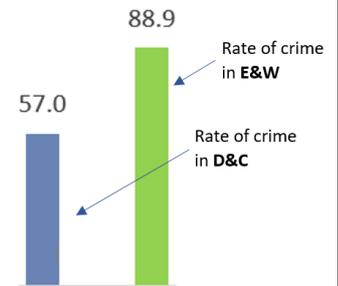


Recorded crime in Devon and Cornwall

For the 12 months to 31st March 2020 compared to the year prior

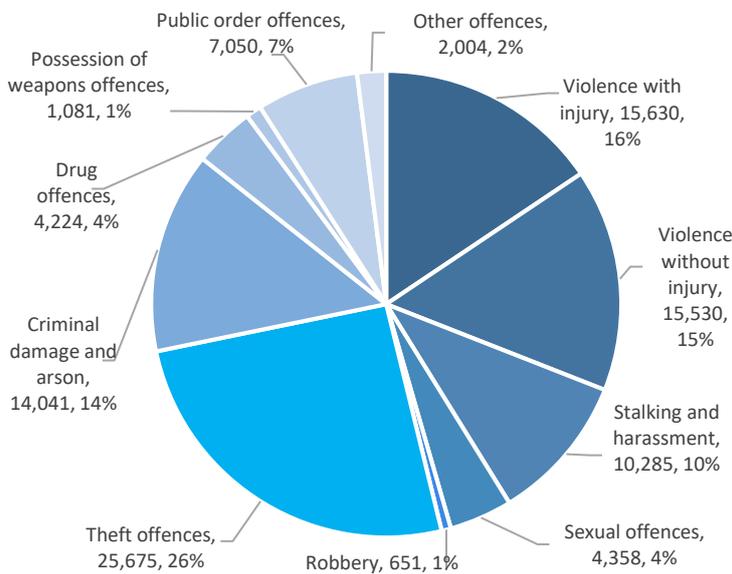
Overview

- Devon and Cornwall have the lowest rate of crime across England and Wales (out of 41 forces¹)
- The lowest rate of victim-based crime out of all forces.
- The lowest rate of burglary offences.
- 100,529 crimes were recorded across Devon and Cornwall. This is equivalent to 57.0 crimes per 1000 resident population (compared to 89.0 across England and Wales).
- Total recorded crime decreased by 6% in Devon and Cornwall over the year, compared to a 1% increase nationally.



¹There are 43 police forces across England and Wales. However, crime rates are not stated for the City of London in the Office of National Statistics data due to its low resident population. Similarly, crime rates are not stated for Greater Manchester due to recording issues.

Crime Types



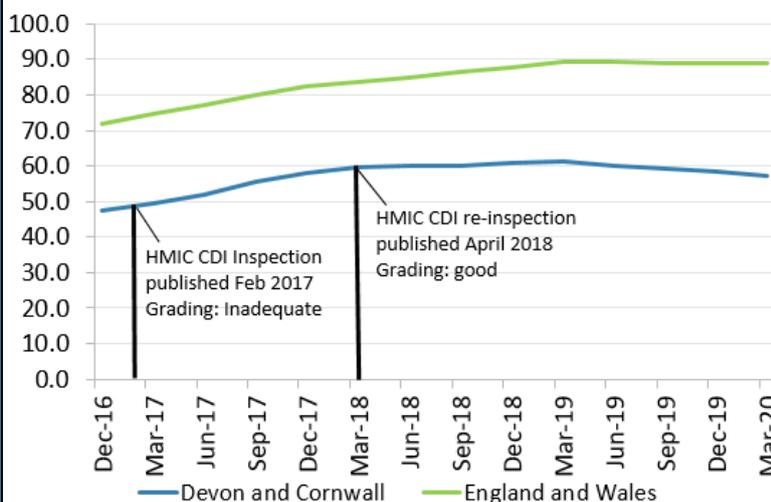
The 100,529 recorded crimes in Devon and Cornwall break down into specific crime types as shown.

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 21% 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, March 2020.

Trends



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

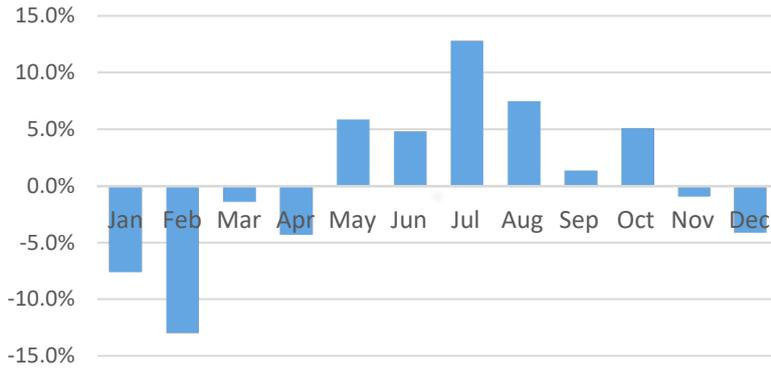
From March 2018 onwards the recording practices became more stable, resulting in recorded crime levels settling at a higher rate.

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

Monthly averages for recorded crime. Crime rate per 1000 resident population. Source: Office of National Statistics, 2020



Seasonality



Crime is 9% higher in July, August, and September compared with the rest of the year.

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

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

Crime trends In Devon and Cornwall

	D&C rate ²	National rate ²	D&C trend	Extra Information
Violence with Injury 15,630	8.9	9.2	↓ -2% <i>Down 6% nationally</i>	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 and there has been a 2% decline in incidents over the past year. Assault with injury: accounts for 93% of violence with injury. Serious violence: Severe forms of violence such as murder, attempted murder, section 18 GBH and wounding have decreased by 13% to 577 incidents. Serious violence equates to 4% of all violence with injury offences. Alcohol: alcohol is flagged as a factor in 33% of all violence with injury offences. Domestic abuse: Domestic abuse is identified as a factor in 35% of all violence with injury offences.
Violence without Injury (excl. Stalking and harassment) 15,530	8.8	12.3	↑ 2% <i>Up 9% nationally</i>	There has been a small increase in recorded violence without injury, primarily due to an increase in assault without injury (which has increased by about 700 incidents within the year period). Alcohol is noted as a factor in 27% of violence without injury offences. 39% of offences are flagged as being related to domestic abuse.
Stalking and harassment 10,285	5.8	8.4	→ 0% <i>Up 12% nationally</i>	Reported stalking and harassment cases have remained relatively stable across Devon and Cornwall in comparison to the previous year. This is despite a 12% increase nationally. Domestic abuse: 45% (4,512 crimes) of stalking and harassment is identified as domestic abuse. This has decreased by 0.2% in comparison to the previous year. Online: 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. This may not include contact that is made explicitly via text or telephone (as this does not necessarily have an online element).
Sexual offences 4,358	2.5	2.7	↓ -3% <i>Stable nationally</i>	In the year period there were 1,624 recorded rapes, accounting for 37% of all reported sexual offences. 28% of the sexual offences recorded are regarded as historic (historic refers to those cases where there is a gap of over one year between the offence occurring and it being reported to police).



<p>Thefts</p> <p>25,675</p>	<p>14.6</p>	<p>32.2</p>	<p>↓ -18%</p> <p><i>Down 4% nationally</i></p>	<p>Burglary: decreased by 11%. Theft from the person: decreased by 10% Vehicle offences: decreased by 19%. Shoplifting: decreased by 19% Other theft offences: decreased by 20%. It is recognised that data on recorded thefts in part 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 may impact recorded crime figures.</p>
<p>Robbery</p> <p>651</p>	<p>0.4</p>	<p>1.5</p>	<p>↑ 4%</p> <p><i>Up 6% nationally</i></p>	<p>Robbery increased by 4% in Devon and Cornwall compared with last year. 24 Forces in England and Wales experienced increases in robbery in comparison to the previous year. The robbery rate per 1,000 population is 0.4 robberies which is significantly lower than the national level of 1.5. The majority (89%) of robberies within Devon and Cornwall occur in urban areas.</p>
<p>Criminal damage and arson</p> <p>14,041</p>	<p>8.0</p>	<p>9.4</p>	<p>↓ -5%</p> <p><i>Down 2% nationally</i></p>	<p>There were 8.0 criminal damage and arson offences per 1000 population in Devon and Cornwall compared to 9.4 nationally. There has been a 13% increase in criminal damage related to domestic abuse, increasing to 1,784 incidents. There has been a 1% decrease in the number of cases related to business crime, decreasing to 1080 incidents,</p>
<p>Public order offences</p> <p>7,050</p>	<p>4.0</p>	<p>7.6</p>	<p>↓ -1%</p> <p><i>Up 5% nationally</i></p>	<p>More ASB incidents are now being recorded as crimes due to changes to recording practices. Therefore, many ASB incidents can now be classed as public order offences. This is likely the reason for the 6% increase which is evident nationally. Conversely, Devon and Cornwall have seen a 1% decrease in public order offences compared to the previous year. There has however been a 2% increase in the number of public order offences related to hate crime, rising to 857 cases.</p>
<p>Anti-social behaviour incidents³</p> <p>34,631</p>	<p>19.6</p>	<p>23.0</p>	<p>↓ -14%</p> <p><i>Down 6% nationally</i></p>	<p>Tackling ASB is a shared responsibility with local authorities and is led through Community Safety Partnerships. The 14% 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; 42% up from 38%⁴.</p>
<p>Possession of weapons offences</p> <p>1081</p>	<p>0.6</p>	<p>0.8</p>	<p>↑ 12%</p> <p><i>Up 2% nationally</i></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 knives and bladed weapons increased by 14% on last year.</p>
<p>Drug offences</p> <p>4,224</p>	<p>2.4</p>	<p>3.1</p>	<p>↑ 3%</p> <p><i>Up 18% nationally</i></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 drug operations. 79% (3114) of drug offences were linked to the possession of controlled substances.</p>



Knife crime	29.0	82.0	<p>▲ 15%</p> <p>Up 6% nationally</p>	<p>Knife crime is a broad category which incapsulates a number of offences involving a knife or similar bladed object. Examples of crime types that are included in this category include threats to kill, attempted murder and robbery. Whilst Devon and Cornwall experienced a 15% increase in the number of knife crime offences over the year period, this should be considered against the rate of offences (29.0), which is still considerably lower than the national rate (82.0). Out of 41 forces, Devon and Cornwall have the second lowest rate of knife crime.</p>
Other offences 2,004	1.1	1.8	<p>▼ -8%</p> <p>Up 3% 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>

²The crime rate is expressed as per 1000 resident population. The national rate includes British Transport Police. Greater Manchester Police have been excluded due to recording issues, therefore the national rate may appear lower than in previous releases. ³Cases of ASB are categorised as incidents, not as crimes. ⁴Survey 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.