

Safety and crime among teenagers: Evidence from the Born in Bradford Age of Wonder Study 2023 - 25

Overview

The Born in Bradford Age of Wonder study is one of the largest, most comprehensive longitudinal research studies with teenagers in the UK. This summary presents findings from a large-scale survey with in-depth interviews of over 13,000 pupils in Years 8–10 (ages 12–15) across 25 Bradford secondary schools about their experiences of crime and safety.

Methodology Note

Quantitative component:

The quantitative measures included self-report surveys completed from participants across two academic years (2023/24 and 2024/25).

Qualitative component:

The qualitative component consisted of semi-structured interviews and group discussions with 106 young people, exploring their lived experiences of neighbourhood safety, crime, and safety at school.

Sample characteristics

60% Living in the most deprived quintile of neighbourhoods nationally

Asian/Asian British **45%**

White British **43%**

Other ethnicity **12%**

Significance of Research

In a city where nearly 60% of young people live in the most deprived neighbourhoods nationally, understanding the drivers of perceived safety is essential to designing effective public health and community interventions.

Key Findings

Safety

	Very good / good	Ok	Poor / very poor
■ during the day	84%	13%	2%
■ at night	54%	33%	13%
■ travel to/from school	81%	16%	3%

Safety at school



Crime

14%



have been ever stopped by police

8%



have been a victim of violence in the past year

9%



have ever received police caution

Positive experiences of safety

Male

87%

Daytime safety

Female

82%

61%

Night-time safety

47%

70%

School safety

56%

84%

Travel to/from school

78%

Pakistani British

86%

Daytime safety

White British

84%

58%

Night-time safety

52%

62%

School safety

65%

83%

Travel to/from school

81%

Negative experiences of safety

Male

2%

Daytime safety

Female

3%

11%

Night-time safety

16%

10%

School safety

13%

3%

Travel to/from school

3%

Pakistani British

2%

Daytime safety

White British

3%

11%

Night-time safety

15%

13%

School safety

10%

3%

Travel to/from school

3%

Qualitative insights

Places were not seen as entirely safe or entirely unsafe, but a mix of both.

"... it's not like a safe place, but it's not like a dangerous place. It's kind of like a bit of both because there was, at one point, like a massive fight..."

Male, 13 years old, White British

Feeling safe was often linked to being around friends, family, other adults.

"Having, like, trusted adults around you and trusted people"

Female, 13 years old, White British

Young people avoiding spaces where there was anti-social behaviour.

"I think I would go back if they [those involved in smoking drugs] were banned and then they're not allowed to come here. I would go back where all my other friends are there"

Male, 12 years old, British South Asian