

Community Safety Survey 2024

Profile of Respondents

820 respondents

22% parent or carer of child under 18

16% member of an Essex 'Watch'

36% had a disability or impairment

81% live in the area

46% had been a victim of crime

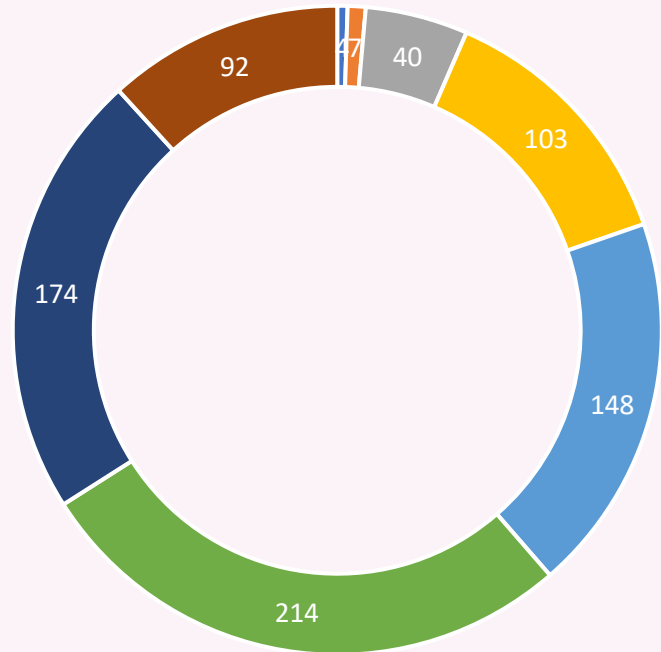
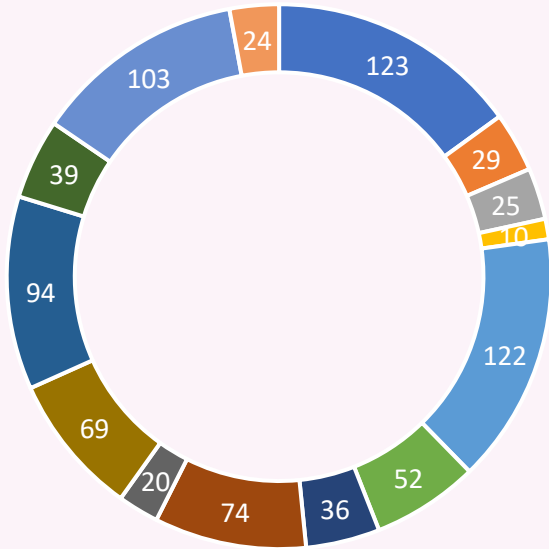
87% White British / Irish



57%



38%



- Basildon
- Braintree
- Brentwood
- Castle Point
- Chelmsford
- Colchester
- Epping Forest
- Harlow
- Maldon
- Rochford
- Southend-on-Sea
- Tendring
- Thurrock
- Uttlesford

- 16-17
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

How worried are you, if at all, that you will experience the following types of crime in the local area?

| Total worried or somewhat worried that they will experience the following types of crime in the local area | | | | | | |
|--|------|-----|------|-------|-----|------|
| Crime Type | 2024 | | | 2023 | | |
| | # | % | Rank | # | % | Rank |
| Burglary | 671 | 84% | 1 | 1,065 | 83% | 1 |
| Theft of your personal belongings | 485 | 61% | 6 | 712 | 56% | 6 |
| Theft of or from your car/motorbike | 666 | 83% | 2 | 1,029 | 81% | 2 |
| Theft of your bicycle or scooter | 392 | 53% | 7 | 577 | 47% | 7 |
| Criminal damage to your home or property | 559 | 69% | 5 | 880 | 69% | 4 |
| Physical assault or robbery | 589 | 73% | 4 | 849 | 66% | 5 |
| Domestic Abuse | 79 | 10% | 10 | 126 | 10% | 10 |
| Sexual harassment or assault | 286 | 37% | 8 | 428 | 34% | 8 |
| Hate crime | 221 | 28% | 9 | 335 | 27% | 9 |
| Fraud and/or scams (online or offline) | 655 | 82% | 3 | 993 | 77% | 3 |

The % of people concerned about crime has increased in all crime types except for Criminal Damage and Domestic Abuse which remain the same. The crimes of most concern remain Burglary, Theft of/from a Vehicle and Fraud. The crimes with the greatest increases in levels of concern are: Physical Assault/Robbery (+6.7pp), Bicycle Theft (+5.1%pp), Theft Person (+4.5pp) and Fraud (+4.5pp).



Concerns vary by crime type and area. However, those from Braintree & Maldon were more likely to be concerned about Acquisitive crimes, and those from Epping & Colchester less concerned. Those from Basildon & Harlow were more likely to be concerned about Violent/Sexual offences and those from Epping, Maldon & Tendring less concerned.

Those who had been a victim of (any) crime in the past 12 months were more likely be worried about becoming a victim of all crime types.

Women were more likely to be worried about all crime types except for Bicycle Theft (men were more worried) and Domestic Abuse (the same).

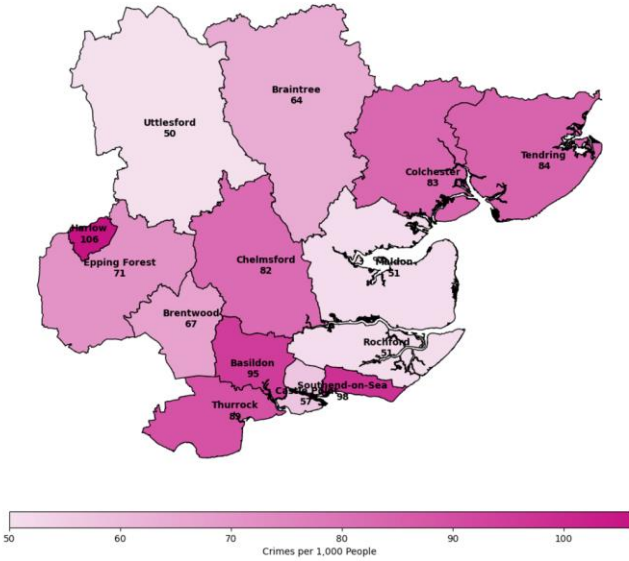
Those in younger age groups were more likely to be worried about Theft Person, Bicycle Theft, Criminal Damage, Assault/Robbery, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Assault and Hate Crime, and less worried about Fraud. Those in older age groups were more likely to be worried about Criminal Damage and Fraud, and less worried about Theft of/from a Vehicle, Bicycle Theft, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Assault and Hate Crime.

Those with a disability were more likely to be worried about Theft Person, Criminal Damage, Assault/Robbery, Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime.

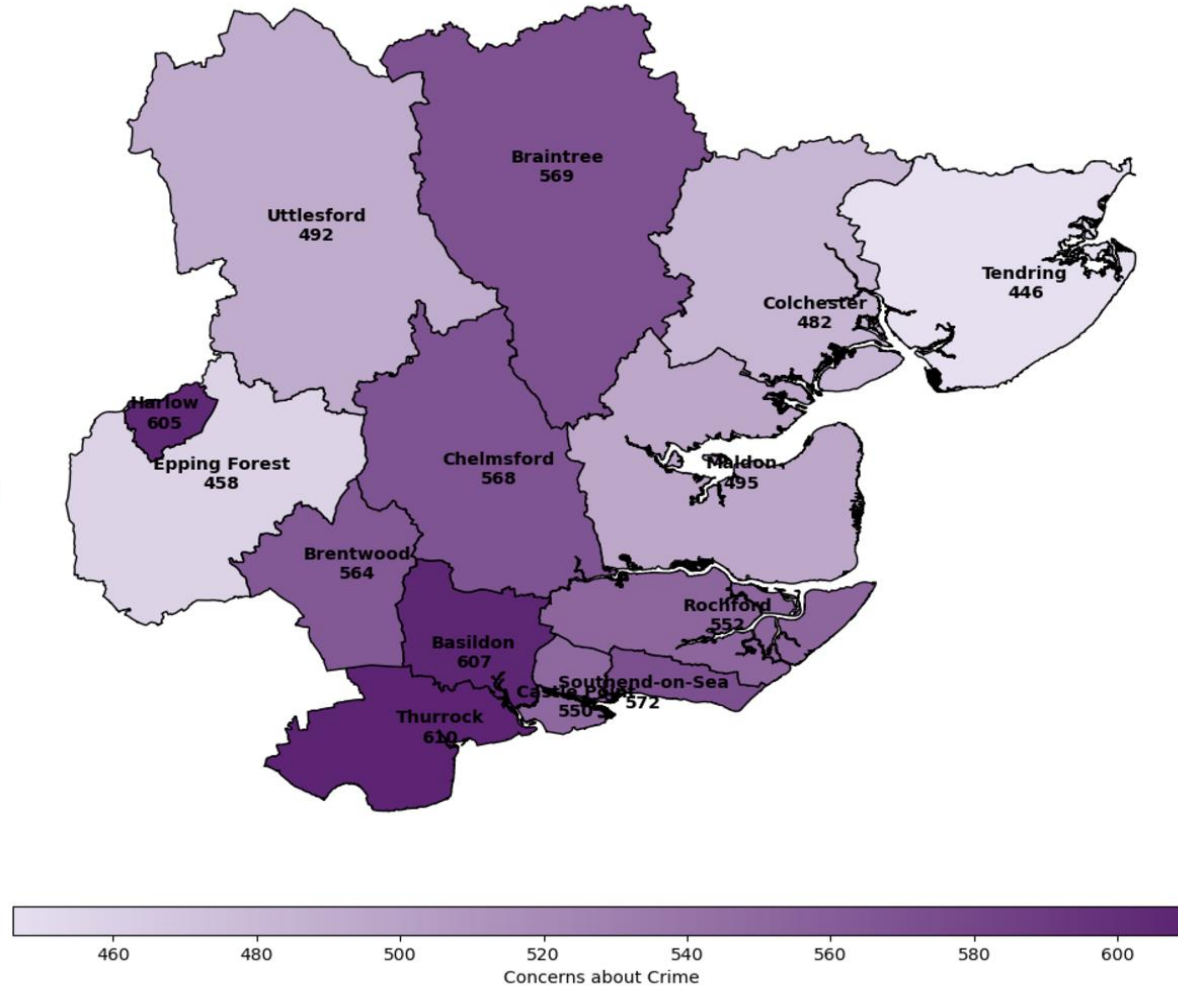
Those concerned about physical assault or robbery also show concern about pickpocketing and Criminal Damage. Similarly, those that express concern for Burglary also express similar concerns for Theft of/from a Vehicle.

Concern About Crime Compared to Crime Rates

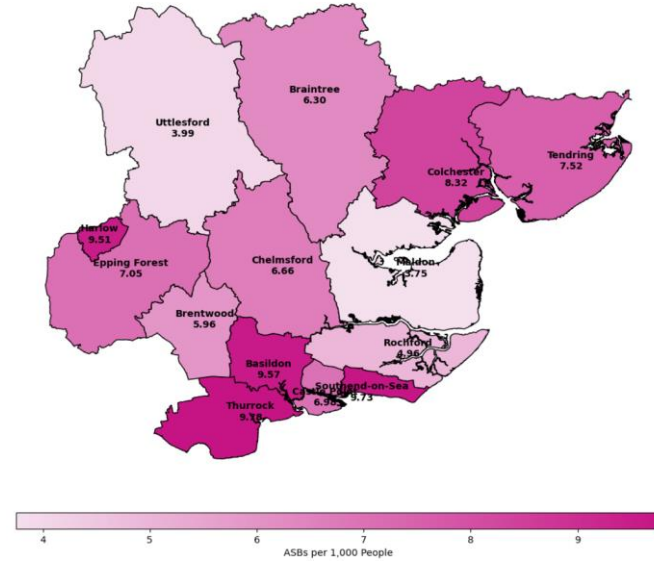
Crime Rate by Areas in Essex



Concern about Crime by Areas in Essex



ASB Rate by Areas in Essex



Areas with high and above average crime rates, such as Harlow, Thurrock, Basildon and Southend also show high levels of public concern. However, Braintree, Rochford, Castle Point and Brentwood show elevated levels of concern despite lower and below average crime rates. Conversely, Tendring shows low levels of concern despite a higher than average crime rate.

Similarly, the areas with highest levels of concern (Harlow, Basildon, Thurrock) also had higher levels of ASB. However, areas such as Colchester, Tendring and Epping Forest had lower levels of concern despite having above average levels of ASB.

Why people are concerned about becoming a victim of crime



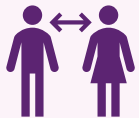
A main reason for concern was having heard about crimes in the area. This was usually through friends/family or local news/social media, but emails sent out by Essex Police or NHW were also mentioned. There was a general feeling that crime rates were increasing, with car crime and burglary the offences most referenced. Harlow, Grays, Basildon and Southend were frequently noted as areas where crime had increased, or respondents felt scared in. There was also concern that crime was 'spreading' into rural areas.



A lack of police presence was also frequent reason for concern, sometimes also referencing the closure of Police stations. There was some criticism of Police spending too much time at community events etc. Many respondents also felt that they had not had a good response (or any) from the Police when they had reported and that 'nothing will be done', especially about theft/ASB/drug dealing. There were also concerns that there were no consequences to act as a deterrent, that they won't get 'caught' or they won't get convicted or would get a lenient sentence.



Having previously been a victim of crime was unsurprisingly a factor in making people concerned. Many also simply just stated that they felt vulnerable, particularly at night, including a lack of/poor street lighting, or if they are in a more rural/isolated environment. Some people mentioned they felt vulnerable because of their personal characteristics, most notably women and older people. Some also mentioned concerns for their children.



The behaviour of others was another key theme in responses. This included groups of people behaving anti-socially or 'suspiciously', drunkenness, cycling/e-scooters on pavements etc. Of note were reports of drug dealing and/or drug taking in areas and the behaviour/people associated with it. This was often also connected with rough sleeping/begging. There were also sentiments around lack of community, people behaving poorly in general/societal issues, and areas feeling run down. There were also references to 'new communities' or people moving to an area 'from London' being to blame, which suggests community cohesion concerns in these areas.



Fraud and scams were also identified as something people were worried about. Concerns were often about the sheer volume of scam text/emails etc they receive and a concern that they will one day fall victim to it because they don't know enough.

Reporting Crime

| Where Victims Reported | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|------|-------------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Crime Type | Didn't Report | | Police | | Council | | Bank/Action Fraud | | Another Agency | |
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Burglary | 13 | 20.3% | 36 | 56.3% | 0 | 0.0% | 13 | 20.3% | 2 | 3.1% |
| Theft of your personal belongings | 18 | 32.7% | 21 | 38.2% | 0 | 0.0% | 11 | 20.0% | 5 | 9.1% |
| Theft of or from your car/motorbike | 14 | 21.2% | 47 | 71.2% | 1 | 1.5% | 2 | 3.0% | 2 | 3.0% |
| Theft of your bicycle or scooter | 15 | 36.6% | 24 | 58.5% | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 2.4% | 23 | 56.1% |
| Criminal damage to your home or property | 63 | 50.0% | 44 | 34.9% | 9 | 7.1% | 2 | 1.6% | 8 | 6.3% |
| Physical assault or robbery | 15 | 34.9% | 23 | 53.5% | 4 | 9.3% | 1 | 2.3% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Domestic Abuse | 12 | 57.1% | 8 | 38.1% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 4.8% |
| Sexual harassment or assault | 23 | 63.9% | 10 | 27.8% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 3 | 8.3% |
| Hate crime | 40 | 55.6% | 22 | 30.6% | 4 | 5.6% | 1 | 1.4% | 5 | 6.9% |
| Fraud and/or scams (online or offline) | 35 | 17.9% | 20 | 10.3% | 0 | 0.0% | 112 | 57.4% | 28 | 14.4% |



The % of people who had been a victim recently has increased across all categories. In total, 46% had been a victim of at least 1 crime type, compared to 28% last year. This is counter to reductions seen in most these crime types and is therefore more likely a reflection of who has completed the survey. Those with greatest increases in victims were Fraud (+15.2pp), Criminal Damage (+7.9pp) and Hate Crime (+6.2pp).

Victims were more likely to report Acquisitive Crimes, Physical Assault and Fraud. They were less likely to report Criminal Damage, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Assault and Hate Crime.



Where people reported, they were most likely to be satisfied with the response if they reported to Action Fraud/Bank (75%) or Another Agency (48%) than if they reported to the Police (32%) or Council (13%).



For those who didn't report, the main reason for not doing so was 'I did not believe anything would be done' (60%), followed by 'Fear or Reprisal' (15%) and 'Too Time Consuming' (11%). Those replying 'other' had a similar concern about lack of resolution, particularly in relation to Housing Associations.

Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour

| Have you seen the following in the local area in the last 12 months and, if yes, did you report it? | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|----------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| ASB Type | Haven't Seen | | Police | | Council | | Another Agency | | Didn't Answer | |
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| Aggressive begging | 488 | 59.5% | 37 | 4.5% | 40 | 4.9% | 84 | 10.2% | 171 | 20.9% |
| Criminal Damage in public spaces | 381 | 46.5% | 55 | 6.7% | 85 | 10.4% | 95 | 11.6% | 204 | 24.9% |
| Drunken behaviour | 364 | 44.4% | 55 | 6.7% | 36 | 4.4% | 129 | 15.7% | 236 | 28.8% |
| Fly tipping | 287 | 35.0% | 16 | 2.0% | 245 | 29.9% | 88 | 10.7% | 184 | 22.4% |
| Graffiti | 424 | 51.7% | 10 | 1.2% | 86 | 10.5% | 66 | 8.0% | 234 | 28.5% |
| Groups hanging around and being a nuisance | 296 | 36.1% | 103 | 12.6% | 53 | 6.5% | 144 | 17.6% | 224 | 27.3% |
| Inconsiderate parking | 237 | 28.9% | 28 | 3.4% | 140 | 17.1% | 153 | 18.7% | 262 | 32.0% |
| Nuisance neighbours | 434 | 52.9% | 32 | 3.9% | 70 | 8.5% | 50 | 6.1% | 234 | 28.5% |
| People using drugs / evidence of drug taking | 291 | 35.5% | 124 | 15.1% | 45 | 5.5% | 126 | 15.4% | 234 | 28.5% |
| Off road motorbike nuisance | 388 | 47.3% | 65 | 7.9% | 38 | 4.6% | 86 | 10.5% | 243 | 29.6% |
| Speeding | 271 | 33.0% | 82 | 10.0% | 55 | 6.7% | 137 | 16.7% | 275 | 33.5% |
| Street racing / car cruising | 442 | 53.9% | 46 | 5.6% | 17 | 2.1% | 54 | 6.6% | 261 | 31.8% |



Note: An error was made in the survey which meant that the question did not give people an option to say that they had seen an ASB type but did not report it. Whilst those who 'didn't answer' could be seen as a proxy for those that did not report this is not reliable. The % of responses for 'Other Agency' is significantly higher than the previous year (approx. 2%) which can also suggest that respondents may have used that answer where they hadn't reported. For this reason, analysis of this question should be taken with caution.



Where people reported, they were most likely to be satisfied with the response if they reported to Another Agency (41%) or to the Council (40%) than if they reported to the Police (29%).



For those who didn't report, the main reason for not doing so was 'I did not believe anything would be done' (53%), followed by 'Fear of Reprisal' (14%), 'Didn't Know Where/How To Report' (13%) and 'Too Time Consuming' (12%). For those answering 'other', a lack of follow-up from agencies/perceived inaction was a common theme.

Radicalisation

How confident are you that you would be able to spot the signs that indicate someone you know is being radicalised?

| Confidence Level | 2024 | | 2023 | |
|----------------------|------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | # | % | # | % |
| Very confident | 153 | 19.1% | 178 | 13.7% |
| Fairly confident | 389 | 48.5% | 617 | 47.6% |
| Not very confident | 96 | 12.0% | 368 | 28.4% |
| Not confident at all | 164 | 20.4% | 133 | 10.3% |
| Total | 802 | | 1,296 | |
| Total Confident | 542 | 67.6% | 795 | 61.3% |
| Total Not Confident | 260 | 32.4% | 501 | 38.7% |

How confident are you that you would know where to get help if you were worried that someone was becoming radicalised/ holding extreme views?

| Confidence Level | 2024 | | 2023 | |
|----------------------|------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | # | % | # | % |
| Very confident | 152 | 19.0% | 190 | 14.7% |
| Fairly confident | 277 | 34.5% | 420 | 32.4% |
| Not very confident | 150 | 18.7% | 441 | 34.0% |
| Not confident at all | 223 | 27.8% | 245 | 18.9% |
| Total | 802 | | 1,296 | |
| Total Confident | 429 | 53.5% | 610 | 47.1% |
| Total Not Confident | 373 | 46.5% | 686 | 52.9% |



Levels of confidence varied between areas but those in Brentwood & Uttlesford had lower levels of confidence in both measures, whereas those in Braintree, Castle Point, Southend & Tendring had higher levels of confidence.

Levels of confidence were similar between males and females and between those who had a disability and those who did not.

Those in younger age groups were more confident in both measures than those in older age groups.

Parents were more confident than non-parents in both measures, but this may be a reflection on them being in the younger age groups.

Overall, levels of confidence in both measures have increased from the previous year.

However, the % of those who are 'Not Confident At All' has increased in both measures.

Modern Slavery

How confident are you that you would be able to spot the signs that someone might be the victim of modern slavery?

| Confidence Level | 2024 | | 2023 | |
|----------------------|------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | # | % | # | % |
| Very confident | 108 | 13.4% | 131 | 10.1% |
| Fairly confident | 343 | 42.7% | 517 | 40.0% |
| Not very confident | 105 | 13.1% | 498 | 38.5% |
| Not confident at all | 247 | 30.8% | 148 | 11.4% |
| Total | 803 | | 1,294 | |
| Total Confident | 451 | 56.2% | 648 | 50.1% |
| Total Not Confident | 352 | 43.8% | 646 | 49.9% |

How confident are you that you would you know where to report any concerns that you think someone might be the victim of modern slavery?

| Confidence Level | 2024 | | 2023 | |
|----------------------|------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | # | % | # | % |
| Very confident | 161 | 20.0% | 186 | 14.4% |
| Fairly confident | 295 | 36.7% | 444 | 34.3% |
| Not very confident | 152 | 18.9% | 431 | 33.3% |
| Not confident at all | 196 | 24.4% | 232 | 17.9% |
| Total | 804 | | 1,293 | |
| Total Confident | 456 | 56.7% | 630 | 48.7% |
| Total Not Confident | 348 | 43.3% | 663 | 51.3% |



Levels of confidence varied between areas but those in Brentwood had lower levels of confidence in both measures, whereas those in Braintree and Castle Point had higher levels of confidence.

Levels of confidence were similar between males and females and between those who had a disability and those who did not.

Those in younger age groups were more confident in both measures than those in older age groups.

Parents were more confident than non-parents in both measures, but this may be a reflection on them being in the younger age groups.

Overall, levels of confidence in both measures have increased from the previous year.

However, the % of those who are 'Not Confident At All' has increased in both measures.

Parent's concerns and access to information

| Issue | All Ages | | Aged 0-10 | | Aged 11-17 | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | Very / Somewhat Concerned | Have Enough Info | Very / Somewhat Concerned | Have Enough Info | Very / Somewhat Concerned | Have Enough Info |
| Gangs/County Lines | 49% | 66% | 49% | 64% | 49% | 67% |
| Hate Crime | 40% | 77% | 39% | 72% | 42% | 80% |
| Knife Crime | 77% | 70% | 74% | 67% | 79% | 73% |
| Grooming | 60% | 77% | 57% | 72% | 63% | 81% |
| Sexual harassment | 62% | 77% | 57% | 75% | 60% | 79% |
| Online Exploitation / exposure to harmful content | 77% | 78% | 71% | 77% | 82% | 79% |
| Drug Use | 46% | 80% | 53% | 78% | 40% | 83% |
| Alcohol Use | 52% | 85% | 49% | 80% | 50% | 89% |
| Vaping/Smoking | 58% | 80% | 47% | 75% | 52% | 84% |
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 53% | 78% | 33% | 72% | 42% | 83% |



Knife crime was the area that parents consistently across all age groups felt concerned about, yet felt they did not have enough information/advice to speak to their children about. They also felt they did not have enough information/advice about Gangs/County Lines, which can be linked to concerns about Knife Crime. Grooming, Sexual Harassment and Online Exploitation were also consistently of concern across all age groups. Parents from Basildon, Southend and Harlow were least likely to feel that had enough information.



Female parents showed higher levels of concern than male parents across all categories except ASB. They showed heightened concerns around Grooming, Sexual Harassment and Online Exploitation.



When asked where they went to for information on how to keep their children safe, 50% of parents said family/friends, followed by their school/nursery (44%). Online searches were often used via Charity websites (e.g. NSPCC, Children's Society) (39%), NHS (28%), Council (23%) and Police (23%).

What should be a priority for the council, Police and other agencies to tackle in the local area? (Top 5)



The top 5 priorities in 2024 are People using or Dealing Drugs (47.4%), Knife Crime (44.1%), Gangs/County Lines (41.7%), Burglary (36.0%) and Fly Tipping (32.7%).

This has not changed since 2023, with the exception that Theft Of/From Motor Vehicles 'tied' with Fly Tipping.

There were smaller numbers of 'other' priorities this year and no real trend, although concerns about e-scooters came up in a few responses.

| Priority Area | 2024 | | | 2023 | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------|------|--------------|-------|------|
| | # | % | Rank | # | % | Rank |
| Aggressive Begging | 92 | 11.2% | 18 | 331 | 25.7% | 22 |
| Burglary | 295 | 36.0% | 4 | 808 | 62.8% | 4 |
| Criminal Damage | 164 | 20.0% | 11 | 647 | 50.3% | 8 |
| Domestic Abuse | 122 | 14.9% | 15 | 499 | 38.8% | 13 |
| Drunken Behaviour | 101 | 12.3% | 17 | 471 | 36.6% | 14 |
| Fly Tipping | 268 | 32.7% | 5 | 673 | 52.3% | 6 |
| Fraud and/or Scams | 136 | 16.6% | 14 | 528 | 41.1% | 11 |
| Gangs/County Lines | 342 | 41.7% | 3 | 814 | 63.3% | 3 |
| Graffiti | 30 | 3.7% | 32 | 242 | 18.8% | 23 |
| Groups Hanging Around | 250 | 30.5% | 6 | 596 | 46.3% | 9 |
| Hate Crime | 75 | 9.1% | 20 | 456 | 35.5% | 15 |
| Inconsiderate Parking | 155 | 18.9% | 12 | New for 2024 | | |
| Knife Crime | 362 | 44.1% | 2 | 817 | 63.5% | 2 |
| Modern Slavery | 50 | 6.1% | 26 | 390 | 30.3% | 20 |
| Nuisance Neighbours | 72 | 8.8% | 21 | 340 | 26.4% | 21 |
| Off Road Motorbike Nuisance | 75 | 9.1% | 20 | 395 | 30.7% | 19 |
| Online Exploitation | 54 | 6.6% | 25 | New for 2024 | | |
| People Using or Dealing Drugs | 389 | 47.4% | 1 | 921 | 71.6% | 1 |
| Physical Assault or Robbery | 181 | 22.1% | 8 | 670 | 52.1% | 7 |
| Preventing Terrorism | 61 | 7.4% | 23 | 433 | 33.7% | 16 |
| Road Safety | 138 | 16.8% | 13 | New for 2024 | | |
| Sexual Harassment or Assault | Reworded as VAWG 2024 | | | 562 | 43.7% | 10 |
| Shoplifting | 104 | 12.7% | 16 | New for 2024 | | |
| Speeding | 164 | 20.0% | 11 | New for 2024 | | |
| Street Racing / Car Cruising | 66 | 8.0% | 22 | 519 | 40.4% | 12 |
| Theft of Bicycles or Scooters | 41 | 5.0% | 29 | 429 | 33.4% | 17 |
| Theft Of or From Cars/Motorbikes | 168 | 20.5% | 9 | 673 | 52.3% | 6 |
| Theft of personal belongings (pick pocketing) | 45 | 5.5% | 27 | 414 | 32.2% | 18 |
| Underage Drinking | 36 | 4.4% | 31 | New for 2024 | | |
| Underage Smoking / Vaping | 55 | 6.7% | 24 | New for 2024 | | |
| Violence Against Women & Girls | 192 | 23.4% | 7 | New for 2024 | | |
| Water Safety | 39 | 4.8% | 30 | New for 2024 | | |
| Other | 43 | 5.2% | 28 | 67 | 5.2% | 24 |

How people stay informed about crime & ASB & what local services are doing to tackle it

| Method | # | % |
|--|-----|-----|
| Local social media pages/influencers (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.) | 480 | 59% |
| Essex Police's website/social media | 397 | 48% |
| Your local council's website/social media | 330 | 40% |
| Word of mouth | 275 | 34% |
| Local newspaper (print or website) | 218 | 27% |
| Community newsletter/bulletin | 182 | 22% |
| Local radio/TV | 127 | 15% |
| Neighbourhood Watch | 117 | 14% |
| Local councillors | 95 | 12% |
| Local WhatsApp group | 89 | 11% |
| NextDoor app | 86 | 10% |
| Local Policing Team | 77 | 9% |
| Residents'/Tenants' Association | 36 | 4% |
| Other | 32 | 4% |
| Another 'Essex Watch' e.g. Farm Watch, Business Watch | 15 | 2% |



Social media/websites were how most people kept informed, with people slightly more likely to get this information from accounts other than the Police and Council.

Unsurprisingly, younger age groups were more likely to stay informed via social media and informal networks, whereas older age groups preferred traditional media.

Women were more likely to get information from social media, council platforms, and word of mouth whereas men were more likely to do so from traditional media and Residents'/Tenants' Associations.

Word of mouth was a significant factor across all demographics.

Concern about road behaviours

| Statement | Strongly Agree / Agree | | Disagree/Strongly Agree | |
|---|------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| | # | % | # | % |
| Generally, cars or other vehicles are driven too fast | 596 | 74% | 212 | 26% |
| Cars or other vehicles are driven too fast near schools | 585 | 74% | 210 | 26% |
| Generally, cars or other vehicles are driven at safe speeds in areas where there are a lot of pedestrians | 394 | 50% | 401 | 50% |
| Cars or other vehicles parked on pavements are a safety hazard | 689 | 86% | 113 | 14% |
| Roads are safe for cyclists to use | 329 | 41% | 474 | 59% |
| Children are safe crossing the roads | 363 | 46% | 434 | 54% |
| There are not enough cycle lanes and routes | 424 | 54% | 367 | 46% |
| I feel safe crossing the roads | 544 | 67% | 264 | 33% |
| I worry about the safety of other family members walking, wheeling or cycling | 495 | 63% | 296 | 37% |
| The roads and pavements are not easy to navigate for disabled people | 607 | 76% | 187 | 24% |
| I worry about people not wearing their seatbelts in cars | 274 | 35% | 512 | 65% |
| Poorly maintained roads create safety risks for road users | 790 | 97% | 21 | 3% |
| Poor street lighting is a road safety issue | 623 | 78% | 174 | 22% |
| People driving when using their mobile phones are a road safety issue | 777 | 96% | 33 | 4% |
| People driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs are a road safety issue | 784 | 97% | 25 | 3% |



Whilst 67% felt safe crossing the road, only 41% felt that the roads are safe for cyclists to use and only 46% felt that children are safe crossing the roads.

When looking at road safety issues, 97% felt that poorly maintained roads were an issue, 97% that people under the influence of alcohol/drugs were an issue, and 96% that people driving when using their mobile phones was an issue.

Feelings of safety on our roads

| Mode of Transport | Very Safe / Safe | | Very Unsafe / Unsafe | |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| | # | % | # | % |
| Walking | 517 | 65% | 278 | 35% |
| Cycling | 133 | 40% | 199 | 60% |
| Using a wheelchair | 16 | 24% | 51 | 76% |
| Riding a horse | 6 | 18% | 28 | 82% |
| Using a mobility scooter | 13 | 26% | 37 | 74% |
| Driving a car | 564 | 79% | 152 | 21% |
| Travelling by bus | 355 | 81% | 81 | 19% |
| Riding a motorcycle | 45 | 83% | 9 | 17% |



When walking, people from Braintree, Maldon & Uttlesford felt safest, whereas those from Basildon, Epping Forest & Harlow felt least safe. Men were more likely to feel safe than women. Those with a disability were slightly less likely to feel safe than those without a disability. Those in older age groups were more likely to feel safe than those in younger age groups.



When cycling, people from Castle Point, Rochford & Southend felt safest, whereas those from Colchester, Epping Forest & Uttlesford felt least safe. Men were more likely to feel safe than women. Those with a disability were less likely to feel safe than those without a disability. Feelings of safety were similar across age groups.



When driving a car, people from Castle Point, Rochford & Uttlesford felt safest, whereas those from Brentwood, Southend & Thurrock felt least safe. Men were more likely to feel safe than women. Those with a disability were slightly less likely to feel safe than those without a disability. Those in older age groups were more likely to feel safe than those in younger age groups.



When travelling by bus, people from Braintree, Colchester & Uttlesford felt safest, whereas those from Southend, Tendring and Thurrock felt least safe. Men were more likely to feel safe than women. Those with a disability were less likely to feel safe than those without a disability. Those in older age groups were more likely to feel safe than those in younger age groups.



When riding a motorcycle, people from Braintree, Brentford, Rochford & Tendring felt safest, whereas those from Chelmsford, Harlow & Thurrock felt least safe. Men were more slightly likely to feel safe than women. Those with a disability were less likely to feel safe than those without a disability. Those in older age groups were more likely to feel safe than those in younger age groups.

Why people don't feel safe on our roads



Concerns about personal safety (crime/ASB) were the main reason why people felt unsafe when walking or on public transport. Poor/lack of street lighting was sometimes referenced as part of this concern.



Speeding was the main concern out of all road users, alongside those not necessarily speeding but driving too fast for the road / road conditions. This was followed by more general concerns about poor/aggressive driving (e.g. tailgating, not stopping at crossings, not following the highway code) and a belief that these sort of behaviours were not being enforced.



The maintenance of both roads and pavements was a top concern for all road users. Those walking were worried about tripping over as a result of poor conditions, often also noting lack of lighting contributing to this. Drivers were worried about damage to their vehicles from potholes. All users had safety concerns about drivers swerving to avoid potholes.



Those walking were also concerned about poor parking, particularly on pavements and on junctions/corners, especially amongst those using wheelchairs or with pushchairs. They were also fearful of people riding bikes/scooters on pavements, especially where they are narrow or poorly maintained. There were also concerns for safety in areas where there were a lack of pavements or narrow pavements.



For cyclists there was a general concern about a lack of respect from drivers not giving them enough space, tailgating them or overtaking dangerously. There were also concerns for safety in areas where there were a lack of cycle paths.

What do you think local agencies should prioritise to make roads safer?

| Priority Area | # | % | Rank |
|--|-----|-------|------|
| Managing speeds through speed enforcement (e.g. through police stops and safety cameras) | 304 | 37.1% | 2 |
| Managing speeds through speed limit reductions | 163 | 19.9% | 8 |
| Separate facilities for pedestrians and cyclists | 180 | 22.0% | 7 |
| Supporting communities to encourage safe speeds (eg. Community Speed watch) | 100 | 12.2% | 14 |
| Designing roads so all road users are clear as to how they should be used | 215 | 26.2% | 3 |
| Using police enforcement to make sure that all road users comply with traffic laws | 313 | 38.2% | 1 |
| Improving street lighting | 207 | 25.2% | 4 |
| Providing more safe places for pedestrians to cross | 203 | 24.8% | 5 |
| Improving access for disabled people (e.g. dropped kerbs) | 157 | 19.1% | 10 |
| Creating more pedestrianised zones | 87 | 10.6% | 15 |
| Creating more cycling lanes | 118 | 14.4% | 13 |
| Making drivers more aware of the consequences of driving over the speed limit | 144 | 17.6% | 11 |
| Working with schools/parents to help children/young people learn how to stay safe on the roads | 198 | 24.1% | 6 |
| Working with schools/parents to help teach young drivers how to stay safe on the roads | 160 | 19.5% | 9 |
| Other | 119 | 14.5% | 12 |



The top 5 priorities in 2024 are People using or Police enforcement of traffic laws (38.2%), Speed enforcement (37.1%), road design (26.2%), street lighting (25.2%) and pedestrian crossings (24.8%)

The majority of 'other' responses referenced maintenance/potholes. Problematic parking (especially on pavements), traffic/parking around schools and the need for more enforcement were other key themes. There were some who felt there was too much focus on others, but a similar amount who wanted more speed reduction measures put in place.