



Health & Wellbeing Board | Southwark Council

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Impact
on **Urban**
Health

A man in athletic wear (black tank top, shorts, cap, and sneakers) stands with his back to the camera, looking out the window of a red bus. The background is blurred, suggesting motion in an urban setting.

About Impact on Urban Health

At Impact on Urban Health, we work through partnerships at the local, national, and international levels, to learn how we can address inequalities in health that disproportionately affect people residing in cities. Our work is focussed in Lambeth and Southwark and seeks to make a positive impact on health and gain insights that inform strategies for better health and wellbeing in South London and beyond.

Research Context

What we know:

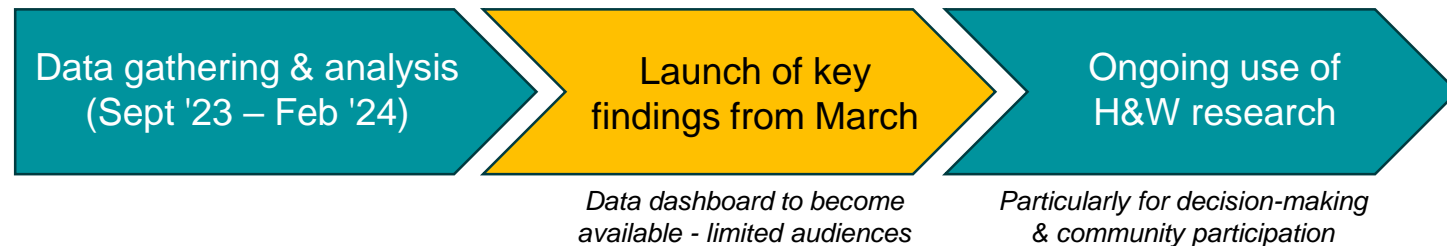
- [Our research](#), and other data, e.g. from the [ONS](#), shows that **inequalities are getting worse**
- Health outcomes can vary widely from one street to another, affected by social determinants

Identifying a gap:

- Data that exists on health at a **hyper-local level is limited**
- We need: better, richer, more culturally-sensitive data to understand residents' lives and design effective interventions

Aims & Objectives

- **Aim:** gather baseline data to deepen our understanding of the intersecting factors that affect health in Lambeth & Southwark, in partnership with Lambeth & Southwark councils
- **Objective:** unlock improved local decision-making and service provision through community-informed and hyper-local data



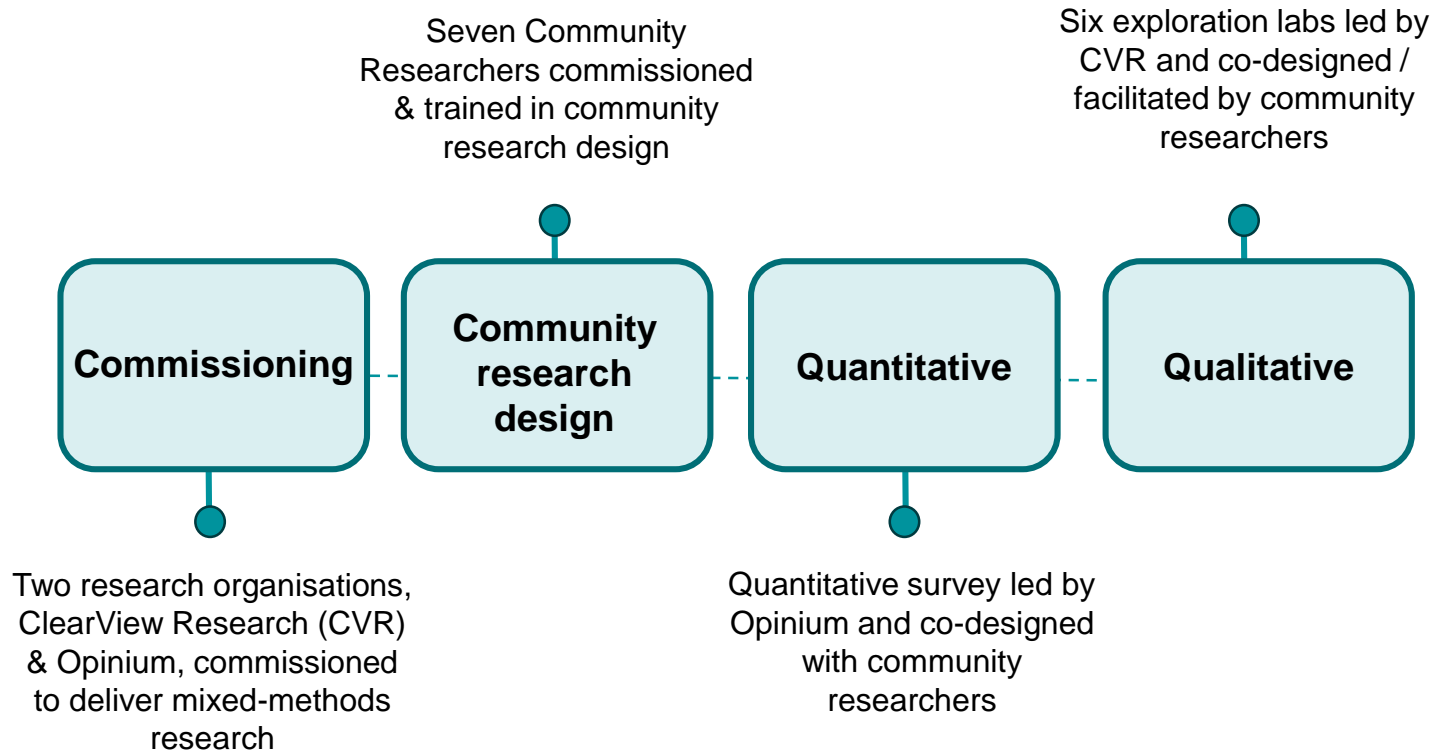


H&W Survey

Key Findings

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Methodology



Two key themes emerged

1

A person's likelihood of being in good health was most likely to be influenced by their degree of **financial security, education level, housing tenure and conditions, ethnicity, gender, and LGBTQ+ status.**

The insights into health and wellbeing provided by residents of Lambeth and Southwark highlight significant disparities in health influenced by a complex interplay of **structural discrimination, trust in and access to healthcare, housing quality, and broader social and economic determinants of health.**

2

Living in Lambeth & Southwark

Local Services

(See appendix graph 1)

- Overall, residents were positive about services available
- Public transport and green spaces received highest ratings
- However, 1 in 3 believe cycles lanes are poor, and 1 in 4 for sports facilities

Air Pollution

(Graph 2)

- Over two thirds of residents in Lambeth (68%) and Southwark (68%) are concerned about air pollution locally

Loneliness

(Graph 3)

- 33% of residents report feeling lonely 'some of the time' and 'often or all of the time' compared to 22% across England
- Loneliness is particularly high among those with mental health or physical/mobility conditions

Housing and health

Tenure Type

(See appendix graph 4)

- 77% of homeowners reported good health, compared to 61% of renters.
- Private renters reported better health (73%) than local authority renters (53%) and housing association renters (48%).



“It does massively impact your mental health, having to deal with the constant back and forth with your landlords and playing with incompetent employees. As tenants communicating with landlords, you do see some levels of progress, only for there to be a standstill then you find out you have to do it all over again. People have other personal issues that they're going through so this does take a mental toll.”

Housing Condition

(Graph 5)

- Local authority renters expressed more worries about issues such as dampness and mould (31% vs. 27% for private renters)
- Private renters are primarily concerned about affordability (47% vs. 35% for local authority renters)
- These concerns are heightened for people with health conditions



“My son has breathing problems too. His room has so much mould and this is an old issue that has been (re-) occurring. At night, he can't sleep because of the smell. On one occasion, when he woke up to go to school [he said] 'Mum I can't breathe' and before I knew it, he collapsed. This has been an issue that keeps occurring. Any time it is cold, it keeps happening...He has problems with his sinus, and I know it has made it worse.”

Trust and Access to Healthcare

Trust in Healthcare Professionals

(See appendix graph 6)

- Overall, 74% of respondents expressed trust, while 21% indicated distrust
- Younger age groups (16-24-year-olds) showed the highest levels of distrust (31%)
- Trust levels were higher for men vs women and white respondents vs all other ethnicities
- Trust was also lower for: LGBTQ+ people, non-English speakers or those with lower fluency



What's interesting, (when) speaking to my White friends and colleagues, it seems particularly (with) the female ones. They don't experience the same issues as us, or their trust level is very high. But the number of times they go to a doctor, they get an appointment pretty quickly or they're getting referred. (I ask them) how have you managed to do that? You had a cough yesterday. Now you're seeing (someone).

Access to Healthcare

(Graph 7)

- Nearly all residents required access to a GP (96%) or a pharmacist (96%) in the past two years.
- 42% found it hard to access mental health services, and 41% for GP services, with some demographic groups finding it more challenging than others



The appointment system (is) terrible. Sometimes you don't get any...You call them on the phone. Most of the times when you start to call them from 8:00am, you may still (have to queue) when you finally get someone on the phone. They tell you, oh, we're fully booked. But then they encourage you to ring at 8:00am...we don't trust them when it comes to appointments.

Recommendation & discussion

1. We propose the H&W board commits to assessing policy and service decisions against the experiences shared in our findings once published, and whether they are likely to improve resident experiences, especially for the vulnerable groups highlighted.
2. We will be keen on regular feedback on the usefulness of the findings and the dashboard, and any gaps and suggestions for future potential repeats of this survey.



Thank you

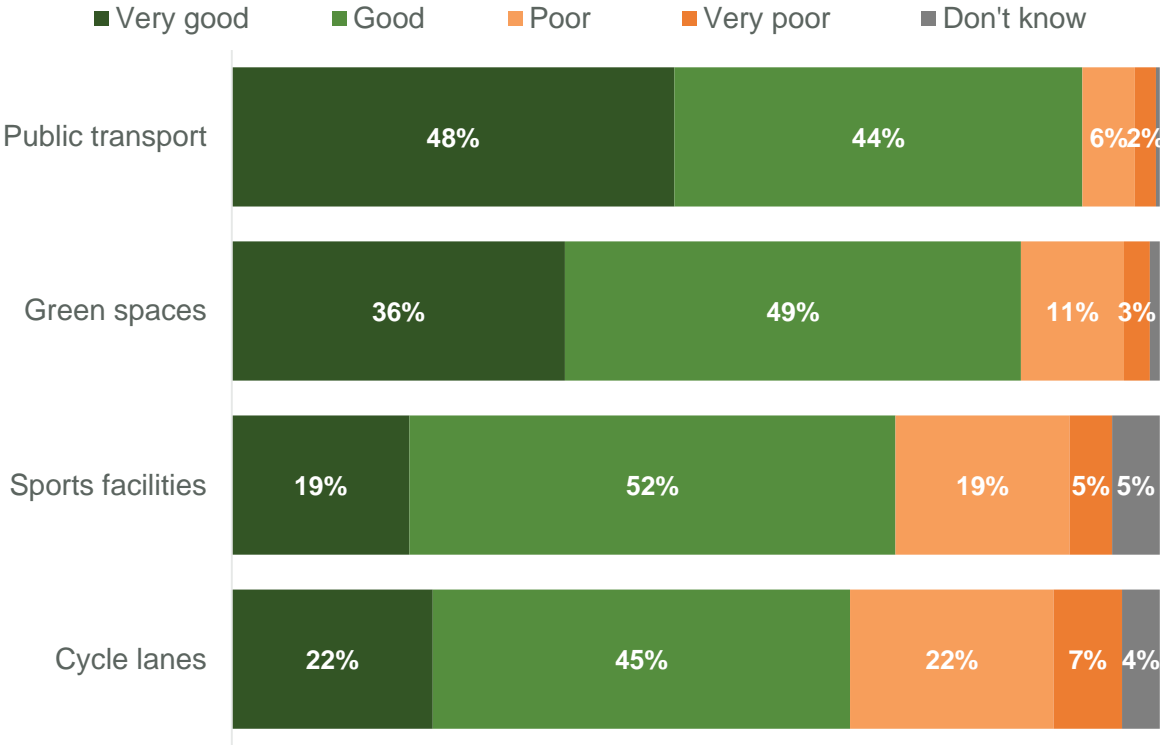
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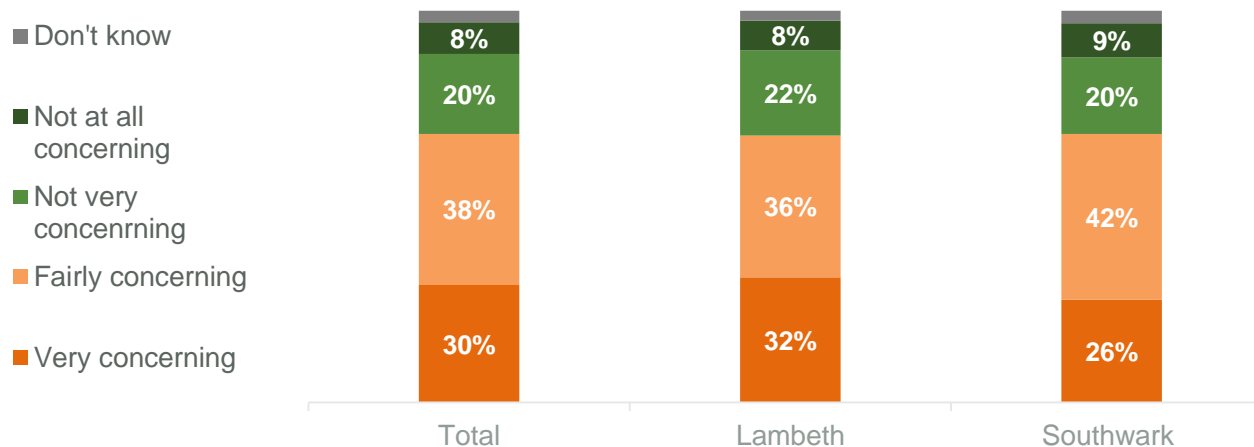
Graphs Appendix: 1 – Local Services

“In your local area, how would you rate the following:



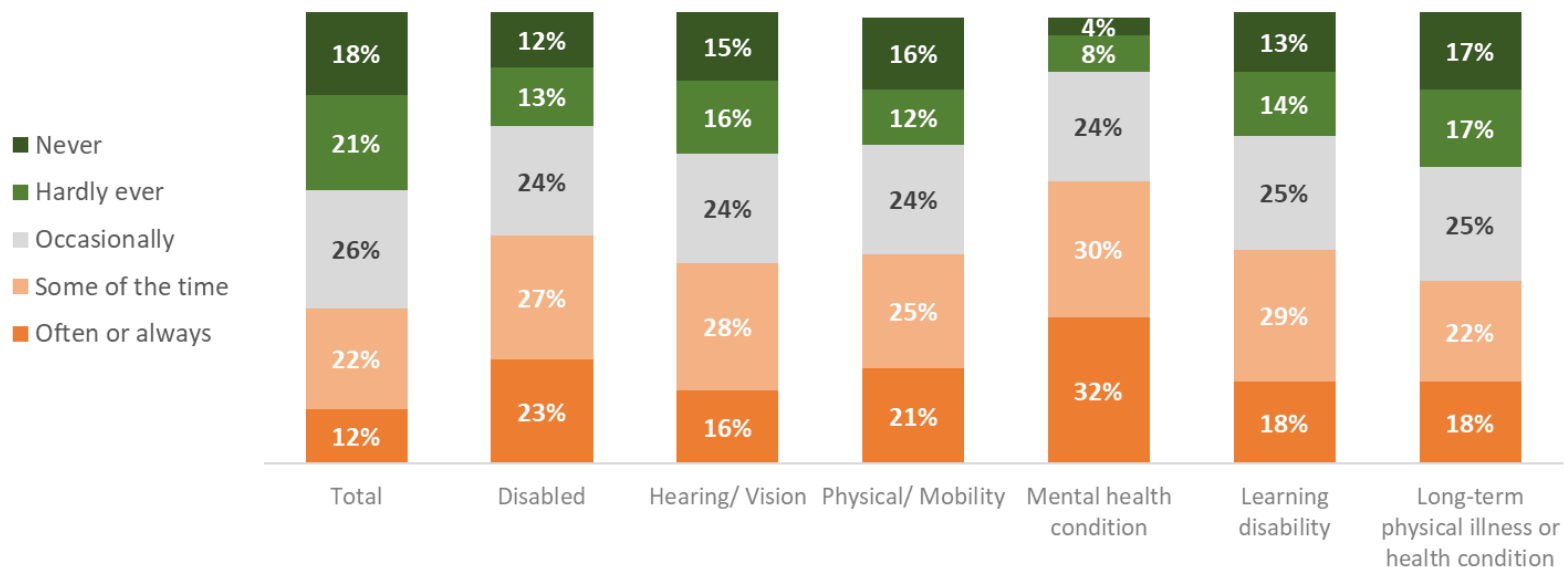
Graphs Appendix: 2 – Air Pollution

Levels of concern of air pollution in your local area



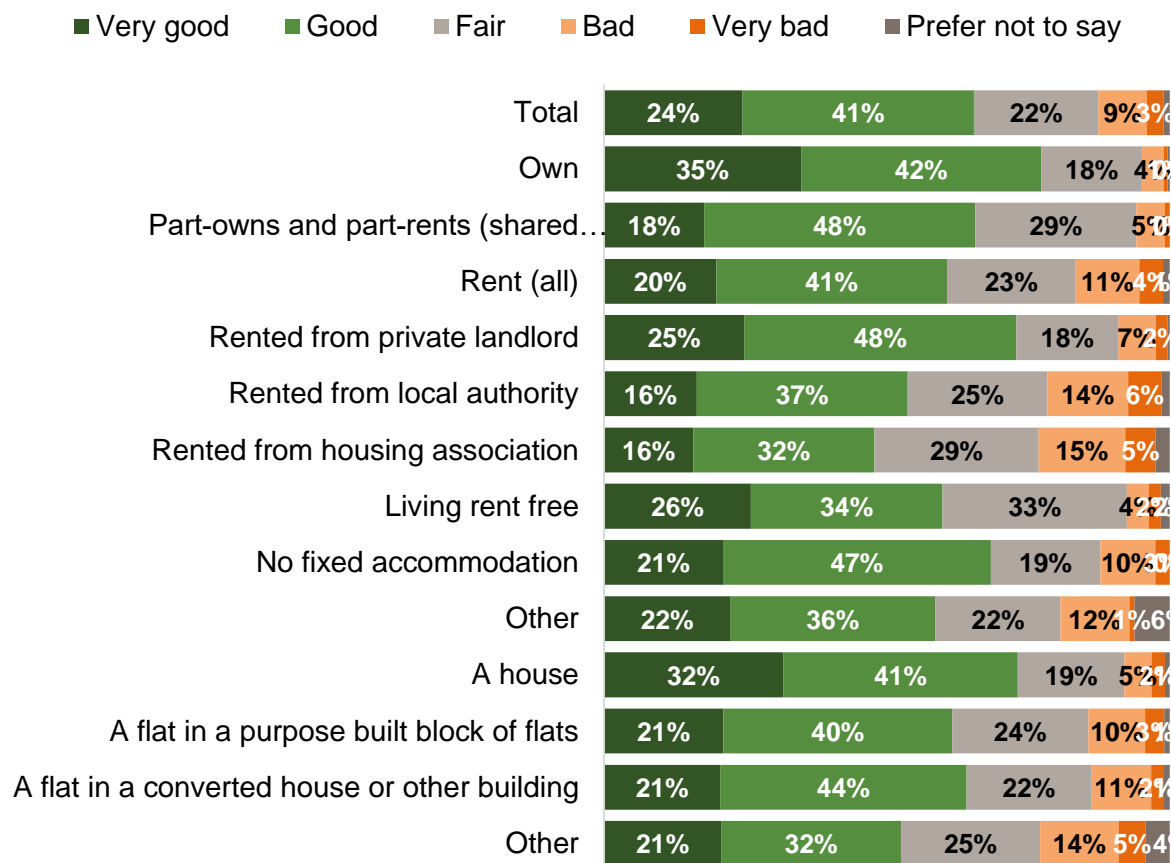
Graphs Appendix: 3 – Loneliness

Reported levels of loneliness
- Split by disability or condition type



Graphs Appendix: 4 – Tenure Type

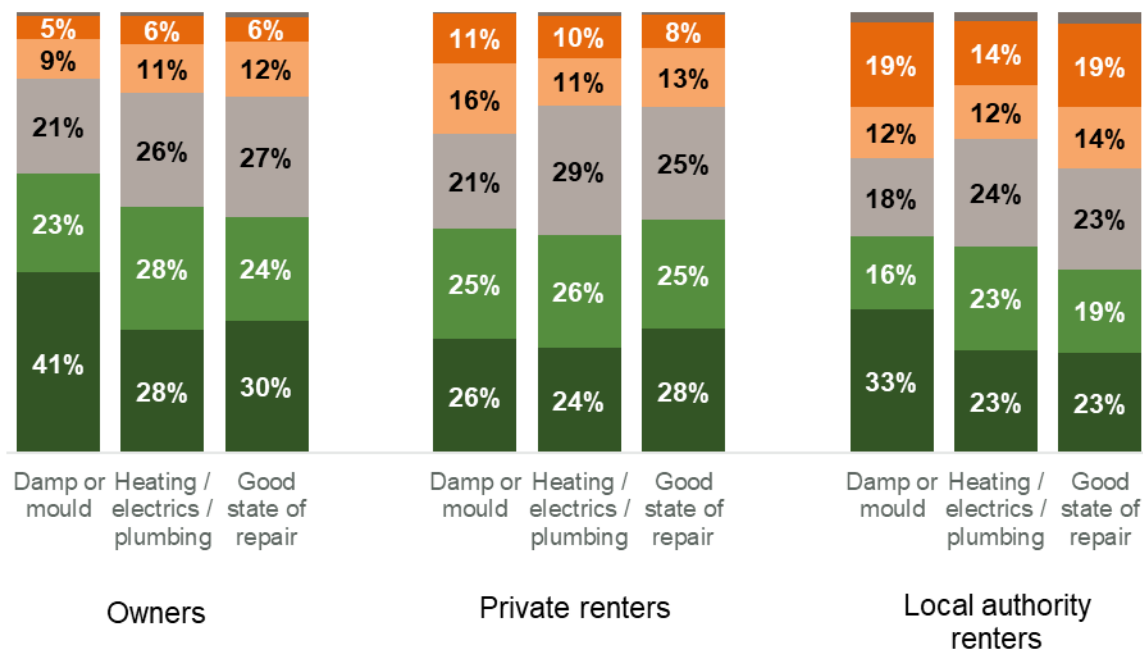
“How is your health in general?” - Split by tenure type



Graphs Appendix: 5 – Housing Condition

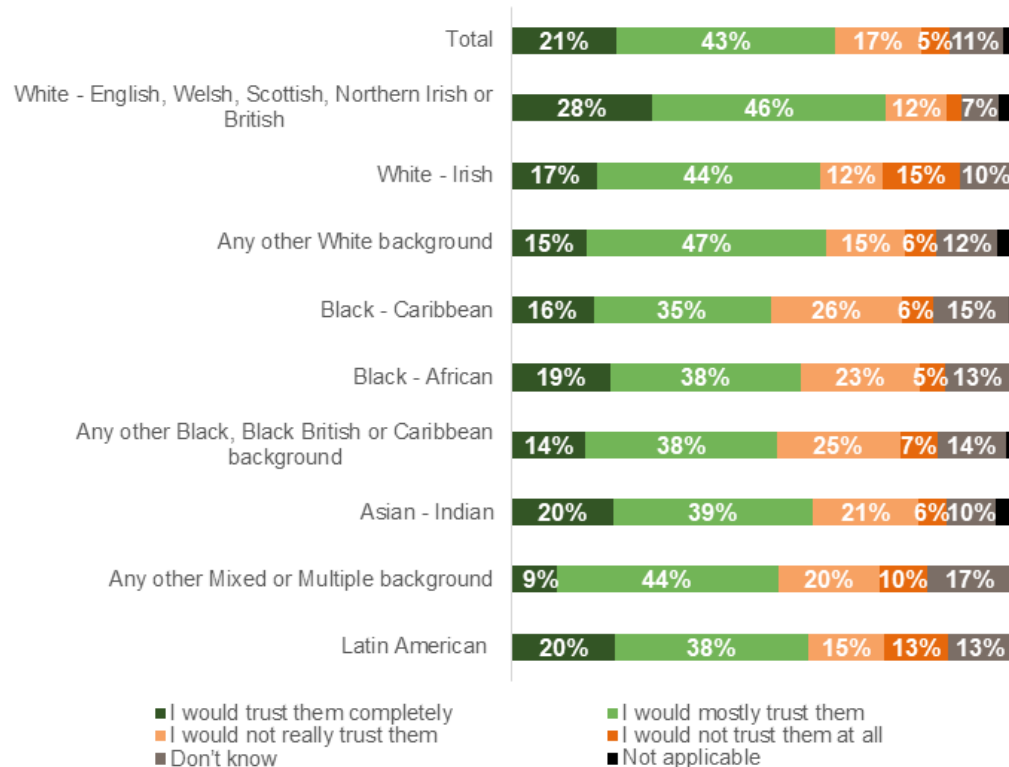
To what extent do you ever worry about...

- Not something I ever worry about
- Something I rarely worry about
- Something I occasionally worry about
- Something I often worry about



Graphs Appendix: 6 – Trust

"To what extent would you trust healthcare professionals to be aware of issues affecting people from your background"
- split by ethnicity (only groups with sufficient base sizes shown)



Graphs Appendix: 7 – Healthcare Access

Ease of accessing GP services in the last two years
(of those who have needed this service)
- Various subgroups

