

2024 Renters Survey - Annex 1: Snapshot of narrative data

THOSE IN MARKET RENTALS

How does your current housing situation impact your overall wellbeing?

Not being able to make mid to long term plans since I don't know if I will be able to commit to the region. - Stress - Insecurity - Lack of
A constant background stressor. I'm [middle aged] and having to live with flatmates, constantly having to move every couple of years. I
have lived in the area for many years and am part of the community and have friends who are permanently here. I feel I will only be able
to continue living here for another couple of years then will have to move to a more affordable region. I don't want to move away from
A huge portion of my income goes on rent then food and finally gas. I don't really have any disposable income for recreation which makes
Always feeling vulnerable and under the control of someone else. I am a grown adult and feel like I am treated like a child. Class in NZ is
dictated by property ownership. You will always be treated as less than if you don't own property, and housing is not seen as a human
Always living in fear, underlining stress, With the lack of stability Which makes general living of poor quality
Always worried about not being able to put a roof over my children's heads.
Anxiety, I feel like I can't plan to far ahead in the future if I become destabilised.
As a young family we have moved 4 times in 2years since our son was born. Before we moved another 4times.... It's extremely hard in [the
district] and our mental health suffers :(if we won't be able to find a suitable property to buy, we will leave [the district] soon
Aside from the general constant low level worry that at any moment you could lose your home because your landlord wants an airbnb,
there's also the stress of dealing with flatmates and living with other people brings. We're married we want to live alone and move on
Being [30's] I shouldn't have to flat, I should be able to rent a little place by myself, flatting is just to insecure here. Within weeks you
might find yourself on the street. Plus finding the ideal flatmate is a lifetime challenge. My [older] flatmate should also really really not
have to flat anymore. Plus houses are overall in poor condition, run by agencies that have no interest in keeping the house intact and to a
21st Standard, houses are old and never been taken care of, agencies have proven to be an only profit orientated business, which is fine
Being aware of the powerlessness I have in case my landlord decides I can no longer live in my place or has to increase the rent
significantly constantly place in the back of my mind. The fact that I probably wouldn't be able to find something else or, even less, afford
to buy a home here, makes me question how feasible it is to plan and build my future and that of my family in [the district] and New
Cannot have peace of mind, always have to adjust other people. Keep on moving from one place to another. Its extremely stressful
Cannot make a long term plan as never know when we will have to leave from the rental house and if we will find another or not. Would
cant afford proper food rent takes it all.
Concerned about potentially losing this rental. Have furnished the entire thing myself and wouldn't know what to do with everything,
Constant worry, never feeling settled as you cannot unpack for long
Doesn't much on a day to day basis as I have security with my current lease, however I get nervous in the months leading up to my
Feel like I'm trapped in my current job
having to live with flatmates at my age is not good but because of separation I have been forced to live with others as I can not afford a
High cost of rent and utilities means a significant portion of income goes towards living expenses, leaving very little to get ahead and
Housing insecurity is a massive stressor, and it's hard to make long term plans.
housing is too expensive for what you are getting. I have to work 60 plus hours a week to be able to get ahead which is not sustainable
I am [40's] and I am forced to live with my parents as housing in [the district] is unavailable and unaffordable. It is humiliating and causes
I am a professional [40's] woman and I have to share a house with people in their 20s
I am embarrassed to say my husband and I live with one of my adult children. I get anxious sometimes because we don't have our own
space. We are at retirement age and have a decent deposit but banks won't lend to us because of our age, so that makes me angry/sad
.... I can't even stock up on things like fire wood because I don't know if I'll even be in the same property long enough to make use (next
I have constant anxiety. I walk around on eggshells at all times, doing everything in my power to be the "dream" housemate in the hopes I
won't be asked to move. I am, at this point, the live-in maid (I literally spend most of my spare time at home cleaning). I am absolutely
I have rheumatoid arthritis, have not been able to work, struggling to buy the basics, I need to move into my own place, all my support
I have trouble sleeping and maintain my focus at work.
I need to work long hours to pay rent, which can be hard as my health is fragile because of long covid
I pay rent, my bills, cover food and I have nothing really left to save or go on a holiday (it's been since 2018, I need a holiday). It is money
I struggle with flatmates changing, living with people who aren't my friends, feeling trapped and not relaxed in my home.
I suffer depression. We have been on the CHT list since the start but now due to our hard slog in taking extra work to save a deposit we
have shit ourselves in the foot and gone over the threshold for approval. Now off the list and feeling hopeless after finally having saved the

I use half of my income for rent. This means I don't travel or go out much. It's my choice to live small in a beautiful environment.

I work mainly to pay rent & what little I have left over goes to food and children's supplies, clothes etc. Sport activities (school or external) all cost and my children pay the ultimate price by not being able to engage as the entry fees are almost always beyond what I can afford. Eating out is a luxury we can not afford, and some days we all have to bike to school/work as I can't afford fuel. It's a heavy mental load I've had to move into a "flattening" situation due to my relationship breakdown and it's tough with people who are essentially backpackers

I'm living with my partner and our [young baby] at super tiny 1bed room apartment and paid \$525 pw. It doesn't fit us now specially our son start to crawling now. we're looking for bigger house but it's hard to find for current housing situation at [the district] area such as

Impacting on self-esteem, impacting on motivation, feeling hopeless in terms of accommodation, wanting to provide my family with a family home. Given that we are both qualified professionals contributing to the community, it feels demeaning and discouraging that we

Increased stress/anxiety from risk of homelessness or having to move

Increases anxiety about money and stability for my child

It affects everything you do. Having somewhere secure is fantastic but every year you panic that your lease won't be renewed, your living on egg shells. Even picking Santa presents was difficult eg. Getting a trampoline. Will we have a garden on the next rental or even a garage for bikes etc. Every house we have rented has been sold. My son is 3 1/2 and this is the 3rd house he has lived in. Picking a school is near impossible for him. We are zoned for remarks, I work in shotover, next houses from the trust are [the district]. The wait list for babies in It has been hard. Deal with court lost my savings so now im trying to build that up so i can afford a place for me and my [child]. Living with my parents can be stressful and emtional i do need my own space. But they can be helpful when i need my [child] to be looked after.

It impacts me significantly Due to paying such exorbitant rent on a single income and a family of 3, I can't afford to buy good quality food, It is very stressful and makes me consider moving away from [the district] all of the time. I am about to move into my 7th house in 5 years. It is very hard to make a place feel like home when you constantly have to pack up and move. Constantly selling and buying new furniture It makes me feel as if I could be homeless in a week. How your life could change so quickly is an incredibly high stressor

It puts massive stress on us financially and emotionally. Our relationship suffer due to the constant thought we could end up homeless in our 40's. We cannot simple crash on someone's couch like you do in your 20's as no one (even friends) would take us. Many have children. It's creating fear and anxiety of losing a roof over my head. I'm a well-educated, hard worker who unfortunately doesn't have capital backing from my family, which is why buying a house is so much harder and stressful, but it is the ultimate goal to get rid of the homelessness anxiety. There's nothing worse than not knowing you'll if you'll have a home in the next 3 months. And that puts a strain on Lack of stability has caused issues with disabled child being in my care and is [not being cared for properly] by father but [the courts rule

Like I said earlier, we're living week to week. Each week we're so scared we'll be that family on [the district] trading begging for someone to rent their property to us. We're scared. We don't have money to fall back on, we have a son with a disability we both work full time Living paycheque to paycheque is incredibly demoralising and stressful I work 6 days a week my wife works 5 we can't afford to do a full basic food shop every week and we don't have children! But we are trying hard to save what we can. We love [the district] but if we can't

More money goes out, that means less for fun or passions, leaves you feeling deflated and a bit depressed, mental health gets worse as

My partner and I have delayed life decisions such as starting a family because we feel our housing situation is too unstable to be able to cope with if we had a family to look after. This makes us sad when we think about it but we keep hoping we will be able to afford our own

My partner spends 10+ hours a week commuting to and from work because we can't live in QT. That puts a burden on me to keep the family on track while not losing my sanity. Having the stability of an owned home gives us the ability to spend more time together while

My wife recently passed away, and now I cannot afford a house in the area without having flatmates. I need a room for my step son as

Myself and my friends work two jobs to afford to rent. Ive been here over 7 years and it never ever used to be this bad.

[the district] has been my home for 22 years, I have raised my daughters here. Having owned a house all my adult life, I now find myself renting after my husband left and forced the sale of our family home. This place I always imagined would be my home throughout my children's school years, into adulthood and beyond is now not certain. It's a daily stress thinking about what if the rent goes up again?

Stressful being pregnant and having a good job as [occupation] and still unable to find an affordable 1 bedroom accomodation to move into before we have a baby. Scared for the future of what to do as difficult to move away as I will then loose my maternity leave pay.

Stressful. There is always someone around so no privacy, I do not feel free to invite friends/partners around, one of the flatmates invites her friends around that I do not get along with, I do not feel I can share details of my life with my flatmates for fear of them telling my

The past fee months have been very stressful with the hardships of securing a house to rent with rental agents and landlords. In the past 2 months we have had to move into 3 different houses the 3rd move being the house we are currently renting. The other 2 houses were

The stress of high rental plus high outgoings of a large family are making it very difficult for my wife and I. It's causing arguments and anxiety. We have great income but we are already having to cut extra tuition for two of my children and Sport commitments in order to

There is no opportunity to gather assets (eg furniture) or make your home homely as it's always temporary. It is very hard to find

We sometimes don't want to come back to our house as, although it's technically functional, it's not the most pleasant space as it have not been taken care of by the owner over the years. It has no insulation other than a sliver in the roof space and is cold in winter even with the

We want to start a family but can't afford to buy a house and don't want the risk of being given notice in our current rental and having to compete for a new rental with the current levels of demand. So the impact on our lives is profound. - We can't afford to borrow enough to buy because of interest rates. - We can't stay on the QLCHT waiting list because we earn slightly too much, but still not enough to Winters are especially hard. Consistently sick, and a struggle to keep children healthy. Property Management is not helpful because they With not being sure to where you will live you can't plan for the future. You can't organise your life. There is this continuous pending My son and partner has alot of disability, it takes alot out of me, as they both rely on me to help with some of their day to day care

THOSE WHO ARE HOUSELESS

How does your current housing situation impact your overall wellbeing?

Currently been dealing with sickness due to stress and overwork under rested very unsettled not knowing when someone will accept you Depressed, stressed, anxiety, panic attacks are part of our daily basis. We work hard, we made a life in [the district] that just became unstable and unsustainable, really sad to love a place and a community and also have to live a car with your family because someone is During the summer months it's ok to stay in campsite. But during winter or when it's cold and wet my mood is negatively impacted. It can Feel hopeless, depressed. Embarrassed. Nothing is secure. Hard to keep warm in winter. Having to share the house with other strangers, who don't have your habits, generates coexistence problems, and having to put up with situations that I didn't want for my son, for example, exposing him to vap smoke, or parties. That generates a lot of stress and frustration I am mentally emotionally and physically worn down at times I have no will to push through other times I'm incredibly stressed which is a horrible reality as a mother. I am supposed to keep my children safe and at this point I can't even provide them housing which is a basic I'm incredibly mentally ill and a huge contributing factor to that is my housing situation. I'm now have full time job, it's so stress to find a place for rest after working.:(((It affects my mood every day. I feel ashamed to tell friends/family I am living in a tent. I did not think I would be in my mid 30s and living It definitely negatively impacts my mental health and stress levels meaning I'm not very present with work It does have a negative impact on my mental health, which reduces my ability to earn; and the cycle continues It impacts me terribly. I can't feel any safety without valid accommodation. It impacts my mental health, which impedes my ability to generate / find more work. Physically as I have no space to do yoga or exercises It just makes life difficult and limits my ability to generate income a lot more than before. It make me depressed that as a qualified [occupation] I can't afford most rents and houses. It's depressing as I cannot get ahead and I cannot support my child . She misses out on all the things her friends get to do and can't have Its a struggle on my mental health as a parent that can't house her own children Massively. It's isolating, precarious and makes it incredibly hard to meet basic needs, never mind have a social life or plan for the future. My mental health has taken an absolute beating. I have never felt so hopeless & I am tied to [the district] until my son is grown & I no Not having a stable environment to live in affects my ability to focus on my work. I am self employed but dealing with day to day life takes Stress lack of sleep malnutrition Stress, losing/broken sleep Stressful, can't sleep well My child feels as though she has no stability, none of us have any personal space, it's effected mine & my daughters mental health.

What are the day-to-day challenges for you?

Power, somewhere to cook, access to water, access to bathroom facilities. Lack of facilities at camp grounds, lack of drinking water and camp grounds in general. Lack of housing options Less access to kitchen needs for cooking breakfast lunch and dinner to help save money. Stress from not having a place to stay. Unable to relax as you don't have a place that is safe. and relying to friends in times like this and having to fall back on living In a car if you don't Child health Isolated Live in a campsite with no shower or laundry so this takes extra time and money. Costs/lack of space Cooking, showering, making it to work after a bad night sleep. Embarrassed

Money somewhere to park, showers
Its greatly affecting mine and my children's mental health. I am slowly losing hope that I will find a house in the region. If I have to consider moving away that means leaving my [young] son with his father as we have agreed through a judge that he will remain in [the
Not having my own space, having to rely on other people
Access to rubbish disposal facilities
Food costs, I eat out more than I normally would. Hard to make my own community or build a relationship.
Cooking mainly. I shower at the gym. But when it rains it's difficult to cook my self meals
not having enough room for personal space, fridge not big enough, can be cold when temperature is low
Cold at night. Can't work from home. Keeping up with personal hygiene.
Not being able to settle down properly. Unable to have a vege garden beyond a few pots. Space to do things is an issue. It can affect your social life not being able to have friends over for dinner or the like. Having to walk in whatever the weather to use the bathroom, it's a bit
Just finding somewhere to do chores and it makes eating way more expensive and getting mail and when people wanna hangout etc
I currently have a broken heel bone, so day to day challenges are pretty much everything, from refilling water & LPG, emptying waste, lack
Keeping warm and eating
Showering, getting warm , can no longer grow food which helps to get by easier, no room , can't get creative anymore which means I lose
Storing stuff, basic hygeine and food preparation. General criminalisation of poverty (freedom camping etc) and utter unaffordability of
Insecurity & worried about what lies ahead for me and my son. I can't leave [the district] as I share custody with my son.
not giving my son his proper space
Safety
No privacy Lack of sleep Others stealing your stuff
Causing stress in my relationship and my own mental health
Not having a guarantee space/home. Not having an appropriate place for studying, not being able to plan ahead, not being able to host