



Wastewater Drug Testing in New Zealand: National Overview

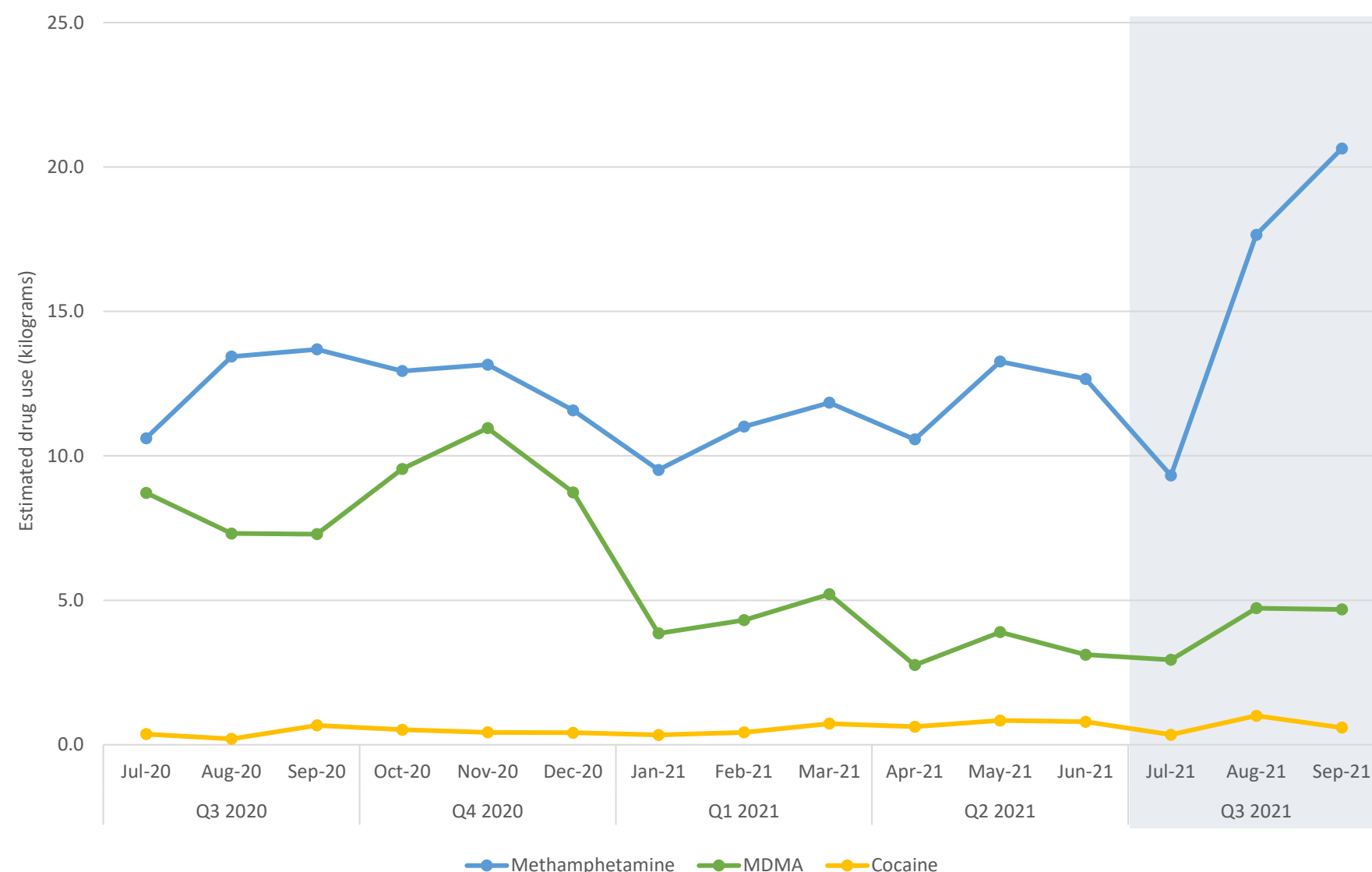
Quarter Three: July - September 2021



NOTES

- Wastewater testing occurs during one week each month, however the frequency of testing varies between sites. Nationwide testing started in November 2018, with current testing sites covering up to 75 percent of the total New Zealand population. While the nationwide programme 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.
- Q3 2021 covers the three month period between July and September 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.
- One Tāmaki Makaurau site was unable to be sampled in July 2021. On average this site contributes approximately 30 percent of the national total load of methamphetamine and MDMA, and approximately 50 percent of the national total load of cocaine. Accordingly, imputed estimates for July 2021 have been used to calculate total load averages over the quarter.
- The estimated dollar value generated from illicit drug distribution takes into consideration the estimated national drug use and the typical street price (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

METHAMPHETAMINE

- Average national weekly methamphetamine use during Q3 2021 was 16.8 kilograms. This is approximately 40 percent or 4.7 kilograms above the average quantity detected over the previous four quarters. August and September 2021 recorded some of the highest methamphetamine use since testing began.
- Of the sites tested, Northland district consumed the most methamphetamine per capita (1152 mg/day/1000 people), above the national average of 714 mg/day/1000 people.
- Approximately \$8.4 million per week was generated from methamphetamine distribution across New Zealand sample sites in Q3 2021.

MDMA

- Average national weekly MDMA use during Q3 2021 was 5.2 kilograms. This is an increase when compared with Q2 2021, but remains 17 percent below the average amount detected over the previous four quarters.
- Of the sites tested, Southern district consumed the most MDMA per capita (304 mg/day/1000 people), above the national average of 189 mg/day/1000 people.
- Approximately \$1 million per week was generated from MDMA distribution across New Zealand sample sites in Q3 2021.

COCAINE

- Average national weekly cocaine use during Q3 2021 was 0.7 kilograms. This is a slight decrease when compared with Q2 2021, but remains 34 percent above the average quantity detected over the previous four quarters.
- Of the sites tested, Tāmaki Makaurau continues to record the highest levels of cocaine consumption per capita (52 mg/day/1000 people), above the national average of 29 mg/day/1000 people.
- Approximately \$283,000 per week was generated from cocaine distribution across New Zealand sample sites in Q3 2021.



Wastewater Drug Testing in New Zealand: National Overview

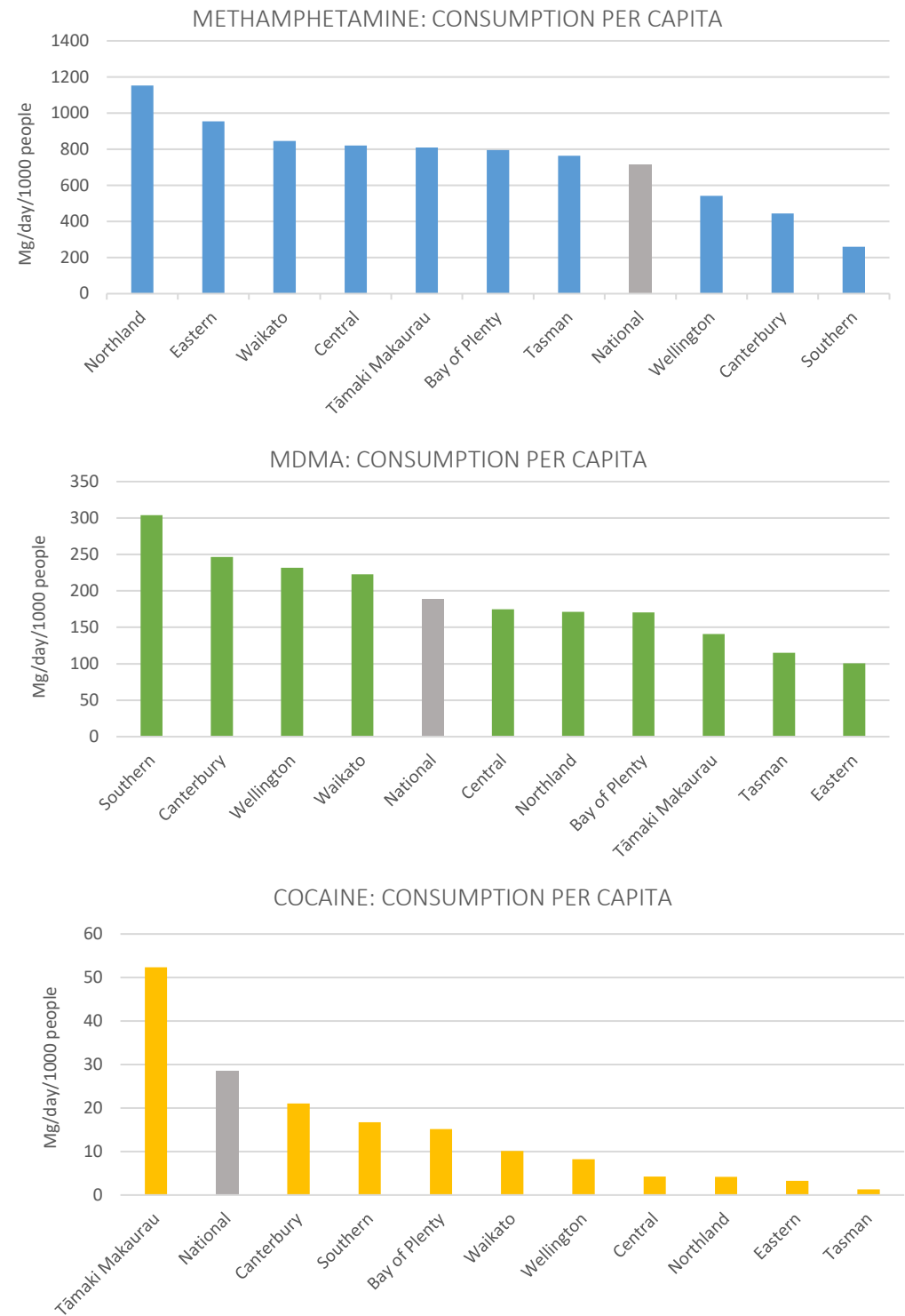
Quarter Three: July - September 2021



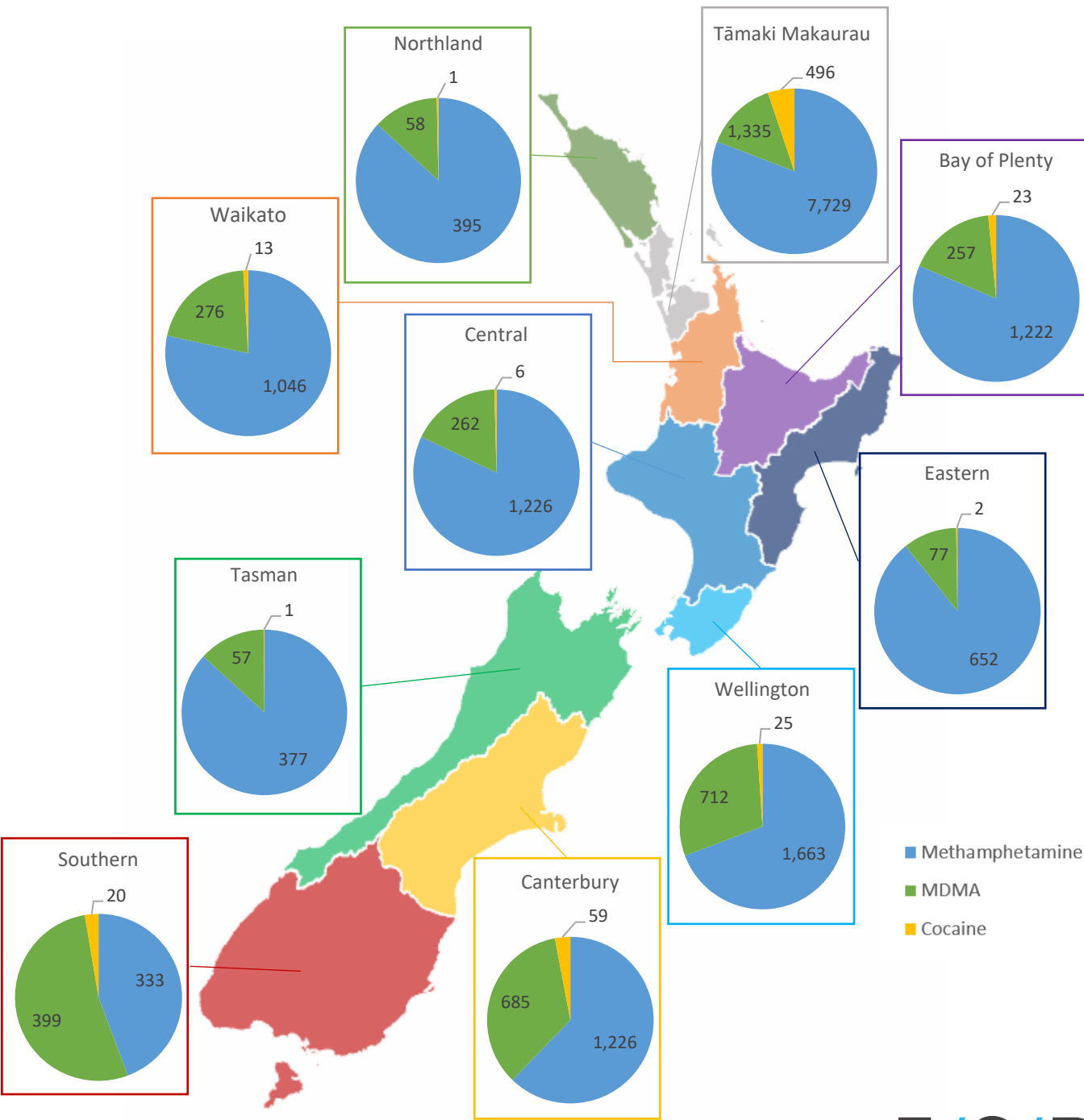
NOTES

- 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 rates reported each quarter.
- The average weekly drug use pie charts show the average estimated drug use (in grams) for each commodity per district during Q3 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: Q3 2021



AVERAGE WEEKLY DRUG USE BY DISTRICT Q3 2021 (GRAMS)





Wastewater Drug Testing in New Zealand: National Overview

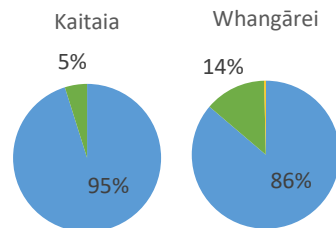
Quarter Three: July - September 2021



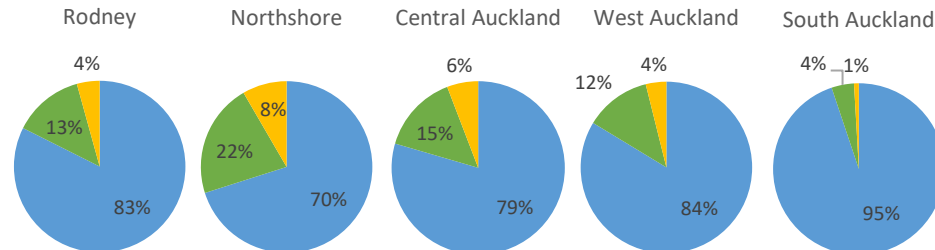
NOTES

➤ The graphs below illustrate the proportion of drug use detected within catchment areas during Q3 2021.

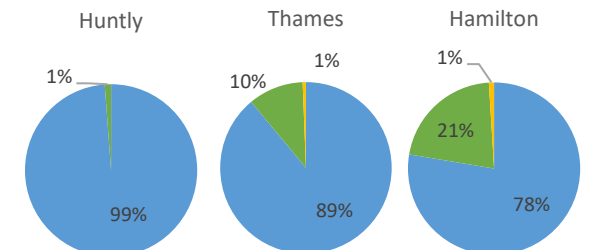
NORTHLAND



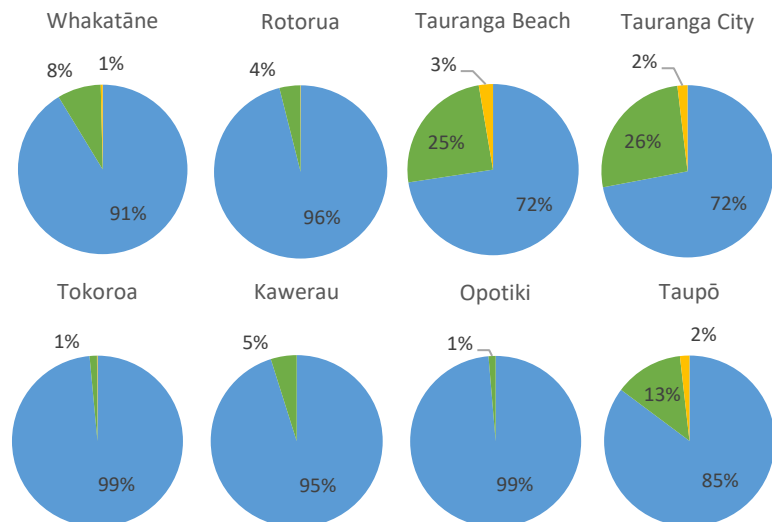
TĀMAKI MAKAUURAU



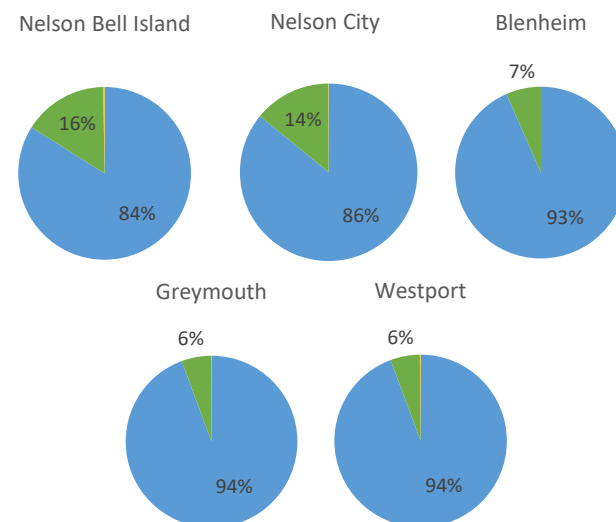
WAIKATO



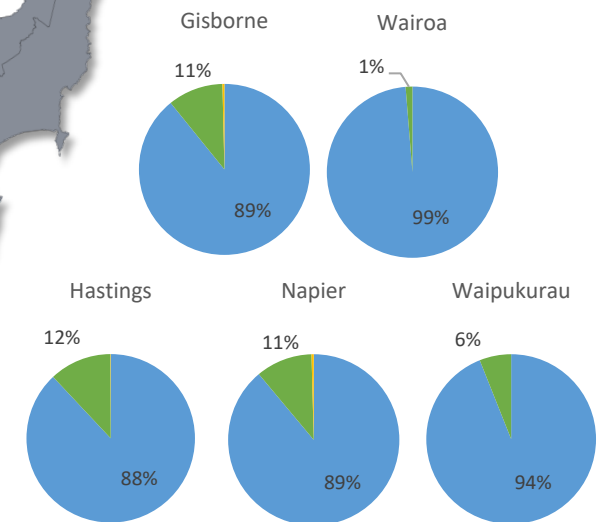
BAY OF PLENTY



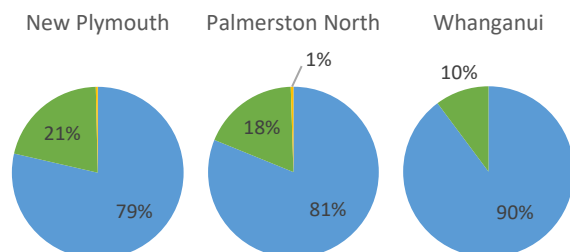
TASMAN



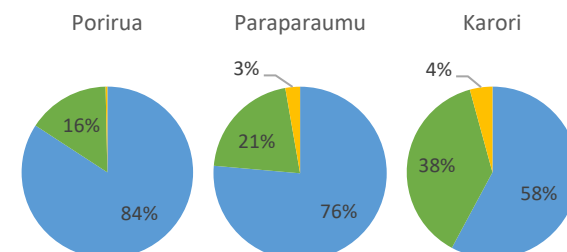
EASTERN



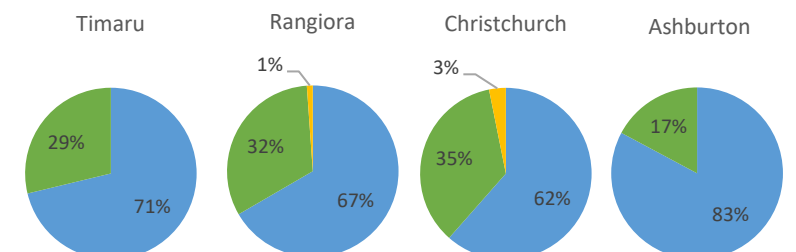
CENTRAL



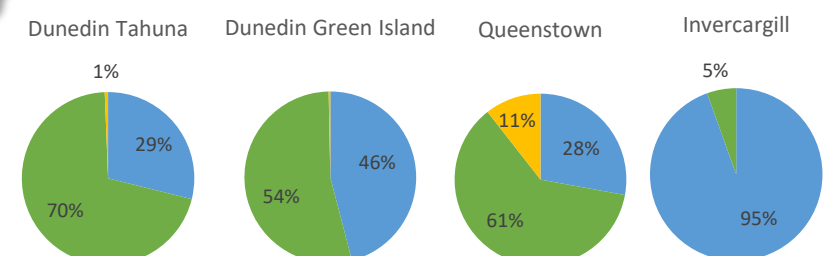
WELLINGTON



CANTERBURY



SOUTHERN



Key

