

Children and Community

Energy Sense Survey Results

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Energy Sense Survey

Purpose

The purpose of the survey was to gather views from South Ayrshire residents about how affordable energy is, where people might look for advice and assistance, and what action people have taken to reduce their energy consumption.

This information will be used to help inform the Fuel Poverty / Energy Efficiency strategy.

Methods

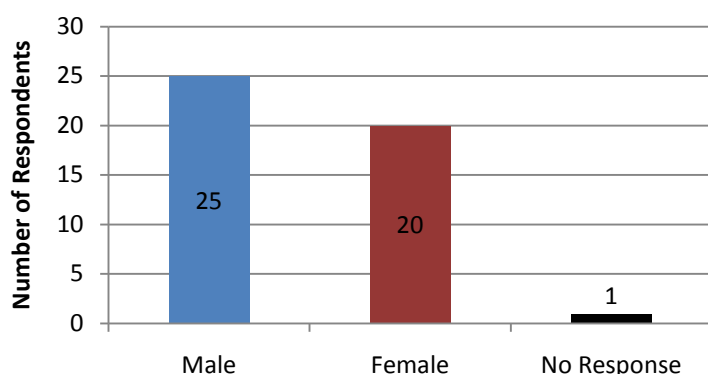
The survey was made available online using the 'survey monkey' website between the 7th October and 30th November 2011. Paper versions were distributed at various community engagement events during September and October 2011.

Results

There were 46 responses in total – 35 online response and 11 paper responses. Clearly, this sample size is too low to be in any way statistically representative. Therefore, the information presented here is only for illustrative purposes. No inferences can be made.

Gender Profile

Figure 1 Gender Profile of Respondents



Out of the 46 respondents:

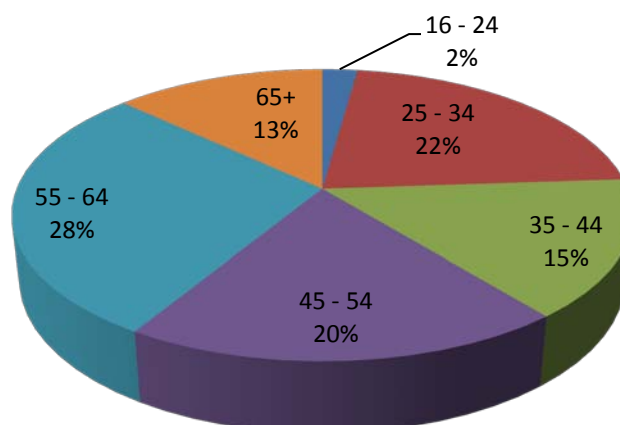
- 25 were male
- 20 were female
- 1 chose not to reply

Age Profile

Out of the 46 respondents:

- 1 was aged 16 – 24
- 10 were aged 25 – 34
- 7 were aged 35 – 44
- 9 were aged 45 – 54
- 13 were aged 55 – 64
- 6 were aged 65+

Figure 2 Age Profile of Respondents

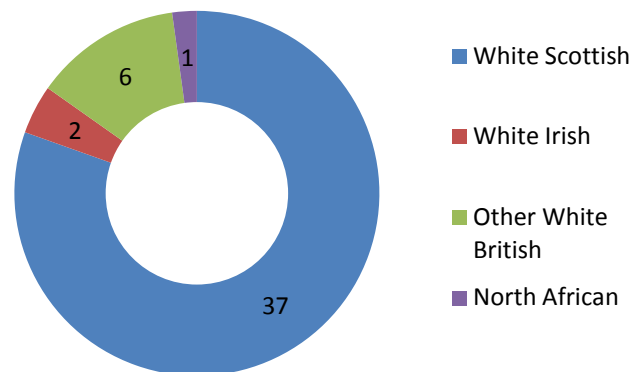


Ethnicity

Out of the 46 respondents:

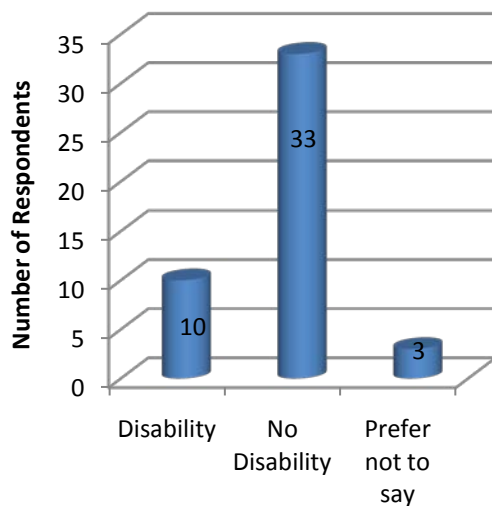
- 37 described themselves as 'White Scottish';
- 2 described themselves as 'White Irish';
- 6 described themselves as 'Other White British';
- 1 described themselves as 'North African'.

Figure 3 Ethnicity Profile



(Dis)Ability

Figure 4 (Dis)Ability Profile



Out of the 46 respondents:

- 10 reported having a disability
- 33 reported not having a disability
- 3 preferred not to answer

Energy Affordability

Out of the 46 respondents:

- 24 – which is 52% of the total - agreed that the cost of energy used in their home was more than they could really afford;
- 22 – which is 48% of the total – felt that they could afford the cost of energy they used in their home.

With the caveat about inferences noted above still in place, a few comments may be made about the responses.

Figure 5 Have you ever felt that the cost of the energy you use in your home is more than you can afford?

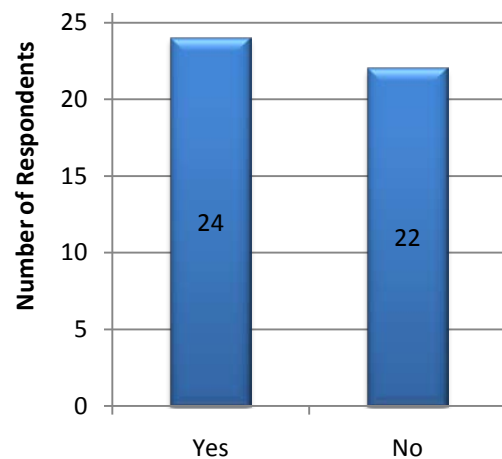


Table 1 Profile of Respondents by Energy Affordability

	<u>Energy Costs Too High</u>	<u>Energy Costs Affordable</u>
Gender		
Female	12 (50%)	8 (36%)
Male	11 (45%)	14 (64%)
Prefer not to say	1 (5%)	-
Age		
16 – 24	-	1 (5%)
25 – 34	4 (17%)	6 (27%)
35 – 44	5 (21%)	2 (9%)
45 – 54	5 (21%)	4 (18%)
55 – 64	7 (29%)	6 (27%)
65+	3(12%)	3 (14%)
Ethnicity		
White Scottish	18 (75%)	19 (86%)
White Irish	3 (12%)	-
Other White British	2 (8%)	3 (14%)
North African	1 (5%)	-
(Dis)Ability		
Disabled	7 (29%)	3 (14%)
Non-Disabled	15 (63%)	18 (82%)
Prefer not to say	2 (8%)	1 (5%)

Table 1 shows that

- While roughly equal numbers of men and women found energy costs too high, many more men than women found their energy affordable;
- A high number of older people may find energy costs too high;
- People from ethnic minority groups may be more likely to find energy costs too high;
- People with a disability may be more likely to find energy costs too high.

Asking for Help and Taking Action

Table 2 Asking for Help and Taking Action

	<u>Energy Costs Too High</u>	<u>Energy Costs Affordable</u>
Who would you ask for help?		
Friend / Relative	8 (33%)	9 (41%)
Group / Club	1 (4%)	2 (9%)
The Council	7 (29%)	4 (18%)
The Energy Agency	14 (58%)	12 (55%)
GP / Health Professional	1 (4%)	-
Energy Provider	8 (33%)	11 (50%)
Someone else	3 (13%)	3 (14%)
What action have you taken?		
Loft Insulation	15 (63%)	13 (59%)
Some other insulation	5 (21%)	6 (27%)
Changed Supplier	11 (46%)	11 (50%)
Applied for a Social Tariff	2 (8%)	-
Contacted Energy Agency	7 (29%)	6 (27%)
Something Else	8 (33%)	6 (27%)

Table 2 shows that:

- the Energy Agency was the preferred place to get information for everyone;
- Those who found energy affordable were more likely to go to the Energy Provider for advice, and also change supply
- While 10 people reported having a disability, and 6 people are over 65, only two people have applied for a 'social tariff'.

Recommendations

It is important once again to stress that this is not a representative sample and inferences cannot be made in relation to the data. However, a few suggestions may be made:

- Ethnic minorities may be at greater risk of experiencing fuel poverty. Targeting information at ethnic minority groups should be a priority;
- Disabled people and older people may be at greater risk of experiencing fuel poverty. Targeting information and support at support groups for people with disabilities and older people should be a priority;
- Fuel poverty can have a significant impact on health, yet GPs and Health professionals are not seen generally as a source of information and help in relation to energy efficiency and fuel poverty. Improving joint working with colleagues in health professions should be a priority.