

This briefing paper pulls together some of the statistics related to community safety that have been emerging over the last few weeks. In doing so we have been able to identify some notable trends with regards to support for lockdown measures, financial concern, mental health and wellbeing and community spirit. This is an ongoing and rapidly changing situation and we will continue to update this as new findings are identified. You can find part I of our Community Safety Partnerships survey [here](#), and we will be sharing part II in due course.

Some of these findings support other research about the effect of the pandemic will have on widening inequalities, the disproportionate effect on particular groups and the concerns that human rights groups have on the effect of emergency legislation on the standards of care and the control over their care certain groups receive. The impact of the pandemic on family and individual stress, mental wellbeing, isolation, drug and alcohol use, invisibility of vulnerable and at-risk people is relevant to anyone working in community safety. The continued uncertainty about income, precarity of housing and accessing essentials affects community safety outcomes too.

Trust in public services plays an important role in communities continuing to be supportive of measures taken to control the pandemic. What partners do and *how* they do it will be key to maintaining that legitimacy and support and cooperation of communities.

Partnerships play a valuable role in coordination and providing resilience in the local systems. The findings from these surveys – and others to be added in due course - should help Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and individual community safety partners across the public, third and private sectors understand the issues, concerns and risks and continue supporting their communities – particularly those who tend to be unheard - to stay safe and well.

Key findings

Attitudes Towards Lockdown Restrictions

The vast majority of the public appear to support lockdown restrictions, although this will need to be monitored in the coming weeks. Scotland is generally supportive of police approaches, although support is lower amongst young people and there is some concern present.

- Data from April 9th-April 11th by [The Conversation](#) found that 56% felt restrictions were not firm enough, with 19% feeling that there were too many restrictions imposed. 87% believed the lockdown should continue for at least another three weeks.
- An [Ipsos Mori](#) survey of 2250 adults from the 9th April found that 70% strongly support lockdown measures. An analysis by [Kings College](#) of this data found that the vast majority of people in older groups are likely to be accepting of the measures. Half of those reported as 'resisting' lockdown measures are aged 16-24, more likely to be male, and more likely to believe conspiracy theories about COVID-19.
- A [YouGov survey](#) of over 1600 adults from the 5th April found that 42% fully support the approach taken by the police. A further 32% still supported the approach but said they felt the police had gone too far in some cases. People in Scotland were most likely to be fully supportive of the police approach at 48%.
- The [Scottish Police Authority \(SPA\) survey](#) 1,600 people indicates strong levels of public confidence towards the policing of COVID-19. 49% of people in Scotland think the police in their local area are doing either a 'good' or 'excellent' job, with 8% saying 'poor'



or 'very poor'. 46% say 'I fully support the approach taken by the police', 17% say 'I support the approach taken by the police but in some cases they are going too far', and 28% say 'the police should take tougher action to ensure public compliance'.

- Analysis by the [Scottish Government](#) suggests that awareness of, and claimed adherence to, compliance measures was high and remained stable in April. There are, however, some indications that support for following government advice and staying at home has weakened recently though remains high.

Financial Concerns

Data so far suggests that around ¼ of adults have had their finances affected and that this is making it difficult to pay for essentials. This figure is higher amongst Citizens Advice Scotland respondents and young people. Polling from Glasgow suggests that disabled people are severely affected, with 40% worried about essentials.

- Over ¼ of 2000 UK adults surveyed by [ONS](#) say their finances are being affected.
- An Ipsos Mori survey of 2250 adults similarly found that 22% said they were already facing significant money problems or were almost certain to do so in the near future.
- A survey conducted by [Citizens Advice Scotland](#) (25th-27th March) found that over 1/3 of Scots are concerned about their ability to pay for food and essentials. 41% of renters are also concerned about being able to meet rent payments.
- [Scottish Government](#) analysis found that 75% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that 'coronavirus will have a financial impact on you and your family', with 25% 'very/extremely concerned that I will be able to pay my bills'.
- 30% of 2421 young people (aged 11-25) surveyed by [Youthlink Scotland](#) said they felt moderately or extremely concerned about their financial situation.
- 40% of disabled people surveyed by [Glasgow Disability Alliance](#) said they are worried about food, medication or money. Digital exclusion is also a huge issue, with only 37% of disabled people reported to have home broadband or IT, and many lack the confidence or skills to use it.
- 84% of 2000 adults [surveyed by YouGov](#) said they expected years of economic hardship after the crisis.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The majority of people report being worried about the impact of COVID-19 on their lives. Reported loneliness, depression and anxiety symptoms have increased substantially. Younger people have reported higher levels of concern for their mental wellbeing than other groups.

- Almost half of 2,000 UK adults surveyed by the ONS said the pandemic was affecting their wellbeing. The proportion is higher for those with an underlying health condition, at 57.7%, and lower for those aged 70 years and over, at 38.2%.
- Around 85% of the 2000 UK adults surveyed by the ONS said they are very worried or somewhat worried about the affect COVID-19 is having on their life now.
- 40% of young people (aged 11-25) surveyed by Youthlink Scotland said they felt moderately or extremely concerned about their own mental wellbeing. 46% said they felt moderately or extremely concerned about the wellbeing of others.
- An Ipsos Mori survey of 2250 adults found that half of respondents said they felt more anxious and depressed than normal. Younger people appeared to be struggling to cope with the lockdown more than other groups. Almost 20% of respondents said they were drinking more alcohol than normal.
- A survey of 2,162 adults by the [Mental Health Foundation](#) found that 24% of adults in Scotland say they feel lonely, more than double that of the pre-lockdown figure



Community Spirit

Initial findings suggest that people are noticing more community action as a result of COVID-19. However, community support may not always be reaching the people who need it, with disabled groups finding support difficult to access.

- 77.9% of 2000 UK adults surveyed by the ONS said they thought people are doing more to help others since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 60% of 2250 adults surveyed by Ipsos Mori said they had offered to help a neighbour and 47% had received assistance from the local community.
- Despite the huge mobilisation of local voluntary sector responses, 76% of disabled people surveyed by Glasgow Disability Alliance were not aware of these or were unable to access them.
- A survey of over 2,000 adults from [The Conversation](#) found that 55% agreed that the health of today's older generations is more important than the long-term economic prosperity of future generations, and only 8% disagreed.