

Hull Adult Health and Wellbeing Survey Summary: Social capital

December 2019

Background

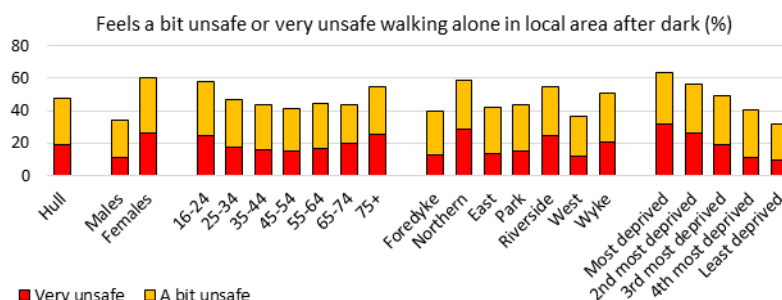
Earlier this year, more than 4,000 Hull residents aged 16 years and older belonging to groups representative of the local population were surveyed about health and lifestyle behaviours. Between March and June, interviewers knocked on doors and asked residents if they would be willing to take part in the comprehensive survey. Participants were left to complete forms in their own time, with interviewers returning to collect them on an agreed date. The response rate was 76 per cent.

Topic area and why it matters

- Social capital, which includes things such as feelings of safety when in the local area, relationships with the neighbourhood and the people that live there, has an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of people in that community.
- Feeling unsafe when alone in their local area can discourage people from leaving their homes and increase social isolation.

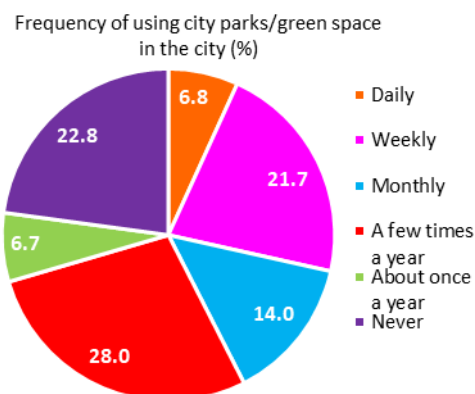
Key Health and Wellbeing Survey findings

- Almost nine out of ten people feel safe walking alone in their local area during the daytime, although one in eight feel very unsafe, highest among women (14%), the young (16.6% aged 16-24 years), residents of Northern and Riverside. At 22%, people living in the most deprived fifth of areas of Hull were more than three times as likely to feel unsafe than those living in the least deprived fifth of areas (6%).
- It was a different picture for walking alone in the local area after dark, when almost half (47%) reported feeling unsafe, with more than half of women (60%), those aged 16-24 (59%) or 75+ years (51%), as well as residents of Northern (59%), Riverside (54%) and Wyke (51%). People living in the most deprived fifth of areas of Hull were twice as likely as those in the least deprived fifth of areas to feel unsafe (64% vs. 32%).



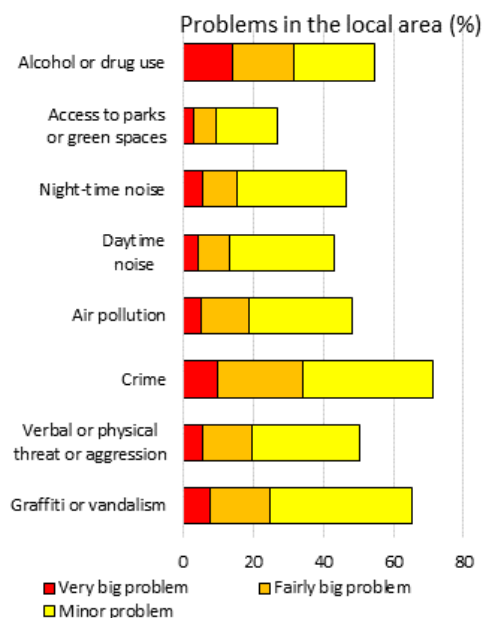
- Although nine in ten respondents felt safe when alone at home at night, 15% of women, 20% aged 16-24 years, 15-16% resident in Northern and Riverside, as well as 19% of people in the most deprived fifth of areas of Hull, felt unsafe alone at home at night.
- Most people agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well together in the local area (54%), although 29% aged under 16-24 years and 25% living in Riverside disagreed. More than one in four (27%) living in the most deprived fifth of areas of Hull disagreed, 2.5 times higher than those in the least deprived fifth of areas (11%).
- While more than three out of four people (77.2%) used city parks at some point, few used them daily (7%), although a further one in five used them weekly.

- Among the 23% who never used the city parks, one in four said their was nothing do do (27%), one in five said they could not get to the parks or had mobility issues that stopped them (21%), 17% said they did not feel safe there, 13% said there was too much liiter and 11% said th efacilities were poor.



- The elderly were the least likely to never use parks (48%), with those living in the most deprived fifth of areas of Hull (30%) were two thirds more likely to never use parks than those in the least deprived fifth of areas (18%).

- Respondents were most likely to report that air pollution and noise pollution, whether during the day or at night, was not a problem in their local area. Of the 50% who did consider these a problem, most those that said it was a problem, three out of reported it as a minor problem.



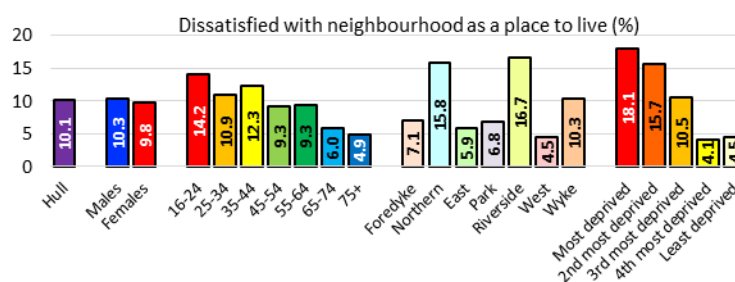
- Crime and graffiti or vandalism were considered the largest problems by 71% and 65% respectively, of whom between half and two thirds said they were minor problems.

- The use of alcohol or drugs and verbal or physical threat or aggression were considered a problem in the local area by 55% and 50% respectively, including one in three respondents reporting alcohol or drug use a very big or fairly big problem.

- Young respondents were the most likely to consider noise pollution, access to parks and the use of drugs and alcohol to be problems.

- People living in the most deprived areas of Hull were more likely to find each of these a problem, although there was only a small difference by deprivation in the overall percentage finding crime in the local area a problem.

- However, the percentage of people in the most deprived fifth of areas of Hull finding these to be problems were much larger than among those in the least deprived fifth of areas, more than 7 times higher in the case of verbal or physical threat or aggression and alcohol or drug use.
- Most people did, however, think that their neighbourhood was one where people looked out for each other (55%), particularly higher among older people (more than 60% aged 55+ years), those living in East (3%), as well as those in the two least deprived fifth of areas of the city (63%-68%).
- However, only just over one in three said they trusted most or many people in their neighbourhood, increasing with age from 22% aged 16-24 years to more than 50% aged 65+ years. At 53%, people in the least deprived fifth of areas of the city were more than 2.5 times as likely to trust most or many people in their neighbourhood as those living in the most deprived fifth of areas (21%).
- Despite this, the almost three out of four people were very satisfied (27%) or fairly satisfied (46%) with their neighbourhood as a place to live, although one in ten were dissatisfied.



- Highest levels of dissatisfaction were seen among young people (14% aged 16-24 years), residents of Northern (16%) and Riverside (18%), as well as people living in deprived areas of Hull – at 18% people in the most deprived fifth of areas of Hull were more than 4 times as likely to be dissatisfied as those living in the least deprived fifth of areas (4%).

The impact for Hull

Levels of social capital are relatively high in Hull, although there are some communities where levels of social capital were lower which might benefit from community development work – Riverside, Northern, and to a lesser extent Wyke, as well as the other more deprived areas of the city. In addition to these groups, the majority of women, young people and old people, felt unsafe when walking alone in the local area – work to promote community safety would benefit these groups and help to improve feelings of wellbeing.

Further information

Further survey reports and a copy of the questionnaire are available on request. Please contact us at PublicHealthIntelligence@hullcc.gov.uk for more information.