

## 4 Neighbourhoods and Communities

### Main Findings

Over nine in ten adults view their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live.

The majority of adults in Scotland (56.7 per cent) rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live in 2016. Overall ratings of neighbourhoods have been consistently high since the SHS began in 1999. The proportion of adults who described their neighbourhood as very or fairly good in 2016 was significantly higher than in each individual year between 1999 and 2013.

Neighbourhood ratings vary depending how deprived the area is. Adults in less deprived areas are more likely to rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live. This has been a consistent finding in recent years.

There is a large gap in neighbourhood ratings between those living in the most and least deprived areas, although the gap is narrowing over time.

Those in accessible or remote rural areas were more likely to describe their neighbourhood as a very good place to live than those in urban areas.

Most potential neighbourhood problems are not considered to be particularly common. In 2016, the most prevalent issue cited was animal nuisance (e.g. noise or fouling) which was reported as being very or fairly common by 31 per cent of adults.

Just under half (46 per cent) of all adults reported that they did not experience any neighbourhood problems in 2016, although this proportion has decreased since 2011. Those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas are more likely to experience neighbourhood problems.

Just over one in twenty adults reported that they had experienced discrimination or harassment in the last three years. Younger people were more likely to experience this. Experiences also varied according to sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity and whether an individual had a long-term physical or mental illness. The most common reason cited as a motivating factor was the respondent's ethnicity.

More than three-quarters (77 per cent) of all adults felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood in 2016, however this varied according to age, ethnic group and deprivation. The majority of adults in Scotland strongly agreed that they would assist neighbours in an emergency (75 per cent) and could rely on those around them for advice and support (63 per cent).

## 4.1 Introduction and Context

Improving the quality of life in Scotland's neighbourhoods and communities is one of the Scottish Government's five Strategic Objectives<sup>37</sup>: Safer and Stronger - help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life.

The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is one of the sources of evidence that can be used to assess the National Outcomes<sup>38</sup> associated with this overarching objective. It is used specifically to monitor one of the National Indicators associated with the Safer and Stronger objective: 'Improve people's perceptions of their neighbourhood'. In addition, the outcome 'we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger' can draw directly on the findings presented in this chapter.

This chapter starts with an overview of public perceptions of their neighbourhoods. It then explores the perceptions and experiences of various forms of anti-social behaviour, before looking at experiences of discrimination and harassment. Finally, the chapter investigates how engaged people were with their local community in 2016.

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<sup>37</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/objectives>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/outcome>

## 4.2 Neighbourhoods

The section below explores how people view their neighbourhoods and their impression of how their local area has changed (if at all) over the last few years.

### 4.2.1 Overall Ratings of Neighbourhoods

- Overall ratings of neighbourhoods have been consistently high since the SHS began in 1999, with over nine in ten adults viewing their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live in each year. This proportion has steadily increased over time.
- The majority of adults in Scotland rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live in 2016.
- Those in accessible or remote rural areas were more likely to describe their neighbourhood as a very good place to live than those in urban areas.
- There is a large gap in neighbourhood ratings between those living in the most and least deprived areas, although the gap is narrowing over time. In 2016, just over three in ten adults in the 10 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live, compared to almost eight in ten of those living in the 10 per cent least deprived areas.



The majority of adults in Scotland (56.7 per cent) rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live in 2016, as shown in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by year**

Column percentages, 1999; 2006-2016 data

Adults	1999	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<i>Very/fairly good</i>	90.7	92.0	92.4	92.5	93.6	93.5	93.9	93.7	94.1	94.4	94.6	95.0
Very good	49.4	51.1	51.7	53.1	55.0	55.4	55.9	55.2	55.2	55.8	56.3	56.7
Fairly good	41.3	40.9	40.7	39.4	38.6	38.1	38.0	38.5	38.9	38.5	38.3	38.3
Fairly poor	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.7	3.6
Very poor	3.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.2
No opinion	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	13,780	14,190	10,390	9,310	12,540	12,440	12,890	9,890	9,920	9,800	9,410	9,640

Overall ratings of neighbourhoods have been consistently high since the SHS began in 1999, with over nine in ten adults viewing their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live in each year. This proportion has steadily increased over the years as shown

in the above table, meaning the percentage of adults who described their neighbourhood as very or fairly good in 2016 was significantly higher than in each individual year between 1999 and 2013.

Whilst neighbourhoods were rated highly across the board, the strength of view varied by urban rural classification, with those in accessible or remote rural areas most likely to describe their neighbourhood as a very good place to live (69 per cent and 75 per cent respectively). In contrast, around half (51 per cent) of those in large urban areas rated their neighbourhood as being very good, as shown in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2: Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by Urban Rural classification**

Column percentages, 2016 data

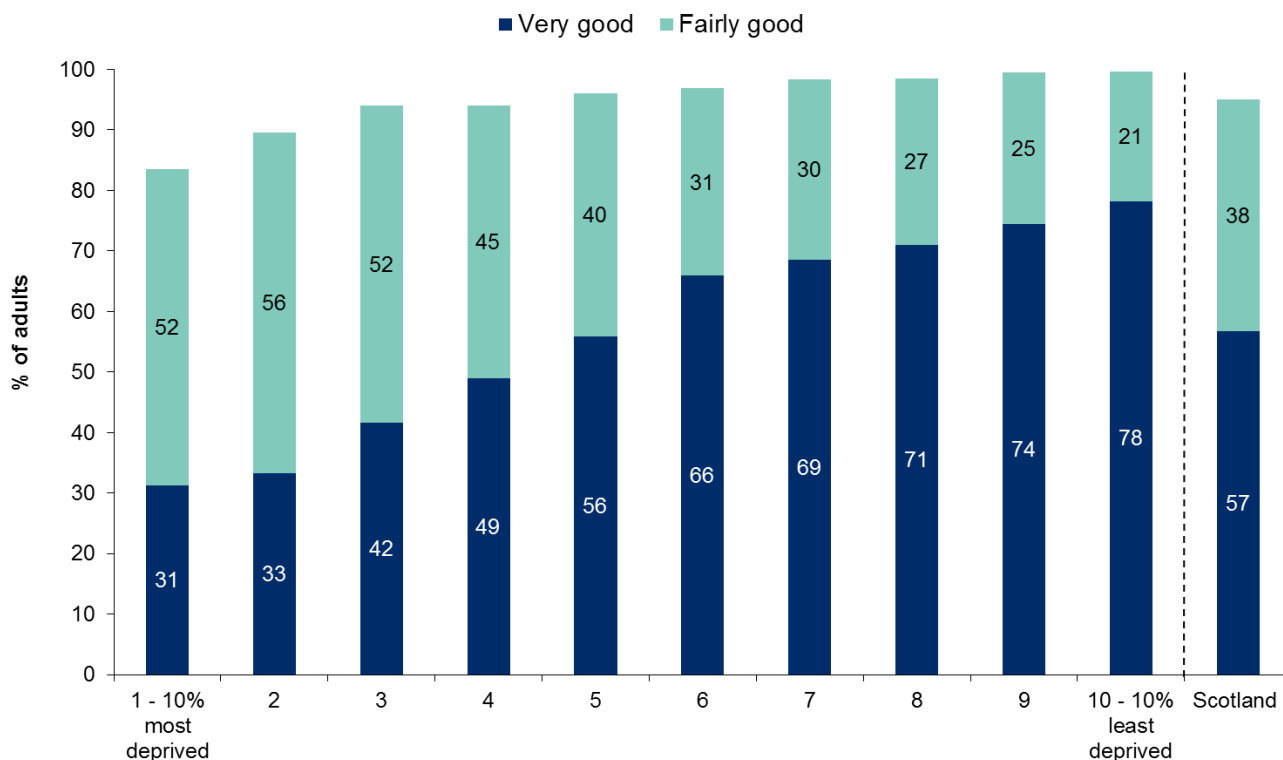
Adults	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	Scotland
<i>Very/fairly good</i>	94	94	97	97	98	97	95
Very good	51	55	60	56	69	75	57
Fairly good	43	39	37	40	29	22	38
Fairly poor	4	4	2	2	1	2	4
Very poor	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
No opinion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	2,880	3,280	930	550	1,050	960	9,640

Neighbourhood ratings also vary by deprivation<sup>39</sup>, with the proportion of adults rating their neighbourhood as a very good place to live increasing as deprivation decreases, as found consistently over recent years (see Figure 4.1).

<sup>39</sup> As defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation – see Annex 2: Glossary

**Figure 4.1: Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

2016 data, Adults (minimum base: 860)



Just over three in ten adults (31 per cent) in the 10 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live in 2016, compared to almost eight in ten (78 per cent) of those living in the 10 per cent least deprived areas. That said, the proportion of those living in the 10 per cent most deprived areas describing their neighbourhood as very good has increased from 22 per cent in 2007 meaning the gap between the most and least deprived areas has narrowed over the last decade.

#### 4.2.2 Neighbourhood Improvements

- Overall just under two-thirds of adults reported in 2016 that they thought their neighbourhood had stayed the same over the last few years.
- Perceived neighbourhood change was more likely in the most deprived areas.

Respondents were also asked whether and to what extent they thought their neighbourhood had changed in the preceding three years. Overall just under two-thirds of adults reported in 2016 that they thought their neighbourhood had stayed the same over the last few years.

However, as shown in Table 4.3 below, perceptions varied by deprivation with those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland less likely to believe that their area had

stayed the same in recent years than those in the rest of Scotland. That said, the proportion of people in the 20 per cent most deprived areas who said their neighbourhood had stayed the same did increase from 51 to 56 per cent between 2015 and 2016.

**Table 4.3: Perceptions of neighbourhood improvements in past three years by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Column percentages, 2016 data

Adults	20% most deprived	Rest of Scotland	Scotland
Got much better	5	3	3
Got a little better	13	12	12
Stayed the same	56	67	65
Got a little worse	14	10	11
Got much worse	6	3	3
Don't know	6	5	5
<i>Base</i>	<i>1,880</i>	<i>7,760</i>	<i>9,640</i>

### 4.2.3 Neighbourhood Ratings and Fear of Crime

- There is a clear association between people rating their neighbourhoods highly and feeling safe in their communities.

As discussed in section 1.3 (Comparability with Other Sources), much of the analysis in relation to perceptions and fear of crime, and confidence in the police that is published in alternative sources has been excluded from this year's report. However, the SHS questions on fear of crime uniquely enable the link between neighbourhood ratings and feelings of safety to be explored.

Table 4.4 below shows a clear association between how adults rated their neighbourhoods and how safe they felt in their communities. For example, the majority of all respondents (86 per cent) said they felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their neighbourhood. However, this was true for just over a third (35 per cent) of adults who rated their neighbourhood as a very poor place to live, compared to 87 per cent of those who rated their local area as very or fairly good.

**Table 4.4: Perceptions of safety when walking alone in the neighbourhood and in their home alone at night by rating of neighbourhood as a place to live**

Column percentages, 2016 data

Adults	Very/fairly good	Fairly poor	Very poor	No opinion	All
<b>Walking alone</b>					
Very / Fairly safe	87	55	35	*	86
Very / A bit unsafe	12	45	63	*	14
Don't Know	1	-	1	*	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>8,770</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>9,230</i>
<b>At home</b>					
Very / Fairly safe	98	89	76	*	98
Very / A bit unsafe	2	10	24	*	2
Don't Know	0	1	-	*	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>9,170</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>9,640</i>

## 4.3 Neighbourhood Problems

### 4.3.1 Perceptions of neighbourhood problems

- Continuing the trend seen over the last decade, the most prevalent issues cited in 2016 were animal nuisance (such as noise or dog fouling) and rubbish or litter lying around (which around three in ten people said was common).
- Many perceived problems have been fairly stable in recent years, although the prevalence of some has changed over the last decade. For instance, the proportion of people citing vandalism/damage to property as a common issue has halved since 2006, whilst perceived animal nuisance has increased since 2009.

As well as asking respondents about their general views on their neighbourhoods and how it has changed, the SHS also collects information on perceptions and experiences of specific neighbourhood problems, such as anti-social behaviour. As with previous years, the nine neighbourhood problems which respondents were asked about can be categorised in four key groups as shown below.

<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>	<b>Neighbour problems</b>	<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	Noisy neighbours/ loud parties	Rubbish or litter lying around	Abandoned or burnt out vehicles
Groups or individuals harassing others	Neighbour disputes	Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	
Drug misuse or dealing			
Rowdy behaviour			

Perceptions of social problems overall are outlined in Table 4.5 which shows the percentage of adults describing each issue as very or fairly common in their neighbourhood over the last 10 years.



Continuing the trend seen over the last decade, the most prevalent issues cited in 2016 were:

- Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling (which 31 per cent saw as very or fairly common); and
- Rubbish or litter lying around (which 30 per cent said was very or fairly common).



Between 2015 and 2016 there were small but statistically significant increases in the proportion of people citing rubbish lying around and abandoned or burnt out vehicles as very or fairly common issues in their area. Perceptions of all other neighbourhood problems were stable between the last two sweeps.

Many perceived problems have been fairly stable in recent years, although the prevalence of some has changed over the last decade. For instance, the proportion of people citing vandalism/damage to property as common issue halved between 2006 and 2016, whilst perceived animal nuisance has increased since 2009.

**Table 4.5: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood**

Percentages, 2006-2016 data

Adults	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>											
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	16	17	15	14	11	11	11	10	8	8	8
Groups or individual harassing others	11	12	11	10	8	8	8	7	6	6	6
Drug misuse or dealing	12	12	13	12	11	12	13	12	11	12	12
Rowdy behaviour	12	17	17	16	14	14	15	13	12	11	11
<b>Neighbour problems</b>											
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	8	9	10	10	10	10	12	11	11	10	10
Neighbour disputes	5	5	5	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>											
Rubbish or litter lying around	27	29	29	26	24	25	29	27	27	28	30
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	-	-	-	24	23	26	30	31	31	31	31
<b>Vehicles</b>											
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	-	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>14,190</i>	<i>10,390</i>	<i>9,310</i>	<i>11,400</i>	<i>11,140</i>	<i>11,280</i>	<i>9,890</i>	<i>9,920</i>	<i>9,800</i>	<i>9,410</i>	<i>9,640</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

### 4.3.2 Variation in Neighbourhood Problems

#### Deprivation

- Those living in more deprived areas were more likely to perceive neighbourhood problems as very or fairly common.

The perceived prevalence of neighbourhood problems varies by deprivation. Table 4.6 shows that those living in more deprived areas were more likely to perceive each issue to be a very or fairly common problem. For example, there is a difference between adults in the 10 per cent most and 10 per cent least deprived areas in perceptions of rubbish or litter lying around (46 per cent compared to 19 per cent), drug misuse or dealing (30 per cent compared to 3 per cent), and rowdy behaviour (23 per cent compared to 5 per cent).

**Table 4.6: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Percentages, 2016 data

Adults	10% most deprived										Scotland
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>											
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	20	13	11	9	7	4	4	3	3	4	8
Groups or individual harassing others	15	10	10	8	5	5	4	2	2	3	6
Drug misuse or dealing	30	23	19	16	10	7	6	3	3	3	12
Rowdy behaviour	23	19	17	12	12	8	5	5	6	5	11
<b>Neighbour problems</b>											
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	18	16	13	12	13	7	6	4	4	5	10
Neighbour disputes	13	10	9	7	7	5	4	3	2	3	6
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>											
Rubbish or litter lying around	46	44	39	33	31	27	23	17	18	19	30
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	43	43	41	34	31	29	27	23	22	20	31
<b>Vehicles</b>											
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	3	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Base	910	980	950	1,030	1,080	990	1,090	880	880	860	9,640

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

#### Tenure

- Neighbourhood problems are generally perceived to be more common by those who live in social rented housing.

Table 4.7 shows that neighbourhood problems are generally perceived to be more common by those who live in social rented housing compared to owner occupiers and private renters. For instance, drug misuse or dealing was most likely to be perceived to be a very or fairly common problem by those in social rented accommodation, with a quarter (25 per cent) citing it as regular issue compared to 13 per cent of those in private rented housing and 8 per cent of owner occupiers. In part, these associations further emphasise the link between social rented housing and deprivation.

**Table 4.7: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood by tenure of household**

Percentages, 2016 data

Adults	Owner occupied	Social rented	Private rented	Other	All
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>					
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	6	14	9	6	8
Groups or individual harassing others	4	12	7	6	6
Drug misuse or dealing	8	25	13	11	12
Rowdy behaviour	7	19	18	8	11
<b>Neighbour problems</b>					
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	6	19	15	8	10
Neighbour disputes	4	13	7	6	6
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>					
Rubbish or litter lying around	27	39	31	26	30
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	30	41	24	27	31
<b>Vehicles</b>					
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	1	3	2	3	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>6,050</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>1,270</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>9,640</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

## Age

- Perceptions of neighbourhood problems generally decrease with age.

Perceptions of neighbourhood problems generally decrease with age, as shown in Table 4.8 below. For example, those aged 16-24 were more likely than those aged 75 and above to view rowdy behaviour as a very or fairly common issue (reported by 18 per cent and 3 per cent respectively).

However, it should be noted that the association between age and the perceived prevalence of neighbourhood problems is not entirely linear across all of the issues considered, despite the general declining trend in reported prevalence with increasing age. For example, whilst one-quarter (25 per cent) of adults aged 16-24 reported animal nuisance (such as noise or fouling) as being very or fairly common, this was true for around a third (32 per cent) of those aged 25-34.

**Table 4.8: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood by age of respondent**

Percentages, 2016 data

Adults	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 59	60 to 74	75 plus	All
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>							
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	9	11	11	7	6	3	8
Groups or individual harassing others	8	9	8	7	4	1	6
Drug misuse or dealing	13	13	14	14	10	6	12
Rowdy behaviour	18	16	13	11	7	3	11
<b>Neighbour problems</b>							
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	14	15	11	9	6	3	10
Neighbour disputes	7	9	9	6	4	2	6
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>							
Rubbish or litter lying around	35	36	31	28	27	20	30
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	25	32	37	34	31	23	31
<b>Vehicles</b>							
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	2	3	2	1	1	0	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>730</i>	<i>1,270</i>	<i>1,480</i>	<i>2,380</i>	<i>2,450</i>	<i>1,330</i>	<i>9,640</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

### Urban/Rural area

- People living in urban areas were generally more likely to consider neighbourhood problems to be common, compared to those in rural areas.

Table 4.9 shows that adults living in urban areas were generally more likely to consider neighbourhood problems to be common, compared to those in rural areas. In particular, those living in large urban areas were generally most likely to perceive each issue as being very or fairly common, whilst those in accessible and remote rural areas tended to have the lowest levels of perceived prevalence.

Continuing the trend from recent years, the issue most commonly reported by those in large urban areas was rubbish or litter lying around (38 per cent), a problem only rated as very or fairly common by 21 per cent of those in accessible rural areas, and 14 per cent of adults living in remote rural areas.

**Table 4.9: Percentage of people saying a problem is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood by Urban Rural classification**

Percentages, 2016 data

Adults	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	Scotland
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>							
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	11	8	5	8	3	2	8
Groups or individual harassing others	9	6	5	6	4	2	6
Drug misuse or dealing	14	13	11	20	6	5	12
Rowdy behaviour	14	12	8	15	4	7	11
<b>Neighbour problems</b>							
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	13	10	8	12	4	4	10
Neighbour disputes	7	6	5	7	6	3	6
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>							
Rubbish or litter lying around	38	29	22	31	21	14	30
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	34	31	35	36	28	20	31
<b>Vehicles</b>							
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,880</i>	<i>3,280</i>	<i>930</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>1,050</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>9,640</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

Between 2015 and 2016 there were some changes in the perceived prevalence of neighbourhood problems across different areas. Most notably, there was an increase in the proportion of those living in remote small towns who perceived rubbish lying around and drug misuse or dealing to be common issues (increasing by 10 and 8 percentage points respectively).

### 4.3.3 Personal Experience of Neighbourhood Problems

- Some problems were perceived to be common by a higher percentage of the adult population than had actually experienced the issue.
- Nearly half of all adults in Scotland reported that they had experienced no neighbourhood problems in 2016, although this proportion has decreased since 2011.
- Those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas were more likely to report experiencing problems than those in the rest of Scotland.

The previous section examined perceptions of neighbourhood problems by a range of socio-demographic and geographic characteristics; this section will now focus on personal experience of neighbourhood problems.

It is important to note that it is not always necessary to have direct personal experience of an issue to know about it or perceive it as a problem in an area. For example, in the case

of vandalism, a person may not have experienced vandalism to their property, but may have seen other vandalised property in their neighbourhood.

In addition, what respondents define as “experience” is related to their own perceptions, beliefs and definitions. For instance, one respondent may consider witnessing drug dealing as experiencing the issue, whilst another respondent may only report experience of this problem if they personally have been offered drugs.

Figure 4.2 compares the perception that a neighbourhood problem is fairly or very common with reported experiences of that problem in the previous year. It is notable that some problems were perceived to be common by a higher percentage of the adult population than had actually experienced the issue (with the reverse being true of animal nuisance). For example, 12 per cent of individuals believed drug misuse or dealing was a very or fairly common problem in their neighbourhood, yet only 6 per cent of adults reported that they had personally experienced this problem. That said, the relationship between experiences and perceptions was much more evident for certain neighbourhood problems (such as issues with neighbours like noise and disputes).

**Figure 4.2: Perceptions and experience of neighbourhood problems**

2016 data, Adults (base: 9,640)

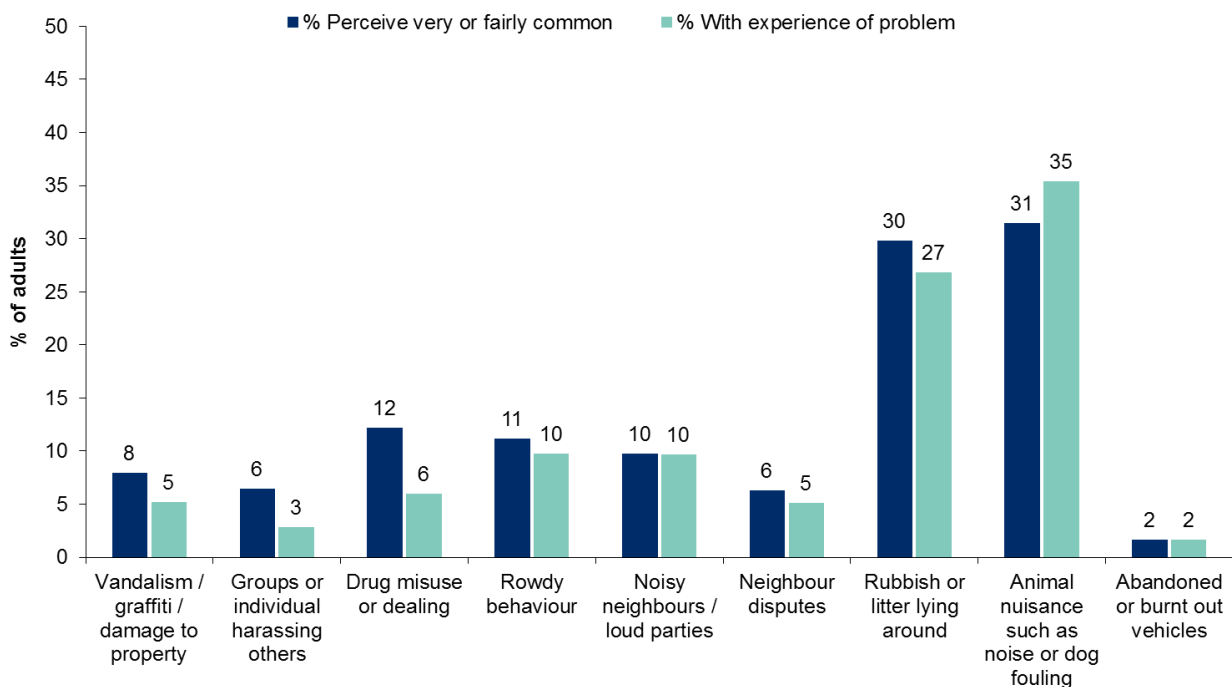


Table 4.10, Table 4.11 and Table 4.12 present the proportions of people who said that they have experienced each of the neighbourhood problems broken down by area deprivation, housing tenure and urban rural classification respectively. These show:

- 46 per cent of all adults in Scotland reported that they had experienced no neighbourhood problems in 2016, although this proportion has decreased from 58 per cent in 2011 and 49 per cent in 2015;
- Those living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas were more likely to report experiencing problems than those in the rest of Scotland;
- Adults in social rented accommodation were generally more likely than those in owner occupied and private rented house to say they had experienced neighbourhood problems; and
- People living in rural areas were the most likely to report having experienced no neighbourhood problems in the last year.

**Table 4.10: Experience of neighbourhood problems by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Percentages, 2016 data

Adults	20% most deprived	Rest of Scotland	Scotland
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>			
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	10	4	5
Groups or individual harassing others	5	2	3
Drug misuse or dealing	12	4	6
Rowdy behaviour	14	9	10
<b>Neighbour problems</b>			
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	15	8	10
Neighbour disputes	8	4	5
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>			
Rubbish or litter lying around	37	24	27
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	42	34	2
<b>Vehicles</b>			
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	2	2	35
None	36	49	46
<i>Base</i>	<i>1,880</i>	<i>7,760</i>	<i>9,640</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

**Table 4.11: Experience of neighbourhood problems by tenure of household**

Percentages, 2016 data

Adults	Owner occupied	Social rented	Private rented	Other	All
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>					
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	4	7	8	3	5
Groups or individual harassing others	2	6	3	2	3
Drug misuse or dealing	4	12	8	5	6
Rowdy behaviour	7	13	16	10	10
<b>Neighbour problems</b>					
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	6	17	15	5	10
Neighbour disputes	3	10	5	4	5
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>					
Rubbish or litter lying around	25	31	29	22	27
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	36	40	27	23	35
<b>Vehicles</b>					
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	2	2	2	4	2
None	49	39	46	61	46
<i>Base</i>	<i>6,050</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>1,270</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>9,640</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

**Table 4.12: Experience of neighbourhood problems by Urban Rural Classification**

Percentages, 2016 data

Adults	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	Scotland
<b>General anti-social behaviour</b>							
Vandalism / graffiti / damage to property	7	5	2	5	3	1	5
Groups or individual harassing others	3	2	2	4	3	2	3
Drug misuse or dealing	7	6	5	9	3	2	6
Rowdy behaviour	12	11	6	13	4	5	10
<b>Neighbour problems</b>							
Noisy neighbours / loud parties	13	10	8	11	4	3	10
Neighbour disputes	5	5	3	8	5	6	5
<b>Rubbish and fouling</b>							
Rubbish or litter lying around	33	25	19	33	21	18	27
Animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling	37	34	38	47	33	29	35
<b>Vehicles</b>							
Abandoned or burnt out vehicles	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
None	41	48	51	36	54	57	46
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,880</i>	<i>3,280</i>	<i>930</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>1,050</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>9,640</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.



## 4.4 Discrimination and Harassment

- In 2016, just over one in 20 adults reported that they had experienced either discrimination or harassment in Scotland at some point over the last three years.
- Some groups are more likely than others to report having experienced discrimination or harassment in Scotland, younger people in particular.
- A third (33 per cent) of respondents who reported that they had been discriminated against said that they believed the reason behind this was their ethnic origin.

The SHS explores whether respondents have experienced any kind of discrimination or harassment, in the last three years, whilst in Scotland. In 2016, just over one in 20 adults reported that they had experienced either discrimination (7 per cent) or harassment (6 per cent) in Scotland at some point over the last three years. At a national level, reported experiences of discrimination and harassment have been relatively stable in recent years, although the proportion of adults experiencing discrimination during the reference period decreased by 0.9 per cent between 2015 and 2016<sup>40</sup>.

As in previous years, younger adults were most likely to have experienced either discrimination or harassment over the last three years, as shown in Table 4.13 below.

**Table 4.13: Experience of discrimination and harassment by gender, age and level of deprivation**

Percentages, 2016 data

Adults	Discrimination		Harassment		Base
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	7	93	6	94	4,400
Female	7	93	7	93	5,240
<b>Age</b>					
16 to 24	10	90	10	90	730
25 to 34	9	91	8	92	1,270
35 to 44	8	92	8	92	1,480
45 to 59	6	94	6	94	2,380
60 to 74	4	96	4	96	2,450
75+	1	99	1	99	1,330
<b>Deprivation</b>					
20% Most Deprived	8	92	8	92	1,880
Rest of Scotland	6	94	6	94	7,760
All	7	93	6	94	9,640

<sup>40</sup> Although this is not shown by the rounded figures, discrimination was reported by 7.45 per cent in 2015 and 6.58 per cent in 2016.

Table 4.14 displays the proportion of adults experiencing discrimination or harassment by a further range of demographic breakdowns: sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, and whether the individual has a long term physical or mental health condition which has (or is expected to) last at least 12 months. It highlights that some groups are more likely than others to report having experienced discrimination or harassment in the last three years in Scotland (although small base sizes for some groups – such as ‘gay/lesbian/bisexual’ - means that estimates can have relatively large degrees of uncertainty around them and should therefore be interpreted with caution).

**Table 4.14: Experiences of discrimination and harassment by sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion and long term physical/mental health condition**

Row percentages, 2016 data<sup>41</sup>

Adults	Discrimination		Harassment		Base
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>					
Heterosexual/Straight	6	94	6	94	9,450
Gay/Lesbian/ Bisexual	15	85	17	83	120
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
White	6	94	6	94	9,370
Other minority ethnic group	18	82	14	86	270
<b>Religion</b>					
None	6	94	6	94	4,630
Church of Scotland	4	96	4	96	2,670
Roman Catholic	9	91	7	93	1,280
Other Christian	12	88	9	91	820
Another religion	18	82	11	89	240
<b>Long term physical/mental health condition</b>					
Yes	9	91	9	91	3,330
No	6	94	5	95	6,280
All	7	93	6	94	9,640

Between 2015 and 2016, the proportion of adults with a long-term health condition experiencing discrimination in the previous three years decreased from 11 per cent to nine per cent. Experiences of discrimination over this period have also decreased amongst heterosexual adults, those of white ethnicity and people with no religion since 2015. On the other hand, the proportion of those in the ‘other Christian’ category reporting that they had been discriminated against during the last three years increased between 2015 and 2016.

Reported experiences of harassment were stable across all groups between the 2015 and 2016 surveys.

<sup>41</sup> Caution around the precision and significance of findings should be exercised when interpreting percentages with a base number less than 100 as results derived from a relatively small number of individuals have large margins of error around them and are subject to large fluctuations based on the experiences of only a few people. This is particularly important when considering trends over time or comparing experiences of different population groups.

It is important to note that Table 4.13 and Table 4.14 do not show the reasons behind experiences of discrimination and harassment, which can be but are not necessarily related to the equality characteristics presented.

To explore this issue, adults who reported that they had experienced harassment or discrimination were asked what they think might have motivated this. Respondents were asked to provide spontaneous responses to these questions and where possible, the interviewer coded these answers into one of the main categories shown in Table 4.15 (e.g. age, disability, gender, and so on). As there were a wide range of options which adults could have provided (and the fact multiple reasons could be given), it was not possible to code every potential type of response in advance, which has resulted in high levels of ‘other’ reasons being recorded.

Table 4.15 shows that a third (33 per cent) of respondents who had been discriminated against believed the reason behind this was their ethnic origin. Aside from ‘other’ reasons, the next most common motivating factors were said to be the respondent’s age, disability or gender.

Of those who had experienced harassment, around a fifth cited their ethnic group as the perceived reason, with ‘other reasons’ being the most common response (39 per cent).

**Table 4.15: Reasons for discrimination and harassment**

Percentages, 2016 data

Adults	Discrimination	Harassment
Age	14	7
Disability	11	8
Gender	10	13
Ethnic group	33	19
Religion	7	5
Sexual orientation	5	4
Sectarian reasons	6	3
Other	15	39
Don't know	3	7
Refused	1	0
<i>Base</i>	<i>570</i>	<i>530</i>

Columns may not add to 100 per cent since multiple responses were allowed.

As in previous years, those who had experienced harassment or discrimination were more likely to say that they feel very or a bit unsafe walking in their local neighbourhood or at home late at night as shown in Table 4.16<sup>42</sup>.

<sup>42</sup> Following the approach in the 2015 SHS report, much of the analysis in relation to perceptions and fear of crime, and confidence in the police that is published in alternative sources has been excluded from this year’s report. However, this section does make use of the fear of crime questions as an analytical variable to provide breakdowns on experiences of harassment and discrimination as these are not available in alternative sources – see 1.3 Comparability with Other Sources for more detail.

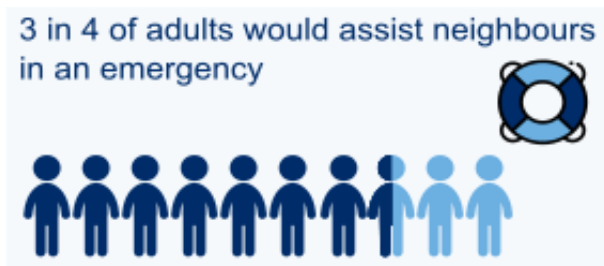
**Table 4.16: Perceptions of safety when walking alone in the neighbourhood and in their home alone at night by experience of discrimination and harassment**

Column percentages, 2016 data

	Have experienced harassment	Have not experienced harassment	Have experienced discrimination	Have not experienced discrimination	All
<b>Adults</b>					
<b>Walking alone</b>					
Very / Fairly safe	71	87	76	86	86
Very / A bit unsafe	29	13	23	13	14
Don't Know	0	1	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>510</i>	<i>8,710</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>8,680</i>	<i>9,230</i>
<b>At home</b>					
Very / Fairly safe	93	98	93	98	98
Very / A bit unsafe	7	2	6	2	2
Don't Know	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>530</i>	<i>9,110</i>	<i>570</i>	<i>9,070</i>	<i>9,640</i>

## 4.5 Community Engagement and Resilience

- Over three-quarters of adults felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood in 2016, a finding which has been very stable in recent years.
- The sense of belonging to their community is stronger amongst older people, and also varies by gender, ethnic group and deprivation.
- The vast majority of adults in Scotland reported that they would help their neighbours in an emergency and are also positive about the ability to call on others around them for support if need be.



### 4.5.1 Community Engagement

The SHS also seeks to explore how strongly adults feel that they belong to their immediate neighbourhood. Table 4.17 shows that 77 per cent of adults felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood in 2016, a finding which has been very stable in recent years.

However, whilst the majority of those in all categories shown said that they felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging, it is important to note the variation in feelings by gender, age, ethnic background and deprivation. For example, almost nine in ten adults (87 per cent) aged 75 and above said they felt a very or fairly strong sense of belonging to their community, compared to around seven in ten (71 per cent) of those aged between 16 and 24.

**Table 4.17: Strength of feeling of belonging to community by gender, age, ethnicity and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**

Row percentages, 2016 data

Adults	Very strongly	Fairly strongly	Not very strongly	Not at all strongly	Don't know	Total	Base
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	33	43	18	6	1	100	4,400
Female	37	42	15	5	1	100	5,240
<b>Age</b>							
16-24	29	42	21	7	2	100	730
25-34	23	44	23	9	2	100	1,270
35-44	28	45	19	7	1	100	1,480
45-59	36	43	16	4	0	100	2,380
60-74	43	43	10	4	0	100	2,450
75+	54	33	9	3	1	100	1,330
<b>Ethnicity</b>							
White	35	42	16	5	1	100	9,370
Minority Ethnic Groups	21	43	25	7	4	100	270
<b>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation</b>							
20% Most Deprived Areas	29	44	18	8	1	100	1,880
Rest of Scotland	36	42	16	5	1	100	7,760
All	35	42	16	5	1	100	9,640

Table 4.18 highlights that the vast majority of adults in Scotland reported that they would help their neighbours in an emergency and are also positive about the ability to call on others around them for support if need be, offering a slightly different perspective of community engagement.

**Table 4.18: Involvement with other people in the neighbourhood**

Row percentages, 2016 data

Adults	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Base
Could rely on friends/relatives in neighbourhood for help	67	23	4	4	2	9,640
Could rely on friends/relatives in neighbourhood to look after home	70	21	4	4	2	9,640
Could turn to friends/relatives in neighbourhood for advice or	63	23	6	5	3	9,640
Would offer help to neighbours in an emergency	75	19	4	2	1	9,640

## Conclusion

This chapter has explored people's perceptions of their neighbourhoods and communities in Scotland. It has shown that the vast majority of adults in Scotland view their neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live. However, there is a large gap in neighbourhood ratings between those living in the most and least deprived areas, although the gap is narrowing over time.