



# Contact between asylum seekers and Norwegians - welcome to the neighborhood?

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# Background

- Project “Asylum centers in the neighborhood”
  - Started in March 2016, in the wake of the refugee crisis
  - April 2015 – March 2016, 257 new asylum seeker’s centers established in response to the refugee crisis
  - Focus on Norwegian locals’ reactions to the establishment of asylum seekers’ centers in their neighborhood and contact between locals and asylum seekers.





# Background

- Project's relevance to today's workshop:
  - Integration into local communities may be vital to the long-term health and well-being of refugees
  - The integration process may start already when asylum seekers are placed in asylum seekers centers in local neighborhoods
  - Integration is a two-way process
    - Understanding contact between members of local community members and asylum seekers from the locals' perspective is therefore important

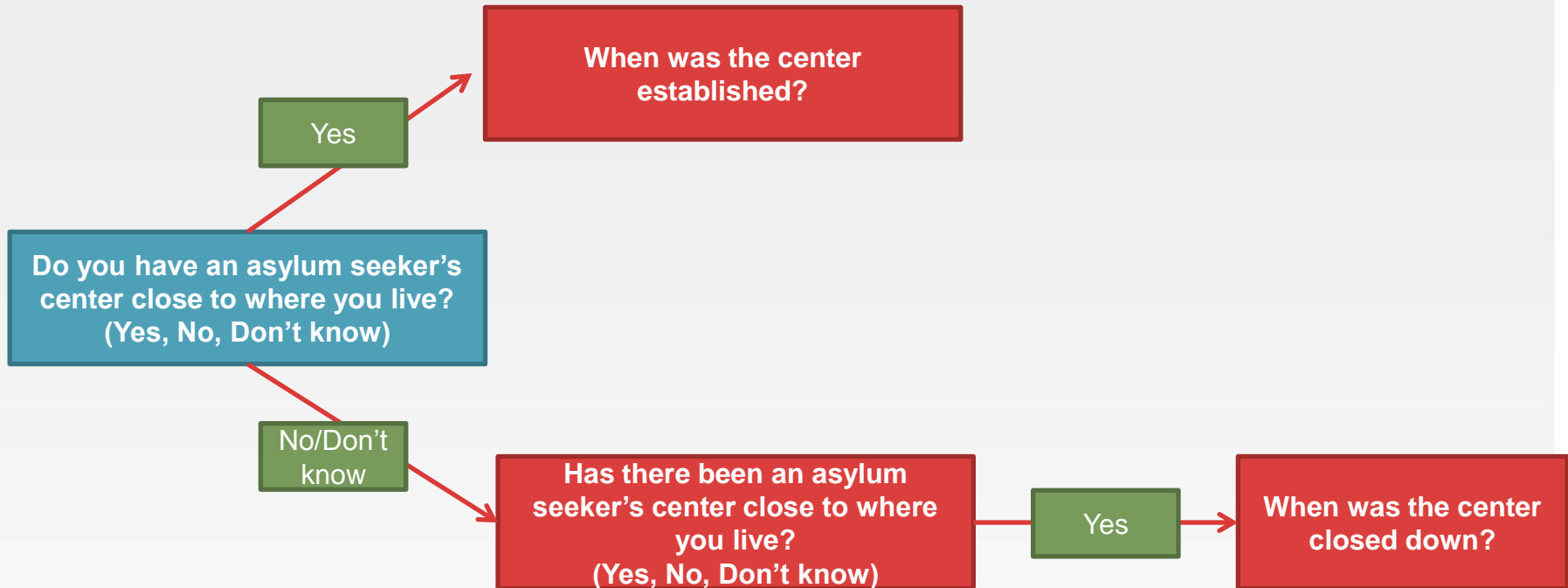




# Background

- How does living near an asylum seekers center affect Norwegians and their relationships with asylum seekers?
- Do people who live near asylum seekers centers differ from those who do not live near a center in...:
  - Their opinion on having/getting a center in their neighborhood?
  - Their exposure to and amount of contact with asylum seekers?
  - The type of contact they have with asylum seekers?
  - Their evaluation of the contact they've had with asylum seekers?
  - Emotions associated with asylum seekers?
  - The degree to which they actively take asylum seekers' perspectives?
- Data from The Norwegian Citizen Panel
  - Internet panel, representative of the Norwegian population
  - Results from October 2016







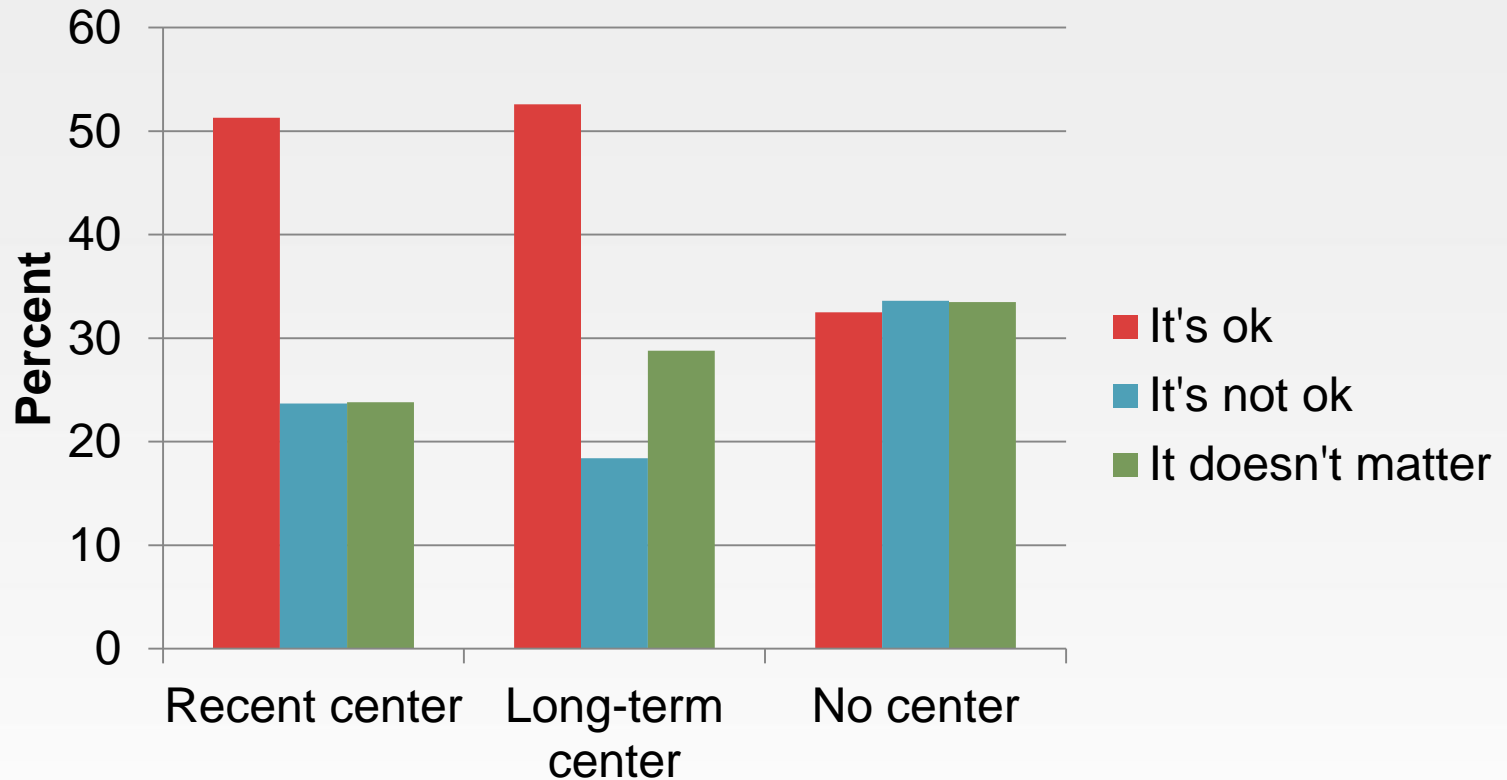
# Respondents (weighted data)

Respondent groups	<i>n</i>
<b>Recent center</b> <i>Have a center in the neighborhood, which was established during refugee crisis (2015-2016)</i>	170
<b>Long-term center</b> <i>Have a center in the neighborhood, it's been there since 2014 or before</i>	138
<b>No center</b> <i>Do not live near a center, and have not lived near a center</i>	366
<b>Previous center</b> <i>There is not a center in the neighborhood, but there used to be one</i>	139



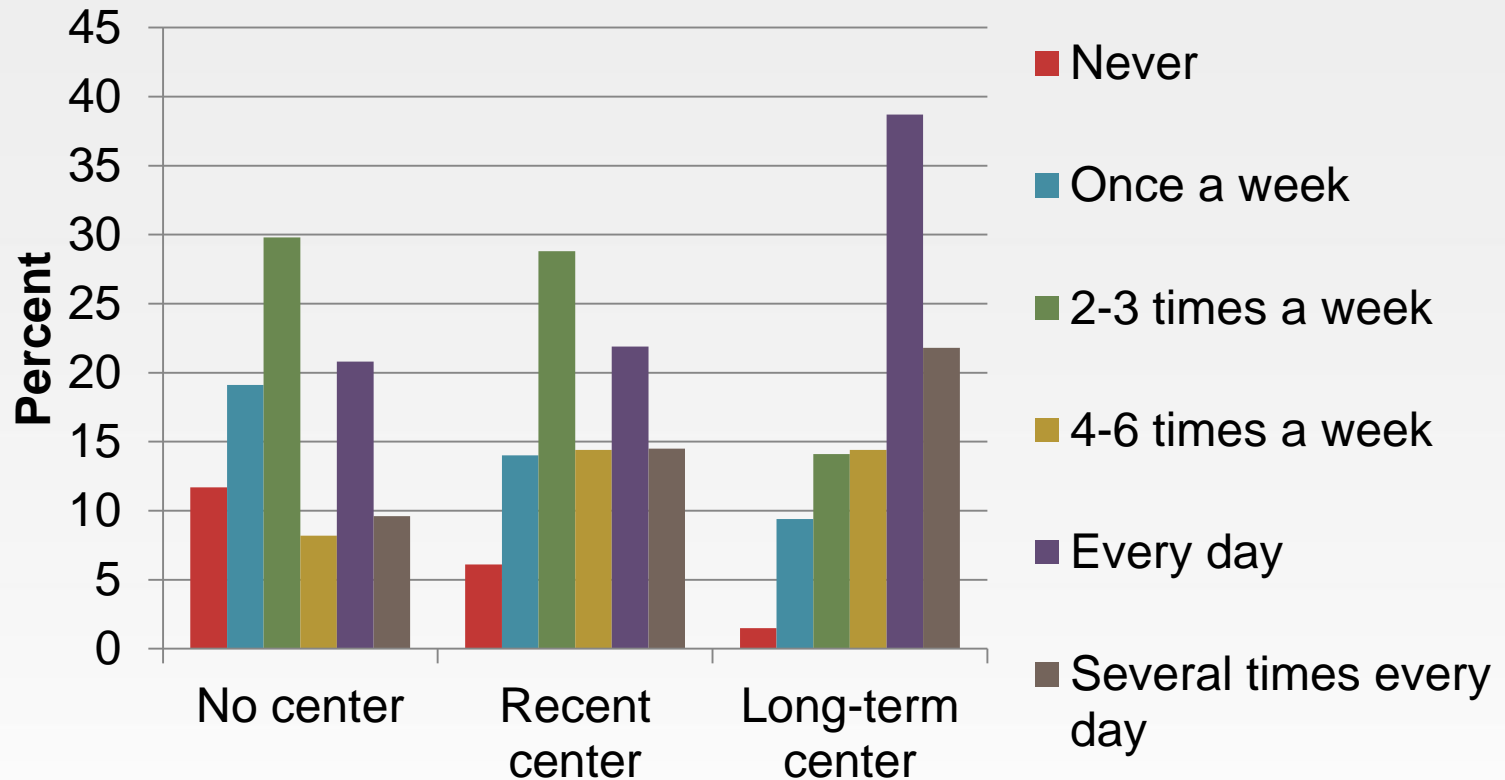


# Opinion about having/getting an asylum seeker's center in the neighborhood





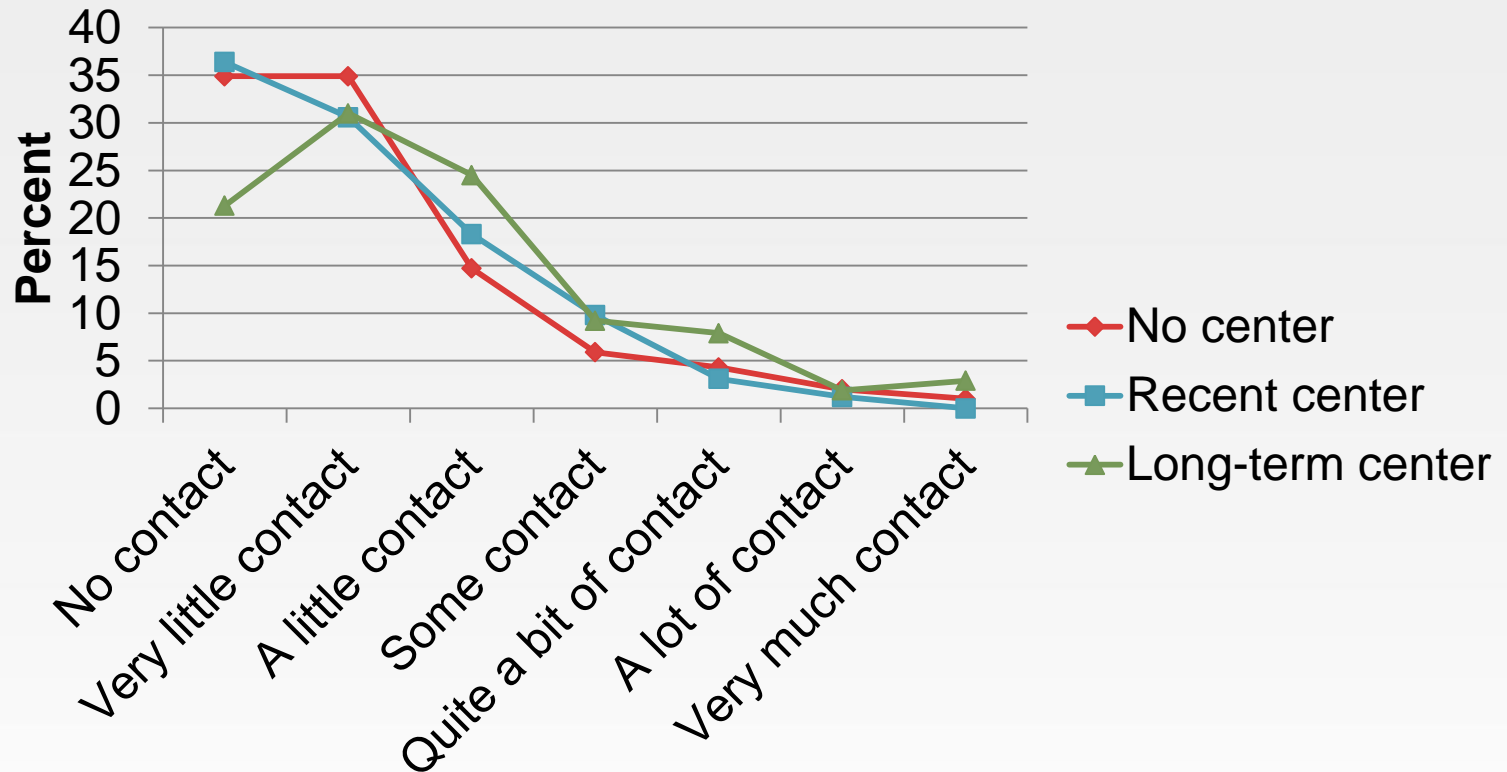
## How often do you see people you assume or know are asylum seekers where you go during a normal week?







We are interested in how much contact you have had with asylum seekers. Would you say you've had ...





## Contact types – Percentage who said “yes”

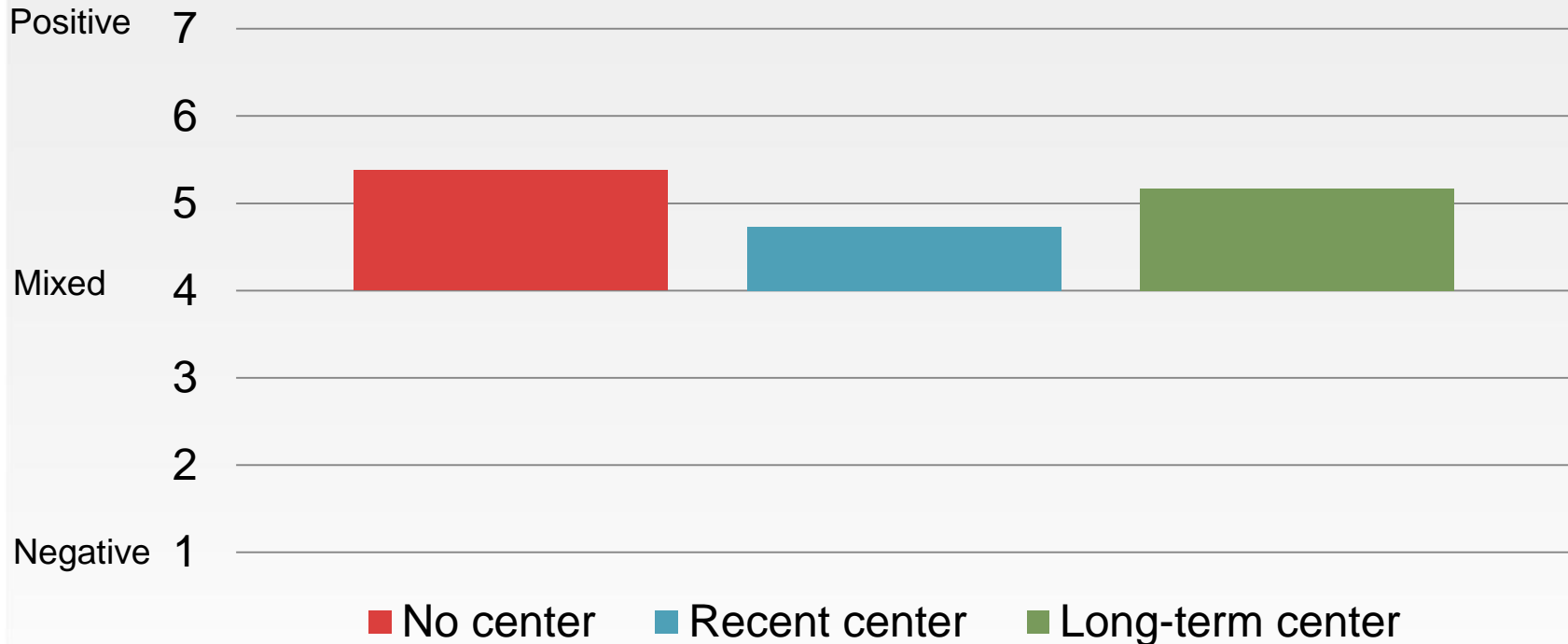
Types of contact	No center	Recent center	Long-term center
Said hello to	32,9 %	39,3 %	55,1 %
Internet contact	6,6 %	4,0 %	6,3 %
Become friends	6,4 %	6,7 %	13,1 %
Received help	2,3 %	6,0 %	4,1 %
Joined support group	3,5 %	3,0 %	5,6 %





**Among those with at least some form of contact...**  
*“Overall, to what extent have you experienced the contact you've had as negative or positive?”*

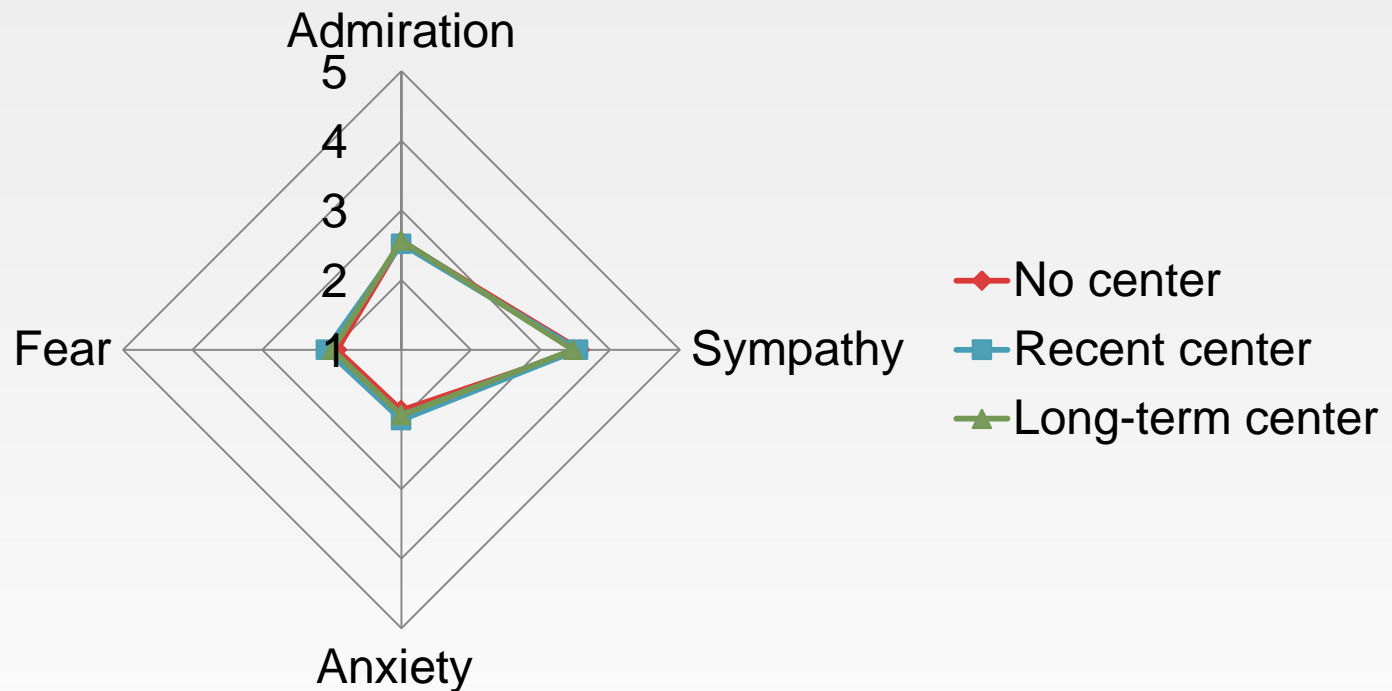
**Mean contact quality**





## Feelings toward asylum-seekers

# Mean ratings of four emotions



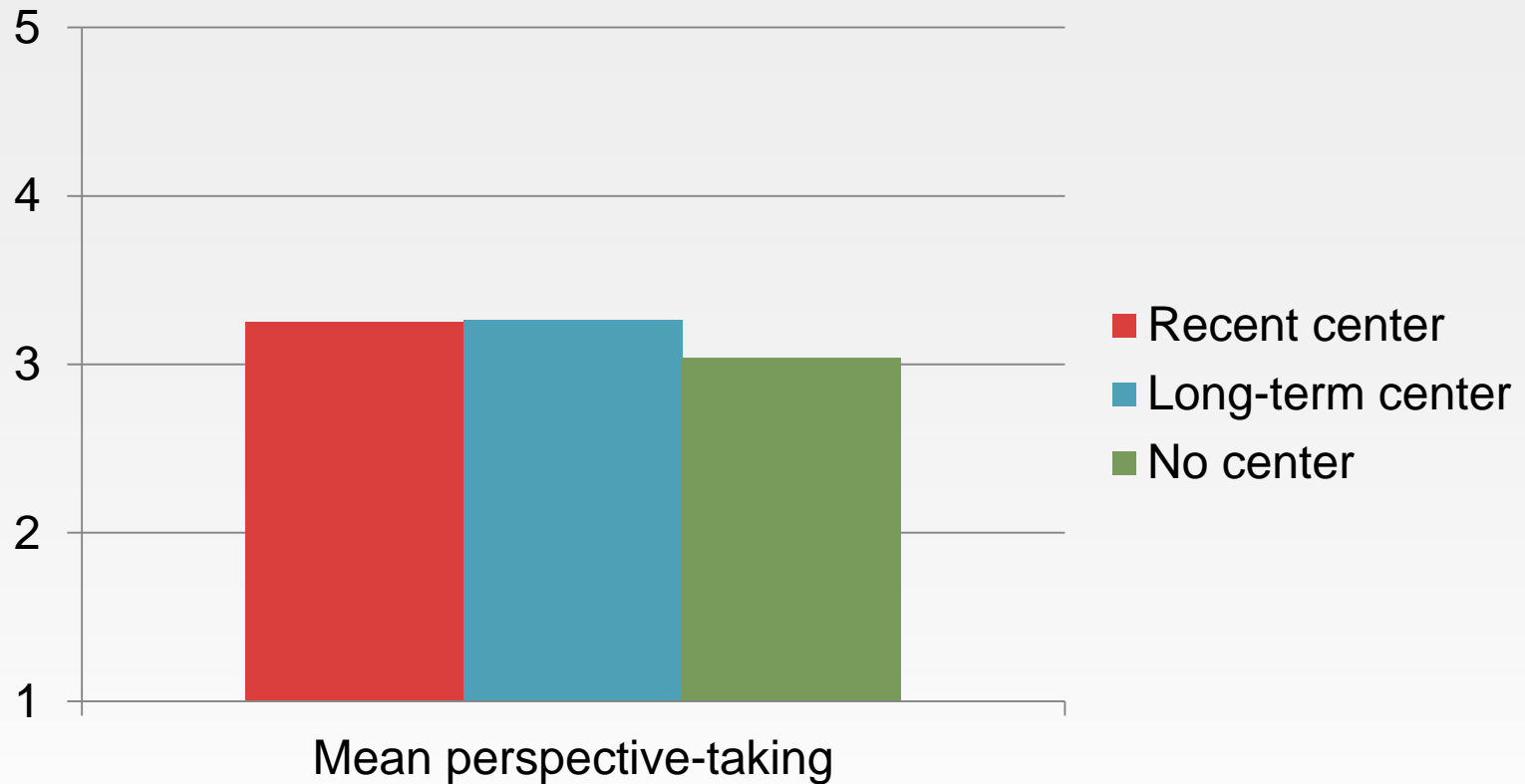
Five-point response scale ranging from 1 – *Not at all* to 5 - *To a very large extent*





## Perspective-taking

*To what extent have you thought about and imagined how it feels to come to Norway as an asylum seeker?*



Five-point response scale ranging from 1 – *Not at all* to 5 - *To a very large extent*





# Summary of findings

- People with a recent or long-term center in their neighborhood are more accepting of a center than people with no center where they live
- Compared to those who do not have a center in the neighborhood, those with a recent center..
  - Are more exposed to asylum-seekers (see them more often)
  - Experience the contact they have as somewhat less positive
  - But, they do **not**...
    - Have more contact or different types of contact
    - Feel differently about asylum seekers
    - Take the perspective of asylum-seekers to a larger extent
- People with a long-term center in the neighborhood...
  - Have the highest level of exposure to asylum seekers
  - Have more contact (fewer report having no contact)
  - Are more likely to have said hello to or befriended an asylum-seeker





# Discussion points

- What does this mean for the integration of asylum seekers/refugees?
  - Locals are neither fearful nor anxious, and the majority are positive to having a center in their neighborhood
    - Good starting-point for integration
  - Many (~ 50 – 70 %) report having no or very little contact with asylum seekers, and superficial contact ('saying hello') is more common than friendships.
    - Glass half-empty: results suggest clear segregation between asylum seekers and Norwegians
    - Glass half-full: Approximately 1 out of 10 locals have an asylum-seeker friend









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