

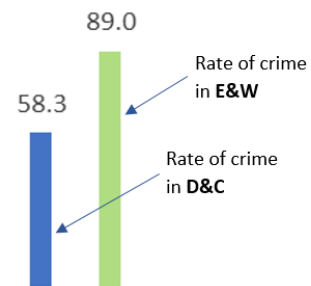
# Recorded crime in Devon and Cornwall

For the 12 months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 compared to the year prior

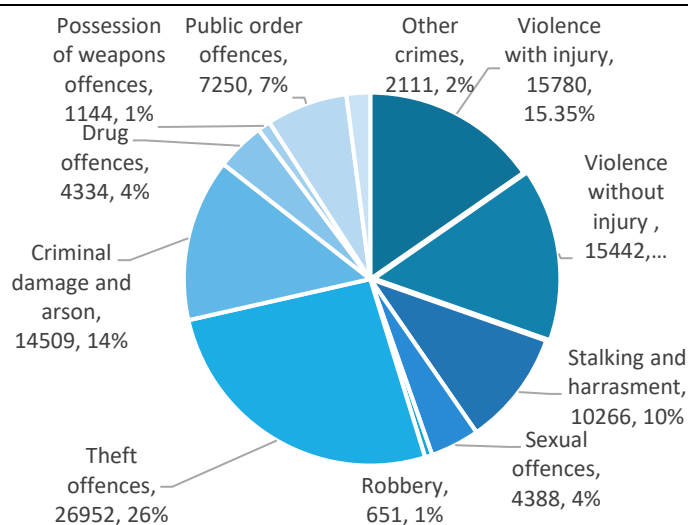
## Overview

- 102,827 recorded crimes, equivalent to 58.3 per 1000 resident population (this is compared to 89.0 across England and Wales, excluding Greater Manchester due to recording issues).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest rate of crime in England and Wales (out of 41 forces<sup>1</sup>).
- The lowest rate of burglary offences in England and Wales.
- Total recorded crime decreased by 3% in Devon and Cornwall compared to a 4% increase nationally over the year period.

<sup>1</sup>Crime rates are not stated for the City of London in the Office of National



## Crime Types



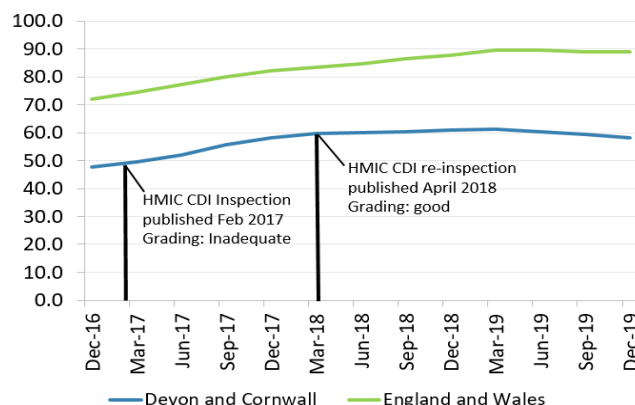
The 102,827 recorded crimes in Devon and Cornwall break down into specific crime types as shown.

In every category 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.
- 2% of crimes were hate crimes.

Volume and percentage of crime by crime type. Source: Office of National Statistics, December 2019.

## Trends

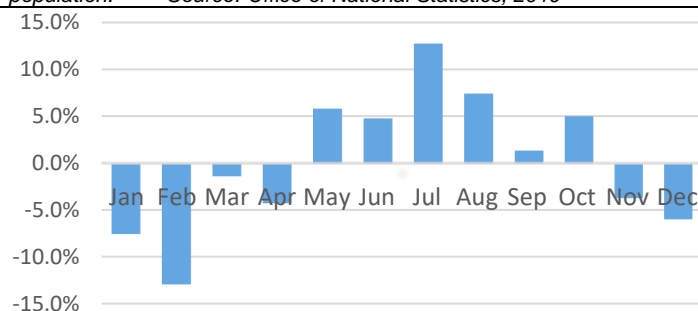


Monthly averages for recorded crime. Crime rate per 1000 resident population. Source: Office of National Statistics, 2019

From March 2019 onwards there has been a slight decline in the rate of crime in Devon and Cornwall.

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


## Seasonality




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

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

Crime is 10% higher in the quarter from July-September, resulting largely from crime levels in July and August. Wider seasonality analysis for both crime and non crime matters shows increased demand across the longer summer period from May to October.



Crime trends In Devon and Cornwall				
	D&C rate <sup>2</sup>	National rate <sup>2</sup>	D&C trend	Extra Information
Violence with Injury 15,780	8.9	9.2	➡ 0% Down 4% nationally	<p>This category includes a wide range of offences which range in seriousness. Levels of violence with injury in Devon and Cornwall are below the national rate at 8.9. There has been little change in the volume of incidents over the past year.</p> <p><b>Assault with injury:</b> accounts for 92% of violence with injury.</p> <p><b>Serious violence:</b> Severe forms of violence such as murder, attempted murder, section 18 GBH and wounding have decreased by 15% to 581.</p> <p><b>Knife crime:</b> There were 484 knife crimes (a 10% increase on last year). Devon and Cornwall continue to have the lowest rate of knife crime nationally.</p> <p><b>Alcohol:</b> alcohol is flagged as a factor in 33% of violence with injury.</p> <p><b>Domestic abuse:</b> is identified as a factor in 34% of all violence with injury offences.</p>
Violence without Injury (excl. Stalking and harassment) 15,442	8.9	12.1	↑ 3% Up 11% nationally	<p>There has been a small increase in recorded violence without injury, primarily due to an increase in assault without injury and threats to kill.</p> <p>Alcohol is identified as a factor in 27% of offences. 39% of offences are flagged as being domestic abuse related.</p>
Stalking and harassment 10,266	5.8	8.2	↑ 2% Up 20% nationally	<p>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><b>Domestic abuse:</b> 44% (4,408 crimes) of stalking and harassment is identified as domestic abuse. There has been a 0.2% decrease in such incidents when compared to the previous year.</p> <p><b>Online:</b> analysis shows that approximately 29% of stalking and harassment has an online element i.e. either all or part of the offence is committed via social media or other online contact.</p> <p>It is noted that Home Office counting rules have changed nationally and this is considered to have contributed to the increases both nationally and locally in this area.</p>
Sexual offences 4,388	2.5	2.7	↓ -3% Up 2% nationally	<p>In the period there were 1,559 rapes recorded accounting for 35% of all reported sexual offences. 28% of the sexual offences recorded are historic (historic refers to those offences where there is a gap of over one year between the offence and it being reported to police).</p> <p>Devon and Cornwall Police and the OPCC will increase their efforts to encourage the public to report sexual offences.</p>
Thefts 26,952	15.3	32.9	↓ -15% Down 2% nationally	<p><b>Burglary:</b> decreased by 8%.</p> <p><b>Theft from the person:</b> decreased by 7%</p> <p><b>Vehicle offences:</b> decreased by 16%.</p> <p><b>Shoplifting:</b> decreased by 16%</p> <p><b>Other theft offences:</b> decreased by 18%.</p> <p>It is recognised that data on recorded crime 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 651	0.4	1.5	<p>↑ 7%</p> <p>Up 12% nationally</p>	<p>Robbery increased by 7% equating to 116 more than the previous year. Most areas of England and Wales have experienced an increase in robbery compared with last year. The robbery rate per 1,000 population is 0.4 robberies which is significantly lower than the national level of 1.5. There are 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 14,509	8.2	9.4	<p>→ 0%</p> <p>Down 1% nationally</p>	<p>There were 8.2 criminal damage and arson offences per 1000 population in Devon and Cornwall compared to 9.4 nationally. There has been a 12% increase in criminal damage related to Domestic Abuse, increasing to 1,830 incidents.</p>
Public order offences 7,250	4.1	7.5	<p>↑ 2%</p> <p>Up 7% nationally</p>	<p>Nationally, more ASB incidents are being recorded by police services across the country as crimes due to changes to recording practices. Therefore, many ASB incidents can now be classed as public order offences.</p>
Anti-social behaviour incidents <sup>3</sup> 35,741	20.3	23.0	<p>↓ -11%</p> <p>Down 5% nationally</p>	<p>Tackling ASB is a shared responsibility with local authorities and is led through Community Safety Partnerships. The 11% decrease in ASB doesn't necessarily reflect a decrease in levels of ASB and needs to be considered alongside public order offences. 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 in Devon and Cornwall compared to the previous year; 41% up from 36%<sup>4</sup>.</p>
Possession of weapons offences 1144	0.6	0.8	<p>↑ 25%</p> <p>Up 9% 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. 49% of these offences were possession of knives or similar weapons. Possession of these types of weapons increased by 14.5% on last year.</p>
Drug offences 4,334	2.5	3.0	<p>↑ 11%</p> <p>Up 21% 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 2,111	1.2	1.8	<p>↓ -2%</p> <p>Up 5% 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>

<sup>2</sup>Crime 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, therefore the national rate may appear lower than in previous releases.

<sup>3</sup>Cases of ASB are categorised as incidents, not as crimes.

<sup>4</sup>Survey results are based on a sample of Devon & Cornwall. Results are dependent on the respondent's perception of ASB and cannot necessarily validate that an incidence of ASB had occurred.