

Review

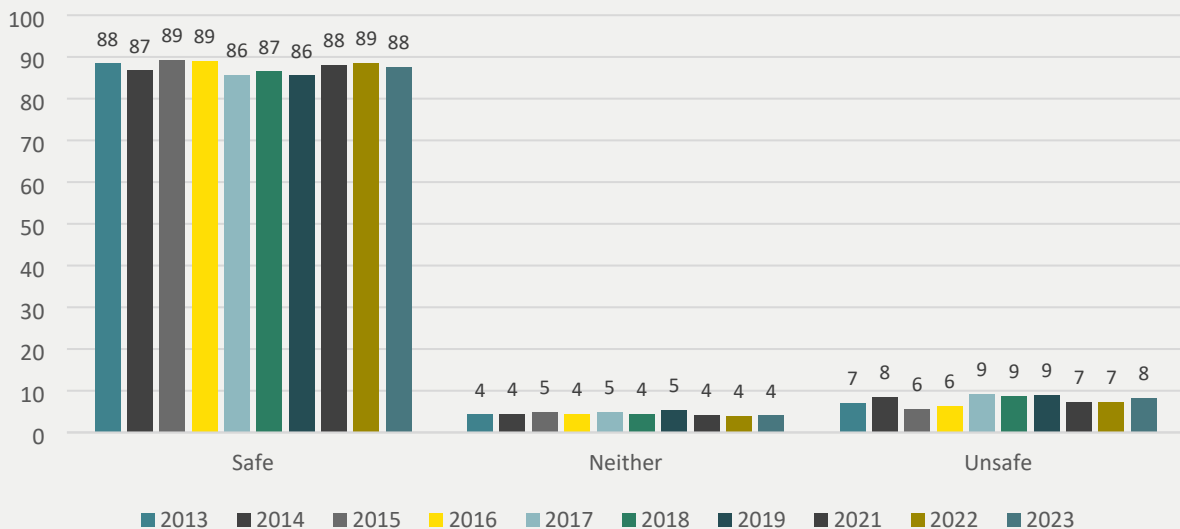
Survey of feelings of safety 2023 – a measurement of feelings of safety and trust in the police across Denmark, the 12 police districts, the 98 municipalities and disadvantaged areas.¹

In 2023, the Ministry of Justice conducted a survey about feelings of safety and trust in the police among citizens in Denmark. The survey is a continuation of the Police’s Survey of feelings of safety which was conducted seven times by the Danish National Police (*Rigspolitiet*) in the period from 2013 to 2019 and which the Ministry of Justice has conducted since 2021. The survey was completed by 29.007 persons in 2023 and was based on the same questions as those asked in the surveys conducted during 2013-2019 about the citizens’ basic feeling of safety in their neighbourhood and their trust that the police would help them if they needed it. Further questions have been added to the questionnaire later.

The overall results of the report are summed up in the figures below.

Figure 1

The proportion of citizens who basically feel safe in their neighbourhood, Denmark, 2013-2019 and 2021-2023, per cent



Question: “We will now ask you a question about fear of crime. On a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means ‘I basically feel safe in my neighbourhood’ and 7 means ‘I basically feel unsafe in my neighbourhood’, how safe or unsafe do you feel?”
 The answers are grouped in the figure so 1-3 indicates that the citizen feels safe in their neighbourhood, 4 indicates that the citizen feels neither safe nor unsafe and 5-7 indicates that the citizen feels unsafe in their neighbourhood.

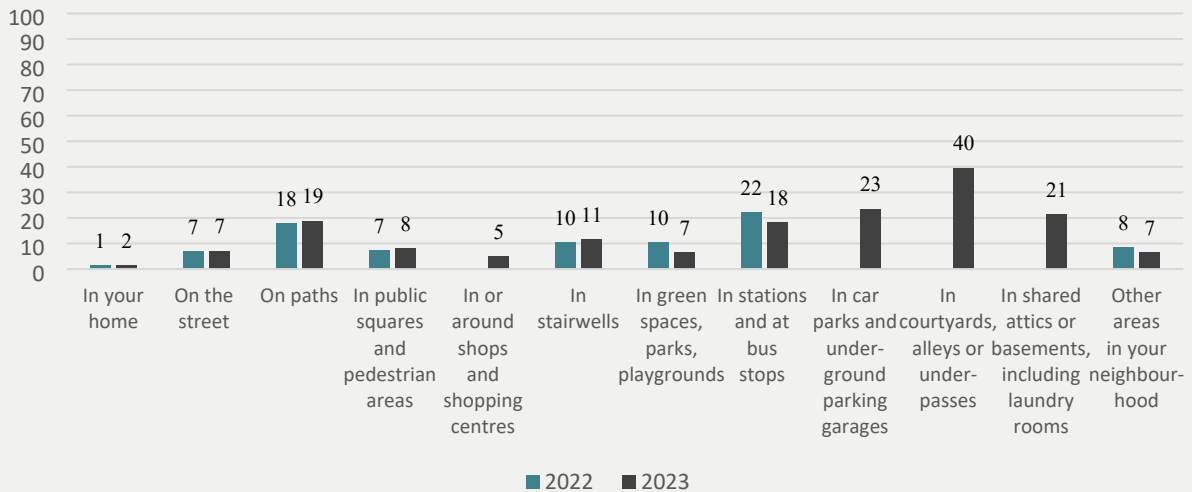
¹ In this abstract, this term refers to disadvantaged areas as defined by the Danish police.

The proportion of citizens across Denmark who feel safe in their neighbourhood in 2023 is statistically significantly smaller than the proportion found in the survey conducted in 2022. However, the proportion does not differ from the average of the other years of the period under review (2013-2019 and 2021-2022).

Some locations may potentially cause feelings of unsafety. Figure 2 shows the proportion of citizens across Denmark, who feel unsafe in particular types of locations.

Figure 2

The proportion of citizens who feel unsafe in certain types of locations, Denmark, 2022-2023, per cent



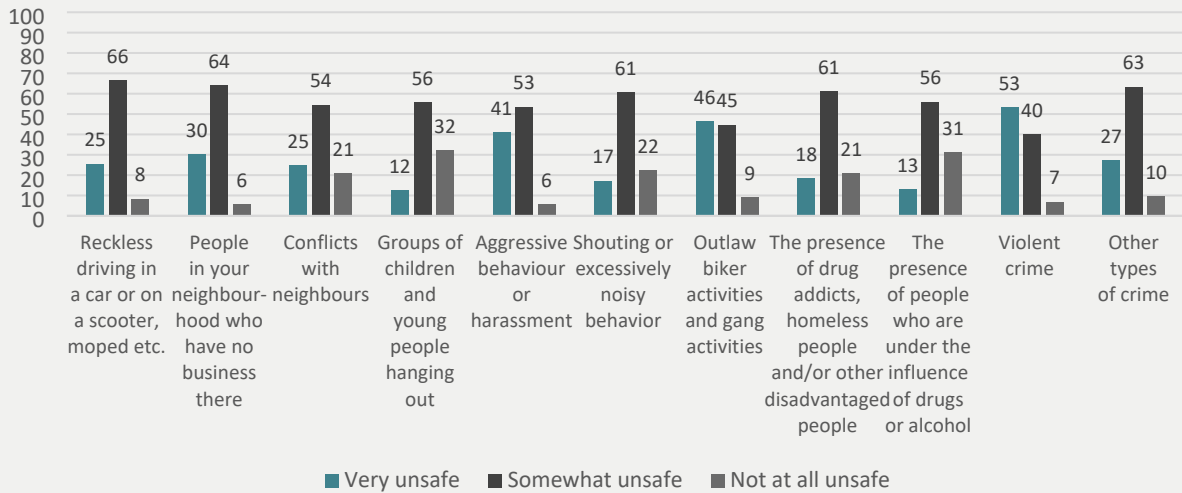
Question: The first eleven categories were illuminated through the question “How safe or unsafe do you feel in the following areas in your neighbourhood?”. It was possible to answer the question with “very safe”, “safe”, “unsafe”, “very unsafe”, “not applicable (doesn’t exist in my neighbourhood)” and “don’t know”. The figure includes the proportion who answered “unsafe” or “very unsafe”. The last category was illuminated through the question “Is there anywhere else in your neighbourhood where you feel unsafe?” It was possible to answer the question with yes or no. The figure includes the proportion who answered yes.

Note: The proportions in the first eleven categories is calculated among the citizens who did not answer that the given type of location does not exist in their neighbourhood.

Some types of behaviour that may potentially cause a feeling of unsafety are witnessed by many citizens, while other types of behaviour are only witnessed by few citizens. These different types of behaviour do not all lead to the same degree of feeling of unsafety among the citizens, who witness them. Figure 3 shows the proportion of those, who have experienced certain types of behaviour, who indicate that it makes them feel unsafe.

Figure 3

The proportion of those, who have experienced certain types of behaviour, who feel unsafe, Denmark, 2023, per cent



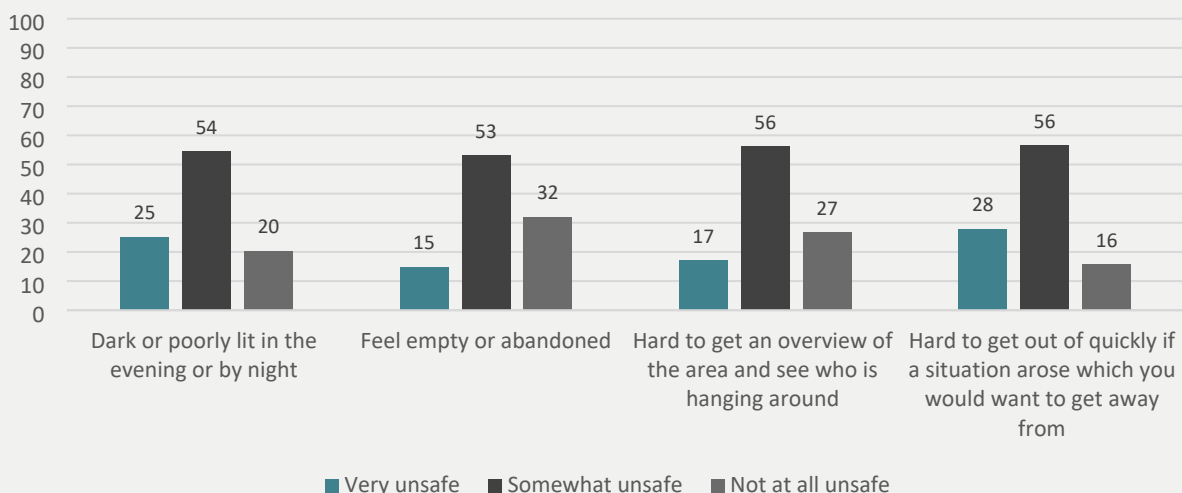
Question: "To what extent does this make you feel unsafe?" It was possible to answer the question with "to a very great extent", "to a great extent" (grouped in the figure as "very unsafe"), "to some extent", "to a lesser extent" (grouped in the figure as "somewhat unsafe"), "not at all" (shown in the figure as "not at all unsafe") and "don't know."

Note: The questions were only asked of the citizens who indicated that the given type of behavior occurs in their neighborhood.

Some areas have characteristics that may cause feelings of unsafety. In 2023, questions about the citizens' feeling of safety in areas characterized by certain conditions were included in the survey. These areas do not all lead to the same degree of feeling of unsafety among the citizens, who have experienced them. Figure 4 shows the proportion of those, who have experienced certain types of areas, who indicate that it makes them feel unsafe.

Figure 4

The proportion of those, who have experienced certain types of areas, who feel unsafe, Denmark, 2023, per cent



Question: "To what extent does this make you feel unsafe?" It was possible to answer the question with "to a very great extent", "to a great extent" (grouped in the figure as "very unsafe"), "to some extent", "to a lesser extent" (grouped in the figure as "somewhat unsafe"), "not at all" (shown in the figure as "not at all unsafe") and "don't know."

Note: The questions were only asked of the citizens who indicated that the given type of area exists in their neighborhood.

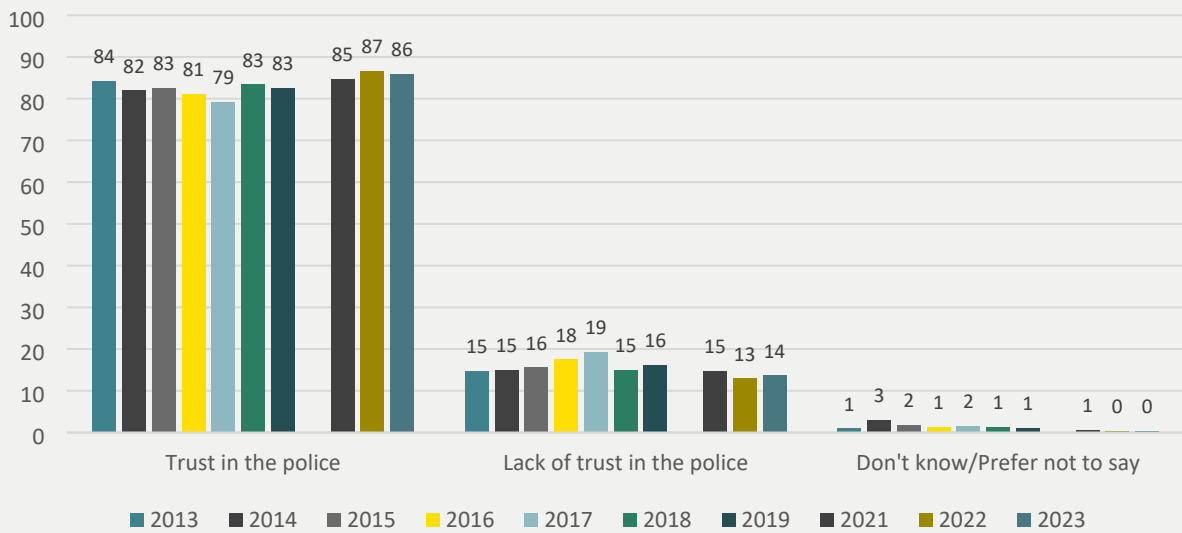
In addition to the above, the report also describes whether there is any difference in the level of feeling of safety based on the place of residence and characteristics of the citizens.

- In 2023, 70 per cent of citizens in disadvantaged areas indicate that they basically feel safe in their neighbourhood, which is a statistically significantly smaller proportion than among citizens in the rest of Denmark.
- A statistically significantly smaller proportion of women than men indicate that they basically feel safe in their neighbourhood. The differences between men and women are more pronounced when it comes to the feeling of unsafety in certain location, such as paths, car parks and parking garages, courtyards, alleys and underpasses as well as shared attics and basements, including laundry rooms. For these locations, at least half as many women as men indicate that they feel unsafe.
- The proportion of citizens who basically feel safe in their neighbourhood is smallest among the youngest age bracket. The proportion of citizens aged 15-24 who feel safe is statistically significantly smaller than the corresponding proportion of citizens aged 35-64 and 65+.
- The report also describes whether there is any difference in the level of feeling of safety based on the employment status and education of the citizen.

In addition to feelings of safety, the survey also includes a question about the citizens' trust that the police will help them, if they need it.

Figure 5

The proportion of citizens who trust that the police will help them, Denmark, 2013-2019 and 2021-2023, per cent



Question: "Do you agree with the following statement? I trust that the police will help me if I need it.". The citizens who answered yes are shown in the figure as "trust in the police" while the citizens who answered no are shown in the figure as "lack of trust in the police."
 Note: It should be noted that the results for 2019 and 2021-2023 are not fully comparable to the earlier results due to a change to the order in which the questions in the survey are asked.

The proportion of citizens across Denmark who indicate that they trust that the police will help them, if they need it, does not differ from the proportion found in the survey conducted

in 2022. However, it is statistically significantly larger than the average of the other years of the period under review (2013-2019 and 2021-2022).

In addition to the above, the report also describes whether there is any difference in the level of trust in the police based on the place of residence and characteristics of the citizens.

- In 2023, 84 per cent of citizens in disadvantaged areas indicate that they trust that the police will help them, which is a statistically significantly smaller proportion than among citizens in the rest of Denmark.
- A statistically significantly larger proportion of women than men indicated that they trust that the police will help them if they need it.
- A statistically significantly larger proportion of citizens aged 65+ than citizens in the younger age brackets indicate that they trust that the police will help them if they need it. Additionally, a larger proportion of citizens aged 15-24 than 35-64 trust that the police will help them if they need it.
- The report also describes whether there is any difference in the level of trust in the police based on the employment status and education of the citizen.