



Wastewater Drug Testing in New Zealand: National Overview

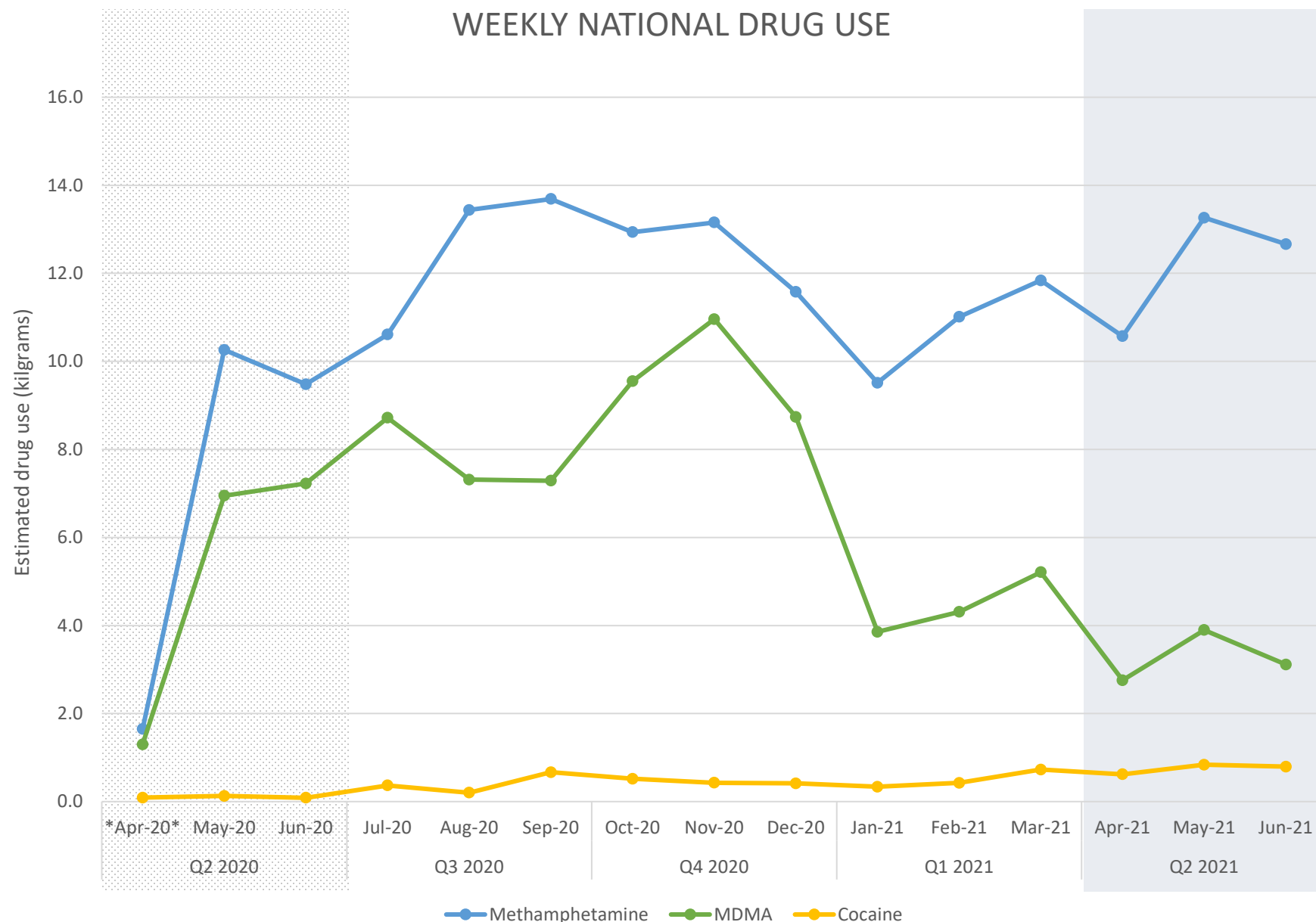
Quarter Two 2021



NOTES

- Wastewater testing occurs during one week per month, however the frequency of testing varies between sites. Nationwide testing started in November 2018, and current testing sites cover up to 75 percent of the total New Zealand population. While the nationwide program tests for indicators of consumption of methamphetamine, MDMA, cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl, the three commodities routinely detected in sufficient quantities to accurately report on are methamphetamine, MDMA and cocaine.
- Q2 2021 covers the three month period between April and June 2021 (inclusive).
- All data is representative of the sites tested only. It is not possible to extrapolate this data to nearby communities that are not tested. Only three sites were able to be tested during April 2020 due to the Alert Level 4 lockdown. Additionally, data from Central Auckland was not available in May and June 2020 which has impacted the results for Q2 2020. Q2 2020 has been shaded to highlight the lack of data contributing to the quantities reported in the graph below. Accordingly, Q2 2020 has been excluded from comparative calculations.
- The estimated dollar value generated from illicit drug distribution takes into consideration the estimated national drug use and the typical street prices (per gram) of each commodity. Drug use is calculated from the concentration of each drug biomarker detected in the wastewater. This is reflective of the amount of pure drug being consumed and does not include fillers, binders or adulterants.

WEEKLY NATIONAL DRUG USE



KEY FINDINGS: Q2 2021

METHAMPHETAMINE

- The average national weekly methamphetamine use during Q2 2021 was 12.2 kilograms. This is consistent with the average quantities detected over the previous four quarters, and is a 13 percent (1.4 kilograms) increase in comparison to Q1 2021.
- Of the sites tested, Northland District consumed the most methamphetamine per capita (952 mg/day/1000 people), above the national average of 519 mg/day/1000 people.
- Approximately \$73 million was likely generated from methamphetamine distribution across New Zealand sample sites in Q2 2021.

MDMA

- The average national weekly MDMA use during Q2 2021 was 3.1 kilograms. This is a 59 percent decrease (4.7 kilograms) when compared with the average quantities detected over the previous four quarters.
- Of the sites tested, Southern District consumed the most MDMA per capita (337 mg/day/1000 people), above the national average of 143 mg/day/1000 people.
- Approximately \$8 million was likely generated from MDMA distribution across New Zealand sample sites in Q2 2021.

COCAINE

- The average national weekly consumption of cocaine use during Q2 2021 was 0.8 kilograms. This is a 36 percent increase (0.2 kilograms) when compared with the average quantities detected over the previous four quarters.
- Of the sites tested, Tāmaki Makaurau continues to record the highest levels of cocaine consumption per capita (55 mg/day/1000 people), above the national average of 33 mg/day/1000 people.
- Approximately \$4 million was likely generated from cocaine distribution across New Zealand sample sites in Q2 2021.



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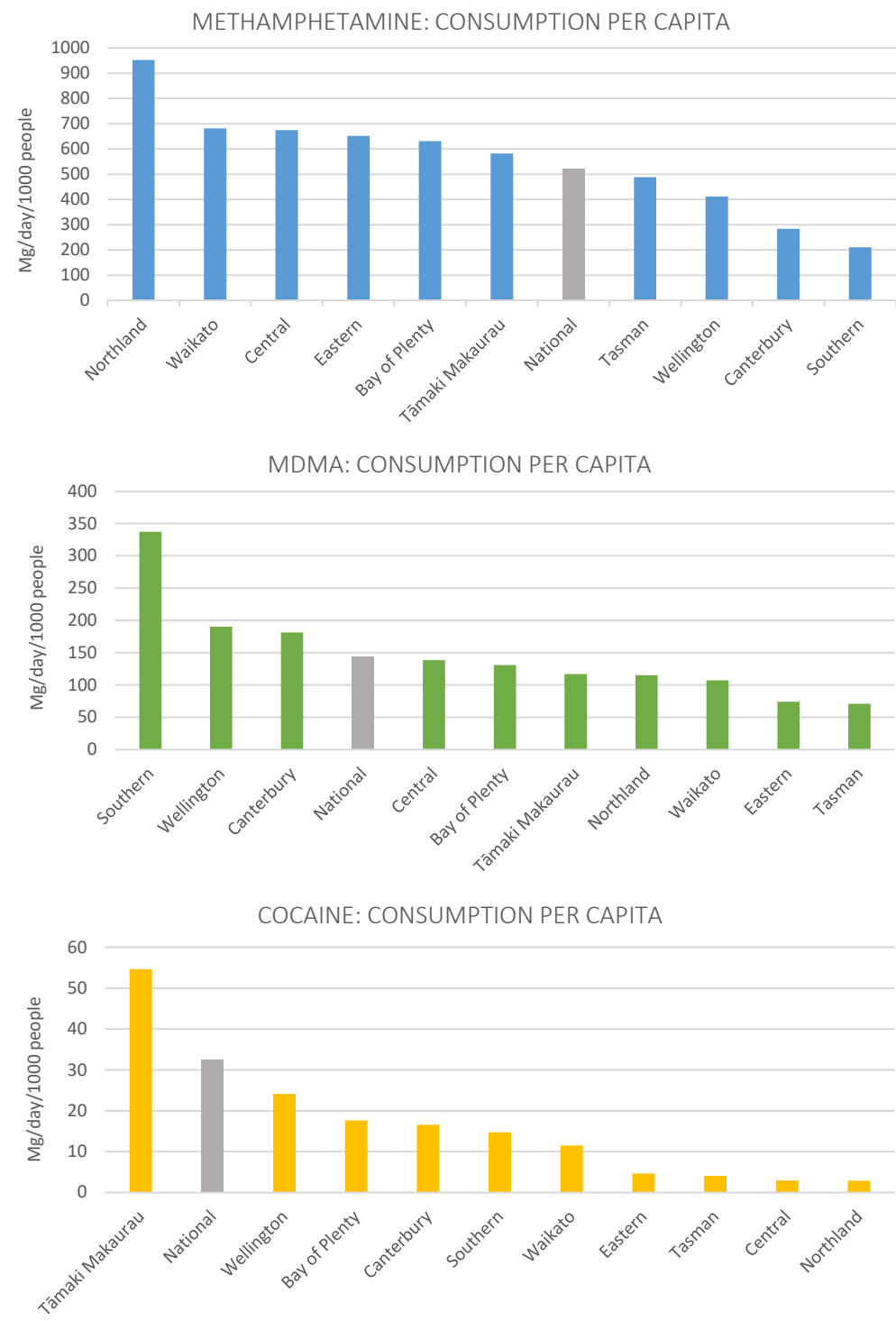
Quarter Two 2021



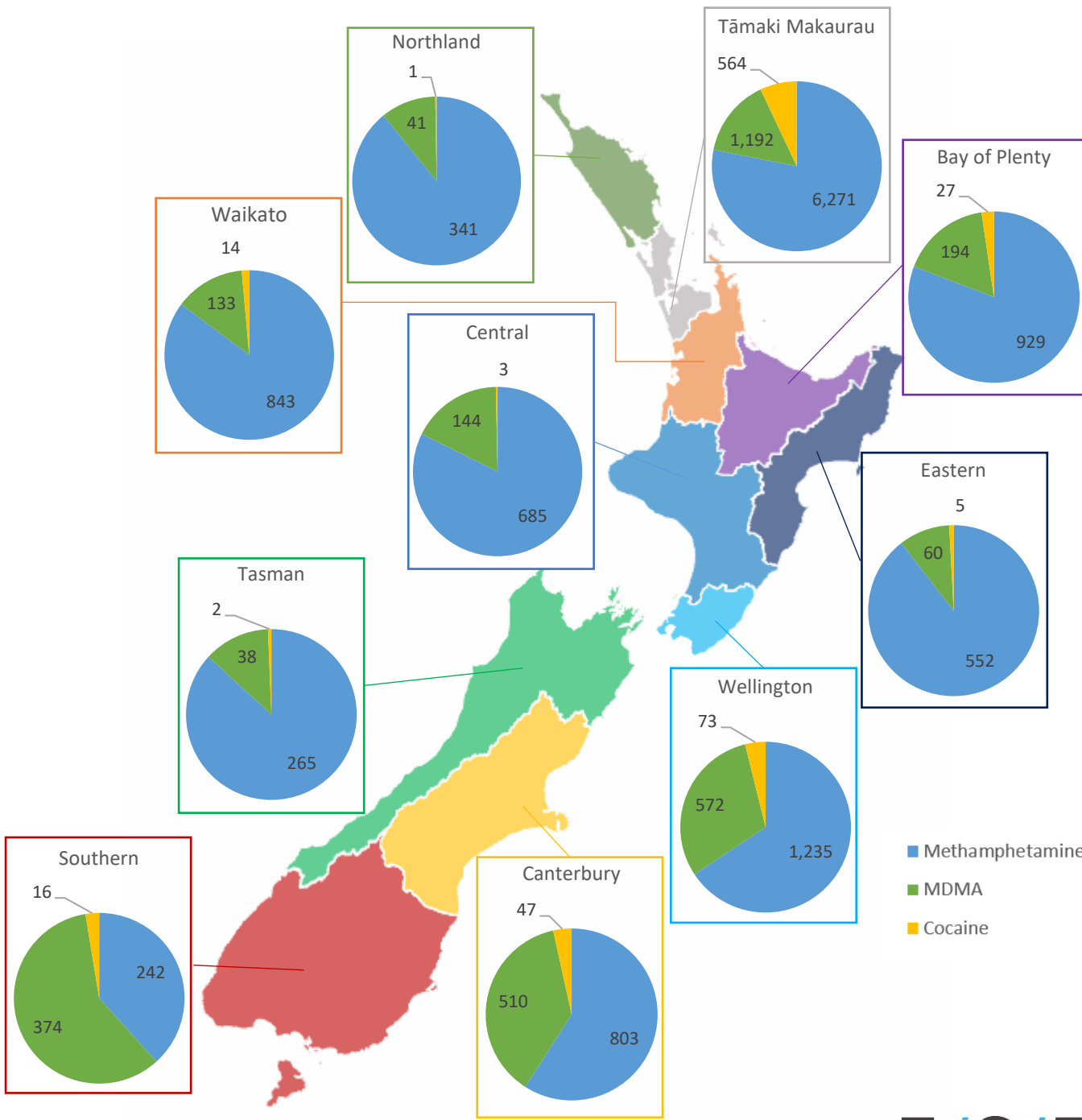
NOTES

- Per capita drug consumption is shown as milligrams consumed per day, per 1,000 people. As a number of locations are tested every second month, the presence or absence of data from some sites within a district will affect the total load and per capita consumption reported.
- The average weekly drug use pie charts show the average estimated drug use (in grams) for each commodity per district during Q2 2021. As this data is not adjusted for population, larger metropolitan areas record higher quantities of drug use per week due to the larger number of people in the catchment zone.

PER CAPITA DRUG CONSUMPTION BY DISTRICT: Q2 2021



AVERAGE WEEKLY DRUG USE BY DISTRICT Q2 2021 (GRAMS)





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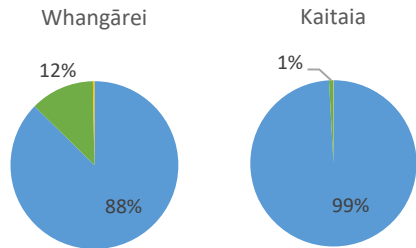
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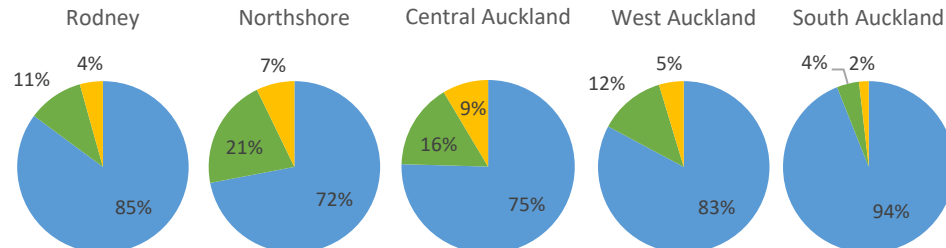
NOTES

➤ The below graphs illustrate the proportion of drug use detected within catchment areas during Q2 2021.

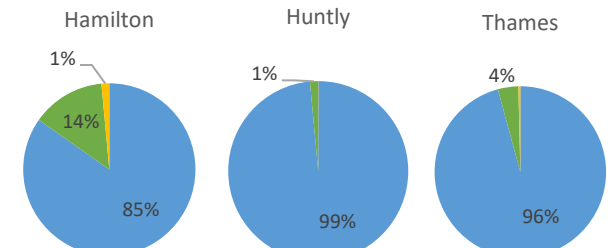
NORTHLAND



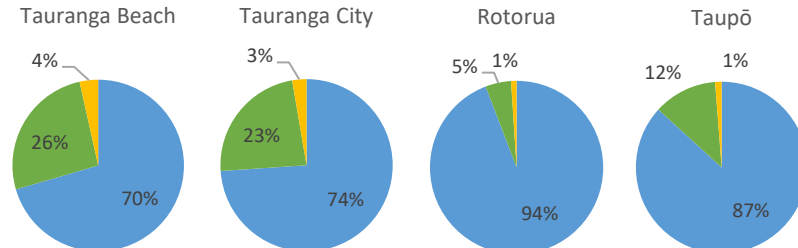
TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU



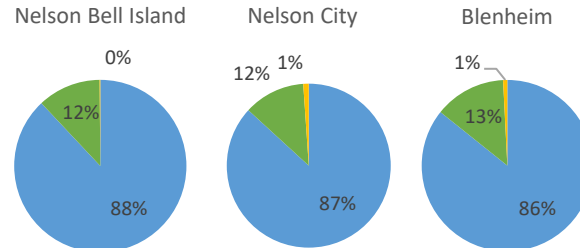
WAIKATO



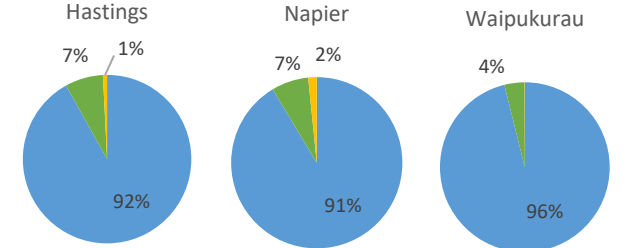
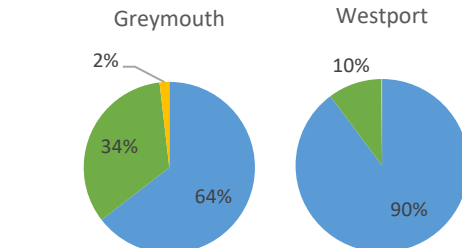
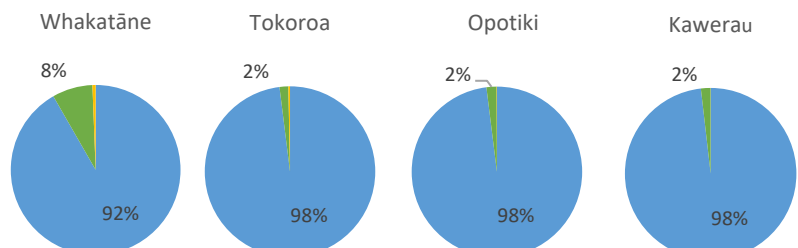
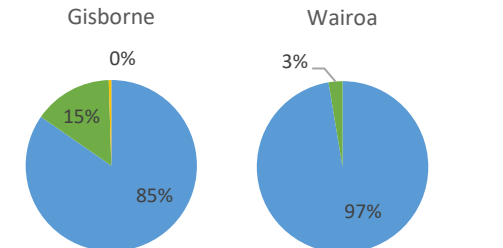
BAY OF PLENTY



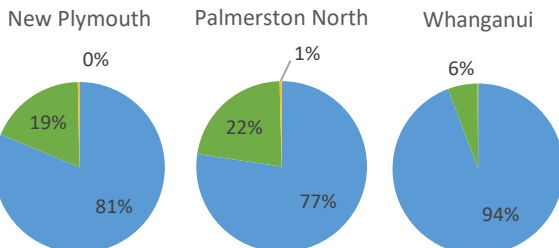
TASMAN



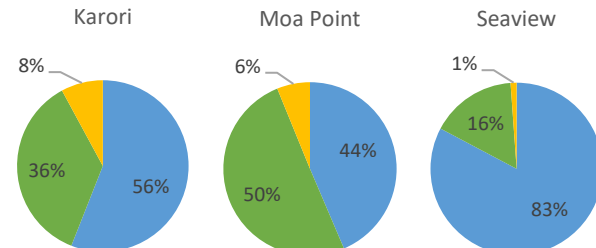
EASTERN



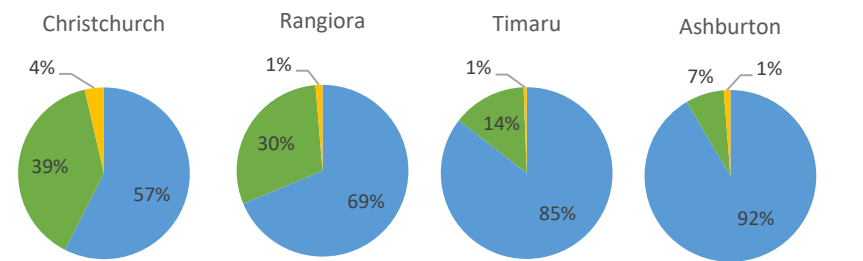
CENTRAL



WELLINGTON



CANTERBURY



SOUTHERN

