

Community Safety Survey 2025

Profile of Respondents

921
respondents

21% parent or carer of child under 18

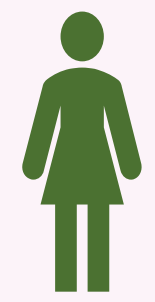
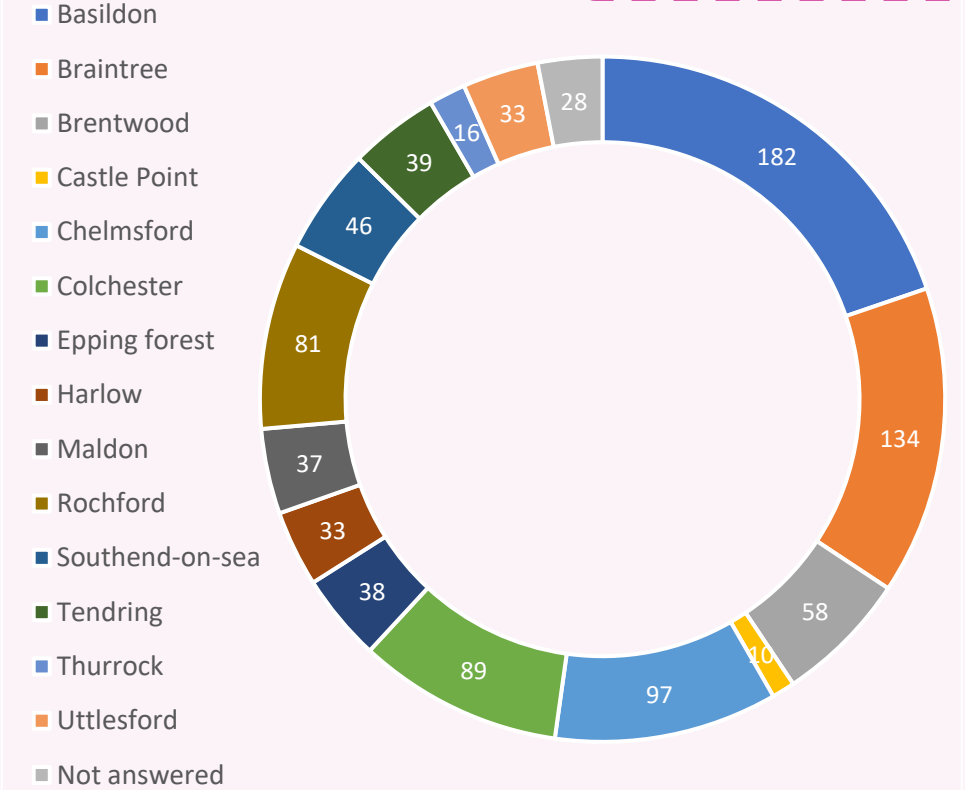
16% member of an Essex 'Watch'

27% had a disability or impairment

97% live in the area

48% had been a victim of crime

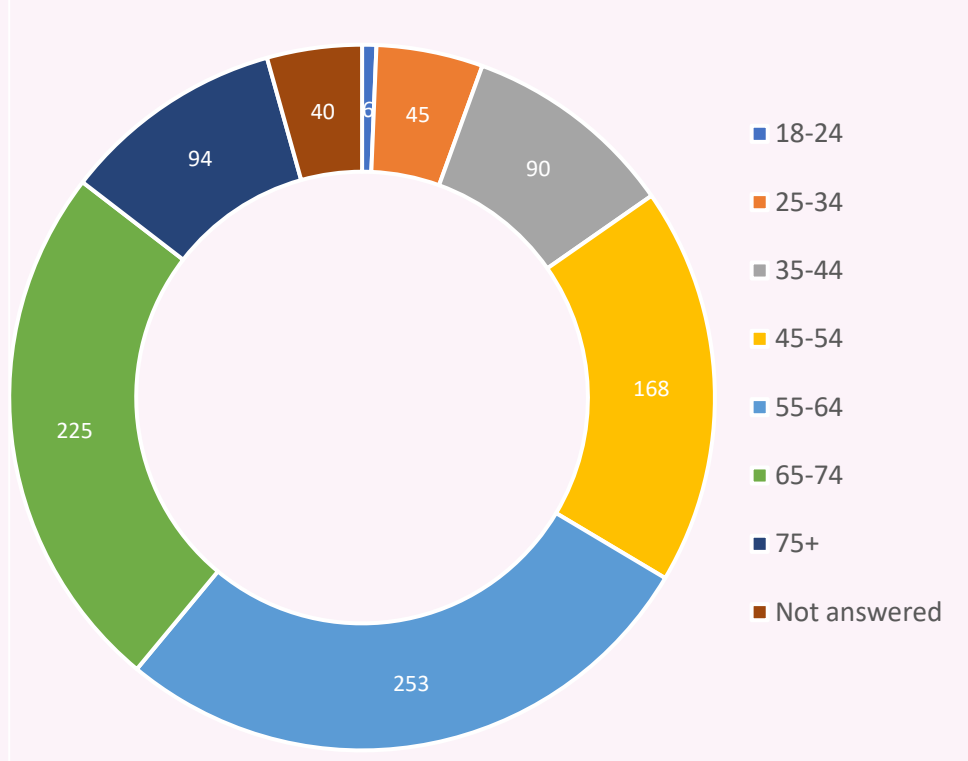
89% White British / Irish



58%



37%



Local Press

- Braintree & Witham Times
- Brentwood Live
- Chelmsford & Mid Essex Times
- Clacton Gazette
- Colchester Gazette
- Dunmow Broadcast
- Echo (Essex)
- Epping Forest Guardian
- Essex County Standard
- Halstead Gazette
- Harlow Guardian
- Harwich and Manningtree Standard
- Maldon & Burnham Standard
- Saffron Walden Reporter
- Southend Safeguarding Partnership Newsletter
- Thurrock Gazette
- Your Harlow
- Your Thurrock

Partner Newsletters

- EALC News e-bulletin
- Essex Rural Partnership Monthly Bulletin
- PFCC Essex - Newsletter
- SETDAB Bulletin
- Violence and Vulnerability Unit Newsletter

Levels of Concern About Becoming a Victim of Different Types of Crimes in the Local Area

Crime Type	2025			2024			2023		
	#	%	Rank	#	%	Rank	#	%	Rank
Burglary	724	82.8%	1	671	84.2%	1	1,065	82.9%	1
Theft of your personal belongings	552	63.6%	6	485	60.7%	6	712	56.2%	6
Theft of or from your car/motorbike	694	80.8%	3	666	82.8%	2	1,029	80.6%	2
Theft of your bicycle or scooter	373	46.2%	7	392	52.5%	7	577	47.5%	7
Criminal damage to your home/property	599	68.6%	5	559	69.4%	5	880	68.7%	4
Physical assault or robbery	622	71.0%	4	589	73.2%	4	849	66.5%	5
Domestic Abuse	81	9.6%	10	79	10.2%	10	126	10.0%	10
Sexual harassment or assault	357	41.6%	8	286	36.6%	8	428	33.9%	8
Hate crime	263	30.8%	9	221	28.2%	9	335	26.5%	9
Fraud and/or scams (online or offline)	714	82.2%	2	655	81.9%	3	993	77.4%	3

The rankings remain the same with the exception that Fraud has moved up to 2nd place (over vehicle theft). The % of people worried about each crime type has remained fairly stable. Bicycle/Scooter Theft saw the biggest decrease (-6.3pp) and Sexual Harassment/Assault saw the biggest increase (+5.0pp).



Concerns vary by crime type and area. However, those from Harlow had above average levels of concern for all crime types except Fraud. Those from Maldon had below average levels of concern for all crime types and those from Brentwood had below average levels of concern for all crime types except Burglary.

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.

Women were more likely to be worried than men about all crime types except for Bicycle Theft and Theft of/from a Motor Vehicle (where men were more concerned) and Criminal Damage and Fraud (where there were the same levels of concern).

Older people (65+) had similar levels of concerns to other age groups in most crime types, with lower levels of concern about Bicycle Theft, Sexual Assault and Hate Crime.

Those with a disability were more likely to be worried about all crime types except Theft of/from Motor Vehicle (similar levels of concern) and Bicycle Theft (lower levels of concern).

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. Basildon, Braintree and Southend were frequently noted as areas where crime had increased, or respondents felt scared in.



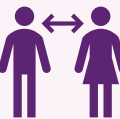
A lack of police presence was also frequent reason for concern, sometimes also referencing the closure of Police stations. There was some criticism of Police spending too much time at community events or prioritising speeding. Some respondents also felt that they had not had a good response (or any) from the Police when they had reported and that 'nothing will be done'. 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. Some people mentioned they felt vulnerable because of their personal characteristics, most notably women and older people. Others were worried because of the characteristics of the area, often rural areas or town centres, although lack of lighting/CCTV featured less than previously.



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.



The behaviour of others was another key theme in responses. This included groups of people (usually men) 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. 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 people moving to an area 'from London' being to blame and this year there was notable anti-immigration sentiment in reference to being worried about 'groups of men'. There were also some who noted an increase in or experiences of discrimination/hate crime.

Being a Victim of and Reporting Crime

Where Victims Reported

Crime Type	Didn't Report		Police		Council		Bank/Action Fraud		Another Agency	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Burglary	13	15.9%	42	51.2%	3	3.7%	23	28.0%	5	6.1%
Theft of your personal belongings	34	50.7%	19	28.4%	1	1.5%	9	13.4%	7	10.4%
Theft of or from your car/motorbike	26	38.8%	38	56.7%	0	0.0%	2	3.0%	2	3.0%
Theft of your bicycle or scooter	15	55.6%	13	48.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.7%
Criminal damage to your home or property	75	52.4%	55	38.5%	5	3.5%	3	2.1%	10	7.0%
Physical assault or robbery	17	35.4%	30	62.5%	0	0.0%	1	2.1%	2	4.2%
Domestic Abuse	12	42.9%	13	46.4%	1	3.6%	1	3.6%	3	10.7%
Sexual harassment or assault	40	65.6%	20	32.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	9.8%
Hate crime	71	72.4%	19	19.4%	1	1.0%	1	1.0%	9	9.2%
Fraud and/or scams (online or offline)	63	26.7%	17	7.2%	2	0.8%	124	52.5%	36	15.3%



48% of people had been a victim of crime in the past year. The crime types with the highest % of respondents who had been victims were Fraud (28%), Criminal Damage (17%), Hate Crime (12%) and Burglary (10%).

The % of people who had been a victim recently of Theft of a bicycle had decreased by 2.6pp, Theft of/from a Motor Vehicle by 1.7pp and Criminal Damage by 1.3pp. The % of people who had been a victim of Sexual Assault increased by 1.8pp. The % for others remained fairly static (within 1pp).



Where people reported, they were most likely to be satisfied with the response if they reported to Action Fraud/Bank (91%) or Another Agency (49%) than if they reported to the Police (36%) or Council (23%).



For those who didn't report, the main reason for not doing so was 'I did not believe anything would be done' (58%), followed by 'Fear or Reprisal' (14%) and 'Too Time Consuming' (11%).

Seeing and 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 Report	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Aggressive begging	478	57.9%	34	4.1%	17	2.1%	8	1.0%	289	35.0%
Criminal Damage in public spaces	422	51.8%	44	5.4%	52	6.4%	16	2.0%	280	34.4%
Drunken behaviour	322	38.8%	35	4.2%	14	1.7%	5	0.6%	453	54.6%
Fly tipping	338	40.4%	10	1.2%	174	20.8%	27	3.2%	288	34.4%
Graffiti	448	54.8%	12	1.5%	56	6.8%	9	1.1%	293	35.8%
Groups hanging around/being a nuisance	314	37.4%	61	7.3%	18	2.1%	7	0.8%	439	52.3%
Nuisance neighbours	571	69.0%	32	3.9%	49	5.9%	12	1.4%	164	19.8%
People using drugs	331	39.5%	84	10.0%	23	2.7%	16	1.9%	384	45.8%
Off road motorbike nuisance	446	53.3%	61	7.3%	16	1.9%	11	1.3%	303	36.2%
Street racing / car cruising	509	60.9%	38	4.5%	10	1.2%	8	1.0%	271	32.4%



The ASB types people were more likely to have seen were Groups Hanging Around (62%), Drunken Behaviour (61%) and People Using Drugs (61%). These align to some of the main reasons given to the earlier question about why respondents were concerned about crime in their local area.



Where people reported, they were low levels of satisfaction with the response they received by all agencies: Police (30%), Council (36%) and Another Agency (38%).



For those who didn't report, the main reason for not doing so was 'I did not believe anything would be done' (54%), followed by 'Fear of Reprisal' (15%), 'Too Time Consuming' (11%) and 'Didn't Know How/Where To' (11%).

Road Behaviours

In your local area, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Statement	Strongly Agree / Agree		Disagree/Strongly Agree	
	#	%	#	%
Cars or other vehicles are frequently driven too fast	761	86%	123	14%
Cars or other vehicles should not exceed 20mph in areas where there are a lot of pedestrians	643	73%	240	27%
Cars or other vehicles parked on pavements are a safety hazard	785	89%	96	11%
The roads are not safe for people to travel by bicycle	617	72%	245	28%
There needs to be more cycle lanes	520	60%	342	40%
It is often difficult for pedestrians to find a safe place to cross the road	518	59%	356	41%
The roads and pavements do not cater for disabled people	656	76%	207	24%
The roads and pavements do not cater for children and the elderly	623	72%	243	28%
Designs for new roads and developments should prioritise safety above journey times	751	87%	112	13%
There should be more enforcement of speed limits	731	84%	142	16%
There should be more enforcement for non-speeding driving offences	730	85%	130	15%
Road safety education should be mandatory in schools	834	95%	40	5%
Most new drivers don't have enough experience to safely deal with high-risk situations	743	86%	126	14%
Roads are for everyone, not just people in motor vehicles	744	85%	128	15%



Road safety education was the statement that most respondents agreed with. Speeding came out quite strongly, which in some ways contradicts messaging in previous questions about the Police spending 'too much time' focusing on speeding. Similarly, there was mixed support for more cycle lanes, despite concerns in previous questions about bikes/scooters being ridden on pavements.

Understanding the Risk of Radicalisation and Where To Get Help

How confident are you that you would be able to spot the signs that indicate someone you know is being radicalised?						
Confidence Level	2025		2024		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very confident	187	21.3%	153	19.1%	178	13.7%
Fairly confident	408	46.4%	389	48.5%	617	47.6%
Not very confident	198	22.5%	96	12.0%	368	28.4%
Not confident at all	87	9.9%	164	20.4%	133	10.3%
Total	880		802		1,296	
Total Confident	595	67.6%	542	67.6%	795	61.3%
Total Not Confident	285	32.4%	260	32.4%	501	38.7%

Levels of confidence in spotting the signs remains the same as the previous year, however less people are confident that they know where to get help.

Levels of confidence in spotting the signs were highest in those from Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point and Uttlesford. Levels of confidence were lowest in Colchester, Harlow, Maldon, Southend and Tendring.

Levels of confidence in knowing where to get help were highest in those from Basildon, Braintree and Uttlesford. Levels of confidence were lowest in Colchester, Epping Forest, Tendring and Thurrock.

Those in younger age groups were more likely to feel confident in both measures than those who are older.

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

Levels of confidence in both measures were similar between men and women.

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?						
Confidence Level	2025		2024		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very confident	174	19.8%	152	19.0%	190	14.7%
Fairly confident	257	29.2%	277	34.5%	420	32.4%
Not very confident	275	31.3%	150	18.7%	441	34.0%
Not confident at all	173	19.7%	223	27.8%	245	18.9%
Total	879		802		1,296	
Total Confident	431	49.0%	429	53.5%	610	47.1%
Total Not Confident	448	51.0%	373	46.5%	686	52.9%

Knowledge About CrimeStoppers

How much do you know about CrimeStoppers?		
Confidence Level	#	%
I know a lot about what they do	116	13.0%
I know a little about what they do	437	49.2%
I have heard of them but don't really know what they do	298	33.5%
I have not heard of them	38	4.3%
Total	889	



Most people had heard of CrimeStoppers, but only 13% felt that they knew a lot about the service.

14% of respondent had contacted CrimeStoppers in the past, however 23% did not know they could.

When asked about specific questions about CrimeStoppers:

- 58% knew you can give information anonymously
- 51% knew you can report to them online as well as by phone
- 49% knew you can contact them 24/7/365
- 30% knew they are an independent charity
- 24% knew you could get a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest/charge
- 21% knew that you can volunteer with them
- 15% knew about the 'most wanted' gallery on their website
- 8% knew they run a Police Anti-Corruption and Abuse reporting service

Have you ever contacted CrimeStoppers?		
Confidence Level	#	%
No - I did not know that I could	207	22.9%
No - I have not had any reason to do so	573	63.4%
Yes - In the last year	42	4.6%
Yes - More than a year ago	82	9.1%
Total	904	



Older people (65+) were less likely to say they knew a lot about the service (9% compared to 15% for those in younger aged groups). They were also less likely to have contacted Crimestoppers in the past (9% compared to 16%).

Men were slightly more likely to say they knew a lot about the service (15% compared to 11% for women) and to have contacted Crimestoppers in the past (14% compared to 12%).

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	59%	71%	64%	65%	54%	76%
Hate Crime	47%	74%	53%	74%	42%	74%
Knife Crime	78%	76%	79%	70%	77%	81%
Grooming	67%	76%	77%	71%	59%	81%
Sexual harassment	68%	79%	76%	76%	62%	82%
Online Exploitation / exposure to harmful content	86%	80%	88%	75%	84%	84%
Drug Use	61%	78%	68%	74%	55%	82%
Alcohol Use	60%	80%	62%	78%	58%	81%
Vaping/Smoking	61%	79%	65%	75%	57%	81%
Anti-Social Behaviour	56%	77%	64%	72%	49%	82%



Knife Crime and Online Exploitation/Exposure to Harmful Content were the two issues that parents were consistently more concerned about. Gangs/County Lines was an issue that parents consistently were less likely to feel that they have enough information about, but it was an issue they also felt less concerned about.



When asked where they went to for information on how to keep their children safe, 53% of parents said family/friends, followed by their school/nursery (40%). Online searches were often used via Charity websites (e.g. NSPCC, Children's Society) (35%), NHS (26%), Police (23%) and Council (13%).

What Should Your Local Community Safety Partnership Have A Greater Focus On This Year (Top 3)?

Focus Area	2025		
	#	%	Rank
Anti Social Behaviour	470	51%	1
Business Crime	173	19%	8
Domestic Abuse	83	9%	11
Environmental Crime	280	30%	4
Fraud	159	17%	9
Gangs/County Lines	443	48%	2
Hate Crime	41	4%	13
Modern Slavery	39	4%	15
Online Safety	83	9%	11
Preventing Terrorism	57	6%	12
Property Crime	278	30%	5
Road Safety	257	28%	6
Water Safety	24	3%	16
Violence Against Women & Girls	179	19%	7
Violent Crime	316	34%	3
Other	39	4%	15



The 'top 5' priorities in 2025 are Anti-Social Behaviour (51%), Gangs/County Lines (48%), Violent Crime (34%), Environmental Crime (30%) and Property Crime (30%).

Anti-Social Behaviour was the only area in the 'top 5' across all 14 CSP areas. Gangs/County Lines featured in 13, Property Crime in 12, Violent Crime in 12 and Environmental Crime in 10.

There was no clear trend within 'other' responses this year, although concerns about e-scooters came up in a few responses.

Note: This question was changed for 2025 to provide a smaller number of focus areas that are more aligned to how CSPs set their priorities. This means that year-on-year comparisons are not possible.

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.)	553	60%
Essex Police's website/social media	446	48%
Word of mouth	357	39%
Your local council's website/social media	328	36%
Local newspaper (print or website)	299	32%
Community newsletter/bulletin	222	24%
Local radio/TV	204	22%
Neighbourhood Watch	122	13%
Local councillors	118	13%
Local WhatsApp group	108	12%
Local Policing Team	95	10%
NextDoor app	79	9%
Residents'/Tenants' Association	54	6%
Other	23	2%
Another 'Essex Watch' e.g. Farm Watch, Business Watch	22	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 slightly more likely to get information from social media than men, but there was little difference across other platforms.