

Transit Safety Checkup

June 3, 2025



Prepared for UASU Executive Committee by
Department of Research and Advocacy

Overview

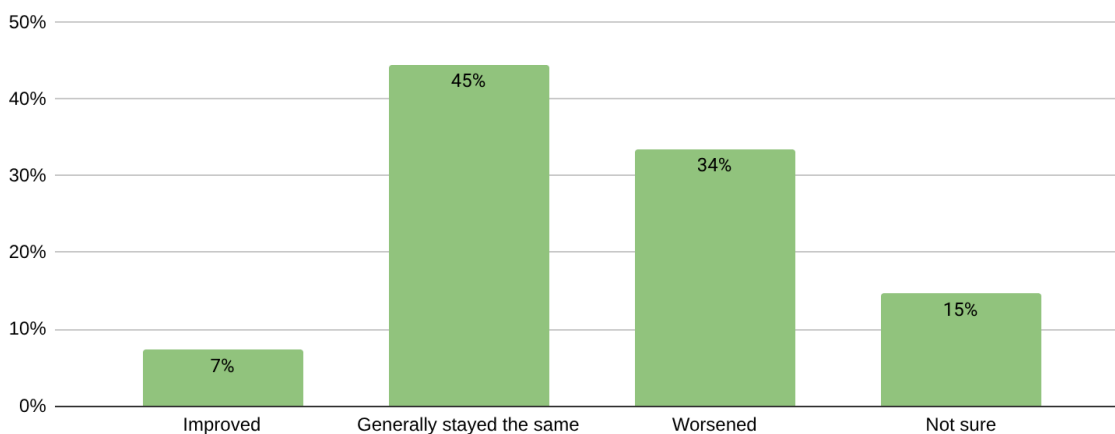
This survey ran on the UASU Perks student engagement platform April 2nd through 18th, 2025, and reached 1,202 respondents. The goal of this survey is to gain information on student opinions and experiences regarding transit safety.

- 49% of respondents believe that the general safety of transit in their area has worsened over the past 2 years.
- 85% of respondents take some form of public transit.
- 42% of respondents always or often feel safe when taking public transit; 29% always or often feel unsafe.
- Since September 2024, 52% of respondents had witnessed drug use (other than marijuana) when taking public transit, 29% had witnessed threats being made, and 23% had witnessed harassment or assault because of someone's identity.
- 49% of respondents do not believe that the city takes adequate measures to ensure public safety on public transit.
- 47% of respondents are not confident in the transit staff's ability to effectively respond to an emergency.

"Do you think the overall safety of public transit in your area has improved, worsened, or stayed over the past 2 years?"

45% of respondents indicated that they believe the overall safety of public transit has stayed the same over the past two years. Only 7% felt that safety had improved, while 34% claimed that it had worsened.

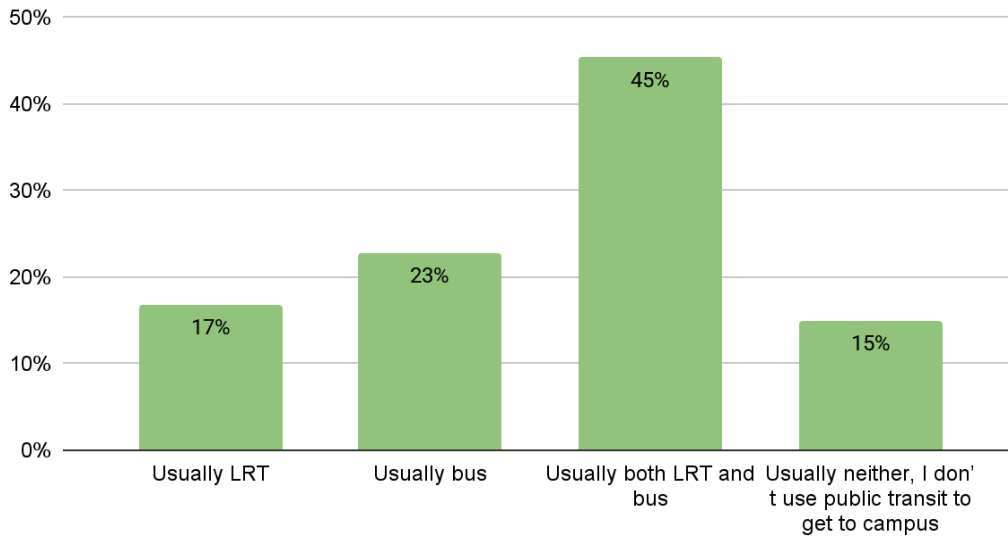
Do you think the overall safety of public transit in your area has improved, worsened, or stayed over the past 2 years?



"Do you usually take the bus, LRT, or both?"

45% of respondents take both the bus and LRT, while 17% mainly use the LRT and 23% the bus. Only 15% of respondents do not use public transit to get to campus.

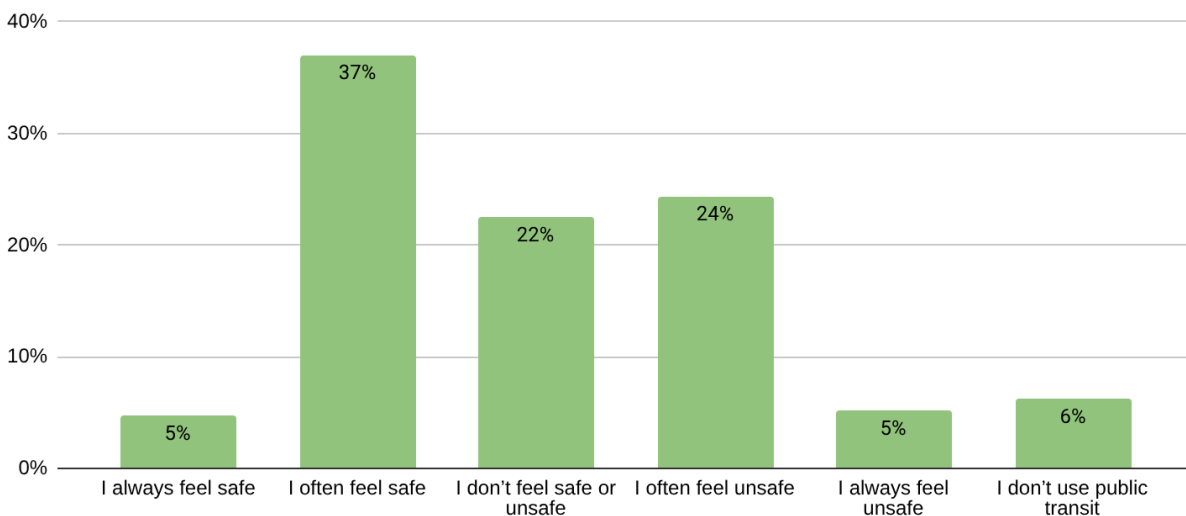
Do you usually take the bus, LRT, or both?



"Do you feel safe taking public transit to and from the university?"

Approximately 37% of respondents often feel safe on public transit, while only 5% always feel safe. 22% are reportedly indifferent, neither feeling safe or unsafe. Alternatively, 24% often feel unsafe and 5% always feel unsafe.

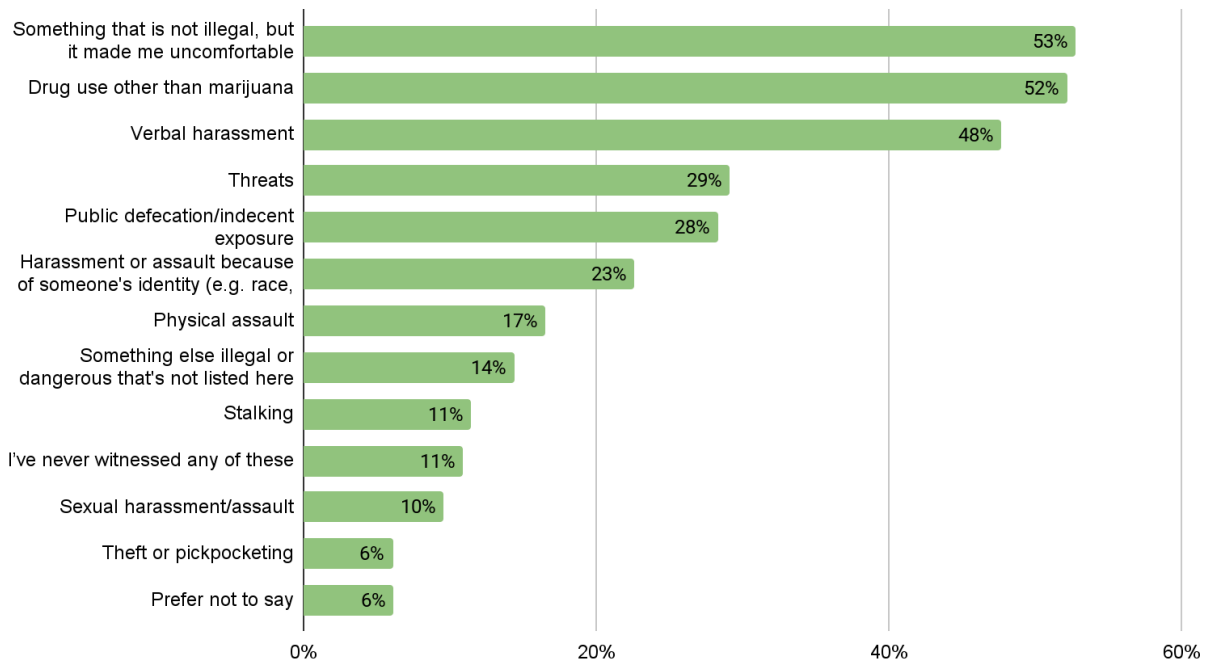
Do you feel safe taking public transit to and from the university?



“Since the start of September 2024, have you witnessed any of the following on public transit? Choose all that apply.”

Over half of the survey respondents have seen something that is not illegal, but made them uncomfortable on public transit, and/or have witnessed drug use other than marijuana on public transit. 48% also witnessed verbal harassment, 29% witnessed threats, and 28% witnessed public defecation/indecent exposure. only 11% of survey respondents reported that they have never witnessed any of the following while on public transit.

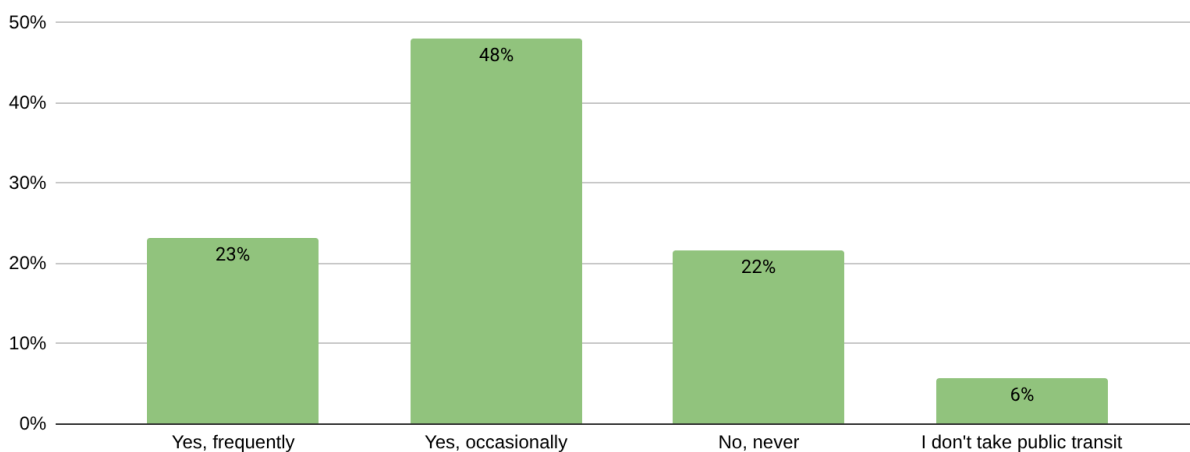
Since the start of September 2024, have you witnessed any of the following on public transit? Choose all that apply.



“Since the start of September 2024, have you seen drug paraphernalia (needles, drug vials, etc.) on public transit or in transit stations?”

23% of respondents report seeing drug paraphernalia frequently while on public transit. 48% claim to see it occasionally, while only 22% report never having seen drug paraphernalia on public transit. In short, more students have seen drug paraphernalia on transit than have not.

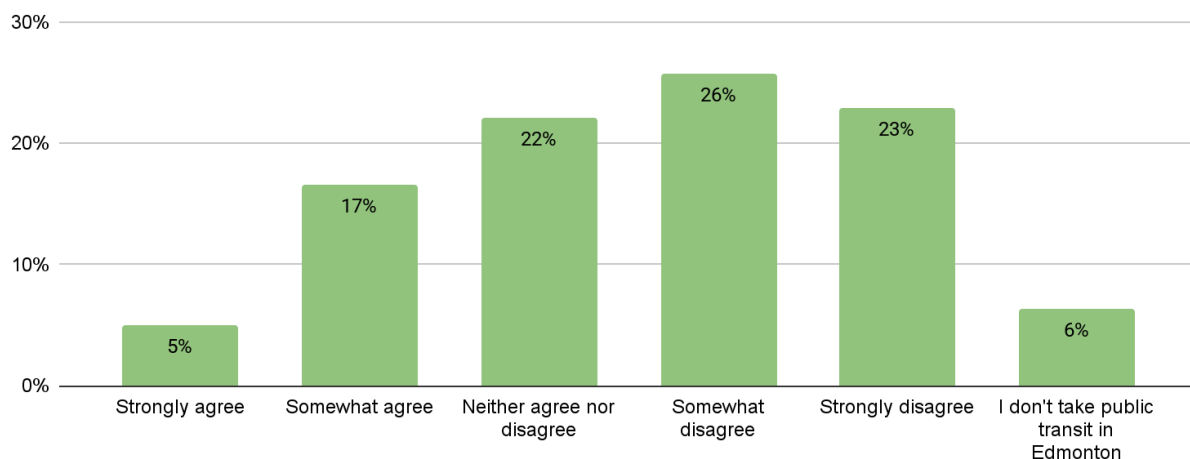
Since the start of September 2024, have you seen drug paraphernalia (needles, drug vials, etc.) on public transit or in transit stations?



“Agree or disagree? The City of Edmonton takes adequate measures to ensure public safety while people use public transit.”

49% of survey respondents indicated that they disagree with the above statement. Alternatively, 22% agree that the city takes adequate measures to ensure public safety while people use public transit. Overall, this question indicates that the student body does not feel the City of Edmonton is doing enough to ensure the safety of transit users.

Agree or disagree? The City of Edmonton takes adequate measures to ensure public safety while people use public transit.



“If you witnessed an emergency situation (fight, accident, unconscious passenger, medical issue, threats, etc) how confident are you in the ability of the transit staff to respond effectively?”

47% of survey respondents reported that they are unconfident in the ability of transit staff to respond effectively to an emergency situation. Only 18% claimed they are somewhat confident in the staff, and 3% indicated they would be very confident in the staff. This data suggests that students do not feel that transit staff are appropriately trained to respond effectively to an emergency situation.

If you witnessed an emergency situation, how confident are you in the ability of the transit staff to respond effectively?

