



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



English Housing Survey

Well-being and Neighbourhoods, 2019-20



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Introduction and main findings

1. The English Housing Survey (EHS) is a national survey of people's housing circumstances and the condition and energy efficiency of housing in England. It is one of the longest standing government surveys and was first run in 1967. This report provides the findings from the 2019-20 survey on well-being and neighbourhoods.
2. People's perceptions of the neighbourhood in which they live can have significant implications for well-being, life satisfaction and resilience. In 2019-20, EHS respondents were asked about their perception of their local area as well as their well-being. This report explores those findings to present an account of people's views of their neighbourhood, their well-being and the relationship between the two.
3. The report also explores resilience and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on well-being by drawing on the Household Resilience Study. This study followed up with respondents to the 2019-20 English Housing Survey to see how the COVID-19 pandemic had affected their housing circumstances and well-being¹.
4. The report is split into four chapters. The first chapter presents self-reported well-being and loneliness and how this varies across groups. Chapter 2 presents attitudes towards the neighbourhood, chapter 3 presents respondents' perceptions of neighbourhood issues and chapter 4 presents how well-being and loneliness vary across different perceptions of the neighbourhood.
5. This report includes analysis of a number of key demographic variables only. The annex tables published alongside this report include other analyses that may be of interest.

Main findings

Lone parents are more likely to feel lonely often or always and have lower well-being across all measures compared to couples.

- 9% of lone parents with dependent children were lonely often or always, compared to 1-2% for couples (with and without dependent children).
- Anxiety scores were also higher for lone parents, who scored 3.4 (out of 10), compared to 2.4-2.6 for couples.
- Lone parents with dependent children were also less likely to feel safe (86%) than couples with dependent children (95%) and life satisfaction, life is worthwhile and happiness scores were all lower for lone parents.

¹ Household Resilience Study reports and data can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/household-resilience-study-wave-2>

Those living in overcrowded and non-decent homes tend to have lower well-being.

- People in overcrowded homes had a lower life satisfaction score than those in homes that were not overcrowded (7.3 compared to 7.7).
- Those living in homes which met the Decent Homes Standard had higher scores on life satisfaction and the extent to which the things they do are worthwhile than those living in non-decent homes (7.7 compared to 7.6 and 8 compared to 7.8, respectively).

Those who spend a significant proportion of their income on housing costs tend to have lower well-being.

- Those who spent more than a third of their household income on their rent or mortgage had lower scores on life satisfaction and the extent to which the things they do are worthwhile than those who spent up to a third of their income.

Most people have a positive perception of their neighbourhood.

- In 2019-20, 87% felt satisfied with their area as a place to live, no change since 2017-18 when the question was last included in the English Housing Survey.
- 89% agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well in their area.
- The majority (95%) also said they felt safe when home alone, while 77% felt that they belonged to their neighbourhood.

Those living in rural areas are less lonely and have a more positive perception of their neighbourhood than those living in urban areas.

- People living in rural areas were less likely to report feeling lonely than those in more urban areas, as well as being more likely to report feeling safe when home alone.
- Those in rural areas were more satisfied with their area as a place to live (93-95%) compared to those in urban environments (82-87%). Those living in the most rural settings were also more likely than those in the most urban environments to feel like they trusted people in their area (81% compared to 46%) and belonged to the neighbourhood (85% compared to 75%).
- They were also more likely to speak to their neighbours regularly. Among those living in rural villages 39% spoke with their neighbours on most days, compared with 33% in rural towns and fringes and 27% in urban areas.

Owner occupiers tend to have a more positive view of their neighbourhood than renters.

- 81% of home owners felt a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, compared with 73% of social renters and 64% of private renters.
- Owner occupiers were also more likely to be satisfied with their area as a place to live, trust people in their neighbourhood or to report positive interaction with their

neighbours. The more positive views among owner occupiers may, in part, be because owner occupiers tended to have lived in their home for a longer period than renters.

People living in the most deprived areas were less likely to report positive views on their neighbourhood than those living in less deprived areas.

- Those living in the 10% most deprived areas of the country were more likely to be troubled by issues in the neighbourhood such as noise, rubbish and litter, vandalism and graffiti and drunkenness and rowdiness.
- They were also twice as likely to say that the level of crime in the area is a problem, with 41% reporting so, compared to a fifth (20%) amongst those not living in a deprived area.
- Those living in the most deprived areas are three times more likely than those not living in a deprived area to feel unsafe when home alone (12% compared to 4%).
- They were also twice as likely to feel lonely often or always, than those not living in the most deprived areas (11% compared to 5%).

Those from ethnic minority backgrounds have less positive perceptions of their area, particularly Black respondents.

- Those from a White background are more likely to be satisfied with their area (87%) compared to those from Black, Pakistani or Bangladeshi, or other backgrounds (81%).
- Those from a White background were twice as likely as those from a Black background to say that most people in their neighbourhood could be trusted (61% compared to 30%). This was also higher than those from Indian or Pakistani/Bangladeshi backgrounds (42% and 45% respectively).
- Black respondents were most likely to be troubled by noise in their area – 26% said this was a problem, compared to 16%-22% of those from other backgrounds.

Those with more positive views of the neighbourhood also tend to report higher well-being.

- Overall well-being was higher among those who felt that they belonged to their neighbourhood, talked to their neighbours frequently, felt that people from different backgrounds get on well together and trusted their neighbours.
- Those who felt very strongly that they belonged to the neighbourhood for example, had average satisfaction, worth and happiness scores of 8, 8.3 and 8 respectively, compared with 6.7, 7.2 and 6.7 among those who disagreed strongly.

Acknowledgements and further queries

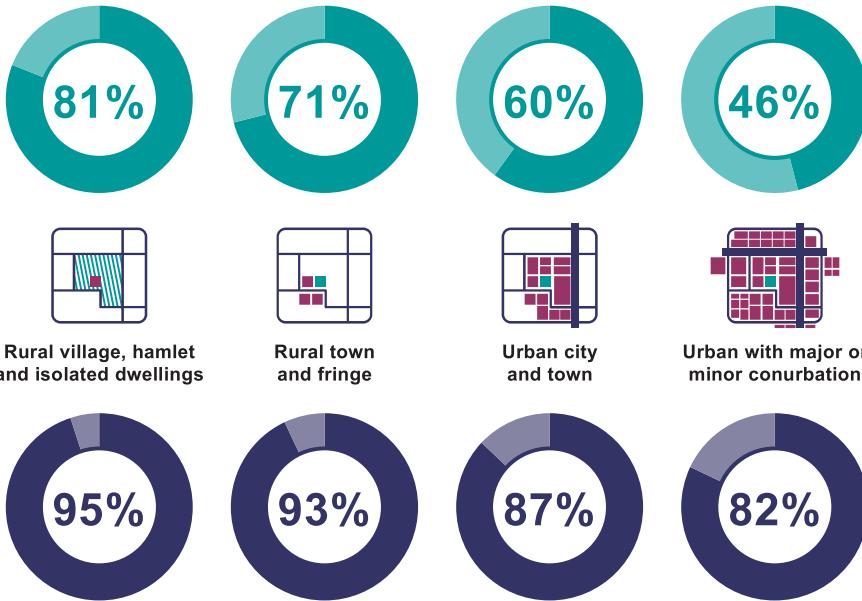
6. Each year the English Housing Survey relies on the contributions of a large number of people and organisations. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) would particularly like to thank the following people and organisations, without whom the 2019-20 survey and this report, would not have been possible: all the households who gave up their time to take part in the survey, NatCen Social Research, the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and CADS Housing Surveys.
7. This report was produced by Sarah Frankenburg at NatCen Social Research in collaboration with MHCLG.
8. If you have any queries about this report, would like any further information or have suggestions for analyses you would like to see included in future EHS reports, please contact ehs@communities.gov.uk.
9. The responsible analyst for this report is: Alicya Mamo, Housing and Planning Analysis Division, MHCLG. Contact via ehs@communities.gov.uk



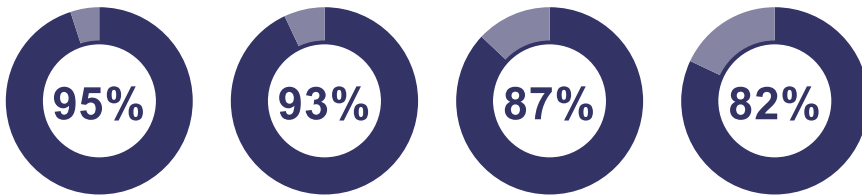
Well-being and Neighbourhoods

Those living in rural areas have a more positive perception of their neighbourhood than those in urban areas

Most people in the neighbourhood can be trusted

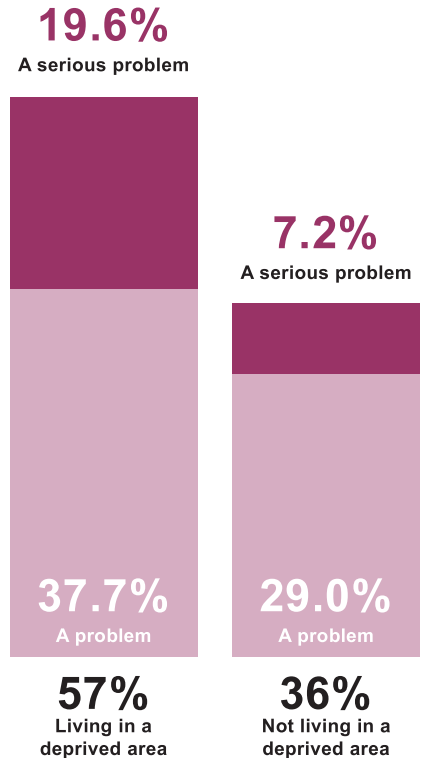


Satisfied with area

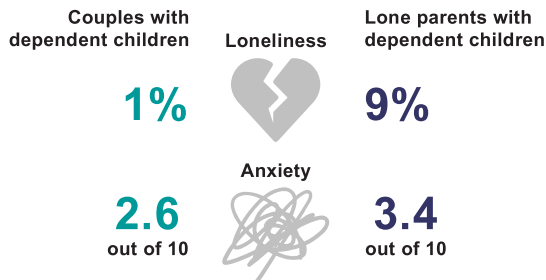


Those living in more deprived areas were more likely to say they experienced problems in their area

Extent to which the level of crime is a problem in the area



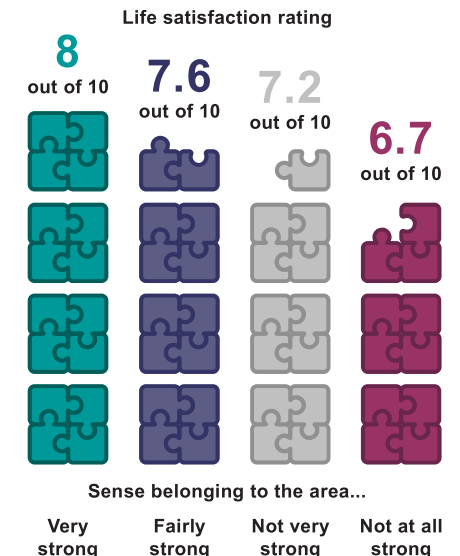
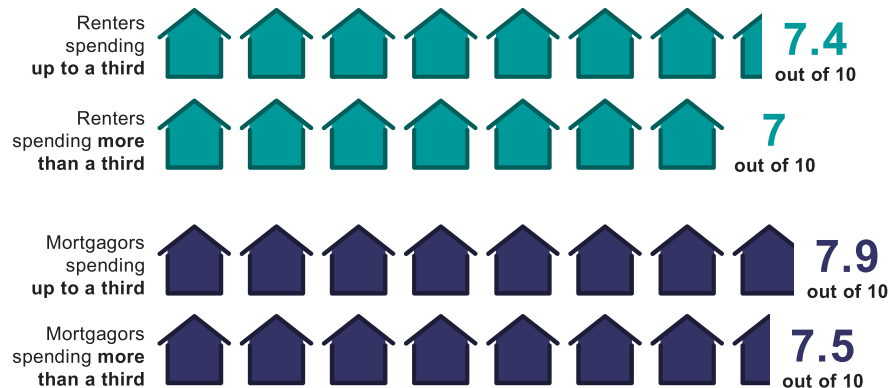
Lone parents are more anxious and nine times more likely to report feeling lonely than couples with children



Those with more positive views of the neighbourhood also tend to report higher well-being than those with less positive views

Those who spend more than a third of their income on housing costs report lower well-being than those spending up to a third

Life satisfaction rating



Chapter 1

Loneliness and well-being

- 1.1 This chapter presents well-being and loneliness findings across the population as a whole, and then within certain demographic groups. Comparison is made to the Household Resilience Study to explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on well-being and loneliness.
- 1.2 It is important to note that the EHS questions about loneliness were asked of half the sample. Additionally, these questions are only asked of the Household Reference Person (HRP)². For this reason, this report presents proportions and not the corresponding number of households for these questions.

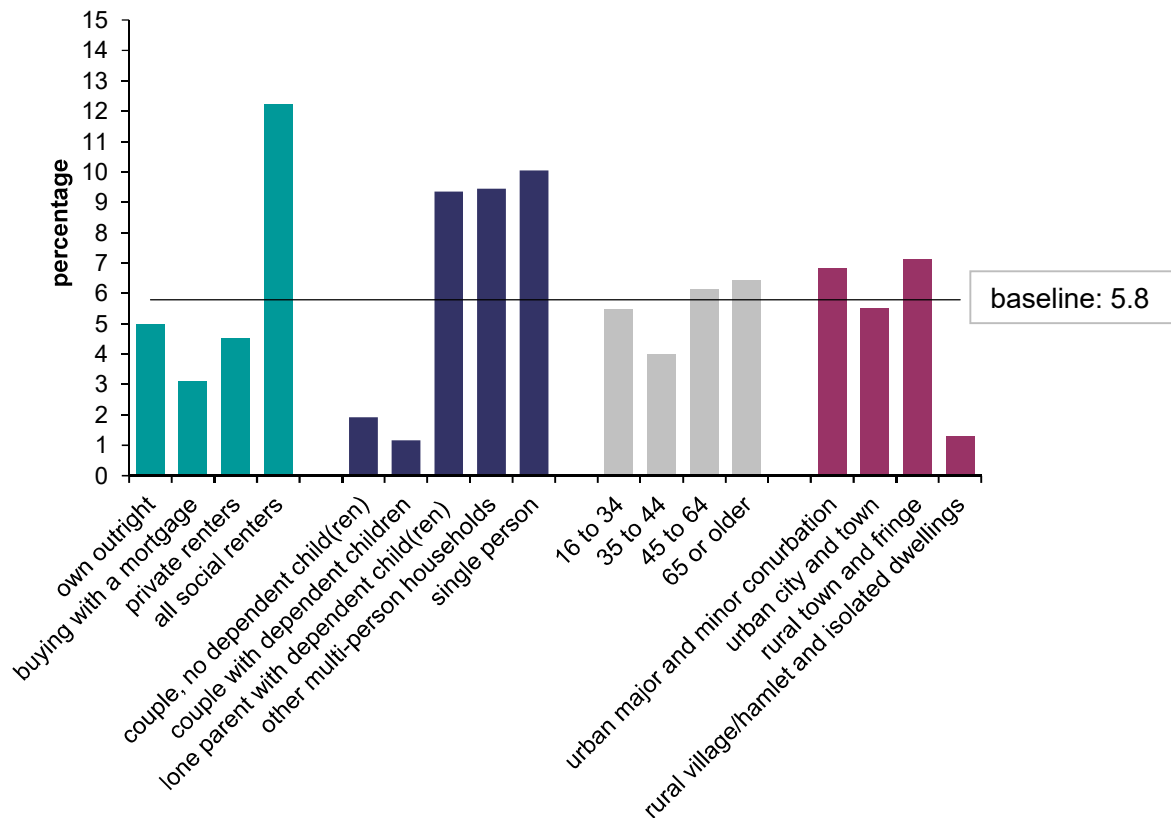
Loneliness

- 1.3 In 2019-20, 6% of all HRPs said they felt lonely often or always, Figure 1.1. The Household Resilience Study has shown that this has since increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, to 8% in November to December 2020³.

² The household reference person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented.

³ Household Resilience Study: Wave 2 report, Annex Table 30E
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/household-resilience-study-wave-2>

Figure 1.1: Proportion of HRP's who report feeling lonely always or often, 2019-20



Base: half of all HRP's interviewed

Notes:

- 1) the baseline is the proportion of all respondents who reported they felt lonely always or often
- 2) the figure shows all groups, whereas the text reports on the statistically significant differences between groups in each demographic
- 3) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 1.1 to 1.3 and 1.17
- 4) Questions about loneliness were asked of half of the sample

Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

Tenure

- 1.4 Loneliness varied by tenure, with social renters most likely to express that they were often or always lonely in 2019-20 (12%). There was no difference in the likelihood of private renters or owner occupiers reporting feeling lonely often or always (at 5% and 4% respectively).
- 1.5 During the pandemic (November to December 2020), loneliness rates more than tripled for private renters, to 14%, while for social renters and owner occupiers, the apparent increases (to 16% and 5% respectively) were not significant⁴.
- 1.6 There was no significant difference in likelihood of reporting often or always feeling lonely between housing association and local authority tenants. Within

⁴ Household Resilience Study: Wave 2 report, Annex Table 30Eb
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/household-resilience-study-wave-2>

owners, those who owned their homes outright were more likely to report being lonely often or always than mortgagors (5% to 3%), Annex Table 1.1.

Household type

- 1.7 Couples were least likely to express that they felt lonely often or always – irrespective of whether or not they had children (1% among those with, and 2% among those without). This compares to 9% of lone parents and 10% of single person households, Annex Table 1.2.

Whether home is in a rural or urban setting

- 1.8 People living in a rural village, hamlet or isolated dwelling were less likely to report feeling lonely often or always (1%) than those in more urban environments (6-7%), as well as those living in rural towns and fringes (7%), Annex Table 1.3.

Employment status

- 1.9 Those out of work, whether unemployed or otherwise inactive, were more likely to report feeling lonely often or always than those in full or part-time work and those who had retired. Those in full-time work were less likely to report feeling lonely often or always than those in part-time work (3% compared to 7%). Among those who were unemployed, 15% report feeling lonely often or always, Annex Table 1.4.

Household income quintile

- 1.10 All households were divided into five equal groups based on their household income, including any benefits. These groups are known as quintiles and can be used to analyse well-being across income.
- 1.11 In line with the differences across employment status, those in the higher income quintiles were less likely to express feeling lonely than those in lowest household income quintiles. Among those in the lowest income quintile, 13% said they felt lonely often or always, compared to 1-6% in the higher quintiles, Annex Table 1.5.

Whether living in a deprived area

- 1.12 Those living in the most deprived areas were twice more likely than those not living in a deprived area to feel lonely often or always (5% compared to 11%), Annex Table 1.22.

Well-being

1.13 All HRPs were asked standard questions to assess their overall well-being:

- Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? Referred to as 'life satisfaction'
- Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? Referred to as 'anxiety'
- Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile? Referred to as 'life is worthwhile'
- Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? Referred to as 'happiness'

1.14 For all questions, respondents were asked to give their answers on a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely', with the exception of anxiety – for which 10 is very anxious and 0 not at all anxious. This report uses the mean average scores within respondent groups.

1.15 The overall average mean score was 7.7 for life satisfaction and 7.9 for life is worthwhile. The overall average score for happiness was similar at 7.6. When asked how anxious HRPs felt yesterday, with zero being not at all anxious and ten being completely anxious, the overall average score was 2.7, Annex Table 1.6.

1.16 Well-being varied across demographic groups. The rest of this chapter presents some of these differences, focusing on a few key characteristics. Further variables are presented in the annex tables published alongside this report, though not all are discussed here.

Figure 1.2: Satisfaction with life nowadays: average score, 2019-20

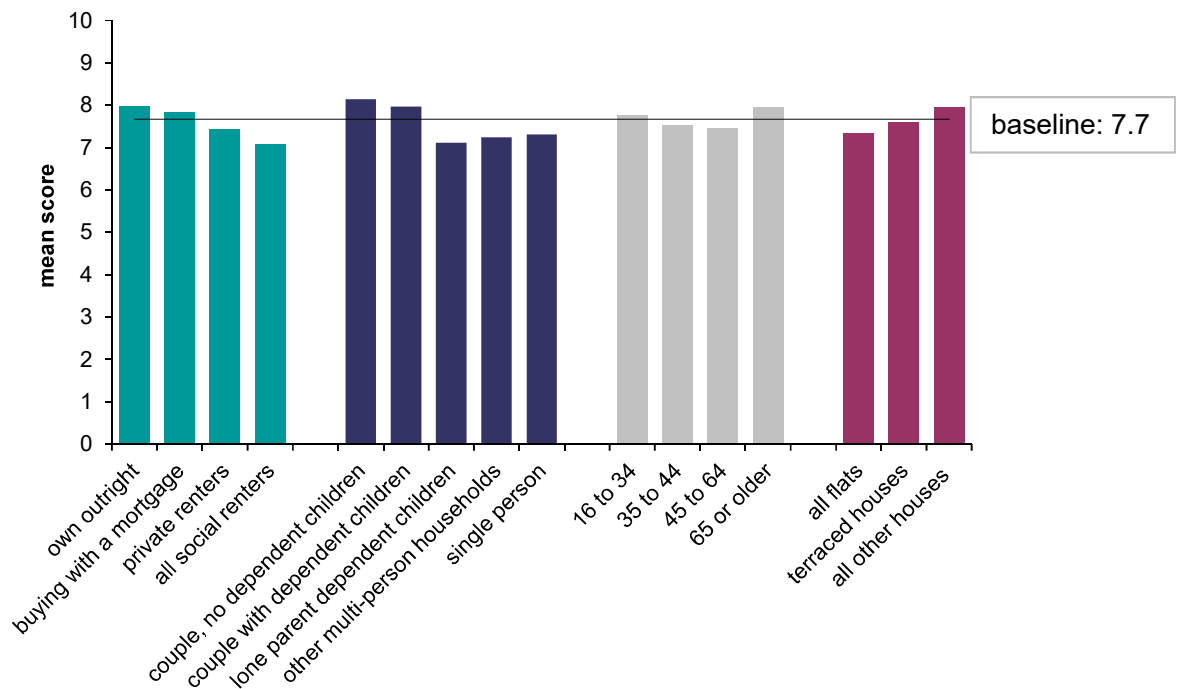
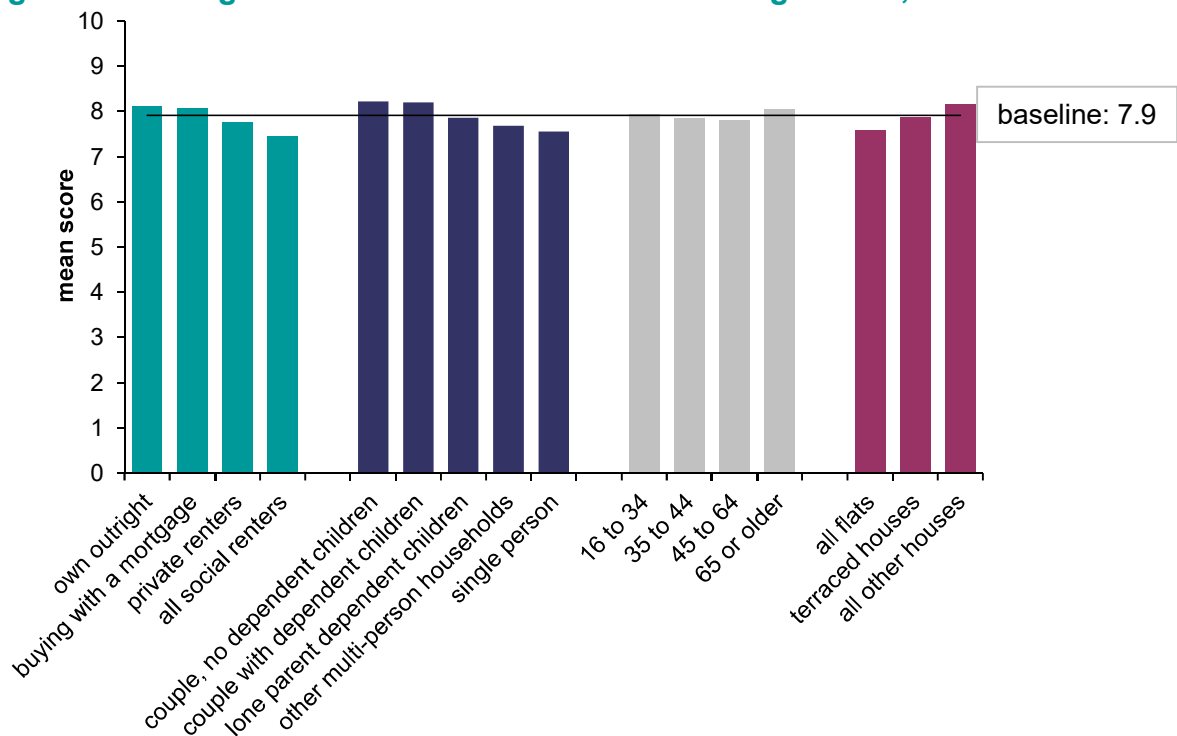


Figure 1.3: Things done in life are worthwhile: average score, 2019-20



Base: all HRPs interviewed

Notes:

- 1) the baseline is the average score of all HRPs interviewed
- 2) the figure shows all groups, whereas the text reports on the statistically significant differences between groups in each demographic
- 3) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 1.6 to 1.9

Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Figure 1.4: How happy felt yesterday: average score, 2019-20

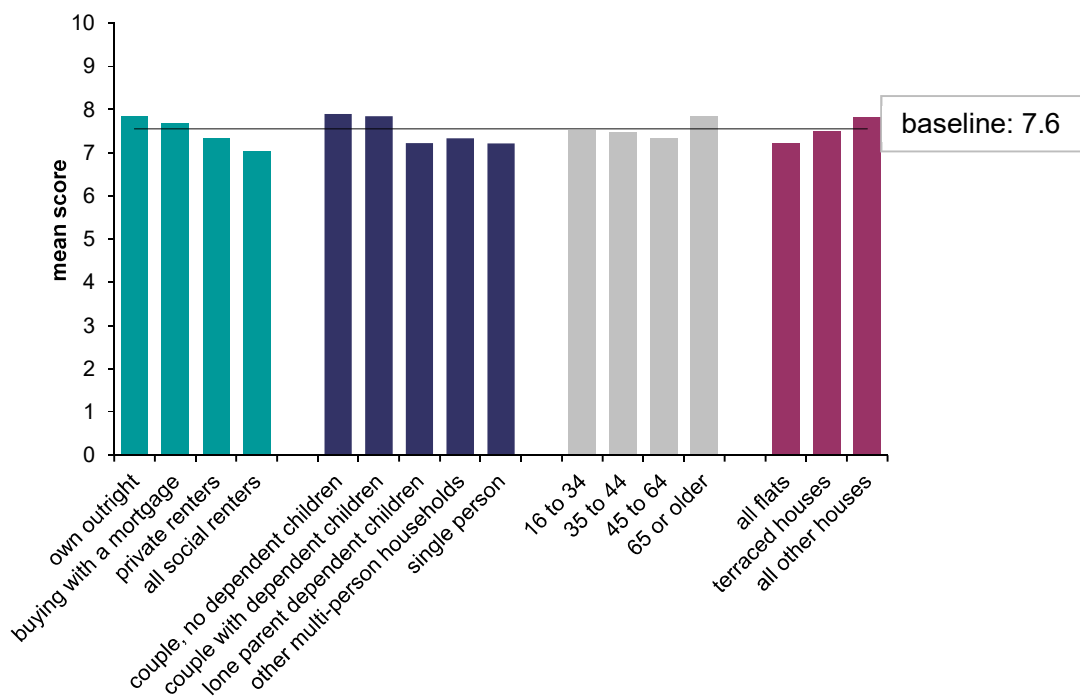
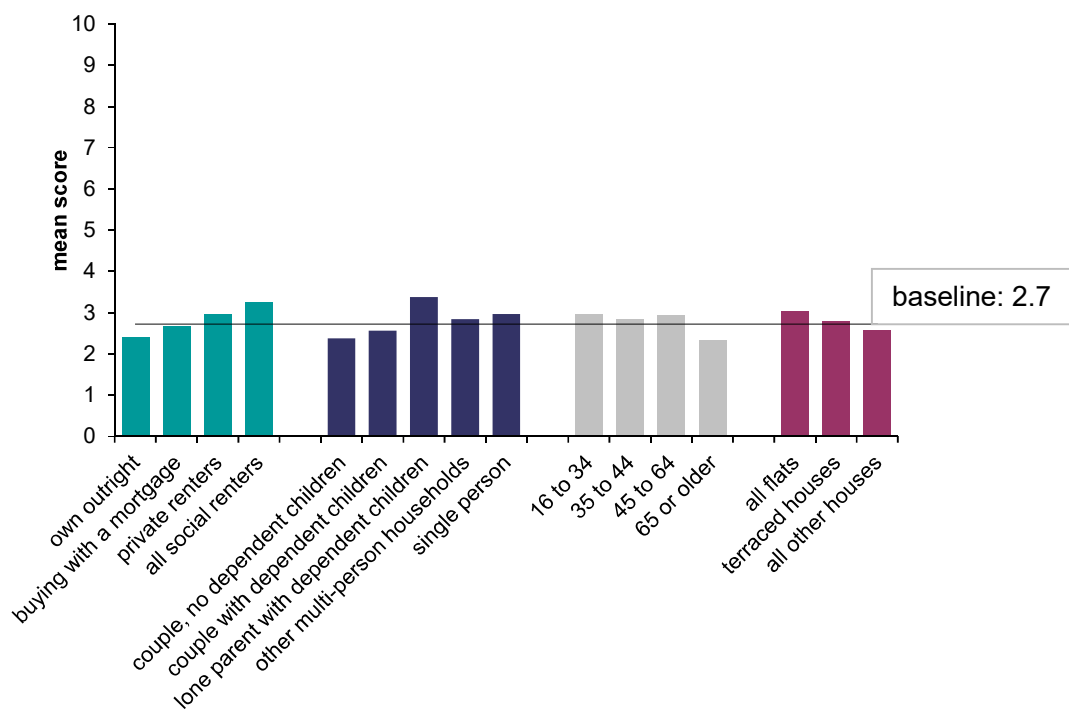


Figure 1.5: How anxious felt yesterday: average score, 2019-20



Base: all HRP's interviewed

Notes:

- 1) the baseline is the average score of all HRP's interviewed in person
- 2) the figure shows all groups, whereas the text reports on the statistically significant differences between groups in each demographic
- 3) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 1.6 to 1.9

Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Tenure

- 1.17 Well-being varied by tenure. On the whole, owner occupiers had higher average well-being scores and lower anxiety scores than renters
- 1.18 Social renters had the lowest average well-being scores and highest average anxiety scores of any tenure. Within owner occupiers, outright owners had higher average well-being scores than those buying with a mortgage.
- 1.19 Owner occupiers had a higher average life satisfaction score than both private and social renters. The average life satisfaction score among owners was 7.9 (8.0 among outright owners and 7.8 among those buying their home with a mortgage), compared with 7.4 among private renters and 7.1 among social renters.
- 1.20 Similarly, on the extent to which respondents feel the things they do are worthwhile, owner occupiers scored an average 8.1, which was higher than among private renters (7.8) and social renters (7.4).
- 1.21 For how happy respondents felt yesterday, owners also had a higher average score at 7.8. For private renters the average was 7.3 and for social renters 7.0. Owner occupiers had a lower average anxiety score, at 2.5 compared with 2.9 among private renters and 3.2 among social renters, Annex Table 1.6.
- 1.22 During the COVID-19 pandemic, scores for life satisfaction, life is worthwhile and happiness declined and anxiety increased across all tenures.⁵

Household type

- 1.23 In line with the loneliness findings, lone parents had lower average well-being scores and higher average anxiety scores than couples. Lone parents had a life satisfaction score of 7.1, lower than 8.0-8.1 for couples (with and without dependent children). Lone parents' anxiety scores were also higher than those of couples, at 3.4 compared with 2.4-2.6.
- 1.24 While lone parents and single people had similar well-being scores, lone parents had higher average anxiety scores (3.4 among those with dependent children compared to 3.0 for single people), Annex Table 1.7.

Dwelling type

- 1.25 Those in detached houses had higher average well-being scores and lower average anxiety scores than those living in other dwelling types. Those in

⁵ Household Resilience Study: Wave 2 report, Annex Tables 30Ab, 30Bb, 30Cb and 30Dd, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/household-resilience-study-wave-2>

detached houses had, for example, an average life satisfaction score of 8.2, higher than the 7.6 among those in terraced houses, which in turn was higher than those living in flats, at 7.3.

- 1.26 After detached homes, bungalows and semi-detached homes had the next highest average well-being scores. Those living in flats had the lowest average well-being and highest average anxiety scores, Annex Table 1.8.

Age

- 1.27 Those aged 65+ generally had higher average well-being scores than younger respondents, though well-being scores did not otherwise vary by age, Annex Table 1.9.

Employment status

- 1.28 Being out of work was associated with lower well-being scores, while being retired or in full-time education was generally associated with higher well-being scores.
- 1.29 Those in work had a lower average anxiety score compared to those out of work (2.7 and 2.8 among those full-time and part-time employment, compared with 3.5 and 4.1 among those who were unemployed and other inactive). Among those out of work, the otherwise economically inactive had similar well-being scores to the unemployed, with the exception of anxiety which was higher among those who were otherwise inactive.
- 1.30 Being in full-time work compared to part-time didn't have an impact on average well-being scores, with the exception of life is worthwhile – those in part-time work had a higher average score than those in full-time work (8.1 compared to 8.0).
- 1.31 People in retirement or full-time education generally had higher well-being scores than those in work, with little difference between them. The exception to this was anxiety – those in full-time education had higher average anxiety scores compared to those in retirement (3.1 compared to 2.3), Annex Table 1.10.

Whether in rent arrears

- 1.32 As might be expected, renters currently in arrears had a higher average anxiety score than those not in arrears (3.5 compared to 2.9). However, having been in arrears in the last year was not associated with a higher anxiety score when compared to those who had not been in arrears. Those in arrears also had lower average satisfaction and happiness scores compared to those not in arrears (6.4 compared with 7.4 and 6.8 to 7.4), Annex Table 1.11.

Household income

- 1.33 As might be expected, average well-being scores increased with household income; those in highest income quintiles had higher average well-being scores and lower average anxiety scores compared to those in the lower income quintiles. These differences were greater between the lower income quintiles than the higher income quintiles, with few significant differences between the top two income quintiles.
- 1.34 Those in the highest income quintile had an average anxiety score of 2.5, lower than the 3.2 average among those in the lowest income quintile. Differences between the top income quintiles were not significant.
- 1.35 On other hand, those in the highest income quintile had an average happiness score of 7.9, higher than the 7.7 average among those in the third income quintile, which in turn was higher than the average among those in the lowest income quintile, 7.1, Annex Table 1.12.

Overcrowding

- 1.36 There were no differences in average well-being scores across those living in overcrowded homes and those who did not. The exception to this was life satisfaction – people in overcrowded homes had a lower average life satisfaction score than those in homes that were not overcrowded (7.3 to 7.7), Annex Table 1.13

Whether home was decent or non-decent

- 1.37 Those living in homes which met the Decent Homes Standard had higher average scores on overall life satisfaction and the extent to which the things they do are worthwhile than those living in non-decent homes (7.7 compared to 7.6 and 8 compared to 7.8, respectively), Annex Table 1.14.

Proportion of income spent on housing

- 1.38 Well-being was associated with the proportion of income that households spent on either their rent or mortgage. Comparisons are made between those who spent up to a third of their income on housing costs, and those who spent more than a third of their income on housing costs.
- 1.39 Looking first at renters, those who spent more than a third of their household income (including any benefits) on rent had lower life, lower happiness, lower worthwhile and higher anxiety scores than those who spent up to a third of their income on rent, Annex Table 1.15.
- 1.40 Among mortgagors, those who spent more than a third of their household income (including any benefits) on their mortgage had lower average life satisfaction and worthwhile scores than those who spent up to a third of their

income. Those who spent up to a third had an average life satisfaction score of 7.9, compared to 7.5 among those who spent more than a third, for example. Differences in anxiety and happiness scores were not statistically significant, Annex Tables 1.16.

Chapter 2

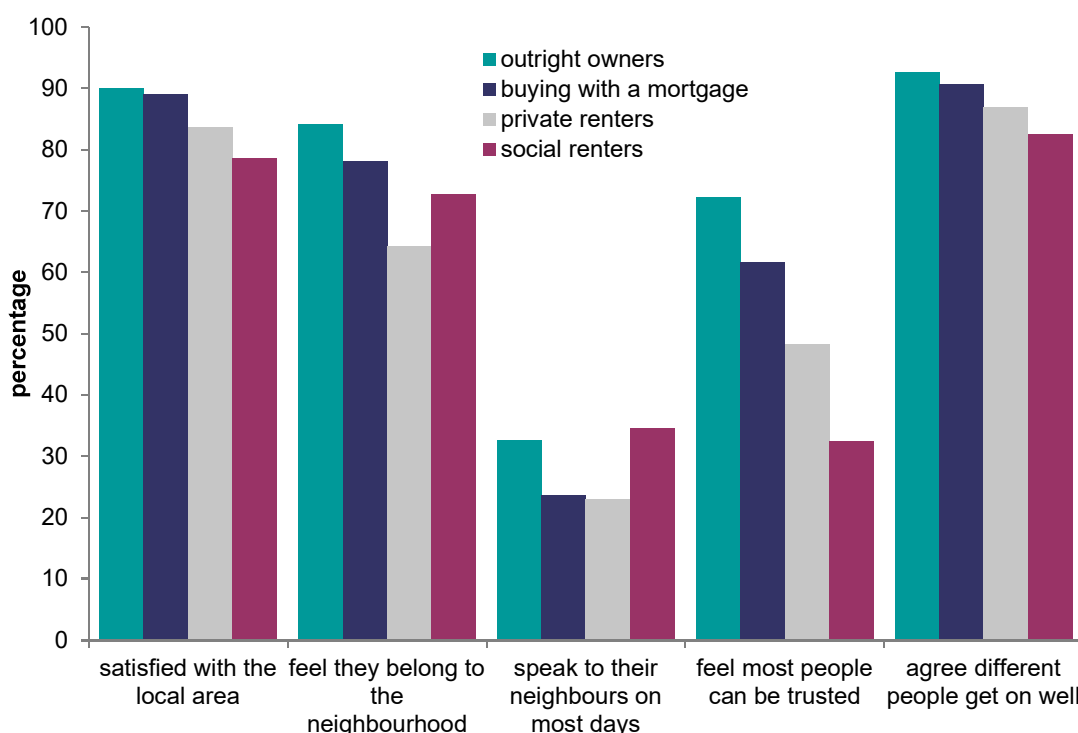
Perceptions of the neighbourhood

- 2.1 Respondents were asked a series of questions about their perceptions of their neighbourhood. This chapter presents these perceptions to explore people's overall experience of living in their neighbourhood, first at the national level and then across key demographic groups. Additional breakdowns are presented in the accompanying tables, though not presented here.
- 2.2 During the interview, respondents were asked about their perception of their neighbourhood at a number of geographical levels, for example their 'immediate neighbourhood', 'local area' or 'the neighbourhood'. The commentary of individual sections of the report specifies the geographical area covered. It is important to note that respondents may have different interpretations of the various areas.
- 2.3 Questions about the neighbourhood were only asked of half the sample. As a result, only proportions are presented here and not the accompanying number of households.

Perceptions of the neighbourhood

- 2.4 Most people generally had a positive experience of their area as a place to live, with relatively high proportions reporting satisfaction (87% either very or fairly satisfied); a sense of belonging (77%) and that most people in the neighbourhood can be trusted (58%).
- 2.5 Similarly, the majority reported speaking with their neighbours more than once a week (67%) and agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well in their area (89%). The majority of respondents also said they felt safe when home alone (95%). Overall experience of the neighbourhood varied across different demographics groups, Annex Tables 2.1 to 2.6.

Figure 2.1: Perceptions of the area by tenure, 2019-20



Base: half of all households

Notes:

1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 2.1 to 2.5.

2) questions about problems in the area were only asked of half the sample

Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

Tenure

2.6 Owner occupiers generally had a more positive views of their neighbourhood than private and social renters, although the extent to which this was the case varied across measures.

2.7 Owner occupiers were most likely to be satisfied with the area as a place to live than renters. Among owner occupiers, 90% were either very or fairly satisfied compared to 84% of private renters and 79% of social renters, Annex Table 2.1.

2.8 Similarly, owners were most likely to say they felt a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood (81%), followed by social renters (73%) and then private renters (64%). Among owner occupiers, outright owners were more likely than mortgagors to report that they very strongly belonged to their neighbourhood, with 42% of outright owners saying so, compared to 31% of mortgagors, Annex Table 2.2.

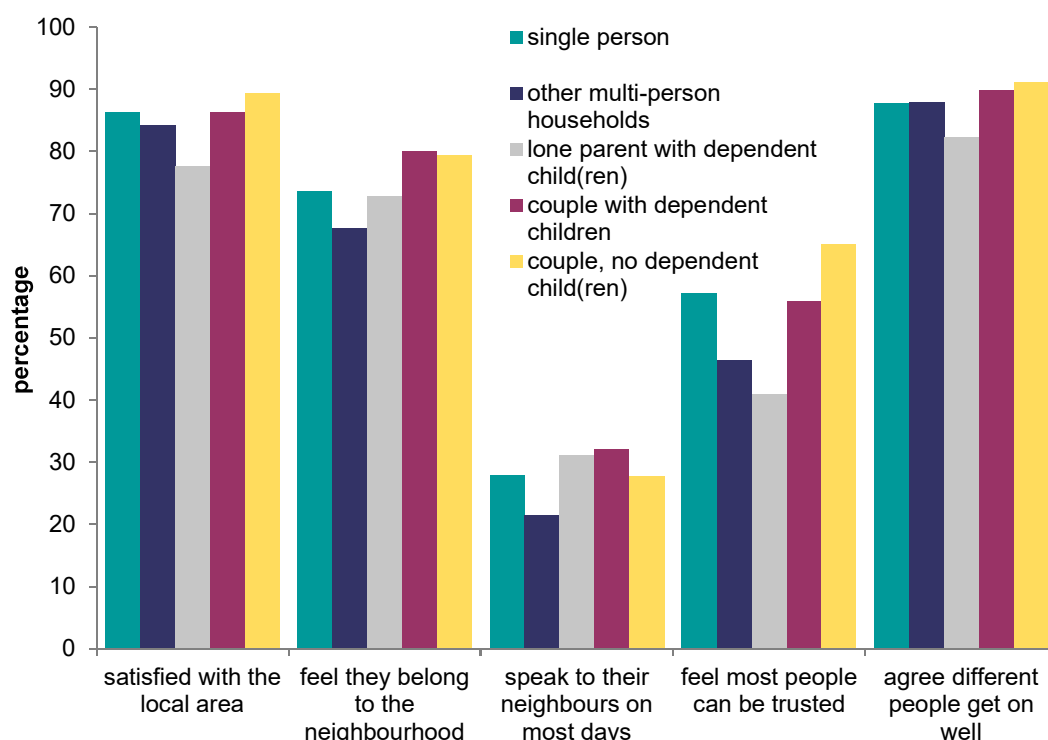
2.9 Social renters were most likely to say they spoke with their neighbours on most days (34%) compared with owners (29%) and private renters (23%). However, owners were more likely to speak with their neighbours once or

twice a week (42%) compared with both social and private renters (33% and 32% respectively).

- 2.10 Among owner occupiers, outright owners were more likely than mortgagors to speak with their neighbours on most days (33% compared with 24%). There was no difference between local authority or housing association social renters, Annex Table 2.3.
- 2.11 Owner occupiers were much more likely than renters to feel that most people in their neighbourhood could be trusted, at 67%, compared with 48% of private renters and 32% of social renters. Outright owners were more likely than mortgagors to think that most people could be trusted (72% compared with 62%).
- 2.12 Within social renters, housing association tenants were more likely than local authority tenants to feel most people could be trusted (35% to 28%), Annex Table 2.4.
- 2.13 Owner occupiers were most likely to agree that people from different backgrounds in the area tend to get on with each other (92%) followed by 87% among private renters and 82% among social renters, Annex Table 2.5.
- 2.14 Owner occupiers were the most likely to feel safe when home alone – the overwhelming majority (97%) did so. Private renters were less likely to report feeling safe when home alone – 95%. Social renters were least likely to feel safe, at 89%. There were no differences between outright owners and mortgagors or within social renters, Annex Table 2.6.

Household type

Figure 2.2: Perceptions of the area by household type, 2019-20



Base: half of all households

Notes:

1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 2.7 to 2.10, 2.30 and 2.39.

2) questions about problems in the area were only asked of half the sample

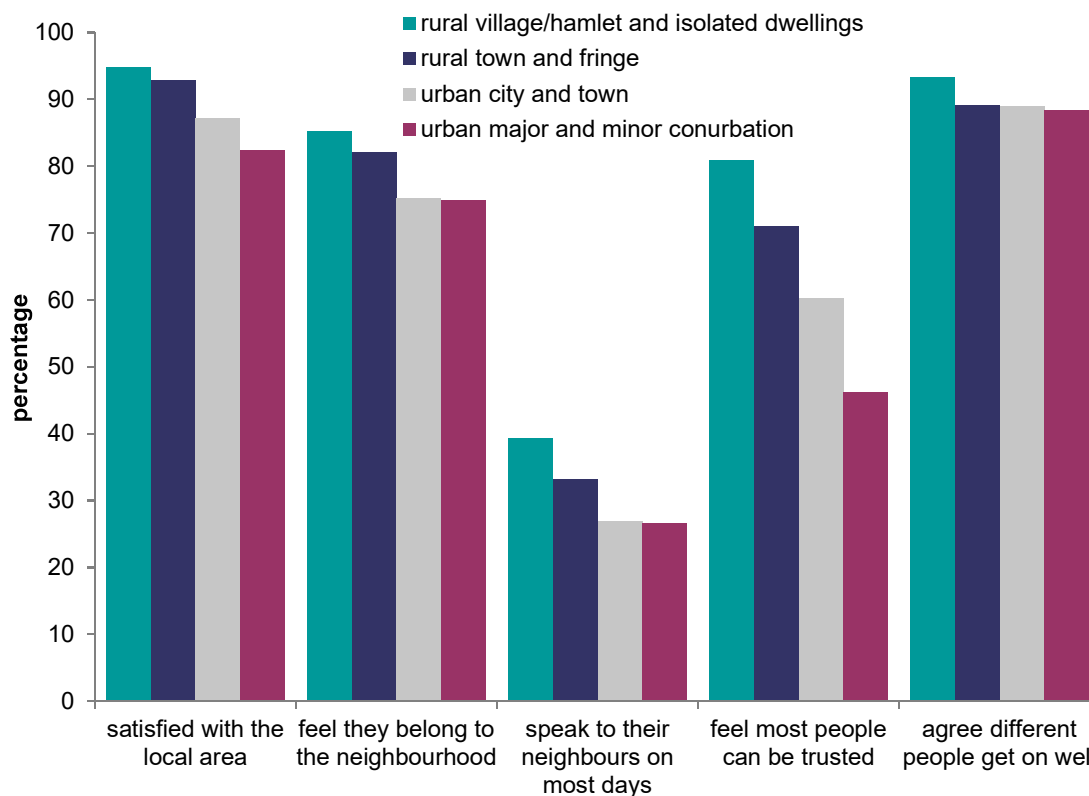
Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

- 2.15 Couples without children were more likely to express satisfaction with their local area than other household types (89%). Couples with dependent children were similarly likely to express satisfaction with the area, at 86%, Annex Table 2.7.
- 2.16 Looking just at whether the household included dependent children, those without dependent children were more likely to express satisfaction with the area compared to those in households with dependent children (87% compared to 84%), Annex Table 2.8.
- 2.17 Couples with dependent children were generally more likely to speak with their neighbours on most days than couples without dependent children (32% compared to 28%). There were otherwise few differences between household types, Annex Table 2.9.
- 2.18 Couples with no children were most likely to feel that most people in their area could be trusted, at 65%. Among couples with dependent children this figure was 56%, Annex Table 2.10.

2.19 There were few other significant differences by household type, though couples with no children were more likely to feel safe (97%) than those with dependent children (95%) and lone parents with dependent children were less likely to feel safe than couples with dependent children (86% compared to 95%), Annex Table 2.11.

Whether home is in an urban or rural environment

Figure 2.3: Perceptions of the area by whether urban or rural environment, 2019-20



Base: half of all households

Notes:

1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 2.12 to 2.16.

2) questions about problems in the area were only asked of half the sample

Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

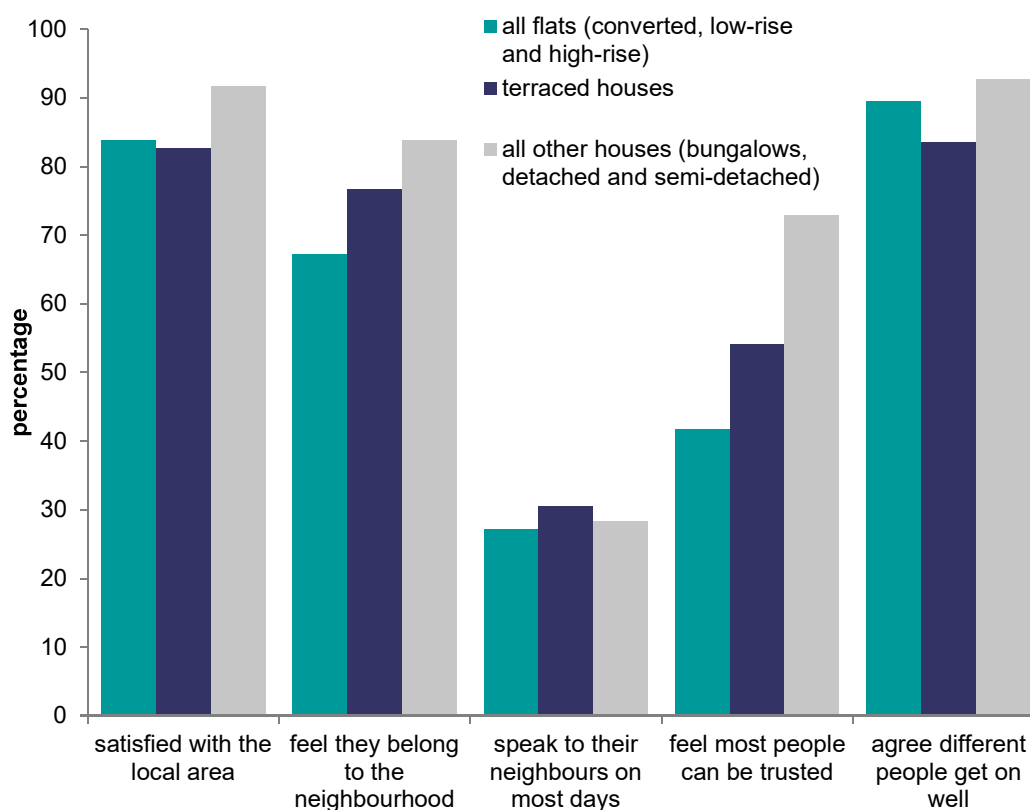
2.20 Those in rural environments were more likely to be satisfied with their local area than those in more urban environments. Of those living in the most urban conurbations, 82% were satisfied with their area, compared with 87% among those in urban cities and towns. This compares to 93% of those living in rural towns and fringes and 95% in rural villages, hamlets or isolated dwellings, Annex Table 2.12.

2.21 Those living in more urban environments were less likely to feel they belonged to their neighbourhood than those in more rural environments – three-quarters (75%) of those in urban areas felt they belonged either very or fairly strongly, compared with 82-85% in rural areas, Annex Table 2.13.

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- 2.22 Similar to the other neighbourhood perceptions, likelihood of speaking with neighbours on most days increased with rurality, though differences within the two most rural and the two most urban neighbourhoods were not significant. Among those living in rural villages, almost two-fifths (39%) spoke with their neighbours on most days, compared with a third (33%) in rural towns and fringes. This was higher than 27% in urban areas, Annex Table 2.14.
- 2.23 Those in more rural neighbourhoods were more likely to feel that most people in their area could be trusted, compared with those living in more urban settings. Among those in the most urban environments, 46% felt that most people could be trusted, increasing to 60% in urban cities and towns, 71% in rural towns and fringes, and 81% in rural villages, Annex Table 2.15.
- 2.24 Those in rural environments were more likely to agree that, in their area, people from different backgrounds got on well together than those in the two most urban environments (93% among those in the most rural environments, and 88-89% in the two most urban environments). However there were no significant differences between the two most rural environments or between urban cities and towns and rural towns and fringes.
- 2.25 Those in more rural settings were more likely to definitely agree that there's was an area in which people from different backgrounds got on well, compared with more urban environments. Among those in the most rural settings, 48% definitely agreed that people got on well, compared with 35% among rural towns and fringes, 36% in urban cities and towns and 32% in major and minor urban conurbations, Annex Table 2.16.
- 2.26 Those living in the most urban environments (major and minor urban conurbations) were least likely to say they felt safe when home alone (93%). The proportion feeling safe increased to 95% among those living in urban cities and towns and then further to 98-99% among those living in rural areas, Annex Table 2.17.

Dwelling type

Figure 2.4: Perceptions of the area by dwelling type, 2019-20



Base: half of all households

Notes:

1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 2.18 to 2.21 and 2.40.

2) questions about problems in the area were only asked of half the sample

Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

- 2.27 Those living in detached houses were most likely to be satisfied with their area, at 94%. This was followed by those living in bungalows, of whom 92% were satisfied. Those living in terraced houses or purpose-built high-rise flats were least likely to report being satisfied with their area (83% and 82% respectively), Annex Table 2.18.
- 2.28 Those living in flats were the least likely to say they belonged to their neighbourhood, with just two-thirds (67%) reporting so, less than the 77% in terraced houses and 84% in all other houses (bungalows, detached and semi-detached houses), Annex Table 2.19.
- 2.29 Those living in flats were less likely to speak with their neighbours once or twice a week than those living in houses. Of those living in flats 31% spoke with their neighbours once or twice a week compared with 41% of those in detached and semi-detached houses and bungalows and 38% of those in terraced houses. Those living in flats were also most likely to report never speaking with their neighbours, at 13%, Annex Table 2.20.

-
- 2.30 People living in detached and semi-detached houses were most likely to feel that most people in their neighbourhood could be trusted, at 73%, followed by those in terraced houses at 54% and those in flats at 42%. Among those in flats, people living in high-rise purpose-built flats were least likely to feel that most people in their area can be trusted, at 28%, followed by those in low rise flats at 43%, Annex Table 2.21.
- 2.31 Those living in detached and semi-detached houses were most likely to say that they felt safe (96%), followed by those in terraced houses and flats, which had similar proportions feeling safe home alone (92% and 93%), Annex Table 2.22.

Ethnicity of HRP

- 2.32 On some measures, white HRPs were generally more likely to report positive perceptions of their area than HRPs of other ethnicities. For example, those from a White background were more likely to be satisfied with their area (87%) compared to those from Black, Pakistani or Bangladeshi, or other backgrounds (81%). There was no significant difference when compared to those from an Indian background (84%), Annex Table 2.23.
- 2.33 White respondents were also most likely to say that most people in their neighbourhood could be trusted, at 61%, followed by Pakistani or Bangladeshi respondents at 45% and Indian respondents at 42%. Black respondents were least likely to feel this way, at just 30%, Annex Table 2.24.

Whether living in a deprived area

- 2.34 Generally, those living in the 10% most deprived areas were more likely to have negative perceptions of their neighbourhood compared to those not living in a deprived area. For example, while 4% of people not living in a deprived area felt unsafe when home alone, among those living in deprived areas this proportion was three times more, at 12%, Annex Table 2.25.

Chapter 3

Problems in the neighbourhood

- 3.1 Respondents were asked the extent to which noisy neighbours, littering, vandalism and graffiti, drunkenness and the overall level of crime were a problem in their area. Respondents were given the option to say if each issue was a serious problem in the area, a problem but not serious or not a problem in the area.
- 3.2 The rest of this chapter presents the extent to which each of these issues was a problem overall (those who reported it was a serious problem in the area and those who said it was a problem, but not serious) and how answers varied across key demographic groups.

Figure 3.1: Problems in the area by tenure, 2019-20



Base: half of all households

Notes:

1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 3.1 to 3.5

2) questions about problems in the area were only asked of half the sample

Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

Problems in the local area

- 3.3 Noisy neighbours or loud parties were not problematic for the majority of people, with 83% saying that this was not a problem in their area (this was the

issue least likely to be reported as a problem at 17%). Just over a fifth (22%) reported that drunkenness or rowdiness was a problem, while almost a quarter (24%) considered vandalism or graffiti to be. Among those, 5% considered these two issues as serious problems. Almost two-fifths (37%) reported rubbish or litter as a neighbourhood problem. Amongst this, more than 1 in 10 (11%) said it was serious. The general level of crime was the most mentioned problem, with 38% reporting it so, among whom 8% thought it to be serious.

Tenure

- 3.4 Owner occupiers were least likely to be troubled by noise – 87% said it wasn't a problem in their area, followed by private renters (79%) and then social renters (73%). Among owners, mortgagors were more likely to say that noise was a problem compared to outright owners (15% compared to 12%).
- 3.5 Among social renters, local authority tenants were more likely to be troubled by noise than housing association tenants (31% compared with 24%), Annex Table 3.1.
- 3.6 As with noise, owner occupiers were least likely to be affected by litter or rubbish in their area. Two thirds (66%) of owners reported that this wasn't a problem, compared with 62% of private renters and 55% of social renters, Annex Table 3.2.
- 3.7 Owners and private renters were least likely to be troubled by vandalism or graffiti (with 78% saying that it was not a problem), followed by two-thirds (66%) of social renters.
- 3.8 Among owners, mortgagors were more likely to be troubled by vandalism and graffiti compared to outright owners (24% compared to 19%). Among social renters, local authority tenants were more likely to find it a problem than housing association tenants (37% compared with 31%), Annex Table 3.3.
- 3.9 Owners were also the least likely to think that drunkenness was a problem in their area – 83% said it wasn't a problem, followed by 71% of private renters and two thirds (66%) of social renters.
- 3.10 Among owners, mortgagors were more likely to feel that drunkenness was an issue in their area, with a fifth (20%) reporting so, compared to 13% of outright owners. Among social renters, local authority tenants were more likely to say it was a problem than housing association tenants (38% compared with 32%), Annex Table 3.4.
- 3.11 Owner occupiers and private renters were the least likely to say that crime was a problem in their area at 37% and 34% respectively (the difference between them was not significant). Social renters were more likely to be troubled by crime – 45% said this was a problem and 15% said this was a

serious problem. 1 in 10 private renters felt crime was a serious problem (10%) while among owner occupiers, just 6% felt this way.

- 3.12 Among owners, outright owners were less likely to be find the level of crime a problem than mortgagors. Among outright owners, 34% said that crime was a problem of whom 5% said it was a serious problem, whilst among mortgagors, 41% said it was a problem, of whom 8% said it was a serious problem, Annex Table 3.5.

Whether home is in an urban or rural setting

- 3.13 Those living in more rural environments were less likely to say that noise was a problem than those in more rural settings. Of those in major and minor urban conurbations, 79% said noise wasn't a problem, compared with 83% in urban towns, 90% in rural towns and fringes and 94% in rural villages, Annex Table 3.6.
- 3.14 Those living in urban environments were more likely to say that litter was a problem in the area; the proportion who felt that litter was a problem decreased as environments became more rural. In major and minor urban conurbations, for example, 47% said litter was a problem in the area, decreasing to 34% in urban cities and towns, 25% in rural towns and fringes and 23% in rural villages, Annex Table 3.7.
- 3.15 In line with the other neighbourhood issues, vandalism and graffiti was more likely to be an issue in more urban environments. Of those living in major and minor urban conurbations 71% said that vandalism and graffiti wasn't a problem, increasing to 76% among those in urban cities and towns, 83% in rural towns and fringes and then 94% among those in rural villages. There was no significant difference between the two most rural categories, Annex Table 3.8.
- 3.16 As with other issues, those in more rural settings were less likely to experience drunkenness as a problem in their neighbourhood. Of those in rural villages, 2% said this issue was a problem, increasing to 12% in rural towns and fringes, 23% in urban cities and towns and 28% in major and minor urban conurbations, Annex Table 3.9.
- 3.17 Those living in more urban environments were more likely to feel that crime was a problem in their neighbourhood compared to those in more rural settings. Of those in major and minor urban conurbations, half (50%) said crime was a problem in the area, decreasing to 34% in urban cities and towns. This compared to 23-26% in rural areas, Annex Table 3.10.

Ethnicity

- 3.18 Indian, White and Pakistani or Bangladeshi respondents were least likely to be troubled by noisy neighbours, with 14%, 16% and 22% respectively saying

it was a problem (the difference between them was not significant). Black respondents were most likely to be troubled by noise, with over a quarter (26%) citing this as a problem, Annex Table 3.11.

Whether home is a deprived area

- 3.19 Those who lived in the most deprived areas⁶ were more likely to report that noisy neighbours were a problem compared to those who did not (31% compared to 15%). Similarly, 10% of those in the most deprived areas said it was a serious problem, compared with just 3% of those in the least deprived areas, Annex Table 3.12.
- 3.20 Those living in the most deprived areas were more likely to be troubled by litter than those in the least deprived areas (65% compared to 34%), and they were more likely to say the problem was a serious issue (29% compared to 9%), Annex Table 3.13.
- 3.21 Those living in the most deprived areas were more likely to be say that vandalism and graffiti were a problem than those in less deprived areas (42% compared to 22%). Additionally, those in more deprived areas were more likely to say that the issue was a serious problem (13% compared to 4%), Annex Table 3.14.
- 3.22 In line with other issues, people in the most deprived areas were more likely to say drunkenness was a problem in their area than those not in the most deprived areas (41% compared to 20%) and were more likely to say the issue was a serious problem (13% compared to 4%), Annex Table 3.15.
- 3.23 Those living in more deprived areas were more likely to say that the level of crime was a problem than those not in the most deprived areas (57% compared to 36%). They were also more likely to say the issue was a serious problem, with a fifth reporting so (20%) compared to just 7% in areas that were not deprived, Annex Table 3.16.

⁶ Based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation

Chapter 4

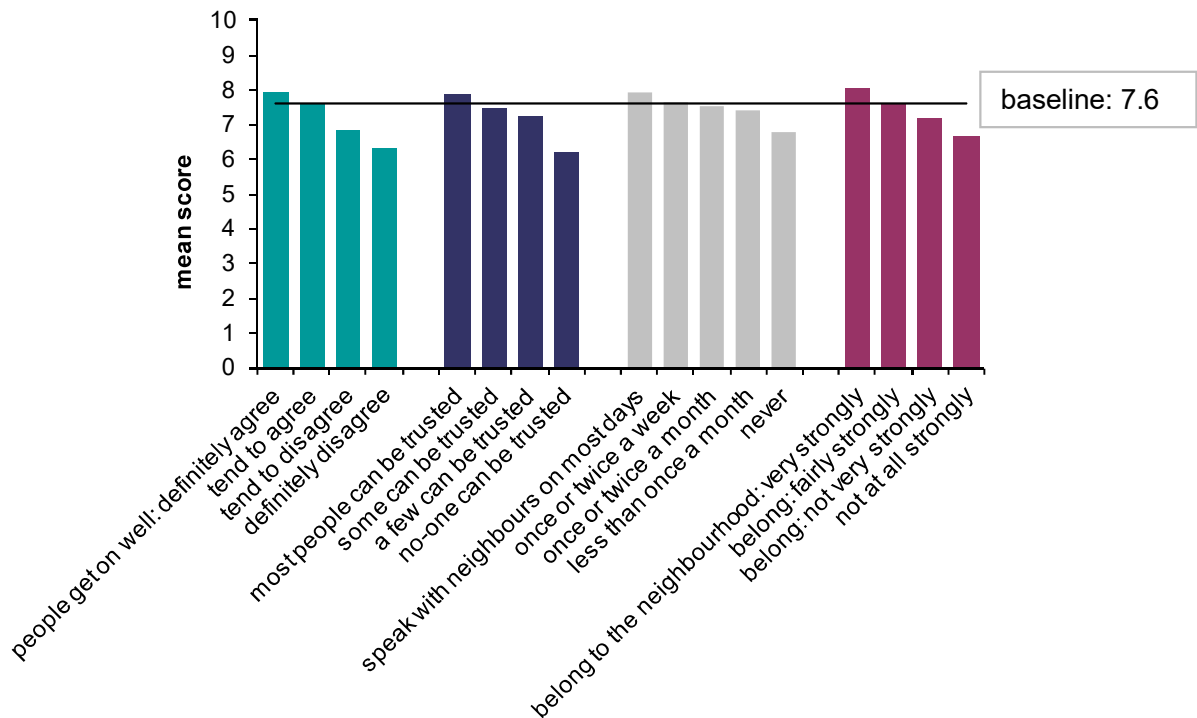
Well-being and neighbourhood attitudes

- 4.1 This chapter explores the relationship between people's perceptions of their neighbourhood and their well-being, by presenting how average well-being scores vary across the neighbourhood perception questions explored in chapter two.
- 4.2 The figures throughout this chapter present each of the well-being measures – life satisfaction, whether activities are worthwhile, how happy yesterday and how anxious yesterday as well as loneliness – and how they vary across the key neighbourhood perceptions.
- 4.3 As the neighbourhood perception questions are only asked of half the sample, only proportions are reported here, and not the association thousands of households.

Belonging to the immediate neighbourhood

- 4.4 Overall well-being was higher among those who felt that they belonged to their neighbourhood than it was among those who did not. Those who felt very strongly that they belonged to the neighbourhood had average satisfaction, worth and happiness scores of 8, 8.3 and 8 respectively, compared with 6.7, 7.2 and 6.7 among those who disagreed strongly.
- 4.5 Similarly, those who very strongly felt they belonged to their neighbourhood had a lower average anxiety score of 2.3, compared with 3.5 for those who disagreed strongly, Annex Table 4.1.
- 4.6 Of those who felt they belonged very strongly to their neighbourhood, 5% felt lonely often or always, compared with 14% among those who didn't feel they belonged strongly to their neighbourhood, Annex Table 4.2.

Figure 4.1: How satisfied with life nowadays, average score by perceptions of the neighbourhood



Base: half of all HRPs interviewed

Notes:

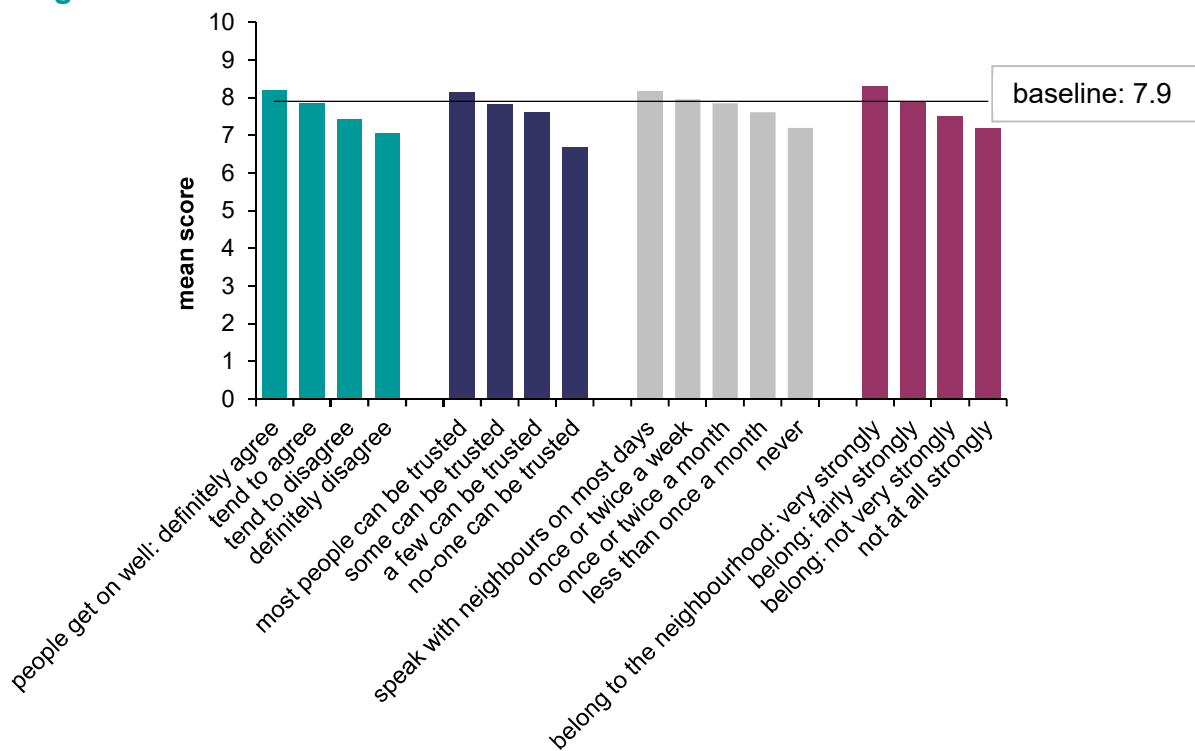
- 1) the baseline is the average score of all HRPs interviewed in person
- 2) the figure shows all groups, whereas the text reports on the statistically significant differences between groups in each demographic
- 3) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7
- 4) Questions about perceptions of the area were asked of half of the sample

Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

Frequency of talking to neighbours

- 4.7 Well-being was generally higher among those who spoke with their neighbours regularly. Those who spoke with their neighbours on most days had average satisfaction, worth and happiness scores of 7.9, 8.2 and 7.9 respectively, compared with 6.8, 7.2 and 6.8 among those who never spoke to their neighbours.
- 4.8 Similarly, those who spoke to their neighbours on most days had an average anxiety score of 2.4, compared with 3.3 those who never spoken with their neighbours, Annex Table 4.3.
- 4.9 Of those who spoke with their neighbours on most days 4% were lonely often or always compared with 14% among those who never spoke with their neighbours, Annex Table 4.4.

Figure 4.2: Things done in life feel worthwhile, average score by perceptions of the neighbourhood



Base: half of all HRPs interviewed

Notes:

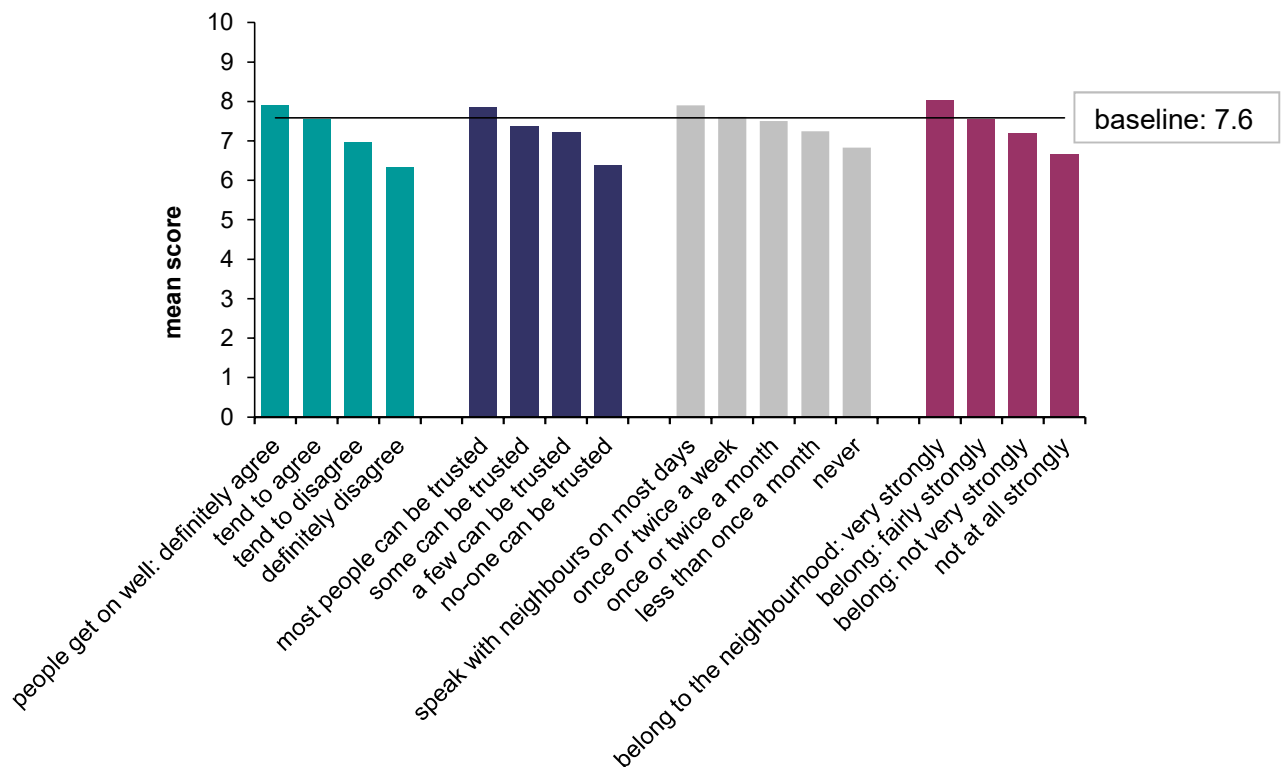
- 1) the baseline is the average score of all HRPs interviewed in person
- 2) the figure shows all groups, whereas the text reports on the statistically significant differences between groups in each demographic
- 3) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7
- 4) Questions about perceptions of the area were asked of half of the sample

Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

Perception of trust between neighbours

- 4.10 The sense that most people in the neighbourhood can be trusted was associated with higher average well-being scores. Those who felt that most people can be trusted had satisfaction, worth and happiness scores of 7.9, 8.1 and 7.8 compared with 6.2, 6.7 and 6.4 among those who felt that no one can be trusted.
- 4.11 Those who felt that most people can be trusted had an average anxiety score of 2.4, compared with 3.5 among those who felt that none could be trusted, Annex Table 4.5.
- 4.12 Of those who felt that most people could be trusted, 4% said they felt lonely often or always, compared with 18% of those who said that no one could be trusted, Annex Table 4.6.

Figure 4.3: How happy felt yesterday, average score by perceptions of the neighbourhood, 2019-20



Base: half of all HRPs interviewed

Notes:

- 1) the baseline is the average score of all HRPs interviewed in person
- 2) the figure shows all groups, whereas the text reports on the statistically significant differences between groups in each demographic
- 3) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7
- 4) Questions about perceptions of the area were asked of half of the sample

Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

Perception of whether people from different backgrounds get on well together

4.13 People who definitely agreed that people from different backgrounds generally got on well had higher well-being scores, and lower anxiety scores than those who definitely disagreed with this statement. Those who definitely agreed had satisfaction, worth and happiness scores of 7.9, 8.2 and 7.9 respectively, compared with 6.3, 7.0 and 6.3 among those who definitely disagreed. Similarly, those who definitely agreed had an average anxiety score of 2.5 compared with 4.1 among those who definitely disagreed, Annex Table 4.7.

4.14 Among those who definitely agree that people from different backgrounds got on well in the area, 4% said they felt lonely often or always, compared with 21% among those who definitely disagreed, Annex Table 4.8.

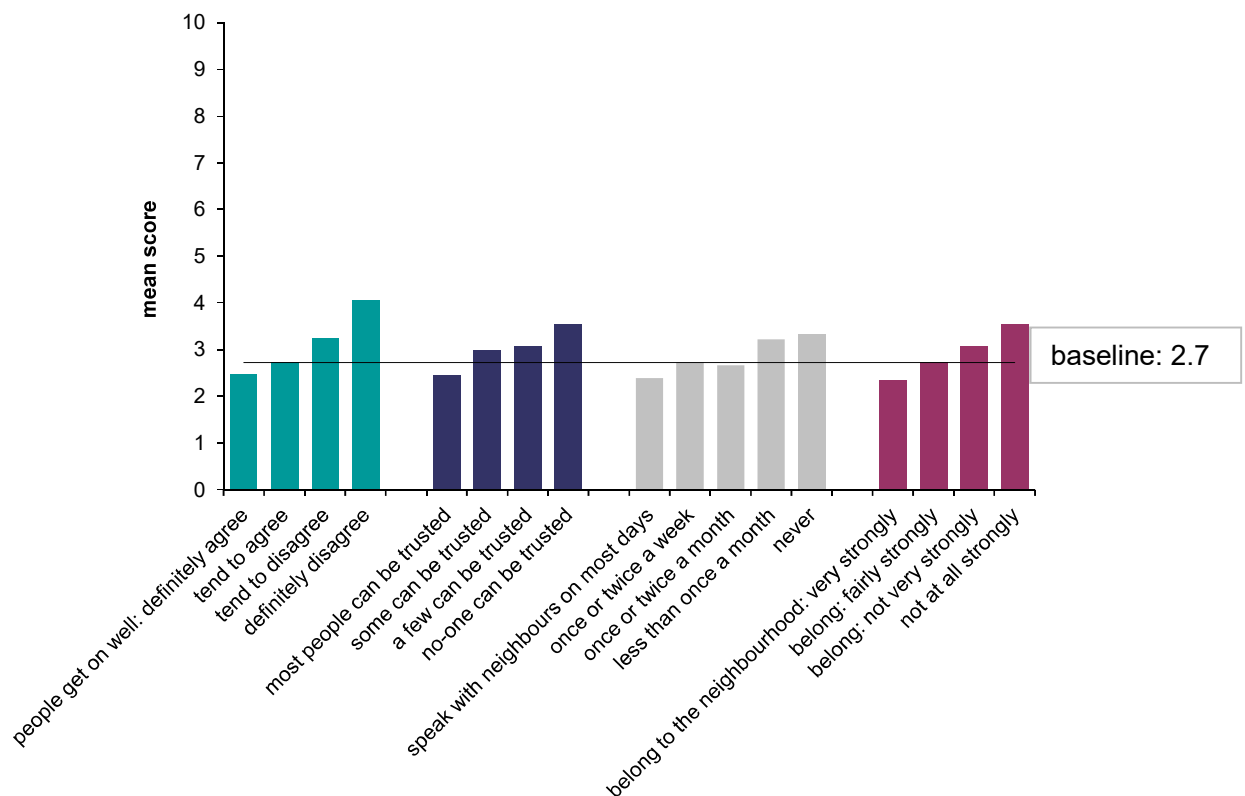
Level of crime

4.15 Those who felt that crime was a serious problem in the area had an average life satisfaction score of 7.2, compared with 7.8 among those for whom crime wasn't considered a problem in the area. Those troubled by crime in the area also had a higher anxiety score, 3.4 compared with 2.6, Annex Table 4.9.

How safe felt when home alone

4.16 Those who felt very or fairly safe at home had an average satisfaction score of 7.8, compared with 6.6 among all those who felt unsafe. Those who felt safe also had a lower anxiety score, of 2.7 compared with 4 among all those who felt unsafe, Annex Table 4.10.

Figure 4.4: How anxious felt yesterday: average score by perceptions of the neighbourhood, 2019-20



Base: all HRPs interviewed

Notes:

- 1) the baseline is the average score of all HRPs interviewed in person
- 2) the figure shows all groups, whereas the text reports on the statistically significant differences between groups in each demographic
- 3) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7
- 4) Questions about perceptions of the area were asked of half of the sample

Source: English Housing Survey, household subsample

Technical notes and glossary

Technical notes

1. Results for this report, are presented for '2019-20' and are based on fieldwork carried out between April 2019 and March 2020 on a sample of 13,332 households. Throughout the report, this is referred to as the 'full household sample'.
2. To manage the length of the EHS questionnaire, some of the questions covered in this report were only asked of half the sample. In addition, some questions were only asked of the household reference person. Where this is the case, it is indicated at the beginning of each chapter.
3. The reliability of the results of sample surveys, including the English Housing Survey, is positively related to the unweighted sample size. Results based on small sample sizes should therefore be treated as indicative only because inference about the national picture cannot be drawn. To alert readers to those results, percentages based on a row or column total with unweighted total sample size of less than 30 are italicised. To safeguard against data disclosure, the cell contents of cells where the cell count is less than 5 are replaced with a "u".
4. Where comparative statements have been made in the text, these have been significance tested to a 95% confidence level. This means we are 95% confident that the statements we are making are true.
5. Additional annex tables, including the data underlying the figures and charts in this report are published on the website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-housing-survey> alongside many supplementary live tables, which are updated each year (in the summer) but are too numerous to include in our reports. Further information on the technical details of the survey, and information and past reports on the Survey of English Housing and the English House Condition Survey, can also be accessed via this link.

Data quality

6. A full account of data quality procedures followed to collect and analyse English Housing Survey data can be found in the Quality Report, which is updated and published annually⁷. A summary of the quality assurance processes for data collection and reporting are provided in the English Housing Survey Headline Report⁸

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-housing-survey-quality-report>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2019-to-2020-headline-report>

Glossary

Arrears: If the HRP or partner are not up to date with rent or mortgage payments they are considered to be in arrears.

Bedroom standard: The ‘bedroom standard’ is used by government as an indicator of occupation density. A standard number of bedrooms is calculated for each household in accordance with its age/sex/marital status composition and the relationship of the members to one another. A separate bedroom is allowed for each married or cohabiting couple, any other person aged 21 or over, each pair of adolescents aged 10-20 of the same sex, and each pair of children under 10. Any unpaired person aged 10-20 is notionally paired, if possible, with a child under 10 of the same sex, or, if that is not possible, he or she is counted as requiring a separate bedroom, as is any unpaired child under 10.

This notional standard number of bedrooms is then compared with the actual number of bedrooms (including bed-sitters) available for the sole use of the household, and differences are tabulated. Bedrooms converted to other uses are not counted as available unless they have been denoted as bedrooms by the respondents; bedrooms not actually in use are counted unless uninhabitable.

Households are said to be overcrowded if they have fewer bedrooms available than the notional number needed. Households are said to be under-occupying if they have two or more bedrooms more than the notional needed.

Decent home: A home that meets all of the following four criteria:

- it meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing as set out in the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS – see below).
- it is in a reasonable state of repair (related to the age and condition of a range of building components including walls, roofs, windows, doors, chimneys, electrics and heating systems).
- it has reasonably modern facilities and services (related to the age, size and layout/location of the kitchen, bathroom and WC and any common areas for blocks of flats, and to noise insulation).
- it provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort (related to insulation and heating efficiency).

The detailed definition for each of these criteria is included in *A Decent Home: Definition and guidance for implementation*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, June 2006⁹.

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-decent-home-definition-and-guidance>

Dependent children: Any person aged 0 to 15 in a household (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 in full-time education and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s). It does not include any people aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

Deprived local areas: These are Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) scored and ranked by the 2019 [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (IMD).

Seven domains of deprivation which can be experienced by people are combined to produce the overall IMD. These seven domains relate to:

- Income deprivation
- Employment deprivation
- Health deprivation and disability
- Education skills and training deprivation
- Barriers to housing and services
- Crime
- Living environment deprivation

LSOAs are statistical geography providing uniformity of size. There are 32,844 in England and on average each contains around 1500 people or 650 households. These ranked areas have been placed into five groups of equal numbers of areas, from the 20% most deprived area on the index, to the 20% least deprived.

Dwelling: A unit of accommodation which may comprise one or more household spaces (a household space is the accommodation used or available for use by an individual household). A dwelling may be classified as shared or unshared. A dwelling is shared if:

- the household spaces it contains are 'part of a converted or shared house', or
- not all of the rooms (including kitchen, bathroom and toilet, if any) are behind a door that only that household can use, and
- there is at least one other such household space at the same address with which it can be combined to form the shared dwelling.

Dwellings that do not meet these conditions are unshared dwellings.

The EHS definition of dwelling is consistent with the Census 2011.

Dwelling type: Dwellings are classified, on the basis of the surveyor's inspection, into the following categories:

- **small terraced house:** a house with a total floor area of less than 70m² forming part of a block where at least one house is attached to two or more other houses. The total floor area is measured using the original EHS definition of useable floor area, used in EHS reports up to and including the 2012 reports. That definition

tends to yield a smaller floor area compared with the definition that is aligned with the Nationally Described Space Standard and used on the EHS since 2013. As a result of the difference between the two definitions, some small terraced houses are reported in the 2014 Housing Supply Report as having more than 70m².

- **medium/large terraced house:** a house with a total floor area of 70m² or more forming part of a block where at least one house is attached to two or more other houses. The total floor area is measured using the original EHS definition of useable floor area which tends to yield a small floor area compared with the definition used on the EHS since 2013.
- **end terraced house:** a house attached to one other house only in a block where at least one house is attached to two or more other houses.
- **mid terraced house:** a house attached to two other houses in a block.
- **semi-detached house:** a house that is attached to just one other in a block of two.
- **detached house:** a house where none of the habitable structure is joined to another building (other than garages, outhouses etc.).
- **bungalow:** a house with all of the habitable accommodation on one floor. This excludes chalet bungalows and bungalows with habitable loft conversions, which are treated as houses.
- **converted flat:** a flat resulting from the conversion of a house or former non-residential building. Includes buildings converted into a flat plus commercial premises (such as corner shops).
- **purpose built flat, low rise:** a flat in a purpose built block less than six storeys high. Includes cases where there is only one flat with independent access in a building which is also used for non-domestic purposes.
- **purpose built flat, high rise:** a flat in a purpose built block of at least six storeys high.

Economic status: Respondents self-report their situation and can give more than one answer.

- **working full-time/part-time:** full-time work is defined as 30 or more hours per week. Part-time work is fewer than 30 hours per week. Where more than one answer is given, 'working' takes priority over other categories (with the exception that all those over State Pension Age (SPA) who regard themselves as retired are classified as such, regardless of what other answers they give).
- **unemployed:** this category covers people who were registered unemployed or not registered unemployed but seeking work.

-
- **retired:** this category includes all those over the state pension age who reported being retired as well as some other activity. For men the SPA is 65 and for women it is 60 if they were born before 6th April 1950. For women born on or after the 6th April 1950, the state pension age has increased incrementally since April 2010⁷⁴.
 - **full-time education:** education undertaken in pursuit of a course, where an average of more than 12 hours per week is spent during term time.
 - **other inactive:** all others; they include people who were permanently sick or disabled, those looking after the family or home and any other activity.

On occasions, **full-time education** and **other inactive** are combined and described as **other economically inactive**.

Ethnicity: Classification according to respondents' own perceived ethnic group.

Ethnic minority background is used throughout the report to refer to those respondents who do not identify as White.

The classification of ethnic group used in the EHS is consistent with the 2011 Census. Respondents are classified as White if they answer one of the following four options:

1. English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
2. Irish
3. Gypsy or Irish Traveller
4. Any Other White background

Otherwise, they are classified as being from an ethnic minority background.

Full-time education: Full-time education is education undertaken in pursuit of a course, where an average of more than 12 hours per week is spent during term time.

Household: One person or a group of people (not necessarily related) who have the accommodation as their only or main residence, and (for a group) share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area.

The EHS definition of household is slightly different from the definition used in the 2011 Census. Unlike the EHS, the 2011 Census did not limit household membership to people who had the accommodation as their only or main residence. The EHS included that restriction because it asks respondents about their second homes, the unit of data collection on the EHS, therefore, needs to include only those people who have the accommodation as their only or main residence.

Household reference person (HRP): The person in whose name the dwelling is owned or rented or who is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. In the case of joint owners and tenants, the person with the highest income is taken as the HRP. Where incomes are equal, the older is taken as the HRP. This procedure increases the likelihood that the HRP better characterises the household's social and economic position. The EHS definition of HRP is not consistent with the Census 2011, in which

the HRP is chosen on basis of their economic activity. Where economic activity is the same, the older is taken as HRP, or if they are the same age, HRP is the first listed on the questionnaire.

Household type: The main classification of household type uses the following categories; some categories may be split or combined in different tables:

- couple no dependent child(ren)
- couple with dependent child(ren)
- couple with dependent and independent child(ren)
- couple with independent child(ren)
- lone parent with dependent child(ren)
- lone parent with dependent and independent child(ren)
- lone parent with independent child(ren)
- two or more families
- lone person sharing with other lone persons
- one male
- one female

Income quintiles: All households are divided into five equal groups based on their income (i.e. those in the bottom 20%, the next 20% and so on). These groups are known as quintiles. These can be used to compare income levels of particular groups to the overall population.

Loneliness: Respondents are asked how often they feel lonely, with the response options, 'Often or Always', 'Some of the time', 'Occasionally', 'Hardly ever', 'Never'.

Non-dependent children: any person aged over 18 or those aged 16-18 who are not in full-time education living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s).

Overcrowding: Households are said to be overcrowded if they have fewer bedrooms available than the notional number needed according to the bedroom standard definition. See bedroom standard.

Tenure: In this report, households are typically grouped into three broad categories known as tenures: owner occupiers, social renters and private renters. The tenure defines the conditions under which the home is occupied, whether it is owned or rented, and if rented, who the landlord is and on what financial and legal terms the let is agreed.

- **owner occupiers:** households in accommodation which they either own outright, are buying with a mortgage or as part of a shared ownership scheme.
- **social renters:** this category includes households renting from Local Authorities (including Arms' Length Management Organisations (ALMOs) and Housing Action Trusts) and Housing Associations, Local Housing Companies, co-operatives and charitable trusts.

A significant number of Housing Association tenants wrongly report that they are Local Authority tenants. The most common reason for this is that their home used to be owned by the Local Authority, and although ownership was transferred to a Housing Association, the tenant still reports that their landlord is the Local Authority. There are also some Local Authority tenants who wrongly report that they are Housing Association tenants. Data from the EHS for 2008-09 onwards incorporate a correction for the great majority of such cases in order to provide a reasonably accurate split of the social rented category.

- **private renters:** this sector covers all other tenants including all whose accommodation is tied to their job. It also includes people living rent-free (for example, people living in a flat belonging to a relative).

Well-being: There are four measures of personal well-being in the EHS, to which respondents are asked to give their answers on a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely'.

- Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
- Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
- Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
- Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 the United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, signifying that they are fully compliant with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

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