



Kernow Salwa

Have Your Say Survey 2023: domestic abuse and sexual violence

This report looks at the findings of Safer Cornwall's on-line public survey "Have Your Say" with a specific focus on **domestic abuse and sexual violence**.

Safer Cornwall's vision is that Cornwall's communities are **safe, healthy and resilient**. We use a wide range of information to help us to understand what issues are having the most impact on community safety and we work together to effectively address those issues and to deliver what is needed to keep the people of Cornwall safe – on our streets and in our workplaces, schools and homes.

The "Have Your Say" survey **asks residents about the community safety issues that matter to them** on a day-to-day basis in their local area and what they think partners should do to improve things. Our **on-line survey** was available via Cornwall Council's [Let's Talk Cornwall](#) in July and August 2023. The survey was also taken to some public engagement events such as Pride.

As part of the survey, we asked people **some specific questions about domestic abuse and sexual violence** and this report discusses the responses.

Do you know how to access support if you think someone is experiencing sexual violence or abuse? If you thought that someone was experiencing or had experienced sexual violence or abuse, would you feel comfortable asking them if they needed help?

Do you know how to access support if you think someone is experiencing domestic abuse? If you thought that someone was experiencing domestic abuse, would you feel comfortable asking them if they needed help?

What do you think we should do to help increase awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence and the services available to help?

Who responded to our online survey?

581 people filled out the survey, with 97% providing their postcode. Numbers this year were much lower than last year. The town with the most respondents was Camborne (51). 31 towns had less than 25 respondents each. As such the findings from this survey are neither representative nor generalisable. Reported

findings only represent the views of survey respondents, not those of any wider population. The table below shows the towns with 25 or more responses.

Town	Responses
Camborne	51
Truro/TMS	48
Falmouth	43
Truro and Roseland Rural	37
Redruth	29
Saltash	27

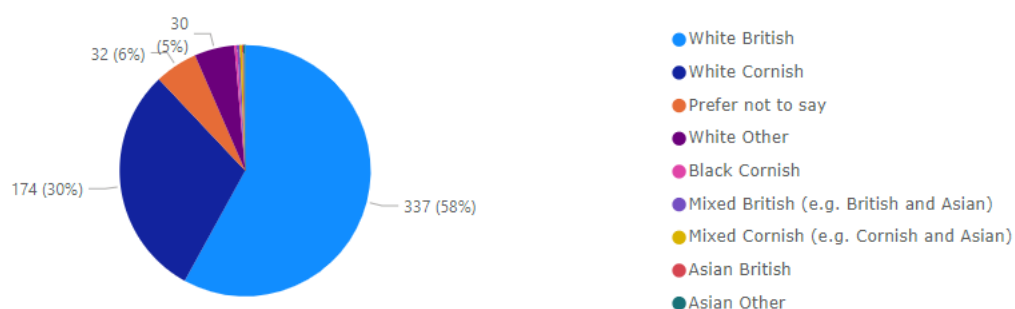
66% of respondents were women meaning that women were over-represented. Almost two thirds of respondents were women, just under a third were men (28%, 19% less than the population proportion).

Younger age groups were under-represented when compared to the population of Cornwall. Middle age groups 45-54, 55-64, and 65-74 were all over-represented. More detail can be found in the table below.

Age group	Age group	Population
11 to 24	19%	2%
25-34	11%	5%
35-44	11%	13%
45-54	13%	20%
55-64	15%	24%
65-74	14%	22%
75-84	9%	8%
85-94	3%	<1%

83% of people identified as heterosexual, only **5% of people identified as LGBTQIA+** and 12% did not disclose their sexual identity.

Most respondents identified as White British at 58%, followed by 30% as Cornish. **Less than 1% of respondents were from Black, Asian, or other non-white minority ethnic groups.**



6% of respondents were from 'Other' White ethnic groups which includes many other European ethnic groups and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

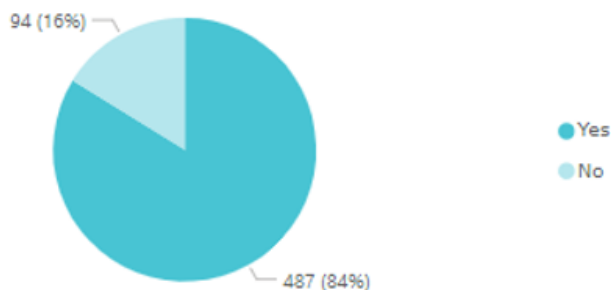
18% of respondents stated that they had a disability. 8% of respondents chose not to respond to this question.

33% identified themselves as **non-paid carers**, identical to last year's findings.

Responses

Reaching out and signposting to support

Most respondents (84%) said that they would feel comfortable approaching a potential victim of domestic abuse. This is a small reduction of 3 percentage points from 2022. 86% said they would feel comfortable asking a potential victim of sexual violence if they needed help.



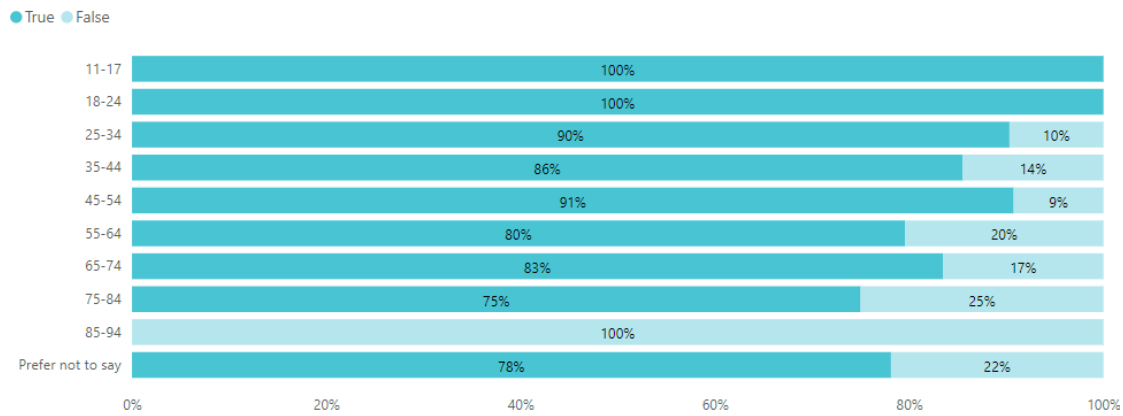
Respondents aged 55 and over were far more likely to feel unable to ask someone if they needed support.

As a combined age-group they were also **the most likely not to know how to access support**. This suggests that over 65s, if surrounded by peers of a similar age, are most at risk of someone not offering support, or if they are offered support, the person is unlikely to feel they have the knowledge to support them effectively.

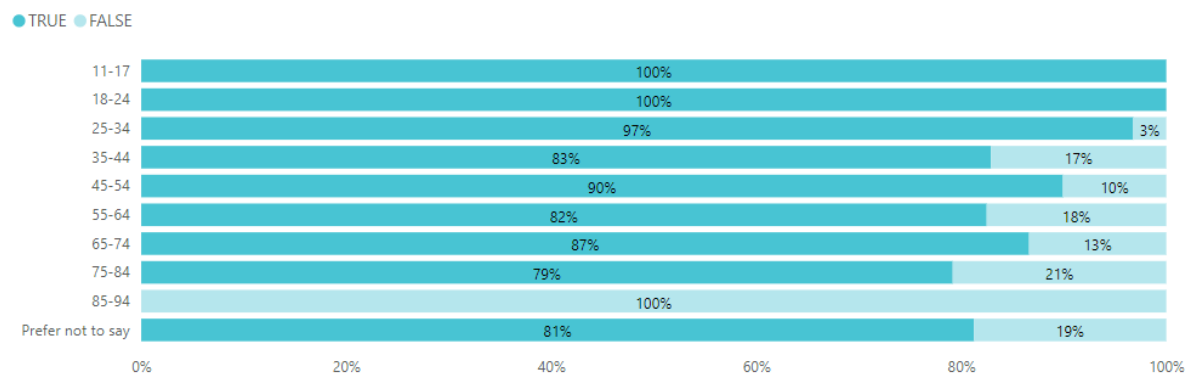
Females were slightly more likely than males to feel comfortable approaching a person that they thought was at risk (86% v 80%).



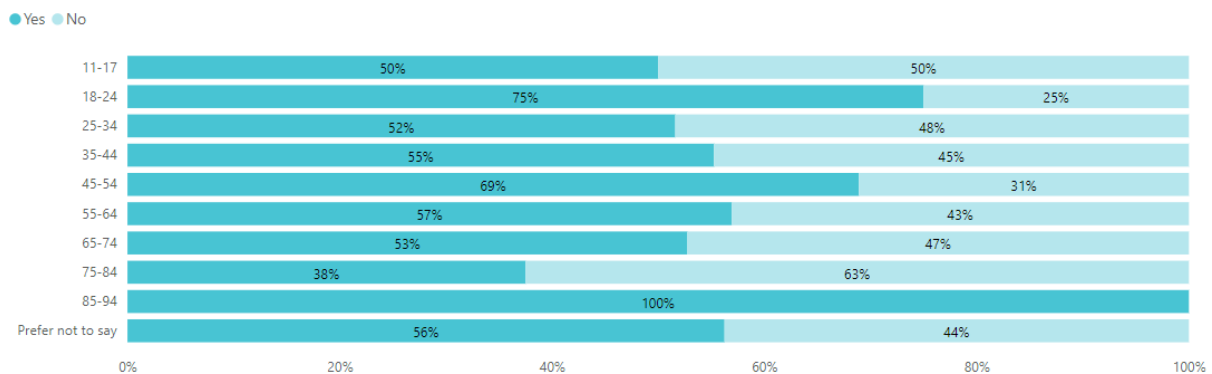
People aged between 11- 24 years were **most likely to feel able to talk to someone** that they thought was experiencing **domestic abuse** compared with any other age group.



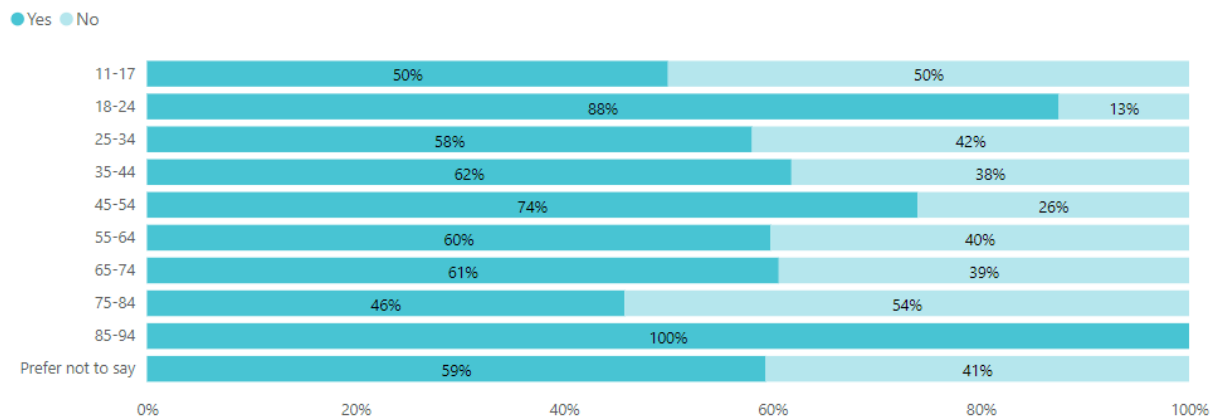
They were also significantly **more likely to talk to someone** that they thought was experiencing **sexual abuse** than other age groups with no respondents aged 18-24 stating that they would feel uncomfortable approaching a potential victim.



Overall, respondents were **more likely to know how to access domestic abuse support** (62%) than support for someone experiencing sexual violence (57%). The chart below gives a breakdown by age group for domestic abuse.



The chart below gives a breakdown by age group for sexual violence.



Men were slightly more likely than women (65% v 62%) to know how to access support if they thought someone is experiencing domestic abuse. This is a change from last year when men and women were as likely to know how to access support. Given the much smaller number of respondents this year, this should not be interpreted as a genuine change.



Men and women were as likely to know how to access support if they or someone they knew was experiencing sexual violence or abuse.



We also asked people **why they would feel uncomfortable** approaching someone that they thought was at risk.

The most common reason given (32%) was **fearing repercussions** for either them or the victim.

"Because you never know how volatile people or the situation are"

"Not sure I would feel safe intervening"

The next two most common reasons were that they were **not qualified/trained enough** (23%) or that they **did not feel it was their place** to intervene (20%).

"I do not feel that I am qualified in any way to assist anyone with this issue"

If you answered No to this question, please tell us why (please do not disclose any personal information or identifiers)



Have Your Say 2023

Most people feel safe in the local area, but **women feel less safe at night**

- **77% feel safe during the day**, with no difference between men and women
- **39% of women feel unsafe after dark** vs 28% of men

Why I feel unsafe...

- Seeing **drug use** and dealing
- Public **drinking** and rowdy behaviour
- **Speeding** and erratic driving
- **Intimidating groups** of people hanging around (with young people often mentioned)
- **Aggressive behaviour**, shouting and swearing on the streets
- **Lack of visible police** presence and/or action to address problems
- **Lack of street lighting** in public places

Three quarters of residents have experienced **anti-social behaviour** in their local area.

- **Litter**, careless driving or **speeding, parking** or vehicle-related issues were the most common issues (experienced by over 50%).
- **Groups** hanging around, **vandalism, graffiti**, and other deliberate **damage to property, street drinking**, public **drug use or dealing**, and public **rowdiness** were the next most common issues.

48% would like to see **more Police or community officers** in the local area

- Responses **mention more visible patrols**, including on foot, **patrolling more often** and officers getting to **know the local area/people**

Knowing **how to get help...**

Around **2 in 5 people did not know how to access specialist help**, like drug services or domestic abuse support; older people were least likely to be aware.

1 in 4 did not know what to do about a **safeguarding concern involving an adult** but most people knew what to do if they were worried about a child.

Almost 50% of people who experienced crime or ASB had reported it (vs 40% last year)

- Reasons for not reporting: telephone waiting times, lack of knowledge of how to report and perceived lack of response

I would **like to see more...**

- police on foot
- activities for young people
- CCTV
- education about consequences
- traffic calming measures
- tougher penalties for crime and ASB
- police response/attendance
- easy ways to report ASB
- 20 MPH zones and speed cameras
- street lighting
- bins and community clean up initiatives
- homelessness services
- mental health support

1 in 5 people think the Police and Council are tackling the issues that matter

52% disagree (17% strongly). These levels are similar to last year.

People who **know about Safer Cornwall** were more likely to **answer positively** – 47% said the Police and Council are tackling the right issues vs 15% for those who don't know anything about us.

16% had seen or experienced **hate crime**

- Race, sexual orientation and age are the most common types mentioned