

ANTI-SOCIAL  
VIOLENCE  
PROPERTY DAMAGE  
DOMESTIC  
BAD BEHAVIOUR  
CAR THEFT  
MUGGINGS  
NUISANCE  
W  
THEFT  
DRUG  
OFFENCES  
SAFETY  
OFFENSIVE  
LANGUAGE  
ABUSE  
DRUG  
OFFENCES  
CRIM

## Safe City Survey 2016

Survey report

July 2016



**July 2016**

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## Executive Summary

**Background:** The Newcastle Safe City Plan aims to address issues of community safety and anti-social behaviour within the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA).

**Objectives:** The Engagement objectives were to better understand crime and safety issues affecting the Newcastle community, community perceptions of safety and their experience of crime, feelings of safety in LGA and neighbourhoods and determine changed behaviours due to safety concerns.

**Key findings:** A total of 841 participants completed the survey, of which 772 were Newcastle residents.

### Perceptions of safety

Approximately six in ten participants indicated that they think the Newcastle LGA is safer than other Australian cities of a similar size and population.

Six out of ten (62%) of the participants believed that crime had stayed the same in Newcastle over the 12 month period; one-quarter (15%) believed it had increased and 13 percent believed it had decreased. Ward 4 had the highest results for increase.

The top safety issues raised for Newcastle LGA were domestic violence related assault, breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes followed by sale of illegal drugs and anti-social behaviours.

### Experience of crime

One-third (36%) had not been affected by crime. Those that had been directly or indirectly affected were asked to provide the type of crime. The two most common types were dangerous or noisy driving and anti-social behaviours.

### Feelings of safety

Six in ten (63%) felt safe overall in the Newcastle LGA. Results indicate that participants generally felt safest during the day and at home. When asked how safe they felt their neighbourhood was for children, just under two-thirds of participants (65%) selected safe or very safe.

Those who indicated that they had changed routines or behaviours were asked to identify up to three instances and to identify the reason for their safety concern.

The behaviours participants changed the most were; increased security action at home (61%), restricted night time activities (35%) and increased security actions external to their home (22%).

The most cited reasons for changing these routines/ behaviours were; anti-social behaviour (16%) followed by lack of police presence and lack of lighting.

### **Awareness of Council programs**

Participants were asked about their awareness of Council safety programs. Awareness was highest for Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas, with three out of four of participants stating they are aware of these programs.

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# 1. Introduction

The Newcastle Safe City Plan aims to address issues of community safety and anti-social behaviour within the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA). It will outline a whole of Council approach to delivering safer outcomes for the Newcastle community. Local crime priorities will be identified through official crime statistics and consultations with key stakeholders and the community. The Plan will outline key initiatives, within Council's scope, to address key issues relating to these priorities.

The Newcastle Safe City Plan will replace The City of Newcastle Crime Prevention Plan (2001) and will be supplemented by the Newcastle After Dark Plan: Night-Time Economy Strategy.

## 1.1. Objectives

The Engagement objectives were to better understand the following:

- Crime and safety issues affecting the Newcastle community
- Community perceptions of safety
- Experience of crime
- Feelings of safety in LGA and neighbourhoods
- Change of behaviours due to safety concerns.

# 2. Methodology

## 2.1. Research approach

The Community Engagement team and the Community Safety Coordinator developed and conducted the survey. The survey was open to those that live in the LGA and out of area, these results are reported separately.

This engagement project falls under the **consult** category of the IAP2 framework endorsed in Council's Community Engagement Framework.

Figure 1 Public Participation Spectrum, International Association of Public Participation

Increasing the level of public impact   
 Level of community influence over decisions 

| Inform  | Consult   | Involve   | Collaborate  | Empower  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. | To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions  | To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.  | To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.                            | To place final decision-making and/or devolved budgets in the hands of the public. |
| We will keep you informed.  | We will keep you informed, listen to acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible. | We will implement what you decide.   |

The sampling process outlined herein is a self-selecting sample, which is a non-probability sampling technique. While this approach is more cost and time effective than a probability sampling (e.g. random sampling), there is likely to be a degree of self-selection bias in the results. This is especially true among broad community respondents who may choose to complete the survey because they have strong views on the topic on way or the other. Similarly, using a self-selection sampling technique may limit the representativeness of the sample. To help overcome this, the data has been weighted post-collection to reflect the demographic characteristics and distribution across the wards, of the population.

## 2.2. Data Collection

The online survey was conducted between 21 June and 6 July 2016. It was made available to *Newcastle Voice*, Council's Community Reference Panel, and to the broader community. A copy of the survey can be viewed in Appendix I.

All online active Newcastle Voice members (n=2,254) were emailed a survey invitation on 21 June 2016. Email reminders to those online Newcastle Voice members who had not yet completed the survey were sent on 28 June and 4 July 2016. The survey was also printed and distributed in hard copy to those Newcastle Voice members who requested printed surveys and were (at time of print) Newcastle residents (n= 227). The survey was mailed out on 22 June 2016. A pre-paid envelope was included to encourage their return.

The broader community was made aware of the survey through the promotion method detailed in section 2.3 of this report.

## 2.3. Survey promotion

The survey was promoted through several channels:

- Council's website
  - Have your say page
  - Showcase item on Council's homepage
- Newcastle City Council Facebook
  - 29 June 2016 (reached 15, 502 people and 31 shares)
  - 22 June 2016 (reached 9,099 people and 20 shares)
- Twitter @CityNewcastle
  - June 22 2016 (three retweets and five likes)
- Council Enews 30 June 2016.

## 2.4. Data handling

Data handling and analysis was carried out using Sparq software by Newcastle Council's Community Engagement team.

## 2.5. Participant profile

A total of 841 completed the survey, of these participants:

- 772 were Newcastle residents (results for those that do not live in Newcastle are in appendix III).
- 568 participants were Newcastle Voice
- 244 members of the broader community participated in the online survey.
- 45% were male; 53% were female, 2% choose not to say and nil responses from those that identified as transgender/intersex/other.
- The majority were aged 55-69 (36%)
- 2% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 87% were born in Australia
- 6% spoke a language other than English at home.

Figure 2 Gender

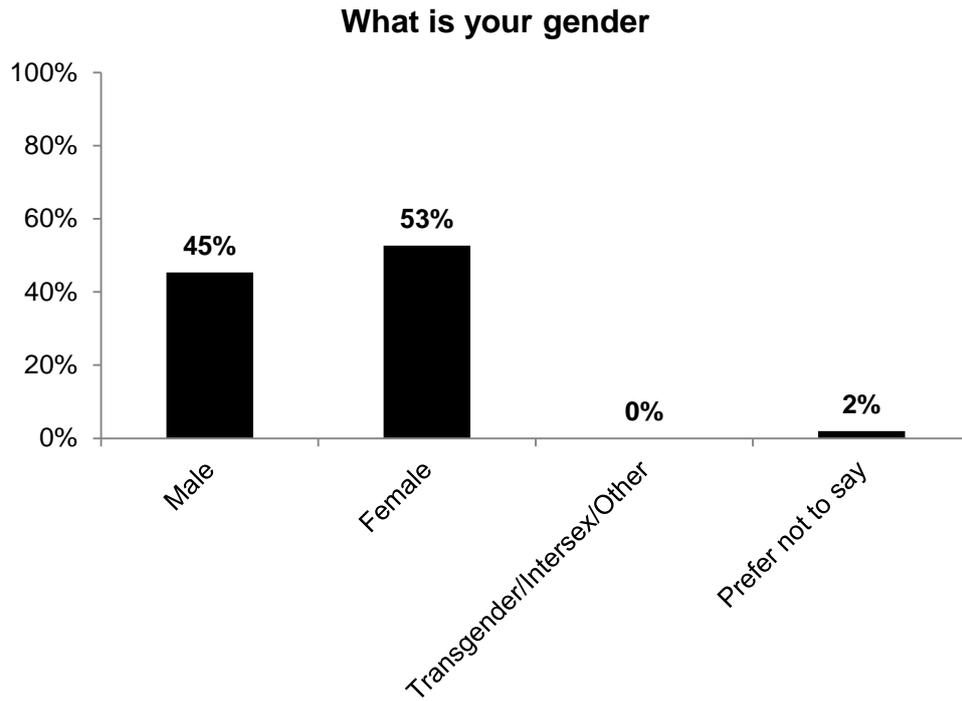


Figure 3 Age group

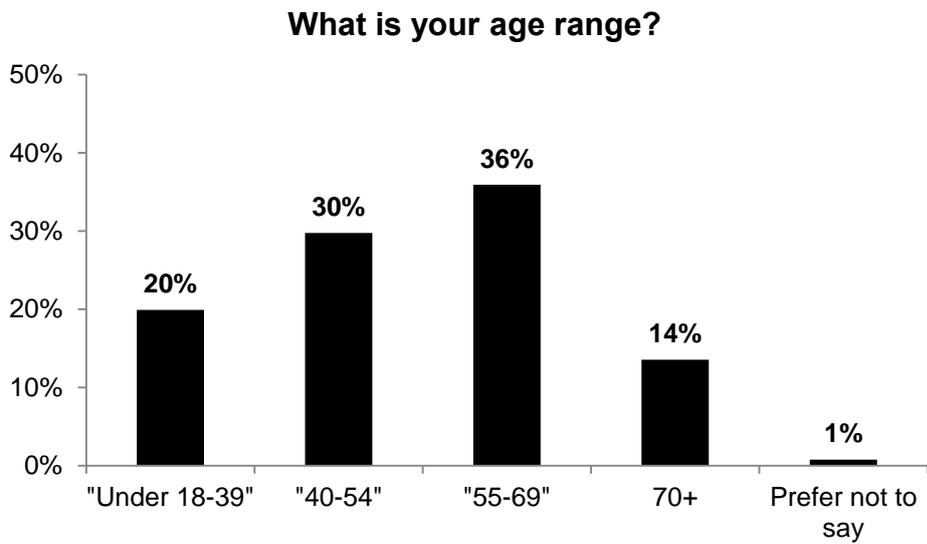


Figure 4 Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

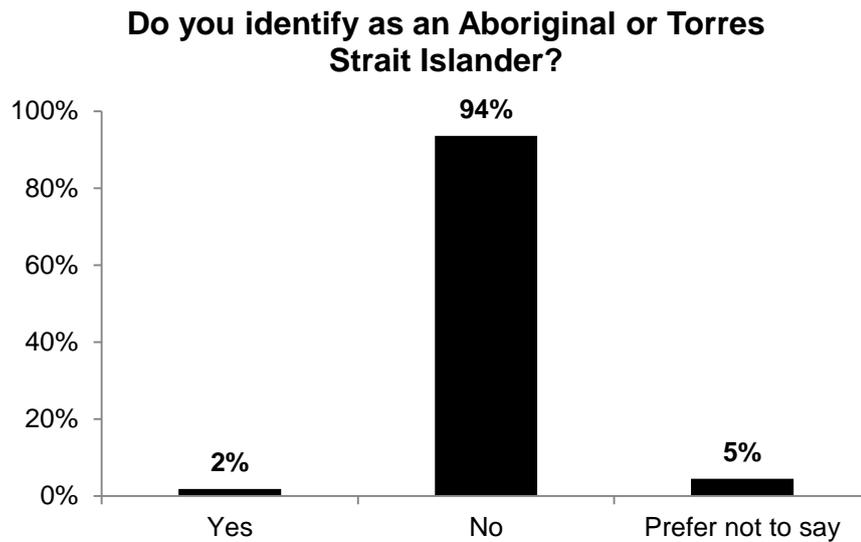


Figure 5 Country of birth

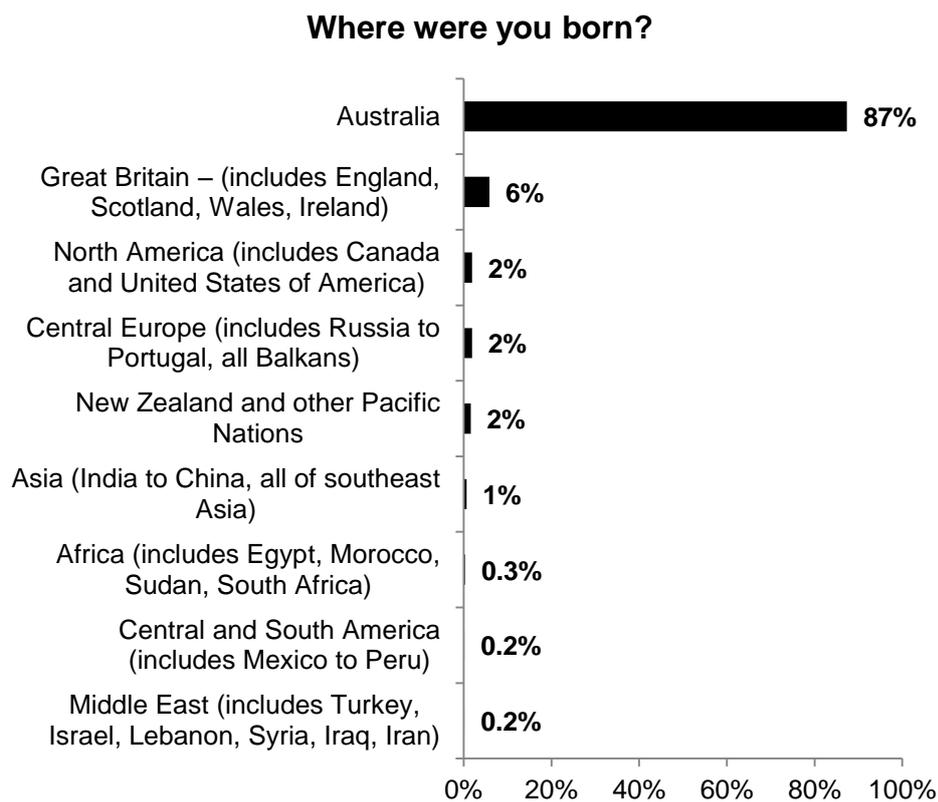
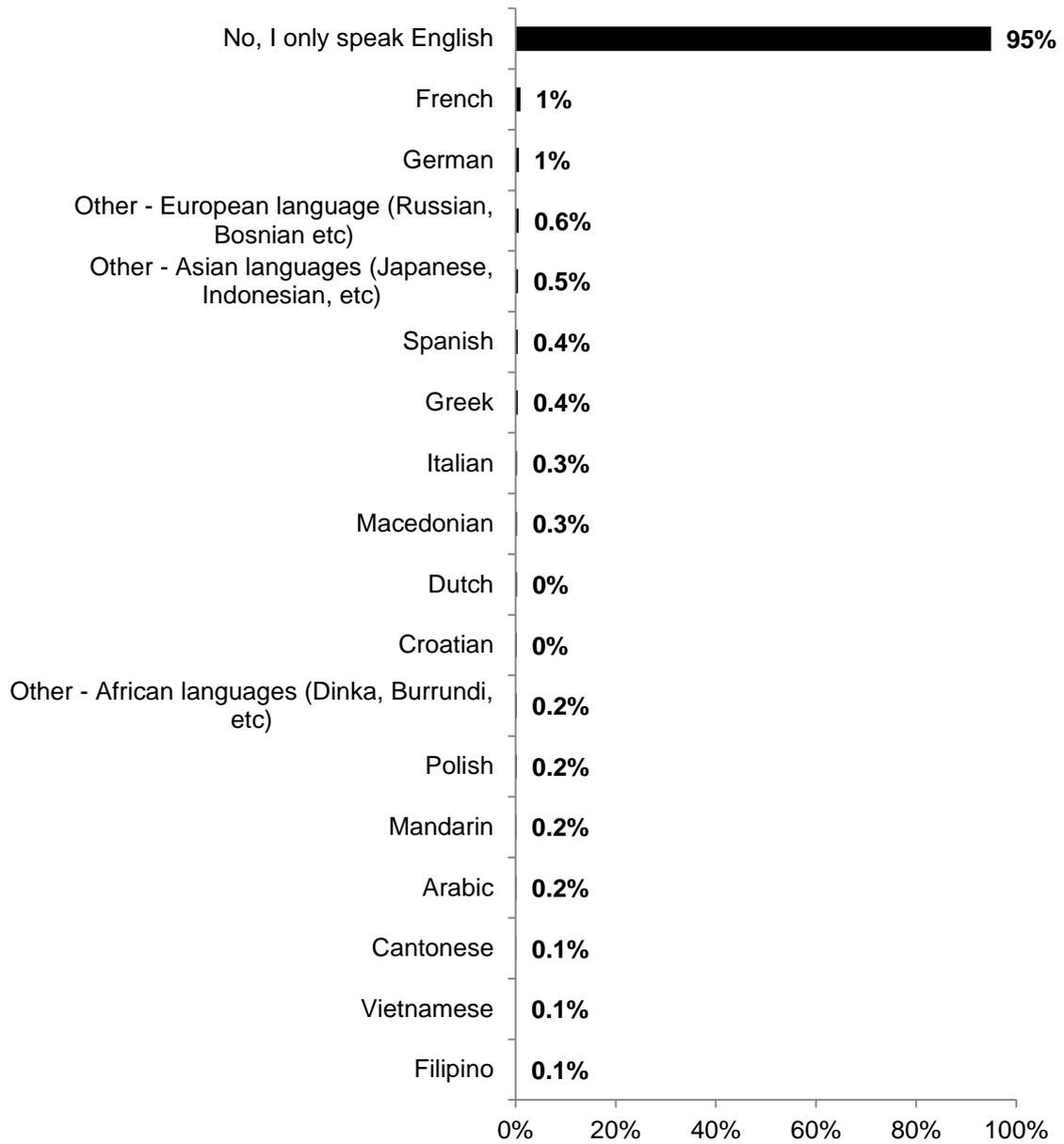


Figure 6 Language spoken at home

### Do you speak any language/s other than English at home?



## 3. Survey Findings

### 3.1. How to read this report

The findings of this survey are weighted by Ward. See weighting calculations below (Table 1). Weights have been applied with a weighting efficiency of 88 per cent. *Weighting efficiency* describes the impact of weighting on data sets. The closer the weighting efficiency is to 100 per cent, the more closely your weighted data resembles your actual data. Generally, 80 per cent is recommended as a good benchmark.

**Table 1 Participant residence by ward**

| Data set   | Ward 1 | Ward 2 | Ward 3 | Ward 4 |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Unweighted | 41%    | 23%    | 21%    | 15%    |
| Weighted   | 25%    | 25%    | 25%    | 25%    |

*Weighting efficiency: 88%*

In order to determine differences between the demographic groups, statistical tests were performed. Differences were significant at the 95 per cent level of confidence ( $p < 0.05$ ).

*Note: The statistical testing requires at least 30 participants in each of the applicable demographic groups to provide a response, therefore, when this criterion is not met, the group is omitted from the test. Where response numbers are less than 100 it is identified with the count (e.g.  $n=80$ ) and indicates that the test is not entirely robust.*

Relevant verbatim responses are interspersed throughout this report. A complete accounting of all verbatim comments is provided in an associated document 'Verbatims\_Safe City Survey.pdf'. These comments are edited only for profanity, or if someone's personal identifiable information was included in the comment.

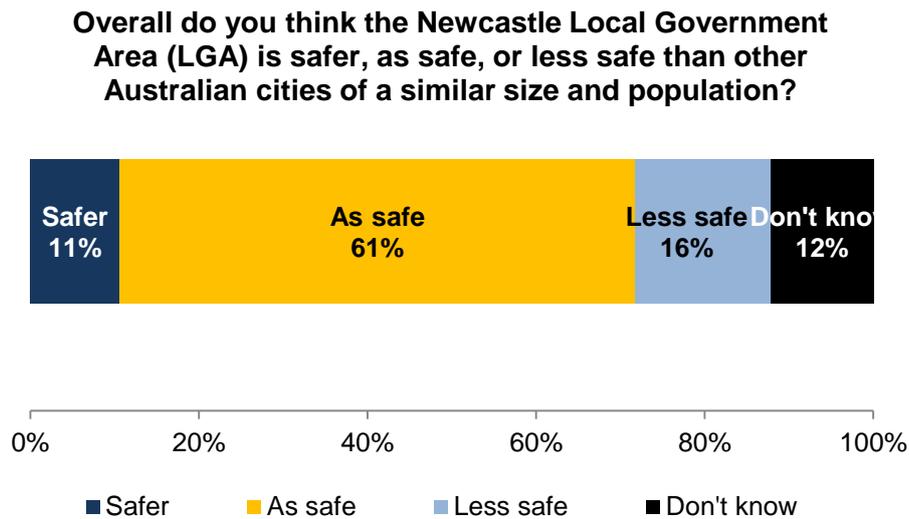
A copy of the survey questionnaire is provided in Appendix I - Survey Questionnaire.

## 3.2. Perceptions of safety

### 3.2.1. Is Newcastle LGA safer, as safe, or less safe than other cities?

Approximately six in ten (61%) participants indicated that they think the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) is safer than other Australian cities of a similar size and population. In contrast, 16 per cent think that Newcastle is less safe and 11 per cent that it is safer. See Figure 7.

Figure 7 Newcastle comparison to like cities

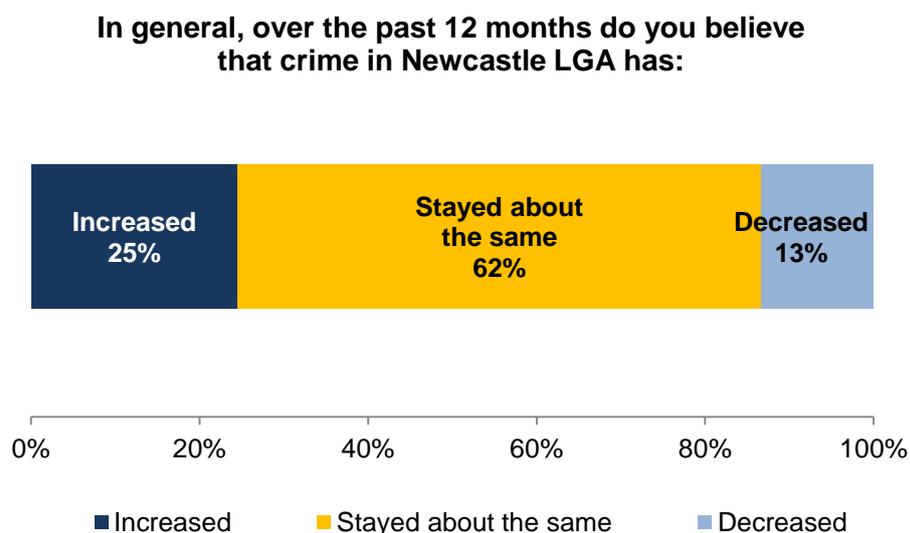


*Mean score 2.3 (mean score excludes don't know)*

### 3.2.2. Crime in the past 12 months

Participants were asked if they thought that crime had increased, stayed about the same or decreased over the past 12 months, 62 per cent believed that crime in the Newcastle LGA has stayed about the same, while 25% believed it has increased and 13% believed it has decreased. See Figure 8.

Figure 8 Crime in the past 12 months



#### Differences between key groups

- Participants in Ward 4 were significantly more likely to believe that crime has increased over the past 12 months than those in all other wards.
  - Ward 4 (39% n=76)
  - Ward 2 (23% n=44)
  - Ward 1 (19% n=37)
  - Ward 3 (17% n=32)
- Respondents from Ward 3 (70% n=135) were significantly more likely than those in Ward 4 (50% n=97) to indicate that crime had stayed about the same over the past 12 months.

### 3.2.3. Top three community safety issues

Participants were asked to identify the top three community safety issues in the Newcastle LGA. A list of potential responses was provided and included an 'other' option. At the LGA community level, the following results were received:

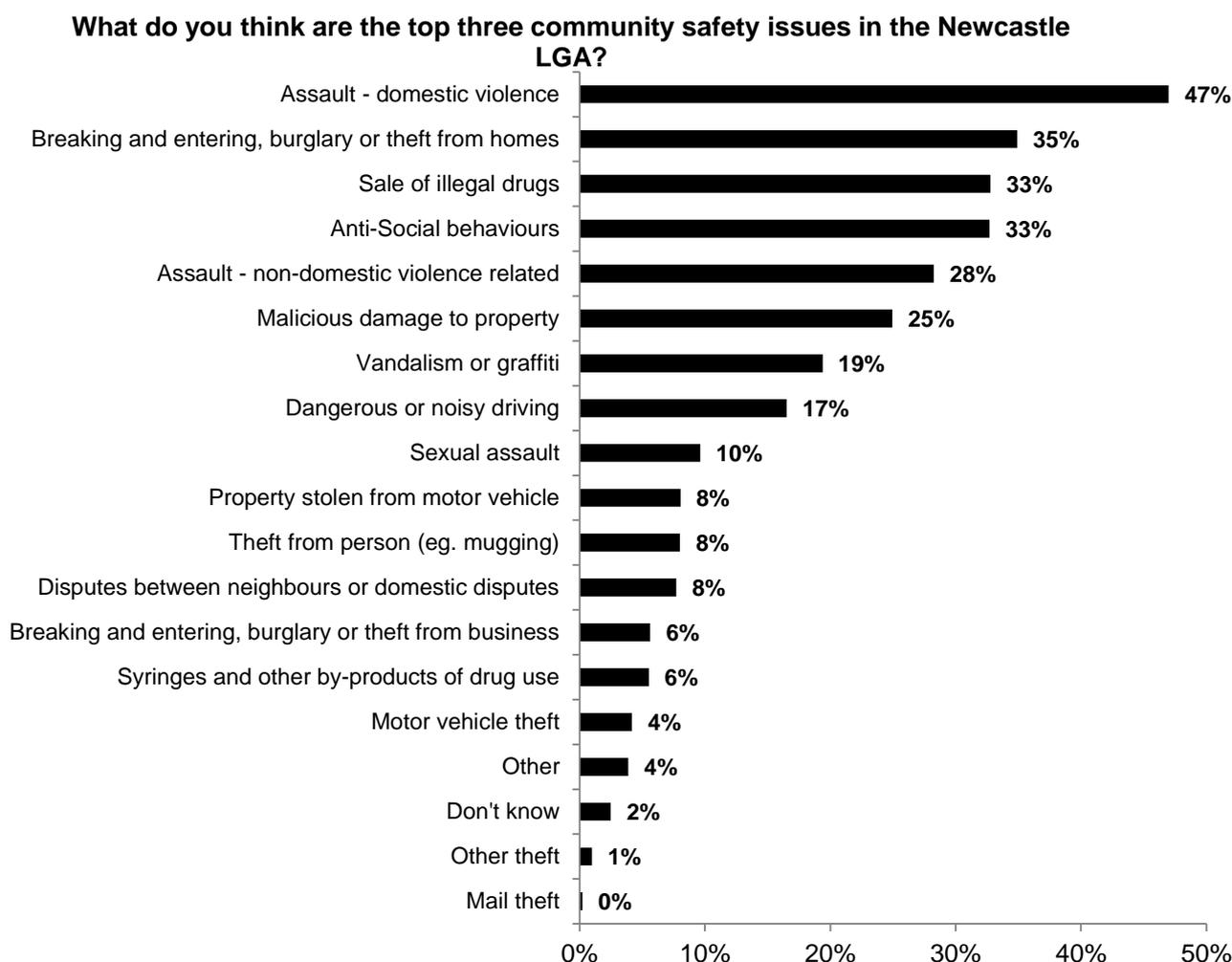
#### Top results:

- Assault - domestic violence (47%)
- Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes (35%)
- Sale of illegal drugs (33%)
- Anti-social behaviours (33%).

#### Lower results received:

- Less than 1% of participants selected mail theft
- Motor theft (4%).

Figure 9 Top three community safety issues



*Note: Anti-Social behaviours include; begging, loitering, public nuisance, drinking in public spaces, threatening behaviour.*

**Table 2 Top three community safety issues**

|    | <b>Safety Issue</b>                                    | <b>%</b> | <b>Count</b> |
|----|--|----------|--------------|
| 1  | Assault - domestic violence                            | 47%      | 363          |
| 2  | Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes    | 35%      | 269          |
| 3  | Sale of illegal drugs                                  | 33%      | 253          |
| 4  | Anti-Social behaviours                                 | 33%      | 252          |
| 5  | Assault - non-domestic violence related                | 28%      | 218          |
| 6  | Malicious damage to property                           | 25%      | 192          |
| 7  | Vandalism or graffiti                                  | 19%      | 150          |
| 8  | Dangerous or noisy driving                             | 17%      | 128          |
| 9  | Sexual assault   | 10%      | 74           |
| 10 | Property stolen from motor vehicle                     | 8%       | 62           |
| 11 | Theft from person (e.g. mugging)                       | 8%       | 62           |
| 12 | Disputes between neighbours or domestic disputes       | 8%       | 59           |
| 13 | Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from business | 6%       | 43           |
| 14 | Syringes and other by-products of drug use             | 6%       | 43           |
| 15 | Motor vehicle theft                                    | 4%       | 32           |
| 16 | Other  | 4%       | 30           |
| 17 | Don't know   | 2%       | 19           |
| 18 | Other theft  | 1%       | 8            |
| 19 | Mail theft   | 0%       | 2            |

**Differences between key groups - Top three community safety issues**

- Respondents from Ward 2 (43% n=84) were significantly more likely than those from Ward 4 (25% n=48) to nominate breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes.
- More males (25% n=88) than females (15% n=59) selected vandalism or graffiti as a top three issue.
- Dangerous or noisy driving was raised as an issue more commonly by participants in Ward 4 (25% n=48) than those in Ward 2 (9% n=17).

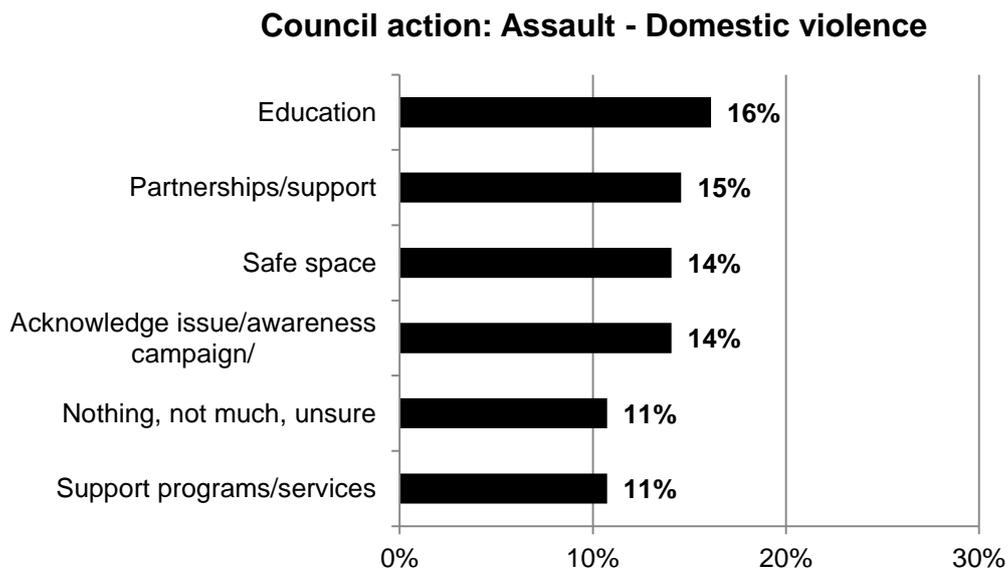
Participants were also asked what they felt Council should do to address these issues; with a note made that law enforcement (Police) and transport are not a Council responsibility. The top four issues are outlined below (further information available by issue are in appendix II).

### Assault - domestic violence (47%)

Half of the participants (47%) selected domestic violence as a top three issue for Newcastle. Participants that made this selection identified the need for Council to take action in the following ways:

- Education (16%)
- Partnership/support (15%)
- Providing safe spaces (14%).

Figure 10 Council action: Assault - Domestic violence



#### Comments:

*"Free martial arts classes"*

*"Given that domestic violence is a relationship issue, perhaps the Council could hold workshops around building strong family relationships."*

*"Support community agencies to promote programs to educate everyone about it"*

*"Better support services including emergency accommodation, which I am aware is provided but is substandard."*

*"Help distribute/promote community and Government initiatives - it is not Council's core activity but Council could help ..."*

*"Not sure council can do anything?"*

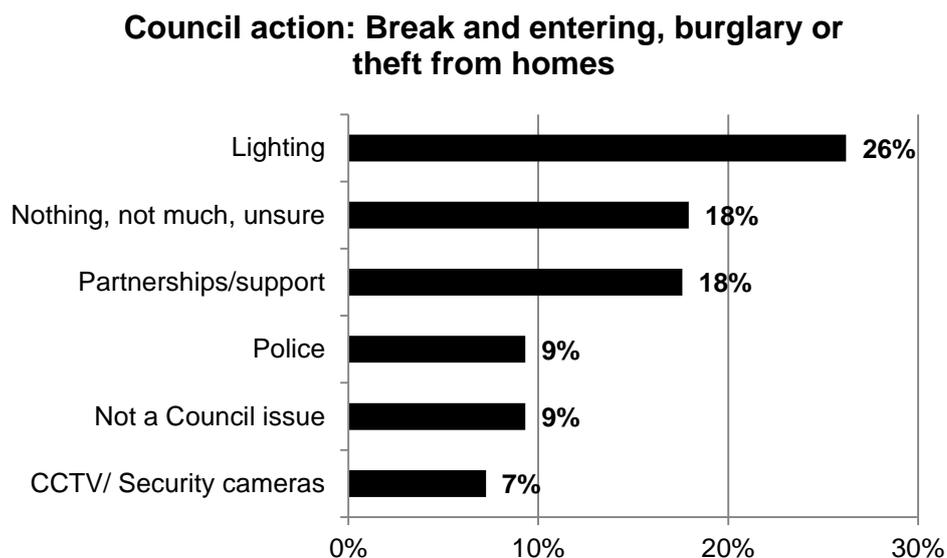
*"The council can help where possible to support services for people leaving domestic violence situations and can help by educating Newcastle in these issues."*

## Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes (35%)

Just over one-third (35%) selected breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes as a top three issue. Participants that made this selection identified the need for Council to take action in the following ways:

- Lighting: more and better quality (26%)
- Nothing, not much, unsure (18%)
- Partnerships/support (18%).

Figure 11 Council action: Break and entering, burglary or theft from homes



### Comments:

*"Ensuring that good street lighting is maintained, increase public awareness in trouble areas by publicity (eg mail outs or signs informing residents to keep an eye out for each other when and where troubling trends are showing)."*

*"I don't see that council can do much, only provide more pastimes for the drug-affected youth who are often the instigators of the crime."*

*"Neighbourhood schemes or community days for people to get to know their neighbours who could help look out for each other's homes."*

*"More police presence, community awareness and support - neighbourhood watch"*

*"This is a Police issue."*

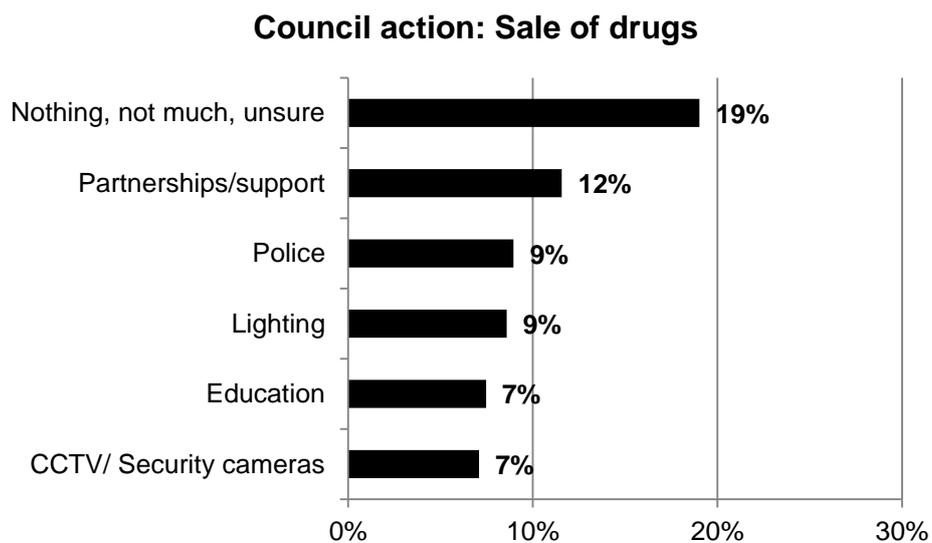
*"CCTV would prove a deterrent."*

### Sale of illegal drugs (33%)

One-third of participants (33%) selected the sale of illegal drugs as a top three issue. Participants that made this selection identified the need for Council to take action in the following ways:

- Nothing, not much, unsure (19%)
- Partnerships/support (12%)
- Police - more of a presence and patrols (9%).

Figure 12 Council action: Sale of drugs



### Comments:

*"(Council) Unfortunately not much independently; but could work closely with police and others re these issues."*

*" Form part of a multi agency zero tolerance approach - provide intelligence to Police"*

*" Have more law enforcement officers on the streets"*

*" Adequate street lighting, secure public toilets and spaces"*

*"Drug education programs, understanding that there is a major drug problem in Newcastle and stop putting head in sand"*

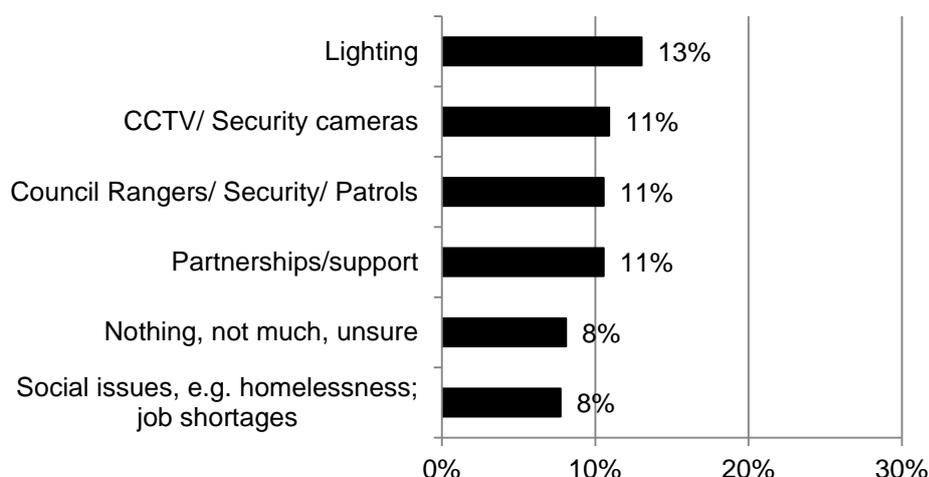
*"Make sure there is CC tv and security around shopping centres as a deterrence"*

## Anti-Social behaviours (33%)

One-third of participants (33%) selected anti-social behaviour as a top three issue. Participants that made this selection identified the need for Council to take action in the following ways:

- Lighting (13%)
- Installation of CCTV/security cameras (11%)
- More Council Rangers/ Security/ Patrols (11%)
- Partnerships/support (11%).

### Council action: Anti-social behaviours



### Comments:

*"Keep Parks clean , good lighting and family friendly"*

*"Continue to liaise with police department to identify where these behaviours are occurring and then install CCTVs to monitor and identify those who are committing the crimes."*

*"More enforcement (patrolling) & fines on the spot"*

*"Keep police informed if the public (or council officers) advise council of such activity, so they know to regularly patrol the area/s."*

*"I really don't know as this is so wide spread."*

*"I work in Newcastle near Marketown, this area is a disgrace, with loitering and drinking in public spaces obvious! Even in broad daylight I feel unsafe in this area."*

*Note: The former Newcastle Post Office, Hamilton Station (linked to the cutting of the rail line) and Marketown were raised numerous times as area of concern for anti-social behaviour and an area that attracts the homeless.*

Table 3 Verbatims: Top issues by Council Action

| Top issues                   | Council action                                     | %   | Count |
|------------------------------|--|-----|-------|
| Domestic Violence (47%)      | Education  | 16% | 63    |
|                              | Partnerships/support                               | 15% | 57    |
|                              | Acknowledge issue/awareness campaign               | 14% | 55    |
|                              | Provide or assist with safe spaces                 | 14% | 55    |
|                              | Support programs/services for victims and families | 11% | 42    |
|                              | Nothing, not much, unsure                          | 11% | 42    |
| B&E (35%)                    | Lighting   | 26% | 76    |
|                              | Nothing, not much, unsure                          | 18% | 52    |
|                              | Partnerships/support                               | 18% | 51    |
|                              | Not a Council issue                                | 9%  | 27    |
|                              | Police   | 9%  | 27    |
|                              | CCTV/security cameras                              | 7%  | 21    |
| Sale drugs (33%)             | Nothing, not much, unsure                          | 19% | 51    |
|                              | Partnerships/support                               | 12% | 31    |
|                              | Police   | 9%  | 24    |
|                              | Lighting   | 9%  | 23    |
|                              | Educations   | 7%  | 20    |
|                              | CCTV/security cameras                              | 7%  | 19    |
| Anti-social behaviours (33%) | Lighting   | 13% | 37    |
|                              | CCTV/ Security cameras                             | 11% | 31    |
|                              | Partnerships/support                               | 11% | 30    |
|                              | Council Rangers/ Security/ Patrols                 | 11% | 30    |
|                              | Nothing, not much, unsure                          | 8%  | 23    |
|                              | Social issues, e.g. homelessness; job shortages    | 8%  | 22    |

### Differences between issues

Partnerships and support has come through in all top issues as a council action.

- Partnerships suggested include working closely with all tiers of Government, Police, community, youth and agencies
- Provide support including such things as; support emergency housing, support neighbourhood watch, subsidise rental spaces, free rental hire for events and fundraisers.

Improved lighting was a recommendation for preventing breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes (B&E), sale of drugs and anti-social behaviours.

- Those selecting B&E as a top issue highlighted the need for better street lighting in poorly lit residential areas
- Improved lighting to be utilised as a deterrent for illegal drug sales and anti-social behaviours by providing well-lit public spaces including parks.

Nothing, not much and unsure has come out across all areas as a response option

- Participants were either unsure how Council could combat issues or thought that even if Council intervened the issues are too wide spread.

Education was recommended for domestic violence and sale of drugs

- Actions for Council included; combating issues as a family unit, community and from an early age with in schools.

### 3.3. Experience of crime

#### 3.3.1. Affected by crime in the past 12 months

Respondents who stated that they had been directly or indirectly affected by crime were asked what type of crime had occurred. These results are provided below:

**Top results:**

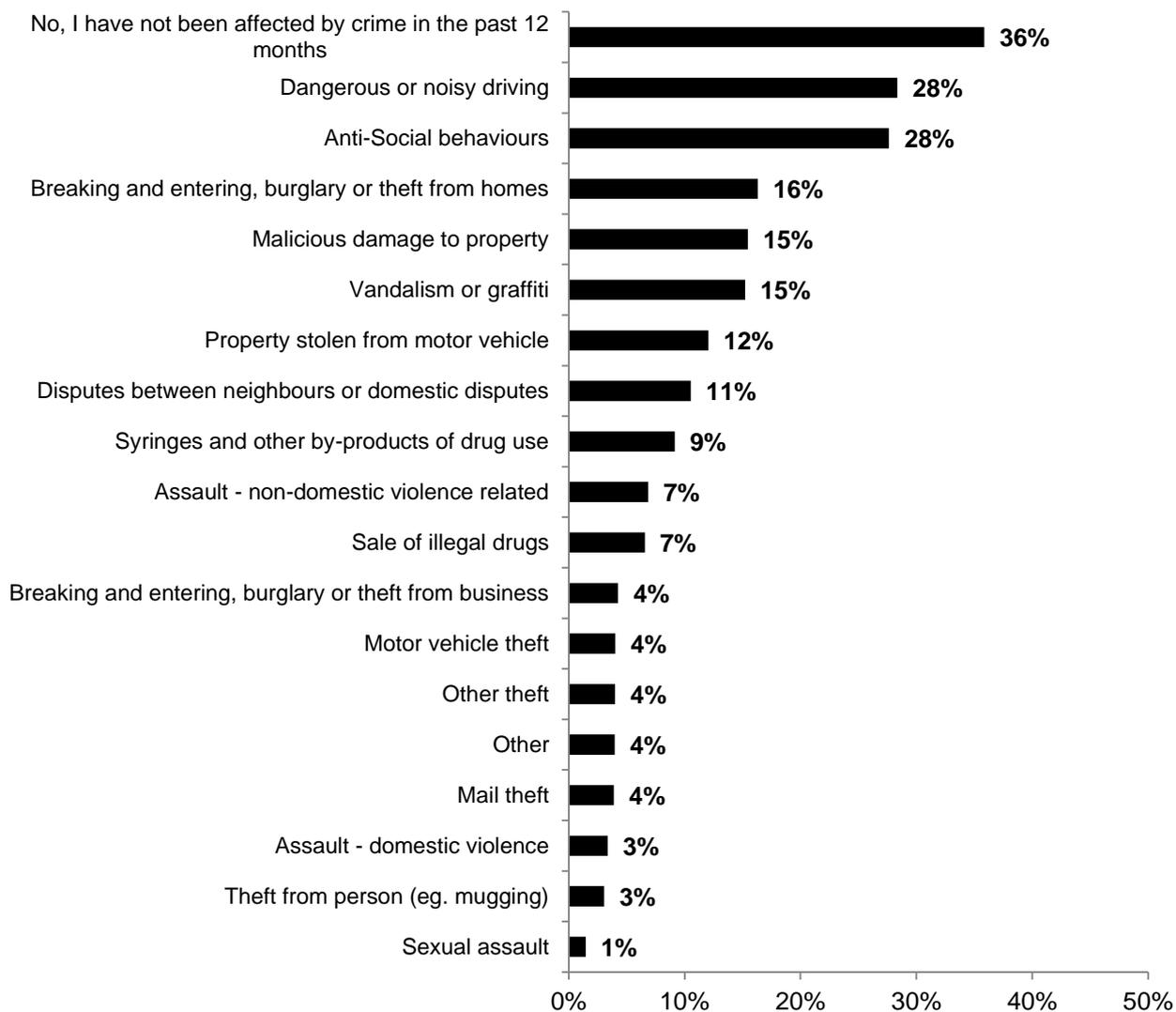
- Dangerous or noisy driving (28%)
- Anti-social behaviours (28%)
- Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes (16%).

**Lower results received for:**

- Sexual assault (1%)
- Theft from person (3%)
- Assault - domestic violence (3%).

Figure 13 Experience of crime

**In the past 12 months have you or someone close to you been affected by crime? If yes, please select the relevant type:**



**Table 4 Experience of crime**

|    | <b>Safety Issue</b>   | <b>%</b> | <b>Count</b> |
|----|---|----------|--------------|
| 1  | No, I have not been affected by crime in the past 12 months | 36%      | 277          |
| 2  | Dangerous or noisy driving                                  | 28%      | 219          |
| 3  | Anti-Social behaviours                                      | 28%      | 213          |
| 4  | Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes         | 16%      | 126          |
| 5  | Malicious damage to property                                | 15%      | 119          |
| 6  | Vandalism or graffiti                                       | 15%      | 118          |
| 7  | Property stolen from motor vehicle                          | 12%      | 93           |
| 8  | Disputes between neighbours or domestic disputes            | 11%      | 81           |
| 9  | Syringes and other by-products of drug use                  | 9%       | 71           |
| 10 | Assault - non-domestic violence related                     | 7%       | 53           |
| 11 | Sale of illegal drugs                                       | 7%       | 51           |
| 12 | Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from business      | 4%       | 33           |
| 13 | Other   | 4%       | 31           |
| 14 | Other theft   | 4%       | 31           |
| 15 | Motor vehicle theft   | 4%       | 31           |
| 16 | Mail theft  | 4%       | 30           |
| 17 | Assault - domestic violence                                 | 3%       | 26           |
| 18 | Theft from person (eg. mugging)                             | 3%       | 24           |
| 19 | Sexual assault  | 1%       | 11           |

### **Differences between key groups**

- The response '*No, I have not been affected by crime in the past 12 months*' was selected by significantly higher proportions of older respondents than all other age groups
  - 70+ (59% n=62)
  - under 18-39 (25% n=38)
  - 40-54 (32% n=73)
  - 55-69 (37% n=103).
- Dangerous or noisy driving was selected more often by females (32% n=132) than males (23% n=81)
- Respondents in Ward 3 (18% n=35) were significantly less likely than those in Ward 1 (36% n=69) and Ward 2 (34% n=65) to indicate that Anti-Social behaviours were an issue.
- Selected as a significant issue more commonly from age groups under 54
  - under 18 - 39 (38% n=58)
  - 40-54 (30% n=69)
  - 70+ age group (13% n=13).

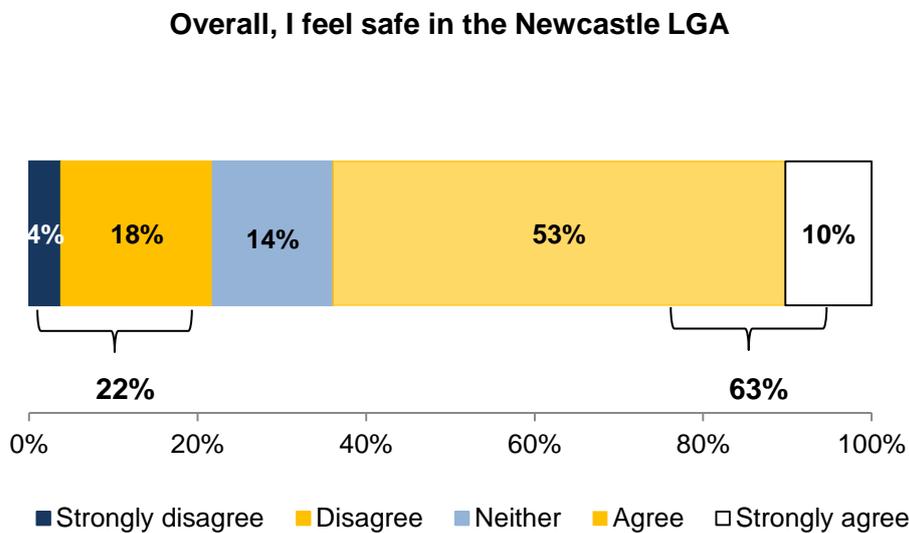
- Assault - domestic violence was significantly more likely to be selected by those aged under 18-39 (8% n=12) than those aged 55-69 (1% n=3) as well as by females (5% n=22) than males (1% n=3). Interestingly while this category of crime was raised by the highest proportions of respondents as a top community safety issue, a relatively low proportion of respondents had been directly or indirectly affected by it.

### 3.4. Feelings of safety

#### 3.4.1. Overall safety in Newcastle LGA

More than six in ten participants either strongly agree (10%) or agree (53%) that overall, they feel safe in the Newcastle LGA, see Figure 14.

Figure 14 Overall feeling of safety



Mean score 3.5 out of 5

#### Differences between key groups

- Respondents in Ward 1 (mean score 3.6 out 5) felt significantly safer overall than those in Ward 4 (3.3).

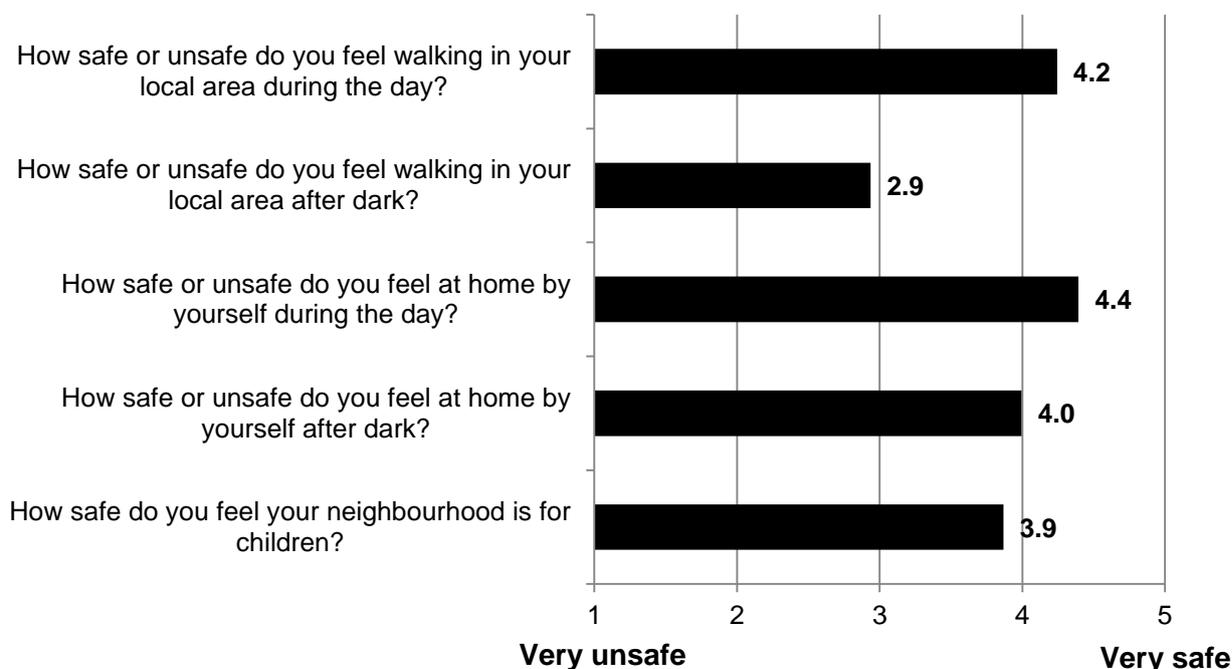
### 3.4.2. How safe do you feel...

Participants were asked a series of questions about how safe they felt in various situations; the results below show the proportions of those who feel very safe and safe in each circumstance:

- Walking in your local area during the day (87%)
- Walking in your local area after dark (37%)
- At home by yourself during the day (91%)
- At home by yourself after dark (78%).

These results show that overall, Newcastle residents generally felt safest during the day and at home. Participants were also asked how safe they felt their neighbourhood was for children 65% selected safe or very safe.

### How safe do you feel...



#### Differences between key groups

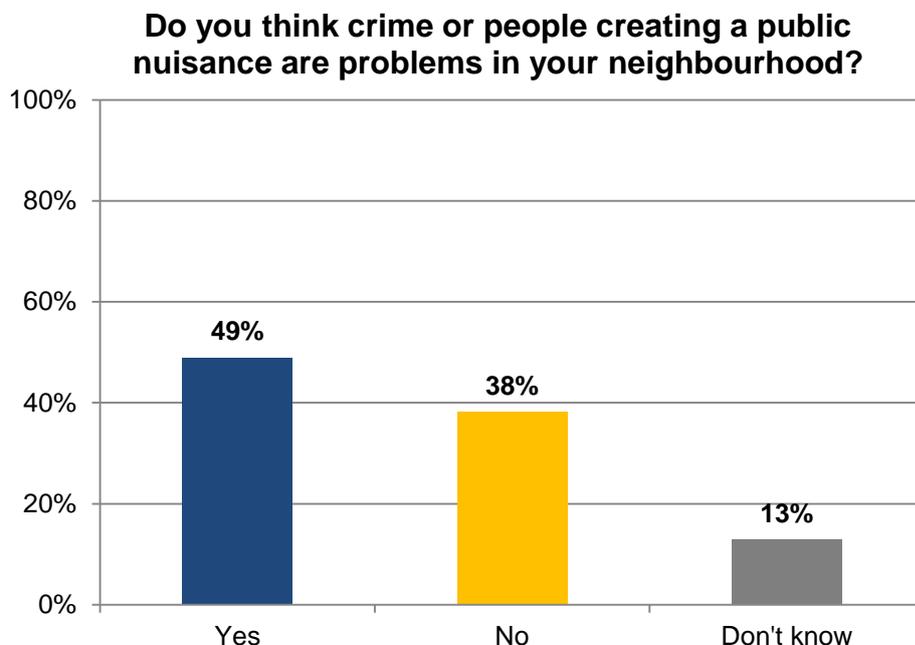
- Males had a higher level of safety walking in local area after dark (3.3) than females (2.7).
- Those living in Ward 1 (4.5) felt safer at home by themselves during the day than those in other wards (Ward 2 (4.3), Ward 3 (4.4) and Ward 4 (4.4)).

### 3.4.3. Crime as a neighbourhood problem

Participants were asked if they thought crime or people creating public nuisance were a problem in their neighbourhood, 49 per cent of participants agreed, that this was a problem.

The top five perceived problems for neighbourhoods are shown in Figure 16 and Table 5.

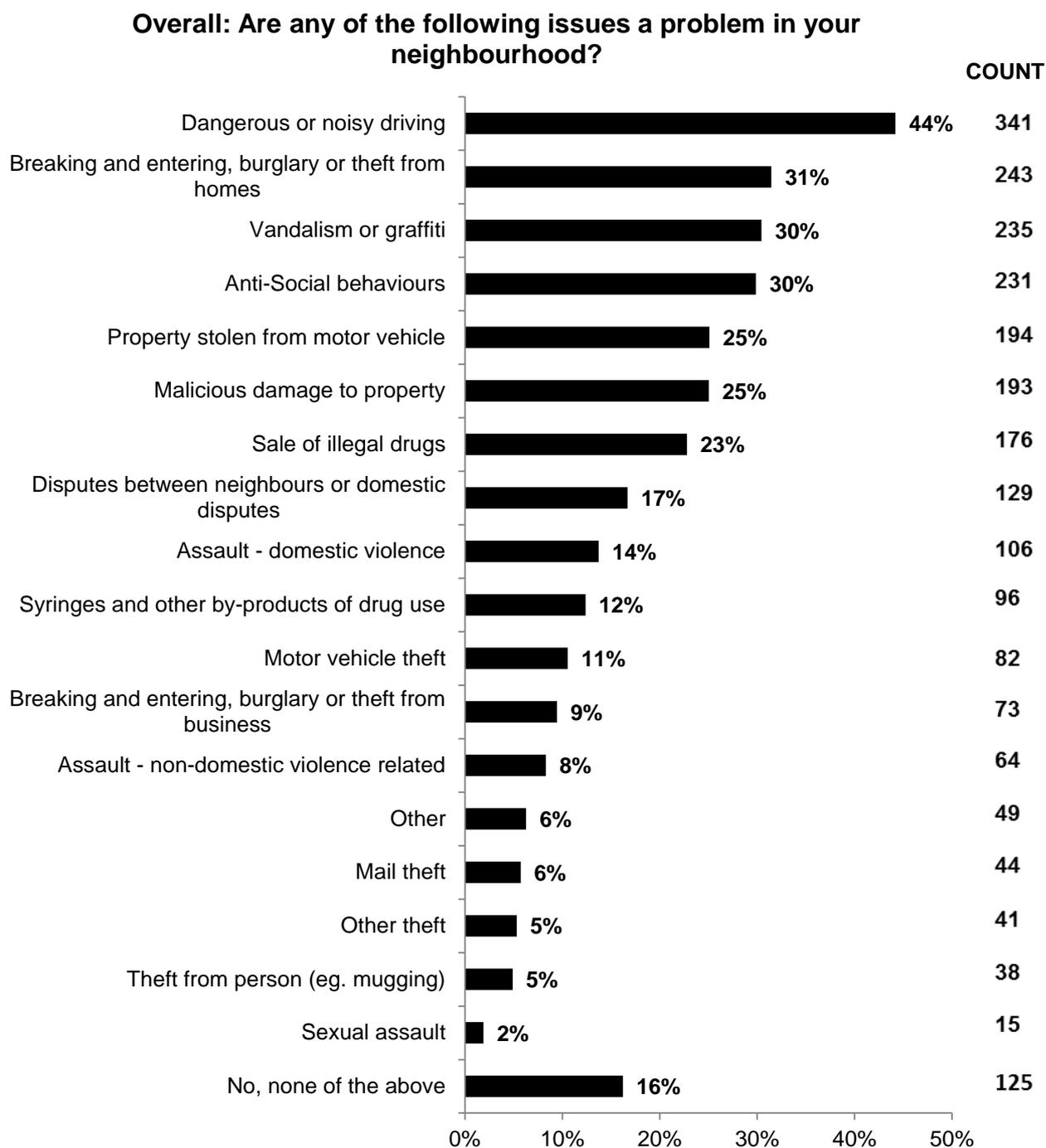
Figure 15 Crime and public nuisance in neighbourhood



#### Differences between key groups

- Respondents in Ward 1 (58% n=111) were significantly more likely than those in Ward 3 (39% n=74) to agree that public nuisance was a problem in their neighbourhood.

Figure 16 Neighbourhood Issues (LGA wide)



## **Top five neighbourhood issues by Ward:**

### Dangerous or noisy driving

- The results indicate that this was an issue across all four Wards
- Particular demographic groups that were significantly more likely to perceive it as an issue compared to other groups were:
  - Ward 4 compared with all other wards.
  - Those aged in the 40-54 age group compared with those aged 70+.

### Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes

- Results show breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes was a commonly perceived issue across all four Wards
  - Ward 2 (38%)
  - Ward 1 (32%)
  - Ward 3 (29%)
  - Ward 4 (27%).

### Vandalism or graffiti

- Vandalism or graffiti was perceived as more of an issue in Ward 1 when compared to all other wards
  - Ward 1 (38%)
  - Ward 4 (31%)
  - Ward 2 (29%)
  - Ward 3 (25%).

### Anti-Social behaviours

- Anti-Social behaviours were in the top five perceived issues for all Wards excluding Ward 4
  - Most common issue for Ward 1 (46%)
- Particular demographic groups that were significantly more likely to perceive it as an issue compared to other groups were:
  - Those aged under 18 - 39 compared with those aged 70+.

### Malicious damage to property

- Malicious damage to property was in the top five for Ward 1 (33%) and Ward 3 (23%)
- Particular demographic groups that were significantly more likely to perceive it as an issue compared to other groups were:
  - Those aged under 18 - 39 compared with those in the 70+ age group.

### Sale of illegal drugs

- Sale of illegal drugs was in the top five perceived issues for Ward 2 (26%) and Ward 4 (24%)
- Particular demographic groups that were significantly more likely to perceive it as an issue compared to other groups were:

- Those residing in Ward 3 compared to all other Wards.

#### Property stolen from motor vehicle

- Property stolen from motor vehicle was a top five perceived issue only for Ward 4 (28%)
- Particular demographic groups that were significantly more likely to perceive it as an issue compared to other groups were:
  - Those aged 40-54 compared to those in the 70+ age group.

**Table 5 Top five issues by Ward**

| <b>Top issues by Wards</b>                          | <b>Ward 1</b> |     | <b>Ward 2</b> |     | <b>Ward 3</b> |     | <b>Ward 4</b> |     |
|---|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| Dangerous or noisy driving                          | 2             | 43% | 2             | 37% | 1             | 35% | 1             | 62% |
| Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes | 5             | 32% | 1             | 38% | 2             | 29% | 4             | 27% |
| Vandalism or graffiti                               | 3             | 38% | 4             | 29% | 3             | 25% | 2             | 31% |
| Anti-Social behaviours                              | 1             | 46% | 3             | 36% | 5             | 22% |               |     |
| Malicious damage to property                        | 4             | 33% |               |     | 4             | 23% |               |     |
| Sale of illegal drugs                               |               |     | 5             | 26% |               |     | 5             | 24% |
| Property stolen from motor vehicle                  |               |     |               |     |               |     | 3             | 28% |

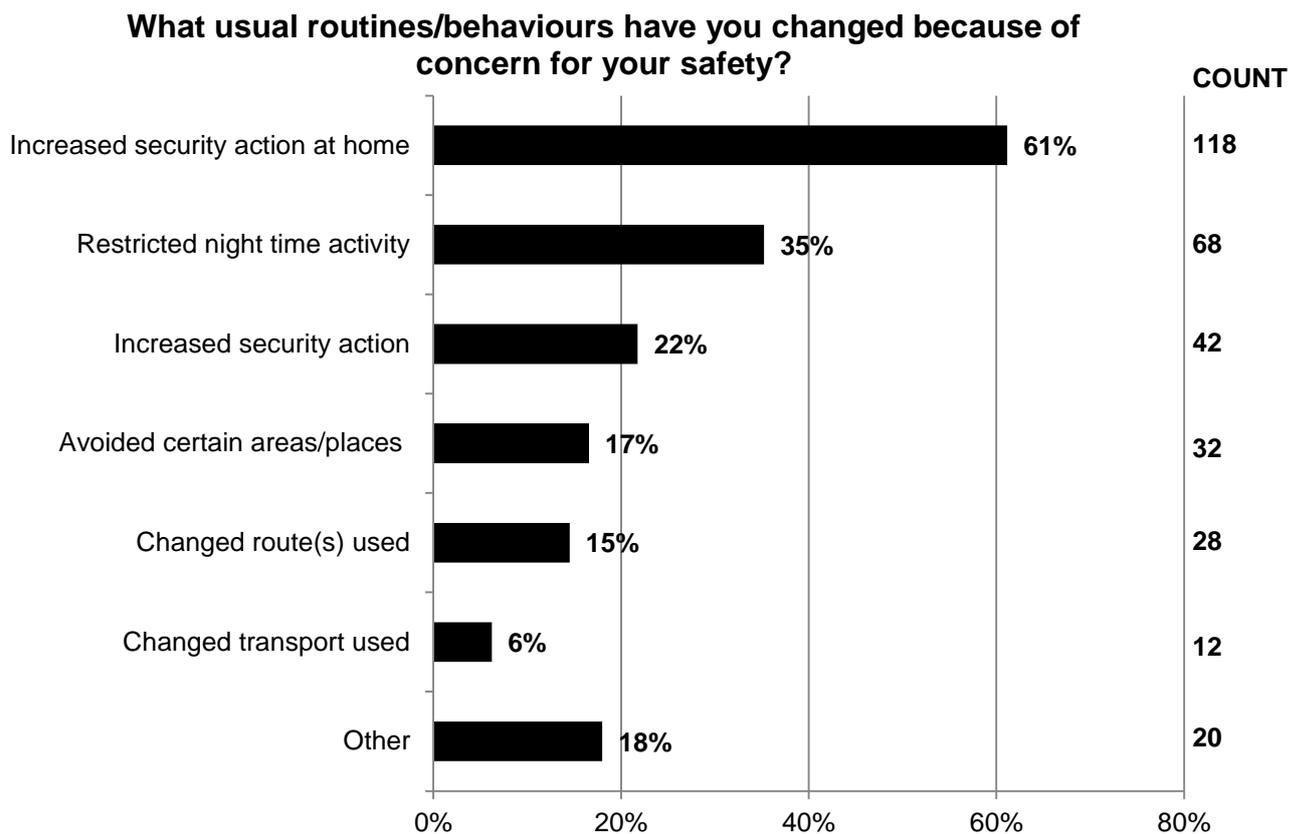
#### 3.4.4. Impact of safety concerns on behaviour

Those who indicated that they had changed routines or behaviours (40%) were asked to identify up to three instances. These participants were asked a follow up question 'what was your reason for your safety concern?'

The most commonly changed routines/ behaviours identified were:

- Three out of five (61%) increased security action at home
- Just over one in three (35%) restricted their night time activities
- Just over one in five (22%) increased security actions includes carrying pepper spray, not having valuables on person, being more aware of potential dangers, car security and other measure outside of the home.

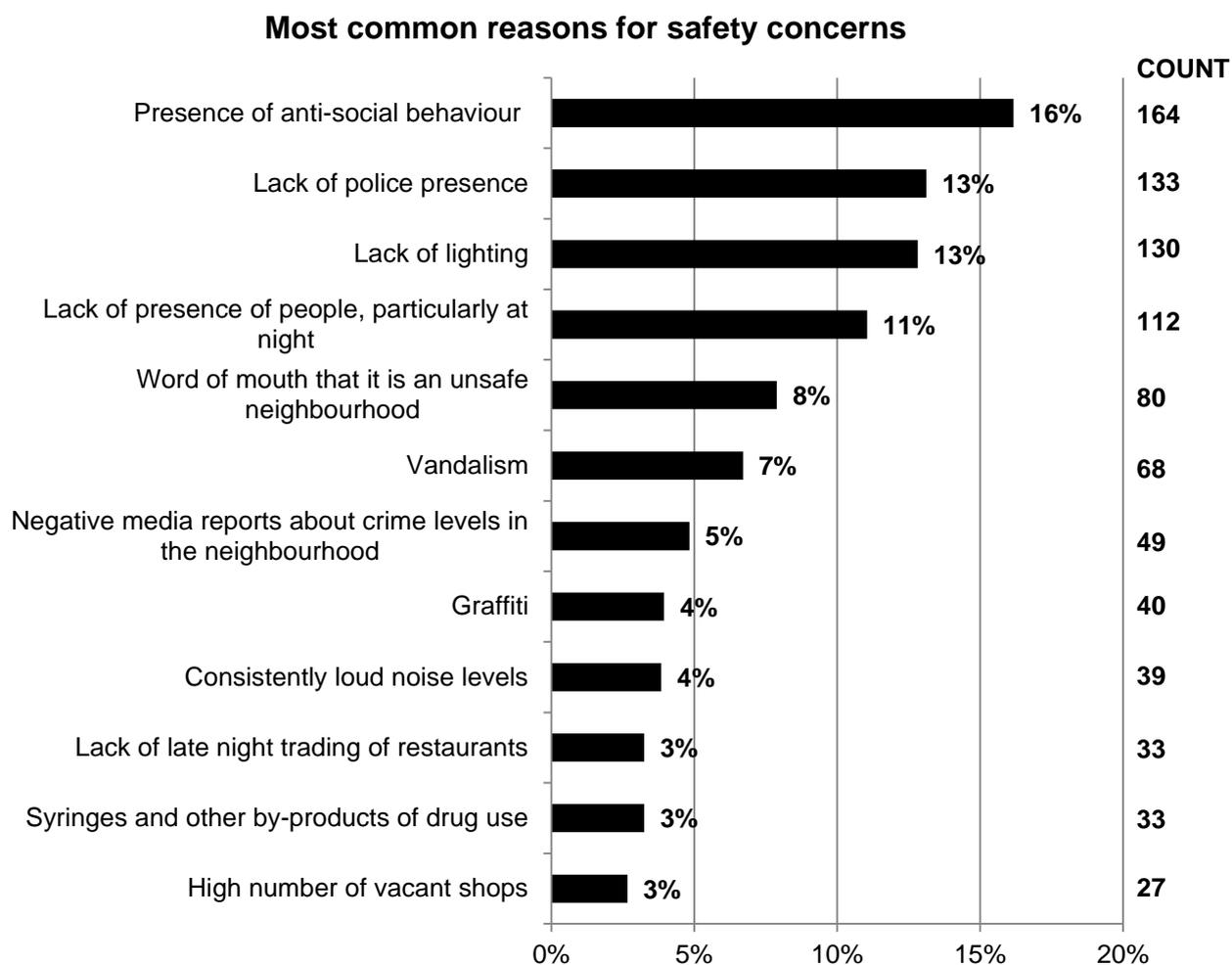
Figure 17 Changed routines/behaviours



The most cited reasons for changing these routines/ behaviours were (Figure 18):

- One in six (16%) selected the presence of anti-social behaviour
- Lack of police presence (13%)
- Lack of lighting (13%).

Figure 18 Most common reasons for safety concerns



The top three changed routine/behaviours by top safety concerns (Table 6) are:

Increased security at home (61%) because:

- Other (31%) includes mentions of restricted outdoor activity, avoiding neighbours and restricting children's activities.
- Lack of police presence (24%)
- Presence of anti-social behaviour (22%).

Restricted night time activity (35%) because:

- Lack of lighting (22%)
- Presence of anti-social behaviour (22%)
- Lack of presence of people, particularly at night (21%).

Increased security action (22%) because of:

- Presence of anti-social behaviour (10%)
- Other (9%) Other includes mentions of restricted outdoor activity, avoiding neighbours and restricting children's activities.
- Word of mouth that it is an unsafe neighbourhood (8%).

Table 6 Changed routine/behaviour and reason for safety concern

|  | Increased security action at home |       | Restrict night time activity |       | Increase security action |       | Avoid certain areas/ places |       | Change route(s) used |       | Change transport used |       | Other |       |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | %                                 | Count | %                            | Count | %                        | Count | %                           | Count | %                    | Count | %                     | Count | %     | Count |
| Lack of police presence  | 24%                               | 46    | 20%                          | 38    | 6%                       | 12    | 7%                          | 14    | 6%                   | 12    | 3%                    | 5     | 3%    | 6     |
| Lack of lighting   | 18%                               | 34    | 22%                          | 43    | 7%                       | 14    | 7%                          | 14    | 8%                   | 16    | 3%                    | 5     | 2%    | 4     |
| Consistently loud noise levels                                 | 8%                                | 16    | 4%                           | 8     | 2%                       | 3     | 4%                          | 7     | 0%                   | 0     | 0%                    | 0     | 3%    | 5     |
| Syringes and other by-products of drug use                     | 3%                                | 5     | 3%                           | 5     | 2%                       | 4     | 6%                          | 12    | 2%                   | 4     | 1%                    | 1     | 1%    | 2     |
| Vandalism  | 15%                               | 29    | 7%                           | 13    | 5%                       | 9     | 5%                          | 10    | 3%                   | 5     | 1%                    | 1     | 1%    | 1     |
| Graffiti   | 9%                                | 17    | 3%                           | 6     | 2%                       | 3     | 4%                          | 8     | 2%                   | 4     | 1%                    | 2     | 0%    | 0     |
| Presence of anti-social behaviour                              | 22%                               | 43    | 22%                          | 42    | 10%                      | 20    | 15%                         | 28    | 9%                   | 17    | 3%                    | 6     | 4%    | 8     |
| Word of mouth that it is an unsafe neighbourhood               | 12%                               | 23    | 11%                          | 21    | 8%                       | 15    | 4%                          | 7     | 2%                   | 4     | 2%                    | 4     | 3%    | 6     |
| Negative media reports about crime levels in the neighbourhood | 8%                                | 16    | 5%                           | 10    | 5%                       | 9     | 4%                          | 7     | 2%                   | 3     | 1%                    | 2     | 1%    | 2     |
| Lack of late night trading of restaurants                      | 1%                                | 2     | 6%                           | 12    | 2%                       | 4     | 3%                          | 5     | 3%                   | 5     | 2%                    | 4     | 1%    | 1     |
| Lack of presence of people, particularly at night              | 9%                                | 17    | 21%                          | 40    | 7%                       | 14    | 7%                          | 13    | 8%                   | 15    | 4%                    | 8     | 3%    | 5     |
| High number of vacant shops                                    | 1%                                | 1     | 8%                           | 15    | 1%                       | 2     | 2%                          | 3     | 2%                   | 3     | 1%                    | 2     | 1%    | 1     |
| Other  | 31%                               | 59    | 3%                           | 5     | 9%                       | 17    | 3%                          | 6     | 3%                   | 5     | 2%                    | 4     | 5%    | 10    |

Note: Other includes mentions of restricted outdoor activity, avoiding neighbours and restricting children's activities.

Increase security includes carrying pepper spray, not having valuables on person, being more aware of potential dangers, car security and other measure outside of the home.

Highlighted cells indicate higher responses recorded.

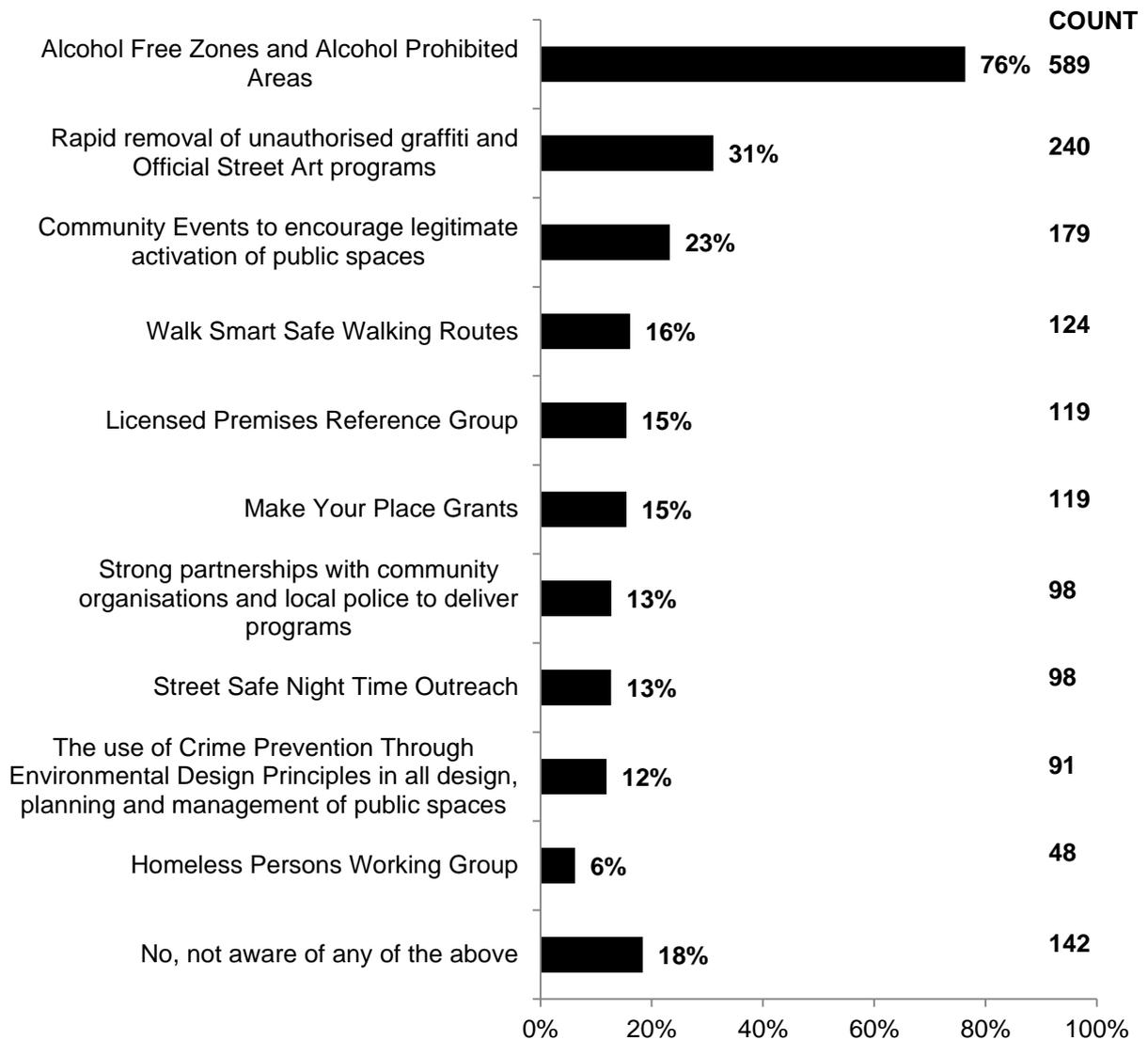
### **3.5. Awareness of Council's community safety programs**

Council currently delivers a number of programs around community safety and wanted to find out how aware the community are of these programs.

Awareness was highest for Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas, with 76% of participants stating they are aware of these. This was followed by rapid removal of unauthorised graffiti and official street art programs (31%) and community events to encourage legitimate activation of public spaces (23%). Awareness was lowest for Homeless Persons Working Group (6%) and 18% percent of participants were not aware of any of the Council programs listed.

Figure 19 Awareness of Council community safety programs

**Are you aware of any of the following current programs and services that Council delivers around Community Safety?**



## **Differences between key groups**

Community Events to encourage legitimate activation of public spaces

- Awareness of this program was significantly greater in Ward 1 than all other wards (Ward 2 (26% n=50), Ward 3 (20% n=40), Ward 4 (12% n=23)).

Rapid removal of unauthorised graffiti and Official Street Art programs

- There was a higher level of awareness of this activity participants residing in Ward 1 (36% n=69) and Ward 2 (36% n=69) compared to those in Ward 3 (31% n=60) and Ward 4 (21% n=41).

## **4. Where to from here**

The results from this survey will assist the development of The Newcastle Safe City Plan which aims to address issues of community safety and anti-social behaviour within the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA).

The plan will outline a whole of Council approach to delivering safer outcomes for the Newcastle community. Local crime priorities will be identified through official crime statistics and consultations with key stakeholders and the community and the Plan will outline key initiatives, within Council's scope, to address key issues relating to these priorities.

The Newcastle Safe City Plan will replace The City of Newcastle Crime Prevention Plan 2001 and will be supplemented by the Newcastle After Dark Plan: Night-Time Economy Strategy.

# Appendix I - Survey Questionnaire



**Safe City Survey 2016**

Through the Safe City Survey 2016 we would like to better understand community perceptions of the crime and safety issues in the Newcastle Local Government Area.

Please keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers. What we are seeking is simply your opinion. The results from this survey will help to inform the development of the Newcastle Safe City Plan which will outline a whole of Council approach to delivering safer outcomes for the Newcastle Community. The Newcastle Safe City Plan will replace The City of Newcastle Crime Prevention Plan 2001, and will be supplemented by the Newcastle After Dark: Night-Time Economy Strategy.

This survey should take you around 12-15 minutes to complete.

Please send the completed survey back to Newcastle City Council in the postage-paid envelope provided (there is no need to put a stamp on the envelope) by **Wednesday 6**

**July 2016.**

We look forward to receiving your completed survey.

With thanks,

The Community Engagement Team

## Perceptions of safety

Q1 Overall do you think the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) is safer, as safe, or less safe than other Australian cities of a similar size and population?

- Safer
- As safe
- Less safe
- Don't know

Q2 In general, over the past 12 months do you believe that crime in Newcastle LGA has:

- Increased
- Stayed about the same
- Decreased

Q3 Overall, I feel safe in the Newcastle LGA

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/

NA

Q4 What do you think are the **top three** community safety issues in the **Newcastle** LGA? *This question relates directly to Newcastle LGA, you will be asked later on in the survey about issues in your neighbourhood. Please tick three boxes only*

- Sexual assault
- Assault - domestic violence
- Assault - non-domestic violence related
- Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes
- Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from business
- Malicious damage to property
- Mail theft
- Motor vehicle theft
- Property stolen from motor vehicle
- Theft from person (eg. mugging)
- Other theft
- Disputes between neighbours or domestic disputes
- Syringes and other by-products of drug use
- Sale of illegal drugs
- Vandalism or graffiti
- Dangerous or noisy driving
- Anti-Social behaviours including; begging, loitering, public nuisance, drinking in public spaces, threatening behaviour
- Other... please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above

Q4a For each of the three community safety issues you have selected above, what do you think Council can do to address this issue?

**Please keep in mind that law enforcement (Police) and transport are not a Council responsibility. Please identify areas that Council can address.**

ISSUE 1: \_\_\_\_\_

|  |
|--|
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|  |

ISSUE 2: \_\_\_\_\_

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|  |

ISSUE 3: \_\_\_\_\_

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |
|  |

### ***Experience of crime***

Q5 In the past 12 months have you or someone close to you been affected by crime? If yes, please select the relevant type(s)

- No, I nor someone I know have been affected by crime in the past 12 months
  
- Sexual assault
- Assault - domestic violence
- Assault - non-domestic violence related
- Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes
- Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from business
- Malicious damage to property
- Mail theft
- Motor vehicle theft
- Property stolen from motor vehicle
- Theft from person (eg. mugging)
- Other theft
- Disputes between neighbours or domestic disputes
- Syringes and other by-products of drug use
- Sale of illegal drugs
- Vandalism or graffiti
- Dangerous or noisy driving

- Anti-Social behaviours including; begging, loitering, public nuisance, drinking in public spaces, threatening behaviour
- Other... please specify \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Feelings of safety***

Q6 How safe or unsafe do you feel walking in your local area during the day?

- Very unsafe
- Unsafe
- Neither
- Safe
- Very safe
- Don't know

Q7 How safe or unsafe do you feel walking in your local area after dark?

- Very unsafe
- Unsafe
- Neither
- Safe
- Very safe
- Don't know

Q8 How safe or unsafe do you feel at home by yourself during the day?

- Very unsafe
- Unsafe
- Neither
- Safe
- Very safe
- Don't know

Q9 How safe or unsafe do you feel at home by yourself after dark?

- Very unsafe
- Unsafe
- Neither
- Safe
- Very safe
- Don't know

Q10 How safe do you feel your neighbourhood is for children?

- Very unsafe
- Unsafe
- Neither
- Safe

- Very safe
- Don't know

Q11 Do you think crime or people creating a public nuisance are problems in your neighbourhood?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q12 Are any of the following issues a problem in your **neighbourhood**?

*This question relates directly to your neighbourhood only.*

- Sexual assault
- Assault - domestic violence
- Assault - non-domestic violence related
- Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes
- Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from business
- Malicious damage to property
- Mail theft
- Motor vehicle theft
- Property stolen from motor vehicle
- Theft from person (eg. mugging)
- Other theft
- Disputes between neighbours or domestic disputes
- Syringes and other by-products of drug use
- Sale of illegal drugs
- Vandalism or graffiti
- Dangerous or noisy driving
- Anti-Social behaviours including; begging, loitering, public nuisance, drinking in public spaces, threatening behaviour
- Other... please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- No, none of the above

Q13 Have you recently changed any of your usual routines/behaviours because of concern for your safety?

*This could include things like avoiding certain parts of your neighbourhood or staying at home*

- Yes (go to Q13a)
- No (go to 14)
- Don't Know (go to 14)

IF NO or DON'T KNOW for Q13 go to Q14. If YES for Q13 please complete questions below. You can include up to three routines/behaviours that you have changed and select why you were concerned for your safety.

Q13a The routine/behaviour I have changed because of safety concerns is \_\_\_\_\_

I have changed this routine because of the following safety concern(s):

- Lack of police presence
- Lack of lighting
- Consistently loud noise levels
- Syringes and other by-products of drug use
- Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Presence of anti-social behaviour i.e. people drinking in public spaces
- Word of mouth that it is an unsafe neighbourhood
- Negative media reports about crime levels in the neighbourhood
- Lack of late night trading of restaurants
- Lack of presence of people, particularly at night
- High number of vacant shops
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q13b The routine/behaviour I have changed because of safety concerns is \_\_\_\_\_

I have changed this routine because of the following safety concern(s):

- Lack of police presence
- Lack of lighting
- Consistently loud noise levels
- Syringes and other by-products of drug use
- Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Presence of anti-social behaviour i.e. people drinking in public spaces
- Word of mouth that it is an unsafe neighbourhood
- Negative media reports about crime levels in the neighbourhood
- Lack of late night trading of restaurants

- Lack of presence of people, particularly at night
- High number of vacant shops
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q13c The routine/behaviour I have changed because of safety concerns is \_\_\_\_\_

I have changed this routine because of the following safety concern(s):

- Lack of police presence
- Lack of lighting
- Consistently loud noise levels
- Syringes and other by-products of drug use
- Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Presence of anti-social behaviour i.e. people drinking in public spaces
- Word of mouth that it is an unsafe neighbourhood
- Negative media reports about crime levels in the neighbourhood
- Lack of late night trading of restaurants
- Lack of presence of people, particularly at night
- High number of vacant shops
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Awareness of Council's Current Services***

Q14 Are you aware of any of the following current programs and services that Council delivers around Community Safety?

- Street Safe Night Time Outreach
- The use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles in all design, planning and management of public spaces
- Walk Smart Safe Walking Routes
- Make Your Place Grants
- Community Events to encourage legitimate activation of public spaces
- Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas
- Rapid removal of unauthorised graffiti and Official Street Art programs
- Strong partnerships with community organisations and local police to deliver programs
- Licensed Premises Reference Group
- Homeless Persons Working Group
- No, not aware of any of the above

## **Demographic Information**

1. What is your age?

- Under 18
- "18-24"
- "25-39"
- "40-54"
- "55-69"
- 70+
- Prefer not to say

2. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender/Intersex/Other
- Prefer not to say

3. Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

4. Where were you born?

- Australia
- New Zealand and other Pacific Nations
- Great Britain (includes England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland)
- Central Europe (includes Russia to Portugal, all Balkans)
- Middle East (includes Turkey, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran)
- Africa (includes Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, South Africa)
- North America (includes Canada and United States of America)
- Central and South America (includes Mexico to Peru)
- Asia (India to China, all of Southeast Asia)

5. Do you speak any language(s) other than English at home? If yes, please write it/them in below:

- Yes, at home I also speak
- No

## Appendix II - Non - resident results

The following results are responses received from those living out of the Newcastle LGA and do not own property within the Newcastle LGA (N=69).

### Local Government Area of residence

To begin please tell us which Local Government Area (LGA) you live in?

Total participants: 69

Newcastle

0% (0)

Port Stephens

7% (5)

Lake Macquarie

67% (46)

Cessnock

6% (4)

Maitland

13% (9)

Other

7% (5)

### Perceptions of safety

Overall do you think the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) is safer, as safe, or less safe than other Australian cities of a similar size and population?

Total participants: 69

Safer

23% (16)

As safe

55% (38)

Less safe

14% (10)

Don't know

7% (5)

In general, over the past 12 months do you believe that crime in Newcastle LGA has:

Total participants: 69

● Increased ● Stayed about the same ● Decreased

26% (18)

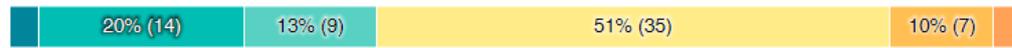
58% (40)

16% (11)

Overall, I feel safe in the Newcastle LGA

Total participants: 69

● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither ● Agree ● Strongly agree ● Don't know/NA



### Top three community safety issues

What do you think are the top three community safety issues in the Newcastle LGA?

Total participants: 69

Sexual assault

1% (1)

Assault - domestic violence

57% (39)

Assault - non-domestic violence related

26% (17)

Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes

30% (21)

Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from business

9% (6)

Malicious damage to property

22% (15)

Mail theft

0% (0)

Motor vehicle theft

6% (4)

Property stolen from motor vehicle

10% (7)

Theft from person (eg. mugging)

4% (3)

Other theft

1% (1)

Disputes between neighbours or domestic disputes

9% (6)

Syringes and other by-products of drug use

10% (7)

Sale of illegal drugs

38% (25)

Vandalism or graffiti

20% (14)

Dangerous or noisy driving

9% (6)

Anti-Social behaviours including; begging, loitering, public nuisance, drinking in public spaces, threatening behaviour

33% (23)

Other

3% (2)

Don't know

1% (1)

## Experience of crime

In the past 12 months have you or someone close to you been affected by crime? If yes, please select the relevant type:

Total participants: 69

No, I have not been affected by crime in the past 12 months

41% (28)

Sexual assault

0% (0)

Assault - domestic violence

7% (5)

Assault - non-domestic violence related

3% (2)

Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from homes

12% (8)

Breaking and entering, burglary or theft from business

7% (5)

Malicious damage to property

14% (10)

Mail theft

3% (2)

Motor vehicle theft

7% (5)

Property stolen from motor vehicle

10% (7)

Theft from person (eg. mugging)

0% (0)

Other theft

1% (1)

Disputes between neighbours or domestic disputes

7% (5)

Syringes and other by-products of drug use

6% (4)

Sale of illegal drugs

4% (3)

Vandalism or graffiti

14% (10)

Dangerous or noisy driving

20% (14)

Anti-Social behaviours including: begging, loitering, public nuisance, drinking in public spaces, threatening behaviour

38% (26)

Other

1% (1)

## Awareness of Council Programs

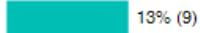
Are you aware of any of the following current programs and services that Council delivers around Community Safety?

Total participants: 69

Street Safe Night Time Outreach



The use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles in all design, planning and management of pub...



Walk Smart Safe Walking Routes



Make Your Place Grants



Community Events to encourage legitimate activation of public spaces



Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas



Rapid removal of unauthorised graffiti and Official Street Art programs



Strong partnerships with community organisations and local police to deliver programs



Licensed Premises Reference Group



Homeless Persons Working Group



No, not aware of any of the above



## Demographics

What is your age range?

Total participants: 69

Under 18



18-24



25-39



40-54



55-69



70+



Prefer not to say



And what is your gender?

Total participants: 69

Male



Female



Transgender/Intersex/Other

0% (0)

Prefer not to say

0% (0)

Do you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Total participants: 69

Yes



No



Prefer not to say



Where were you born?

Total participants: 69

Australia



New Zealand and other Pacific Nations



Great Britain – (includes England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland)



Central Europe (includes Russia to Portugal, all Balkans)



Middle East (includes Turkey, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran)

0% (0)

Africa (includes Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, South Africa)



North America (includes Canada and United States of America)

0% (0)

Central and South America (includes Mexico to Peru)

0% (0)

Asia (India to China, all of southeast Asia)



Do you speak any language/s other than English at home?

Total participants: 69

No, I only speak English



