

Recorded crime in Devon and Cornwall

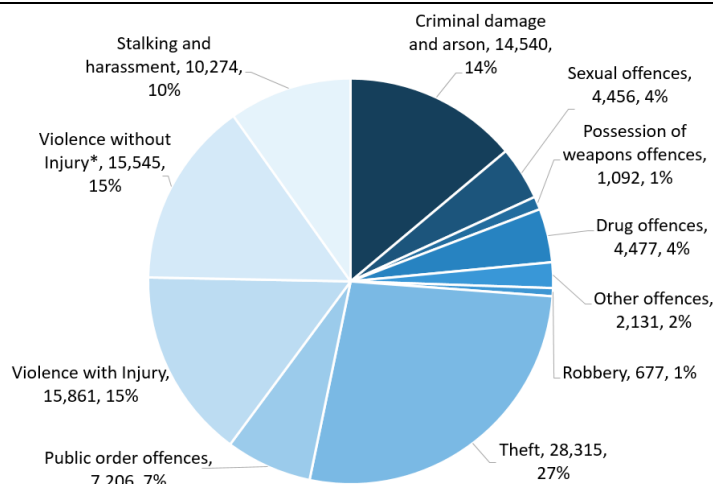
For the 12 months to 30th September 2019 compared to the year prior

Overview

- 104,626 recorded crimes, equivalent to 59.4 per 1000 resident population (compared to 84.6 across England and Wales excluding Greater Manchester due to recording issues).
- 3rd lowest rate of crime in England and Wales (out of 41 forces¹).
- 2nd lowest rate of theft offences in England and Wales.
- Total recorded crime decreased by 0.3% in Devon and Cornwall compared to a 5% increase nationally over the year period.

¹Crime rates are not stated for the City of London in the Office of National Statistics data, due to the low population.

Crime Types



Percentage of total crime and volume by Crime type, Office of National Statistics data.

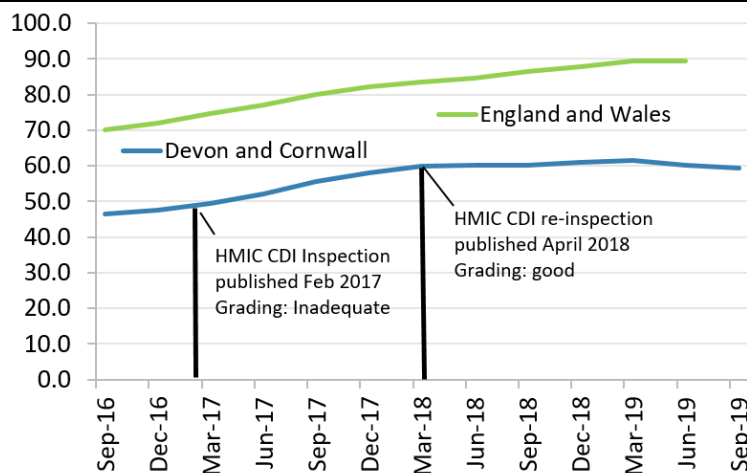
*Violence without injury excluding stalking and harassment.

The 104,626 recorded crimes in Devon and Cornwall break down into specific crime types as shown.

In every category except violence with injury the Devon and Cornwall crime rate per 1,000 population is lower than the national rate (see detail overleaf).

- Domestic abuse accounted for 20% of all crimes.
- Alcohol was recorded as a factor in 15% of all crimes.
- 1.8% of crimes were hate crimes.

Trends

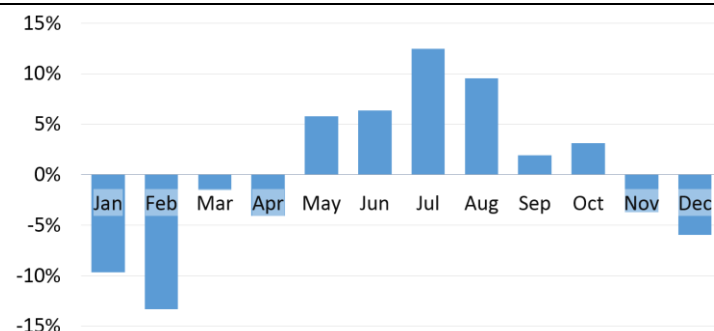


Crime rate per 1000 resident population 12 month rolling average, Office of National Statistics.

Between September 2016 and March 2018 we saw a large increase of recorded crime. A significant factor was improvements in crime recording practices within Devon and Cornwall Police which took effect in that period. This followed HMICFRS's Crime Data Integrity (CDI) inspections of Devon and Cornwall Police in 2016.

From March 2018 onwards the recording practices became more stable resulting in recorded crime levels settling at a higher rate.

Seasonality



3 Year trend adjusted average of seasonality: month average compared to the yearly average.


Crime is 10% higher in July, August, and September compared with the rest of the year. This is the highest seasonal impact for any police force.

Seasonal factors include weather, lighter nights, and the large influx of tourists that visit during the holiday periods.



Crime trends In Devon and Cornwall

	D&C rate ²	National rate ²	D&C trend	Extra Information
Violence with Injury 15,861	9.0	8.7	↑ 5% <i>Up 1% nationally</i>	<p>This category includes a wide range of offences which range in seriousness. Levels of violence with injury just above the national average and have risen at a higher rate locally in the period (up 5% in D&C compared to a 1% rise nationally). Domestic abuse is identified as a factor in around one third of all violence with injury offences. Seasonal variations are significant and this has been an important factor in our special grant application.</p> <p>Assault with injury: accounts for 92% of violence with injury.</p> <p>Serious violence: Severe forms of violence such as murder, attempted murder, section 18 GBH and wounding have decreased by 15% to 588.</p> <p>Knife crime: has decreased to 427 (a 3% decrease). Devon and Cornwall has the lowest rate of knife crime nationally.</p> <p>Alcohol: alcohol is flagged as a factor in 32% of violence with injury.</p>
Violence without Injury (excl. Stalking and harassment) 15,545	8.8	11.2	↑ 5% <i>Up 12% nationally</i>	<p>There has been a small increase in recorded violence without injury, primarily due to an increase in assault without injury. Alcohol is noted as a factor in 26% of offences. 38% of offences are flagged as being domestic abuse related. Again seasonal variations in this area are significant and have been a factor in our special grant application.</p>
Stalking and harassment 10,274	5.8	7.6	↑ 9% <i>Up 28% nationally</i>	<p>Home Office counting rules have changed nationally and has resulted in increases both nationally and locally. There is an increasing recognition of significant harm these crimes can cause victims and priority has been placed on encouraging reporting and providing support to victims.</p> <p>Domestic abuse: 44% (4,481 crimes) of stalking and harassment is identified as domestic abuse. This increased by 42% compared to the previous year.</p> <p>Online: analysis shows that at least 30% of stalking and harassment is committed via social media or other online contact.</p>
Sexual offences 4,456	2.5	2.6	↓ -2% <i>Up 3% nationally</i>	<p>The increase in victims reporting these crimes over the last few years has stopped. In the period there were 1,639 rapes recorded accounting for 35% of all reported sexual offences. 28% of the sexual offences recorded are historic (historic in means offences where there is a gap of over year between the offence and it being reported to police).</p>
Thefts 28,315	16.1	31.8	↓ -11% <i>Stable nationally</i>	<p>Burglary: decreased by 9%.</p> <p>Vehicle offences: decreased by 7%.</p> <p>Shoplifting: decreased by 12%</p> <p>Other theft offences: decreased by 15%.</p> <p>It is recognised that data on recorded crime depends in certain areas of theft depends on the willingness of the victim to report. The areas of shoplifting and rural theft from businesses are two areas where reporting is considered to be low which will affect recorded crime figures.</p>



Robbery 677	0.4	1.4	<p>↑ 21%</p> <p>Up 12% nationally</p>	<p>Robbery increased by 21% equating to 116 more than the previous year. Most areas of England and Wales have experienced an increase in robbery over compared with last year.</p> <p>The robbery rate per 1,000 population is 0.4 robberies which is significantly lower than the national level of 1.4.</p> <p>There are significant variances of the change in robbery across the force area, with the majority of the rise occurring in urban centres.</p>
Criminal damage and arson 14,540	8.3	9.0	<p>→ 0%</p> <p>Down 2% nationally</p>	<p>There were 8.3 criminal damage and arson offences per 1000 population in Devon and Cornwall compared to 9.0 nationally.</p> <p>There has been a 13% increase in criminal damage related to Domestic Abuse, increasing to 1,789.</p>
Public order offences 7,206	4.1	7.0	<p>→ 0%</p> <p>Up 9% nationally</p>	<p>More ASB incidents are now being recorded as crimes nationally due to changes to recording practices. Many of these now fall under public order offences. Despite this, there has been no change in public order offences.</p>
Anti-social behaviour incidents ³ 37,439	21.2	22.2	<p>↓ -8%</p> <p>Down 8% nationally</p>	<p>Tackling ASB is a shared responsibility with local authorities and is led through Community Safety Partnerships. The decrease doesn't necessarily reflect a decrease in levels of ASB and needs to be considered alongside public order offences.</p> <p>The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales indicates that there has been an increase in the proportion of people that have experienced or witnessed ASB compared to the previous year in Devon and Cornwall.</p>
Possession of weapons offences 1,092	0.6	0.7	<p>↑ 24%</p> <p>Up 12% nationally</p>	<p>Rates of possession offences will have been affected by increased proactive policing activity in Devon and Cornwall through targeted operations and the use of stop and search powers in areas such as organised crime, drugs and violence. 51% of these offences were possession of knives or similar weapons. Possession of these types of weapons increased by 18% on last year.</p>
Drug offences 4,477	2.5	2.8	<p>↑ 17%</p> <p>Up 20% nationally</p>	<p>Levels of recorded crime in this area will have been impacted by increased policing activity in Devon and Cornwall focused on the identification and targeting of county lines and other organised drug supply gangs operating in the area.</p>
Other offences 2,131	1.2	1.7	<p>↓ -2%</p> <p>Up 6% nationally</p>	<p>This is a broad catalogue of offences. It includes offences such as obscene publications, dangerous driving, possession with intent to commit criminal damage, and perverting the course of justice.</p>

²Crime rate per 1000 resident population for England and Wales (includes British Transport Police) compared to Devon and Cornwall. However Greater Manchester Police have been excluded due to recording issues, meaning that the national rate may appear lower than in previous releases. ³Cases of ASB are categorised as incidents, not as crimes. George Crosland, October 2019