

HAPPEN

Relationship Between Children's Perception of Safety and Police Crime Rates in Wales

Fact Sheet



The Research

This study aimed to explore if children's perceptions of the safety of their area was linked to crime levels in their local communities. This study also attempted to explore whether there are any gender differences in children's sense of safety.



4,581 pupils

less safe (n=350) and highly safe (n= 4231)



**Jan 2022-
Sept 2023**

Crime data from open-source police data



**Mixed
Methods**

Using mapping and survey responses

Key Findings

Safety Scores and Crime Rates

Children from high-crime areas tend to think their areas are safe, despite police-reported crime rates. This highlights the importance of individual perceptions of an area.

City Centres

Children in poorer areas feel safer in city centres compared to those who are less deprived. This reveals the impact of deprivation and perceptions of safety.

Impact of Gender

Gender does not influence safety perceptions, with no significant difference between boys and girls. However, those who prefer not to say reported feeling less safe, emphasising the importance of considering gender diversity in safety initiatives.

Proximity to Crime and Safety Perception

Children living closer to crime reported feeling safer in their communities. Higher safety perceptions are also linked with higher happiness levels, suggesting a link between wellbeing and feelings of safety.

Children's perceptions of safety are influenced by various factors beyond crime rates, including social, environmental, and personal issues (such as bullying). The study, which focused on Wales, supports efforts by organisations like the South Wales Police to foster safer communities for children by acknowledging and addressing the complex nature of safety perceptions.