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Findings from the Merseyside Violence and Community Safety (MerVCom) Survey

Charley Wilson, Ann-Marie Farrugia, Matthew Millings Nadia Butler, Mark A Bellis, Geraldine O'Driscoll, Zara Quigg

MERSEYSIDE Violence Reduction Partnership

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY
PUBLIC HEALTH
World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Violence Prevention

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### About this report

This report forms part of a suite of outputs from the MerVCom Survey. Other reports include:

1. The Merseyside Violence and Community Safety (MerVCom) Survey. A representative household survey of adults to understand community safety and cohesion, violence victimisation, and adverse childhood experiences.
2. Adulthood Violence Victimisation across Merseyside. Nature, prevalence, and associations with health and wellbeing, health risk behaviours, ACEs, and community safety and cohesion.
3. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) across Merseyside. Nature, prevalence, and associations with health and wellbeing, health risk behaviours, violence, and community safety and cohesion.
4. Local authority reports, one for each of the five local authorities in Merseyside (Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral) providing data at a local authority level

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# Contents

# Perceptions of Community Safety, Violence and Neighbourhood Cohesion, and Bystander Attitudes across Merseyside

The MerVCom survey is a population-level representative household survey of adults (aged 18+ years) who are residents in Merseyside. The survey aims to better understand community feelings of safety and cohesion, and perceptions and experiences of violence (including adverse childhood experiences) across Merseyside, and relationships of these with health and wellbeing, and other outcomes. This infographic forms part of a suite of outputs from the MerVCom survey, and specifically examines residents' perceptions of community safety, cohesion and violence across Merseyside. The survey was carried out between November 2023 and April 2024. The total sample size of the survey was 5,395.

## Community Safety

**64.7%** of participants felt safe in Merseyside generally during the day, compared to **42.9%** during the night

### Proportions of participants feeling UNSAFE in various settings during the day and night

#### Regional and local settings

**Merseyside generally**


10.8%

28.0%

**The nearest town centre**

11.0%

28.1%

**Your neighbourhood**
(within a 15-minute walk from your home)

5.4%

15.3%

**In the street where you live**

3.5%

9.1%

#### Recreational and transport settings

**In your nearest park**

10.4%

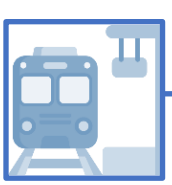
45.9%

**In pubs, bars and clubs**

13.0%

23.2%

**On public transport or at public transport stations**



7.3%

21.1%

**At taxi ranks**


8.6%

20.3%

#### Private settings

**In your own home**

1.8%

2.9%

**At your place of work or education**

2.0%

4.4%

## Perceptions of Violence

**34.8%** of participants thought that violence is common in their neighbourhood, and **86.3%** thought that violence is common in Merseyside generally

**13.9%** felt personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally

**6.4%** felt personally unsafe from violence in their neighbourhood

**42.7%** felt that children aged 10-17 years are unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally

**25.9%** felt that children aged 10-17 years are unsafe from violence in their neighbourhood

**37.7%** felt that young people aged 18-25 years are unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally

**23.3%** felt that young people aged 18-25 years are unsafe from violence in their neighbourhood

## Community Cohesion

### Needs fulfilment

**75.0%** agreed 'I can get what I need in this neighbourhood'.

**66.3%** agreed 'This neighbourhood helps me fulfil my needs'.

### Influence

**29.4%** agreed 'I have a say about what goes on in my neighbourhood'.

**42.1%** agreed 'People in this neighbourhood are good at influencing each other'.

### Group Membership

**68.7%** agreed 'I feel like a member of this neighbourhood'.

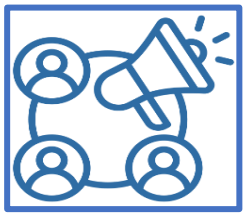
**72.5%** agreed 'I belong in this neighbourhood'.

### Emotional connection

**65.2%** agreed 'I feel connected to this neighbourhood'.

**68.1%** agreed 'I have a good bond with this neighbourhood'.

## Bystander Attitudes



**84.3%** agreed 'I need to set an example in my own behaviour for what I expect in others'.

**47.1%** agreed 'It is my responsibility to intervene when I notice a problematic situation'.

**31.6%** agreed 'There is no need to get involved in a problematic situation'.

There are significant differences by sex, age group, ethnicity, and deprivation in the proportions of participants who perceive violence as common, feel unsafe, report low neighbourhood cohesion, and have positive bystander scores (see Tables A6-A9).

# Conclusion and Recommendations

## Conclusion

The MerVCom survey indicates that most participants feel safe in the areas more local to them, however, have poorer perceptions of safety in relation to Merseyside more broadly. Crucially, findings also highlight that certain sociodemographic groups are less likely to feel safe in different settings across Merseyside, and that there are stark reductions in participants' feelings of safety during the nighttime compared to the daytime (particularly in parks). Community members' perceptions of safety have important implications for their social participation, access to key sources of resilience (e.g. services and community spaces), and health and wellbeing. Across Merseyside there is a clear commitment to enhancing community feelings of safety across different settings, evidenced by the implementation of evidence and data-led interventions to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour (e.g. hotspots policing, Safer Streets). Local and national policymakers, services, practitioners, and communities should use the evidence in this report, alongside wider data and evidence, to advocate for increased investment to enhance community residents' safety in different settings. Critically, policymakers and practitioners must ensure investment is tailored to the needs of local communities, aims to reduce inequitable experiences of safety across sociodemographic groups, and has a strong focus on early intervention.

## Key recommendations:

1. As part of broader community safety interventions, raise awareness of the high proportion of adults who feel safe in their neighbourhood, and successes of violence prevention activities, to enhance perceptions of safety across Merseyside and within local authority areas.

2. Ensure that there is a strong strategic commitment across multi-agency partners to improving safety for women and girls and people living in the most deprived areas of Merseyside. Strengthen and fund the implementation of policies and interventions which aim to improve feelings of safety and prevent and respond to incidents of victimisation broadly, and specifically for groups who are most at risk.

3. Increase the presence of factors which improve peoples' feelings of safety in different nighttime settings. Consider conducting further qualitative work to understand factors that influence different groups' feelings of safety across different nighttime environments, and design and implement interventions and approaches in line with this.

4. Improve understanding amongst community residents of how safe other groups (e.g. children and young people) feel and share local data on children and young people's views (e.g. Hope Hack).

5. Introduce activities to bring residents together to build community connections and give residents a stronger voice over what goes on in their local neighbourhoods. Consider targeting these activities towards groups with lower levels of community cohesion.

6. Engage with community residents to understand why there are generally poor attitudes towards acting as a positive bystander. Design and implement culturally relevant interventions for adults which aim to improve community residents' confidence, intentions, and skills to enable them to act as a positive bystander. Consider targeting these interventions towards groups with poorer levels of attitudes towards bystander intervention.

# 1. Introduction

Community safety can be broadly defined as the condition in which people in their communities feel comfortable, protected from crime, and where the likelihood of intentional (i.e. violence) and unintentional (i.e. accidents) injuries, and other hazards is reduced [1] . Although often thought of and conceptualised solely as an absence of crime, community safety encompasses a variety of concepts, including the presence of positive social norms and social institutions, feelings of belonging, and levels of support and trust within communities [2, 3, 4].

Perceptions of community safety has implications at both individual and community levels by potentially affecting individuals' overall quality of life and influencing a wide range of health, social, and economic outcomes. Research suggests that poor perceptions of community safety, including high levels of fear and insecurity within residents of communities can lead to social withdrawal, reduced community cohesion, and limited participation in public life [5, 6, 7] . Safe communities have been shown to foster environments where individuals are less likely to experience interpersonal violence [8, 9]. Safe communities also promote access to, and favour the maintenance of, essential services and social institutions, including healthcare, education, and key community spaces for recreational activities, which all help to shape individuals' experiences of health and wellbeing right across the lifecourse, and may act as sources of resilience to mitigate against experiences which would otherwise negatively impact health [10, 11, 12].

High levels of community cohesion have been shown to be positively associated with community participation and positive mental health, and negatively associated with symptoms of depression [13]. Conversely, evidence from the UK and internationally suggests that communities with low levels of social cohesion, an absence of institutions which promote social cohesion, and high levels of disadvantage, often have higher rates of stress and mental health concerns, violent crime outcomes, and heightened levels of substance misuse [14, 15]. Research has also identified numerous behavioural consequences that emerge as a result of low feelings of community safety, such as avoiding places which are perceived to be dangerous, not going out during certain hours, and not travelling or commuting alone in certain areas [16, 17]. Further, these behaviours have been shown to be especially prevalent among women, with studies showing that women's feeling of neighbourhood insecurity highly limits their ability to enjoy public life, and places severe restrictions on their daily opportunities [18, 19, 20]. Additionally, studies suggest that some ethnic minority groups experience a greater degree of fear when walking alone in their neighbourhoods [21, 22]. Therefore, as low levels of community safety may contribute to negative health and wellbeing outcomes in certain groups more than others, this could contribute to experiences of social and health inequalities.

The concept of community safety transcends beyond objective measures of safety such as reported crime figures and includes subjective feelings of safety amongst communities [23]. A discrepancy often emerges between the objective measures such as crime rates and subjective levels of community insecurity. Studies indicate that the safety level perceived by residents is often lower or higher [24, 25] than more objective measures of community safety due to a lack of reporting or recording of crime or accidents [26], or due to a heightened levels of perceived insecurity due to the built environment having negative impacts for individuals sense of safety [27]. Therefore, measuring residents'

perceptions of community safety alongside more objective measures (e.g. crime rates) is important to inform activities which aim to improve community residents' feelings of safety in different settings.

Despite significant decreases recorded in overall crime rates across Merseyside [28, 29], the need to capture how residents perceive the safety of the community areas that they live, work, and spend recreational time in remains pivotal to ensure that local community spaces are not only safe, but also feel safe. The Serious Violence Duty is one piece of UK legislation requiring that public bodies (including police, fire and rescue, health services, and local authorities) work collaboratively, sharing data and knowledge in order to target their practices and produce a strategy to prevent serious violence in their area following a multi-agency public health approach, which is critical to improving community feelings of safety [30].

As part of their role to enhance the development and implementation of a public health approach to violence prevention across Merseyside, in 2023/24 the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership (MVRP) collaborated with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) to implement the Merseyside Violence and Community Safety (MerVCom) Representative Household Survey. The MerVCom survey is a population-level representative household survey of adults (aged 18+ years) which aimed to better understand community feelings of safety and cohesion, and perceptions and experiences of violence (including adverse childhood experiences [ACEs]) across Merseyside, and relationships of these with health and wellbeing and other outcomes. This report forms part of a suite of outputs from the MerVCom survey, and specifically examines residents' perceptions of community safety, cohesion, and violence across Merseyside, and attitudes towards bystander behaviours. Capturing data on local residents' perceptions of community safety in their neighbourhoods and across Merseyside respectively is essential for informing allocation of resources and implementation of effective interventions and prevention measures to improve community feelings of safety, and for the early identification of potential issues before they escalate into more serious community safety concerns. In adopting this proactive approach, community leaders and law enforcement are able to address problems more promptly, ensuring access to a more secure environment. Additionally, by enabling residents to voice their opinions on the safety and wellbeing of their communities, trust and cooperation between the public and local authorities may be strengthened even further.

## 1.1. Aims and objectives

The aim of the current study was to examine adult community residents':

- Feelings of safety in different settings across Merseyside during the daytime and the nighttime.
- Perceptions of how common violence is in their local neighbourhoods and in Merseyside generally.
- Perceptions of personal safety from violence, and safety from violence for children and young people in local neighbourhoods and across Merseyside generally.
- Perceptions of neighbourhood cohesion.
- Attitudes towards bystander behaviours.

In addition, the current study explored whether there were sociodemographic differences in any of the community safety and cohesion factors explored.

# 2. Methods

## 2.1. Data source

Data for the current study was drawn from a cross-sectional representative survey of adults aged 18+ who were residents in households across Merseyside, carried out between November 2023 and April 2024. The MerVCom survey is a face-to-face and online survey in which residents of Merseyside are asked about their perceptions of community safety and cohesion, perceptions and experiences of violence (including ACEs) across Merseyside, and health and wellbeing. This report presents findings on participants' perceptions of community safety and violence, neighbourhood cohesion, and bystander attitudes. Findings on other survey topics including adulthood violence victimisation and ACEs are presented elsewhere [31, 32]. Surveys were completed online by the participant or face-to-face with a trained interviewer using computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) technology. Further details on the survey sample design and methods can be found elsewhere [33]. The survey utilised a random quota sampling approach to select 110 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) stratified by English Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles, age, and sex, across the five Local Authorities in Merseyside. The total sample size of the survey was 5,395. Overall, 1,215 participants (22.5%) completed the survey online and 4,180 participants (77.5%) completed the survey face-to-face with trained interviewers. Ethical approval for the study was granted by Liverpool John Moores Research Ethics Committee (23/PHI/050).

## 2.2. Measures

### 2.2.1 Feelings of safety in different settings:

Participants were asked to what extent they felt safe in different settings across Merseyside during the daytime and the nighttime (see Appendix Table A1). Participants could respond for each setting on a five-point scale (1=very unsafe, 2=unsafe, 3=neither safe nor unsafe, 4=safe, 5=very safe).

### 2.2.2 Perceptions of violence:

Participants were asked to what extent they think violence is common in their neighbourhood and across Merseyside generally (see Appendix Table A1). Participants could respond for each statement on a four-point scale (1=not at all common, 2=not very common, 3=fairly common, 4=very common). Participants were also asked to what extent they personally thought children aged 10-17 years, and young people aged 18-25 years were safe from violence both in their own neighbourhood and across Merseyside generally. Participants could respond for each setting on a five-point scale (1=very unsafe, 2=unsafe, 3=neither safe nor unsafe, 4=safe, 5=very safe).

### 2.2.3 Neighbourhood cohesion:

The Brief Sense of Community Scale [13] was used to measure participants feelings of neighbourhood cohesion (see Appendix Table A1). This scale uses 8-items with participants indicating on a five-point scale to what extent they agree with each item (1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree). Items on the Brief Sense of Community Scale can be summed and the mean taken to give an overall score, specific items can also be summed together and the mean taken to give four subscale scores: needs fulfilment (2-items), group membership (2-items), influence (2-items), and emotional connection (2-items). Lower scores on the overall scale and each of these subscales indicate lower levels of neighbourhood cohesion. For the overall score and each subscale, scores were dichotomised to indicate low scores, as more than one standard deviation below mean scores.

### 2.2.4 Attitudes towards bystander behaviours:

The Bystander Intervention Survey [34] was used to measure participants attitudes towards acting as a positive bystander in problematic situations (see Appendix Table A1). From this scale, 3-items which measured participants' bystander attitudes were used. Participants indicate on a five-point scale how much they agree with each item (1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree). Scores for each item are summed together (with one item being reverse scored – 'There is no need to get involved in a problematic situation') to give an overall bystander intervention score, with higher scores indicating more positive attitudes towards acting as a positive bystander. For analyses, a variable was created to indicate positive bystander attitudes. Positive scores were indicated by being more than one standard deviation above the mean score on the overall bystander intervention score.

### 2.2.5 Sociodemographics:

Sociodemographic characteristics included: sex (male, female); age (years: 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+); ethnicity (White, other ethnicities); and deprivation quintile (1 most deprived; 5 least deprived).

## 2.3. Data analyses

Quantitative analyses were undertaken in SPSS (v.28) using descriptive statistics. Chi-square for Independence (with Continuity Correction) was used to explore associations between sociodemographics and perceptions of safety, prevalence of violence, neighbourhood cohesion and bystander attitudes. itudes. Paired samples t-tests were used to identify statistically significant differences in mean levels of feelings of safety in different settings across Merseyside during the daytime and the nighttime. To estimate the prevalence of feeling unsafe in individuals' own neighbourhood during the daytime and the nighttime, and feeling unsafe in individuals' own neighbourhood specifically from violence at any time, at Merseyside, local authority, and ward level, best fit binary logistic regression models were used. These general modelled risks (estimated marginal means) for each outcome for all combinations of individual characteristics (age, sex) and LSOA of residence properties (ethnicity profile, quintile of deprivation, local authority). These modelled risks were applied to the resident population of each geography according to its demographic and LSOA characteristics.

## 2.4. Reporting conventions

The following caveats and conventions should be considered when interpreting the findings in this report.

- All figures presented in the main body of the report are sample level data.
- Modelled data is provided in the Appendix tables at Merseyside, local authority, and ward level for feeling unsafe in individuals' own neighbourhood during the daytime and the nighttime and feeling unsafe in individuals' own neighbourhood specifically from violence at any time (Table A2, A3).
- Only associations which were found to be significant are presented within the main body of the report. For full data on any associations see the appendix tables. Associations are significant if their p-value is less than 0.05 (i.e. <0.05). P-values help understand whether given results are due to chance. Low p-values suggest findings are likely meaningful and not due to chance.
- Findings represent an association only and do not imply causation in any direction.
- Findings in tables and figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

# 3. Findings

## 3.1. Perceptions of safety in Merseyside

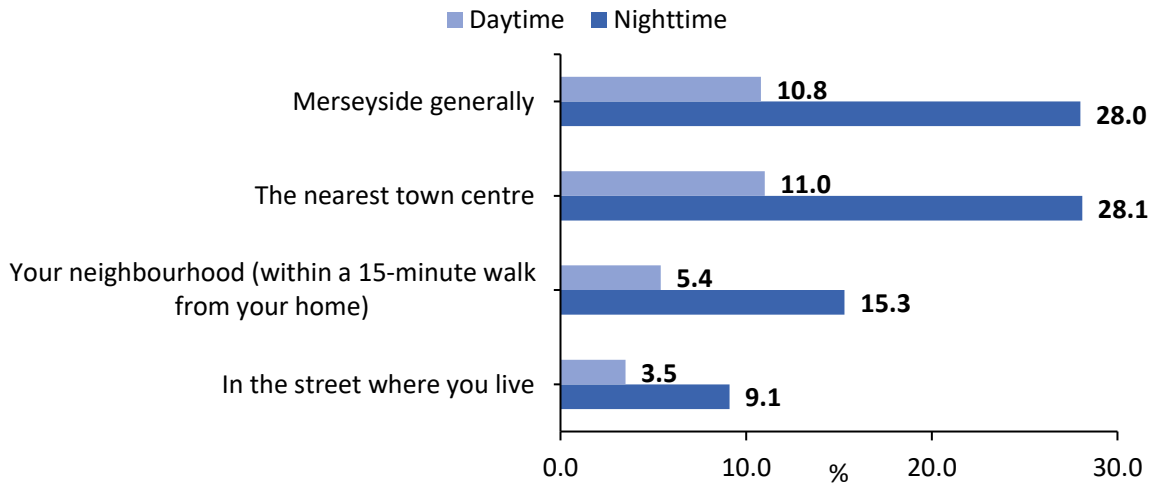
***64.7% of participants felt safe in Merseyside generally during the daytime compared to 42.9% during the nighttime***

Participants were asked about their feelings of safety[1] in different settings during the daytime and nighttime in Merseyside (Table A4). Large proportions of participants reported feeling unsafe in each setting during the nighttime, whilst these same settings during the daytime had lower rates of participants reporting feeling unsafe. In paired samples t-tests, participants' mean reported feelings of safety during the daytime were significantly higher (i.e. safer) in each setting compared their reported feelings of safety during the nighttime (Table A5).

### 3.1.1 Perceptions of safety in local public settings and Merseyside generally

In Merseyside generally, one in ten participants (10.8%) reported feeling unsafe during the daytime, compared to over one quarter (28.0%) during the nighttime. Similarly, just over one in ten (11.0%) reported feeling unsafe in their nearest town centre during the daytime, compared to over a quarter (28.1%) during the nighttime. One in twenty (5.4%) participants felt unsafe in their own neighbourhood during the daytime, compared to over one in ten (15.3%) during the nighttime. A small proportion (3.5%) of participants felt unsafe in the street where they live during the daytime, however, this increased to just under one in ten (9.1%) during the nighttime. Compared to Merseyside generally and the nearest town centre, a smaller proportion of participants felt unsafe in their neighbourhood and in the street where they live both during the daytime and the nighttime (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Proportion of participants reporting feeling unsafe in local public settings and in Merseyside generally, during the daytime and the nighttime**




[1] Safe, including very safe and safe; neither safe nor unsafe; and unsafe, including very unsafe and unsafe.

In bivariate analyses there were significant associations between feeling unsafe during the daytime and during the nighttime in local public settings and in Merseyside generally and sociodemographic factors (Table A6, A7).

There were significant associations between sex and feeling unsafe in Merseyside generally during the daytime ($p<0.01$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), in the nearest town centre during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), in participants' own neighbourhood during the nighttime ($p<0.001$), and in the street where participants live during the daytime ($p<0.05$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), with a higher proportion of females compared to males feeling unsafe in each setting during the daytime and nighttime (Table 1).

**During the nighttime, 33.8% of females felt unsafe in Merseyside generally (compared to 21.5% of males; p<0.001) and 19.7% felt unsafe in their neighbourhood (compared to 10.5% of males; p<0.001)**

**Table 1: Significant associations between sex and feeling unsafe in local public settings and Merseyside generally**

| | ♂ Male % (n) | ♀ Female % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|
| Merseyside generally (day) | 9.6 (244) | 11.9 (335) | <0.01 |
| Merseyside generally (night) | 21.5 (547) | 33.8 (952) | <0.001 |
| The nearest town centre (day) | 9.5 (243) | 12.4 (350) | <0.001 |
| The nearest town centre (night) | 20.8 (528) | 34.6 (978) | <0.001 |
| Your neighbourhood (night) | 10.5 (266) | 19.7 (556) | <0.001 |
| In the street where you live (day) | 2.9 (73) | 4.1 (115) | <0.05 |
| In the street where you live (night) | 6.0 (152) | 11.8 (334) | <0.001 |

There were significant associations between ethnicity and feeling unsafe in Merseyside generally during the nighttime ($p<0.001$), in the nearest town centre during the daytime ($p<0.05$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), and in the street where participants live during the nighttime ($p<0.05$), with the proportion feeling unsafe in Merseyside generally (night), and in the nearest town centre (day and night) higher among those of White ethnic backgrounds compared to those of other ethnicities, while the proportion feeling unsafe in the street where they live at night was higher among those of other ethnicities compared to those from White ethnic backgrounds (Table 2).

**Table 2: Significant associations between ethnicity and feeling unsafe in local public settings and Merseyside generally**

| | White % (n) | Other ethnicities % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|
| Merseyside generally (night) | 28.6 (1420) | 19.9 (74) | <0.001 |
| The nearest town centre (day) | 11.3 (560) | 7.7 (29) | <0.05 |
| The nearest town centre (night) | 28.9 (1435) | 17.9 (67) | <0.001 |
| In the street where you live (night) | 8.8 (439) | 12.0 (45) | <0.05 |

There were significant associations between deprivation and feeling unsafe in Merseyside generally during the daytime (p<0.01) and the nighttime (p<0.001), in the nearest town centre during the daytime (p<0.05) and the nighttime (p<0.001), in participants' own neighbourhood during the daytime (p<0.001) and the nighttime (p<0.001), and in the street where participants live during the daytime (p<0.001) and the nighttime (p<0.05), with the proportion feeling unsafe in each setting (except for the nearest town centre during the daytime) highest among those living in the most deprived areas. The highest proportion who felt unsafe in the nearest town centre during the daytime lived in deprivation quintile 2 and 3 areas (Table 3).

**During the nighttime, 30.2% of those living in the most deprived areas felt unsafe in Merseyside generally (compared to 20.1% of those living in the least deprived areas; p<0.001) and 21.4% felt unsafe in their neighbourhood (compared to 6.5% of those living in the least deprived areas; p<0.001)**

**Table 3: Significant associations between deprivation and feeling unsafe in local public settings and Merseyside generally**

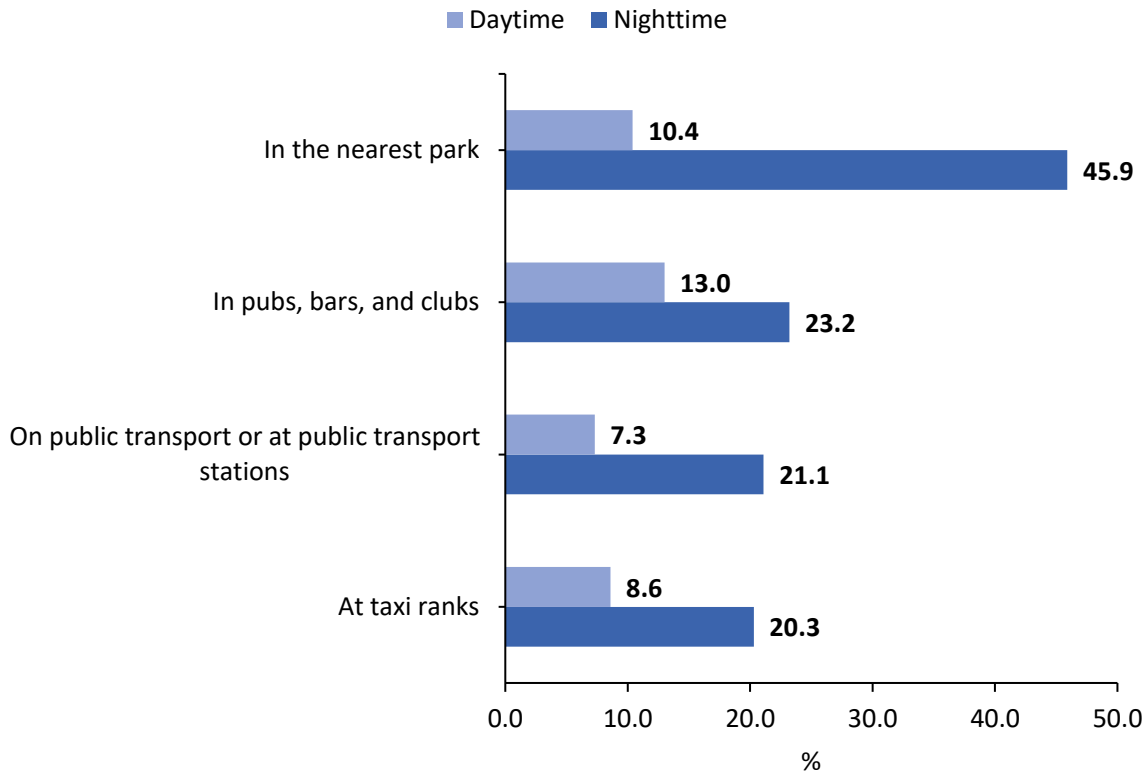
| | Most deprived - 1 % (n) | 2 % (n) | 3 % (n) | 4 % (n) | Least deprived - 5 % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Merseyside generally (day) | 12.2 (300) | 8.9 (76) | 11.1 (93) | 10.8 (90) | 6.0 (23) | <0.01 |
| Merseyside generally (night) | 30.2 (744) | 25.5 (217) | 29.4 (247) | 26.1 (217) | 20.1 (77) | <0.001 |
| The nearest town centre (day) | 11.5 (283) | 11.6 (99) | 11.6 (97) | 11.0 (92) | 6.0 (23) | <0.05 |
| The nearest town centre (night) | 30.8 (760) | 29.1 (248) | 25.5 (214) | 25.9 (216) | 18.2 (70) | <0.001 |
| Your neighbourhood (day) | 8.1 (200) | 4.3 (37) | 3.5 (29) | 2.5 (21) | 0.8 (3) | <0.001 |
| Your neighbourhood (night) | 21.4 (527) | 14.1 (120) | 10.6 (89) | 7.4 (62) | 6.5 (25) | <0.001 |
| In the street where you live (day) | 6.0 (147) | 2.1 (18) | 1.2 (10) | 1.6 (13) | 0.3 (1) | <0.001 |
| In the street where you live (night) | 13.7 (338) | 7.4 (63) | 4.4 (37) | 4.4 (37) | 3.1 (12) | <0.001 |

### 3.1.2 Perceptions of safety in recreational and transport settings across Merseyside

In participants' nearest park, one in ten participants (10.4%) reported feeling unsafe during the daytime, compared to over four in ten (45.9%) during the nighttime. In pubs, bars, and clubs just over one in ten (13.0%) reported feeling unsafe during the daytime, compared to over one in five (23.2%) during the nighttime. Similar proportions of participants reported feeling unsafe on public transport or at public transport stations (7.3%), and at taxi ranks (8.6%) during the daytime, this increased to similar proportions during the nighttime (21.1% and 20.3% respectively). Overall, participants' nearest park

was the setting in which the highest proportion of participants felt unsafe during the nighttime, while pubs, bars, and clubs had the highest proportion who felt unsafe during the daytime (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: The proportion of participants reporting feeling unsafe in recreational and transport settings, during the daytime and the nighttime**




In bivariate analyses there were significant associations between feeling unsafe during the daytime and during the nighttime in recreational and transport settings across Merseyside and sociodemographic factors (Table A6, A7).

There were significant associations between sex and feeling unsafe in the nearest park during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), in pubs, bars, and clubs during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), on public transport or at public transport stations during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), and at taxi ranks during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), with a higher proportion of females compared to males feeling unsafe in each setting during the daytime and nighttime (Table 4).

**During the daytime, 13.1% of females felt unsafe in their nearest park (compared to 7.2% of males; $p<0.001$) and 15.5% felt unsafe in pubs, bars, and clubs (compared to 10.3% of males; $p<0.001$)**

**During the nighttime, 28.7% of females felt unsafe on public transport or at public transport stations (compared to 12.8% of males; $p<0.001$) and 27.7% felt unsafe at taxi ranks (compared to 12.2% of males; $p<0.001$)**

**Table 4: Significant associations between sex and feeling unsafe in recreational and transport settings across Merseyside**

| | ♂ Male % (n) | ♀ Female % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|
| In the nearest park (day) | 7.2 (174) | 13.1 (349) | <0.001 |
| In the nearest park (night) | 33.5 (751) | 57.3 (1404) | <0.001 |
| In pubs, bars, and clubs (day) | 10.3 (224) | 15.5 (350) | <0.001 |
| In pubs, bars, and clubs (night) | 17.4 (370) | 28.9 (642) | <0.001 |
| On public transport or at public transport stations (day) | 5.2 (121) | 9.1 (228) | <0.001 |
| On public transport or at public transport stations (night) | 12.8 (284) | 28.7 (688) | <0.001 |
| At taxi ranks (day) | 5.0 (103) | 11.8 (263) | <0.001 |
| At taxi ranks (night) | 12.2 (245) | 27.7 (606) | <0.001 |

There were significant associations between age and feeling unsafe in the nearest park during the nighttime ($p<0.05$), in pubs, bars, and clubs during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.05$), on public transport or at public transport stations during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.05$), and at taxi ranks during the daytime ($p<0.01$) and the nighttime ($p<0.05$), with the highest proportion feeling unsafe in the nearest park during the nighttime among those aged 65+ years, in pubs, bars, and clubs during the daytime among those aged 18-24 years and 25-34 years at nighttime, on public transport or at public transport stations during the daytime among those aged 25-34 years and 35-44 years at nighttime, and at taxi ranks during the daytime and nighttime among those aged 55-64 years (Table 5).

There were significant associations between ethnicity and feeling unsafe in the nearest park during the nighttime ($p<0.001$), on public transport or at public transport stations during the nighttime ($p<0.01$), and at taxi ranks during the daytime ($p<0.01$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), with a higher proportion of those from White ethnic backgrounds compared to those of other ethnicities feeling unsafe in each setting during the daytime and nighttime (Table 6).

**Table 5: Significant associations between age and feeling unsafe in recreational and transport settings across Merseyside**

| | 18-24 years % (n) | 25-34 years % (n) | 35-44 years % (n) | 45-54 years % (n) | 55-64 years % (n) | 65+ years % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| In the nearest park (night) | 42.2 (205) | 42.0 (316) | 46.2 (411) | 45.0 (309) | 47.5 (412) | 49.6 (500) | <0.05 |
| In pubs, bars, and clubs (day) | 15.9 (76) | 15.4 (111) | 14.1 (117) | 12.8 (85) | 12.8 (105) | 8.9 (81) | <0.001 |
| In pubs, bars, and clubs (night) | 24.0 (113) | 25.6 (183) | 24.4 (201) | 22.5 (150) | 24.6 (202) | 19.2 (162) | <0.05 |
| On public transport or at public transport stations (day) | 7.2 (36) | 9.0 (67) | 8.4 (72) | 7.1 (47) | 8.5 (75) | 4.4 (52) | <0.001 |
| On public transport or at public transport stations (night) | 22.8 (112) | 20.1 (147) | 23.4 (198) | 20.3 (134) | 23.0 (196) | 18.0 (184) | <0.05 |
| At taxi ranks (day) | 7.7 (36) | 7.4 (53) | 9.5 (78) | 9.5 (59) | 11.2 (87) | 6.1 (54) | <0.01 |
| At taxi ranks (night) | 19.2 (89) | 19.0 (135) | 20.1 (165) | 20.3 (126) | 24.6 (187) | 18.1 (149) | <0.05 |

**Table 6: Significant associations between ethnicity and feeling unsafe in recreational and transport settings across Merseyside**

| | White % (n) | Other ethnicities % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|
| In the nearest park (night) | 46.9 (2030) | 34.0 (118) | <0.001 |
| On public transport or at public transport stations (night) | 21.6 (918) | 14.7 (51) | <0.01 |
| At taxi ranks (day) | 8.9 (352) | 4.4 (14) | <0.01 |
| At taxi ranks (night) | 21.0 (812) | 12.4 (39) | <0.001 |

There were significant associations between deprivation and feeling unsafe in the nearest park during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), in pubs, bars, and clubs during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), and on public transport or at public transport stations during the daytime ($p<0.001$), with the highest proportion of feeling unsafe in each setting (except on public transport or at public transport stations) among those living in the most deprived areas. The highest

proportion who felt unsafe on public transport or at public transport stations lived in deprivation quintile 3 areas (Table 7).

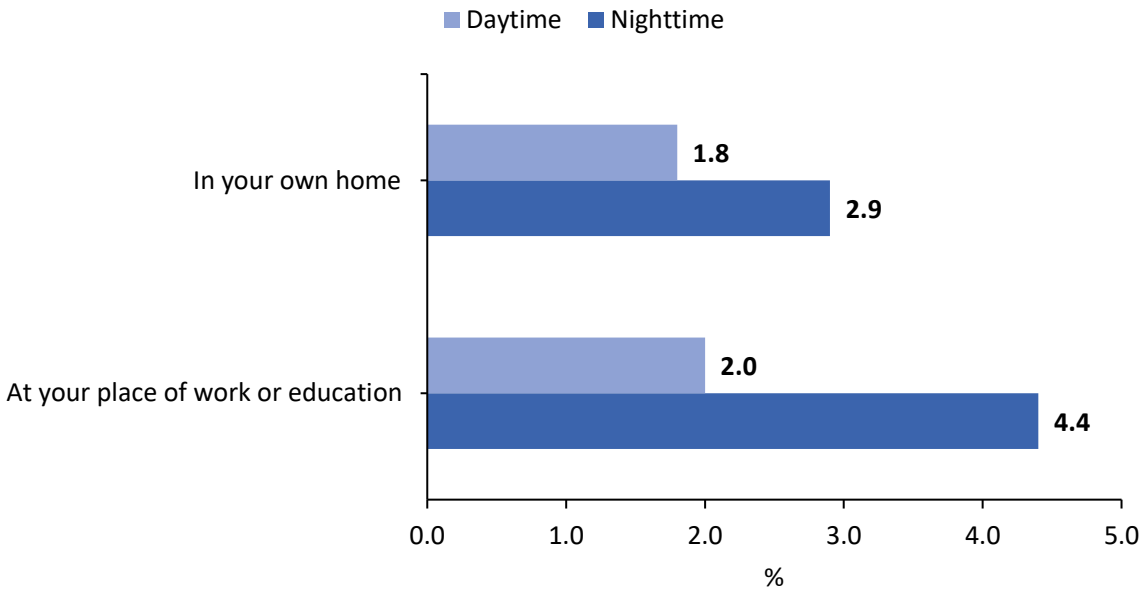
**Table 7: Significant associations between deprivation and feeling unsafe in recreational and transport settings across Merseyside**

| | Most deprived - 1 % (n) | 2 % (n) | 3 % (n) | 4 % (n) | Least deprived - 5 % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| In the nearest park (day) | 14.1 (327) | 8.4 (68) | 7.7 (61) | 6.8 (54) | 4.6 (17) | <0.001 |
| In the nearest park (night) | 49.3 (1073) | 46.3 (344) | 43.0 (321) | 42.3 (309) | 35.9 (111) | <0.001 |
| In pubs, bars, and clubs (day) | 17.9 (349) | 9.6 (69) | 11.6 (83) | 8.0 (57) | 5.5 (19) | <0.001 |
| In pubs, bars, and clubs (night) | 29.4 (568) | 19.6 (137) | 21.8 (155) | 14.8 (102) | 15.5 (51) | <0.001 |
| On public transport or at public transport stations (day) | 8.6 (188) | 6.1 (47) | 9.0 (68) | 4.7 (36) | 3.7 (13) | <0.001 |

### 3.1.3 Perceptions of safety in private settings across Merseyside

A small proportion of participants (1.8%) reported feeling unsafe in their home during the daytime, with a small increase to 2.9% feeling unsafe during the nighttime. Similarly, a small proportion of participants (2.0%) reported feeling unsafe at their place of work or education during the daytime, which rose to 4.4% during the nighttime (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: The proportion of participants reporting feeling unsafe in private settings, during the daytime and the nighttime**



In bivariate analyses there were significant associations between feeling unsafe during the daytime and during the nighttime in private settings across Merseyside and sociodemographic factors (Table A6, A7).

There were significant associations between sex and feeling unsafe in participants' own homes during the daytime ($p<0.05$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), and at participants' place of work or education during the nighttime ($p<0.001$), with a higher proportion of females compared to males feeling unsafe in each setting during the daytime and nighttime (Table 8).

**Table 8: Significant associations between sex and feeling unsafe in private settings across Merseyside**

| | ♂ Male % (n) | ♀ Female % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|
| In your own home (day) | 1.3 (34) | 2.1 (60) | <0.05 |
| In your own home (night) | 2.0 (52) | 3.6 (102) | <0.001 |
| At your place of work or education (night) | 2.9 (45) | 5.8 (100) | <0.001 |

There were significant associations between deprivation and feeling unsafe in participants' own homes during the daytime ($p<0.001$) and the nighttime ($p<0.001$), with the highest proportion of feeling unsafe in each setting among those living in the most deprived areas (Table 9).

**Table 9: Significant associations between deprivation and feeling unsafe in private settings across Merseyside**

|  | Most deprived - 1 % (n) | 2 % (n) | 3 % (n) | 4 % (n) | Least deprived - 5 % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| In your own home (day) | 2.6 (64) | 1.5 (13) | 0.7 (6) | 1.4 (12) | 0.0 (0) | <0.001 |
| In your own home (night) | 4.0 (100) | 2.7 (23) | 1.5 (13) | 1.8 (15) | 1.0 (4) | <0.001 |

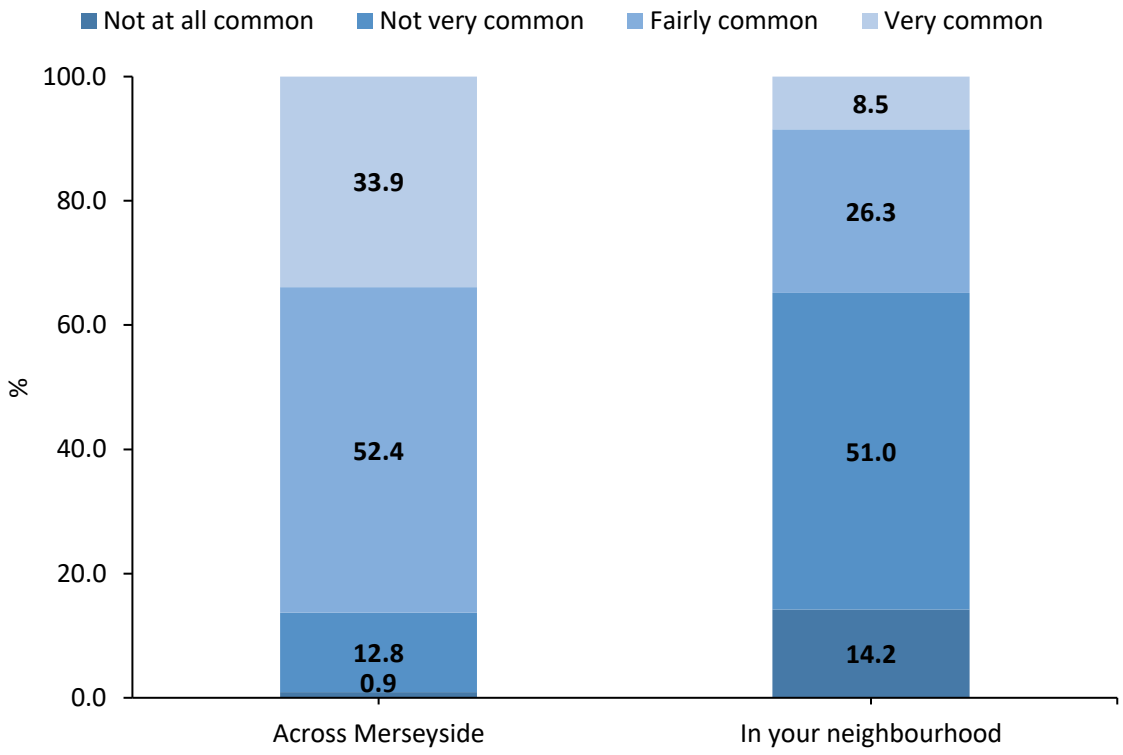
## 3.2. Perceptions of violence in Merseyside

***34.8% of participants thought that violence is common in their neighbourhood, and 86.3% thought that violence is common in Merseyside generally***

### 3.2.1 Perceptions of the frequency of violence in Merseyside

Participants were asked questions about how common they thought violence is across Merseyside and in their neighbourhood. Most participants (86.3%; n=4585) thought that violence is either fairly common or very common across Merseyside (Figure 4). A far smaller proportion thought that violence is either fairly common or very common in their neighbourhood (34.8%; n=1858; Figure 4). Overall, 34.3% (n=1816) of participants thought that violence is both common across Merseyside and in their own neighbourhood.

**Figure 4: Participants' perceptions of how common violence is across Merseyside and in their neighbourhood**




In bivariate analyses there were significant associations between perceptions that violence is common across Merseyside and in your neighbourhood, and sociodemographic factors (Table A8).

There were significant associations between sex and perceptions that violence is common across Merseyside ($p<0.001$) and in participants' own neighbourhood ($p<0.001$), with a higher proportion of females compared to males perceiving that violence is common in each setting (Table 10).

**Table 10: Significant associations between sex and perceiving that violence is common across Merseyside and in participants' own neighbourhood**

| | | Male % (n) | Female % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Violence is common across Merseyside | 81.8 (2060) | 90.3 (2515) | <0.001 |
|  | Violence is common in your neighbourhood | 30.1 (761) | 39.0 (1091) | <0.001 |

There were significant associations between age and perceptions that violence is common across Merseyside ($p<0.05$) and in participants' own neighbourhood ($p<0.001$), with the proportion perceiving that violence is common in each setting highest among those aged 45-54 years (Table 11).

**Table 11: Significant associations between age and perceiving that violence is common across Merseyside and in participants' own neighbourhood**

| | | 18-24 years % (n) | 25-34 years % (n) | 35-44 years % (n) | 45-54 years % (n) | 55-64 years % (n) | 65+ years % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Violence is common across Merseyside | 85.9 (433) | 85.8 (671) | 87.9 (820) | 89.6 (659) | 86.6 (869) | 84.1 (1112) | <0.05 |
|  | Violence is common in your neighbourhood | 37.2 (187) | 36.1 (284) | 35.2 (331) | 38.0 (283) | 37.0 (373) | 29.4 (394) | <0.001 |

There was a significant association between ethnicity and perceptions that violence is common across Merseyside ($p<0.001$), with the proportion perceiving that violence is common across Merseyside higher among those of White ethnic backgrounds compared to those of other ethnicities (Table 12).

**Table 12: Significant associations between ethnicity and perceiving that violence is common across Merseyside**

| | | White % (n) | Other ethnicities % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Violence is common across Merseyside | 87.3 (4300) | 72.5 (263) | <0.001 |

There were significant associations between deprivation and perceptions that violence is common across Merseyside (p<0.001) and in participants' own neighbourhood (p<0.001), with the proportion perceiving that violence is common in each setting highest among those living in the most deprived areas (Table 13).

**Table 13: Significant associations between deprivation and perceiving that violence is common across Merseyside and in participants' own neighbourhood**

| | | Most deprived - 1 % (n) | 2 % (n) | 3 % (n) | 4 % (n) | Least deprived - 5 % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Violence is common across Merseyside | 88.5 (2158) | 86.1 (726) | 84.0 (698) | 83.1 (682) | 84.0 (321) | <0.001 |
|  | Violence is common in your neighbourhood | 44.9 (1100) | 33.9 (287) | 22.8 (190) | 23.3 (193) | 23.0 (88) | <0.001 |

### 3.2.2 Perceptions of safety from violence in Merseyside

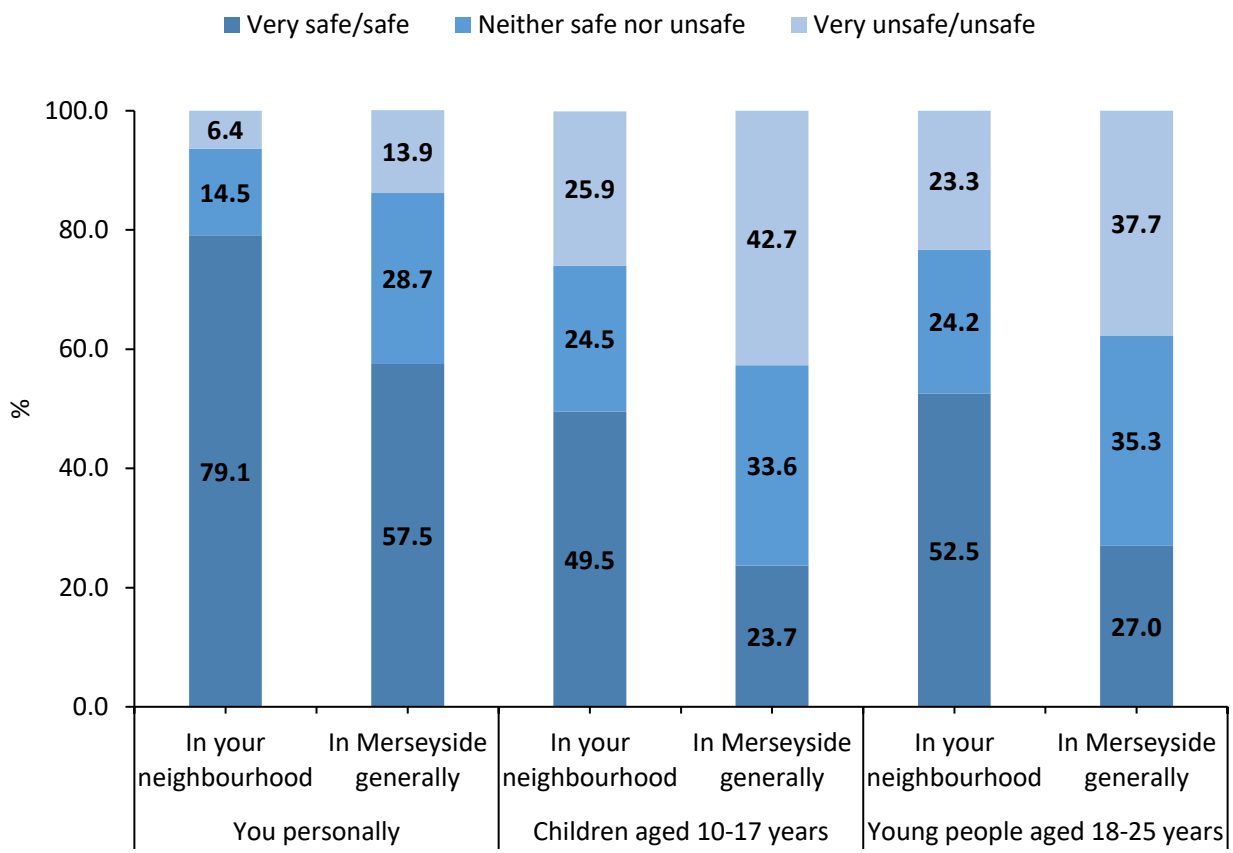
Participants were also asked questions about how safe they personally are from violence in their neighbourhood and across Merseyside, as well as children aged 10-17 years and young people aged 18-25 years (Figure 5).

Nearly eight in ten (79.1%) thought that they are personally safe from violence in their own neighbourhood, compared to 57.5% feeling personally safe from violence in Merseyside generally.

Just over half (52.5%) thought that young people aged 18-25 years are safe from violence in their neighbourhood (23.3% thought that this group are unsafe). Just over a quarter of participants (27.0%) thought that young people aged 18-25 years are safe from violence in Merseyside generally (37.7% thought that this group are unsafe).

Just under half (49.5%) thought that children aged 10-17 years are safe from violence in their neighbourhood (25.9% thought that this group are unsafe). Less than a quarter of participants (23.7%) thought that children aged 10-17 years are safe from violence in Merseyside generally (42.7% thought that this group are unsafe).

**Figure 5: Participants' perceptions of safety from violence in their neighbourhood and across Merseyside**




In bivariate analyses there were significant associations between feeling personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally and sociodemographic factors (Table A8).

There were significant associations between sex and feeling personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally ($p<0.001$) and in participants' own neighbourhood ($p<0.001$), with a higher proportion of females compared to males feeling personally unsafe from violence in each setting (Table 14).

There were significant associations between age and feeling personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally ($p<0.01$), with the proportion feeling personally unsafe from violence highest among those aged 55-64 years (Table 15).

There were significant associations between deprivation and feeling personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally ($p<0.001$) and in participants' own neighbourhood ($p<0.001$), with the proportion feeling personally unsafe from violence in each setting highest among those living in the most deprived areas (Table 16).

**Table 14: Significant associations between sex and feeling personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally and in participants' own neighbourhood**

| | | Male % (n) | Female % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally | 10.5 (264) | 16.9 (468) | <0.001 |
|  | Personally unsafe from violence in your neighbourhood | 4.7 (117) | 8.0 (221) | <0.001 |

**Table 15: Significant associations between age and feeling personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally**

| | | 18-24 years % (n) | 25-34 years % (n) | 35-44 years % (n) | 45-54 years % (n) | 55-64 years % (n) | 65+ years % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally | 11.7 (58) | 10.4 (81) | 13.9 (129) | 14.4 (106) | 16.8 (168) | 14.3 (189) | <0.01 |

**Table 16: Significant associations between deprivation and feeling personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally and in participants' own neighbourhood**

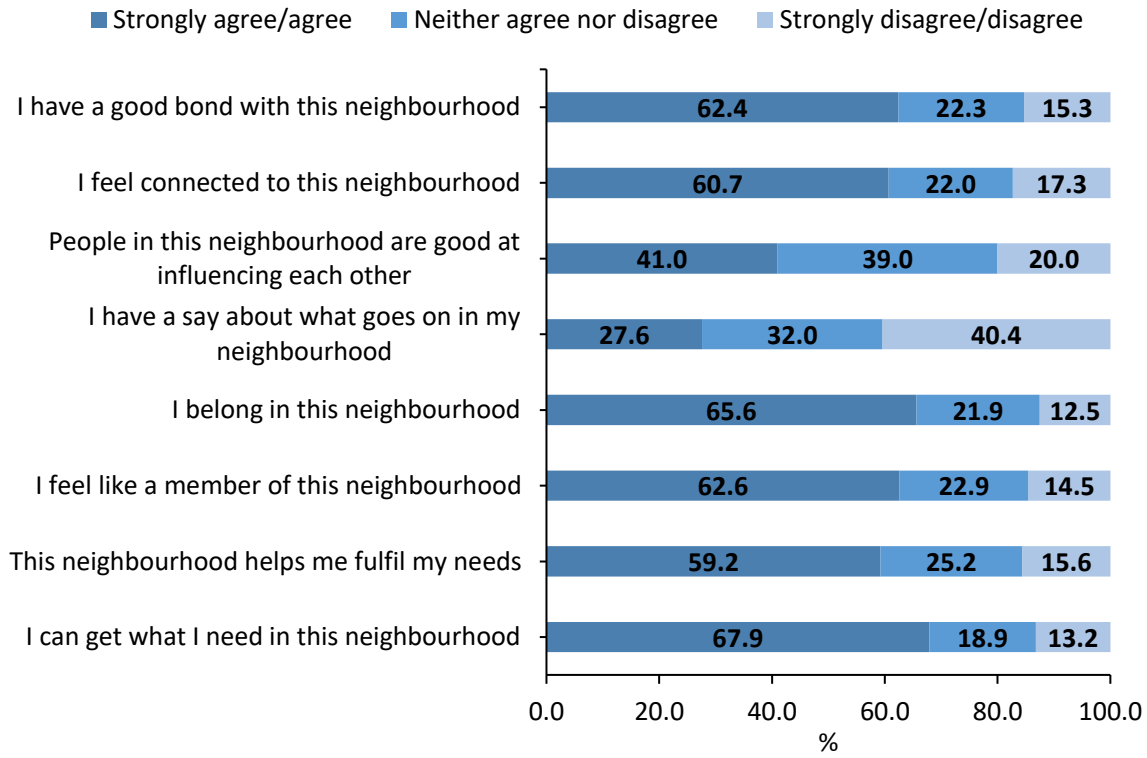
| | | Most deprived - 1 % (n) | 2 % (n) | 3 % (n) | 4 % (n) | Least deprived - 5 % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally | 16.2 (396) | 11.6 (95) | 14.1 (117) | 10.7 (88) | 10.4 (38) | <0.001 |
|  | Personally unsafe from violence in your neighbourhood | 9.1 (222) | 6.6 (54) | 3.6 (30) | 3.5 (29) | 1.4 (5) | <0.001 |

## 3.3. Neighbourhood cohesion

***65.6% of participants agreed that they belong in their neighbourhood***

Participants were asked to what extent they agreed with statements relating to neighbourhood cohesion. Around six in ten (62.4%) agreed that they have a good bond with their neighbourhood, they feel connected to their neighbourhood (60.7%), they feel like a member of their neighbourhood (62.6%), and their neighbourhood helps them to fulfil their needs (59.2%; Figure 6). Around two thirds agreed that they belong (65.6%) and can get what they need in their neighbourhood (67.9%) (Figure 6). Only 41.0% of participants agreed that people in their neighbourhood are good at influencing each other, and 27.6% that they have a say about what goes on in their neighbourhood (Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Participants' levels of agreement with statements relating to neighbourhood cohesion**




In bivariate analyses there were significant associations between having low neighbourhood cohesion scores, indicating more negative feelings of neighbourhood cohesion on the different neighbourhood cohesion subscales and overall scale and sociodemographic factors (Table A9).

There were significant associations between age and having low overall neighbourhood cohesion ($p<0.001$), low neighbourhood needs fulfilment ($p<0.001$), low neighbourhood group membership ($p<0.001$), and low neighbourhood emotional connection ($p<0.001$), with the highest proportion with low overall neighbourhood cohesion, low group membership, and low emotional connection in those aged 18-24 years, and the highest proportion with low neighbourhood needs fulfilment amongst those aged 35-44 years (Table 17).

**Table 17: Significant associations between age and low neighbourhood cohesion subscale scores**

| | | 18-24 years % (n) | 25-34 years % (n) | 35-44 years % (n) | 45-54 years % (n) | 55-64 years % (n) | 65+ years % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Low overall neighbourhood cohesion | 20.8 (104) | 19.5 (153) | 18.4 (172) | 19.0 (141) | 16.5 (166) | 12.4 (166) | <0.001 |
|  | Low neighbourhood needs fulfilment | 18.3 (92) | 16.3 (129) | 18.8 (177) | 16.8 (125) | 16.6 (168) | 13.2 (178) | <0.01 |
|  | Low neighbourhood group membership | 19.4 (98) | 19.1 (151) | 17.5 (165) | 16.8 (126) | 15.0 (152) | 11.7 (158) | <0.001 |
|  | Low neighbourhood emotional connection | 24.8 (125) | 21.5 (170) | 19.4 (183) | 20.9 (156) | 18.9 (192) | 13.0 (176) | <0.001 |

There were significant associations between deprivation and having low overall neighbourhood cohesion (p<0.001), low neighbourhood needs fulfilment (p<0.001), low neighbourhood group membership (p<0.001), low neighbourhood influence (p<0.001), and low neighbourhood emotional connection (p<0.001), with the highest proportion with low overall neighbourhood cohesion and across each subscale among those living in the most deprived areas (Table 18).

**Table 18: Significant associations between deprivation and low neighbourhood cohesion subscale scores**

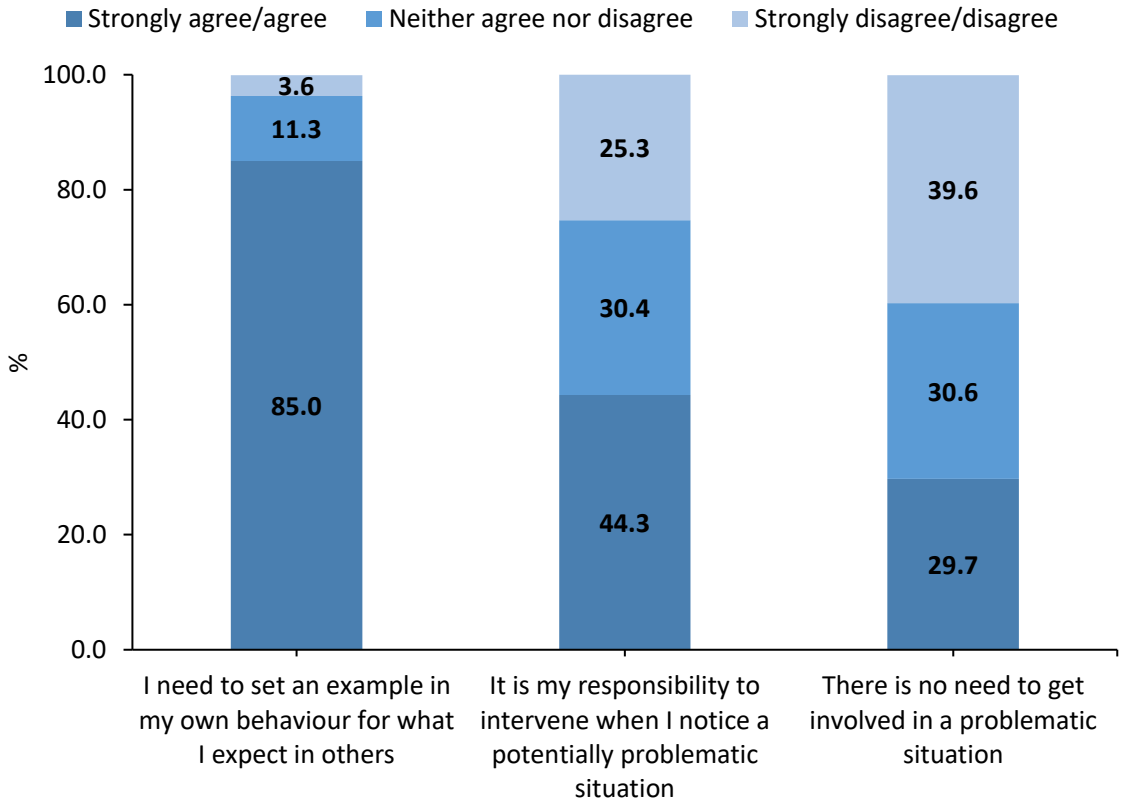
| | | Most deprived - 1 % (n) | 2 % (n) | 3 % (n) | 4 % (n) | Least deprived - 5 % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Low overall neighbourhood cohesion | 21.6 (527) | 17.8 (150) | 12.2 (102) | 10.6 (88) | 9.7 (37) | <0.001 |
|  | Low neighbourhood needs fulfilment | 20.6 (507) | 16.5 (140) | 11.9 (100) | 10.8 (90) | 8.8 (34) | <0.001 |
|  | Low neighbourhood group membership | 19.7 (486) | 17.6 (150) | 12.2 (102) | 9.7 (8.1) | 8.3 (32) | <0.001 |
|  | Low neighbourhood influence | 27.3 (670) | 19.3 (164) | 17.4 (146) | 10.1 (84) | 15.4 (59) | <0.001 |
|  | Low neighbourhood emotional connection | 23.1 (569) | 20.3 (173) | 13.8 (116) | 12.7 (106) | 10.4 (40) | <0.001 |

## 3.4. Bystander attitudes

***85.0% of participants agreed that they need to set an example in their own behaviour for what they expect in others; however, only 44.3% agreed that it's their responsibility to intervene, and 29.7% that there is no need to get involved in in a problematic situation.***

Participants were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with three questions relating to bystander attitudes. Most participants (85.0%) agreed with the statement 'I need to set an example in my own behaviour for what I expect in others' (Figure 7). Less than half (44.3%) agreed with the statement 'It is my responsibility to intervene when I notice a potentially problematic situation'. Four in ten (39.6%) participants disagreed with the statement 'There is no need to get involved in a problematic situation' (Figure 7).

**Figure 7: Participants' levels of agreement with statements relating to bystander attitudes**




In bivariate analyses there were significant associations between having high overall bystander intervention scores, indicating more positive attitudes towards acting as a positive bystander, and sociodemographic factors (Table A9).

There was a significant association between age and high bystander intervention scores ($p<0.001$), with the lowest proportion with high bystander intervention scores among those aged 18-24 years (Table 19).

**Table 19: Significant associations between age and having positive attitudes to bystander intervention**

| | | 18-24 years % (n) | 25-34 years % (n) | 35-44 years % (n) | 45-54 years % (n) | 55-64 years % (n) | 65+ years % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Positive bystander attitudes | 14.9 (75) | 22.9 (180) | 23.5 (221) | 27.2 (202) | 26.1 (263) | 20.8 (276) | <0.001 |

There was a significant association between deprivation and having high bystander intervention scores (p<0.001), with the lowest proportion with high bystander intervention scores among those living in the most deprived areas (Table 20).

**Table 20: Significant associations between deprivation and having positive attitudes to bystander intervention**

| | | Most deprived - 1 % (n) | 2 % (n) | 3 % (n) | 4 % (n) | Least deprived - 5 % (n) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Positive bystander attitudes | 19.7 (480) | 22.5 (191) | 24.7 (205) | 29.9 (247) | 25.7(98) | <0.001 |

# 4. Key findings and recommendations

In 2023/24 the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership (MVRP) collaborated with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) to implement the Merseyside Violence and Community Safety (MerVCom) Representative Household Survey. The MerVCom survey is a population-level representative household survey of adults (aged 18+ years) which aimed to better understand community feelings of safety and cohesion, and perceptions and experiences of violence (including ACEs) across Merseyside, and relationships of these with health and wellbeing. This report forms part of a suite of outputs from the MerVCom survey, and specifically examines residents' perceptions of community safety, cohesion and violence, and attitudes towards bystander behaviours across Merseyside. Capturing community residents' perceptions of safety in their neighbourhoods and across Merseyside is essential for informing implementation of effective measures to improve community feelings of safety, and for the early identification of potential issues. Through a proactive approach, relevant local partners are able to address problems promptly, ensuring access to a more secure environment. This study aimed to capture such perceptions of Merseyside residents and forms part of a suite of outputs examining levels of safety, violence, and ACEs across Merseyside [31, 32]. This section discusses the key findings from this study and provides recommendations for the wider MVRP partnership. These recommendations should be considered, and as relevant to wider activity and partnership working, be addressed by the MVRP steering group, Merseyside Strategic Policing and Partnership Board (MSPPB), and local authority community safety partnerships (and other partners as relevant).

## 4.1. Differences between perceptions of safety locally and regionally

Overwhelmingly, most survey participants reported feeling safe on their street (89.2%) and in their neighbourhood (83.0%) during the daytime, and specifically safe from violence in their own neighbourhood at any time (79.1%). However, these largely positive assessments of safety in settings local to where individuals live, contrast with more negative perceptions of safety across Merseyside more broadly and within certain specific locations. For example, although participants generally feel safe on their own street and in their neighbourhood during the daytime, fewer participants felt safe in their nearest town (68.6%) or across Merseyside (64.7%) during the daytime, or safe from violence in Merseyside generally at any time (57.5%). Similarly, when exploring how safe individuals perceive other groups to be from violence specifically, a smaller proportion of individuals thought that children aged 10-17 years and young people aged 18-25 years were safe in Merseyside generally (10-17 years, 23.7%; 18-25 years, 27.0%) compared to in their neighbourhood (10-17 years, 49.5%; 18-25 years, 52.5%). This indicates that survey participants judge their own locality safer than Merseyside more generally for themselves, and for children and young people.

Differences in participants' perceived levels of safety at local street/neighbourhood level compared to beyond their immediate locality (i.e. in the nearest town or Merseyside more generally) may be due to individuals having broadly safe experiences in their day-to-day lives in their locality. Conversely, they may also be exposed to reporting of incidents of violence and crime in areas of Merseyside outside of their locality, and less well exposed to successes of violence prevention interventions across Merseyside more generally [28, 29, 35]. As such, responding to this by raising community residents' awareness of the high proportion of adults feeling safe in their local neighbourhoods, and successes in violence prevention activities could improve the perceptions of community safety across Merseyside more broadly.

## 4.2. Differences in perceptions of safety by sociodemographics

Certain sociodemographic groups across sex, age, ethnicity, and deprivation, had higher proportions of individuals feeling unsafe in different settings, feeling personally unsafe from violence, or perceiving that violence is common. A higher proportion of females compared to males, and generally those living in more deprived compared to less deprived areas, had more negative perceptions of community safety. This could be due to these groups having heightened levels of exposure to incidents of antisocial behaviour, crime, and violence, or other factors which reduce feelings of safety, in different settings across Merseyside [33, 36, 37].

Based on the perceptions highlighted above, different sociodemographic groups may have inequitable experiences of safety in different settings across Merseyside. Therefore, reducing the extent of these differences should be a priority. By ensuring there is a strong strategic commitment across multi-agency partners to improving safety for women and girls and people living in the most deprived areas of Merseyside, negative experiences of safety amongst these groups could be reduced. Additionally, strengthening and funding the implementation of policies and interventions which aim to reduce experiences of victimisation for groups most at risk is crucial to improving experiences of safety.

## 4.3. Differences between perceptions of safety during the daytime and the nighttime

Overall, across all the settings examined, participants reported reductions in feelings of safety during the nighttime compared to the daytime. The increase in the proportions of participants feeling unsafe at nighttime compared to daytime was particularly large for Merseyside generally, the nearest town centre, the nearest park, and transport settings (on public transport or at public transport settings; at taxi ranks). Whereas increases in the proportions of participants feeling unsafe at nighttime compared to daytime, were smaller for settings more local to where individuals live (your neighbourhood; the street where you live), pubs, bars, and clubs, and private settings (your own home; at your place of work or education).

Findings also indicate that differences in proportions of individuals feeling unsafe in different settings across sociodemographic groups are larger during the nighttime, compared to that same setting during the daytime. This was particularly the case when examining differences in feelings of safety by sex and by deprivation. For example, in Merseyside generally in the daytime, 11.9% of females feel unsafe compared to 9.6% of males, however, at nighttime this discrepancy is larger with 33.8% of females feeling unsafe compared to 21.5% of males.

Wider academic evidence suggests that people usually feel less safe during the nighttime compared to the daytime due to reduced levels of visibility, offering perpetrators of crime greater opportunities for remaining hidden, and fewer other people being around, making individuals feel isolated from sources of help in the event of a violent incident [38]. Current findings suggest that reductions in feelings of safety from daytime to the nighttime may be larger in settings which are less local to where individuals live, and in sociodemographic groups which are more at risk of victimisation (particularly among females; [33, 39]. Working to increase the presence of factors which bolster individuals' feelings of safety in nighttime environments, particularly in town centres and recreational and transport settings, may help to narrow the differences between people's perceptions of safety during the daytime and the nighttime. Additionally, improving understanding of what makes different groups feel more safe or

unsafe when in different nighttime settings may help in designing and implementing effective interventions.

## 4.4. Discrepancies between how safe individuals perceive themselves and others to be

There were discrepancies between how safe individuals perceived themselves and other groups to be. For example, in terms of personal safety from violence, there were larger proportions who thought that children aged 10-17 years and young people aged 18-25 years were unsafe from violence in their neighbourhood (10-17 years, 25.9%; 18-25 years, 23.3%) and in Merseyside generally (10-17 years, 42.7%; 18-25 years, 37.7%), compared to their own personal feelings of being unsafe from violence (in their neighbourhood, 6.4%; in Merseyside generally, 13.9%). Interestingly, there were smaller proportions of 18-25 year olds in the sample reporting feeling personally unsafe from violence in their neighbourhood (5.4%) and in Merseyside generally (11.7%) than the proportion of individuals who perceived that this group were unsafe from violence.

This difference between how safe participants perceived other groups (e.g. children and young people) to be and the actual feelings of safety among these groups, may suggest that there is a need for community residents to better understand how safe other groups feel. This in turn may improve residents' broader perceptions of how safe Merseyside is, particularly in how safe they perceive children and young people to be. Further, if community residents have a deeper understanding of the experiences of groups which have poorer feelings of safety, this could enhance residents' willingness to act as positive bystanders for these groups. Findings may also indicate that improving residents' understanding of how safe other groups feel can be best undertaken by engaging with any specific groups of interest (e.g. children and young people) themselves, rather than relying on reporting of how safe groups feel by other stakeholders.

## 4.5. Levels of community cohesion

Overall, a majority of participants (59.2%-67.9%) agreed with statements measuring levels of different aspects of community cohesion. However, far smaller proportions of participants agreed with the statements relating to neighbourhood influence, with the statement 'I have a say about what goes on in my neighbourhood' having particularly low levels of agreement (27.6%). There were also between 12.5%-17.3% of participants who disagreed with each of the statements measuring neighbourhood needs fulfilment, group membership, and emotional connection. This may indicate that while overall the majority of participants experience community cohesion positively, several individuals do not experience strong connections with their community. Further, participants generally feel that they do not have a high level of influence over their local communities.

There were differences by sociodemographic groups in levels of low community cohesion. Generally, there was a higher proportion with low levels of community cohesion among those in the youngest age group compared to older age groups, and those living in more deprived compared to less deprived areas. This could be due to those in the youngest age group having had less opportunities to develop strong connections with their community and having less influence over their community than those in older age groups [40], and deprived areas having higher levels of fear of crime and perceived lack of safety, and poorer access to factors which help to foster community cohesion [41].

Critically, evidence suggests that areas with higher levels of community cohesion have more positive community participation and positive mental health outcomes [13], while areas with poor levels of community cohesion have higher levels of mental health concerns and incidence of violent crime [14, 15]. Therefore, it may be important to implement activities to bring groups of community residents together, aiming to build community connections, and particularly, to give residents a stronger voice over what goes on in their local neighbourhoods. This could improve community cohesion and the positive effects that this could have may be impactful across other relevant community safety outcomes. Targeting these activities towards groups with lower levels of community cohesion (e.g. younger people, people living in more deprived areas) may bring about the greatest impacts.

## 4.6. Attitudes towards bystander behaviours

Overall, a majority of survey participants (85.0%) agreed with the statement 'I need to set an example in my own behaviour for what I expect in others'. However, smaller proportions of participants agreed (44.3%) with the statement 'it is my responsibility to intervene when I notice a problematic situation' and disagreed (39.6%) with the statement 'there is no need to get involved in a problematic situation'. This may indicate that while participants appreciate the need to act appropriately and set an example in their own behaviours, they may be more reluctant to intervene when it comes to others' problematic behaviours.

Increasing positive interventions by bystanders in incidents of antisocial behaviour is critical to fostering prosocial norms, making it clear to perpetrators and other bystanders that such behaviour is unacceptable, and providing support to victims [42, 43, 44]. Through positive bystander approaches, perpetrators also have the opportunity to learn that their behaviours are not acceptable and may change their behaviours moving forwards, whereas non-supportive bystander reactions to incidents may embolden potential perpetrators to engage in antisocial behaviours [42]. As such positive interventions by bystanders are one crucial element which may support reductions in crime and violence [42, 43, 44].

There were also differences by sociodemographic groups in levels of positive attitudes towards bystander intervention. There were generally a lower proportion with positive attitudes among those in the youngest age group compared to those in older age groups, and those living in more deprived compared to less deprived areas. This could be due to those in younger age groups having had less opportunities to develop and utilise positive bystander attitudes and skills, and that deprived areas generally have higher levels of antisocial behaviour, crime and violence, which could deter individuals from intervening as a bystander due to fear for their own safety [37, 44, 45].

To identify the most appropriate actions to increase residents' buy-in towards acting as a positive bystander in the community, work should be undertaken to understand why residents have generally poor attitudes towards bystander behaviours in situations involving problematic behaviours of others. Taking relevant actions to then address any identified areas of concern may improve the confidence, intentions, and skills of community residents enabling them to act as positive bystanders in their communities. Interventions should be targeted towards groups identified in the current study who have lower levels of positive bystander attitudes (e.g. younger people, people living in more deprived areas). Promisingly, such approaches are already being undertaken with children and young people

across Merseyside. One such approach is the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme, funded by MVRP and implemented since 2020 with secondary school pupils. Evidence on this programme suggests that it is feasible to deliver, accepted by young people, and there is emerging evidence of its effectiveness in improving young people's bystander attitudes and behaviours, particularly young people who may be more at risk of violence [46]. Such interventions may have long-term benefits by potentially enhancing attitudes towards bystander interventions in future generations of adults.

## 4.7. Recommendations

Recommendations in the report have been assigned a suggested implementation level (i.e. local authority or Merseyside wide) and suggestions for which stakeholder groups should take ownership of each recommendation. Ensuring that the most appropriate governance structures are in place for each recommendation is critical to ensuring that these recommendations are actionable, that indicators of progress are identified and monitored, that all relevant stakeholders are involved in addressing the recommendations, and for actively feeding back on progress including areas of success, areas of difficulty, and for sharing best practices with wider stakeholders. Therefore, suggestions of implementation levels and ownership for each recommendation should be considered and actioned upon. This will help to ensure that there is a strong commitment within the wider MVRP partnership to addressing the issues highlighted in this report relating to community safety, violence, neighbourhood cohesion, and bystander attitudes, and to making communities across Merseyside safer for residents.

| Recommendation | Implementation level | Ownership |
|---|---|---|
| 1. As part of broader community safety interventions, raise awareness of the high proportion of adults who feel safe in their neighbourhood, and successes of violence prevention activities, to enhance perceptions of safety across Merseyside and within local authority areas. | *Local authority and Merseyside* | *MVRP steering group, Merseyside Strategic Policing and Partnership Board (MSPPB), and community safety partnerships (CSPs)* |
| 2. Ensure that there is strong strategic commitment across multi-agency partners to improving safety for women and girls and people living in the most deprived areas of Merseyside. Strengthen and fund the implementation of policies and interventions which aim to improve feelings of safety and prevent and respond to incidents of victimisation broadly, and specifically for groups who are most at risk. | *Local authority and Merseyside* | *MVRP steering group, MSPPB, and CSPs* |
| 3. Increase the presence of factors which improve peoples' feelings of safety in different nighttime settings. Consider conducting further qualitative work to understand factors that influence different groups' feelings of safety across different nighttime environments, and design and implement interventions and approaches in line with this. | *Local authority and Merseyside* | *MSPPB and CSPs* |
| 4. Improve understanding amongst community residents of how safe other groups (e.g. children and young people) feel and share local data on children and young people's views (e.g. Hope Hack). | *Local authority and Merseyside* | *MVRP steering group, MSPPB, and CSPs* |
| 5. Introduce activities to bring local residents together to build community connections and give residents a stronger voice over what goes on in their local neighbourhoods. Consider targeting these activities towards groups with lower levels of community cohesion. | *Local authority* | *CSPs* |
| 6. Engage with community residents to understand why there are generally poor attitudes towards acting as a positive bystander. Design and implement culturally relevant interventions for adults which aim to improve community residents' confidence, intentions, and skills to enable them to act as a positive bystander. Consider targeting these interventions towards groups with poorer levels of attitudes towards bystander intervention. | *Local authority and Merseyside* | *MVRP steering group, MSPPB and CSPs* |

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# 6. Appendix

Table A1 presents the survey questions and response options from the MerVCom survey used to measure each of the community safety, cohesion, and bystander behaviour in the current study report.

**Table A1: MerVCom survey items used the current study**

| Question | Response options |
|---|---|
| **Feelings of safety in different settings** | |
| How safe or unsafe do you feel generally in the following locations during the day and during the night.<br><br>Merseyside generally<br>The nearest town centre<br>Your neighbourhood (within a 15-minute walk from your home)<br>In the street where you live<br>In the nearest park<br>In pubs, bars, and clubs<br>On public transport or at public transport stations (e.g. bus/train stations)<br>At taxi ranks<br>In your own home<br>At your place of work or education | DAY<br>• Very unsafe<br>• Unsafe<br>• Neither safe nor unsafe<br>• Safe<br>• Very safe<br>• Prefer not to say<br>NIGHT<br>• Very unsafe<br>• Unsafe<br>• Neither safe nor unsafe<br>• Safe<br>• Very safe<br>• Prefer not to say<br><br>Participants could also answer not applicable for pubs, bars, and clubs; on public transport or at public transport stations; at taxi ranks; in the nearest park; and at your place of work or education. |
| **Perceptions of violence** | |
| How common do you think violence is generally across Merseyside?<br><br>How common do you think violence is in your neighbourhood? | • Not at all common<br>• Not very common<br>• Fairly common<br>• Very common<br>• Prefer not to say |
| How safe or unsafe do you think the following people are from violence in your neighbourhood (within a 15-minute walk from your home)<br><br>• You personally<br>• Children aged 10-17 years<br>• Young people aged 18-25 years<br><br>And how safe do you think the following people are from violence in Merseyside generally?<br><br>• You personally<br>• Children aged 10-17 years<br>• Young people aged 18-25 years | • Very unsafe<br>• Unsafe<br>• Neither safe nor unsafe<br>• Safe<br>• Very safe<br>• Don't know<br>• Prefer not to say |

| **Neighbourhood cohesion** | |
|---|---|
| Here are some statements about your neighbourhood (within a 15-minute walk from your home). Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement.<br><br>• I can get what I need in this neighbourhood<br>• This neighbourhood helps me fulfil my needs<br>• I feel like a member of this neighbourhood<br>• I belong in this neighbourhood<br>• I have a say about what goes on in my neighbourhood<br>• People in this neighbourhood are good at influencing each other<br>• I feel connected to this neighbourhood<br>• I have a good bond with this neighbourhood | • Strongly disagree<br>• Disagree<br>• Neither agree nor disagree<br>• Agree<br>• Strongly agree<br>• Prefer not to say |
| **Attitudes towards bystander behaviours** | |
| Here are some statements. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement.<br><br>• I need to set an example in my own behaviour for what I expect in others<br>• It is my responsibility to intervene when I notice a problematic situation<br>• There is no need to get involved in a problematic situation | • Strongly disagree<br>• Disagree<br>• Neither agree nor disagree<br>• Agree<br>• Strongly agree<br>• Prefer not to say |

**Table A2: Adjusted prevalence of participants' feeling unsafe in their own neighbourhood during the daytime and the nighttime, and specifically from violence at any time at local authority and Merseyside level**

| Study area | Unsafe in their own neighbourhood during the daytime % | Unsafe in their own neighbourhood during the nighttime % | Unsafe in their own neighbourhood specifically from violence at any time % |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Knowsley** | 7.8 | 17.9 | 6.5 |
| **Liverpool** | 6.4 | 16.2 | 6.7 |
| **Sefton** | 3.6 | 12.8 | 4.1 |
| **St. Helens** | 3.6 | 17.0 | 5.2 |
| **Wirral** | 5.4 | 15.1 | 8.4 |
| **Merseyside** | 5.5 | 15.6 | 6.4 |

**Table A3: Adjusted prevalence of participants' feeling unsafe in their own neighbourhood during the daytime and the nighttime, and specifically from violence at any time at ward level**

| Local authority | Ward code | Ward name | Unsafe in their own neighbourhood during the daytime % | Unsafe in their own neighbourhood during the nighttime % | Unsafe in their own neighbourhood specifically from violence at any time % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Knowsley** | E05010935 | Cherryfield | 9.8 | 21.7 | 8.1 |
| | E05010936 | Halewood North | 5.4 | 13.3 | 4.9 |
| | E05010937 | Halewood South | 6.8 | 15.9 | 5.7 |
| | E05010938 | Northwood | 9.9 | 21.7 | 8.1 |
| | E05010939 | Page Moss | 9.8 | 21.8 | 8.0 |
| | E05010940 | Prescot North | 7.7 | 17.3 | 6.2 |
| | E05010941 | Prescot South | 7.5 | 17.0 | 6.5 |
| | E05010942 | Roby | 4.1 | 10.2 | 3.5 |
| | E05010943 | Shevington | 7.6 | 17.1 | 6.1 |
| | E05010944 | St Gabriels | 8.5 | 19.3 | 7.0 |
| | E05010945 | St Michaels | 8.8 | 20.0 | 7.2 |
| | E05010946 | Stockbridge | 10.1 | 21.9 | 8.0 |
| | E05010947 | Swanside | 5.5 | 13.7 | 5.0 |
| | E05010948 | Whiston and Cronton | 7.2 | 17.1 | 6.4 |
| | E05010949 | Whitefield | 8.2 | 19.2 | 7.3 |
| **Liverpool** | E05015277 | Aigburth | 2.6 | 7.3 | 2.7 |
| | E05015278 | Allerton | 2.7 | 7.1 | 3.1 |
| | E05015279 | Anfield | 7.5 | 18.2 | 7.2 |
| | E05015280 | Arundel | 7.0 | 18.9 | 9.7 |
| | E05015281 | Belle Vale | 7.0 | 18.9 | 7.3 |
| | E05015282 | Broadgreen | 5.3 | 15.2 | 6.2 |
| | E05015283 | Brownlow Hill | 5.6 | 15.1 | 6.4 |
| | E05015284 | Calderstones | 1.8 | 7.1 | 2.2 |
| | E05015285 | Canning | 7.5 | 18.4 | 8.1 |
| | E05015286 | Childwall | 2.8 | 7.7 | 2.9 |
| | E05015287 | Church | 4.1 | 11.4 | 4.4 |
| | E05015288 | City Centre North | 4.3 | 8.8 | 3.7 |
| | E05015289 | City Centre South | 6.8 | 15.9 | 5.7 |
| | E05015290 | Clubmoor East | 7.7 | 19.1 | 7.1 |
| | E05015291 | Clubmoor West | 7.0 | 18.8 | 7.3 |
| | E05015292 | County | 7.4 | 18.7 | 7.1 |
| | E05015293 | Croxteth | 8.5 | 19.6 | 6.8 |
| | E05015294 | Croxteth Country Park | 3.9 | 10.5 | 4.0 |
| | E05015295 | Dingle | 8.3 | 19.4 | 7.7 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | E05015296 | Edge Hill | 7.1 | 19.4 | 10.6 |
| | E05015297 | Everton East | 8.1 | 19.6 | 8.8 |
| | E05015298 | Everton North | 8.5 | 20.9 | 9.9 |
| | E05015299 | Everton West | 7.2 | 19.8 | 10.7 |
| | E05015300 | Fazakerley East | 9.1 | 22.0 | 9.0 |
| | E05015301 | Fazakerley North | 5.2 | 13.7 | 5.9 |
| | E05015302 | Fazakerley West | 6.9 | 16.9 | 6.5 |
| | E05015303 | Festival Gardens | 7.1 | 16.9 | 6.7 |
| | E05015304 | Garston | 6.0 | 16.2 | 6.5 |
| | E05015305 | Gateacre | 3.5 | 9.9 | 3.6 |
| | E05015306 | Grassendale & Cressington | 3.5 | 9.3 | 3.4 |
| | E05015307 | Greenbank Park | 4.0 | 11.0 | 3.5 |
| | E05015308 | Kensington & Fairfield | 8.4 | 20.7 | 9.7 |
| | E05015309 | Kirkdale East | 8.2 | 18.6 | 6.8 |
| | E05015310 | Kirkdale West | 8.9 | 19.4 | 7.2 |
| | E05015311 | Knotty Ash & Dovecot Park | 7.1 | 18.9 | 7.3 |
| | E05015312 | Mossley Hill | 2.3 | 6.2 | 2.7 |
| | E05015313 | Much Woolton & Hunts | 3.8 | 10.8 | 4.6 |
| | E05015314 | Norris Green | 7.4 | 19.1 | 8.1 |
| | E05015315 | Old Swan East | 7.2 | 18.7 | 7.6 |
| | E05015316 | Old Swan West | 9.9 | 23.1 | 9.6 |
| | E05015317 | Orrell Park | 6.1 | 15.9 | 6.1 |
| | E05015318 | Penny Lane | 3.2 | 9.0 | 2.7 |
| | E05015319 | Princes Park | 7.7 | 19.1 | 9.6 |
| | E05015320 | Sandfield Park | 4.9 | 13.9 | 5.5 |
| | E05015321 | Sefton Park | 6.2 | 16.1 | 6.4 |
| | E05015322 | Smithdown | 7.7 | 19.3 | 8.1 |
| | E05015323 | Speke | 7.2 | 18.6 | 7.3 |
| | E05015324 | Springwood | 6.6 | 17.8 | 7.7 |
| | E05015325 | St Michael's | 4.4 | 12.8 | 5.4 |
| | E05015326 | Stoneycroft | 5.9 | 15.8 | 6.4 |
| | E05015327 | Toxteth | 7.0 | 19.6 | 10.9 |
| | E05015328 | Tuebrook Breckside Park | 8.8 | 18.7 | 7.5 |
| | E05015329 | Tuebrook Larkhill | 7.5 | 18.9 | 7.9 |
| | E05015330 | Vauxhall | 9.1 | 21.1 | 8.3 |
| | E05015331 | Walton | 6.7 | 17.8 | 7.0 |
| | E05015333 | Waterfront South | 4.3 | 9.1 | 3.9 |
| | E05015334 | Wavertree Garden Suburb | 7.4 | 18.4 | 7.4 |
| | E05015335 | Wavertree Village | 8.0 | 18.5 | 7.3 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | E05015336 | West Derby Deysbrook | 4.7 | 13.9 | 5.8 |
| | E05015337 | West Derby Leyfield | 3.8 | 11.6 | 5.2 |
| | E05015338 | West Derby Muirhead | 4.7 | 12.7 | 4.7 |
| | E05015339 | Woolton Village | 2.8 | 8.3 | 3.6 |
| | E05015340 | Yew Tree | 6.5 | 17.0 | 6.8 |
| **Sefton** | E05000932 | Ainsdale | 2.7 | 10.2 | 3.2 |
| | E05000933 | Birkdale | 2.4 | 9.4 | 2.8 |
| | E05000934 | Blundellsands | 2.2 | 8.6 | 2.5 |
| | E05000935 | Cambridge | 4.3 | 15.6 | 4.9 |
| | E05000936 | Church | 5.1 | 17.3 | 5.9 |
| | E05000937 | Derby | 6.4 | 20.2 | 6.8 |
| | E05000938 | Duke's | 4.4 | 15.1 | 4.8 |
| | E05000939 | Ford | 5.1 | 17.7 | 6.0 |
| | E05000940 | Harington | 0.8 | 6.2 | 1.1 |
| | E05000941 | Kew | 3.0 | 11.4 | 4.1 |
| | E05000942 | Linacre | 6.5 | 20.6 | 7.0 |
| | E05000943 | Litherland | 5.2 | 17.1 | 5.5 |
| | E05000944 | Manor | 3.6 | 13.4 | 4.2 |
| | E05000945 | Meols | 2.1 | 8.7 | 2.6 |
| | E05000946 | Molyneux | 2.9 | 10.5 | 3.6 |
| | E05000947 | Netherton and Orrell | 4.8 | 16.7 | 5.9 |
| | E05000948 | Norwood | 3.1 | 11.3 | 3.5 |
| | E05000949 | Park | 1.8 | 7.3 | 2.3 |
| | E05000950 | Ravenmeols | 1.9 | 7.8 | 2.2 |
| | E05000951 | St Oswald | 5.6 | 18.6 | 6.4 |
| | E05000952 | Sudell | 2.3 | 8.7 | 2.7 |
| | E05000953 | Victoria | 2.4 | 9.1 | 3.0 |
| **St. Helens** | E05014120 | Billinge & Seneley Green | 2.3 | 10.3 | 2.7 |
| | E05014121 | Blackbrook | 4.5 | 16.7 | 5.2 |
| | E05014122 | Bold & Lea Green | 5.1 | 18.2 | 5.2 |
| | E05014123 | Eccleston | 2.1 | 9.8 | 2.5 |
| | E05014124 | Haydock | 4.2 | 16.0 | 4.9 |
| | E05014125 | Moss Bank | 4.5 | 17.2 | 5.6 |
| | E05014126 | Newton-le-Willows East | 4.6 | 16.5 | 5.1 |
| | E05014127 | Newton-le-Willows West | 5.9 | 20.5 | 6.1 |
| | E05014128 | Parr | 7.2 | 24.1 | 7.5 |
| | E05014129 | Peasley Cross & Fingerpost | 7.2 | 24.1 | 7.5 |
| | E05014130 | Rainford | 2.4 | 10.2 | 3.0 |
| | E05014131 | Rainhill | 2.7 | 11.5 | 3.2 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | E05014133 | Sutton North West | 5.0 | 18.9 | 6.1 |
| | E05014134 | Sutton South East | 4.1 | 15.8 | 4.7 |
| | E05014135 | Thatto Heath | 5.4 | 18.9 | 5.9 |
| | E05014132 | Town Centre | 7.8 | 25.1 | 7.9 |
| | E05014136 | West Park | 4.9 | 18.5 | 6.0 |
| | E05014137 | Windle | 3.8 | 15.3 | 4.3 |
| **Wirral** | E05000954 | Bebington | 3.6 | 11.0 | 6.6 |
| | E05000955 | Bidston and St James | 8.8 | 22.8 | 12.8 |
| | E05000956 | Birkenhead and Tranmere | 10.8 | 25.5 | 15.0 |
| | E05000957 | Bromborough | 6.0 | 16.4 | 9.6 |
| | E05000958 | Clatterbridge | 2.3 | 8.7 | 4.1 |
| | E05000959 | Claughton | 6.3 | 17.5 | 10.0 |
| | E05000960 | Eastham | 3.7 | 11.6 | 6.4 |
| | E05000961 | Greasby, Frankby and Irby | 2.1 | 7.9 | 3.6 |
| | E05000962 | Heswall | 1.3 | 7.5 | 2.3 |
| | E05000963 | Hoylake and Meols | 2.6 | 9.4 | 4.5 |
| | E05000964 | Leasowe and Moreton East | 7.0 | 18.7 | 10.7 |
| | E05000965 | Liscard | 7.7 | 20.5 | 11.8 |
| | E05000966 | Moreton West and Saughall | 4.9 | 13.7 | 7.5 |
| | E05000967 | New Brighton | 5.5 | 16.7 | 10.4 |
| | E05000968 | Oxton | 4.3 | 12.5 | 7.2 |
| | E05000969 | Pensby and Thingwall | 3.6 | 10.8 | 5.3 |
| | E05000970 | Prenton | 5.3 | 15.4 | 8.6 |
| | E05000971 | Rock Ferry | 8.6 | 22.0 | 12.4 |
| | E05000972 | Seacombe | 9.1 | 23.2 | 13.2 |
| | E05000973 | Upton | 6.1 | 17.0 | 9.7 |
| | E05000974 | Wallasey | 3.6 | 10.5 | 6.5 |
| | E05000975 | West Kirby and Hunstanton | 3.0 | 10.0 | 5.1 |

**Table A4: Participants' feelings of safety in different settings across Merseyside, during the daytime and the nighttime**

| | During the daytime | | | During the nighttime | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unsafe % (n) | Neither safe nor unsafe % (n) | Safe % (n) | Unsafe % (n) | Neither safe nor unsafe % (n) | Safe % (n) |
| **In your own home** | 1.8 (95) | 2.9 (158) | 95.3 (5129) | 2.9 (155) | 4.8 (258) | 92.3 (4970) |
| **At your place of work or education** | 2.0 (73) | 5.9 (214) | 92.0 (3316) | 4.4 (145) | 10.3 (338) | 85.3 (2810) |
| **In the street where you live** | 3.5 (189) | 7.3 (392) | 89.2 (4802) | 9.1 (487) | 15.7 (847) | 75.2 (4046) |
| **Your neighbourhood (within a 15-minute walk from your home)** | 5.4 (290) | 11.6 (627) | 83.0 (4465) | 15.3 (823) | 23.1 (1241) | 61.6 (3315) |
| **On public transport or at public transport stations** | 7.3 (352) | 16.7 (807) | 76.0 (3672) | 21.1 (975) | 27.2 (1256) | 51.8 (2393) |
| **In the nearest park** | 10.4 (527) | 15.1 (768) | 74.5 (3793) | 45.9 (2158) | 20.4 (962) | 33.7 (1586) |
| **At taxi ranks** | 8.6 (369) | 19.5 (840) | 71.9 (3096) | 20.3 (856) | 27.7 (1165) | 52.0 (2187) |
| **The nearest town centre** | 11.0 (594) | 20.4 (1098) | 68.6 (3690) | 28.1 (1508) | 27.9 (1502) | 44.0 (2366) |
| **In pubs, bars, and clubs** | 13.0 (577) | 21.5 (954) | 65.5 (2912) | 23.2 (1013) | 28.8 (1255) | 48.0 (2092) |
| **Merseyside generally** | 10.8 (582) | 24.5 (1318) | 64.7 (3478) | 28.0 (1502) | 29.1 (1565) | 42.9 (2306) |

**Table A5: Participants' mean levels of feelings of safety during the daytime compared to the nighttime[2,3]**

| Setting | n | Daytime mean level of feeling of safety (SD) | Nighttime mean level of feeling of safety (SD) | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **In your own home** | 5378 | 4.53 (0.68) | 4.36 (0.74) | <0.001 |
| **At your place of work or education** | 3205 | 4.42 (0.73) | 4.21 (0.82) | <0.001 |
| **In the street where you live** | 5379 | 4.28 (0.78) | 3.90 (0.93) | <0.001 |
| **Your neighbourhood (within a 15-minute walk from your home)** | 5375 | 4.08 (0.83) | 3.60 (1.00) | <0.001 |
| **On public transport or at public transport stations** | 4545 | 3.88 (0.85) | 3.38 (1.02) | <0.001 |
| **In the nearest park** | 4649 | 3.83 (0.95) | 2.84 (1.21) | <0.001 |
| **At taxi ranks** | 4060 | 3.83 (0.90) | 3.39 (1.02) | <0.001 |
| **The nearest town centre** | 5374 | 3.75 (0.94) | 3.19 (1.08) | <0.001 |
| **In pubs, bars, and clubs** | 4247 | 3.68 (0.99) | 3.30 (1.06) | <0.001 |
| **Merseyside generally** | 5369 | 3.67 (0.89) | 3.18 (1.05) | <0.001 |

[2] Higher mean levels of feelings of safety indicated feeling more safe. 1=Very unsafe, 2=Unsafe, 3=Neither safe nor unsafe, 4=Safe, 5=Very safe.

[3] A p-value helps understand whether given results are due to chance – a low p-value (typically less than 0.05) suggests that findings are likely meaningful and not just due to chance.

**Table A6: Proportions of individuals feeling unsafe during the daytime in different Merseyside settings, by sociodemographics[4,5]**

| Sociodemographics | | In your own home % (n) | At your place of work or education % (n) | In the street where you live % (n) | Your neighbourhood (within a 15-minute walk from your home) % (n) | In the nearest park % (n) | On public transport or at public transport stations % (n) | At taxi ranks % (n) | The nearest town centre % (n) | In pubs, bars, and clubs % (n) | Merseyside generally % (n) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sex** | **Male** | 1.3 (34) | 1.9 (32) | 2.9 (73) | 4.8 (122) | 7.2 (174) | 5.2 (121) | 5.0 (103) | 9.5 (243) | 10.3 (224) | 9.6 (244) |
| | **Female** | 2.1 (60) | 2.1 (41) | 4.1 (115) | 5.9 (167) | 13.1 (349) | 9.1 (228) | 11.8 (263) | 12.4 (350) | 15.5 (350) | 11.9 (335) |
| | ***χ2*** | 4.423 | 0.142 | 5.452 | 3.149 | 47.212 | 26.035 | 61.531 | 10.838 | 25.312 | 7.063 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.05** | NS | **<0.05** | NS | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.01** |
| **Age group (years)** | **18-24** | 1.4 (7) | 1.7 (8) | 4.8 (24) | 6.9 (35) | 10.6 (53) | 7.2 (36) | 7.7 (36) | 10.5 (53) | 15.9 (76) | 10.9 (55) |
| | **25-34** | 1.3 (10) | 1.7 (12) | 4.2 (33) | 6.2 (49) | 9.8 (76) | 9.0 (67) | 7.4 (53) | 8.7 (69) | 15.4 (111) | 7.6 (60) |
| | **35-44** | 1.9 (18) | 1.9 (16) | 4.1 (39) | 6.0 (57) | 10.4 (96) | 8.4 (72) | 9.5 (78) | 11.4 (108) | 14.1 (117) | 11.5 (108) |
| | **45-54** | 2.3 (17) | 2.2 (14) | 3.7 (28) | 4.9 (37) | 12.1 (88) | 7.1 (47) | 9.5 (59) | 11.7 (88) | 12.8 (85) | 10.7 (80) |
| | **55-64** | 2.1 (21) | 2.1 (14) | 3.3 (33) | 5.7 (58) | 11.2 (106) | 8.5 (75) | 11.2 (87) | 12.4 (126) | 12.8 (105) | 11.7 (119) |
| | **65+** | 1.6 (22) | 3.4 (9) | 2.3 (31) | 3.9 (53) | 8.8 (105) | 4.4 (52) | 6.1 (54) | 11.0 (148) | 8.9 (81) | 11.6 (157) |
| | ***χ2*** | 3.449 | 3.289 | 10.544 | 10.288 | 6.731 | 20.898 | 17.157 | 7.025 | 21.380 | 10.871 |
| | ***p*** | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | **<0.001** | **<0.01** | NS | **<0.001** | NS |
| **Ethnicity** | **Any White background** | 1.8 (88) | 2.1 (70) | 3.4 (170) | 5.3 (263) | 10.6 (495) | 7.4 (330) | 8.9 (352) | 11.3 (560) | 12.8 (529) | 11.0 (548) |
| | **Any other non-White background** | 1.9 (7) | 0.9 (3) | 4.8 (18) | 6.7 (25) | 8.5 (31) | 5.6 (20) | 4.4 (14) | 7.7 (29) | 16.4 (44) | 7.8 (29) |
| | ***χ2*** | 0.000 | 1.554 | 1.612 | 1.078 | 1.367 | 1.276 | 7.245 | 4.065 | 2.590 | 3.404 |
| | ***p*** | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | **<0.01** | **<0.05** | NS | NS |
| **Deprivation quintile** | **1 (most deprived)** | 2.6 (64) | 2.6 (43) | 6.0 (147) | 8.1 (200) | 14.1 (327) | 8.6 (188) | 9.0 (184) | 11.5 (283) | 17.9 (349) | 12.2 (300) |
| | **2** | 1.5 (13) | 2.2 (13) | 2.1 (18) | 4.3 (37) | 8.4 (68) | 6.1 (47) | 7.4 (50) | 11.6 (99) | 9.6 (69) | 8.9 (76) |
| | **3** | 0.7 (6) | 1.4 (8) | 1.2 (10) | 3.5 (29) | 7.7 (61) | 9.0 (68) | 9.6 (64) | 11.6 (97) | 11.6 (83) | 11.1 (93) |
| | **4** | 1.4 (12) | 1.3 (7) | 1.6 (13) | 2.5 (21) | 6.8 (54) | 4.7 (36) | 8.3 (52) | 11.0 (92) | 8.0 (57) | 10.8 (90) |
| | **5 (least deprived)** | 0.0 (0) | 0.8 (2) | 0.3 (1) | 0.8 (3) | 4.6 (17) | 3.7 (13) | 6.6 (19) | 6.0 (23) | 5.5 (19) | 6.0 (23) |
| | ***χ2*** | 22.823 | 6.834 | 83.146 | 73.118 | 68.063 | 24.198 | 4.016 | 11.116 | 82.007 | 17.243 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.001** | NS | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | NS | **<0.05** | **<0.001** | **<0.01** |

[4] NS – Not significant.

[5] A p-value helps understand whether given results are due to chance – a low p-value (typically less than 0.05) suggests that findings are likely meaningful and not just due to chance.

**Table A7: Proportions of individuals feeling unsafe during the nighttime in different Merseyside settings, by sociodemographics[6,7]**

| Sociodemographics | | In your own home % (n) | At your place of work or education % (n) | In the street where you live % (n) | Your neighbourhood (within a 15-minute walk from your home) % (n) | In the nearest park % (n) | On public transport or at public transport stations % (n) | At taxi ranks % (n) | The nearest town centre % (n) | In pubs, bars, and clubs % (n) | Merseyside generally % (n) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sex** | **Male** | 2.0 (52) | 2.9 (45) | 6.0 (152) | 10.5 (266) | 33.5 (751) | 12.8 (284) | 12.2 (245) | 20.8 (528) | 17.4 (370) | 21.5 (547) |
| | **Female** | 3.6 (102) | 5.8 (100) | 11.8 (334) | 19.7 (556) | 57.3 (1404) | 28.7 (688) | 27.7 (606) | 34.6 (978) | 28.9 (642) | 33.8 (952) |
| | ***χ²*** | 11.252 | 16.649 | 55.274 | 87.466 | 264.941 | 173.003 | 154.349 | 126.428 | 80.416 | 98.842 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** |
| **Age group (years)** | **18-24** | 2.0 (10) | 2.9 (13) | 10.3 (52) | 17.8 (90) | 42.2 (205) | 22.8 (112) | 19.2 (89) | 26.3 (133) | 24.0 (113) | 27.1 (137) |
| | **25-34** | 3.3 (26) | 4.2 (28) | 10.1 (80) | 15.5 (123) | 42.0 (316) | 20.1 (147) | 19.0 (135) | 26.6 (210) | 25.6 (183) | 26.5 (210) |
| | **35-44** | 3.6 (34) | 4.6 (35) | 9.5 (90) | 15.4 (145) | 46.2 (411) | 23.4 (198) | 20.1 (165) | 28.1 (265) | 24.4 (201) | 29.3 (276) |
| | **45-54** | 2.9 (22) | 4.5 (26) | 8.1 (61) | 15.7 (118) | 45.0 (309) | 20.3 (134) | 20.3 (126) | 27.2 (204) | 22.5 (150) | 27.4 (205) |
| | **55-64** | 3.5 (36) | 4.4 (26) | 10.0 (101) | 16.0 (163) | 47.5 (412) | 23.0 (196) | 24.6 (187) | 31.2 (316) | 24.6 (202) | 28.9 (293) |
| | **65+** | 1.9 (26) | 7.4 (17) | 7.5 (102) | 13.6 (183) | 49.6 (500) | 18.0 (184) | 18.1 (149) | 27.8 (375) | 19.2 (162) | 27.7 (373) |
| | ***χ²*** | 9.712 | 7.289 | 7.727 | 6.165 | 14.148 | 12.276 | 12.010 | 6.728 | 11.592 | 2.359 |
| | ***p*** | NS | NS | NS | NS | **<0.05** | **<0.05** | **<0.05** | NS | **<0.05** | NS |
| **Ethnicity** | **Any White background** | 2.8 (139) | 4.5 (132) | 8.8 (439) | 15.5 (770) | 46.9 (2030) | 21.6 (918) | 21.0 (812) | 28.9 (1435) | 23.2 (945) | 28.6 (1420) |
| | **Any other non-White background** | 4.0 (15) | 4.2 (13) | 12.0 (45) | 13.4 (50) | 34.0 (118) | 14.7 (51) | 12.4 (39) | 17.9 (67) | 24.4 (63) | 19.9 (74) |
| | ***χ²*** | 1.410 | 0.009 | 3.963 | 1.041 | 20.968 | 8.973 | 12.846 | 20.134 | 0.144 | 12.529 |
| | ***p*** | NS | NS | **<0.05** | NS | **<0.001** | **<0.01** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | NS | **<0.001** |
| **Deprivation quintile** | **1 (most deprived)** | 4.0 (100) | 5.2 (80) | 13.7 (338) | 21.4 (527) | 49.3 (1073) | 21.7 (456) | 20.5 (408) | 30.8 (760) | 29.4 (568) | 30.2 (744) |
| | **2** | 2.7 (23) | 5.3 (28) | 7.4 (63) | 14.1 (120) | 46.3 (344) | 21.5 (158) | 21.3 (139) | 29.1 (248) | 19.6 (137) | 25.5 (217) |
| | **3** | 1.5 (13) | 3.0 (16) | 4.4 (37) | 10.6 (89) | 43.0 (321) | 22.7 (168) | 21.5 (144) | 25.5 (214) | 21.8 (155) | 29.4 (247) |
| | **4** | 1.8 (15) | 3.5 (17) | 4.4 (37) | 7.4 (62) | 42.3 (309) | 17.8 (129) | 17.9 (111) | 25.9 (216) | 14.8 (102) | 26.1 (217) |
| | **5 (least deprived)** | 1.0 (4) | 1.9 (4) | 3.1 (12) | 6.5 (25) | 35.9 (111) | 19.6 (64) | 19.7 (54) | 18.2 (70) | 15.5 (51) | 20.1 (77) |
| | ***χ²*** | 25.676 | 9.359 | 127.655 | 147.961 | 28.828 | 6.881 | 3.361 | 32.734 | 85.800 | 23.014 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.001** | NS | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | NS | NS | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** |

[6] NS - Not significant.

[7] A p-value helps understand whether given results are due to chance – a low p-value (typically less than 0.05) suggests that findings are likely meaningful and not just due to chance.

**Table A8: Proportions of individuals perceiving that violence is common and that they are personally unsafe from violence in Merseyside generally and in their own neighbourhood, by sociodemographics[8,9]**

| Sociodemographics | | Perceptions of violence across Merseyside | | Perceptions of violence in your neighbourhood | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Violence is fairly or very common % (n) | Feeling personally unsafe from violence % (n) | Violence is fairly or very common % (n) | Feeling personally unsafe from violence % (n) |
| **Sex** | **Male** | 81.8 (2060) | 10.5 (264) | 30.1 (761) | 4.7 (117) |
| | **Female** | 90.3 (2515) | 16.9 (468) | 39.0 (1091) | 8.0 (221) |
| | ***χ2*** | 79.296 | 43.721 | 46.024 | 23.252 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** |
| **Age group (years)** | **18-24** | 85.9 (433) | 11.7 (58) | 37.2 (187) | 5.4 (27) |
| | **25-34** | 85.8 (671) | 10.4 (81) | 36.1 (284) | 6.4 (50) |
| | **35-44** | 87.9 (820) | 13.9 (129) | 35.2 (331) | 7.3 (68) |
| | **45-54** | 89.6 (659) | 14.4 (106) | 38.0 (283) | 6.4 (47) |
| | **55-64** | 86.6 (869) | 16.8 (168) | 37.0 (373) | 7.4 (74) |
| | **65+** | 84.1 (1112) | 14.3 (189) | 29.4 (394) | 5.5 (73) |
| | ***χ2*** | 11.168 | 17.404 | 24.454 | 5.376 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.05** | **<0.01** | **<0.001** | NS |
| **Ethnicity** | **Any White background** | 87.3 (4300) | 14.1 (691) | 34.8 (1719) | 6.4 (312) |
| | **Any other non-White background** | 72.5 (263) | 11.1 (41) | 33.7 (125) | 6.8 (25) |
| | ***χ2*** | 61.836 | 2.318 | 0.134 | 0.032 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.001** | NS | NS | NS |
| **Deprivation quintile** | **1 (most deprived)** | 88.5 (2158) | 16.2 (396) | 44.9 (1100) | 9.1 (222) |
| | **2** | 86.1 (726) | 11.6 (95) | 33.9 (287) | 6.6 (54) |
| | **3** | 84.0 (698) | 14.1 (117) | 22.8 (190) | 3.6 (30) |
| | **4** | 83.1 (682) | 10.7 (88) | 23.3 (193) | 3.5 (29) |
| | **5 (least deprived)** | 84.0 (321) | 10.4 (38) | 23.0 (88) | 1.4 (5) |
| | ***χ2*** | 22.731 | 25.031 | 234.681 | 66.211 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** |

[8] NS – Not significant.

[9] A p-value helps understand whether given results are due to chance – a low p-value (typically less than 0.05) suggests that findings are likely meaningful and not just due to chance.

**Table A9: Proportions of individuals with low neighbourhood cohesion scores and positive bystander scores, by sociodemographics[10,11]**

| Sociodemographics | | Low overall neighbourhood cohesion scores % (n) | Low neighbourhood needs fulfilment scores % (n) | Low neighbourhood group membership scores % (n) | Low neighbourhood influence scores % (n) | Low neighbourhood emotional connection scores % (n) | Positive bystander scores % (n) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sex** | **Male** | 16.6 (419) | 15.5 (395) | 15.3 (389) | 21.7 (548) | 18.3 (466) | 23.8 (603) |
| | **Female** | 17.1 (480) | 16.7 (470) | 16.2 (457) | 20.3 (571) | 18.9 (532) | 22.1 (613) |
| | ***χ2*** | 0.215 | 1.225 | 0.817 | 1.315 | 0.229 | 2.239 |
| | ***p*** | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS |
| **Age group (years)** | **18-24** | 20.8 (104) | 18.3 (92) | 19.4 (98) | 22.9 (115) | 24.8 (125) | 14.9 (75) |
| | **25-34** | 19.5 (153) | 16.3 (129) | 19.1 (151) | 20.5 (162) | 21.5 (170) | 22.9 (180) |
| | **35-44** | 18.4 (172) | 18.8 (177) | 17.5 (165) | 19.0 (178) | 19.4 (183) | 23.5 (221) |
| | **45-54** | 19.0 (141) | 16.8 (125) | 16.8 (126) | 19.8 (148) | 20.9 (156) | 27.2 (202) |
| | **55-64** | 16.5 (166) | 16.6 (168) | 15.0 (152) | 21.6 (219) | 18.9 (192) | 26.1 (263) |
| | **65+** | 12.4 (166) | 13.2 (178) | 11.7 (158) | 21.7 (291) | 13.0 (176) | 20.8 (276) |
| | ***χ2*** | 32.640 | 15.418 | 31.362 | 4.556 | 47.276 | 35.218 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.001** | **<0.01** | **<0.001** | NS | **<0.001** | **<0.001** |
| **Ethnicity** | **Any White background** | 16.7 (825) | 16.2 (802) | 15.6 (777) | 20.8 (1028) | 18.5 (922) | 23.2 (1145) |
| | **Any other non-White background** | 20.1 (74) | 17.0 (64) | 19.0 (71) | 23.9 (89) | 20.9 (78) | 18.9 (70) |
| | ***χ2*** | 2.467 | 0.135 | 2.696 | 1.814 | 1.128 | 3.408 |
| | ***p*** | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS |
| **Deprivation quintile** | **1 (most deprived)** | 21.6 (527) | 20.6 (507) | 19.7 (486) | 27.3 (670) | 23.1 (569) | 19.7 (480) |
| | **2** | 17.8 (150) | 16.5 (140) | 17.6 (150) | 19.3 (164) | 20.3 (173) | 22.5 (191) |
| | **3** | 12.2 (102) | 11.9 (100) | 12.2 (102) | 17.4 (146) | 13.8 (116) | 24.7 (205) |
| | **4** | 10.6 (88) | 10.8 (90) | 9.7 (81) | 10.1 (84) | 12.7 (106) | 29.9 (247) |
| | **5 (least deprived)** | 9.7 (37) | 8.8 (34) | 8.3 (32) | 15.4 (59) | 10.4 (40) | 25.7 (98) |
| | ***χ2*** | 89.444 | 79.704 | 78.142 | 134.131 | 82.984 | 40.820 |
| | ***p*** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** | **<0.001** |

[10] NS - Not significant.

[11] A p-value helps understand whether given results are due to chance – a low p-value (typically less than 0.05) suggests that findings are likely meaningful and not just due to chance.

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