Portsmouth Community Survey

Survey

2024

May 2024

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1. Background & methodology

1.1 Background

The Community Safety Survey consults residents about their views and experiences of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). It also asks about residents' views and experiences of knife crime, where they feel unsafe or avoid, why, and what can be done so that they would feel safer (see Appendix 1 for the survey questions).

The survey is key to understanding the overall picture of crime and ASB in Portsmouth because it does not rely on respondents having reported incidents or crimes to the police or other agencies. It can be used to triangulate with other data sources to improve the credibility and validity of analysis produced by local analysts.[1] The findings inform the annual Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-social Behaviour, Reoffending and Substance Misuse[2] which recommends Community Safety Priorities to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

This survey has been running for over 20 years, in various formats. From 1999 until 2009 the surveys were conducted by IPSOS Mori, initially as stand-alone, face-to-face interviews and later as part of a larger telephone and then postal survey encompassing questions about various council services. Due to council-wide budget cuts, the 2009 Resident's survey was the last survey commissioned from Ipsos MORI and for three years there was no community safety survey in any format. A new approach was taken in 2012, working with the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies at the University of Portsmouth. The survey was drawn into a research methods unit of an existing course, and the field work was carried out by a large number of students supervised by the university lecturers. However, with so many students involved (approximately 100 students each conducted 5 to 10 surveys) and no influence over the training or supervision, there were issues with quality control. This led to the survey being run in-house biennially from 2014 onwards. Small changes have been made to the questionnaire over time to improve the usefulness of the data collected, but crucial elements of the survey have remained comparable enabling a long-term comparison and the identification of patterns and trends.

1.2 Method

The field work was co-ordinated and carried out by the research team. They interviewed and selected fourteen students from the University of Portsmouth. The students then received training from the team to improve the consistency and quality of the responses. The training included:

[1] Triangulation can enhance the credibility and validity of a piece of research in four ways; the findings can be corroborated if two or more methods produce the same result, qualitative methods can elaborate on the quantitative findings, the results of two or more methods vary but are complementary and provide insights or the results differ and contradict each other (Brannen, 1992, p. 176).

[2] Strategic Assessments - Safer Portsmouth

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- The background to the survey,
- The aim of the survey,
- Terminology used to describe crimes and ASB and definitions of the categories.
- Basic interviewing techniques.
- Practice and time to check understanding.

Under supervision the students conducted face-to-face interviews with residents at various locations across the city (see Appendix 2 for the list of locations). Face-to-face surveys are used so that participants do not see the lists of options for ASB experienced and crimes that they are worried about. This is because these questions are highly subjective and if participants are shown a list of all options, they may be tempted to tick all options they are aware of, rather than sticking to this which are having an impact on their quality of life.

It is important to note that this survey will not pick up where a person has experienced the same crime or ASB type more than once. Furthermore, some offences (such as sexual offences or domestic abuse) were less likely to be reported to the survey as it took place in a public area and the fieldworkers were largely students from the university. Fieldworkers did not ask about domestic abuse/violence so as not to put participants at risk, although there is a space to record this if it is disclosed. This survey also does not capture crimes which have no victim that can be interviewed (such as homicide or possession of a weapon or drug offences) or crimes affecting businesses such as shoplifting.

1.3 Sampling & Statistics

There were approximately 170,700 residents over the age of 18 in Portsmouth in the most recent estimate (mid 2022).[3] Given this population size the target sample size was set at 1,065 participants, to ensure the findings were not due to chance. See Appendix 2 for further information about the analysis.

This survey uses a convenience sample - i.e. participants were not chosen randomly. Members of the public were approached in various locations across the city and participants could choose whether to participate, which means they may be more willing to stop if they have been a victim of crime, are impacted by ASB or have strong views about the topic. It is likely to mean that proportions of residents reporting crime/ASB to the survey is higher than for the general population. However, this limitation applies to most social research to some extent, including all previous community safety surveys and other crime surveys used for context and comparison.

To obtain a sample that was as representative as possible of the Portsmouth population, the demographic information gathered during the survey was regularly compared to official statistics for the Portsmouth population, and fieldworkers were asked to try and approach different demographics where proportions

[3] Portsmouth JSNA population dashboard: Microsoft Power BI

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were low. A detailed overview of this information is presented in chapter 2. However, due to the nature of this survey, some sections of the community are less likely to have participated (e.g. businesses and those in residential care, prison, or hospital) and thus the findings may not apply to these particular sections of the community.

For those who are interested, some of the key statistical findings can be found in Appendix 3, and full details are available on request.

1.4 The Research Phase

The fieldwork took place in multiple locations (see Appendix 2 for list of locations) over a five-week period from 7th February 2024 to 8th March 2024 to fit in with the availability of the students. However, conducting the fieldwork during February and March meant that a couple of fieldwork sessions were cancelled or cut short due to bad weather.

While it is anticipated that 'things are more or less back to usual' following the Covid-19 pandemic, it was noted that some of the key areas were a bit quieter than in previous years, with less footfall so numbers of surveys completed for sessions was slightly lower than in previous years. This was particularly notable in Paulsgrove but also to some degree in Milton and Drayton & Farlington.

As previously mentioned, the demographics were carefully monitored during the fieldwork period and adjustments were made to ensure a proportional distribution of the demographic characteristics of the participants. For instance, two sessions were held on a Saturday to try and include more respondents in full-time employment and in the age range of 25-64 years.

A few additional booster sessions were organised to try and increase the number of participants who were aged 25-64 and Paulsgrove residents. While the target number of responses was not quite reached (1054 responses, target 1065) this is still sufficient to allow robust analysis.

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2. Demographics

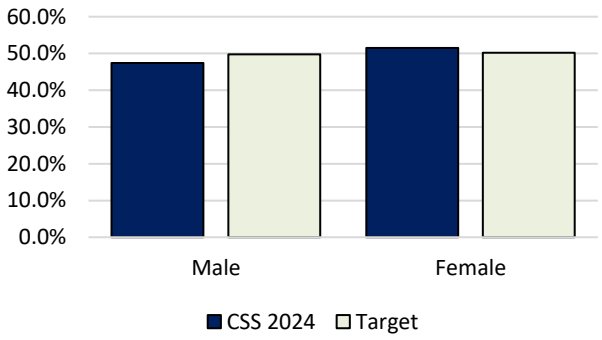
This section breaks down the demographic data collected about the respondents and shows how closely the sample matches the population of Portsmouth. This information is presented in a number of charts which illustrate the difference between the survey sample and Portsmouth population according to the Office for National Statistics 2021 Census.[4]

2.1 Gender

Where this information was recorded, slightly more of the participants were female (51.5%, n543) than male (47.4%, n500). This was very similar to proportion of males and females in Portsmouth according to the 2021 Census (Figure 1).

In addition, just under 1% of participants gave their gender as 'other' which is also similar to the 2021 Census data for gender identity.[5]

Figure 1: Comparison of gender representation with the Census 2021



2.2 Age

Participants aged 65 -74 years were over-represented, accounting for 17% of respondents (n181), which is 7.2 percentage points higher than the Portsmouth population according to the 2021 Census (9.9%, Table 1). This age group has also been over-represented in previous surveys and is thought to be due to a combination of a greater presence of this age group in the survey locations during work hours, having more available time, and being more willing to stop and talk to the fieldworkers than other age groups.

Most other age groups more closely represented Portsmouth's population, although both the 25-34 year and 18-24 year age groups were slightly under represented.

[4] Portsmouth demography - JSNA report - Portsmouth City Council
[5] https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiNTYzMWQ3YzYtNGJkOC00ZmEwLWJmODMtNTk0MDAyNzk2ZDMxIiwidCI6ImQ2NjcwYzUxLWRhYTQtNDE0Mi04MDQ3LTE1YTc4YmJlOTMwNiJ9

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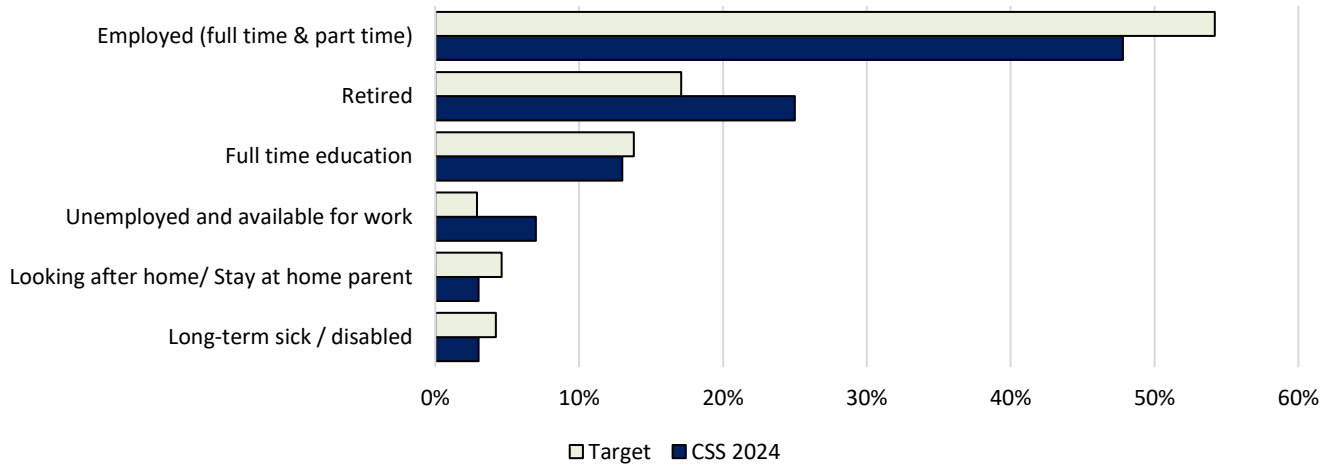
Table 1: Participants by age group, 2024

Age Group	Survey		Target (from Census 2021) (%)	Difference (Percentage points)
	(n)	(%)		
18-24	157	14.9%	16.9%	-2.0
25-34	165	15.7%	18.8%	-3.1
35-44	183	17.4%	16.5%	0.9
45-54	141	13.4%	15.3%	-1.9
55-64	138	13.1%	14.0%	-0.9
65-74	181	17.2%	9.9%	7.2
75+	89	8.4%	8.5%	-0.1
Total	**1054**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	

2.3 Main Occupation

Just under half the respondents (48%, n504) of respondents were in employment (either full time or part time employment, or self-employed) which is 6 percentage points lower than the target of 54% (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Comparison of age groups with the Census 2021



The second most commonly reported main occupation was 'retired' (25%, n261), followed by 'in full time education' (13%, n140).

Those who were retired or unemployed were over-represented in the sample as they tended to be more present at the fieldwork locations and more willing to give up their time than other occupation groups.

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2.4 Disability

The Census 2021 asked residents whether they had any physical or mental health conditions, or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more. This question was designed to collect data that more closely aligns with the definition of disability in the Equality Act 2010. Using this definition, 19.2% of Portsmouth residents reported that they were disabled. This was less than the 24% (n256) of the 2024 CSS participants who reported at least one disability.

Table 2 shows the proportion of participants who reported disabilities. The most commonly reported disability was mobility/physical (11.5%, n121), which may be linked to the high proportion of older participants.[6] This was followed by mental health conditions (6.9%) and 'other' (4.3%) which included conditions such as epilepsy, heart conditions, arthritis and autism. 5.3% (n56) of respondents reported that they had more than one disability, which is slightly more than previous years (2022: 4.5%, 2020: 3.8%, 2018: 3.5%).

Table 2: Respondents reporting disabilities, 2024

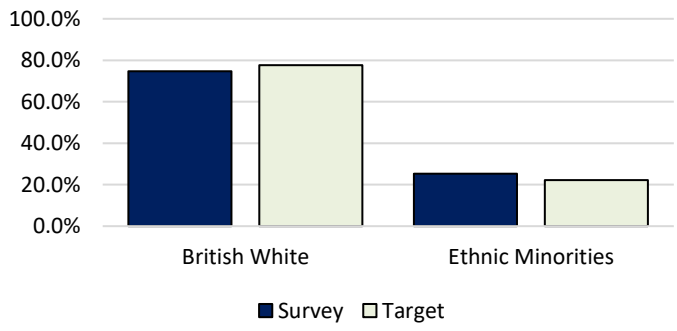
Disability	(n)	(%)
Mobility / physical	121	11.5%
Hearing	36	3.4%
Visual	28	2.7%
Learning	31	2.9%
Mental Health	73	6.9%
Other	45	4.3%
More than one disability	56	5.3%
Participants with at least one disability	304	24.2%
None	935	74.5%
Total	**1054**	**100.0%**

2.5 Ethnicity

The respondents to this survey were largely British white (75%, n788) with 25% (n266) from other ethnic backgrounds.

This is a slightly larger proportion of other ethnic backgrounds (3 percentage points) than the most recent census in 2021 for Portsmouth (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Comparison of ethnic background with the Census 2021



[6] CBP-9602.pdf (parliament.uk)

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Whilst the varying ethnic backgrounds are generally representative of the population in Portsmouth, the numbers of each group are too small to provide any meaningful analysis for individual ethnic groups. Therefore, any comparisons in this report will look at the differences between British White respondents and respondents from other ethnic backgrounds as one group. A full breakdown of the ethnicities of the respondents, alongside the Census 2021 proportions, can be found in Appendix 4.

2.6 Armed forces

In this survey 8% (n80) of participants were serving in the armed forces, were veterans or were the spouse/dependent of someone in the armed forces. Based on the latest estimate, the armed forces population in Portsmouth is 29,114.[7] This is roughly 18% of the Portsmouth population aged 18 and over. Therefore, the armed forces community survey included a representative number of members of the armed forces community.

2.7 Ward

There was a good representation from most wards, although ideally, we would have had more respondents from Drayton & Farlington, Milton and Paulsgrove, which were between 2 and 2.5 percentage points lower than the target. A detailed breakdown of the ward demographic data can be found in Table 3 below and a ward map can be found in Appendix 5.

Table 3: Residents by ward, 2024

Ward	Survey		Target (from Census 2021)	Difference (pp)
Baffins	57	5.4%	7.1%	-1.7%
Central Southsea	93	8.8%	7.7%	1.1%
Charles Dickens	189	17.9%	10.2%	7.8%
Copnor	52	4.9%	6.0%	-1.0%
Cosham	59	5.6%	6.8%	-1.2%
Drayton and Farlington	43	4.1%	6.6%	-2.5%
Eastney and Craneswater	53	5.0%	6.6%	-1.5%
Fratton	97	9.2%	7.5%	1.7%
Hilsea	53	5.0%	6.4%	-1.4%
Milton	54	5.1%	7.5%	-2.4%
Nelson	75	7.1%	7.1%	0.0%
Paulsgrove	46	4.4%	6.4%	-2.1%
St. Jude	68	6.5%	6.5%	0.0%
St. Thomas	108	10.2%	7.6%	2.7%
Homeless	2	0.2%		
Portsmouth misc.	5	0.5%		
Total	**1054**	**100.0%**		

[7] Data from report: 2022 Armed Forces Community Within the Solent. Figure includes veterans, serving personnel and their spouses/partners and widows: The Armed Forces Community Within The Solent (portsmouth.gov.uk)

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Efforts were made to try and get additional participants from the wards with fewer responses, with at least two sessions in each location:

- Farlington Sainsbury and Drayton Co-op, although the footfall at Drayton Co-op was very low.
- Eastney Road Co-op in Milton, and Bransbury Park, although the weather was very bad for one of these sessions.
- Paulsgrove Housing Office, Paulsgrove Community 'Sofa' and outside Paulsgrove Community Centre. Footfall was much lower than usual at the Housing Office.

Residents from Charles Dickens were over-represented in the survey, but this was expected as there were a number of sessions in Commercial Road which is in the Charles Dickens ward as it was a good place to speak to residents from all parts of the city. As Charles Dickens consistently has higher levels of crime and ASB than other wards, it is considered advantageous to have a larger sample for this ward.

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3. Survey Findings

Further details about the statistical tests used and the results discussed in this section can be found in Appendix 3.

3.1 Quality of Life

Quality of life is a subjective concept and may be influenced by many factors, including amongst other things: health, employment and/or financial status, housing, and social networks. It gives a broad indication of how residents feel about their quality of life.

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the statement "The overall quality of my life in Portsmouth is very good" on a scale where 1 indicated a poor quality of life and 5 indicated a very good quality of life. **Most participants (89%, n940) felt their overall quality of life was good**, with 11% (n114) of participants indicating that they disagreed with the statement to some extent (Figure 6).

Figure 6: The overall quality of my life in Portsmouth is very good, 2024

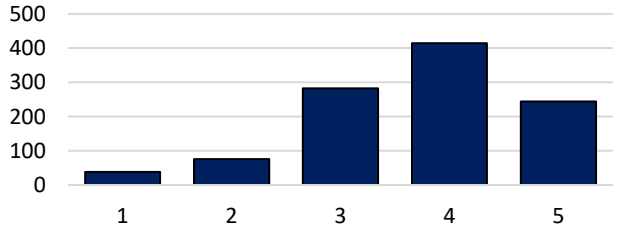
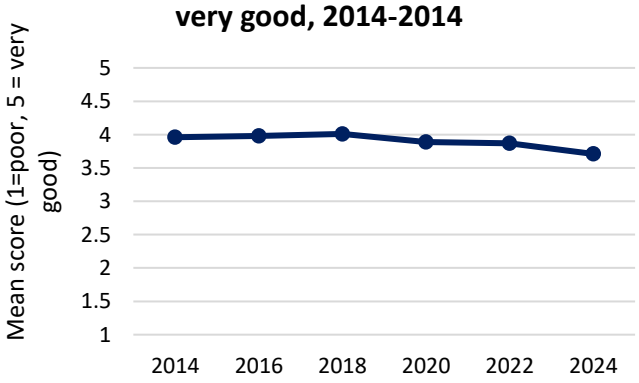


Figure 7: The overall quality of my life is very good, 2014-2014



The average reported quality of life score for all respondents was 3.71, which was slightly, but statistically significantly, lower than previous years (Figure 7).[8] This suggests that **overall residents were slightly less satisfied with their quality of life in 2024 than in previous years**. While it is not possible to say with certainty why this may be, there is a possibility that the cost of living crisis and increasing household expenses may be impacting on residents' quality of life.

It was found that **fear of crime and experience of crime or ASB were associated with quality of life**. Those who did not experience / witness ASB or crime, those who are not worried about being a victim, those

[8] Statistically significant means that tests have been carried out and the result was not likely to have occurred by chance.

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who do not think knife crime is a problem and those who do not feel unsafe reported a slightly (but statistically significantly) better quality of life than those who had been a victim / were fearful of crime.

Statistically significant differences were found between some disability types, wards, and ethnic groups.

- Ethnic minority participants reported a statistically significantly higher average quality of life scores than British white participants (M=3.68).
- Participants with no disability (M=3.77) or those with a mobility/physical disability (M=3.79) reported a statistically significantly higher average quality of life scores than those with 'other'[9] disabilities (M=3.11).

The ward where people lived also was associated with their average quality of life, with residents living in Eastney & Craneswater having the highest quality of life score, which is significantly higher than residents living in Charles Dickens, who had the lowest quality of life score. Table 4 lists the average scores for all the wards, but those in yellow did not differ significantly from other wards. See Appendix 4 for a map showing Portsmouth wards.

Table 4: Mean Quality of Life scores by Ward in 2024

Ward	Quality of life (Mean score)
Eastney & Craneswater	4.09
Drayton & Farlington	3.95
Milton	3.89
Cosham	3.86
Hilsea	3.77
Paulsgrove	3.76
St Jude	3.75
St Thomas	3.74
Nelson	3.72
Baffins	3.67
Copnor	3.67
Central Southsea	3.66
Fratton	3.66
Charles Dickens	3.51
Total	3.71

It is important to note that although some factors were found to be associated with quality of life, this does not mean that they are the reason for lower or higher reported quality of life, which is likely to be the result of numerous factors, many of which have not been captured by this survey.

[9] 'other' as a selected option, not all other disabilities.

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3.2 Perception of Anti-Social Behaviour

ASB is highly subjective; a behaviour which causes distress to one person may not even be noticed by another. It refers to a wide range of behaviours from environmental issues like littering, fly tipping and dog mess through to personal nuisance such as neighbour disputes and noise. Due to this subjectivity, it may also include low level criminal offences such as harassment, arson, and criminal damage.

Respondents were asked to indicate on a scale their level of agreement with the statement "ASB is a big problem in the area where I live," where 1 indicated that they did not think it was a problem and 5 indicated that they thought it was a very big problem. The responses are likely to be influenced by what they have heard from friends, family and in the media, rather than just personal experience.

38% of participants (n360) agreed with the statement to some degree, indicating that they thought ASB was a big problem in their area (Figure 8).

Figure 8: ASB is a big problem in your area, 2024

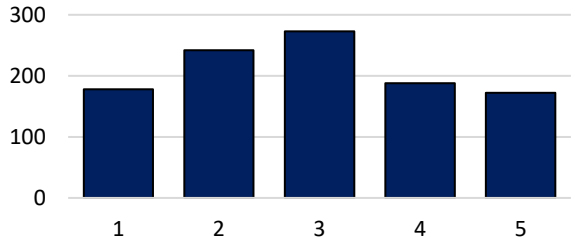
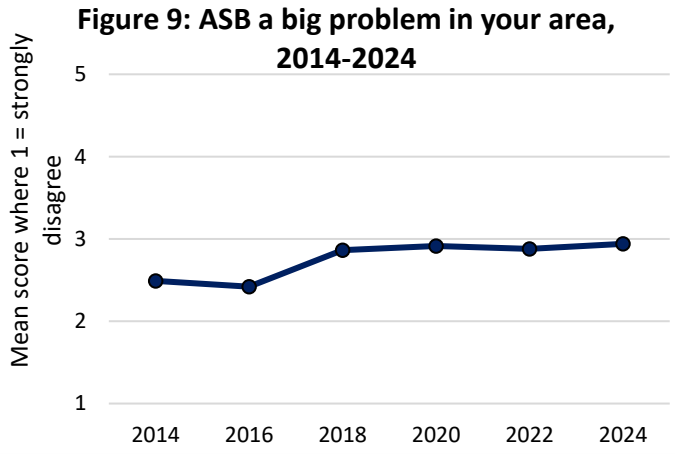


Figure 9: ASB a big problem in your area, 2014-2024



The average score for all respondents was 2.94, which is similar to levels in 2022, 2020 and 2018 and statistically significantly higher than in 2014 & 2016. This means that **residents' perception of ASB being a problem has remained fairly stable since 2018** (Figure 9).

There was an association between fear and experience of ASB and crime and thinking that ASB was a big problem. Those who did not experience/witness ASB or crime, those who are not worried about being a victim, those who do not think knife crime is a problem and those who do not feel unsafe were less likely to think that ASB was a big problem in their area than those who had been a victim / were fearful of crime.

The following statistically significant differences were found between groups:

- Participants aged between 45-54 years were more likely to think ASB was a big problem in their area than those who were aged between 25 and 34 years.

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- White British participants were more likely to think that ASB was a problem than ethnic minority participants.
- Participants with learning disabilities were more likely to think that ASB was a problem than those with no disability, a hearing disability or mental health issues.
- Participants living in Charles Dickens were significantly more likely to think that ASB was a big problem than those living in Eastney & Craneswater and Copnor (Table 5).

Table 5: Perception of ASB as a big problem by ward of residence, 2024

Ward	ASB is a big problem (Mean score)
Charles Dickens	3.33
Nelson	3.01
St Thomas	3.00
Paulsgrove	2.96
Fratton	2.96
Baffins	2.95
Cosham	2.88
Milton	2.85
St Jude	2.81
Central Southsea	2.81
Hilsea	2.77
Drayton & Farlington	2.63
Copnor	2.60
Eastney & Craneswater	2.47
Total	2.94

3.3 Personal experience of Anti-social Behaviour

This survey measures the proportion of residents personally witnessing or experiencing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and does not rely on them reporting to agencies, and therefore is not affected by changes in reporting or recording systems. Since 2014, fieldworkers have not shown a list of options to participants, so that they only report issues that they feel are a problem for them, rather than any issues that may be occurring in their area.

64% (n675) participants reported witnessing or experiencing ASB in the previous 12 months (from March/April 2023 to February/March 2024). **While the overall trend for the last decade has been relatively stable, there has been a statistically significant reduction in ASB reported to the survey since the peak in 2019/20 (a 10 percentage points reduction from 74%)**. This recent reduction in ASB reported to the survey has not been as substantial as the reduction in police recorded ASB since 2013/14 (69%, n6,661) (Figure 10).

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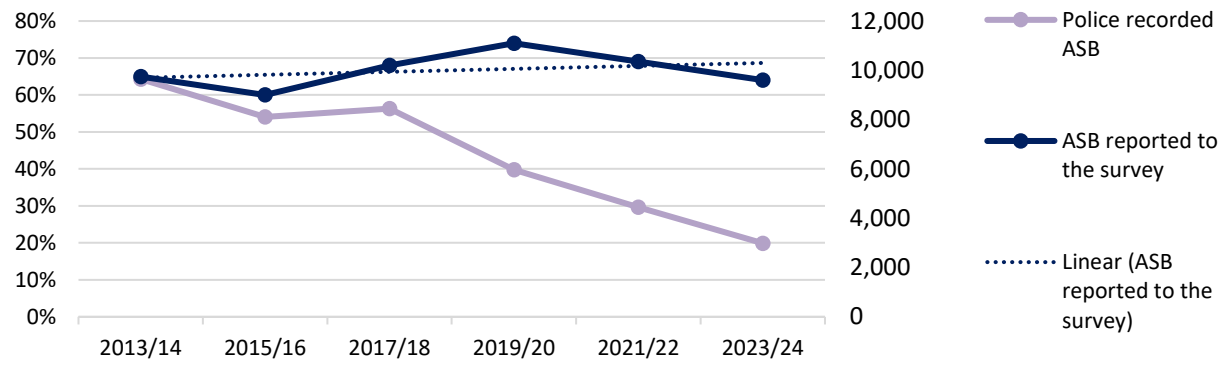
Figure 10 : Proportion of respondents who have experienced or witnessed ASB compared with police recorded crime, 2013/14-2023/24



Some significant associations were found between witnessing and experiencing ASB and the following demographic characteristics:

- Gender: females were more likely to mention witnessing or experiencing ASB than males (67% compared with 60%).
- Age group: participants aged 45-54 years were more likely to mention witnessing or experiencing ASB than other age groups, while those aged between 25-34 years were less likely (75% compared with 56%).
- Ethnicity: White British respondents were more likely to mention witnessing or experiencing ASB than those from other ethnic groups (70% compared with 46%).

When interpreting these findings, it is important to note that ASB is reliant on the individual's perception rather than the behaviours themselves. Two people can experience the exact same behaviours and one will barely notice, while another finds it upsetting or irritating.

Types of ASB experienced or witnessed.

The most common issues that respondents had experienced or witnessed in their area in the last twelve months were:

- **People using/supplying drugs (15%, n162)**
- **Traffic issues (12%, n127)**
- **People hanging around (11%, n115)**
- Street Drinking (9%, n97)
- Noise in the street (9%, n94)

The findings of this survey cannot be directly compared with the Crime Survey for England and Wales as the methodologies and ASB categories are different. However, the most recent CSEW for the period

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ending March 2023[10] found that the most common ASB types causing a fairly or very big problem nationally were rubbish/litter, people using/dealing drugs, teenagers hanging around, vandalism/graffiti and people being drunk and rowdy.

The comparison of the two surveys demonstrates that the **ASB experienced in Portsmouth is broadly similar to the national picture, but that traffic issues are perceived to be causing more issues locally**, while litter/rubbish is not perceived to be such a big problem.

ASB Trends

In the early surveys (from 2001 to 2008) the two consistently experienced and witnessed types of ASB experienced were 'speeding cars' and 'litter.' By 2009, the most common ASBs had shifted to 'teenagers hanging around', 'people being drunk' and 'vandalism'. Since 2022, 'traffic issues', 'drug dealing/using' and 'people hanging around' have become the most prominent issues for residents.

Table 6 below shows the proportion of respondents reporting each type of behaviour for each survey since 2014 and the change from 2022 to 2024. Since the previous survey, there have been reductions in most types of ASB reported.

Table 6: Trends in the most commonly reported types of ASB from 2014

ASB Type	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024	Change from 2022 (pp.)	DOT from 2022
People using / supplying drugs	5.7%	5.8%	12.9%	21.3%	17.7%	15.4%	-2.3%	↓
Traffic issues	6.7%	9.4%	7.3%	6.0%	10.4%	12.0%	1.6%	↑
People hanging around	11.4%	9.4%	16.4%	17.1%	18.7%	10.9%	-7.8%	↓
Street drinking	11.5%	11.4%	12.4%	12.2%	12.8%	9.2%	-3.6%	↓
Noise in the street	13.4%	13.7%	11.5%	13.4%	15.1%	8.9%	-6.1%	↓
Intimidating behaviour	6.2%	6.2%	11.6%	11.0%	12.2%	8.4%	-3.7%	↓
Domestic noise	14.4%	10.5%	8.9%	12.8%	9.8%	8.1%	-1.7%	↓
Vandalism/graffiti	9.4%	9.4%	10.0%	14.1%	14.1%	7.4%	-6.7%	↓
Dog mess	n/a	9.6%	5.7%	6.4%	5.7%	5.7%	0.0%	↔
Litter and rubbish	13.7%	11.7%	9.8%	10.4%	10.3%	5.3%	-5.0%	↓

Traffic issues which included motorbike nuisance, e-scooter issues, parking inconsiderately or using streets as rat runs, **had increased slightly (by 1.6 percentage points)**. Traffic issues have been increasing overall since the 2014 survey, and e-scooter nuisance is a relatively new issue which emerged in the 2022 survey and was reported by 4% (n40) participants.

[10] Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates of personal and household crime, anti-social behaviour, and public perceptions, by police force area, year ending March 2023 - Office for National Statistics

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What ASB is reported and to whom?

While this survey has explored the level of reporting of crimes since 2016, there has been more of a focus on the reporting of ASB in this year's survey. This is because of the disparity between previous surveys/anecdotal evidence and the amount of ASB reported to the police. It was hoped that the survey could shed some light on the issue of whether there had been a genuine reduction in ASB or whether people were just less likely to report it.

Participants reported 1,349 different types of ASB that they had experienced during the previous 12 months, of which **35% (n467) were reported to agencies**.[11]

The ASB types that were most likely to be reported to agencies were[12]:

- Drug litter (61%, n11)
- Motorbike nuisance (52%, n13)
- Fly tipping (48%, n13)
- Vandalism/graffiti (47%, n37)
- Bullying/intimidating behaviour (45%, n40)
- Domestic noise (45%, n38)
- People dealing drugs (44%, n30)

Where people gave details about who they reported to (n334) the most common agencies were: Portsmouth City Council (38%, n127), the police (37%, n122), both PPC and the police (6%, n21) or a local councillor (3%, n10). Unfortunately, data was not routinely collected about which team within PCC. This may have been due to members of the public not knowing or remembering, or the fieldworkers not asking for more detail.

These figures demonstrate that for almost all ASB types, less than half are reported to any agency. The ASB types that were less likely to be reported were 'commercial noise' (10%, n<5), 'cars using streets as a rat run' (14%, n<5), 'traffic noise' (16%, n<5) and 'noise in the street' (23%, n22).

If residents had not reported ASB to any agency, there were asked about the reasons for their decisions. The most common reason people did not report was due to a feeling that the ASB was normal or general apathy (Figure 11, 29%, n220), with participants saying things like,

"It happens so often." ***"Not much people can do about it."***

"There's no point." ***"I don't care enough about it to report it."***

[11] It is important to note that some of these reports may be for ongoing issues and not individual occurrences.

[12] Where there were more than 5 incidents of the ASB reported to the survey.

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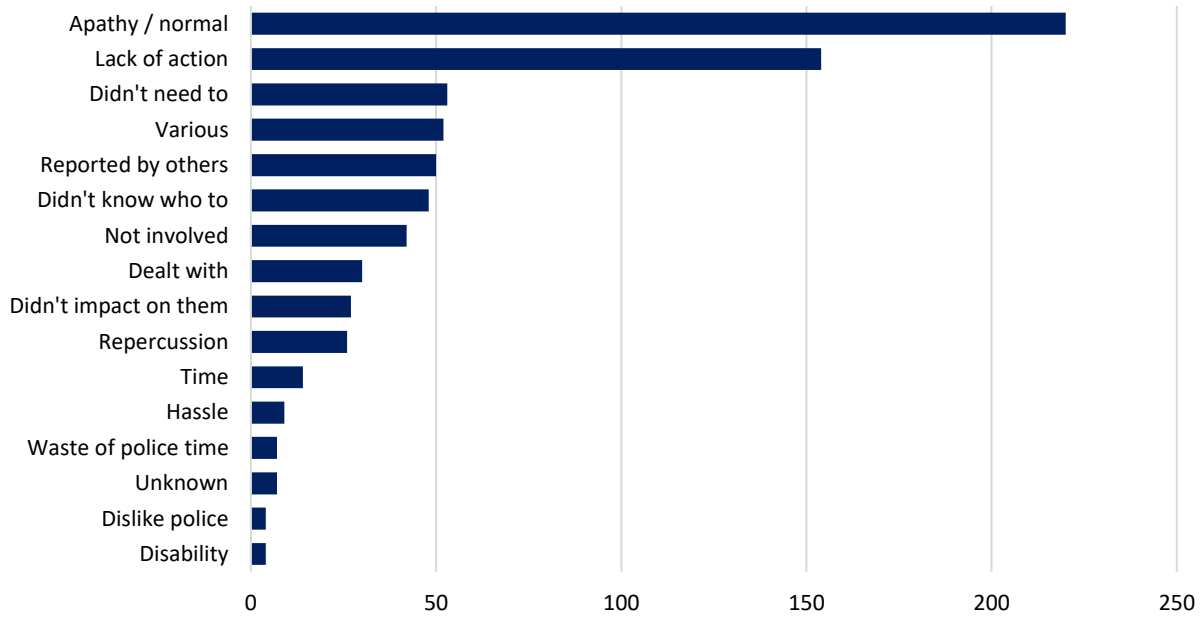
Other common reason were: that they felt that agencies would not do anything about it anyway (lack of action - 21%, n154), that they did not feel they needed to (7%, n53), the issue had already been reported by someone else (7%, n50) or they did not know who to report to (6%, n48).

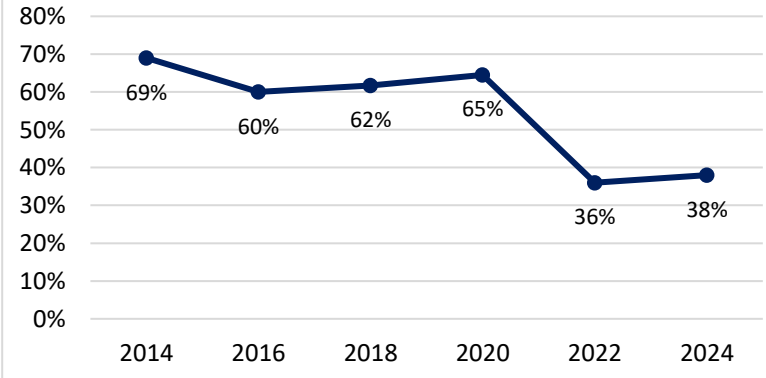
Figure 11: Reasons why participants did not report ASB, 2024)



3.4 Fear of crime

Fear of crime has remained lower than it was prior to the Covid pandemic, with 38% of participants reporting that they were worried about being the victim of a crime (Figure 12). There was no significant change from fear of crime in 2022. Overall fear of being a victim of crime has closely matched the proportion of people who have been a victim of crime since 2022, whereas in previous years, overall fear of being a victim of crime was much higher than experience. However, fear of crime was associated with being a victim of crime (ex.online crime) in the last twelve months; 33% of those who feared being a victim had been a victim compared with 19% of those who did not.

Figure 12: Proportion of respondents who were worried about being the victim of crime, 2014 - 2024



The reduction in 2022 was thought to be linked to a change in patterns of behaviour during the pandemic, with many more people working from and spending more time at home. Additionally, during lockdown

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periods, some communities pulled together, and some people looked out for their neighbours more than usual. This sense of community may have had a positive effect on fear of crime. While this effect was thought to be temporary, there may be lasting aspects, such as people feeling more connected to their neighbours or working from home more. This may have also been impacted by the popularity of installing home security cameras in recent years,[13] although evidence is varied about whether these increase or reduce feelings of safety.

Some demographic groups were significantly associated with being more likely to fear being a victim of crime:

- Women were more likely to fear being victimized than men (45% compared with 29%)
- Participants in the armed forces or veterans were less likely to fear victimisation than those who were not (28% compared with 38%)
- Those who were not working as they were sick/disabled were more likely to fear being victimized than other main occupations (61% compared with overall mean of 38%).
- Those who had multiple disabilities were more likely to fear being victimized (55% compared with overall mean of 38%).

The crimes that participants were most worried about happening to them were:

- Being mugged or robbed (15%, n154)
- Being assaulted (10%, n103)
- Being burgled (7%, n74)
- Being sexually assaulted/harassed (6%, n58)

Since the 2014 survey, participants have been consistently more worried about 'being mugged or robbed', 'your home being burgled' or 'being assaulted or beaten up' than any other type of crime (Figure 13). However, since 2014, the proportion of respondents reporting that they **feared being burgled has been dropping**, whilst **those concerned about being the victim of robbery or assault had been rising until the 2022 survey, when they reduced and have stayed lower. Concern about 'being threatened, insulted or abused or behaviour likely to cause fear or distress' and 'being sexually assaulted or harassed' had also been increasing until the 2022 survey.** The option of 'being stabbed' was included for the first time in 2022 to reflect concern around knife crime and has reduced in the 2024 survey.

[13] An example of a survey which found increased feelings of safety: One in 5 Brits now have a video doorbell in home security tech boom (consumerintelligence.com)

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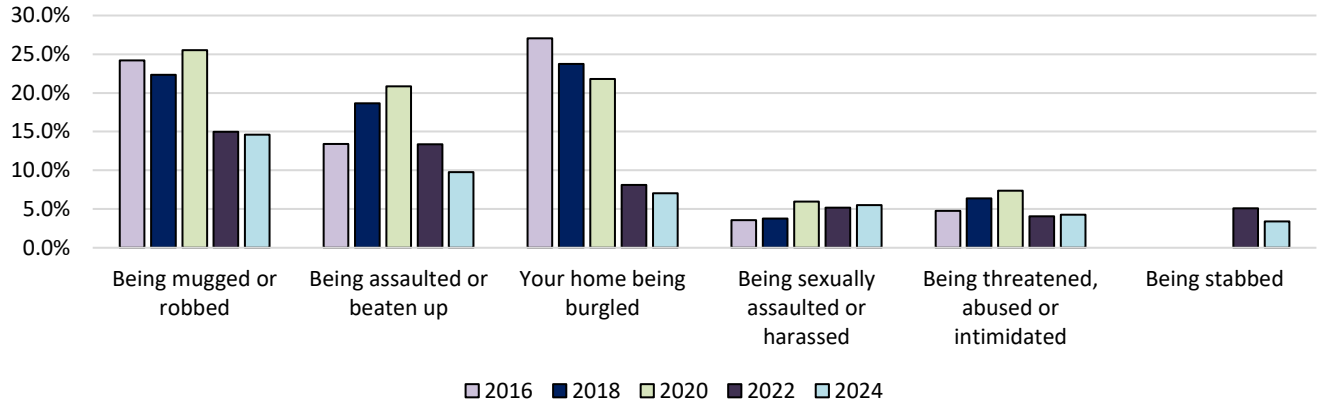
Figure 13: Crimes that respondents most feared, 2016 - 2024



3.5 Victimisation

About a quarter of survey participants (24%, n258) reported that they had been a victim of at least one crime in the previous twelve months (from March/April 2023 to February/March 2024)**, rising to 35% (n365) when online crimes were included.** It is important to note that while the sample for this survey is broadly similar to Portsmouth's population, there are some sections of the community who may not be represented and who may experience different levels of crime (for example businesses, those in residential homes/hospitals or prison).

There has been a stable trend in victimisation reported to the survey since 2013/14, with the exception of 2015/16[14] (Figure 14). However, this stability in overall victimisation hides patterns in individual crime types; we know that online crime has been increasing as more services are available online, increasing lower risk opportunities for criminals.

Figure 14: Proportion of respondents who experienced a crime (2013/14 - 2023/24)

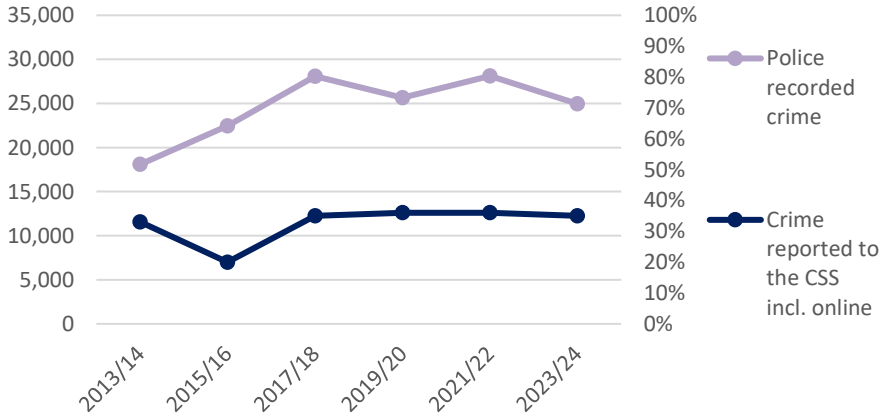


Figure 14 also plots **police recorded crime,[15] showing a fluctuating, but overall increasing trend from 2013/14, with a slight reducing trend over the last two years. This is in contrast to the overall stable trend in victimisation reported to this survey**. This finding lends weight to the hypothesis that overall crime remains fairly stable, and the previous increases and recent reductions in police recorded crime are

[14] It is not clear why levels of crime reported to the survey in 2016 where statistically significantly lower than the other years.
[15] The figure for police record crime in 2023/24 is provisional and based on raw police data. This will be updated when the approved data becomes publicly available.

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largely due to changes in police recording practices.[16] There is a notable caveat to this comparison; the police dataset includes all crimes, whereas the victimisation rate from the survey is solely the number of victims and thus there may be a different trend if all the crimes were added up.

Some factors that were associated with being more or less likely to be a victim of crime (excluding online crime) were:

- People who have retired were less likely to be a victim of crime than other occupations and those who were **sick/disabled were more likely to be a victim of crime** (16% and 50%, respectively).
- People who are 65-74 years and over 75 years old were less likely to be a victim of crime than other age groups (17% and 14% compared with the mean for all ages 24%).
- **People with multiple disabilities were more likely to be a victim of crime** and those with no disabilities were slightly less likely to be a victim of crime (57% and 22%, respectively).

What crimes are residents experiencing?

Respondents reported 330 crimes (excluding online crime) to the survey and Table 7 shows the crime types experienced and reported from the 2014 survey to the most recent 2024 survey.[17]

The **most common crime reported to the survey in 2024 was threats/intimidation**, with 5.7% (n60) of participants reporting this type of crime, substantially more than any other crime type. Threats/ intimidation has been the most commonly reported crime since the 2018 survey. The other crimes commonly reported to the survey were:

- Being sexually assaulted or harassed (2.8%, n29),
- Hate crime (2.8%, n29 - where this was mentioned it was largely in relation to race hate), and
- Being assaulted (2.5%, n26).

Table 7 (above) shows how crimes reported to the survey have changed over time. Since 2022, most crime categories have reduced or stayed broadly the same. However, sexual assault/harassment has shown an increase.[18] However, due to this survey being conducted in a public place by students, it is expected that many people who have experienced sexual offences would not feel comfortable disclosing them and this is likely to be an under-estimate both for this survey and in previous ones. The slight increase could be at least partially a reflection of some people feeling more willing to disclose the offences to the survey rather than an increase in this particular type of crime. Having a vehicle broken into had also increased slightly since 2022.

[16] Strategic Assessment of Crime, ASB, Reoffending and Substance Misuse: Update for 2022/23
[17] Note: where participants experience a crime type more than once, this is not captured.
[18] Broadly the same is an increase or reduction of less than 1%.

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Table 7: Crimes that people experienced in the previous 12 months and reported to the survey.

Rank	Crime type	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024	change from 2022 (pp.)	overall trend since 2014
1	Threats or intimidation (targeted behaviour)	6.9%	2.5%	8.2%	12.1 %	7.2%	5.7%	-1.5%	↓
2	Being sexually assaulted or harassed	0.6%	0.1%	2.0%	2.6%	1.1%	2.8%	1.6%	↑
3	Hate crime (targeted behaviour because of race, religion, disability ,or sexuality)		2.5%	2.3%	4.1%	2.1%	2.8%	0.7%	↔
4	Being assaulted or beaten up	2.5%	3.5%	3.1%	3.8%	2.5%	2.5%	-0.1%	↔
5	Having a car broken into	1.6%	2.4%	3.6%	3.1%	1.3%	2.4%	1.1%	↔
6	Damage to your car or motorbike	5.7%	3.7%	5.5%	5.8%	2.0%	2.1%	0.1%	↓
7	Being stalked (e.g. being purposely followed by someone)	1.1%	0.2%	1.9%	4.7%	2.4%	1.6%	-0.8%	↔
8	Criminal damage to your home / garden	3.3%	1.9%	3.5%	3.2%	1.8%	1.4%	-0.3%	↓
9	Having a bicycle stolen	5.3%	2.5%	4.9%	4.8%	2.2%	1.3%	-0.9%	↓
10	Being mugged or robbed	1.0%	1.5%	2.6%	1.0%	1.5%	1.1%	-0.4%	↔
11	Other (please specify):			1.7%	2.9%	1.2%	1.0%	-0.2%	↔
12	Your home being burgled	2.0%	1.8%	2.1%	1.8%	1.8%	0.9%	-0.8%	↓
14	Having things stolen from your garage, shed or garden	2.0%	0.7%	3.3%	2.9%	3.2%	0.9%	-2.2%	↓
15	Street theft such as being pick pocketed	1.0%	0.2%	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	0.1%	↔
16	Other fraud	0.7%	0.2%	1.1%	1.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.1%	↔
17	Domestic Abuse						0.5%		
18	Having a car or motorbike stolen	0.8%	0.4%	1.1%	1.4%	0.7%	0.4%	-0.3%	↔
19	Identity theft	0.1%	0.5%	1.5%	1.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	↔
20	Arson	0.1%	0.0%	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	↔

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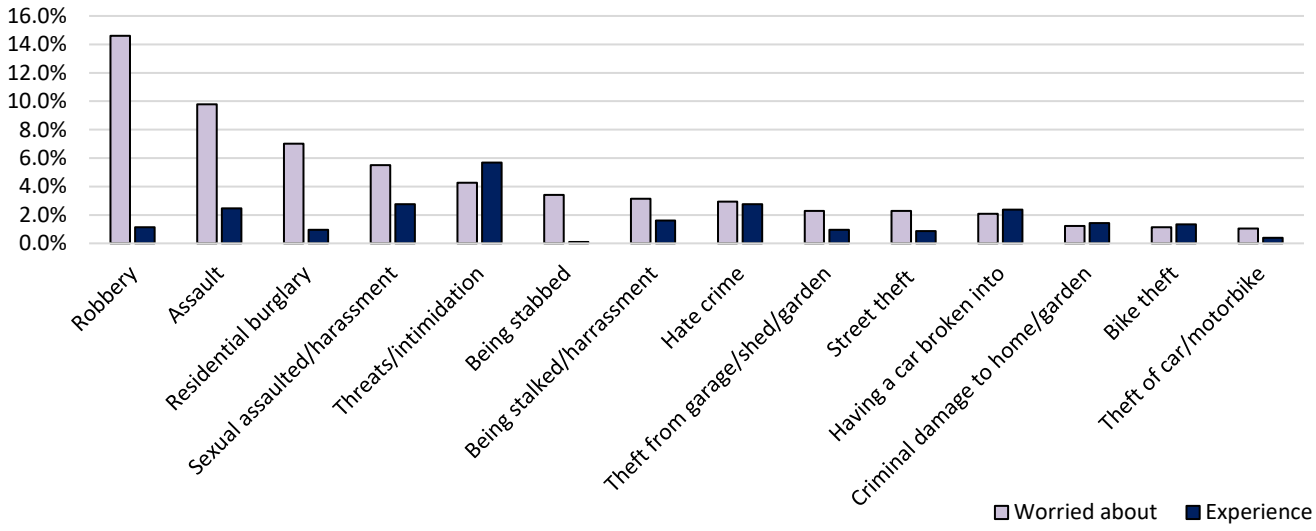
Perception versus experience of crime

Overall worry about being the victim of crime has been broadly matching the proportion who have been a victim of crime (38% worried, 35% experiencing at least one crime including online crime) for the last two surveys. However, as in previous years, **fear of being a victim substantially exceeded the proportion of participants who were a victim of the crimes which were the most feared:** 'being mugged/robbed', 'being burgled' or 'being assaulted'. For example, **15% of participants were worried about 'being mugged/robbed', while 1.1% of them had been a victim of robbery in the previous twelve months** (Figure 15). This is likely to reflect the serious physical or emotional impact that these types of crime may have on a victim and the amount of media coverage given to these crimes.

For some other 'less feared' crime types, particularly threats/intimidation, the proportion of respondents who were concerned was lower than or similar to those who had experienced the offences, possibly because people are not physically harmed in these types of offences, and some may feel that the crimes have not had as much of an impact on them.

Figure 15: Comparison between the most common crimes respondents were worried about and those they experienced, 2024



Online Crime

Most people did not report experiencing online crime during 2023/24 (84%, n884). The 16% (n164) who did, reported 187 crimes. The most common types of crime reported were: online fraud (7.6%, n80), phishing - not just received emails, but had money or data stolen (4.7%, n50) and personal hacking (1.8%, n19).

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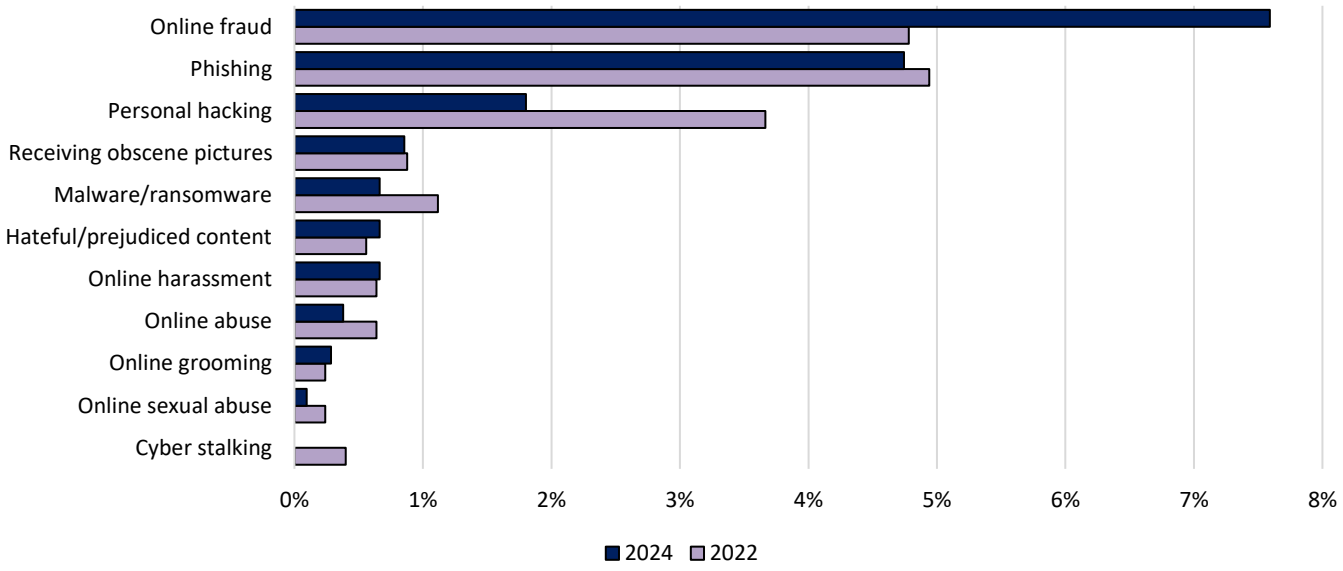
Figure 16: Online Crime 2022 & 2024



The proportion of residents experiencing phishing is similar to 2021/22, while those reported online fraud increased (by 2.8 percentage points, Figure 16).

Those with mobility/physical disabilities were significantly more likely to be a victim of online crime, and those with no disabilities were slightly less likely to be victims of online crime (27% and 14% respectively, compared to the average for all participants of 16%). This may be due to this group being more reliant on using online platforms to access services, shop or socialise.

Whilst most comments (n21) provided by participants in relation to online crime related to attempted scams, a few other themes were mentioned. Six participants said that they tended to avoid using online services or platforms, preferring to do things in person so that this wasn't an issue for them. Five participants said that others (most commonly their children) helped them avoid scams, and they asked for help if they were not sure about anything.

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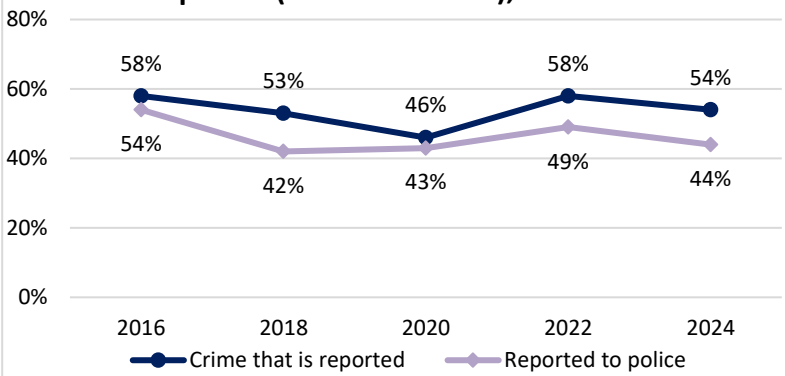
What crimes do people report and to whom?

Respondents told us that they reported 54% (n179) of the crimes they told us about to agencies during 2023/24.[19]

There has been a fluctuating trend in reporting since 2015/16, ranging from between 46% and 58% (Figure 17).

When online crimes were included the reporting rate increased to 58% (n298 out of 517).

Figure 17: Proportion of crime that was reported (ex. online crime), 2016-2024.



Where crimes were reported, they were largely reported to the police (81% of reported crime / 44% of all crime, n143), followed by Portsmouth City Council (4%, n7), their employer/manager/colleagues (3%, n6) or their bank or credit card company (3%, n5).

When online crimes are included, the proportion of crimes reported to the police reduced to 31% (n160) overall, with only 13% of online crimes being reported to the police. Most commonly online crime was reported to the participants' bank or credit card company (59%, n77). Participants also reported to the relevant website (9%, n12), their employer (3%, n<5) or the Information Commissioner's Office (3%, n<5).

Surprisingly, only two participants said they reported the crime to Action Fraud, which is where most of the data for online crime comes from. It is not known whether banks, companies or websites routinely pass this information on to Action Fraud.

The crimes **most likely to be reported** were:

- Burglary (90% of people who experienced the crime, n9)
- Other Fraud (86%, n6)
- Online Fraud (83%, n66)[20]
- Domestic abuse (80%, n<5)
- Street theft (78%, n7)

The crimes **least likely to be reported** were also crimes where only small numbers were reported to the survey generally:

- Receiving unsolicited obscene pictures (11%, n<5)
- Hate crime (28%, n8)

[19] This includes reporting to the police but also other agencies like the City Council, Bank, employer, housing association, insurance company, fraud agency, credit card company, landlord, phone/internet supplier, mediation services, GP, university, school and Citizens Advice / Advice Portsmouth.
[20] Online fraud was both a commonly experienced and commonly reported crime: 80 experienced online fraud and 83% (n66 reported it).

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- Hateful/prejudiced content (29%, n<5)
- Online harassment (29%, n<5)
- Malware/ransomware (29%, n<5)

While we did not ask people their reasons for not reporting crime in the 2024 survey, this has been asked previously. In 2022, where people gave reasons for not reporting, the most common reasons were that they thought the police would not do anything (n35), the crime was minor (n25), they dealt with it themselves (n18) or they thought it was normal/common (n10). This supports the fact that theft-type offences are often well reported as there is often some kind of physical evidence to support the report, while evidence that often rest on the victims' word, such as hate crime or harassment tend to be less well reported. It is interesting that domestic abuse featured in the well reported group in 2024, but it could be that those who reported domestic abuse were more willing to disclose it to the fieldworkers, and there were very small numbers so caution should be taken when interpreting the findings.

3.7 Knife Crime

Knife-enabled crime and possession of a weapon offences account for only a small percentage of crime (2.7%, n742 in 2022/23) but they have been increasing over the past five years and have the potential to cause serious harm. A serious violence profile has been produced for Portsmouth, but this has relied mainly on crimes that were reported or detected by police, and it is known that changes to recording practices influence this data. It is not possible to know whether the increases in police recorded knife-enabled crime means that there is more knife-enabled crime or whether the police have improved the way they record it. Questions were added to the 2020 survey try and find out more about knife crime from the perspective of Portsmouth residents and this is the third time we have asked these questions to see if there has been any changes.

Just under half of participants (44%, n462) said they thought knife crime was a problem in Portsmouth, while a third (33%, n349) said they didn't and just under a quarter (23%, n239) didn't know. **The proportion of participants thinking knife crime was a problem reduced slightly (by 2 percentage points)** from the previous survey in 2022.

Some characteristics were associated with being likely to think knife crime was a problem:

- Females were more likely to think knife crime was a problem than males (50% compared with 38%).
- Participants aged 45-54 years were more likely to think knife crime was a problem, and participants aged 25-34 years were less likely (55% compared with 36%).
- Charles Dickens residents were more likely to think knife crime was a problem and those living in Eastney & Craneswater were less likely (56% compared with 25%).
- White British participants were slightly more likely to think it was a problem than ethnic minority participants (46% compared with 37%).

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Where respondents thought knife crime was a problem, they were asked why, and thematic analysis was used to find out the main reasons. Of the 502 respondents that gave at least one reason, **half (50%, n250) had heard about knife crime in the media or by word of mouth.** There is a fair amount of media coverage in relation to knife crime, particularly on social media, so it is not surprising that the proportion of people thinking knife crime is a problem has increased.[21]

It was also common for people to give reasons based on general ideas rather than personal experience, thinking that:

- Knife-crime is becoming part of youth culture (18%, n92)
- It is common for people to carry knifes (but haven't seen this personally) (12%, n62)
- It could be related to generally high crime rates (6%, n32)
- Knife crime is common (not just in Portsmouth) (6%, n30)

However, some respondents held their belief as they had personal experience of knife crime or knew someone who had with:

- 4% (n20) had witnessed knife crime
- 2% (n10) had come across knife crime at their place of work (where specified, at schools or in the police)
- 1.8% (n9) had seen people carrying knifes
- 0.6% (n<5) knew someone who had been a victim of knife crime
- 0.6% (n<5) had found a knife
- 0.4% (n<5) had previously been a victim of knife crime themselves

Participants were then specifically asked about whether they **had seen someone carrying a weapon or knife in the previous 12 months** (from March/April 2023 to February/March 2024)**, and 11% (n116) had done**. This is similar to both previous surveys that asked about knife crime, where 11% of participants said they had seen someone carrying a weapon in 2019/20 and 10% in 2021/22. Of the 124 weapons seen,[22] **86% (n107) were knives**. Sometimes extra detail was given, and knives ranged from small pocket knives to kitchen or in some cases - machetes.

Most of the respondents who had seen someone carrying a knife were able to state whether a young person or adult was the one carrying a knife. In 45% (n46) of cases, the person carrying the knife was 18 years or older, while **in 52% (n54) of cases it was someone 17 years or younger. The proportion of young people carrying knives has increased since the 2022 survey (from 41%).**

[21] E.g. Portsmouth stabbing: Man charged with murder - BBC News
[22] Some participants reported seeing more than one weapon.

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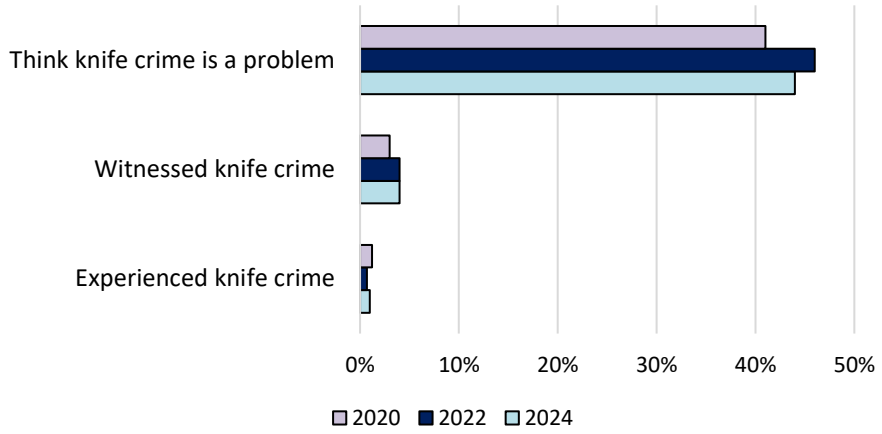
Most respondents had not personally experienced or witnessed knife crime during 2023/24 (95%, n877), but 0.8% (n7)[23] had experienced a knife crime and a further 4% (n37) had witnessed one.[24] These are similar proportions to the 2020 and 2022 surveys and suggest that the levels of knife crime are likely to have remained fairly stable, despite the increase in people thinking that knife crime is a problem (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Perception and Experience of Knife Crime 2020 - 2024



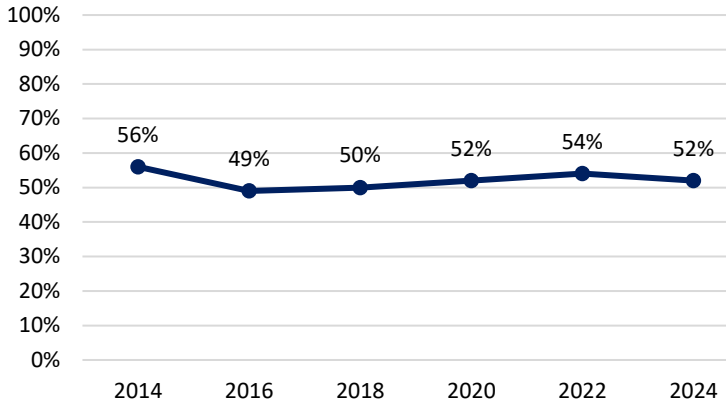
A limitation of this survey is that it may not have engaged with the sections of the community most likely to be involved in knife crime. **However, the findings indicate that knives are present and causing concern in the community.**

3.9 Areas that people avoid or feel unsafe

Just over half of participants (52%, n546) stated that there were parts of Portsmouth that they avoided or felt unsafe.

The proportion of participants avoiding or feeling unsafe in areas has remained fairly stable since the 2016 survey.

Figure 19: Proportion of participants who said they avoided or felt unsafe in parts of Portsmouth



Some factors were associated with being likely to feel unsafe / avoid areas:

- Females were more likely to feel unsafe / avoid areas than males (63% and 40% respectively).
- White British participants were more likely to feel unsafe / avoid areas than ethnic minority participants (56% and 40% respectively).

[23] Where people gave details about their experience, most reported being threatened and no-one reported being injured. Additionally, two experiences of knife crime may not have happened in the last 12 months.
[24] For those who answered (n1132)

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- Baffins residents were more likely to feel unsafe / avoid areas (65%), and those living in Cosham and Fratton were less likely (39% and 41%).

Participants were then asked an open question about where they felt unsafe/avoided. Fieldworkers encouraged them to be specific and drill down to roads, alleys, parks etc. if possible, but most participants did not give specific details, suggesting they felt generally unsafe in some neighbourhoods. The free text responses were grouped together and ranked in order of the highest frequency to lowest. Table 8 shows the trends for the most unsafe / avoided areas over the last 20 years.

Table 8: Areas unsafe or avoided by rank from 2004 to 2024

Ranking	2004	2007	2009	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024	Direction from 2022	Direction from 2004
City Centre / Commercial Rd	8	7	9		9	4	3	4	3	1	↑	↑
Somerstown	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	↓	↓
Buckland	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	↓	↓
Southsea	7	9	7		8	5	6	6	5	4	↑	↑
Fratton	9	8	8	2	4	3	4	3	4	5	↓	↑
Guildhall area	6	4	4	4	3	6	5	5	6	6	↔	↔
Paulsgrove	3	3	3	5	5	7	7	9	8	7	↑	↓
Northend	Did not rank in the top ten				10	9	9	7	7	8	↓	↑
Landport	5	6	5	7	7	10	10	10	10	9	↑	↓
Portsea	4	5	6	6	6	8	8	8	9	10	↓	↓

For the first time since this question was asked in 2001, the City Centre / Commercial Road area was the area where residents felt most unsafe or avoided (13%, n140). The City Centre has been increasingly negatively perceived over the last decade. As for most areas, residents were most likely to feel this way when it was dark or at night (74%, n104), but 21% (n29) specified that they avoided or felt unsafe there at any time.

Thematic analysis was conducted to explore the reasons why people felt unsafe or avoided the city centre; the most common reasons were:

- Gangs[25] / groups hanging around (16%, n23)
- Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (14%, n20)
- Drug use/dealing (12%, n17)
- Homeless people (12%, n17)

Somerstown ranked as the second most avoided/unsafe area (by 12%, n131) residents, followed by Buckland (12%, n126). As mentioned in the 2022 report, the gap between these two areas has reduced,

[25] As this is based on comments from residents, it has not been possible to unpick whether they were referring to organised crime gangs or gangs referring to groups of people, although the latter is more likely.

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and the proportion of people reporting feeling unsafe there has been reducing over the last decade, with Somerstown reducing from 22% in 2014 and Buckland from 16% in 2014).

Somerstown continues to have an issue with reputation, with this being the most common reason for feeling unsafe (27%, n35), followed by concern about gangs/groups of people (17%, n22).

Having a 'bad reputation' was also the most common reason given for feeling unsafe in Buckland (19%, n24), followed by concern about gangs/groups of people (15%, n19) and drug use/dealing (13%, n16).

Southsea (Albert Road area largely) has been gradually becoming an area where more residents report feeling unsafe/avoiding. Southsea now ranks 4th (by 6%, n61 residents) although by substantially fewer than the highest ranking three areas.

There is an alternative table for this which shows all the areas that rank in the top ten since 2004 in Appendix 6.

3.10 Where do women feel unsafe and what could be done to improve feelings of safety?

An item about tackling male violence against women and girls was raised at the extraordinary City Council meeting on 7th December 2021. This item acknowledged that women should not be required to behave differently and should be able to live their lives freely and without fear of harm. There was a request for a Safety Audit to allow Portsmouth residents to share their views about how public lighting and CCTV could be improved to promote safer streets and a safer public domain for women and girls. It was decided that the final Community Safety Survey questions could be amended slightly to enable the survey to collect this information, but that the question would be open so that it was not restricted to CCTV and lighting and could potentially elicit other ideas.

Females were more likely to say that there was at least one area that they felt unsafe or would avoid compared to men (63% compared with 40% of men).

Overall, the places that women commonly avoided or felt unsafe were similar to those mentioned by males, although a higher proportion of women felt unsafe in these areas than men (Figure 20); **the city centre, Somerstown and Buckland were the most commonly mentioned areas**. However, **more than twice as many women felt unsafe in the City Centre/Commercial Road area than males** (18%, n98 women compared with 8%, n42 men). Furthermore, 8% (n42) of women said they felt unsafe everywhere in Portsmouth (compared with 3%, n15 of men); where specified, this was largely at night or when it was dark (n33 of 35 responses from females and n9 of n12 males).

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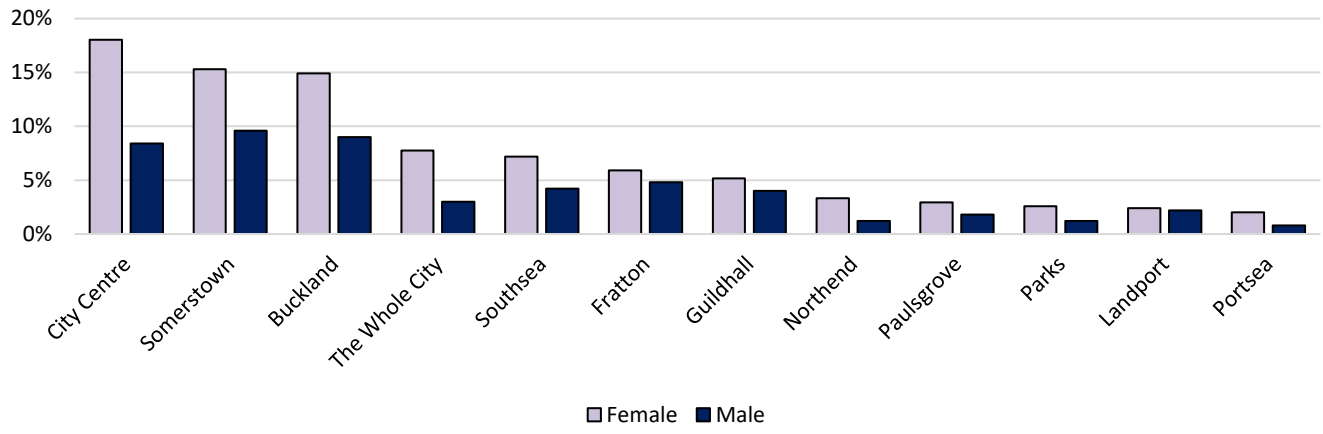
Figure 20: Most common areas where participants felt unsafe or avoided, comparison by gender, 2024.



City Centre/Commercial Road

Where women felt unsafe in the City Centre/Commercial Road, they were much more likely to feel unsafe when it was dark or at night (79%, n75) than at any time (21%, n20).[26] With this particular area, over three quarters of women (82%, n80) specified that it was Commercial Road or the shopping area where they felt unsafe.

The reasons given for feeling unsafe in the area were: gangs/groups (n15), homeless people (n14), alcohol-related ASB (n13), fear of being a victim of crime (n13), anti-social behaviour involving young people (n9) and drug using/dealing (n8). It is notable that only three respondents mentioned the area having a bad reputation.

Common suggestions for improving safety in the area were:

- More police (n44)
- Better lighting (n13)
- Regeneration (n7), and
- Improve the environment (n5)

"Police walking around the area more."

"More lighting when it is dark, and police foot patrols."

[26] Where this information was recorded

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"Would be nice to see it a bit more alive again, fewer shops closed and more police presence."

"Be good to see the area re-energised into a safer more vibrant area with more on offer."

"It is a grim place, it doesn't feel invested in. It is not a pleasant area to go to, feels neglected."

Somerstown

Where female participants felt unsafe in Somerstown, 57% (n59) felt unsafe when it was dark/at night, and 22% (n17) felt unsafe at any time in Somerstown.[27]

While the majority of participants did not specify where exactly in Somerstown they felt unsafe, three women mentioned the area near the doctors, and others mentioned the area next to Winston Churchill Avenue, Tipton House, Omega Centre, by the shops, and the area by Domino's Pizza on Winston Churchill Avenue.

Women reported feeling unsafe in Somerstown largely due to it having a bad reputation (n23), followed by groups/gangs (n16), anti-social behaviour involving young people (n8), the high crime rate (n7), drug issues (n6) and thinks it is a rough area (n6).

When asked what could make them feel safer in Somerstown, the most common suggestions were:

- More police (n35)
- Better lighting (n26)
- More security (n4)
- More CCTV (n4), and
- More education/awareness/resources (n4)

"Get rid of places to hide (corners, high bushes). More police on foot patrols."

"More patrols. Tipton House needs more patrol to prevent rough sleeping / drug taking and smoking near by the emergency exits."

[27] Where this information was recorded

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"Do more to engage the community. Lighting is a big issue, it is scary when it is dark, so I take longer routes."

"More security, the doors [for housing blocks] seem to be broken a lot - fix them."

"Education about how their behaviour affects others / to deter children from crime."

Buckland

Where female participants felt unsafe in feel Buckland, they were more likely to feel unsafe during the night or when it was dark (78%, n58) and 21% (n16) said they felt unsafe or avoided the area at any time. Once again, participants rarely specified areas within Buckland, but around ARK Charles Dickens primary school, New Road, Lake Road and Buckingham Green.

The reasons were similar to those for Somerstown: a bad reputation (n19), groups/gangs (n14), the high crime rate (n9), anti-social behaviour involving young people (n8), and drug issues (n7).

The most common suggestions to improve safety in the area were:

- More police (n42)
- Better lighting (n12)
- Facilities for young people (n7), and
- Better CCTV (n6)

"Better lighting, encourage people to report crime and a better police response."

"Regular checks on the youth. The kids are bored, give them more free things to do."

"CCTV and more police on foot."

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Summary for improving Women's safety

Analysis of the survey data has allowed us to identify the areas most avoided by women or where they feel most unsafe, and these are also areas that men are most likely to feel unsafe or avoid as well: the city centre/Commercial Road, Somerstown and Buckland. With the exception of Commercial Road, many women did not specify exact locations, and gave broad answers, even though they were asked to give details of the areas where they feel unsafe. This could suggest that many are not thinking of a particular street or alley but are concerned about larger neighbourhood areas.

The most common reasons given for feeling unsafe in the city centre/Commercial Road area were: gangs/groups, homeless people, alcohol-related ASB, fear of being a victim of crime, anti-social behaviour involving young people and drug using/dealing. Alternatively, the most common reason female participants felt unsafe in Somerstown and Buckland was because they had heard that these areas had a bad reputation, although some participants provided more concrete reasons that were similar to those mentioned for the city centre area. This means that there is scope for doing work to improve the reputation of these areas, alongside work to tackle drug misuse and crime in the area.

Participants commonly felt that a greater police presence in these areas would help them feel safer, but other solutions were mentioned, including better lighting and CCTV, regeneration or environmental improvements, more provision/activities for young people, tackling drug misuse and providing education/awareness.

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4. Conclusion

The **overall level of crime reported to this survey has remained broadly stable** over the last decade, with 35% of survey participants reporting that they had experienced at least one crime in the last 12 months (including online crimes). People who have retired (or were over 65 years) were much less likely to be a victim of crime, while those with multiple disabilities or whose occupation was given as 'sick/disabled' were more likely to be victims of crime. Despite the overall level of victimisation remaining stable during this time, there has been a substantial increase in some types of online crimes since 2013/14, and a slight increase in sexual assault / harassment offences while all other crime types have remained stable or reduced.

The most common crimes experienced in the previous twelve months (roughly March 2023 to February 2024) were threats or intimidating behaviour (6% of all respondents), sexual assault or harassment (3%), or hate crime (3%, largely race hate crime). Just over half of crime was reported; 44% of crime that people told us about was reported to the police.

The most common online crimes experienced were online fraud (8% of respondents) and phishing, where money or data has been stolen (5%). 64% of online crime was reported to an agency, commonly their bank or credit card company.

The proportion of participants thinking that knife crime is a problem in Portsmouth has reduced slightly, and participant's views remain largely based on what they had heard or read in the media or from friends/family rather than experience. Approximately a tenth of participants reported having seen someone carrying a weapon in the last 12 months, which is a similar proportion to the 2022 survey**, but the proportion of those seen carrying a knife who were young people increased** from approximately 40% to just over half, while the proportion seen carrying a knife who were adults reduced. The proportion of **participants who had witnessed or experienced knife crime remained stable** compared with the 2020 and 2022 surveys.

Levels of **anti-social behaviour reported to this survey have been fairly stable overall since 2013/14**, **although there has been a reduction from the highest proportions recorded by the survey in 2019/20**. This contrasts with the substantial reductions seen in police recorded ASB since 2013/14, supporting the view that residents are less likely to report ASB to the police. People using/dealing drugs was the most commonly witnessed or experienced ASB type in 2023/24, followed by traffic issues.

35% of ASB was reported to agencies, mostly commonly Portsmouth City Council (PCC) or the Police. Where participants did not report ASB, they told us it was because they considered it normal, that nothing could really be done about it or because they thought that PCC or the police wouldn't do anything about it.

Just over half of residents said there were parts of Portsmouth where they felt unsafe or avoided because they feared being a victim of crime. For the first time since this question was asked in 2001, **the city**

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centre/Commercial Road area was the area where residents felt most unsafe or avoided, followed by Somerstown and Buckland. The city centre has been increasingly negatively perceived over the last decade. As for most areas, residents were most likely to feel this way when it was dark or at night, but one in five specified that they avoided or felt unsafe there at any time. Reasons for feeling unsafe in the city centre included groups/gangs hanging around, alcohol-related ASB, drug use/dealing and homeless people, while a bad reputation was the most common reason for feeling unsafe in Somerstown and Buckland.

Women were more likely to avoid areas or feel unsafe than men, although the areas where they said they felt unsafe are the same as the areas where men said they felt unsafe and for similar reasons. Overwhelmingly participants felt that a greater police presence in these areas would help them feel safer, but other solutions were mentioned, including better lighting and regeneration or improvements to the area.

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Appendix 1. Community Safety Survey

Portsmouth Community Safety Survey 2024

Check: Does the respondent live in Portsmouth? PO1, PO2, PO3, PO4, PO5, PO6 only.

Prompt: We would like to ask you about crime and ASB/nuisance behaviour in the area where you live and in Portsmouth as a whole. This survey will take about 10 minutes and these findings will be used by the community safety partnership when they are planning how to address these issues and improve community safety, so your views are important to us.

I will ask you questions about your personal characteristics such as your age and ethnicity. I won't need your name though and the information I collect about you will not be used to identify you in any way.

About You (Show this page and next to the interviewee and fill it out together)

1	**Sex**	Male (1)	Female (2)	Other (3)	Prefer not to say (4)

2	**Age**	18-24 (1)	25-34 (2)	35-44 (3)	45-54 (4)	55-64 (5)	65-74 (6)	75+ (7)

3	**Main Occupation**	**Choose the most relevant category**	
		Employee in full time job (30+ hours per week)	1
		Employee in part time job (Under 30 hours/week)	2
		Self Employed (full or part time)	3
		Full time education	4
		Unemployed and available for work	5
		Permanently sick / disabled	6
		Wholly retired from work	7
		Looking after home	8
		Other, please specify:	9

4	**Do you serve, or have you ever served, in the Regular, or Reserve, UK Armed Forces?**	
	Yes, I currently serve	1
	Yes, I previously served but am now a veteran	2
	No, but my spouse/partner/parent currently serves	3
	No	4

5	**Postcode / Ward**	

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6	Ethnicity	Choose the option from this list that best describes your ethnic group or background	
White		British / English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish	1
		Irish	2
		Gypsy or Irish Traveler	3
		Roma	4
		Any other white background (please describe)	5
Mixed or multiple ethnic group		White and Black Caribbean	6
		White and Black African	7
		White and Asian	8
		Any other multiple ethnic background (please describe)	9
Asian or Asian British		Indian	10
		Pakistani	11
		Bangladeshi	12
		Chinese	13
		Any other Asian background (please describe)	14
Black or Black British		African	15
		Caribbean	16
		Any other Black background (please describe)	17
Other ethnic group		Arab	18
		Any other ethnic group, (please describe)	19

7	Disability	Do you consider yourself to have a disability? If so, choose the option from this list that best describes your disability.	
		Mobility / physical disability	1
		Hearing problems	2
		Visual problems	3
		Learning disability	4
		Poor mental health	5
		Other (please describe)	6
		None	7

Questions about Crime and ASB (ASB)

Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5

Q1	The overall quality of my life in Portsmouth is very good.				
	1 - Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly agree

Q2	ASB is a big problem in the area where I live.				
	1 - Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 - Strongly agree

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Q3	**What type of anti-social behaviour, if any, have you personally experienced or witnessed in your area in the last twelve months?** ***(Do not show or read this list, just circle the codes for the most relevant box****, and record whether the ASB was reported and to whom).*			
	ASB Type	**Code**	**Reported?**	**To whom?**
	None	0		
Noise	Noise from domestic / residential property	1		
	Noise from commercial property (industrial, shops etc.)	2		
	Noise from licensed premises (pubs, clubs, bars & restaurants)	3		
	General noise in the street	4		
	Traffic noise in the street	5		
Environmental	Traffic issues: cars using streets as rat runs	6		
	Traffic issues: parking inconsiderately	7		
	Traffic issues: motorbike nuisance	8		
	Traffic issues: e-scooter nuisance	9		
	Traffic issues: other (specify)	10		
	Litter and rubbish in the street	11		
	Dog mess	12		
	Bin bags left out on the wrong day/time	13		
	Vandalism or graffiti	14		
	Fly tipping	15		
Personal	Neighbour/general disputes	16		
	Harassment/bullying or intimidating behaviour targeting individuals	17		
	Online harassment / bullying or intimidating behaviour targeting individuals	18		
Nuisance / Drugs / Alcohol Other	People hanging around (specify)	19		
	Begging	20		
	Street drinking	21		
	Rough sleeping	22		
	Other alcohol related ASB (specify)	23		
	People using drugs	24		
	People dealing drugs	25		
	Drug litter	26		
Other	Dangerous animals / roaming or unsupervised dogs	27		
	Other (specify):	28		

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If the participant experienced ASB but did not report it, you can skip to Q7 first, then return to Q4.

Q4	**Are you worried about being the victim of a crime? If so what type of crime?** ***(Do not show or rea this list, just circle the most relevant code).***	
No	No, I am not worried	0
Violence	Being mugged or robbed	1
	Being assaulted or beaten up	2
	Being stabbed	3
	Being sexually assaulted or harassed	4
	Being harassed or stalked (e.g. following, loitering, spying **on more than one occasion**)	5
	Being threatened, insulted or abused, or behavior likely to cause fear or distress (one occasion)	6
	Experiencing domestic abuse / violence	7
Hate	Hate crime - targeted behaviour because of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity (please specify which)	8
Theft & Fraud	Your home being burgled	9
	Having things stolen from garage, shed or garden	10
	Bogus callers at your door (scams - NOT unwanted cold callers)	11
	Having a car or motorbike stolen	12
	Having a car broken into	13
	Having a bicycle stolen	14
	Street theft such as being pick pocketed	15
	Identity theft	16
	Other fraud	17
Damage	Arson	18
	Criminal damage to your home / garden	19
	Damage to your car or motorbike	20
Other	Other (please specify):	21
	Don't know	22
Q4 Comments:		

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Q5	**Looking at the list below, what types of crime, if any, have actually happened to you in Portsmou in the last twelve months?** ***(Show the list for this question and record whether it was reported a to whom).***			
	Crime Type	**Code**	**Reported?**	**To whom?**
No	None	0		
Violence	Being mugged or robbed	1		
	Being assaulted or beaten up	2		
	Being stabbed	3		
	Being sexually assaulted or harassed	4		
	Being harassed or stalked (e.g. following, loitering, spying **on more than one occasion**)	5		
	Being threatened, insulted or abused, or behavior likely to cause fear or distress (one occasion)	6		
	Experiencing domestic abuse / violence	7		
Hate	Hate crime - targeted behaviour because of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity (please specify which)	8		
Theft & Fraud	Your home being burgled	9		
	Having things stolen from garage, shed or garden	10		
	Bogus callers at your door (scams - NOT unwanted cold callers)	11		
	Having a car or motorbike stolen	12		
	Having a car broken into	13		
	Having a bicycle stolen	14		
	Street theft such as being pick pocketed	15		
	Identity theft	16		
	Other fraud	17		
Damage	Arson	18		
	Criminal damage to your home / garden	19		
	Damage to your car or motorbike	20		
Other	Other (please specify):	21		
	Don't know	22		
Q5 Comments:				

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Q6	**Since the Covid-19 pandemic, we know that people are using online platforms for many of their day-to-day needs, particularly shopping, working and socialising. Have you experienced any of the following types of cyber-crime in the last 12 months?** ***(Show the list for this question and record whether it was reported and to whom).***			
	Crime Type	**Code**	**Report?**	**To whom?**
No	None	0		
Online	Phishing: clicked on an email/link designed to look like a trusted source **and had money or data stolen** (not just received the email and deleted it)	1		
	Online fraud: personal details stolen via an organization suffering a data breach/or password accessed and your bank accounts/credit card used to buy goods or services	2		
	Malware/ransomware: had your computer infected with a virus or other 'malware' which has caused your personal information to be manipulated, stolen or deleted or devices/data made inaccessible via ransomware	3		
	Personal hacking: unauthorised access to your online accounts e.g. social media and email accounts (hacking)	4		
	Received **hateful or prejudiced** content on an online platform targeting your race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity **(please specify which):**	5		
	Online abuse - being bullied online or receiving violent, abusive or explicit online content which causes alarm or distress	6		
	Online harassment- being bullied online or receiving violent, abusive or explicit online content which causes alarm or distress **on more than one occasion**	7		
	Cyberstalking (repeated use of electronic communications or accessing devices to frighten you and/or monitor your activity)	8		
	Online sexual abuse: abuse of a sexual nature or sexual images/videos taken or shared without consent or deepfakes created depicting you.	9		
	Receiving unsolicited and unwanted obscene pictures or videos, (including cyberflashing)	10		
	Online grooming (If you are a parent or guardian, has your child been contacted online by an adult who has tried to befriend your child).	11		
	Other, please specify:	12		

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Q7	**If you did not report anti-social behaviour that you experienced, what was the reason for not reporting it?** ***(Please list each crime separately using the correct code and give a reason for not reporting – this can include 'don't know').***

Crimes which were not reported	**Why didn't you report this crime?**

Q7 Comments:

Q8a	**Do you think knife crime is a problem in Portsmouth?**		
	Yes	No	I don't know

Q8b	**If you answered yes to the previous question, why do you think knife crime is a problem Portsmouth?**
	Comments:

Q8c	**Have you seen someone carrying a knife or a weapon in the area that you live in (in the last 12 months)?**	
	Yes	
	No	
	Don't know	

Q8d	**If you have seen someone carrying a weapon, what type of weapon was it?**
	Please specify:

Q8e	**Was it a young person or an adult carrying the weapon?**	
	Young person (17 or under)	
	Adult (18+)	
	Not sure	

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Q8f	**Have you experienced or witnessed a crime involving a knife or bladed weapon in the past 12 months?**	
	No	
	Experienced	
	Witnessed	
	Comments:	

Q9a	**Are there any parts or places in Portsmouth where you feel unsafe or where you avoid going due to feeling fearful of crime?**	
	Yes	No

Q9b

(add this for females: The partnership is doing work around violence against women and girls, and so we want to hear from you about places you don't feel safe in Portsmouth)

Please tell us where you feel unsafe or avoid, giving as much detail as possible about the location.

Thinking about each location can you tell us why you feel unsafe or avoid these locations?

What could we do so that you feel safer in this location?

Where? Please tell us about the area and the specific location	**Night/dark** only	**Why** do you feel frightened or avoid these locations?	**What could we do** so you feel safer in this location?

Thank you for taking part in this survey, the findings will be published by the SPP on its website by the end of May 2024.

If you would be happy for us to contact you in the future about any other crime and safety issues please leave your details on the contact sheet.

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Appendix 2: Fieldwork locations & details about analysis

- **Baffins** - Library
- **City Centre** - Commercial Road (busy area frequented by residents from all over the city)
- **Copnor** - Ocean Retail Park
- **Cosham** - High Street
- **Drayton & Farlington** - Farlington Sainsbury's, Havant Road Co-op (Drayton)
- **Fratton** - The Bridge Centre, Asda and Fratton Road
- **Guildhall Square & Civic Offices reception area**
- **John Pounds Community Centre**
- **Milton & Eastney** -Eastney Road Co-op, Bransbury Community Centre/Park & Cockleshell Community Centre
- **Northend** - Library as base
- **Paulsgrove -** Allaway Avenue Housing Office as base
- **Somerstown -** Somerstown Hub
- **Southsea** - Palmerston Road, Library as base

The analysis was completed using Excel for descriptive statistics and thematic analysis (quantitative) and SPSS for the statistical analysis. Comparisons within groups were only made where the groups were large enough to allow for a meaningful comparison. For this reason, comparisons have been made between British white residents and all other ethnicities, and those with or without a disability, rather than between different types of disability or ethnic background.

The sample for each ward was not large enough to allow for detailed analysis per ward but can provide some information about particular issues in each area if requested.

For the purposes of this report, a 'statistically significant finding' means that after a statistical test there was at least a 95% certainty that this result did not occur by chance. The full detailed statistics are available on request. The current report does not use any weighted data,[28] instead the sample was matched as closely as possible to the ONS population estimate.

[28] Weighting is used to adjust the results of a study to bring them more in line with what is known about a population. For example, if a sample contains 40% males and the population contains 49% males weighting can be used to correct the data to correct for this discrepancy.

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Appendix 3: Key statistical findings

This appendix sets out the tests used and the results where significant differences were found. The full SPSS outputs are available on request.

Quality of Life

One Way ANOVA and t-tests for independent groups were used to explore whether there were any differences between groups for the scale data obtained for the question on quality of life. T-tests were used where there were only two groups, while ANOVAs were used for more than two groups, and Tukey's HSD post hoc test was used to show where the significant differences were following an ANOVA.

The mean reported average for all respondents was 3.71, which is slightly but statistically significantly lower than 2022[29] (M=3.87), 2020 (M=3.89), 2018 (M=4.01), 2016 (M=3.98) and 2014 (3.96). This indicates that **overall residents were slightly less satisfied with their quality of life in 2022 than in previous years since 2014**.

Those who did not experience/witness ASB or crime, those who are not worried about being a victim, those who do not think knife crime is a problem and those who do not feel unsafe reported a slightly (but statistically significantly) better quality of life than those who had been a victims / were fearful of crime:

- Those who had not experienced/witnessed ASB in the last year (M=3.9) had a better quality of life than those who had experienced/witnessed ASB (M=3.61).[30]
- Those who had not been a victim of crime in the last year (M=3.8) had a better quality of life than those who had been a victim of crime (M=3.45).[31]
- Those who had not been a victim of online crime in the last year (M=3.75) had a better quality of life than those who had been a victim of crime (M=3.54).[32]
- Those who were not worried about being a victim of crime (M=3.78) had a better quality of life than those who were worried about being a victim (M=3.61).[33]
- Those who did not think knife crime was a problem in Portsmouth (M=3.94) had a better quality of life than those who did think knife crime was a problem ASB (M=3.51).[34]
- Those who did not feel unsafe in any areas in Portsmouth (M=3.91) had a better quality of life than those who felt unsafe ASB (M=3.53).[35]

[29] Overall F = 14.313, df = 5, p < 0.001
[30] t=4.436, df=1043, p <0.001
[31] t=4.385, df=382.98, p <0.001
[32] t=2.470, df=1046, p = 0.007
[33] t=-3.870, df=1043, p <0.001
[34] t=-5.942, df=769.717, p <0.001
[35] t=-6.120, df=1048.815, p <0.001

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Statistically significant differences were found between some disability types, wards and ethnicity groups.

- Ethnic minority participants (M=3.81) reported a statistically significantly higher mean quality of life scores than British white participants (M=3.68).[36]
- Participants with no disability (M=3.77) or those with a mobility/physical disability (M=3.79) reported a statistically significantly higher mean quality of life scores than those with 'other' disabilities (M=3.11).[37]
- The ward where people lived also affected their mean quality of life, with residents living in Eastney & Craneswater having the highest mean score (M=4.09), which is significantly higher mean scores than residents living in Charles Dickens, who had the lowest mean score (M=3.51).[38]

Perception of Anti-social Behaviour

One Way ANOVA and t-tests for independent groups were used to explore whether there were any differences between groups for the scale data obtained for the question on perception of ASB. T-tests were used where there were only two groups, while ANOVAs were used for more than two groups, and Tukey's HSD post hoc test was used to show where the significant differences were following an ANOVA.

The average score for all respondents was 2.94, which is similar to levels in 2022, 2020 and 2018 (M=2.88, 2.93 and 2.86 respectively) and statistically significantly higher[39] than in 2016 and 2014 (M=2.42 and 2.49 respectively).

Those who did not experience/witness ASB or crime, those who are not worried about being a victim, those who do not think knife crime is a problem and those who do not feel unsafe were less likely (but statistically significantly) to think that ASB was a big problem in their area than those who had been a victim / were fearful of crime.

- Those who had not experienced/witnessed ASB in the last year (M=2.33) were less likely to think ASB was a big problem in their area than those who experienced/witnessed ASB (M=3.27).[40]
- Those who had not been a victim of crime in the last year (M=2.81) were less likely to think ASB was a big problem in their area than those who had been a victim of crime (M=3.34).[41]
- Those who were not worried about being a victim of crime (M=2.81) were less likely to think ASB was a big problem in their area than those who were worried (M=3.14).[42]
- Those who did not think knife crime was a problem in Portsmouth (M=2.55) were less likely to think ASB was a big problem in their area than those who did think it was a problem (M=3.29).[43]

[36] t = -1.869, df = 1052, p = 0.031
[37] Overall F = 3.450, df = 7, p = 0.001
[38] Overall F = 2.477, df = 15, p = 0.001
[39] Overall F =33.355, df = 5, p < 0.001.
[40] t=-11.836, df=1042, p <0.001
[41] t=-5.686, df=1048, p <0.001
[42] t=2.619, df=1044, p = 0.004
[43] t=8.006, df=809, p <0.001

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- Those who did not feel unsafe in any areas in Portsmouth (M=2.67) were less likely to think ASB was a big problem in their area than (M=3.18).[44]

The following statistically significant differences were found between demographic groups:

- Participants aged between 45-54 years (M=3.17) were more likely to think ASB was a big problem in their area than those who were aged 25 and 34 years (M=2.68).[45]
- British White participants (M=3.05) were more likely to think that ASB was a problem than BAME participants (M=2.59).[46]
- Participants with learning disabilities (M=4.07) were more likely to think that ASB was a problem than those with no disability (M=2.85), a hearing disability (M=2.63) or mental health issues (M=2.82).[47]
- Participants living in Charles Dickens (M=3.33) were significantly more likely to think that ASB was a big problem than those living in Eastney & Craneswater (M=2.47) and Copnor (M=2.60).[48]

Personal Experience of ASB

Chi Squared was used to explore significant differences for categorical data where the answers were yes or no. SPSS indicates the columns where there is a statistically significant difference between the expected and observed counts.

64% of participants reported witnessing or experiencing ASB in the last 12 months, which is slightly but not significantly less than 2022 (69%). It was significantly less than in 2020, when 74% experienced/witnessed ASB.[49] Overall there has been a fairly stable trend since 2014.

Some significant associations were found between witnessing and experiencing ASB and the following demographic characteristics:

- Gender: females were more likely to witness or experience ASB than males (67% compared with 60%).[50]
- Age group: participants aged 45-54 years were more likely to witness or experience ASB than other age groups, while those aged between 25-34 years were less likely (75% compared with 56%).[51]
- Ethnicity: British white respondents were more likely to witness or experience ASB than those from other ethnic groups (70% compared with 46%).[52]

[44] t=6.340, df=1048, p <0.001
[45] Overall F = 2.218, df = 6, p = 0.39
[46] t = 4.982, df = 1051, p <0.001
[47] Overall F = 3.713, df = 7, p < 0.001
[48] Overall F = 2.577, df = 15, p = <0.001
[49] Chi Sqr = 58.936, df = 5, p < 0.001
[50] Chi Sqr = 7.887, df = 3, p = 0.048
[51] Chi Sqr = 14.941, df = 6, p = 0.021
[52] Chi Sqr = 47.199, df= 1, p < 0.001 - Please note that the BAME group is very varied and there are likely to be differences within this group, but numbers of individual groups are too small to analyse robustly separately.

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Fear of Crime

38% of respondents reported being worried about being a victim of crime, which is slightly more than in 2022 (36%) but this was not a significant difference. However, the fear of crime was significantly lower in 2022 and 2024 than previous years (2014 - 69%, 2016 - 60%, 2018 - 62% and 2020 - 65%).[53]

Some demographic groups were significantly associated with being more likely to fear being a victim of crime:

- Women were more likely to fear being victimized than men (45% compared with 29%).[54]
- Age group: participants aged 45-54 years were more likely to fear being victimized than other age groups, while those aged between 35-44 years were less likely (49% compared with 28%).[55]
- Participants in the armed forces or veterans were less likely to fear victimisation than those who were not (28% compared with 39%).[56]

While not statistically significant at the 0.05 probability level using Pearson Chi-Square, SPSS picked up that that proportions differed significantly at the 0.05 level for a couple of other groups:[57]

- Those who were not working as they were sick/disabled were more likely to fear being victimized than other main occupations (61% compared with mean of 38%).
- Those who had multiple disabilities were more likely to fear being victimized (55% compared with mean of 38%).

Victimisation

Chi Squared was used to explore significant differences for categorical data where the answers were yes or no. SPSS indicates the columns where there is a statistically significant difference between the expected and observed counts.

When online crime (Q6) is combined with the crime in Q5, there has been a stable trend since 2014, with the exception of 2016, which was much lower - and it is not clear why that was. There was no significant difference from 2022.

Some factors that were associated with being more or less likely to be a victim of crime (Q5) were:

- People who have retired were less likely to be a victim of crime than other occupations and those who were sick/disabled were more likely to be a victim of crime (16% and 50%, respectively).[58]

[53] Chi Sqr = 420.104, df = 5, p < 0.001
[54] Chi Sqr = 32.932, df = 3, p < 0.001
[55] Chi Sqr = 17.566, df = 6, p = 0.007
[56] Chi Sqr = 3.866, df = 1, p = 0.049
[57] Full details of the tests available on request
[58] Chi Sqr = 23.884, df = 8, p = 0.002 - note than numbers of sick/disabled participants was small (n28) which means although 50% seems large, it relates to 7 more people being the victim of crimes than expected.

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- People who are 65-74 years and over 75 years old were less likely to be a victim of crime than other age groups (17% and 14% compared with the mean for all ages 24%).[59]
- People with multiple disabilities were more likely to be a victim of crime and those no disabilities were slightly less likely to a be victim of crime (57% and 22%, respectively).[60]

A factor that was associated with being more or less likely to be a victim of online crime (Q6) were:

- Those with mobility/physical disabilities were more likely to be a victim of online crime, and those with no disabilities were slightly less likely to be victims of online crime (27% compared with 14%).[61]

While not statistically significant at the 0.05 probability level using Pearson Chi-Square, SPSS picked up that that proportions differed significantly at the 0.05 level for a couple of other groups:[62]

- Residents living in Hilsea were more likely to be a victim of crime (Q5) than those living in other wards (36% compared with 24%, although this was likely not found significant overall because of small numbers, with there being 6 more victims than expected if there were no significant difference).

Knife crime

Chi Squared was used to explore significant differences for categorical data where the answers were yes or no. SPSS indicates the columns where there is a statistically significant difference between the expected and observed counts.

Some characteristics were associated with being likely to think knife crime was a problem:

- Females were more likely to think knife crime was a problem than males (50% compared with 38%).[63]
- Participants aged 45-54years were more likely to think knife crime was a problem, and participants aged 25-34 years were less likely (55% compared with 36%).[64]
- Charles Dickens residents were more likely to think knife crime was a problem and those living in Eastney & Craneswater were less likely (56% compared with 25%).[65]
- White British participants were slightly more likely to think it was a problem than BAME participants (46% compared with 37%).[66]

[59] Chi Sqr = 25.395, df = 6, p < 0.001
[60] Chi Sqr = 22.390, df = 7, p < 0.002 - for multiple disabilities there were 10 more than expected.
[61] Chi Sqr = 14.234, df = 7, p = 0.047
[62] Full details of the tests available on request
[63] Chi Sqr = 31.978, df = 6, p < 0.001
[64] Chi Sqr = 37.046, df = 12, p < 0.001
[65] Chi Sqr = 59.396, df = 30, p = 0.001
[66] Chi Sqr = 13.752, df = 2, p = 0.001

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Areas where people feel unsafe

Chi Squared was used to explore significant differences for categorical data where the answers were yes or no. SPSS indicates the columns where there is a statistically significant difference between the expected and observed counts.

Just over half of participants (52%) said that there were areas of Portsmouth where they felt unsafe or avoided, which is slightly less but not statistically significantly different to 2022 (54%) or any previous years since 2014.

Some factors were associated with being likely to feel unsafe / avoid areas:

- Females were more likely to feel unsafe / avoid areas than males (63% and 40% respectively).[67]
- British White participants were more likely to feel unsafe / avoid areas than ethnic minoirty participants (56% and 40% respectively).[68]

While not statistically significant using Chi Squared, SPSS found significant differences for some wards. Baffins residents were more likely to feel unsafe / avoid areas (65%), and those living in Cosham and Fratton were less likely (39% and 41%).[69]

[67] Chi Sqr = 54.970, df = 3, p < 0.001
[68] Chi Sqr = 19.614, df = 1, p < 0.001
[69] Chi Sqr = 24.708, df = 15, p = 0.054

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Appendix 4: Participants by ethnicity.

Ethnicity	Survey		Census 2021	Difference
White British	788	74.8%	77.7%	-2.9%
White Irish	2	0.2%	0.5%	-0.3%
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.1%	0.2%	-0.1%
Any other White background	42	4.0%	6.8%	-2.8%
White and Black Caribbean	7	0.7%	0.6%	0.1%
White and Black African	12	1.1%	0.6%	0.5%
White and Asian	4	0.4%	0.7%	-0.4%
Any other multiple ethnic group	2	0.2%	0.7%	-0.5%
Asian or Asian British Indian	51	4.8%	1.5%	3.3%
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	4	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	16	1.5%	2.3%	-0.8%
Asian or Asian British Chinese	10	0.9%	1.0%	-0.1%
Any other Asian background	20	1.9%	1.8%	0.1%
Black or Black British African	58	5.5%	2.6%	2.9%
Black or Black British Caribbean	8	0.8%	0.5%	0.3%
Any other Black background	1	0.1%	0.4%	-0.3%
Other ethnic group Arab	13	1.2%	0.5%	0.8%
Any other ethnic group	15	1.4%	0.5%	0.9%
Total ethnic minorities	266	25.2%	21.5%	4%
Total	**1054**	100.0%		

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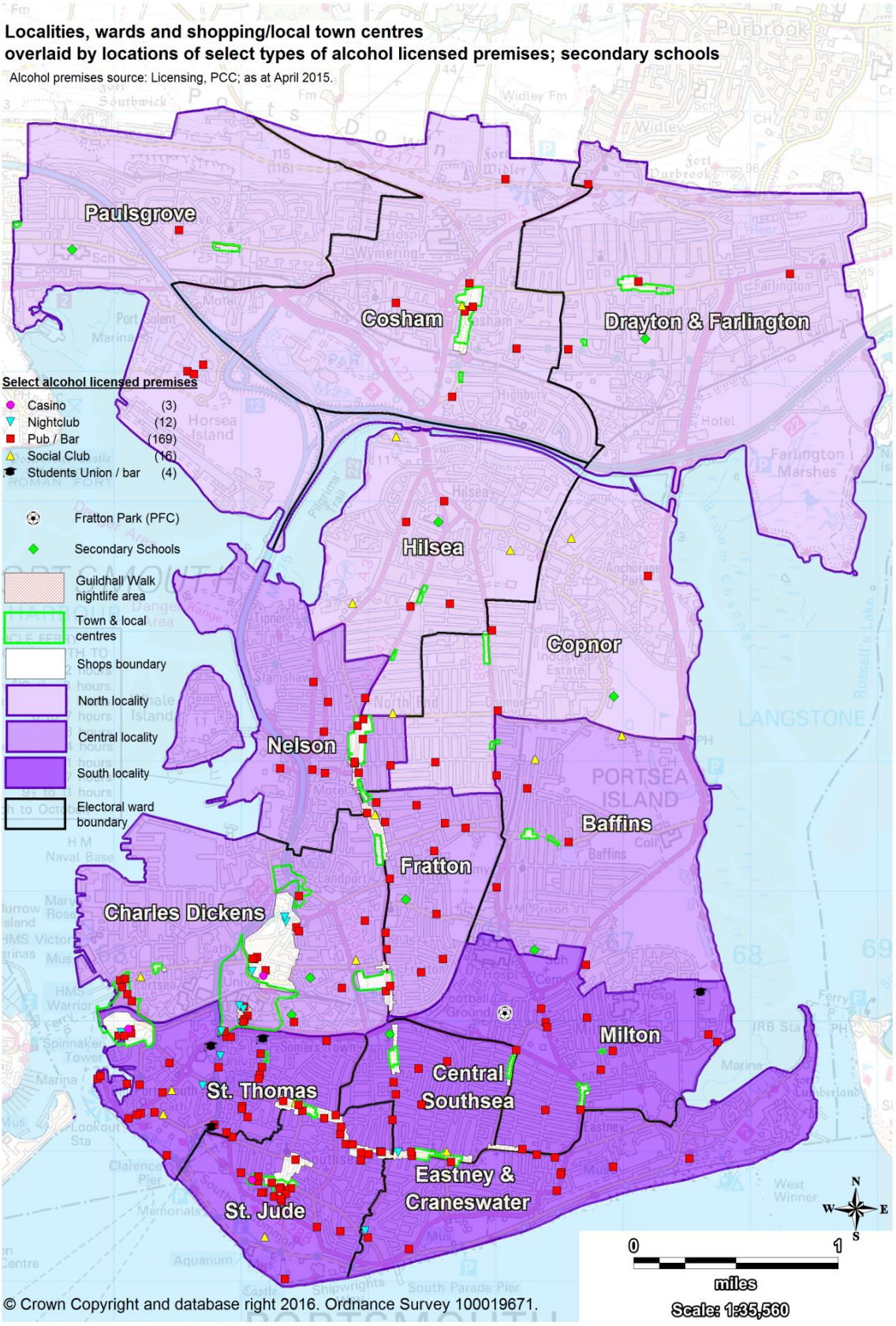
Appendix 5: ward map



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Appendix 6: Areas where residents felt unsafe or avoided

Rank	2004	2007	2009	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
1	Somerstown	Somerstown	Somerstown	Somerstown	Somerstown	Somerstown	Somerstown	Somerstown	Somerstown	Commercial Rd
2	Buckland	Buckland	Buckland	Fratton	Buckland	Buckland	Buckland	Buckland	Buckland	Somerstown
3	Paulsgrove	Paulsgrove	Paulsgrove	Buckland	Guildhall	Fratton	Commercial Rd	Fratton	Commercial Rd	Buckland
4	Portsea	Guildhall	Guildhall	Guildhall	Fratton	Commercial Rd	Fratton	Commercial Rd	Fratton	Southsea
5	Landport	Portsea	Landport	Paulsgrove	Paulsgrove	Southsea	Guildhall	Guildhall	Southsea	Fratton
6	Guildhall	Landport	Portsea	Portsea	Portsea	Guildhall	Southsea	Southsea	Guildhall	Guildhall
7	Southsea	Commercial Rd	Southsea	Landport	Landport	Paulsgrove	Paulsgrove	Northend	Northend	Paulsgrove
8	Commercial Rd	Fratton	Fratton		Southsea	Portsea	Portsea	Portsea	Paulsgrove	Northend
9	Fratton	Southsea	Commercial Rd		Commercial Rd	Northend	Northend	Paulsgrove	Portsea	Landport
10	Cosham	Cosham	Stamshaw		Northend	Landport	Landport	Landport	Landport	Portsea