A Safer East Riding: It's Time to Listen to Young People

A question breakdown of the young people's Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2024

Background

The safety of women and girls in the East Riding is incredibly important to us. Equally, we want all young people, regardless of their gender, age, or background, to feel safe in their local communities. In order to better support young people to feel safe, we need to understand more about when young people feel safe and unsafe, and any other things we can do, or support we can provide, to make young people feel even safer when out and about in the East Riding.

Therefore, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, in collaboration with the Community VISION team, developed a Violence Against Women and Girls survey for young people to share their views on issues affecting them in their local community. We hope that by listening to young people, we can better support them to feel safe and happy.

Young people aged 14 and over across the East Riding were invited to take part in the Survey. Responses to questions were generally around 70 responses. There were easily discernible non-answers provided and these were removed from the analysis.
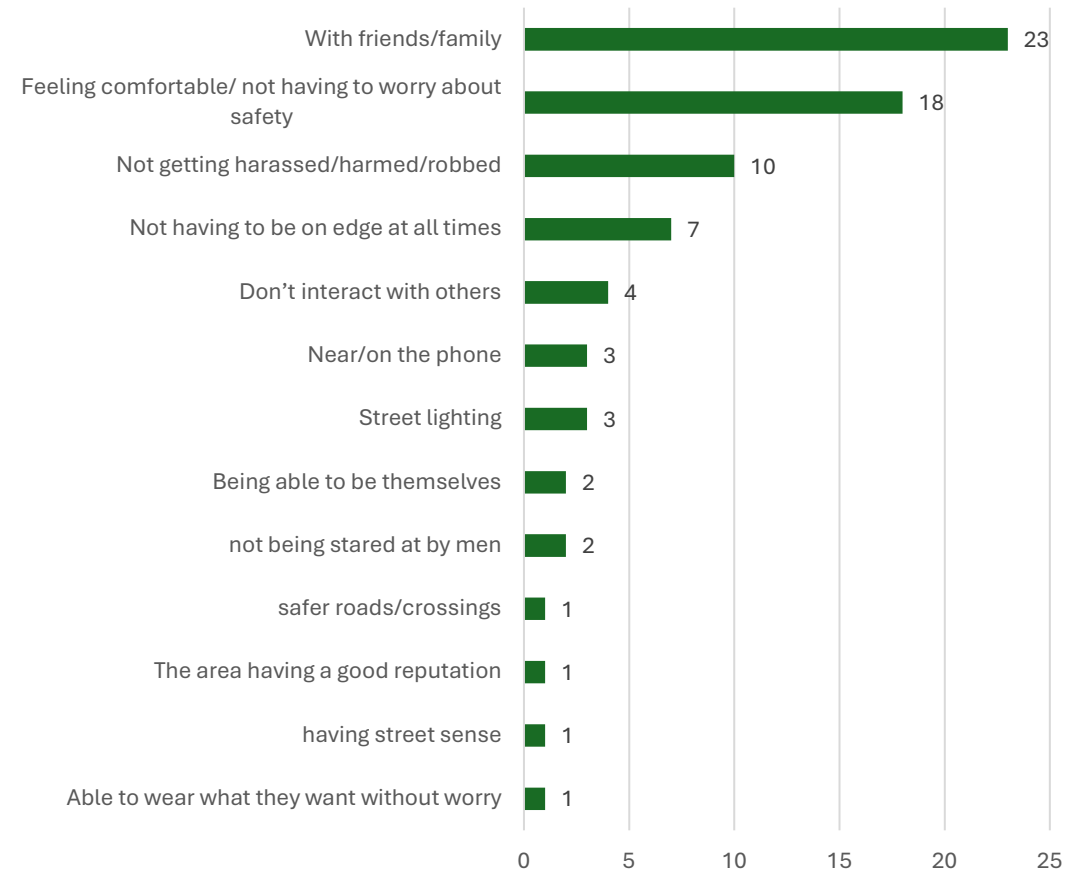
What does feeling safe at home mean to you?

- The chart reveals that there was a lot of variations on the wording of being safe at home.
- There were mentions of locked doors/locked windows in the responses and several responses mentioned wanting to be themselves, as well as speaking about what they want to talk about without fear of repercussions.
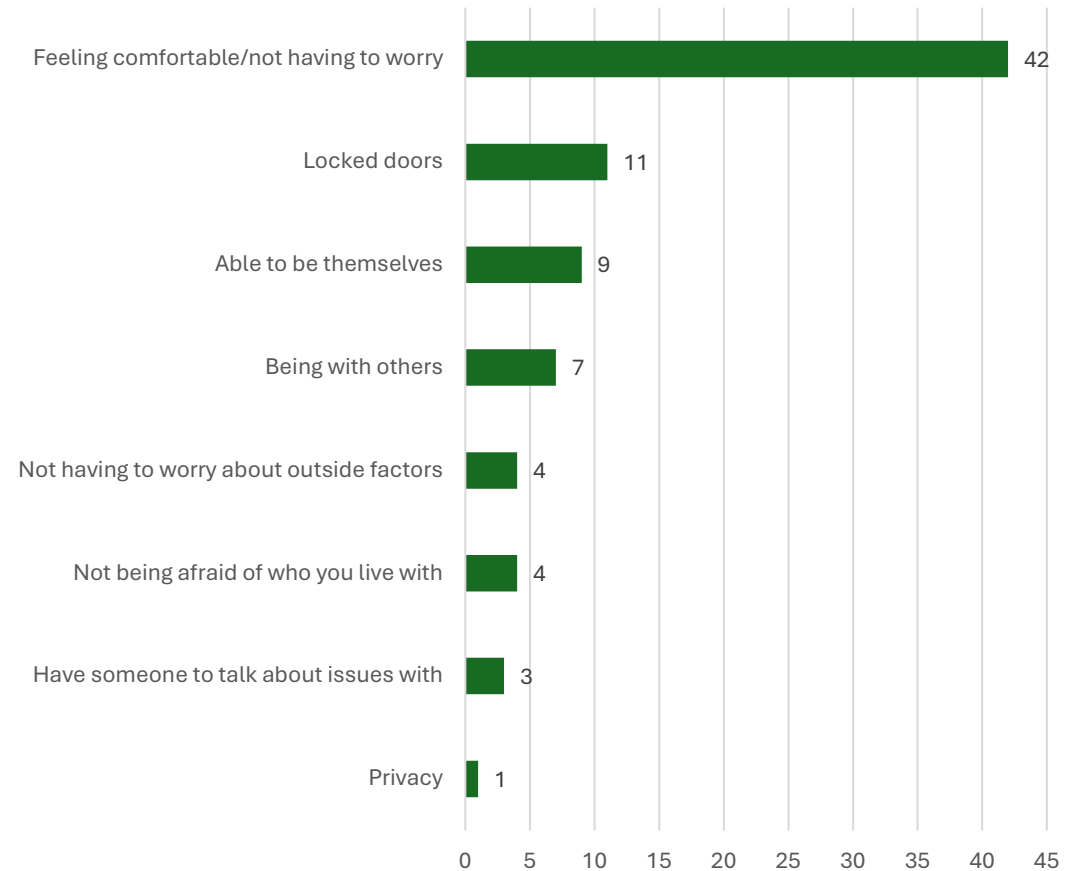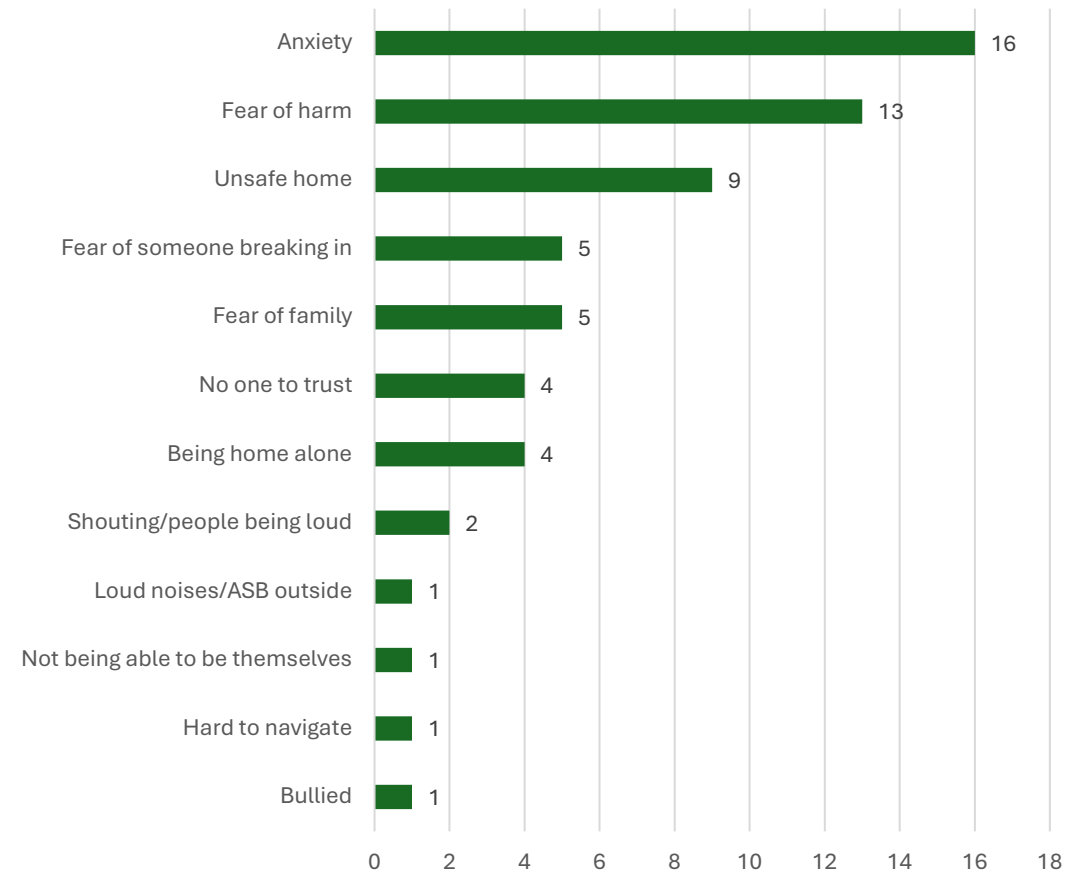
What does feeling safe when out and about mean to you?

- When asked the above question the most mentioned sentiment was being with friends or family, followed by the feeling of safety being when they don't have to worry about their safety and being able to be comfortable in the local area.

- There was a variety of wordings used in relation to the categories that they have been separated into. But there was a consensus of respondents who mostly just wanted to be able to go out in the community without fear of being harassed/attacked/catcalled so they can enjoy their local areas.
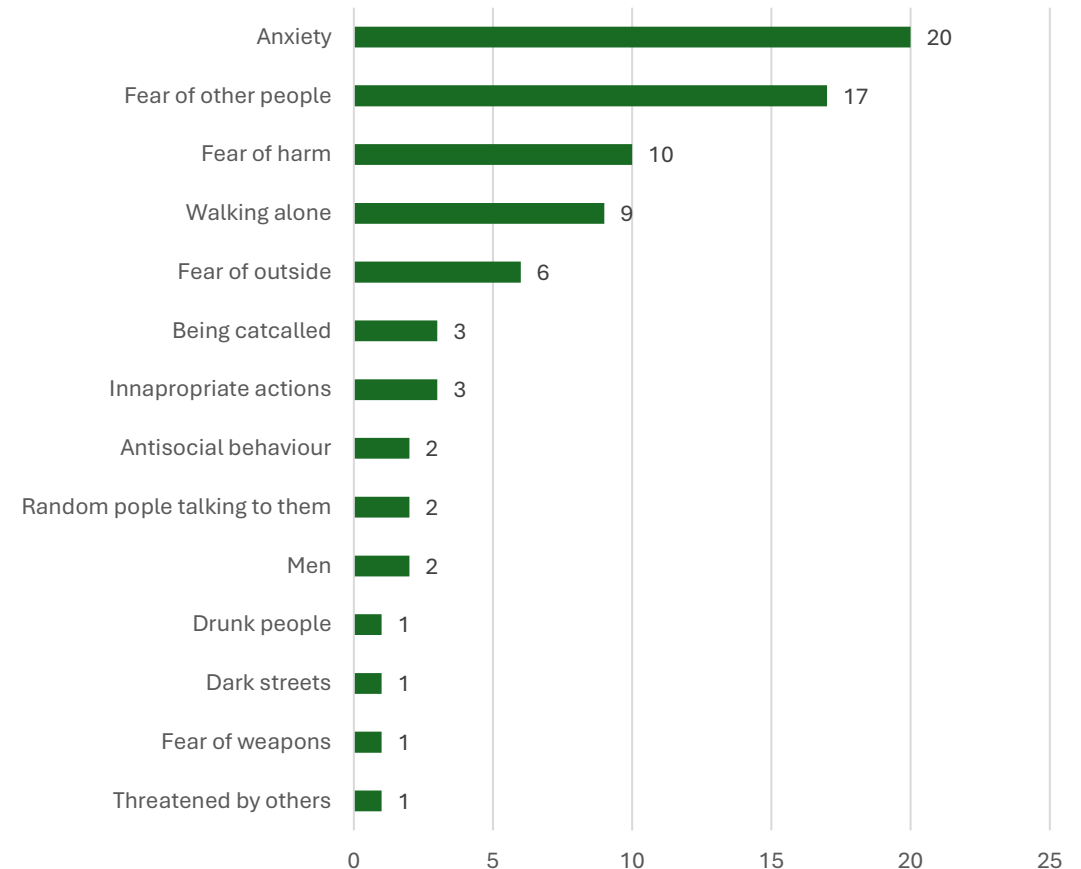
What does feeling unsafe at home mean to you?

- The most mentioned category was anxiety of being at home followed by fear of harm. Whilst these can be summarised to the same category, they have been split between ones where respondents mentioned feeling uneasy/unsafe at home. Compared to fear of harm were responses that mentioned specifically being worried about harm happening to themselves.

- But throughout all of the responses there is a lot of similarities of wanting their home to be a safe space for themselves to be able to feel supported and not experience prejudice in their home.

| Category	Value
Anxiety	16
Fear of harm	13
Unsafe home	9
Fear of someone breaking in	5
Fear of family	5
No one to trust	4
Being home alone	4
Shouting/people being loud	2
Loud noises/ASB outside	1
Not being able to be themselves	1
Hard to navigate	1
Bullied	1

What does feeling unsafe when out and about mean to you?

- Anxiety and similar feelings were a recurring response throughout the questions and was mentioned here as well throughout the survey. This potentially shows that there is a recurring issue of mental health concerns in young people that correlates with feelings of safety.

- There was a lot of mentions relating to concerns around other people in general whilst out and about, which may suggest there is a wider concern about society at large with young people being concerned about other people in general.

| Category	Value
Anxiety	20
Fear of other people	17
Fear of harm	10
Walking alone	9
Fear of outside	6
Being catcalled	3
Innapropriate actions	3
Antisocial behaviour	2
Random pople talking to them	2
Men	2
Drunk people	1
Dark streets	1
Fear of weapons	1
Threatened by others	1

How safe or unsafe do you feel in your local area during the day?

- We can see from the responses that generally most respondents feel safe during the day with the majority of answers leaning towards very safe, which is a good sign of safety throughout the ERYC during the day.
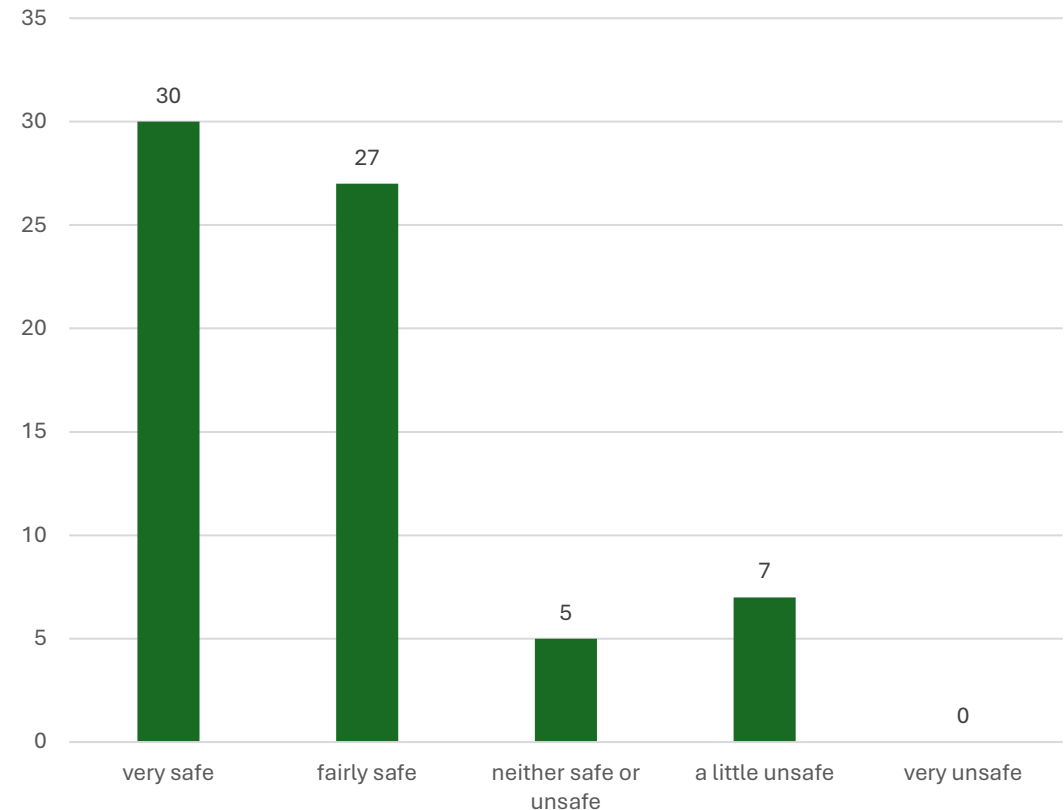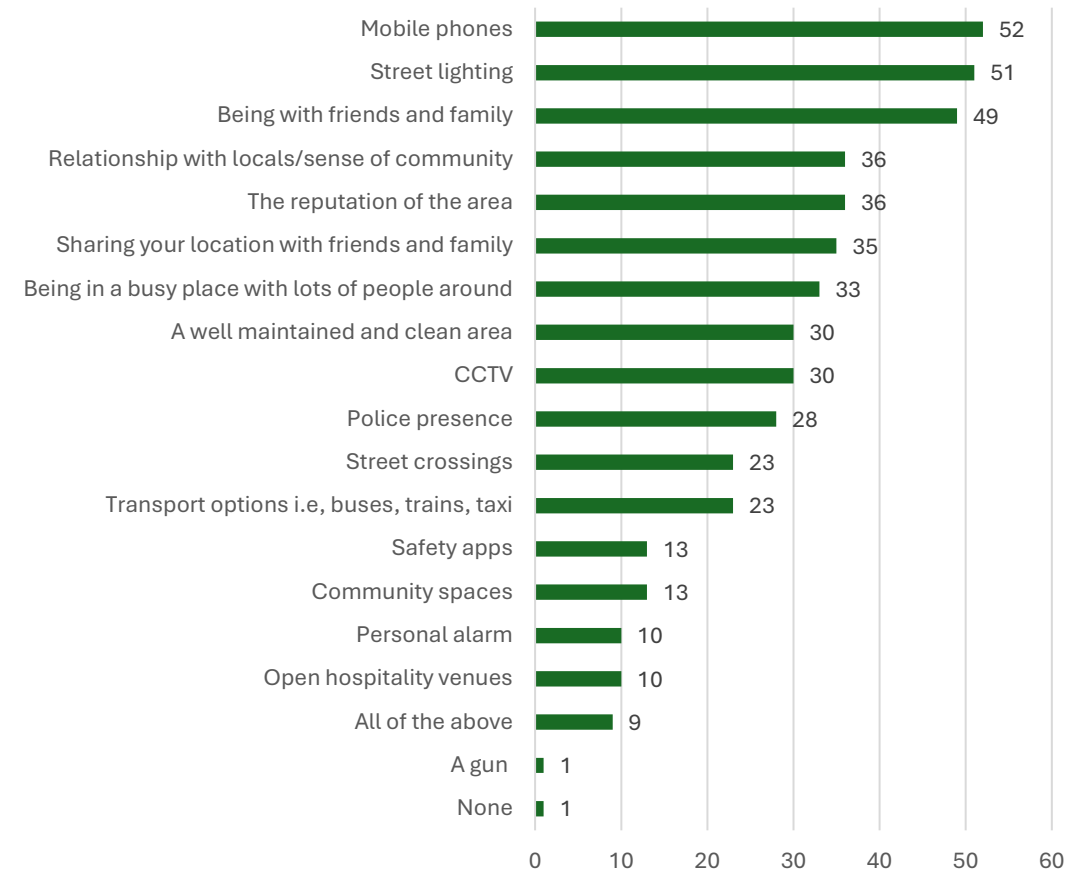
How safe or unsafe do you feel in your local area during the night?

- When the question is switched to during the night, we can see that the sentiment changes drastically becoming less uniform amongst responses with the majority of responses leaning towards feeling unsafe.

- Whilst it isn't unexpected that there would be a shift in feelings of safety to this degree, this does show that the environment during later hours in the evening does cause more feelings of anxiety. This could be due to a number factors like less visibility, less presence of other people, and alcohol and drugs being more visible in the evening.
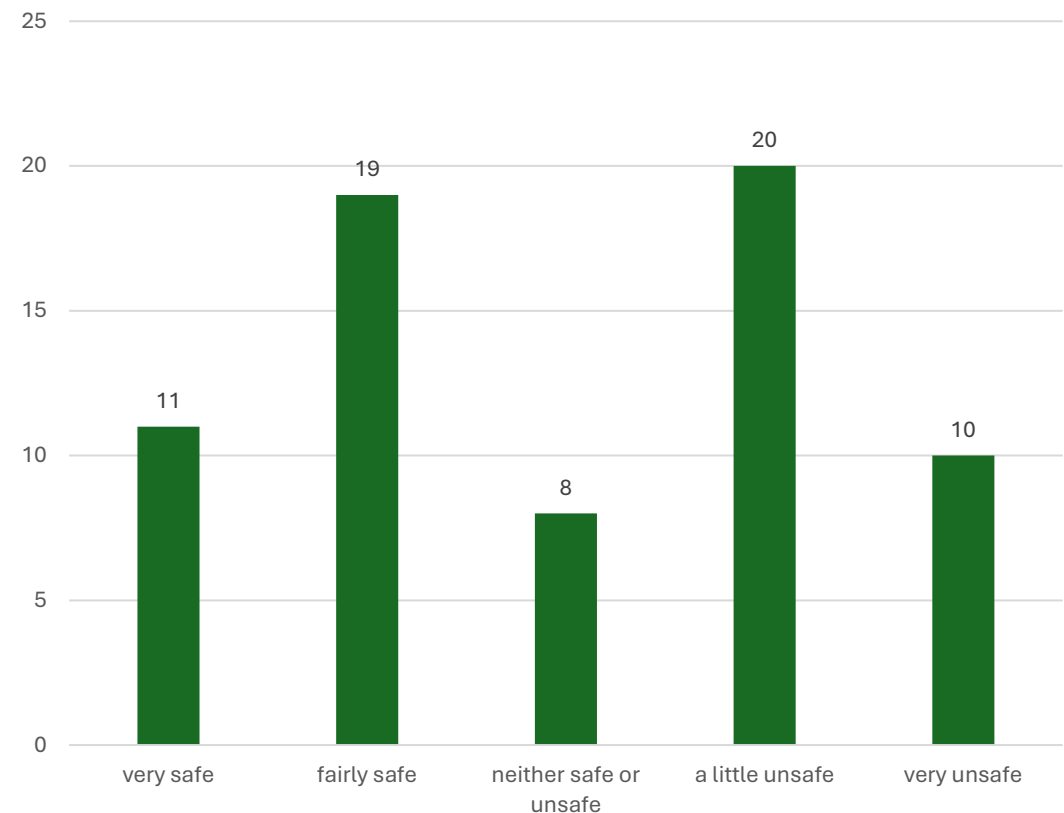
Which of the following, if any, helps you feel safe? This was multiple choice

- When asked on specific ways to help feel safer from the options provided, the choices selected are leaning mostly towards Mobile phones, street lighting, and being with friends and family. These are the most visible and openly available options for safety and may be something that indicates that safety comes from factors that they themselves can control.

- The lower responses like community spaces, open hospitality venues and transport options, if they are not available in their area then this isn't something that they can rely upon.

- The options in the middle number of responses are tending towards factors that are expected or people are more comfortable with existing in the area. E.g. CCTV is something that had been around for a long time and people know that it is something that will be in their areas or sharing locations with friends and family is something that gets taught from a young age. However, there are factors that are out of their control e.g frequency of transport.

Mobile phones — 52
Street lighting — 51
Being with friends and family — 49
Relationship with locals/sense of community — 36
The reputation of the area — 36
Sharing your location with friends and family — 35
Being in a busy place with lots of people around — 33
A well maintained and clean area — 30
CCTV — 30
Police presence — 28
Street crossings — 23
Transport options i.e, buses, trains, taxi — 23
Safety apps — 13
Community spaces — 13
Personal alarm — 10
Open hospitality venues — 10
All of the above — 9
A gun — 1
None — 1

Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Carparks)

- The response regarding carparks is not unexpected as people in the age brackets completing this survey are not as likely to have their own cars/motorbikes so seeing a mostly neutral response is not unexpected.

- Additionally, there was more responses were towards feeling safe in the carparks more so than unsafe.
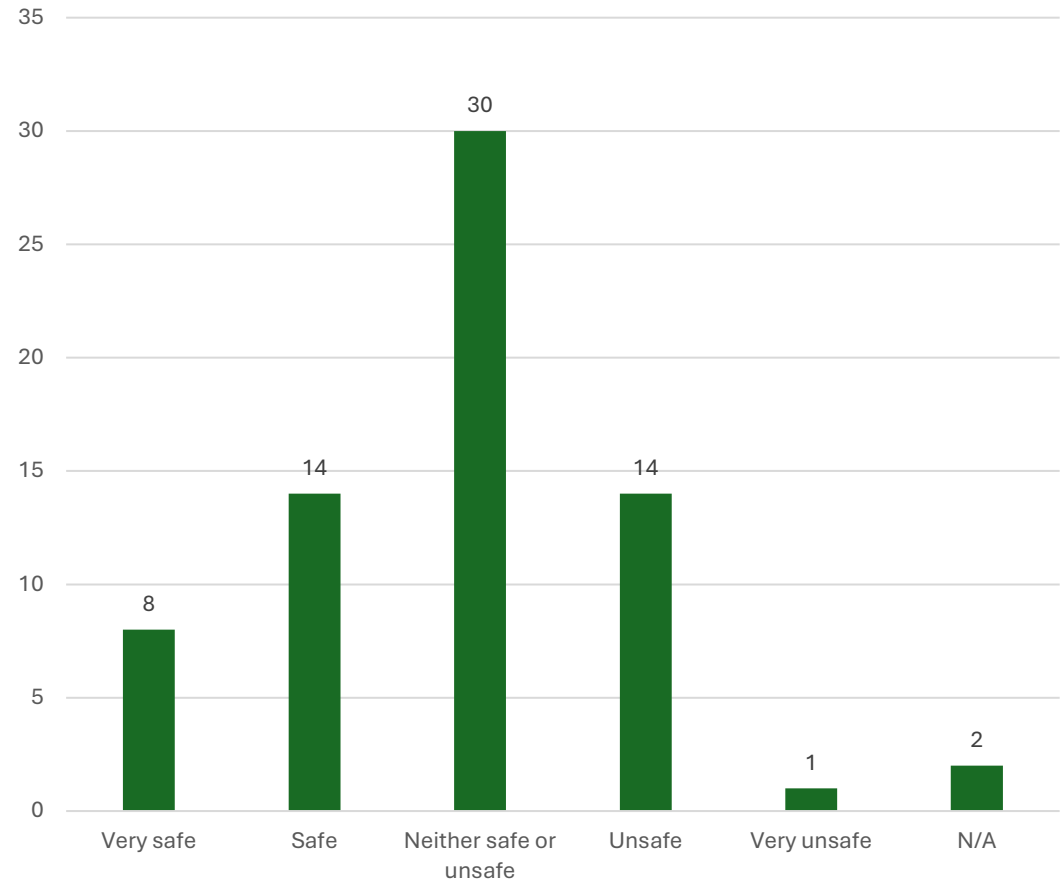
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Playgrounds/Parks)

- The response to the Playgrounds and parks is mostly positive with a low level of responses choosing the unsafe or very unsafe options.

- Whilst perception of safety is relatively high, playground and parks are not the safest places due to unsafe and very unsafe responses.
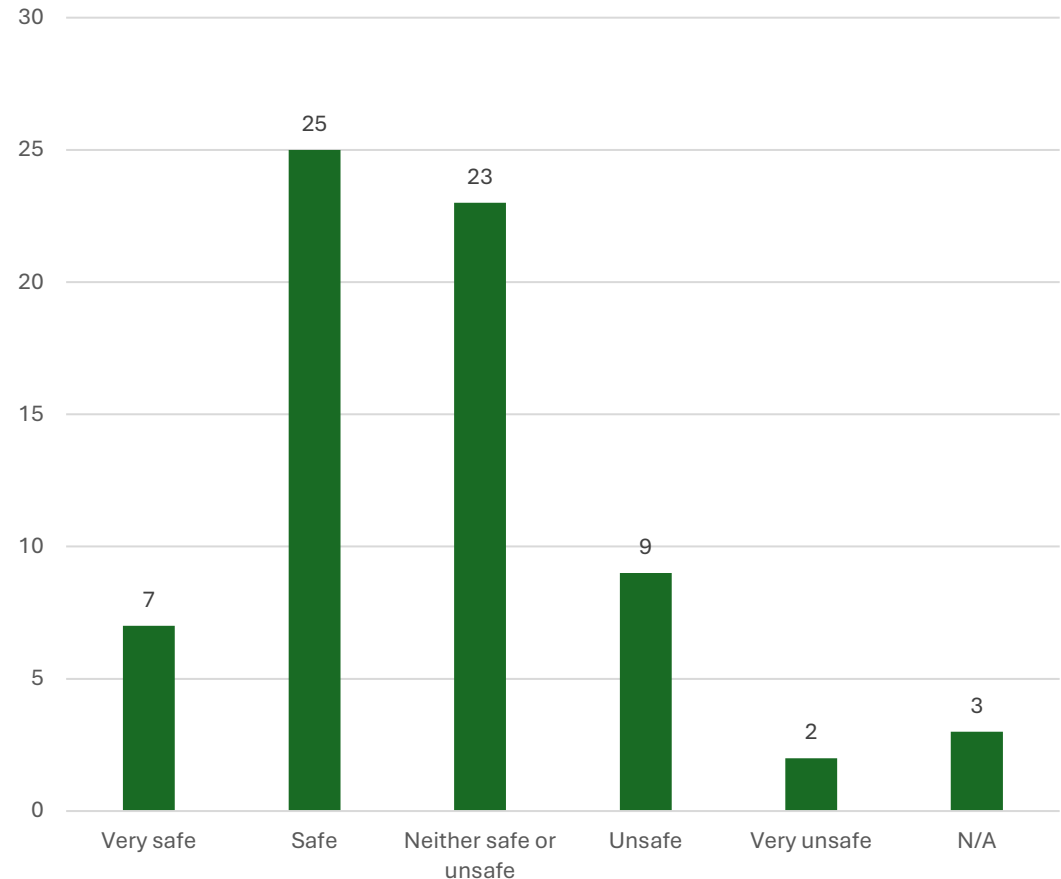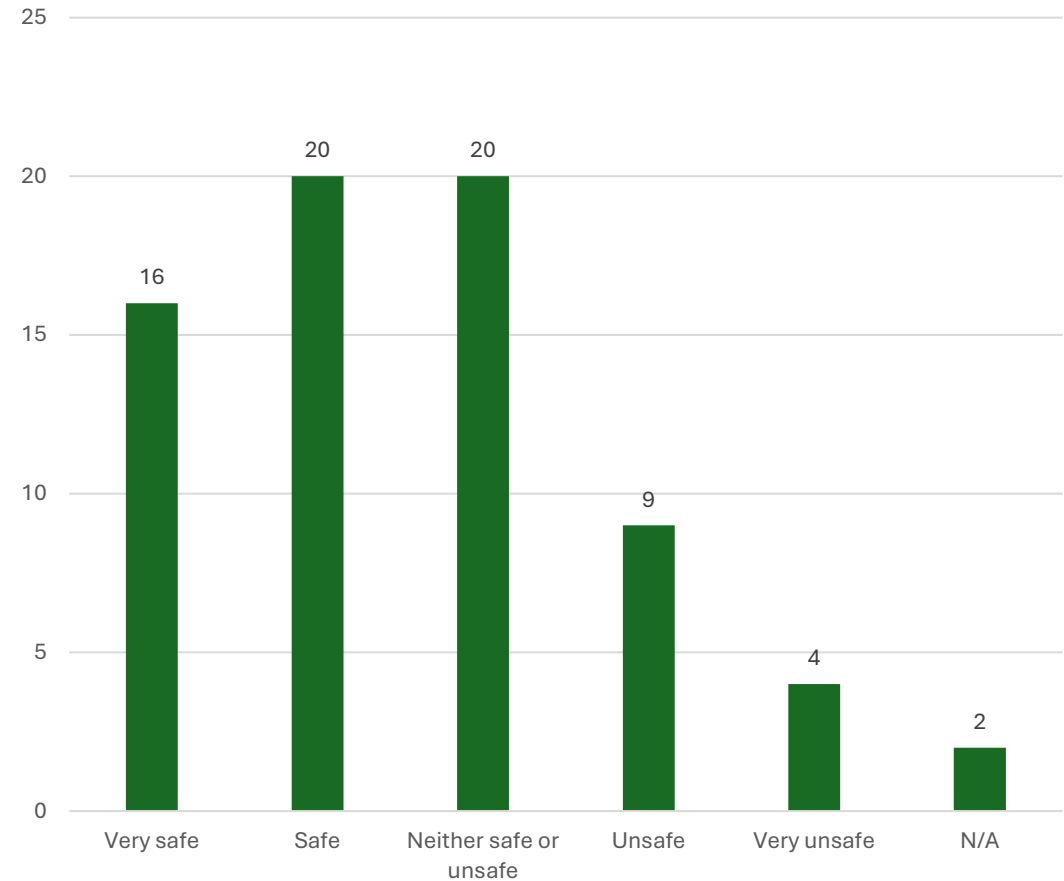
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (residential areas)

- For the residential areas we can see that there was minimal responses choosing unsafe, which could suggest that the majority of the respondents feel safe near and around the homes they or their friends live in.

- For community sentiment being able to feel safe at home is an important part of ensuring positive mental health.
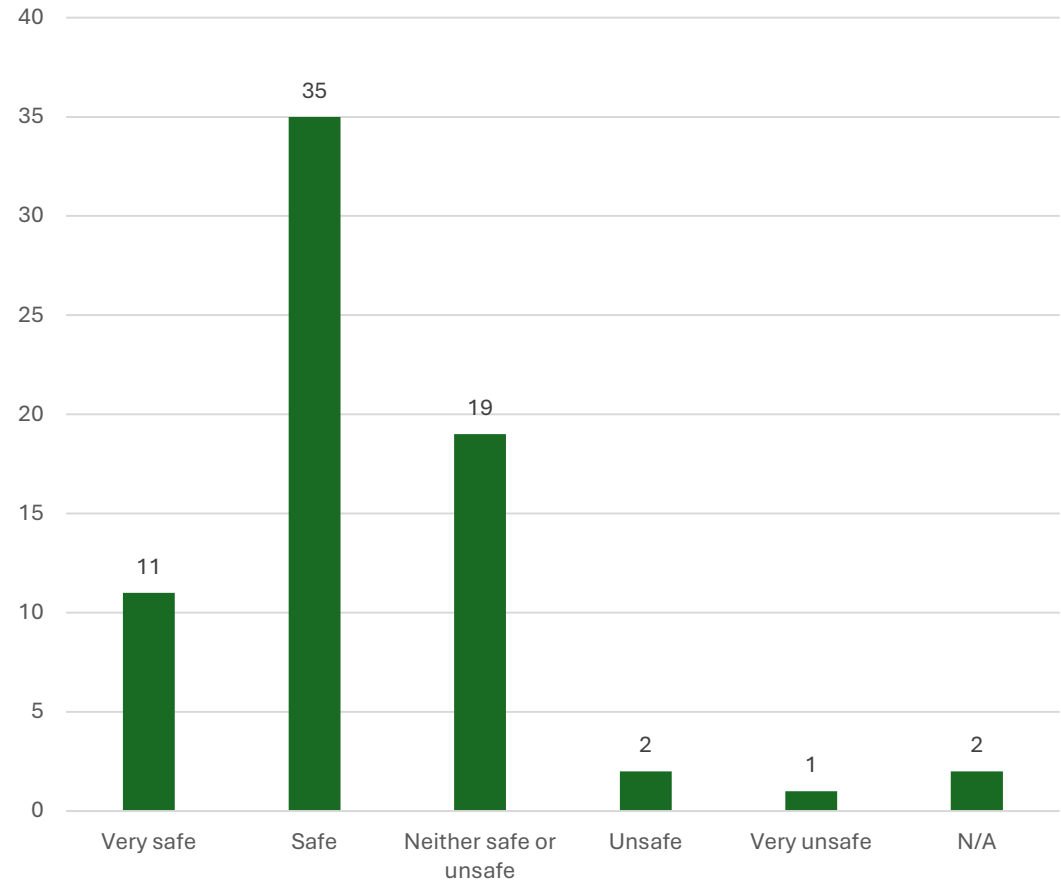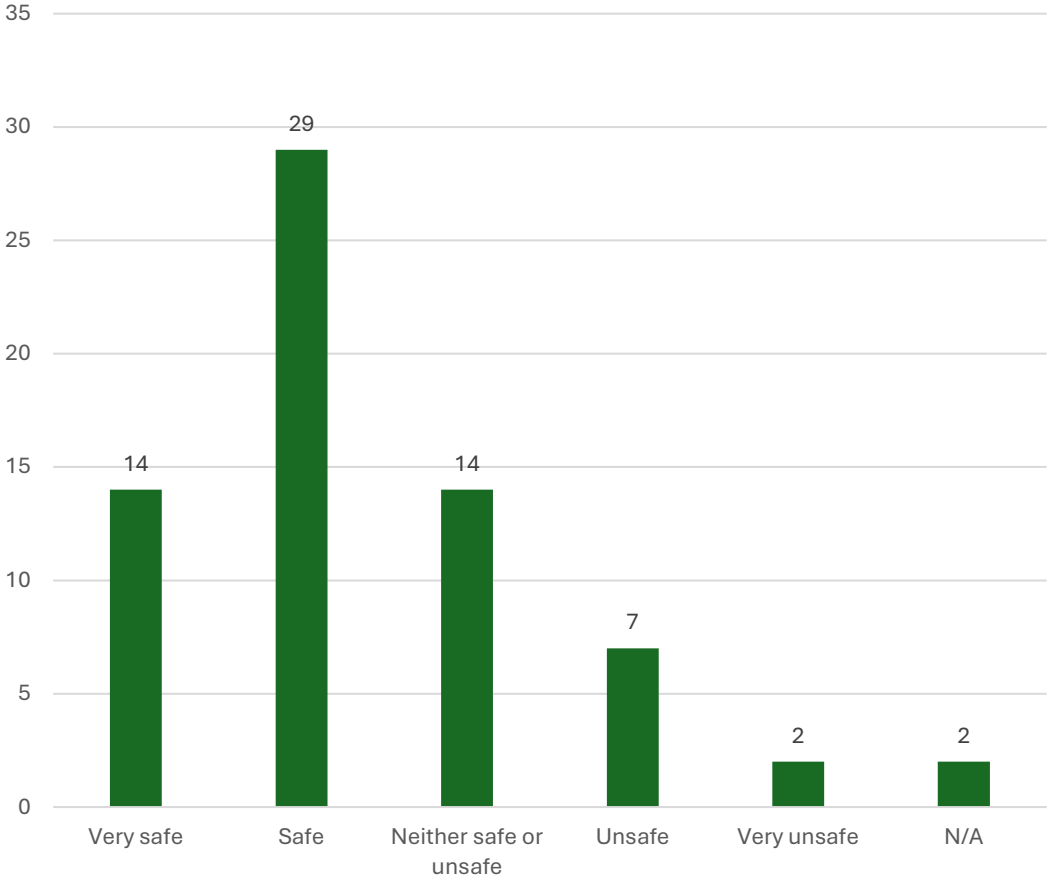
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Town centres/shopping areas)

- Town centres/shopping areas appear to be the most split between how safe they consider the area as the top 3 variations of safety were very close together with a harsh drop off down to those that feel unsafe.
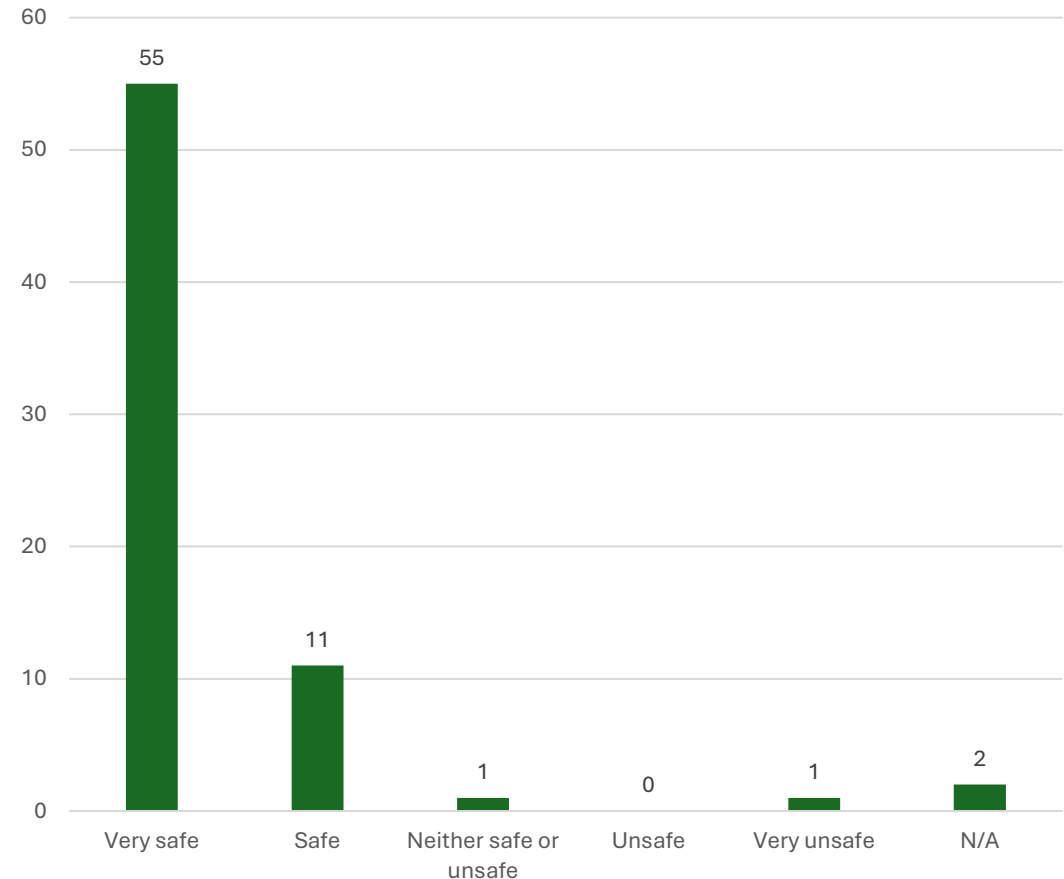
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Bars/Restaurants)

- The response to bars and restaurants shows a mostly positive response and whilst they aren't considered the safest of places it does have a high number of safe responses.
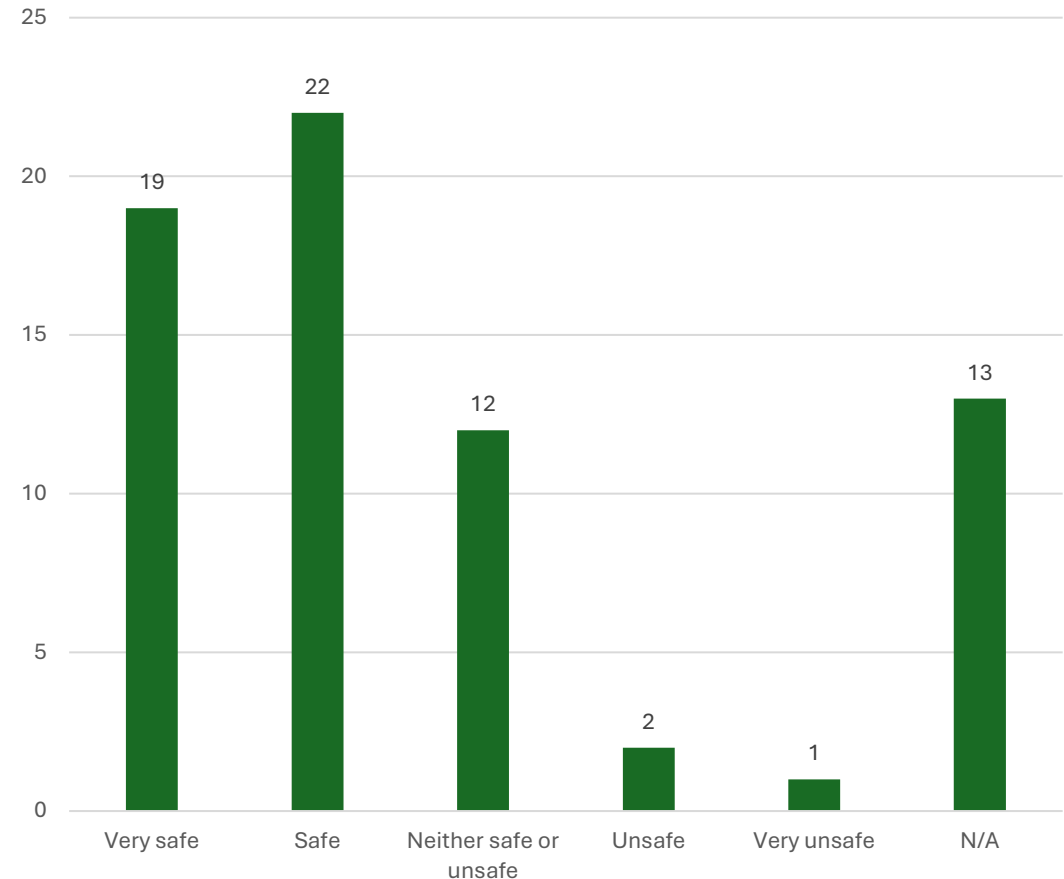
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Home)

- Out of all the responses to the questions we can see that Home was the one that had the most positive response, which is the place that we would hope to be the most positively received.

- However, the singular very unsafe response may be an alert to an ongoing issue for that one particular respondent.
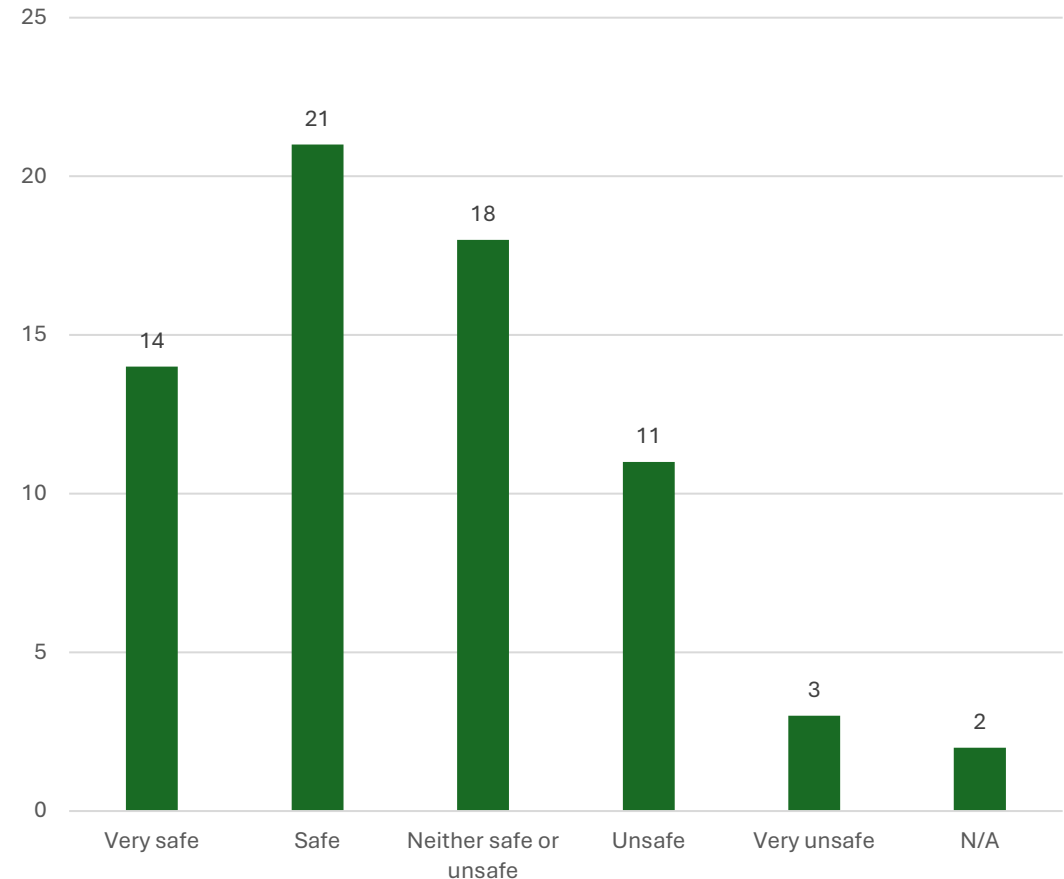
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Place of employment)

- For places of employment due to the age ranges asked it isn't unsurprising that there was a large number that select N/A as not everyone in those age ranges will have a place of employment.

- This is a positive response to have as a toxic work environment can be where incidents occur more commonly.
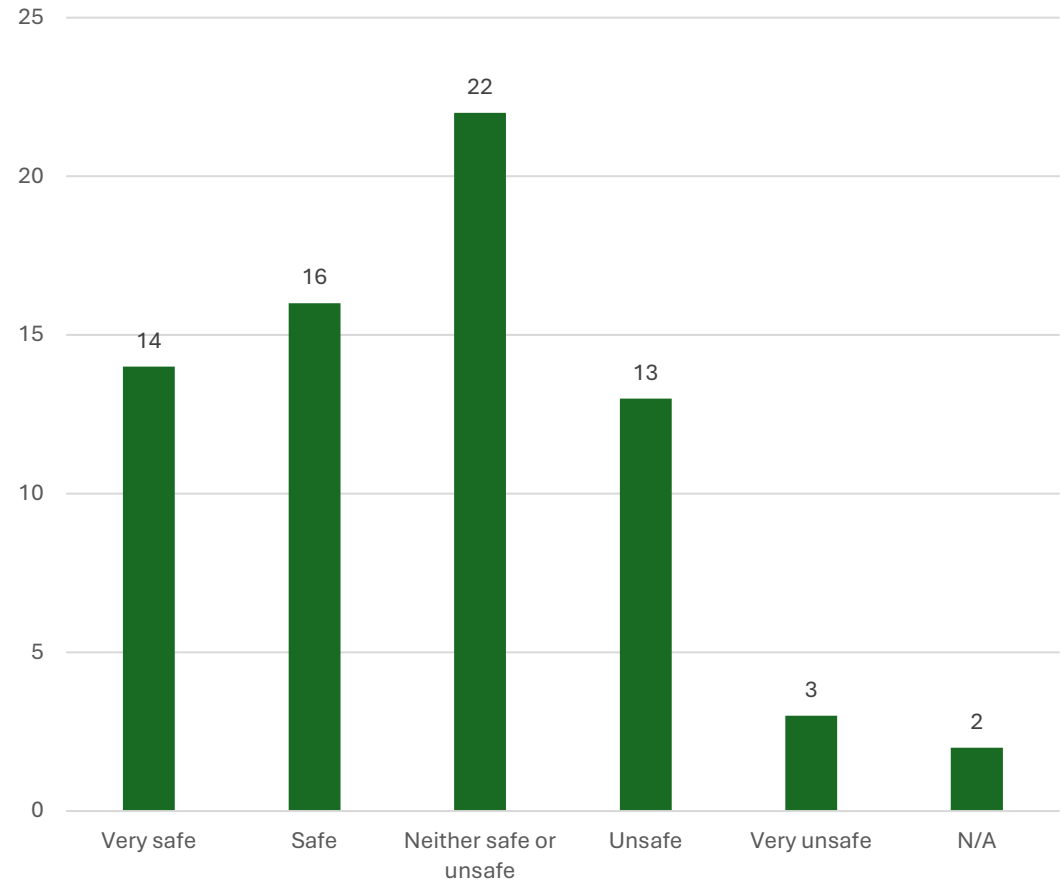
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Buses)

- For the following question there was mixed response for the safety felt on buses. But very unsafe had a low level of responses, which could be indicative of buses not being the most unsafe areas but providing a mixed experience when using them.
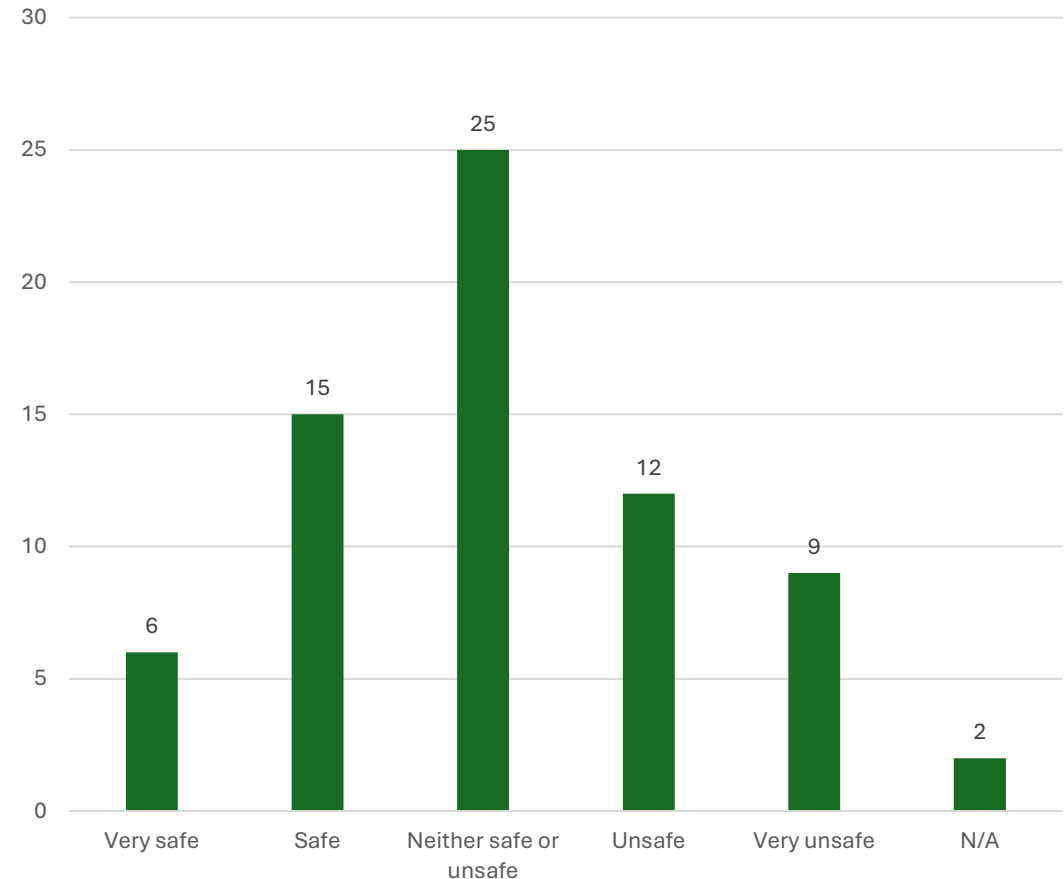
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Trains)

- With the neutral option being the most picked for Trains as well as there being a high proportion of those that felt unsafe it shows that there is room for improvement in regards to safety on trains.
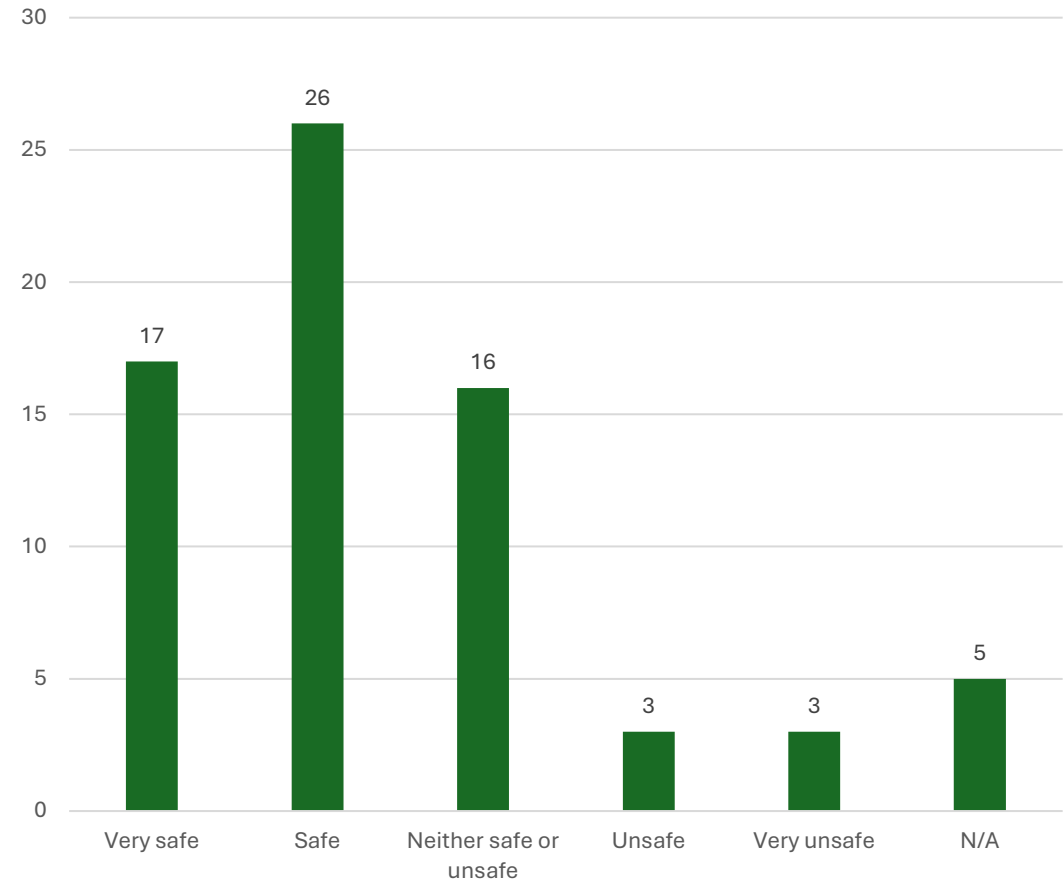
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Taxis)

- As this is another form of transportation it would appear from the bell like shape of the graph that there was once again very mixed feelings towards safety in taxis.

- This could also be in relation to the specific taxi driver they were riding with as there isn't a standard experience to have with taxi drivers compared to other services. E.g. one driver could be chatty whilst another is silent or there could be variations in the actual driving of the vehicles.
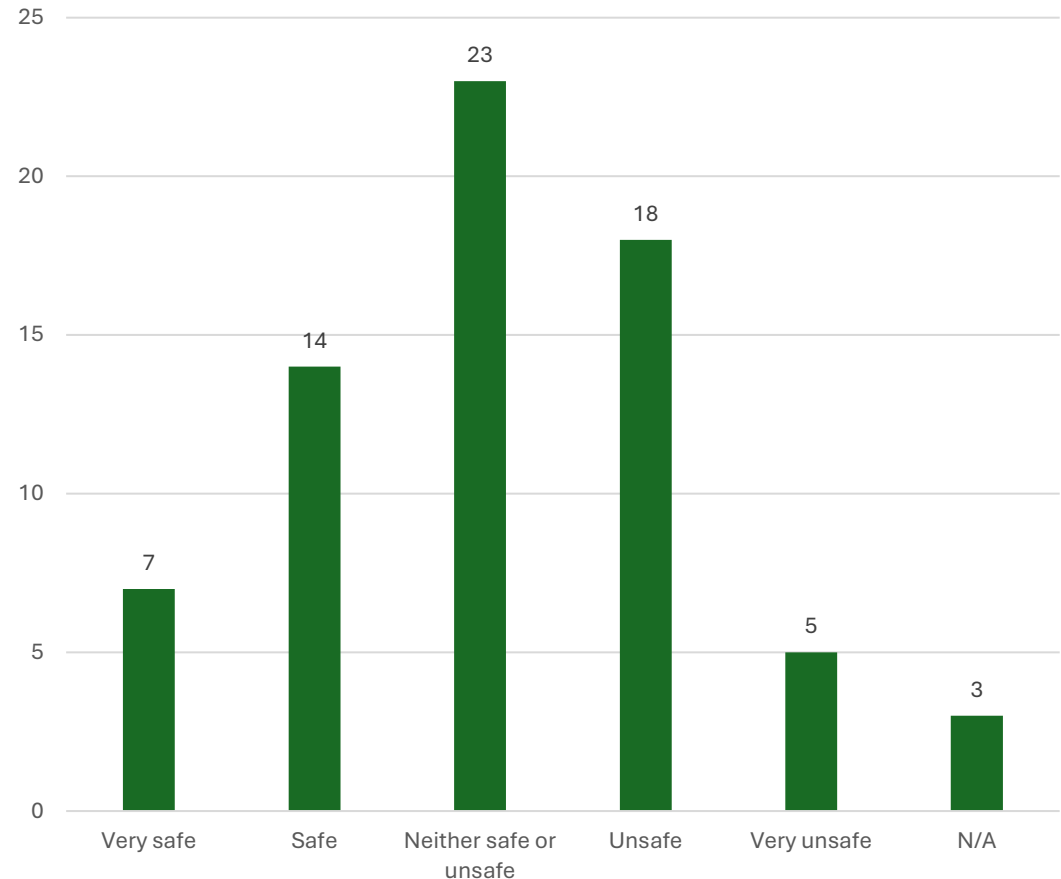
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Leisure centres/sport facilities)

- The general sentiment towards sport facilities was positive, which goes to show that there may have been a shift in culture in the way that people are treated in the sport areas coupled with the low response rate on feeling unsafe.
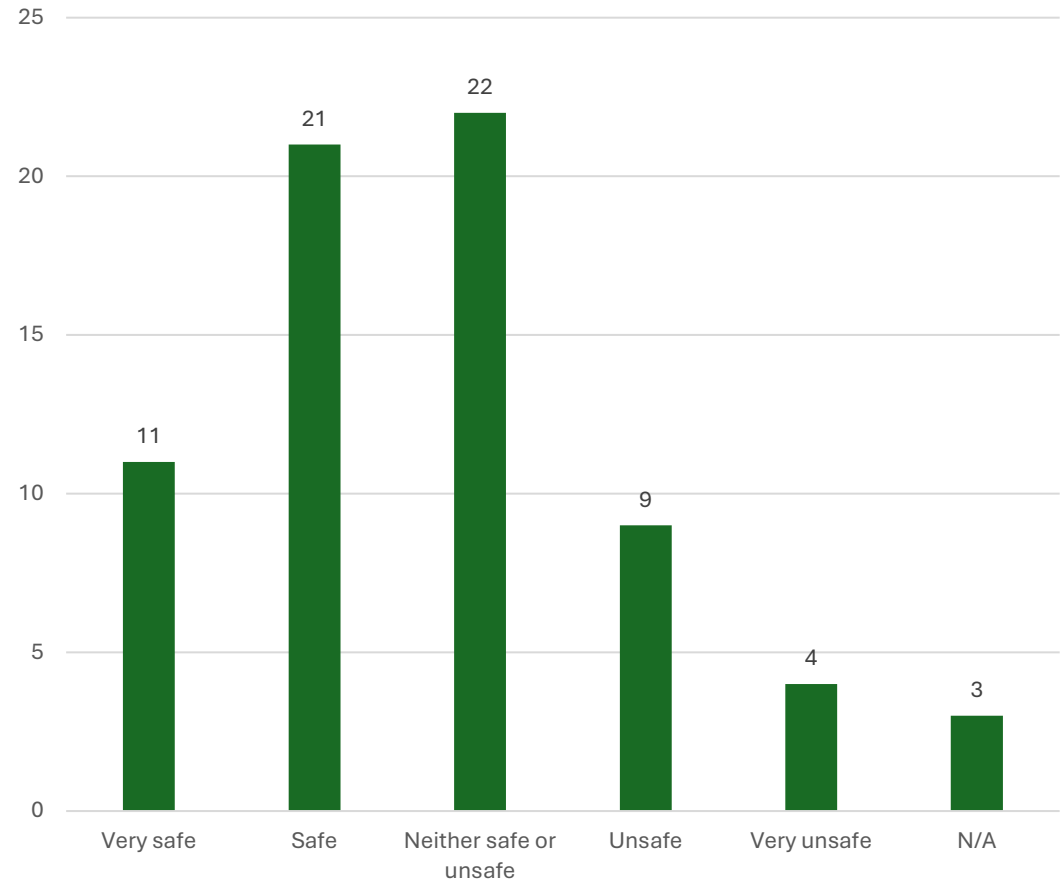
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Footpaths/streets)

- From the responses here they tend to suggest that streets and footpaths lean more towards the unsafe side but only slightly, with the largest response being neutral. Alongside this it may be an area of concern when looking at areas to try and improve the particular areas.
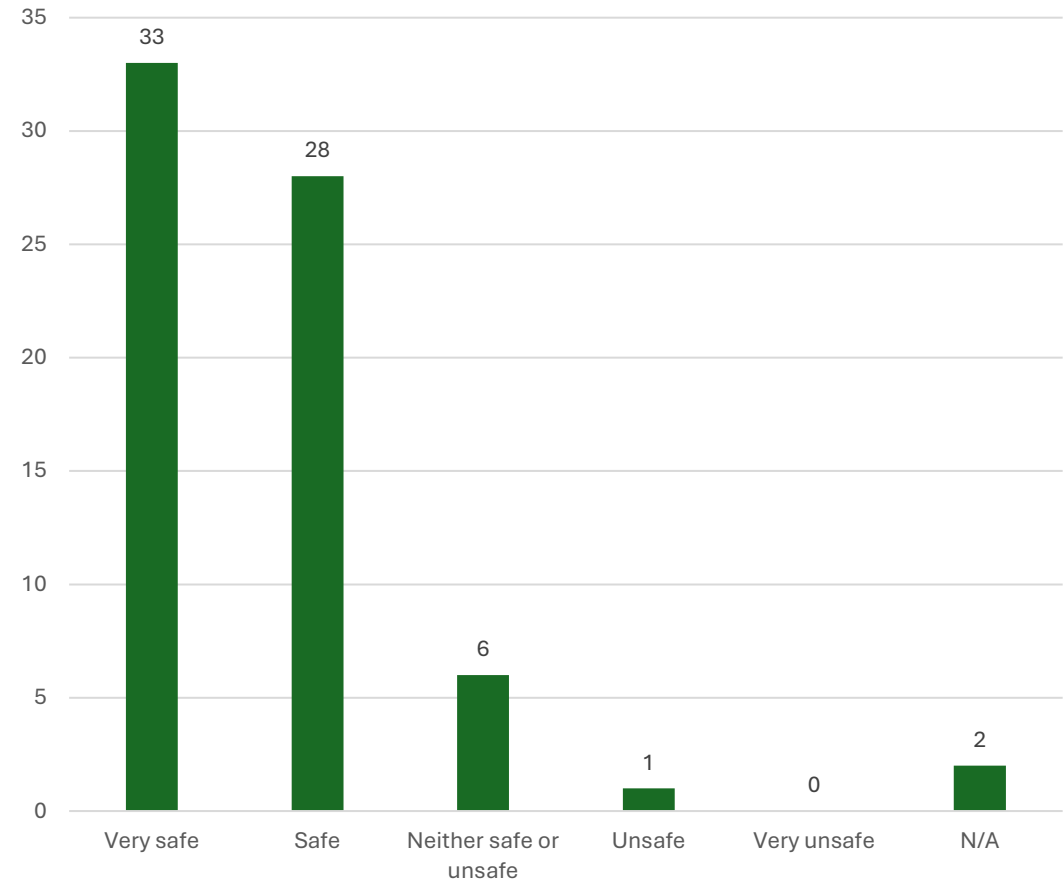
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Take-aways)

- Take aways from the result lean on the safer side of the responded areas. This could be due to them generally being open even into the later times of night with adults that may give them a sense of safety for wrongdoings.

A bar chart showing responses for Take-aways:
- Very safe: 11
- Safe: 21
- Neither safe or unsafe: 22
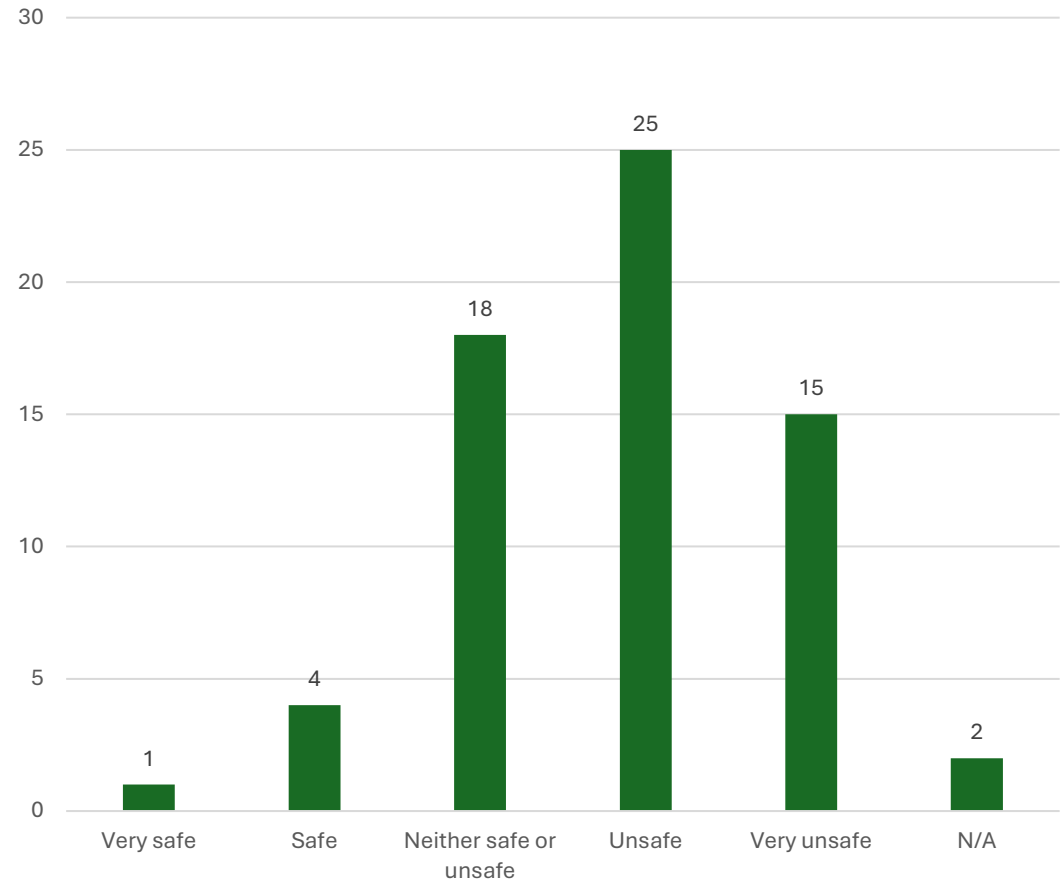- Unsafe: 9
- Very unsafe: 4
- N/A: 3

Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Lighting)

- This was the area that received the highest number of votes for very safe suggesting that lighting in any form makes people feel the safest.

- This is most likely due to light allowing for them to be more perceptive of their surroundings and assess if they are in any danger or not.
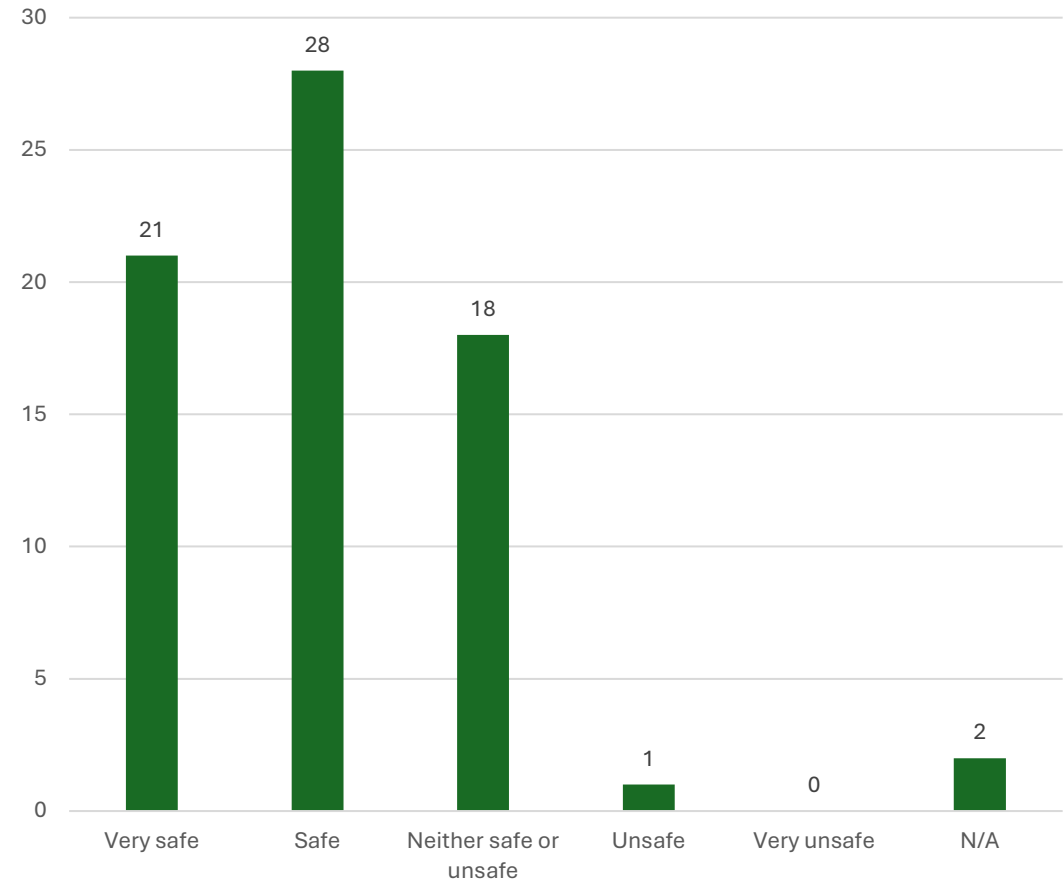
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Poor Lighting)

- The response to the lack of lighting was mostly negative with the majority of responses leaning towards unsafe/very unsafe.

- This could suggest that more lighting available in areas with foot traffic e.g. parks, cut through, etc. could mean that people out in the community feel safer as they walk.
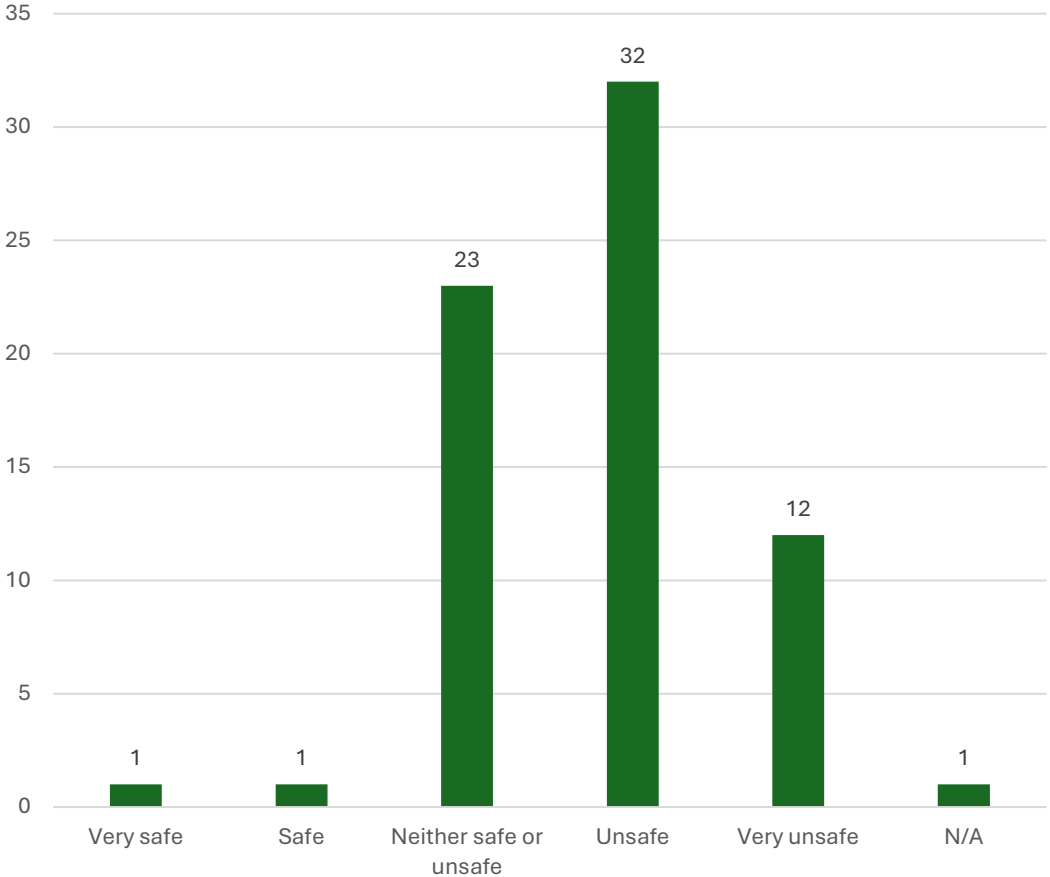
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (CCTV)

- CCTV is shown to be a very positive factor in the respondents with only a single respondent selecting either of the unsafe options.

- There is also a large number of responses that selected Very Safe suggesting that CCTV may be something that is a positive influence in many people eyes.
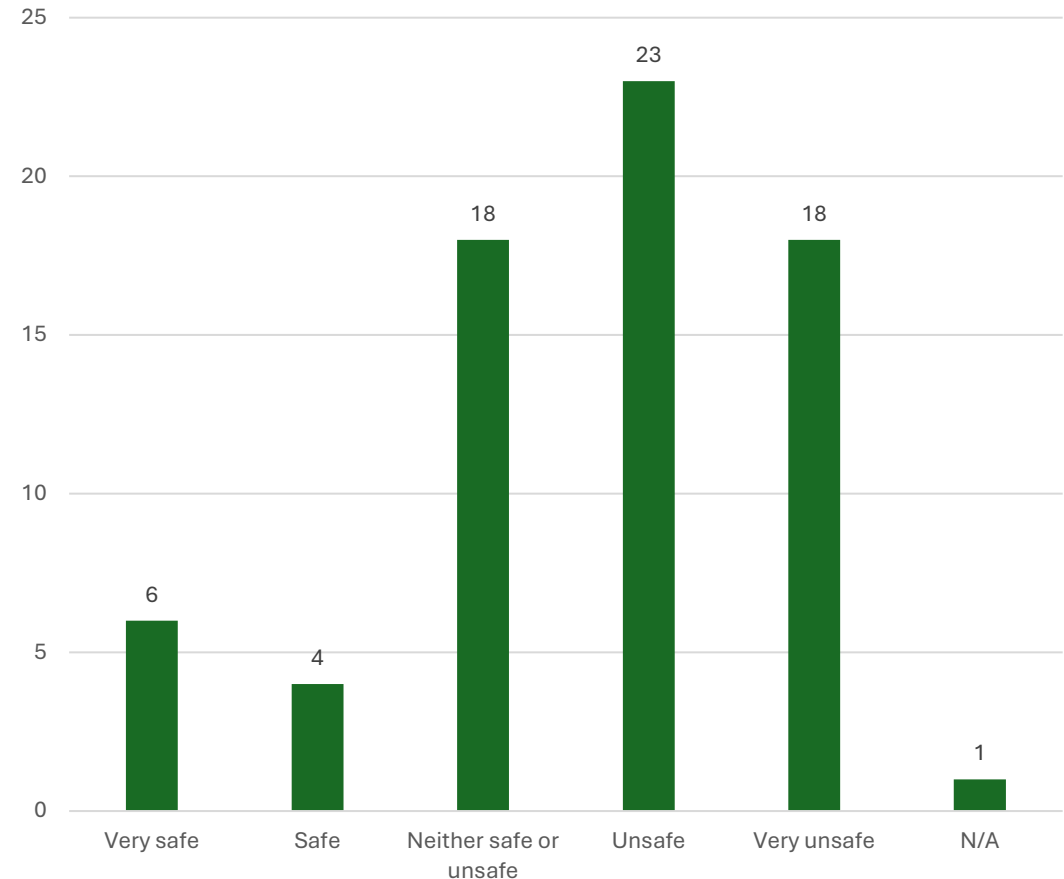
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Lack of CCTV)

- Following from the previous question regarding CCTV we can see that this reinforces the feeling of safety CCTV creates as there is an opposite distinction between feeling safe when there is CCTV and feeling unsafe when there is a lack of it.

Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Behaviour of men)

- We see that the behaviour of men is something that makes a lot of the respondents feel unsafe, which does line up with men being the large proportion of those that commit violent and sexual crimes towards women.

- However, this is something that would be harder to resolve as this would be a more cultural issue, that will take time to change.

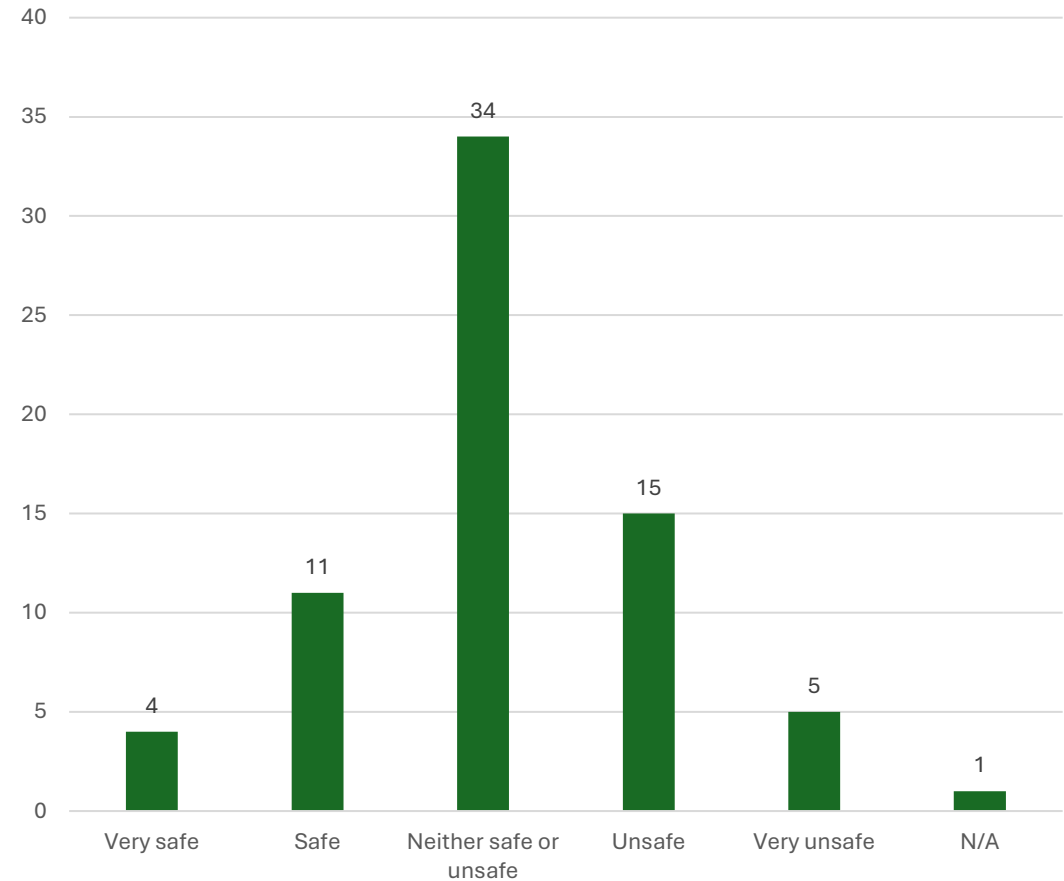# Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Behaviour of women)

- The chart shows that young people feel generally safer when thinking about the behaviour of women compared to men.

- But this is not to say that it's entirely safe as there were still some responses stating that they felt unsafe. But this may also be a factor caused by societal changes that are ongoing.
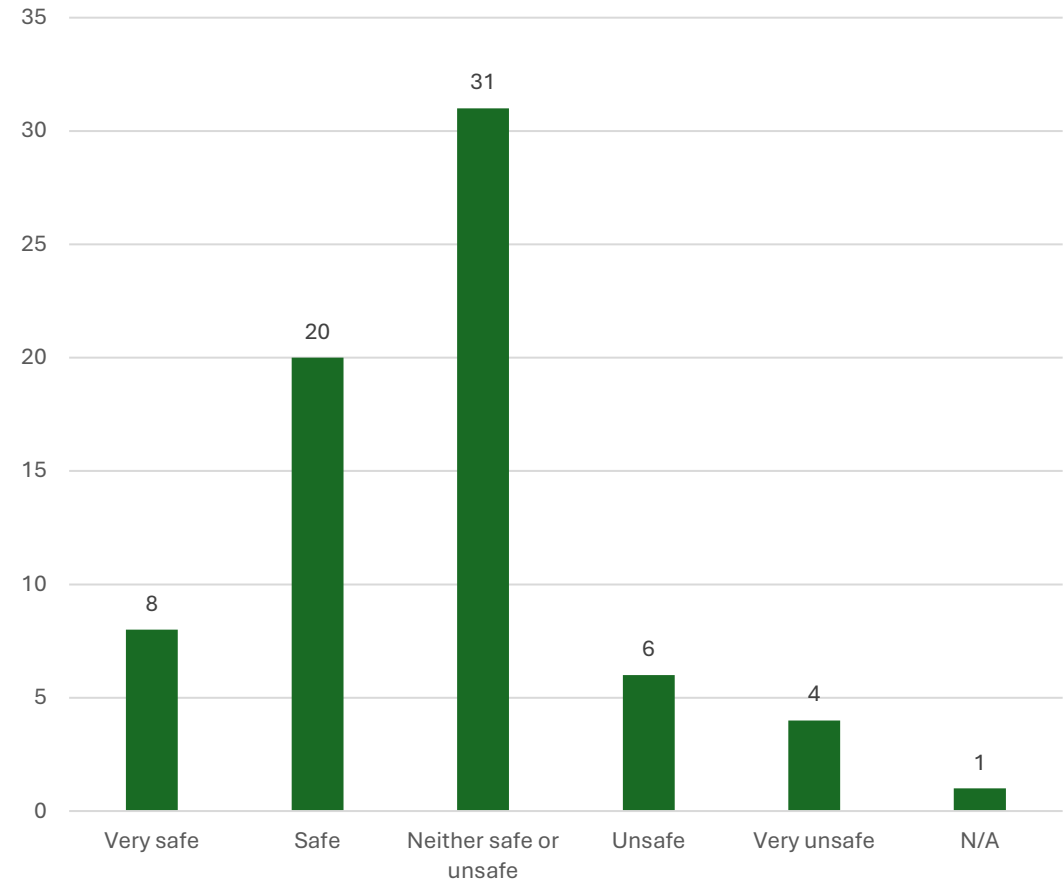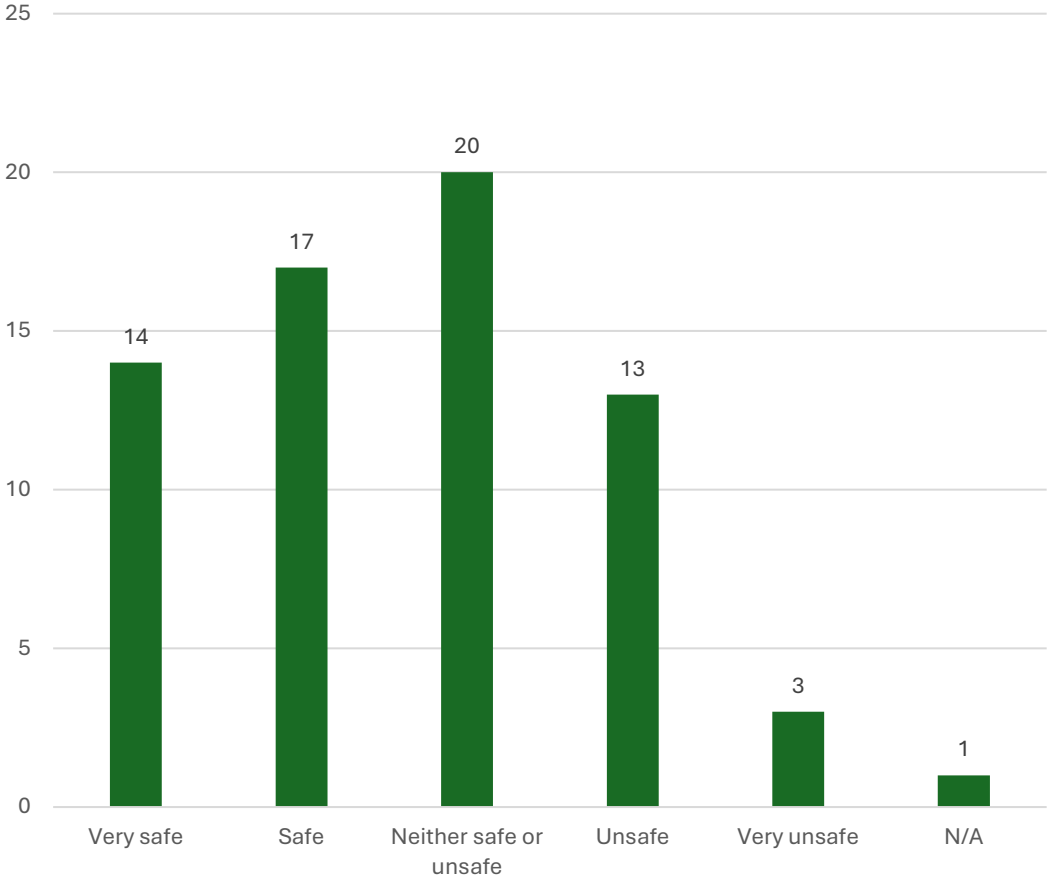
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Behaviour of adults)

- From the chart we can see most people were neutral regarding adults. This may be something that is more on a person by person basis as some adults are poor role models whilst others are positive role models.
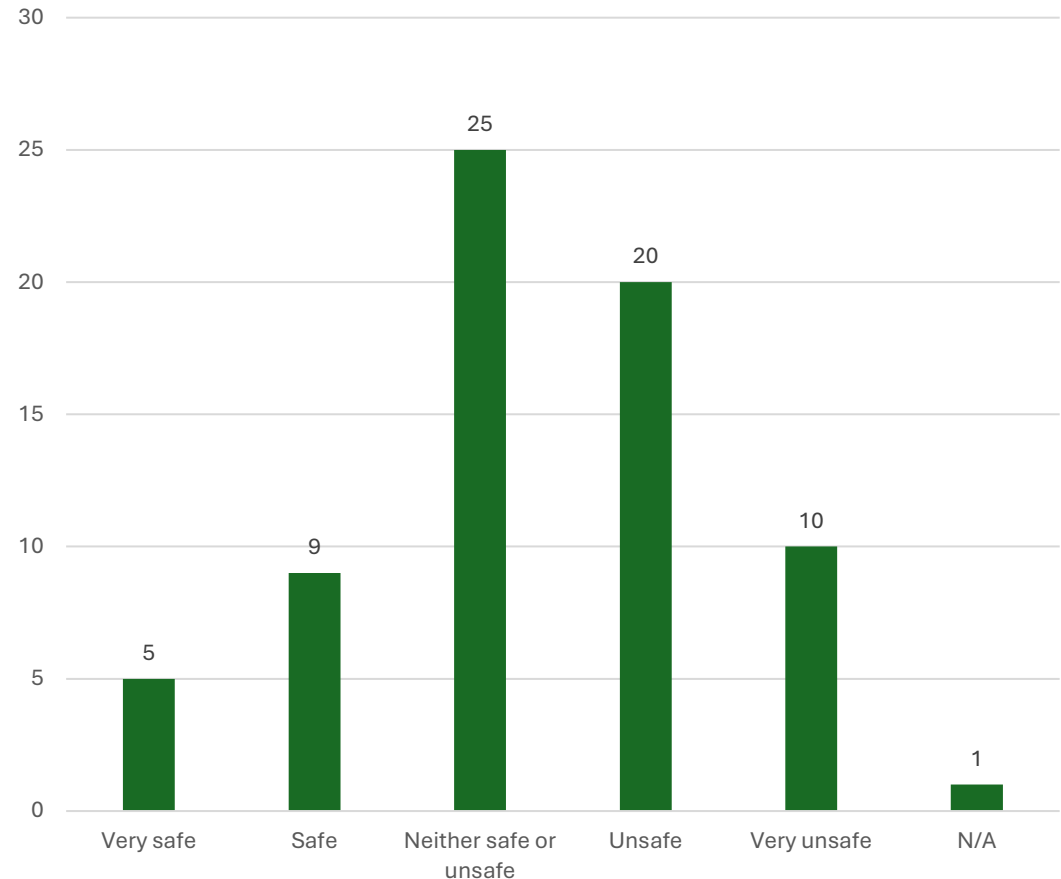
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Quiet streets)

- From the results whilst there is a small amount of Very Unsafe responses, there is a mixed response on the different levels suggesting that it isn't necessarily a large factor of safety but in certain situations quiet streets can cause unsafe feelings.

Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Behaviour of young people)

- Whilst the response for adults was mostly neutral and evenly spread across responses, we can see that even in young adults the behaviour of young people gives them a feeling of unsafety.

- This is something that suggests that it's not all young people that are the issue but some of them causing the issues.

Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Public Drinking)

- From the responses we can see that public drinking is something that makes young people feel unsafe, which is expected as alcohol is a factor that can contribute towards anti-social behaviour and violence.
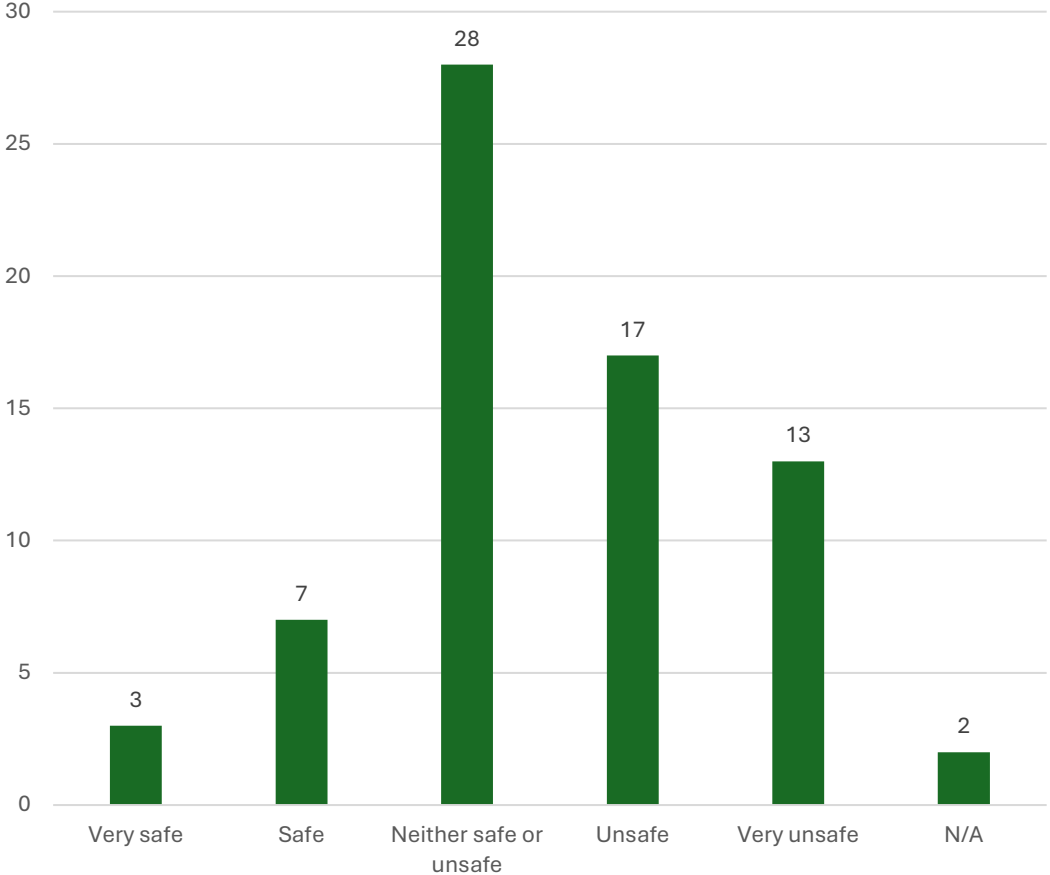
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Places/businesses to go to for help)

- We can see from the responses that places to go to help and appear to be a positive influence on the feelings of safety in young people.

- This also shows that this is something that should be looked into supporting further to help with perceptions in an area.
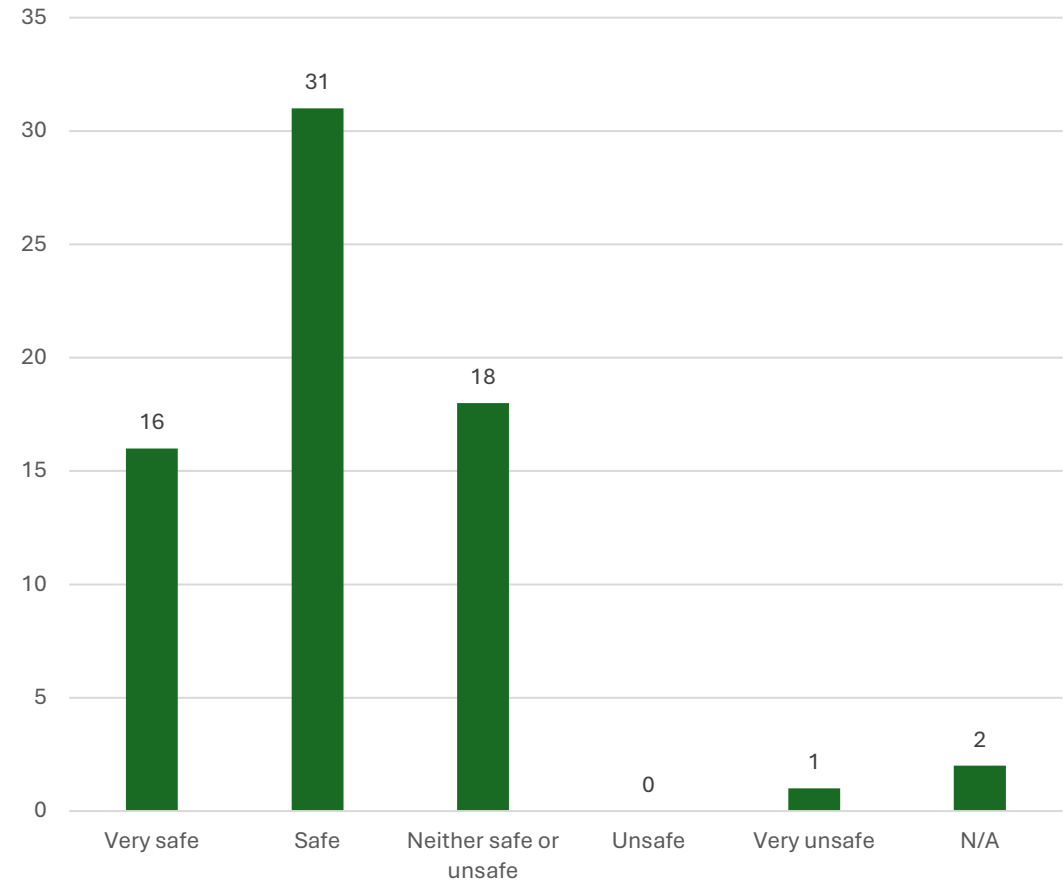
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (No places/businesses to go to for help)

- The response here was mostly negative, which mirrors the previous question. This further reinforces that having places to go for help is something that is providing value to the perception of safety in the East Riding.

Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Transport links)

- Transport links was perceived as something that was made the respondents feel safe, which could be related to being able to avoid darker areas or simply not having to travel to and from locations in isolation.
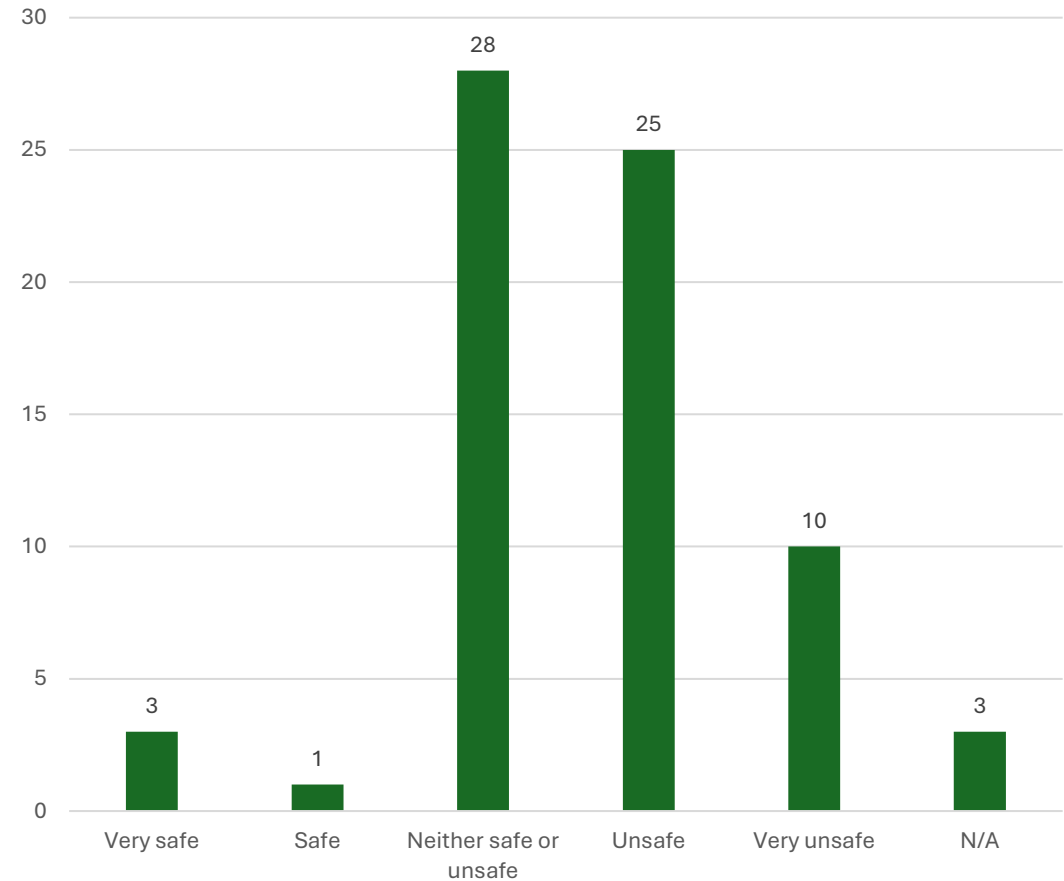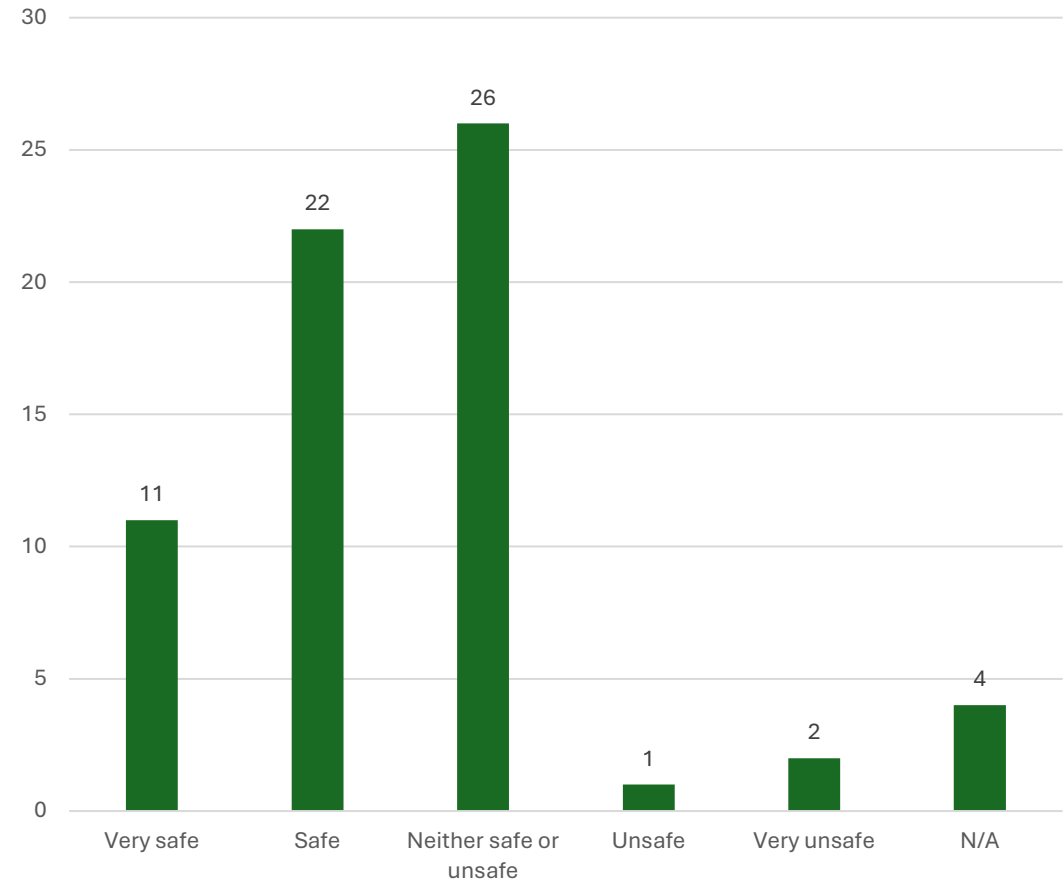
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (No transport links)

- From the responses made the predominant answers were neutral followed by unsafe, which suggests that the respondents find that having a lack of links contributes to being unsafe.

- This also could suggest that the respondents don't have transport links near them already so it wouldn't contribute to the feelings of safety or not.
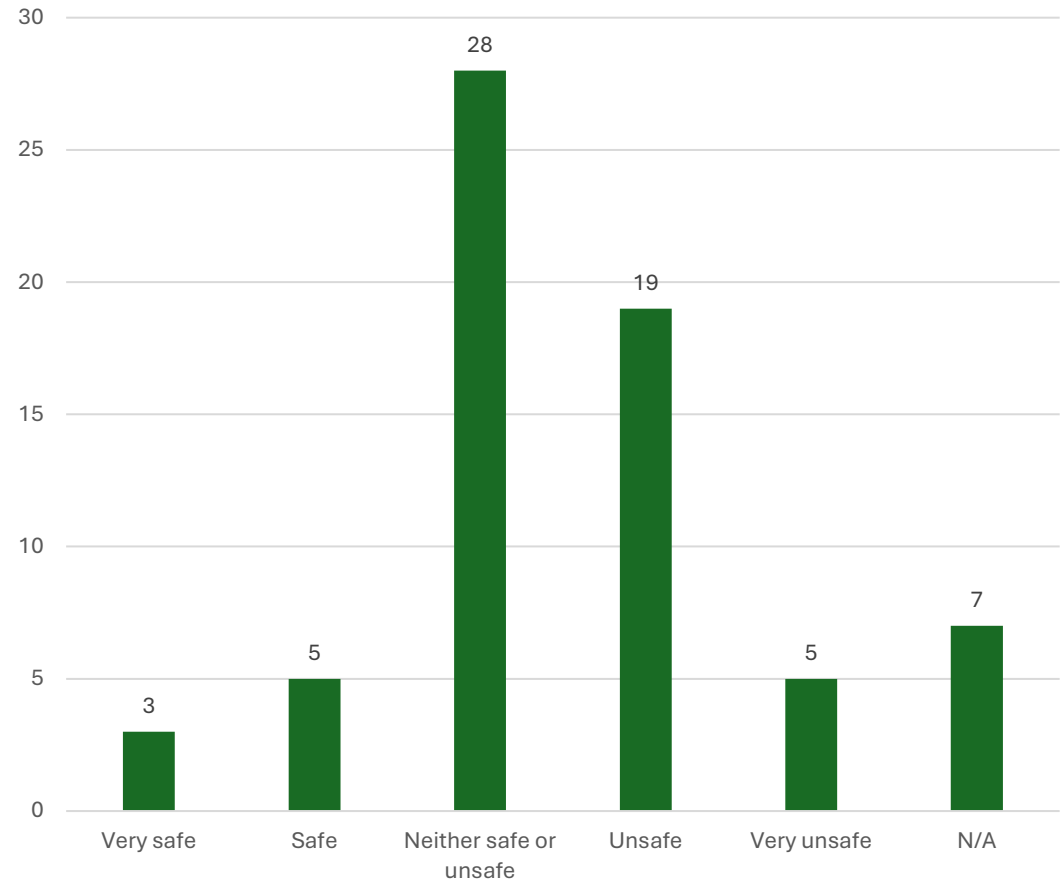
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (The area's reputation)

- From the response being mixed there is a possibility that the kind of reputation the area has contributes to the feelings of the area.

- So, if an area has a bad reputation people will feel unsafe but if there is a good reputation people will feel safe.
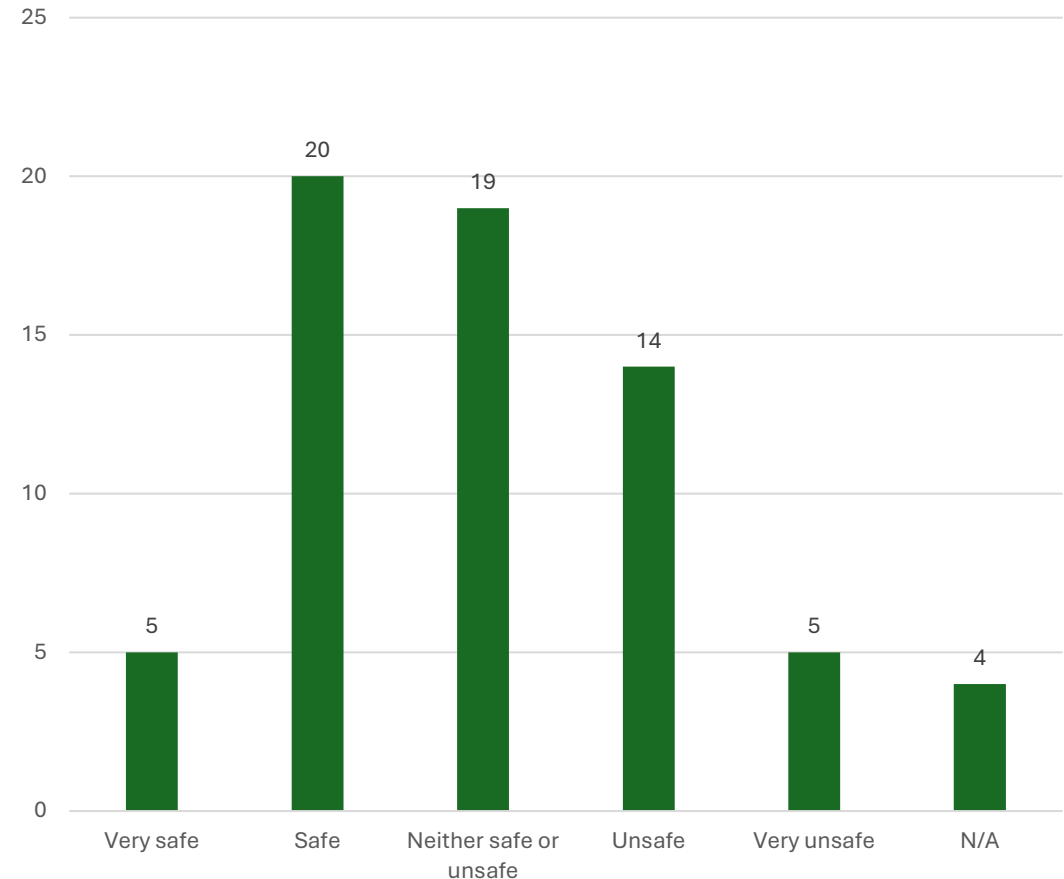
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Police presence)

- From the responses we can see that a police presence has a very positive affect on people's feelings of safety.

- Similarly, this is something that has come up in other surveys of all ages ranges when asking about crime.

- This appears to be the main improvement that people request in their local area.
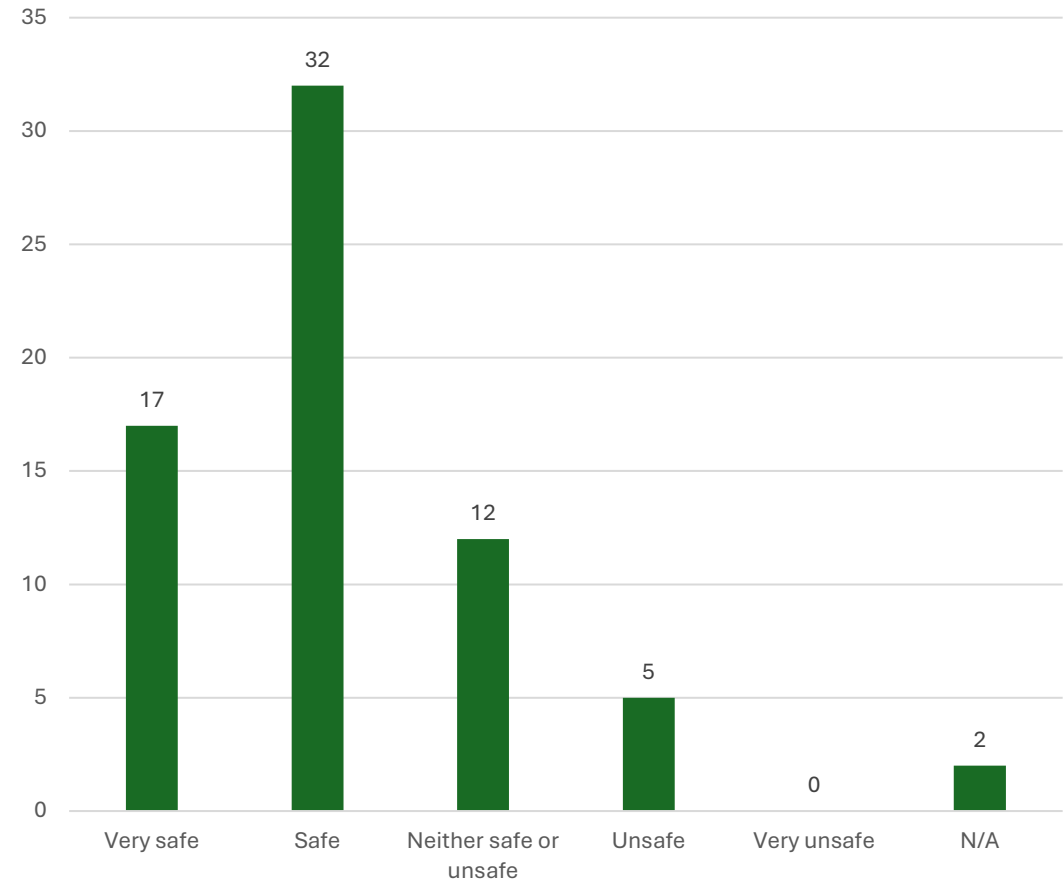
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (No police presence)

- When compared to the previous response we can see the that most chosen response was the neutral option, the feeling unsafe.

- This could be due to not having a police presence in their area already so having no police presence would be no different to a usual day.

- As there is a high number of unsafe responses, this is in agreement with the previous question showing police presence is a positive feeling of safety.
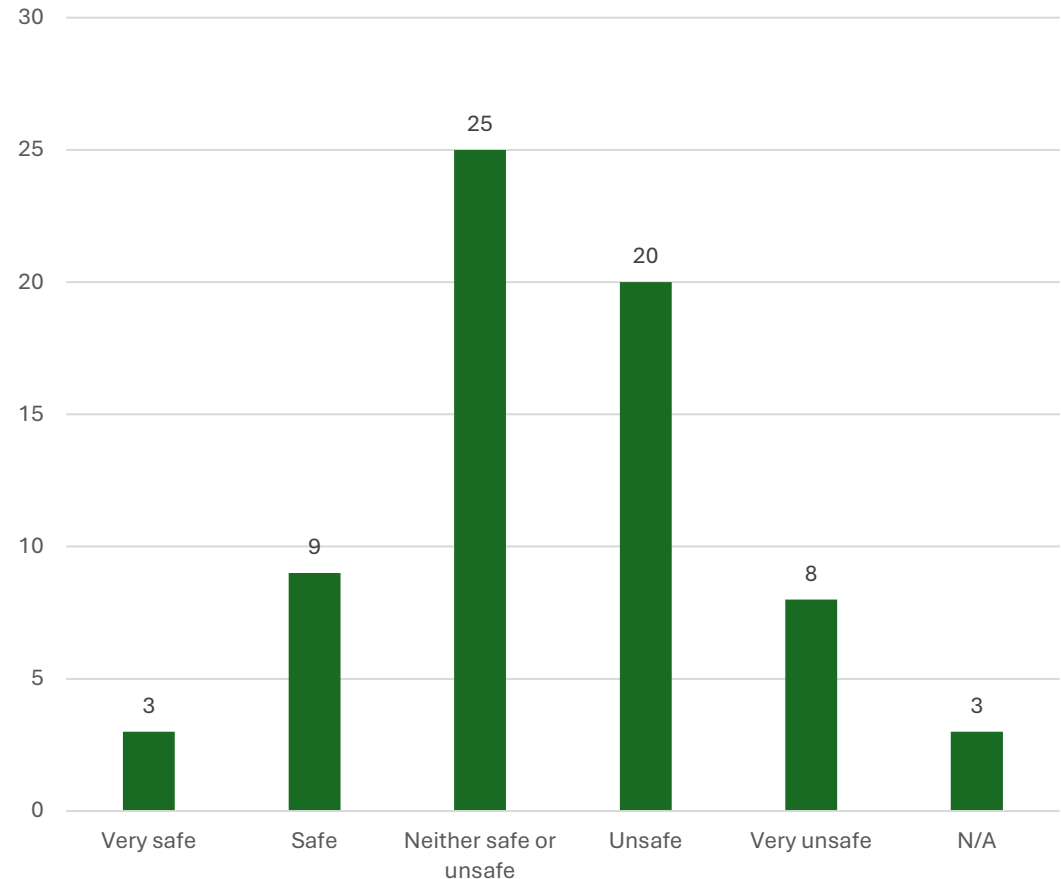
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Relationship with locals)

- We can see that there is a positive relationship between knowing those in your community and feelings of safety.

- This probably has association with being more comfortable around people you know more so than the unknown people in your communities and local areas.

- It would also be a defensive measure as should something happen, you would be able to more accurately report the incident.
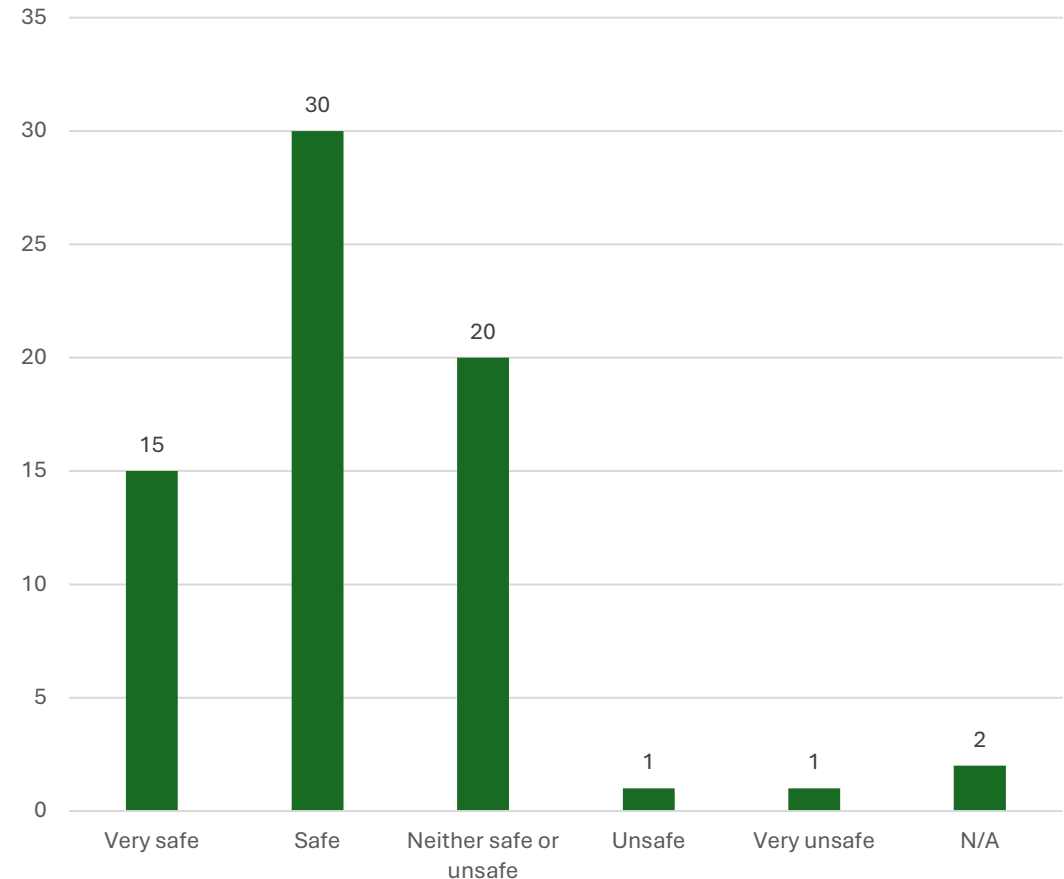
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Area is well maintained and clean)

- There is a mostly positive response to the area being well maintained and clean this is mostly likely interjoined with the reputation of the area.

- This is a common thought that occurs when going through areas, low maintenance and a lack of care in an area leads to people avoiding them.
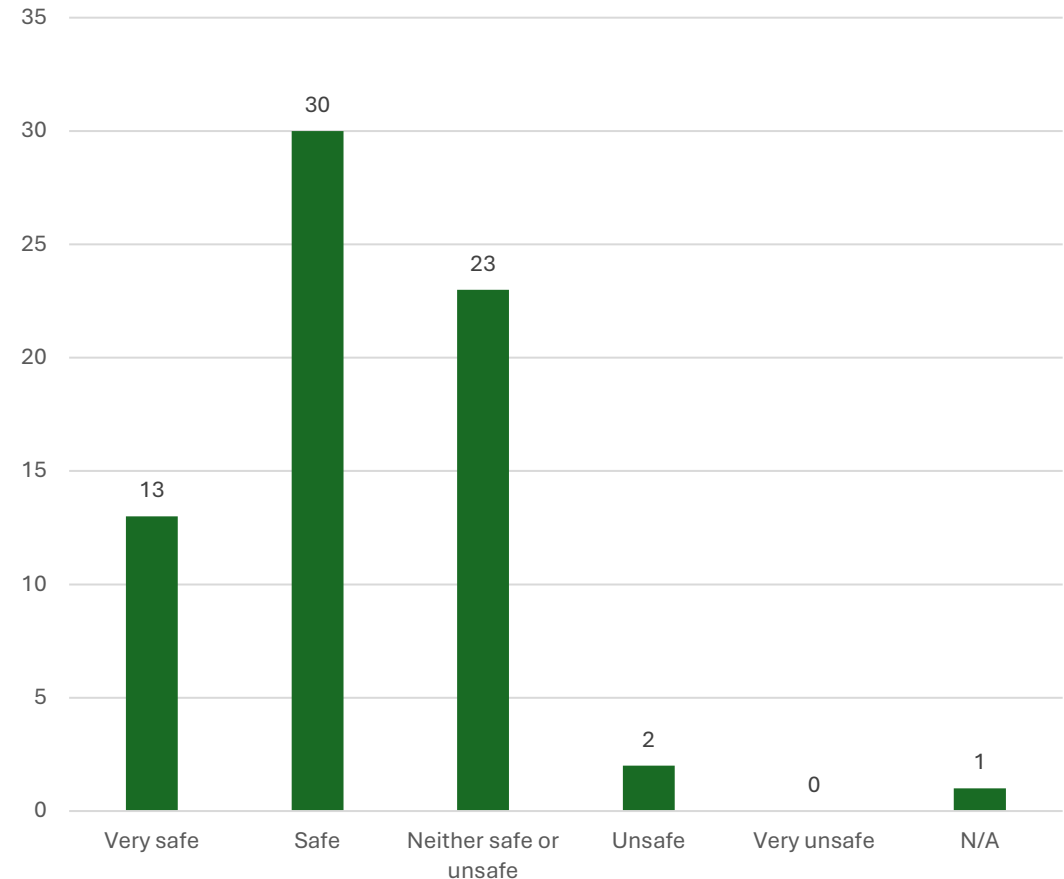
Thinking about the East Riding, please rate how the following places make you feel (Anti-social behaviour)

- Though not entirely unexpected this shows that anti-social behaviour does heavily affect feelings of safety in an area.

- Usually there is a point made that young adults and teenagers are the only cause of anti-social behaviour however, you can see that respondents of these groups also agree that anti-social behaviour is something that makes the local areas feel unsafe.
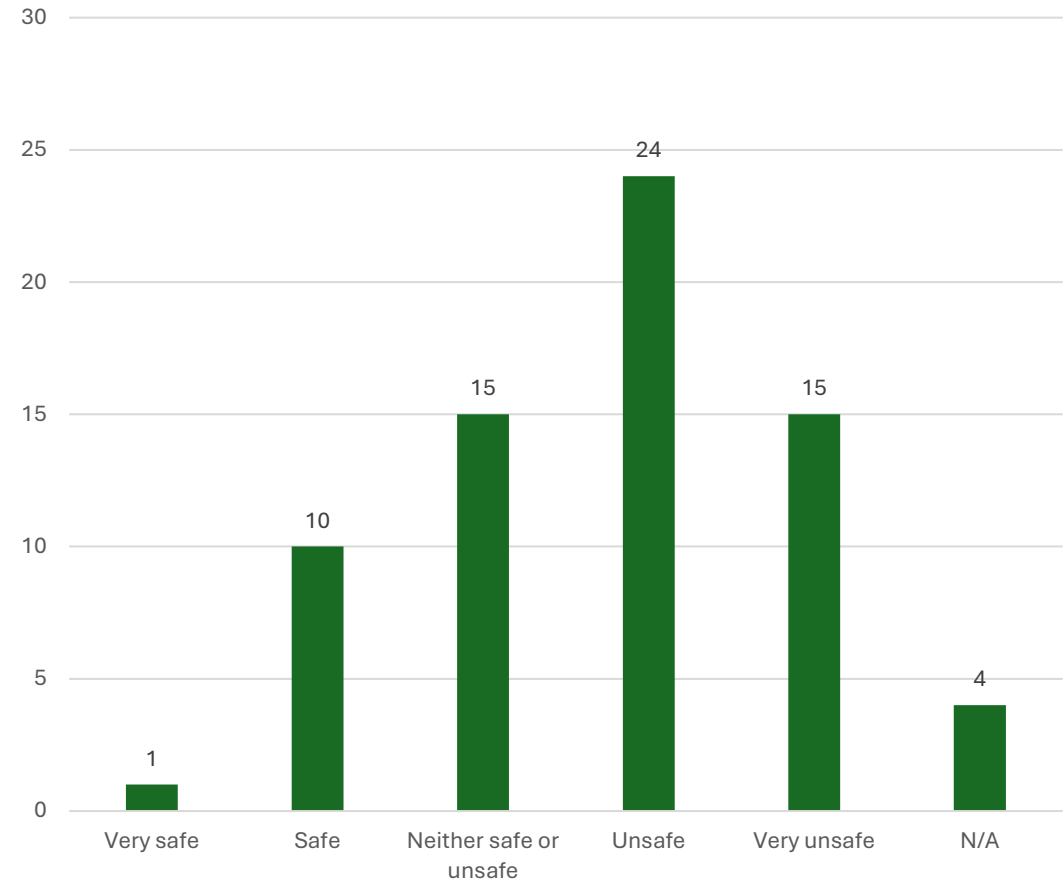
Have you ever done any of the following to help you feel safer? (Tick all that apply)

- There were 65 responses to this question. Of those 55 (85%) mentioned that they walked quickly/confidently to avoid incidents along with 80% avoiding certain areas and 78% sending text me when home messages to look out for their safety.

- From the responses we can see that there is a wide array of measures that are undertaken to try and protect their safety.

- This also suggests that there isn't a single surefire way to prevent incidents.

Measure	Count
Walking quickly and/or confidently	55
Avoid certain locations	52
Sent a 'text me when you get home' message	51
Called friends when walking home	44
Sent friends or family your location	43
Taken a different way home	42
Carried your keys in your hands	37
Choosing clothes that won't draw any...	36
Not listened to music through headphones...	33
Use a different method of transport	25
Carried an item to protect yourself, i.e, an...	13
Using safety apps	11
Sent your taxi's number plate to friends and...	6
Carried a personal alarm	5
Ran home	1
Asked somebody else to meet me e.g., a parent	1
None	1

What is the biggest threat to young people in your area?

- This question was an open text response that 64 of the respondents wrote answers to.

- We can see that the main two responses are both drug related be that legal or otherwise.

- Looking at all the responses we can see that only one of them had issues that related to infrastructure. This shows that the young people who responded to this survey are dealing more so with societal problems like the behaviour of others rather than the area not being in a safe manner.
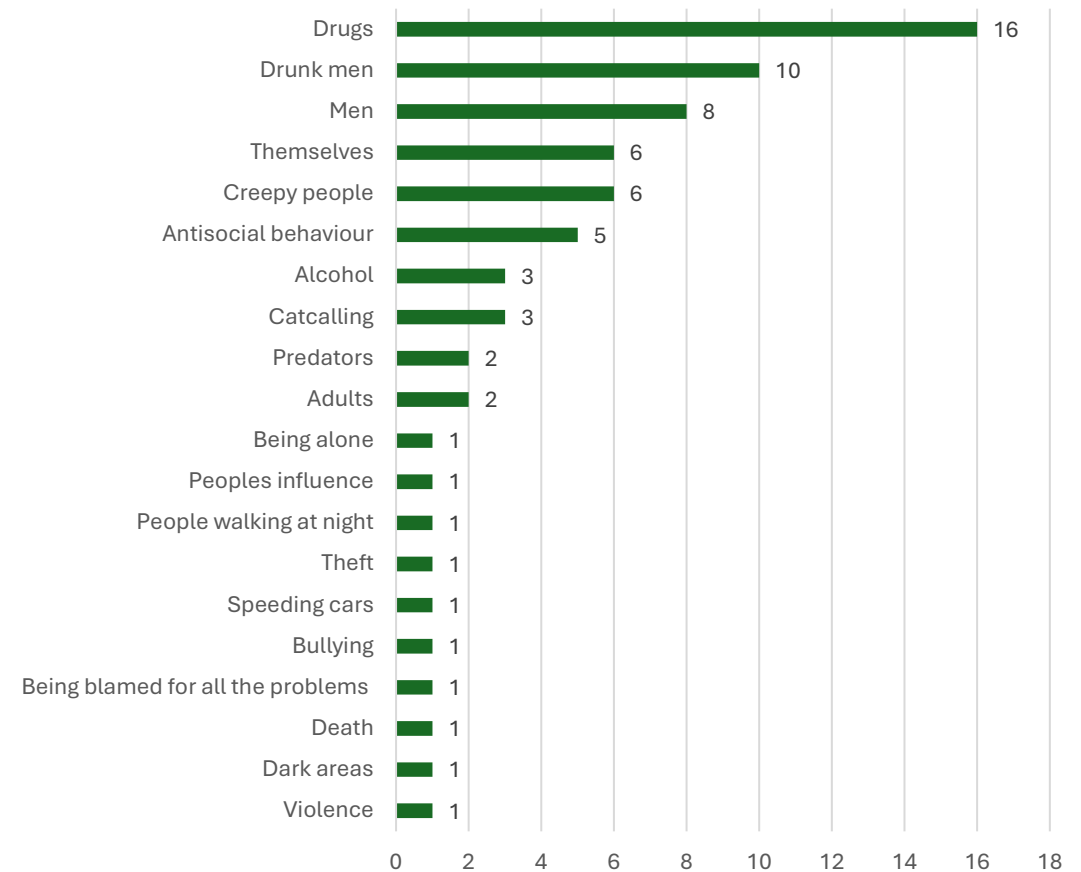
If you could change or add one thing in your town, village or city to help you feel safer, what would it be?

- There were 53 responses to this questions.

- There was a high answer density for the top two responses which were relating to police presence and lighting which both act as deterrents for violent behaviours be that directly with police officers or indirectly with lighting making potential threats more visible.

- From this question there is a general trend of infrastructural changes to their local area to help them feel safer.

Category	Value
Police presence	19
Lighting	14
CCTV	7
Cleaner/better maintained spaces	5
Less drug/alcohol users	3
More to stop antisocial behaviour	2
More services to help	2
More phoneboxes	2
Friendlier people	2
More transport links	1
Focus on abuse towards men as well	1
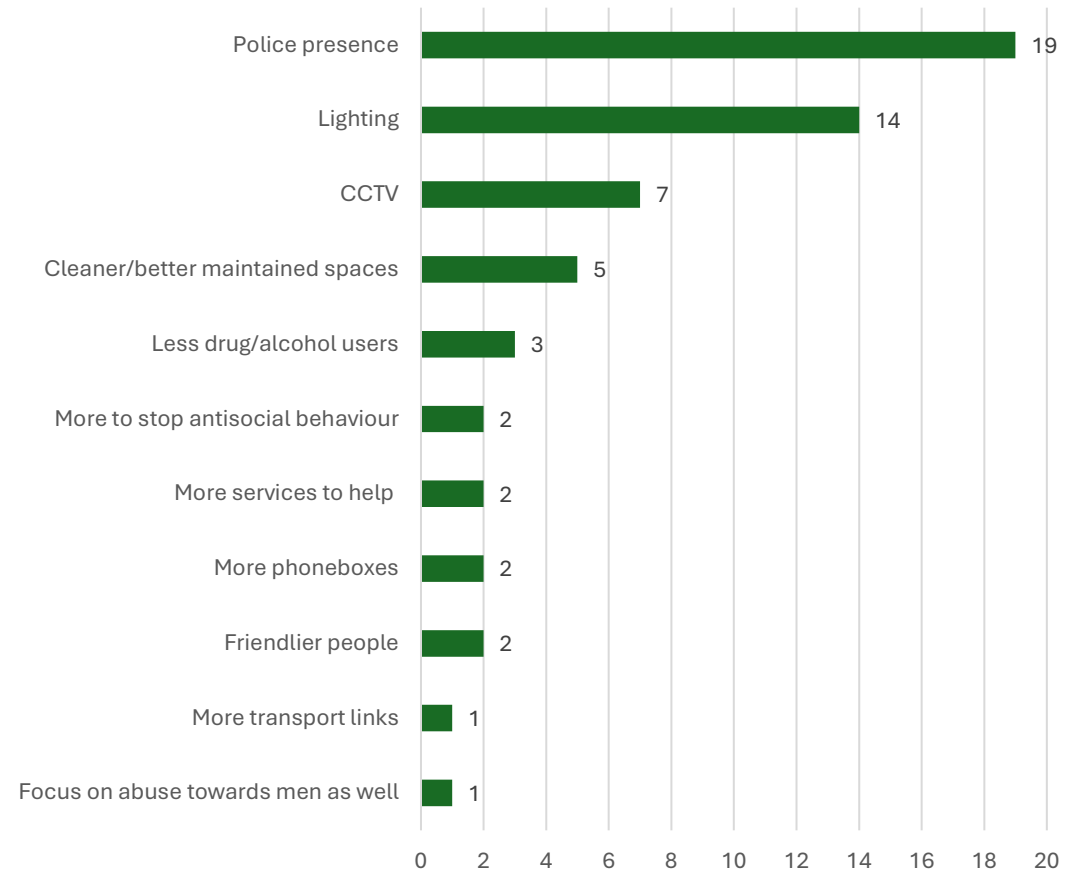
In relation to violence against women and girls, have you or a friend ever experienced or witnessed any of the following:

- There was 70 responses to this question and allowed for multiple selected choices.

- The most prominent was Catcalling/ wolf-whistling with 72.9% of respondents stating that they had seen or experienced it.

- Of note as well is that of all the options that were provided there was no options that were not selected by a respondent. These numbers will also be slightly higher than reported here as some selected all of the above along with some other options.

- This goes to show that young adults are being subjected to these kind of behaviours even at a younger age.
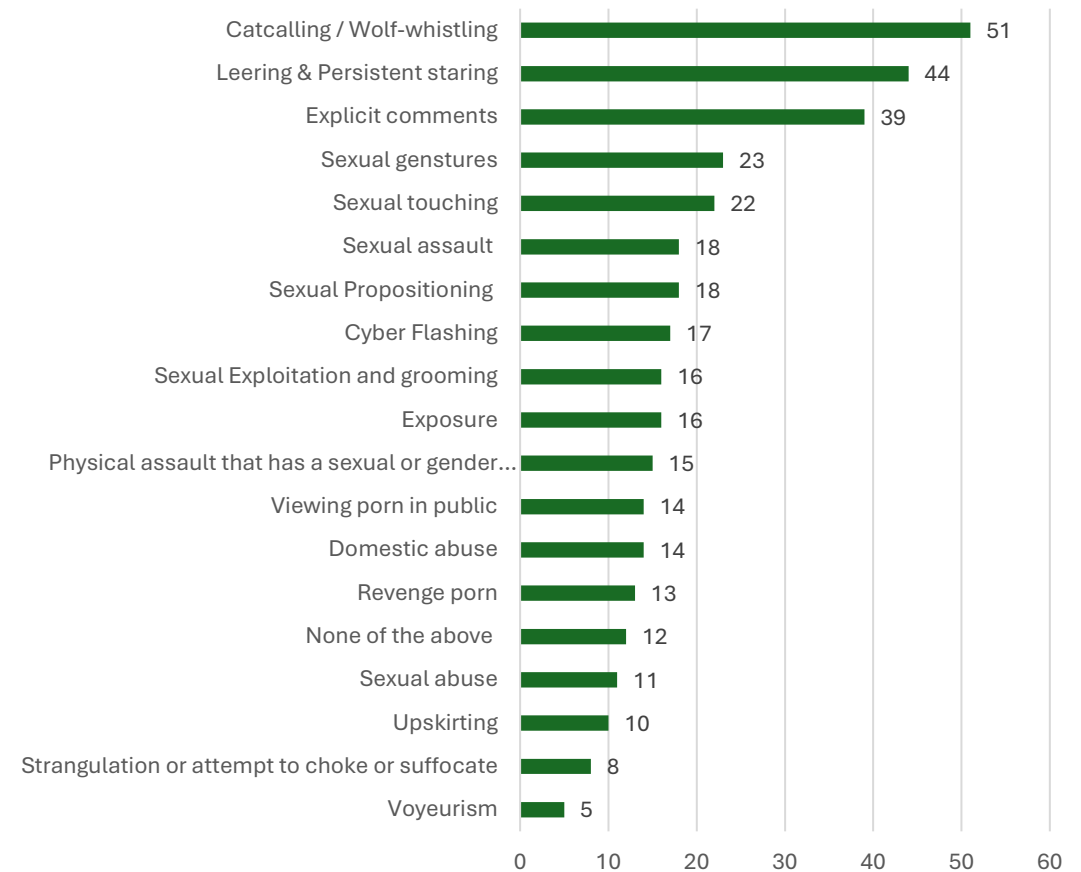
Did you report the incident(s)?

- There was 69 responses to this question of which just over half of the responses stated that they did not report the incident of the crime.

- The question did not have follow ups regarding the reasons for this so we cannot make inferences regarding the reasonings.
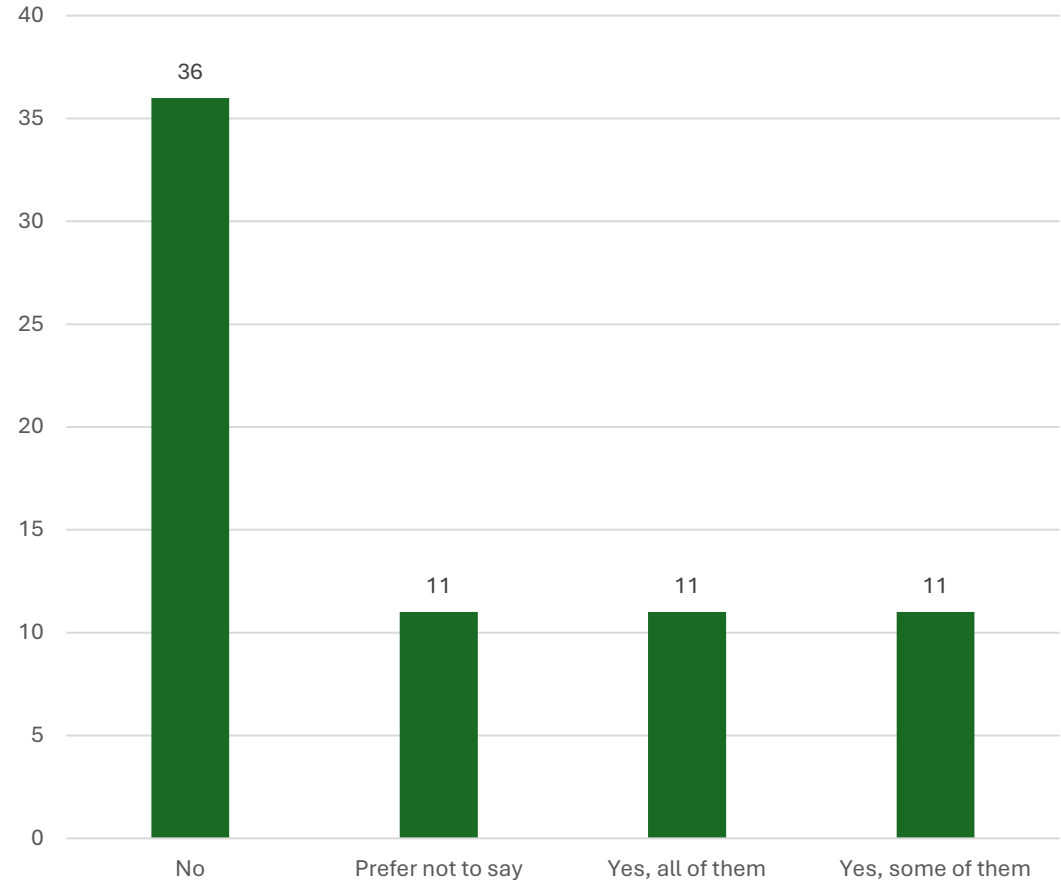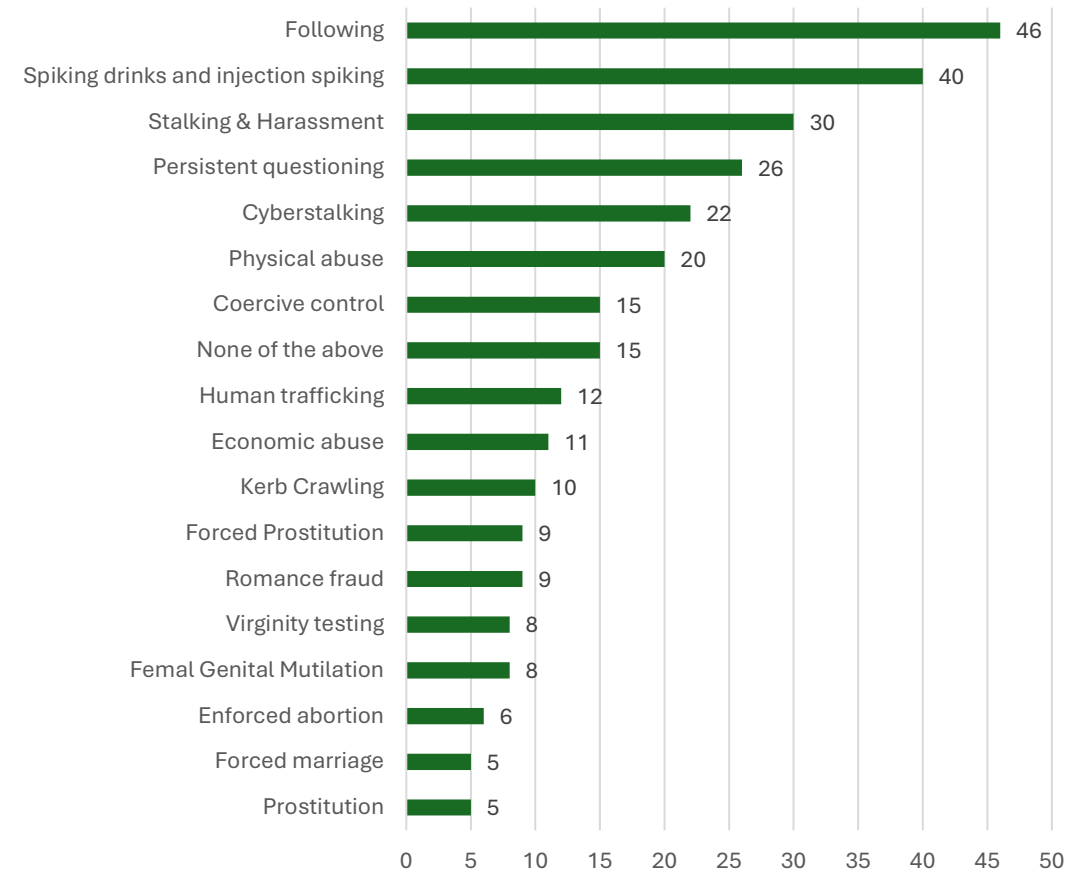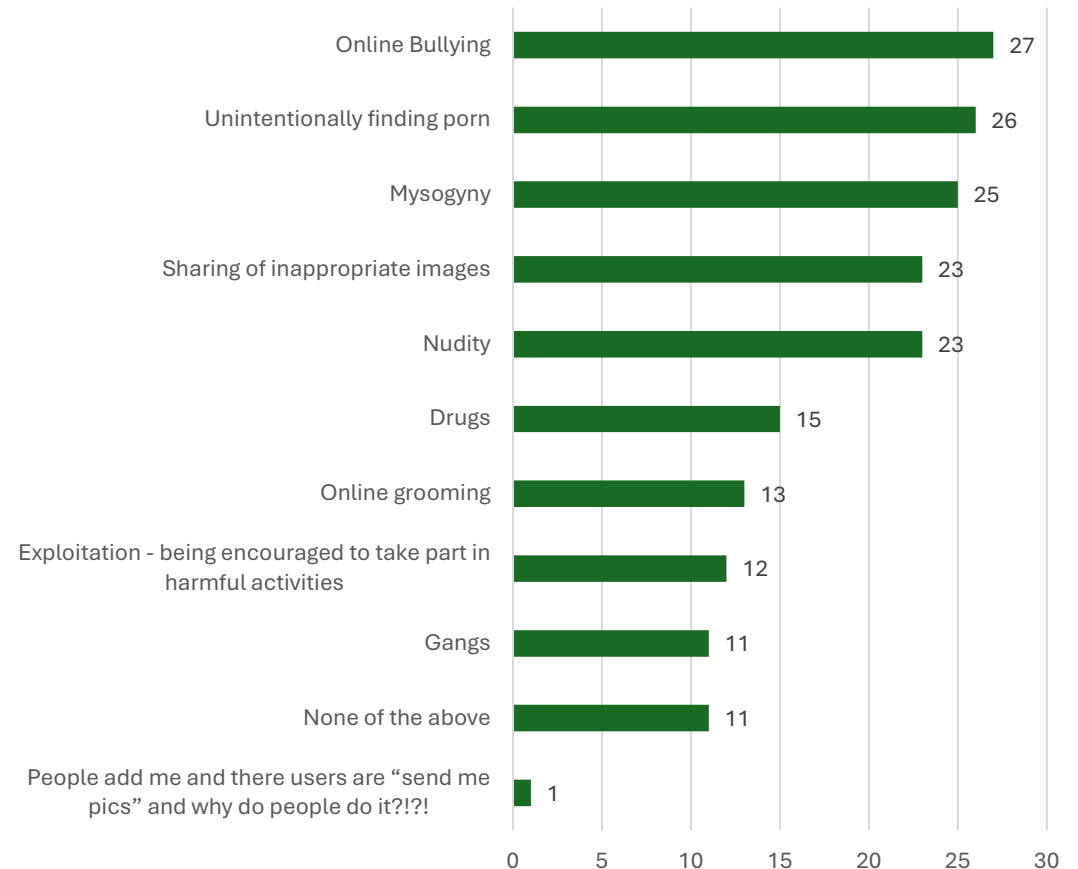
Have you, or a friend, ever been concerned about any of the following:

- There was 70 responses to this question where it was multiple choice but we can see that 66% of responded with concerns of being followed and 58% concerned about spiking.

- There have been ongoing campaigns and support for helping with spiking in local bars and clubs, for example. Survey results highlight the need to raise awareness of other active campaigns around the issues raised.

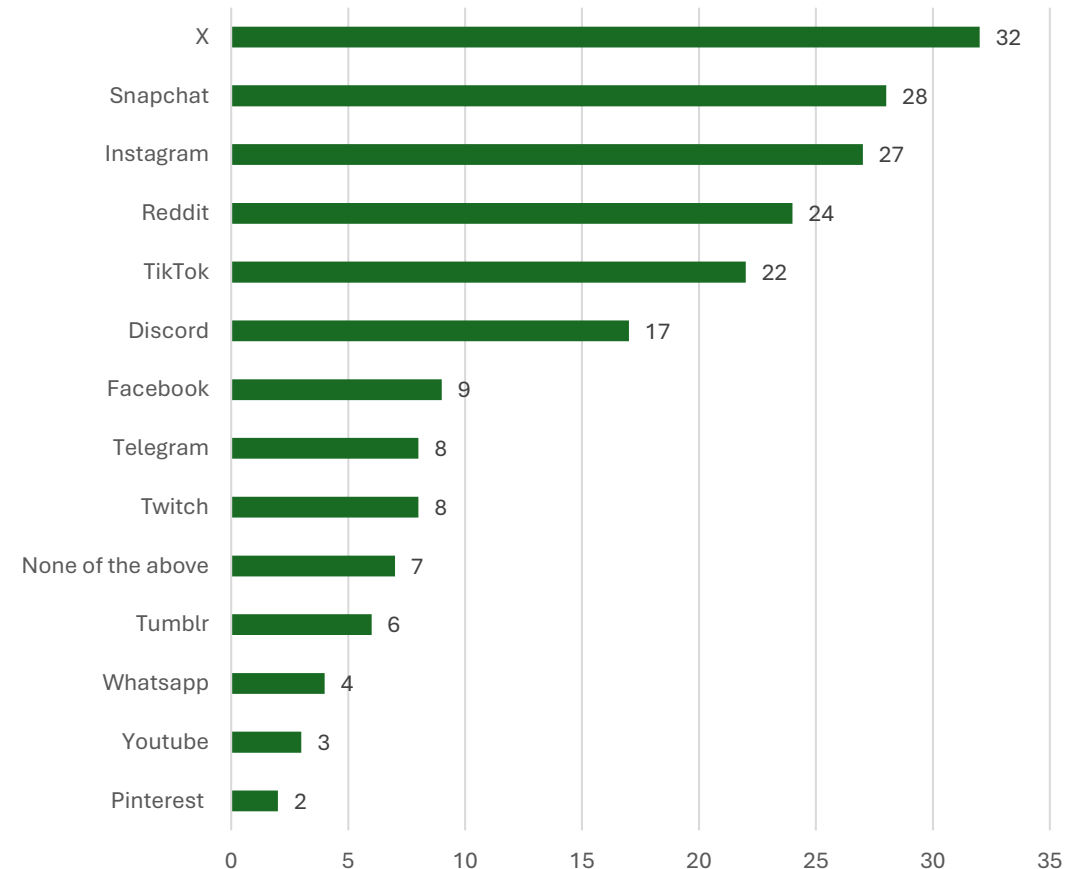| Category	Value
Following	46
Spiking drinks and injection spiking	40
Stalking & Harassment	30
Persistent questioning	26
Cyberstalking	22
Physical abuse	20
Coercive control	15
None of the above	15
Human trafficking	12
Economic abuse	11
Kerb Crawling	10
Forced Prostitution	9
Romance fraud	9
Virginity testing	8
Femal Genital Mutilation	8
Enforced abortion	6
Forced marriage	5
Prostitution	5

Have you or a friend experienced any of the following online?

- This question had 67 responses and was multiple choices.

- Whilst there was 11 that noted they had not experienced any of the above that 82.6% had been exposed to criminal/sexual acts online.

- This further goes to show that even without necessarily searching for this kind of content online it is still observed or experienced by young adults.

Online Bullying — 27
Unintentionally finding porn — 26
Mysogyny — 25
Sharing of inappropriate images — 23
Nudity — 23
Drugs — 15
Online grooming — 13
Exploitation - being encouraged to take part in harmful activities — 12
Gangs — 11
None of the above — 11
People add me and there users are "send me pics" and why do people do it?!?! — 1

On which social media site(s) do you feel more likely to encounter this material?

- There were 68 responses to this question.

- The question was multiple choice and from the results we can see that the sites that are most likely to encounter the material are those that are mostly used by the websites that are used more so by younger audiences.

- X being the highest one is something of concern though with the website going through a recent rebrand and a change in policy in what is allowed on the site and through postings.

- Of note on here as well are the results of those mentioning Discord and Twitch which are sites associated with streaming, youtube and gaming communities. But these areas are also unfortunately on the rise in usage but is abusable as well without proper moderation.

| Site	Value
X	32
Snapchat	28
Instagram	27
Reddit	24
TikTok	22
Discord	17
Facebook	9
Telegram	8
Twitch	8
None of the above	7
Tumblr	6
Whatsapp	4
Youtube	3
Pinterest	2

Do you know of any organisations that you can report harassment, abuse or violence to?

- From the result here we can see that there is an overwhelming majority of young people who don't know what support there is available for the issues mentioned.

- This could either be due to a lack of targeted advertising in appropriate areas or ineffective methods being used.
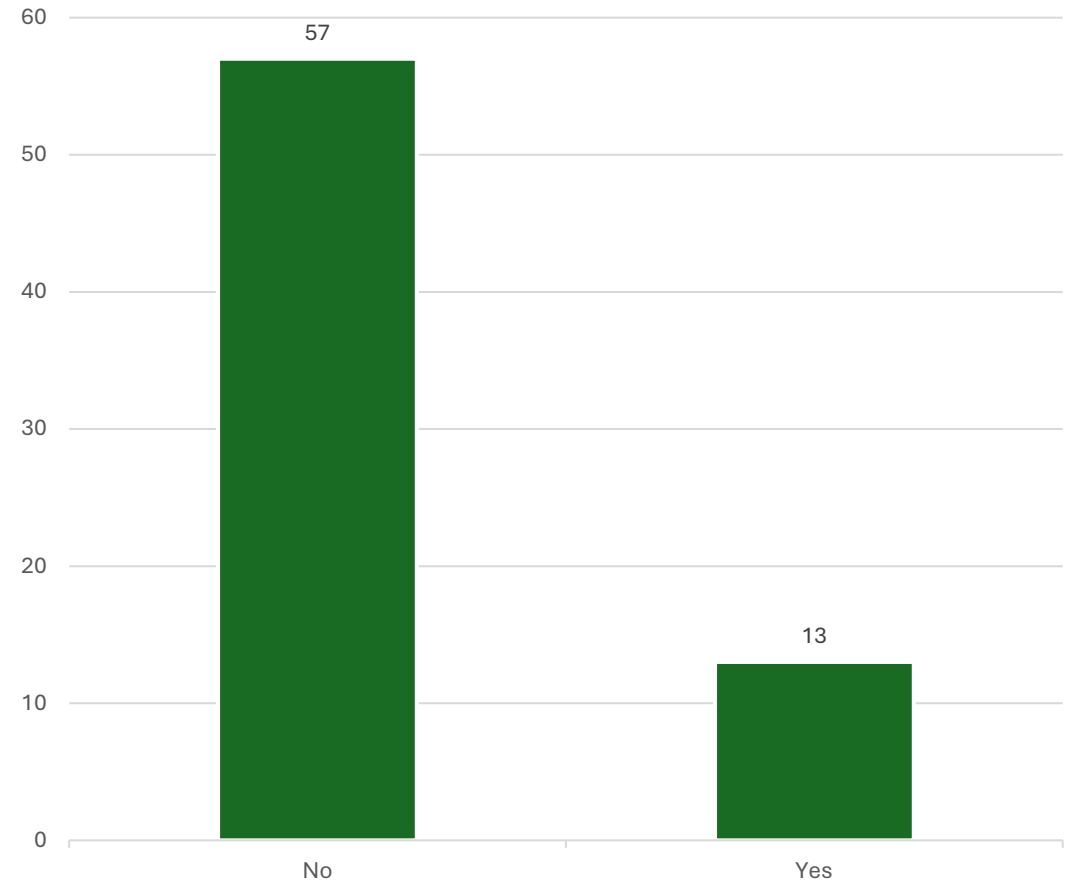
If yes, then please tell us which:

- There was 12 responses for this follow up question.
- We can see that the consensus for organisations that are contactable the police was the most mentioned with some other options mentioned though notable most of these were part of responses that also mentioned police as well.
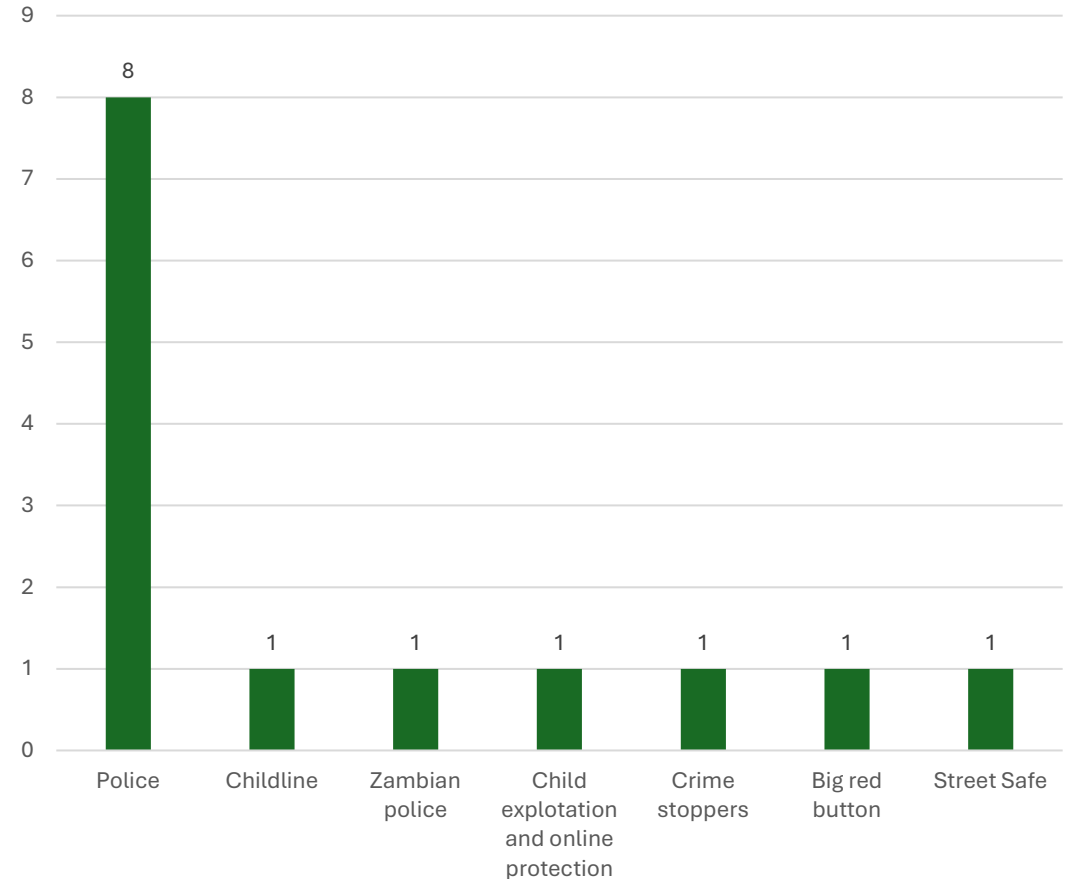
If you have experienced harassment, abuse, or violence, did anyone intervene and help you in the situation?

- There were 60 responses to this question.

- From the responses we see that over 50% of responses saying that no one intervened in the incident. Whilst this is not going to be true in every incident this could be improved by further bystander training being provided to people in the community.
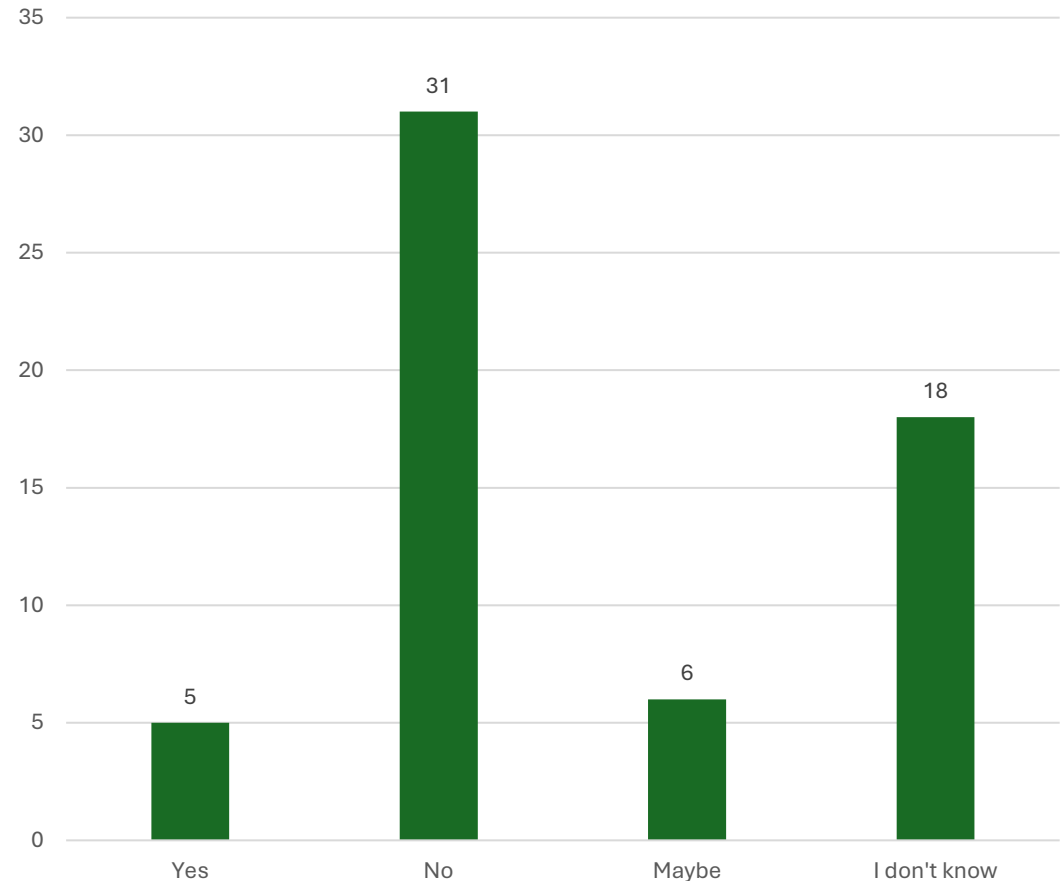
If yes, what did that person do to help?

- There wasn't many responses to the question however, all responses on the table here.

- There is a variety of responses given showing there isn't a standard kind of assistance to provide to someone who may require aid.

| |
|---|
| Got knocked out |
| There wasn't any situation. |
| Speak to the person sending that content to advise them not to |
| confrontation |
| when an unknown man came over to me and continued talking to me and trying stuff |
| with me a couple came over and pretended to be my parents as they saw I was |
| They didn't |
| kicked people out of a club |

Have you heard of the Street Safe app?

- There was 70 responses to this question.

- 63% of respondents had not even heard of the app with only 2 responses who have actively interacted with the app itself which shows a very low level of uptake in the use of the app.
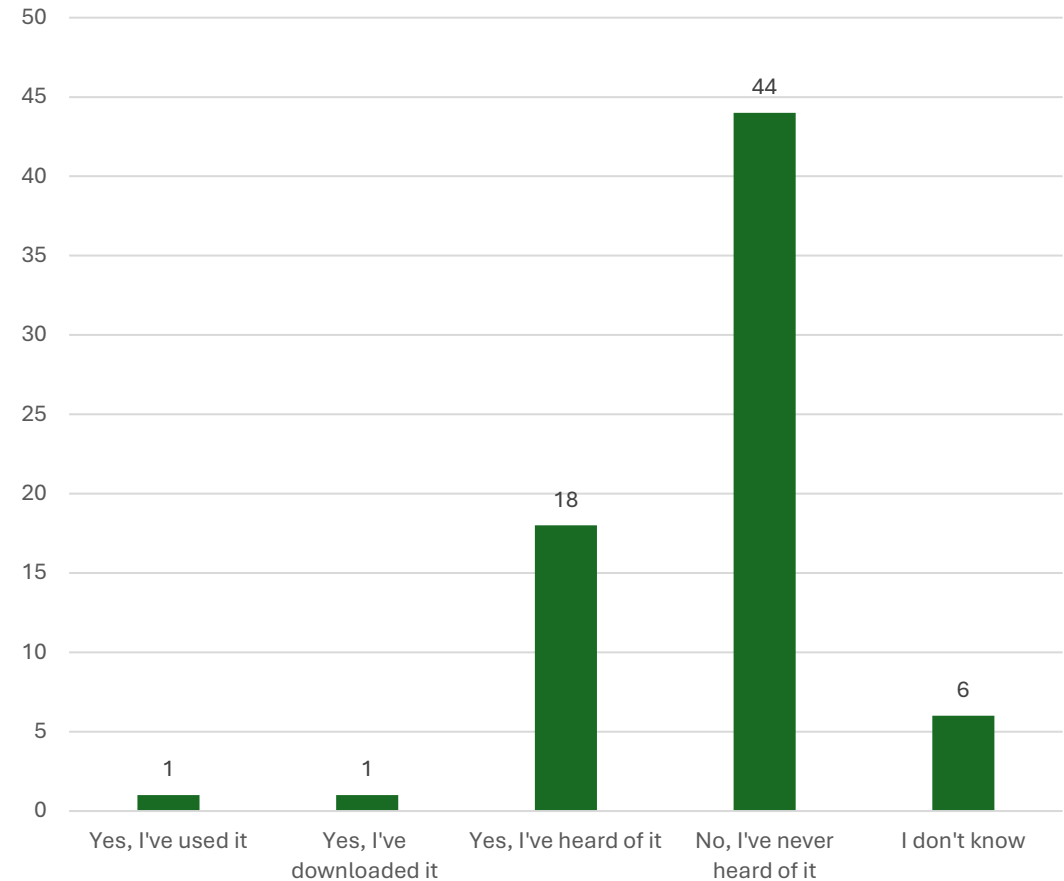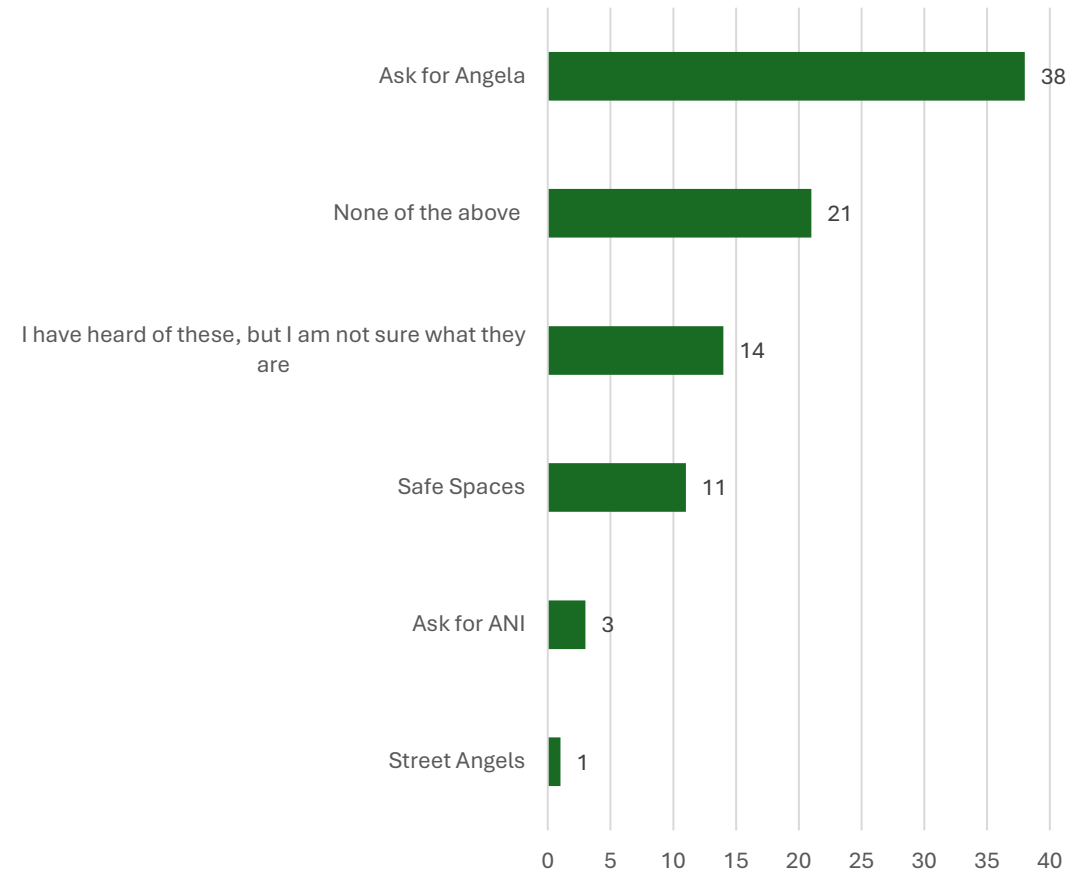
Did you know that you can also report safety concerns regarding pubs and taxis to the Licensing Team at the Council?

- There was 70 responses to this question.

- 67% of the responses was not aware of being able to report to the licensing teams.

- This suggests that this could be an area for improved communication/marketing for the information to be available for young adults to be able to take advantage of this resource.
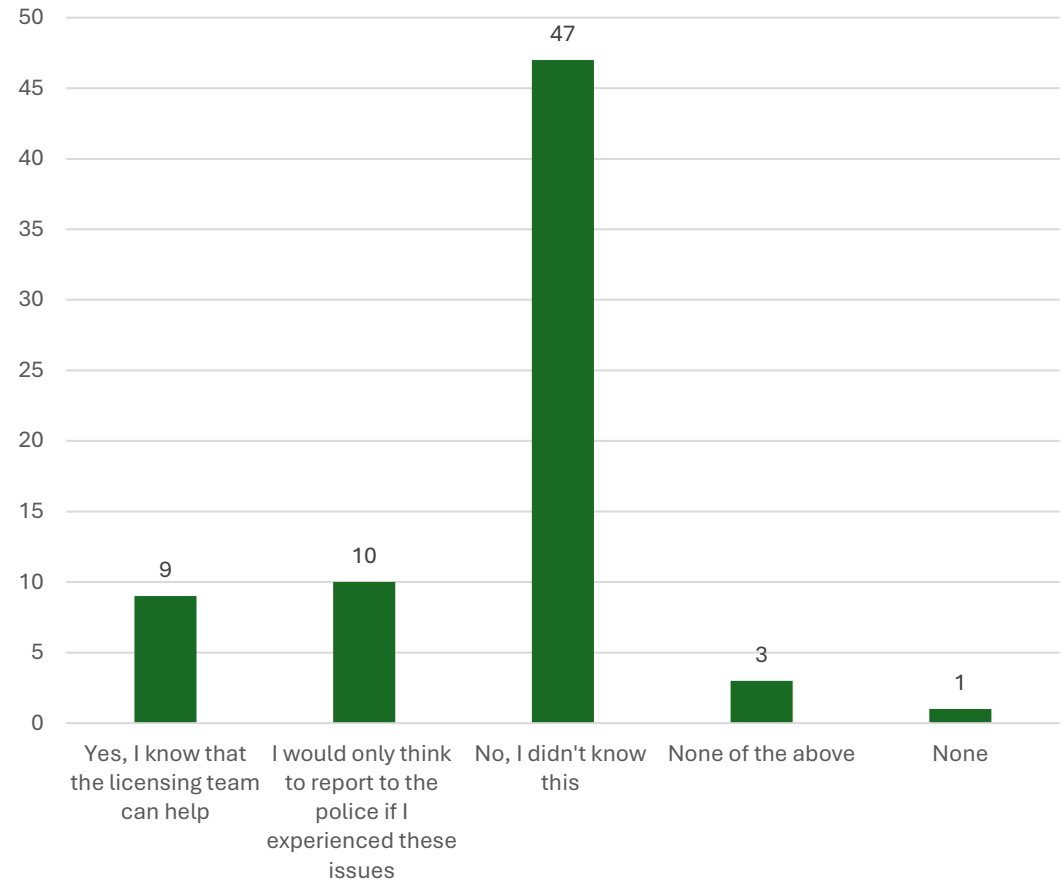
Are you aware of any of the following campaigns that offer support when people need help? (tick all that apply)

- There was 68 responses to this question.

- Of these, 35 of the responses had an answer of either not knowing of the campaigns or not being aware of how they can assist them with issues they may face.

- Of the campaigns that are known we can see that Ask for Angela is a well known campaign amongst young adults.

Campaign	Value
Ask for Angela	38
None of the above	21
I have heard of these, but I am not sure what they are	14
Safe Spaces	11
Ask for ANI	3
Street Angels	1

Any other comments?

- There wasn't many additional comments, but they are included the table to showcase what was mentioned.

- Whilst there isn't enough to show trends. multiple mentioned teenage boys being an issue in their area.

| |
|---|
| Please make the area safer |
| Its overlooked when teenage boys do it because theyre "just boys being boys" and its wrong men should be taught to respEct people |
| Teenage boys getting away with too much |
| I am 14 in year 9 at Bridlington school lads at my school cat call people a lot and mess about and I get bullied a lot. |
| Choose better questions |
| i feel less safe in city centres than anywhere else |
| Me and my friends got cornered in a takeaway once by 2/3 intoxicated 19 year olds and one of them was putting his arms around 2 of my friends. We asked him to back off multiple times in a nice way. The staff didn't notice so I ended up having to push through them to get my friends outside. |

Please provide the first half of your postcode

- There was 65 responses to this question.

- We can see that a majority of the responses were either in the HU area or the YO areas in and around the East riding.

- Though with the small sample size it's hard to identify trends in specific areas.
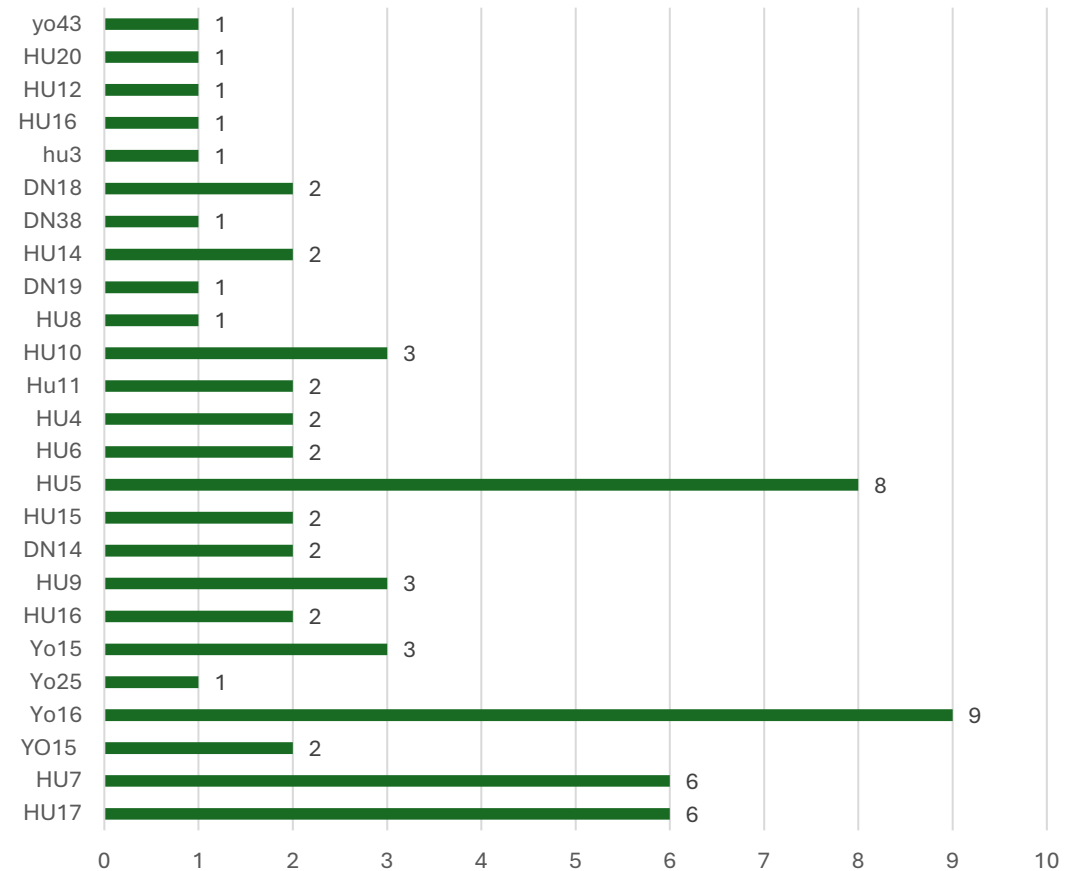
Are you?

- As expected with the nature of the survey it was predominately answered by female young adults.

- The survey did also manage to gather responses from some male respondents as well which whilst it isn't directly affecting them with VAWG it shows that some issues faced are also affecting young men as well.
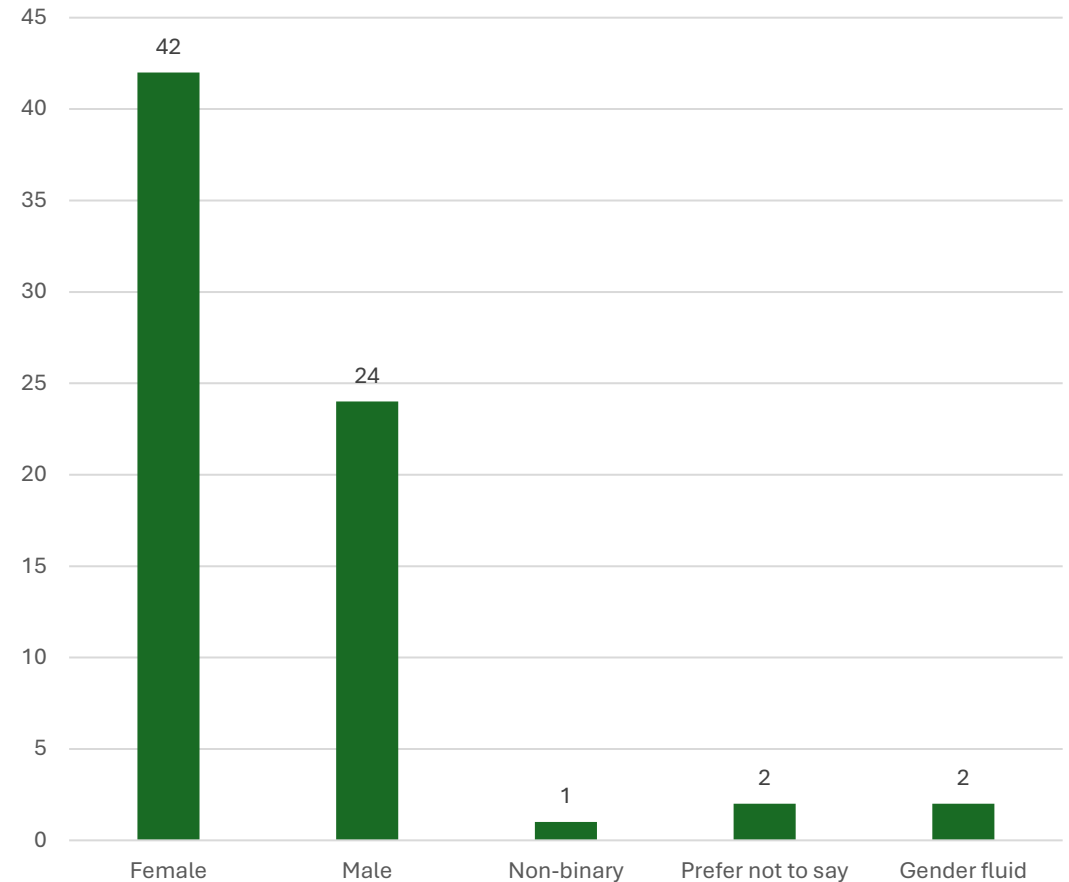
Please indicate your age group?

- Due to the demographic of where the survey was distributed we can see that it is mostly teenagers that were completing the survey.

- From the initial aim of the survey this is what the target demographic that was intended for the survey and has allowed us to gain insight into what issues affect them.