



**Derbyshire
Police and Crime
Commissioner**

*Protecting Communities,
Fighting Crime*



Violence Against Women & Girls

Survey Results

February 2022

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Summary and Main Points

- The Police & Crime Commissioner's Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) survey was open from 4 November 2021 until 10 January 2022 and was held to inform the Commissioner, Derbyshire Constabulary and partners of views and experiences of people in Derbyshire, and to ensure the co-production, with the public, of the Derbyshire VAWG strategy.
- 1,475 responses were received, of which 1,400 responses were from women and girls, 47 responses from men and boys and there were 28 other responses. Ninety-five responses were from persons from an Ethnic Minority background.
- The Crime Survey for England & Wales (CSEW) shows that living in an urban area, youth, being of certain non-White ethnic backgrounds, being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexual orientation and being disabled are all associated with a higher incidence of being a victim of crime (CSEW year ending March 2020, i.e. before the pandemic). Therefore, more detail has been provided for those questions where answers from different demographics show a wide variation of views/experience.
- For context: women and girls aged 11-34 accounted for 28% of the female population in the Derbyshire force area according to the Census 2011. The ONS Sexual Orientation survey 2019 states that 3.6% of the total population in the East Midlands are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexual orientation. People whose day to day activities are limited a lot were 9.5% of the population and people from an Ethnic Minority background were 6.7% of the population in the Derbyshire force area in the Census 2011.
- In general, women and girls aged under 34 years, those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, or with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities were much more likely to feel unsafe when on their own / alone at the places asked about.
- Street lighting was one of the biggest factors in making women and girls feel safer.
- There were some wide variations according to age group on what makes women and girls feel safer. This highlights that interventions and/or campaigns around safety for women and girls need to consider their target age group and be tailored accordingly.

- Harassment was by far the most experienced crime, affecting overall 1 in 6 of the women and girls who responded and nearly one third of those aged 24 years and under.
- Women and girls from an Ethnic Minority background, those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, and those with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities were much more likely to report having been a victim of Harassment and/or a Sexual Offence.
- There is a similar trend for those reporting Domestic Abuse, with those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, and those with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities more likely to report having been a victim. However, the age profile is different, with predominantly women aged 25-54 years reporting having been a victim of Domestic Abuse within the last year.
- Just over two in five women and girls said that they had reported the crime(s) that they had experienced in the past year, which is similar to the rates in the CSEW (year ending March 2020, annual trend & demographic tables). The vast majority of respondents who had reported the crime(s) reported to the police.
- The main reasons given for not reporting the crime(s) were “I didn’t think it would be taken seriously”, “I didn’t think anything could be done about it” and “I didn’t think it was serious enough”.
- Almost half of respondents who reported a crime stated that they were referred to a victim support service.
- Around two-thirds of respondents felt more could be done by local agencies and/or the Government to reassure and protect them when violent and/or sexual crimes take place against women and girls.

Notes about the data

- Responses from those living outside of Derbyshire were excluded, as they are outside of the jurisdiction of the Commissioner and Derbyshire Constabulary.
- Limitations – respondents were self-selected and may therefore not be representative of the whole of Derbyshire population. However, there was a good spread of respondents across the various demographics (as detailed in the next section).
- Results are weighted according to age group and home local authority in line with the Census 2011 profile of Derbyshire – with the “24 years and under” age group weighted in line with numbers of 11-24 year olds, as younger girls (i.e. primary school age and younger) are unlikely to be outside the home unaccompanied.
- Results for each question are generally based on definite answers only – i.e. “Don’t know”, “N/A”, “Don’t wish to say”, “Prefer not to say” and blank answers have been excluded unless specified.

Q1/2. Numbers of respondents

	All	Women & girls
All Respondents	1,475	1,400
Ethnic Minorities (37 Asian, 13 Black, 25 Mixed/Multiple, 20 Other) (62 Derby, 28 Derbyshire)	95	91
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Other	171	159
Physical or mental health conditions reduce ability to carry out day to day activities	405	387

Distribution of respondents (women and girls) across Derby & Derbyshire

Note that responses were weighted by age group and home local authority area in line with the Census 2011 profile of the Derbyshire force area so that results were not skewed by higher numbers of respondents within certain demographics.

	24 yrs & under	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65 yrs & over	No age given	All
Amber Valley	34	27	45	50	33	16	3	208
Bolsover	4	18	16	17	9	2	0	66
Chesterfield	11	19	37	47	12	12	0	138
City of Derby	166	75	66	94	30	20	5	456
Derbyshire Dales	5	12	13	22	19	19	0	90
Erewash	11	22	30	23	14	7	0	107
High Peak	30	18	17	18	26	7	0	116
North East Derbyshire	8	28	29	13	22	7	0	107
South Derbyshire	38	9	18	24	9	8	0	106
Total	307	228	271	308	174	98	8	1394

Q3/4. How safe do you feel when you are on your own / alone...?

Respondents were asked about various places where they may be on their own / alone – during the day and after dark.

The main places where women and girls feel unsafe are: their local town/city centre; within the public transport system and at taxi ranks; and in parks and open spaces.

In general, women and girls who are aged under 34 years, those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, or with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities were much more likely to feel unsafe when on their own / alone at one of the places asked about.

In general, women and girls from an Ethnic Minority background had similar feelings of safe/unsafe to those from a White background. There were a couple of exceptions which are noted in the detail for Q3 & Q4 below.

Where there was a large variation between the various local authority areas within the Derbyshire force area, this is also noted in the detail for Q3 & Q4 below.

Q3. How safe do you feel during the day when you are on your own / alone...?

The main places where women and girls feel unsafe during the day are: their local town/city centre; within the public transport system and at taxi ranks; and in parks and open spaces. “At taxi ranks” was ranked the most unsafe place with 48% of women and girls saying they felt somewhat or very unsafe.

At home / on the street where you live

Almost nine out of ten women and girls said they felt safe at home, and five out of six women and girls said they felt safe in their street, with only 6% and 9% respectively saying they felt unsafe. Results are similar to the Commissioner’s annual Listening To You survey (2020/21 results for women and girls to “How safe do you feel walking alone in your local area during the day – 89% safe, 11% unsafe). Women and girls with a reduced ability to carry out day to day activities were much more likely to say they felt unsafe both at home and in their street and those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality were more likely to say they felt unsafe at home.

At your place of education / at your workplace

Three-quarters of women and girls said they felt safe at their place of education, and over four in five said they felt safe at their workplace, with 11% and 8% respectively saying they felt unsafe. Women and girls with a reduced ability to carry out day to day activities and those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality were much more likely to say they felt unsafe for both options and women and girls from an Ethnic Minority background were more likely to say they felt unsafe at their workplace when they were alone during the day.

In your local town/city centre

Around half of women and girls who are aged under 24 years, those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, and those living in Bolsover said they felt unsafe in their local town/city centre during the day, compared to the average of less than one third overall.

Women aged 25-34 years old, those with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities, and those living in Derby and South Derbyshire were also more likely to say they felt unsafe in their local town/city centre.

On public transport / at your local bus station / at your local train station / at taxi ranks

Around half of women and girls said that they felt safe on their own during the day within the public transport system, but only one third said they felt safe during the day at taxi ranks. Women and girls who are aged under 34 years, those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, or with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities were much more likely to feel unsafe during the day when on their own / alone within the public transport system and at taxi ranks.

In parks and open spaces

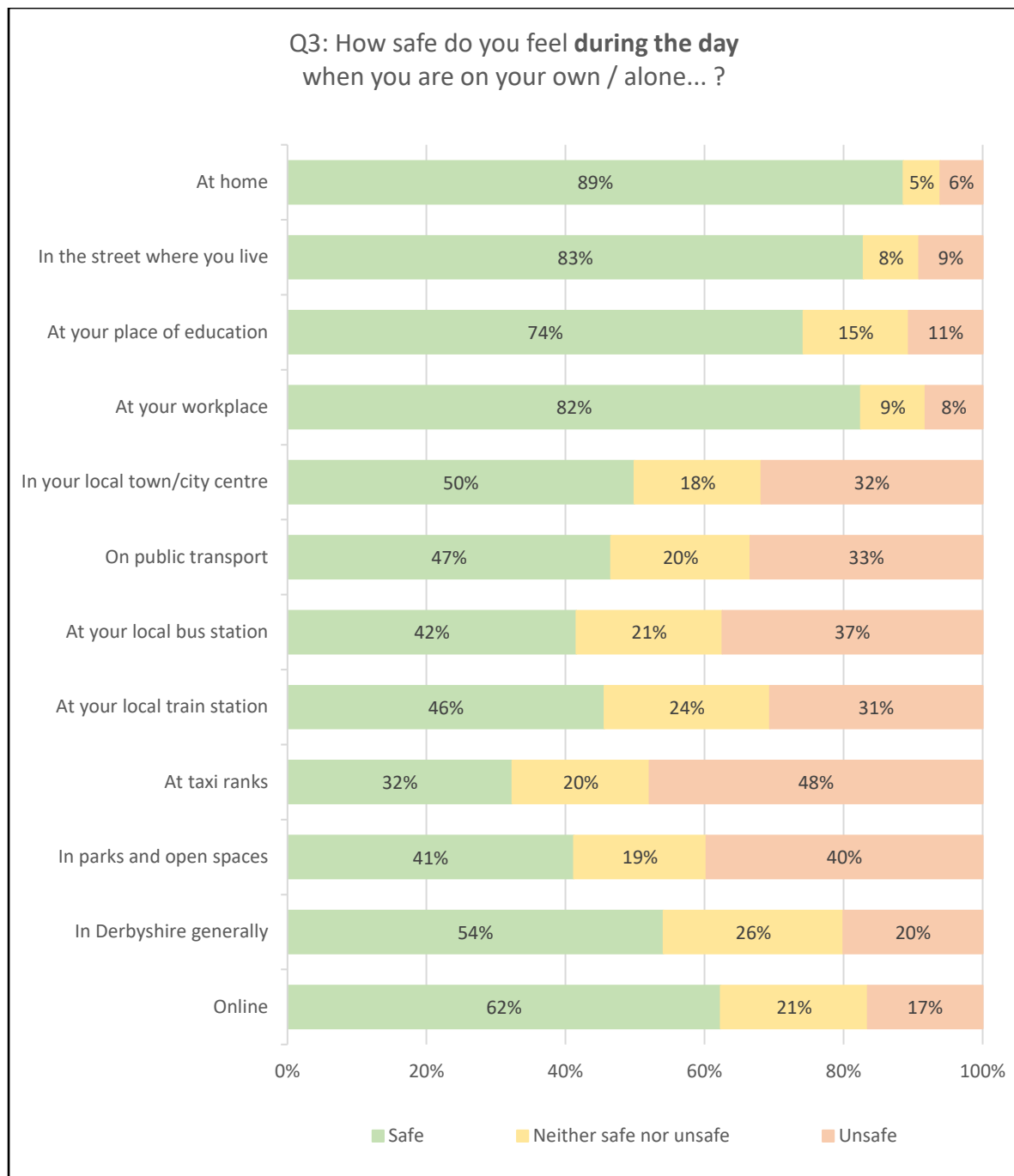
Two in five women and girls said they felt safe alone in parks or open spaces during the day. Around half of women and girls from an Ethnic Minority background, those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, those with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities, and those living in Derby, Bolsover and South Derbyshire said they felt unsafe on their own in parks or open spaces during the day.

In Derbyshire generally

More than half of women and girls said that they felt safe on their own in Derbyshire generally during the day. Women and girls who are aged under 24 years, those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, or with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities were much more likely to feel unsafe during the day when on their own alone in Derbyshire generally.

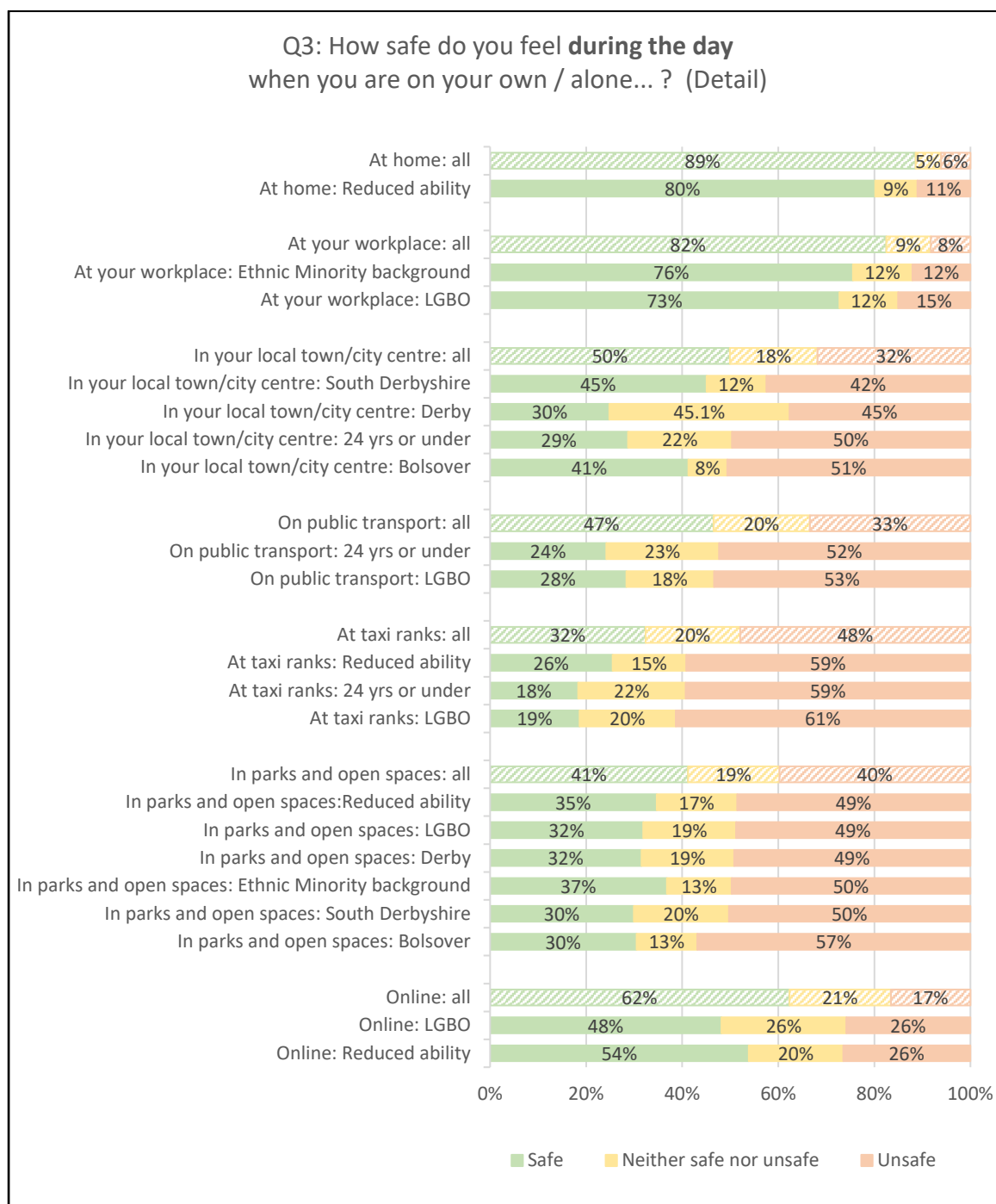
Online

Almost two-thirds of women and girls felt safe online during the day. Women and girls who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, or with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities were much more likely to feel unsafe online.



Some of the places where there were particularly large differences in feeling unsafe during the day are shown below.

Higher rates of feeling unsafe in Bolsover and South Derbyshire are unexpected and should be treated with some caution as both areas have lower than average crime rates; however, recent events in both areas may have had some impact on respondents' views.



Q4. How safe do you feel after dark when you are on your own / alone...?

The main places where women and girls feel unsafe after dark are the same as during the day: their local town/city centre; within the public transport system and at taxi ranks; and in parks and open spaces. "In parks and open spaces" was ranked the most unsafe place with 83% of women and girls saying they felt somewhat or very unsafe.

At home / on the street where you live

Almost three-quarters of women and girls said they felt safe at home, and just over half said they felt safe in their street after dark, with 19% and 30% respectively saying they felt unsafe. Results are higher than the Commissioner's annual Listening To You survey (2020/21 results for women to "How safe do you feel walking alone in your local area after dark – 34% safe, 66% unsafe). But both are below the CSEW figure (12 months to the end of March 2021) where nationally 73% of women said they felt safe walking alone in their local area after dark. Women and girls aged 24 years or under and those living in Bolsover were much more likely to say they felt unsafe both at home and in their street.

At your place of education / at your workplace

Around half of women and girls said they felt safe at their place of education after dark, and three in five said they felt safe at their workplace after dark, with 31% and 26% respectively saying they felt unsafe. Women and girls who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality were much more likely to say they felt unsafe for both options and women and girls living in Erewash were most likely to say they felt unsafe at their place of education after dark.

In your local town/city centre

Around two-thirds of women and girls overall said they felt unsafe in their local town/city centre after dark. However, four out of five of those aged 34 years or under, and those living in Derby and South Derbyshire said they felt unsafe in their local town/city centre after dark.

On public transport / at your local bus station / at your local train station / at taxi ranks

More than two-thirds of women and girls overall felt unsafe within the public transport system after dark, and three-quarters felt unsafe at taxi ranks, with women who are aged 25-34 years old and those living in South Derbyshire feeling the most unsafe.

In parks and open spaces

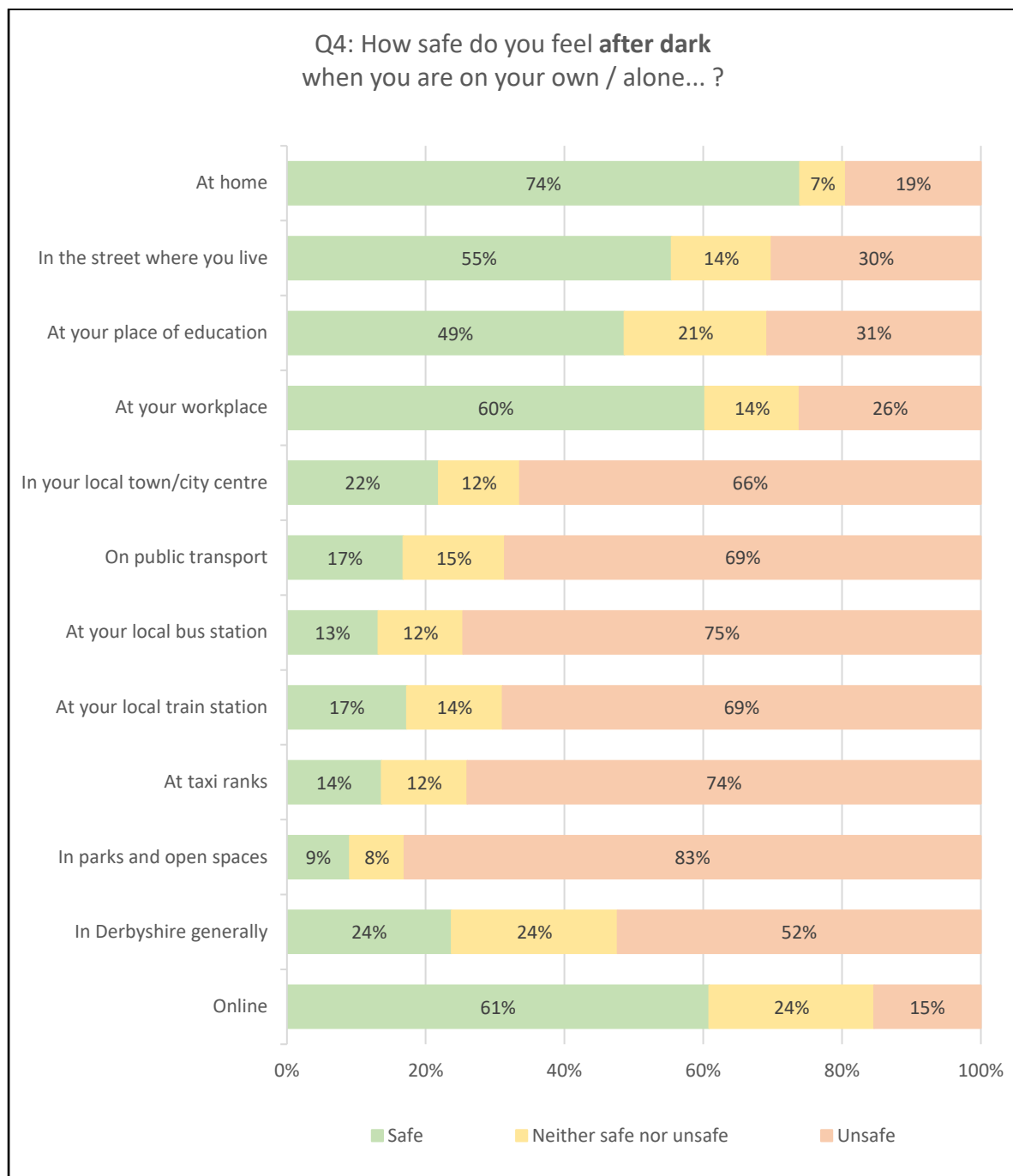
Five out of six women and girls felt unsafe in parks or open spaces on their own after dark. Nine out of ten women and girls aged 34 years or under, from an Ethnic Minority background or living in South Derbyshire felt unsafe.

In Derbyshire generally

Around one quarter of women and girls felt safe in Derbyshire generally on their own after dark, and half felt unsafe. Three-quarters of those aged 24 years and under felt unsafe.

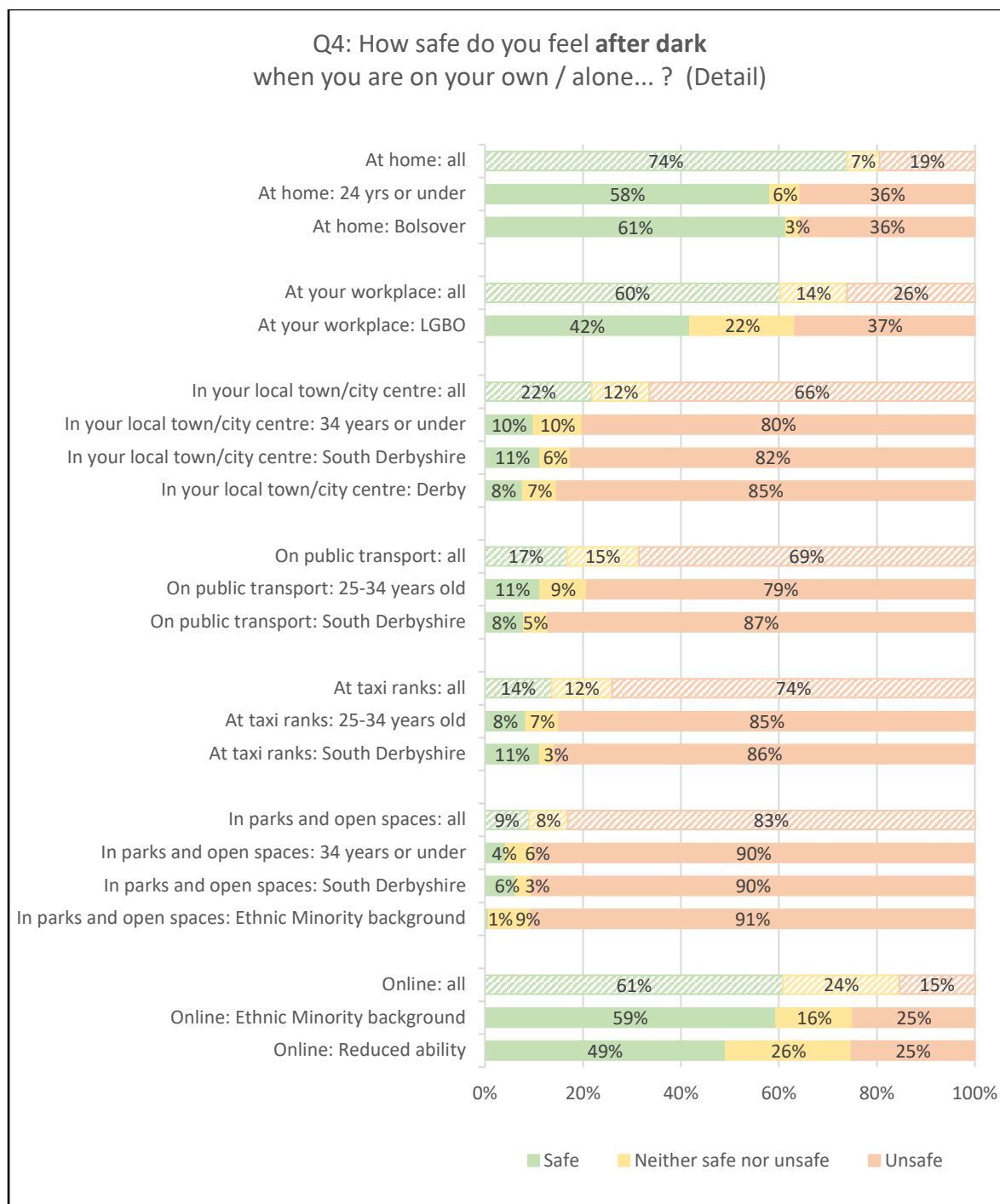
Online

Two-thirds of women and girls felt safe online after dark, similar to during the day. Women and girls from an Ethnic Minority background and those with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities were much more likely to feel unsafe.



Some of the places where there were particularly large differences in feeling unsafe after dark are shown below.

Higher rates of feeling unsafe in Bolsover and South Derbyshire are unexpected and should be treated with some caution as both areas have lower than average crime rates; however, recent events in both areas may have had some impact on respondents' views.

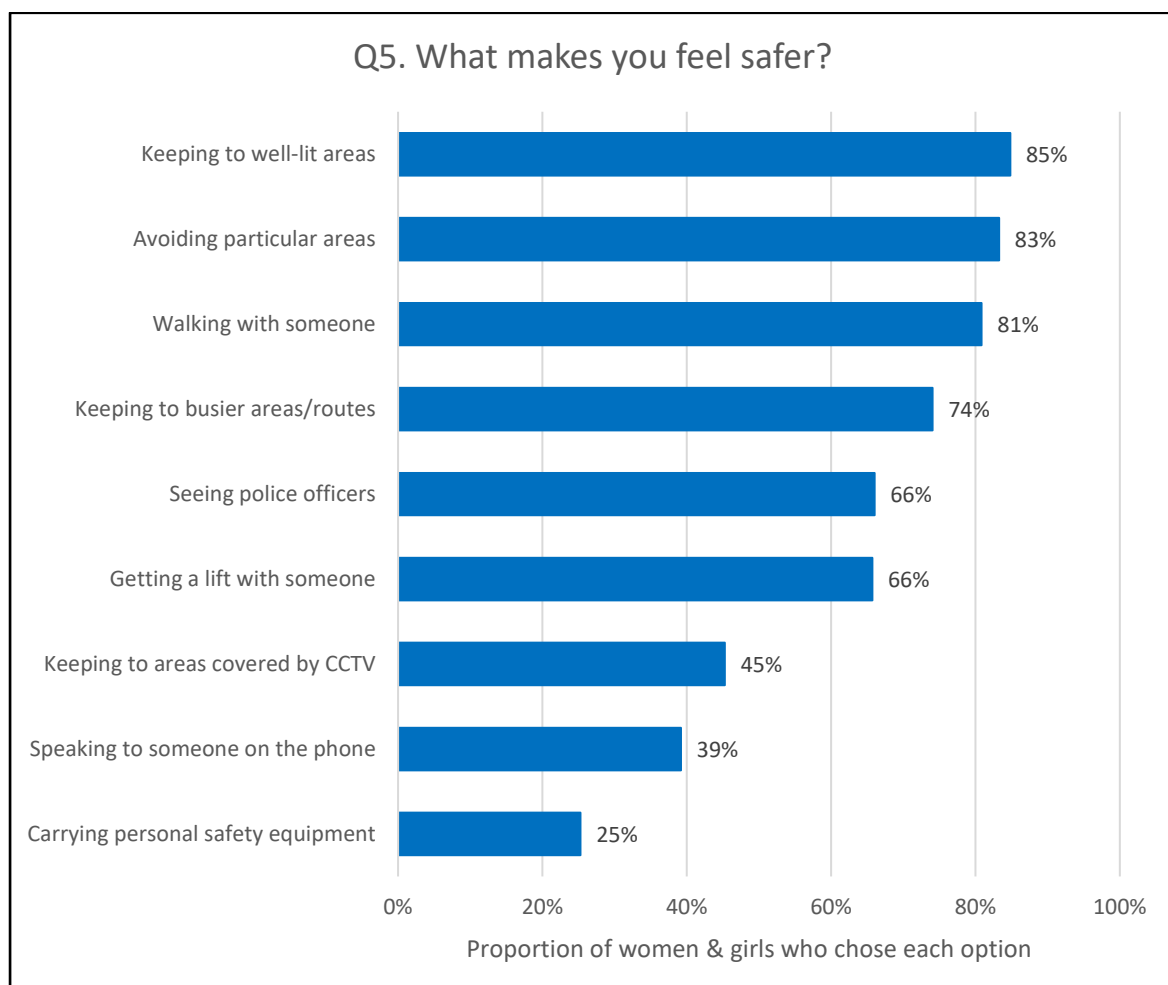


Q5. Whilst the focus needs to be on changing offender behaviour, these changes will not happen overnight. In the current climate, what makes you feel safer?

Respondents could choose as many options as applicable.

Lighting is one of the biggest factors in making women and girls feel safe, with five out of six respondents choosing this option. “Avoiding particular areas” was also chosen almost as frequently.

The national police.uk Streetsafe service is asking people to let them know of areas where they feel unsafe and will provide feedback for the Derbyshire force area.



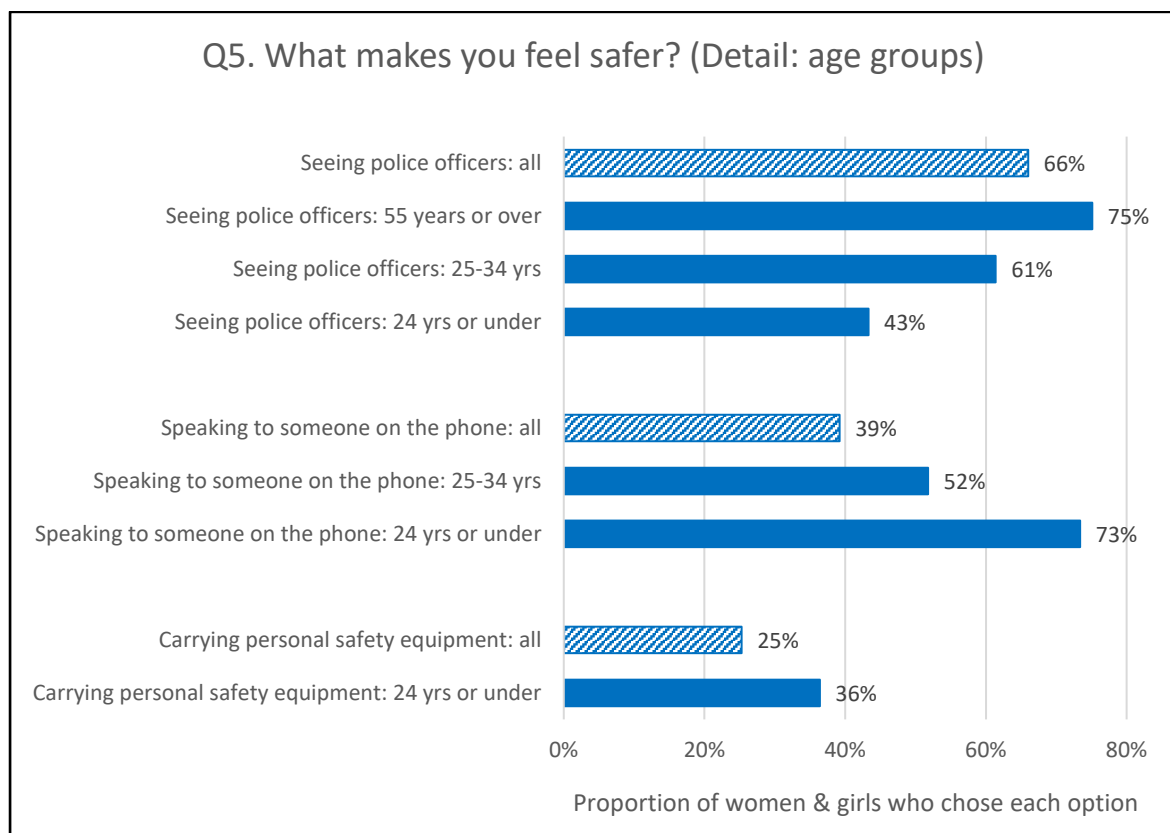
There was a wide variance between different age groups for some of the options.

“Seeing police officers” was chosen by three-quarters of women aged 55 years and over as something that made them feel safer; however, this rate was almost halved for women and girls aged 24 years and under.

Conversely, “Speaking to someone on the phone” was only chosen by two out of five women and girls overall, but by almost three-quarters of women and girls aged 24 years and under. “Carrying personal safety equipment” was also favoured amongst younger women and girls.

Younger women, aged 34 years and under, were also slightly more likely to feel safer in areas covered by CCTV.

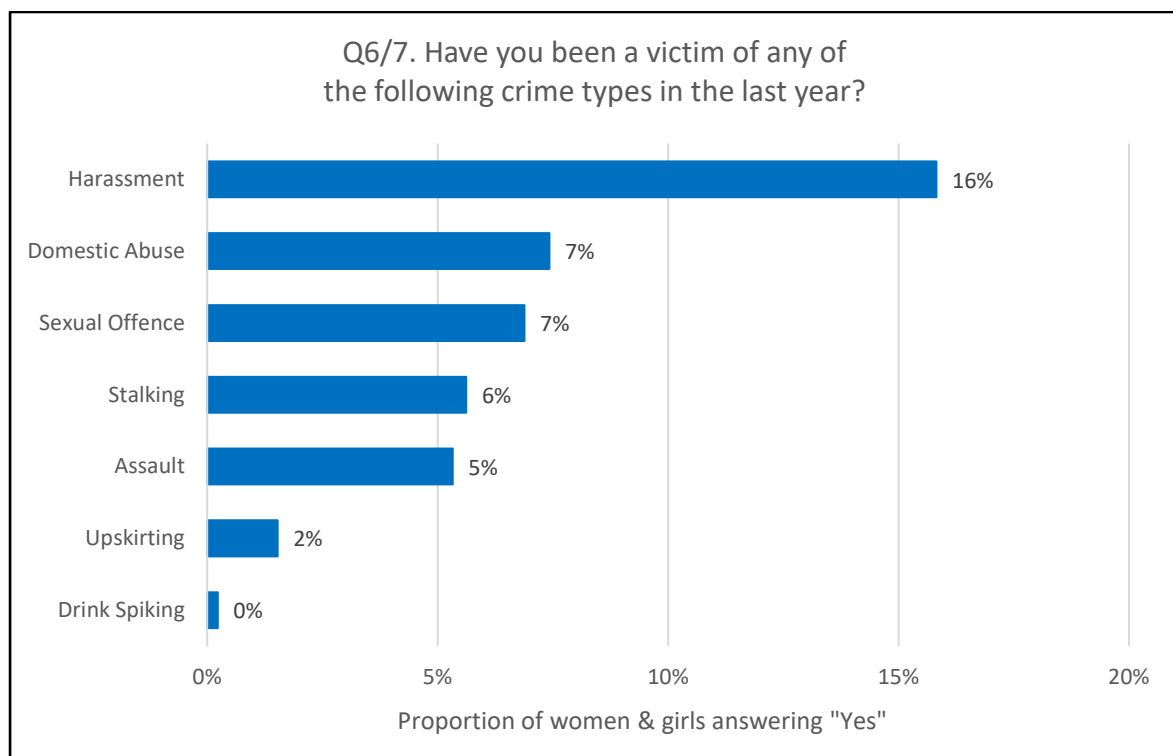
These results highlight that interventions and/or campaigns around safety for women and girls need to consider their target age group and be tailored accordingly.



Q6/7. Have you been a victim of any of the following crime types in the last year: Domestic Abuse, Assault, Sexual Offence, Stalking, Harassment, Upskirting, Drink Spiking?

Respondents could select as many crime types as applicable. Just over half of respondents had only been a victim of one type of crime; however, almost one quarter reported that they had been the victim of three or more of the crime types in the last year.

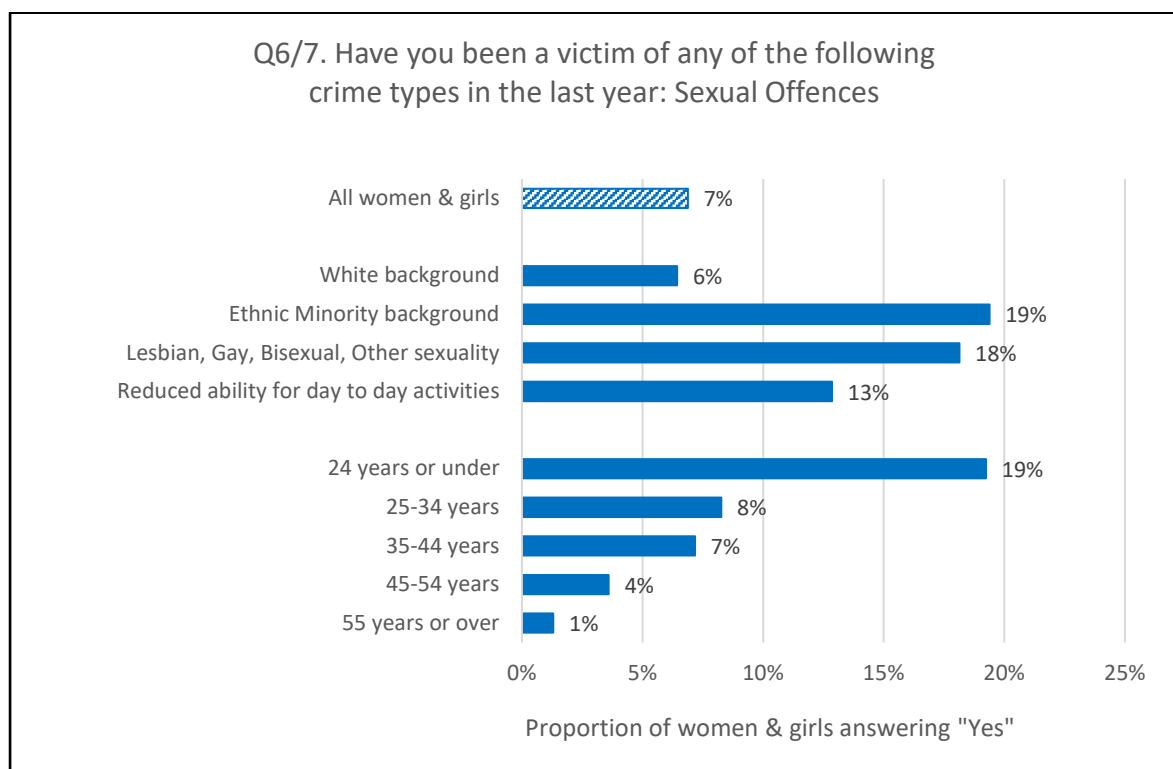
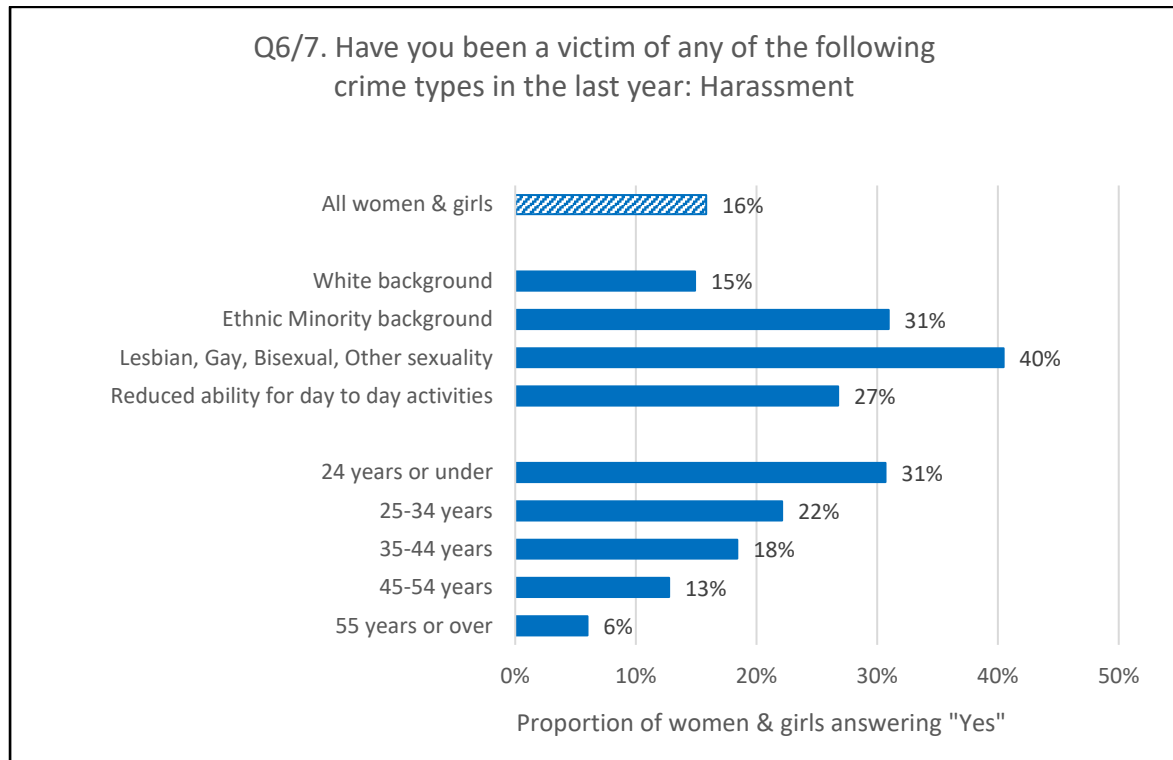
Harassment was by far the most experienced crime, affecting 1 in 6 overall of the women and girls who responded and nearly one third of those aged 24 years and under.



There was quite a wide variation of reported victimisation between different demographics. Therefore, any interventions should recognise and be appropriate for those demographics who are more likely to experience the different crime types.

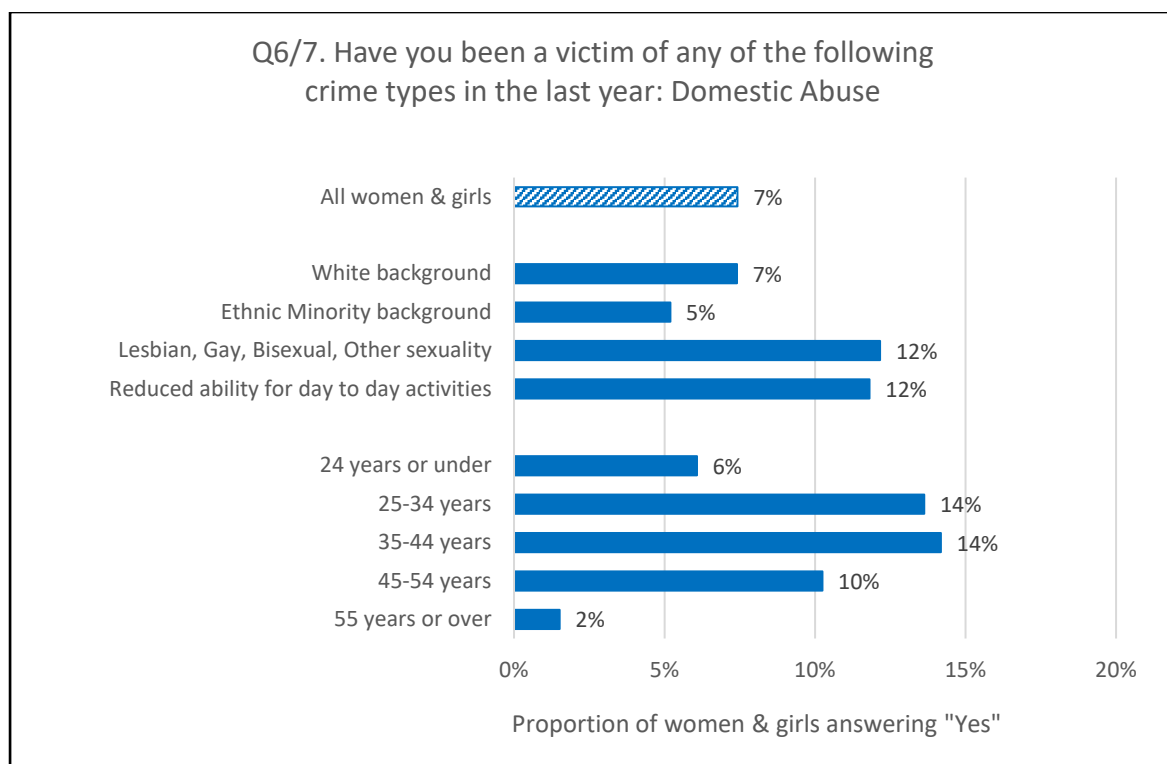
The Crime Survey for England & Wales (CSEW) shows that youth, being of certain non-White ethnic backgrounds, being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexual orientation and being disabled are all associated with a higher incidence of being a victim of crime (CSEW year ending March 2020, i.e. before the pandemic).

The following charts show that younger women and girls, those from an Ethnic Minority background, those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, and/or with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities were much more likely to report having been a victim of Harassment and/or a Sexual Offence.



There is a similar trend for those reporting Domestic Abuse, with those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexuality, and those with a physical or mental health condition which reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities more likely to report having been a victim. However, the age profile is different, with predominantly women aged 25-54 years reporting having been a victim of Domestic Abuse within the last year.

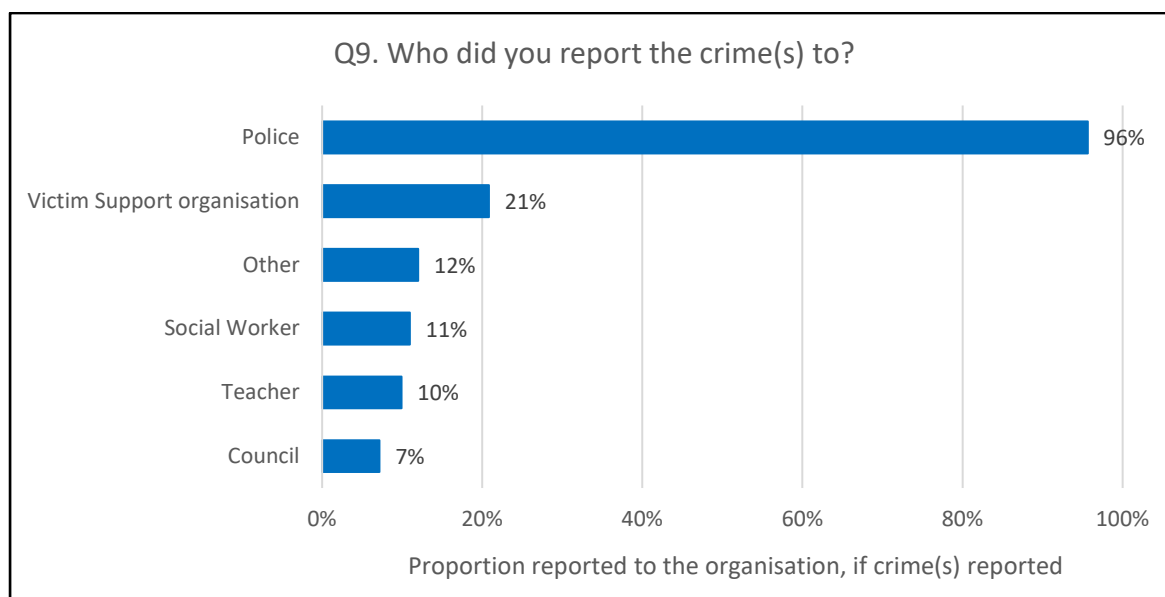
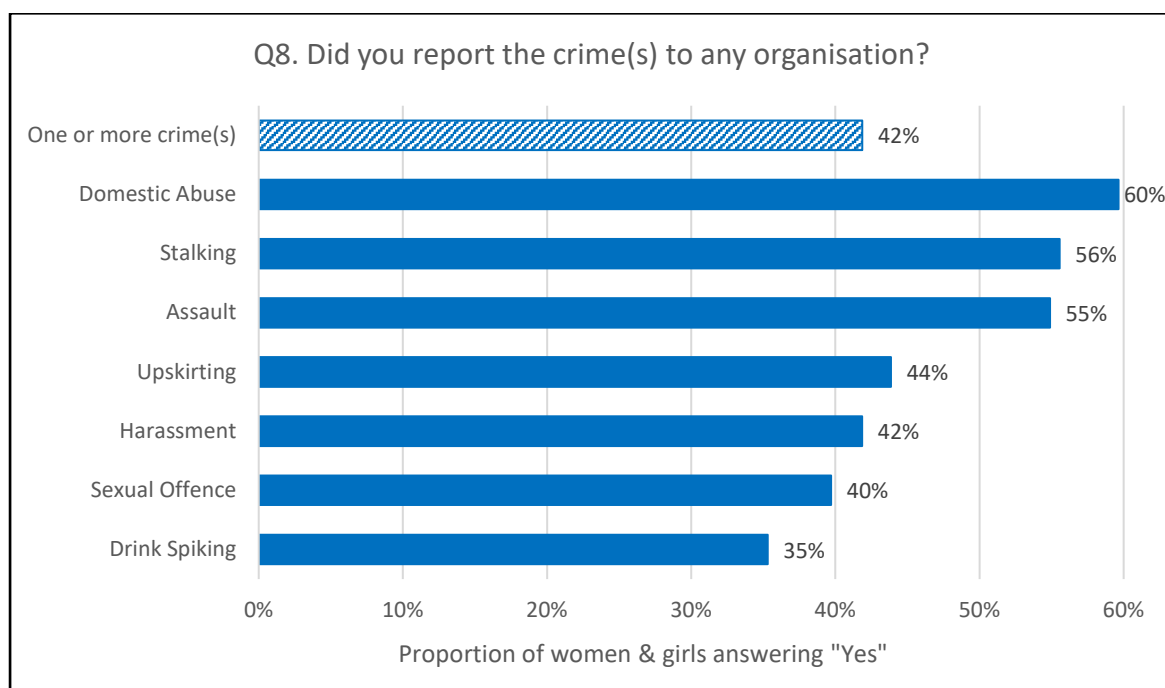
Women and girls from an Ethnic Minority background were less likely to report having been a victim of Domestic Abuse. Apart from cultural reasons, this may be in part due to the fact that the age profile of persons from an Ethnic Minority background is much younger than those from a White background – i.e. around half of the Ethnic Minorities population in the Derbyshire force area is aged 24 years or under (compared to around one quarter of the White population – Census 2011). The reporting rate for those from an Ethnic Minority background is 5%, which is similar to the 6% reporting rate from those aged 24 years and under.



Q8/9. Did you report the crime(s) to any organisation?

Respondents could choose more than one organisation where they had reported the crime(s). Just over two in five women and girls said that they had reported, which is similar to the rates in the CSEW (year ending March 2020, annual trend & demographic tables).

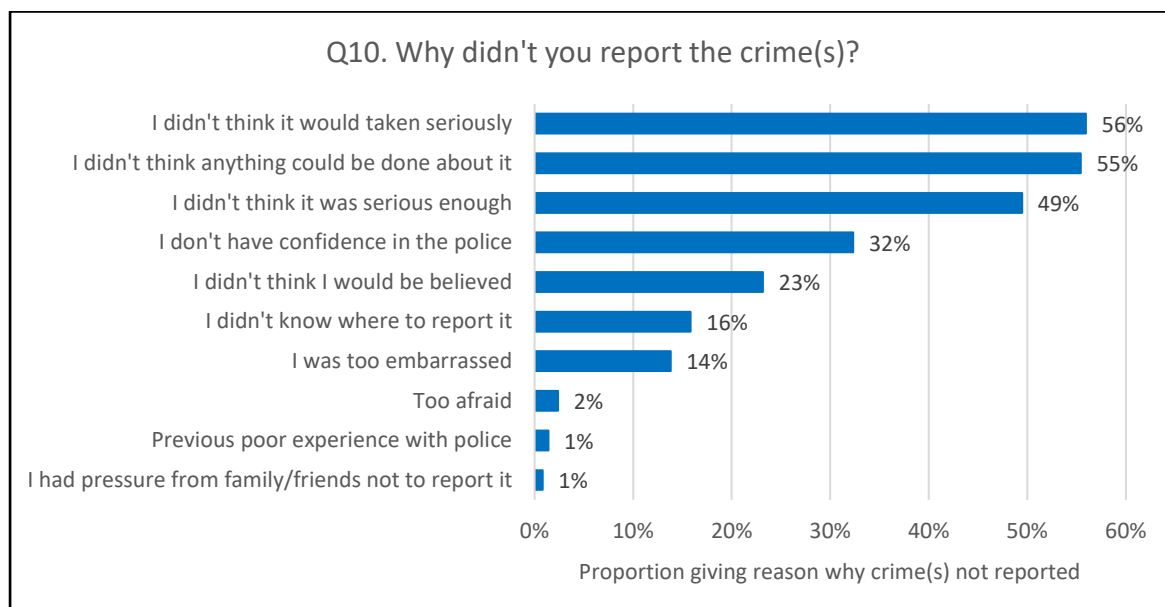
Although the more serious crimes were more likely to have been reported, still more than one third of victims of Domestic Abuse and nearly half of the victims of Stalking and Assault had not reported their crime(s). The vast majority of respondents who had reported the crime(s) reported to the police.



Q10. Why didn't you report the crime(s)?

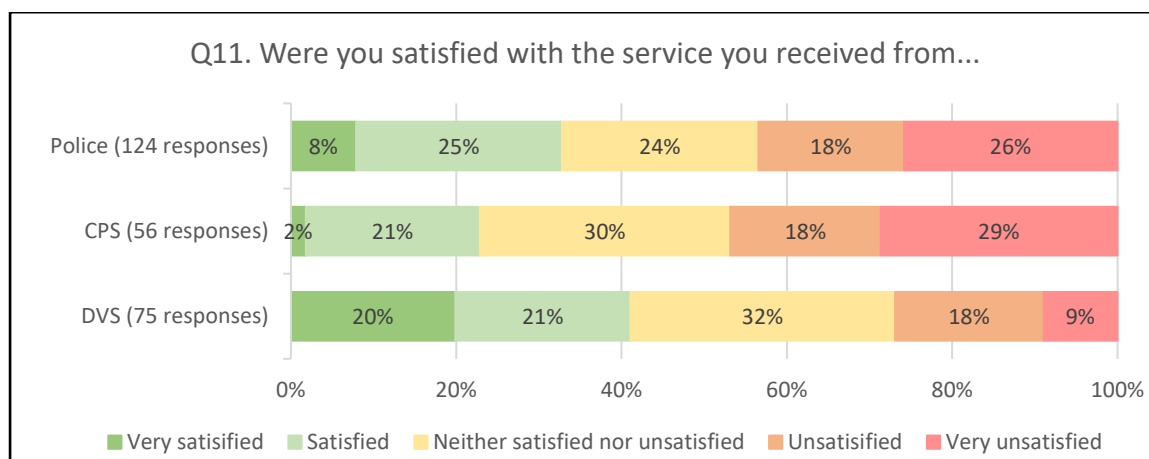
Respondents could choose as many options as applicable. There were not enough responses to enable further analysis of crimes experienced or demographics.

The main reasons given were "I didn't think it would be taken seriously", "I didn't think anything could be done about it" and "I didn't think it was serious enough".



Q11. After reporting, were you satisfied with the service you received from...?

Only a relatively small number of respondents answered this question, and bearing in mind that respondents were self-selected, results should be taken with some caution. There were not enough responses to enable further analysis of crimes experienced or demographics.



Q12/13. Did the Police or the Crown Prosecution Service refer you to any victim support service?

Almost half of respondents stated that they were referred to a victim support service. Thirty-six gave details of the support service(s) and these were split fairly equally between Derbyshire Victim Services (DVS) and various Domestic Abuse organisations.

Q14-19. Do you feel that local agencies, e.g. Derbyshire Police, local councils etc / the Government, could do more to reassure and/or protect you when violent and/or sexual crimes against women and girls take place in your local area / somewhere else in the country (i.e. NOT in your local area)?

Although three separate questions were posed (regarding response by local agencies to local crimes, local response to national crimes and Government response to national crimes), many respondents did not differentiate between local and national responsibilities. Therefore, the themes raised have been grouped together. Around two-thirds of respondents felt more could be done.

Main themes raised

More police officers/ increased police visibility	(374 mentions)
Provide more information on what is being done to protect women & girls	(230 mentions)
Education of men & boys	(223 mentions)
Stricter sentencing/punishments	(210 mentions)
Women & girls reporting crimes to be taken seriously	(179 mentions)
More / better lighting	(139 mentions)
More CCTV	(107 mentions)
More funding for police	(104 mentions)
Ensure victims aren't blamed	(80 mentions)
More protection within the night-time economy	(55 mentions)
Police to be more proactive	(54 mentions)
Quicker response to incidents	(54 mentions)
More information on how to report issues	(35 mentions)
Safe spaces for women	(35 mentions)