

Community Safety Survey 2023

Profile of Respondents

1,304 respondents

26% parent or carer of child under 18

23% member of an Essex 'Watch'

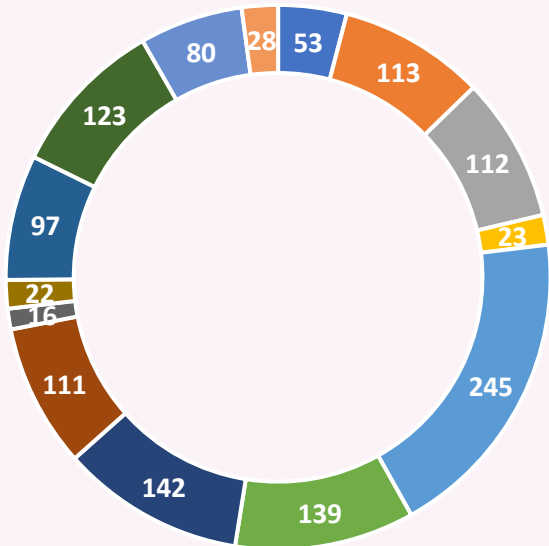
17% had a disability or impairment

81% lived in the area

28% had been a victim of crime

87% White British / Irish

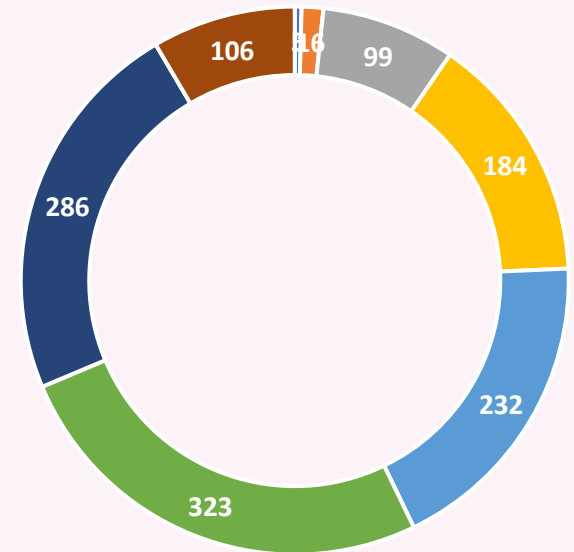
- Basildon
- Braintree
- Brentwood
- Castle Point
- Chelmsford
- Colchester
- Epping Forest
- Harlow
- Maldon
- Rochford
- Southend-on-Sea
- Tendring
- Thurrock
- Uttlesford



61%



35%



- 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

Crime Type	Worried or Somewhat Worried	
	#	%
Burglary	1,065	83%
Theft of or from your car/motorbike	1,029	81%
Fraud and/or scams	993	77%
Criminal damage to your home or property	880	69%
Physical assault or robbery	849	66%
Theft of your personal belongings	712	56%
Theft of your bicycle or scooter	577	47%
Sexual harassment or assault	428	34%
Hate crime	335	27%
Domestic Abuse	126	10%



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



Those answering about Basildon, Thurrock, Chelmsford and Harlow were more worried about becoming a victim. Those answering about Maldon, Tendring, Colchester and Uttlesford were less worried.



Those in younger age groups were more likely to be worried about becoming a victim than those in older age groups. Younger people were more worried about physical or sexual assault whereas older people were more worried about fraud/scams.



Those with a disability/impairment were notably more likely to be worried about becoming a victim of most crime types, notably theft of personal belongings, physical assault/robbery and hate crime.



Concern about crime varied by crime type across ethnicities, with small differences for most. Notably, those from minority ethnic groups were more worried about hate crime, sexual harassment/assault and theft of bicycle/scooter.



Women were more likely than men to be worried about being a victim all crime types except theft of personal belongings and domestic abuse.

Victims of crime in the area in the last 12 months?

Crime Type	Have Been A Victim	
	#	%
Fraud and/or scams	132	10%
Criminal damage to your home or property	116	9%
Theft of or from your car/motorbike	78	6%
Hate crime	45	3%
Burglary	36	3%
Physical assault or robbery	31	2%
Theft of your personal belongings	22	2%
Sexual harassment or assault	22	2%
Theft of your bicycle or scooter	19	1%
Domestic Abuse	9	1%

**28% of respondents have been a victim of crime.
Of these 72% had been a victim on 1 crime, 22% of 2 crimes.**



The areas with the highest number of respondents who had been victims were Chelmsford, Epping Forest, Harlow and Tendring. Uttlesford, whilst small in volume, had a similarly high number in proportion to the total respondents.



Proportionately, the rate of victimisation decreased with age. Those in younger age groups were more likely to have been a victim of physical assault/robbery, sexual harassment/assault and hate crime. Those in older age groups were more likely to have been a victim of fraud/scams.



Those with a disability/impairment were more likely to have been a victim of crime types and a victim more than once. They were notably more likely to have been a victim of criminal damage, hate crime and fraud.



Those from minority ethnic groups were more likely to have been a victim more than once. Levels of victimisation varied by crime type across ethnicities, with small differences for all except hate crime.



Proportionately, men were more likely than women to have been a victim of all crime types except theft of personal belongings and sexual harassment/assault. Men were also more likely to have been a victim more than once.

Crime reporting

If you were a victim, did you report it?

Answer	#	%
Yes – to the Police	196	45%
Yes – to the Council	19	4%
Yes – to another agency	60	14%
No	157	36%

} **64% reported**

70% of those reporting to another agency reported to their bank or Action Fraud

How satisfied are you with how your report was responded to?

Satisfaction level	#	%
Very satisfied	42	15%
Fairly satisfied	75	27%
Not very satisfied	77	28%
Not satisfied at all	79	29%

} **43% satisfied**

66% reporting to other agencies were satisfied with how their report was responded to compared to 37% reporting to the Police and 32% reporting to the council.

Why didn't you report?

Reason	#	%
I didn't believe anything would/could be done about it	112	71%
Too time consuming/inconvenient to report	28	18%
Prefer not to say	13	08%
Other	12	08%
Fear of reprisal	10	06%
I didn't know how/where to report	8	05%

Seen anti-social behaviour in the area in last 12 months

ASB Type	Have Seen	
	#	%
Fly tipping	760	58%
Groups hanging around	730	56%
People using drugs / evidence of drug taking	727	56%
Vehicle nuisance: street racing / car cruising	650	50%
Drunken behaviour	637	49%
Criminal damage in public spaces	549	42%
Graffiti	485	37%
Vehicle nuisance: off road motorbike nuisance	391	30%
Aggressive begging	315	24%
Nuisance neighbours	284	22%

92% of respondents had seen some form of anti-social behaviour. Of these, 90% had seen more than one type, 49% had seen five or more different types.



The areas with the highest number of respondents who had been seen ASB were Basildon, Epping Forest and Thurrock. Those responding about Basildon, Chelmsford, Southend and Thurrock were more likely to have seen five or more types of ASB.



There was little difference in proportions who had seen ASB, or seen more than five types, when looking at most demographics. The exception being that those in the 65+ age group were less likely to have seen ASB, particularly less likely to have seen 5 or more different types.

ASB reporting

If you did see ASB, did you report it?		
Answer	#	%
Yes – to the Police	193	18%
Yes – to the Council	171	16%
Yes – to another agency	20	2%
No	718	65%

} **35% reported**

How satisfied are you with how your report was responded to?		
Satisfaction level	#	%
Very satisfied	33	9%
Fairly satisfied	88	24%
Not very satisfied	124	34%
Not satisfied at all	125	34%

} **33% satisfied**

26% reporting to the Police were satisfied with how their report was responded to compared to 40% reporting to the council.

Why didn't you report?		
Reason	#	%
I didn't believe anything would/could be done about it	527	73%
I didn't know how/where to report	133	19%
Too time consuming/inconvenient to report	103	14%
Other	68	9%
Fear of reprisal	67	9%
Prefer not to say	30	4%

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

People Using or Dealing Drugs	921	71.6%
Knife Crime	817	63.5%
Gangs/County Lines	814	63.3%
Burglary	808	62.8%
Fly Tipping	673	52.3%
Theft Of or From Cars/Motorbikes	673	52.3%
Physical Assault or Robbery	670	52.1%
Criminal Damage	647	50.3%
Groups Hanging Around	596	46.3%
Sexual Harassment or Assault	562	43.7%
Fraud and/or Scams	528	41.1%
Vehicle Nuisance: Street Racing / Car Cruising	519	40.4%
Domestic Abuse	499	38.8%
Drunken Behaviour	471	36.6%
Hate Crime	456	35.5%
Preventing Terrorism	433	33.7%
Theft of Bicycles or Scooters	429	33.4%
Theft of personal belongings (pick pocketing)	414	32.2%
Vehicle Nuisance: Off Road Motorbike Nuisance	395	30.7%
Modern Slavery	390	30.3%
Nuisance Neighbours	340	26.4%
Aggressive Begging	331	25.7%
Graffiti	242	18.8%
Other	67	5.2%

Radicalisation

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

Very confident	14%	} 61% confident
Fairly confident	48%	
Not very confident	28%	} 39% not confident
Not confident at all	10%	



Men (63%) were slightly more confident than women (61%).



Those aged 65+ were least confident (48%). Those aged 25-34 were most confident (70%).



Confidence was the same for those who have a disability/impairment and those who do not (61%).



Parents (70%) were more confident than non-parents (58%). Confidence in parents was similar for those with children aged 0-10 (68%) and 11+ (71%).



Those from a White British/Irish background (34%) were less confident than those from other ethnic groups (70%).

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

Very confident	15%	} 47% confident
Fairly confident	32%	
Not very confident	34%	} 53% not confident
Not confident at all	19%	



Women (45%) were more confident than men (28%).



Those aged 65+ were least confident (37%). Those aged 45-54 were most confident (58%).



Confidence was similar for those who have a disability / impairment (47%) and those who do not (46%).



Confidence was similar for parents (49%) and non-parents (46%). Confidence in parents was similar for those with children aged 0-10 (46%) and 11+ (49%).



Those from a White British/Irish background (47%) were slightly less confident than those from other ethnic groups (49%).

Modern Slavery

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

Very confident	10%	} 50% confident
Fairly confident	40%	
Not very confident	39%	} 50% not confident
Not confident at all	11%	



Women (51%) were slightly more confident than men (48%).



Those aged 65+ were least confident (36%). Those aged 35-44 and 45-54 were most confident (59%).



Those with a disability / impairment (45%) were less confident than those without (52%).



Parents (60%) were more confident than non-parents (47%). Confidence in parents was similar for those with children aged 0-10 (61%) and 11+ (63%).



Those from a White British/Irish background (49%) were less confident than those from other ethnic groups (57%).

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?

Very confident	15%	} 49% confident
Fairly confident	34%	
Not very confident	33%	} 51% not confident
Not confident at all	18%	



Men (52%) were more confident than women (47%).



Those aged 65+ were least confident (41%). Those aged 45-54 were most confident (58%).



Those with a disability / impairment (46%) were less confident than those without (50%).



Confidence was similar with parents (50%) and non-parents (48%). Confidence in parents was similar for those with children aged 0-10 (48%) and 11+ (52%).



Those from a White British/Irish background (48%) were slightly less confident than those from other ethnic groups (50%).

Parent's concerns and access to information

Issue	All Ages		Aged 0 -5		Aged 11-17	
	Very/Somewh at Concerned	Have Enough Info	Very/Somewh at Concerned	Have Enough Info	Very/Somewh at Concerned	Have Enough Info
Gangs/County Lines	49%	67%	49%	59%	54%	73%
Hate Crime	42%	73%	41%	67%	47%	77%
Knife Crime	70%	71%	66%	66%	79%	77%
Grooming	59%	74%	65%	67%	57%	79%
Sexual harassment	61%	76%	62%	76%	63%	76%
Online Exploitation / exposure to harmful content	89%	*	81%	*	82%	*
Drug Use	53%	79%	57%	76%	53%	82%
Alcohol Use	47%	80%	52%	77%	47%	82%
Vaping/Smoking	58%	77%	64%	72%	56%	82%
Anti-Social Behaviour	42%	78%	49%	75%	31%	80%

When asked where they currently get information on how to help their child/children stay safe, 42% said online in some way. 20% said via their child's school/nursery and 12% said common sense/personal experience / general knowledge

* This question was missed off the survey in error.

Staying informed

How do you stay informed about crime and anti-social behaviour in your local area and what local services are doing to tackle it?

Method	#	%
Local social media pages/influencers (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.)	854	65%
Essex Police website/social media	569	44%
Word of mouth	549	42%
Your local council's website/social media	427	33%
Local newspaper (print or website)	393	30%
Community newsletter/bulletin	371	28%
Local radio/TV	248	19%
Local councillors	187	14%
Other	59	5%
None	44	3%

Where 'Other' was selected, the greatest numbers were Neighbourhood Watch – 51 (4%) and Local WhatsApp group – 15 (1%)

Are you a member of any of the following?

Method	#	%
Local Facebook group for the area	572	44%
NextDoor app	306	23%
Neighbourhood Watch	277	21%
Residents'/Tenants' Association	139	11%
Other	62	5%
Another 'Essex Watch' e.g. Farm Watch, Business Watch	28	2%

Where 'Other' was selected, the greatest numbers were Local WhatsApp group – 43 (3%) and Local community/faith group – 20 (2%).