way people responded had a major positive impact on my sense of belonging .....	5	
	Unsure .....	9	

Q17 **ASK ONLY IF Q12A = YES (DID EXPERIENCE DISCRIMINATION DUE TO COVID)**  
 What, if anything, did you do to help support yourself and other people, or what do you feel would help to support you and other people in relation to discrimination due to the COVID-19 outbreak?

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Q18

**ASK ALL**

Since the COVID-19 outbreak started (from early 2020 until now), have other people you know, such as family and/or friends (and not including media reports about people you don't know) been discriminated against in New Zealand **due to COVID**? By '**discrimination**', we mean *being treated unfairly or differently due to one's ethnicity/race, gender, age, appearance, sexual orientation, disability, etc.*

Yes.....

No .....

Unsure .....

Code	
1	Q19
2	<b>Q20</b>
9	<b>Q20</b>

Q19

In what specific situations have you seen or heard about family and/or friends being discriminated against in New Zealand **due to COVID**?

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**ASK ALL**

Q20

Compared with before the COVID-19 outbreak would you say you are: [SA]

**Much less** concerned about the level of discrimination there is in Aotearoa New Zealand.....

**Somewhat less** concerned about the level of discrimination there is in Aotearoa New Zealand .....

About the same level of concern .....

**Somewhat more** concerned about the level of discrimination there is in Aotearoa New Zealand .....

**Much more** concerned about the level of discrimination there is in Aotearoa New Zealand .....

Unsure .....

Code	Route
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
9	

Q21

Do you think that the COVID-19 outbreak will cause more or less discrimination in Aotearoa New Zealand over the next six months?  
[SA]

Much less discrimination.....

Somewhat less.....

About the same .....

Somewhat more .....

Much more discrimination .....

Unsure .....

Code	Route
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
9	

Q22 **ROTATE**

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Unsure
(R1) I have felt self-conscious in public because I've been worried about how others may think of me due to the COVID-19 outbreak.....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R2) I am concerned that the responses of some governments to the COVID-19 outbreak (e.g. blaming China, calling it the 'China virus' or the 'Wuhan virus') will make life more difficult for Chinese people and the Asian community.....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R3) I am concerned about my safety because of how particular groups of people have been blamed for the COVID-19 outbreak.....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R4) I am worried about how people will treat my children or other family members because of the COVID-19 outbreak .....	1	2	3	4	5	9

Q23 **ROTATE – ASK ALL**

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak (from early 2020 until now), how have your attitudes changed towards the following people, if at all?

	Much more negative	A bit more negative	No change	A bit more positive	A lot more positive	Unsure
(R1) Chinese people in Aotearoa New Zealand.....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R2) Asian people (apart from Chinese) in Aotearoa New Zealand.....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R3) Māori.....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R4) New Zealand Europeans / Pākehā .....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R5) Pacific people in Aotearoa New Zealand.....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R6) People coming home to Aotearoa New Zealand from overseas during the COVID-19 outbreak .....	1	2	3	4	5	9

Q24 **ROTATE**

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the COVID-19 outbreak?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Unsure
(R1) Chinese people in Aotearoa New Zealand are at least partly to blame for the COVID-19 outbreak .....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R2) There has been more discrimination against certain ethnic groups in Aotearoa New Zealand during the COVID-19 outbreak (from early 2020 until now) than there was before it .....	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R3) I have personally experienced more discrimination during the COVID-19 outbreak than I did before it .....	1	2	3	4	5	9

Q25 **ROTATE**

Now some questions about activities and/or news stories you may have heard of during the COVID-19 outbreak.

a) Did you see, hear or read about any of the following? {One answer for each}

b) [IF YES] How do you personally feel about this?

	Q25a			Q25b					
	Yes	No	Unsure	Strongly opposed	Opposed	Neutral / no opinion	In favour	Strongly in favour	Don't know
(R1) Māori iwi organised community checkpoints in some regional areas during lockdown in response to the COVID-19 outbreak .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R2) The government announced additional funding to help some groups (e.g. Māori, Pacific, older people, those with disabilities or with significant health issues, migrant communities and rurally isolated people) to support their communities during the COVID-19 outbreak .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R3) Comments online that blamed the Chinese for the COVID-19 outbreak .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R4) News media stories that blamed the Chinese for the COVID-19 outbreak .....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	5	9
(R5) News media stories about how some groups of people	1	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-

are being discriminated against due to the COVID-19 outbreak .....									
(R6) President Trump referring to COVID-19 as 'China virus', 'Kung Flu', etc. ....	1	2	9	1	2	3	4	5	9

Q26

**ASK ALL**

Since mid-July 2020, do you recall hearing, reading about or seeing a campaign that aims to reduce online racism in connection with COVID-19?

Yes .....

No .....

Unsure .....

Code	Route
1	Q27a
2	Q27b
9	Q27b

Q27a

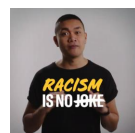
What do you recall seeing or hearing?

.....

.....

Don't recall.....

Q27b



Since mid-July 2020 have you seen this campaign 'Racism is no joke', featuring Kiwi comedian James Roque?

Yes .....

No .....

Unsure .....

Code	Route
1	
2	
9	

**PROFILE (Heading not shown to respondents)**

Finally, just a few more questions about you.

Q28 How often do you use each of the following social media programmes? **Rotate order**

	Once a day or more	A few times a week, but not daily	Once a week or so	Less often	Never/ Don't use
(R1) Facebook .....	1	2	3	4	5
(R2) Instagram .....	1	2	3	4	5
(R3) An instant message application (e.g. Whatsapp, Facebook Messenger, WeChat) .....	1	2	3	4	5
(R4) Twitter .....	1	2	3	4	5
(R5) TikTok .....	1	2	3	4	5

(R6) YouTube .....	1	2	3	4	5
(R7) LinkedIn.....	1	2	3	4	5

Q29 Do you have any difficulty doing any of the following activities because of a health problem?

**Rotate**

	No difficulty	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Cannot do at all
(R1) Seeing, even if wearing glasses .....	1	2	3	4
(R2) Hearing, even if using a hearing aid.....	1	2	3	4
(R3) Walking or climbing steps.....	1	2	3	4
(R4) Remembering or concentrating.....	1	2	3	4
(R5) Washing all over or dressing.....	1	2	3	4
Communicating, using your usual language, for example, understanding or being understood by				
(R6) others.....	1	2	3	4

**IF ANSWERED 3 OR 4 TO ANY STATEMENT IN Q29, GO TO Q31**

**IF ANSWERED ONLY NO OR SOME DIFFICULTY TO EACH STATEMENT, ASK**

Q30	Do you think of yourself as disabled or having a disability?	Code	Route
	Yes .....	1	
	No .....	2	

Q31	<b>ASK FOR ALL EXCEPT CHINESE (R10 in Q4)</b> Were you born in Aotearoa New Zealand?	Code	Route
	Yes .....	1	
	No .....	2	Q40

Q32	<b>IF NOT BORN IN NZ</b> How many years have you lived in Aotearoa New Zealand?	Code	Route
	A year or less .....	1	
	About two to three years .....	2	
	Four to five years.....	3	
	Six to nine years.....	3	
	Ten or more years .....	4	

Q33	Have you travelled overseas or been overseas during 2020?	Code	Route
	Yes .....	1	
	No .....	2	

Q34	Which one of the below best describes the area where you live?	Code	Route
	A major centre - e.g. Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin.....	1	
	A provincial city - e.g. Napier, Tauranga, Nelson, Timaru.....	2	
	A provincial town -e.g. Whakatane, Masterton, Kaikoura.....	3	
	A rural area .....	4	

	<b>ASK ALL</b>	Code	Route
Q35	Which of these best describes who lives in your household? [SA]		
	Couple without children .....	1	
	Couple with child(ren) .....	2	
	One parent with child(ren) .....	3	
	Two or more adult household .....	4	
	One person household .....	5	
	Other multi-person household .....	6	
	Other .....	8	
	Prefer not to say .....	7	

	<b>ASK ALL</b>	Code	Route
Q36	What is your current occupation? [SA]		
	Student – (Secondary or tertiary).....	1	
	Home duties (not otherwise in paid employment) .....	2	
	Beneficiary / Unemployed.....	3	
	Retired / Superannuitant.....	4	
	Clerical, administration worker .....	5	
	Sales worker .....	6	
	Technical or trade worker .....	7	
	Business proprietor or self-employed .....	8	
	Manager or executive .....	9	
	Professional or government official .....	10	
	Teacher / Nurse / Police or other trained service worker .....	11	
	Labourer, Manual, Agricultural or Domestic worker .....	12	
	Farm owner or manager .....	13	
	Other (please specify) .....	98	
	Prefer not to say .....	97	



Q37	<b>IF IN PAID EMPLOYMENT</b>	Code	Route
	Are you employed in an essential service (e.g. health/hospital worker, supermarket employee, police officer, waste services worker)?		
	Yes .....	1	
	No .....	2	
Q38	<b>ASK ALL</b> Has there been any reduction in your work hours, or have you lost your job as a result of COVID-19?	Code	Route
	Yes .....	1	
	No .....	2	
	Not applicable .....	3	
	Prefer not to say .....	97	
Q39	<b>ASK ALL</b>	Code	Route
	What is the <b>highest</b> qualification you have? [SA]		
	No qualification .....	1	
	NCEA level 1 or School Certificate .....	2	
	NCEA level 2 or Sixth Form Certificate .....	3	
	NCEA level 3 or University Entrance bursary or scholarship .....	4	
	Level 4, 5 or 6 - a trade or polytechnic qualification .....	5	
	A bachelor's degree .....	6	
	Postgraduate degree / diploma / certificate or higher (e.g. Masters, Doctorate) .....	7	
	Other .....	98	
	Prefer not to say .....	97	
Q40	Which income range describes your yearly <b>household</b> income?	Code	Route
	Less than \$40,000 .....	1	
	\$40,001 - \$60,000 .....	2	
	\$60,001 - \$80,000 .....	3	
	\$80,001 - \$100,000 .....	4	
	\$100,001 - \$120,000 .....	5	
	\$120,001 - \$140,000 .....	6	
	Higher than \$140,000 .....	7	
	No working/ no personal income .....	8	
	Prefer not to say .....	99	

Q41 Would you like to make any final comments about the topics in this survey?

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**Thank you for taking part in this survey.**

The aim of this survey is to understand people's honest attitudes and experiences so that we can work towards a more inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand. This survey is not intended to be upsetting or offensive in any way.

If you have experienced discrimination in the last twelve months and would like to make a complaint, you may contact the New Zealand Human Rights Commission in one of the following ways:

www.hrc.co.nz/complaint-form  
 InfoLine: 0800 496 877 (toll free)  
 Fax: 09 377 3593 (Attn: InfoLine)  
 Email: infoline@hrc.co.nz (for general enquiries)  
 TXT: 0210 236 4253  
 Write: PO Box 6751, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141

If you need support, various New Zealand helplines are available here:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/in-crisis/helplines/>

**FOR TOLUNA PANEL ONLY**

**If of Chinese and /or Asian ethnicity (Q4 R10-R17) and experienced any discrimination in Q11, add**

**Are you interested in participating in a separate study about Asian New Zealanders' experiences during COVID-19?**

The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa is conducting a research project, *Making Sense of Pandemic: Chinese New Zealanders' engagement with digital images during the national COVID-19 response*, which aims to capture the varied experiences of ethnic Chinese living in New Zealand during the COVID-19 outbreak. The museum is also developing collections related to other Asian New Zealanders' experiences of the pandemic. Note that all participants will receive more information about that project and may choose to have their experiences remain anonymous.

If you would like to find out more about this, please get in touch with:

Dr Grace Gassin, Curator, New Zealand Histories & Cultures (Asian New Zealand communities)  
 Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa  
[mzp@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:mzp@tepapa.govt.nz)

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