



LONDON  
CYCLING  
CAMPAIGN

# What Stops Women Cycling In London?

Full Survey Results

These are the results of a public survey run by the LCC Women's Network in the summer of 2023. There were 1,043 responses in total, from people who described themselves as women or non-binary

**Q1: If cycle infrastructure was better in your area, would you start to cycle or cycle more?**

**90%** respondents said they would  
**10%** said they would not

**Q2: If so, what journeys would you cycle that you don't currently?**

- 45% said local errands and services
- 42% said rides with friends and family
- 37% said shopping
- 31% said going to work
- 16% said accompanying children to/from school or after school activities

**Q3: Which of our three asks of the Mayor do you think is most vital, for you personally and/or for women you know?**

34%

Addressing physical safety for women when cycling.

11%

Addressing social safety for women when cycling.

9%

Create safe local networks for cycling.

37%

They are all equally vital



## Q4: Which of these statements about cycling in London best describes you?

49%

I prefer protected cycle lanes or low traffic routes when cycling in London but it's not essential

25%

I only cycle in London because there are enough protected cycle lanes or low traffic routes for my journeys

14%

I don't cycle at all in London because there are not enough protected cycle lanes or low traffic routes for my journeys

9%

None of these statements apply to me

## Q5: Do you ever cycle alone through an unlit park, towpath or other isolated route after dark?

- 5% said often
- 30% said sometimes
- 65% said never

## Q6: Which of these statements are true of you?

- **41% said** "I regularly have to take a different cycle route after dark to feel safe"
- **34% said** "I regularly have to take a longer cycle route to avoid areas where I feel at risk from other people"
- **33% said** "I don't cycle at all after dark or in the winter because of cycle routes where I feel at risk from other people"
- **55% said** "I regularly have to choose between a route on busy roads without safe space for cycling and a route through quiet and/or dark places where I feel at risk from other people"

**Q7: While cycling have you experienced drivers using their vehicles to intimidate you, such as passing too close on purpose, tailgating, accelerating at you aggressively?**

- Yes, regularly - around once a week – 24%
- Yes, often - more than once a week – 23%
- **Yes, sometimes - around once a month – 30%**
- Yes, rarely - less than once a year – 15%
- No, never – 7%

**Q8: While cycling, have you experienced verbal abuse and aggression from other road users?**

- Yes, regularly - around once a week – 14%
- Yes, often - more than once a week – 8%
- **Yes, sometimes - around once a month – 41%**
- Yes, rarely - less than once a year – 27%
- No, never – 10%

**Q9: What effect has aggressive driving or abuse while cycling had on you?**

- It doesn't affect me much when it happens – 5%
- **It upsets me but it doesn't put me off cycling – 66%**
- I have stopped cycling for a period because of it - 21%
- It hasn't happened to me - 8%

**Q10: Please describe the worst - or most common - incident of abuse or aggressive behaviours towards you while cycling, including any terms of abuse.**

- 54% of respondents experienced verbal abuse, including 13% gender specific, 1% racial abuse, and 5% sexual harassment.
- **63%** experienced aggressive or dangerous driving, with 54% being deliberate.
- 13% experienced physical violence or threats of violence, with 10% making physical contact using car or other.

**Q11 related to asking respondents permission to quote them anonymously**

**Q12: Thinking about all the journeys you make regularly, how many are local (3 miles or less)?**

- **Most of them – 46%**
- About half – 40%
- Less than a quarter – 13%
- None - 1%

**Q13: What proportion of these short local trips do you make by bike?**

- **Most of them – 33%**
- About half – 23%
- Less than a quarter – 28%
- None - 16%

**Q14: What's the main reason for not using a bike for those journeys?**



There isn't a safe route



Other options are better or more convenient for me



I'm accompanying children / dependents and it's not practical to cycle with them



Not applicable

**Q15: If you have children or other dependents, do they use cycling for local journeys, either with you or unaccompanied? (63% N/A)**

- Yes, Often – 21%
- Yes, Sometimes – 40%
- No, never – 39%

**Q16: If not, why not? (70% N/A)**

- Lack of local routes safe enough for them – 67%
- Children / dependents don't have bikes – 6%
- Logistically difficult alongside other morning/evening commitments - 4%
- They can't cycle – 13%
- Another reason – 10%

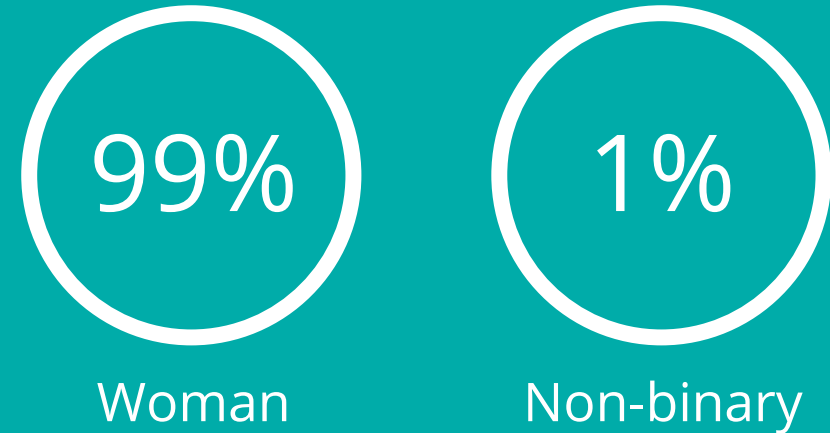
**Q17: Do you feel that your London borough has provided a local cycle network that meets your needs?**

- Yes, I can cycle most of the journeys I need locally – 15%
- **Partly - I can cycle some local journeys but not all – 55%**
- Not at all – 30%

**Q18: Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about what puts you or the women you know off cycling in London?**

- Lack of safe cycleways
- Lack of social safety whilst cycling
- Lack of secure parking
- Specific problem in respondents borough
- Need for cultural change
- Behaviour of other cyclists
- Poor road maintenance
- Theft and mugging concerns
- Lack of confidence

**Q20: Which of the following options most closely aligns with your gender?**



**Q21: How would you describe your ethnicity?**

- **White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British – 61%**
- White – Irish – 4%
- White - Any other White background - 19%
- Black, African, Caribbean or Black British – 2%
- Asian or Asian British – 6%
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups – 5%
- Other ethnic group – 3%



## Q22: What is your sexual orientation?

- **Heterosexual or straight – 75%**
- Gay – 1%
- Lesbian – 4%
- Queer – 1%
- Bisexual – 8%
- Pansexual – 1%
- Asexual – 1%
- Prefer not to answer – 9%

## Q23: Do you live with a disability or a chronic health issue?



Yes



No

## Q24: What are your spiritual / religious beliefs?

- Christian – 19%
- **Atheist / Agnostic – 53%**
- Muslim – 3%
- Hindu – 1%
- Buddhist – 1%
- Jewish - 2%
- Prefer not to say – 15%
- Other – 6%

## Q25: How often do you currently cycle?

- **Once a week or more – 73%**
- Once or twice a month – 11%
- Very occasionally – 11%
- Never – 5%

## Q26: How often do you currently drive?

- Once a week or more – 24%
- Once or twice a month – 13%
- Very occasionally – 18%
- **Never – 45%**