

# Declines in meth prices over past four years

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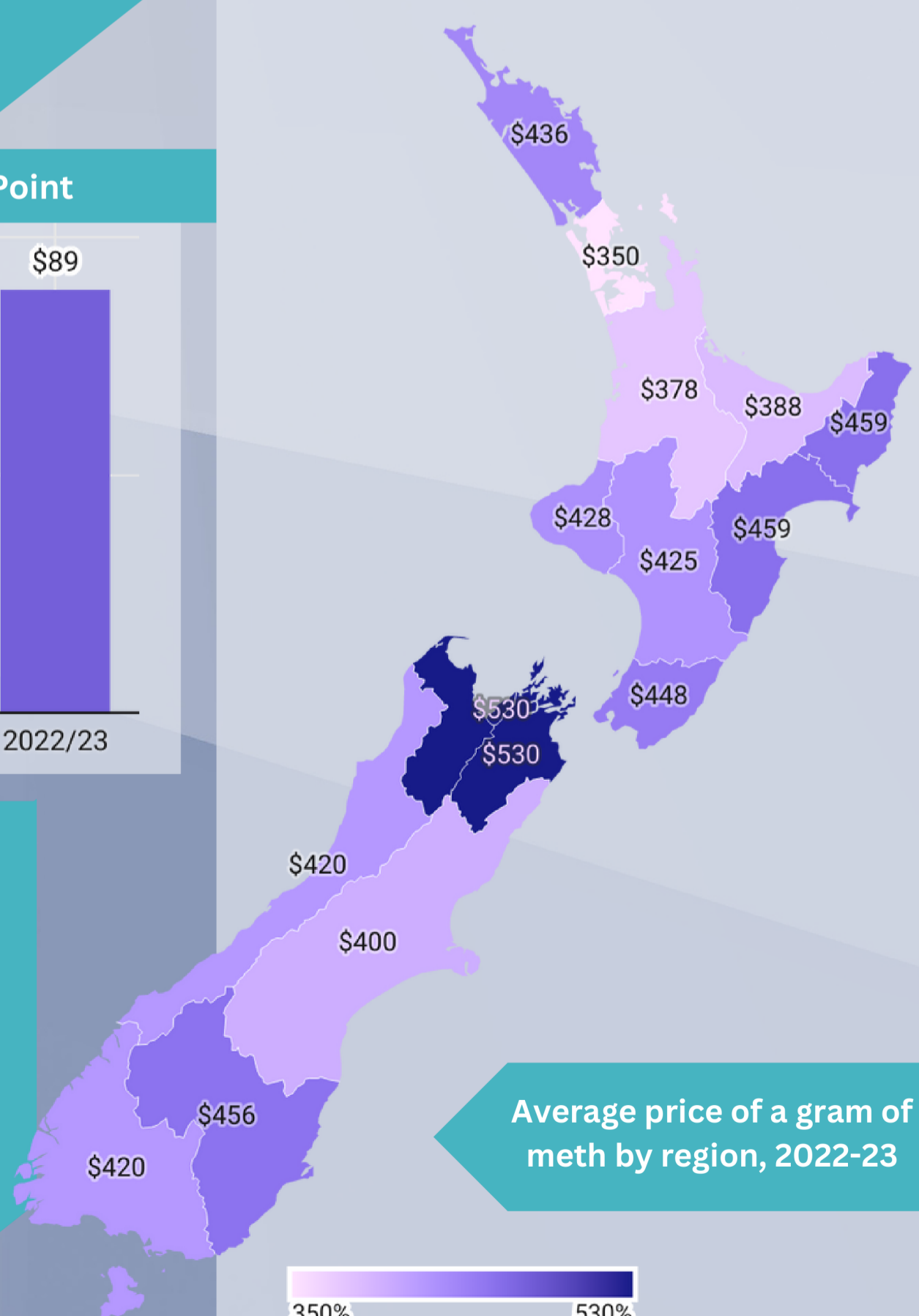
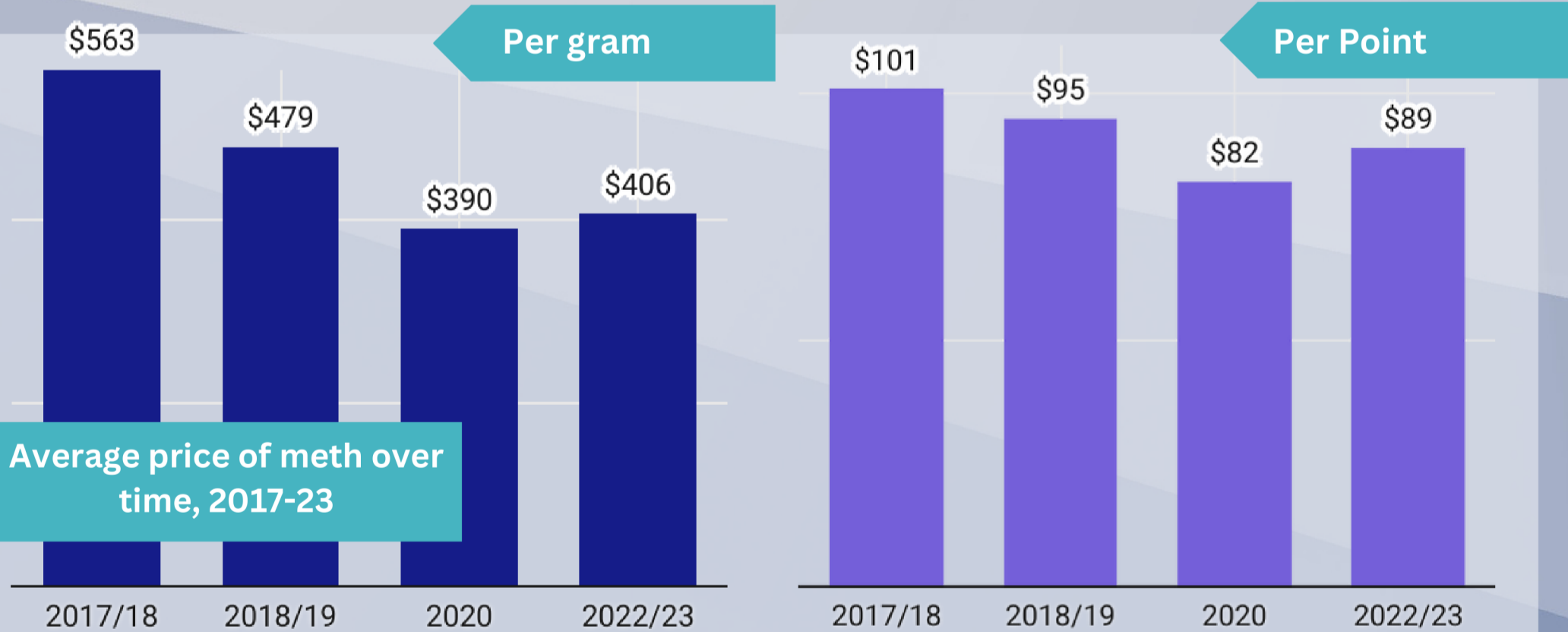
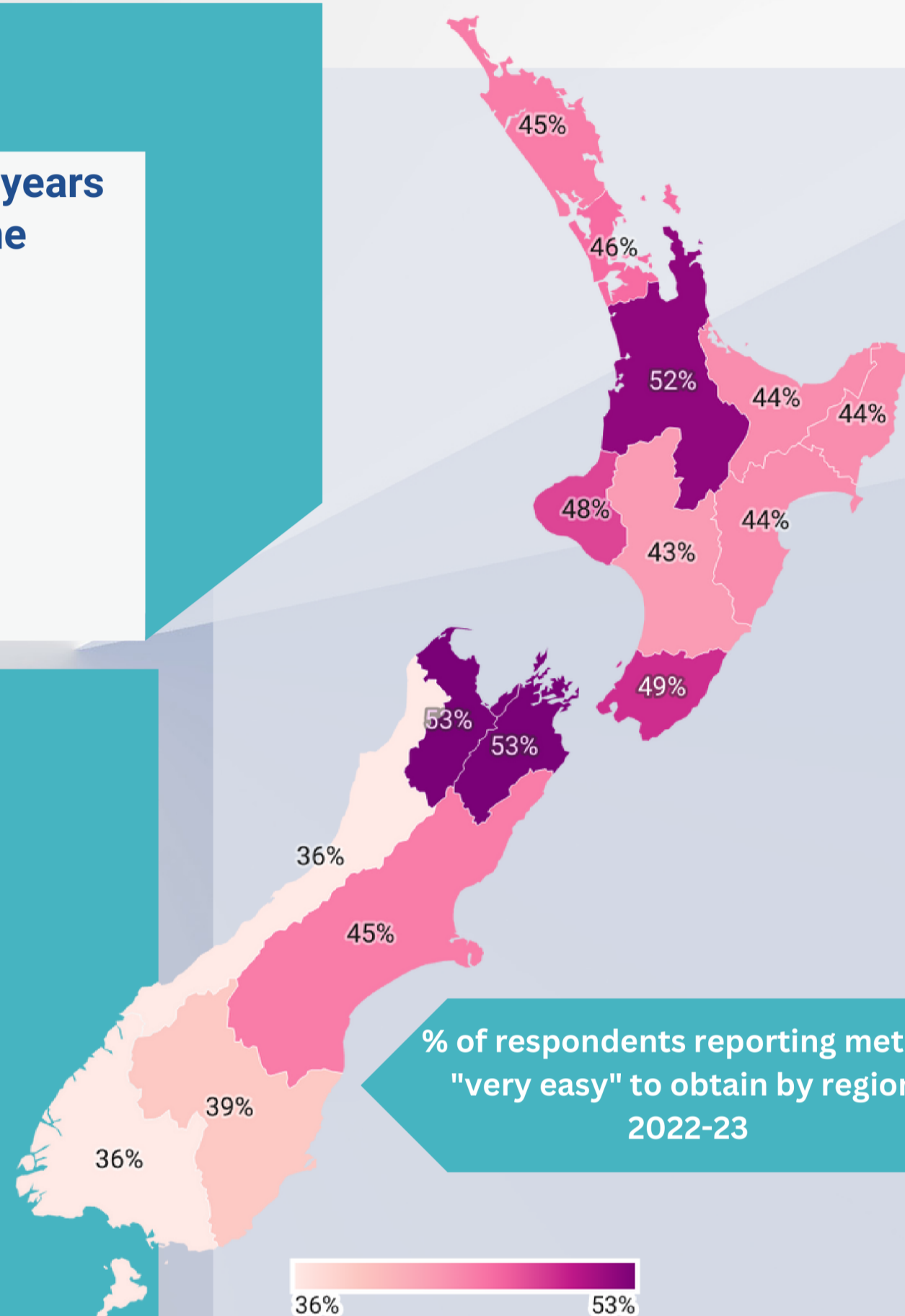
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## Key findings

- Average price of a gram of meth declined by 28% over the past 4 years
- Average price of a 'point' of meth declined by 11% during the same period
- The regions reporting the lowest prices for a gram of meth were Auckland, Bay of Plenty, and Waikato
- The highest prices per gram were reported in Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough, Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, and Otago
- The highest availability of meth was reported in the Waikato and Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough

## Methods

The New Zealand Drug Trends Survey (NZDTS) is an anonymous online convenience survey designed to provide an annual snapshot of drug market trends in Aotearoa New Zealand. It surveys a very large number of people with recent experience and knowledge of drug use and drug markets across the country (i.e., key experts). The NZDTS is promoted via a targeted Facebook advertising campaign over a period of several months. Completed surveys are audited based on the extent and quality of completion. The 2022/23 survey ran from August 2022 to February 2023 and achieved a final sample of 13,026. While the NZDTS is not intended to be a representative survey, it has a sample that broadly represents the demographic profile and regional population distribution of NZ (see Bulletin 6 for details). However, related to the aims of the survey, the NZDTS sample reports much higher levels of drug use (see Bulletin 7) and is younger than the general population. For more details on methods see, Wilkins et al. (2020) Determinants of the retail price of illegal drugs in New Zealand. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 79, 1-10.



## Discussion

Declining prices for methamphetamine in New Zealand over the past decade reflect the industrial scale production and trafficking of methamphetamine, predominantly from South-East Asia, East Asia and the Americas. The high availability of methamphetamine is consistent with record reported seizures of methamphetamine made at the New Zealand border and findings from the national wastewater testing programme. Gangs have reportedly played an active role in expanding methamphetamine selling into small towns and rural areas around the country.