



Kernow Salwa

Have Your Say Survey 2023: Drugs

This report looks at what residents told us about drug related issues in their local area in **Safer Cornwall's public survey "Have Your Say."**

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.

Who responded to our on-line 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

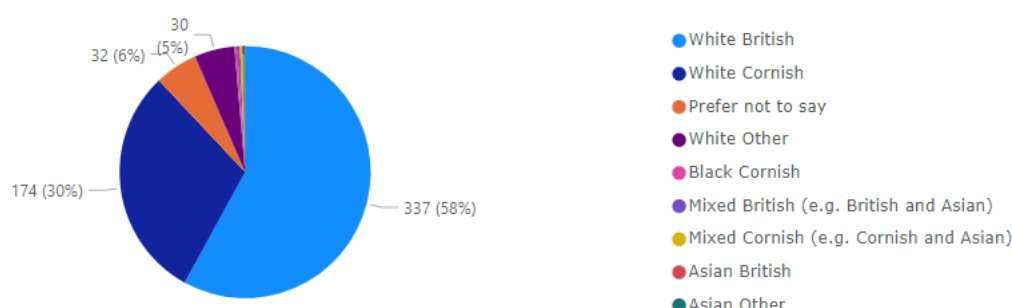
66% of respondents were women meaning that women were over-represented. Almost two thirds of respondents were women, just under a third were men (28%, 19% less than the population proportion).

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	Population	Survey
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.

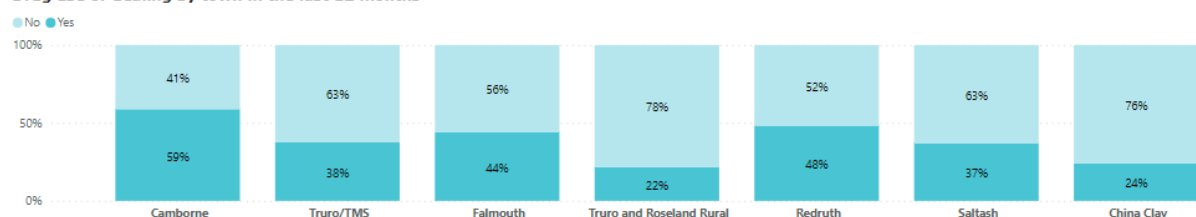
18% of respondents stated that they had a disability. 8% of respondents chose not to respond to this question.

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

Concerns about drug use or dealing

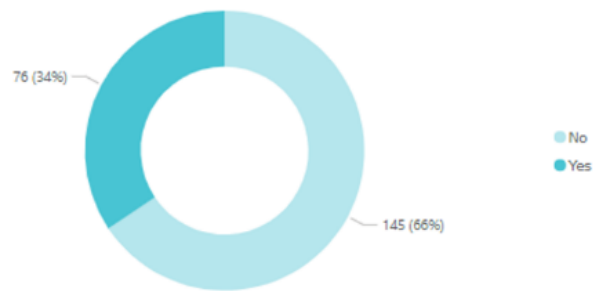
49% said that they had seen drug use or dealing in their local area (221/453), compared with 55% in the 2022 survey. The chart below towns with 25 or more respondents. The town with the highest proportion of respondents having seen drug use or dealing in the last 12 months were Camborne, Redruth and Falmouth (59% - 44%).

Drug use or dealing by town in the last 12 months



A third of the 221 respondents who had seen or experienced drug use or dealing had **reported it to the police**.

This appears to be a drop from last year's 58% who reported drug use or dealing.



People who had seen or experienced drug use or dealing were much **more likely to disagree that the police and Council are tackling the right issues** in their local area - 70% compared with 52%.

Impact on feelings of safety

Overall, 11% of respondents felt unsafe in the daytime in their local area (38/581). This is unchanged from last year.

- 44% of people who said that they felt unsafe gave a reason which referenced drugs.

Comments from respondents across a variety of towns highlight drugs being **dealt openly in public areas** during the day. Linked to this, respondents also stated that **associated anti-social behaviour** such as people yelling and swearing affected how safe in their local area during the day.

Other responses reference **feeling intimidated by people using drugs** and associated anti-social behaviour. Some responses stated that they avoided specific parts of their local area as they made them feel unsafe.

37% of respondents felt unsafe after dark in their local area (215/581).

- 24% of people who said that they felt unsafe gave a reason which referenced drugs.

Respondents who felt unsafe after dark and mentioned drug use or dealing in their local area made similar comments to those who felt unsafe during the day. Drug dealing is said to openly take place. Several respondents stated that drug dealing happens in the **vicinity of their house**, further reducing their feelings of safety.

Other responses referenced **feeling intimidated by people using drugs** and associated anti-social behaviour – fights, large groups, unpredictable behaviour, shouting, swearing, defecating/urinating. Respondents talked about **routinely witnessing violence in some areas**.

Solutions

64% of people who said they had seen drug use or dealing said that the **police should provide the solution** – more police on the street, greater visibility, more effective/honest, more responsive, focus on known problem areas, more powers, more connected to the community and quicker/easier/more efficient ways to report.

Other solutions:

- **Punitive** - a zero tolerance approach, more harsh punishment, locking toilets/parks at night, close problem premises/evict dealers.
- **Non-punitive** – invest in young people, more for young people to do, youth groups, engage with young people and develop life skills, better street lighting, positive engagement, education and diversion activities for young people

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**

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

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.

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.

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

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

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