

Housing Fact Sheet - Summary of survey findings

Just Sayin' is an annual survey of young people

The Just Sayin' surveys are conducted annually to seek feedback from young people who are eligible for support from a transition worker. The surveys are one part of the Transition Support Service (TSS) evaluation. The 2021 survey included young people aged 16 to 20. A total of 331 young people provided analysable responses, of who 327 answered the questions about housing. The remaining four young people provided no information about their housing and were grouped with the stable housing sample.

Just Sayin' survey findings for young people eligible for a transition worker in unstable housing consisted of 29 young people in unstable, and 302 young people in stable, housing. Unstable housing includes those who were living rough, in a garage, couch surfing, in a car or van, or in a motel.

Those in unstable housing sample consisted of eight young people in care and 21 not in care. This number is likely an underrepresentation due to those not in care and those in unstable housing being elusive groups of young people.

In reading the findings below please remember they are based on small numbers of young people and so estimates are imprecise.

Preparation and planning for transition

Fewer young people in unstable housing felt the important people in their life were involved in their life planning as much as they would like, compared with those in stable housing (unstable housing: 17%, stable housing: 59%).

Transition worker support

Forty-three percent of young people in unstable housing were moderately to seriously worried about something in their life. One-quarter of those in stable housing had moderate to serious worries. Many of those in unstable housing were worried about their changing living situation.

Finding a place for me and my partner to rent before I turn 18. My mental illness getting worse and harder to control.

What will happen to me once I leave care; do I still get paid the same amount as I am now? How do I do things if I haven't been taught life skills? I'm scared to get a place of my own, I've never done it before on my own.

I might become homeless. I won't have support that I really want. I won't have caring people around me.

Living arrangements

Fewer young people in unstable housing felt a sense of belonging, compared to those in stable housing (unstable housing: 22%, stable housing, 74%).

Identity, health and wellbeing

A smaller proportion of those in unstable housing felt proud of who they are, compared to those in stable housing (unstable housing: 59%, stable housing: 71%). Both groups felt similarly secure in their identity (unstable housing: 69%, stable: 70%).

Support

One-half of those in unstable housing had someone they could turn to if they needed help during a difficult time. A larger proportion of those in stable housing had someone they could turn to (unstable housing: 52%, stable housing: 78%). Fewer young people in unstable housing had an adult they could turn to, compared to those in stable housing (unstable: 41%, stable housing: 71%).

Education, training and employment

Fewer young people in unstable housing were in education or training, compared to those in stable housing (unstable housing: 28%, stable housing: 52%). Of those not in education or training, 55% of those in unstable housing and 61% of those in stable housing had achieved NCEA level 1 or higher.

Demographics		Unstable housing (n=29)	Stable housing (n=302)
Gender and identity	Male	41%	35%
	Female	55%	63%
	Diverse	3%	2%
Identifies as LGBTQIA+/rainbow		17%	19%
Ethnicity	Māori	45%	62%
	Pacific	14%	13%
	Non-Māori, non Pacific	48%	34%
Age	16	7%	19%
	17	24%	25%
	18	38%	27%
	19	7%	20%
	20+	24%	10%
Care status	In care	28%	40%

Just Sayin' results

Transition planning	Unstable housing	Stable housing
Do you feel you get to have a say in important decisions about your life? (3-most of the time, to 4-all of the time, on 4-point scale)	55%	81%
Are the important people to you from your chosen whānau or family involved in planning what happens with your life as much as you would like? (% yes)	17%	59%
Transition worker support	Unstable housing	Stable housing
Have you been asked about whether you want to see a TW? (% yes)	83%	85%
Currently has a TW (% yes)	55%	61%

Used to have a TW (% yes)	24%	16%
Have you talked with a TW – this might be a social worker or someone else at another type of organisation? (% yes)	79%	80%
Are you worried about anything in your life just now? (7-10 on 10-point worry scale – serious worries)	43%	25%
Improving outcomes for young people as they transition from Oranga Tamariki care	Unstable housing	Stable housing
Agrees with the following statements (7 to 10 agreement on a 0-10 scale)		
I have somewhere warm to live	52%	87%
I feel like I belong	22%	74%
I feel safe where I live	50%	87%
I feel settled where I live	32%	79%
I feel accepted for who I am by the people I live with	50%	80%
Agrees with the following statements (4 to 5 agreement on a 5-point scale)		
I have friends I trust	38%	59%
I feel safe with my friends	45%	71%
My friends accept me for who I am	48%	75%
If you were going through a difficult time and needed help, do you have someone you could turn to? (% yes)	52%	78%
Has an adult they could turn to for help	41%	71%
Young people have an improved sense of identity and belonging	Unstable housing	Stable housing
To what extent do you feel secure in your identity? (3-reasonably to 4-very on 4-point scale)	69%	72%
To what extent do you feel proud of who you are? (3-reasonably to 4-very on 4-point scale)	59%	74%
Do you have as many chances as you would like to connect with your whakapapa whānau? (% yes)	59%	70%
Do you know your whakapapa (ancestry)? (3-I think so, to 4-definitely on 4-point scale)	48%	55%
Do you want to know more about your ancestry or whakapapa? (% yes)	48%	51%
Are you being supported to find out more about your ancestry/whakapapa? (% yes - of those who wanted to know more)	21%	58%
More young people are healthy and recovering from trauma	Unstable housing	Stable housing
How do you feel about your life in general? (4-very good, to 5-excellent on 5-point scale)	14%	43%
Washington scale disability (has at least one response of often or always for the categories: Difficulty hearing, seeing, doing physical activities, learning remembering or concentrating, emotional psychological or mental health conditions)	72%	58%

Washington scale disability (has two or more responses of often or always for the categories: Difficulty hearing, seeing, doing physical activities, learning remembering or concentrating, emotional psychological or mental health conditions)	41%	27%
Are you receiving the health support you need? (<i>% yes of those who indicated poor or fair for any of the Te Whare Tapa Whā questions</i>)	32%	59%
In the last 12 months, has there been any time when you wanted or needed to see a doctor or nurse (or other health care worker) about your health, but you weren't able to? (<i>% yes</i>)	48%	32%
More young people have the life skills they need to thrive as adults	Unstable housing	Stable housing
To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future? (<i>3-reasonably to 4-very on 4-point scale</i>)	61%	73%
Are you getting the support you need to learn the skills you want to learn? (<i>% yes</i>)	46%	62%
More young people are in education, employment or training (in the past 12-months)	Unstable housing	Stable housing
In education or training	28%	52%
School leavers (those not in education or training; unstable housing n=21, stable housing n =141) with NCEA level 1 or higher	55%	61%
NEET	31%	18%
Young people feel supported to be parents	Unstable housing	Stable housing
Is a parent/pregnant	24%	16%