

# Understanding Ethnic Communities' experience of Justice and Safety

Factsheet August 2025

This factsheet is based on the NZ Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS) released by Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in June 2025<sup>1</sup>, and updates the Justice and Safety domain in *Ethnic Evidence 2024*

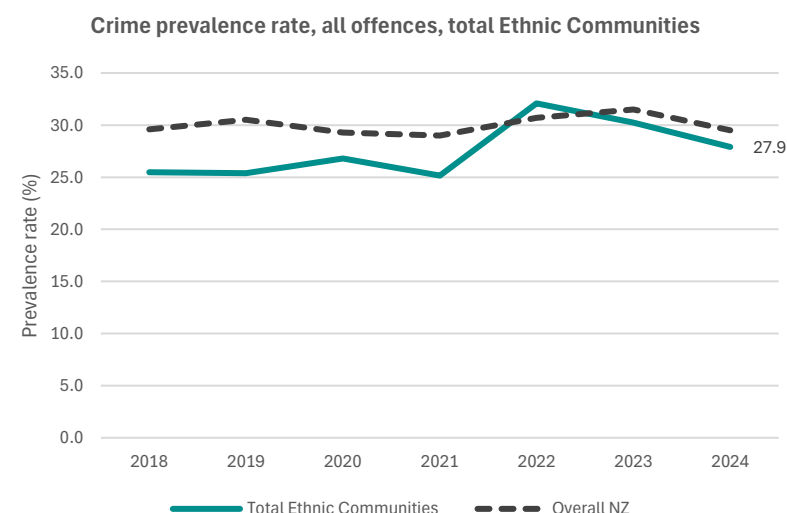


## Trust in criminal justice system

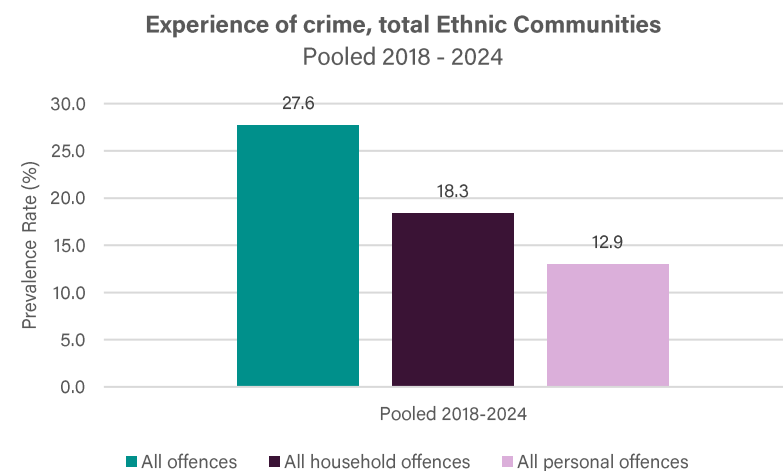
In 2024, Ethnic Communities had high levels of trust in the New Zealand justice system with 59% reporting full trust or quite a lot of trust. Trust for police scored highest (76%) followed by trust in services for victims (74%). Trust for the parole board was lowest (52%).

## Prevalence of crime

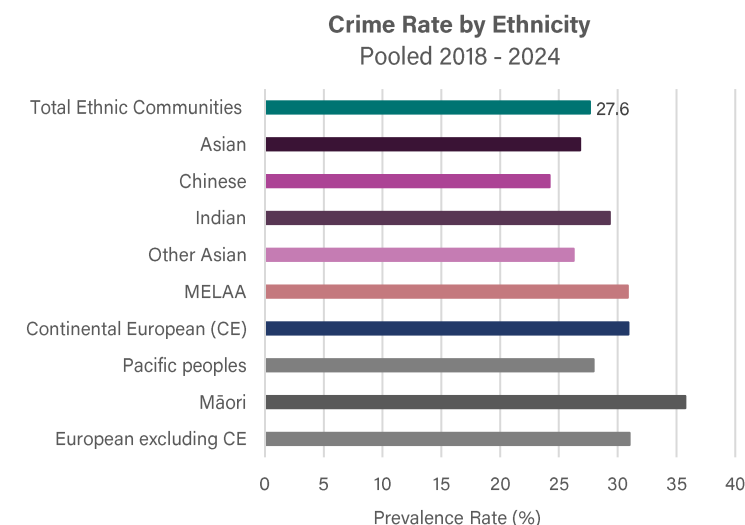
The rate of crime Ethnic Communities face was lower in 2024 (27.9%) when compared to a peak in 2022. This is not statistically different from the overall NZ crime rate.



The most common crimes experienced by Ethnic Communities since surveys began include burglary, fraud and cybercrime offences. Fraud and cybercrime are some of the most common personal crimes which have increased the most.



Ethnic Communities as a whole experienced less crime with Chinese people experiencing the least amount of crime at 24%. However MELAA, Continental European and Indian people experienced higher levels of crime at around 30%.



## Reporting crime to Police

Ethnic Communities reported 23% of crimes they experienced to police for the pooled period to 2024<sup>1</sup>. This is in line with the total population who reported 28% of crimes to Police.

As with the total population, the top three reasons Ethnic Communities do not report crimes were:

- too trivial to report (33%),
- bank/credit company dealt with it (19%), and
- Police could not have done anything (18%).

In 2024, Ethnic Communities' report rate for sexual assaults was 18%, compared to 24% across all ethnicities. The Ministry is aware of underreporting in this area.

## Overall wellbeing measures

Ethnic Communities as a whole tend to feel less safe when compared to other ethnic groups.

**Overall wellbeing measures, total Ethnic Communities**  
Pooled 2018 - 2024



For the year ended October 2024

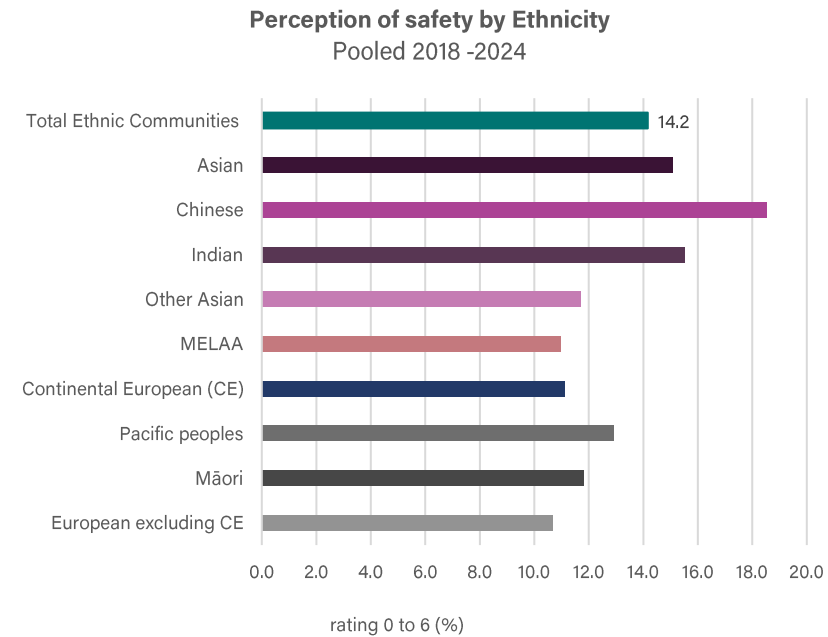
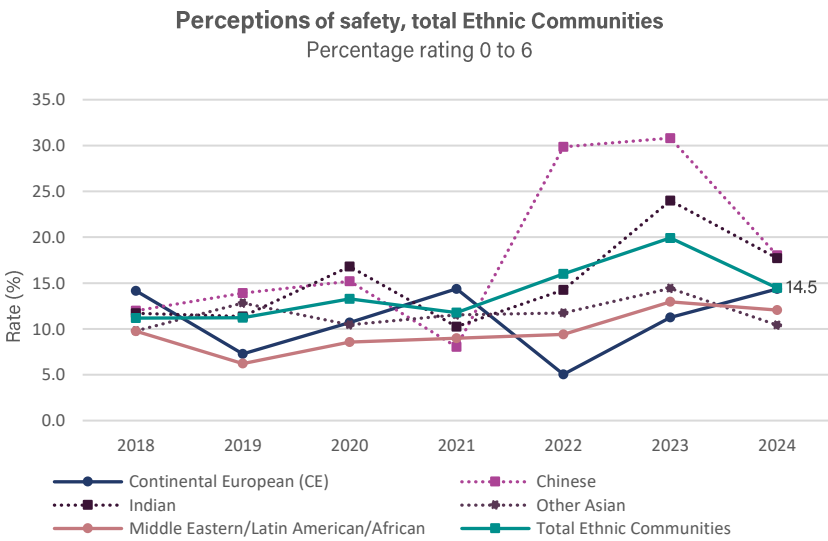
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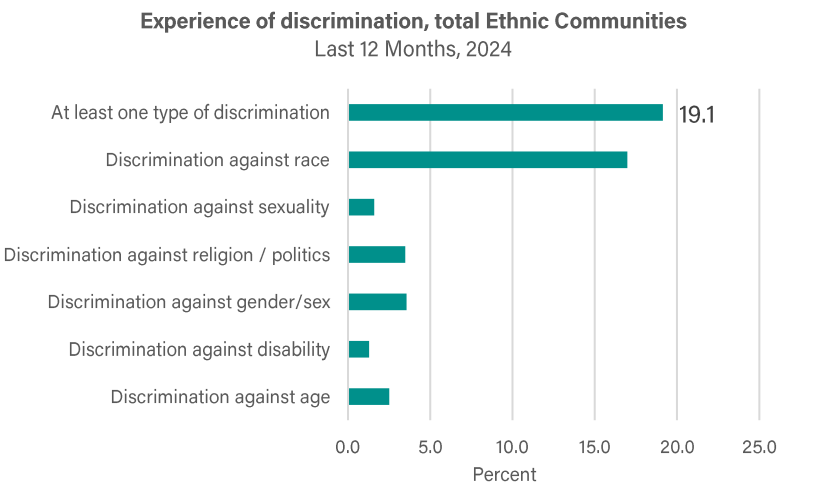
## Perceptions of safety

Chinese people's perception of safety reduced around the Covid-19 pandemic, however this improved in 2024. This is a global pattern according to Ministry of Justice.

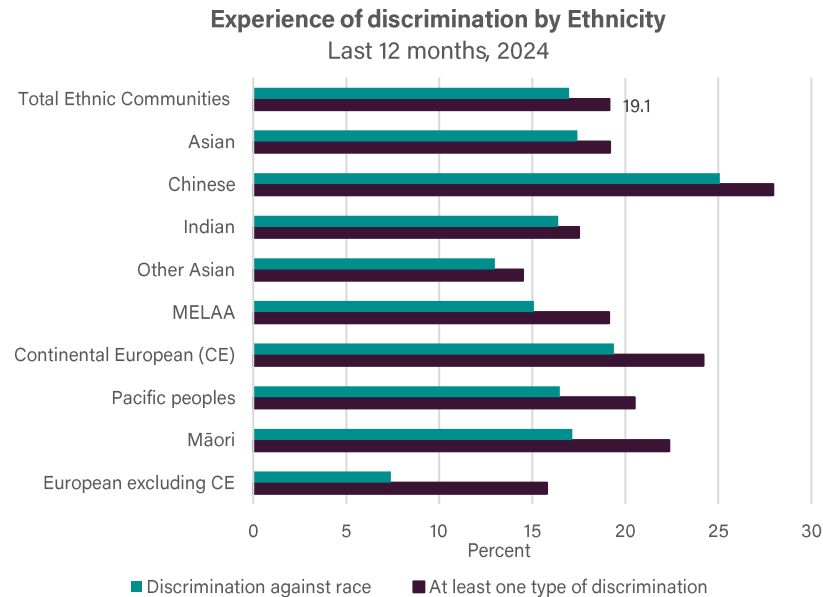


## Experience of discrimination

In 2024, 19.1% of Ethnic Communities experienced at least one type of discrimination and about 17% experienced racial discrimination.



Chinese people experienced the highest proportion of discrimination with 28% experiencing at least one type of discrimination and 25% experiencing racial discrimination.



## Family violence and sexual violence

Ethnic Communities are less likely to feel unsafe with family or whānau at 4% when compared to all other ethnicities and are less likely to experience sexual assault over their lifetime at 15.5%, compared to all other ethnicities.

Continental Europeans experience higher prevalence of sexual assault and having ever felt unsafe with family.

Ethnicity	Ever felt unsafe with family or whānau <sup>2</sup> (%)	Sexual assault in the last 12 months (%)	Any sexual assault over a lifetime (%)
Chinese	4.2	1.3	13.7
Indian	3.8	1.1	11.0
Other Asian	3.5	1.0	13.0
Asian	3.8	1.1	12.4
Middle Eastern/Latin America /African	4.4	2.5	24.8
Continental European (CE)	6.2	2.9	29.9
<b>Total Ethnic Communities</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>
European excluding CE	5.7	2.3	28.3
Māori	8.8	3.1	31.1
Pacific peoples	5.6	2.0	17.8

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Data pooling (combing of survey periods) has been used to improve data quality and make more data available. This method combines survey periods to increase sample size and improve data quality, as there can be variability between survey periods.

<sup>2</sup> Ever felt unsafe with family or whānau - pooled 3 to 7, 2020 – 2024, Sexual assault in the last 12 months and Any sexual assault over a lifetime – pooled 1 to 7, 2018 – 2024.

Data source: NZCVS Cycle 7 resources and results: NZCVS Cycle 7 resources and results | New Zealand Ministry of Justice.