



Living in Lancashire Survey

Health Inequalities

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Executive summary

This wave of the Living in Lancashire panel dealt with health inequalities. The survey was sent by email or by post to all 3,136 members of the panel on 14 November and the fieldwork ended on 7 December 2012. In total 1,496 questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 48%.

1.1 Key findings

- Almost four-fifths of all respondents (79%) say they have lived in their local area for ten years or more. Over one-fifth of respondents (21%) have lived in their local area for between one and ten years.
- Four-fifths of respondents (80%) feel strongly that they belong to their immediate neighbourhood. Three-quarters of respondents (75%) feel that they strongly belong to their local area.
- Seven out of every ten respondents (70%) feel that they strongly belong to Lancashire. However, over a quarter of respondents (26%) do not feel strongly that they belong to Lancashire, with one out of every twenty respondents (5%) feeling that they don't belong at all to Lancashire.
- Almost three-quarters of respondents (74%) say people not treating each other with respect and consideration isn't a very big problem or not a problem at all.
- Over two-thirds of respondents (68%) rate their health as good or very good.
- Almost one out of every ten respondents (8%) is finding it very difficult on their present income.
- Over one-fifth of respondents (22%) have quite often been worried about money during the last few weeks with over one in every ten respondents (13%) having been worried almost all the time.
- Just over one in twenty respondents (6%) are financially better off compared to a year ago. Over half of respondents (52%) are financially worse off compared to a year ago.

1.2 Conclusions and recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Further research is undertaken in the next wave to explore the financial inequality findings
- These findings are used for Lancashire County Council's project work with Marmot Review Team. This project aims to identify ways to reduce health inequalities in Lancashire and put these into practice.
- These findings are used in the health inequalities JSNA refresh, specifically the local summaries.
- Further research should be undertaken to gain a greater understanding of healthy lifestyles, attitudes to health and wellbeing and health behaviours.

Introduction

Lancashire County Council has used Living in Lancashire regularly since August 2001 (formerly known as Life in Lancashire). A panel of willing participants is recruited and is approached on a regular basis to seek their views on a range of topics and themes. Panel members are voluntary participants in the research they complete and no incentives are given for completion.

The panel has been designed to be a representative cross-section of the county's population. The results for each survey are weighted in order to reflect the demographic profile of the county's population.

The panel provides access to a sufficiently large sample of the population so that reliable results can be reported at a county wide level. It also provides data at a number of sub-area and sub-group levels.

Each wave of Living in Lancashire is themed. Firstly, it enables sufficient coverage on a particular topic to be able to provide insight into that topic. And secondly, it comes across better to the residents completing the questionnaires if there is a clear theme (or 2-3 clear themes) within each survey.

The panel is refreshed periodically. New members are recruited to the panel and some current members are retired on a random basis. This means that the panel remains fresh and is not subject to conditioning ie the views of panel members become too informed with county council services to be representative of the population as a whole.

Research objectives

The objective of this survey is to look at people's views on health inequalities in Lancashire. Questions looked specifically at:

- views about their immediate neighbourhood, the local area and Lancashire;
- personal health and;
- household income.

Methodology

This wave of Living in Lancashire research was sent to 3,136 members of the panel on 14 November with a final closing date of 7 December 2012.

The survey was conducted through a postal questionnaire, and an online version of the same questionnaire being emailed to members who had previously requested to take part online. The postal questionnaire was sent to 2,211 members and the online questionnaire was sent to 925 members.

In total 1,496 questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 48%.

All data are weighted by age, ethnicity and district to reflect the Lancashire overall population, and figures are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. The weighted responses have been scaled to match the effective response of 957, which is the equivalent size of the data if it had not been weighted and was a perfect random sample.

4.1 Limitations

The table below shows the sample tolerances that apply to the results in this survey. Sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample as well as the percentage results.

Number of respondents	50/50 + / -	30/70 + / -	10/90 + / -
50	14%	13%	8%
100	10%	9%	6%
200	7%	6%	4%
500	4%	4%	3%
1,000	3%	3%	2%
2,000	2%	2%	1%

On a question where 50% of the people in a sample of 1,000 respond with a particular answer, the chances are 95 out of 100 that the answer would be between 47% and 53% (ie +/- 3%), versus a complete coverage of the entire Lancashire population using the same procedure.

The following table shows what the percentage differences between two samples on a statistic must be greater than, to be statistically significant.

Size of sample A	Size of sample B	50/50	70/30	90/10
100	100	14%	13%	8%
100	200	12%	11%	7%
500	1,000	5%	5%	3%
2,000	2,000	3%	3%	2%

(Confidence interval at 95% certainty for a comparison of two samples)

For example, where the size of sample A and sample B is 2,000 responses in each and the percentage result in each group you are comparing is around 50% in each category, the difference in the results needs to be more than 3% to be statistically significant. This is to say that the difference in the results of the two groups of people is not due to chance alone and is a statistically valid difference (eg of opinion, service usage).

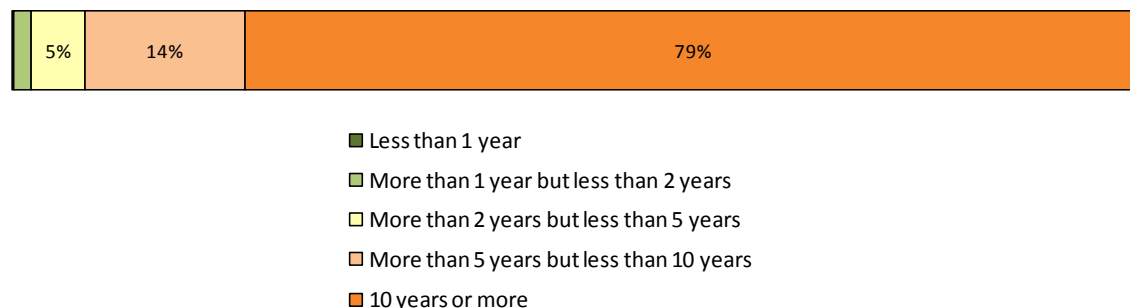
For each question in the survey, comparisons have been made between different sub-groups of respondents (eg age, gender, disability, ethnicity, geographic area) to look for statistically significant differences in opinion. Statistically valid differences between sub-groups are described in the main body of the report.

In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

5. Main research findings

Respondents were first asked how long they have lived in their local area. Over a fifth of respondents (21%) have lived in their local area for less than ten years.

Chart 1 - How many years have you lived in this local area?



Base: All respondents (unweighted 1,484, weighted 991)

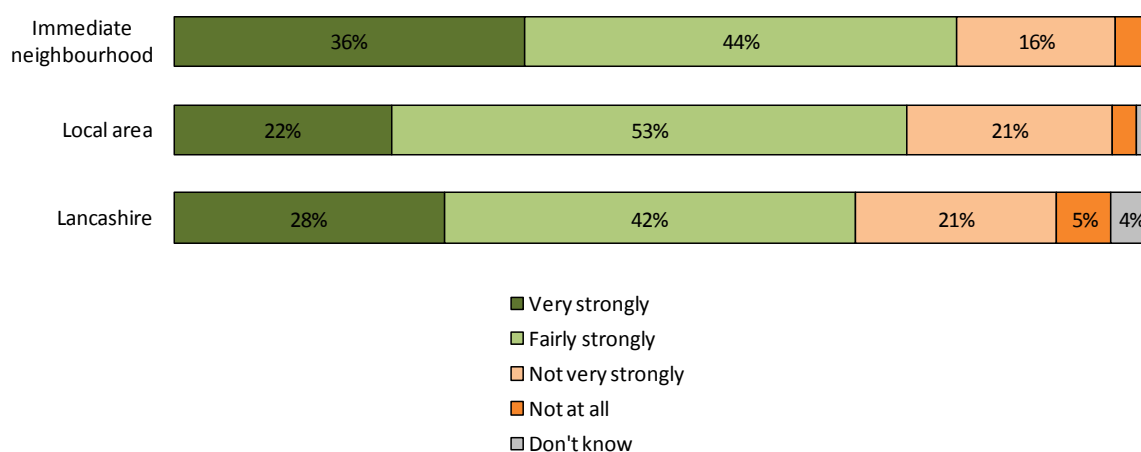
Respondents in full time work (28%) are more likely to have lived in their local area for between one and ten years.

Respondents were asked how strongly they feel they belong to their immediate neighbourhood, their local area and Lancashire. Four-fifths of respondents (80%) feel strongly that they belong to their immediate neighbourhood, with almost two-fifths (36%) feeling very strongly that they belong.

Three-quarters of respondents (75%) feel that they strongly belong to their local area.

Seven out of every ten respondents (70%) feel that they strongly belong to Lancashire. However, over a quarter of respondents (26%) do not feel strongly that they belong to Lancashire, with one out of every twenty respondents (5%) feeling that they don't belong at all to Lancashire.

Chart 2 - How strongly do you feel you belong to your immediate neighbourhood, your local area and Lancashire?



Base: All respondents (unweighted 1,428-1,450, weighted 959-996)

Respondents from Burnley (25%) are less likely to feel very strongly that they belong to their immediate neighbourhood.

Respondents who work full time (18%), respondents from Pendle (14%) and respondents who have lived less than five years in their local area (10%) are less likely to feel very strongly that they belong to their local area.

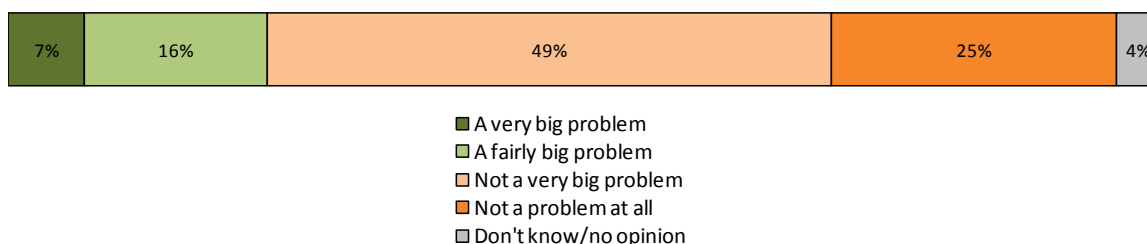
Respondents with children in their household (21%) and respondents from Pendle (18%) are less likely to feel very strongly that they belong to Lancashire.

Respondents aged over 60 are more likely to feel very strongly that they belong to their immediate neighbourhood (44%), their local area (30%), and to Lancashire (36%).

Respondents were then asked how much of a problem there is in their local area with people not treating each other with respect and consideration. Almost three-quarters of respondents (74%) think it's not a very big problem or not a problem at all.

Less than a quarter of respondents (23%) think that people not treating each other with respect and consideration in their local area is a big problem with less than one out of every ten respondents (7%) think it is a very big problem.

Chart 3 - In your local area, how much of a problem do you think there is with people not treating each other with respect and consideration?



Base: All Respondents (unweighted 1488, weighted 995)

BME respondents (15%) are more likely to think that people not treating each other with respect and consideration in their local area is a very big problem.

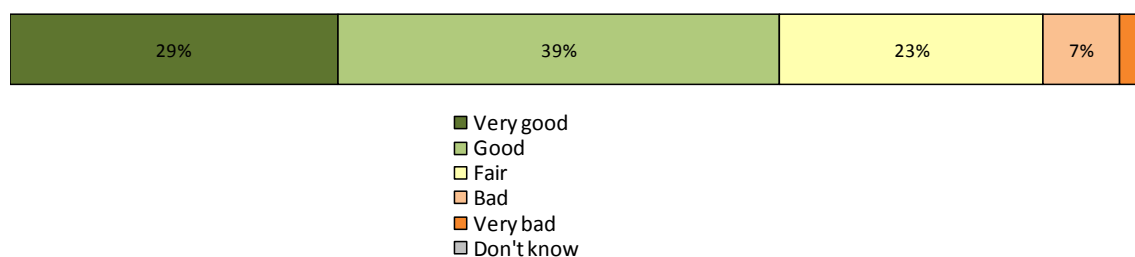
Respondents who live in council or house association housing (11%), or live in housing other than owned housing (14%), are more likely to think that people not treating each other with respect and consideration in their local area is a very big problem.

Respondents who live in the Ribble Valley (47%) are more likely to think that people not treating each other with respect and consideration in their local area is not a problem at all.

All respondents were then asked about how their health is in general. Over two-thirds of respondents (68%) rate their health as good or very good.

Less than one in every ten respondents (9%) rate their health as bad or very bad.

Chart 4 - How is your health in general? Would you say it is...



Base: All Respondents (unweighted 1491, weighted 1000)

Respondents who live in council or housing association housing (40%) or in other housing that they don't own (48%) are less likely to say their health is good or very good.

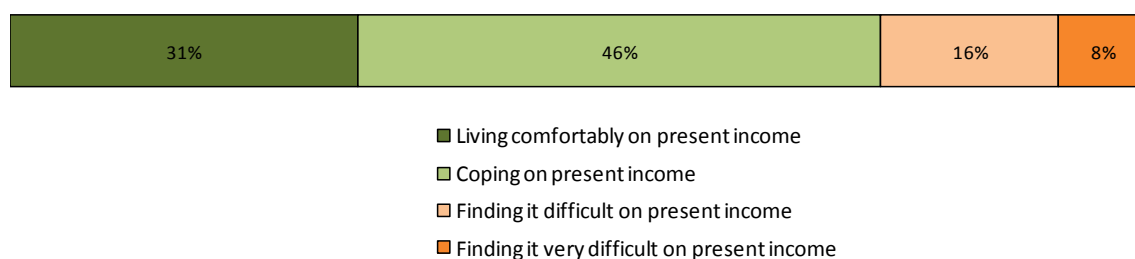
Respondents in Hyndburn (11%) are less likely to say their health is very good.

Respondents were asked to describe the way they are feeling about their household income. Over three-tenths of respondents (31%) are living comfortably on their present income.

Almost half of respondents (46%) are coping on their present income.

Almost one out of every ten respondents (8%) are finding it very difficult on their present income.

Chart 5 - Which of these phrases comes closest to describing your feeling about your household income these days?



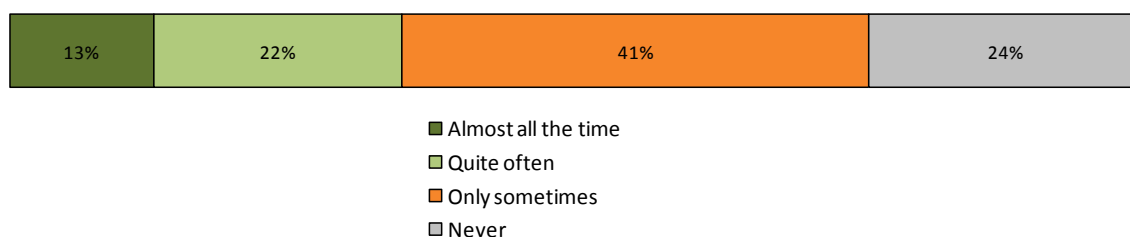
Base: All Respondents (unweighted 1488, weighted 998)

BME respondents (44%) are more likely to be either finding it difficult or very difficult on their present income.

Respondents were asked if they had been worried about money during the last few weeks. More than one in every ten respondents (13%) have been worried almost all the time.

Only just under a quarter of respondents (24%) having never been worried about money in the last few weeks.

Chart 6 - How often would you say you have been worried about money during the last few weeks?



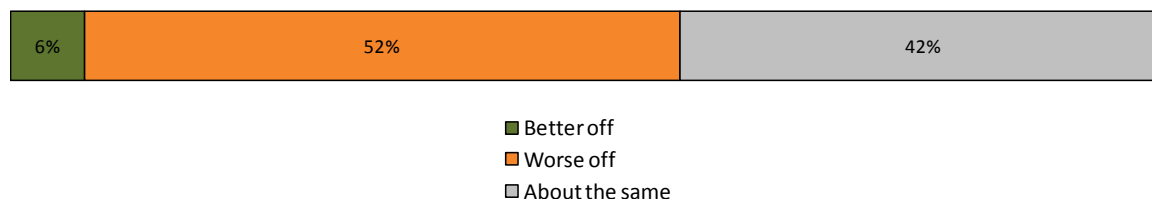
Base: All Respondents (unweighted 1479, weighted 993)

Respondents from Burnley (25%) are more likely to have been worried by money almost all the time in the last few weeks.

Of those respondents who are finding it very difficult on their present income, just less than nine out of every ten (87%) have been worried about money almost all the time in the last few weeks.

Only just more than one in twenty respondents (6%) are financially better off than when compared to a year ago, with over half of respondents (52%) financially worse off than a year ago.

Chart 7 - Compared to a year ago, would you say that financially you are currently...?



Base: All respondents (unweighted 1482, weighted 992)

Respondents in the age group 25-44 (10%) are more likely to be financially better off than a year ago.

Respondents who live in council or house association housing (41%) are less likely to be financially worse off than a year ago.

Respondents from Burnley (76%) are more likely to be financially worse off than a year ago.

Of those respondents who are finding it very difficult on their present income, over four-fifths (83%) are worse off than a year ago.

Conclusions and recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Further research is undertaken in the next wave to explore the financial inequality findings
- These findings are used for Lancashire County Council's project work with Marmot Review Team. This project aims to identify ways to reduce health inequalities in Lancashire and put these into practice.
- These findings are used in the health inequalities JSNA refresh, specifically the local summaries.
- Further research should be undertaken to gain a greater understanding of healthy lifestyles, attitudes to health and wellbeing and health behaviours.

Appendix 1: Socio-Economic-Group Definitions

These groups are based on Market Research Society definitions and on the respondent. They are graded as A, B, C1, C2, D and E.

Group A

- Professional people, very senior managers in business or commerce or top-level civil servants
- Retired people, previously grade A, and their widows

Group B

- Middle management executives in large organisations, with appropriate qualifications
- Principle officers in local government and civil service
- Top management or owners of small business concerns, educational and service establishments
- Retired people, previously grade B, and their widows

Group C1

- Junior management, owners of small establishments, and all others in non-manual positions
- Jobs in this group have very varied responsibilities and educational requirements
- Retired people, previously grade C1, and their widows

Group C2

- All skilled manual workers, and those manual workers with responsibility for other people
- Retired people, previously grade C2, with pensions from their job
- Widows, if receiving pensions from their late partner's job

Group D

- All semi skilled and unskilled manual workers, and apprentices and trainees to skilled workers
- Retired people, previously grade D, with pensions from their late job
- Widows, if receiving pensions from their late partner's job

Group E

- All those entirely dependent on the state long term, through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons
- Those unemployed for a period exceeding six months (otherwise classified on previous occupation)
- Casual workers and those without a regular income