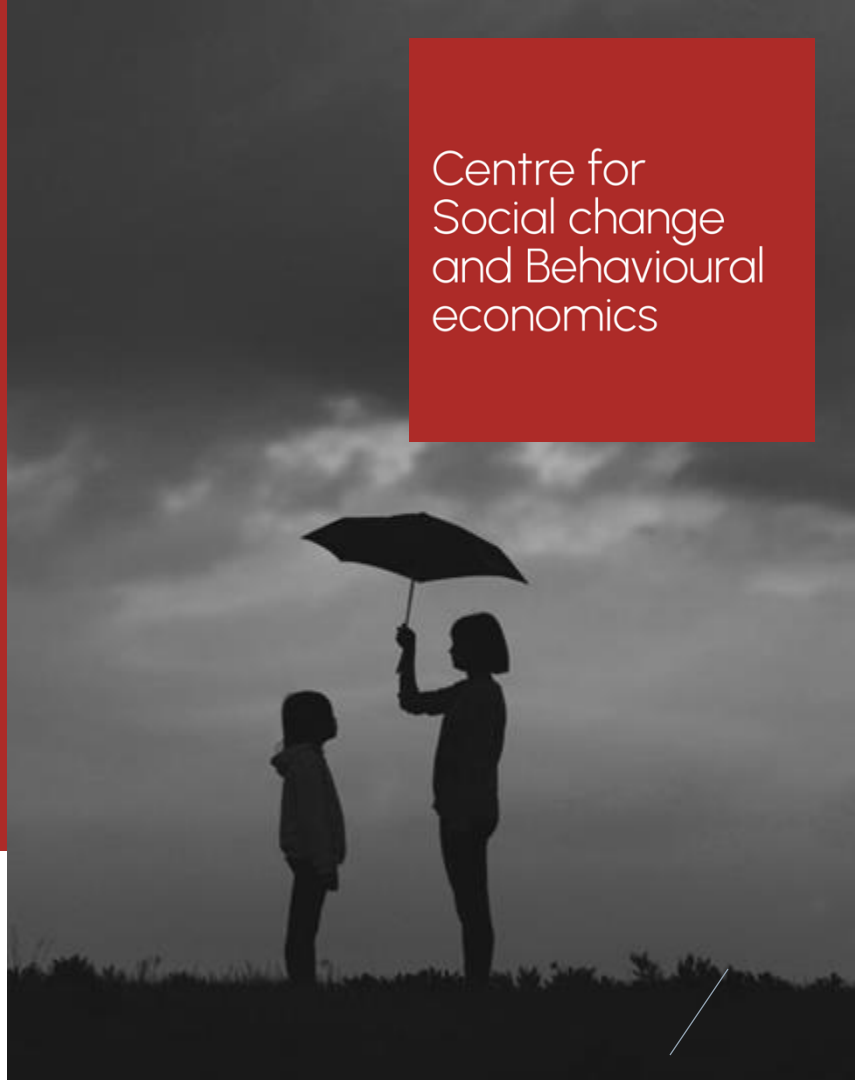


Centre for
Social change
and Behavioural
economics

Preventing gender-based violence in public transport in Ukraine

Survey results
December 2024



Introduction

The survey was conducted as part of a joint initiative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine on “Gender-based Violence in Public Transport in Ukraine” within the framework of the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” campaign.

The main goal is to increase safety and develop a culture of absolute zero tolerance for violence in public places in Ukraine.

Total number of respondents surveyed: 1201

Method: questionnaire (public transport users)

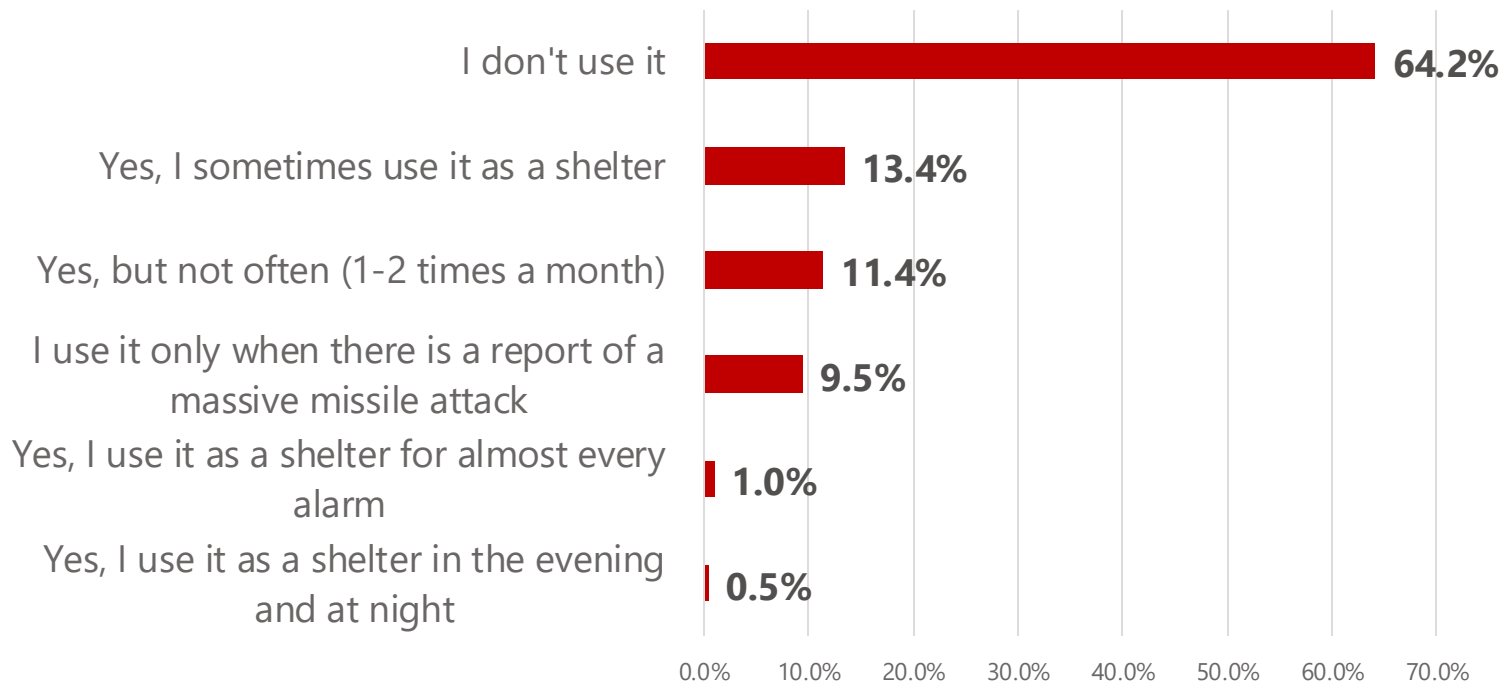
Detailed information about the sample is presented in the survey passport block.

01

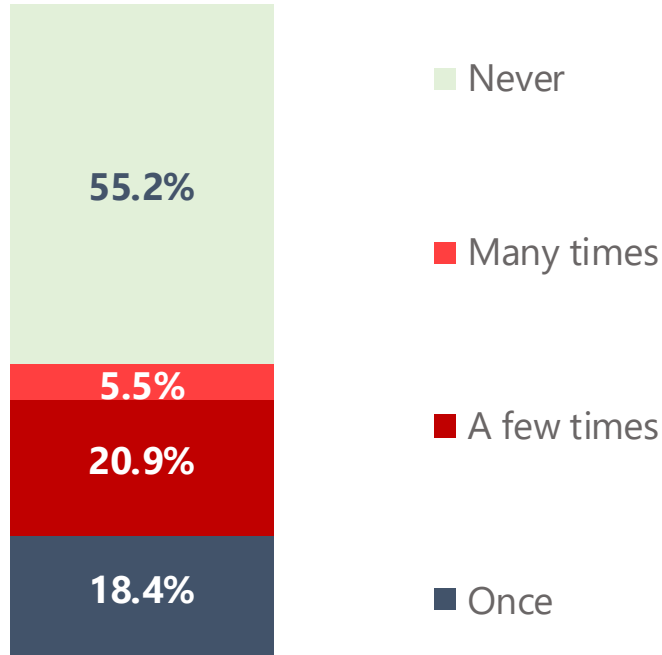
Main results



Do Kyiv residents use metro stations as shelters?

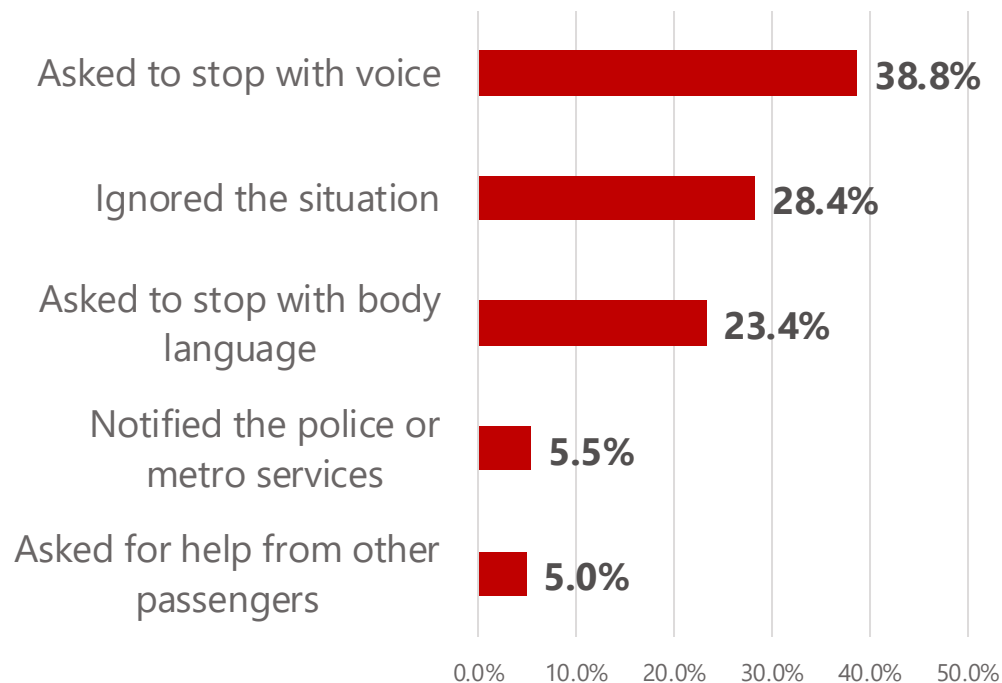


Have you experienced violence on public transport?



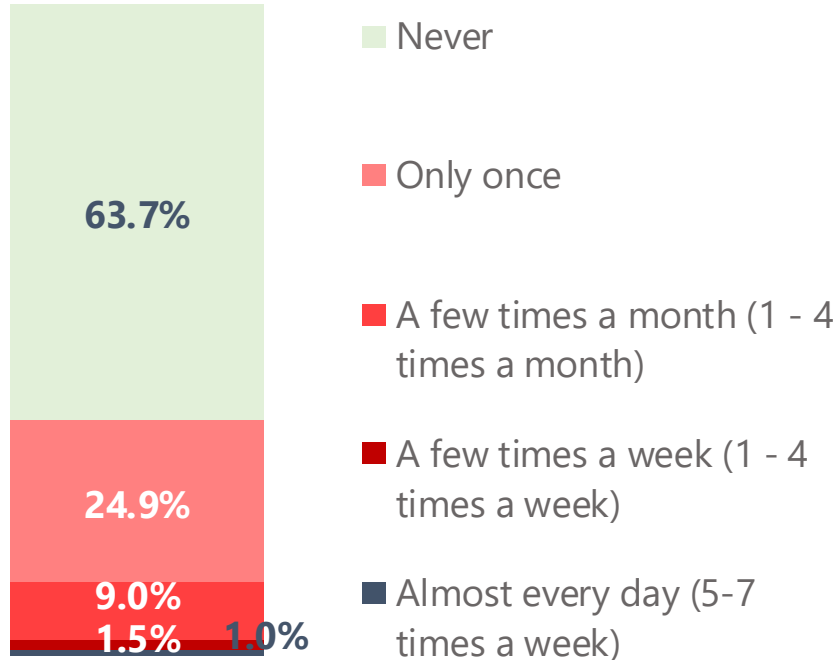
- ❑ Over half of the respondents surveyed reported no instances of feeling offended while using public transportation in the past six months.
- ❑ One in five respondents occasionally encounters incidents of violence.
- ❑ 18.4% of respondents reported experiencing inappropriate behavior from other passengers on a single occasion.

How did you react to the violence?



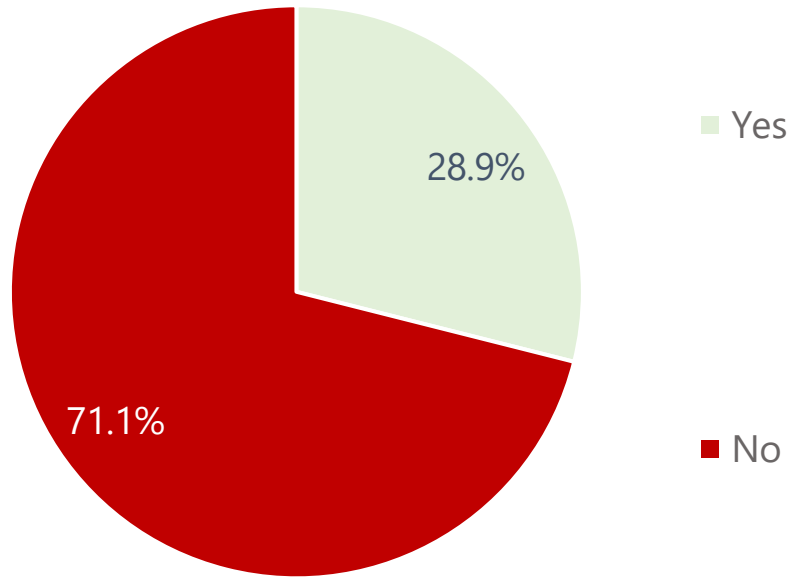
- ❑ 38.8% of respondents reported using their voice to intervene and stop inappropriate behavior by other passengers.
- ❑ 28.4% of respondents chose to ignore the situation.
- ❑ Only 5.5% of respondents sought assistance from the National Police.

Have you witnessed gender-based violence (GBV) on public transport in the last six months?



- ❑ Two-thirds of respondents reported never witnessing gender-based violence on public transportation in the past six months.
- ❑ 24.9% of respondents reported witnessing a single incident.
- ❑ 9% of respondents reported recurring instances of gender-based violence.

Did the witness intervene in the situation?

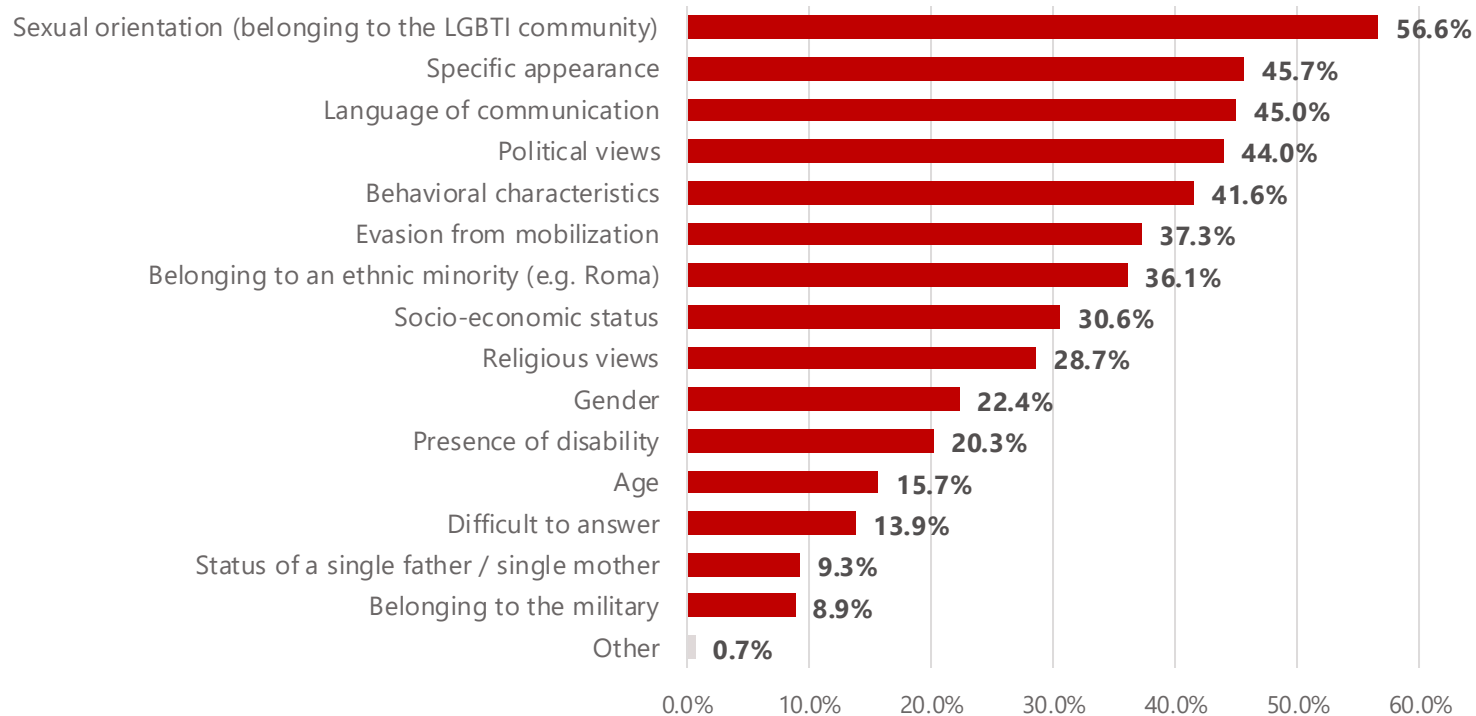


- ❑ 71.1% of respondents did not intervene when witnessing an incident of violence.
- ❑ 28.9% of respondents stated that they took action in response to the situation.

What is the reason for not intervening?

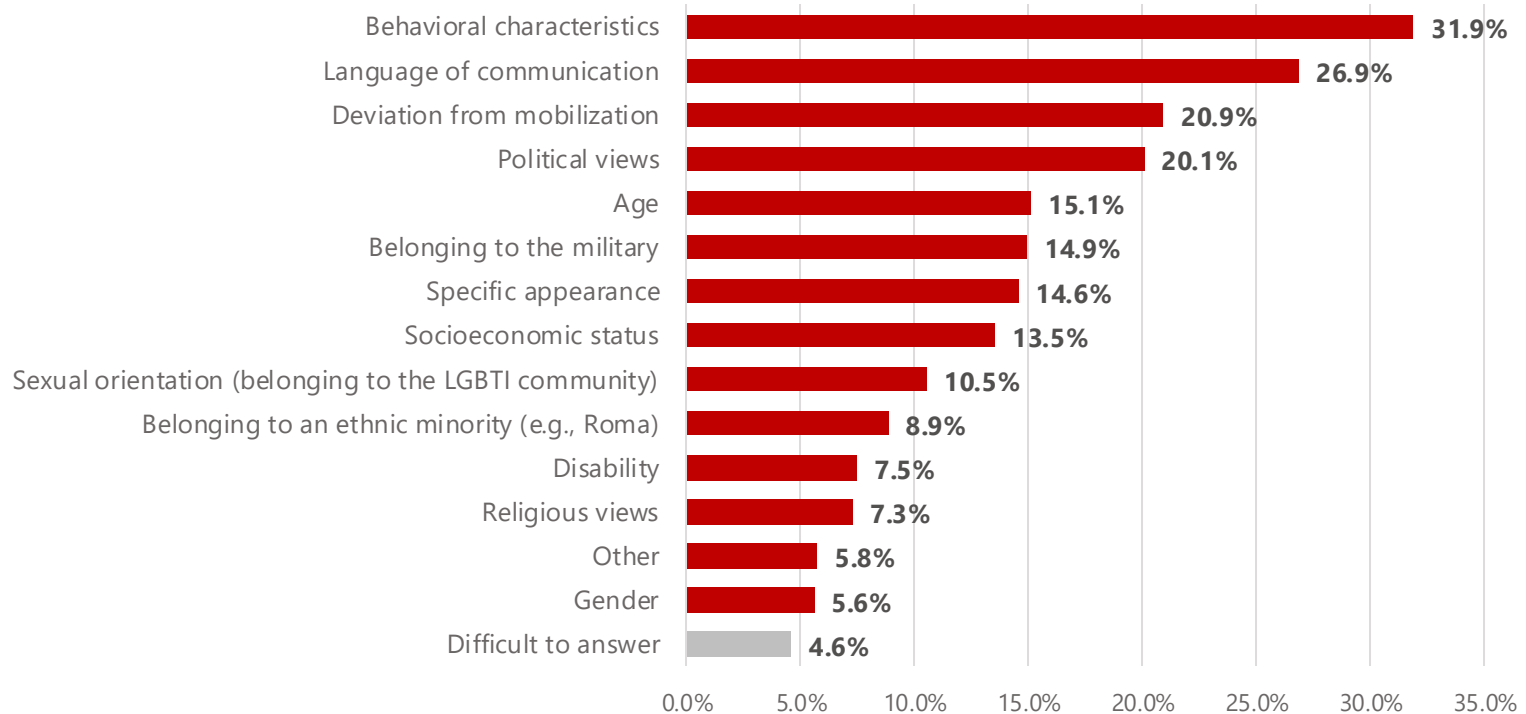


Factors that may contribute to aggression



11. In your opinion, are people in our society subjected to public condemnation due to:

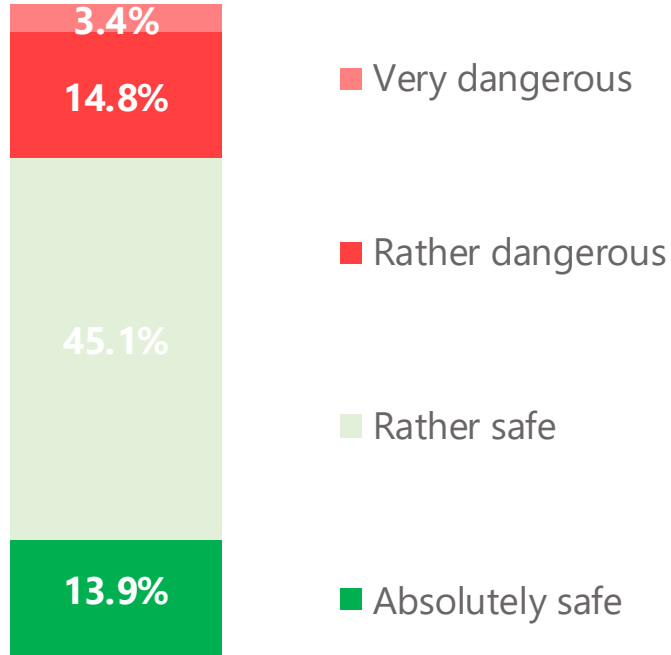
Factors that trigger aggression



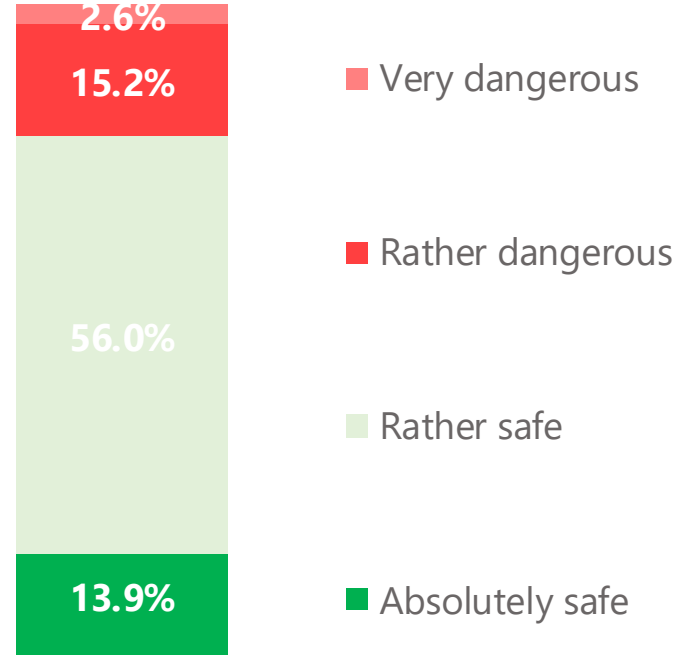
12. Have you witnessed instances of violence on public transportation caused by any of the following factors:

Sense of security on public transportation.

Metro



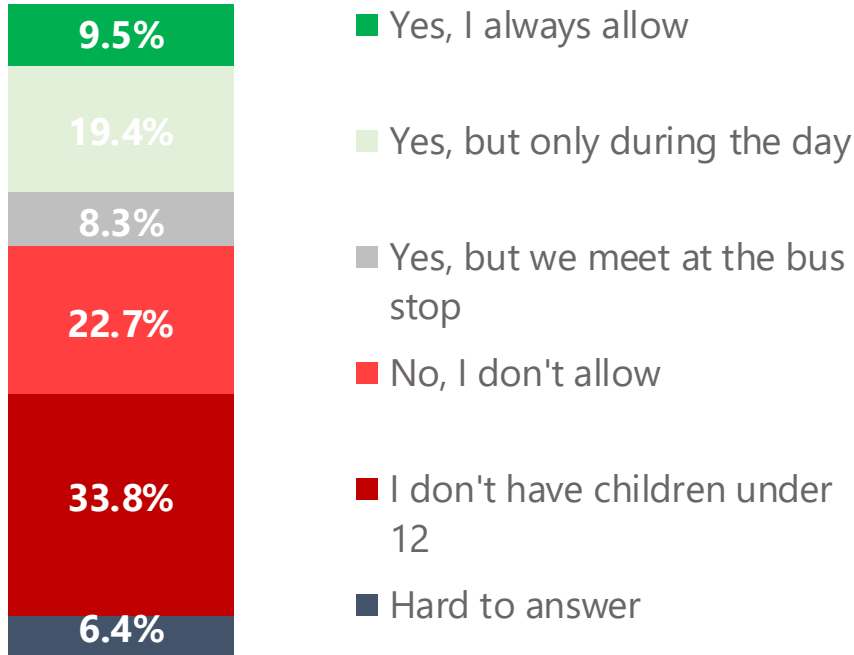
Public transport



13. How safe do you feel in the presence of others in the **Metro**?

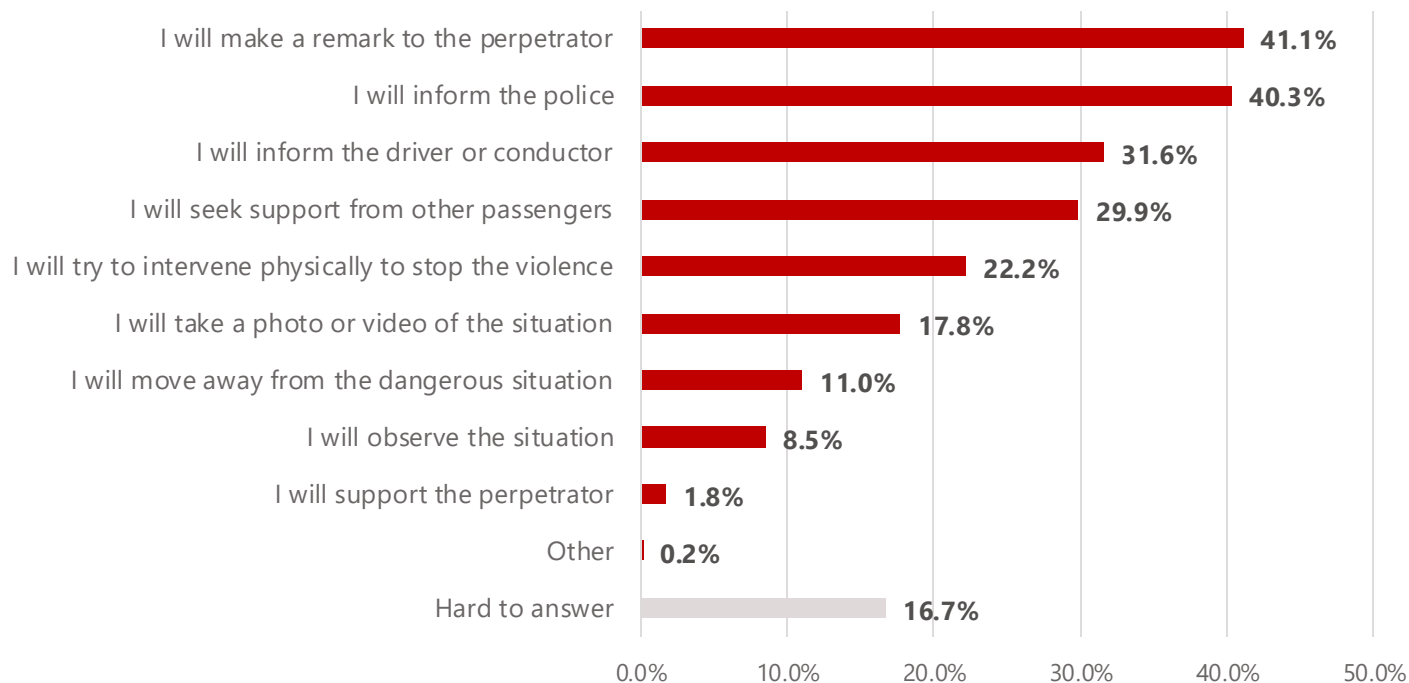
14. How safe do you feel in the presence of others on **public transportation**?

Do passengers allow children to use public transportation independently?

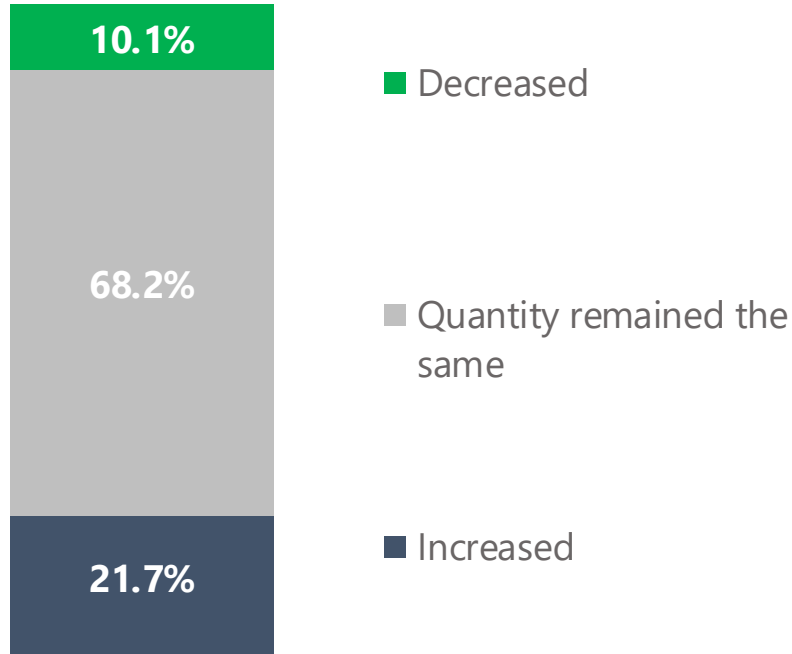


- 9,5% батьків дозволяють дітям самостійно користуватися громадським транспортом
- Ще 19,4% дозволяють користування тільки в денний час
- Ще 8,3% зустрічають дітей на зупинках громадського транспорту

Expected actions of witnesses to gender-based violence

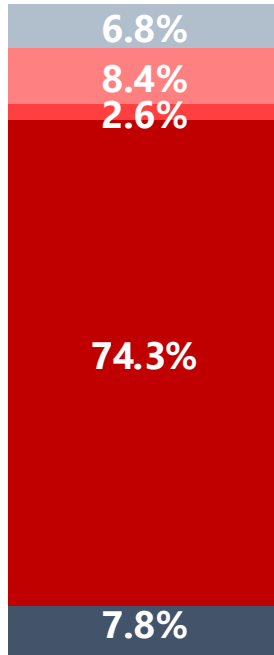


The trend in the incidence of violence



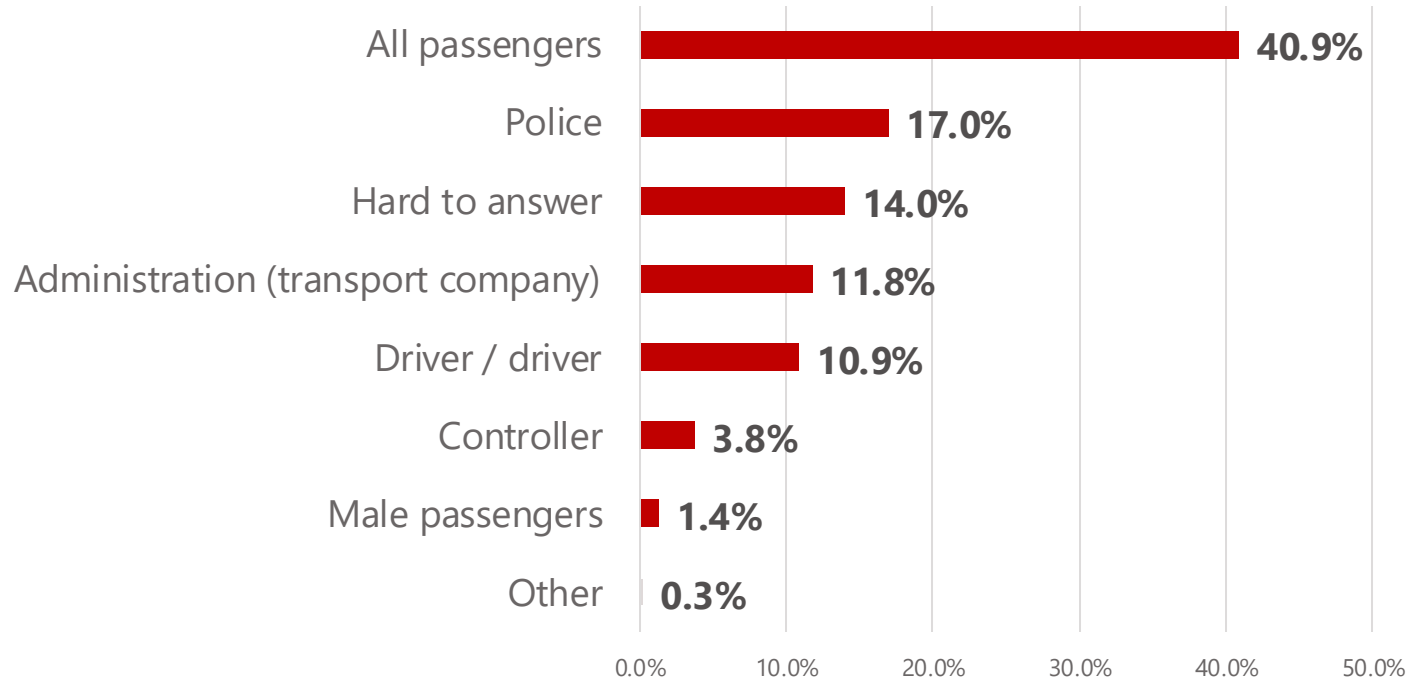
- ❑ The majority of respondents (68.2%) have not observed any change in the incidence of violence on public transportation over the past six months.
- ❑ 21.7% of respondents indicated that the situation has worsened

Childhood violence (bullying)

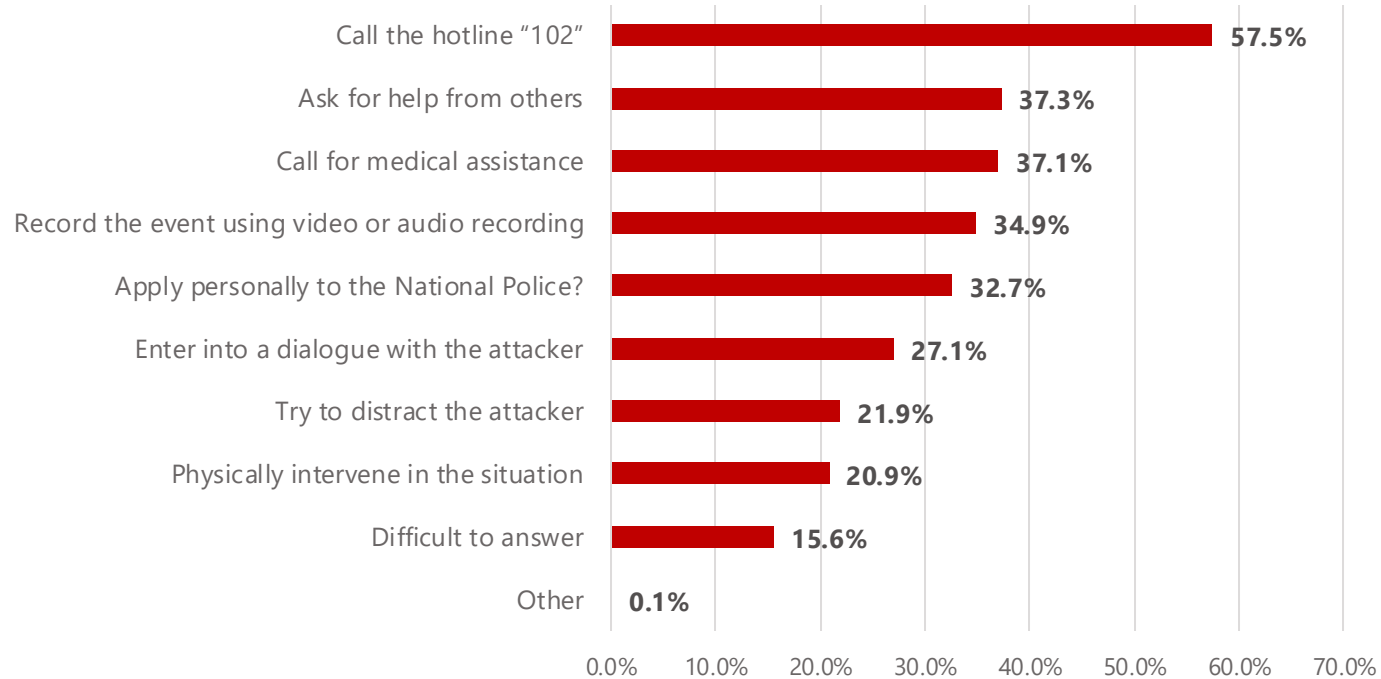


- Yes, but I ignored the situation
- Yes, I made a comment
- Yes, I stopped the bullying
- No, I did NOT witness
- Hard to answer

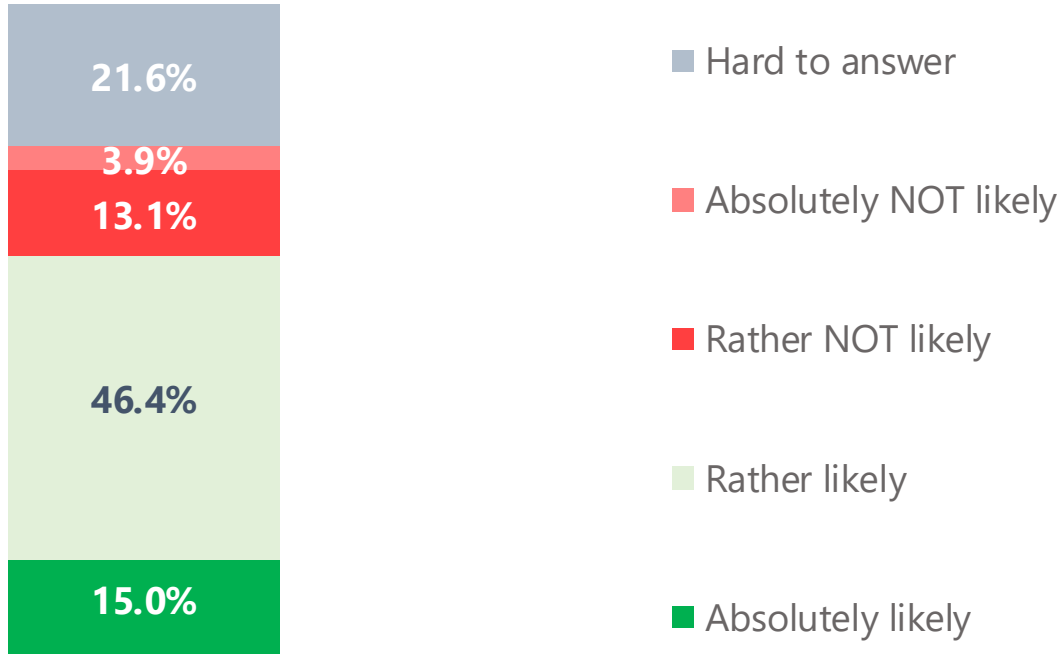
Who is responsible for ensuring safety?



Intervention methods and safe strategies for preventing violence

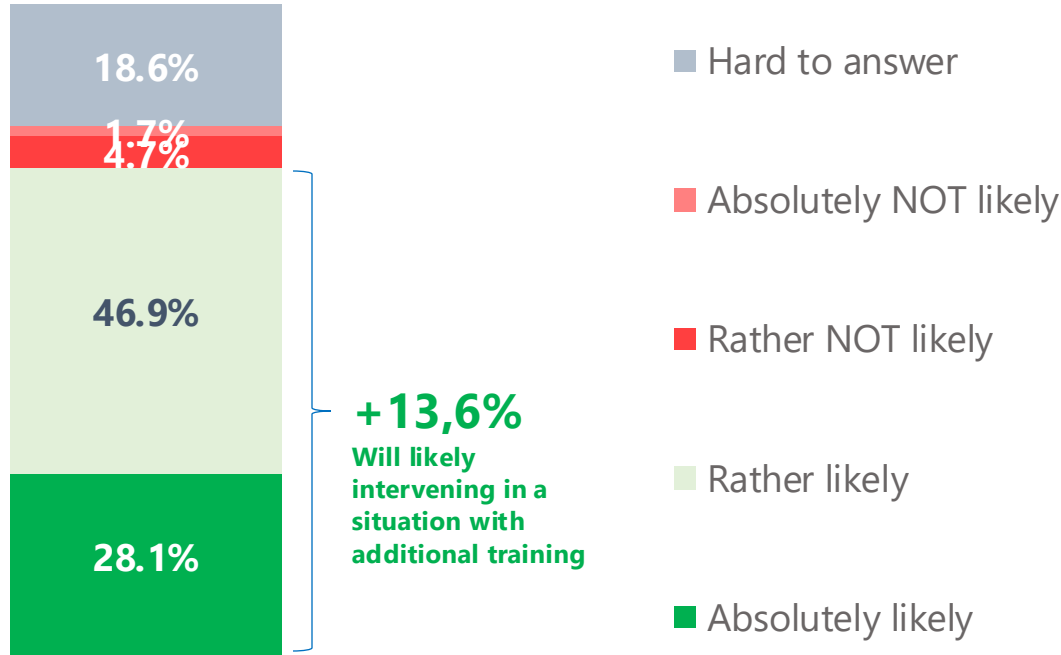


The likelihood of intervening in a situation

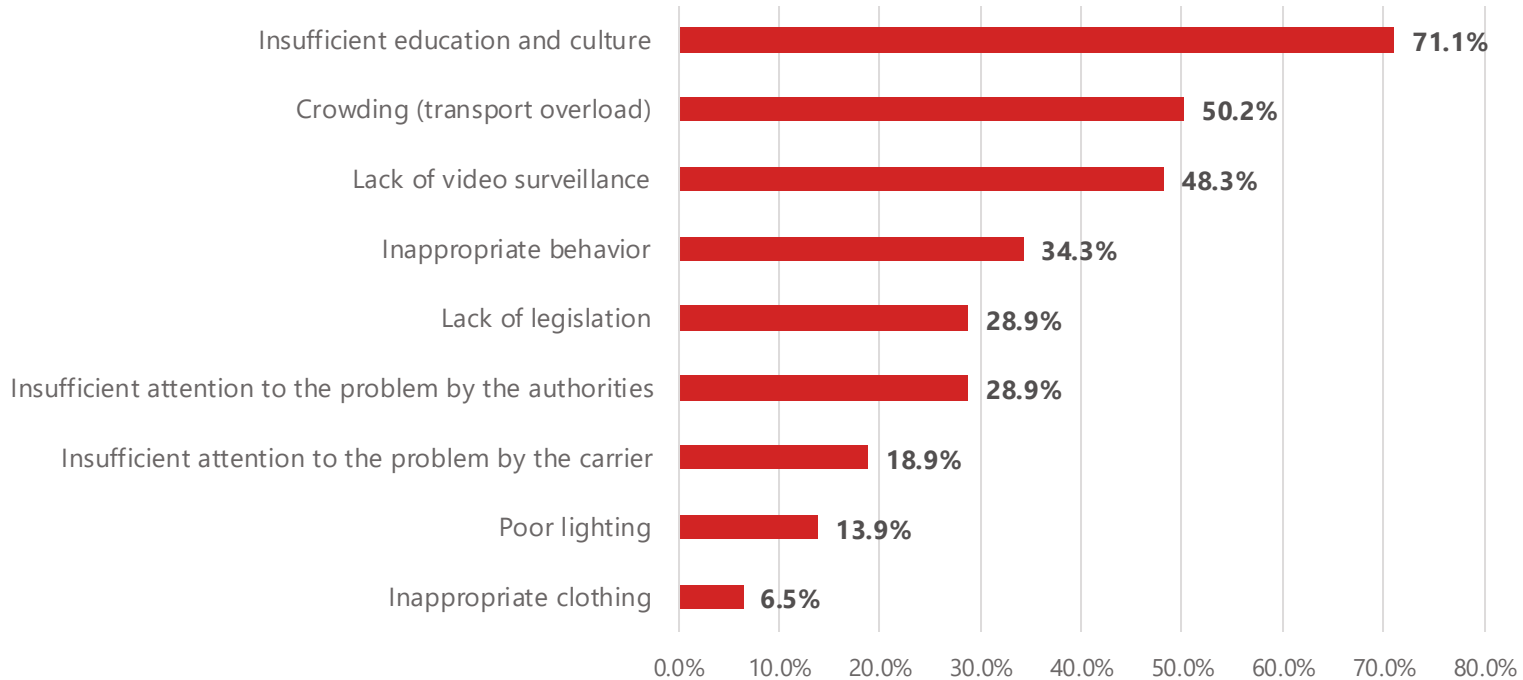


21. How likely are you to intervene if you witness an act of violence?

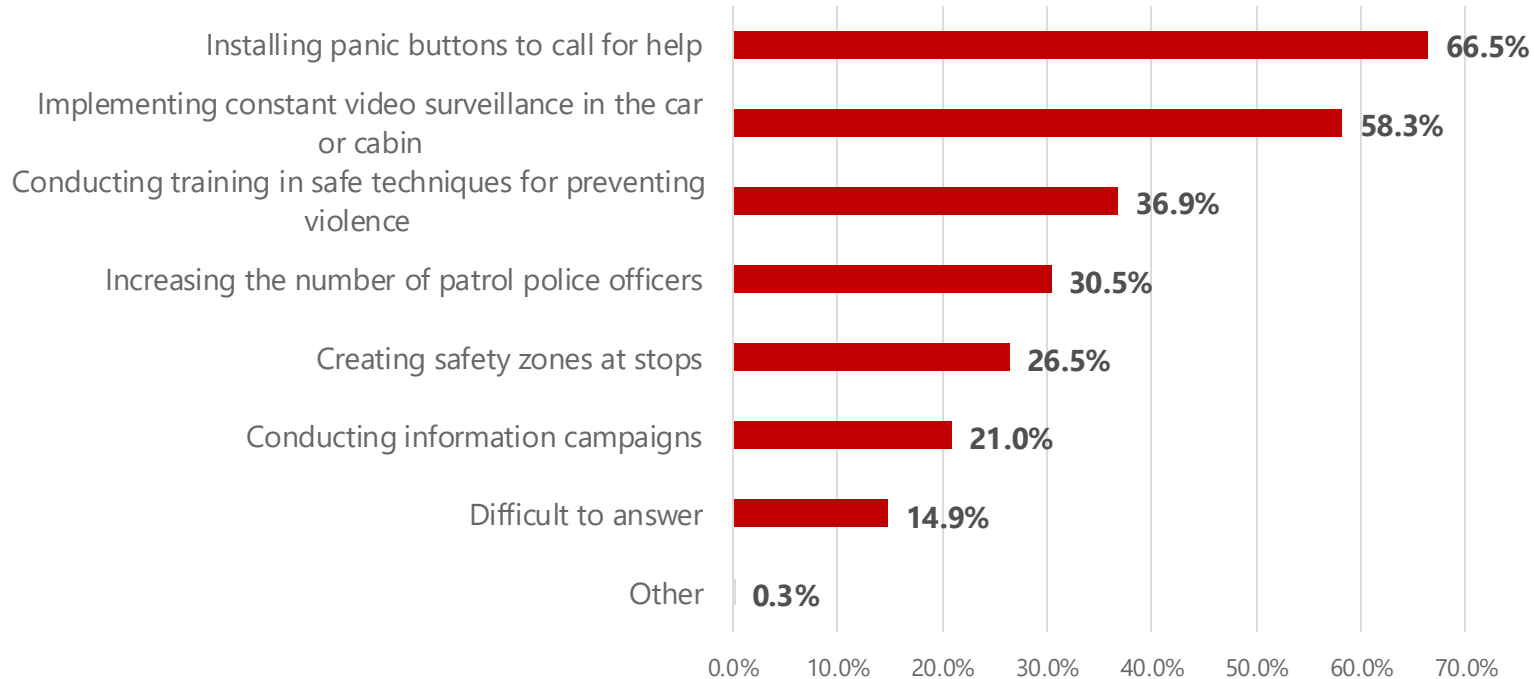
The likelihood of intervening in a situation with additional training



Factors that increase the likelihood of violence occurring



What factors could improve safety levels on public transportation?

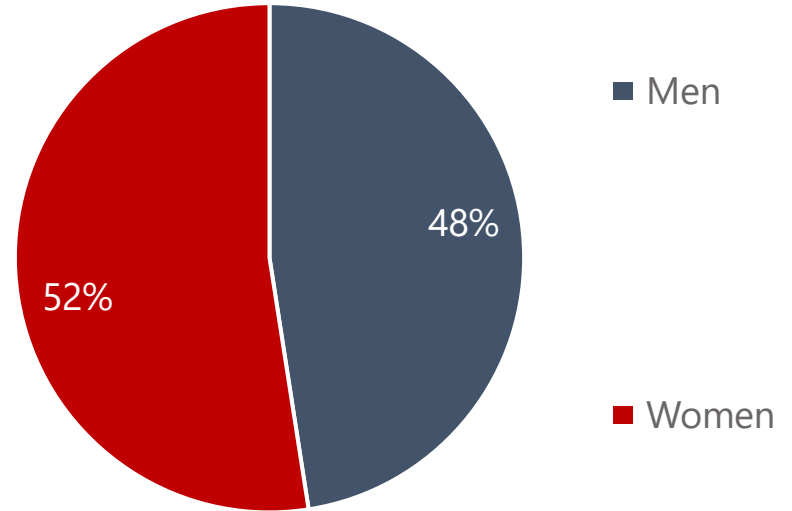
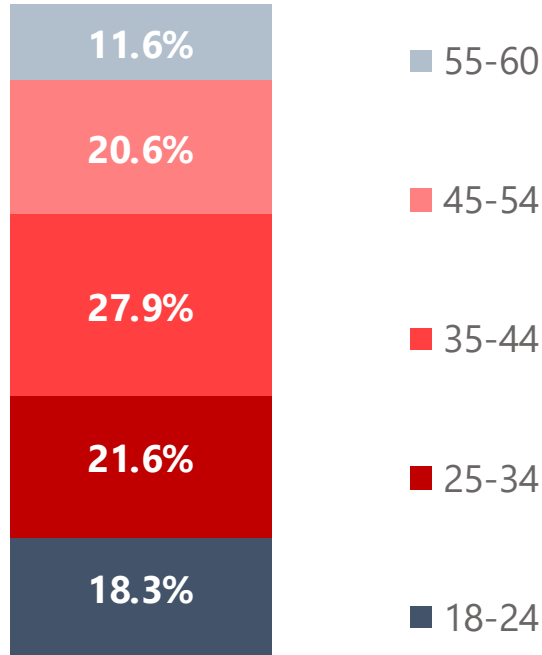


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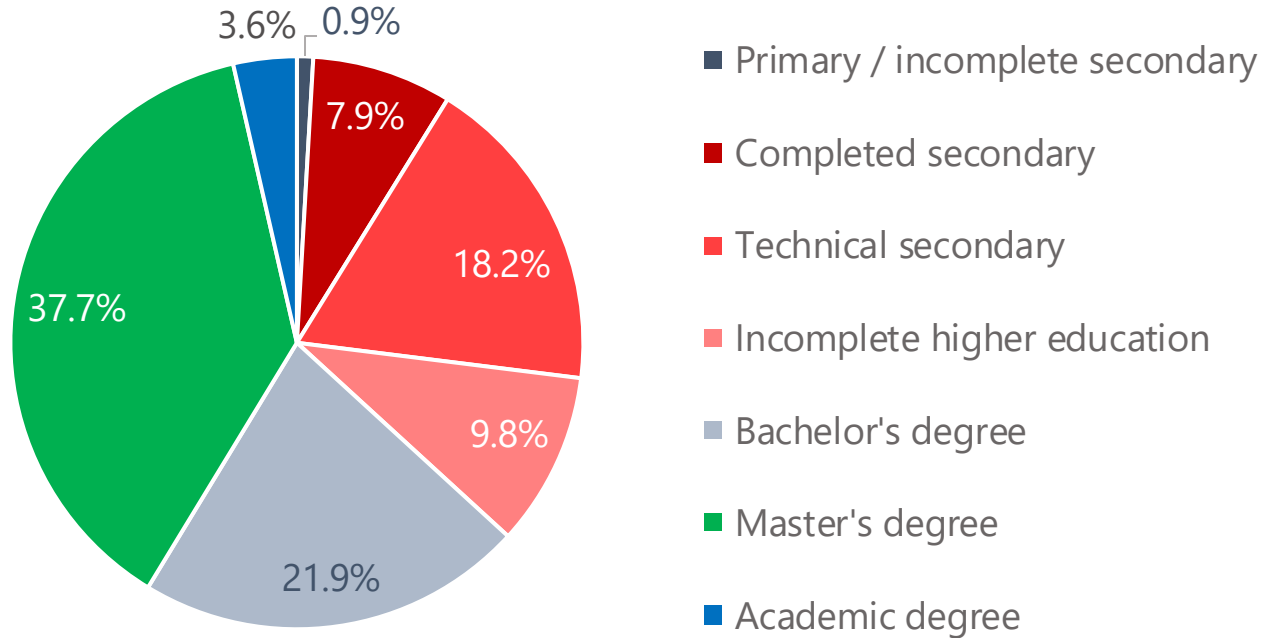
Passport block



Age and gender

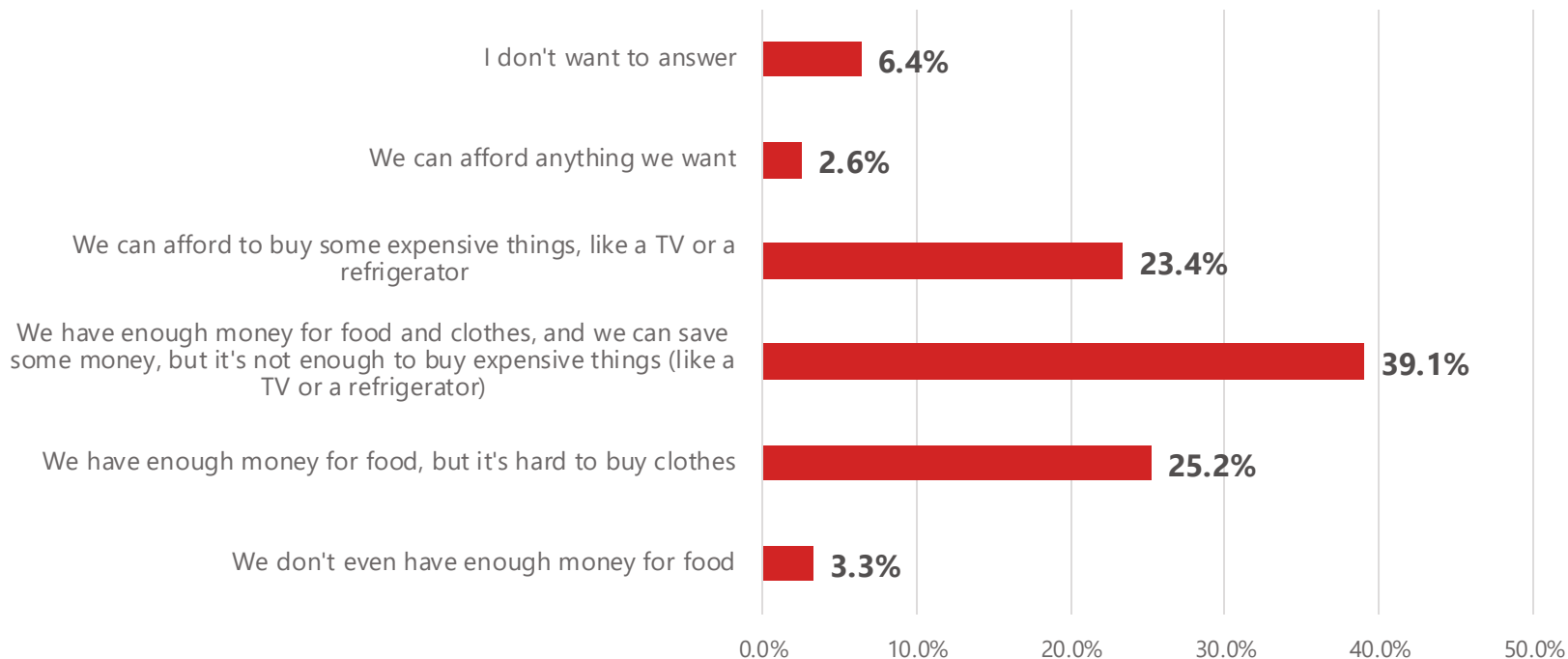


Education



Please indicate your highest level of education:

Financial condition



How would you describe your family's financial situation?

03

Behavioural experiments



Situation 1

Experimenter's Assessment

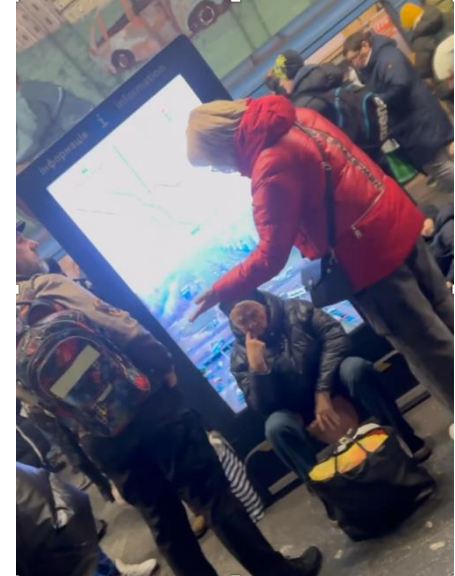
A 73-year-old man intervened with a remark, while a 37-year-old man de-escalated the situation by suggesting not to argue and offering his seat, rising from the bench. Observers displayed interest, with some appearing ready to give up their seats as well. Ultimately, the 37-year-old man effectively resolved the situation in a constructive manner.



Situation 2

Experimenter's Assessment

During an air raid at the Osokorky metro station, the majority of individuals observed the situation with interest, while some appeared tense and reacted with visible disapproval. A 74-year-old woman, frustrated with the commotion, voiced her objections. Subsequently, a 65-year-old man requested the actors to cease their use of inappropriate language.



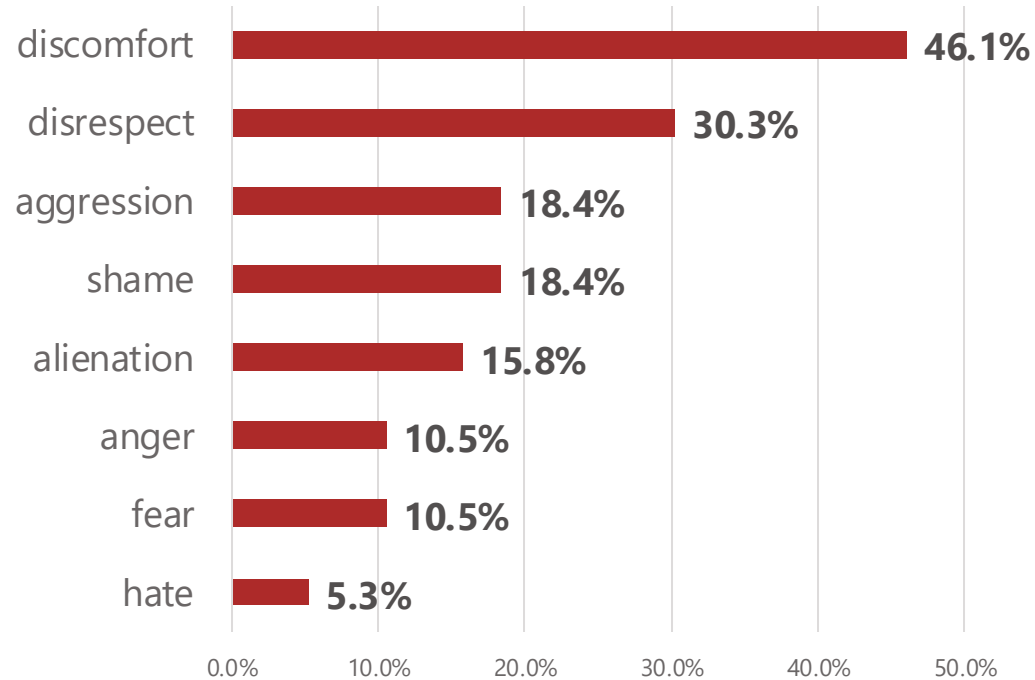
Situation 3

Experimenter's Assessment

Some individuals glanced around, others simply passed by, while one man sat on a bench wearing headphones, observing quietly. Over time, another individual, Oleksandr (36 years old), engaged by making a remark, expressed interest in the project, and completed a questionnaire.

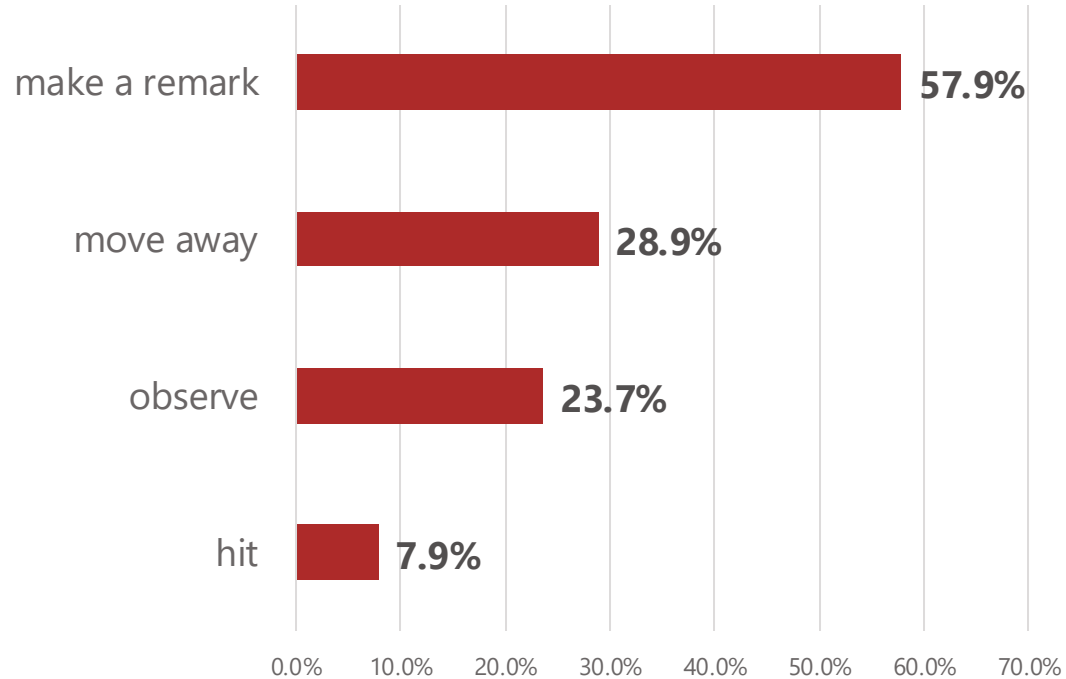


What did the participants in the experiment feel?



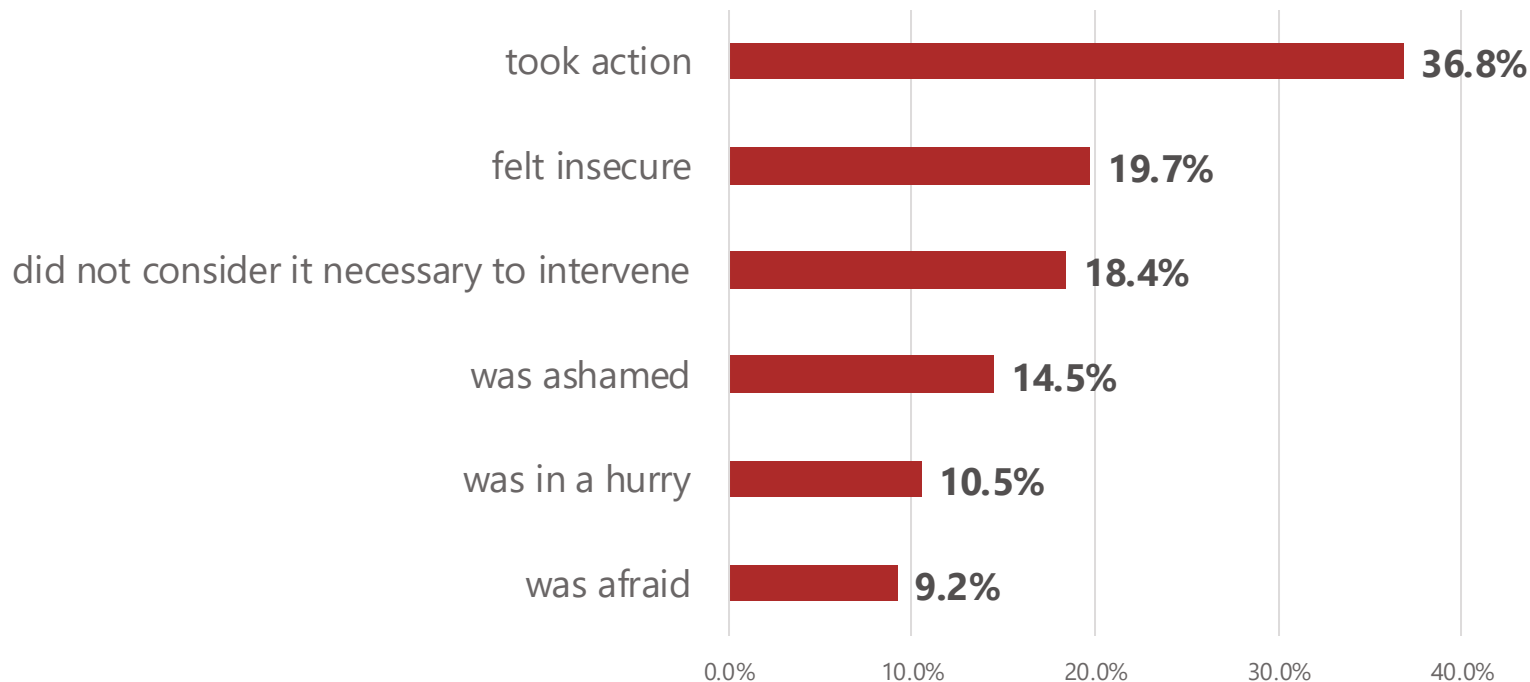
What did you feel when you witnessed this situation?

What did the participants want to do?



What did you want to do?

Reasons for refusal to act



Why didn't they do what they wanted?

Main conclusions

- ❑ Gender-based violence elicited strong disapproval among middle-aged individuals (40–45 years), who demonstrated zero tolerance for such behavior. Conversely, younger individuals (14–20 years) displayed reactions of embarrassment, anxiety, confusion, and overall behavioral disorientation. This response suggests an internal conflict between social obedience and a latent desire to assert themselves or shield their mental well-being from verbal aggression.
- ❑ Middle-aged individuals often act as guardians of ethical and respectful conduct in public spaces, upholding a sense of self-respect and swiftly intervening to restore public order when it is disrupted. Instances of experimental aggression occasionally provoked responses of obscene language or defensive aggression, illustrating a phenomenon where initial aggression triggers an exaggerated counter-response, referred to as the "avalanche effect" of escalating violence.
- ❑ Young women exhibited clear moral disapproval of antisocial behavior, which was evident in their facial expressions and gestures of dissatisfaction. Despite this, their reactions remained confident and appropriate, reflecting their ability to assert boundaries and advocate for public behavioral norms.
- ❑ Interestingly, the aggressive complaints of a female voice served as a relatively weak signal for subway users, eliciting passive reactions. The tendency of many to endure the disturbance silently exemplifies a broader societal pattern of tolerating irritants passively, highlighting the normalization of victimhood and the suppression of action against gender-based violence.



We extend our sincere appreciation to the partners and donors supporting the joint initiative of AICS and UNDP in Ukraine as part of the campaign:

“16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE”

We also acknowledge the valuable assistance and collaboration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the National Police of Ukraine, Kyiv Metro, and the Kyiv Metro Police Department.

Thank you!



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