

Armed Response Team Trial Evaluation: Views of our Community

This infographic provides a high-level summary of the main key findings from media articles, community surveys and the *Have Your Say* inbox in relation to the New Zealand Police's Armed Response Team (ART) Trial.



Have your say

Police received over 4,000 submissions from members of the public. The vast majority of emails expressed concerns about, and opposition to, the ART trial

"When police are routinely armed, people are routinely harmed."

"The police set an example, please don't let the example be that we need guns to be safe."

"If the police are to continue with ART type policing, it would be preferable for the ARTs to be on standby and only respond to situations where an armed response is required."

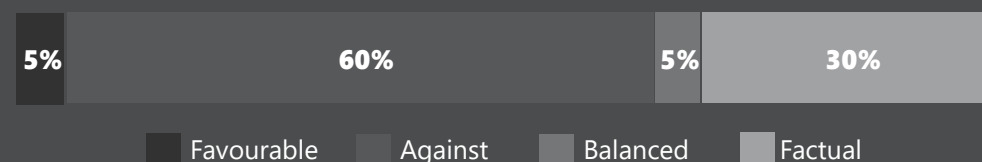
"We do not want to see the escalation of tension and deaths especially for Māori, Pacifica and the mentally unwell."

"Protecting us the public from all the crap going on makes one feel safe knowing there is these teams ready on standby for us"



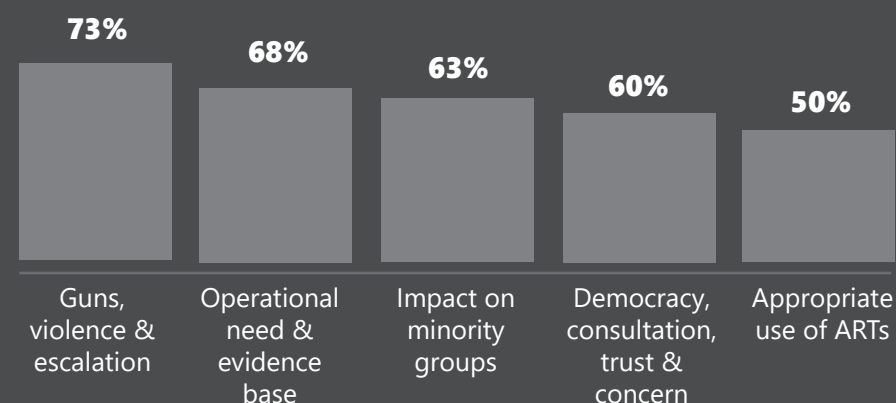
102 published articles

Between November 2019 and May 2020



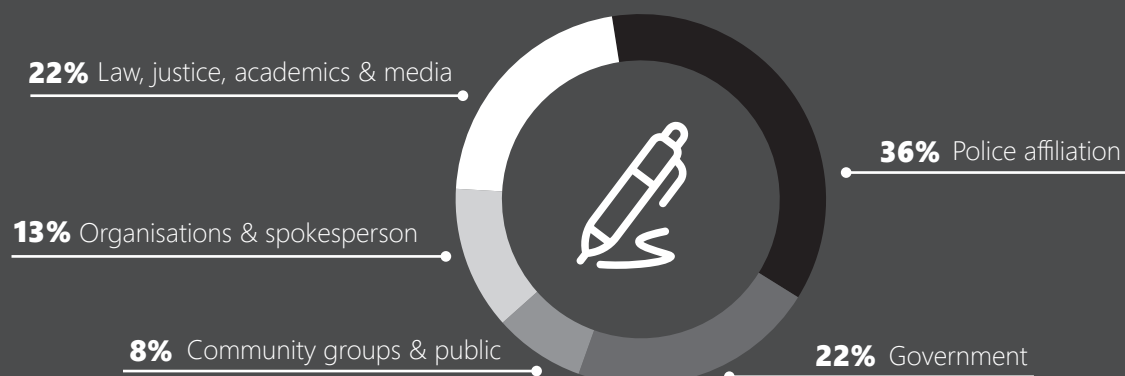
Top 5 Themes

Percent of themes mentioned in articles



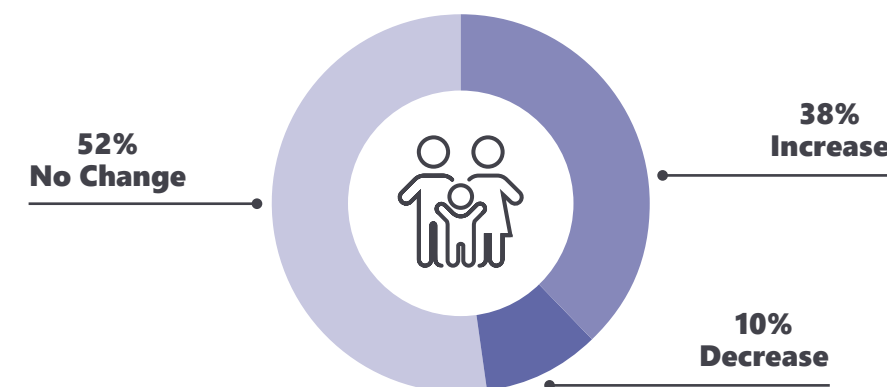
Articles by affiliation

Backgrounds of contributors



The deployment of ARTs increased trust and confidence

in those who participated in the community insights survey which included participants from ART districts.



Maori were more likely to feel less trust and confidence following the beginning of the trial.

33% of New Zealanders are concerned that vulnerable groups will be **unfairly targeted**

This raises to 47% when speaking to Māori

For 9 out of 10 New Zealanders

ART is appropriate with active, armed offenders.

High Risk with Firearms

91%

Urgent/Active Firearms Unknown

76%

Armed Response Team Trial Evaluation: Key Findings

This infographic provides a high-level summary of the main key findings from the evaluation on New Zealand Police's Armed Response Team (ART) Trial.



ARTs attended
8,629 incidents

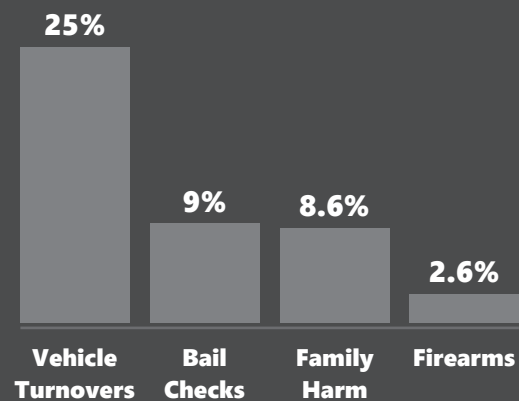
The average emergency
response time was
8 minutes

ARTs were generally
busiest during weekends

10%
of ART callouts likely
prevented AOS callouts*

23%
of incidences were
categorised as Priority 1

Types of incidents attended:



*Data Source: EBPC End of Deployment form



67%
of deployments were
**Assist Role supporting general duties
and prevention activities***

Incidences attended by ART:

66%
of deployments were
self-initiated by ARTs*

21%
of deployments were
requested by the frontline*

Overall, **77% of ART attendances
happened because frontline
units were unavailable***



ARTs self-initiated on 77%
of occasions where there were limited
front line staff available

2%
medical or trauma care
of all reported incidents*

ART members used a
**reportable level
of force on 0.57%**
of all incidents attended



ART members
**did not discharge
a firearm**

5
firearm presentations.

Glock was presented on 3 occasion.
M4 Rifle was presented on 2 occasions

TASER was the most common
tactical option used

29
TASER presentations

2
TASER discharges

Within the use of force data examined,
**Maori and NZ Europeans were
represented in similar proportions**
(Maori 53% and NZ Europeans 41%)

Trust and Confidence in Police

Expectations of the
New Zealand Police,
among other duties
include:



- ◆ Protection and safety
- ◆ Serving and helping the public
- ◆ Doing a good job in general
- ◆ Managing crime and criminals
- ◆ Acting professionally with integrity
- ◆ Emergency response
- ◆ Protecting property
- ◆ Enforcing and upholding law, order and justice
- ◆ Being fair and compassionate
- ◆ Managing traffic offences and keeping the roads safe
- ◆ Drug and gang control
- ◆ Addressing violence and murder

82%
of the PST officers surveyed
perceived incidents as safer
when ARTs were present

85%
of the ART members surveyed
agreed that they felt safer
at the incidents they attended

83%
of the PST officers surveyed
**agreed that jobs were
handled more efficiently**
with ARTs in attendance



Overall,
general wellbeing was good
over the course of the trial

ART members, AOS members and PST staff
**reported low to mild levels of
psychological distress,
and perceived stress**

ART members, AOS members and PST staff
reported decreasing levels of burnout
over the course of the trial

Armed Response Team Trial Evaluation: Views of Our People

This infographic provides a high-level summary of the main views and opinions of Our People from the evaluation on New Zealand Police's Armed Response Team (ART) Trial.



The EBP Service Design team conducted a series of focus groups and interviews to capture the voice and opinions from those who were involved in the trial.

13 focus groups
and **9 Interviews**
were conducted across **3 districts**

We spoke to over **150 people**
who took part in, or had exposure
to the ART trial

Overall, participants felt the trial successfully achieved:

- **Enabling a better response** to the increasing prevalence of illegal firearms
- **Providing mentoring and upskilling** to frontline
- **Reducing the increasing risks** to the public and Police from dangerous situations
- **Providing appropriately trained and experienced people** to de-escalate dangerous situations
- **Ensuring the right tools and equipment are available** including appropriate non-lethal options
- **Improving Trust and Confidence** of New Zealanders in Police
- **Providing the right sized response**
- **Decreasing the response time** for serious events

The following themes represent the views, opinions and feelings expressed by participants:



Identity

- Participants felt the name, publicity and vehicles identified them as specialised. Emphasising 'armed' did not reflect the purpose and capabilities of the team
- The blue uniform diluted the negative impact on Police Trust and Confidence and increased the safety of staff



Engagement and Communication

- Participants told us communication was poor both internally and externally to affected community groups
- The purpose of ART was poorly communicated
- Poor stakeholder engagement with Maori, the local communities and the media hampered the trial

It was one of those situations where we were flying the plane as we were building it.



Bridging the Gap

- Participants said ARTs enhanced the capability of frontline staff and supervisors through mentoring and modelling good practices
- They noticed improvements in skills and professionalism within the frontline teams exposed to ARTs
- Concerns were expressed that ARTs routinely undertaking the difficult tasks could have a 'dumbing-down' effect on frontline staff

ART brought their knowledge and expertise to every job they went to which was great for junior staff. PST became better at preparing plans and debriefing with ART involvement.



Safety of Our People and Our Communities

The worst days of my life are when staff don't return home safe.

- ARTs primary purpose was safety, they supported the frontline in making safer decisions and utilising advanced tactical options
- The presence of ART teams de-escalated situations

...they have saved lives here. That's not communicated though.



Trust and Confidence

Our People

- Participants were concerned that trust and confidence within Police would fall if the benefits ART brought were lost

ART boosted our Trust and Confidence. They got to scenes FAST and they were the right people at the right time.

The end of ART has left a big hole for us and our response. Trust and confidence among cops on the street has eroded a bit

Our Communities

- There were mixed views on the impact of the ARTs on public Trust and Confidence
- ARTs worked hard to engage and rebuild eroded trust and confidence with their communities by attending public events
- Most people ARTs dealt with didn't realise they were armed, they just saw professional police

Not everyone likes the idea of an armed police force, and I think that's connected to our trust and confidence.



Deployment and Responsiveness

- Participants felt that ARTs were able to respond faster to critical incidents than an AOS deployment and often more appropriate than a PST response
- ARTs freed up frontline teams

You can send one ART team to resolve an event – without them you need to send out three i-cars which takes time and means those resources are tied up for hours.

- ARTs sometimes lacked ownership of the incident they managed or made an incident bigger than it should have



Operations and Structure

- More effort could have been expended on the business rules, roles and responsibilities and operational parameters.
- AOS members taking part in the trial had a better work / life balance with less burnt out

