

## **Residential satisfaction, individual well-being and quality of life**

Housing provides many services, such as shelter, privacy, security, social relations, community facilities and services and access to jobs. It is also often an expression of personal identity and social status. Housing is therefore an important aspect of individual well-being and quality of life.

To evaluate the performance of housing the concept of residential satisfaction can be used. Three main perspectives are recognised within residential satisfaction. The first one, called the purposive approach, conceptualizes satisfaction as a measure of the degree to which the environment facilitates or inhibits the users' goals. The second perspective considers satisfaction to be a measure of the gap between resident's actual and aspired needs with regard to housing. The third perspective thinks of residential satisfaction as an attitude with cognitive, affective and conative (behavioural intentions) components. Within this last perspective the relationship between (dis)satisfaction and the intention to move has often been the topic of studies.

Possible topics:

- Recent research has provided some indication that, contrary to what theory suggests, a discrepancy between the actual and the preferred housing situation does not lead to dissatisfaction in residents that want to down-size. More research is needed to further explore this finding.
- There are indications that in the Netherlands the residential satisfaction has decreased over time whereas the objective housing quality has increased at the same time. A potential explanation is the occurrence of the "response shift" phenomenon. Are we less satisfied with the same housing quality due to ever increasing experiences with quality and luxury? Or is there another explanation for this finding?
- The climate is changing. This might lead to problems, such as the risk of flooding. Besides from that there are other environmental problems, such as increasing traffic and airplane noise. The literature has shown that there is a complicated relationship between actual risk, place attachment, risk perception, residential satisfaction and coping behaviour (e.g., accept the situation, move, blame the government, etc.). More insight into these relationships is needed.
- It is expected that the population will gradually change; the share of older people and single-person households will increase. How can we build to optimize residential satisfaction in the future?