

Theme Report 8: Feeling Safe and Respected

August 2016

Community Survey

2015 Community Insight

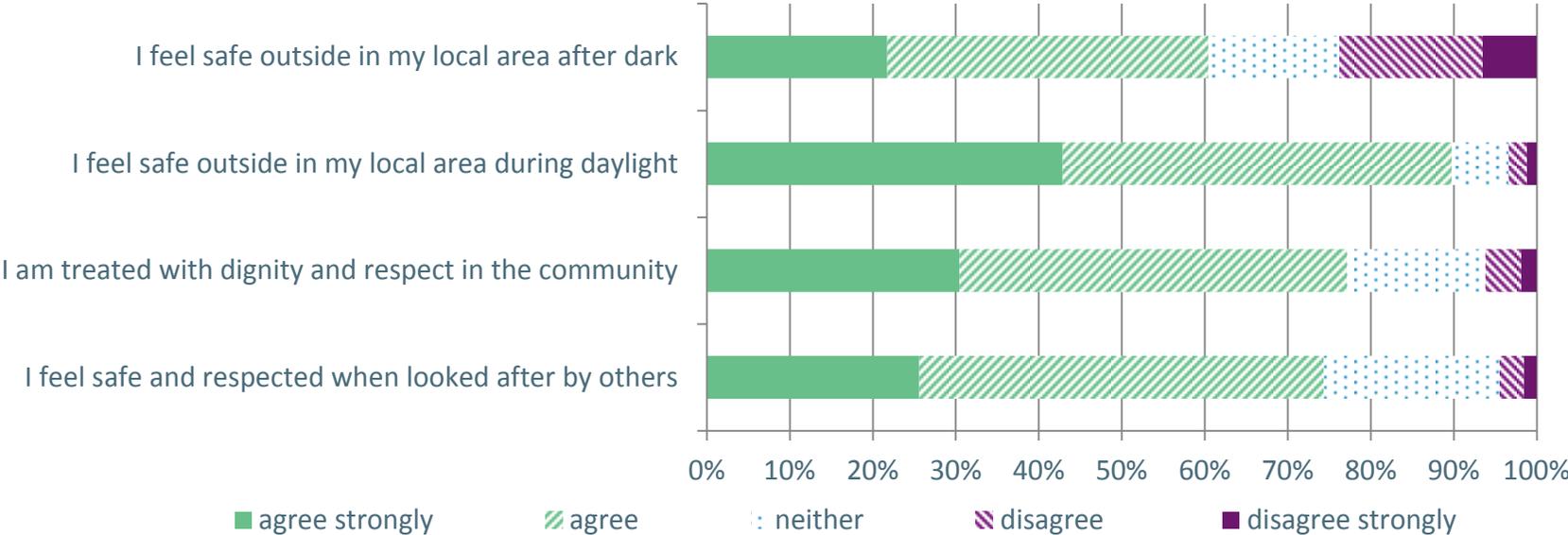


Links to Better Together outcomes – Safe: Vulnerable people will be better protected from abuse and harm. Fewer people will be victims of crime, including domestic violence. **Connected:** Communities will be more cohesive and inclusive.

Performance Result:

I feel safe outside in my local area during daylight	90% agree	
I feel safe outside in my local area after dark	61% agree	
I am treated with dignity and respect in the community	77% agree	
I feel safe and respected when looked after by others	74% agree	

Feeling safe and respected



This question also included a 'not relevant to me' option which is excluded from the above results but data for this is available in the 'all counts' report. Around 40% said that the 'I feel safe and respected when looked after by others' was not relevant to them.

Inequalities identified

Disabled people were significantly more likely to disagree that they felt safe outside in their local area after dark and less likely to agree that they felt safe in the local area during daylight. Those with poorer physical health were significantly less likely to agree that they felt safe outside at any time, as were those from BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) groups. Women were slightly less likely to agree that they felt safe outside in their local area after dark, whilst very little difference between men and women during the day. Those who said they were religious were also slightly less likely to agree that they felt safe outside in the local area after dark.

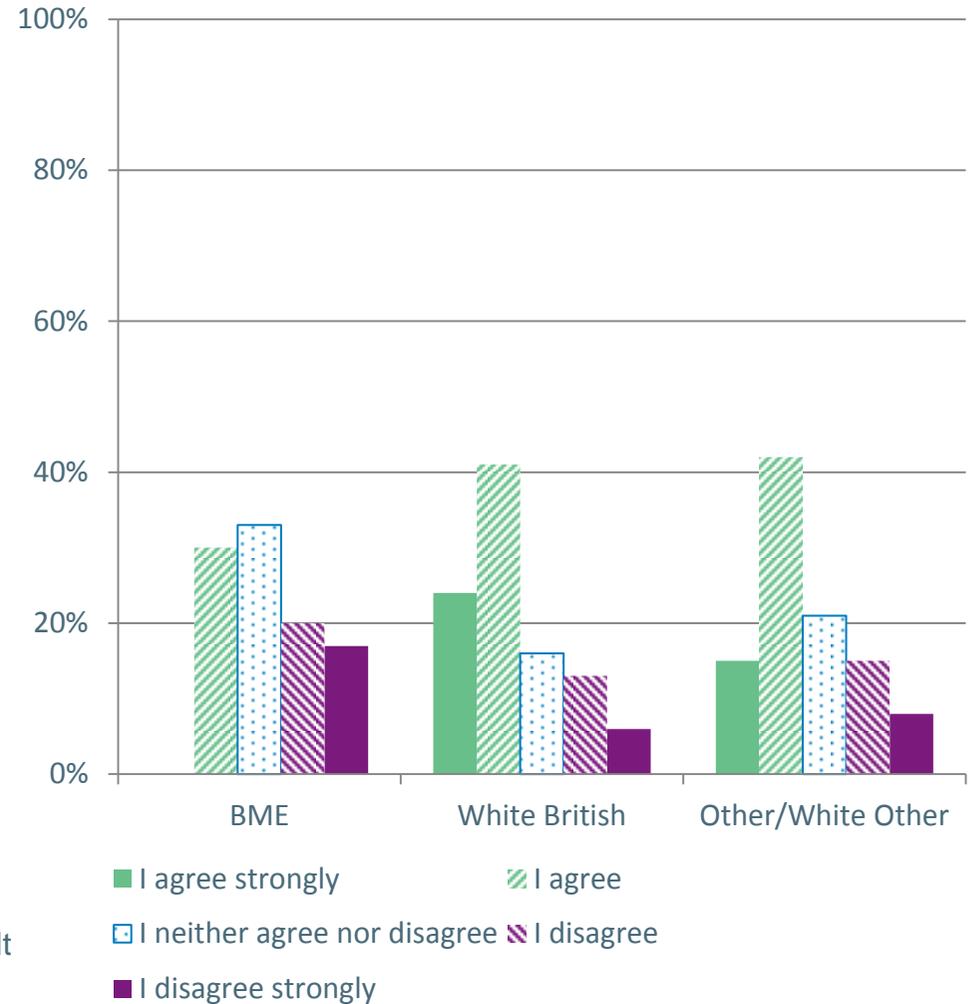
Those who said they lived in Exeter were slightly less likely to agree that they felt safe outside in their local area after dark, and those saying they lived in a town or city, on the edge of a town, or who did not have use of a car were also less likely to agree that they felt safe after dark or during daylight.

Disabled people were less likely to agree that they were treated with dignity and respect in their community, with those whose 'activities were limited a lot', those with poor physical or mental health, or BME people, significantly less so.

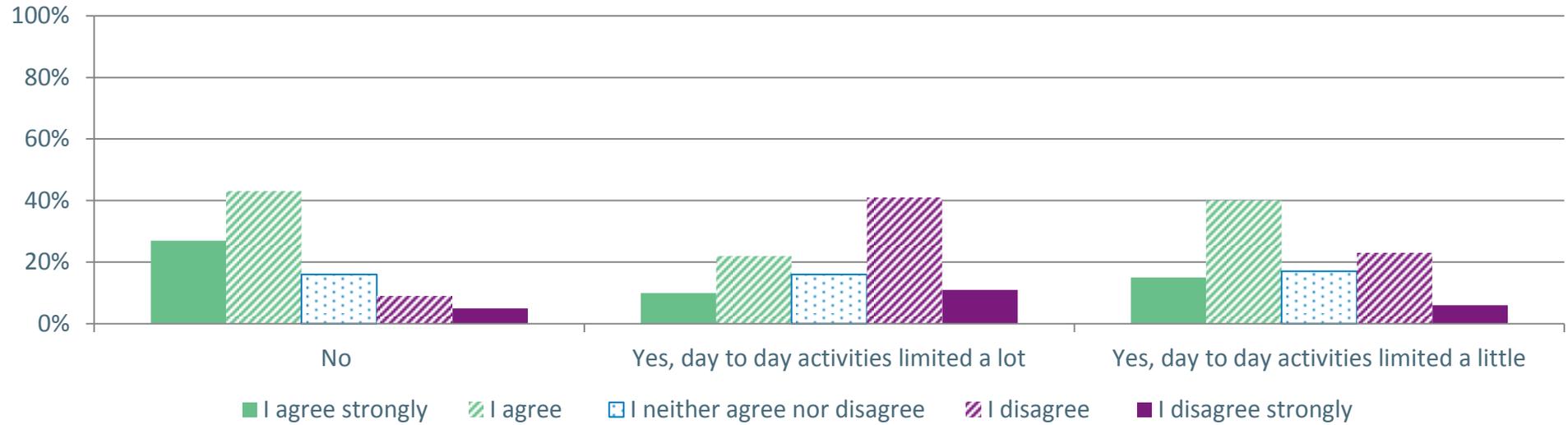
Those living in a rural village were more likely to agree that they were treated with dignity and respect in the community.

Those with mental health conditions were less likely to agree that they felt respected when looked after by others.

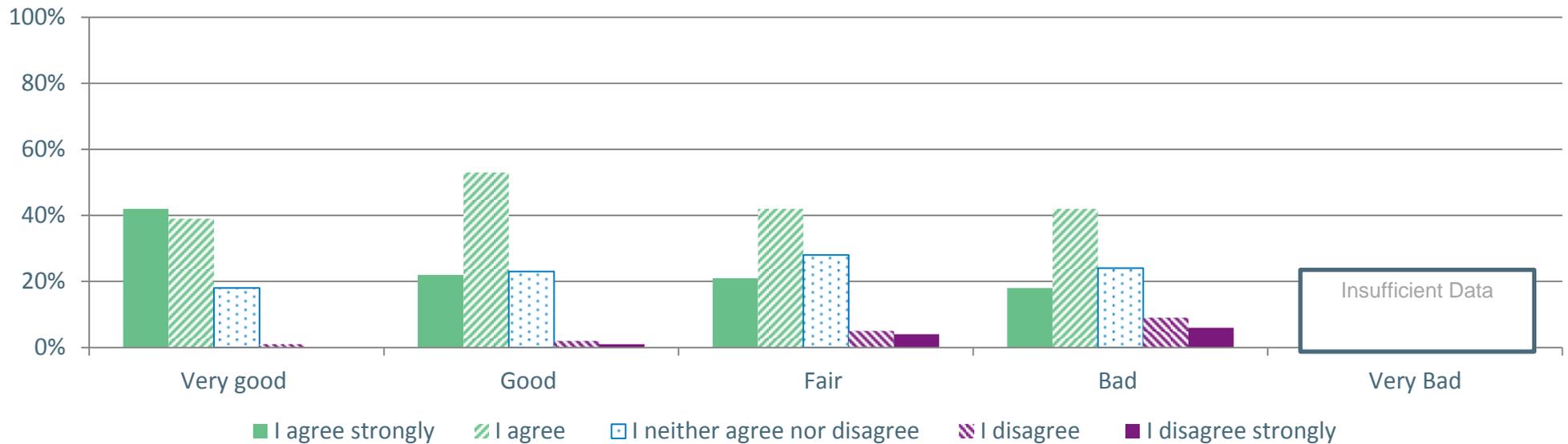
I feel safe in my local area after dark by ethnicity



I feel safe in my local area after dark, by Disability (day-to-day activities limited)



I feel safe and respected when looked after by others, by mental health



Comments

Feeling safe and being treated with dignity and respect in the community

Many respondents highlighted that reduced policing affected how safe they felt in their area. A night time “drinking culture” was mentioned by a number of people as being particularly problematic and creating ‘no go areas’.

Some respondents said that they had problems going out particularly after dark due to disability, with a number mentioning sight problems: “due to lack of vision cannot see far ahead at night, people may not notice I have a disability”.

Some mentioned identity based discrimination directed towards them: “because of actual hostility directed against me by abusive strangers on the basis of prejudice”. Specific mention was made about being transgender and the need to “look after yourself after dark” and one person mentioned people being hostile towards cyclists through online death threats. A lack of respect towards disabled people as well as older and younger people alike was also mentioned.

Some mentioned road safety (lack of pavements or speeding motorists) preventing them from feeling safe outside and a few said they relied on streetlights to feel safe.

Reduction of policing, and community safety, are resulting in increased risks.

The police service is no longer functional in our area and low level anti-social behaviour is now endemic.

The streetlights go out at 1am....in pitch darkness it's frightening even with a torch...a woman and I sometimes do shift work...

If our local police force is reduced any further the first two statements [on feeling safe] will not be applicable...

More drink-related violence and lack of police - never see a PC these days....do they still exist?!

Resourcing is too low to respond to anti-social behaviour...

Too many drunken people in the area, feel very unsafe when coming home in the dark.

As a woman aged 62 I would no longer be happy to walk alone after dark.

A few respondents gave examples of feeling safe when looked after by others with some suggesting they only felt safe in the care of family members. One person indicated they were a victim of 'mate crime': "People who 'befriend' me always seem to have a financial agenda, either repeatedly asking me to lend them money, which they never repay or people steal from me. I do not know how to protect myself."

General public are intolerant to mobility scooter users and wheelchair users

Not always treated with respect in local community due to sexual orientation.

Dignity, respect? I avoid turning out time of the local schools as I get pushed and shoved into the road and sworn at.

On a number of occasions I have felt threatened or unsafe in the street... directed against me by abusive strangers on basis of prejudice...

... several times I have encountered discrimination as I am Chinese.

Bullied by a local woman...

...where I am not treated with dignity/respect is normally due to people stereo typing me for being young.

Some young people (small minority) can be disrespectful and unpleasant in manner towards older people.