

Key findings

- There is evidence of a strong sense of belonging to our neighbourhoods, local areas, Wales and Britain.
- There is a slightly stronger link to national identity than local identity.
- People living in Wales do **not** have a preference to live in an area where most people are similar.
- A significant proportion of people in Wales would be worried at the prospect of more Eastern Europeans and Muslims moving to Wales. The key themes were concerns of economic strains, safety and security and anxiety regarding integration.

Neighbourhood, community and identity

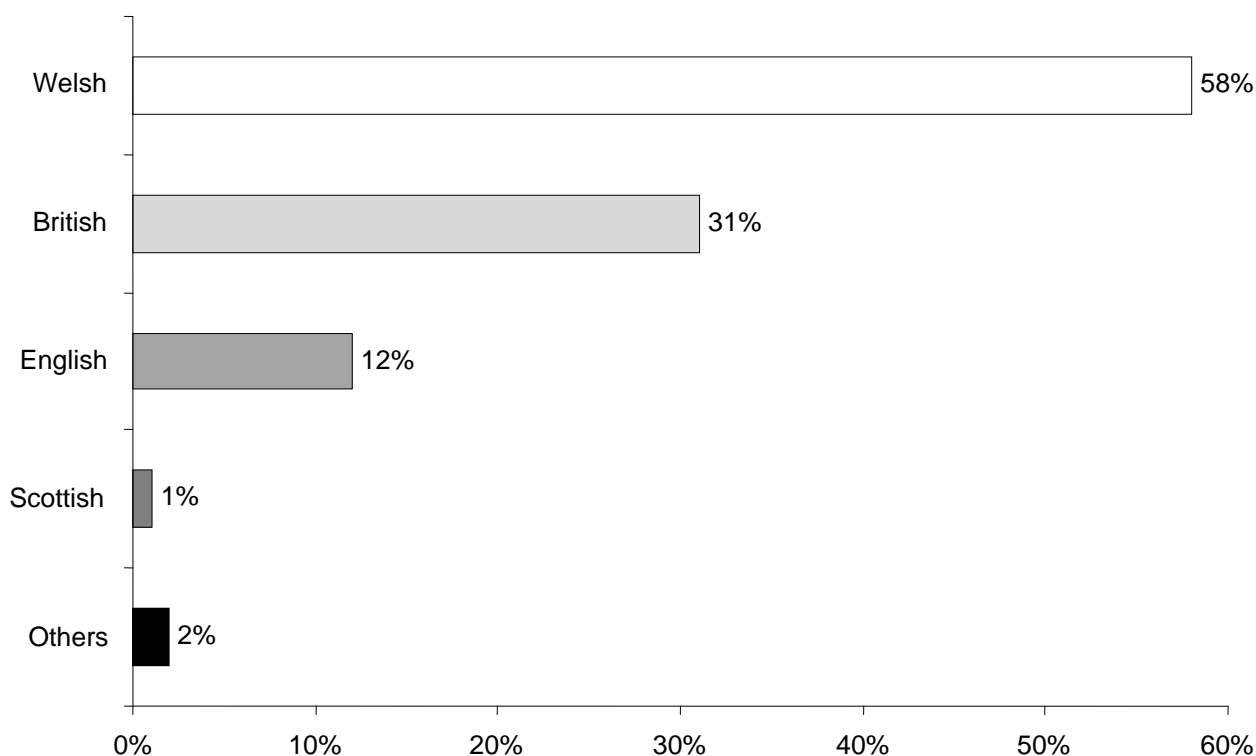
Introduction

This document provides the findings of attitudes towards neighbourhood, community and identity from the EHRC Wales attitudinal survey. It examines perceptions of national identity and how strongly people feel they belong to their neighbourhood, their local area, Wales and Britain. It also looks at whether people would be worried if more people from different groups were to move to Wales.

National identity

The three most commonly selected identities were Welsh (58 per cent), British (31 per cent) and English (12 per cent). No other national identity was mentioned by more than 1 per cent of the sample.

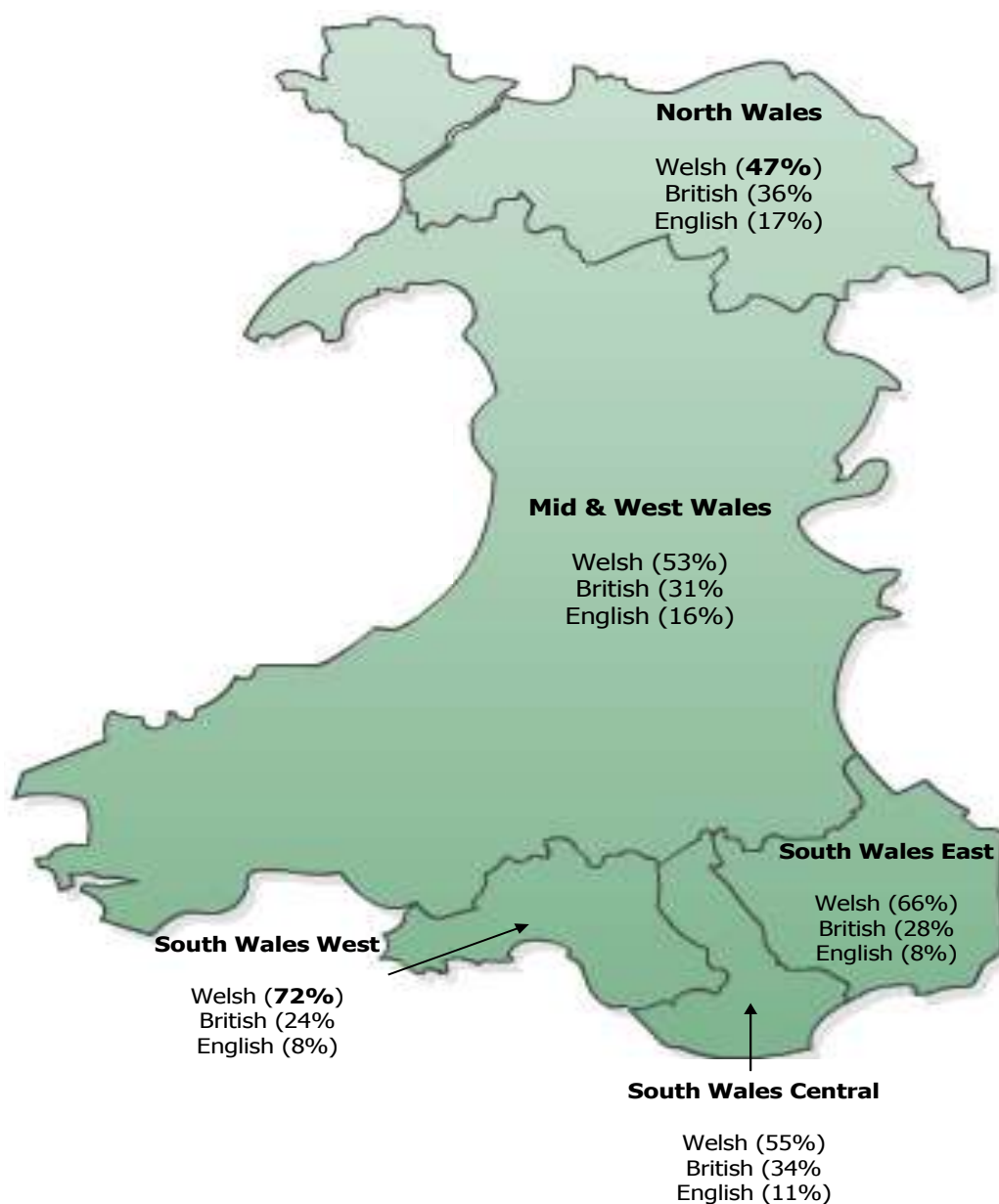
Figure 1.1 **What do you consider your national identity to be?**



Base: All respondents (unweighted: 1,589, weighted: 1,589)

Analysis of this question by Welsh electoral region provides some interesting findings. It is clear that people in South Wales East and South Wales West were most likely to define their national identity as Welsh (66 per cent and 72 per cent respectively). These were also the areas where people were less likely to define themselves as English. Just 8 per cent defined their nationality in this way in both of these regions compared with 17 per cent in North Wales and 16 per cent in Mid and West Wales.

Figure 1.2 What do you consider your national identity to be? (by electoral region)

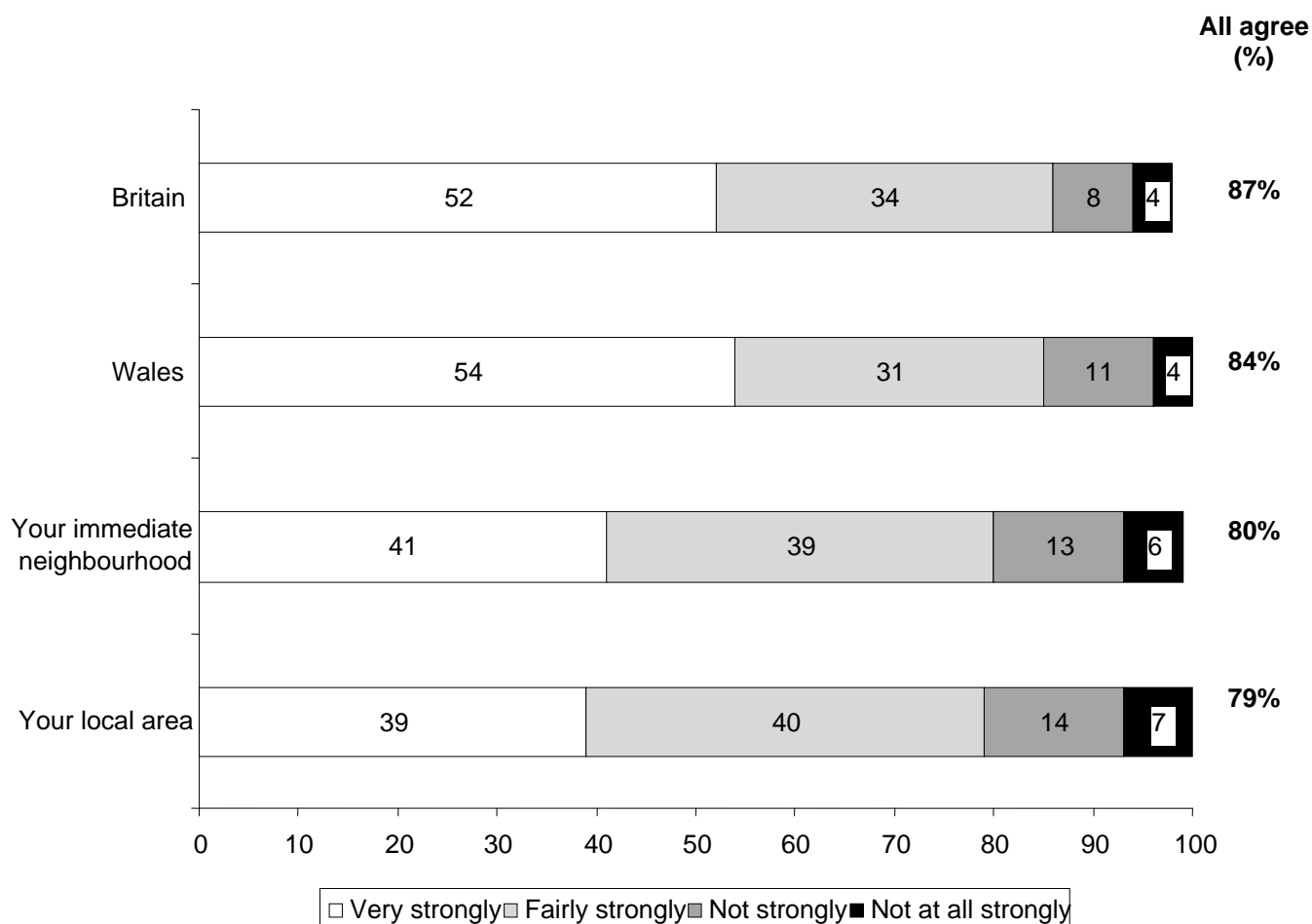


Sense of belonging

Welsh adults were more inclined to feel that they strongly belonged to the national options than their local area or their immediate neighbourhood:

- 87 per cent said that they belonged strongly to Britain, and 52 per cent said they belonged 'very strongly'
- 84 per cent said they belonged strongly to Wales and 54 per cent said they belonged 'very strongly'
- 80 per cent felt that they strongly belonged to their immediate neighbourhood (41 per cent very strongly)
- 79 per cent felt that they strongly belonged to their local area (39 per cent very strongly)

Figure 1.3 How strongly do you feel you belong to ...?



Base: All respondents (unweighted: 1,589, weighted: 1,589). 'Don't know' and 'Refused' are not shown

Subgroup analysis showed that identity, regardless of location, was stronger for older people, those of a white background and those who described themselves as Christian. A local identity was stronger amongst Welsh speakers and those who described themselves as Welsh. Further detail is provided below and summarised in table 1.2.

The immediate neighbourhood

- Feelings of belonging to one's immediate neighbourhood increased with age: 71 per cent of 16-34 year olds felt that they strongly belonged to their immediate neighbourhood, compared with 79 per cent of 35-54 year olds, 86 per cent of 55-64 year olds and 87 per cent of those aged 65+
- 8 in 10 (80 per cent) of white British and white Welsh respondents felt that they strongly belonged to their immediate area. This was markedly higher than amongst non-white adults (63 per cent)
- 82 per cent of Christians felt that they strongly belonged – a largely higher proportion than those from other religions and those with no religion (71 per cent and 75 per cent respectively)
- People in South Wales Central were least likely to say they belonged to their immediate area (69 per cent). This compared with the average of 80 per cent
- Just under nine in ten (87 per cent) of those whose first language is Welsh felt that they strongly belonged to their immediate area. This can be compared with 79 per cent of those whose primary language was English. Similarly, people who defined their nationality as Welsh were markedly more likely than those who defined it as British, English or something else to say they strongly belonged to their immediate area (85 per cent compared with 76 per cent, 70 per cent and 61 per cent respectively)
- Family status had an impact on the extent to which people felt they belonged. Adults living in single households – with or without children – were less likely to feel that they *strongly* belonged than those living as a couple (75 per cent or less compared with 84 per cent of those living as a couple with children and 84 per cent of those living as a couple without children). The inference is that adult isolation may impact on a sense of belonging to a neighbourhood

The local area

- Older people were more likely to feel as though they strongly belonged. 86 per cent aged 55 or over said they strongly belonged. In

fact 55 per cent of those aged 65 or over described their sense of belonging as 'very strong'. In comparison, 77 per cent of 35-54 year olds and 71 per cent of 16-34 year olds felt that they strongly belonged

- Differences by ethnic background were very similar to those for the immediate neighbourhood; 80 per cent of white British and white Welsh people said they strongly belonged compared with 64 per cent of non-white adults
- People living in the Mid and West Wales region (88 per cent) were markedly more likely than those living in South Wales Central (66 per cent) to say that they strongly belonged to their local area
- 87 per cent of people whose primary language was Welsh felt that they strongly belonged to their local area. 79 per cent of those whose first language was English felt they strongly belonged. Correspondingly, 84 per cent of people who defined their nationality as Welsh said they strongly belonged to their local area compared with 74 per cent of those who defined their nationality as British or English

Wales

- Just fewer than nine in ten people aged 55-64 or 65 and over felt that they strongly belonged to Wales (87 per cent and 88 per cent respectively). This was lower amongst 16-34 year olds (79 per cent)
- 85 per cent of white British and white Welsh people felt that they strongly belonged to Wales compared with 74 per cent of non-white adults
- Christians were more likely than those with no religion to say that they belonged strongly to Wales (86 per cent compared with 80 per cent)
- Virtually everyone whose primary language is Welsh felt that they strongly belonged to Wales (98 per cent). Amongst those who primarily spoke English, 83 per cent said this. Correspondingly, 95 per cent of people who defined themselves as Welsh felt that they strongly belonged to Wales compared with 78 per cent or less of those who defined themselves as British or another nationality

Britain

- Around nine in ten people aged 65+ (93 per cent) and 90 per cent of people aged 55-64 felt that they strongly belonged to Britain. As with the other locations, younger people were markedly less likely to say this (84 per cent of 35-54 year olds and 82 per cent of 16-34 year olds)

- 87 per cent of white British and white Welsh people felt that they strongly belonged to Britain compared with 71 per cent of those with a different ethnic background
- Christians were more likely than those with no religion to feel that they strongly belonged to Britain (88 per cent compared with 82 per cent)
- 88 per cent of those whose primary language was English felt that they strongly belonged to Britain while 71 per cent of Welsh speakers felt this

Table 1.1 Percentage saying they belonged to each location

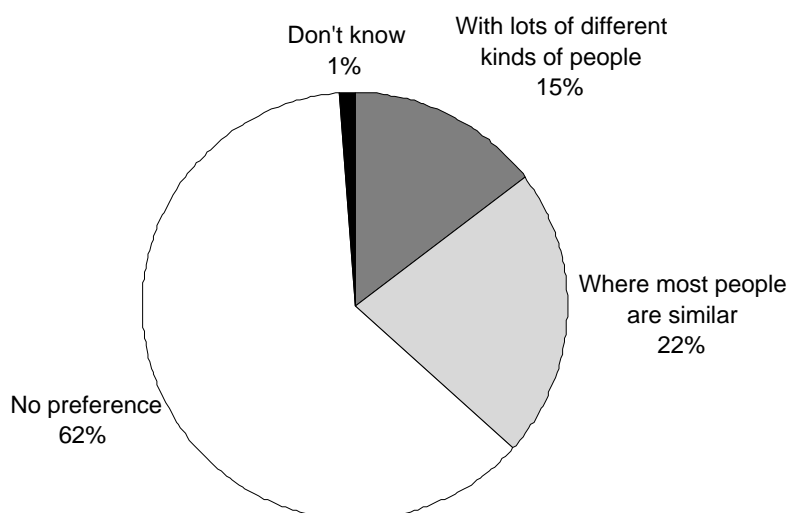
	Unweighted base, n=	Weighted base, n=	Immediate neighbour hood (%)	Local area (%)	Wales (%)	Britain (%)
Total	1,589	1,589	80	79	84	87
16-34	385	413	71	71	79	82
35-54	598	581	79	77	85	84
55-64	262	248	86	86	87	90
65+	344	347	87	86	88	93
White British / Welsh	1,438	1,555	80	80	85	87
Other	151	34	63	64	74	71
Christian	1,123	1,144	82	80	86	88
Other religion	103	56	71	71	80	83
No religion	349	375	75	77	80	82
Region: Mid & West Wales	290	292	86	88	85	90
North Wales	336	344	85	83	77	85
South Wales Central	366	348	69	66	84	86
South Wales East	324	327	80	80	86	90
South Wales West	273	278	81	81	91	83
First language: English	1,401	1,438	79	79	83	88
Welsh	126	133	87	87	98	71
National identity: Welsh	884	928	85	84	95	84
English	179	189	70	74	52	91
British	494	491	76	74	78	93
Other	**97	47	61	68	63	67

Note: ** denotes small base (unweighted base less than 100)

Would Welsh adults rather live in an area with different kinds of people?

Six in ten (63 per cent) said that they had no preference in terms of the make up of their local area. For those who did express an opinion either way 22% said they would prefer to live in an area where most people were similar to themselves and 15% said they would rather live in an area with lots of different kinds of people.

Figure 1.4 Would you rather live in an area with lots of different kinds of people or where most people are similar?



Base: All respondents (unweighted: 1,589, weighted: 1,589).

In general older respondents, white respondents and those in lower social grades were more likely to say that they would rather live in an area where most people are similar to themselves:

- While a third (33 per cent) of people aged 65+ said they would rather live in an area where most people are similar to themselves only 13 (per cent) of people aged 16-34 said the same
- White British and Welsh respondents were far more likely than respondents with other ethnic backgrounds to say they would rather live with people similar to themselves (22 per cent compared with 10 per cent)
- A quarter of respondents in social grades C2 and DE say they would rather live in an area where most people are similar to themselves (25

per cent and 24 per cent respectively). This is higher than amongst ABs (17%)

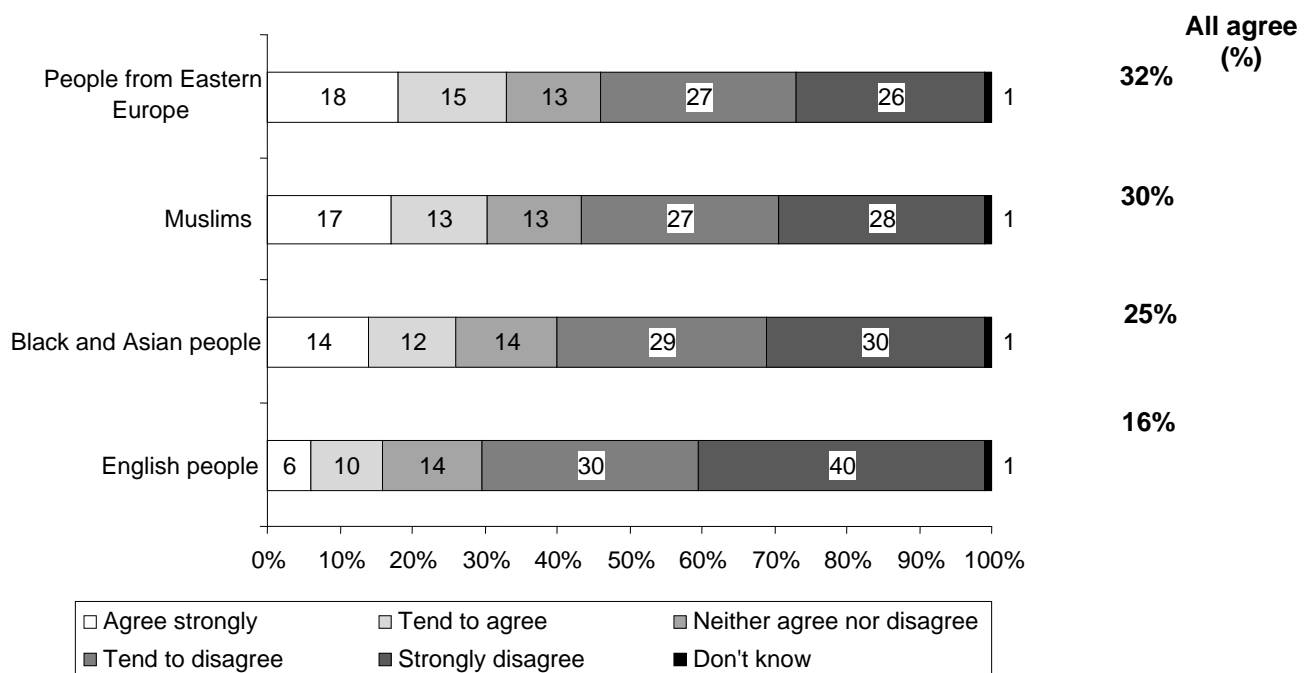
Are Welsh adults worried about different groups moving to Wales?

People were asked how worried they would feel if more people from certain backgrounds moved to Wales. The groups asked about were Eastern Europeans, Muslims, Black and Asian people and English people.

On the whole, the majority of people disagreed that they would be worried if more people from these groups came to live in Wales. However, between 16 per cent and 32 per cent were worried. It was clear that some people were more concerned about the prospect of further immigration amongst some of these groups compared with others.

The two groups that worried people the most were Eastern Europeans (32 per cent) and Muslims (30 per cent) – two groups which have been under the glare of the media spotlight recently. Fewer people were worried about the possibility of more Black and Asian (25 per cent) or English people (16 per cent) coming to live in Wales. Figure 1.5 shows the full range of responses for each of these questions.

Figure 1.5 How much do you agree or disagree with “I would feel worried if more of the following groups came to live in Wales”?



Base: All respondents (unweighted: 1,589, weighted: 1,589).

Certain groups were more likely to feel worried about the prospect of Muslims, Eastern Europeans and Black and Asian people moving into Wales: older people, people in lower social grades, white people, Christians, people in South West Wales and, predictably, those who said they would prefer to live in an area with similar people to themselves. The findings for the South West Wales region are particularly interesting as this was the region in which people were most likely to define themselves as Welsh.

The groups that were more likely to be worried about English people moving into Wales were markedly different. They were characterised as living in Mid and West Wales, being Welsh speakers, and linked with this, identifying themselves as Welsh. Further details are provided in the next sections.

Groups who would be worried if more Muslims came to live in Wales

- Just under two fifths (38 per cent) of people aged 65 or over agreed that they would feel worried if more Muslims came to live in Wales, and this was largely higher than amongst 16-34 year olds and 35-54 year olds (25 per cent and 27 per cent respectively)
- More than a third of C2¹ and DE² adults (37 per cent and 35 per cent respectively) agreed that they would feel worried if more Muslims came to live in Wales compared with a quarter of AB³ and C1⁴ adults agreed (25 per cent and 26 per cent respectively). 30 per cent of white British and white Welsh people would feel worried about the prospect of more Muslims coming to live in Wales compared with 14 per cent of those with another ethnic background
- A third (33 per cent) of Christians agreed that they would feel worried about this prospect. This was a markedly higher proportion than those with no religion (20 per cent)
- 37 per cent of people in South Wales West agreed with the statement. Considerably fewer people agreed in South Wales East (25 per cent), South Wales Central (28 per cent) and Mid and West Wales (29 per cent)
- More than half (55 per cent) of people who said they would rather live in an area with people similar to themselves agreed they would feel worried about Muslims moving to Wales . Just 15 per cent of those

¹ Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial/administrative/professional backgrounds

² Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers or on state benefit/unemployed

³ Higher and intermediate managerial/administrative/professional households

⁴ Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial/administrative/professional household

who said they would prefer to live in an area with different types of people (and 24 per cent of those who expressed no preference)

- Adults living as a couple, with or without children, were more likely than single parent households to feel worried at the prospect of more Muslims moving to Wales

Groups who would be worried if more Eastern Europeans came to live in Wales

- 36 per cent of people aged 65 or over agreed that they would feel worried if more Eastern Europeans came to live in Wales; this was greater than agreement levels amongst 16-34 year olds (28 per cent)
- Around two fifths of those in lower social grades agreed that they would feel worried if more Eastern Europeans came to live in Wales (40 per cent of C2 adults and 37 per cent of DE adults). 29 per cent of C1 adults and 27 per cent of AB adults agreed
- People in South Wales West (36 per cent), North Wales and Mid and West Wales (both 35 per cent) were more likely than those in South Wales Central (26 per cent) to agree they would be worried.
- 55 per cent of people who said they would rather live in an area with people similar to themselves agreed that Eastern Europeans moving to Wales would worry them. Just 18 per cent of those who said they would prefer to live in an area with different types of people felt they would be worried

Groups who would be worried if more Black and Asian people came to live in Wales

- Older people were most likely to agree that they would be worried: 36 per cent of people aged 65 compared with 28 per cent of 55-64 year olds, 23 per cent of 35-54 year olds and 19 per cent of 16-34 year olds
- Around a third of C2 and DE adults (31 per cent and 33 per cent respectively) agreed compared with one in five AB and C1 adults (both 20 per cent)
- A quarter (25 per cent) of white British and Welsh people agreed that more Black and Asian people moving to Wales would worry. Opposed to 13 per cent of people from other ethnic backgrounds
- Agreement with this statement was highest in South Wales West (32 per cent) and lowest in South Wales Central (21 per cent)
- Amongst those who said they would prefer to live in an area with similar people to themselves half (50 per cent) said they would feel worried if more Black and Asian people were to move to Wales. This

contrasted with 21 per cent of those with no preference and 8 per cent of those who preferred to live in an area with different types of people

Table 1.2 Percentage saying they would feel worried if more people from these groups were to come to live in Wales

	<i>Unweighted base, n=</i>	<i>Weighted base, n=</i>	<i>Muslims (%)</i>	<i>Eastern Europeans (%)</i>	<i>Black and Asian people (%)</i>
Total	1,589	1,589	30	32	25
16-34	385	413	25	28	19
35-54	598	581	27	33	23
55-64	262	248	32	33	28
65+	344	347	38	36	36
White British / Welsh	1,438	1,555	30	33	25
Other	151	34	14	25	13
Christian	1,123	1,144	33	35	29
Other religion	103	56	26	29	21
No religion	349	375	20	24	16
AB	382	376	25	27	20
C1	533	538	26	29	20
C2	242	241	37	40	31
DE	428	431	35	37	33
Region: Mid & West Wales	290	292	29	35	26
North Wales	336	344	31	35	27
South Wales Central	366	348	28	26	21
South Wales East	324	327	25	31	22
South Wales West	273	278	37	36	32
Would rather live with: Different types	236	231	15	18	8
Similar people	337	342	55	55	50
No preference	1,005	1,005	24	28	21

Groups who would be worried if more English people came to live in Wales

- Around a quarter (23 per cent) of people in Mid and West Wales agreed that they would be worried if more English people came to live in Wales. This was higher than in South Wales Central (12 per cent), South Wales East (13 per cent) and North Wales (15 per cent)
- Two fifths (40 per cent) of people whose first language is Welsh agreed that they would be worried about this. This was higher than the proportion of this group who agreed they would be worried if more Black and Asian people or Muslims moved to Wales (29 per cent and 30 per cent respectively)
- People who defined their nationality as Welsh were markedly more likely than those who defined themselves as English or British to agree that they would be worried about more English people moving to Wales (21 per cent compared with 6 per cent and 10 per cent respectively)
- 23 per cent of those who expressed a preference for living in an area with people similar to themselves agreed with this statement compared with 13 per cent of those who preferred to live in an area with different types of people and 14 per cent who had no preference

Table 1.3 Percentage saying they would feel worried if more English people were to come to live in Wales

	<i>Unweighted base, n=</i>	<i>Weighted base, n=</i>	<i>% Agreeing</i>
Total	1,589	1,589	16
Region: Mid & West Wales	290	292	23
North Wales	336	344	15
South Wales Central	366	348	12
South Wales East	324	327	13
South Wales West	273	278	18
Primary language: Welsh	126	133	40
English	1,401	1,438	14
National identity: Welsh	884	928	21
English	179	189	6
British	494	491	10
Would rather live with: Different types	236	231	13

Similar people	337	342	23
No preference	1,005	1,005	14

Why are people worried about different groups moving to Wales?

If a respondent agreed they would be worried about the immigration of certain groups a follow up question was asked. This was an open-ended question and responses were coded up in order to show patterns of response.

There were recurring concerns about integration, immigration and perceived preferential treatment of different groups. The key themes were:

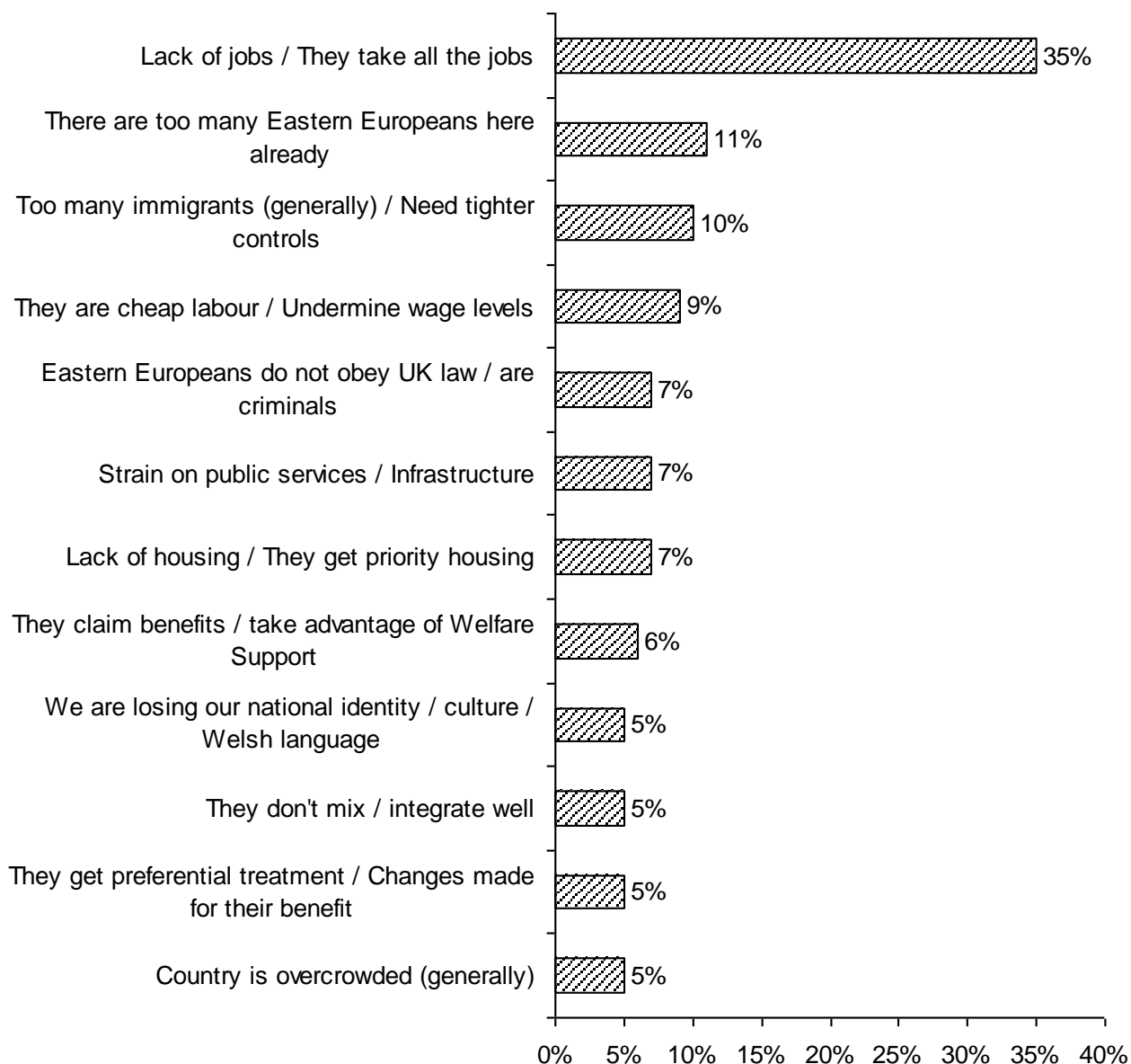
- Economic: particularly in relation to Eastern European migrants and English immigration
- Safety and security: purely in relation to Muslim immigration
- Integration and the loss of Welsh identity: most distinctly in relation to Muslim, Eastern European and English migrants

Eastern Europeans

Amongst those who agreed they would be worried if more Eastern Europeans moved to Wales, it was clear that economic concerns were at the foundation of responses. The main reason for being worried was the perception that Eastern Europeans 'take all of the jobs in the area' (35 per cent). Nine per cent felt that Eastern Europeans were 'cheap labour and undermine wage levels', while 7 per cent mentioned strains on public services or pressure on housing.

Broader concerns around integration and loss of Welsh identity were also mentioned. 11 per cent said 'there are too many Eastern Europeans here already'. 10 per cent said 'too many immigrants/ need tighter controls', while 5 per cent mentioned 'we are losing our national identity/ culture/ Welsh language'. A similar percentage said 'they don't mix/ integrate well'.

Figure 1.6 Reasons for feeling worried if more Eastern Europeans came to live in Wales



Base: All who would be worried if more Eastern Europeans came to live in Wales (Unweighted 510; Weighted 514). Mentions of 5 per cent or more.

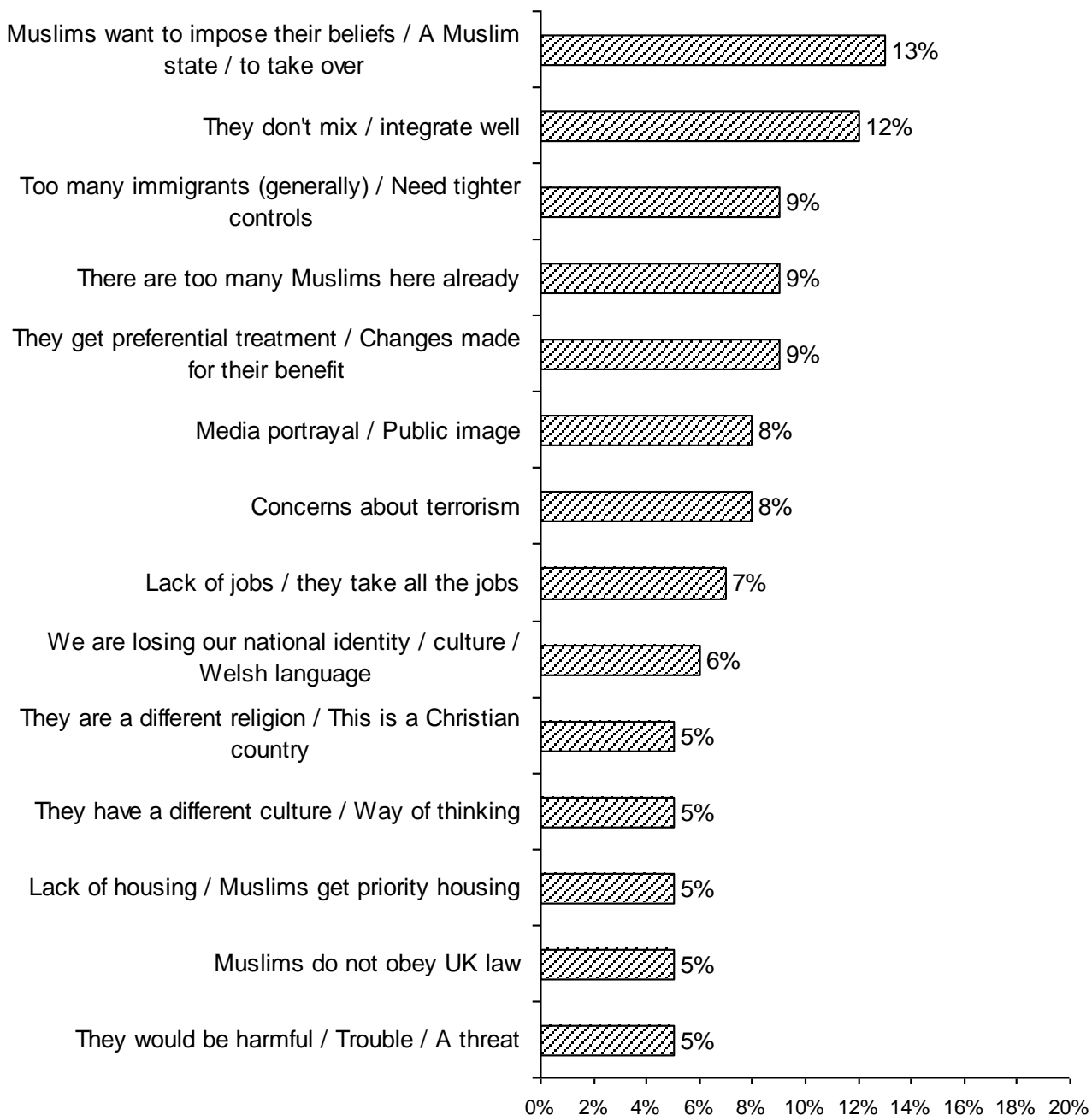
Muslims

Given recent media coverage, it is of little surprise that the mention of Muslim immigration generated an emotive response. The comments revealed two key concerns. Firstly, safety and security as the most frequently cited reason was that 'Muslims want to impose their beliefs, a Muslim state or to take over' (13 per cent). Almost one in ten (8 per cent) mentioned general concerns about terrorism and 5 per cent said 'they would be harmful/ trouble/ a threat'.

Integration was a further concern as over one in ten said 'they don't mix or integrate well' (12 per cent). 5 per cent mentioned 'they are a different religion /this is a Christian country' and 'they have a different culture/ way of thinking'.

These reasons differed from those given in relation to concerns about Eastern European immigration. Muslim immigrants were not seen as an economic threat to the same degree, but integration was more of an issue. Notably, Welsh adults did not mention security issues in relation to Eastern European immigration.

Figure 1.7 Reasons for feeling worried if more Muslims came to live in Wales



Base: All who would be worried if more Muslims came to live in Wales (unweighted 462; weighted 473). Mentions of 5 per cent or more.

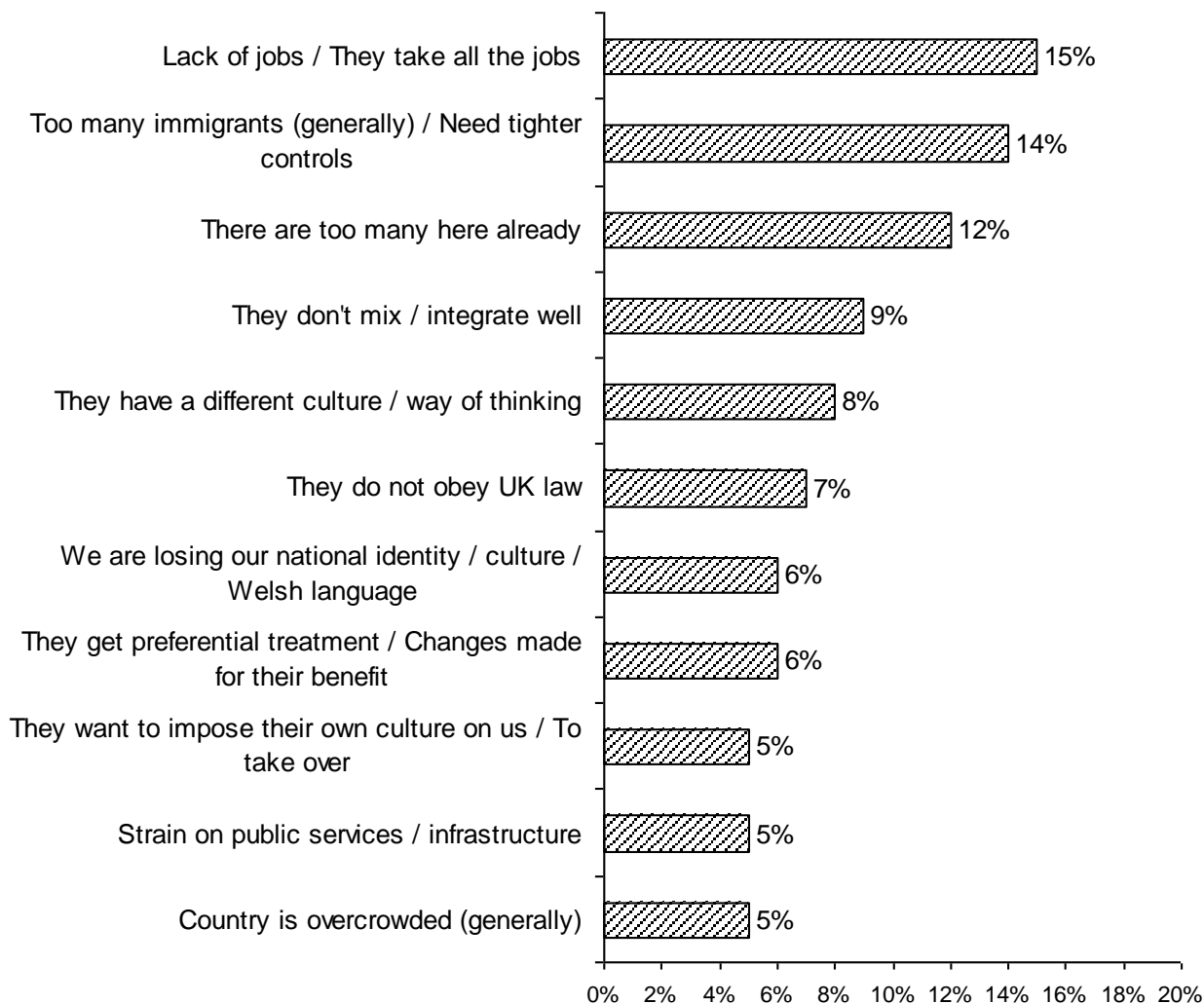
Black and Asian People

The most prominent reasons given for feeling worried if more Black and Asian people came to live in Wales related to a lack of jobs (15 per cent) and a general feeling that there were too many immigrants already (14 per cent). Economic concerns were not as strong as those expressed in

relation to Eastern European migration where 35 per cent mentioned 'lack of jobs/ they take all the jobs'.

In addition there were integration concerns: 12 per cent felt that there were 'too many here already', 9 per cent felt that this group do not mix or integrate well and 8 per cent felt that they 'have a different culture / way of thinking'.

Figure 1.8 Reasons for feeling worried if more Black and Asian people came to live in Wales



Base: All who would be worried if more Black and Asian people came to live in Wales (Unweighted 394; Weighted 400). Mentions of 5 per cent or more

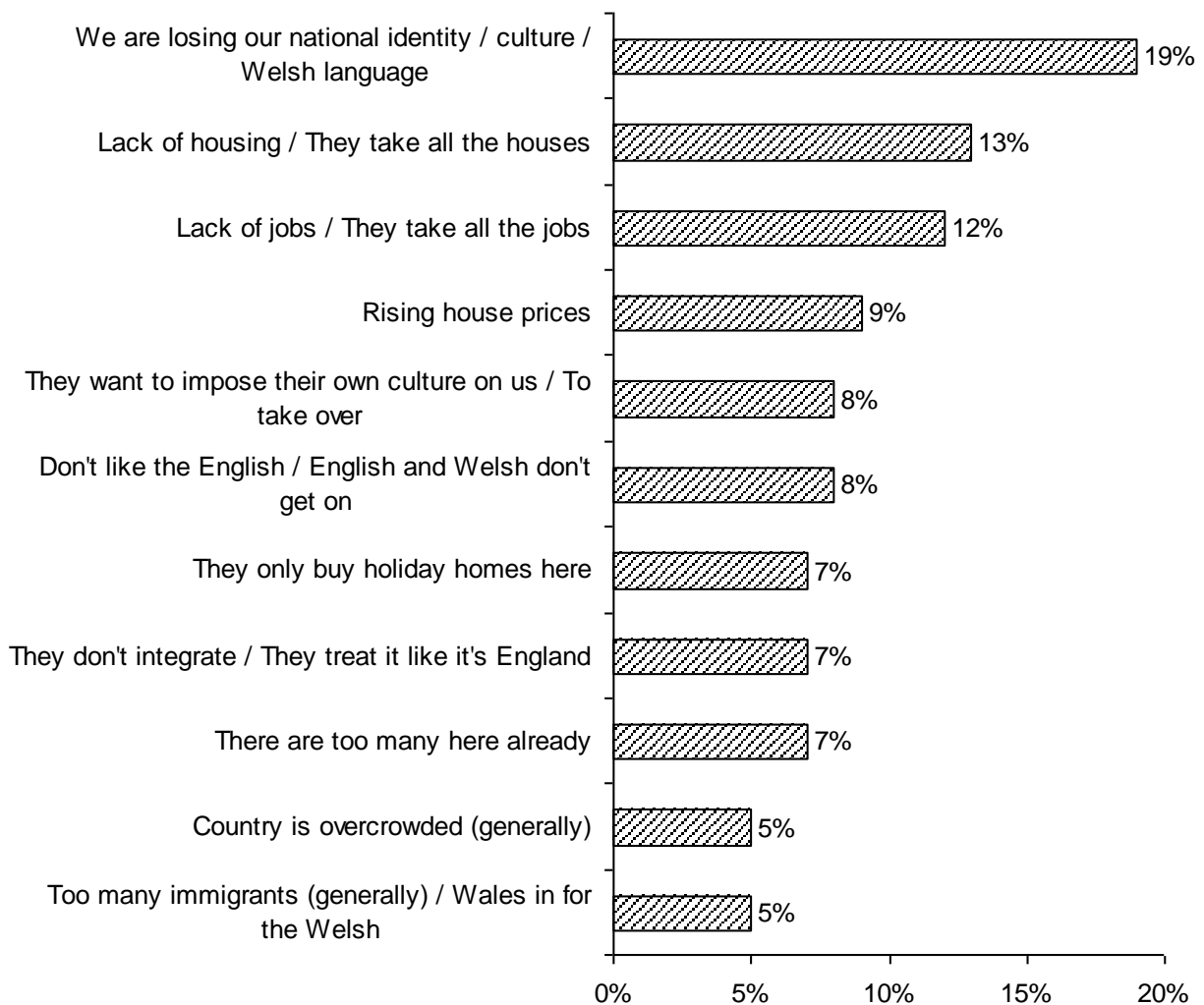
English people

The single most frequently cited reason for worrying about more English people moving to Wales was that people were worried about 'losing their national identity, culture or Welsh language' (19 per cent). Whilst this reason was mentioned in relation to other groups, it was not with the same 'strength' of feeling and was mentioned by 6 per cent or less in each case.

Another important reason was the strain upon housing. 13 per cent were worried because of a 'lack of housing', 9 per cent were worried about rising house prices while 7 per cent complained that 'they only buy holiday homes here'.

Other reasons for worrying about English people moving into Wales were that there would be a 'lack of jobs or they take all the jobs' (12 per cent), 'they want to impose their own culture' (8 per cent) and that they 'don't like the English or the English and Welsh don't get on' (8 per cent).

Figure 1.9 Why would people feel worried if more English people came to live in Wales?



Base: All who would be worried if more English people came to live in Wales (Unweighted 246; Weighted 252). Mentions of 5 per cent or more

Summary

The findings indicate that the majority of people in Wales feel that they belong to Britain, Wales, their neighbourhood and their local area. The evidence suggests that a national identity was slightly stronger than a local identity. Older people, white people and Christians were more likely to express the strongest sense of belonging.

The majority of people disagreed that they would feel worried if more people from different ethnic and minority groups were to move to Wales. A significant minority were worried about immigration however.

The concerns about immigration depended on the group in question. Eastern European migration raised fears of economic strain. Safety and security was a key issue with Muslim migration, as well as specific concerns about integration. In relation to Black and Asian people, the issues cited were around jobs and too much immigration. Those worried about English immigration were fearful of a loss of identity and rising house prices.

Notes

Further information on the research is available on the Commission in Wales pages on our website at:

www.equalityhumanrights.com

About the attitudinal survey

EHRC Wales commissioned GfK NOP to undertake research into people's attitudes towards discrimination, human rights and social cohesion in Wales. The research seeks to explore people's attitudes towards discrimination relating to gender, ethnic minority groups, disabled people, gay men and lesbians, issues on age, religion and faith and also the Welsh language. These results establish a baseline measurement of attitudes which could be repeated at future intervals.

The overall sample was 1,589 respondents. The survey was carried out by telephone. All respondents were offered the option of completing the survey in Welsh. Access issues were addressed by offering those with hearing impairments the opportunity to use a TypeTalk service. Those who found it difficult to communicate in English were offered the chance to have the interview interpreted using Language Line.

The sampling method used in the survey combined the selection of Random Digit Dial (RDD) numbers with the application of quotas to control the profile of those taking part in the survey. Quotas were set by region within Wales (five regions), by gender interlocked with working status, by age band and by ethnic origin based on demographic information derived from the 2001 Census. These were set to ensure that the sample would be representative of the Welsh population by these factors.

An interviewing boost was carried out in areas with higher proportion of ethnic minority people in the population.

Comparisons with Scotland and GB

Comparisons have been drawn with the findings from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2006 and the perceptions audit carried out by GfK NOP. It should be noted that only broad comparisons are possible because different methodologies were used in both these surveys. Therefore, any similarities or differences between the findings from these surveys and the results of the EHRC Wales survey must be treated as indicative rather than absolute.