

Group II. The neighbourhood

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Keywords: Neighbourhood – satisfaction with,
Neighbours – social support,
Neighbourhood as a stressor,
Neighbourhood noise,
Victimisation,
Polluted neighbourhood.

Questionnaires used: birth file, A, C, F, G, H, K, PA.

The data are linked with information on maternal age (MZ028b) socio-economic group (NS-SEC) (C756a, C766a) and ethnic origins (C800a, C804). See ALSPAC main documentation for details.

Data set: All mothers enrolled in the study during pregnancy or shortly after delivery regardless of outcome (n = 14541).

II.1 Background

Although it is popular to use geographic information systems (GIS) linked to census data to categorise the area in which an individual lives in terms of the proportion unemployed, owning a car, single parents etc., the individual's own assessment of the neighbourhood provides a different perspective.

ALSPAC aimed to collect information concerning the parents' satisfaction with the neighbourhood, their perception of its attributes, as well as the ways in which they interacted with their neighbours. The questions largely used those from the major national cohort studies, particularly the 1970 Birth Cohort. At the request of the UK Home Office the study used victimisation questions that had been in the 16 year follow up of the 1970 British Cohort [<http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/bcs70/l33229.asp>].

II.2 Satisfaction with the neighbourhood

What do you think of neighbourhood as a place to live?

a very good place to live
a fairly good place to live
not a very good place to live
not at all a good place to live

[Where more than 1 box ticked, the highest code was chosen]

Questionnaire (question no.):
 A (F1a), F (J2), G (J2), H (K2), K (G2), PA (A5a)

Table II.2: Satisfaction with neighbourhood						
Satisfaction	Pregnancy Mother A600	8 months F900	21 months G860	33 months H778	5 years K7020	Pregnancy Partner PA009
Very good	5369	4894	4575	4490	4592	3098
Fairly good	6698	5387	5000	4564	3954	4730
Not very good	806	662	508	411	280	519
Not at all good	268	211	137	104	82	128
VALID TOTAL	13141	11154	10220	9569	8908	8475

II.3 Interaction with parents

Do the other people in your neighbourhood:

No, never Rarely Sometimes Often Always

i) visit your home
ii) argue with you
iii) look after your children
iv) keep to themselves

(Absence of positive response was coded to never;)
 [where more than 1 box ticked, the lowest code was chosen]

(a) visit your home

Questionnaire (question no.):

A (F1bi), F (J1ai), G (J1ai), H (K1ai), K (G1ai), PA (A5bi)

Table II.3a: Frequency with which neighbours visit the home						
Frequency	Pregnancy Mother A601	8 months F890	21 months G850	33 months H770	5 years K7000	Pregnancy Partner PA010
Never	3102	1895	1659	1347	877	1620
Rarely	3035	2004	1953	1855	1616	2445
Sometimes	4904	4602	4436	3931	4184	3170
Often	2057	2241	1967	2116	1878	1037
Always	347	401	188	314	335	143
VALID TOTAL	13445	11143	10203	9563	8890	8415

(b) argue with you

Questionnaire (question no.):

A (F1bii), F (J1aii), G (J1aii), H (K1aii), K (G1aii), PA (A5bii)

Table II.3b: Frequency with which neighbours argue with the parent						
Frequency	Pregnancy Mother A602	8 months F891	21 months G851	33 months H771	5 years K7001	Pregnancy Partner PA011
Never	10897	9866	9041	8185	7275	6220
Rarely	1848	955	897	1055	1261	1670
Sometimes	597	249	214	257	283	427
Often	51	26	24	23	22	42
Always	52	17	15	15	6	19
VALID TOTAL	13445	11113	10191	9535	8847	8378

(c) look after your children

Questionnaire (question no.):

A (F1biii), F (J1aiii), G (J1aiii), H (K1aiii), K (G1aiii), PA (A5biii)

Table II.3c: Frequency with which neighbours look after the children						
Frequency	Pregnancy Mother A603	8 months F892	21 months G852	33 months H772	5 years K7002	Pregnancy Partner PA012
Never	9540	7059	5631	4738	3694	5795
Rarely	1253	1744	1839	1840	1737	870
Sometimes	2241	2101	2444	2595	3004	1519
Often	384	197	240	354	397	275
Always	27	14	46	28	36	15
VALID TOTAL	13445	11115	10200	9555	8868	8474

(d) keep to themselves

Questionnaire (question no.)

A (F1biv), F (J1aiv), G (J1aiv), H (K1aiv), K (G1aiv), PA (A5biv)

Frequency	Pregnancy Mother A604	8 months F893	21 months G853	33 months H773	5 years K7003	Pregnancy Partner PA013
Never	1352	888	810	670	441	368
Rarely	1178	1206	1156	1119	1047	722
Sometimes	4045	3542	3536	3483	3685	2695
Often	4233	3578	3642	3061	2794	3255
Always	2637	1838	963	1163	797	1331
VALID TOTAL	13445	11052	10107	9496	8764	8371

Do you:

No, never Rarely Sometimes Often Always

- v) *visit the home of your neighbours*
- vi) *argue with your neighbours*
- vii) *look after your neighbours children*
- viii) *keep to yourself*

(Absence of positive response was coded to never;
[where more than 1 box ticked, the lowest code was taken])

- (e) visit the home of your neighbours

Questionnaire (question no.):

A (F1ci), F (J1bi), G (J1bi), H (K1bi), K (G1bi), PA (A5ci)

Frequency	Pregnancy Mother A605	8 months F895	21 months G855	33 months H774	5 years K7010	Pregnancy Partner PA014
Never	3795	2501	2104	1745	1233	2384
Rarely	3107	2296	2237	2020	1924	2785
Sometimes	4854	4616	4343	4110	4260	2675
Often	1473	1536	1410	1505	1320	534
Always	216	193	113	177	160	53
VALID TOTAL	13445	11142	10207	9557	8897	8431

- (f) *argue with your neighbours*

Questionnaire (question no.):

A (F1cii) F (J1bii) G (J1bii) H (K1bii) K (G1bii) PA (A5cii)

Frequency	Pregnancy Mother A606	8 months F896	21 months G856	33 months H775	5 years K7011	Pregnancy Partner PA015
Never	11382	10070	9183	8374	7512	6479
Rarely	1508	815	801	927	1098	1495
Sometimes	479	207	182	218	237	368
Often	46	15	15	14	12	38
Always	30	13	11	17	7	13
VALID TOTAL	13445	11120	10192	9550	8866	8393

(g) look after your neighbours children

Questionnaire (question no.):

A (F1ciii), F (J1biii), G (J1biii), H (K1biii), K (G1biii), PA (A5ciii)

Frequency	Pregnancy Mother A607	8 months F897	21 months G857	33 months H776	5 years K7012	Pregnancy Partner PA016
Never	9222	7199	6005	5008	3801	5984
Rarely	1358	1386	1471	1472	1473	959
Sometimes	2501	2225	2437	2671	3130	1157
Often	323	282	259	370	434	142
Always	41	22	10	23	22	8
VALID TOTAL	13445	11114	10182	9544	8860	8250

(h) keep to yourself

Questionnaire (question no.):

A (F1civ), F (J1biv), G (J1biv), H (K1biv), K (G1biv), PA (A5civ)

Frequency	Pregnancy Mother A608	8 months F898	21 months G858	33 months H777	5 years K7013	Pregnancy Partner PA017
Never	1572	1201	1129	968	753	480
Rarely	1146	1150	1133	1143	1138	669
Sometimes	4191	3776	3723	3628	3590	2786
Often	3733	3177	3126	2595	2456	2894
Always	2803	1755	1008	1177	848	1558
VALID TOTAL	13445	11059	10119	9511	8785	8387

II.4 Problems in your neighbourhood

How worried are you that in your neighbourhood:

<i>Very worried</i>	<i>Fairly worried</i>	<i>No very worried</i>	<i>Not at all worried</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
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- you might have your home broken into and something stolen*
- you might be mugged or robbed*
- you might be sexually assaulted or pestered*
- you might have your home or property damaged by vandals*

[Unless all items were omitted, a blank was recoded to 4.]

(a) you might have your home broken into and something stolen

Questionnaire (question no.):
A (F2a), PA (A6a)

Table II.4a: Worries about home being broken into

Variable no.	Very worried	Fairly worried	Not very worried	Not at all worried	TOTAL VALID
A620	776	3408	6552	2265	13001
PA020	461	2417	4213	1281	8372

(b) you might be mugged or robbed

Questionnaire (question no.):
A (F2b), PA (A6b)

Table II.4b: Worries that may be mugged or robbed

Variable no.	Very worried	Fairly worried	Not very worried	Not at all worried	TOTAL VALID
A621	372	1520	6511	4598	13001
PA021	116	521	3461	4239	8337

(c) you might be sexually assaulted or pestered

Questionnaire (question no.):
A (F2c), PA (A6c)

Table II.4c: Worries that may be sexually assaulted

Variable no.	Very worried	Fairly worried	Not very worried	Not at all worried	TOTAL VALID
A622	403	1432	6341	4825	13001
PA022	76	190	1640	6393	8299

(d) you might have your home or property damaged by vandals

Questionnaire (question no.):
A (F2d), PA (A6d)

Table II.4d: Worries that home might be vandalised

Variable no.	Very worried	Fairly worried	Not very worried	Not at all worried	TOTAL VALID
A623	574	2166	6191	4070	13001
PA023	320	1702	3972	2365	8359

Here is a list of some things that can be a problem in people's homes or in the neighbourhood. How much of a problem are the following for you and your family?

Serious problem Minor problem Not a problem No opinion

Noise from other homes
 Noise from outside in the street
 Rubbish or litter dumped around your neighbourhood
 Dog dirt on pavements/walkways
 Worry about vandalism
 Worry about burglaries
 Worry about muggings or attacks
 Disturbance from teenagers or youths
 Other problems (please describe)

[If more than 1 box ticked, the one with the lower code was taken]

[The G files did not include the 'Other problems' question. For the H and K files, the text answers were perused – if the description differed from the previous questions, they were coded. These codes are not included here]

(e) Noise from other homes

Questionnaire (question no.):
 G (F26d), H (F23d), K (E18d)

Table II.4e: The problem of noise from other homes

Variable no.	Serious problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	No opinion	TOTAL VALID
G488	307	2106	7621	180	10214
H357	261	1867	7300	106	9536 ^a
K5213	171	1475	7081	167	8896 ^a

^a includes 2 with severity unstated

(f) Noise from outside in the street

Questionnaire (question no.):
 G (F26e), H (F23e), K (E18e)

Table II.4f: The problem of noise from the street

Variable no.	Serious problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	No opinion	TOTAL VALID
G489	306	2627	7138	146	10217
H358	273	2433	6746	73	9527 ^a
K5214	192	1931	6637	137	8905 ^b

^a includes 2 with severity unstated; ^b includes 8 with severity unstated

(g) Rubbish or litter dumped around your neighbourhood

Questionnaire (question no.):
 G (F26f), H (F23f), K (E18f)

Table II.4g: The problem of rubbish in the neighbourhood

Variable no.	Serious problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	No opinion	TOTAL VALID
G490	364	1693	7987	173	10217
H359	307	1668	7447	111	9534 ^a
K5215	180	1342	7203	179	8906 ^b

^a includes 1 with severity unstated; ^b includes 2 with severity unstated

(h) Dog dirt on pavements/walkways

Questionnaire (question no.):
G (F26g), H (F23g), K (E18g)

Table II.4h: The problem of dog dirt in the neighbourhood

Variable no.	Serious problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	No opinion	TOTAL VALID
G491	1619	3830	4641	129	10219
H360	1551	3770	4139	79	9539
K5216	1312	3415	4058	124	8909

(i) Worry about vandalism

Questionnaire (question no.):
G (F26h), H (F23h), K (E18h)

Table II.4i: The problem of vandalism in the neighbourhood

Variable no.	Serious problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	No opinion	TOTAL VALID
G492	557	2596	6898	162	10213
H361	401	2394	6616	117	9529 ^a
K5217	266	1961	6514	151	8893 ^a

^a includes 1 with unstated severity

(j) Worries about burglaries

Questionnaire (question no.):
G (F26i), H (F23i), K (E18i)

Table II.4j: The problem of burglaries in the neighbourhood

Variable no.	Serious problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	No opinion	TOTAL VALID
G493	1401	5466	3217	112	10196
H362	1050	4836	3541	97	9525 ^a
K5218	721	4215	3838	134	8908

^a includes 1 with unstated severity

(k) Worries about muggings or attacks

Questionnaire (question no.):
G (F26j), H (F23j), K (E18j)

Table II.4k: The problem of mugging in the neighbourhood

Variable no.	Serious problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	No opinion	TOTAL VALID
G494	496	2589	6953	148	10186
H363	351	2134	6905	140	9531 ^a
K5219	241	1662	6806	189	8899 ^a

^a includes 1 with unstated severity

(l) Disturbance from teenagers or youths

Questionnaire (question no.):
G (F26k), H (F23k), K (E18k)

Table II.4l: The problems of teenagers in the neighbourhood

Variable no.	Serious problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	No opinion	TOTAL VALID
G495	399	2329	7315	150	10193
H364	311	2085	7002	126	9527 ^a
K5520	215	1863	6666	158	8902

^a includes 3 of unstated severity

(m) Other concerns

Questionnaire (question no.):
H (F231), K (E181)

The H text descriptions under 'other' concern problems with neighbours (n=35), animals/pets (n=82), environmental problems (n=56), drugs/alcohol (n=18), parking problems (n=35), traffic volume/speed (n=125), amenities/maintenance (n=40) and a further miscellaneous group (n=42). [N.B. 31 mothers reported more than one problem]

The K text indicates 33, 58, 46, 52, 56, 111, 40 and 48 respectively for the above problems, with 27 mothers reporting more than 1 problem

Table II.4m: Other concerns in the neighbourhood

Variable no.	Serious problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	No opinion	TOTAL VALID
H365	208	180	3157	5913	9529 ^a
K5221	192	167	4041	765	5242 ^b

^a includes 71 of unstated severity; ^b includes 77 of unstated severity

[N.B. The coding of H365 was to put those who did not answer the question to 'no opinion' whereas for K5221 they were put to missing]

II.5 Description of the neighbourhood

Is your neighbourhood:

	<i>Yes usually</i>	<i>Yes sometimes</i>	<i>No not at all</i>
<i>i) lively</i>			
<i>ii) friendly</i>			
<i>iii) noisy</i>			
<i>iv) clean</i>			
<i>v) attractive</i>			
<i>vi) polluted/dirty</i>			

[Headings in YE 7.8.90 were 'Yes', 'No' only]

[If more than 1 box ticked, the lowest code was taken for (iii) and (vi), but the highest for (i), (ii), (iv), (v).]

Questionnaire (question no.):

A (F3i-vi), PA (A7i-vi)

Table II.5: Description of neighbourhood by parents in pregnancy

Description	Var	Usually	Sometimes	Never	TOTAL VALID
Lively	A630	1772	5577	5541	12890
	PA024	808	3260	3210	7278
Friendly	A631	6789	5072	1029	12890
	PA025	3771	3144	363	7278
Noisy	A632	1336	5424	6130	12890
	PA026	745	3405	3128	7278
Clean	A633	8474	3135	1281	12890
	PA027	4765	1992	521	7278
Attractive	A634	6733	3663	2494	12890
	PA028	3758	2392	1128	7278
Polluted	A635	660	3026	9204	12890
	PA029	362	1917	4999	7278

II.6 Household moves

There are a number of questions on household moves, but those included here are so that those who have moved between neighbourhood measures can be identified. The actual questions are detailed in Group III.

Table II.6a: Years since last move

Years	8 months F300	21 months G350	33 months H260
<1	1850	1648	1272
1	1596	1240	1105
2	1537	1236	944
3+	5666	5672	5867
TOTAL VALID	10649	9796	9188

Table II.6b: No. times mother has moved home since child was 2½ years

	No. of moves				TOTAL VALID
	0	1	2	3+	
K5001	5812	2154	459	181	8606

II.7 The variables in addition to the core variables, and edits carried out

Mother in pregnancy

A600	Mothers opinion of neighbourhood
A601	Neighbours visit the home
A602	Neighbours argue with parent
A603	People in neighbourhood look after study mother's children
A604	People in the neighbourhood keep to themselves
A605	Mother visits homes of neighbours
A606	Mother argues with neighbours
A607	Mother looks after neighbour's children
A608	Mother keeps to him/herself
A620	Mother worries about burglaries
A621	Mother worries about mugging and robbery
A622	Mother worries about sexual assault
A623	Mother worries about vandalism to the home
A630	Neighbourhood is lively
A631	Neighbourhood is friendly
A632	Neighbourhood is noisy
A633	Neighbourhood is clean
A634	Neighbourhood is attractive
A635	Neighbourhood is polluted or dirty

Mother at 8 months

F300	Years since last move [recode 30+ = 30]
F900	Mothers opinion of neighbourhood
F890	Neighbours visit the home
F891	Neighbours argue with parent
F892	People in neighbourhood look after study mother's children
F893	People in the neighbourhood keep to themselves
F895	Mother visits homes of neighbours
F896	Mother argues with neighbours
F897	Mother looks after neighbour's children
F898	Mother keeps to him/herself

Mother at 21 months

G350	Years since last move [30+ = 30]
G488	Problems of noise from other homes
G489	Problems of noise from outside
G490	Problems of rubbish dumped

G491	Problems of dog dirt on pavements
G492	Worry about vandalism
G493	Worry about burglaries
G494	Worry about mugging
G495	Worry about disturbance from youths
G860	Mothers opinion of neighbourhood
G850	Neighbours visit the home
G851	Neighbours argue with parent
G852	People in neighbourhood look after study mother's children
G853	People in the neighbourhood keep to themselves
G855	Mother visits homes of neighbours
G856	Mother argues with neighbours
G857	Mother looks after neighbour's children
G858	Mother keeps to him/herself

Mother at 33 months

H260	Years since last move [30+ = 30]
H357	Problems of noise from other homes
H358	Problems of noise from outside
H359	Problems of rubbish dumped in neighbourhood
H360	Problems of dog dirt on pavements
H361	Problems of vandalism in neighbourhood
H362	Problems of burglaries in neighbourhood
H363	Problems of muggings in neighbourhood
H364	Problems of youths in neighbourhood
H365	Other problems in neighbourhood
H778	Mothers opinion of neighbourhood
H770	Neighbours visit the home
H771	Neighbours argue with parent
H772	People in neighbourhood look after study mother's children
H773	People in the neighbourhood keep to themselves
H774	Mother visits homes of neighbours
H775	Mother argues with neighbours
H776	Mother looks after neighbour's children
H777	Mother keeps to him/herself

Mother at 5 years

K5001	No. times mother has moved since child was 2½ years [5+ = 5]
K7020	Mothers opinion of neighbourhood
K7000	Neighbours visit the home
K7001	Neighbours argue with parent
K7002	People in neighbourhood look after study mother's children
K7003	People in the neighbourhood keep to themselves
K7010	Mother visits homes of neighbours
K7011	Mother argues with neighbours
K7012	Mother looks after neighbour's children
K7013	Mother keeps to him/herself

Partner in pregnancy

PA009	Father's opinion of neighbourhood
PA010	Neighbours visit the home

PA011	Neighbours argue with parent
PA012	People in neighbourhood look after study mother's children
PA013	People in the neighbourhood keep to themselves
PA014	Father visits homes of neighbours
PA015	Father argues with neighbours
PA016	Father looks after neighbour's children
PA017	Father keeps to him/herself
PA020	Father worries about burglaries
PA021	Father worries about mugging and robbery
PA022	Father worries about sexual assault
PA023	Father worries about vandalism to the home
PA024	Neighbourhood is lively
PA025	Neighbourhood is friendly
PA026	Neighbourhood is noisy
PA027	Neighbourhood is clean
PA028	Neighbourhood is attractive
PA029	Neighbourhood is polluted or dirty

II.8 Suggested statistical exercises

1. What characteristics of the neighbourhood result in a parent thinking it is a very good place to live?
2. How do the interactions with neighbours differ with maternal age?
3. Does the non-white population report more concern over problems of vandalism, burglaries, etc?
4. How does the perception of the neighbourhood change as the children grow older for mothers who have not moved since they were pregnant?
5. Do parents who move generally assess their new neighbourhood as having less negative attributes?
6. To what extent do the parents agree in regard to features of the neighbourhood?