



An Garda Síochána

Ag Coinneáil Daoine Sábháilte - Keeping People Safe

Garda Public Attitudes Survey 2024

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Foreword

The 2024 Garda Public Attitudes Survey (PAS) marks the largest sample size of adults aged 18 years and older (12,916) and 16 and 17-year-olds (1,039) ever. This increased sample size indicates the importance placed on the survey to allow An Garda Síochána assess and monitor the perceptions of the Irish public towards crime and policing.

The results provide us with a more robust picture of attitudes towards Gardaí and the service provided to communities around Ireland. In light of the introduction of the Operating Model of policing, the results are particularly important to provide us with further insights into police legitimacy in Ireland and how our service is perceived on the ground. Measures such as perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem at a national and local level, fear of crime, satisfaction with and trust in the Gardaí, along with perceptions of Garda community relations are vital to formulate our strategies and plans. They allow us to gather a picture of how we can improve our service to the public in general and to victims of volume crime. The increased sample size coincides with the enactment of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 and is a timely additional tool which can be utilised to inform reporting requirements under the Act. Importantly, our young peoples' views are also captured – an element of the PAS which helps us gather a picture of how we are perceived by 16 and 17-year-olds before they move into adulthood and identify areas on which we can build and improve.

Continuing trends seen in previous surveys, in 2024 national crime was considered more of a problem than local crime. Equally, the views of respondents about the crimes on which we should focus remain those with high societal impact, with far-reaching consequences in communities involving the most vulnerable – sexual offences, domestic abuse and human trafficking. Unsurprisingly, and reflecting the effect on communities, drugs offences ranked highly for those who considered local crime a serious problem. An Garda Síochána remains unwavering in our fight against drugs and organised crime, as seen by the commitment of our people and resources through numerous



Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities is high but has shown slight disimprovements in the past number of years. This is an area that is being monitored carefully, with plans to delve further into these findings through more focused research.

high profile operations in recent years and also the work done in communities on a daily basis. The emphasis placed on the fight against drugs will continue.

Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities is high but has shown slight disimprovements in the past number of years. This is an area that is being monitored carefully, with plans to delve further into these findings through more focused research. Perceptions in relation to Garda presence and visibility continue to present challenges. Work continues on Garda recruitment drives and with our current personnel to identify and address areas of concern. We are committed to ensuring our presence within communities is visible, consistent and reflects the people we serve.

A key measure of police legitimacy – trust – remains steady in the PAS 2024, as do perceptions that Gardaí treat people with respect and fairness. Perceptions about the friendliness and helpfulness of Gardaí, their

community-focus, human-rights focus and effectiveness in tackling crime all remain positive, as do views towards An Garda Síochána's work in communities (e.g. reliability, listening and addressing things that matter). We will strive to build upon these positive findings and identify areas for improvement.

An Garda Síochána is a victim-centred organisation and our service to those who have experienced a crime is an area on which we continue to focus to not only maintain but to improve standards. Improvements were seen in 2024 in terms of satisfaction among victims with the service they received, in areas of the initial Garda response and in keeping victims updated on developments in their case. Challenges remain however – for example, in

other areas of information provision – and we remain committed to identifying these and finding solutions.

An Garda Síochána's Operating Model has now been implemented in all 21 Garda Divisions. Future surveys incorporating the increased sample size will help us to monitor its impact on the ground. We thank all of those respondents who have given their time to date to complete the survey and to those in the future – your contribution and feedback is invaluable to us to help us improve our service to the people of Ireland and continue our mission of Keeping People Safe.

Sara Parsons

Director, Garda Síochána Analysis Service



Executive Summary

The findings from the 2024 Garda Public Attitudes Survey (PAS) are presented in the following report, in which the views of 12,916 adults (aged 18 +), and 1,039 young people (aged 16-17 years), are presented. Respondents' perceptions about a range of topics are explored including views on crime, policing and the service provided by An Garda Síochána. The sample size represents the largest since the resumption of the PAS in 2014, following a break in the survey for a number of years. Ipsos B&A conducted fieldwork (face-to-face interviews) between February and December 2024. Results are comparable to 2021, 2022 and 2023 and changes over time are highlighted in the body of the report.

Crime and the Irish Public



Perceptions of Crime

National crime continues to be viewed as more of a problem than local crime, with no regional deviations from this overall view (however, those in Munster (83%) were more likely to consider national crime as 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem, than the other regions). Perceptions of national crime as being 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem have remained unchanged since 2023 (72% of respondents), while slight increases can be seen in those who viewed local crime as 'something of a problem' (35% in 2021, to 38% in 2024), with a corresponding decrease in those who considered it 'not a problem' (46% in 2021, to 43% in 2024).



Policing Priorities

'Sexual offences' were the highest priority for respondents (the crime on which An Garda Síochána should focus), followed by 'domestic abuse' (87%), 'assaults' (85%) and 'human trafficking' (84%). Drugs offences were ranked as the second highest priority for respondents who considered *local crime* to be 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem.



Worry about Victimisation and Fear of Crime

When asked about their worry of victimisation ('personal injury,' 'property theft or damage,' or 'cyber/online crime'), 44 percent of respondents did not worry for *themselves*, while 48 percent reported no worries about *someone they live with* becoming a victim of crime. Over half (54%) of respondents held 'very few fears' or 'no fears' about crime. However, since 2021 there has been an 11 percentage point increase in respondents who reported having 'a lot of fears' or 'some fears' of crime (35% to 46% in 2024.). Fifty-seven percent of respondents stated that fear of crime had 'no impact' on their quality of life – while respondents in Connaught or Ulster (28%) were more likely to report negative effects (reduced quality 'a little'), than in the other regions (19% in Dublin and in the 'rest of Leinster'; 22% in Munster).

The Irish Public and their views towards An Garda Síochána



Satisfaction in An Garda Síochána

Seventy percent of respondents were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with Garda service to their local communities, although this has been showing yearly declines since 2021, when it stood at 78 percent. As views of the seriousness of crime increased, satisfaction levels decreased – particularly evident at a local level. Similarly, fear of crime negatively impacted satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities.



Trust in An Garda Síochána

In 2024, trust in An Garda Síochána stood at 88 percent (mid to high trust), the highest level reported in Connaught or Ulster (90%), and the lowest in Dublin (86%). However, on a national level, high trust has decreased year-on-year since 2021 (50%, compared to 43% in 2024). As seen in previous survey sweeps, perceptions of the crime problem being more serious, and increased fear of crime, negatively impact trust levels in An Garda Síochána.

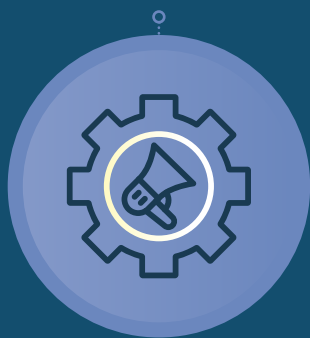


Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

The majority of respondents agreed with six key statements about the Gardaí – that they are 'friendly and helpful', 'community-focused' and 'human-rights-focused'; and that An Garda Síochána is 'modern and progressive', 'effective in tackling crime' and 'well-managed'. There have been declines across all areas since 2023, and yearly decreases since 2021 in agreement levels in three areas (that An Garda Síochána is 'modern and progressive', 'well-managed' and 'effective in tackling crime'). Despite this, in 2024, 90 percent felt Gardaí are 'friendly and helpful', 'human-rights-focused' (79% agreed), 'community-focused' (71% agreed), 'modern and progressive' (67% agreed) and 'effective in tackling crime' (60% agreed). Fifty-two percent agreed An Garda Síochána is 'well-managed'. Perceptions about the seriousness of the crime problem nationally and locally, and increased fear of crime levels, negatively impact perceptions of An Garda Síochána.

There has been no change since 2023 in terms of agreement levels that An Garda Síochána *is representative of the diverse communities it serves*. This stood at 56 percent ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined).

Service Delivery Perceptions



Awareness of Garda Presence

The proportion of respondents who reported awareness of Garda presence has been decreasing year-on-year since 2021 (53%, to 38% in 2024, excluding don't knows), with those in Dublin and Munster reporting the least awareness, at 35 and 34 percent respectively. Seventeen percent reported 'regularly' seeing Gardaí in cars – 40 percent 'occasionally' (75% 'never' see Gardaí 'on foot'). Lack of awareness of Garda presence negatively impacts trust levels.



Perceptions of Garda Presence

Perceptions that Garda presence in local communities is 'not enough' have been increasing yearly since 2021, to 63 percent in 2024 (53% in 2021). Views that Garda presence is 'not enough' are linked to greater fear of crime levels – 80 percent of those who had 'a lot of fears' reported that Garda presence is 'not enough,' compared to 55 percent who had 'no fears'.



Contact with An Garda Síochána

Sixteen percent of respondents had some contact with An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months (self- or Garda-initiated) – of these, 74 percent were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with their most recent contact. Satisfaction levels were higher when the contact was at a Garda station (82%), compared to a phone call (not 999/112) (65%).



Treatment by An Garda Síochána

Perceptions of whether Gardaí would treat respondents with respect and everyone fairly no matter who they are were very positive, similar to previous years (90% agreed they would be treated with respect, while 76% agreed they would be treated fairly ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined – excluding 'don't knows'). While still largely positive in 2024, there have been declines in agreement levels with some other key statements since 2023, and all have shown decreases since 2021. 2024 agreement levels were (excluding 'don't knows'):

- 67% agreed the Gardaí in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them.
- 68% agreed Gardaí address things that matter to the local community.
- 58% disagreed that community relations with the Gardaí are poor.
- 71% agreed that Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people.

A Demographic Snapshot (Sex/Age/Nationality)

Across many measures explored in the PAS, non-Irish respondents held more positive views, than Irish nationals. Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities was greater among this cohort (77%, versus 70% among Irish nationals), as were reported levels of 'high trust' (47%, versus 42%). Views of An Garda Síochána were also more favourable – for example, they were more likely to consider the Gardaí to be 'community-focused', 'well-managed' and 'human-rights-focused'. Perceptions about Garda service delivery within communities were more positive also (e.g. in terms of Garda reliability and addressing things that matter within communities).



Across the age cohorts, a notable finding and one observed in previous years, was that respondents aged 65 years and older, held more favourable views of An Garda Síochána in many areas (i.e. views about the organisation and their service delivery within communities). However, fear of crime levels were higher among this group, than other age cohorts, and its impact on their quality of life was reported at slightly greater levels. Those aged 65 years and older considered Garda presence as 'not enough', to a greater extent than younger groups, with 18-24 year olds more likely to consider this 'about right'. Perhaps contributing to this, 18-24 year olds reported the most awareness of Garda presence in their communities.

Other measures garnered positive views across all demographic groups, although some variation was observed. For example, agreement levels that Gardaí would treat you with respect increased with age, as did views about fair treatment. Variations between the sexes were not pronounced.

Victims of Crime

The victimisation rate stood at 5.6 percent in the 2024 PAS (respondents who had been victims of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey), with 74 percent reporting their most recent crime to Gardaí. Fifty-five percent were satisfied with the service they received – 3 percentage points greater than 2023. There have been improvements in other aspects of Garda service since 2023:



- 61% felt Gardaí responded quickly (60% in 2023).
- 70% were given the name of the investigating Garda (65% in 2023).
- 40% were given the incident Pulse number (35% in 2023).

While in other areas there has been no notable change – 34 percent were provided with details of victim support services/helplines (the same as 2023). Provision of contact details of the Garda station has seen year-on-year improvements since 2021, with 78 percent of victims of crime reporting receiving this information in 2024.

Sixty-two percent of victims were contacted by Gardaí following their incident. Forty-five percent felt the information they received from Gardaí was 'about right', while those who reported receiving no update on the progress of their investigation decreased from 23 percent in 2023, to 17 percent.

Victimisation negatively impacted perceptions across all measures (e.g. heightened fear of crime levels, and greater impact of this on quality of life). When dissatisfied with the service received following their crime, victims expressed more negative views across all areas including trust in Gardaí, and satisfaction with Garda service to communities in general.

Young People (aged 16 and 17 years)

2024 saw the views of the largest sample of 16-17 year olds captured since the latest tranche of PAS surveys was launched in 2014. Their views of the seriousness of crime mirrored those of the adult sample, with national crime considered more serious than local crime. Their opinion about the crimes on which Gardaí should focus also reflected those of adults, with 'sexual offences', 'domestic abuse' and 'human trafficking' being the top three. Young people were less inclined to worry about becoming a victim of crime themselves (57%), than adults (44%) and cyber/online crime caused greater worry for them (29%) than personal injury (21%) or property theft or damage (19%). Respondents who reported having 'very few fears' or 'no fears' about crime stood at 71 percent (17 percentage points greater than adults), while 68 percent reported fear of crime had 'no impact' on quality of life – for adults this stood at 57 percent.



The 16-17 year olds surveyed in 2024 reported high satisfaction with Garda service to communities (81% were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with 'don't know' responses excluded – these represented a high proportion, at 14 percent). Mid to high trust was also high at 92 percent. Further favourable results were reported in 2024 in terms of views of An Garda Síochána- with three measures showing improvements and decline in three areas. Agreement levels with the following were (excluding don't knows):

- Community-focused – 76% (80% in 2023)
- Modern and progressive – 74% (76% in 2023)
- Friendly and helpful – 88% (84% in 2023)
- Well-managed – 67% (71% in 2023)
- Effective in tackling crime – 72% (67% in 2023)
- Human-rights-focused – 83% (82% in 2023)

Young people were more aware of Garda presence in their communities (51% reported being aware), than adults (38%), with 58 percent of the view that this presence is 'about right' (adults – 38%). Encouragingly, young people held positive views about how they would be treated by Gardaí if they had contact with them - 88 percent agreed they would be treated with respect; 71 percent felt that Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (excluding 'don't knows'). Other measures related to the reliability of the Gardaí and whether Gardaí listen and address things that matter in communities garnered positive results also, with agreement levels all above 70 percent.



CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Topics explored in the 2024 PAS
- 1.2 Methodology
- 1.3 Points to note about the 2024 survey
- 1.4 Report Layout

The Garda Public Attitudes Survey (PAS) – a rolling, social survey consisting of face-to-face interviews – gathers the perceptions and attitudes of the Irish public towards crime, policing and An Garda Síochána. The 2024 PAS marks the largest sample of the survey to date, with 12,916 adults (18+) interviewed, along with 1,039 young people (16 and 17 year-olds), across all 21 Garda divisions. Fieldwork was conducted by Ipsos B&A interviewers between February and December 2024, with further details on the methodology available in this chapter and in Appendix 1.

1.1 Topics explored in the 2024 PAS

- Perceptions of the seriousness of national and local crime, and the policing areas that should be prioritised by An Garda Síochána, in addition to levels of fear of crime and worry about victimisation.
- Satisfaction with Garda service, trust in, and expected treatment by Gardaí, as well as views on the Garda organisation.
- Along with the above themes, the views of victims of crime were gathered about their experience following the reporting of their crime to Gardaí.

1.2 Methodology

As in previous years, consultation between An Garda Síochána and Ipsos B&A occurred prior to commencement of the PAS 2024. Areas covered in planning related to the increase in the number of Garda divisions from 19 to 21, the requirement for a larger sample size (from 7,682 adults in 2023, to a target figure of 12,800), the attainment of the desired 1,000-strong young persons' sample (at times challenging due to the low incidence of this group (7% of the overall population)), as well as a questionnaire review. This review resulted in minor changes which will be highlighted in the body of the report.

The Garda Public Attitudes Survey (PAS) – a rolling, social survey consisting of face-to-face interviews – gathers the perceptions and attitudes of the Irish public towards crime, policing and An Garda Síochána.



1.2.1 Sample Design

As mentioned, the PAS involves face-to-face interviews with participants. These are undertaken using the CAPI methodology – *Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing*. The sample was quota-controlled by sex, age and social class within each of An Garda Síochána's 21 divisions¹, as well as by geographical region, as opposed to Garda region. Interviewing was conducted continuously between February and December 2024. While in most cases one interview was conducted per household, in order to attain the required young persons' sample, interviews with 16-17-year-olds were conducted in homes where a main interview had already taken place (with parental consent). In households where more than one person fit the quota for that Electoral Division, the 'next birthday' random method of selecting the interviewee was employed.

As in previous years, a multi-staged, quota-controlled sampling method, with randomly selected starting points within geographically stratified primary sampling units was utilised as the sampling approach for this study. This involved the following steps:

- The sample was first stratified by each of the 21 Garda divisions (electoral divisions within each Garda division were identified to populate the sampling frame). A purposive sampling technique was utilised, ensuring a minimum of 400 interviews per Garda division (800 in some due to geographical size).
- Further stratification followed – this time, by areas (i.e. city, 'other urban' and rural). This ensured a representative territorial spread of Primary Sampling Units across the country by Garda divisions. The appropriate number of primary sampling units i.e. Electoral Divisions (EDs) was then chosen using probability sampling procedures (proportionate to the size of the population).

- In 2024, the number of sampling points per quarter was 320 – with 10 interviews conducted at each sampling point. Respondents were selected to ensure quotas for sex, age and social class in line with the 2022 census profile within each Garda division.
- To ensure that much of the sampling process was removed from the interviewer, a randomly selected starting point was assigned to each. He/she began at this location – 10 interviews were required within each ED, in accordance with demographic controls for that region, drawn from Central Statistics Office estimates.

In order to capture the views of victims of crime (note: the victimisation² section does not capture data on all crimes: crimes of a sexual nature are excluded from the survey) respondents were asked whether they had been a victim of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview – known as the reference period. The 2024 survey captured the views of 718 victims of crime.

1.2.2 The Sample Profile

Demographic quotas were set within each of An Garda Síochána's 21 Garda divisions, to account for differing divisional profiles. As mentioned, respondents were selected according to quotas based on sex, age and social class, in line with the 2022 census profile (this ensured further representativeness) – these were applied on all adults aged 18 years and older:

1. Sex (Male, Female)
2. Age (18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+)
3. Social Class (ABC1, C2DE, F) (See table 1)

¹ An Garda Síochána's Operating Model of policing (as opposed to the Divisional Model traditionally used) is now rolled out on a national basis (completed in Q1 2025). While its implementation was not complete at the time of surveying, the updated 21-division model (an increase from 19 in 2022, and a radical change to the historical 28) was employed for the purposes of sampling to ensure that any subsequent divisional analysis aligned to the future model.

² This includes being a victim of burglary, theft, robbery, criminal damage and/or assault.

Table 1: Definitions of Social Class Groupings

Social Class	Description
A	Higher managerial, professional.
B	Intermediate managerial, professional, accountant.
C1	Supervisory or clerical, junior manager, nurse, teacher, sales representative, shop owner, student
C2	Skilled manual worker (e.g. skilled bricklayer, carpenter, plumber, painter, bus, ambulance driver, HGV driver, AA patrolman, publican), hairdressers, fitter
D	Semi or unskilled manual work (e.g. manual workers, all apprentices to be skilled trades, caretaker, park keeper, non-HGV driver, shop assistant), postman, barber, taxi driver, bartender. Casual worker (not in permanent employment)
E	Housewife/homemaker. Retired and living on state pension. Unemployed or not working due to long term illness. Full-time carer of other household member
F	Farmer

Weighting for the adult sample involved a two-stage process to ensure a representative dataset. In the first instance, weights were applied according to sex, age, social class and nationality. This was followed by weighting to ensure the 21 Garda divisions were represented in the correct proportions (see table 2 for adult sample characteristics). It should be noted (and has been the case in previous years), the 16 and 17-year-old sample remained unweighted.



Table 2: Sample Profile 2024

Sex		Age		Social Class		Region	
Male	49%	18 - 24	11%	AB	12%	Dublin	29%
Female	51%	25 - 34	16%	C1	34%	Leinster (excluding) Dublin	29%
		35 - 44	20%	C2	20%	Munster	24%
		45 - 54	18%	DE	29%	Connaught or Ulster	17%
		55 - 64	15%	F	6%		
		65+	20%				

Area		Nationality		Ethnicity		Religion	
City	20%	Irish	86%	White Irish	85%	Roman Catholic	73%
Other Urban	47%	UK	2%	Other white	9%	Church of Ireland	2%
Rural	33%	Polish	2%	African + Other Black	2%	Other Christian	4%
		Indian	2%	Chinese + Other Asian	3%	Other	3%
		Lithuania	1%	Other	2%	No religion	15%
		Brazil	1%			Refused	4%
		Romanian	1%				
		Ukrainian	1%				
		Other	4%				

1.3 Points to note about the 2024 survey

- The 2024 sample size of 12, 916 adults aged 18 years and over is a significant increase to previous years (2023 (sample size of 7,682); 2022 (sample size of 7,699); 2021(sample size of 7,656)).³
- The 1,039-strong young persons' sample is the largest of this group in recent years.

1.4 Report Layout

Perceptions of the crime problem in Ireland are explored in chapter two, along with policing priorities, levels of fear of crime and worry about victimisation. Chapter three examines respondents' levels of satisfaction with Garda service and trust in Gardaí, as well as perceptions of the Garda organisation. Service delivery, and expected treatment by Gardaí are explored in chapter four, while the main themes are examined by demographics in chapter five. The views of victims of crime, and high-level findings from the young persons' sample of 16 and 17-year-olds, are detailed in the remaining chapters.

³ More methodological detail is available at appendix 1 which provides information on the interpretation of tables and figures.



CHAPTER TWO CRIME AND THE IRISH PUBLIC

- 2.1 Perceptions of Crime and Policing Priorities
- 2.2 Worry about Victimisation and Fear of Crime

In this chapter, the PAS examines views on crime and policing priorities. Respondents' perceptions about the national and local crime problem are explored, as well as the crimes they feel should be prioritised by Gardaí. Levels of worry about becoming a victim of crime are examined, as well as fear of crime, and the impact of this on quality of life.

National crime continues to be viewed as more serious than **local crime**.



Sexual offences - still considered the crime that should be the highest priority for Gardaí (89% of respondents). **Domestic abuse** was the next highest priority (87%).



Over half of respondents (54%) reported having **'no fears'** or **'very few fears'** about crime.

Those who reported having **'a lot'** or **'some'** fears have **increased** from 35% in 2021, to 46% in 2024 (11 percentage points).



Over half of respondents (57%) reported that **fear of crime** **had no impact** on their quality of life.



So what does the survey tell us? Continuing the trend seen in previous years, in 2024 respondents viewed national crime as more of a problem than crime in their local areas. A stark illustration of this is when we look at those who stated that crime is 'not a problem' (4% said this of national crime, compared to 43% for local crime). On a regional level, respondents from Munster (83%) were more likely to consider the national crime problem as 'very serious' or 'serious,' than the other regions (they also were more likely to hold this view of local crime, along with those in Dublin). Respondents continue to be definitive about the crime types that they consider should be a priority for Gardaí, with 'sexual offences' and 'domestic abuse' as the top priorities. Drugs offences featured highly (fifth place) when national crime was considered 'a very serious problem' (ahead of 'illegal weapons,' 'robberies' and 'burglaries'), and was ranked second by those who held similar views of local crime. Over half (54%) of respondents held 'no fears' or 'very few fears' about crime. However, a change since 2021 has seen those with 'a lot' or 'some' fears increase by 11 percentage points, to 46 percent in 2024. Fifty-seven percent reported that fear of crime has no impact on their quality of life – no change from 2023.

Continuing the trend seen in previous years, in 2024 respondents viewed national crime as more of a problem than crime in their local areas. A stark illustration of this is when we look at those who stated that crime is 'not a problem' (4% said this of national crime, compared to 43% for local crime).

2.1 Perception of Crime and Policing Priorities

2.1.1 The Irish public's perceptions of national and local crime in Ireland in 2024

With no change to previous years, respondents in the 2024 survey considered national crime as a more serious problem than local crime (figure 1). Seventy-two percent of respondents considered national crime to be 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem, (19% held this view about local crime), with those who viewed national crime as 'not a problem' standing at 4 percent, (43% for local crime). Figures 2 and 3 show similar results when geographical regions were examined.

Figure 1: Perception of the Seriousness of National and Local Crime

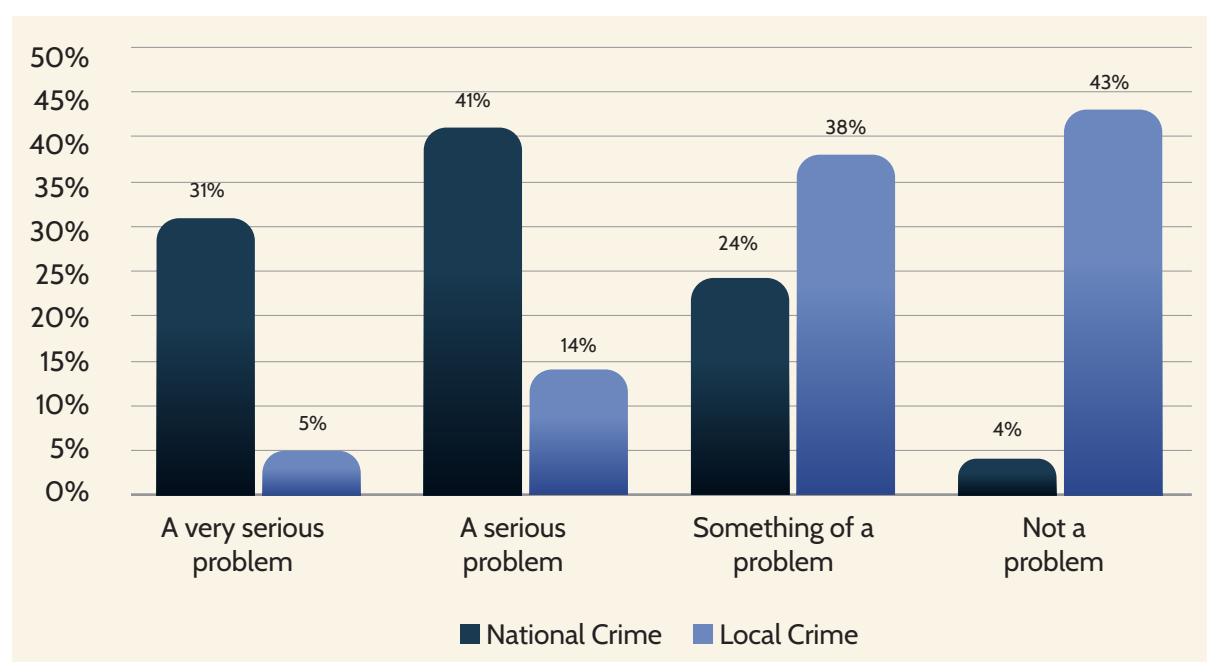
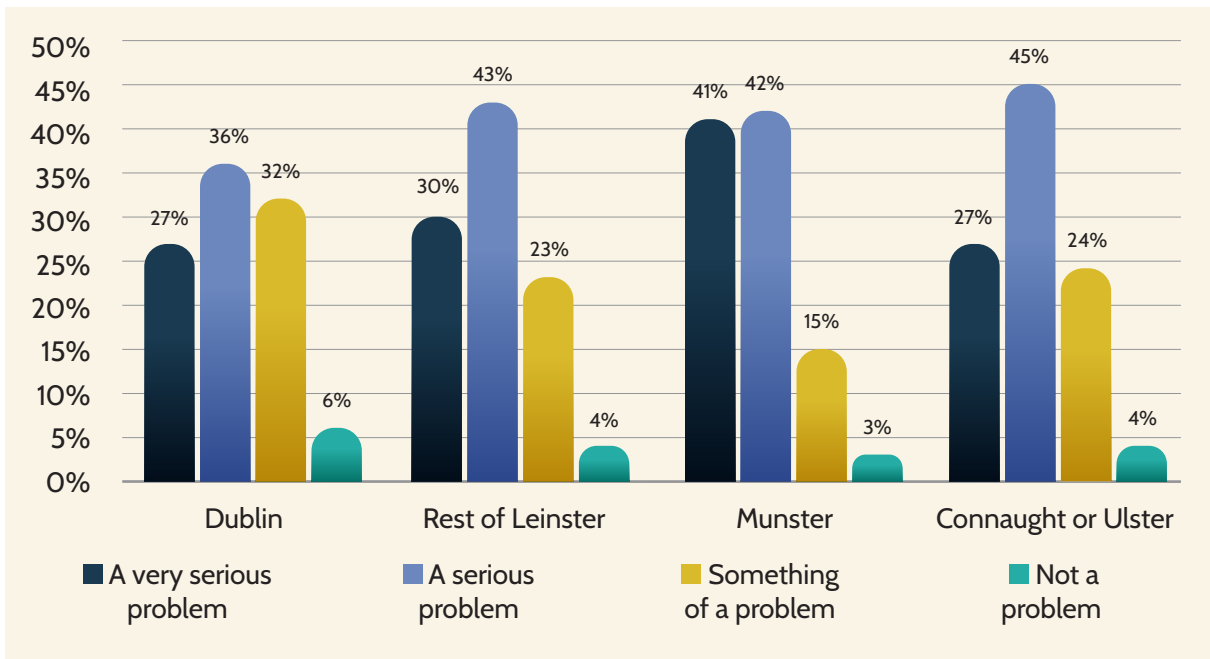


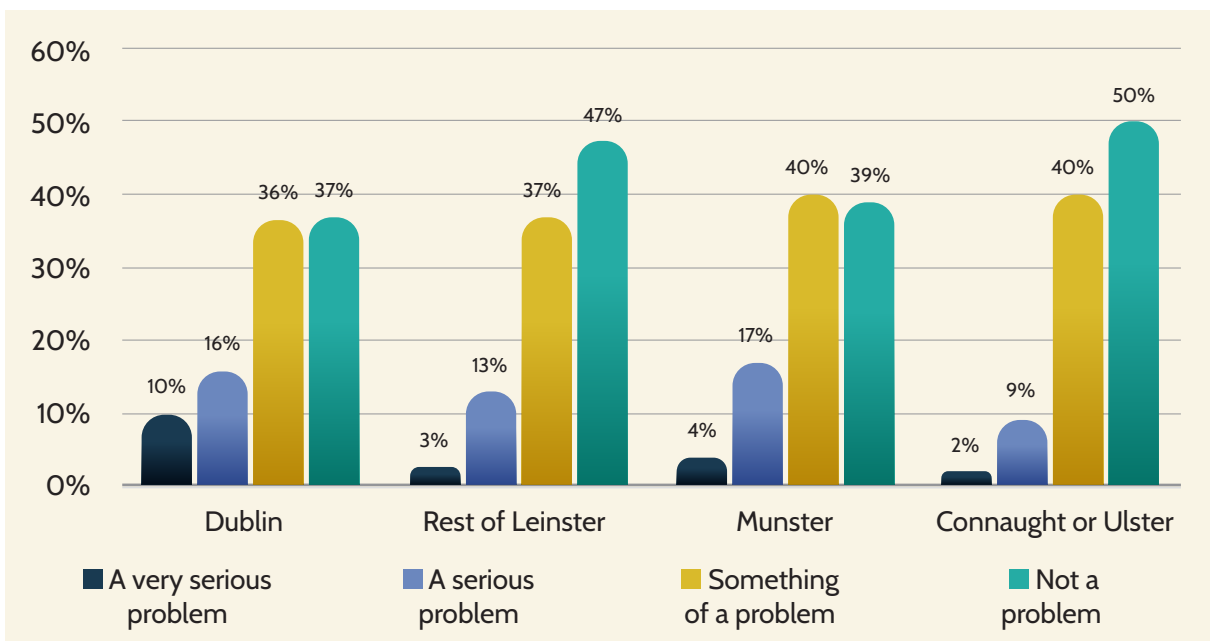
Figure 2: Perception of Seriousness of National Crime by Region



As figure 2 shows, while across the regions perceptions of national crime as being 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem stood at 63 percent (Dublin) or higher, respondents in Munster were more likely to hold this view (83%). Equally, the proportion of respondents in Munster who viewed national crime as 'a very serious problem' (41%) has been increasing year-on-year since 2022, when it stood at 25 percent (29% in 2023). A similar picture emerges when local crime is considered. In 2024, 39 percent viewed this as 'not a problem' in Munster, down from 50 percent in 2022.

Similar to the national picture, *local* crime was viewed as far less serious across the regions, with those considering it 'not a problem' ranging between 37 percent in Dublin and 50 percent in Connaught or Ulster. Dublin's (26%) and Munster's respondents (21%) were more likely to view local crime as 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem, compared to 'the rest of Leinster' (16%) and Connaught or Ulster (11%) (see figure 3).

Figure 3: Perception of Seriousness of Local Crime by Region



2.1.2 How have perceptions of national and local crime changed over the last 4 years?

Figure 4 highlights changes in perceptions of national crime over the last 4-year period. Perceptions of crime as being 'a very serious' and 'serious' problem combined, have fluctuated between 70 percent (2021) and 73 percent in 2022. 2023 and 2024 remained static at 72 percent. In terms of local crime, the portion of respondents who viewed this as 'not a problem' has decreased 3 percentage points from 46 percent in 2021, to 43 percent in 2024 (figure 5).

Figure 4: Perceptions of National Crime 2021-2024

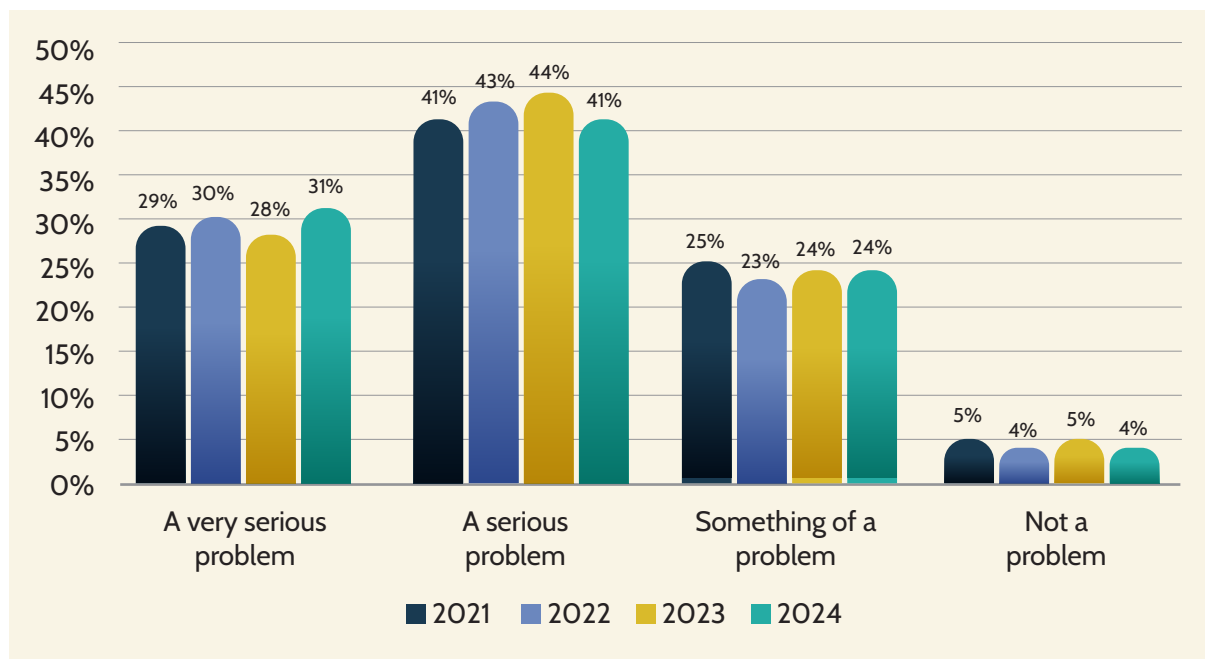
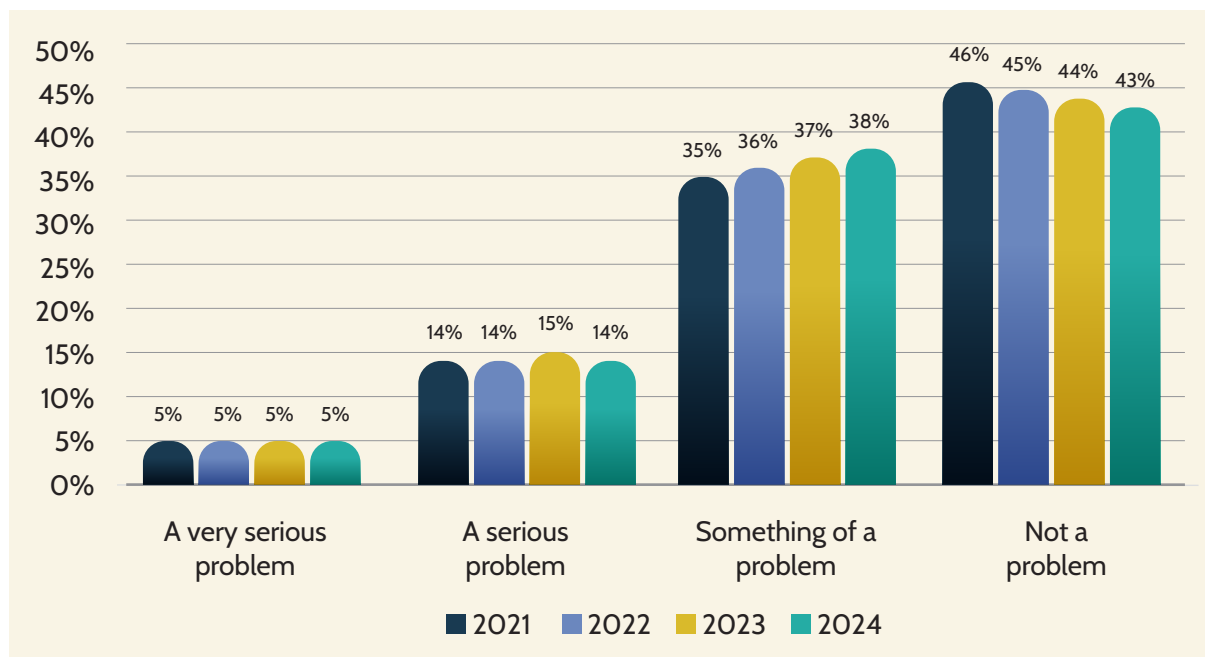


Figure 5: Perceptions of Local Crime 2021-2024



Policing Priorities

2.1.3 Respondents' views on policing priorities for An Garda Síochána in 2024

Respondents were asked to rank the crime areas which they feel should be prioritised by An Garda Síochána (high, medium and low priority). As in previous survey sweeps, 'sexual offences' featured prominently, with 89 percent of respondents of the view that these should be the top priority for Gardaí. Similar to 2022 and 2023, 'domestic abuse' was considered a crime that should be prioritised by Gardaí (87% gave this a high priority), followed by 'assaults' (85%) and 'human trafficking' (84%).

In terms of offences given a high priority, and similar to previous years, traffic and public order offences were chosen by the lowest percentages (44% and 56%), although the portion who ranked traffic offences as a high priority increased 6 percentage points since 2023. Those respondents who gave 'road safety' a high priority increased by 5 percentage points, to 68 percent of respondents (63% in 2023) (see table 3).

Table 3: Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána 2024

Policing Priorities	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Sexual Offences	89%	8%	3%
Domestic Abuse	87%	11%	3%
Assaults	85%	13%	2%
Human Trafficking	84%	12%	5%
Illegal Weapons	79%	15%	5%
Robberies	77%	21%	2%
Burglaries	77%	21%	2%
Drug Offences	75%	20%	5%
Hate Crime	71%	23%	7%
Road Safety	68%	27%	4%
Fraud	67%	28%	5%
Criminal Damage	65%	30%	4%
Public Order Offences	56%	36%	7%
Traffic Offences	44%	43%	13%

2.1.4 Are policing priorities impacted by perceptions of crime?

When policing priorities are examined against perceptions of national and local crime, it can be seen from table 4 that 'sexual offences' remained the highest priority for respondents, regardless of views of the seriousness of national crime. 'Domestic abuse' also remained highly ranked. Interestingly, when national crime was viewed as 'a very serious problem,' drugs offences were ranked higher than 'illegal weapons,' 'robberies' and 'burglaries'.

In terms of local crime, a notable finding is that 'drugs offences' were ranked as the *second* highest priority for those respondents who viewed local crime as 'a very serious problem,' with 'domestic abuse' ranked third.

Table 4: Policing Priorities by Perceptions of National and Local Crime

Policing Priorities	National Crime				Local Crime			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Sexual Offences	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Domestic Abuse	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2
Assaults	3	3	2	4	4	3	3	3
Human Trafficking	4	4	4	2	4	4	4	3
Illegal Weapons	6	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Robberies	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	6
Burglaries	8	6	6	7	7	7	6	7
Drug Offences	5	8	9	8	2	6	8	8
Hate Crime	10	9	8	9	11	9	9	9
Road Safety	10	10	10	11	13	12	10	10
Fraud	9	11	11	10	11	11	11	11
Criminal Damage	10	12	12	12	9	10	12	12
Public Order Offences	13	13	13	13	9	13	13	13
Traffic Offences	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14

2.1.5 Are policing priorities impacted by fear of crime?

For those who had 'a lot of fear' about crime, 'assaults' were the highest priority, followed by 'sexual offences' and 'domestic abuse'. 'Sexual offences' remained the highest priority for all other fear levels ('some fear', 'very few fears' and 'no fears'), followed by 'domestic abuse'. 'Human trafficking', 'illegal weapons' and 'drugs offences' also featured highly for those with 'a lot of fear' of crime, while for those with no fears about crime, 'burglaries' and 'robberies' were ranked in fifth place (see table 5).

Table 5: Policing Priorities by Fear of Crime

Policing Priorities	Fear of Crime			
	A lot of fear	Some fear	Very few fears	No fears
Sexual Offences	2	1	1	1
Domestic Abuse	3	2	2	2
Assaults	1	3	3	3
Human Trafficking	4	4	3	4
Illegal Weapons	5	5	5	7
Robberies	7	7	7	5
Burglaries	7	6	6	5
Drug Offences	5	8	8	7
Hate Crime	12	9	9	9
Road Safety	11	10	10	10
Fraud	9	11	10	11
Criminal Damage	9	12	12	12
Public Order Offences	13	13	13	13
Traffic Offences	14	14	14	14



2.2 Worry about Victimisation and Fear of Crime

To understand the public's level of fear of crime and worry about victimisation further, four measures were examined in the 2024 survey, as in previous years:

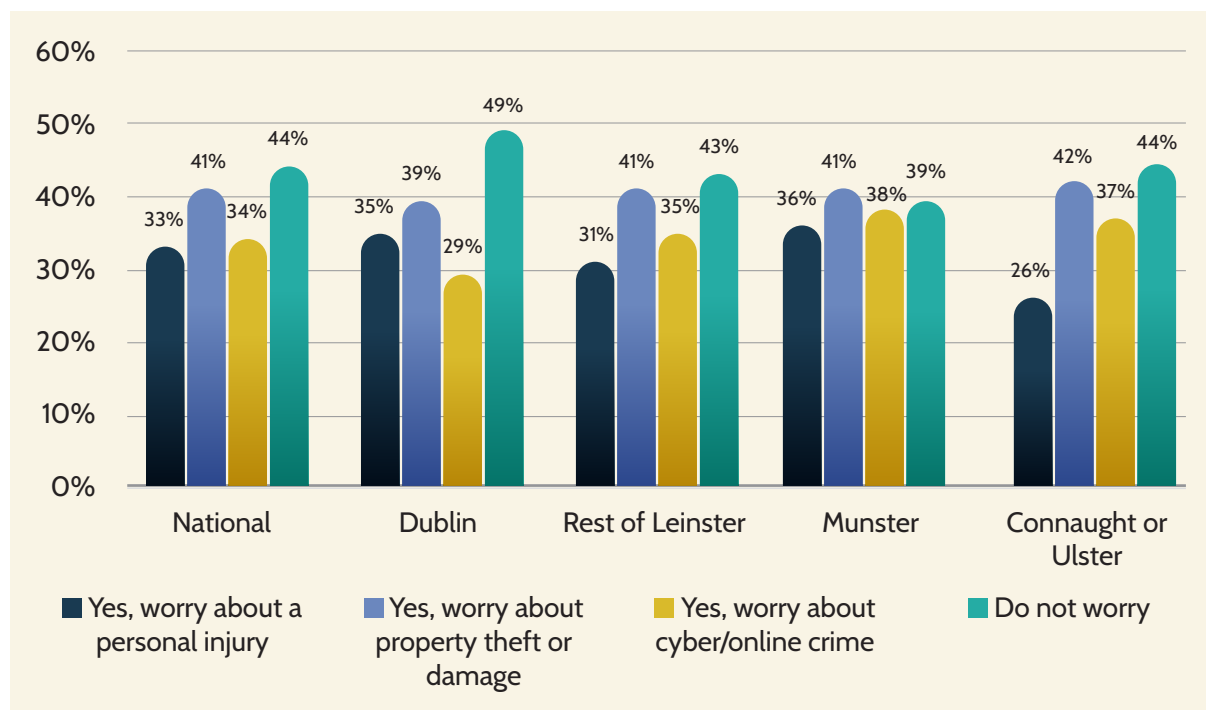
- Perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime (respondent themselves).
- Perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime (someone they live with).
- Fear about levels of crime.
- Impact of fear of crime on quality of life.

2.2.1 Worry about becoming a victim of crime

When asked whether they worried about the possibility of becoming a victim of crime⁴ (i.e. becoming a victim of 'personal injury', 'property theft or damage', or 'cyber/online crime'), 44 percent of respondents did not worry about victimisation for themselves, while 48 percent did not worry about someone with whom they live becoming a victim of crime (figures 6 and 6(a))⁵. As in 2023, respondents were more likely to worry about being the victim of 'property theft or damage,' – a finding reflected across the regions also.

In terms of worry about the possibility of someone they live with being the victim of crime, respondents in Dublin worried more about 'personal injury' (40%), than the other crime types (37% - 'property theft or damage' and 31% for 'cyber/online' crime). Worry about 'personal injury' was lowest in Connaught or Ulster, both for respondents themselves (26%), and someone with whom they live (32%)⁶.

Figure 6: Worry about the Possibility of Becoming a Victim of Crime (*Respondent Themselves*), Nationally and Regionally

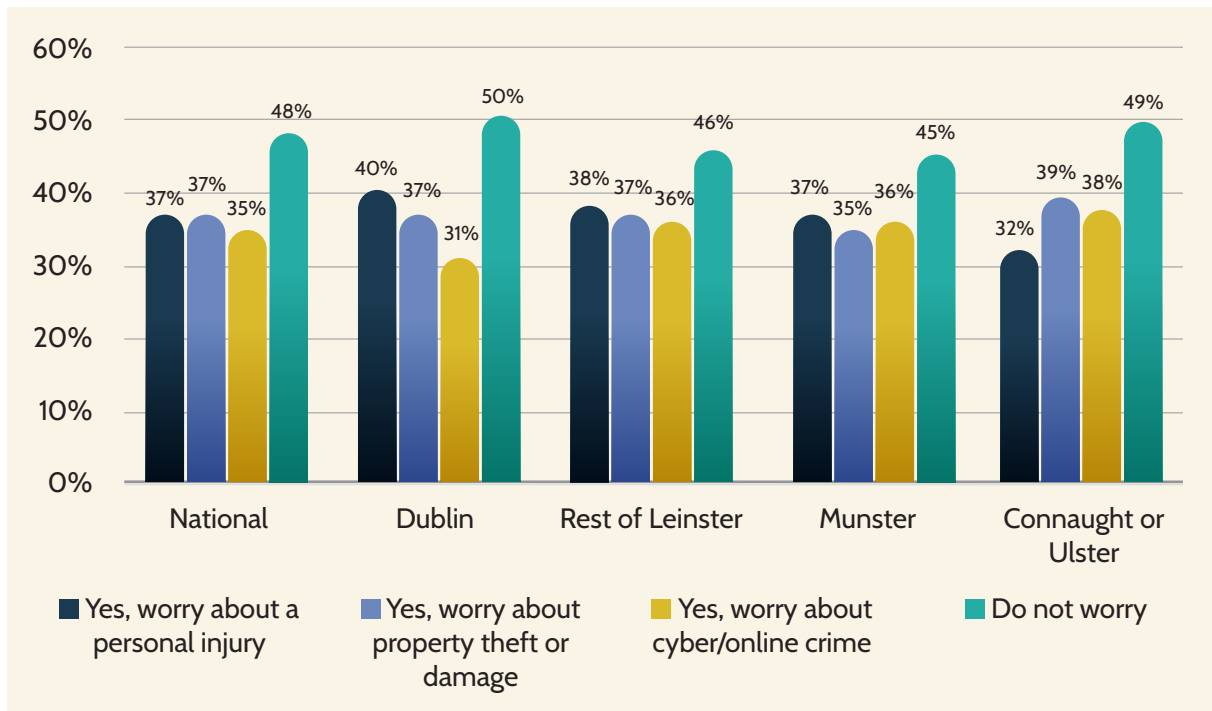


⁴ In 2022, in order to gain a better understanding of respondents' perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, a question change resulted in the respondents being asked about this likelihood for themselves and for someone they live with. This continued in 2023 and 2024. A further amendment to the answer options in 2023 means that data is not comparable to 2022 findings, with the exception of the 'do not worry' answer option.

⁵ In 2023, these figures were 42 percent, and 44 percent.

⁶ Respondents had the option to select more than one answer option, hence the figures do not sum to 100%.

Figure 6(a): *Worry about the Possibility of Someone Respondent Lives with Becoming a Victim of Crime, Nationally and Regionally*



2.2.2 Level of fear of crime

Nationally, in 2024 over half of respondents had 'very few fears' or 'no fears' about crime (54%). When the regions were examined, a similar picture emerges, with figures ranging between 51 percent ('rest of Leinster') and 59 percent (Connaught or Ulster). Respondents in Dublin (48%) and the 'rest of Leinster' (50%) held the most fears when 'a lot of fears' and 'some fears' were combined (figure 7).

Figure 7: *Level of Fear of Crime Nationally and Regionally*

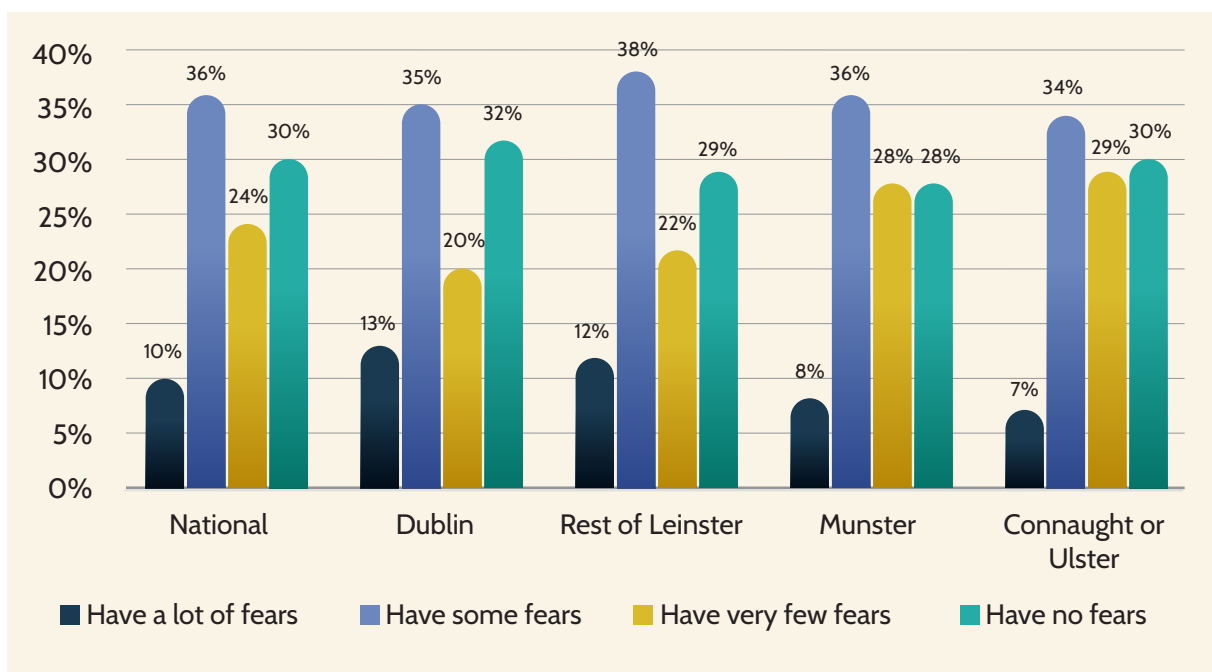


Figure 8 illustrates changes in fear of crime levels over the last four-year period. There has been an increase of 11 percentage points in the portion of respondents who have 'a lot of fears' or 'some fears' about crime (from 35% in 2021, to 46% in 2024). This is reflected with an 8 percentage point decrease in those who reported having 'no fears'.

Figure 8: Fear of Crime 2021-2024



2.2.3 How does fear of crime impact on quality of life?

On a national level, the majority of respondents in the 2024 survey reported that fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life (57%). This was reflected across the regions also, with figures ranging between 52 percent (Dublin), and 60 percent ('rest of Leinster'). Respondents in Connaught or Ulster were more likely to report that fear of crime reduced quality of life 'a little' (28%), compared to the other regions (19% in Dublin as well as the 'rest of Leinster', and 22% in Munster), while Dublin respondents were more likely to report a great or significant reduction in quality of life (11%), than the other regions (7% in 'rest of Leinster', 5% in Munster and 3% in Connaught or Ulster) (see figure 9). There has been no notable change in reported quality of life due to fear of crime since 2023 (figure 10).

Figure 9: The Effect of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life Nationally and Regionally

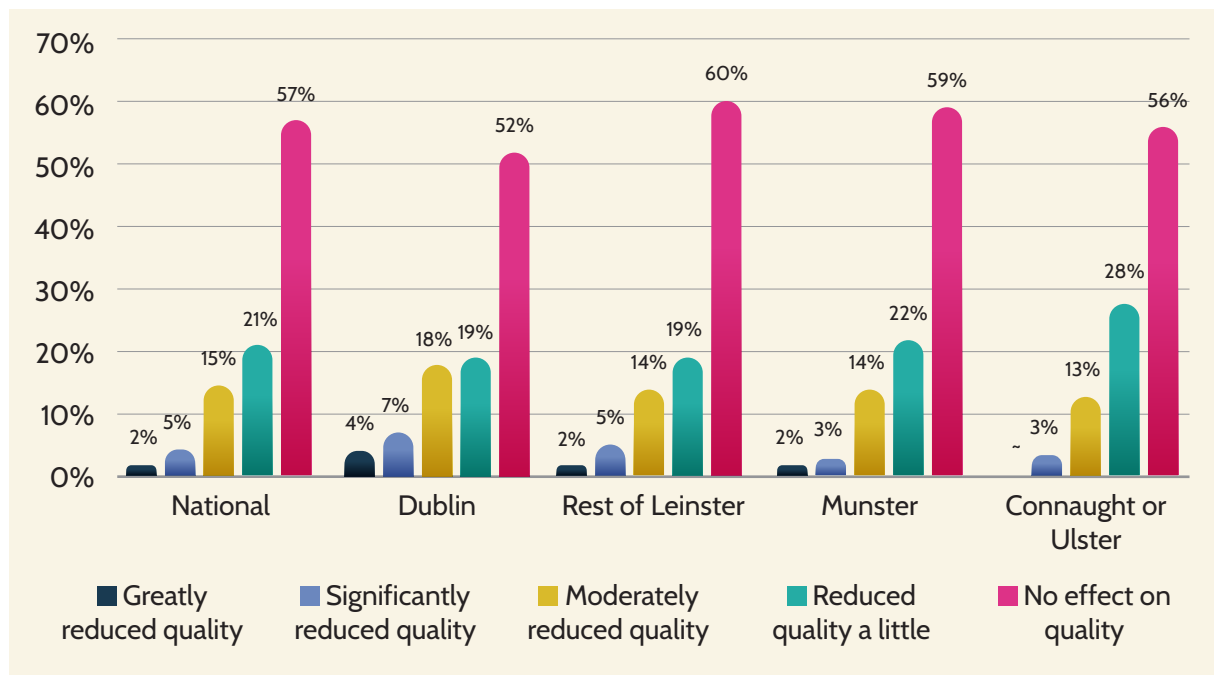
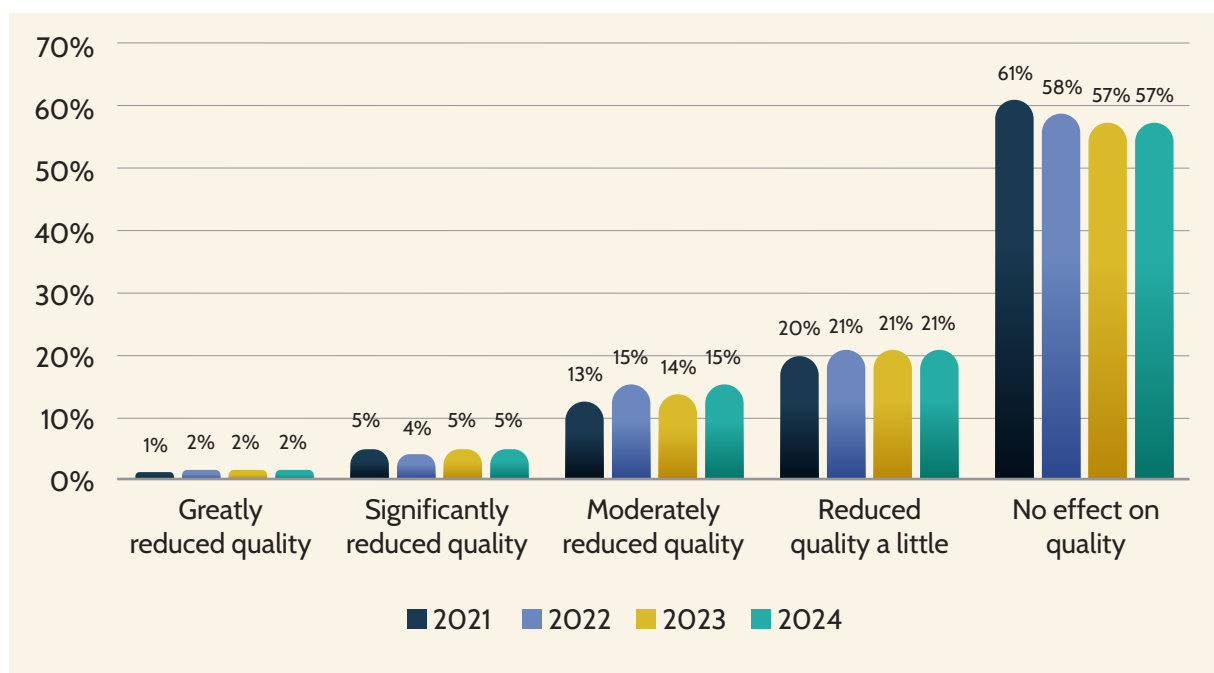


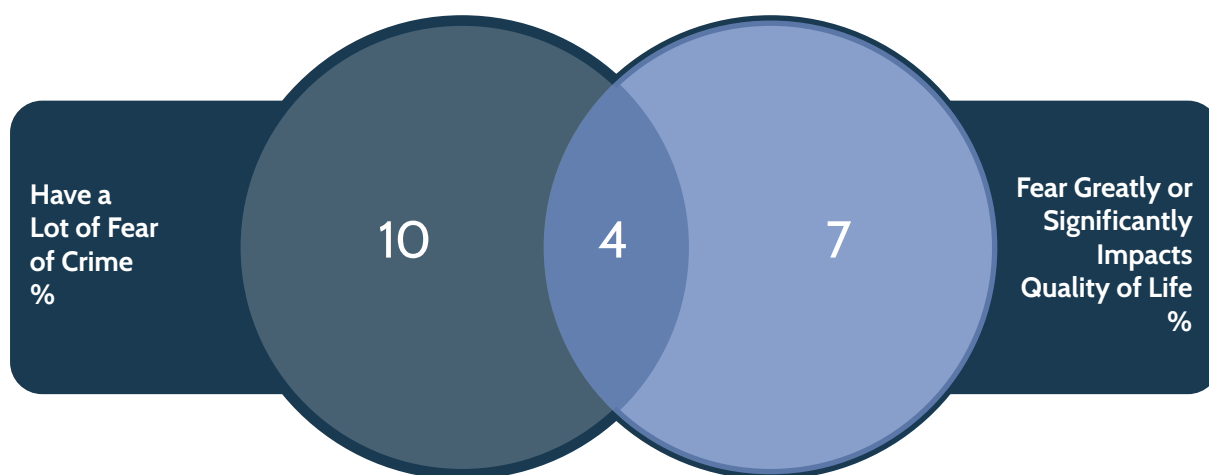
Figure 10: The Effect of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life 2021-2024



2.2.4 Further exploration of fear of crime and impact on quality of life

As fear of crime may have a negative impact on quality of life, it is an important measure to observe and understand within the PAS. Seventy percent of respondents reported some level of fear of crime ('a lot,' 'some' or 'very few' fears), while 43 percent reported some impact on quality of life ('great,' 'significant,' 'moderate' or 'a little' impact). Examining those respondents for whom fear of crime, and its impact, were the most pronounced, we see that 10 percent had 'a lot' of fears, and 7 percent felt this fear impacts their quality of life 'greatly' or 'significantly.' Figure 11(a), reveals that 4 percent of respondents held 'a lot' of fears, and this impacted quality of life to a great or significant extent (n=479).

Figure 11: 'A lot' of Fear of Crime and 'Great' or 'Significant' Impact on Quality of Life (n=479)



A closer look at respondents who have 'a lot' of fears (n=1,332) reveals a greater proportion of females (65%, versus 35%), and older age groups (18-24 year olds were the least likely to report this at 6%). Respondents in Dublin, 'the rest of Leinster' and 'other urban' areas were more likely to hold this view. In terms of those who reported that fear of crime 'greatly' or 'significantly' impacts their quality of life (n=882), results were similar. Females, those aged 35-44 years and 65+, Dublin respondents and those in 'other urban' areas were more likely to be impacted. Following from this, of the 4 percent who had 'a lot' of fears and these impacted their quality of life 'greatly' or 'significantly' these were more likely to be female, in the 35-44 age bracket and living in Dublin or 'other urban' areas (see figures 12 (a) and (b), with comparisons to the overall sample contained within).



Figure 12 (a): Respondents who have 'a lot' of fear of crime **and** this impacts their quality of life 'greatly' or 'significantly' by sex, age and nationality (n=479)

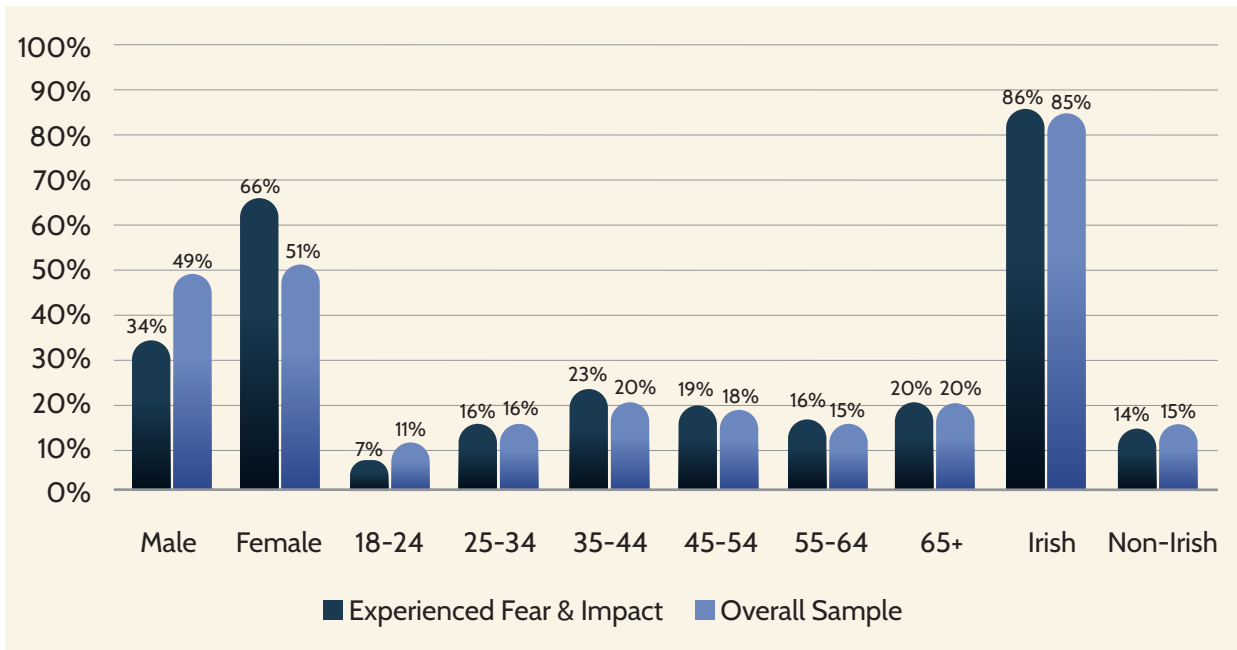
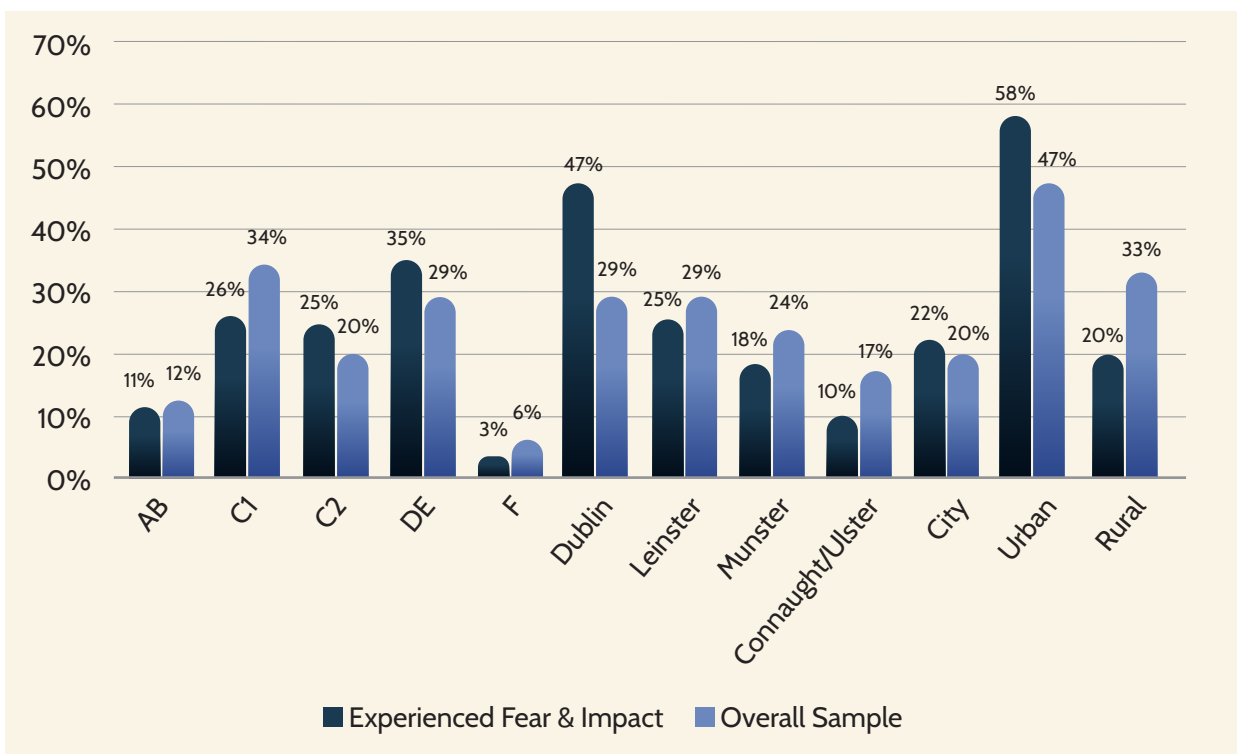


Figure 12 (b): Respondents who have 'a lot' of fear of crime **and** this impacts their quality of life 'greatly' or 'significantly' by social class, region and area (n=479)





CHAPTER THREE VIEWS TOWARDS AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

.....
3.1 Satisfaction and Trust in An Garda Síochána
.....

3.2 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána
.....

In this chapter, some of the most important measures are reported on – for example, satisfaction with, and trust in, the Gardaí, along with perceptions about the Garda organisation, its performance and service to communities. These help in understanding views towards the service provided by Gardaí, and the standing of the organisation among the Irish public in terms of police legitimacy.

70%
of respondents
satisfied with
Garda service



88%
expressed **mid to high** trust in An
Garda Síochána



Most favourable perceptions of An Garda Síochána in terms of agreement:

Friendly or helpful

(90%)



Human-rights-focused

(79%)



Community-focused

(71%)



Other perceptions:

Effective in tackling crime

(60%)



Well-managed

(52%)



Modern and progressive

(67%)



An Garda Síochána is
**representative of diverse
communities**
(56% agreed)



So what does the survey tell us? While satisfaction with, and trust in Gardaí (mid to high trust) continued to be positive in 2024, both have shown disimprovements since 2023, and yearly declines since 2021 (satisfaction is down 8 percentage points since 2021, and 'high' levels of trust have decreased by 7 percentage points). While still largely favourable, perceptions about Gardaí and the Garda organisation have shown disimprovements across all areas - the most notable in terms of the organisation being 'well-managed' (down from 69% in 2021, to 52% in 2024). Despite this, agreements levels that Gardaí are 'friendly and helpful', 'human-rights' and 'community-focused' all remain above 70 percent, while agreement levels that the Gardaí are 'modern and progressive' and 'effective in tackling crime' remain above 60 percent.

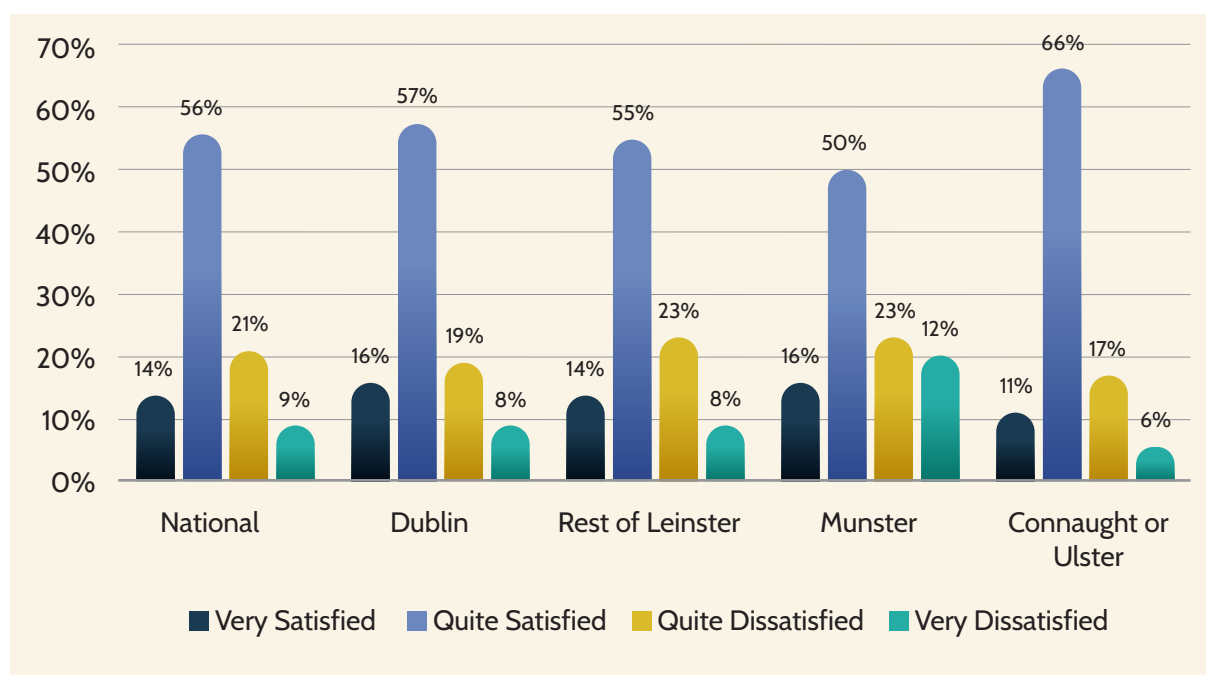
While still largely favourable, perceptions about Gardaí and the Garda organisation have shown disimprovements across all areas - the most notable in terms of the organisation being 'well-managed' (down from 69% in 2021, to 52% in 2024).

3.1 Satisfaction and Trust in An Garda Síochána

3.1.1 Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities during 2024

Respondents were asked about their satisfaction with Garda service in their local communities. In 2024, 70 percent were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with this service. Across the regions, this same measure of satisfaction ranged between 66 percent (Munster) and 77 percent (Connaught or Ulster). Respondents in Munster (35%) and the 'rest of Leinster' (31%) reported the highest levels of dissatisfaction (either 'very' or 'quite' dissatisfied) (see figure 13). Furthermore, in both, dissatisfaction levels have been increasing year-on-year since 2022, most notably in Munster (in 2022, the figure stood at 22 percent. In 2023, the figure was 25 percent, and in 2024 – 35 percent).

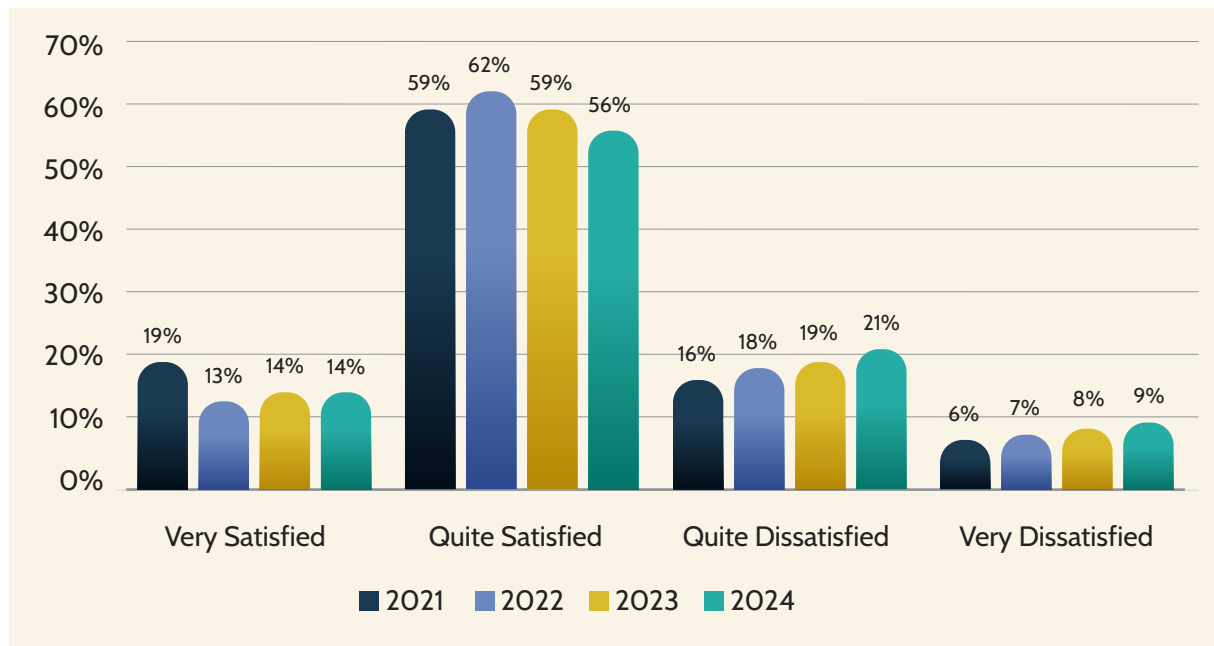
Figure 13: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Community, Nationally and Regionally



3.1.2 How have satisfaction levels changed over the last four years?

Continuing a trend reported on in the 2023 PAS report, satisfaction levels with Garda service, while remaining at 70 percent, have been decreasing year-on-year. Respondents who were 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with Garda service stood at 78 percent in 2021. This has decreased to 70 percent in 2024 (see figure 14). Dissatisfaction levels have increased 8 percentage points from 22 percent in 2021, to 30 percent in 2024 ('quite dissatisfied' and 'very dissatisfied' combined).

Figure 14: Satisfaction with Garda service to Local Community 2021-2024

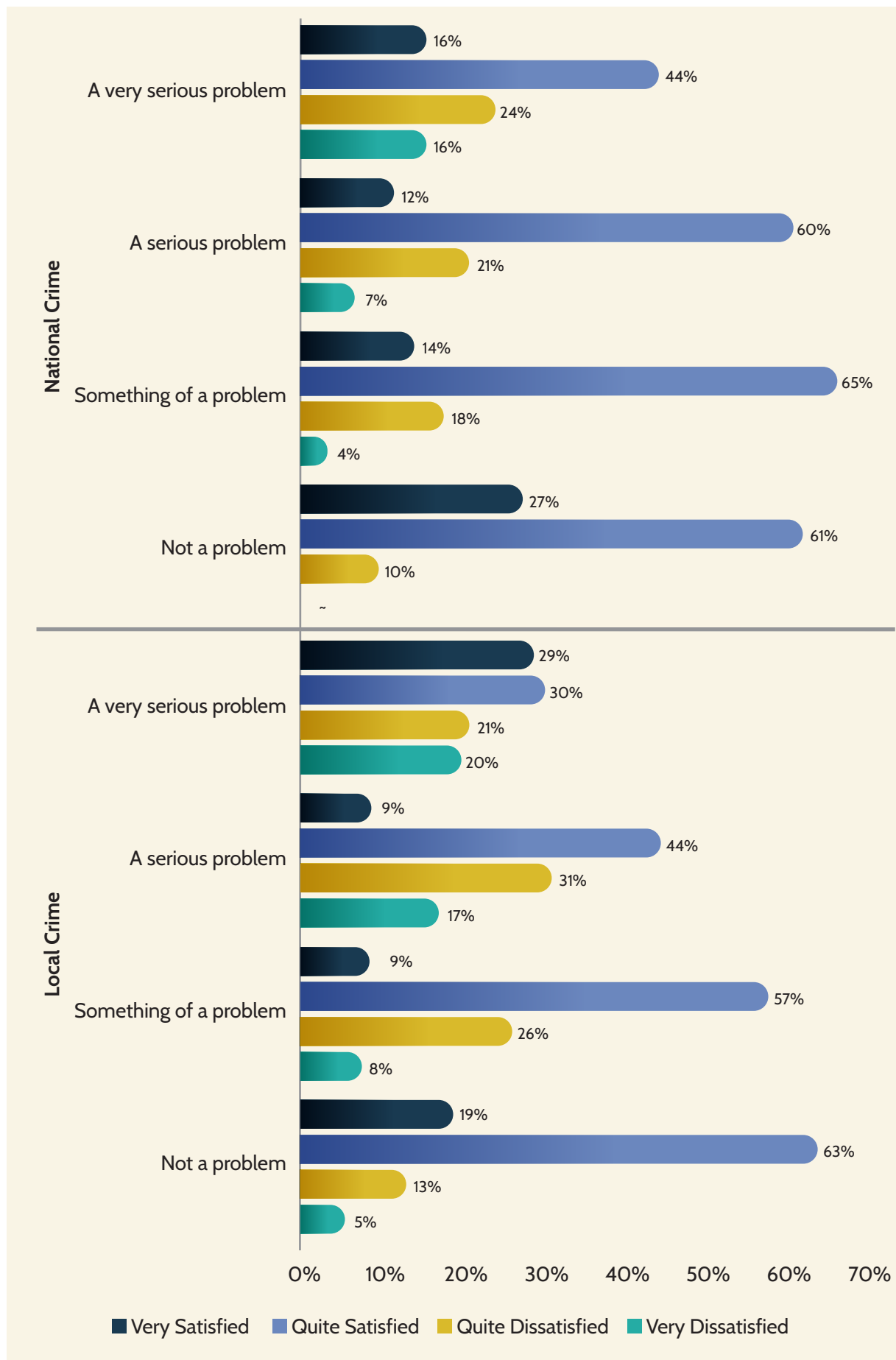


3.1.3 Do perceptions of crime impact satisfaction levels?

Continuing the trend seen in previous iterations of the PAS, as perceptions of the seriousness of the national and local crime problem decreased, satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities increased. This finding is particularly pronounced when local crime is considered.

As figure 15 shows, when 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' were examined together, 60 percent of respondents who considered national crime 'a very serious problem' were satisfied with Garda service. This increased to 88 percent when national crime was viewed as 'not a problem.' Similarly, 59 percent of respondents who viewed local crime as 'a very serious problem' were satisfied with Garda service, compared to 82 percent who considered it 'not a problem.'

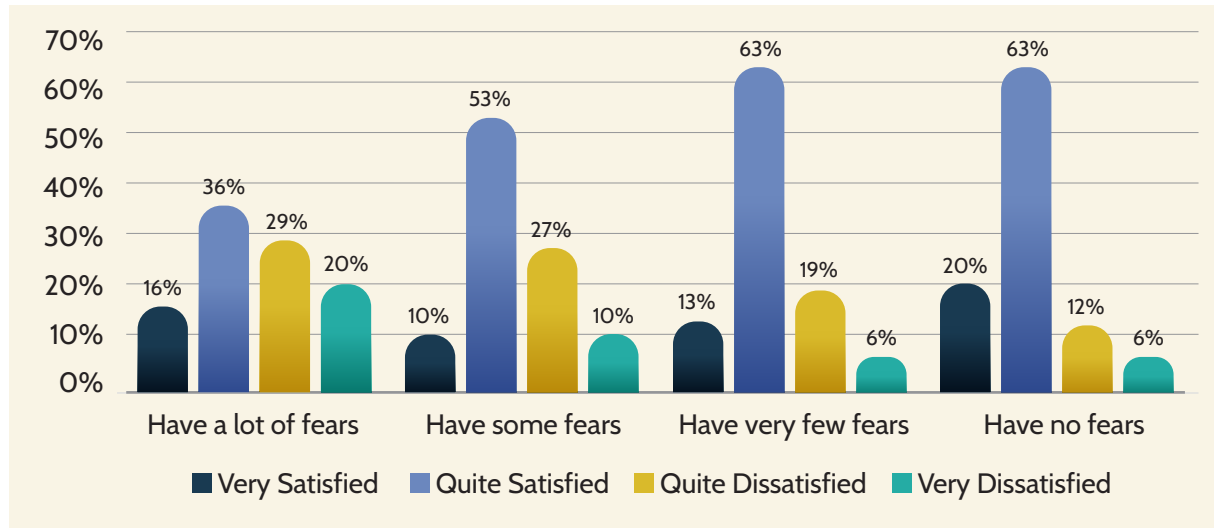
Figure 15: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities, by Perception of National and Local Crime



3.1.4 Satisfaction and fear of crime

A further relationship exists between respondents' satisfaction with Garda service to their local communities and *fear of crime* levels. As fear of crime decreases, satisfaction with service increases. To illustrate the point, 52 percent of respondents who reported having 'a lot of fears' about crime were satisfied with Garda service ('very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied'). This figure increased to 83 percent of respondents who had 'no fears' about crime (see figure 16).

Figure 16: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities, by Fear of Crime

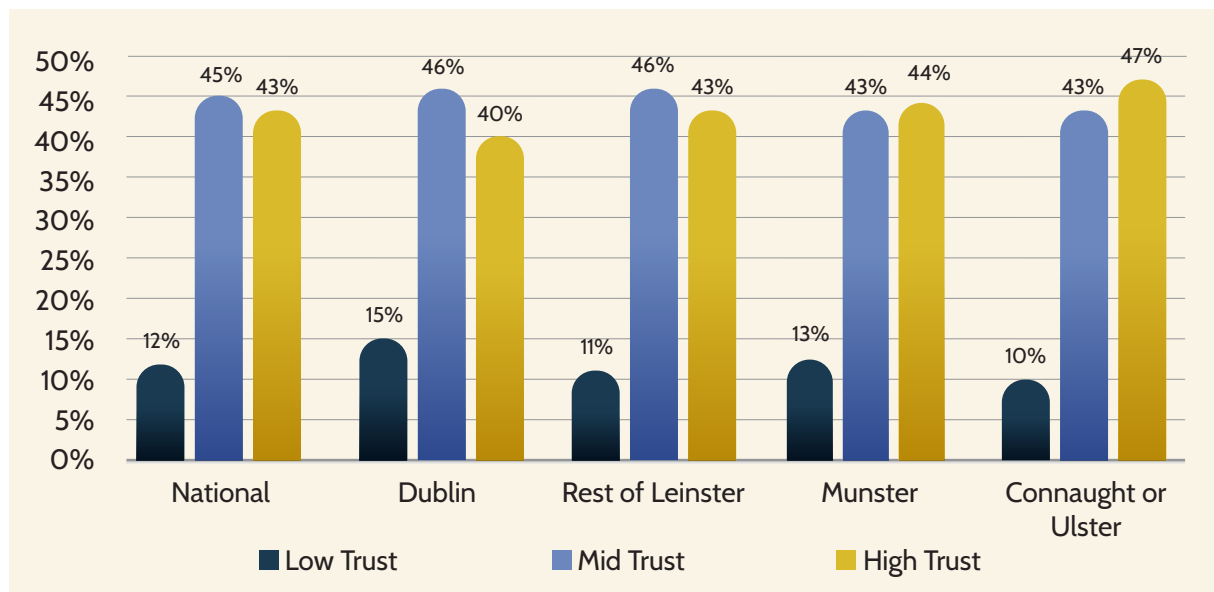


Trust⁷

3.1.5 Levels of trust in An Garda Síochána

The PAS measures levels of trust in An Garda Síochána, and in line with previous years, the 2024 survey yielded positive results – on a national level, 88 percent of respondents reported mid to high trust in the Gardaí. Across the regions, the highest levels of trust were reported in 'Connaught or Ulster' (90%), followed by the 'rest of Leinster' (89%), Munster (87%) and Dublin (86%) (see figure 17).

Figure 17: Trust in An Garda Síochána Nationally and Regionally

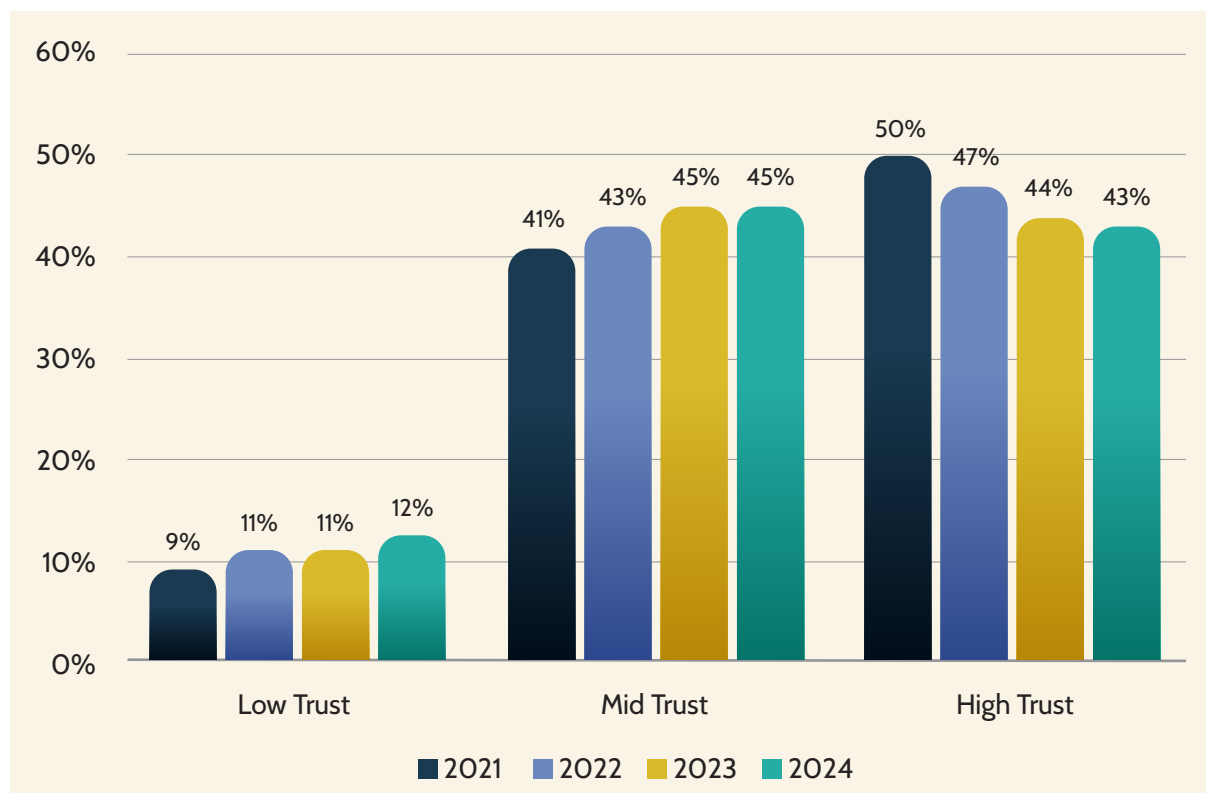


⁷ Respondents were asked to assign a rating of between 1 and 10 to their chosen trust level, the highest level being ten and the lowest, one. Responses were then recoded to 'low trust' (ratings 1, 2, 3, and 4), 'mid trust' (ratings 5, 6 and 7) and 'high trust' (ratings 8, 9 and 10).

3.1.6 How have trust levels changed over the last four years?

Levels of 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána have decreased year-on-year since 2021 (50%), to 43 percent in 2024. When mid-high trust levels are combined, the changes are less notable, although still show slight declines (91% in 2021; 90% in 2022; 89% in 2023; and 88% in 2024) (see figure 18).

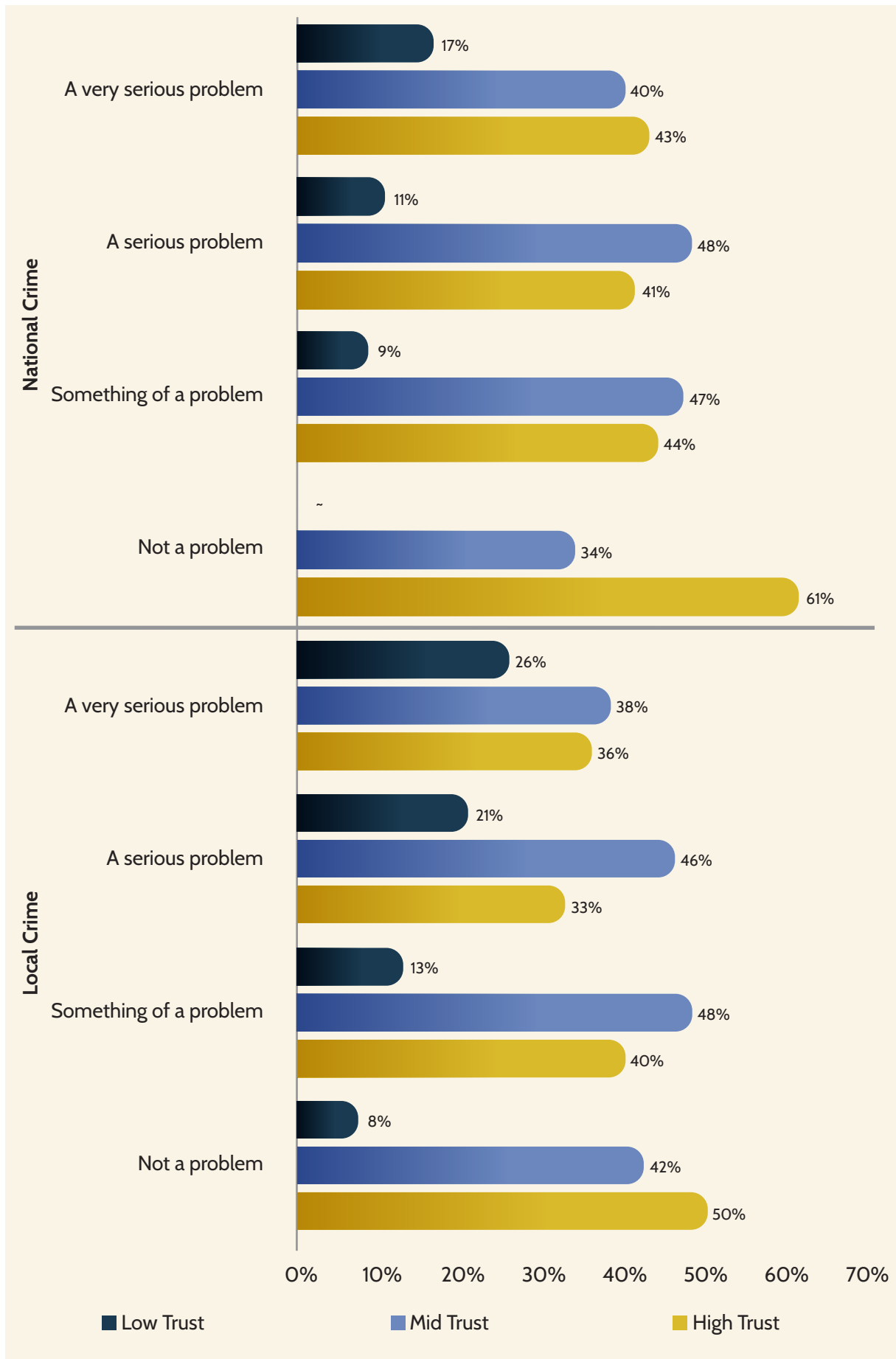
Figure 18: Level of Trust in An Garda Síochána 2021-2024



3.1.7 Do perceptions of crime impact trust levels?

As in previous survey sweeps, the 2024 PAS revealed a relationship between perceptions of crime and trust levels. In general, and as illustrated in figure 19, as perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem decreased, trust levels increased. This is evident on both a national and local level. For example, 83 percent of respondents who considered national crime to be a 'very serious problem' had mid to high trust in the Gardaí. This figure increased to 95 percent for those who considered national crime 'not a problem.' On a local level, 74 percent of respondents who felt that crime in their local communities was 'a very serious problem' held mid-high trust in the Gardaí. This increased to 92 percent when crime in their local areas was viewed as 'not a problem.'

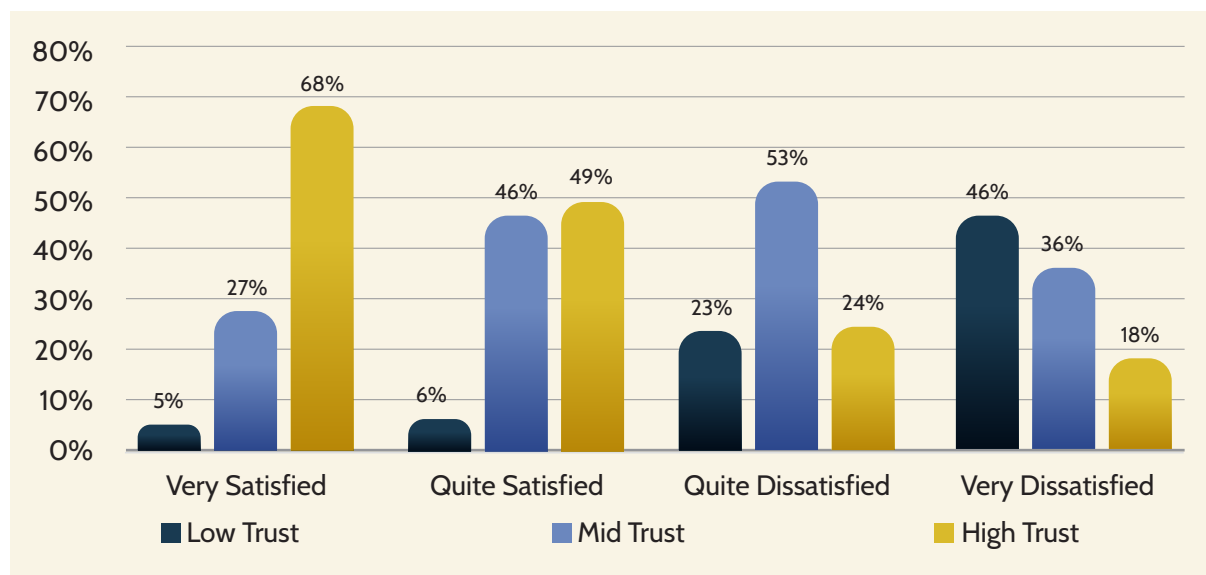
Figure 19: Trust in An Garda Síochána, by Perceptions of National and Local Crime



3.1.8 Impact of satisfaction with Garda service to local communities on trust levels

The impact on trust levels of satisfaction with Garda service is also evident, as can be seen in figure 20. This is illustrated clearly when levels of high trust are examined. Sixty-eight percent of respondents who were 'very satisfied' with Garda service to their local communities reported high trust in the Gardaí, compared to 18 percent of respondents who were 'very dissatisfied'.

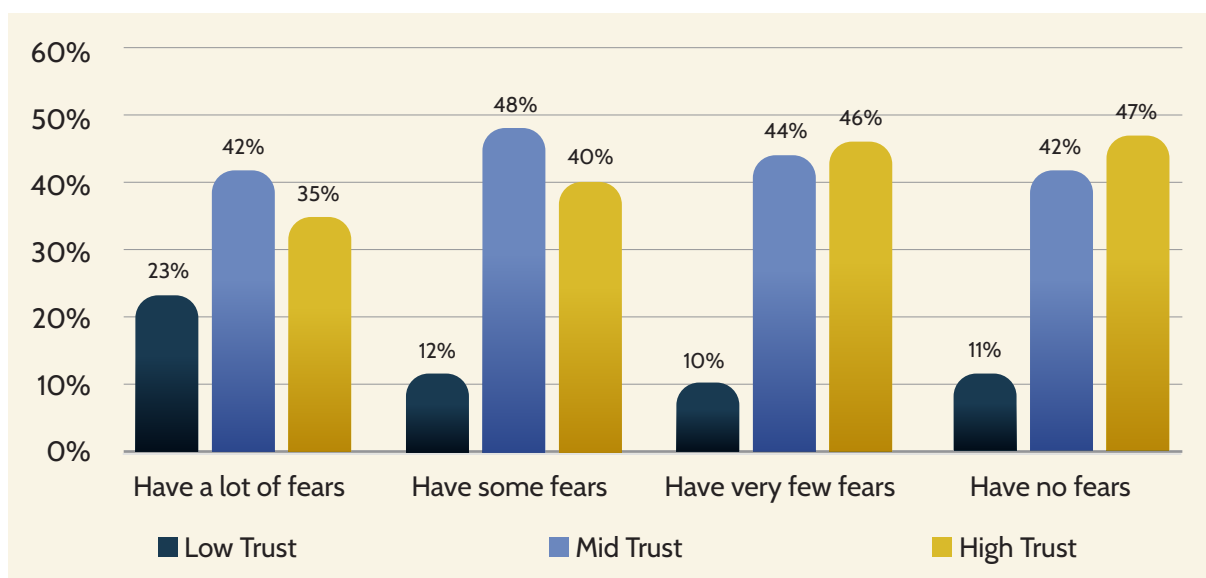
Figure 20: Trust in An Garda Síochána, by Satisfaction with Garda Service Locally



3.1.9 Does fear of crime impact trust levels?

Fear of crime also impacts trust in the Gardaí, although this relationship is slightly less pronounced than the impact of negative perceptions of crime and satisfaction with Garda service. For example, 77 percent of respondents with 'a lot of fears' about crime had mid-high trust levels in Gardaí, compared to 89 percent with no fears (see figure 21).

Figure 21: Trust in An Garda Síochána, by Fear of Crime



3.2 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

Respondents' agreement levels with six key statements were examined to better understand their views of An Garda Síochána and the service it provides. They were asked whether they agree that An Garda Síochána are:

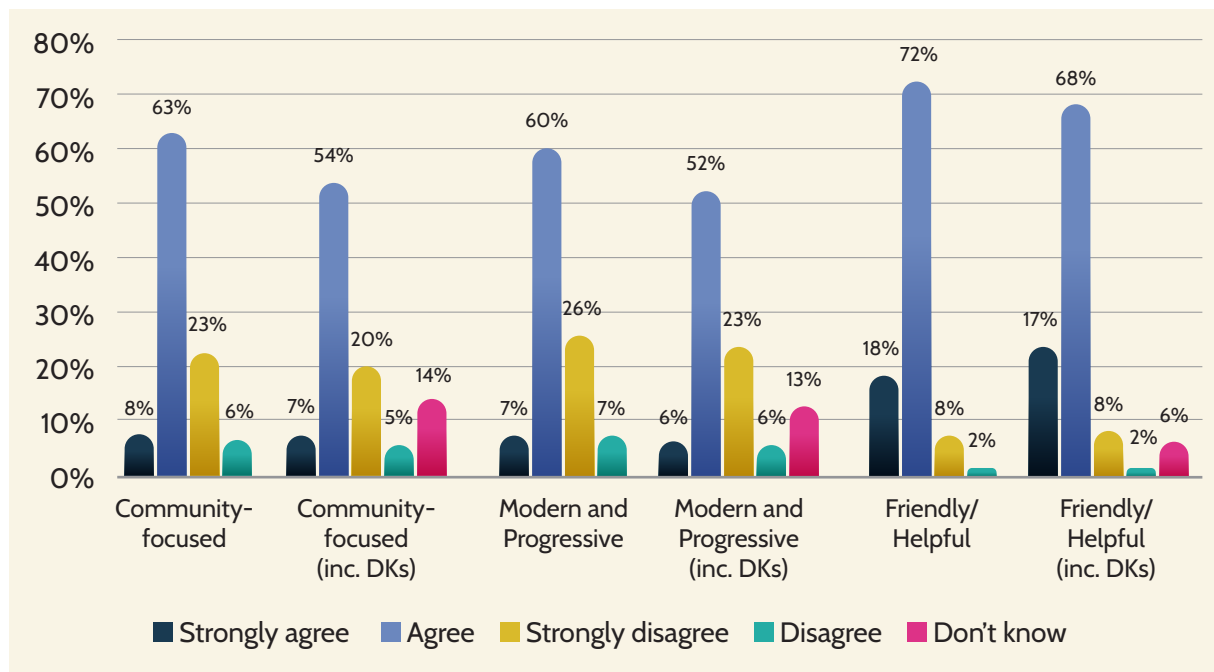
- Friendly and helpful.
- Community-focused.
- Human-rights-focused⁸.
- Effective in tackling crime.
- Modern and progressive.
- Well-managed.

The majority of respondents in the 2024 PAS agreed with the six statements about An Garda Síochána – similar to previous years (see figures 22 (a and b)). Respondents were most likely to agree that Gardaí are 'friendly and helpful' (90%), 'human-rights-focused' (79%) and 'community-focused' (71%).

3.2.1 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

The majority of respondents in the 2024 PAS agreed with the six statements about An Garda Síochána – similar to previous years (see figures 22 (a and b)). Respondents were most likely to agree that Gardaí are 'friendly and helpful' (90%), 'human-rights-focused' (79%) and 'community-focused' (71%). Other measures were less favourable, although still positive – 67 percent of respondents agreed An Garda Síochána is 'modern and progressive', while 60 percent felt Gardaí are 'effective in tackling crime'. Just over half (52%) considered An Garda Síochána to be 'well-managed'. In some regions, views in relation to certain measures were less favourable than the national figures. For example, in terms of Gardaí being 'community-focused', 67 percent of respondents agreed in Munster (71% nationally). In Dublin, respondents were less likely to consider Gardaí 'effective in tackling crime' (55% agreement, versus 60% nationally) (see figure 22 (c)) for further comparisons).

Figure 22 (a): Perceptions of An Garda Síochána (Part 1)



⁸ 'Human-rights-focused' was an option introduced for the first time in 2021.

Figure 22 (b): Perceptions of An Garda Síochána (Part 2)

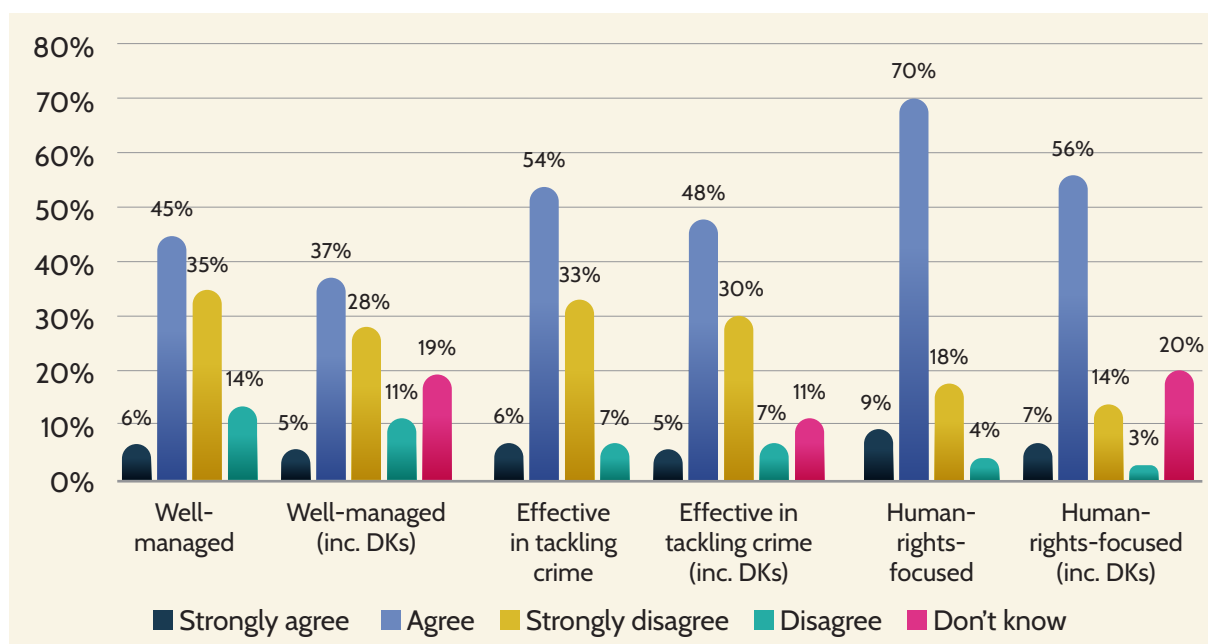
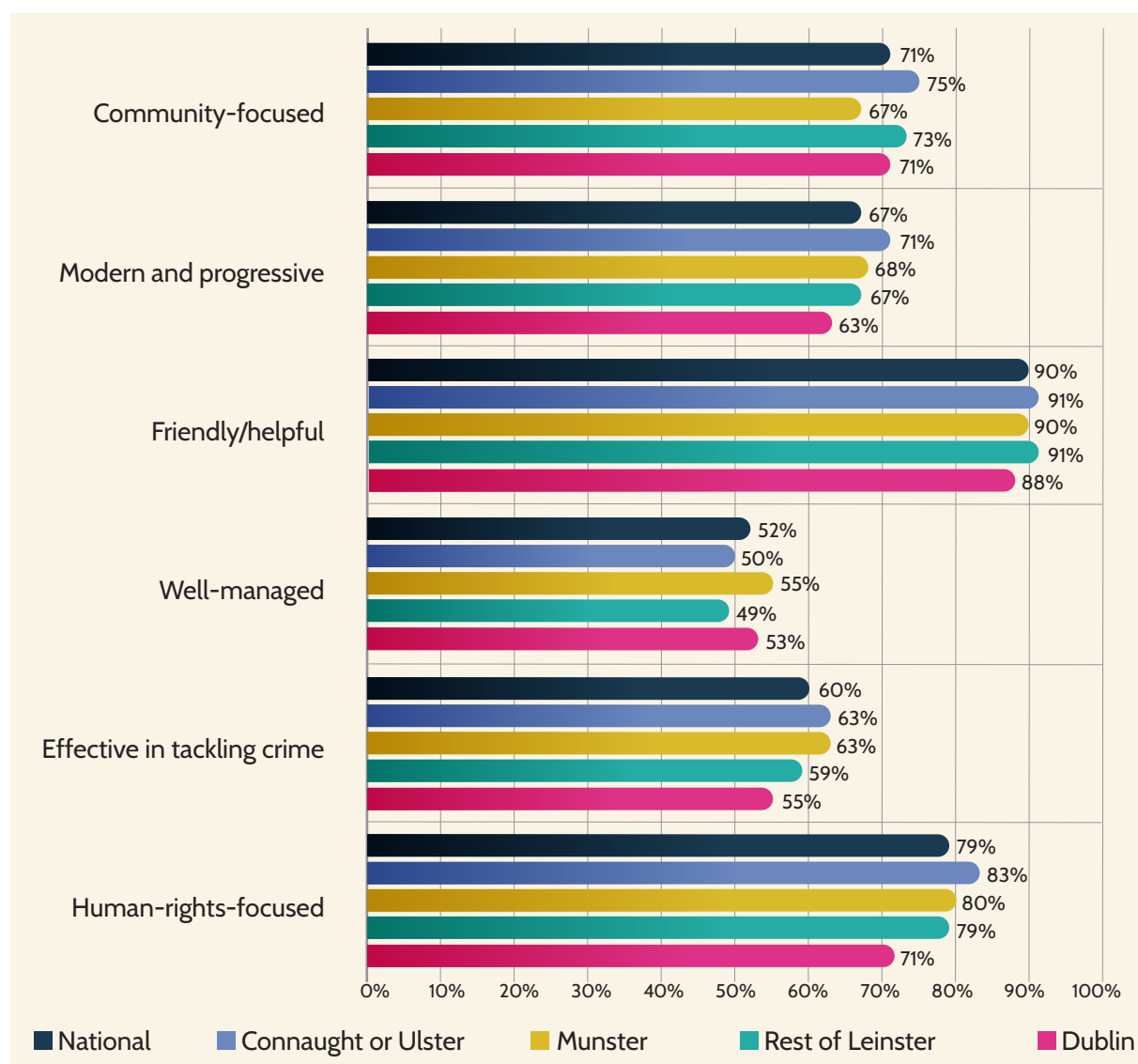


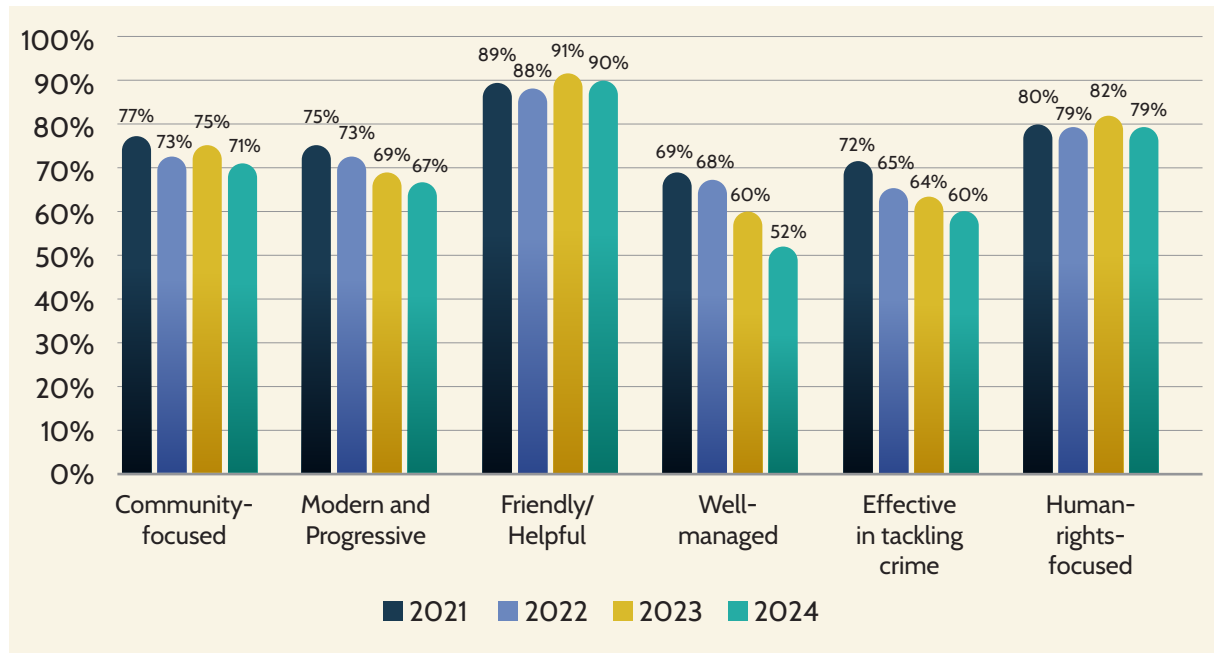
Figure 22 (c): Perceptions of An Garda Síochána by Region



3.2.2 How have perceptions changed over the last four years?

In all areas, there have been slight decreases in agreement levels since 2023, the most notable being levels of agreement that An Garda Síochána is 'well-managed' (52% in 2024, compared to 60% in 2023). Year-on-year decreases can be seen for the measures 'modern and progressive', 'well-managed' and 'effective in tackling crime.' In the other areas there have been slight fluctuations, with no more than a 4 percentage point decrease since 2023 (see figure 23).

Figure 23: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána 2021-2024



3.2.3 Do perceptions of crime impact views about An Garda Síochána?

As seen in previous sweeps of the PAS, perceptions about the seriousness of the crime problem affect views about An Garda Síochána. This is particularly evident at the national level. As table 6 illustrates, as perceptions of the seriousness of the national crime problem became increasingly favourable, more positive views of An Garda Síochána were expressed – i.e. agreement levels with the six statements increased. To illustrate this, when national crime was considered 'a very serious' problem, 48 percent of respondents felt An Garda Síochána is well-managed. This increased to 79 percent who viewed national crime as 'not a problem.' In terms of *local* crime, across all six statements, while there was some variation in terms of those who considered local crime 'a serious problem' or 'something of a problem,' those who considered local crime as 'not a problem' all had more positive views of An Garda Síochána. This is particularly obvious when the measure 'community-focused' is examined. When local crime was seen as 'a very serious' problem, 61 percent of respondents agreed that the Gardaí are community-focused, compared to 78 percent who felt it was 'not a problem.'

Table 6: Perceptions of Crime by Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

National Crime				Local Crime			
A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Community-focused							
63%	72%	77%	88%	61%	58%	69%	78%
Modern or progressive							
65%	66%	67%	81%	65%	61%	62%	73%
Friendly or helpful							
87%	91%	92%	94%	83%	83%	91%	92%
Well-managed							
48%	48%	56%	79%	54%	45%	45%	59%
Effective in tackling crime							
57%	57%	63%	81%	56%	48%	55%	68%
Human-rights-focused							
76%	79%	80%	87%	72%	71%	78%	82%

3.2.4 Do fear of crime and trust impact perceptions of An Garda Síochána?

A negative impact can be seen across all areas when increased levels of fear of crime and lower trust in the Gardaí are reported – a finding in previous PAS survey sweeps. Table 7 illustrates this. In terms of fear of crime, this impact can clearly be seen when agreement levels with the statement about Gardaí being ‘effective in tackling crime’ is considered. For those with ‘a lot of fears’ 44 percent agreed they are, compared to 69 percent of those with no fears about crime. The impact of lower trust in the Gardaí is more pronounced still, with variations of 66 percentage points seen in some areas (22% of those with low trust in the Gardaí consider An Garda Síochána to be community-focused, compared to 88% with ‘high trust’).

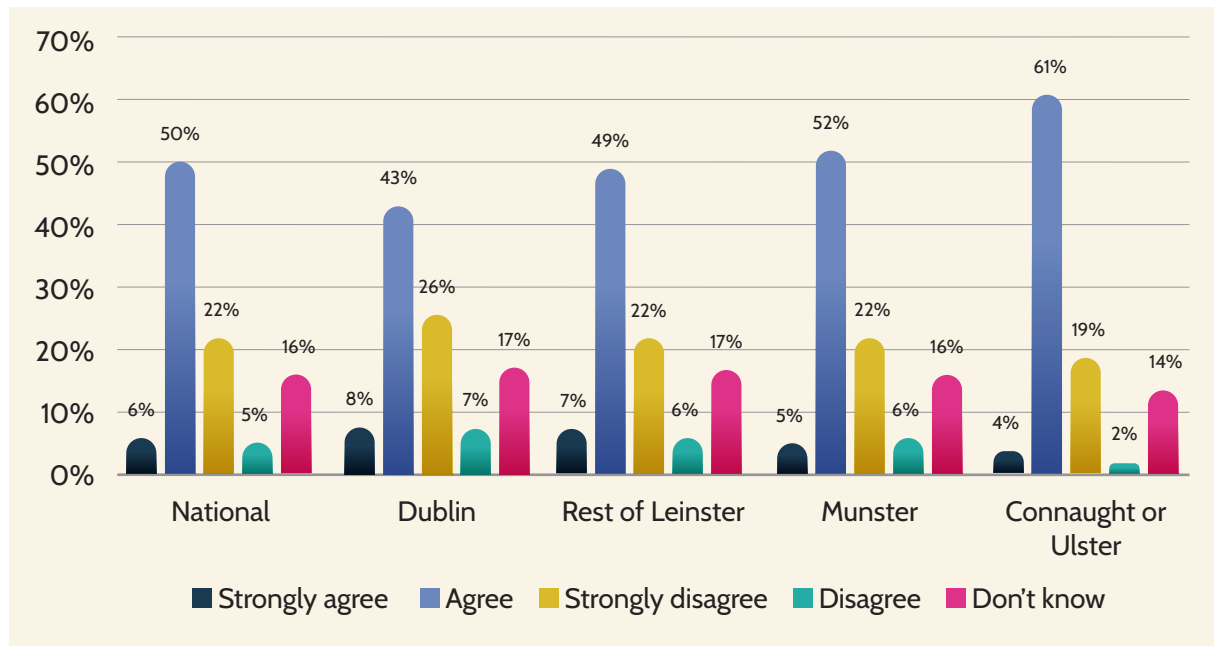
Table 7: Fear of Crime and Trust by perceptions of An Garda Síochána

National Crime				Local Crime		
A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Low Trust	Mid Trust	High Trust
Community-focused						
60%	67%	74%	77%	22%	67%	88%
Modern or progressive						
58%	62%	69%	75%	28%	60%	84%
Friendly or helpful						
83%	91%	93%	89%	51%	92%	98%
Well-managed						
41%	44%	54%	63%	16%	43%	71%
Effective in tackling crime						
44%	53%	64%	69%	17%	51%	81%
Human-rights-focused						
69%	77%	82%	81%	33%	76%	93%

3.2.5 Diversity in An Garda Síochána

In 2021, a question on diversity was added to the PAS - 'Do you agree or disagree that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves?' In 2024, when 'strongly agree' and 'agree' are combined, on a national level, 56 percent of respondents agreed with this statement⁹ (no change from 2023, but an increase from 53% in 2022, and 54% in 2021). As in 2023, agreement levels were highest in Connaught or Ulster (65%), and lowest in Dublin (51%) (see figure 24).

Figure 24: Perception of An Garda Síochána being Representative of Diverse Communities



⁹ It should be noted that there was a high proportion of 'don't knows' to this question.

To better understand the make-up of the cohort of respondents (n=3,563) who *disagreed* that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves, and how this compares to the overall sample profile, figure 25 illustrates their demographic breakdown. Disagreement was greater in females (53%), than males (47%), and those in the 35-54 age bracket (41%), than other age cohorts. Social class C1 respondents had higher disagreement levels, than other groups. Respondents in Dublin (34%) and city areas (27%) were the most likely to disagree with the statement (figure 26)¹⁰.

Figure 25: Demographic Profile of Respondents who Disagreed An Garda Síochána is Representative of Diverse Communities (n=3,563)

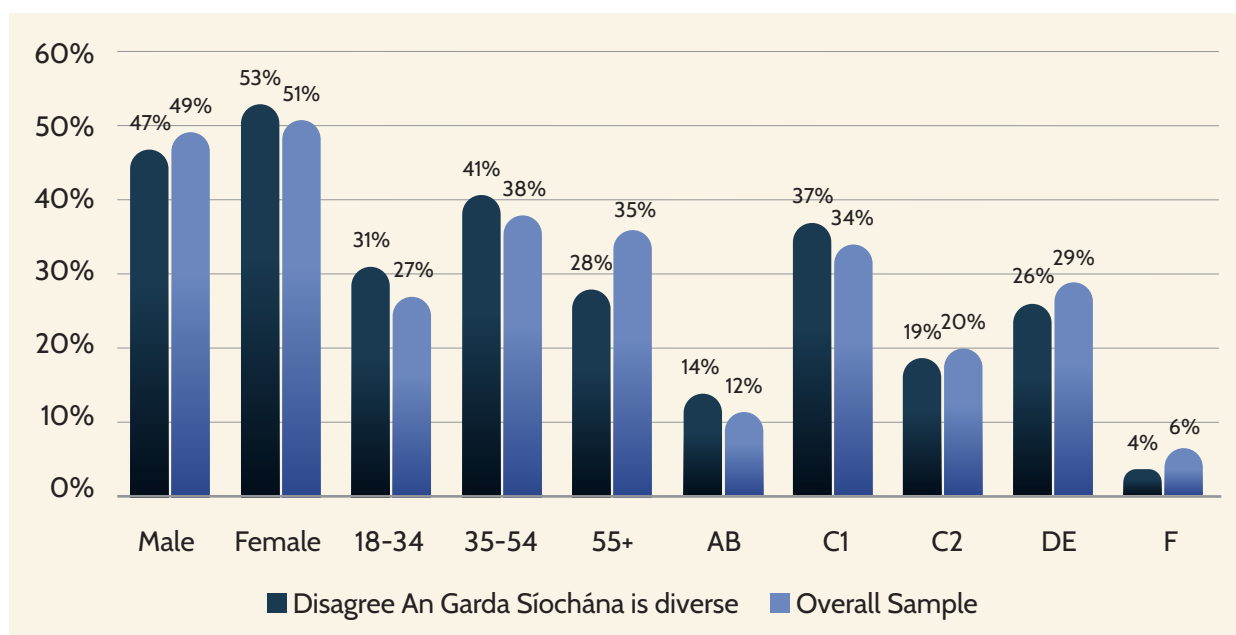
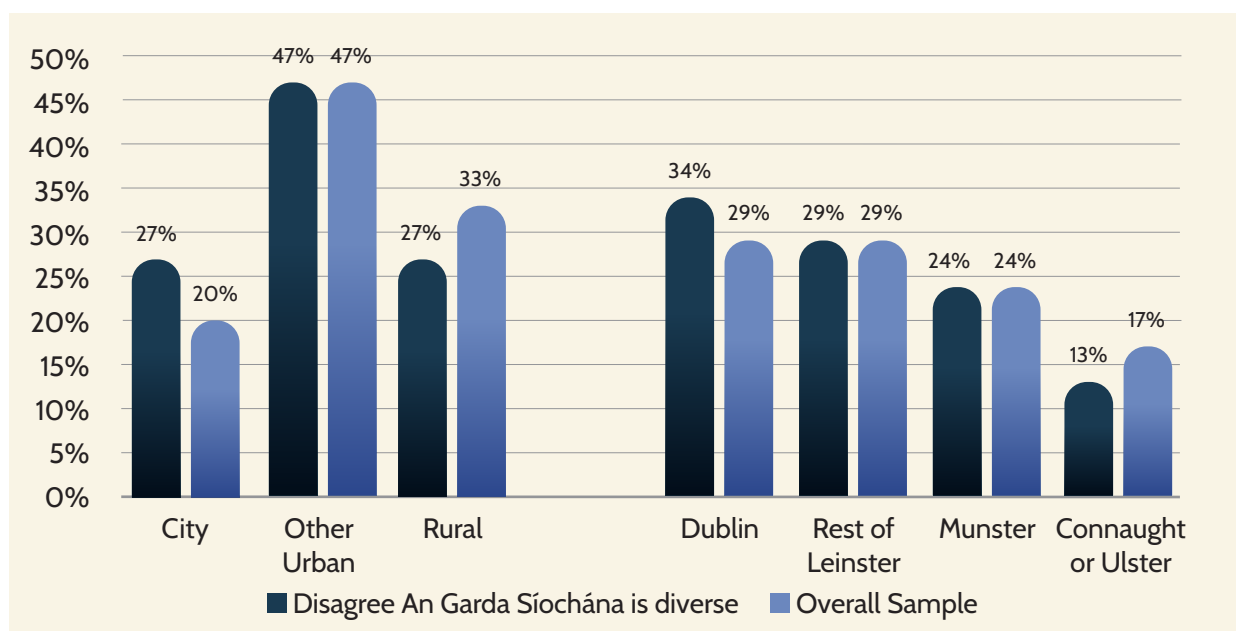
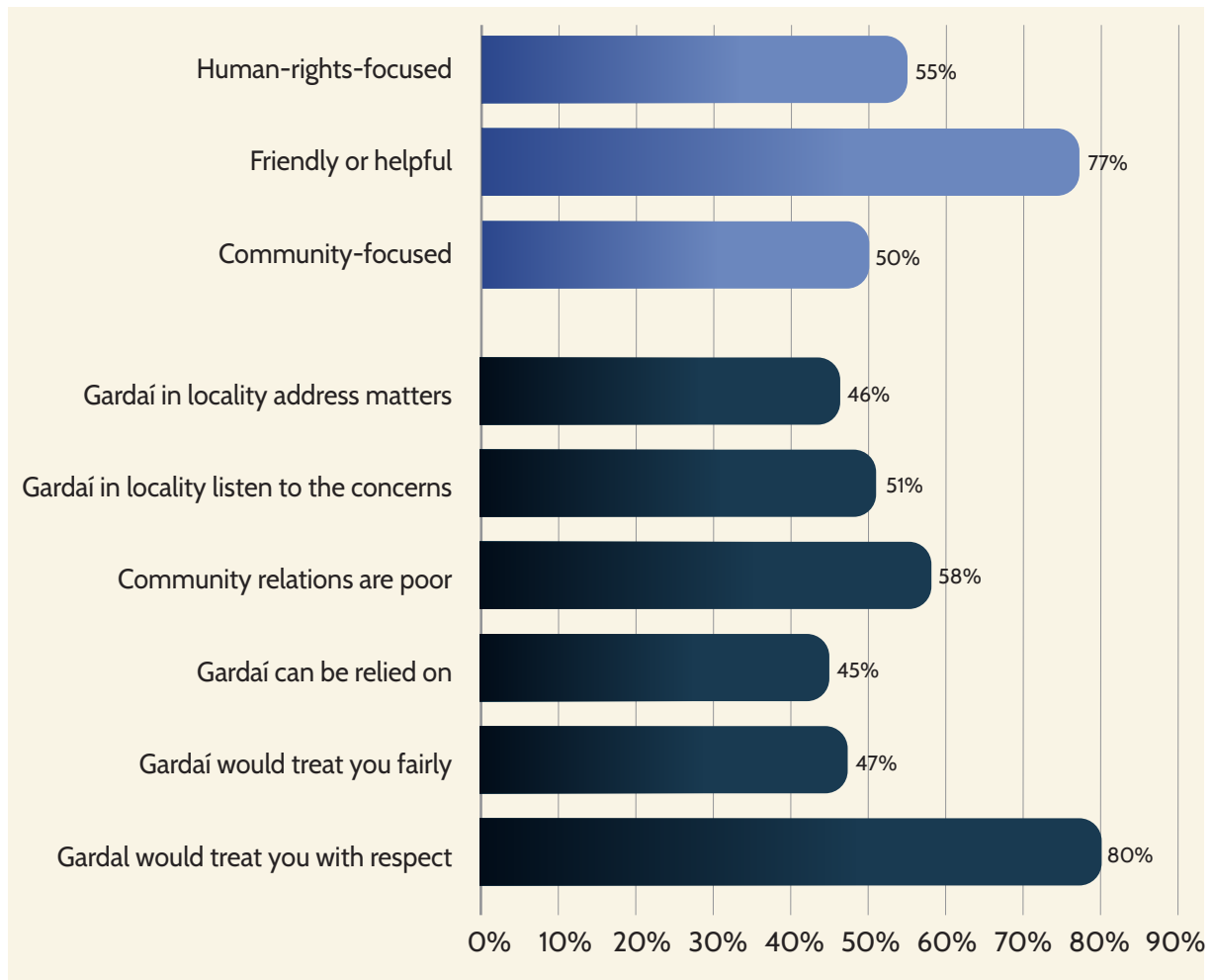


Figure 26: Respondents who Disagreed An Garda Síochána is Representative of Diverse Communities by Geographical Breakdown



¹⁰ Of the overall sample of Irish respondents, 28 percent (n=3,115) disagreed that An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities. Of the overall non-Irish sample, 24 percent (n=448) disagreed.

Figure 27: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána and Garda Treatment by Respondents who Disagreed An Garda Síochána is Representative of Diverse Communities



As seen in 2023, views about An Garda Síochána were impacted negatively when respondents disagreed that the Service is representative of diverse communities. In terms of those respondents who disagreed that it is representative:

- 55% agreed the Gardaí are 'human-rights-focused' (79% in the overall sample)
- 77% felt that Gardaí are 'friendly and helpful' (90% in overall sample).
- 50% agreed the Gardaí are community-focused (71% in the overall sample).
- 80% felt they would be treated with respect (90% in the overall sample).
- 47% felt they would be treated fairly (76% in overall sample).
- 46% agreed Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (68% in overall sample).
- 51% agreed Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people (71% in overall sample).
- 58% disagreed community relations with Gardaí are poor (58% in overall sample).
- 45% agreed Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed (67% in overall sample).





CHAPTER FOUR SERVICE DELIVERY PERCEPTIONS

4.1 Perceptions of Garda Visibility and Presence

4.2 Treatment by An Garda Síochána and Garda
Service to Communities

In this chapter, Garda service to communities is explored through measures such as visibility and presence, reliability and Garda-community relations. Expected standards of behaviour are also examined in terms of respondents' views on whether they would be treated with respect and fairly by Gardaí.

38%
aware of Garda
presence



90%
of respondents
agreed they would
be treated with
respect;



76% agreed Gardaí treat
everyone fairly regardless
of who they are ('strongly
agree' and 'agree' combined,
excluding 'don't know'
responses)

36%
held the view
that Garda presence
is 'about right,'



with **63%** of the
view it's 'not enough'

Of the 16% of survey respondents
who had some contact with
Gardaí in the previous 12 months

74%
were satisfied
with the service
they received



So what does the survey tell us? The downtrend trend observed in 2023 in terms of awareness among respondents of Garda presence continued in 2024, when it stood at 38 percent (down from 44% in 2023), and the majority of respondents (63%) felt this presence is 'not enough' (increasing yearly since 2021). With no change to previous years, respondents reported seeing Gardaí mostly in cars (17% regularly), with the majority stating they never see them on foot (75%), or on bicycles (86%). Trust in the Gardaí is linked to awareness of Garda presence – those with low trust having the least awareness. Of respondents who came into contact with Gardaí in the 12 months prior to their interview, over 70 percent were satisfied with the service they received (satisfaction was greatest when the contact was in a Garda station, as opposed to a phone call). While favourable results were found in terms of Garda service to communities, in some areas there have been declines over the last four-year period (e.g. Garda reliability and Gardaí listening and addressing community concerns). The majority of respondents agreed they would be treated with respect and fairness by Gardaí – measures that are holding steady over the past number of years, with minor fluctuations.

4.1 Perceptions of Garda Visibility and Presence

4.1.1 Awareness of Garda presence

In 2024, 38 percent of respondents reported being aware of Garda presence on a national level, with 62 percent unaware. Respondents in Dublin and Munster reported the least awareness, (35% and 34% respectively), while those in Connaught or Ulster were the most aware (45%) (see figure 28).

As in previous years (data collection began on this question in 2021), respondents were more likely to be aware of Gardaí patrolling in cars (17% reported they saw this 'regularly,' while 40% stated 'occasionally'), rather than on foot, or by bicycle (75% reported never seeing Gardaí patrol on foot, with 86% never seeing Gardaí on bicycles) (see figure 29).

Figure 28: Awareness of Garda Presence Nationally and Regionally

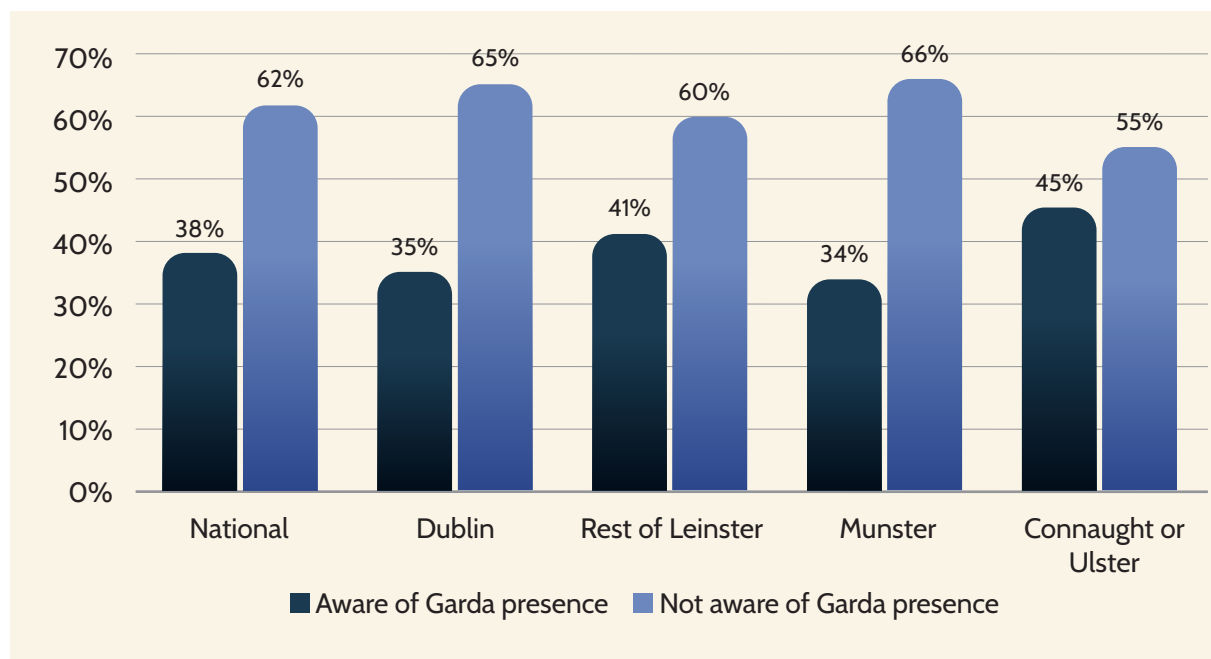
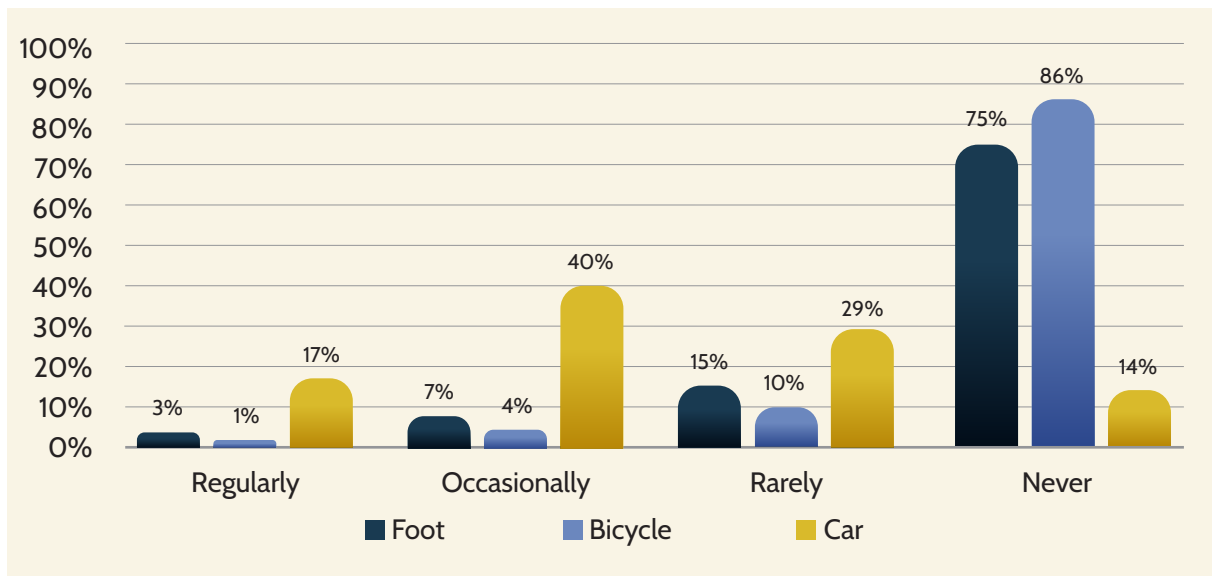
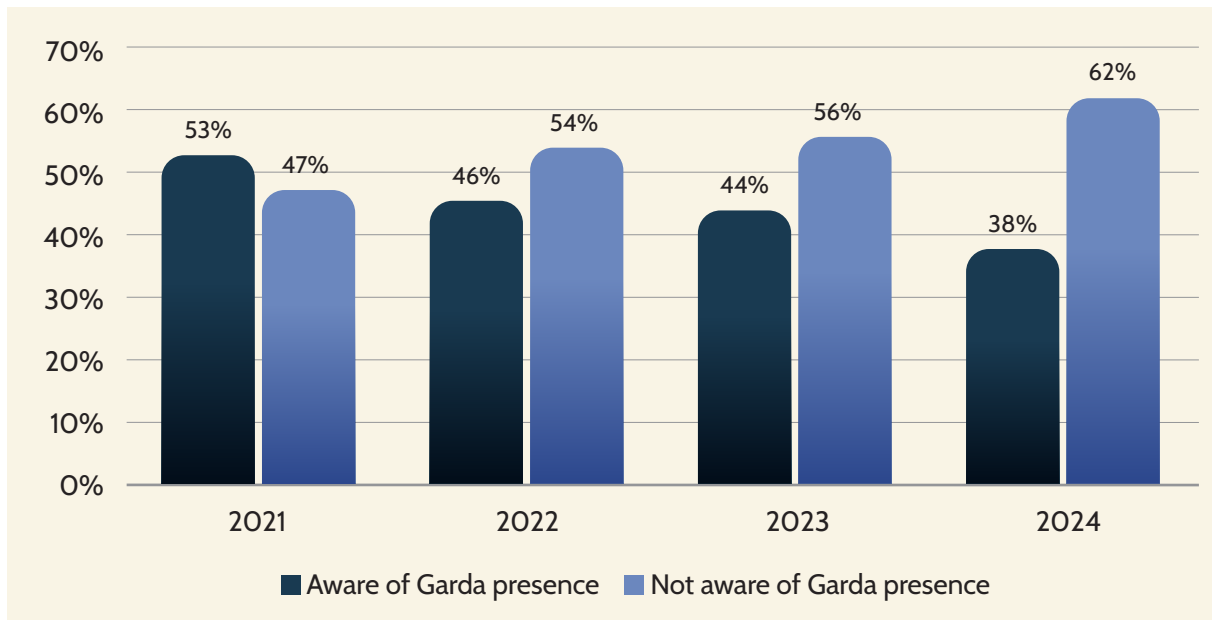


Figure 29: Perception of the Frequency of Foot, Bicycle and Car Patrol Nationally

4.1.2 How has awareness of Garda presence changed over the last four years?

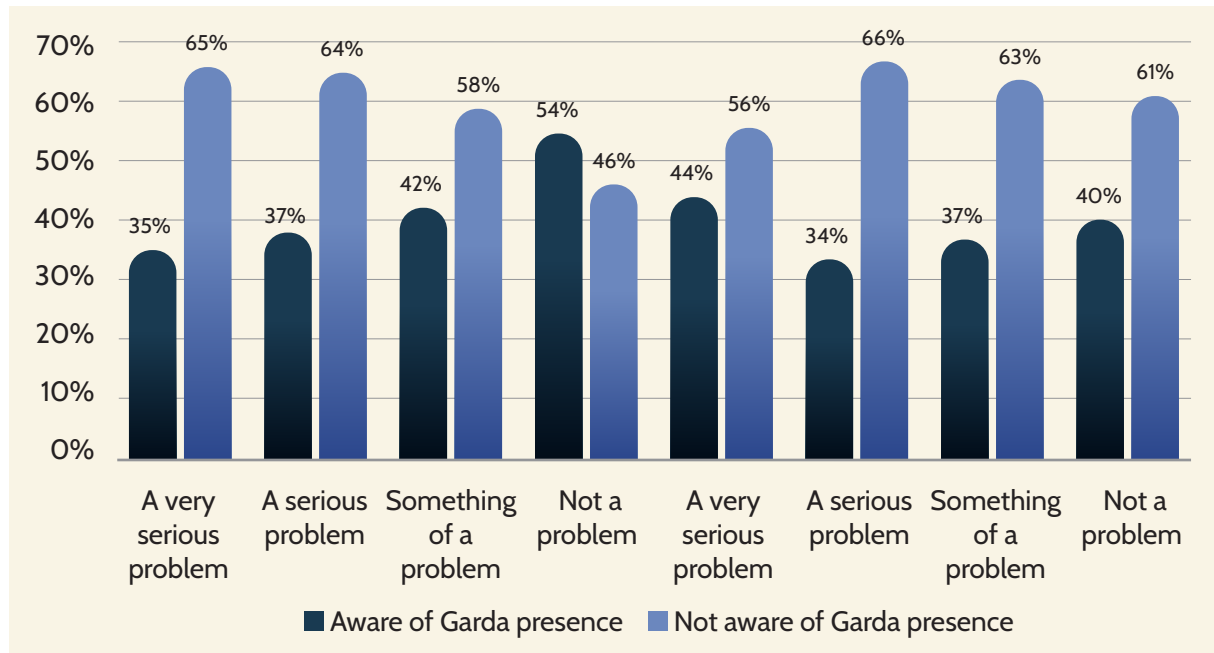
As figure 30 indicates, reported awareness of Garda presence has been decreasing year-on-year since 2021 when it stood at 53 percent, to 38 percent in 2024 (presented excluding 'don't know' responses, as in 2024 they amounted to fewer than 10%).

Figure 30: Awareness of Garda Presence 2021-2024

4.1.3 Do perceptions of crime impact on awareness of Garda presence?

As seen in previous survey sweeps, and particularly evident at a national level, as perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem decrease, awareness of Garda presence increases. In terms of national crime, 35 percent of respondents who viewed this as 'a very serious problem' were aware of Garda presence, compared to 54 percent who perceived national crime as 'not a problem.' The relationship is less pronounced at a local level. However, there was a slight increase (from 34%, to 40%) in the proportion of respondents who reported awareness of Garda presence when perceptions of the local crime problem changed from 'a serious problem' to 'not a problem' (see figure 31).

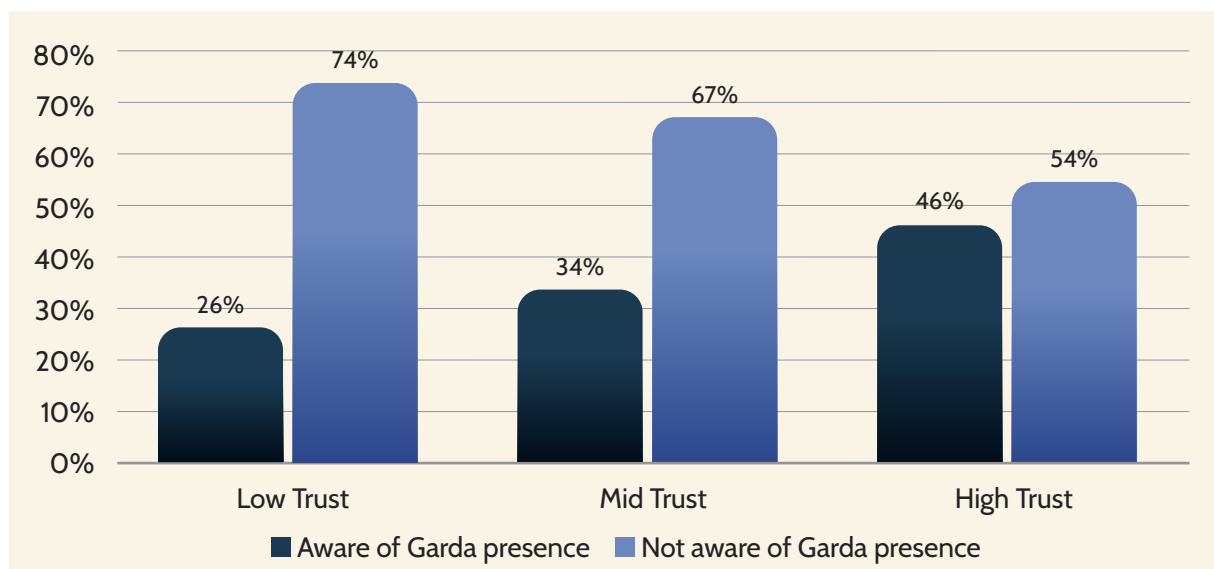
Figure 31: Awareness of Garda Presence, by Perceptions of National and Local Crime



4.1.4 Do trust levels in An Garda Síochána impact awareness of Garda presence?

Again, figure 32 illustrates the impact that trust levels have on respondents' perceptions. Those with 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána reported the greatest awareness of Garda presence at 46 percent, while those with 'low trust' in the Gardaí reported lower awareness levels (26% of respondents).

Figure 32: Awareness of Garda Presence, by Trust in An Garda Síochána



Views on Garda Presence

4.1.5 Perceptions of Garda presence

As a follow-on to reported levels of awareness of Garda presence, respondents were further asked about the adequacy of the level of this presence in their local communities. As figure 33 indicates, in 2024, 63 percent felt that Garda presence was 'not enough,' – this measure has been showing yearly increases since 2021, when it stood at 53 percent. Similar to previous years, reasons for this were mainly that respondents 'never or rarely see Gardaí/lack of Gardaí' (65%), 'only see Gardaí in cars' (57%), or there are 'not enough or don't see Gardaí on foot' (27%) (see table 8).

Of the 36 percent of respondents who considered Garda presence as 'about right,' the main reasons cited for this were that 'there is not much crime' (66%), or respondents 'see Gardaí patrolling in cars' (33%) (table 9).

Figure 33: Perception of Garda Presence in Local Area 2021-2024

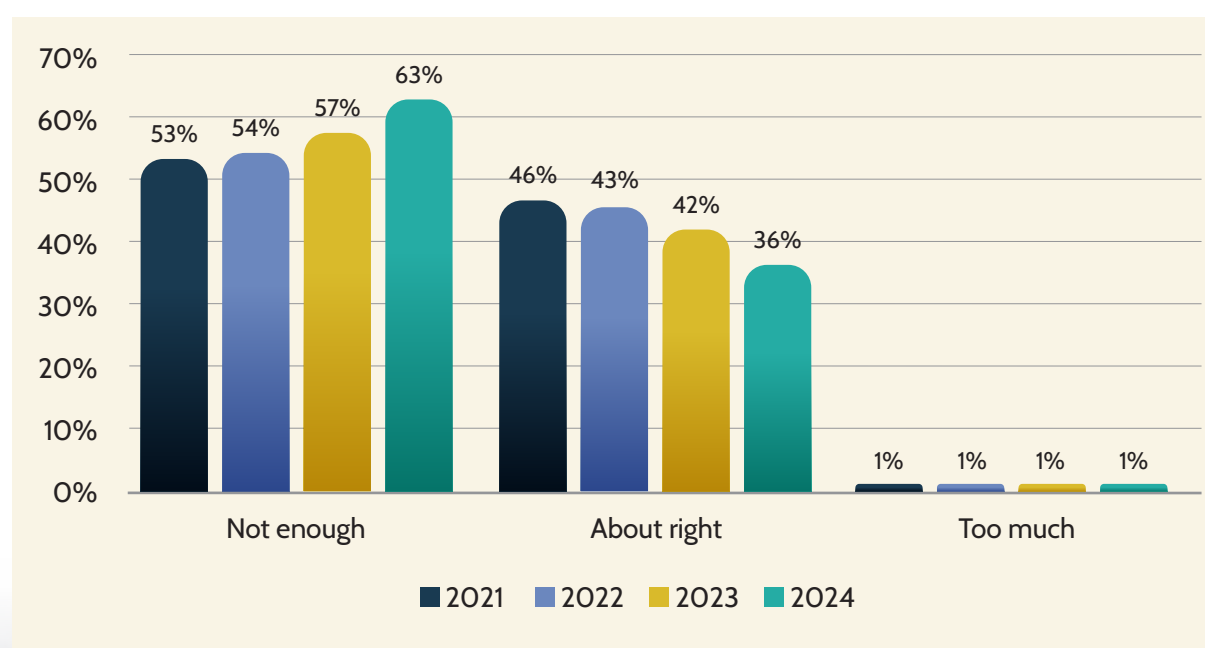


Table 8: Reasons Cited for why Local Garda Presence is 'Not Enough' (n=7,935)

Reasons that local Garda presence is 'not enough'	%
Never or rarely see Gardaí/lack of Gardaí	65%
Only see Gardaí in cars	57%
Not enough or don't see Gardaí on foot	27%
Used to be more Gardaí	24%
Only when there's crime and trouble	23%
Slow to respond	22%
Garda station closed or open part time	15%
See a crime, but no Gardaí	15%
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	14%
Gardaí should check on the elderly/not enough Gardaí to check on elderly	10%
Gardaí can't do anything	10%
Not enough being done about traffic offences (including speeding)	7%
Rely too much on cameras	7%
Not enough being done about domestic abuse/no support for domestic abuse	6%
Don't Know	2%
Other	7%

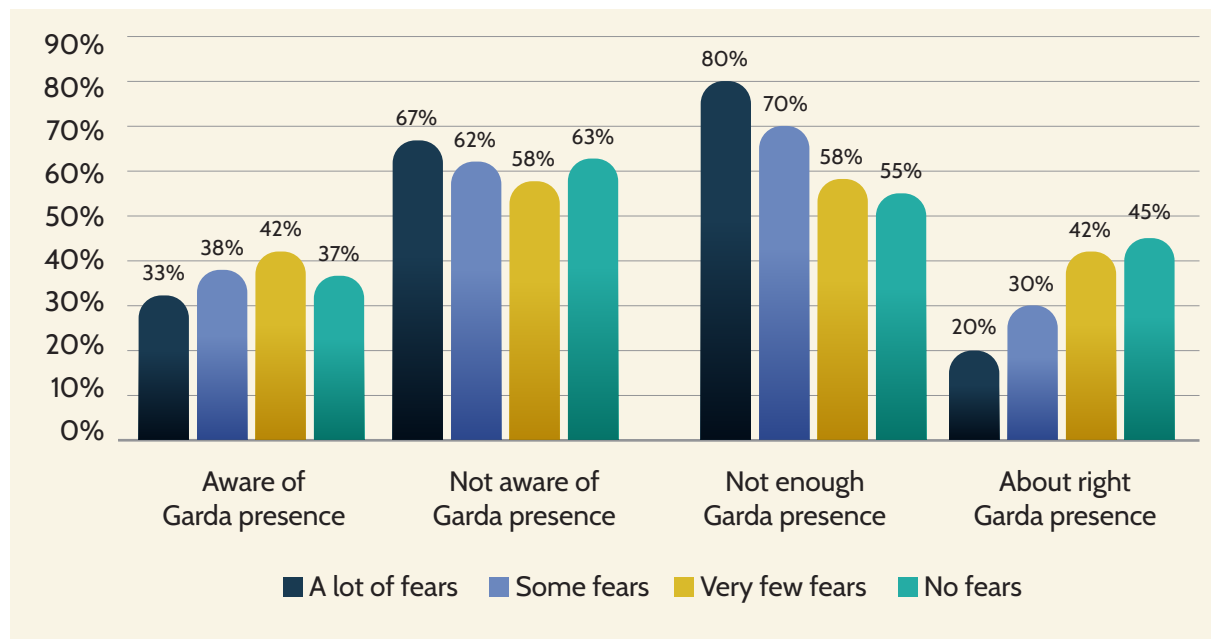
Table 9: Reasons Cited for why Local Garda Presence is 'About Right' (n=4,539)

Reasons that local Garda presence is 'about right'	%
Not much crime	66%
See Gardaí patrolling in cars	33%
See them quite often	28%
Garda station nearby	20%
Not necessary to see them all the time	18%
Crime rates improving	6%
Seeing too many is overwhelming	4%
See Gardaí on foot	2%
Don't Know	1%
Other	4%

4.1.6 Does fear of crime impact awareness of Garda presence/views on adequacy of Garda presence?

In general, as fear of crime levels decreased among respondents, awareness of Garda presence increased – 33 percent of respondents with ‘a lot of fears’ about crime reported being aware of Garda presence, compared to 42 percent with ‘very few fears’ (although this decreased again to 37% for those with ‘no fears’ of crime). The relationship was very evident when the adequacy of Garda presence was considered. For example, 80 percent of respondents with ‘a lot of fears’ considered Garda presence as ‘not enough,’ compared to 55 percent with ‘no fears’ (see figure 34).

Figure 34: Awareness of Garda Presence by Fear of Crime



*In the above chart, the ‘too much’ response option is not included, as cell counts were small

4.1.7 Contact with An Garda Síochána

As figure 35 indicates, 84 percent of the 2024 PAS respondents had no contact with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey interview. However, it is important to assess satisfaction levels with Garda service among the 16 percent (n=2,133) who did have some contact with Gardaí (general satisfaction with Garda service to local communities was explored earlier in this report, capturing the views of all respondents).

Of the 16 percent who had some contact, 12 percent reported ‘self-initiated contact’, while 4 percent reported ‘Garda-initiated contact’. To further understand this contact, the survey explored how the contact occurred. As figure 36 illustrates, of the 1,617 respondents who had some self-initiated contact, 44 percent reported this to be ‘by phone (not 999/112)’, while 38 percent were in contact with Gardaí through ‘a visit to a Garda station’ (other contact types were ‘emergency phone call (999/112)’ (7%), ‘spoke to Gardaí on patrol/at a checkpoint’ (5%) and ‘other’ (6%).

Regardless of contact type (self- or Garda-initiated), respondents reported equal levels of satisfaction (74% respectively when ‘very satisfied’ and ‘quite satisfied’ were combined) (see figure 37). However, ‘visit to a Garda station’ resulted in higher levels of satisfaction than when contact was by phone – 82 percent, versus 65 percent satisfaction (see figure 38 – analysis of the other three contact types was not possible due to low cell counts).

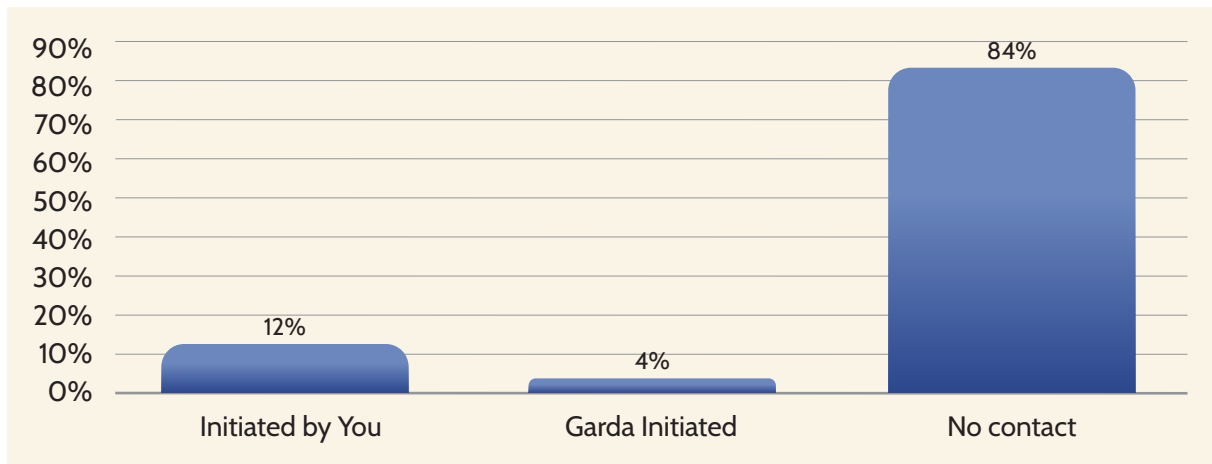
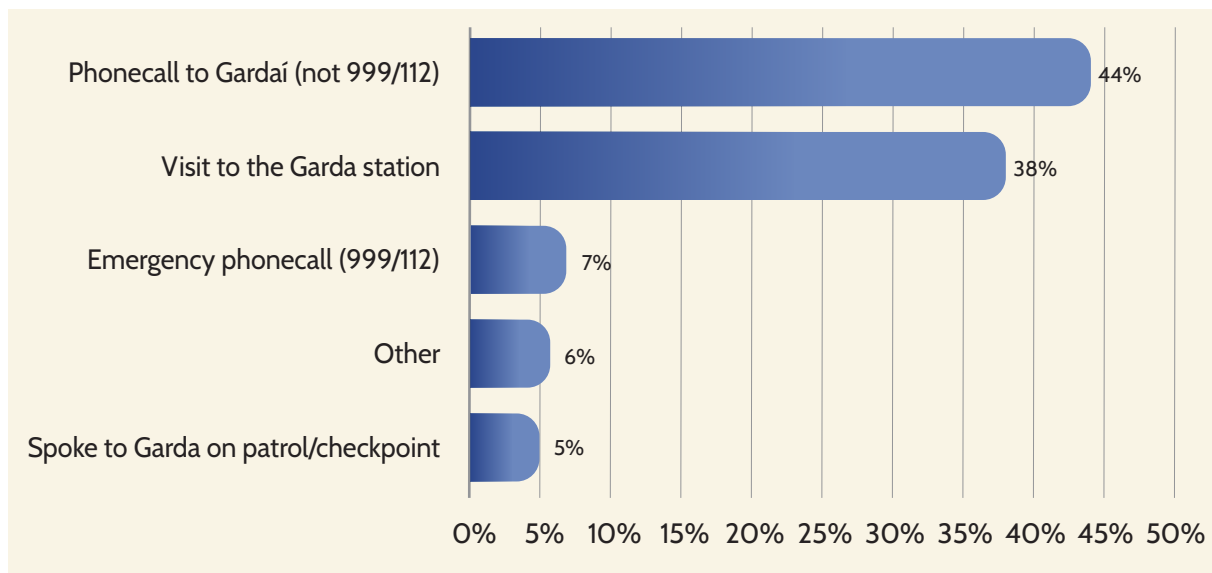
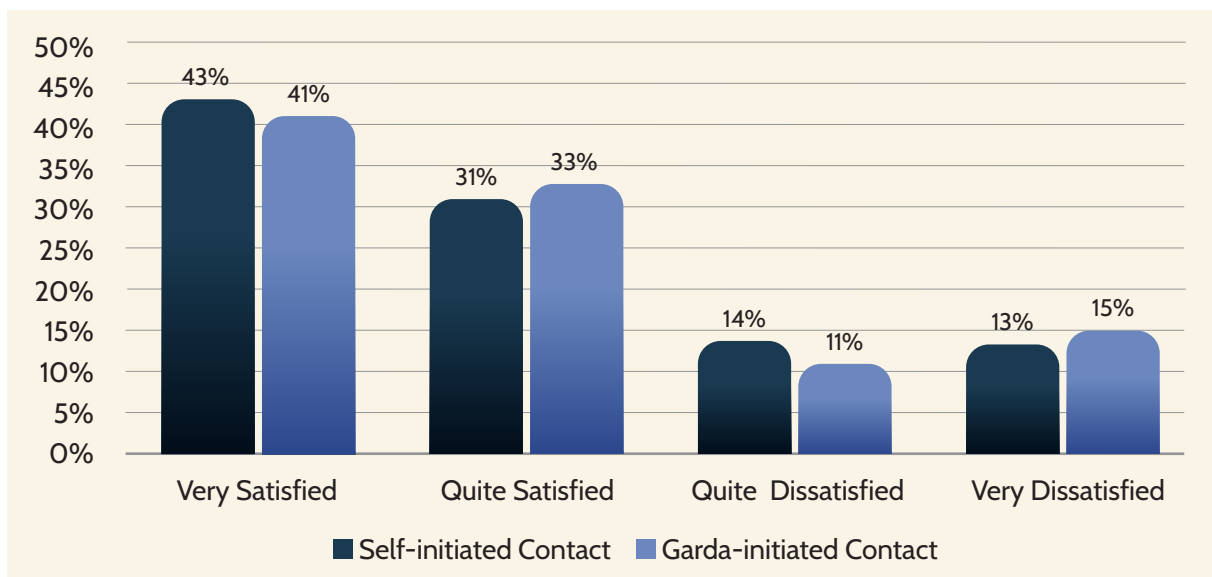
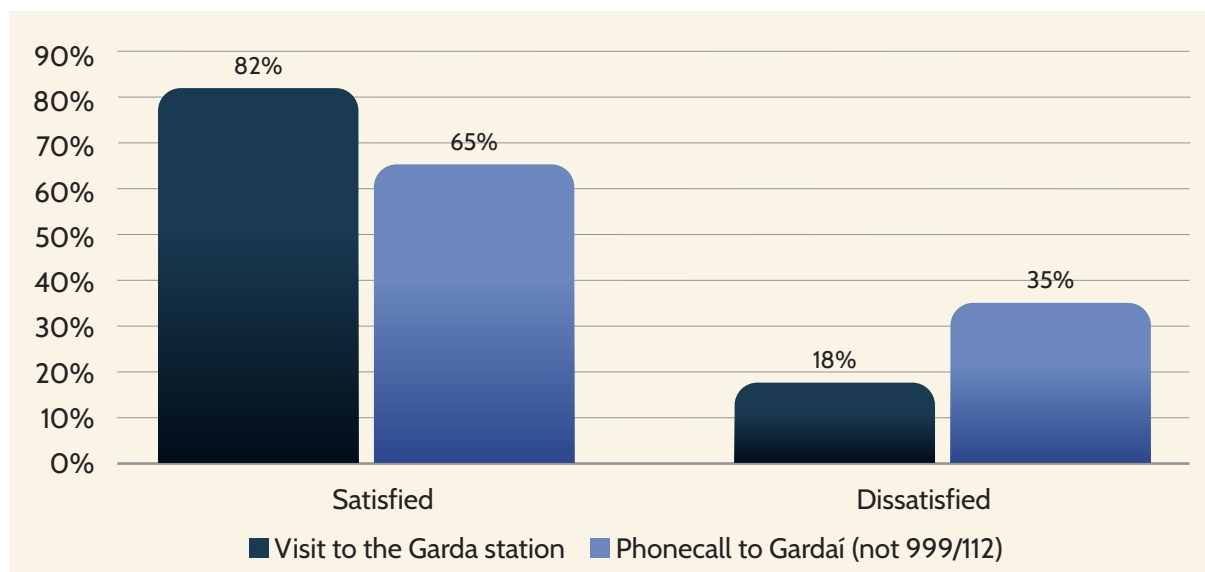
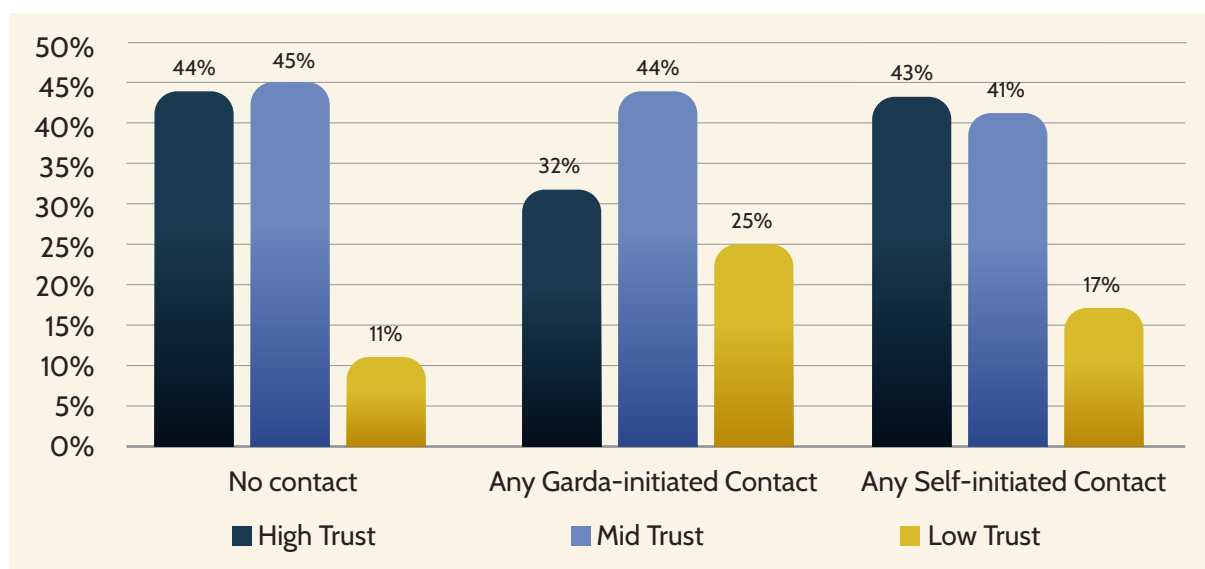
Figure 35: Respondents who had Contact with An Garda Síochána**Figure 36: How Most Recent Contact with An Garda Síochána was made (n=1,617)****Figure 37: Satisfaction with Most Recent Contact with An Garda Síochána**

Figure 38: Satisfaction with Service, by Contact Type

4.1.8 Does contact type impact on trust levels?

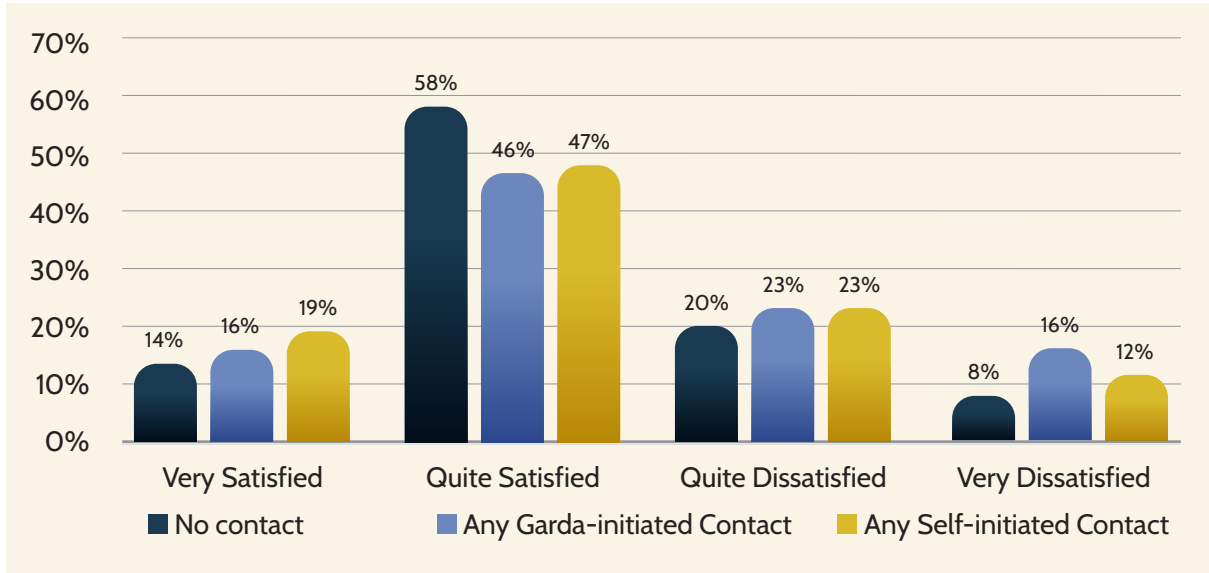
Low trust in the Gardaí was more likely to be reported by respondents who had 'Garda-initiated contact' (25%) in the 12 months preceding the survey interview, than by those who initiated the contact themselves (17%). Equally, taking mid to high trust together, 'Garda-initiated contact' resulted in lower levels (76%), than 'self-initiated' (84%) (see figure 39).

Figure 39: Trust in An Garda Síochána, by Contact with the Organisation

4.1.9 Does contact with An Garda Síochána impact satisfaction with service to local communities?

Similar to previous years, respondents who had no contact with Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were more likely to report being satisfied with Garda service to local communities (72% when 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' are combined), compared to those who had 'self-initiated contacted' (66%), or 'Garda-initiated' (62%).

Figure 40: Satisfaction with Service to Local Community, by Contact with An Garda Síochána



4.1.10 Are perceptions of An Garda Síochána impacted by contact type?

Having contact with An Garda Síochána in any form ('self' or 'Garda-initiated') negatively impacted perceptions of the Gardaí – agreement levels with six key statements were lower. In three areas, 'Garda-initiated contact' negatively impacted perceptions to a greater extent than if the contact was made by the respondent (i.e. the statements related to the Gardaí being 'community-focused', 'friendly or helpful' and 'human-rights-focused'). In other areas, the differences were not as pronounced (see table 10 for further breakdowns).

Table 10: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána (agreement levels), by Contact Type

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána	Type of Contact		
	Any Self-initiated contact	Any Garda-initiated contact	No contact
Community-focused	66%	57%	73%
Modern or progressive	60%	62%	68%
Friendly or helpful	89%	77%	91%
Well-managed	46%	45%	53%
Effective in tackling crime	52%	52%	61%
Human-rights-focused	77%	70%	84%

4.2 Treatment by An Garda Síochána and Garda Service to Communities

How respondents feel they would be treated by Gardaí if they had contact with them for any reason is an important measure of police legitimacy, and is captured within the PAS by asking respondents whether they feel they would be treated with respect and fairly. In addition to this, Garda service to local communities is measured by asking about their reliability, the state of Garda-community relations, whether Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people, and address things that matter to them.

4.2.1 Treatment by An Garda Síochána

Similar to previous years, 2024 produced positive findings in terms of agreement levels that Gardaí would treat you with respect and fairly – when 'strongly agree' and 'agree' were combined, 90 percent agreed they would be treated with respect, while 76 percent agreed the Gardaí treat everyone fairly no matter who they are.

In terms of Garda service to communities, favourable results were also seen (see figures 41 and 42 for complete analysis, including 'don't know' responses):

- The Gardaí in my area can be relied on to be there when you need them (67% agreed).
- Community relations with the Gardaí are poor (58% disagreed).
- Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people (71% agreed).
- Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (68% agreed).

Figure 41: Treatment by An Garda Síochána Statements (Part 1)

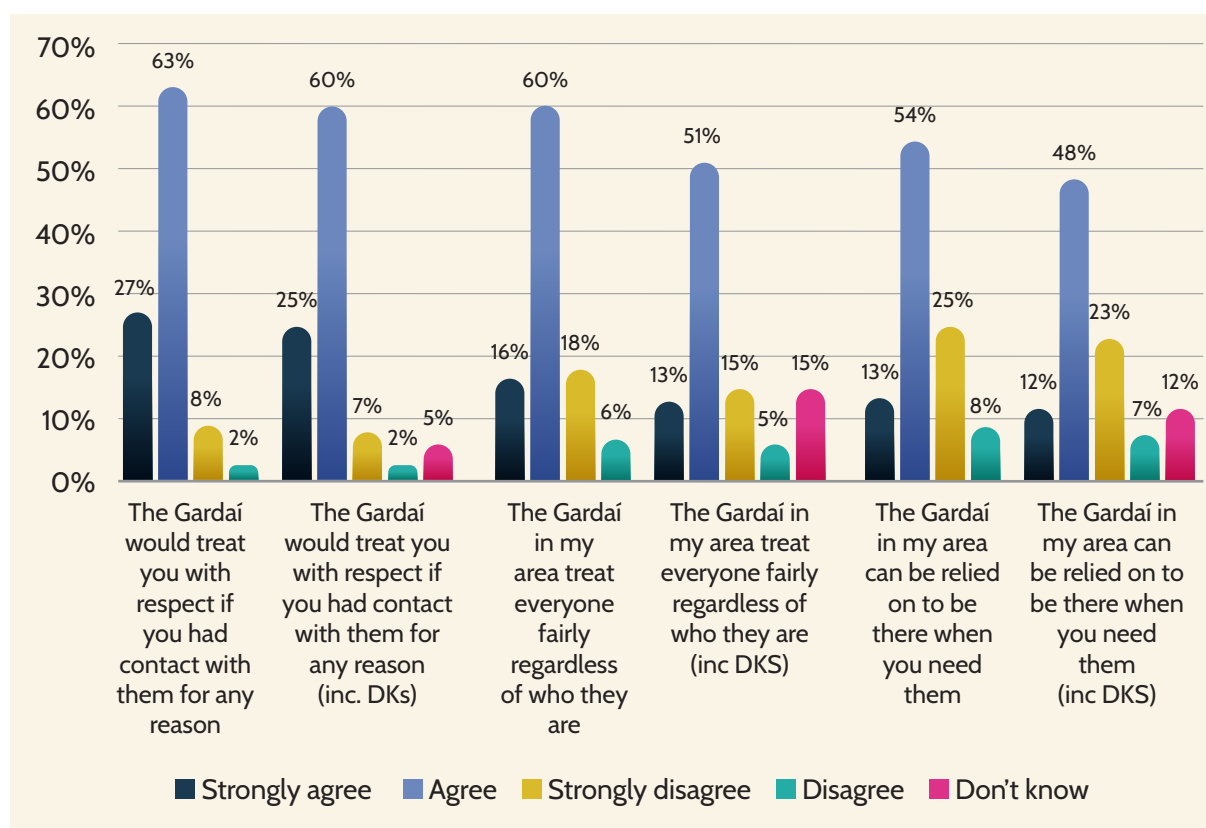
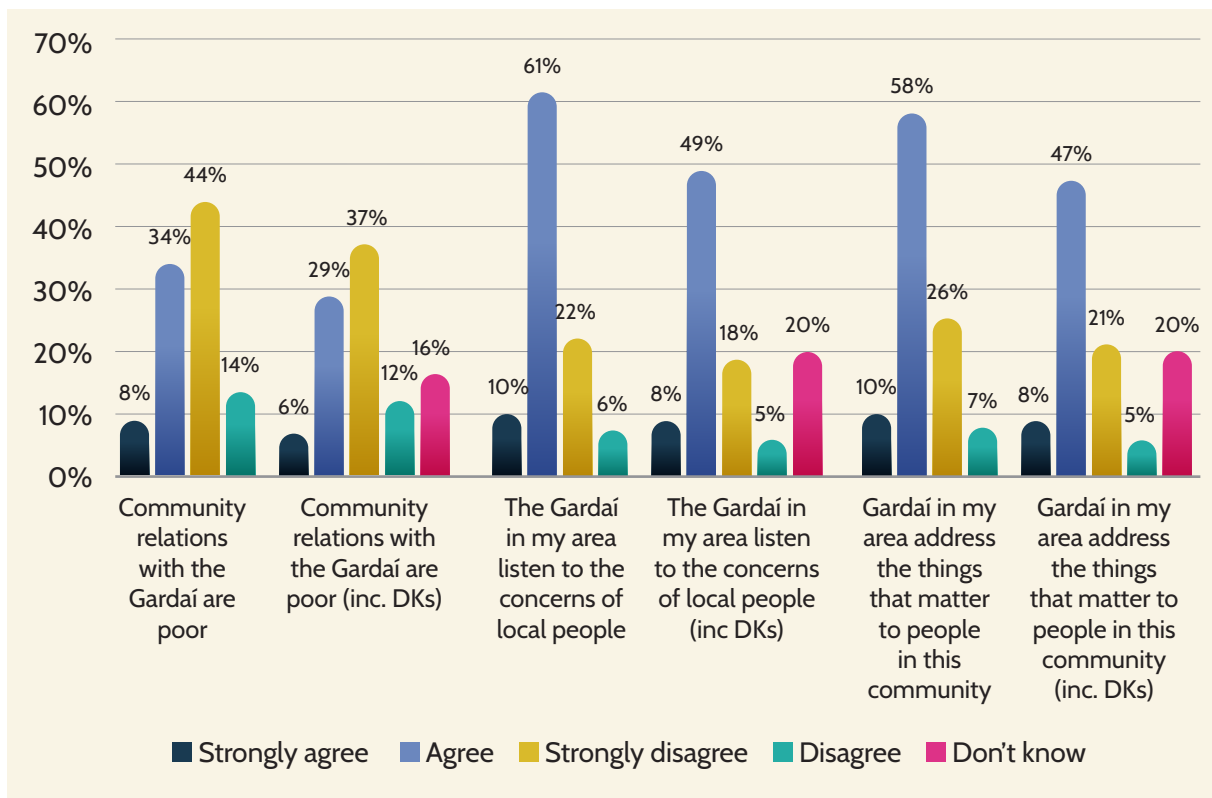
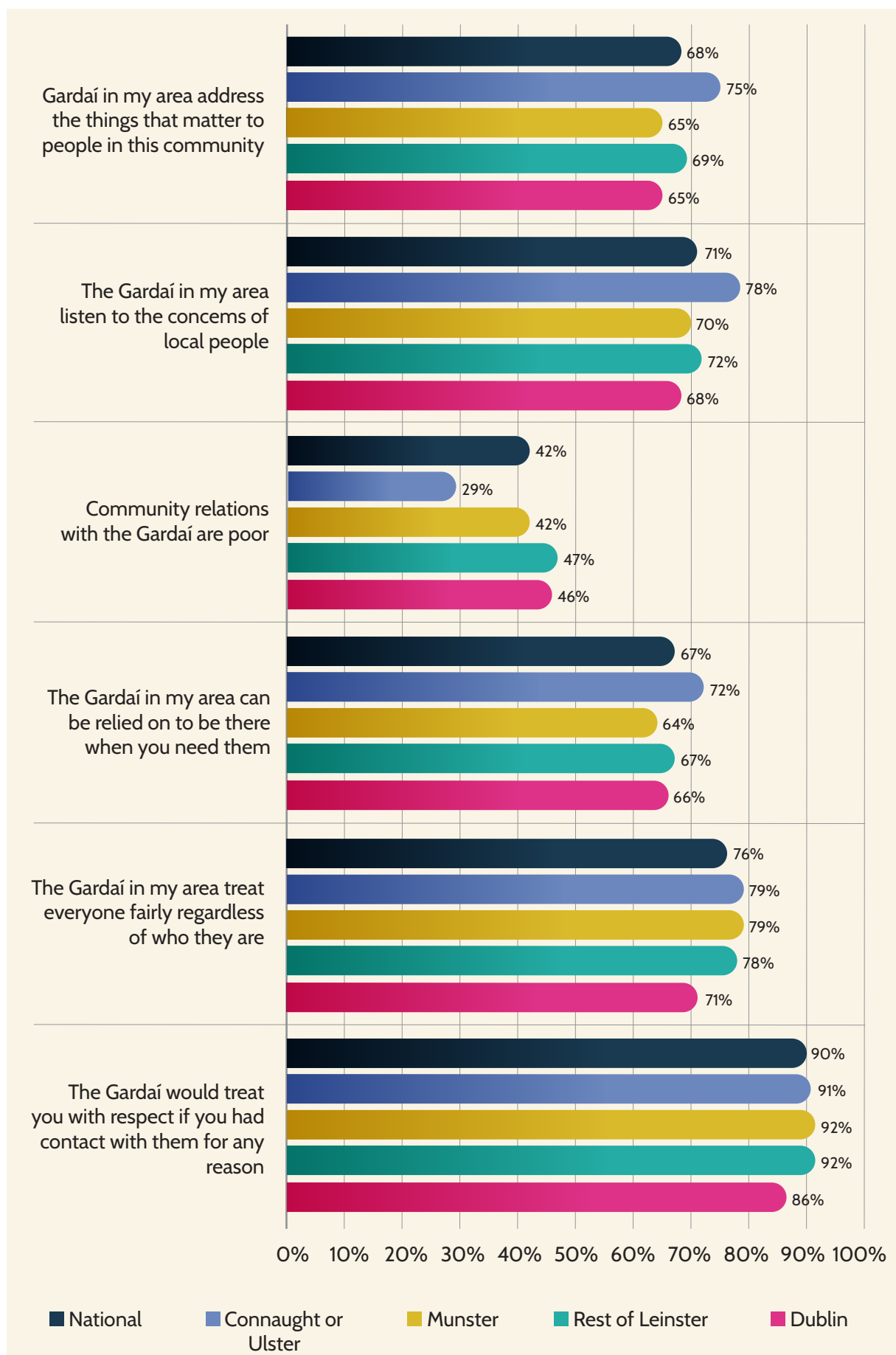


Figure 42: Treatment by An Garda Síochána Statements (Part 2)

On a regional level, the most favourable results were in Connaught or Ulster in terms of Gardaí addressing things that matter to the local community, listening to the concerns of local people, Garda-community relations and the reliability of the Gardaí to be there when needed. In Dublin, findings lower than the national average were observed across all areas (see figure 42 (a) for further comparisons).



Figure 42 (a): Treatment by An Garda Síochána by Region



4.2.2 How have perceptions of Gardaí changed over the last number of years?

While mostly positive in 2024, respondents' agreement levels with some of the six key statements have declined since 2023, and four of the six have shown disimprovements since 2021 (those related to respectful and fair treatment have not fluctuated notably in recent years – see figure 43 and 44).

Figure 43: *The Gardaí would Treat you with Respect if you had Contact with them for any Reason, 2021-2024*

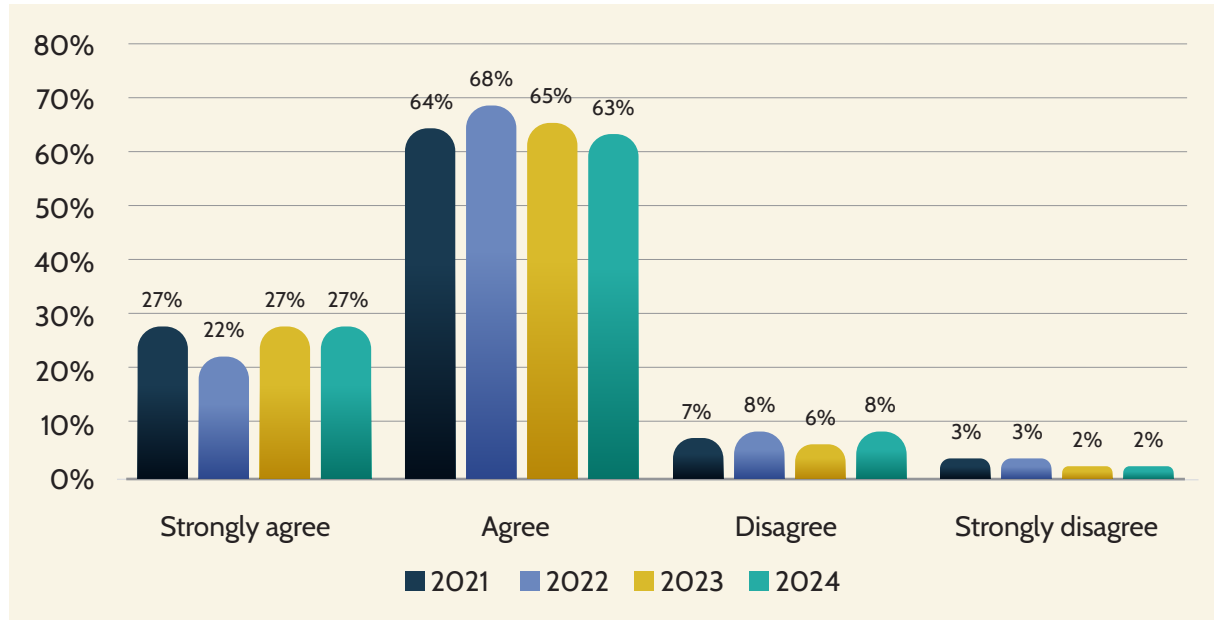
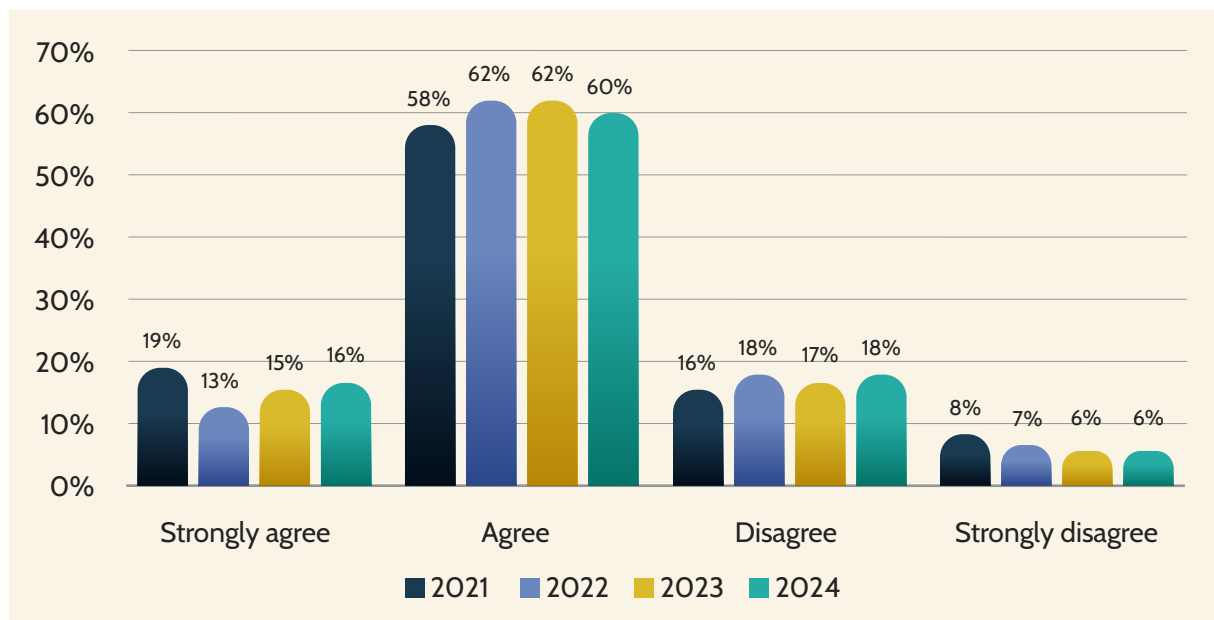


Figure 44: *The Gardaí in this Area Treat Everyone Fairly Regardless of who they are, 2021-2024*



Agreement levels that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed (67%) have decreased by 10 percentage points since 2021 (77%). *Disagreement* levels that Garda-community relations are poor have shown year-on-year decreases since 2021, when the figure stood at 67 percent (58% in 2024).

A downward trend is also seen when the statement 'Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people' is considered (80% agreed in 2021, versus 71% in 2024). The same is true when asked whether Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (68% agreed in 2024 - down from 77% in 2021) (see table 11).

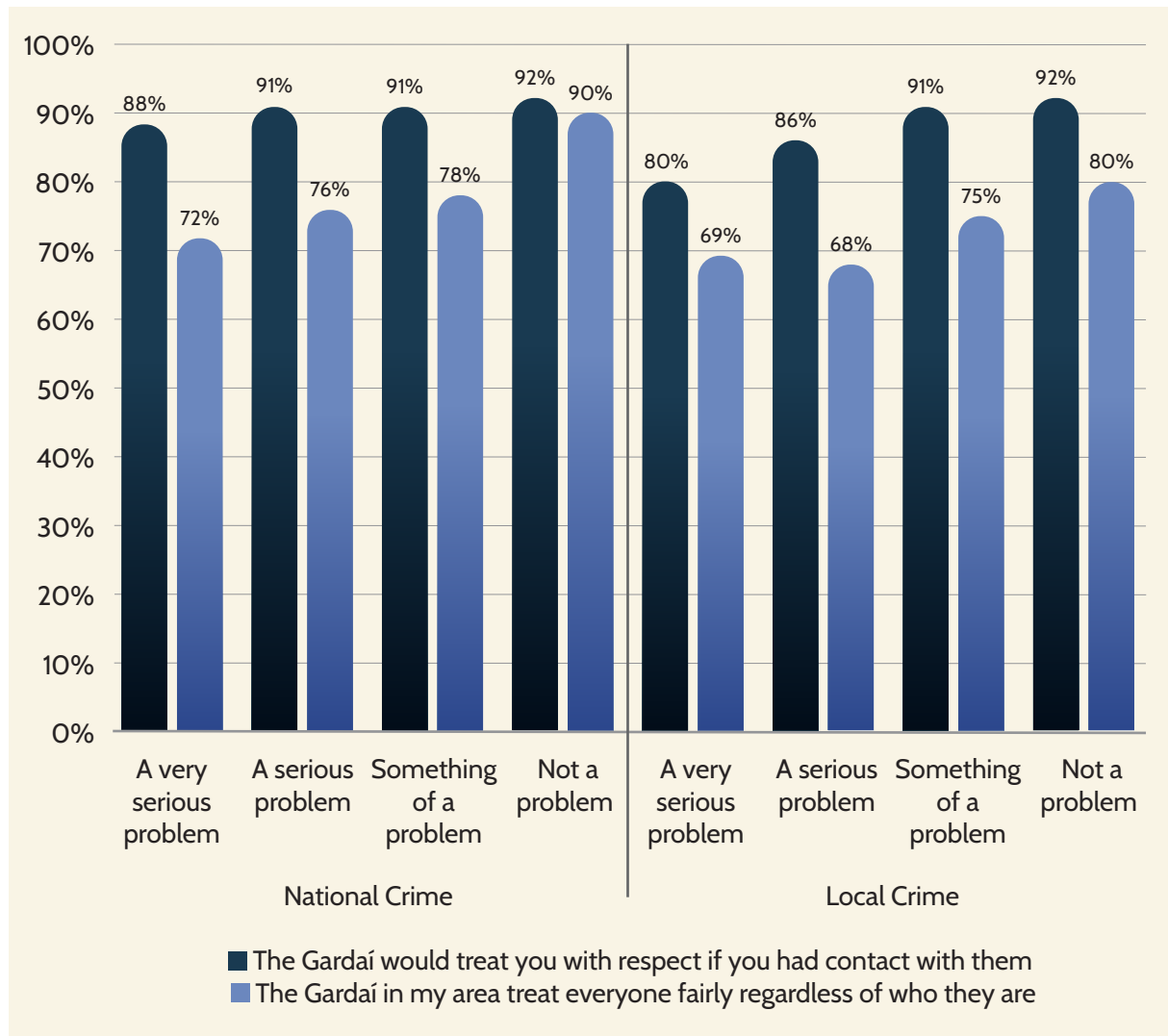
Table 11: Views on Service Delivery, 2021-2024

The Gardaí can be relied on to be there when you need them				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Strongly agree	17%	11%	11%	13%
Agree	60%	61%	58%	54%
Disagree	17%	21%	24%	25%
Strongly disagree	6%	7%	6%	8%
Garda Relations with the local Community are poor				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Strongly agree	7%	7%	7%	8%
Agree	27%	34%	33%	34%
Disagree	38%	42%	43%	44%
Strongly disagree	29%	18%	18%	14%
Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Strongly agree	15%	8%	9%	10%
Agree	65%	68%	67%	61%
Disagree	15%	19%	19%	22%
Strongly disagree	5%	5%	5%	6%
Gardaí are dealing with the things that matter to the local community				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Strongly agree	14%	8%	9%	10%
Agree	63%	66%	64%	58%
Disagree	17%	20%	23%	26%
Strongly disagree	6%	6%	5%	7%

4.2.3 How do perceptions of crime impact on views of treatment by An Garda Síochána?

In general, and as illustrated by figure 45, the less serious both national and local crime is viewed by respondents, the more favourable their views about how they would be treated by Gardai – this relationship has been seen in previous years also. Taking local crime as an example, 80 percent of respondents who viewed this as ‘a very serious problem’ agreed that Gardai would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason, compared to 92 percent who considered local crime as ‘not a problem.’ When national crime is considered, the correlation is pronounced when fair treatment is the measure – 72 percent of respondents who viewed national crime as ‘a very serious problem’ agreed that Gardai treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, compared to 90 percent who considered it ‘not a problem.’

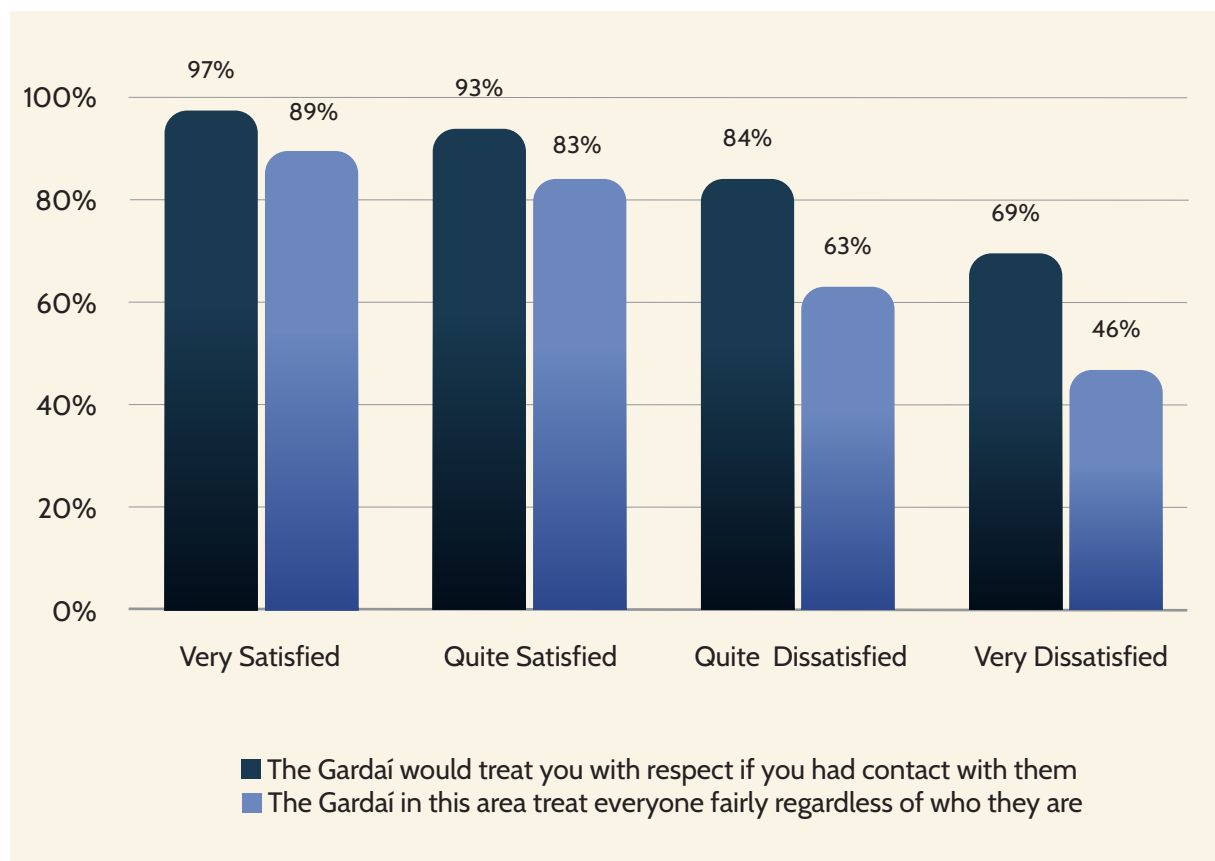
Figure 45: Views on Treatment by Gardai by Perceptions of Crime (Respondents who ‘Strongly Agree’ and ‘Agree’ with the Statements on Respectful and Fair Treatment)



4.2.4 How do satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities impact on views of treatment by An Garda Síochána?

Another clear relationship exists between respondents' satisfaction levels with Garda service to their communities, and agreement with the statements concerning respectful and fair treatment – lower satisfaction levels negatively impact how they perceive they would be treated by Gardaí. A very clear example of this can be seen when views on fair treatment are considered. Forty-six percent of respondents who were 'very dissatisfied' with Garda service, agreed the Gardaí treat everyone fairly no matter who they are – this increased to 89 percent for those who were 'very satisfied' with Garda service. Equally, when 'very dissatisfied' with Garda service, 69 percent of respondents agreed they would be treated with respect, increasing to 97 percent when 'very satisfied' with Garda service to communities (see figure 46).

Figure 46: Satisfaction with Garda Service by perceptions of Treatment (Respondents who 'Strongly Agree' and 'Agree' with the Statements on Respectful and Fair Treatment)



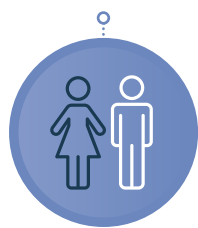


CHAPTER FIVE A DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

To understand further views of respondents and how perceptions differ across demographics, the measures examined thus far in the report are explored in this chapter across sex, age and nationality. Further exploration across social class grouping and urban/rural divide is presented in appendix two.

So what does the survey tell us? Women viewed national crime as more serious than men, as did older respondents and Irish nationals. Across all demographic groups, 'sexual offences,' 'domestic abuse,' 'human trafficking' and 'assaults' were considered the crimes which should be prioritised by Gardai. Fear of crime was greatest for older respondents and had more impact on their quality of life, than for younger cohorts. Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána's service to communities did not differ to a large extent across demographic groups, although males, those aged 18-24 years and non-Irish nationals were more likely to hold slightly higher satisfaction levels. As in 2023, respondents aged 65 years and older had greater levels of 'high trust,' than 18-24 year olds. Despite this, mid-high trust across ages was similar. Awareness of Garda presence was reported as lowest in older respondents, and in that vein, those aged 65 years and older were more likely to report that Garda presence in their communities is 'not enough.' As in previous years, those aged 65 years and older, and non-Irish nationals had the most positive views of An Garda Síochána. They were more likely to feel the Gardai treat everyone fairly no matter who they are, and perceptions of Garda service delivery within communities was most favourable.

5.1 Perceptions of Crime



Females were more likely to consider national crime a problem, than males, although perceptions of local crime did not differ notably between the two. Seventy-seven percent of females viewed national crime as 'very serious' or 'serious,' compared to 68 percent of males (a statistically significant finding). Forty-one percent of females viewed local crime as 'not a problem,' compared to 45 percent of males.

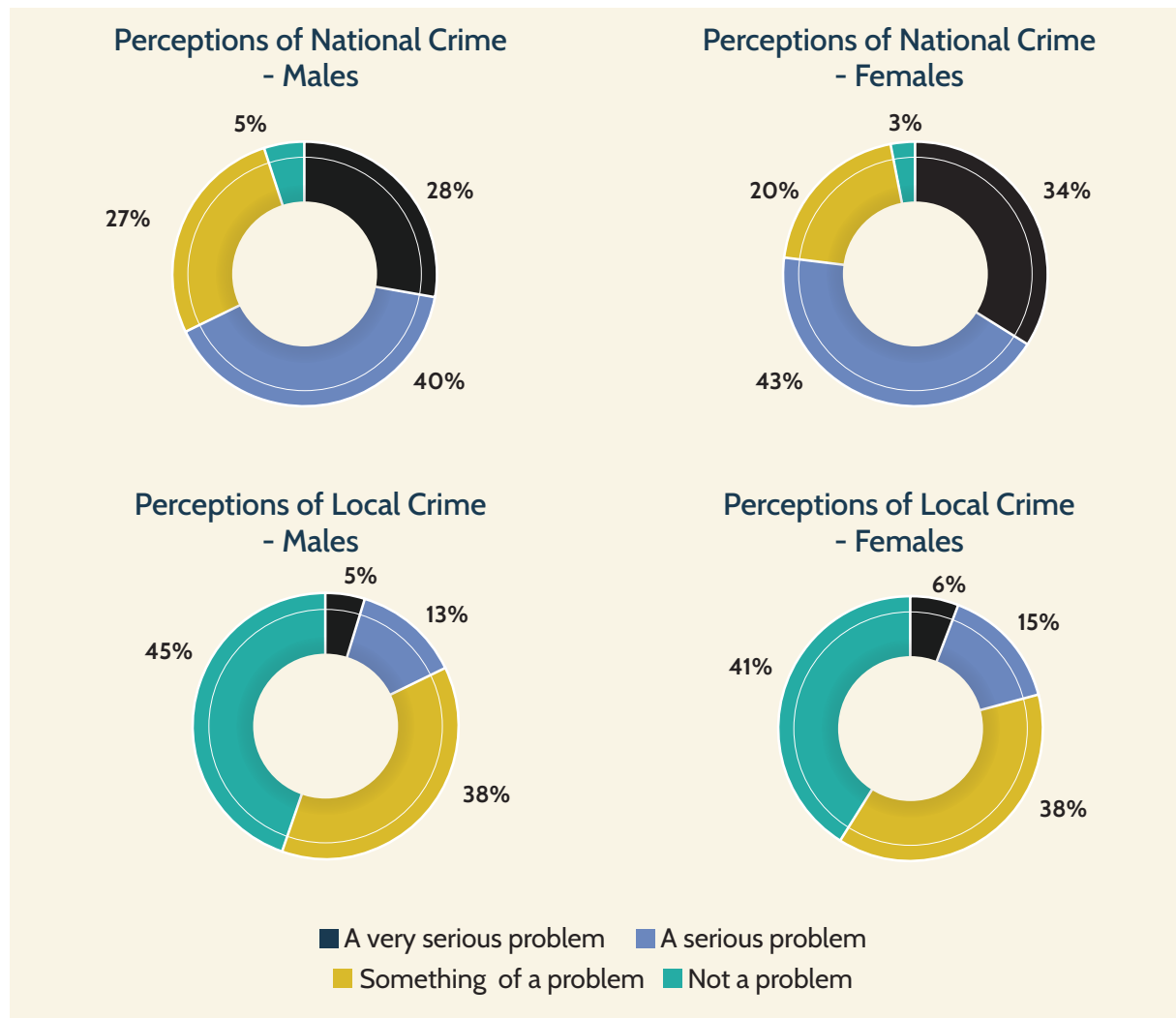


As age increased, national crime was viewed as more serious, although perceptions of the seriousness of local crime did not alter notably. Eighty-three percent of those aged 65 years or older viewed national crime 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem, while other age groups were less likely to hold this view (e.g. 18-24 year olds (64%); 25-34 year olds (63%)) – a statistically significant finding. The national figure was 72 percent. Respondents aged 45-54 years (39%), and 55-64 years (37%) were less likely to consider *local crime* as 'not a problem,' than other age groups, while those aged 18-34 years were more likely to hold this view.

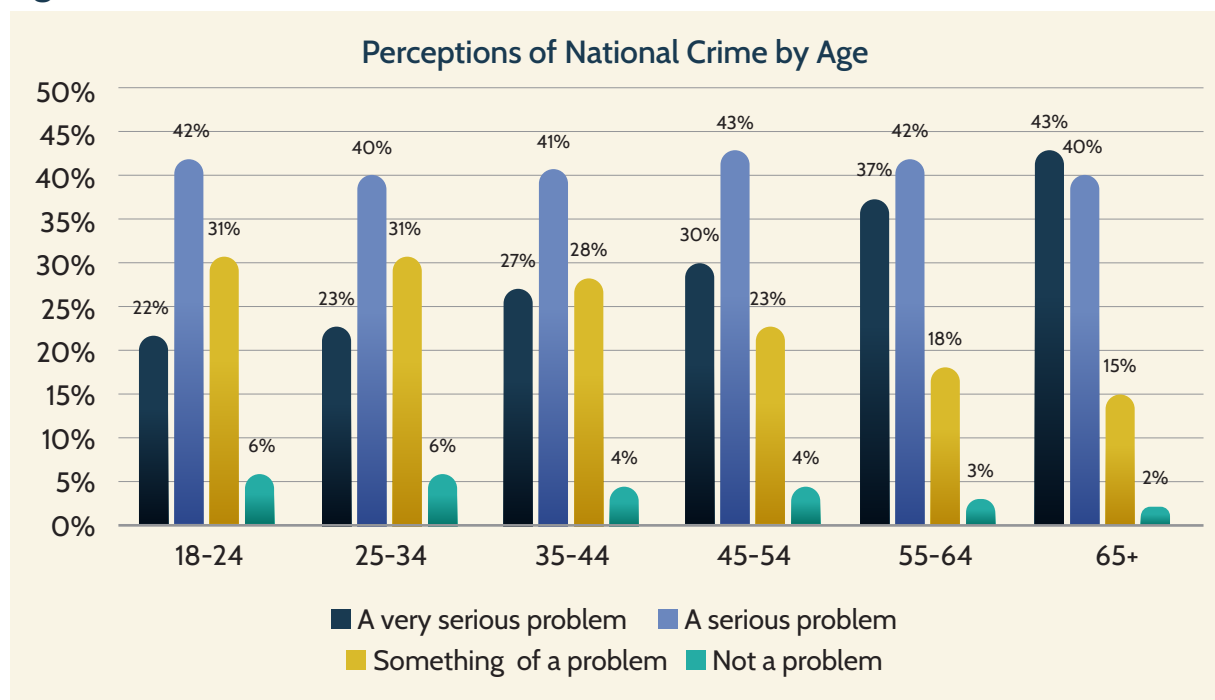


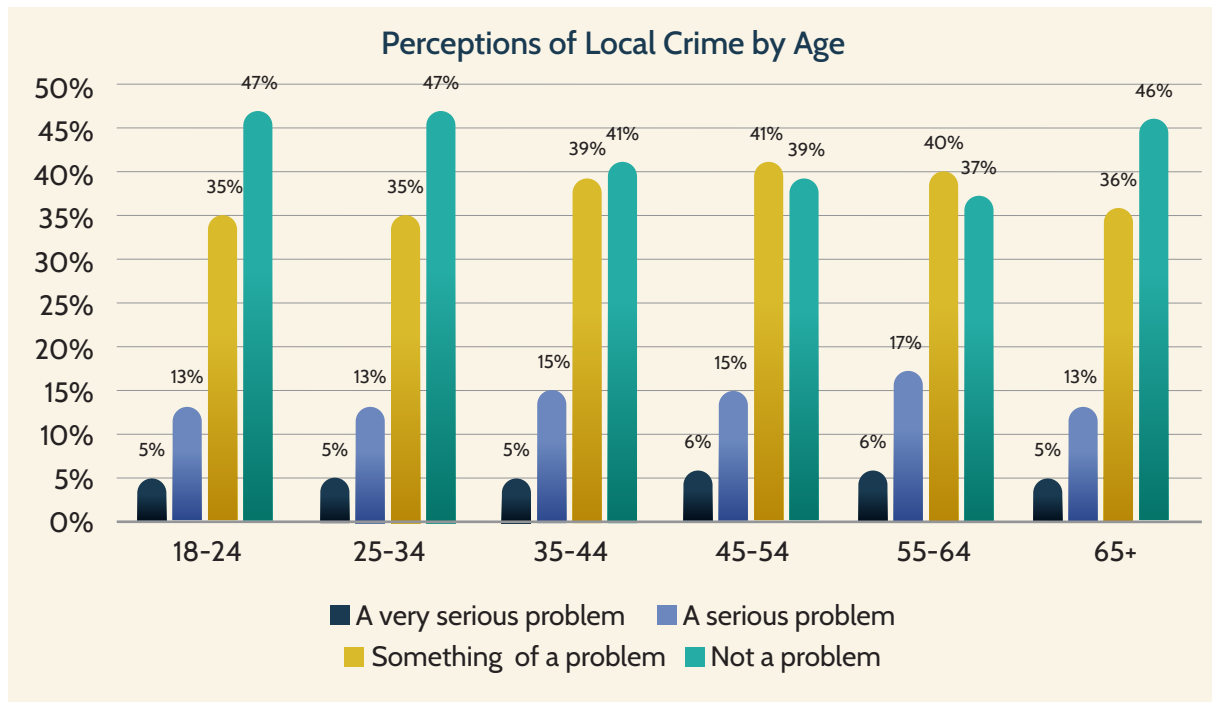
Non-Irish respondents viewed national and local crime as less serious than Irish nationals. Fifty percent of non-Irish nationals considered national crime as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem, compared to 76 percent of Irish nationals. Equally, in terms of *local crime*, 53 percent of non-Irish nationals considered it 'not a problem,' compared to 41 percent of Irish nationals – both statistically significant findings.

Sex

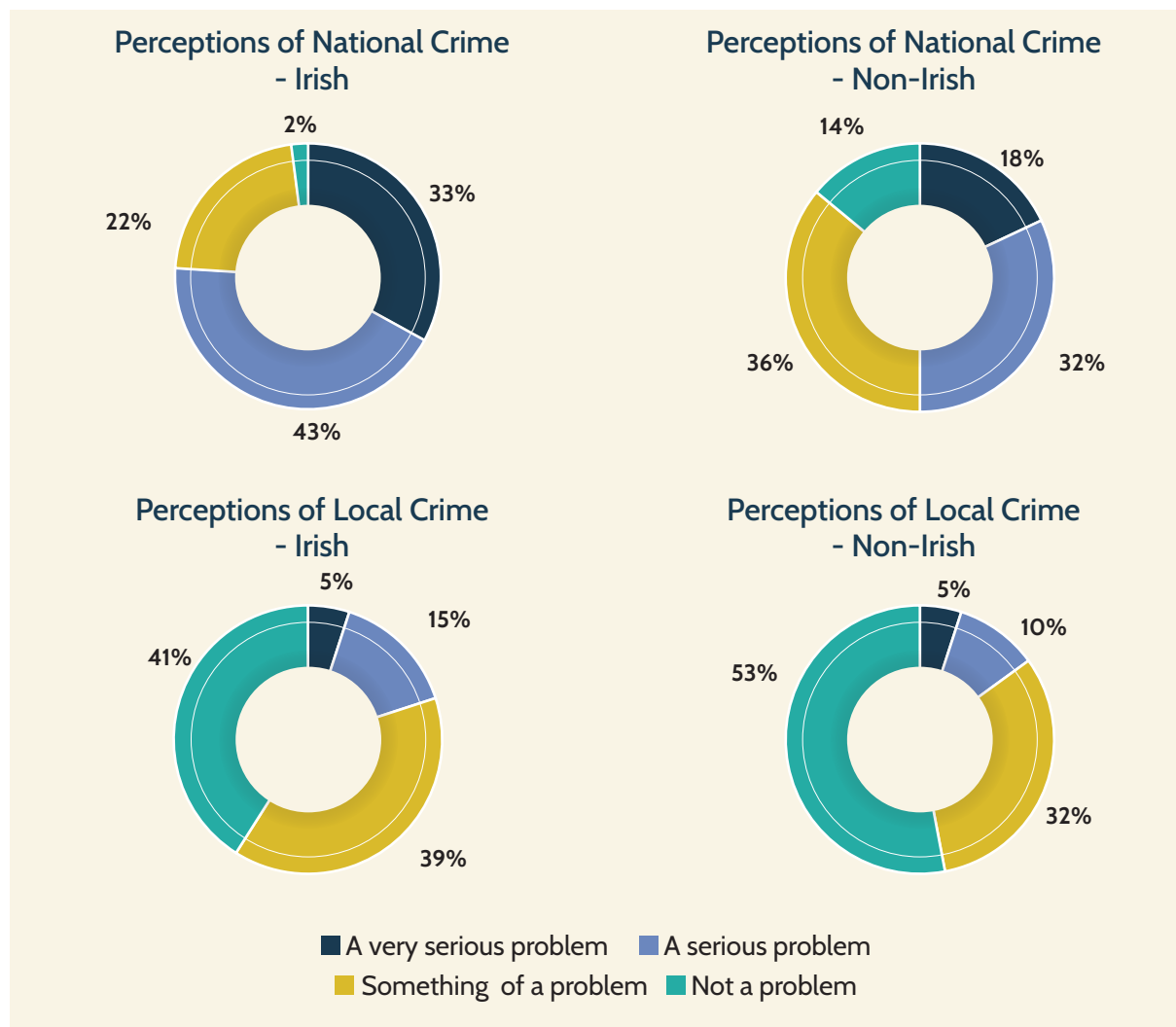


Age





Nationality



5.2 Policing Priorities¹¹



‘Sexual offences,’ ‘domestic abuse,’ ‘human trafficking’ and ‘assaults’ were ranked as the highest priorities for An Garda Síochána across all demographics.

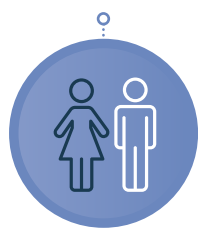
Some differences included; females ranked ‘drugs offences’ as a higher priority (80%), than males (70%) and ‘road safety’ was chosen by 74 percent, compared to 63 percent of males. Those aged 65+ (84%) were far more likely to rank ‘drugs offences’ as a high priority, than 18-24 year olds (64%) – in fact as age increased ‘drugs offences’ were more likely to be a high priority (the same was true for ‘public order’ and ‘traffic offences’). ‘Illegal weapons’ were less of a priority for non-Irish nationals (69%), than Irish respondents (81%). The same was true for ‘road safety’ (59%, versus 70%) – the above findings were statistically significant.

Policing Priorities – Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Sexual Offences	88%*	91%*	90%	87%*	89%	90%	91%*	89%	91%*	81%*
Domestic Abuse	84%*	90%*	87%	84%*	87%	87%	89%*	87%	89%*	75%*
Human Trafficking	81%*	86%*	82%*	81%*	85%	84%	86%*	85%	85%*	75%*
Assaults	83%*	88%*	82%*	83%*	84%	87%*	89%*	87%*	87%*	77%*
Illegal Weapons	77%*	81%*	73%*	75%*	79%	81%	84%*	81%*	81%*	69%*
Robberies	76%*	78%*	67%*	73%*	77%	79%	81%*	80%*	78%*	71%*
Burglaries	76%*	78%*	66%*	74%*	77%	78%	82%*	81%*	78%*	71%*
Drug Offences	70%*	80%*	64%*	66%*	73%*	76%	83%*	84%*	76%*	72%*
Hate Crime	66%*	75%*	70%	67%*	69%	69%	74%*	74%*	72%*	65%*
Fraud	65%*	69%*	57%*	63%*	65%*	68%	73%*	75%*	69%*	59%*
Criminal Damage	62%*	69%*	58%*	61%*	63%*	63%	70%*	73%*	66%*	61%*
Road Safety	63%*	74%*	58%*	61%*	67%	70%	75%*	75%*	70%*	59%*
Public Order Offences	53%*	59%*	44%*	50%*	54%*	57%	62%*	65%*	57%*	54%*
Traffic Offences	38%*	49%*	33%*	39%*	41%*	42%	48%*	54%*	44%	42%

¹¹ In order to determine whether differences existed across demographic groupings, ranks were assigned to priorities. ‘One’ was assigned to the highest percentage priority and ‘eleven’ to the lowest. Those with equal weighting were given the same rank score.

5.3 Fear of Crime



Females (52%) held greater fear of crime, than males (40%), when 'a lot of fears' and 'some fears' were considered (a statistically significant finding). Equally, males (62%) were more likely to report that fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life, than females (52%) (national figure 57%).



As age increased, so too did fear of crime – 35 percent of 18-24 year olds held 'a lot' or 'some' fears, compared to 51 percent of those aged 65 years and over. Those in younger age brackets reported the least impact of fear of crime on their quality of life, with 18-24 year olds the most likely to hold this view (60%).



Fear of crime was lower in non-Irish nationals, than Irish nationals. Differences between the two in terms of impact on quality of life, were not notable.

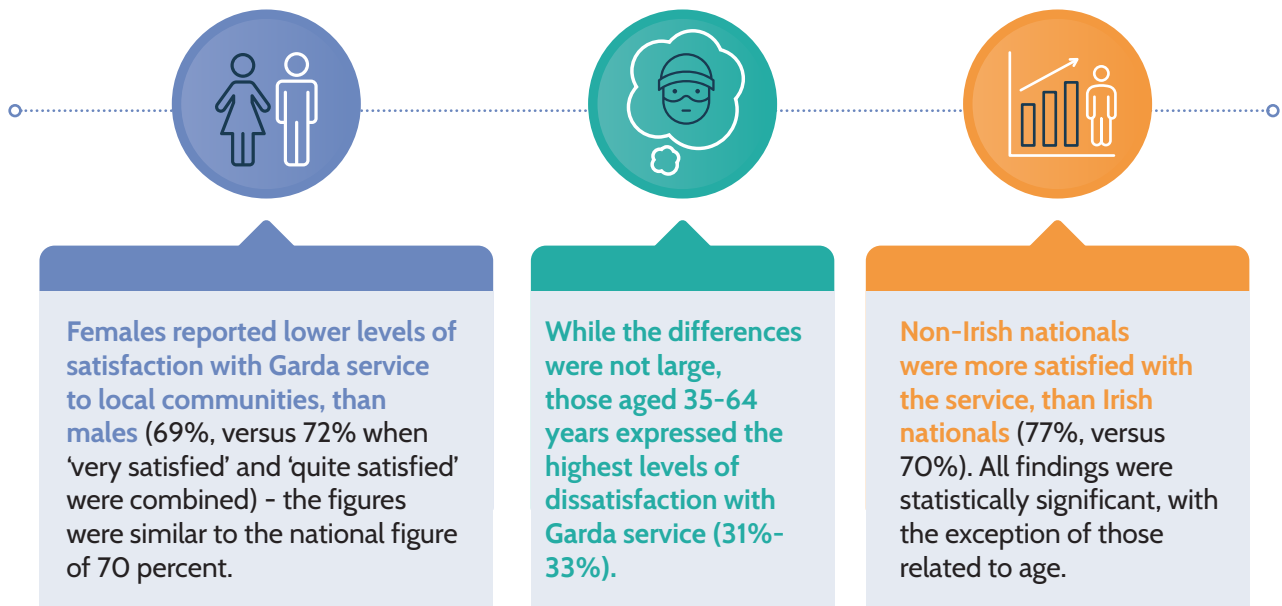
Sex/Age/Nationality - Fear of Crime

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Have a lot of fears	7%*	13%*	5%*	8%*	11%	11%	13%*	12%*	11%*	9%*
Have some fears	33%*	39%*	30%*	34%*	36%	37%	37%	39%*	37%*	32%*
Have very few fears	26%*	22%*	30%*	25%	23%	24%	22%*	22%*	24%	24%
Have no fears	34%*	26%*	34%*	33%*	30%	28%	28%*	27%*	29%*	36%*

Sex/Age/Nationality - Impact of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life

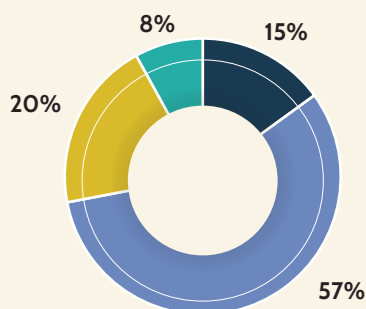
	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Greatly reduced quality	2%*	3%*	-	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Significantly reduced quality	4%*	6%*	4%*	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%*	6%*
Moderately reduced quality	13%*	17%*	12%*	13%*	16%	14%	18%*	17%*	15%	16%
Reduced quality a little	20%*	22%*	24%*	21%	20%*	22%	22%	21%	22%	20%
No effect on quality	62%*	52%*	60%*	59%	57%	57%	54%*	55%	57%*	56%

5.4 Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities

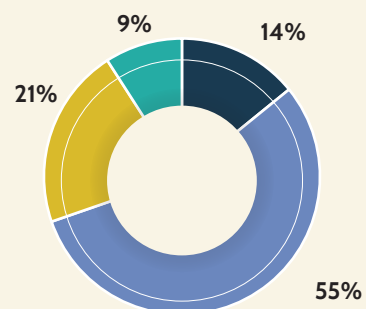


Sex

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána - Males



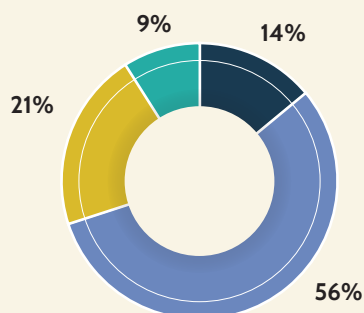
Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána - Females



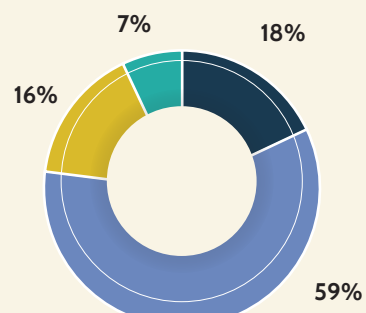
■ Very Satisfied ■ Quite Satisfied ■ Quite Dissatisfied ■ Very Dissatisfied

Nationality

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána - Irish

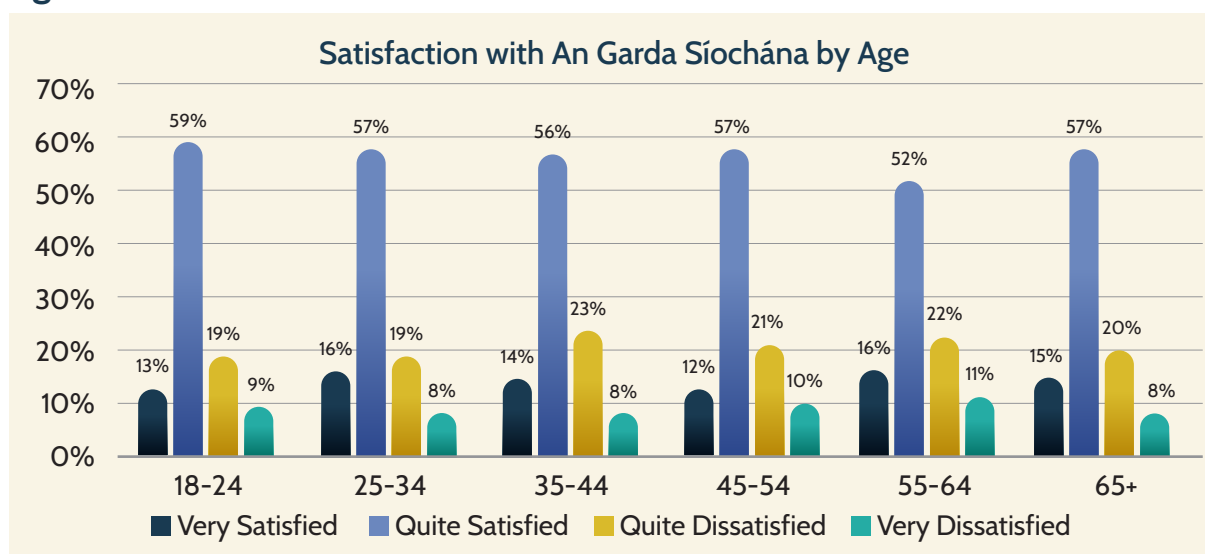


Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána - Non-Irish

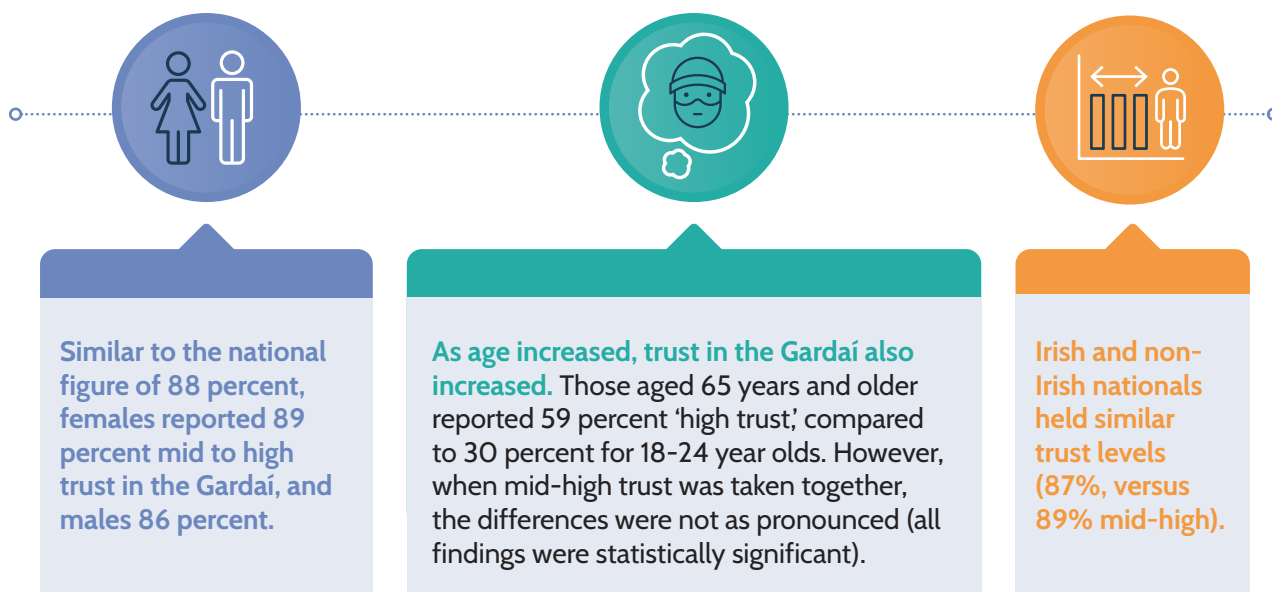


■ Very Satisfied ■ Quite Satisfied ■ Quite Dissatisfied ■ Very Dissatisfied

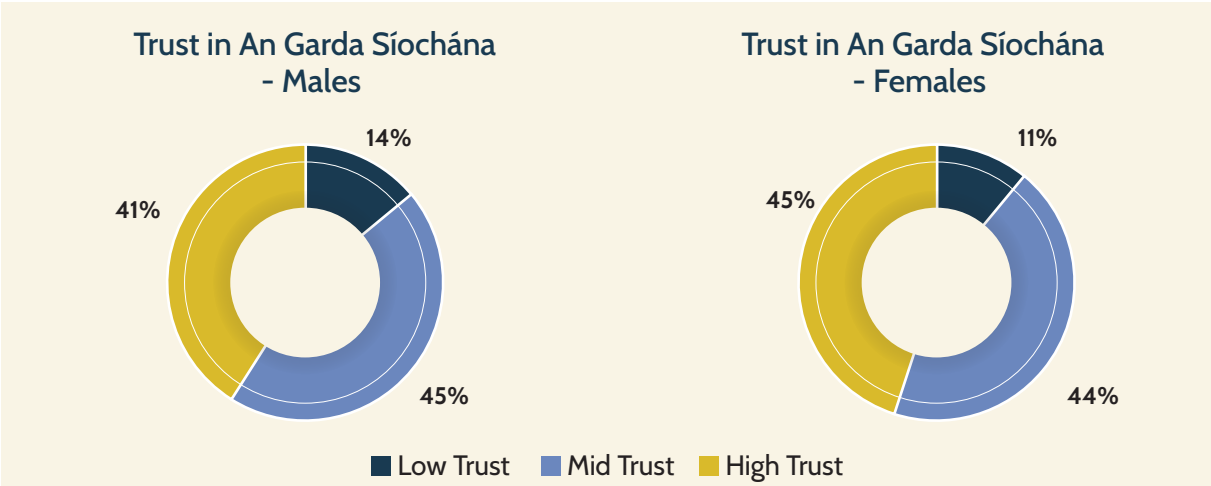
Age



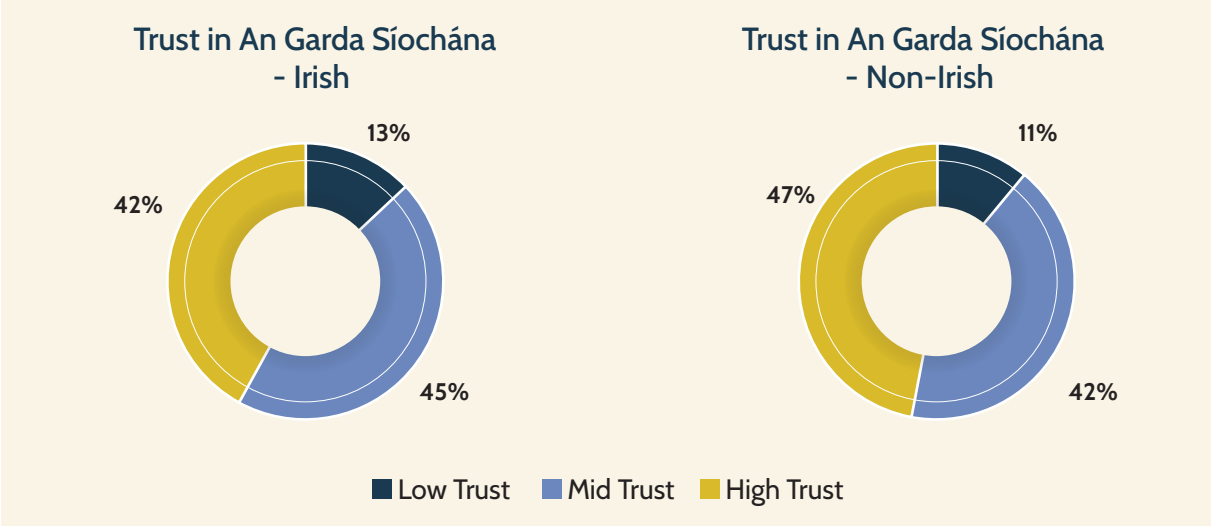
5.5 Trust in An Garda Síochána



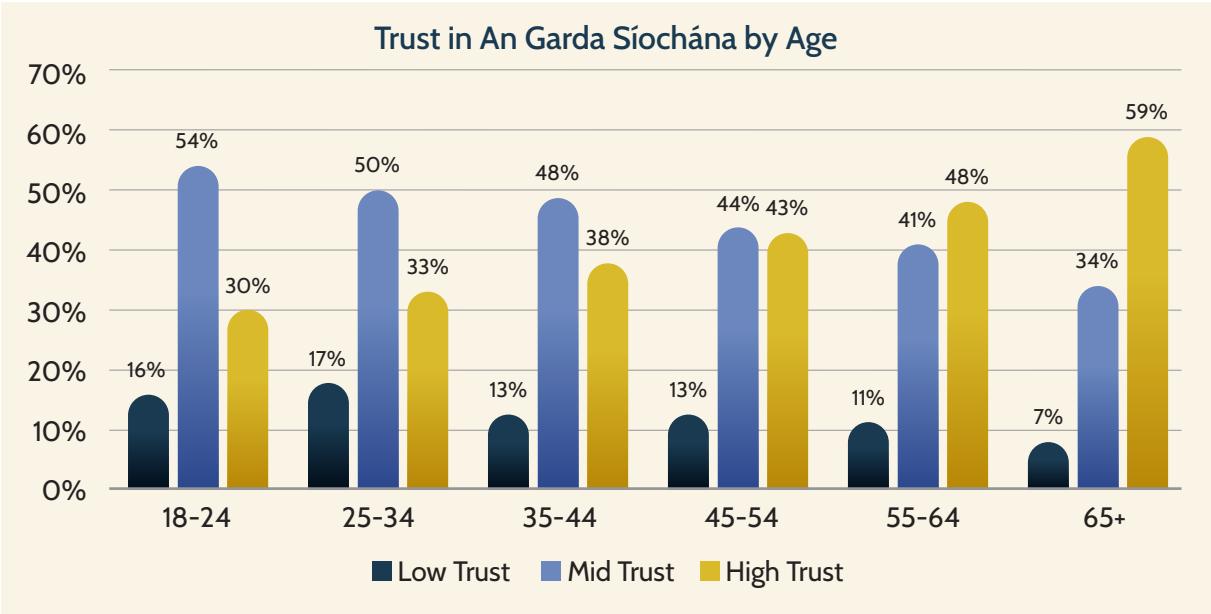
Sex



Nationality



Age



5.6 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána



Perceptions of An Garda Síochána did not differ notably between males and females. As with the overall sample, agreement levels with whether An Garda Síochána is 'well-managed', or 'effective in tackling crime' were lowest for both males and females, when compared to other statements.

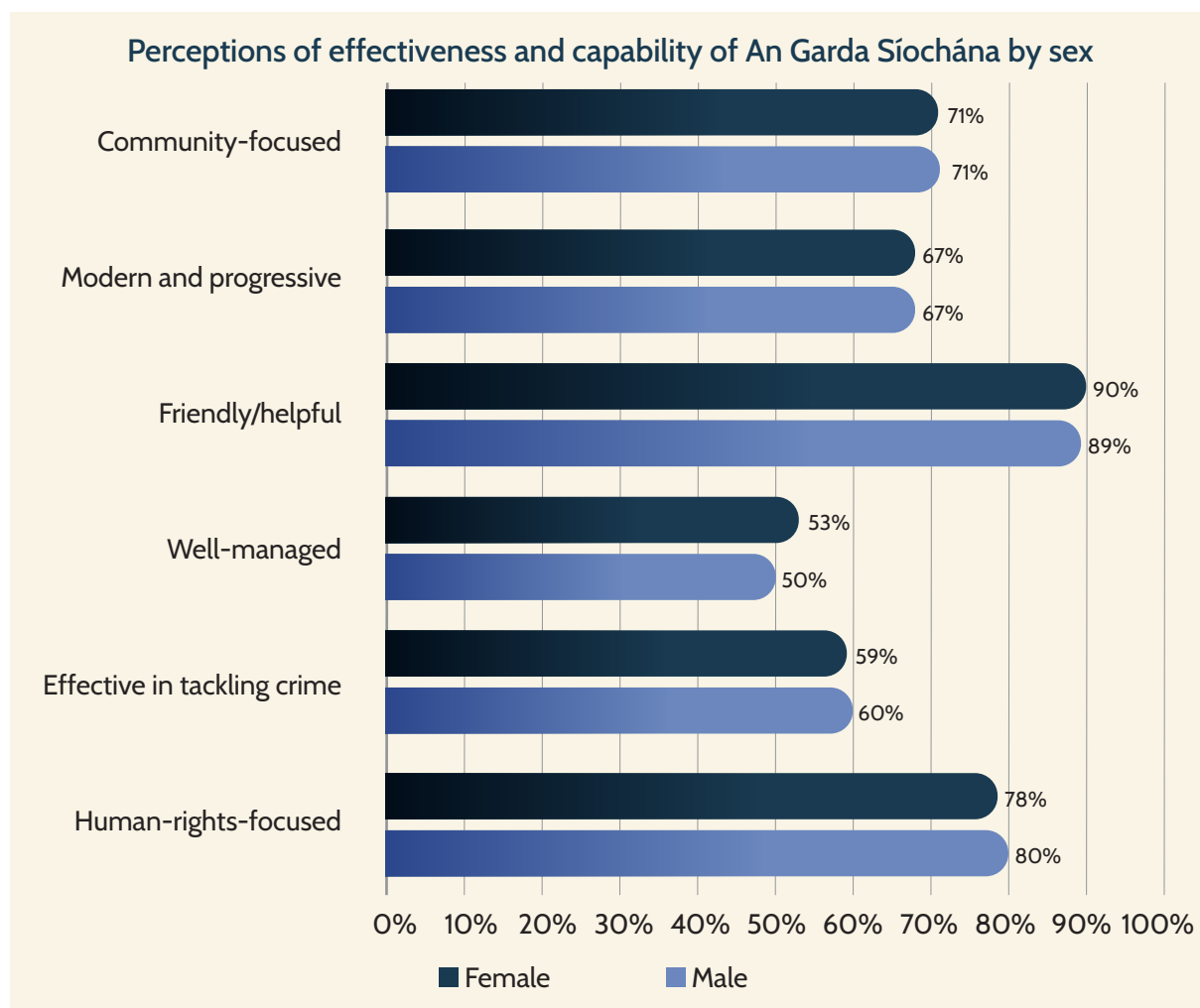


Respondents aged 65 years and older held the most positive views of An Garda Síochána. To illustrate this, 86 percent considered Gardaí to be 'human-rights-focused', compared to 76 percent of 18-24 year olds. Views on management of the Gardaí were least favourable among 25-64 year olds (48%-51%).

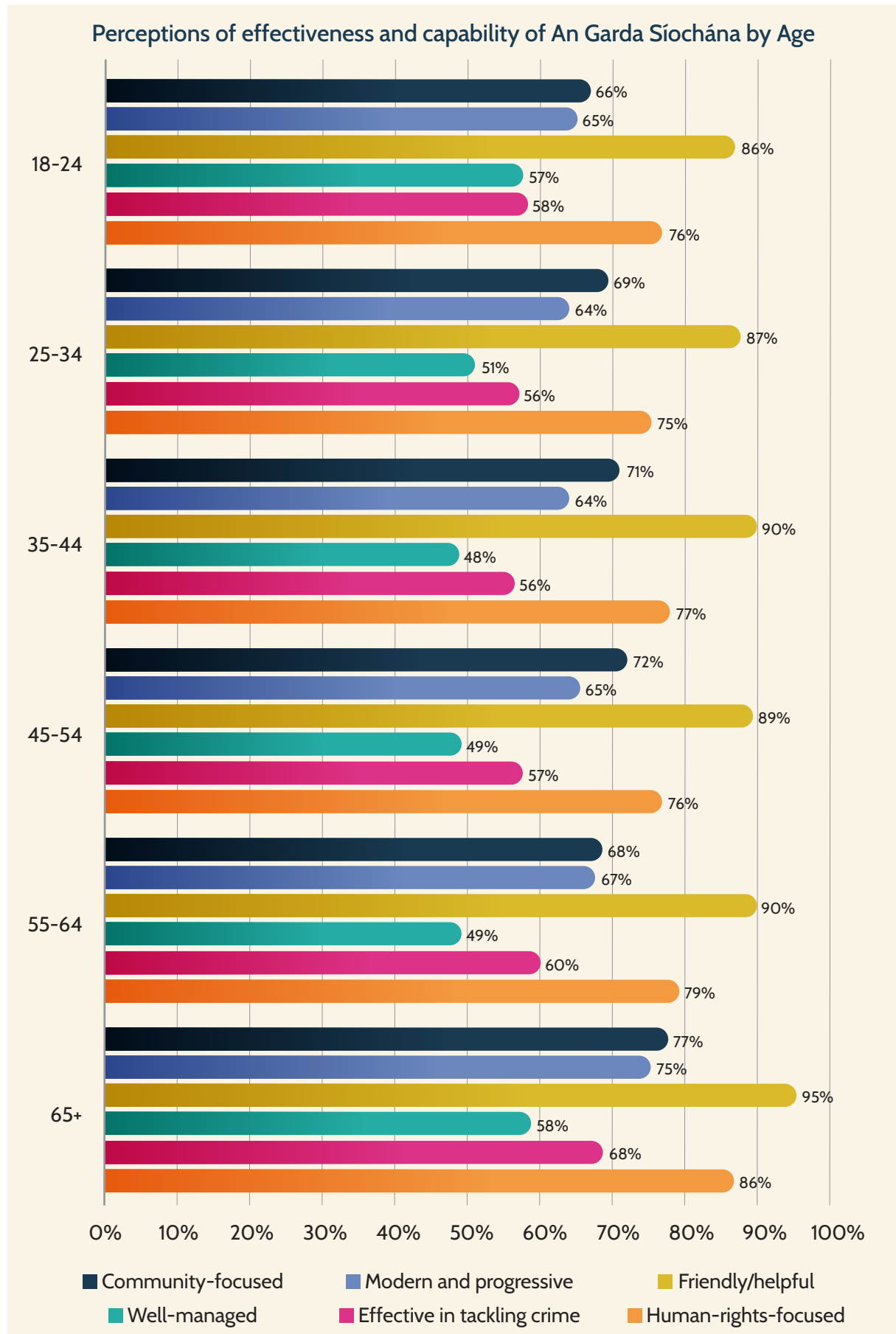


Across all statements, non-Irish nationals held more positive views than Irish nationals (a statistically significant finding), with the greatest difference seen in terms of views about management of Gardaí – 69 percent of non-Irish nationals agreed An Garda Síochána is well-managed, compared to 49 percent of Irish nationals.

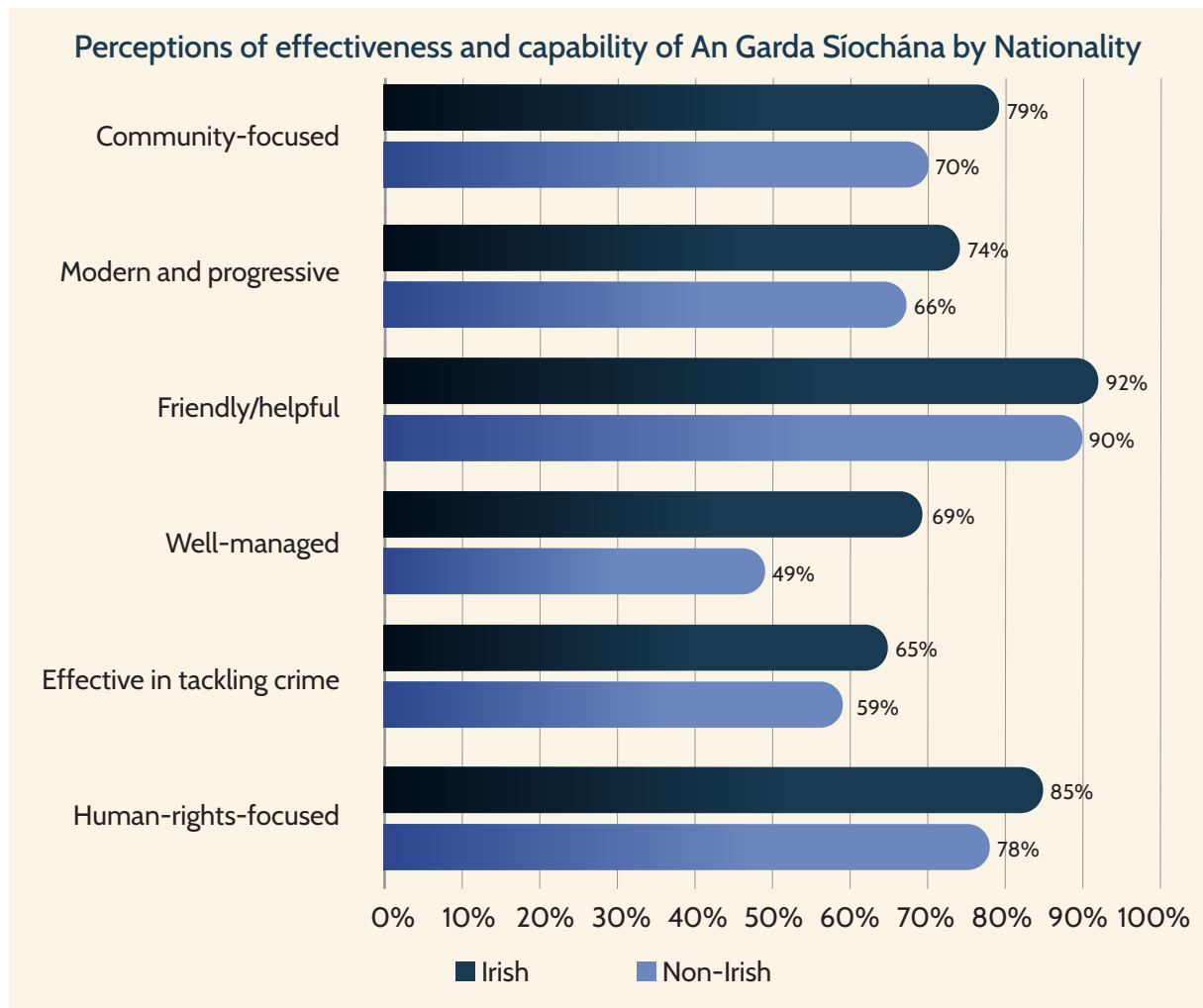
Sex



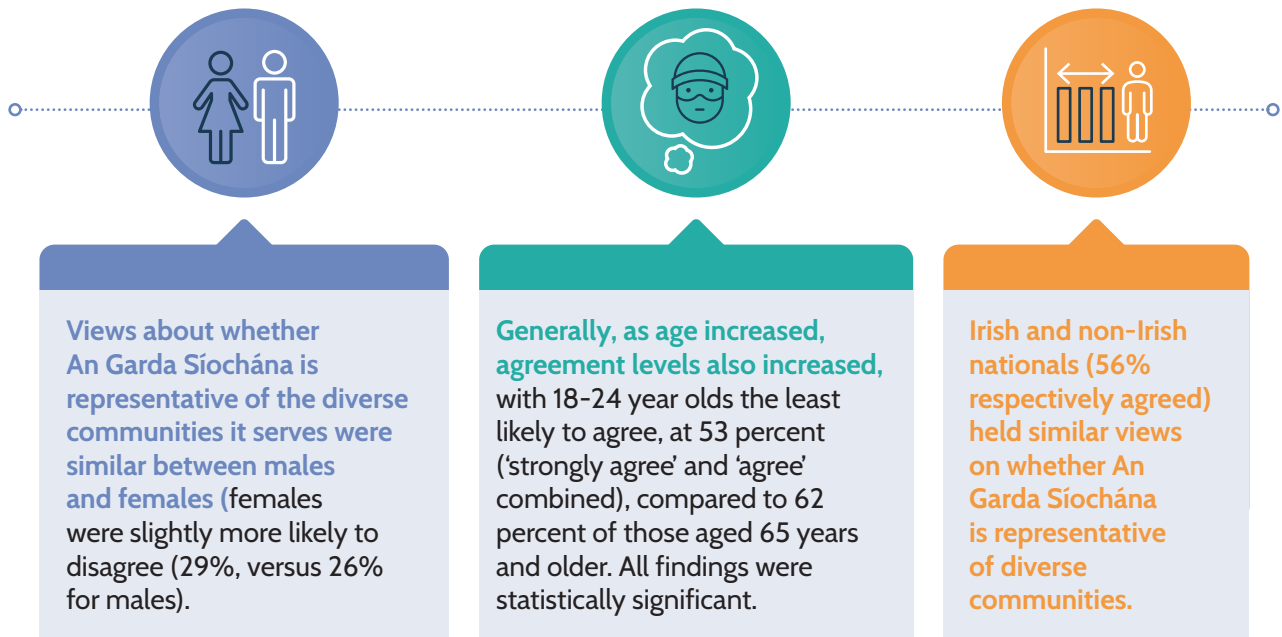
Age



Nationality

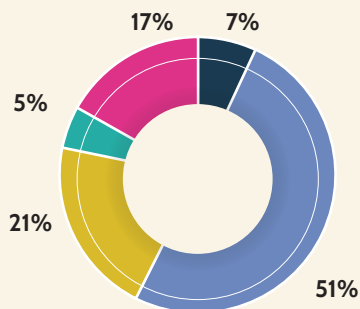


5.7 An Garda Síochána Representative of Diverse Communities?

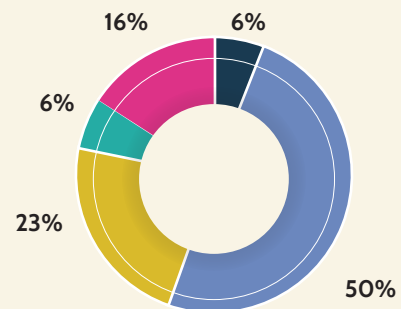


Sex

An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Males



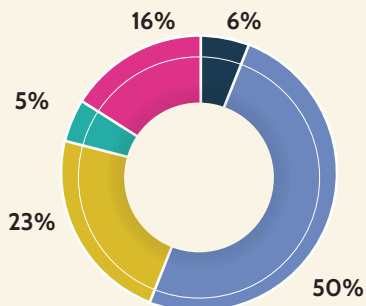
An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Females



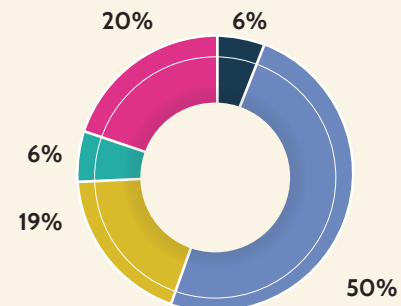
Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Nationality

An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Irish

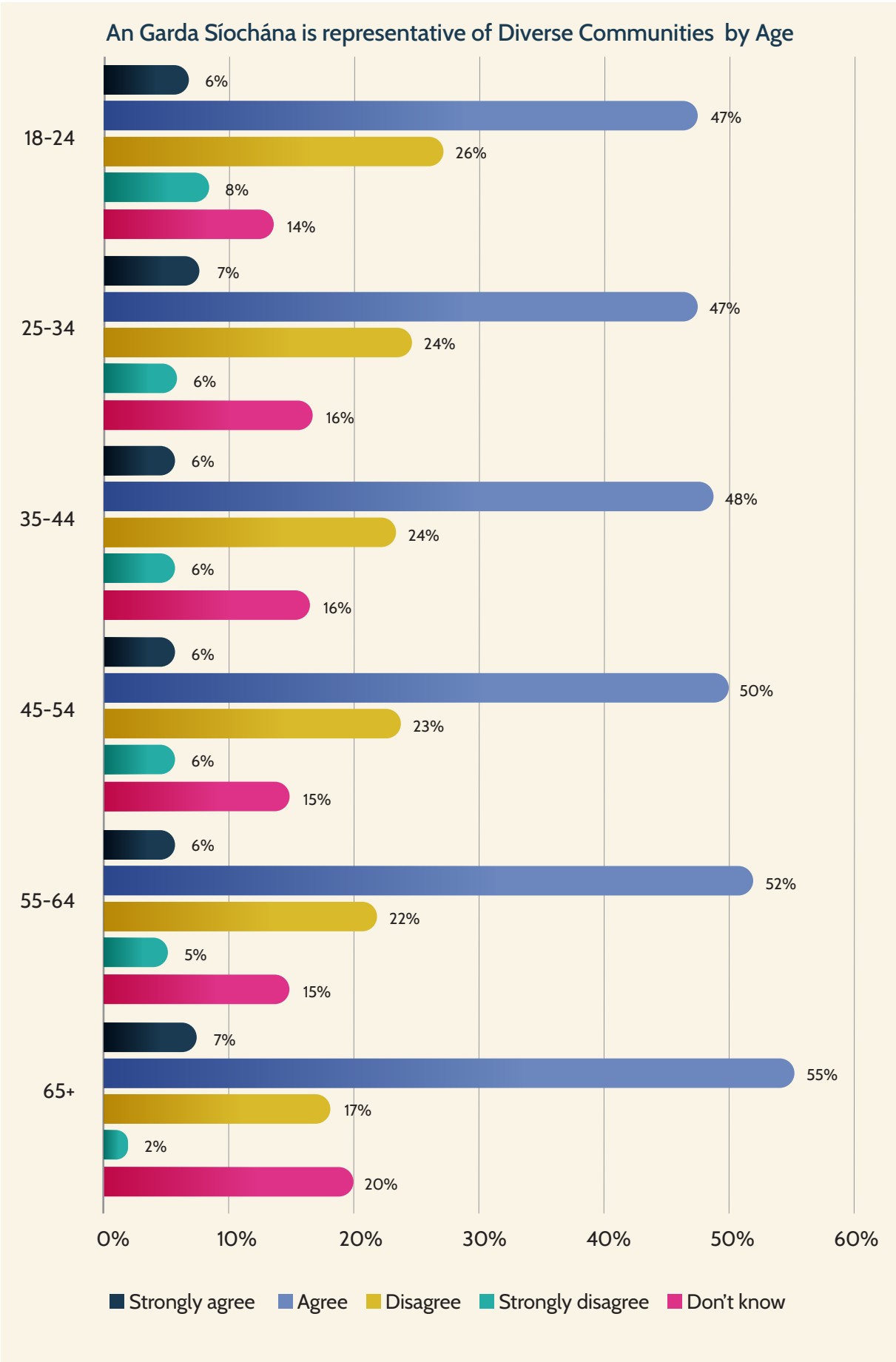


An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Non-Irish



Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Age



5.8 Awareness of Garda Presence



As age increased, awareness of Garda presence decreased, while differences between males and females were not notable.

Forty-eight percent of 18-24 year olds reported awareness of Garda presence in their local areas, decreasing to 30 percent for those aged 65 years and older. Non-Irish nationals (43%) were more likely than Irish nationals (37%) to report awareness (both statistically significant findings, and substantially greater than the total sample of 38%).

Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Awareness of Garda presence in local area by demographics										
Aware of Garda presence	39%	37%	48%	44%*	40%*	37%	34%*	30%*	37%*	43%*
Not aware of Garda presence	61%	64%	52%*	57%*	60%*	64%	66%*	70%*	63%*	57%*



5.9 Perceptions of Garda Presence



As with other measures, as age increased respondents were more likely to report that Garda presence is 'not enough' – this was true for Irish nationals also.

Females (65%) were slightly more likely to view Garda presence as 'not enough', than males (61%). To illustrate the difference across ages, 48 percent of 18-24 year olds considered presence 'not enough,' compared to 70 percent of those aged 65 years and older (the national figure was 63%). Sixty-five percent of Irish nationals viewed Garda presence in local communities as 'not enough,' compared to 54 percent of non-Irish nationals. All findings were statistically significant.

Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Perceptions of Garda presence in local area by demographics										
Not enough	61%*	65%*	48%*	55%*	63%	66%*	72%*	70%*	65%*	54%*
About right	38%*	34%*	50%*	44%*	37%	34%*	27%*	30%*	35%*	45%*
Too much	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	-

5.10 The Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason



Across sex, age and nationality, there was majority agreement that Gardaí would treat you with respect should you have contact with them for any reason.

While 18-34 year olds' agreement stood at 86/87 percent, 95 percent of those aged 65 years and older agreed. There were no notable differences between males and females (90% and 91% respectively), and Irish and non-Irish nationals held similar views (90% and 91% agreement respectively).

Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
The Gardaí would treat you with respect										
Strongly agree	26%*	28%*	18%*	24%*	25%*	27%	28%	34%*	27%	27%
Agree	64%	63%	68%*	63%	64%	63%	62%	61%	63%	64%
Disagree	8%	8%	10%*	10%*	9%*	7%	8%	4%*	8%	6%
Strongly disagree	3%*	2%*	4%*	3%*	2%	3%*	2%	-	2%	2%

5.11 The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are



Again, older age groups were more likely to agree that Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, with no notable differences between males and females. Non-Irish nationals held more favourable views, than Irish nationals (83% agreement, versus 75%).

Increasingly positive views as age increased was of statistical significance. To illustrate, 66 percent of those aged 18-24 years held this view, compared to 86 percent of those aged 65 years and older. The national figure was 77 percent.

Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly										
Strongly agree	16%	16%	11%*	15%	16%	14%*	17%	20%*	15%*	19%*
Agree	61%	60%	55%*	56%*	60%	61%	62%	66%*	60%*	64%*
Disagree	17%	18%	23%*	20%*	19%	19%	15%	12%*	18%*	13%*
Strongly disagree	7%	6%	12%*	9%*	5%*	7%	6%	3%*	7%*	5%*

5.12 The Gardaí in my area can be relied on to be there when needed



Continuing the favourable views held by those aged 65 years and older, 74 percent agreed the Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed. This decreased to 67 percent for those aged 18-24 years.

Between the sexes, agreement levels stood at 67 percent respectively. Non-Irish nationals (77%) were 11 percentage points more likely to agree that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed, than Irish nationals (66%). Findings related to age and nationality were statistically significant.

Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
The Gardaí in my area can be relied upon										
Strongly agree	13%	13%	9%*	13%	12%	10%*	14%	18%*	13%*	15%*
Agree	54%	54%	58%*	52%	53%	54%	50%*	56%*	53%*	62%*
Disagree	26%	25%	24%	26%	28%*	27%	26%	21%*	27%*	17%*
Strongly disagree	8%	8%	9%*	8%	7%	9%	10%*	5%*	8%*	6%*

5.13 Community Relations with the Gardaí are Poor



More favourable views were expressed in terms of community relations with the Gardaí by respondents aged 65 years and older and non-Irish nationals.

Differences across sexes were not significant, while 63 percent of those aged 65 years and older disagreed that 'community relations with the Gardaí are poor', compared to 52 percent of 18-24 year olds. Non-Irish nationals (61%) were also more likely to disagree, than Irish nationals (58%). Findings related to age were statistically significant.

Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Community relations with the Gardaí are poor										
Strongly agree	8%	8%	11%*	8%	7%*	8%	8%	6%*	8%*	5%*
Agree	34%	35%	37%*	37%*	36%	34%	32%	31%*	35%	34%
Disagree	44%	44%	40%*	41%*	44%	45%	43%*	47%*	44%	46%
Strongly disagree	14%	14%	12%*	14%	13%	13%*	16%*	16%*	14%	15%

5.14 The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns of local people



Favourable views were expressed across all demographic groups in terms of Gardaí listening to the concerns of local people, with older respondents and non-Irish nationals holding the most positive views.

Negligible differences were observed in agreement levels between males and females. In general, and of statistical significance, as age increased, views became more favourable, with 79 percent of 65+ year olds agreeing with the statement (64% of 18-24 year olds). Non-Irish nationals' views were more positive, with 77 percent in agreement that Gardaí listen to concerns (71% for Irish nationals) (statistically significant).

Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns										
Strongly agree	10%	10%	7%*	11%	9%	8%*	11%	13%*	10%*	12%*
Agree	61%	62%	57%*	57%*	62%	63%	61%	66%*	61%*	65%*
Disagree	23%	22%	27%*	25%*	24%	22%	21%	17%*	23%*	19%*
Strongly disagree	6%	7%	9%*	7%	5%	7%	7%	4%*	7%*	4%*

5.15 The Gardaí in my area address the things that matter to the local community



Finally, and continuing previous observed trends, older respondents and non-Irish nationals, were more likely to agree that Gardaí address things that matter to the local community.

Males and females held similar views (69% and 67% respectively in agreement). Eighteen-24 year olds' were the least likely to agree with the statement (63%), compared to 75 percent for those aged 65 years and older. Similarly, non-Irish nationals held the most positive views, at 76 percent agreement (67% for Irish nationals and a statistically significant finding).

Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
The Gardaí in my area address the things that matter										
Strongly agree	11%	10%	8%*	12%	9%	9%*	10%	13%*	10%	12%
Agree	58%	57%	55%*	54%*	58%	59%	56%	62%*	57%*	64%*
Disagree	25%	26%	30%*	27%	27%	26%	26%	21%*	27%*	20%*
Strongly disagree	6%	7%	8%*	7%	6%	7%	7%	4%*	7%*	5%*





CHAPTER SIX VICTIMS OF CRIME

The views of victims of crime are considered vital to understanding aspects of An Garda Síochána's service and are key measures within the Public Attitudes Survey. To gain a better understanding of this service the main measures within the report are examined from the perspective of victims of crime.

In the 2024 survey,
the victimisation
rate stood at
5.6%



The victim
reporting rate
was
74%



Satisfaction among
victims with how
Gardaí handled
their case stood at
55%



Dissatisfaction
with the service received
following their crime
negatively impacted
satisfaction with Garda
service in communities and
trust in the Gardaí among
victims



45% felt information received was 'about right.'



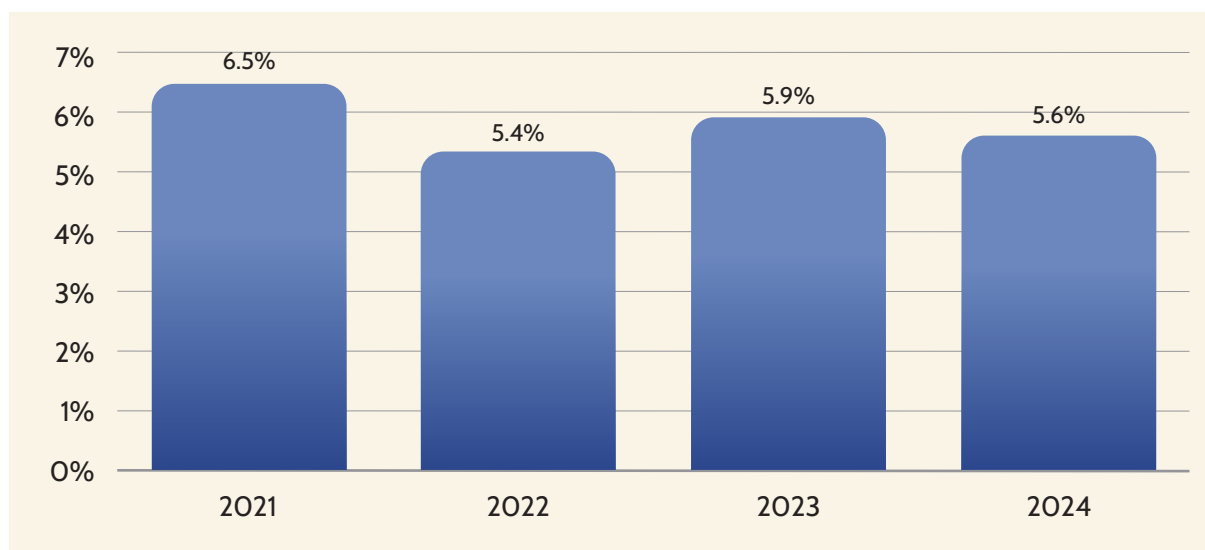
So what does the survey tell us? Being the victim of crime negatively impacts on perceptions across all areas examined within the PAS. As in previous years, respondents in the 2024 PAS who were victims perceived crime to be more serious at a national and local level, their fear of crime levels were greater and the impact of fear of crime on quality of life was more pronounced. Furthermore, when victims of crime were *dissatisfied* with the service they received from Gardaí following their crime, this impacted trust in Gardaí, perceptions of Garda-community relations and satisfaction with Garda service in communities in general. Contributing to this dissatisfaction were poor response times, no property recovered, information about their case not being adequate and lack of charges preferred against offenders. Despite this, 55 percent of victims were satisfied with the service they received, driven by swift response times and the friendliness and helpfulness of Gardaí, among other things. Furthermore, despite negative impacts due to dissatisfaction with service, overall among victims, perceptions about respectful and fair treatment by Gardaí were favourable – 82 percent felt they would be treated with respect, and 63 percent felt Gardaí would treat everyone fairly no matter who they are.

Despite negative impacts due to dissatisfaction with service, overall among victims, perceptions about respectful and fair treatment by Gardaí were favourable.

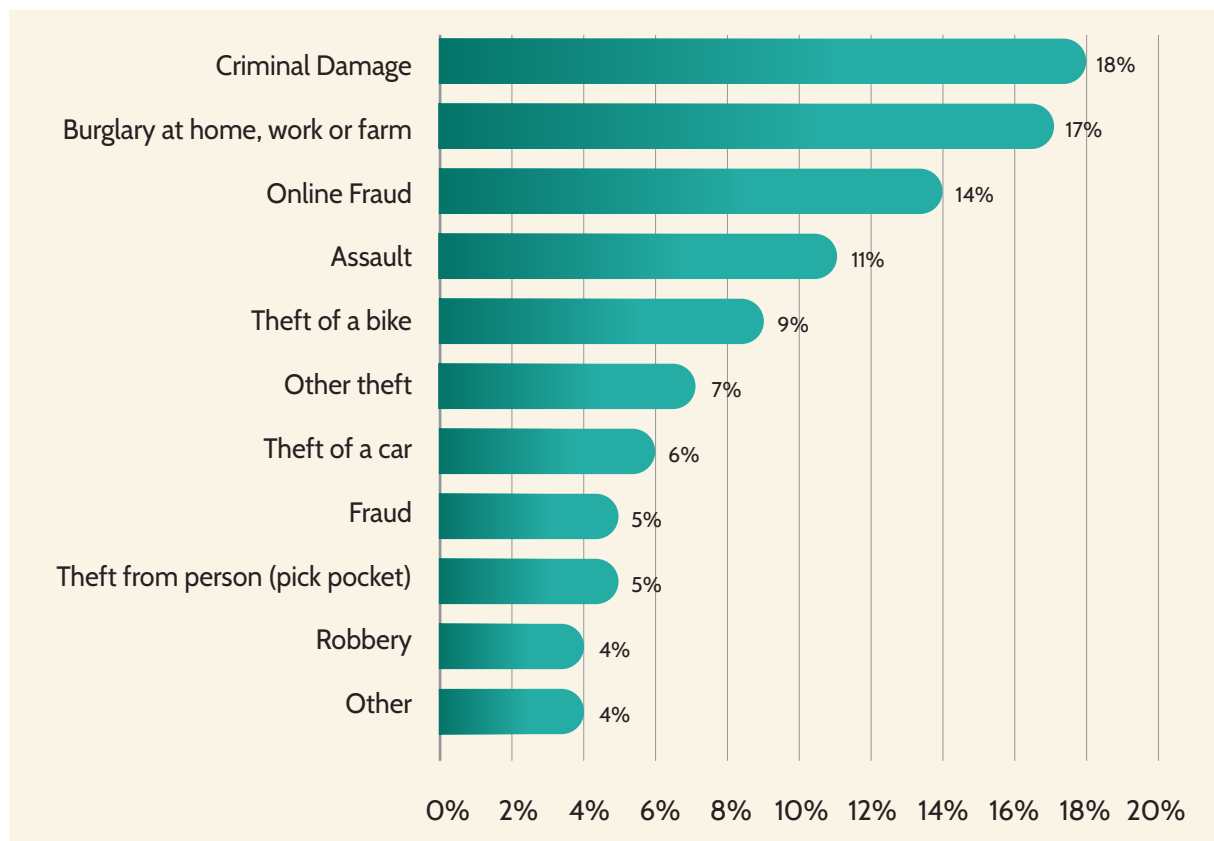
6.1 Victimisation in Ireland

In the 2024 PAS, of the full sample of 12,916 adults, there were 718 respondents who were victims of at least one crime in the 12 months preceding the survey (regardless of whether they reported the crime to the Gardaí or not). This represents a victimisation rate of 5.6 percent – slightly lower than in 2023 (5.9%) (see figure 47)¹². The most common crimes experienced by victims were criminal damage (18%), burglary (17%) and online fraud (14%) (see figure 48).

Figure 47: Victimisation Rate 2021-2024



¹² A full demographic profile of victims from the 2024 survey is provided in appendix 3.

Figure 48: Most Recent Crime Experienced in the last 12 Months

6.1.1 Reporting victimisation to the Gardaí

Of the 718 respondents who were victims of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey, 74 percent reported their most recent crime to Gardaí – similar to 2023, but 9 percentage points lower than in 2022 (see figure 49). Reasons for not reporting included; ‘the incident was not serious enough’ (28%), ‘dealt with it myself’ (26%), ‘felt Gardaí could not do anything about it’ (27%), or ‘reported it to another authority’ (17%) (see table 12). ‘Other’ included; ‘felt Gardaí would not do anything about it,’ ‘did not want to involve the Gardaí,’ ‘fear of reprisals from perpetrators’ and ‘no need to make insurance claim.’ In terms of changes from the 2023 survey’s ‘reasons for not reporting,’ a greater number of respondents felt ‘the incident was not serious enough’ to report (in 2023, this stood at 18%).

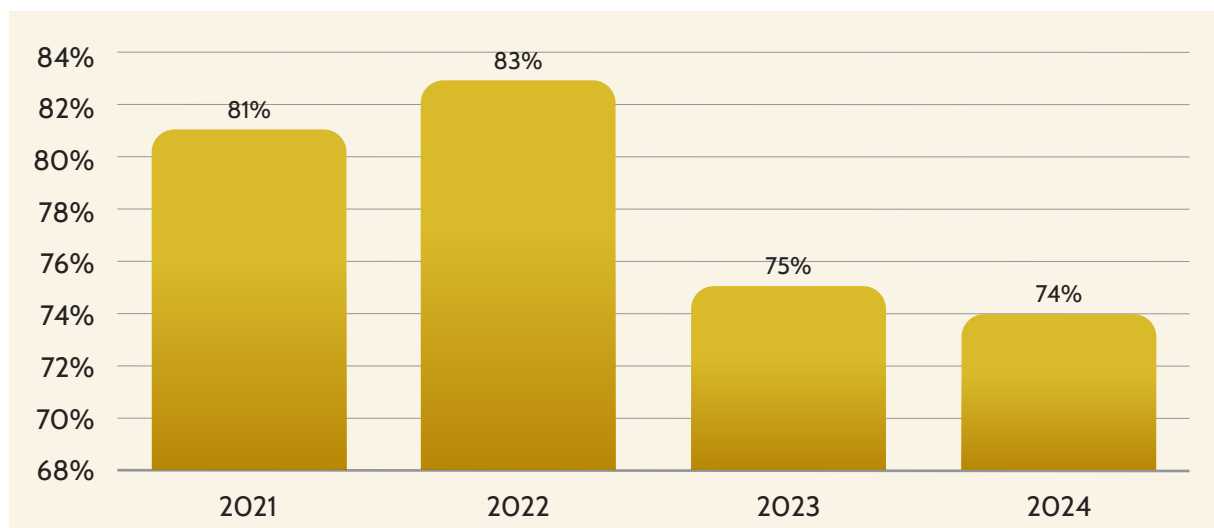
Figure 49: Percentage of Victims who Reported their Crime to An Garda Síochána

Table 12: Reasons for not Reporting to Gardaí (n=186)

	%
Incident not serious enough	28%
Felt Gardaí could not do anything about it	27%
Dealt with it myself	26%
Reported it to another authority	17%
Other reason	40%

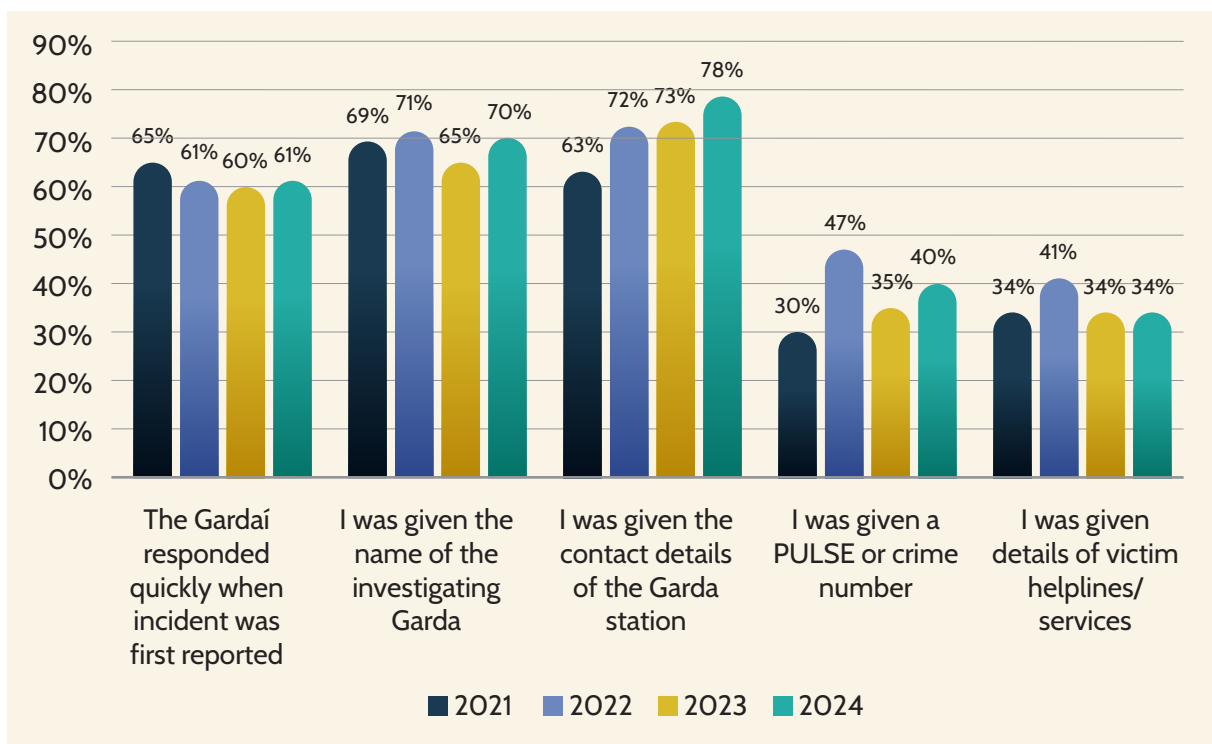
6.2 Garda service to victims of crime

Levels of Garda service, as perceived by victims of crime, is measured by examining a number of key aspects of this service:

- Speed of Garda response.
- Information provision to victims at the time of reporting and in follow-up.
- Satisfaction with Garda service and reasons for both satisfaction and dissatisfaction with this service (two new questions added in 2023).

As figure 50 outlines, there have been improvements across four areas of Garda service in 2024, since 2023, and in terms of being given the contact details of the Garda station – there have been notable improvements year-on-year since 2021 (up 15 percentage points from 63%, to 78% in 2024).

- 61% felt Gardaí responded quickly when the incident was reported (60% in 2023).
- 70% reported that they received the name of the investigating Garda (65% in 2023).
- 40% reported that they were given the Pulse incident number (35% in 2023).
- 34% reported being given details of victims' helplines/services – no change since 2023.

Figure 50: Garda Service to Victims of Crime 2021-2024

Sixty-two percent of victims were contacted by Gardaí by phone or in-person following their incident (with the majority at 55% stating a phone call would be their preferred mode of contact – figure 51(a)). However, following improvements in the 2023 survey in terms of information provision following the crime, some aspects of this measure have disimproved in 2024. Forty-five percent felt this was ‘about right’ (47% in 2023). In terms of those who felt information provision was ‘too little,’ this has increased by 8 percentage points since 2023, when it stood at 29 percent (37% in 2024). Despite this, a significant improvement is observed in terms of reducing those victims who received ‘no update’ on the progress of their investigation – 17 percent reported this in 2024 (23% in 2023) (see figure 51(b)).

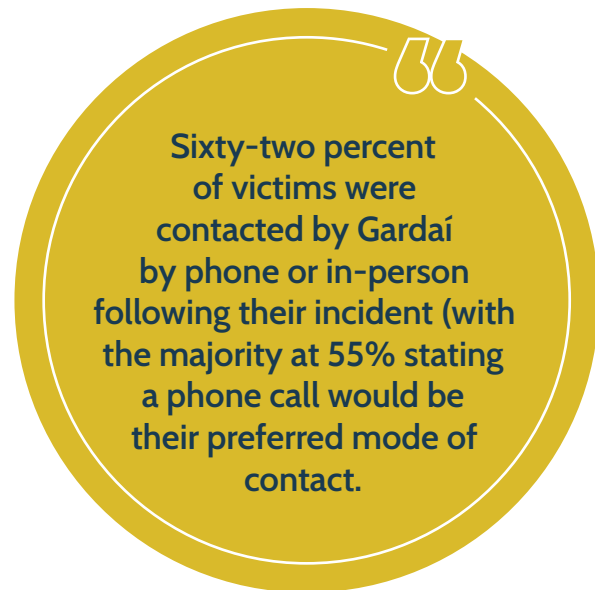


Figure 51(a): Preferred Contact Method (n=532)

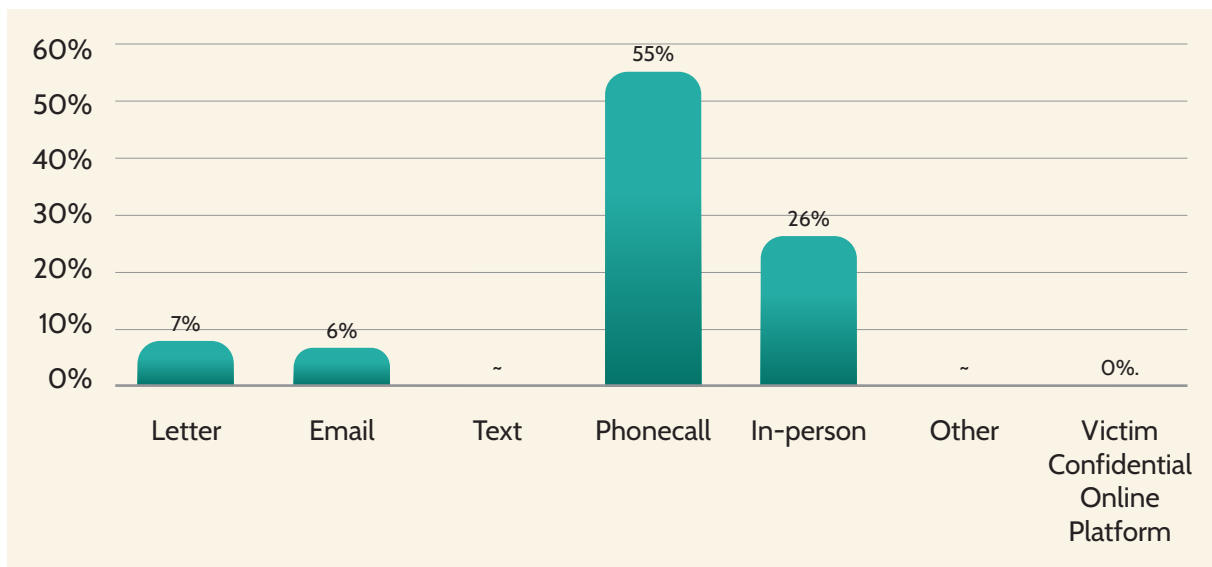
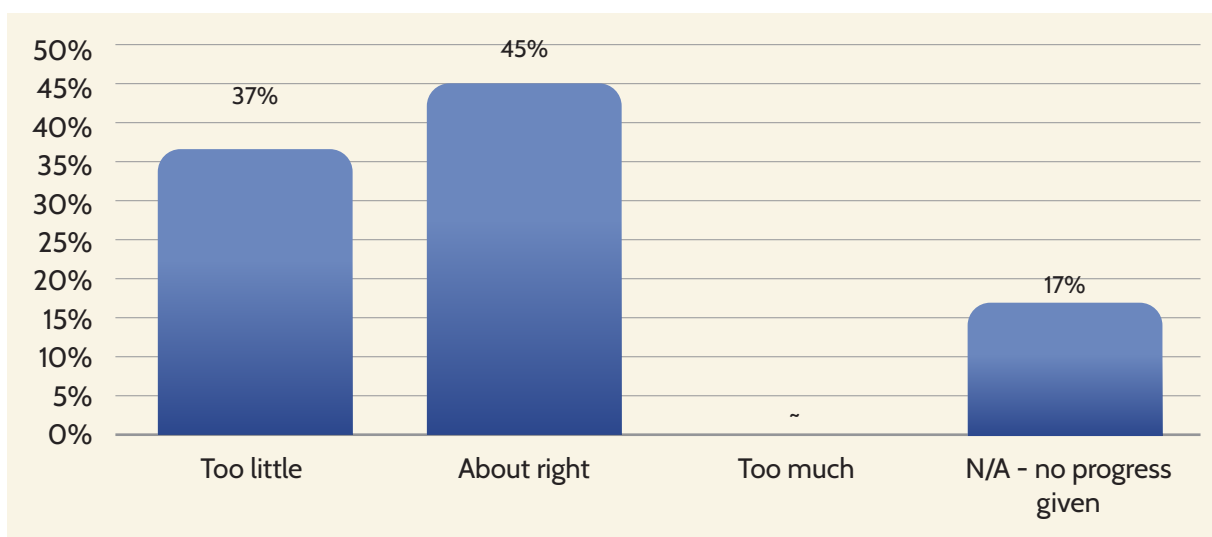


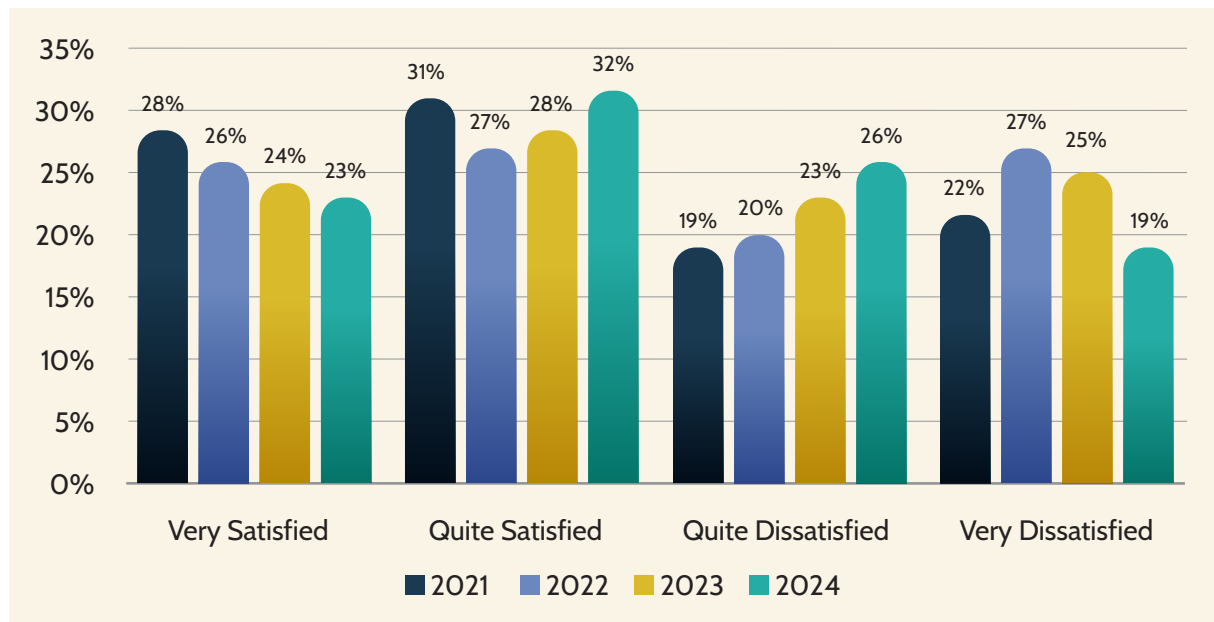
Figure 51(b): Information Provision to Victims to Crime



6.2.1 Satisfaction with Garda service among victims of crime and Contributory Factors

Victims' reported satisfaction with the service they received from Gardaí showed slight improvement in 2024, when it stood at 55 percent ('very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' combined) – up 3 percentage points from 2023. Forty-five percent were dissatisfied with this service (see figure 52).

Figure 52: Satisfaction among Victims of Crime 2021-2024



As outlined in table 13¹³, factors that contributed to satisfaction with Garda service included being contacted by Gardaí after the incident (53%), the friendliness and helpfulness of the Gardaí (52%), speedy response times (35%) and being given investigation updates (31%). 'Other reasons' included 'property recovered/compensated', 'professional service', 'Gardaí were supportive' and the Gardaí were 'honest'.

While property being recovered did not feature highly in terms of contributing to satisfaction with Garda service, it did contribute to *dissatisfaction* with the service when property was not recovered, with 35 percent of respondents citing this. However, 'poor response times' contributed the most to dissatisfaction levels (48% of respondents). Other factors were 'information on the case not adequate' (26%) and the 'offender was not charged' (23%). Twenty-two percent stated they were not treated well by Gardaí (see table 14). 'Other reasons' included 'no follow-up', 'Gardaí couldn't or wouldn't do anything', 'offender was not found' and 'told to report to other authority'.

Table 13: Contributory Factors – Satisfaction (n=286)

What contributed to your satisfaction?	%
Was contacted by Gardaí after the incident	53%
Gardaí were friendly and helpful	52%
Swift response from Gardaí once reported	35%
Was given updates on the investigation	31%
Investigating Garda available when needed	24%
Offender arrested by Gardaí/appeared in court	12%
Other	13%

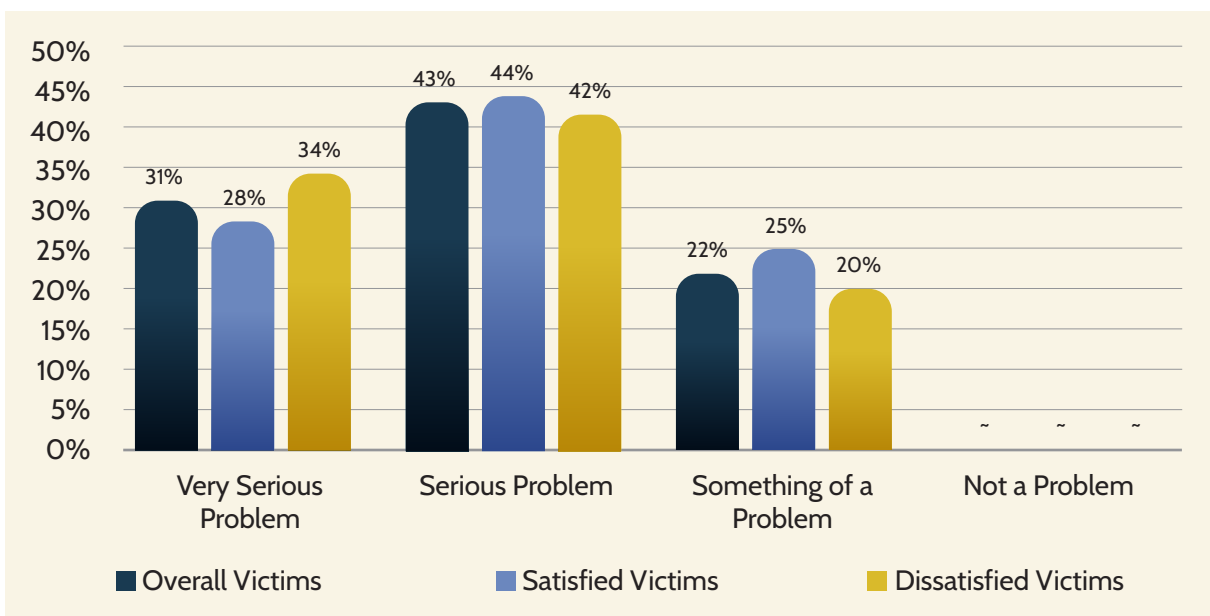
¹³ Respondents generated answers themselves, so could give multiple reasons.

Table 14: Contributory Factors – Dissatisfaction (n=232)

What contributed to your dissatisfaction?	%
Poor response time	48%
Didn't recover my property	35%
Information on case not adequate	26%
Offender was not charged	23%
Was not treated well by Gardaí	22%
Gardaí did not arrest offender	20%
Couldn't contact investigating Garda	17%
Rang local station, didn't ring back	16%
Other	15%

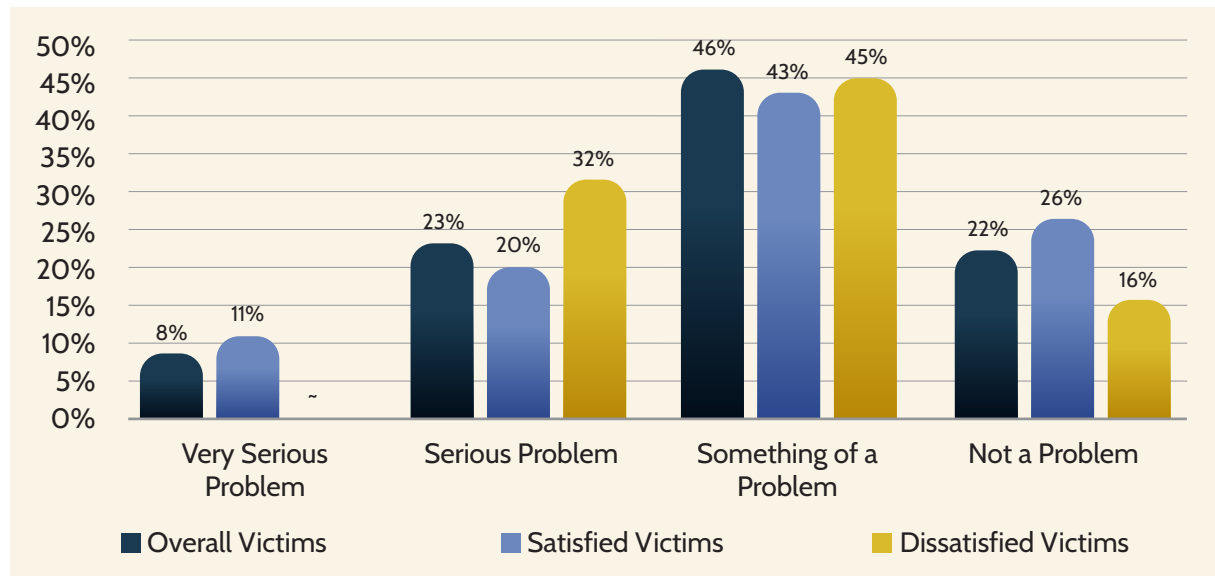
6.3 Does victimisation, and victim satisfaction with Garda service, impact perceptions of national and local crime?

The following sections attempt to understand the impact of being a victim of crime on some of the measures examined thus far in the survey. Victimisation negatively impacts perceptions of crime in general, as illustrated in figure 53 – seventy-four percent of victims of crime viewed national crime as 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem (72% in the overall sample). Dissatisfaction with the service received from the Gardaí heightened this perception with 76 percent of dissatisfied victims holding this view, compared to 72 percent of satisfied victims.

Figure 53: Perceptions of National Crime by Victim Satisfaction

Equally, victimisation negatively impacted perceptions of *local* crime. In general, 31 percent of victims of crime considered it a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem (19% for the overall sample). Dissatisfaction with the Garda service received did not impact these perceptions notably (32% of dissatisfied victims, compared to 31% who were satisfied with the Garda service they received). However, those victims who were satisfied with the service they received were more likely to consider local crime as 'not a problem' (26%), compared to dissatisfied victims (16%) (see figure 54).

Figure 54: Perceptions of Local Crime by Victim Satisfaction



6.4 Does victimisation impact chosen policing priorities?

As with the overall sample, 'sexual offences' and 'domestic abuse' were the top two priorities for respondents who were victims of crime (see table 15).

Table 15: Policing Priorities by Victimisation

Policing Priorities	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Sexual Offences	89%	89%
Domestic Abuse	87%	87%
Assaults	85%	84%
Human Trafficking	83%	84%
Illegal Weapons	79%	81%
Robberies	77%	74%
Burglaries	77%	76%
Drug Offences	75%	70%
Hate Crime	71%	73%
Fraud	68%	64%
Criminal Damage	65%	65%
Road Safety	69%	63%
Public Order Offences	56%	55%
Traffic Offences	44%	38%

6.5 Does victimisation impact fear of crime levels?

As seen in previous years, victimisation impacted negatively on fear of crime levels. To illustrate this, 31 percent of respondents who were not victims of crime had 'no fears of crime at all,' compared to 13 percent of those who experienced crime. Equally, combining 'a lot of fears' and 'some fears,' 45 percent of those who had not experienced crime held these fears, compared to 68 percent of crime victims (see figure 55).

Similarly, respondents who had not been victimised (58%) were more likely to report that fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life, compared to victims of crime (32%). Nineteen percent of victims reported that fear of crime 'greatly' or 'significantly' reduced their quality of life (6% if not a victim of crime) (see figure 56).

Figure 55: Victimisation and Fear of Crime

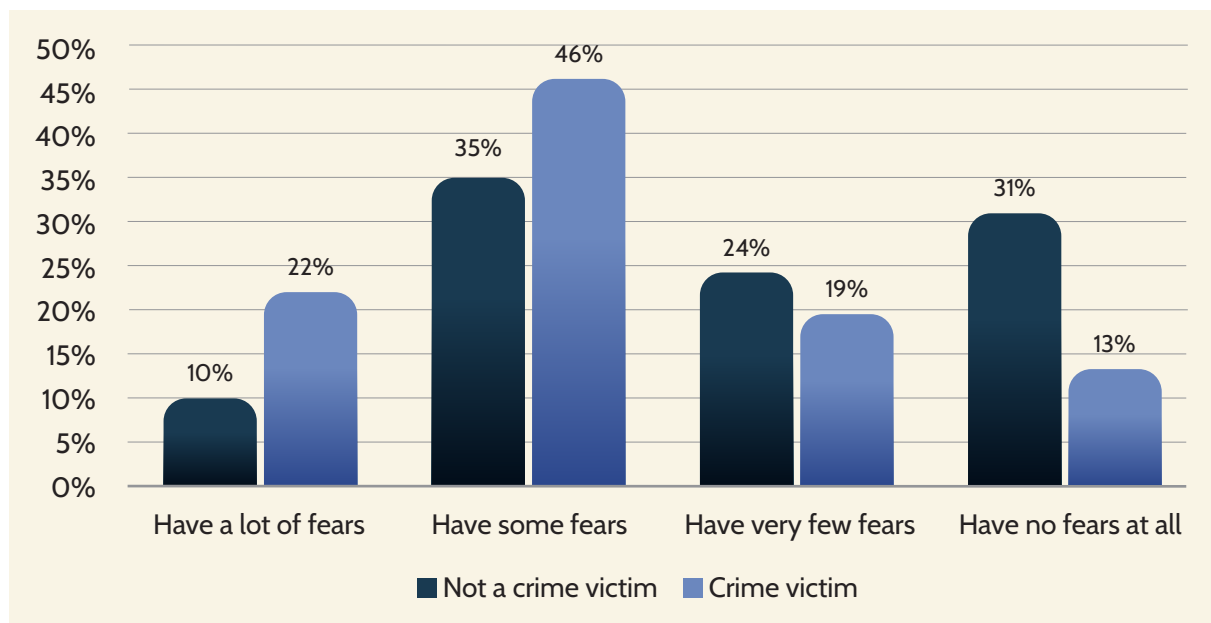
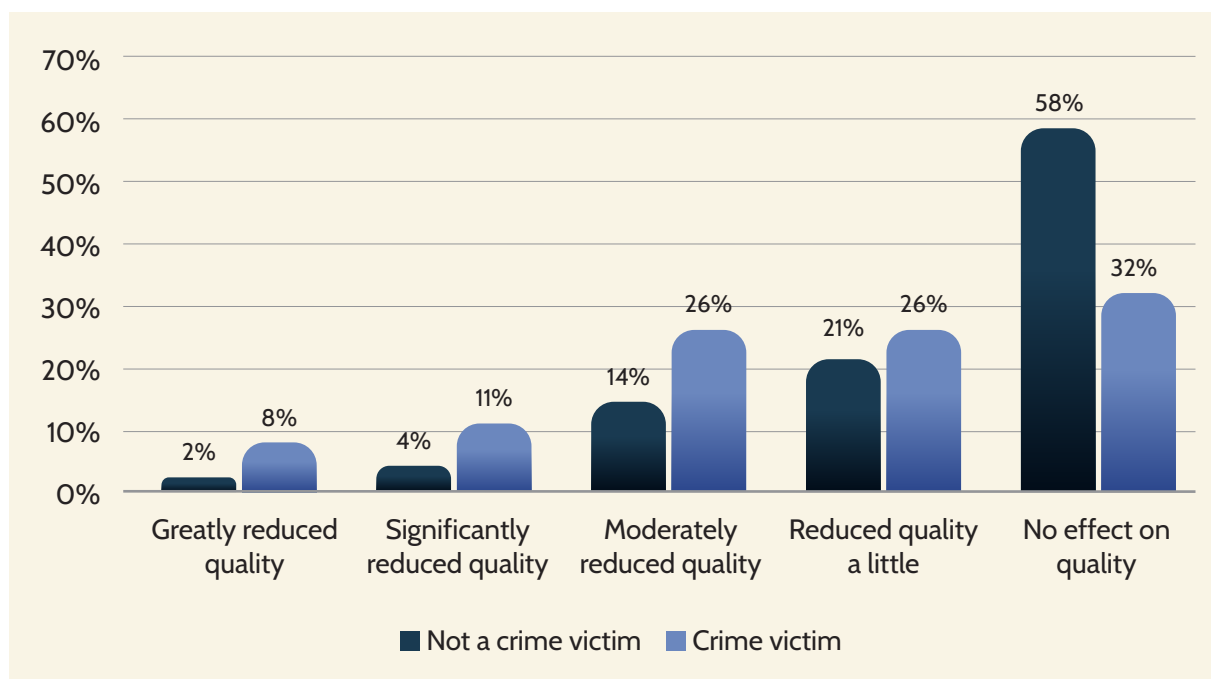


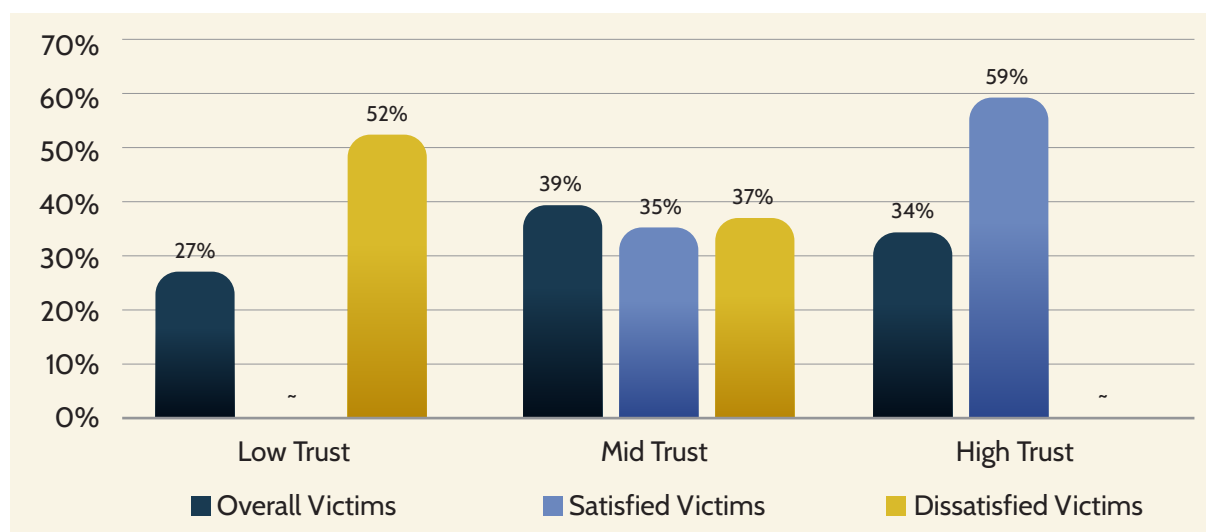
Figure 56: Victimisation and the Effect of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life



6.6 Does victimisation and satisfaction with Garda service, effect trust in An Garda Síochána?

Overall, 73 percent of victims of crime expressed mid to high trust in the Gardaí (see figure 57). Despite this, trust is impacted negatively by victimisation. Twenty-seven percent of victims reported low trust in the Gardaí, compared to 12 percent for the overall PAS sample. When dissatisfied with the service they received, victims of crime were far more likely to have low trust in the Gardaí (52%), compared to satisfied victims.

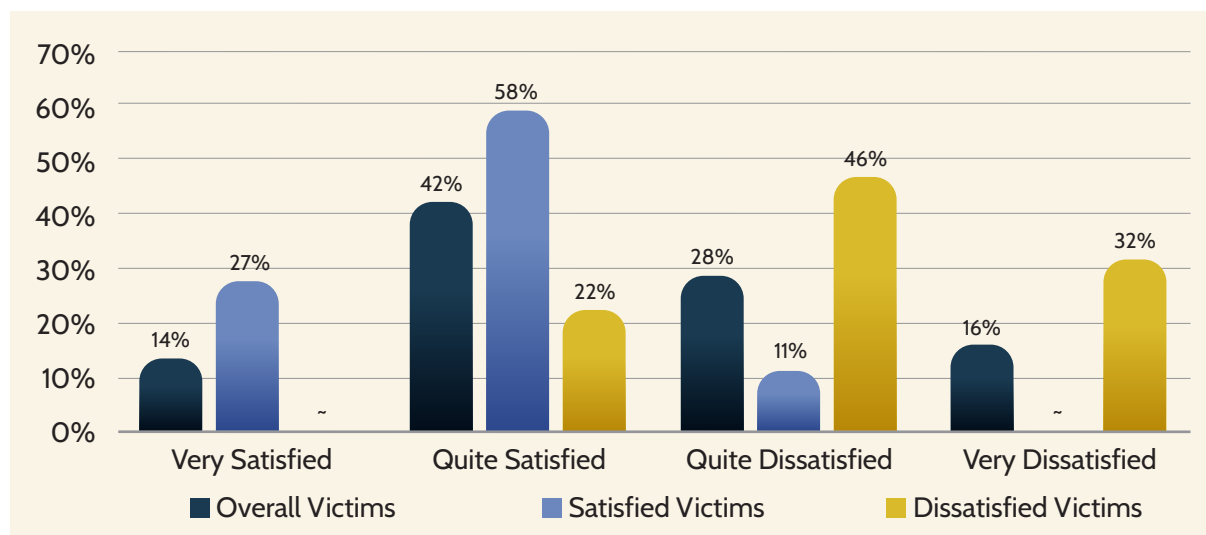
Figure 57: Trust by Victim Satisfaction Type



6.7 Does victimisation impact satisfaction with Garda service to the local community?

Combining 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' in terms of Garda service to local communities, victimisation negatively impacted perceptions. For example, 56 percent of victims were satisfied with this community service, compared to 70 percent in the overall sample. Furthermore, 22 percent of victims of crime who were *dissatisfied* with the service they received following their incident expressed satisfaction with service to communities, compared to 85 percent of those who were satisfied (see figure 58).

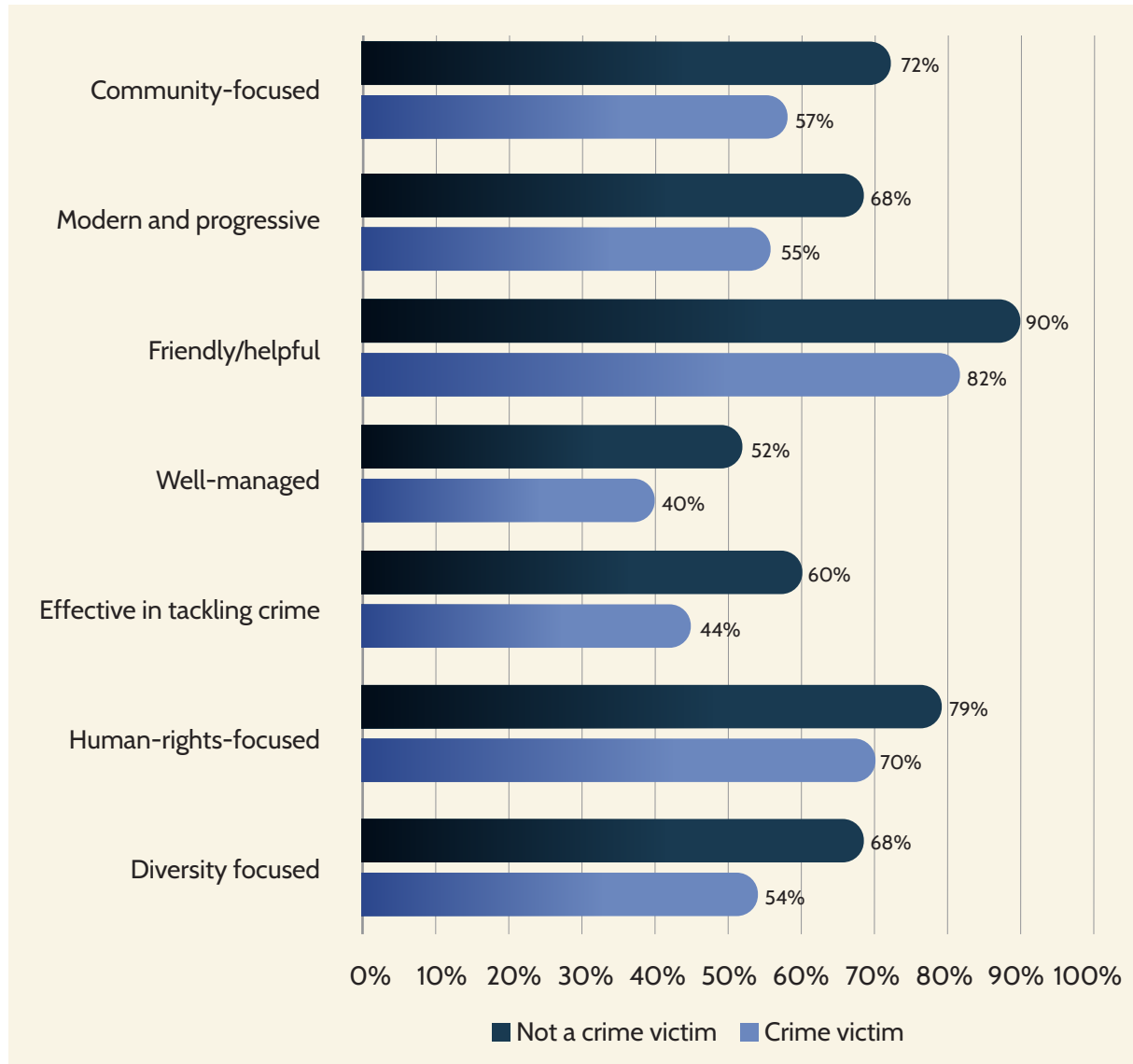
Figure 58: Satisfaction with Service to Local Community by Victim Satisfaction Type



6.8 Does victimisation impact on perceptions of An Garda Síochána?

As in previous years, victimisation negatively impacted perceptions of An Garda Síochána in all areas. For example, 44 percent of victims of crime considered the Gardaí 'effective in tackling crime', compared to 60 percent of respondents who were not a victim. Equally, 72 percent of respondents who had not experienced crime considered An Garda Síochána to be 'community-focused', compared to 57 percent for those who had been victims (see figure 59).

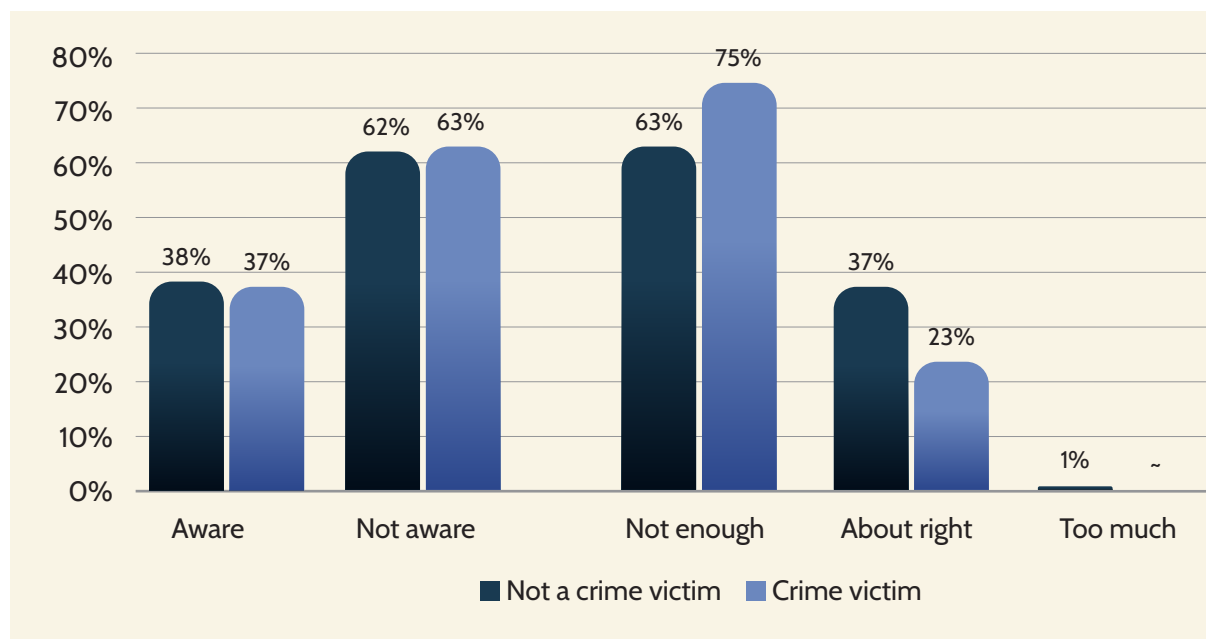
Figure 59: *Victimisation by Perceptions of An Garda Síochána*



6.9 Does victimisation impact awareness of Garda presence/perceptions of Garda presence?

Victimisation did not have a notable impact on awareness of Garda presence within communities among the 2024 PAS respondents. However, continuing the trend seen in previous sections of the negative effect of victimisation on perceptions of the service provided by Gardaí, figure 60 illustrates the impact on views about the adequacy of this presence. Seventy-five percent of respondents who were victims of crime considered Garda presence as 'not enough', compared to 63 percent of those who were not a victim.

Figure 60: Victimisation by Awareness of Presence and Perceptions of Garda Presence



6.10 Victimisation and impact on views about equality of treatment by Gardaí

In all areas examined, and consistent with findings from previous years, victimisation negatively impacted views about An Garda Síochána. To illustrate this, agreement levels ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined) with statements about respectful and fair treatment by Gardaí differed by 9 and 14 percentage points respectively for those who were not a victim and those who were (91% versus 82% for respectful treatment; 77% versus 63% for fair treatment) (see figures 61 (a and b) for further comparisons).

Figure 61 (a): Views on Treatment by Victimisation (Part 1)

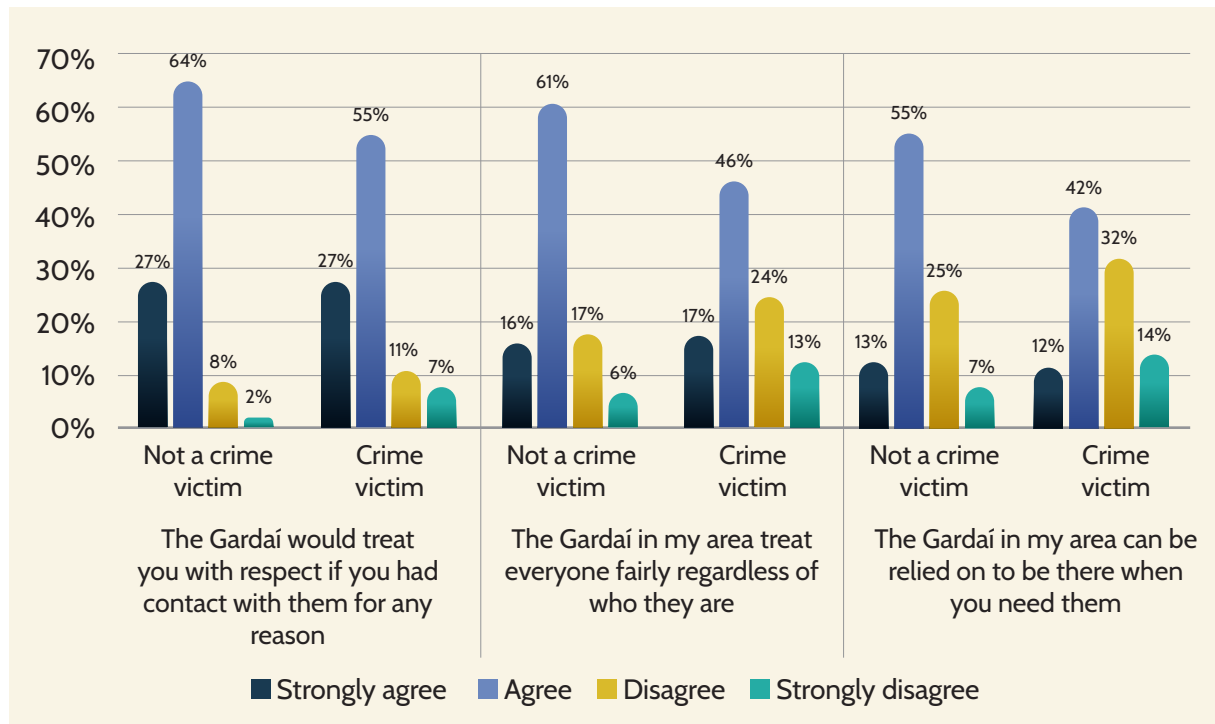
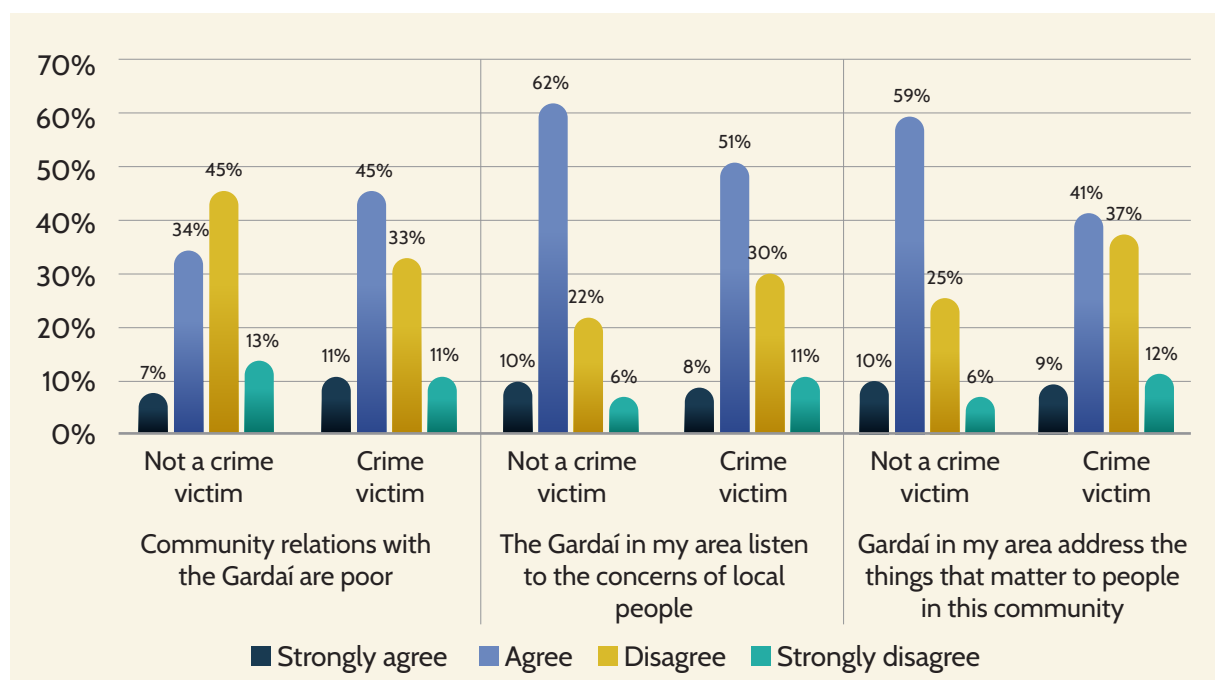


Figure 61 (b): Views on Treatment by Victimisation (Part 2)





CHAPTER SEVEN YOUNG PERSON'S SAMPLE

In this final chapter, the views of a sample of young people aged between 16 and 17 years old are explored. The inclusion of young people remains crucial to understanding the views of this important cohort on crime and policing, Gardaí and service delivery in their communities. Providing this cohort with a voice has always been vital and emphasised within the Public Attitudes Survey. By capturing their views, we can identify areas where improvements can be made in terms of the service we provide to young people, and interactions between them and An Garda Síochána - to deliver immediate outcomes and to influence positive relationships into adulthood.

As previously mentioned in the introduction chapter, the young persons' sample is generated in a home where an adult interview has also been conducted. A suitably willing young person may partake, where parental consent is obtained. It must be noted that this may affect the random nature of the sample. The resulting sample is unweighted and this should be noted when considering the findings. In 2024, the views of 1,039 16 and 17-year-olds were captured – the largest sample of this cohort to date.

So what does the survey tell us? Similar to previous years, young people viewed national crime as more serious than local crime and held the view that 'sexual offences', 'domestic abuse', as well as 'human trafficking' and 'assaults' should be An Garda Síochána's highest policing priorities. While 'burglaries' (69%) and 'robberies' (68%) were up slightly on 2023's figures, there was less emphasis placed on 'traffic offences'. The majority of young people reported that they do not worry about becoming a victim of crime themselves (57%), or someone they live with (59%), but worried the most about 'cyber/online crime' when it came to themselves (29%). Seventy-one percent of young people in the sample reported having 'very few fears' or 'no fears' about crime, while 68 percent reported fear of crime had 'no impact' on quality of life.

Similar to previous years, young people viewed national crime as more serious than local crime and held the view that 'sexual offences', 'domestic abuse', as well as 'human trafficking' and 'assaults' should be An Garda Síochána's highest policing priorities.



Eighty-one percent reported satisfaction with Garda service to communities, with 'don't know' responses excluded. Young people expressed a higher mid-high trust in An Garda Síochána than in 2023, at 92 percent. Perceptions about An Garda Síochána were favourable and young people were in agreement that An Garda Síochána are 'friendly and helpful' (88%), 'human-rights-focused' (83%) and 'community-focused' (76%). Seventy percent (excluding don't knows) were in agreement that the Service is representative of diverse communities. Overall, young people held positive views that they would be treated fairly and with respect by Gardaí.

7.1 Demographics

Similar to previous years, there was a slight difference in the distribution of males and females among the young persons' sample. In 2024, males made up a larger proportion (53% versus 47% females), with the vast majority of the samples' nationality being Irish (91%). See table 16 for a further breakdown of demographic characteristics.

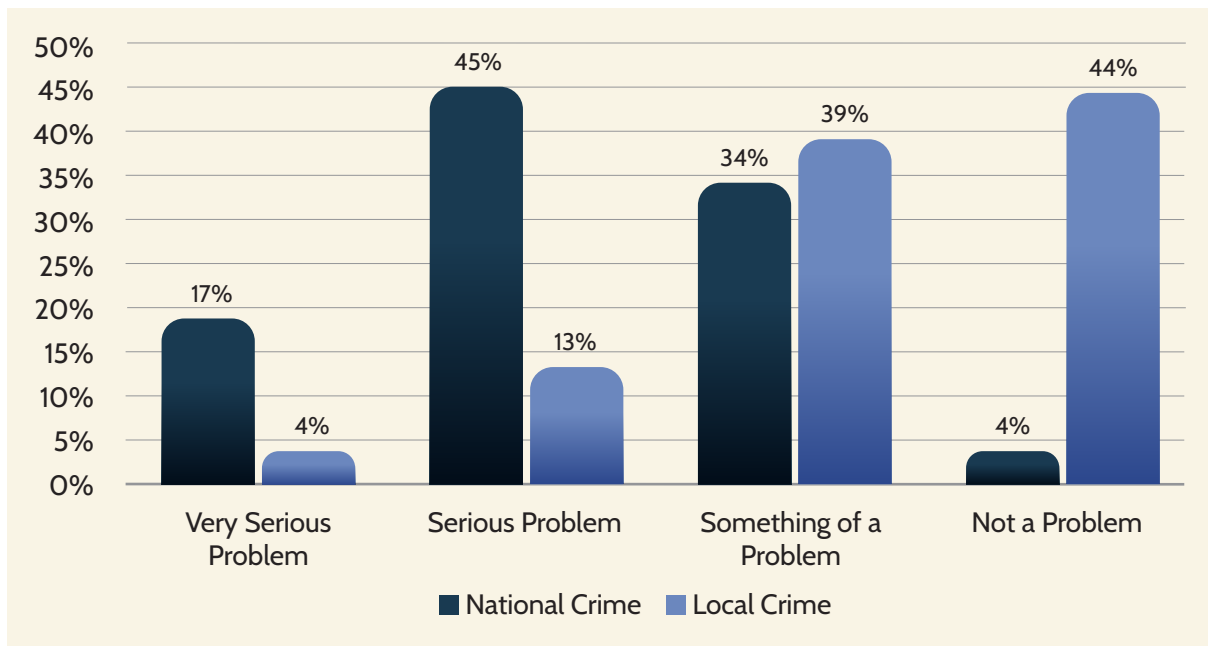
Table 16: Young Persons' Sample Profile 2024

Sex		Social Class		Region			
Male	53%	AB	14%	Dublin		23%	
Female	47%	C1	35%	Leinster (excluding Dublin)		34%	
		C2	31%	Munster		22%	
		DE	16%	Connaught or Ulster		21%	
		F	5%				
Area		Nationality		Ethnicity		Religion	
City	18%	Irish	91%	White Irish	87%	Roman Catholic	75%
Other Urban	42%	Polish	2%	Other white	6%	Church of Ireland	2%
Rural	40%	Indian	1%	Chinese and Other Asian	2%	Other Christian	7%
		UK	1%	African and other Black background	4%	Islam	2%
		Nigerian	1%	Other	1%	No religion	11%
		Lithuanian	1%			Refused	3%
		Latvian	1%			Other	1%
		Other	3%				

7.2 Young Peoples' Perceptions of Crime in Ireland and Policing Priorities

7.2.1 Perceptions of Crime

A similar trend to last year was seen - young people viewed national crime as more of a problem than local crime. Of the cohort, sixty-two percent considered national crime to be 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem, compared to 17 percent who held this view about local crime. Forty-four percent of young people viewed local crime as 'not a problem' (see figure 62).

Figure 62: Perceptions of the Seriousness of National and Local Crime

7.2.2 Policing Priorities for 16 and 17-year-olds

Similar to the adult sample, in relation to An Garda Síochána's policing priorities, young people held the view that 'sexual offences' (91%), 'domestic abuse' (88%), 'assaults' (84%) and 'human trafficking' (82%) should be the highest priorities for Gardaí. 'Illegal weapons' (79%), 'drug offences' (70%) and 'burglaries' (69%) were at a higher percentage this year among the sample than in 2023. Sixteen and 17-year-olds ranked 'public order offences' (44%) and 'traffic offences' (36%) as the lowest priority for An Garda Síochána, and lower than in the adult sample (see table 17).

Table 17: Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána 16 and 17-year-olds

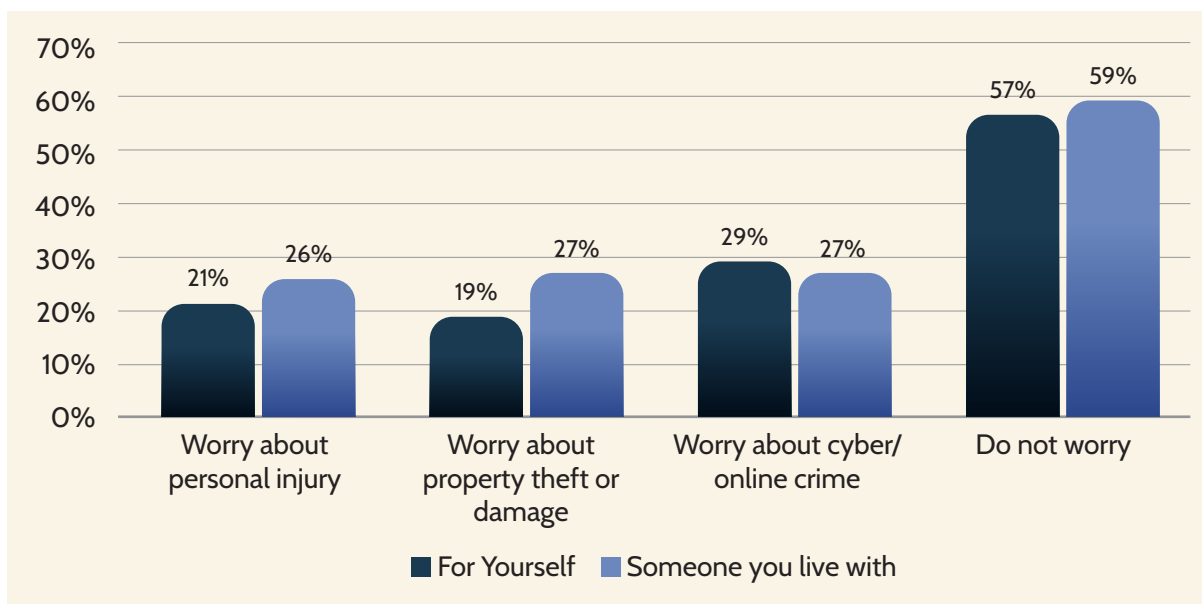
	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Sexual Offences	91%	7%	-
Domestic Abuse	88%	11%	-
Human Trafficking	84%	11%	5%
Assaults	82%	15%	-
Illegal Weapons	79%	15%	6%
Drug Offences	70%	26%	4%
Burglaries	69%	27%	3%
Robberies	68%	29%	3%
Hate Crime	66%	25%	9%
Criminal Damage	60%	34%	5%
Road Safety	60%	32%	8%
Fraud	59%	33%	9%
Public Order Offences	44%	42%	14%
Traffic Offences	36%	45%	20%

7.3 Worry about Victimisation and Fear of Crime

7.3.1 Perceived likelihood of victimisation among 16 and 17-year-olds

Fifty-seven percent of young people reported they 'do not worry' about themselves becoming a victim of crime - this figure is slightly higher than last year when it stood at 53 percent, and is greater than in the adult sample (44%). Cyber/online crime (29%) caused more worry for young people than personal injury (21%) and property theft or damage (19%). However, as with adults, 16 and 17-year-olds worried more about someone they live with being a victim of personal injury (26%) and property theft or damage (27%) (see figure 63).

Figure 63: Perceived Likelihood of Victimisation 16 and 17-year-olds



7.3.2 Fear about the level of crime in Ireland and impact of this fear on quality of life

As figure 64 highlights, 71 percent of younger people surveyed in 2024 had 'very few fears' or 'no fears' about crime (54% in the adult sample). A greater proportion of young people (68%), than adults (57%), reported that having a fear of crime had no impact on quality of life (figure 65).

Figure 64: Fear of Crime among 16 and 17-year-olds

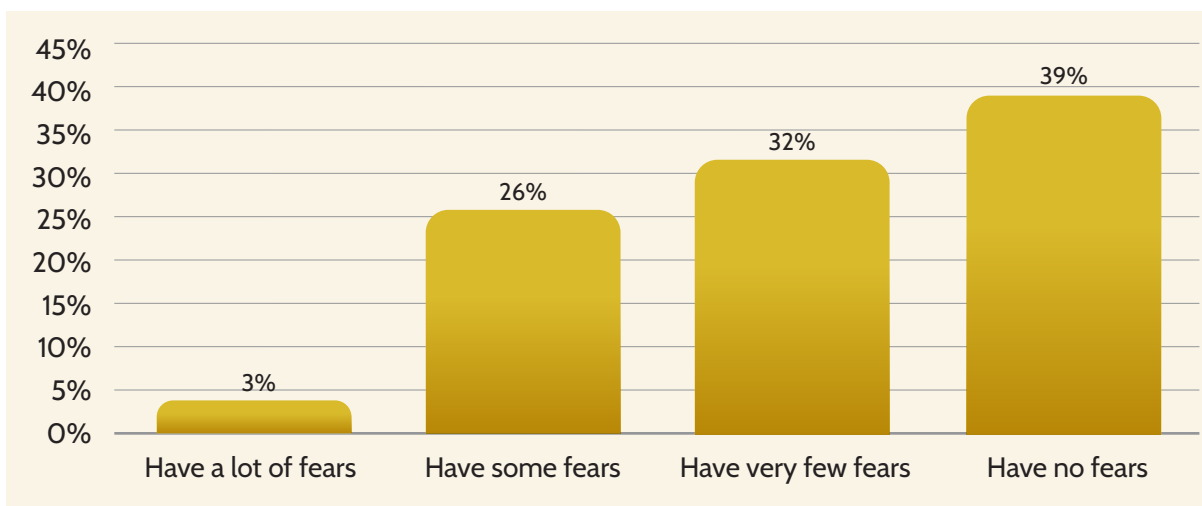
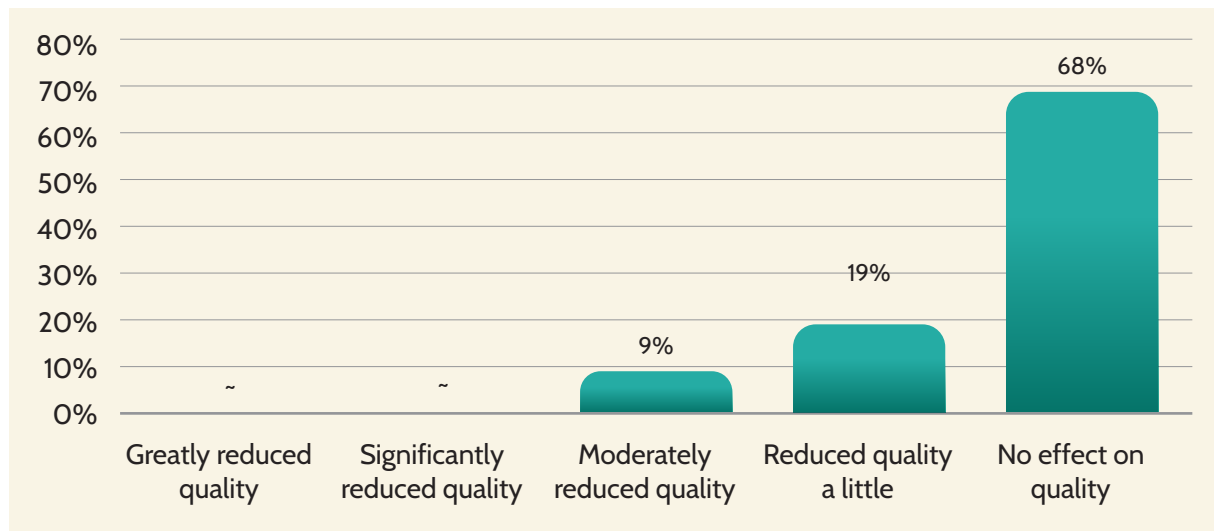
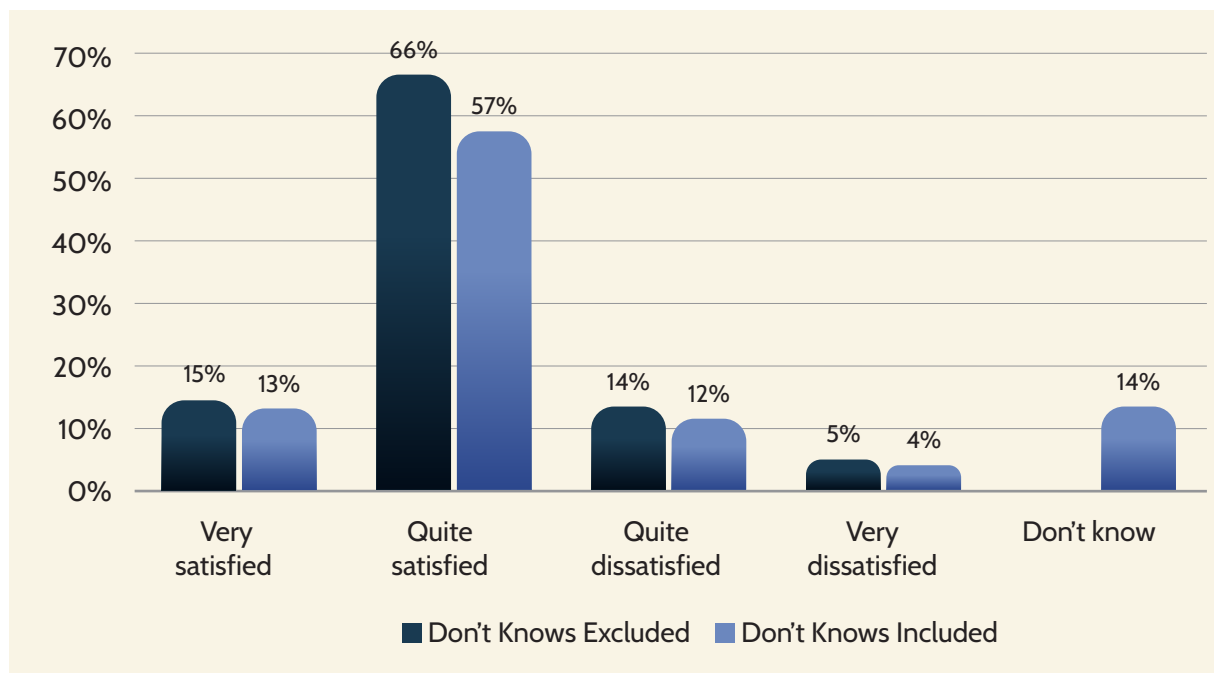


Figure 65: Impact of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life 16 and 17-year-olds

7.4 Satisfaction with and trust in An Garda Síochána

7.4.1 Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities among 16 and 17-year-olds

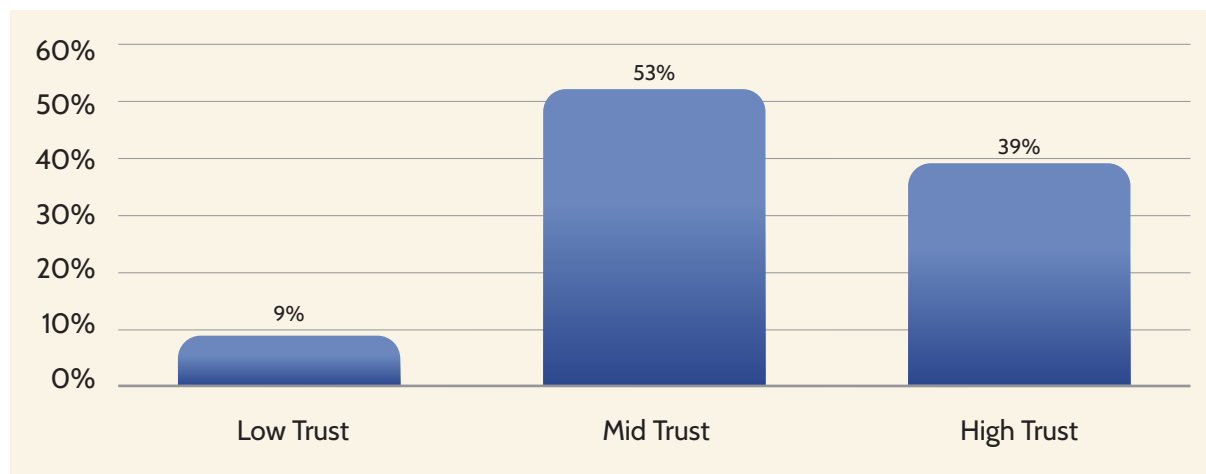
The proportion of young people who responded 'don't know' to how satisfied they are with the Garda service to their communities was 14 percent. When 'don't knows' are excluded from the analysis, satisfaction ('very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied') with Garda service to local communities among 16 and 17 year-olds was reported at 81 percent (see figure 66 for analysis) – substantially greater than the adult sample (70%).

Figure 66: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities 16 and 17-year-olds

7.4.2 Trust in An Garda Síochána

While adults held greater levels of high trust (43% versus 39% for young people), 92 percent of young people in the 2024 survey expressed mid-high trust levels in An Garda Síochána (88% for adults) (see figure 67).

Figure 67: Levels of Trust in An Garda Síochána among 16 and 17-year-olds



7.5 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

In the 2024 survey, the majority of young people, when 'don't know' responses were excluded, held positive views of An Garda Síochána. Similar to last year, agreement levels were highest with the statement that An Garda Síochána are 'friendly/helpful' (88%). Young people were more likely to agree that the Gardaí are 'community-focused' (76%) and 'modern and progressive' (74%), than adults (71% and 67% respectively), and more likely to agree they are 'human-right-focused' (83%) – 79 percent of adults agreed with this. Of the observed lower levels, 67 percent of young people felt An Garda Síochána are 'well-managed' (slightly lower than previous years, but higher than the adult sample (52%)), while 72 percent reported the Gardaí 'effective in tackling crime' (60% for adults). It is important to note that 'don't know' responses were high for this question, ranging between six percent (in terms of the friendliness and helpfulness of Gardaí) and 22 percent (in terms of whether Gardaí are human-rights-focused) (see figure 68 (b) for analysis including 'don't knows'). Equally, 'don't know' responses were higher for young people than for adults in a number of areas:

- Community-focused – 19% (14% for adults).
- Well-managed – 22% (19% for adults).
- Effective in tackling crime – 13% (11% for adults).
- Human-rights-focused – 22% (20% for adults).

Fifty-seven percent of young people felt An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities, similar to adults (56%). Excluding 'don't know' responses this figure stood at 70 percent (see figure 69).

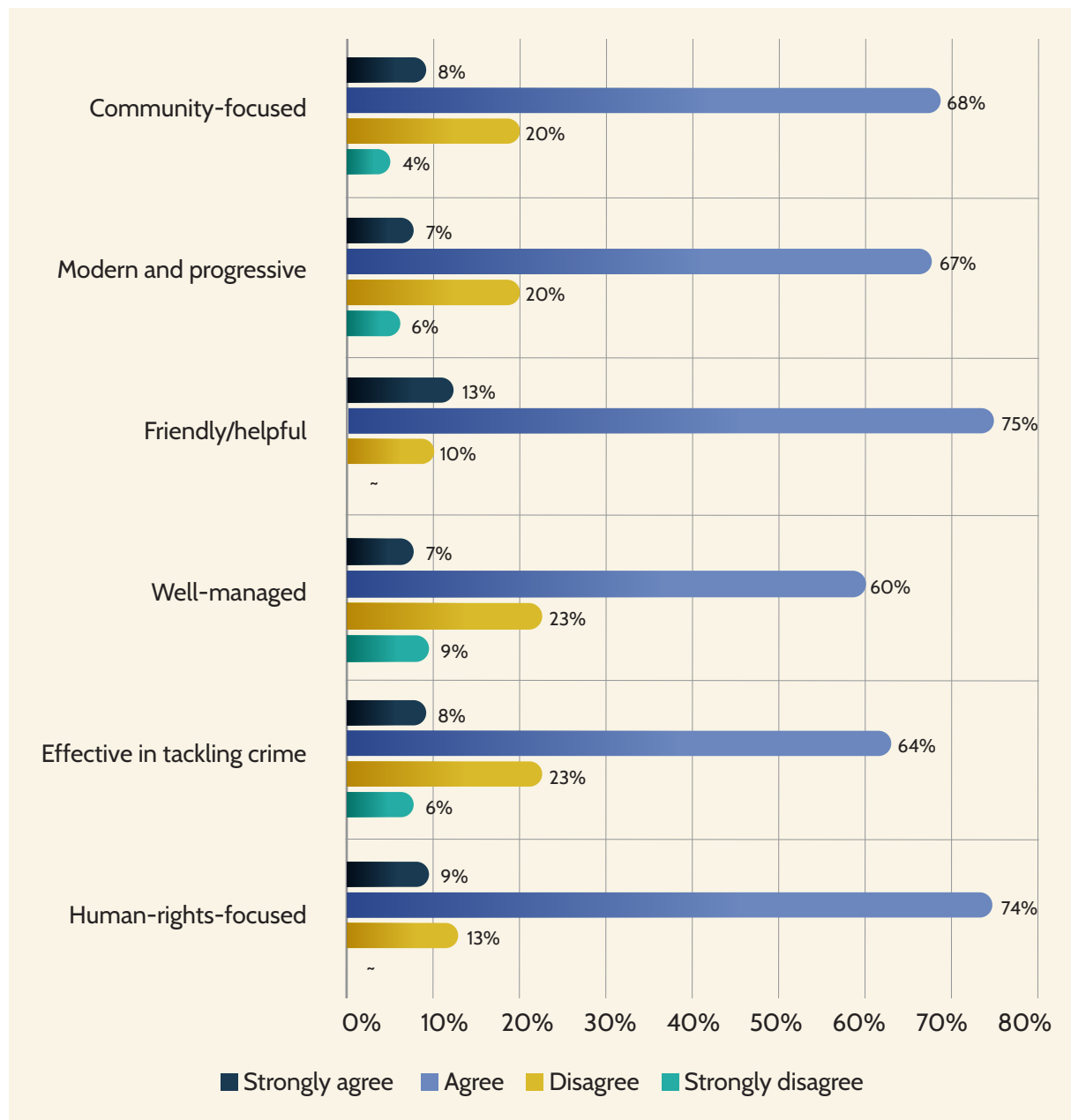
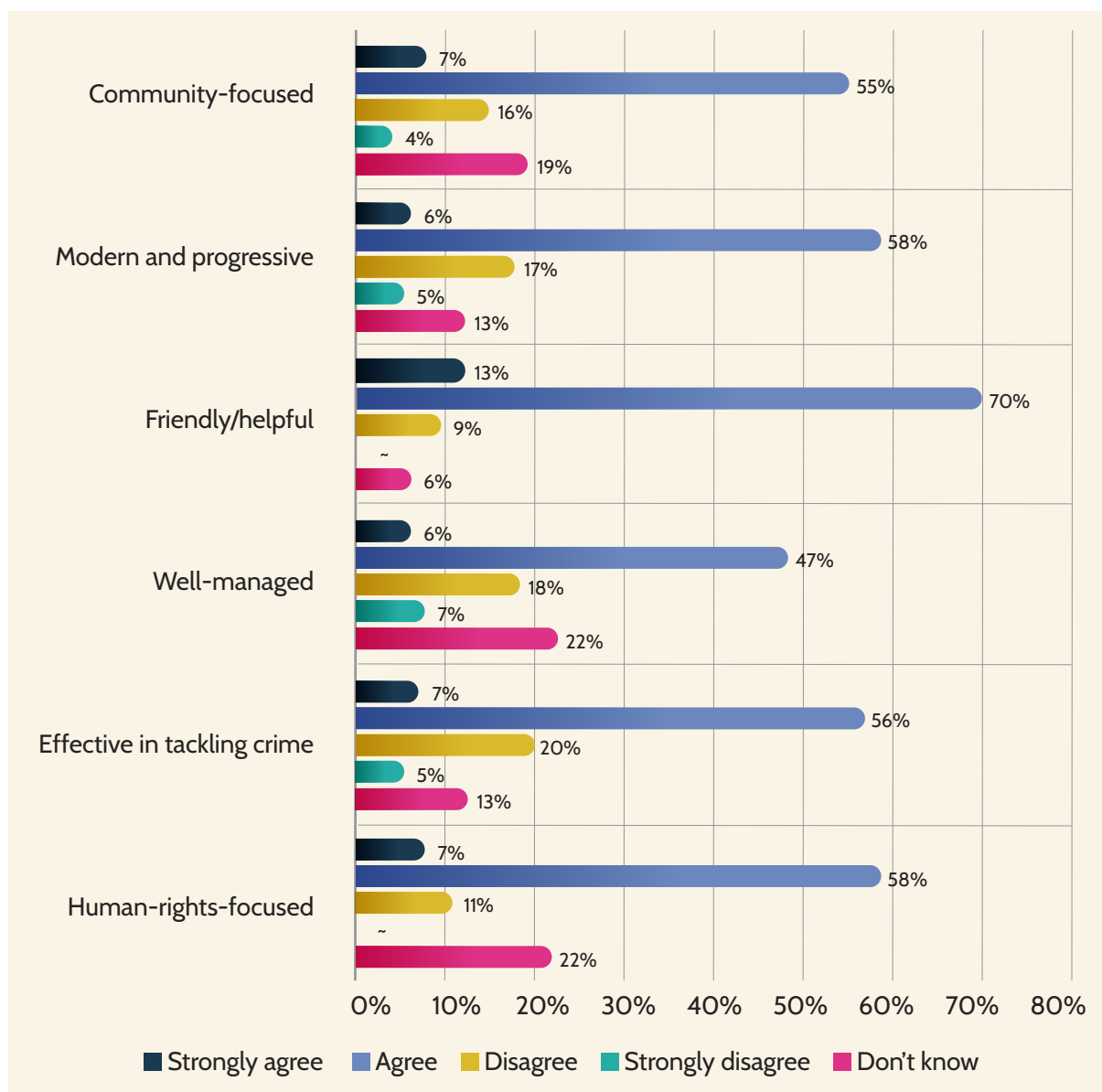
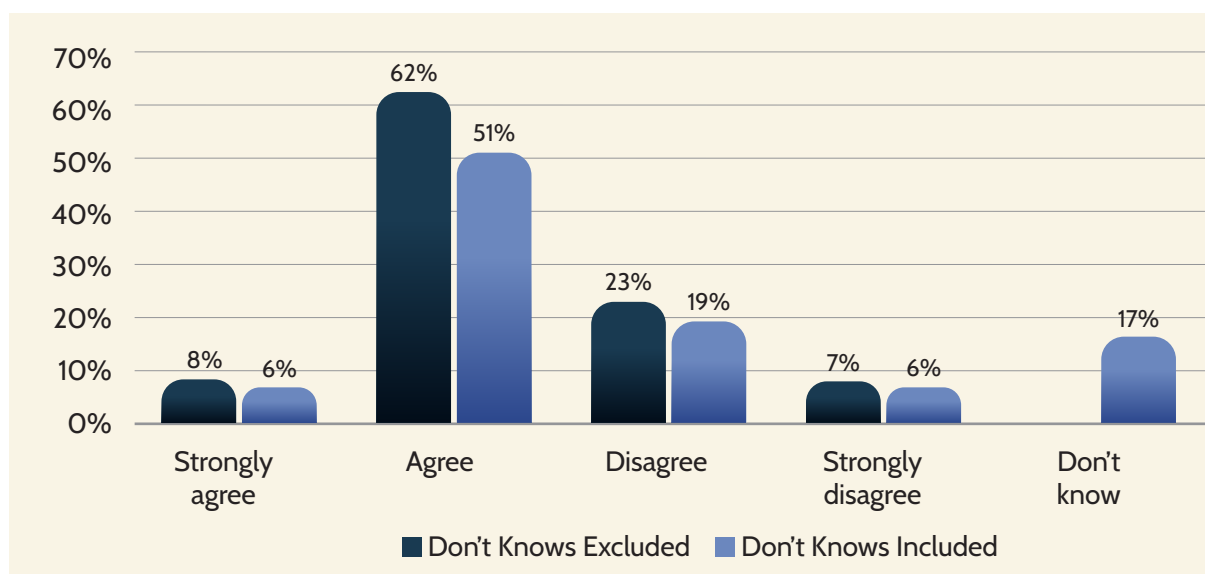
Figure 68 (a): Perceptions of An Garda Síochána among 16 and 17-year-olds (excluding 'don't knows')

Figure 68 (b): Perceptions of An Garda Síochána among 16 and 17-year-olds (including 'don't knows')**Figure 69: Perception of An Garda Síochána being Representative of Diverse Communities**

7.6 Garda Visibility and Perceptions of Garda Presence

7.6.1 Awareness of Garda presence among 16 and 17-year-olds

Over half of young people reported awareness of Garda presence (51%) – 13 percentage points greater than adults – with those who were unaware standing at 49 percent. Young people further reported never seeing Gardaí patrolling on foot (69%), or bicycle (84%). A slightly greater percentage reported seeing Gardaí regularly patrol by car (21%), than adults (17%) (See figures 70 and 71).

Figure 70: Awareness of Garda Presence 16 and 17-year-olds

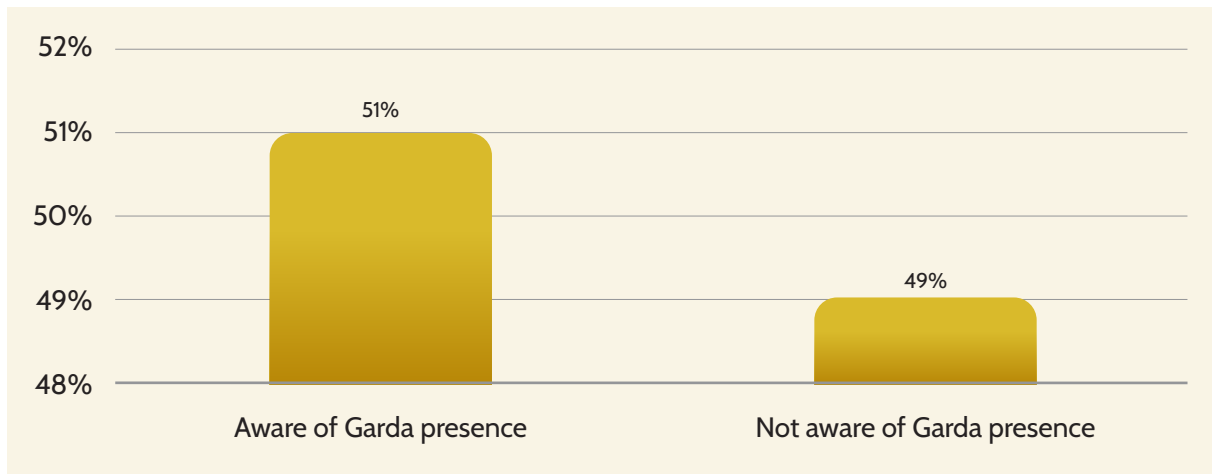
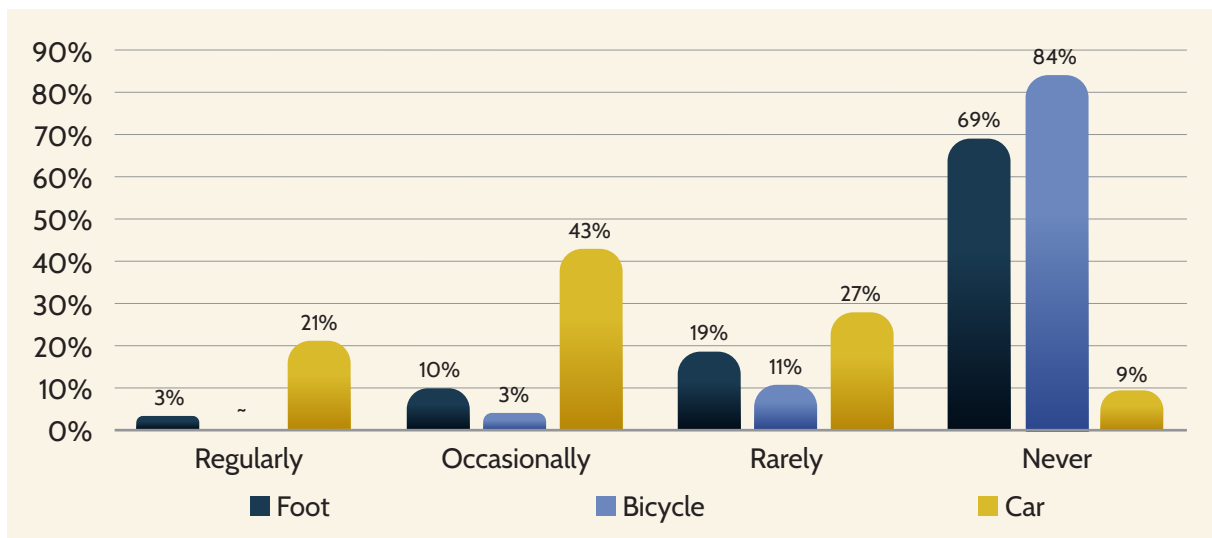


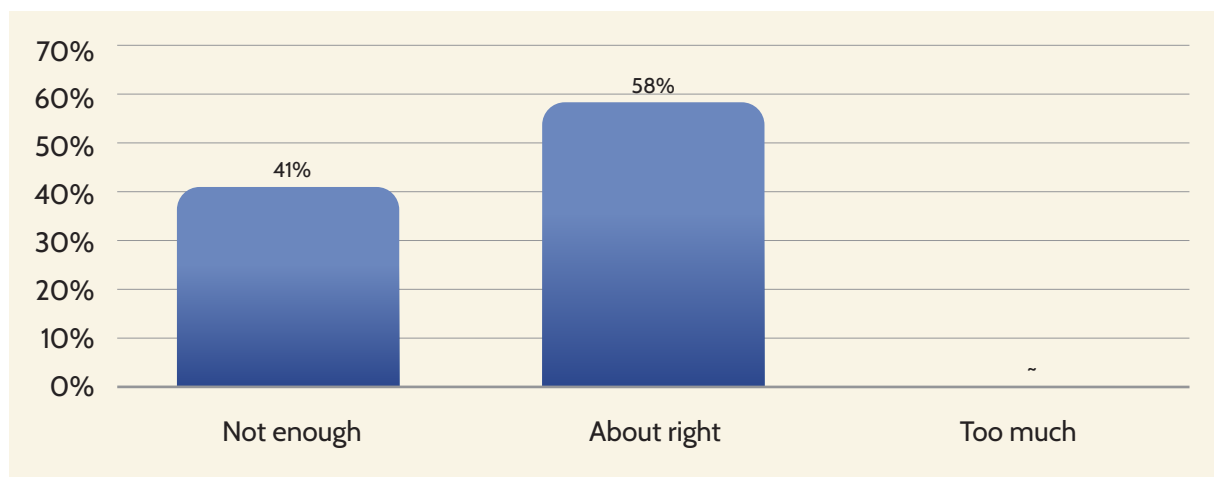
Figure 71: Perception of Frequency of Foot, Bicycle and Car Patrol 16 and 17-year-olds



7.6.2 Perception of Garda presence

Fifty-eight percent of 16 and 17-year-olds were of the view that this is 'about right' when asked about their opinion of Garda presence in their local areas – adults were far less likely to hold this view, at 36 percent. Forty-one percent of young people felt it was 'not enough' (see figure 72, in which analyses with 'don't know' responses are also presented).

Similar to last year's survey, 16 and 17-year-olds reported the same top two reasons for believing that Garda presence is 'not enough' – 'never or rarely see Gardaí/lack of Gardaí (61%) and 'only see Gardaí in cars' (51%) (see table 18(a)). Notably, sixty percent of young people felt that Garda presence was 'about right' as there is 'not much crime', slightly higher than last year when this stood at 56 percent (see table 18(b) for a further break-down).

Figure 72: Perceptions of Garda Presence among 16 and 17-year-olds**Table 18 (a): Reasons Cited: Garda Presence 'Not Enough' (n=402)**

Reasons that local Garda presence is 'not enough'	%
Never or rarely see Gardaí/lack of Gardaí	61%
Only see in cars	51%
Only when there's crime and trouble	30%
Slow to respond	28%
Not enough Or don't see Gardaí on foot	27%
Used to be more Gardaí	18%
See a crime, but no Gardaí	17%
Garda station closed or open part-time	17%
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	14%
Gardaí can't do anything	11%
Gardaí should check on the elderly/not enough Gardaí to check on elderly	11%
Rely too much on cameras	10%
Not enough being done about domestic abuse/no support for domestic abuse	8%
Other	13%

Table 18 (b): Reasons Cited: Garda Presence 'About Right' (n=563)

Reasons that local Garda presence is 'about right'	%
Not much crime	60%
See Gardaí patrolling in cars	36%
See them quite often	31%
Not necessary to see them all the time	27%
Garda station nearby	23%
Seeing too many is overwhelming	5%
Other	9%

7.7 Treatment by An Garda Síochána

The 16 and 17-year-olds surveyed in 2024 responded positively when asked about expected treatment by An Garda Síochána if they had contact for any reason. With similar results to the adult sample, 88 percent of young people agreed they would be treated with respect, while 71 percent reported the Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (see figure 73 for figures including 'don't know' responses).

Following further exploration, the views of young people in terms of reliability of Gardaí and Garda-community relations reveals an overall positive view, and in most cases slightly more favourable than the sample of adults aged 18 years and over. Seventy-three percent of young people agreed that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed, 6 percentage points greater than adults (67%). As with adults, 58 percent disagreed that Garda-community relations are poor. Seventy-three percent held the view that Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people (71% for adults). Seventy-three percent agreed that Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (68% for adults) (see figure 74).



Figure 73: Expected Treatment by An Garda Síochána (Part 1)

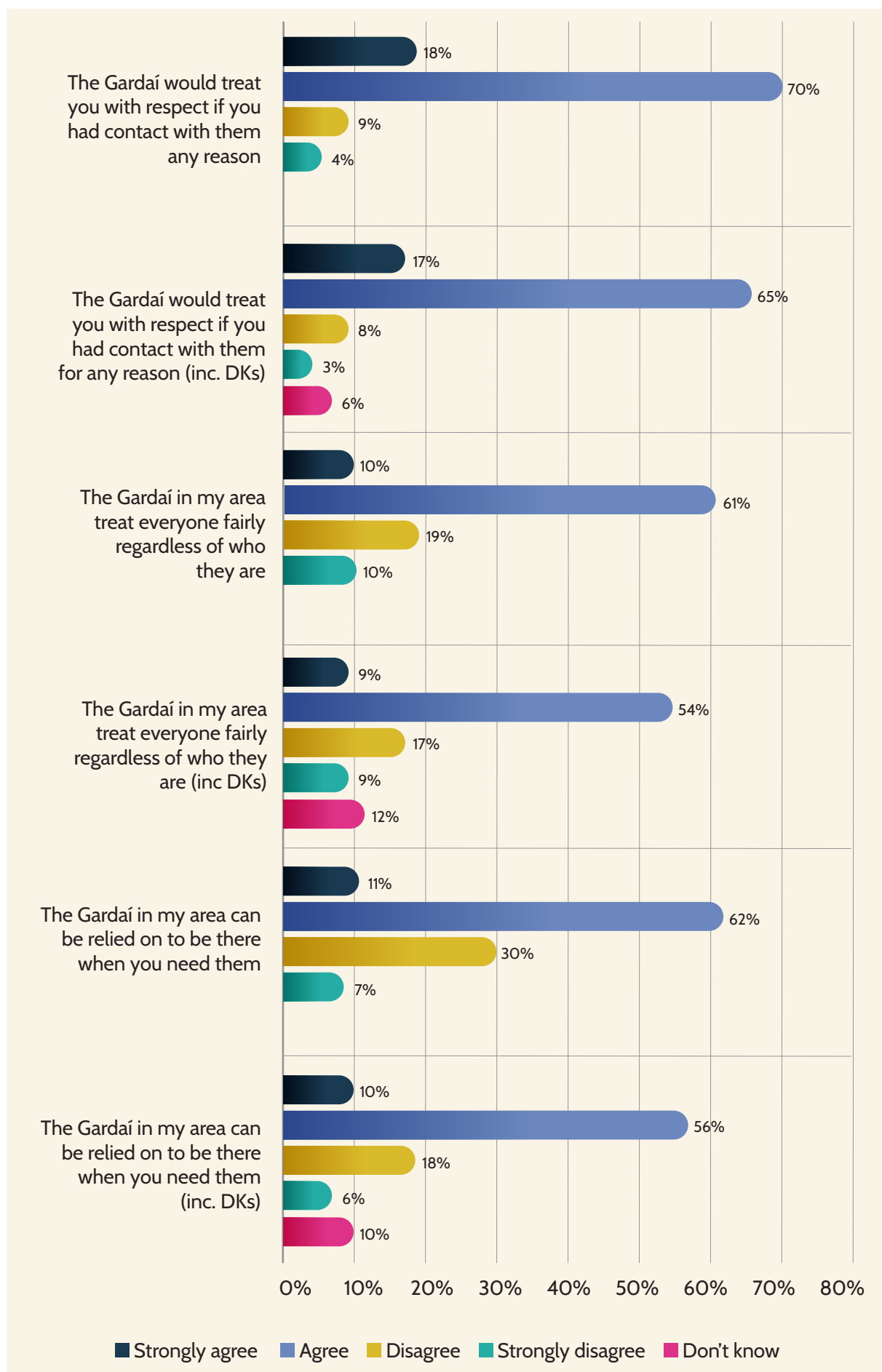
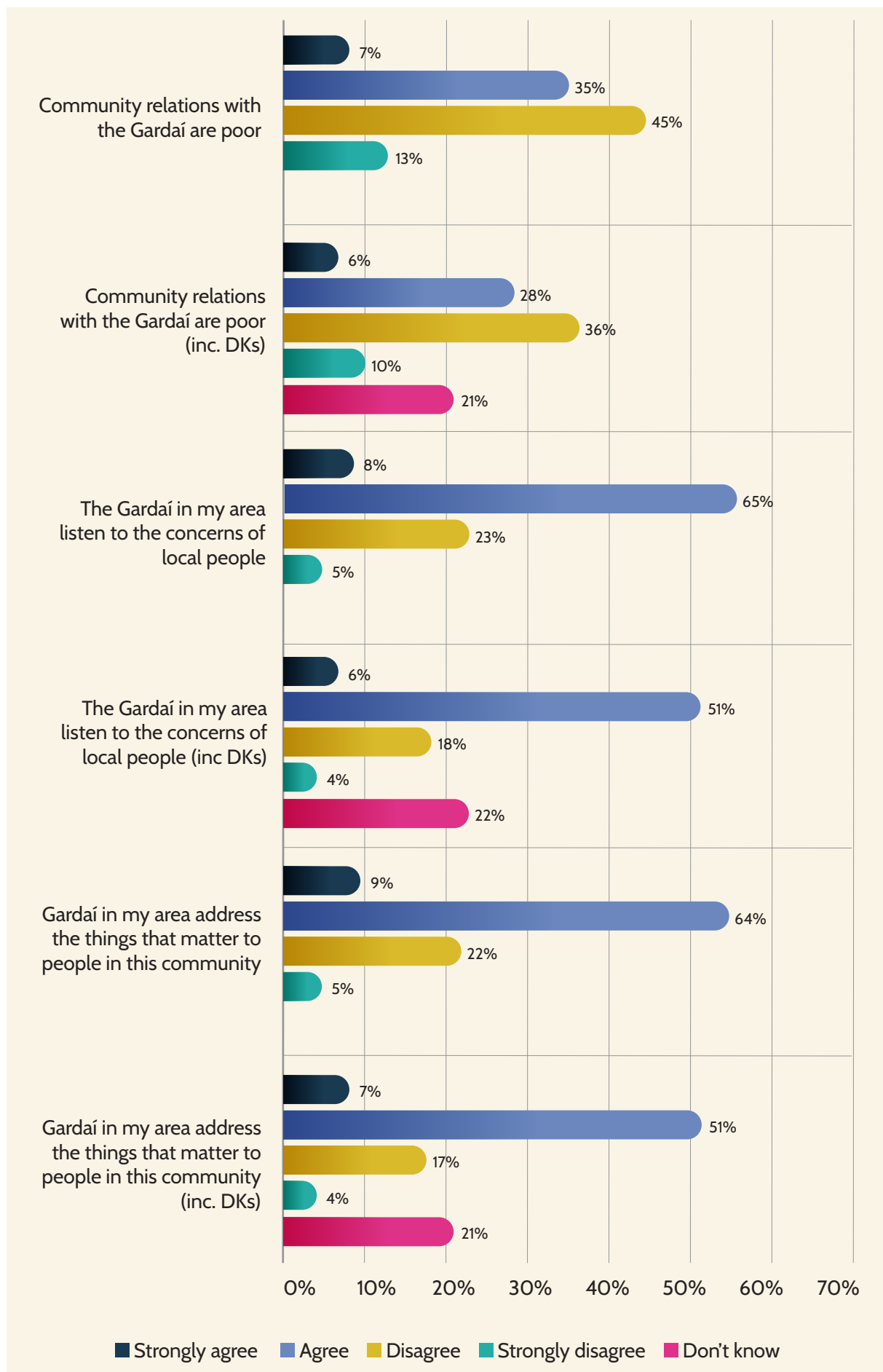


Figure 74: Expected Treatment by An Garda Síochána (Part 2)





APPENDICES

.....
Appendix 1 - A Note on Methodology
.....

Appendix 2 - Additional Tables
.....

Appendix 3 - Victims' Tables
.....

Appendix 4 - 2024 Questionnaire
.....

Appendix 1

Interpreting tables and figures

Frequency and percentages tables are used to explore survey responses within this report. Chapter five explores the main themes by sex, age and nationality, and differences are measured for statistical significance. Where statistically significant differences were discovered, post-hoc analysis of chi square contingency tables, using the adjusted residual method, was completed and are highlighted in the body of the text, along with asterisks within tables (denoting a significant relationship).

Sample Size

The Garda Public Attitudes Survey is a survey of a random sample of the Irish population. The margin of error has been calculated at +/-1.1 percent for the adult sample. When analysis is conducted on smaller samples, such as victims of crime, the margin of error increases.

A further issue with lower sample sizes is they may provide unreliable findings, as well as presenting confidentiality issues. As such, any cell size with fewer than 30 weighted/unweighted respondents is represented by a dash within tables. In figures/charts this is displayed as a tilde (~). However, it should be noted, percentages for those cell sizes greater than 30 are based on total number of responses for that column.

Percentages

A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category identified in the figures or tables by summing two or more percentages (e.g. 'strongly agree' plus 'agree' may constitute 'agreement'). The percentage has been recalculated for the single combined category and, therefore, may differ by one or two percentage points from the sum of the percentages derived from the figures and tables. Another factor to consider is that some questions in the survey allow respondents to choose multiple responses. Finally, not all columns where percentages are used will add up to 100 per cent exactly. This is due to the rounding of figures, which is based on the rule that if the digit is greater than or equal to 5, the digit is rounded up. If the digit is 4 or lower, it is rounded down.

'Don't Know' Responses

Preliminary analysis of all variables was completed to assess the proportion of 'don't know' responses. A decision was then taken as to whether they were to be excluded from subsequent analyses. In questions where 'don't know' responses accounted for fewer than 10 percent, they were excluded from analysis and are not presented. In cases where 'don't know' responses totalled 10 percent or more of respondents' replies, analysis including such responses are presented for completeness.

Appendix 2

Figures and tables in the following appendices present the main findings by social class and urban/rural divide. Note: As stated earlier in the report, the sample is representative of the population in terms of sex, age, social class and nationality. However, it is not representative of urban/rural divide. The tables use a breakdown of social class as used by market research companies. Table 2, in the introductory chapter, sets out the definition of these social classes. The tables also break down responses by geographical areas, including 'city', 'other urban' and 'rural'. 'City' areas are city boroughs, 'other urban' is any area with a population between 1,500 and 10,000 and 'rural' areas have a population of less than 1,500.

Perceptions of Crime

Table 1: Perceptions of National Crime by Social Class Grouping

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Perceptions of National Crime					
A very serious problem	18%*	27%*	31%	40%*	36%*
A serious problem	40%	42%	43%	39%*	49%*
Something of a problem	36%*	28%*	21%	18%*	14%*
Not a problem	5%*	4%*	5%	4%*	–

Table 2: Perceptions of Local Crime by Social Class Grouping

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Perceptions of Local Crime					
A very serious problem	4%*	4%*	8%*	6%	–
A serious problem	13%*	14%	15%	15%	15%
Something of a problem	39%	39%*	38%	36%*	40%
Not a problem	45%	43%	39%*	44%	42%

Table 3: Perceptions of National Crime by Urban/Rural Divide

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Perceptions of National Crime			
A very serious problem	34%*	26%*	36%*
A serious problem	39%*	42%	43%*
Something of a problem	23%	27%*	19%*
Not a problem	5%	5%*	2%*

Table 4: Perceptions of Local Crime by Urban/Rural Divide

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Perceptions of Local Crime			
A very serious problem	10%	5%	2%
A serious problem	19%	15%	10%
Something of a problem	37%	39%	33%
Not a problem	34%	41%	56%

Table 5: Perceptions of National Crime by Contact Type

	Self-initiated contact	Garda-initiated contact	No contact
Perceptions of National Crime by Contact			
A very serious problem	30%	34%	31%
A serious problem	44%	39%	41%
Something of a problem	23%	25%	24%
Not a problem	4%	-	4%

Table 6: Perceptions of Local Crime by Contact Type

	Self-initiated contact	Garda-initiated contact	No contact
Perceptions of Local Crime by Contact			
A very serious problem	6%	6%	5%*
A serious problem	19%*	18%*	13%*
Something of a problem	42%*	41%	37%*
Not a problem	33%*	35%*	44%*

Policing Priorities

Table 7: Policing Priorities by Social Class, Region and Urban/Rural Divide

	Social Class					Region				Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught/ Ulster	City	Other Urban	Rural
Sexual Offences	90%	89%	88%	90%	89%	85%*	91%*	90%	94%*	89%	88%*	91%*
Domestic Abuse	86%*	87%*	85%*	88%*	88%*	82%*	88%*	88%*	91%*	86%	85%*	89%*
Assaults	85%	86%	85%	86%	83%*	84%*	85%	84%*	90%*	86%	85%	86%
Human Trafficking	83%	83%*	83%	85%*	87%*	78%*	85%*	86%*	88%*	85%	82%*	85%*
Illegal Weapons	79%	79%	79%	80%	80%	76%	80%*	82%*	80%	79%	79%	80%
Robberies	70%*	77%	77%	79%*	77%	74%*	76%	77%	82%*	75%	76%*	79%*
Burglaries	71%*	77%	76%	79%*	79%	73%*	77%	77%	83%*	74%*	76%*	80%*
Drug Offences	65%*	74%*	75%	79%*	82%*	69%*	74%*	83%*	76%	72%*	74%*	79%*
Hate Crime	69%	71%	70%	71%	74%	68%*	70%	73%*	71%	70%	70%	71%
Road Safety	64%*	68%	67%*	72%*	71%	62%*	70%*	70%	73%*	67%	66%*	73%*
Fraud	60%*	64%*	67%	72%*	73%*	59%*	69%*	72%*	72%*	64%*	65%*	73%*
Criminal Damage	57%*	63%*	65%	69%*	74%*	58%*	67%*	70%*	67%*	64%	63%*	69%*
Public Order Offences	55%	57%	55%	58%*	55%	57%	55%*	60%*	53%*	60%*	56%	56%
Traffic Offences	37%*	43%	42%	49%*	41%	42%*	44%	46%*	43%	45%*	41%*	46%*

Table 8: Policing Priorities by Contact Type

	Any Self-initiated contact	Any Garda-initiated contact	No contact
Sexual Offences	93%*	90%	89%*
Domestic Abuse	89%*	86%	87%*
Assaults	87%	81%*	85%
Human Trafficking	87%*	82%	83%*
Illegal Weapons	84%*	77%	79%*
Robberies	78%	71%*	77%
Burglaries	79%	74%	77%
Drug Offences	75%	68%	75%
Hate Crime	74%*	66%*	70%
Road Safety	67%	63%*	69%*
Fraud	67%	61%*	68%*
Criminal Damage	67%	64%	65%
Public Order Offences	57%	49%*	57%
Traffic Offences	42%	36%*	44%*

Fear of Crime and Impact on Quality of Life

Table 9: Fear of Crime by Social Class and Urban/Rural Divide

Fear of Crime	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	CI	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Have a lot of fears	11%	9%*	12%*	11%	9%	10%	12%*	8%*
Have some fears	41%*	37%	34%*	35%	34%	36%	36%	36%
Have very few fears	25%	25%	24%	23%	25%	25%	23%*	25 %*
Have no fears at all	23%*	30%	20%	30%*	7%	30%	29%	31%

Table 10: Impact of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life by Social Class and Urban/Rural Divide

Fear of Crime	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	CI	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Greatly reduced quality	-	2% *	3 % *	2%	-	3 % *	2%	1 % *
Significantly reduced quality	4%	5%	6 % *	5%	-	6% *	5% *	3% *
Moderately reduced quality	17%*	15%	15%	15%	14%	18%*	15%	13%*
Reduced quality a little	22%	21%	21%	21%	23%	22%	20% *	23 % *
No effect on quality	56%	58% *	56%	56%	60%	51%*	57%	60% *

Satisfaction

Table 11: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities by Social Class Group

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Very satisfied	15%	14%	17%*	13%*	12%
Quite satisfied	59%*	58%*	54%*	54%*	56%
Quite dissatisfied	21%	20%	21%	21%	19%
Very dissatisfied	5%*	8%*	8%	11%*	12%*

Table 12: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities by Urban/Rural Divide

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Very satisfied	20%*	13%*	13%*
Quite satisfied	51%*	58%*	58%*
Quite dissatisfied	20%	21%	20%
Very dissatisfied	9%	8%	9%

Trust

Table 13: Trust in An Garda Síochána by Social Class Group

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Low Trust	9%*	10%*	13%	17%*	9%*
Mid Trust	46%	47%*	45%	40%*	47%
High Trust	45%	43%	42%	43%	44%

Table 14: Trust in An Garda Síochána by Urban/Rural Divide

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Low Trust	16%*	12%	10%*
Mid Trust	44%	45%	45%
High Trust	39%*	43%	46%*

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

Table 15: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána by Social Class Group

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Community-focused	75%*	74%*	72%	66%*	69%
Modern or Progressive	64%*	66%	68%	68%	71%*
Friendly or helpful	92%*	92%*	89%*	87%*	93%*
Well-managed	49%	50%*	54%*	53%	52%
Effective in tackling crime	58%	59%	61%	58%	64%*
Human-rights-focused	78%	80%*	78%	77%*	84%*

Table 16: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána by Urban/Rural Divide

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Community-focused	69%*	73%*	70%*
Modern or progressive	65%	66%*	70%*
Friendly or helpful	86%*	90%	91%*
Well-managed	48%*	53%*	52%
Effective in tackling crime	55%*	59%	63%*
Human-rights-focused	73%*	79%	82%*

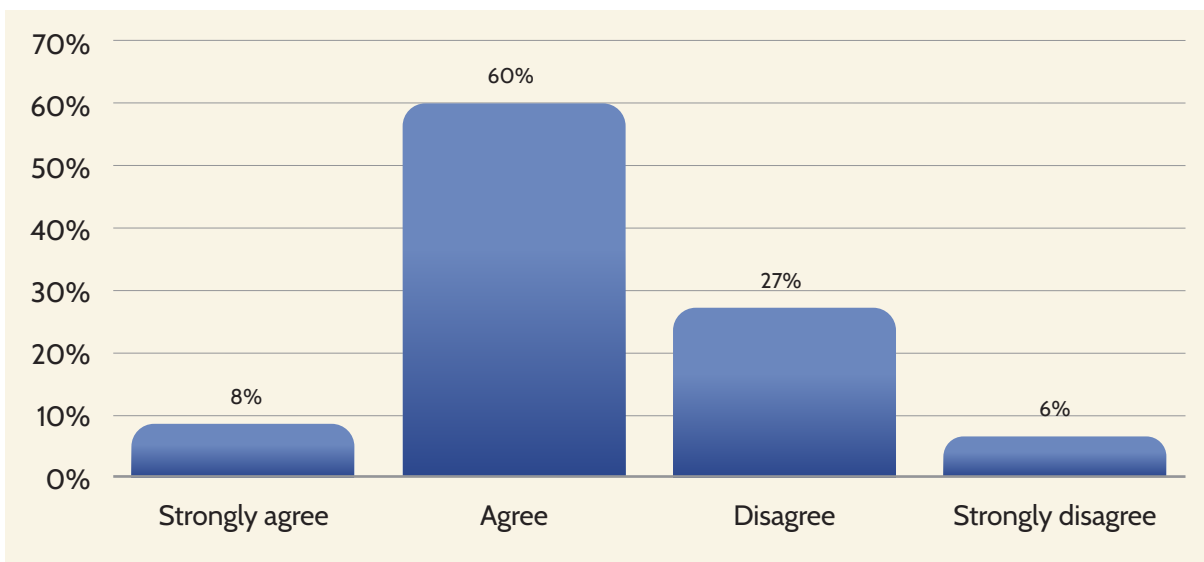
Diversity

Table 17: Whether An Garda Síochána Represents Diverse Communities by Social Class

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities					
Strongly agree	6%	7%	8 %*	6 % *	4% *
Agree	46%*	49%	50%	52%*	55%*
Disagree	28%*	24%*	21%	20%*	15%*
Strongly disagree	5%	6%	6%	5%	4%
Don't know	16%	14%*	16%	18%*	23%*

Table 18: Whether An Garda Síochána Represents Diverse Communities by Urban/Rural Divide

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities			
Strongly agree	9% *	6%*	6%*
Agree	42%*	50%	56%*
Disagree	28%*	23%	18%*
Strongly disagree	8%*	5%	4%*
Don't know	13%*	17%*	17%

Figure 2: An Garda Síochána is Representative of the Diverse Communities it Serves? (excluding 'don't know' Responses)

Garda Visibility

Table 19: Awareness of Garda Presence by Social Class and Urban/Rural Divide

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Awareness of Garda presence in local area by socio-economic and area groupings								
Aware of Garda Presence	37%	38%	40%*	39%	30%*	38%	39%	37%
Not aware of Garda Presence	63%	62%	60%*	61%	70%*	62%	61%	63%

Table 20: Awareness of Garda Presence by Social Class and Urban/Rural Divide

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	CI	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Awareness of Garda presence in local area by socio-economic and area groupings								
Not enough	59%*	64%	65%*	63%	63%	68%*	64%	59%*
About right	41%*	36%	34%*	36%	37%*	31%*	35%	40%*
Too much	–	–	–	1%*	–	–	1%	–

Treatment by An Garda Síochána

Table 21: Views on Respectful Treatment by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	CI	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
The Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason								
Strongly agree	30%*	29%*	27%	23%*	22%*	31%*	37%	24%*
Agree	63%	63%	62%	64%	69%*	56%*	63%	68%*
Disagree	7%	7%	8%	9%*	7%	8%	8%*	6%*
Strongly disagree	–	2 %*	3%	4%*	–	5%*	2%*	2%*

Table 22: Views on Fair Treatment by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	CI	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are								
Strongly agree	18%*	17%*	16%	14%*	13%*	17%	16%	15%
Agree	64%*	61%	58%*	58%*	71%*	51%*	61%	65%*
Disagree	16%*	17%	19%*	19%*	10%*	22%*	17%	15%*
Strongly disagree	3% *	5%*	7%	9%*	6%	32%*	40%*	29%*

Table 23: Views on Reliability by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	CI	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
The Gardaí in my area can be relied on to be there when you need them								
Strongly agree	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	17%*	12%*	12%*
Agree	57%*	55%*	54%	51%*	54%	50%*	54%	56%*
Disagree	25%	25%	26%	27%	24%	24%	26%*	25%
Strongly disagree	5%*	7%*	8%	10%*	9%	10%*	8%	7%*

Table 24: Views on Community Relations by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	CI	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Community relations with the Gardaí are poor								
Strongly agree	5%*	6%*	9%*	10%*	8%	11%*	7%*	7%*
Agree	32%	32%*	37%*	36%*	34%	38%*	35%	32%*
Disagree	49%*	46%*	41%*	41%*	44%	33%*	46%*	47%*
Strongly disagree	14%	16%*	13%	13%*	15%	19%*	13%*	14%

Table 25: Views on Listening to Concerns by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	CI	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns of local people								
Strongly agree	11%	11%	10%	10%	8%*	12%*	10%	9%*
Agree	66%*	64%*	60%	57%*	65%	54%*	62%	65%*
Disagree	21%	21%*	24%	24%*	21%	24%*	23%	21%*
Strongly disagree	4%*	4%*	7%	9%*	7%	9%*	6%*	6%*

Table 26: Views on Addressing things that Matter by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	CI	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Gardaí in my area address the things that matter to people in this community								
Strongly agree	10%	10%	11%	11%	9%	12%*	10%	10%
Agree	62%*	60%*	56%*	55%*	59%	51%*	59%	60%
Disagree	25%	25%	26%	25%	26%	28%*	26%	24%*
Strongly disagree	3%*	5%*	7%	9%*	6%	9%*	6%*	6%

Appendix 3

Victims

Table 27: Demographic Profile of Victims 2024

Sex		Age		Social Class		Region	
Male	48%	18-24	11%	AB	17%	Dublin	34%
Female	52%	25-34	22%	C1	33%	Leinster (excluding Dublin)	30%
		35-44	24%	C2	21%	Munster	24%
		45-54	19%	DE	22%	Connaught or Ulster	12%
		55-64	13%	F	7%		
		65+	12%				

Area		Nationality		Ethnicity		Religion	
City	29%	Irish	82%	White Irish	82%	Roman Catholic	65%
Other Urban	45%	Indian	3%	Other White	8%	Church of Ireland	2%
Rural	26%	UK	2%	African + Other Black	3%	Other Christian	3%
		Polish	2%	Chinese + Other Asian	5%	Islam	3%
		Lithuanian	1%	Other	3%	Other	3%
		Other	10%			No religion	21%
						Refused	3%

*Figures may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 28: Frequencies of Occurrence of each Crime Type

Victimisation	Once	Twice	Three or more	Total n
Burglary at home or farm	87%	-	-	135
Theft of bike	83%	-	-	70
Theft of car	93%	-	0%	52
Other theft	89%	-	-	51
Robbery	-	-	-	40
Criminal Damage	78%	-	-	148
Theft form person (pick pocket)	-	-	-	39
Assault	77%	-	-	84
Fraud	89%	-	-	43
Online fraud	80%	-	-	109
Other	-	-	-	33

Appendix 4

The Questionnaire

Garda Public Attitudes Survey

January 2024

ASK ALL ADULTS 18+ YEARS

Q.1 ASK ALL

How would you describe the level of crime in Ireland?

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.

Q.2 ASK ALL

How would you describe the level of crime in your local community?

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.

	Q.1 Ireland	Q.2 Local Community
Very serious problem	1	1
Serious problem	2	2
Something of a problem	3	3
Not a problem	4	4
Don't know	5	5

Q.3 ASK ALL

What priority do you think An Garda Síochána should give to each of the following?

	High	Medium	Low
Sexual Offences	1	2	3
Assault	1	2	3
Human Trafficking	1	2	3
Robberies	1	2	3
Drugs Offences	1	2	3
Burglary	1	2	3
Illegal Weapons	1	2	3
Fraud	1	2	3
Traffic Offences	1	2	3
Road Safety	1	2	3
Criminal Damage	1	2	3
Public Order Offences	1	2	3
Hate Crime	1	2	3
Domestic Abuse	1	2	3

Q.4a ASK ALL

Please indicate if you worry about the possibility that you, might become a victim of the following crimes?

Yes, I worry about personal injury	1
Yes, I worry about property theft or damage	2
Yes, I worry about cybercrime / online crime	3
No - I do not worry about any of these	4

Q.4b ASK ALL

And please indicate if you worry about the possibility that someone who lives with you might become a victim of any of the following crimes?

Yes, I worry about someone living with me being a victim of personal injury	1
Yes, I worry about someone living with me being a victim of property theft or damage	2
Yes, I worry about someone living with me being a victim of cybercrime / online crime	3
No – I Do not worry that someone living with me would be a victim of any of these	4

Q.5 ASK ALL. SHOWCARD A

To what extent, if any, do you personally have fears about the level of crime in general? **SINGLE CODE.**

Have a lot of fears about the level of crime	1
Have some fears about the level of crime	2
Have very few fears about the level of crime	3
Have no fears at all about the level of crime	4

Q.6 ASK ALL. SHOWCARD B

How much has fear of crime affected your quality of life? **SINGLE CODE.**

Greatly reduced quality	1
Significantly reduced quality	2
Moderately reduced quality	3
Reduced quality a little	4
No effect on quality	5

Q.7 ASK ALL.

As far as you know, is there a regular Garda presence in your area? **SINGLE CODE.**

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

ASK ALL

Q.7a How often is there a Garda presence on foot in your local area? **SINGLE CODE.**

Q.7b How often is there a Garda presence by bicycle in your local area? **SINGLE CODE.**

Q.7c How often is there a Garda presence by car in your local area? **SINGLE CODE.**

	Q.7a By foot	Q.7b By bicycle	Q.7c By car
Regularly	1	1	1
Occasionally	2	2	2
Rarely	3	3	3
Never	4	4	4
Don't know	5	5	5

Q.8 ASK ALL

Overall, do you think that the Garda presence in your local area is not enough, about right or too much?
SINGLE CODE.

Not enough	1
About right	2
Too much	3
Don't know	4

Q.8a ASK ALL ANSWERED 'NOT ENOUGH' (CODE 1) AT Q.8

Why do you think the Garda presence in your local area is not enough? **DO NOT PROMPT – CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

Never or rarely see Gardaí / lack of Gardaí	1
Only see in cars	2
Not enough or don't see Gardaí on foot	3
Used to be more Gardaí	4
Only when there's crime and trouble	5
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	6
Slow to respond	7
Garda station closed or open part time	8
See crime, but no Gardaí	9
Gardaí can't do anything	10
Rely too much on cameras	11
Gardaí should check on the elderly/not enough Gardaí to check on the elderly	12
Not enough being done about domestic abuse /no support for domestic abuse	13
Not enough being done about traffic offences (including speeding)	14
Other (specify)	15

Q.8b ASK ALL ANSWERED 'ABOUT RIGHT' (CODE 2) AT Q.8

Why do you think the Garda presence in your local area is about right? **DO NOT PROMPT – CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

Not much crime	1
See them quite often	2
See Gardaí patrolling in cars	3
Garda station nearby	4
Not necessary to see them all the time	5
Crime rates are improving	6
See Gardaí on foot	7
Seeing too many is overwhelming	8
Other (specify)	9

Q.8c ASK ALL ANSWERED 'TOO MUCH' (CODE 3) AT Q.8

Why do you think the Garda presence in your local area is too much? **DO NOT PROMPT – CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

Have been stopped by Gardaí	1
Lots of crime so Garda presence is high	2
Can't do anything because so many Gardaí around	3
See Gardaí everywhere	4
Other (specify)	5

Q.9 ASK ALL

Have you had any contact with Gardaí in the last 12 months?

Yes – Contact initiated by you	1
Yes – Garda initiated	2
No contact	3

IF CODE 1 AT Q9, ASK Q.9 & Q9B. IF CODE 2 AT Q9 SKIP TO Q9C.

IF CODE 1 & 2 AT Q.9 ASK Q.9A, B & C.

IF CODE 3 AT Q9, SKIP TO Q.10

Q.9a For any self-initiated contact:

Thinking of the most recent time, how did you make contact?

Visit to the Garda station	1
Phone call to Gardaí (not 999/112)	2
Emergency phone call (999/112)	3
Spoke to Garda on patrol/checkpoint	4
Other reason (please specify _____)	5

Q.9b For any self-initiated contact:

Thinking of the most recent contact, how satisfied were you with this initial interaction with the Gardaí?

Very satisfied	1
Quite satisfied	2
Quite dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	5

Q.9c For any Garda initiated contact:

Thinking of the most recent contact, how satisfied were you with this initial interaction with the Gardaí?

Very satisfied	1
Quite satisfied	2
Quite dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	5

Q.10 ASK ALL. SHOWCARD C

Have you been a victim of any of the crimes listed on this card in the last 12 months, that is since (insert month) 2023? CODE ALL THAT APPLY.

SHOWCARD D – explanation of burglary, theft & robbery

IF THE RESPONDENT HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF A BURGLARY, THEFT OR ROBBERY (AT Q10) READ OUT: People often think that burglary, theft and robbery mean the same thing but there are legal differences between these types of crime. Burglary is the illegal entry into a building for the purpose of committing a crime. Theft is when an item is taken without the owner's knowledge or consent. Robbery is when an item is taken by force or the threat of force.

Using these legal definitions, can I just confirm if the crime you experienced in the past 12 months was a burglary, a theft or a robbery?

REPEAT FOR EACH CRIME IF MORE THAN ONE BURGLARY/THEFT/ROBBERY EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

Q.11 FOR EACH CRIME EXPERIENCED BY RESPONDENT AT Q.10 ASK: IF NONE/REFUSED, SKIP TO Q.19

How many times were you a victim of < crime at Q10> in the last 12 months? **REPEAT FOR EACH TYPE OF CRIME EXPERIENCED BY THE RESPONDENT AT Q.10.**

Q.12 IF MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF CRIME EXPERIENCED BY RESPONDENT (MULTI CODED AT Q.10) ASK: OTHERS GO TO Q.13

Which one of these crimes took place most recently? **SINGLE CODE**

Q.13 ASK FOR MOST RECENT CRIME AT Q.12: OTHERS GO TO Q.14

And was this crime reported to the Gardaí or not? **IF THIS CRIME HAPPENED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, ASK IN RELATION TO THE MOST RECENT EXPERIENCE. SINGLE CODE.**

	Q.10 Crime past 12 months	Q.11 No. of times	Q.12 Most recent crime	Q.13 Reported to Gardaí		
				Yes	No	Don't know
Burglary at home, or on the farm	1		1	1	2	3
Theft of a bike	2		2	1	2	3
Theft of a car	3		3	1	2	3
Theft from your person (pick pocket)	4		4	1	2	3
Other theft (please specify _____)	5		5	1	2	3
Robbery - the threat or use of force to steal from you .	6		6	1	2	3
Criminal damage to property (car/ home/ farm)	7		7	1	2	3
Assault	8		8	1	2	3
Fraud (i.e. deception, payment/ goods/services provided under false pretences) (i.e. suffering actual financial loss)	9		9	1	2	3
Online fraud (i.e. online payment / goods) (i.e. suffering actual financial loss)	10		10	1	2	3
Other (Please specify _____)	11		11	1	2	3
Not a victim of crime in past 12 months	12	GO TO Q.19				
Refused	00					

Q.16 ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE GARDAÍ (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18

Which of the following applied to your most recent incident? **READ OUT. SINGLE CODE FOR EACH STATEMENT.**

READ OUT	Yes	No	NA	Don't know/ Can't recall
The Gardaí responded quickly when the incident was first reported.	1	2	3	4
I was given the name of the investigating Garda.	1	2	n/a	3
I was given the contact details of the Garda station.	1	2	n/a	3
I was given a PULSE or crime number.	1	2	n/a	3
I was given details of victim helplines/ services.	1	2	n/a	3

Q.14 ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE GARDAÍ (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18

How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the way this most recent incident was handled by the Gardaí? **SINGLE CODE.**

IF THE INCIDENT IS STILL ONGOING, ASK:

Or if ongoing, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your most recent incident is being handled by the Gardaí so far? **SINGLE CODE.**

Very satisfied	1
Quite satisfied	2
Quite dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	5

Q.14a ASK IF SELECTING CODES 1-2 IN Q14

Q14a What contributed to your satisfaction with the handling by the Gardaí of your most recent incident? **DO NOT PROMPT** [let respondent generate response and record below **[NO SHOWCARD]** **MULTICODE**

Was contacted by Gardaí after the incident	1
Investigating Garda available when needed	2
Was given updates on the investigation	3
Swift response from Gardaí once reported	4
Gardaí were friendly and helpful	5
Offender arrested by Gardaí	6
Offender appeared in court	7
Property recovered	8
Other (specify)	9

Q.14b ASK IF SELECTING CODES 3-4 IN Q14

What contributed to your dissatisfaction with the handling by the Gardaí of your most recent incident? **DO NOT PROMPT** [let respondent generate response and record below **[NO SHOWCARD]** **MULTICODE**

Rang local Garda station, didn't ring back	1
Couldn't contact investigating Garda	2
Information on case not adequate	3
Poor Response Times	4
Was not treated well by Gardaí	5
The Gardaí did not arrest offender	6
Offender not charged	7
Didn't recover my property	8
Other (specify)	9

Q.15 ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE GARDAÍ (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18

Would you say the information you got from the Gardaí regarding the progress of your most recent incident was... ? **READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.**

IF THE INCIDENT IS NOT FULLY RESOLVED, ASK:

Would you say the information you are getting from the Gardaí regarding the progress of your most recent incident is ...? **READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.**

Too little	1
About right	2
Too much	3
N/A – no progress given	4
DK/Can't recall	5

Q.17 ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE GARDAÍ (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18

Were you contacted by An Garda Síochána via phone or in person after the incident was reported?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know/Can't recall	3

Q.17A ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE GARDAÍ (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18

Thinking of your most recent incident, which of the following would have been your preferred method of follow-up communication by the Gardaí? **SHOW CARD. SINGLE CODE.**

Letter	1
Email	2
Text	3
Victim Confidential Online Platform	4
Phone call	5
In-person	6
Other (please specify)	7

Q.18 ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS NOT REPORTED TO THE GARDAÍ (CODE 2 AT Q13): OTHERS GO TO Q19

Is there any particular reason why this incident was not reported to the Gardaí? **DO NOT PROMPT. CODE ALL THAT APPLY.**

Dealt with it myself	01
Felt Gardaí could not do anything about it	02
Felt Gardaí would not do anything about it	03
Incident not serious enough	04
Reported it to another authority	05
Did not want to involve Gardaí	06
No need to make insurance claim	07
Fear of reprisal from perpetrators	08
Other reason (Please specify _____)	09

Q.19 ASK ALL

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the service provided to your local community by An Garda Síochána?

Very satisfied	1
Quite satisfied	2
Quite dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	5

Q.20 ASK ALL. SHOWCARD E

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Gardaí in your local area? **READ OUT. ROTATE ORDER OF STATEMENT BETWEEN INTERVIEWS. SINGLE CODE FOR EACH STATEMENT.**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason	5	4	3	2	1
The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are.	5	4	3	2	1
The Gardaí in my area can be relied on to be there when you need them.	5	4	3	2	1
Community relations with the Gardaí are poor.	5	4	3	2	1
The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns of local people.	5	4	3	2	1
Gardaí in my area address the things that matter to people in this community.	5	4	3	2	1

Q.21 ASK ALL. SHOWCARD E

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements that have been made about An Garda Síochána? **READ OUT. ROTATE ORDER OF STATEMENTS BETWEEN INTERVIEWS. SINGLE CODE FOR EACH STATEMENT.**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
An Garda Síochána is community-focused	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is modern and progressive	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is friendly/helpful	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is well-managed	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is effective in tackling crime	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is Human-rights-focused	5	4	3	2	1

ASK ALL. SHOWCARD F

Q.22 Do you agree or disagree that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves?

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	5

Q.23 ASK ALL.

Using a scale of 1 – 10 where 1 means you have no trust and 10 means you have a great deal of trust, to what extent do you trust An Garda Síochána? **SINGLE CODE.**

No Trust					A Great Deal of Trust					Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11





An Garda Síochána

Ag Coinneáil Daoine Sábháilte - Keeping People Safe