

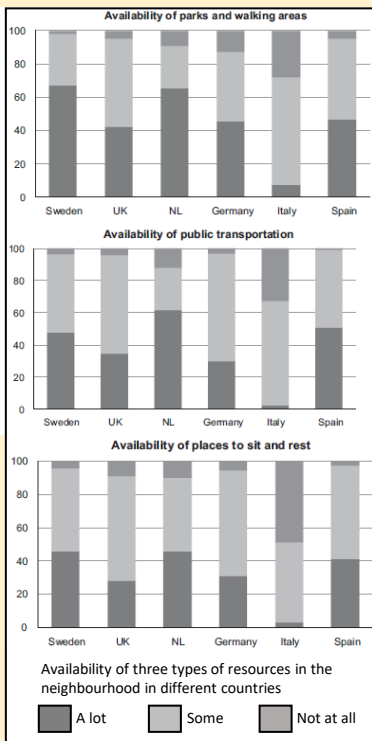
EPOSA FACT

Availability and use of the neighbourhood environment by older adults with osteoarthritis

Neighbourhood environment

Prior research suggests that features of the neighbourhood environment are linked to physical and social activities in older adults. Pain and disability caused by a chronic condition such as osteoarthritis (OA) may give rise to less than optimal use of the environment. OA is one of the most common causes of pain and disability in older adults.

In EPOSA, we examined the availability and use of the neighbourhood environment in relation to lower limb OA (LLOA).



Use of neighborhood resources across countries in percentages.

	Use of parks and walking areas		Use of places to sit and rest		Use of public transportation	
	LLOA	No LLOA	LLOA	No LLOA	LLOA	No LLOA
Sweden	89.1	95.2	71.0	46.5	78.3	85.6
UK	62.3	63.8	62.4	38.9	60.2	50.6
The Netherlands	58.8	74.3	54.9	37.3	46.0	50.2
Germany	90.3	91.2	44.4	35.8	69.5	66.5
Italy	56.1	56.4	23.2	19.7	11.2	10.4
Spain	69.0	73.1	67.6	63.4	82.0	86.3

In bold: significant difference between groups with and without LLOA within a country ($p \leq 0.05$)

Facilities in the neighbourhood were least available in Italy, and most available in the Netherlands and Sweden.

Participants with LLOA made more use of places to sit and rest (OR=2.50, 95% CI=1.36-4.60 in the UK), and less use of parks and walking areas (OR=0.30, 95% CI=0.12-0.75 in Sweden), compared to participants without LLOA, particularly in countries with high availability of resources.

The results suggest that specific features of the environment impact the use of neighbourhood resources by older adults with LLOA.