

Release Date: 5th June 2008



Local Opinion

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PRESS RELEASE:

Nearly half of all Kent residents have been a victim of crime in Kent.

Nearly half (48.4%) of Kent residents have been the victim of a crime in Kent according to a survey conducted by independent market research agency, Local Opinion. Just over half (54%) of those aged 45-54, stated that they had been a victim of crime in Kent.

Of those that had been a victim of crime, 14% had been a victim of violent crime. Age seems to be key in this respect with 21% of those aged 25-34 being the victim of a violent crime.

Local Opinion Panel members were asked “were they happy with the way the police dealt with the crime”. Responses here were mixed with 59% stating yes they were happy, as opposed to 41% stating that they were not happy with the way in which the Police dealt with the crime.

Anti-social behaviour is the No 1 crime that Panel members fear the most, and this was consistently the No 1 crime throughout the different age groups that Local Opinion interviewed. Local Opinion Research Director, Rob Hancock said, “whilst much may have already been done by the authorities to try and reduce actual crime, there is still a very high proportion of the Kent population that are afraid of crime in Kent. The fear of anti social behaviour, as in other parts of the country, remains one of the key problems facing communities in Kent”.

Position	Crime most afraid of	%
1	Anti social behaviour	77%
2	Burglary	52%
3	Drug Dealing	50%
4	Violent Crime	34%
5	Muggings	32%
6	Paedophiles	24%
7	Swearing	20%

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In terms of actual crime problems in any given area, anti social behaviour is still seen as the No 1 crime problem. It is interesting however that just one in five (19%) of the Local Opinion Panel were able to report that they didn't feel as though there was a crime problem in their particular area.

Position	Biggest crime problem in your area	%
1	Anti social behaviour	70%
2	Burglary	28%
3	Drug Dealing	18%
4	Swearing	17%
5	Muggings	8%
6	Violent Crime	7%
7	Paedophiles	4%
	None	19%

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Notes to editors:

Local Opinion is a independent online panel of 2,000 Kent residents who have been recruited to offer their opinions on a variety of topical issues. Local Opinion is run by Lake Market Research, a division of Lake Communications Limited. Local Opinion complies with the Market Research Society's Code of Conduct.

Please include the sample size when reporting results. Respondents are free to withdraw from the Local Opinion Panel at any time.

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Fieldwork was undertaken between 18th April and 9th May 2008.

Base: A total of 902 Panel members took part in the survey using online, telephone and post.

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