



Social capital, community cohesion and health

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- What is social capital?
 - Why might it be important?
 - How do we measure it?
 - How is it patterned – age, gender, area type?
 - Is it related to health in GoWell study?
 - What can be done about it?

What is social capital?

Pattern and intensity of networks among people and the shared values which arise from those networks.

includes citizenship, 'neighbourliness', social networks and civic participation.

Why might social capital be important?

Previous research has shown that higher levels of social capital are associated with better health, higher educational achievement, better employment outcomes, and lower crime rates.

'housed, healthy, hired and happy'

How do we measure social capital in GoWell?

Surveys: 2008, 2011

1000 householders took part at both waves

Questions:

Social cohesion scale

Trust

Social support



Social cohesion scale

I enjoy living here...

I feel I belong to this neighbourhood...

I feel part of the community...

I visit neighbours in their home...

I borrow things and exchange favours with my neighbours...

I stop and talk to people in my neighbourhood...

Strongly disagree.....*strongly agree*

Assessment of local trust

‘Someone who lost a purse or wallet around here would be likely to have it returned without anything missing’

Strongly disagree.....strongly agree

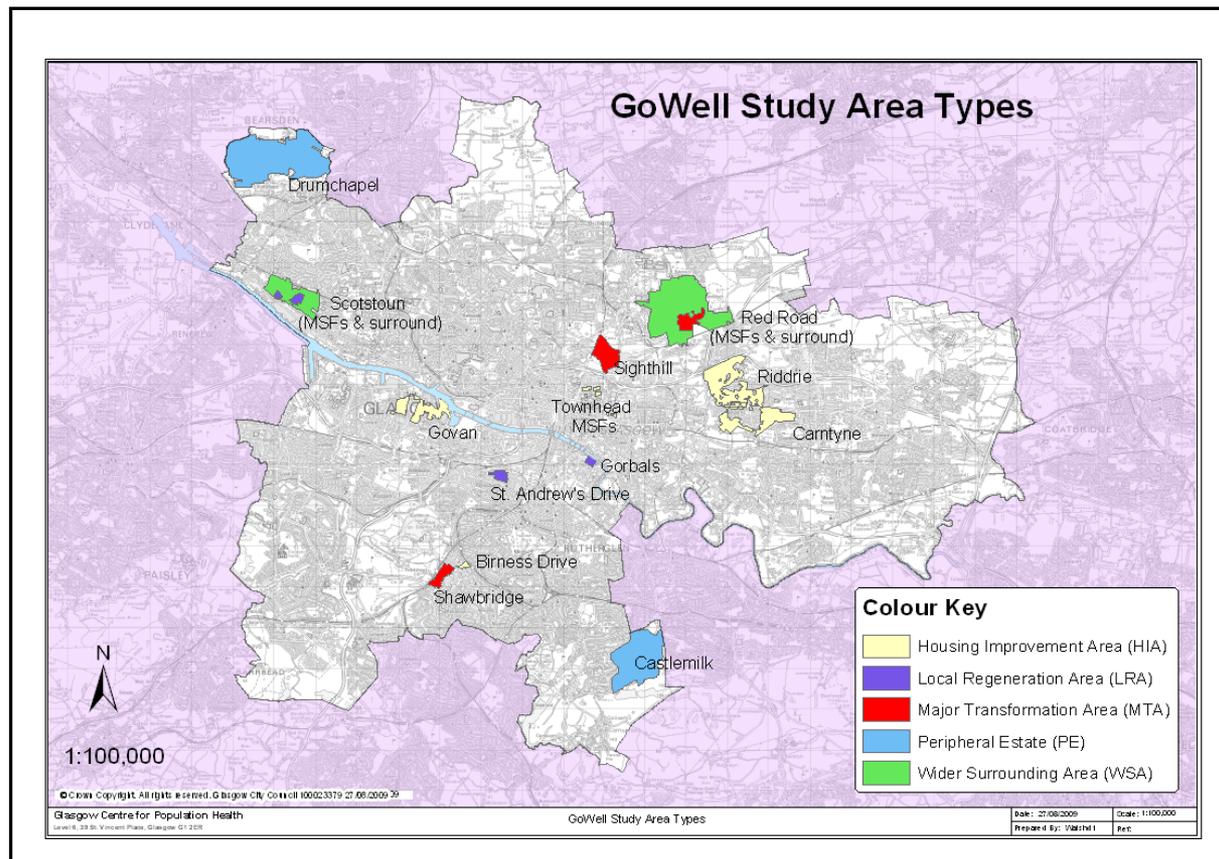
Social support

To go to the shops for you if you are unwell

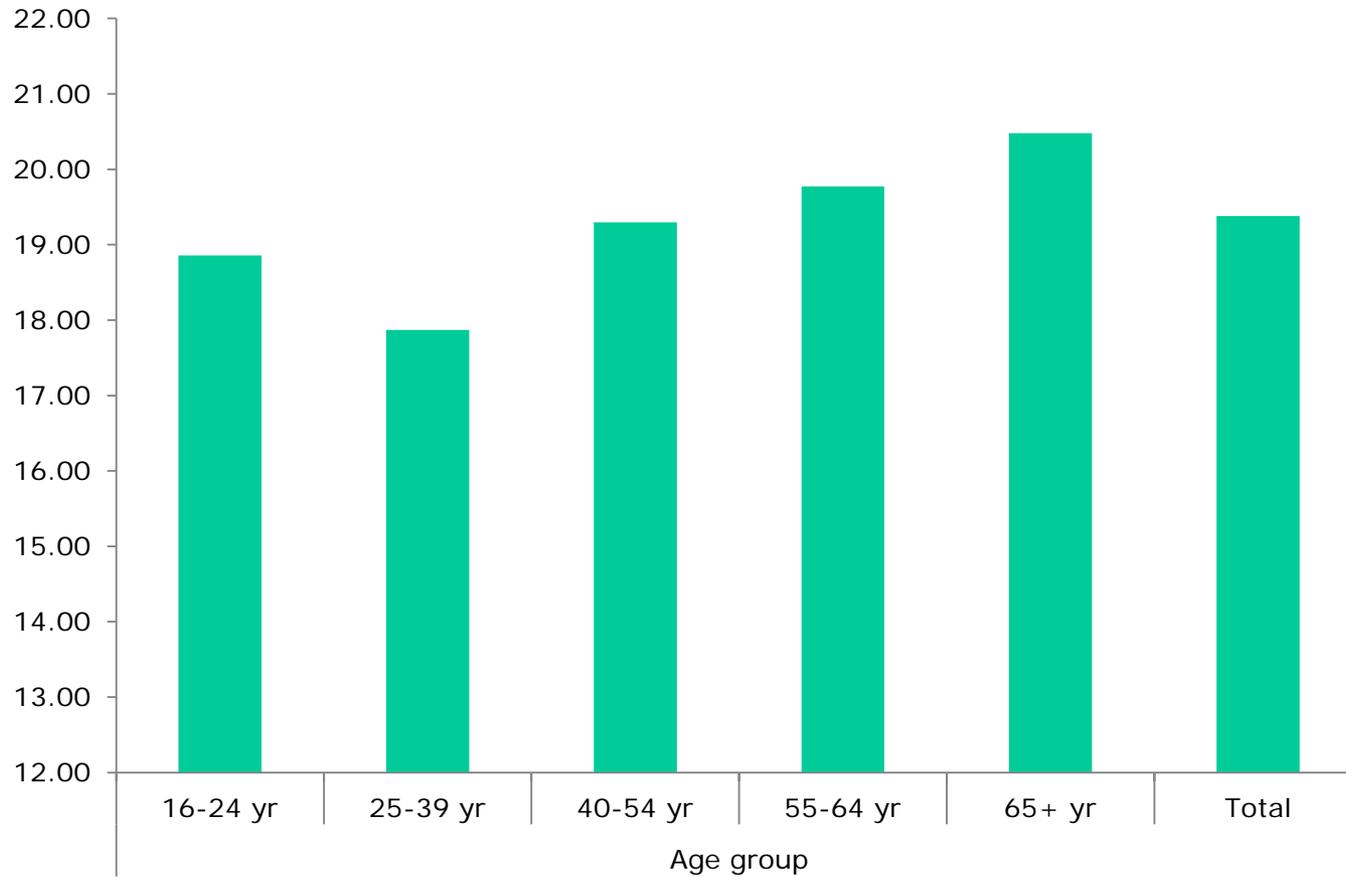
No one.. one or two.. more than two.. wouldn't ask

How is it patterned in GoWell?

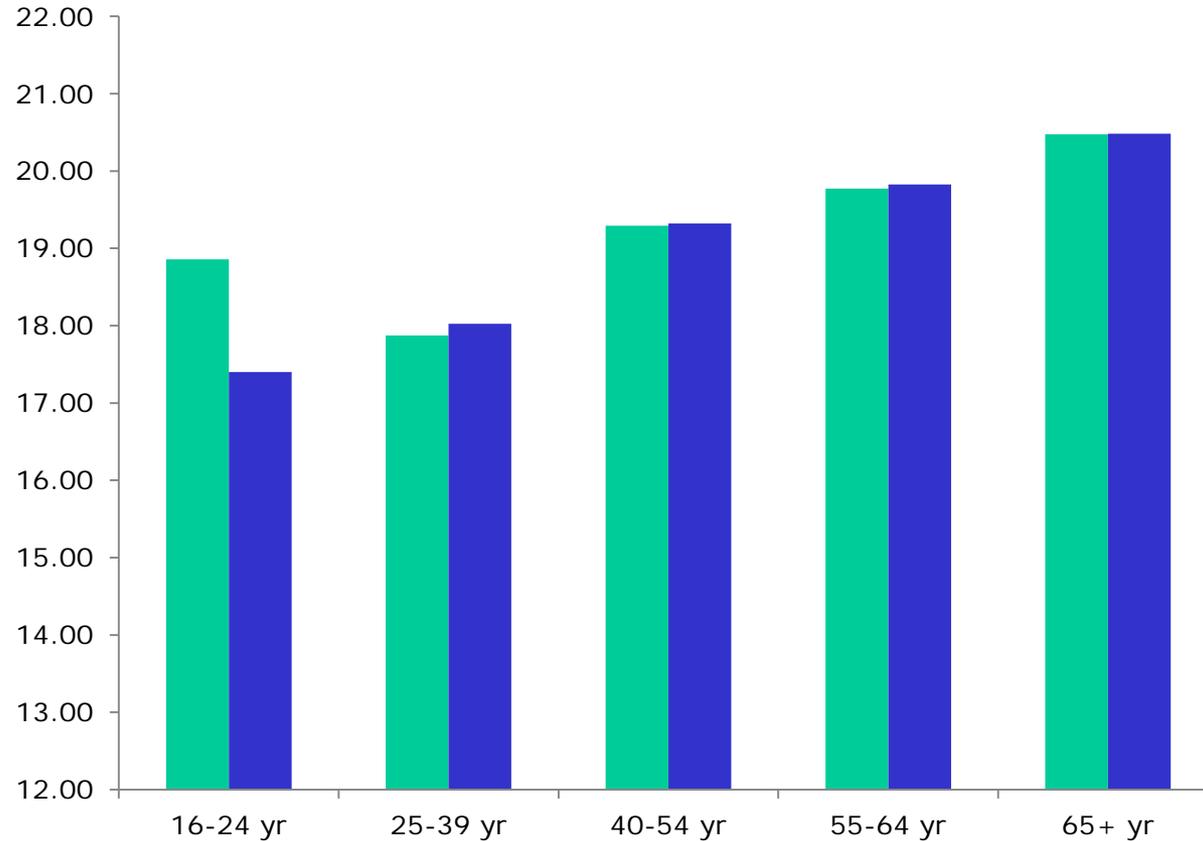
Gender, age, area type



Social cohesion scores by agegroup - 2008

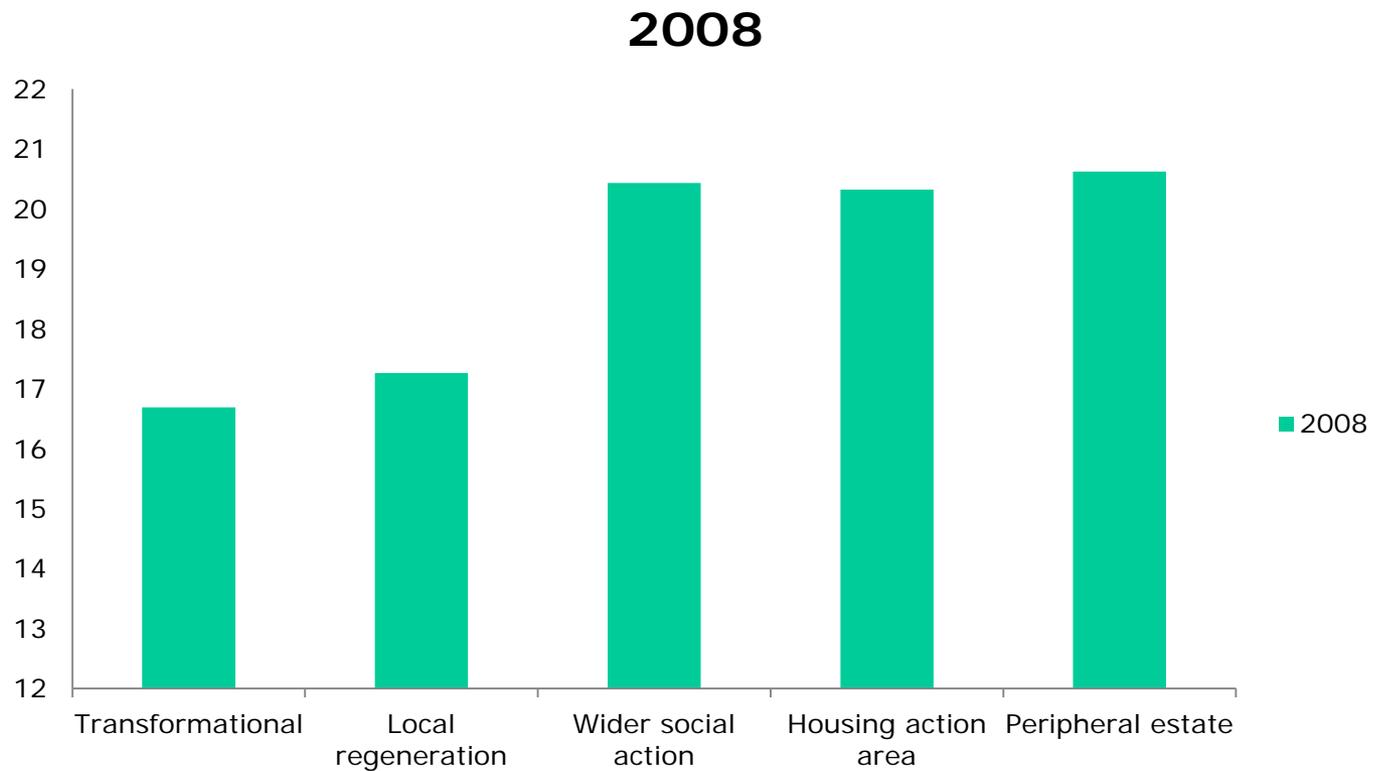


Social cohesion scores by agegroup – 2008 & 2011

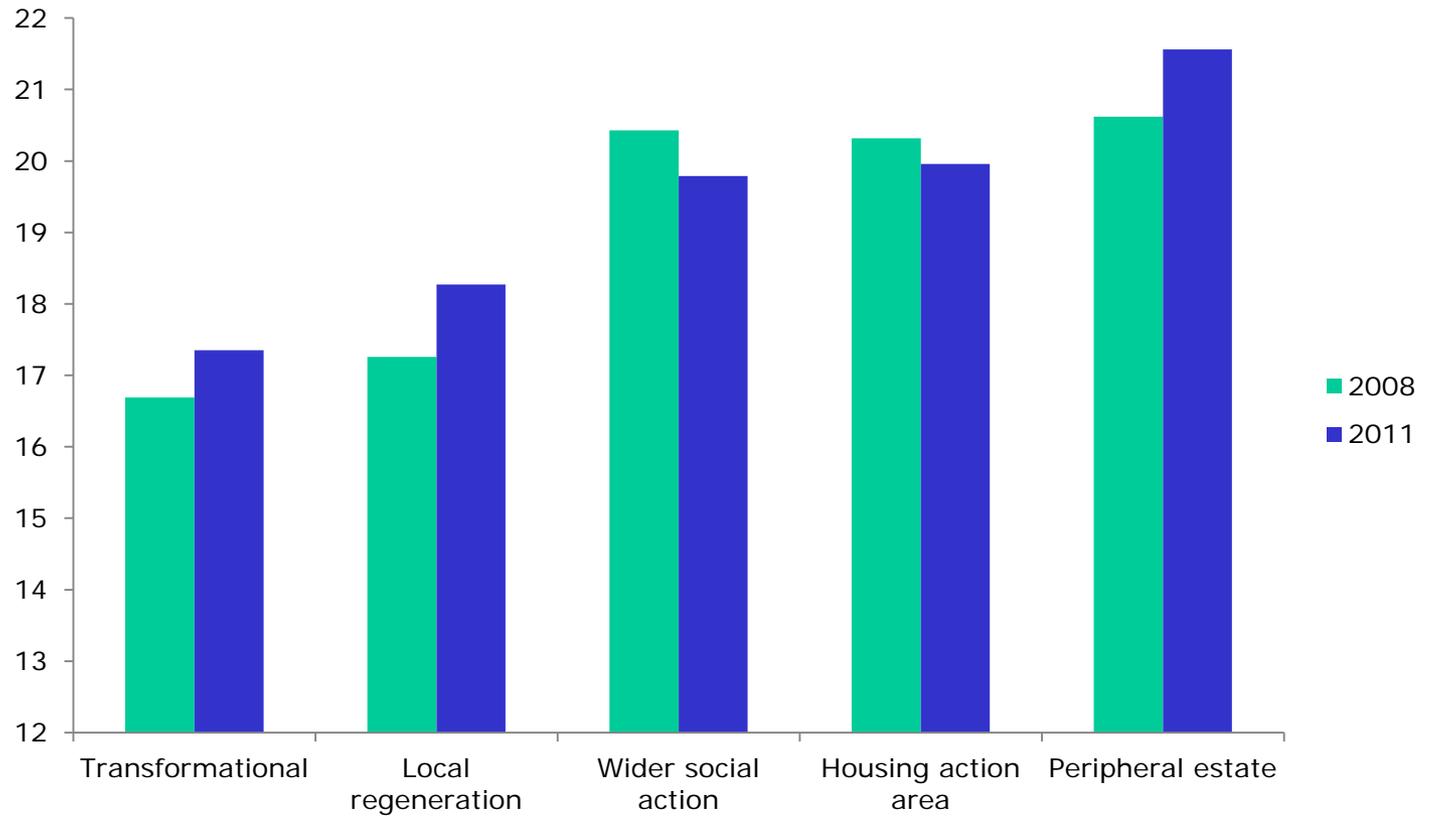


GoWell areas

Social cohesion score

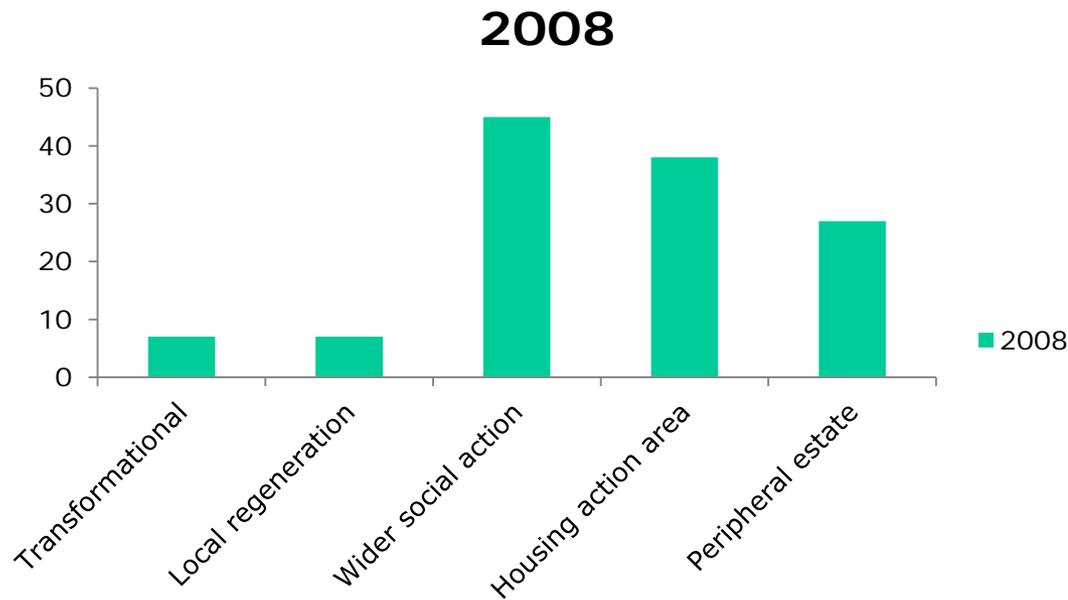


Social cohesion score 2008 & 2011



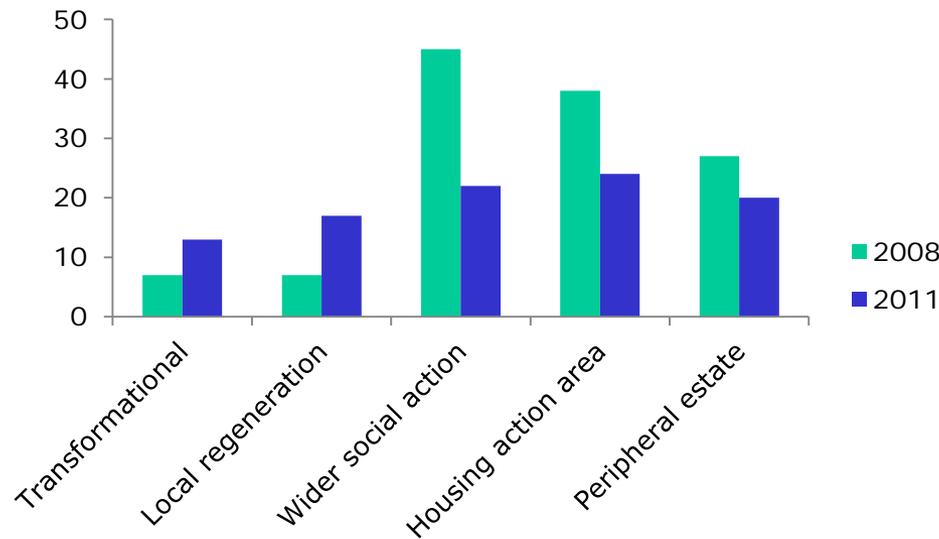
Assessment of local trust - % strongly agree/agree

‘Someone who lost a purse or wallet around here would be likely to have it returned without anything missing’

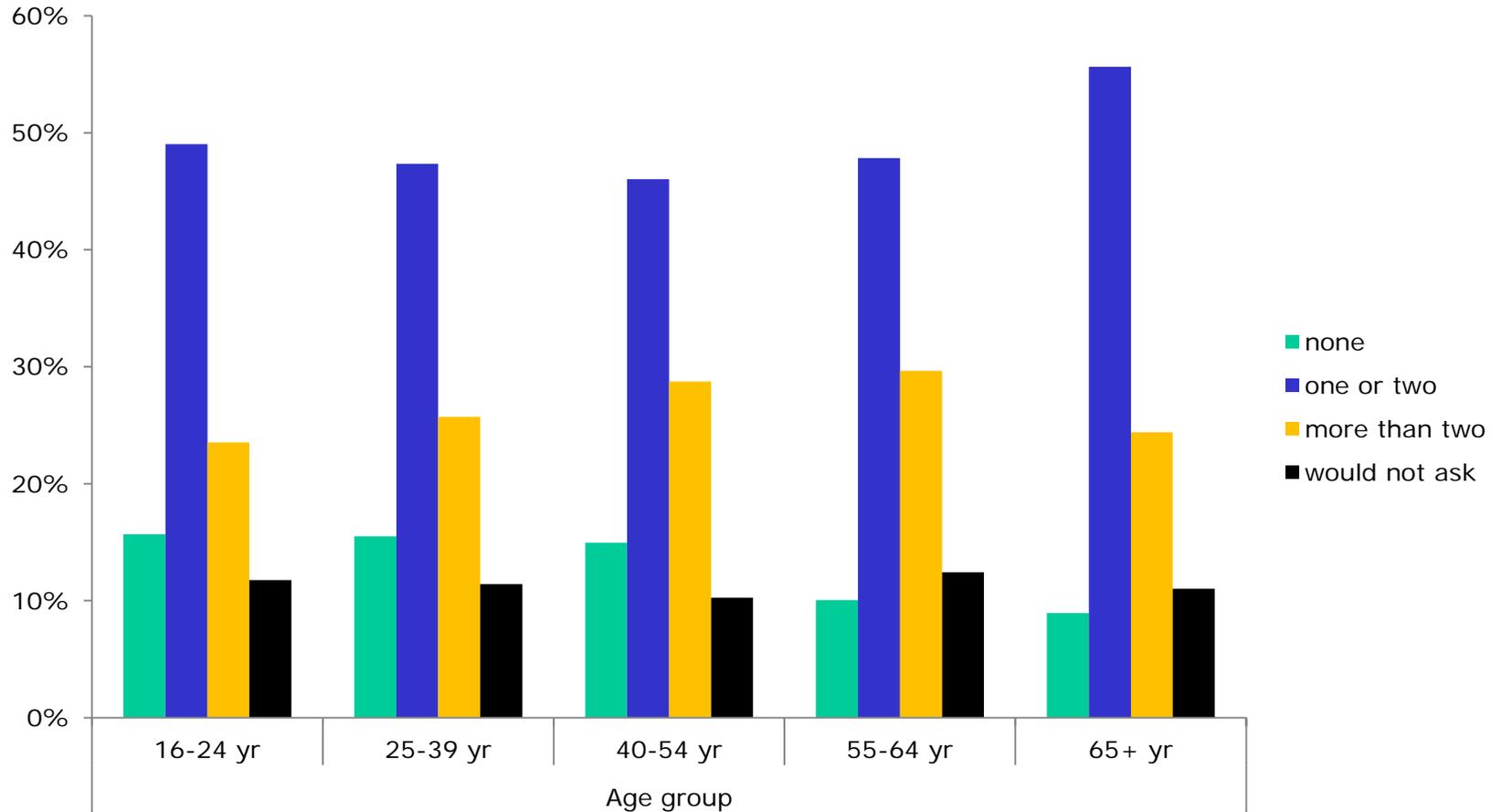


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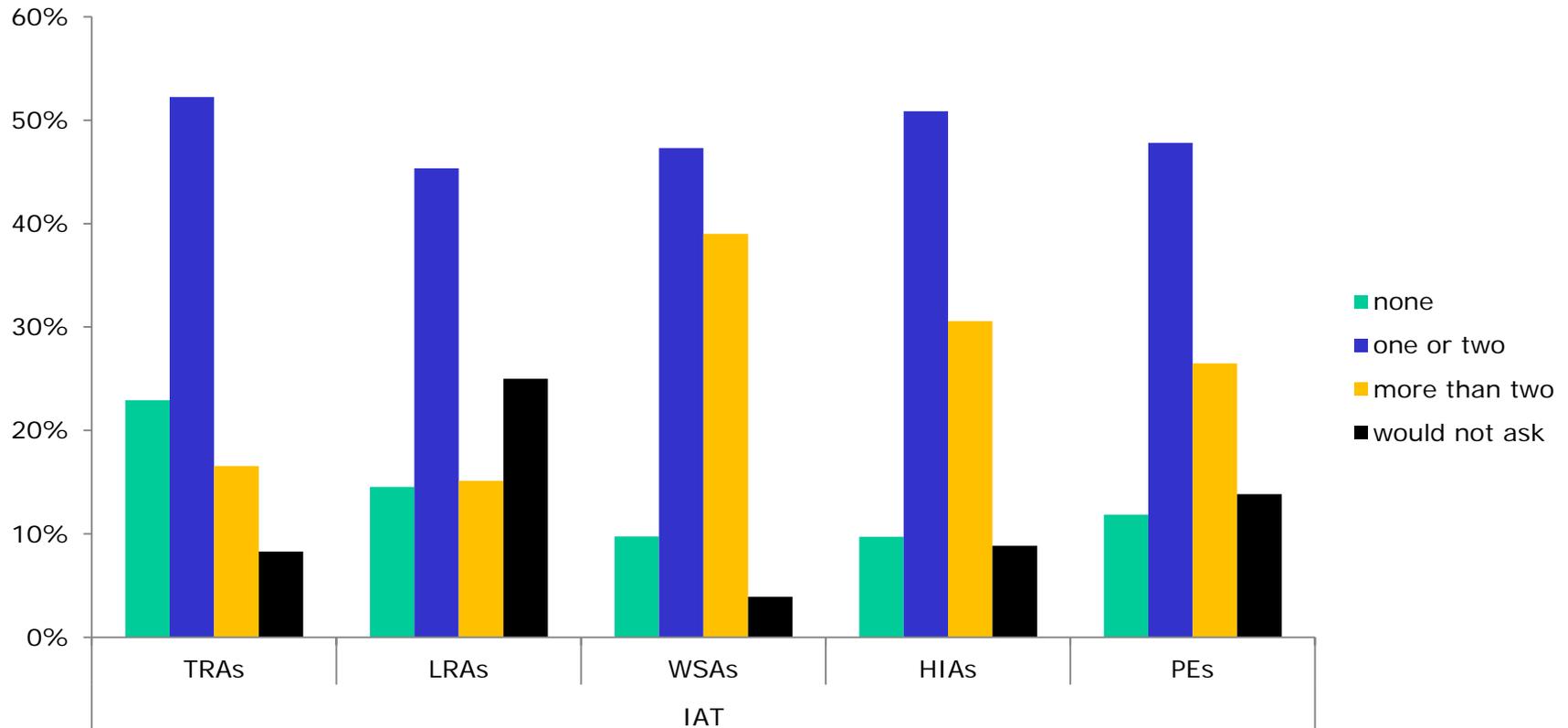
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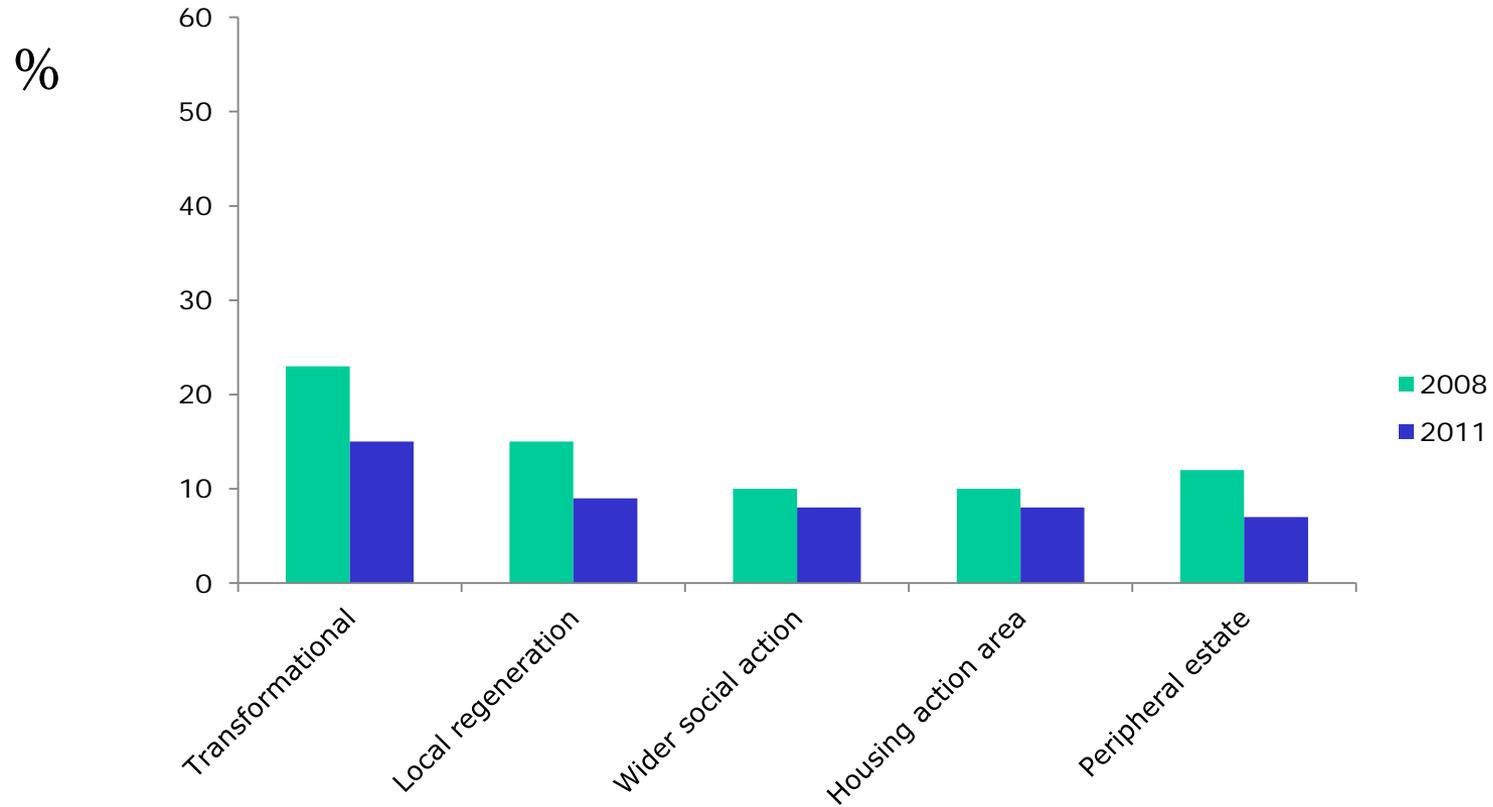
How many people could you ask to go to the shops for you if you are unwell? 2008



How many people could you ask to go to the shops for you if you are unwell? 2008



Change in reports of having *no one* to go to the shops for you if you are unwell



Is it related to health in GoWell?

Social cohesion: More positive assessments of neighbourhood social cohesion is associated with lower depression and better health.

Social support: Depression is higher among those who are more likely to say they have no one to go to the shops for them if they are unwell

Trust: no association with depression or self reported health

What can be done about it?

Places to meet? Cost? Opening hours?

Appearance and perceived safety of public spaces?

Local facilities e.g. shops?

More organised social activities ?

Increasing confidence and self esteem?

Role of poverty and poor health?

