

## Psychological Security of Urban Dwellers as a Predictor of Their Inclination to Continue Residing in The City

Olga Yu. Zotova<sup>\*</sup>, Lyudmila V. Tarasova

Liberal Arts University – University for Humanities, Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation

\*Corresponding author: [oiambusheva@mail.ru](mailto:oiambusheva@mail.ru)

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### Abstract

**Introduction.** A multitude of factors, ranging from social to emotional, influence the propensity to reside in urban areas and psychological security is likely to be one of them. The objective of this study was to analyze the characteristics of psychological security, as a factor which could predict a city dweller's desire to retain residence in their current domicile. **Methods.** The study was conducted on a sample of 272 residents of the city of Yekaterinburg, aged between 18 and 60 years. The methodology of measuring the psychological security of city residents, developed by O. Y. Zotova and L. V. Tarasova, was employed to assess the psychological security of city residents. To investigate the desire to remain living in the city where the respondent currently resides, a questionnaire survey was used. **Results.** The study revealed that the desire of a city resident to maintain their place of residence is based on the features of psychological security. The determinants of this choice are shown to be significant, with variables such as environmental influence, reliability, and self-efficacy being particularly salient for older individuals, whilst for their younger counterparts, comfort, trusting relationships, and freedom are more important. The motivation to remain in one's place of residence, as expressed by the older group, is underpinned by a desire to exercise agency over the surrounding environment (i. e. a perception of reliability and control). In contrast, the inclination among the younger group is motivated by a sense of assurance in the favorable nature of the environment (i. e. a perception of comfort and friendliness). The findings of the study also demonstrated a strong correlation between parental preference and their offspring's place of residence,

with older residents exhibiting a stronger inclination to have their children reside in the same city. **Discussion.** The results of the study indicate an overwhelming preference amongst the Yekaterinburg populace to maintain their residency in the city, irrespective of age. The psychological security indicators of Yekaterinburg city residents are found to be at average and above-average levels, indicating that residents have satisfied their basic needs in self-preservation and that their own perception of psychological security in the city is satisfactory. A sense of psychological security is conducive to the confidence of residents in the livability, predictability, convenience and manageability of the city. This study enabled the identification of discrepancies between the various age groups. Within the older age group, security is not associated with a desire to alter the environment or to invest resources. In the younger age group, a predictor of reluctance to reside in the city is such a variable as freedom. They do not perceive the security of life in their city within the context of freedom, defined as the ability to make their own decisions and choose their own behaviour.

### Keywords

desire to stay in the city, psychological security, urban environment, environmental control, reliability, self-efficacy, comfort, trusting relationships, freedom, age differences

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### Introduction

The majority of individuals have never changed their place of residence. Nevertheless, there is a paucity of research on the motivations for and the rationales behind the decision to remain in one's current domicile. Despite the frequently-cited statistic that one in seven people in the world move frequently from one place to another (IOM, 2015), the academic literature offers only limited attention given to the reasons why the remaining six out of seven people do not move.

The act of residing within a metropolitan area necessitates a certain level of dynamism, impetus and strategizing. This constitutes a deliberate option that is subjected to recurrent assessment and application throughout the life course (Stockdale & Haartsen, 2018; Mata-Codesal, 2018). The question of why some individuals remain in

their place of birth for their whole lives merits rigorous investigation. It has been argued that the extant body of research in contemporary scientific publications is inadequate in addressing the factors influencing the propensity of city dwellers to maintain their residence within their urban areas.

### ***Psychological security of city dwellers***

The notion of psychological security for urban residents represents a novel concept in the field of psychology. It is imperative to comprehend the nuances of this construct to ensure a proper understanding.

It is the opinion of many researchers that the psychological security of urban residents is a multifaceted, intricate construct. Research has found evidence to support the hypothesis that psychological security can be increased by a range of factors. These include economic factors (Van Hal, 2015), positive interpersonal relationships (Kagan, 2009), and similar cultural perceptions of city dwellers (Rohner, 1984).

The psychological security of the individual within the urban environment is determined by the interplay and reciprocal impact of various individual characteristics, actions, and environmental factors. These environmental factors, in turn, influence the behaviour of city residents and their attitude towards urban life. The state of psychological security, whether it is present or absent, is a factor which gives rise to emotions, feelings and attitudes, as well as expectations. It has been established that individuals who experience psychological security have a propensity to perceive others as trustworthy (Whitson & Galinsky, 2008), the environment as manageable (Zhao & Jing, 2015; Yu & Zhao, 2016), and city living conditions as stable and familiar (Gao, Ahern & Koshland, 2016; Zhou, Tan & Watanabe, 2021). In the absence of psychological security, the perception of the environment is likely to be perceived through a lens of threat and danger, resulting in heightened vigilance and distrust of others.

We consider the psychological security of an individual residing within a city as a state of personality wherein the fundamental human needs for self-preservation are fulfilled. This concept is further defined by an individual's ability to perceive their psychological security within their urban environment. Consequently, psychological security can be conceptualized as a measure of an individual's mental stability, which, in turn, determines their response to various situational challenges (Zotova & Tarasova, 2024).

### ***Psychological security and the desire to stay and live in the city***

The metanarrative concept of "rootedness of people" is posited as a fundamental element responsible for the establishment of a social order that is considered correct and beneficial. This concept is further argued to be a natural and desirable state of affairs, offering a sense of convenience and predictability to the world around us (Bakewell,

2008). From this standpoint, the reluctance to migrate is the prevailing norm, with migration being regarded as an "aberration" that necessitates explanation and research. Consequently, the examination of the factors that motivate individuals to reside in one place for extended periods, or even their entire lifetimes, frequently does not receive the requisite attention from researchers, who tend to take the phenomenon for granted (Gaibazzi, 2011).

The motivation to continue residing within a metropolitan area is impacted by a multitude of factors, including but not limited to emotional, economic, social, political and geographical considerations. The notion of emotional attachment to a place is predicated on the premise that the duration of residence in a given location is directly proportional to the strength of emotional ties to others in that place, and to the intensity of one's attachment to the locale (Fischer & Malmberg, 2001).

Social retention factors refer to the family and community relationships that an individual has in their place of residence. Researchers have proposed the "affinity hypothesis", which suggests that family and friends represent valuable aspects of life that tend to encourage individuals to remain in their current place of residence (Haug, 2008). Factors such as marriage, childbearing and the cultivation of robust social networks have a concomitant effect on the propensity of individuals to remain residing within the confines of their established social sphere (Mulder & Malmberg, 2014).

Furthermore, a multifaceted array of objective and subjective factors has been identified as exerting influence on the propensity of individuals to remain in their current place of residence. Objective indicators encompass job availability (Morais & Camanho, 2011), climatic factors, physical beauty, geographical proximity to mountains or bodies of water, the number and level of amenities available in the city (Mulligan & Carruthers, 2011), cultural infrastructure such as theatres, cafes, restaurants, parks, hospitals, stores and health and education services (Cheshire & Magrini, 2006), and low crime rates (Glaeser & Sacerdote, 1999). Public transportation is also a relevant indicator (Royuela, 2011).

A significant disparity in the priorities of young adults, defined as those aged between 18 and 24, and their older counterparts, specifically those above 30 years of age, has been identified. According to the findings of the VCIOM survey, the predominant concern for the 18–24 age group was a high level of well-being (64%), while for the older demographic, aged 30 years and above, their primary focus was on achieving a peaceful existence (65%), along with engagement in professional endeavors and the care for their family (VCIOM, 2022). Consequently, it can be hypothesized that different age groups may demonstrate varied degrees of commitment to their place of residence, contingent on their individual needs and opportunities in that particular locale.

In recent academic discourse, a growing emphasis has been observed on subjective indicators of quality of life, happiness, well-being, and life satisfaction in urban environments.

The state of psychological security also relates to subjective indicators of life in the city. It appears to be a rational phenomenon that individuals seek to attain psychological security within the context of their residential surroundings. As an internal psychological resource, feelings of security facilitate information processing, regulatory responses to stimuli, mobilization of social support, and enhancement of well-being (Canterberry & Omri, 2013).

### ***Aim and objectives of the study***

It is through the perception of the environment, events and conditions that individuals assess their sense of security. The analysis enabled the formulation of **the study's aim**: to investigate the characteristics of psychological security as a predictor of a city resident's aspiration to maintain their place of residence. Additionally, it was hypothesized that the features that function as predictors would vary depending on the age of the urban population. In order to achieve the intended aim, the following research objectives have been outlined:

1. To ascertain the intensity of the desire to maintain residence within the city among its diverse age demographics.
2. To compare the pronouncement of psychological security exhibited by city residents of differing ages.
3. To identify the characteristics of psychological security among the city's diverse age groups, with a focus on factors that predict their inclination to maintain their current place of residence.
4. To determine the features of psychological security among elderly city residents, with a view to identifying the factors that predict their inclination to encourage their children to reside in this city.

## **Methods**

### ***The study sample***

The present study comprised a sample of 272 residents of the city of Yekaterinburg, with ages ranging from 18 to 60 years (mean age = 36 years; SD = 12.45). As delineated by the World Health Organization, these age limits are defined as the upper limits of the age at which individuals are considered to be engaged in fundamental activities within the professional and social domains. The generation of the research sample involved preliminary targeting of Internet sites, with the objective of determining the localization of target groups (adult residents of Yekaterinburg). In order to appeal to potential respondents, an online strategy was implemented that incorporated banner advertisements, promotional offers on various news portals within the city of

Yekaterinburg, and the utilization of online platforms such as social networks, blogs, and groups. The distribution of the survey invitation across a variety of thematic platforms enabled the formation of a representative sample from diverse communities and groups. The respondents of the target audience completed an electronic questionnaire via online access. This questionnaire contained, among other things, socio-demographic information and information regarding their desire to live in their city in the future. Consequently, the study encompassed respondents who exhibited a vested interest in the research subject and a modicum of motivation, and were subjected to a preliminary screening process. This resulted in a sample that included respondents from a variety of targeted socio-demographic groups who demonstrated a certain degree of interest and motivation to participate in the study, as opposed to those who were merely willing to take surveys in exchange for financial compensation.

The gender of the respondents in the sample is distributed evenly, with 54% of participants identifying as female and 46% as male. 10.2% of respondents had secondary education, 47.5% had secondary vocational education, and 42.3% had higher education.

The present study consisted of Yekaterinburg residents who had lived in the city for a period ranging from one to 60 years (with an average residence length of 25 years and a SD of 16.27).

In accordance with the objective of the present study, the sample was stratified into two comparison groups: older (40 years and older) and younger (18 to 22 years).

### ***Research methodologies and techniques***

The study was conducted in accordance with the ethical principles established by the Russian Psychological Society (RPS, 2012). The protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Social Psychology, Liberal Arts University – University for Humanities, Yekaterinburg. Prior to participation, written informed consent was obtained from all subjects in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration.

The present study employed the methodology developed by O. Y. Zotova and L. V. Tarasova – **Methodology for measuring psychological security of urban dwellers** – to assess the psychological security of urban residents (Zotova & Tarasova, 2025). The methodology encompasses 38 statements measured on a five-point scale relating to six subscales: "Freedom", "Comfort", "Self-efficacy", "Trustworthy relationships", "Control over the environment" and "Reliability". Additionally, an integral indicator of psychological security of city residents is included. The methodology has been shown to possess satisfactory psychometric characteristics, including the qualities of retest reliability and consistency, as well as convergent validity (Zotova & Tarasova, 2025).

Furthermore, the questionnaire documented respondents' demographic information, categorized into gender, age, educational attainment, duration of urban residence, and their inclination to reside in their current urban location. For this purpose,

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respondents were invited to rate the degree of desire to maintain their residence in the named city using a 5-point Likert scale. Furthermore, the older adult subjects were invited to provide a quantitative score, on a 5-point Likert scale, indicating their level of desire for their children to reside in the city.

The subsequent data processing and analysis were conducted utilizing multiple.

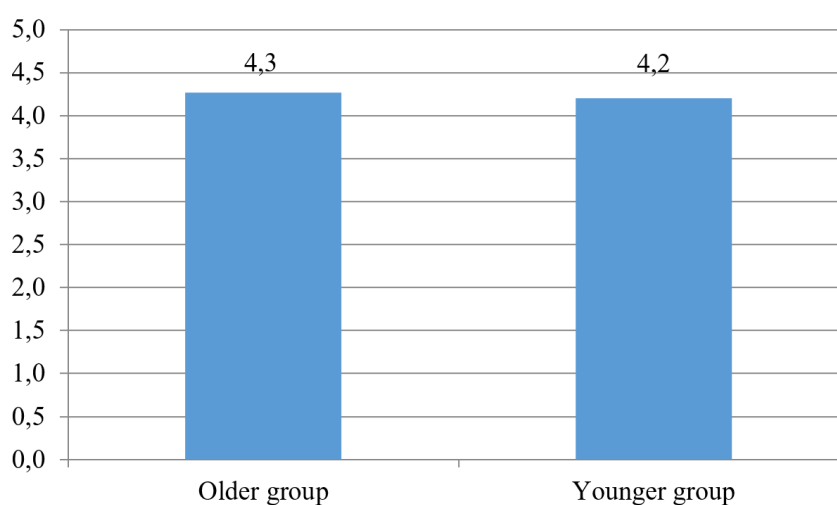
## Results

### *Mean values by scales*

In the initial phase of the study, a correlation analysis was conducted on the average indicators of Yekaterinburg residents expressing a desire to remain in the city in relation to their age (Figure 1).

**Figure 1**

*The pronouncement of a desire amongst Yekaterinburg residents to remain in the city*

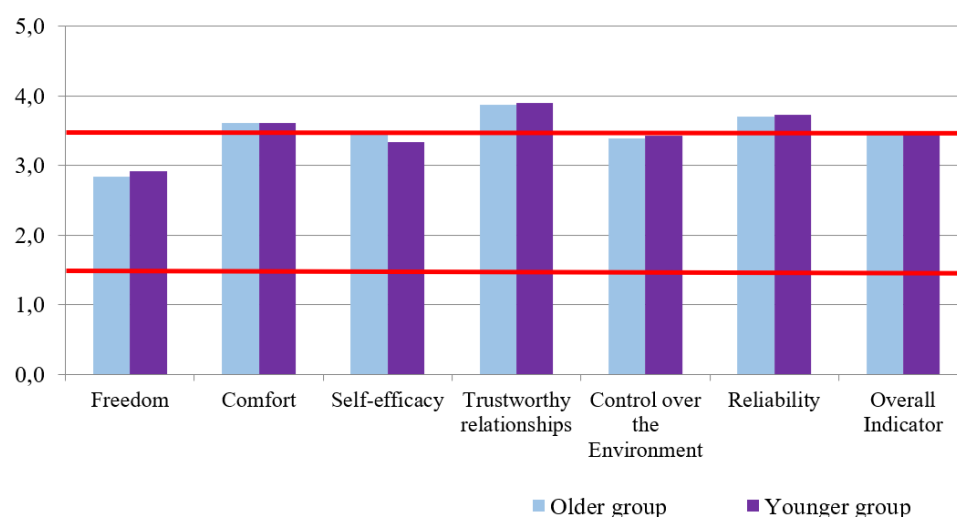


It should be noted that the indicators for both comparison groups are in the high range, i. e. representatives of both older and younger groups generally prefer to stay in their place of residence. The differences between the groups are not significant.

The theoretical analysis carried out led us to the conclusion that the factor that determines a person's desire to stay/leave their place of residence is their psychological security. In the next stage, we studied the characteristics of the psychological security of city dwellers and compared the data of the reference groups, divided according to age (Figure 2).

**Figure 2**

*Indicators of psychological security of Yekaterinburg residents in comparison groups*



The results obtained demonstrate that all private and integral indicators of psychological security of personality in the city in respondents from Yekaterinburg of both comparison groups are in the average range or tend to be high. In other words, the residents of Yekaterinburg are distinguished by their general psychological well-being, they are typically free from psychological distress, anxiety or frustration, and their adaptive capacities are uninhibited. The residents of Yekaterinburg have established reliable, open and trusting relationships with individuals who are willing to provide assistance and protection, as well as active listening. These individuals facilitate the expression of personal sentiments and behaviors, without the concern of being unduly influenced or exploited. In the case of residents of Yekaterinburg, there has been an evident positive experience of interaction with the environment (either stability and security of life, or successful overcoming of threats (in the past)). This experience produces a sense of predictability of upcoming situations and individuals see their future as positive, full of opportunities and free of insurmountable threats (the future). There were no significant differences observed between the groups.

### ***Regression analysis***

This study posited the hypothesis that psychological security features act as predictors of a city resident's desire to remain in their place of residence. To verify this hypothesis, a multiple regression analysis (method – forced inclusion) was performed on the data of the comparison groups – seniors and juniors. The following variables were used as independent ones: age of the interviewee, length of residence in the city of Yekaterinburg,



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scales reflecting the parameters of psychological security of the city residents – “Freedom”, “Comfort”, “Self-efficacy”, “Trustworthy relationships”, “Control over the environment” and “Reliability”.

The model that was obtained from the data set of the older sample demonstrates that 27.8% of the variance of the variable “Desire to remain in the city of residence” is attributable to the selected predictors (Table 1).

**Table 1**

*Regression model for the dependent variable “Desire to remain in the city of residence” (older group)*

R2	Adjusted R2	F	Predictors	$\beta$	t	p-value
0,278	0,256	12,325	Self-efficacy	-0,279	-2,357	0,019
			Control over the environment	0,159	2,107	0,036
			Reliability	0,677	3,226	0,001

**Note.** R2 – the coefficient of determination equal to the share of variance of the variable “Desire to stay in the city of one's residence” resulting from the influence of independent variables; F – the Fisher's F statistic, used to evaluate the significance of a regression equation;  $\beta$  – the standard regression coefficient which reflects the relative degree of influence of each predictor; t – the ratio of the unstandardized coefficient to its standard error; p-value – the value of p-level of significance, the probability that the result was obtained by random chance.

As illustrated in Table 1, the key factors influencing the older group's preference to remain in their current city include the following variables: “Control over the environment”, “Reliability” and “Self-efficacy”. Furthermore, there is a direct relationship between the first two variables and the desire to remain residing in the city of residence, while the third variable demonstrates an inverse relationship. The following factors are instrumental in determining the desire to remain in the city of residence:

1. The city resident possesses a subjective sense of control over the environment, awareness and environmental competence (the knowledge of the location, functionality and appropriate conduct required to achieve personal objectives within the environment).

2. The residents of urban areas generally feel that they are well-catered for by the authorities, police, social and medical institutions. They are confident that they can find suitable employment within their own city, and are satisfied with the environmental situation.

3. The city resident has not demonstrated a clear commitment to contributing towards the development of their immediate environment. Furthermore, there has been no indication from the individuals of their capacity to implement measures aimed at safeguarding against the adverse effects of external factors. The more residents perceive a greater capacity to modify their physical environment, the more they are inclined to relocate to other cities.

The regression model obtained for the younger sample indicates that 52.4% of the variance of the variable "Desire to remain in the city of residence" is subject to the influence of the predictors "Comfort", "Trustworthy relationships" and "Freedom" (Table 2).

**Table 2**

*Regression model for the dependent variable "Desire to remain in the city of residence" (younger group)*

R2	Adjusted R2	F	Predictors	$\beta$	t	p-value
0,524	0,506	29,358	Comfort	0,555	5,685	0,000
			Trustworthy relationships	0,227	2,316	0,023
			Freedom	-0,156	-2,018	0,047

**Note.** R2 – the coefficient of determination equal to the share of variance of the variable "Desire to stay in the city of one's residence" resulting from the influence of independent variables; F – the Fisher's F statistic, used to evaluate the significance of a regression equation;  $\beta$  – the standard regression coefficient which reflects the relative degree of influence of each predictor; t – the ratio of the unstandardized coefficient to its standard error; p-value – the value of p-level of significance, the probability that the result was obtained by random chance.

The following variables have been found to be significant predictors of the desire of representatives of the younger group to remain in the city of their residence: "Comfort", "Trustworthy relationships" and "Freedom". Of note is the direct relationship between the first two variables, concerning the wish of the subject to remain in their place of residence, and the inverse relationship observed between the third variable and the same, i. e. the desire of young people aged 18–21 to stay in their place of residence is the result of a combination of the following factors:

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1. A younger individual who is representative of this demographic perceives the urban environment as the most comfortable, finding urban logistics convenient due to factors such as the level of development of the transportation network and the quality of roads. When walking around the city, he experiences feelings of comfort and relaxation, and being able to live in the city allows him to satisfy most of his needs.
2. City residents between the ages of 18 and 21 demonstrate the ability to establish reliable, open, trusting relationships with a specific group of individuals within the urban environment.
3. A representative of the younger group is unable to experience a sense of autonomy, independence, freedom of life activity, development, self-realization, and freedom from external influence (or opportunity to protect oneself from external influence) within the context of an urban environment.

Thus, the parameters of psychological security of an urban resident, namely "Self-efficacy" and "Freedom", serve as the foundation not only for psychological security in a specific environment, but also as factors contributing to the adaptability of an individual's personality to different contexts. This, in turn, facilitates the expansion of an individual's social, behavioural and emotional repertoires.

Additionally, despite a uniform intensity amongst both samples in terms of a desire to remain in the city and psychological security parameters, these samples' desires were founded upon disparate factors (components) of psychological security.

The present study has demonstrated that 40.9% of the total variance in the variable "Desire for children to stay in the city of their residence" can be attributed to the influence of selected predictor variables "Self-efficacy", "Age" and "Reliability" (Table 3).

**Table 3**

*Regression model for the dependent variable "Desire for children to stay in the city of their residence" (older group)*

R2	Скорректированный R2	F	Предикторы	$\beta$	t	p-value
0,409	0,391	22,179	Самоеффективность	-0,366	-3,420	0,001
			Возраст	0,355	3,244	0,001
			Надежность	0,613	4,226	0,000

**Note.** R2 – the coefficient of determination equal to the share of variance of the variable "Desire to stay in the city of one's residence" resulting from the influence of independent variables; F – the Fisher's F statistic, used to evaluate the significance of a regression equation;  $\beta$  – the standard regression coefficient which reflects the relative degree of influence of each predictor; t – the

*ratio of the unstandardized coefficient to its standard error; p-value – the value of p-level of significance, the probability that the result was obtained by random chance.*

The results indicate that an increase in parental age is associated with a greater desire on the part of the parents for their child to remain in the city or town in which they currently reside. The remaining two variables are analogous to those identified in the analysis of the factors that influence the decision of representatives from the older age group to remain in their place of residence: "Reliability" and "Self-efficacy". And the relationship between self-efficacy and the dependent variable is once again found to be inverse.

## Discussion

The study revealed that the majority of Yekaterinburg residents, regardless of age, expressed a desire to remain in their city. These findings are substantiated by the VCIOM survey, which indicates that the predominant proportion of respondents from Russia (71%) perceive their city or town as conducive to an enjoyable lifestyle, with a strong aversion to any notion of relocation (VCIOM, 2025). International colleagues recognize that megacities attract individuals with higher-paying jobs, high levels of living comfort, ample employment opportunities, and a superior quality of life (Borck, 2007; Puga, 2010), meet fundamental human needs and enable individuals to achieve their objectives (Shumaker & Taylor, 1983). In the event of the current residence being rated higher than the available alternatives, the individual is more likely to be inclined to remain in that location.

The psychological security indicators of Yekaterinburg city residents are at average and above-average level, which suggests that the residents have satisfied their most fundamental needs in terms of self-preservation, and that they perceive their own psychological security within the city as satisfactory. Psychological security fosters confidence among individuals regarding the livability, predictability, convenience and manageability of a city (Zotova & Tarasova, 2024). As indicated by E. Eizenberg, research has demonstrated that a sense of security can enhance sense of place and social cohesion (Eizenberg, 2012). Furthermore, E. Eizenberg and Y. Jabareen's study revealed that this sense of security can increase urban resilience (Eizenberg & Jabareen, 2017), with M. Bonaiuto and S. Alves' research highlighting its contribution to place satisfaction (Bonaiuto & Alves, 2012).

The findings of the present study demonstrated that amongst the private indicators of psychological security, the scales "Trustworthy relationships" and "Reliability" yielded the highest scores amongst the residents of Yekaterinburg city. T. P. Skripkina noted that "any entity, be it an object in the immediate environment or the world in its totality, engenders an attitude of trust only if it is characterized by security and reliability, and is useful" (Skripkina, 2000, p. 85). That is to say, the level of security is dependent upon the subjective, personal relationship that each individual has with the other people living

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in close proximity to them in this city, on the neighboring street, or in the apartment across the street... Scholars from overseas have observed that the presence of secure and nurturing social relationships is not only advantageous to the individual (Kagan, 2009), but also serves to encourage prosocial behaviour (Mikulincer & Shaver, 2007).

The study revealed that the predictors of the desire to stay in their city for the older group were the ability to have control over the environment and reliability. A conviction in an individual's capability to exercise control over their environment and to achieve desired outcomes is of importance for their psychological well-being. E. Steptoe and colleagues, as well as C.-L. Zhou and A. Zhi, believe that an individual's lack of confidence in their ability to manage and control their life can result in the onset of depressive symptoms (Steptoe, Tsuda & Tanaka, 2007; Chou & Chi, 2001). Individuals with a diminished sense of control often perceive their lives as being out of hand, unable to manage the unanticipated challenges that life presents. Consequently, they perpetually find themselves in a state of insecurity.

The present study revealed that there are differences between the various age groups. Representatives of more advanced age groups demonstrated a lack of association between security and the desire to pursue change within their environment or to allocate their resources. The prevailing assumption is that a strong sense of security among older adults is frequently associated with a state of inaction or passivity, a condition that is often provided by others. Conversely, action is often perceived as a source of danger. Thus, the Russian scientists A. Zaliznyak, I. Levontina and A. Shmelev, while discussing Russian culture, pointed out that the nation has absorbed a range of ecclesiastical concepts and New Testament principles regarding the vanity of all activity, the futility of worldly endeavors. They characterized these ideas as an argument in favor of inactivity (Zaliznyak, Levontina & Shmelev, 2002).

The predictor of reluctance to remain in the city, the aspiration to relocate among representatives of the older age group, is characterized by a desire for action and transformation in life.

In case with young people, the results of the survey show that they express satisfaction with several aspects of urban life. These include the convenience of urban logistics, the accessibility of basic needs within the city, and the quality and quantity of interpersonal relationships that contribute to a sense of security in the city. R. Whisler and colleagues, foreign scholars, have drawn similar conclusion that cultural and recreational amenities in urban areas are of particular importance to young people (Whisler et al., 2008).

The findings of the present study demonstrated that a variable such as freedom is a significant predictor of reluctance to remain in the city among the younger age group. They do not perceive the level of security afforded to them in their city in the context of personal liberty and the capacity to make independent decisions and adopt a range of behaviors. In other words, the security experienced by young people aged 18–21 in their city is closely associated with a perception of diminished personal freedom and

autonomy. This result is indicative of an increasing value placed on freedom at this particular age (Stepanova, 2022). Residing in one's place of origin and having ready access to abundant resources exact a toll: the younger generation are subject to close parental oversight and exhibit a marked degree of intergenerational involvement (Scabini, Marta & Lanz, 2006), dreaming of freedom from external influences and autonomy. However, Polish psychologists P. Pustulka and her colleagues noted, however, that even when young people notice something "restrictive" about their parents' control, they rarely prioritize freedom over developing relationships and resources (Pustulka, Sarnowska & Buler, 2021).

It is thus demonstrated that the desire to remain in the city of residence, as evidenced by representatives of the older group, is predicated upon the capability of controlling the environment (reliable and controlled). Conversely, the aspiration of the younger group is determined by their confidence in a favorable environment (comfortable and amicable).

### **Conclusion**

The findings of the present study suggest that the motivation of urban inhabitants to maintain their current place of residence is founded on the characteristics of psychological security. The psychological security of an urban resident as a state of his personality constitutes a systematic assessment of external environment and corresponding intentions in relation to it. Concurrently, the predictors influencing a city resident's inclination to remain in their place of residence vary according to the age of the city population. It is shown that the desire of older representatives to remain in their place of residence is primarily driven by their capacity to manage the environment, while the motivation of younger representatives is predominantly influenced by their sense of environmental optimism.

Objective factors such as respondents' age and length of residence in Yekaterinburg were insignificant in the formation of the desire to stay in their city. It was only when respondents in the older group were asked "Would you like your children to live in this town" that the age factor showed its influence. The results revealed that the older the inhabitants of a city were, the more likely they were to want their children to live in the same city.

Furthermore, it is found that "Self-efficacy" and "Freedom" – the parameters of psychological security of a city resident – act as a basis of psychological security of the individual not only in the environment of a particular city, but are also factors of adaptive activity of the individual in other environments.

The findings of this study can be utilized by environmental psychologists and sociologists in their research, with a view to clarifying the psychological mechanisms that underpin an individual's decision to alter their place of residence. This understanding can facilitate an improved appreciation of phenomena such as sedentarization and the spatial mobility of the population.

This study does not claim to be universal and is subject to limitations related to the characteristics of the research sample. The total number of respondents and the place of their residence (within the boundaries of one city) allow this study to be considered as a pilot one, which provides opportunities for further hypotheses.

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**Olga Yu. Zotova** – general supervision of the research; development of the theoretical concept; review of domestic and foreign studies on the problem of the article; preparation of the literature review; preparation and scientific editing of the article's text; final approval of the version for publication.

**Lyudmila V. Tarasova** – research methodology design; statistical analysis conduct; preparation and scientific editing of the article's text; results visualization; final approval of the version for publication.

## Author Details

**Olga Yu. Zotova** – Dr. Sci. (Psychology), Prof. at the Department of Social Psychology, Liberal Arts University – University for Humanities, Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation; Researcher ID: K-6067-2012, Scopus ID: 56275648300, Author ID: 489306, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5607-6317>; e-mail: [oiambusheva@mail.ru](mailto:oiambusheva@mail.ru)

**Lyudmila V. Tarasova** – Cand. Sci. (Psychology), Assoc. Prof. at the Department of General and Applied Psychology, Liberal Arts University – University for Humanities, Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation; Researcher ID: T-7640-2017, Scopus ID: 57192269339, Author ID: 669217, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3390-0454>; e-mail: [tarasovagu@mail.ru](mailto:tarasovagu@mail.ru)

### **Conflict of Interest Information**

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.