



He ratonga tautoko, he aroha tangata

Home and community support services experience survey

**Home and community support
services experience survey:
Data dictionary**

October 2025

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Document version control

Version	Date	Author	Changes
1.0	December 2024	J. Swanson	Published
1.1	January 2025	J. Swanson	Updated to specify branching rule for SS_TimeExpect and to add new derived demographic variables (ethpriority_final, gender_final, age_final)
2.0	October 2025	J. Swanson	Incorporated changes made to the questionnaire for the June 2025 survey round

Overview

This data dictionary describes the survey questions, response options, branching and other metadata used in the home and community support services experience survey (HCSS survey). It is designed to be used alongside the HCSS survey methodology and procedures report and the HCSS survey questionnaire, which can be found on the Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission website: <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-data/patient-reported-measures/patient-experience/about-our-patient-experience-surveys/home-and-community-support-services-experience-survey>

The main survey questions are outlined in chronological order of how they are asked in the survey. Derived variables, sample variables, and administrative variables are outlined in the later sections.

This data dictionary is an evolving document and remains in draft. Any omissions, errors, corrections, or important analysis notes identified during the use of this dictionary should be notified to survey@hqsc.govt.nz so that this dictionary can be updated as appropriate.

Screening questions

The screening questions are asked so we can identify who is responding to the survey.

Who completed the survey

Variable name:	Who_answers
Survey question:	Could you tell us if you are answering this survey on behalf of yourself or someone else?
Survey question instruction:	By “yourself”, we mean the person invited to the survey.
Theme:	Respondent profile

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed
Data type:	Nominal categorical
Data codes:	1 Myself (I am the person invited to the survey)
	2 I am completing on behalf of someone else, unable to answer the survey
	99 No response

Reporting

Proportion:	Proportion who selected each response option
Denominator:	Excludes ‘99’ data code

Who completed the survey – on behalf of

Variable name: OnBehalfWho

Survey question: What is your relationship to the person invited to the survey?

Theme: Respondent profile

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes:

1	I am their partner or spouse
2	I am their parent or guardian
3	I am another family or whānau member (for example, child, sibling, grandchild)
97	Someone else (please specify) <i>The open-ended 'Someone else' response is contained in OnBehalfWho_OtherText</i>
99	No response

Branching rules: Asked if Who_answers = 2. 'I am completing on behalf of someone else, unable to answer this survey'

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected each response option

Denominator: Excludes '99' data code

Modification

2025: Family/whānau member examples added based on open-ended 'Someone else' responses from 2024

Experience of support service

The main survey questions ask for respondents' views and assessments of key aspects of the home and community support service experience. Respondents were asked to think about the support they had received in the last four weeks.

The following key documents were used to inform the topics covered:

- The Ngā paerewa Health and disability services standard. NZS 8134:2021¹
- The National Framework for Home and Community Support Services (HCSS). Ministry of Health. 2020. Wellington: Ministry of Health²
- The principles of Enabling Good Lives³

Support type

Variable name: SS_SupportType

Survey question: In the last four weeks, what type of support have you received from [provider name]?

Theme: Respondent profile

Data attributes

Response type: Multiple response choices allowed

Data type: Binary (1 = selected, 0 = did not select)

Data codes:	SS_SupportType_1	Household management (for example, help with cooking or preparing meals, cleaning, laundry or grocery shopping)
	SS_SupportType_2	Personal care (for example, help with eating, showering, medication, getting dressed or getting around the house)
	SS_SupportType_3	Respite care
	SS_SupportType_4	Outings or transportation to get to places in your community
	SS_SupportType_97	Something else (please specify)

The open-ended 'Someone else' response is contained in SS_SupportType_OtherText

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected each response option

Denominator: Answered question (1 or 0)

¹ <https://www.standards.govt.nz/shop/nzs-81342021>

² <https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/national-framework-for-home-and-community-support-services-hcss>

³ <https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/>

Modification

2025: SS_SupportType_1: cooking and grocery shopping added to the list of examples, based on open-ended 'Something else' responses from 2024. SS_SupportType_4: order of 'transportation' and 'outings' swapped, to place greater emphasis on 'outings'

Support times worked for people

Variable name: SS_TimeWork

Survey question: In the last four weeks, did the support worker(s) from [provider name] come at times that worked for you?

Theme: Effective scheduling

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, always
2	Usually
3	Sometimes
4	No, never
99	No response

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive response (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '99' data code

Notes Framed as "worked for you" to account for the need to balance the times of day that people want support (e.g., wanting to go to bed later than 8pm) and the constraints the provider is working to (e.g., cannot staff later bedtimes)

People knew in advance what time to expect support

Variable name: SS_TimeTell

Survey question: Did you know in advance what time to expect your support worker(s)?

Theme: Effective communication

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, always
2	Usually
3	Sometimes
4	No, never
99	No response

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive response (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '99' data code

Notes Added following client feedback during questionnaire development stage

Support arrived at expected time

Variable name: SS_TimeExpect

Survey question: Did the support worker(s) arrive at around the time you expected them to?

Theme: Effective scheduling

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, always
2	Usually
3	Sometimes
4	No, never
99	No response

Branching rules: Asked if SS_TimeTell = 1. 'Yes, always', 2. 'Usually' or 3. 'Sometimes'

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive response (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '99' data code

No occasion on which support did not turn up

Variable name: SS_NoSupport

Survey question: In the last four weeks, has a support worker not turned up at all when one was supposed to?

Theme: Effective scheduling

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Dichotomous

Data codes: 1 Yes
2 No
99 No response

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive response (2. 'No'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '99' data code

Notes Added following client feedback during questionnaire development stage. Key issue identified by expert advisors

People knew support worker in advance

Variable name: SS_SupportWho

Survey question: In the last four weeks, did you know in advance who your support worker(s) would be?

Theme: Effective communication

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes: 1 Yes, always

2	Usually
3	Sometimes
4	No, never
99	No response

Reporting

Proportion:	Proportion who selected the most positive response (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people
Denominator:	Excludes '99' data code

People advised of changes in advance

Variable name:	SS_ChangeInform
Survey question:	If there were changes to your support arrangements in the last four weeks, did someone from [provider name] let you know in advance?
Survey question instruction:	For example, that your support would happen at a different time from what you were expecting, that the support worker could not make it, or that the support worker would be a different person from who you were expecting?
Theme:	Effective communication

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed												
Data type:	Ordinal categorical												
Data codes:	<table> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Yes, always</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Usually</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Sometimes</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>No, never</td></tr> <tr> <td>95</td><td>There were no changes to my support arrangements in the last four weeks</td></tr> <tr> <td>99</td><td>No response</td></tr> </table>	1	Yes, always	2	Usually	3	Sometimes	4	No, never	95	There were no changes to my support arrangements in the last four weeks	99	No response
1	Yes, always												
2	Usually												
3	Sometimes												
4	No, never												
95	There were no changes to my support arrangements in the last four weeks												
99	No response												

Reporting

Proportion:	Proportion who selected the most positive response (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people
Denominator:	Excludes '95' and '99' data codes

Support workers had necessary knowledge and skills

Variable name:	SW_SkillNeeded
Survey question:	In the last four weeks, did the support worker(s) know what kind of support you needed and how to provide it?
Survey question instruction:	For example, did they know what is in your support plan, did they have the right skills and training?
Theme:	Effective scheduling

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed
Data type:	Ordinal categorical
Data codes:	1 Yes, always
	2 Usually
	3 Sometimes
	4 No, never
	99 No response

Reporting

Proportion:	Proportion who selected the most positive response (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people
Denominator:	Excludes '99' data code

Modification

2025:	In the survey question instruction, "care plan" was changed to 'support plan' for consistency with the new follow-up question SW_SkillNeededReason
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Notes	Client feedback during questionnaire development indicated that inadequate training was a key issue
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Why support workers lacked necessary knowledge and skills

Variable name (2024):	SW_SkillNeededOE
Survey question:	What made you think that the support worker(s) did not always know what kind of support you needed and how to provide it?
Theme:	Effective scheduling

Data attributes

Response type:	Open-ended comment
Data type:	Qualitative
Branching rules:	Asked if SW_SkillNeeded = 2,3,4 ('Usually', 'Sometimes', 'No, never')

Modification

2025:	Replaced with a closed-ended multiple response type version (SW_SkillNeededReason)
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Notes	Understand the reasons why people answered 'Usually', 'Sometimes', 'No, never' to SW_SkillNeeded
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Variable name (2025):	SW_SkillNeededReason
Survey question:	What was it that made you think that the support worker(s) did not always know what kind of support you needed and how to provide it?
Theme:	Effective scheduling

Data attributes

Response type:	Multiple response choices allowed	
Data type:	Binary (1 = selected, 0 = did not select)	
Data codes:	SW_SkillNeededReason_1	They did not know what was in my support plan
	SW_SkillNeededReason_2	They did not know how to complete the tasks in my support plan
	SW_SkillNeededReason_3	They did not complete the tasks in my support plan in the way that they were supposed to
	SW_SkillNeededReason_97	Another reason (please explain) <i>The open-ended 'Another reason' response is contained in SW_SkillNeededReason_OtherText</i>
Branching rules:	Asked if SW_SkillNeeded = 2,3,4 ('Usually', 'Sometimes', 'No, never')	

Reporting

Proportion:	Proportion who selected each response option
Denominator:	Answered question (1 or 0)

Modification

2025: New closed-ended multiple response question to replace 2024 open-ended qualitative question (SW_SkillNeededOE), with the intention of making it easier both to respond to the survey and to interpret the results. The response option categories for SW_SkillNeededReason in 2025 were based on the open-ended comments received for SW_SkillNeededOE in 2024

Notes

It is recommended that analysis of this question focus on the first two response options, 'They did not know what was in my support plan' and 'They did not know how to complete the tasks in my support plan'. The third response option, 'They did not complete the tasks in my support plan in the way that they were supposed to', is highly subjective and include a mismatch between client expectations and what support workers are able to provide. Responses to this option should be interpreted with caution

Name pronounced properly

Variable name: QCare_NamePronounce

Survey question: In the last four weeks, was your name pronounced properly by the support worker(s)?

Theme: Treated with respect

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, always
2	Usually
3	Sometimes
4	No, never
5	They addressed me appropriately without using my name
6	No one used my name or addressed me appropriately
99	No response

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive responses (1. 'Yes, always' OR 5. 'They addressed me appropriately without using my name'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '99' data code

Listened to

Variable name: QCare_Attributes_Listen

Survey question: Did the support worker(s) listen to your views on how you wanted them to provide support?

Theme: Effective communication

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, always
2	Usually
3	Sometimes
4	No, never
99	No response

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive responses (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '99' data code

Treated with respect and kindness

Variable name: QCare_Attributes_RespectKindness

Survey question: Did the support worker(s) treat you with respect and kindness?

Theme: Treated with respect

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, always
2	Usually
3	Sometimes
4	No, never
98	Don't know
99	No response

Branching rules: Response option 'Don't know' is only shown if Who_answers = 2. 'I am completing on behalf of someone else, unable to answer this survey'

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive responses (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '98' and '99' data codes

Culture respected

Variable name: SW_CultureRespect

Survey question: During the visits from the support worker(s) in the last four weeks, was your culture respected?

Theme: Treated with respect

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, always
2	Usually
3	Sometimes
4	No, never
95	Does not apply to me
98	Don't know
99	No response

Branching rules: Response option 'Don't know' is only shown if Who_answers = 2. 'I am completing on behalf of someone else, unable to answer this survey'

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive responses (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '95', '98' and '99' data codes

Spirituality and beliefs respected

Variable name: SW_BeliefsRespect

Survey question: During the visits from the support worker(s) in the last four weeks, were your spirituality and beliefs respected?

Theme: Treated with respect

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, always
2	Usually
3	Sometimes
4	No, never
95	Does not apply to me
98	Don't know
99	No response

Branching rules: Response option 'Don't know' is only shown if Who_answers = 2. 'I am completing on behalf of someone else, unable to answer this survey'

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive responses (1. 'Yes, always'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '95', '98' and '99' data codes

Why culture, spirituality or beliefs were not respected

Variable name: QNeeds_OE

Survey question: What made you think that your [culture AND/OR spirituality or beliefs] [was/were] not always respected?

Theme: Treated with respect

Data attributes

Response type: Open-ended comment

Data type: Qualitative

Branching rules: Asked if SW_CultureRespect OR SW_BeliefsRespect = 2,3,4 ('Usually', 'Sometimes', 'No, never')

Asking questions or requesting changes

Variable name: SM_Contact

Survey question: In the last four weeks, did you contact [provider name] to ask a question or request changes to your support arrangements?

Theme: Ease of contact

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes
2	No
3	I wanted to contact them but did not know how
4	I tried to contact them but could not get in touch with anyone
99	No response

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected each response option

Denominator: Excludes '99' data code

Notes Provides branching logic for the following question. Response options 3 and 4 are indicators of being informed about processes and effective communication

Requested help or change received

Variable name: SM_Help

Survey question: Did you get the help or change you needed?

Theme: Ease of contact

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, definitely
2	Partly

	3	No
	99	No response
Branching rules:	Asked if SM_Contact = 1. 'Yes'	

Reporting

Proportion:	Proportion who selected the most positive responses (1. 'Yes, definitely'), representing the best-case scenario for people
Denominator:	Excludes '99' data code

Would raise a concern or complaint

Variable name:	SM_ComplaintKnow
Survey question:	If you had a concern or complaint about your support, would you raise this with [provider name]?
Theme:	Ease of contact

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed
Data type:	Nominal categorical
Data codes:	1 Yes
	2 No
	3 Maybe
	99 No response

Reporting

Proportion:	Proportion who selected each response option
Denominator:	Excludes '99' data code

Notes	Provides branching logic for following questions
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Why not raise a concern or complaint

Variable name (2024):	SM_ComplaintKnowOE
Survey question:	What makes you say this?
Theme:	Ease of contact

Data attributes

Response type:	Open-ended comment
Data type:	Qualitative
Branching rules:	Asked if SM_ComplaintKnow = 2,3 ('No', 'Maybe')

Modification

2025:	Replaced with a closed-ended multiple response type version (SM_ComplaintKnowReason)
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Variable name (2025):	SM_ComplaintKnowReason
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Survey question:	What makes you say this?
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Theme:	Ease of contact
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Data attributes

Response type:	Multiple response choices allowed EXCEPT SM_ComplaintKnowReason_95 is exclusive choice
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Data type:	Binary (1 = selected, 0 = did not select)
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Data codes:	SM_ComplaintKnowReason_1	I would try to discuss or resolve the issue directly with my support worker(s)
	SM_ComplaintKnowReason_2	It wouldn't change anything or nothing would be done about it
	SM_ComplaintKnowReason_3	I don't want my support worker(s) to get in trouble
	SM_ComplaintKnowReason_4	I'm worried about how it would impact my support
	SM_ComplaintKnowReason_5	It would depend on the situation
	SM_ComplaintKnowReason_6	I don't know how to raise a concern or complaint
	SM_ComplaintKnowReason_97	Another reason (you have selected 'Another reason', please describe in as much detail as possible) <i>The open-ended 'Another reason' response is contained in SM_ComplaintKnowReason_OtherText</i>
	SM_ComplaintKnowReason_95	I don't think I would ever have any concerns or complaints to raise

Branching rules: Asked if SM_ComplaintKnow = 2,3 ('No', 'Maybe')

Modification

2025: New closed-ended multiple response question to replace 2024 open-ended qualitative question (SM_ComplaintKnowOE), with the intention of making it easier both to respond to the survey and to interpret the results. The response option categories for SM_ComplaintKnowReason in 2025 were based on the open-ended comments received for SM_ComplaintKnowOE in 2024

Did raise a concern or complaint

Variable name: SM_ComplaintRaise

Survey question: In the last four weeks, did you contact [provider name] to raise a concern or make a complaint about your support?

Theme: Ease of contact

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes
2	No
3	I wanted to contact them but did not know how
4	I tried to contact them but could not get in touch with anyone
99	No response

Branching rules: Asked if SM_ComplaintKnow = 1,3 ('Yes', 'Maybe') AND SM_ComplaintKnowReason ≠ 6 'I don't know how to raise a concern or a complaint'

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected each response option

Denominator: Excludes '99' data code

Modification

2025: Routing expanded to also include people who responded 'Maybe' to SM_ComplaintKnow and exclude people who responded 'I don't know how to raise a concern or a complaint' to SM_ComplaintKnowReason

Notes Provides branching logic for the following question. Response options 3 and 4 are indicators of being informed about processes and effective communication.

Concern or complaint taken seriously

Variable name:	SM_ComplaintTaken
Survey question:	Did [provider name] take your concern or complaint seriously?
Survey question instruction:	If this has happened more than once in the last four weeks, please think about the most recent occasion
Theme:	Ease of contact

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed
Data type:	Ordinal categorical
Data codes:	1 Yes, definitely 2 Partly 3 No 99 No response
Branching rules:	Asked if SM_ComplaintRaise = 1. 'Yes'

Reporting

Proportion:	Proportion who selected the most positive responses (1. 'Yes, definitely'), representing the best-case scenario for people
Denominator:	Excludes '99' data code

What would make support better

Variable name:	QBetter_OE
Survey question:	What do you think would have made the support service from [provider name] and their staff better?
Theme:	Overall

Data attributes

Response type:	Open-ended comment
Data type:	Qualitative

Notes	Understand issues. Look for quality improvement ideas or opportunities
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What support has done well

Variable name: QStrength_OE

Survey question: What do you think [provider name] and their staff has done well?
If there is someone in particular who you would like to recognise for job well done, please feel free to include their name and what they did well

Theme: Overall

Data attributes

Response type: Open-ended comment

Data type: Qualitative

Notes Understand what 'good' looks like. Give positive feedback to staff

Able to attend activities

Variable name: QCommunityParticipation

Survey question: Can you attend community activities, or hapū and iwi activities, if you want to?

Theme: Treated with respect

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes, definitely
2	To some extent
3	No, but I would like this
95	No, but I do not want or need this
99	No response

Reporting

Proportion: Proportion who selected the most positive response (1. 'Yes, definitely'), representing the best-case scenario for people

Denominator: Excludes '95' and '99' data codes

Notes Social isolation is a key risk factor for entering aged residential care

Needs assessment includes support to attend activities

Variable name:	QPlanCommunityParticipation
Survey question:	Does your needs assessment include support to attend community activities, or hapū and iwi activities?
Theme:	Treated with respect

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed
Data type:	Ordinal categorical
	1 Yes, definitely
	2 To some extent
	3 No, but I would like this
	95 No, but I do not want or need this
	98 Don't know or can't remember
	99 No response

Reporting

Proportion:	Proportion who selected each response option
Denominator:	Excludes '99' data code

Modification

2025:	Question added for 2025 survey round at request of provider
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Additional feedback from carers

Variable name:	QNaturalCarerOE
Survey question:	This question is for the person who completed the survey on behalf of the person invited. Is there anything else you would like to add from your perspective about the support provided by [provider name]?
Theme:	Overall

Data attributes

Response type:	Open-ended comment
Data type:	Qualitative
Branching rules:	Asked if Who_answers = 2. 'I am completing on behalf of someone else, unable to answer this survey'

Modification

2025: 'From your perspective' added to the survey question for clarification

Notes

The experience of the person's carers was identified as a key issue by clients during the questionnaire development process. Carer fatigue is a key risk factor for entering aged residential care

Patient-reported outcome measures

The EuroQol EQ-5D-5L patient-reported outcome measure was included in the 2025 survey round to increase understanding of the self-reported health of people receiving home and community support services and the factors influencing these at a national level. The full measure is not replicated in this document but can be found on the EuroQol website:

<https://euroqol.org/information-and-support/euroqol-instruments/eq-5d-5l>.

EQ-5D-5L (EuroQolGroup)

Variable names: QEQ5D5L_Mobility
 QEQ5D5L_SelfCare
 QEQ5D5L_UsualActivities
 QEQ5D5L_PainDiscomfort
 QEQ5D5L_AnxietyDepression
 VAS_scale_health_rating

Demographics

Demographic questions are included to understand the respondent profile and to enable subgroup equity comparisons.

Age (self-reported)

Variable name: QAge
Survey question: Which age range are you in?

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed
Data type: Ordinal categorical
Data codes: 1 14 years or under
 2 15 to 24 years
 3 25 to 34 years
 4 35 to 44 years

5	45 to 54 years
6	55 to 64 years
7	65 to 74 years
8	75 to 84 years
9	85 years or over
99	No response

Ethnicity (self-reported)

Variable name:	QEthnicity
Definition:	Ethnic group is collected and reported in accordance with the Statistics NZ Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification 2005 V2.1.0 and the HISO 10001:2017 Ethnicity Data Protocols
Survey question:	Which ethnic group or groups do you belong to?
Theme:	Demographics

Data attributes

Response type:	Multiple response choices allowed	
Data type:	Binary (1 = selected, 0 = did not select)	
Data codes:	QEthnicity_1_1	New Zealand European
	QEthnicity_1_2	Māori
	QEthnicity_1_3	Samoan
	QEthnicity_1_4	Cook Island Māori
	QEthnicity_1_5	Tongan
	QEthnicity_1_6	Niuean
	QEthnicity_1_7	Chinese
	QEthnicity_1_8	Indian
	QEthnicity_1_97	Other (such as Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan)
		You selected 'other' as an option for your ethnic group. Which of these ethnic groups do you belong to?
	QEthnicity_2_1	English
	QEthnicity_2_2	Australian
	QEthnicity_2_3	Dutch

QEthnicity_2_4	Other European
QEthnicity_2_5	Tokelauan
QEthnicity_2_6	Fijian
QEthnicity_2_7	Other Pacific Peoples
QEthnicity_2_8	Filipino
QEthnicity_2_9	Japanese
QEthnicity_2_10	Korean
QEthnicity_2_11	Cambodian
QEthnicity_2_12	Other Asian
QEthnicity_2_13	Middle Eastern
QEthnicity_2_14	Latin American
QEthnicity_2_15	African
QEthnicity_2_97	Other (please specify)

The open-ended 'Other' response is contained in QEthnicity_2_97Text

Branching rules: QEthnicity_2 is asked if QEthnicity_1 = 97, 'Other'

Gender (self-reported)

Variable name: QGender

Definition: Gender is collected and reported in accordance with the Statistics NZ statistical standard for gender, sex and variations of sex characteristics

Survey question: What is your gender?

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes:

1	Male
2	Female
3	Another gender
99	No response

Disability status

These questions ask respondents to provide information about their functional and self-reported disability status.

Functional disability – vision

Variable name:	WGSS1
Definition:	Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)
Question introduction:	These questions are about long-term difficulties. Long-term is something that has lasted or is expected to last six months or more
Survey question:	Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed
Data type:	Ordinal categorical
Data codes:	1 No – no difficulty
	2 Yes – some difficulty
	3 Yes – a lot of difficulty
	4 Cannot do at all
	99 No response

Functional disability – hearing

Variable name:	WGSS2
Definition:	Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)
Question introduction:	These questions are about long-term difficulties. Long-term is something that has lasted or is expected to last six months or more
Survey question:	Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed
Data type:	Ordinal categorical
Data codes:	1 No – no difficulty
	2 Yes – some difficulty
	3 Yes – a lot of difficulty
	4 Cannot do at all

99 No response

Functional disability – mobility

Variable name: WGSS3

Definition: Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)

Question introduction: These questions are about long-term difficulties. Long-term is something that has lasted or is expected to last six months or more

Survey question: Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	No – no difficulty
2	Yes – some difficulty
3	Yes – a lot of difficulty
4	Cannot do at all
99	No response

Functional disability – cognition (remembering)

Variable name: WGSS4

Definition: Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)

Question introduction: These questions are about long-term difficulties. Long-term is something that has lasted or is expected to last six months or more

Survey question: Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Ordinal categorical

Data codes:

1	No – no difficulty
2	Yes – some difficulty
3	Yes – a lot of difficulty
4	Cannot do at all
99	No response

Functional disability – self-care

Variable name:	WGSS5
Definition:	Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)
Question introduction:	These questions are about long-term difficulties. Long-term is something that has lasted or is expected to last six months or more
Survey question:	Do you have difficulty washing all over or dressing?

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed
Data type:	Ordinal categorical
Data codes:	1 No – no difficulty
	2 Yes – some difficulty
	3 Yes – a lot of difficulty
	4 Cannot do at all
	99 No response

Functional disability – communication

Variable name:	WGSS6
Definition:	Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS)
Question introduction:	These questions are about long-term difficulties. Long-term is something that has lasted or is expected to last six months or more
Survey question:	Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?

Data attributes

Response type:	Single response choice allowed
Data type:	Ordinal categorical
Data codes:	1 No – no difficulty
	2 Yes – some difficulty
	3 Yes – a lot of difficulty
	4 Cannot do at all
	99 No response

Self-identified disability

Variable name: HRCDisability

Survey question: Do you think of yourself as disabled (or as having a disability)?

Data attributes

Response type: Single response choice allowed

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes:

1	Yes
2	No
98	Unsure
99	No response

Notes Question enables a respondent to self-identify if they consider themselves disabled or having a disability to account for the limitations of the WG-SS being about functional disability only.

Derived variables

Ethnicity – prioritised ethnicity (complete)

Variable name: ethpriority_final

Definition Complete ethnicity is determined by self-report in the survey (QEthnicity_1 and QEthnicity_2) in the first instance, then imputed from what is recorded in the provider's administrative sample file (Ethnicity) if self-report is missing.

Under the prioritised ethnicity classification method, people are allocated to a single ethnic group in an order of priority, even if they have reported that they belong to more than one ethnic group. This follows the method set out in the HISO 10001:2017 Ethnicity Data Protocols.

Data attributes

Data type: Text

Data codes:

Māori
Pacific
Non-Māori, non-Pacific

Gender (complete)

Variable name: gender_final

Definition Complete gender is determined by self-report in the survey (QGender) in the first instance, then imputed from what is recorded in the provider's administrative sample file (Gender) if self-report is missing.

Data attributes

Data type: Text

Data codes: Male
Female
Another gender
U (unknown)

Age (complete)

Variable name: age_final

Definition Complete age is determined by self-report in the survey (QAge) in the first instance, then imputed from what is recorded in the provider's administrative sample file (Age) if self-report is missing

Data attributes

Data type: Text

Data codes: 14 years or under
15 to 24 years
25 to 34 years
35 to 44 years
45 to 54 years
55 to 64 years
65 to 74 years
75 to 84 years
85 years or over

Ethnicity – prioritised ethnicity (self-report)

Variable name: DEthL0
DEthL1
DEthL2

Definition: Prioritised ethnicity is derived from the self-reported ethnicity variables (QEthnicity_1 and QEthnicity_2). People are allocated to a single ethnic group in an order of priority, even if they have reported that they belong to more than one ethnic group. This follows the method set out in the HISO 10001:2017 Ethnicity Data Protocols.

Data attributes

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes: DEthL0

- 1 Māori
- 2 Pacific peoples
- 3 Non-Māori, non-Pacific

DEthL1

- 1 Māori
- 2 Pacific peoples
- 3 Asian
- 4 Middle Eastern / Latin American / African (MELAA)
- 5 Other ethnicity
- 6 European

DEthL2

- 1 Māori
- 2 Tokelauan
- 3 Fijian
- 4 Niuean
- 5 Tongan
- 6 Cook Island Māori
- 7 Samoan
- 8 Other Pacific peoples
- 9 Southeast Asian

10	Indian
11	Chinese
12	Other Asian
13	Latin American
14	African
15	Middle Eastern
16	Other Ethnicity
17	European

Ethnicity – total response ethnicity (self-report)

Variable name: DEthMaoriNMNP_YN
DEthPacificNMNP_YN
DEthAsianNA_YN

Definition: Total response ethnicity is derived from the self-reported ethnicity variables (QEthnicity_1 and QEthnicity_2). People are allocated to each group that they have reported they belong to and can be allocated to multiple groups. This follows the method set out in the HISO 10001:2017 Ethnicity Data Protocols.

Data attributes

Data type: Binary

Data codes: DEthMaoriNMNP_YN
1 Māori
0 Non-Māori, non-Pacific
DEthPacificNMNP_YN
1 Pacific peoples
0 Non-Māori, non-Pacific
DEthAsianNA_YN
1 Asian
0 Non-Asian

Functional disability

Variable name: QWGSS_Aggregate

Definition: Has a functional disability based on the WG-SS. People are classified as having a functional disability if they respond 'Yes – a lot of difficulty' or 'Cannot do at all' to any of the six WG-SS questions.

Data attributes

Data type: Binary

Data codes: 1 Yes
0 No

Disability status

Variable name: DAggregate_Disability

Definition: Has a functional disability based on the WG-SS and/or self-identifies as disabled or as having a disability.

Data attributes

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes: 1 Yes
2 No
3 Unknown

Age by ethnicity (self-report)

Variable name: DEthAge

Definition: Age (QAge) nested in ethnicity (DEthL0).

Data attributes

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes: 1 14 years or under – Māori
2 15 to 24 years – Māori
3 25 to 34 years – Māori
4 35 to 44 years – Māori
5 45 to 54 years – Māori

6	55 to 64 years – Māori
7	65 to 74 years – Māori
8	75 to 84 years – Māori
9	85 years or over – Māori
10	14 years or under – Pacific peoples
11	15 to 24 years – Pacific peoples
12	25 to 34 years – Pacific peoples
13	35 to 44 years – Pacific peoples
14	45 to 54 years – Pacific peoples
15	55 to 64 years – Pacific peoples
16	65 to 74 years – Pacific peoples
17	75 to 84 years – Pacific peoples
18	85 years or over – Pacific peoples
19	14 years or under – non-Māori, non-Pacific
20	15 to 24 years – Non-Māori, non-Pacific
21	25 to 34 years – Non-Māori, non-Pacific
22	35 to 44 years – Non-Māori, non-Pacific
23	45 to 54 years – Non-Māori, non-Pacific
24	55 to 64 years – Non-Māori, non-Pacific
25	65 to 74 years – Non-Māori, non-Pacific
26	75 to 84 years – Non-Māori, non-Pacific
27	85 years or over – Non-Māori, non-Pacific
99	Unknown

Age by gender (self-report)

Variable name: DAgeGender

Definition: Age (QAge) nested in gender (QGender)

Data attributes

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes:

1	14 years or under – Female
2	15 to 24 years – Female

3	25 to 34 years – Female
4	35 to 44 years – Female
5	45 to 54 years – Female
6	55 to 64 years – Female
7	65 to 74 years – Female
8	75 to 84 years – Female
9	85 years or over – Female
10	14 years or under – Male
11	15 to 24 years – Male
12	25 to 34 years – Male
13	35 to 44 years – Male
14	45 to 54 years – Male
15	55 to 64 years – Male
16	65 to 74 years – Male
17	75 to 84 years – Male
18	85 years or over – Male
19	Another gender (all ages)
99	Unknown

Age by disability status (self-report)

Variable name: DAge_Disability

Definition: Age (QAge) nested in disability status (DAggregate_Disability)

Data attributes

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes:	1	14 years or under – disabled
	2	15 to 24 years – disabled
	3	25 to 34 years – disabled
	4	35 to 44 years – disabled
	5	45 to 54 years – disabled
	6	55 to 64 years – disabled
	7	65 to 74 years – disabled

8	75 to 84 years – disabled
9	85 years or over – disabled
10	14 years or under – non-disabled
11	15 to 24 years – non-disabled
12	25 to 34 years – non-disabled
13	35 to 44 years – non-disabled
14	45 to 54 years – non-disabled
15	55 to 64 years – non-disabled
16	65 to 74 years – non-disabled
17	75 to 84 years – non-disabled
18	85 years or over – non-disabled
99	Unknown

Ethnicity by gender (self-report)

Variable name: DEth_Gender

Definition: Ethnicity (DEthL0) nested in gender (QGender)

Data attributes

Data type: Nominal categorical

Data codes:	1	Māori – Female
	2	Pacific peoples – Female
	3	Non-Māori, non-Pacific – Female
	4	Māori – Male
	5	Pacific peoples – Male
	6	Non-Māori, non-Pacific - Male
	7	Another gender (all ethnicities)
	99	Unknown

Sample variables

Gender (sample variable)

Variable name:	Gender
Definition:	Gender as recorded in service provider sample file. Allowed codes from https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-health-professionals/data-and-statistics/nz-health-statistics/data-references/code-tables/common-code-tables#sex-type-code-table

Data attributes

Data type:	Nominal categorical
Mandatory:	Yes
Data codes:	F I M U

Age (sample variable)

Variable name:	Age
Definition:	Age calculated from date of birth as recorded in provider sample file

Data attributes

Data type:	Ordinal
Mandatory:	Yes (date of birth)

Ethnicity (sample variable)

Variable name:	Ethnicity
Definition:	Ethnicity as recorded in service provider sample file. Allowed codes from https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-health-professionals/data-and-statistics/nz-health-statistics/data-references/code-tables/common-code-tables#ethnicity-code-tables

Data attributes

Data type:	Nominal categorical
Mandatory:	Yes (date of birth)
Data codes:	10 European not further defined

11	NZ European
12	Other European
21	NZ Māori
30	Pacific Island not further defined
31	Samoa
32	Cook Island Māori
33	Tongan
34	Niuean
35	Tokelauan
36	Fijian
37	Other Pacific Island
40	Asian not further defined
41	Southeast Asian
42	Chinese
43	Indian
44	Other Asian
51	Middle Eastern
52	Latin American / Hispanic
53	African
61	Other ethnicity
94	Don't know
95	Refused to answer
97	Response unidentifiable
99	Not stated

Date of last visit

Variable name: Last_visit_date

Definition: The date the person was last seen, within the survey sample period

Data attributes

Data type: Date

Mandatory: Yes

Example data code: 20110816

Service start date

Variable name: Service_start_date

Definition: The date the person started receiving the service, for the current period of service if there have been multiple

Data attributes

Data type: Date

Mandatory: Yes

Example data code: 20110816

Provider name

Variable name: Provider_name

Definition: Name of provider, as usually used in communications etc

Data attributes

Data type: Text

Mandatory: Yes

Service type

Variable name: Service_type

Definition: Type of service provided. Descriptors may be unique to providers. Pipe separators are used to list multiple service types

Data attributes

Data type: Text

Mandatory: No

Example data code: HCSS | MIS | RTI | over 65 | LTC | short-term acute | respite | respite for caregivers of fragile children | responsive model of care - over 65 | long term chronic | START | short term acute | short term acute (respite – STS clients) | disability support services | DSS – IF.

Service level

Variable name: Service_level

Definition: Further differentiates within provider, if a lower level than provider is required for reporting

Data attributes

Data type: Text

Mandatory: No

District of domicile

Variable name: DHB_of_domicile

Definition: District area codes. Allowed codes from <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-health-professionals/data-and-statistics/nz-health-statistics/data-references/code-tables/common-code-tables#district-health-board-code-table>

Data attributes

Data type: Nominal categorical

Mandatory: Yes

Data codes:

11	Northland
21	Waitemata
22	Auckland
23	Counties Manukau
31	Waikato
42	Lakes
47	Bay of Plenty
51	Tairāwhiti
71	Taranaki
61	Hawke's Bay
81	Midcentral
82	Whanganui
91	Capital and Coast
92	Hutt
93	Wairarapa
101	Nelson Marlborough
111	West Coast

121	Canterbury
123	South Canterbury
160	Southern

Service funder

Variable name: Funder
 Definition: Funder of service. Pipe separators are used to list service funders

Data attributes

Data type: Text
 Mandatory: Yes
 Example data code: ACC | DSS | Te Whatu Ora

Direct client time per week

Variable name: Direct_client_time_per_week
 Definition: Number of minutes of direct client time in the week of last visit date

Data attributes

Data type: Continuous
 Mandatory: Yes

Optional variables

Variable name: Optional_1
 Optional_2
 Optional_3
 Definition: Optional variables, unique to each provider

Data attributes

Data type: Text
 Mandatory: No

Administrative variables

Survey wave

Variable name: BatchName

Definition: Survey system variable that denotes the survey and year.

Data attributes

Data type: Text

Example data code: HCSS Survey 2024

Unique identifier

Variable name: CaseID

Definition: Unique identifier for each respondent

Data attributes

Data type: Numeric

Example data code: 4243111