**Woman’s hour: The best (and worst) places in Britain for Women**

Evidence from 3 UK countries and 380 local authorities

---

### Introduction/Aims

In this project, NatCen was asked to find which local authority is best for women to live in the UK for the Woman’s hour show on BBC radio. By calculating an index, we aimed at determining which one out of the 380 local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales was the best (and the worst) for a woman to live.

**Aims:**
- Determine which is the best and worst city for a woman to live.
- Determine which city performs best at each domain.

### Data, Methods and Methodology

- Data scoping and management were my main duties for this specific project.
- Examples of data sources used:
  - ONS
  - Scotland’s census 2011
  - DEFRA
  - Understanding Society
  - ASHE
- Converted PDF data files to Excel files.
- Data cleaning: Extracting specific columns from big data files – computed simple calculations in Excel.
- Ensured Excel files were ready to be uploaded to Stata.

### Results

- Transferred results into accessible format for the final report and produced detailed tables with values and rankings.

**Best:**
1. East Dunbartonshire, Scotland
2. East Renfrewshire, Scotland
3. West Oxfordshire, South East

**Worst:**
378. Corby, East Midlands
379. Blackpool, North West
380. Islington, London

---

### Background

For this project, I was assigned to write the literature review of the report:
- Safety, income and air quality appear to be widely used in research studies exploring the best places to live (Findlay et al., 1988; Kahneman and Deaton, 2010; McCann, 2004).
- Consistent with existing literature, we also used domains such as education, culture and house affordability (Albouy, 2009; Ballas, 2013).
- Based on the researchers’ rationale and the client’s request, we also included health and well-being and life expectancy.

### Domains

- **Income**
  - House affordability
- **Health / Wellbeing**
- **Life expectancy**
- **Education**
- **Air quality**
- **Culture**

### Limitations

- Data ranging from 2011 to 2017.
- Imputation: When data existed at a regional level and not at a local authority level, the regional average was used. This affected the weight attributed to domains such as culture.

---

**References**


---

Elena Mylona
University of Warwick

---

Report available at: https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/bbc-radio-4-womans-hour-best-place-analysis.pdf
BBC show available at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/38t19d59V3R9LBqtcYnfh88/where-is-the-best-place-to-be-a-woman