

Crime and Safety Survey 2025

A report by Age UK Redbridge, Barking & Havering



January 2026

“At my age, I go out in the morning. I come home and lock my door.”

Local Older Person

Contents

	Page
1. Introduction	5
2. Background	5
3. Methodology	5
4. Strengths & Limitations	5
5. Executive Summary	6
6. Analysis of Feedback	7
7. Glossary of Terms	36
8. Distribution and Comment	36
Demographics	Appendix 1

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1. Introduction

Age UK Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham and Havering is a local charity, which has been working with older people for over 50 years. We have dedicated, trained staff who are making a positive difference to the lives of older people through a variety of services. This includes the Voices of Experience Project, giving older people in Redbridge the opportunity to give their feedback.

2. Background

A Community Police Meeting was held at Ilford Town Hall on 18th November 2025. Assistant Commissioner, Rachel Williams said that the key themes for the Police are: More Trust, Less Crime and High Standards.

The Police are looking to fight community crime by working with partners. They realise that they can't work in isolation and they need support from others. They want to reduce serious violence, gun and knife crime. They plan to do more work on anti-social behaviour, they want to reduce harm to women and children and to use AI to work in partnership.

Money is tight and the Metropolitan Police is shrinking. They are having to make difficult decisions. The lack of front counters is causing concern. 500 more officers have been put into neighbourhoods and they are investing in high standards and building up trust of the police. They are encouraging people to sign up for [Metengage.co.uk](https://metengage.co.uk). This will keep people in touch directly with the police. People can message the police about what they need and what they want.

Age UK RBH wanted to find out the views and feelings of older people about crime and safety in Redbridge, in order to influence the Police and the Council in identifying the right priorities to tackle first.

3. Methodology

Participants who could access the internet were emailed a link to an online survey. Additionally we sent paper copies in the post. Some participants even gave their feedback over the phone. We also visited supported living establishments and community groups to collect their feedback.

4. Strengths & Limitations

The flexibility of our approach in gathering feedback from people, and the variety of methods used are among the project's strengths.

5. Executive Summary of Findings

During October - December 2025, 124 older people in Redbridge completed our survey on crime and safety.

This section summarises key findings - see section 6 for findings in full.

Survey Response

Feeling Safe:

- Three quarters of respondents (74%) feel safe during the day (26% feel 'very' safe while 48% feel 'somewhat' safe).
- A tenth (10%) say they are 'somewhat unsafe' and 2% feel they are 'very unsafe'.
- The youngest respondents (aged 15 to 50) and oldest (aged 90 or over) feel safest, during the day.
- Men feel much safer during the day, than women (89% compared with 68%).
- It is interesting that equal numbers of respondents feel safe (40%) and unsafe (also 40%) at night.
- The youngest respondents (aged 15 to 50) feel safest during the night, while those of later working age (51 to 64) feel notably least safe (50% compared with 13%).
- Men feel much safer during the night, than women (57% compared with 34%).

Perceptions and Experiences of Crime:

- A marginal majority of respondents (54%) feel that crime has increased locally, in the last year.
- On types of crime, respondents are most concerned about knife crime and anti-social behaviour (both at 74%).
- Burglary (68%), drugs (57%) shoplifting (51%) and violence (50%) are also key concerns.
- Over half of respondents (53%) have previously been a victim of crime.
- Respondents of later working age (51 to 64) are most likely to have been a victim of crime (79%). The oldest respondents (90 or over) are least likely to have.
- Those living alone are much more likely to have experienced crime, than those living with others (63% compared with 47%).
- Men are more likely than women, to have been a victim of crime (57% compared with 49%).
- Crimes most experienced include burglary (37%), street theft or mugging (29%), cybercrime, scams or fraud (22%) and vehicle crime (16%).
- A broad majority of respondents (84%) reported the crimes to the police. Those who did not, say they 'did not think it would help.'

Policing:

- 16% of respondents have 'a lot of trust' in the police, while half (50%) have 'some trust'. 18% have 'little trust' and 12% have 'none'.
- Older respondents (aged 65 plus) have more trust in local policing, than younger counterparts (aged 15 to 64).
- Women are notably less likely than men, to have trust in the local police (62% compared with 71%).

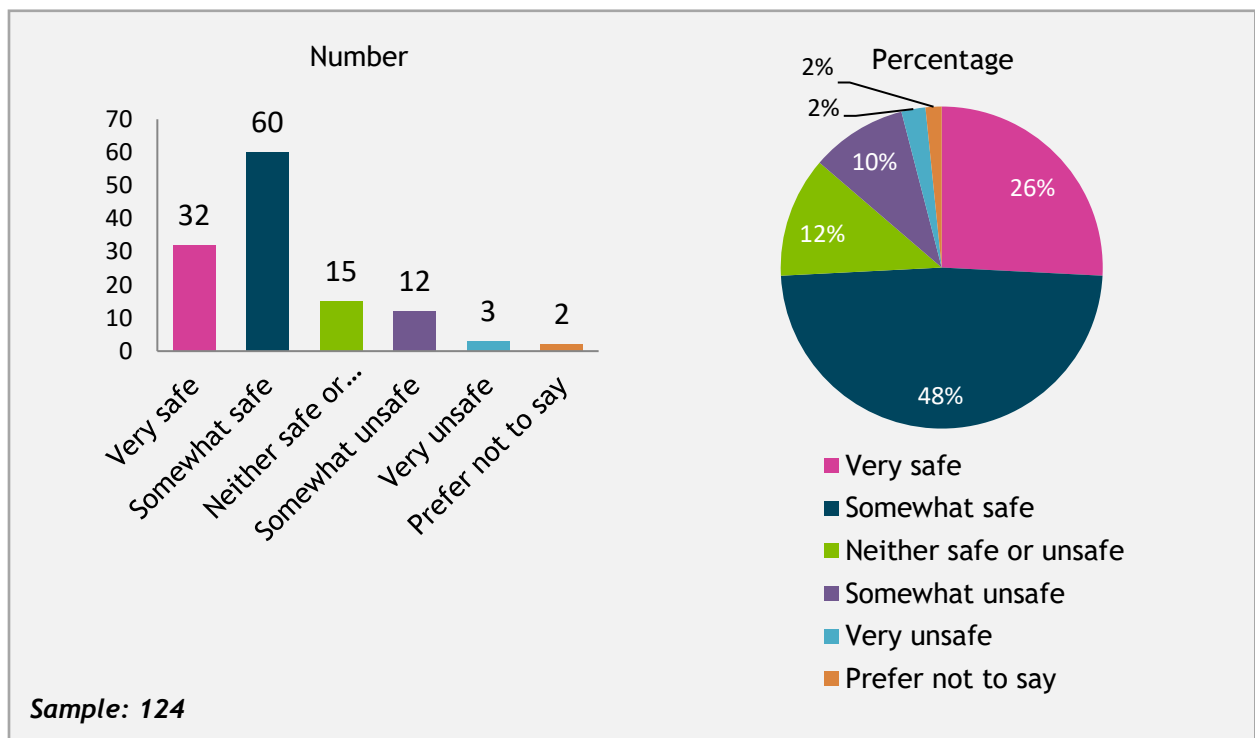
6. Our Survey - Analysis of Feedback

During October - December 2025, 124 older people in Redbridge completed our survey on crime and safety.

The survey asked questions on general experiences, and also on perceptions of local crime, safety and policing.

The majority of questions had a free-text option, enabling participants to fully detail their opinions and experiences.

6.1 How safe do you feel in your neighbourhood during the day?



Three quarters of respondents (74%) feel safe during the day (26% feel 'very' safe while 48% feel 'somewhat' safe).

A tenth of respondents (10%) say they are 'somewhat unsafe' and 2% feel they are 'very unsafe'.

6.1.1 Feel safe during the day:

	% Yes
Aged 15 - 50	83%
Aged 90 or over	83%
Aged 65 - 74	75%
All Respondents (Baseline)	74%
Aged 75 - 89	73%
Aged 51 - 64	60%

The youngest respondents (aged 15 to 50) and oldest (aged 90 or over) feel safest, during the day.

Household - Living with others	75%
All Respondents (Baseline)	74%
Household - Just you	74%

There is little difference between those living alone, or with others.

Male respondents	89%
All Respondents (Baseline)	74%
Female respondents	68%

Men feel much safer during the day, than women (89% compared with 68%).

Reasons for feeling unsafe are varied. Anti-social behaviour is cited, especially among 'groups' of 'younger people'. It is felt, there is a lack of visible policing.

Selected Feedback

"Anti-social behaviour."

"Often groups of young adults hanging around outside the shops."

"Too much trouble going on with school boys and girls."

"A lack of visible policing. It's scary."

We hear that begging and homelessness are at ‘considerable’ levels. Respondents have been approached for money, in cases often, and aggressively.

Selected Feedback

“I am not happy in crowds and feel awkward when people keep coming and asking me for money.”

“Four times I have had money demanded from me.”

“Considerable amount of homelessness and junkies and beggars, makes everyone feel threatened.”

Shoplifting is also reportedly common locally, with accounts of street theft (and mugging) given.

Selected Feedback

“Although I’ve not experienced crime recently, shoplifting is prevalent in my area.”

“Shoplifting is now very common.”

“It’s not safe to take my phone out when walking around.”

“I have been mugged in the afternoon.”

“I had my wallet stolen.”

Burglary is reported.

Selected Feedback

“Last year, burglary took place in our home in the late afternoon! Stolen my sentimental items like watches and jewellery.”

“I was burgled, even though I live in the main road.”

Some respondents cite increased levels of immigration.

Selected Feedback

"There are lots of new people moving in here, it is difficult for foreign people, who have different systems."

"Too many people being let in the country who are dodgy."

"Too many foreign criminals now."

On immigration and crime more generally, media coverage has added to anxieties.

Selected Feedback

"See the news!"

"Rampant knife crime, hate marches, robbery, erosion of our democracy, ethics and culture, misreporting by our media giving opinions not news, being taken over by AI."

"Things heard on National News, BBC, Sky News, GB News."

The vulnerabilities of older age, or disabilities are expressed.

Selected Feedback

"I'm afraid that one person will see I'm old and take advantage of it."

"I am in my 80s and use a walking stick, I cannot run away from potential predators."

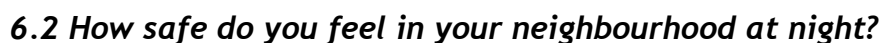
"Because of strangers ringing my doorbell. I don't think that workmen touting for business or people from charities should be ringing my doorbell."

"At my age, I feel unsafe especially going to the bank, I feel that I am being watched by pick pocket people."

"I'm visually impaired and use a white stick. Some people bump into me and some say look where you are going."

"I rarely go out."

Aspects of feeling unsafe, during the day:



It is interesting that equal numbers of respondents feel safe (40%) and unsafe (also 40%) at night.

6.2.1 Feel safe, at night.

	% Yes
Aged 15 - 50	50%
Aged 75 - 89	46%
Aged 65 - 74	41%
All Respondents (Baseline)	40%
Aged 90 or over	33%
Aged 51 - 64	13%

The youngest respondents (aged 15 to 50) feel safest during the night, while those of later working age (51 to 64) feel notably least safe (50% compared with 13%).

Household - Living with others	40%
All Respondents (Baseline)	40%
Household - Just you	40%

There is no difference between those living alone, or with others.

Male respondents	57%
All Respondents (Baseline)	40%
Female respondents	34%

Men feel much safer during the night, than women (57% compared with 34%).

We hear it is generally less safe at night, especially in winter, due in part to lighting and fewer people around. It is noted that public transport is less frequent at night.

Selected Feedback

"On winter evenings, it's very dark and there are fewer people about."

"Not enough streetlights."

“Especially in winter when dark nights come in early. I feel that you are more prone to people hiding and attacking you.”

“I prefer to go out with someone at night. If travelling by public transport, I do not like waiting at a bus stop when there are very few people about.”

“Street lights are very dull. Bushes near houses and bus stops.”

“Passing under the subway.”

“Narrow footpath and the buses are infrequent.”

Varied accounts of anti-social behaviour and presumed criminal activity are given. There is a particular fear of ‘groups’ of people ‘loitering’, usually around public transport hubs such as stations and bus stops. Again, the lack of a police presence is noted - both on the street and the road.

Selected Feedback

“Anti-social behaviour in the local area.”

“I work night shifts and see guys smoking and drinking on street corners.”

“Drunk people who can’t handle it. Too many people smoking weed.”

“I won’t go out alone at night. There are people, mostly men, walking around by themselves or in small groups. I feel vulnerable and worry that they could attack me and steal my belongings.”

“Dark streets with youth loitering about. Smashing bottles.”

“Too much gang-related trouble.”

“Too many people wearing hoodies hanging around. Cars parked with people sitting in them waiting for what? Probably drug related.”

“We still have sex workers and also the shops on Ilford Lane attracts groups of males. Ilford Town Centre has groups of males with balaclavas, outside Ilford Station bus stop, near old Cranbrook Pub, Cranbrook Road and outside the late night greengrocers.”

“Lots of ‘action’ around Woodford Station. Not a very pleasant area these days.”

“Burglary happens at night.”

“Lots of strange people around.”

“Not enough police about to deter crime.”

“Lack of visible police presence.”

“No visual presence of police vehicles.”

Women feel especially unsafe at night.

Selected Feedback

"No respect for women."

"Because it still feels very unsafe for women, just as it did when Zara Alena was attacked."

Overcrowding and 'changing demographics' are mentioned. According to some, the use of HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupancy) is on the increase locally.

Selected Feedback

"Too overcrowded."

"Ilford is no longer the place that we moved to almost 40 years ago. The population demographic has changed for the worse."

"Too many groups of men of all ages hanging around at night - in particular, non-English speaking men. There has definitely been a gradual increase in their numbers - these people have no fear or respect for the law here."

"Increase in groups of men, drugs/alcohol - and homeless people loitering outside stations and generally hanging around. This is also due to more HMO's being used as hostels in local residential areas."

Homelessness is an issue, we are told.

Selected Feedback

"I feel threatened by people who ask for money."

"Odd types. Too many beggars and rough sleepers."

"Homeless people hanging about in secluded places, they sound drunk. Someone's purse was snatched."

"So many homeless people, most obviously drunk or on drugs and tending to go around in groups. Often they demand money."

"People have stolen my money and slept in my car."

The vulnerabilities and insecurities of older age - are again expressed.

Selected Feedback

"At 86 years old I will not go out at night."

"Again strangers ringing my doorbell."

"At my age, I go out in the morning. I come home and lock my door."

"I put a bolt across the front door at night."

Media and news coverage has added to anxieties.

Selected Feedback

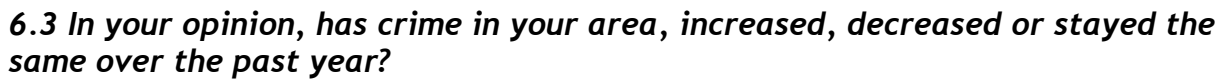
"Because of the incidents in the past and the amount of crime."

"Not knowing what could happen."

"You can feel it - see the news!"

"I live in fear, around the clock."

Aspects of feeling unsafe, at night:



A marginal majority of respondents (54%) feel that crime has increased locally, in the last year.

Street theft, shoplifting and burglary are widely reported. These incidents are increasingly common, according to feedback.

Selected Feedback

"Pick-pocket crimes and snatching items on the streets - all of that has increased."

"I hear of more robberies and muggings."

"Increased due to mobile phone theft and more house break-ins."

"A couple of women who work where I live have been mugged."

"My neighbour had his car window smashed. They were trying to steal it."

"Cars are broken into."

"Visiting tradesmen who forget to lock their vehicle doors, usually find things have been stolen from them."

"Burglaries, a lot of people are leaving the area as it has gone downhill. I've lived here for over 50 years, but I'm considering moving."

As is anti-social behaviour. Examples include misogyny, local drug use (or handling), alcoholism, vagrancy and road offenses.

Selected Feedback

"Groups of people arguing loudly, drinking and general rubbish"

"This is based on anti-social behaviour, a lack of safety for women and car rage from drivers heading down streets with parked cars on either side."

"I see drugs and anti-social behaviour openly."

"Drug sales are still happening."

"There are drug dealers and random substance users. They park up in cars causing noise (cars arriving and leaving frequently) and leaving litter, cans and general loose rubbish."

"Smell weed all the time still."

"Low level crime, fly tipping, dropping litter, car crime, anti-social behaviour has increased over the past year or so."

"Unruly cyclists riding on pavements."

“Vagrants in the parks, people doing drugs and drinking alcohol in the park.”

“Just by the graffiti and gangs of young people hanging around. Also I live near the forest and hate walking by it when it is dark.”

A lack of police presence, and deterrent is suggested.

Selected Feedback

“No police presence.”

“You see it in shops, shoplifting and no one does anything about it.”

“So many shoplifters right in front of your eyes. Security guards just let them get away with it. It doesn't deter anyone else doing it.”

“The police response is too slow.”

“Not enough of a penalty for crime.”

“No discipline.”

There are fears of knife and violent crime, which are presumed to be increasing.

Selected Feedback

“More murders and knife crime has been reported close to home. I can't understand why a 15 year old would knife a 9 year old.”

“Recently, I heard of a couple of murders taking place in East London especially with young people.”

“There seems to be a lot more knife attacks, I can't remember the last time I saw police officers walking about.”

“A lot more crimes seem to be committed. There never used to be murders and knife crime locally when I was young.”

Residents have noticed crime scenes and police investigations - in their local area, and an increasing volume of local news articles.

Selected Feedback

"In recent times police have sealed up places due to incessant crime in my area."

"Police patrol cars parked in our estate."

"Noticing more reports of trouble in the area."

"There's been more reported violent offences in the Recorder, also seeing gangs."

"You only have to read the Ilford Recorder. There are always 4/5 stories every week."

"Reading more in the local paper about stabbings, car theft, shop lifting and anti-social behaviour all the time now."

As a result of crime, respondents say their physical or mental health has deteriorated.

Selected Feedback

"I'm at the butt end of it. My health has deteriorated as a result of it. Mitigating circumstances put too much pressure on me at my age."

Communities have changed over time, due to immigration and overcrowding, we are told. There has been an increasing influx of 'young men' in particular, according to comments.

Selected Feedback

"Working in the area for the last 2 decades, I can see the change first hand."

"Increased population of young men often drunk and smoking weed. They stand around on corners or ride bicycles on the pavement. I have burglar alarms fitted in my house and a ring-doorbell to make me feel safer."

"Our area has many foreigners and from reports in the media I do not feel safe and a local supermarket is constantly getting robbed."

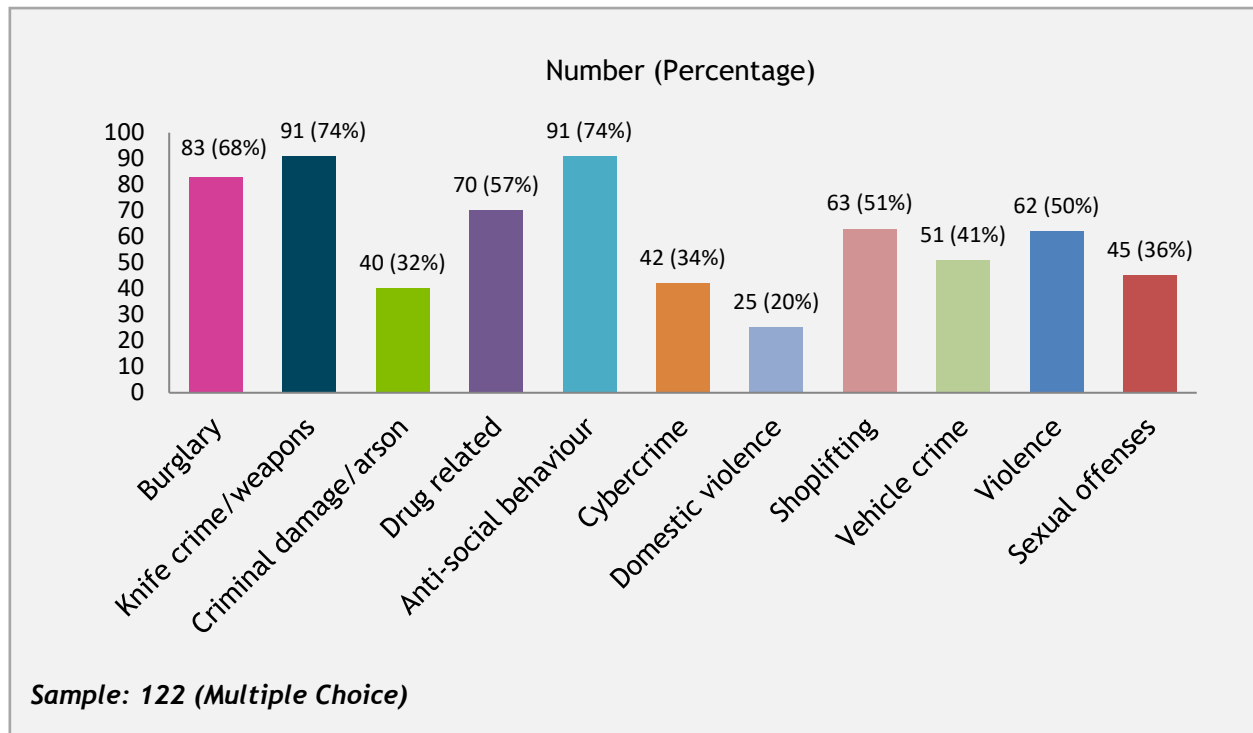
"People moving into Redbridge need educating on crime, litter and community living."

Crime has not increased in certain localities, feedback suggests.

Below is a 'word cloud' of the feedback received.



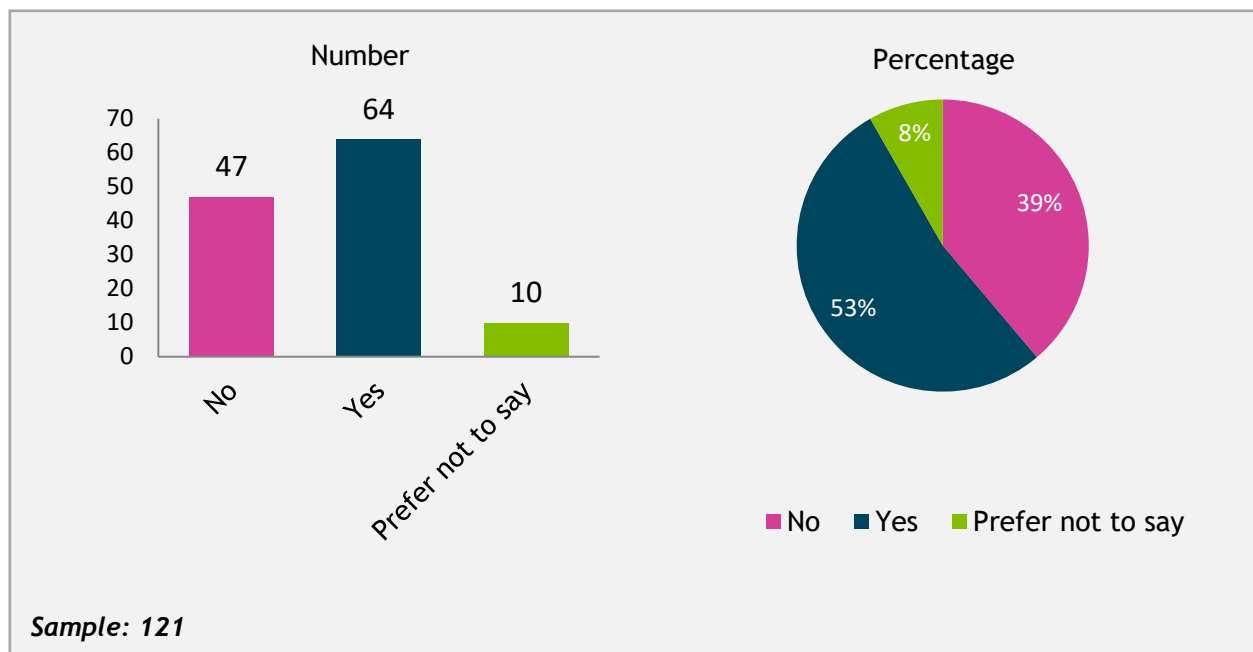
6.4 Which types of crime concern you most?



On types of crime, respondents are most concerned about knife crime and anti-social behaviour (both at 74%).

Burglary (68%), drugs (57%) shoplifting (51%) and violence (50%) are also key concerns.

6.5 Have you ever been a victim of crime?



Over half of respondents (53%) have previously been a victim of crime.

6.5.1 Have been a victim of crime:

	% Yes
Aged 51 - 64	79%
Aged 75 - 89	57%
All Respondents (Baseline)	53%
Aged 65 - 74	44%
Aged 15 - 50	42%
Aged 90 or over	33%

Respondents of later working age (51 to 64) are most likely to have been a victim of crime (79%). The oldest respondents (90 or over) are least likely to have.

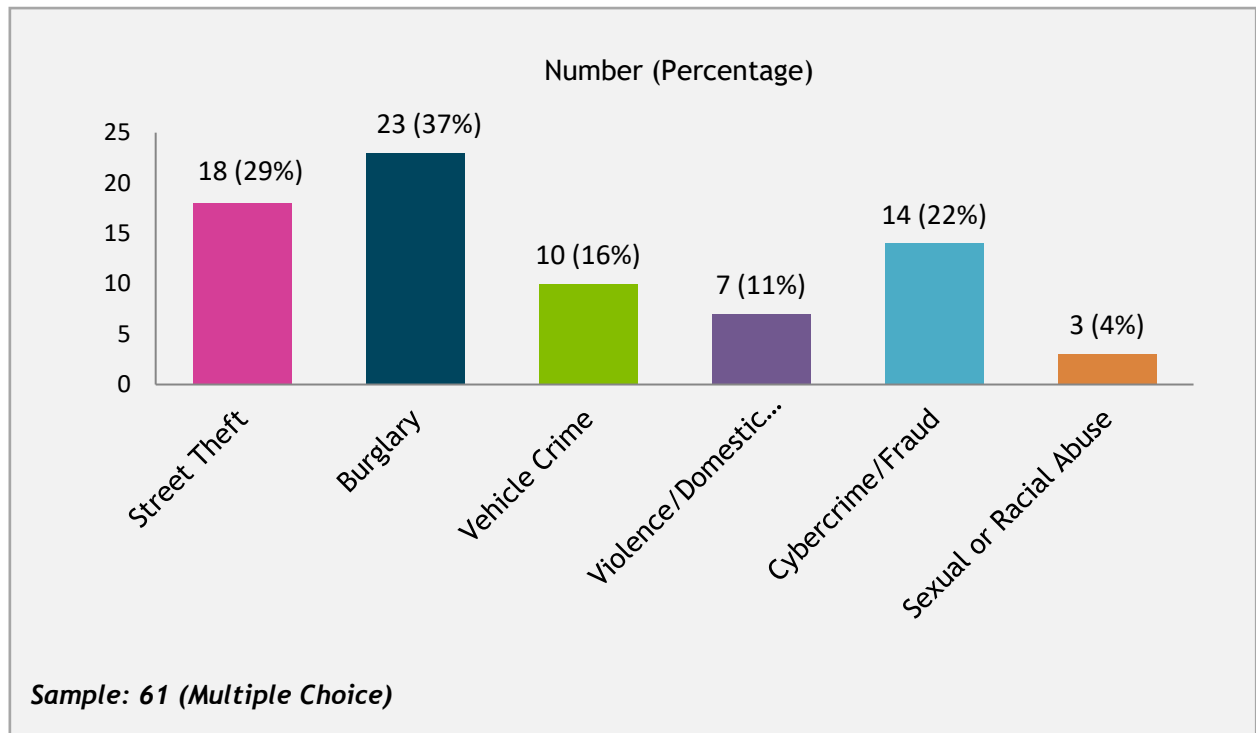
Household - Just you	63%
All Respondents (Baseline)	53%
Household - Living with others	47%

Those living alone are much more likely to have experienced crime, than those living with others (63% compared with 47%).

Male respondents	57%
All Respondents (Baseline)	53%
Female respondents	49%

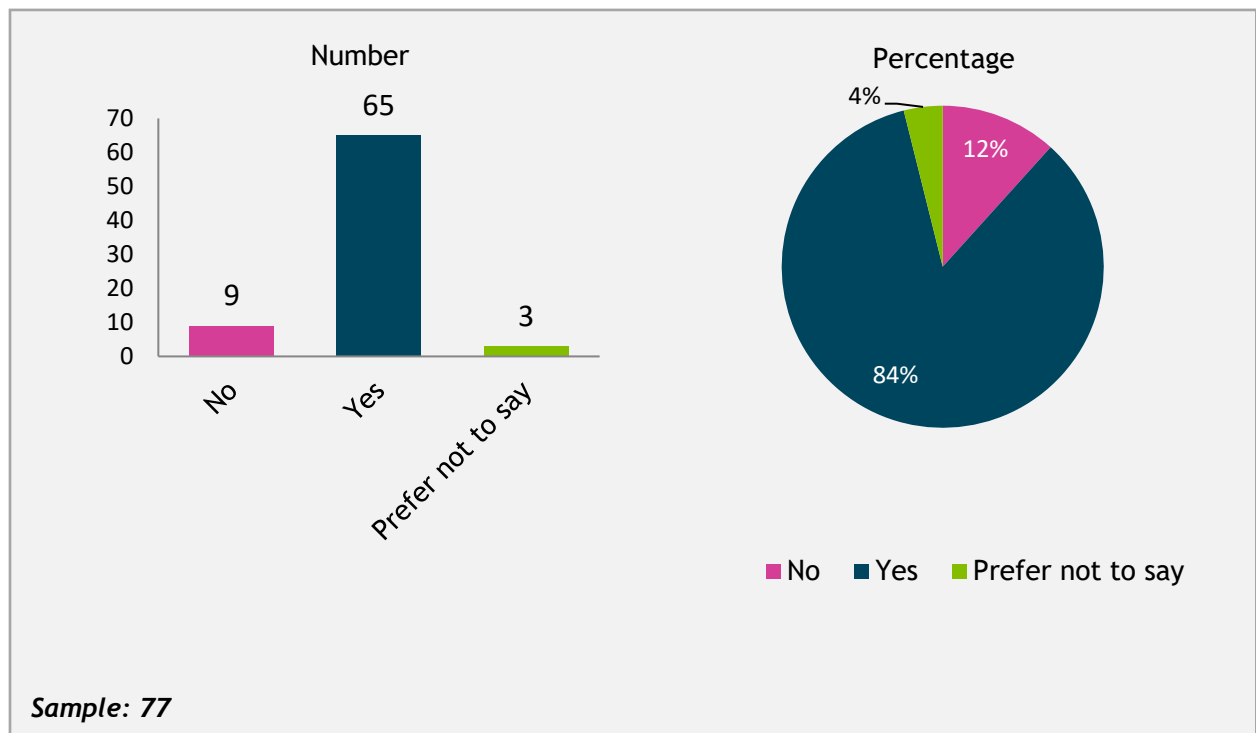
Men are more likely than women, to have been a victim of crime (57% compared with 49%).

6.5.1 Crimes Experienced



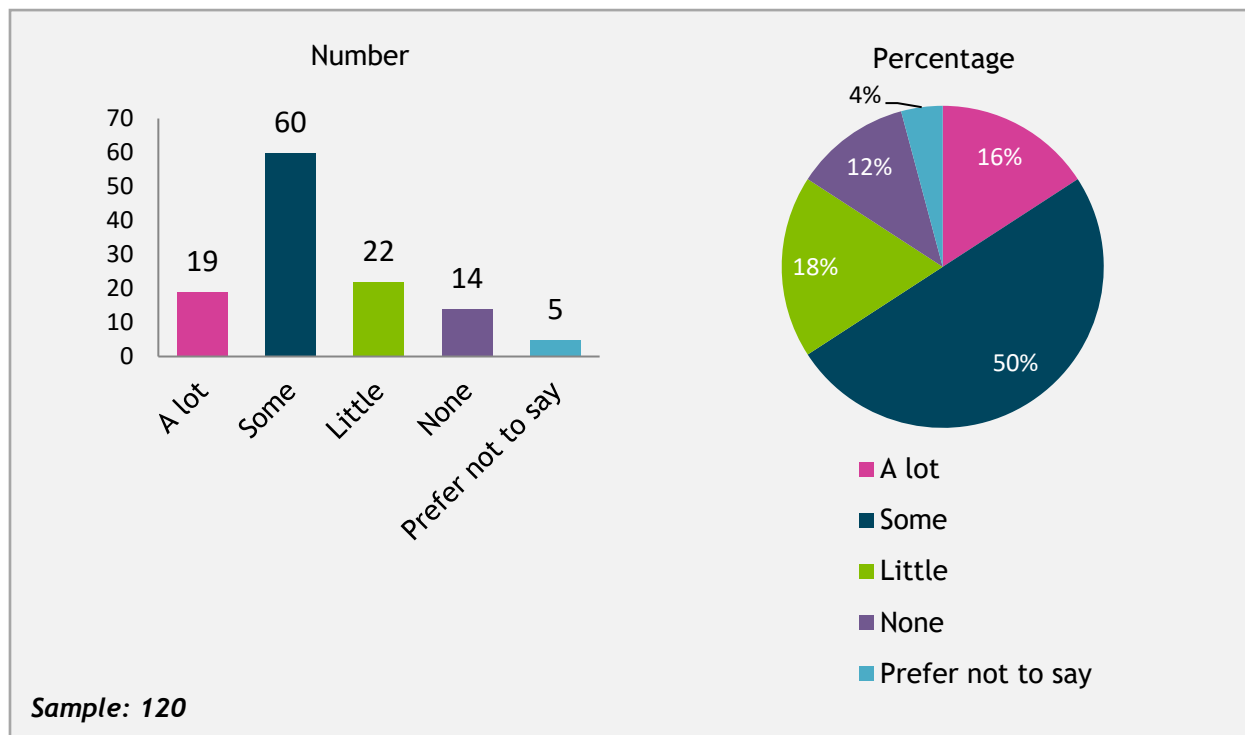
Crimes most experienced include burglary (37%), street theft or mugging (29%), cybercrime, scams or fraud (22%) and vehicle crime (16%).

6.6 Did you report the crime to the police?



A broad majority of respondents (84%) reported the crimes to the police. Those who did not, say they 'did not think it would help.'

6.7 How much trust do you have in your local police force?



16% of respondents have 'a lot of trust' in the police, while half (50%) have 'some trust'. 18% have 'little trust' and 12% have 'none'.

6.7.1 Have a lot or some trust, in local police:

	% Yes
Aged 90 or over	100%
Aged 65 - 74	72%
Aged 75 - 89	67%
All Respondents (Baseline)	66%
Aged 15 - 50	58%
Aged 51 - 64	47%

Older respondents (aged 65 plus) have more trust in local policing, than younger counterparts (aged 15 to 64).

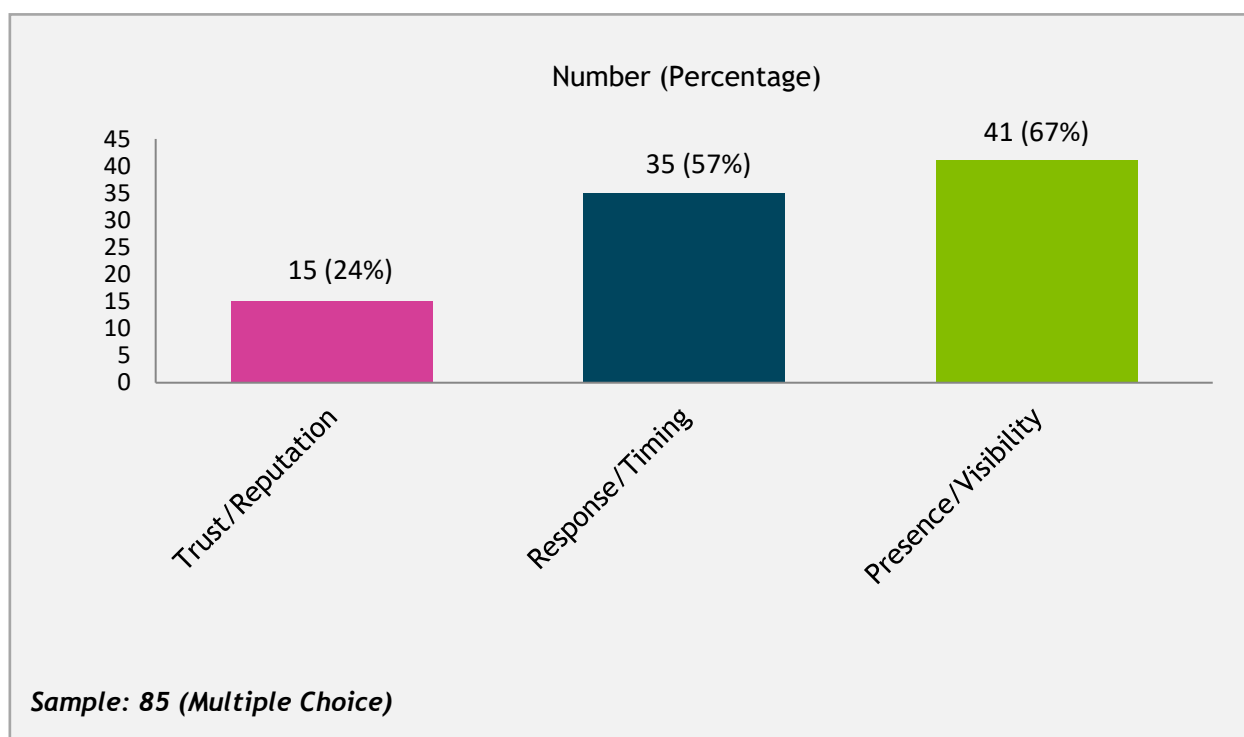
Household - Just you	69%
All Respondents (Baseline)	66%
Household - Living with others	65%

There is a marginal difference between those living alone, and with others.

Male respondents	71%
All Respondents (Baseline)	66%
Female respondents	62%

Women are notably less likely than men, to have trust in the local police (62% compared with 71%).

6.7.2 Perceptions of trust in the police, top topics:



When asking respondents to comment further, two thirds of responses (67%) are about police presence and visibility.

Selected Feedback, Presence

"They are very overworked and obviously can only attend some crimes at once, but do respond in a few days by sending an officer round."

"They are always short of staff."

"Our local police station has closed and I never see any police officers walking the beat."

"I would have more trust in police if you ever saw them around the area."

Over half of comments (57%) are about the timing and quality of the response.

Selected Feedback, Response

"There have been times where I have called them. The services were prompt and helpful."

"I believe the officers are well trained and go the extra mile to serve the public."

"I have heard that they do not attend when they are called."

"They are not approachable."

"They don't seem interested. Shoplifting for instance is reported but the police aren't bothered."

"I have reported worries such as anti-social behaviour yet they did nothing."

"When they visited us after a crime, all they could say is change your make of car."

A quarter (24%) are about trust.

Selected Feedback, Trust

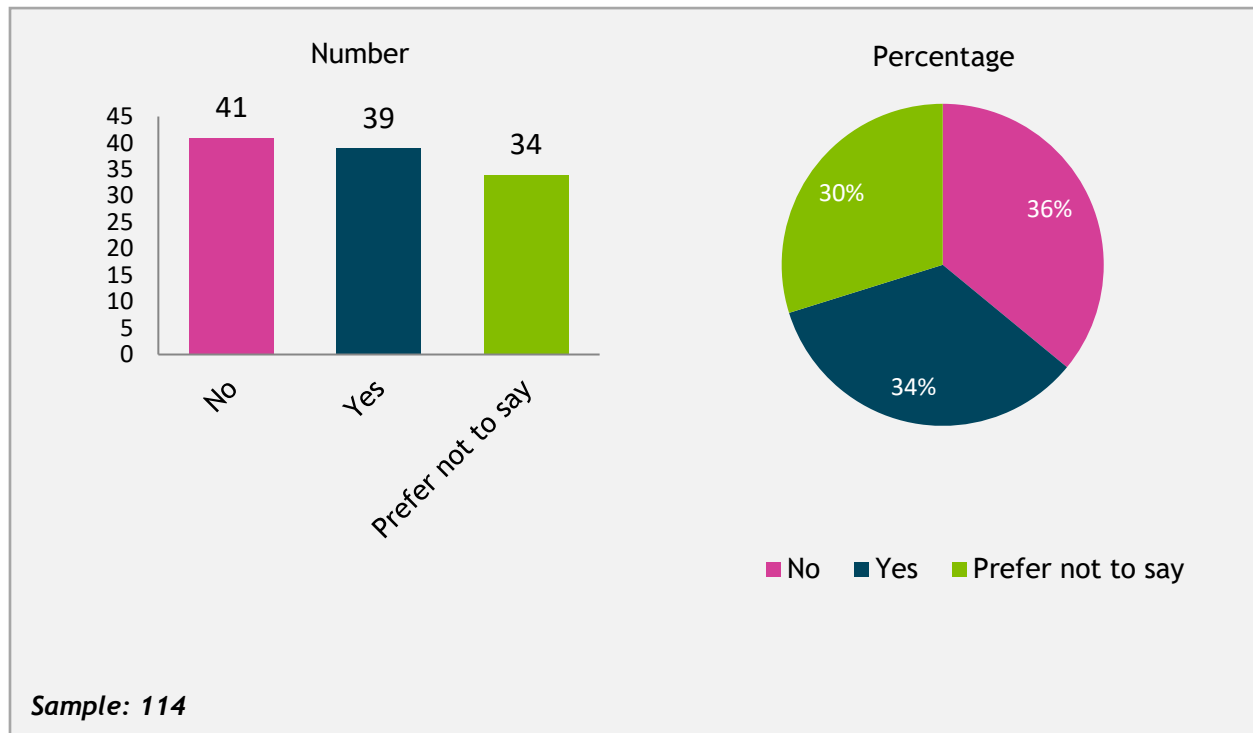
"They are the law enforcers and can be trusted."

"Police seem to be too worried about offending parts of the population. Therefore, they don't do their job!"

"Police have their priorities wrong."

"Because as a black person, I have been on the receiving end of racist police."

6.8 Do you believe the police treat all communities fairly?



A third of respondents (34%) believe that police treat 'all communities fairly', while a slightly larger number (36%) feel they do not.

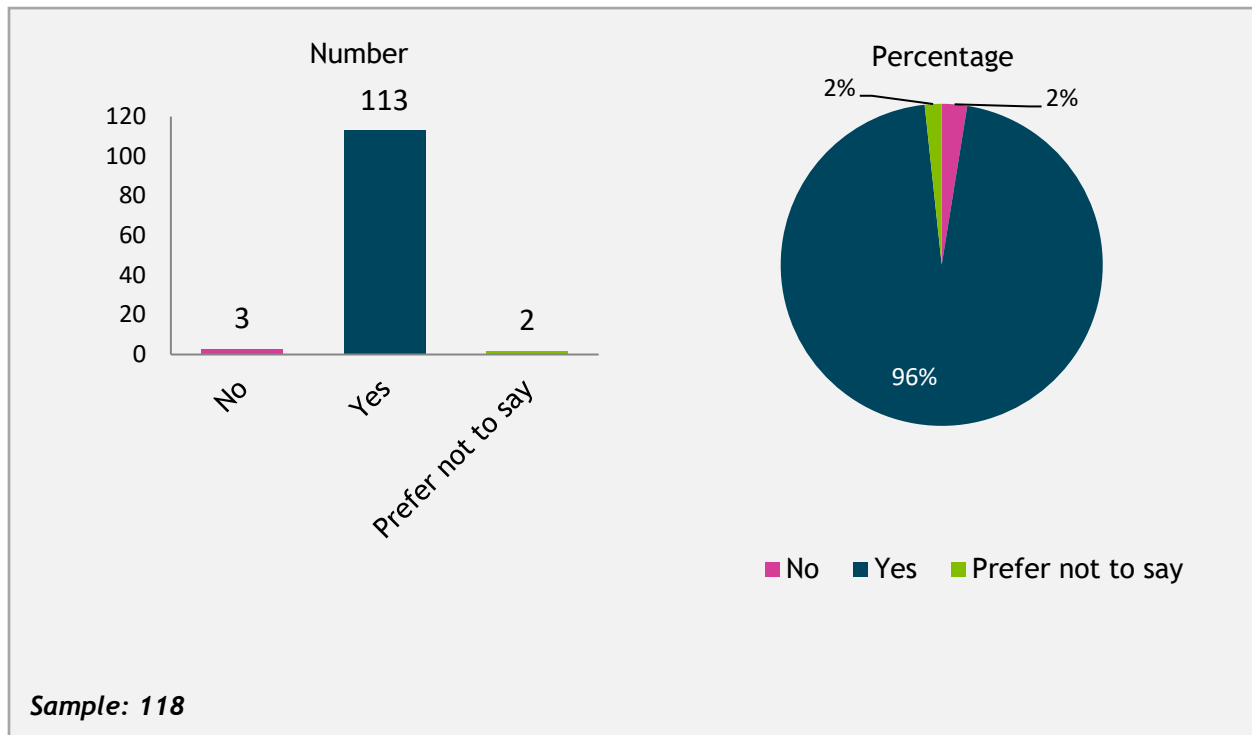
We asked respondents to outline their views. In the interests of transparency and impartiality, we have simply listed the responses below, in alphabetical order.

Feedback

- *After the recent revelations about Charing Cross Police Station, I believe there are officers who are racist and misogynist.*
- *All inquiries into the police for the last 50 years say the police are racist, sexist and homophobic.*
- *Same crimes as Nazi Germany, to continue this escalating overriding law & democracy.*
- *Assumptions made about propensity to crime of certain groups.*
- *Currently Jews are being thrown "under the bus", whilst Muslims are treated with kid gloves.*
- *Fairness to all regardless of colour, ethnicity etc.*
- *From listening to news items it would appear women are not always listened to sympathetically (such as when reporting assaults).*
- *From talking to different communities, the police choose what crimes they will deal with.*
- *From what we hear how the police have reacted lately what else can we think?*
- *Have seen evidence of black people, women, ethnic minorities, travellers etc. being mistreated.*

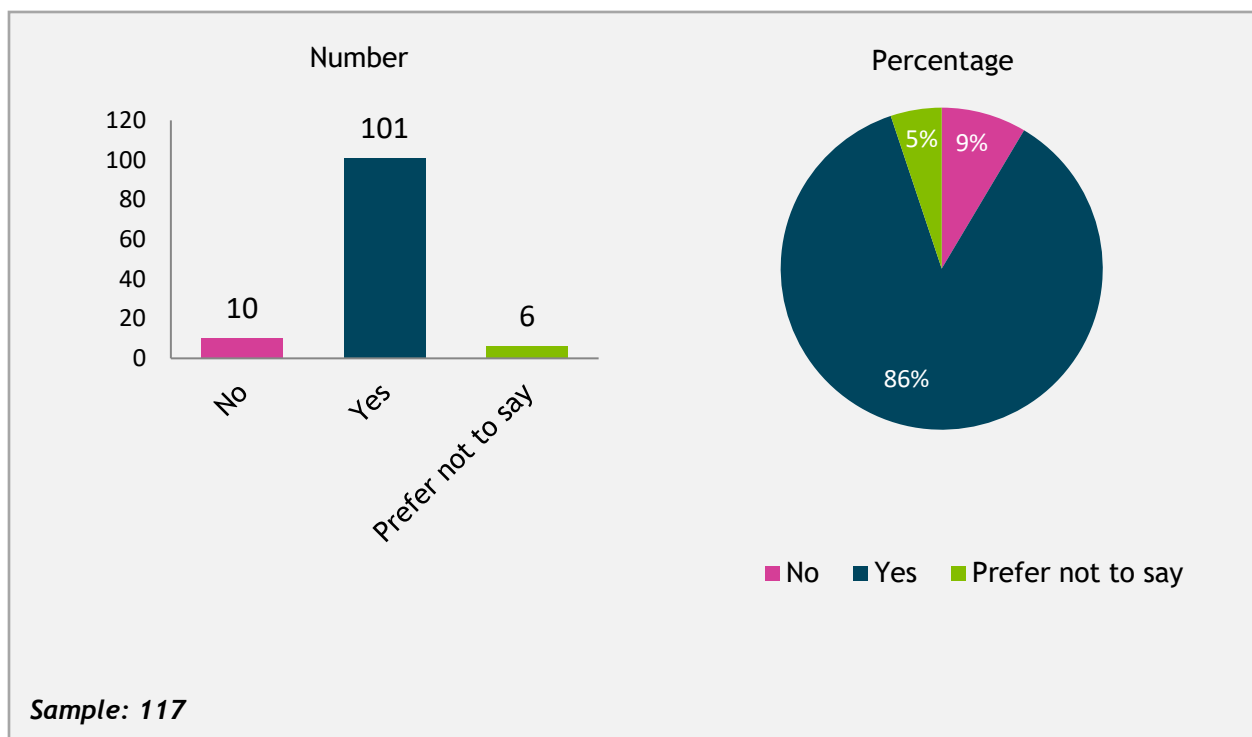
- *I am the community. In my area, cameras are badly manned. I believe the camera installations fuel private crime. This cannot be allowed to happen in a democratic constituency.*
- *I can only speak as a white person. I don't know how the ethnic communities feel.*
- *I have seen reports in the media where this is shown not to be true.*
- *I put 'no' because, in the past, institutional racism was quite rife. Recently, I've heard and seen videos of how police were caught on camera speaking against non-whites and calling them disgusting names, literally criticising them.*
- *I think some might be racist.*
- *I think they don't treat anybody fairly.*
- *I think they have their favourites.*
- *Local incidents favour resident community.*
- *News and press coverage.*
- *Newspaper reports reveal the police force has certain individuals with appalling attitudes.*
- *None around.*
- *Not always but I feel that they try to. I feel that there are groups who feel that they are treated unfairly as they will cry "unfair" at everything.*
- *Police do not react.*
- *Racism has always been a problem within police forces and I do not believe it has changed.*
- *Some individual police officers can stereotype.*
- *Tendency to side with immigrants because of being accused of racism.*
- *The police have proven to be and have systemic racism in the force.*
- *There are a lot of police who have prejudices.*
- *There is an arrogance from the police in regards the area as a whole and so are the people.*
- *There is evidence of bias and prejudice.*
- *They allow hate crimes and flag waving and blackmail against Jewish Communities.*
- *They "stop and search" young black people out of all proportion to their numbers.*
- *They are lenient with Asian minorities from fear of being thought Islamophobic.*
- *They are sexist in their approach to young women who report crime.*
- *They are scared to be racist.*
- *They need to win over trust.*
- *They pick on vulnerable people.*
- *They prioritise on things - crime of the month.*
- *They say Wanstead has low crime - talk to shops in Wanstead.*
- *They target the wrong people.*
- *Two tier - we are not allowed to say anything as it's racism.*
- *Two tier policing.*
- *Unable to judge.*
- *Well I should hope so.*
- *When you are of a certain race your treatment is completely different.*

6.9 Do you support the use of body-worn cameras by police officers?



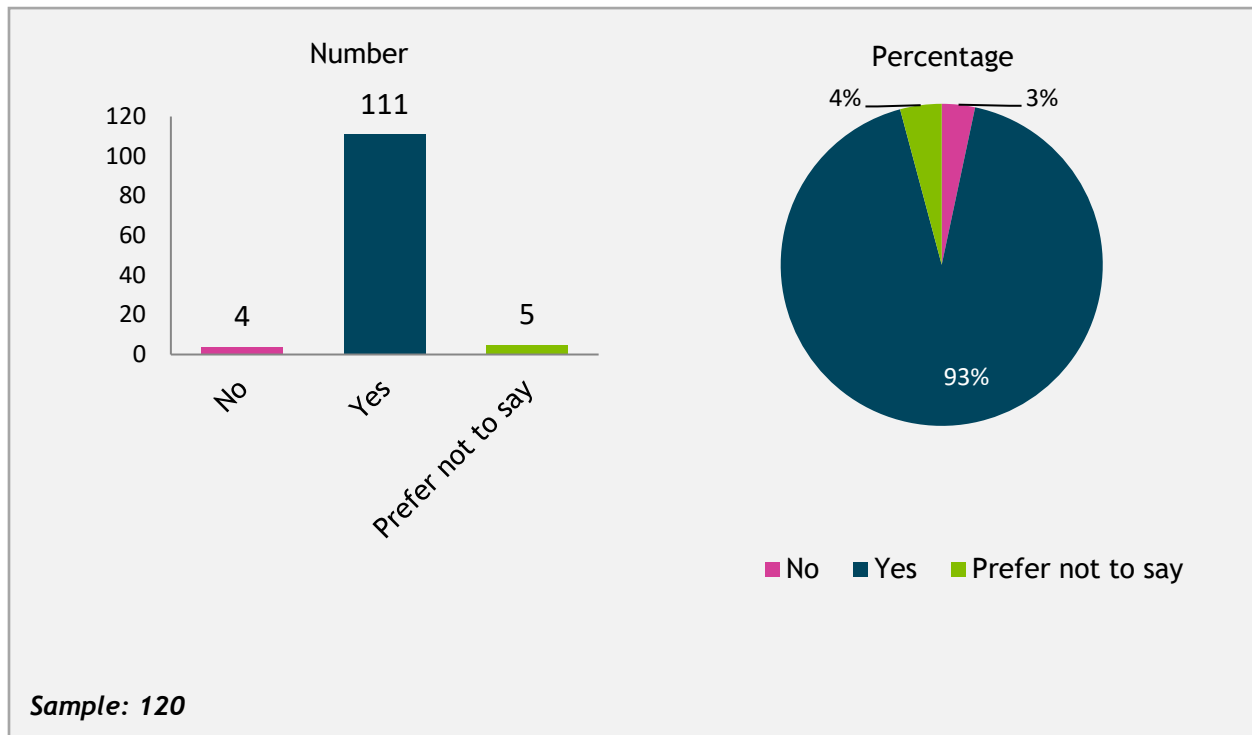
A clear majority of respondents (96%) support the wearing of body cameras by police officers.

6.10 Should the police be allowed to use facial recognition technology?



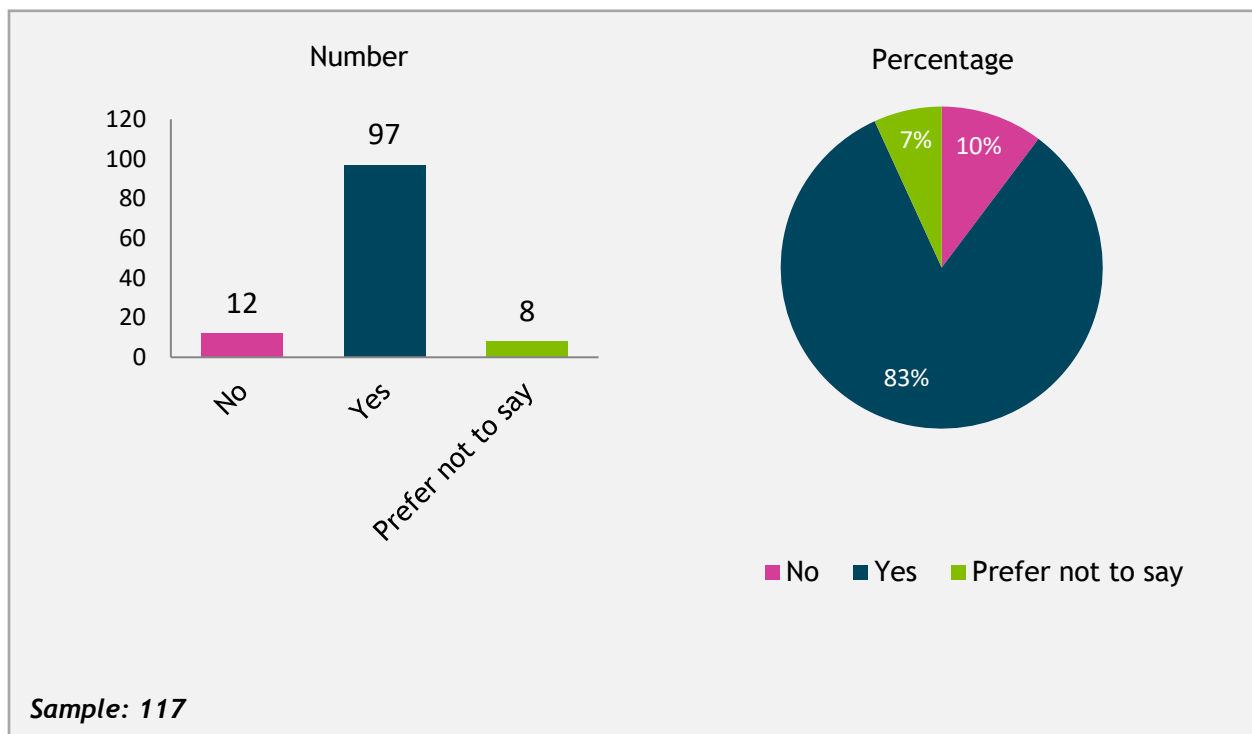
A broad majority (86%) support the use of facial recognition technology.

6.11 Do you support increasing police funding?



A clear majority of respondents (93%) support an increase in police funding.

6.12 Should Police Officers receive more training in cultural sensitivity and de-escalation?



A broad majority (83%) feel that police officers should receive more training in cultural sensitivity and de-escalation.

6.13 What changes would you like to see in how crime is handled in your area?

We asked participants what changes they would like to see, in local crime handling. Suggestions are received on presence and visibility, timing and response, trust and reputation, and prevention.

Selected Feedback

Presence/Visibility:

- *Open police stations. More police "on the beat". Increase the size of all police forces so that they have capacity to deal with large crowds without feeling outnumbered.*
- *I would like to see more police patrolling the streets on foot, I would also like to see more police at night, there are times when you don't see police at all, in one way this is good, but in another, there needs to be a constant presence and visibility of foot and vehicular patrols.*
- *More police stations, at present they are closing them down! Why when crime has increased?*
- *More policemen on the beat especially when school comes out, between 3.30 - 5.00 pm.*
- *Regular meetings with local police officers.*
- *More police presence in unsafe areas.*
- *More police presence and more information on recent crimes.*
- *Be involved in the area. I have no idea who my local police are and where they are.*
- *More police patrols.*
- *More police on the street rather than all in vehicles.*
- *If residents and shopkeepers saw their local forces, then they might be more comfortable reporting incidents.*
- *More obvious police.*
- *More community policing especially around the local shops as shoplifting is rife in all areas.*

Response/Timing:

- *Police should be swift and be found to understand the situation more, not just on face value.*
- *The tackling of antisocial behaviour and burglaries.*
- *More regulated checks especially on personal businesses.*
- *Arrest shoplifters and charge them. Low level crime actually dealt with seriously, with proper punishments.*
- *Paperwork dealt with by civilians.*
- *One person dealing with the incident.*
- *More police around and visiting after crimes reported.*
- *A communal place where victims can get updates in person.*
- *I would like the police to investigate all crime.*
- *I would hope that all victims of crime receive a visit from the police.*
- *That they responded more quickly and that they gave feedback more often.*
- *Fast response, not given a crime number - and asked about it 4 weeks later.*

Trust/Reputation:

- *Less racial profiling.*

- *Education on how to talk to girls and women.*
- *Deal with actual crime.*
- *The police have to prioritise but the public's priorities don't match up. There needs to be more transparency as to why that is.*
- *Stop this nonsense of racism. If a man commits a crime or a rape, he deserves punishment, never mind the colour.*
- *Being accountable for any actions taken.*
- *Dealing with a multi-racial society.*
- *Politicians should stop interfering and let the police do their job. Stop political correctness.*

Prevention:

- *More rape alarms handed out.*
- *Young children should be kept safe from coercion earlier in life.*
- *More use of IT and AI in detective work.*
- *We need a lot more street cameras to identify criminals.*
- *More lighting on inside roads.*
- *More proactive policing.*
- *More facial recognition cameras.*
- *Stronger sentencing.*
- *Keep youth occupied.*
- *More input into cybercrime.*

6.14 What do you think is the biggest challenge facing policing today?

We asked participants to consider the 'biggest challenge' facing modern policing. Themes are detected on resourcing and visibility, trust and reputation, prevention, and immigration.

Selected Feedback

Resourcing and Visibility

- *They don't have enough police officers.*
- *More police on the beat.*
- *Cutbacks within the police force.*
- *Lack of funding and poor morale.*
- *Closure of police stations.*
- *Shortage of police, which means we can't have enough police presence in vulnerable areas.*
- *Not enough staff to attend anything more than life threatening.*
- *Providing local support when everyone tries to centralise everything.*
- *Having to act as social workers.*
- *Maybe lack of sufficient support and failures in the justice system.*
- *Too much red tape.*
- *Too much pen-pushing. Police need to be on foot and know the neighbourhoods.*
- *They have to do a lot of paperwork and no time for the victim.*
- *Under resourcing and having to cover for under resourced mental health services.*

Trust/Reputation:

- *People no longer respect them as they did when I was young.*
- *The quality of police officers is suspect and needs better quality control.*
- *More people should be recruited locally, I mean people living in the community.*
- *The public don't have trust that the police can do their job.*
- *They feel like outsiders looking in.*
- *Institutional racism and sexism.*
- *Disrespect from the public.*
- *Trust in the police as we still feel they're not treating people fairly.*
- *They are frightened of being racist, need to toughen up.*
- *Political correctness - right is right and wrong is wrong, whoever does it.*
- *Have to give police more respect.*
- *I could be wrong but I feel the police aren't vetted thoroughly before joining.*
- *Political activism - some activists have a twisted view of the world and it's not realistic.*
- *People losing respect for anybody in authority.*
- *Better training in people's culture.*
- *Social media - public perception.*

Prevention:

- *High levels of drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour.*
- *Punishment for criminals not severe enough.*
- *Too many cautions for low level offences.*
- *Criminals are not afraid.*
- *Too many jobless people turning to criminal activities like theft, shop lifting, burglary and pick pocketing.*
- *Children and teenagers especially on drugs.*
- *Too many knives.*
- *Lack of discipline in schools.*
- *Rising crime in every aspect.*
- *To show use of body cameras.*
- *Disregard for official laws.*
- *Youth crime. Very difficult for the police if parents are not interested.*

Immigration:

- *Too many immigrants.*
- *Too many foreigners which are illegal doing so much crime.*
- *Problems with unknown people in the area (asylum seekers) hanging around causing problems.*

6.15 What would make you feel safer in your community?

We asked participants what would make them feel safer, locally. Strong themes are detected on presence and visibility, and on prevention.

Selected Feedback

Presence/Visibility:

- *More visible foot patrols in town centres and areas with higher footfall, more visible patrols from those in vehicles in areas that are not as highly populated.*
- *More manpower.*
- *See more police about the streets.*
- *More police on the beat 24 hours a day.*
- *More police presence, especially at night in vulnerable or quiet areas.*
- *Good neighbourhood service.*
- *Having local police to engage with.*
- *More police presence on trains as these are now taken for granted and criminals are taking advantage of quieter carriages.*
- *Particularly in the evening - more police officers on the beat during busy hours.*
- *Let's see them go into shops, stations, the tube. Less in cars, more on the streets.*
- *More police on the beat and police stations that are open.*
- *Presence of police or wardens in the area.*
- *More police on the roads and more lighting.*
- *More police visibility - walk about during the rush hour.*
- *More plain clothed officers.*
- *A local police officer.*

Prevention:

- *When my area is rid of criminals, drug addicts, migrants, rough sleepers, beggars.*
- *Clean roads, well-lit streets.*
- *Better lighting in side roads at night.*
- *A lot more stop and search, random vehicle stop and checks.*
- *More cameras, including facial recognition.*
- *Cameras in the park and surrounding area.*
- *More police cameras at traffic lights.*
- *I don't like to see young men going around after dark trying car doors for easy entry and burglary, but what can be done to stop this? More publicity perhaps.*
- *Street lamps being fixed soon after they no longer work. There is one a short way from my flat which has been out of action for some months now, despite reporting it several times it still doesn't come on when the others do in the evening.*
- *Seeing youth busy.*
- *To have more youth clubs, prevent knife crime. Family values to parents and schools.*
- *Improving home safety, through security systems and lighting.*
- *Less begging would be nice, not to be bothered as soon as you visit the High Street.*
- *Fewer gangs of men standing around.*

Response/Timing:

- *Every crime needs the police's attention - not just a crime number - that is why we need more police to have capacity over all areas of crime.*

- *More immediate action.*
- *More effective actions from police.*

Trust/Reputation:

- *Woke awareness.*
- *Building the trust with the community.*

Immigration:

- *Fewer houses with multiple occupants. No one knows who these men or women are!*
- *Tighter controls, even on legal immigration.*

6.15 Any additional comments or suggestions?

Finally, we asked for any other comments or suggestions. In the interests of transparency and impartiality, we have simply listed the responses below, in alphabetical order.

Any other comments or suggestions

- *Beggars should be taken off the street and rehabilitated, so that they do not keep causing mishap.*
- *Barkingside had a very good "walk in" police station in the High Street which is now closed. So now the nearest "walk in" police station is Ilford. We need easier access to the police.*
- *Domestic violence should be treated seriously. Most of the offences are committed by children from broken homes. Family commitment to children is a must.*
- *Harsher punishments and more prisons.*
- *Having a local police station would be useful. It's better to be able to talk to a police officer face to face, than writing an email or talking on the phone.*
- *Hubs where we can report crimes.*
- *If things continue we won't have a country to worry about.*
- *Local councils, especially ours, could probably prioritise funding instead of spending on seemingly unnecessary.*
- *Misuse of tax payers money, more police on streets. Stopping crime is needed. Stop victims being abused and giving in to blackmailers. If unsafe for Jewish fans to attend football match, unsafe for all. Stop match.*
- *More community meetings with the police.*
- *More control over the properties being rented out (HMOs) - police to know the local community more. Areas have different problems and the lack of resources - mental health/drugs/alcohol are a huge problem. Police are dealing with too many social issues. Redefine what policing we want. They are stretched in too many ways.*
- *More police to be seen around doing their rounds.*
- *More visual signs of police on the streets other than them speeding along the road towards the next problem. I was impressed with their attendance at Jewish events/festivals. It makes one feel safe.*
- *Neighbourhood watch with telephone link to police.*

- *No crime is victimless, so more staff, more follow-up and if no prison places, community work and funds to cover the organisation of such.*
- *On the whole, I feel safe in my community and think the council workers do a pretty good job to keep us safe.*
- *Police and communities should be treated decently.*
- *Society has become more complex. We need police officers who are highly educated and sensitive to the complexity of their role in society. Too many officers, it seems to me, have a limited view of what policing entails. We have too many right wing thugs walking the streets and parading around in their cars.*
- *Stop the government from stealing and give the money to services*
- *There is a need to build up a better relationship with the police and the public, so the police can gain back people's respect and trust.*
- *There needs to be a communal place where victims can take their phones/laptops to show what has been happening on their devices, in cases of cybercrime. There is a need to help victims get their life back. Guidance and support is needed not just from the GP - the mental trauma caused by crime impacts on the victims' life 100%.*
- *Things need to change now, not some time in the future.*
- *We don't have a high crime rate but the amount of cars and uber drivers who roar up and down at all times is very distressing to some residents.*
- *We need more police on foot and on the roads, driving in and around the borough is ridiculous at times. We need more police interacting with the public whilst on foot patrols, building trust and being on hand for any issues/enquiries to be had. Stop and search needs to be increased 10 fold, even if it's just random, routine checks, do away with having to have a reason to search.*
- *Yes police need training on how to treat people fairly. They need to have more open days and invite the public to have a glimpse of their day to day work.*

7. Glossary of Terms

HMO House of Multiple Occupancy

8. Distribution and Comment

This report is available to the general public, and is shared with our statutory and community partners. Accessible formats are available.

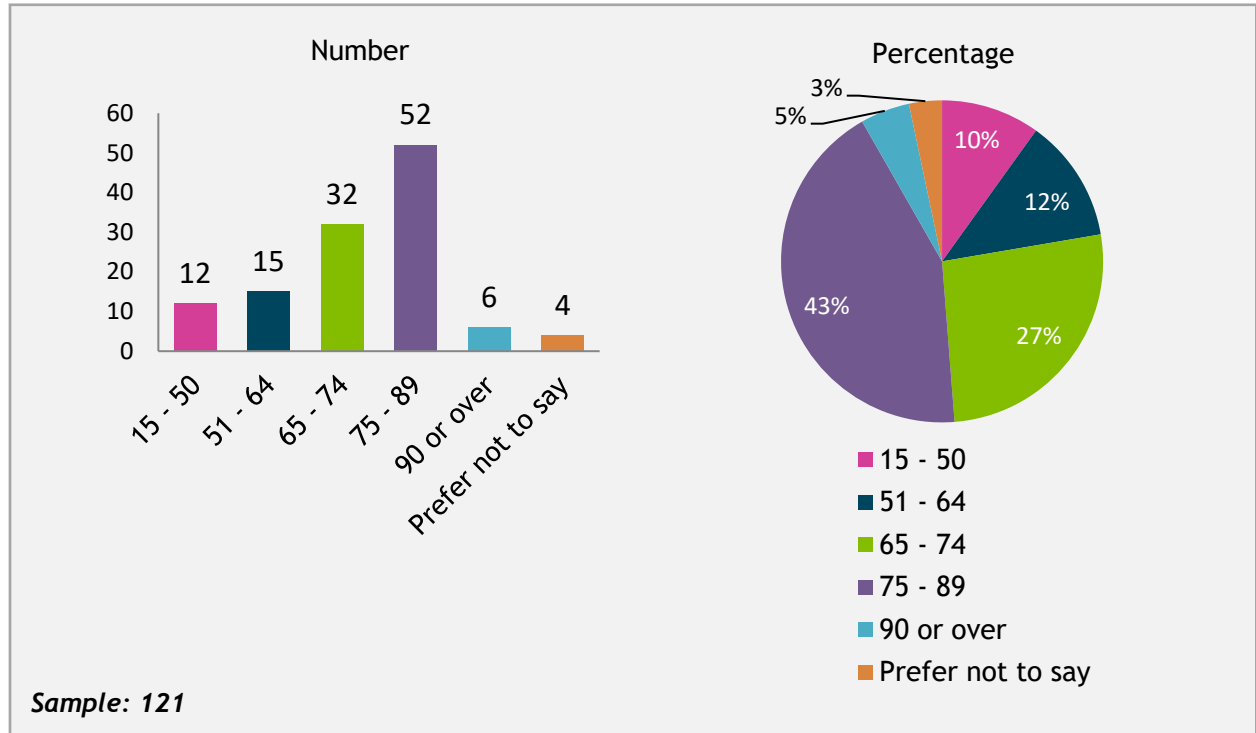
If you have any comments on this report or wish to share your views and experiences, please contact us.

Age UK Redbridge, Barking and Havering, 103 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, IG1 4PU.
 Phone: 020 8220 6000
 Email: admin@ageukrbh.org.uk
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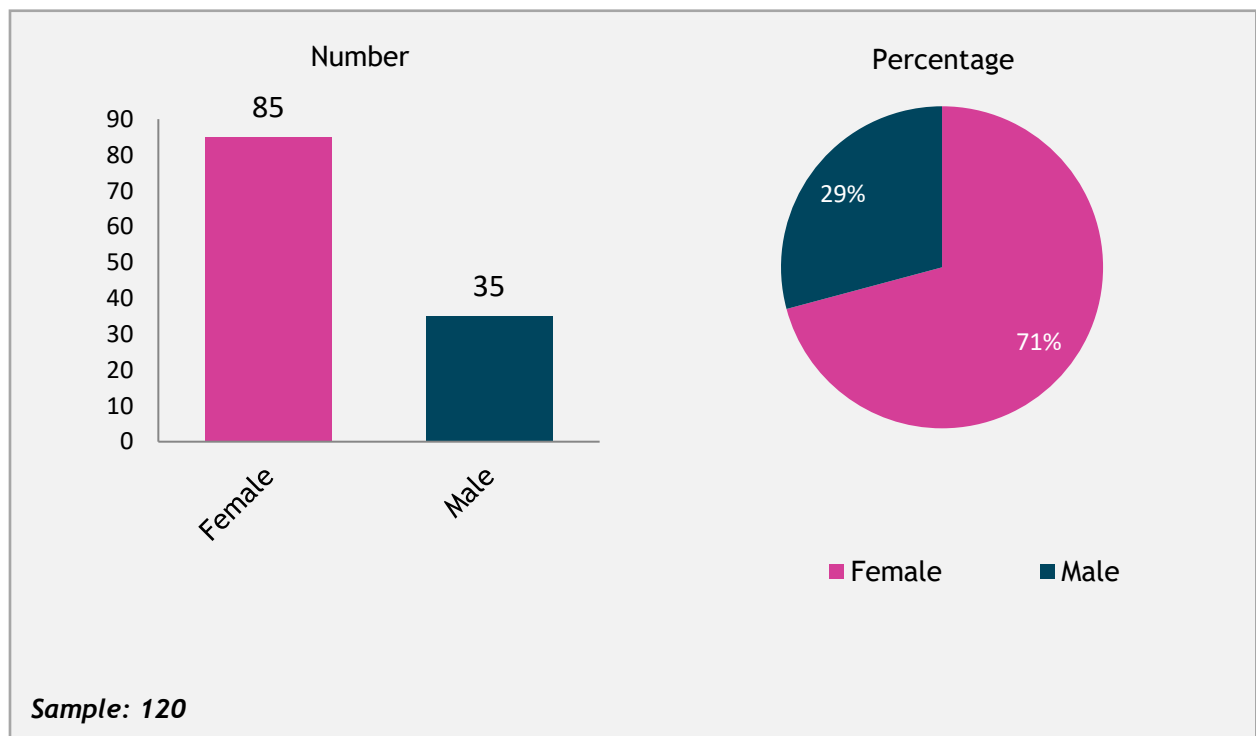
Appendix - Demographics

The demographics of participants are stated as follows:

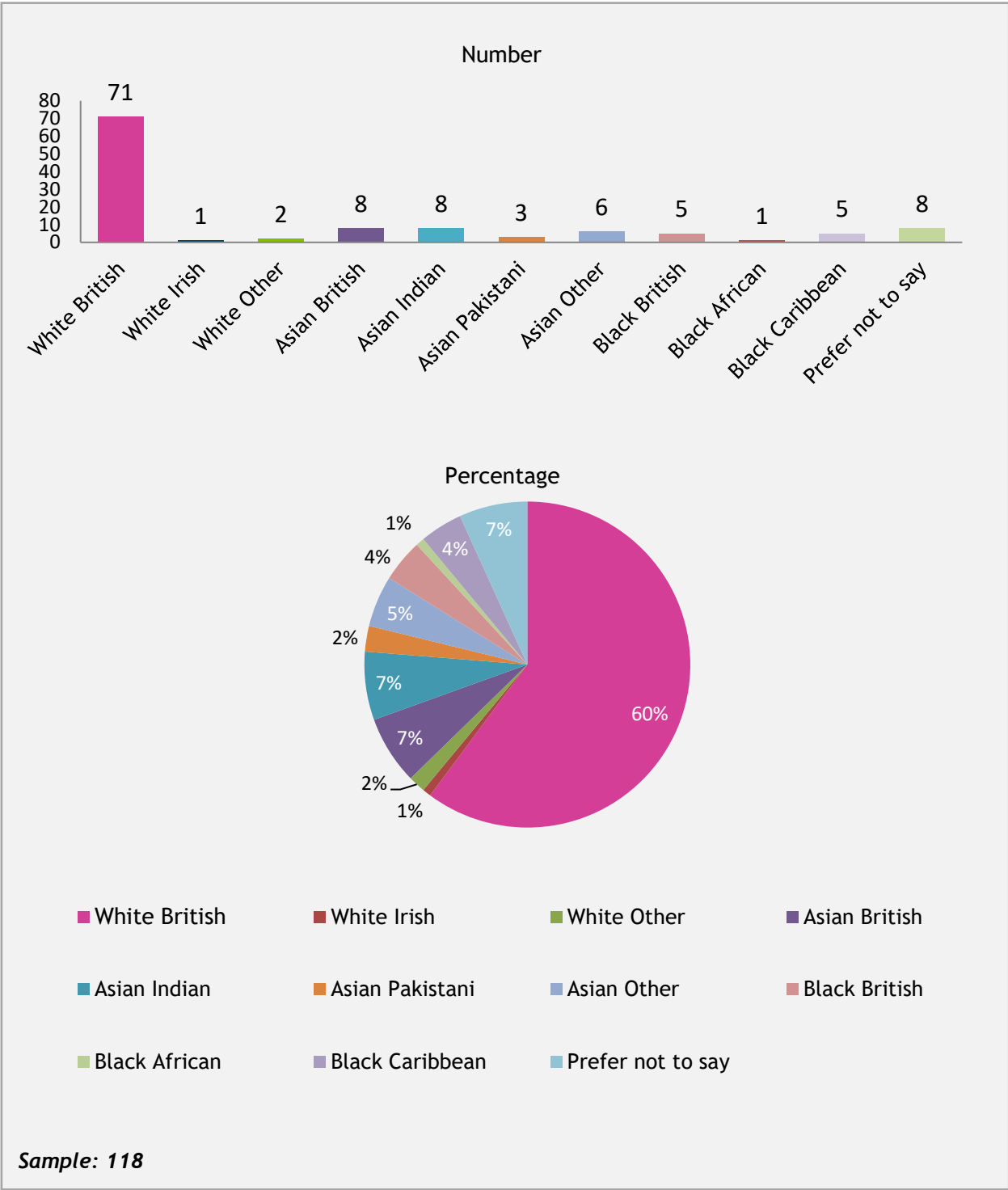
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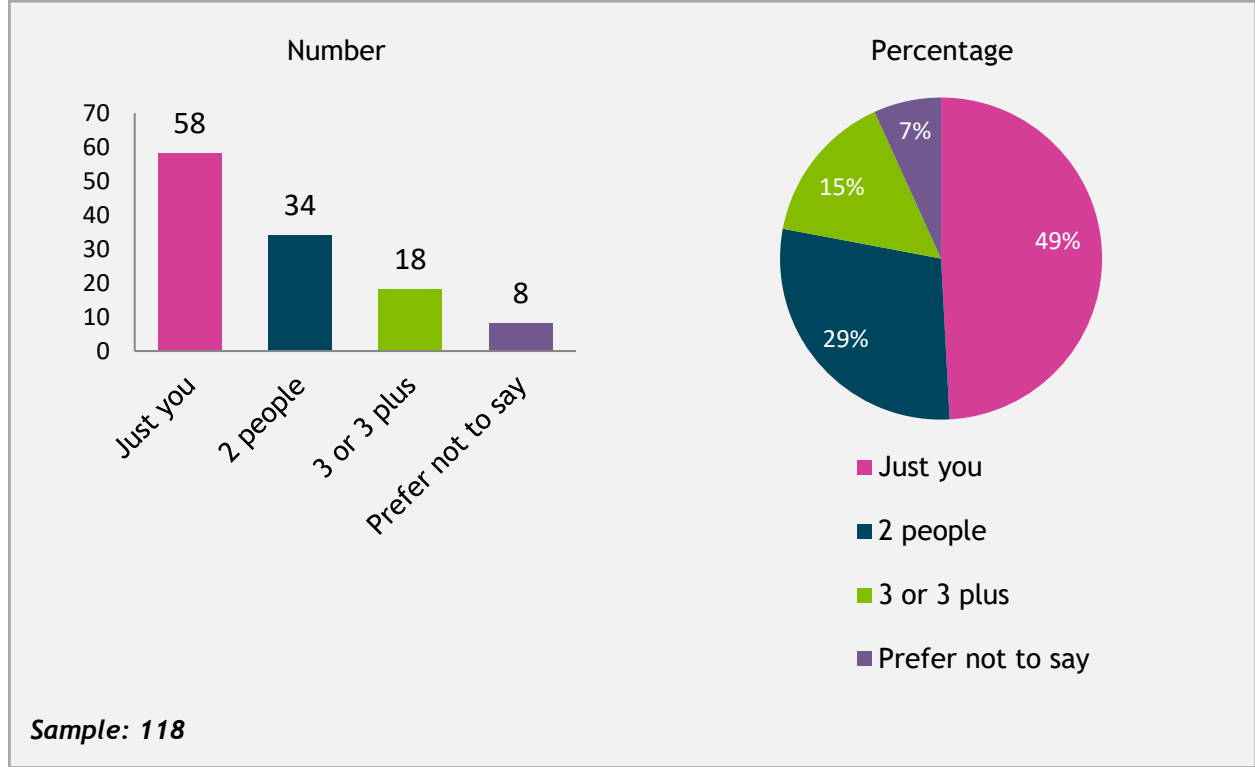
Gender



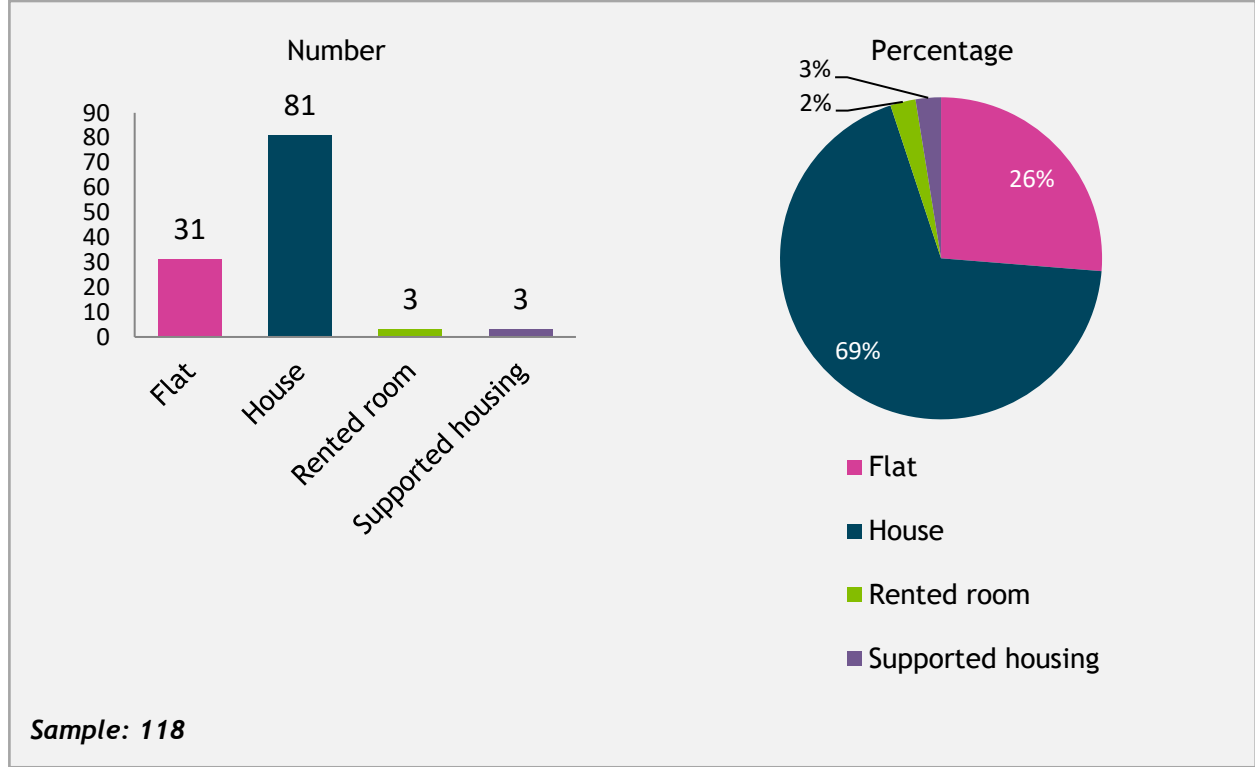
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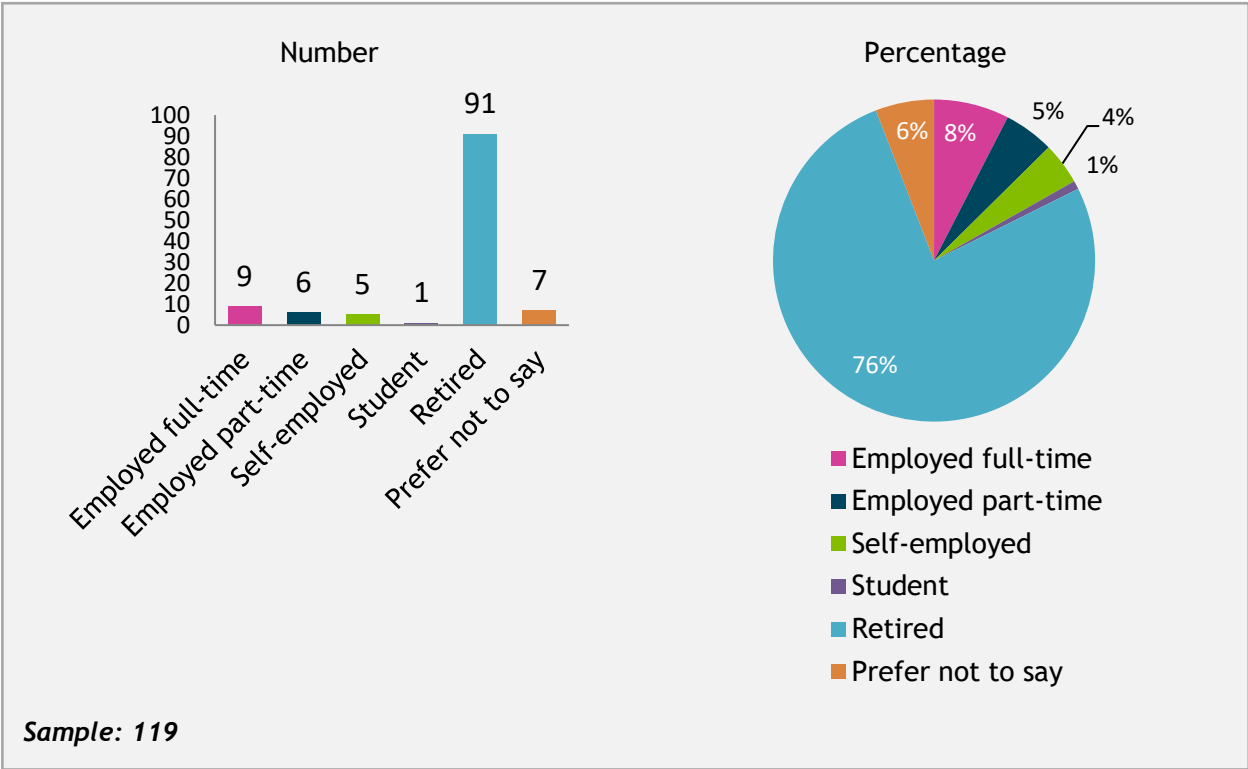
Household



Accommodation



Education/Employment



“Be involved in the area. I have no idea who my local police are and where they are.”

Local Older Person