



MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI



# MYD Youth Pulse Check Survey

# What is the MYD Youth Pulse Check Survey?



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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
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*Administered by the Ministry of Social Development*

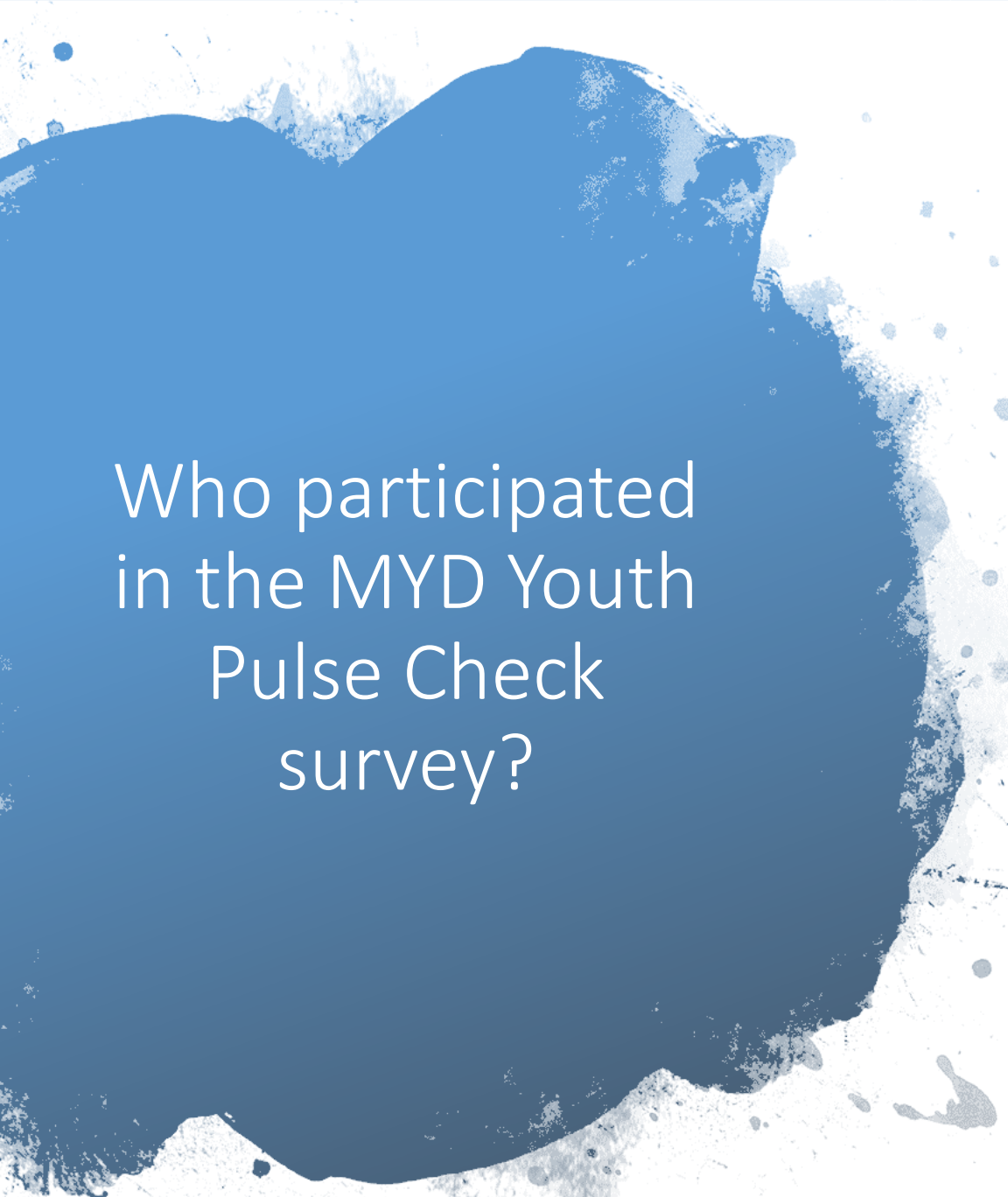
- Developed by the **Ministry of Youth Development (MYD)** - Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi.
- Collects information about how **young people / rangatahi** (aged 12-24 years) in Aotearoa New Zealand are **impacted by COVID-19**, and lockdown.
- The survey was open from **18 April 2020** and collected data responses until **16 May 2020**. The responses therefore span Alert Level 2 through to Alert Level 4.
- The survey was **online** and made available to **the general public**. It was widely promoted throughout the youth sector.
- Results will be used to understand the experiences of rangatahi through lockdown, and what support and information they need following the release.



# Methodology



- The MYD Youth Pulse Check Survey was an online survey, available to rangatahi aged 12-24 years, exploring how young people in Aotearoa New Zealand were managing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Participation was solicited through channels such as social media and online channels, schools, the youth sector, Ministry of Social Development, Oranga Tamariki and Department of Corrections.
- The participants surveyed are **not a random sample**. The data has not been weighted against the total Aotearoa New Zealand population, so **results will be biased** towards groups who are over-represented (e.g. female-identified, younger youth).
- This survey was **not intended to be an accurate representative sample** of the experiences of all rangatahi in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- The survey was conducted via online channels, and does not include the perspectives of **young people experiencing digital isolation**.
- These results **can only be used** to give insight into the lives of the rangatahi who took part in this survey during COVID-19 Alert Level 4 through to Alert Level 2. They therefore **do not accurately represent the views** of all young people in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is important to acknowledge the bias of this survey, and that **these results cannot be generalised to the total youth population aged 12-24 years**.



# Who participated in the MYD Youth Pulse Check survey?

2,658 RANGATAHI  
PARTICIPATED IN  
THE SURVEY

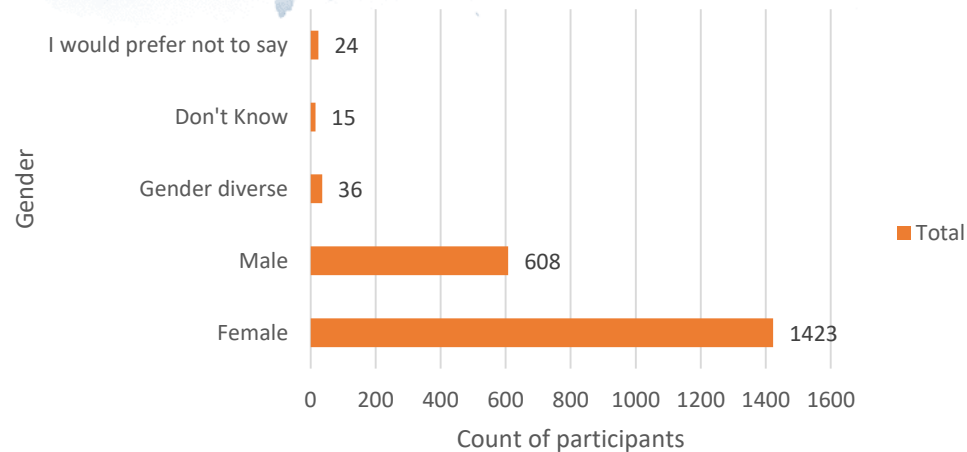
80% WERE  
SCHOOL  
STUDENTS

18% WERE  
TERTIARY  
STUDENTS

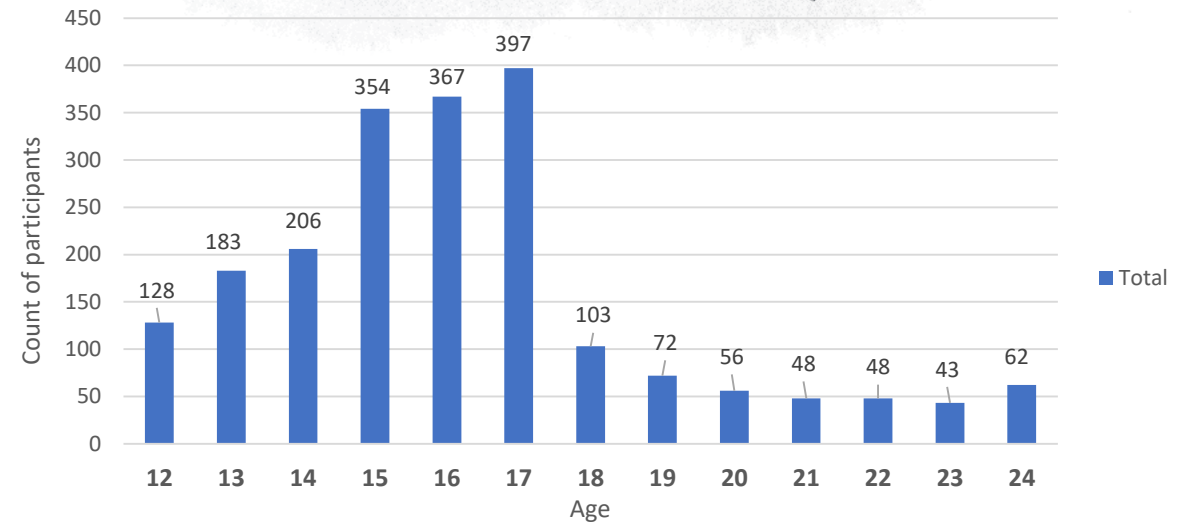
10% WERE  
ESSENTIAL  
WORKERS

44% LIVE WITH  
AN ESSENTIAL  
WORKER

# Gender and age



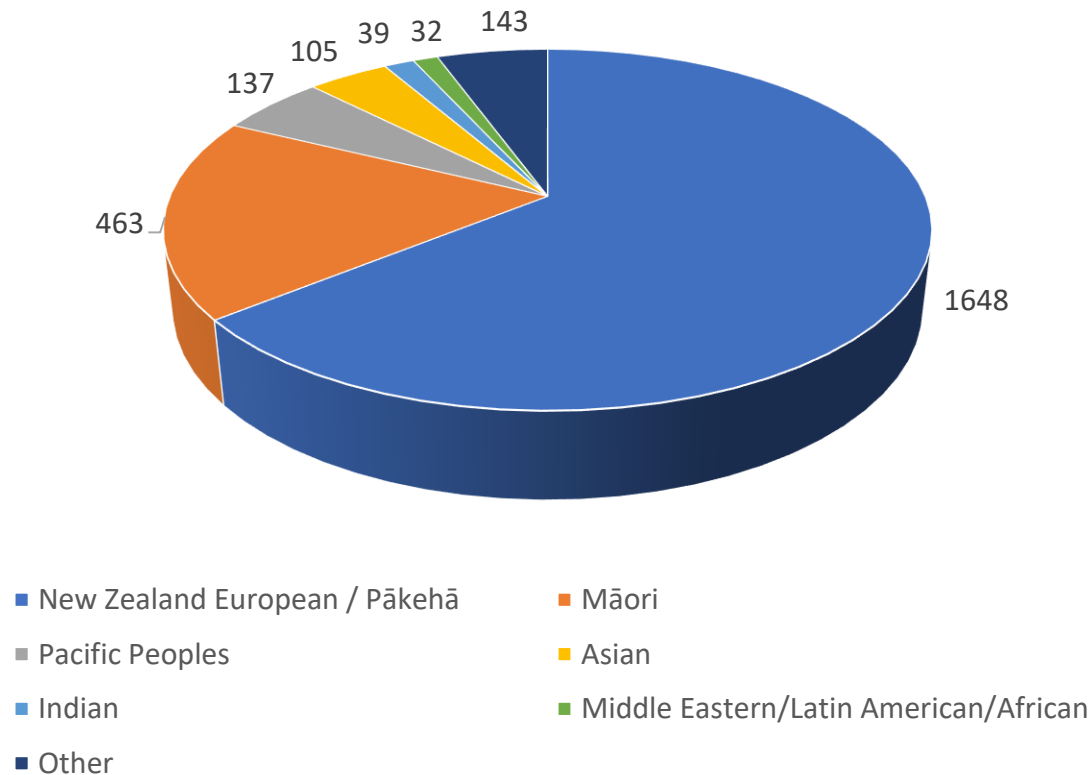
- There were significantly more respondents who identified as **female** than any other gender category, at 1,423 (67%). This is not unusual for online surveys.
- Despite the overrepresentation of females within the survey participants, their responses have been weighted against differently-gendered participants. We will state if the difference is meaningful, but if it is not commented on, it is safe to assume that there was minimal difference across genders.



- 1,221 respondents were between the ages of **15-18** years, accounting for almost 60% of the overall participants.
- Because the difference in the age of respondents varies substantially, and the high rate of 15-18 year old participants, many of the results will be broken down by age category. This is also pertinent because experiences of COVID-19 and the support required by a 24 year old is very different to that of a 12 year old.

# Ethnic profile of our participants

Ethnicity



- In the survey the participants could choose as many ethnicity options as they liked depending on how they identified; eg Pākehā, Māori, **and** Pacific.
- Of the 2,658 participants, over 60% (1,648) identified (at least in part) as **Pākehā**.
- Next most prevalent, is participants who identify as **Māori**, at a count of 463 (17%).
- Participants identifying as **Pacific, Asian, Middle Eastern / Latin American / African**, and **Indian** each represent significantly less than 10% of the overall ethnic categories.
- As a socioeconomically vulnerable population, largely due to the ongoing repercussions of colonisation, Māori still experience many systemic disadvantages that Pākehā and tauwiwi do not. For this reason, **certain relevant survey results have been broken down by ethnicity, so as to capture the particular experiences and requirements of our Māori** during COVID-19.

# Priority profiles



135 (5%) OF THE 2,658 RANGATAHI SURVEYED REPORTED HAVING A DISABILITY

340 (13%) OF THE RANGATAHI IDENTIFIED AS LGBTQI+ OR PART OF THIS COMMUNITY\*

15 (0.6%) SAID THAT THEY WERE REFUGEES

38 (1.4%) IDENTIFIED AS BEING NEW TO THE COUNTRY

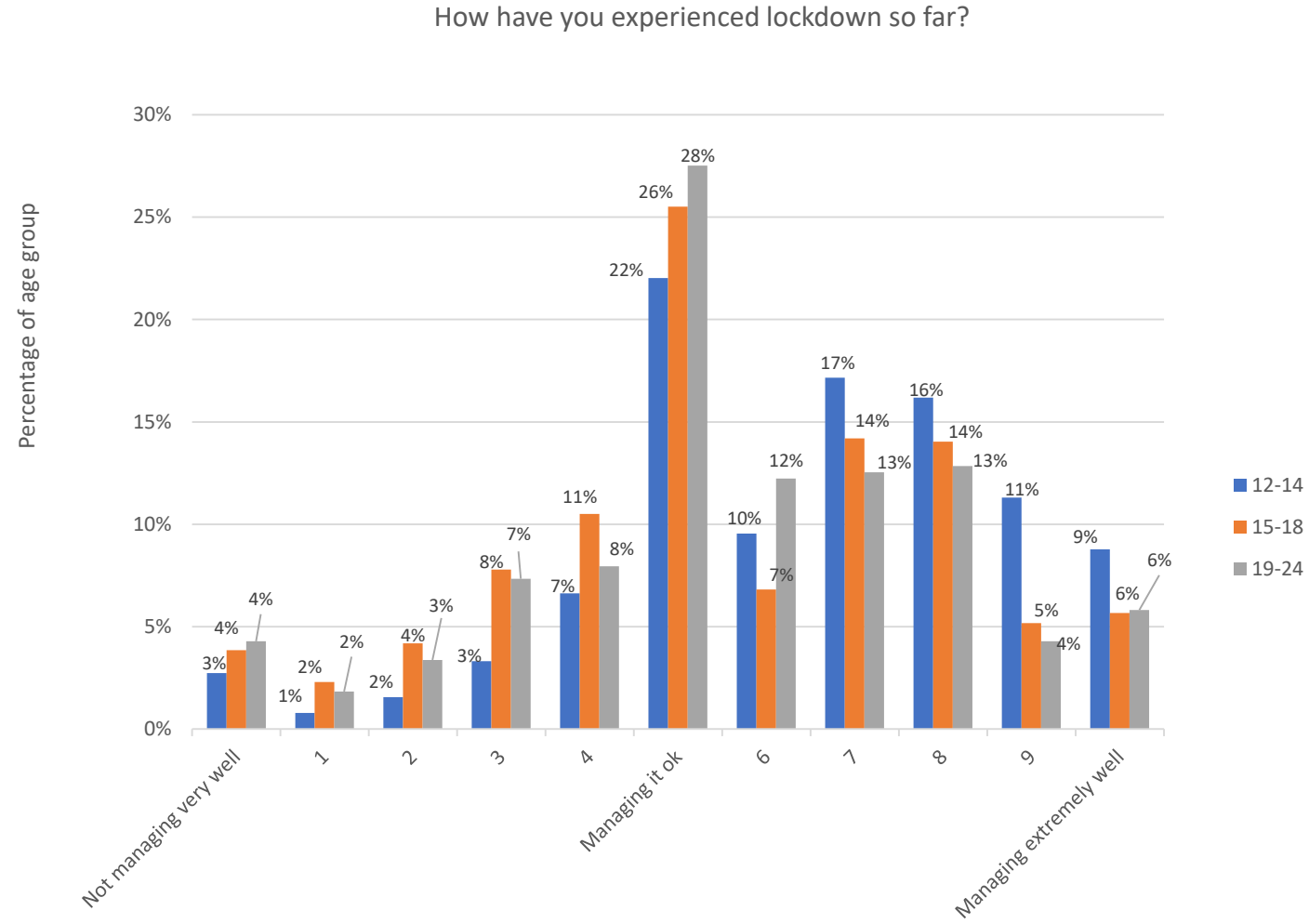
\*36 of whom identify as gender diverse

# Rangatahi welfare during lockdown

We asked our respondents **how they have been feeling during lockdown**. They ranked out of ten their overall experience of lockdown so far.

Here's what we discovered:

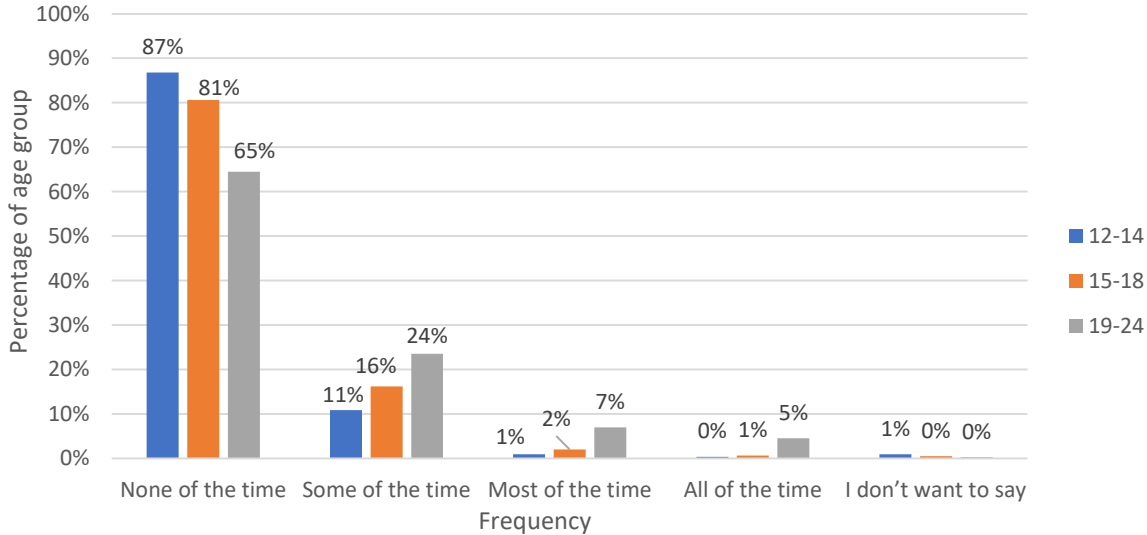
- Over **three quarters** of our respondents felt that they were **managing okay to extremely well** during lockdown.
- **12-14** year old respondents dealt with lockdown the best. 85% reported managing okay to extremely well, and only 2.7% indicated that they were not managing very well.
- **19-24** year old respondents fared the next best. 75% reported managing okay to extremely well, with 71% of 15-18 year olds providing the same response.



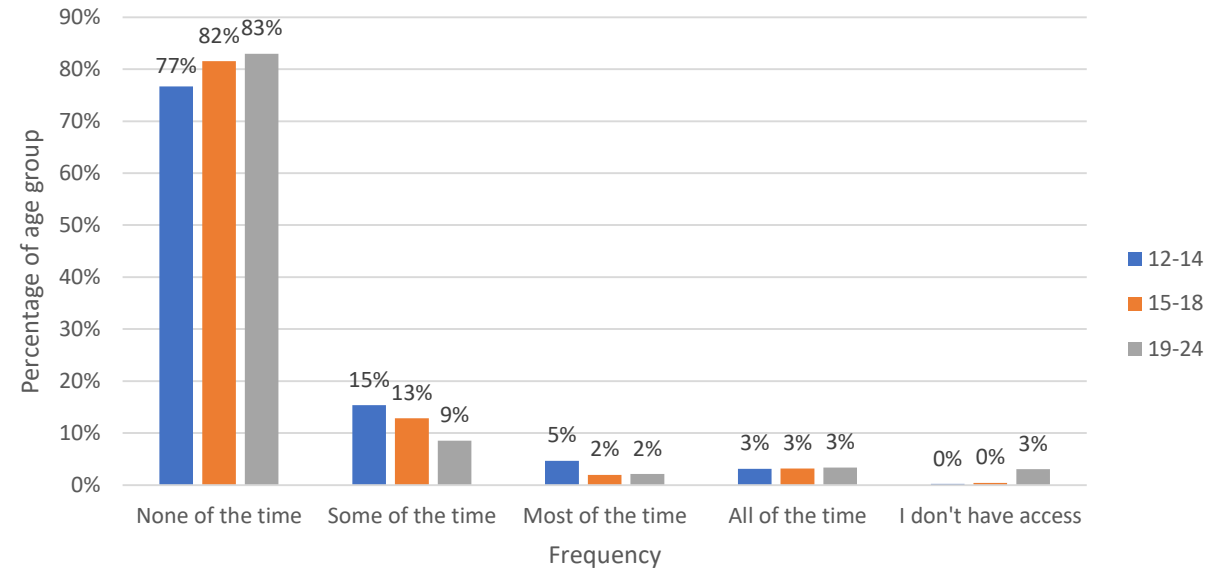


# Access to services and technology by age

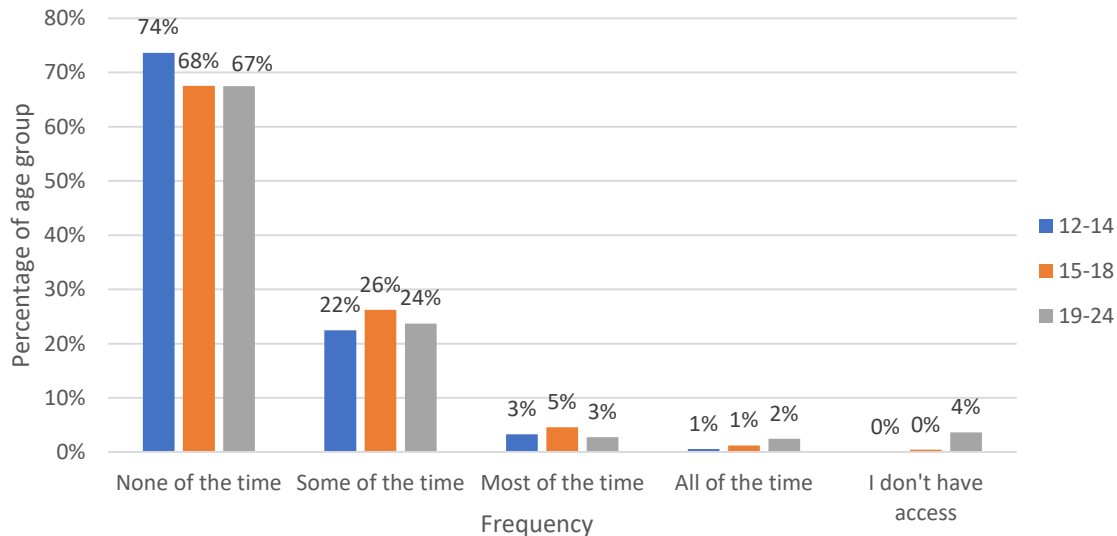
I have had difficulties accessing essential items or services (e.g. food, medication, health or social support)



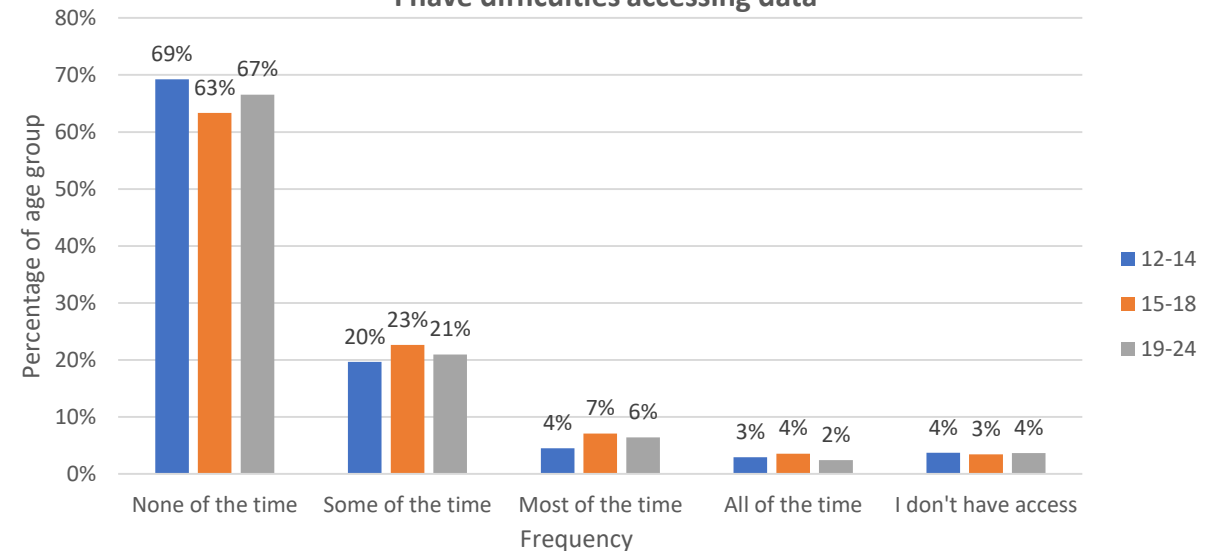
I have difficulties accessing a device (e.g. computer, laptop, tablet)



I have difficulties accessing WIFI



I have difficulties accessing data



# Access to services and technology by priority profile

“I have had difficulties accessing essential items or services (e.g. food, medication, health or social support)”

- Young people who reported having a **disability** experienced difficulty accessing essential items most frequently, with 44% indicating having experienced this at least some of the time.
- One in three (33%) of respondents who identified as **LGBTQI+** also reported some degree of difficulty in accessing essential services.
- 30% of participants who identified as **Māori** had some degree of difficulty accessing essential items (e.g. food, medication, health or social support) during lockdown.

“I have difficulties accessing a device (e.g. computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone)”

- 29% of participants who reported having a **disability** young people have either experienced some difficulty accessing a device or don't have access.
- One in four (27%) of participants who identified as **Māori**, and 28% of participants who identified as **Pacific** have experienced some difficulty accessing a device or don't have access.
- One in four (27%) of the participants who have **recently arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand** have also experienced some degree of difficulty accessing a device (e.g. computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone).

“I have difficulties accessing WIFI”

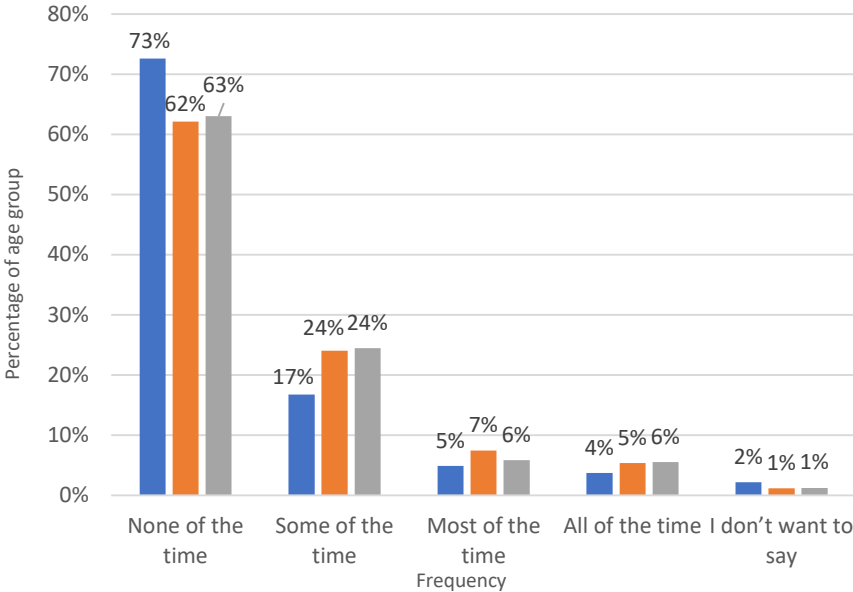
- Participants identifying as **rural** report a very high rate of difficulty accessing WIFI, with almost half (47%) experiencing it at least some of the time.
- 36% of the participants who identified as **refugee** and respondents reporting **disabilities** both report experiencing difficulties accessing WIFI at least some of the time.
- 34% of participants identifying as either **Māori** or **LGBTQI+** also both report some degree of difficulty accessing WIFI.

“I have difficulties accessing data”

- 42% of **rural** youth said that they have difficulty accessing data at least some of the time, and 7% said they don't have any access at all.
- 38% of young people who reported **having a disability**, and 39% of **LGBTQI+** identifying participants report some degree of difficulty accessing data.
- Of those who indicated refugee status, 14% said that they had no access to data at all, and 35% said their access was difficult at least some of the time.

# Safety and acceptance

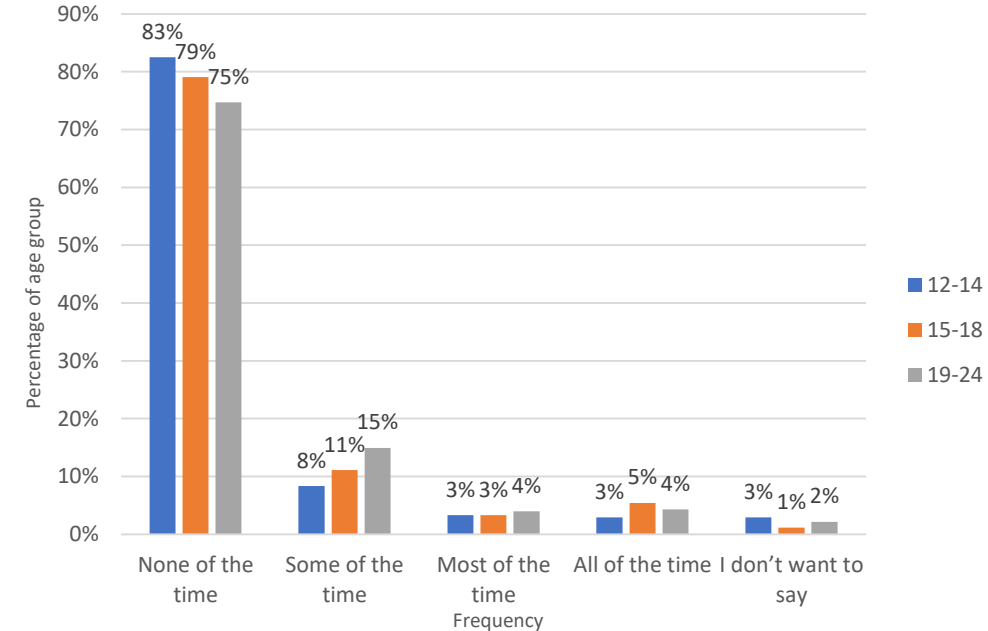
Not feeling accepted and respected in their bubble during lockdown



By age groups

**12-14 year old** respondents report more positive experiences overall in their bubbles during lockdown. They were the least likely to feel unsafe in their bubbles, with only 15% reporting experiencing this at least some of the time. However, one out of four (25%) rangatahi in this age group reported feeling like they were not accepted or respected some of the time – still the lowest out of the participating age categories.

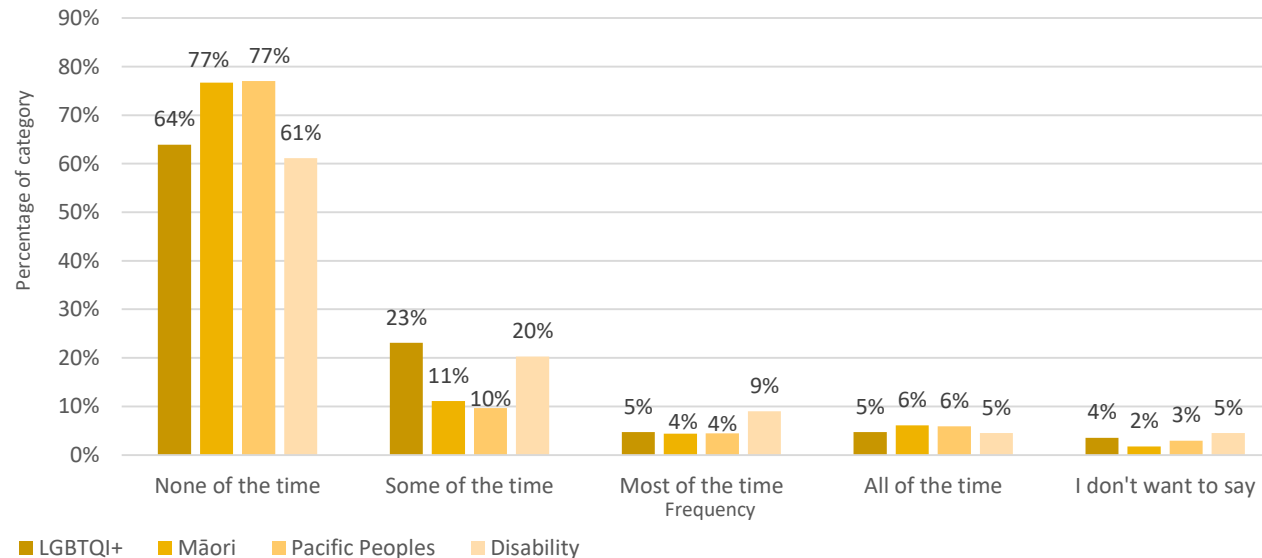
Feeling unsafe in their bubble during lockdown



By vulnerable populations

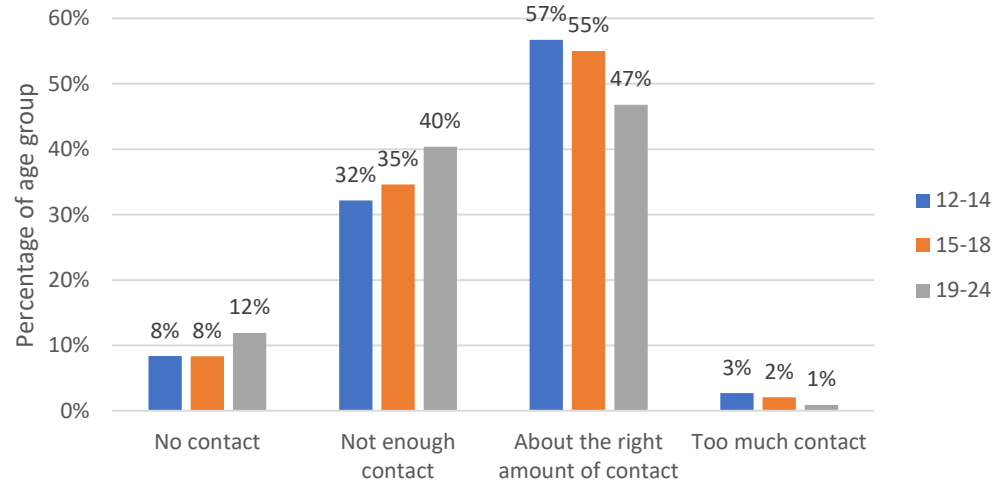
- Participants who identified as **LGBTQI+, Māori, Pacific People, or having a disability** reported feeling particularly at risk to feelings of unsafety within their bubbles during lockdown.
- Participants who identified as **LGBTQI+, Maori, Pacific, or having a disability** were more likely to report feeling unsafe within their bubbles than other population groups

Feeling unsafe in their bubble during lockdown

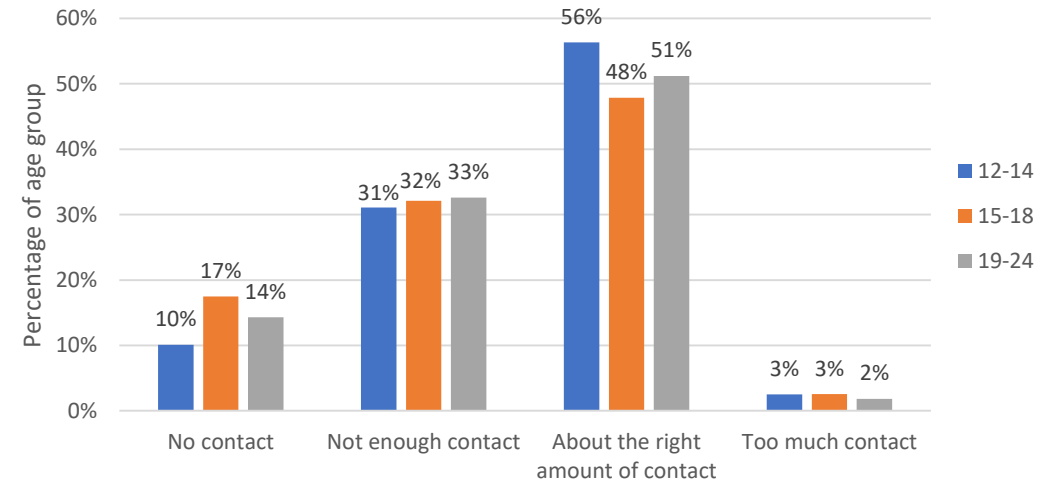


# Connectedness

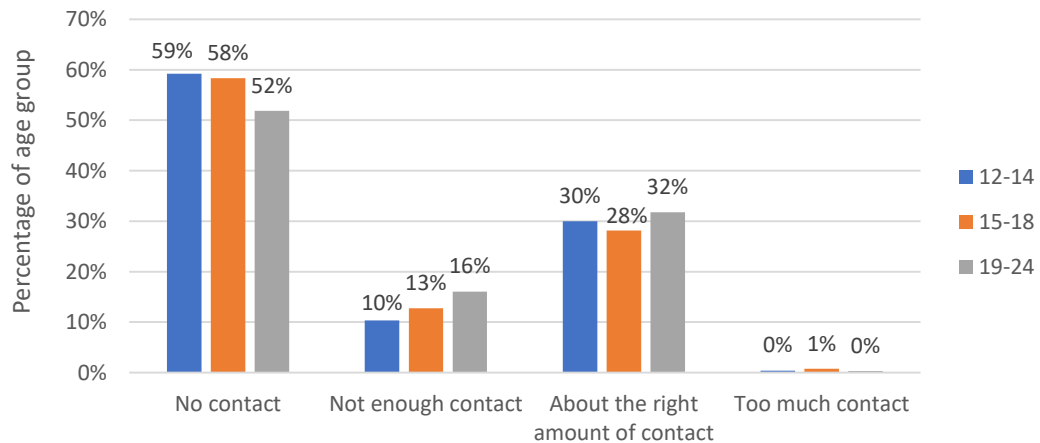
### Connecting with friends



### Connecting with family / whānau outside my bubble



### Connecting with external support networks (e.g. social worker, youth mentor, youth worker)



- Around half (47-57%) of 12-24 year old rangatahi reported that they received sufficient contact from friends and whānau throughout lockdown.
- However, responses show that 52-59% of 12-24 year old participants also received no contact at all from external support networks such as social workers, or youth mentors.
- One in ten (8-12%) of the rangatahi who responded to the survey had experienced no contact at all from friends during lockdown, and 32-40% claimed that they did not receive enough.
- Around one third (31-33%) of participants felt that they had not received enough contact from family and whānau outside of their immediate bubble.
- No more than 3% of all participants indicated that they had experienced too much contact, from either friends, whānau, or external support networks during lockdown.



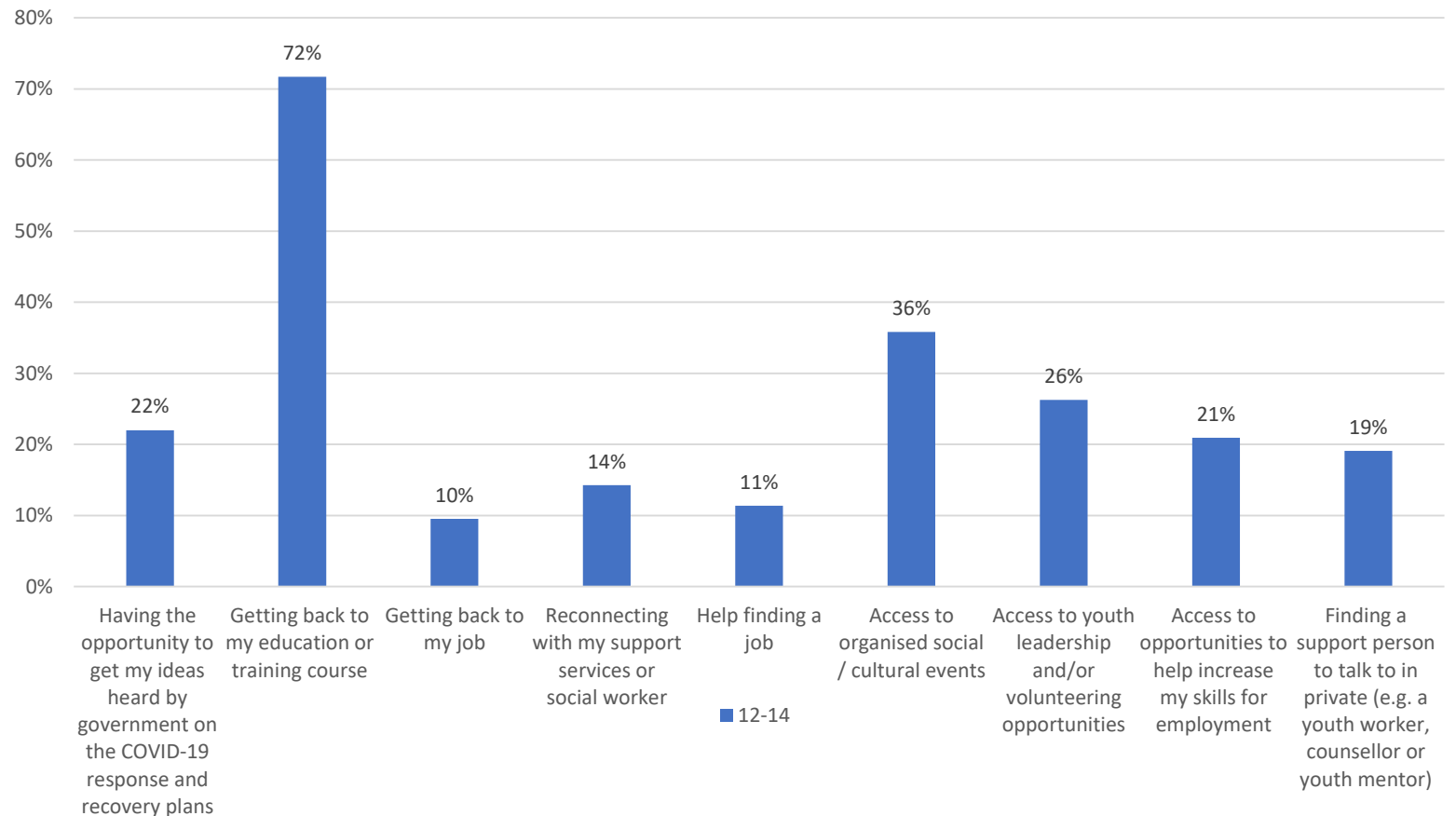
# What support would help our rangatahi?

We wanted to know what support would help rangatahi in Aotearoa New Zealand move forward as we come out of lockdown. So, we asked our participants if they thought various **support services** were **very helpful, a little helpful, not helpful at all**, or if **it did not apply for them**. The following graphs demonstrate what percentage of our **12-14, 15-18, and 19-24** year old age groups think the measures outlined below are helpful.

## 12-14 year olds

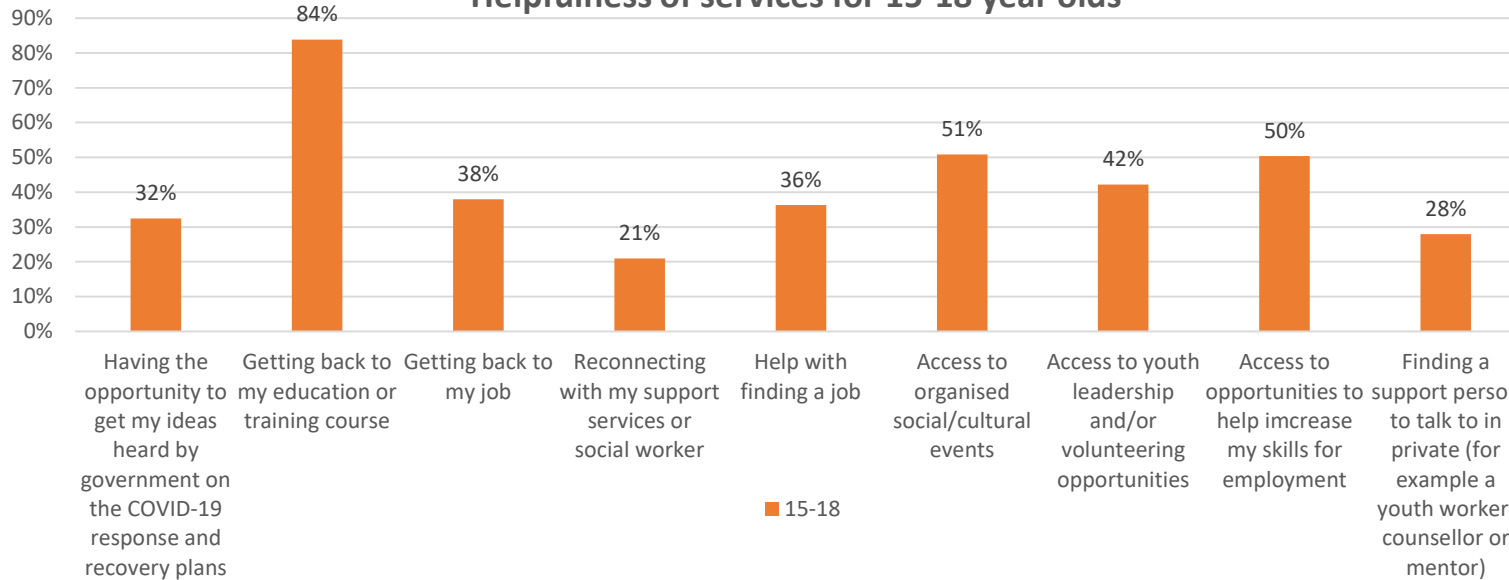
- 72% of 12-14 year old participants agreed that **getting back to education or training courses** was the most helpful support for moving forward out of lockdown.
- The next most popular support for 12-14 year olds was access to organised social/cultural events with 36% indicating as such.
- One in four (26%) of our 12-14 year old respondents agreed that **access to youth leadership and/or volunteering opportunities** would be a helpful support.
- Support to **find or return to a job** were considered the least helpful within this age bracket.

Helpfulness of services for 12-14 year olds



# What support would help our rangatahi?

## Helpfulness of services for 15-18 year olds



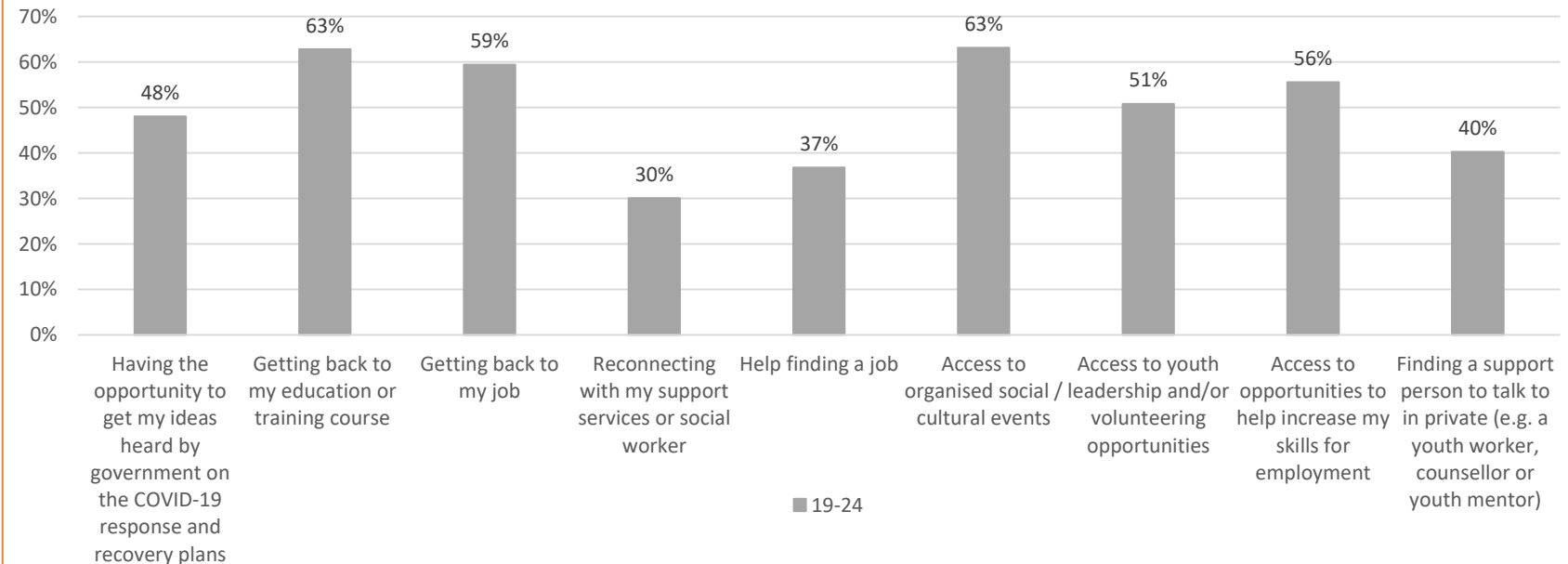
## 15-18 year olds

- Like the 12-14 year old age bracket, **15-18** year old participants by far favoured the support of **returning to education / course training**, with a high rate of 84% agreement.
- Similar to their younger counterparts, **access to organised social and cultural events** was also considered a priority amongst 15-18 year olds, with 51% of the participants agreeing that could be helpful.
- Access to **opportunities to help increase employable skills** was the third most popular service within this age group, closely following social/cultural events, with one in two (50%) agreeing with its helpfulness.

## 19-24 year olds

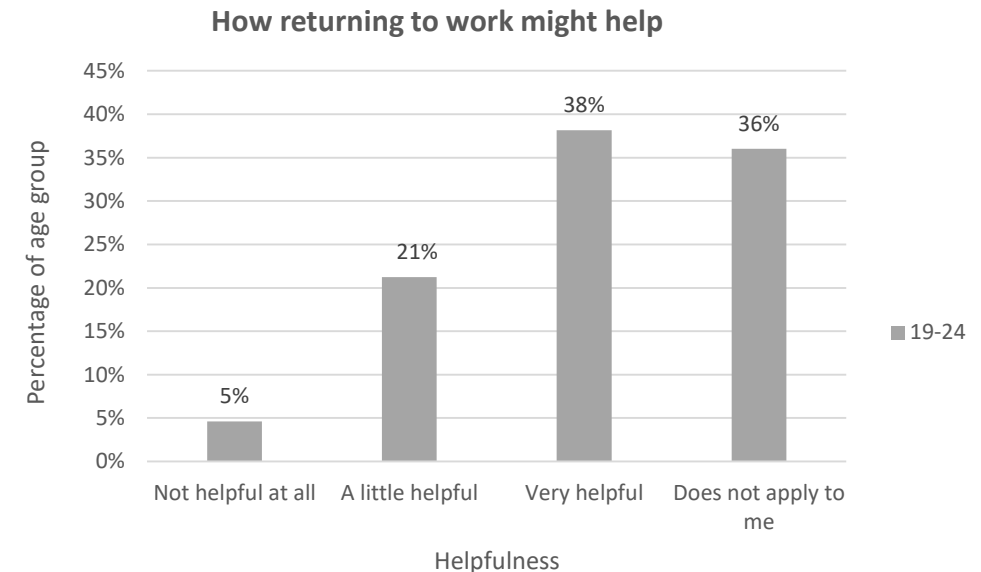
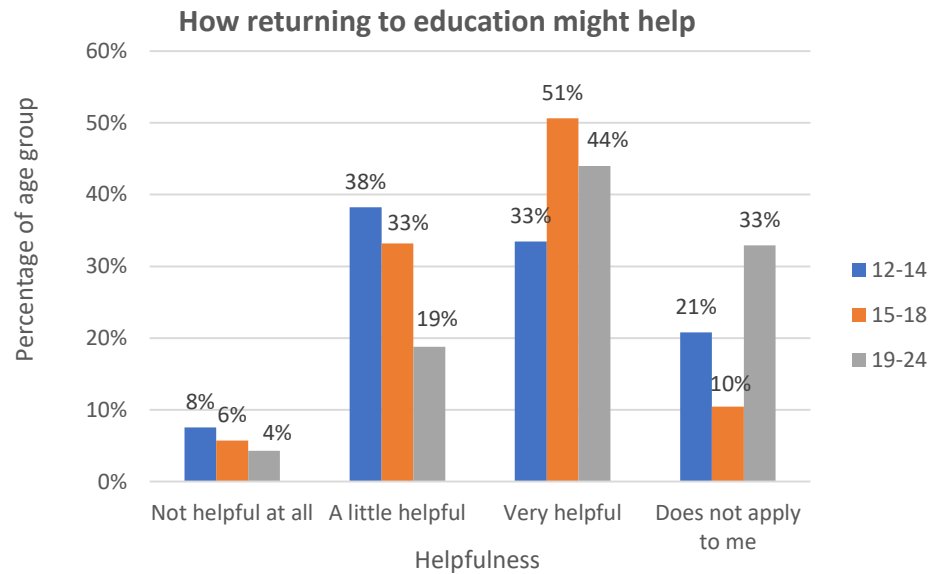
- **19-24** year old respondents on average ranked the supports as more helpful overall. Although **returning to education/training courses** was considered 20% less helpful than amongst the 15-18 year old bracket, 63% of 19-24 year old participants still found the prospect helpful.
- Within this age category, **social/cultural events** were also considered the most helpful support for easing out of lockdown, equalling the support provided by a return to education.
- **Returning to work, access to improve on employable skills, and access to youth leadership opportunities** were all believed to be helpful supports for more than one half of 19-24 year olds, with rates of 59%, 56%, and 51% respectively.

## Helpfulness of services for 19-24 year olds



# How the prospect of returning to education and work supported rangatahi during lockdown

When we asked participants to tell us more about what support would help them moving forward out of lockdown, their responses indicated that the prospect of **returning to their education / training course or work** was helpful. Across all age categories, we can surmise that the stability provided by education or jobs appears to be a helpful reminder of normality for rangatahi.



- 84% (1,010) of the **15-18** year old rangatahi in the survey agreed that they would find **returning to their education or training course** at least a little helpful moving out of lockdown.
- 72% (362) of the **12-14** year old respondents, and 63% (193) of the **19-24** year old cohort found this to be the case.

- More likely to be in employment than their younger counterparts, 59% (193) of the **19-24** year old respondents agreed that they would find **returning to their work** at least a little helpful moving out of lockdown.
- 36% (117) of the **19-24** year old respondents indicated that the question of returning to work **did not apply** to them.

# Future support needs for rangatahi in Aotearoa New Zealand



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- Overall, **three quarters** of young people surveyed **managed okay to extremely well** during lockdown!
- Across all age groups, **the prospect of returning to school or training courses provided a vital support** in their transition out of lockdown.
- 19-24 year olds also hoped that **getting back to work would be a helpful support** for them.
- Across all age categories, the **significance of social interaction must not be underestimated**, with access to organised social and cultural events a highly ranked support, and many rangatahi feeling disconnected from friends and whānau during lockdown.
- Many rangatahi across Aotearoa New Zealand struggled with access to essential services and technology. **Participants identifying as LGBTQI+, having a disability, Māori, Pacific Peoples, and refugee struggled the most with access across the board.** Youth living rurally also experienced elevated difficulty accessing internet.
- It is vital **that future support be directed towards vulnerable and at risk youth populations**, so as to increase their general sense of safety and acceptance at home. This is especially pertinent for **rangatahi identifying as having a disability and/or being LGBTQI+** – both of whom experienced particularly troubling hardships throughout lockdown.