

Police and Crime Plan Summary

Police recorded crime in Devon and Cornwall

12 months to March 2025 compared with the 12 months to March 2024



PCC

Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner
Devon and Cornwall

Police recorded crime

Increasing	↑
Decreasing	↓
No change	→

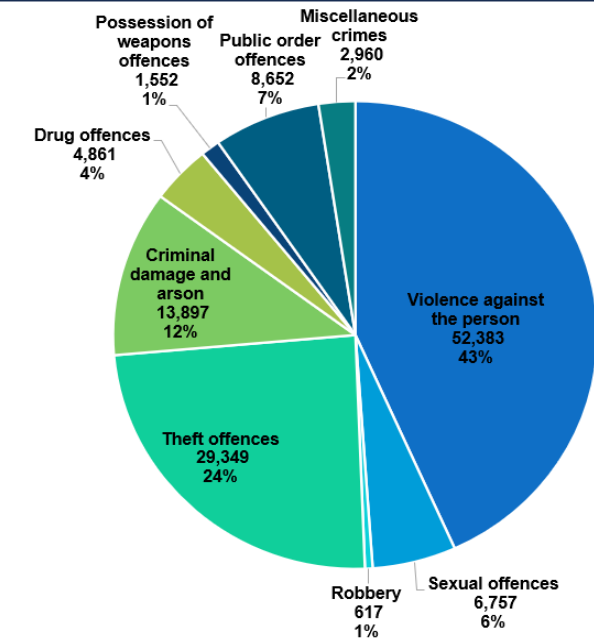
Police recorded crime can be influenced by changes in recording practices, data recording accuracy, the introduction of new offences and policy changes that impact types of offending (such as the targeting of drug dealers, or COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions).

Crime measure	Recorded crime 12 months to March 2024	Recorded crime 12 months to March 2025	% change	Number change	Crime rate 12 months to March 2024	Crime rate 12 months to March 2025	Direction of travel	England & Wales average crime rate 12 months to March 2025
Total crime (rate per 1,000 people)	108,351	121,028	11.7%	12,677	59.6	66.4	↑	87.2
Violence against the person (rate per 1,000 people)	48,048	52,383	9.0%	4,335	26.4	28.7	↑	31.9
Drug offences (rate per 1,000 people)	3,897	4,861	24.7%	964	2.1	2.7	↑	3.4
Theft offences (rate per 1,000 people)	25,480	29,349	15.2%	3,869	14.0	16.1	↑	29.2
ASB incidents recorded by the police (rate per 1,000 people)	23,465	25,677	9.4%	2,212	13.0	14.1	↑	16.3

*all crime rates throughout this summary are expressed per 1,000 people and include the residential population only

Total recorded crime 12 months to March 2025

(*excluding fraud offences)



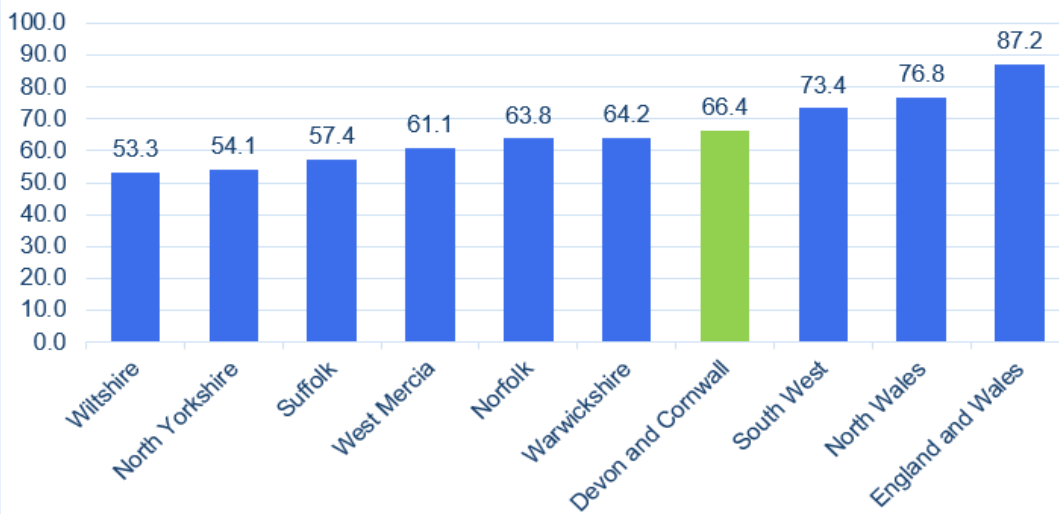
Recorded crimes:
121,028

Crime rate:
66.4

+11.7% Increase
+12,677 more crimes

National position:
9th Lowest

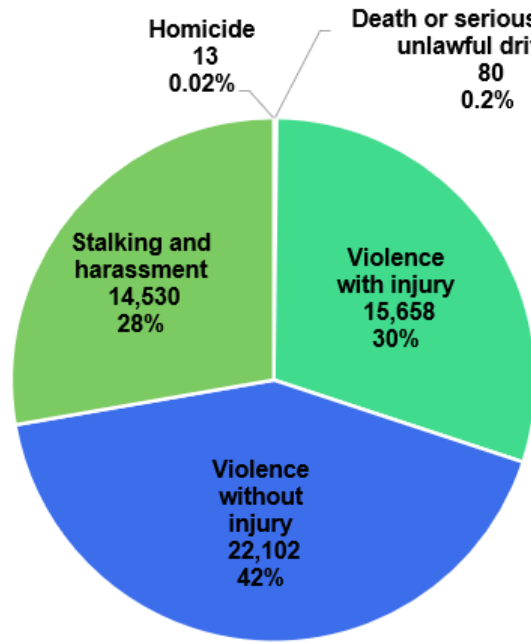
Total crime rate
Devon and Cornwall compared with most similar force group areas and regional and national averages



- In the 12 months to March 2025, 121,028 crimes were recorded in Devon and Cornwall (D&C). This represents a 11.7% increase in crime (+12,677) compared with the 12 months to March 2024. The crime rate per 1,000 people has increased from 59.6 crimes per 1,000 people to 66.4 crimes per 1,000 people.
- D&C's total recorded crime rate continues to remain significantly lower than the England and Wales average of 87.2 crimes per 1,000 people and below the South-West regional average of 73.4 crimes per 1,000 people.
- The increase in total crime in D&C is inconsistent with the national trend where there has been a -1.7% decrease over the same period. D&C is the only area within its most similar force (MSF) group to have seen an increase in total crime in the 12 months to March 2025 compared with the year prior.
- Increases in violence without injury offences (+13.4%, +2,619); shoplifting (+39.8%, +3,155); stalking and harassment (+13.0%, +1,677); public order offences (+17.9%, +1,316); criminal damage and arson (+9.6%, +1,217); and sexual offences (+19.7%, +1,110) are the main contributors to the increase in total crime across the force area.
- Over the past year, D&C police have focused on improving crime recording and improving the public's ability to contact the police. This is evident from improvements in crime recording compliance, opening of public enquiry offices, and significant improvements with the 101 non-emergency service. These are likely to be contributory factors to the apparent increase in recorded crime.
- Violence against the person offences and theft offences account for the highest offence types across D&C. Violence against the person accounts for 43% (52,383 crimes) of recorded crime and theft offences account for 24% (29,349) of recorded crime.
- D&C has the second highest crime rate within its MSF group (Warwickshire, Norfolk, West Mercia, Suffolk, North Yorkshire, Wiltshire and North Wales), behind that of North Wales.

Definitions: Total recorded crime covers all notifiable crimes that Devon and Cornwall Police have recorded and are required to report to the Home Office. Notifiable crimes range from violence offences; sexual offences; theft offences; criminal damage and arson offences; drug offences; possession of weapons offences; public order offences and other miscellaneous crimes against society (covering a range of offences where there are no direct individual victims).

Violence against the person 12 months to March 2025



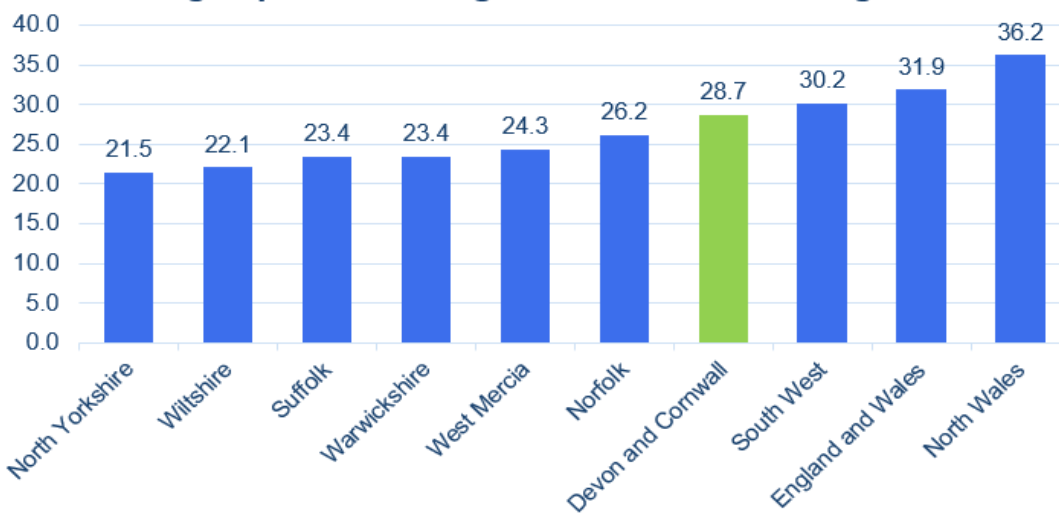
Recorded crimes:
52,383

Crime rate:
28.7

**+9.0%
Increase**
+4,335 more crimes

National position:
16th Lowest

**Violence against the person crime rate
Devon and Cornwall compared with most similar force
group areas and regional and national averages**



- Violence against the person includes the following offence categories: homicide; violence with injury; violence without injury; stalking and harassment; death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving.
- Violence with injury include a variety of offences which range in seriousness including offences such as actual bodily harm (ABH); grievous bodily harm (GBH) and attempted murder.
- Violence without injury include offences such as common assault where there is no injury, or injuries are not serious; harassment, kidnapping and threats to kill.
- In the 12 months to March 2025, 52,383 violent crimes were recorded in Devon and Cornwall (D&C). This represents a 9.0% (+4,335) increase compared with the 12 months to March 2024. The violent crime rate per 1,000 people has increased from 26.4 crimes per 1,000 people to 28.7 crimes per 1,000 people.
- D&C's violent crime rate is lower than the England and Wales average of 31.9 crimes per 1,000 people and below the South-West regional average of 30.2 crimes per 1,000 people. Compared to D&C's most similar force group, D&C has the second highest violent crime rate, behind North Wales.
- D&C is one of only two areas within its MSF group to have seen an increase in violent crime in the 12 months to March 2025 compared with the year prior (+9.0%). Wiltshire also saw an increase, albeit at a smaller rate at +1.8%.
- The increase in violent crime across D&C is inconsistent with the national trend, where there has been a 3.6% decrease over the 12 months to March 2025. However, the increase in D&C is consistent with the regional trend, with the South-West seeing a 6.6% increase in violence over the same period.
- Increases in violence without injury offences (+13.4%, +2,619) and stalking and harassment offences (+13.0%, +1,677) are the main contributors to the increase in violent crime in D&C. Improved crime recording is likely to be contributing to some of the increase.
- There were 13 homicides in the year to March 2025, up by 3 when compared to previous 12 months.

Drug offences 12 months to March 2025

Recorded crimes:
4,861

Crime rate:
2.7

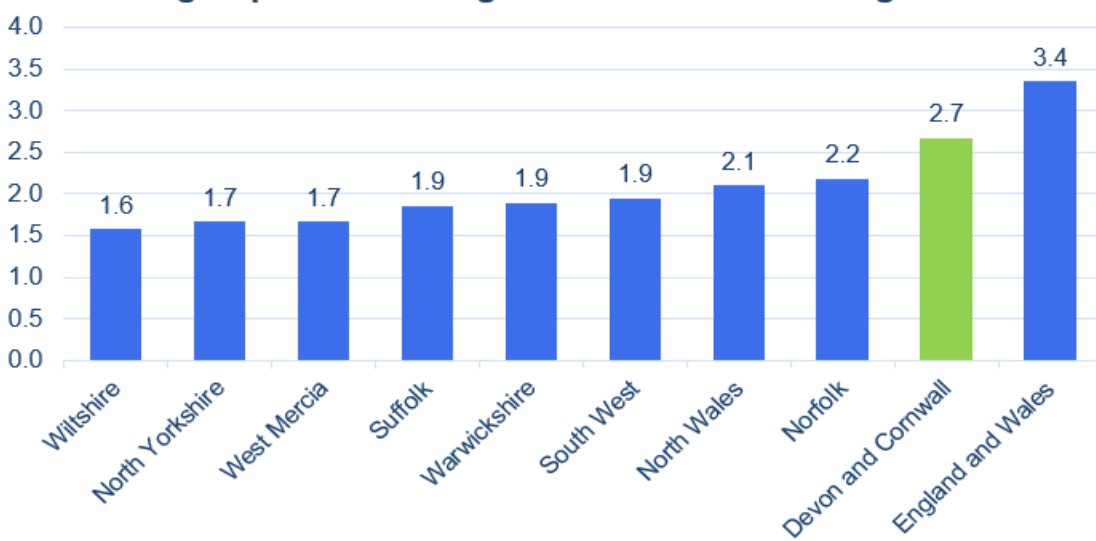
**+24.7%
Increase**

**+964 more
crimes**



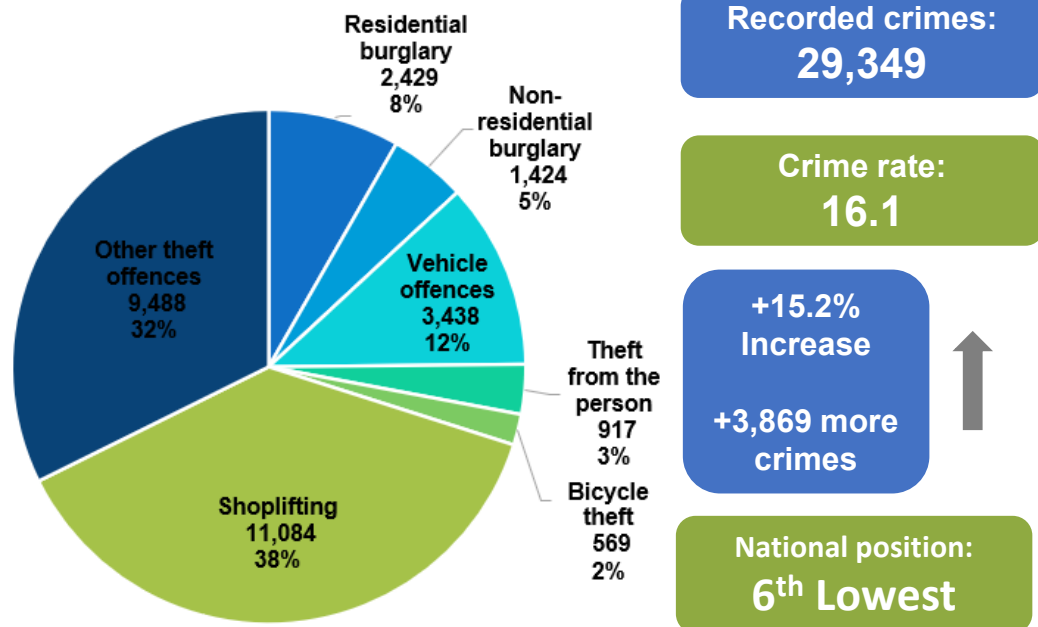
National position:
22nd mid table

**Drug offences rate
Devon and Cornwall compared with most similar force
group areas and regional and national averages**

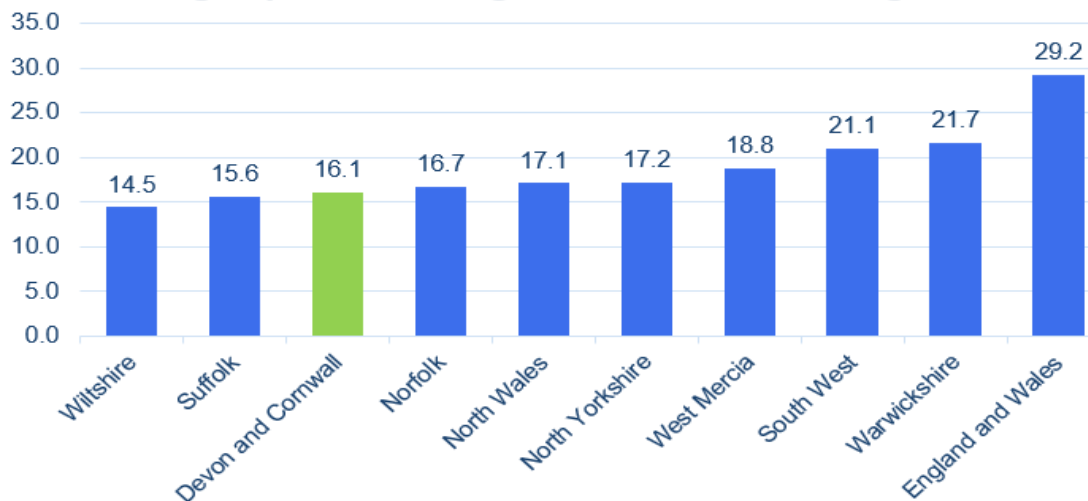


- Drug offences include both drug possession and trafficking. Drug trafficking encompasses a wide range of activity, including the selling, transporting, and/or importing of illegal drugs.
- In the 12 months to March 2025, 4,861 drug offences were recorded in Devon and Cornwall (D&C). This represents a 24.7% (+964) increase compared to the previous year.
- The rate of drug offences per 1000 population has increased from 2.1 crimes per 1,000 people to 2.7. D&C's drug offences rate is 22nd nationally out of 43 police forces.
- Devon and Cornwall's drug offences rate is lower than the England and Wales average of 3.4 crimes per 1,000 people but above the South-West regional average of 1.9 crimes per 1,000 people.
- Compared to D&C's Most Similar Force Group, D&C has the highest drug offences rate.
- Increases in drug offences are a product of targeted policing operations to disrupt drug dealers. In June 2025, the force seized 76.6kg of illegal drugs at an estimated street value of approximately £3.3 million.
- Having a higher drug offences rate per 1,000 people reflects the positive outcomes which have resulted from targeted police activity as tackling drug crime continues to be a priority for the Commissioner and Devon and Cornwall Police.

Theft offences 12 months to March 2025

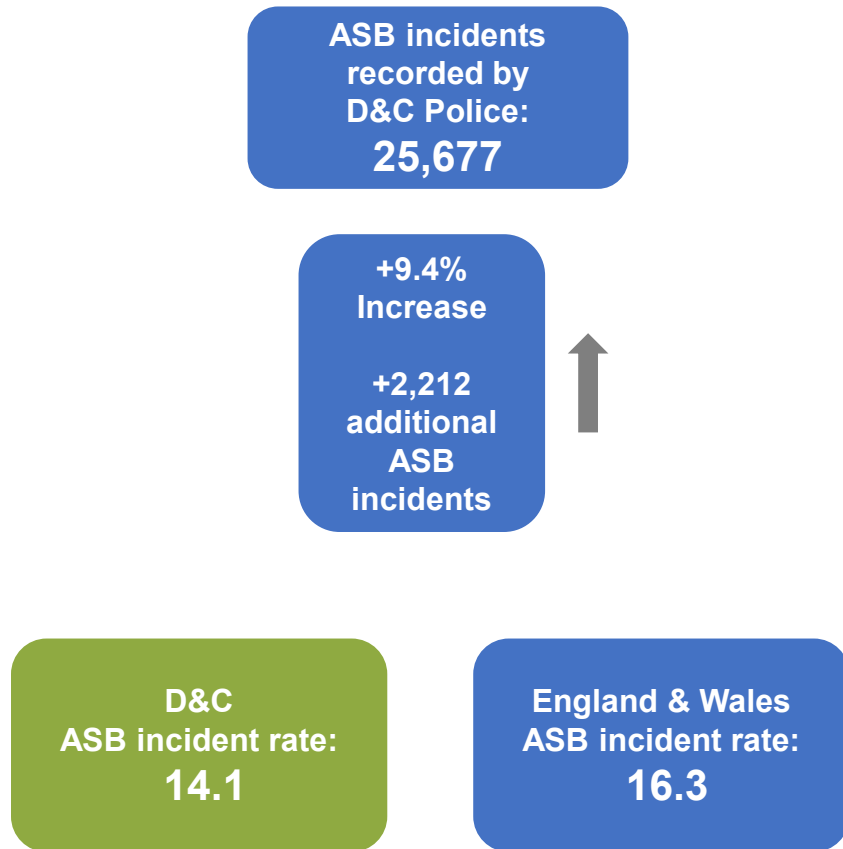


**Theft offences rate
Devon and Cornwall compared with most similar force group areas and regional and national averages**



- Theft offences cover the following offence categories: burglary (residential and non-residential); vehicle offences; theft from the person; bicycle theft; shoplifting; and all other theft offences.
- Shoplifting offences (11,084 crimes) and other theft offences (9,488 crimes) account for the highest proportion of theft offences recorded.
- In the 12 months to March 2025, 29,349 theft offences were recorded in Devon and Cornwall (D&C). This represents a 15.2% (+3,869) increase compared with the 12 months to March 2024. The rate of theft offences per 1,000 people has increased from 14.0 crimes per 1,000 people to 16.1 crimes per 1,000 people.
- Despite the increase in crime, D&C's theft offences rate continues to remain significantly lower than the England and Wales average of 29.2 crimes per 1,000 people and below the South-West regional average of 21.1 crimes per 1,000 people. Compared to D&C's Most Similar Force Group, D&C has the third lowest theft offences rate.
- The increase in theft across D&C is largely due to an increase in reported shoplifting offences, rising to 11,084 crimes, or an increase of +3,155 offences when compared to the previous year (12 months to March 2024).
- The increase in theft offences may be linked to the cost-of-living crisis. D&C Police have also sought to improve public confidence to report crime by being more visible in communities and hotspot policing areas. The Commissioner has recently funded a year-long pilot for a free 12-month subscription to the UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC) Business Crime Reduction Solution to provide a quicker and easier way for businesses across Torbay to report issues such as shoplifting, theft and ASB. Following the success of the pilot, additional funding has been secured for Liskeard, Saltash, Torpoint, Looe, Bodmin and Barnstaple.
- Across the whole South-West region theft offences have also been increasing. In the 12 months to March 2025, the South-West saw a 5.1% increase in theft crime.

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents 12 months to March 2025



- ASB data for Devon and Cornwall (D&C) does not form part of the ONS release of police recorded crime so direct comparisons with D&C's most similar force group are not provided.
- ASB incident data has been provided by Devon and Cornwall Police and covers only those incidents which have been recorded by the police and does not include local authority data. Local authorities will also hold data on ASB which is not captured by the police, especially around noise complaints, or environmental concerns.
- In the 12 months to March 2025, 25,677 ASB incidents were recorded by Devon and Cornwall Police. This represents a +9.4% increase compared with the 12 months to March 2024, equating to an additional 2,212 incidents.
- Nationally for the same period, the volume of ASB incidents recorded by police saw a small decrease compared with the year prior (-2.1%), with around 994,000 incidents recorded.
- The ASB rate per 1,000 people in D&C has increased from 13.0 incidents per 1,000 people to 14.1 crimes per 1,000 people. The rate of ASB is 1.2x lower than the national average of 16.3 incidents per 1,000 people.
- Trends in ASB incidents recorded by the police need to be interpreted with caution as those experiencing the negative impacts from antisocial behaviour don't always report it to the police. For this reason, trends in ASB should be considered alongside other local intelligence and the feedback the Commissioner receives from the public. ASB is one of the main issues reported to the Commissioner by the public, and when asked as part of the Commissioner's public survey is often identified as a top priority and one of the policing issues that most needs addressing in their communities.
- Estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending March 2025 showed that nationally 35% of people had experienced or witnessed some type of antisocial behaviour. There was no statistically significant change from the previous year (35%).