THE TREASURY
Kaitohutohu Kaupapa Rawa

Quick guide to Our People

The **Wellbeing Domain Overview** offers a view of individual wellbeing across nine domains, to give us an idea of where we're doing well, and where we might be able to improve. You can see definitions for each of these domains in the table below.

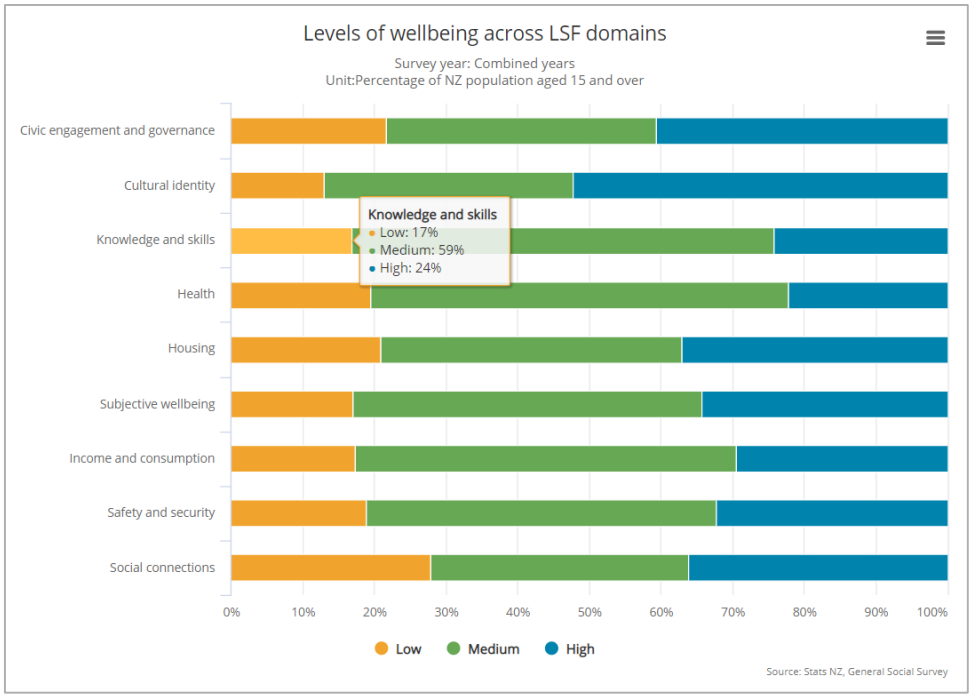
High and Low Wellbeing

Reading a horizontal Stacked Bar graph

The data from the graph below were collected from survey responses from the General Social Survey (GSS), for which respondents were asked to evaluate their own wellbeing in a number of domains.

The categories within bars are ranked horizontally; 'Low' is shown in yellow on the left, 'Good' is shown in green in the middle, and 'High' is shown in blue on the right. Each bar adds up 100% of the data pool, as we can see on the horizontal axis at the bottom of the graph. The pool is representative of the total New Zealand population, aged 15 and over.

In general, 'Low' wellbeing reflects a respondent reporting at least one (or sometimes more than one) aspect of their life that is not going well in a particular domain. 'High' wellbeing, on the other hand, is marked by positive reporting on every adopted aspect of that domain's wellbeing.



Current Wellbeing

Current wellbeing can be thought of as wellbeing at a 'point in time', that is multi-dimensional. It is made up of 12 domains, and we use 9 of these to map wellbeing in Our People. (Due to lack of robust and comparable data, there are currently no measures for the *Jobs and Earnings*, *Time Use*, or *Environment* domains, but the Our Country section covers all 12 domains). You can see definitions of each of the domains below.

In Our People, we use these domains as markers of individual wellbeing. We drill down into the distribution of wellbeing as experienced by different groups in New Zealand, and can see how some groups are doing relative to others. We can then use this data to inform policy.

Some domains are measured more thoroughly than others. Areas of particular weakness include:

- Knowledge and Skills, for which only formal qualifications are measured, and not broader skills and abilities;
- Cultural Identity, where the only aspect measured is the sense of belonging in New Zealand. The existence of Te Kupenga, a survey of Māori wellbeing undertaken in 2013, could provide particular insights into cultural dimensions of Māori wellbeing.
- Subjective Wellbeing, which is likely to mean different things to different people in different stages of their lives. For this reason, we regard it only as a proxy measure of overall wellbeing.

Civic Engagement and Governance	Peoples' engagement in the governance of their country, how 'good' New Zealand's governance is perceived to be, and the procedural fairness of our society.
Cultural Identity	Having a strong sense of identity, belonging and ability to be oneself, and the existence value of cultural taonga.
Health	Our mental and physical health.
Housing	The quality, suitability and affordability of the homes we live in.
Income and Consumption	People's disposable incomes from all sources, how much people spend and the material possessions they have.
Knowledge and Skills	Peoples' knowledge and skills.
Safety	People's safety and security (both real and perceived) and their freedom from risk of harm, and lack of fear.
Subjective Wellbeing	Overall life satisfaction and sense of meaning and self.
Social Connection	Having positive social contacts and a support network.

THE TREASURY
Kaitohutohu Kaupapa Rawa

Quick guide to Our People

In the **Population Group Comparison**, we can see how different groups of New Zealanders compare to one another in different domains of wellbeing. You can switch between **Spider graphs** and **Horizontal Bar graphs** in this section, depending on your preference.

Spider Graphs

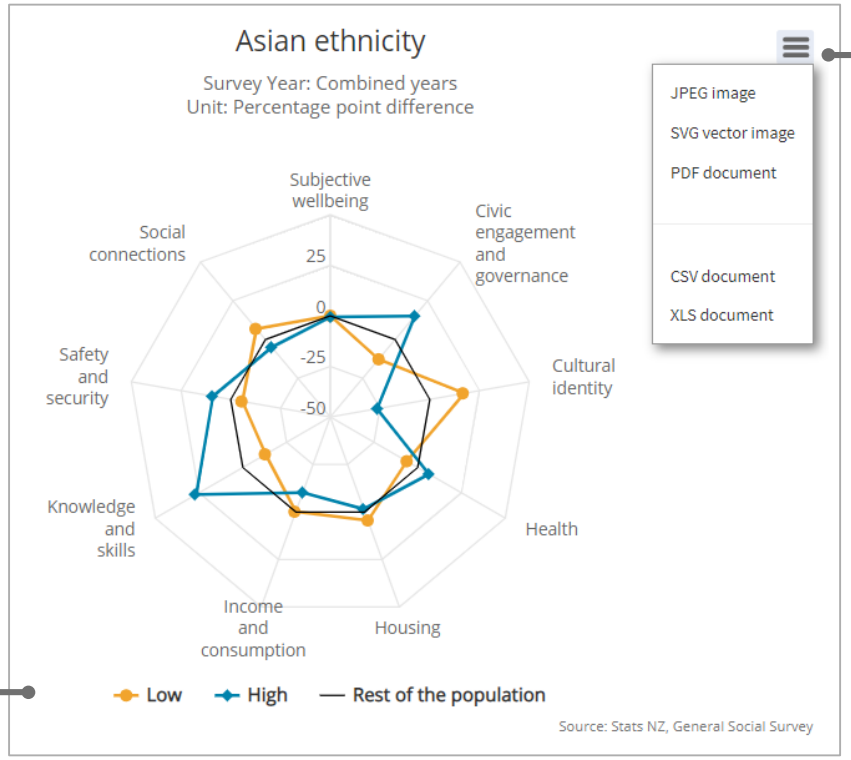
Reading a Spider graph

We use Spider graphs to measure the relationship between different population characteristics and wellbeing domains. Each Spider graph displays three 'strands', which represent Low wellbeing, High wellbeing and the Rest of the population.

We read the Spider graph by taking note of the shape of the blue and yellow shapes, relative to the rest of the population. If the blue shape is larger in places than the grey shape, the selected population group is likely to have better wellbeing across those domains than the rest of the population. If the yellow shape is bigger, they are likely to have lower wellbeing. Note that many of the shapes weave in and out of one another in places, as segments of the population perform better or worse on different indicators of wellbeing.

In the graph on the right, we can see at the glance that those who identify as Asian are more likely to have High Knowledge and Skills, and also more likely to have Low Cultural Identity, than the rest of the population. We can hover over each data point for more detail – for this example, those identifying as Asian are 27% more likely to have High Knowledge and Skills, and 17% more likely to have Low Cultural Identify.

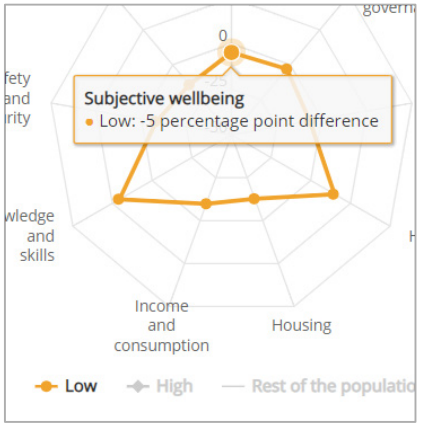
Note: the four groups that comprise 'Ethnicity' on the LSF Dashboard (European, Asian, Māori, Pacific) do not make up 100% of the population in New Zealand. At present, we lack sufficiently robust data on other ethnic groups in New Zealand, whom we hope to represent in future.



You can export any graph through the menu in the top-right corner of that graph.

From the Home Page, you can also access and download an aggregated summary of the data used in the LSF Dashboard.

Example: Ethnicity: Asian ethnicity



Hover over any data point to see the numerical value for that data point.

You can add, remove or isolate certain categories by clicking on them in the key at the bottom of the graph.

Comparing groups

Comparing different segments of the population can help us to pinpoint which segments are doing better or worse than average in each of the domains of wellbeing. This can be extremely useful as it allows us to target aspects of policy to segments of the population that have much to gain.

However, caution needs to be taken when interpreting the results in this section. Each graph is presented separately by population characteristic, and the graphs do not control for other differences in the populations. For example, Asian and Pacific people in New Zealand tend to be younger than European and Māori – this could drive observed differences in wellbeing, rather than underlying ethnic differences.

THE TREASURY
Kaitohutohu Kaupapa Rawa

Quick guide to Our People

The **Mix and Match Comparison** expands on the Population Group Comparison, allowing you to pick and choose up to four different segments of the population to compare to one another. You can switch between **Spider graphs** and **Horizontal Bar graphs**, just as you can in the Population Group Comparison.

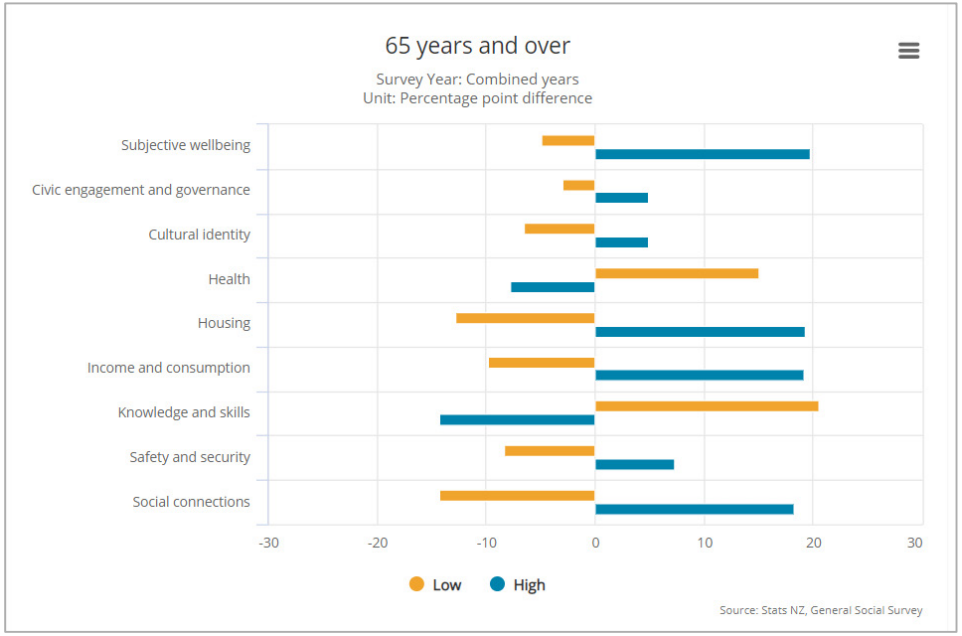
Horizontal Bar Graphs

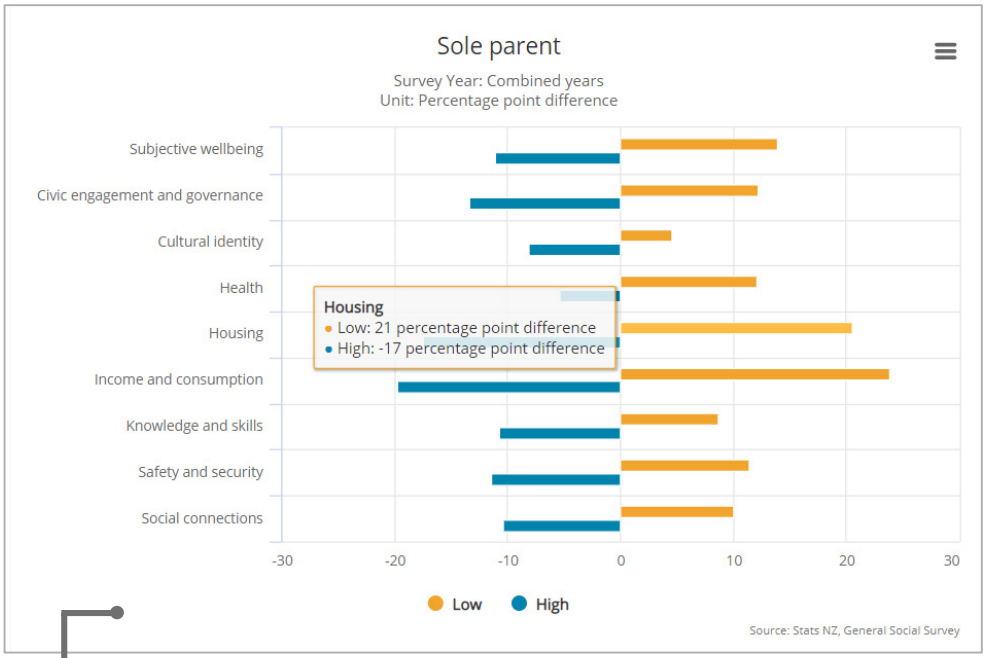
The middle point on these graphs (0 on the horizontal axis) signifies the rest of the population. Bars protrude from the middle point to signify the level to which a segment of the population is more or less likely to have Low (yellow bars) or High (blue bars) wellbeing in the selected domain.

To the left of the middle point, the horizontal axis displays negative values (-10, -20, -30), and to the right it displays positive values (10, 20, 30).

A yellow bar protruding out of the left side would signify that the population group is less likely to have Low wellbeing than the rest of the population in the selected domain. A yellow bar protruding out of the right side would signify that the population group is more likely to have Low wellbeing.

A blue bar protruding out of the left side would signify that the population group is less likely to have High wellbeing than the rest of the population in the selected domain. A blue bar protruding out of the right side would signify that the population group is more like to have High wellbeing.





Examples: Age Group: 65 years and over (left), Family Type: Sole parent (right)

Making comparisons

At a glance, we can see that the graph for 65 years and over is more nuanced that for that of Sole parent. While those 65 years and over are more likely to have Low Health wellbeing and Low Knowledge and Skills wellbeing, their Subjective wellbeing is more likely to be higher than the rest of the population.

Lower levels of stress could be a factor here, as a considerable portion of those 65 and over have exited the workforce. Another factor could be that this subgroup has simply had longer to figure out what they enjoy, and what gives their lives meaning.

Meanwhile, on every domain, Sole parents are less likely to have High wellbeing, and more likely to have Low wellbeing than the rest of the population. It might be reasonable to infer that Sole parents are particularly disadvantaged when it comes to wellbeing in New Zealand, and who we might want to make a point of focus in our social policy going forward.

THE TREASURY
Kaitohutohu Kaupapa Rawa

Quick guide to Our People

The **Domain Comparisons** section looks at the extent to which people's wellbeing in a particular domain coincides with wellbeing in other domains. We display this using **Heatmaps**, which show us the levels of correlation between different domains.

Heatmaps

We use **Heatmaps** to display levels of correlation between different domains of wellbeing. Darker shades, and larger numbers, show stronger relationships between domains.
The Domain Comparisons page displays two Heatmaps, side by side. On the first Heatmap we can see how Low wellbeing in each domain correlates with Low wellbeing in the other domains; for example, Low Subjective Wellbeing is highly correlated with Low Health. On the second Heatmap (right) we see how High wellbeing in each domain corresponds with High wellbeing in the other domains.

Across both Heatmaps, the overwhelming trend is one of high correlation. Generally, if a person has Low wellbeing in some areas, it's likely that they have Low wellbeing in other areas; the same is true for High wellbeing. However, in some cases, we see negative correlations within the Heatmaps. In the example on the right, we can see that Knowledge and Skills is negatively correlated with Social Connections – when Knowledge and Skills is High, Social Connections is 8% less likely to be High.

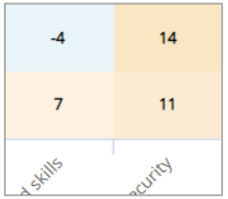
We should take note of such cases, and be aware of limitations within the data. For example, particular care needs to be taken when interpreting relationships for Knowledge and Skills wellbeing, as our measurement is restricted to formal qualifications. In addition, older people are much less likely to have a qualification, but generally report high levels of wellbeing.

Causation

When interpreting data from the Heatmaps, we need to be careful when inferring causal links between domains. The Heatmaps display correlation only – they should not be taken as proof that High or Low wellbeing in one domain *causes* High or Low wellbeing in other domains.

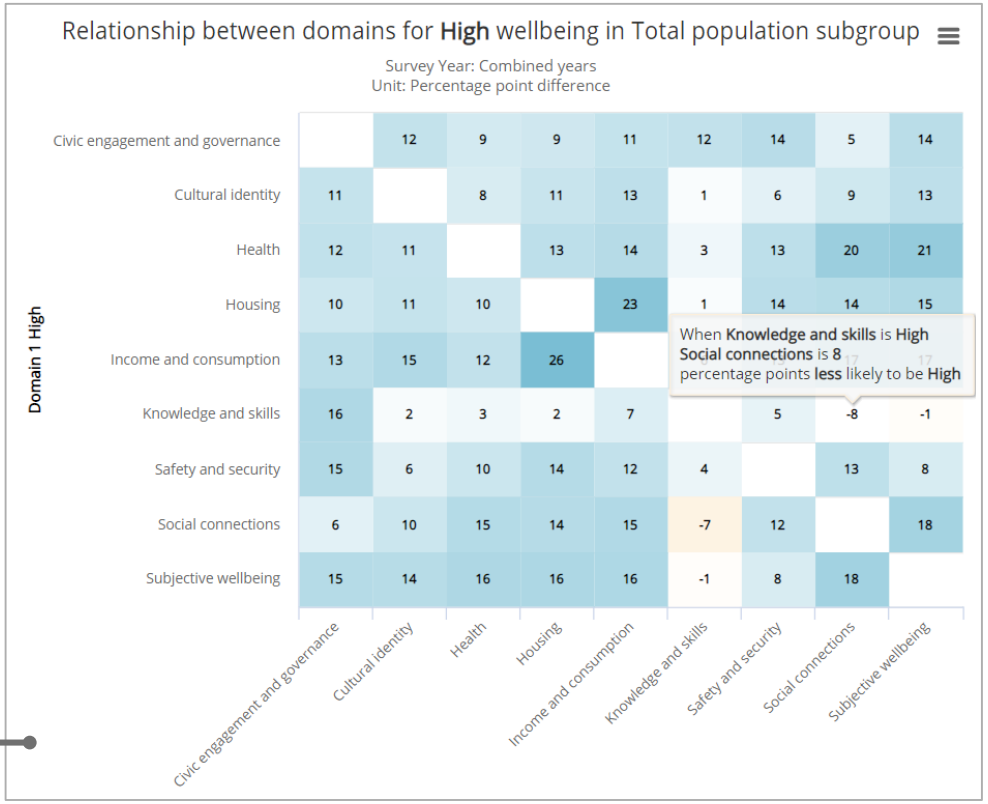
There are certainly cases where causation is likely. For example, High Income and Consumption wellbeing is likely to directly result in High Housing wellbeing; it is not a stretch to infer that a high-paying job allows a person to afford secure and appropriate housing.

It is also important that we are aware of the factors that make up each domain, so that any causal inferences that we might draw are backed up by what the data is measuring. As we saw above, Knowledge and Skills is currently underdeveloped, and does not account for skills or trades acquired outside of a Bachelor's qualification. It may be less appropriate, then, to say that Low Knowledge and Skills wellbeing *causes* Low wellbeing in other domains. You can find more about the factors that make up each domain on the Wellbeing Domain Overview page.



On both Heatmaps, High wellbeing is displayed in blue, and Low wellbeing is displayed in orange.

The map for Low wellbeing is mostly orange and the map for High wellbeing is mostly blue; at a glance, this tells us that there are high levels of correlation between almost all measures of wellbeing.



Example: Total Population: Relationship between domains for High wellbeing

It is useful to look at the degree to which different domains relate to one another, as this allows us to consider which services are best offered together to impact multiple areas of people's lives.

It is possible that a single phenomenon could underpin poor wellbeing in more than one domain. For example, social isolation could lead to both loneliness (Low *Social Connection* wellbeing), and to distrust of others (Low *Civic Engagement and Governance* wellbeing).

However, because of these different underlying mechanisms, and because of the varying quality of the measurement of different domains, we need to take care when interpreting these relationships.