

The Invisible Pedestrian:

intentionally
normalising walking
through a Gender-
Sensitive Lens

Tiffany R. Robinson

2Walk&Cycle Conference, 19 March 2021



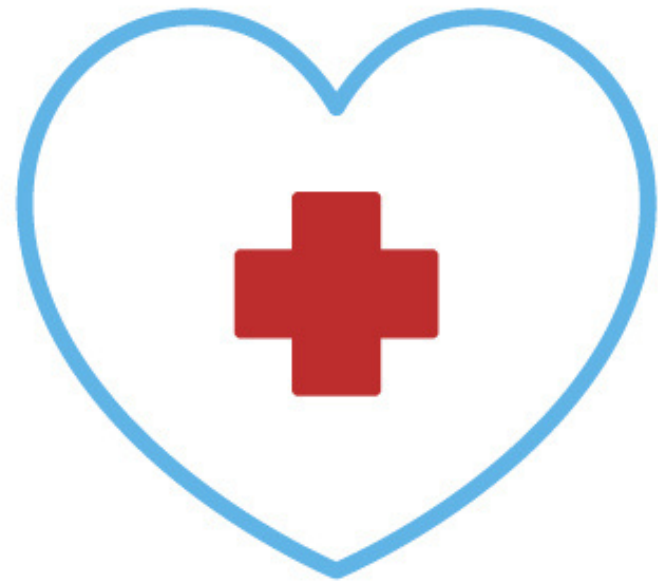
Auckland
Transport 

An Auckland Council Organisation

Presentation Outline

- Our view of walking and the pedestrian in public space matters
- Understanding how travel needs/patterns and safety concerns can vary based on gender and other qualifying demographics
- Ideas for creating a walking programme using initiatives that go beyond infrastructure

Walking has benefits for everyone but...



Better for your health and wellbeing



Cleaner air in our city



Saves you money



Boosts your mood and productivity


Priority makes a difference



Do pedestrians always have the right of way in New York? ^

Pedestrians have the right of way in all crosswalks and at intersections with marked or unmarked crosswalks. ... Motorists turning **right** or left at an intersection should **always** look for **pedestrians** and yield the **right of way** to them. **Pedestrians have the right of way** at intersections, even if drivers **have** a green light.

www.ny.gov › [pedestrian-safety](#) › [additional-information](#) ▼

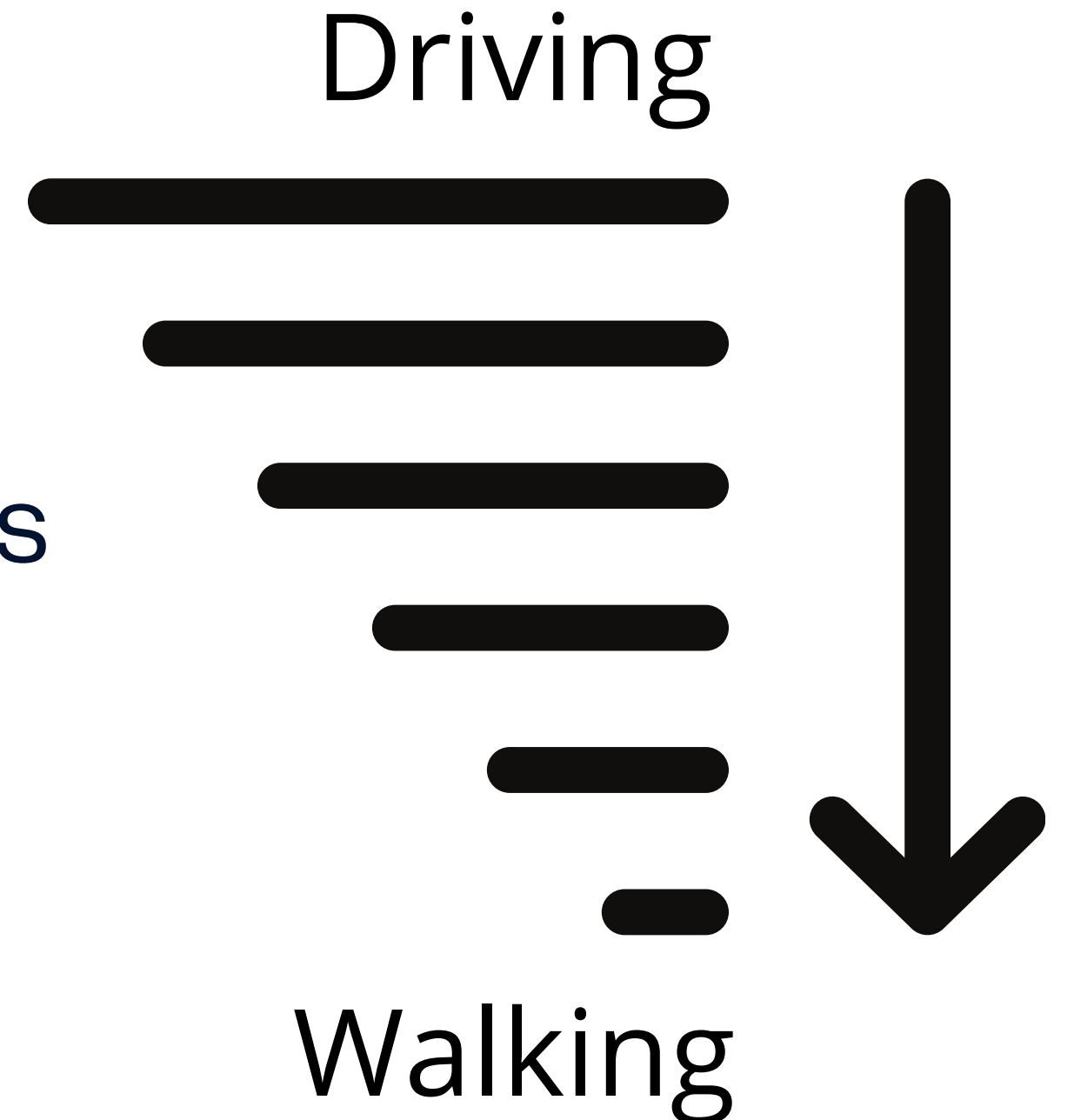
Watch on  YouTube



New Zealand

Cloak of Invisibility

- Walking tends to fall lower on the totem pole of importance and recognition when stacked up against other modes of travel.
- Increasing the profile of walking is everyone's business but the creation of a safe walking environment must go beyond the pavement.



You say you want a walking revolution...

1 Normalising (verb)

bring or return to a normal or standard condition or state.

2 Intentionalising (hey, new word!)

based on the word 'Intentional' (adjective) done on purpose; deliberate

move
the





Why This Lens?

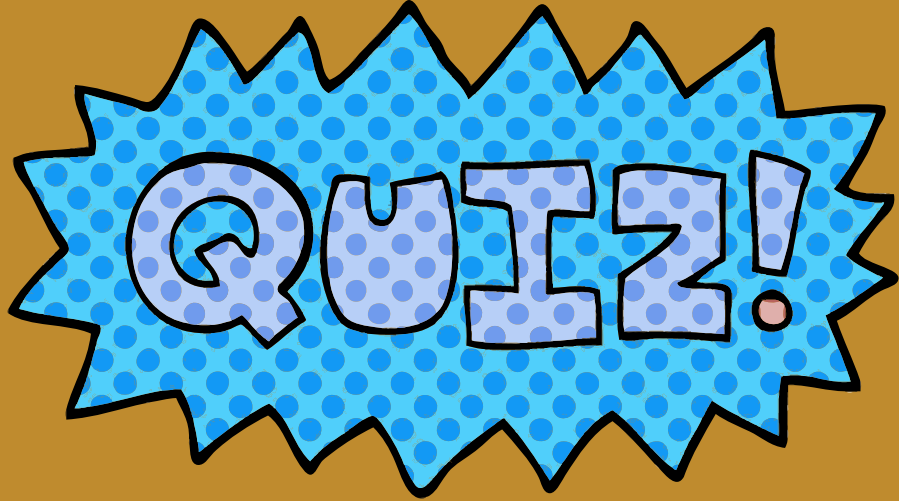
“Transport is a feminist issue. The issue of how we move around our cities and towns is a feminist issue. Women have complex daily lives, more so than men. This is a well-researched fact, the world over.”

Source: 'Why this new plan for Auckland rapid transit is stupid (and sexist)', Katy Wakefield and Emma McInnes, The Spinoff Opinion, 10 July 2020. <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/10-07-2020/why-labours-new-plan-for-auckland-rapid-transit-is-stupid-and-sexist/>

Gender: Women*

using as an umbrella term to describe a female person or someone who expresses or presents as a female person; The content presented can apply to a nonbinary person as well; however, the data only addresses the binary genders of men and women.





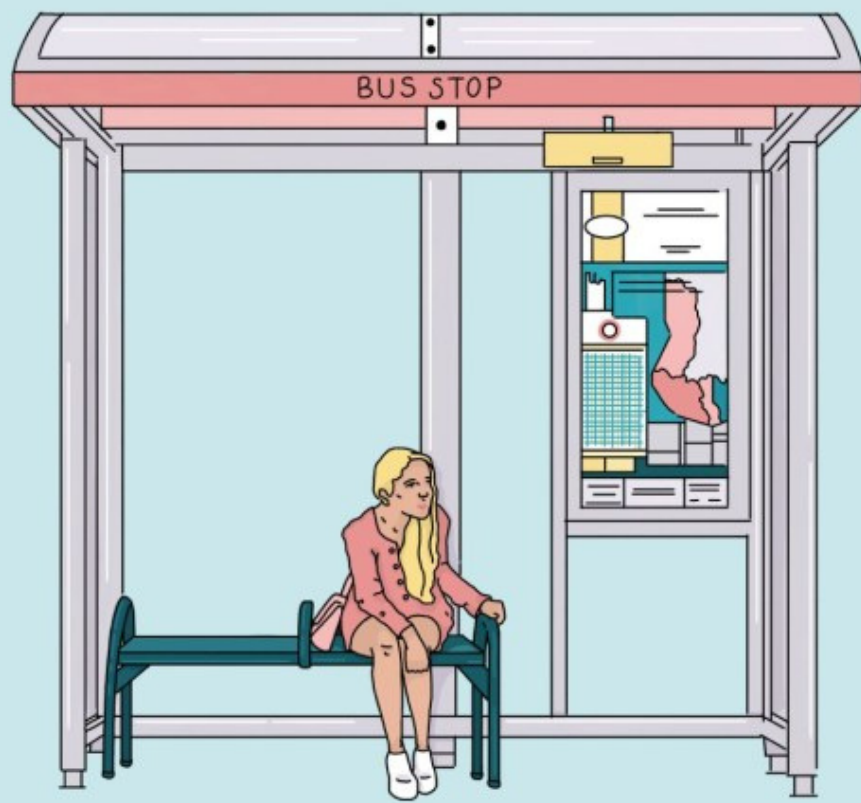
- Start at 0 points
- For each line that applies to a behaviour that you have NEVER done, add 1 point.
- For each line that applies to a behaviour that you HAVE DONE AT LEAST ONCE, deduct 1 point.

● Never Have I Ever...

- 1. Had to carry my keys in my hand as a “weapon” when walking alone at night. _____
- 2. Had to avoid being out altogether if it’s too early in the morning or too late at night because it doesn’t seem safe. _____
- 3. Had to message my friends when I got home to let them know I'm OK. _____
- 4. Had to assume the “I’m-walking-quickly-but-not-so-quick-that-you’ll-sense-my-fear” pace when someone is behind me. _____
- 5. Deal with people telling me my concerns aren’t valid and I should stop complaining because “women are equal”. _____

● adapted from '32 Everyday Things Women Do That Men Don't Have To Worry About', Jenna Guillaume, BuzzFeed, 8 March 2017 <https://www.buzzfeed.com/jennaguillaume/everyday-things-women-do-that-men-dont-have-to-worry-about>





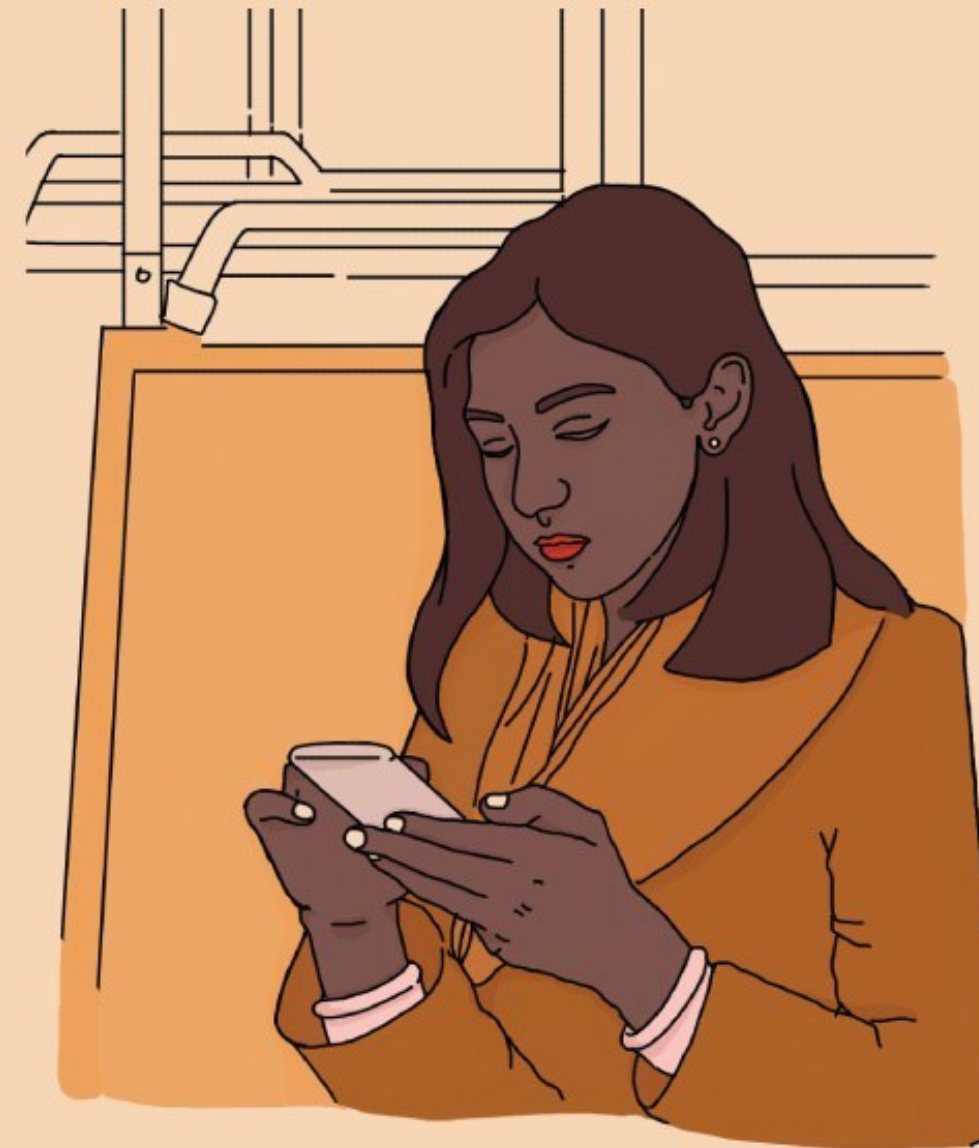
"When I was at university, some of my lectures finished at 6pm, so I'd have to catch the bus in the dark along Jervois Road.

One evening the bus had emptied out apart from me and a young man in a business suit sitting across the aisle from me.

A movement caught my eye and I realised he had opened his trousers, revealed himself and was masturbating. I froze. I didn't know what to do.

I have never forgotten the terror of having to wonder if was I going to make it home safely that night."

Women
Urbanism



"I was taking a bus up Queen St and an old man got on and sat beside me, despite other seats being free.

He began to touch his penis through his trousers, and kept turning his head to stare at me."

Women
Urbanism

In a recent study by Women in Urbanism found that:

- 74% of women in Aotearoa, had at some point faced some form of harassment while on public transport and in public spaces.
- 36% of women feel unsafe walking home after dark (Kennedy, 2008).
- Personal safety fears are most commonly found among women and youth, but also, the fears for personal safety are higher among Māori and Pasifika (Kennedy, 2008).



"A car full of people yelled at my sister as they drove by "lose some weight!"

She was training for a marathon.

She is a small person, but irrespective of size, it made her feel defenseless."

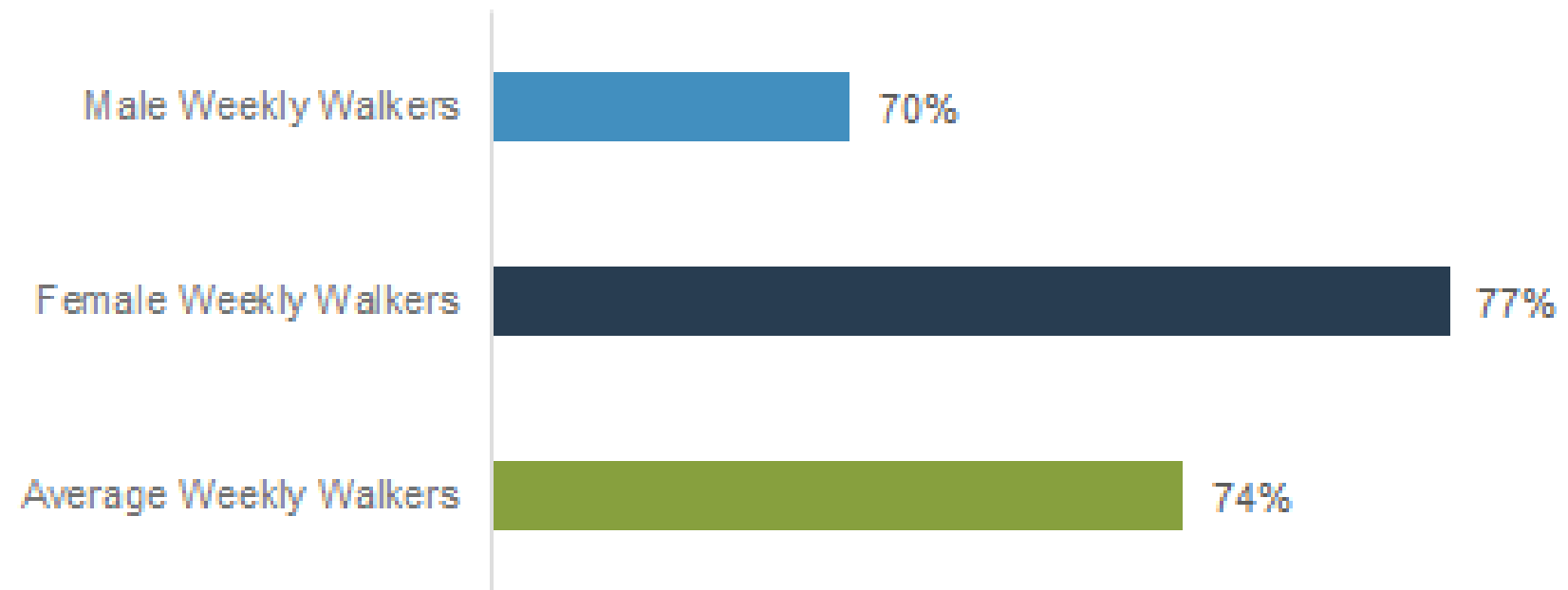
Women
in
Urbanism

Women in Auckland walk on average 10% more than their male counterparts however nearly half state that they would like to increase the amount they walk



Source: Auckland Transport, Active Modes Tracker
Sep 2019 – Oct 2020

Weekly Walkers in Auckland



I would like to walk more

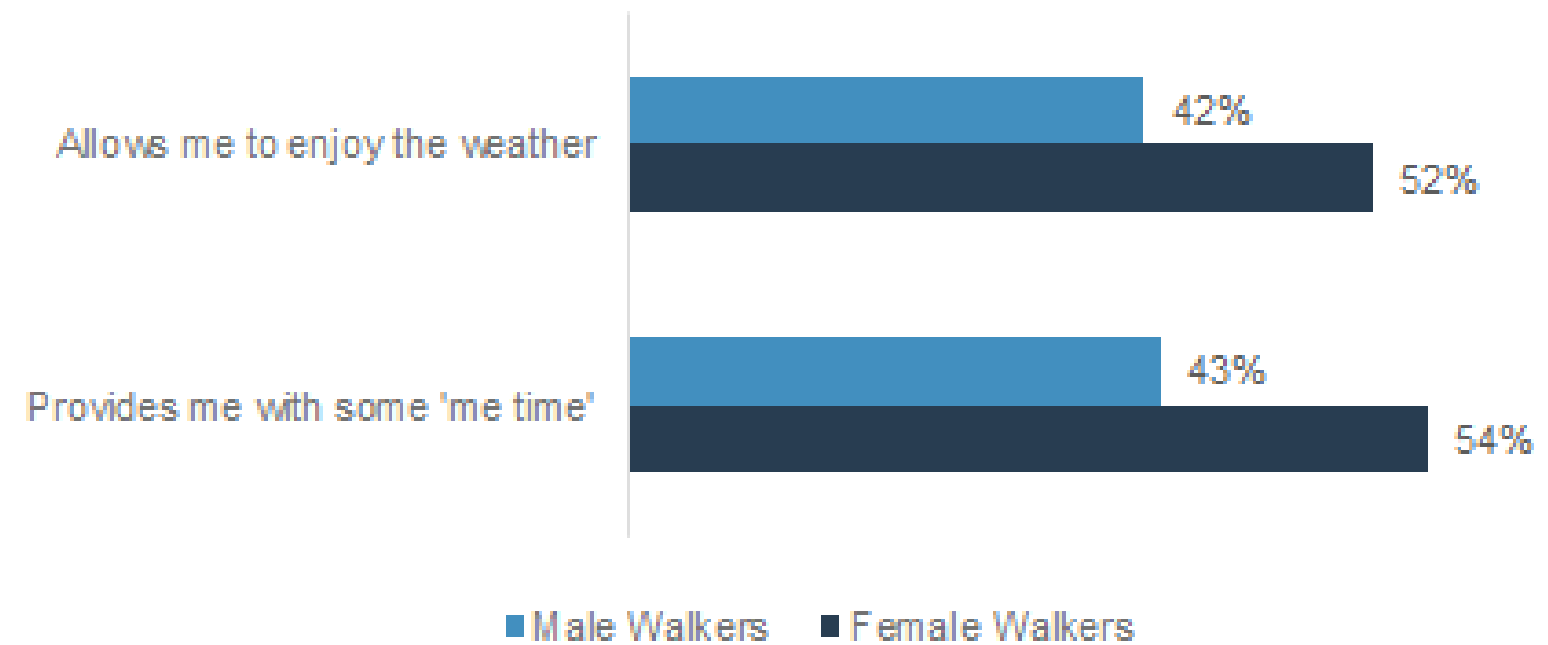


Female Aucklanders are more likely to be driven to walking as a mode of transport due to holistic reasons often including mental health

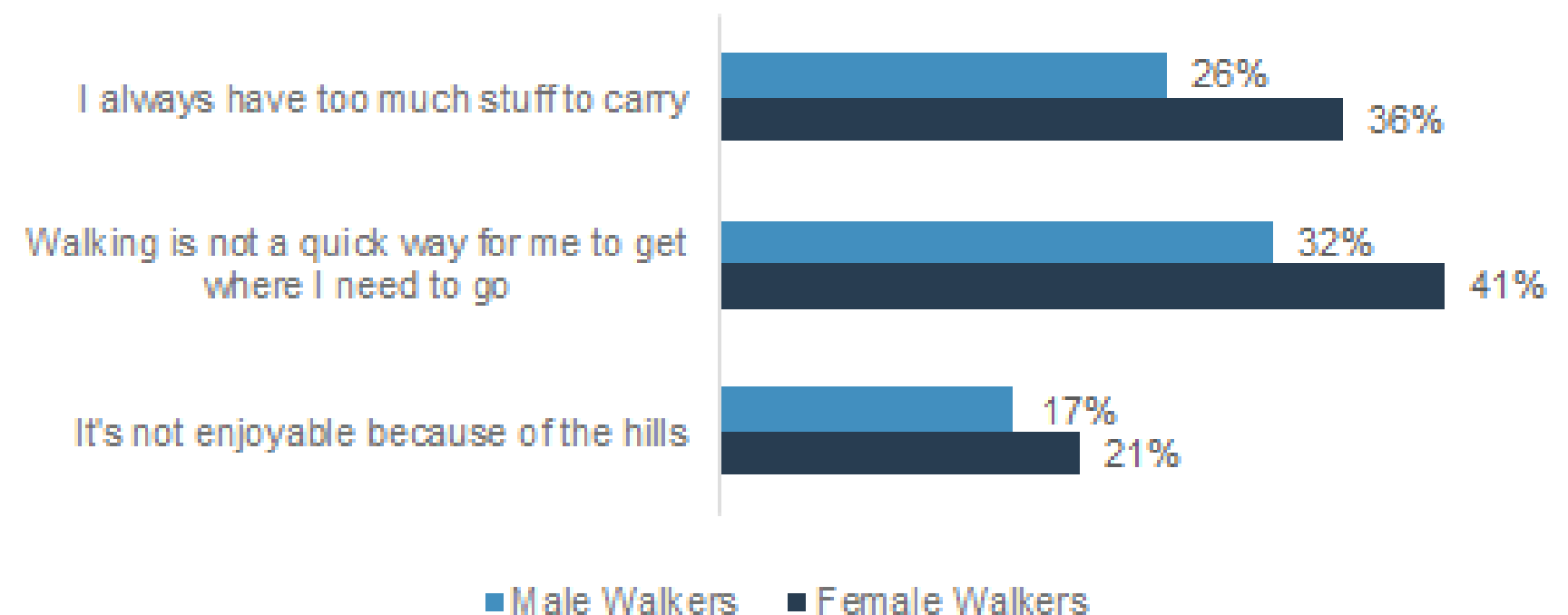


Source: Auckland Transport, Active Modes Tracker
Sep 2019 – Oct 2020

Reasons for choosing to walk



Barriers to walking

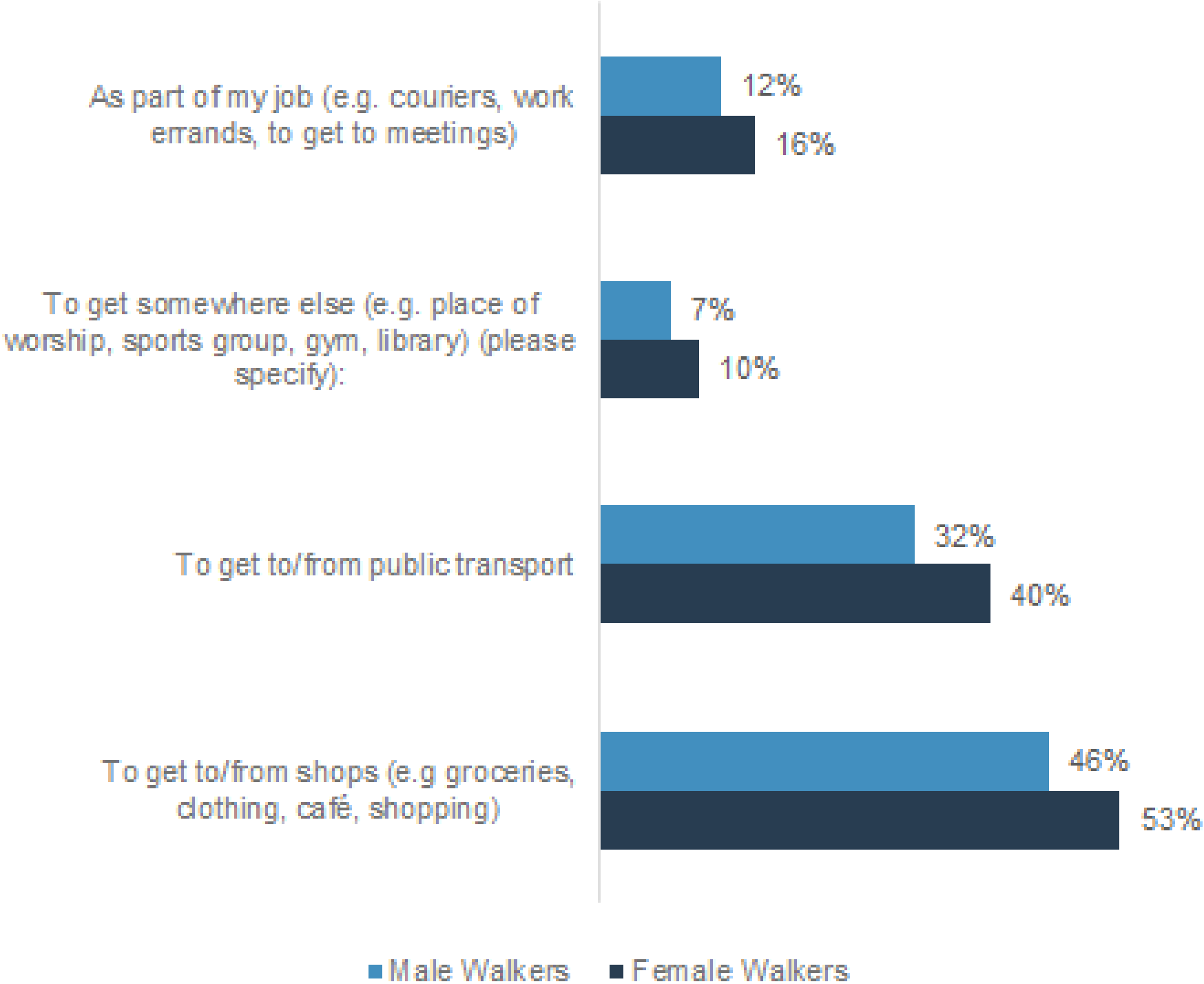


Female Aucklanders are more likely to walk for a variety of trips



Source: Auckland Transport, Active Modes Tracker
Sep 2019 – Oct 2020

Types of trips



Our Mission at AT

Working together to deliver **safe**, innovative and sustainable transport for a great city.

Tiakitanga – safe with us

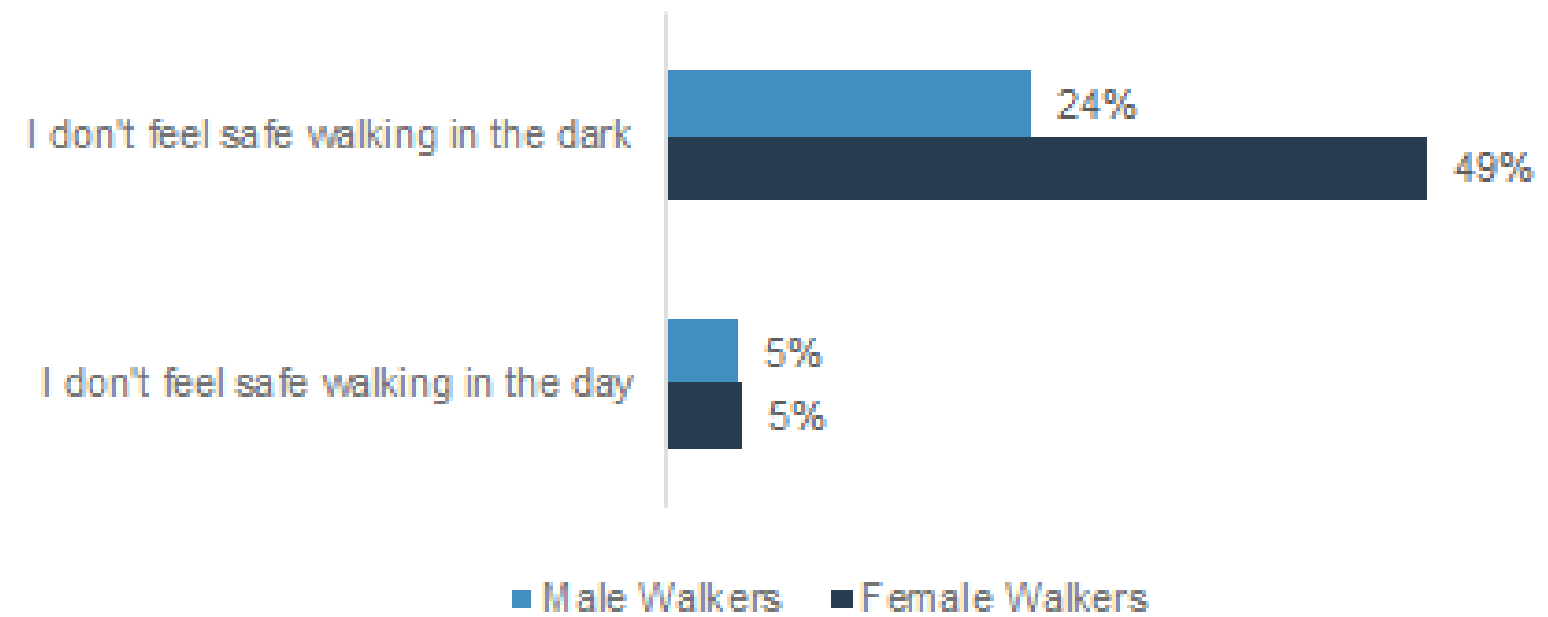
Personal safety concerns are a **barrier** to our customers using public transport.

Personal safety concerns are significantly higher in female Aucklanders than male Aucklanders with six out of ten females feeling unsafe when walking at night due to crime

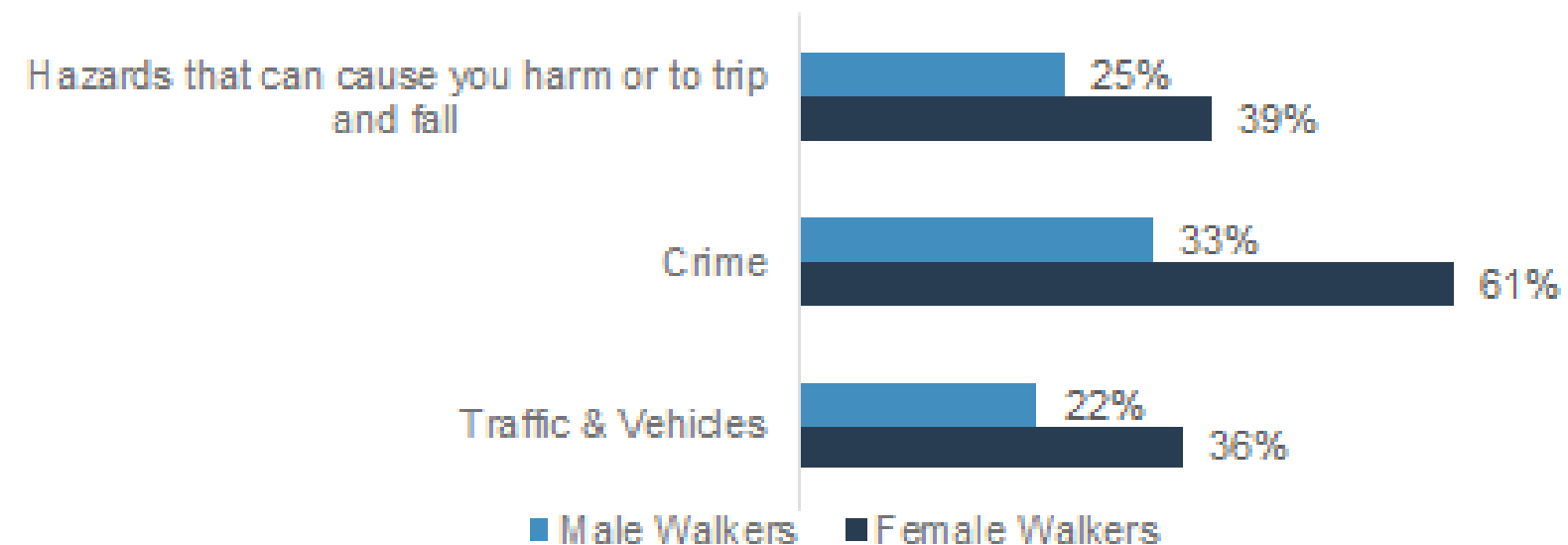


Source: Auckland Transport, Active Modes Tracker
Sep 2019 – Oct 2020

Safety Perceptions to Walking



Feelings of unsafety when walking at night due to:



What Women Want

Be intentional about planning and creating programmes with these things in mind



1) To be safe when we travel outside of our home



2) To feel safe and confident during all points of our journey



3) To make it home safely

Ways forward

This is a continuous work in progress – but let's start to create a strategy for creating great walking programmes

01

Swallow the gender-sensitive planning pill



Ways forward

02

Policies and budgets for programmes that prioritise women who walk

03

Campaigns targeted at addressing women's harassment/safety while walking at night



04

Improvements to data gathering – split the data!

05

Trial innovations to easily report dangerous/uncomfortable situations

Ways forward

less than
15%

of the workforce within public transport are women

Source: UITP (Union Internationale des Transports
Publics) <https://www.uitp.org/campaigns/pt4me/>

- 05 Create safe spaces for women's voices to be heard for matters concerning walking
- 06 Empower women to lead or participate in walk audits prior to/post design
- 07 Hire/support more women in Public Transport
- 08 **AMPLIFY Women's voices!**



Tiffany R. Robinson
Senior Active Modes Coordinator (Walking)

Thank you for listening!

Say Hello!

Auckland Transport
Sustainable Mobility Team
021 315 461
Tiffany.Robinson@AT.govt.nz

