English Housing Survey

Neighbourhoods, 2017-18

Contents

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 the longest standing government surveys, and was first run in 1967.

2. The neighbourhood in which people live is an important element of their housing circumstances and can have significant implications for satisfaction with tenure and accommodation as well as well-being, life satisfaction and likelihood of housing moves. In 2017-18, EHS respondents were asked about the characteristics and their perception of their local area. This report explores those findings to present an account of people's views of their neighbourhood.

3. The first chapter presents people's perceptions of their neighbourhood at national level. The second chapter explores whether people in different tenures had different experiences of their neighbourhood, and the third chapter examines variations in perception by region and other geographical factors.

Main findings

Most people have a positive perception of their neighbourhood.

*   In 2017-18, 88% felt satisfied with their area as a place to live, no change since 2015-16 when the question was last included in the English Housing Survey.

*   76% felt that they belonged to their neighbourhood.

Most people also have positive interactions with people in their neighbourhood.

*   69% said that they spoke to their neighbours regularly (more than once or twice a month).

*   61% said that most people in the neighbourhood could be trusted.

*   90% agreed that their local area was somewhere where people from different backgrounds got on well.

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

*   90% of home owners were satisfied with the area as a place to live compared with 86% of private renters and 81% of social renters.

*   Owner occupiers were more likely to feel that they belonged to their immediate 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.

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

- The average life satisfaction rating increased from 7.3 out of 10 and less among people who did not have a strong feeling of belonging to their neighbourhood to 8 out of 10 for those with a very strong feeling of belonging.

The neighbourhood issues people most commonly consider to be problems are litter and crime. Ethnic tension and harassment on the grounds of nationality, race or religion are mentioned less often.

- 38% felt that litter was a problem in their area.

- The general level of crime was mentioned by 34% as a problem.

- 18% perceived tension between different ethnic groups in their local area.

- Harassment on the grounds of nationality was mentioned by 9% while 6% felt that harassment on the grounds of race or religion was a problem.

- Social renters were the most likely to report a range of neighbourhood issues as problems in their area.

People who live in London were generally more likely to have negative views on their neighbourhood than people living elsewhere.

- 83% of people in London were satisfied with their area as a place to live compared with between 87% and 92% in other regions.

- 49% of people in London felt that litter was a problem in their neighbourhood compared with between 32% and 45% in other regions.

- 48% of people in London felt that crime was a problem in their neighbourhood compared with between 22% and 38% in other regions.

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

- People in the most deprived areas were less likely to say that they were satisfied with their area as a place to live (72% compared with 89% of those in less deprived areas).

- 69% felt they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood while 77% of those in less deprived areas did.

- 61% reported that litter and rubbish was a problem in their area compared with 35% of those in less deprived areas.

- 51% saw crime as a problem in their area compared with 32% of those in less deprived areas.

Perception of the neighbourhood tends to be worse among those living in urban areas.
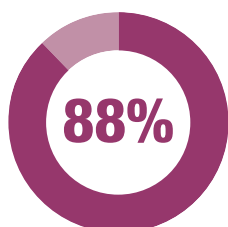
- The proportion of people who were satisfied with their area increased from 84% among those in large cities, to 88% of those in other urban areas and 93% among those in rural towns and fringes.

- Those who lived in rural towns and fringes were more likely to feel they belonged to their neighbourhood (82%) than those living in urban environments (75%).

Acknowledgements and further queries

4. 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 2017-18 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.

5. This report was produced by Sarah Frankenburg and Alun Humphrey at NatCen Social Research in collaboration with MHCLG.

6. 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.

7. The responsible analyst for this report is: Reannan Rottier, Housing and Planning Analysis Division, MHCLG. Contact via ehs@communities.gov.uk

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

ENGLISH HOUSING SURVEY
50th Anniversary
1967 - 2017

NATIONAL STATISTICS

NatCen Social Research

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Neighbourhoods

Most people have a positive view of their neighbourhood

88%

felt satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live

76%
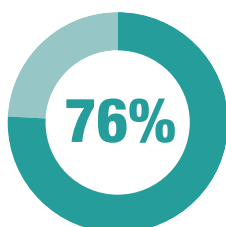
felt that they belonged to their neighbourhood

Most people have a positive relationship with their neighbours

61%

felt that most people in the neighbourhood could be trusted

69%

spoke to their neighbours regularly

90%

agreed that their local area was a place where people from different backgrounds got on well

Issues with the local area

The issues people most commonly consider to be problems are litter and crime.

LITTER
38%
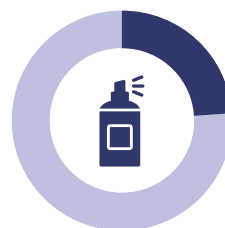a problem in the area

CRIME
34%
a problem in the area

DRUNK AND ROWDY PEOPLE
25%
a problem in the area

VANDALISM/ GRAFFITI
24%
a problem in the area

NOISY NEIGHBOURS
15%
a problem in the area

Well-being

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

Sense of belonging to the area	Life satisfaction rating
Very strong	8 out of 10
Fairly strong	7.7 out of 10
Not particularly strong	7.3 out of 10
Not at all strong	6.7 out of 10

Chapter 1
People's perceptions of their neighbourhood

1.1 This chapter presents an overview of respondents' attitudes to their neighbourhood. It covers: overall satisfaction with the area; perception of the social environment; the link of that to well-being; and views about a number of neighbourhood issues.

1.2 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.

Satisfaction with the area as a place to live

1.3 Respondents were first asked the question 'how satisfied are you with this area as a place to live?' Satisfaction with the area was generally high. In 2017-18, the majority of people (88%) felt satisfied with their area as a place to live, and a further 5% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, Annex Table 1.1 and Figure 1.1.

1.4 Since 2015-16, there has been no change in people's satisfaction with their area.[1]

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[1] English Housing Survey 2015-16: people's perception of their neighbourhood

Figure 1.1: Satisfaction with the area as a place to live, 2017-18
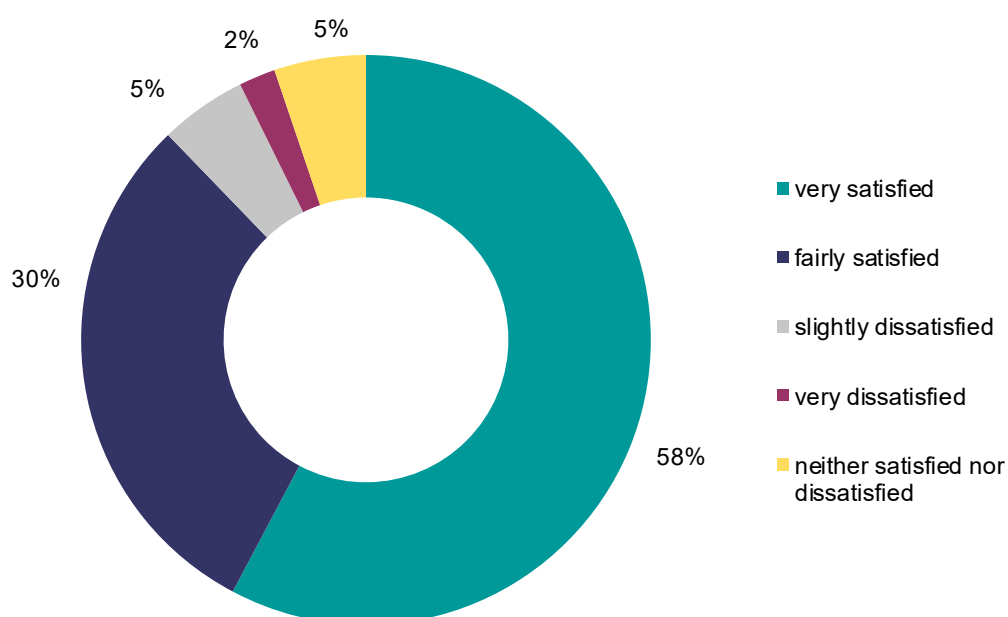
Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
   1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 1.1
   2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned
   or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner.
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample
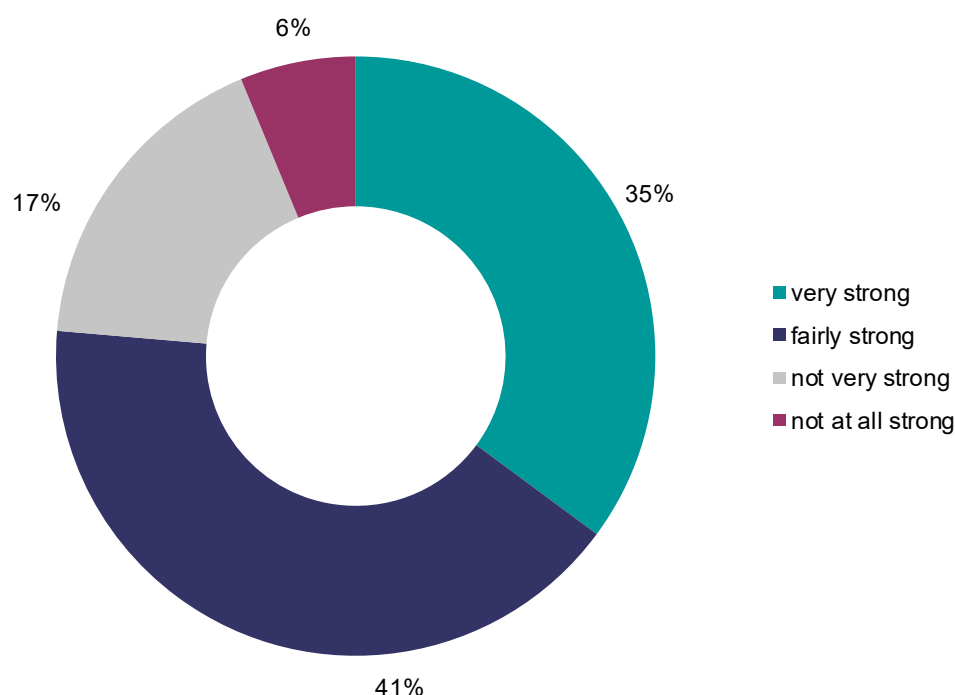
Sense of belonging to the neighbourhood

1.5   The majority (76%) felt that they belonged to their neighbourhood, either very strongly (35%) or fairly strongly (41%), Annex Table 1.2 and Figure 1.2.[2]

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[2] Respondents were asked to consider 'the area within a few minutes walking distance from [their] home.'

Figure 1.2: Sense of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood, 2017-18

6%

17%

35%

41%

- very strong
- fairly strong
- not very strong
- not at all strong

Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
  1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 1.2
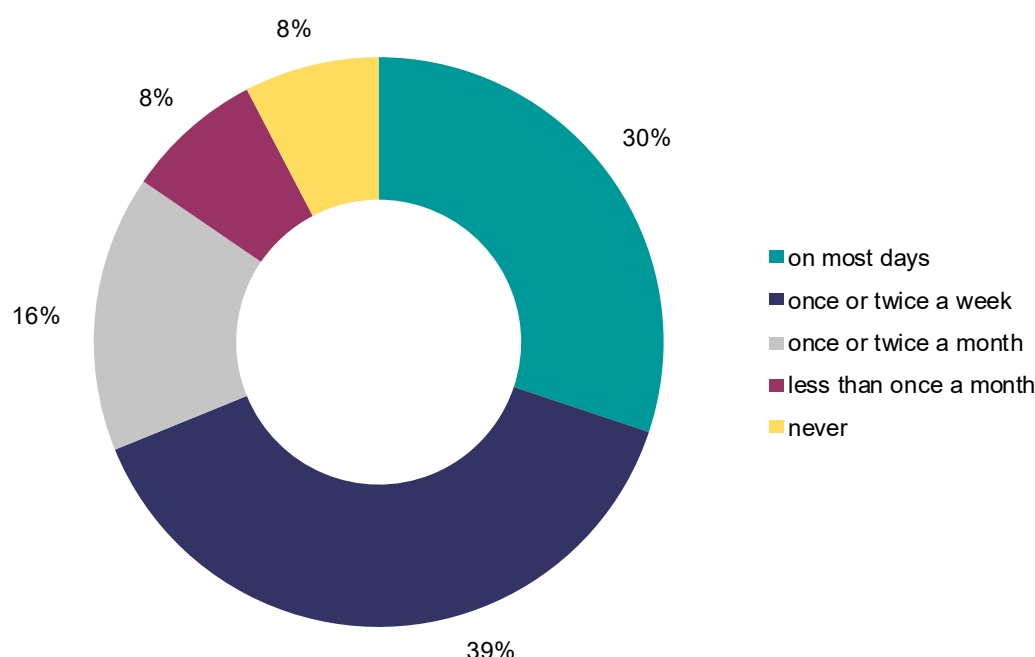 **2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner**
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Frequency of talking to neighbours

1.6   Respondents were asked how often they spoke to their neighbours, more than just to say hello. About two thirds of people (69%) said that they spoke to their neighbours regularly (more than once or twice a month). A further 16% did so once or twice a month, and just 8% of people said they never spoke to their neighbours, Annex Table 1.3 and Figure 1.3.

Figure 1.3: Frequency of talking to neighbours, 2017-18

Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
  1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 1.3
  2) excludes those who answered that they do not have any neighbours
  3) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

1.7   Those who spoke to their neighbours less frequently than once or twice a week were asked why that was the case. The most common answer was that they did not see their neighbours very often (60%). In addition, a quarter of people answered that they prefer to keep themselves to themselves, 22% said they did not have time and 20% said they did not feel they knew their neighbours well enough.[3]

1.8   The less commonly mentioned reasons for not talking to neighbours included having a disability which prevented the respondent from doing so, and not trusting or getting on with neighbours. Between 4% and 5% gave these answers, Annex Table 1.4.

## Views about whether people in the neighbourhood can be trusted

1.9   The majority of people felt that at least some of the people in their neighbourhood could be trusted.[4] Six in ten (61%) said that most people in the

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[3] Respondents could give more than one answer
[4] The question asked to 'your neighbourhood' and without providing a definition

neighbourhood could be trusted while a quarter felt that some could be trusted. On the other hand, 15% felt that none or just a few people in their neighbourhood could be trusted,[5] Annex Table 1.5 and Figure 1.4.

Figure 1.4: Views on whether people in the neighbourhood can be trusted, 2017-18
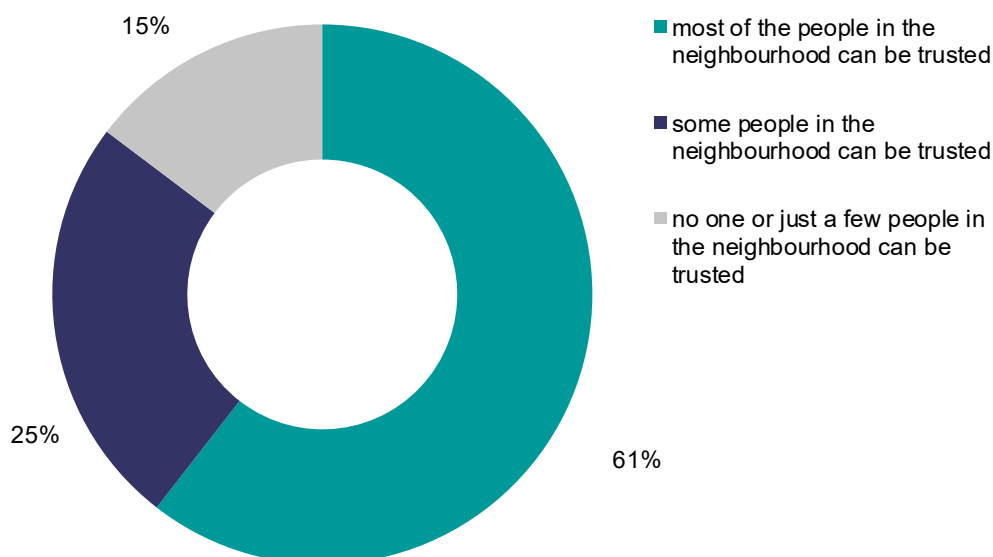
Base: all household reference persons or partners
Note:
   1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 1.5
   2) figure excludes a small number of households who said they had just moved into the area
   3) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Views on whether people from different backgrounds get on well in the area

1.10   The majority (90%) agreed that their local area was somewhere where people from different backgrounds got on well: 36% definitely agreed and 54% tended to agree that this was the case, Annex Table 1.6 and Figure 1.5.

1.11   Those who disagreed that their local area was somewhere where people from different backgrounds got on well (10%) were asked to describe the factors that might have stopped people from different backgrounds getting on well in the area. The most commonly given answers included perceived prejudice or racism against people from other backgrounds (20%), followed by groups

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[5] Total sums to 101% due to rounding

choosing to keep themselves to themselves and religious or cultural practices (16% and 13%), Annex Table 1.7.[6]

Figure 1.5. Agreement that the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together, 2017-18
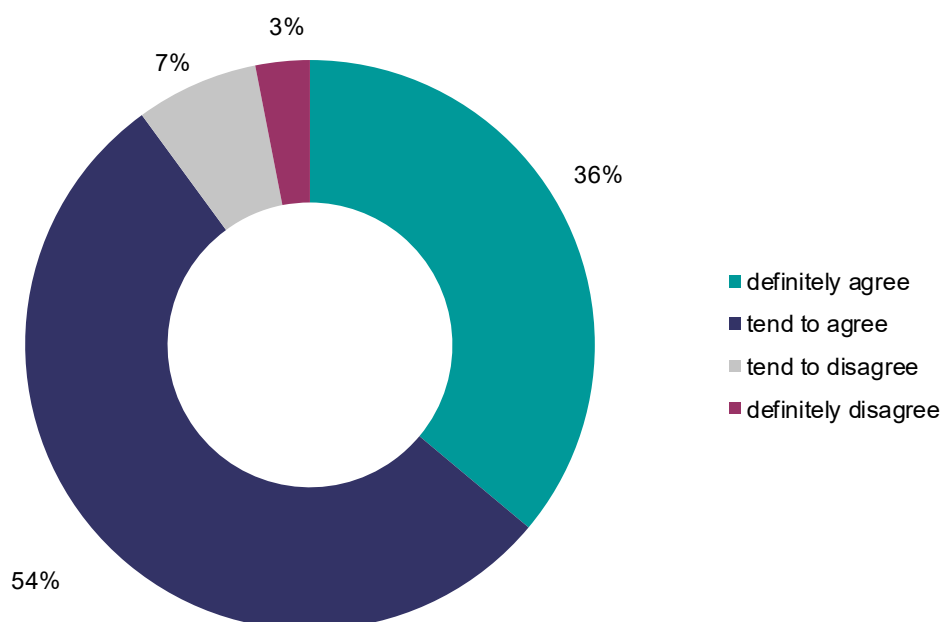
Base: all household reference persons or partners
Note:
   1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 1.6
   2) excludes those who said they had too few people in their neighbourhood, or that everyone in their area was from the same background
   3) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Perception of the neighbourhood and well-being

1.12   People's perception of their neighbourhood was associated with well-being (as measured by average life satisfaction). Mean life satisfaction was higher among those with a strong feeling of belonging to their neighbourhood, who talked to their neighbours regularly (more than once or twice a month), who said that most of the people in their neighbourhood could be trusted or who agreed that people from different backgrounds got on well together in the neighbourhood, Table 1.1.

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[6] A respondent could specify more than one factor. An unusually high proportion of answers were assigned to the miscellaneous 'other answers' category, suggesting that some common answers may not have been separately identified. The proportions given should therefore be treated as indicative only.

Table 1.1: Average life satisfaction score by perception of the neighbourhood, 2017-18

	average life satisfaction		
sense of belonging to the neighbourhood		**whether people in the neighbourhood can be trusted**	
very strong	8.0	most can be trusted	7.9
fairly strong	7.7	some can be trusted	7.5
not very strong	7.3	no one or just a few can be trusted	7.1
not at all strong	6.7		
frequency of talking to neighbours		**views on whether the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together**	
most days	7.8		
once or twice a week	7.7	definitely agree	7.9
once or twice a month	7.5	tend to agree	7.6
less than once a month	7.4	tend to disagree	7.0
never	7.1	definitely disagree	6.7

Base: all household reference persons
Notes:
   1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 1.13-1.16
   2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP
**Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample**

Issues with the local area

1.13   Respondents were asked about a series of neighbourhood issues, and whether they thought those were a problem in their own area[7] – irrespective of whether they were personally affected by the issues.

1.14   The issue most commonly considered a problem in the area was litter and rubbish lying around; 38% felt that this was a problem in their area. The general level of crime followed litter as the second most commonly mentioned neighbourhood issue, at 34%.

1.15   Harassment on the grounds of nationality and race or religion were the least commonly mentioned issues. A slightly higher proportion thought that harassment on grounds of nationality was a problem in their area than harassment on the grounds of race or religion (9% compared with 6%), Annex Table 1.8 and Figure 1.6.

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[7] The question refers to 'this area'

Figure 1.6: Proportion reporting neighbourhood issues as a problem in their area, 2017-18
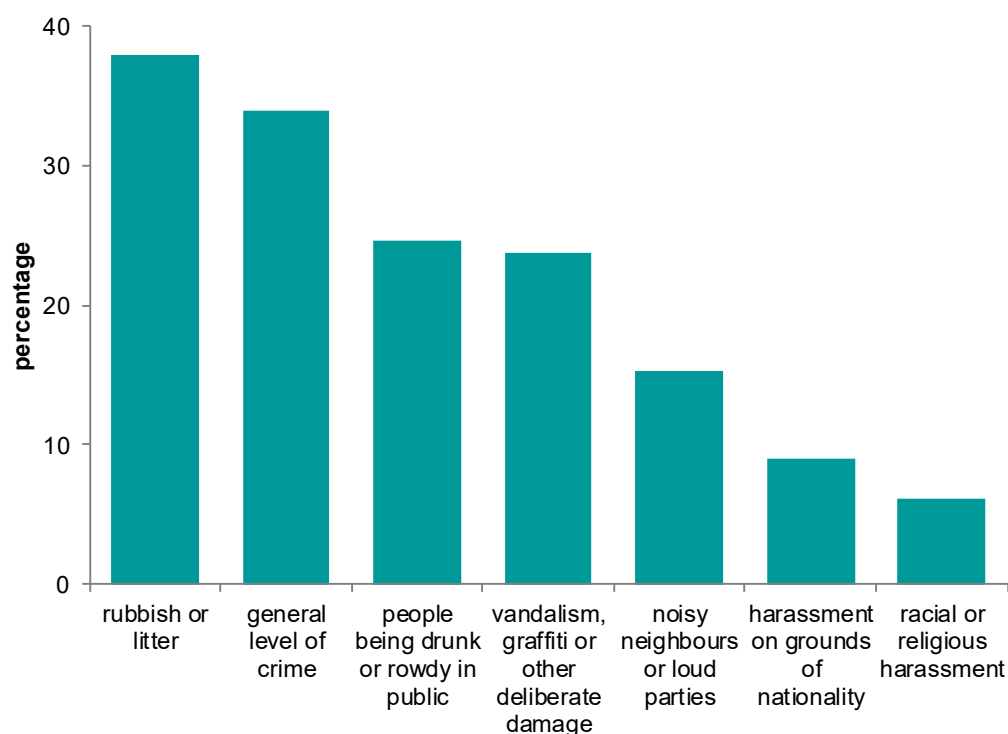
Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
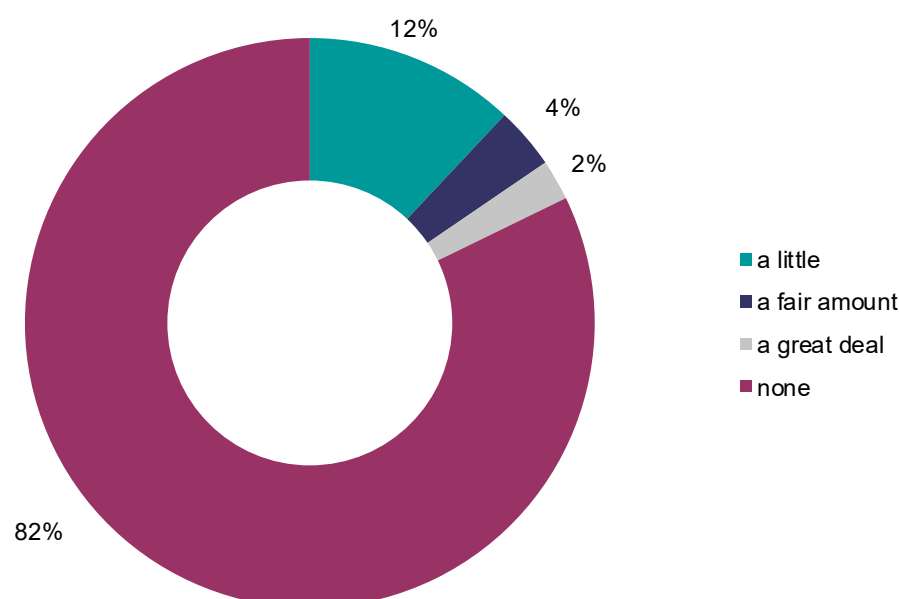   1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 1.8
    2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Perception of ethnic tension

1.16   The majority (82%) said that there was no ethnic tension between different ethnic groups in their local area while 12% said there is a little ethnic tension, 4% said a fair amount and 2% said there was a great deal of ethnic tension in their local area, Annex Table 1.9 and Figure 1.7.

Figure 1.7: Perception of tension between different ethnic groups in local area, 2017-18

12%

4%

2%

- a little
- a fair amount
- a great deal
- none

82%

Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
  1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 1.9
  2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

1.17   People's perception of ethnic tension in their neighbourhood was associated with their views on how well people get on in the area. Similar relationships were also evident in people's perception of racial harassment and harassment due to nationality.

- Among those who definitely agreed that people in their area got on well, 12% said there was at least some ethnic tension in their area. This increased to 54% among those who definitely disagreed that people get on well, Annex Table 1.10.

- Of those who definitely agreed that people from different backgrounds in their local area get on well, 3% perceived racial or religious harassment to be a problem. This compares with 31% among those who definitely disagreed, Annex Table 1.11.

- For those who definitely agreed that people get on well together, 5% perceived harassment due to nationality as a problem; this increased to 44% among people who definitely disagreed that people get on well together, Annex Table 1.12.

Chapter 2
Differences in people's perception of their neighbourhood by tenure

2.1   The three main tenure types in England (owner occupiers, social renters and private renters) generally have different household and economic characteristics, housing histories and housing expectations. This chapter explores whether people's perceptions of their neighbourhood vary by tenure.

2.2   The EHS has shown that the length of time households have lived at their address varies considerably across tenure. Some of the differences in people's perception of their neighbourhood may be driven, in part, by the length of time they have spent at their address. This chapter therefore also explores the relationship between the length of time in the current accommodation and how people perceive their neighbourhood to contextualise the comparisons by tenure.

Satisfaction with the area as a place to live

2.3   Although the majority of people were satisfied with their area as a place to live, the level of satisfaction varied by tenure. Owner occupiers were the most likely to say that they were satisfied with their area: 90% of home owners were satisfied, compared with 86% of private renters and 81% of social renters, Annex Table 1.1.

Feeling of belonging to the neighbourhood

2.4   As with overall satisfaction with the area as a place to live, people's feeling of belonging to the immediate neighbourhood also varied by tenure.

2.5   Owner occupiers were the most likely to say that they felt they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood – 80% felt so. Social renters were the next most likely to feel they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood, at 73%. Private renters were the least likely to report feeling that they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood (65%), Annex Table 1.2.

Frequency of talking to neighbours

2.6   Private renters were less likely to talk to their neighbours regularly (that is, more than once or twice a month) than either social renters or owner occupiers. Of private renters, 57% regularly spoke to their neighbours,

compared with 72% of home owners and 70% of social renters. Private renters were also more likely to say they never spoke to their neighbours than either social renters or home owners (16% compared with 10% and 5% respectively).

2.7   Although a similar proportion of social renters and owner occupiers spoke to their neighbours regularly, social renters were more likely to say they never spoke to their neighbours than owner occupiers (10% compared with 5%), Annex Table 1.3.

Views on whether people in the neighbourhood can be trusted

2.8   Owner occupiers were the most likely to feel that most people in their neighbourhood could be trusted, 69% of home owners, compared with 50% of private renters and 38% of social renters.

2.9   Social renters were more likely to feel that none or just a few people in their neighbourhoods could be trusted than those in the other tenures. Of all social renters, 29% felt that none or just a few people in their neighbourhood could be trusted, compared with 9% of owner occupiers, and 20% of private renters, Annex Table 1.5 and Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Views on whether people in the neighbourhood can be trusted, by tenure, 2017-18
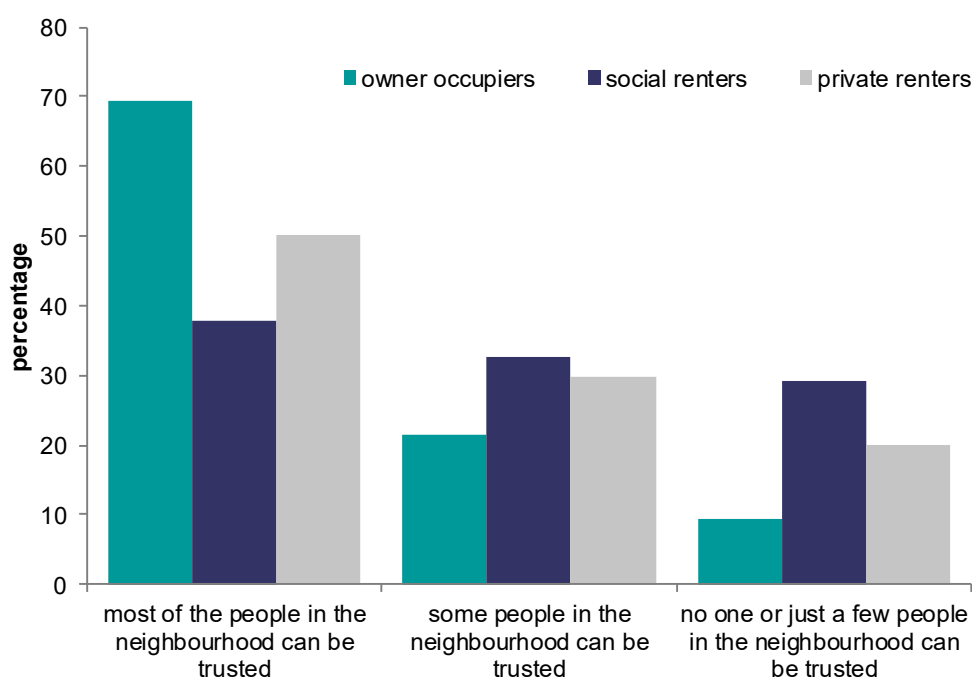
Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
   1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 1.5

Views on whether people from different backgrounds get on well in the area

2.10   Owner occupiers were most likely to agree that theirs was an area where people from different backgrounds got on well together, followed by private and then social renters. Of owner occupiers, 92% felt that people from different backgrounds got on well in their area, compared with 89% of private and 85% of social renters, Annex Table 1.6.

Issues with the local area

2.11   Social renters were the most likely to report that the neighbourhood issues covered here were problems in the local area.

2.12   Similar proportions of home owners and private renters felt that litter, vandalism/graffiti or the general level of crime were problems in their area. In addition, private renters were more likely than owner occupiers to feel that noisy neighbours or loud parties, people being drunk or rowdy in public, racial harassment and harassment on the grounds on nationality were problems in their area, Annex Table 1.8 and Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.2: Proportion reporting neighbourhood issues a problem in the area, by tenure, 2017-18

Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 1.8
2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
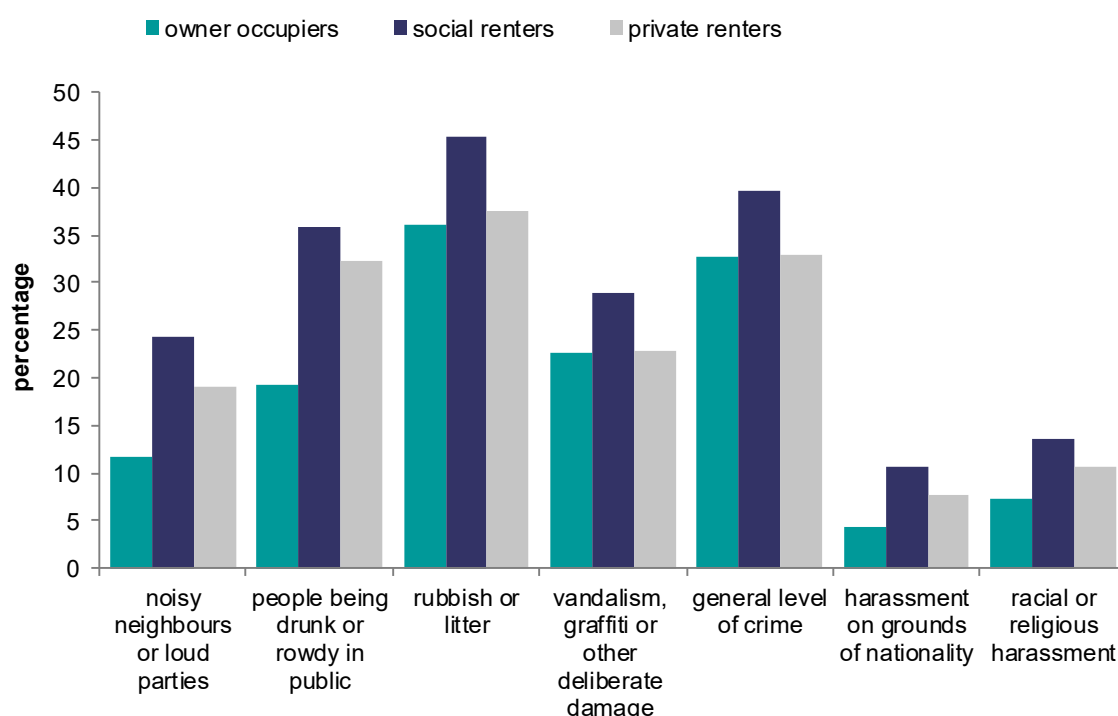Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Perception of the neighbourhood and length of time at the accommodation

2.13   People's opinion on their neighbourhood is likely to change as their contact with their neighbourhood develops over time. In addition, the length of time people live in their accommodation varies by tenure so differences in people's view of the neighbourhood by tenure may, in part, be linked to the difference in the length of time people in the different tenure groups live in their accommodation. To give some insight into those effects, this section describes differences in people's views of their neighbourhood by the length of time they have lived in their accommodation.

2.14   It is beyond the scope of this report to cover all aspects of this topic so this section covers only the aspects that are most likely to change with time, namely: satisfaction with the area as a place to live; feeling of belonging; frequency of speaking to neighbours; perception on whether people in the neighbourhood can be trusted; and views on whether people from different backgrounds get on well. The commentary focuses on describing differences.

Fully quantifying how much of the variation by tenure was related to tenure itself and how much was linked to the time people in different tenure groups have lived in their accommodation is beyond the scope of this report.

2.15   While views about whether people from different backgrounds got on well together in the area did not vary with the length of time in the current accommodation, the other attitudes did:
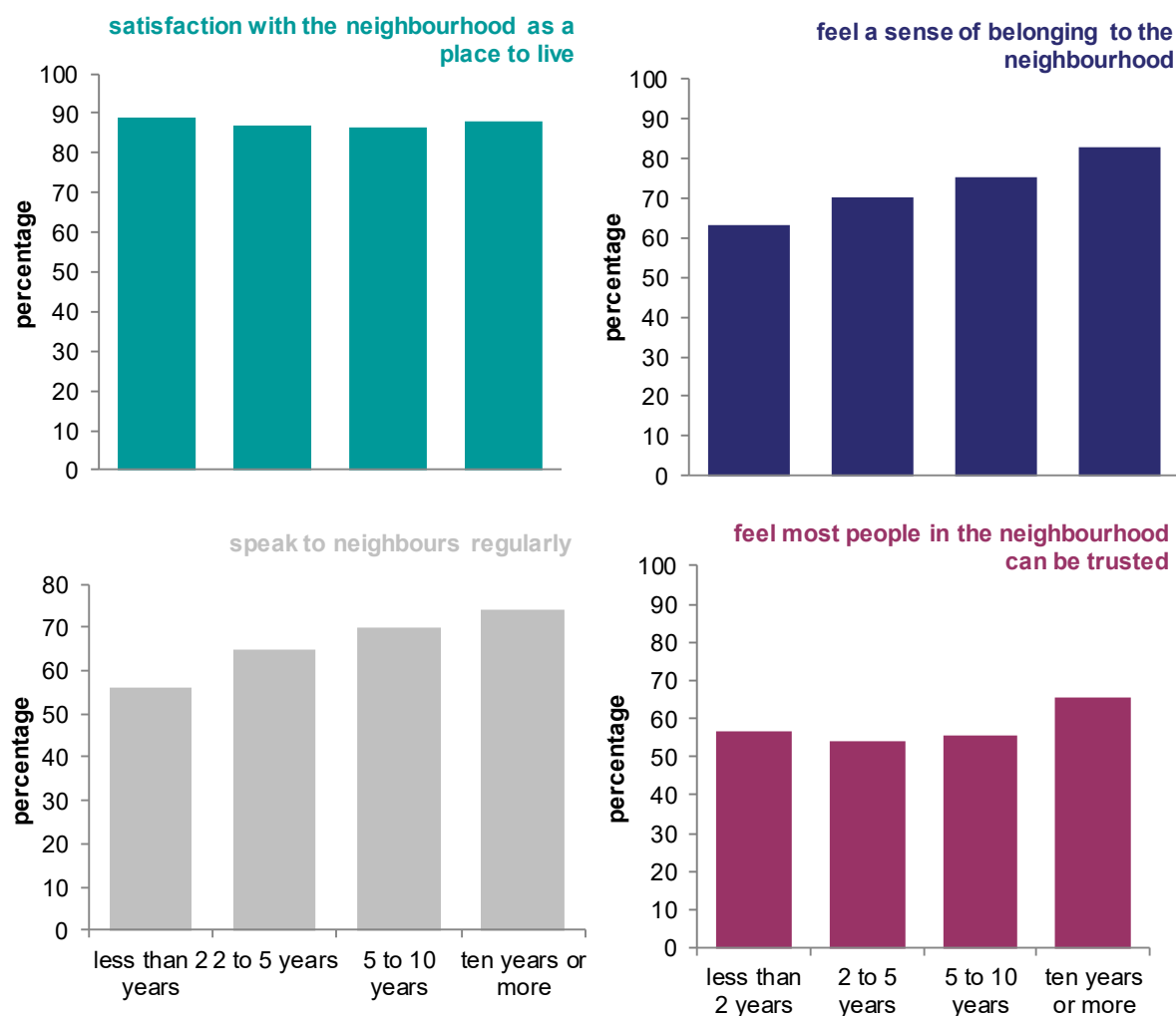
- People who had lived at their current home for between two and ten years were slightly less satisfied with their area as a place to live (between 86% and 87%) compared with those who had lived at their current home for less than two years (89%), Annex Table 2.1 and Figure 2.3.

- The likelihood of having a strong sense of belonging to the neighbourhood increased with length of residence, from 63% for those living in their homes for less than two years to 83% among those who had lived in their home for more than 10 years, Annex Table 2.2.

- People who had lived at their current home for less than two years were the least likely to report speaking with their neighbours regularly (more than once or twice a month), 56%. That increased to 74% among those who had lived at their current home for ten years or more, Annex Table 2.3.

- People who had lived in their current home for more than ten years were most likely to feel that most people in the neighbourhood could be trusted (65%). There was little variation in the perception of whether most people in the neighbourhood could be trusted among those who had lived in their current home for less than ten years (between 54% to 57%), Annex Table 2.4.

2.16   The earlier sections of this report show that owner occupiers had the strongest feeling of belonging to their neighbourhood, followed by social renters and private renters. Home owners and social renters were also more likely to talk to their neighbours regularly than private renters. In 2017-18, owner occupiers had lived in their current accommodation for an average of 18 years, social renters for an average of 12 years and private renters for an average of 4 years.[8] The observed tenure differences in people's feelings of belonging to their neighbourhood and the frequency at which people talk to their neighbours may be linked to how long people in the different tenure groups live in their accommodation.

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[8] 2017-18 Headline report annex table 1.18

Figure 2.3: Perception of the neighbourhood, by length of time in the accommodation, 2017-18

satisfaction with the neighbourhood as a place to live

feel a sense of belonging to the neighbourhood

speak to neighbours regularly

feel most people in the neighbourhood can be trusted

Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
  1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 2.1-2.4
  2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Chapter 3

Differences in people's perception of their neighbourhood by region and other geographical factors

3.1   This chapter explores the extent to which people's perceptions of their neighbourhood vary across region and geographic factors such as whether the neighbourhood is in an urban or rural area, levels of deprivation and ethnic density.

Region

3.2   People's perception of their neighbourhood varied across regions. Except for their view about whether people from different backgrounds get on well in their neighbourhood, those in London tended to have comparatively more negative views on their neighbourhood. For example:

- 83% of people in London were satisfied with their area as a place to live compared with between 87% and 92% in other regions.

- 49% of people in London felt that litter was a problem in their neighbourhood compared with between 32% and 45% in other regions.

- 48% of people in London felt that crime was a problem in their neighbourhood compared with between 22% and 38% in other regions, Annex Tables 3.1 to 3.13 and Figure 3.1a to 3.1c.

Figure 3.1a: Perception of the neighbourhood, by region, 2017-18

satisfaction with the area

feeling of belonging

frequency of chatting with neighbours

whether most people in the area can be trusted

agree people from different backgrounds get on well

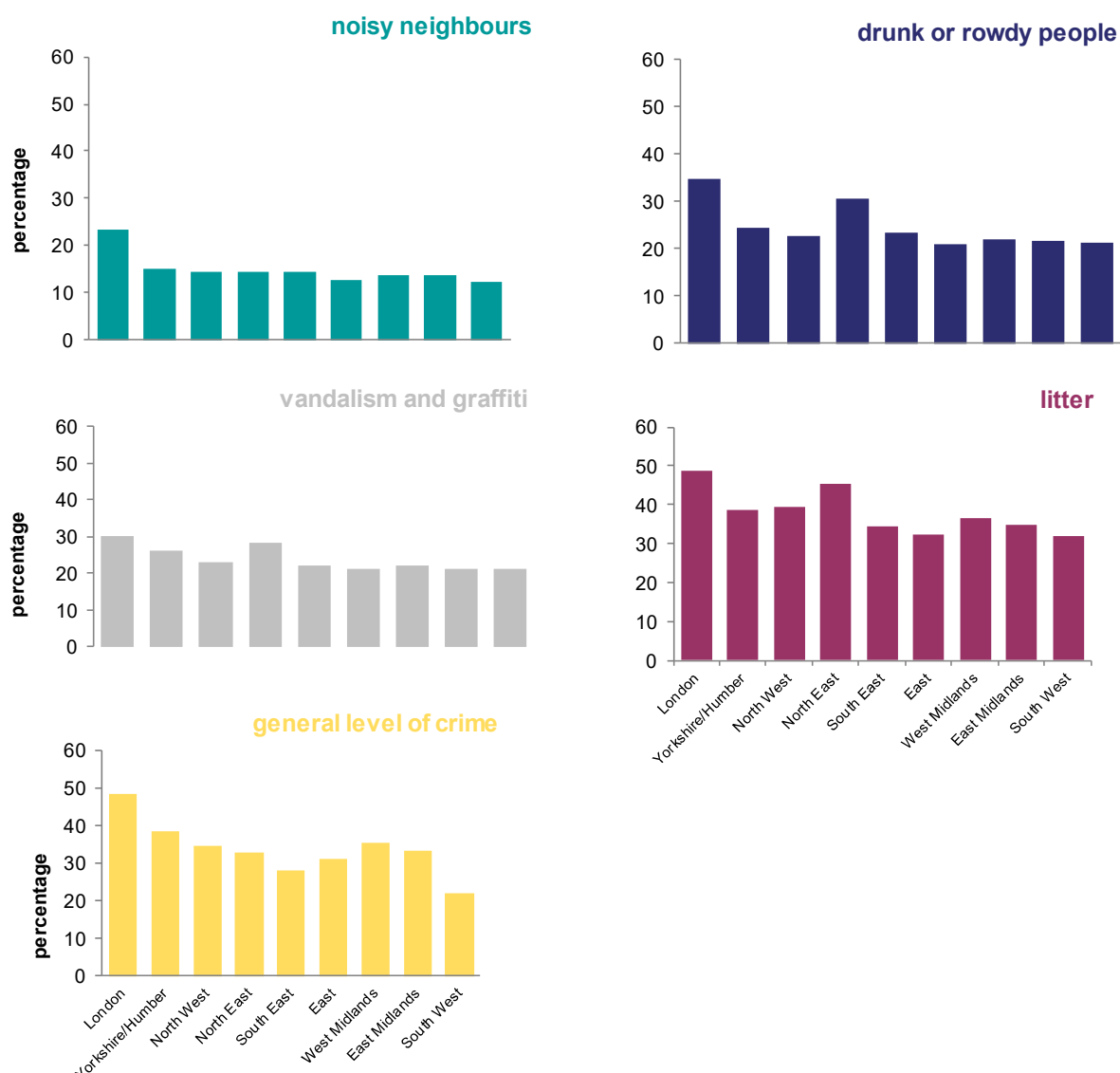**Base: all household reference persons or partners**
Notes:
  1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 3.1, 3.2, 3.8, 3.9 and 3.10
  2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Figure 3.1b: Perception of neighbourhood issues as a problem by region, 2017-18

noisy neighbours

drunk or rowdy people

vandalism and graffiti

litter

general level of crime

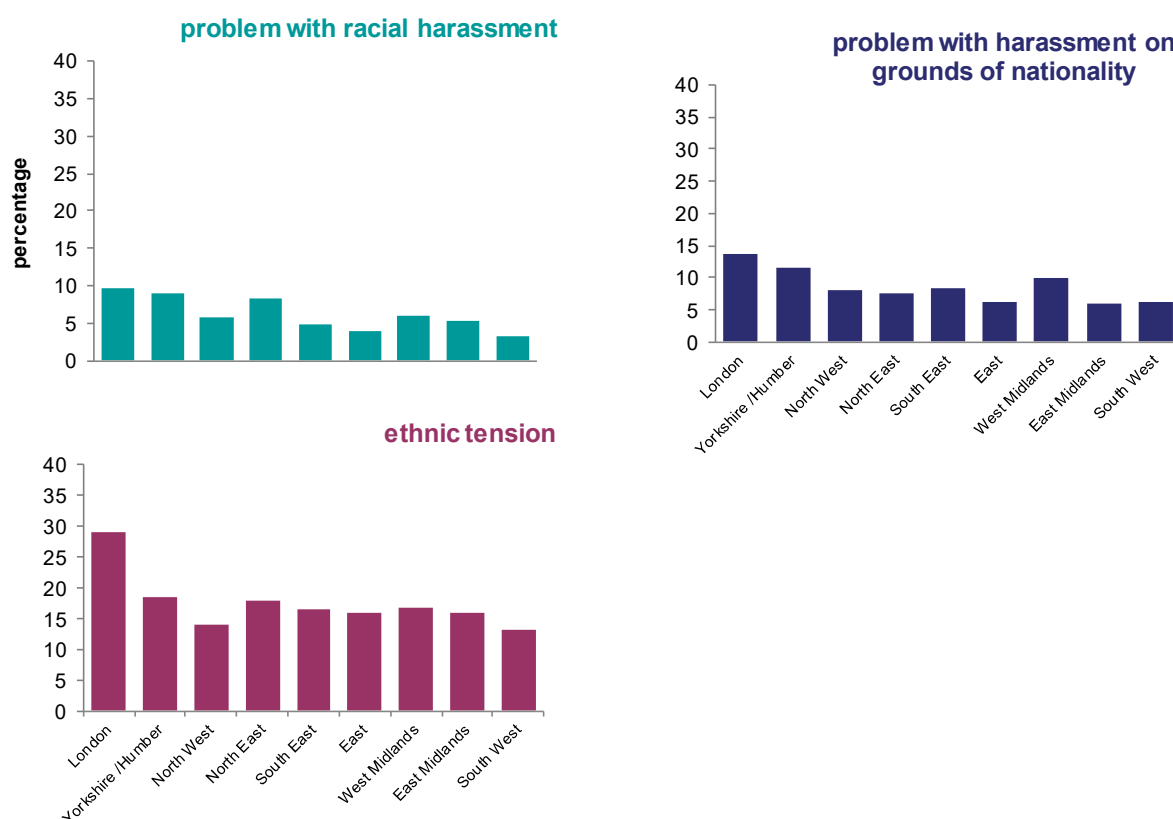Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
   1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7
   2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned
   or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Figure 3.1c: Perception of ethnic tension and harassment on grounds of nationality or race by region, 2017-18

Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
  1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 3.11, 3.12 and 3.13
  2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

Level of deprivation

3.3   People living in the most deprived areas were less likely to report positive attitudes towards their neighbourhood than those living in less deprived areas.[9] For example, they were less likely to say that:

- They were satisfied with their area as a place to live (72% compared with 89% of those in less deprived areas), Annex Table 3.1.

- They belonged to their immediate neighbourhood (69% compared with 77% of those in less deprived areas), Annex Table 3.2.

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[9] The most deprived area is defined here as being in the lowest 10% of ranked wards by the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

3.4   People living in the most deprived areas were also more likely than those living elsewhere to report neighbourhood issues as problems in their area. Among those who were living in the most deprived areas:

- 27% felt that noisy neighbours were a problem in their area compared with 14% of those in less deprived areas, Annex Table 3.3.

- 42% felt that people being drunk or rowdy in public was a problem and 39% felt that vandalism was a problem, compared with 23% and 22% of those in less deprived areas, respectively, Annex Tables 3.4 and 3.5.

- 61% reported that litter and rubbish was a problem in their area (compared with 35% of those in less deprived areas), Annex Table 3.6.

- 51% felt that the general level of crime was a problem in their area compared with 32% of those in less deprived areas, Annex Table 3.7.

3.5   Those living in the most deprived areas also had a different perception of the interaction between people in their neighbourhood. They were less likely to report that they spoke to their neighbours regularly (more than once or twice a month) than those in less deprived areas (64% compared with 69%). They were also more likely to report never speaking to their neighbours than those in less deprived areas (12% compared with 7%), Annex Table 3.8.

3.6   In terms of the perception of trust between people in the neighbourhood, those in the most deprived areas generally had a less positive opinion of their neighbourhoods than those living elsewhere. They were less likely to feel that most people in the neighbourhood could be trusted, and more likely to feel that none or just a few people could, than those in less deprived areas.

3.7   Among those in the most deprived areas, a third (33%) felt that none or just a few people in their neighbourhood could be trusted, compared with 13% of those in less deprived areas; 32% felt that most people could be trusted, compared with 64% of those in less deprived areas, Annex Table 3.9 and Figure 3.2.

Figure 3.2: Views about whether people in the neighbourhood can be trusted, by level of deprivation, 2017-18
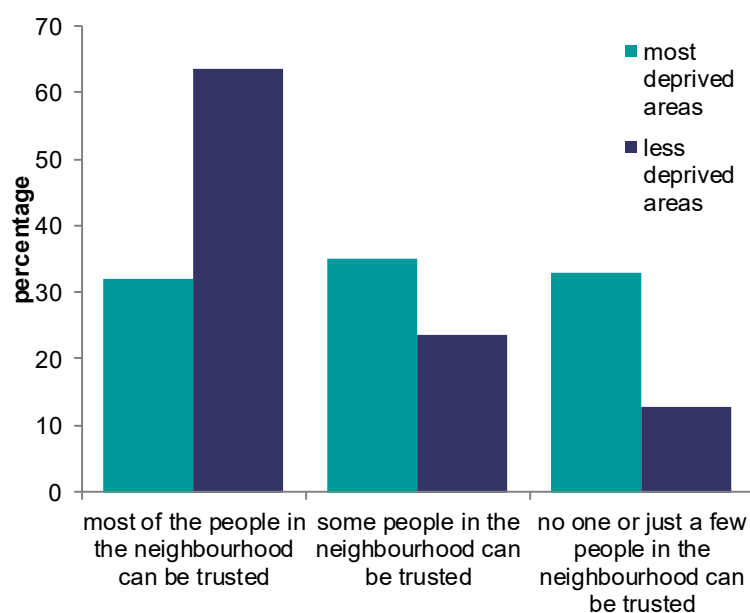
Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
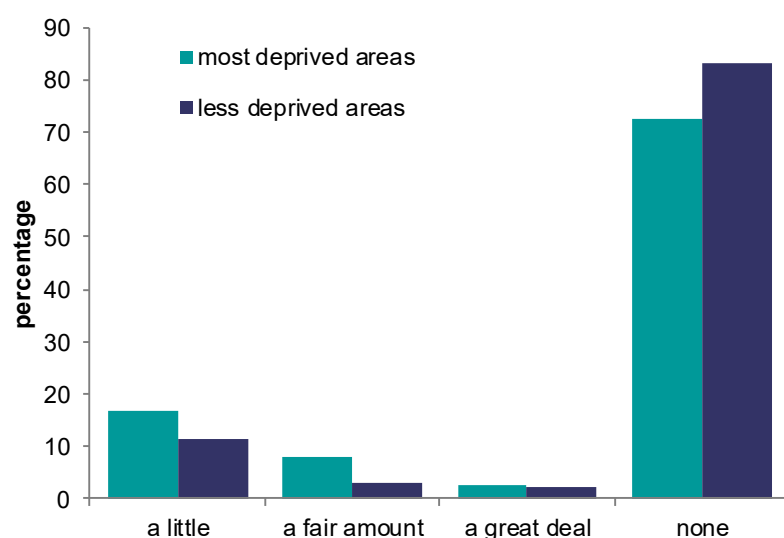 **1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 3.9**
  2) figure excludes a small number of households who said they had just moved into the area
  3) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

3.8   Those in the most deprived areas were also less likely to agree that theirs was an area where people from different backgrounds got on well together (82%) compared with those in less deprived areas (91%), Annex Table 3.10.

3.9   People living in the most deprived areas were more likely to say racial harassment was a problem in their area (15%) compared with those living elsewhere (5%). They were also more likely to perceive harassment on the grounds of nationality as a problem in their area compared with those not in the most deprived areas; 19% thought it was a problem as opposed to 8%, Annex Tables 3.11 and 3.12.

3.10   Perceptions of ethnic tension were higher in the most deprived areas; 28% said there was at least some ethnic tension compared with 17% of those living elsewhere, Annex Table 3.13 and Figure 3.3.

Figure 3.3: Perceptions of ethnic tension by level of deprivation, 2017-18

Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
   1) underlying data are presented in Annex Table 3.13
   2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

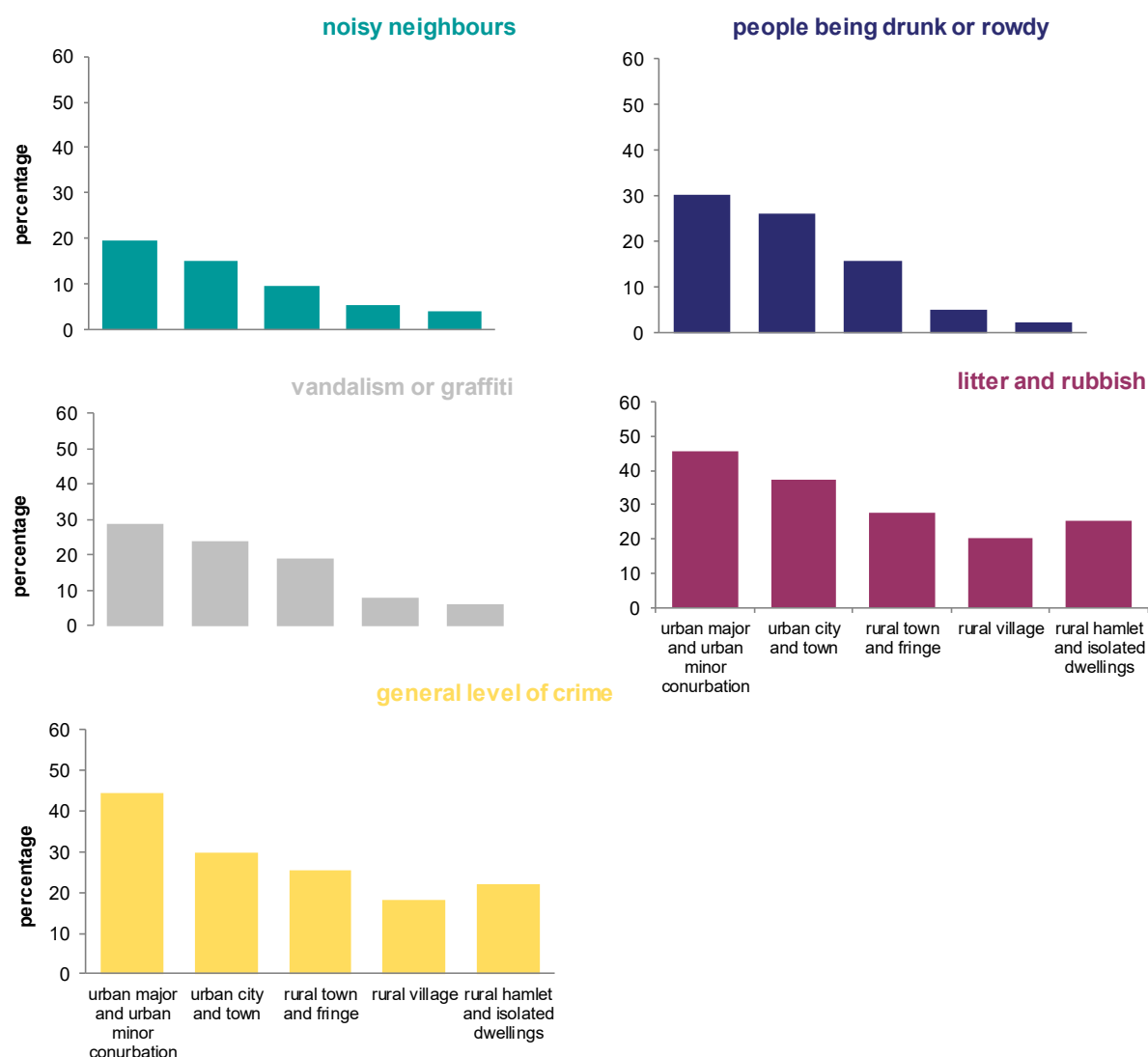## Differences in perception between people living in urban and rural areas

3.11   For the most part, people living in urban environments were less likely than those in rural areas to report positive experiences of, or attitudes toward, their neighbourhood.

3.12   People in urban areas were less likely to be satisfied with the area as a place to live than those in rural areas. The proportion of people who were satisfied with their area increased from 84% among those in major and minor urban conurbations, to 88% of those in urban cities and towns and 93% among those in rural towns and fringes. People from the three most rural environments - rural towns and fringes, rural villages and hamlets/isolated dwellings - had similar levels of satisfaction with their neighbourhood as a place to live, Annex Table 3.1.

3.13   Those who lived in rural towns and fringes were more likely to feel they belonged to their neighbourhood (82%) than those living in the two most urban environments (75%), Annex Table 3.2.

3.14   Similarly, people living in rural environments were more likely than those in urban environments to speak to their neighbours regularly (more than once or twice a month). Of the people in rural towns and fringes, 74% spoke to their

neighbours regularly (a similar proportion to those in rural villages and hamlets). Among those in urban cities and towns, in contrast, 69% spoke to their neighbours regularly, decreasing to 66% among those in major and minor urban conurbations, Annex Table 3.8.

3.15   Those living in urban environments were less likely to feel that most people in their neighbourhood could be trusted and more likely to feel that none or just a few could be trusted than people living in more rural settings. Of those in the most urban environments, half (50%) felt that most people could be trusted, increasing to 62% in urban towns, 75% in rural towns and 82% in rural villages and hamlets, Annex Table 3.9.

3.16   Additionally, 20% of people in the most urban environments felt that none or just a few of the people in their area could be trusted, compared with 4% of those in the most rural areas.

3.17   People living in rural towns and fringes were more likely than either those in more urban environments or those in more rural areas to agree that their area was one where people from different backgrounds got on well (93% of those in rural towns and fringes, compared with 90% of those in more urban environments, and 89% in more rural areas), Annex Table 3.10.

3.18   Reports about problems in the local area were also more prevalent among people living in urban environments than those in more rural settings. Those living in the most urban environments were most likely to report that noisy neighbours were a problem (20%) while those in rural villages and rural hamlets were least likely (5% and 4%). There was a similar pattern for the proportions reporting that people being drunk or rowdy was a problem, from 30% among those in the most urban areas, to 5% of those in rural villages and 2% in rural hamlets. Urban-rural contrasts were also evident for people's views on litter, vandalism and the general level of crime, Annex Tables 3.3 to 3.7 and Figure 3.4.

Figure 3.4: Perception of neighbourhood issues as a problem, by whether living in urban or rural areas, 2017-18

noisy neighbours

people being drunk or rowdy

vandalism or graffiti

litter and rubbish

general level of crime

Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
   1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7
   2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

# Differences in perception by the density of the local ethnic minority population

3.19   People living in areas with a high minority ethnic population were more likely to report religious or racial harassment as an issue.[10] In areas where more

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[10] This analysis used Census data on the proportion of people in minority ethnic groups in each Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA), to create a classification of area type. EHS households were divided into five groups with proportions of ethnic minority populations from the lowest (up to 2% of minority ethnic people in the LSOA),

than 50% of the population was from a minority ethnic group, 14% of respondents said racial or religious harassment was a problem in their area. This decreased to 9% in areas where 10% to 50% of the population was from minority ethnic groups down to 3% in areas with the lowest proportion of minority ethnic groups in the population, Annex Table 3.11 and Figure 3.4.

3.20 There was a similar pattern for the perception of ethnic tension. Among respondents who lived in areas where the prevalence of minority ethnic groups was over 50%, 30% said they perceived at least some degree of ethnic tension. This compares with 25% in areas where the prevalence was 10% to 50% and down to 11% in areas where less than 2% of the population was from minority ethnic groups, Annex Table 3.13.

Figure 3.5: Perception of ethnic tension and racial or religious harassment by the density of the local minority ethnic population, 2017-18
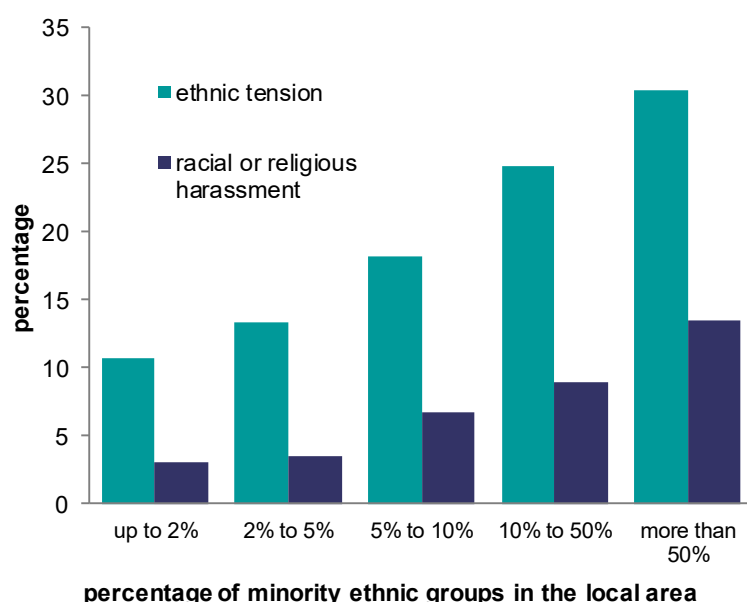
Base: all household reference persons or partners
Notes:
  1) underlying data are presented in Annex Tables 3.11 and 3.13
  2) the Household Reference Person (HRP) is the person in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. Excludes cases where the respondent was not the HRP or partner
Source: English Housing Survey, full household sample

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between 2% and 5%, from 5% to 10%, from 10% to 50% up to the highest where there were 50% or more people in minority ethnic groups in the LSOA.

Technical notes and glossary

Technical notes

1. Results for this report are presented for '2017-18' and are based on fieldwork carried out between April 2017 and March 2018 on a sample of 13,395 households. Throughout the report, this is referred to as the 'full household sample'.

2. 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".

3. 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.

4. 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 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.

Glossary

Area type in the household sample: All households are classified in the household sample according to the 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for Small Area Geographies:

*   **urban:** includes a built up area with a population of more than 10,000 people
*   **rural**: includes town and fringe, village, hamlets and isolated dwellings

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.

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.

Indices of deprivation: the English indices of deprivation 2015 are based on 37 separate indicators, organised across seven distinct domains of deprivation which are combined, using appropriate weights, to calculate the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD 2015). The seven domains are:

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

This is an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area and is calculated for every Lower layer Super Output Area (LSOA), or neighbourhood, in England. Every such neighbourhood in England is ranked according to its level of deprivation relative to that of other areas[11].

Region: geographical classification used to present geographical findings. Findings are presented either at the level of nine individual regions, or combined into three larger regions as follows:

- **North:** North East; North West; and Yorkshire and the Humber
- **Midlands and East**: East Midlands; West Midlands; and East
- **London and South**: London; South East; and South West

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?

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[11] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015

- 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.