

One third of women aged 15 to 29 are afraid to walk around their town or neighbourhood at night, compared to 7% of young men

This sense of fear among young girls has increased in recent years

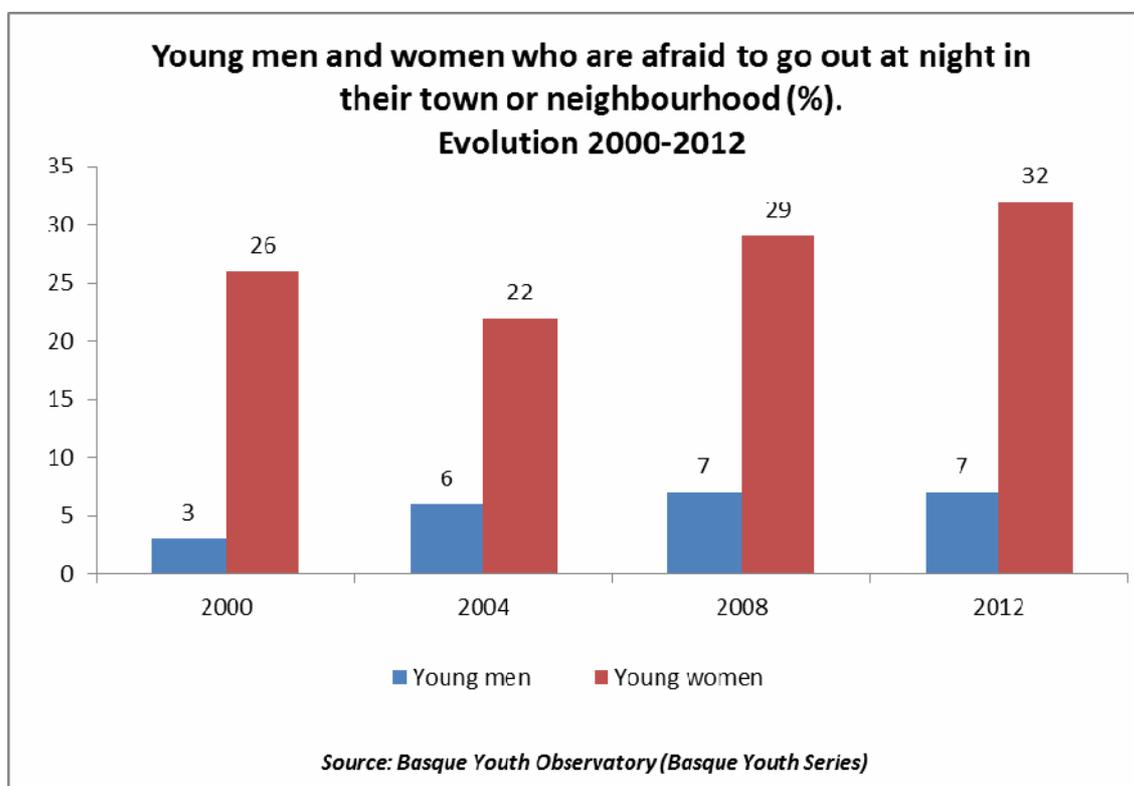
Traditionally, it has been considered that the population as a whole had a homogeneous perception of urban safety. However, in recent decades it has become clear that it is experienced in a very different manner by men and women. In fact, urban violence, with its multiple facets (sexual and verbal assault, theft, intimidation ...) is a fear shared by women, irrespective of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical abilities, etc., to a greater extent than by men.

Such is the case, that [Emakunde](#) in the [V Plan for the Equality of Men and Women in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country](#) states that *"it is necessary to increase the safety of women, taking into account urban design, eliminating physical spaces that, due to their design or lack of lighting or isolation, pose a real threat or instill a sense of insecurity, and regarding the implementation of preventive procedures or protocols"*.

The [Basque Youth Observatory](#) has just completed the 2012 Basque Youth report, which will be published in the coming months. This report is based on a survey involving 1500 young people aged 15 to 29 and it covers a number of youth-related issues, including sexism and inequality. Among other aspects, it included questions on how young men and women perceived urban safety.

19% of young people said they were afraid to walk around at night in their towns or neighbourhoods. This percentage rises to 32% in the case of girls (compared with 7% for boys).

The percentage of young women who are afraid to go out at night in their towns or neighbourhoods has increased compared to previous years.



The [Basque Youth Observatory](#) would like to support the dissemination of the [Beldur Barik!](#) Programme, promoted by Emakunde and Eudel, within the framework of the Berdinsarea movement for equality, with the support and funding from the Provincial Councils of Araba, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa and the cooperation of the Department of Education, Language Policy and Culture of the Basque Government, the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) and EITB. This programme aims at preventing gender-based violence among youths. One of the core elements of the programme is a competition that targets young people aged 12-26 and rewards artistic expressions, in audio-visual format, showing how girls and boys deal with the current situation of inequality for women with attitudes based on respect, equality, freedom and autonomy, responsibility and the firm rejection of violence against women. To learn more about Beldur Barik! please visit its website.

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