



COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Householder Interaction with
Self-Closing Devices on Doors

Quantitative Research
Final Report
September 2006

Prepared for:

Communities and Local Government
Directorate of Communication
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

y:jn2312\Self-closing devices Quant Final Report

Lloyds Bank Buildings, Muswell Hill Broadway, London N10 3RZ.
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8444 5678 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8444 9221
e-mail: aia@aiaresearch.co.uk Website: www.aiaresearch.co.uk
Directors: A Irving, D Chang, N Spicer. Company Accountant: S C Hendon F.C.C.A.
Andrew Irving Associates Ltd. Company Registration No. 2216685 England. VAT No. 228039077.





CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Summary Overview	1
2. Introduction	5
2.1 Background & Purpose	5
2.2 Objectives	6
2.3 Research Method	7
3. Main Findings	9
3.1 Region	9
3.2 Sample Profile	10
3.3 Housing	13
3.4 Mobility Impaired Survey	16
3.5 Self-Closing Doors	17
3.6 Self-Closing Doors – Prompt of Devices	18
3.7 Self-Closing Doors – Photo Prompted	19
3.8 Penetration of Self-Closing Doors	20
3.9 Who Fitted Self-Closing Doors	23
3.10 Rooms Fitted with Self-Closing Doors	24
3.11 Allowing Self-Closing Doors to Close Freely	26
3.12 Propping Open Self-Closing Doors	28
3.13 Why Prop Open Self-Closing Doors (1)	29
3.14 Why Prop Open Self-Closing Doors (2)	30
3.15 Self-Closing Doors and the Mobility Impaired	31
3.16 Removing Devices from Self-Closing Doors	32
3.17 Why Removed Self-Closing Device / Door	33
3.18 Closing Doors at Night (Generally)	34
3.19 Reasons Close Doors at Night (Verbatims)	37
3.20 Reasons for Self-Closing Devices on Doors	40
3.21 Prompted Attitudes	42
3.22 Smoke Alarms	48
 Appendix – Questionnaire	

1. SUMMARY OVERVIEW

Introduction

- This research measures the public's use of and attitudes towards door closers fitted in certain types of domestic properties.
- The research project comprises both qualitative and quantitative components; this is an updated report on the quantitative stage, now including data from our additional research among the mobility-impaired.
- AIA conducted 1092 street interviews among a cross-section of all householders in England & Wales, plus a booster survey among 334 householders who have self-closing devices fitted to the internal doors of their property. On these surveys we interviewed 506 people with self-closing doors. Fieldwork took place in late July/early August 2006.
- Our 123 extra interviews among the mobility-impaired continued through to the end of August. Around half of these respondents make use of a wheelchair or scooter, most are aged over-65. Compared with the general population, a higher proportion of our mobility-impaired are renting from local authorities or housing associations, a higher proportion live in bungalows or purpose-built flats.

Self-closing devices

- Among our nationally-representative sample, 20% of men but only 12% of women state that they have self-closing devices on their internal doors. Overall only 16% on our national survey (and a very similar proportion on our mobility-impaired survey) say they have self-closers fitted to internal doors. We suspect there are other respondents on these surveys, particularly women, who do not realise they have self-closers fitted, and that in reality self-closing doors will be found in at least a fifth of homes.
- ABC1 homes (and 35-44s) appear a little more likely to have self-closing devices fitted.
- Among those living in the types of property where we would expect to find self-closing doors, one third tell us they have self-closing devices. This means that up to two-thirds do not realise that they have self-closing devices or the self-closing devices have been removed at some point. Among those living in other properties (most commonly 2-storey houses without loft conversions), 13% tell us they have self-closing devices fitted to internal doors (for example, rising butt hinges fitted so the door clears carpets).
- The most common self-closing devices are rising butt hinges and concealed chains.

- Three-quarters of these devices were fitted by previous occupants of the property – the proportion who fitted devices themselves rises with age (to over half of the 55+).
- Three-fifths of those with self-closing doors have two or more, indeed a quarter have devices fitted to at least five doors. This means that 40% have just one self-closing device, which also implies that some devices may have been removed.
- Three-fifths of those with self-closing doors have devices fitted to their kitchen door, a similar proportion to the door to their living area, half have a self-closer on their bedroom door, only one in three has one on the bathroom / toilet.

Behaviour with regard to self-closing devices

- Most self-closing doors are allowed to close freely. The exceptions are the doors fitted to kitchens and living areas, half of which are at least sometimes propped open, indeed at least a third of kitchen and living area doors are propped open most or all of the time.
- Overall half of those with self-closing doors ever prop open a door, one in three say they prop open at least one door all or most of the time. Doors with chains are among those most likely to be propped open, doors with self-closing arms least likely.
- Most common reasons for propping open these doors are to let the air circulate (we conducted our main surveys in July 2006 when it was exceptionally warm) / to let heat circulate in the Winter, or simply because it is a nuisance to have to keep opening doors every time you want to go into or out of a room.
- 2% of households who do not have self-closing doors, and 7% of those who do, admit to removing a self-closing device (or the door it was attached to). Doubtless many other devices have been removed by previous occupants, but the current residents are unaware of the fact (see page 1). A few told us they had been concerned about children trapping their fingers in the door.
- Around half of **all** kitchen, living area and bedroom doors are left open at night, while just over half of bathroom/toilet doors are closed. In total four-fifths of homes leave at least one internal door open at night (i.e. one-fifth close all doors), while four-fifths of those with no self-closing devices close at least one door.
- Those with self-closing doors are slightly more likely to close at least one of their doors at night. A third of them close all their doors at night, almost three-quarters of those with a self-closer on the kitchen door allow this door to shut at night, while two-thirds with a self-closer on the door to the living area close this door at night. However, two-thirds with self-closing devices leave at least one door open.

- While fire safety is the single most common reason for closing doors at night, particularly for those who have self-closing doors, the majority have some other reason – including those who just close doors out of habit, others who wish to contain pets in a room, and a few who think this makes their home more secure against intruders or because of alarm sensors.

Understanding the role of self-closing devices

- The vast majority do understand that self-closing devices are fitted to doors as a fire precaution (although very few talk specifically about containing the smoke from a fire). Two-thirds tell us this is the main reason these are fitted. Those who have self-closing doors are even more likely to talk about fire safety – they certainly know why the devices were fitted to their doors.
- The vast majority accept that closing internal doors at night will slow the spread of smoke or fire.

Attitudes to self-closing devices

- Those who would not be prepared to have self-closing doors in their home outnumber those who would by 3:2. However half still agree that self-closers should be fitted to all kitchen doors, one-in-three agree they should be fitted to all living room doors. The majority of the general population and the mobility impaired think self-closing devices are unnecessary (70-80%).
- Among those who already have self-closing doors there is more widespread support for self-closing devices. Although 50% thought they were unnecessary, only one-in-five of them tell us they would rather not have self-closing doors in their home. While almost three-quarters think self-closing devices should be fitted to all kitchen doors, half think they should be fitted to all living room doors.
- From our 123 interviews among the mobility-impaired population it appears that they may be a little more likely to prop open some of their internal doors at night. Certainly, fewer of the mobility-impaired would want self-closing doors in their property, and far fewer would agree that self-closers should be fitted to all kitchen doors (one in four of the mobility-impaired, as compared with around half of all householders).
- **The majority of our respondents accept that everyone should be encouraged to close doors at night. 91% agree (and usually agree strongly) that they would be more likely to close their doors at night if they were provided with information on how it could save their life in the event of a fire.**

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background & Purpose

- The Department for Communities and Local Government wish to commission a research exercise to help identify the public's use of and attitudes towards door closers fitted in certain types of domestic properties.
- The Building Regulations apply to building work; primarily, new buildings and material alterations to existing buildings (e.g. extensions, loft conversions) in England and Wales. Separate legislation exists in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Part B of the Regulations deals with fire safety and is supported by guidance in Approved Document B¹ (AD B).
- AD B currently suggests that in certain situations within a house and in most cases within apartments, doors should be fitted with a self-closing device. This is to ensure that the door is kept closed at all times and thus will help to prevent the spread of smoke and fire and keep the means of escape clear.
- However, the Department is aware, from fellow building professionals and other anecdotal evidence, that such devices are regularly removed, disabled or prevented from working effectively (e.g. by propping the door open) because they are considered to hinder occupants in their day-to-day life, and because there may be safety issues, particularly with small children (getting their fingers caught).
- The Department has recently consulted² on a proposal to remove the guidance on the provision of such devices within dwellings (except the entrance doors to flats or doors separating a house from an integral/adjoining garage). Instead, the Department would rely on the Community Fire Safety publicity campaigns etc. to promote the message that doors should be kept closed, especially at night. This would have the advantage of being relevant to all properties, not just the 1% of new/altered properties a year that are caught by the Building Regulations, and would also tackle the issue of ongoing use after the building work is completed.
- Whilst there was a good deal of support from consultees for this proposal (for the reasons given above), a number of those who responded objected to removing a safety measure as they felt that most people did not in fact remove such devices and that there was no empirical evidence to support removing the provision. Others felt that as long as some devices were installed there would be some benefit.
- The Department, and its Technical Advisory Committee, wish to consider this in the context of better regulation. However, they recognise the issues raised by stakeholders

¹ www.planningportal.gov.uk/approved-documents

² www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1131416



during the consultation process and are concerned that this may be difficult to do without further robust evidence to ensure that such a proposal is fully justified.

- The Department therefore wish to commission research to elicit information from householders, so as to provide robust evidence if they were to take this proposal forward or, if the outcome is such, not to take the proposal forward, and thus ensure that the Department's decisions are fully informed and justified.

2.2 Objectives

Specifically, the following research objectives were identified:

- i. To establish:
 - where such devices were originally fitted to the dwelling, the extent to which these have been removed or disabled in any way (by the current or previous occupants) and the reasons why;
 - where such devices are still fitted, the extent to which they have been prevented from working effectively in any way (e.g. wedged open) and the reasons why.
- ii. To understand which reasons given in (i) above relate to health and safety such as wheelchair access/mobility issues, safety of children, etc., and which relate to convenience issues such as carrying shopping, more light, passage of sound, etc.
- iii. To establish the extent to which people are aware of the purpose of such devices being fitted in the first place and the benefits of keeping doors closed, especially at night.
- iv. To differentiate between those householders who have the chain/overhead arm type closers which pull the door closed across the latch (often quite forcibly) and those who have rising butt hinges which encourage the door to close to the latch.

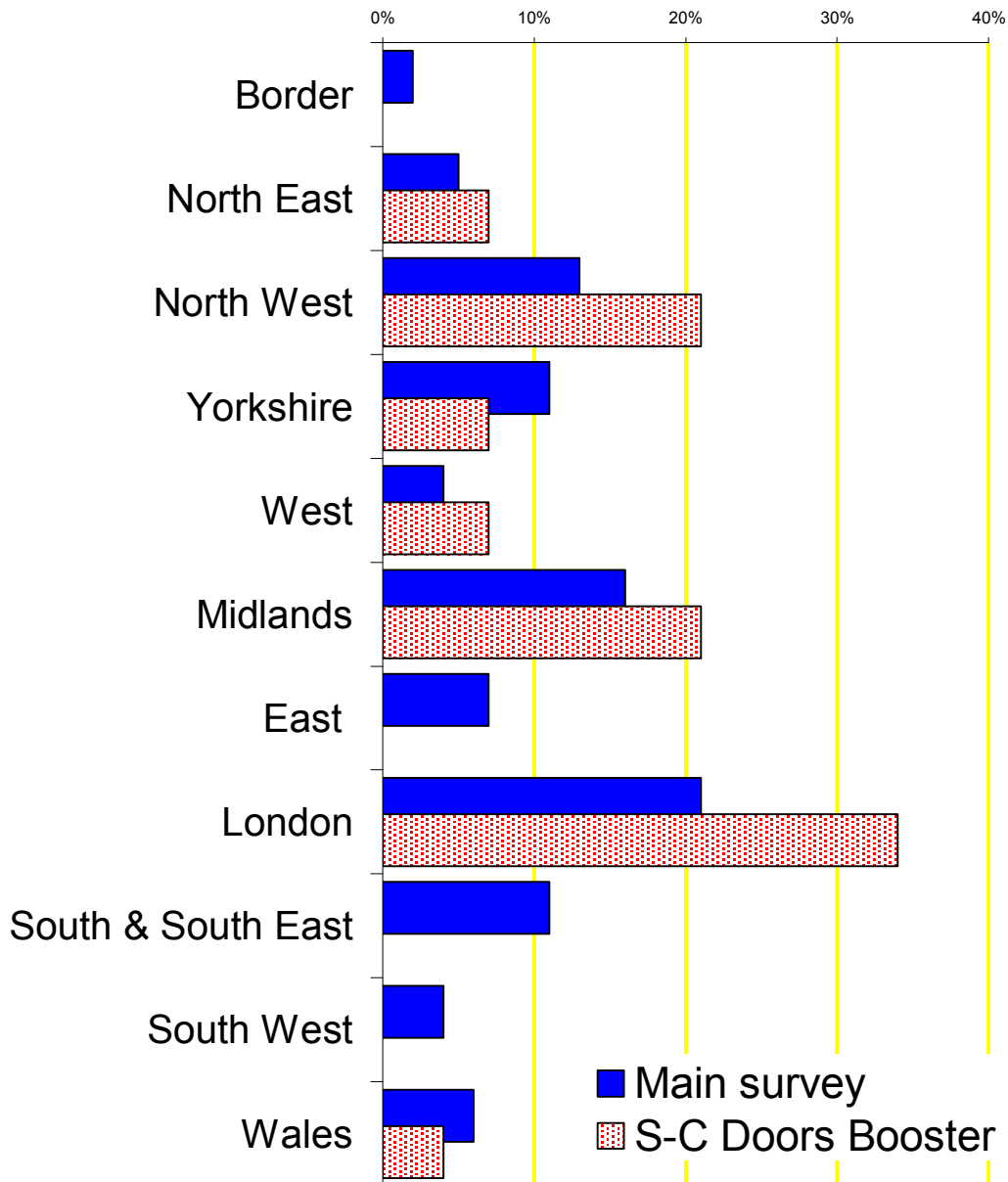
2.3 Research Method

- AIA conducted 1092 street interviews among a cross-section of all householders in England & Wales (9% above our target of 1000 interviews). This main survey establishes the penetration of and attitudes towards self-closing doors. We anticipated that within this national sample we might encounter around 250-300 people who have self-closing doors. However the proportion who (realise) they have devices fitted to their doors is lower than expected; only 172 people on the main survey (16%).
- We also conducted a booster survey among 334 householders who have self-closing devices fitted to the internal doors of their property (11% above our target of 300 booster interviews). These interviews took place in parallel with the main survey, targeting areas where we expected to encounter these people (e.g. cities). However a number of the interviewers working on this booster survey experienced considerable difficulty in finding these people on the street in their area – where this happened we provided details on the types of housing where these devices are most likely to be fitted, and they then targeted appropriate streets.
- We had hoped that on the main survey and the booster combined we would interview at least 500 people with self-closing devices fitted to their doors. In spite of the unexpectedly low penetration on the main survey we reached a total of 506.
- Fieldwork took place in late July/early August 2006.
- Subsequently the Department requested that we conduct 100 further interviews among the mobility-impaired. We completed 123 interviews in August 2006.
- We aimed to limit the length of the interview among those with self-closing doors to around 5-8 minutes, a questionnaire of no more than 4 pages. In the event the questionnaire ran to 5 pages, our interviewers estimate this takes ~10 minutes. The interviews among those who do not have these doors fitted are slightly shorter.
- Interviews were conducted in shopping areas and busy pedestrian thoroughfares across England and Wales. We divided our interviews across the regions according to population. The national sample is spread across ~55 sampling points, while the booster sample derives from interviews in ~30 sampling points, most of which are in major cities (e.g. Manchester, Cardiff, London, etc.). Our interviews among the mobility-impaired are divided across ~15 sampling points.
- We set quotas on gender (half male, half female), and minimum quotas on age, Social Economic Group (SEG) and Black and Ethnic Minorities (BMEs) – we allowed interviewers some flexibility to reflect the profile of their area.

- Interviewers introduced themselves as working for an independent market research company who are interviewing on behalf of the Department. We did not wish to inform respondents in advance that the survey concerns fire safety since one of the objectives is to establish their understanding of the purpose of self-closing doors. Unfortunately this did make things slightly more tricky for our interviewers; several commented that respondents initially thought they were selling self-closing devices.
- We excluded young adults still living with their parents in the parental home, the elderly living in residential or nursing homes etc. (i.e. those who do not have responsibility for fire safety in their dwelling). On our booster among the mobility-impaired we allowed the recruitment of elderly people living in warden-assisted accommodation (but not residential homes or nursing homes).
- At the beginning of the interview we showed photos of the various devices and explained that these are designed to close domestic internal doors automatically. The booster interview only continued among those who have such devices fitted (irrespective of whether or not these devices have been disabled in some way). We made it clear that we were referring to internal doors which give access to rooms.
- As a general policy we back-check a minimum of 10% of the respondents from each interviewer on our street surveys – respondents are re-contacted to ensure that the interview was completed correctly. Where the work of any interviewer is found to be below standard we increase back-checks to 100%. Any sub-standard work is discarded and, where time permits, we reallocate their work. On this survey we discarded ~5 questionnaires from the booster survey where the household only have self-closing *external* doors, not internal doors – on the main survey we also needed to edit a few questionnaires where interviewers had made this mistake.
- Questionnaires were checked by our coding team, and open-ended responses reduced to code-frames of common responses. As this inevitably loses some of the flavour of the original comments we always encourage coders to keep a note of interesting or typical verbatim comments from the questionnaires which we include within our reporting to illustrate the findings. Our coding team have the authorisation to initiate further back-checks if they detect any unusual patterns of response.
- Data processing is conducted by an external DP specialist with whom we have a close working relationship. We provide them with a detailed breakdown of how the data should be checked and edited, how the tables should appear and the cross-analyses that we require.

3. MAIN FINDINGS

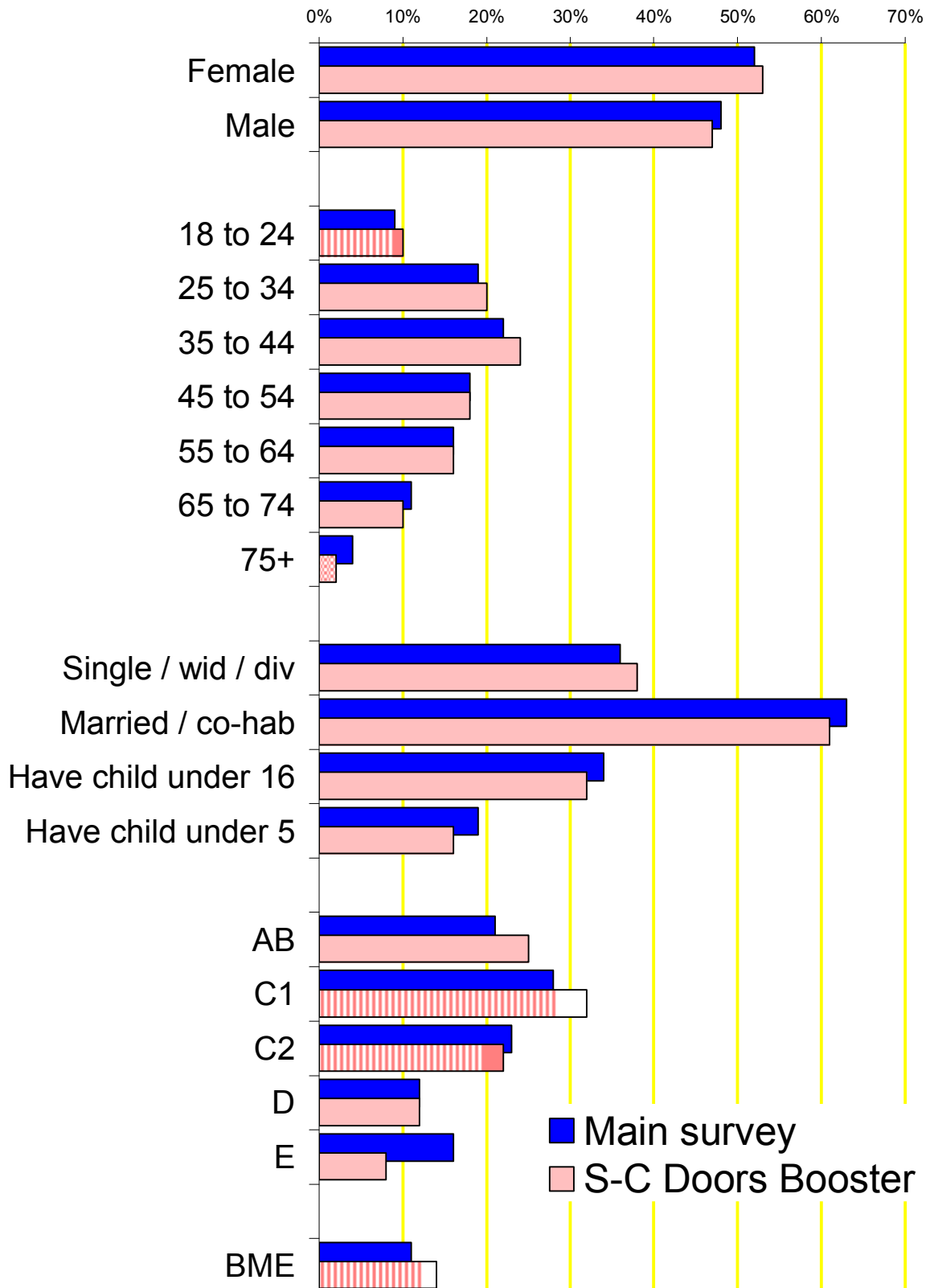
3.1 Region



We divided our interviews on the main survey across ~55 sampling points in England & Wales according to the population in each region. For the booster survey we targeted cities / towns where we felt it was more likely that we would encounter homes with self-closing doors, including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Newcastle. It should be noted that the above chart simply reflects how we allocated the survey, it does not show the geographic spread of homes with self-closing doors.

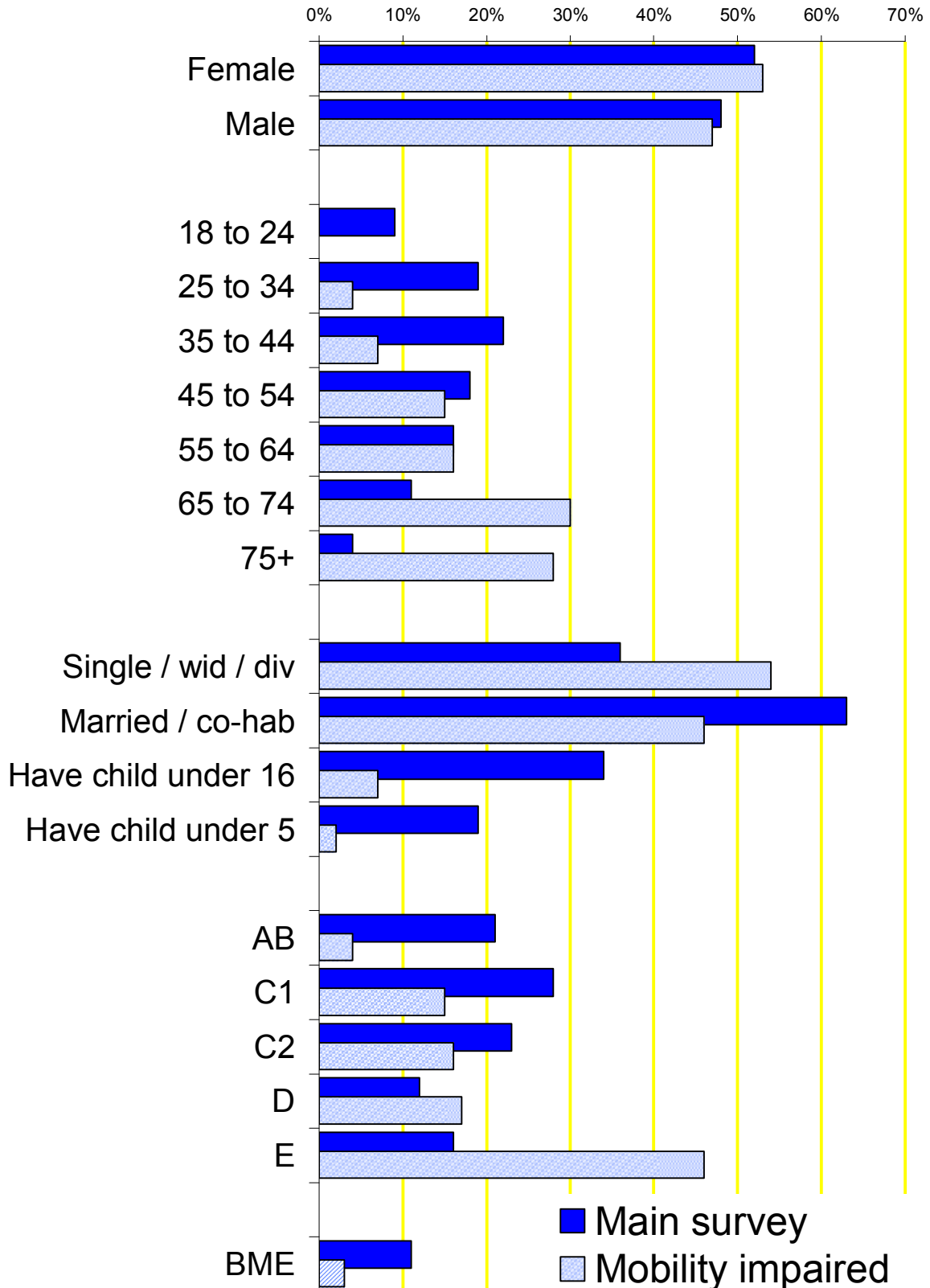
From the main survey across E&W we can examine behaviour and attitudes among a nationally representative sample, including the proportion who have self-closing doors. However on the main survey we encountered only 172 people who (know they) have self-closing doors. The booster survey recruited a further 334 households with self-closing doors, to give a total of just over 500, a sufficient sample to look in detail at their attitudes and behaviour, including the extent to which they prop open their doors.

3.2 Sample Profile



We set a quota on gender (evenly divided, on both surveys) and minimum quotas on age, SEG and BMEs. We gave interviewers more flexibility on the quota for the booster sample (since we did not know the profile of these in advance) – the respondents on the booster are slightly younger and include more ABC1s, fewer SEG E.

3.2.1 Sample Profile – Mobility-Impaired



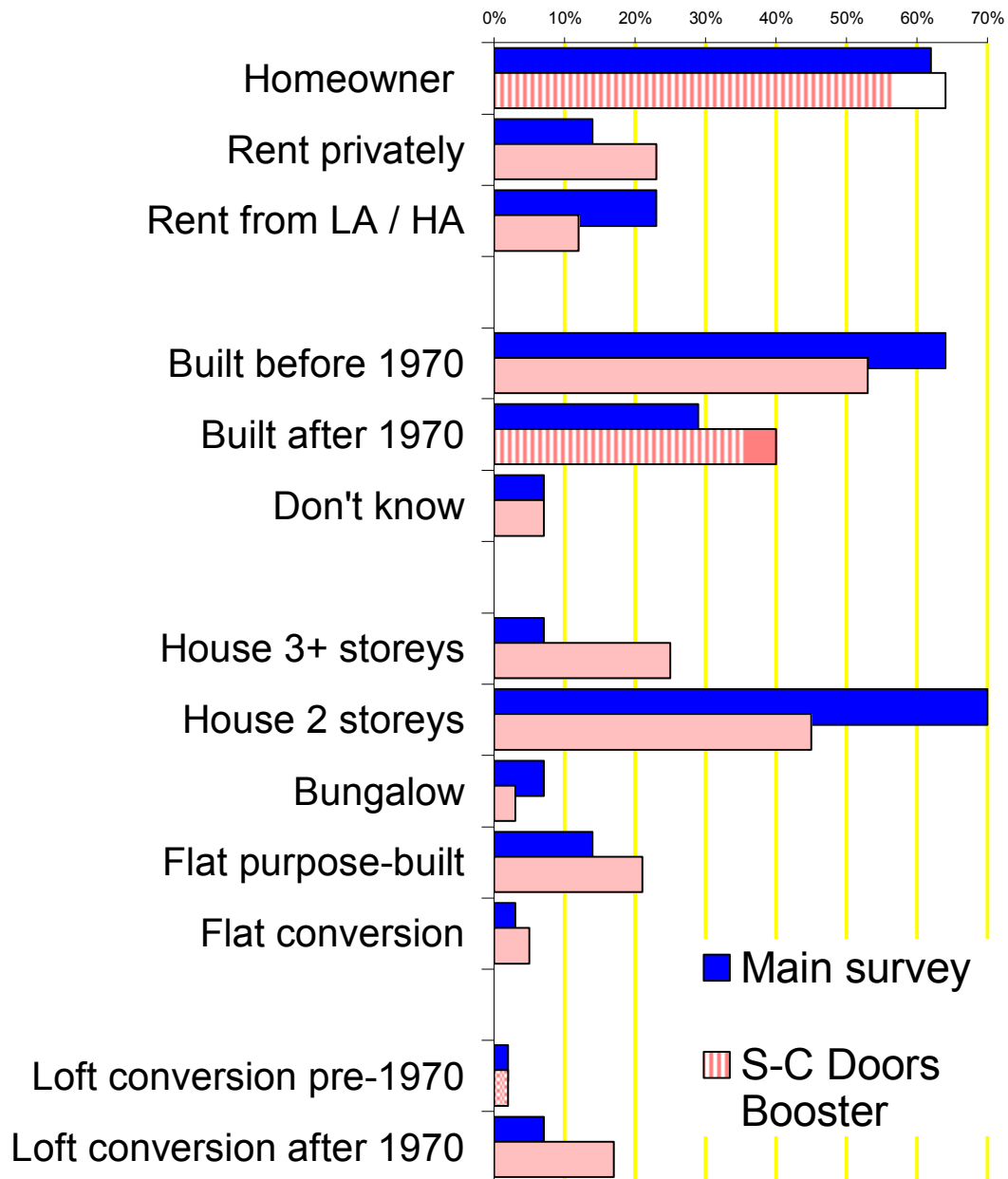
For our additional survey among the mobility-impaired we set a quota on gender (also evenly divided) and a minimum quota on age (at least a quarter aged under-55. Most of our mobility-impaired respondents are over-65, almost half are SEG E, few are SEG AB.

3.2.2 Sample Profile

	Have Self-Closing Doors				Mobility impaired (123) %
	Main Survey E&W Total Base: all	Total (506) %	Main Survey (172) %	Booster (334) %	
Female	52	48	38	53	53
Male	48	52	62	47	47
18 to 24	9	9	9	10	0
25 to 34	19	18	15	20	4
35 to 44	22	25	28	24	7
45 to 54	18	18	19	18	15
55 to 64	16	15	13	16	16
65 to 74	11	11	13	10	30
75+	4	3	3	2	28
Single / wid / div	36	38	38	38	54
Married / co-hab	63	62	62	61	46
Have child aged under 16	34	33	34	32	7
Have child aged under 5	19	17	20	16	2
AB	21	25	24	25	4
C1	28	32	31	32	15
C2	23	22	21	22	16
D	12	11	9	12	17
E	16	10	15	8	46
White British	89	86	88	86	96
BME	11	13	12	14	3
Border	2	*	1	0	0
North East	5	7	5	7	7
North West	13	16	8	21	14
Yorkshire	11	8	8	7	15
West	4	6	5	7	7
Midlands	16	19	17	21	20
East	7	2	5	0	0
London	21	32	27	34	19
South & South East	11	5	14	0	13
South West	4	1	4	0	0
Wales	6	4	5	4	7

The above data formed the basis of the charts shown on the previous pages.

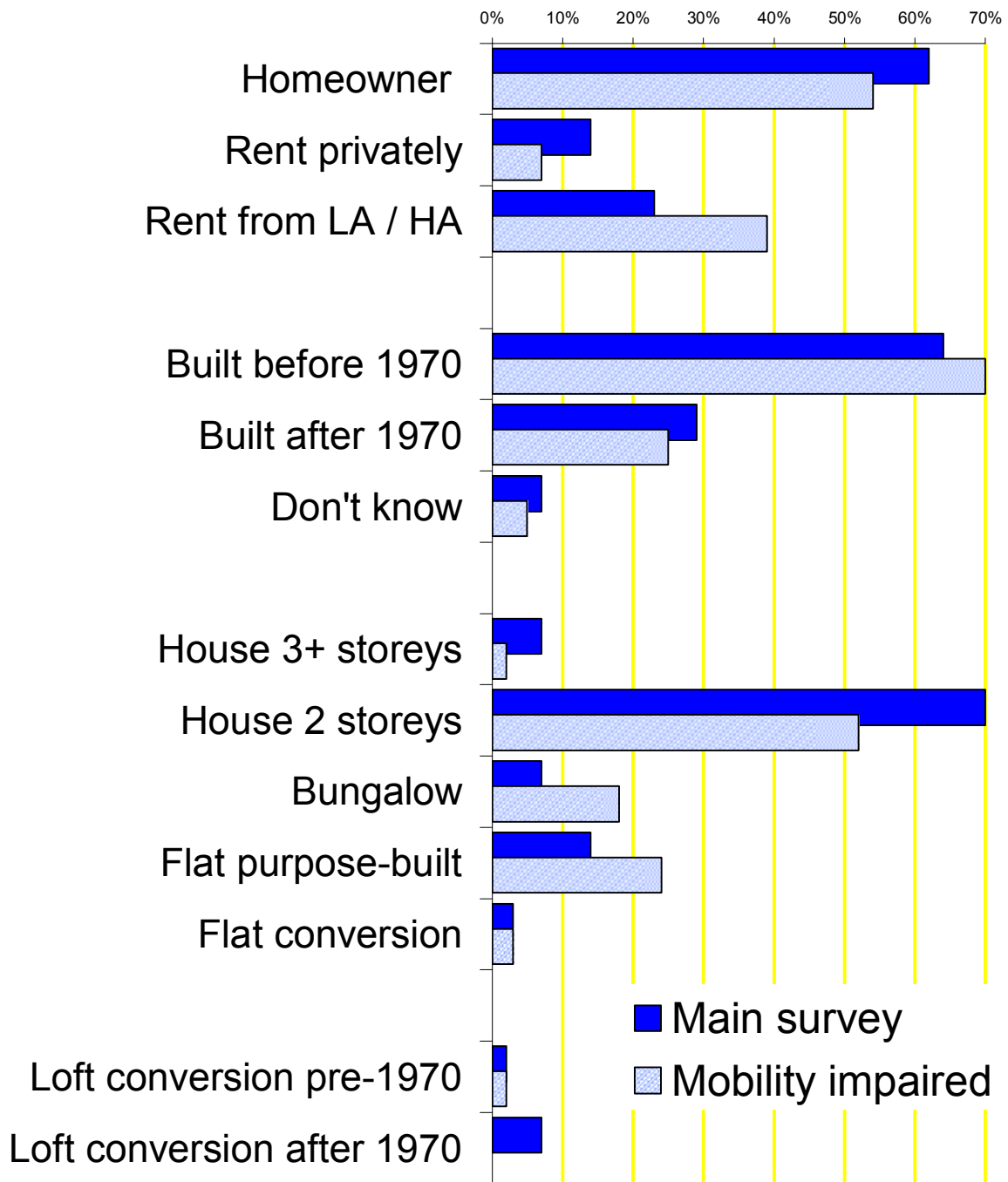
3.3 Housing



70% of our nationally representative sample live in a 2-storey house, almost two-thirds are in a property that was built before 1970. Most are owner-occupiers, 38% rent.

Interviewers on the main survey typically met just 3 or 4 people with self-closing doors among their 20 respondents. Five interviewers on the main survey encountered nobody with self-closing devices, while ten interviewers each found just one. We asked interviewers working on the booster sample (of households with self-closing doors) to also conduct their interviews on the street. Some experienced considerable difficulties in finding these people, which is hardly surprising if they happened to find themselves in an area where only 1 in 20 have self-closing doors. Where interviewers on the booster survey were experiencing problems we told them the types of property where self-closing doors are most likely to be fitted, so that they could target appropriate areas / streets. Our booster survey respondents include a higher proportion who live in town houses or flats (although it is still the case that half live in a 2-storey house or bungalow) and a higher proportion who live in new build properties (although again most live in properties built before 1970). Those who rent are more likely to rent privately than from a Local Authority / Housing Association.

3.3.1 Housing – Mobility-Impaired



Over half of our 123 mobility-impaired respondents are homeowners, over half live in 2-storey houses. Compared with the general population sample, a higher proportion rent from local authorities or housing associations, a higher proportion live in bungalows or purpose-built flats.

3.3.2 Housing

- Q12 *Is your home...? READ OUT*
 Q13 *Was your home built before or after 1970?*
 Q14 *How would you describe the property that you live in? PROMPT AS NECESSARY*
 Q15 *Do you have a loft conversion? IF YES ASK Was this built before or after 1970?*

	Main Survey		Have Self-Closing Doors		Mobility impaired
	E&W Total	Total	Main Survey	Booster	
Base: all	(1092)	(506)	(172)	(334)	(123)
	%	%	%	%	%
Homeowner	62	62	59	64	54
Rent privately	14	19	13	23	7
Rent from LA / HA	23	17	28	12	39
Built before 1970	64	56	63	53	70
Built after 1970	29	37	30	40	25
Don't know	7	7	7	7	5
House 3 or more storeys	7	21	14	25	2
House 2 storeys	70	48	53	45	52
Bungalow	7	3	3	3	18
Flat / Maisonette: purpose-built	14	22	24	21	24
Flat / Maisonette: conversion	3	5	5	5	3
Loft conversion built pre-1970	2	2	2	2	2
Loft conversion built after 1970	7	15	12	17	0

The above data formed the basis of the chart shown on the previous page.

3.4 Mobility Impaired Survey

QA We are interviewing people who have a permanent condition that affects their walking and mobility. Can you tell me whether you are permanently mobility-impaired?

QB And do you make use of a... READ OUT, CODE ALL THAT APPLY

	Base: mobility impaired	Mobility impaired (123) %
Walking stick		63
Mobility Scooter		24
Wheelchair		20
Powered wheelchair		13
Crutches		10
Walking frame / wheeled WF		8
		51%

Interviewers on our mobility-impaired survey were asked to recruit 'people who have a permanent condition that affects their walking and mobility'. Almost three-fifths of the people recruited are aged over-65, half make use of a wheelchair or powered scooter (this high proportion suggest that interviewers have tended to gravitate towards people with more severe mobility problems).

3.5 Self-Closing Doors

Q1 Do any of the internal doors in your home swing shut when you let go of them, unless you prop them open?

IF 'YES' ASK Can you tell me what causes those doors to close? Anything else?

	Main Survey		Have Self-Closing Doors		Mobility impaired
	E&W Total	Total	Main Survey	Booster	
Base: all	(1092)	(506)	(172)	(334)	(123)
	%	%	%	%	%
No internal doors swing shut	84	10	20	4	83
Internal doors swing shut	16	90	80	96	17
<i>Internal door/s swing shut because...</i>					
Special device fitted to door	7	48	45	50	7
Special hinges	5	41	33	46	4
Blown shut by wind / draught	2	1	1	1	2
Door is hung incorrectly	1	0	0	0	1
Don't know reason	1	2	2	2	2





The group discussions conducted as part of this project recruited people according to the type of property they lived in. For the groups therefore we knew that we were recruiting people who *should* have self-closing doors, although initially a number in each group denied that they had any devices fitted to their doors. As the discussions progressed it became clear that some had simply forgotten that their doors are fitted with self-closers, or in some cases we found that they had removed or disabled the device. When writing the questionnaire for the street survey we therefore decided to ask our question on self-closing doors in two ways – first to ask whether any of their internal doors swing shut (the above question), and then by showing everyone a photograph of the devices, and asking whether they have any of these on their doors.

Just 16% on the main (i.e. nationally representative) survey told us that their internal doors swing shut, all but a handful of these tell us this is because the door has a special device or special hinges. However a few talked about other reasons why their doors close (e.g. a through-draught), while a similar number tell us their doors do not swing shut but later recognise self-closing devices from our photographs which are fitted to their doors, which implies that 10% of those with self-closing devices may have self-closing devices that do not work.

The mobility-impaired respondents are no different to the nationally representative sample here – 17% tell us their doors close automatically.

3.6 Self-Closing Doors – Prompt of Devices

Q2 **SHOWCARD 1** On this card we show photographs of a number of devices that are fitted to automatically close doors.
Do any of the internal doors in your home have devices fitted to close the door, such as these?
IF YES ASK Which type of device do you have fitted to your internal doors?

 <p>A Spring arm on side of door</p>	 <p>C Concealed chain</p>
 <p>B Arm above door</p>	 <p>D 'Rising Butt' Hinge</p>

We showed respondents the above four examples of self-closing devices. On the booster survey we only continued the interview if they have at least one of their internal doors fitted with such a device (just 1% of our respondents on the booster survey are unsure which device is fitted to their doors).

3.7 Self-Closing Doors – Photo Prompted

Q2 **SHOWCARD 1** On this card we show photographs of a number of devices that are fitted to automatically close doors.
Do any of the internal doors in your home have devices fitted to close the door, such as these?
IF YES ASK Which type of device do you have fitted to your internal doors?

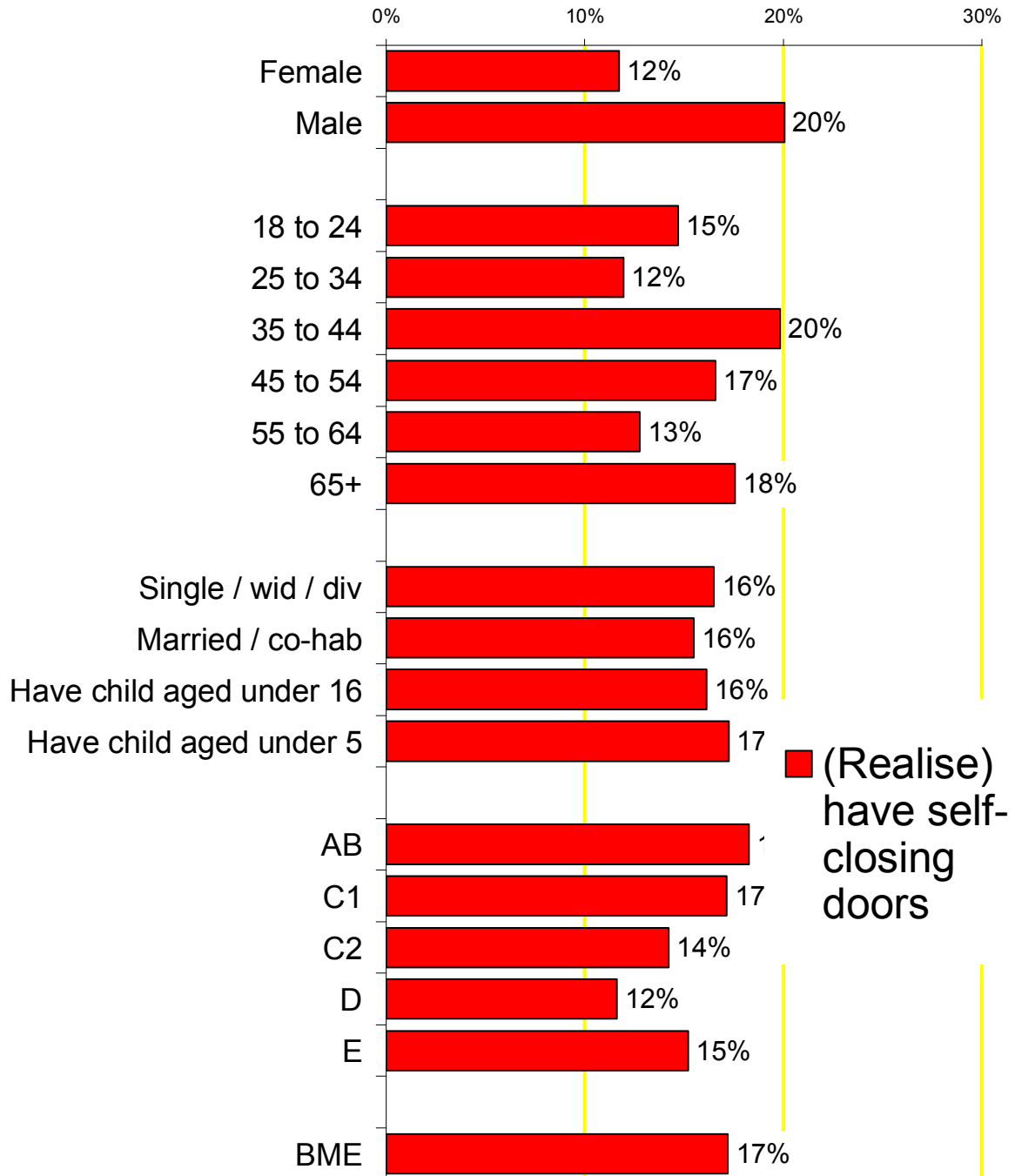
	Main Survey	Have Self-Closing Doors			Mobility impaired
	E&W Total	Total	Main Survey	Booster	
Base: all	(1092)	(506)	(172)	(334)	(123)
	%	%	%	%	%
Internal door has S-C device	16	100	100	100	15
D (rising butt hinge) D	7	42	44	42	6
C (concealed chain) C	5	34	32	34	5
B (arm above door) B	3	17	17	17	5
A (arm on side of door) A	2	12	12	12	1
Unsure – internal door/s are designed to swing shut, but do not know what device causes them to do this	*	2	2	1	2
Have ‘rising butt hinge’, but no self closing doors at Q4b	1	0	0	0	8

We showed photographs of four devices designed to close doors automatically. Among our nationally-representative sample, 16% realise that they have self-closing devices fitted to their doors. A small number of others told us that they have doors with rising butt hinges, but that these are not designed to close the door (e.g. they were fitted so that the door clears the carpet). Most common self-closing devices are rising butt hinges and concealed chains (a few have both fitted).

Within our data, including the above table, we are able to separately examine the people with self-closing doors from our main survey (which should therefore be a nationally-representative cross-section of these people), those interviewed on the booster (where we targeted areas where we felt it more likely that we would encounter homes with self-closing doors fitted) and everyone who has self-closing devices (irrespective of which survey they were interviewed on).

The penetration of self-closing doors among the mobility-impaired is very similar to the national sample (15% vs. 16%, although interviewers did also meet a further 10 mobility-impaired respondents who have rising-butt hinges fitted to their internal doors, but their doors still do not automatically swing shut – which implies that the devices may no longer be functioning.)

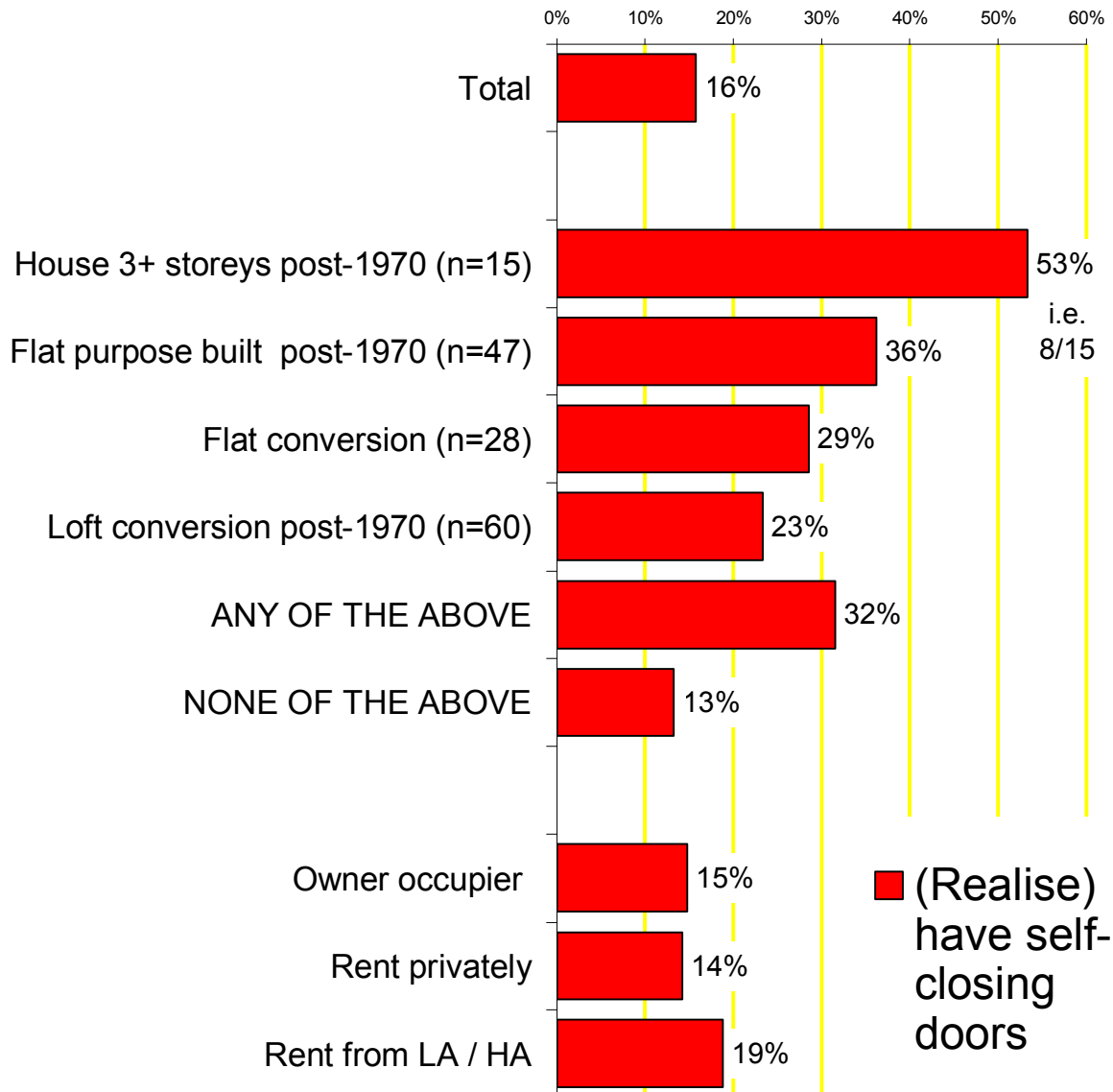
3.8 Penetration of Self-Closing Doors: Main Survey



The above chart examines the data from the main survey only, and shows the proportion within each of these sub-groups who told our interviewers that they have self-closing devices fitted to their internal doors. While 20% of men realise they have devices fitted, this compares with just 12% of women. Given the fact that most respondents are married or co-habiting, this suggests that many women are probably unaware that they have self-closing devices fitted to their doors. The overall penetration of these devices is therefore likely to be above 20%, it certainly is not as low as 16% as the survey initially suggests. This also explains the difficulties interviewers experienced on the booster survey where they were looking for an equal number of men and women with these devices fitted to their doors.

ABC1 homes (and 35-44s) appear a little more likely to have self-closing devices fitted.

3.8.1 Penetration of Self-Closing Doors: Main Survey



At the end of the interview we ask a number of questions about housing (and tenure) to establish whether the property is one that is likely to have required self-closing devices to be fitted to the internal doors.

The above chart is again based on our nationally representative sample from the main study, and again within each of these groups we show the proportion who realise they have self-closing devices fitted to their doors. We have very few interviews indeed for some of these types of property on the main survey (e.g. only 15 houses with three or more storeys, 28 flat conversions). Also note that the flat conversions could have taken place either before or after 1970 (we only know when the property was built).

However among those living in the types of property where we would expect to find self-closing devices fitted, only one third tell us they have self-closing doors fitted. This means that two-thirds do not realise or, given the very high percentage, have had them removed. Among those living in other properties (most commonly 2-storey houses without loft conversions), 13% have self-closers fitted to internal doors, often for reasons such as carpet clearance.

3.8.2 Self-Closing Doors on Main Survey

Numbers (not percentages)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Have self-closing doors</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>1092</i>	<i>172</i>
<i>House 3+ storeys built after 1970</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Flat purpose built after 1970</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Flat conversion</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Loft conversion after 1970</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Any of the above</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>None of the above</i>	<i>943</i>	<i>125</i>
<i>Owner occupier</i>	<i>681</i>	<i>101</i>
<i>Rent privately</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Rent from LA / HA</i>	<i>255</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Female</i>	<i>563</i>	<i>66</i>
<i>Male</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>106</i>
<i>18 to 24</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>25 to 34</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>35 to 44</i>	<i>242</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>45 to 54</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>55 to 64</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>65 to 74</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>75+</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Single / wid / div</i>	<i>394</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>Married / co-hab</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>107</i>
<i>Have child aged under 16</i>	<i>366</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Have child aged under 5</i>	<i>203</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>AB</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>C1</i>	<i>309</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>C2</i>	<i>253</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>White British</i>	<i>968</i>	<i>151</i>
<i>BME</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>21</i>

The above (raw) data formed the basis of the charts shown on the previous pages.

3.9 Who Fitted Self-Closing Doors

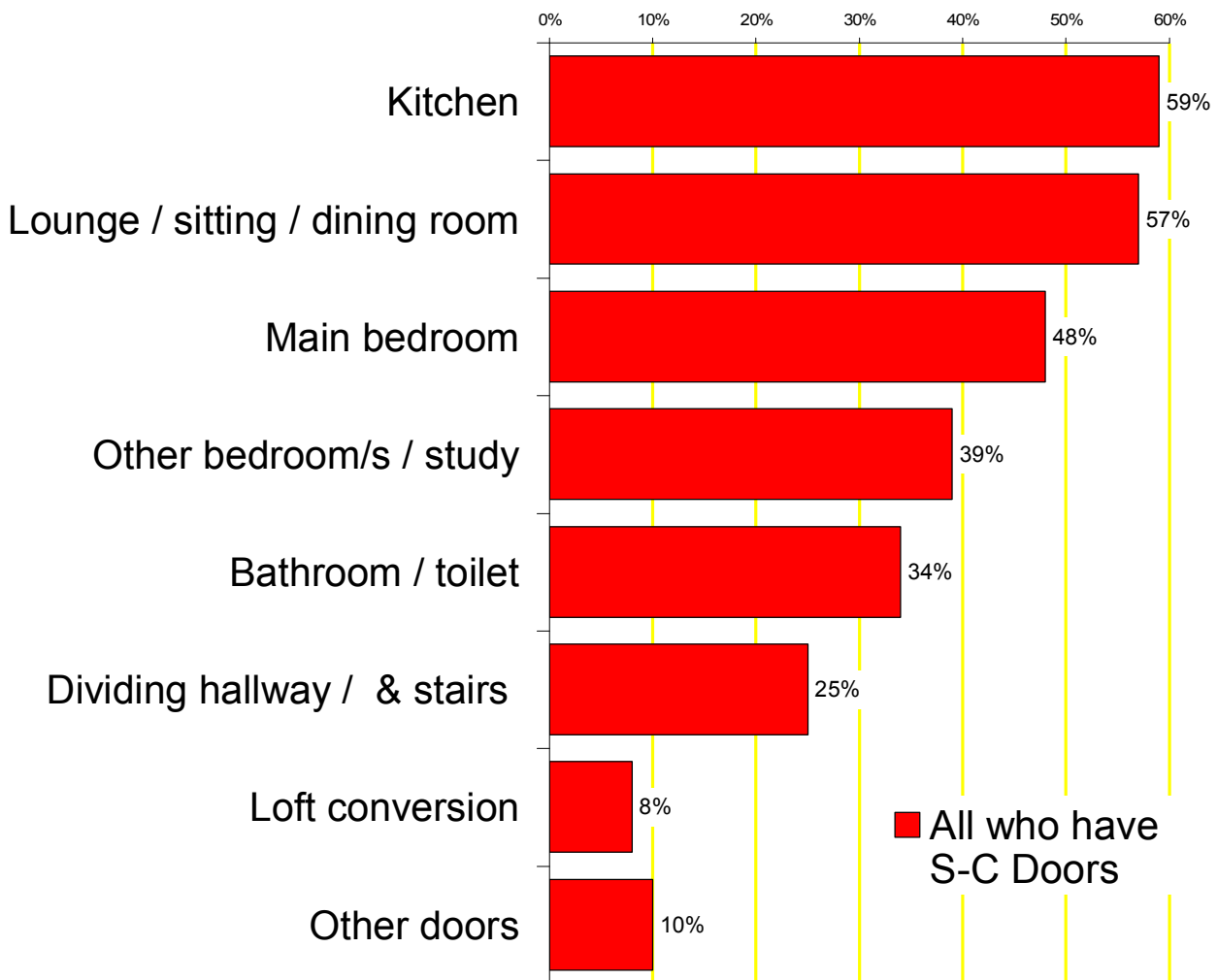
Q3 Were the devices already on the doors when you moved in, or did you have them fitted?
IF THEY FITTED ASK Was this by choice or for some other reason?

	All S-C Doors
Base: have self-closing doors	(506) %
Here when we moved in	73
We fitted	28

In total we have 506 households with self-closing devices fitted to their internal doors. In most cases the devices were already on the doors when they moved into the property. Around one-in-four had these devices fitted themselves – the proportion rises with age (from 9% of under 35s with self-closing doors, to over half of the 55+), and is higher among the men interviewed (some of whom will have personally fitted the device). Those in rented accommodation are unlikely to themselves be fitting devices to their doors.

In total we encountered 41 people with self-closing doors on loft-conversions – most of these (29/41) were responsible for fitting the self-closing device themselves, and a number talked about planning / building regulations requiring self-closing doors.

3.10 Rooms Fitted with Self-Closing Doors



Two-fifths of those with self-closing doors have a self-closing device fitted to only one door, while a quarter have devices fitted to at least five doors. Three-fifths have devices fitted to their kitchen door, a similar proportion to the door to their living area, half have a self-closer on their bedroom door, only one in three has one on the bathroom / toilet. Note that not all homes have each of the other rooms listed (i.e. not everyone has a second bedroom and few have loft conversions). A surprising number of those with self-closing doors apparently have these fitted to divide a hallway, or to separate the hallway from the stairs. Among the 'other' doors are those fitted to integral garages.

Having established which doors in the property are fitted with self-closing devices, interviewers then go on to ask the extent to which each of these doors is propped open, or allowed to close freely.

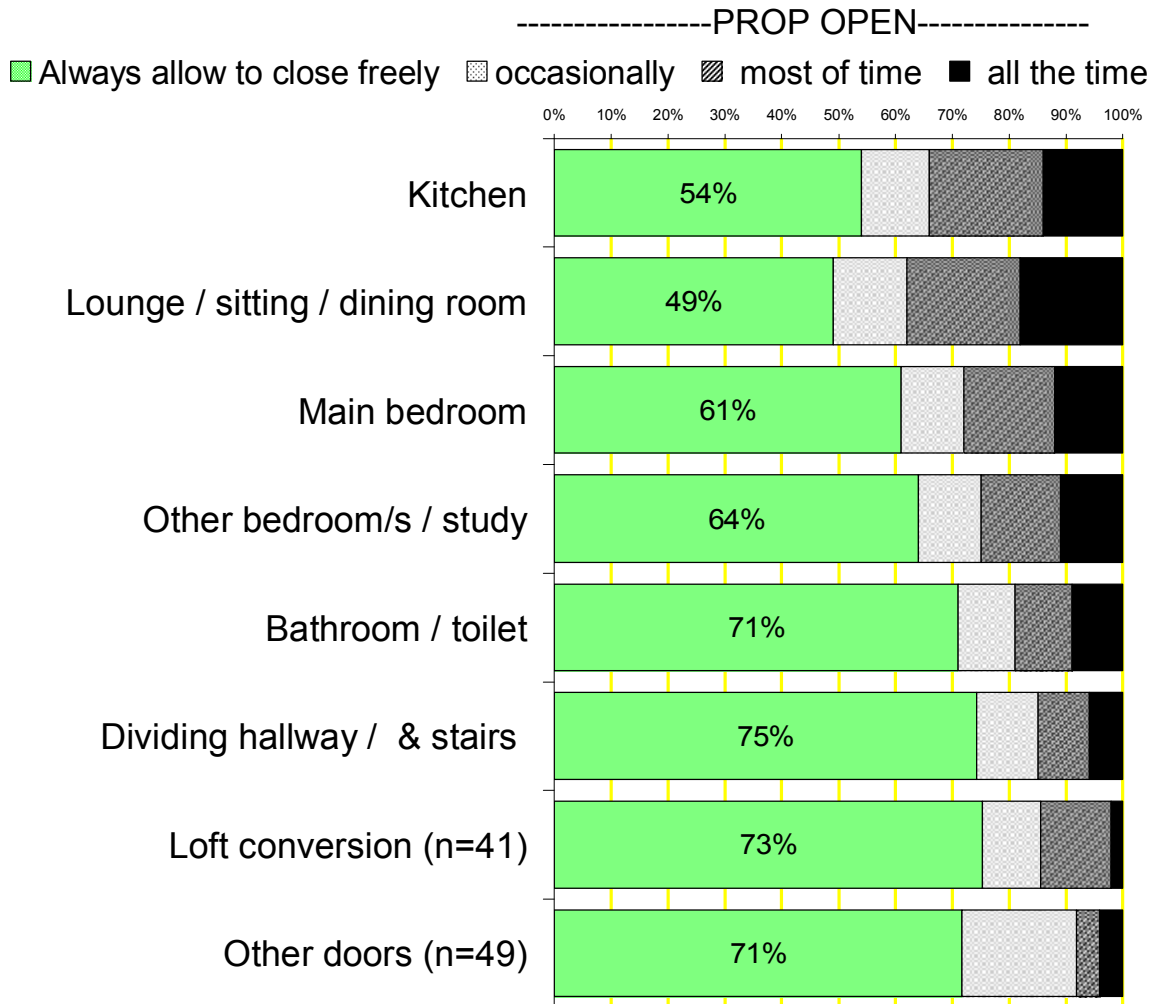
3.10.1 Rooms Fitted with Self-Closing Doors

Q4a **SHOWCARD 2** Which of your internal doors are fitted to close automatically? Any others?
ASK FOR EACH DOOR MENTIONED

	<i>All S-C Doors (506) %</i>
<i>Base: have self-closing doors</i>	
<i>Kitchen</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Lounge / sitting / dining room</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>Main bedroom</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Other bedroom/s / study</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Bathroom / toilet</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Door dividing internal hallway, or between hallway & stairs</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Loft conversion</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Other doors</i>	<i>10</i>

The above data formed the basis of the chart shown on the previous page.

3.11 Allowing Self-Closing Doors to Close Freely



Summary Base: have self-closing doors (506) **All S-C Doors**

At least one door is always allowed to close freely	67%
At least one door is ever propped open	48%
At least one door is propped open most / all the time	33%
At least one door is propped open all the time	15%

The above chart plots the proportion of self-closing doors (etc) that are propped open (black) or allowed to close freely (green).

Most self-closing doors are allowed to close freely. The exceptions are the doors fitted to kitchens and living areas, half of which are at least sometimes propped open, indeed at least a third of kitchen and living area doors are propped open *most* or *all* of the time. Overall half of those with self-closing doors ever prop open a door, one in three say they prop open at least one door all or most of the time. Women are more likely than men to talk about propping open doors (possibly women with under-5s). Doors with chains are among those most likely to be propped open, doors with self-closing arms least likely.

3.11.1 Allowing Self-Closing Doors to Close Freely

Q4b Are is that door **always** allowed to close freely, or is it **ever** propped open, or otherwise prevented from closing automatically? And is that propped open all the time, most of the time, or just occasionally?

Base: have self-closing doors (506)	Doors fitted Base	Always allow to close freely	Prop open		
			Occasi- -onally	most of time	all the time
Kitchen	(297)	54%	12%	20%	14%
Lounge / sitting / dining room	(290)	49%	13%	20%	18%
Main bedroom	(243)	61%	11%	16%	12%
Other bedroom/s / study	(197)	64%	11%	14%	11%
Bathroom / toilet	(174)	71%	10%	10%	9%
Door dividing hallway &c	(126)	75%	11%	9%	6%
Loft conversion	(41) low base	73%	10%	12%	2%
Other doors	(49) low base	71%	20%	4%	4%

The above data formed the basis of the chart shown on the previous page.

3.12 Propping Open Self-Closing Doors

IF **EVER** PROP OPEN / PREVENT ANY DOORS FROM CLOSING ASK Q5

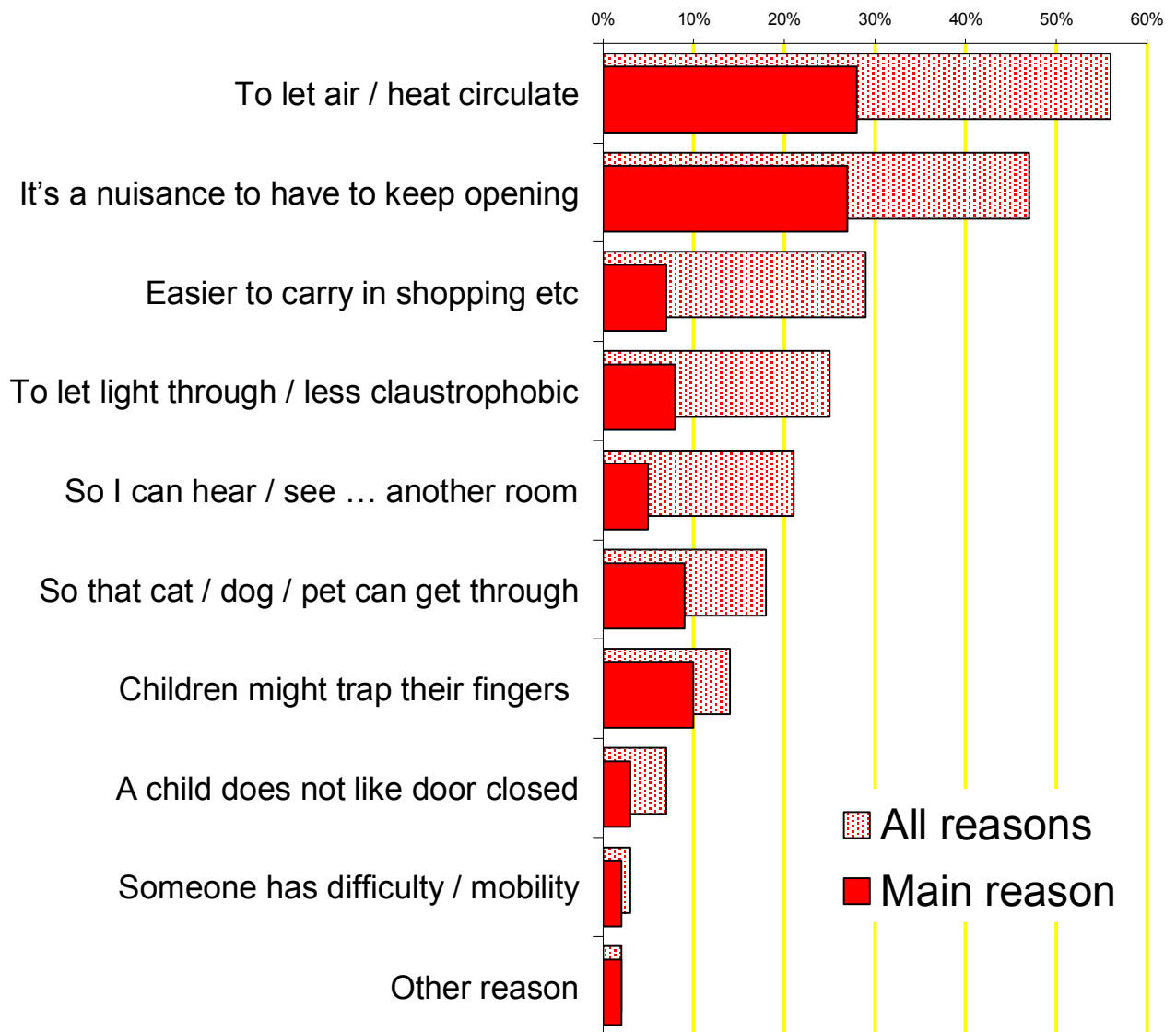
IF **ALWAYS** ALLOW **ALL** DOORS TO CLOSE FREELY SKIP TO Q7a «

Q5 Are the doors simply propped open or wedged open,
or have you removed or disabled the device which causes the doors to close?
PROMPT AS NECESSARY – CAN BE MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE

	All S-C Doors (242) %
Base: prop open self-closing doors	
Prop / wedge open	95
Removed the device	2
Device is faulty / doesn't work properly / sticks	2
Disabled the device (e.g. unhooked the chain)	1
Carpet prevents door closing / fully	1

Very few indeed talk here about disabling or removing self-closing devices – they are simply propping / wedging open their doors. This is not really surprising since those living in properties where self-closing doors have been removed or disabled (probably by a previous owner) would not necessarily be aware that they have even been fitted. This ties in with the figures shown earlier where two-thirds of those living in properties which should have self-closing devices fitted to doors either have had the devices removed or do not realise that self-closing devices are, or were, fitted (page 21).

3.13 Why Prop Open Self-Closing Doors (1)



We prompted with a list of possible reasons for propping open doors (we have abbreviated the statements for our chart – full versions are shown overleaf). Most common reasons are to let the air circulate (our fieldwork started in July 2006, the hottest month since records began) / to let heat circulate in the Winter, or because it is simply a nuisance to have to keep opening doors every time you want to go into or out of a room.

3.14 Why Prop Open Self-Closing Doors (2)

Q6a **SHOWCARD 3** Please read out the numbers next to all the reasons why you prop open or keep these doors open. Any others?

Q6b And which of those is the most important reason (or reasons)?

	Reasons prop open S-C Doors	
	All reasons (242) %	Main reason (242) %
Base: prop open self-closing doors		
To let air circulate / to let heat circulate (in the Winter)	56	28
It's a nuisance to have to open the door every time you want to go in and out	47	27
To make it easier to carry in shopping or other heavy / bulky items	29	7
To let light through / claustrophobic with doors shut	25	8
So that I can hear / see what's happening in another room	21	5
So that the cat / dog / pet can get through the door	18	9
I'm concerned children might trap their fingers in the door	14	10
A child does not like the door to be closed	7	3
Some family members have difficulty opening doors / mobility problems	3	2
Other reason	2	2

The above data formed the basis of the chart shown on the previous page.

3.15 Self-Closing Doors and the Mobility Impaired

- On our additional survey among 123 mobility-impaired respondents we encountered only 19 who have self-closing devices fitted to their doors. The penetration of self-closing doors among our mobility-impaired respondents is very similar to that among our national sample (15% vs. 16% respectively, although as noted earlier a few others have rising butt hinges fitted to doors which apparently do not automatically swing shut).
- We have looked at the responses of the 19 mobility-impaired respondents with self-closing doors on all questions, although clearly data based on so few will not be robust, and we therefore have not shown full tables in this report.
- 14 of the 19 moved into their property with these doors already fitted – they are no more likely to have fitted the self-closing door themselves than are our sample as whole.
- Compared with the overall sample of people with self-closing doors, fewer of our mobility-impaired respondents have self-closers doors fitted to the kitchen door (6/19), slightly more have these fitted to their main bedroom (10/19).
- Around half of *all* people with self-closing doors ever prop open a door. And 10 out of our 19 mobility-impaired respondents ever prop open a self-closing door.
- Only two of our mobility-impaired respondents live in a property where a self-closing device has been removed from a door (to their knowledge), only two are in a property where a door has been removed – again they are no different from the sample as whole in this respect (see overleaf).

3.16 Removing Devices from Self-Closing Doors

- Q7a Were there any (other) internal doors in your home which had self-closing devices fitted at one time, but where either the device or the door has now been removed?
 Q7b Was this removed by yourselves or by the previous occupant?
 Q7c Which room or areas of your home had this door? **SHOWCARD 2**

	Main Survey E&W	All who		Mobility
	Total	Do not have	have S-C	impaired
Base: all	(1092)	S-C Doors	Doors	(123)
	%	(920)	(506)	%
		%	%	%
<i>Either device or door removed</i>	2	2	7	3
Device unscrewed or removed	2	1	5	2
Door has been removed	1	1	1	2

	Removed door / device
Base: removed self-closing device or door	(51) number
Removed by us	45
By previous occupant	7
Kitchen	25
Lounge / sitting / dining room	19
Other bedroom/s / study	15
Main bedroom	11
Bathroom / toilet	9
Door dividing hallway &c	2
Loft conversion	2
Other doors	3

Very few of those with self-closing devices fitted to their doors were telling us that the device had been disabled or removed, although half are propping open doors. We now return to everyone on the survey, to check whether there are doors in their home that they have not yet told us about which used to have self-closing devices fitted.

27 people on the main survey (2%) and 24 (7%) on the booster survey tell us here that they have removed a self-closing device (or the door it was attached to). However, current occupants would not necessarily be aware if a self-closing device had been removed by a previous occupant. Indeed there are a large number of homes on the survey which we believe *should* have devices fitted to doors, but which apparently do not. Kitchens and living areas top the list here, but of course these are also the rooms where doors are most likely to be fitted with these devices in the first place.

3.17 Why Remove Self-Closing Device / Door

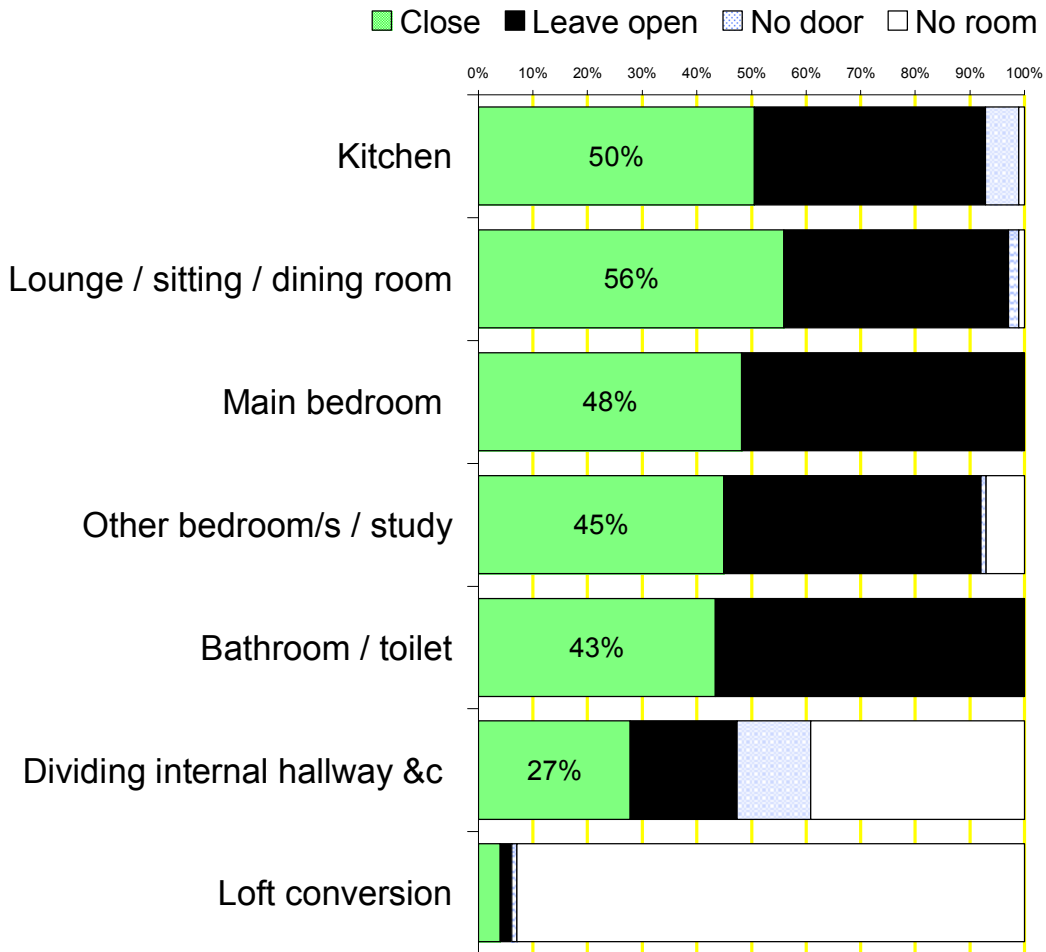
Q7d SHOWCARD 3

Please read out the numbers next to the reasons why the door / device was removed.

	Removed device (51) number
Base: removed self-closing device or door	
It's a nuisance to have to open the door every time you want to go in and out	18
I'm concerned children might trap their fingers in the door	12
To let air circulate / to let heat circulate (in the Winter)	6
To let light through / claustrophobic with doors shut	4
So that I can hear / see what's happening in another room	3
To make it easier to carry in shopping or other heavy / bulky items	2
Some family members have difficulty opening doors / mobility problems	1
So that the cat / dog / pet can get through the door	3
<i>Other unlisted reasons</i>	
No longer required	9
Door was too heavy / old so replaced	2
Door hit furniture as small room	1
Broken and too expensive to replace	1

We asked the 51 people who have removed a device (or a door) to select the reasons from our showcard list. Most commonly it is simply because it is a nuisance to keep opening the door, while 12 told us they were concerned about children trapping their fingers in the door.

3.18 Closing Doors at Night: Generally



Main Survey E&W

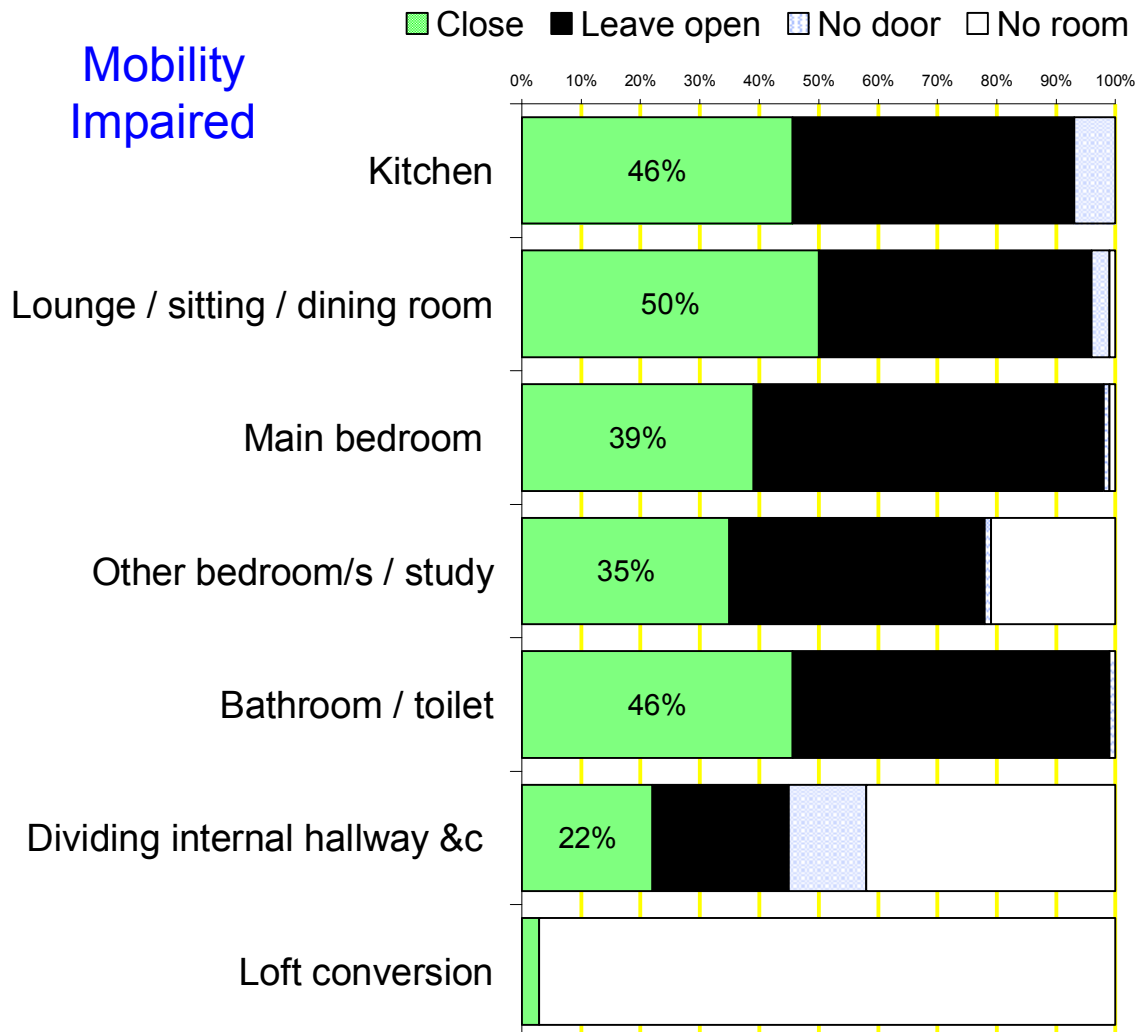
Summary

	Total	Do not have S-C Doors	Have S-C Doors	Mobility impaired
Base:	(1092)	(920)	(506)	(123)
Close any door at night	82%	81%	91%	76%
Leave any door open at night	78%	79%	66%	76%

We then asked everyone about doors generally, not just self-closing doors (although we know whether and which of their doors are self-closing). Around half of kitchen, living area and bedroom doors are left open at night (there is surprisingly little variation here when we look at the various demographic groups), while just over half of bathroom/toilet doors are open. Two-thirds of those in properties with self-closing doors prop open, or leave open, at least one door at night, while four-fifths of those with no self-closing doors close at least one door at night.

In total four-fifths of homes leave at least one internal door open at night (i.e. one-fifth close all doors), while four-fifths close at least one door. A third of those with self-closing doors close all their doors at night – 71% of those with a self-closer on the kitchen door allow this door to shut at night (compared with 51% of all households), comparable figures for other rooms are 66% for living area doors (vs. 56%), 68% for bathroom doors (vs. 43%).

3.18.1 Closing Doors at Night: Mobility-Impaired



While a slightly higher proportion of our (mostly elderly) mobility-impaired respondents leave each of these doors open at night (except the bathroom door), the pattern of responses here is not dramatically different from those of the national sample shown on the previous page. Overall three-quarters of our nationally representative sample leave at least one door open at night, as do three-quarters of the mobility-impaired.

3.18.2 Closing Doors at Night (Generally)

Q8a **SHOWCARD 4**

Which of these internal doors do you usually close at night, and which do you leave open?

Main Survey base all (1092)	Close	Leave open	No door	No room
<i>Kitchen</i>	50%	42%	6%	1%
<i>Lounge / sitting / dining room</i>	56%	41%	2%	1%
<i>Main bedroom</i>	48%	51%	*	*
<i>Other bedroom/s / study</i>	45%	47%	1%	7%
<i>Bathroom / toilet</i>	43%	56%	0%	*
<i>Door dividing internal hallway &c</i>	27%	19%	13%	38%
<i>Loft conversion</i>	4%	2%	1%	92%

Mobility Impaired base (123)	Close	Leave open	No door	No room
<i>Kitchen</i>	46%	48%	7%	0%
<i>Lounge / sitting / dining room</i>	50%	46%	3%	1%
<i>Main bedroom</i>	39%	59%	1%	1%
<i>Other bedroom/s / study</i>	35%	43%	1%	21%
<i>Bathroom / toilet</i>	46%	54%	1%	0%
<i>Door dividing internal hallway &c</i>	22%	23%	13%	42%
<i>Loft conversion</i>	3%	0%	0%	97%

The above data formed the basis of charts shown on the previous pages.

3.19 Reasons Close Doors at Night: Generally/Mobility impaired

ASK ALL WHO CLOSE DOOR/S

Q8b Why do you close those doors? PROBE Any other reasons?

	Main Survey E&W			
	Total	Do not have S-C Doors	Have S-C Doors	Mobility impaired
Base: close doors at night	(894) %	(743) %	(458) %	(94) %
Fire safety / risk / stop fire spread	31	28	36	37
For safety (unspecified)	3	3	5	4
To prevent smoke escaping / contain	1	1	2	1
Habit / always done it	22	24	15	32
To keep pets contained	17	18	11	10
Privacy	14	14	17	12
Security / stop intruders / alarmed room	13	14	10	9
To shut out noise	7	6	5	3
To circulate air / keep warmth in	4	5	3	6
To stop draughts	2	3	2	2
To stop light intrusion	2	2	1	0
Stop children wandering	2	2	2	0
They close automatically	1	0	9	3
Stop smells circulating	1	1	2	2
Looks better / tidier	1	1	1	1
Unused rooms	1	*	1	1
Other reasons	2	2	1	2
DK / NA	4	5	4	1

This is an open-ended question where those who close any of their doors at night (i.e. 4/5 on the main survey) tell us their reasons in their own words. While fire safety tops the list, particularly for those who have self-closing doors, the majority have some other reason – overleaf we show some examples of verbatim responses at this question. The (mostly elderly) mobility-impaired are a little more likely to talk about closing doors out of habit.

3.19.1 Reasons Close Doors at Night – Verbatims

The Fire Service says that it's essential for safety to close all internal doors at night or when out of the house

Fireman said we should when we had a fire check

I've always been told that if there was a fire it's safer if doors are closed

If a fire in the kitchen to contain it

To prevent smoke spreading in case of a fire in the kitchen or the boiler in the airing cupboard in the bathroom

In case of fire – I like upstairs open so I can hear noises

Fire – I am a smoker and empty my bin, but you always have to be careful

To comply with insurance

Don't know – I've always done it – my parents did and I've followed

Habit from when the kids were young

Habit – brought up to close doors

Feel safer and in winter it keeps the house warmer

To keep people out and heat in

Feel safer – if anyone comes I can hear them opening the doors

To keep the criminals downstairs

Security – there's a bar on it

Won't get robbed

The burglar alarm will not work if I leave the doors open at night – when I set the alarm it needs all doors downstairs shut to work

Feel safer in case of break-in

Lock all downstairs doors – security – don't want to be broken into

Private for me and lock them on a night downstairs so if anyone gets in by a window they cannot get out of the room without making a noise

Privacy and keeps the cats out of the bathroom

Just manners (bathroom)

Don't like to see the toilet from the hall

Because bedrooms are private

Because of privacy from the son and the others just looks tidier

Don't want to let people see me undress

Above and overleaf we show examples of reasons given for shutting doors at night.

So light from the landing doesn't keep child awake
Daughter feels safer with her door closed

To keep the noise out, so we don't wake the baby up
Dishwasher and washing machine in the kitchen are very noisy
Fridge-freezer in the kitchen is noisy
Noise from trains passing keeps me awake
The tap drips in the bathroom and the cat has to be kept out of the bedroom
Because I've got a cuckoo clock and it wakes me up – to muffle the sound

Stops the spicy cooking smells from going over the house
Scared of gas leaks

So the kids don't raid the cupboards
Stops the twins causing havoc
To stop the children getting into the bathroom when we are sleeping, they left the
taps on once and caused a lot of damage

So cats can't poo in the bath and get into the bedrooms
If mice are about
Stop little animals i.e. voles and mice
To keep the dog in one place – the bedroom has air conditioning so we keep the
door shut because of this
To avoid dogs sleeping on the settee
Keeps the dogs out as got birds
Let the bird out in the front room so it has to stay in that room
Just the cat – I don't want her in there climbing up the walls
Close kitchen door because the hamster is in there and I have cats, and the
bedroom door I close because of habit
Keeps the cats off the carpet
To stop cats bringing things in
Shut the lounge door because I own a bird which is noisy so I shut the door to keep
the noise out
Got a cat that rips furniture and to stop fire spreading
To stop my dog pinching the toilet roll at night – she's in with us

Above we show more examples of the reasons given for shutting doors at night.

3.20 Reasons for Self-Closing Devices on Doors

Q9 What do you think is the main reason **why** devices are fitted to cause internal doors to close? PROBE What other advantages might there be in internal doors closing automatically?

	Main Survey E&W			All who have S-C Doors (506)	Mobility impaired (123)
	Total (1092)	Do not have S-C Doors (920)	Do not have S-C Doors (920)		
Base: all	%	%	%	%	
Fire safety / risk / stop fire spread	69	66	77	65	
To prevent smoke escaping/ contain fire	4	4	5	4	
Convenient / don't have to close manually	10	11	5	21	
Security / alarmed room / stop intruders	8	9	6	6	
To circulate air / keep warmth in	7	7	5	1	
For safety (unspecified)	3	3	5	4	
To stop draughts	3	3	2	0	
Stop children wandering	2	2	1	1	
For privacy	1	2	1	1	
To shut out noise	1	1	1	1	
To keep pets contained	1	1	1	1	
Stop smells circulating	1	*	2	0	
Looks better / tidier	*	*	*	0	
Other reasons	1	1	2	1	
DK / NA	14	15	9	15	

At this stage in the questionnaire the interviewers had still not mentioned fire safety (or fire doors) to our respondents, although by now some will have themselves mentioned fire precautions. Here we asked everyone the purpose of fitting self-closing devices on doors. The vast majority do understand that these are a fire precaution (although very few talk specifically about containing the smoke from a fire). In fact we recorded 'main reason and 'other' reasons on this question – 65% on the main survey first mentioned 'fire', just half a dozen others mentioned smoke. The other reasons shown above are therefore secondary reasons for most people – for example only 6% talked first about convenience (convenience appears a little more relevant to the mobility-impaired).

Those who have self-closing doors are even more likely to talk about fire safety – they certainly know *why* the devices were fitted to their doors.

3.20.1 Reason for Self-Closing Devices – Verbatims

Stops fire – that's all but it's a really good reason

Fire safety – can save your life

Fire safety – gives more time to get out

If fire breaks out it gives people more chance of getting out

Holds fire back for 20 minutes

Fire check – holds a fire back for up to half an hour

To prevent fire or obnoxious smells spreading – you know the doors will always shut – saves you having to check

Because garages usually contain inflammable products plus cars which can cause fires and a fire door can keep it at bay for a while

Health and safety regulations – fire regulations

Petty officialdom or local building regulations-excessive regulation of what goes on in peoples private houses

To be a bloody pain in the arse

No real advantage – more a nuisance

No idea – they are annoying

Can't see any – they would be a nuisance in some cases – we have a disabled daughter who couldn't get through with the wheelchair

At night to stop you walking into the door edge in the dark

For disabled people to go through and then close automatically to save them having to close the doors themselves

For security, to prevent intruders entering – you don't need a free hand to close it so if you are carrying big items it will close shut on its own

For lazy people that can't be bothered to close them themselves

They are daft – you can shut them yourself – they are lazy – too lazy to close doors

No idea except to close them automatically, you always that the door is closed if you have pets around

Perhaps to make sure that people don't slam them

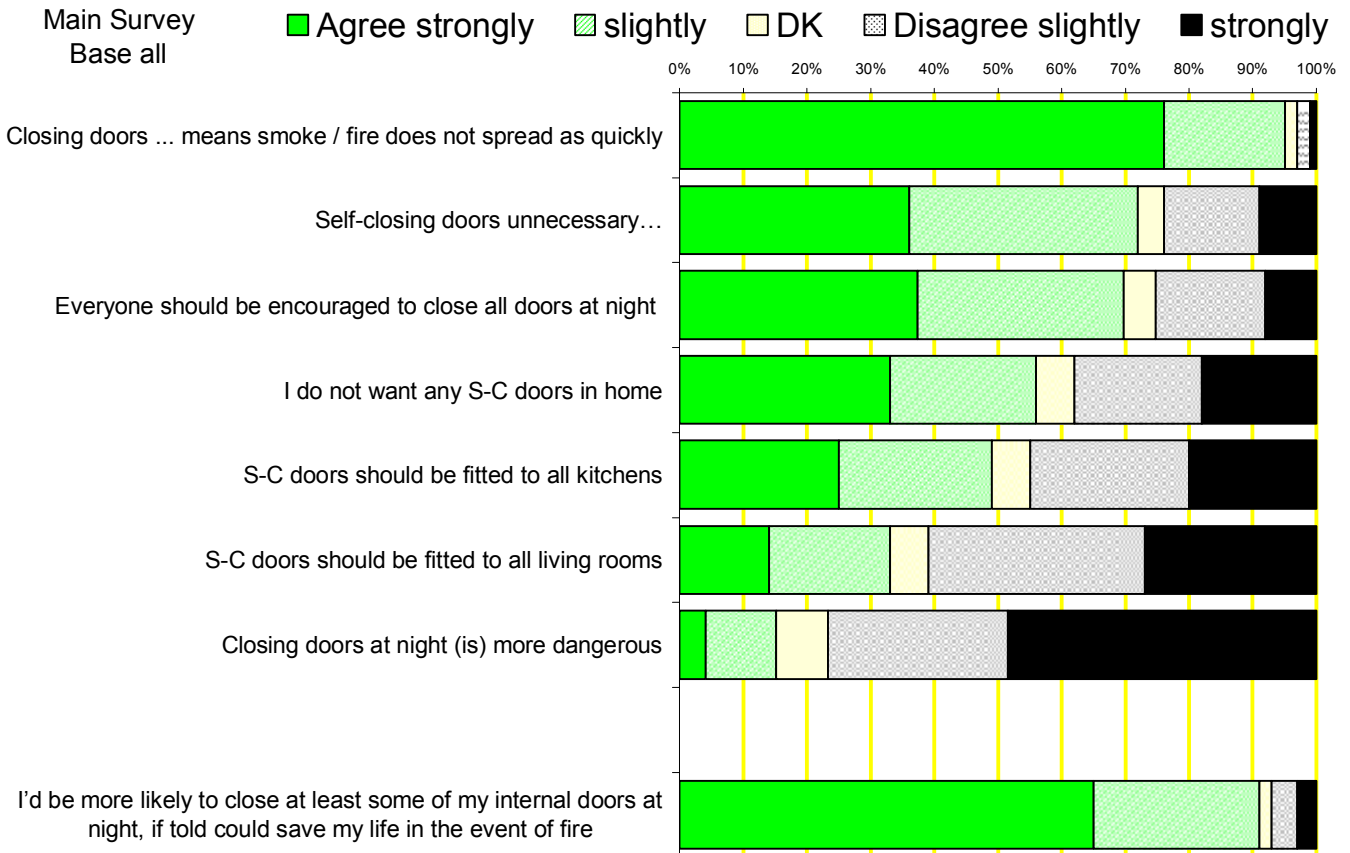
Usually in public buildings to save heating bills

Swinging doors may injure small children

If you close the door if you have a fire it could burn the room down before the alarm detected it – better to keep the door open so it goes off quicker

Above we show examples of the reasons for fitting self-closing devices to doors in some properties (including responses both from those who have self-closing doors and by the majority who do not).

3.21 Prompted Attitudes – Main Survey



We prompted with a list of statements about self-closing doors and fire safety to establish the extent to which people agree (green section of the chart) or disagree (black) with each. The sequence of statements was rotated on the questionnaire, except for the final statement which was always last. The above chart is based on the nationally representative main survey, while later we show a chart based just on those who have self-closing devices fitted to their internal doors. The statements have been abbreviated for our chart – full versions are shown in the table overleaf and in the appended questionnaire.

There is very widespread acceptance that closing internal doors at night will slow the spread of smoke or fire, whereas very few think that closing doors could make properties *more* dangerous. The majority accept that everyone should be encouraged to close doors at night, while 91% agree (and usually agree *strongly*) that they would be more likely to close their doors at night if they were provided with information on how it could save their life in the event of a fire.

Most feel that self-closing doors are unnecessary since people can decide for themselves whether or not to close their internal doors. And those who would not want any self-closing doors in their home slightly outnumber those who might be prepared to have these fitted (by 3:2). That said, half agree that self-closers should be fitted to all kitchen doors, one-in-three agree they should be fitted to all living room doors.

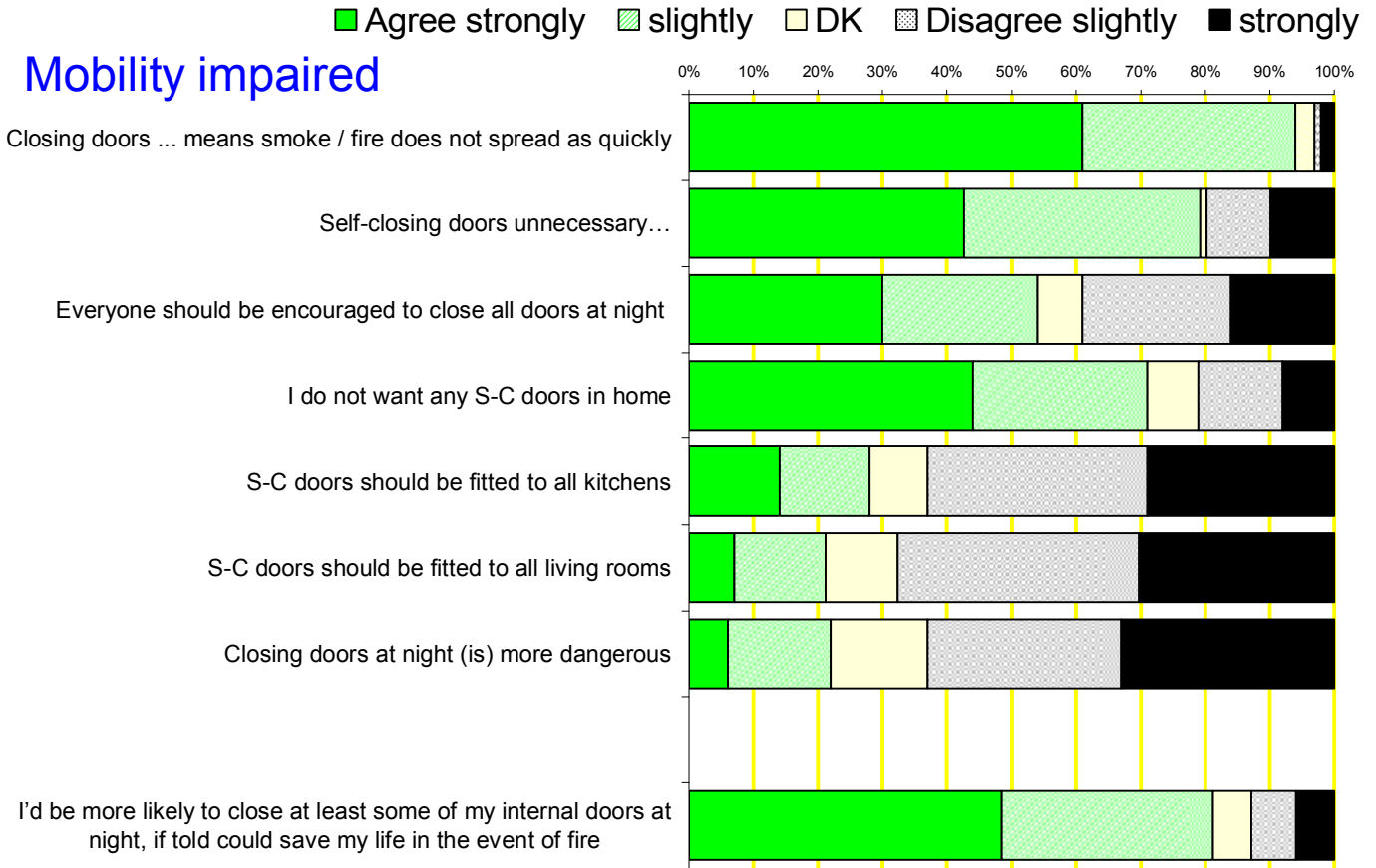
3.21.1 Prompted Attitudes: Main Survey

Q10 **SHOWCARD 5** *To what extent would you agree or disagree that...*

Base: main survey (1092)	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	DK
<i>Closing internal doors at night will mean that smoke or fire does not spread as quickly</i>	76%	19%	2%	1%	2%
<i>Self-closing doors are unnecessary – people can decide whether or not they close the doors in their home</i>	36%	36%	15%	9%	4%
<i>Everyone should be encouraged to close all doors at night</i>	37%	32%	17%	8%	5%
<i>You would not want any self-closing doors in your home</i>	33%	23%	20%	18%	6%
<i>Self-closing doors should be fitted to all kitchens</i>	25%	24%	25%	20%	6%
<i>Self-closing doors should be fitted to all living rooms</i>	14%	19%	34%	27%	6%
<i>Closing internal doors at night will make your home more dangerous</i>	4%	11%	28%	48%	8%
<i>You would be more likely to close at least some of your internal doors at night, if you were told it could save your life in the event of a fire</i>	65%	26%	4%	3%	2%

The above data formed the basis of the chart shown on the previous page.

3.21.2 Prompted Attitudes: Mobility-Impaired



Among the mobility-impaired there is also very widespread acceptance that closing internal doors at night will slow the spread of smoke or fire, whereas very few think that closing doors could make properties *more* dangerous.

However the mobility-impaired are more resistant to having self-closing doors fitted. Nearly three-quarters say they would not want self-closing doors in their property, and only around a quarter accept that self-closers should be fitted to all kitchen doors (this compares with around half of respondents on our survey among all householders). Four out of five think they are unnecessary.

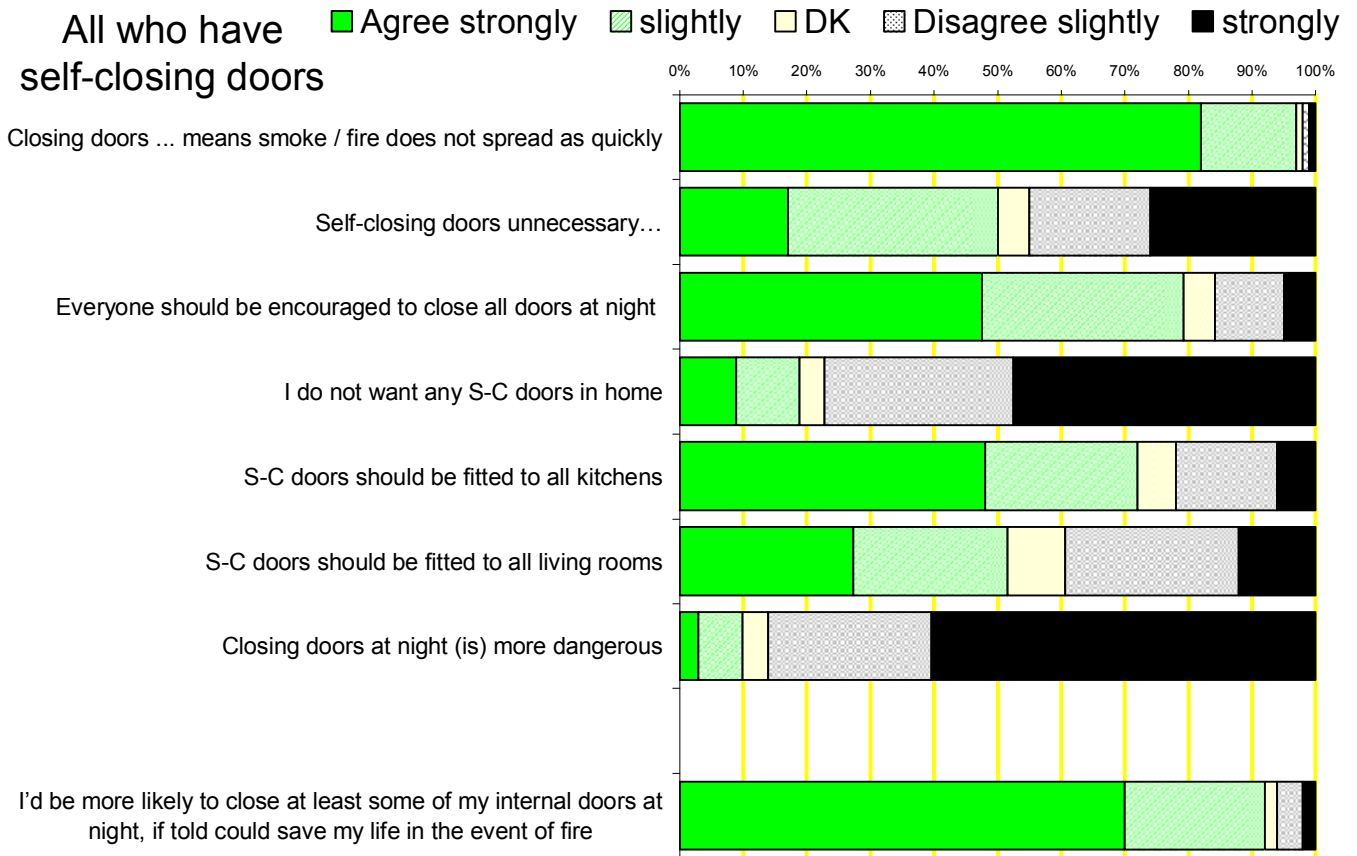
3.21.3 Prompted Attitudes: Mobility-Impaired

Q10 **SHOWCARD 5** To what extent would you agree or disagree that...

Base: mobility impaired survey (123)	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	DK
Closing internal doors at night will mean that smoke or fire does not spread as quickly	61%	33%	1%	2%	3%
Self-closing doors are unnecessary – people can decide whether or not they close the doors in their home	43%	37%	10%	10%	1%
Everyone should be encouraged to close all doors at night	30%	24%	23%	16%	7%
You would not want any self-closing doors in your home	44%	27%	13%	8%	8%
Self-closing doors should be fitted to all kitchens	14%	14%	34%	29%	9%
Self-closing doors should be fitted to all living rooms	7%	14%	37%	30%	11%
Closing internal doors at night will make your home more dangerous	6%	16%	30%	33%	15%
You would be more likely to close at least some of your internal doors at night, if you were told it could save your life in the event of a fire	49%	33%	7%	6%	6%

The above data formed the basis of the chart shown on the previous page.

3.21.4 Prompted Attitudes: All with Self-Closing Doors



The above chart is based on our 500+ households who have self-closing doors in their property (most of them moved into a property with these already fitted – few fitted these themselves). Among these people there is more widespread support for self-closing devices. Only 19% tell us they would rather not have self-closing doors in their home.

While half can still accept that self-closing devices are ‘unnecessary’ since people can choose whether or not to close their doors, 72% of those who have self-closing doors think self-closing devices should be fitted to all kitchen doors, half think they should be fitted to all living room doors.

3.21.5 Prompted Attitudes: Those With S-C Doors

Q10 **SHOWCARD 5** To what extent would you agree or disagree that...

Base: have self-closing doors (506)	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	DK
<i>Closing internal doors at night will mean that smoke or fire does not spread as quickly</i>	82%	15%	1%	1%	1%
<i>Self-closing doors are unnecessary – people can decide whether or not they close the doors in their home</i>	17%	33%	19%	26%	5%
<i>Everyone should be encouraged to close all doors at night</i>	48%	32%	11%	5%	5%
<i>You would not want any self-closing doors in your home</i>	9%	10%	30%	48%	4%
<i>Self-closing doors should be fitted to all kitchens</i>	48%	24%	16%	6%	6%
<i>Self-closing doors should be fitted to all living rooms</i>	27%	24%	27%	12%	9%
<i>Closing internal doors at night will make your home more dangerous</i>	3%	7%	26%	61%	4%
<i>You would be more likely to close at least some of your internal doors at night, if you were told it could save your life in the event of a fire</i>	70%	22%	4%	2%	2%

The above data formed the basis of the chart shown on the previous page.

3.22 Smoke Alarms

Q11 Do you have any smoke alarms fitted in your home? IF YES ASK
Do you have ordinary battery smoke alarms or some other type? ASK FOR DETAILS

	Main Survey E&W		All who	Mobility
	Total	Do not have	have S-C	impaired
Base: all	(1092)	S-C Doors	Doors	(123)
	%	(920)	(506)	%
		%	%	%
Have a smoke alarm	91	91	94	91
Ordinary battery	63	65	60	60
10 year battery	10	10	7	4
Wired to mains	22	19	32	32
Do not have a smoke alarm	8	9	5	9

We are recording similar levels of smoke alarm ownership on the main (nationally representative) survey as we do on our tracking survey. The mobility impaired are no different from the national sample – 91% have a smoke alarm fitted.

There is a higher proportion of main-wired smoke alarms fitted in the properties with self-closing doors – in some cases these would most likely have been wired in at the same time as the self-closing devices were fitted to the doors.



APPENDIX

Questionnaire



Andrew Irving Associates
 Lloyds Bank Buildings
 Muswell Hill Broadway
 London N10 3RZ
Roy Graham 01225 862787

Internal Doors – Main Survey

Street Interviews

JN 6071 (1-4)
 SN (5-8)
 Card 1 (9)

(10) ●

Name Address.....
 Post code (11-17)
 Phone no..... Ex-Directory Refused No phone
*If no phone number is given you must code the reason. Name, address & phone number will **not** be stored on computer, these will **not** be used for any sales or direct marketing purpose.*

Gender (18)

- Male 1
- Female 2

Age (19)

- 18-24 1
- 25-34 2
- 35-44 3
- 45-54 4
- 55-64 5
- 65-74 6
- 75+ 7

Marital status (20)

- Married / co-hab 1
- Single / wid / div 2

Total number in household (21)
(adults & children, include respondent)

- Just the respondent 1
- Two 2
- Three 3
- Four 4
- Five 5
- Six or more 6

Children <16 in household (22)

- No child <16 in h/h 0
- Child aged under 2 1
- Child 2-4 2
- Child 5-9 3
- Child 10-15 4

Occupation of CWE

SEG (23)

- AB 1
- C1 2
- C2 3
- D 4
- E 5

- (24)
- White British 1
- Other white 2
- Indian 3
- Bangladeshi 4
- Pakistani 5
- Asian British 6
- Black African 7
- Black Caribbean 8
- Black British 9
- Chinese 0
- Other (write in)

ITV Area (25)

- Border 1
- North East 2
- North West 3
- Yorkshire 4
- West 5
- Midlands 6
- East 7
- London 8
- South & South East 9
- South West 0
- Wales X

Interviewer (in capitals)

Date

 2006

INTRODUCTION

SHOW ID CARD Good morning / afternoon. My name is from AIA Market Research. I am conducting a survey on behalf of the Department of Communities and Local Government





This will take around 5 minutes. *(adjust estimate if your interviews are taking longer or less time than this)*

QA Can I just check that you are not living in sheltered accommodation,
or living as a dependent in the home of your parents?

Living in Sheltered Accommodation	n	THANK & CLOSE
Living as a dependent in home of parents	n	THANK & CLOSE
Neither of the above	1	CONTINUE

RECRUIT ACCORDING TO QUOTA

BY '**INTERNAL DOORS**' WE MEAN DOORS INSIDE THEIR HOME (BUT **NOT** CUPBOARD DOORS!)
 WE DO **NOT** INCLUDE DOORS WHICH LEAD TO THE OUTSIDE
 WE DO **NOT** INCLUDE DOORS WHICH LEAD TO COMMON AREAS SHARED WITH OTHER RESIDENTS

Q1 Do any of the internal doors in your home swing shut when you let go of them, unless you prop them open?
 IF 'YES' ASK Can you tell me what causes those doors to close? Anything else?

- Yes, internal door/s will swing shut because...** (26)
- Special device fitted to door 1
 - Special hinges 2
 - Door is hung incorrectly 3
 - Blown shut by the wind / draught 4
 - Other reason (write in)
-
 Don't know what causes the door/s to close X
- No – none of my internal doors swing shut** 0

Q2 **SHOWCARD 1** On this card we show photographs of a number of devices that are fitted to automatically close doors.
 Do any of the internal doors in your home have devices fitted to close the door, such as these?
 IF YES ASK Which type of device do you have fitted to your internal doors?

- Yes, internal door/s have devices fitted...** (27)
- A (arm on side of door) A 1
 - B (arm above door) B 2
 - C (concealed chain) C 3
 - D (rising butt hinge) D 4
 -other device (write in details)
 - Unsure – internal door/s are designed to swing shut, but do not know what device causes them to do this X

ASK Q3

No – none of my internal doors have devices fitted 0 SKIP TO Q7a <<

Q3 Were the devices already on the doors when you moved in, or did you have them fitted?
 IF THEY FITTED ASK Was this by choice or for some other reason?

- (28)
 Here when we moved in 1



We fitted – by choice	2
We fitted – other reason (ask for details)	3

.....

Q4a **SHOWCARD 2** Which of your internal doors are fitted to close automatically? Any others?

ASK FOR EACH DOOR MENTIONED

Q4b Are is that door **always** allowed to close freely, or is it **ever** propped open, or otherwise prevented from closing automatically? And is that propped open all the time, most of the time, or just occasionally?

	Q4a doors fitted to close automatically (29)	Q4b				
		Always allow to close freely	Prop open all the time	Prop open most of the time	Prop open ocasi onally	
Kitchen	1 à	1	2	3	4	(30)
Lounge / sitting room / dining room	2 à	1	2	3	4	(31)
Bathroom / toilet	3 à	1	2	3	4	(32)
Loft conversion	4 à	1	2	3	4	(33)
Main bedroom (e.g. parents' bedroom)	5 à	1	2	3	4	(34)
Other bedroom/s (e.g. children's) / study	6 à	1	2	3	4	(35)
Door dividing internal hallway, or between hallway & stairs	7 à	1	2	3	4	(36)
other doors? (write in details and code)	X à	1	2	3	4	(37)
.....						

IF EVER PROP OPEN
ANY DOORS ASK Q5,
OTHERS SKIP TO Q7a

IF **EVER** PROP OPEN / PREVENT ANY DOORS FROM CLOSING ASK Q5

IF **ALWAYS** ALLOW **ALL** DOORS TO CLOSE FREELY SKIP TO Q7a <<

Q5 Are the doors simply propped open or wedged open, or have you removed or disabled the device which causes the doors to close?
PROMPT AS NECESSARY – CAN BE MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE

Prop / wedge open	1	(38)	(39)
Removed the device	2		
Disabled the device (e.g. unhooked the chain)	3		
Device is faulty / doesn't work properly / sticks	4		
Carpet prevents door from closing – the door doesn't close fully	5		
.....other (write in details)		(40)	(41)

Q6a **SHOWCARD 3** Please read out the numbers next to all the **reasons why you prop open or keep these doors open**. Any others?

Q6b And which of those is the most important reason (or reasons)?

	Q6a All Reasons (42)	Q6b Most Important (43)
<i>Propping open doors that are designed to close automatically...</i>		
It's a nuisance to have to open the door every time you want to go in and out	1	1
To let light through / claustrophobic with doors shut	2	2
To let air circulate / to let heat circulate (in the Winter)	3	3
So that I can hear / see what's happening in another room	4	4
To make it easier to carry in shopping or other heavy / bulky items	5	5



Some family members have difficulty opening doors / mobility problems	6	6	6
So that the cat / dog / pet can get through the door	7	7	7
I'm concerned children might trap their fingers in the door	8	8	8
A child does not like the door to be closed	9	9	9
Any other reason? (write in & code)		0	0
.....			

« ASK ALL «

Q7a Were there any (other) internal doors in your home which had self-closing devices fitted at one time, but where either the device or the door has now been removed?

- (46)
- Yes – device has been unscrewed or removed 1 ASK Q7b
 - Yes – door has been removed 2 ASK Q7b
 - No / Not to my knowledge 3 SKIP TO Q8a

IF DEVICE OR DOOR REMOVED

Q7b Was this removed by yourselves or by the previous occupant?

- (47)
- By us 1
 - By previous occupant 2

Q7c Which room or areas of your home had this door? **SHOWCARD 2**

- (48)
- Kitchen 1
 - Lounge / sitting room / dining room 2
 - Bathroom / toilet 3
 - Loft conversion 4
 - Main bedroom (e.g. parents' bedroom) 5
 - Other bedroom/s (e.g. children's) / study 6
 - Door dividing internal hallway, or between hallway & stairs 7
 -other (write in details) X

Q7d **SHOWCARD 3**

Please read out the numbers next to the reasons why the door / device was removed.

CODE REASONS FROM SHOWCARD 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 (49)

Other (write in)..... (50)

ASK ALL

Q8a **SHOWCARD 4**

Which of these internal doors do you usually close at night, and which do you leave open?

PROMPT AS NECESSARY

ENSURE THERE IS A CODE ON EACH AND EVERY LINE

				No	Do not	
				internal	have this	
				door in	room in	
				room	my home	
		Close	Leave open			
Kitchen	1	2	3	4	(51)	
Lounge / sitting room / dining room	1	2	3	4	(52)	
Bathroom / toilet	1	2	3	4	(53)	
Loft conversion	1	2	3	4	(54)	
Main bedroom (e.g. parents' bedroom)	1	2	3	4	(55)	
Other bedroom/s (e.g. children's) / study	1	2	3	4	(56)	
Door dividing internal hallway, or between hallway & stairs	1	2	3	4	(57)	



ASK ALL WHO CLOSE DOOR/S

Q8b Why do you close those doors? PROBE Any other reasons?

..... (58)

..... (59)

ASK ALL

Q9 What do you think is the main reason **why** devices are fitted to cause internal doors to close?
 PROBE What other advantages might there be in internal doors closing automatically?
 RECORD 1st MENTION AND OTHER MENTIONS

1st Mention.....(61) (62)

Other

.....(63) (64)

Q10 **SHOWCARD 5** To what extent would you agree or disagree that...

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	DK	
Self-closing doors are unnecessary – people can decide whether or not they close the doors in their home	1	2	3	4	X	(6)
Closing internal doors at night will mean that smoke or fire does not spread as quickly	1	2	3	4	X	(6)
Self-closing doors should be fitted to all kitchens	1	2	3	4	X	(6)
Self-closing doors should be fitted to all living rooms	1	2	3	4	X	(6)
Closing internal doors at night will make your home more dangerous	1	2	3	4	X	(6)
You would not want any self-closing doors in your home	1	2	3	4	X	(7)
Everyone should be encouraged to close all doors at night	1	2	3	4	X	(7)
You would be more likely to close at least some of your internal doors at night, if you were told it could save your life in the event of a fire	1	2	3	4	X	(7)

Q11 Do you have any smoke alarms fitted in your home?

IF YES ASK Do you have ordinary battery smoke alarms or some other type? ASK FOR DETAILS

No do not have a smoke alarm 0 (73)
 Ordinary battery smoke alarms 1
 10 year battery 2
 Wired to the mains / mains powered 3

Q12 Is your home...? READ OUT

Owned by you and your household (or with a mortgage) 1 (74)
 Rented privately 2
 Rented from Local Authority or Housing Association 3

Q13 Was your home built before or after 1970?

Built before 1970 1 (75)
 Built after 1970 2
 DK 3

Q14 How would you describe the property that you live in? PROMPT AS NECESSARY

House 3 or more storeys 1
 House 2 storeys 2
 Bungalow 3
 Flat or Maisonette: purpose-built 4

ASK Q15



Flat or Maisonette: conversion 5

..... Other (write in)

Q15 Do you have a loft conversion? IF YES ASK Was this built before or after 1970?

- Have loft conversion built before 1970 1 (77)
- Have loft conversion built after 1970 2
- Do not have loft conversion 3