

CYCLES



Young Lives in Seven Cities.



Makhanda
SOUTH AFRICA

The project.

Children and Youth in Cities: Lifestyles Evaluation and Sustainability (CYCLES) is an international research project based in seven cities that span six continents: Christchurch, NZ; Dhaka, BD; Makhanda, SA; London, UK; New Delhi, IN; São Paulo, BR; Yokohama, JP. It seeks to understand the urban experiences and ideas for living well within environmental limits of young people aged 12-24 living in these diverse cities.

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The city.

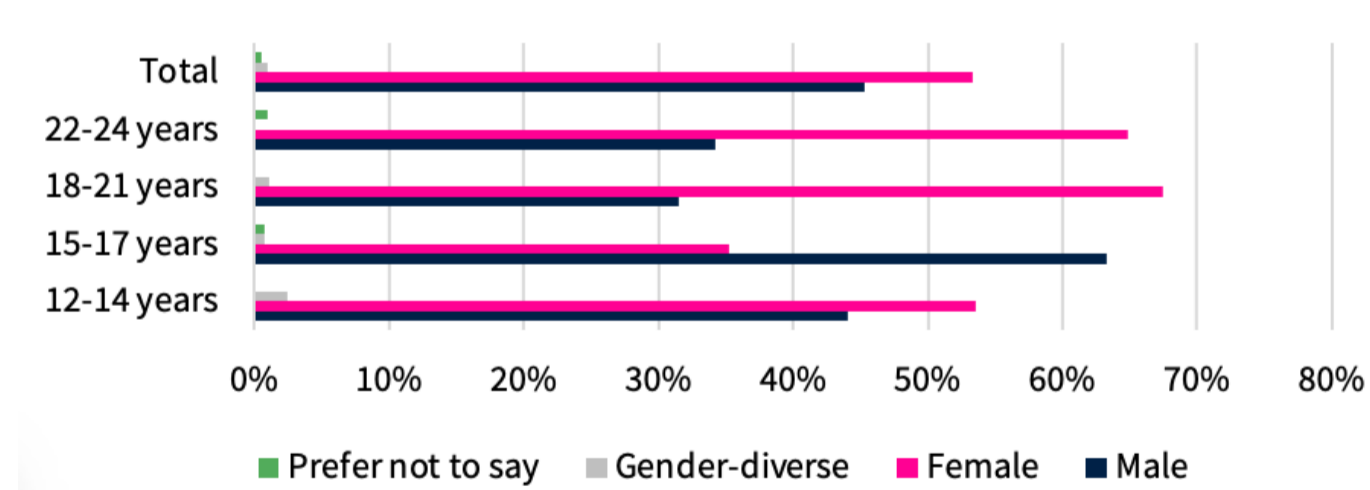
Makhanda is a small city of 66,000 people situated in Eastern Cape, one of the most youthful provinces in South Africa. The city is a centre for education, as a university town and the site of annual arts and science festivals. Yet Makhanda also has high youth unemployment and experiences deprivation and inequality that are influenced by the urban racial segregation of the apartheid era. According to Statistics South Africa 45 percent of the population of Makhanda had no income in 2011, and 63 percent of the labour force was not working. Six out of ten individuals in the area are classified as poor.

The survey.

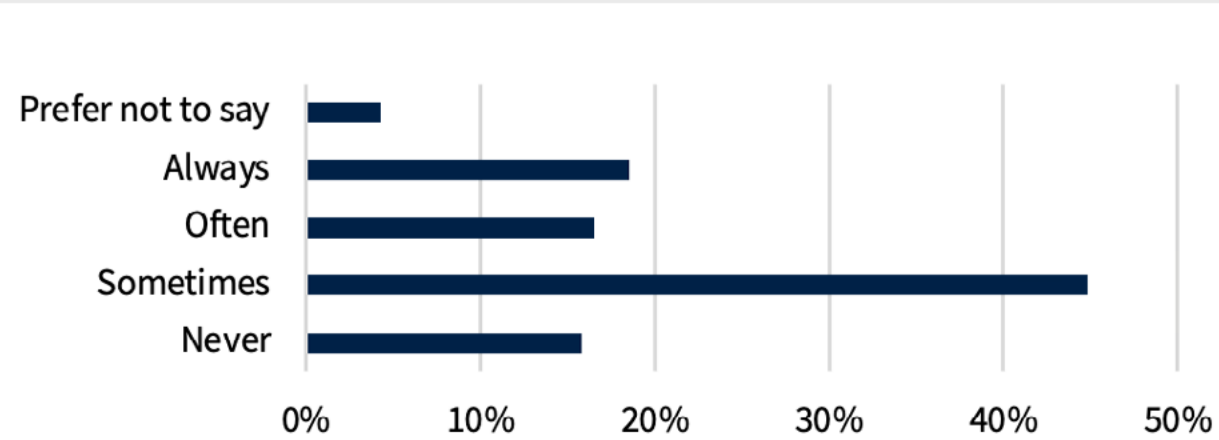
The Makhanda CYCLES survey was carried out between April 2020 to December 2020. It surveyed 424 young people aged 12-24 about what it was like to live in Yokohama, their wellbeing, and their lifestyles.

Young people were recruited from local schools, youth organisations, a local university and a local vocational training college. This approach ensured a diversity of representation across Makhanda's social-economic groups. The survey was mostly completed using pen and paper.

Survey participants age and gender



Worry about money

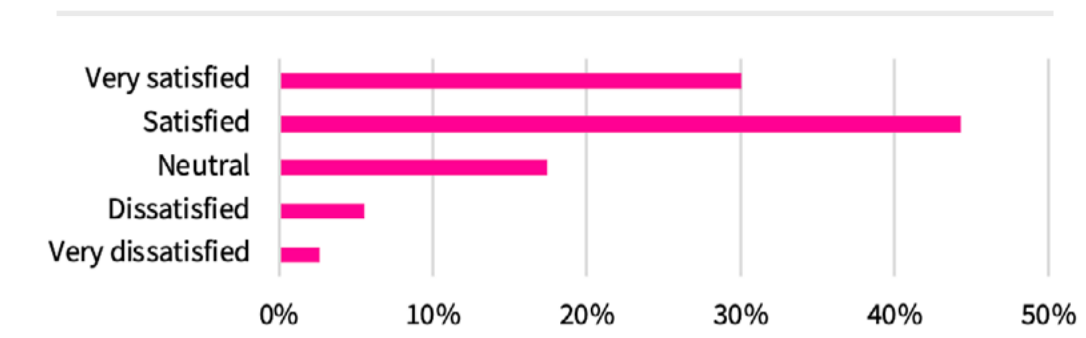


Young people's wellbeing in Makhanda.

- 74 per cent of the survey respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their lives.
- Four in five (80%) survey respondents reportedly worry about money to some extent.

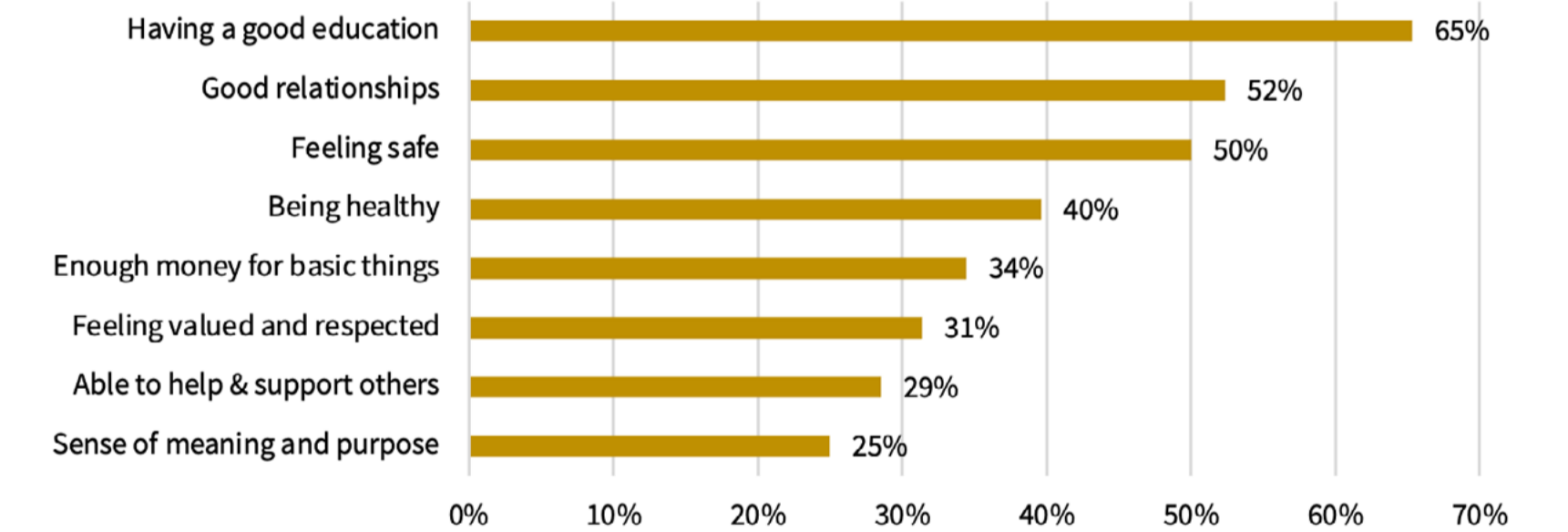
What is important for living well

Life satisfaction



- Having a good education, good relationships with significant others, and feeling safe were reported as the most important things for a good life.
- Safety and a clean environment stand out as the most worrisome aspect of the city for youth with more than 50% of youth expressing dissatisfaction with each of these. Young people also told us they disliked the crime and potholes in the city.
- Positive aspects of the city included the people and community. Nearly one in three young people reported being relatively satisfied with their access to education (65%), which is surprising given the low rates of access to higher education in the city (only 14.5% have some form of higher education).
- The fact that more than 77 per cent of Makhanda's youth have a sense of individual agency (ability to make a difference) is inspiring. However there appears to be significantly fewer (69%) who have confidence in a collective agency.

Factors important for wellbeing



The worst things about living in Makhanda...



...and the best things.



Prosperity Matters

What can prosperity possibly mean in a world of environmental, social and economic limits?—We work with people, policy and business to address this question, developing pragmatic steps towards a shared and lasting prosperity.

Find out more about the CYCLES project via:
www.cusp.ac.uk/cycles

Local research team

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All of those pictured consented to their photo being taken and used.
Cover image by Daniel Trapp