

Urban restructuring: what about youth?



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Introduction

There is a lot of attention for deprived neighbourhoods in the Netherlands, also in the city of Utrecht. An important part of the policy is the demolition of houses. Demolition means that people are forced to move (displaced). We know quite a lot about the effects of displacement for adults, but what about youth? What is their opinion about their forced move? And to what kind of neighbourhood do they move? In this research we are interested in the relationship between urban restructuring – the demolition of social rented dwellings – and aspects of social mobility of youth. In current policies social mobility is considered quite important. The aim is that individuals will make progress in education, working life, leisure and housing. The question is if urban restructuring affects these aspects. A move may lead to declining social networks, to problems at (the new) school, to problems finding new sport facilities etc. A forced move can also have positive effects, like a better dwelling and neighbourhood and better access to sport facilities. On this poster we present some preliminary results.

Main research question

To what extent does urban restructuring affect social mobility of youth? Which differences exist between different categories of youth and between different receiving neighbourhoods?

Data & Methods

- addresses of displaced households with young people since 1998 (obtained through housing corporation Mitros and city of Utrecht)
- survey (oral questionnaires) amongst displaced youth (126) and a control group (208), by Diede Zwanenberg. The control group consists of youth who moved 'voluntarily' and youth who didn't move.
- in-depth interviews amongst displaced youth and youth that will be displaced in the near future, by Anita Kokx.

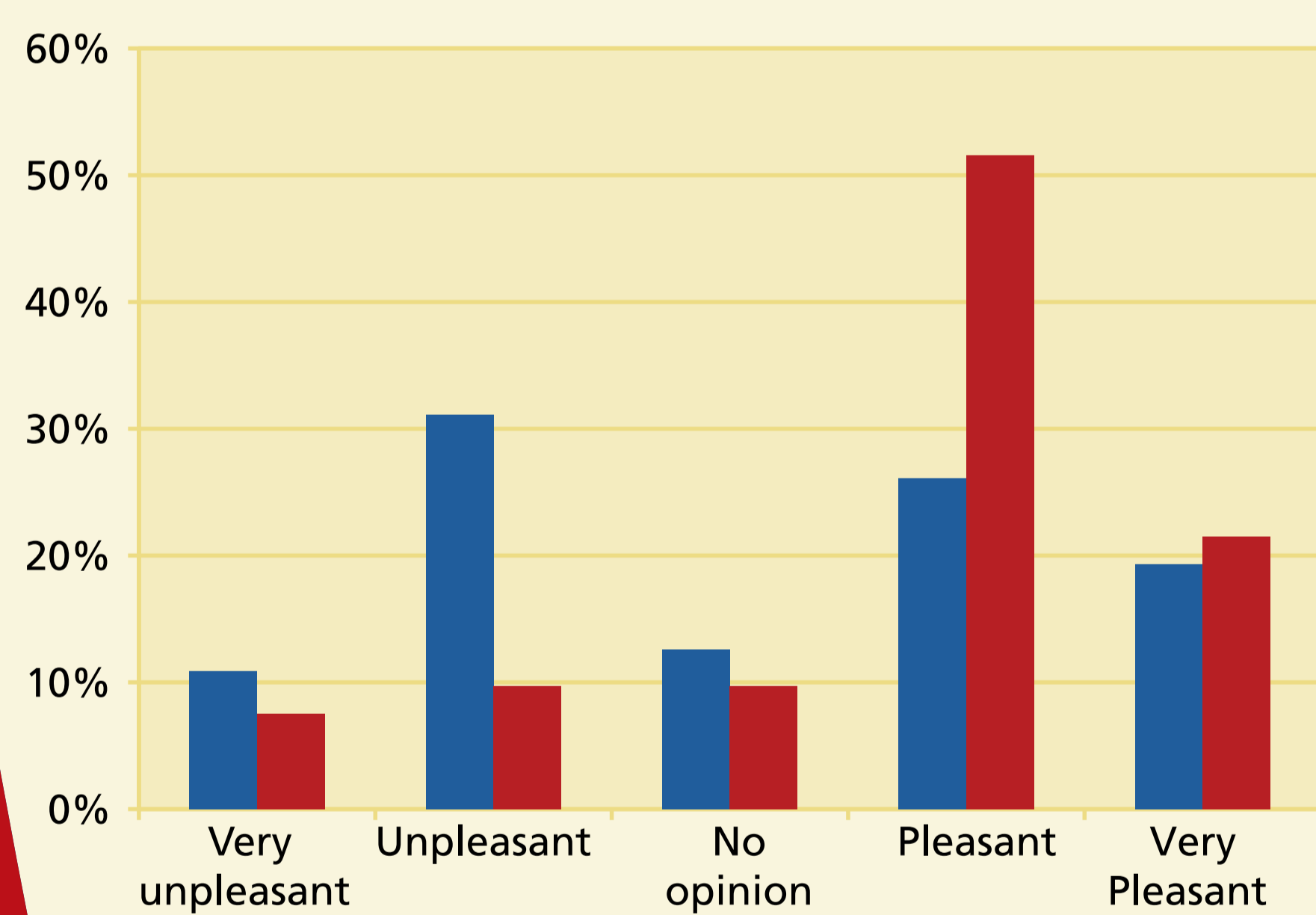


Figure 1: Opinion about moving

Did they like moving?

A higher percentage of the displaced youth are negative about the removal. (figure 1).

Differences between old and new dwelling

Probably, the displaced youth were living in a worse dwelling than the other youth. This could be the cause of their more positive opinion about the new vs. old dwelling (figure 2).

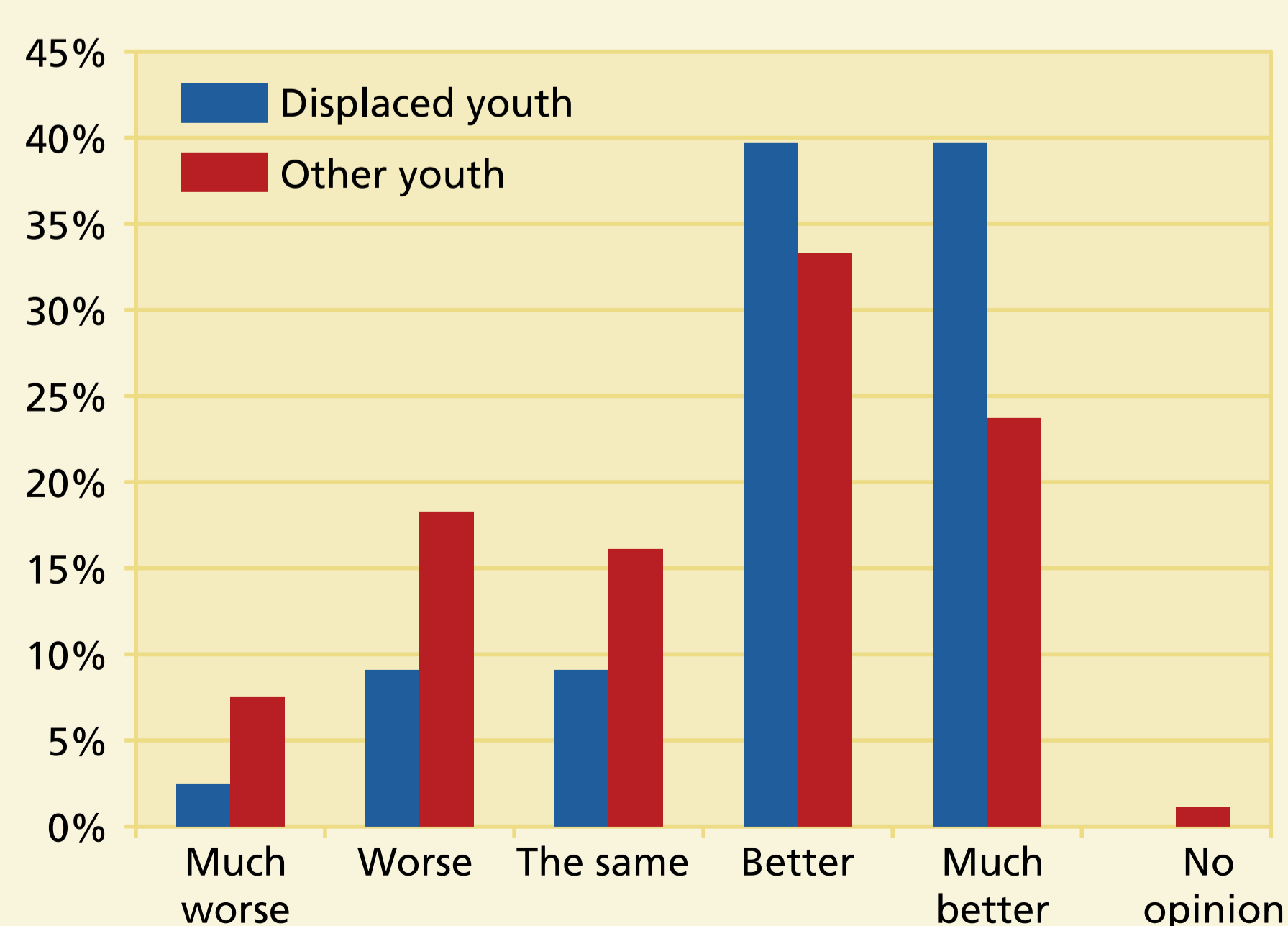


Figure 2: New versus old dwelling

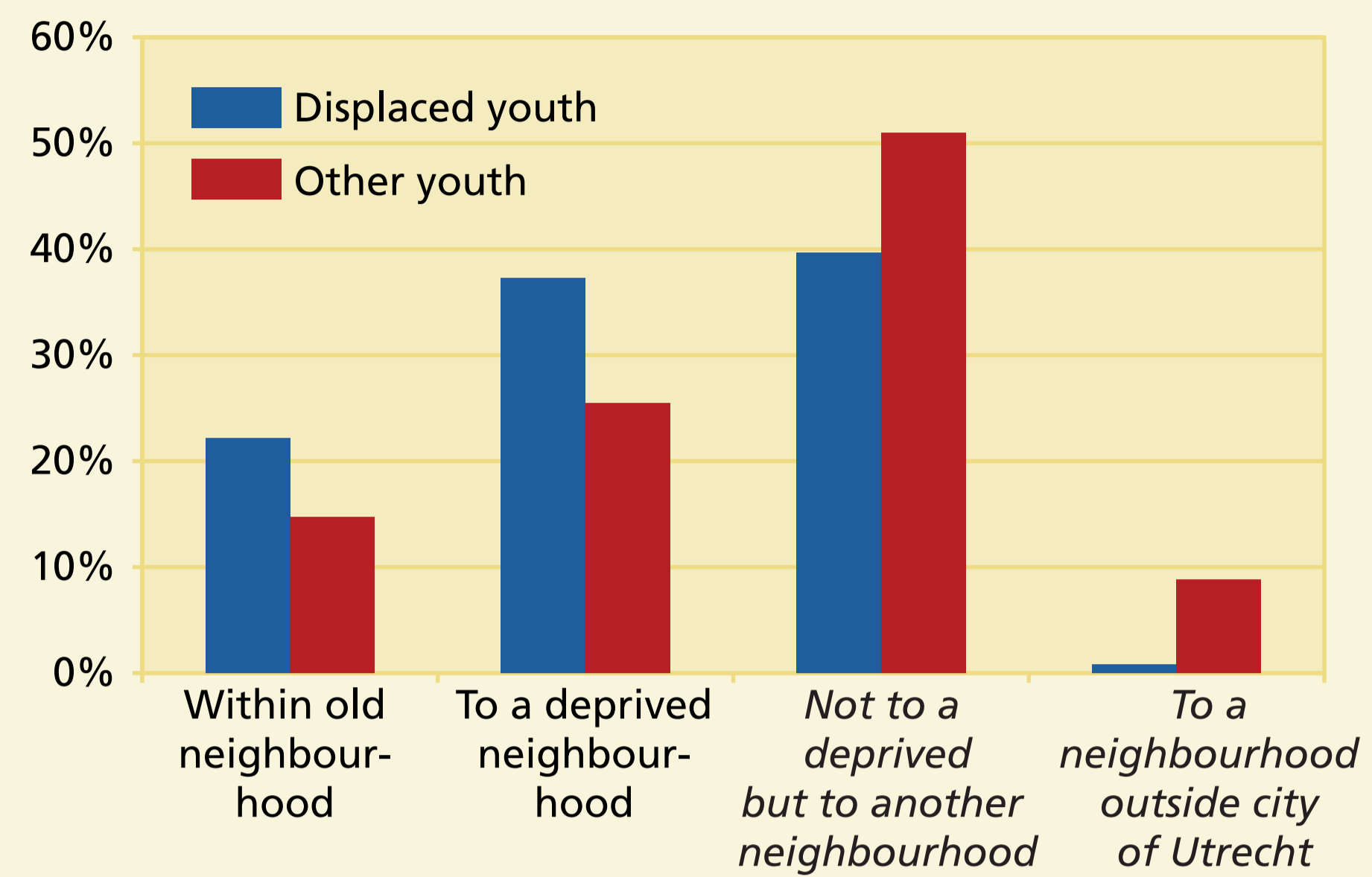


Figure 3: The neighbourhood they moved to

Where did they move to?

A higher percentage of the displaced youth moved within their old neighbourhood and a higher percentage of the displaced moved to a deprived neighbourhood (figure 3).

Dispersal pattern:

clear differences between displaced and other youth?

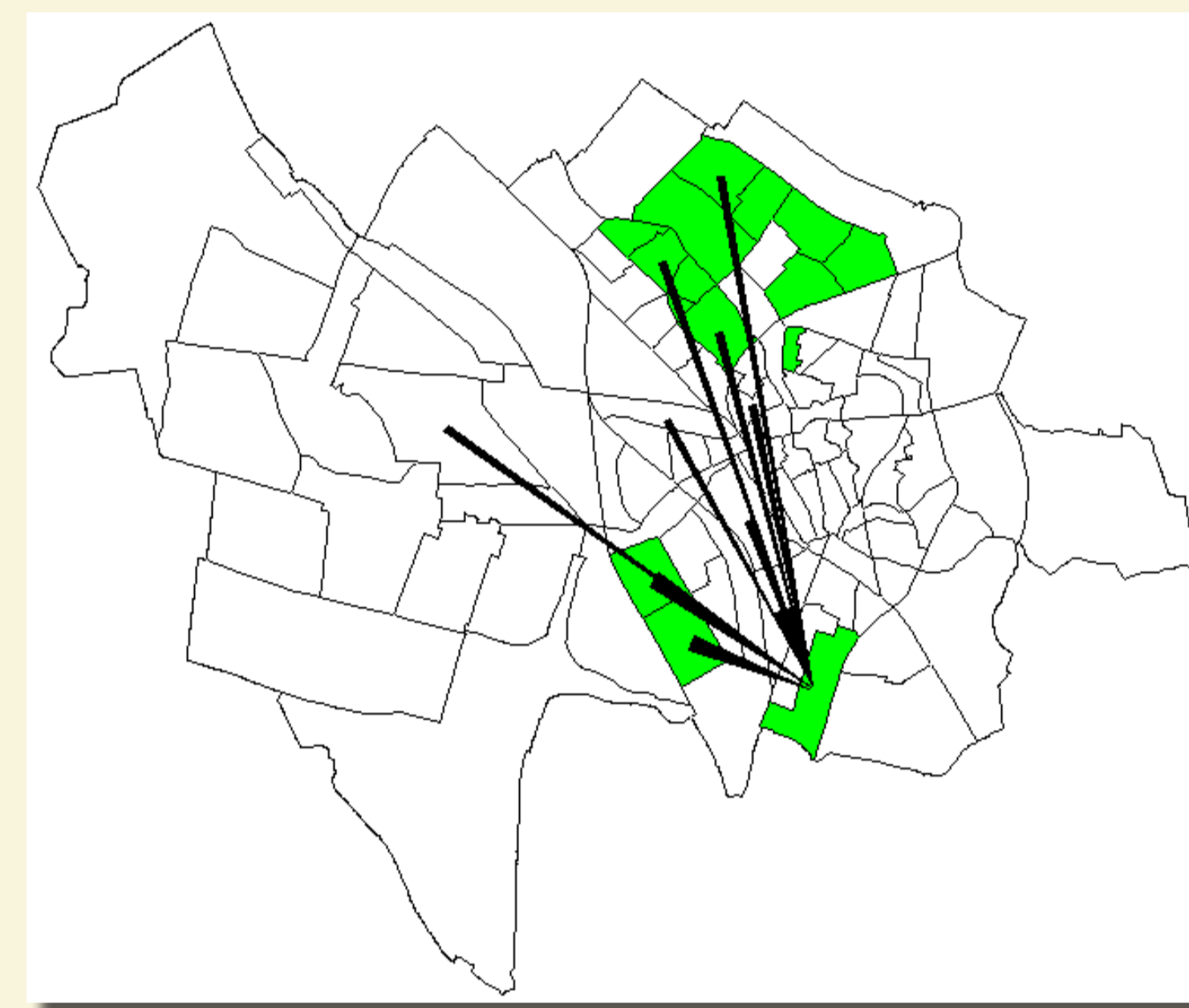


Figure 4: Dispersal patterns of youth that are displaced from Nieuw Hoograven

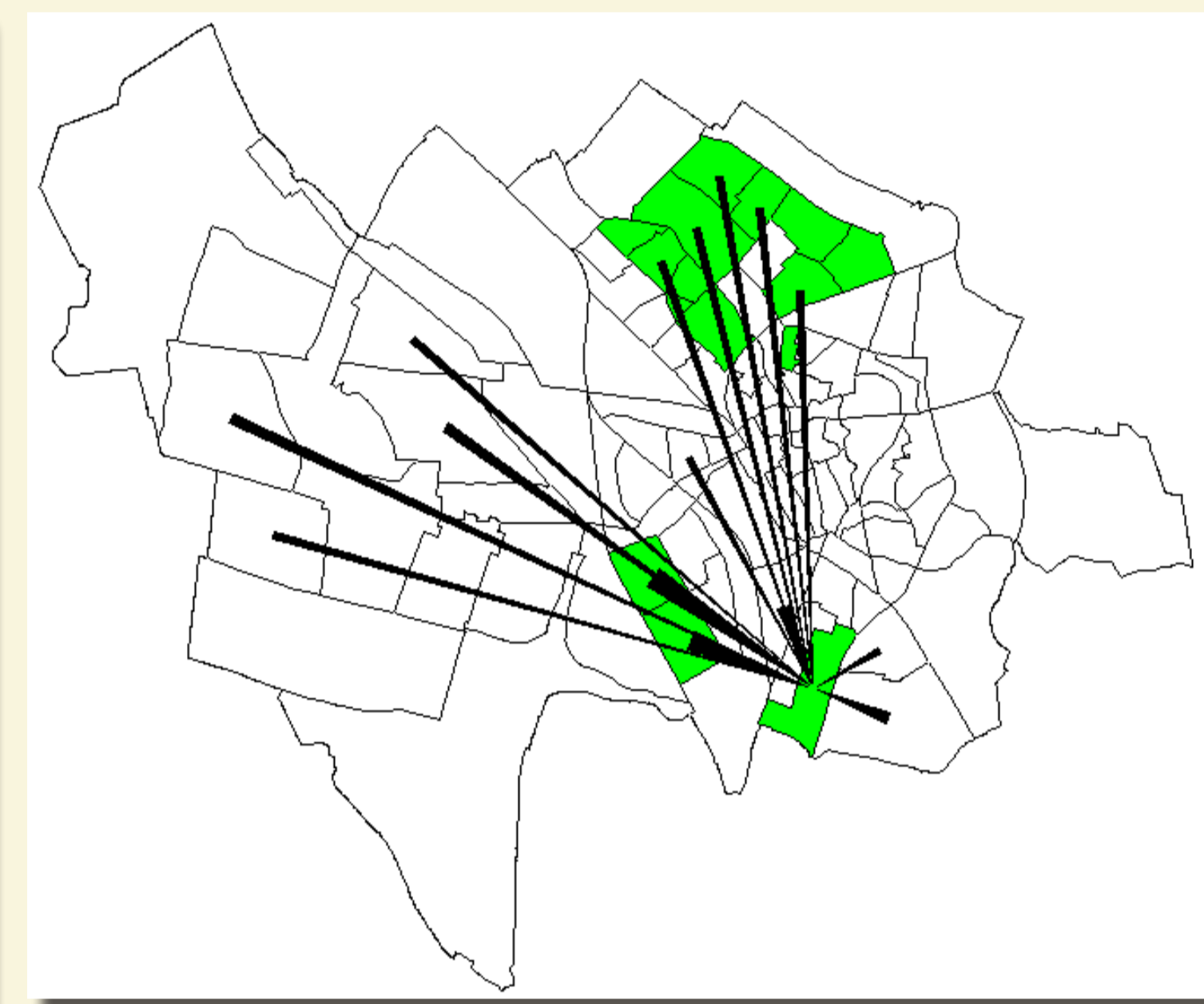


Figure 5: Dispersal patterns of other youth that moved from Nieuw Hoograven

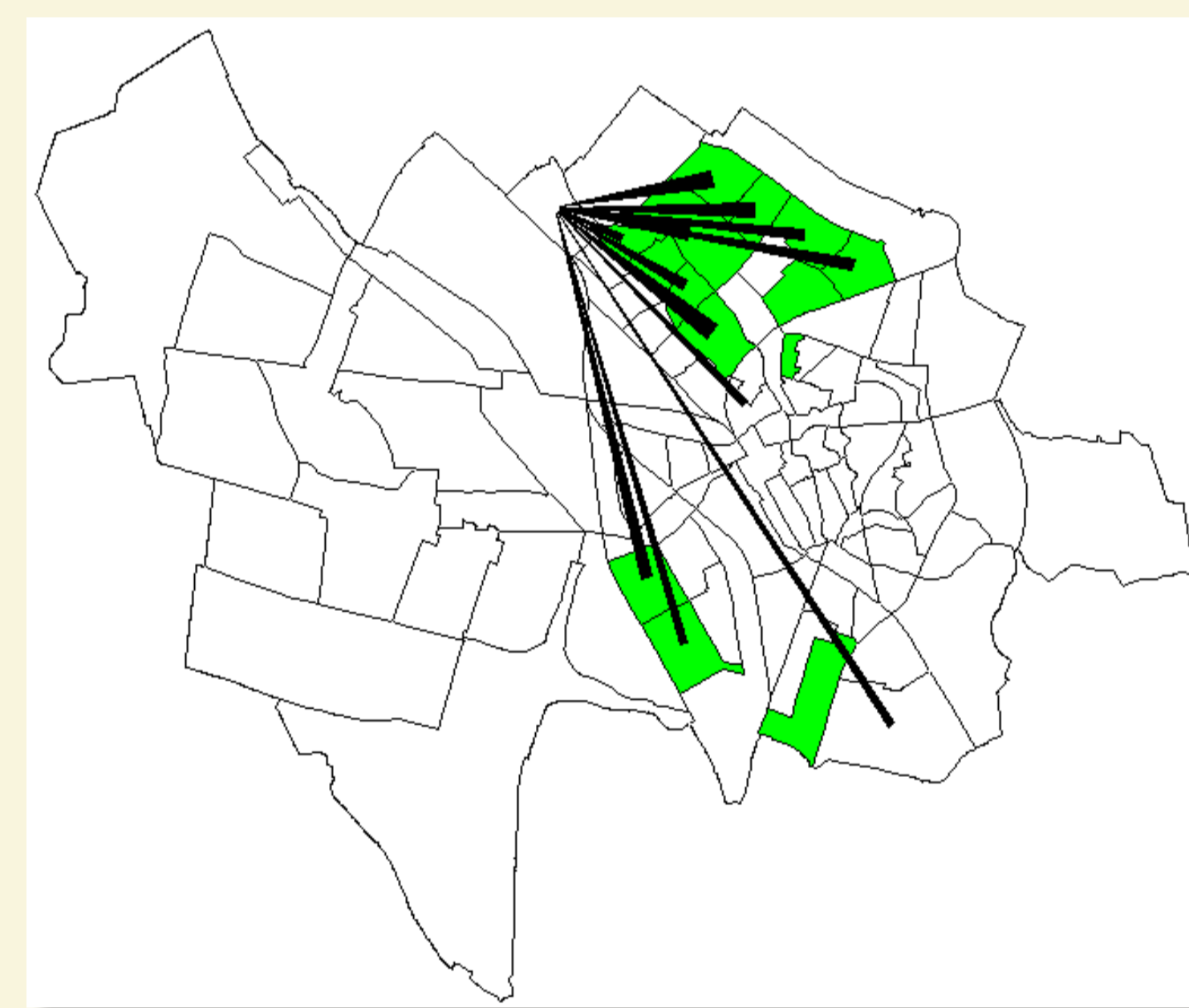


Figure 6: Dispersal patterns of youth that are displaced from Zuilen-noord

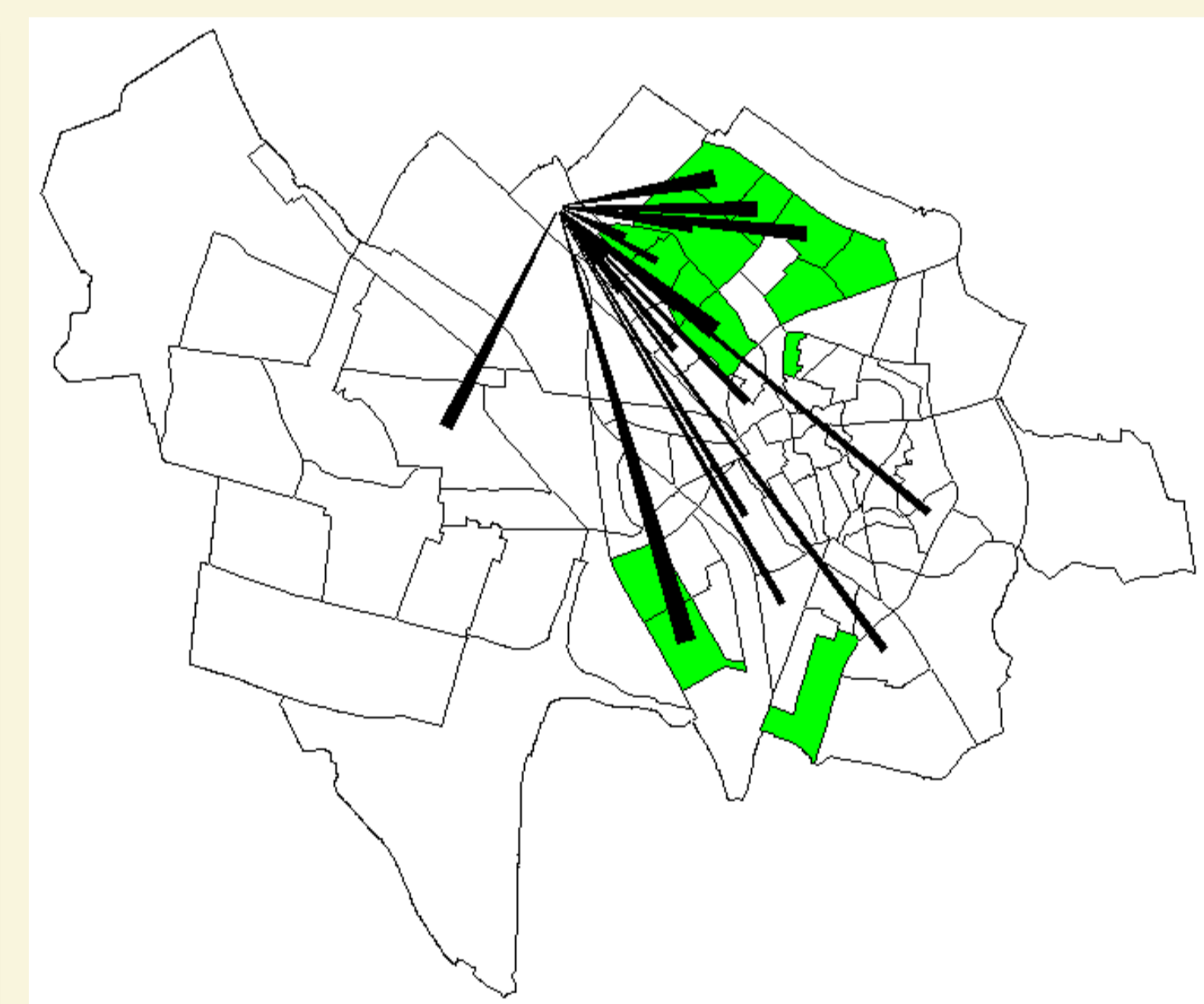


Figure 7: Dispersal patterns of other youth that moved from Zuilen-noord

The green areas are the 15 most deprived neighbourhoods of Utrecht

It is remarkable that displaced youth from Zuilen-noord moved more often to other deprived neighbourhoods (in green) than other youth and also that displaced youth from Nieuw Hoograven moved less often to neighbourhoods in the west of Utrecht (Leidsche Rijn, Vleuten-De Meern) than other youth (figure 4-7).

Research progress

The results we are presenting on this poster are preliminary but in the next months we will do more analyses. We will also continue writing our final report. In autumn we planned a workshop for professionals and a symposium. We will also write a book with practical advices and a few congress papers. In the end of 2010 our research project will be finished.