



Community Safety Overview

The quality of life survey has been based in the past on 12 NZ cities but with the new Auckland Council formation, that in the future will change. This is an important survey as it is a measurement of our perception of safety in our communities. Feeling safe and secure in our homes, communities and urban areas is a basic human right. Feeling and being safe is a key to overall health in the community. Safety and perceptions of safety feature highly in people's view of their living environment, their sense of well being and quality of life. As urban areas grow, the need for safe social and physical environments, where people are able to participate fully in their communities, becomes an increasing challenge.

Perceptions of Safety differ depending on the location and time of day. Dangerous driving is more likely to be perceived as more dangerous in the cities than in the rest of the country.

Child Safety. Since 2004 there has been a national increase in the rate of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect. Fewer residents in the 12 cities think of their neighbourhood as safe for children compared with those living in the rest of New Zealand, mainly because of the presence of strangers.

Injuries. The rate of hospitalisations due to unintentional injuries has increased. The number of falls requiring hospitalisation of those over 65 years is increasing.

Road Safety. Nationally and in the 12 cities, the rate of serious and fatal road crash injuries has dropped. The usage of safety belts remains high across the 12 cities.

Crime Levels. The overall rate of crime in the 12 cities and NZ overall has declined. The rate of recorded burglaries in our cities is higher than the rest of NZ. There has been an increase in the rate of recorded violence offences, both nationally and in the 12 cities.

While this is a snapshot of safety in NZ, it is worth now considering that there must be things each of us can do to ensure that we can play a part in improving our community by ensuring we, individually, support the goal of a safer community, that we support those agencies working very hard to build an environment we want to live in. Supporting Police, Fire Service, Plunket, Family Violence Networks and the many other organisations involved is an important step. The North Shore and Hibiscus areas are rated very highly on many safety tables but there is still so much more that can be done to make this place even greater.

You can read more about this last survey >>
<http://www.qualityoflifeproject.govt.nz/safety.htm>

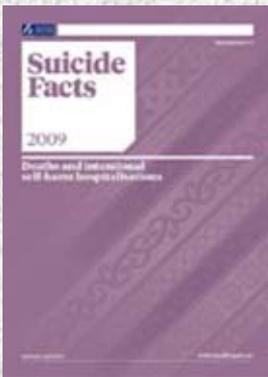
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Special points of interest:

- ◆ *Feeling and being safe is key to overall health*
- ◆ *Preventing suicide is everyone's responsibility.*
- ◆ *Auckland has many old brick buildings and they may be a severe risk in an earthquake*
- ◆ *The Auckland Plan is out. How will it affect you?*

Latest suicide facts released



The Ministry of Health has released the latest official data on suicide deaths and intentional self-harm hospitalisations from 2009.

The statistics show that overall, New Zealand's suicide rates continue to decline. A total of 506 people died by suicide in New Zealand in 2009, which equates to an age-standardised rate of 11.2 deaths per 100,000 population. This is 25.5% lower than NZ's peak suicide rate in 1998.

Releasing the statistics, Associate Minister of Health Peter Dunne said that the declining rate is very encouraging. "However, while we are clearly making progress there is still much to do because of the harm and anguish suicide causes for families and communities.

"Preventing suicide is everyone's responsibility," Mr Dunne said.

Rates are particularly high for some groups of New Zealanders:

- **Young people aged 15-24 years.** For 2009, the youth suicide rate was 18.1 deaths per 100,000. This represents a 36.8% decline since the peak rate in 1995. Rates were higher for male youth (29.0) and for Māori youth (28.7).
- **Māori.** There were 83 Māori suicide deaths in 2009. This represents a rate of 13.1 per 100,000, which is the lowest Māori rate since 1999.
- **Males.** There is still a significant gender difference in suicides: in 2009, 77% of people dying by suicide were male. The suicide rate for males was 17.8 per 100,000, compared with a female rate of 5.0. The 2009 male suicide rate was 25.4% below the peak rate in 1995, while the female rate has remained steady over time.
- **People living in socioeconomically deprived areas.** The suicide rate was 15.0 per 100,000 in the most deprived areas, compared with 8.0 in the least deprived areas.

Mental Health Foundation chief executive Judi Clements says that we all have a role to play in reducing suicide rates.

"Although Government action is essential, we can all get involved. We encourage New Zealanders to really think about how we can make a difference. It is about strengthening the connections we have with family, whānau, friends and the community. Some of the most effective protective factors are supportive relationships, belief in a positive future and a strong cultural identity," she says.

The Government's approach to suicide prevention is set out in the [New Zealand Suicide Prevention Strategy 2006-2016](#) and its related Action Plan. More information on the cross-Government programme of suicide prevention initiatives can be found in the two Action Plan progress reports.

Hard copies of [Suicide Facts 2009](#) can be ordered from the Mental Health Foundation's [online shop](#)

Community Safety

Disaster control

Taking issue, fl — By Ingenio on May 4, 2011 5:22 am

How would Auckland cope with an extreme natural event?

And what are our University researchers doing to lower the risk of disasters?

In the wake of the string of recent natural disasters, Helen Borne asked three of our University academics for their views on how Auckland would fare if potential disaster struck, and to tell us about research at the University that is helping to mitigate the impact of extreme natural events.

Earthquake-prone buildings

If the aftershock earthquake of 22 February 2011 had instead hit Auckland in the middle of a working day then we would probably have seen even greater damage to heritage buildings than happened in Christchurch. Auckland has the largest stock of old brick buildings in the country, and these buildings have been consistently shown to collapse in large earthquakes. Many of the buildings in locations such as Upper Queen Street, Ponsonby Road and Jervois Road, Mt Eden village and Devonport would have been badly damaged and the lives of people occupying those buildings during the earthquake would have been at risk.

The response to such an event

would also be more difficult to coordinate as Christchurch has a central precinct where most of these heritage buildings are located, whereas in Auckland these buildings are more widely distributed. Instead of a central cordon that is easy to control, it would likely be necessary to have many parts of Auckland under police or military control to avoid looting and an influx of “earthquake tourists”.

However, Auckland does not have the same extent of liquefiable soils and so the damage to water pipes and the large volume of sediment in Christchurch streets after the earthquake would not be observed in Auckland.

Auckland’s tectonic setting, located a considerable distance from the primary fault line running through the South Island, through Wellington, Tāupo and then out past White Island, is such that an earthquake like that of 22 February is extremely unlikely here. But, what if?

A research team from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, working with collaborators at the University of Canterbury, has been performing

research since mid-2004 to develop seismic retrofit solutions to improve the performance of buildings in earthquakes. Experimental testing has been performed in the laboratory using reconstructed test elements that simulate parts of earthquake-prone buildings, supplemented by field testing of actual structures that were either being demolished or were having parts removed due to renovations. At The University of Auckland the project has addressed old brick and steel buildings, the performance of building foundations and how to incentives and finance seismic retrofits.

Dr Jason Ingham is Associate Professor of Structural Engineering, Deputy Head (Research) in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and a University alumnus

Reference: Ingenio University of Auckland Alumni Magazine 4 May 2011

Request printed copy: alumni@auckland.ac.nz

It'll take more than glad-wrap to hold many of our large brick buildings together



Clarity makes for a safer workplace

Site Safe—This sign on a construction site in Kuala Lumpur captured my attention as it provided the safety information in languages appropriate for the public population base that is likely to frequent that area. While Malay is the official language, English is the Governments next preferred language.

In NZ and on the Shore we do have some large migrant cultures that may still be struggling with the written English so perhaps we could be more user-friendly by including symbol signage that require less wording.



Families can enjoy our environment if we, at first, make it safe and then keep it safe. Anyone with an interest in child safety, please come to the workshop

Safekids Information and Planning Day Workshop 2012

Date: Wed 27th June 09.30am—2.30pm at Sunnynook Community Centre, 148 Sycamore Drive, Sunnynook, Nth Shore. Theme: Children and Cycling Safety & Safety Out and About

www.safekids.org.nz/index.php/page/Workshops

Contact for RSVP to attend Workshop: Goretta Thornley 09 486 8620 goretta.thornley@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Do it once, do it right. Yes, but would people pay more attention to this because it is spelt wrong? Perhaps it is more noticeable because one engages their brain to convert "SOTP" to the correct spelling and it may create more impact and subsequently achieve greater compliance by vehicle drivers. Anyone failing to stop

Road Safety



and questioned might argue that the wording did not say 'Stop' so no rules were broken. In NZ we have double yellow lines and isn't that the key? Double yellow lines mean stop and what would a court of law say? Do it once, do it right is probably the answer but may not work as well.

Winter home heating can increase the fire risk but.....

as the Japanese saying goes, “Poka Honka” means remove the risk, prevent the injury.

Our homes are safer with smoke alarms and these are either photo-electric or ionization. Photo-electric are more promoted as they can detect slow burning, shouldering fires.

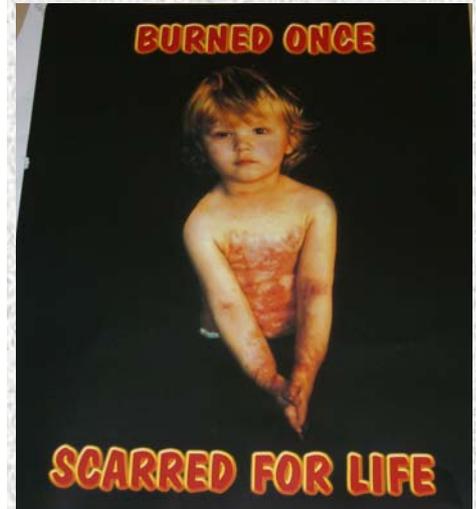
It is so important to check the batteries and doing this on the last day of daylight saving and the start of daylight



*Please keep me safe
'cos I depend on you*

saving is a very good way of remembering to do so.

With fire places and even those enclosed ones, make sure that there is a protective barrier between the young child and the hot surfaces or the fire place. Burned once, scarred for life is something that is avoidable with the right precautions in your home and do spread the word.



The Auckland Plan for the next 30 Years –Safety Snippets

The plan has just been released and is a very comprehensive document and has a bit of everything in it so we at last have pathways and direction as to what is intended to make this Auckland city the most livable city on the planet.

Page 84 Directive 1.7 Para. 222 states: ‘Safety in public and private places is fundamental to a strong and inclusive Auckland. A safe city is one where people want to live,

work and study. It attracts enterprise and investment, is socially cohesive, and has strong communities where people care for, nurture, support and trust each other’.

Para 223. However, sexual, family and whānau violence in our communities accounts for half of all serious violent crime in NZ. Overwhelmingly family and sexual violence is against women and children. See the website for more

detail but our Auckland libraries will have copies for everyone to view. At 380 pages, it may take a few visits.

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

THE
AUCKLAND
PLAN



Rangitoto Island—it never looks ugly. What is its secret?



By making our environment safer so that we have a near perfect place to want to live, we have more time to enjoy and savour activities like the current Volvo Race with our boat Camper pretty well up there close to the top and our great rowing squad and other athletes heading off to the London Olympics. Many people in many other countries don't get that luxury of enjoyment that we have so it's worth every effort to protect what we have and encourage others to strive to improve what they can so they too can enjoy much of what we enjoy.



Call for clarity on family violence statistics

Family violence incidents jumped by more than 2000 last year, showing the need "now more than ever" for a change in the way the facts were recorded, say police.

Figures released to Stuff under the Official Information Act showed police investigated 86,722 cases of domestic violence last year - 2049 more than in 2010.

Of those, 40,024 were for actual offences and the rest were recorded as "non-offence investigations".

In 2010, those figures were 84,673 callouts to domestic violence incidents, with 42,108 offences recorded.

Alarming, 46,791 children were at homes where police were carrying out family violence investigations, and 96,181 children were recorded as being present or normally residing at scene addresses where a family violence callout was sparked.

Link to [stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz):

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/6959278/Call-for-clarity-on-family-violence-statistics>

Our Trust Board has two vacancies. Safer North Community Trust is on the look out for community minded people who share a desire to keep North Shore a safe place to live and promote injury prevention. If you would like to nominate someone or put yourself forward, please send a photo and brief bio to:

wayne@safernorth.co.nz

The trust meets about 6 times per year usually in the morning and discusses the work that Safer North undertakes and is involved with initiating new activities into the future. Whether it is issues involving older adults, young children and those in between, issues about youth, crime, water safety, suicide, alcohol, road safety and young drivers, we have a part to play in reducing harm and promote safer environments. We work in with many varied agencies to achieve positive outcomes for North Shore and potentially the Hibiscus area.

For more information about the trust please visit www.safernorth.co.nz

Important Events

Albany Community Development—Do you call Albany home? You can make a difference to your community. Please attend and develop your skills in community leadership. You are invited to attend two **free** workshops: 10.00-2.00pm 27th Jun & 4 July at Albany House, 575 Albany Highway. Contact Dean Manley, 486 4820 or dean@nscss.org.nz for more info and to register

Safety 2012 World Conference—Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion 1-4 October 2012 in Wellington. Ref.: www.safety2012.org.nz

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