

- G Nightlife
- N Safety
- O Survey

Victoria 2023



154 people completed the temperature check survey of Victoria's nightlife



88% reported feeling unsafe while in nightlife spaces in Victoria

Where?

78% outside in the public realm

73% inside an establishment

Why?

78%
disorderly conduct/
intoxicated patrons

59%
witnessed
harassment

48%
experienced
harassment

82% would feel safer with the presence of a late night outreach team

The top 3 types of harassment and violence:

56%

gendered

31%

homophobic

19%

transphobic

What would increase your sense of safety...

INSIDE an establishment?

72% said mandatory sexual violence prevention training for staff

55% said discreet tools to get help

47% said naloxone/overdose training

OUTSIDE establishments?

82% said improved transit and ride options

63% said better street lighting

37% said increased police presence

Note: Percentages have been rounded up to the nearest whole number.



Since 2017, Good Night Out has operated late-night outreach team with aims to increase the sense of safety of workers and patrons in the Granville Entertainment District in Vancouver. The team does this through skillful bystander intervention, harm reduction education and providing a visible, watchful, and helpful presence in the area between the hours of midnight and 4 am on Fridays and Saturdays.

In 2023, GNO was awarded federal funding to pilot their late-night outreach team in Victoria, BC as a promising practice to address gender-based violence. Another team will be piloted in Nelson, BC.

As part of this project, GNO is conducting annual temperature checks on perceptions and experiences of safety from people who access nightlife spaces in Victoria. These temperature checks will build upon existing data gathered by GNO including the [2022 survey](#) for Victoria and [subsequent focus groups](#).

Prior to the start of the pilot project, Good Night Out has contributed to municipal work on sexualized violence, being mentioned in the City of Victoria's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan and working with the City on initiatives following a 2019 motion to look at ways to include sexualized violence prevention training for staff of restaurants and bars. As a result, GNO and Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) developed Training in Prevention and Safety (TIPS), a free program that consists of self-paced courses for Victoria employees and employers on workplace sexual harassment.

GNO has otherwise been formally operational in Victoria since the fall of 2022, primarily focusing on the expansion of our education program and providing event safety support. We have since trained over 30 establishments and have worked with event coordinators and more recently the University of Victoria and their student union to support students on campus.

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 findings shared here is helpful in assessing patron perceptions of Victoria's nightlife, 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 future, regular surveys will contribute to the evaluation of the ongoing, multi sector efforts to change the area for the better.

Good Night Out acknowledges that our work takes place on the territories of the lək'wəŋən (Lekwungen) speaking peoples. 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.



154 people completed the survey this year!

Pictured: GNO providing event safety support at Great Canadian Beer Fest 2023

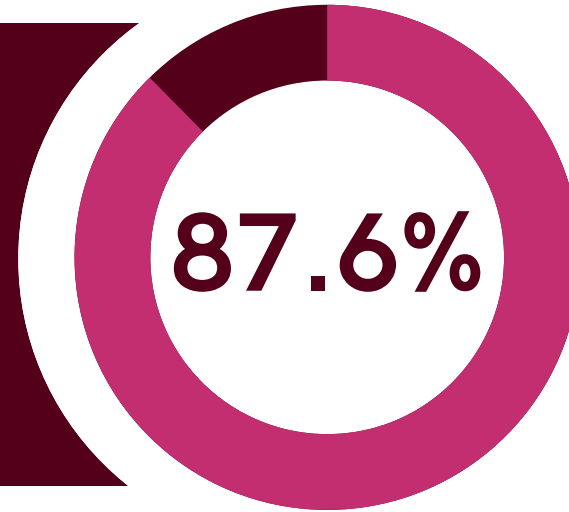
This year this survey was conducted using Survey Monkey, embedded into the website, saferspacesurvey.com, and was open for 8 weeks, from December 1 2023, January 30th, 2024.

The survey was promoted primarily via social media channels. In January 2024, Good Night Out purchased an advertisement through Meta to generate traffic. The ads were shown in the Greater Victoria region to encourage people accessing nightlife spaces in the region to participate.

A total of 154 people completed the survey in comparison the 319 who completed last year's. Of note, last year's survey differed significantly in its questions and also offered a prize incentive for participation due to the specific funding acquired.

Geographical location was not collected from participants as to ensure anonymity; therefore, we cannot determine if the data is statistically relevant based on the Victoria census metropolitan area. We do however have statistics from our [2022 survey](#) that acts a benchmark for our insights. Not all who completed the survey answered all of the questions.

87.6% of respondents felt unsafe at some point in Victoria nightlife spaces



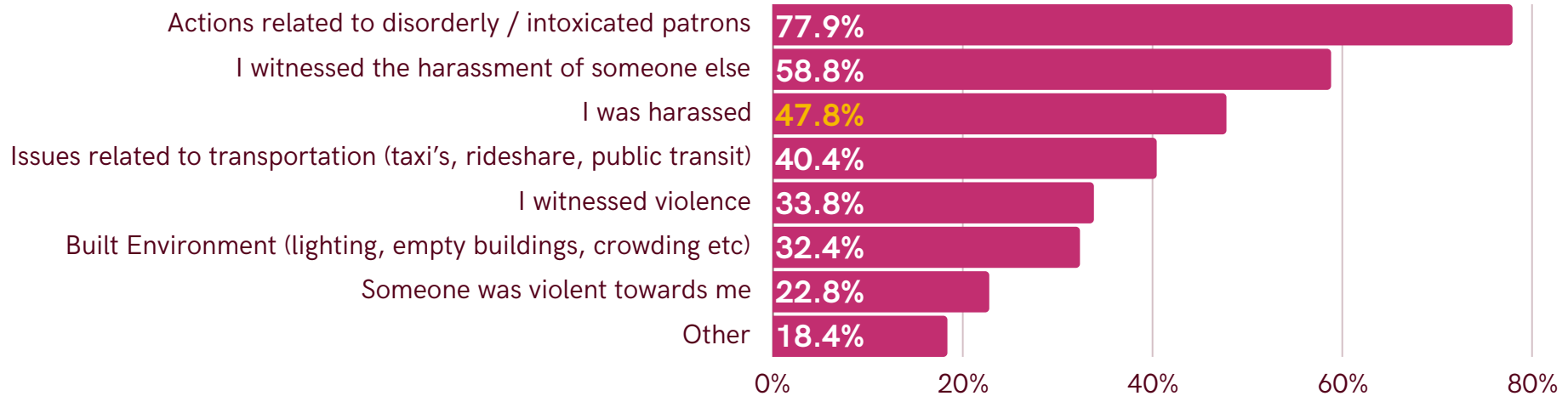
All 154 respondents answered this question.



DEMOGRAPHIC INSIGHTS

97.2% of 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents said they felt unsafe while in Victoria nightlife spaces.

Reasons for feeling unsafe



136 answered this question, 18 skipped.

Reasons for feeling unsafe

If you selected "other", please describe:

25 respondents indicated their reasons for selecting 'other' when asked why they felt unsafe. Themes to these included, drink spiking, stalking, homophobia and transphobia, sexual assault, presence of the unhoused population, and being filmed without consent. **Some exact quotes are provided.**

"Homophobic actions/words in supposedly queer friendly environment."

"I was not personally there but my friend was sexually assaulted in a bathroom."

"The drugging that happens in the night clubs."

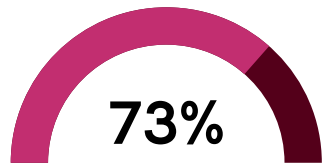
"Unwelcome flirtation, non consensual touching on the dance floor, being watched/followed."

"Because [an establishment] had recently changed from a gay bar to a college bar & removed all their pride flags during pride month."

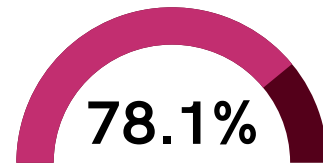
"I have been cornered by multiple men at once multiple times. I have seen bouncers kick out girls completely alone leaving them intoxicated by themselves on the streets of Victoria."

"I've heard bouncers joke about spiking peoples drinks."

Where did you feel unsafe?



inside an establishment



in the public realm

137 answered this question, 17 skipped.



DEMOGRAPHIC INSIGHTS

Women (cis and trans) were more likely to feel unsafe inside an establishment than in the public realm whereas non-binary people and men (cis and trans) were more likely to feel unsafe in the public realm.

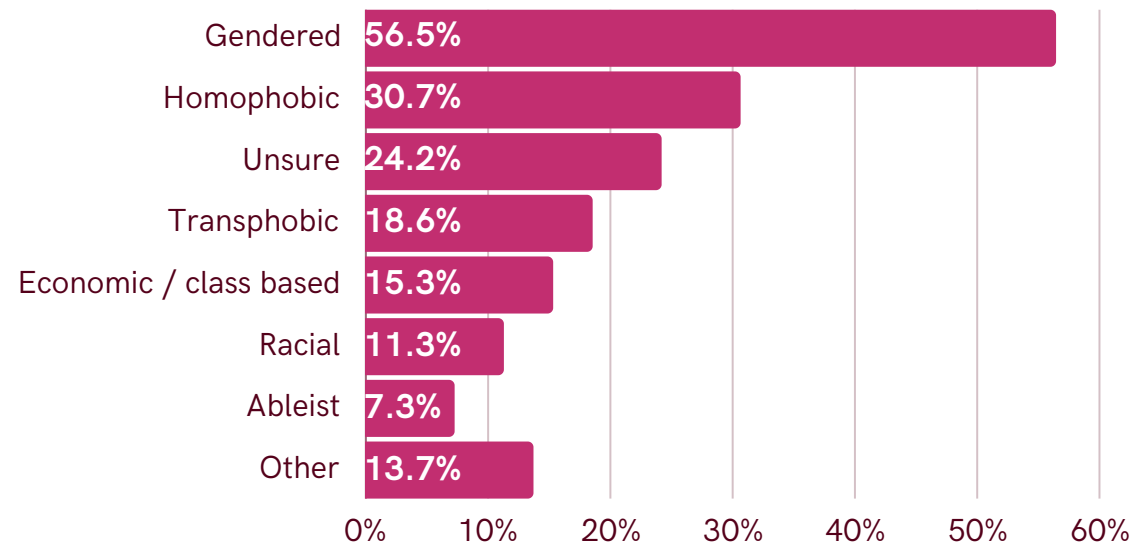
Both women and non-binary respondents had reported feeling unsafe both inside and outside at a higher rate than men.

What was the nature of the harassment or violence?

17 respondents indicated their reasons for selecting 'other'. The most common response was **over-intoxication** and **sexual violence**. Additional responses include experiences of fatphobia, physical altercations, and as one respondent put it, "random aggression". Another respondent noted that:

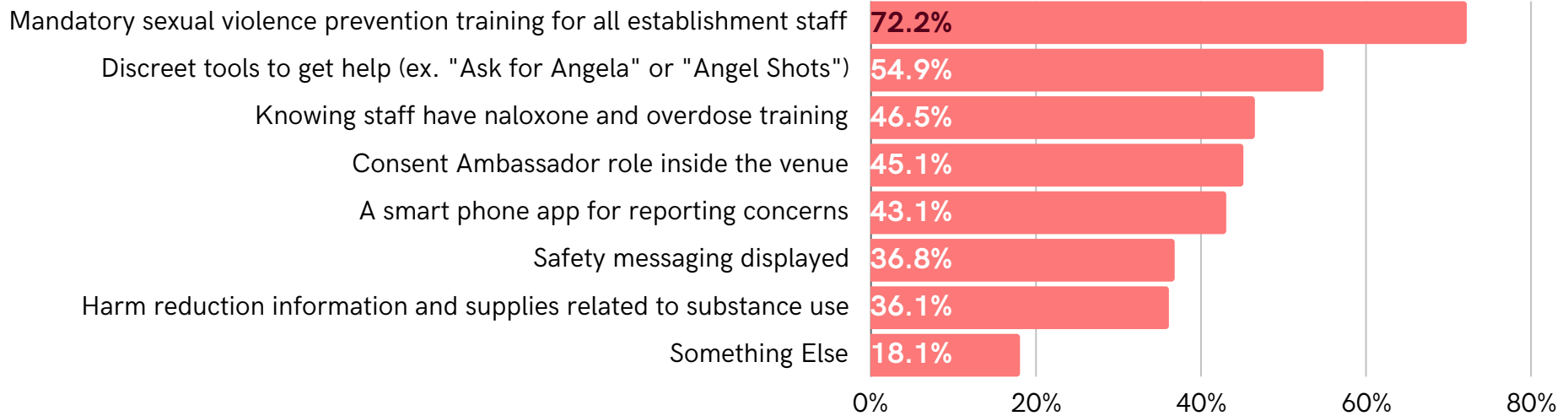
“[their] friends obviously didn't care at all.

indicative of the **bystander effect** in public spaces.



124 answered this question, 30 skipped.

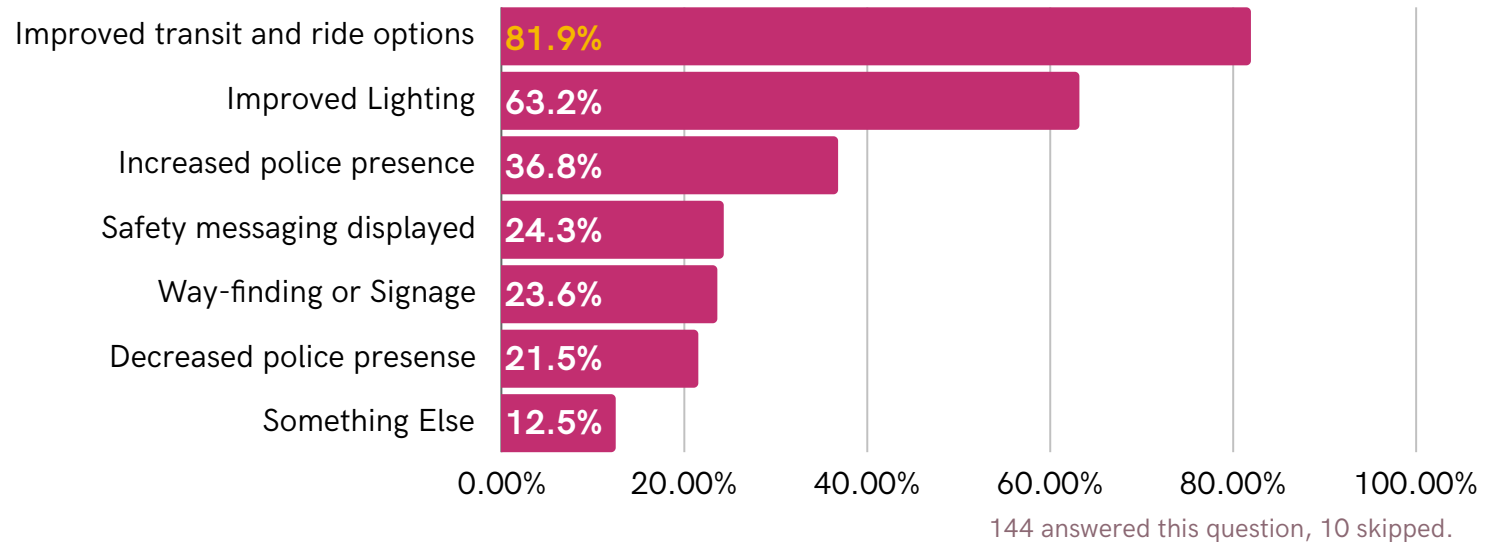
What would increase your sense of safety **inside** establishments?



144 answered this question, 10 skipped.

26 respondents indicated their reasons for selecting 'something else'. Predominant themes were screening for industry staff (ex. criminal record checks), better enforcement of liquor guidelines to prevent over-intoxication, and **additional security** however one respondent raised that professional training for security is equally important as "half the time the bouncers are the problem" and another suggested that **contracted security companies should also have sexual violence prevention training**.

What would increase your sense of safety **outside** establishments?



18 respondents indicated their reasons for selecting 'something else'. Predominant themes were various types of **harm reduction supports outside of establishments**, greater support for the unhoused population, and having a 'safe walk' system to escort people back to their vehicles or to a bus stop.

We asked if there was anything else respondents wished to share about nightlife in Victoria...

Here's what we heard:

39 respondents provided comments about Victoria's nightlife. Themes included:

- desire for more queer spaces and training for patrons
- concerns about club capacity
- concerns of drink spiking and availability of prevention tools (testing strips)
- dedicated non-alcoholic events
- more late-night food service options (cafes)
- concerns of intoxicated people on transit
- presence of trans-misogyny and fetishization of queer people
- cost of living as a barrier to engaging in Victoria's nightlife

Some exact quotes are provided.

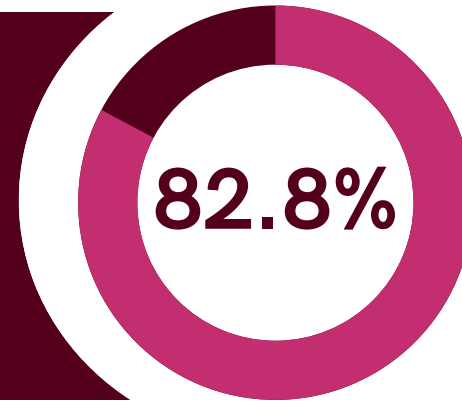
"Club culture could not exist without the influence & art of queer culture, it is honestly baffling & disgusting that there is no nightclub where queer people can feel safe."

"Establishments over serve and allow people to get extremely intoxicated."

"There are no real safety measures for any patrons once they leave meaning a bunch of drunk people are now vulnerable and easy to take advantage of which is scary."

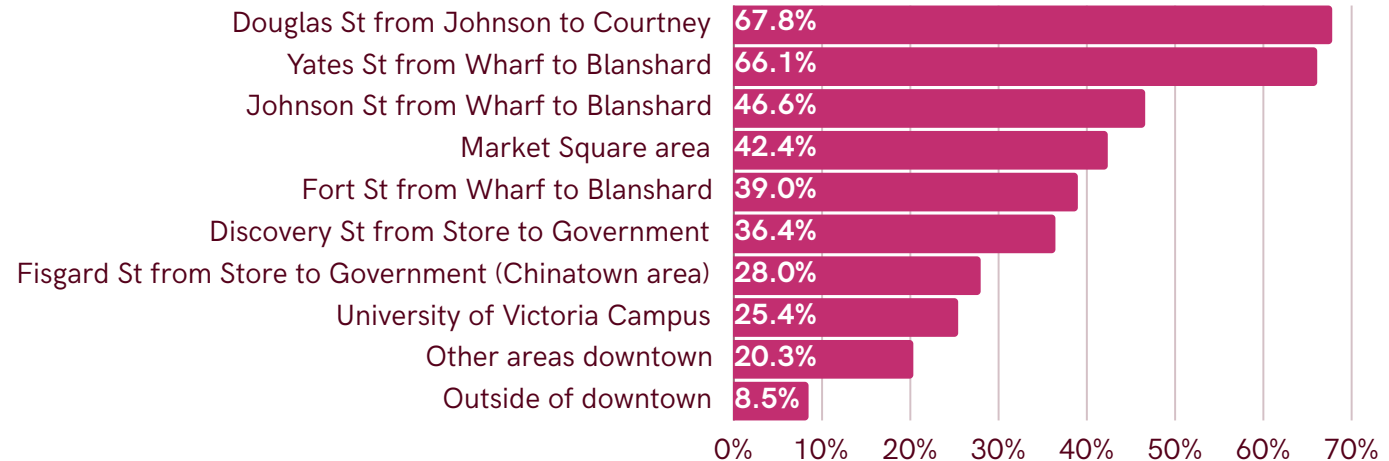
"I'm also petrified of a friend overdosing every time I see somebody doing drugs... which is often."

82.8% of respondents feel a late night outreach team is necessary in Victoria



134 answered this question, 20 skipped.

Where should this team operate?



118 answered this question, 36 skipped.

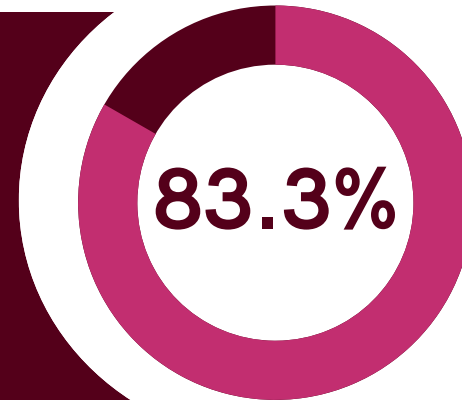
25 respondents indicated other areas or outside of downtown; the following areas were most commonly shared: Bastion Square, Broad St (Pandora to View), and Yates St from Blanshard to Quadra to include other popular late night venues.



132 answered this question, 22 skipped.

83.3% of hospitality and nightlife industry workers* see value in this team

*i.e., servers, bartenders, security, back of house



36 answered this question, 87 indicated this question did not apply to them, 31 skipped.

We asked industry workers in Victoria a couple questions on street team implementation...

here's what we heard:

How can this team support/benefit your work, place of work, or industry more generally?

- Provide staff with peace of mind that there is support for intoxicated patrons that have left/been removed
- Have a queer-led team with various lived experience (i.e., PWUD) would benefit the community
- Accompany staff walking to the bus stop/car after late shifts
- Help vulnerable patrons get home or get a ride safely would alleviate stress on workers and provide more safety to patrons leaving
- More consent education for staff and patrons

"Cultivate a sense of safety and consent"

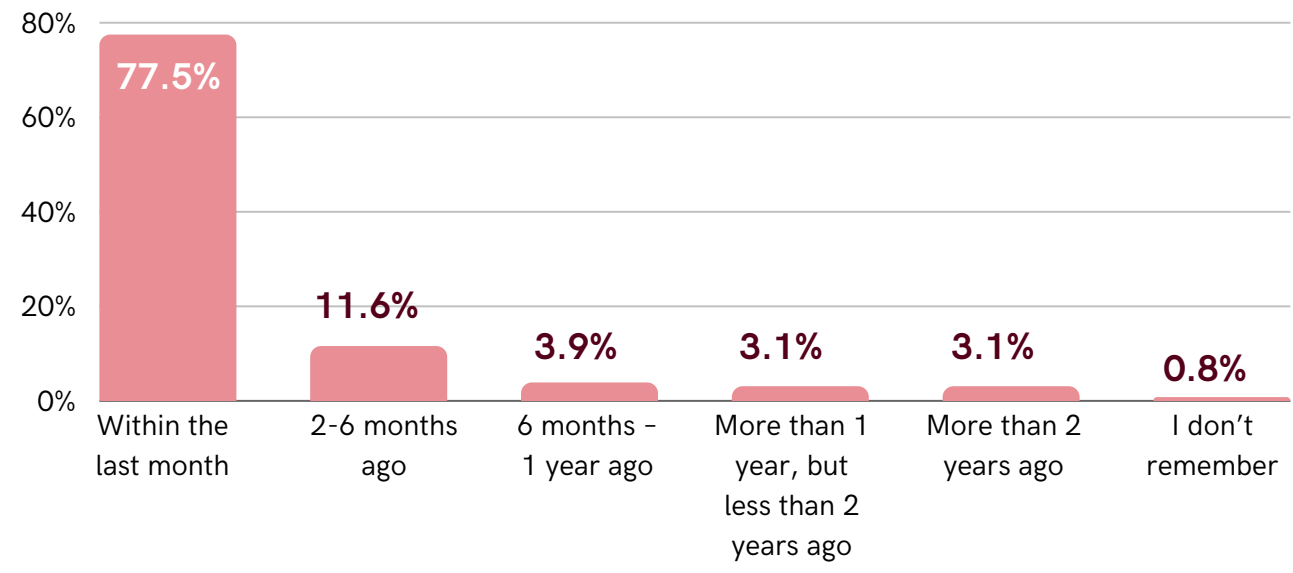
How can this team and the hospitality and nightlife industry work together effectively?

- Have a direct line of communication (i.e., app, phone number) to summon the team for patron support
- Industry providing outreach team access/free entry to events to be able to help support patron being removed
- Offering incentives for staff training
- Work with security teams to share insights during a night out that may be relevant for establishments/outreach team to be on the look out for

"I think all staff (especially women) who feel themselves unsafe around certain patrons would feel more at ease"

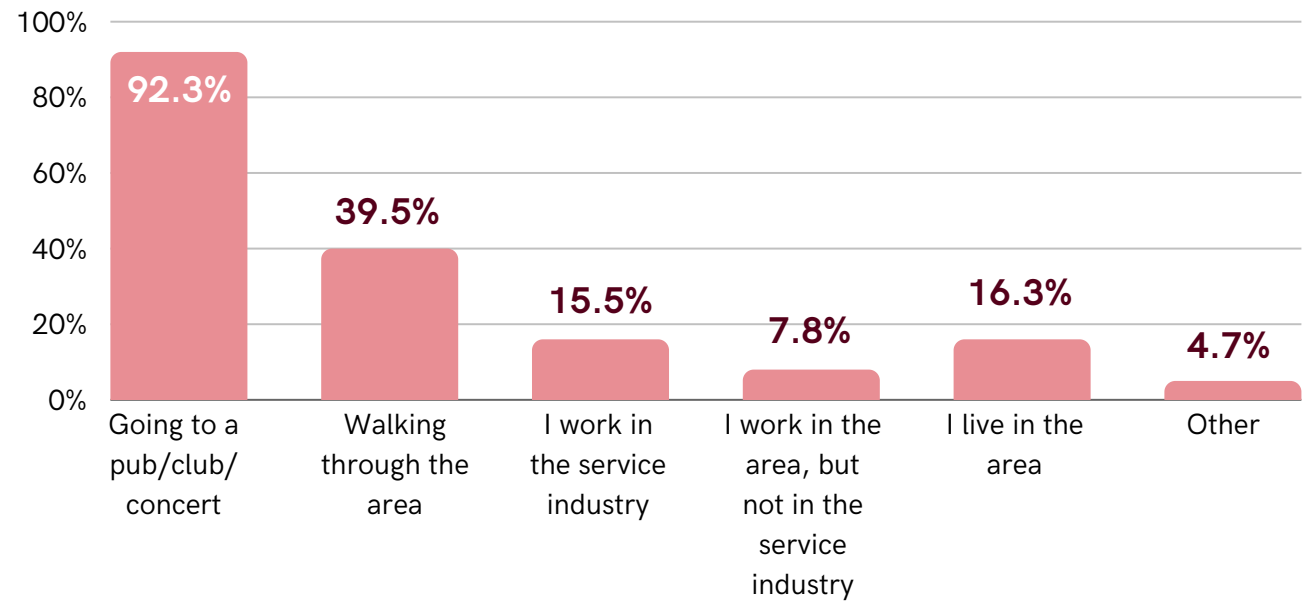
When was the last time you were downtown Victoria after 9pm on a weekend?

129 answered this question, 25 skipped.

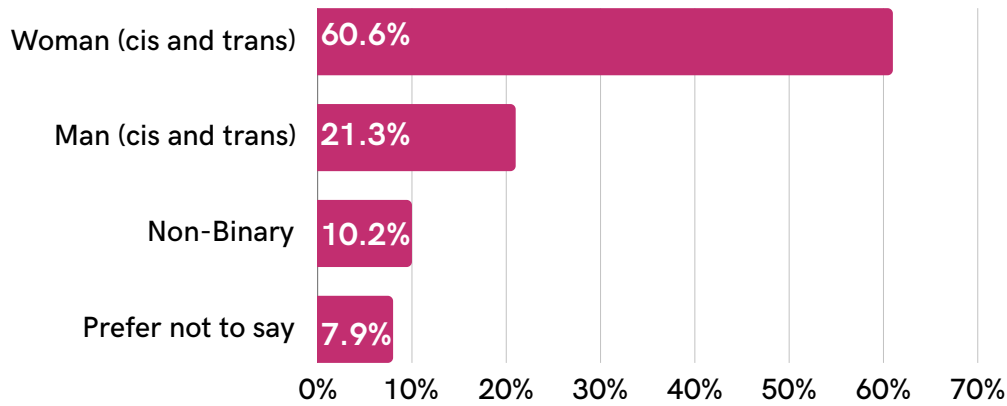


What is / was your reason for being downtown Victoria during the weekend evenings?


129 answered this question, 25 skipped.



Gender distribution



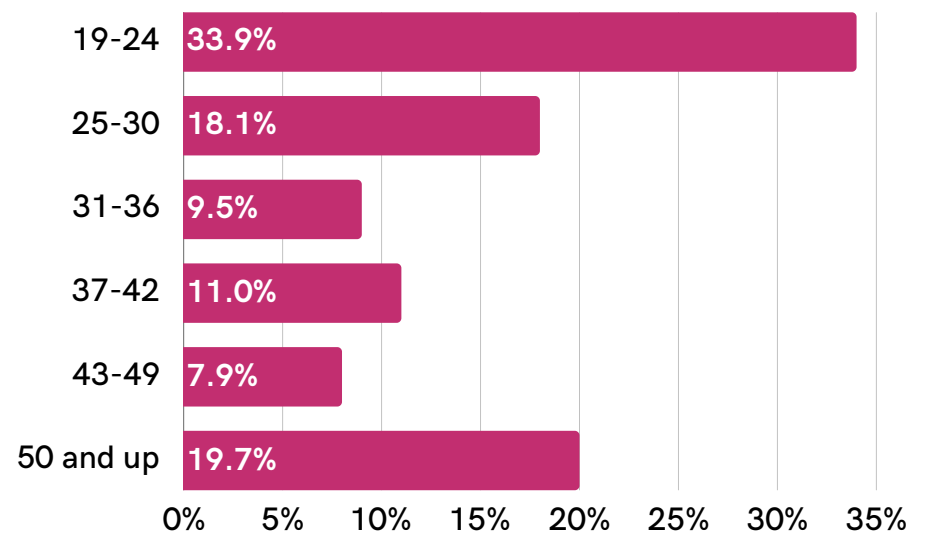
127 answered this question, 27 skipped.



DEMOGRAPHIC INSIGHTS
81.5% of men, 92.2% of women, and 100% non-binary respondents felt unsafe in a Victoria nightlife space.

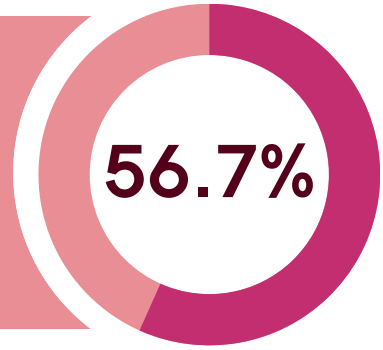
Age distribution

The 19-24 age group had the highest response rate of all age groups; all respondents in this category responded that they felt unsafe in Victoria nightlife spaces. While the majority of all groups reported feeling unsafe in these spaces, respondents 50 and over were the least likely of all the groups to report feeling unsafe.

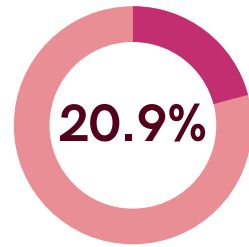


127 answered this question, 27 skipped.

56.7% of respondents identify as 2SLGBTQIA+

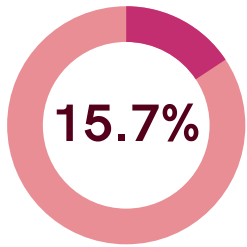


127 answered this question, 27 skipped.



of respondents consider themselves a person with a dis/ability

129 answered this question, 25 skipped.



of respondents indicated they are people of the Global Majority*

115 answered this question, 39 skipped.

Of those that provided information on their ethno-cultural identity, 7% indicated they are Indigenous.

*Global Majority refers to people who are Black, Asian, Brown, dual-heritage, indigenous to the global south, and/or have been historically racialized as "ethnic minorities".



Pictured: GNO providing a table with safety and wellness supplies outside of Cheko'nien House at the University of Victoria in addition to wandering outreach around the campus residences in September 2023.

The results of the temperature check of perception of safety and experiences of harassment and violence in Victoria tell us:

- 1 People continue to feel unsafe in both the public realm of downtown Victoria and inside late-night establishments 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 A multi-faceted approach is required to improve perceptions of safety in the area including providing sexual violence prevention training for staff of late-night establishments.
- 3 Good Night Out is in a position to both implement and advocate for some of the safety interventions shared in this survey through our education program and the late-night outreach team pilot project. These measures have the potential to positively impact safety in downtown Victoria.