



Understanding Londoners' views on belonging, social isolation and fairness: methodology annex

September 2019

GLA Social Policy Analysis Team – City Intelligence Unit

Methodology annex – introduction

The published headline results for The Survey of Londoners present descriptive findings of which groups of Londoners are most affected by a range of social integration and economic issues.

The research in this report goes further, looking at which characteristics of Londoners are most significantly associated with three key outcome measures collected by The Survey. The research involves creating a series of logistic regression models, which control for many demographic characteristics at once. This allows us to ascertain if the links between, for example, age and social isolation, are significant or if they are being caused by other differences between older and younger Londoners, such as differences in their level of income or their relationship status.

In addition, we are interested in whether other aspects of Londoners' social integration, such as their participation in society, their experience of equalities issues and their economic situation, act to reinforce or to mediate their social integration outcomes. A further series of models were therefore created, which include demographic characteristics alongside social integration and economic fairness factors. This allows us to understand which of these additional factors are significant.

The table on the next page lists the characteristics and factors included in the modelling.

Characteristics and factors included

Demographics		Social integration/economic fairness factors	
Highest education qualification	Length of time lived in London	Whether interact with neighbours	Left last tenancy due to an issue
Country of birth	LGBTQ+	Social mixing (age)	Less than £1,500 savings
English language proficiency	Nationality	Social mixing (social class)	Treated unfairly
Disability	Social class (NS-SEC)	Social mixing (ethnicity)	Insecure work
Ethnic group	Religion	Informal volunteering	Has household bills arrears
Age	Household income	Formal volunteering	Finds debt a burden
Gender	Type of school attended	Civic participation	Fuel poverty
Length of time lived in local area	Whether went to school in London	Attend cultural events	Food insecure
Household situation	Tenure	Play sport	
Type of job	Work status	Registered to vote	

Outcome measures

Belonging to London

We measured belonging to London in The Survey of Londoners by asking respondents:

How strongly do you feel you belong to London?

- Very strongly
- Fairly strongly
- Not very strongly
- Not at all strongly
- Don't know/prefer not to answer

We consider that respondents who answer either 'very strongly' or 'fairly strongly' belong to London.

Social isolation

Social isolation is measured in The Survey of Londoners by asking respondents:

Now please think about the people close to you such as your spouse or partner, immediate family, and friends. How much can you rely on them if you have a serious problem?

- A lot
- Somewhat
- A little
- Not at all
- I don't have a spouse or partner, immediate family, and friends
- Don't know/prefer not to answer

Respondents who do not answer 'a lot' are coded as being socially isolated.

Outcome measures

Fairness

We measured Londoners' sense of fairness in The Survey of Londoners by asking respondents:

Which of the following statements is closest to your opinion?

- London is a fair city
- London is not a fair city
- Don't know/prefer not to answer

Respondents who answer 'London is a fair city' is our group of interest.

The next three pages list the **demographic characteristics** that were significant in each of the three models, while also controlling for social integration and economic fairness factors.

The column on the left lists those characteristics that are positively associated with belonging/social isolation/fairness, and the column on the right lists those that are negatively associated with these outcomes.

In each column, the characteristics are ranked according to the size of the association they have with the outcome measure, from the biggest association at the top to the smallest significant characteristic at the bottom.

Belonging to London modelled results

Positively associated with belonging	Negatively associated with belonging
Ethnicity: Black	Lived in London less than 5 years
Hindu, Muslim, Jewish or Sikh religion	Low English proficiency
Ethnicity: Asian; Other	Lived in London 5 years or more, but less than 10
LGBTQ+	Non-British, non-Asian nationality
Household income of £37,900 p.a. or less	Rent from private landlord
Self-employed	Working-class
Woman	
Attended a selective, independent or fee-paying secondary school	

Social isolation modelled results

Positively associated with social isolation risk	Negatively associated with social isolation risk
Unemployed; not working because long term sick/disabled	Living in a couple
Aged 65+	Lived in London less than 2 years
LGBTQ+	Aged 16-24
Country of birth: Non-EU Europe; Asia	Aged 25-34
Household income £14,901-£24,300 p.a.	Woman
Country of birth: EU; rest of the world	Went to secondary school in London
Part-time worker; not working because care/retired/student	Lived in local area less than 3 years
Ethnicity: Mixed; Asian; Other	
Ethnicity: Black	
No religion; Jewish	
Rent from Local Authority/Housing Association	

Fairness modelled results

Positively associated with fairness	Negatively associated with fairness
Nationality: Asian	Lived in London 1-3 years
Country of birth: Asia; Other	No religion; any other religion
Hindu	Aged 25-34
Ethnicity: Black	Working but not a permanent employee
Speak English well and not as a first language	Household income of £37,901 p.a. or more
Lived in local area less than 1 year	Couple with children
	Aged 35-49
	Disabled

What other social integration and economic factors are associated with outcomes?

The results on the next three slides show which **social integration and economic factors** are significantly associated positively or negatively with the outcome measures, across a series of models using different specifications. The factors are ordered by the size of their effect on belonging/social isolation/fairness, from the biggest at the top to the smallest at the bottom.

The column on the left lists those characteristics that are positively associated with belonging/social isolation/fairness, and the column on the right lists those that are negatively associated with these outcomes.

Belonging to London modelled results

Positively associated with belonging	Negatively associated with belonging
Being registered to vote	Having been treated unfairly in the last year
Interacting with neighbours	Self-reported fuel poverty
Attending cultural events	

Social isolation modelled results

Positively associated with social isolation risk	Negatively associated with social isolation risk
Food insecure	Attending cultural events
Having been treated unfairly in the last year	
Self-reported fuel poverty	
Left last tenancy because of an issue	

Fairness modelled results

Positively associated with fairness	Negatively associated with fairness
Interacting with neighbours	Having been treated unfairly in the last year
Playing sport	Self-reported fuel poverty
Attending cultural events	Informal volunteering
	Frequent social mixing by age