

Prejudice

158. There are three instances where a statistically significant link exists between attitudes to prejudice and personal knowledge of individuals. In each case, knowledge of people from the group in question is tied to a greater likelihood of wanting to get rid of prejudice. The three cases, which are highlighted in table 10.2, are:

- a. Those who know someone affected by mental health problems
- b. Those who know someone of a different ethnic or racial background
- c. Those who know someone who is gay or lesbian

Table 10.2 Respondents' Personal Knowledge of People from Various Groups and views on Prejudice

Do you personally know anyone from the following groups:		Which statement below comes closest to your own views?	
		Highland should do everything it can to get rid of all kinds of prejudice	Sometimes there is good reason for people to be prejudiced against certain groups
		% of respondents selecting the statement above	
People who use British Sign Language (BSL)	Yes	67	33
	No	66	34
Muslim	Yes	70	30
	No	63	37
Learning disability or difficulty	Yes	69	31
	No	63	37
Affected by mental health problem	Yes	70	30
	No	60	40
Different racial or ethnic background to you	Yes	70	30
	No	58	42
Gay or lesbian	Yes	71	29
	No	56	44
Physical disability	Yes	67	33
	No	66	34

159. There is little or no discernible correlation for the following groups:
- a. Those who know/don't know someone who uses British sign language
 - b. Those who know/don't know someone with a physical disability
 - c. Those who know/don't know someone with a learning difficulty

160. These results can be compared to the Scotland-wide data for the same question as follows:

- Very similar to Scottish results for those who know/don't know someone:
 - with physical disability
 - with learning disabilities.
- Highland results show a more pronounced difference for those who know/don't know someone:
 - from a different ethnic or racial background
 - gay or lesbian
 - with mental health problems
- Highland results show a less pronounced difference for those who know/don't know someone:
 - who is Muslim

Will the Highlands begin to lose its identify?

161. Personal knowledge of people from different ethnic or religious groups has an influence on respondents' views about whether or not the Highlands would begin to lose its identity if people from various ethnic groups came to live in the area. The difference in response is statistically significant in all the cases shown in table 10.3. The data in table 10.3 represents the net scores for 'agree' versus 'disagree'.

Table 10.3 Respondents' Personal Knowledge of People from Various Groups and their views on the Loss of Identify for the Highlands.

Do you personally know anyone from the following groups:		How much do you agree or disagree that the Highlands would begin to lose its identify if more people from the groups below came to live in the area?		
		Muslim	East European	Black & Asian
		Net score: agree (+) versus disagree (-)		
Muslim	Yes	10.3	-8.0	-2.9
	No	35.8	20.0	25.2
Different racial or ethnic background to you	Yes	18.1	1.0	6.1
	No	45.0	29.2	35.7

What about marriage, civil partnership or long-term relationships?

162. Table 10.4 shows all the instances where there is a statistically significant difference between those who do/ don't know someone from each of the groups. Once again it is the net scores that are shown (happy versus not happy). Once again it appears that knowledge of someone from a particular group is directly linked to attitudes on relationships.

Table 10.4 Respondents' Personal Knowledge of People from Various Groups and their views on Relationships

Do you personally know anyone from the following groups:		How would you feel if a close relative of yours married, or is in a civil partnership, or formed a long-term relationship with someone from the groups mentioned below?						
		Black & Asian	Muslim	Someone who experiences depression	Someone of the same sex	Hindu	Jewish	Someone who cross dresses
		Net score: happy (+) versus not happy (-)						
Muslim	Yes	32.8	7.0					
	No	13.4	-13.0					
Affected by mental health problem	Yes			0.7				
	No			-33.4				
Different racial or ethnic background to you	Yes	29.9	2.9		15.1	26.1		
	No	-4.6	-26.2		-14.1	7.9		
Gay or lesbian	Yes				-3.1		-37.8	
	No				-48.2		-68.1	

163. There was no discernable difference between those who 'personally know' and those who 'don't know anyone' on the issue of marriage, civil partnership or long term relationship with a Christian.

Do people from outside make Highland a better place to live?

164. Those who have personal knowledge of a Muslim or someone from a different ethnic/racial background, have a significantly more positive answer to this question than those who don't. Table 10.5 shows the net score (agree versus disagree) for these two groups.

Table 10.5 Respondents' Personal Knowledge of People from Various Groups and their views on whether People from Outside make Highlands a better place.

Do you personally know anyone from the following groups:		How much do you agree or disagree that people from outside Britain who come to live in Highland make it a better place?	
		Net score: agree (+) versus disagree (-)	
Muslim	Yes	28.6	
	No	-2.2	
Different racial or ethnic background to you	Yes	17.2	
	No	-10.3	

Views on Various Other Issues

165. Table 10.6 shows the net scores (agree versus disagree) for all the instances where a statistically significant difference exists between the response of the 'knows' and the 'don't knows'. The results are largely as expected and in keeping with all the others. There is one exception however: respondents who know someone who is disabled did not exhibit significantly greater likelihood of thinking business should be forced to provide better disabled access. In fact, the difference between the 'knows' and the 'don't knows' was negligible.

Table 10.6 Respondents' Personal Knowledge of People from Various Groups and their views on Various other Issues.

Do you personally know anyone from the following groups:		How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?				
		Gay or lesbian couples should have the right to marry	Business premises should be forced to make access easier for disabled	People from ethnic minorities take jobs away from people in the Highlands	People who come here from E Europe take jobs away from people in the Highlands	People who come here from outside Britain bring skills and diversity
		Net score: agree (+) versus disagree (-)				
Muslim	Yes			-30.5	-28.5	59.1
	No			-4.7	-0.8	40.7
Different racial or ethnic background to you	Yes			-25.5	-21.0	54.2
	No			14.3	13.3	32.1
Gay or lesbian	Yes	34.0				
	No	-9.7				