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**County Kilkenny:
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**REPORT No 1.
QUALITY OF LIFE**

Prepared for:
Kilkenny County Council Partnership Committee

FINAL REPORT 16 March 2002
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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Research Findings

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Quality Of Life

- In a recent study of the quality of life in Ireland, it was found that a significant majority of adults consider the quality of life today to be quite high, with 45% of respondents rating the national quality of life between 8 and 10 (on a scale of 1-10 where 1 is very poor and 10 is excellent).¹
- In County Kilkenny, 46% of respondents rate their quality of life as good, with 21% rating it as excellent. 28% rated their quality of life as fair. Only 6% of respondents rate their quality of life as poor or very poor.
- When cross-tabbed with electoral areas, 7 in 10 persons from Kilkenny rate their quality of life as good or excellent, with persons in Ballyragget rating it the lowest (5 in 10 rating quality of life as good or excellent).
- When cross-analysed with demographic data, those in the age group 18-24 give the quality of life in Kilkenny the lowest rating (3.2 average out of 5) and those in the upper middle class give it the highest rating (4.3 average out of 5).
- 4 in 10 respondents agreed that they feel they are able to have a real influence on the decisions that affect their local community, while nearly 3 in 10 disagree with this statement, the balance being undecided.
- In the study mentioned above, 27% of respondents state the “environment in which you live” as having the most significant impact on quality of life.² In County Kilkenny, more than two-thirds agree that the area in which they live has a positive future and 54% agree that their area is a good place to bring up children.
- Nearly half of respondents agree that there are good community facilities in the area, while only 32% agree that there are good facilities for recreation and leisure for everyone in the area, 34% disagree with this statement.

¹ Amarach Consulting, *Quality of Life in Ireland, A Study for Guinness UDV Ireland*. (March 2002)

² Ibid.

General Service Quality

- 38% of respondents rated their satisfaction with the health and medical care system as good, and 14% rated it as excellent. 16% rated it as poor or very poor.
- 52% rated education (that anyone who wants it or wants to improve it can do so) as good and 22% rated it as excellent. 6% rated it as poor or very poor.
- 27% of respondents rated the level of employment opportunities that exist as good, and 6% rated it as excellent, however the same amount (34%) rated it as either poor or very poor.
- 3 in 10 persons think that there is adequate and affordable transport to meet individuals (rating of good or very good), and 8% rated it as excellent. However, 4 in 10 rated it as either poor or very poor.

Research Results

1.1 Quality of Life

Chart 1.1.1. Overall Rating of Quality of Life in County Kilkenny
Response base = 1,222

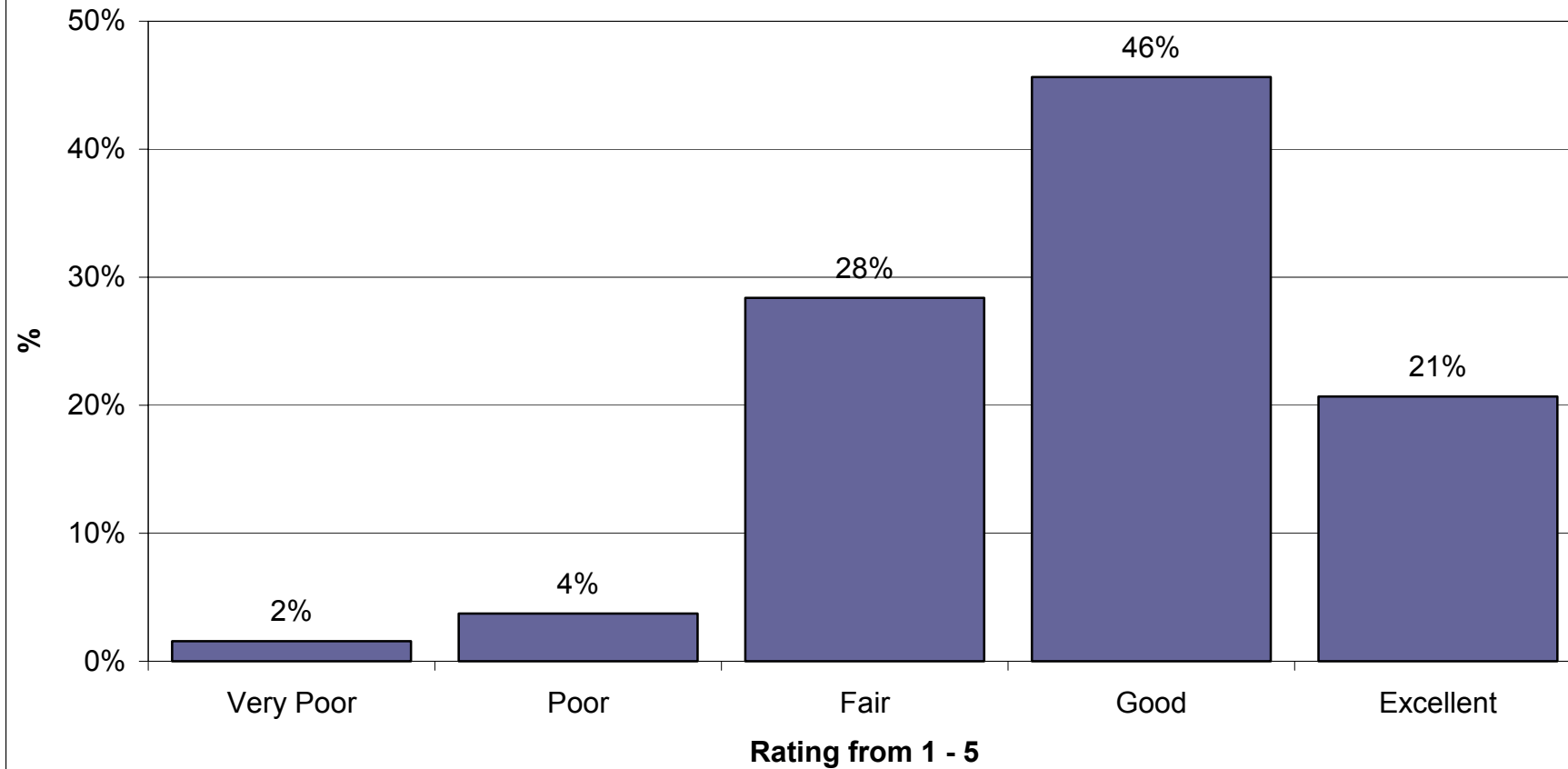


Chart 1.1.2. Quality Life Rating Cross-tabbed with Electoral Areas

Response base = 1,222

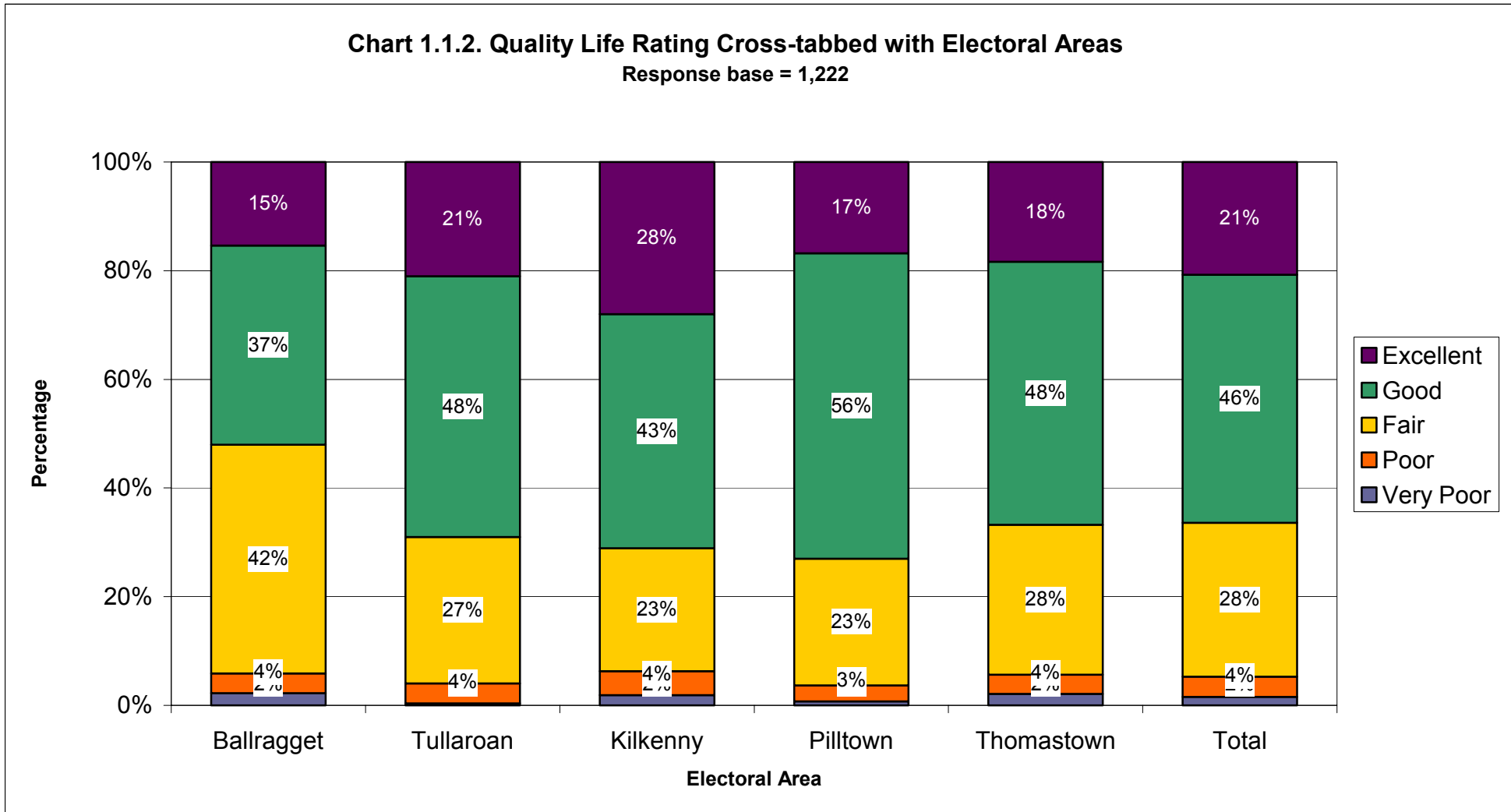


Chart 1.1.3. Quality of Life Rating as an Average Score out 5
Cross-analysed with Demographic Profile
 Response base = 1,228 Weighted data

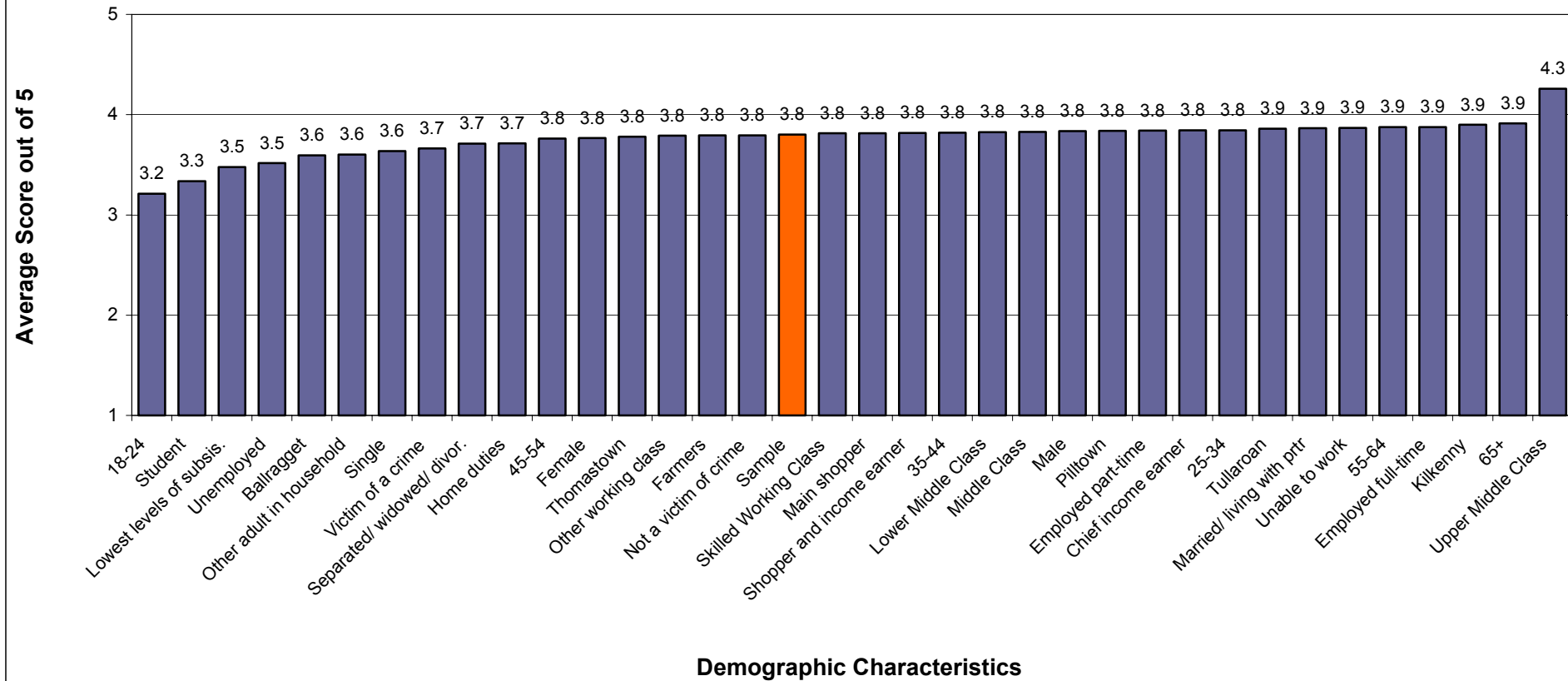


Table 1.1.1. Attitudes toward 7 Quality of Life based Statements (Weighted data)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree
I always feel safe walking alone at night in the area in which I live	14%	18%	8%	46%	14%
I feel confident that people in the area in which I live would help me in a time of need	1%	3%	4%	58%	34%
There are good facilities for recreation and leisure for everyone in the area	19%	34%	12%	32%	2%
I am able to have a real influence on the decisions that affect my local community	11%	27%	18%	42%	3%
The area in which I live has a positive future	2%	7%	12%	68%	12%
The area in which I live is a good place to raise children	1%	3%	4%	54%	38%
There are good community facilities in the area	9%	21%	17%	47%	6%

Question: Thinking about a scale from one to five where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree, please state whether you agree or disagree with.

Key: Highest percentage within statement

Chart 1.1.4. Eight Quality of Life Attitude Statements - Summary Chart

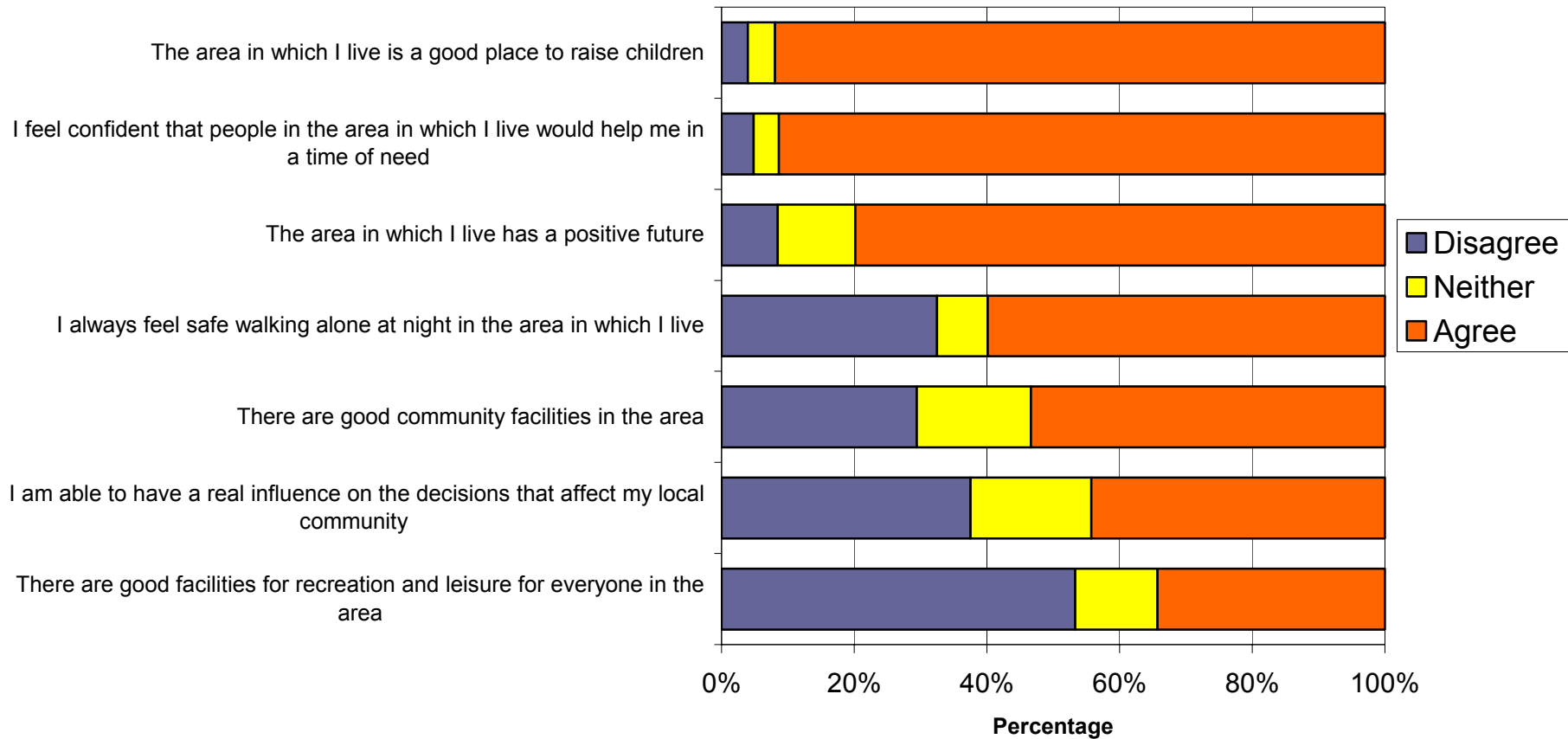
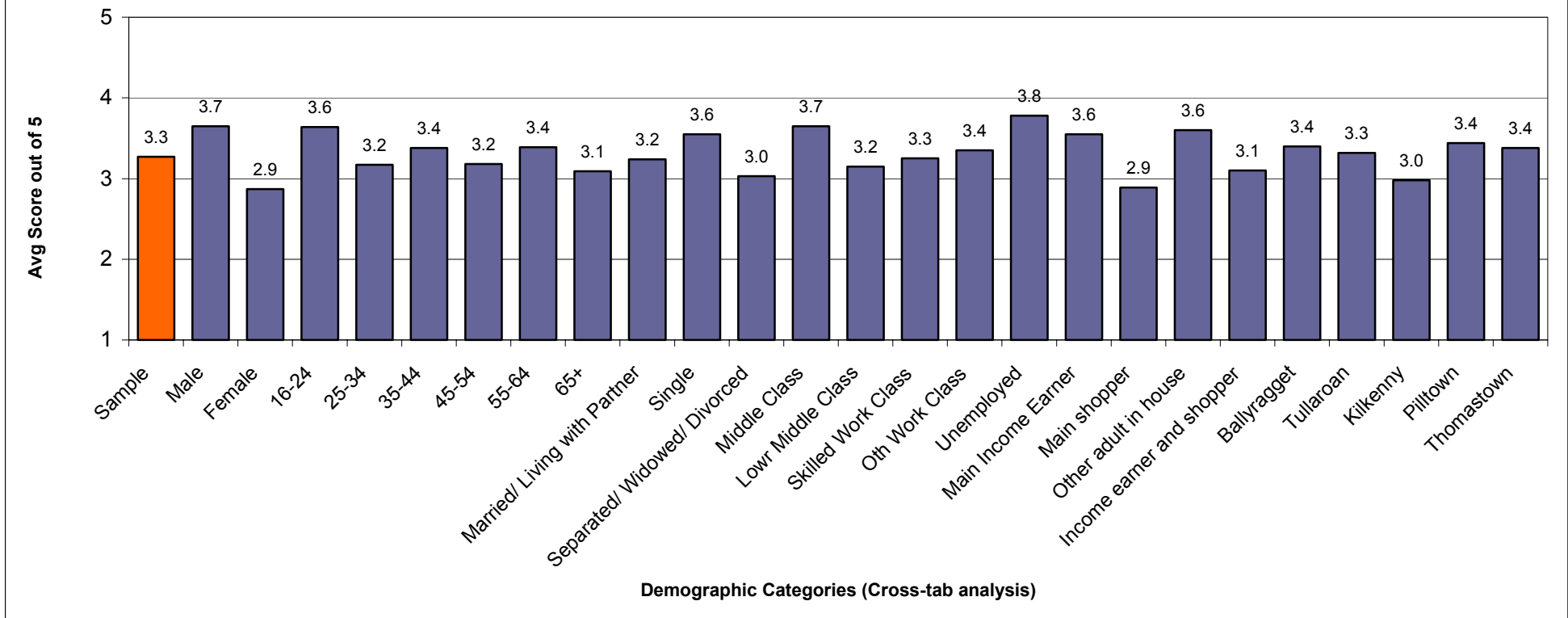


Table 1.1.2. Percentage Agreeing (Strongly agree + agree) with 7 Quality of Life Statements, Cross-analysed with Electoral Area

	Bally-ragget	Callan	Kilkenny	Pilltown	Thomas-town	Total
I always feel safe walking alone at night in the area in which I live	65%	60%	48%	68%	65%	60%
I feel confident that people in the area in which I live would help me in a time of need	91%	94%	88%	94%	93%	92%
There are good facilities for recreation and leisure for everyone in the area	40%	24%	40%	40%	33%	35%
I am able to have a real influence on the decisions that affect my local community	50%	40%	45%	45%	41%	44%
The area in which I live has a positive future	73%	84%	83%	81%	76%	80%
The area in which I live is a good place to raise children	91%	94%	86%	96%	97%	92%
There are good community facilities in the area	56%	52%	55%	60%	47%	53%

Key: = highest percentage within statement. **Bold** = Lowest within statement

**Chart 1.1.5. Quality of Life Statement:
"I always feel safe walking alone at night"
Average score out of 5
(Strongly disagree - strongly agree)**



**Chart 1.1.5. Quality of Life Statement:
"I feel confident that people would help in a time of need"
Average score out of 5
(Strongly disagree - strongly agree)**

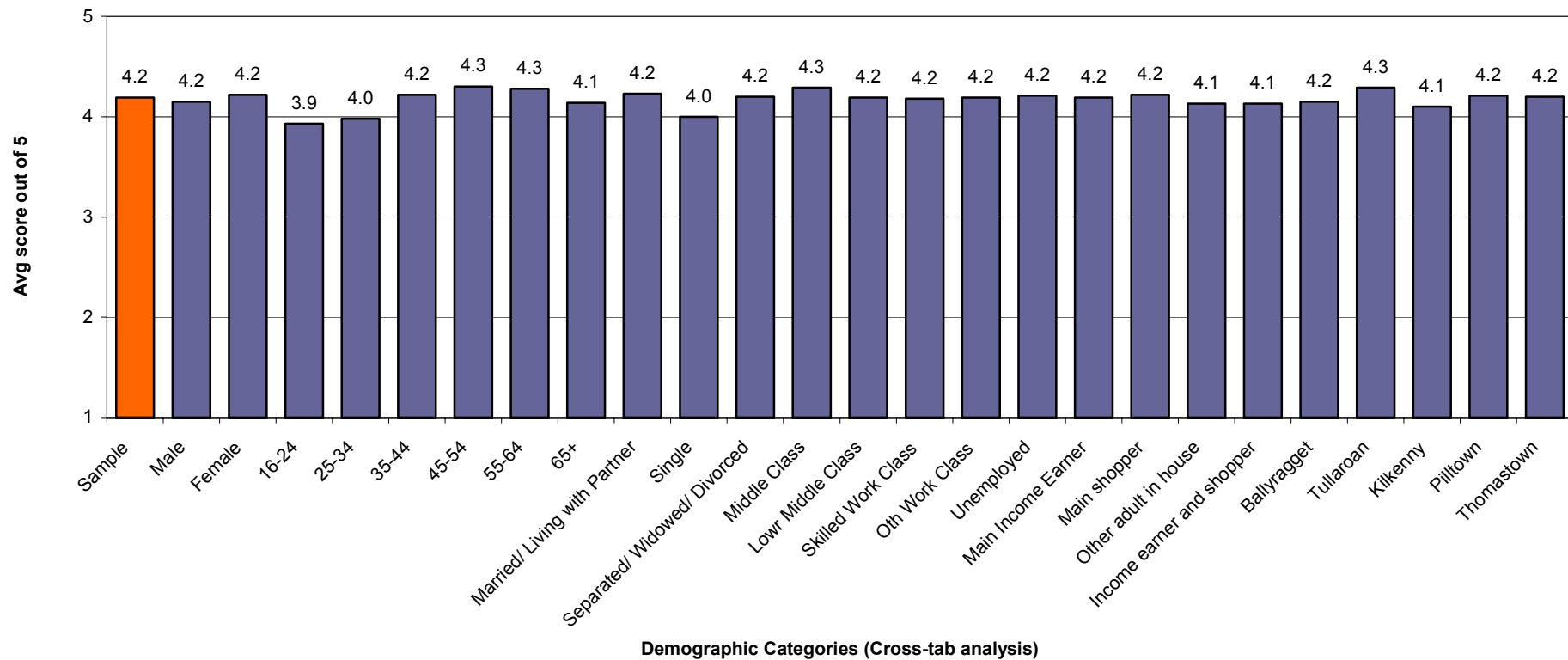


Chart 1.1.6. Attitude Statement:
" There are good recreational facilities for everyone"
Average score out of 5
(Strongly Agree-strongly disagree)

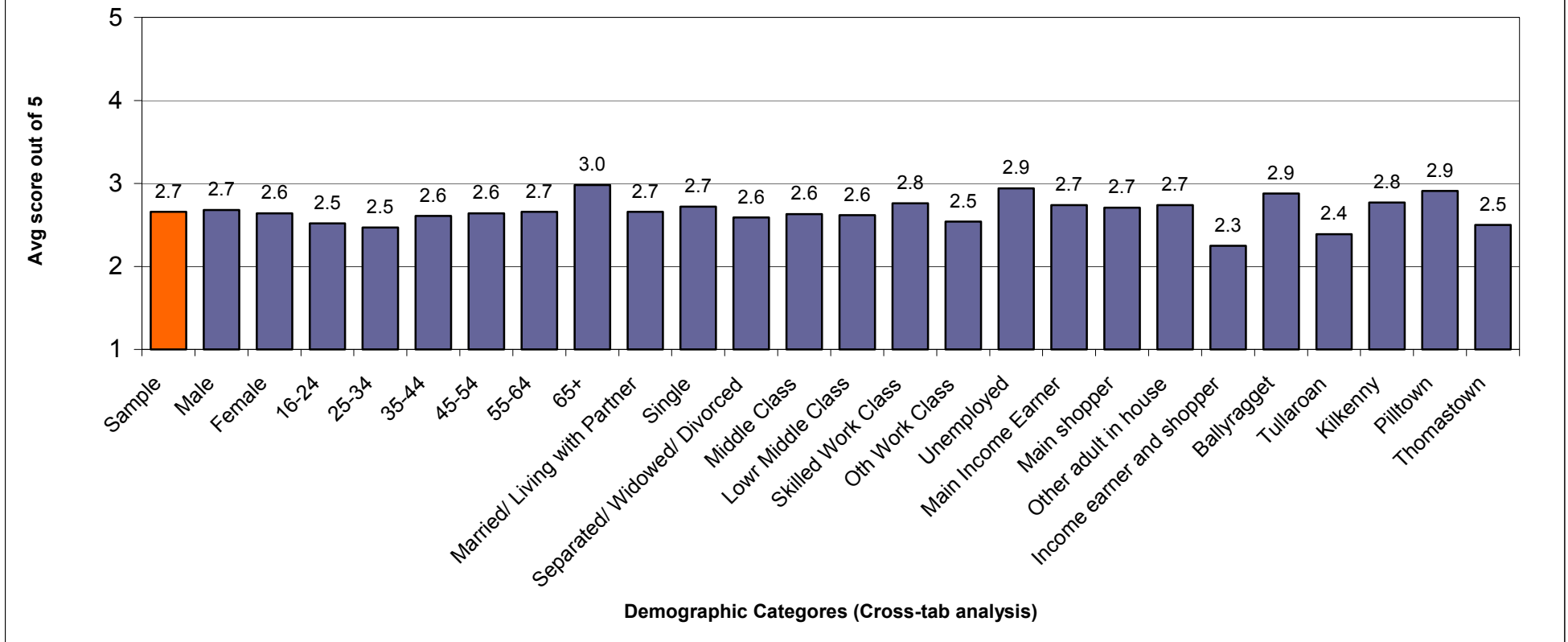


Chart 1.1.7. Attitude Statement:
"I am able to have a real influence on the decisions that affect my community"
 Average score out of 5
 (Strongly disagree - strongly agree)

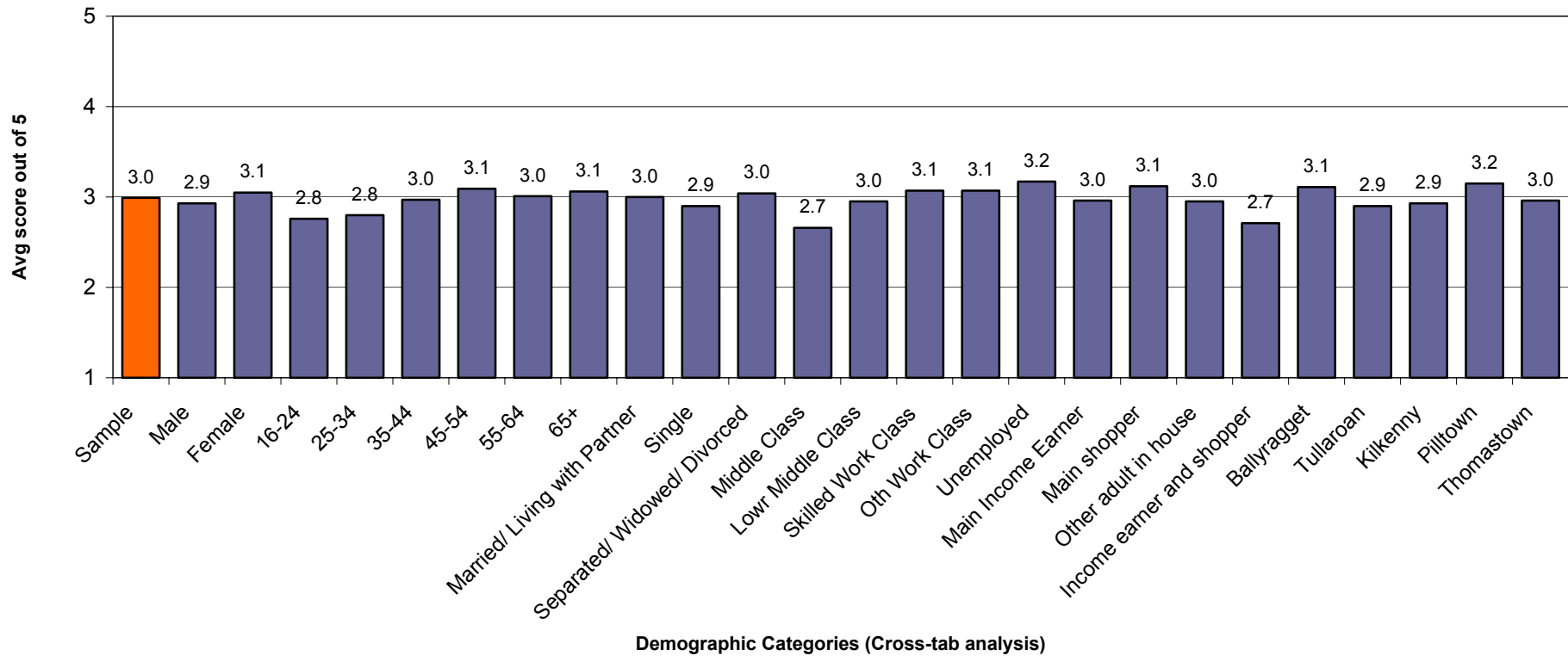


Chart 1.1.8. Attitude Statement:
"The area in which I live has a positive future"
Average score out of 5
(Strongly disagree - strongly agree)

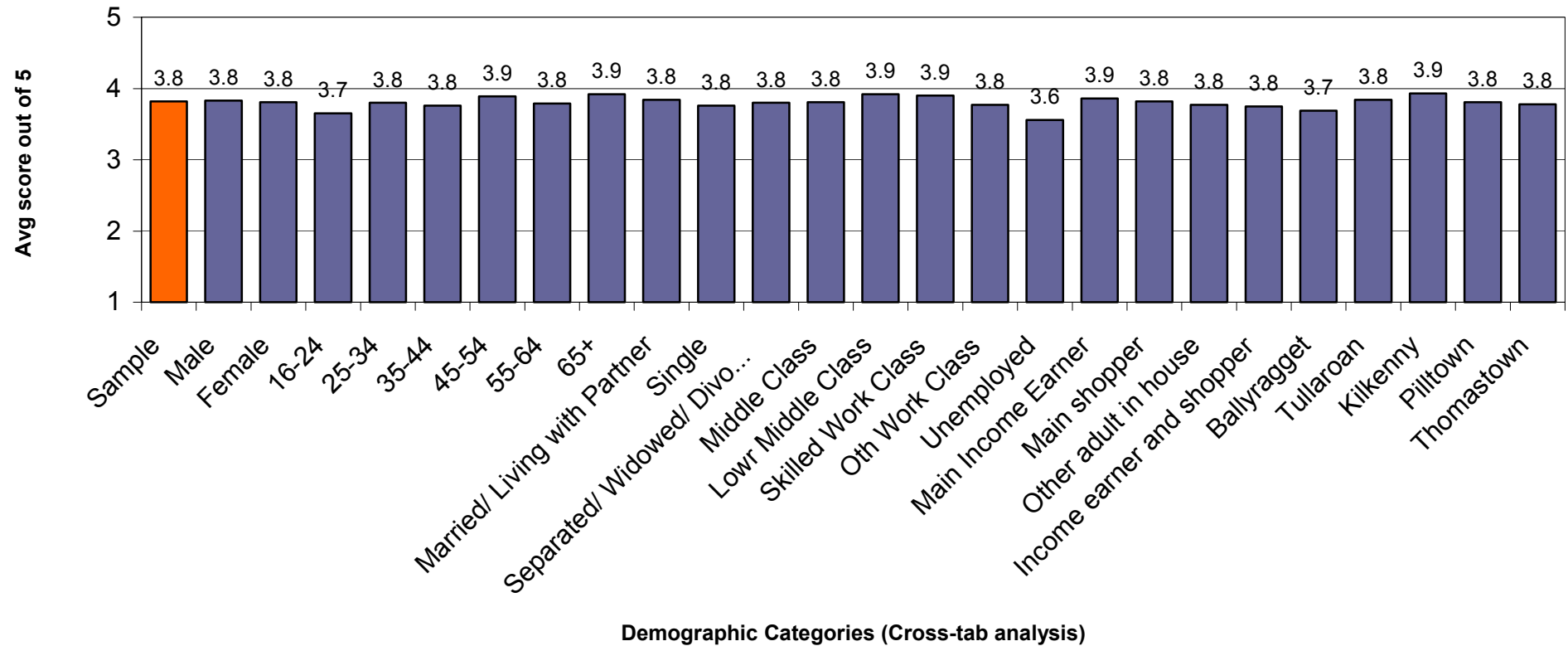
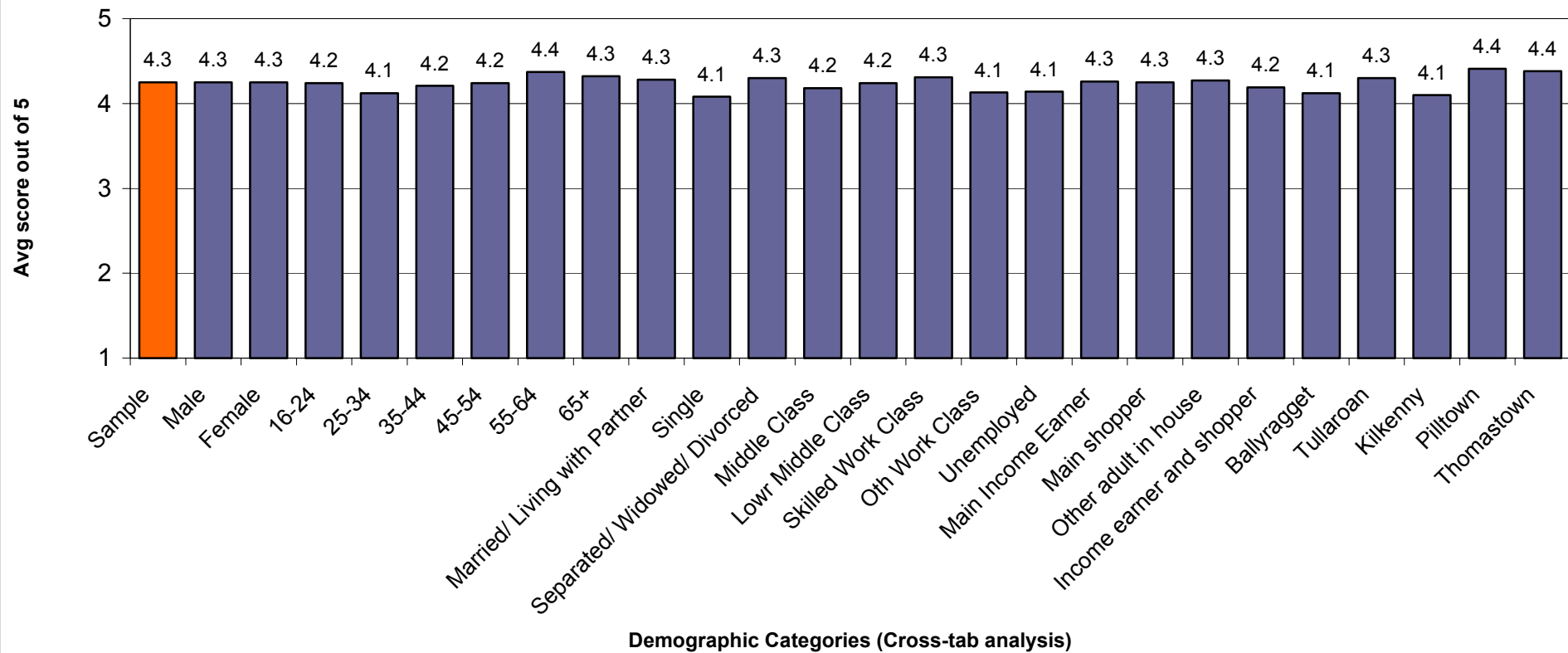
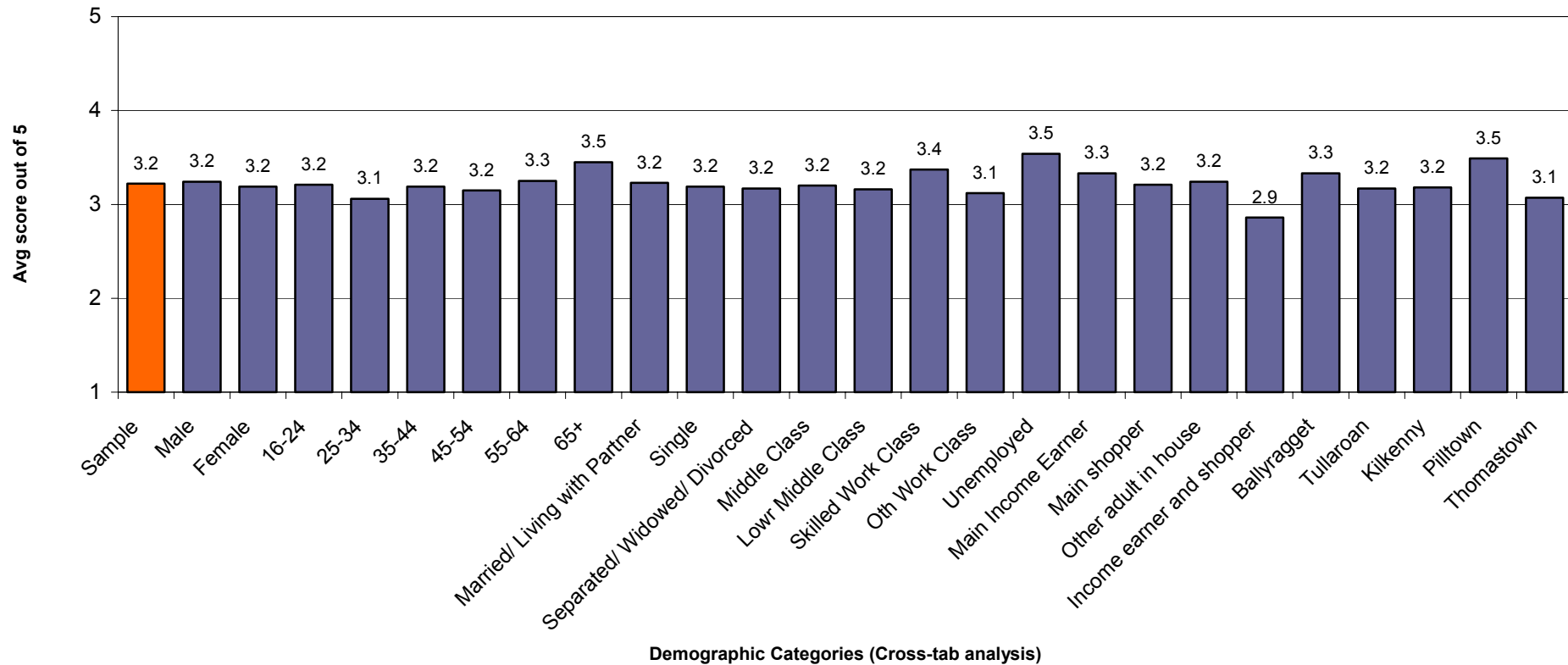


Chart 1.1.9. Attitude Statement:
"The area in which I live has a positive future"
 Average score out of 5
 (Strongly disagree - strongly agree)



**Chart 1.1.10. Attitude Statement:
"There are good community facilities in the area"
Average score out of 5
(Strongly disagree - strongly agree)**



1.2 General Service Quality

Table 1.2.1. Satisfaction with 9 Service Areas in County Kilkenny

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Satisfaction with the health and medical care system	6%	10%	31%	38%	14%
Education: That anyone who wants an education, or wants to improve their education, can do so	2%	4%	19%	52%	22%
The level of employment opportunities that exist	10%	24%	33%	27%	6%
The level of adequate affordable housing that exists	15%	22%	34%	25%	3%
Work that is being done to combat drug and alcohol mis-use	18%	20%	31%	28%	3%
The availability of recreation and leisure facilities	20%	23%	30%	24%	3%
Crime prevention	8%	15%	37%	36%	3%
The work that is being done to protect and preserve the environment	8%	15%	34%	37%	5%
That there is adequate affordable transport to meet individuals needs	20%	19%	24%	30%	8%

Key: = highest percentage within statement. **Bold** = Lowest within statement

Chart 1.2.1. Overall Satisfaction with 9 Areas of Service Provision

