

# **Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment 2020/21**

**Summary of Findings  
November 2021**



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## 1. Introduction and aims

The Southampton Safe City Partnership co-ordinates multi-agency action to improve lives and foster stronger communities by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, alcohol misuse and supply, and the use and harm caused by drugs throughout the city. Partners include the five statutory authorities; Hampshire Constabulary, Southampton City Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Probation Services and Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). In addition, there are representatives from the Youth Offending Service (YOS), Southampton Voluntary Services (SVS) and the Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU).

The three-year Safe City Strategy was initially due to be reviewed by April 2020. However, due to coronavirus the council and its partners had to turn focus away from reviewing the strategy and address challenges brought on by Covid-19, to ensure business continuity and efficient delivery of critical services. Therefore, the strategy was refreshed in 2021, with the 2021 strategy spanning five (rather than three) years. This will continue to be assessed every year using the findings of the annual Safe City Strategic Assessment.

The Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment is a public document, which seeks to provide direction for the Southampton Safe City Partnership. It provides an overview of the current and future crime, disorder and community safety issues affecting Southampton and, as such, it will inform the Partnership of any requirements to increase focus or to add developing issues that may lead to a change of focus for the Safe City Strategy and local delivery plans.

In previous years, three products were delivered as part of the Strategic Assessment: a data compendium, slide set and a report, with the latter two summarising key changes. However, this year, the data compendium will be replaced with an interactive PowerBI dashboard, which will be available after the slide set and report are published. These products contribute to the overall picture of Community Safety in Southampton and therefore need to be reviewed alongside each other.

This assessment also recognises the work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in understanding and tackling serious violence. Serious violence has been examined in detail as part of the VRU and will continue to be analysed as the work of the VRU continues. Violence Reduction Units focus on tackling the root causes of violence through a programme of early intervention with young people and local communities. A key principle of VRUs is to use local knowledge to support an evidence-based, multi-agency approach to tackling the root causes of violent crime.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the ongoing and planned work to support the Domestic Abuse Board is recognised.

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<sup>1</sup> Public Health England: A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention (2019), Online available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/838930/multi-agency\\_approach\\_to\\_serious\\_violence\\_prevention.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/838930/multi-agency_approach_to_serious_violence_prevention.pdf)

The Strategic Assessment provides a broad overview of the issues in the city. Whereas more detail can be found in specific topic-based reports, for example, the VRU problem profile. Topic-based reports and analysis produced as part of the wider community safety workstreams in combination with the Strategic Assessment contribute to the overall picture of community safety in the city. Published analysis products relating to community safety can be found on the [Southampton Data Observatory](#).

Data included in the 2021 Strategic Assessment relates to the period April 2020 to March 2021 and therefore will be significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and government restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the virus. Trends and changes in patterns over the last year should be interpreted in light of this.<sup>2</sup> It is expected that there will be a return to pre-covid police recorded crime levels for many crime types, both locally and nationally.<sup>3,4</sup>

This report will provide an overview of crime in Southampton; specifically, overall crime, key priority areas and themes. Wider determinants of crime and residents' views on community safety will also be examined to help understand the overall picture of community safety in the city. This report will also include *key points for the Partnership to note* which can be used to help guide the strategic decision making of the Partnership. In line with the *single assessment* model, where appropriate and possible, data will be presented in the following ways:

- Benchmarking of the most current data to ascertain how Southampton compares with England and the city's statistical neighbours
- Time trend data to ascertain if the situation is improving or deteriorating
- Deep dive analysis to more fully understand the issues within the city; analysis by sub-local authority geography, area-based deprivation, profiling of victims/offenders etc

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<sup>2</sup> Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2021, Online available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

<sup>3</sup> Langton *et al.* Six months in: pandemic crime trends in England and Wales, Crime Science, Online available at:

<https://crimesciencejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40163-021-00142-z>

<sup>4</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

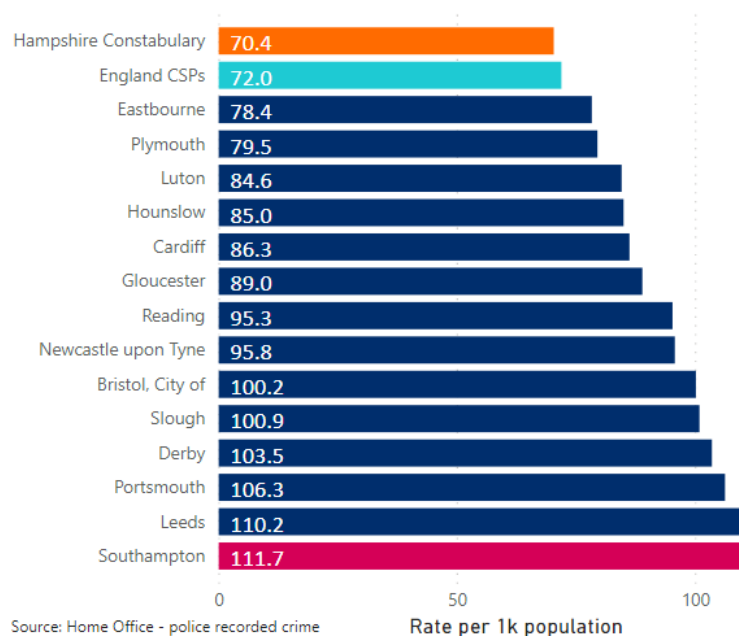
## 2. Summary of crime in Southampton

### 2.1 Crime volume and severity

In 2020/21, Southampton had an overall crime rate of 112 crimes per 1k population, which is significantly higher than the national average and the highest (previously 2<sup>nd</sup>) amongst comparator Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) (Figure 2.1). Southampton accounted for 20.1% of total recorded crime across Hampshire Constabulary in 2020/21 and has the 11<sup>th</sup> highest total recorded crime rate among English CSPs<sup>5</sup>.

Figure 2.1: Overall crime benchmarking chart

Police Recorded Total Crime (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2020/21



There were 28,239 police recorded crimes in Southampton during 2020/21, which is a decline of -11.4% compared to 2019/20. This decline is in line with local and national trends, with England experiencing a -14.4% decline and Hampshire Constabulary a -12.9% decline during the same period.

The change in total recorded crime over the last year is likely to reflect a genuine decline, with this decline attributed to the coronavirus pandemic and government instructions to limit social contact<sup>6</sup>. However, it is important to highlight that changes in the volume of crimes vary across different crime

<sup>5</sup> Of 279 CSPs that had a valid total crime rate

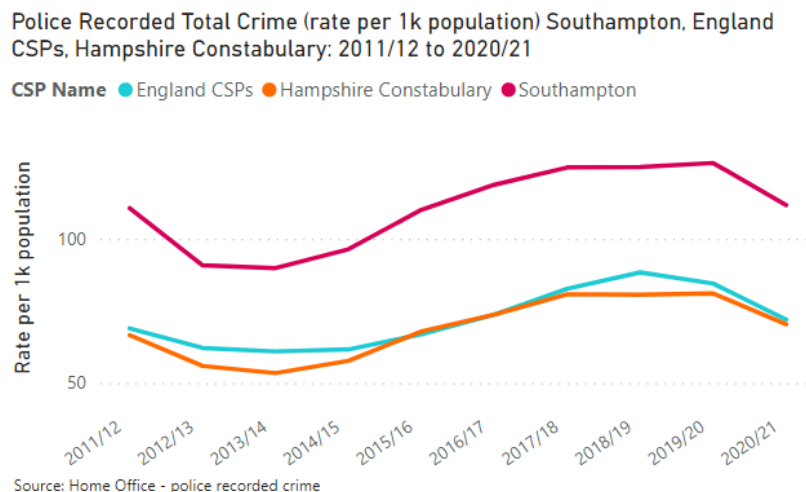
<sup>6</sup> Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2021, Online available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

groups, with domestic related crimes increasing over the last year, both locally and nationally. Additionally, police recorded crime only includes those crimes that have been reported to and recorded by the police, with 'hidden' crimes such as domestic abuse far more likely to be underreported than other offences such as theft.

It is also important to note that historically, increases in police recorded crime during 2014/15 and 2015/16 for Southampton, Hampshire and several other police forces were largely driven by crime data integrity improvements following an HMICFRS<sup>7</sup> audit in 2014. Therefore, any non-recent changes should be interpreted in line with continual improvements in reporting and recording as well as changes in counting rules (for example, changes to stalking and harassment in 2018).

Figure 2.2: Trend in overall crime rate for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



The Telephone Crime Survey for England (TCSEW) and Wales highlights that police recorded crime is not the most reliable measure of crime trends, as police recorded crime figures are impacted by changes and improvements in recording practices across forces.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, as noted above, trends should be interpreted with caution and in line with any changes in recording and reporting practices.

The above changes in total police recorded crime are in line with the latest results from the Telephone Crime Survey for England and Wales. The TCSEW estimates total crime in 2020/21 (excluding fraud and computer misuse) declined by -19% compared to the year ending March 2019<sup>8,9</sup>, with this decline driven by substantial declines in theft offences (-20%).

<sup>7</sup> HMICFRS - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

<sup>8</sup> Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2021, Online available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

<sup>9</sup> Comparisons in latest TCSEW are made with the year ending March 2019 face-to-face CSEW (rather than March 2020), as March 2019 data is the latest data that is based on a sample independent of the year ending March 2021 TCSEW and allows for comparison over time

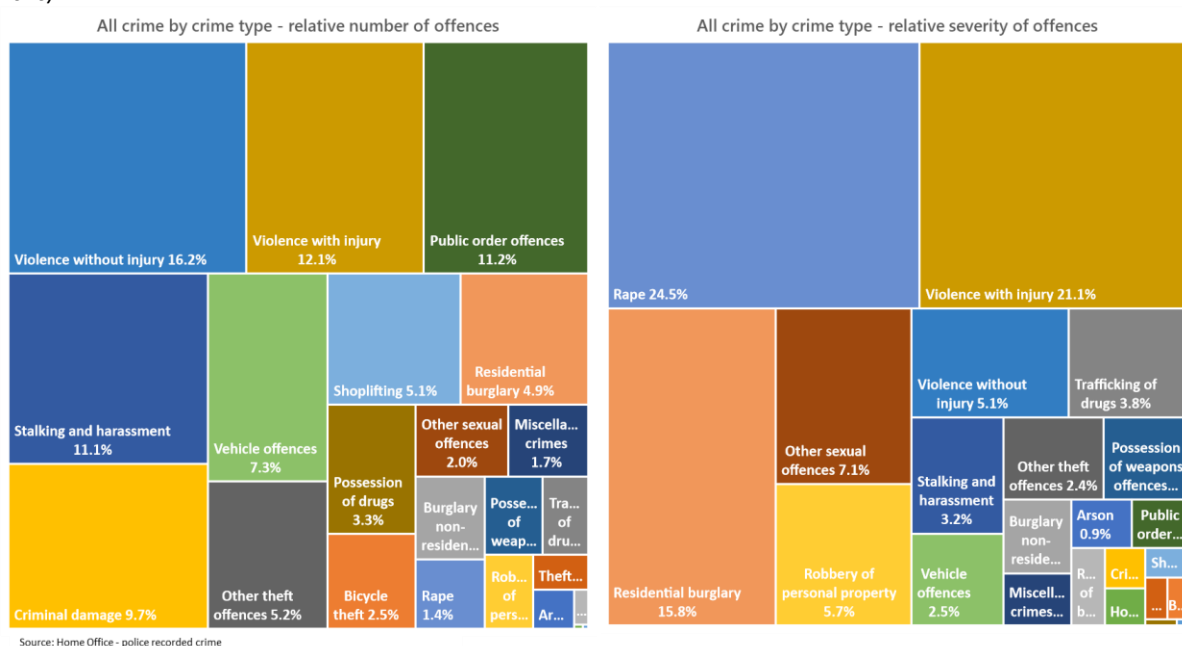
It is important that we not only consider the volume of crime in Southampton, but also the harm it causes to the victim and society. For example, high volume but low harm offences may be less of a priority to the Partnership than lower volume, but high harm offences. A crime severity score estimates the harm caused by crime. The score gives more severe offence categories a higher weight than less severe ones using crime sentencing weights calculated by ONS using data from the Ministry of Justice. For each crime type the crime severity score is calculated as:

$$\text{Sum} [(Severity\ weight * Number\ of\ offences) / (Area)\ mid\text{-}year\ population\ estimate]$$

Figure 2.3 illustrates the differences of these two approaches to measuring recorded crime. For example, rape offences in Southampton account for only 1.4% of overall recorded offences, yet they represent 24.5% of the of the relative severity or ‘harm’ caused by crime in Southampton. Crime severity scores also help us understand the ‘case mix’ of crimes within particular crime types, which can be valuable when assessing changes and prioritisation of issues.

Crime groups that had the greatest severity score in Southampton during 2020/21 were rape, violence with injury and residential burglary (Figure 2.3). These crime groups have had the greatest severity score for the last three years, illustrating the harm caused by these crime groups in Southampton.

Figure 2.3: Tree maps showing relative number (left) and severity (right) of offences for crimes in Southampton during 2020/21

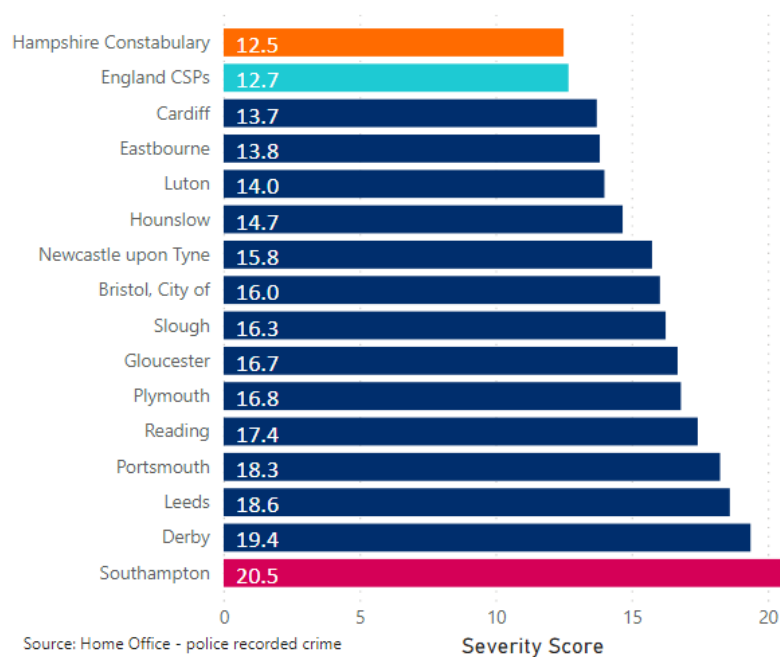




In 2020/21, Southampton had a crime severity score of 20.5 across all crimes, which is highest among statistical comparators (Figure 2.4), suggesting Southampton has a more severe mix of crimes. Southampton experienced a -10.1% decrease in the crime severity score between 2019/20 and 2020/21, which is similar to the decline in the volume of offences (-11.4%). Hampshire Constabulary (-9.5%) and England (-13.8%) also experienced a decline in severity scores during the same period.

Figure 2.4: Overall crime severity benchmarking chart

Police Recorded Total Crime (Severity Score) - Southampton and iQuanta  
Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2020/21



The above evidence suggests that despite the decline in the volume and severity of total recorded crime over the last year, Southampton remains highest among statistical comparators and higher than the national average when considering the volume (rate) and severity of total recorded crime.



## 2.2 Changes by crime type

Figure 2.5 shows changes in the volume and severity of offences between 2019/20 and 2020/21. Southampton has seen a decline in the volume of offences for 19 of the 31 offence types shown below. There have been notable declines in violent crime (-5.1%), sexual offences (-13.5%); including rape (-12.9%), residential burglary (-15.6%), crimes where a bladed implement was used (-8.0%), alcohol affected crime (-13.3%) and anti-social behaviour (-10.7%). There has also been declines in Most Serious Violence<sup>10</sup> (-5.4%) and cruelty to children offences (-8.4%); however, the numbers for these offences are relatively small and percentage changes should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Figure 2.5: Summary of changes by crime type. Changes highlighted in red illustrate a year on year increase in the number and severity of offences between 2019/20 and 2020/21; changes highlighted green show a year on year decline

Indicator	2019/20 count	2020/21 count	Percentage change 2019/20 to 2020/21 count	Percentage change 2019/20 to 2020/21 crime severity score	iQuanta CSP position*
Total crime*	31,889	28,239	-11.4%	-10.1%	1
Violent crime*	11,740	11,145	-5.1%	-3.8%	1
Violence with injury*	4,251	3,407	-19.9%	-13.4%	1
Violence without injury*	4,907	4,588	-6.5%	22.4%	1
Stalking and harassment*	2,572	3,145	22.3%	103.1%	3
Malicious communications*	1,380	1,594	15.5%	20.0%	3
Most serious violence*	203	192	-5.4%	-5.0%	5
Violent crime with public place flag**	4,216	3,151	-25.3%	-22.7%	N/A
Sexual offences*	1,098	950	-13.5%	-14.1%	3
Sexual offences - rape*	456	397	-12.9%	-13.7%	2
Sexual offences - other*	642	553	-13.9%	-15.2%	3
Crimes with domestic flag**	4,684	4,804	2.6%	5.4%	N/A
Domestic violent crime**	3,825	3,953	3.3%	5.6%	N/A
Theft offences*	10,431	7,687	-26.3%	-17.0%	4
Burglary residential*	1,644	1,388	-15.6%	-16.1%	1
Burglary non-residential*	643	473	-26.4%	-25.0%	1
Vehicle offences*	2,318	2,067	-10.8%	-13.6%	5
Robbery*	439	336	-23.5%	-23.7%	4
Possession of weapons offences*	358	376	5.0%	13.5%	1
Possession of bladed implement*	180	181	0.6%	0.0%	2
Firearms offences*	55	73	32.7%	17.2%	2
Crime involving a bladed implement**	646	594	-8.0%	-4.7%	N/A
Serious knife crime**	253	262	3.6%	1.6%	N/A
Modern slavery*	34	50	47.1%	47.6%	6
Cruelty to children/young persons*	215	197	-8.4%	-7.7%	2
Hate crime**	797	952	19.4%	17.6%	N/A
Alcohol affected crime**	2,615	2,268	-13.3%	-20.1%	N/A
Drug offences*	934	1,242	33.0%	63.3%	5
Drug affected crime**	849	993	17.0%	29.2%	N/A
Anti-social behaviour***	7,258	6,483	-10.7%		N/A
Criminal damage and arson*	3,237	2,863	-11.6%	12.0%	3

\* The Home Office. Police recorded crime - previous year figures have been revised

\*\* Hampshire Constabulary

\*\*\* Police.UK

Serious knife crime\*\* - Violence against the person where bladed implement was used

Vehicle offences\* - includes theft from a vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle and vehicle interference

<sup>10</sup> Most Serious Violence – uses iQuanta definition

Over the last year there have been notable increases in domestic flagged crime (2.6%), domestic violent crime (3.3%), stalking and harassment (22.3%) (including malicious communications), drug offences (33.0%), drug affected crime (17.0%) and hate crime (19.4%). Modern slavery (47.1%) and firearms offences (32.7%) also experienced an increase over the last year, but numbers for these offences are small.

At the same time there has been a decline in anti-social behaviour (-10.7%), there have been increases in stalking and harassment offences (22.3%). There is local evidence to suggest that over the last year crimes have been classified differently based on victim perception; therefore, some crimes that would have previously been coded as anti-social behaviour are coded as stalking and harassment. Changes in counting rules for stalking and harassment offences (introduced in 2018) and improvements in recording could still be contributing to the increase for this crime type.

Additionally, the role of coronavirus needs to be acknowledged, in terms of the impact restrictions have had on people's movement, which have led to a reduction in many crime types (*Figure 2.5*), particularly theft offences, but may have led to increases in crimes in a domestic setting as people spent more time at home over the last year. Changes outlined above will be explored in more detail throughout this report in the relevant sections.

## 2.3 Crime Prioritisation

Similar to previous assessments, a simple score was calculated to help inform priority setting for crime types in Southampton. This was based on ranking the following factors for each crime type:

- Crime frequency
- Crime severity score
- Proportion of crimes with formal action taken
- Year on year percentage increase in crime
- Relative position of Southampton among its comparator group of Community Safety Partnerships

These ranks were then combined into an overall score with each factor given an equal weighting. Based on the overall rank of these factors, the top 4 priorities were identified to be (*Figure 2.6*):

- Violent crime (all forms)
- Domestic crimes including domestic violent crime
- Sexual offences, particularly rape
- Residential burglary

Violent crime, domestic crimes and sexual offences have consistently featured among the top priority areas for the last three years. Despite the decline in the volume of some of these offences and changing patterns over the last year, these three areas remain a priority.

Residential burglary has again appeared within the top priority areas, after not scoring as prominently in the 2019/20 assessment, but highlighted as a priority in the 2018/19 assessment. Residential burglary likely features as a priority again due to the change in volume and severity of many other offence types pushing residential burglary higher up the priority ranking.

It is important to note that these are not the only areas of community safety that the Strategic Assessment recommends the Partnership prioritise. However, it provides an additional tool for the Partnership to consider when determining areas of focus. In addition to those priority areas highlighted above, the assessment continues to examine the following areas of focus in more detail: modern slavery, cruelty to children, hate crime, drug offences and drug and alcohol affected crime.

Figure 2.6: Crime change and prioritisation matrix

Indicator	2019/20 count	2020/21 count	2019/20 crime severity score	2020/21 crime severity score	Formal action taken %**	Percentage change 2019/20 to 2020/21 count	Percentage change 2019/20 to 2020/21 crime severity score	iQuanta CSP position*	Overall priority rank
<b>Total crime*</b>	31,889	28,239	22.80	20.50	11.9%	-11.4%	-10.1%	1	
<b>Violent crime*</b>	11,740	11,145	6.35	6.11	11.9%	-5.1%	-3.8%	1	1
Violence with injury*	4,251	3,407	5.00	4.33	15.3%	-19.9%	-13.4%	1	8
Violence without injury*	4,907	4,588	0.85	1.04	10.4%	-6.5%	22.4%	1	3
Stalking and harassment*	2,572	3,145	0.32	0.65	6.9%	22.3%	103.1%	3	5
Malicious communications*	1,380	1,594	0.10	0.12	5.0%	15.5%	20.0%	3	13
Most serious violence*	203	192	1.80	1.71	22.0%	-5.4%	-5.0%	5	27
Violent crime with public place flag**	4,216	3,151	2.77	2.14	17.3%	-25.3%	-22.7%	N/A	16
<b>Sexual offences*</b>	1,098	950	7.54	6.48	2.6%	-13.5%	-14.1%	3	8
Sexual offences - rape*	456	397	5.83	5.03	0.5%	-12.9%	-13.7%	2	7
Sexual offences - other*	642	553	1.71	1.45	4.2%	-13.9%	-15.2%	3	15
Crimes with domestic flag**	4,684	4,804	3.89	4.10	10.5%	2.6%	5.4%	N/A	2
Domestic violent crime**	3,825	3,953	1.77	1.87	10.5%	3.3%	5.6%	N/A	4
<b>Theft offences *</b>	10,431	7,687	5.69	4.72	5.7%	-26.3%	-17.0%	4	10
Burglary residential*	1,644	1,388	3.85	3.23	2.7%	-15.6%	-16.1%	1	6
Burglary non-residential*	643	473	0.40	0.30	7.1%	-26.4%	-25.0%	1	26
<b>Vehicle offences*</b>	2,318	2,067	0.59	0.51	2.1%	-10.8%	-13.6%	5	14
Robbery*	439	336	1.73	1.32	8.9%	-23.5%	-23.7%	4	27
Possession of weapons offences*	358	376	0.37	0.42	28.9%	5.0%	13.5%	1	22
Possession of bladed implement*	180	181	0.05	0.05	31.1%	0.6%	0.0%	2	30
Firearms offences*	55	73	0.29	0.34		32.7%	17.2%	2	12
Crime involving a bladed implement**	646	594	1.28	1.22	20.5%	-8.0%	-4.7%	N/A	24
Serious knife crime**	253	262	0.62	0.63	17.2%	3.6%	1.6%	N/A	25
Modern slavery*	34	50	0.21	0.31	0.0%	47.1%	47.6%	6	18
Cruelty to children/young persons*	215	197	0.13	0.12	16.8%	-8.4%	-7.7%	2	29
Hate crime**	797	952	0.17	0.20	14.4%	19.4%	17.6%	N/A	16
Alcohol affected crime**	2,615	2,268	1.84	1.47	26.4%	-13.3%	-20.1%	N/A	20
<b>Drug offences*</b>	934	1,242	0.49	0.80	63.8%	33.0%	63.3%	5	23
<b>Drug affected crime**</b>	849	993	0.48	0.62	40.7%	17.0%	29.2%	N/A	20
Anti-social behaviour***	7,258	6,483				-10.7%		N/A	11
<b>Criminal damage and arson*</b>	3,237	2,863	0.25	0.28	8.5%	-11.6%	12.0%	3	19

\* The Home Office. Office for National Statistics. Crime in England and Wales - previous year figures have been revised

\*\* Hampshire Constabulary

\*\*\* Police.UK

Serious knife crime\*\* - Violence against the person where bladed implement was used

Vehicle offences\* - includes theft from a vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle and vehicle interference

Violence without injury formal action taken includes stalking and harassment due to older classifications being used

Firearms offences include possession of firearms and other firearms offences

Colour Key	
	Year on year increase
	Year on year decrease

## 2.4 Distribution of crime

Figure 2.7 shows the distribution of crimes by type and ward, with rates colour coded based on the difference to the city average. Similar to previous years, Bargate ward had one of the highest overall crime rates in the city during 2020/21. Bargate ward covers the city centre which is where a large proportion of the day and night-time economy are in Southampton, which are associated with certain crime types, particularly alcohol affected crime. This highlights that despite restricted mobility and suppression of the night-time economy over the last year due to coronavirus restrictions, the city centre in Southampton continues to be a substantial crime hotspot. It is also important to note that the high crime rates in the city centre will be influenced by the resident population being used as a denominator, which does not capture the 'transient' population, those that travel into the city centre daily for work or leisure (despite restrictions).

Freemantle, Shirley, Bevois, Bitterne and Redbridge wards had a significantly higher total crime rate than the city average, with some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city located in Bevois, Bitterne and Redbridge wards.

Figure 2.7: 'Tartan rug' showing crime distribution (rate per 1k population) by type and ward

Key: Difference to the Southampton average																
	Significantly worse				Worse but not significantly				Significantly better				Better but not significantly			
Rate 1,000 population																
Community Safety - Total Offences (Southampton analysis)	All Crime	Domestic Flagged Crime	Domestic Violence	Hate Crime	Crime Involving a Bladed Implement	Alcohol Affected Crime	Drug Offences	Drug Affected Crime	Violence Against the Person	Sexual Offences	Rape	Other Sexual Offences	Robbery	Theft Offences	Burglary Residential	Criminal Damage and Arson
Southampton	108.5	18.5	15.2	3.7	2.3	8.7	4.8	3.8	42.8	3.6	1.5	2.1	1.3	29.5	5.3	11.0
Bargate	160.6	15.9	13.1	5.3	3.3	13.6	10.2	7.1	49.6	4.9	2.3	2.7	2.7	58.6	6.9	12.8
Bassett	54.7	10.8	9.1	2.8	0.8	3.8	1.2	0.8	21.4	1.8	0.9	0.8	0.6	17.2	4.1	4.8
Bevois	168.7	22.7	19.1	7.6	4.6	17.1	10.8	5.8	67.0	5.6	2.5	3.1	2.7	42.7	8.7	15.5
Bitterne	123.6	28.2	23.2	2.8	3.2	9.6	4.0	3.8	58.8	4.5	1.5	3.0	0.9	20.2	5.2	18.4
Bitterne Park	80.5	15.0	13.4	2.1	1.6	6.6	4.4	3.6	31.5	2.5	1.1	1.4	1.0	24.4	6.4	5.1
Coxford	83.2	17.9	14.4	2.4	1.1	6.7	1.4	2.2	37.1	2.4	0.6	1.8	1.1	17.0	3.4	13.6
Freemantle	127.0	21.0	18.5	5.5	2.1	11.6	8.4	6.2	49.4	3.1	1.5	1.6	1.0	33.4	6.7	12.4
Harefield	104.0	20.2	16.5	4.2	1.7	5.8	2.0	2.4	42.4	3.9	1.4	2.5	0.4	32.5	5.1	9.1
Millbrook	111.2	18.6	14.9	3.9	2.3	7.8	3.6	3.2	40.6	3.3	1.2	2.1	1.3	33.8	4.4	14.0
Peartree	85.2	16.4	13.2	2.1	1.3	7.5	3.0	3.5	35.0	1.8	0.4	1.4	0.5	24.4	2.9	7.9
Portswood	90.6	11.6	10.0	2.5	2.1	5.4	4.4	2.8	29.3	2.5	1.1	1.4	1.1	34.3	8.1	7.2
Redbridge	124.1	27.0	21.4	3.2	2.7	7.8	3.4	3.6	53.7	5.0	1.7	3.3	1.7	25.4	4.0	18.5
Shirley	122.4	17.2	14.3	5.1	1.6	10.2	4.3	5.1	47.7	4.0	1.8	2.1	1.7	32.1	5.0	12.2
Sholing	58.2	15.1	11.4	1.5	2.2	5.2	1.3	2.2	26.4	2.1	0.8	1.3	0.3	12.4	4.2	5.1
Swaythling	75.9	13.7	11.1	2.4	2.2	6.3	3.6	2.0	32.8	2.4	1.1	1.4	1.4	18.0	2.8	7.0
Woolston	98.0	23.4	18.8	2.5	2.2	8.2	3.9	3.6	44.9	4.0	1.9	2.1	0.9	20.5	4.9	9.0

Overall crime continues to be strongly patterned by deprivation, with the overall crime rate in the most deprived neighbourhoods 3.1 times higher than in the least deprived neighbourhoods in the city (Figure 2.8).

Figure 2.8: Quintile chart showing the relationship between overall crime and deprivation

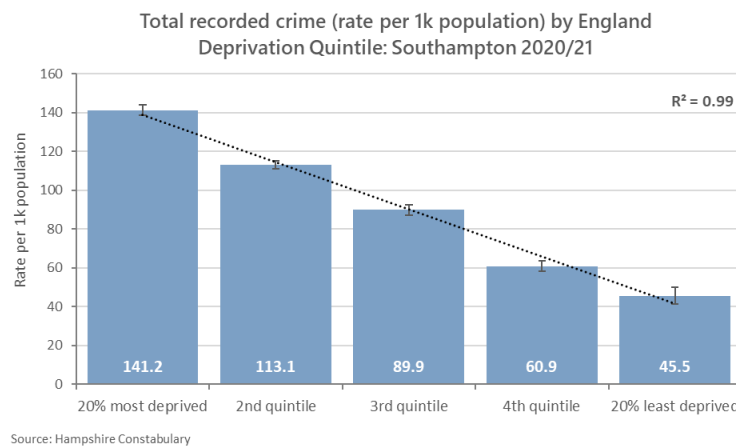


Figure 2.9 shows the change in crimes by type and ward, with numbers and percentages colour coded based on whether there has been a year-on-year increase (red) or decrease (green). Between 2019/20 and 2020/21, total crime declined in 11 out of 16 wards (Figure 2.9), with the largest overall decline seen in Bargate ward (-37.7%). This illustrates the impact of coronavirus restrictions on total recorded crime, in particular suppression of the night-time economy on crime in the city centre (Bargate ward). However, despite seeing the largest decline in total crime, Bargate ward has the second highest rate of total crime, behind Bevois (Figure 2.7). Other notable declines include sexual offences and residential burglary, with both crime types seeing a decline across 12 wards.

Hate crime increased in 12 wards, with the largest percentage increases seen in Harefield and Freemantle wards. Drug offences increased across 13 wards and domestic flagged crime increased in 9 wards. Bassett ward also saw an increase in domestic flagged crime, illustrating that it is a citywide issue despite being more prevalent in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city (see Section 3.2). It should be noted that percentage changes should be interpreted alongside changes in counts, particularly if numbers of crimes are small.

In addition to affecting the volume of many crime types, the role of coronavirus also needs to be recognised in terms of changing crime patterns over the last year, which will be explored in more detail throughout this report.

Figure 2.9: 'Tartan rug' showing year on year change (count and percentage) by crime type and ward

Key: Percentage change from 2019/20

Increase
Decrease
No change

	% (and count) change in number of incidents - 2019/20 to 2020/21												
Change in recorded crime from 2019/20 - 2020/21	Total recorded crime	Alcohol Affected Crime	Violence against the Person	Sexual Offences	Anti-social Behaviour	Hate Crime	Robbery	Vehicle offences	Drug offences	Domestic Violence	Domestic flagged crimes	Non-Residential Burglary	Residential Burglary
Southampton	-12.6% (-4070)	-13.3% (-347)	-6.1% (-718)	-12.8% (-139)	-10.7% (-775)	19.4% (155)	-23% (-101)	-11% (-256)	25.5% (252)	3.3% (128)	2.6% (120)	-25.8% (-166)	-16% (-264)
Bargate	-37.7% (-2453)	-47.7% (-314)	-35.8% (-700)	-27.3% (-47)	-30.4% (-487)	-31.1% (-60)	-54.9% (-84)	-14.4% (-36)	2% (5)	-10.5% (-39)	-11.1% (-50)	-36.6% (-74)	11.5% (18)
Bassett	7.8% (63)	22% (11)	24.8% (68)	-30% (-12)	5.4% (9)	73.1% (19)	50% (3)	15.5% (15)	0% (0)	23.9% (28)	25.4% (35)	80% (8)	-19.5% (-16)
Bevois	-4.8% (-169)	-27% (-124)	-6% (-84)	-16% (-21)	-3% (-22)	40.6% (43)	-24.3% (-17)	5.1% (12)	34.8% (55)	6.8% (24)	4.4% (19)	-27.5% (-25)	46.2% (54)
Bitterne	-8.5% (-168)	3.7% (5)	-5.8% (-53)	3.1% (2)	-17.9% (-89)	28.1% (9)	-53.6% (-15)	-24.8% (-30)	0% (0)	-3.7% (-13)	-9.7% (-44)	-16.7% (-2)	-17.4% (-16)
Bitterne Park	4.3% (49)	4.3% (4)	8.2% (35)	32.1% (9)	10.2% (20)	19.2% (5)	27.3% (3)	-22.7% (-37)	132.1% (37)	-2.5% (-5)	-3.5% (-8)	75% (9)	8% (7)
Coxford	1.7% (20)	50.8% (32)	23.4% (100)	-33.3% (-17)	1.9% (7)	30.8% (8)	60% (6)	5.9% (6)	11.1% (2)	29.7% (47)	25.1% (51)	-42.9% (-3)	-39.2% (-31)
Freemantle	4.6% (95)	7% (13)	13% (97)	-19.7% (-13)	17.8% (63)	126.8% (52)	-29.2% (-7)	-15.1% (-29)	50.5% (48)	22.5% (58)	16.9% (52)	-16.1% (-5)	-11.5% (-15)
Harefield	0.7% (11)	23.5% (16)	5% (29)	55.6% (20)	-25.9% (-82)	140% (35)	-50% (-6)	-11.5% (-12)	-3.3% (-1)	7.7% (17)	4.3% (12)	37.5% (3)	-28.8% (-30)
Millbrook	-16.3% (-354)	13.3% (15)	-16.9% (-135)	-6.9% (-4)	-12.4% (-63)	10.3% (6)	23.5% (4)	2.7% (4)	25.5% (12)	-4.7% (-12)	-5.3% (-17)	-32.7% (-16)	-30.1% (-31)
Peartree	-15% (-225)	36.6% (30)	-4% (-22)	-10% (-3)	-14% (-54)	14.3% (4)	-61.1% (-11)	-23.7% (-32)	36.4% (12)	-5.2% (-11)	-0.4% (-1)	-12.5% (-4)	-50.6% (-45)
Portswood	-10.4% (-162)	-45.5% (-70)	-14% (-74)	-7.1% (-3)	2.7% (7)	35.7% (10)	54.5% (6)	-7.9% (-14)	15.3% (9)	-17.2% (-32)	-16.7% (-36)	-35.3% (-18)	15.6% (17)
Redbridge	-6.8% (-146)	-5.3% (-7)	-1.7% (-15)	6.7% (5)	1.9% (9)	-10.3% (-6)	86.7% (13)	-8.5% (-13)	50% (18)	1.5% (5)	3.6% (15)	50% (8)	-54.9% (-78)
Shirley	-12.4% (-267)	-14.1% (-26)	-4.3% (-33)	-6.2% (-4)	-10.1% (-43)	41.8% (23)	30% (6)	-9.2% (-12)	52.3% (23)	-5.2% (-12)	-12.8% (-39)	-42.9% (-27)	-33.6% (-39)
Sholing	-7.2% (-65)	85% (34)	9.9% (34)	-16.7% (-6)	-14.2% (-32)	-8.3% (-2)	-58.3% (-7)	-26.6% (-21)	35.7% (5)	23.5% (31)	35% (56)	-50% (-6)	-39.4% (-39)
Swaythling	-2.3% (-27)	35.2% (25)	16.1% (69)	-24.5% (-12)	-0.4% (-1)	32.1% (9)	90.9% (10)	-22.7% (-25)	31% (13)	30.2% (39)	31.6% (50)	-18.8% (-3)	-10.6% (-5)
Woolston	-4.8% (-82)	9.8% (12)	0.1% (1)	-12.2% (-9)	-3.4% (-17)	-2.4% (-1)	-6.7% (-1)	-13.1% (-14)	28% (14)	4.7% (14)	11% (38)	-38.7% (-12)	-11.1% (-10)

## 2.5 Victims and offenders

### 2.5.1 Victims

In 2020/21, there were 14,757 unique victims (excluding businesses and the state) who were involved in 74% of crimes in the city.<sup>11</sup> This is a -21.5% decline compared to the number of unique victims identified in 2019/20 (17,928), which is likely linked to the reduction in total recorded crimes in the year.

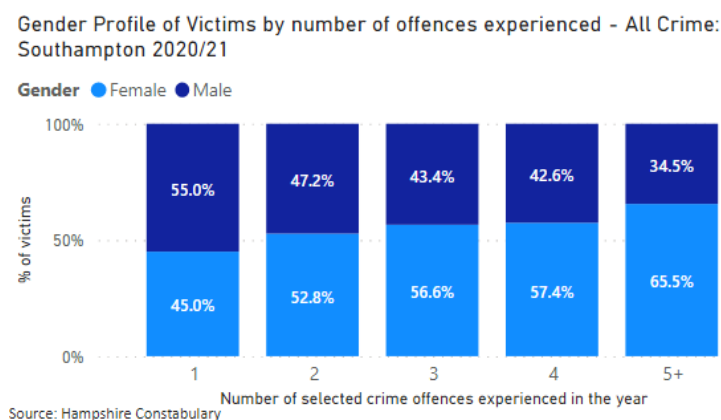
Figure 2.10 shows the number of victims by the number of offences they experienced during 2020/21, with most victims experiencing only one crime in the year (77.5%); a lower proportion compared to the previous year (80.4% in 2019/20). In 2020/21, 22.5% of victims experienced more than one crime in the year, which is a significantly higher proportion compared to the previous year (19.6% in 2019/20). Repeat victims accounted for 45.2% of crimes where a victim was recorded in 2020/21. The above evidence highlights that repeat victimisation remains an issue in Southampton.

Figure 2.10: Table showing number of offences experienced by known victims in 2020/21

No. of All Crime Offences Experienced	No. of All Crime Offences Experienced	% of All Crime Offences Experienced	No. of All Crime Victims	% of All Crime Victims
1	11,431	54.8%	11,431	77.5%
2	4,140	19.9%	2,070	14.0%
3	1,989	9.5%	663	4.5%
4	1,108	5.3%	277	1.9%
5+	2,188	10.5%	316	2.1%

A small group of individuals (316, 2.1%) experienced 5 or more crimes in the year. Collectively these individuals account for 10.5% (2,188) of recorded crime where a victim was recorded. The number of individuals experiencing 5 or more crimes is similar to the previous year (320 individuals in 2019/20).

Figure 2.11: Chart showing gender profile of victims by number of all crime offences experienced



<sup>11</sup> Hampshire Constabulary 2020/21 – only includes victims with valid age and sex



Overall, males made up a higher proportion of victims than females (52.7% to 47.3%). However, similar to previous years, females continue to be more likely to be repeat victims across all crime types, accounting for 65.5% of victims experiencing 5 or more crimes in the year (*Figure 2.11*).

Victim age profiling of overall crime follows a similar pattern to previous years. The most common age groups for victims in 2020/21 continues to be those aged 35-49 (27.4%), followed by the 25-34 (24.8%), 18-24 (15.5%) and 50-64 (15.5%) age groups (*Figure 2.12*).<sup>12</sup>

Figure 2.12: Chart showing age profile of victims and offences



The majority of victims identified in 2020/21 were white (58.2%), 9.7% of victims were Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) and 32.1% unknown ethnicity<sup>13</sup>. Ethnicity should be interpreted with caution, as the proportion of unknown ethnicity is high. However, ethnicity profiling of victims is in line with what would be expected, as most of the Southampton population is white, with 14.1% BAME (2011 Census).

<sup>12</sup> A victim may be counted more than once if they have moved age groups in the year, however this affects less than 1.2% of records.

<sup>13</sup> Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

## 2.5.2 Offenders

Around 8,017 individual suspects or offenders were identified from police systems for offences that occurred in Southampton during 2020/21, which is approximately a -6.8% decrease on the 8,604 identified during 2019/20.<sup>14</sup> These individuals were collectively responsible for 55.7% of the crimes committed in Southampton during the year. Using this data, suspects and offenders in the city can be profiled. However, it should be emphasised that this only relates to identified suspects or offenders, who may have different characteristics to those who were not caught or who committed offences that were not recorded.

Figure 2.13 shows that the majority (63.6%) of known offenders committed just one offence during 2020/21, which is slightly lower than the proportion in 2019/20 (64.1%). Despite most offenders committing just one crime in the year, individuals committing just one offence account for just 32.5% of crimes with a known suspect or offender. Those committing more than one crime account for 36.4% of offenders but collectively account for 67.5% of offences. This highlights that repeat offending remains an issue in Southampton.

Figure 2.13: Table showing number of offences committed by known suspects or offenders in 2020/21

No. of All Crime Offences Committed	No. of All Crime Offences Committed	% of All Crime Offences Committed	No. of All Crime Offenders	% of All Crime Offenders
1	5,101	32.5%	5,101	63.6%
2	2,946	18.7%	1,473	18.4%
3	1,740	11.1%	580	7.2%
4	1,184	7.5%	296	3.7%
5+	4,742	30.2%	567	7.1%

The proportion of prolific offenders is similar to previous years, with 7.3% of offenders in 2019/20 and 7.1% of offenders in 2020/21 committing 5 or more offences. Despite prolific offenders accounting for just 7.1% (567 individuals) of offenders in 2020/21, these individuals account for 30.2% of crimes where there was a known suspect or offender. This continues to illustrate the importance of tackling reoffending of more prolific offenders if crime levels are to reduce in the city.

Overall, the majority (70.6%) of offenders identified in 2020/21 were male, which is similar to the previous year (71.2% in 2019/20). Males continue to be much more likely to commit multiple offences in the year than females, with 78.8% of the most prolific (5+ offences) offenders male (Figure 2.14).

<sup>14</sup> Hampshire Constabulary 2020/21 – only includes suspects and offenders with valid age and sex.

Figure 2.14: Chart showing gender profile of offenders by number of all crime offences committed

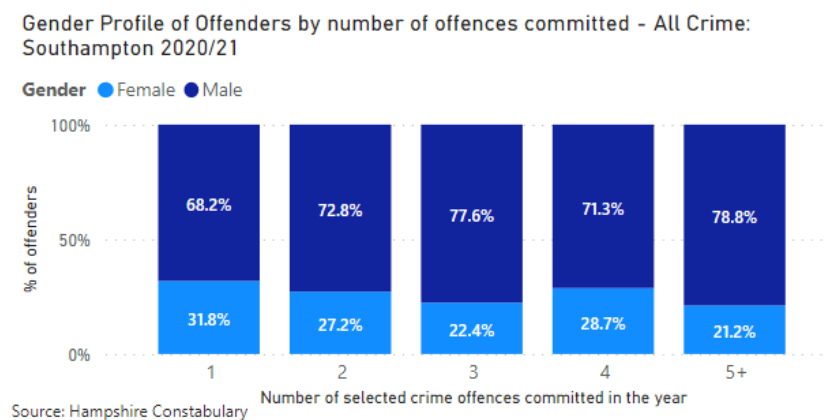
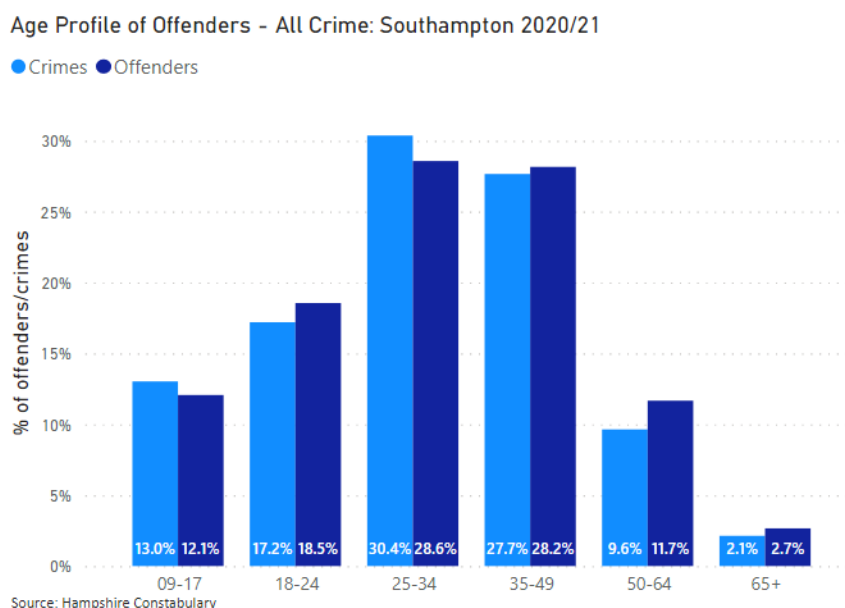


Figure 2.15 shows the age profile of offenders for all crimes in 2020/21. The age profile for offenders identified in 2020/21 is similar to previous years, with those aged 25-34 years making up the largest group of offenders (28.6%), followed by the 35-49 (28.2%) and 18-24 (18.5%) age groups.<sup>15</sup> After experiencing an increase between 2018/19 and 2019/20, the proportion of offenders aged under 18 experienced a slight decrease over the last year from 13.2% in 2019/20 to 12.1% in 2020/21.

Figure 2.15: Chart showing age profile of offenders and offences



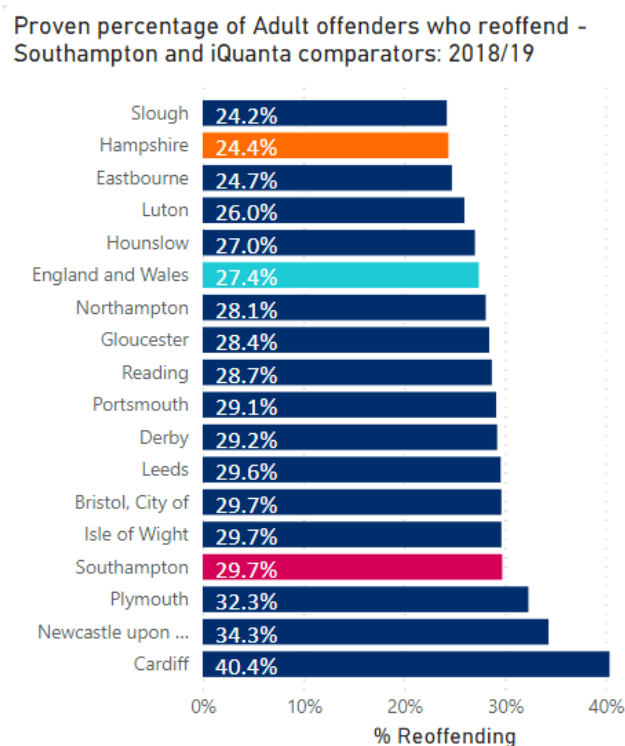
Similar to ethnicity profiling for victims, over half of offenders and suspects identified in 2020/21 were white (56.6%), 9.7% BAME and 33.6% unknown ethnicity.

<sup>15</sup> An offender may be counted more than once if they have moved age groups in the year, however this affects less than 1.7% of records.

### 2.5.3 Reoffending

In Southampton, 29.7% of adult offenders in the 2018/19 cohort reoffended (*Figure 2.16*), which is higher, but not significantly, than the England and Wales reoffending rate (27.4%). Southampton adult reoffenders will on average commit 4.5 reoffences; higher than the England and Wales average of 4 reoffences.<sup>16</sup> Due to changes in the data source and methodology of reoffending statistics<sup>17</sup>, it is not possible to examine long-term trends, although trends over the last three years are comparable. Southampton experienced an overall increase in the adult reoffending rate between 2016/17 and 2017/18. However, the reoffending rate experienced a -3.0% percentage point decline between 2017/18 and 2018/19 (*Figure 2.17*). This trend should be closely monitored to see if the decline over the last year is sustained.

Figure 2.16: Benchmarking chart showing proven adult reoffending



<sup>16</sup> Caution is required when interpreting reoffending data as it does not account for differences/changes in the case-mix of offenders either over time or between areas.

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Justice – Guide to proven reoffending statistics (2021), Online available at:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1006061/Guide-to-proven-reoffending-July21\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1006061/Guide-to-proven-reoffending-July21_Final.pdf)

Figure 2.17: Trend chart showing proven adult reoffending

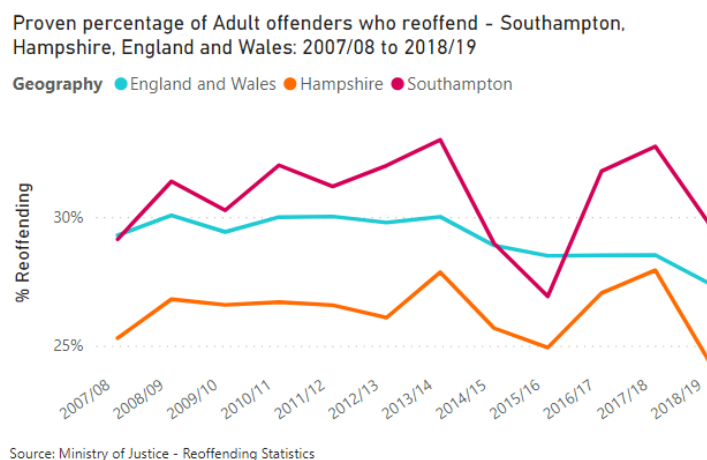


Figure 2.18 shows that 50.3% of the 2018/19 youth offending cohort in Southampton reoffended, which is significantly higher than the England and Wales average (37.8%). Youth reoffenders in Southampton will on average commit 3.6 reoffences, which is slightly lower than the England and Wales average of 3.9 reoffences. There was a decline in the youth reoffending rate between 2016/17 and 2017/18, but over the last year there has been a 11.9% percentage point increase in the youth offending rate from 38.4% in 2017/18 to 50.3% in 2018/19 (Figure 2.19). However, it is important to note that this increase is not statistically significant due to the small cohort of offenders (175 offenders and 88 reoffenders in 2018/19).

Figure 2.18: Benchmarking chart showing proven youth (juvenile) reoffending rate

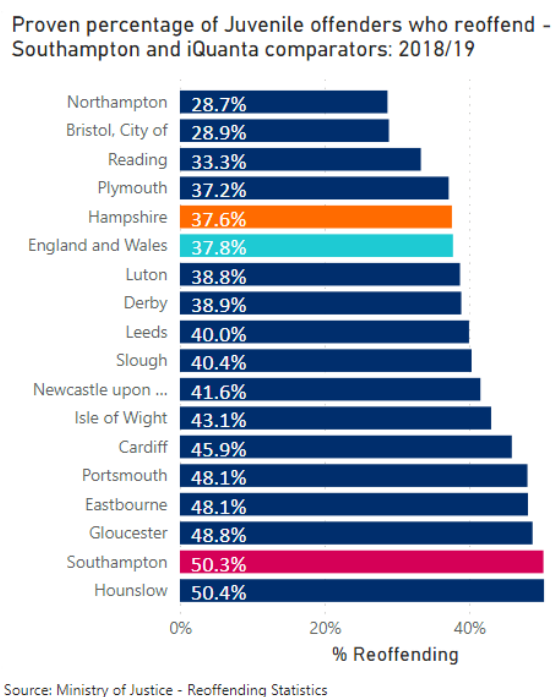
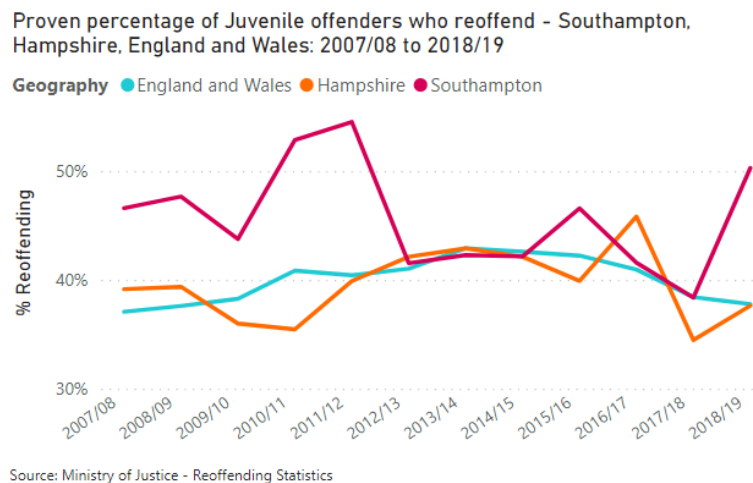


Figure 2.19: Trend chart showing proven youth (juvenile) reoffending rate



## 2.5.4 First Time Entrants

In 2020, Southampton had a juvenile First Time Entrant (FTE) rate of 32.7 per 10k children aged 10-17; highest among comparators and significantly higher than the national average (16.5 per 10k children) (Figure 2.20). Since 2012 the juvenile FTE rate in Southampton has experienced an overall decline, with this trend also experienced nationally. Despite the decline, Southampton has remained significantly higher than the national average for the last 4 years (Figure 2.21).

Figure 2.20: Juvenile First Time Entrants benchmarking chart

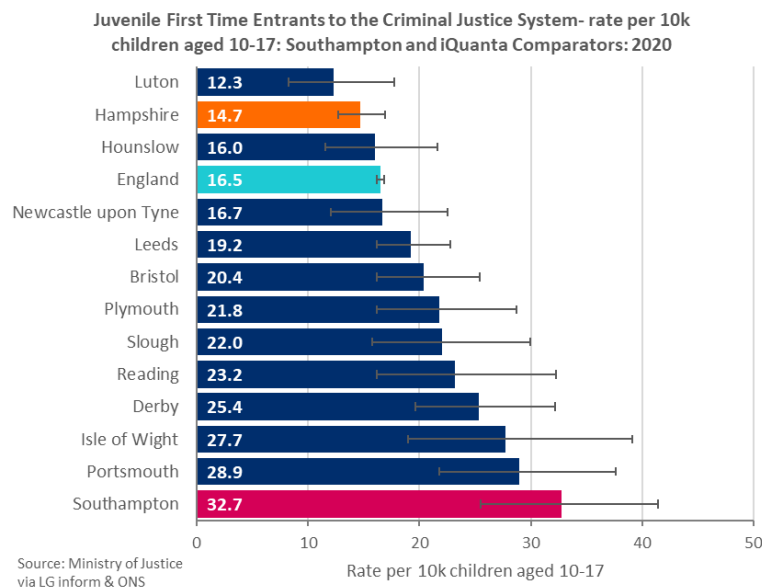
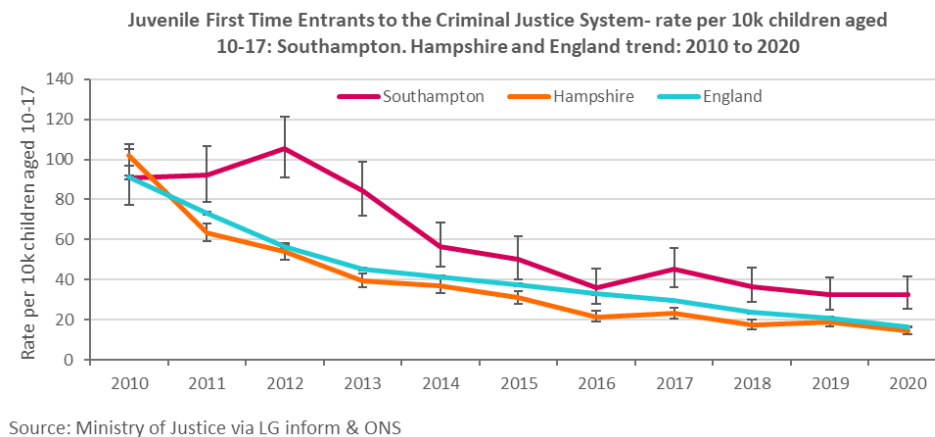


Figure 2.21: Trend in juvenile First Time Entrants for Southampton, Hampshire and England



## 2.6 Points for the Partnership to note

- Southampton experienced a -11.4% decline in total recorded crime over the last year. Declines in police recorded crime over the last year have largely been attributed to the coronavirus pandemic and government restrictions to limit the spread of the virus. However, despite this decline, Southampton has the highest rate and severity of total recorded crime among comparator CSPs. It is expected that volumes and patterns of many crime types will return to pre-pandemic levels. However, the Partnership should work to try and limit the extent to which crime returns to pre-pandemic levels.
- Rape, violence with injury and residential burglary are the crime groups that caused the most harm in Southampton during 2020/21, with these groups causing the most harm for the last three years. The Partnership should continue to consider the harm caused by different crime types as well as volume when examining priorities and areas of focus.
- The crime prioritisation exercise highlighted the following four priorities for the Partnership: violent crime (all forms), domestic crimes including domestic violent crime, sexual offences, particularly rape; and residential burglary. Violent crime, domestic crimes and sexual offences have been highlighted as a priority for the last three years.
- Some crime types are more likely to be underreported than others; the Partnership should continue to work to understand the extent of unreported crime in Southampton and take action to address any barriers to reporting incidents, particularly among the most vulnerable. The most recent community safety survey highlighted that over half of crimes witnessed or experienced by respondents were not being reported, this is concerning, but especially for high harm and priority offence groups such as domestic abuse, sexual offences, serious violent crime and Violence Against Women and Girls (see [Section 4](#)).
- Reoffending remains an issue in Southampton, 7.1% of offenders who committed 5 or more offences were responsible for 30.2% of the crimes where there was a known suspect or offender. If crime levels are to reduce in the city, then the high reoffending rate needs to be addressed.



The Partnership should continue to work with partners to ensure outcomes for offenders are as good as possible to reduce reoffending; particularly targeting the most prolific offenders and those at highest risk of reoffending.

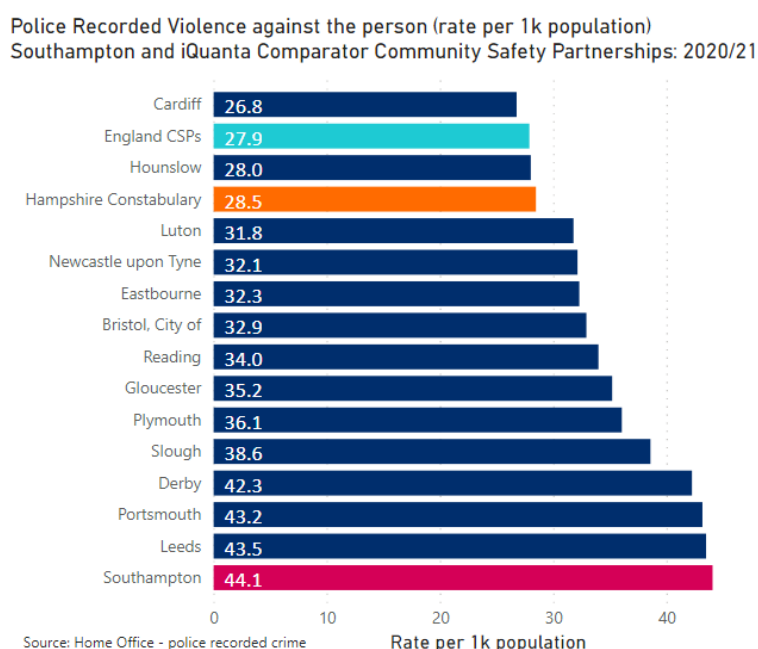
- Southampton has poorer outcomes compared to the national average for youth offending indicators such as First Time Entrants (FTEs) and youth reoffending. Young people becoming involved in crime is often linked to the wider determinants, such as deprivation, poverty, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (see [Section 5](#)). The Partnership should continue to work with partners to improve outcomes for children and young people to prevent them from becoming involved in crime in the first place.

### 3. Significant community safety issues

#### 3.1 Violent crime

Southampton has a violent crime rate of 44 crimes per 1k population (*Figure 3.1*), which is highest among comparator Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and significantly higher than the England CSP average (28 per 1k). Southampton is ranked 21<sup>st</sup> among English CSPs for the rate of violent crime, which is an improvement compared to the previous year (rank 15 in 2019/20). However, despite this improvement Southampton remains among the worse 10% of CSPs nationally.<sup>18</sup> Southampton's rate of violent crimes has remained significantly higher than the national average since 2011/12 (*Figure 3.2*).

Figure 3.1: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of violent crimes



There are three main violent crime subgroups, these are violence with injury, violence without injury and stalking and harassment. It is also important to monitor Southampton's relative position for these subgroups, as this will give an indication on what any overall changes in violent crime are being driven by. Southampton is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> highest among English CSPs for violence with injury in the most recent year (2020/21) which is the same as the previous year (4<sup>th</sup> in 2019/20), suggesting there has been no improvement in Southampton's relative position among English CSPs. For violence without injury, Southampton is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> highest among English CSPs in 2020/21, which is similar to the previous year (rank 19 in 2019/20). Southampton is ranked 68<sup>th</sup> highest among English CSPs for the rate of

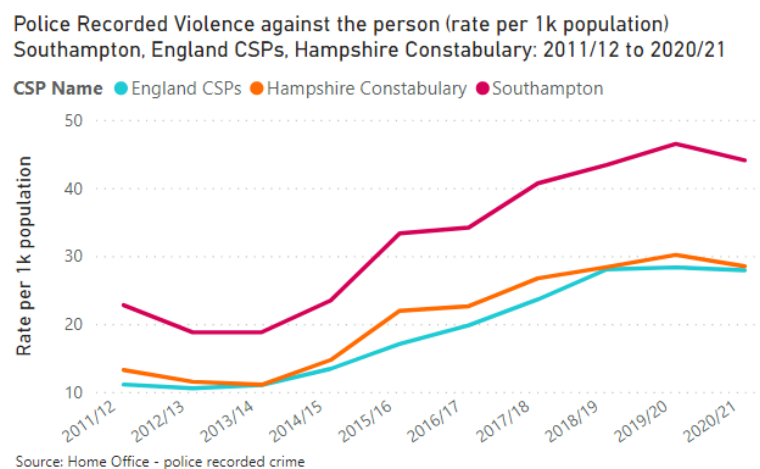
<sup>18</sup> of 279 CSPs in England that had a valid violent crime rate

stalking and harassment offences (2020/21), which is an improvement in relative position compared to the previous year (rank 55 in 2019/20). However, it is important to note that changes in Southampton's relative position for stalking and harassment offences could be driven by improvements in reporting and changes in counting rules, rather than a real change in incidence.

Southampton experienced a -5.1% decline in the number of violent crimes between 2019/20 and 2020/21. Two of the three main violent crime subgroups<sup>19</sup> also experienced a decline in Southampton over the last year, with violence with injury declining by -19.9% and violence without injury experiencing a -6.5% decline. This is also observed nationally and across Hampshire Constabulary, with the decline attributed to a reduction in stranger violence<sup>20</sup> and violence taking place in public spaces.

This is evidenced locally, with the victim/offender relationship recorded as stranger for 19.9% of violent crimes in Southampton during 2019/20, compared with 16.4% in 2020/21. Additionally, the number of violent crimes with the public place flag in Southampton declined by -25.3% over the last year. This illustrates the impact lockdown and in particular suppression of the night-time economy has had on violent crime over the last year.

Figure 3.2: Trend in the rate of violent crimes for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



However, stalking and harassment experienced a 22.3% increase over the last year in Southampton, with Hampshire Constabulary (18.8%) and England (25.5%) also experiencing an increase during the same period. It is important to monitor any increases in stalking and harassment offences, as these offences can be a precursor for more serious offending in the future.<sup>21</sup> There may also be an increase in reported stalking and harassment offences moving forward, particularly as there is rising focus on

<sup>19</sup> Subgroups of violent crime include: violence with injury, violence without injury, stalking and harassment, death or serious injury – unlawful driving and homicide. However, numbers for the latter two subgroups are too small to examine in detail

<sup>20</sup> Violent crimes where the offender was a stranger

<sup>21</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), which may encourage more women to come forward and report offences, particularly stalking and harassment.

There are several reasons why the above increase may have occurred. There was a change in counting rules for stalking and harassment offences in 2018<sup>22</sup>, which has increased the number of stalking and harassment offences and was previously driving increases in the overall volume of violent crime, both locally and nationally. It could be that changes in counting rules for stalking and harassment offences are still having an impact. Also, officers across the force area have received training on stalking and harassment, so it could be that more offences are being picked up because of improved awareness.<sup>21</sup> Additionally, there is local evidence to suggest that some crimes are being classified based on victim perception, with some crimes that may have previously been coded as anti-social behaviour now coded as stalking and harassment. This is evidenced in the data, with a decline in anti-social behaviour over the last year but increases in stalking and harassment (see [Section 2.2](#)). It is likely that the reasons outlined above have contributed to the increase seen in stalking and harassment offences over the last year.

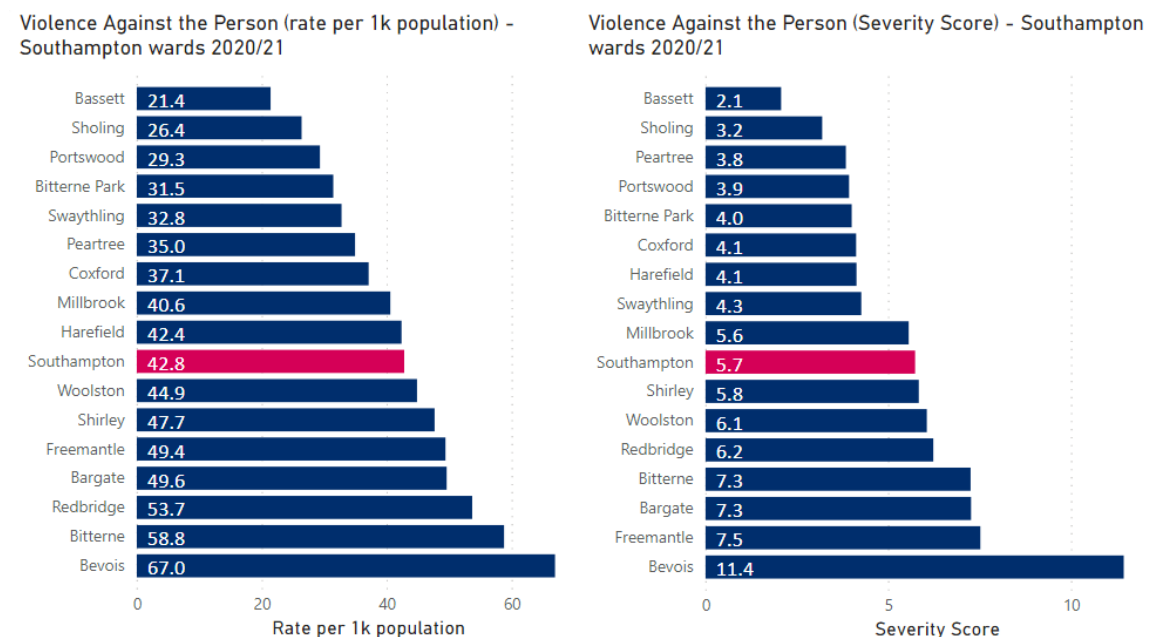
Malicious communications (subgroup of stalking and harassment offences) experienced a 15.5% increase over the last year. The 2019/20 assessment highlighted a developing trend in malicious communications among young people, likely driven by the use of social media, and was evidenced by victim and offender age profiles being skewed towards younger age groups. This trend continues in 2020/21, with 13.9% of victims aged under 18 and 20.2% aged 18-24, as well as 14.8% of offenders aged under 18 and 16.6% aged 18-24. It should also be highlighted that during 2020/21 a lot of schools and workplaces moved online; therefore, this way of learning and working could have also contributed to the increases in malicious communications and stalking and harassment experienced over the last year.

Sub-city patterns of violent crime are slightly different compared to the previous year. In 2019/20, Bargate ward had the highest rate and severity of violent crime. However, this is no longer the case with Bargate now 4<sup>th</sup> highest among wards for the rate and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest for the severity of violent crimes in 2020/21 (*Figure 3.3*). This change is likely due to coronavirus restrictions and suppression of the night-time economy, with Bargate ward experiencing the largest decline in violent crime across all wards (-35.8%). Bargate also experienced a -47.7% decline in alcohol affected crime, which is a known driver of violent crime, particularly incidents associated with the night-time economy. More information on changes by ward can be found in [Section 2.4](#).

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<sup>22</sup> Previously, stalking and harassment was a subcategory of violence without injury, with stalking and harassment crimes only counted if they were the only offence. After the rule change, stalking and harassment is its own discrete category within violence against the person offences and stalking and harassment offences are now counted in addition to the most serious offence involving the same victim and offender

Figure 3.3: Benchmarking charts showing the rate (left) and severity (right) of violent crimes by Southampton ward



It is expected that violent crime will return to pre-pandemic levels in the city and across many parts of England and Wales, particularly as the night-time economy is currently reopen and there are increased interactions between people.<sup>23,24</sup> However, the Partnership should work to limit the extent of which violent crime returns to pre-pandemic levels.

Domestic violence continues to be a driver of violent crime in the city; 35.5% of violent crime in 2020/21 was flagged as domestic, a 3.2% percentage point increase compared to 2019/20 (32.3%). This increase over the last year is statistically significant and continues to follow a rising trend where a greater proportion of violent crimes are flagged as domestic each year. However, the increase over the last year is likely influenced by the overall decline in the volume of violent crimes and changing patterns. Over the last year people spent more time at home due to lockdowns, which may have led to increases in police recorded violent crime in a domestic setting and declines in other types of violence, notably stranger and public place violence, which is associated with the night-time economy.

Rises in certain crime types, particularly domestic violence should be interpreted with caution, as increases could be due to changes in recording and reporting practices as well as more victims reporting, rather than a genuine rise in crime.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

<sup>24</sup> Langton *et al.* Six months in: pandemic crime trends in England and Wales, Crime Science, Online available at:

<https://crimesciencejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40163-021-00142-z>

<sup>25</sup> Crime Survey for England and Wales – year ending March 2021, Online available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

### 3.1.1 Crimes involving a weapon

There were 594 crimes in Southampton during 2020/21 that involved the use of a bladed implement, a -8.0% decline compared to the previous year. Despite this decline, Southampton still has the highest rate of crimes involving a bladed implement across Hampshire districts, with the Southampton rate significantly higher than all other areas except Portsmouth. Southampton accounted for 25% of crimes involving a bladed implement across Hampshire Constabulary in 2020/21.

The profile of offenders for crimes involving a bladed implement continues to be skewed towards males and younger age groups; highlighting the importance of early intervention and work of the Violence Reduction Unit.<sup>26</sup>

There were 73 firearms offences in Southampton during 2020/21, an increase of 18 crimes (32.7%) compared to the previous year. Despite the number of firearms offences being relatively small in Southampton, firearms can cause significant harm. Firearm offences are also linked to organised crime.

### 3.1.2 Victims and perpetrators of violent crime

In 2010/21, there were 7,330 unique victims of violent crimes, with 24.2% of these individuals experiencing more than one violent crime in the year, higher than the 21.3% in 2019/20 and 19.7% in 2018/19. This suggests a rising trend where a greater proportion of violent crime victims are experiencing repeat victimisation in the year. However, increases over the last year could reflect changing patterns of violent crime due to coronavirus; nonetheless this is something that should be monitored. Individuals experiencing more than one violent crime in 2020/21 accounted for 46.1% of all violent crimes in the year (where a victim was recorded). In addition, 19.7% of violent crime victims were also a victim of other crimes in the year (18.5% in 2019/20), with victims experiencing multiple violent crimes continuing to be more likely to be a victim of other crimes.

Females (51.3%) accounted for a significantly higher proportion of violent crime victims than males (48.7%); this is different to previous assessments where males accounted for a greater proportion of violent crime victims. This change could be linked to the impact of coronavirus and lockdowns on changing patterns of violent crime over the last year. Notably there has been a reduction in stranger violence and violence occurring in public places, with victims and offenders of this type of violence skewed towards males.<sup>27 28</sup>

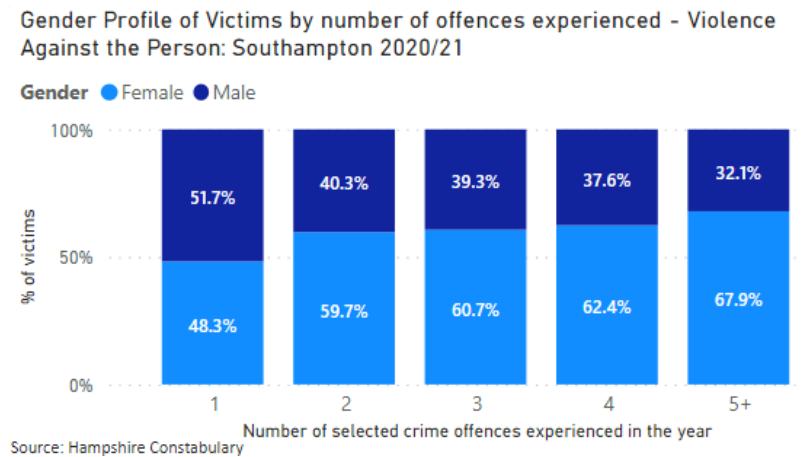
<sup>26</sup> Home Office: Serious Violence Strategy (2018), Online available at:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> Hampshire Constabulary 2020/21

<sup>28</sup> Office for National Statistics – Nature of crime: Violence, year ending March 2020, Online available at:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/natureofcrimetablesviolence>

As well as victims, females also account for more violent crimes than males overall and are more likely to be repeat victims of violent crime than males (*Figure 3.4*). This highlights the impact and extent of Violence Against Women and Girls in the city.

Figure 3.4: Chart showing gender profile of violent crime victims by the number of offences experienced in the year



Similar to previous years, those aged under 25 continue to be most at risk of being a victim of violence, with over a third of violent crime victims aged under 25 in 2020/21; 17% of violent crime victims were aged under 18 and 17.1% aged 18-24 years. The proportion of violent crime victims aged under 18 declined over the last year to 17%, after experiencing an increase from 16.9% in 2018/19 to 18.8% in 2019/20.

There were 5,290 suspects and offenders of violent crime in 2020/21. Repeat offending remains an issue for violent crime offenders, with a third (33.1%) of offenders committing more than one violent crime in the year: accounting for 59.5% of violent crimes in the year. Prolific offenders (5+ offences) accounted for 4.1% (217 individuals) of offenders, but 17% of violent crime offences. 26.9% of violent crime offenders also committed other crimes in the year, with offenders committing multiple violent crimes more likely to commit other crimes.

Males continue to make up the majority of violent crime offenders (67% in 2020/21). Age profiling of violent crime offenders is similar to previous years and to victims, with under 25s accounting for over a quarter of violent offenders. In 2020/21, 11.3% of offenders were aged under 18 and 16.3% aged 18-24, both lower than the 12.4% aged under 18 and 17.2% aged 18-24 in 2019/20.



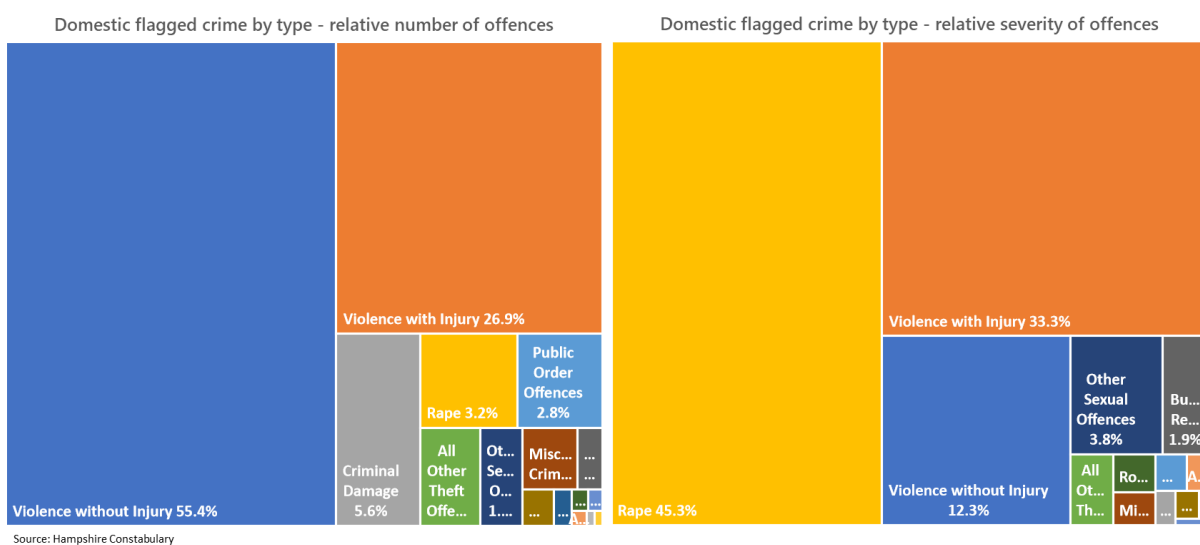
### 3.1.3 Points for the Partnership to note

- Despite an overall decline (-5.1%) in the number of violent crimes over the last year, violent crime remains a priority for the Partnership. The decline over the last year is likely driven by limited social contact and suppression of the night-time economy, with this evidenced by a reduction in stranger violence and violence occurring in a public place. It is expected that violent crime will return to pre-pandemic volumes and patterns, particularly as there is currently limited social distancing restrictions and no restrictions on the night-time economy. However, the Partnership should work to limit the extent of which violent crime returns to pre-pandemic levels.
- Victims and offenders of violent crimes tend to have a young age profile, with over a third of violent crime victims and a quarter of offenders aged under 25. The Partnership should continue to work with the Violence Reduction Unit to focus on early intervention to prevent and reduce levels of violent crime in the city.
- Southampton continues to have the highest rate of crimes involving a bladed implement across the force area, significantly higher than all other areas except Portsmouth. Southampton accounted for 25% of crimes involving a bladed implement across the force area in 2020/21. Knife enabled crime can cause significant harm, with victims and perpetrators skewed towards younger age groups. The Partnership should continue to work with the Violence Reduction Unit and schools to raise awareness of the harm caused by weapons among young people.
- Domestic violence continues to be a significant driver of violent crime in the city, with 35.5% of violent crime in 2020/21 flagged as domestic. The Partnership should work to build a better understanding of the extent and drivers of domestic violence in the city, as tackling domestic violence is key to reducing overall levels of violence in the city.
- The number of stalking and harassment offences increased by 22.3% over the last year. This increase is likely due to changes in counting rules introduced in 2018 as well as improved reporting and recognition of these offences. The Partnership should continue to raise awareness of these offences among professionals and the public, particularly as stalking and harassment can be a precursor for more serious offending.
- Findings from the 2021 community safety survey show that over half of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of serious violent crime or Violence Against Women and Girls did not report the incident. Common reasons for not reporting the above crime types include reporting makes no difference and fear of negative consequences. More detailed findings from the 2021 community safety survey can be found in [Section 4](#).

### 3.2 Domestic crimes

The 'case mix' of domestic flagged crime in 2020/21 is similar to the previous year (*Figure 3.5*). The majority (82.3%) of domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2020/21 were violent crimes, with violence without injury (including stalking and harassment) accounting for over half (55.4%) of domestic flagged crimes. Domestic rape continues to cause significant harm in the city, with rape accounting for 45.3% of the harm (severity) caused by domestic flagged crime, yet only 3.2% of the number of domestic flagged offences in 2020/21.

Figure 3.5: Tree maps showing relative number (left) and severity (right) of offences for domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2020/21



There were 4,804 domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2020/21, a 2.6% increase compared to the previous year. Domestic flagged crime accounted for 17% of all recorded crimes in Southampton, a significantly higher proportion than in 2019/20 (14.5%).

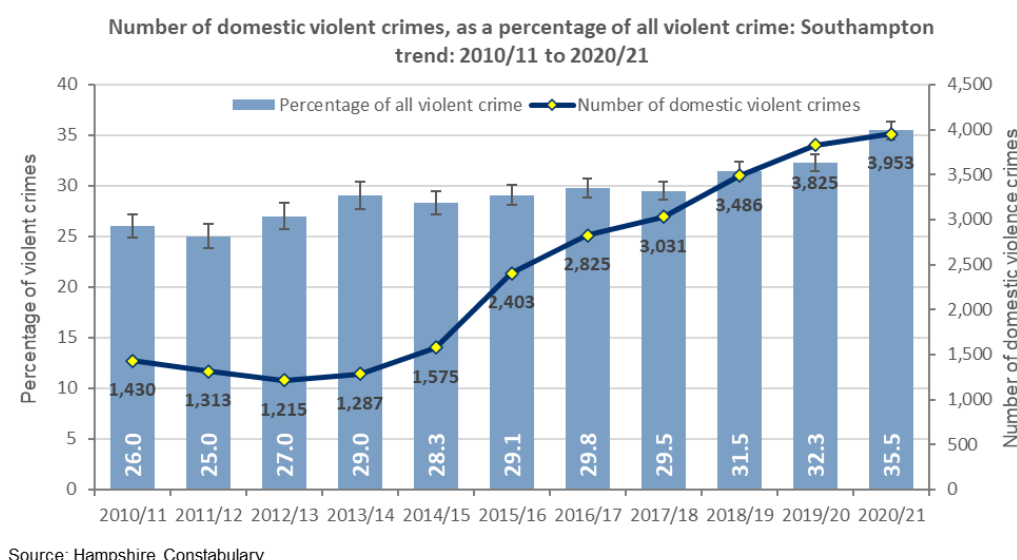
The number of domestic violent crimes in the city has increased for the eighth consecutive year, with the number of crimes increasing by 3.3%, from 3,825 crimes in 2019/20 to 3,953 in 2020/21 (*Figure 3.6*). Over a third (35.5%) of all violent crimes in 2020/21 were flagged as domestic, a significant increase compared to the previous year (32.3% in 2019/20).

Increases were also experienced nationally, with police recorded domestic flagged crime increasing by 6% and domestic violent crimes increasing by 7% over the last year across England and Wales.<sup>29</sup> Increases seen nationally are double those experienced locally; however, these differences should be

<sup>29</sup> Crime Survey for England and Wales – year ending March 2021, Online available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

interpreted with caution as police recorded domestic abuse-related crimes do not provide the most reliable measure of domestic abuse-related crime, as it often remains hidden and underreported.

Figure 3.6: Trend in the number and proportion of violent crimes that are flagged as domestic



There are several reasons why the increases seen in domestic abuse-related crimes may have occurred in Southampton over the last year. Domestic abuse-related crimes are one of the offence types that have been impacted by improvements in police recording practices as well as an increase in victims coming forward to report crimes, although the effect of which is thought to have been diminishing in recent years. Additionally, people spent more time at home during periods of lockdown, so this could have led to an increase in incidents with people spending more time in their homes, particularly with the added pressure of not being able to go out to work and socialise. Increases could also be partly attributed to an increase in third party reporting, with more people at home, neighbours may hear and report domestic incidents. Increases in stalking and harassment offences due to the change in counting rules and improved recognition of these offences could still be having an impact on domestic abuse-related crimes. 40% of stalking and harassment offences were flagged as domestic in 2020/21 and the number of domestic flagged stalking and harassment offences increased by 27.6% from 984 offences in 2019/20 to 1,256 offences in 2020/21.<sup>30</sup> This is in line with the Hampshire Constabulary force strategic assessment, which notes increases in violence without injury, in particular stalking and harassment offences are underlying the increase in domestic abuse-related crimes experienced across the force area over the last year.<sup>31</sup>

It is difficult to say whether the increase seen in domestic abuse-related crimes over the last year reflects a true increase, as domestic abuse is 'hidden' crime and police recorded domestic abuse-

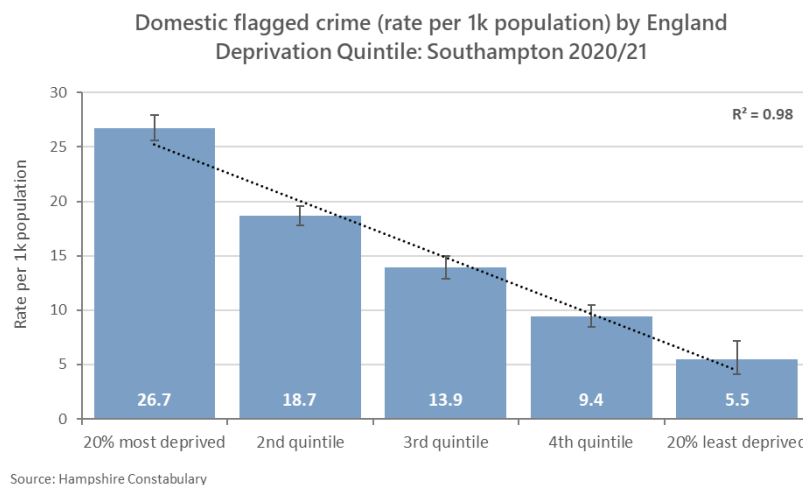
<sup>30</sup> Please note that police recorded crime figures are subject to revisions, the 2019/20 figure is based on unrevised data

<sup>31</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

related crimes only provide a partial picture. National evidence suggests that victims experience of domestic abuse intensified during lockdown periods.<sup>32 33</sup> Nonetheless, domestic abuse remains a significant issue in Southampton and has again been highlighted as a priority for the Partnership (see [Section 2.3](#)).

Sub city patterns of domestic flagged crime are similar to previous years. Rates of domestic flagged crime are highest in Bitterne, Redbridge and Woolston wards, with notable hotspots in these wards (*Figure 3.8*). Domestic flagged crime continues to have strong links to deprivation (*Figure 3.7*), with the rate of domestic flagged crimes 4.9 times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city compared to the least deprived (2020/21).

Figure 3.7: Quintile chart showing the relationship between domestic flagged crimes and deprivation



Domestic abuse not only has an impact on victims, but also close family and children in the household. Children experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse is a key Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), with children experiencing ACEs more likely to have poorer outcomes, particularly those relating to health, education and crime.<sup>34</sup> The impact on children is illustrated by the fact that over half (54.3%) of Southampton High Risk Domestic Abuse Referrals (HRDA) in Southampton have children or young people in the household (April 2019 – March 2021). Additionally, 55% of child social care assessments undertaken in 2019/20 had domestic violence recorded as an assessment factor.

<sup>32</sup> Crime Survey for England and Wales – year ending March 2021, Online available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

<sup>33</sup> Domestic Abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2020, Online available at:

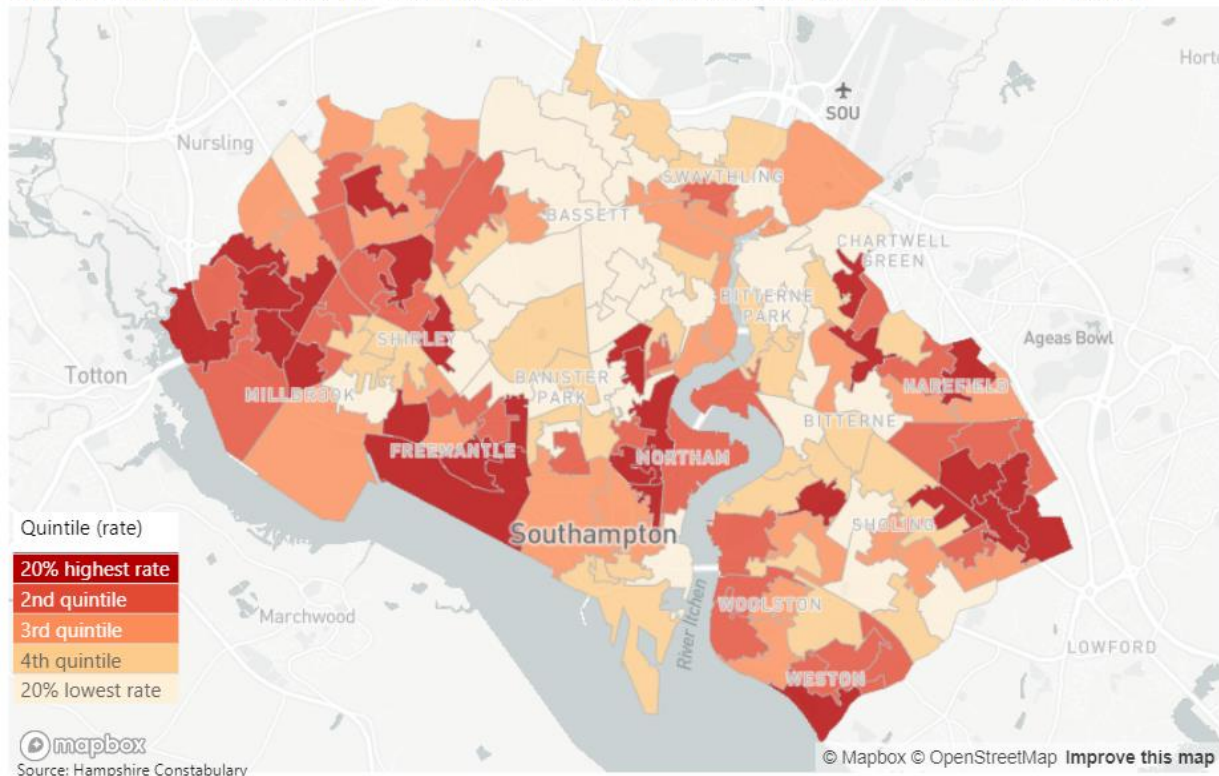
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020>

<sup>34</sup> Local Government Association: Public health approaches to reducing violence. (2018) Available at:

[https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.32%20-%20Reducing%20family%20violence\\_03.pdf](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.32%20-%20Reducing%20family%20violence_03.pdf)

Figure 3.8: Map showing rates of domestic flagged crime by Southampton neighbourhood (LSOA). Dark red areas indicate higher rates

Domestic flagged crime (rate per 1k population) - Southampton LSOAs grouped into quintiles: 2020/21



### 3.2.1 Victims and perpetrators of domestic crimes

In 2020/21 there were 3,156 unique victims of domestic flagged crimes, which is a -1.2% decline from 2019/20. 27.4% of victims in 2020/21 experienced more than one domestic flagged crime in the year; higher than the 26.9% in 2019/20 and 22.5% in 2018/19. Repeat victims accounted for over half (50.7%) of domestic crimes in 2020/21. The proportion of repeat victims has increased for a second consecutive year; highlighting that repeat victimisation of domestic abuse remains an issue and suggests that it may be a growing issue and something that should continue to be closely monitored. 24.2% of domestic flagged crime victims also experienced other offences in the year, with those experiencing multiple domestic flagged crimes continuing to be more likely a victim of other offences.

Females (68.2%) continue to account for a significantly higher proportion of victims than males (31.8%). The most common age group for domestic crime victims in 2020/21 continues to be those aged 25-34 years (31.1%), followed by the 35-49 (29.7%) and 18-24 (18.6%) age groups.

There were 2,853 domestic crime offenders identified in 2020/21, a small increase (0.2%) on the number identified in 2019/20. 31.4% of domestic crime offenders committed more than one domestic offence in the year, an increase on the number of repeat offenders identified in 2019/20 (28.3%). Almost a third (32%) of domestic crime offenders also committed other offences in the year, with



offenders committing multiple domestic crimes also more likely to commit other offences. Tackling repeat offenders continues to be important in reducing rates of domestic related crime in the city.

Sex and age profiling of domestic crime offenders for 2020/21 is in line with previous years, with males (71.1%) continuing to account for a significantly higher proportion of offenders than females (28.9%). The most common age group for domestic crime offenders are still those aged 25-34 (33.9%), followed by 35-49 (32%) and 18-24 (17.5%) age groups.

### 3.2.2 Points for the Partnership to note

- Domestic abuse remains a priority for the Partnership. The Partnership should continue to work with partners, in particular the newly formed Domestic Abuse Board, to continue monitoring and to understand the extent of domestic abuse in the city using a wide range of data sources to plug existing gaps in intelligence.
- The number of domestic flagged and domestic violent crimes increased over the last year, with the number of domestic violent crimes increasing for an eighth consecutive year. It is unclear whether increases over the last year reflect a true increase, as domestic abuse remains underreported. However, there is national evidence to suggest that victims' experiences intensified during lockdown.
- The impact of domestic abuse on children in the city continues to be significant, with over half (54.3%) of Southampton High Risk Domestic Abuse Referrals (HRDA) having children or young people in the household. The Partnership should continue to work with partners to support children experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse, particularly as domestic abuse is a key Adverse Childhood Experience, which lead to increased risk of poorer outcomes for children.
- Domestic rape causes significant harm in the city, accounting for 3.2% of domestic flagged offences, yet 45.3% of the harm caused by domestic flagged offences.
- Domestic abuse is a citywide issue, as illustrated by the neighbourhood map (*Figure 3.8*). However, police recorded domestic flagged crime continues to show a strong relationship with deprivation. The rate of domestic flagged crimes is 4.9 times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city compared to the least deprived.
- Repeat victimisation remains an issue for domestic flagged crime, with the proportion of repeat victims increasing for a second consecutive year. The Partnership should continue to monitor this rising trend and work with partner agencies to support victims of domestic abuse.
- Repeat offending for domestic flagged crime perpetrators remains a significant issue, with 31.4% of domestic flagged crime perpetrators committing more than one offence in the year. Focusing action and interventions on offenders (particularly repeat offenders) is key to reducing the volume and harm caused by domestic abuse in the city.
- Findings from the 2021 community safety survey show that over half of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of domestic abuse did not report the incident. Common reasons

for not reporting domestic abuse include reporting makes no difference, fear of negative consequences and unsure how to report. More detailed findings from the 2021 community safety survey can be found in [Section 4](#).



### 3.3 Sexual offences

Southampton is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> highest among comparators and 13<sup>th</sup> highest in England for the rate of sexual offences (*Figure 3.9*)<sup>35</sup>. Southampton is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest among comparators for rape offences and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest for other sexual offences.

Figure 3.9: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of sexual offences

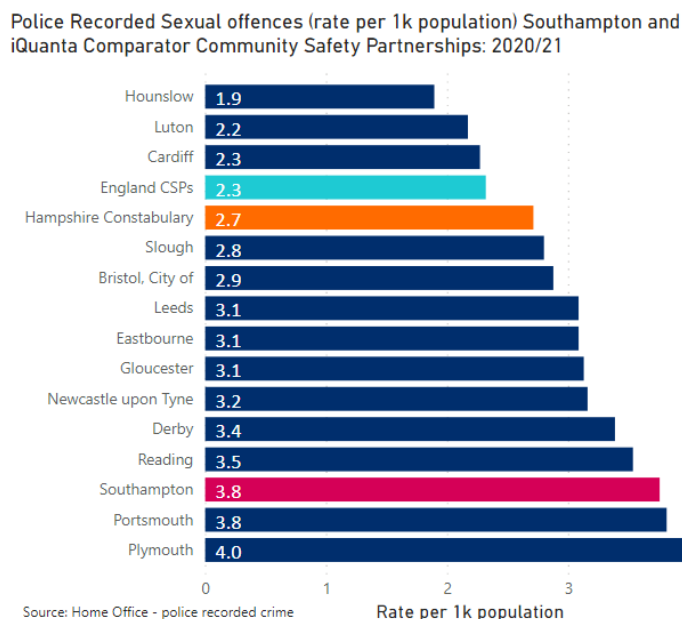
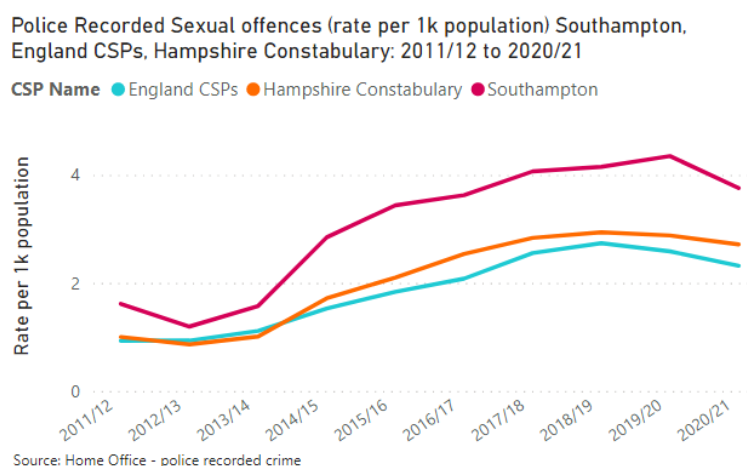


Figure 3.10: Trend in the rate of sexual offences for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



Over the last year Southampton experienced a -13.5% decline in the number of sexual offences (*Figure 3.10*), with Hampshire Constabulary (-5.4%) and England (-9.8%) also experiencing a decline during

<sup>35</sup> Of 279 CSPs that had a valid rate

the same period. Southampton also experienced a -12.9% decline in rapes and a decline of -13.9% in other sexual offences.

It is important to acknowledge pre-pandemic patterns and trends in sexual offences, as this will help understand changes experienced over the last year. Prior to the decline seen in sexual offences over the last year, there had been increases in sexual offences, particularly rape in Southampton. The increases seen in previous years were not being driven by increases in non-recent offences, with this effect no longer having an impact on the overall number of sexual offences, both locally and nationally.<sup>36</sup> Increases could reflect improvements in police recording practices and increased reporting by victims, although the effect of this is thought to have been gradually receding in recent years. Therefore, it is thought that the increase seen in sexual offences, particularly rape in Southampton between 2018/19 and 2019/20 could have reflected a genuine increase in offences.

In addition to the decline in sexual offences over the last year, the Hampshire Force Strategic Assessment highlights that there has also been a change in patterns, with an increase in domestic rapes and reduction in *stranger* and *acquaintance* rapes.<sup>37</sup> This change is evidenced locally in Southampton, with a 4.1% increase in the number of domestic rapes<sup>38</sup> over the last year; domestic rape accounted for 38.2% of rape offences in 2020/21 compared with 32.7% in 2019/20 (Figure 3.11). Additionally, Southampton has seen a decline in the number of *stranger* (-31.8%, -14 offences) and *acquaintance*<sup>39</sup> (-22.4%, -28 offences) rapes in the last year. *Stranger* and *acquaintance* sexual offences have been linked to the night-time economy. The above patterns are also present when examining the profile of other sexual offences.

Figure 3.11: Table showing the proportion (%) of sexual offences that are flagged as domestic in 2019/20 and 2020/21

Crime	2019/20	2020/21
All sexual offences	17.7%	23.3%
Rape	32.7%	38.2%
Other sexual offences	7.3%	12.5%

Sub-city patterns of sexual offences are also different compared to previous years. In 2018/19 and 2019/20, Bargate ward had the highest rate of sexual offences; however, Bargate was 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in 2020/21. Bargate also experienced the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest decline in sexual offences (-27.3%) across Southampton wards over the last year. High rates of sexual offences in Bargate ward have previously been linked to the night-time economy<sup>40</sup>.

<sup>36</sup> Crime Survey for England and Wales – year ending March 2021, Online available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

<sup>37</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

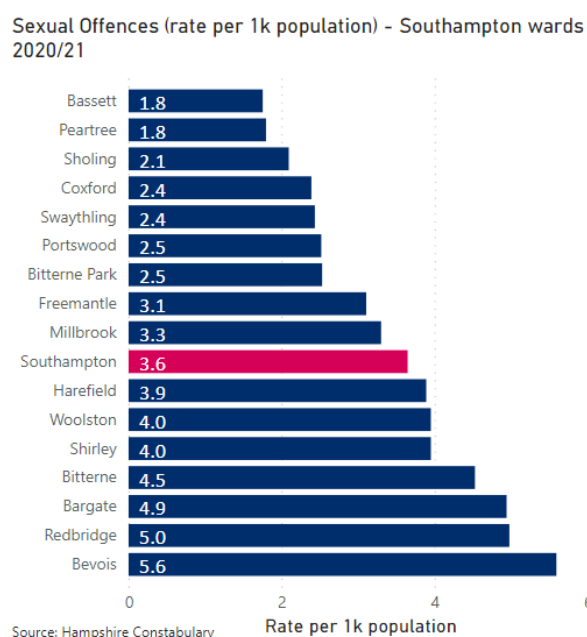
<sup>38</sup> Rape offences that are flagged as domestic

<sup>39</sup> Stranger and acquaintance rape based on the victim and offender relationship recorded

<sup>40</sup> Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment – 2019/20

Changes in the volume and patterns of sexual offences in Southampton over the last year are likely driven by lockdown restrictions and suppression of the night-time economy, with these changes also experienced across Hampshire Constabulary<sup>41</sup>. Volumes and patterns of sexual offences are expected to return to the pre-pandemic baseline, especially as the night-time economy is currently reopen.<sup>39 42</sup> There may also be an increase in police recorded sexual offences through belated reports and rising focus on Violence Against Women and Girls, encouraging more women and girls to come forward and report these crimes when experienced. Therefore, post-pandemic trends should continue to be monitored closely.

Figure 3.12: Chart showing rate of sexual offences for Southampton wards



### 3.3.1 Victims and perpetrators of sexual offences

There were 767 victims of sexual offences in 2020/21, a -11.4% decline on the 866 victims in 2019/20. Repeat victimisation remains low, with 10.6% of sexual offence victims experiencing more than one sexual offence in the year (9.7% in 2019/20). However, the proportion of victims experiencing other offences in the year remains high, with 38.7% of sexual offence victims experiencing other offences in the year. This suggests that victims are often vulnerable individuals.

Similar to previous years, the majority of sexual offence victims in 2020/21 were female (86%), with a slightly higher proportion for rape (92.5%) and lower proportion for other sexual offences (81.7%).

<sup>41</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

<sup>42</sup> Langton *et al.* Six months in: pandemic crime trends in England and Wales, Crime Science, Online available at: <https://crimesciencejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40163-021-00142-z>

Victim age profiling is in line with previous years. The most common age groups for rape victims are still those aged 25-34 (28.1%), under 18 (26.7%) and 18-24 (25.5%). Over half of other sexual offence victims were aged under 18 (56.2%) in 2020/21, significantly higher than all other age groups.

The above findings continue to highlight that females aged under 25 are most at risk of being a victim of sexual offences, with those aged under 25 accounting for over half of rape victims and under 18's accounting for over half of other sexual offence victims in 2020/21.

In Southampton during 2020/21, 524 sexual offence offenders were identified. Repeat offending of sexual offences within the year remains low, with 7.8% of sexual offence offenders committing a further sexual offence in the year (10.2% in 2019/20). However, 42.7% of sexual offence offenders commit other offence types in the year, with the most common being violence without injury, violence with injury and public order offences.

Similar to previous years, the majority of sexual offence offenders identified during 2020/21 were male (92.9%). The most common age groups for offenders in 2020/21 continues to be those aged 35-49 (25.8%), followed by the 25-34 (25.6%) and the 18-24 (21%) age groups.

### 3.3.2 Points for the Partnership to note

- Despite experiencing a decline in the volume of offences over the last year, sexual offences remain a priority for the Partnership.
- Sexual offences in the city experienced a change in patterns over the last year, there were notable declines in *stranger* and *acquaintance* rapes but increases in domestic rapes, with *stranger* and *acquaintance* offences linked to the night-time economy. It is thought suppression of the night-time economy over the last year has driven the decline in the volume of sexual offences and changes in patterns. The Partnership should continue to monitor trends and patterns in sexual offences, especially as volumes and patterns are expected to return to pre-pandemic levels or potentially higher through belated reporting and the rising profile of Violence Against Women and Girls encouraging more victims to report these crimes when they occur.
- Females aged under 25 continue to be highlighted as a high-risk group, with those aged under 25 accounting for over half of rape victims and under 18's accounting for over half of other sexual offence victims. The Partnership should continue to work with partners to protect and safeguard this high-risk group.
- Findings from the 2021 community safety survey show that over half of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of sexual assaults did not report the incident. Common reasons for not reporting sexual assaults include reporting makes no difference, disappointing previous experience of reporting, happens too often, too much hassle/too difficult to do and fear of negative consequences. More detailed findings from the 2021 community safety survey can be found in [Section 4](#).

### 3.4 Residential burglary

Southampton has a residential burglary rate of 5.5 crimes per 1k population (2020/21), significantly higher than the England average (3.1 crimes per 1k population) and highest among comparators (Figure 3.13).

Figure 3.13: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of residential burglaries

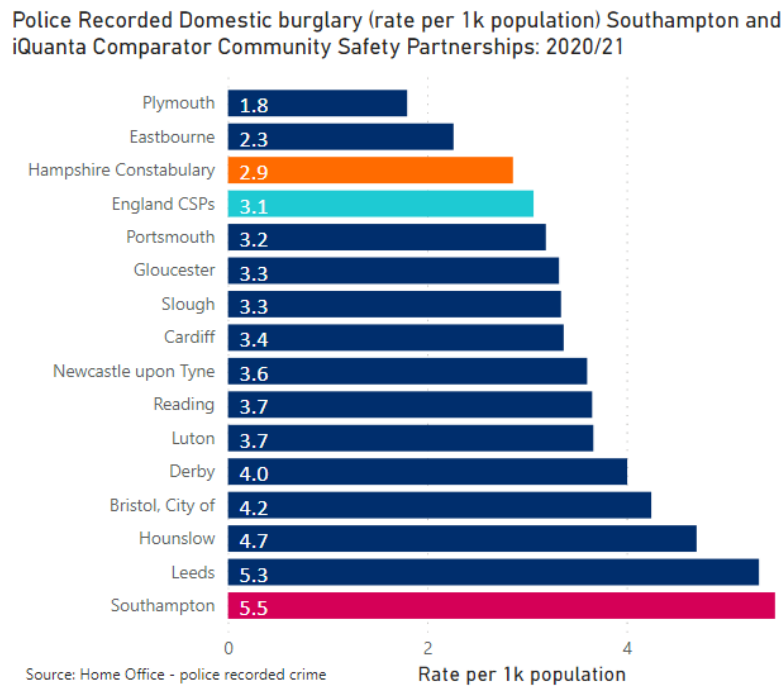
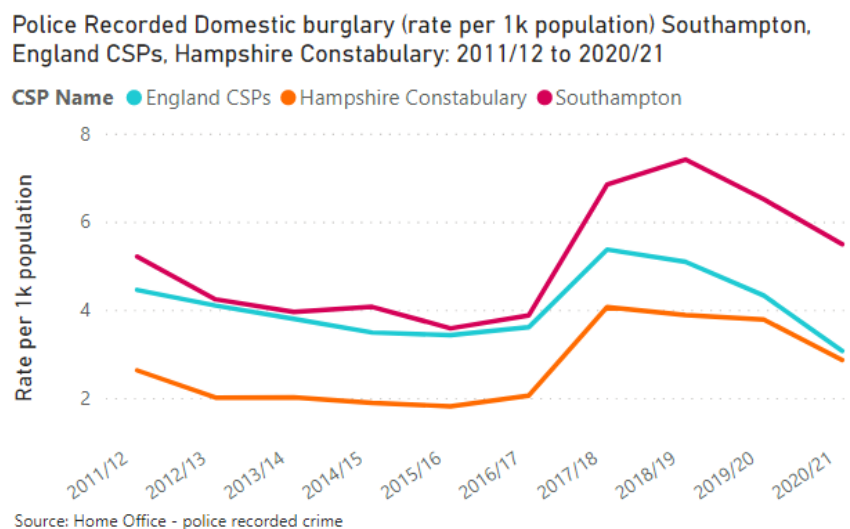


Figure 3.14: Trend in the rate of residential burglaries for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



Southampton has experienced a decline in residential burglaries for the second consecutive year, with the number of residential burglaries declining by -15.6% over the last year. England also experienced a -28.7% decline and Hampshire Constabulary a -24% decline during the same period. The decline over the last two years is likely to reflect a genuine decline in residential burglaries in Southampton, as residential burglary alongside other theft offences are less likely to be impacted by recording improvements, as they are relatively well reported to and recorded by the police.

Declines in residential burglary and other theft offences over the last year have largely been attributed to the coronavirus pandemic, as more people stayed at home and limited their social contact.<sup>43</sup> As a result, this has limited the opportunity for acquisitive crimes. There are suggestions that residential burglary may not return to pre-pandemic volumes or patterns for some time or at all, as the pandemic has led to long-term shifts towards home working.<sup>44</sup> Additionally, the emergence of new technology could have played a role in the decline in residential burglary experienced over the last two years. Technology can act as a deterrent and footage captured can be sent to police to support investigations.

Despite the decline in residential burglary over the last year, the Southampton rate remains significantly higher than all districts across the force area. Residential burglary again features as a priority in this assessment after not featuring as prominently in the 2019/20 assessment. The Partnership should continue to monitor trends and patterns of residential burglary in Southampton, especially as any long-term shifts in residential burglary could potentially lead to crime displacement. This is potentially a risk as residential burglary offenders tend to commit a wide range of crimes, with residential burglary accounting for less than a quarter (23.6%) of offences committed by residential burglary offenders in 2020/21.

Sub city patterns of residential burglary also differ in 2020/21 compared to the previous year (2019/20). In 2020/21, Bevois, Portswood and Bargate wards had the highest rate of residential burglary (*Figure 3.15*). Whereas in 2019/20, Redbridge, Shirley and Freemantle were the most affected wards.

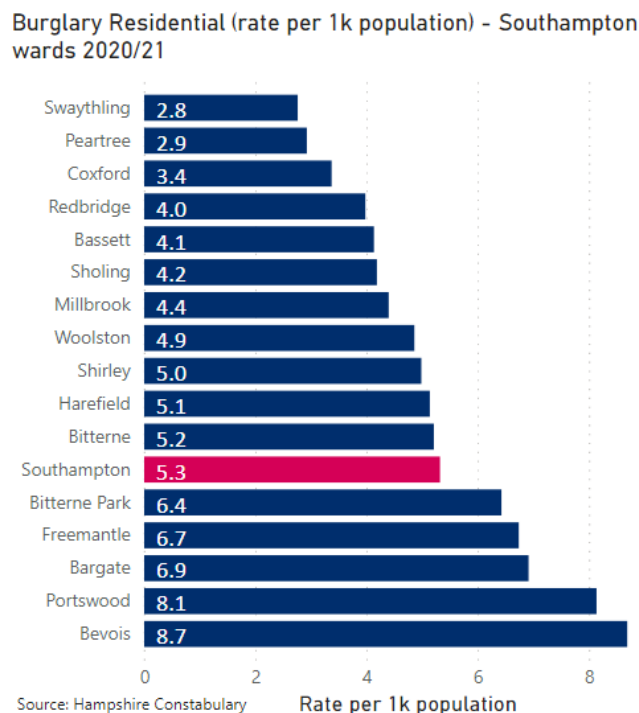
<sup>43</sup> Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2021, Online available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

<sup>44</sup> Langton *et al.* Six months in: pandemic crime trends in England and Wales, Crime Science, Online available at:

<https://crimesciencejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40163-021-00142-z>

Figure 3.15: Ward benchmarking chart showing rate of residential burglaries in 2020/21



### 3.4.1 Points for the Partnership to note

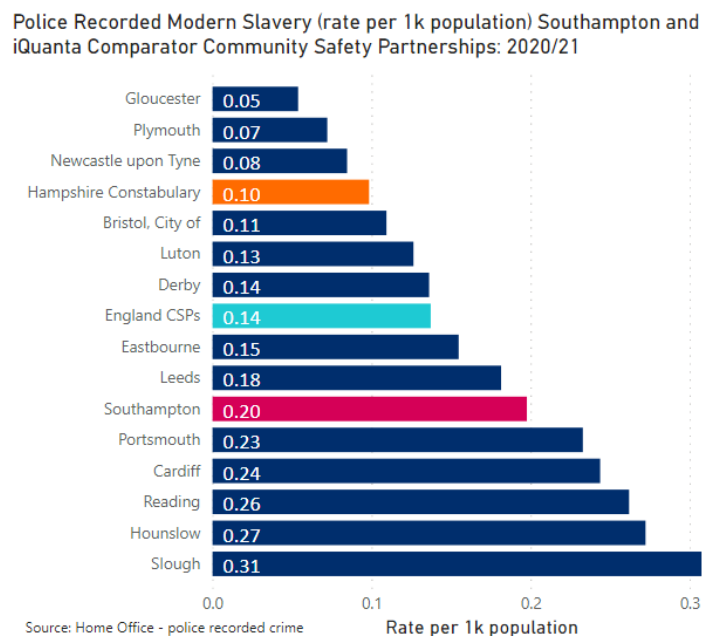
- Residential burglary has again been highlighted as a priority crime type for the Partnership. However, residential burglary likely features as a priority again due to the change in volume and severity of many other offence types pushing residential burglary higher up the priority ranking.
- Southampton has experienced a decline in residential burglary for the second consecutive year. There was a -15.6% decline in the number of residential burglaries over the last year, with the decline largely attributed to more people staying at home and limited social contact because of the pandemic.
- Despite the decline in the number of offences over the last year, Southampton has the highest rate among comparator CSPs and a significantly higher rate than all other districts in the force area.
- There are suggestions that residential burglary may not return to pre-pandemic volumes or patterns for some time or at all, due to a long-term shift towards home working. The Partnership should continue to monitor trends and patterns of residential burglary, particularly as long-term shifts in residential burglary could lead to crime displacement, especially as residential burglary offenders are known to commit a wide range of crimes.



### 3.5 Modern slavery

Modern slavery is an umbrella term for all forms of slavery, human trafficking and exploitation. It is a crime that affects some of the most vulnerable in society.<sup>44</sup> There were 50 crimes for modern slavery recorded in 2020/21, a 47.1% (16 crimes) increase compared to the previous year. Across Hampshire Constabulary the number of modern slavery offences increased by 22.4% (36 crimes) over the last year. However, England experienced a -0.5% decline in the number of modern slavery offences over the last year. National declines could be a result of Covid-19 lockdowns, which would have impacted identification and recording of this crime type. Police recorded crime only provides a partial picture as many cases of modern slavery remain hidden and not reported or may be recorded as other offences.<sup>45 46</sup>

Figure 3.16: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of modern slavery offences



There have been sustained increases in the number and rate of modern slavery offences over the last three years (Figure 3.17) across Southampton and Hampshire Constabulary, with this trend likely to continue due to operational focus and the rising national profile of this crime. However, numbers remain small and the changes in rates are not statistically significant.

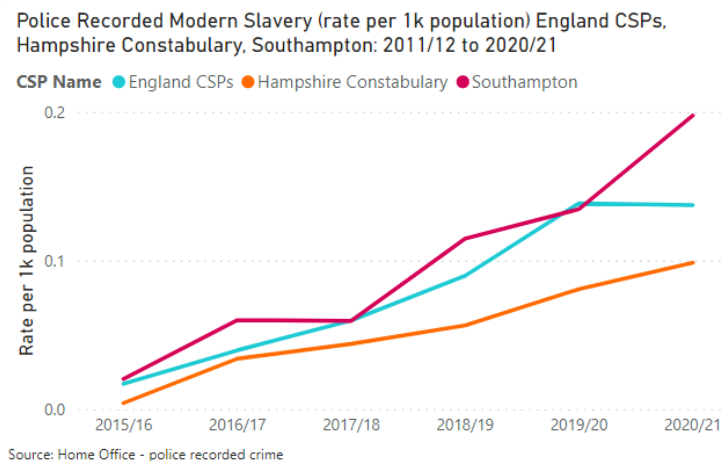
<sup>45</sup> Office for National Statistics – Modern Slavery in the UK (March 2020), Online available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/modernslaveryintheuk/march2020>

<sup>46</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

Despite the numbers of this offence type being relatively small, the physical and psychological harm caused to victims can have long lasting effects. This crime type is also particularly linked to organised crime, highlighting the threat that modern slavery and other forms of exploitation pose.<sup>47</sup>

Figure 3.17: Trend in the rate of modern slavery offences for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



### 3.5.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- The number of modern slavery crimes have increased for a third consecutive year in Southampton, which mirrors the increase experienced across the force area. Increases over the last three years are likely due to operational focus and the rising national profile of this crime. This rising trend should continue to be monitored closely.
- Many cases of modern slavery remain hidden. The Partnership should continue to work with partners to raise awareness and increase identification of these crimes.

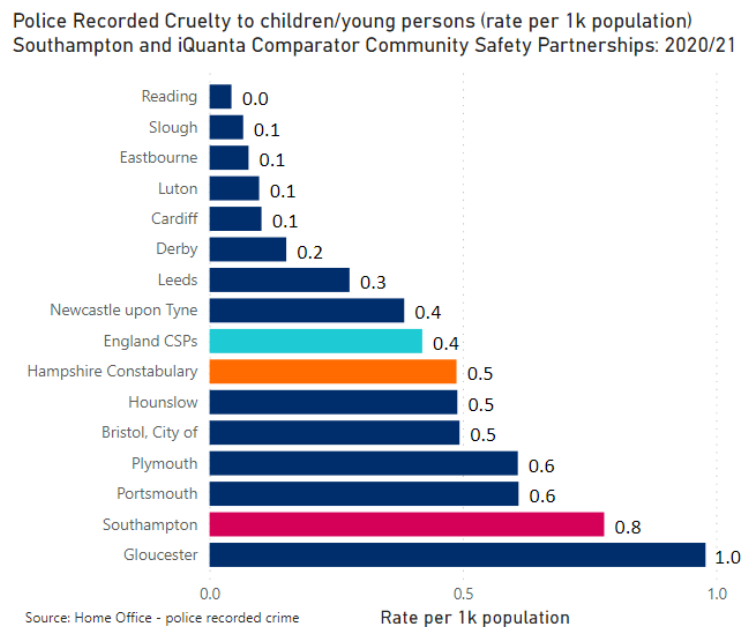
<sup>47</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

### 3.6 Cruelty to children/young persons

It is estimated that one in five adults aged 18-74 years experienced at least one form of child abuse before the age of 16 (8.5 million people)<sup>48</sup>. Children's early experiences have a significant impact on their development, educational attainment and future life chances. Notwithstanding the long-term physical and psychological impacts children can experience as a result of abuse.<sup>49</sup>

Southampton is ranked second highest among comparators for cruelty to children/young person crimes (Figure 3.18), with the Southampton rate of 0.8 offences per 1k population significantly higher than the England average (0.4 per 1k population).

Figure 3.18: Benchmarking chart showing the rate in cruelty to children/young person offences



Over the last year, Southampton has experienced a -8.4% decline in the number of cruelty to children/young person crimes, with Hampshire Constabulary (-2.6%) experiencing a smaller decline during the same period. England experienced a 11.8% increase in the number of cruelty to children/young person crimes over the last year. It is unlikely the decline experienced across Southampton and Hampshire Constabulary over the last year reflects a genuine decline due to repeated periods of lockdown and children spending more time at home, making it more difficult for abuse to be identified. It is thought that volumes will return to pre-pandemic levels and potentially

<sup>48</sup> Office for National Statistics – Child abuse in England and Wales (March 2020), Online available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/childabuseinenglandandwales/march2020>

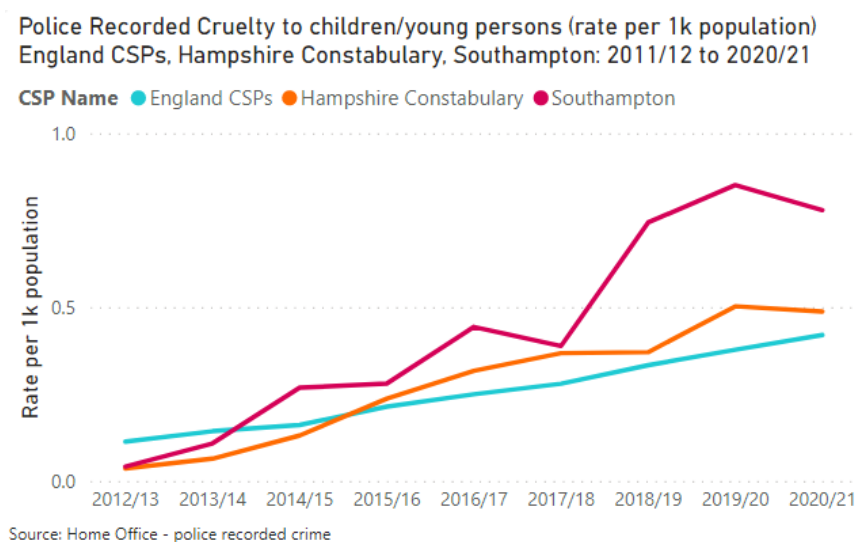
<sup>49</sup> Young Minds – Childhood adversity, substance misuse and young people's mental health (2016), Online Available at:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/media/1547/ym-addaction-briefing.pdf>

higher through belated reports, as children regain access to their trusted adults through school and other support systems.<sup>50</sup>

The NSPCC helpline saw an increase in contacts during lockdowns, with figures for April 2020 13% higher than pre-lockdown, and figures in May 2020 31% higher than in April 2020. The above figures provide some indication of how the pandemic has affected child abuse; however, it will be some time before the true extent of how the pandemic affected the prevalence of child abuse can be determined.<sup>51</sup>

Figure 3.19: Trend in the rate of cruelty to children/young person offences for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



### 3.6.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- The decline in cruelty to children/young persons offences over the last year in Southampton and across the force area is unlikely to reflect a genuine decline due to repeated periods of lockdown and children spending more time at home, making it more difficult for abuse to be identified. It is expected that volumes will return to pre-pandemic levels and potentially higher through belated reports as children regain access to school and other support systems.
- The Partnership should continue to work with partners to promote ACE awareness and a trauma informed approach among professionals.

<sup>50</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

<sup>51</sup> NPSCC – Isolated and struggling Social isolation and the risk of child maltreatment, in lockdown and beyond (June 2020), Online available at: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/2246/isolated-and-struggling-social-isolation-risk-child-maltreatment-lockdown-and-beyond.pdf>

### 3.7 Hate crime

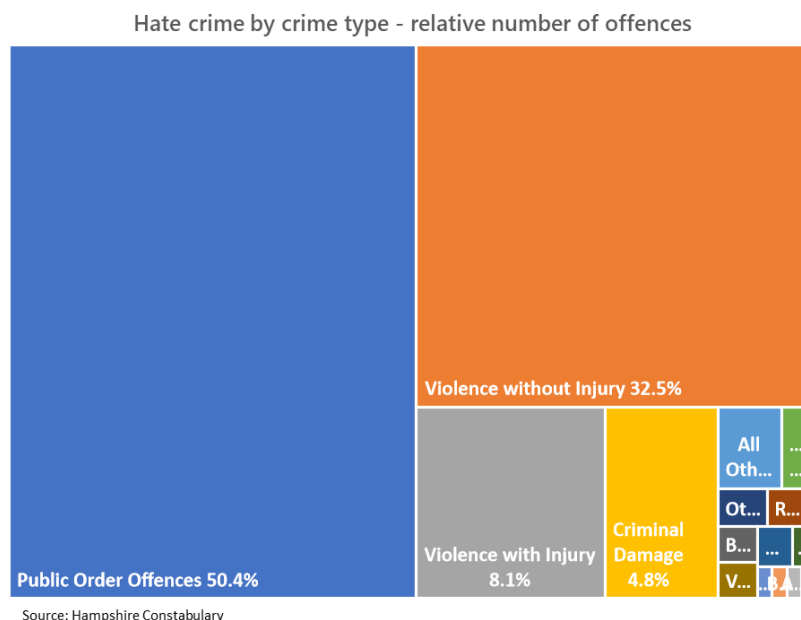
Hate crime is defined as ‘any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic.’<sup>52</sup> There are five monitored strands of hate crime:

- Race or ethnicity;
- Religion or beliefs;
- Sexual orientation;
- Disability;
- and transgender identity.

The Home Office are intending to pilot the creation of an additional characteristic to the existing list of hate crime stands, where the victim perceives the crime to have been motivated by a hostility based on their sex. Additionally, from April 2021, the Home Office has made it mandatory to collect the ethnicity of victims of racial hate crimes recorded by the police.<sup>49</sup>

There were 952 recorded hate crime offences in Southampton during 2020/21, around half of which were public order offences (50.4%), with the second most common offence type being violence without injury (32.5%), followed by violence with injury (8.1%) (Figure 3.20).

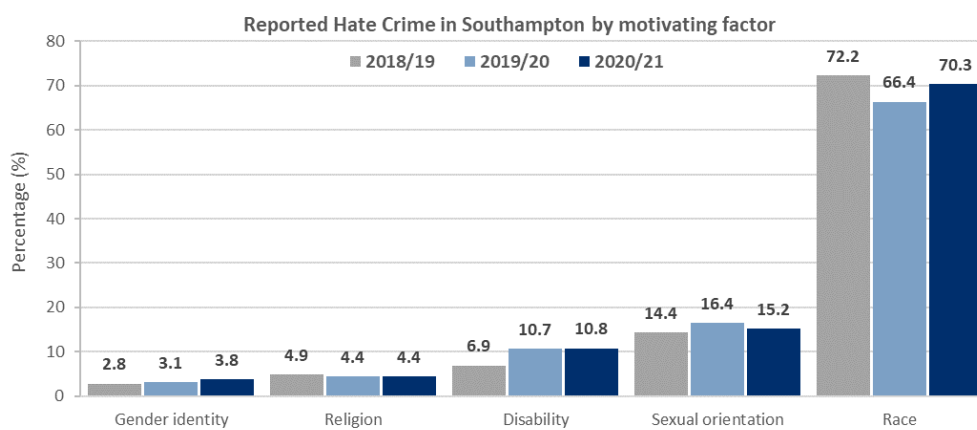
Figure 3.20: Tree map showing relative number (%) of offences for hate crime in Southampton during 2020/21



<sup>52</sup> Home Office – Hate Crime in England and Wales (2020/21), Online available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2020-to-2021/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2020-to-2021>

A hate crime can have more than one motivating factor (strand). Race continues to be the largest (70.3%) motivating factor of hate crime in Southampton (2020/21), which is in line with England and Wales (74% in 2020/21).<sup>52</sup> The second largest motivating factor in Southampton remains sexual orientation (15.2%), followed by disability (10.8%) (Figure 3.21).

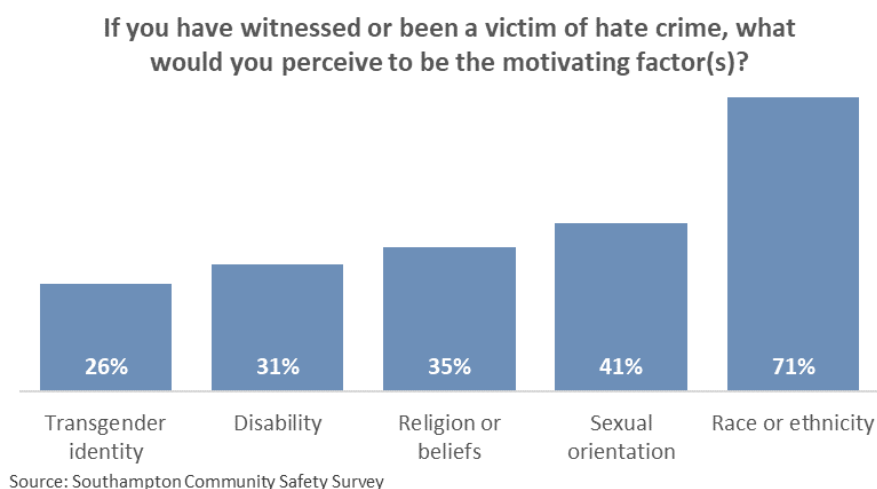
Figure 3.21: Chart showing hate crime in Southampton by motivating factor (strand)



Source: Hampshire Constabulary - percentages will not sum to 100% as hate crimes can have more than 1 motivating factor

21% of respondents from the 2021 Southampton Community Safety Survey (see [Section 4](#)) had reported witnessing hate crime and a further 6% had reported that they had been a victim of hate crime in the last 12 months. Figure 3.22 shows perceived motivating factors of respondents who had witnessed or been a victim of hate crime. Race or ethnicity is the largest motivating factor (71%) reported by respondents, followed by sexual orientation (41%); this is line with police recorded crime, with race and sexual orientation the most commonly recorded motivating factor.

Figure 3.22: Chart showing hate crime in Southampton by motivating factor (strand)

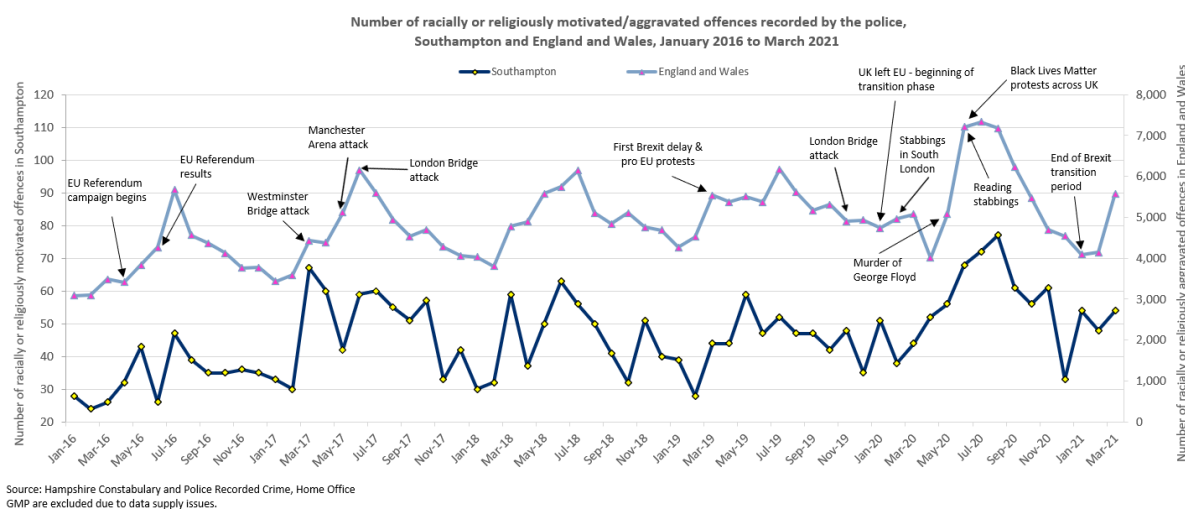


Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey

Southampton experienced a year-on-year increase of 19.4% (155 crimes) in hate crime, which is higher than the 9% increase in police recorded hate crime across England and Wales. However, both local and national increases over recent years are driven by improvements in recording, a better understanding of what constitutes a hate crime and an increase in victims coming forward to report hate crimes.<sup>53,54</sup> Increases seen in Southampton over the last year could also reflect local reporting processes, where individuals reporting a crime are directly asked whether they think the crime is a hate crime or motivated by hate.

Although the above reasons are thought to be the main drivers for the increases in hate crime experienced in recent years, there is evidence to suggest that there have been short-term genuine rises in hate crime following certain trigger events, such as terrorist attacks and political events, for example, the EU Referendum (Figure 3.23). Nationally, there was also an increase in public order hate crimes during the summer of 2020 following the widespread Black Lives Matter protests and far-right counter-protests.<sup>51</sup> This is evidenced locally, with peaks in racially or religiously aggravated hate crime during June – August 2020 (Figure 3.23).

Figure 3.23: Chart showing monthly trend in the number of racially or religiously motivated/aggravated offences recorded by the police mapped against 'trigger' events



The picture of hate crime at sub city level differs slightly compared to previous years. In 2019/20, Bargate and Bevois wards had the highest rates of hate crime, with hotspots in the night-time economy areas of these wards. In 2020/21, Bevois and Freemantle wards had the highest rates of hate

<sup>53</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment (2021)

<sup>54</sup> Home Office – Hate Crime in England and Wales (2020/21), Online available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2020-to-2021/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2020-to-2021>



crime, with Bargate ward 3<sup>rd</sup> highest.<sup>55</sup> This change is likely due to suppression of the night-time economy over the last year, with hate crime declining by -31.1% (-60 crimes) in Bargate ward.

### 3.7.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- Hate crime in Southampton increased by 19.4% over the last year. It is unlikely this reflects a genuine increase in hate crime, rather a combination of local reporting practices, improvements in recording, better understanding of what a hate crime is and an increase in victims coming forward to report offences. However, there is evidence to suggest that there have been short-term genuine increases in hate crime following certain trigger events, both nationally and locally. The Partnership should continue to monitor any increases in hate crime as well as community tensions, particularly following trigger events.
- The Home Office are intending to pilot recording of 'sex' as a hate crime strand, where the victim perceives the crime to have been motivated by a hostility based on their sex. This addition is likely to lead to an increase in police recorded hate crime. Additionally, from April 2021, it has become mandatory for police forces to collect victim ethnicity of racial hate crimes reported to the police.
- The Partnership should continue to engage and work with communities to encourage reporting of all forms of hate crimes when it occurs.

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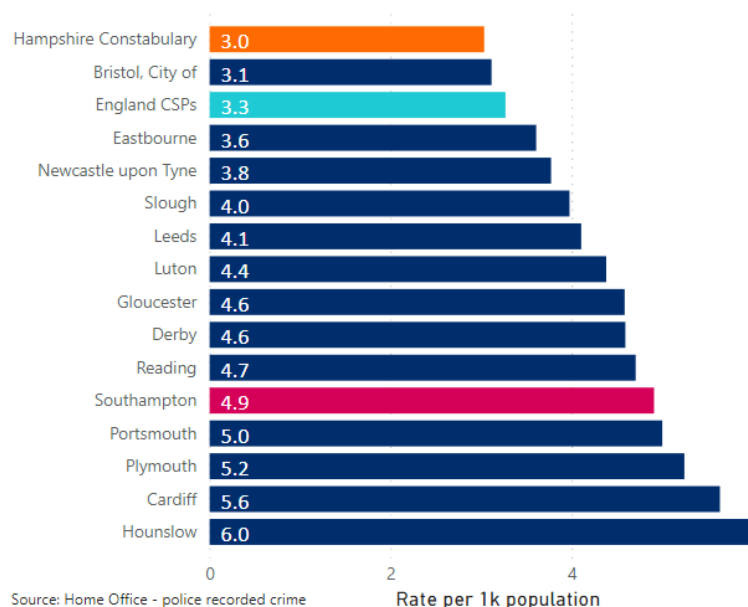
<sup>55</sup> Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment 2019/20, Online Available at: [https://data.southampton.gov.uk/images/safe-city-strategic-assessment-summary2019-20\\_tcm71-434506.pdf](https://data.southampton.gov.uk/images/safe-city-strategic-assessment-summary2019-20_tcm71-434506.pdf)

### 3.8 Drugs and Alcohol

Southampton has a drug offence rate of 4.9 offences per 1k population in 2020/21, significantly higher than the England average of 3.3 offences per 1k population (*Figure 3.24*). The number of drug offences in Southampton increased by 33% (308 crimes) over the last year, this compares with a 34% increase across Hampshire Constabulary and 11.1% increase across England (*Figure 3.25*). The number of drug affected crimes (where drugs are flagged as a factor) also increased by 17% in Southampton over the last year.

Figure 3.24: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of drug offences

Police Recorded Drug offences (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2020/21



The number of drug offences recorded by the police is heavily dependent on police activities and priorities, which change over time. Over the last two years, drug crime has had operational focus in Southampton. This includes but is not limited to the disruption of drug networks, reducing the trafficking of drugs and focus on drug related violence through the high harm team. The coronavirus pandemic has also contributed to the increase in police recorded drug offences experienced over the last year. Firstly, drug crime became more visible on streets due to people staying at home. Secondly, there has been an increase in stop-checks in support of COVID enforcement.<sup>56 57</sup> Therefore, changes over the last year are likely to reflect changes in the policing of drug crime in Southampton as well coronavirus restrictions making drug crime more visible and increasing stop-checks, rather than a real change in incidence.

<sup>56</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

<sup>57</sup> Langton, S. (2020). Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in greater London. *Statistical Bulletin on Crime and COVID-19*

Sub-city analysis of drug offences and drug related crime shows a similar picture to previous years, with Bevois, Bargate and Freemantle wards still having the highest recorded rates of drug offences and drug affected crime in the city. There also continues to be a strong link between drug offences and deprivation, with the drug offence rate 4.2 times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city compared to the least deprived (Figure 3.26).

Figure 3.25: Trend chart showing the rate of drug offences for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England

Police Recorded Drug offences (rate per 1k population) Southampton, England CSPs, Hampshire Constabulary: 2011/12 to 2020/21

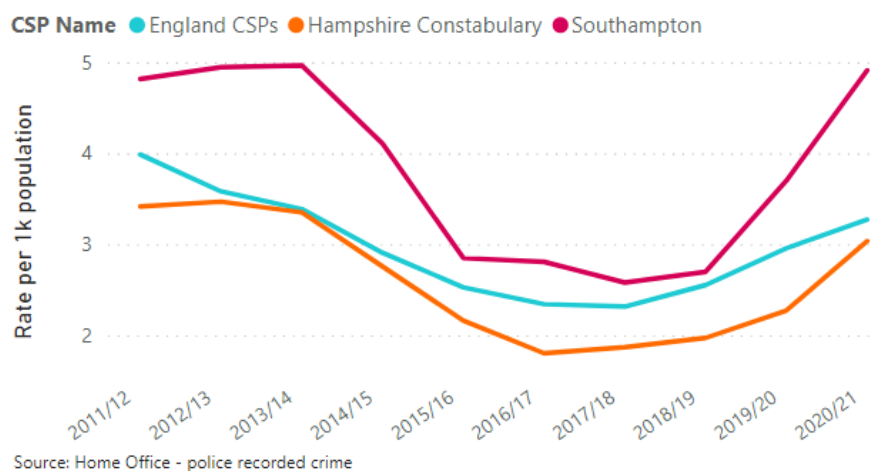
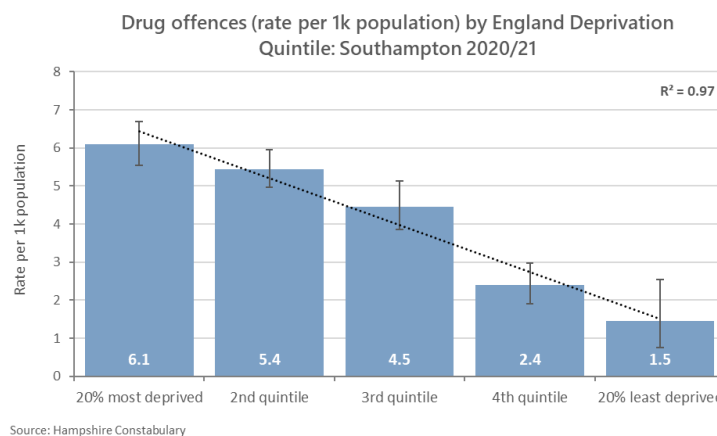


Figure 3.26: Quintile chart showing relationship between drug offences and deprivation

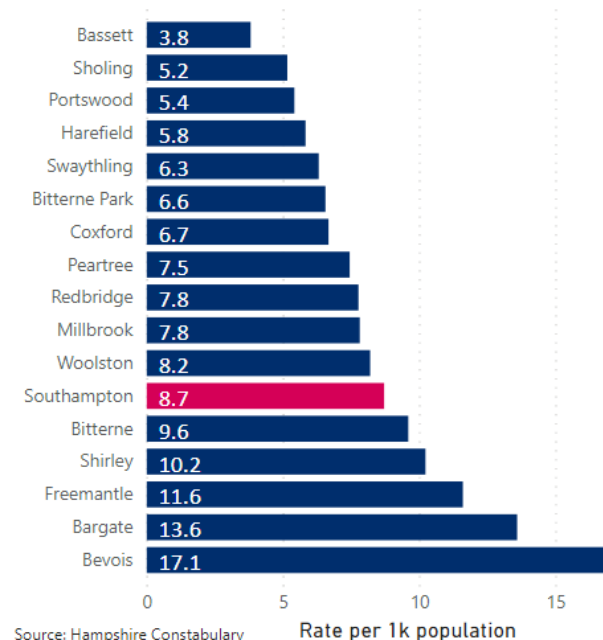


There were 2,268 alcohol affected crimes in Southampton during 2020/21, which is a decline of -13.3% (347 crimes) compared to the previous year. The decline in alcohol affected crime over the last year will be largely driven by suppression of the night-time economy.<sup>58</sup> Similar to previous years, the majority of alcohol affected crimes in 2020/21 were violent crimes (71.1%).

<sup>58</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

Figure 3.27: Ward benchmarking showing the rate of alcohol affected crime

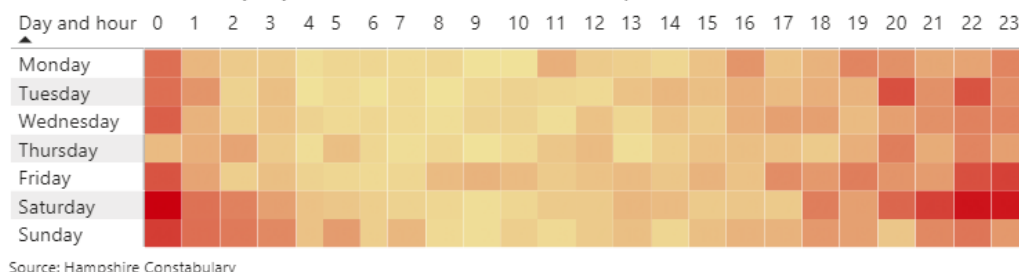
Alcohol affected crime (rate per 1k population) - Southampton wards 2020/21



Bevois and Bargate wards continue to have the highest rate of alcohol affected crime (Figure 3.27), with rates of alcohol affected crime significantly higher in these wards compared to the city average. Temporal profiling of alcohol affected crimes is similar to previous years, with peak times late at night or during the early hours on weekends (Figure 3.28). This suggests that despite suppression of the night-time economy over the last year, Bargate and Bevois wards remain significant hotspots for alcohol affected crime. It is expected that volumes of alcohol affected crime will return to pre-pandemic levels, particularly if the night-time economy remains unrestricted.

Figure 3.28: Chart showing peak day and times for alcohol affected crime

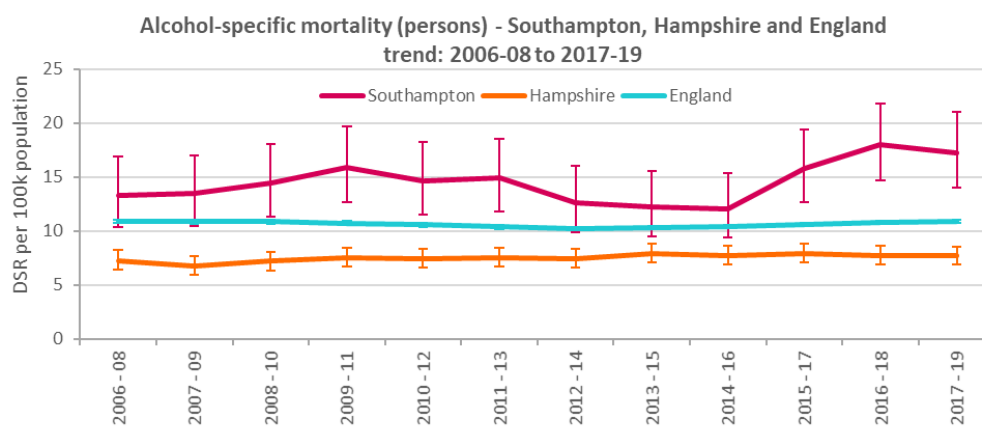
Alcohol affected crime by day and time of occurrence - Southampton: 2020/21



Not only does drug and alcohol misuse impact on crime, but it can also cause significant physical and psychological harm to the individual as well as friends and families of those affected. Alcohol misuse is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health and disability among those aged 15-49 in the UK.

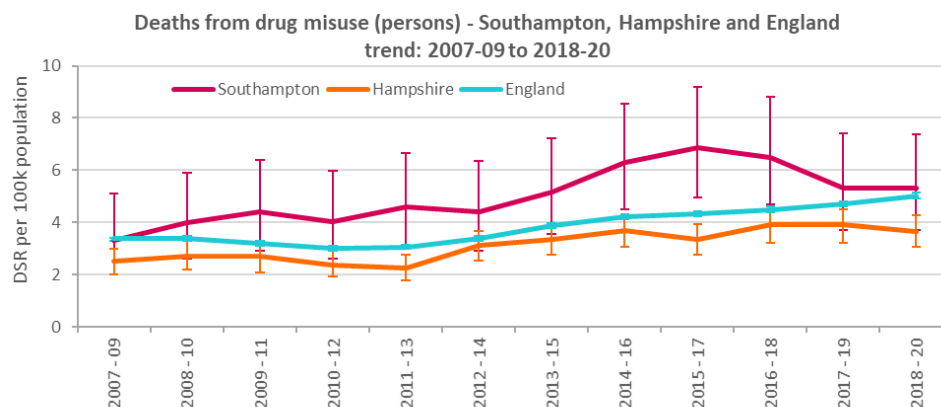
Southampton has a significantly higher rate of alcohol-specific mortality than the national average, with the rate experiencing a slight decline over the last data period (*Figure 3.29*). Between 2017-19 there were 99 deaths from alcohol-specific conditions in Southampton.<sup>59</sup> Drug misuse is also a significant cause of premature mortality in the UK. Deaths from drug misuse in Southampton have experienced a decline in recent years, with the Southampton rate similar to the national average for the last two data periods (*Figure 3.30*). There were 38 deaths from drug misuse in Southampton during 2018-20.<sup>60</sup>

Figure 3.29: Chart showing trend in the rate of alcohol-specific mortality for Southampton, Hampshire and England



Source: Public Health England Fingertips

Figure 3.30: Chart showing trend in the rate of deaths from drug misuse for Southampton, Hampshire and England



Source: Public Health England Fingertips

<sup>59</sup> Public Health England Fingertips, Local Alcohol Profiles, Online Available at: [https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/local-alcohol-profiles/data#page/6/gid/1938132832/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/102/are/E06000045/iid/91380/age/1/sex/4/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0\\_car-do-0](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/local-alcohol-profiles/data#page/6/gid/1938132832/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/102/are/E06000045/iid/91380/age/1/sex/4/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0_car-do-0)

<sup>60</sup> Public Health England Fingertips, Deaths from Drug Misuse, Online available at: [https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/drug#page/3/gid/1/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/202/are/E06000045/iid/92432/age/1/sex/4/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/ovw-do-0\\_car-do-0](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/drug#page/3/gid/1/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/202/are/E06000045/iid/92432/age/1/sex/4/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/ovw-do-0_car-do-0)

### 3.8.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- Drug offences in Southampton increased for a second consecutive year. Increases over the last two years reflect operational focus on drug crime in Southampton, with the increase over the last year also affected by coronavirus restrictions making drug crime more visible as well as an increase in stop-checks by officers. The Partnership should continue the focus on drug crime, in particular drug related violence and the disruption of drug networks.
- Alcohol affected crime declined by -13.3% over the last year, with this decline driven by suppression of the night-time economy during 2020/21. It is expected that alcohol affected crime will return to pre-pandemic levels over the next year, particularly if the night-time economy remains unrestricted. However, the Partnership should work to limit the extent of which alcohol affected crime returns to pre-pandemic levels.
- The Partnership should continue to work with partners to raise awareness of the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse. Particularly around the risk and harm posed to vulnerable children in the city.

## 4. Resident views

Each year a survey is conducted to understand the views of people living, studying and working in Southampton on community safety issues. The 2021 Southampton Community Safety survey ran from 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The survey was promoted through the Southampton City Council communities' team and the Southampton People's Panel. The survey was predominantly online, but face to face surveys were also conducted by the communities' team. The survey had a total of 2,551 valid responses.

Due to the self-selecting nature of an online survey, participants may have more interest in community safety issues than the general population, and possibly different views. It should also be noted that results presented are based on unweighted data to enable comparisons with previous years, but due to methodological differences between surveys, any differences should be interpreted with caution.

It should also be emphasised that this survey ran between August and September 2021, whereas published police recorded crime covers the period of April 2020 to March 2021. Therefore, caution should be taken when making comparisons between resident's views and police recorded crime statistics, because differences could be due to different data periods. Additionally, the 2021 survey was conducted several months after covid restrictions were eased across the UK; therefore, this may have also affected respondents' views on community safety.

Figures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 show the demographic breakdown of respondents. The largest respondent age group was those aged under 16, with this age group accounting for 31% of respondents. There were more female respondents than male, but overall a good representation from both sexes. The majority of respondents were white (90%), with 10% from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Figure 4.1: Chart showing age breakdown of survey respondents

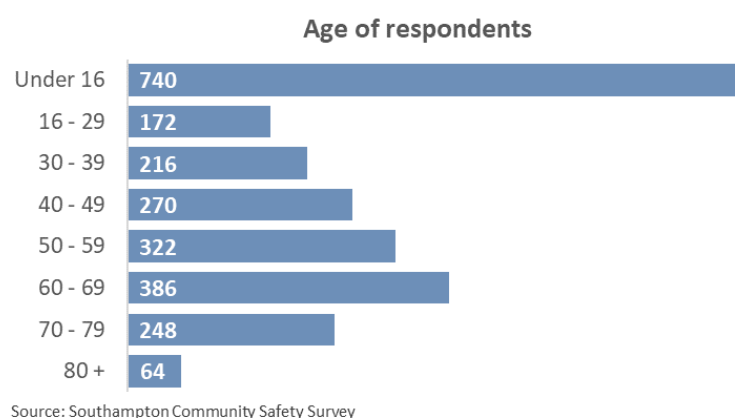




Figure 4.2: Chart showing sex of survey respondents

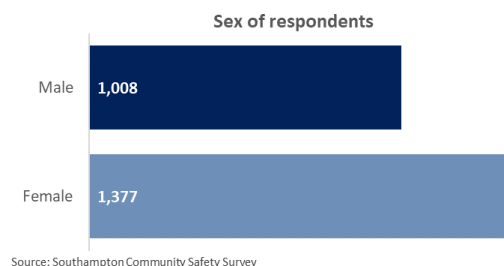
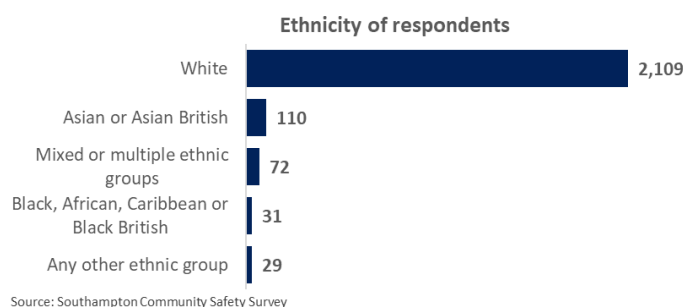


Figure 4.3: Chart showing ethnicity of survey respondents



## Community cohesion

The majority (63%) of respondents from the 2021 survey agreed that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (Figure 4.4), which is a similar proportion compared to 2019 survey (63%). Figure 4.5 shows the geographic and demographic breakdown for this question; generally, there is good agreement across the different breakdowns.

Figure 4.4: Chart showing proportion of respondents that agree or disagree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together

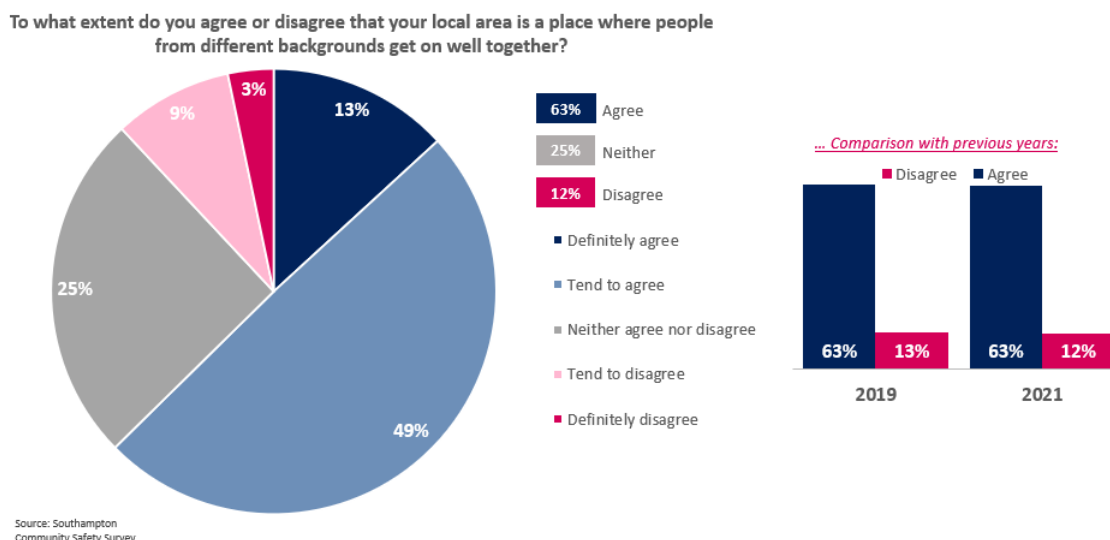
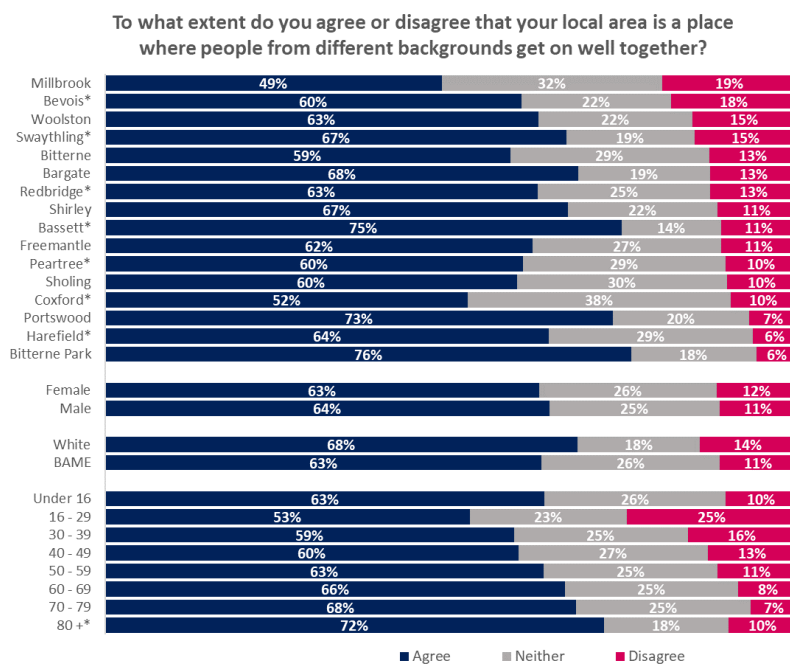


Figure 4.5: Chart showing geographic and demographic breakdowns for the question on whether respondents that agree or disagree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together



### Confidence in police and other local public services

One in four (26%) respondents agreed that the police and other local public services were successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area in the most recent (2021) survey (*Figure 4.6*). This is a 5 percentage point reduction in agreement compared to the previous (2020) survey, where 31% agreed with this statement, which suggests that people are less confident in how we are dealing with crime in the city. However, there has also been a 2 percentage point reduction in respondents disagreeing with this statement between the two surveys, suggesting people are unsure. It is important to note that public perceptions towards how police and other public services are dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour can be influenced by:

- High profile national events, particularly around Violence Against Women and Girls
- COVID pandemic making certain crime types more visible
- Social media, digital presence of police, council, and other public services

Respondents from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly more likely to agree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area than those from white ethnic backgrounds (*Figure 4.7*). Under 16's agreed to the greatest extent for this question (52%), significantly higher than all other age groups. Respondents from Millbrook (69%), Redbridge (61%), Bargate (58%) and Freemantle (58%) disagreed to the greatest extent.

Figure 4.6: Chart showing proportion of respondents that agree or disagree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area

To what extent would you agree or disagree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in your local area?

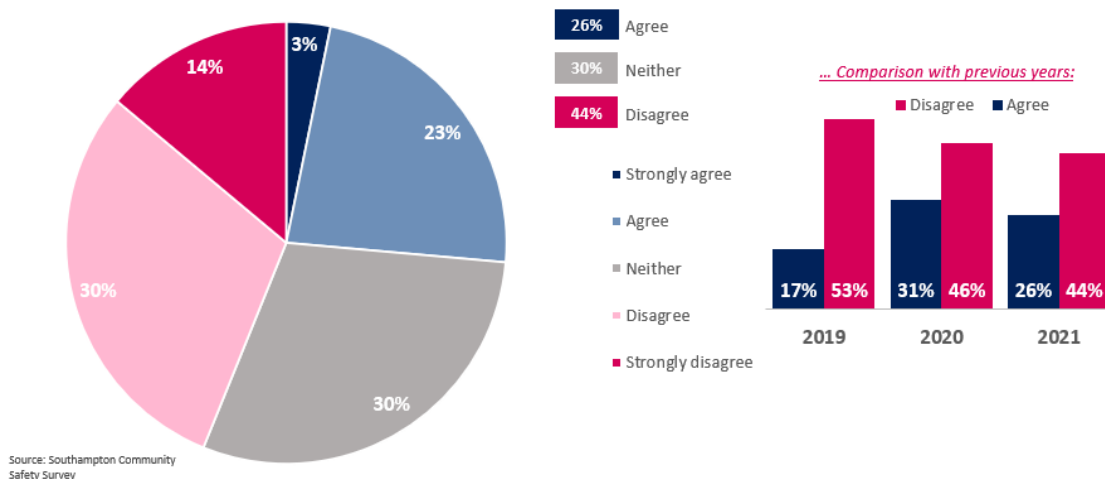
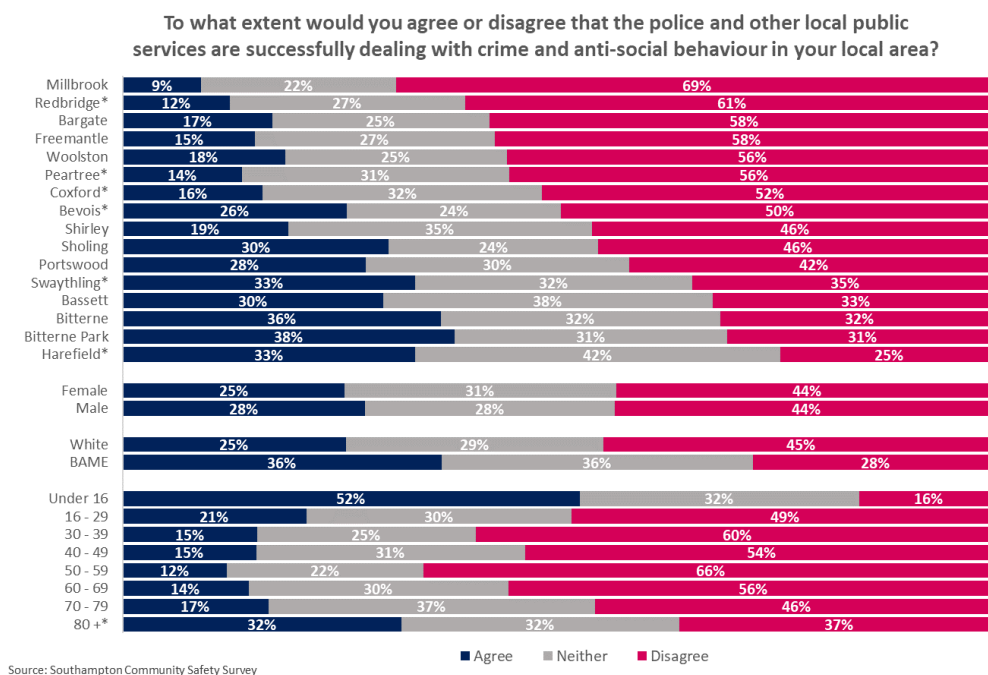


Figure 4.7: Chart showing geographic and demographic breakdowns for the question on whether respondents agree or disagree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area



### Perception of crime levels

48% of respondents in the most recent survey felt crime in their local area had increased in the last 12 months (Figure 4.8) and 44% felt crime levels had stayed the same. The proportion feeling crime had increased in the most recent survey is similar to the 2020 survey (47% felt crime had increased) but remains lower than the 55% in the 2019 survey feeling crime had increased.

Figure 4.9 shows the geographic and demographic breakdown for the question on crime levels. A significantly higher proportion of females (50%) felt that crime had increased in their local area over the last 12 months compared to males (43%). Those from white ethnic backgrounds were significantly more likely to feel that crime had increased compared to respondents from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, those aged under 16 felt crime had increased to a lesser extent compared to all other age groups.

Respondents who live in Millbrook (73%) felt crime had increased the most over the last 12 months, compared to respondents from Bitterne Park where only 34% felt crime had increased (Figure 4.9). As well as feeling that crime had increased to the greatest extent in the last 12 months, respondents from Millbrook had the highest levels of disagreement for the question on how the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour.

Figure 4.8: Chart showing proportion of respondents that think crime has increased, stayed the same or decreased in their local area in the last 12 months

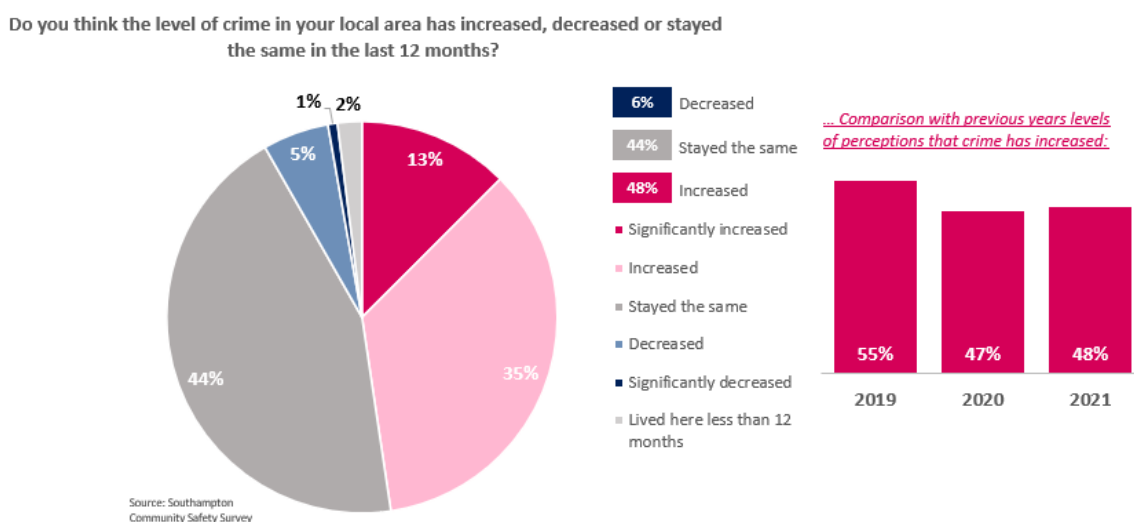
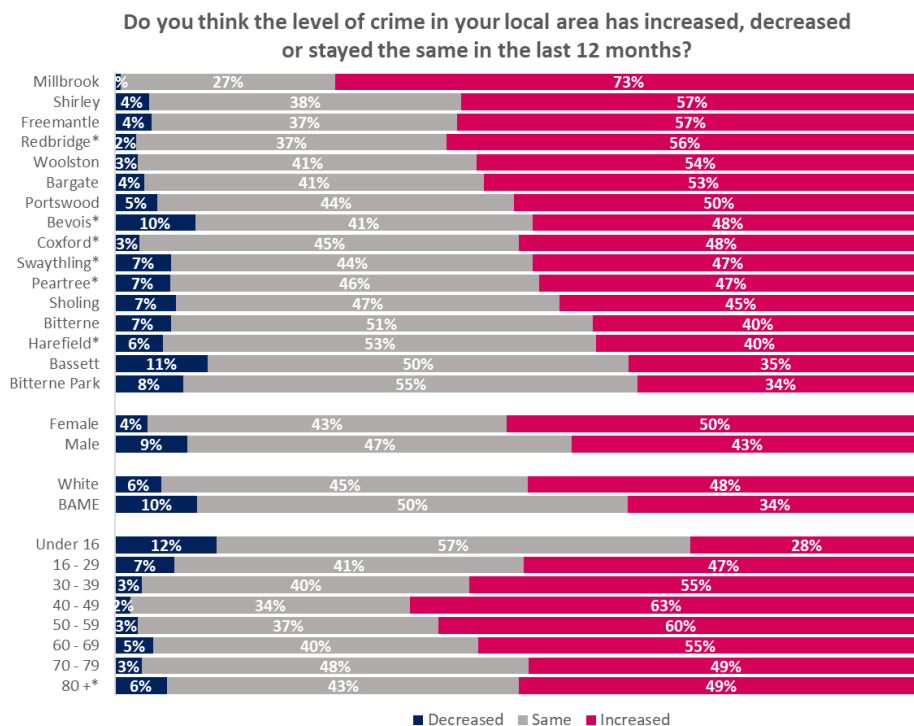


Figure 4.9: Chart showing geographic and demographic breakdowns for the question on whether respondents think crime has increased, stayed the same or decreased in their local area in the last 12 months



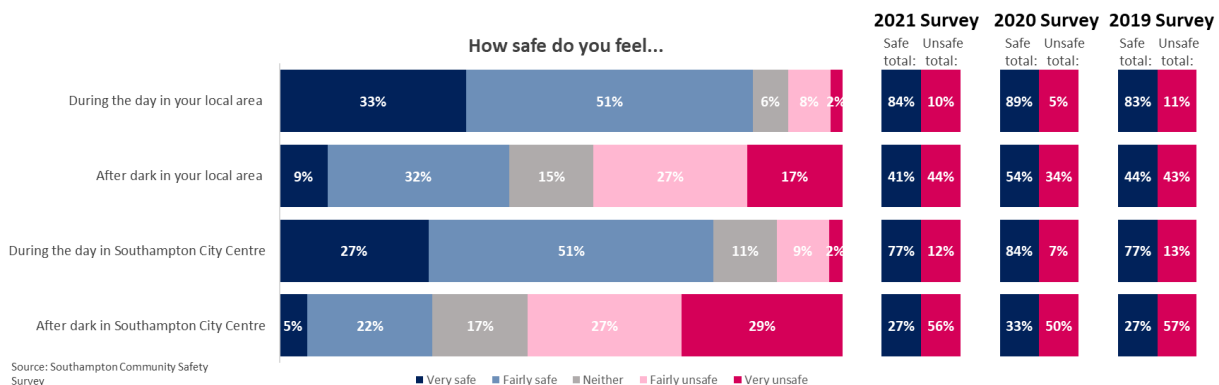
### Feelings of safety in Southampton

The majority of respondents in the most recent survey (2021) felt safe during the day, both in their local area (84%) and in the city centre (77%). However, feelings of safety after dark continue to be lower, with 41% of respondents feeling safe after dark in their local area and 27% feeling safe after dark in the city centre (Figure 4.10).

Feelings of safety in the most recent survey are lower in all settings compared to the 2020 survey (Figure 4.10); however, feelings of safety in the most recent survey are similar to the 2019 survey. Feelings of safety in the 2020 survey may have been influenced by the pandemic, with a more visible police presence and less people on the streets. Therefore, in the most recent survey we are likely seeing a return to pre-pandemic (2019 survey) feelings of safety.

Southampton was highlighted as an outlier in the [2020 City Survey](#) for feelings of safety after dark in the local area compared to the Local Government Association benchmark. Although the 2021 community safety survey has a different methodology compared to the 2020 City Survey, the Southampton community safety survey highlights that Southampton continues to be an outlier for feelings of safety after dark, as there has not been any improvements compared to previous community safety surveys.

Figure 4.10: Chart showing how safe respondents feel during the day and after dark in their local area and the city centre



Female respondents felt significantly more unsafe than males after dark, in both their local area and in the city centre. Younger working age adults (16-29 and 30-39) also felt less safe after dark compared to the survey average. This is a re-occurring theme as previous community safety and city surveys have also found females to feel more unsafe than males after dark.

However, feelings of safety after dark for females are not just an issue in Southampton; a recent national ONS survey found that females feel significantly more unsafe after dark than males. The survey also highlighted females aged 16-34 years felt less safe compared to females in other age groups. The survey also asked about feelings of safety during the day and after dark when walking alone in different settings, these include a quiet street close to home, busy public space and park or other open space (Figure 4.11); females feel twice as unsafe after dark than males in all settings, particularly in a park or other open space, with four out of five women feeling unsafe in this setting, compared to two out of five men feeling unsafe.<sup>61</sup>

Figure 4.11: Table showing proportion of males and females that felt unsafe after dark in different settings

Setting	Male	Female
Quiet street close to home (after dark)	14.6%	48.7%
Busy public space (after dark)	19.4%	48.7%
Park or other open space (after dark)	38.8%	81.3%

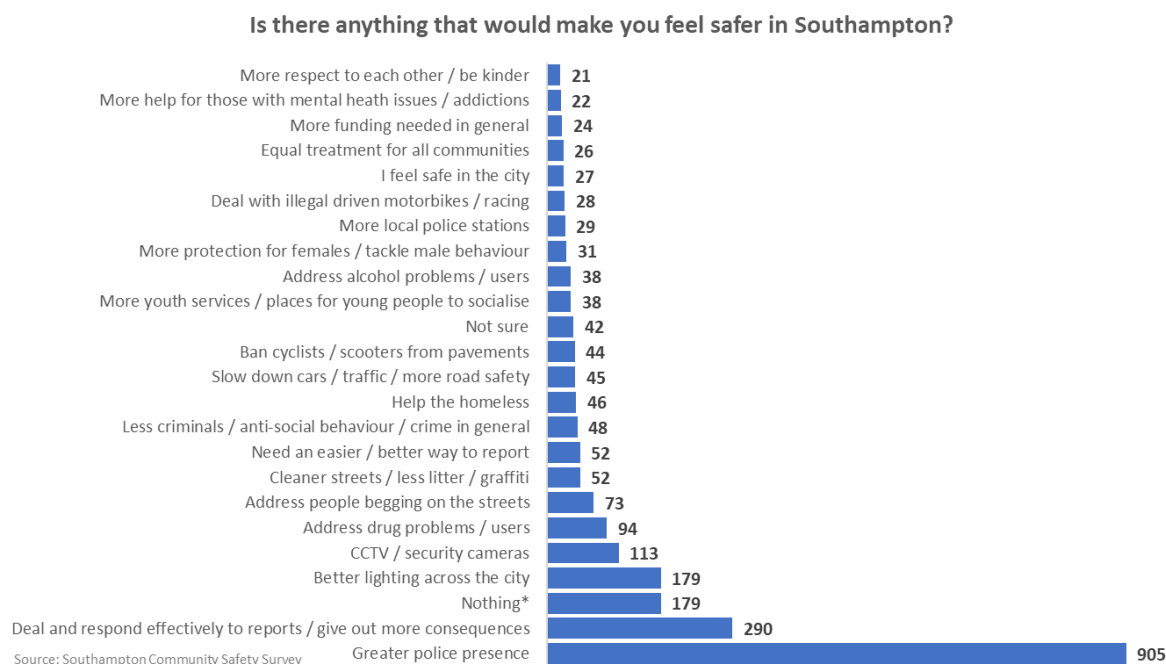
Respondents were also asked what would make them feel safer in Southampton, there were 1,739 responses to this question. The top themes highlighted by respondents are shown in Figure 4.12, the

<sup>61</sup> Office for National Statistics – Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain: 2 to 27 June 2021, Online available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/perceptionsofpersonalsafetyandexperiencesofharassmentgreatbritain/2to27june2021>

largest response was around a greater police presence, with over half (52%, 905 respondents) stating that this would make them feel safer. Other common responses include:

- Deal and respond effectively to reports/more consequences
- Better lighting across the city
- Nothing (please note that this can be interpreted in several ways, see footnote for caveats on interpretation)<sup>62</sup>
- CCTV/security cameras

Figure 4.12: Chart showing top responses to the question on what would make respondents feel safer in Southampton



### Perceived community safety issues and reporting of crime

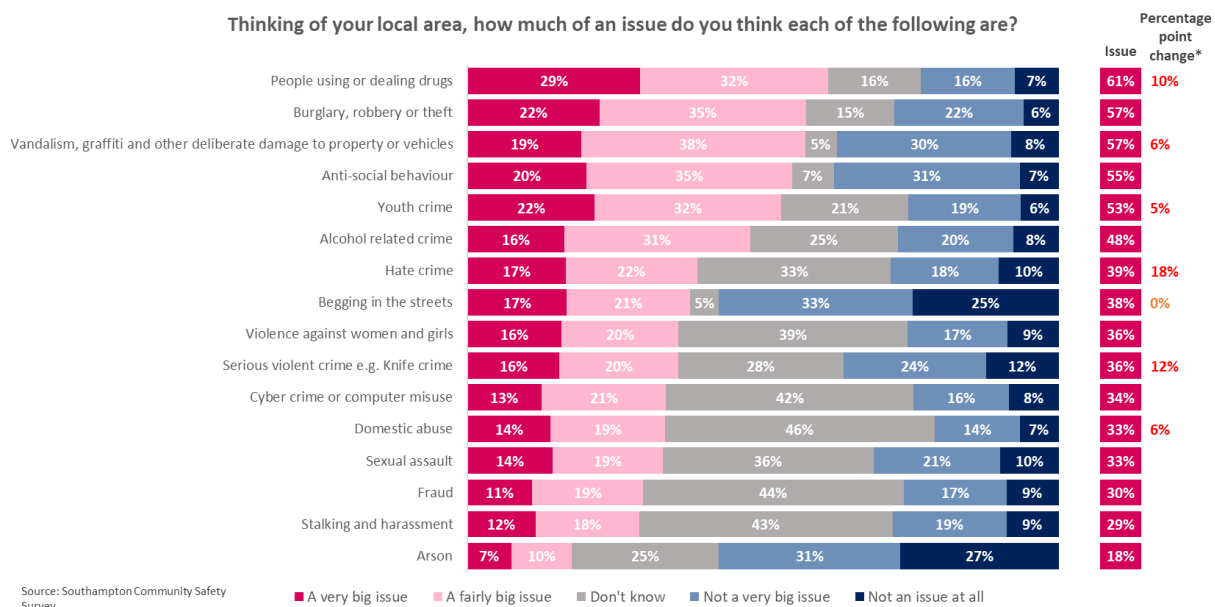
Figure 4.13 shows what respondents perceived to be the biggest issues in their local area. The biggest issues highlighted were people using or dealing drugs, burglary/robbery/theft, vandalism/graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles and anti-social behaviour. It is important to highlight that people's perceptions of issues are likely influenced by the visibility of crime, people's personal experiences and the media. Where possible, comparisons have been made against the previous survey. Domestic abuse, serious violent crime and hate crime all experienced an increase in respondents reporting these categories to be an issue between the 2020 and 2021 surveys, which may show a rising awareness and growing understanding of these issues in the city. This is important as

<sup>62</sup> It is important to note that this comment framework could be interpreted in several ways. The framework describes respondents that have responded 'nothing' or 'no' to this question and could cover those that already feel safe; therefore, nothing would make them feel safer or those that do not feel safe and nothing would make them feel safer.



domestic abuse and violent crime have been highlighted as a priority for the Partnership, alongside sexual offences, and residential burglary (see [Section 2.3](#)).

Figure 4.13: Chart showing respondents perceptions of issues in their local area



The majority of respondents (71%) in the most recent survey had not been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months (*Figure 4.14*). The proportion of respondents reporting being a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the most recent survey (29%) is slightly higher than the previous survey (26% in 2020 survey) but does remain below the 35% reporting being a victim in the 2019 survey. Respondents aged under 16 were the least likely to be a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour, with only 13% reporting being a victim (*Figure 4.15*). Those in Millbrook (51%) and Bargate (49%) wards were most likely to be a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour.

Figure 4.14: Chart showing if respondents had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months

Have you been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in Southampton in the last 12 months?

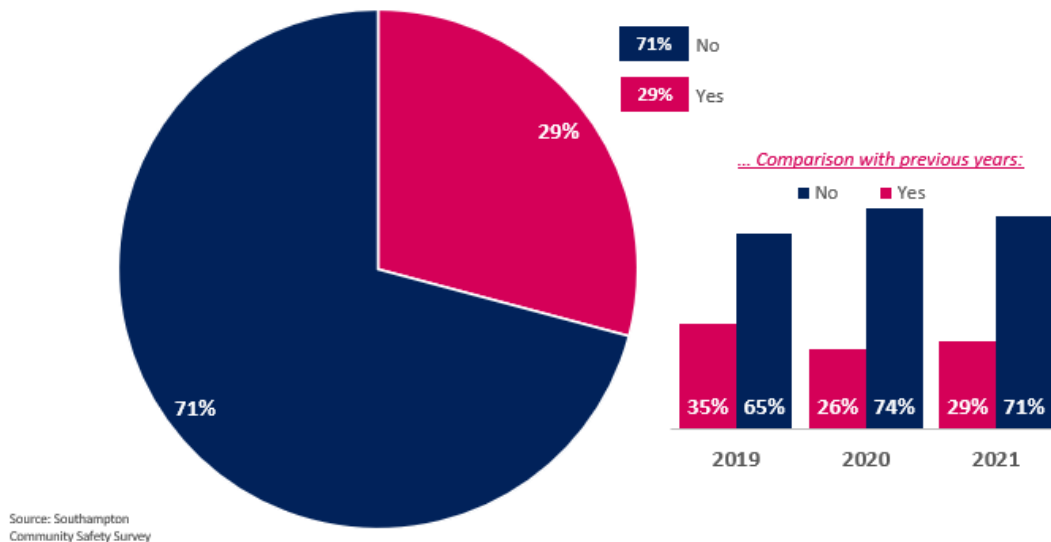


Figure 4.15: Chart showing geographic and demographic breakdowns for the question on whether respondents had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months

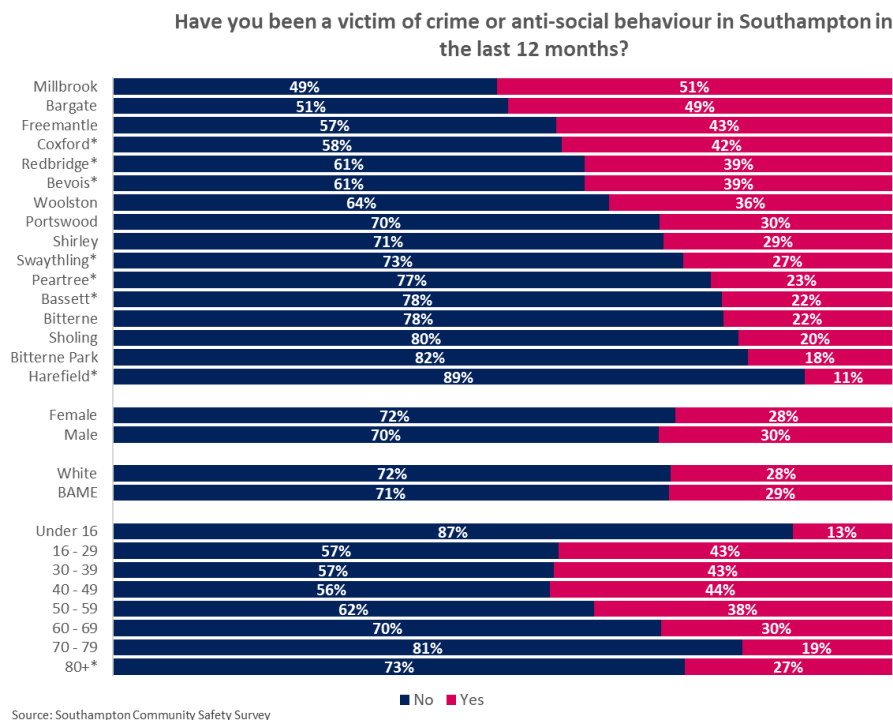
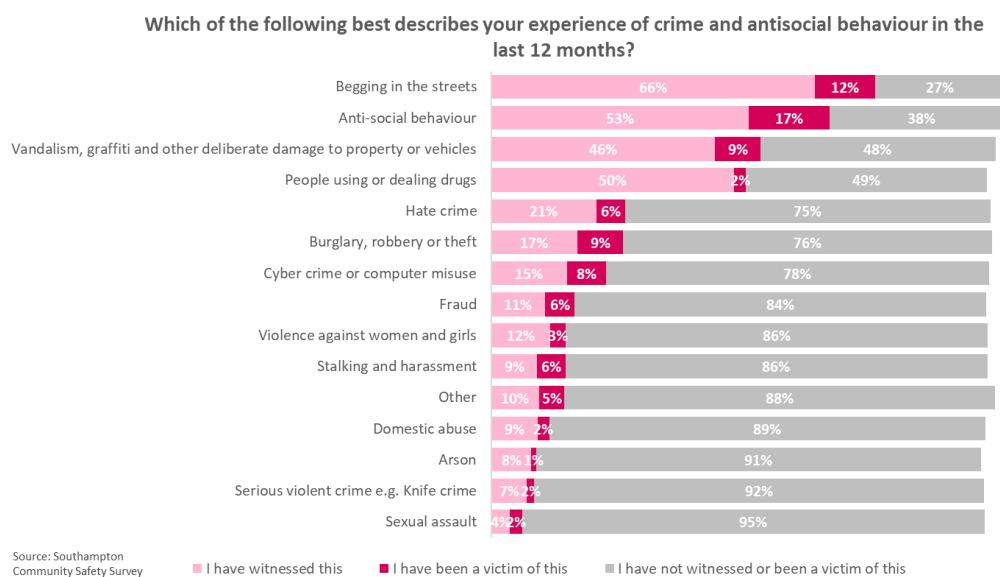


Figure 4.16 shows respondents' experiences of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months. It is important to note that this question is multiple choice, so respondents could have witnessed and/or been a victim of the crime grouping. Begging in the streets, anti-social behaviour, vandalism/graffiti and other deliberate damage to property of vehicles were the most common crime groups

respondents witnessed or were a victim of. This is in line with police recorded crime, with higher volume but lower harm offences most common, such as vandalism/graffiti and anti-social behaviour; these crime groups are also some of the most visible. Low volume but high harm offences were less commonly witnessed or experienced by respondents, these offences include sexual assault and serious violent crime. It is important to highlight that the survey is self-selecting, and certain offence groups are more 'hidden' than others, for example domestic abuse, compared with vandalism/graffiti, which is highly visible.

Figure 4.16: Chart showing respondents experiences of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months



If respondents had witnessed or been a victim of the crime group selected, they were then asked if they reported the incident/s. Figure 4.17 shows reporting of incidents by crime group and illustrates that over half of respondents did not report the incident when witnessed or experienced for all crime groups shown. Most notably, over half of respondents are not reporting high harm offences such as sexual assaults (53%), serious violent crime (53%), domestic abuse (55%) or Violence Against Women and Girls (59%) when witnessing or a victim of these crimes. Additionally, 70% of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of hate crime did not report the incident.

Respondents were then asked why they did not report the incident, with respondents able to select multiple reasons for not reporting, therefore it is possible for rows to sum to more than 100% (Figure 4.18). It is important to highlight that reasons for not reporting vary across the crime groups and numbers for some crime groups such as serious violent crime and sexual assaults are small. Nonetheless, responses may provide some valuable insight into why respondents are not reporting offences, particularly high harm offences.

Figure 4.17: Chart showing proportion of respondents that reported crimes when witnessed or a victim of by crime group

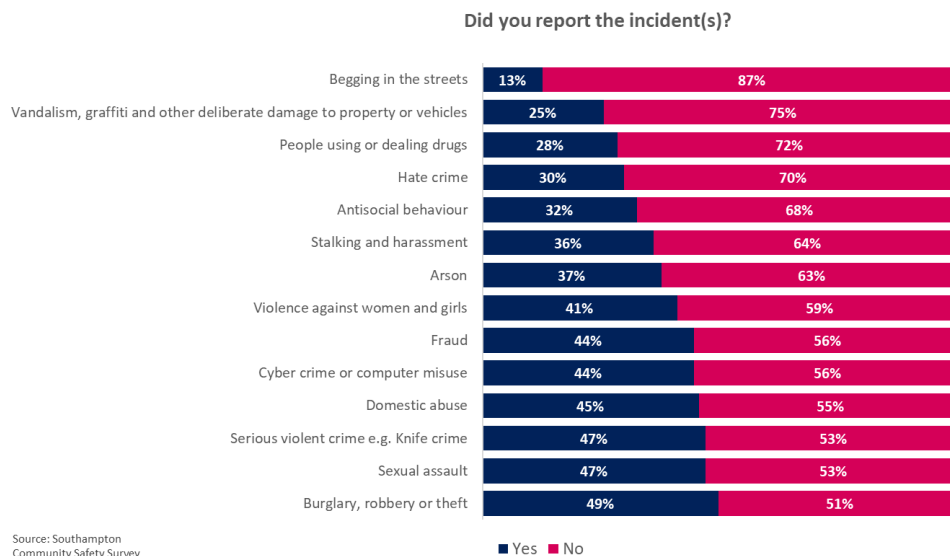
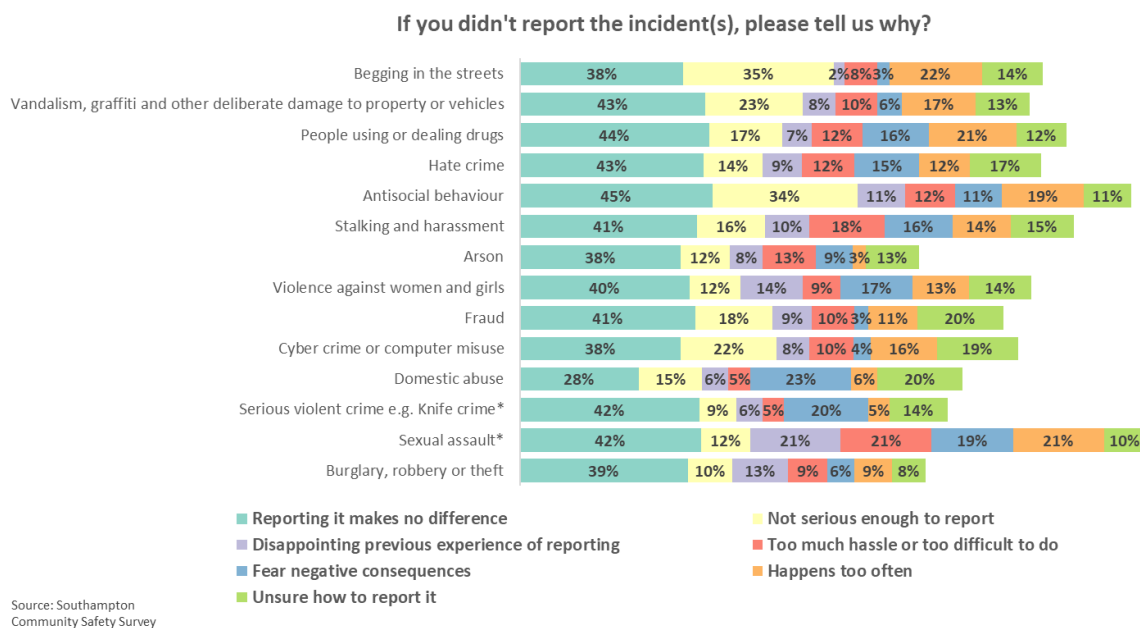


Figure 4.18: Chart showing respondents reasons for not reporting crimes when witnessed or a victim of for different crime groups (percentages can sum to more than 100% because the question is multiple choice)



Reporting makes no difference (42%), disappointing previous experience of reporting (21%), happens too often (21%), too much hassle/too difficult to report (21%) and fear of negative consequences (19%) were commonly cited reasons for not reporting sexual assaults. Reasons for not reporting serious violent crime include reporting makes no difference (42%) and fear of negative consequences (20%). 28% of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of domestic abuse felt reporting makes no difference, 23% feared negative consequences, whilst 1 in 5 (20%) were unsure how to report domestic

abuse. 40% of respondents that had witnessed or been a victim of Violence Against Women and Girls felt *reporting it would make no difference* and 17% *feared negative consequences*. Common reasons for not reporting hate crime include *reporting makes no difference* (43%) and *unsure how to report* (17%).

The above findings highlight the barriers to reporting for the different crime types. *Reporting makes no difference* is a common theme, but particularly for high harm and priority offence groups such as sexual assault, serious violent crime, domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls. The Partnership should consider how best to build confidence among the public that reports are responded to and acted upon. *Fear of negative consequences* was also a commonly cited reason across all the crime groups, especially for high harm and priority groups. *Unsure how to report* and *too much hassle/difficult to report* were also common themes; most notably 1 in 5 respondents were *unsure how to report* domestic abuse. The Partnership should take note of these findings and consider how best to improve awareness and understanding of the crime reporting process.

#### 4.1.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- 1 in 4 (26%) respondents in the most recent survey agreed that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area compared to the 2020 survey where 31% agreed. This suggests that less people are agreeing and are more unsure with this statement.
- Southampton remains an outlier for feelings of safety after dark, with respondents continuing to feel less safe after dark in all settings (city centre and local area). Females were significantly more likely to feel unsafe after dark than males and younger working age adults (16-29 and 30-39) also felt less safe after dark compared to the survey average. The Partnership should take note of these findings and consider how best to improve feelings of safety after dark, particularly for groups that felt the most unsafe (females and younger working age adults).
- The top responses to the question on what would make people feel safer in Southampton include a greater police presence, deal and respond effectively to reports/more consequences, better lighting across the city and CCTV/security cameras.
- Respondents' perceptions of the biggest issues are likely linked to the visibility of crime, with vandalism/graffiti and anti-social behaviour highlighted as some of the biggest issues but are also some of the most visible crime types.
- Comparisons of respondents' perceptions of issues with the previous survey shows a rising awareness of key issues in the city, these include domestic abuse, serious violent crime and hate crime. The Partnership should continue to raise awareness of key issues in the city, particularly those areas flagged as a priority for the Partnership (see [Section 2.3](#)). Rising awareness could also lead to improvements in reporting of these crime types, which is particularly important as over half of respondents did not report crimes when they were witnessed or experienced.

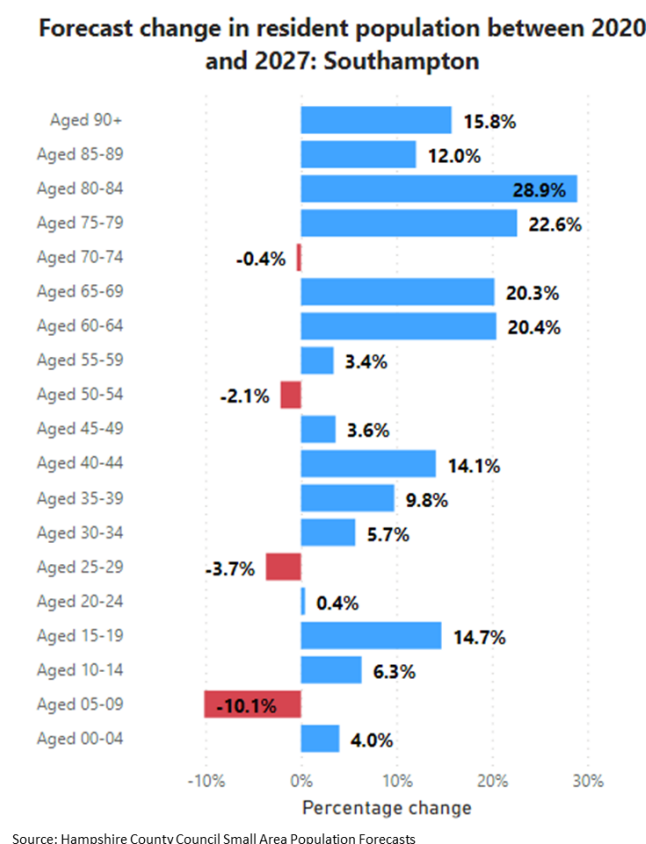
- Respondents' experiences of crime are in line with police recorded crime data, with high volume but low harm (vandalism/graffiti and ASB) offences most common and low volume but high harm (sexual assaults and serious violent crime) offences least commonly witnessed or experienced.
- Over half of respondents did not report the incident when witnessed or experienced for all crime groups. This is concerning, but particularly for high harm and priority crime groups such as sexual assault, serious violent crime, domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls.
- Reasons for not reporting crimes varied across crime groups. The Partnership should take note and consider how best to address the following key findings:
  - Reporting makes no difference was a common theme across all crime groups, particularly high harm and priority groups (sexual offences, domestic abuse, serious violent crime and Violence Against Women and Girls);
  - 1 in 5 respondents who witnessed or were a victim of sexual assaults did not report the incident because they had a disappointing previous experience of reporting, felt it happened too often, found it too difficult/too much hassle to report and feared negative consequences;
  - Fear of negative consequences was also a commonly cited reason for not reporting domestic abuse, serious violent crime and violence against women and girls;
  - 1 in 5 respondents were unsure how to report domestic abuse.

## 5. Wider determinants of crime

It is important to not only consider police recorded crime, but the factors, known as wider determinants, that make individuals more or less likely to become involved in crime in the first place as, if these worsen, we may see subsequent increases in crime. Wider determinants such as deprivation and poverty are not just linked to crime, but a wide range of other outcomes, particularly those relating to health and education. Examining the wider determinants gives an opportunity to understand and address the root causes of crime, and to try and prevent individuals, particularly young people from becoming involved in crime in the first place. More information on wider determinants can be found on the [Southampton Data Observatory](#).

Young people are at a disproportionately higher risk of becoming involved in crime, either as a victim or offender. In Southampton, the 0-18 population is forecasted to grow by 4.3% by 2027 (*Figure 5.1*), with the 10-14 population expected to increase by 6.3% during the same period. All things being equal, this may lead to an increase in offending. However, early intervention has the capacity to offset some of the expected increase, as early interventions can prevent young people becoming involved in crime, either as a victim or perpetrator.

Figure 5.1: Chart showing forecasted change in Southampton's resident population





Income inequality is positively associated with crime, with individuals living in poverty, particularly children, on average more likely to become involved in crime.<sup>63</sup> Approximately 22% (10,286) of children in Southampton live in relative low-income families (2020), which is higher than the UK average of 19.1% (Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Benchmarking chart showing the proportion of children living in relatively low-income families

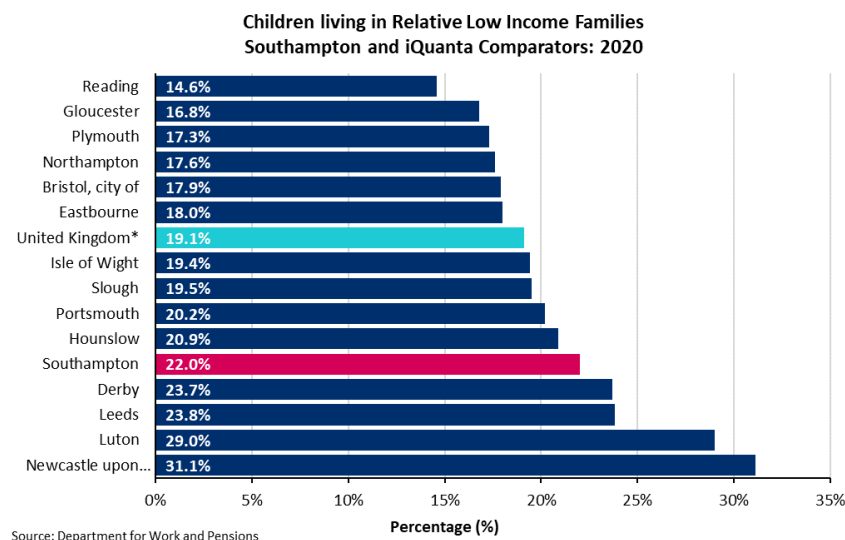
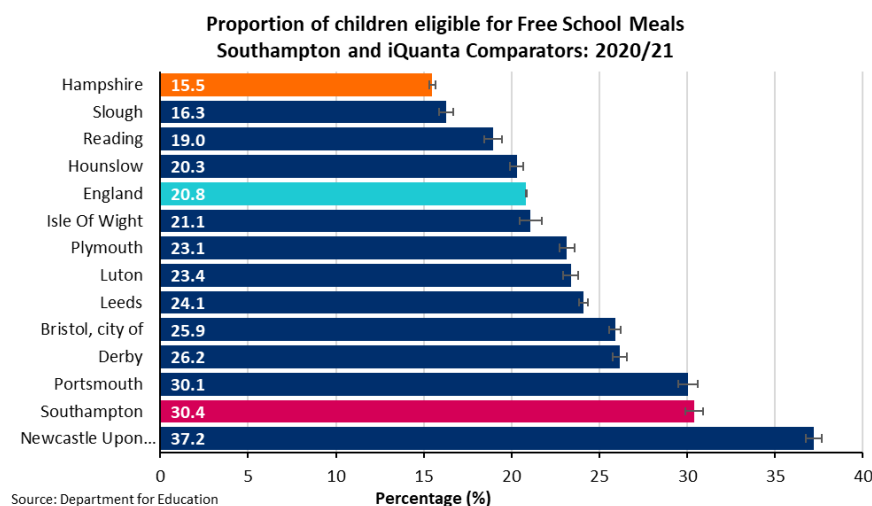


Figure 5.3: Benchmarking chart showing the proportion of children known to be eligible for free school meals

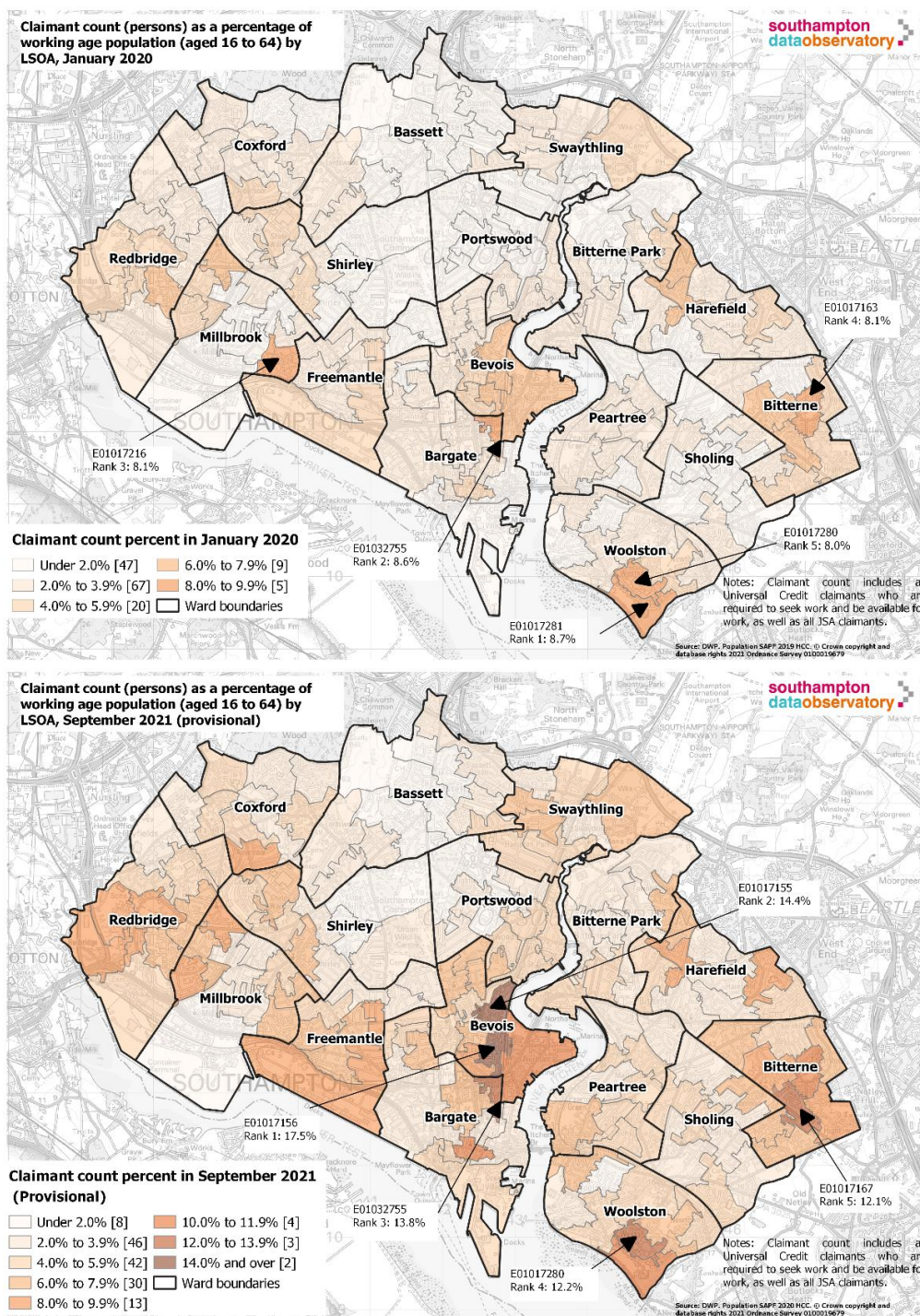


Additionally, 30.4% (10,018) of Southampton pupils in state funded schools are known to be eligible for free school meals, which is significantly higher than the England average of 20.8% in 2020/21

<sup>63</sup> Gutierrez Rufrancos, H. et al. Income Inequality and Crime: A Review and Explanation of the Time-series Evidence. (2013) Sociology and Criminology, 1 (1), <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00148-015-0566-8>

(Figure 5.3). The proportion of children eligible for free school meals in Southampton increased from 24.7% in 2019/20 to 30.4% in 2020/21. The change over the last year may have been influenced by the pandemic, with the claimant count also increasing during the same period (Figure 5.4). Nonetheless, this potentially shows a growing need among children in the city.

Figure 5.4: Maps showing changes in claimant count between January 2020 (top) and September 2021 (bottom) by LSOA



There has been an increase in the number of people claiming out of work benefits since the beginning of the pandemic, both locally and nationally. The number of people claiming out of work benefits in Southampton (claimant count)<sup>64</sup> more than doubled from 5,295 (3.1%) in January 2020 to 11,410 (6.6%) in January 2021 (experimental statistics). Although the claimant count has declined in recent months, it remains above pre-pandemic levels, with 9,315 (5.4%) people claiming out of work benefits in Southampton as of September 2021. *Figure 5.4* shows the claimant count across Southampton neighbourhoods for January 2020 (top map) and September 2021 (bottom map). It is clear from the maps that the impact of coronavirus on unemployment across the city has not been evenly distributed, with those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods impacted the most, particularly neighbourhoods located in Bitterne, Woolston, Bevois, Redbridge and Millbrook wards.

It is important to highlight that a deterioration in the measures outlined above, increase the risk factors associated with crime and may have a subsequent impact on future levels of crime in the city. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on some risk factors of crime have already become apparent, particularly those relating to poverty and unemployment.

The risk of an individual, particularly young people becoming involved in crime also increases with negative risk factors such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which have been linked to young people becoming involved in serious violence<sup>65</sup>. Research into ACEs suggests that these risk factors are cumulative<sup>66</sup>, meaning that the more factors that are experienced, the greater the risk of a young person becoming involved in crime. Examples of ACEs include:

- Emotional, physical and sexual abuse
- Emotional or physical neglect
- Violence against household members (domestic violence)
- Parental abandonment through separation or divorce
- Living with household members who were substance abusers, mentally ill, suicidal or imprisoned
- Household member in prison
- Bullying or exposure to community or collective violence

<sup>64</sup> Claimant Count includes all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work, as well as all Job Seekers Allowance claimants. Claimant Count is expressed as a proportion of the working age population (16-64 years).

<sup>65</sup> Bellis et al. Adverse childhood experiences and sources of childhood resilience: a retrospective study of their combined relationships with child health and educational attendance, BMC Public Health (2018), 1:18

<sup>66</sup> Local Government Association: Public health approaches to reducing violence. (2018) Available at:  
[https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.32%20-%20Reducing%20family%20violence\\_03.pdf](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.32%20-%20Reducing%20family%20violence_03.pdf)



### 5.1.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- It is important to monitor the wider determinants of crime, as if these worsen, we may see subsequent increases in crime. This is important as the socio-economic impacts of coronavirus have already become apparent for some wider determinants, as Southampton has seen an increase in the claimant count and the proportion of children eligible for free school meals since the start of the pandemic. The Partnership should continue to monitor and consider how to positively influence the wider determinants of crime, such as poverty and deprivation, when setting priorities and implementing interventions.
- Southampton has high levels of deprivation, poverty, and inequality across the city. Tackling the determinants of crime is key to reducing overall levels of crime in the city as well as improving a wide range of other outcomes, specifically those relating to education and health. It is important to prevent individuals, particularly young people from becoming involved in crime in the first place through a programme of early intervention.
- A recent project was undertaken that examined need across a number of theme areas including but not limited to poverty and deprivation, education, child health and adult health across Southampton neighbourhoods. The Partnership should take note of key findings from this work, as it highlights where need is greatest in the city for many wider determinants.

## 6. Summary

Coronavirus has significantly impacted the volumes of police recorded crime over the last year, both locally and nationally. Total recorded crime declined by -11.4% in Southampton over the last year; however, despite this decline Southampton has the highest rate and severity of total recorded crime among comparator CSPs. It is thought that the decline in total recorded crime over the last year reflects a genuine decline closely linked to the pandemic. However, it is important to emphasise that this varies by crime type and whilst some offence types such as theft have experienced substantial declines over the last year, other offences such as domestic related crimes have increased. Whilst it is expected that volumes of police recorded crime for many crime types will return to pre-pandemic levels, both locally and nationally, it is worth highlighting that there may also be increases in some crime types through belated reporting and rising awareness for example Violence Against Women and Girls.

Similar to previous years, a simple score was calculated to help inform priority setting for crimes in Southampton (see [Section 2.4](#)). Based on this exercise the following areas were highlighted as priority areas for the Partnership:

- Violent crime (all forms)
- Domestic crimes including domestic violent crime
- Sexual offences, particularly rape
- Residential burglary

Violent crime, domestic crimes and sexual offences have remained a priority for the last three years, which suggests that despite changes in the volume and patterns of many crime types over the last year in Southampton, these areas remain a substantial issue in the city. Residential burglary again features as a priority after not scoring as prominently in the 2019/20 assessment; however, this is likely due to changes in the volume and severity of other crime groups over the last pushing residential burglary higher up the priority ranking.

Repeat offending remains an issue in Southampton, with 7.1% of offenders who committed 5 or more offences collectively responsible for 30.2% of crimes in the city where there was a known suspect or offender. Tackling repeat offending is key to reducing overall levels of crime in the city.

Southampton remains an outlier for feelings of safety after dark in the most recent community safety survey. The survey also found that females feel significantly more unsafe than males after dark in all settings, which is a recurring theme across local surveys and highlighted in national surveys. The most recent survey also highlighted that younger working age adults (16-29 and 30-39) also feel less safe after dark compared to the survey average.

The most recent community safety survey also highlighted that over half of respondents that witnessed or were a victim of crime did not report the incident. This is particularly concerning for high harm and priority offence groups such as sexual assaults, serious violent crime, domestic abuse and

Violence Against Women and Girls. However, the survey highlighted barriers to reporting for different crime groups, which the Partnership may be able to act upon.

It is also important to consider the wider determinants of crime, the factors that make individuals more or less likely to become involved in crime, as if the wider determinants worsen, we may see subsequent increases in crime. There is evidence that some wider determinants have worsened over the last year, most likely as a result of the pandemic; therefore, the wider determinants of crime should continue to be closely monitored alongside police recorded crime by the Partnership and consideration given to how partners may positively influence these.