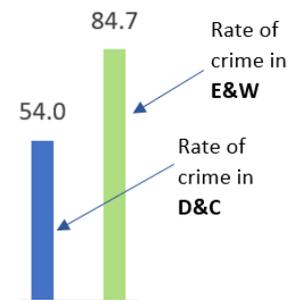


# Recorded crime in Devon and Cornwall

For the 12 months to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 compared to the year prior

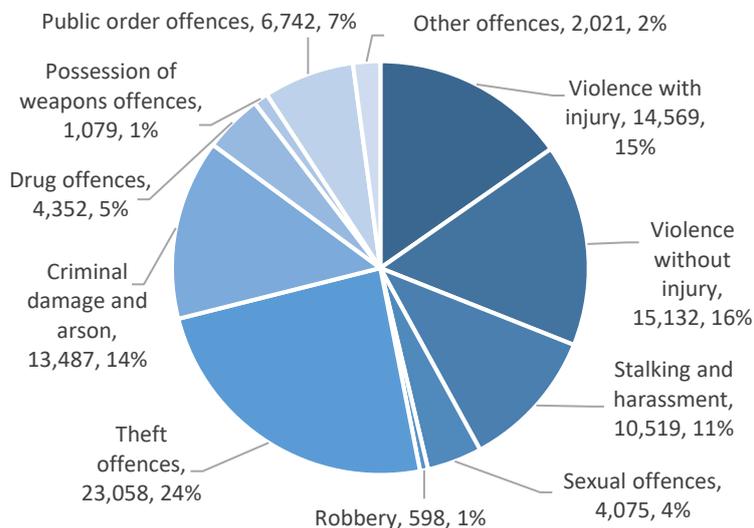
## Overview

- Devon and Cornwall have the second lowest rate of crime across England and Wales (out of 42 forces<sup>1</sup>)
- The second lowest rate of victim-based crime.
- The lowest rate of burglary offences.
- The third lowest rate of violence without injury.
- 95,632 crimes were recorded across Devon and Cornwall. This is equivalent to 54.0 crimes per 1000 resident population (compared to 84.7 across England and Wales).
- Total recorded crime decreased by 9.5% (around 10,000 offences) in Devon and Cornwall in the year, compared to a 4.9% decrease nationally.



**Important note:** this statistical release includes crime recorded during the Covid-19 lockdown period (April – July 2020). As such, national and local rates of crime will appear lower than in previous years. Similarly, any decreases in crime may be exacerbated by the lockdown period, with the 9.5% decrease in crime across Devon and Cornwall mainly driven by substantial falls in crime during April to June 2020.

## Crime Types



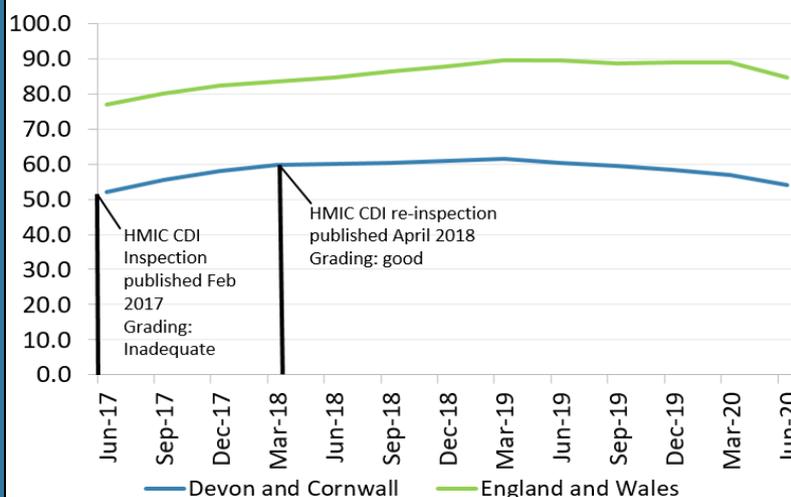
The 95,632 recorded crimes in Devon and Cornwall break down into specific crime types as shown.

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 22% 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, June 2020.

## Trends



Between September 2016 and March 2019, we saw a steady 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) inspection in 2016 - and subsequent publication in 2017 - which saw Devon and Cornwall Police's crime recording classed as 'inadequate'.

From March 2018 onwards the recording practices improved, 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, June 2020



Seasonality



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

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.

## Crime trends In Devon and Cornwall

	D&C rate <sup>2</sup>	National rate <sup>2</sup>	D&C trend	Extra Information
<p>Violence with Injury</p> <p>14,569</p>	8.2	8.7	<p>↓ -9%</p> <p><i>Down 6% nationally</i></p>	<p>This category includes a wide variety of offences which range in seriousness. Levels of violence with injury in Devon and Cornwall are below the national rate, at 8.2 offences per 1000 in the population. There has been a 9% decline in the number of recorded violence with injury offences over the past year, equating to a reduction of over 1,400 crimes.</p> <p><b>Assault with injury:</b> accounts for 91% 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 6% to 557. Serious violence equates to 4% of all violence with injury offences.</p> <p><b>Alcohol:</b> is flagged as a factor in 33% of all violence with injury offences.</p> <p><b>Domestic abuse:</b> is identified as a factor in 38% of all violence with injury offences.</p>
<p>Violence without Injury (excl. Stalking and harassment)</p> <p>15,132</p>	8.5	12.1	<p>↓ -1%</p> <p><i>Up 4% nationally</i></p>	<p>Violence without injury is a broad category of offences which includes assault without injury, threats to kill and kidnapping. In the year period there has been a 1% decrease in the number of recorded violence without injury offences; with around 150 fewer crimes this year in comparison to last year.</p> <p><b>Alcohol:</b> is noted as a factor in 27% of violence without injury offences.</p> <p><b>Domestic abuse:</b> 40% of offences are flagged as being related to domestic abuse.</p>
<p>Stalking and harassment</p> <p>10,519</p>	5.9	8.7	<p>↑ 4%</p> <p><i>Up 13% nationally</i></p>	<p>There was a 4% increase in the number of reported stalking and harassment cases in the year period; equating to an increase of around 400 crimes. Despite this, the rate of stalking and harassment is still lower in Devon and Cornwall (5.9) when compared to the national figure (8.7).</p> <p><b>Domestic abuse:</b> 44% (4,643 crimes) of stalking and harassment is identified as domestic abuse. This has increased by 4% in comparison to the previous year.</p> <p><b>Online:</b> approximately 30% 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).</p>



Sexual offences 4,075	2.3	2.6	<p>↓ -11%</p> <p><i>Down 7% nationally</i></p>	<p>In the year period there were 1,548 recorded rapes, accounting for 38% of all reported sexual offences. Over 30% of recorded sexual offences 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 23,058	13.0	28.9	<p>↓ -23%</p> <p><i>Down 15% nationally</i></p>	<p><b>Burglary:</b> decreased by 16%.  <b>Theft from the person:</b> decreased by 30%  <b>Vehicle offences:</b> decreased by 24%.  <b>Shoplifting:</b> decreased by 26%  <b>Other theft offences:</b> decreased by 24%.            There was a large (23%) decrease in the number of recorded theft offences over the year period; there were around 6,800 fewer crimes this year, in comparison to last year. It is nonetheless recognised that data on recorded thefts in part depends on the willingness of the victim to report.</p>
Robbery 598	0.3	1.3	<p>↓ -13%</p> <p><i>Down 10% nationally</i></p>	<p>Robbery decreased by 13% in Devon and Cornwall over the year period. The robbery rate per 1,000 population is 0.3 robberies which is significantly lower than the national rate of 1.3. The majority (89%) of robberies within Devon and Cornwall occur in urban areas.</p>
Criminal damage and arson 13,487	7.6	8.8	<p>↓ -8%</p> <p><i>Down 8% nationally</i></p>	<p>An 8% decrease in the number of recorded criminal damage and arson offences was evident both nationally and locally in the year period. Devon and Cornwall's rate of criminal damage and arson per 1000 in the population (7.6) is lower than the national rate (8.8).            72% of offences in Devon and Cornwall are committed in urban areas, equating to 9,673 crimes.            There has been a 15% decrease in the number of cases related to business crime, decreasing to 931.  <b>Domestic abuse:</b> There has been a 5% increase in criminal damage and arson related to domestic abuse, increasing to 1,842 crimes.</p>
Public order offences 6,742	3.8	7.7	<p>↓ -5%</p> <p><i>Up 3% nationally</i></p>	<p>Some anti-social behaviour incidents are now recorded as crimes (otherwise termed 'public order offences') due to changes to recording practices. Nonetheless, although a 3% increase was evident nationally, Devon and Cornwall experienced a 5% decrease in the number of recorded offences over the year period.            There was however a 9% increase in the number of public order offences related to hate crime, rising to 861 cases.</p>
Anti-social behaviour incidents <sup>3</sup> 37,931	21.4	24.0	<p>↓ -2%</p> <p><i>Down 8% nationally</i></p>	<p>Tackling ASB is a shared responsibility with local authorities and is led through Community Safety Partnerships. The 2% decrease in ASB doesn't necessarily reflect a decrease in levels of ASB as it is possible that some incidents are not reported.            Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (March 2020) 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%<sup>4</sup>.</p>



Possession of weapons offences 1,079	0.6	0.8	<p>↑ 11%</p> <p>Down 2% nationally</p>	<p>Devon and Cornwall saw an 11% increase in the possession of weapons over the year period; this equates to around 100 more offences this year, in comparison to last year. 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. 52% of these offences were possession of knives or similar weapons. Possession of knives and bladed weapons increased by 14% on last year.</p>
Drug offences 4,352	2.5	3.3	<p>↑ 1%</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 drug operations. 52% of drug offences were linked to the possession of cannabis, of which have risen by to 3% to 2,301 crimes in the year period.</p>
Knife crime 524	30.0	80.0	<p>↑ 22%</p> <p>Down 1% 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 22% increase (93 crimes) in the number of knife crime offences over the year period, this should be considered against the rate of offences (30.0), which is still considerably lower than the national rate (80.0). Out of 42 forces, Devon and Cornwall have the second lowest rate of knife crime.</p>
Other offences 2,021	1.1	1.8	<p>↓ -4%</p> <p>Up 1% 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>1</sup>There 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. <sup>2</sup>The crime rate is expressed as per 1000 resident population. The national rate includes British Transport Police. This statistical release includes crime recorded during the Covid-19 lockdown period (April – July 2020). As such, national rates of crime, and crime rates in Devon and Cornwall, will appear lower than in previous years. <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 covering the year ending March 2020. Results are dependent on the respondent's perception of ASB and cannot necessarily validate that an incidence of ASB had occurred.