

Opinions and Lifestyle Survey: Methodological Investigation into the Societal Module

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Office for National Statistics

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Introduction

The National Statistics Measuring National Well-being Programme launched in November 2010. The programme looked to provide a fuller understanding of ‘how society is doing’ across society, the economy, and the environment.

The National Statistics Measuring National Well-being Programme started the national debate on “What matters to you?” to ask what should be included in measures of the nation’s well-being. Amongst the things emerging from the debate community was suggested as an area that people felt was particularly important.

This article focuses on questions about community which can be found in the societal module of the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN). For more information on the OPN see methods note 1. Many of these questions can be used to assess Social Capital. For the latest work on Social Capital see [ONS \(2015a\) Measuring National Well-being – An Analysis of Social Capital in the UK](#).

This analysis will focus on the 7 community related questions tested as part of the broader suite of Personal/ Subjective Well-being question testing on the OPN ([ONS, 2011b](#); [ONS, 2012](#); ONS, 2015b) .

This module was selected for analysis due to inclusion in 8 months of testing allowing us for the first time to assess community related question responses by demographic characteristics. Other modules have been run assessing Evaluative, Eudemonic and Experience aspects of well-being. These are more detailed modules following on from the Office for National Statistics’ (ONS) 4 headline Personal Well-being questions, which are:

“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?”

The 7 community related questions tested on the OPN and investigated in this release are:

1. To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted?
2. To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?
3. Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live? (When answering, please consider the area to be within 15-20 minutes walking distance from your home)
4. To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live?
5. To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live?

-
6. Overall, how satisfied are you with the public gardens, parks, commons or other green spaces in the local area where you live? (When answering, please consider the area to be within 15-20 minutes walking distance from your home)
 7. How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark?

In this article these questions will be referred to in short form (see background note 1). The responses to these questions ranged from 0 to 10 with 0 being 'not at all' and 10 being 'completely'¹.

This analysis investigates the way people respond to these questions, for example, the distribution of responses along the 0 to 10 scale, question response rates, the way different sub-groups respond to the questions, as well as the extent to which the questions are correlated with each other (e.g. picking up similar concepts).

The primary purpose of testing the questions in this way is to ascertain whether these questions are collecting information about the same or different topics relating to community.

It is worth remembering that the responses to these questions are subjective, therefore they measure people's self - reported feelings and thoughts on the topics asked.

Results

Average estimates for all indicators

Each question assesses a different aspect of community. To get an overall review of the responses for each question we can assess the mean average for each.

Looking at the average response to each question the highest average was for "*To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?*" at 8.3 out of 10. The second highest average was for "*Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live?*" at 7.6.

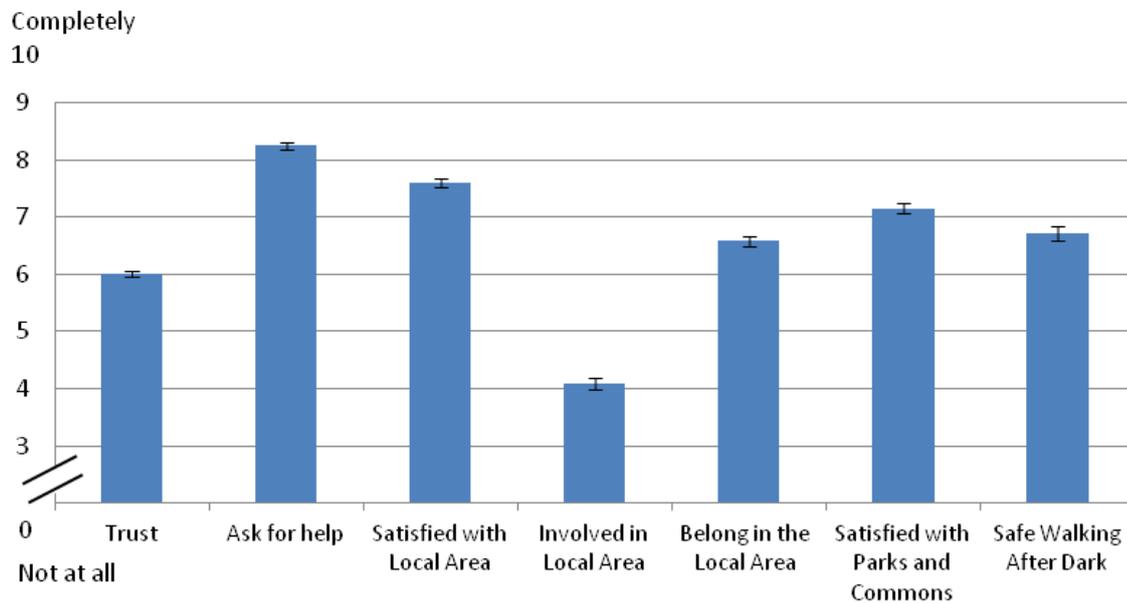
The lowest average was for "*To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live?*" at 4.1 out of 10. This is considerably lower than all other estimates, with the next lowest estimate being 6.0 out of 10 ("*To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted?*"). This shows that on average, people feel that their involvement in their area is less than how satisfied they are with their local area.

The question "*To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live?*" had an average of 6.6 out of 10, showing that people are more likely to say that they belong in the area that they live, than they are to say that they are involved in the area that they live.

¹ These questions were always asked after the 4 ONS headline personal well-being questions on the OPN. The introduction of the well-being section of the survey begins as follows "Next I would like to ask you four questions about your feelings on aspects of your life. There are no right or wrong answers. For each of these questions I'd like you to give an answer on a scale of nought to 10, where nought is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely'."

The averages indicate that these questions, although asking about similar topics, are answered differently by respondents indicating that the questions are collecting information about different and distinct community related concepts.

Figure 1: Average Estimates of the Community Questions



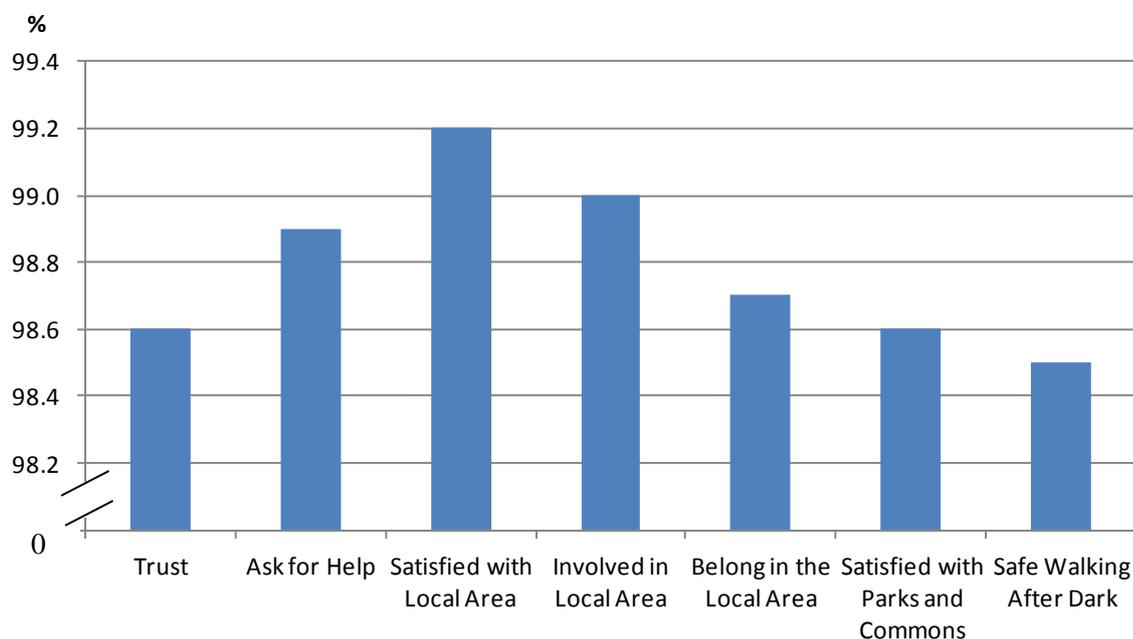
Notes:

1. There are 11 response categories available for these questions ranging from 0 to 10. “On a scale where nought is ‘[not at all]’ and 10 is ‘[completely]’,”
2. Average has been calculated on the basis of the mean.

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Response Rates

Figure 2: Response Rates to the Community Questions



Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Of the 7 questions tested the highest response rate was seen for 'Satisfied with local area' at 99.2%, this is the third question in the module of questions asked. The smallest response rate was seen for 'Safe walking after dark' which is the last question in the series at 98.5%. There is not a great deal of difference between the questions with the difference between the most and least answered question being 0.7% of the sample. Potential explanations for the differing response rates for the questions include:

- how people interpret the questions against the scale (are they better able to place their level of satisfaction against the 0 to 10 scale than they are their ability to ask a friend or neighbour for help for example) (Krosnick and Presser, 2010);
- not having a 'Don't know' category and therefore forcing people to answer or not respond (Krosnick and Presser, 2010); and
- concern for social desirability (would people be happy to note that their area is less desirable for example) (Krosnick and Presser, 2010).

Distribution of responses

The average scores presented above provide a good summary of the overall responses for each question; however they do not show how the data are distributed along the 0 to 10 scale, specifically whether the responses are evenly distributed or how people answer at the top and bottom ends of the scale. Figure 3 shows histograms of the proportion of responses in each of the 11 response categories for the 7 community related questions analysed here.

Figure 3 shows there are differing distributions of responses for each question. There is a varied pattern for the '*Involved in local area*' question responses, where more people reported 'not at all' than any other option. '*Involved in local area*' was also the only question that followed a negative gradient with its responses with an exception for those answering 5 out of 10, for example the responses were highest for '0' and gradually declined to 9/10. '*Satisfied with local area*' and '*Satisfied with parks and commons*' had very similar distributions, both following a positive gradient peaking at 8 out of 10, and with 10 out of 10 having a higher proportion than 9 out of 10. This could indicate a strong correlation between the two variables, something we will look at further on in this article. The highest response category for all the questions was seen in '*Ask for help*'. This question saw 39.3% of people giving a rating of 10 out of 10 when asked if they feel they can ask someone for help.

When comparing the proportion answering in the top half of the distribution (5 to 10), compared to the bottom half of the distribution (0 to 4) we see that it is common place for people to answer in the top half of the distribution (5 to 10). The biggest skew² was seen for '*Ask for help*' where 93.1% answered 5 to 10 and 6.9% answered 0 to 4. A similar pattern is seen for '*Satisfied with local area*'.

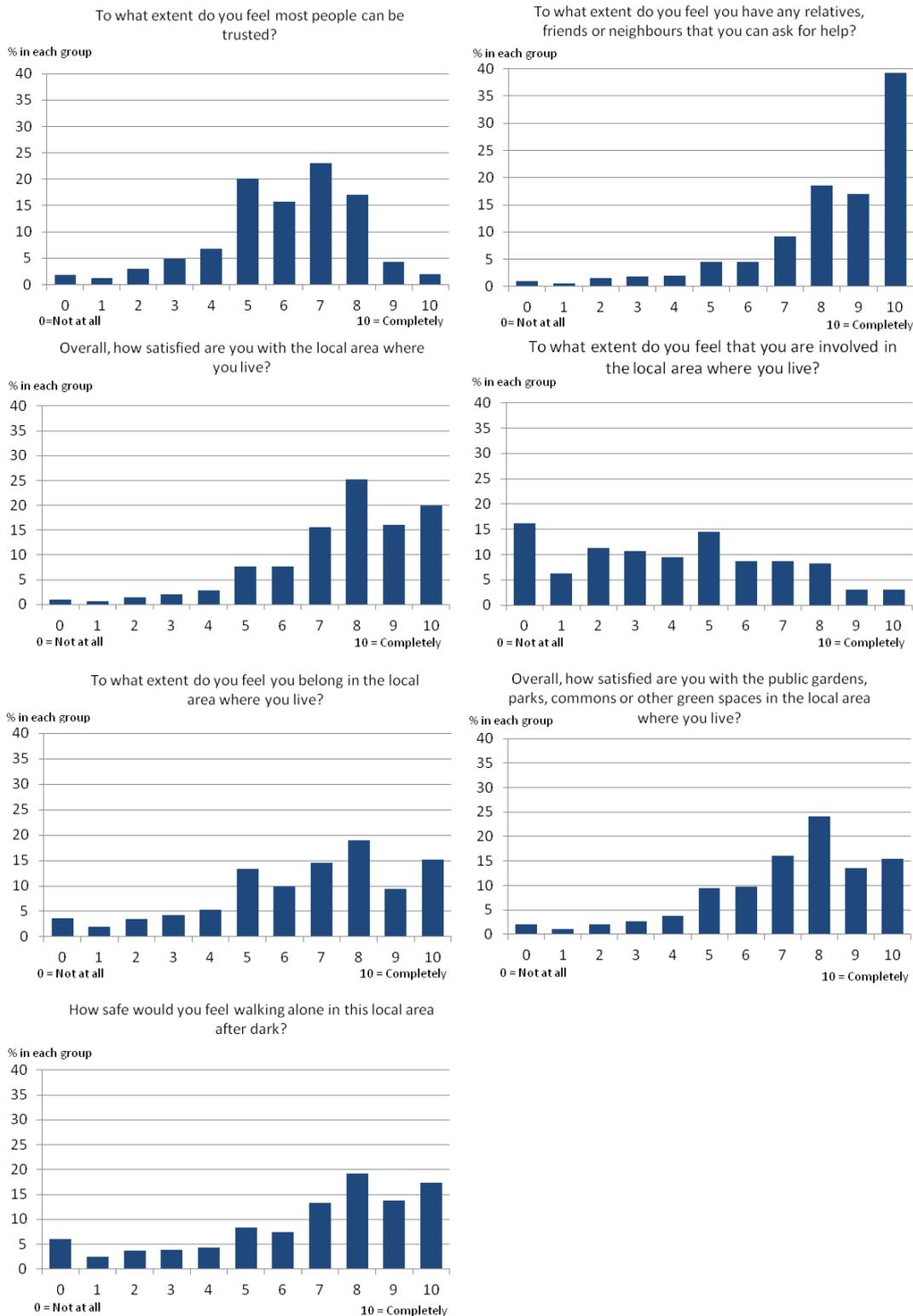
The only question that does not follow this pattern is '*Involved in local area*' where 53.7% of the sample answered 0 to 4 and 46.3% answered 5 to 10.

When assessing the mode for each question, which is the most common response out of 10, 8 out of 10 is the most common, with 4 of the 7 questions having 8 as the mode. Interestingly, the question '*Trust*' has a similar proportion of people saying that they felt that most people can be trusted completely (10) at 2.0% as not at all (0) at 1.8%. The question '*Ask for help*' has more people answering 'completely' (10 out of 10) than any other response for any questions.

Again, this indicates that respondents are interpreting these questions as distinct from each other and altering their responses for each question accordingly, with the possible exceptions being '*Satisfied with local area*' and '*Satisfied with parks and commons*'.

² Skewness refers to the extent to which data deviates from the normal distribution.

Figure 3: Distribution of responses to the Community Questions



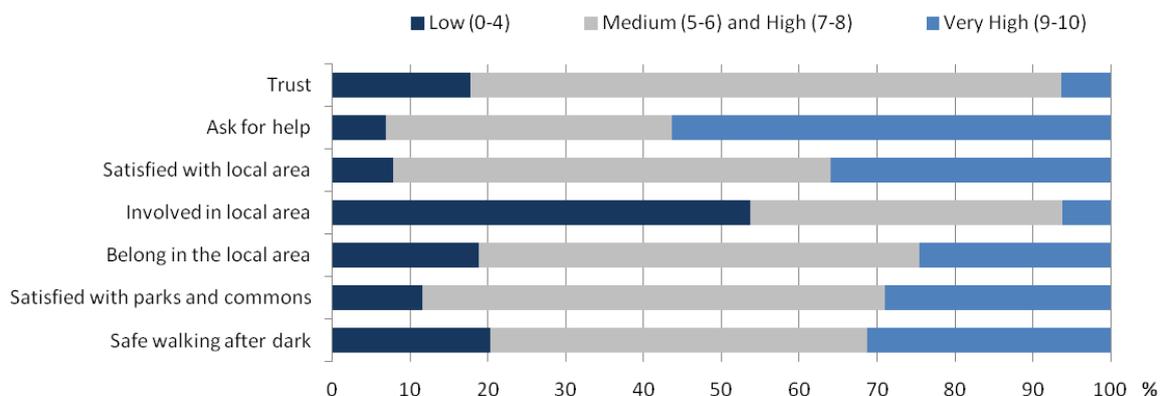
Notes:

1. There are 11 response categories available for these questions ranging from 0 to 10. "On a scale where nought is '[not at all]' and 10 is '[completely]'."

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Thresholds

Figure 4: Proportion of the population in each threshold category



Notes:

1. There are 11 response categories available for these questions ranging from 0 to 10. "On a scale where nought is '[not at all]' and 10 is '[completely]',"

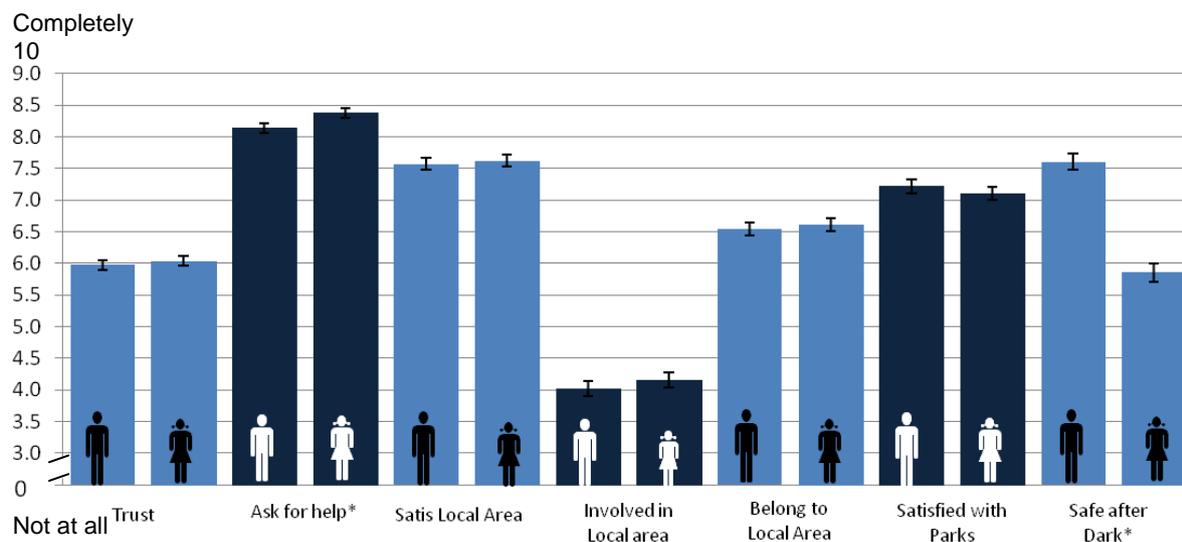
Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics.

An alternative way to investigate distributions of responses is through assessing the proportion of people answering certain responses through thresholds. These thresholds are 0 to 4 out of 10, 5 to 6 out of 10, 7 to 8 out of 10 and 9 to 10 out of 10. The above graph demonstrates some of the patterns we saw in the histograms. The majority of people (53.7%) responded with low scores (0 to 4 out of 10) for 'Involved in local area'. The inverse is seen for 'Ask for Help' where a majority (56.3%) gave a very high rating (9 to 10 out of 10).

The questions 'Trust' and 'Involved in local area' have a similar proportion of people giving a very high rating (9 or 10 out of 10) at 6.3% and 6.2% respectively, however when assessing those two questions for those who reported low ratings (0 to 4 out of 10) only 17.7% of people gave a low rating to 'Trust' compared to 53.7% for 'Involved in the local area'.

Estimates by gender

Figure 5: Average Estimates of the Community Questions by gender



Notes:

1. * Denotes statistical significance where statistical significance is calculated on the basis of a t-test at the 95% level.
2. Average has been calculated on the basis of mean.

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics.

The difference between the responses of men and women to personal/subjective well-being questions has previously been reported ([ONS, 2013](#), [ONS, 2014b](#)). Studies investigating this difference at older ages have suggested potential explanations for this could be, that women are more likely to disclose negative feelings than men and older women are more likely to be widowed than older men (Pinquart and Sorensen, 2001). When the community questions are assessed by gender (Figure 5) statistically significant differences are observed for ‘Ask for help’ and ‘Safe walking after dark’. For ‘Ask for help’ the estimate was significantly higher for women (8.4) than for men (8.1). There is a large difference between men and women’s estimates for “Safe walking after dark?”. The estimate for men is significantly higher (1.7 percentage points) than that for women at 7.6 and 5.9 respectively, this is not unexpected and similar results have been shown on the [ONS Well-being Wheel from the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#).

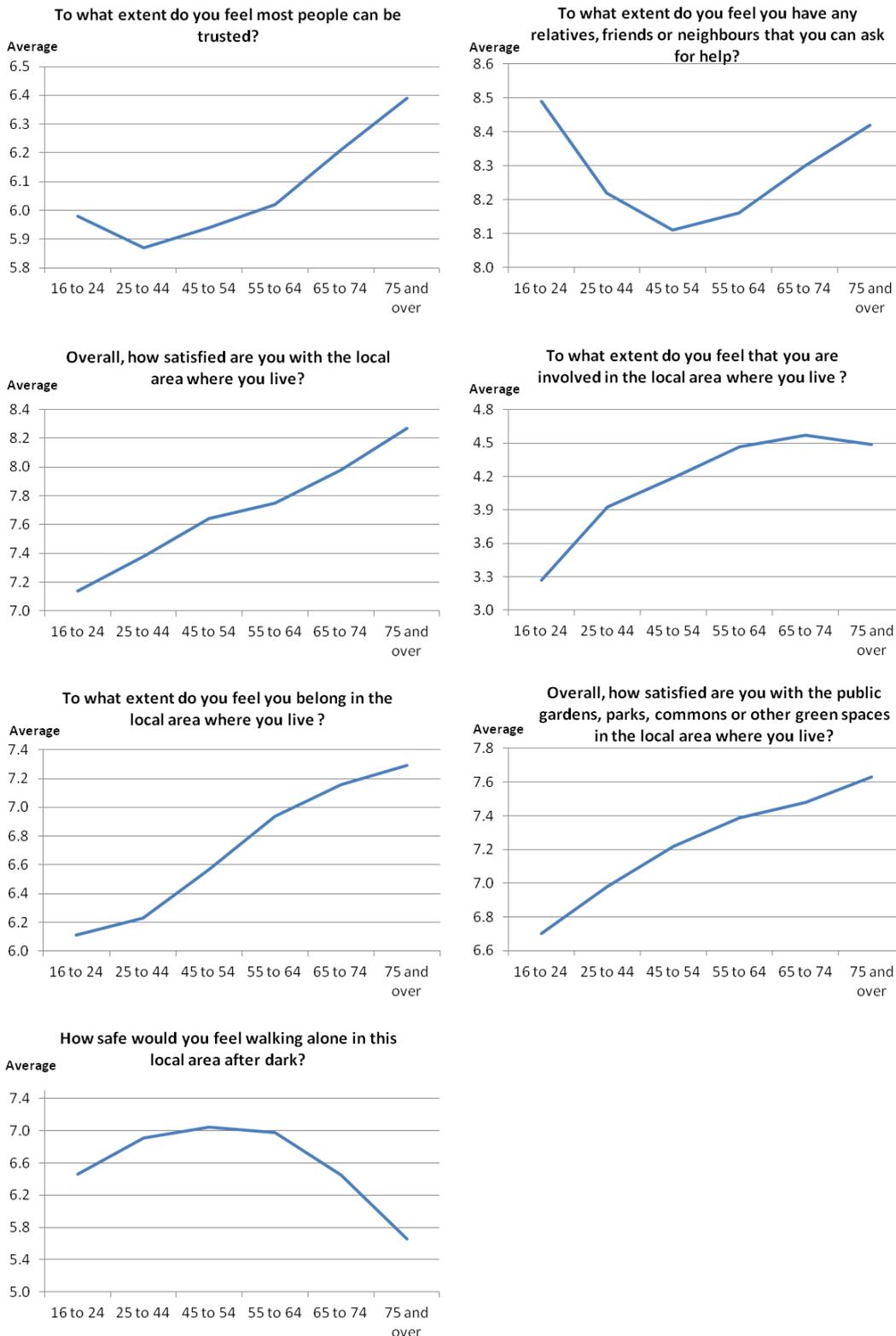
Overall, when assessing the estimates to the community questions by gender we see little difference with the exception of ‘Ask for help’ and ‘Safe after dark’.

Estimates by age

The ONS 4 headline measures of Personal Well-being (Life Satisfaction, Worthwhile, Happiness and Anxiety) have been shown to vary by age (ONS, 2011b; ONS, 2013; ONS 2014b).

Differences in responses to these questions by age groups could be due to a number of factors which includes life course effects and those over 65 being more likely to be retired and therefore have more time to be involved in their areas. Generational and cohort factors are also worth noting, research suggests that there is evidence of cohort effects in personal well-being analysis, citing that those living through the Great Depression experienced lower well-being than those cohorts living in a prosperous time (Sutin et al., 2013).

Figure 6: Average Estimates of the Community Questions by age.



Notes:

1. Average has been assessed on the basis of mean.

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Responses to each of the questions tested differ by age group. In general, 5 of the 7 questions show a gradual improvement in well-being as we move from the younger age groups to the middle age groups, with the highest well-being experienced by the oldest age groups; Only *'Safe walking after dark'* and *'Ask for help'* do not follow this trend. There is a positive gradient in 4 of the 7 questions, where the average estimate increases as age increases. This is seen for *'Belong to the local area'*, *'Satisfied with parks and commons'*, *'Satisfied with local area'* and *'Trust'*.

The lowest rating of *'Trust'* is observed for those aged 25 to 44. A positive gradient is observed from the age 25 – 44 to older ages, with the steepest gradient in this curve at the older ages, where the feeling that most people can be trusted improves at a faster rate. The drop seen in average response for those aged 25 to 44 can be seen somewhat in ONS' Life Satisfaction headline question where the biggest drop between ages (when age is assessed on a 5 year age group breakdown) is between 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 (ONS, 2013; ONS, 2014b). These results showing lower levels of *'Trust'* in the younger ages and higher in the older has also been noted elsewhere (HM Government, 2014).

'Ask for help', *'Involved in local area'* and *'Safe walking after dark'* are unique. The question *"To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?"* generates responses on a U-shaped curve where those aged 16 to 24 and 75 and over feel that they can ask for help more than those aged 45 to 54. This is a relatively shallow curve however, with the difference between scores for those aged 45 to 54 and those 75 and over being 0.3.

This U-shaped curve has been documented in other well-being analysis (Clark et al., 1996; Blanchflower and Oswald, 2008; Dolan et al., 2008) and was also seen for ONS' headline well-being questions (ONS, 2011b). When assessed against 5 year age bands, the shape of the curves for the 4 headline questions generally show a "U-shape" with those in the youngest and oldest age groups having the highest levels of life satisfaction and lowest anxiety (ONS, 2013; ONS, 2014b).

The question *"How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark?"* is the inverse of this where those in the middle age bands (those aged between 25 and 64) feel the safest walking alone and with the youngest and the oldest reporting lower results. Those over 75 have the lowest estimates, with an average 1.4 lower than those aged 45 to 54.

Involvement in the local area also follows a curve but a positive curve. Where the extent you feel you are involved in your local area increases until age 64 to 74 and then drops slightly for those 75 and over, which could be due to poorer health. There is a large difference between those aged 16 to 24 and those aged 65 to 74 at 1.3.

When assessing responses to all 7 questions by age, *'Involved in local area'* had the lowest estimates over all ages. *'Ask for help'* had the highest estimates for every age. *'Ask for help'* also displays a U-shaped curve similar to the 'ONS 4' for the three positively worded questions.

The 4 ONS personal well-being questions traditionally see the youngest age band (16 – 24 year olds) reporting higher well-being compared to age bands in the middle years. This pattern is not necessarily reflected here with only *'Ask for help'* having the highest estimate

for those aged 16 to 24. ‘Belong to local area’, ‘Satisfied with parks and commons’, ‘Satisfied with local area’ and ‘Involved in local area’ all have their lowest estimates for the 16 to 24 age group.

When assessing trends over these age bands we should also be noting that these age groups have been artificially formed. Should these ages be categorised differently a different story may emerge.

All of the community questions assessed here are impacted by age, where distinctions can be made between those in the younger, middle and older age groupings. These patterns could indicate towards a cohort or generational effect which has been evidenced in personal well-being analysis but further research using longitudinal data is required.

Relationships between the variables.

Table 1: Relationship between Community questions

	Satisfied with Local Area	Trust	Ask for Help	Involved in Local Area	Belong in the Local Area	Satisfied with Parks and Commons	Safe Walking After Dark
Satisfied with Local Area							
Trust	0.058						
Ask for Help	0.053	0.283					
Involved in Local Area	0.042	0.094	-0.004				
Belong in the Local Area	0.254	0.020	0.155	0.340			
Satisfied with Parks and Commons	0.369	0.074	0.001	0.094	0.047		
Safe Walking After Dark	0.171	0.096	0.019	0.058	0.071	0.109	

Notes:

1. The correlations above are Pearson partial correlations. The relationship between each pair of variables has been assessed taking into account their relationships with the other five variables.
2. All correlations are significant at the 95% level.

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Correlation is a method for assessing how similar the responses of two questions are. The results range from -1 through to +1, where -1 is a perfect negative correlation and +1 is a perfect positive correlation. Within this range 0 means no association and 1(or -1) is perfect association.

There are no exceptionally large correlations (those over 0.5) between the 7 community questions investigated in this article. The strongest correlation was seen between ‘Satisfied with local area’ and ‘Satisfied with parks and commons’ at .369. The second strongest was between ‘Involved in local area’ and ‘Belong in the local area’ at .340. This was followed by ‘Trust’ and ‘Ask for help’ at .283. The smallest correlation was seen between ‘Ask for help’ and ‘Satisfied with parks and commons’ at .001. All correlations were positive apart from ‘Ask for help’ and ‘Involved in local area’ but this was very small at -.004.

The questions that have the highest correlations (‘Satisfied with local area’ and ‘Satisfied with parks and commons’; and ‘Involved in local area’ and ‘Belong in the local area’) tell us that they are related and there is the potential of one being a predictor of the other. Further

research would be needed into this, as in future it could indicate that when assessing community we may not need to include both of the questions.

Conclusions

This analysis has investigated the responses from 7 community related questions tested on the Opinions and Lifestyle survey.

This analysis has shown that within the questions tested here, there is a range of different aspects to sense of and contentment with community and that the responses capture differing opinions and aspects of one's life.

Interestingly these questions do not always follow the traditional "U-shape" in responses across age groups that are seen in personal well-being data.

When assessing responses by gender, only 2 of the 7 questions show significantly different responses, showing little difference in the responses between men and women. It should still be noted however that "*Safe after dark*" did have a large difference between men and women.

Background notes

1. Within the report the 7 questions are referred to in their short form. This is for ease of interpretation. The long and short hand terms are listed below.
 1. To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted? – Trust
 2. To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help? - Ask for help
 3. Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live? - Satisfied with local area
 4. To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live? - Involved in local area
 5. To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live? - Belong in the local area
 6. Overall, how satisfied are you with the public gardens, parks, commons or other green spaces in the local area where you live? - Satisfied with parks and commons
 7. How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark? - Safe walking after dark

-
2. These statistics are experimental. Should users have comments on the ONS approach to the measurement of personal well-being and or the presentation of the personal well-being questions they can email ONS at national.well-being@ons.gov.uk.
 3. All data (unless otherwise stated) is from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. All data is weighted and non-respondents are not included.
 4. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting the [UK Statistics Authority](#) or from the [Media Relations Office](#)
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 6. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Methods notes

1. Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN)

The OPN has been used as a testing vehicle for personal/subjective well-being question analysis since April 2011. Question testing using the OPN has continued since the development of the 4 headline personal well-being in order to explore and investigate additional personal/subjective well-being questions. The OPN is ONS' omnibus survey which covers Great Britain, running monthly to allow quick and reliable information on topics of immediate policy interest, it is for this reason it was chosen for testing questions on personal/subjective well-being.

The OPN is sampled from the Royal Mail's small user postcode address file. The survey is purely voluntary and asks questions to those over the age of 16 and selects an adult from a household on the basis of a Kish grid. Each month's achieved interviews are roughly 1,000 - 1,100 adults. The estimates in this release are weighted to take account of the uneven probability of selection from a household in the OPN and to calibrate responses so that they are representative of the whole population ([Opinions and Lifestyle Survey](#)).

2. Questions asked with responses available 0-10

Questions asked on the Opinions and Lifestyle survey had the option to answer on a scale from 0 to 10 with the introduction being "On a scale where nought is '[not at all]' and 10 is '[completely]',"

3. Sample construction

The sample used for this analysis is an aggregation of 8 months of data from the OPN. The sample was drawn from across 2011 – 2014, covers an even distribution of months over the year and was chosen for their inclusion of the Societal module. The monthly

datasets used are September 2011, January 2012, May 2012, October 2013, November 2013, April 2014, July 2014 and October 2014. The total sample size for the analysis was around 8,500.

4. Testing Impacts on Sample

The data used in this analysis is from the OPN survey for the months September 2011, January 2012, May 2012, October 2013, November 2013, April 2014, July 2014 and October 2014. As well as the differing events happening over this three year period there are also testing impacts we need to be aware of in the sample.

The first of which is the use of generic show cards. The Societal module in October 2013, November 2013, April 2014, July 2014 and October 2014 had generic show cards used to aid respondents when answering the questions and September 2011, January 2012 and May 2012 did not have generic show cards.

Secondly for the same split of months listed above, there was a different question ordering and placement of the questions in the survey as noted by the table below.

Table 2: Question Ordering and Placement in OPN Survey

	Sample 1 Question Number in Survey	Question Order in Sample 1	Sample 2 Question Number in Survey	Question Order in Sample 2
To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted?	5	1	14	1
To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?	7	2	15	2
Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live?	8	3	17	3
To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live?	9	4	19	5
To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live?	10	5	20	6
Overall, how satisfied are you with the public gardens, parks, commons or other green spaces in the local area where you live?	14	6	18	4
How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark?	15	7	21	7

Notes:

1. Sample 1 refers to September 2011, January 2012 and May 2012.
2. Sample 2 refers to October 2013, November 2013, April 2014, July 2014 and October 2014.

The impact of these changes cannot be disentangled due to them being tested over the same periods; however, we can assess the differences between the time points and investigate testing that has been done previously.

Show cards have been shown to help the understanding of the respondent (Ralph et al., 2011). The impact of their use has been assessed previously for ONS' 4 headline questions. These results showed that the means were significantly higher for life satisfaction (at the 5% level) and happy (at the 10% level) when show cards were used. However there was no significant difference for worthwhile or anxious yesterday (ONS, 2012).

It is widely acknowledged in survey design that question ordering impacts responses (Krosnick and Presser, 2010). For all of the monthly samples the first four questions asked were the ONS headline well-being questions (Life Satisfaction, Worthwhile, Happy yesterday and Anxious yesterday). It is worth noting that split trial and order testing for the headline questions happened in September 2011, January 2012, May 2012, October 2013 and November 2013. For the last 5 monthly datasets combined, being later in the survey, the answers for the Societal module need to be assessed in context of the further questions asked before them. For these 5 datasets respondents were also asked questions:

Table 3: Further questions in OPN survey

Question Number	
5	Overall, how satisfied are you with your relationships with family, including spouse/partner?
6	Overall, how satisfied are you with your relationships with friends?
7	Overall, how satisfied are you with your physical health?
8	Overall, how satisfied are you with your mental well-being?
9	Overall, how satisfied are you with the well-being of your child/children?
10	Overall, how satisfied are you with your financial situation?
11	Overall, how satisfied are you with your work situation?
12	Overall, how satisfied are you with your commute to work?
13	How satisfied are you with the balance between the time you spend on your paid work and the time you spend on other aspects of your life?
16	On a scale where 0 is not at all lonely and 10 is extremely lonely, how lonely do you feel in your daily life?

Due to the differences being across the same time spans we are unable to disentangle the potential interaction effects between the effect of show cards, question order and question placement. Therefore we must simply assess the extent of the difference between the 2 samples.

Table 4: Impact of differences between time points

		Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live?	To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted?	To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?	To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live?	To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live?	Overall, how satisfied are you with the public gardens, parks, commons or other green spaces in the local area where you live?	How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark?
	Mean	7.49	5.80	8.32	4.09	6.61	6.93	6.47
September 2011, January 2012 and May 2012	Lower 95% CI	7.37	5.72	8.22	3.95	6.50	6.79	6.29
	Upper 95% CI	7.61	5.89	8.42	4.23	6.73	7.07	6.66
	Mean	7.66	6.13	8.22	4.08	6.56	7.30	6.86
October 2013, November 2013, April 2014, July 2014 and October 2014	Lower 95% CI	7.57	6.05	8.14	3.96	6.46	7.19	6.72
	Upper 95% CI	7.75	6.20	8.29	4.21	6.66	7.40	6.99
	P Value	0.031*	0.000*	0.107	0.933	0.501	0.000*	0.001*

Note: * = significant difference at the 95% level, where significant differences have been calculated on the basis of t-tests.

When assessing the differences between the 2 time points, there are significant differences at the 95% level for 4 of the 7 questions. Although there is a significant difference for “*Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live*” the estimates do have overlapping confidence intervals.

Although there are significant differences between the two periods (due to show cards, ordering and placement) it is still advantageous to include all 8 months of data as it increases our sample sizes and the robustness of our results. These issues do need to be kept in mind, however, when analysing the results of the investigation.

- All estimates have been calculated with the weight (indwgt) applied. The weight was adjusted to take account of there being 8 datasets combined to run this analysis (ONS). Standard Errors (used to calculate confidence intervals, CI) have been calculated taking into account the complex survey design and post-stratification weighting.
- Significant differences when noted in the text have been calculated on the basis of t-tests. This gives a more robust estimate of statistical significance.

-
7. Partial correlations have been used to assess the relationship (correlation) between the variables to take into account the implicit link between the questions due to them being asked one after another, and to them all assessing a different aspect of community, therefore having an underlying connection.

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Annex 1

Data for Figure 1: Average Estimates of the Community Questions

	Average ²	Lower 95% Confidence Interval	Upper 95% Confidence Interval
To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted?	6.0	6.0	6.1
To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?	8.3	8.2	8.3
Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live?	7.6	7.5	7.7
To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live?	4.1	4.0	4.2
To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live?	6.6	6.5	6.7
Overall, how satisfied are you with the public gardens, parks, commons or other green spaces in the local area where you live?	7.2	7.1	7.3
How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark?	6.7	6.6	6.8

1. There are 11 response categories available for these questions ranging from 0 to 10. "On a scale where nought is '[not at all]' and 10 is '[completely]',"

2. Average is measured on the basis of mean.

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Data for Figure 2: Response Rates to the Community Questions

	Response Rates (%)
Trust	98.6
Ask for Help	98.9
Satisfied with Local Area	99.2
Involved in Local Area	99.0
Belong in the Local Area	98.7
Satisfied with Parks and Commons	98.6
Safe Walking After Dark	98.5

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Data for Figure 3: Distribution of responses to the Community Questions

	Proportion of the population in each response category %										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted?	1.8	1.2	3.0	4.9	6.8	20.1	15.8	23.0	17.1	4.4	2.0
To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?	1.0	0.6	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.6	4.5	9.2	18.6	17.0	39.3
Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live?	1.0	0.6	1.4	2.0	2.9	7.6	7.7	15.6	25.2	16.1	19.9
To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live?	16.1	6.2	11.3	10.7	9.4	14.5	8.6	8.7	8.2	3.1	3.1
To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live?	3.7	2.0	3.5	4.2	5.4	13.4	9.8	14.5	18.9	9.4	15.2
Overall, how satisfied are you with the public gardens, parks, commons or other green spaces in the local area where you live?	2.0	1.0	2.1	2.7	3.8	9.5	9.7	16.1	24.0	13.6	15.5
How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark?	6.0	2.4	3.7	3.9	4.4	8.4	7.5	13.4	19.2	13.8	17.4

1. There are 11 response categories available for these questions ranging from 0 to 10. "On a scale where nought is '[not at all]' and 10 is '[completely]'".

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Data for Figure 4: Proportion of the population in each threshold category (%)

	Low (0-4)	Medium (5-6) and High (7-8)	Very High (9-10)
To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted?	17.7	76.0	6.3
To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?	6.9	36.8	56.3
Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live?	7.9	56.1	36.0
To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live?	53.7	40.0	6.2
To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live?	18.8	56.6	24.6
Overall, how satisfied are you with the public gardens, parks, commons or other green spaces in the local area where you live?	11.6	59.3	29.1
How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark?	20.3	48.5	31.2

1. There are 11 response categories available for these questions ranging from 0 to 10. "On a scale where nought is '[not at all]' and 10 is '[completely]'".

2. Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Data for Figure 5: Average² Estimates of the Community Questions by gender

Question	Gender	Average ²	Lower Confidence Limit	Upper Confidence Limit
To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted?	Male	6.0	5.9	6.1
	Female	6.0	6.0	6.1
To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?	Male	8.1	8.1	8.2
	Female	8.4	8.3	8.5
Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live?	Male	7.6	7.5	7.7
	Female	7.6	7.5	7.7
To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live?	Male	4.0	3.9	4.1
	Female	4.2	4.0	4.3
To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live?	Male	6.5	6.4	6.6
	Female	6.6	6.5	6.7
Overall, how satisfied are you with the public gardens, parks, commons or other green spaces in the local area where you live?	Male	7.2	7.1	7.3
	Female	7.1	7.0	7.2
How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark?	Male	7.6	7.5	7.7
	Female	5.9	5.7	6.0

1. There are 11 response categories available for these questions ranging from 0 to 10. "On a scale where nought is '[not at all]' and 10 is '[completely]'".

2. Average has been calculated on the basis of the mean.

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Data for Figure 6: Average² Estimates of the Community Questions by age

	Age Group					
	16 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 and over
To what extent do you feel most people can be trusted?	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.4
To what extent do you feel you have any relatives, friends or neighbours that you can ask for help?	8.5	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4
Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area where you live?	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.3
To what extent do you feel that you are involved in the local area where you live?	3.3	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.5
To what extent do you feel you belong in the local area where you live ?	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.9	7.2	7.3
Overall, how satisfied are you with the public gardens, parks, commons or other green spaces in the local area where you live?	6.7	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.6
How safe would you feel walking alone in this local area after dark?	6.5	6.9	7.1	7.0	6.5	5.7

1. There are 11 response categories available for these questions ranging from 0 to 10. "On a scale where nought is '[not at all]' and 10 is '[completely]'".

2. Average has been calculated on the basis of the mean.

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics