

Taking the Pulse in Kaikoura & Hurunui 2018



INTRODUCTION

- This research was carried out by Opinions Market Research on behalf of the All Right? campaign
- Objectives included understanding the issues these communities are facing and how they are perceived as affecting wellbeing, and exploring perceptions of recovery and ideas to improve wellbeing

Research Structure

- 300 phone interviews of people aged 15 and over from Kaikoura and Hurunui (150 from each district) conducted in April 2018.
- The phone interviews consisted mostly of closed questions with a small number of open response questions for insight.

Participant Demographics - Telephone Interviews (April 2018)

Participants in telephone interviews (n=300)	Kaikoura (n=150)	Hurunui (n=150)
In Kaikoura/Hurunui during 2016 earthquake	91%	89%
Gender	50% male, 50% female	
Ethnicity	79% European 15% Maori	88% European 7% Maori
Family situation	58% older with no dependents 29% with dependents 13% younger with no dependents	54% older with no dependents 29% with dependents 17% younger with no dependents
Employment Status	49% in Full-time employment 15% in part time employment 25% retired	43% in Full-time employment 19% in part time employment 22% retired
Location	51% rural 61% in a township	67% rural 50% in a township
Living situation	87% in permanent home 7% in transitional accommodation 5% had to move as result of earthquakes 7% will need to move as result of earthquakes	97% in permanent home 2% in transitional accommodation 1% had to move as result of earthquakes 1% will need to move as result of earthquakes

Section 1: LIFE NOW

For most people, life is the same or better

- Most people in both Kaikoura and Hurunui felt their lives were the same as before the earthquakes and recent floods.
- However, almost a third (31%) of respondents from Kaikoura thought their lives were worse, compared with 15% from Hurunui.
- Interestingly, a greater proportion of Kaikoura residents (27%) said their lives were better after the earthquakes, compared with only 19% of Hurunui respondents

How would you rate life compared to before the earthquakes?

Kaikoura
(n=150)

Hurunui
(n=150)

Worse - 31%
Same - 41%
Better - 27%

Worse - 15%
Same - 66%
Better - 19%

Most respondents are in the same financial position, or better off than prior to the earthquake

- However, a minority group in both Kaikoura (24%) and Hurunui (21%) are worse off financially than prior to the earthquake.

<u>Are you financially better or worse off than before the earthquakes?</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
Better off	27%	18%
The Same	49%	61%
Worse off	24%	21%

- The main financial concern for both Kaikoura and Hurunui residents was that household bills have gone up.
- Over a third of respondents stated that putting wellbeing first has cost them and their family financially, and a slightly smaller proportion reported financial worries often affecting their wellbeing.

<u>Financial Concerns</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
My household bills have gone up	59%	61%
Putting wellbeing first has cost me and my family financially	38%	35%

Financial worries often affect my wellbeing	28%	29%
---	-----	-----

The impact of the earthquake on respondents housing was far reaching

- Most residents in both Kaikoura (77%) and Hurunui (66%) experienced damage to their neighbourhood in the earthquakes.
- Even higher levels of Kaikoura residents (83%) experienced damage to their house.
- However, only a small proportion of respondents (20% in Kaikoura, 11% in Hurunui) indicated their current living conditions get them down
- 80% of all respondents expressed confidence in their own ability to manage the repairs to their property.

<u>Attitudes toward Housing Situation</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
The neighbourhood where I live/was living was damaged by the earthquakes	77%	66%
The house where I live/was living was damaged by the earthquakes	83%	55%
My current living conditions get me down	20%	11%
I am confident in my ability to manage repairs to my house/property	80%	80%

Property ownership and EQC/Insurance Claims

- 74% of respondents in Kaikoura and 75% in Hurunui owned property at the time of the November 2016 earthquake.
- Of those respondents who did own property, nearly double the number of Kaikoura residents (93%) compared to Hurunui (53%) have since had an EQC/Insurance claim, with around sixty percent of those claims now settled.
- Respondents indicated very high levels of satisfaction with their claim settlement.
- However, nearly half of all respondents said the settlement process was exhausting.
- A minority group of residents in both Kaikoura (27%) and Hurunui (18%) felt their unsettled claim was negatively impacting their health, and
- 22% of Kaikoura and 26% of Hurunui residents did not know when their claim would be settled.

<u>Property ownership and subsequent claims</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
Owned property in Kaikoura/Hurunui on 14 November 2016	74%	75
Those who have had a property claim with EQC or an insurance company since then	93%	54%
Claims have been settled	61%	67%
Satisfied with the outcome of the settlement	95%	90%
I feel/felt confident handling the settlement	72%	84%
I trust/ed my insurance company to pay the right amount to repair the property	67%	72%
I ended up just accepting the amount offered	61%	48%
It is/was an exhausting process	54%	46%
I feel/felt my unsettled claim is negatively affecting my health	27%	18%
I don't know when physical repairs to my house/property will be complete	22%	26%

The physical environment is continuing to have a negative impact on day to day living

- Road closures are continuing to impact the people of Kaikoura in particular
- 40% of Respondents in Kaikoura were avoiding leaving the area in case they couldn't get back
- The uncertainty about road closures was a big problem for over half of Kaikoura residents (55%) and 30% of Hurunui residents.

<u>Attitudes toward Road Closures</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
I avoid leaving the area in case I can't get back	41%	N/A
Uncertainty about road closures is a big problem for me	55%	30%

SECTION 2 - Things going well

Respondents had very positive attitudes towards their wellbeing

- In both Kaikoura and Hurunui, respondents indicated positive attitudes towards their own wellbeing and health.
- Overwhelmingly, respondents were more aware of the need to take care of their wellbeing, had hope for the future, and appreciated the small things in life.
- Residents in Kaikoura were more equivocal about the opportunities for the future, and were more likely to have busier lives than prior to the earthquakes.

<u>Attitudes toward wellbeing</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
I am more aware of the need to take care of my own wellbeing	95%	95%
I have hope for my future	93%	93%
I appreciate the small things in life	96%	90%
I value what I have more now	86%	80%
I see lots of opportunities for me	53%	69%
My life is busier than it was before	67%	58%

The earthquakes have caused changes in health and behaviour

- Respondents indicated that the earthquakes had resulted in changes to their health and their behaviours.
- Respondents were more likely to stay closer to home in Kaikoura (46%) than before
- Respondents in Kaikoura reported higher levels of health issues (both personal and of people close to them) than in Hurunui.
- Smaller increases in negative health behaviours (smoking and drinking) were reported in Hurunui than Kaikoura
- Nearly all respondents were more aware of the importance of preparedness.

<u>Changes in health and behaviour</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
People I am close to have health issues	50%	40%
I stay nearer to home than before	46%	27%
I have more health issues	29%	15%
I drink more alcohol than I did before	21%	9%
I smoke more than I did before	11%	4%
I am more aware that it is important to be prepared for another disaster	97%	93%

Many people are finding ways to recharge their batteries in their own communities

- For most people, connecting with nature was their preferred way to recharge their batteries
- 43% of respondents in Kaikoura and 48% in Hurunui reported recharging their batteries in the previous month by spending time outdoors - walking, playing sport, with animals or through exercise.
- Connecting with others was the next most stated activity.
- Kaikoura respondents were more likely to have recharged their batteries by getting out of town on a holiday or trip.

<u>Top Five ways people recharge their batteries</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
Time outdoors with nature, sport, animals exercise	43%	48%
Connecting with others (friends/family)	35%	23%
Hobbies (crafts, reading, playing games)	15%	22%
Going on holiday or getting out of town	18%	15%
Other things	13%	8%

Attitudes towards relationships and connectedness are positive

- Nearly all respondents were more aware of the importance of knowing their neighbours.
- Kaikoura residents were most likely to value others, and spend more time together as a family.

<u>Relationships and Connectedness</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
I am more aware that knowing my neighbour is important	93%	91%
I value others now	91%	77%
We spend more time together as a family	50%	38%

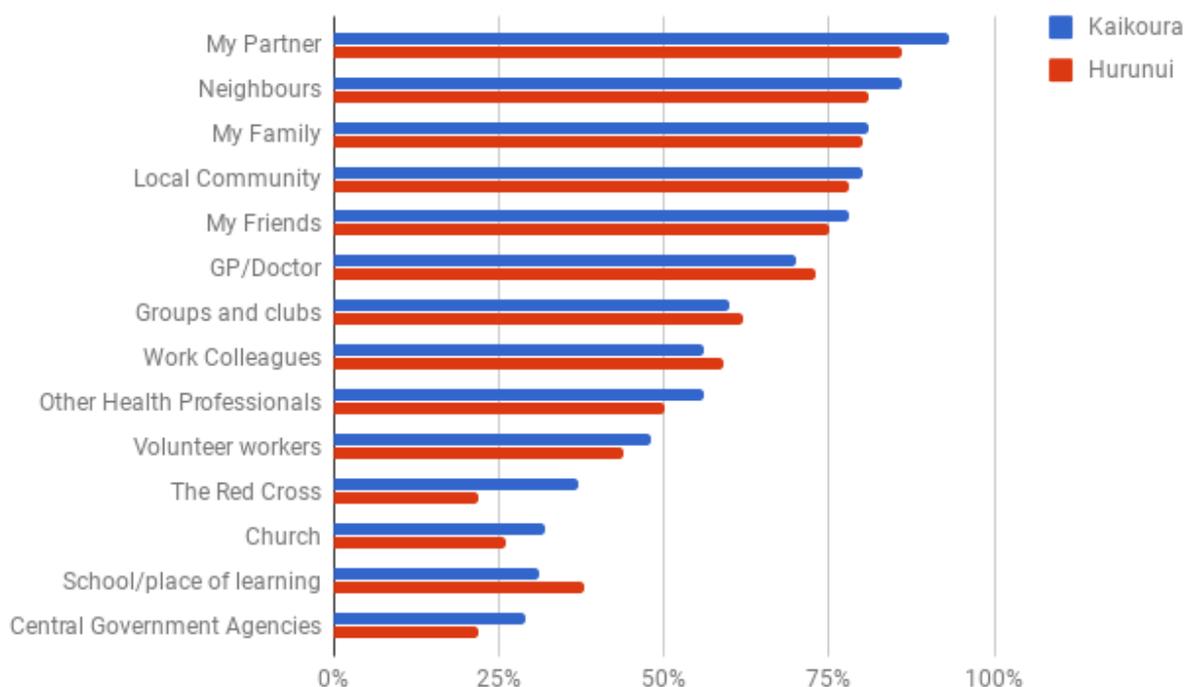
- The majority of Kaikoura (71%) and Hurunui (62%) respondents felt supported by people outside their communities, while half of the respondents felt that people outside their communities could understand what they were going through.

I feel supported by New Zealanders outside of Kaikoura/Hurunui	71%	62%
People who live outside of Kaikoura/Hurunui understand what we are going through	56%	53%

Support networks are largely composed of the near and dear, rather than organisations and institutions

- Respondents reported that their immediate connections (partner, family, neighbours, friends and local community) were most likely to contribute to their personal support network.
- Respondents GPs were also reported as often forming part of their support network.

What people and groups are part of my support network?



SECTION 3 - When things are not going well

Some respondents were still struggling with coping - this was more likely to be reported by Kaikoura residents

- 40% of Kaikoura residents said they were struggling to deal with recent earthquakes
- A third (30%) of Hurunui residents were struggling with recent and ongoing drought

<u>Participants struggling to deal with Recent Events</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
Earthquakes	40%	15%
Floods	18%	4%
Drought	N/A	30

- Worry about another big earthquake was a concern for over half (52%) of Kaikoura respondents, and 39% of Hurunui respondents - who were almost as concerned (34%) about future drought.

<u>Participants who are worried about another big event</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
Big earthquake	52%	39%
Big flood	23%	13%
Big Drought	N/A	34%

Many respondents felt a sense of loss

- These were reported by over half of all Kaikoura respondents in relation to community facilities, changes in the community and kai moana.
- Kaikoura residents also reported higher levels (41%) of loss of whanau nearby

<u>Sense of Loss</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
I feel guilty others have been more affected than me	36%	40%
I feel a sense of loss of community facilities	55%	29%
I feel a sense of loss with changes in the people in the community	51%	29%
I feel a sense of loss of kai moana or food from the sea	59%	17%

I feel a sense of loss of having whanau nearby	41%	15%
--	-----	-----

Attitudes towards their children were causing worry or anxiety for a lot of respondents

- Most (63% in Kaikoura, 55% in Hurunui) respondents tried not to let their children see them anxious, and felt anxious about their children's safety.
- Respondents in Kaikoura reported higher levels of ongoing effects of the earthquakes on their children in terms of wellbeing (47%), anxiety (39%) and health (24%).

<u>Attitudes toward children</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
I try not to let my children see me worried and anxious	63%	55%
I feel anxious about my children's safety	55%	31%
Still seeing effect of earthquakes on my children's wellbeing	47%	24%
My children are more anxious or clingy	39%	21%
My children have more health issues than they did	24%	10%

Most respondents felt a loss of community control in decision making processes since the earthquakes.

- The majority (84%) of all respondents were understanding of the time required to get things back to 'normal'
- Most felt that they had a say in the important things in their lives
- However, around half of all respondents reported feelings of concern or anger regarding loss of community control of decision making and independence.

<u>Attitudes towards Recovery and the Authorities</u>		
	Kaikoura	Hurunui
I understand the amount of time it is taking for things to get back to 'normal'	84%	83%
I feel our community is in control of decisions that affect our community	46%	50%
I feel angry about decisions being made by the powers that be	45%	44%
Our community feels less independent now than it used to be	47%	41%
I have no say about important things in my life	17%	6%