



*A safe, strong Bay of Plenty, together
Toi Moana, kia haumarū, kia kaha, mā tātau katoa*

2023 Disaster Preparedness Survey

Results



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Introduction

Educating the Bay of Plenty community on hazard risks and preparedness is an important component of the work that the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group conducts. It is essential that the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group understands how prepared our communities are, to be able to tailor any emergency preparedness education to our communities. This will help to work towards the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Plan vision of “A safe, strong Bay of Plenty, together.”

The disaster preparedness survey is intended to be conducted every two years, with 2023 the first round of the survey. Repeating the survey will allow the results to be compared over time and assist in identifying any trends in community preparedness in the Bay of Plenty. The next disaster preparedness survey will be conducted in 2025.

This report provides an overview of the results from the first Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey.

Method

The Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey was conducted from 19th May to 19th June 2023. Communities were able to respond to the survey via Bay of Plenty’s online engagement platform (<https://www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/emergency-management-bay-plenty-disaster-preparedness-survey>) during this period. The webpage included information about why the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group conducted the disaster preparedness survey, Civil Defence Emergency Management in the Bay of Plenty, and the online survey.

The survey included a section on demographics and disaster preparedness. The demographic section included questions to check if feedback was received from communities across the Bay of Plenty. The preparedness section of the survey listed 10 statements and asked the person completing the survey to select all statements that were applicable to them. The questions and results are detailed in the following results section.

The online platform was promoted through various vectors including social media channels, existing Bay of Plenty Regional Council networks and newsletters. In addition, Emergency Management Officers from each of the associated local authorities also promoted the survey within their respective districts.

In addition, a similar disaster preparedness question was also posed in the 2022 National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) disaster preparedness survey which surveyed nearly 1,500 people across New Zealand. The results from the NEMA survey are compared with the current survey.

Results

Demographics

Over 220 people completed the Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey. Feedback was received from people across all the territorial authorities (city and districts) which make up the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) region, including one response from the Bay of Plenty Offshore Islands, which are administered by Department of Internal Affairs (Figure 1). The location of people providing feedback was somewhat reflective of the spatial distribution of the population across the Bay of Plenty CDEM region with most feedback coming from people who lived in Tauranga City.

Most people who provided feedback were aged between 41 to 64 years with no respondents 20 years or younger (Figure 2). Almost 80% of respondents identified as New Zealand European, with just under 20% identified as Māori. Approximately 9% of respondents identified as “other” ethnicity. It appears some respondents noted their nationality as opposed to their ethnicity (Figure 3).

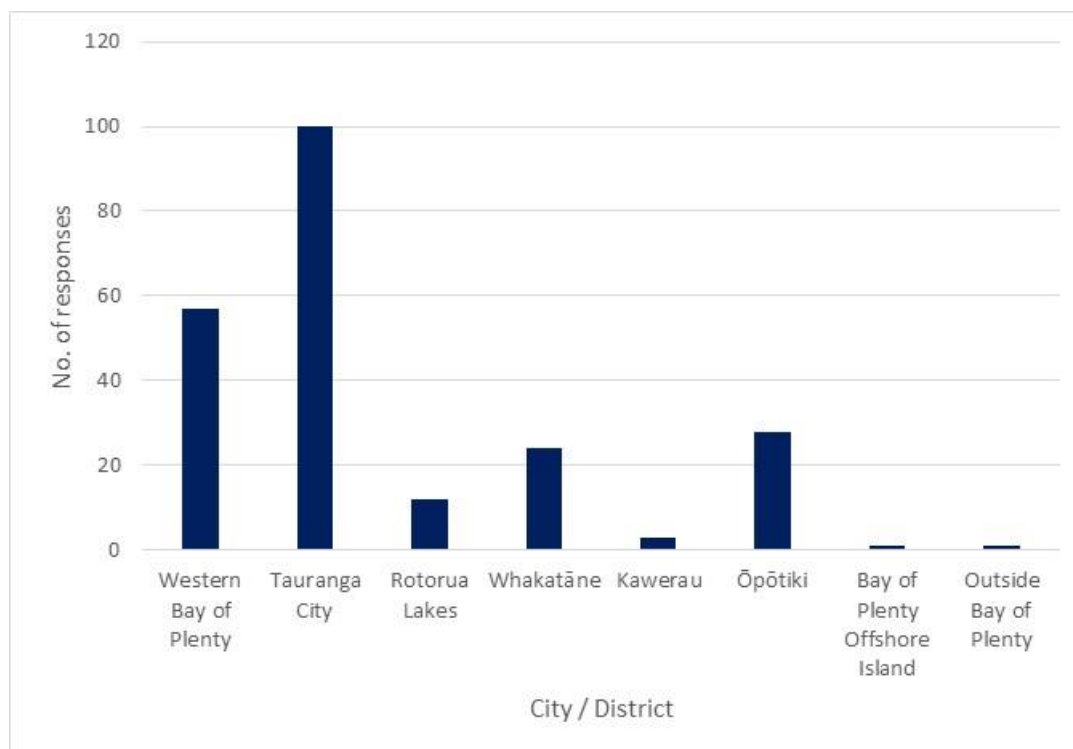


Figure 1: The number of people who provided feedback and the district they live in.

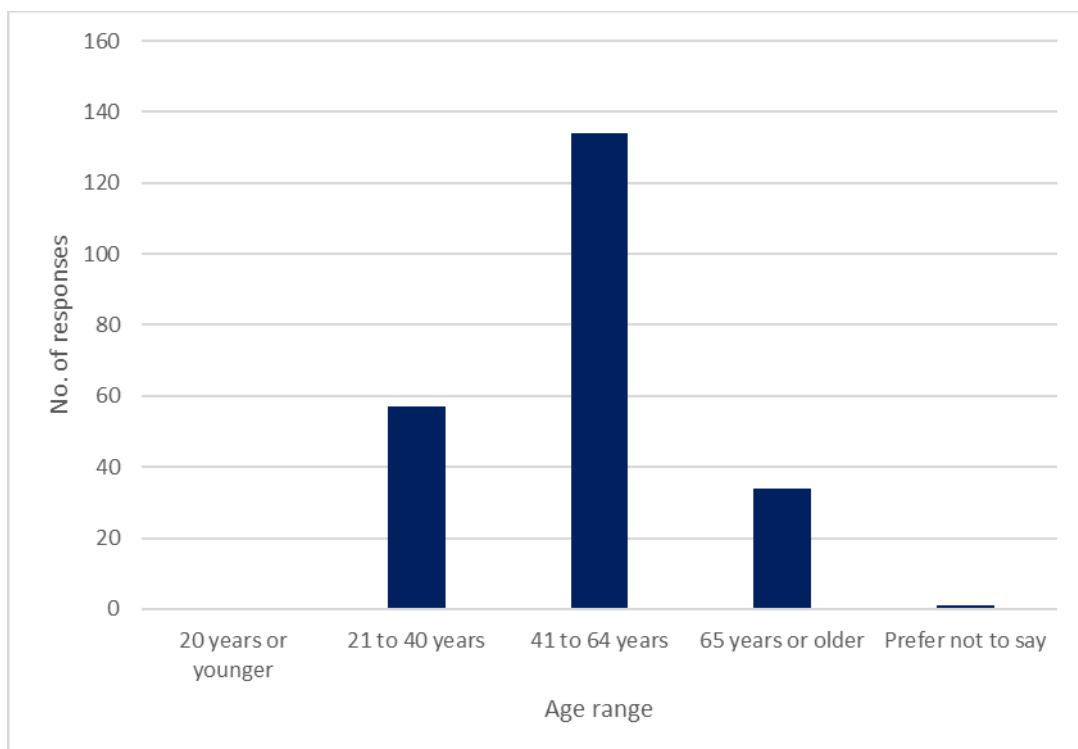


Figure 2: The number of people who provided feedback and their age group.

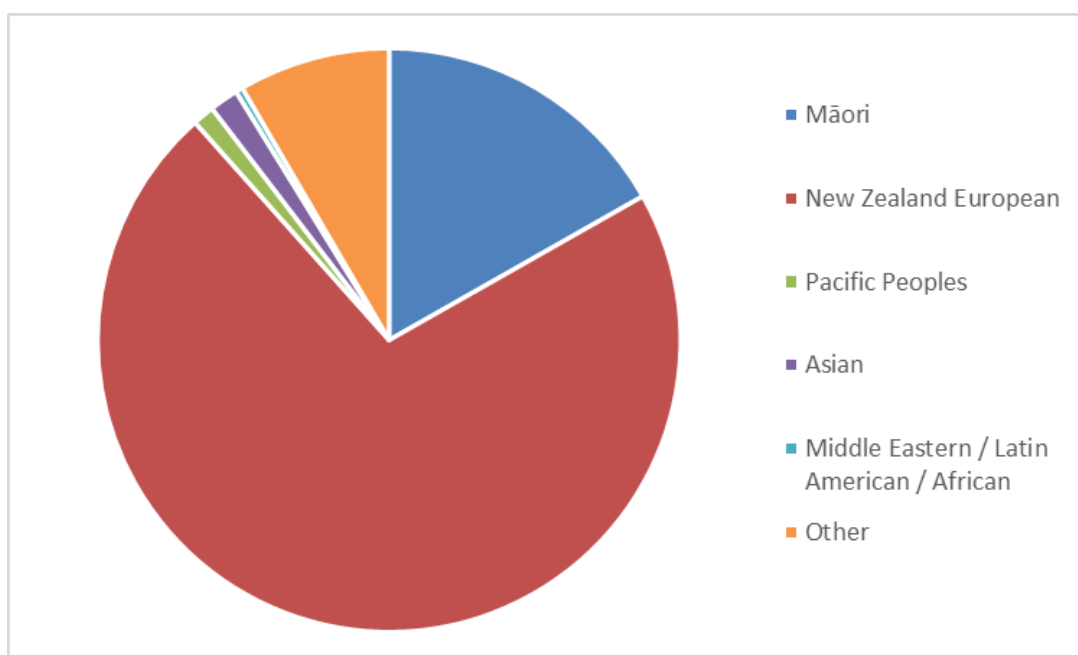


Figure 3: The proportion of people who provided feedback and their ethnicity.

Disaster Preparedness

The preparedness section of the survey listed 10 statements and asked the person completing the survey to select all statements that were applicable to them. Table 1 lists the 10 different statements from the survey and the percentage of respondents that selected each statement. A disaster preparedness survey was conducted by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in 2022. The NEMA survey included a similar question with similar statements to the Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey. The results from the NEMA survey question are also included in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of the results from the Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey and results from a similar question in the 2022 National Emergency Management Agency disaster preparedness survey.

Statement	Percentage of respondents (%)	NEMA survey percentage (%)
I have a good understanding of the types of disaster that could occur, and the chances of them occurring.	87	82
I have a good understanding of the effects of a disaster in my area.	79	72
I have discussed or planned with my household what to do in a disaster.	64	45
*I have discussed or planned with my household what to do in a disaster when not at home.	36	-
I have stored 9L of water for each household member.	37	30
I have emergency supplies.	65	65
I have a getaway bag with emergency supplies.	39	33
I check my survival items at least once a year.	41	41
I attend meetings with community groups about disaster planning.	12	10
*None of the above.	4	-

Bay of Plenty survey sample number = 226, NEMA national survey sample number = 1,475.

* Two statements from the Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey were not included in the NEMA survey.

The Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey results showed that a high proportion of survey respondents (over three quarters) understood the types of disasters that could affect the Bay of Plenty and the effects from those disasters. Just under two thirds of survey respondents had also discussed or planned what to do in a disaster with their household and have emergency supplies.

Less than half of the respondents from the Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey had:

- discussed or planned with their household what to do in a disaster when not at home,
- stored 9L of water,
- a getaway bag, and
- checked their survival items within the past year.

In addition, just over 10 percent of survey respondents attend meetings with community groups about disaster planning.

The results from the NEMA disaster preparedness survey were mostly similar to the Bay of Plenty survey results. The percentage difference between seven of the eight corresponding statements from both surveys was seven or less, with two of those statements recording the same percentage. In the remaining statement regarding discussing / planning for a disaster with their household, the Bay of Plenty results was 19% higher than the corresponding statement from the NEMA survey.

The comments provided from respondents to the Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey were varied, covering a range of topics from pets to evacuation points as well as unique household preparedness situations (i.e. *"We have creek water near our whare and are prepared to cope without power"*). Although a common theme from the comments was that a lot of respondents acknowledged they needed to be better prepared, as per some of the comments listed below:

"I should be more prepared..."

"I am woefully unprepared."

"I need to do better at preparedness...."

"Thank you for the wake-up call. It's reminded me we need to be more prepared."

"The above questions have prompted me to do a bit more to be better prepared."

Overall, the Bay of Plenty disaster preparedness survey results suggest that most of the respondents have a reasonable understanding of the types of disasters that could affect the region and the subsequent effects. However, the results highlight areas for improvement, particularly around households being more prepared. These results also aligned with the results from the NEMA disaster preparedness survey.