

Supporting Document Two **Community Survey**



Photo credit: Jordan S.

City of Kenora Community Safety and Well-**Being Community Survey**

Supporting Document Two

Cover photo is taken by Jordan S. who participated in a Photo Voice Project, titled 'Youth Photo Contest: My Community, My Lens', during the development of the plan. Jordan writes:

"ENA Landing Winnipeg River

Innocence of a child. What's at the end of the dock, not afraid, so many bodies of water to enjoy."



Trigger Warning: This supporting document and the other supporting documents and the plan report include discussions about sensitive topics related to crime, safety, and victimization that could be triggering to some people.

Survey Context

In February 2024 the city of Kenora through their Crime Prevention and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee (hereafter referred to as CPCWAC or the Advisory Committee) launched a community wide survey. The goal of the survey was to get a better sense of the experiences of residents in Kenora as they pertain to community safety and well-being, as well as to learn about their perceptions of crime, victimization and fear of crime. The survey was based on similar surveys conducted in other municipalities that have developed community safety and well-being plans in Canada, as well as questions that have been tested in national surveys about the wider Canadian experiences in urban safety.

The survey was designed by More Better Solutions and members of the Advisory Committee tested the survey questions themselves and provided their input on how to make the survey most applicable to the local context. Most but not all proposed changes were incorporated in the final design. Some questions are model questions for a survey of this nature and keeping those included in the survey served two purposes: (1) the questions have been tested and found to be effective in soliciting the wanted information and (2) data can be compared across municipalities as well as, eventually, over time.

The survey was hosted on the server of More Better Solutions for the full month of February. The city of Kenora alongside community partners advertised the survey through "Have Your Say" posters (copy provided in Appendix one) social media, new releases, a radio interview, and other mechanism to reach as wide a populations of Kenora as possible. A local business also created a poster to further reach business owners and patrons (Copy provided in Appendix two). Paper copies were made available through the city administration for those not able to access the survey electronically. This approach had the added benefit of further introducing the city of Kenora Coordinator of Community Safety and Well-being. The coordinator alongside a committee member also attended the St Alban's dinner on a Friday evening to gain access to members of the population that are unhoused. Twenty (20) people completed the survey through that approach. Overall, 1013 residents of Kenora (37 of whom identified as seasonal) completed the survey. This comprises a return rate of 6-7% which is significantly higher than a return rate of 1-2% which is usually achieved with surveys of this nature.

Survey limitations

The survey offers a snapshot of public experiences and perceptions, but since it wasn't conducted using a randomized methodology, the results cannot be claimed as fully representative of the Kenora population. However, the exceptionally high response rate and diverse demographic representation suggest that the findings are reasonably generalizable. The survey was quite lengthy with 45 questions in total, including demographic questions. Survey results were presented in two stages to the Advisory Committee providing results from the quantitative data first, followed by the qualitative analysis. Seven open-ended questions (including two demographic questions) amounted to 340 pages of transcript for the qualitative data which again is an unusually high result for surveys of this nature. There was no space limit on the open-ended questions and many respondents¹ shared their

¹ The term respondents and participants will be used interchangeably throughout this report.

thoughts and experiences at length. Every comment was reviewed, and a thematic analysis was completed. This report is a summary of both sets of data. A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix three.

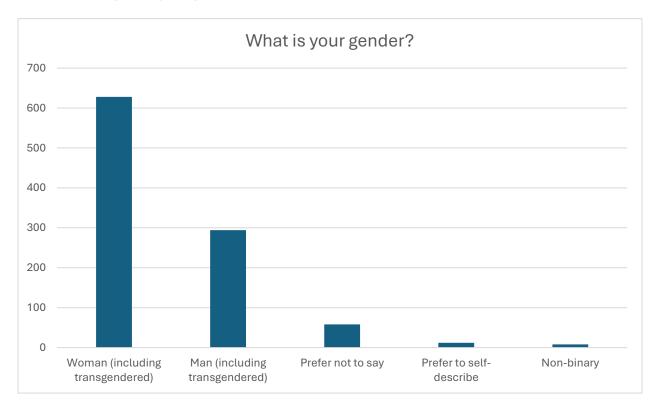
When reviewing the results, it's crucial to remember that the survey captures **reflections** on experiences and perceptions, rather than the actual state of crime and victimization in Kenora. Despite this, such surveys are widely used in municipalities because perceptions significantly influence community safety and well-being. As often noted in the field of crime prevention through social development, if left unaddressed, perceptions can eventually shape reality.

Demographic data

These data were collected to better understand the profile of the respondents, and secondly to look for statistically significant connections between diverse populations and their perceptions and experiences.

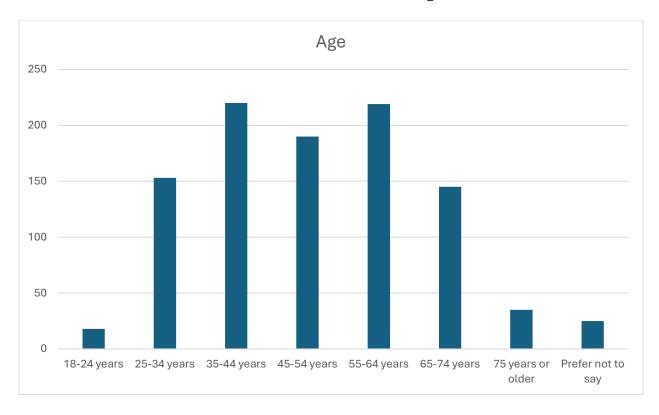
Gender

As is common in surveys of this nature the number of women (N=628) that responded was significantly higher than men (N=294). This discrepancy was accommodated for in the analysis through weighting the responses of men.



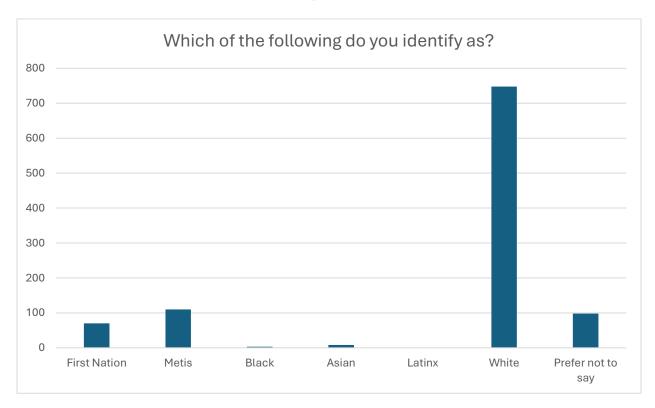
Age

The age distribution in the survey closely mirrored that of the Kenora community, though it would have been beneficial to see slightly higher participation from those aged 18-24 and 75 and older. To address this, additional steps were taken to include underrepresented voices: a consultation with seniors was conducted, and a photo voice project was initiated in collaboration with the city and local youth services to engage the younger population, as well as a local school board on their own resources hosted sharing circles with children.



Racial Identification and time lived in Kenora

Out of the respondents, 180 identified as First Nation (N=70) or Métis (N=110), representing nearly 18% of all participants. Although this percentage is lower than the actual ratio of First Nation and Métis residents in Kenora, which ranges from 25% to 45%², it is still notably higher than the response rates seen in similar surveys, where Indigenous participation is often minimal or even absent. However, it's important to recognize that surveys may not effectively reach Indigenous populations as intended. We3 tried to accommodate for this gap through adding some consultations as described in Consultation Report Supporting Document Three. Additionally, it needs to be acknowledged that ninety-eight (N=98) respondents choose the category "prefer not to say". How many of these are Indigenous is unknown but it begs the question if we would have seen higher responses to the question from Indigenous respondents if we had chosen specific categories such as Oiibway or Anishinaabe, etc.



The majority of respondents were born in Canada (N=957) and have lived in Kenora for ten years or more (N=816), eighty-one (N=81) of respondents lived in Kenora for 5-10 years and seventy-two (N=72) for 1 to 5 years. Only thirty-seven (N=37) of the respondents identified as seasonal residents. Acknowledging that seasonal residents form a significant part of the community, especially during the summer months, a consultation with seasonal residents was added later in the process. It was challenging to reach them during the month of February.

² For rationale related to this large span between percentages see the Kenora Profile Report which is **Supporting Document One**

³ "We" in this document refers to More Better Solutions in collaboration with the CPCWB Advisory Committee.

Education and Employment and Household Income

The most cited level of education was a college degree (N=359) followed by a bachelor's degree (N=247) and by a graduate degree (Masters/PHD/Professional) (N=169). One hundred and fifty-five (155) respondents shared that they completed high school as their highest educational attainment followed by trade school (N=65) and finally elementary school (N=5). Most of the respondents (N=568) reported working full time, followed by "retired" (N=207) and eighty (N=80) respondents reported being self-employed with the remaining ones either not stating their employment status or falling into the categories of: temporary work, being in school, looking for work and being unemployed, caring for someone in their home or having a disability.

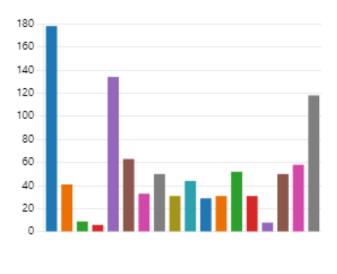
The question about household income was open-ended. While the survey was live, several community members shared that they found the questions irrelevant if not intrusive. The key reason for asking the question, however, was to see how many respondents might fall into the category of living below the low income cut off. Additionally, higher income is associated with greater life satisfaction. Nonetheless many respondents (34%) decided to skip this question. Of those that responded it turned out that by far the largest number of respondents have a household income above the low income cut off (LICO) which in Ontario in 2022 was set at \$50,000.00 net per year for families in communities with less than 30,000 population⁴.

⁴ For a more detailed breakdown of Ontario LICO visit Ontario LICO

Location in Kenora

When asked where in Kenora they reside survey participants were provided with a map that identified 17 distinct locations and one category of "other". "North of the bypass" was added one week after the survey had gone live and some respondents may have chosen "other" because it was not included from the start. By far most respondents reported residing in Keewatin and Lakeside.

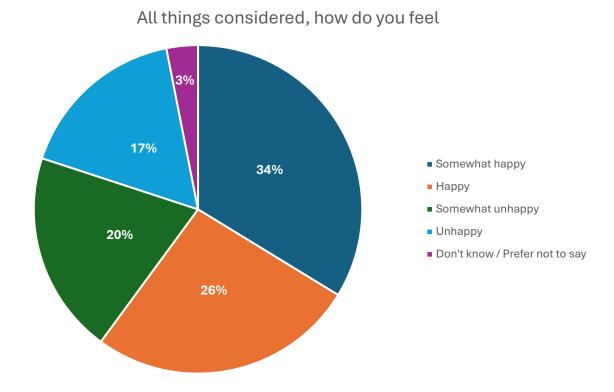
•	Keewatin	178
•	Norman	41
•	Coney Island	9
•	Tunnel Island	6
	Lakeside	134
	Central	63
•	Downtown	33
	North End	50
	Rideout	31
	South East	44
	Evergreen	29
•	Minto	31
	Rabbit Lake	52
•	Pinecrest	31
	Brickyard	8
	JM Subdivision	50
•	North of the By-pass	58
	Other	118



Health and Well-Being

Following the demographic questions, the next set of questions asked survey participants about their life experiences in health and their life satisfaction. This set of questions was included for two reason: (1) to broaden the scope from crime prevention and safety to overall well-being; and (2) to locate any perceptions about crime and victimization and fear of crime within the context of broader experiences. These questions were also asked first to avoid potentially negative responses in community safety overshadowing the experiences of living in Kenora overall. This approach was also consistent with the consultation focus groups and stakeholder interview method.

Responses to the first question in this area illustrate that 60% of respondents reported either feeling "somewhat happy" or "happy" with a much smaller number reporting that they feel "somewhat unhappy" or "unhappy" (37%) while 3% chose "don't know, prefer not to say".



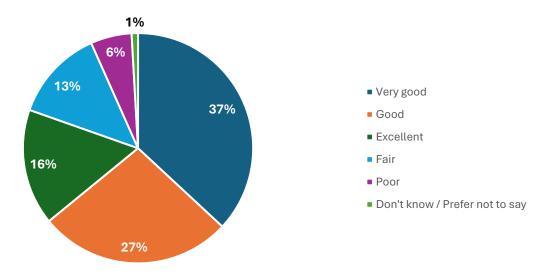
Self-reported happiness is often related to self-reported sense of control over one's life. When asked, sixty-two (62) percent of respondents stated that they feel "full control" or "a lot of control" over decisions that affect their life, compared to 26% that reported "little control" and a full nine (9) percent that reported not having any control over decisions that affect their lives. While in survey analysis it can be tempting to dismiss smaller response rates and focus on the majority responses, nine (9) percent of 1013 respondents means that a sizable number of over 91 persons who completed the survey appear to feel having "no control over decisions that affect their lives".

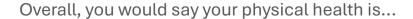
Seventy-nine (79) percent of participants reported that their physical health is either "excellent", "good", or "very good". Only 4% reported that they see their physical health as "poor".

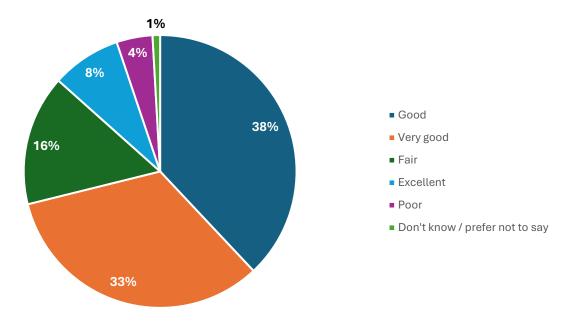
Similarly, 80% of respondents described their emotional and mental health as "very good", "good" or even "excellent", with 13% describing it as "fair" and 6% describing it as poor.

Both self-reports on physical and emotional/mental health are **not** congruent with data from the Northwest Health Unit (NWHU) as described in the Kenora Profile Report Supporting Document Official health data shows that Kenora falls short in several key areas of health and even has some of the largest numbers in chronic health concerns in the province (e.g. diabetes). Whether this discrepancy is due to lack of awareness of own health, dismissing health concerns, or sample characteristics would need further investigation.

Overall, you would say your mental and emotional health is ...





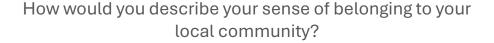


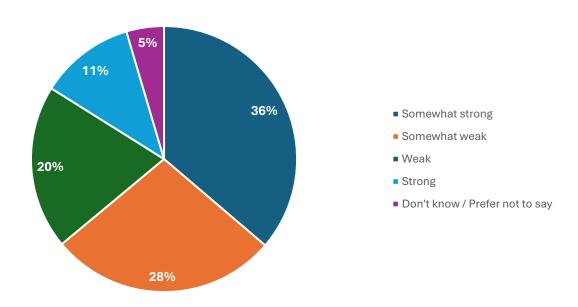
A question about changes in well-being over the last three years was included to acknowledge that the pandemic had significant impacts on communities. And, not surprisingly, forty (40) percent of respondent reported a decline in their well-being, while 33% said it stayed the same and 26% even stated that it improved. When asked about changes in their standard of living over the last three years a similar pattern emerged with 35% of respondents saying that their standard of living had declined, 43% said it stayed the same, while 21% stated that it had improved.

Belonging

There was an almost equal division of respondents reporting on their sense of belonging: while forty-seven (47) percent reported a "strong" or "somewhat strong sense of belonging", 48% reported a "weak" or "somewhat weak" sense of belonging. A sense of belonging and connection to the places in which we live and the people we share these spaces with (including virtual spaces) have been strongly linked to wellbeing and even longevity. Sense of belonging has also been identified as a key social capital contributing to community safety and well-being overall. Networks and connections more than individual characteristics or broad influences such as class and race define who we are and how we behave and it has it could be said that when we lose our connections, we lose everything.

In Kenora, it appears that the experience of connection and a derived sense of belonging are polarized.





When asked what impacted their sense of belonging the polarity of the community came further into view. Several respondents noted that feeling a sense of belonging is "a privilege not accessible to everyone" 5 and that this acknowledgment should foster empathy towards those who feel excluded further suggesting that a community-wide efforts to enhance inclusion were necessary.

⁵ Unless otherwise stated text in quotation marks are direct quotes from survey participants or refer to text in the survey such as "fully agree", "disagree" etc.

Many respondents emphasized the critical role of connection in fostering a sense of belonging. They highlighted various connections that increase their sense of belonging, including:

- Having strong ties to family.
- Friendships
- Connection to the natural environment
- The small-town feel and connections to the community at large
- Participation in faith-based groups
- Connections to Indigenous culture
- Professional interactions and a fulfilling career

Examples of community supports, such as "GoFundMe campaigns", local charity contributions, and initiatives like "Light Up the Night for Jenn Schott," were mentioned as manifestations of the helpfulness and connectivity in Kenora.

A substantial number of respondents tied their sense of belonging to having been born and/or raised in Kenora. They cited people, rather than systems, as enhancing their sense of belonging:

- Kenora feels like home to those who grew up there.
- Having roots in Kenora was a common sentiment.
- The town was described as "an amazing place to grow up in".

Respondents also linked their sense of belonging to active involvement in the community. Participation in community activities was described as both a cause and a result of feeling welcomed and a "win-win" situation that both enhances personal belonging and contributes to community cohesiveness. These respondents suggested that belonging is enhanced by:

- Availing oneself of opportunities
- Being proud of the community
- Donating time and money
- Encouraging initiatives like Trylight
- Giving all opinions "a fair hearing"
- Engaging in market days, neighborhood activities, and school events
- Volunteering and staying informed
- Availing oneself to peer-based interactions and engaging in networking

But not everyone shared that sense of belonging. Many respondents described Kenora as "unwelcoming and cliquish", a sentiment some claimed that was exacerbated by the pandemic. The town was seen as divided along several lines:

- Rich vs. Poor
- New vs. long-time residents
- Homeowners vs. renters
- Young vs. old
- Indigenous vs. non-Indigenous

Some even perceived the atmosphere as "combative" particularly as it relates to newcomer.

Even others described a decline in community as their main reason for not feeling a strong sense of belonging. Within that context a common complaint was that "more attention is being paid to the unhoused [...] with taxpayers' concerns being overlooked". And a sense of being unsafe, particularly in the downtown core, was frequently mentioned as negatively impacting their sense of belonging. Several respondents indicated that their weak sense of belonging made them consider leaving Kenora. Many of these respondents described Kenora as a community in decline specifically when it comes to:

- Healthcare
- Friendliness
- Tourism
- Downtown overall, "especially in the last 5-6 years"
- "Business having reduced hours and some even closing altogether"

Respondents shared the following disappointments and frustrations:

- Being labeled as racist (e.g., during the "Island girl issue")
- Being identified as "Tobans" (people coming from Manitoba)
- Having to deal with economic challenges, such as the cost of living and real estate necessitating that people work several jobs to make ends meet.
- Seeing events that promote substance use
- Feeling hopeless about change ("yet another survey")
- Feeling isolated and lonely
- Feeling judged (especially as Indigenous individuals)
- Lacking governmental care for the Northwest
- Fostering "widespread ignorance and divisions especially through social media"
- Lacking community activities and diverse events, especially for youth
- Lacking concrete support for businesses

Recreation was seen as a potential boost for belonging because it affords residents the chance to make friends through children's activities and enjoy various community offerings (e.g., music, skiing). However, within this area proposed changes included "better recognition of local athletes", "providing childcare in gym facilities" and having more options across all age groups. For some the central rink "being at a standstill" and the overemphasize on boating took away from recreation contributing to a sense of belonging.

Here are some quotes to illustrate the polarity in Kenora when it comes to sense of belonging:

"People in Kenora are very polarized in terms of the social wellness of the community. This pits people who are compassionate and want to look for solutions to the problems, as opposed to punishments of those with the problems, [against each other]."

"I have lived here for 67 years and watching Kenora turn into a council-enabled drug slum erodes one's sense of community".

"I love living in Kenora; it is a beautiful area. [...] There are many opportunities to participate in community activities."

"I volunteer when I am able to, but I still feel that I am an outsider after over 20 years of living here."

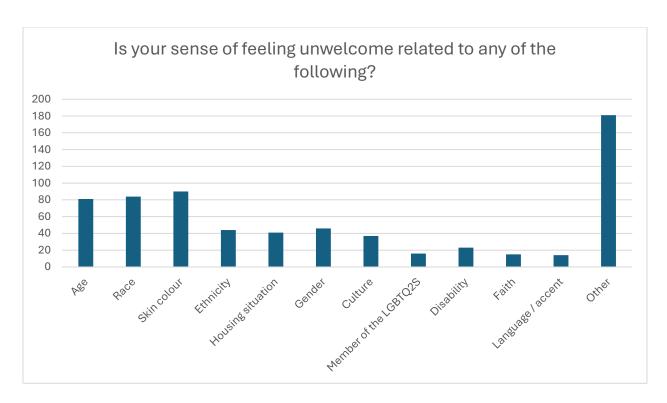
"I find the loudest voices in our community are the ones spewing hate such as racism, misogyny, and ableism. These voices are amplified through social media with hundreds of like-minded community members supporting them and spreading the hate."

Neighbourhoods

Taking this broader sense of belonging to the level of neighbourhood fifty-eight (58) percent of respondents reported knowing "many" (37%) or "most" (21%) people living in their neighbourhood while 40% reported knowing a "few" and 3% stated that they know "no-one". While this result was slightly less polarized, when asked to react to the statement "living in my neighbourhood gives me a sense of community", forty-one (41) percent reported that living in their neighbourhood gives them a sense of community (8% "strongly agreed" and 33% "agreed"), while 22% did not report a sense of community in their neighbourhood (15% "disagreed", 8% "strongly disagreed"). A surprisingly high number of 37% described it as a "neutral" experience.

Often our sense of belonging is less rooted in reflections on the connections that we may or may not have, and more connected to experiences and related emotions. The next question was aimed at understanding this better by asking: Do you ever feel unwelcome in your community? Forty-three (43) percent stated that they "never" felt unwelcome in their community and 25% said "rarely". However, twenty-three (23) percent reported feeling unwelcome "some of the time" and 5% even reported feeling unwelcome "all of the time".

When asked what the sense of not feeling welcome was most related to the following distribution emerged. It is important to note that respondents were allowed to choose several categories. Skin color and race were cited most often followed by age. The category "other" received most votes.



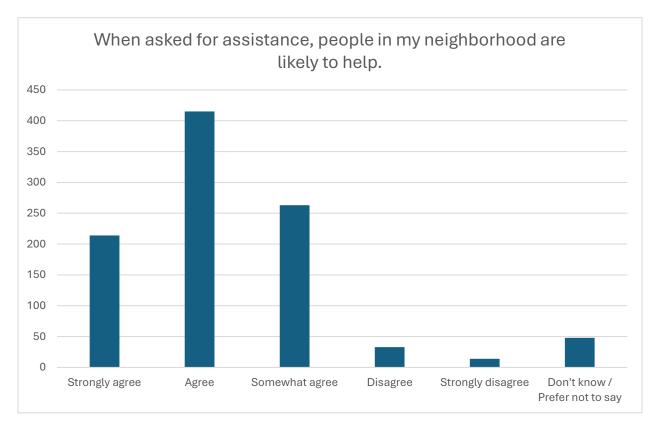
When respondents used the category "other" they were asked to specify their response. Of the 181 respondents that chose this category some repeated the categories provided with race and age being the most frequently cited. Additionally, the following comments were received:

- Being new to the community and/or not being born here
- Finding it hard to make friends and breaking into the community
- Being an immigrant
- Being from Manitoba
- Neighbours that don't like newcomers
- Having a substance use issue and/or being unhoused and thus "being judged"
- Not having a substance use issue and/or being unhoused and thus "not fitting in"
- Being looked down upon because of lifestyle
- Being single
- Not being a parent
- Being old
- Having children
- Being a half-time resident
- Not partaking in boating, fishing and hunting
- Not feeling safe and welcome in the downtown
- Outdoor spaces not being used much
- Having unpopular views or political affiliations

- Working with/ being an ally for the unhoused and vulnerable populations
- People band together for the wrong issues and don't care about their fellow human beings
- People stay in their cliques
- Governments that don't listen
- Feeling alienated from a culture that seems to thrive on divisions
- Not having much money

Trust and Helpfulness

The polarity visible in responses to questions about belonging and neighbourhood carried through into the following two questions. When asked to make a choice between two statements about trust, which read: "Generally speaking would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people" there was an almost even split with 46% of respondents saying that "most people can be trusted" while 53% of respondents felt that "you cannot be careful enough". And yet, when respondents were asked whether they believed that people in their neighbourhood are likely to help if asked, the responses were more positive. By far most of the participants (N=892 or 90% of those that answered) chose "strongly agree, agree, or somewhat agree".



Equally positive was the response to the statement "I would be willing to work together with others on something to improve the living environment in my neighbourhood", with eightyseven (87) precent stating that they "strongly agreed" or "agreed".

Community Safety Perceptions

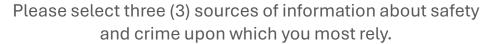
While experiences in community safety and well-being naturally shape perceptions of crime, most people rely on additional resources. When we asked respondents to select their top three sources of information about safety and crime, "personal experiences" (N=616) rated only slightly higher than "word of mouth" (N=609), closely followed by "social media" (N=531). Significantly fewer participants shared going to official sources such as the "police social media" (N=220) or the "police website" (N=71). This result is somewhat troublesome in as much as beyond personal experience the most chosen form of gathering information is unreliable and open to significant bias. It also presents an opportunity for advancing sources of information that are trustworthy and more objective.

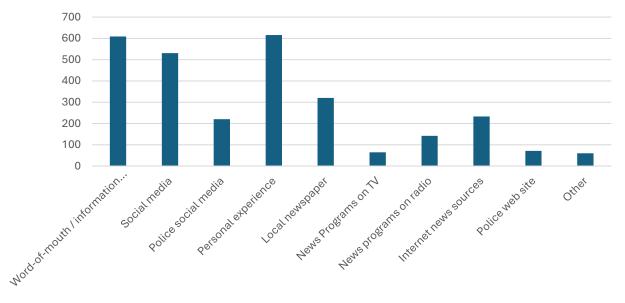
For those that chose the response "other" (N=60) the following types of sources were cited:

- Using certified social media accounts only
- Online news
- Knowing police officers
- Training and/or job
- The courts

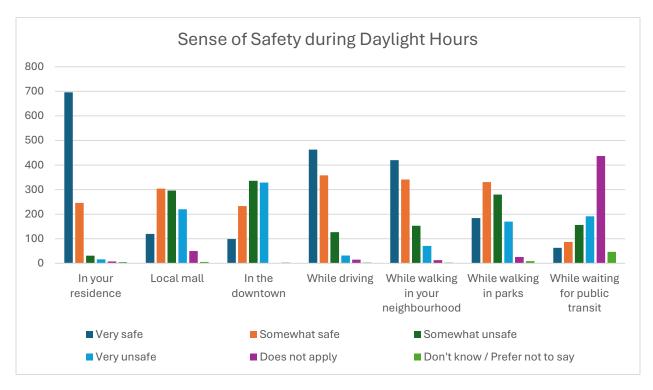
Some expressed a greater sense of the truth being hidden as the quotes below illustrate: "I don't take anything that I read as the truth, and I don't find anything that I read in local media to be trustworthy".

"Information is not shared, and police reports are not public [...] or suppressed" "[There are] not a lot of reliable sources out there now as they are all trying to hide the truth"





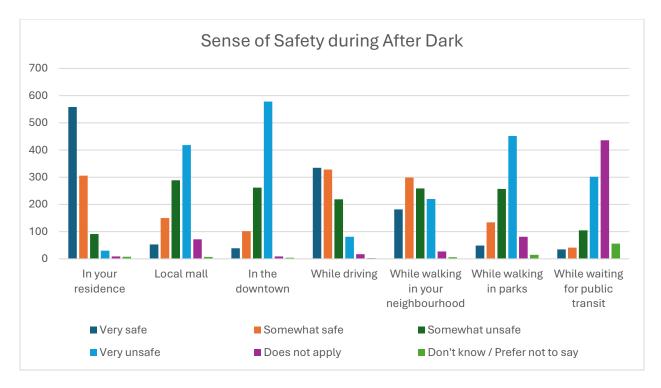
The upcoming questions were designed to assess how people perceive safety in various locations, both during the day and after dark. While these perceptions might not always be grounded in concrete data, they play a crucial role in shaping how public spaces are used. If individuals feel unsafe, they are less likely to visit these areas, which can make these areas more vulnerable to crime and social disorder. In essence, it's not only the visible aspects of public spaces that matter, but also the invisible factors—like declining foot traffic and reduced diversity in visitors, especially children-that can indicate a potential for social issues. A community that feels secure and welcoming for children is generally a safe and inclusive environment for everyone. In crime prevention through social development, it's recognized that perceptions often become reality, underscoring the importance of understanding public views on safety for effective prevention strategies.



Respondents reported feeling safest during daylight hours "in their homes", "while driving", and "while walking in their neighborhoods". No other locations were rated as "very safe." The downtown area received the most responses indicating it was perceived as "somewhat unsafe" (N=336) or "very unsafe" (N=329), although a significant number of respondents also described downtown during daylight as "safe" (233) or "very safe" (N=99). The local mall showed a more even split, with some respondents feeling "somewhat safe" (N=304) or "very safe" (N=120), while others felt "somewhat unsafe" (N=296) or "very unsafe" (N=220) a pattern akin to perceptions of safety "while walking in parks". "Waiting for transit" was a category that didn't seem to apply to nearly half of the respondents (N=437), but among those who do use public transit, feelings of safety were generally low.

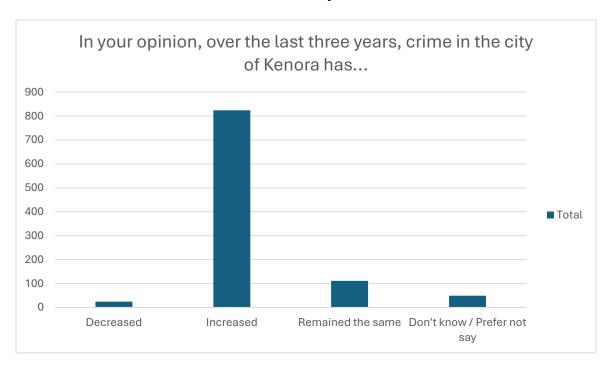
The picture changed significantly when asked about the same spaces after dark. While safety in their own homes and when driving remained more or less the same as during daylight hours, the sense of not being safe in the downtown and while walking in a park, as well as the local mall went up. By far most of the participants (N=840) reported feeling

"somewhat unsafe" or "very unsafe" in the downtown. Walking in their neighbourhood saw a more even spilt between those that reported feeling safe and those that reported feeling unsafe, i.e. the sense of safety went down but less prominently so than in other spaces. This result is akin to results in other municipalities. Understandably sense of safety declines after dark. Most places after dark are less busy than during daylight hours and a sense of safety in part comes from being among other people. Sight is also an important facet of individual safety. Also, the impact of entertainment media on perceived safety and attitudes towards crime and justice is not to be underestimated.

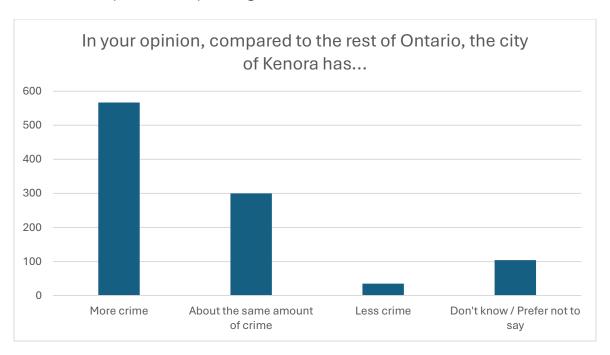


Fear of Crime

The reported perceptions of safety may also be related to the predominate view (N=824) that crime in Kenora has increased over the last three years.



Similarly, the view that there is more crime in Kenora than in the rest of Ontario was prevalent with 56.3% of respondents expressing that view.



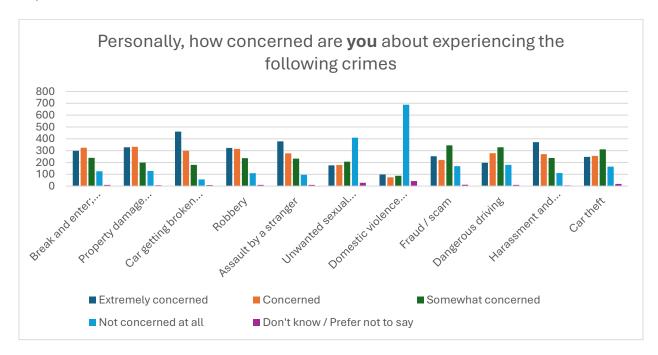
As the next graph illustrates when asked what crimes they feared the most, "having their car broken into" was closely followed by "robbery", "assault by a stranger", "break and enter", and

"harassment and threatening behaviour". "Unwanted sexual contact" and "domestic violence" received the highest ratings of "not concerned at all". However, a troubling number of three-hundred and fifty-three (N=353) said that they were extremely concerned or concerned about "unwanted sexual contact" and one-hundred and seventy-three (N=173) expressed extreme concerns or concern about becoming a victim of "domestic violence". That is 35% of those that responded within the category of unwanted sexual contact and 17% of those that responded within the category of domestic violence.

Domestic violence and intimate partner violence remain a substantial concern in Canada with trends having either stayed the same or having gone up. "There were 127.082 victims of police-reported violence (violence committed by spouses, parents, children, siblings and extended family members) in 2021, the most recent available data, a rate of 336 victims per 100,000 population. This marked the fifth year of increase. Women and girls represented two-thirds (69%) of family violence victims (Statistics Canada).

"Similarly, the rate of police-reported sexual assault in Canada has reached its highest level since 1996, according to Statistics Canada data. There were more than 34,200 reports of sexual assault countrywide in 2021, an 18 per cent increase from 2020. While reports decreased in 2020, the rate of sexual assault has otherwise steadily increased for five years. Despite an increase in public discussion about issues around sexual violence, the number of sexual assaults reported to police is still likely to be a significant underestimate. The agency [Statistics Canada] cited data that showed in 2019, only six per cent of sexual assault incidents experienced by Canadians 15 and older in the previous year had been reported to police" (The Canadian Press reporting on Statistics Canada most recent report in August 2022).

It is all too easy to focus research of this kind on the majority experience in public spaces and, in this case, ignore the fear and potentially victimization of members of the community that experience harms in their own homes.

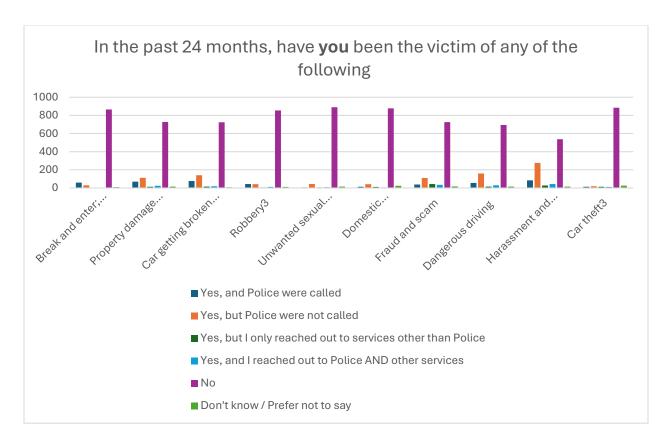


Victimization Experiences

While perceptions are ultimately just a viewpoint on what is happening, the next two questions aimed to assess how much these views were influenced by personal experiences, either as a victim or through knowing someone who has been a victim. Unsurprisingly, the responses about knowing someone who had been a victim of crime in the past two years mirrored the patterns seen in perceptions. A significant number of respondents knew someone who had their "car broken into" (N=796), followed by those who knew someone who experienced "harassment" (N=750), "property damage and graffiti" (N=719), "fraud" (N=598), "dangerous driving" (N=461), "robbery" (N=409), "domestic violence" (N=326), "car theft" (N=227), and "unwanted sexual contact" (N=224).



When asked whether they themselves had been a victim of crime in the past 24 months by far most respondents did **not** report being a victim of crime across all categories. The highest form of victimization reported was for "harassment and threatening behaviour" (N=361) but less than half called the police. This pattern of having been a victim of crime but not calling the police was consistent across all categories except for "robbery" and "break and enters" when police were called more often than not. Kenora is clearly no exception to the reality of crimes being underreported. Nationally, it is estimated that almost half of all crimes committed do not come to the attention of police. The reasons for this are complex and differ across populations. For example, young men experiencing peer to peer violence tend to not report their victimization to police because they may not want to be perceived as "weak". Sexual assaults, which are most often perpetrated by someone known to the victim, also tend to be underreported precisely because there is a pre-existing relationship, and victims might question their own judgement of the situation, feel ashamed or worry about the reactions from authorities and others. Whatever the motivation may be to not report a crime to police, the survey results show this is an issue in Kenora as it is in other communities.



When asked what other crimes concerned them, the following themes emerged. 6

Are there any other crime-related problems that concern you in the city of Kenora?			
Themes	Subthemes		
Abuse	Children (including sexual abuse) Animals Seniors		
Assault	Due to being on drugs In broad daylight (while walking DT) With needles used as a weapon Against retail staff As part of a robbery		
Break and Enters	"Anywhere" (as a result of individuals looking for money to buy drugs) Leading to home invasion Into cars Private yards being used for sleeping and drug use		
Bad drivers	Collisions Cyclists on sidewalks		

⁶ The thematic analysis is provided in tables because attempting to create a narrative based on the many responses would have not done justice to the breath and depth of comments received.

Dissatisfaction with services

Even though the question was about crime related problems, respondents also used the opportunity to share their dissatisfaction with government(s) and services. A lot of comments were about the justice and enforcement system failing.

Hit and runs People running in front of cars Speeding

Agency leaders with criminal records, corrupt police, bribery (the rich can make crimes go away) and nepotism.

Sectors blaming each other rather than collaborating.

Lack of accountability when services don't meet funding mandates.

Everything being classified as a mental health issue (as opposed to safety).

Justice system and enforcement failures: Drug dealing ignored, inequitable application of the law (public drinking vs. public drug use), "catch and release" leading to revolving door.

Police: not acting and not providing followup; not laying charges; not believing women who report sexual assault. Residents not reporting crimes due to feeling unsafe (both fear of retaliation and fear of police).

Harm reduction and decriminalization leading to permissiveness and enabling and the needle program being badly managed and leading to littering.

Hospitals not catching illnesses until it is too late.

Lack of media attention to crime (inadequate reporting and lack of community knowledge as a result)

Not helping those with addictions and mental health

Releasing homeless people from other areas into Kenora

	Taxes paying for services for the unhoused and not for what everyone benefits from.
Domestic violence	and the control of th
Drugs Drugs were mentioned most frequently.	Addiction Availability of drugs Changes to community over past 30 years due to drugs Coke used by 16–35-year-olds Committing crime to support drug use Drug houses [being allowed to exist] Meth impact on behaviour in public spaces Meth cheaper than cannabis impacting youth Ruining community events Trafficking
Quite a few respondents commented on the impact of crime on the downtown especially the core. These comments mostly reflected on fears for safety for themselves or their loved ones (children and spouses) and a general sense of being unsafe anywhere especially when suspecting that people are carrying weapons. Respondents also spoke of how challenging it is to explain some public behaviours to their children.	Afraid for kids' safety (e.g. library toilet, walking to school, bus stops, cinema) Aggressive youth Afraid: after dark; all the time; anywhere ("even at the skate park"); near the Fellowship Center; when getting to and from work; as a woman; in the mall (near liquor store); in washrooms. Threats to safety for all. Impact on business and tourism: business closures; business locking doors during opening hours; "embarrassing" because it drives away tourists Fires having led to increase in unhoused and visibility of homelessness. Neglect ("decrepit housing") signaling lack of safety
DUI	As a "way of life" High prevalence of alcohol on streets and at events
Experiences with Crime	Types of crime mentioned in the theme "experiences with crime" were: B&E

	Vehicle being tampered with Witnessing peer to peer violence
was "excellent".	
Graffiti	
Respondent also spoke of hate crimes, and some made mention of Indigenous peoples being targeted by the public and by the police.	Other hate crime categories that were mentioned included: • LGBTQIAP+ • Transphobia • Race • The unhoused
Human trafficking and sex trafficking especially of first Nation women and of persons with cognitive issues (e.g. FASD).	
	Contractors not finishing jobs once they have been paid ID theft
Sex work	
Sexual harassment	In workplaces going unchallenged
A lot of comments fell into the category of social disorder rather than crime per se. This is a common confusion in communities. While some experiences feel unsafe this does not mean they constitute a crime. Nonetheless they are worth noting here in terms of experiences shared by respondents.	Being yelled at (pool/rec center) Bullying of children on school bus Defecation/urination in public spaces Encampments Harassment/threats on the streets from street-involved people Indecent exposure Public alcohol use/intoxication Public drug use Littering especially the presence of needles Loitering and vagrancy Mischief Out of town people coming for services and not leaving Panhandling Sex in public Stalking Trespassing Unstable and erratic behaviours due to psychoses or withdrawal ATV

One crime of significant concerns for respondents was theft.	Bikes (organized crime) Boats Cars (both of cars and from within cars) From yards From trades people From personal property Retail theft Shopping carts
Unsafe Spaces in Addition to Downtown In addition to social disorder challenges and fears related to the downtown core, many respondents shared that other spaces made them feel unsafe. These spaces may well become the focus of future field studies.	Airport Road Banks (especially Nova Scotia bank staircase) Chipman street City Hall + railway tracks behind it Churches Half-way house area in Keewatin Harbour Front HC door on second King George Matheson Street and First street Main Street Dock No Frills store Parks Parking lot on Water and Second street Rabbit lake Recreation Center Rural residential areas Second Street North near the Northwest Health Unit Shopper's mall Thistle Pavilion Waterfront
Vandalism A lot of respondents spoke of the prevalence of vandalism. The Christmas tree being cut down received several mentions as seemingly symbolic of what respondents described as disregard for the public space. Violence While violence is often cited in communities as the key concerns for	Cemetery Christmas tree cut down Personal property damage School properties Between street involved people [peer to peer] and being very visible and hard to witness and explain to children
safety, it was less frequently mentioned by respondents to this survey. If it was mentioned, then it was very specific as, cited in the subthemes:	Gangs (OMG's, Manitoba Warriors, Native Syndicate, Indian Possee.) Against hospital staff

"Kenora Indian Beaters" (KIB)

Murder Shootings Stabbing

Weapons being carried by street people Youth violence

Other Comments

Many of the respondents that did not directly answer the question but instead used the opportunity to speak of other concerns related to community safety and well-being.

"Business behaviour antagonizes street involved people".

Concerns are over sensationalized and overplayed by a small minority and are the same as in other cities. Societal issues are more important. These include:

- Homelessness and lack of housing
- Illegal evictions
- Increasing levels of poverty and challenges in making ends meet (having to work several jobs)
- Lack of support to the unhoused and people with addictions
- Long wait times for all services especially for substance use issues
- Racism
- OD deaths
- Increases in youth using substances
- Visibility of the unhoused having increased since Covid and the fires

At the community level, the lack of washrooms and the lack of respectable outdoor spaces was described as leading to stigmatization, which in turn was seen as having the potential to lead to violence. For example, some suggested that negative comments in social media may lead to vigilantism (this included speaking ill of Manitobans).

At the city level some suggested that taxes are too high and there was a lack of longterm planning and a pattern of city inaction

Quotes

Kenora needs to change, it's killing businesses and tourism.

[Downtown] is like a nasty worm inside a beautiful apple.

The city needs to stop pandering and catering to problematic people and actually do something before this city dies a slow death.

I sincerely hope council can turn this ship around before it sinks.

The police are called to this store repeatedly for theft and told there is nothing they can doso it's ok to just fill your grocery cart and walk out?

From Husky the Musky downtown looks great

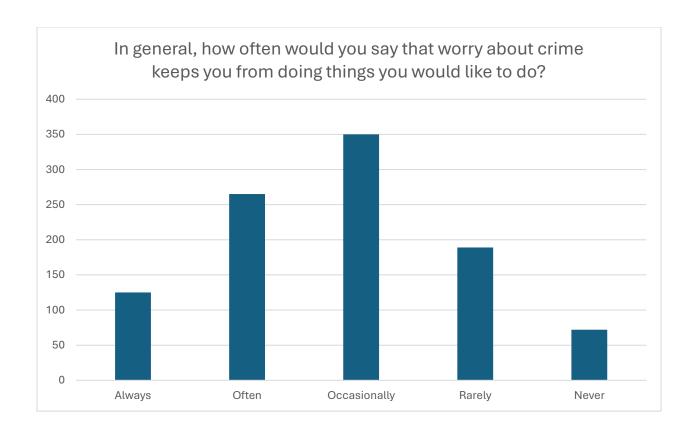
Without justice comes chaos.

I would like to say that I have high hopes that our community can and will figure this out. That will not happen until we as members of this community are taken SERIOUSLY & HEARD.

I carry a sharps container in my stroller for when I'm out for walks and I'm constantly picking them [needles] up.

Impact of Perceptions on Behaviours

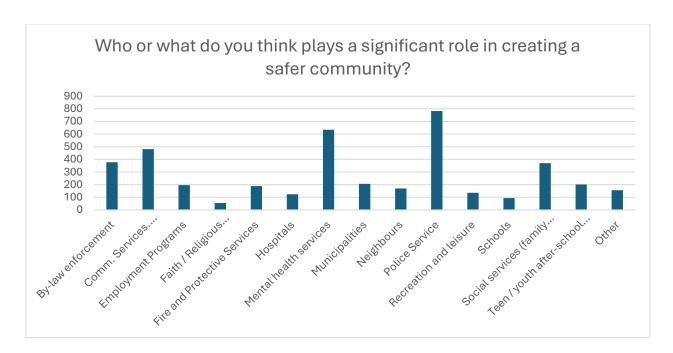
After assessing perceptions of crime, we wanted to determine whether worries about crime actually prevented respondents from doing activities that they enjoy. This question aimed to uncover whether these concerns had a tangible impact on behavior or were merely worries with no real effect. Only seventy-two (N=)72 respondents reported that concerns about community safety "never" influenced their engagement in activities. In contrast, the vast majority (N=929) of respondents indicated that their perceptions and concerns did affect their participation in activities.



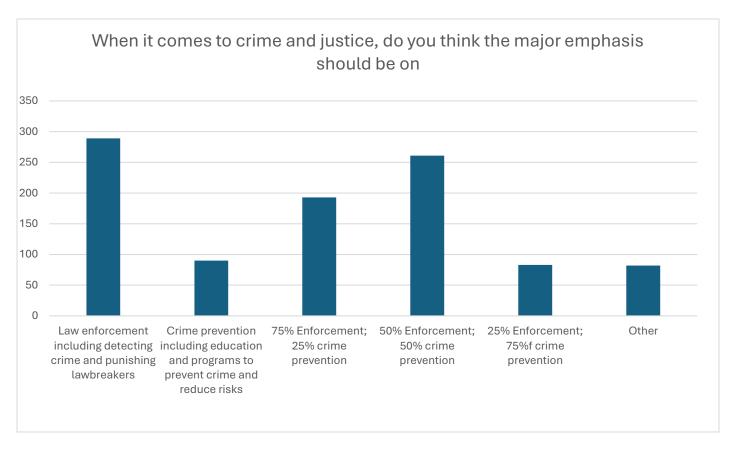
Safer Communities roles and responsibilities

Community safety even when paired with the concept of community well-being tends to have a strong association with policing. When asked who plays a significant role in creating a safer community, respondents first mentioned police (N=783); followed by mental health services (N=634) and community-based organizations (N=481) and social services (N=370)7. While this shows an understanding that safer communities are not solely created through enforcement, fewer respondents made the connection between crime prevention and health, education or recreation than making the connection between policing and community safety.

⁷ Participants could choose up to five options



Not surprisingly, therefore, when asked where the resources for crime and justice should be concentrated, respondents chose law enforcement as the main area (N=289) although only a slightly lower number of respondents (N=261) suggested that resources should be equally allocated to law enforcement and crime prevention. The challenge with this question is that we cannot know how respondents understand "crime prevention". Some of them may well see only police as being responsible for crime prevention. Nonetheless, a significant number of respondents suggested that prevention should receive attention equal to enforcement.



Of the eighty-two (82) respondents that chose "other" the following type of comments were received:

Justice related

- Changing bail conditions
- Court system and crown attorney office overhaul
- Stopping harm reduction because it enables
- Increase punishment as deterrence
- More treatment and education in correctional facilities
- Treat people well but punish those that don't seem to care
- Differentiate between offenders and person with mental health issues

Prevention Focus

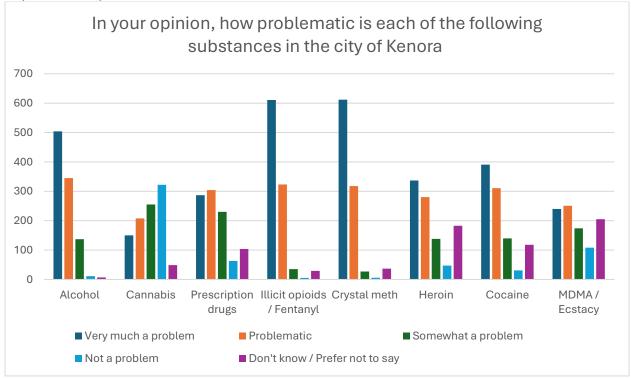
- Treatment for addiction
- Housing and wrap-around supports
- Housing first plus a guaranteed income supplement (don't emulate the USA)
- More prevention education and programs starting as young as possible
- Ensure that everyone's basic needs are met
- Pay attention to the root causes and the social determinants of health
- Schools offering more education about the history of Canada and Indigenous heritage

Service Oriented

- Auditing all mental health and addiction programs to look for reallocation of funds
- Looking at best practices and studies
- > Percentage allocation is problematic because while enforcement is still needed, we also need to invest in prevention.
- > All programs have been defunded which is why we have the challenges.
- Remove services and shelters from the downtown because they attract the unhoused and lead to crime and disorder.
- Better coordination of all services
- Police and EMS are too stretched to do their work well
- Stop having the city take care of district wide issues

Problematic Substance Use

When asked to judge how much of a problem different substances are in Kenora, respondents identified crystal meth (N=612) and opioids (N=611) as their top concerns closely followed by alcohol (N=504). Cannabis was judged as the drug of least concern out of eight possible choices provided. Almost all respondents (N=828 out of 1005 that responded to this question) expressed the opinion that substance use had increased in Kenora over the last three years. As with other questions this three-year window was chosen to allow for the impact of the pandemic to be considered.



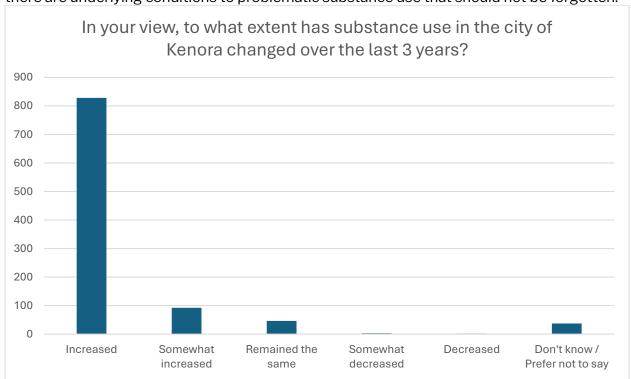
When asked if there is any other substance, not in the list above, that in their view is problematic in Kenora and to name them, most respondents left the open-ended question blank. Of those that answered 45 said they didn't know; 36 used the questions to share their frustration about the level of drug use in Kenora and spoke of their perception of what leads to it (such as harm reduction).

Many of the remaining respondents spoke of products that are readily available and can be turned into drugs or "used to get a high" via inhalation, ingestion, or injection. Products that were mentioned included aerosols, hand sanitizer, solvents (such as lacquer thinner), bath salts, gas, and cough syrup. Quite a few respondents also mentioned animal tranquilizers, and some spoke of the toxicity and harm that these bring. Of those that mentioned specific drugs many were familiar with the pharmaceutical names (e.g. ketamine) or the street names (down, dolly's 8, trang', etc.). Fentanyl received a frequent mention as did "tainted opioids".

Even others spoke of products that are not illegal such as tobacco (vaping) and alcohol, as well as marijuana. In part these were seemingly included to illustrate that all substances can have devastating effects on individuals and their communities, and that this impact is not reserved to illicit substances. One respondent included gambling in this line up, and another suggested that you could "get just about any drug in Kenora but not marijuana".

Overall, the sense that drugs are readily available in Kenora was strong among respondents and some drugs were seen as being more prevalent than others. Some respondents suggested they took their impressions about injection drug use and the use of "hard drugs" from the prevalence of needles left behind in public spaces.

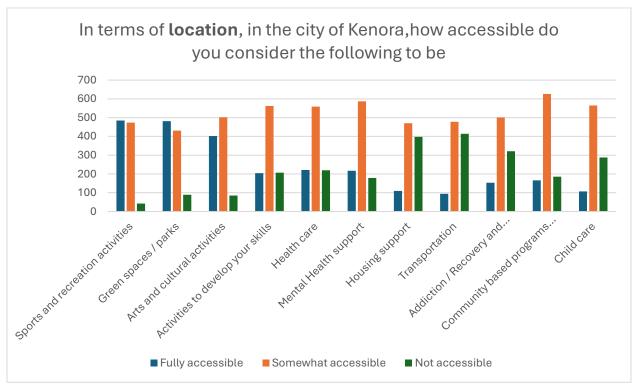
It was clear from the answers to this question that residents were very much aware that drugs (including inhalants and ingestible day to day substances) as well as alcohol negatively impact the health of residents and the well-being of the community at large. A few reminded us that there are underlying conditions to problematic substance use that should not be forgotten.



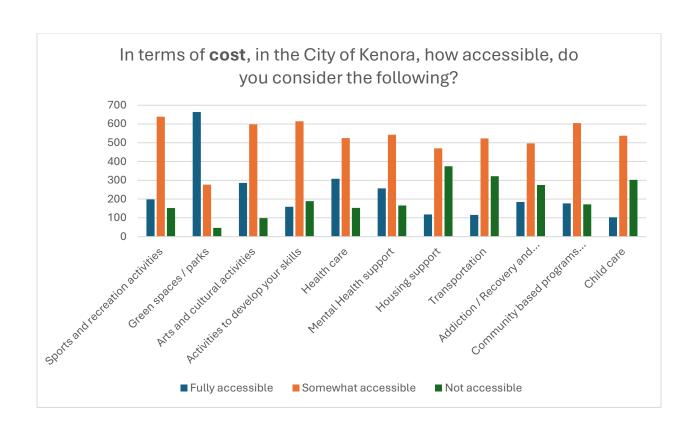
Accessibility

Finally, we wanted to measure the perceived accessibility of certain services in the community of Kenora both in terms of location and in terms of cost. This question was included because perceived access to services impacts individuals' willingness and ability to participate in community life.

Recreation activities, greens paces and arts and culture received the highest scores for being fully accessible in terms of locations. All others (skill development opportunities, health and mental health, housing support, transportation, addiction/recovery support, communitybased programs and childcare mostly received a "somewhat accessible" rating for their locations. Although transportation (N=414), housing support (N=398) and addiction recovery supports (N=321) received even lower ratings in terms of accessibility by location.



In terms of cost, only green spaces and parks were rated high for being fully accessible. All others received "somewhat accessible" as their highest scores. And housing support, transportation, childcare and addiction recovery supports received high rating of "not being accessible at all" in terms of costs (in that order).



Bivariate Analyses

A bivariate analysis looks at two conditions to determine if there is a relationship between them and how one condition is related to another. The purpose of bivariate analyses is to understand the nature and strength of the relationship between two conditions. This can help identify trends and potentially even causality.

For example, if one of the conditions is "age" and another one is "perception of safety" a bivariate analysis can determine if there is a connection between the two and whether that connection meets the threshold of being significant and therefore cannot be attributed to chance. It can also help to determine the direction of that relationship. For example, if we want to find out whether age impacts perception of safety, a bivariate analysis first can tell us if there is a connection, whether that connection is significant and in which direction it goes. Through this approach we can answer questions such as: do seniors worry more about community safety than youth?

Bivariate analyses allow us to "disaggregate" data by breaking down aggregated (overall) data into smaller sub-categories, often based on characteristics like age, gender, income level, geographic location, race, or other relevant conditions. Here are the key reasons why disaggregating data is important:

Revealing Inequities: Aggregated data can mask disparities between different groups. For example, an average income level might appear acceptable, but when disaggregated by gender or race, it could reveal significant income gaps.

Identifying Vulnerable Populations: Disaggregating data helps identify specific sub-groups that might be more vulnerable or disproportionately affected by certain issues, such as health disparities in different ethnic groups.

This knowledge can improve decision making by focusing interventions on subgroups or by allocating resources to the most identified need. This also enhances transparency and accountability because we can now monitor progress in addressing the needs of those most vulnerable as well as ensure that services are equitably applied. Finally, disaggregated data can be a powerful tool for advancing fairness and empowering marginalized groups to advocate for their rights and needs.

Ultimately, disaggregated data provides more detailed insights, leading to more accurate and meaningful conclusions. This is particularly important in fields like public health, education, economics, and justice where understanding the nuances within populations is crucial. Disaggregating data is a key practice for ensuring that all segments of the population are considered and addressed in research, policy, and practice.

Potentially unintended negative consequences of disaggregating data

While we disaggregated some of the data by gender, neighbourhood and race among other variables to get a better understanding of the realities of diverse populations, caution needs to be taken in not allowing the results to reinforce stereotypes by using the data out of context. For example, if data shows lower academic performance in a particular ethnic group, it might be misinterpreted as a reflection of inherent ability rather than broader social factors. Additionally, by categorizing individuals into specific groups, disaggregated data can contribute to labeling and reinforce existing biases, affecting how those groups are perceived and treated.

Results from the bivariate analyses

In the analyses cited below we provide level of confidence expressed in either (p<0.01) or (p<0.05). P stands for probability. It is a measure of statistical significance. A p-value of 0.01 is generally considered highly significant. It implies that the likelihood of the result occurring by chance is very low, thus providing strong evidence for a true association between the conditions measured. A p-value of 0.05 is standard for most statistical analyses even if it has a slightly lower level of confidence. When interpreting (p<0.01) in the context of bivariate analysis, it means the observed association between the two conditions is statistically significant at the 1% level, in other words, we can be 99% confident that the relationship is not due to random variation. For (p<0.05) that confidence declines to 95% but is still statistically significant. Simply put, a p-value of 0.01 and 0.05 respectively gives us a confidence of 99 and 95 times out of 100 that the connection between variables (conditions) is **not** random and **not** due to chance.

It is important to remember that we are measuring correlations (i.e. connections) between conditions. This does not imply causation, i.e. we cannot state that one condition causes another. Correlation indicates a relationship between two conditions that goes beyond chance but does not prove that one condition causes the other. **Causation, on the other hand,** proves that one condition directly affects another.

For example: If there is a strong correlation between ice cream sales and drowning incidents. this does not mean that eating ice cream causes drowning. Both are influenced by a third factor—hot weather (correlation). On the other hand, there is a causal relationship between smoking and lung cancer. Extensive research has shown that smoking directly increases the risk of developing lung cancer (causation).

In the analyses below we looked only for **correlations not causations**. 8

SENSE OF BELONGING

There was a significant relationship between **Sense of Belonging** and **Feeling of Safety** During Daylight (scale for all locations/activities combined) with statistical differences between groups (p<0.001). Respondents with a weak sense of belonging tended to feel less safe during daylight compared to respondents with a strong sense of belonging.

⁸ In all analyses the categories **Does not apply & don't know/prefer not to say** were excluded and considered as missing values.

Sense of belonging (question 8)	Feeling of safety during daylight (question 18) Mean
Strong	1.72
Somewhat strong	2.01
Somewhat weak	2.29
Weak	2.67

Similarly, there was a significant relationship between Sense of Belonging and Feeling of Safety After Dark (scale for all locations/activities combined) with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.001). Respondents with a weak sense of belonging tended to feel less safe after dark compared to respondents with a strong sense of belonging.

Sense of belonging (question 8)	Feeling of safety after dark (question 19) Mean
Strong	2.22
Somewhat strong	2.53
Somewhat weak	2.75
Weak	3.09

There was a significant relationship between **Sense of Belonging** and Personal **Concern About Crimes** (scale for all crimes combined) with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.001) (except between "strong" and "somewhat strong"). Respondents that reported a "somewhat weak" or "weak" sense of belonging tended to be more concerned about crimes in general.

Sense of belonging (question 8)	Personal concern about crimes (question 22) Mean
Strong	2.72
Somewhat strong	2.53
Somewhat weak	2.27
Weak	1.98

There was also a significant relationship between **Sense of Belonging** and **Experience of Victimization** (scale for all crimes combined) with a statistical difference between group that described a weak sense of belonging and all other groups (p<0.001). Respondents that reported a weak sense of belonging were more likely to have been a victim of crime.

Sense of belonging (question 8)	Experience of victimization (question 24) Mean
Strong	4.49
Somewhat strong	4.47
Somewhat weak	4.39
Weak	4.14

CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR

There was a significant relationship between **Changes in Behavior** and **Personal Concern About Crimes** (scale for all crimes combined) with a statistical difference between all groups of (p<0.001) Respondents that tended to change their behavior (stop doing what they like to do) were more likely to be concerned about crimes in general (all crimes combined).

Changes in behavior (question 26)	Personal concern about crimes (question 22) Mean
Always	1.68
Often	1.99
Occasionally	2.42
Rarely	2.94
Never	3.23

HOUSEHOLD INCOME (6 categories)

We wanted to test whether household income in Kenora influenced personal fears and concerns about safety. The connection between income and fear of crime is complex. Lower income household are likely to be in lower income neighbourhoods and may have more experiences of victimization influencing their level of fear. Higher income household may have more access to security measure that lower their fear of crime, but the use of these measures may be ray a greater sense of potential loss.

However, no significant relationships were found in Kenora between **Household Income** and Feeling of Safety During Daylight, Feelings of Safety After Dark, Personal Concern About **Crimes** or **Experience of Victimization** (scales for all crimes combined).

RACIAL IDENTITY / ETHNICITY

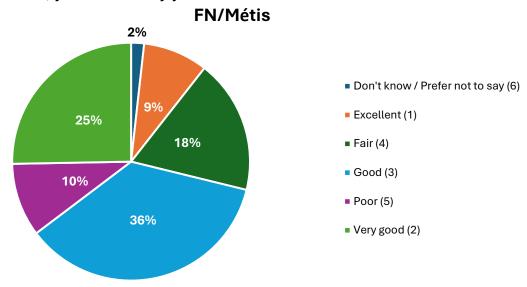
The large Indigenous and Métis population in Kenora prompted us to ask whether there were some significant differences in experiences and perceptions according to racial identity. The key reason for this was to avoid hiding their realities behind all other realities. While the number of respondents that identified as First Nation or Métis was lower than the actual percentage of Indigenous and Métis peoples living in Kenora the total number of First Nation and Métis respondents for a survey of this nature was high.

We found no significant relationship between **Racial Identity** and self reported **Control Over** Life (question 3).

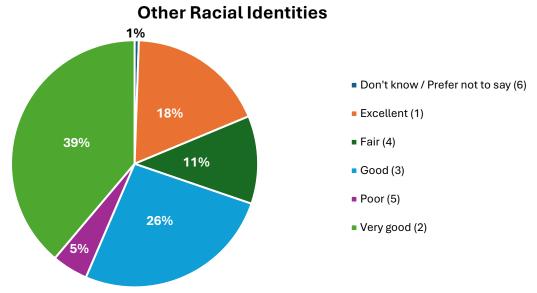
However, there was a significant relationship between Racial identity and self-described Mental Health with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.001). FN/Métis respondents tended to report a lower mental and emotional health compared to all other respondents.

Racial ID /ethnicity (question 39)	Mental and emotional health (question 4) Mean
FN/Métis	3.01
Others	2.47

Overall, you would say your mental and emotional health is...

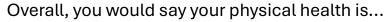


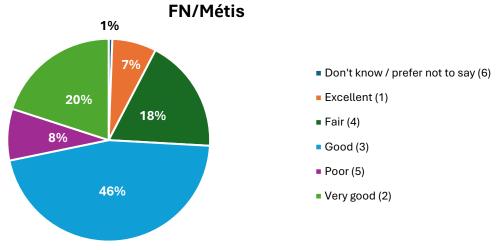


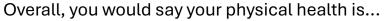


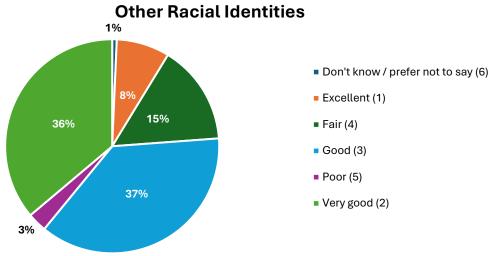
There was also a significant relationship between **Racial identify** and self-reported **Physical Health** with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.001). FN/Métis respondents were less likely to report good physical health compared to all other respondents.

Racial ID /ethnicity (question 39)	Physical health (question 5) Mean
FN/Métis	3.02
Others	2.71





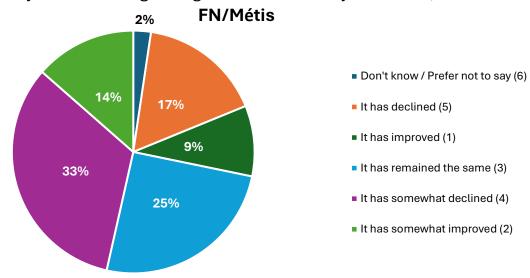




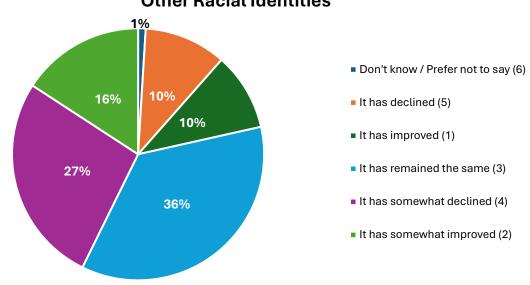
There was a significant relationship between Racial identity and Wellbeing in last 3 years with a statistical difference between groups of people of (p<0.05). FN/Métis respondents were more likely to report that their well-being had declined in the last 3 years compared to all other respondents.

Racial ID /ethnicity (question 39)	Wellbeing in last 3 years (question 6) Mean
FN/Métis	3.41
Others	3.15

Has your well-being changed over the last 3 years? If so, how?



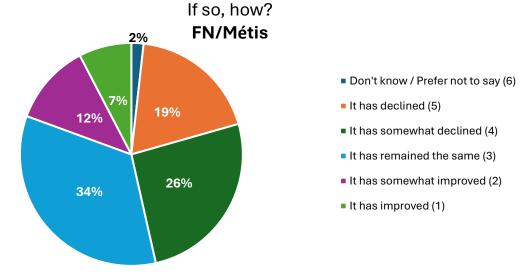
Has your well-being changed over the last 3 years? If so, how? **Other Racial Identities**



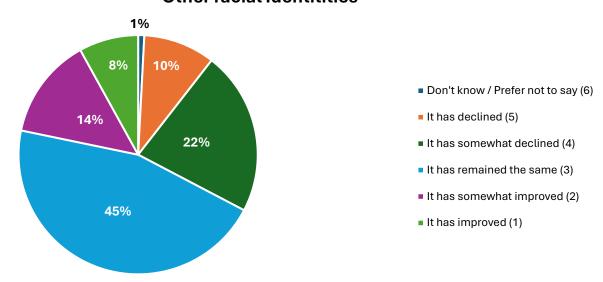
Similarly, FN/Métis respondents were more likely to report that their standard of living had declined in the last 3 years compared to all other respondents (who were most likely to have seen it improved) with a statistical difference of (p<0.01)

Racial ID /ethnicity (question 39)	Standard of living (question 7) Mean
FN/Métis	3.42
Others	3.14

Has your standard of living changed over the last 3 years?



Has your standard of living changed over the last 3 years? If so, how? Other racial Identitities

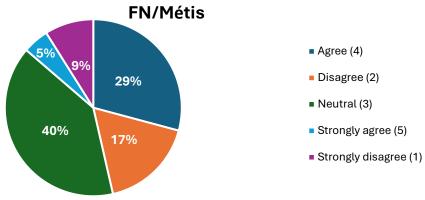


No significant relationship was found between Racial Identity and Sense of Belonging (question 8) or between Racial identity and Knowing People in Neighbourhood (question 10).

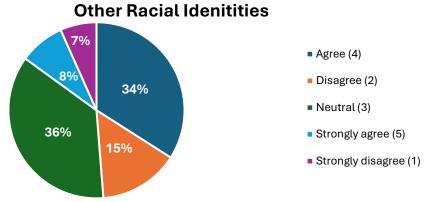
However, there was a significant relationship between Racial Identity and Living in Neighbourhood Providing a Sense of Community with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.05). FN/Métis respondents were less likely to report feeling a sense of community in their neighborhood, compared to all other respondents.

Racial ID /ethnicity (question 39)	Living in neighbourhood gives a sense of community (question 11) Mean
FN/Métis	3.04
Others	3.23

Living in my neighborhood gives me a sense of community



Living in my neighborhood gives me a sense of community

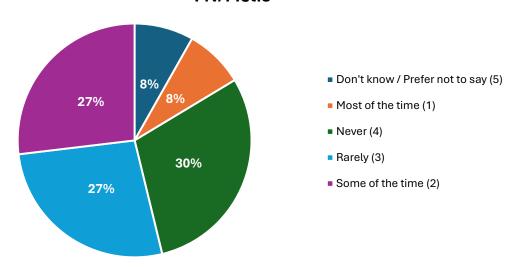


There was a significant relationship between Racial identity and Feeling Unwelcome with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.05)

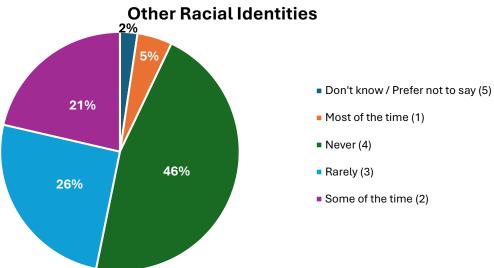
FN/Métis respondents were more likely to report feeling unwelcome in their community compared to all other respondents.

Racial ID /ethnicity (question 39)	Feeling unwelcome (question 12) Mean
FN/Métis	3.03
Others	3.20

Do you ever feel unwelcome in your community? FN/Métis



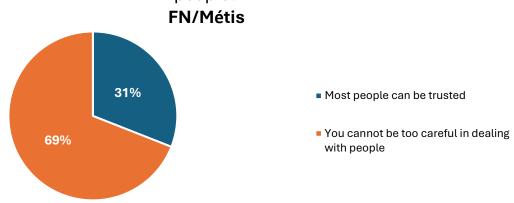
Do you ever feel unwelcome in your community?



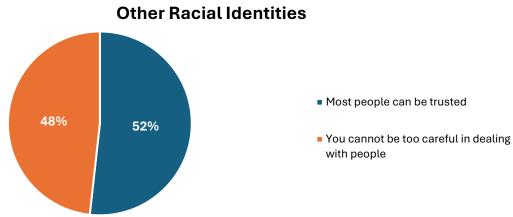
Likely somewhat related to the sense of not feeling welcome, there was a significant relationship between Racial identity and Trusting People (question 14) with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.001). In other words, FN/Métis respondents reported being more mistrustful compared to all other respondents.

Racial ID (question 39)	/ethnicity	Most people can be trusted	You cannot be too careful in dealing with people
FN/Métis		48 (31%)	107 (69%)
Others		368 (51.8%)	343 (48.2%)

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?



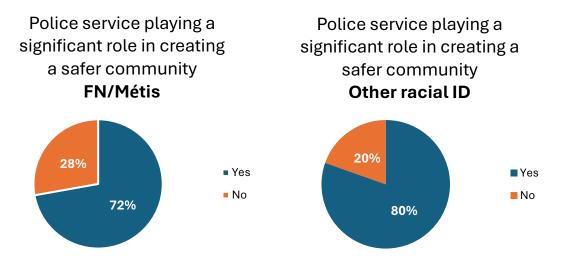
Generally speaking, would you day that most people can be trusted or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?



There was no significant relationship between Racial Identity and Asking for Assistance (question 15), Feeling of Safety During Daylight (question 18), Feeling of Safety After Dark (question 19), Personal Concern About Crimes (question 22), and Experience of Victimization (question 24).

However, there was a significant relationship between Racial identity and Police Playing a Significant Role in Creating Community Safety with statistical differences between groups of (p<0.05). In other words, FN/Métis respondents (72.2%) were less likely to identify Police Service as playing a significant role in creating a safer community, compared to all other respondents (80.4%). Still, most respondents consider police service as playing a significant role in community safety.

	-	Police Service playing a significant role in creating a safer community (question 27)	
Racial ID /ethnicity (question 39)	Yes	No	
FN/Métis	122 (72.2%)	47 (27.8%)	
Others	575 (80.4%)	140 (19.6%)	

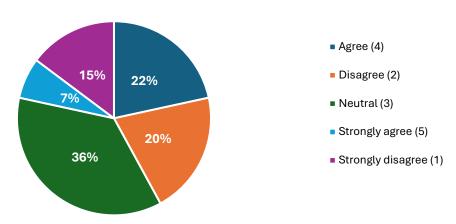


NEIGHBORHOOD (2 categories)

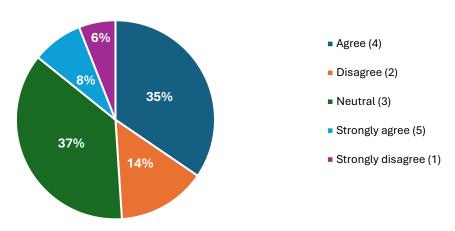
There was a significant relationship between respondents living in **Downtown** and **Living in** Neighbourhood Providing a Sense of Community with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.001). Respondents that live downtown were less likely to report a sense of community compared to respondents that live outside of downtown in all other neighbourhoods.

In what area / neighborhood do you live (question 45)	Living in my neighborhood gives me a sense of community (question 11) Mean
Downtown/Central	2.85
Other	3.25

Living in my neighborhood gives me a sense of community **Downtown/Central**



Living in my neighborhood gives me a sense of community **Other**



Respondents who live outside of downtown (city center) reported to feel safer during daylight, regardless of location, compared to respondents who live downtown. (p<0.05)

In what area / neighborhood do you live (question 45)	Feeling of safety during daylight (question 18) Mean
Downtown/Central	2.03
Other	2.21

Respondents who live outside of downtown reported to feel less safe after dark compared to respondents who live downtown.

In what area / neighborhood do you live (question 45)	Feeling of safety after dark (question 19) Mean
Downtown/Central	2.52
Other	2.69

There was no significant relationship between **Downtown** and **Personal Concern About Crimes (question 22) or Experience of Victimization (question 24)**

Gender

There was no significant relationship between **Gender** and **Feeling of Safety During Daylight** (question 18).

But there was a significant relationship between **Gender** and **Feeling of Safety After Dark** (Scale for all locations/activities combined) with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.001)

Women reported feeling less safe after dark for all locations combined when compared to men.

This result is common in surveys of this nature. It has been suggested that crimes against women in public spaces tend to be overreported which can lead to the outcome of women feeling less safe after dark. Media coverage and social media can sometimes amplify perceptions of the prevalence of certain types of crimes, which might make them seem more common than they are.

Gender (question 36)	Feeling of safety after dark (question 19) Mean
Men	2.53
Women	2.71

^{*}Categories Non-binary, Prefer to self-describe and Prefer not to say were excluded and considered as missing values because of the low number of respondents in those categories There was no significant relationship between **Gender** and **Personal Concern About Crimes** (Scale for all crimes combined) (question 22) and no significant relationship between **Gender** and **Experience of Victimization** (Scale for all crimes combined) (question 24)

Age

There was a significant relationship between Age Group and Feeling of Safety During Daylight (Scale for all locations/activities combined) with a statistical difference between groups 35-64 and 65 and up (of p<0.05)

Respondents aged 65 and up reported feeling safer in general during daylight compared to respondents ages 35-64.

Age group (question 38)	Feeling of safety during daylight (question 18) Mean
18-34 years old	2.23
35-64 years old	2.22
65 and up years old	2.05

There was also a significant relationship between Age Group and Feeling of Safety After Dark (Scale for all locations/activities combined) with statistical differences between groups 65 and up and the 2 other groups (p<0.01)

Respondents aged 65 and up reported feeling safer in general after dark compared to respondents aged 18-34 and 35-64.

Age group (question 38)	Feeling of safety after dark (question 19) Mean
18-34 years old	2.74
35-64 years old	2.70
65 and up years old	2.51

^{*}Category Prefer not to say was excluded (considered as missing values)

This is a curious result because seniors are often seen as being or feeling more vulnerable. The result may be due to seniors being less present in community settings and mostly being at home or driving (which were the two places identified overall as enhancing sense of safety). There was no significant relationship between Age Group and Personal Concern About **Crimes** (Scale for all crimes combined) (question 22) and no significant relationship between **Age Group** and **Experience of Victimization** (Scale for all crimes combined) (question 24)

YOUNG MEN (N=50)

There was a significant relationship between **Young Men** and self reported emotional and mental health with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.01). Young men tended to report better mental health compared to all other respondents.

Gender/Age	Mental and emotional health (question 4) Mean
Young men (18-34)	2.78
All others	3.22

There was also a significant relationship between **Young Men** and **Trusting People (question** 14) with a statistical difference between groups of (p<0.05). Young men reported being more mistrustful compared to all other respondents.

Gender/Age	Most people can be trusted	You cannot be too careful in dealing with people
Young men (18-34)	14 (29.2%)	34 (70.8%)
All others	436 (48%)	472 (52%)

There were no significant relationships between Young Men and Feeling of Safety During Daylight (Scale for all locations/activities combined) (question 18), Feeling of Safety After Dark (Scale for all locations/activities combined) (question 19), Personal Concern About Crimes (Scale for all crimes combined) (question 22), and Experience of Victimization (Scale for all crimes combined) (question 24) with the majority of respondents reporting that they have not been a victim of any of the specified crime (mean=4.39).

We singled out testing for the experiences of young men because peer-to-peer violence among young men can manifest in various forms, including physical altercations, bullying, and aggressive behavior. This type of violence often arises from complex social dynamics, such as competition, social status struggles, and group norms that may glorify aggression. The prevalence of peer-to-peer violence among young men can be influenced by factors such as exposure to violence in the home, societal expectations of masculinity, and the need to assert dominance or control within social circles. Addressing this issue requires comprehensive strategies that involve education, promoting healthy relationships, and providing support systems to help young men develop non-violent ways of managing conflict and expressing themselves. Peer to peer male violence tends to be the most prevalent violence in public spaces but is often under reported.

Open Ended Questions

The View of Survey Participants in Their Own Voice

This section of the report synthesizes the qualitative data gathered from residents of Kenora regarding their views of the community including what they like about Kenora as well as concerns about community safety and well-being, and finally the solutions they propose to address these concerns. The data highlights a range of issues, reflecting a complex interplay of social, economic, systemic and community factors contributing to safety and quality of life in the city of Kenora.

Qualitative data allow respondents to speak in their own voice. And speak they did. The transcription of all open-ended questions combined (including those mentioned above in response to the category "other" in multiple choice questions) amounted to 340 pages of raw data. Many of the respondents took great care in responding at length about their views and experiences, again highlighting that community safety and well-being is of great interest to the residents of Kenora.

A Note of Caution

When analyzing qualitative data, it's tempting to quantify the data by focusing on the most frequently occurring comments. However, this approach can diminish the richness and complexity of human experiences, oversimplifying and potentially overlooking important nuances. Qualitative data often provides context and meaning that numbers alone cannot convey. For example, understanding the motivations behind individuals' opinions or experiences can be lost when reduced to mere statistics.

To avoid this pitfall, we reviewed **every** comment received, including those not expressed by many other respondents, in our thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a qualitative research method that identifies, analyzes, and reports patterns or themes within a dataset. This flexible and widely used approach, applicable in fields such as psychology, sociology, and even market research, allows us to capture the depth and context of the data.

While thematic analysis involves some degree of subjectivity in clustering thoughts, ideally, themes are verified by multiple researchers. Due to resource constraints, this wasn't feasible for our survey. We addressed this challenge by minimizing broad themes and striving to retain the details as closely aligned with respondents' wording as possible.

List of Open-Ended Questions

The following is the list of open-ended questions as they appeared in the survey (not including where a question elaborated on a closed questions by asking participants to explain their answer or by giving the option to elaborate on why they chose "other" (questions 9, 13, 17, 25, 27, 28, 30). Data from those questions is included in the quantitative analysis above.

Question #1 What do you like about the community of Kenora?

Question #34 Please identity your main concerns with regards to community safety in the city of Kenora.

Question #35 What solutions do you propose for improving community safety and wellbeing in Kenora?

The questions were the same as those asked during the subsequent consultations. A summary of the themes that emerged from these focus groups and stakeholder interviews is provided in the Community Consultation Report Supporting Document Three.

Positive Community Attributes in Kenora

The first fully open-ended question was focused on what residents' positive sentiments are about the community of Kenora. It read: What do you like about the community of Kenora? The data is organized into various themes and subthemes, highlighting those aspects that residents expressed they appreciate and value about their city.

Most frequently mentioned was access to nature and connection to the land

- Abundance of Lakes: Residents expressed appreciation for the numerous lakes that provide recreational and aesthetic value.
- Remote Areas and Camping: Easy access to remote areas and camping opportunities was highly valued.
- Clean Air and Forests: The clean air and expansive forests were described as contributing to a high quality of life.
- Outdoor Activities: Opportunities for outdoor activities, such as fishing, walking trails, and enjoying sunsets, were cited often.
- Scenery and Species of Fish: The natural beauty and biodiversity, including various fish species, were seen as significant attractions.

Affordability of Houses

The **relative** affordability of housing in Kenora was also shared as a key positive factor for residents.

Attractions

Cultural attractions like the art gallery and museum were mentioned as being appreciated alongside unique boutiques and restaurants "adding to the local charm". The presence of float planes in the harbour was described as a distinctive and appreciated feature. Some respondents spoke of enjoying local arts and cultural events, including the Trylight Theatre,

the concert series and other live music events (especially in the summer). Also, the MUSE cultural centre was described as enriching the community's cultural landscape.

Being Close to Family and Friends was frequently identified as a positive aspect of living in Kenora. Within this context many participants expressed valuing the sense of community among parents (often when accompanying children to sports events) and friends. Additionally, a significant number of residents shared that they have deep roots in Kenora, enhancing their connection to the area.

Community

Community events and a family-friendly environment were cited as making Kenora "a great place to raise children". Added to this, the rich history and proximity to larger centers like Thunder Bay and Winnipeg were appreciated. Others shared that the community's diversity and recreational opportunities for children was valued. Many also spoke of the quiet atmosphere and the town being peaceful "especially when tourists are not present".

Local Business

Some participants expressed appreciation for the downtown stores and the people who work there, and shared that they feel businesses are contributing to a vibrant local economy.

The People

The people of Kenora were described as kind, generous, and supportive, especially in times of tragedy. Others suggested that there is a strong sense of community support and willingness to help each other.

The Potential

Some respondents commented on the potential for future growth and development in Kenora.

Small Town Feel

The town's small size was seen as allowing for convenient travel and good walkability, with most places being reachable within 5-15 minutes. Kenora was also described a small enough for neighbors to know each other but large enough to maintain privacy contributing to good neighbourliness. And the friendliness of residents and community fundraisers were cited as contributing to a tight-knit, supportive community.

Services

- Excellent Schools: Schools were descried as being highly regarded because of their quality.
- City Services and Recreation: Good city services and recreational opportunities for all ages were mentioned.
- Responsive Police: Some respondents said that they value the responsiveness of local police services.

Diversion from the Above Themes

While most respondents spoke positively about the themes above, some participants used the opportunity to share why they no longer enjoy living in Kenora. The reasons for their dissatisfaction are captured in another open-ended questions about concerns rather than coded here.

Quotes from Residents

I really like the neighborly attitude with many of the people I've met since moving here. It's refreshing to see so many strangers help each other out of the goodness of their hearts.

Kenora is a great community of caring neighbours and generous volunteers and generous businesses. I have never felt unsafe.

[I appreciate] how many resources we have for social services, [and] I love the new town council for trying to do things a different way.

Conclusion on Positive Attributes According to Survey Respondents

Respondents seemed to appreciate many aspects of their community, including access to nature, cultural attractions, community events, a family-friendly environment, local businesses, and the supportive and generous nature of the people. These positive attributes are seen as contributing to the overall quality of life and sense of belonging in Kenora. Despite some residents expressing concerns, the predominant sentiment in answer to this question reflected a strong connection and appreciation for the community.

⁹ Square brackets are used to [add words] to a direct quote to facilitate the flow of reading.

Negative Attributes of Kenora

The next question was focused on the concern that respondents had when it comes to community safety. Many respondents repeated what they had already shared in questions #25 when asked if they had any "other" crime related issues in addition to those mentioned in the preceding question (question #24). The analysis generated the following themes and subthemes:

Please Identify your Concerns with Regards to Community Safety in the City of Kenora.

Themes	Subthemes
Apathy	"No one" calling police any more
Assault (experiences of and fear of)	Even ER staff being attacked Being grabbed in DT and hearing crude sexual comments Offenders getting away with rape
Break-ins	
Domestic violence	
Economy	Access to all programs and services is highly dependent on economic means. High police costs Local taxes paying for people from out of town (Indigenous peoples of reserve) Not having childcare makes it hard to make ends meet Vandalism being prevalent and expensive for the city
Fear of DT	Being alone in DT is scary
DT is described as "the heart of the community" and the challenges are seen spreading to surrounding neighborhoods. "I feel we have lost all control ". Decline of the city in the last "few years"	DT is taken over by services and people that access free help Low standards being accepted Locating shelters etc. in DT a mistake Street people are taking over the streets Tipping point (all social services, no business)
	Businesses needing to lock their doors sends a signal Business kindness is being rebuffed Business community is eroding Confrontation in stores City catering to the people in DT who cause issues

	Embarrassment (What must the tourists think?) • Defecation in public • Garbage signaling neglect • Littering – needles – threat to health especially children • Loitering: Late night gathering outside shelters • Night times gets taken over by the unhoused • Panhandling • Public drug use and drinking • No washrooms for anyone • Unpredictable behavior of people with MH and addiction issues • Vehicle break-ins • Verbal harassment • Violent break-ins • Violence between street-involved people Experience of being unhoused feels saddening and inhumane
	Transient populations (not just unhoused): "we no longer know them, and they don't care – not from here".
	Unsafe for children (even King George playground) and children witnessing "bad behavior"
Human trafficking and sex trafficking	Child welfare needs to keep kids off the streets. Child welfare needs more oversight
Lack of access to healthcare and services	Failing systems Hard time keeping services staffed. Insufficient trauma support Inadequate support for addiction (no treatment) Lack of volunteers Lack of nurse practitioners Not enough outreach for mental health
	"Developmental disorders unable to understand the reality and consequences

	1
	of their behavior. Nothing to do, idle time, no hope, [previous] trauma, and [now] continued trauma."
Lack of affordable housing and	Encampments (garbage left behind)
homelessness	
	Absentee landlords
	Can't even attract professionals due to lack
	of affordable housing. Impacting access to
	services because of lack of staff
	"Seeing unhoused sleep-in snowbanks at -
	20 is heartbreaking"
	Lack of safety of the unhoused Noone looking after homeless people
	Noone looking after nomeless people
	Homelessness more visible after the fires
	Unhoused coming to Kenora from out of
	town
Lack of prevention	Not addressing the problems, just the
	outcomes
	Refusing to look at the roots of the issues
Failing justice system	Bail release is almost assumed
	(demoralizing police)
	Individuals come for court and then don't
	leave or cannot go back home
	Lack of consequences: No punishment for
	social disorder and unsafe behavior
	Repeat offenders – revolving door
	Too many people on remand (no programs
	- leading to recidivism)
	,
	Unequal enforcement for crimes and bylaw
	infractions
	Has of the company of
	Use of trauma and race as an "excuse for
	bad behavior"
Lack of a solid plan	"I would love to see a safety plan that is less
Lack of a Solid platt	focused on crime and punishment and
	more focused on reconciliation and
	creating meaning, connection, belonging,
	and purpose."
	and parpoon

	Current committee lacking adequate representation because key people are missing. "Same people, same issues, same committees will not lead to solutions".
	No plan to deal with the unhoused, strain on business and the government
Lack of community	Not having bounced back from Covid
	Lack of investment in planning community space together
Lack of coordination	A divide between grass roots and
	traditional services and business
	Competition over funding
	Not breaking the cycle
	Social services not working together Too many overlapping mandates
	No permanent long-term programs - always temporary projects
Invasive species coming in through boaters	
Lack of support for business and investors	
No concerns	
Harm reduction failures	Observing open drug use
	People on drugs being belligerent due to drug use
	Enabling is not helping – need real help
	Giving out crack pipes to young kids no questions asked
Polarization	Blame game and finger pointing Them vs us mentality
	Divisions between those that are seen as enabling and those that want to ship the unhoused to "where they came from".
	Community resistance to best practices

	Media fueling the division
	Prejudice towards the unhoused vs "bleeding heart" services making excuses
	Sacred of vigilantism
	Woke and cancel culture
Playground safety	Needles littering playgrounds
Widespread problematic substance use	Availability of narcotics (especially meth) is creating psychoses
	Hard drugs have taken over
	Limited place where people can use substances safely
	No sober living homes
	Substance use is problematic not just the unhoused (visible) but across the community (invisible)
Public exhaustion/frustration	Leading to intolerance
	Not having had time to heal
	People not helping themselves
	People feel unsafe for different reasons
	Tired of surveys and consultations
	Feeling beyond control
Public perceptions challenges	NIMBYism
	Blaming the unhoused
	Lack of understanding of who does what when where and how
	Misperceptions about mental health, drug use and colonization that fuel isolation
	Socia media creating hysteria and eroding pride

	It is the homeless and Indigenous people that are unsafe
Traffic and pedestrian safety	Buses stop running too early
	Drunk Driving
	Distracted drivers
	Inadequate bike lanes (Valley Drive)
	Icy sidewalks (hard for disabled people)
	No sidewalks on busy streets
	Potholes
	Streets being too dark
	Jaywalking
Racism and discrimination	Hate crimes
	Leading to lack of understanding
	Police being mean to Indigenous peoples
	Root of rage for marginalized people Being called "racist" when voicing concerns
Theft	Bikes Personal belongings Vehicles (of vehicles and from vehicles)
Vandalism	Expense related to fixing things that have been destroyed
Victim blaming	
Weak rental laws	
Youth	Lack of activities leading to drugs City is not for young people

Quotes:

I worry about getting attacked by the drug users thinking that they are welcome to take whatever they want, from whomever they choose.

Downtown Kenora used to be pretty. It's now so disgusting! Garbage, needles, graffiti everywhere. You never know what state they are in and fear of being attacked is real.

It used to be a nice peaceful community and now we have approximately 140 controlling the fear of 17.000.

As a woman and mother with two young children, I am absolutely terrified to go downtown grocery shopping by myself. I have been harassed almost every single time I have gone out to the point where I have developed an anxiety disorder.

I am generally not afraid of people hanging out and using drugs because at the very least I know I can outrun them. The fact that I have developed strategies about what I'd need to do if I was attacked tells you all you need to know.

I am a 30-year-old female, I would love to continue to live in this city and help build it up again; I'm questioning the feasibility of that every day at the moment.

I don't believe our community is unsafe, I think we have a large population of individuals whose needs are not being met, and their survival mechanisms have led to criminal activities. I really don't have concerns. I feel safety is within. I have control over what I need. I think it is important to see another perspective. If I had to pick something it would be needles left in the school playgrounds.

It doesn't pay to waste money on studies when the problems are obvious.

It feels like we are running out of time to put in place real change because people are becoming impatient and as they become more impatient are less willing to compromise or try new solutions. I am concerned people may try to take things into their own hands and it could end in tragedy.

I focus on my own corner of the world, try to make things better where I can and ignore all of the stupidity and grandstanding.

Conditions of the downtown areas especially after dark and the number of people moving to Kenora for free drugs, free lodging, free medical, free food, free phones, free taxi, free, free, free, except to taxpayers both locally, provincially, and federally. Our once beautiful city often looks and smells like a slum.

The elephant in the room is the Aboriginal population in Kenora.

I have had a [person] turned away from the hospital and told to go to detox (which is not ideal) and then turned away from detox and told to go to the hospital.

There is also an undeniable issues of power dynamics in who is charged, who is blamed and who is "forgiven". For example, the Christmas tree incident. Conversations were taking place in the community blaming those who are unhoused yet when it became rumored this was done by high school kids who play hockey, it was forgotten.

Using people who are part of systemic oppression will never open dialogue that is difficult or uncomfortable for fear of having some accountability for the issues in this city.

Help is good, reducing and preventing crime with early prevention is good, having a plethora of social/health/mental health services is good, but the continuous lack of personal culpability in behaviour isn't doing much for the bystanders who by chance are in the wrong place at the wrong time, and I am starting to feel really, really maxed out with my empathy.

The Indigenous child welfare system in particular is entirely unable to keep kids safe, resulting in kids being chronically abused/neglected in their homes but also in their groups homes or foster homes. There's very little, if any, oversight and any directions/recommendations after the inquiries into child deaths or ombudsman complaints are entirely ignored.

Conclusion on the Negative Attributes of Kenora According to **Survey Respondents**

In summary, the concerns raised regarding community safety in Kenora paint a complex and multifaceted picture. Respondents expressed a profound sense of frustration and helplessness, reflecting on the perceived decline of the city's safety and livability over recent years. The issues that were highlighted ranged from the prevalence of crime, such as assault, break-ins, and vandalism, to deep-seated systemic problems like inadequate support for mental health, addiction, homelessness and discrimination.

There was guite a bit a consensus that the current situation in downtown Kenora and surrounding areas, including high levels of public drug use, crime, and deteriorating public spaces, contributes significantly to the community's unease. The perception of lacking effective justice approaches and law enforcement and the challenges of managing transient populations were seen as exacerbating these concerns. Additionally, many described the struggle with economic inequality and insufficient mental health and addiction services and saw them as further complicating the situation, leaving them feeling that the city is overwhelmed by its own problems.

Despite these challenges, there was also an underlying call for a shift in approach. Many voices advocated for solutions that extend beyond mere crime prevention and punishment. They suggested a need for more comprehensive, community-centered strategies that focus on reconciliation, meaningful connections, and addressing the root causes of social issues rather than just their symptoms.

It is evident that, in the minds of survey respondents, Kenora faces significant hurdles in reconciling the needs of its diverse populations while striving to restore a sense of safety and order. Moving forward, addressing these concerns, some suggested, will require a concerted effort involving collaboration among local stakeholders, effective resource allocation, and a commitment to both immediate and long-term solutions. When looking across the diversity of responses, it seems that only through a balanced approach can Kenora hope to overcome its current challenges and rebuild a safer, more inclusive community.

Proposed Solutions

Finally, we asked participants to share their solutions to the problems that they identified. We asked this question for two reasons: (1) the more minds can engage in problem solving the more likely we are to find approaches that work and are supported; (2) we wanted to impress on all participants that everyone has a role to play. It can be all too easy to identify what is wrong and who needs to fix it. Community Safety and Well-being Plans are great mechanisms for mobilizing the community from the grass roots to the highest level of decision making.

What solutions do you propose for improving community safety and well-being in Kenora? (This includes responses from other parts of the survey to this question).

All highlights in the table signal a high frequency of response received but all comments were reviewed and coded.

Themes	Subthemes
Change the Justice System Many respondents spoke of the impact of all orders of government and the justice system on local communities. There was an expressed desire to advocate for change or to sit down with these systems and cocreate solutions. "Solutions" spanned from harsher approaches at one end of the continuum to humanizing corrections and those that spoke of a balanced method.	Advocate to federal/provincial/local governments for: Harsher penalties for all crimes including bylaw infractions (e.g. littering) Increases in mandatory minimum sentences Identifying repeat offenders, publishing their names, and incarcerating them for a long time A new bail system Getting rid of Gladu Building a mega jail up North Deter through harsher sentences Hiring more prosecutors Jailing "addicts" Working off damage costs for vandalism Moving the court to Dryden or to virtual court Life sentences for someone dealing drugs "Stop the catch and release" system Applying the law equally to all ("Laws are for everyone I can't drink in public, why can the unhoused?") Making youth apologize in public for vandalism
	Advocate for: Universal income Control of housing cost

- Getting funds for supporting people from out of town
- Giving crime prevention funding to social services not police

Provide culturally appropriate services for first time Indigenous offenders

Develop exit plans for those that leave jail

Humanize the jail – "it is inhumane right now

Develop a plan for sending people that come for court "back home".

Use sentencing circles not punishment

Dealing with threats to security by people in power

City-DT improvements

A lot of solutions spoke of changes that the city can make alongside improvements to the DT core.

Potential City actions:

- Pass a bylaw to limit Airbnb
- Pass a bylaw against tents in DT
- Develop zoning that allows business in other areas
- Develop alcohol and drug free parks
- Build a mall outside the DT core
- Provide subsidies for security efforts taken by business owners and provide incentives to come DT
- Widely distribute CTV cameras
- Create more walking trails
- Honor your responsibility as treaty people
- Work with services to disperse/reduce services and shelters (within 1 km)
- Become a dry town
- Eliminate public electrical outlets where street people charge phones
- Research and apply the Houston project¹⁰
- Make parking free to bring people

¹⁰ The **Houston Project** is a community outreach initiative focused on serving underprivileged neighborhoods in Houston, Texas. It is typically organized by local churches and faith-based organizations to provide free services.

DT improvements/revitalization

Many of the improvements cited where about clean up ideas, such as:

- Clean up the parks, parking lot at fellowship center, across from Hing's every morning
- Clean up needles
- Clean up graffiti quickly
- Clean up and charge owners of derelict lots
- Power wash streets
- Sweep playgrounds for needles
- Remove shopping carts from public streets

Move the liquor store and beer store out of the DT

Control access to the liquor store Do not allow alcohol sales in grocery stores

Do not allow fast cash outlets

Move the community center (away from the cinema)

Use the new portion of the jail as a step down from jail, where drug recovery support services are provided and put the warming center there.

Place making suggestions:

- "Dispose of the sign/lighting by-law for downtown Kenora. Light it up! It's dark, deserted and scary".
- Provide lighting at the cenotaph
- Take the "broken window" approach¹¹
- Monitor the harbor front
- Supervise public washrooms
- Board up 316 6th street

¹¹ The **Broken Windows Theory** suggests that visible signs of disorder—like graffiti, vandalism, or litter—encourage further crime and anti-social behavior. The idea is that maintaining clean, orderly environments helps prevent more serious crimes by promoting a sense of law and order. The Broken Windows Theory has been discredited because research shows it often leads to over-policing of minor offenses without significantly reducing serious crime. Critics argue that it disproportionately targets marginalized communities, increases racial profiling, and ignores deeper social issues like poverty and lack of resources, which are stronger drivers of crime than neighborhood disorder.

• Implement the Bear Clan¹²

Other comments were more focused on bringing people in rather than restricting and eliminating behaviors:

- Host events to bring people back (not just youth)
- Host alcohol free events
- Create family friendly spaces
- Focus the DT core on business and fun
- Take back the Kenricia and turn it into housing and hotel space
- Make it easier for people to contribute to keeping the DT clean (garbage containers, dog bags, needle disposal)
- Provide more activities like the farmers market and free events

Many comments focused on dealing with the presence of needles:

- Provide more needle disposals
- Change to needle return not handout or limit hours for exchange.
- Stop needle hand-outs and safe supplies ("free drugs")

Collaborate don't compete

A lot of suggestions for solutions fell into the theme of more collaboration and less competition. In this area of suggestions comments were about service changes but mostly focused on the process of working together including the importance of taking the pressure of those engaged in this work and "being ok with not getting it right at first".

Focus on community development and connectivity

Bring surrounding communities to the table and "share the burden"

Provide more support to Indigenous persons "at home" instead of banning them from reserve

Coordinate better and be clear on who does what when where and how and share that information

- Implement a collective focus on vulnerable populations not a siloed one
- Identify and remove duplication

¹² The **Bear Clan Patrol** is a community-based volunteer organization in Canada that provides safety, support, and harm reduction services in Indigenous and inner-city neighborhoods.

- Create a well-coordinated actionable strategy to increase access to support
- Work with all governments and First Nation leaders
- Share stories and experiences
- Develop more partnerships like the All Nations Health Partners (ANHP)
- Get Police (OPP and Treaty 3) working together

Develop foundational/fundamental guiding principals for governance, planning, and socio-economic development centred around relationships, collaboration, and respect for the two paths of Anishinaabe and settler governance as equal and parallel.

Suggestions for how to improve the CSWB work:

- Include all citizen housed or not in generating solutions
- Increase safety committee to include people with lived experiences
- Ensure meaningful First Nation representation on all City safety & well-being committees
- Invite inter-disciplinary teams on Council to provide advice

Hold governments and their agencies accountable for "their own oppressive methods that harm people"

Culture shift

Many respondents didn't focus just on practical solutions but spoke of the need for attitude change and culture shifts. This includes the need to "address the divide" in the community and challenge perceptions that lead to fear and polarization as well as build connection and belonging.

Start up an anti-racism committee and challenge racism

Decolonize attitudes and celebrate our First Nation and Métis roots

Provide better media attention

Challenge perceptions such as rant and rave with facts

Challenge what we think we know

Educate the business community and all people how to treat street people Teach compassion to children Help people to understand the vulnerability of the unhoused

Meet people where they are at: no shaming

Explore innovative solutions and examine system level barriers to implementing them Look at best practices form other cities (especially small communities) Model the way of inclusion and hope Promote the positive Engage in reconciliation: listen to the Indigenous experiences Stop focusing on visibility and get to underlying causes Stop focusing on policing ("even this survey")

for the public run by the city so we can start to see all people as humans Understand that multi-generational trauma is not a quick fix Have governments taking responsibility and not pushing all the problems onto the health sector Share decision making (no closed-door city

Host a forum on trauma informed services

meetings) Show more empathy for homeowners

Employment

Multiple respondents spoke of the importance of having a purpose in life and how work can provide that sense of purpose.

Provide employment and volunteer opportunities [to the unhoused] (also as consequence for vandalism)

Institute a back to work program for people leaving jail

Bring back the Green Team

Provide more entry level jobs and skill development programs

Start a social enterprise program and sustainable opportunities such as working on a farm, caring for animals, selling eggs. etc. Establish large community gardens that can be cared for and produce food.

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Health care Suggestions for solutions included changes to the current health (including mental health) system and provisions.	 Provide 24/7 age in place care Expand community outreach Improve access Increase paramedic scope to divert patients from ER Integrate cultural health and wellness in mainstream treatment Provide mobile care including mental health Provide more nursing home, palliative care and respite beds "Reopen wash bay healing lodge" Develop a new strategy to recruit physicians and nurses Mental Health Make MH services community [not hospital] based Provide individually focused methodical help Have mental health supports work alongside police Increase supports for mental health services Make supports more meaningful Ensure that there is forensic psychiatry
Housing A lot of comments focused on solutions related to housing.	 Invest in affordable housing ("including for persons with disabilities") Provide family housing for low and middle income and geared to income housing Provide Coop housing Allow multi-units Build permanent housing for the unhoused (to replace burned down housing) Put Housing First¹³ in place Eliminate encampments or Establish a supported and sanctioned encampment area

 $^{^{13}}$ **Housing First** is an approach to homelessness that prioritizes providing permanent housing without preconditions, recognizing that stable housing is the foundation for improving health, employment, and well-being.

	Hire a front-line homelessness consultant and survey homeless to see where they came from and what happened Inspect housing regularly so that it doesn't fall into disrepair Put modular homes close enough to services or Put tiny homes out of town Encourage more housing DT to increase density and be eco friendly • Provide 24/7 shelter and more funding for existing shelters like Fellowship Center ("but away from children") • Do not put warming places in recreation center • Do not allow concurrent shelters for a small city • Provide warming centers that are open 15 hours per day "with a special place for women and children" • Address the lack of services for the unhoused 4-8:30 pm Review KDSB housing options with an open mind. Remove slum housing
Neighborhoods Several comments focused on the power of neighborhoods and place-based solutions.	 Put more parks in NHs Focus on municipal wellness to help build small and strong communities Increase NH watch & and start a citizens on patrol program Find ways to get more "eyes on the street" Provide more neighbourhood-based programs
Policing In addition to changes in social and community-based services many	Most of the comments were focused on two main suggestions: (1) increases in police visibility and foot patrol and (2) rigorously enforcing the law such as:

respondents commented on solutions based in changes to current policing approaches both at the national, provincial and local level.	 "Enforce the law (including bylaw like public intoxication and loitering)" "Enforce like [at] the trucker convoy in Ottawa" The focus on greater visibility included comments such as: Bring back Kenora Police Service to patrol the streets Have police engage with people on the street to build relationships Establish foot patrols/visibility ("old style constable") Place more police after dark at shopping plaza
	 Provide more funding for Makwa Establish visible peace patrols Increase Treaty 3 police presence Put a Satellite OPP office in DT Several respondents suggested that police should remove "unwanted (and out of town) people" by: Building a jail type facility at the outskirts of town Giving the option "to go home of go to jail" Making it harder to be here Sending persons "back to home community" (including Indigenous peoples back to reserves)
	Additional comments expressed dissatisfaction with police more generally: • "Bring in new police staff" • Establish more leadership in policing • Provide better training for police in how to deal with diverse and challenging populations • Defund the police
Prevention	Attend to root causes See behaviours as a cry for help Invest upstream Focus programs on youth Implement upstream programs (e.g. gang prevention with Public Safety Canada \$ [Building Safer Communities Fund])

Problematic substance use

Many solutions focused on problematic substance use and how to both prevent and deal with it.

Provide access to more supports

- Establish a detox center
- Provide drop-in programs
- Establish a treatment center (Strecker Farm)
- Make rehabilitation mandatory ("in a place outside of the DT")
- Use Morningstar for more than "drink tank"
- Manage the wait list
- Fund a managed alcohol program
- Establish group homes for women and young mothers in recovery
- Provide a personal healing program

Harm reduction

- Provide more harm reduction
- Make harm reduction programs more accountable for their impact on people and the community
- Make retractable needles available
- Emulate the Thunder Bay injection site:

https://norwestchc.org/programsservices/path-525/

Supply safe drugs

but also

Stop making it easy to get drugs and paraphernalia

Implement a better approach for those that don't follow the rules ("the zero-tolerance approach [on reserves] is not workingmake Chiefs responsible for their own people")

Educate on drugs for prevention of problematic use Educate decision makers by going to the places that work in addiction to see what is possible (e.g. to AA) Increase access to suboxone (opioid replacement)

Many commented on the need to establish an OPS although there is division over the location being either close to other services

Provide knowledge exchange opportunities

Many respondents spoke of the issue being one of lack of information and lack of opportunity for engagement. They provided concrete suggestions for how to bring residents to a place of shared understanding and involvement rather than stopping at the place of hearing concerns and complaints.

or on the outskirts. But a few opposed the establishment of an OPS altogether.

Do a **Humans of New York**¹⁴ type campaign

Host free info sessions for community on all topics related to the CSWB work in a hybrid format: in-person and online. Including people from different sectors. Examples: seniors, seniors in senior housing, seniors in long-term care, parents with young children, parents with older children, youth, teens, etc. with the goal of being solutions-based and not complaining about perceived issues.

Host community education and engagement sessions such as:

- Mini multicultural events throughout the city
- Celebrating multiculturalism through art events
- Bringing Métis and First Nation teachings to an outdoor setting on a regular basis throughout the summer
- Bringing Métis and First Nation teachings throughout the City at different indoor venues throughout the winter on a regular basis
- Utilizing our land for health
- Creating historical bus tours for storytelling sessions (e.g. Keewatin history tour with former mayors/councillors, Kenora historical tour with Muse curator talking about the various sites in Kenora, Métis storyteller talking about stories around Rideout settlement and out to Essex Road settlement, Chief from Rat Portage taking a tour of Wauzhuzhk Onigum, St. Mary's School, Devil's Gap. Community, etc.)

¹⁴ The **Humans of New York** campaign showcases diverse stories and portraits of New Yorkers to celebrate the city's cultural richness and humanize its communities including the communities of the unhoused.

•	Information sessions: frauds and	
	scams, drug issues, human	
	trafficking	

- Making available regular child and youth activities
- Providing public de-escalation training and safety training for retail staff

Recreational opportunities

Many solutions focused on recreational opportunities and using recreation to promote engagement, inclusion and understanding. There were also suggestions to ensure that we talk to users of recreation to ensure the needs of all members of the community are met.

Improve upon current recreations options in Kenora by providing:

- A bigger gym
- Arts and related activities not just sports
- Barrier free recreation
- Better use of environment (lake)
- Childcare at recreation places
- Cross cultural options such as Indigenous reading mentors at school
- Free library for everyone
- Free self-defense classes
- Inclusion of Indigenous and youth aspects in Harbor Fest
- Increased public skate times
- Intergenerational events (youth in senior centers)
- Métis activities at KACL or tea at Wigwas
- More baseball fields (not everyone plays hockey)
- More community events
- More alcohol-free events
- Reduced rates at play center (\$7 per child too much)
- Year-round recreation
- Youth engagement through an activity center

Service changes

A lot of comments were focused on changes needed in the current services and the need to balance prevention and intervention. There was a persistent view that either the public does not understand

Housing supports:

- Assess why some don't use services and instead use street as community
- Put in place comprehensive services for the unhoused to develop a plan out of their situation

the services that are being provided and needs this information or that some of the service have become obsolete and/or should merge "to decrease the number of managers". Comments were also focused on the need to be held more accountable for the funding that services receive and for fulfilling their service mandates.

Other comments focused on service gaps and needs including the need to go beyond 9-5 in service hours and increase resources (especially funding for supporting vulnerable populations).

Some expressed that the visible issues are social in nature and that therefore we should make social services responsible for the solutions. Even others seemed to feel that the services were enabling the problems. Although some expressed that the service approaches were not well understood.

- Help elders that are on street
- Build a housing complex for men with children to get their life back on track while receiving supports
- Have one organization/social group/faith group develop an internal team, in collaboration with community based supportive structure to take on a five year financial and social commitment to 'adopt' one person/couple working towards health and being housed in one tiny house. The group financially/socially/physically supports the person trying to live a housed and healthier life. The individual commits to steps of well being and independence as well.
- Provide culturally appropriate and safe spaces (outside the core to avoid confrontations)
- Open schools 24/7 with knowledgeable staff

Gaps and needs

- "Attend to newcomers too"
- Provide more service-based crisis interventions
- Drug test for access to programs
- Provide more family preservation support (less children in care)
- Develop a one stop program for all needs 24/7 and service continuum (no wrong door)
- Develop wrap-around ("like Homeward Bound in Dryden")15
- Reduce service red tape and barriers to access
- Start with children focus on children and youth - provide peer mentors and support for kids aging out of care
- Support children in care to attend school

¹⁵ The **Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound Program** in Dryden, Ontario, is a comprehensive, four-year initiative designed to support single Indigenous mothers in achieving self-sufficiency through education, employment training, affordable housing, and childcare services.

- Provide decent affordable childcare
- Provide free housing and food
- Make the need for charities obsolete

Agency staff

- Hire and deploy staff "that want to make a difference"
- "Remove agency leaders with false credentials and criminal history"
- Train staff and pay them well

Monitoring

"Evaluate KDBS, KACL, MAKWA, and the Fellowship Center"

"Get rid of lame dog programs"

Model approaches that work

- Follow KDBS lead in innovative programs
- "Kenora Moving Forward models support (welcoming spaces)"
- Share good news stories
- Ensure services are trauma informed

Stop enabling (e.g. making cannabis legal, free supplies including needles and tents)

Provide "workfare not welfare"

A few respondents expressed dissatisfaction especially with services beyond the community scope and suggested they should be discontinued altogether such as: "KDBS, the Jail and NWHU".

Take [timely] action.

Respondents frequently suggested that studies and planning need to be followed by action. Representative comments included: "Less studies (especially by outside entities) and more action".

"Enough talk. Do something. Lots of good ideas over the last 8 years".

"Show less cynicism and start somewhere".

"Acknowledge that this is not a Kenora issue - it is endemic".

Engage in effective crime prevention and what works and abandon all band-aid solutions. Look at the evidence and the root causes. Implement more crime prevention programs ("not having basic necessities is directly linked to crime").

Some respondents expressed the sense that there was a lot of knowledge in the community about the challenges and the solutions and that it is simply time to act.	Have everyone contribute, not just complain. Increase salaries for council "to attract new leaders". Invest in the community more than in tourism. Take more action on human trafficking
	Take small steps such as strategically increasing police presence
Transportation	The comments on the need for greater transportation included the following suggestions: • Make buses/van available to run to outlying communities • Make transportation free • Provide a ride program to get people home • Have buses running after work hours

Quotes:

It would be impossible to do justice to all the many comments that could be cited here. The following quotes are, therefore, meant to be representative of the larger picture¹⁶.

We are killing them (street people with addiction issues) with kindness and making taxpayers feel unsafe in their own communities.

The reality is there are no easy solutions. If there were easy solutions, they would have been tried.

We have drug addicts, they will not just stop using tomorrow, so we need to deal with the problem in a realistic manner not just pretend they don't exist and hope they go away.

Why not start a casual labour program where anyone can do simple labour like picking up garbage and needles in exchange for gift certificates (e.g. they come in, get a bag/container and some tongs, sign a casual work agreement/disclaimer, come back with a full bag of trash, someone confirms that it is in fact trash, they get a \$20 gift certificate). Give people who aren't yet stable enough for part-time or full-time work but want to [work] something to do with their day. This would have an offshoot effect of helping to reduce stigma and creating positive momentum.

We have a group of white rich people who want a city that is pristine and touristy, and we have a traumatized Indigenous population that those rich people don't want to see. I have always felt (and heard) from [many] that they just don't want to "see" the problem. Meaning they want the street people to evaporate. This won't happen.

I don't think that isolation and reservations for our First Nations Indigenous people is a healthy way to live, especially in the North where isolation and third world conditions exist. Why get up each day when there is nothing to look forward to, except the same old problems! So sad 😞

Every citizen must play a part in improving community safety and well-being.

Set a limit on the number of support services available.

Follow the law, stop people from using substances in public. Stop the loitering. Get rid of the shelter. Free handouts will not solve any problems.

Kenora needs to decide if it's going to be a tourist town or a social service center. It CANNOT BE BOTH

Stop enabling, give people a purpose or a task that will help improve our community not just constant hand outs.

¹⁶ Quotes that further stigmatized populations, name called or incited hate were excluded.

Fear has to be replaced with knowledge/understanding. Not everyone who is unhoused/homeless is a danger to community safety. If there was a deeper understanding about this, then not everyone would be met with suspicion. For those working/supporting those who are unhoused/homeless, they also need to address the elephant in the room, some can be dangerous and not everyone is ready to be helped.

It takes a village... and as long as everyone stays in their silos, I don't expect to see much improvement.

Stop rolling out the red carpet for societies drug dealers and people with addictions, start increasing funding and supports for seniors and children, make people who break the law accountable for their actions.

End Homelessness

We need to do something, even if it's just creating small ripples of a tossed rock and not focusing on the big splash.

GIVE US [@#\$%\$#@] HOUSING!! SIMPLE AS THAT!!!

I don't have any solutions, nor do I envy the people who have been entrusted to fix the problems that exist. I hope that the city can come up with some sort of solution regarding the feelings of community safety.

Look at ways to increase self-worth of the overall population, at a personal level. When self worth increases then personal standards change and evolve, becoming a solution from the inside out.

Appendices

Appendix one

Have your say!



The City of Kenora and community partners are developing a **Community Safety & Well-being Plan** and your input is important to us.

Take the Kenora Community Safety & Well-Being Survey online at

https://forms.office.com/r/p8k45ULNLw

Tell us abut your experiences and perceptions about community safety and well-being, and other related topics.



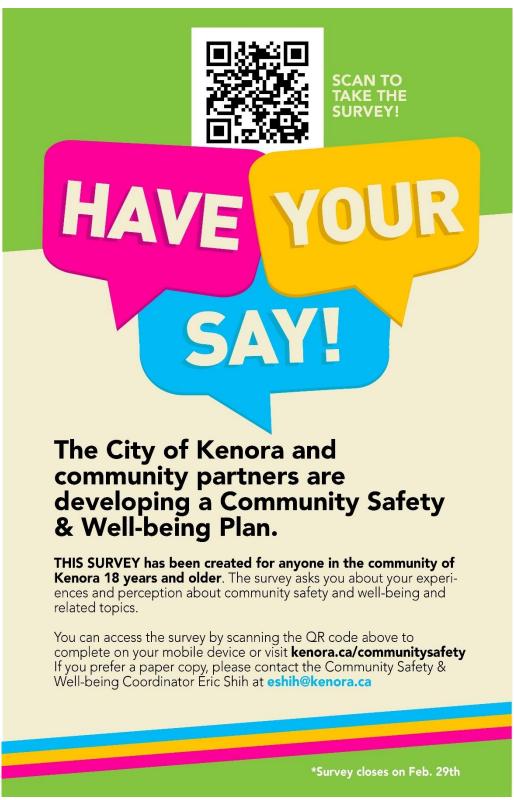
If you prefer a paper copy, please contact Eric Shih, Community Safety & Well-being Coordinator at eshih@kenora.ca

Open to anyone in the community of Kenora who is 18 years or older.

Survey open for responses until February 29, 2024

Learn more at Kenora.ca/communitysafety/

Appendix two



For more details on the City of Kenora Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, please consult the full report found at: kenora.ca/communitysafety