

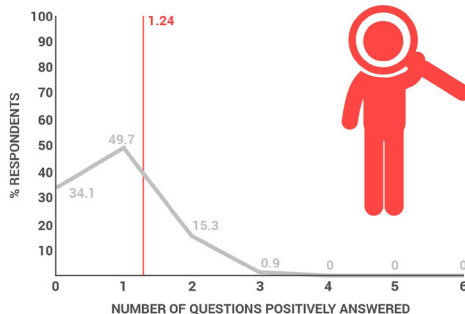
23 Social isolation in the GCR

The Index of Social Isolation uses 6 questions from the GCRO Quality of Life Survey 2013 (QoL 2013). Respondents agreeing with 2 or more extreme views (listed below) are deemed to demonstrate some degree of social isolation.

This vignette provides insight into some of the forces that can shape social isolation in the GCR. The evidence points towards an interesting spatial relationship between where people live and their degree of social isolation.






1. I do not travel because I do not want to go anywhere
2. I own neither a radio, nor a tv, nor a computer
3. My vote will not make a difference
4. I do not participate in community structures
5. I feel very unsafe walking in my area in the day
6. I do not participate in community activities

When run across all QoL 2013 respondents, the index produced a mean value of 1.24. We're interested in those 16.2% of respondents who answered at least 2 questions positively. The breakdown of responses are as follows:



With a mean score of 1.24 out of 6 questions, the GCR has low levels of social isolation, but what are the outliers?

% of each category that answered yes to 2 or more questions:

Dwelling Type 	35%	47%	53%	46%	45%
	Formal houses	Complexes	Apartments	Inf. dwellings	Inf. backyard
Household Income 	51%	38%	34%	28%	
	R0	R1 - R3 200	R3 201 - R25 600	R25 601 +	
Education 	46%	39%	39%	41%	36%
	None	Primary only	Some secondary	Matric	More
Moved to Gauteng 	55%	35%	42%	56%	
	< 1984	1985 - 1994	1995 - 2004	2005 - 2013	
Population Group 	38%	35%	42%	46%	
	African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	

77%

of Gauteng's gated communities are found within wards with social isolation scores above the mean*

***Please see the January 2015 Map of the Month for more information**

Building an inclusive city-region with less apathy, self-isolation, disconnect, non-participation, and fear requires far more than constructing infrastructure links between previously separate areas. While this is part of the solution, softer and more innovative approaches cannot be ignored.

For example, feelings of social isolation are often lessened by increased public activity. In Colombian cities interventions such as Ciclovía or 'open streets' see busy streets closed on Sundays and turned into pedestrian only public spaces. Similarly in Madrid, neighbourhoods are given specific budgets to create events that bring residents together.