

# Part time street lighting

The information that follows has been taken from the 2021 Have Your Say Survey analysis.

As part of the development of our new Partnership Plan, Safer Cornwall invited local people to **“Have Your Say” about the community safety issues that matter** on a day-to-day basis in the local area and what could be done to improve things. An **on-line survey** was available on Safer Cornwall’s website from August to December 2021 and a series of **face-to-face events** were held across Cornwall between September and November 2021.

## **Geographic findings**

61% of people said they feel safe in their local area during the day. **Feelings of day safety differed considerably by town and area**

Three times **more women reported feeling ‘unsafe’ than men** in their local area, however twice as many men reported feeling ‘very unsafe’<sup>[1]</sup> compared with women during the day.

37% of respondents stated they feel safe **after dark** but **almost 1 in 4 people reported feeling unsafe**, with 16% feeling fairly unsafe and 7% feeling very unsafe. Camborne<sup>[2]</sup> was rated as the most unsafe of towns after dark with 60% of people feeling unsafe, followed by 44% of St Austell residents and 43% of Penryn residents<sup>[3]</sup>.

People who live in **East Cornwall feel much safer after dark** and those in central Cornwall feel the least safe.

## **Gender and age differences**

**Women feel less safe after dark than men overall**, with 68% of men reporting feeling safe compared with 52% of women. **National cases and news stories**, such as the murder of Sarah Everard, have a strong **impact on women’s overall feelings of safety**. Several women cited such cases and specifically Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa in their qualitative reasons for feeling unsafe.

People in the **60+ age category feel safer in their local area after dark**; they were almost twice as likely as the other two age categories to feel ‘very safe’ and they were one-third less likely to feel unsafe overall.

**Under 19s feel the least safe**, with nearly 50% less under 19s reporting feeling safe compared with the 60+ age group. This somewhat contrasts with research<sup>[4]</sup> based in Wales which found that being under 75 makes people feel safer in their local area.

Under 19s report feeling safe the least but also reported a substantially larger proportion of feeling ‘neither safe nor unsafe’ compared with any other group, suggesting that as a group they have **fairly neutral feelings** about their safety. **If they do feel unsafe** (particularly ‘very unsafe’), they are **most likely to be women**.

## **Reasons for feeling unsafe**

---

[1] May not be representative due to relatively small sample (<2% of overall sample / 14 people)

[2] May not be representative due to relatively small sample (<2% of overall sample / 14 people)

[3] May not be representative due to relatively small sample (<2% of overall sample / 14 people)

[4] [What factors are linked to people feeling safe in their local area?](#) Welsh Government: Government Social Research (2020)

**Experiencing or witnessing drug-use** was the **most common reason** given for **people feeling unsafe**. Both **men and women are equally affected by drug-use** and this is **also true of street drinking**.

**Lighting was the next largest issue across Cornwall**: almost 1 in 6 people felt that a lack of street lighting made them feel unsafe. Lighting seems to **impact men far less than women and other genders**: only 13% of those who identified lighting as a reason for feeling unsafe were men.

The next most identified reason was **groups of youths**. Nearly **double the proportion of men attributed not feeling safe due to 'groups of youths'** compared with women. However, **1 in 10 women also mentioned 'groups of people'** as an issue and when this was combined with groups of youths, their proportion was almost identical to men's youth percentage.

This difference in the language between men and women is notable; men are far more likely to be affected by youths specifically but unaffected by groups of people. Women are affected by both group types, but **men see youths as a specific risk**.

Lucy Allison  
Community Safety Officer - East Cornwall  
15 March 2023