

# **Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment 2024/25**

**Summary of Findings**

**December 2025**



## Contents

1. Introduction and aims.....	3
2. Summary of crime in Southampton.....	6
2.1 Crime volume and severity .....	6
2.2 Changes by crime type.....	10
2.3 Crime prioritisation .....	11
2.4 Distribution of crime .....	13
2.5 Victims and offenders .....	16
2.5.1 Victims.....	16
2.5.2 Offenders.....	18
2.5.3 Reoffending .....	20
2.5.4 First time entrants.....	23
2.6 Points for the Partnership to note .....	24
3. Significant community safety issues .....	26
3.1 Sexual offences .....	26
3.1.1 Victims and perpetrators of sexual offences .....	28
3.1.2 Points for the Partnership to note .....	29
3.2 Violent crime.....	30
3.2.1 Crimes involving a weapon .....	33
3.2.2 Victims and perpetrators of violent crime .....	34
3.2.3 Points for the Partnership to note .....	35
3.3 Domestic crimes.....	36
3.3.1 Victims and perpetrators of domestic crimes.....	39
3.3.2 Points for the Partnership to note .....	40
3.4 Theft Offences.....	41
3.4.1 Residential burglary .....	43
3.4.2 Victims and perpetrators of theft offences.....	45
3.4.3 Points for the Partnership to note .....	46
3.5 Drugs and alcohol .....	47
3.5.1 Points for the Partnership to note .....	51
3.6 Hate crime.....	52
3.6.1 Points for the Partnership to note .....	57
4. Resident views .....	58
4.1.1 Community Cohesion .....	59
4.1.2 Confidence in the Partnership .....	60
4.1.3 Perception of crime levels.....	62
4.1.4 Feelings of safety in Southampton.....	64
4.1.5 Perceived community safety issues and reporting of crime .....	67
4.2 Points for the Partnership to note .....	72
5. Wider determinants of crime .....	74
5.1 Points for the Partnership to note .....	79
6. Summary .....	81

## 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 and Isle of Wight (HloW) Constabulary, Southampton City Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Probation Services and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB). In addition, there are representatives from the Youth Justice Service (YJS), Southampton Voluntary Services (SVS), schools, businesses, Spectrum Centre for Independent Living, Victim Support, No Limits, Yellow Door, Go Southampton, the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU).

The Safe City strategy was refreshed in 2022, with the 2022 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.

Key products produced as part of the strategic assessment include an interactive dashboard, slide set and summary report which highlight key changes. 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. 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> VRUs are a non-statutory collaborative partnership, with the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty in January 2023 placing a statutory duty on specified authorities to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the ongoing and work to support the prevention and reduction of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women

<sup>1</sup> Public Health England: A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention (2019). Available online via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-serious-violence-a-multi-agency-approach>

<sup>2</sup> Home Office: Serious Violence Duty – Preventing and reducing serious violence Statutory Guidance for responsible Authorities – England and Wales (December 2022). Available online via: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1125001/Final\\_Serious\\_Violence\\_Duty\\_Statutory\\_Guidance\\_-\\_December\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125001/Final_Serious_Violence_Duty_Statutory_Guidance_-_December_2022.pdf)

and Girls is recognised through the work of partners and the Southampton Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategic Partnership Board.

The Strategic Assessment provides a broad overview of the issues in the city. Whereas more detail can be found in specific topic-based reports. 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](#).

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 fully understand the issues within the city; analysis by sub-city geography, area-based deprivation, profiling of victims/offenders etc.

It is also important to note that due to the ongoing nature of police investigations, police recorded crime data may be subject to change and inconsistencies may exist between published and live data. Wherever possible, historical data will be refreshed in this report. Moreover, caution should be taken when comparing figures in this assessment to previous assessments.

This report draws on two primary sources of police recorded crime data to analyse patterns and trends:

- Home Office Police recorded crime
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

High level counts from these two datasets may differ due to variations in data processing and validation. Home Office Police recorded crime data are validated official statistics and therefore are used for examining changes in overall crime and by crime type (where data is available) and to benchmark performance for Southampton against comparators, as well as the national and Constabulary averages. Whereas the Constabulary data is used for sub-city analysis of crime, to examine where there are crime hotspots in the city as well as victim and offender profiling.

Changes to crime counting rules were introduced in June 2023, which is a reversal of previous changes made in 2018. Prior to 2018, only the most serious crime was recorded for incidents that involved more than one type of crime; this was called the principal crime rule. The change in 2018 mandated that, in addition to the most serious crime, where a crime of stalking or harassment was disclosed,

this would also be recorded, this change led to an increase in overall violent crime and stalking and harassment offences. The 2023 change reintroduced the principal crime rule for all offences, except for modern slavery offences and passport application fraud, which are still exempt.<sup>3</sup> The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has highlighted concerns around the recent changes in terms of how this will affect police recorded domestic abuse-related crimes.<sup>4</sup> The impact of these changes will be considered throughout relevant sections in this assessment. While changes to counting rules had a substantial impact on recorded crime figures for 2023/24, there may still be some residual effect on 2024/25 figures, albeit to a lesser extent. Any variations should therefore be interpreted with caution. Crime types likely to remain affected by these changes will be flagged throughout the report.

---

<sup>3</sup> Office for Statistics Regulation – The quality of police recorded crime statistics for England and Wales. Available online via: [The quality of police recorded crime statistics for England and Wales – Office for Statistics Regulation \(statisticsauthority.gov.uk\)](https://statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publications/the-quality-of-police-recorded-crime-statistics-for-england-and-wales)

<sup>4</sup> Domestic Abuse Commissioner – Briefing from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales – Home Office counting rules. Available online via: [2404-Home-Office-Counting-Rules-Briefing-from-the-Domestic-Abuse-Commissioner.pdf \(domesticabusecommissioner.uk\)](https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/2404-Home-Office-Counting-Rules-Briefing-from-the-Domestic-Abuse-Commissioner.pdf)

## 2. Summary of crime in Southampton

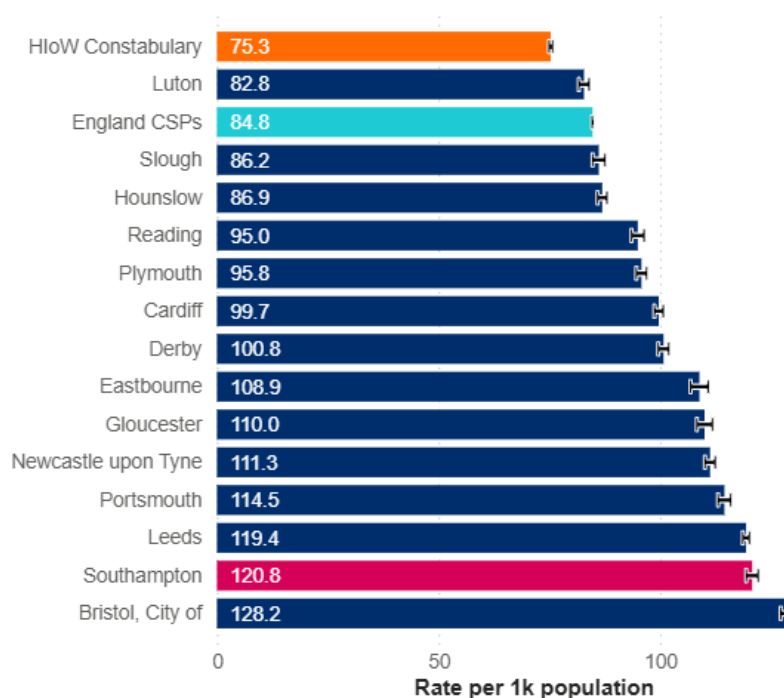
### 2.1 Crime volume and severity

In 2024/25, Southampton had an overall crime rate of 121 crimes per 1k population, which is significantly higher than the national average (85 per 1k) and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest amongst comparator Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) (*Figure 2.1*). Southampton accounted for 20% of total recorded crime across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary in 2024/25 and has the 15<sup>th</sup> highest total recorded crime rate among English and Welsh CSPs with a valid crime rate (313 total).<sup>5</sup>

Figure 2.1: Overall crime benchmarking chart

**Police Recorded (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2024/25**

Data source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime



There were 31,332 police recorded crimes in Southampton during 2024/25, which is a decrease of -4.0% (-1,303 crimes) compared to the previous year (2023/24). This decrease was slightly greater than the -2.9% decrease recorded across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary and the -1.8% decrease seen nationally over the same period.

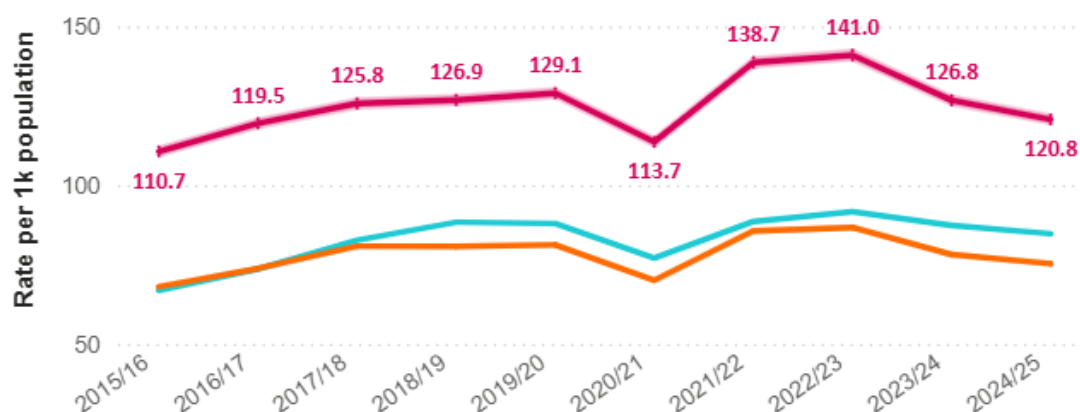
<sup>5</sup> Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2025. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2025>

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

**Police Recorded Total Crime (rate per 1k population) Southampton, England CSPs, HloW Constabulary: 2015/16 to 2024/25**

Data source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime

CSP Name ● England CSPs ● HloW Constabulary ● Southampton



However, it is important to note that changes in the volume of crimes vary across different crime groups. As police recorded crime only includes crimes that have been reported to and recorded by the police, 'hidden' crimes such as domestic abuse are far more likely to be underreported than other offences such as theft. The counting rule changes introduced in June 2023 remain in effect and may still influence some categories, particularly violent crimes, domestic crimes, stalking and harassment and public order offences. As these changes were introduced in the previous reporting period, their impact on overall crime trends was greatest in 2023/24; but may still have an impact in 2024/25, impacts will be explored throughout relevant sections in this report. It should also be highlighted that police recorded crime can be influenced by improved awareness of key issues, changes to crime reporting and improvements in recording by the police. For example, improvements in 101 call-handling performance within Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary during 2024/25 may have also influenced reporting behaviour for offences more likely to be reported through non-emergency routes, such as anti-social behaviour (ASB). Across the force area, the proportion of 101 calls answered within 10 minutes rose from 65% to 91% between 2023/24 and 2024/25, while abandonment rates fell from 36% to 12%.<sup>6</sup>

Due to this, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) notes that police recorded crime is not the most reliable measure of crime trends.<sup>7</sup> The CSEW estimates that total headline crime (which includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse and violence with or without injury) increased by +7% in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24, primarily driven by a +31% increase in fraud.

<sup>6</sup> Police & Crime Commissioner, Hampshire & Isle of Wight – Annual Report 2025

<sup>7</sup> Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2025. Available online via:

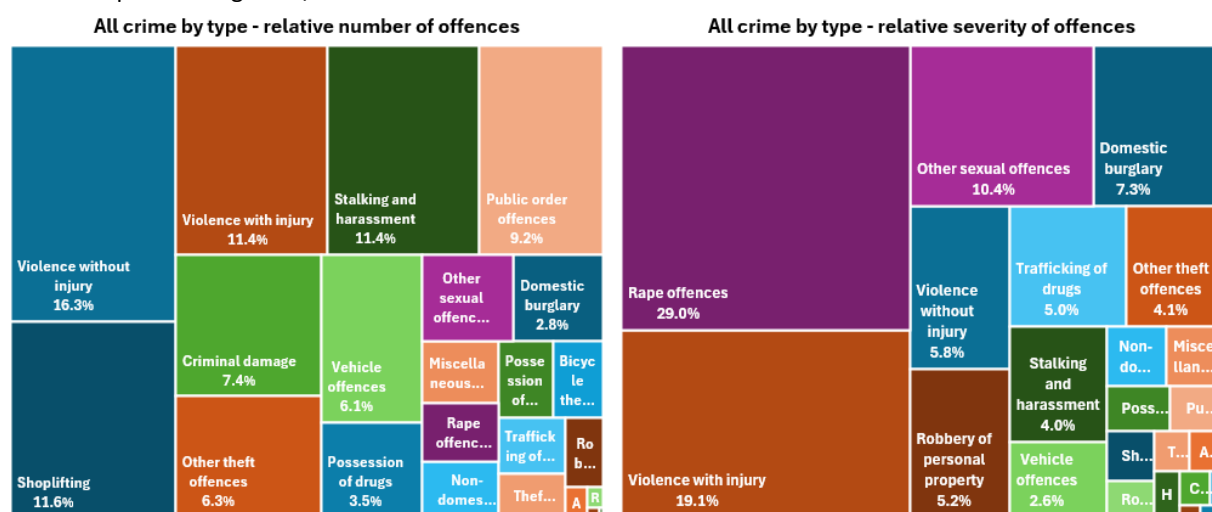
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2025>

It is important that not only the volume of crime in Southampton is considered, but also the harm caused to victims 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 crimes. The score gives more severe offence categories a higher weight than less severe ones using crime sentencing weights calculated by Office for National Statistics (ONS) using data from the Ministry of Justice. For each crime type the crime severity score is calculated as:

$$\text{Sum} [(Severity\ weight \times Number\ of\ offences) \div [Area]\ Mid\text{-}year\ population\ estimate]$$

Figure 2.3 illustrates the differences between these two approaches to measuring recording crime. For example, in Southampton, rape offences accounted for only 1.6% of recorded offences. However, they represented 29.0% of the relative severity or ‘harm’ caused by crime during 2024/25. Violence with injury ranked second, contributing 19.1% of harm, followed by other sexual offences (10.4%). Other sexual offences have now replaced residential burglary in the top three crime groups contributing the most harm to victims; previously, rape, violence with injury, and residential burglary were the top three for six consecutive years.

Figure 2.3: Tree maps showing relative number (left) and severity of offences (right) for police recorded crimes in Southampton during 2024/25



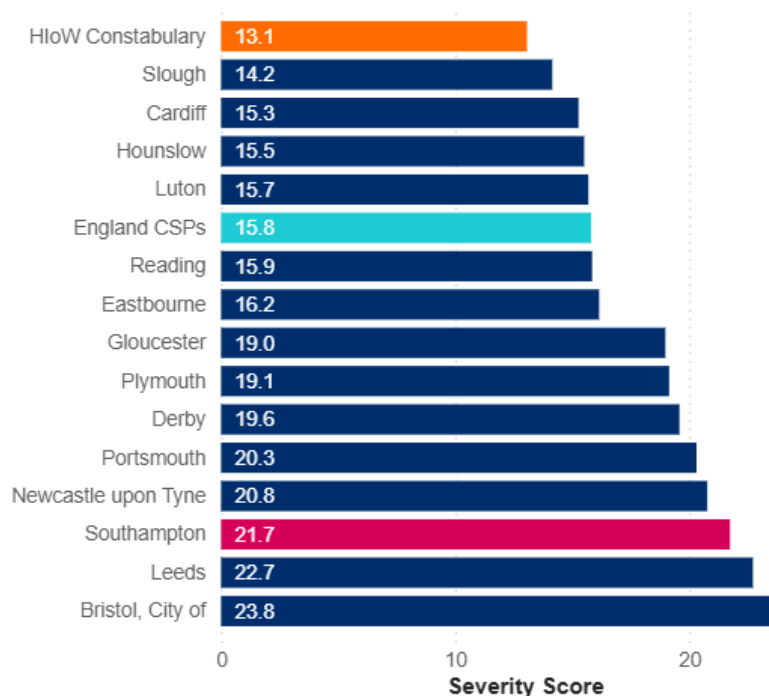
Source: Home Office - Police recorded crime

In 2024/25, Southampton had a crime severity score of 21.7 across all crimes, a -2.3% decrease in crime severity compared to the previous year, moving Southampton from the highest among its comparator areas to the third highest (Figure 2.4). Whilst the data indicates that the crime rate and severity have fallen slightly in Southampton over the last year, the city continues to have a higher rate and more severe mix of offences than many iQuanta comparator CSPs and the national average.

Figure 2.4: Overall crime severity benchmarking chart

**Police Recorded (Severity Score) - Southampton and iQuanta Comparator**  
**Community Safety Partnerships: 2024/25**

Data source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime



## 2.2 Changes by crime type

Between 2023/24 and 2024/25, Southampton saw reductions in the volume of 23 out of 32 offence types. *Figure 2.5* below illustrates where decreases have been greatest and where some offence types have shown increases.

Figure 2.5: Summary of changes by crime type. Changes highlighted in red illustrate an increase in the number or severity of offences; declines in green

Indicator	2023/24 count	2024/25 count	2023/24 crime severity score	2024/25 crime severity score	Formal action taken %**	Percentage change 2023/24 to 2024/25 count	Percentage change 2023/24 to 2024/25 crime severity score	iQuanta CSP position*
Total crime*	32,635	31,332	22.26	21.74	15.7%	-4.0%	-2.3%	2
Violent crime*	12,789	12,238	6.90	6.37	12.5%	-4.3%	-7.7%	2
Violence with injury*	3,996	3,569	4.68	4.15	16.1%	-10.7%	-11.3%	2
Violence without injury*	5,095	5,096	1.37	1.25	10.9%	0.0%	-8.8%	2
Stalking and harassment*	3,690	3,559	0.81	0.86	6.7%	-3.6%	6.2%	5
Malicious communications*	948	532	0.07	0.04	4.6%	-43.9%	-42.9%	5
Most serious violence (iQuanta definition)*	169	156	1.49	1.29	18.5%	-7.7%	-13.4%	11
Violent crime with public place flag**	4,363	4,422	3.07	2.87	18.0%	1.4%	-6.5%	N/A
VAWG**	7,371	7,026	11.01	11.09	9.9%	-4.7%	0.7%	N/A
Sexual offences*	1,325	1,390	8.31	8.56	5.3%	4.9%	3.0%	2
Sexual offences - rape*	521	505	6.50	6.30	2.8%	-3.1%	-3.1%	2
Sexual offences - other*	804	885	1.81	2.26	6.6%	10.1%	24.9%	2
Crimes with domestic flag**	4,955	4,942	6.29	6.68	9.6%	-0.3%	6.2%	N/A
Domestic violent crime**	3,914	3,822	3.39	3.33	9.3%	-2.4%	-1.8%	N/A
Theft offences*	9,882	9,609	4.01	3.63	16.1%	-2.8%	-9.5%	8
Burglary residential*	940	865	1.77	1.59	5.2%	-8.0%	-10.2%	4
Burglary non-residential*	449	469	0.30	0.27	14.2%	4.5%	-10.0%	4
Vehicle offences*	2,227	1,912	0.63	0.56	2.8%	-14.1%	-11.1%	7
Robbery*	345	328	1.33	1.26	6.8%	-4.9%	-5.3%	8
Possession of weapons offences*	515	471	0.38	0.22	30.7%	-8.5%	-42.1%	2
Possession of bladed implement*	250	222	0.07	0.06	37.7%	-11.2%	-14.3%	2
Firearms offences*	58	34	0.26	0.11	20.0%	-41.4%	-57.7%	3
Crime involving a bladed implement**	832	702	1.46	1.05	19.8%	-15.6%	-28.1%	N/A
Serious knife crime**	313	249	1.03	0.68	14.9%	-20.4%	-34.0%	N/A
Modern slavery*	57	42	0.34	0.25	2.3%	-26.3%	-26.5%	8
Cruelty to children/young persons*	221	225	0.14	0.14	19.8%	1.8%	0.0%	5
Hate crime**	948	944	0.28	0.34	13.8%	-0.4%	21.4%	N/A
Alcohol affected crime**	2,603	2,493	2.36	2.14	28.0%	-4.2%	-9.3%	N/A
Drug offences*	1,432	1,502	0.75	1.10	56.6%	4.9%	46.7%	1
Drug affected crime**	1,243	1,258	0.95	1.21	42.9%	1.2%	27.4%	N/A
Anti-social behaviour***	3,069	3,187	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.8%	N/A	N/A
Criminal damage and arson*	2,630	2,380	0.19	0.18	12.1%	-9.5%	-5.3%	5

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

\*\* Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

\*\*\* Police.UK

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

VAWG\*\* - Violent crimes and sexual offences where the victim was female

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

The number of offences in several higher-harm categories fell in 2024/25; violence with injury decreased (-10.7%) with a corresponding fall in severity. Stalking and harassment (-3.6%) and malicious communications (-43.9%) also declined. The reintroduction of the principal crime rule in June 2023, means that caution should be taken for year-on-year comparisons, particularly for less severe crime types such as malicious communications, as the drop may still reflect changes in recording practices rather than a genuine decline. Weapons-related crime also fell consistently across

all categories, including possession of weapons offences (-8.5%), possession of a bladed implement (-11.2%) and firearms offences (-41.4%), consistent with wider reductions in weapon-enabled offences, including serious knife crime (-20.4%) and crimes involving a bladed implement (-15.6%). For sexual offences, rape offences showed a slight decline (-3.1%), although sexual offences as a wider category increased, which is discussed further below. Crimes with a domestic flag (-0.3%) and domestic violent crime also decreased (-2.4%). Residential burglary (-8.0%) and criminal damage and arson (-9.5%) also saw declines.

Not all categories followed this downward trend; overall sexual offences increased (+4.9%), driven by an increase in other sexual offences (+10.1% in volume and +24.9% in severity). It is difficult to determine whether this increase reflects a genuine rise in other sexual offences, as the increase may also be linked to improved reporting and recording. Drug offences (+4.9%) and drug-affected crime (+1.2%) also increased in volume, but both saw notable increases in severity (+46.7% and +27.4% respectively), which suggests there are a more severe mix of drug offences (+49.3%, +139 crimes in drug trafficking offences) and drug affected crimes compared to the previous year. Non-residential burglary also increased (+4.5%). ASB increased (+3.8%), which may in part be explained by improved 101 response times reducing barriers to reporting and operational focus, rather than a genuine rise in incidents.<sup>8</sup>

However, despite changes in volume over the last year, Southampton remains an outlier among comparators for several of the crime groups above, with Southampton ranked in the top 3 for 11 of the 22 offence groups shown in the table above.<sup>9</sup> Although this is a slight improvement from 2023/24, when the city was in the top 3 for 14 offence groups, there is more work needed to improve Southampton's relative position among comparators.

### 2.3 Crime prioritisation

Similar to previous assessments, a simple score was calculated to help inform priority settings 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 CSPs

<sup>8</sup> Police & Crime Commissioner, Hampshire & Isle of Wight – Annual Report 2025

<sup>9</sup> Only includes crime groups where CSP rank is available

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 three priorities were identified to be (*Figure 2.6*):

- Sexual offences, including other sexual offences and rape
- Domestic offences, including domestic violence
- Violent crime (all forms), including VAWG

Sexual offences, violent crimes and domestic offences have consistently featured among the top priority areas for the last seven years. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) ranks as a priority for the Safe City Partnership again this year. This is unsurprising as it includes a combination of sexual offences, violent crime and domestic crimes where a disproportionate number of victims are female. Violent crimes, sexual offences and domestic offences will be examined in detail. However, VAWG and ASB will not be examined in detail in this assessment, as key themes will be picked up throughout [Section 3](#) and [Section 4](#).

ASB has entered the top 10 priorities for 2024/25, experiencing a +3.8% increase in volume over the last year. Across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, improvements in 101 call handling, with more calls answered promptly and fewer abandoned<sup>10</sup>, have likely reduced barriers to reporting: a recurring theme in annual community safety surveys. Additionally, over the past year, partners have focused on ASB through community engagement in hotspot areas, more PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings, and increased park and hotspot patrols. Therefore, the inclusion of ASB in the top 10 priorities reflects its scale and visibility within the community, which may partly stem from improved reporting and targeted action rather than a genuine rise in incidents.

It is important to note that these are not the only areas of community safety that the Strategic Assessment recommends the Partnership prioritise. It is intended to serve as an additional tool for the Partnership to consider when determining areas of focus. In addition to the priority areas highlighted above, the assessment continues to examine the following areas in more detail: drugs and alcohol, hate crime and resident views.

<sup>10</sup> Police & Crime Commissioner, Hampshire & Isle of Wight – Annual Report 2025

Figure 2.6: Crime change and prioritisation matrix

Indicator	2023/24 count	2024/25 count	2023/24 crime severity score	2024/25 crime severity score	Formal action taken %**	Percentage change 2023/24 to 2024/25 count	Percentage change 2023/24 to 2024/25 crime severity score	iQuanta CSP position*	Overall priority rank
Total crime*	32,635	31,332	22.26	21.74	15.7%	-4.0%	-2.3%	2	
Violent crime*	12,789	12,238	6.90	6.37	12.5%	-4.3%	-7.7%	2	4
Violence with injury*	3,996	3,569	4.68	4.15	16.1%	-10.7%	-11.3%	2	11
Violence without injury*	5,095	5,096	1.37	1.25	10.9%	0.0%	-8.8%	2	5
Stalking and harassment*	3,690	3,559	0.81	0.86	6.7%	-3.6%	6.2%	5	13
Malicious communications*	948	532	0.07	0.04	4.6%	-43.9%	-42.9%	5	25
Most serious violence (iQuanta definition)*	169	156	1.49	1.29	18.5%	-7.7%	-13.4%	11	29
Violent crime with public place flag**	4,363	4,422	3.07	2.87	18.0%	1.4%	-6.5%	N/A	9
VAWG**	7,371	7,026	11.01	11.09	9.9%	-4.7%	0.7%	N/A	6
Sexual offences*	1,325	1,390	8.31	8.56	5.3%	4.9%	3.0%	2	1
Sexual offences - rape*	521	505	6.50	6.30	2.8%	-3.1%	-3.1%	2	7
Sexual offences - other*	804	885	1.81	2.26	6.6%	10.1%	24.9%	2	2
Crimes with domestic flag**	4,955	4,942	6.29	6.68	9.6%	-0.3%	6.2%	N/A	3
Domestic violent crime**	3,914	3,822	3.39	3.33	9.3%	-2.4%	-1.8%	N/A	8
Theft offences*	9,882	9,609	4.01	3.63	16.1%	-2.8%	-9.5%	8	11
Burglary residential*	940	865	1.77	1.59	5.2%	-8.0%	-10.2%	4	15
Burglary non-residential*	449	469	0.30	0.27	14.2%	4.5%	-10.0%	4	19
Vehicle offences*	2,227	1,912	0.63	0.56	2.8%	-14.1%	-11.1%	7	19
Robbery*	345	328	1.33	1.26	6.8%	-4.9%	-5.3%	8	21
Possession of weapons offences*	515	471	0.38	0.22	30.7%	-8.5%	-42.1%	2	25
Possession of bladed implement*	250	222	0.07	0.06	37.7%	-11.2%	-14.3%	2	30
Firearms offences*	58	34	0.26	0.11	20.0%	-41.4%	-57.7%	3	31
Crime involving a bladed implement**	832	702	1.46	1.05	19.8%	-15.6%	-28.1%	N/A	24
Serious knife crime**	313	249	1.03	0.68	14.9%	-20.4%	-34.0%	N/A	27
Modern slavery*	57	42	0.34	0.25	2.3%	-26.3%	-26.5%	8	28
Cruelty to children/young persons*	221	225	0.14	0.14	19.8%	1.8%	0.0%	5	23
Hate crime**	948	944	0.28	0.34	13.8%	-0.4%	21.4%	N/A	17
Alcohol affected crime**	2,603	2,493	2.36	2.14	28.0%	-4.2%	-9.3%	N/A	16
Drug offences*	1,432	1,502	0.75	1.10	56.6%	4.9%	46.7%	1	14
Drug affected crime**	1,243	1,258	0.95	1.21	42.9%	1.2%	27.4%	N/A	18
Anti-social behaviour***	3,069	3,187	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.8%	N/A	N/A	10
Criminal damage and arson*	2,630	2,380	0.19	0.18	12.1%	-9.5%	-5.3%	5	22

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

\*\* Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

\*\*\* Police UK

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

VAWG\*\* - Violent crimes and sexual offences where the victim was female

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 compared to the city averages. Bargate (332.9 crimes per 1k population) ward had the highest overall crime rate among Southampton wards in 2024/25. Bargate ward covers the city centre, which is where a large proportion of the day and night-time economy is in Southampton, which are associated with certain crime types, such as alcohol affected crime. However, it is important to note that the high crime rates in the city centre will be influenced by the resident population being used as the denominator. Therefore, the 'transient' population; those that travel into the city centre, are not captured in the denominator. Freemantle (164.1 per 1k), Banister & Polygon (148.9 per 1k) and Bevois (144.1 per 1k) also show significantly higher total crime rates than the Southampton average in 2024/25 (Figure 2.7).

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

Key: Difference to the Southampton average																	
<div><div>No difference</div><div>Significantly worse</div><div>Significantly better</div><div>Worse but not significantly</div><div>Better but not significantly</div></div>																	
Community Safety - Total Offences (Southampton analysis)	Rate 1,000 population																
	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	Violence Against Women & Girls	Sexual Offences	Rape	Other Sexual Offences	Robbery	Theft Offences	Burglary Residential	Criminal Damage and Arson
Southampton	122.4	19.5	15.0	3.7	2.8	9.8	5.7	5.0	47.7	55.3	5.3	1.9	3.4	1.3	37.8	3.4	9.3
Banister & Polygon	148.9	17.7	13.3	4.6	3.9	17.0	10.6	9.0	56.5	58.2	7.5	2.2	5.2	1.7	44.9	5.0	9.5
Bargate	332.9	25.1	20.1	9.5	6.9	32.2	17.3	14.7	99.6	89.0	10.4	3.5	6.9	5.0	146.5	3.7	18.8
Bassett	58.3	9.1	7.3	1.6	0.9	2.7	1.4	1.4	22.9	22.8	1.9	0.4	1.5	*	20.6	2.6	4.8
Bevois	144.1	22.2	17.5	6.4	4.0	12.0	10.2	6.7	61.6	70.0	7.4	3.1	4.2	2.7	29.2	3.5	12.4
Bitterne Park	72.7	13.2	10.4	1.7	1.7	4.7	2.5	1.9	29.2	35.4	4.0	1.6	2.3	*	23.1	4.2	3.8
Coxford	74.4	19.0	14.3	1.6	2.1	4.9	3.0	2.8	34.5	45.8	2.8	1.1	1.7	1.0	16.9	3.5	6.9
Freemantle	164.1	26.5	20.4	5.8	2.7	19.0	13.5	10.6	59.2	60.2	5.7	2.0	3.7	1.2	49.5	4.8	12.5
Harefield	80.1	15.5	11.6	1.7	2.5	5.2	2.7	2.2	31.4	42.1	4.2	1.4	2.8	0.6	24.9	2.9	7.1
Millbrook	129.0	22.4	17.6	2.9	2.1	6.0	5.0	3.3	52.3	63.2	4.2	1.0	3.2	0.9	42.9	2.8	9.7
Peartree	86.8	18.2	14.2	1.9	2.1	5.8	2.4	3.4	39.9	46.9	3.8	1.4	2.4	1.6	19.1	2.2	7.2
Portswood	123.2	13.8	10.2	5.9	2.6	8.2	4.8	3.9	41.6	42.9	3.2	0.9	2.3	0.8	48.3	5.0	9.3
Redbridge	114.9	23.8	17.8	3.0	2.8	7.5	3.1	3.4	50.1	68.4	5.2	2.2	3.0	0.8	27.6	3.8	12.5
Shirley	124.0	17.4	14.6	6.2	2.0	8.8	3.5	4.7	47.6	56.4	5.2	1.4	3.7	1.4	41.3	2.8	7.8
Sholing	65.7	10.6	8.1	1.4	1.3	3.5	1.5	1.5	26.6	36.9	3.7	1.5	2.2	*	17.8	1.5	5.8
Swaythling	82.9	17.0	12.5	2.2	1.7	6.5	2.8	2.7	34.7	45.4	5.1	2.5	2.5	0.4	22.7	2.8	7.9
Thornhill	119.5	30.1	23.1	2.7	4.0	7.6	4.4	3.7	58.7	77.2	6.2	1.9	4.3	0.6	23.0	3.3	11.2
Woolston	88.0	21.4	16.9	1.7	1.8	5.7	3.4	3.7	38.8	53.1	3.7	1.5	2.2	0.5	23.9	3.4	7.3
Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary																	
*Note that values have been suppressed due to small numbers																	

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

\*Note that values have been suppressed due to small numbers

Overall crime continues to be strongly patterned with deprivation. In 2024/25, the overall rate in the most deprived neighbourhoods was around 2.3 times higher than in the least deprived, based on national deprivation quintiles (Figure 2.8). Crime rates declined across all quintiles between 2023/24 and 2024/25, with the second quintile continuing to record the highest rate of crime.

Figure 2.8: National quintile chart showing the change in overall crime rates for the last two years

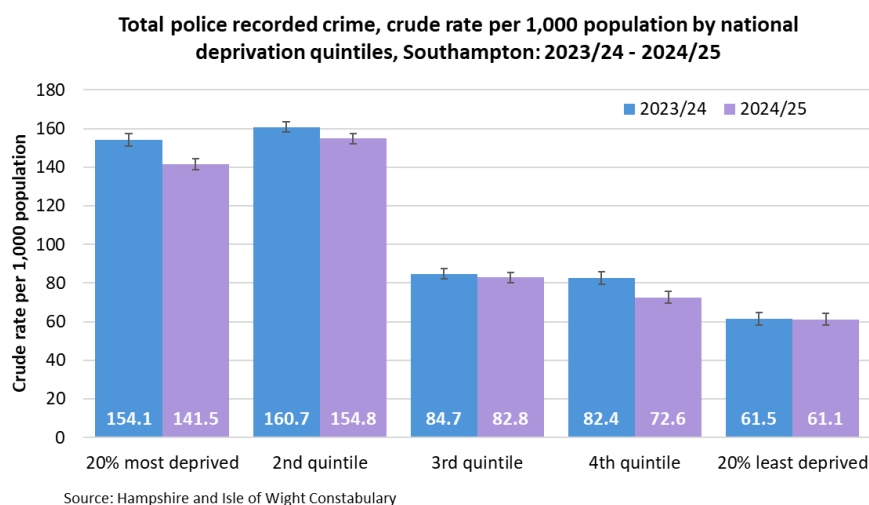


Figure 2.9 shows the change in crimes by type and ward, with numbers and percentages colour coded based on whether there has been a year-on-year increase (red) or decrease (green). It should be noted that any changes in crimes could be influenced by the change in counting rules introduced in June 2023 and therefore should be interpreted with caution, particularly for overall crime, violent and domestic crimes.

Between 2023/24 and 2024/25, total recorded crime decreased in 13 of the 17 wards (*Figure 2.9*). The largest declines were in Sholing (-20.4%, -234 crimes), Harefield (-19.6%, -267) and Peartree (-15.8%, -248). Increases were concentrated in Swaythling (+7.2%, +90), Portswood (+3.5%, +57) and Bargate (+1%, +52). However, it is also important to understand what overall changes are being driven by, therefore it's necessary to look at changes by crime group at ward level.

Theft offences declined across 9 wards, residential burglary across 10 wards and vehicle offences across 13 wards. Violence against the person decreased across 12 wards, with Harefield (-23.8%, -134) and Sholing (-23.7%, -115) experiencing the largest declines; with the largest increase in violent crime observed in Bargate (+10.1%, +150) and Bassett (+8.9%, +28). Hate crime experienced a decline across 10 wards, but notable increases were observed in Bevois (+45.8%, +33) and Shirley (+54.1%, +33).

ASB, which features as a priority for the first time in this assessment increased across 8 wards, with the largest increases seen in Millbrook (+52.5%, +63 crimes), Redbridge (+41.4%, +67) and Freemantle (+40.4%, +59). Domestic flagged crime and sexual offences both experienced increases across 9 wards; these will be explored in more detail throughout relevant sections. Drug offences increased across 12 wards, with the largest increases seen in Coxford (+90.9%, +20) and Harefield (+85%, +17), with Bargate (-28.5%, -113) seeing the largest decline.

As in previous years, interpretation of ward-level data is complicated by the presence of police sites in Freemantle and Shirley, which can inflate totals where crime location is unknown. More generally, percentage changes should always be read alongside crime counts. For example, Swaythling's +74.5% rise in sexual offences equates to 35 additional offences, while Bargate's -28.5% fall in drug offences represents -113 fewer offences.

Figure 2.9: Tartan rug showing year on year change (count and percentage) by crime type and ward (please note there may be discrepancies in the changes outlined in table below at Southampton level compared to Section 2.2 due to different data sources, the below table should only be used to understand sub-city patterns in crime)

Key: Percentage change from 2023/24

Increase

Decrease

No change

Change in recorded crime from 2023/24 to 2024/25	Percentage (and count) change in number of incidents - 2023/24 to 2024/25													
	Total recorded crime	Domestic flagged crimes	Domestic Violence	Hate Crime	Alcohol Affected Crime	Drug offences	Violence against the Person	Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)	Sexual offences	Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	Robbery	Theft offences	Residential Burglary	Vehicle offences
Southampton	-4.9% (-1617)	-0.3% (-13)	-2.4% (-92)	-0.4% (-4)	-4.2% (-110)	-0.1% (-1)	-5.5% (-712)	-4.7% (-345)	2.2% (29)	3.8% (118)	-6.9% (-24)	-2.8% (-281)	-7.3% (-69)	-14.4% (-320)
Banister & Polygon	-3.2% (-80)	0.7% (2)	-2.7% (-6)	-23.2% (-23)	-24.5% (-91)	-7.4% (-14)	-8.4% (-86)	0.6% (3)	16% (17)	-11% (-31)	-9.7% (-3)	3.6% (26)	-11.8% (-11)	-31.9% (-53)
Bargate	1% (52)	15.2% (54)	15.4% (44)	-7.2% (-12)	16.9% (76)	-28.5% (-113)	10.1% (150)	12.4% (86)	-0.6% (-1)	1.6% (10)	-22.1% (-23)	5.7% (130)	-12.9% (-9)	-13.1% (-34)
Bassett	0.1% (1)	3.1% (4)	2.8% (3)	-17.2% (-5)	-23.1% (-12)	50% (7)	8.9% (28)	-9.9% (-18)	16.7% (4)	4.2% (3)	*	7% (20)	-19.1% (-9)	-1.8% (-1)
Bevois	-12.1% (-327)	-5.4% (-21)	-7.7% (-24)	45.8% (33)	5.9% (11)	8.3% (13)	-16.4% (-199)	-17.1% (-115)	15.1% (16)	-8.2% (-27)	25.7% (9)	-23.8% (-151)	-27.5% (-22)	-25.3% (-50)
Bitterne Park	-3.1% (-35)	-5.3% (-11)	-4.9% (-8)	8.3% (2)	-13.6% (-11)	5.6% (2)	-6.4% (-30)	-7.4% (-21)	34.1% (15)	-35.1% (-47)	*	-2.3% (-8)	1.6% (1)	-15.6% (-22)
Coxford	-6.7% (-76)	-5.6% (-16)	-9.8% (-22)	-15.4% (-4)	-9.2% (-7)	90.9% (20)	-11.9% (-66)	-12.4% (-44)	-26.4% (-14)	37% (47)	75% (6)	3.4% (8)	42.9% (15)	44.6% (33)
Freemantle	-1.9% (-47)	10.7% (37)	6.5% (18)	5% (4)	8.3% (21)	16.8% (28)	-0.2% (-2)	8.7% (36)	32.3% (20)	40.4% (59)	0% (0)	-5.8% (-44)	2.9% (2)	-17.1% (-27)
Harefield	-19.6% (-267)	-12.8% (-31)	-17.6% (-34)	-37.8% (-14)	2.9% (2)	85% (17)	-23.8% (-134)	-26.3% (-95)	-1.7% (-1)	15.7% (11)	-20% (-2)	-20.5% (-88)	-28.6% (-16)	-22.6% (-26)
Millbrook	-2% (-37)	-8.4% (-29)	-7.5% (-20)	5.1% (2)	-20.6% (-22)	55.6% (25)	0.1% (1)	0% (0)	-3.3% (-2)	52.5% (63)	-20% (-3)	-5% (-32)	-11.4% (-5)	59.8% (49)
Peartree	-15.8% (-248)	6.9% (18)	6.9% (14)	-44.2% (-23)	-26.4% (-32)	-11.9% (-5)	-3.8% (-24)	5.4% (19)	-12.1% (-8)	-0.7% (-1)	92.3% (12)	-38.5% (-182)	-27.7% (-13)	-34.9% (-52)
Portsmouth	3.5% (57)	-11% (-23)	-16.3% (-27)	31.1% (19)	-8.9% (-11)	27.5% (14)	0.5% (3)	-5.8% (-18)	-15.7% (-8)	-6.6% (-10)	-57.7% (-15)	16.5% (93)	6.3% (4)	-22.9% (-38)
Redbridge	-9.7% (-176)	5% (16)	1.2% (3)	22.9% (8)	16.3% (15)	2.3% (1)	-11.3% (-91)	-8% (-42)	-56.5% (-96)	41.4% (67)	9.1% (1)	8% (29)	86.2% (25)	23.8% (25)
Shirley	-1.6% (-30)	-9.9% (-29)	-3.5% (-8)	54.1% (33)	-10.1% (-15)	8.2% (4)	-15% (-128)	-16.7% (-82)	-2.5% (-2)	-15.4% (-25)	-4.3% (-1)	27.3% (135)	-4.5% (-2)	-19.5% (-24)
Sholing	-20.4% (-234)	-26.7% (-54)	-29.6% (-47)	-23.1% (-6)	-22.2% (-14)	-8.7% (-2)	-23.7% (-115)	-22.7% (-68)	6.3% (3)	-12.6% (-14)	*	-23.9% (-78)	-58% (-29)	-35.8% (-38)
Swaythling	7.2% (90)	10.4% (26)	1.5% (3)	-22.2% (-10)	14.1% (13)	31.4% (11)	0.7% (4)	12.6% (43)	74.5% (35)	-4.1% (-5)	-50% (-6)	17.7% (55)	2.3% (1)	51.2% (42)
Thornhill	-10.4% (-203)	2.1% (9)	-1.2% (-4)	-17% (-8)	-23.8% (-35)	-3% (-2)	-0.7% (-6)	-0.9% (-5)	23% (17)	13.3% (18)	0% (0)	-34.2% (-175)	-27.9% (-19)	-59% (-72)
Woolston	-10.4% (-158)	1.8% (6)	1.6% (4)	-6.9% (-2)	-12.9% (-13)	26.8% (11)	-9.5% (-63)	-11.4% (-50)	42.5% (17)	0% (0)	-46.2% (-6)	-14% (-60)	33.3% (13)	-26.9% (-28)

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary; ASB from data.police.uk

\*Note that values have been suppressed due to small numbers

## 2.5 Victims and offenders

### 2.5.1 Victims

In 2024/25, there were 16,017 unique victims (excluding businesses and the state) who were involved in 69.8% of crimes with an identifiable victim in Southampton.<sup>11</sup> This is slightly less compared to 2023/24, when 16,675 unique victims were involved in 70.6% of recorded crimes. It is worth highlighting that any changes to victimisation patterns, particularly repeat victimisation could still be influenced by the change in crime counting rules (Section 1).

Figure 2.10 shows the number of victims by the number of offences they experienced during 2024/25, with most victims experiencing only one crime in the financial year (80.8%). A similar proportion (19.2%) experienced more than one crime, compared with 19.7% in 2023/24. Although repeat victims made up less than one in five victims in 2024/25, they were linked to 40.4% of all offences where a victim was recorded, emphasising that repeat victimisation continues to be a prominent issue in Southampton.

<sup>11</sup> Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary – only includes victims with valid age and sex information recorded

Figure 2.10: Table showing number of offences experienced by know victims in 2024/25

No. of crimes experienced	No. of all crime offences	% of all crime offences	No. of all crime victims	% of all crime victims
1	12,940	59.6	12,940	80.8
2	3,926	18.1	1,963	12.3
3	1,644	7.6	548	3.4
4	1,028	4.7	257	1.6
5 or more	2,188	10.1	309	1.9

A small number of individuals (309, 1.9%) experienced 5 or more crimes in 2024/25. Yet collectively these individuals accounted for 10.1% (2,188) of recorded crimes where a victim was recorded.

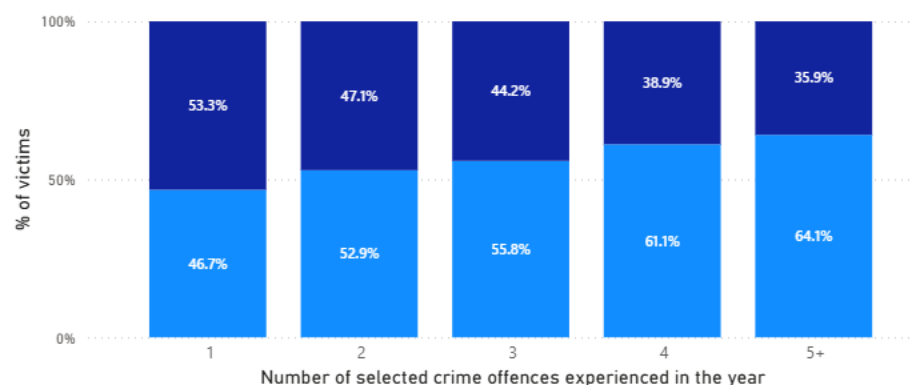
Overall, males (51.7%) made up a higher proportion of victims than females (48.3%) in 2024/25. However, similar to previous years, females continue to be more likely to be repeat victims across all crime types; accounting for 64.1% of the victims experiencing 5 or more crime in the latest financial year (Figure 2.11).

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

Gender Profile of Victims by number of offences experienced - All Crime - Southampton: April 2024 to March 2025

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

Gender ● Female ● Male



\* Only includes known victims/crimes with valid age & gender

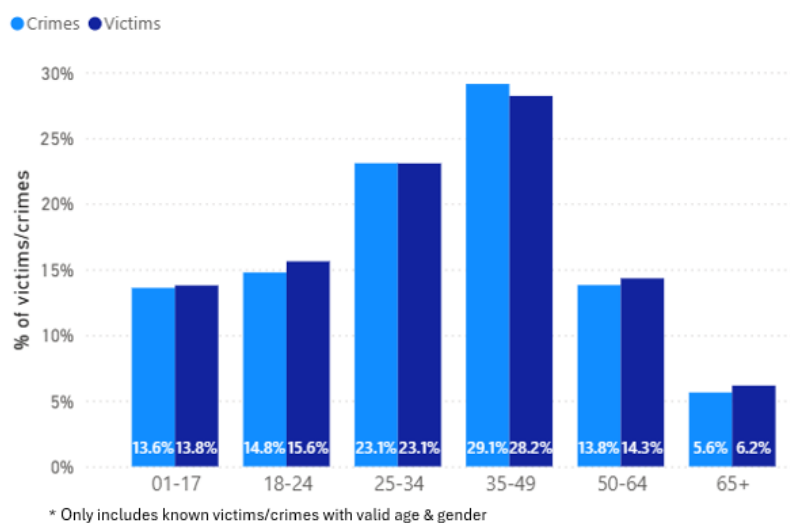
Victim age profiling for all crime follows a similar pattern to previous years (Figure 2.12), with the most common age group for victims continuing to be those aged 35 to 49 years old (28.2%), followed by 25 to 34 (23.1%), 18 to 24 (15.6%), 50 to 64 (14.3%), 1 to 17 (13.8%) and lastly those aged over 65 years (6.2%).<sup>12</sup>

<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.

Figure 2.12: Chart showing age profile of victims and offences

**Age Profile of Victims - All Crime- Southampton: April 2024 to March 2025**

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary



The majority of victims identified in 2024/25 were white (51.7%), 10.5% of victims were ethnic minorities and 37.7% unknown ethnicity.<sup>13</sup> Ethnicity information should be interpreted with caution, as the proportion of unknown ethnicity is high. However, the ethnicity profile of victims is in line with the census; the majority of the Southampton population is white, with other ethnicities making up 19.3% of the Southampton population (2021 census).

## 2.5.2 Offenders

During 2024/25, 9,993 unique individual suspects or offenders were identified from police systems for offences that occurred in Southampton.<sup>14</sup> This is similar to the 9,937 identified during 2023/24. These individuals were collectively responsible for 64.5% of the crimes committed in Southampton during 2024/25. 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 (67.0%) of offenders committed just one offence during 2024/25, compared with 65.0% in 2023/24. These one-time offenders accounted for 33.4% of offences with a known suspect or offender. By contrast, 33.0% of offenders committed more than one offence, but they were responsible for two thirds (66.6%) of recorded offences. Based on this, repeat offending remains a substantial issue in Southampton.

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

<sup>14</sup> Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary – only includes suspects and offenders with valid age and sex

Figure 2.13: Table showing number of offences committed by known suspects or offenders in 2024/25

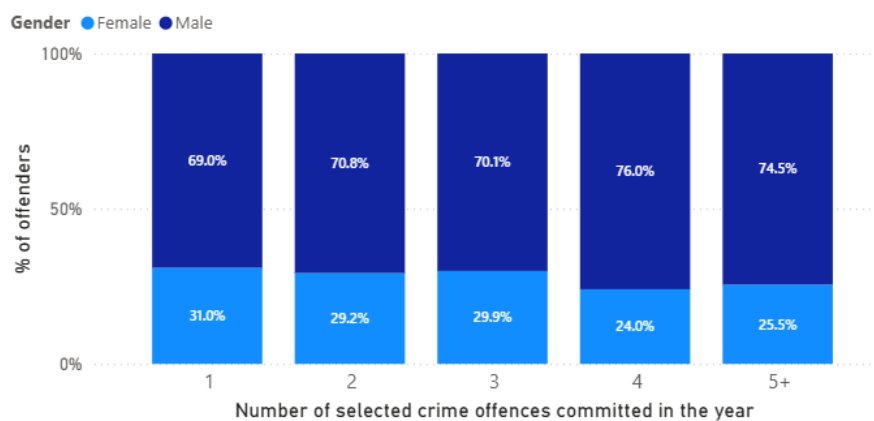
No. of crimes committed	No. of all offences	% of all offences	No. of offenders	% of all offenders
1	6,693	33.4	6,693	67.0
2	3,276	16.3	1,638	16.4
3	1,884	9.4	628	6.3
4	1,364	6.8	341	3.4
5 or more	6,833	34.1	693	6.9

The most prolific offenders, i.e., those committing 5 or more crimes, made up 6.9% of all identified offenders (693 individuals) in 2024/25, which is similar to the previous financial year (7.1%, 704 individuals). Despite their small numbers, these offenders were responsible for 34.1% of offences with a known suspect or offender. This confirms that while most people who do enter the system do so for one offence, a relatively smaller group of repeat offenders continue to drive a disproportionate share of crime. This underlines the importance of continuing to address persistent reoffending, while also considering early interventions that could prevent offenders from escalating into repeat or prolific offending.

The majority of suspects or offenders identified in 2024/25 were male (70.0%), which is similar to previous years (70.9% in 2023/24). Males continue to be more likely to commit multiple offences than females, with 74.5% of the most prolific offenders (5 or more) being male (*Figure 2.14*).

Figure 2.14: Chart showing the gender profile of offenders by number of offences committed  
**Gender Profile of Offenders by number of offences committed - All Crime- Southampton:**  
April 2024 to March 2025

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary



\* Only includes known offenders/crimes with valid age & gender

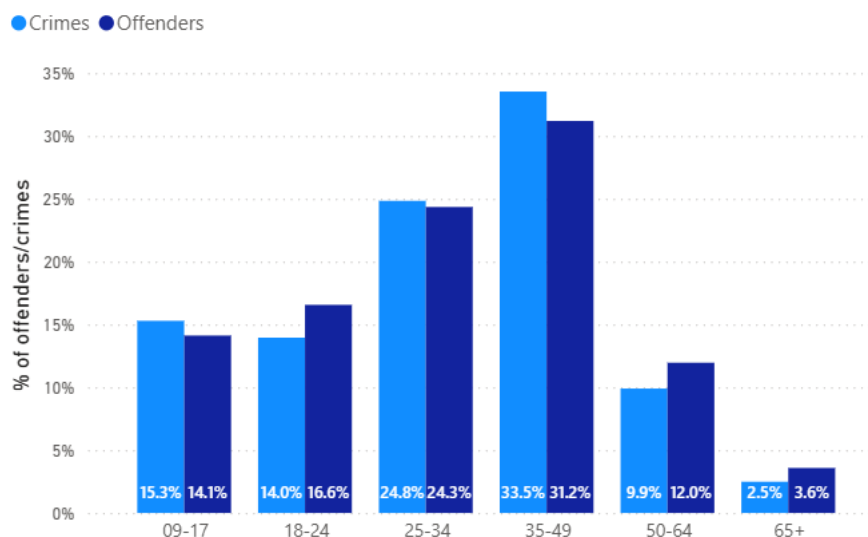
*Figure 2.15* shows the age profile of offenders for all crimes in 2024/25. The age profile for offenders is similar to previous years, with those aged 35 to 49 years old (31.2%) continuing to commit the most

crimes, followed by 25 to 34 (24.3%), 18 to 24 (16.6%), 9 to 17 (14.1%), 50 to 64 (12.0%) and lastly those age 65 and over (3.6%).<sup>15</sup>

Figure 2.15: Chart showing age profile of offenders and offences

Age Profile of Offenders - All Crime- Southampton: April 2024 to March 2025

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary



The ethnic profile for suspects and offenders is similar to that of victims and in line with previous years, with the majority identified as white (68.4%), 16.5% of offenders were ethnic minorities and 15.2% unknown ethnicity in 2024/25.

### 2.5.3 Reoffending <sup>16</sup>

In Southampton, 25.1% of adult offenders in the 2022/23 cohort reoffended (*Figure 2.16*). This is lower, but not significantly, than the England and Wales average (26.0%) but above the Hampshire rate (23.5%). On average, reoffenders in the city committed 3.7 reoffences, compared to 4.6 in Hampshire and 4.0 across England and Wales. This means that although a higher share of Southampton offenders reoffend compared with Hampshire, the average number of reoffences among those individuals is lower.<sup>17</sup> Due to changes in the data source and methodology of reoffending statistics,<sup>18</sup> it is not possible to examine trends beyond the last five years. However, when examining trends in recent years (*Figure 2.17*), Southampton's rate rose from 24.8% in 2020/21 to 25.6% in 2021/22, then fell to 25.1% in 2022/23. The 2022/23 figure is below the England and Wales average

<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

<sup>16</sup> Trends in reoffending statistics may be impacted by delays in court process due to the pandemic

<sup>17</sup> Caution is required when interpreting reoffending data as it does not account for differences or changes in the case-mix of offenders either over time or between areas

<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Justice – Guide to proven reoffending statistics (2023). Available via:  
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64c0fea6d4051a00145a939c/Guide-to-proven-reoffending-Jul23.pdf>

(26.0%) for the first time since the methodology change prior to 2017/18. Over the same period, England and Wales rose from 24.9% in 2021/22 to 26.0% in 2022/23, and Hampshire also increased from 20.6% in 2021/22 to 23.5% in 2022/23. Southampton was the only one of the three to record a year-on-year decline in the latest period.

Figure 2.16: Benchmarking chart showing proven adult reoffending rate

**Proven percentage of Adult offenders who reoffend - Southampton and iQuanta comparators: 2022/23**

Data source: Ministry of Justice - Reoffending Statistics

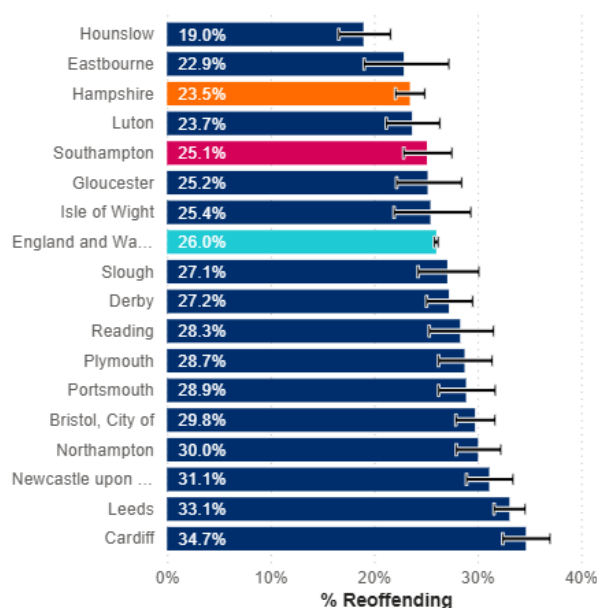
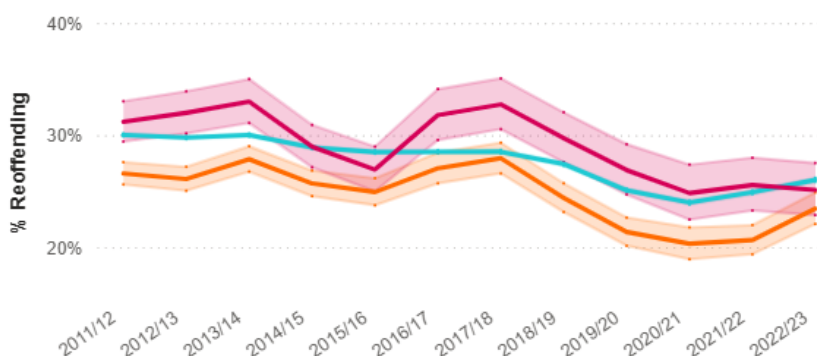


Figure 2.17: Trend chart showing proven adult reoffending rate

**Proven percentage of Adult offenders who reoffend - Southampton, Hampshire, England and Wales: 2011/12 to 2022/23**

Data source: Ministry of Justice - Reoffending Statistics

Geography ● England and Wales ● Hampshire ● Southampton



In 2022/23, 41.7% of the youth offending cohort in Southampton reoffended (Figure 2.18). This is higher, but not significantly than the Hampshire rate (32.2%) and the rate for England and Wales (32.5%). Southampton youth reoffenders committed an average of 4.4 reoffences, which is slightly higher than the England and Wales average (4.3) and above Hampshire (3.1). Southampton records

the fourth highest youth reoffending rate among its comparator areas. However, this should be interpreted with caution given the small cohort size of 43 juvenile reoffenders and 103 offenders. The trend data also shows that youth reoffending in Southampton has fluctuated more than adult reoffending in recent years, likely influenced again by the small cohort size (Figure 2.19).

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

**Proven percentage of Juvenile offenders who reoffend - Southampton and iQuanta comparators: 2022/23**

Data source: Ministry of Justice - Reoffending Statistics

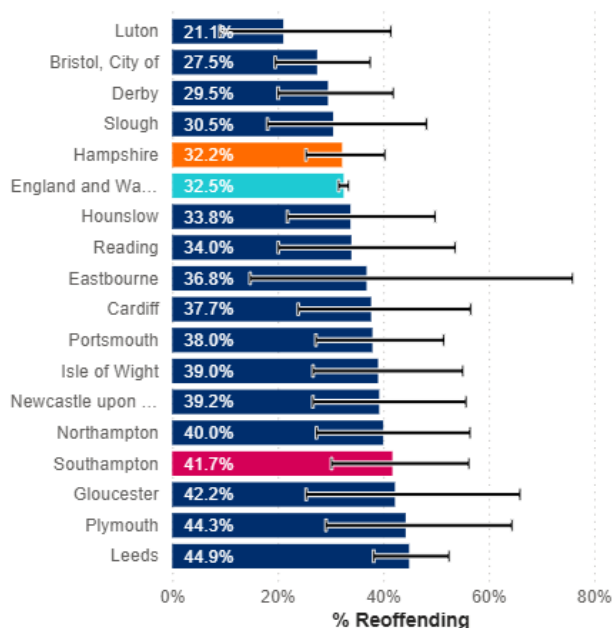
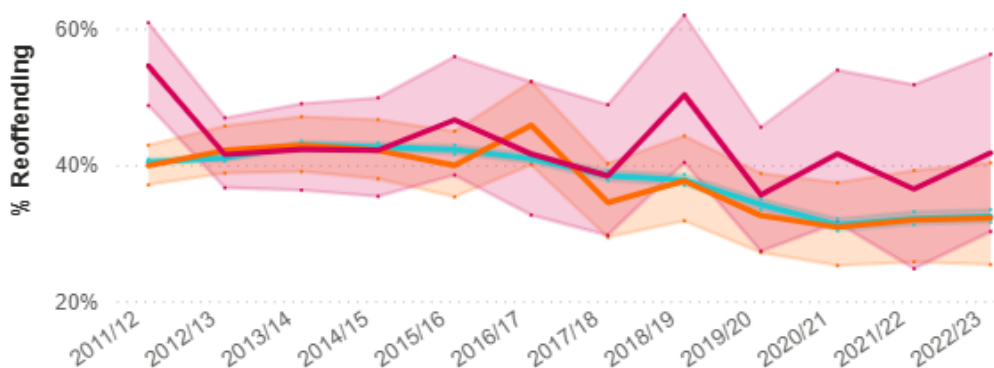


Figure 2.19: Trend chart showing proven youth (juvenile) reoffending rate

**Proven percentage of Juvenile offenders who reoffend - Southampton, Hampshire, England and Wales: 2011/12 to 2022/23**

Data source: Ministry of Justice - Reoffending Statistics

Geography ● England and Wales ● Hampshire ● Southampton



## 2.5.4 First time entrants

In 2024, Southampton had a juvenile first-time entrant (FTE) rate of 12.57 per 10k children aged 10 to 17, which is lower but not significantly than the national average of 13.53 per 10k children aged 10 to 17 (Figure 2.20). Since 2012, the juvenile FTE rate has been on a downward trend in Southampton and nationally, with the Southampton FTE rate in 2024 remaining similar to the national average for the fourth consecutive year (Figure 2.21). It is also important to note that FTE rates for under 18s are reducing locally because offence outcomes are being diverted away from courts, and only offences committed of a youth caution or higher count in the juvenile FTE statistics.

Figure 2.20: Benchmarking chart showing rate of juvenile first-time entrants

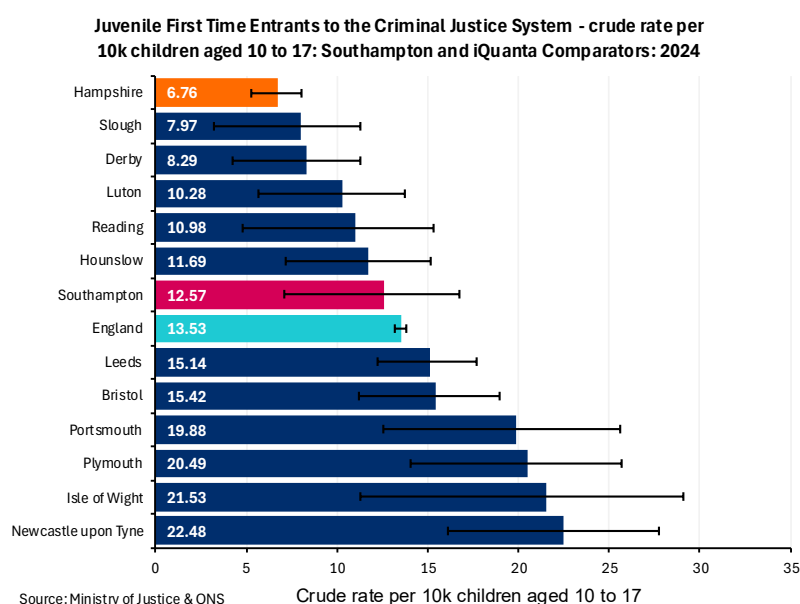
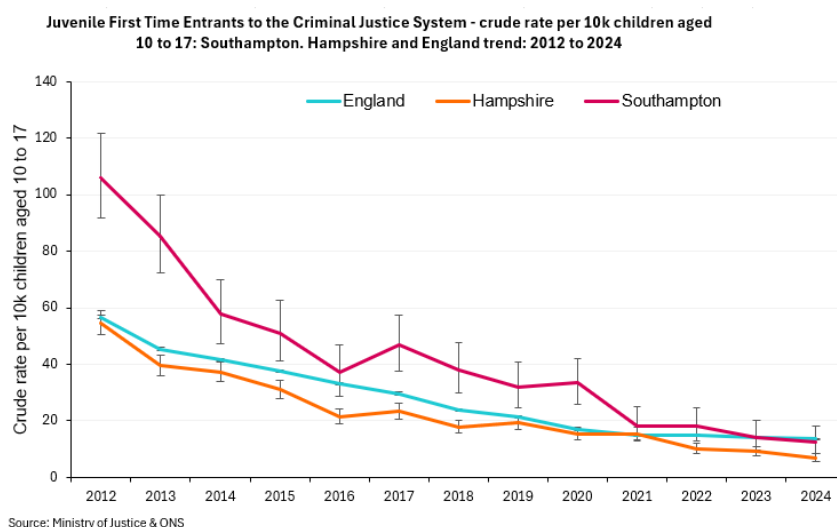


Figure 2.21: Trend chart showing rate of juvenile first-time entrants



## 2.6 Points for the Partnership to note

- In 2024/25, Southampton experienced a -4.0% decrease in total recorded crime compared to the previous year. The June 2023 methodological changes had a major effect on last year's comparisons; this year's figures are more comparable to the previous financial year, though there may still be some impact on 2024/25 figures.
- In Southampton during 2024/25, rape, violence with injury, and other sexual offences caused the greatest harm. This marks a shift from previous years, where residential burglary consistently featured among the top three harm-causing crime groups alongside rape and violence with injury. This highlights the importance of considering the harm caused by different crime types as well as their volume when setting priorities and areas of focus.
- The crime prioritisation exercise highlighted sexual offences, violent crime and domestic flagged offences as priorities for the Partnership, with these the top 3 priorities for the last 7 years.
- ASB entered the top 10 priority offence groups in 2024/25, likely driven by a rise in recorded incidents over the past year. This increase likely reflects the operational focus of partner agencies, particularly efforts to reduce barriers to reporting and partner engagement with communities.
- Southampton now ranks in the top 3 for 11 offence groups among comparators, down from 14 last year. Whilst this is an improvement, there is more work to be done to improve Southampton's relative position among comparators. Southampton continues to rank highest among comparators for drug offences and possession-related crimes.
- The most recent community safety survey highlighted that just over half of crimes witnessed or experienced by respondents were not reported. This is especially concerning for high harm and priority crime groups such as stalking and harassment, VAWG, hate crimes, sexual offences, domestic abuse and serious violent crime. More detailed findings from the 2025 community safety survey are presented in [Section 4](#).
- 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 understand and address barriers to reporting incidents; particularly among the most vulnerable.
- Repeat victimisation remains similar to the previous year, with repeat victims being linked to 40.4% of all offences where a victim was recorded. This continues to be a significant issue and should be monitored alongside reoffending.
- Reoffending remains an issue in Southampton. 6.9% of offenders who committed 5 or more crimes, were responsible for 34.1% of crimes where there was a known suspect or offender. The Partnership should continue to ensure that outcomes for offenders are the best possible to reduce reoffending.
- Youth FTE rates in 2024 remained relatively stable and similar to the national average for the fourth consecutive year. However, the latest MoJ data for youth reoffending rates (2022/23) showed an increase in youth reoffending, but this is a small cohort and the increase is not statistically significant.

- Young people becoming involved in crime is often linked to wider determinants, such as deprivation, poverty and adverse childhood experiences. The Partnership should continue to work with partners to keep improving outcomes for children and young people to prevent them from becoming involved in crime in the first place. Wider determinants of crime are discussed in more detail in [Section 5](#).

### 3. Significant community safety issues

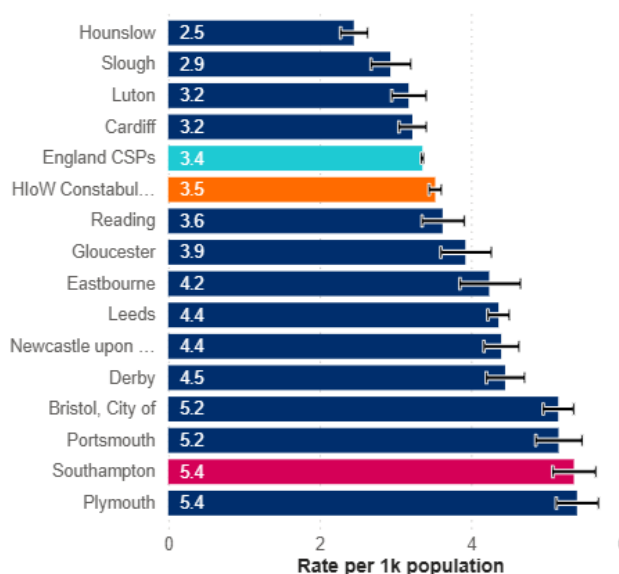
#### 3.1 Sexual offences

Southampton is ranked second highest among its comparators for the rate of sexual offences (note rates are rounded to 1 decimal place in below chart) (Figure 3.1) and 8th highest in England and Wales.<sup>19</sup>

Figure 3.1: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of sexual offences

**Police Recorded Sexual offences (rate per 1k population)**  
**Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2024/25**

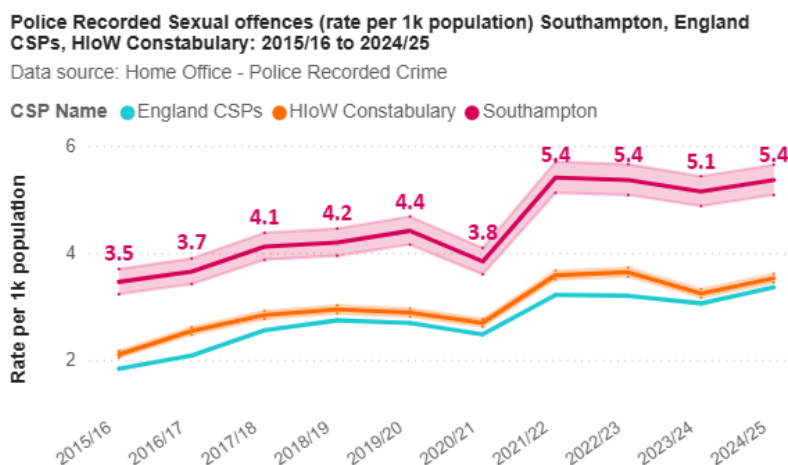
Data source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime



Between 2023/24 and 2024/25, Southampton experienced a +4.9% increase in the number of sexual offences, compared with a +9.6% increase across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary and an +11.2% increase nationally (Figure 3.2). The increase in Southampton over the last year is largely driven by increases in other sexual offences (+10.1%), with rape offences experiencing a decline (-3.1%).

<sup>19</sup> Of 312 English and Welsh CSPs with a valid rate

Figure 3.2: Trend in the rate of sexual offences for Southampton, HloW Constabulary and England



Sexual offences remain one of the most underreported crime types, and according to the Office for National Statistics, police-recorded figures are not a reliable indicator of long-term trends. The ONS Crime Survey shows no significant change in sexual offences between 2023/24 and 2024/25, suggesting that the overall increases seen locally may reflect more victims coming forward rather than a genuine rise in incidents.<sup>20</sup>

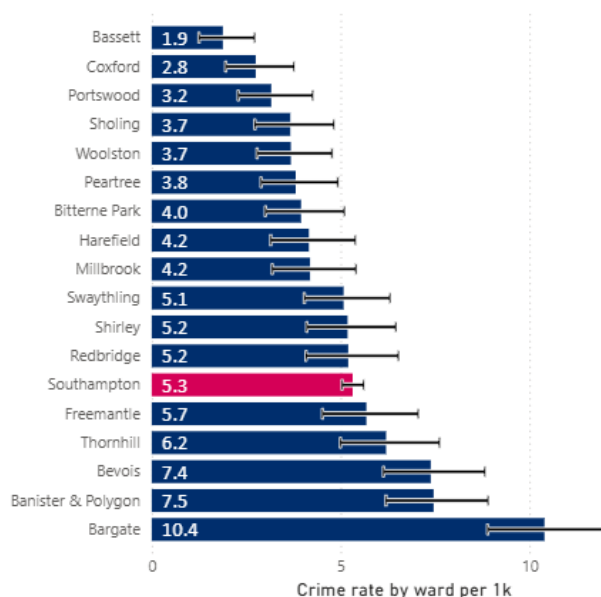
The proportion of sexual offences occurring in a public place rose to 26.1% in 2024/25, up from 22.2% last year. Looking at the victim-offender relationship, acquaintance offences remain the most common (30.9%). Stranger offences have dropped considerably (19.8%, down from 28.1% last year), while heterosexual ex-partner involvement has increased (17.2%, up from 12.9%). The proportion of rapes flagged as domestic has risen from 38.7% in 2023/24 to 45.2% in 2024/25, alongside 15.7% of other sexual offences flagged as domestic, showing that domestic and relationship-based harm accounts for a substantial portion of the recorded rape offences in Southampton.

Bargate continues to record the highest rate of sexual offences (*Figure 3.3*), reflecting links to the night-time economy, while Banister & Polygon and Bevois also have significantly higher rates than the city average.

<sup>20</sup> Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2025. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2025>

Figure 3.3: Chart showing rate of sexual offences for Southampton wards

**Sexual Offences (rate per 1k population) - Southampton wards 2024/25**  
Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary



### 3.1.1 Victims and perpetrators of sexual offences

In 2024/25 there were 1,071 unique victims of sexual offences in Southampton, an increase from 999 in 2023/24. Repeat victimisation remains relatively stable, with 10.3% of victims experiencing multiple sexual offences within the year. However, the proportion of sexual offence victims who also experience other offences in the year remains high at 34.2%, with 30.1% of these involving violence against the person offences.

Similar to previous years, the majority of sexual offence victims were female (82.9%). This is 93.2% for rape victims, while for other sexual offences the proportion was lower at 77.6%. The age profile of sexual offence victims is consistent with previous years, with under 18s continuing to represent the largest share of victims (37.1%), which has previously been linked to under 18 peer-on-peer offences.<sup>21</sup>

For rape offences, the most common victim age group in 2024/25 was under 18s (27.8%), followed by 25 to 34 year olds (26.3%) and 18 to 24 year olds (21.7%). This marks a shift from 2023/24, when 18 to 24 year olds were the largest group of rape victims. For other sexual offences, the pattern is more consistent. In 2024/25, under 18s remained the most common victims (42.7%), followed by 18 to 24 year olds (21.0%). The above suggests that children and young people, in particular females aged under 25 remain at most risk of being a victim of sexual offences.

During 2024/25, 875 sexual offence offenders were identified in Southampton, compared with 760 in 2023/24. Repeat sexual offending within the year increased slightly from 8.3% in 2023/24 to 9.6% in

<sup>21</sup> Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary – Force Strategic Assessment 2023

2024/25. However, 38.2% of offenders also committed another offence types, similar to 37.8% last year. As with victims, these offences were most often violence against the person (30.4% of offences).

The sexual offence offender profile remains relatively consistent with previous years, with the vast majority being male (90.3%). The largest offender age group was 35 to 49 year olds (28.9%), followed by 25 to 34 year olds (21.9%) and 9 to 17 year olds (18.3%). This marks a slight shift from last year, with those aged 9 to 17 years making up the third largest offender age group in 2024/25 (fourth in 2023/24), though offenders aged 25 to 49 remain the largest offending group.

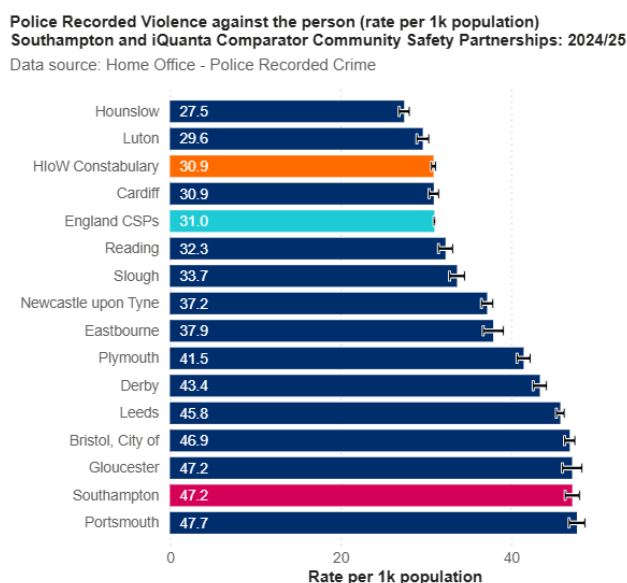
### 3.1.2 Points for the Partnership to note

- Sexual offences increased by +4.9% in Southampton during 2024/25, a smaller increase than seen nationally (+11.2%). This increase locally was driven by a +10.1% increase in other sexual offences, while rape offences declined (-3.1%). The ONS Crime Survey suggests that there has been no significant change in sexual offences between 2023/24 and 2024/25. Therefore, the change over the last year may reflect more victims coming forward to report crimes rather than a genuine increase in crimes. However, Southampton ranks 2nd highest among comparators and 8th nationally for the rate of sexual offences, showing the scale of harm linked to this offence type. Sexual offences therefore remain a priority area for the Partnership and should continue to be closely monitored ([Section 2.3](#)).
- Patterns of sexual offences continue to show strong links to the night-time economy, with the proportion of sexual offences occurring in a public place rising to 26.1% and city-centre wards such as Bargate and Banister & Polygon recording the highest rates of sexual offences. The Partnership should continue to focus efforts to safeguard those engaging in the night-time economy.
- The proportion of rapes flagged as domestic rose to 45.2% in 2024/25 (up from 38.7% in 2023/24), highlighting that domestic sexual offences remain a substantial issue and are becoming more prominent within the data. Therefore, the Partnership should monitor this trend closely, as it may also reflect better coding within the data to identify domestic sexual offences.
- Victim profiles remain broadly consistent with previous years. Children and young people, in particular females aged under 25 remain at most risk of being a victim of sexual offences. The Partnership should continue to monitor patterns in victimisation and work with partners to protect and safeguard high risk victim groups.
- Offender profiling of sexual offences remains similar to previous years. Offenders are predominantly male (90.3%) and aged 25-49 (50.8%). 38.2% of sexual offence offenders also committed other offences, particularly violence against the person, showing that sexual and violent offending often overlap.
- Findings from the 2025 community safety survey show that 60% of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of sexual assault did not report the incident, an improvement from 70% last year but still indicating substantial under-reporting. The most common reason for not reporting sexual assaults were *reporting it makes no difference*. More detailed findings from the 2025 community safety survey are presented in [Section 4](#).

### 3.2 Violent crime

Southampton had a violent crime rate of 47.2 crimes per 1k population in 2024/25 (Figure 3.4), which is the second highest among comparator CSPs and significantly higher than the national average (31.0 per 1k population). Southampton is ranked 14<sup>th</sup> highest among English and Welsh CSPs with a valid violent crime rate (313 total). Furthermore, Southampton remains among the worst 5% of CSPs nationally for violent crime (Figure 3.5). Southampton's rate of violent crimes has remained significantly higher than the national average since 2015/16 (Figure 3.6).

Figure 3.4: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of violent crimes



There are three main violent crime subgroups; violence with injury, violence without injury and stalking and harassment. Death or serious injury – unlawful driving and homicide are also subgroups of violent crime, however numbers for these two subgroups are too small to examine in detail. It is 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's rankings among CSPs in England and Wales have remained relatively stable over the last year, with only minor movements, falling to 7<sup>th</sup> for violence with injury, and slight rises to 16<sup>th</sup> for violence without injury, and 33<sup>rd</sup> for stalking and harassment (Figure 3.5). The high ranks for both violence with and without injury should remain a concern and continue to be monitored by the Partnership.

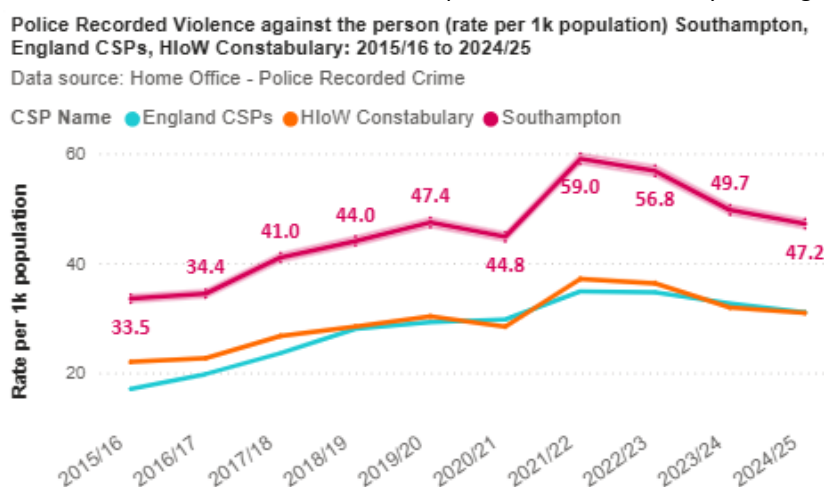
Figure 3.5: Trend in Southampton ranks relative to England and Wales CSPs for recorded violent crime rates

Violent crime group	2020/21 CSP rank (out of 300)	2021/22 CSP rank (out of 310)	2022/23 CSP rank (out of 296)	2023/24 CSP rank (out of 312)	2024/25 CSP rank (out of 313)
Overall violent crime	22 <sup>nd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>
Violence with injury	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
Violence without injury	19 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>
Stalking & harassment	80 <sup>th</sup>	39 <sup>th</sup>	33 <sup>rd</sup>	35 <sup>th</sup>	33 <sup>rd</sup>

Although violent crime in Southampton remains significantly above the national average, Southampton experienced a -4.3% decline in the number of violent crimes between 2023/24 and 2024/25 (Figure 3.6). This was slightly larger than the reduction seen across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (-2.4%) and nationally (-3.7%). Reductions experienced this year are likely to be less impacted by changes in counting rules.

However, changes vary by subgroup, with violence with injury declining by -10.7% over the last year in Southampton, which is a greater decline than seen across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (-5.7%) and nationally (-7.0%). However, violence without injury showed almost no year-on-year change (+0.1%) in Southampton, in line trends across HloW Constabulary (+0.3%) and nationally (+0.1%). Stalking and harassment declined by -3.6%, which is consistent with declines seen across HloW Constabulary (-2.9%) and nationally (-5.8%). As stalking and harassment are particularly sensitive to reporting practices and victim confidence, it is important to continue close monitoring as underlying behaviour may not decline in line with police recorded data.

Figure 3.6: Trend in the rate of violent crimes for Southampton, HloW Constabulary and England

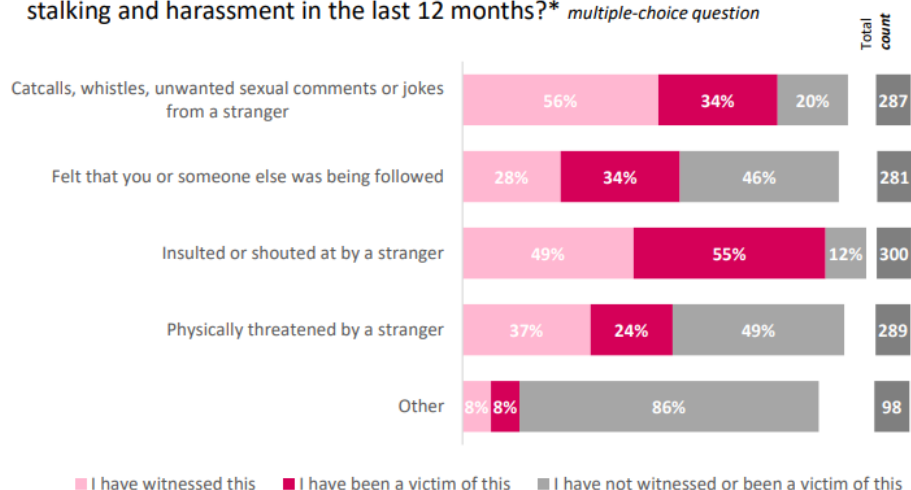


In the 2025 Southampton Community Safety Survey, 15% of respondents stated that they had witnessed stalking and harassment, with 9% reporting that they had been a victim in the last 12 months, which is similar to the 2024 figures. *Figure 3.7* shows the types of stalking and harassment respondents witnessed and/or experienced. Being insulted or shouted at by a stranger remained the most commonly experienced form of harassment (55%), while catcalls, whistles, and unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger were the most commonly witnessed (56%).

There are differences in the types of stalking and harassment experienced by different demographic groups. Females were more likely to experience catcalls (42%) compared to males (16%), while being insulted or shouted at by a stranger affected similar proportions of males (51%) and females (56%). Physical threats from a stranger were reported by 30% of males and 18% of females. These figures suggest that, under the umbrella of stalking and harassment, males and females tend to experience different types of offences, with females more likely to experience sexually targeted harassment and males being more likely to experience physical threats. More detailed findings from the 2025 community safety survey are presented in [Section 4](#).

Figure 3.7: Chart showing the experiences of respondents who witnessed/experienced of stalking & harassment

**Question:** Which of the following best describes your experience of stalking and harassment in the last 12 months?\* *multiple-choice question*

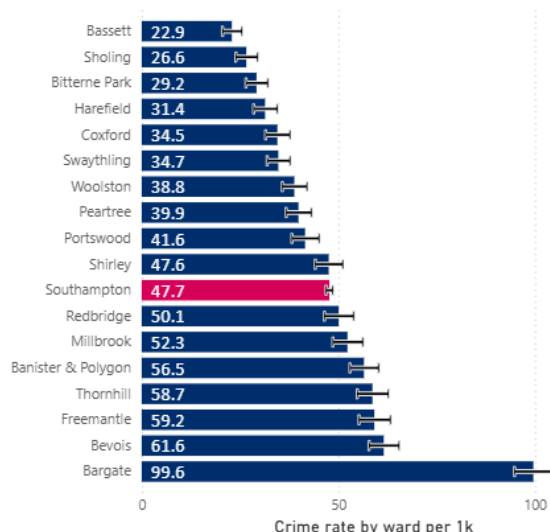


Sub-city patterns of violent crime continue to be strongly linked to the night-time economy in 2024/25, with Bargate and Bevois wards (city centre) having the highest rates of violent crime (*Figure 3.8*), with an increase of +10.1% in the volume of violent crime in Bargate over the last year. Additionally, the peak times for violent crimes continue to be in the early hours on the weekend. There have been reductions in violent crime in residential wards such as Harefield, (-23.8%) and Sholing (-23.7%), demonstrating that the pressures linked to the night-time economy are preventing sharper falls in the citywide violent crime rate, even as other wards show declines.

Figure 3.8: Ward benchmarking chart showing the rate (left) and severity (right) of violent crimes

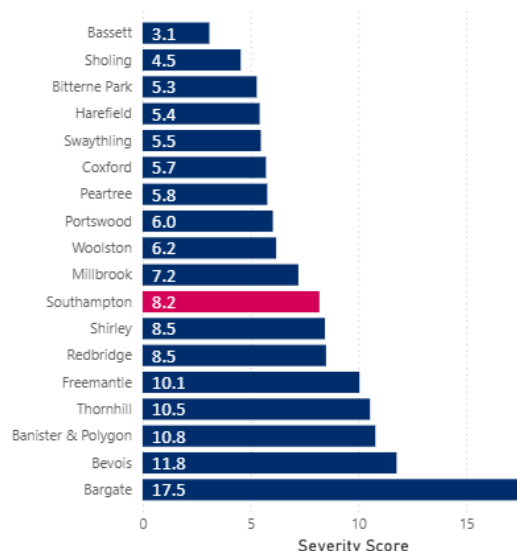
Violence Against the Person (rate per 1k population) - Southampton wards 2024/25

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary



Violence Against the Person (Severity Score) - Southampton wards 2024/25

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary



Domestic violence continues to be a significant driver of violent crime in Southampton, with 31.5% of violent crime in 2024/25 flagged as domestic. This is similar to the proportion recorded in 2023/24 (30.5%). This relative stability suggests domestic violence is a persistent contributor to overall violent crime levels in Southampton. Changes in certain crime types, particularly domestic violence should be interpreted with caution. This is because changes in recording and reporting practices, as well as victim confidence in reporting and awareness will influence volumes of crimes recorded.

### 3.2.1 Crimes involving a weapon

There were 702 crimes in Southampton during 2024/25 that involved the use of a bladed implement, a -15.6% decrease compared to 2023/24 (832). This contrasts with the national picture, where knife-enabled crime declined by -1.0%, suggesting a particularly strong local reduction.<sup>22</sup> There has been strong operational focus on knife crime. Initiatives such as Operation Sceptre (a national knife crime campaign) have been supported locally through the provision of three permanent knife surrender bins in Southampton, which have anonymously collected around 60 knives since June 2024.<sup>23</sup> Alongside enforcement, there has also been an emphasis on early intervention in schools in line with the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy<sup>24</sup>, with programmes such as the Choices initiative (across force area)

<sup>22</sup> Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2025. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2025>

<sup>23</sup> Police & Crime Commissioner, Hampshire & Isle of Wight – Annual Report 2025

<sup>24</sup> Home Office: Serious Violence Strategy (2018). Available online via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy>

being delivered to Year 6 and 7 pupils to raise awareness of the risks associated with knife crime and wider violence.

Crimes involving a bladed implement remain primarily committed by males (79.1%). In 2024/25, 35 to 49 year olds accounted for the largest share of offenders (24.8%), followed by 9 to 17 year olds (22.5%) and 18-24 year olds (21.6%). Although offences remain concentrated among younger age groups, with under 25s accounting for 44.1% of perpetrators and 36% of victims in 2024/25, knife-enabled crime is not solely a youth issue. It does, however, disproportionately involve young people.

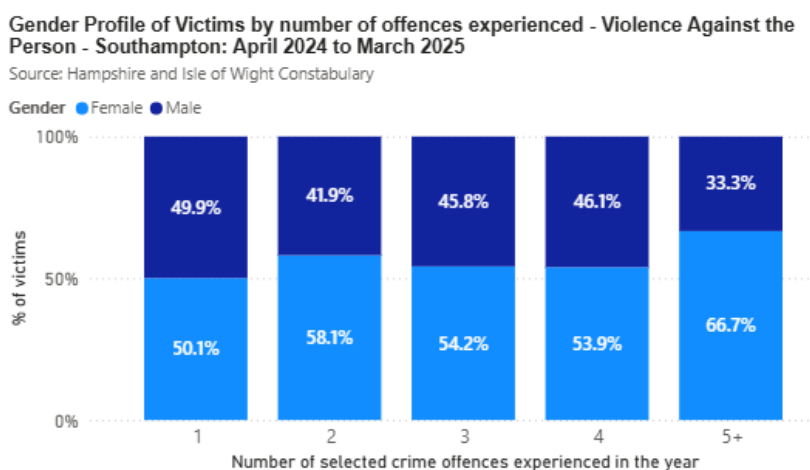
Firearms offences in Southampton declined from 58 to 34 recorded offences in 2024/25. While the overall number of recorded firearms offences remain relatively low in Southampton, firearms offences can cause significant harm and are often linked to organised crime, meaning their impact remains disproportionately high relative to volume.

### 3.2.2 Victims and perpetrators of violent crime

In 2024/25, there were 8,491 unique victims of violent crimes in Southampton, with 19.2% of these individuals experiencing multiple violent crimes in the year. This is similar to 2023/24, indicating that repeat victimisation remains a persistent issue. Individuals experiencing more than one violent crime in 2024/25, accounted for 40.4% of all violent crimes with a victim recorded in the year. Additionally, 17.8% of violent crime victims were also a victim of other crimes in the year.

A slightly higher proportion of violent crime victims were female (51.5%) in 2024/25, and were more likely to be repeat victims of violent crime (*Figure 3.9*), a continuation of post pandemic trends. This emphasises the impact and extent of VAWG in Southampton, with VAWG highlighted as a priority area for the second consecutive year.

Figure 3.9: Chart showing gender profile of violent crime victims by number of offences experienced



In terms of age, those aged 25 to 49 accounted for the largest share of victims (23.3% aged 25 to 34, 27.9% aged 35 to 49), whilst under-25s make up around one-third of victims. This may reflect a broadening of risk factors in later adulthood, combining those common among younger adults, such

as incidents in social or public settings, with additional risks linked to relationship, household, and other forms of violent crime.

There were 6,337 unique suspects and offenders of violent crime identified in 2024/25, with 28.2% of offenders committing multiple violent crimes in the year: accounting for 54.8% of violent crimes with a recorded suspect or offender. The most prolific offenders (5 or more offences) accounted for 3.8% of offences but committed 16.8% of violent crimes. Additionally, 26.4% of violent crime offenders also committed other crimes in 2024/25, with repeat offenders more likely to commit other crimes. This highlights that a relatively small group of individuals is driving a disproportionate share of violent offending and causing a substantial amount of harm.

The offender profile remains consistent with previous years, with males making up the majority of offenders (65.1%), while the largest age group is 35 to 49 year olds (33.7%), followed by 25 to 34 year olds (24.2%), highlighting that violent crime can affect anyone from all walks of life. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) continues to focus primarily on targeted interventions for 14 to 25 year olds, aiming to prevent young people from being driven into serious violence. While this remains vital, particularly for addressing early entry into offending pathways, violent crime is not exclusively a youth issue, as illustrated by age profiling above. Tackling violent crime effectively will require not only sustained youth-focused prevention but also dedicated strategies for managing offenders outside of the 14 to 25 cohort, particularly repeat offenders and domestic offenders who contribute disproportionately to overall violent crime in Southampton.

### **3.2.3 Points for the Partnership to note**

- Violent crime in Southampton declined by -4.3% during 2024/25. Reductions experienced this year are likely to be less impacted by changes in counting rules. Despite the decline over the last year, Southampton still ranks among the worst 5% of CSPs nationally with rates significantly higher than the national average.
- City-centre wards tied to the night-time economy remain the biggest contributors to the overall volume of violent crime in the city, with Bargate recording a further increase (+10.1%). By contrast, residential areas such as Harefield, Sholing and Bevois saw notable reductions, suggesting that wider reductions are being hindered by concentrated pressures in the city centre.
- Domestic abuse continues to underpin violent crime, with almost a third of offences (31.5%) flagged as domestic in 2024/25, highlighting that tackling domestic abuse remains key to reducing overall levels of violent crime in Southampton.
- Knife-enabled crime in Southampton declined by -15.6% in 2024/25, notably larger than the national decline of -1.0%. Firearms offences also decreased from 58 to 34 offences during the same period, and although volumes remain low, these incidents carry significant harm and are often linked to organised crime.
- Repeat victimisation (19.2%) and repeat offending (28.2%) remain an issue. A small group of prolific offenders continue to drive a large share of violent crime, making targeted disruption and offender management essential to reducing the harm caused by violent crime.

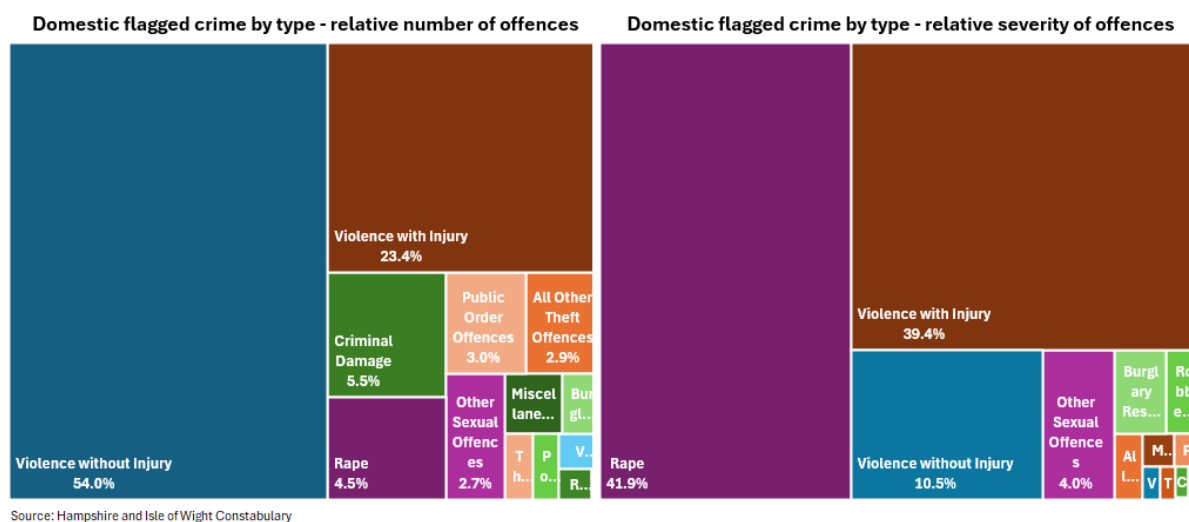
- While young people remain an important focus for violence prevention, in particular serious violence, tackling violent crime effectively will require a public health approach, including implementing a range of primary, secondary and tertiary interventions.
- Findings from the 2024 community safety survey show that the majority of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of serious violent crime (56.0%) or VAWG (72.0%) did not report the incident, which is concerning considering the high harm nature of these offences. The most common reasons for not reporting these crimes were *reporting it makes no difference*, *fear of negative consequences* and *disappointing previous experience of reporting*. More detailed findings from the 2025 community safety survey are presented in [Section 4](#).

### 3.3 Domestic crimes

There were 4,942 domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2024/25, a negligible decline (-0.3%) from 2023/24. Domestic flagged crime accounted for 15.9% of all recorded crimes in Southampton in 2024/25, a similar proportion compared to the previous year (15.2% in 2023/24).

The 'case mix' of domestic flagged crime in 2024/25 is consistent with previous years (*Figure 3.10*). The majority of domestic flagged crimes in Southampton were violent crimes (77.4%), with violence without injury (including stalking and harassment) accounting for 54.0% of domestic flagged crimes in 2024/25. Domestic rape continues to cause significant harm in the city, with rape accounting for 41.9% of the harm (relative severity) caused by domestic flagged crimes; despite only accounting for 4.5% of domestic flagged offences in 2024/25.

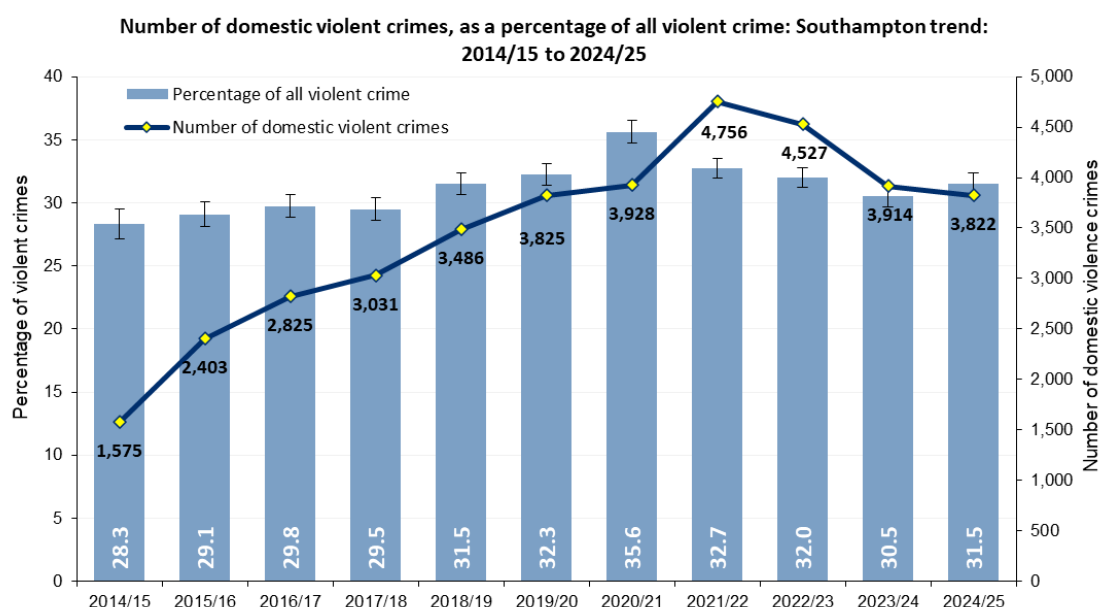
Figure 3.10: Tree maps showing relative number (left) and severity (right) of offences for domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2024/25



The number of domestic violent crimes in Southampton declined by -2.4% in 2024/25. However, because non-domestic violent crime fell by a greater amount, the proportion of violent crimes flagged as domestic increased marginally to 31.5% in 2024/25, up from 30.5% in 2023/24 (*Figure 3.11*). As with last year, changes in counting rules limit interpretation of trends prior to 2023/24, and

comparisons over time should be treated with caution. Nationally, the police flagged 815,941 offences as domestic abuse related in 2024/25, including 634,912 violence against the person offences.<sup>25</sup> This represents a -4% decrease in the number of domestic abuse related offences from the previous year (851,062 offences), largely due to fewer recorded violence against the person offences (down from 670,168 in 2023/24). The proportion of violence against the person offences flagged as domestic nationally has remained stable at 33%. These differences should be interpreted with caution, as police recorded domestic abuse-related crimes are not the most reliable measure. This is because domestic abuse is often hidden and underreported and are impacted by changes in counting rules. Overall domestic abuse remains a significant issue in Southampton and has again been highlighted as a priority for the Partnership.

Figure 3.11: Trend in the number and proportion of violent crimes that are flagged as domestic



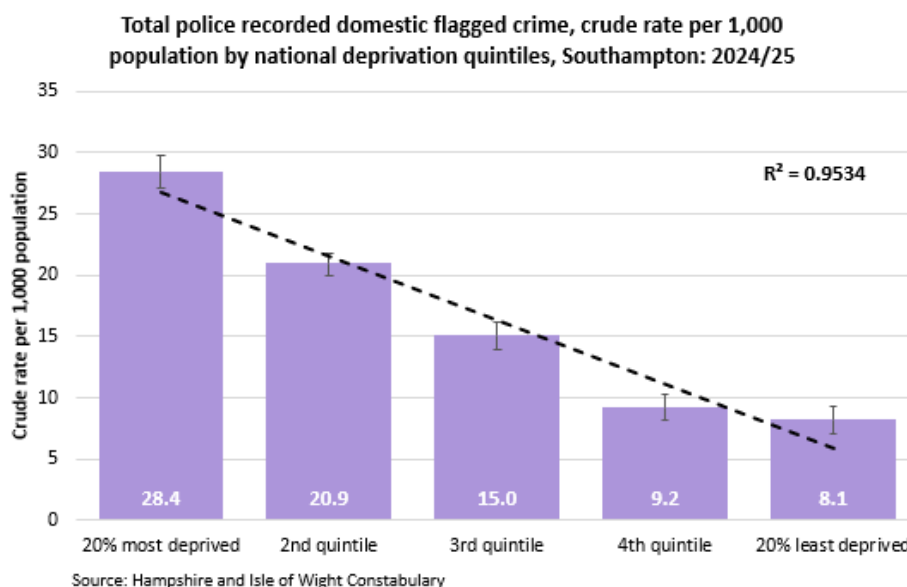
Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

Sub-city patterns of domestic flagged crime remain similar to previous years, though there have been some changes in the wards most affected. In 2023/24, rates of domestic flagged crime were significantly higher than the city average in Thornhill, Millbrook, Freemantle, Bevois and Redbridge. In 2024/25, Thornhill, Freemantle and Redbridge have remained significantly higher than the city average, but Bargate is now significantly higher, while Millbrook and Bevois are no longer significantly higher than the city average. This demonstrates some variation at the ward level, but the overall geographic pattern of higher rates in and around more deprived neighbourhoods remains unchanged (Figure 3.13). Domestic flagged crime continues to be strongly linked to deprivation (Figure 3.12), with

<sup>25</sup> Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2025. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2025>

the rate of domestic flagged crimes 3.5 times higher in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods in Southampton.

Figure 3.12: Quintile chart showing the relationship between domestic flagged crime and deprivation



Domestic abuse not only has an impact on victims, but also close family and children in the household. Children related to or under parental responsibility of either the victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse are recognised as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act.<sup>26</sup> Children experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse is a key adverse childhood experience (ACE), with children having ACEs more likely to have poorer outcomes; particularly those relating to health, education and crime.<sup>27</sup> The impact on children is illustrated by the fact that 63% of MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, previously High-Risk Domestic Abuse – HRDA) cases in Southampton have children or young people in the household (2024/25), an increase from 57% in 2023/24.

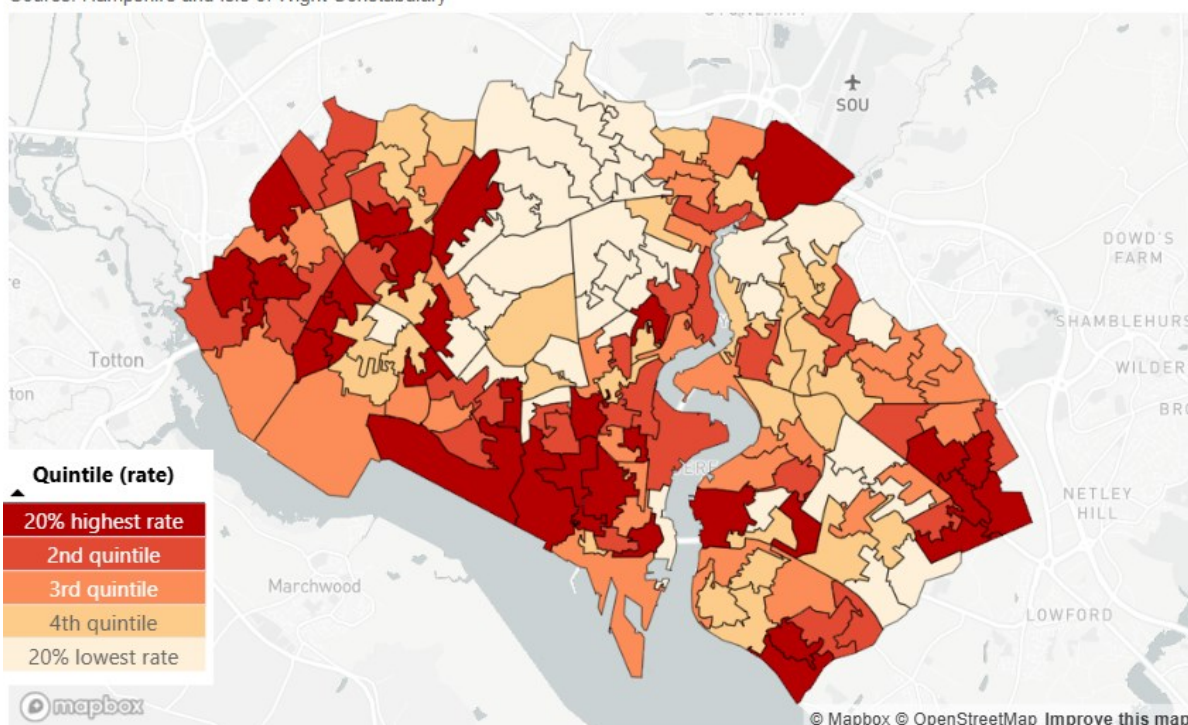
<sup>26</sup> Home Office – Domestic Abuse Act Factsheet (2022). Online Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/statutory-definition-of-domestic-abuse-factsheet>

<sup>27</sup> Local Government Association: Public health approaches to reducing violence (2018). Available via: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/public-health-approaches-reducing-violence>

Figure 3.13: Map showing rates of domestic flagged crime by Southampton neighbourhoods (2021 LSOAs)

Domestic Flagged crime, crude rate per 1,000 population, Southampton LSOAs grouped into quintiles: April 2024 to March 2025

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary



### 3.3.1 Victims and perpetrators of domestic crimes

In 2024/25, there were 3,460 victims of domestic flagged crimes in Southampton, which is similar to the previous year (3,398 in 2023/24). In 2024/25, 22.2% of victims experienced more than one domestic flagged crime in the year, a small decline from the previous year (23.6%). Repeat victims accounted for 43.7% of all domestic flagged crimes recorded in 2024/25, highlighting that repeat victimisation of domestic abuse remains a substantial issue. 21.8% of domestic flagged crime victims also experienced other offences in the year, compared to 22.2% in 2023/24.

The above figures illustrate a decline in repeat victimisation compared to last year. However, the re-introduction of the principal crime rule continues to affect the recording of certain offences, which are likely impacting the above figures, therefore the above should not be interpreted as a genuine decline in repeat victimisation for domestic offences.

Females continue to account for a significantly higher proportion (68.8%) of domestic flagged crime victims than males (31.2%). Victim age profiling is also similar to previous years, with the most common age groups of domestic crime victims in 2024/25 being those aged 35 to 49 years (32.9%), followed by 25 to 34 (28.5%) and 18 to 24 (17.3%). Under 18s accounted for 7.0% of victims in 2024/25. However, it is important to emphasise that this only includes under 18s that are direct victims of domestic abuse and not those related to or under parental responsibility of either the victim or perpetrator, as recognised under the Domestic Abuse Act. Therefore, the above figure does not

illustrate the true impact of domestic abuse on children in Southampton and should not be interpreted as under 18s being least affected by domestic abuse.

There were 3,285 unique domestic crime offenders identified in 2024/25, which is a +3.1% increase compared to 2023/24 (3,185). Of these, 24.6% of domestic crime offenders committed more than one domestic flagged offence in the year, a decrease compared to 26.9% in the previous year. In addition, 29.9% of offenders also committed other offences within the last year. Similar to repeat victimisation, repeat offending has also fallen, however, this may be influenced by the changes in counting rules, rather than a real change in repeat behaviour. The above profiling continues to highlight the need to safeguard and protect victims as well as reform perpetrators.

### 3.3.2 Points for the Partnership to note

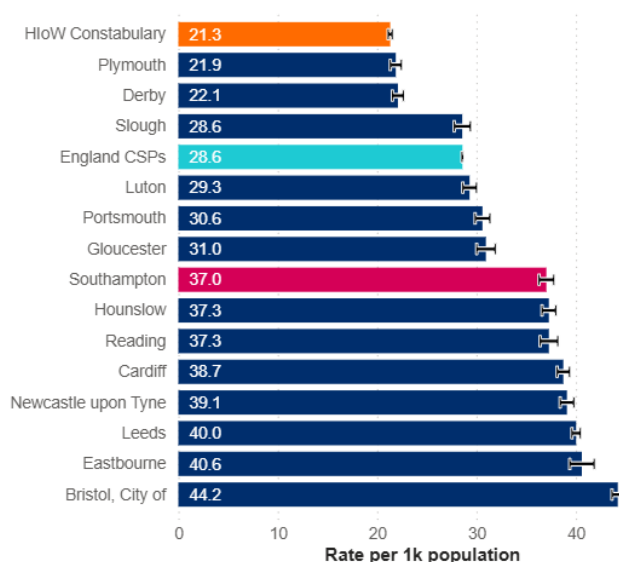
- Domestic abuse remains a Partnership priority. Volumes were stable in 2024/25, accounting for 15.9% of all crimes, but recorded figures underestimate the true scale given the hidden nature of abuse and underreporting.
- The majority of domestic flagged offences continue to be violent crimes (77.4%). Domestic rape accounted for only 4.5% of cases but 41.9% of relative harm, reflecting both the severity of individual offences and the concentration of harm within sexual violence.
- Although domestic abuse can affect anyone from all walks of life. Geographical analysis continues to show a strong link between domestic flagged crime and deprivation, with the rate 3.5 times higher in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the 20% least deprived.
- The impact of domestic abuse on children remains substantial, with 63% of MARAC cases involving children or young people, an increase from 57% in 2023/24. The Partnership should continue to work with partners to support children experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse. As domestic abuse is a key ACE, which in turn leads to increased risk of poorer outcomes for children particularly those relating to health, education and crime.
- Repeat victimisation and repeat offending remains a substantial issue in relation to domestic abuse-related crimes in Southampton. Any changes in repeat victimisation and repeat offending over the last year should not be interpreted as a real change, due to the impact of changes in counting rules introduced in June 2023.
- Findings from the 2025 community safety survey show that 56% of respondents don't know if domestic abuse is an issue in their local area, while 25% think it is an issue, similar to last year. The high proportion of "don't know" responses may reflect the hidden nature of domestic abuse. The above suggests there is still value in the Partnership working with local partners to raise awareness of domestic abuse.
- 66% of respondents who had witnessed or experienced domestic abuse did not report it, the same as last year. Common reasons for not reporting domestic abuse include *reporting it makes no difference, not serious enough to report* and *fear of negative consequences*. More detailed findings from the 2025 community safety survey are presented in [Section 4](#).

### 3.4 Theft Offences

Theft offences dropped out the list of partnership priorities in 2024/25, following reductions in key acquisitive crime types such as residential burglary and vehicle offences. However, theft offences remain an important area of concern in Southampton. The city recorded 37.0 theft offences per 1k population in 2024/25, which is significantly higher than the national average, placing Southampton 8<sup>th</sup> among its comparators down from 6<sup>th</sup> last year (*Figure 3.14*). Overall, theft offences in Southampton fell by -2.8% in the last year, which is a larger decline than the national trend (-0.2%), but smaller than that observed across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (-3.8%) (*Figure 3.15*).

Figure 3.14: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of theft offences

Police Recorded Theft offences (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2024/25  
Data source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime

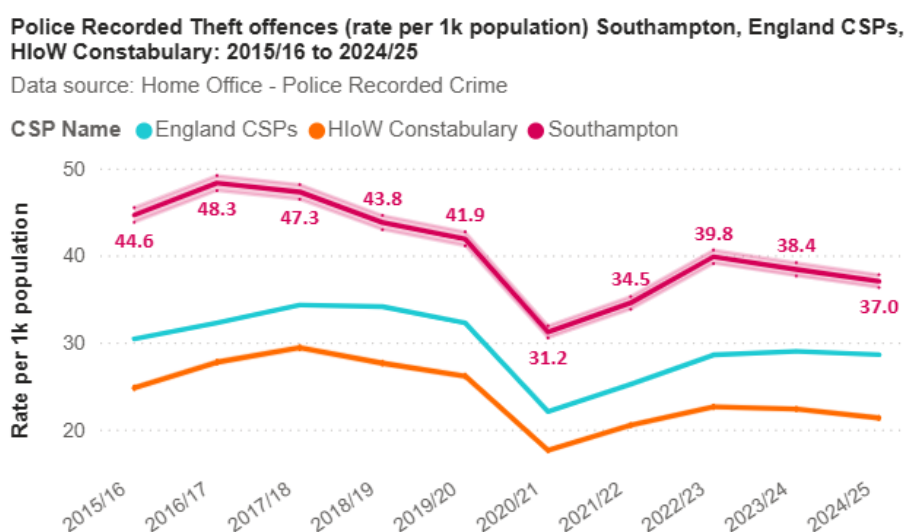


The picture becomes more mixed when examining individual offence groups. Bicycle theft increased by +9.5% (+37 offences). Domestic burglary declined by -8.0%, similar to national trends (-9.5%), though smaller than the drop across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (-14.6%). Non-domestic burglary increased by +4.5% in Southampton, trending in the opposite direction to rates seen across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (-17.2%) and nationally (-5.6%). Shoplifting also increased in Southampton (+6.6%), though this increase was lower than recorded across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (+12%) and nationally (+20.4%). The national rise in shoplifting is likely linked to the ongoing cost of living crisis<sup>28</sup>, with national retail surveys suggest that the cost-of-living pressures have pushed some people not previously involved in acquisitive crime into shop theft, with

<sup>28</sup> Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2024

reports of families stealing essentials such as food and toiletries.<sup>29</sup> At the same time, better reporting systems used by large retailers may have pulled up recorded offences<sup>30,31</sup>. The slower rise in Southampton may reflect the fact that local shop lifting rates are already high, with the Southampton rate 1.8 times higher than the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary average. Vehicle offences fell by -14.1%, in line with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (-14.5%), both steeper than the national decline (-8.1%). Falling levels of vehicle crime may be linked to reduced opportunities for offending, for example with more vehicles parked near homes due to hybrid working, while the increased use of video doorbells in recent years may also act as a deterrent.

Figure 3.15: Trend in the rate of theft offences for Southampton, HloW Constabulary and England



At a ward level, Bargate ward continues to have the highest rate of recorded theft offences, rising from 138.5 offences per 1k population in 2023/24, to 146.5 in 2024/25. This reflects the concentration of shops, businesses and footfall in the city centre, and aligns with the increases in shoplifting and non-domestic burglary in the past year. Bargate accounted for 36.9% of all shoplifting offences and 46.6% of all theft from the person offences in Southampton during 2024/25. Beyond Bargate, there were substantial reductions in some wards, including a -38.5% fall in Peartree and a -34.2% fall in Thornhill. By contrast, theft offences rose in Shirley (+27.3%) and Portswood (+16.5%), both of which have retail areas that attract high footfall, increasing opportunities for acquisitive crime. The data suggest that whilst Bargate remains the clear hotspot, theft is also an issue in other district centres outside the city centre.

<sup>29</sup> The Guardian – UK food shops report ‘massive’ rise in pensioner shoplifting (2024). Available via: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/may/12/uk-food-shops-report-massive-rise-in-pensioner-shoplifting>

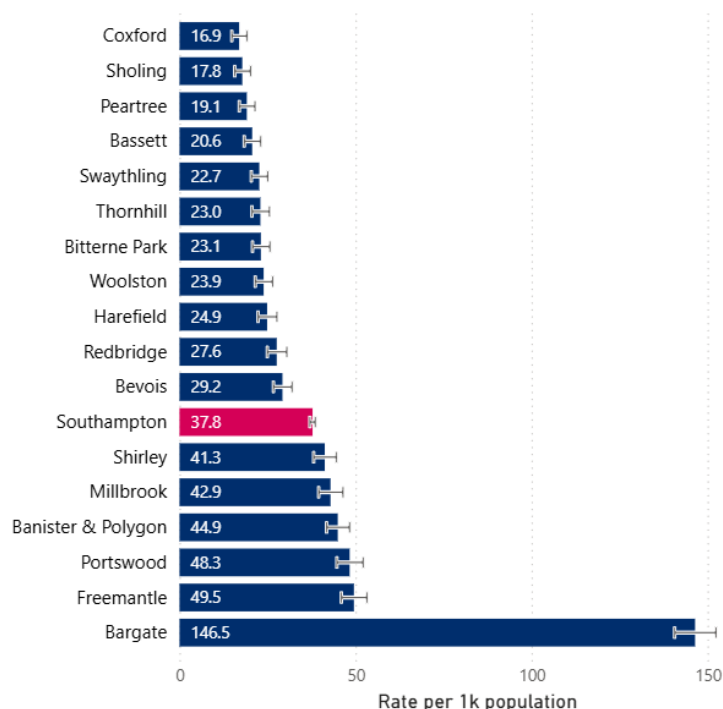
<sup>30</sup> House of Lords Library – Retail crime: Impact on workers, the community and local economies (2024). Available via: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/retail-crime-impact-on-workers-the-community-and-local-economies/>

<sup>31</sup> Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary – Force Strategic Assessment 2024

Figure 3.16: Chart showing the rate of theft offences by Southampton wards

Theft offences (rate per 1k population) - Southampton wards 2024/25

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

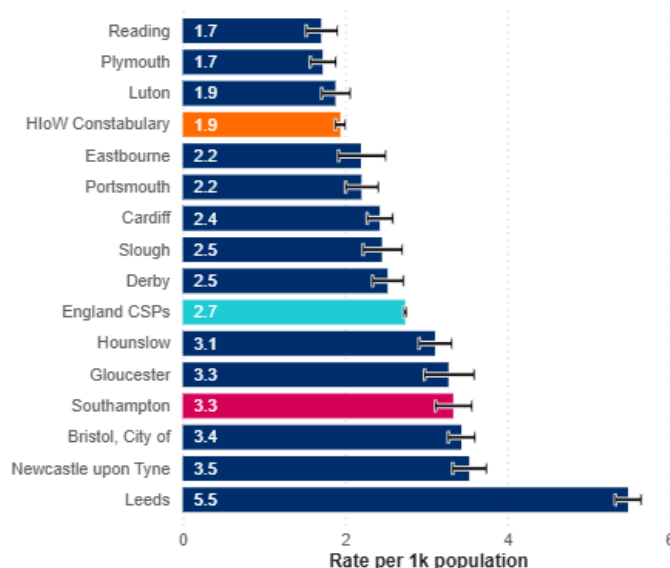


### 3.4.1 Residential burglary

Residential burglary continues to be one of the more serious theft offences, though its share of overall harm in Southampton declined slightly in 2024/25, accounting for 7.3% of the total harm caused by crime, down from 8.2% in the previous year (*Figure 2.3*). The severity of residential burglary itself also dropped by -10.2% this year emphasising a reduction in not just volume but also the harm inflicted. Southampton had a residential burglary rate of 3.3 burglaries per 1k population in 2024/25, ranking fourth highest among comparator areas for the second year running. Although the rate remains higher than the England average (2.7), the gap is beginning to close (*Figure 3.17*).

Figure 3.17: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of residential burglaries

Police Recorded Residential Burglary (rate per 1k population) Southampton  
and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships 2024/25  
Data source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime



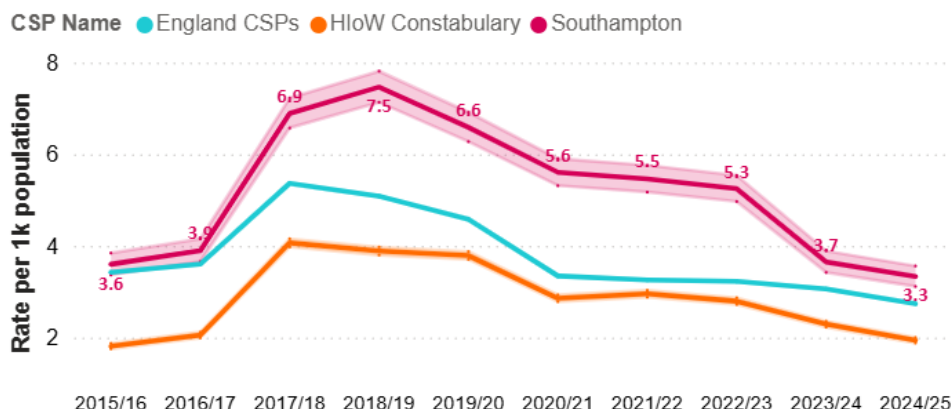
As stated in the previous section, the number of residential burglaries declined by -8.0% in Southampton, continuing a long-term decline, though less steep than the -29.0% decline in 2023/24. Across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, residential burglary declined by -14.6% and in England by -9.5% (Figure 3.18). Given that residential burglaries are typically well reported and reliably recorded, these declines are likely to represent a genuine decline. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary and all other police forces committed to attending every report of a domestic dwelling burglary in person, with the average attendance rate of a domestic burglary across the force area 98% in 2023/24.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary – Force Strategic Assessment 2024

Figure 3.18: Trend in the rate of residential burglaries for Southampton, HloW Constabulary and England

**Police Recorded Residential Burglary (rate per 1k population) Southampton, England CSPs, HloW Constabulary: 2015/16 to 2024/25**

Data source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime



Despite recent economic uncertainty and the cost-of-living crisis, residential burglaries continued to decline. Increased hybrid working continuing beyond the pandemic, is believed to be a major factor in the reduction of residential burglaries observed over the last five years.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, the emergence and improvement of security technology for residential homes may have acted as a deterrent to offenders in recent years. Formal action outcomes for residential burglary cases were largely unchanged, with a marginal decrease from 5.5% in 2023/24 to 5.2% in 2024/25. Southampton continues to account for a large proportion of the residential burglaries across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (21.6%), meaning that further improving outcomes locally is important, both in terms of reducing the harm in Southampton, and for improving the overall force response to burglary.

At a sub-city level, residential burglary rates were significantly higher than the city average in 2024/25 in Banister and Polygon, Freemantle, and Portswood, areas that have historically had higher rates. This is a slight shift relative to last year, where Bevois was featured more prominently. Some wards also saw notable percentage increases, including Redbridge (+86.2%, +25 cases), Coxford (+42.9%, +15 cases) and Woolston (+33.3%, +13 cases). While some of this reflects small baseline numbers meaning substantial percentage increases with relatively few cases, these changes also suggest that residential burglary is a citywide issue.

### 3.4.2 Victims and perpetrators of theft offences

In 2024/25, there were 4,474 unique victims of theft offences, a -7.5% decrease compared to 2023/24 (4,836 victims). This reduction is likely linked to reductions in vehicle crime and residential burglary, both of which contribute substantially to victim-based theft counts. Repeat victimisation remains low, with 6.1% of victims experiencing more than one theft offence, consistent with the previous year.

<sup>33</sup> Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary – Force Strategic Assessment 2023

Victim demographics for theft offences follow a similar pattern to previous years. Males continue to make up the majority of victims (61.3%) in 2024/25, and the age profile is relatively evenly distributed compared to other crime types. The most common age group for victims of theft offences continues to be those aged 35 to 49 years (29.5%), followed by 25 to 34 (23.5%), 50 to 64 (17.6%), 18 to 24 (16.8%), 65 and over (9.1%) and lastly those aged under 18 (3.7%). This age spread reflects the opportunistic nature of theft offences, with potential for victimisation across a wide age range.

In terms of offenders, there were 1,515 unique offenders identified for theft offences in 2024/25, which is a +9.7% increase compared to 2023/24 (1,381). Repeat offending remains significant, with 26.5% of offenders committing more than one theft offence. A small but prolific group of offenders, 9.7% who committed five or more thefts, accounting for 53.2% of all theft offences with a known offender, emphasising the disproportionate contribution to the number of offences committed by this cohort. However, repeat offending is not evenly distributed across theft types. Residential burglary has a relatively low rate of repeat offending (13.9%), whereas burglary of business and community premises (32.1%) and shoplifting (32.9%) show much higher levels. This suggests that interventions targeted at prolific offenders may have the greatest impact in reducing shoplifting and business-related burglary, both of which saw an increase in the number of offences this year. Cross-over with other crime types also remains a concern. 43.3% of theft offenders committed other offences during the year, most commonly violence against the person (32.2% of theft offenders committing violent crime offences). This overlap demonstrates the importance of viewing theft not in isolation, but as part of wider offending behaviour, with implications for both victim safety and management of offenders.

The demographic profile of offenders remains relatively similar to previous years, with the majority being male (68.4%). Offending was most common among those aged 35 to 49 years (32.5%) were the most common theft offenders in 2024/25, followed by 25 to 34 (26.0%), those aged 9 to 17 (16.0%), 18 to 24 year olds (15.4%) and 50 to 64 (9.8%) and those aged 65 years and over (1.5%). The primary change in offender demographics compared to last year is that 9 to 17 year olds have overtaken 18 to 24 year olds as the third largest age group of offenders.

### **3.4.3 Points for the Partnership to note**

- Though theft offences are no longer a formal Partnership priority, Southampton continues to record rates above the national average (37.0 per 1k population; 8th highest among comparators), meaning the offence type still warrants close monitoring.
- Overall theft fell by -2.8%, but trends diverged across sub-types. Vehicle crime and residential burglary declined, while shoplifting (+6.6%), non-domestic burglary (+4.5%) and bicycle theft (+9.5%) increased. Shoplifting appears particularly influenced by cost-of-living pressures. The smaller local increase in shoplifting may reflect Southampton's already high baseline level (Southampton's rate of shoplifting is 1.8 times higher than Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary). Nearly one-third of shoplifting offences are committed by repeat offenders, this illustrates how much volume is concentrated among a small group of individuals.

Targeting this cohort, alongside support measures, could lead to a substantial reduction in shoplifting offences.

- Residential burglary continues a long-term decline (-8%), supported by factors such as hybrid working and improved home security. Despite this, Southampton still accounts for more than a fifth of the constabulary's total recorded offences, and formal outcomes remain low (5.2%).

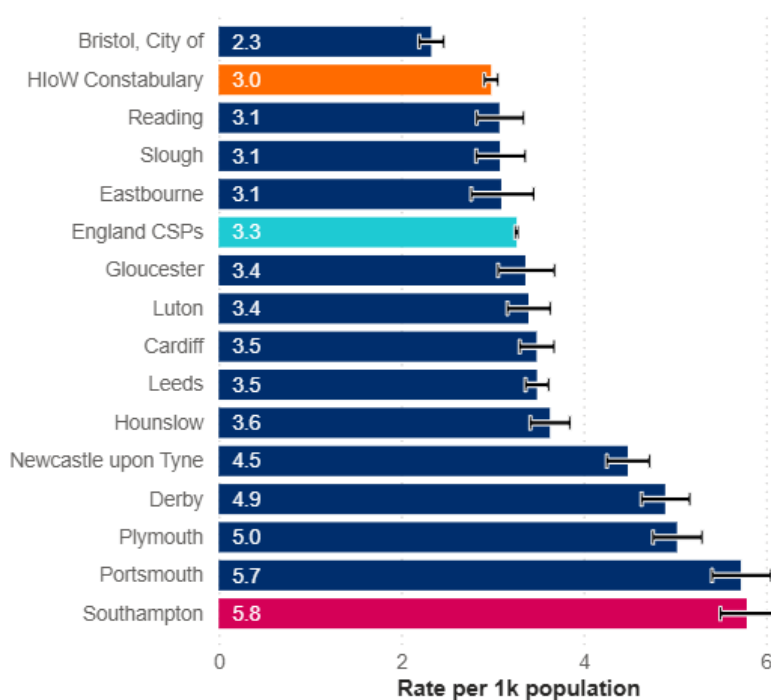
### 3.5 Drugs and alcohol

Southampton had a drug offence rate of 5.8 offences per 1k population in 2024/25, which is the highest among comparator areas, and is significantly higher than the England average of 3.3 offences per 1k population (*Figure 3.19*). The number of drug offences in Southampton increased by +4.9% over the last year, higher than the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary increase (+4.2%), but lower than the national rise (+11.4%) (*Figure 3.20*). Alongside this, there were 1,258 drug affected crimes in Southampton during 2024/25, a small (+1.2%) increase compared to 2023/24 (1,243).

Figure 3.19: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of drug offences

**Police Recorded Drug offences (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2024/25**

Data source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime



Drug crime figures continue to be shaped by police activity. In 2024/25, the number of stop checks in Southampton remained largely unchanged at 3,265, compared to 3,262 in the previous year. While this suggests a consistent level of enforcement, it also means fluctuations in drug offences are unlikely to be driven by changes in stop-check activity alone. Stop checks are used for a range of suspected offences, including drugs, knife crime and stolen goods, so they are not a direct measure of drug

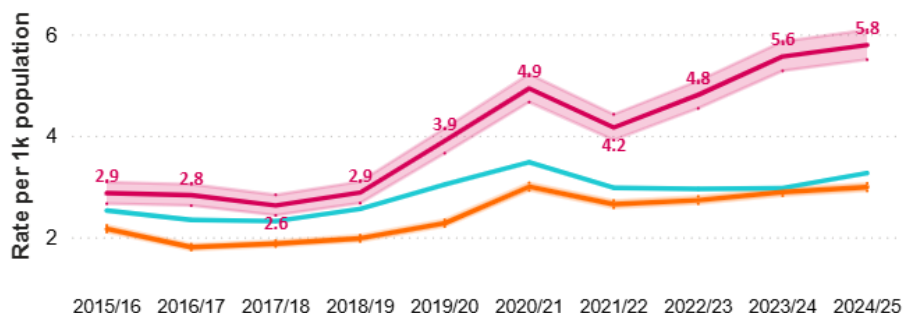
enforcement. Moreover, the majority of stop checks produce no recorded outcome, this year, 65.4% of stop checks found no object and 74.1% resulted in no further action.

Figure 3.20: Trend chart showing the rate of drug offences for Southampton, HloW Constabulary and England

Police Recorded Drug offences (rate per 1k population) Southampton, England CSPs, HloW Constabulary: 2015/16 to 2024/25

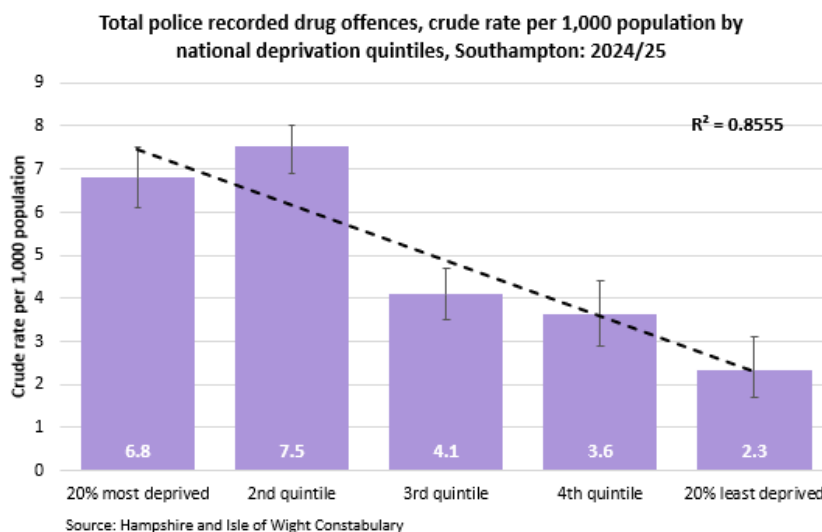
Data source: Home Office - Police Recorded Crime

CSP Name ● England CSPs ● HloW Constabulary ● Southampton



Sub-city patterns of drug offences show a similar picture to previous years, with Bargate, Banister & Polygon, Freemantle and Bevois wards having significantly higher rates of drug offences compared to the Southampton average in 2024/25. Although it should be noted that, the presence of a key police site in Freemantle may have inflated the rate in Freemantle ward. However, relative changes in individual wards compared to last year show important shifts outside of comparisons to the city average. Bargate recorded a -28.5% fall in drug offences (113 crimes). By contrast, wards with historically lower levels of drug crime saw larger increases, including Coxford (+90.9%, 20 crimes) and Millbrook (+55.6%, 25 crimes). Whilst the absolute numbers in these areas remain relatively small, the sharp percentage increases may suggest a displacement of activity away from the city centre into more residential and deprived neighbourhoods, consistent with the broader link between drug crime and deprivation in Southampton; in 2024/25 the drug offence rates in the most deprived areas (6.8 per 1k) were 2.9 times higher than in the least deprived (2.3 per 1k, *Figure 3.21*). However, the highest rate of drug offences was recorded in the second deprivation quintile.

Figure 3.21: Quintile chart showing the relationship between drug offences and deprivation



The trends in drug related offences should be viewed in the context of wider operational activity across the force area. In 2024/25, the force dismantled 14 county lines networks, making 94 arrests and seizing drugs worth £300k, alongside cash and weapons.<sup>34</sup> Additionally, the constabulary also further rolled out a drug testing on arrest scheme that tested almost 3,000 detainees with a 67% positivity rate. Early findings have shown a 44% reduction in re-arrest among those testing positive, with nearly half being new to support services. These interventions demonstrate a dual approach of disrupting organised supply while addressing individual demand and re-offences. The +46.7% increase in drug crime severity in Southampton during 2024/25 indicates a shift towards higher harm offences (e.g. supply/trafficking) rather than a large rise in volume, which is consistent with targeted activity against county lines and other supply networks.

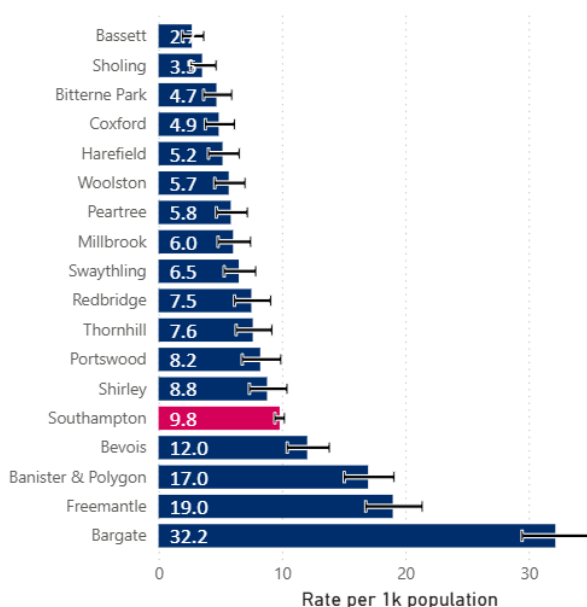
There were 2,493 alcohol affected crimes recorded in Southampton during 2024/25, a -4.2% decrease compared to 2023/24. The majority were violent offences (64.7%), reinforcing the strong link between alcohol use and harm. This not only drives violent crime figures, but also places significant demand on emergency services, particularly police and health services during peak weekend hours.

<sup>34</sup> Police & Crime Commissioner, Hampshire & Isle of Wight – Annual Report 2025

Figure 3.22: Ward benchmarking chart showing the rate of alcohol affected crime

All Crime (Alcohol Affected) (rate per 1k population) - Southampton wards  
2024/25

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

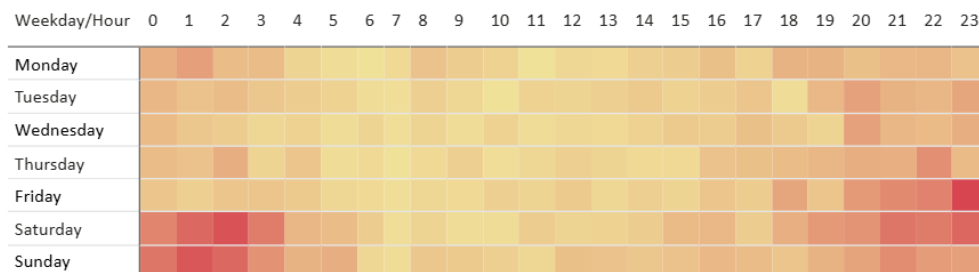


Sub-city patterns again show that Bargate ward continues to have the highest rate of alcohol affected crime in Southampton, with Freemantle, Banister & Polygon and Bevois also recorded rates above the city average (Figure 3.22). These higher rates likely reflect high footfall and the concentration of licensed premises in and around the city centre; Bargate recorded a further +16.9% increase in the number of offences compared with last year. Temporal profiling of alcohol affected crimes is also similar to previous years, with peak occurrence times late at night and early hours of the morning on weekends (Figure 3.23). Overall, the sub-city and temporal patterns in alcohol affected crime continue to highlight a strong link to the night-time economy.

Figure 3.23: Chart showing peak day and time for alcohol affected crime

Alcohol Affected crime by day and time of occurrence: April 2024 to March 2025

Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary



Not only do drugs and alcohol impact crime, but they can also cause significant physical and psychological harm to individuals, as well as friends and family of those affected. Alcohol is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health and disability among those aged 15 to 49 years in the UK. More

information on the health impacts of alcohol and drugs can be found on the [Southampton Data Observatory](#).

### 3.5.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- Southampton continues to record the highest drug offence rate among comparators (5.8 per 1k population, +4.9% in 2024/25). Volumes remain heavily shaped by policing activity, the +46.7% rise in severity is linked to an increase in trafficking offences, which may reflect substantial operational focus across the force area in disrupting and dismantling drug networks.
- Alcohol-affected crime fell by -4.2%. Bargate continues to have the highest rate and recorded a further 16.9% rise this year, illustrating continued strong links between alcohol-affected crime and the night-time economy, with peaks occurrence times late on weekends.
- Drug and alcohol harms remain high-impact drivers of crime and vulnerability, requiring a dual approach of disrupting supply alongside prevention and support services to reduce demand and reoffending. The Partnership should continue to work with partners to raise awareness of the harm caused by drug and alcohol use, particularly around the risk and harm posed to vulnerable individuals in the city.

### 3.6 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’. There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime:

- Race or ethnicity
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Transgender identity

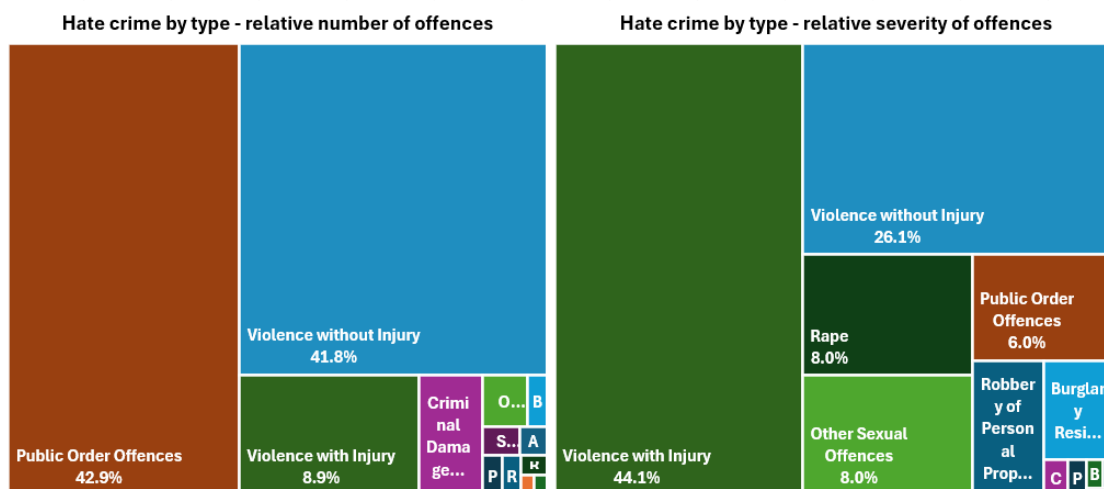
There were 944 recorded hate crime offences in Southampton during 2024/25, which is a -0.4% decline on the 948 recorded in 2023/24. Across England and Wales, there was a +2% increase in police-recorded hate crimes compared with the previous year.<sup>35</sup> However, this year’s national data should be treated with caution following the Metropolitan Police Service’s (MPS) switch to a new crime recording system in February 2024.<sup>36</sup> Under the old system, a single hate crime flag could apply to multiple linked offences, leading to over-counting of hate crimes. The new CONNECT system now records each offence separately. As a result, MPS figures for 2024/25 have been excluded from national totals, and long-term trends may overstate the true volume of hate crime. Southampton’s figures are unaffected by this change, but national comparisons should be made carefully, given the MPS large share of recorded hate crime.

The ‘case mix’ of hate crimes (*Figure 3.24*) has shifted in the last year. In 2024/25, public order offences accounted for 42.9% of hate crimes (down from 48.7% last year), while violence without injury rose to 41.8% (up from 34.5% last year). Violence with injury remained similar to the figures from 2023/24 at 8.9%. This indicates that a greater share of hate crimes are violent crimes, which explains the +21.4% increase in the severity of hate crimes in Southampton over the last year.

<sup>35</sup> Hate crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2025 Available via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025>

<sup>36</sup> Hate crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2025 Available via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025>

Figure 3.24: Tree maps showing relative number (left) and severity (right) of hate crimes in Southampton



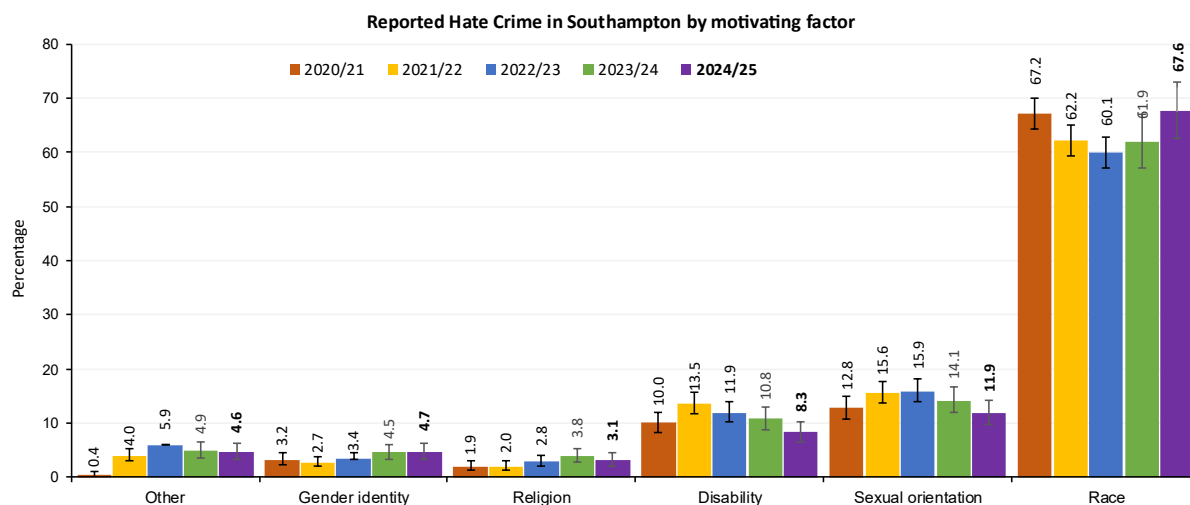
Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

A hate crime can have multiple motivating factors (strands). Race continues to be the most frequently recorded motivating factor of hate crime in Southampton. After stabilising the last few years, the proportion of racially motivated hate crimes in Southampton rose from 61.9% in 2023/24, to 67.6% in 2024/25. Nationally, the Home Office reported that 71% of hate crimes were racially motivated.<sup>37</sup> The increase in racially motivated hate crime in Southampton over the last year may be influenced by current events, for example, nationally, spikes in racially motivated hate crime have often followed “trigger events” such as terrorist attacks or periods of political tension. Of relevance to the latest reporting period the most recent spike nationally was in August 2024, following the Southport murders on the 29 July and the subsequent disorder and related protests in certain towns and cities across England.<sup>38</sup> Most other strands of hate crime fell compared to last year, with the exception of gender identity, for which the share rose to 4.7% up from 4.5% in the previous year (Figure 3.25). Trends in motivating factors are important to monitor, particularly as hate crime can be influenced by current events.

<sup>37</sup> Hate crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2025 Available via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025>

<sup>38</sup> Hate crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2025 Available via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025>

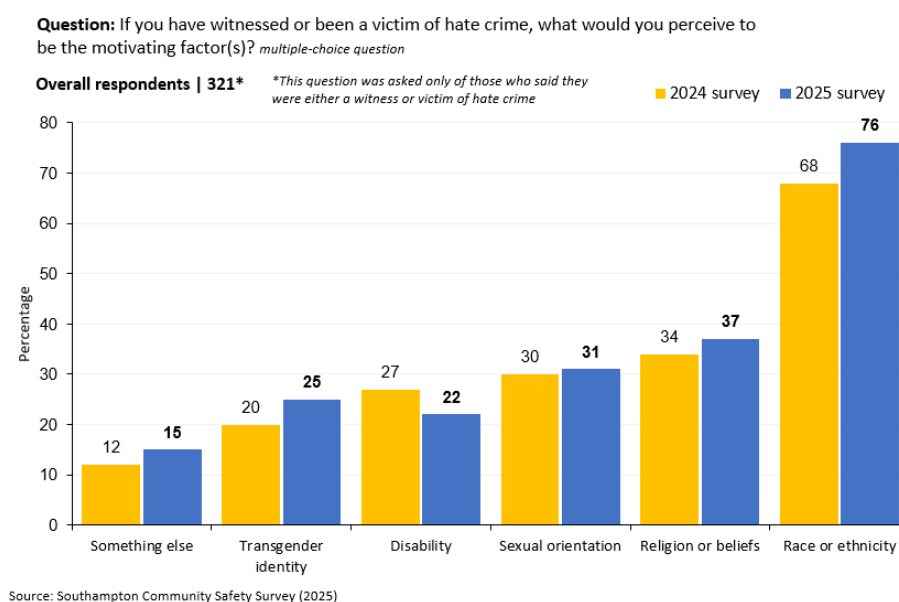
Figure 3.25: Chart showing hate crime in Southampton by motivating factor (strand)



Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. Note: percentages will not sum to 100% as hate crimes can have more than 1 motivating factor

Findings from the 2025 Southampton Community Safety Survey provide further detail on local experiences and perceptions of hate crime. This year, 23% of respondents reported witnessing a hate crime, and 5% stated they had been a victim in the past twelve months. Among those who had experienced or witnessed hate crime, race or ethnicity was the most commonly perceived motivating factor, cited by 76% (up from 68% last year). Religion or belief rose slightly from 34% to 37%, sexual orientation remained similar at 31%, disability fell from 27% to 22%, and transgender identity increased from 20% to 25%. (Figure 3.26). More detailed findings from the 2024 community safety survey are presented in [Section 4](#).

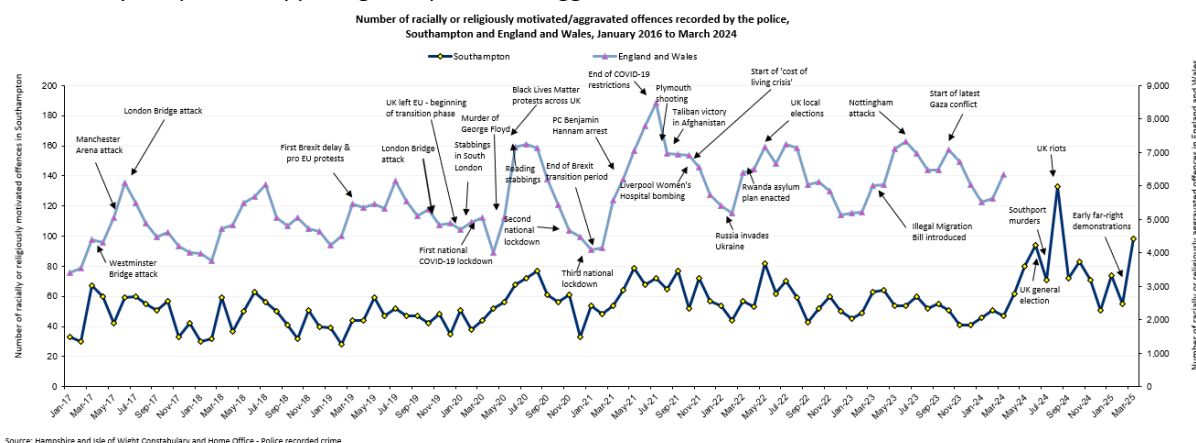
Figure 3.26: Chart showing respondents perceived motivating factors for hate crime in Southampton



Although Home Office counting rules for hate crime have not changed, shifts in recording practices continue to impact trends. The fall in hate crimes recorded nationally in 2022/23 and 2023/24 was partly linked to new guidance on recording non-crime hate incidents (NCHIs), first published by the College of Policing in 2022 and updated in June 2023. This guidance asked officers to assess whether genuine hostility was present or whether an incident might instead reflect lawful free expression. Although aimed at NCHIs, it likely encouraged wider scrutiny over what qualifies as a hate crime. Together with the MPS's recent data-quality issues, these changes make long-term national trends difficult to interpret, which may also have an impact on local trends, particularly around NCHIs.

For this reason, the trend chart (*Figure 3.27*) has been updated only for Southampton this year. The national historical patterns still remain useful as it demonstrates how past national events, such as the EU Referendum in 2016, terrorist attacks in 2017, and the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, have coincided with short-term increases in hate crime. These historical relationships remain useful for anticipating how similar events might influence future trends. Additional potential trigger points from the past year have been added, most notably the UK riots during summer 2024.

Figure 3.27: Chart showing monthly trend in the number of racially or religiously motivated/aggravated offences recorded by the police mapped against potential trigger events



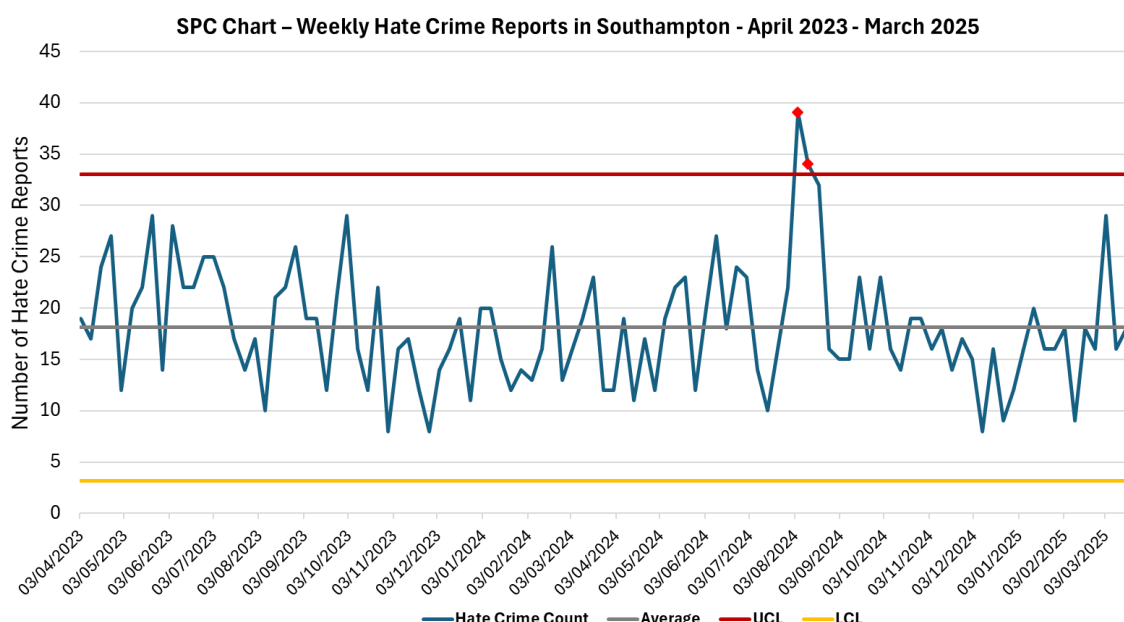
Given the uncertainty in national data, the analysis this year focuses more closely on Southampton's recent trends. To identify statistically meaningful changes rather than normal variation, a Statistical Process Control (SPC) chart was produced using weekly hate crime counts between April 2023 and March 2025 (

*Figure 3.28: SPC chart of weekly hate crime reports in Southampton.* The chart shows two consecutive weeks above the upper control limit in August 2024, followed by a short-term decline. This period represents a statistically significant spike, with spikes in hate crime also experienced nationally during August 2024, which have been linked to unrest and riots following the Southport murders.<sup>39</sup> Evidently,

<sup>39</sup> Hate crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2025 Available via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2025>

events of this nature can heighten community tension and lead to short-term rises in hate-motivated offences.

Figure 3.28: SPC chart of weekly hate crime reports in Southampton



Hate crime in Southampton continues to cluster in central wards such as Bargate, where denser populations and the night-time economy remain key drivers. Neighbour disputes and nightlife-related incidents are still likely still triggers in the city centre.<sup>40</sup> Bevois (+45.8%, 33 crimes), Shirley (+54.1%, 33 crimes) and Portswood (+31.1%, 19 crimes) recorded increases this year, all above the city average of 3.7 hate crimes per 1k population.

There have been a number of anti-immigration and counter protests in Southampton over the last year and into the 2025/26 reporting year<sup>41</sup>, with these protests having the potential to fuel community tension. Given that spikes in hate crime have coincided with periods of protest activity, there is a possibility that hate-motivated offences could increase again in 2025/26 if these movements continue or grow. Therefore, it will be important for the Partnership to monitor community tensions and changes in hate crime patterns.

<sup>40</sup> Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary – Force Strategic Assessment 2023

<sup>41</sup> Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary – Officers put plans in place ahead of protests in Southampton – October 2025: [Officers put plans in place ahead of protests in Southampton | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary](#)

### 3.6.1 Points for the Partnership to note

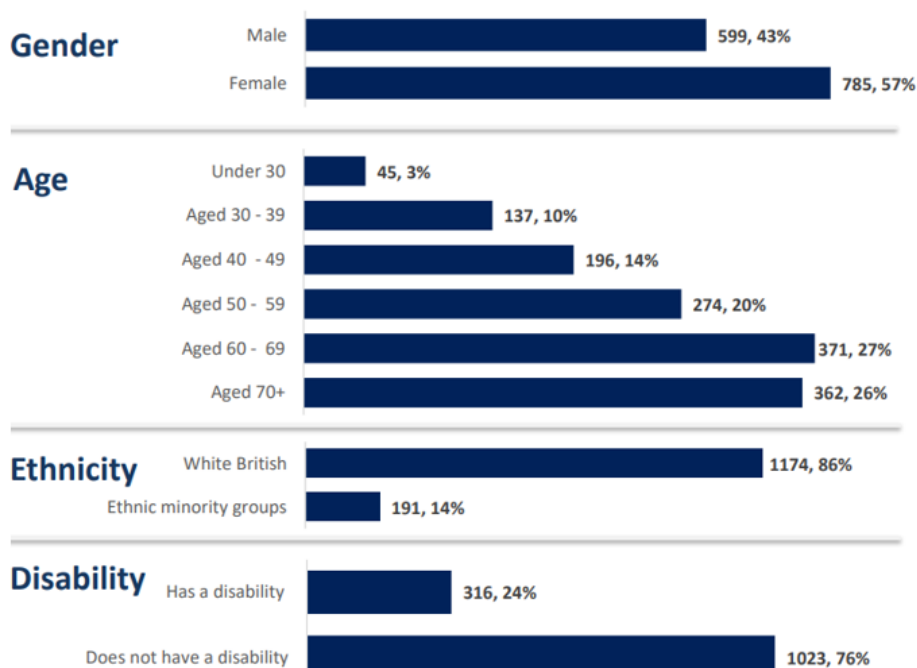
- Hate crime volumes in Southampton experienced a small decline (-0.4%) in 2024/25 (944 offences), but the overall severity of offences rose by +21.4%, reflecting a shift from public order offences towards a greater proportion of violent crimes.
- Race remains the most common motivating factor of hate crime, rising to 67.6% of all hate crimes (up from 61.9% last year). The Partnership should continue to monitor motivating factors alongside overall trends in hate crime.
- There is evidence to suggest that there have been short-term genuine increases in hate crime following certain trigger events. Analysis showed a significant spike in the number of hate crimes in Southampton across 2 weeks during August 2024, which mirrored national spikes during the same period. The Partnership should continue to monitor any increases in hate crime (nationally and locally) as well as community tensions, particularly following potential trigger events.
- The Partnership should continue to focus on community engagement and encourage reporting, particularly in areas experiencing new or growing concentrations of hate crime, while maintaining awareness of the impact of national events on local tensions.

## 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 2025 Southampton community safety survey ran from the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2025 to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The survey was promoted through Southampton City Council and the Southampton People's Panel. The survey was online and had a total of 1,456 valid responses. As with previous years, the self-selecting nature of an online survey means respondents may have a greater interest in community safety issues than the wider population and therefore potentially different views. The results are based on unweighted data to enable comparison with previous years, and any differences should be interpreted with caution given methodological variation between surveys. It is also important to note that the survey was live in August-September 2025, whereas police recorded crime data in this report covers April 2024 to March 2025. Direct comparisons between residents' views and recorded crime statistics for this year should therefore be made carefully.

Figure 4.1 shows the demographic breakdown of respondents. The largest group of respondents were female (57%), and the most common age group was 60-69 years (27%). Most respondents identified as White British (86%), and 24% reported having a disability.

Figure 4.1: Chart showing the demographic breakdown of respondents



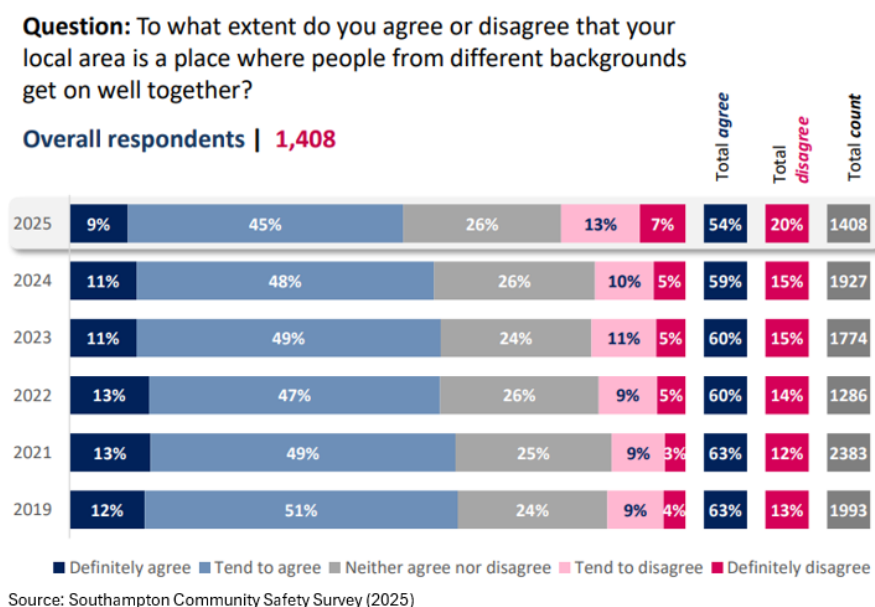
Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2025)

While response shares across most wards were similar (typically 4-7%), a higher proportion of responses came from Shirley (14%). Survey distribution methods did not change, so this likely reflects higher engagement by residents in this area during the survey period. This should be kept in mind when interpreting aggregated results and comparing responses between wards, as the higher representation of Shirley residents may influence overall citywide findings.

#### 4.1.1 Community Cohesion

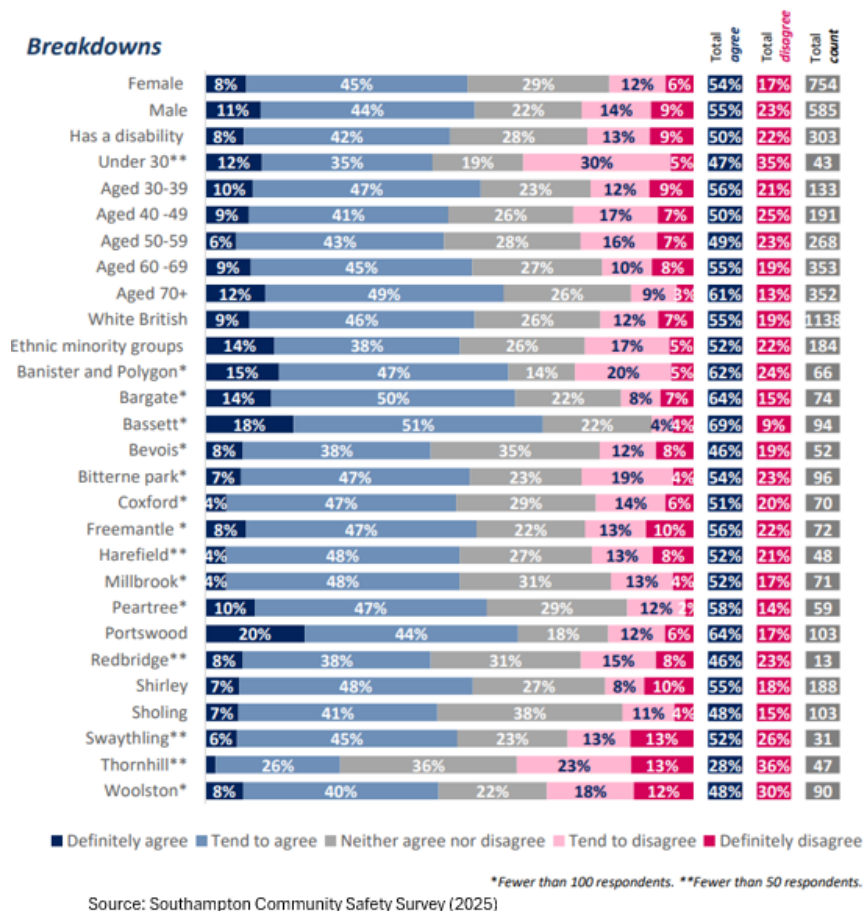
The majority of respondents (54%) agreed that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (*Figure 4.2*). This represents a decrease from 59% in the 2024 survey and is the largest drop recorded since 2019, though overall perceptions remain generally positive. Around a quarter of respondents selected “neither agree nor disagree”, and one-fifth disagreed.

Figure 4.2: Chart showing the proportion of respondents that agree or disagree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (2019 to 2025)



As shown in *Figure 4.3*, agreement levels are fairly consistent across most demographic groups. Males and females reported similar levels of agreement. Younger respondents stand out, with only 47% of those aged under 30 agreeing and 35% disagreeing that people from different backgrounds get on well together. Agreement generally increases with age, while differences between ethnic groups remain small. Perceptions also vary geographically; Bassett shows the highest level of agreement (69%), while Thornhill records the lowest (28% agree and 36% disagree, based on a small number of responses). Woolston (30% disagree) also has a higher proportion of respondents who disagree compared to the survey average (20%). Banister and Polygon show the smallest neutral share, suggesting more polarised views compared with other parts of the Southampton. This may reflect the areas mixed and transient population, with a combination of students, young professionals, and longer-term residents, as well as the influence of the night-time economy, all of which contribute to differing experiences of community cohesion.

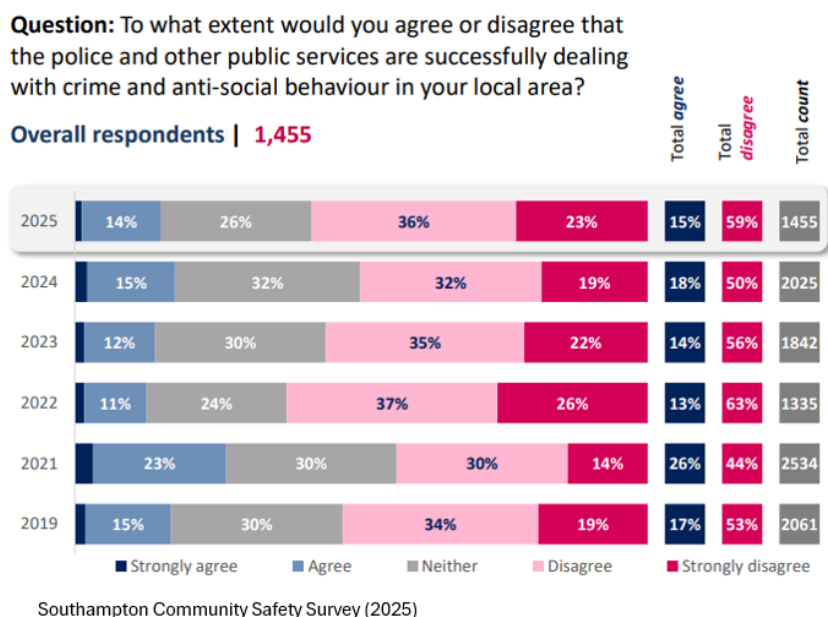
Figure 4.3: Chart showing demographic and geographic breakdowns for the proportions of respondents that agree or disagree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together



#### 4.1.2 Confidence in the Partnership

In the 2025 survey, 15% of respondents agreed that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area (Figure 4.4). This is a decrease from 18% last year, while disagreement has risen from 50% to 59%. Overall, this indicates that confidence in how well the Partnership are tackling crime and ASB remains low. Higher levels of agreement seen in 2021 were linked to the coronavirus pandemic and visibility of local services during this period.

Figure 4.4: Chart showing the 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 (2019 to 2025)

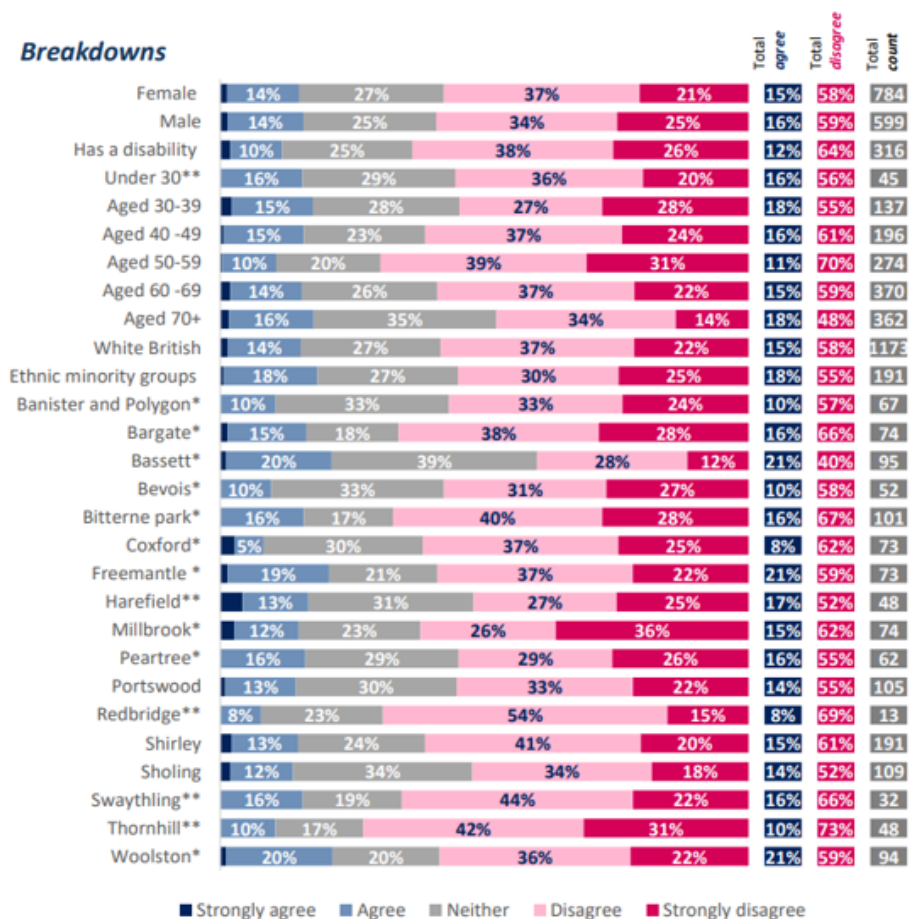


However, it is important to note that public perceptions of how the Partnership is successfully dealing with crime and ASB can be influenced by a range of external factors, such as:

- High-profile incidents, particularly those relating to VAWG
- The visibility of officers and partner agencies
- Social media

As shown in (Figure 4.5), there are no clear patterns by age, with agreement levels fluctuating across groups. However, those aged 50-59 stand out as particularly negative, with 70% disagreeing. Male and female respondents show very similar views. Perceptions also vary geographically, with Thornhill, Redbridge, Coxford, Banister and Polygon, and Bevois showing lower levels of agreement than elsewhere.

Figure 4.5: Chart showing demographic and geographic breakdowns for the proportions of respondents that agree or disagree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and ASB in their local area



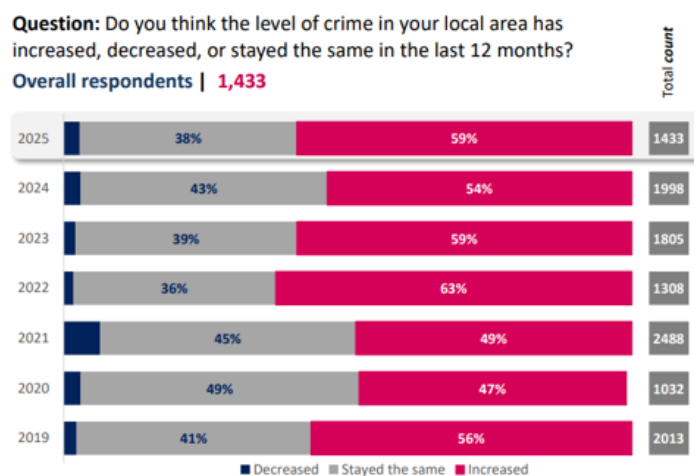
\*Fewer than 100 respondents. \*\*Fewer than 50 respondents.

Southampton Community Safety Survey (2025)

### 4.1.3 Perception of crime levels

In the 2025 survey, 59% of respondents felt that crime in their local area had increased over the past 12 months, up from 54% in 2024 (Figure 4.6). This brings perceptions of crime levels back in line with those reported in the 2023 survey.

Figure 4.6: Chart showing the proportion of respondents that think crime levels have increased, stayed the same or decreased in their local area in the last 12 months (2019 to 2025)

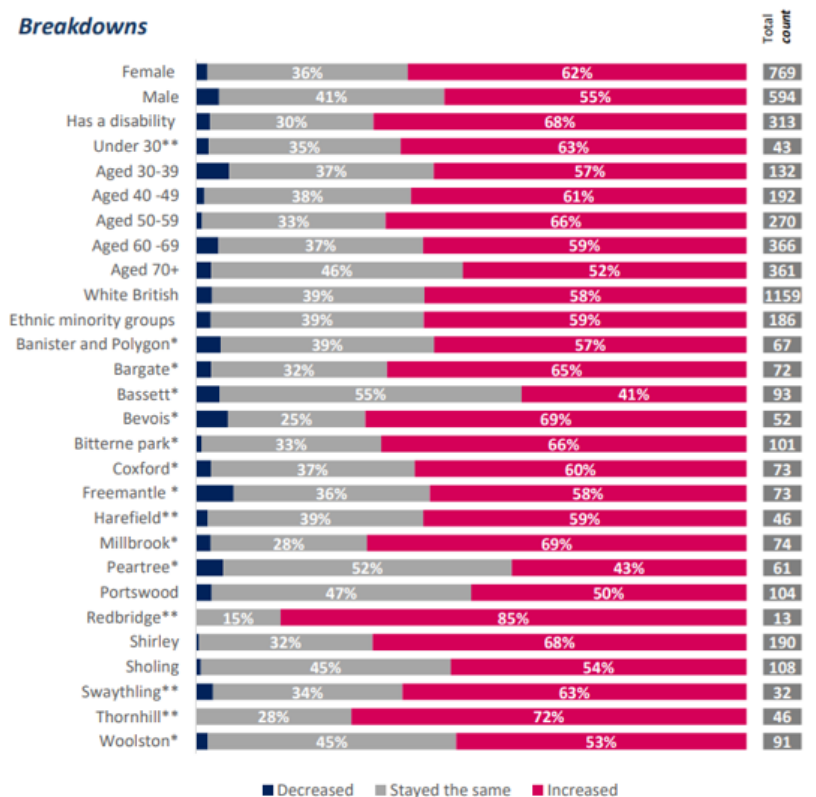


Southampton Community Safety Survey (2025)

As shown in *Figure 4.7*, there continues to be a clear difference between males and females in how crime levels are perceived. This year, 62% of females felt that crime had increased compared with 55% of males. Both figures are higher than those recorded in 2024 (57% and 49% respectively), suggesting that while concern has grown across the population, females remain consistently more likely to feel that crime has risen. Respondents aged 50-59 again stood out, with 66% reporting that crime had increased in their area.

Across wards, most areas reported similar levels of concern, with between 60% and 70% of respondents saying that crime had increased. Notably, Redbridge recorded the highest proportion of residents saying crime had increased (85%), followed by Thornhill (72%), although the small number of responses from Redbridge (13) means results should be treated with caution. The relationship between perceived and recorded crime at a sub-city level is less clear than in previous years. In Redbridge, where residents were most likely to feel that crime had risen, overall recorded crime is below the Southampton average, though increases have been seen in more visible offences such as ASB, which may have influenced perceptions. In contrast, lower concern in Bassett aligns with its below-average recorded crime rate. Thornhill shows the opposite pattern, although almost three quarters of respondents felt crime had increased, recorded data show overall crime and most offence types have fallen, except for ASB, sexual offences, and domestic-flagged crime, which have risen, but again, ASB is a highly visible offence so may influence perceptions.

Figure 4.7: Chart showing demographic and geographic breakdowns for the question on whether respondents think crime levels have increased, stayed the same or decreased in their local area in the last 12 months



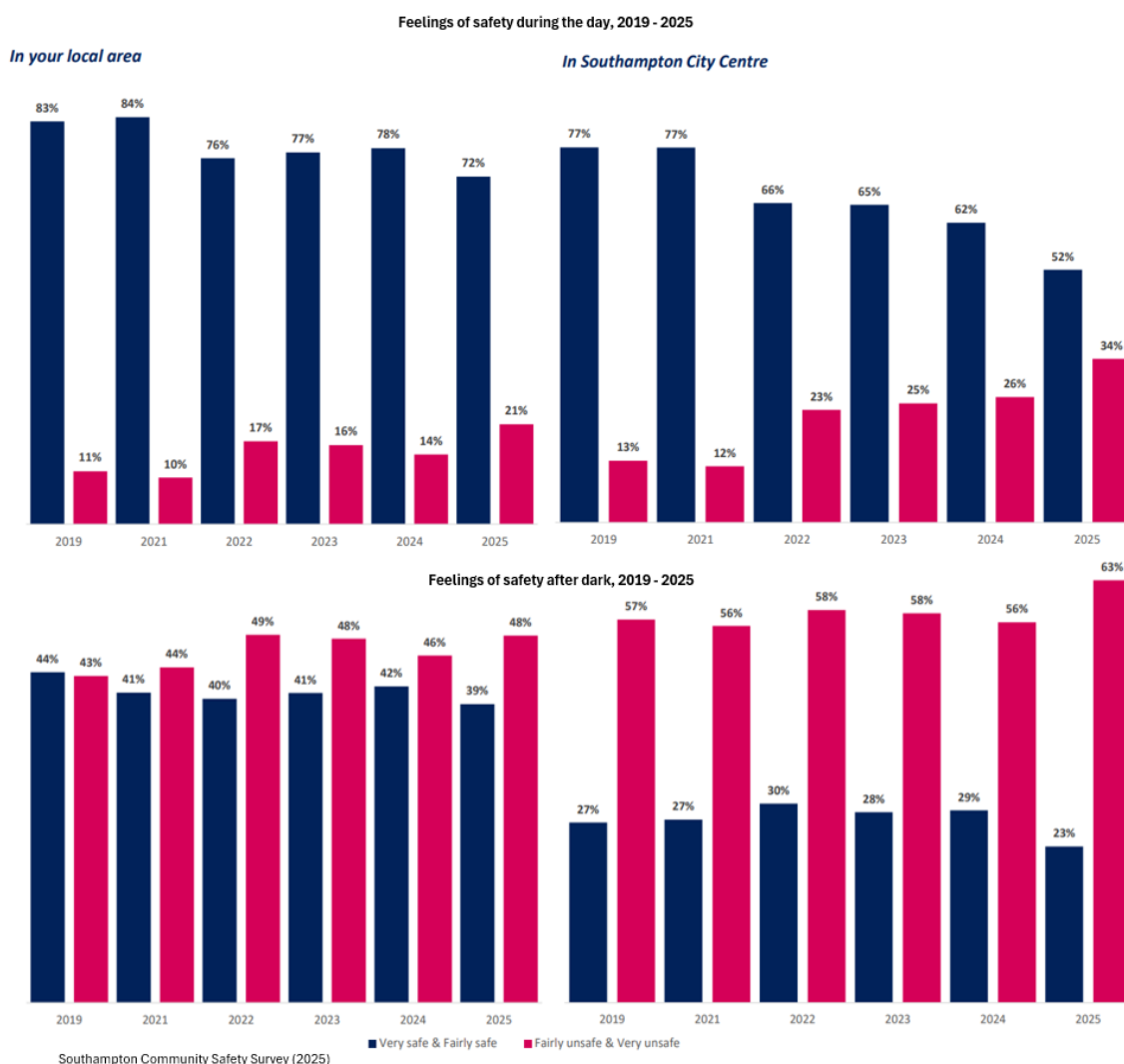
\*Fewer than 100 respondents. \*\*Fewer than 50 respondents.

Southampton Community Safety Survey (2025)

#### 4.1.4 Feelings of safety in Southampton

During the day, 72% of respondents said they felt safe in their local area, down from 78% last year, while 52% felt safe in the city centre, compared with 62% in 2024. After dark, views in local areas were similar to the previous survey, with 48% feeling unsafe compared to 46% last year. However, a greater proportion of respondents now feel unsafe in the city centre after dark (63%, up from 56%). Overall, this shows that while most people continue to feel safe during the day, confidence has fallen, particularly in the city centre, where feelings of safety continue to be lower, especially after dark (Figure 4.8).

Figure 4.8: Chart showing how safe respondents felt during the day and after dark in their local area and Southampton city centre (2019 to 2025)



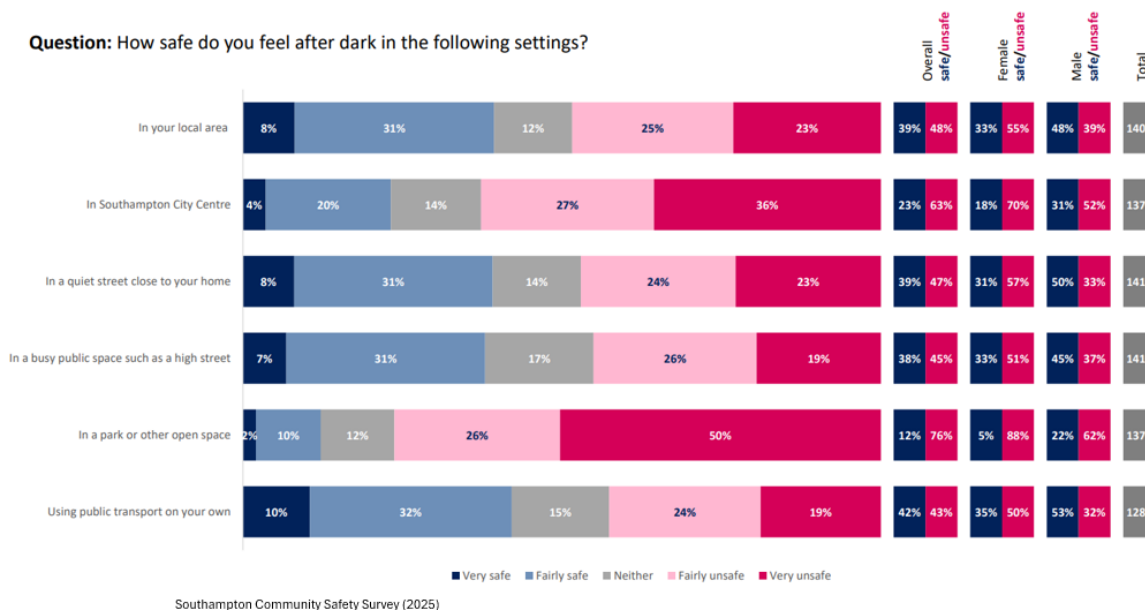
As shown in *Figure 4.9*, females continue to feel significantly less safe than males after dark. In 2025, 55% of females reported feeling unsafe after dark in their local area, compared with 39% of males, with the largest differences are seen in parks, open spaces, and the city centre. This pattern is consistent with national evidence showing that females are less likely than males to feel safe in public spaces, especially at night.<sup>42</sup>

Across specific settings, females continue to feel least safe in parks and open spaces after dark, with 88% reporting that they feel unsafe, followed by 70% of females feeling unsafe in the city centre after

<sup>42</sup>Office for National Statistics – Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain: 16 February to 13 March 2022. Available via:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/perceptionsofpersonalsafetyandexperiencesofharassmentgreatbritain/16februaryto13march2022>

dark. Similar to national findings, people with disabilities also reported feeling less safe across all settings. Recent research highlights how these inequalities can intersect: disabled women, in particular, face compounded safety concerns due to accessibility barriers and heightened vulnerability in public environments.<sup>43</sup> Other studies have shown that perceptions of safety are shaped not only by the risk of crime but by wider factors such as lighting, visibility, and the design of urban spaces.<sup>44</sup>

Figure 4.9: Chart showing the proportion of respondents by feelings of safety after dark across different settings.



Respondents who indicated that they had felt unsafe in any of the above settings were then asked if they had changed their behaviour. Of respondents who had felt unsafe, 61% said they had stopped going to streets or areas they consider unsafe (up from 56% last year), and 52% had stopped walking in quiet places such as parks or open spaces (up from 48%). Those with a disability were more likely to report changing their behaviour across all categories, supporting wider evidence that fear of crime and personal safety can reduce mobility and use of public spaces.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>43</sup>Open Inclusion – Enhancing transport safety for disabled women (2024). Available via: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66e04fe24dd910b7e335ce00/enhancing-transport-safety-disabled-women.pdf>

<sup>44</sup>Dubey, S., Bailey, A., & Lee, J. (Brian). (2025). Women's perceived safety in public places and public transport: A narrative review of contributing factors and measurement methods. Cities, 156, 105534. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2024.105534>

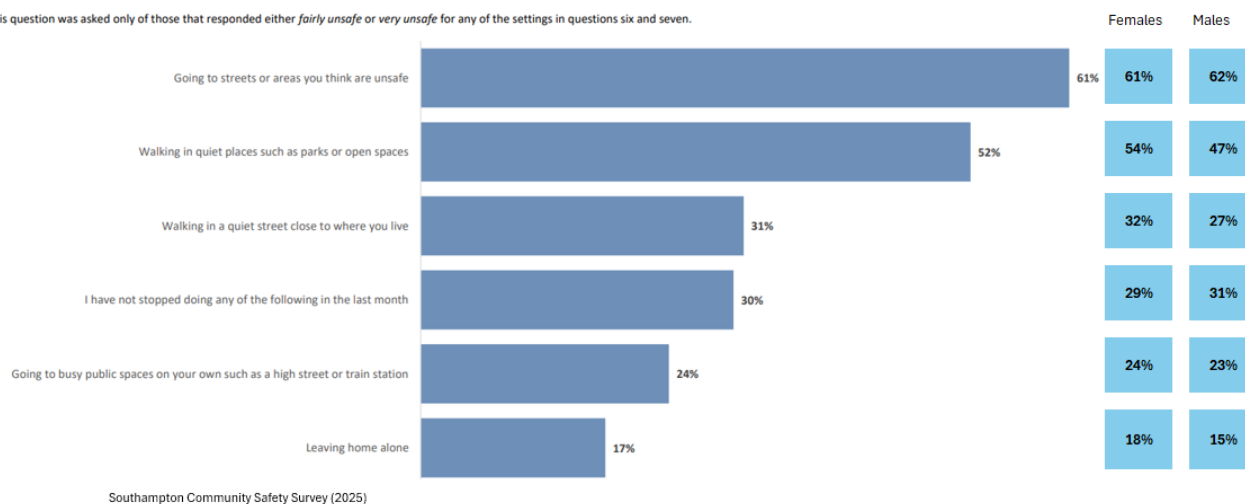
<sup>45</sup>Office for National Statistics – Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain: 16 February to 13 March 2022. Available via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/perceptionsofpersonalsafetyandexperiencesofharassmentgreatbritain/16februaryto13march2022>

Figure 4.10: Chart showing proportions of behavioural changes of respondents who felt unsafe

**Question:** If you feel unsafe, have you stopped doing any of the following activities in the last month?

**Respondents\*** | 1,144

\*This question was asked only of those that responded either *fairly unsafe* or *very unsafe* for any of the settings in questions six and seven.



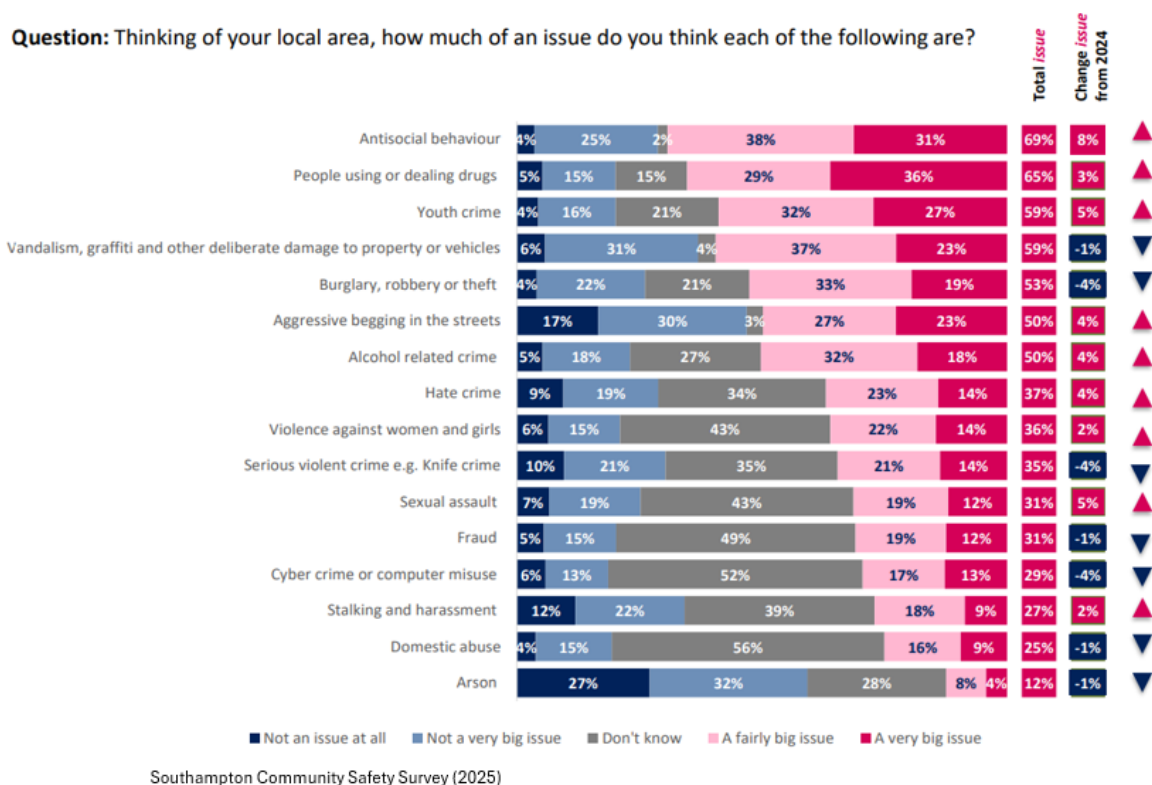
When asked what would make them feel safer in Southampton, 83% of respondents said *a greater police presence*. The second most common response was *improved reporting and follow-up on incidents* (65%), while 63% said *increased help for people who are homeless* would make them feel safer.

#### 4.1.5 Perceived community safety issues and reporting of crime

Figure 4.11 shows what respondents perceive to be the biggest issues in their local area. The biggest perceived community safety issue in 2025 was ASB, with 69% of respondents saying this was an issue, an increase of 8 percentage points on last year. This was followed by people using or dealing drugs (65%, +3 percentage points) and youth crime (59%, +5 percentage points). People's perceptions of issues are likely influenced by the visibility of crime, personal experience and the media. Visible and public forms of disorder such as ASB or street drug use attract greater attention and can shape how residents feel about safety.

In comparison to the 2024 survey, nine out of sixteen crime types showed an increase in the proportion of respondents reporting them as an issue, which is lower than last year when fourteen out of sixteen increased. This may suggest that overall concern is beginning to stabilise, although persistent rises in visible issues such as ASB indicate that frustration with this issue remains high. As in previous surveys, a large proportion of respondents still answered "*don't know*" for less visible crime types such as domestic abuse, cyber crime, sexual assault and VAWG. These offences often occur in private settings and are therefore less likely to be witnessed or recognised by the wider public. While raising awareness could improve understanding and reporting, the hidden nature of these crimes means they will inevitably remain less visible to those not directly affected.

Figure 4.11: Chart showing respondents perceptions of community safety issues in their local area

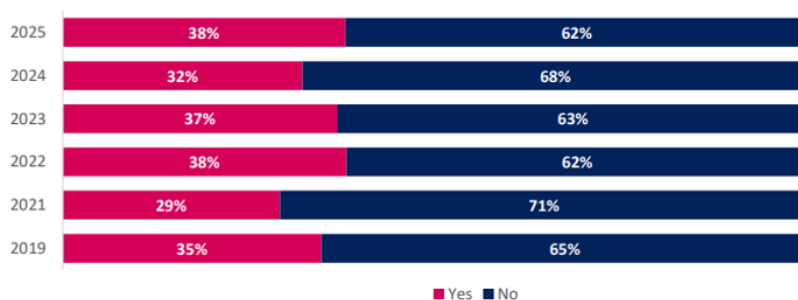


In 2025, 38% of respondents reported being a victim of crime or ASB, up from 32% last year and similar to 2022/23 levels (*Figure 4.12*). Victimisation was reported equally among males and females, while those aged 30 to 39 were most likely to report being a victim, with 49% saying they had experienced crime or ASB. (*Figure 4.13*). This is in line with victim age profiling outlined in [Section 2.5](#).

Figure 4.12: Chart showing if respondents have been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months (2019 to 2025)

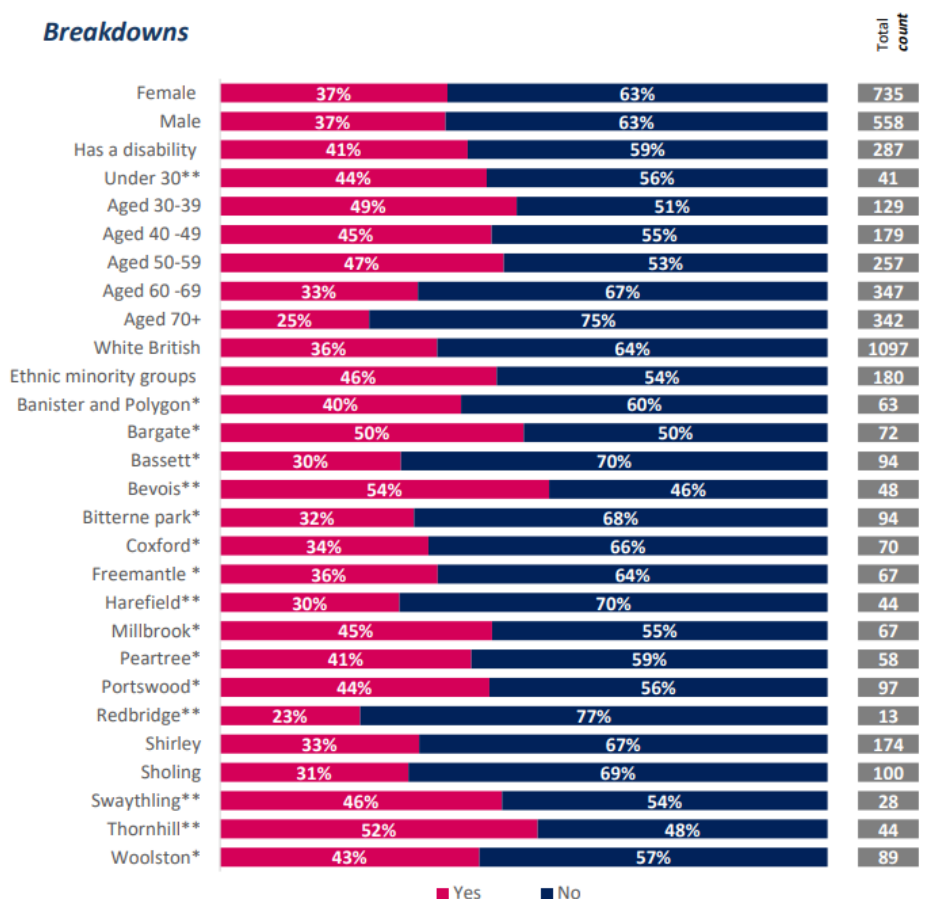
**Question:** Have you been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in Southampton in the last 12 months?

Overall respondents | 1,346



Southampton Community Safety Survey (2025)

Figure 4.13: Chart showing demographic and geographic breakdowns for whether respondents had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months



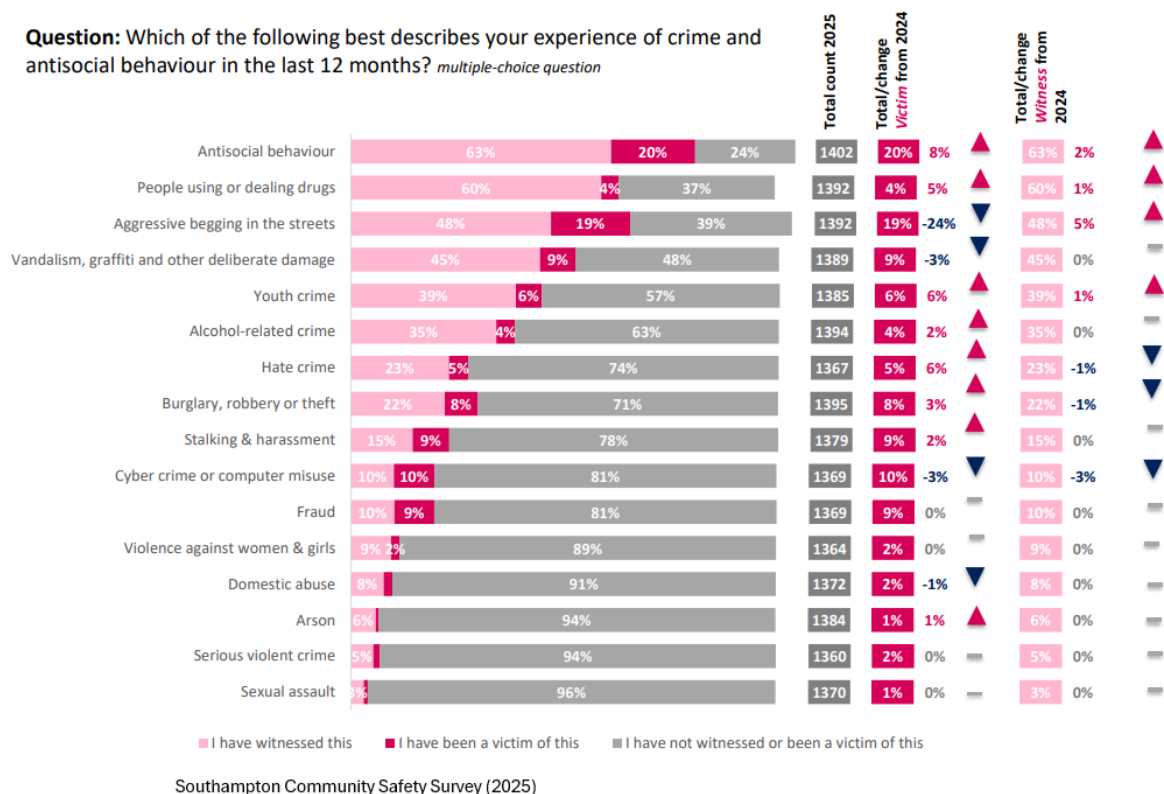
Southampton Community Safety Survey (2025)

Figure 4.14 shows respondents' experiences of crime or ASB in the last 12 months. It is important to note that this was a multiple-choice question, as respondents may have witnessed and/or been a victim of multiple crime types. ASB was the most commonly reported experience, with 63% of people having witnessed it and 20% saying they had been a victim. People using or dealing drugs was also frequently witnessed (60%), although only 4% said they had been a victim, which likely reflects public observation of street activity rather than personal victimisation. Aggressive begging was another common experience, with 48% of respondents saying they had witnessed it and 19% saying they had been a victim.

Given that 63% of respondents said that more help for people who are homeless would make them feel safer, it is likely that public concerns about safety are largely influenced by visible street activity such as aggressive begging, rather than higher-harm less visible offences such as domestic abuse. This

suggests a gap between the offences that people most often notice and those that cause the greatest harm.

Figure 4.14: Chart showing respondents experiences of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months



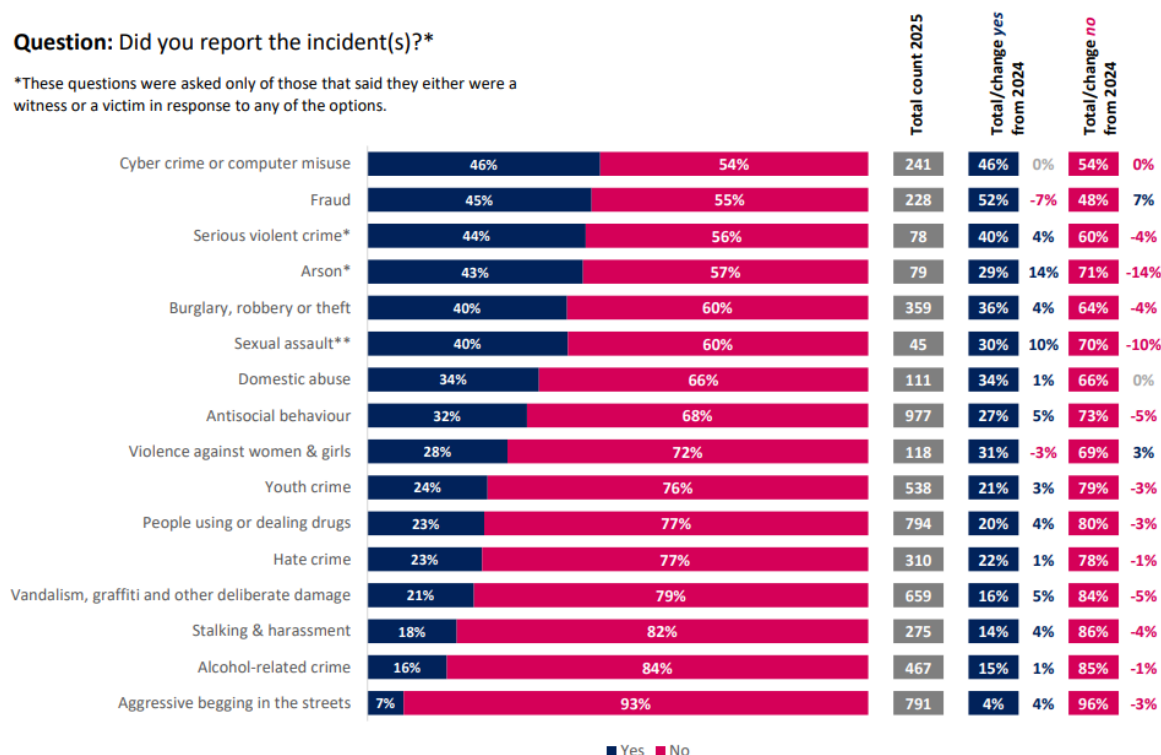
If respondents had witnessed or been a victim of a crime or ASB, they were then asked if they had reported the incident(s). Almost half of respondents did not report incidents when witnessed or experienced for all crime groups as shown in Figure 4.15. The most reported incidents in 2025 were cyber crime or computer misuse (46%) and fraud (45%), while alcohol-related crime (16%) and aggressive begging in the streets (7%) were least likely to be reported, which is notable as aggressive begging was one of the most commonly witnessed issues.

Serious high harm offences tended to be reported more often than lower harm ones, although not always as much as might be expected given their severity. Around 40% of respondents who had experienced sexual assault said they had reported it, up ten percentage points on last year. In comparison, 34% reported domestic abuse, 28% reported violence against women and girls, and 23% reported hate crime. These figures suggest that while confidence to report sexual assault may be improving, barriers still remain for other serious crimes.

Figure 4.15: Chart showing proportions of respondents that reported crimes when witnessed or experienced

**Question:** Did you report the incident(s)?\*

\*These questions were asked only of those that said they either were a witness or a victim in response to any of the options.



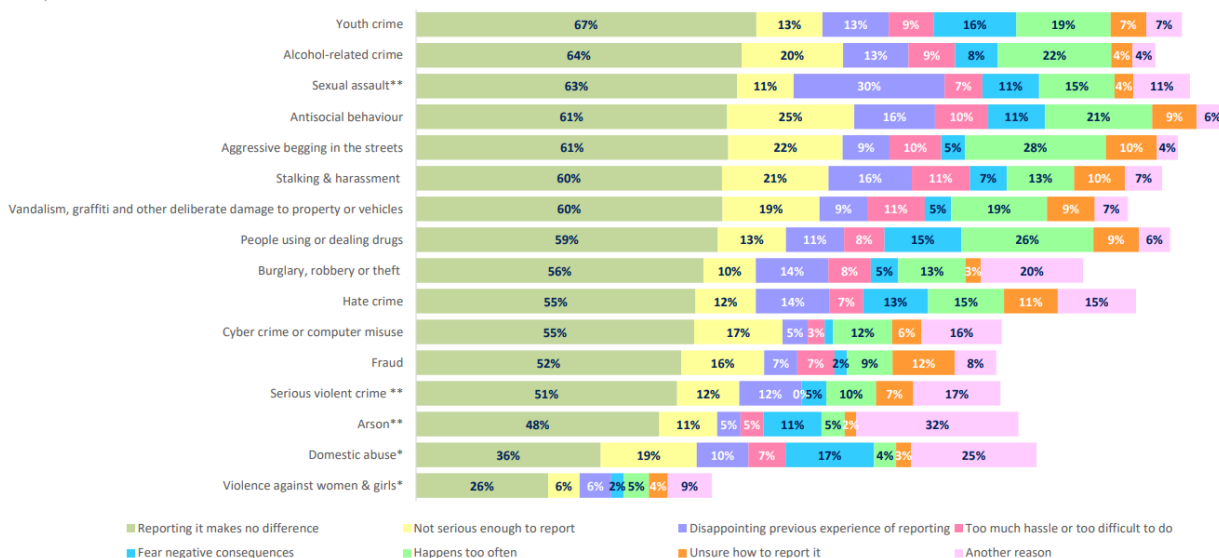
Southampton Community Safety Survey (2025)

Respondents were then asked a multiple-choice question of why they did not report incident(s); therefore, it is possible for rows to sum to more than 100% in *Figure 4.16*. It is also important to highlight that reasons for not reporting crime vary across crime groups, and that the number of crimes for some crime groups are small, notably serious violent crime and sexual assault. Nonetheless, responses can provide insight into why respondents are not reporting offences, especially for high harm offences.

For aggressive begging, the least reported issue, the most common reason for not reporting was that *reporting it makes no difference* (61%), followed by *it happens too often* (28%) and *it not being serious enough to report* (22%). This may suggest that residents see such issues as ongoing and systemic rather than something that can be resolved through enforcement. For higher-harm and priority offences such as domestic abuse, VAWG and sexual violence (see [Section 2.3](#)), “*reporting makes no difference*” remains a key barrier. Fear of negative consequences was a common factor for domestic abuse and VAWG, and many respondents mentioned disappointing previous experiences of reporting, particularly in relation to VAWG. These findings suggest that while the reasons for not reporting differ by crime type, they reflect a common theme: limited confidence that reporting will lead to meaningful change.

Figure 4.16: Chart showing respondents' reasons for not reporting crimes when witnessed or experienced for different crime types (percentages can sum to more than 100% because the question was multiple choice)

**Question:** If you didn't report the incident(s), please tell us why?  
Multiple choice



Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2025)

\*Fewer than 100 respondents. \*\*Fewer than 50 respondents.

Overall, the findings suggest that residents' feelings of safety, and their perceptions of how effectively crime and disorder are managed in the city, are shaped more by low-harm but highly visible issues rather than by the higher-harm offences that drive the most serious impacts. For the Partnership, this highlights the need to balance efforts between tackling hidden, high-harm crimes such as domestic abuse and serious violence, and addressing visible, lower-harm behaviours that appear to have a disproportionate influence on public confidence. While not all of these issues can be resolved through enforcement alone, responding to them in a way that feels visible and supportive to communities is essential. Many of the factors that underpin these visible concerns, such as homelessness, substance misuse and deprivation, sit within the wider determinants, further emphasising the need for a coordinated approach that combines prevention, partnership working and visible reassurance to improve both actual and perceived safety across the city.

## 4.2 Points for the Partnership to note

- Public confidence remains low; only 15% of respondents agreed that the police and other local services are successfully dealing with crime and ASB, while 59% disagreed, an increase compared to last year. Confidence levels have declined, suggesting that efforts to address visible ASB and engage communities have not yet improved perceptions of effectiveness.
- Feelings of safety after dark continue to be a concern, particularly among females and respondents with a disability, who consistently feel less safe than the survey average across all settings. Among those who felt unsafe, 61% had stopped going to areas they thought were unsafe, and 52% had stopped walking in quiet places such as parks. Residents' perceptions of vulnerability continue to affect the places they visit and the routes they take.

- Perceptions of local issues remain closely tied to visibility. ASB was reported as an issue by 69% of respondents, followed by people dealing or using drugs (65%) and youth crime (59%). These highly visible, lower-harm offences appear to shape how safe residents feel and how effective they believe local services to be, even though they do not always correspond to the highest levels of harm.
- Awareness of higher-harm offences remains limited, with many respondents answering “*don’t know*” when asked about domestic abuse, sexual assault, VAWG, hate crime and serious violent crime. While raising awareness may help improve understanding and reporting, the hidden nature of these offences means that low visibility among the wider public is likely to persist.
- Reporting patterns vary by offence type. More than half of incidents across all crime types went unreported, but reporting was generally higher for more serious offences, including sexual assault (40%), domestic abuse (34%) and VAWG (28%). Reporting of sexual assault has risen by +10 percentage points since last year, while domestic abuse and VAWG remain broadly stable.
- “*Reporting it makes no difference*” remains the most common reason for not reporting incidents, reflecting low confidence that action will be taken. Perceptions of safety and trust in the Partnership are strongly shaped by visible, lower-harm issues such as ASB, vandalism and aggressive begging. While high-harm crimes must remain a priority, public confidence also depends on addressing these more visible concerns, many of which intersect with wider social challenges.

## 5. Wider determinants of crime

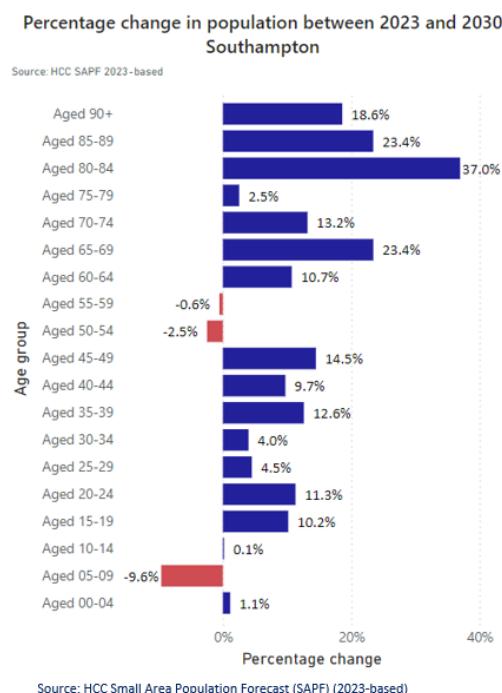
It is important to not only consider police recorded crime, but also the factors that make individuals more or less likely to become involved in crime; known as wider determinants. This is because if wider determinants worsen, we could expect to see subsequent increases in crime. Wider determinants such as deprivation and poverty are not just linked to crime, but a wide range of outcomes; particularly those relating to health and education. Examining wider determinants provides an opportunity to understand and address the root causes of crime and to try and prevent individuals; especially 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.<sup>46, 47</sup> This is evidenced locally in Southampton, especially for more harmful crimes such as violent crime and sexual offences outlined in [Section 3](#). In Southampton the population aged 10 to 24 years is forecast to grow by +8.5% by 2030 (*Figure 5.1*). This may lead to an increase in offending and/or victimisation due to the forecast growth of young persons in Southampton. However, early interventions designed to prevent young people becoming involved in crime, either as a victim or a perpetrator, have the capacity to offset some of this expected increase.

<sup>46</sup> Weatherburn, D. (2001) 'What Causes Crime?', *Crime and Justice Bulletin*, 54. Available via: <https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Publications/CJB/cjb54.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> Victim Support – Working with young victims of crime. Available via: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/young-victims-crime/teachers-and-professionals/working-young-victims-crime/>

Figure 5.1: Chart showing forecast change in the resident population of Southampton from 2023 to 2030



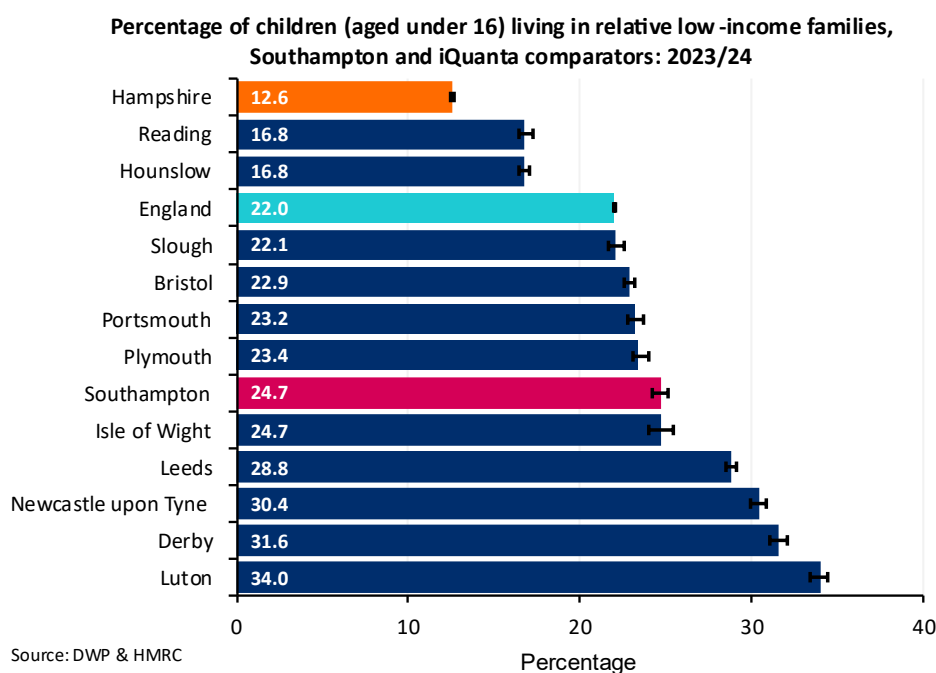
In 2023/24, almost a quarter of children in Southampton (24.7%) were living in relative low-income families, above the national average of 22.0% (*Figure 5.2*). Both local and national rates have risen compared to the previous year (22.5% in Southampton and 19.8% in England), emphasising that child poverty is worsening not only in Southampton, but across the country. These increases come against a backdrop of persistent cost of living pressures, including high food, housing and energy costs, which disproportionately impact low-income households. These pressures mean that families who already sat on the margins previously are now struggling to meet basic needs, leading to widening income inequality and more children falling into poverty.

Additionally, in 2024/25 37.9% (12,967) of Southampton pupils in state funded schools are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSMs), which is significantly higher than the England average of 25.7% (*Figure 5.3*). The proportion of children eligible for FSMs has risen steadily in Southampton; having been 33.0% in 2021/22, 34% in 2022/23 and 35.1% in 2023/24. However, it is important to note that historical and recent policy measures are shaping and will continue to shape these figures. Protections built into the Universal Credit transition mean that eligibility has stabilised at a higher level than might otherwise be expected, and automatic enrolment pilots in some local authorities are helping to increase take-up among families who were previously eligible but not registered.<sup>48</sup> Planned policy

<sup>48</sup> House of Commons Library – Free School Meals (Automatic Registration of Eligible Children) Bill 2024-25: Research Briefing (2025). Available via: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10206/>

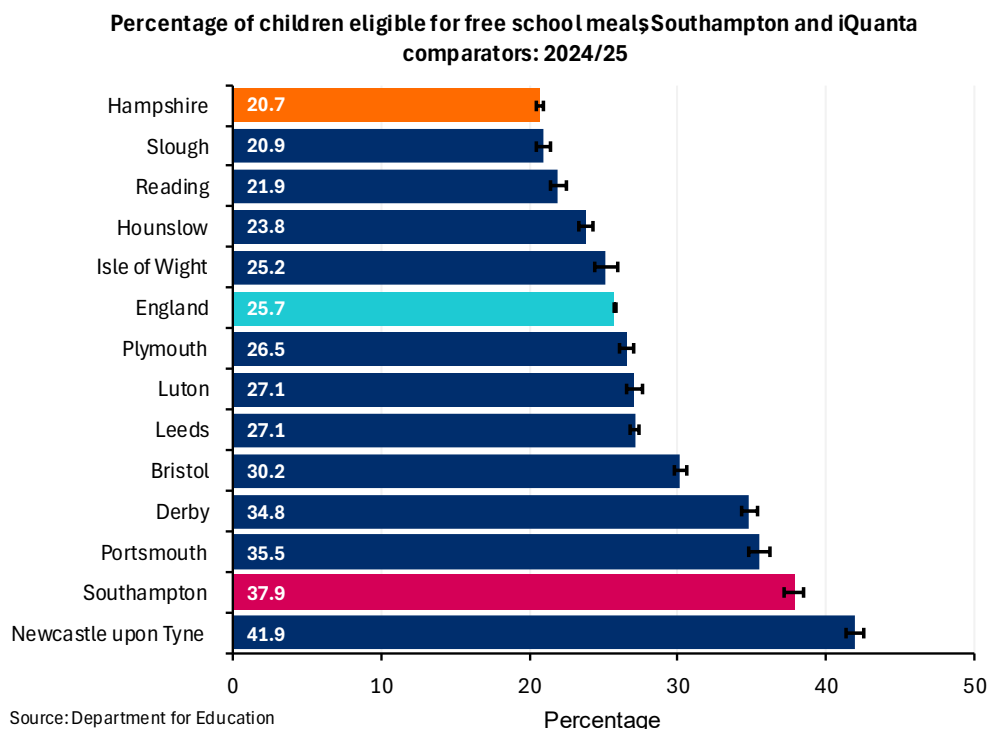
changes are also expected to impact future figures. From September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for FSM, removing the £7,400 income threshold. The Institute for Fiscal Studies notes the short-term impact will be modest, as many pupils are already covered by existing protections, but eligibility is expected to rise over time, with more than 500,000 additional pupils expected to be eligible in time according to government estimates.<sup>49</sup> Therefore, whilst figures show that more children are being drawn into poverty, it is important to balance their interpretation with recent and forthcoming policy changes, which are also shaping the eligibility rates and may partly

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



<sup>49</sup> Farquharson, C and Waters, T. (2025). Benefits - and costs - of expanding access to free school meals will grow over time [Comment] Institute for Fiscal Studies. Available via: <https://ifs.org.uk/articles/benefits-and-costs-expanding-access-free-school-meals-will-grow-over-time>

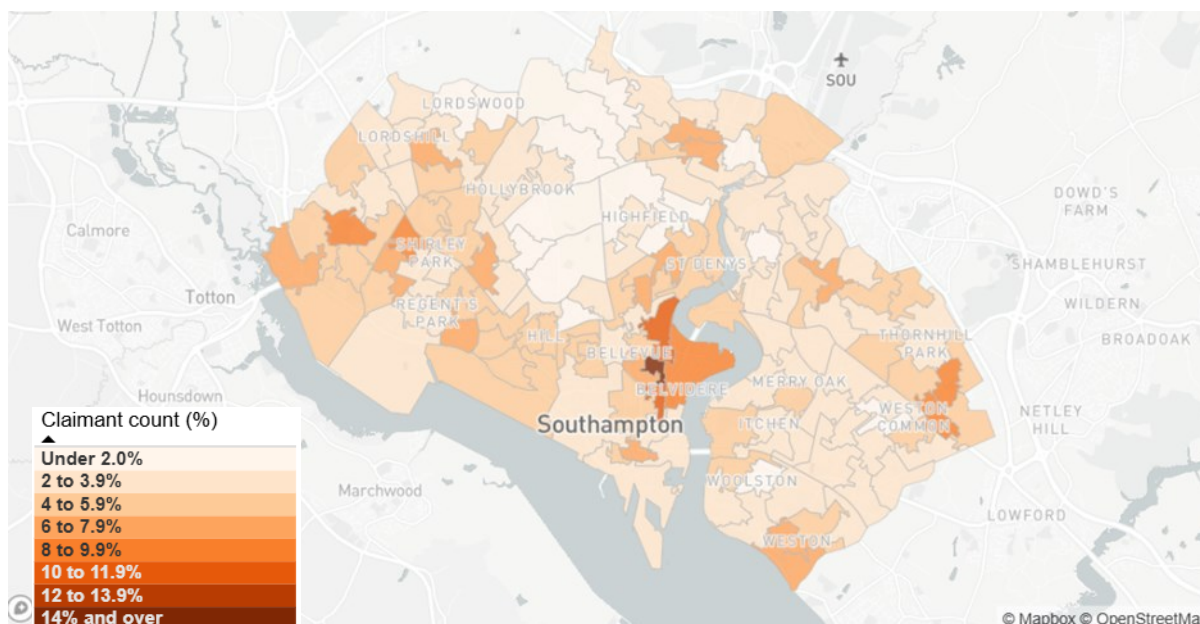
Figure 5.3: Benchmarking chart showing the proportion of children known to be eligible for free school meals



As of August 2025, 4.1% (7,295) of the working age population were claiming out of work benefits in Southampton. *Figure 5.4* shows the claimant count across Southampton neighbourhoods in August 2025 (4.1% total). At the national level, claimant counts rose sharply during the pandemic, fell as the economy reopened, but have begun to rise again slowly over the last few years.<sup>50</sup> It is evident that unemployment is not evenly distributed across Southampton, with higher claimant counts generally seen in more deprived neighbourhoods.

<sup>50</sup> Office for National Statistics – Unemployment rate (aged 16 and over, seasonally adjusted): % (2025). Available via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/timeseries/mgsx/lms>

Figure 5.4: Map showing the claimant count by Southampton neighbourhoods (LSOAs) as of August 2025



The deterioration in the measures outlined above, increases the risk factors associated with crime. Consequently, this may have subsequent impacts on future levels and patterns of crime in Southampton. Whilst we have seen the impacts of the pandemic on some of these measures, recent economic uncertainty could have further negative socio-economic impacts. Therefore, it remains important to monitor these wider determinants.

The risk of individuals, especially 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>51</sup> Research into ACEs suggests that these risk factors are cumulative with a clear dose-response relationship, meaning the more factor a young person experiences, the greater the risk of involvement with crime.<sup>52,53</sup> Studies in the UK consistently show that adolescents with multiple ACEs are significantly more likely to engage in violence or misconduct<sup>54</sup>, and that young offenders disproportionately report high levels of ACE exposure.

<sup>51</sup> Bellis, M. A. *et al.* (2018) 'Adverse childhood experiences and sources of childhood resilience: a retrospective study of their combined relationships with child health and educational attendance', *BMC Public Health*, 18 (782).

<sup>52</sup> Local Government Association: Public health approaches to reducing violence (2018). Available via: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/public-health-approaches-reducing-violence>

<sup>53</sup> Villadsen, A., Libuy, N. & Fitzsimons, E. – Adverse and positive childhood experiences and their associations with children's involvement in violence: analyses of data from the Millennium Cohort Study (2025). Available via: [https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FinalReport\\_ACEsPCEs\\_MCS.pdf](https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FinalReport_ACEsPCEs_MCS.pdf)

<sup>54</sup> Jackson DB, Jones MS, Semenza DC, Testa A. Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adolescent Delinquency: A Theoretically Informed Investigation of Mediators during Middle Childhood. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2023;20(4):3202.

Examples of ACEs include:

- Emotional, physical or sexual abuse
- Emotional or physical neglect
- Observed or experienced domestic violence
- Parental abandonment through separation or divorce
- Living with household members who are/were substance users, mentally ill, suicidal or imprisoned
- Household member in prison
- Bullying or exposure to community or collective violence

While these experiences remain the core definition, today's economic climate is amplifying household stressors that act alongside ACEs. Longitudinal research confirms that poverty itself is a significant predictor of ACE accumulation, with children in deprived households more likely to experience multiple overlapping adversities.<sup>55</sup> The current cost-of-living crisis has further intensified this link between deprivation and adversity. A recent UK study found that people with four or more ACEs were over three times more likely to report being unable to cope financially (51.5%) compared to those with no ACEs (14%), suggesting that financial hardship not only increases stress already of vulnerable families, but also acts as a multiplier for the risks associated with ACEs.<sup>56</sup> In Southampton, where deprivation is concentrated in particular wards, this means that some children are disproportionately exposed to both traditional ACEs and the new pressures created by heightened economic insecurity, raising the risk of exploitation and crime involvement.

However, evidence also shows that positive childhood experiences (PCEs) can buffer against these risks. Supportive schools, safe community spaces and trusted results all reduce the likelihood of violence even among children exposed to multiple ACEs<sup>57</sup>, emphasising the value of not only tackling the root causes of adversity, but also in strengthening protective environments that help children in Southampton build resilience and reduce their vulnerability to crime.

## 5.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- Monitoring the wider determinants of crime remains essential. In Southampton, child poverty, free school meal eligibility and out-of-work benefit claims have all risen in recent years and remain above the national average. While some of these increases reflect policy changes (for

<sup>55</sup> Farooq, B., Allen, K., Russell, A. E., Howe, L. D., & Mars, B. (2024). The association between poverty and longitudinal patterns of adverse childhood experiences across childhood and adolescence: Findings from a prospective population-based cohort study in the UK. *Child abuse & neglect*, 156, 107014.

<sup>56</sup> Hughes K, Bellis MA, Cresswell K, Hill R, Ford K, Hopkins JC (2024). Examining relationships between adverse childhood experiences and coping during the cost-of-living crisis using a national cross-sectional survey in Wales, UK. *BMJ Open*. 2024;14(5):e081924.

<sup>57</sup> Villadsen, A., Libuy, N. & Fitzsimons, E. – Adverse and positive childhood experiences and their associations with children's involvement in violence: analyses of data from the Millennium Cohort Study (2025). Available via: [https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FinalReport\\_ACEsPCEs\\_MCS.pdf](https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FinalReport_ACEsPCEs_MCS.pdf)

example, FSM protections), the persistence of high rates is suggestive of sustained socio-economic pressures. If these conditions worsen, they are likely to drive further increases in crime, so the Partnership should consider how it can influence the wider determinants when setting priorities and interventions.

- Southampton has some of the highest levels of deprivation and inequality in the region. Addressing these wider determinants is key to reducing crime, but also to improving outcomes in education, health and wellbeing. Preventing young people from becoming involved in crime will require a strong focus on early intervention. Evidence shows that poverty increases the likelihood of experiencing multiple ACEs, which in turn increases the risk of future crime involvement. At the same time, protective factors, such as positive school relationships and safe community spaces can mitigate these risks, highlighting the importance of strengthening support systems as well as tackling deprivation.
- [Geographical profiles](#) have been developed, which highlights the need in the city across several topics including crime, education, health, demography and social care. [Inequality profiles](#) have also been developed to help understand and monitor differences in outcomes between neighbourhoods. The Partnership should be aware of this work and take note of key findings, as it highlights where need in the city is greatest for many wider determinants.

## 6. Summary

Southampton continues to record one of the highest overall crime rates and crime severity scores among its iQuanta comparator CSPs, remaining significantly above the national average. In 2024/25, the city experienced a -4.0% reduction in total recorded crime compared to the previous year. Since the June 2023 counting rule changes had the biggest impact on last year's figures, this year's data is more comparable to the previous financial year, though some residual effects may persist, particularly for offence types like violent crime, domestic offences, and stalking and harassment.

Despite the overall reduction in total recorded crime, Southampton remains an outlier for several high-harm crime types. The city ranks in the top three among comparators for 11 offence groups, including sexual offences, violence with injury, drug offences and possession-related crimes ([Section 2.2](#)). This is an improvement from last year (14 offence groups) but shows there is still progress to be made in improving Southampton's relative standing among comparators. The crime prioritisation exercise identified the following as the top priorities for the Partnership:

- Sexual offences, including other sexual offences and rape
- Domestic offences, including domestic violence
- Violent crime (all forms), including VAWG

The above have been longstanding priorities. ASB entered the top 10 priorities for the first time in 2024/25, following a +3.8% increase in recorded incidents. This may partly reflect improved reporting and operational focus. Residential burglary, which has been more prominent in previous years, dropped out of the top 10 this year due to continued reductions in volume and severity. Rape and violence with injury continued to account for a large share of overall harm in 2024/25, but the third-highest contributor changed this year, residential burglary, was overtaken by increases in other sexual offences.

Repeat victimisation and repeat offending remain substantial issues. These continue to place pressure on local services and show the continued need for targeted work with prolific offenders and stronger safeguarding for repeat victims ([Section 2.5](#)).

Findings from the 2025 Community Safety Survey ([Section 4](#)) show that public confidence remains low, with only 15% of respondents agreeing that the police and other local services are successfully dealing with crime and ASB, down from 18% last year. Feelings of safety after dark remain a concern, particularly among females and respondents with a disability. Among those who felt unsafe, 61% reported avoiding certain areas and 52% avoided parks or open spaces. Although these findings are in

line with national research,<sup>58</sup> it is concerning that some residents are feeling unsafe in Southampton to the extent where they are altering their behaviour.

Perceptions of local issues appear strongly influenced by their visibility in the community. Anti-social behaviour was reported as a concern by 69% of respondents, followed by drug-related activity (65%) and youth crime (59%). (Section 4.1.5). Many respondents selected “*don’t know*” when asked about more hidden crimes such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, VAWG and cyber crime. Reporting rates remain low across most crime types, particularly high-harm offences such as sexual assault, domestic abuse and VAWG. The most common reason for not reporting was “*reporting it makes no difference*”, indicating ongoing concern that reports may not be acted upon effectively.

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. If the wider determinants worsen, we may see subsequent increases in crime (Section 5). Child poverty, free school meal eligibility and out-of-work benefit claims have all risen in recent years and remain above national averages. These socio-economic pressures, alongside the forecast +8.5% growth in the 10-24 age group by 2030, underline the importance of early intervention and coordinated partnership work to address the drivers of crime and reduce the likelihood of young people becoming involved in crime.

---

<sup>58</sup> Office for National Statistics – Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain: 16 February to 13 March 2022. Available via:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/perceptionsofpersonalsafetyandexperiencesofharassmentgreatbritain/16februaryto13march2022>