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Granville Safety Survey

2022



231 people completed the survey this year.

98% said the behaviour that made them feel unsafe happened outside / in public realm of the GED.

Where?

89% reported feeling unsafe in the GED.

What would increase safety OUTSIDE GED venues?

What would increase safety INSIDE GED venues?

- 71%** said mandatory sexual violence training
- 70%** said discreet tools to get help
- 70%** said naloxone / overdose training

- 81%** said improved transportation options
- 60%** said an established place to sober up
- 58%** said improved lighting

Why?

We heard it was due to:

- 85%** Disorderly patrons
- 52%** Witnessing harassment
- 49%:** Witnessing violence

The top 3 types of harassment were:

- Gendered (56%)
- Racial (31%)
- Homophobic (28%)

At a glance



Since 2017, Good Night Out (GNO) has hosted an annual public survey asking respondents to share their experiences related to safety while spending time in the Granville Entertainment District (GED). It was initially done as “temperature check” during the pilot phase of the Street Team and has proven to be a helpful snapshot of both experiences and perceptions of safety as it pertains to the Granville Entertainment District. This report summarizes the findings of this year’s survey and offers comparison to the 2019 findings.

The Granville Entertainment District is a 8-block area that runs along Granville Street from West Georgia to Drake streets. According to 2022 information made available on the City of Vancouver Open Data Portal, there are 16 establishments in the GED which hold Liquor Establishment Extended type businesses licenses, plus additional Food Primary establishments serving liquor, live music venues, and after-hours spaces. The area is closed to traffic on the weekends due to the high volume of pedestrian traffic in the area to visit nightlife spaces.

Started in 2017, the Good Night Out Vancouver Street Team is a community-based initiative that seeks to increase the sense of safety of workers and patrons in the GED, as well as shift people's perspectives of the GED. The team does through skillful bystander intervention, harm reduction education and providing a visible, watchful, and helpful presence in the area. The Team operates on Friday and Saturday nights from midnight to 4 am. The team connects with more than 300 people each month.

It is our hope as an anti-violence organization that this survey data is useful to both our organization and other stakeholders in the area. The feedback shared here is helpful in assessing public perceptions of the area, their experiences with safety, what they hope to see, and how GNO can support safety in the area. We also hope that the data collected from regular surveys will contribute to the evaluation of the ongoing, multi sector efforts to change the area for the better.

2022 represents the fourth year that Good Night Out has conducted this survey. We did not host a survey in 2020 or 2021 due to the pandemic and our team not being consistently operational during that period.

Good Night Out wishes to thank all of the community members who took the time to complete this survey and share their experiences, as well as our valued stakeholders, including Destination Vancouver, Downtown Van and the City of Vancouver.

Good Night Out acknowledges that our work takes place on the occupied and unceded ancestral territories of the xwməθkwəy'əm, Skwxú7mesh and səl' ilwətaʔt people. As a feminist organization addressing violence against marginalized genders, we are committed to making the links between colonization, settler-imposed power structures and sexual violence while seeking to dismantle them, as each are inextricably connected.



**231 people
completed the
survey
this year!**

This year this survey was hosted on Survey Monkey, embedded into the website saferspacesurvey.com and was open for 6 weeks, from November 16th to December 30th.

This is one week longer than the survey period in 2019. The survey was promoted primarily via social media channels. Key stakeholders, including Downtown Van also shared the survey on their socials.

The survey was mentioned in one local media piece, On the Coast on CBC. We shared the link in the 5 workshops that GNO hosted during the survey period and also promoted in the GNO Newsletter.

In mid-December, Good Night Out purchased an advertisement on Instagram to generate traffic.

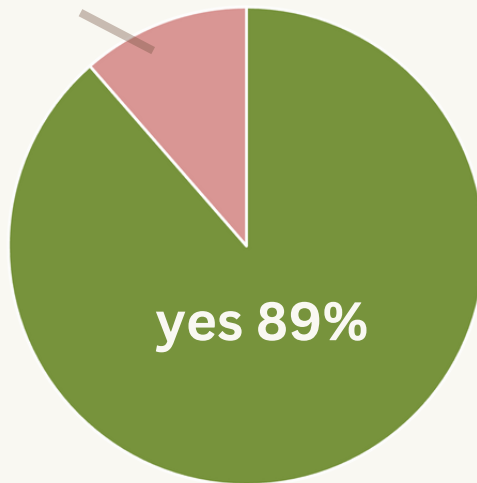
A total of 231 people completed the survey, although not everyone answered all of the questions. 99 people completed the 2019 survey and 76 people completed the 2018 survey.

About the Survey

Have you ever felt unsafe while out on Granville Street?

89% of respondents answered yes to this question. This is a slight uptick from 87% responding Yes in 2019.

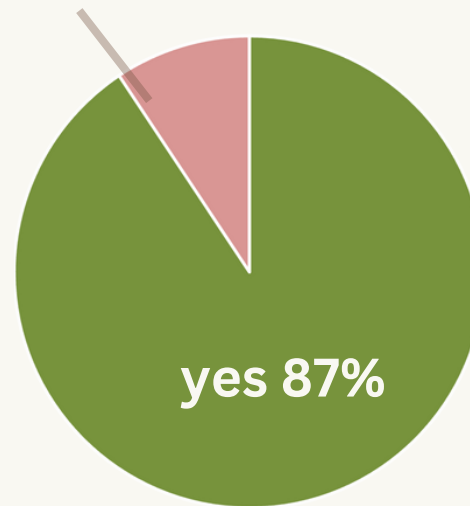
no 11%



2022

Figure 1. Feeling Unsafe in 2022

no 17%



2019

Figure 2. Feeling Unsafe in 2019

**In 2018,
93% of
respondents
indicated they
had felt unsafe
in the area.**

Findings

175 respondents answered this question. 56 skipped.

If yes – Why did you feel unsafe? (check all that apply):

The top 3 reasons why people felt unsafe in the GED in 2022 remained the same as in 2019: Actions related to disorderly / intoxicated patrons (85%), Witnessing the harassment of someone else (52%) and Witnessing violence 49%.

In 2019 the percentages of the same top 3 were 81%, 67%, and 49%, respectively. The graph from 2019 is in the Appendix.

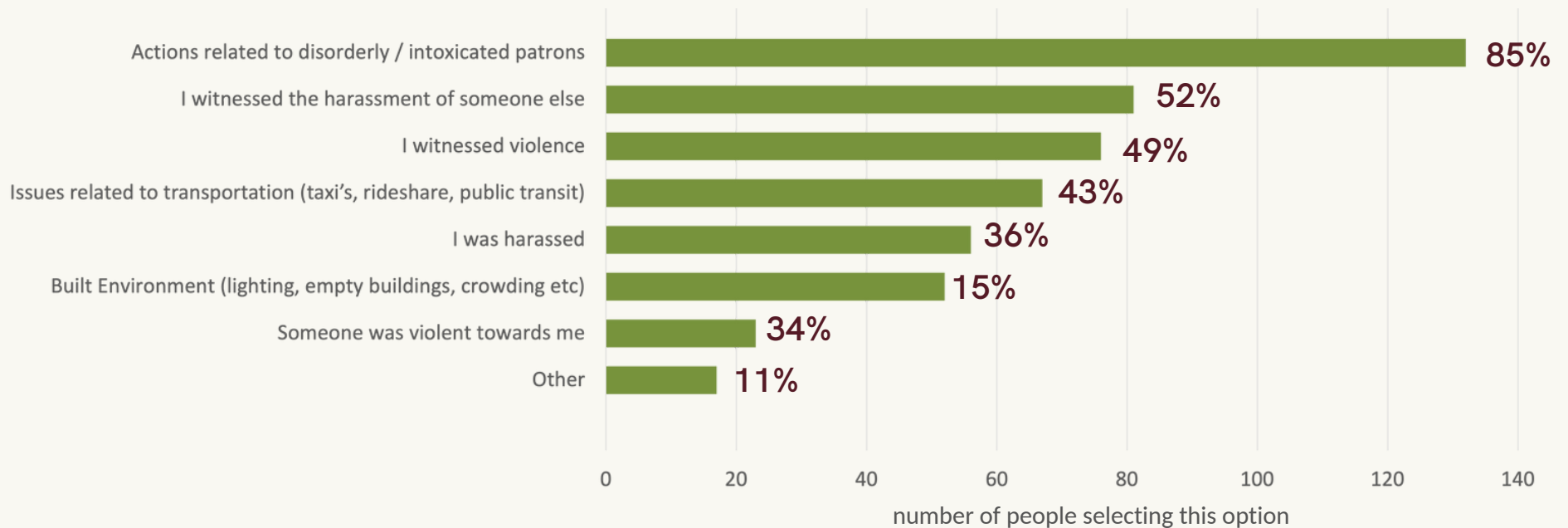


Figure 3. Reasons for Lack of Safety

155 respondents answered this question. 76 skipped. On this figure, the horizontal axis marks the total number of people who selected that option. The percentages (of people who responded to this Q) have been added to the bars for ease of review.

If you selected other, please describe:

18 people indicated their reasons for selecting 'other' when asked what caused them to feel unsafe. Themes to these included, news reports of violence, the presence or actions of police, manifestations of the housing crisis, sexual assault, and unwanted sexual behaviour. Some quotes are below.

- Police violence and overuse of authority on bystanders whom were not originally involved in incidents.
- Wheelchair user.
- There is a ton of police presence on Granville which elevates the sense of fear and danger in the GED.
- Man masturbating in the middle of the sidewalk.
- News reports of violence on Granville Street.
- Multiple of my friends have been raped in the alleys parallel to Granville street and in parking lots. People are drugged on this street nearly every night. Why are women not safe on Granville???
- Man followed me around in a car as I left a club alone.
- Been followed.

"Crowding, violent crimes reported in the news, feeling influenced by environment to binge drink to unsafe levels and putting myself in dangerous situations."

Did the thing(s) that made you feel unsafe happen: (check all that apply)

This is a new question for 2022.

**INSIDE a GED
Venue 33%**

**IN THE PUBLIC
REALM of the GED
98%**

**If you have witnessed or experienced violence in the GED, please tell us more about the nature of the harassment or violence.
Was it (check as many as apply):**

Harassment or violence most often had a Gendered (56%), Racial (31%) or Homophobic (28%) motivation to it, which is the same order as 2019, although all percentages are lower than they were in 2019. The chart from 2019 is in the Appendix.

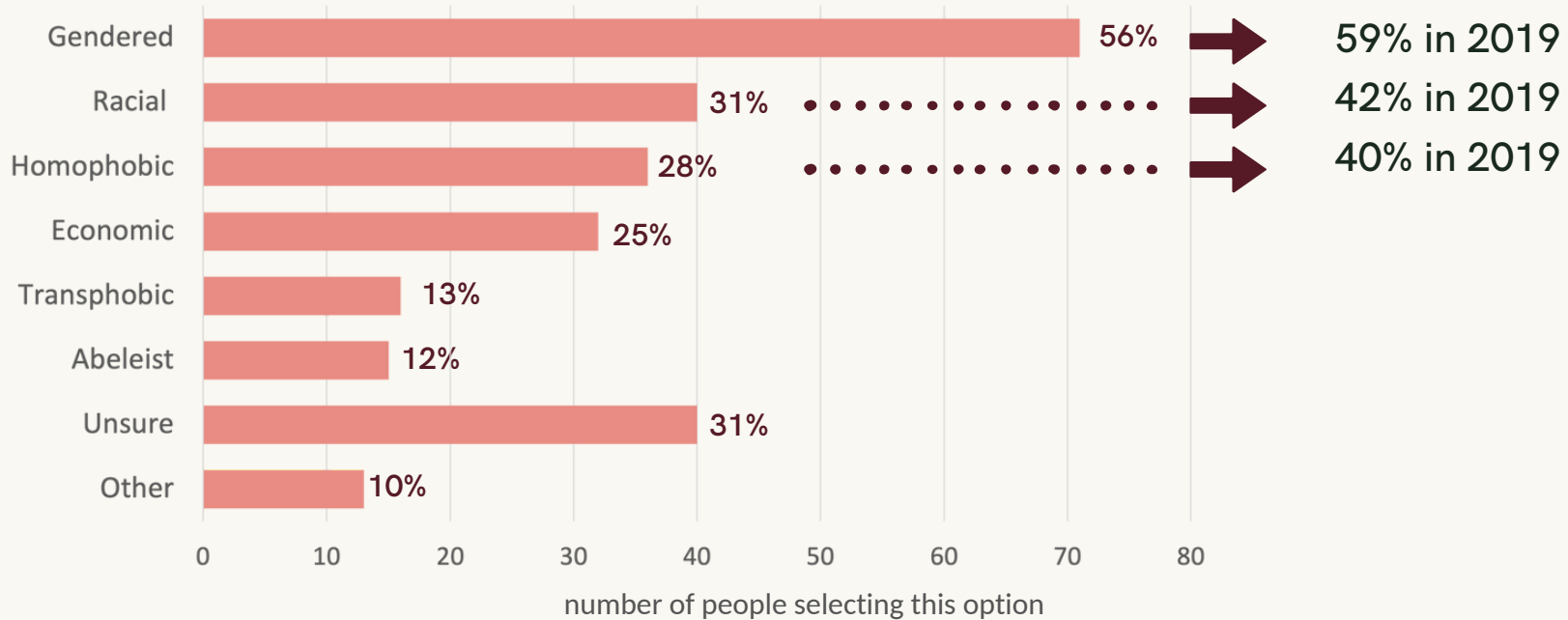


Figure 4. Nature of Violence or Harassment

128 respondents answered this question. 103 skipped. The horizontal axis marks the total number of people who selected that option. The percentages (of people who responded to this Q) have been added to the bars for ease of review.

If you selected other, please describe the nature of the harassment or violence you witnessed / experienced:

14 people indicated their reasons for selecting 'other' when asked about the nature of the harassment or violence they witnessed. Some quotes are below.

- Sexual predation.
- Male on male violence.
- Sexual assault.
- random macho stuff.
- Just motivated by confrontation
- Staff wouldn't even look at you. No greetings. Just processing.
- My friend was stabbed by a random woman walking down the street
- Someone just wanted to pick a fight with a friend of mine.
- Police brutality.



Which of the following would increase your sense of safety INSIDE establishments in the GED? Check all that apply:

This was a new question for 2022, asked to help us gain insight into what patrons would like to see in relation to safety inside late-night establishments. This data will be used to inform interventions offered in our "Last Call" pilot in partnership with the City of Vancouver.

Mandatory sexual violence training (71%), Discreet tools to get help (70%) and Naloxone / overdose training (70%) were tools selected by 70% of the respondents to increase their sense of safety inside establishments.

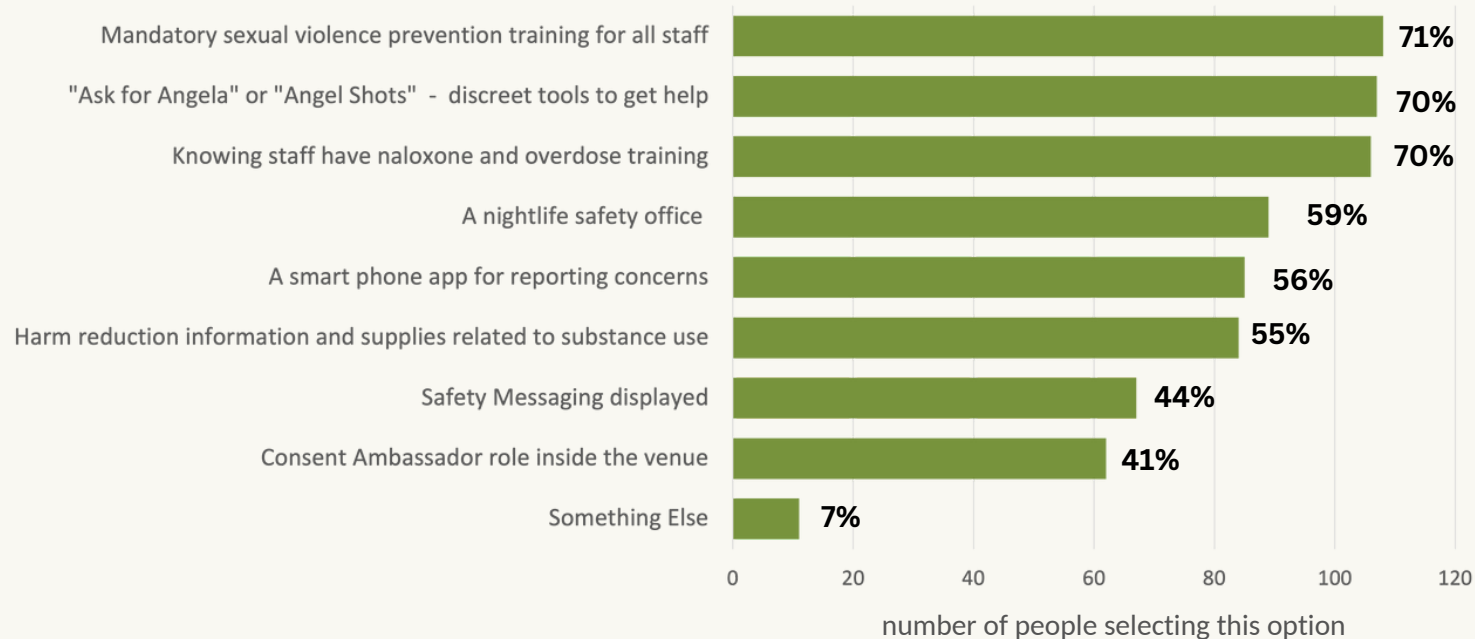


Figure 5. Safety Measures Inside

152 respondents answered this question. 79 skipped. The horizontal axis marks the total number of people who selected that option. The percentages (of people who responded to this Q) have been added to the bars for ease of review.

If you selected Something Else, please share it below:

12 respondents shared interventions that would contribute to their safety inside GED establishments. Some quotes are below.

- Fewer police around the GED. I have seen them manhandle people and feel less safe with them around.
- Strict policies related to substance use.
- Cutting off people before they are stupid drunk.
- Welcome patrons and let them know that they are coming to a place where the staff wants them to be because they are proud of the services they offer and that they will take care of you while you are in their space: "Please reach out, WE WANT TO HELP MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE HERE BE WONDERFUL!"
- A team of guardian angels that looks out for everyone.
- Self defence committee that works with victims so they don't get prosecuted by police for defending themselves.
- Alternative resources for situation you would typically have to rely on police for, hopefully minimizing the police presence in the ged area.
- Making sure there are appropriate people who can deescalate situations instead of cops because cops have been horrifying lately.

"Better variety of venues for activities that don't emphasize getting sh*tfaced."

Which of the following would increase your sense of safety OUTSIDE establishments in the GED? Check all that apply:

This was also a new question for 2022, to gauge what respondents feel would help increase safety in the public spaces of the GED.

81% of respondents indicated improved transportation options would contribute to a safer experience. 60% indicated an established place to sober up would increase safety and 58% indicated improved lighting would contribute to safety.

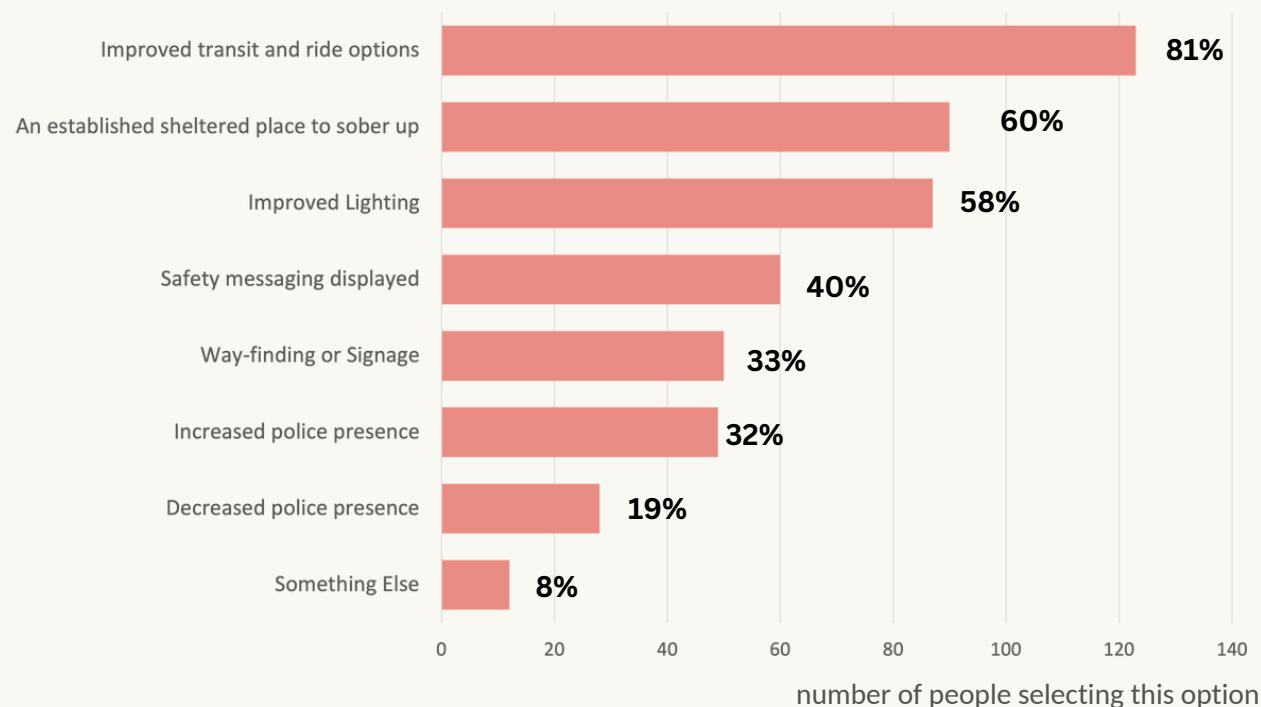


Figure 6. Safety Measures Outside

151 respondents answered this question. 80 skipped. The horizontal axis marks the total number of people who selected that option. The percentages (of people who responded to this Q) have been added to the bars for ease of review.

If you selected Something Else, please share it below:

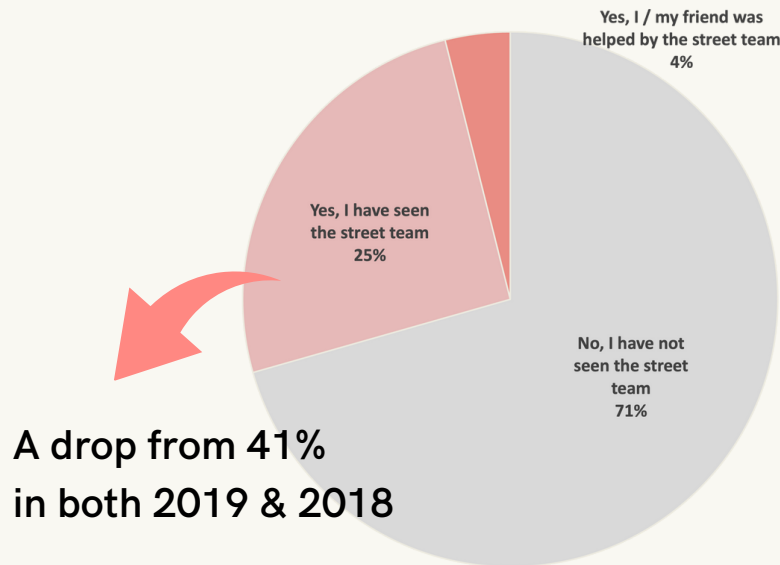
14 respondents shared ideas for improving safety in the public spaces of the GED. Some highlights are included below.

- Security presence.
- There is a structural problem to the area. So many venues are packed together and they're all built around getting drunk. They all close too early and people spill out still looking for things to do. It's built for chaos.
- Non-police trained safety ambassadors outside in the GED, who can escort patrons to safer options including transit
- Established protected taxi stand.
- Nice staff! They say hi! How are you? Welcome!
- Increased presence of sober people to ensure safety NOT police.
- More GNO support services.
- Let bars stay open until 4 but stop drinking at 3. Mandate free water for patrons.
- Alert buttons/ more immediate ways to get help to my location fast if feeling unsafe.
- Maybe not police but security.

"Increased support of harm reduction teams roaming streets to support non-violence issues such as intoxication and consent education."



Have you seen the Good Night Out Street Team out on Granville?

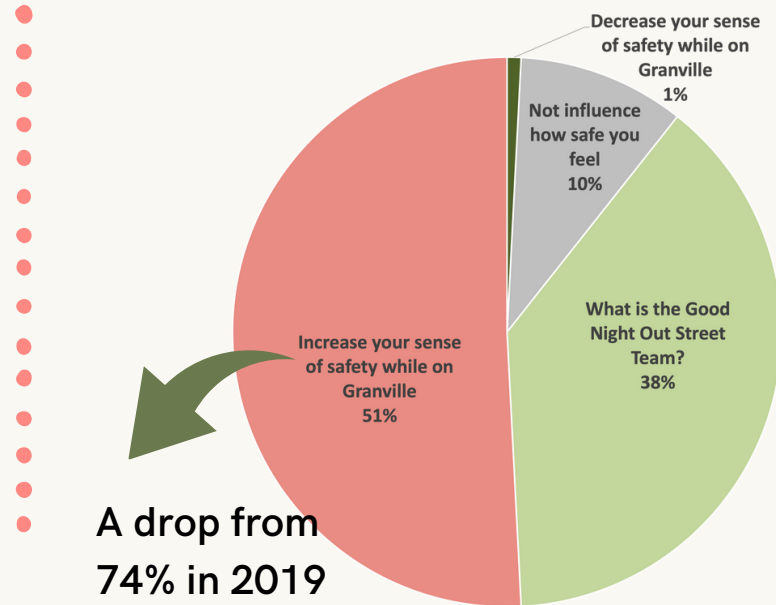


A drop from 41%
in both 2019 & 2018

Figure 7. Team Visibility

153 respondents answered this question. 78 skipped.

If /when you saw the Good Night Out Street Team in the GED, their presence would/did:



A drop from
74% in 2019

Figure 8. Team Impact

122 respondents answered this question. 109 skipped.

Responses to both of these questions indicate that patron awareness of the team is limited and could be improved upon.

We were anticipating this, given that we suspended services during the pandemic and now have people visiting the area who turned legal age during the pandemic, thus had not previously been made aware of our services. The chart from 2019 is in the Appendix.

Anything else you wanted to share about nightlife in the Granville Entertainment District?

15 respondents contributed to this open-ended question in the GED. They are included below.

- I think it is amazing. I never go to Granville because it is terrifying. I went to [a GED after hours] once in the last 1.5 years and the safety vibe was so bad I can't believe I thought I could pretend to enjoy myself by being treated so poorly just coming into the space. It didn't even wait for the creeping crowd to start non-consensually touching - I knew the staff wouldn't care about a complaint if they didn't even care that I had walked through their door.
- To be fair, my night life is a bit sparse compared to some. I've never seen this team but it sounds like a good idea.
- The area has changed significantly in the past 5-8 years and no longer attracts the same kind of crowd. Empty storefronts are occupied by homeless individuals, most of whom are minding their own business and have no intent to cause harm. However, their presence seems to signify to GED patrons that they can disrespect the area by urinating or littering on the street. There are more bars than clubs on Granville now, and some of the patrons who visit these establishments clearly have the intent to create conflict when inebriated. Not sure what can really be done here to address this, but the presence of Good Night Out members provides some reassurance. Thank you for your time and efforts!

"Let's not let it die! It's been a fun, even family friendly environment for a long time. We want our visitors to feel safe visiting the area also."

Anything else you wanted to share about nightlife in the Granville Entertainment District? Continued.

- Certain bouncers are power or cash hungry and it shows. Some bar staff are there for clout and party vibes and it shows. I have seen harm reduction at red room just partying in a corner and not being present. Some awesome folks on the street team and I'm not sure if they are the same peeps. A designated harm reduction area at the venues is definitely great! Vantek has a spot right by the door that's always staffed with supplies and also information on substances
- Please limit the amount of cops on Granville, ACAB the violence they have been using against people of Vancouver is just all too scary it needs to be looked at and better more safer people need to be around the GED please I don't party down there due to the recent activities going down there with VPD.
- Police was not there in early mornings sometime somebody need help police take more than 1 hours to reach on call.



"The environment on the streets can be scary & chaotic as so many people are intoxicated. I personally work in a Granville night club, and as a 22 year old woman I feel scared to walk into and out of work alone, I often run to where my car is parked after work."

When was the last time you were in the GED District after 9pm on a weekend?

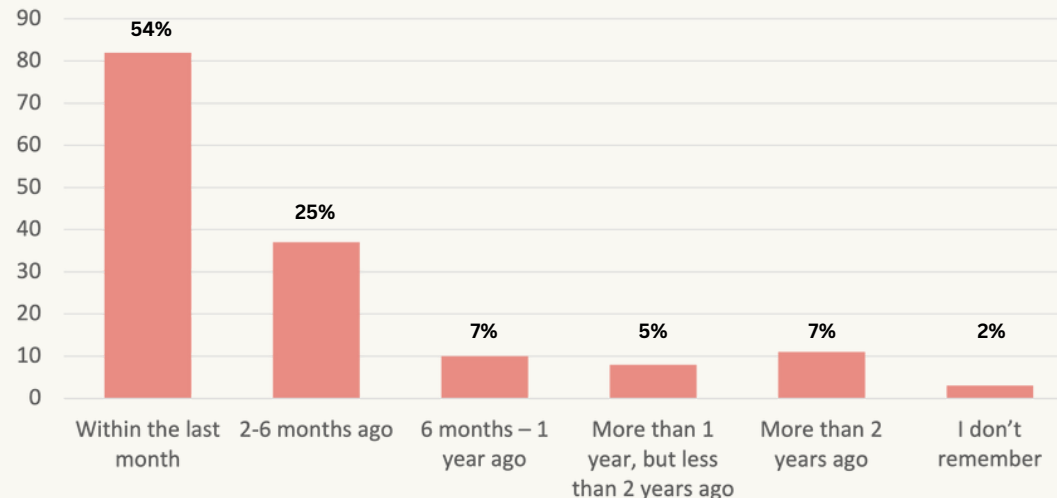


Figure 9. When last in GED

What is /was your reason for being in the GED during the weekend evenings (check all that apply):

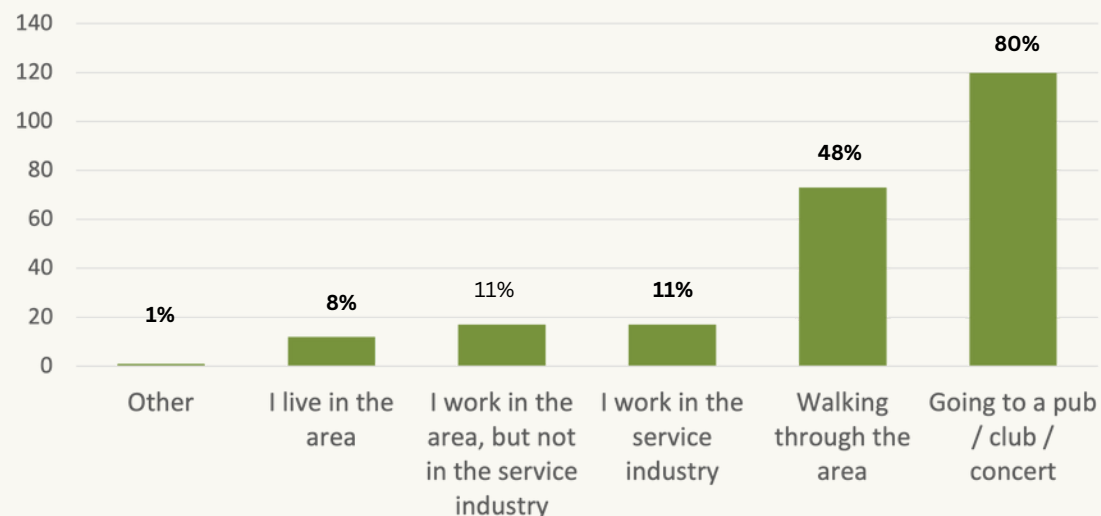


Figure 10. Reason for Being in the GED

151 respondents answered both questions. 80 skipped. The vertical axis marks the total number of people who selected that option. The percentages (of people who responded to this Q) have been added to the bars for ease of review.

What is your age?

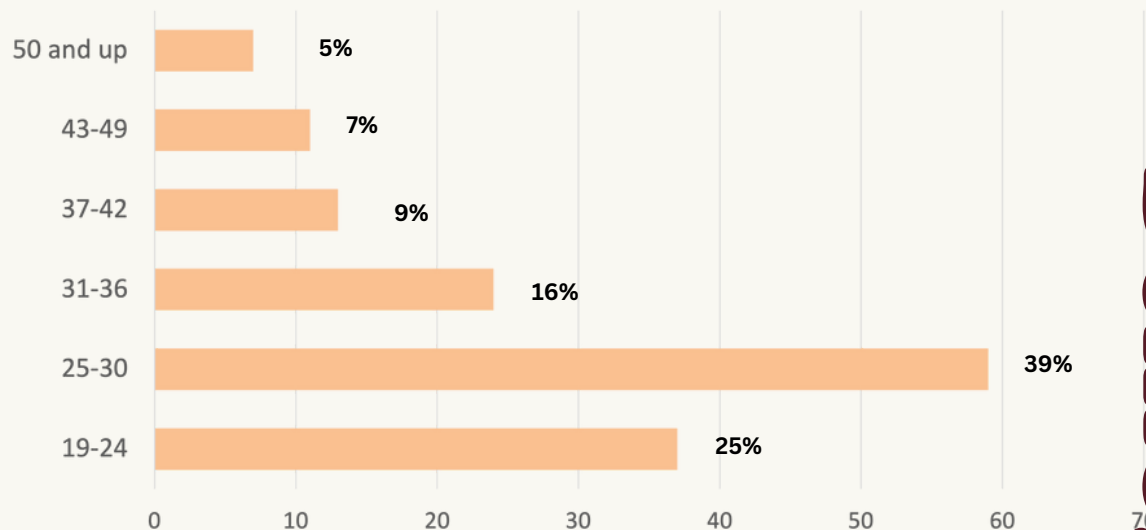


Figure 11. Respondent Age

What gender identity fits you best?

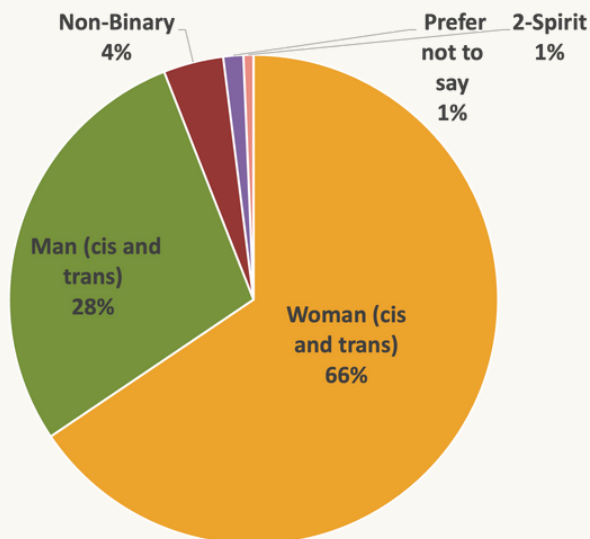


Figure 12. Respondent Gender

151 respondents answered both questions. 80 skipped. The horizontal axis on Figure 11 marks the total number of people who selected that option. The percentages (of people who responded to this Q) have been added to the bars for ease of review.

Do you identify as LGBTQIA2S+?

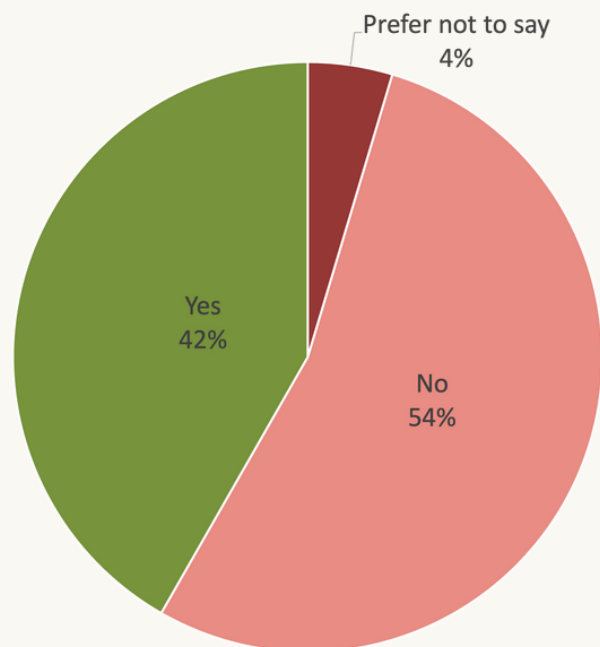


Figure 13. Respondent Sexuality

Do you consider yourself a person with a disability ?

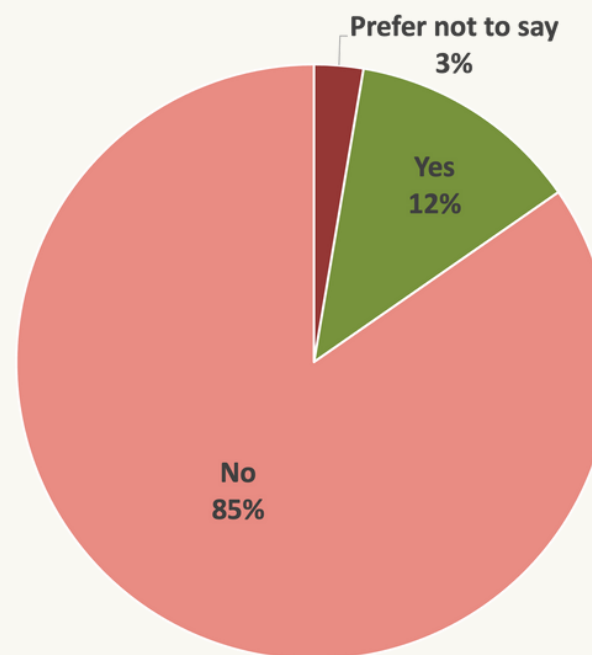


Figure 14. Do you consider yourself a person with a disability

Of the 109 people who provided information about their ethno-cultural identity, 28% indicated they were people of the Global Majority.

151 respondents answered both questions. 80 skipped.

The results of this "Temperature Check" of perceptions of safety in the Granville Entertainment District tell us:

1

People continue to feel unsafe in both the public realm of the GED and the inside the late night venues in the area. This is due to a variety of reasons, including disorderly conduct related to intoxication as well as witnessing and experiencing violence and harassment.

2

Good Night Out could benefit from measures to increase public awareness of the team. This could include promotional materials inside venues and in the outdoor spaces of the public realm. This will likely require increased collaboration between GNO and the operators in the GED.

3

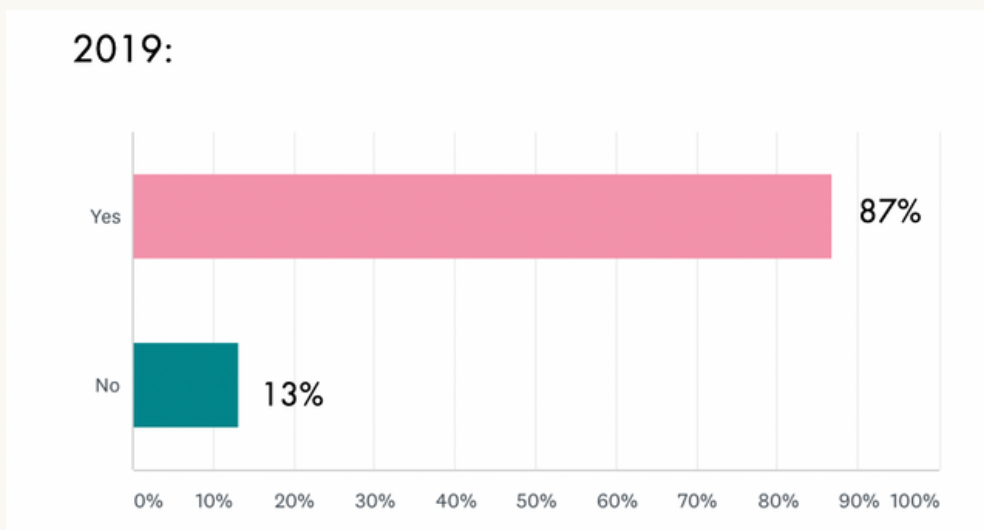
Good Night Out is in a position to both implement and advocate for some of the safety interventions shared in this survey through their education program, Last Call Pilot, and participation in various working groups in Vancouver. These measures have the potential to positively impact safety in the GED.

In Summary

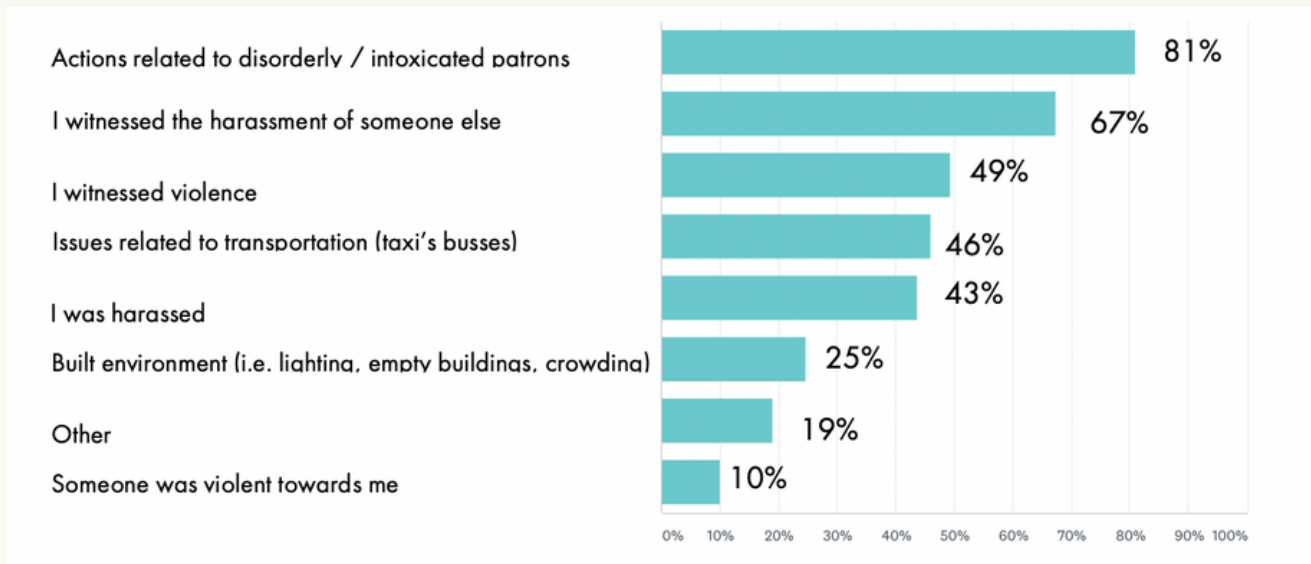


Appendix

Have you ever felt unsafe while out on Granville Street?

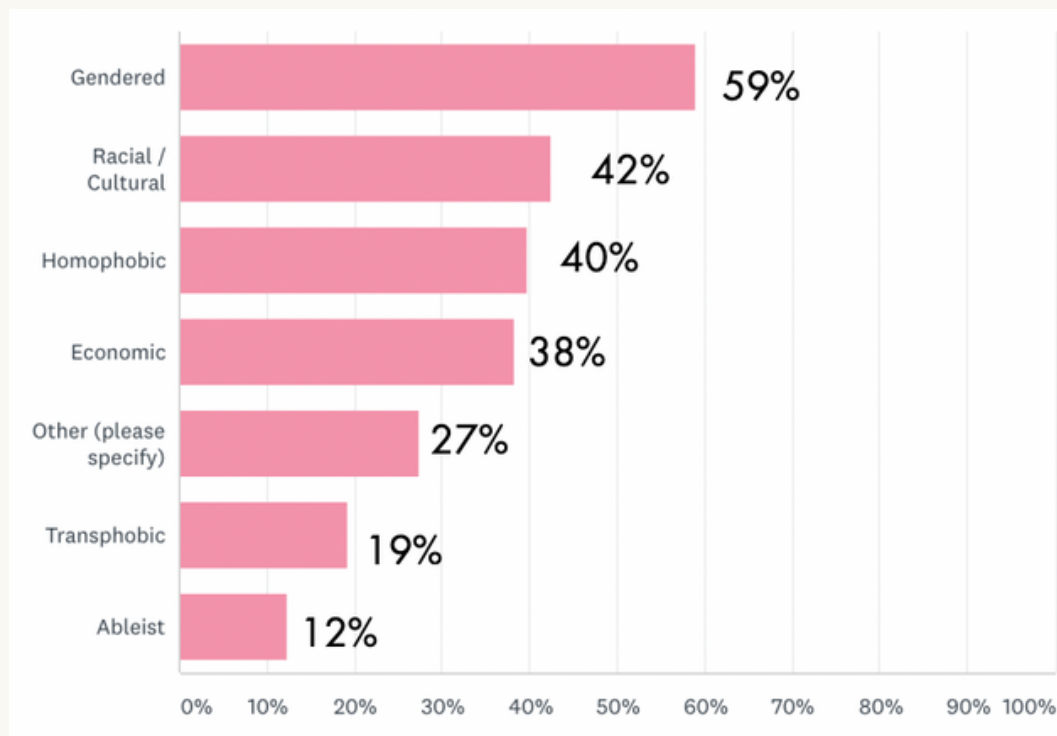


If yes – Why did you feel unsafe? (check all that apply)



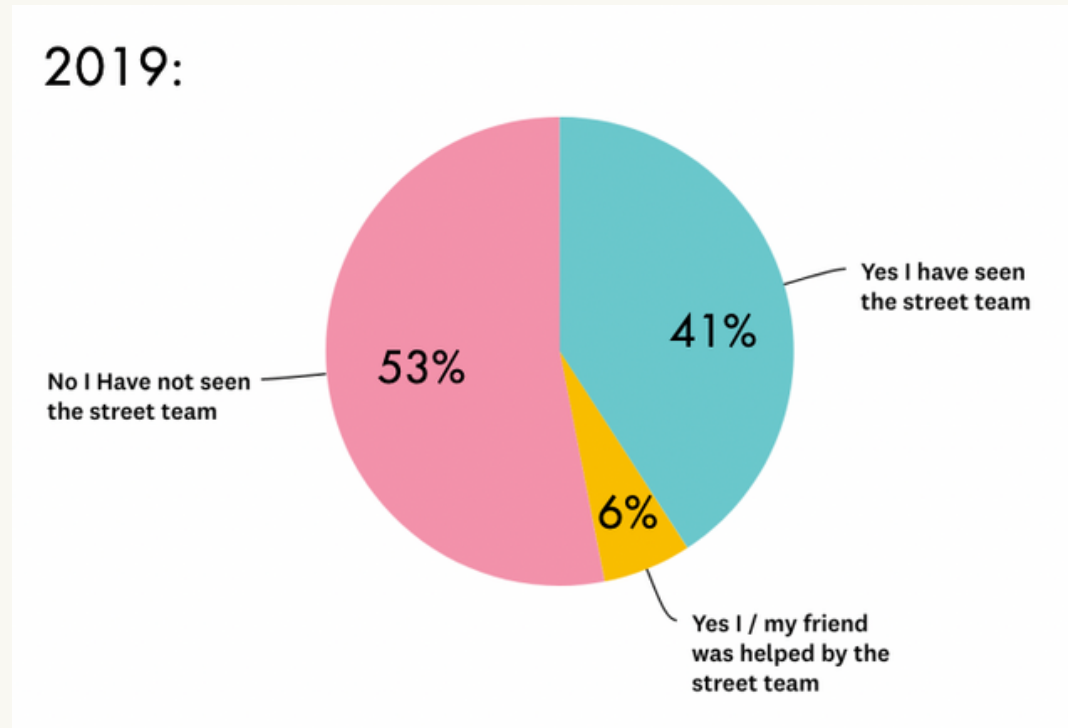
Appendix: 2019 Data

If you have witnessed or experienced violence in the GED, please tell us more about the nature of the harassment or violence. Was it (check as many as apply):



Appendix: 2019 Data

Have you seen the Good Night Out Street Team out on Granville?



If /when you saw the Good Night Out Street Team in the GED, their presence would/did

