

Place belonging in rural areas during different stages of life: young adults, family formation, retirement age.

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Summary

The personal feeling and meaning of place belonging is something that interests researchers for a long time. The connection to a place is something that is very personal and hard to grasp. In order to add to the framework of understanding what kind of influences place belonging could have in rural areas, this thesis is written. The aim is to explore the dynamics of place belonging in the living environment of rural areas of the East of Groningen in the Netherlands. Motivated by the changing population composition in rural areas, namely outmigration of young adults and ageing, the importance of looking at place belonging within three life stages arises: young adults, family formation and retirement age. In this research, the focus is put on the social aspect of place belonging. The role of social capital, roots and participation in shaping place belonging across life course stages is explored.

The research is based on secondary data from the STAYin(g) Rural project. Analysed using a mixed methods approach, combining statistical analysis of a survey with qualitative analysis of semi-structured interviews. The aim is to understand how individuals at different life stages experience and connect with their environment, contributing to a good understanding of place belonging to their living environment in rural areas in the East of Groningen. Findings highlight differences between life stage groups. There seems to be a difference between life stage groups in social networks, whereas young adults perceive it to be more important to have friends nearby, elderly rate it more important to have family closeby. Time spent engaging, memories and experiences increase the place belonging felt, and those at retirement age are most actively engaged. Understanding place belonging can help in creating more place belonging in the future through e.g. writing policies for rural communities that aim at developing more place belonging for the residents. Creating more place belonging is interesting for rural areas because it can cause more people to stay. In addition to staying or leaving, experiencing more place belonging contributes largely to keeping the quality of life and healthy ageing high in rural areas.

1. Introduction

Understanding how individuals in different life stages connect to their living environment in rural areas by means of place belonging, is important. Understanding that different life stage groups experience this differently and in which way is needed in order to play into the demographic transition of the Netherlands. Rural areas are losing young people to out migration, combining this with the ageing trend we see in the Netherlands (Ministerie van Algemene Zaken, 2023), rural areas will have difficulties keeping their areas populated (Government of the Netherlands, 2011). This means that the majority of the population shifts in age and in needs. People at an older age need different things than younger ones. It is often thought that place belonging results in staying (or returning), so it's relevant to understand how place belonging works.

Place belonging is, similar to other social concepts, a multidimensional term (Marshall and Foster, 2002; May and Muir, 2015). Throughout academic literature, place belonging is made up of two parts. The appreciation of an individuals' surroundings; the social and physical factors in a place (Scannell and Gifford, 2010) and the individual's characteristics (Hay, 1998). In this thesis, the focus is put on the social factors. Social relations are key elements in community feeling and place belonging (Doheny and Milbourne, 2017; Berg, 2020).

The changing composition of our population, like ageing in combination with outmigration, suggest that the majority shifts to older people, who have different needs. This stresses the importance of understanding place belonging in context of different life stages. This is also claimed by May and Muir (2015), where they address differences in place belonging amongst different life stage groups as generational belonging. Understanding place belonging is a key component in the improvement of the quality of rural life. Understanding place belonging means we can improve it and use it in future policies in order to make the rural areas more attractive.

There appears to be a research gap in exploring variations in place belonging among groups at various life stages in rural areas.

1.1 Research Problem

The aim of this research is to explore place belonging to different life stage groups in rural areas. Three groups at different life stages will be examined; young adults (18- 30 yrs.), family formation (30-65 yrs.), and retirement age (65+ yrs.). What are the differences in place belonging between different life stage groups in rural areas in the East of Groningen? This question leads to the follow up question: How does place belonging impact the quality of rural life?

1.2 Structure of the Thesis

The thesis is structured into several sections to give a systematic overview of the research problem. Following the introduction and research problem, the second part gives an extensive overview, displaying the current knowledge of place belonging, social networks, participation and roots. In the third chapter, methodology of the research is discussed, including a description of the research methods, source of the data, ethics and data analysis methods. The fourth chapter contains the findings from the data analysis. A discussion addressing the limitations of this thesis follows. The last chapter starts off with a summary of the findings and suggestions for future research. The expectations of this thesis are that there will indeed be differences in place belonging amongst the different life stage groups. The factors that make up place belonging per individual according to the literature will be tested in the sample of this study. In addition, there will be examined if other factors from the data also have an influence on place belonging.

2. Theoretical framework

In this day and age, we see a changing composition of the population in the Netherlands. Ageing is a trend (Ministerie van Algemene Zaken, 2023), which means that the majority of the population shifts from 'family formation' to 'retirement age'. This shift means that the needs of majorities also change. Do we need to make policy adjustments in order to keep the quality of life in rural areas high? In addition, if there is a difference in how different age groups experience place belonging, we should adjust to that, and not only play into the majority of the population.

An expected cause for this difference is that those at retirement age, have way more experiences and memories connected to a place, in addition to the more intensive use of the internet by younger individuals (Hargittai and Dobransky, 2017; Fernández-Ardèvol and Ivan, 2015), to stay in contact with their social relations over a much bigger distance.

Place belonging is a multidimensional concept (Marshall and Foster, 2002; May and Muir, 2015), which is often vaguely described. Place belonging is also referred to as 'place attachment' or 'sense of place'. The concept belonging is in general described as a feeling of ease, safety, being connected and respected (Yuval- Davis, 2006; May, 2013; in Ahn and Davis, 2020).

In the literature, place belonging is often described as a concept made up out of two parts, the first made up out of social and physical surroundings, and the second being personal characteristics (Scannell and Gifford, 2010; Hay, 1998).

In addition, there are a lot of different dimensions of place belonging that are discussed by scholars. Escalera-Reyes (2020) discusses the emotional aspect of place belonging, which refers to the cognitive and emotional attachment of an individual to a specific environment. These meanings an individual creates evolve overtime. In addition, Lewicka (2011) stressed the role of cultural context in creating place belonging in certain places in her work. This includes cultural heritage and shared cultural identity. Socially, place belonging creates a community feeling and social bonds (Chavis

and Wandersman, 1990; Sakhaeifar and Ghoddusifar, 2016). They argue that a strong place belonging adds to community development and participation in community. According to Kenny and Connors (2017; in AIFS, 2023) community development empowers community members and builds more secure and more connected communities.

Furthermore there is a psychological dimension, where place belonging leads to pro- environmental attitudes and behaviour (Scannell and Gifford, 2010). Sociological investigations, as demonstrated by Kyle et al. (2003), delve into the impact of place belonging on recreational behaviour and identity, underscoring its significance in understanding human interactions with the environment. Lastly place belonging is seen as an ever changing concept because of variability of experiences and situations and one's perceptions of them (Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001; Trampe et al, 2015 in Allen et al., 2021).

According to Savage et al (2005); Allen (2020); Trąbka et al (2022) local attachments are crucial, as people are looking for a way of 'being at home' in a turbulent world, even though the way we view place belonging may have changed overtime. Social relations are key elements in community feeling and place belonging (Doheny and Milbourne, 2017; Berg, 2020; Creswell, 2015; Antonisch, 2010). In addition to social networks, roots and family history are seen as contributing factors as well (Sinkkonen, 2012; Hay, 1998). Roots are described as a cultural legacy, characterised by a set of values and beliefs, or a bond with a specific location either inherited across generations or nurtured during one's early childhood (Borde, 2018).

Not only family history, but also personal history consisting of experiences and memories will strengthen place belonging (Hay, 1998). Engagement in the local rural community, also referred to as participation, promotes place belonging (Herslund, 2021). Sparse local social interaction can lead to limited commitment and thus limited sense of belonging (Brekke, 2015; in Herslund, 2021). Place belonging is experienced differently by individuals because it is based on personal circumstances, so the definition of place belonging varies amongst individuals (Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001; Trampe et al, 2015 in Allen et al., 2021).

Having social support and a social network in the area positively influence quality of life (Pearson and Sadler, 2018 in; Friesinger, Haugland and Vederhus, 2022).

Pilehvari, You and Lin (2023) argue that investing into the social dimension of place belonging can serve as a counteractive measure against adverse health effects of retirement. Using this as a policy target could prove to be an effective objective for promoting healthy ageing and fighting depression amongst elderly.

In addition to healthy ageing, promoting place belonging in policies is that place belonging is an important reason for elderly to stay (Butcher and Breheny, 2016). Specifically for rural areas, stayers are important. For young adults, general feelings of belonging to an area, feelings of connection to the landscape, having local family and friends, and being an integral part of the community constitute the general aspects considered in the decision to stay (Hofstede et al., 2022).

The research gap seems to be looking at differences in experience of place belonging between groups in different life stages. Researching generational and life stage differences in place belonging can give an insight into understanding how individuals connect to their surroundings.

Municipalities should want to make place belonging policies, in order to improve on the aforementioned areas. Encouraging place belonging through policies, can improve community-life positively for both residents and municipality.

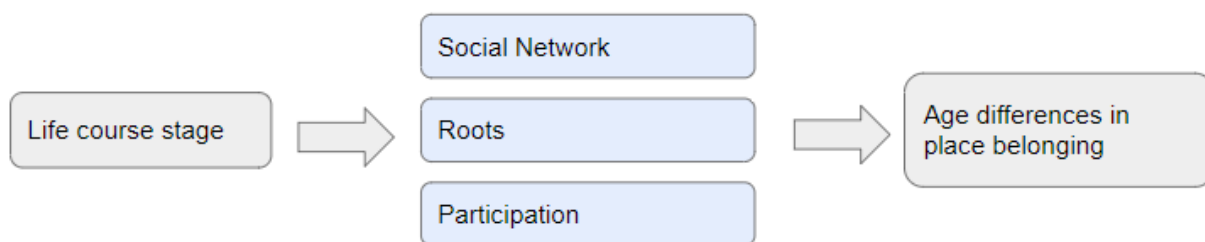


Fig. 1. Conceptual model on place belonging differences between life stage groups (Arnold, 2023)

As stated in the literature review and visualised in figure 1, the concepts of social capital, roots and participation have a huge impact on perceived place belonging. These concepts are based on personal experiences, and are thus different per individual. This makes place belonging hard to define. In addition to these three concepts, the life course stage an individual is in, has an impact as well. The life stage group an individual is situated in, has an impact on their perceptions of the world around them. This research looks at the differences between three life stage groups. To what extent the concepts' importance varies between the life stage groups, their perspective on place belonging is influenced. Examining differences is important for policymakers, to improve the quality of life for inhabitants. In this thesis, it will be researched what the differences in place belonging between life stage groups in rural areas could be.

3. Methodology

For this paper, secondary data is analysed through the use of a mixed methods approach. Both the qualitative and the quantitative data were gathered for the STAYin(g) Rural project. The STAYin(g) Rural Project examines why and how people stay in rural areas at different life stages. These life stages are also used in this thesis. The survey is collected in the East of Groningen (the Netherlands), the Clogher Valley and its surrounding areas (Northern Ireland) and the Südharz (Germany) and includes all age groups. Because this paper focuses on the Netherlands only, only Dutch respondents were used for the research. In total, there were 310 Dutch respondents. For the quantitative data, a survey was used. In the survey, questions are being asked about feelings that arise living in the rural area of the East of Groningen and the surrounding areas.

In this paper, I performed a quantitative analysis in order to examine if significant relationships exist between variables and place belonging. Because we know that place belonging is hugely impacted by individual experiences, the semi-structured interviews help to highlight the personal dimension of place belonging, and go more in depth on the relationships. The qualitative data exists out of 55 semi-structured interviews, which were held in the rural areas of the East of

Groningen. The interviews lasted around 60 minutes each and consisted of 4 main themes: starting with history of residence, then continuing to roots, connectedness and social network, thirdly discussing relationships to other individuals and places and lastly their participation in the local economy and community. For this research, not all parts of the interviews are interesting, mostly parts focussed on roots, connectedness, social network (and distances to their social network) and participation in the community were used. Out of the interviews, ten interviews were analysed. For the selection of the interviews, stratified convenience sampling is used. From the young adult group, two interviews are used. Then, for the groups family formation and retirement age four interviews were chosen. Out of all interviews, the interviews chosen discussed place belonging and factors researched in this paper the most. This is chosen because not all secondary data is useful.

The researchers of the STAYin(g) Rural project have taken ethical considerations into account and had written consent. Participants were clearly explained their rights, privacy and confidentiality of their shared information. Additionally, it was being made clear that the information was purely being used for academic purposes. To ensure anonymity, names of the participants have been changed. Lastly, the collected data has been handled with integrity to ensure correct and accurate information to ensure validity of the research.

4. Results

In order to examine what factors have an impact on place belonging, the survey is being used to test if there's significant influence of factors on place belonging and if there are differences between the three life stage groups. Then, the analysis of the interviews will indicate this, shedding light on specific cases. Binary regressions are performed to check if individuals who rate to have more of the independent factors, also experience more place belonging to their rural living area.

The statement 'I feel like I belong to my living area' is used to test the dependent variable 'place belonging' of this study. Table one in the Appendix, displays the results of this statement.

The participants could answer on a scale from 1-5 (strongly disagree- strongly agree). For the binary regression, the answers strongly disagree, disagree and neither disagree nor agree are set to low place belonging, and agree and strongly agree were set to high place belonging.

The binary regression shows (table 14) that the place belonging increases with the increase in age. Compared to the group retirement age, young adults have less place belonging with a B- coefficient of -0,763. Family formation also feels less place belonging in comparison to retirement age, but more than young adults with a B- coefficient of -0,297. In contradiction to the literature and the interviews, this difference is not significant.

In the interviews, we also see that there are young adults that experience positive place belonging. This is seen in young adults that grew up and stayed in the same place. For newcomers, there is more of a struggle observed.

“This really is my home, indeed” (Milan, Young adult)

“It is hard to move to a village like Oude Pekela as an outsider [...] There are a lot of people that hang out with each other a lot. [...] Then you’re the misfit quickly.” (Patrick, Young adult)

Moving on to the independent variables extracted from the literature review, firstly social networks are tested by analysing the statements ‘How important is to be close to friends explaining your decision to live in the East of Groningen?’ and ‘How important is it to be close to family members explaining your decision to live in the East of Groningen? One being not important and ten being very important. From the results in table 2, we can conclude that people with a high place belonging rate it more important to have friends close by than people with low belonging. Comparing between the life stage groups in table 3, we see that the groups family formation and retirement age have a bigger share that rate having friends closeby not important (rate 1-5). Compared to young adults with 51,4%, the other two groups add up to above 70%. For the binary regression in table 14, the decision is made to take the answers 1- 5 as not important and 6-10 as

important. The regression presents that having friends and family (main components of an individuals' social network) nearby, influences an individual's place belonging positively.

In the interviews, it generally appears that over the three life stages there is an agreement that having their social circle (e.g. friends and family) close by is wished for, and makes that people experience more belonging to a place. This is mentioned 17 times. Reversing this, it's also a reason which keeps people from moving elsewhere.

However, differences between life stage groups have been found. Namely, at retirement age, individuals prefer having their family close by, whereas young adults prefer having their friends close by. The reasoning behind this could be when individuals get older it is more convenient to have family as caregivers nearby. This displays people at retirement age have different needs. Besides that, in this day and age, social media allows individuals to stay in contact much better over greater distances. This makes young adults have a much lesser need to live near their social circle than individuals at the family formation stage. As seen in the regression comparing place belonging (table 14), we indeed see that young adults have less place belonging. In the interviews it becomes clear that this is not only something specific to young adults, also in the family formation phase but to a lesser extent.

“Well, a big part really is social bonding. My father, mother and friends live here [...]. I wanted to go to my home and that really is on the land (countryside), yes. It has to do with the fact that I felt at home there, but also with the social network around us. A bit of a twofold.” (Emmie, Family formation)

In addition, being active in the rural community promotes strengthening individuals' social networks. Addressing the importance of participation, the question ‘Which of the following statements best describes your community involvement in the East of Groningen and surrounding

area?' is being assessed. Looking at table 6, we see that people with low belonging have a larger share in not being involved in the community, and people with high belonging having a larger share of being involved in the community. Table 7 shows us that the retirement age group is most actively engaged, confirming what is told in the interviews.

For the binary regression, the answers 'I am supportive (e.g attend activities/ events only) and 'I am not involved in any activity and I don't attend activities/events' are taken as not involved enough (option 1 and 5). The answers 'I am actively involved (e.g. fundraise, help with catering)', 'I have a defined role (e.g. treasurer, secretary, board member, coach)' and 'I take the lead (e.g. President/Chair of Group/Committee) are taken as involved (2,3,4). In table 14, the binary regression gives a not significant result. This means we cannot say that the way a person engages has an influence on place belonging.

On the other hand, I looked at the question 'In an average week, how many hours in total do you spend on these activities?' This also scales from 1- 5, with 1 being 'Maximum 1 hour/week', 2 '1-3 hours/week', 3 '3-6 hours/week' and 4 'More than 6 hours/week'. In table 8, observed results show that people with a low belonging spend almost no time on participating in activities (max 1 hour). People with high place belonging have a 20,5% smaller share. For the binary regression, 1 and 2 are seen as little involvement and 3 and 4 are seen as involved. The result, seen in table 14 as time involved, gives a significant B coefficient of 0,727. This means that the more time individuals invest in being active in the community, the more place belonging individuals experience.

In the interviews it was confirmed that people who had high place belonging and thus cared for their living environment, were more active within the community and spent more time on being active. Furthermore, we see an age difference in active participation in community life. In the interviews there have been 7 respondents mentioning that mostly older people are, or are willing to be active. According to one of the interviewees it's namely the people who live in the village the longest that are active.

“That is really, she is really busy with community interest and well yes, being really really active with it and that’s what more older people in the village do.” (Anna, Young adult)

Besides social networks and active participation, as seen in the literature, the community spirit is something that increases place belonging positively. Looking into community spirit the statement ‘Based on your experience of living here, how do you rate the community spirit?’ is tested. The respondents could answer on a scale from 1- 5, with one being very poor and 5 very good. Looking at table 9, we see quite an equal spread in answer over the three groups. The only difference observed is seen in table 10, from which we can conclude that people with a high place belonging rate the community spirit in their living area higher. For the binary regression, the answers are divided into 1-3 as negative values and 4-5 are taken into account as positive values. As seen in table 14, resulting with a B coefficient of 0.821, we see a strong positive relationship between experiencing community spirit in the living environment and place belonging to the rural area.

Furthermore, a variable that came out to have a positive relationship with place belonging was the area in which individuals grow up during the years 0-18. Namely, growing up in a rural settlement or in the countryside results in having more place belonging to their rural place of residence than having grown up in an urban area or town. As seen in table 11, we see that having a high belonging to the rural residential area, has a bigger share of people who grew up in a rural area during their youth (0-18 years). The binary regression discussing whether or not the type of area (city, town, rural settlement or countryside) of individuals upbringing impacts place belonging has an unstandardized coefficient B of 0,645. This links back to the influence that roots have on place belonging, as we have seen in the literature and interviews before. In addition to growing up, it is looked at if educational level has an influence on place belonging. This is not the case as seen in the regression in table 14.

The independent variable roots are not only based on physical belonging, but also on mental belonging. Nostalgia, past experiences and memories are all components that built up roots as a total. In the interviews it becomes clear that early memories and experiences to a village, made individuals want to stay, or return. Four respondents mentioned this. A participant agreed with the question if characteristics of early memories played a part in the choice to live in the East of Groningen.

[...] Well my mom couldn't settle there, because she's from here as well. [...] So we moved back to Nieuweschans [...] My roots are here. So grandpa's, grandma's, everything is near" (Bart, Family formation)

In the introduction and literature review it is also mentioned that the rated quality of life is impacted by place belonging and vice versa. For the statistical analysis is the statement 'Based on your experience of living here, how do you rate the overall quality of life in this area?' Participants could answer on a scale from 1-5, from very poor (1) to very good (5). In table 12 it is seen that people with a low belonging rate their quality of life also lower. Table 13 displays that young adults are somewhat more negative towards rating the quality of life in their living area. In table 14 we see that the regression tells us, with a B coefficient of 1.085, that experiencing a good quality of life corresponds with high place belonging to the living environment.

A factor not looked at in the statistics but worthy to mention, because the focus of this study is on the social aspects of place belonging mostly, but mentioned in five interviews, is that the physical environment is what makes them feel at home.

"Here I have a piece of freedom, a piece of freedom [...] We wanted a bit of rural [...] The romance of a farm and a piece of land." (Sjaak, Retirement age)

4.1 Discussion

From this research follow up questions for future research arise; How can municipalities and rural communities use this information to improve quality of rural life? Does having less place belonging mean that people leave rural areas more easily? Does this change imply that there is a need for changes within rural community life in order to keep the quality of life high? On the other hand, recognizing potential variations in the sense of place belonging among different age groups calls for adjustments that go beyond catering solely to the preferences of the majority of the population.

Expectations from this research are that understanding how different generations use space, creates the possibility to include specific needs in our policies, and make them more effective. In addition to that, another expectation is that understanding place belonging can help designing rural spaces to strengthen place belonging and increase social cohesion and overall improved quality of life in rural areas.

Throughout the thesis, amongst the articles, there are also some relatively older articles being used while also claiming that place belonging is an ever changing concept throughout time. The academic definition of place belonging stays the same, but how individuals perceive it changes overtime. In principle, the concept will be influenced by the same dimensions, throughout time, these dimensions change in form.

In the survey, there is a difference in size of the life stage groups. To show what part of the groups voted what, cross tables are made to give a better overview of the group.

5 . Conclusion

In conclusion, it is observed that there is a difference in place belonging between life stage groups, place belonging is felt the most in retirement age, and the least as a young adult. The independent variables adding to place belonging, also show some differences between life stage groups. A similarity amongst the three groups is that social networks contribute to place belonging. In the interviews, it became apparent that young adults value it more important to have friends close, and people at retirement age value family more important. This difference can be explained on the basis of having different needs, values and abilities at these ages. For the factor participation, a clear difference is observed, namely that individuals at retirement age and/ or characterised as living longer in a rural area are more actively engaged in community life. The community spirit of the living environment was also perceived similar amongst groups, although a correlation was found between low place belonging and low rated community spirit and vice versa. This underscores the importance of a strong community bond in shaping individuals' connection to their surroundings. Furthermore spending more time engaging with the community results in having a higher degree of place belonging. An observed difference between life stage groups in participation, is that individuals at retirement age are more likely to be actively engaged than the stages of young adults and family formation. Growing up in a rural area compared to growing up in an urban area is connected to having more place belonging to the rural living area now. Next to physical roots in rural areas, also mental roots (memories and experiences) are of positive effect on place belonging. Lastly a positive correlation between the experienced quality of life of participants and their place belonging to their living environment in the rural areas of the East of Groningen was found.

In brief, the results give valuable understanding of place belonging to the rural areas of the East of Groningen. Hopefully, in the future, these observations can help improve the quality of life and promote healthy ageing in these rural areas by informing future place- belonging policies.

6. Appendix

Table 1			Young Adults	Family Formation	Retirement Age	Total
Please indicate your level of agreement on	Strongly disagree	Count	12	5	3	20
"I feel I belong to this area"		% within life stage groups	2,0%	1,2%	5,6%	1,9%
	Disagree	Count	55	16	9	80
		% within life stage groups	9,2%	4,0%	16,7%	7,6%
	Neither agree nor disagree	Count	114	72	13	199
		% within life stage groups	19,1%	18,0%	24,1%	18,8%
	Agree	Count	293	220	25	538
		% within life stage groups	49,0%	54,9%	46,3%	50,9%
	Strongly agree	Count	124	88	4	216
		% within life stage groups	20,7%	21,9%	7,4%	20,5%
Total		Count	598	401	54	1056
		% within life stage groups	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Binary Regression	Low belonging (1-3)	Count	181	93	25	299
"I feel like I belong to this area"		% within life stage groups	30,3%	23,2%	46,3%	28,4%
	High belonging (4-5)	Count	417	308	29	754
		% within life stage groups	69,7%	76,8%	53,7%	71,6%
Total		Count	598	401	54	1053
		% within life stage groups	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Table 2													
How important is being close to friends in explaining your decision to live in this area?			Not important									Very important	Total
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Binary belonging	Low Belonging (1-5)	Count	163	16	22	13	27	14	12	7	1	5	280
		% within low belonging	58.2%	5.7%	7.9%	4.6%	9.6%	5.0%	4.3%	2.5%	0.4%	1.8%	100%
	High Belonging (6-10)	Count	276	40	48	35	77	47	56	66	20	20	685
		% within high belonging	40.3%	5.8%	7.0%	5.1%	11.2%	6.9%	8.2%	9.6%	2.9%	2.9%	100%
Total		Count	439	56	70	48	104	61	68	73	21	25	965
			45.5%	5.8%	7.3%	5.0%	10.8%	6.3%	7.0%	7.6%	2.2%	2.6%	100%

Table 3														
How important is being close to friends in explaining your decision to live in this area?			Not important										Very important	Total
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Life stage groups	Young adults	Count	17	4	4	2	10	5	5	3	1	1	52	
		% within Young adults	32.7%	7.7%	7.7%	3.8%	19.2%	9.6%	9.6%	5.8%	1.9%	1.9%	100%	
	Family Formation	Count	246	37	45	31	68	38	41	52	15	15	588	
		% within Family formation	41.8%	6.3%	7.7%	5.3%	11.6%	6.5%	7.0%	8.8%	2.6%	2.6%	100%	
	Retirement Age	Count	162	17	18	13	19	15	20	15	4	8	291	
		% within Retirement age	55.7%	5.8%	6.2%	4.5%	6.5%	5.2%	6.9%	5.2%	1.4%	2.7%	100%	
Total		Count	425	58	67	46	97	58	66	70	20	24	913	
		% within all groups	46.5%	6.4%	7.3%	5.0%	10.6%	6.4%	7.2%	7.7%	2.2%	2.6%	100%	

Table 4														
How important is being close to family members in explaining your decision to live in this area?			Not important										Very important	Total
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Binary belonging	Low Belonging (1-5)	Count	140	15	19	12	21	16	14	20	9	14	280	
		% within low belonging	50.0%	5.4%	6.8%	4.3%	7.5%	5.7%	5.0%	7.1%	3.2%	5.0%	100%	
	High Belonging (6-10)	Count	225	34	36	25	62	48	60	112	32	51	685	
		% within high belonging	32.8%	5.0%	5.3%	3.6%	9.1%	7.0%	8.8%	16.4%	4.7%	7.4%	100%	
Total		Count	365	49	55	37	83	64	74	132	41	65	965	
			37.8%	5.1%	5.7%	3.8%	8.6%	6.6%	7.7%	13.7%	4.2%	6.7%	100%	

Table 5														
How important is being close to family members in explaining your decision to live in this area?			Not important										Very important	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	
Life stage groups	Young adults	Count	13	3	4	1	6	4	7	4	3	8	53	
		% within Young adults	24.5%	5.7%	7.5%	1.9%	11.3%	7.5%	13.2%	7.5%	5.7%	15.1%	100.0%	
	Family Formation	Count	201	30	30	22	54	40	46	92	33	39	587	
		% within Family formation	34.2%	5.1%	5.1%	3.7%	9.2%	6.8%	7.8%	15.7%	5.6%	6.6%	100%	
	Retirement Age	Count	140	14	21	13	19	18	16	32	4	15	292	
		% within Retirement age	47.9%	4.8%	7.2%	4.5%	6.5%	6.2%	5.5%	11.0%	1.4%	5.1%	100%	
Total		Count	354	47	55	36	79	62	69	128	40	62	932	
		% within all groups	38.0%	5.0%	5.9%	3.9%	8.5%	6.7%	7.4%	13.7%	4.3%	6.7%	100%	

Table 6								
Which statement best describes your community involvement in this area?			I am supportive	Actively involved	Defined role	I take the lead	Not involved	
			1	2	3	4	5	Total
Binary belonging	Low Belonging (1-3)	Count	86	18	14	2	176	296
		% within low belonging	29.1%	6.1%	4.7%	0.7%	59.5%	100.0%
	High Belonging (4-5)	Count	303	65	82	24	280	754
		% within high belonging	40.2%	8.6%	10.9%	3.2%	37.1%	100.0%
Total		Count	389	83	96	26	456	1017
			38.2%	8.2%	9.4%	2.6%	44.8%	103.24 %

Table 7								
Which of the following statements best describes								
your community involvement in this area?			I am supportive	I am actively involved	I have a defined role	I take the lead	I am not involved	Total
Life stage groups	Young adults	Count	21	4	2	1	25	53
		% within Young adults	39.6%	7.5%	3.8%	1.9%	47.2%	100%
	Family Formation	Count	234	43	43	17	276	613
		% within Family formation	38.2%	7.0%	7.0%	2.8%	45.0%	100%
	Retirement Age	Count	130	32	46	6	142	356
		% within Retirement age	36.5%	9.0%	12.9%	1.7%	39.9%	100%
Total		Count	385	79	91	24	443	1022
		% within all groups	37.7%	7.7%	8.9%	2.3%	43.3%	100%

Table 8								
In an average week, how many hours in total do you spend on community activities?			1 hour/ week	1-3 hours/ week	3-6 hours/ week	more than 6 hours/ week	not applicable	Total
			1	2	3	4	5	
Binary belonging	Low Belonging (1-3)	Count	35	42	20	16	176	289
		% within low belonging	12.1%	14.5%	6.9%	5.5%	60.9%	100%
	High Belonging (4-5)	Count	105	214	86	50	281	736
		% within high belonging	14.3%	29.1%	11.7%	6.8%	38.2%	100%
Total		Count	140	256	106	66	457	1025
			13.7%	25.0%	10.3%	6.4%	44.6%	100%

Table 9								
Based on your experience of living here,								
how do you rate the community spirit?								
			Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Total
Life stage groups	Young adults	Count	0	6	19	18	8	51
		% within Young adults	0.00%	11.76%	37.25%	35.29%	15.69%	100.00%
	Family Formation	Count	8	44	238	288	31	609
		% within Family formation	1.31%	7.22%	39.08%	47.29%	5.09%	100.00%
	Retirement Age	Count	5	15	134	168	19	341
		% within Retirement age	1.47%	4.40%	39.30%	49.27%	5.57%	100.00%
Total		Count	13	65	391	474	58	1001
		% within all groups	1.30%	6.49%	39.06%	47.35%	5.79%	100.00%

Table 10								
Based on your experience of living here,			Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Total
How do you rate the community spirit?			1	2	3	4	5	
Binary belonging	Low Belonging (1-3)	Count	10	41	146	85	5	287
		% within low belonging	3.5%	14.3%	50.9%	29.6%	1.7%	100%
	High Belonging (4-5)	Count	5	28	256	407	55	751
		% within high belonging	0.7%	3.7%	34.1%	54.2%	7.3%	100%
Total		Count	15	69	402	492	60	1038
			1.4%	6.6%	38.7%	47.4%	5.8%	100%

Table 11					
What is the type of persons' area of upbringing (aged 0-18 years)?			Area of Upbringing		Total
			Urban	Rural	
	Low belonging	Count	103	104	207
		% within low belonging	49.76%	50.24%	100%
	High belonging	Count	189	357	546
		% within high belonging	34.62%	65.38%	100%
Total		Count	292	461	753
		% within total	38.78%	61.22%	100%

Table 12								
Based on your experience of living here,			Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Total
how do you rate the overall quality of life in this area?			1	2	3	4	5	
Binary belonging	Low belonging (1-3)	Count	1	14	114	145	25	299
		% within low belonging	0.3%	4.7%	38.1%	48.5%	8.4%	100.0%
	High belonging (4-5)	Count	2	10	112	503	134	761
		% within high belonging	0.3%	1.3%	14.7%	66.1%	17.6%	100.0%
Total		Count	3	24	226	648	159	1060
			0.3%	2.3%	21.3%	61.1%	15.0%	100.0%

Table 13								
Based on your experience of living here,								
how do you rate the overall quality of life in this area?								
			Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Total
Life stage groups	Young adults	Count	0	4	17	24	9	54
		% within Young adults	0,0%	7,4%	31,5%	44,4%	16,7%	100%
	Family Formation	Count	3	14	135	369	95	616
		% within Family formation	0.49%	2.27%	21.92%	59.90%	15.42%	100%
	Retirement Age	Count	0	4	68	234	53	359
		% within Retirement age	0.00%	1.11%	18.94%	65.18%	14.76%	100%
Total		Count	3	22	220	627	157	1029
		% within all groups	0.29%	2.14%	21.38%	60.93%	15.26%	100%

Table 14						
Binary regression	B	S. E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Retirement age (reference category)			3,491	2	0.175	
Young Adults	-0.763	0.435	3,081	1	0.079	0.466
Family formation	-0.297	0.231	1,655	1	0.198	0.743
Time involved	0.727	0.230	9,974	1	0.002	2.068
Community involvement	0.501	0.312	2,569	1	0.109	1.650
Having friends nearby	0.908	0.331	7,503	1	0.006	2.479
Having family nearby	0.559	0.254	4,847	1	0.028	1.749
Community spirit	0.821	0.212	15,023	1	0.000	2.273
Educational level	0.004	0.121	0.001	1	0.975	1.004
Quality of Life	1.085	0.238	20,851	1	0.000	2.958
Type of area of upbringing	0.645	0.207	9,711		0.002	1.905
Constant	-1.046	0.383	7,448	1	0.006	0.351

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