

Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment 2021/22

Summary of Findings

December 2022



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1. Introduction and aims

The Southampton Safe City Partnership co-ordinates multi-agency action to improve lives and foster stronger communities by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, alcohol misuse and supply, and the use and harm caused by drugs throughout the city. Partners include the five statutory authorities: Hampshire Constabulary, Southampton City Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Probation Services and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB). In addition, there are representatives from the Youth Offending Service (YOS), Southampton Voluntary Services (SVS), schools, businesses, Spectrum Centre for Independent Living, Victim Support, No Limits 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. Serious violence has been examined in detail as part of the VRU and will continue to be analysed as the work of the VRU continues. Violence Reduction Units focus on tackling the root causes of violence through a programme of early intervention with young people and local communities. A key principle of VRUs is to use local knowledge to support an evidence-based, multi-agency approach to tackling the root causes of violent crime¹. Additionally, the ongoing and planned work to support the prevention and reduction of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls is recognised through the work of partners and the Domestic Abuse 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. For example, the VRU serious violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) profiles. Topic-based reports and analysis produced as part of the wider community safety workstreams in combination with the Strategic Assessment contribute to the

¹ 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>

overall picture of community safety in the city. Published analysis products relating to community safety can be found on the [Southampton Data Observatory](#).

Data included in this Strategic Assessment covers the 2020/21 financial year, with data covering this period significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and government restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the virus. Therefore, trends and changes in patterns over recent years should be interpreted in light of this². To minimise the impact of COVID on crime trends, comparisons with the current period (2021/22), will be made against the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20) in most cases. However, where appropriate some insight will be drawn from comparing 2020/21 for certain crime types, such as domestic abuse and hate crime.

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, therefore, caution should be taken when comparing figures in this assessment to previous assessments.

² Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

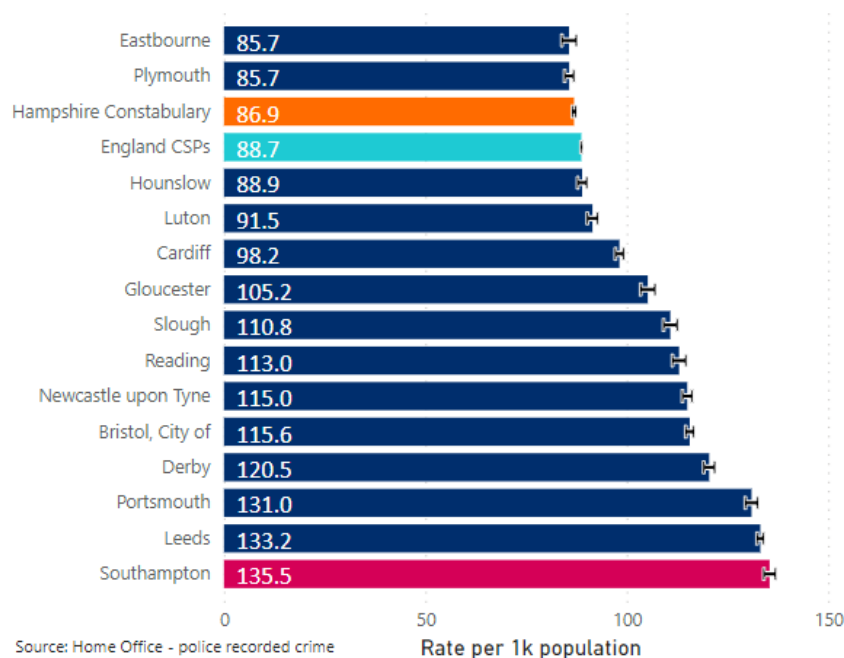
2. Summary of crime in Southampton

2.1 Crime volume and severity

In 2021/22, Southampton had an overall crime rate of 136 crimes per 1k population, which is significantly higher than the national average and the highest (second in 2019/20) amongst comparator Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) (Figure 2.1). Southampton accounted for 20% of total recorded crime across Hampshire Constabulary in 2021/22 and has the 9th highest total recorded crime rate among English and Welsh CSPs with a valid crime rate (310 total)³.

Figure 2.1: Overall crime benchmarking chart

Police Recorded Total Crime (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2021/22



There were 34,254 recorded crimes in Southampton during 2021/22, which is an increase of +7.4% (2,365 crimes) compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20). This increase is in line with local and national trends, with Hampshire Constabulary experiencing a +7.6% increase and England a +5.5% increase during the same period.

However, it is important to note that changes in the volume of crimes vary across different crime groups. Additionally, police recorded crime only includes crimes that have been reported to and

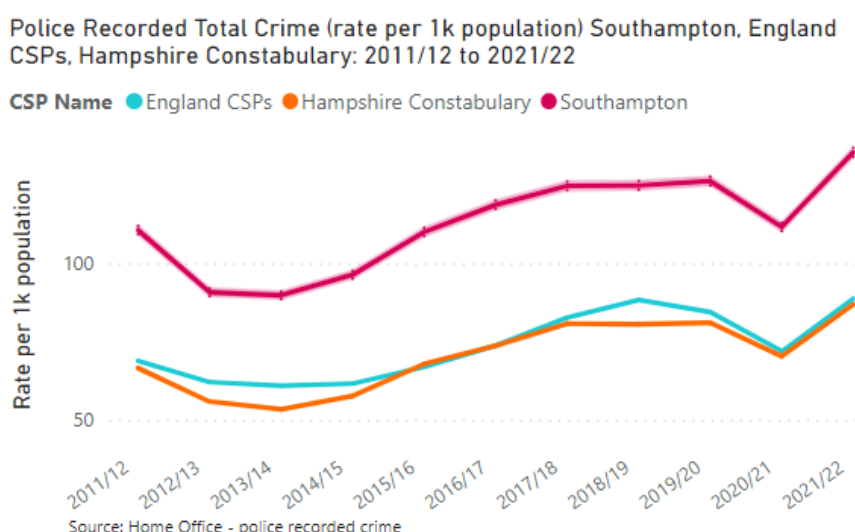
³ Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

recorded by the police, with 'hidden' crimes such as domestic abuse far more likely to be underreported than other offences such as theft.

Crime over the last two years has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 2.2). Southampton experienced a decline in total recorded crime during the coronavirus pandemic (-11.4% from 2019/20 to 2020/21). However, since restrictions were lifted in early 2021, some police recorded crimes have returned to and exceeded pre-pandemic levels, such as violent crime and sexual offences. Reasons behind these increases will be explored in more detail throughout this report in relevant sections.

It is also important to note that historically, increases in police recorded crime during 2014/15 and 2015/16 for Southampton, Hampshire and several other police forces were largely driven by crime data integrity improvements following an HMICFRS⁴ audit in 2014. Therefore, any non-recent changes should be interpreted in line with continual improvements in reporting and recording as well as changes in counting rules (for example, changes to stalking and harassment in 2018).

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



The Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) notes that police recorded crime is not the most reliable measure of crime trends. This is because police recorded crime trends can be impacted by changes to recording practices, policing activity and public reporting of crime⁵.

The latest TCSEW in England and Wales estimates that there has been no statistically significant change in total crime in the year ending March 2022 compared to the pre-covid year (ending March

⁴ HMICFRS - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

⁵ Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available online via:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

2020). However, the change in total police recorded crime nationally and in Southampton between 2019/20 (pre-covid baseline) and 2021/22 represents a statistically significant increase. Differences between TCSEW findings and police recorded crime are likely in part due to different methodologies. Additionally, trends in police recorded crime are influenced by several factors including increased awareness and reporting of crime, and over the last year there has been rising focus on violence against women and girls⁶.

Therefore, the increase in total recorded crime over recent years may not reflect a 'true' increase in crime, as recorded crime can be influenced by improved awareness of key issues, more people reporting crime and improvements in recording by the police.

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 ONS using data from the Ministry of Justice. For each crime type the crime severity score is calculated as:

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

Figure 2.3 illustrates the differences between these two approaches to measuring recording crime. For example, rape offences in Southampton accounted for 1.5% of overall recorded offences, yet rape represented 26.7% of the relative severity of 'harm' caused by crime in Southampton in 2021/22. Crime severity scores also help in understanding the 'case mix' of crimes within particular crime types, which can be valuable when assessing changes and prioritisation of issues.

⁶ Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2022

Overall, Southampton remains highest amongst iQuanta comparator CSPs and higher than the national average when considering the volume (rate) and severity of total police recorded crime. Therefore, suggesting that Southampton experiences more crimes per population as well as a more severe mix of crimes compared to comparators and the national average.

2.2 Changes by crime type

Figure 2.5 shows changes in the volume and severity of offences from 2019/20 to 2021/22. Southampton has seen an increase in the volume of 22 of the 32 offence types shown below. These trends suggest that police recorded crime levels for many crime types have returned to the pre-pandemic baseline, and in some cases are exceeding pre-pandemic volumes.

Figure 2.5: Summary of changes by crime type. Changes highlighted in red illustrate an increase in the number or severity of offences from 2019/20 to 2021/22; declines in green

Indicator	2019/20 count	2020/21 count	2021/22 count	2019/20 crime severity score	2020/21 crime severity score	2021/22 crime severity score	Percentage change 2019/20 to 2021/22 count	Percentage change 2019/20 to 2021/22 crime severity score	iQuanta CSP position*
Total crime*	31,889	28,239	34,254	22.92	20.50	23.94	7.4%	4.5%	1
Violent crime*	11,740	11,145	14,631	6.35	6.11	7.48	24.6%	17.8%	1
Violence with injury*	4,251	3,407	4,307	5.00	4.33	5.29	1.3%	5.8%	1
Violence without injury*	4,907	4,588	5,815	0.85	1.04	1.29	18.5%	51.8%	1
Stalking and harassment*	2,572	3,145	4,506	0.32	0.65	0.89	75.2%	178.1%	2
Malicious communications*	1,380	1,594	1,933	0.10	0.12	0.15	40.1%	50.0%	3
Most serious violence*	203	192	212	1.80	1.71	1.83	4.4%	1.7%	6
Violent crime with public place flag**	4,216	3,193	4,634	2.77	2.14	2.80	9.9%	1.1%	N/A
Non-domestic violent crimes**	8,030	7,103	9,801	4.38	3.84	4.90	22.1%	11.9%	N/A
Sexual offences*	1,098	950	1,332	7.54	6.48	8.46	21.3%	12.2%	1
Sexual offences - rape*	456	397	500	5.83	5.03	6.38	9.6%	9.4%	1
Sexual offences - other*	642	553	832	1.71	1.45	2.08	29.6%	21.6%	2
Crimes with domestic flag**	4,684	4,773	5,782	3.89	4.10	4.99	23.4%	28.3%	N/A
Domestic violent crime**	3,825	3,928	4,735	1.77	1.87	2.05	23.8%	15.8%	N/A
Theft offences*	10,431	7,687	8,461	5.69	4.72	4.96	-18.9%	-12.8%	7
Burglary residential*	1,644	1,388	1,343	3.85	3.23	3.09	-18.3%	-19.7%	1
Burglary non-residential*	643	473	385	0.40	0.30	0.24	-40.1%	-40.0%	5
Vehicle offences*	2,318	2,067	2,118	0.70	0.51	0.65	-8.6%	-7.1%	5
Robbery*	439	336	359	1.73	1.32	1.41	-18.2%	-18.5%	4
Possession of weapons offences*	358	376	451	0.37	0.42	0.31	26.0%	-16.2%	1
Possession of bladed implement*	180	181	208	0.05	0.05	0.06	15.6%	20.0%	1
Firearms offences*	55	73	46	0.29	0.34	0.20	-16.4%	-31.0%	6
Crime involving a bladed implement**	646	605	644	1.28	1.22	1.17	-0.3%	-8.6%	N/A
Serious knife crime**	253	264	284	0.62	0.63	0.67	12.3%	8.1%	N/A
Modern slavery*	34	50	62	0.21	0.31	0.38	82.4%	81.0%	5
Cruelty to children/young persons*	215	197	200	0.13	0.12	0.13	-7.0%	0.0%	4
Hate crime**	797	952	1,189	0.17	0.27	0.27	49.2%	58.8%	N/A
Alcohol affected crime**	2,615	2,273	3,105	1.84	1.47	2.03	18.7%	10.3%	N/A
Drug offences*	934	1,242	1,034	0.49	0.80	0.60	10.7%	22.4%	5
Drug affected crime**	849	1,008	1,143	0.48	0.62	0.73	34.6%	52.1%	N/A
Anti-social behaviour***	7,258	6,483	5,217	N/A	N/A	N/A	-28.1%		N/A
Criminal damage and arson*	3,237	2,863	2,985	0.25	0.28	0.22	-7.8%	-12.0%	4

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

** Hampshire Constabulary

*** Police.UK

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

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

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

Firearms offences include possession of firearms and other firearms offences

Colour Key	
	Year on year increase
	Year on year decrease

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, the largest percentage increases in the volume of crime were seen in drug affected crime (+34.6%), malicious communications (+40.1%), hate crime (+49.2%), stalking and harassment (+75.2%) and modern slavery (+82.4%); although numbers of modern slavery offences are small and therefore percentage changes should be interpreted with caution. There have also been notable increases in the volume of violent crime (+24.6%), sexual offences (+21.3%) and domestic flagged crimes (+23.4%).

On the other hand, there have been notable declines in non-residential (-40.1%) and residential burglary (-18.3%), theft offences (-18.9%), robbery (-18.2%), vehicle offences (-8.6%) and criminal damage and arson (-7.8%). The volume of firearms offences (-16.4%) and cruelty to children/young persons (-7.0%) also declined from the pre-pandemic baseline, however, numbers of these offences remain small.

There continues to be a decline in anti-social behaviour offences in Southampton, with a -19.5% decline in the last year (-28.1% since 2019/20). Similar declines have been observed across Hampshire Constabulary (-21.8%) and all other districts (-25.6% in Portsmouth) in the last year. There is local evidence to suggest that crimes are being classified based on victim perception. Therefore, some crimes that would have previously been coded as anti-social behaviour are now coded as stalking and harassment. This aligns with increases seen in recorded stalking and harassment offences, although there are likely multiple factors influencing the levels of recorded stalking and harassment offences (Section 3.1). Additionally, there has also been operational focus on anti-social behaviour over the last year.

Changes in the crime types outlined above will be explored in more detail throughout the relevant sections in this report.

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

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):

- Violent crime (all forms)
- Sexual offences
- Domestic offences, including domestic violence

Violent crime, sexual offences and domestic crimes have consistently featured among the top priority areas for the last four years. Residential burglary featured as a priority in the previous assessment, however, due to declines in the volume and severity of offences it does not score as highly in 2021/22. Although, the Partnership should continue to monitor residential burglary, as when examining the 'case mix' of all crime (Figure 2.3), residential burglary accounts for 3.9% of the overall volume of crime in the city, but 12.9% in terms of relative severity (3rd highest).

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

Figure 2.6: Crime change and prioritisation matrix

Indicator	2019/20 count	2021/22 count	2019/20 crime severity score	2021/22 crime severity score	Formal action taken %**	Percentage change 2019/20 to 2021/22 count	Percentage change 2019/20 to 2021/22 crime severity score	iQuanta CSP position *	Overall priority rank
Total crime*	31,889	34,254	22.92	23.94	11.4%	7.4%	4.5%	1	
Violent crime*	11,740	14,631	6.35	7.48	11.0%	24.6%	17.8%	1	1
Violence with injury*	4,251	4,307	5.00	5.29	13.2%	1.3%	5.8%	1	9
Violence without injury*	4,907	5,815	0.85	1.29	10.0%	18.5%	51.8%	1	7
Stalking and harassment*	2,572	4,506	0.32	0.89	6.3%	75.2%	178.1%	2	4
Malicious communications*	1,380	1,933	0.10	0.15	8.3%	40.1%	50.0%	3	14
Most serious violence*	203	212	1.80	1.83	18.5%	4.4%	1.7%	6	25
Violent crime with public place flag**	4,216	4,634	2.77	2.80	17.2%	9.9%	1.1%	N/A	11
Sexual offences*	1,098	1,332	7.54	8.46	3.9%	21.3%	12.2%	1	2
Sexual offences - rape*	456	500	5.83	6.38	1.2%	9.6%	9.4%	1	6
Sexual offences - other*	642	832	1.71	2.08	5.5%	29.6%	21.6%	2	8
Crimes with domestic flag**	4,684	5,782	3.89	4.99	7.6%	23.4%	28.3%	N/A	3
Domestic violent crime**	3,825	4,735	1.77	2.05	7.3%	23.8%	15.8%	N/A	5
Theft offences *	10,431	8,461	5.69	4.96	6.3%	-18.9%	-12.8%	7	12
Burglary residential*	1,644	1,343	3.85	3.09	2.2%	-18.3%	-19.7%	1	10
Burglary non-residential*	643	385	0.40	0.24	12.9%	-40.1%	-40.0%	5	28
Vehicle offences*	2,318	2,118	0.70	0.65	1.7%	-8.6%	-7.1%	5	17
Robbery*	439	359	1.73	1.41	8.3%	-18.2%	-18.5%	4	23
Possession of weapons offences*	358	451	0.37	0.31	26.0%	26.0%	-16.2%	1	19
Possession of bladed implement*	180	208	0.05	0.06	32.1%	15.6%	20.0%	1	25
Firearms offences*	55	46	0.29	0.20	28.6%	-16.4%	-31.0%	6	30
Crime involving a bladed implement**	646	644	1.28	1.17	17.9%	-0.3%	-8.6%	N/A	24
Serious knife crime**	253	284	0.62	0.67	12.0%	12.3%	8.1%	N/A	21
Modern slavery*	34	62	0.21	0.38	1.6%	82.4%	81.0%	5	15
Cruelty to children/young persons*	215	200	0.13	0.13	30.7%	-7.0%	0.0%	4	29
Hate crime**	797	1,189	0.17	0.27	17.1%	49.2%	58.8%	N/A	16
Alcohol affected crime**	2,615	3,105	1.84	2.03	25.9%	18.7%	10.3%	N/A	13
Drug offences*	934	1,034	0.49	0.60	68.6%	10.7%	22.4%	5	25
Drug affected crime**	849	1,143	0.48	0.73	37.0%	34.6%	52.1%	N/A	20
Anti-social behaviour***	7,258	5,217	N/A	N/A		-28.1%		N/A	18
Criminal damage and arson*	3,237	2,985	0.25	0.22	9.6%	-7.8%	-12.0%	4	22

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

** Hampshire Constabulary

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

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

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

Firearms offences include possession of firearms and other firearms offences

Colour Key	
	Year on year increase
	Year on year decrease

2.4 Distribution of crime

Figure 2.7 shows the distribution of crimes by type and ward, with rates colour coded based on the difference to the city averages. Similar to previous years, Bargate (239 crimes per 1k population) and Bevois (209 crimes per 1k population) wards had the highest overall crime rate among Southampton wards in 2021/22. 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, Millbrook, Redbridge and Shirley all show significantly higher total crime rates than the Southampton average in 2021/22 (Figure 2.7). In previous years, Bitterne ward had a significantly higher rate compared to the city average. Yet, the overall crime rate in Bitterne ward is significantly lower than the city average in 2021/22. However, rates for domestic and violent crimes in Bitterne remain significantly higher than the city average.

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

Key: Difference to the Southampton average																
<div><div></div>Significantly worse</div>																
<div><div></div>Significantly better</div>																
<div><div></div>Worse but not significantly</div>																
<div><div></div>Better but not significantly</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	Sexual Offences	Rape	Other Sexual Offences	Robbery	Theft Offences	Burglary Residential	Criminal Damage and Arson
Southampton	130.3	22.1	18.1	4.5	2.5	11.9	3.9	4.4	55.5	5.0	1.9	3.1	1.4	32.4	5.1	11.4
Bargate	238.7	25.8	21.9	7.8	4.9	27.6	8.5	9.6	84.6	8.7	3.1	5.6	4.5	80.5	6.1	15.2
Bassett	59.6	8.8	6.6	2.9	0.9	2.8	1.1	1.6	20.9	2.6	1.3	1.3	0.7	19.9	5.9	6.0
Bevois	209.1	26.9	22.6	9.5	3.9	27.0	9.0	8.7	95.8	9.1	2.6	6.5	2.0	45.1	5.4	15.4
Bitterne	120.7	30.5	26.1	2.9	2.9	9.1	2.5	2.5	62.4	4.0	1.6	2.3	0.5	19.1	4.6	13.9
Bitterne Park	88.3	16.0	13.5	2.7	1.2	6.7	2.8	2.9	36.8	3.0	1.2	1.8	0.3	25.3	3.8	7.0
Coxford	81.9	16.7	13.9	2.4	0.8	5.2	1.2	1.6	41.3	3.0	1.1	1.8	0.3	16.5	3.9	8.7
Freemantle	155.6	24.6	18.6	5.2	3.9	13.7	9.1	6.9	55.1	5.5	2.6	2.9	1.7	42.1	8.4	12.0
Harefield	109.1	23.5	19.6	3.4	1.5	7.2	1.9	3.3	47.9	4.8	1.5	3.3	0.7	26.1	4.7	11.6
Millbrook	141.4	26.8	22.2	6.3	3.0	12.0	3.2	4.2	63.4	5.1	1.9	3.2	1.0	36.6	5.9	12.5
Peartree	92.6	21.0	16.9	2.9	2.0	8.7	1.9	2.3	44.5	3.2	0.8	2.4	1.1	18.1	2.1	8.0
Portswood	109.6	12.5	10.6	4.4	1.9	9.7	2.8	4.3	38.3	3.7	1.0	2.7	1.6	33.0	6.8	10.8
Redbridge	138.1	28.4	22.1	3.8	2.8	7.7	2.5	2.3	65.3	4.5	1.6	2.9	1.1	24.3	5.2	16.9
Shirley	151.1	22.0	18.3	7.1	2.4	12.8	3.0	6.2	63.6	4.2	1.8	2.4	1.8	36.1	7.7	14.4
Sholing	64.0	16.8	12.9	1.3	1.1	6.0	0.8	2.6	30.8	4.0	1.7	2.2	0.4	11.6	3.0	5.4
Swaythling	98.1	19.2	16.0	3.1	1.3	7.6	3.3	2.0	44.2	4.7	1.7	3.0	1.1	20.6	3.6	10.7
Woolston	107.6	27.3	22.1	2.8	1.9	9.2	3.1	3.3	53.9	4.5	2.2	2.2	0.5	20.7	3.5	9.2

Overall crime continues to be strongly patterned with deprivation. In 2021/22, the overall crime rate in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods was 2.6 times higher than in the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods in Southampton (Figure 2.8). Although crime rates remain significantly higher in the 20% most deprived Southampton neighbourhoods compared to the 20% least deprived

neighbourhoods, this gap appears to be narrowing; having been 3.7 times higher in 2019/20 and 3 times higher in 2020/21. However, this change appears to be driven by higher crime rates in the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods (+39.8% increase in the crime rate from 2019/20), rather than lower crime rates in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods (-2.7% decline in the crime rate from 2019/20) (Figure 2.9).

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

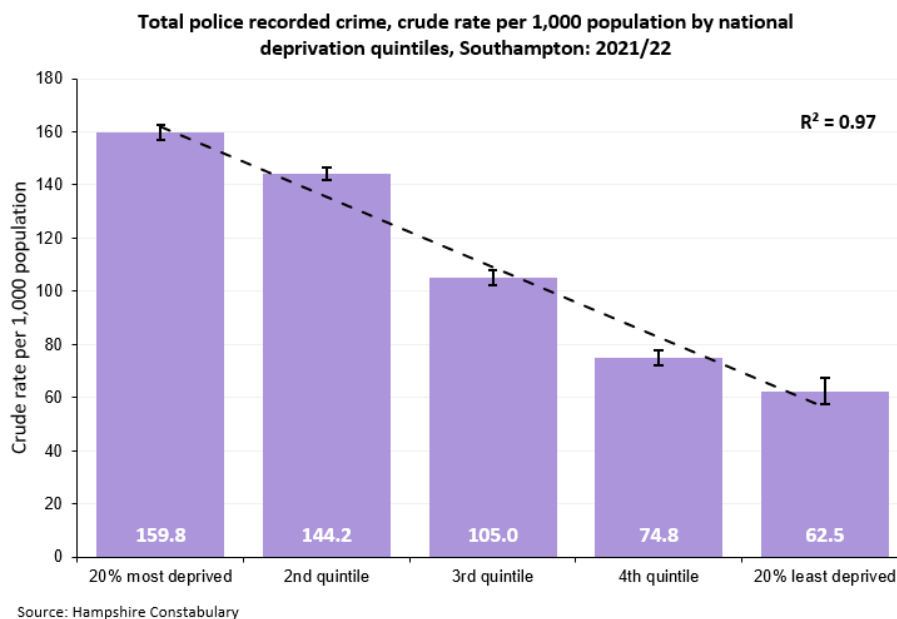


Figure 2.9: Chart showing the trend in overall crime for the most and least deprived quintiles

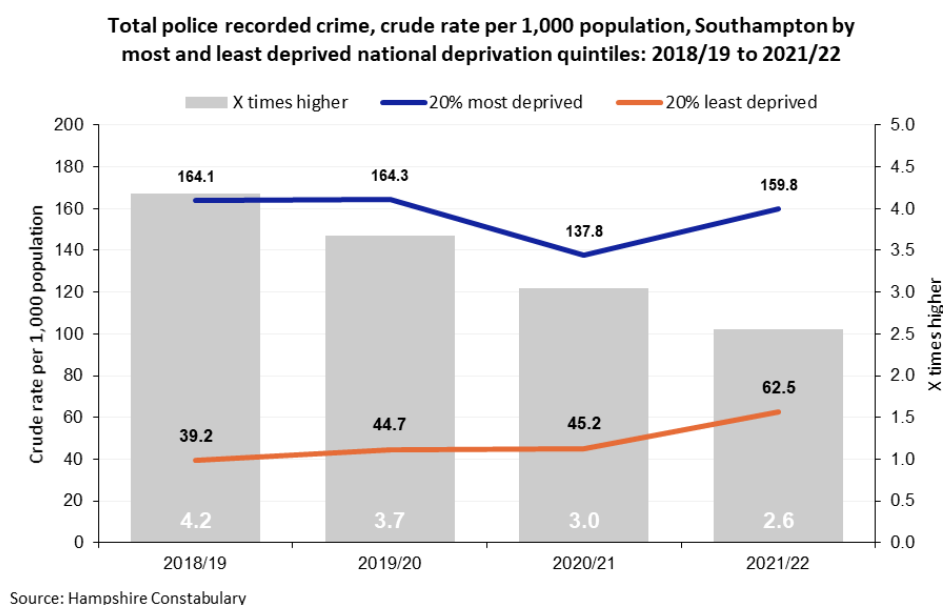


Figure 2.10 shows the change in crimes by type and ward, with numbers and percentages colour coded based on whether there has been a year-on-year increase (red) or decrease (green). From 2019/20 to 2021/22, total crime increased in 13 out of 16 wards (Figure 2.9). Notably, declines in total crime were seen in Bitterne (-10.7%), Peartree (-7.2%) and Bargate (-5.1%) wards. The largest increase in total crime between 2019/20 and 2021/22 was in Freemantle ward (+29.1%), followed by Swaythling (+26.6%) and Bevois (+20.0%) wards. Although, geographical analysis may be influenced by key police sites located in Freemantle and Shirley. If a crime comes through these police sites and is against the state or the location is unknown, they will be assigned to the ward where the station sits. At present it is not possible to remove these incidents from geographical analysis.

2021/22 saw increases in violent crime across all wards, excluding Bitterne which experienced a negligible decline from 2019/20 (-0.1%), with Swaythling ward (+56.9%) experiencing the largest increase in the volume of violent crimes. Similarly domestic flagged crime increased in all but Bitterne and Portswood wards, highlighting that domestic abuse is a citywide issue. Sexual offences increased or stayed the same in all but three wards (Coxford, Bitterne and Redbridge). Hate crime increased in all wards except for Sholing. There has been a decline in anti-social behaviour across all but three wards; Bassett, Bitterne Park and Portswood. Additionally, the volume of non-residential, residential burglary, robbery and vehicle offences have declined across most wards. It should be noted that percentage changes should be interpreted alongside changes in counts, especially when the number of crimes is low.

Figure 2.10: Tartan rug showing year on year change (count and percentage) by crime type and ward

Key: Percentage change from 2019/20

	Increase
	Decrease
	No change

	% (and count) change in number of incidents - 2019/20 to 2021/22												
Change in recorded crime from 2019/20 - 2021/22	Total recorded crime	Alcohol Affected Crime	Violence against the Person	Sexual Offences	Anti-social Behaviour	Hate Crime	Robbery	Vehicle offences	Drug offences	Domestic Violence	Domestic flagged crimes	Non-Residential Burglary	Residential Burglary
Southampton	5.7% (1826)	18.7% (490)	22.6% (2681)	21.2% (231)	-28.1% (-2041)	49.2% (392)	-17.3% (-76)	-8.9% (-206)	4.1% (40)	23.8% (910)	23.4% (1098)	-39.8% (-256)	-18.4% (-303)
Bargate	-5.1% (-335)	8.5% (56)	12% (234)	31.4% (54)	-38.4% (-615)	4.1% (8)	-24.2% (-37)	15.2% (38)	-13% (-33)	52.6% (195)	47.6% (215)	-42.6% (-86)	0.6% (1)
Bassett	17.7% (143)	-10% (-5)	22.3% (61)	2.5% (1)	4.2% (7)	76.9% (20)	83.3% (5)	6.2% (6)	-5.3% (-1)	-9.4% (-11)	2.2% (3)	40% (4)	14.6% (12)
Bevois	20% (698)	17.4% (80)	36.8% (516)	39.7% (52)	-31.2% (-231)	79.2% (84)	-41.4% (-29)	4.7% (11)	13.9% (22)	28.8% (101)	26.2% (112)	-34.1% (-31)	-6.8% (-8)
Bitterne	-10.7% (-210)	-1.5% (-2)	-0.1% (-1)	-9.4% (-6)	-37.6% (-187)	31.3% (10)	-71.4% (-20)	-37.2% (-45)	-36.2% (-21)	8.3% (29)	-2.4% (-11)	-25% (-3)	-27.2% (-25)
Bitterne Park	13.8% (155)	6.5% (6)	25.9% (110)	57.1% (16)	5.6% (11)	50% (13)	-54.5% (-6)	-39.3% (-64)	42.9% (12)	-2.5% (-5)	2.2% (5)	58.3% (7)	-36.8% (-32)
Coxford	0.2% (2)	17.5% (11)	37.1% (159)	-17.6% (-9)	-29% (-104)	30.8% (8)	-60% (-6)	-11.8% (-12)	-5.6% (-1)	25.3% (40)	16.7% (34)	-42.9% (-3)	-29.1% (-23)
Freemantle	29.1% (603)	27.6% (51)	26.9% (201)	43.9% (29)	-26.3% (-93)	117.1% (48)	25% (6)	15.1% (29)	64.2% (61)	23.6% (61)	37.8% (116)	-41.9% (-13)	11.5% (15)
Harefield	6.1% (90)	52.9% (36)	19.1% (111)	91.7% (33)	-28.7% (-91)	96% (24)	-16.7% (-2)	-14.4% (-15)	-6.7% (-2)	28.6% (63)	22.3% (62)	87.5% (7)	-34.6% (-36)
Millbrook	6.6% (143)	73.5% (83)	30% (240)	43.1% (25)	-38.4% (-195)	77.6% (45)	-5.9% (-1)	27.9% (41)	10.6% (5)	42.7% (109)	36.8% (118)	-53.1% (-26)	-5.8% (-6)
Peartree	-7.2% (-109)	59.8% (49)	22.5% (123)	60% (18)	-32.6% (-126)	53.6% (15)	-5.6% (-1)	-40% (-54)	-12.1% (-4)	21% (44)	27.9% (69)	-59.4% (-19)	-65.2% (-58)
Portswood	8.8% (138)	-2.6% (-4)	12.7% (67)	35.7% (15)	9.3% (24)	146.4% (41)	127.3% (14)	-23.7% (-42)	-25.4% (-15)	-11.3% (-21)	-9.8% (-21)	-54.9% (-28)	-2.8% (-3)
Redbridge	4.4% (95)	-6.1% (-8)	20.4% (179)	-2.7% (-2)	-21.1% (-101)	5.2% (3)	13.3% (2)	-17% (-26)	11.1% (4)	5.3% (18)	9.8% (41)	-6.3% (-1)	-40.8% (-58)
Shirley	8.8% (190)	8.2% (15)	28.3% (218)	0% (0)	-31.8% (-135)	100% (55)	40% (8)	16.9% (22)	4.5% (2)	22.4% (52)	12.1% (37)	-68.3% (-43)	3.4% (4)
Sholing	2.3% (21)	115% (46)	28.8% (99)	58.3% (21)	-38.7% (-87)	-20.8% (-5)	-50% (-6)	-30.4% (-24)	-21.4% (-3)	40.2% (53)	51.3% (82)	-66.7% (-8)	-56.6% (-56)
Swaythling	26.6% (314)	63.4% (45)	56.9% (244)	44.9% (22)	-17.5% (-42)	67.9% (19)	45.5% (5)	-30% (-33)	19% (8)	88.4% (114)	86.1% (136)	-43.8% (-7)	17% (8)
Woolston	5.5% (93)	24.4% (30)	21.4% (158)	0% (0)	-15.1% (-76)	9.5% (4)	-40% (-6)	-17.8% (-19)	4% (2)	24.4% (72)	30.8% (107)	-22.6% (-7)	-35.6% (-32)

2.5 Victims and offenders

2.5.1 Victims

In 2021/22, there were 17,986 unique victims (excluding businesses and the state) who were involved in 76.1% of crimes in Southampton⁷. This is similar to the number of unique victims identified in 2019/20 (17,928), but a +21.9% increase compared to 2020/21 (14,757). This highlights a return to pre-pandemic levels of victimisation in Southampton.

Figure 2.11 shows the number of victims by the number of offences they experienced during 2021/22, with most victims experiencing only one crime in the financial year (76.7%). In 2021/22, 23.3% of victims experienced more than one crime, compared to 19.6% in 2019/20 and 22.5% in 2020/21. Repeat victims accounted for 47.1% of crimes where a victim was recorded in 2021/22. The evidence

⁷ Hampshire Constabulary – only includes victims with valid age and sex information recorded

above highlights that repeat victimisation remains an issue in Southampton and is potentially a growing one, as the proportion of repeat victims has increased over the last three years.

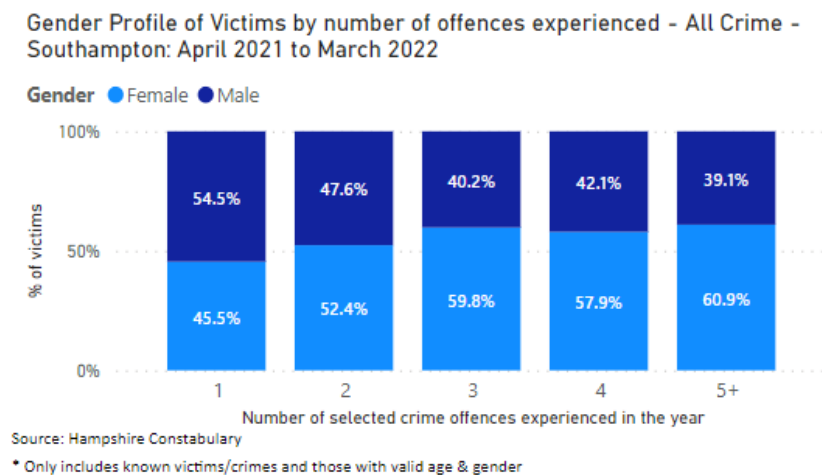
Figure 2.11: Table showing number of offences experienced by know victims in 2021/22

No. of crimes experienced	No. of all crime offences	% of all crime offences	No. of all crime victims	% of all crime victims
1	13,798	52.9	13,798	76.7
2	5,178	19.9	2,589	14.4
3	2,379	9.1	793	4.4
4	1,360	5.2	340	1.9
5 or more	3,348	12.8	466	2.6

A small number of individuals (466, 2.6%) experienced 5 or more crimes in 2021/22. Yet collectively these individuals accounted for 12.8% (3,348) of recorded crimes where a victim was recorded. The number of individuals experiencing 5 or more crimes has risen compared to 2019/20 (320 individuals) and 2020/21 (316 individuals).

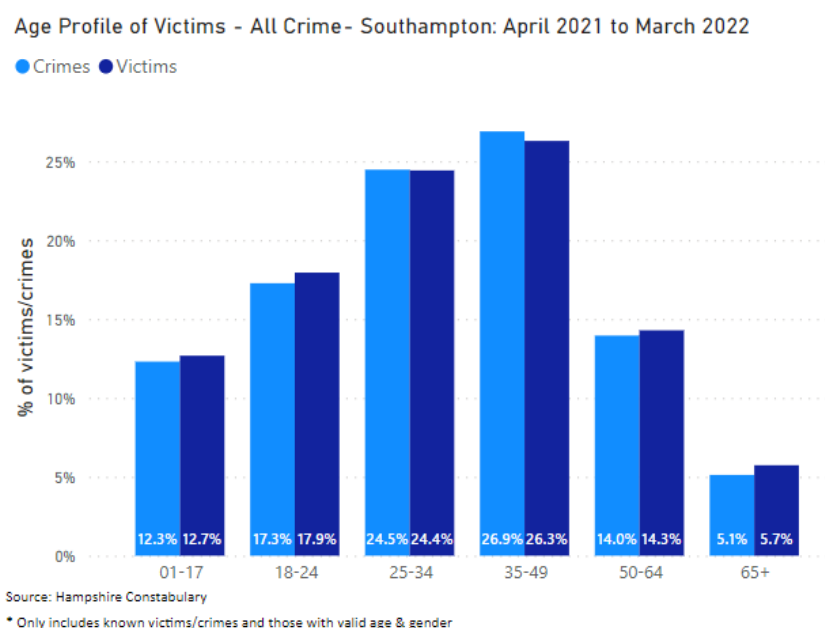
Overall, males (52.3%) made up a higher proportion of victims than females (47.7%) in 2021/22. However, similar to previous years, females continue to be more likely to be repeat victims across all crime types; accounting for 60.9% of the victims experiencing 5 or more crime in the financial year (Figure 2.12).

Figure 2.12: Chart showing the gender profile of victims by number of offences experienced



Victim age profiling for all crime follows a similar pattern to previous years (*Figure 2.13*), with the most common age group for victims continuing to be those aged 35 to 49 years old (26.3%), followed by 25 to 34 (24.4%), 18 to 24 (17.9%), 50 to 64 (14.3%), 1 to 17 (12.7%) and lastly those aged over 65 years (5.7%).⁸

Figure 2.13: Chart showing age profile of victims and offences



The majority of victims identified in 2021/22 were white (54.7%), 9.6% of victims were ethnic minorities and 35.8% unknown ethnicity⁹. 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 ethnic minorities making up 19.3% of the Southampton population (2021 census).

2.5.2 Offenders

During 2021/22, 9,828 individual suspects or offenders were identified from police systems for offences that occurred in Southampton. This is a +14.2% increase on the 8,604 identified during 2019/20¹⁰. These individuals were collectively responsible for 61.1% of the crimes committed in Southampton during 2021/22. 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

⁸ 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.

⁹ Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

¹⁰ Hampshire Constabulary – only includes suspects and offenders with valid age and sex

have different characteristics to those who those who were not caught or who committed offences that were not recorded.

Figure 2.14 shows that the majority (61.5%) of offenders committed just one offence during 2021/22, which is slightly lower than the proportion in 2019/20 (64.1%) and 2020/21 (63.6%). Despite most offenders committing just one crime in the year, individuals committing just one offence account for 28.9% of crimes with a known suspect or offender. Those committing more than one crime account for 38.4% of offenders, but collectively account for 71.1% of crimes. This highlights that repeat offending remains a substantial issue in Southampton and potentially a growing one, as the proportion of repeat offenders has increased over the last 3 years.

Figure 2.14: Table showing number of offences committed by known suspects or offenders in 2021/22

No. of crimes committed	No. of all crime offences	% of all crime offences	No. of all crime offenders	% of all crime offenders
1	6,046	28.9	6,046	61.5
2	3,540	16.9	1,770	18.0
3	2,247	10.7	749	7.6
4	1,748	8.4	437	4.4
5 or more	7,353	35.1	826	8.4

The proportion of the most prolific offenders has increased in comparison to previous years, with 8.4% of offenders in 2021/22 committing 5 or more offences, compared with 7.3% of offenders in 2019/20. Despite prolific offenders accounting for 8.4% (826 individuals) of suspects or offenders in 2021/22, these individuals committed 35.1% of crimes with a known suspect or offender. Therefore, it is important to tackle reoffending of the most prolific offenders if crime levels are to reduce in Southampton.

The majority of suspects or offenders identified in 2021/22 were male (69.7%), which is similar to previous years (71.2% in 2019/20). Males continue to be more likely to commit multiple offences than females, with 73.1% of the most prolific offenders (5 or more) male (Figure 2.15).

Figure 2.15: Chart showing the gender profile of offenders by number of offences committed

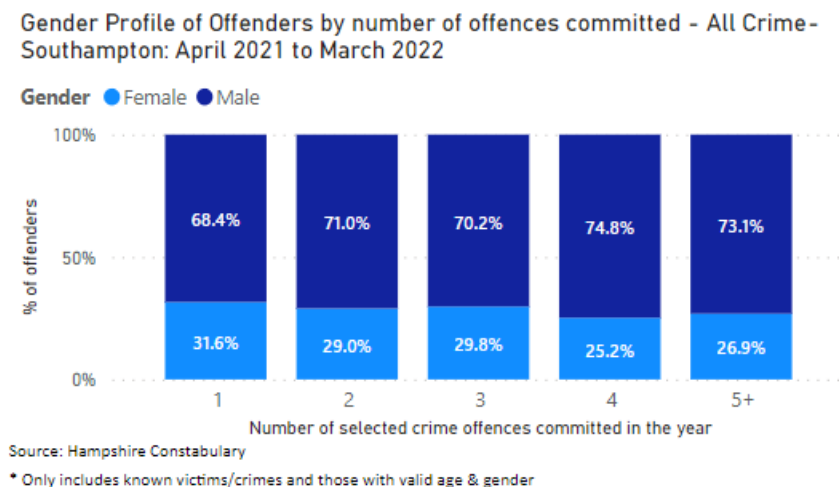
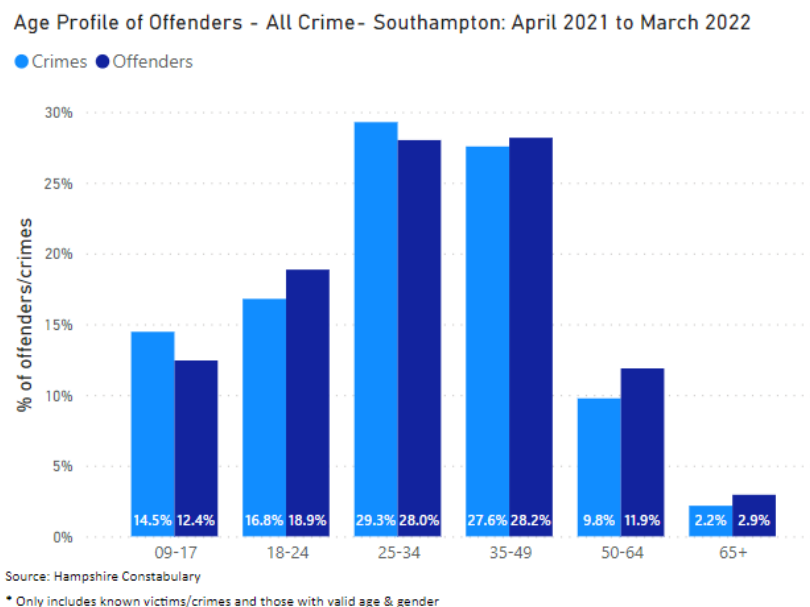


Figure 2.16 shows the age profile of offenders for all crimes in 2021/22. The age profile for offenders is similar to previous years, with those aged 35 to 49 years old (28.2%) and 25 to 34 (28.0%) sharing similar proportions for the largest groups of offenders, followed by 18 to 24 (18.9%), 9 to 17 (12.4%), 50 to 64 (11.9%) and lastly those age 65 and over (2.9%).¹¹ The proportion of offenders aged under 18 remains lower than the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20); the proportion of offenders aged under 18 fell from 13.2% in 2019/20 to 12.1% in 2020/21, before a small increase to 12.4% in 2021/22.

Figure 2.16: Chart showing age profile of offenders and offences



¹¹ 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.

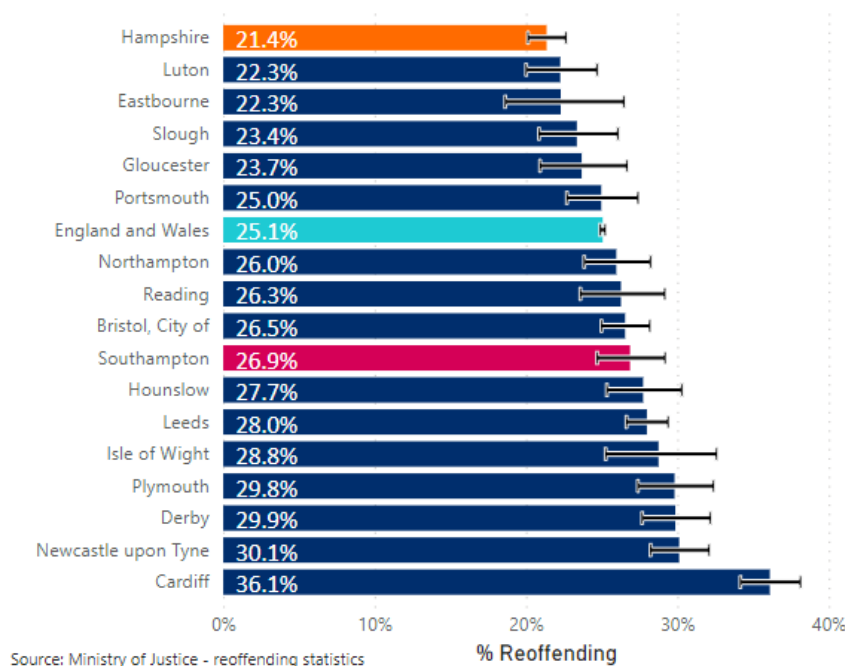
The ethnic profile for suspects and offenders is similar to that of victims and in line with previous years, with the majority identified as white (70.5%), 14.2% of offenders were ethnic minorities and 15.3% unknown ethnicity (2021/22).

2.5.3 Reoffending ¹²

In Southampton, 26.9% of adult offenders in the 2019/20 cohort reoffended (*Figure 2.17*), higher but not significantly than the England and Wales reoffending rate (25.1%). Southampton adult reoffenders will on average commit 3.4 reoffences, slightly lower than the England and Wales average of 3.7 reoffences¹³. Due to changes in the data source and methodology of reoffending statistics¹⁴, it is not possible to examine trends beyond the last four years. Southampton experienced an overall increase in the adult reoffending rate between 2016/17 to 2017/18. However, the reoffending rate has been declining since, falling by 2.8 percentage points in 2019/20 (*Figure 2.18*). Though, it should be noted that this change is not statistically significant.

Figure 2.17: Benchmarking chart showing proven adult reoffending rate

Proven percentage of Adult offenders who reoffend - Southampton and iQuanta comparators: 2019/20



¹² Reoffending statistics may be impacted by delays in court process due to the pandemic.

¹³ 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

¹⁴ Ministry of Justice – Guide to proven reoffending statistics (2021). Available via:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1006061/Guide-to-proven-reoffending-July21_Final.pdf

Figure 2.18: Trend chart showing proven adult reoffending rate

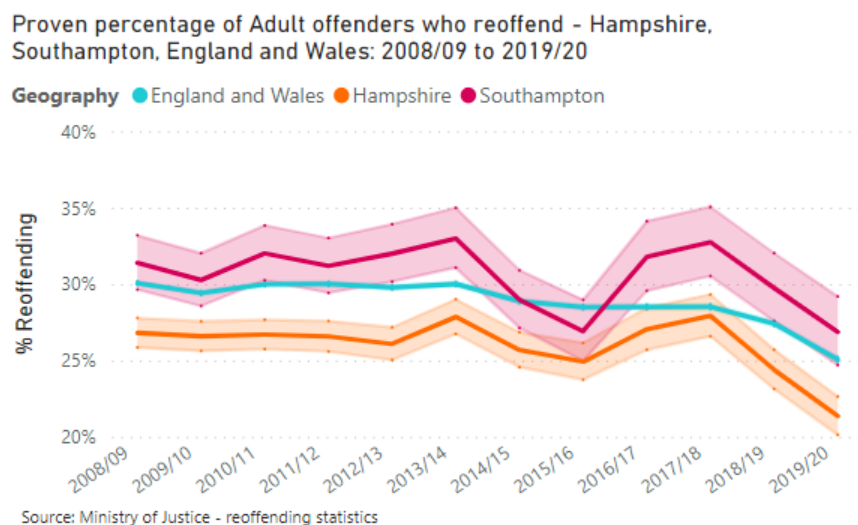


Figure 2.19 shows that 35.6% of the 2019/20 youth offending cohort in Southampton reoffended, which is similar to the England and Wales average (34.2%). Youth reoffenders in Southampton will commit an average of 3.3 reoffences, which is slightly lower than the England and Wales average of 3.6 reoffences. Due to the small number of reoffenders, Southampton has seen greater fluctuations in youth reoffending rates compared to adult reoffenders. However, the youth reoffending rate fell by -14.7 percentage points from 50.3% in 2018/19 to 35.6% in 2019/20. Again, these changes are not statistically significant due to the small cohort of youth offenders and reoffenders.

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

Proven percentage of Juvenile offenders who reoffend - Southampton and iQuanta comparators: 2019/20

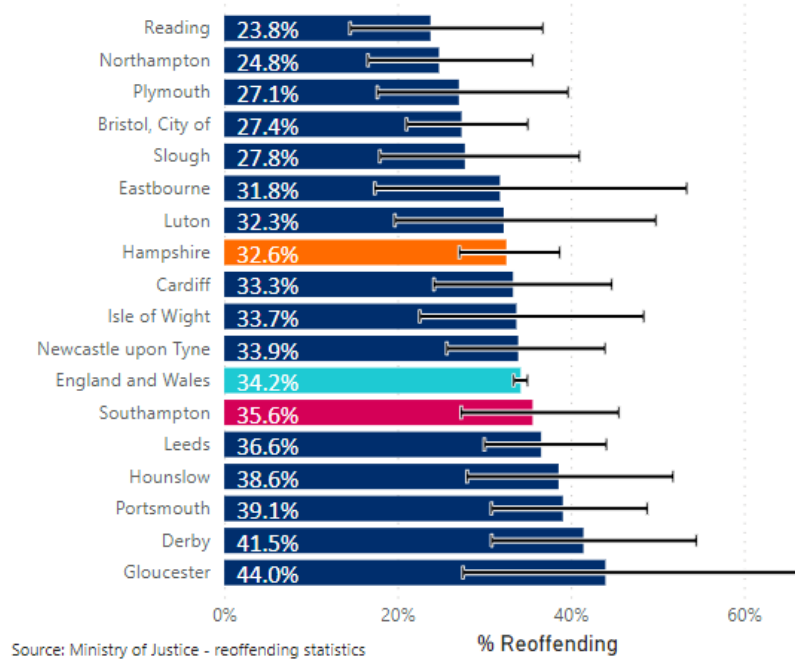
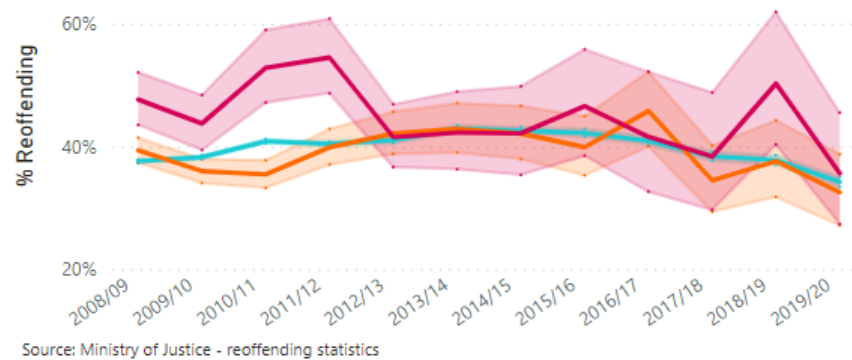


Figure 2.20: Trend chart showing proven youth (juvenile) reoffending rate

Proven percentage of Juvenile offenders who reoffend - Hampshire, Southampton, England and Wales: 2008/09 to 2019/20

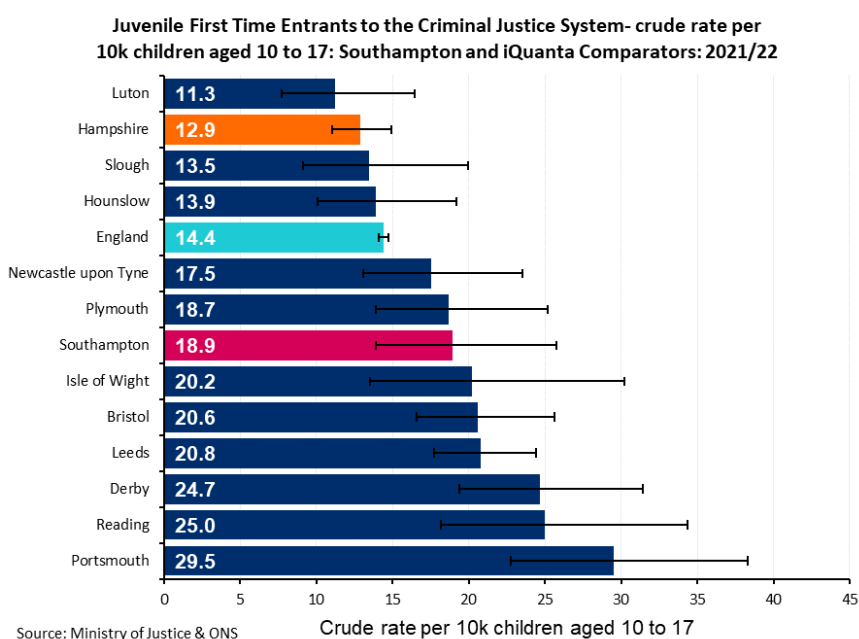
Geography ● England and Wales ● Hampshire ● Southampton



2.5.4 First time entrants¹⁵

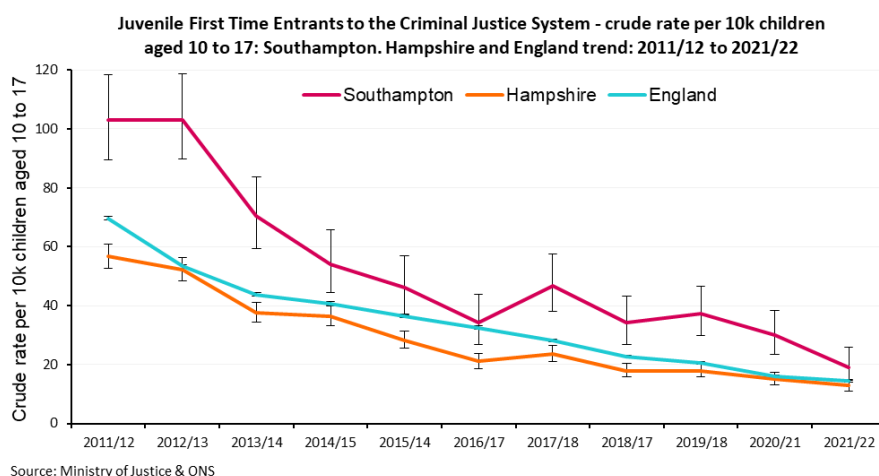
In 2021/22, Southampton had a juvenile first-time entrant (FTE) rate of 18.9 per 10k children aged 10 to 17, which is higher but not significantly than the national average of 14.4 per 10k children aged 10 to 17 (Figure 2.21). Since 2012/13, the juvenile FTE rate has been on a downward trend in Southampton and nationally, with the Southampton FTE rate in 2020/21 no longer significantly higher than the national average for the first time in 5 years (Figure 2.22).

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



¹⁵ Youth offending statistics may be impacted by delays in court process due to the pandemic

Figure 2.22: Trend chart showing rate of juvenile first-time entrants



2.6 Points for the Partnership to note

- In 2021/22, Southampton experienced a +7.4% increase in total recorded crime compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20). This suggests that Southampton has returned to pre-pandemic crime volumes for overall crime and many crime types, and in some cases, exceeding pre-pandemic crime volumes (for example, sexual offences and violent crime).
- The increase in total recorded crime over recent years may not reflect a 'true' increase in crime, as recorded crime can be influenced by improved awareness of key issues, more people reporting crime and improvements in recording by the police. The most recent TCSEW also found no significant change in crime compared to the pre-pandemic baseline, with the 2022 community safety survey also highlighting no significant changes in reported victimisation compared to 2019 (Section 4.1.5).
- Rape, violence with injury and residential burglary were the crime groups that caused the most harm in Southampton during 2021/22. Therefore, a continuation of the trends in crime severity observed over the last four years. The Partnership should continue to consider the harm caused by different crime types, as well as the volume when examining priorities and areas of focus.
- The crime prioritisation exercise highlighted the following three priorities for the Partnership: violent crime (all forms), sexual offences and domestic offences (including domestic violence). These crime types have been highlighted as priority areas over the last four years.
- Some crime types are more likely to be underreported than others. The Partnership should continue to work to understand the extent of unreported crime in Southampton and take action to address and barriers to reporting incidents; particularly among the most vulnerable.
- The most recent community safety survey highlighted that most 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 2022 community safety survey are presented in Section 4.

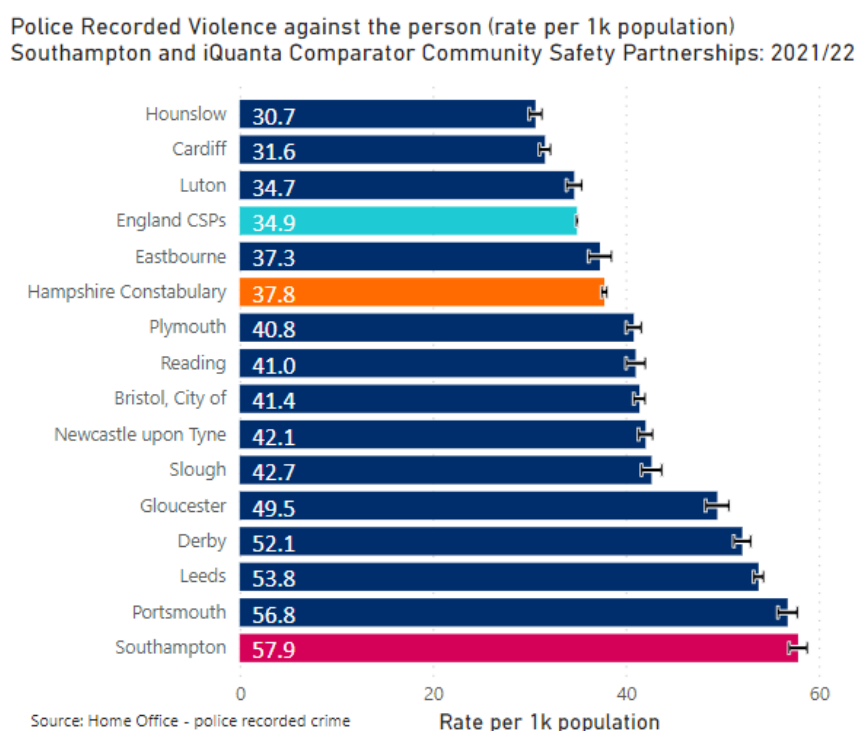
- Repeat victims accounted for 47.1% of crimes where a victim was recorded in Southampton during 2021/22. The proportion of repeat victims has continued to increase over the last three years. This would suggest that repeat victimisation continues to be and is a potentially growing issue in Southampton. The Partnership should continue to monitor these trends alongside repeat offending.
- Reoffending remains an issue in Southampton. 8.4% of offenders who committed 5 or more crimes, were responsible for 35.1% of crimes where there was a known suspect or offender. If crime levels are to reduce in Southampton, the high reoffending rate needs to be addressed. The Partnership should continue to ensure that outcomes for offenders are the best possible to reduce reoffending. Particularly targeting the most prolific offenders and those with the highest risk of reoffending.
- Outcomes in Southampton for youth offending indicators such as first-time entrants (FTEs) and youth reoffending appear to have improved in recent years. However, these indicators should continue to be monitored by the Partnership to see if these trends continue.
- 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.

3. Significant community safety issues

3.1 Violent crime

Southampton has a violent crime rate of 58 crimes per 1k population in 2021/22 (*Figure 3.1*), which is the highest among comparator CSPs and significantly higher than the national average (35 per 1k population). Southampton is ranked 10th highest among English and Welsh CSPs with a valid violent crime rate (310 total). Furthermore, Southampton is now among the worst 5% of CSPs nationally for violent crime, having previously been among the top 10%; ranking 22nd in 2020/21 and 16th in 2019/20 (*Figure 3.2*). Southampton's rate of violent crimes has remained significantly higher than the national average since 2011/12 (*Figure 3.3*).

Figure 3.1: 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 also important to monitor Southampton's relative position for these subgroups, as this will give an indication on what any overall changes in violent crime are being driven by.

Figure 3.2 shows the trend in the relative ranking for violent crimes in Southampton against CSPs in England and Wales. Southampton has consistently ranked fourth highest for violence with injury since 2019/20. For violence without injury, Southampton's rank has risen from 20th in 2019/20 to 12th in 2021/22. Whereas the rank for stalking and harassment rose from 67th highest in 2019/20 to 39th in

2021/22. This highlights the improvements that have been made to the reporting and recording of stalking and harassment locally as a result of the change in counting rules introduced in 2018 and increased awareness. Therefore, the rise in rank for overall violent crime is likely driven by improvements in reporting and recording of stalking and harassment. Although, the high ranks for both violence with and without injury should remain a concern and continue to be monitored by the Partnership.

Figure 3.2: Trend in Southampton ranks relative to England and Wales CSPs for recorded violent crime rates

Violent crime group	2019/20 CSP rank (out of 303)	2020/21 CSP rank (out of 300)	2021/22 CSP rank (out of 310)
Overall violent crime	16 th	22 nd	10 th
Violence with injury	4 th	4 th	4 th
Violence without injury	20 th	19 th	12 th
Stalking & harassment	67 th	80 th	39 th

Southampton experienced a +24.6% increase in the number of violent crimes between 2019/20 and 2021/22. All three of the main violent crime subgroups also experienced an increase from the pre-pandemic baseline, with violence with injury increasing by +1.3%, violence without injury by +18.5% and stalking and harassment by +75.2%. Similar trends are observed nationally and across Hampshire Constabulary (Figure 3.3).

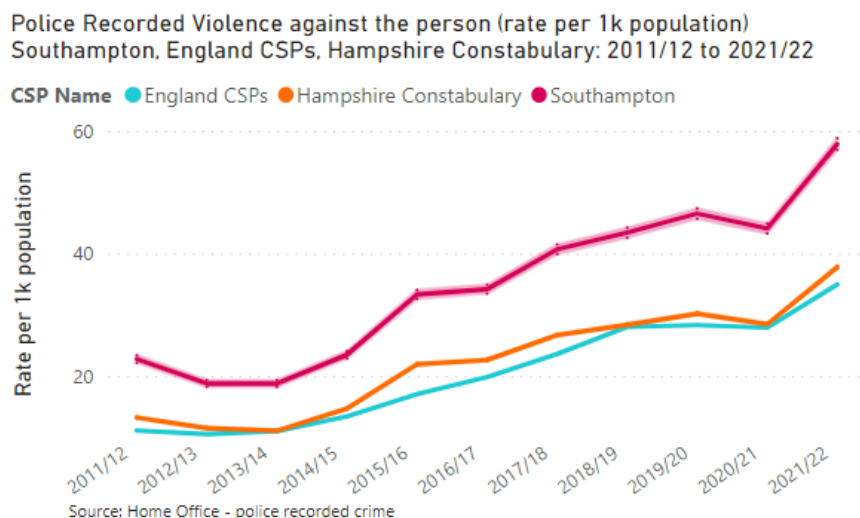
The above evidence suggests that volumes of overall violent crime have returned to the pre-pandemic baseline and above, with declines in overall violent crime experienced both nationally and locally in 2020/21. Declines in overall violent crime during 2020/21 were driven by lockdown restrictions and suppression of the night-time economy, with notable declines in stranger violence and violence occurring in public spaces.

Increases in violent crime, particularly stalking and harassment offences are likely to continue and potentially become more pronounced. Increases in police recorded stalking and harassment offences can be attributed to several factors such as the change in counting rules for stalking and harassment offences introduced in 2018, greater awareness around violence against women and girls (VAWG), as well as improved identification and recording of stalking and harassment offences by officers^{16, 17}. It is important to monitor increases in stalking and harassment, as these offences can be a precursor for more serious offending in the future, particularly those that are flagged as domestic.

¹⁶ Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2022

¹⁷ Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

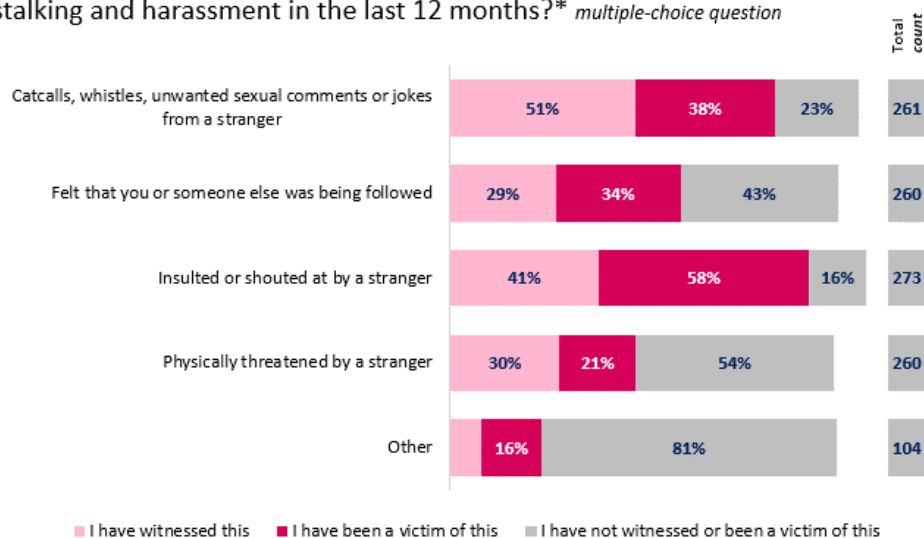
Figure 3.3: Trend in the rate of violent crimes for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



16% of respondents from the 2022 Southampton community safety survey stated that they had witnessed stalking and harassment, with an additional 10% stating that they had been a victim of stalking and harassment in the last 12 months. A significantly higher proportion of female respondents (14%) were a victim of stalking and harassment compared to males (4%). Additionally, a greater proportion of younger respondents stated that they had witnessed and/or experienced stalking and harassment. Figure 3.4 shows the types of stalking and harassment respondents witnessed and/or experienced. Being *insulted or shouted at by a stranger* was the most commonly experienced (58%) and *catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger* was the most commonly witnessed (51%). A significantly higher proportion of female respondents (49%) had experienced *catcalls, whistles, unwanted sexual comments or jokes from a stranger* compared to males (11%). More detailed findings from the 2022 community safety survey are presented in Section 4.

Figure 3.4: Chart showing the experiences of respondents who witnessed or experienced of stalking & harassment

Question 15 Which of the following best describes your experience of stalking and harassment in the last 12 months? * multiple-choice question



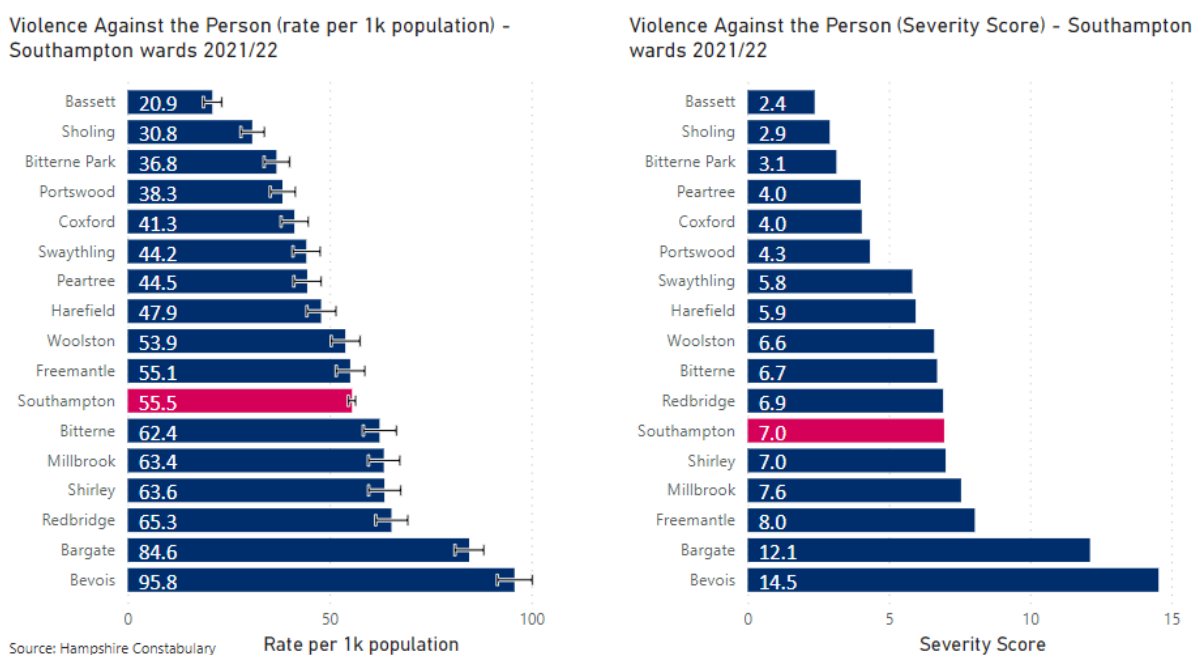
*This question was asked only of those that said they either were a witness or a victim in response to the stalking and harassment topic in question 14.

Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

In 2021/22, Bevois and Bargate wards had the highest rate of violent crime, which is similar to the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20). Sub city patterns of violent crime changed slightly during the pandemic (2020/21)¹⁸, with rates of violent crime in Bargate ward (covers part of the city centre) much lower than previous years due to the suppression of the night-time economy. However, Figure 3.5 suggests that Southampton has returned to pre-pandemic patterns of violent crime.

¹⁸ Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment (2020/21). Online available at: https://data.southampton.gov.uk/images/safe-city-strategic-assessment-report-2020-21_tcm71-450628.pdf

Figure 3.5: Benchmarking charts showing the rate (left) and severity (right) of violent crimes by Southampton ward



Domestic violence continues to be a significant driver of violent crime in Southampton, with 32.6% of violent crime in 2021/22 flagged as domestic. This is similar to the proportion recorded in 2019/20 (32.3%), but lower than that recorded in 2020/21 (35.5%) (Figure 3.12). However, it is important to note the percentage of violent crime that is flagged as domestic in 2020/21 (35.5%) will be inflated by the decline in overall violent crime during that year.

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. Additionally, an increase seen in police recorded crime data may not reflect a true increase in crime¹⁹.

3.1.1 Crimes involving a weapon

There were 644 crimes in Southampton during 2021/22 that involved the use of a bladed implement, a -0.3% decline from 2019/20, this compares with an -11% decline in knife enabled crime during the same period nationally. Southampton accounted for a quarter (25.4%) of crimes involving a bladed implement across Hampshire Constabulary, a significantly higher proportion compared to other districts in Hampshire (October 2021 to September 2022).

¹⁹ Crime Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

The profile of offenders for crimes involving a bladed implement continues to be skewed towards males and younger age groups. Therefore, highlighting the importance of early intervention and work of the VRU²⁰.

There has been a new methodology for identifying and recording knife enabled crime that has been adopted by 37 police forces (including Hampshire Constabulary). This may lead to improvements in recording and subsequent rises in the number of knife enabled offences identified.²¹

There were 46 firearms offences in Southampton during 2021/22, 9 fewer than recorded in 2019/20. Despite the number of recorded firearms offences being relatively low in Southampton, firearms can cause significant harm. Also, firearm offences are often linked to organised crime. Moreover, Southampton continues to be the area most impacted by firearms crime across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight²².

3.1.2 Victims and perpetrators of violent crime

In 2021/22, there were 9,356 unique victims of violent crimes in Southampton, with 24.8% of these individuals experiencing multiple violent crimes in the year. There was a higher proportion of repeat victimisation in 2021/22 (24.8%) compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (21.3% in 2019/20), suggesting that repeat victimisation of violent crime remains a significant issue. Individuals experiencing more than one violent crime in 2021/22, accounted for 47.5% of all violent crimes with a victim recorded in the year. Additionally, 20.9% of violent crime victims were also a victim of other crimes in the year, an increase from 2019/20 (18.5%).

A higher proportion of violent crime victims were female (51.5%) in 2021/22, a pattern also identified in 2020/21 (covid year) and has continued. Whereas previously (2019/20 and before), males accounted for a greater proportion of violent crime victims. It was thought that the shift in 2020/21 was attributed to changing patterns in violent crime as a result of the pandemic, specifically a reduction in violence occurring between strangers and in a public place, with victims and offenders of this type of violence skewed towards males.²³ However, this trend has continued in 2021/22, the shift could be influenced by rising awareness of violence against women and girls, leading to increased reporting and recording of these issues. It will be important to monitor this trend going forward to see if the shift over the last two years is maintained. Nonetheless, females continue to experience more violent crimes than males overall (54.2% of violent crimes), whilst also being more likely to be repeat

²⁰ Home Office: Serious Violence Strategy (2018). Available online via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy>

²¹ Crime Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

²² Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2022

²³ Office for National Statistics – Nature of crime: Violence, year ending March 2020, Online available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/natureofcrimetablesviolence>

victims of violent crimes (Figure 3.6). This continues to highlight the impact and extent of VAWG in Southampton.

Figure 3.6: Chart showing gender profile of violent crime victims by the number of offences experienced in 2021/22



Similar to previous years, those aged under 25 continue to be most at risk of being a victim of violent crime; over a third of violent crime victims were aged under 25 in 2021/22. Although, the proportion of violent crime victims aged under 18 was lower in 2021/22 (16.8%) compared to 2019/20 (18.8%).

There were 6,723 unique suspects and offenders of violent crime identified in 2021/22, with 35.3% of offenders committing multiple violent crimes in the year; accounting for 63.7% of violent crimes with a recorded suspect or offender. The most prolific offenders (5 or more offences) accounted for 5.5% (371) of offenders but committed 22.1% of violent crimes. Additionally, 28.9% of violent crime offenders also committed other crimes in 2021/22, with repeat offenders more likely to commit other crimes. The above evidence highlights that repeat offending remains an issue for violent crime offenders.

Males continue to make up the majority of violent crime offenders (66.6% in 2021/22). The age profile of violent crime offenders is also similar to previous years, with those aged under 25 accounting for 28.9% of violent crime offenders.

3.1.3 Points for the Partnership to note

- The number of violent crimes in Southampton, has increased beyond the pre-pandemic baseline over the last year (+24.6%). Moreover, violent crime remains a priority for the Partnership. Declines in violent crime during the pandemic were attributed to limited social contact and suppression of the night-time economy.
- The number of stalking and harassment offences increased by +75.2% between 2019/20 and 2021/22. This increase is likely attributable to the change in counting rules introduced in 2018, greater awareness around VAWG, as well as improved identification and recording of stalking

and harassment offences. The Partnership should continue to raise awareness of these offences among professionals and the public, as stalking and harassment can be a precursor for more serious offending.

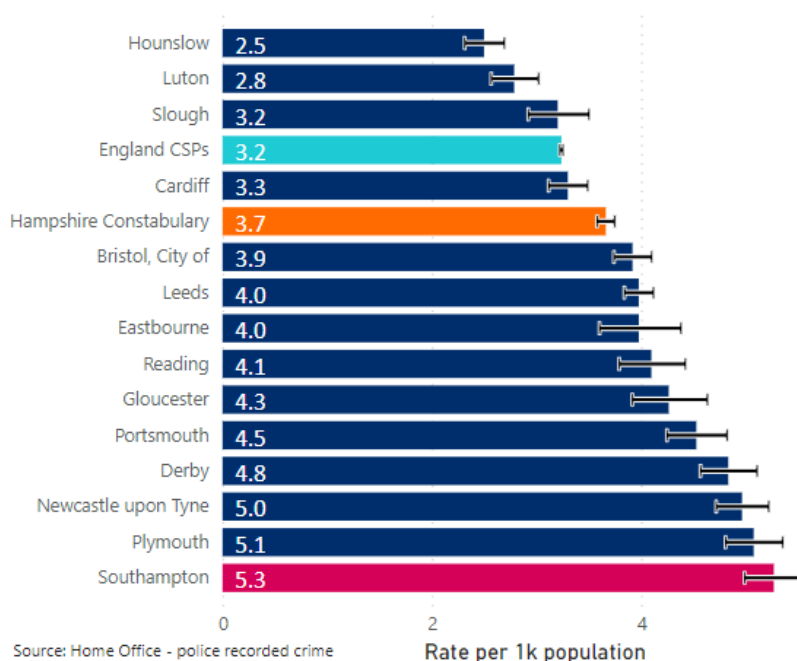
- Southampton's rank for violent crimes relative to other CSPs in England and Wales has increased from 16th to 10th worst between 2019/20 and 2021/22. Southampton has remained 4th highest for violence with injury and seen a small increase from 20th to 12th for violence without injury. However, the biggest driver in the change in relative position for overall violent crime has been the increase in stalking and harassment; rising from 67th to 39th. This highlights the improvements that have been made in the awareness, reporting and recording of stalking and harassment. Although the high ranks for both violence with and without injury should remain a concern and continue to be monitored by the Partnership.
- Victims and offenders of violent crimes continue to have a younger age profile, with over a third of violent crime victims and over a quarter of offenders aged under 25 years. Therefore, the Partnership should continue to work with the VRU to focus on early intervention to prevent and reduce levels of violent crime in Southampton.
- Repeat victimisation and offending remains a substantial issue for violent crime, with evidence to suggest that it is a growing issue, as illustrated by an increasing proportion of repeat victims and offenders. The Partnership should continue to closely monitor this trend.
- Southampton continues to be one of the most affected areas across Hampshire Constabulary for knife enabled crime, accounting for 25.4% of knife enabled crimes occurring across Hampshire Constabulary between October 2021 and September 2022. Knife-enabled crime can cause significant harm, with victims and perpetrators skewed towards younger age groups. The Partnership should continue to work with the VRU and schools to raise awareness of the harm caused by weapons among younger people.
- Domestic violence continues to be a significant driver of violent crime in Southampton; with 32.6% of violent crime in 2021/22 flagged as domestic. Tackling domestic violence continues to be key to reducing overall levels of violent crime.
- A [violence against women and girls problem profile](#) was undertaken in early 2022, which looks at the volume and patterns of different types of VAWG in Southampton. The Partnership should take note of key findings from this piece of work.
- Findings from the 2022 community safety survey show that the majority of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of serious violent crime (54%) or VAWG (74%) 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*, *happens too often* and *disappointing previous experience of reporting*. More detailed findings from the 2022 community safety survey are presented in Section 4.

3.2 Sexual offences

Southampton is ranked highest among comparators and 9th highest in England and Wales for the rate of sexual offences (*Figure 3.7*)²⁴. Southampton is ranked highest among comparators for rape and second highest for other sexual offences (the two subgroups of sexual offences).

Figure 3.7: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of sexual offences

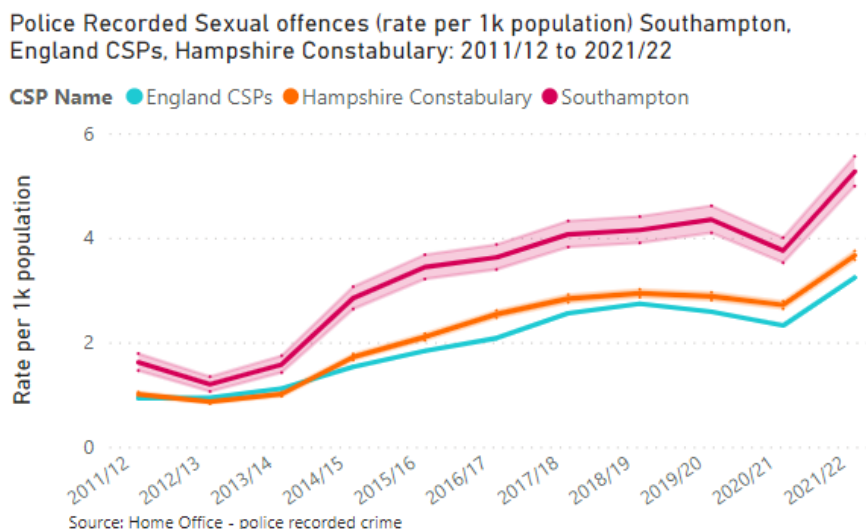
Police Recorded Sexual offences (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2021/22



Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, Southampton experienced a +21.3% increase in the number of sexual offences, with Hampshire Constabulary (+27.6%) and England (+25.8%) also experiencing an increase compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (*Figure 3.8*). Southampton also experienced an increase in rape (+9.6%) and other sexual offences (+29.6%) over the same period.

²⁴ Of 310 English CSPs with a valid rate

Figure 3.8: Trend in the rate of sexual offences for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



Changes in reporting habits can have a substantial impact on the volume of police recorded sexual offences. As highlighted in the previous assessment²⁵, lockdown restrictions and suppression of the night-time economy contributed to fewer recorded sexual offences in 2020/21. However, the increase in recorded sexual offences seen in 2021/22 exceeds the pre-pandemic baseline and trends. The latest sexual offence figures (2021/22) are likely influenced by a range of factors including increased reporting due to 'Everyone's invited' website, greater awareness around VAWG, re-opening of the night-time economy and media focus on high-profile issues and cases, such as the rape and murder of Sarah Everard²⁶. If awareness and reporting continue to increase, then there could be subsequent increases in the number of police recorded sexual offences²⁶.

The proportion of sexual offences flagged as domestic increased during the pandemic (2020/21), but it is important to note that the proportion of sexual offences flagged as domestic during 2020/21 will be inflated by the overall decline in sexual offences that year (Figure 3.9). However, the number of domestic sexual offences has increased year on year since 2019/20, this increase could in part be a result of rising awareness, increased reporting, and better recording.

Following the end of lockdown restrictions there has been increases in sexual offences occurring in a public place (19.4% in 2020/21 to 23.2% in 2021/22) and the victim offender relationship recorded as *stranger* or *acquaintance* (+218 offences between 2020/21 and 2021/22). Sexual offences happening in a public place and occurring between *strangers* or *acquaintances* have been linked to the night-time economy²⁷. Therefore, it is likely we are seeing a return to pre-pandemic patterns of sexual

²⁵ Southampton Safe City Strategic Assessment (2020/21). Available via: https://data.southampton.gov.uk/images/safe-city-strategic-assessment-report-2020-21_tcm71-450628.pdf

²⁶ Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2022

²⁷ Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2021

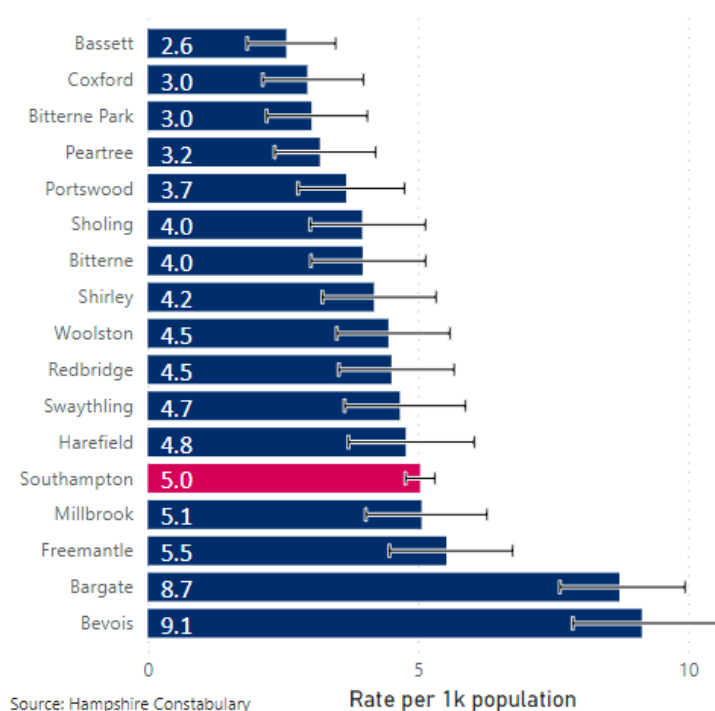
offences, particularly with the night-time economy reopening during 2021/22. This is further evidenced through Bargate and Bevois wards again having significantly higher rates of sexual offences than the city average, with large portions of the night-time economy located in these wards.

Figure 3.9: Table showing the number and proportion of sexual offences that are flagged as domestic (2019/20 to 2021/22)

Crime	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
All sexual offences	17.9% (193)	24.5% (228)	22.7% (299)
Rape	32.7% (146)	41.1% (160)	40.4% (201)
Other sexual offences	7.4% (47)	12.6% (68)	11.9% (98)

Figure 3.10: Chart showing rate of sexual offences for Southampton wards

Sexual Offences (rate per 1k population) - Southampton wards 2021/22



3.2.1 Victims and perpetrators of sexual offences

There were 1,056 victims of sexual offences in 2021/22, an +18.0% increase on the 866 victims in 2019/20. Repeat victimisation remains low, with 9% of sexual offence victims experiencing multiple sexual offences in the year (9.7% in 2019/20). However, the proportion of sexual offence victims who also experience other offences in the year remains high at 38.4%. This could suggest that sexual offence victims are often vulnerable individuals.

In 2021/22, the majority of sexual offence victims were female (84.6%); a slightly higher proportion for rape (91.2%) and lower for other sexual offences (81.2%). The age profile of sexual offence victims

is also in line with previous years. The most common age groups of rape victims were those age 18 to 24 years (28%), under 18s (26.8%) and 25 to 34 year olds (26.1%). For other sexual offences, under 18s continues to be the most common age group for victims (44.2%). The above evidence suggests that females aged under 25 years continue to be most at risk of being a victim of sexual offences in 2021/22.

During 2021/22, 800 sexual offence offenders were identified in Southampton. Repeat offending of sexual offences within the year remains low, with 10.4% of offenders committing multiple sexual offences in 2021/22; similar to the pre-pandemic baseline (10.2% in 2019/20). However, 42.6% of sexual offence offenders committed offences of another type in the year.

Similar to previous years, the majority of sexual offence offenders identified in 2021/22 were male (90.1%). The most common age group for sexual offence offenders was those aged 25 to 34 years (27.4%), followed by 35 to 49 (22.1%), 9 to 17 year olds (19.8%) and 18 to 24 (19.5%).

Whilst the age profile of offenders is similar to previous years, there has been a slight shift towards younger offenders, particularly the 9 to 17 age group, with 16.9% of offenders aged 9 to 17 in 2019/20 compared with 19.8% in 2021/22. Of those sexual offences committed by 9 to 17 year olds in 2021/22, the majority are against victims aged under 18 (92.9%), suggesting offending among this age group is driven by young person on young person sexual violence. The increase in offenders aged 9 to 17, at least in part, could be influenced by a spotlight on sexual offences over the last year leading to improved awareness and reporting. Additionally, sharing of personal experiences of sexual abuse by women and girls across the UK via the 'Everyone's Invited' website led to an urgent Ofsted review in schools and colleges.²⁸ The age profile of sexual offence offenders should continue to be monitored for further changes.

3.2.2 Points for the Partnership to note

- In 2021/22, the number of sexual offences exceeded pre-pandemic volumes. This increase is likely influenced by a range of factors including increased reporting due to 'Everyone's invited' website, greater awareness around VAWG, reopening of the night-time economy and media focus on high-profile issues and cases, such as the rape and murder of Sarah Everard²⁹. If awareness and reporting continue to increase, then there could be subsequent increases in the number of police recorded sexual offences. The Partnership should continue to monitor the volume of sexual offences in Southampton, as sexual offences remain a priority area (Section 2.3).
- Patterns of sexual offences in the city appear to be returning to pre-pandemic patterns following changes during the pandemic (2020/21), which were likely driven by suppression of

²⁸ Home Office (2021) Tackling violence against women and girls strategy. Online available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy>

²⁹ Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2022

the night-time economy. Notably there were declines in public place sexual offences and offences occurring between *strangers* and *acquaintances* which are often linked to sexual offences in the night-time economy. The Partnership should continue to monitor patterns of sexual offences as well as the volume.

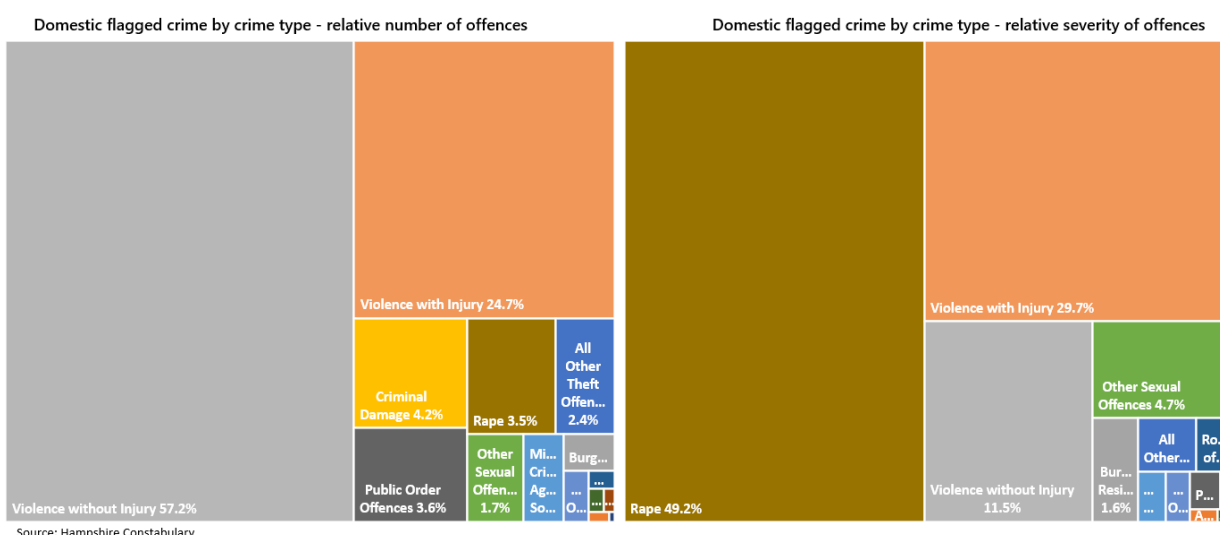
- Females aged under 25 continue to be highlighted as a high-risk group, with those aged under 25 accounting for over half of rape victims, whilst those aged under 18 account for 44.2% of other sexual offence victims. The Partnership should continue to work with partners to protect and safeguard this high-risk group.
- Findings from the 2022 community safety survey show that 73% of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of sexual assault did not report the incident. The most common reasons for not reporting sexual assaults were *reporting it makes no difference, too much hassle or too difficult to do* and *fear of negative consequences*. More detailed findings from the 2022 community safety survey are presented in Section 4.

3.3 Domestic crimes

There were 5,782 domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2021/22, a +21.1% increase from 2020/21 and a +23.4% increase compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20). Domestic flagged crime accounted for 16.9% of all recorded crimes in Southampton, a significantly higher proportion than in 2019/20 (14.5%), but similar to 2020/21 (17.1%).

The 'case mix' of domestic flagged crime in 2021/22 is similar to previous years (*Figure 3.11*). The majority of domestic flagged crimes in Southampton were violent crimes (81.9%), with violence without injury (including stalking and harassment) accounting for 57.2% of domestic flagged crimes. Domestic rape continues to cause significant harm in the city, with rape accounting for 49.2% of the harm (relative severity) caused by domestic flagged crimes; despite only accounting for 3.5% of domestic flagged offences in 2021/22.

Figure 3.11: Tree maps showing relative number (left) and severity (right) of offences for domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2021/22.

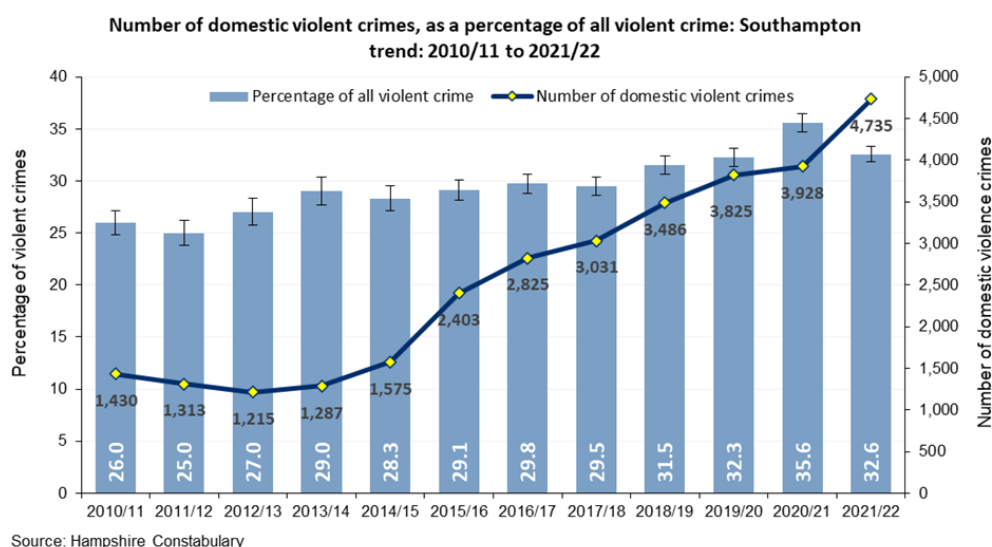


The number of domestic violent crimes in Southampton has increased for the ninth consecutive year to 4,735; a +20.5% increase from 2020/21 and a +23.8% increase from 2019/20 (*Figure 3.12*). The proportion of violent crimes flagged as domestic in 2021/22 (32.6%) was significantly lower than 2020/21 (35.6%), but similar to 2019/20 (32.3%). However, it is important to highlight that the proportion of violent crime that was flagged as domestic in 2020/21 (35.6%) will be inflated by the decline in overall violent crime during that year.

Increases were also experienced nationally, with police recorded domestic abuse-related crimes increasing by +8% across England and Wales during the same period (2020/21 to 2021/22); domestic

violent crimes also increased by +7%³⁰. Increases in domestic flagged crimes experienced locally (+21.1% from 2020/21) are more than double those experienced nationally (+8%). However, these differences should be interpreted with caution as police recorded domestic abuse-related crimes are not the most reliable measure, as domestic abuse often remains hidden and underreported.

Figure 3.12: Trend in the number and proportion of violent crimes that are flagged as domestic



It is difficult to say whether the increase in domestic abuse-related crimes over recent years reflects a 'true' increase, as police recorded figures of domestic abuse are likely to have been impacted by changes to recording practices, policing activity and public reporting of crime^{31, 32}. Nonetheless, domestic abuse remains a significant issue in Southampton and has again been highlighted as a priority for the Partnership.

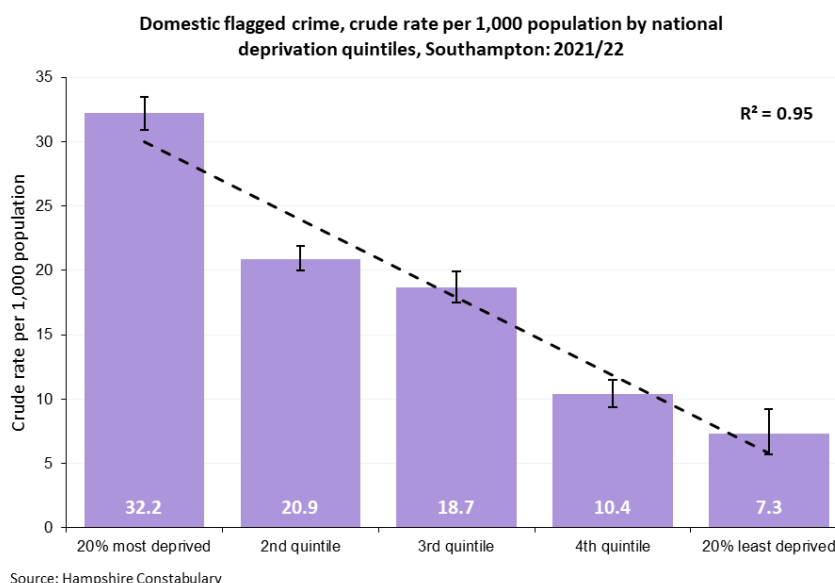
Sub city patterns of domestic flagged crime are similar to previous years. In 2021/22, rates of domestic flagged crime are highest in Bitterne, Redbridge and Woolston wards, with notable hotspots in neighbourhoods across these wards (Figure 3.14). Domestic flagged crime continues to have a strong link to deprivation (Figure 3.13), with the rate of domestic flagged crimes 4.4 times higher in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods in Southampton.

³⁰ Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

³¹ Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2022

³² Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

Figure 3.13: 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.³³ 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 crime³⁴. The impact on children is illustrated by the fact that 60% of high-risk domestic abuse referrals (HRDA) in Southampton have children or young people in the household (2021/22). Additionally, 46% of child social care assessments undertaken in 2021/22 had domestic violence recorded as an assessment factor.³⁵

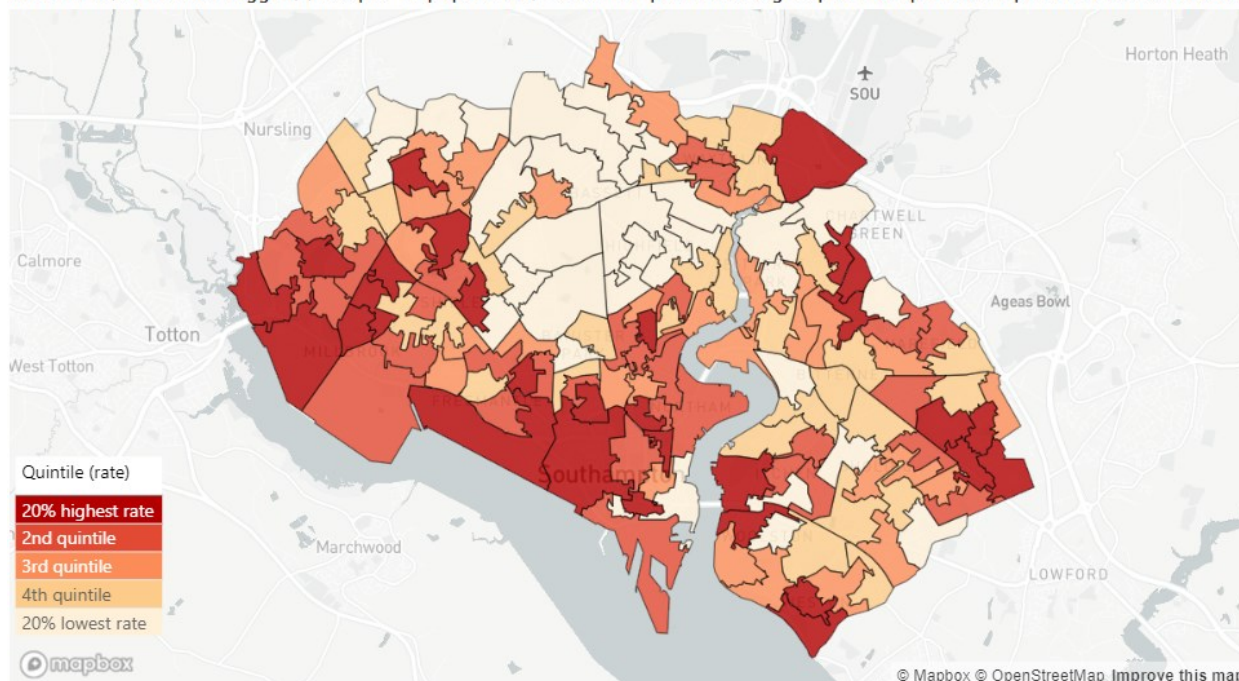
³³ Home Office – Domestic Abuse Act Factsheet (2022). Online Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/statutory-definition-of-domestic-abuse-factsheet>

³⁴ Local Government Association: Public health approaches to reducing violence (2018). Available via: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/public-health-approaches-reducing-violence>

³⁵ Domestic Violence is the terminology used in the coding framework set out by the Department for Education

Figure 3.14: Map showing rates of domestic flagged crime by Southampton neighbourhoods (LSOAs)

All Crime (Domestic Flagged) (rate per 1k population) - Southampton LSOAs grouped into quintiles: April 2021 to March 2022



3.3.1 Victims and perpetrators of domestic crimes

In 2021/22, there were 3,664 victims of domestic flagged crimes, which is a +14.8% increase from 2019/20. 29.9% of victims experienced multiple domestic flagged crimes in the year; higher than the 27.1% in 2020/21 and 26.9% in 2019/20. The proportion of repeat victims has increased over the last three years, with repeat victims accounting for 54% of domestic crimes in 2021/22. 24.2% of domestic flagged crime victims also experienced other offences in the year (2021/22). This suggests that repeat victimisation of domestic abuse remains a significant issue in Southampton, and potentially a growing one as the proportion of repeat victims continues to increase. This trend should continue to be monitored by the Partnership.

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 group for domestic crime victims in 2021/22 still those aged 25 to 34 years (31.6%), 35 to 49 (28.9%) and 18 to 24 (20%).

Under 18s accounted for 6.7% of victims in 2021/22; 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 impact of domestic abuse on children in Southampton and shouldn't be interpreted as under 18s being least affected by domestic abuse.

There were 3,454 domestic crime offenders identified in 2021/22, which is a +21.3% increase on the number identified in 2019/20. Similar to repeat victimisation, there appears to be a growing trend of repeat domestic offending in Southampton. 33.5% of domestic crime offenders committed more than one domestic flagged offence in the year, an increase on 2020/21 (31.6%) and 2019/20 (28.3%). 32.9% of domestic crime offenders also committed other offences in 2021/22. Tackling repeat offending continues to be key to reducing rates of domestic crime in Southampton.

3.3.2 Points for the Partnership to note

- Domestic abuse remains a priority for the Partnership. The Partnership should continue to work with partners to monitor and understand the extent of domestic abuse across the city using a wide range of sources to fill existing gaps in intelligence.
- The number of domestic flagged crimes and domestic violent crimes continue to increase, with the number of domestic violent crimes increasing for the ninth consecutive year. However, it is unclear whether recent increases reflect a true increase, as police recorded domestic abuse has been impacted by changes in recording practices, policing activity, and public reporting of crime. Nonetheless, this is a trend that should continue to be closely monitored.
- The impact of domestic abuse on children continues to be significant, with 60% of high-risk domestic abuse referrals (HRDA) in Southampton having children or young people in the household (2021/22). 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.
- Domestic rape continues to cause significant harm in the city, accounting for 3.5% of domestic flagged crimes, yet 49.2% of the relative harm caused by domestic flagged offences.
- Domestic abuse is a citywide issue, as illustrated by the neighbourhood map (*Figure 3.14*). However, police recorded domestic flagged crimes continues to show a strong relationship with deprivation. The rate of domestic flagged crime is 4.4 times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the least deprived neighbourhoods in Southampton.
- Repeat victimisation remains an issue for domestic crime, with the proportion of domestic flagged crime victims increasing for the third consecutive year. The Partnership should continue to monitor this growing trend and work with partner agencies to support the victims of domestic abuse.
- Similarly, repeat offending for domestic flagged crime perpetrators is also showing a rising trend in recent years and remains a significant issue locally. Focussing actions and interventions on offenders; especially repeat offenders, is key to reducing the volume and harm caused by domestic abuse in Southampton.
- Findings from the 2022 community safety survey show that over half of respondents *don't know* if domestic abuse is an issue in their local area. Whilst 28% do see domestic abuse as an issue, this is -6 percentage points lower than that of the previous survey. This suggests there is still work to be done in raising awareness of key and priority issues in the city, the

Partnership should continue to work with partners to raise awareness of domestic abuse in Southampton.

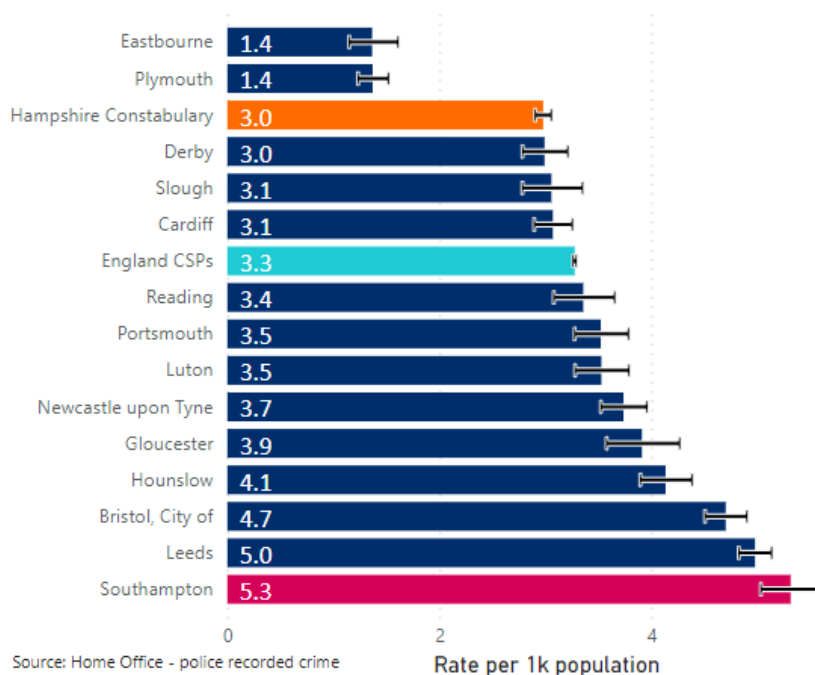
- 68% of respondents who had witnessed or experienced domestic abuse did not report it. Common reasons for not reporting domestic abuse include *reporting it makes no difference* and *fear of negative consequences*. More detailed findings from the 2022 community safety survey are presented in Section 4.

3.4 Residential burglary

Southampton has a residential burglary rate of 5.3 crimes per 1k population, significantly higher than the national average (3.3 burglaries per 1k population) and highest among comparators (*Figure 3.15*).

Figure 3.15: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of residential burglaries

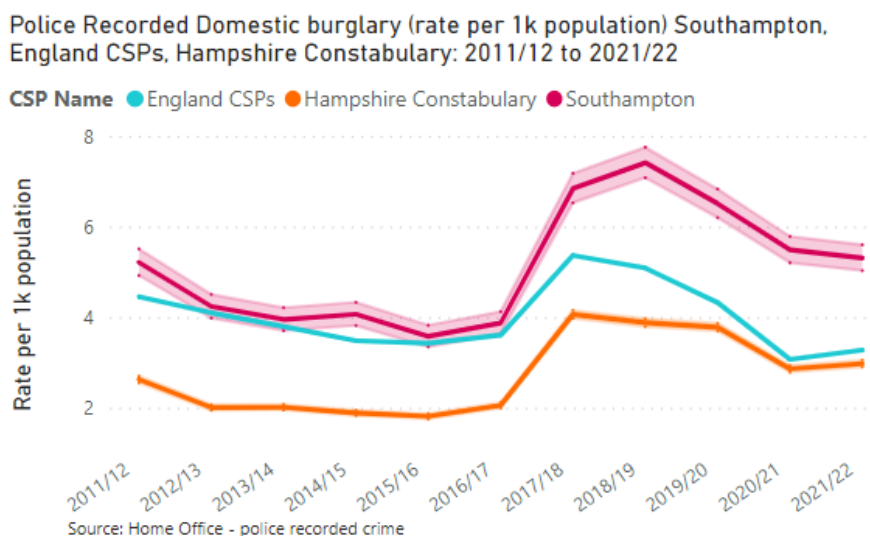
Police Recorded Domestic burglary (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2021/22



Southampton has experienced a decline in residential burglary for the third consecutive financial year, with the number of residential burglaries declining by -3.2% over the last year. Whereas Hampshire Constabulary (+4.1%) and England (+6.8%) experienced increases from 2020/21 to 2021/22. However, residential burglaries were -18.3% lower in Southampton during 2021/22 compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20), with a similar decrease seen across Hampshire Constabulary (-20.9%) and England (-23.9%) during this period. Rates of residential burglary are now significantly lower than they were in 2019/20 for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England (*Figure 3.16*). The overall declines observed in recent years are likely to reflect a genuine decline in residential burglaries, because theft offences are relatively well reported and recorded and in turn less likely to be impacted by changes to recording³⁶. Additionally, Hampshire Constabulary have confirmed that an officer will attend every report of a domestic dwelling burglary, with this announced in September 2022.

³⁶ Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#the-ft-offences>

Figure 3.16: Trend in the rate of residential burglaries for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



Increased home working continued from the pandemic into 2021/22 and is believed to be a major factor in the reduction of residential burglaries observed over the last two years³⁷. Additionally, the emergence and improvement of security technology for residential homes may have acted as a deterrent in recent years. However, there is evidence to suggest that acquisitive crimes (including residential burglary) increase during a recession and times of high inflation³⁸. Therefore, recent economic uncertainty and the 'cost of living crisis' may lead to increases in acquisitive crimes. Therefore, the volume and patterns of acquisitive crimes should continue to be monitored, particularly under increasing economic uncertainty.

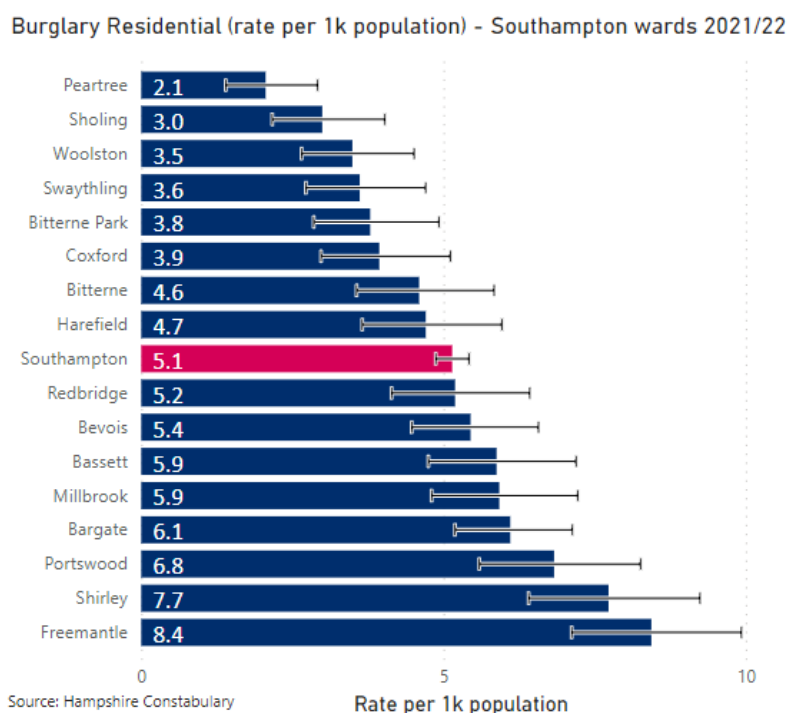
Despite the continued decline in residential burglary, Southampton remains one of the most affected areas across Hampshire Constabulary. From October 2021 to September 2022, 22.5% of residential burglaries recorded by Hampshire Constabulary occurred in Southampton. This is a significantly higher proportion compared to other districts in the force area.

In 2021/22, rates of residential burglary in Freemantle, Shirley and Portswood wards were significantly higher than the city average. Whereas rates in Peartree, Swaythling, Woolston and Sholing wards were significantly lower (Figure 3.17). Sub-city patterns of residential burglary continue to differ year on year.

³⁷ Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2022

³⁸ Rosenfeld R & Levin A (2016) 'Acquisitive crime and inflation in the United States: 1960-2012, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 32. Available via: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10940-016-9279-8>

Figure 3.17: Ward benchmarking chart showing the rate of residential burglaries in 2021/22



3.4.1 Points for the Partnership to note

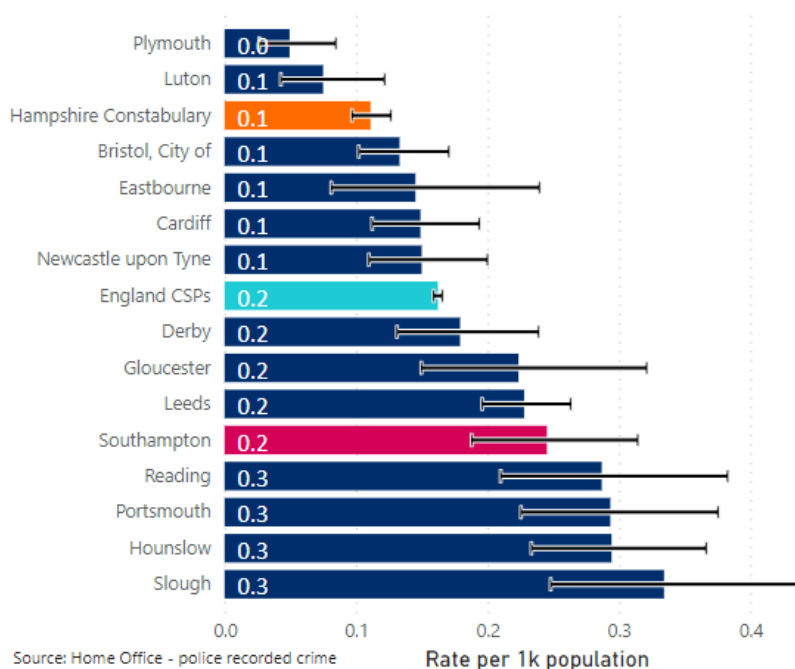
- The number of residential burglaries in Southampton has declined for the third consecutive year. Compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20), there were -18.3% fewer residential burglaries recorded in 2021/22. This is likely to reflect a true decline, as residential burglaries are relatively well reported and recorded crimes. The decline seen over the last few years is likely attributed to increased home working and improved security technology. Residential burglary no longer features as a priority area in this assessment due to the decline in the number offences over recent years.
- Trends and patterns in residential burglary should continue to be monitored. This is because recent economic uncertainty, financial pressures and the 'cost of living crisis' could lead to an increase in acquisitive crimes. Moreover, if the number of residential burglaries increase, it could again feature as a priority area in future assessments.
- Despite the recent decline in the number of residential burglaries, Southampton remains the most affected area among comparator CSPs and Hampshire districts.

3.5 Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery is an umbrella term for all forms of slavery, human trafficking and exploitation. It is a crime that affects some of the most vulnerable in society. Police recorded crime only provides a partial picture, because most cases of modern slavery remain hidden and not reported or may be recorded as other offences.³⁹ There were 62 cases of modern slavery in Southampton recorded in 2021/22; a +82.4% (+28 crimes) increase since 2019/20, with increases also experienced across Hampshire Constabulary (+37.9%, +61 crimes) and England (+17.6%, +1,372 crimes).

Figure 3.18: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of modern slavery offences

Police Recorded Modern Slavery (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2021/22



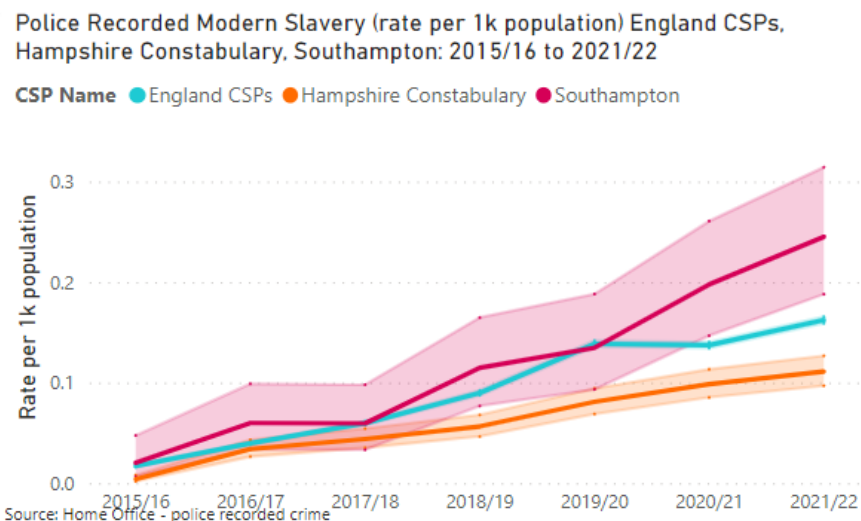
There have been sustained increases in the number and rate of modern slavery offences since 2017/18 across Southampton and Hampshire Constabulary (Figure 3.19). However, year-on-year increases are not statistically significant in Southampton due to the numbers of cases remaining low. Yet, the rate of recorded modern slavery crimes in Southampton has now been significantly higher than the national rate for the last two years. It is likely that this rising trend will continue due to operational focus and the rising national profile of modern slavery⁴⁰.

³⁹ Office for National Statistics – Child victims of modern slavery in the UK: March 2022. Available via:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/childvictimsofmodernslaveryintheuk/march2022>

⁴⁰ Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2022

Figure 3.19: Trend in the rate of modern slavery offences for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



Despite the numbers of this offence type being relatively small, the physical and psychological harm caused to victims can have long lasting effects. Also, modern slavery is often linked to organised crime, highlighting the threat that modern slavery and other forms of exploitation pose.

3.5.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- The number of modern slavery crimes has increased since 2017/18 in Southampton, with increases also seen across the force area and nationally. Increases in recorded modern slavery in recent years are likely due to operational focus and the rising national profile of this crime. The Partnership should continue to monitor this rising trend.
- Many cases of modern slavery remain hidden and unreported. The Partnership should continue to work with partners to raise awareness and increase identification of modern slavery.

3.6 Hate crime

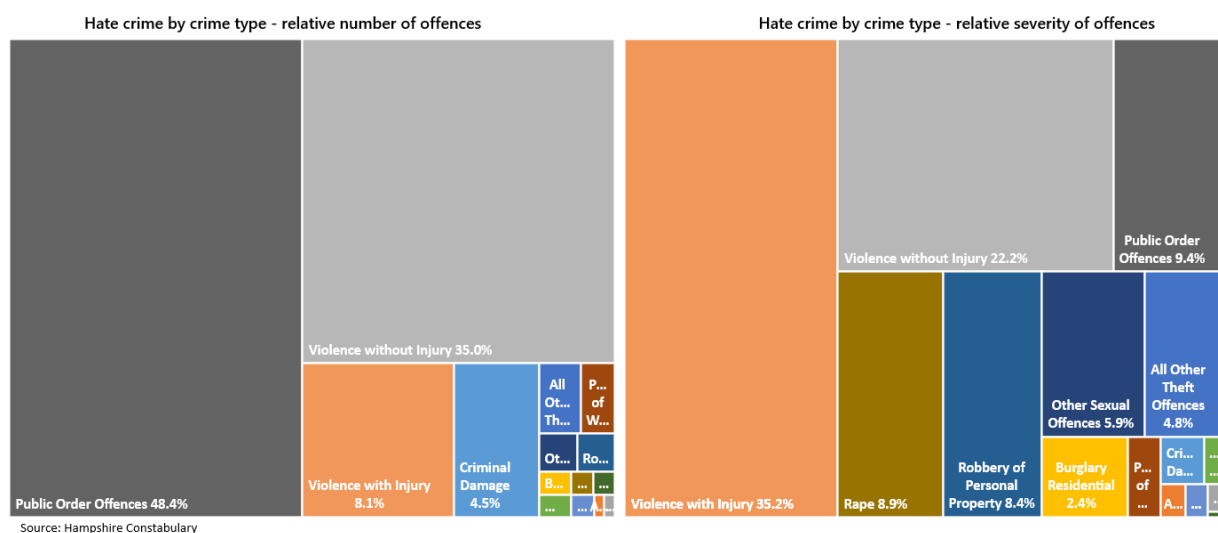
Hate crime is defined as ‘any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic’. There are five monitored strands of hate crime: ⁴¹

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

There were 1,189 recorded hate crime offences in Southampton during 2021/22, a +21.5% increase from 2020/21 and a +49.2% increase from 2019/20. This is in keeping with the national picture, with England and Wales experiencing a +26% increase in police recorded hate crimes between 2020/21 and 2021/22⁴⁰.

The ‘case mix’ of hate crimes in 2021/22 is similar to previous years (*Figure 3.20*). The most common recorded hate crime was public order offences (48.4%), followed by violence without injury (35.0%) and violence with injury (8.1%).

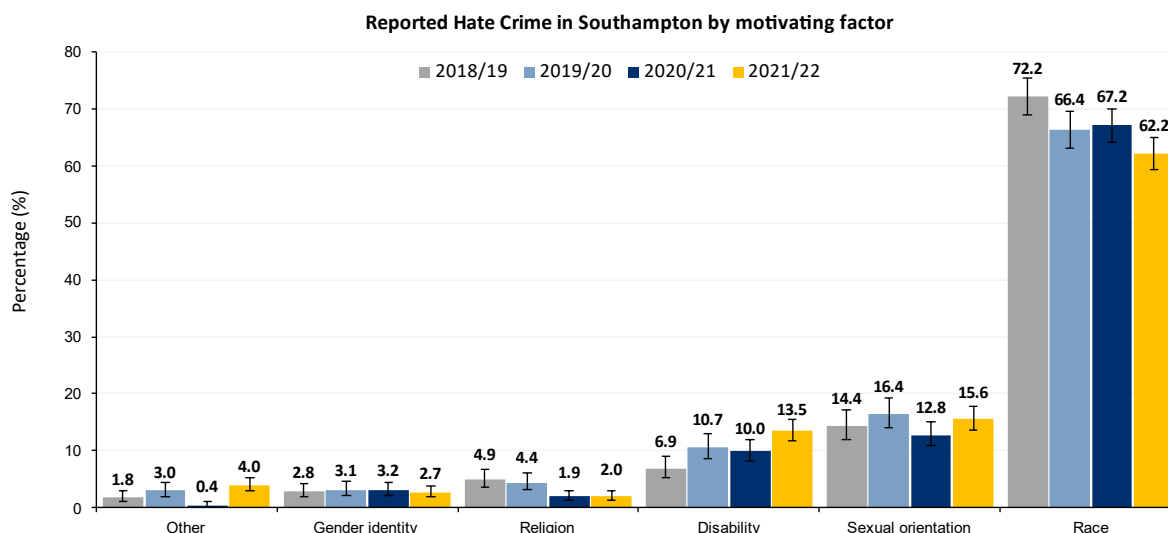
Figure 3.20: Tree maps showing relative number (left) and severity (right) of offense for hate crimes in Southampton during 2021/22



⁴¹ Home Office – Hate crime, England and Wales, 2021 to 20212 Available via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022>

A hate crime can have multiple motivating factors (strands). Race continues to be the largest motivating factor of hate crime in Southampton (62.2% in 2021/22), with the Home Office also finding the majority of hate crimes across England and Wales to be racially motivated (70%)⁴¹. The second most frequent motivating factor in Southampton remains sexual orientation (15.6%), followed by disability (13.5%) (Figure 3.21).

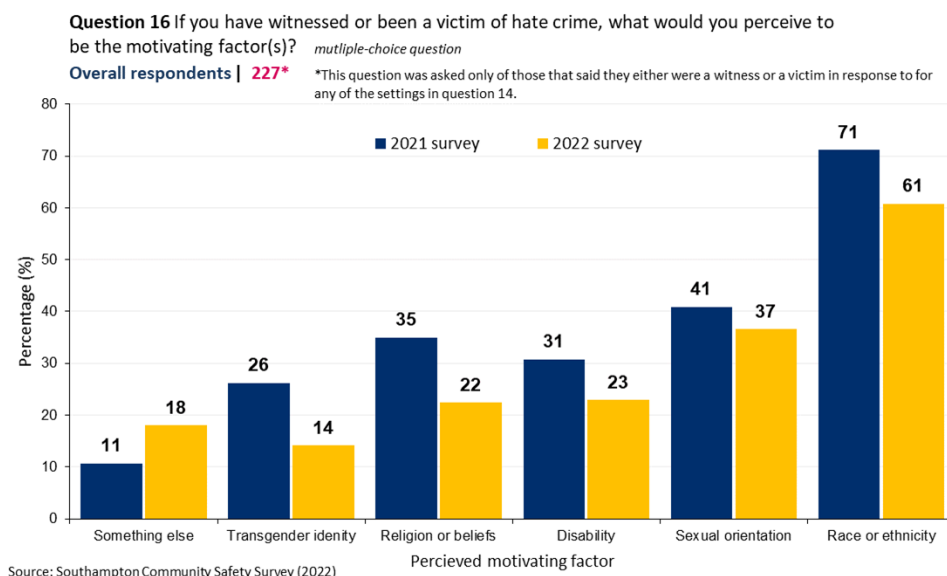
Figure 3.21: Chart showing hate crime in Southampton by motivating factor (strand)



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

18% of respondents from the 2022 Southampton community safety survey stated that they had witnessed hate crime, with a further 5% stating they had been a victim of hate crime in the last 12 months. Figure 3.22 shows the perceived motivating factors of hate crime from respondents who had witnessed or experienced a hate crime. Race or ethnicity was the largest perceived motivating factor (61%), followed by sexual orientation (37%). This is in line with police recorded hate crime, with race and sexual orientation appearing as the most common motivating factors (Figure 3.21). Multiple respondents provided free-text comments suggesting age discrimination or tobacco, alcohol or drug use as alternate motivations for hate crime. More detailed findings from the 2022 community safety survey are presented in Section 4.

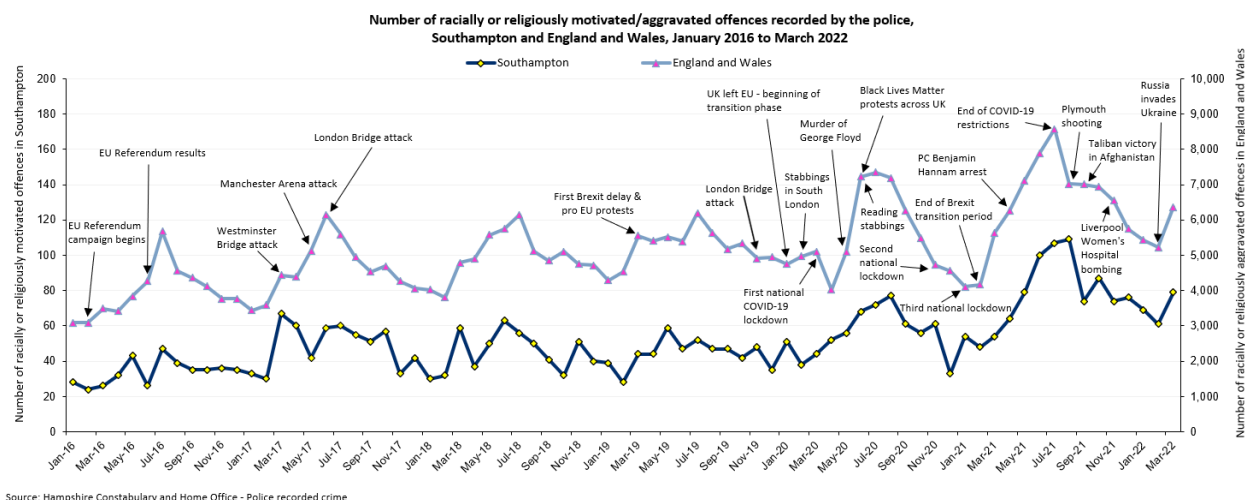
Figure 3.22: Chart showing respondents perceived motivating factors for hate crime in Southampton



The main drivers for increases in hate crime over recent years, are thought to be greater public confidence to report hate crime and improvements in police recording. Increases seen in Southampton over recent years could also reflect local reporting processes, where individuals reporting a crime are directly asked whether they think the crime is a hate crime or motivated by hate.

However, there is evidence to suggest that there have been short-term genuine rises in hate crime following trigger events, such as terrorist attacks or political events. For example, there was a peak in racially and religiously motivated hate crimes in the summer of 2020 following the murder of George Floyd and subsequent Black Lives Matter protests and counter protests (Figure 3.23).

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



Hampshire Constabulary note that there are greater concentrations of hate crime in densely populated and deprived areas, with neighbour disputes and the night-time economy cited as common triggers⁴². This is evidenced locally, with a return to pre-pandemic patterns of hate crime; Bevois (10 hate crimes per 1k population) and Bargate (8 hate crimes per 1k population) wards had the highest rates of hate crime in 2021/22, with notable hotspots in the night-time economy areas of these wards. Shirley and Millbrook wards also had significantly higher rates of hate crime compared to the Southampton average in 2021/22. Comparing 2019/20 to 2021/22, recorded hate crime increased in all but one ward in Southampton; Sholing ward (-20.8%, -5 offences). The increases seen across the city are likely a result of improved recording practices and greater confidence in reporting hate crime⁴¹.

3.6.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- Hate crime in Southampton increased by +21.5% over the last year. It is unlikely that this reflects a genuine increase in the volume of hate crimes, with recent increases attributed to greater public confidence to report hate crime and improvements in police recording. Although, there is evidence to suggest that there have been short-term genuine increases in hate crime following certain trigger events, both locally and nationally. The Partnership should continue to monitor any increases in hate crime as well as community tensions, particularly following potential trigger events.
- The Partnership should continue to engage and work with communities to encourage reporting of all forms of hate crime when it occurs.

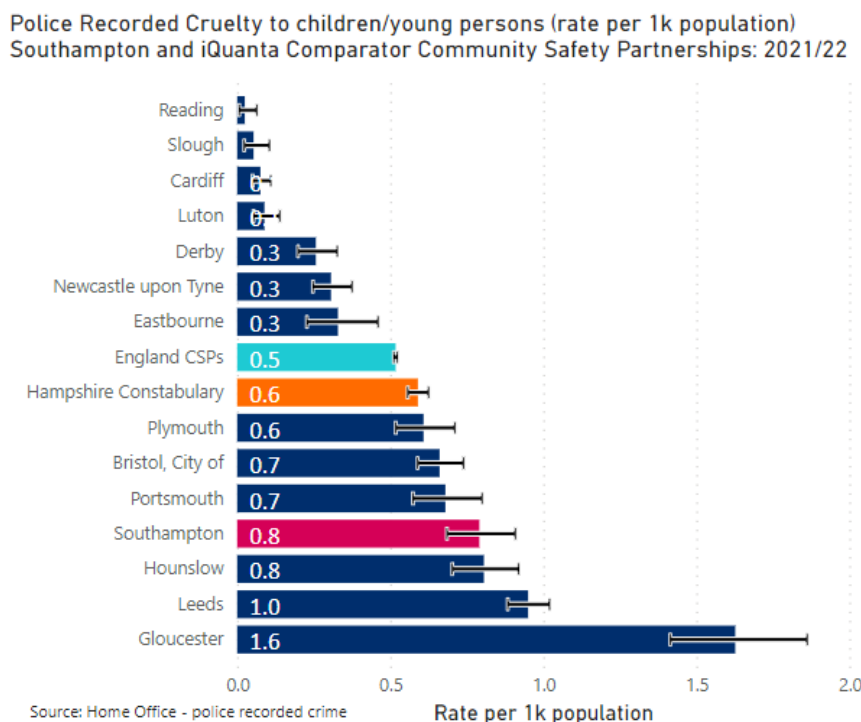
⁴² Hampshire Constabulary – Force Strategic Assessment 2022

3.7 Cruelty to children and young persons

It is estimated that one in five adults aged 18 to 74 years experienced at least one form of child abuse before the age of 16 (8.5 million people)⁴³. Early childhood experiences have significant impacts on development, educational attainment and future life opportunities. Notwithstanding the long-term physical and psychological impacts children can experience as a result of abuse⁴⁴.

In 2021/22, Southampton is ranked fourth highest among comparators for cruelty to children/young persons (*Figure 3.24*); having ranked second in 2020/21 and first in 2019/20. Although, the rate of cruelty to children/young persons in Southampton (0.8 per 1k population) remains significantly higher than the national average (0.5 per 1k population).

Figure 3.24: Benchmarking chart showing the rate in cruelty to children/young person offences



Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, Southampton experienced a -7.0% (-15 offences) decline in the number of recorded cruelty to children/young persons offences. Whereas both Hampshire Constabulary (+17.9%) and England (+37.7%) experienced significant increases in the number of offences compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (*Figure 3.25*). Although with young people spending less time at home post-pandemic, it is more likely for abuse to be identified again, through school and

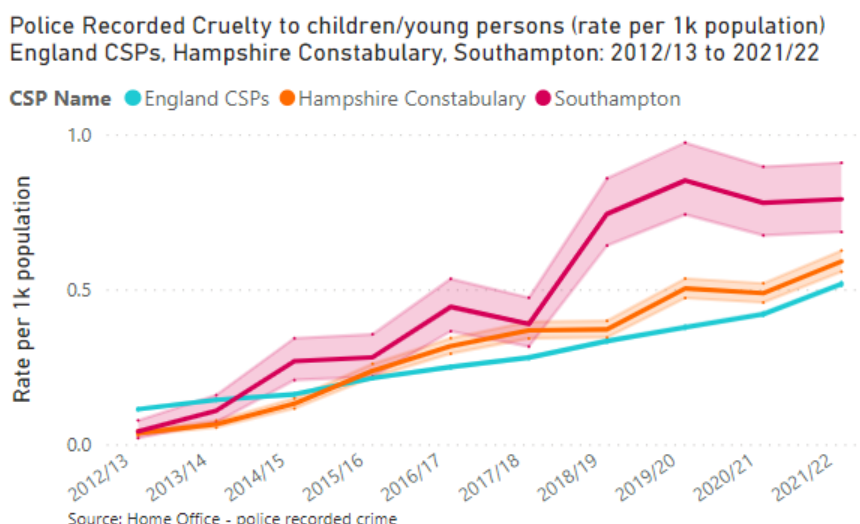
⁴³ Office for National Statistics – Child abuse in England and Wales: March 2020. Available via:

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

⁴⁴ Young minds – Mental health statistics. Available via: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/about-us/media-centre/mental-health-statistics/>

other support systems outside the home⁴⁵. The changes observed in cruelty to children offences in Southampton in recent years are not statistically significant. The Partnership should continue to monitor local trends to further develop the understanding of cruelty to children/young persons in Southampton.

Figure 3.25: Trend in the rate of cruelty to children/young person offences for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England



3.7.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- Nationally and across the force area, there have been significant increases in the volume of police recorded cruelty to children/young persons between 2021/22 and the pre-pandemic baseline. Whereas Southampton experienced a decline during the same period, it is unlikely this reflects a genuine decline and important to highlight that the Southampton change is not statistically significant. The Partnership should continue to monitor cruelty to children/young persons to further develop the understanding of abuse locally.
- The Partnership should continue to work with partners to promote ACE awareness and a trauma informed approach among professionals.

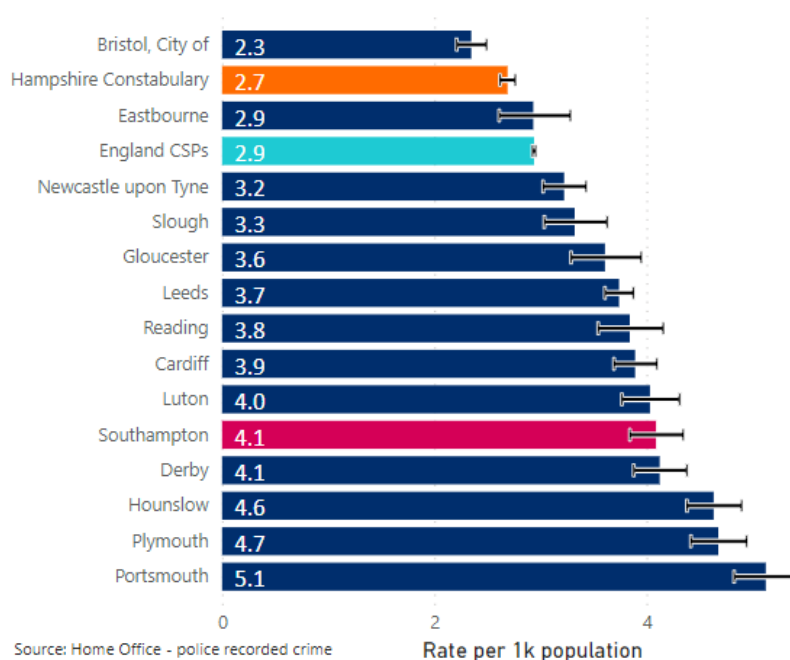
⁴⁵ NSPCC – Isolated and struggling: Social isolation and the risk of child maltreatment, in lockdown and beyond. Available via: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2020/social-isolation-risk-child-abuse-during-and-after-coronavirus-pandemic>

3.8 Drugs and alcohol

Southampton had a drug offence rate of 4.1 offences per 1k population in 2021/22, significantly higher than the England average of 2.9 offences per 1k population (*Figure 3.26*). The number of drug offences in Southampton is significantly lower than the previous year (-16.7%), although higher but not significantly than the pre-pandemic baseline (+10.7%). Both Hampshire Constabulary and England followed similar trends to Southampton; significantly increasing during the pandemic before returning to similar levels in 2021/22 (*Figure 3.27*).

Figure 3.26: Benchmarking chart showing the rate of drug offences

Police Recorded Drug offences (rate per 1k population) Southampton and iQuanta Comparator Community Safety Partnerships: 2021/22



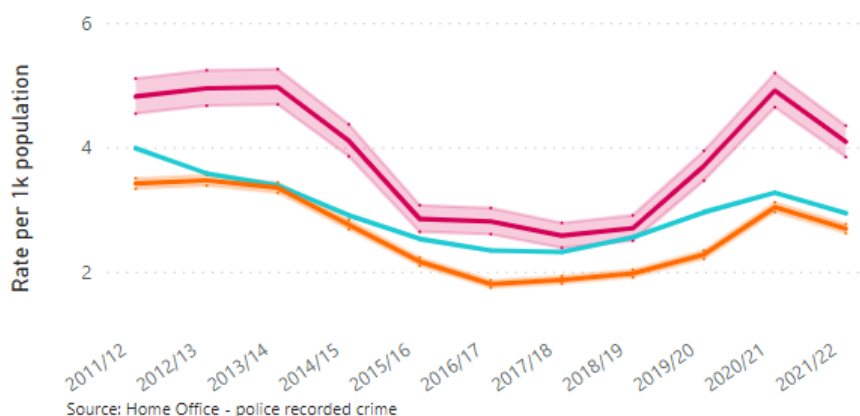
The number of drug offences recorded by the police is heavily dependent on police activities and priorities, which change over time. Hampshire Constabulary attributed higher volumes of drug offences to increased stop checks from COVID-19 enforcement during 2020/21⁴⁶. Local stop-check data supports this, as the number of stop-checks conducted with *reason to suspect drugs* fell from 1,790 in 2020/21 to 1,201 in 2021/22 (-32.9%). If the number of stop-checks continue to decline post-COVID-19 enforcement, it could be expected that the number of recorded drug offences will return to pre-pandemic levels, unless there are further changes in policing activities.

⁴⁶ Hampshire Constabulary – Force Strategic Assessment 2022

Figure 3.27: Trend chart showing the rate of drug offences for Southampton, Hampshire Constabulary and England

Police Recorded Drug offences (rate per 1k population) Southampton, England CSPs, Hampshire Constabulary: 2011/12 to 2021/22

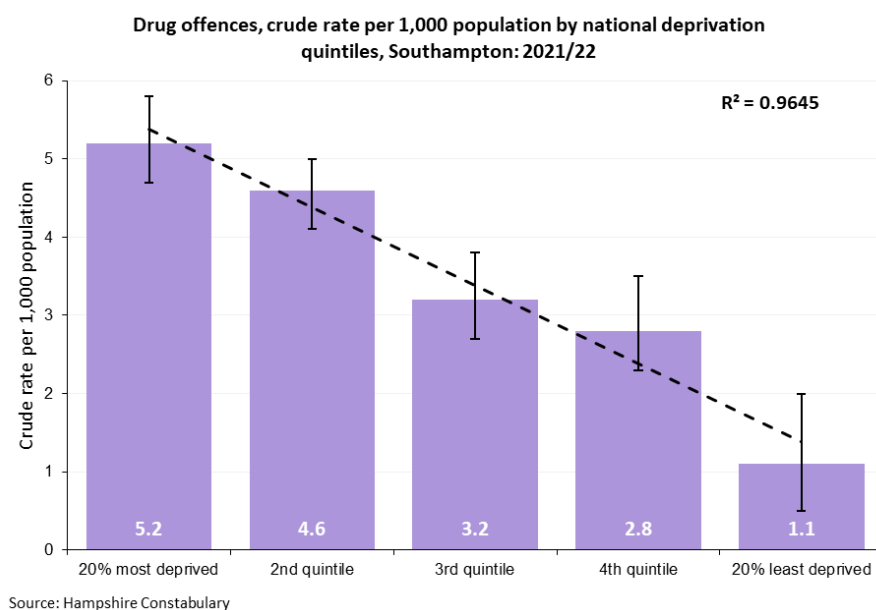
CSP Name ● England CSPs ● Hampshire Constabulary ● Southampton



1,143 drug affected crimes were recorded in Southampton during 2021/22, which is +13.4% higher than in 2020/21 and +34.6% higher than in 2019/20. This overall increase is also likely influenced by policing activities during the pandemic (2020/21) and a result of improved recording, rather than a genuine increase in incidence, as recording of associated factors (including drug affected crime) is continually improving.

Sub city patterns of drug offences shows a similar picture to previous years, with Freemantle, Bevois and Bargate wards showing significantly higher rates of drug offences and drug affected crime compared to the Southampton average. Although it should be noted that, the presence of a key police site in Freemantle may have inflated the rate in Freemantle ward. There also continues to be a strong link between drug offences and deprivation, with the drug offence rate 4.9 times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city compared to the least deprived (Figure 3.28).

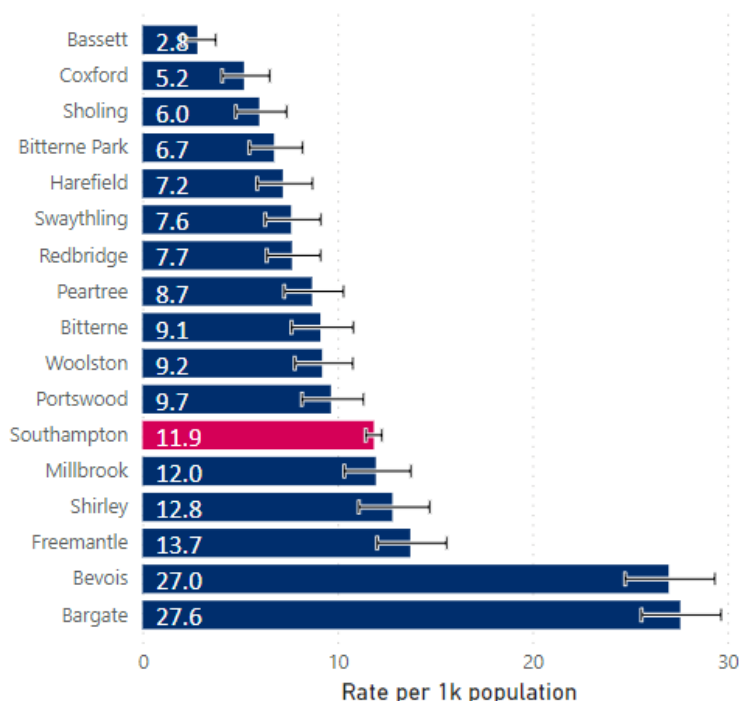
Figure 3.28: Quintile chart showing the relationship between drug offences and deprivation



There were 3,105 alcohol affected crimes recorded in Southampton during 2021/22, which is an increase of +18.7% compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20) and +36.6% higher than in 2020/21. The reopening of the night-time economy has driven the increase in alcohol affected crime over the last year. Increases from the pre-pandemic baseline are likely a result of improved reporting, rather than a real change in incidence. Similar to previous years, the majority of alcohol affected crimes were violent crimes (70.7%) in 2021/22.

Figure 3.29: Ward benchmarking showing the rate of alcohol affected crime

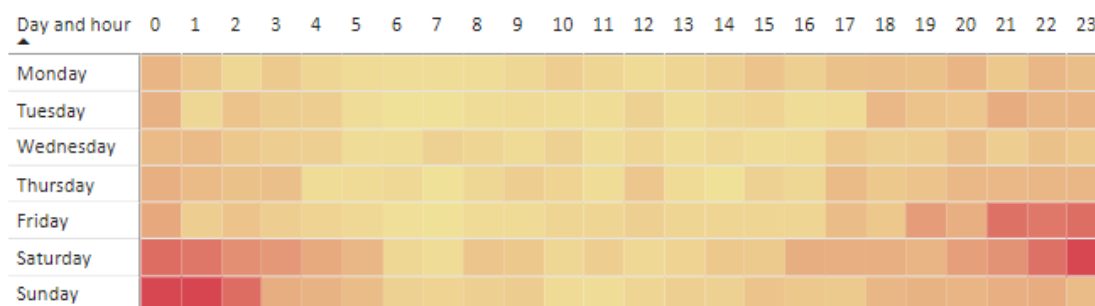
All Crime (Alcohol Affected) (rate per 1k population) - Southampton wards 2021/22



Bargate and Bevois wards continue to have the highest rates of alcohol affected crime in Southampton; both having significantly higher rates than the city average (Figure 3.29). Although these rates may be impacted by high footfall in the city centre, these wards happen to be where most alcohol affected crimes are recorded. 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 3.30). Overall, the sub city and temporal patterns in alcohol affected crime continues to highlight a strong link to the night-time economy.

Figure 3.30: Chart showing peak day and time for alcohol affected crime

All Crime (Alcohol Affected) by day and time of occurrence - Southampton: April 2021 to March 2022



Source: Hampshire 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](#).

3.8.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- The number of drug offences recorded in Southampton during 2021/22 is significantly lower than in 2020/21 (pandemic year). This change is due to a decline in stop checks as a result of the end of COVID-19 enforcement, highlighting how police recorded drug offences are influenced by policing activities and priorities. The Partnership should continue to focus on drug-related crime, especially drug-related violence and the disruption of drug networks.
- Alcohol affected crime increased by +36.6% over the last year and remaining +18.7% higher in comparison to the pre-pandemic baseline. The increases over the last year are likely a result of the reopening of the night-time economy, with patterns of alcohol affected crime again highlighting the link between this crime and the night-time economy. The Partnership should continue to monitor any increases in alcohol affected crime.
- The Partnership should continue to work with partners to raise awareness of the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse. Particularly around the risk and harm posed to vulnerable individuals in the city.

4. Resident views

Each year a survey is conducted to understand the views of people living, studying and working in Southampton on community safety issues. The 2022 Southampton community safety survey ran from 31st August 2022 to 28th September 2022. The survey was promoted through the Southampton City Council communities' team and the Southampton People's Panel. The survey was predominately online, but face to face surveys were also conducted by the communities' team. The survey had a total of 1,569 valid responses.

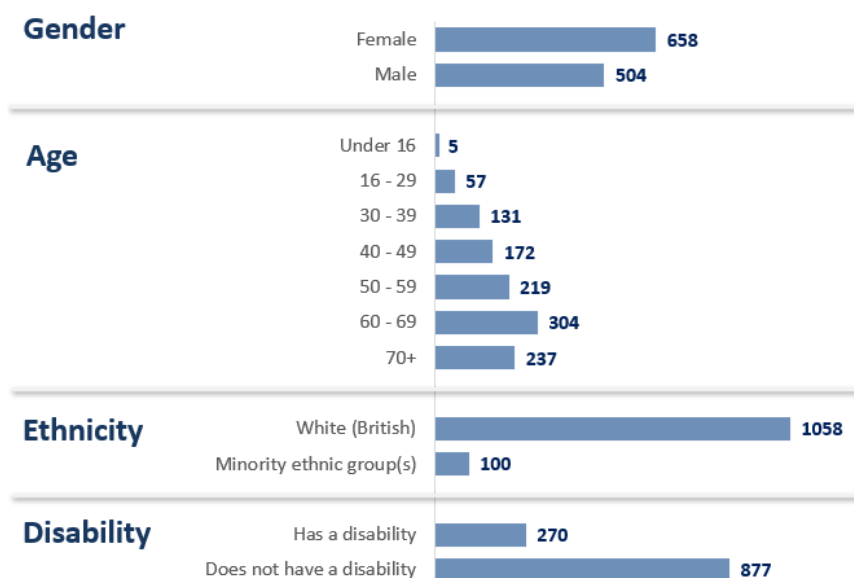
Due to the self-selecting nature of an online survey, participants may have more interest in community safety issues than the general population and possibly different views. It should also be noted that results presented are based on unweighted data to allow for comparison with previous years. However, any trends should be interpreted with caution due to methodological differences between surveys. It should also be emphasised that this survey was live between August 2022 and September 2022, whereas published police recorded crime covers the period of April 2021 to March 2022. Therefore, caution should be taken when making comparisons between residents' views and police recorded crime statistics.

Figure 4.1 shows the demographic breakdown of respondents. The largest respondent age group was those aged 60 to 69, with this age group accounting for 24.6% of respondents. There were more female respondents than male, but a good representation from both sexes overall. The majority of respondents were white British, with less than 10% of respondents from minority ethnic backgrounds. Also, 17.2% of respondents indicated that they have a disability.

The 2021 survey had a younger profile of respondents, with 31% (740) of respondents⁴⁷ aged under 16. Whereas the 2022 survey has more of a representation among older respondents, with less than 1% (5) of respondents⁴³ aged under 16 in the 2022 survey (*Figure 4.1*). The proportions across other demographic characteristics such as gender, ethnic background and disability status are similar to the previous survey. However, it is likely that the different age profile of respondents may have influenced results, given that the findings presented are unweighted. Therefore, this should be considered when making comparisons between the 2021 and 2022 surveys.

⁴⁷ Respondents with a valid age provided.

Figure 4.1: Chart showing the demographic breakdown of respondents

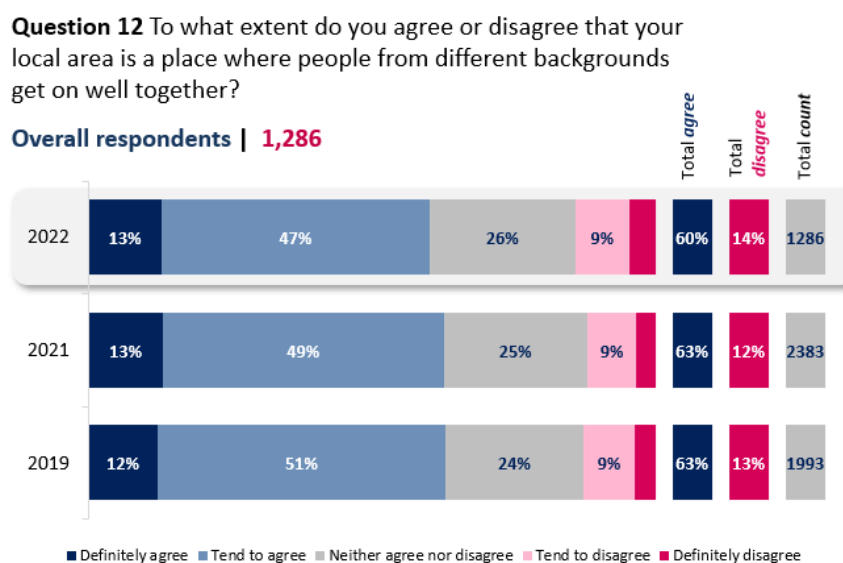


Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

4.1.1 Community Cohesion

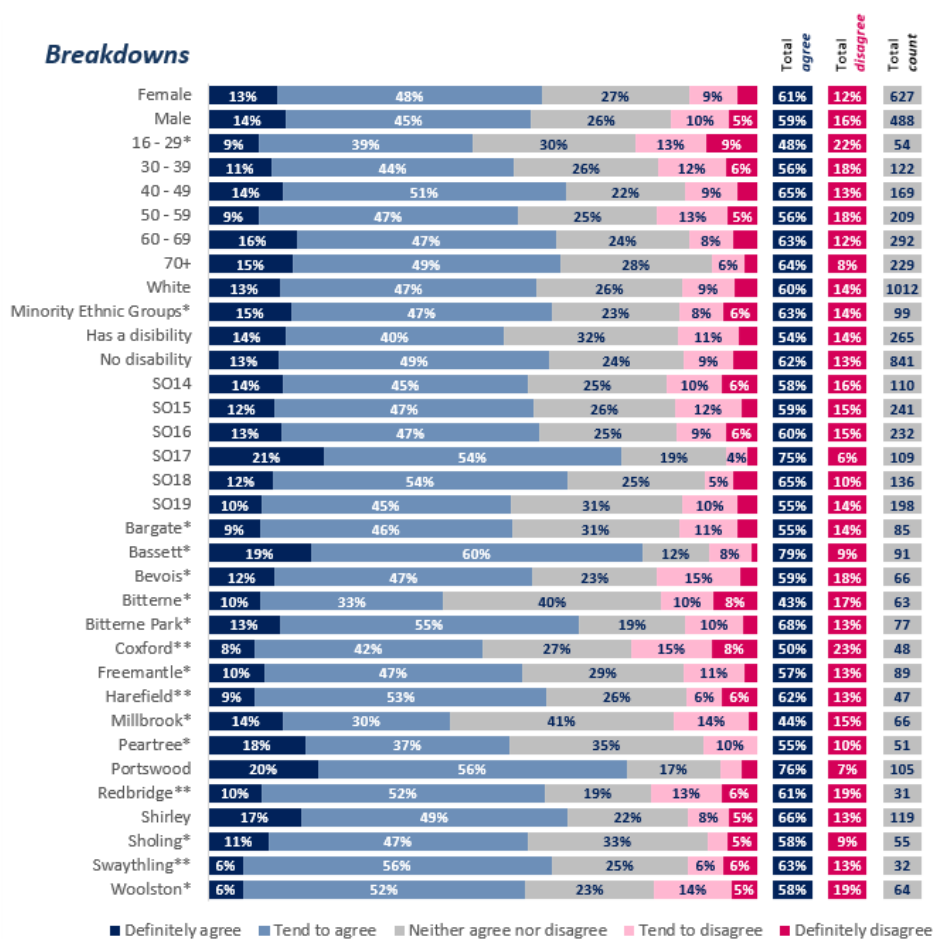
The majority of respondents from the 2022 survey agreed that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (60%), which is a similar proportion compared to previous surveys (Figure 4.2). Additionally, there are high levels of agreement with the statement across most demographic and geographic groups (Figure 4.3), with the highest levels of agreement recorded among respondents from Bassett (79%) and Portswood (76%) wards.

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, 2021 and 2022 surveys)



Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

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



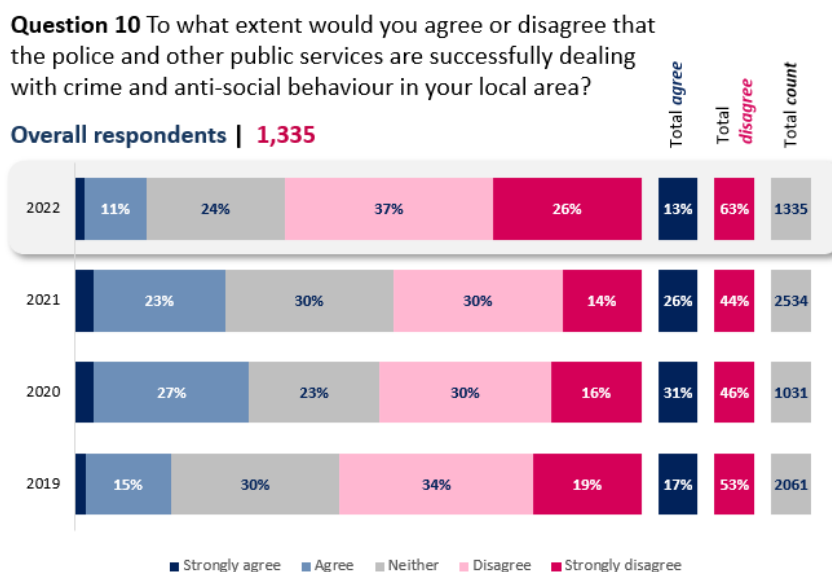
Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

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

4.1.2 Confidence in the Partnership

13% of respondents agreed that the police and other local public services were successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local areas in the 2022 survey (Figure 4.4). This is a -13 percentage point decline in agreement compared to the 2021 survey, -18 from the 2020 survey and -4 compared to the 2019 survey. Whilst residents felt more confident with how crime is being dealt with during the pandemic, people now feel less confident than they did before the pandemic. The majority (63%) of respondents now disagree with this statement; a +10 percentage point increase compared to the 2019 survey.

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 2022)



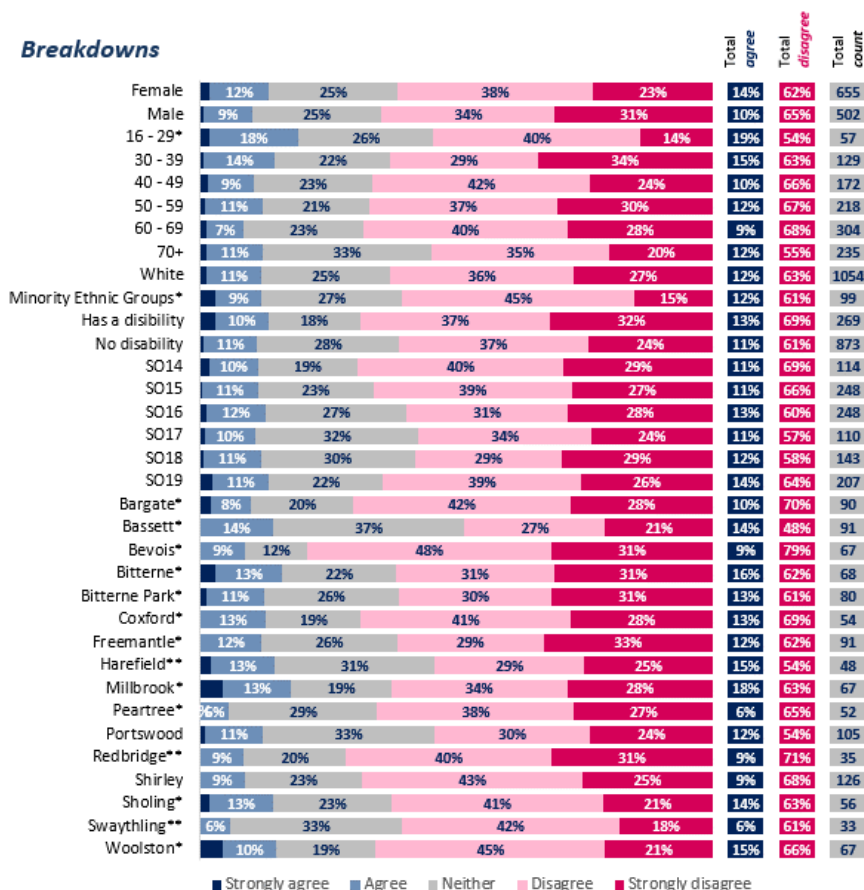
Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

It is important to note that public perceptions of how the Partnership are dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour can be influenced by:

- High profile national events, particularly around VAWG
- The coronavirus pandemic when officers were more visible due to COVID enforcement
- Social media and the digital presence of police, council and other public services

Levels of agreement and disagreement were fairly consistent between different demographic groups, postcodes and wards (Figure 4.5). Respondents aged 16 to 29 showed the highest levels of agreement compared to other age groups (19%), as well as showing the least disagreement (54%) alongside those aged 70 and over (55%). The highest levels of disagreement were among respondents from Bevois ward (79%), followed by Redbridge (71%) and Bargate (70%).

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 anti-social behaviour in their local area



Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022) *Fewer than 100 respondents. **Fewer than 50 respondents.

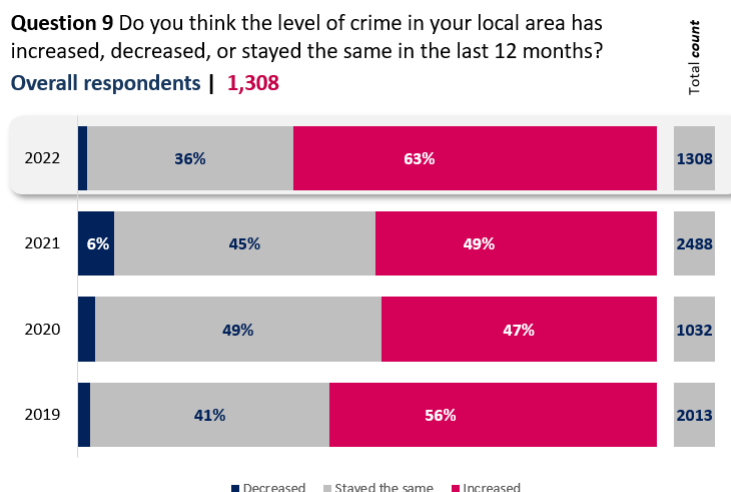
4.1.3 Perception of crime levels

In the most recent survey, 63% of respondents felt crime in their local has increased in the last 12 months and 36% felt crime levels had stayed the same (Figure 4.6). The proportion of respondents who felt crime levels have increased is significantly higher compared to the previous three surveys, whilst the proportion who felt that crime levels have stayed the same is significantly lower. These results coincide with increases seen in police recorded crime over recent years (see section 2.1).

Figure 4.7 shows the demographic and geographic breakdowns of perceived crime levels. Proportions were similar between males and females, as well as between those from white ethnic backgrounds compared to respondents from minority ethnic backgrounds. The proportion of those aged 70 and over who felt crime had increased (53%) was significantly lower compared to other age groups (ranging between 62% and 68%). Additionally, a significantly higher proportion of respondents with a disability felt crime had increased (73%) compared to those with no disability (59%). Respondents who live in Millbrook (77%) felt crime in their local area had increased to the greatest extent, followed by

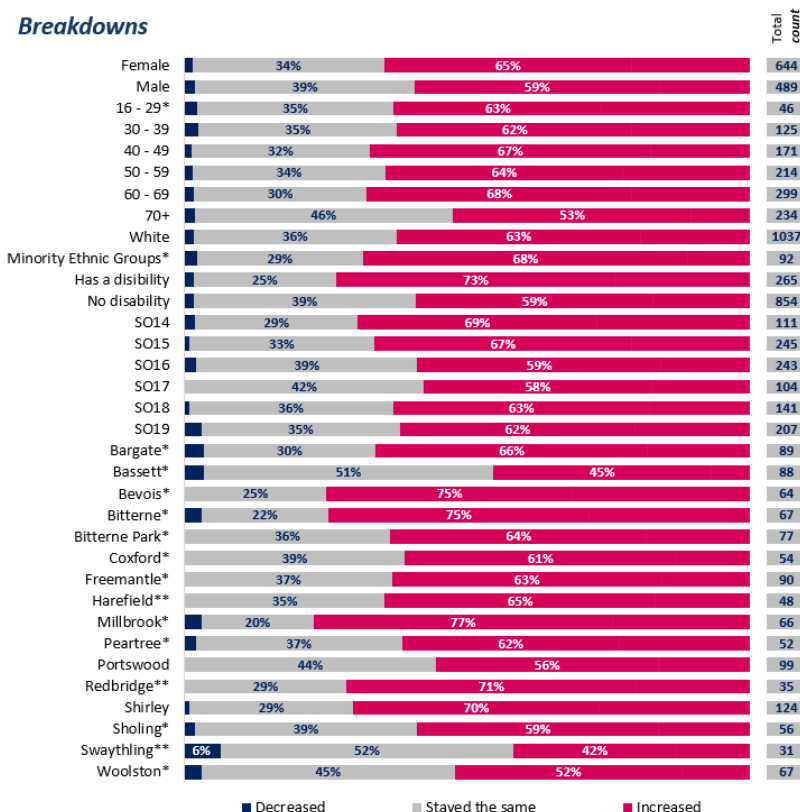
Bevois (75%) and Bitterne (75%) wards. Whereas those that felt crime had increased to a lesser extent, mostly lived in Swaythling (42%) and Bassett (45%).

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 2022)



Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

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

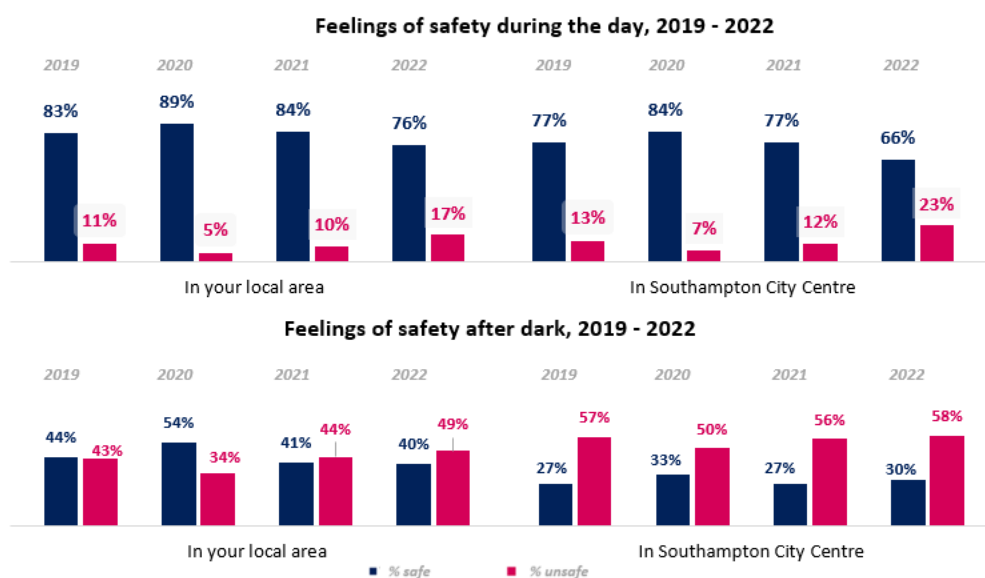


Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022) *Fewer than 100 respondents. **Fewer than 50 respondents.

4.1.4 Feelings of safety in Southampton

The majority of respondents felt safe during the day in both their local area (76%) and in the city centre (66%). In comparison, just 40% of respondents felt safe after dark in their local area and 30% in the city centre. Moreover, feelings of safety have continued to decline, with the proportion of respondents who feel unsafe increasing beyond that of the 2019 survey (*Figure 4.8*). This highlights that Southampton remains an outlier for feelings of safety after dark.

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 2022)



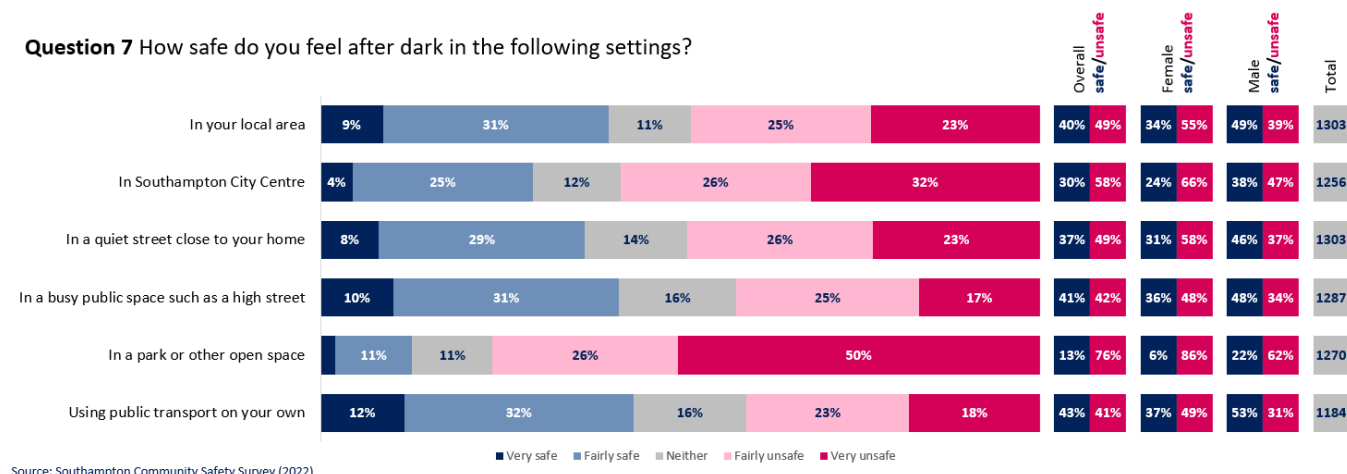
Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

Feelings of safety during the day were similar between males and females across all settings. However, female respondents felt significantly less safe across all settings after dark (*Figure 4.9*). Approximately a third (34%) of females felt safe in their local area after dark compared to almost half of males (49%) and less than a quarter of females (24%) felt safe in the city centre after dark compared to almost two-fifths (38%) of males.

Respondents felt the most unsafe in parks and open spaces after dark (*Figure 4.9*), with just 13% of respondents feeling safe in this setting; 6% of females felt safe compared to 22% of males. This is a reoccurring theme, as previous Southampton community safety and city surveys also highlighted that females felt more unsafe after dark than males. It is important to note that this is not just an issue in Southampton, with national research continuing to highlight the gap in feelings of safety between males and females⁴⁸.

Respondents with a disability felt less safe across all settings in comparison to respondents without a disability. The ONS report similar findings from the national Opinions and Lifestyle survey regarding women and people with disabilities feeling less safe; conducted between February and March 2022⁴⁸.

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 those respondents, 70% (718) said that they had changed their behaviour in the last month as a result of feeling unsafe.

The most common behaviour change was that respondents *stopped going to streets or areas they feel are unsafe* (59%) and *stopped walking in quiet places such as parks or open spaces* (54%). As a result of feeling unsafe, female respondents changed their behaviour to a greater extent compared to males (Figure 4.10). Notably, 78% of respondents with a disability said that they had changed their behaviour, compared to 67% of respondents without a disability.

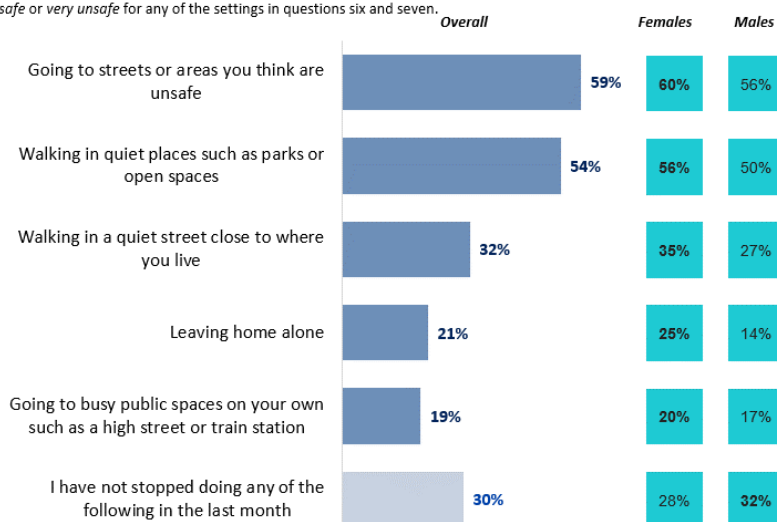
⁴⁸ Office for National Statistics – Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain: 16 February to 13 March 2022. Available via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/perceptionsofpersonalsafetyandexperiencesofharassmentgreatbritain/16februaryto13march2022>

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

Question 8 If you feel unsafe, have you stopped doing any of the following activities in the last month?

Respondents* | **1,025**

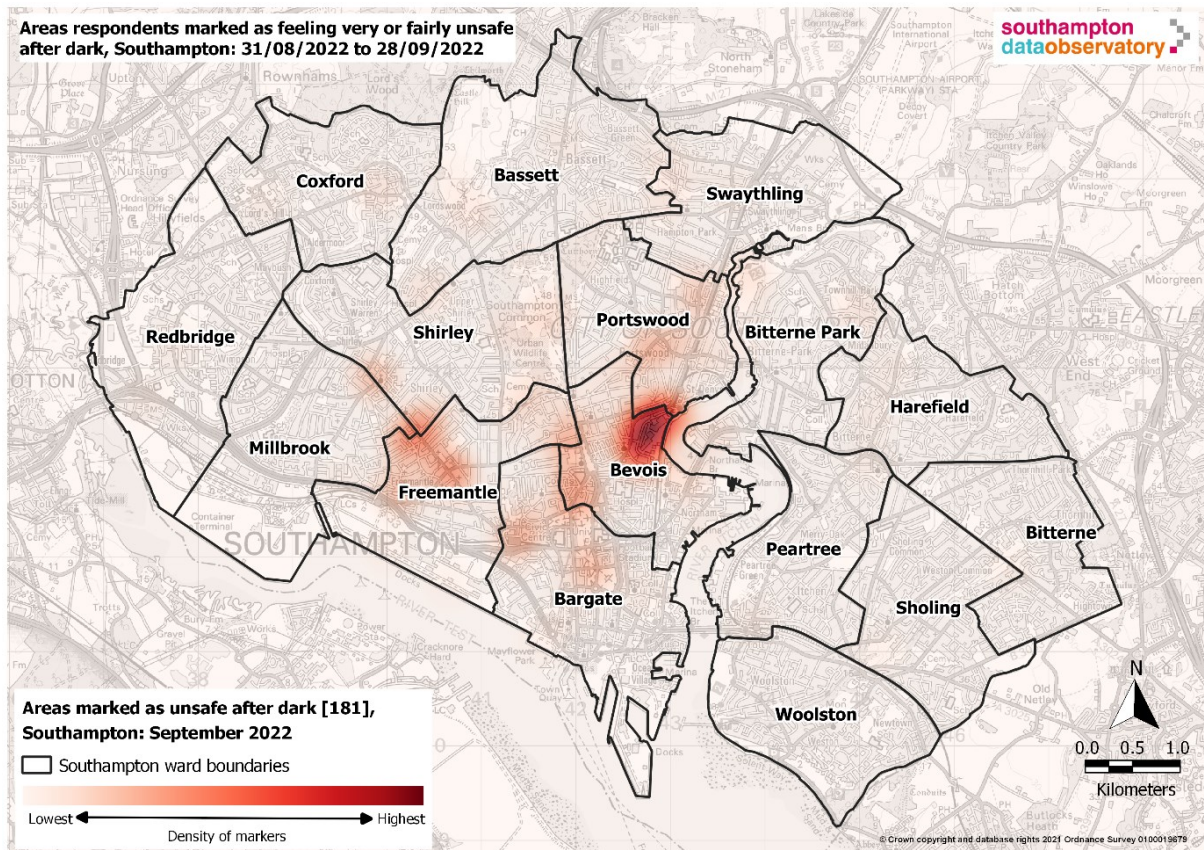
*This question was asked only of those that responded either *fairly unsafe* or *very unsafe* for any of the settings in questions six and seven.



Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

A map engagement activity was also conducted alongside the survey, whereby people could mark areas in Southampton where they felt safe and/or unsafe during the day and after dark, whilst also providing additional comments. Overall, 228 markers were placed, 181 (79.4%) were marked as areas where respondents felt unsafe after dark. *Figure 4.11* shows hotspots of areas marked as unsafe, notably 23% of people that marked an area where they felt unsafe felt that greater CCTV coverage would improve feelings of safety. The largest hotspot where people felt most unsafe was highlighted along Empress Road in Bevois ward, with most concerns around the presence of sex workers in the area. Concerns around drug and alcohol use were also raised across Bargate, Bevois, Portswood and Freemantle wards; possibly linked to the night-time economy in the city centre and student areas. Concerns around the homeless population and road safety in the city centre, Shirley and Portswood highstreets were also raised. Additionally, there were frequent comments that increased police presence (39%) and better lighting (20%) would make residents feel safer across Southampton. It is important to highlight that although the above insights are based on a small sample size (228 markers), it does provide valuable insight into where and why people are feeling unsafe in Southampton.

Figure 4.11: Map showing areas respondents marked as feeling unsafe after dark



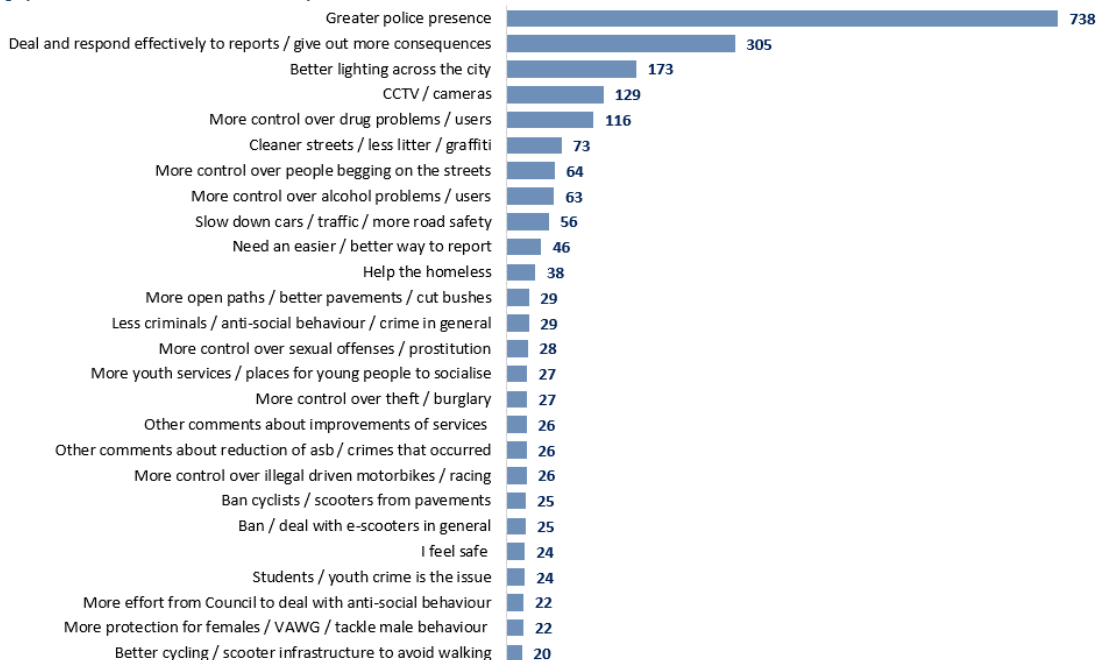
Respondents were also asked what would make them feel safer in Southampton, with free text responses to this question from the 2022 survey and map engagement activity considered. The top themes highlighted by respondents are shown in Figure 4.12. The following comment themes were top for the most recent and previous survey:

- Greater police presence
- Deal and respond effectively to reports and/or give out more consequences
- Better lighting across the city
- CCTV cameras
- More control over drug problems and/or users

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

Within the survey and the map engagement activity, respondents were asked what would make them feel safer in Southampton. The following graph shows the themes that were most commented on, by total number of respondents.

This graph shows all themes that were commented upon more than 20 times



Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

4.1.5 Perceived community safety issues and reporting of crime

Figure 4.13 shows what respondents perceive to be the biggest issues in their local area. The biggest perceived community safety issues were anti-social behaviour (68%), people using or dealing drugs (64%), vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage (62%), burglary, robbery or theft (61%) and youth crime (60%). It is important to highlight that people's perceptions of issues are likely influenced by the visibility of crime, personal experiences and the media.

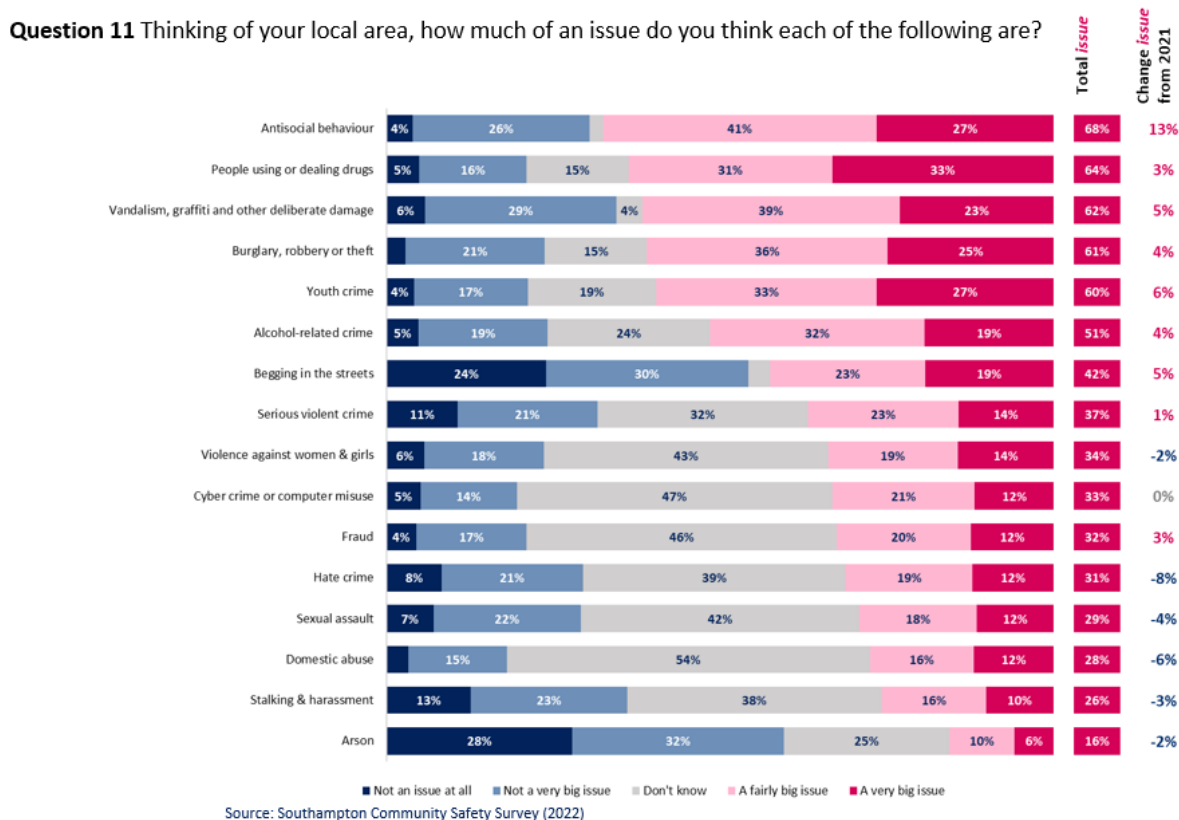
In comparison to the 2021 survey, hate crime (-8), domestic abuse (-6), sexual assault (-4), stalking and harassment (-3), VAWG (-2) have all seen percentage point decreases in the proportion of respondents reporting these categories as an issue. Additionally, over a third of respondents in the 2022 survey answered 'don't know' when asked about the issues highlighted above. Notably 54% of respondents answered 'don't know' for domestic abuse, which was a theme highlighted in the 2021 survey⁴⁹.

The above evidence would suggest that there is less awareness in the most recent survey of key and priority issues such as hate crime, domestic abuse, sexual assaults and VAWG. However, these

⁴⁹ Southampton Violence Against Women and Girls Problem Profile (2022). Online available at: https://data.southampton.gov.uk/images/2022-violence-against-women-and-girls-profile_tcm71-456471.pdf

differences may be influenced by different respondent demographics between the surveys, with the 2021 survey skewed towards younger respondents and 2022 survey skewed towards older respondents. Nonetheless, the proportion of respondents answering 'don't know' for these issues remains high, which highlights potential for improving awareness of these issues in the city, particularly as improved awareness can lead to improvements in crime reporting.

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



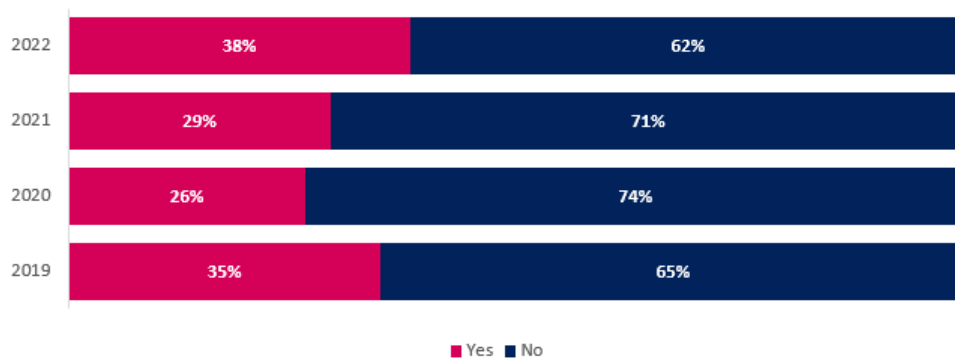
The majority of respondents (62%) in the most recent survey had not been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in Southampton in the last 12 months (Figure 4.14). The proportion of respondents reporting that they had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour (38%) is significantly higher than the previous two surveys (26% in 2020 and 29% in 2021). However, proportions from the previous two surveys are likely impacted by the pandemic, with the proportion reporting being a victim in 2022 (38%) similar to the 2019 survey (35%). Therefore, suggesting a return to pre-pandemic trends.

Respondents aged under 40 were more likely to be a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour; 54% of 30 to 39 year olds and 52% of 16 to 29 year olds (Figure 4.15). This is in line with victim age profiling outlined in Section 2.5. Respondents with a disability (45%) also reported experiencing crime or anti-social behaviour more frequently than those without a disability (35%). Respondents from Bevois (52%), Bargate (51%) and Freemantle (50%) were most likely to have experienced crime or anti-social behaviour compared to respondents from other wards.

Figure 4.14: Chart showing if respondents have been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months (2019 to 2022)

Question 13 Have you been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in Southampton in the last 12 months?

Overall respondents | 1,249



Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

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

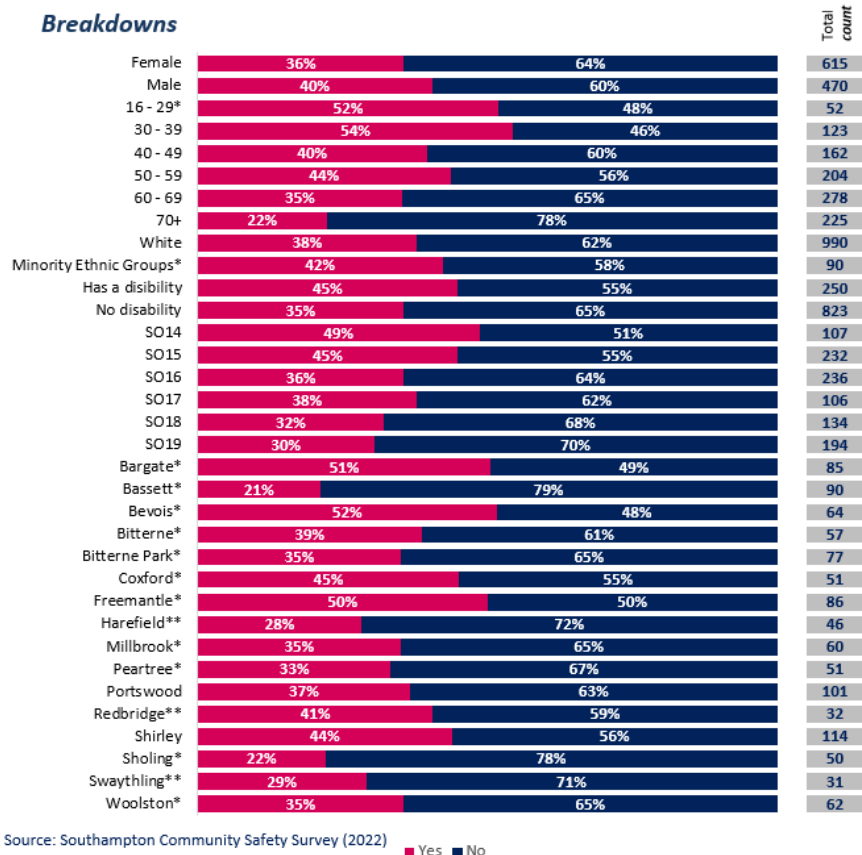
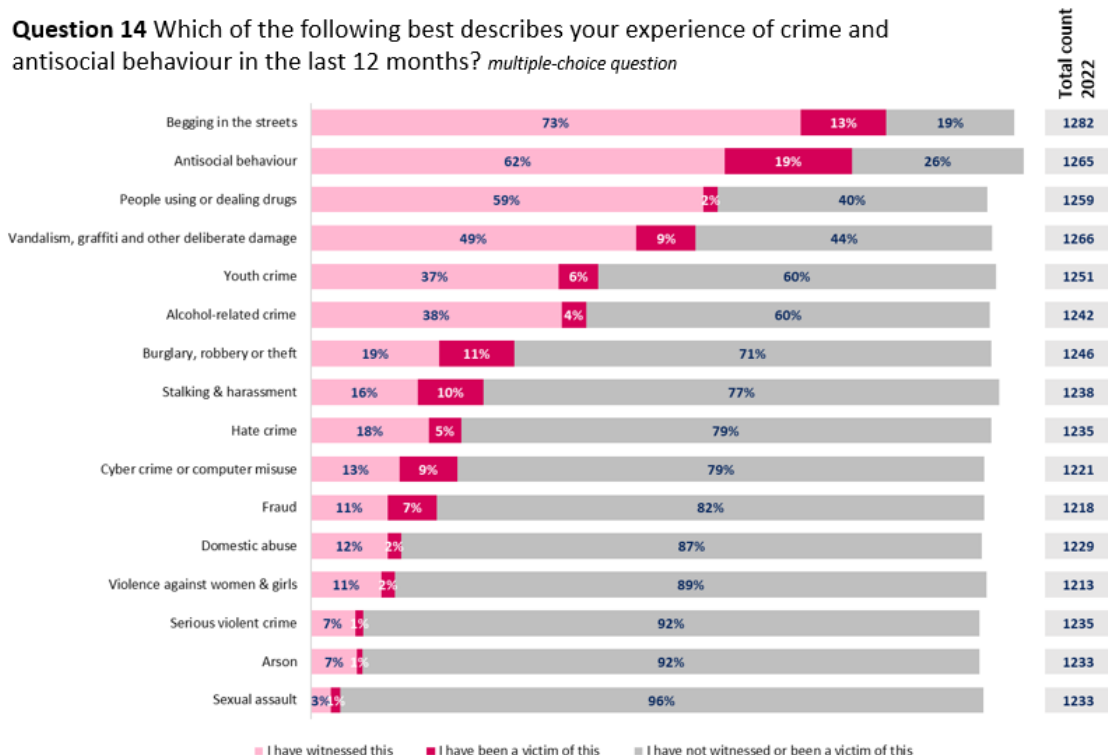


Figure 4.16 shows respondents' experiences of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months. It is important to note that this is a multiple choice question, because respondents may have witnessed and/or been a victim of multiple crime types. Begging in the streets, anti-social behaviour, people using or dealing drugs and vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage continue to be the most commonly witnessed; with over half of respondents experiencing or witnessing these crimes. This is in line with police recorded crime data, with higher volume but lower harm offences occurring more frequently. These crime groups are also some of the more visible offences. In addition to this, low volume but high harm offences such as sexual offences and serious violent crime were less frequently witnessed or experienced by respondents. It is important to highlight that this survey is self-selecting and certain offence groups are more hidden than others. For example, domestic abuse is less visible than vandalism and graffiti.

In comparison to the previous survey, the largest percentage point increase was seen in stalking and harassment; +7 percentage points witnessed, and +4 percentage points experienced (Figure 4.16). This is also in keeping with increases seen in police recorded stalking and harassment data. Moreover, the increase seen from survey respondents is likely also a result of increased awareness around VAWG and stalking and harassment in general. There were also notable increases in the proportion of respondents stating they had witnessed anti-social behaviour and begging in the streets. This may be a result of people spending more time outside post-pandemic, especially in busy public places where these crime types are more visible.

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



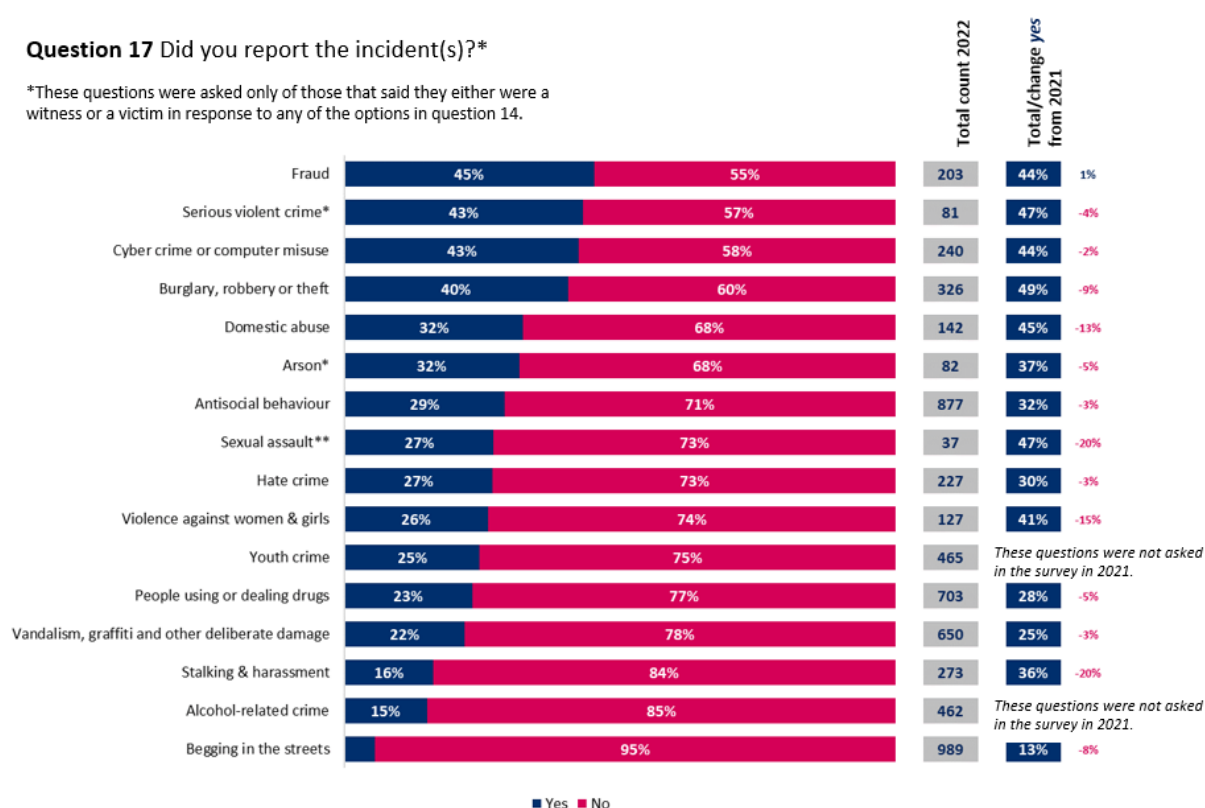
Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

If respondents had witnessed or been a victim of a crime or anti-social behaviour, they were then asked if they had reported the incident(s). Over half of respondents did not report incidents when witnessed or experienced for all crime groups shown in *Figure 4.17*. Most notably, the majority of respondents did not report high harm offences, such as VAWG (74%), sexual assault (73%), domestic abuse (68%) and serious violent crime (57%). In comparison to the previous survey there have also been significant declines in the reporting of these crimes; sexual assault and stalking and harassment falling by -20 percentage points, VAWG falling by -15 and domestic abuse declining by -13. Additionally, 73% of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of hate crime did not report the incident(s).

Figure 4.17: Chart showing proportions of respondents that reported crimes when witnessed or experienced

Question 17 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 in question 14.



Source: Southampton Community Safety Survey (2022)

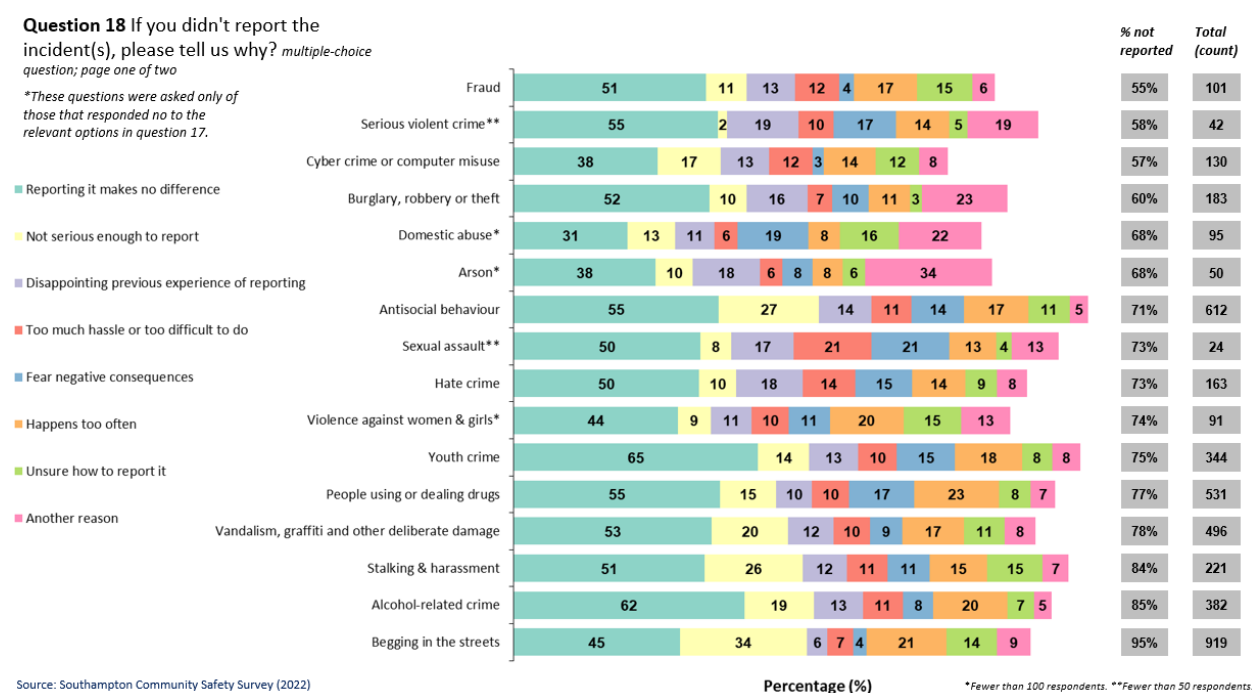
Respondents were then asked a multiple-choice question of why they did not report incident(s), therefore, it is possible for rows to sum to more than 100% in *Figure 4.18*. It is important to highlight that reasons for not reporting crime vary across crime groups and that the number of crimes for some crime groups are small; notably serious violent crime and sexual assault. Nonetheless, responses can provide valuable insight into why respondents are not reporting offences, especially for high harm offences.

The most common reason for not reporting serious violent crime was *reporting makes no difference* (55%), followed by *disappointing previous experiences reporting* (19%) and *other reasons* (19%). Common reasons for not reporting sexual assault included *reporting it makes no difference* (50%), too

much hassle or too difficult to do (21%), fear of negative consequences (21%) and disappointing previous experience of reporting (17%). Reporting it makes no difference (31%), another reason (22%) and fear of negative consequences (19%) were common reasons for not reporting domestic abuse. 44% of respondents who witnessed or experienced VAWG felt reporting it makes no difference, whilst 20% stated it happens too often and 15% were unsure how to report it. The most common reason for not reporting hate crime was reporting it makes no difference (50%), followed by disappointing previous experience of reporting (18%) and fear of negative consequences (15%).

The overall picture for reasons for not reporting incidents is similar to that of the previous survey. However, reporting it makes no difference has become more commonly cited relative to other reasons asked across all crime types.

Figure 4.18: 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)



The above findings highlight the barriers to reporting different crime types. Reporting it makes no difference is a common theme across all crime types, including high harm and priority offences such as serious violent crime, sexual assault, domestic abuse and VAWG. The Partnership should consider how to improve confidence among the public that reports are responded to and acted upon.

The proportion of residents unsure how to report crimes decreased for most crime types compared to the previous survey. For example, the proportion unsure how to report hate crime fell from 17% in the 2021 survey to 9% in 2022, there was a -9 percentage point decrease for serious violent crimes and a -6 percentage point decrease for sexual assault. Whilst the proportion unsure how to report domestic

abuse also fell from 20% to 16%, which remains the highest proportion for this reason across crime types.

4.2 Points for the Partnership to note

- Just 13% of respondents in the most recent survey agreed that the police and other local services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area, with the majority of respondents now disagreeing (63%) with this statement. This suggests that people are becoming less confident in the Partnership.
- Feelings of safety after dark remain an issue in Southampton. Females were significantly more likely to feel unsafe after dark than males across all settings. In addition to this, respondents with a disability felt significantly less safe than those without a disability across all settings. The Partnership should take note of these findings and consider how best to improve feelings of safety after dark in Southampton, particularly for females and people with disabilities.
- 70% of respondents who said that they had felt unsafe said that they had changed their behaviour in the last month as a result of feeling unsafe. The most common behaviour changes were: *stopped going to streets or areas they feel are unsafe* (59%) and *stopped walking in quiet places such as parks or open spaces* (54%). Female respondents changed their behaviour to a greater extent than males, as did respondents with a disability compared to those without a disability.
- The top responses to the question of what would make people safer in Southampton continues to include a greater police presence, deal and respond effectively to reports and/or give out more consequences, better lighting across the city, CCTV cameras and more control over drug problems and/or users.
- Respondents' perceptions of the biggest issues are likely linked to the visibility of crime. Anti-social behaviour, people using or dealing drugs, vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage, burglary, robbery or theft and youth crime were highlighted as the biggest issues by respondents. These are some of the of the most visible crime types.
- In comparison to the previous survey, the perception of priority issues; notably violent crime, sexual offences and domestic abuse, has declined in the city. The Partnership should continue to raise awareness of these key issues in Southampton, as better awareness could lead to improved reporting of these crime types. This is important because large and growing proportions of respondents did not report these crimes when they had witnessed or been a victim of them.
- Respondents' experiences of crime are in line with police recorded crime data, with high volume but lower harm offences more commonly witnessed or experienced. However, the majority of respondents did not report incidents witnessed or experienced across all crime groups. This is especially concerning for high harm and priority crime groups where proportions of respondents not reporting have increased in comparison to the 2021 survey; such as VAWG, sexual assault, staking and harassment and domestic abuse.

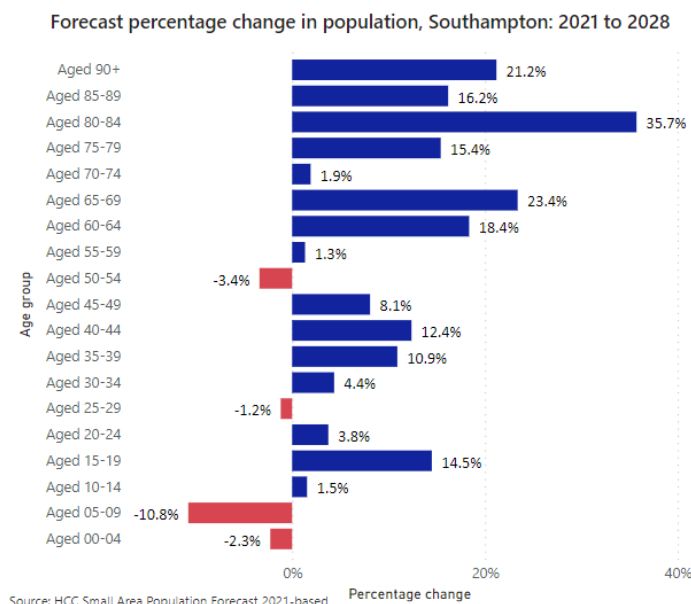
- Reasons for not reporting crimes varied across crime groups but showed similar patterns to the previous survey. The Partnership should consider how best to address the following key findings:
 - *Reporting it makes no difference* was the most common reasons across all crime groups, particularly for high harm and priority offences: violent crime, sexual offences and domestic abuse.
 - *Disappointing previous experiences of reporting, not serious enough to report, fear of negative consequences and happens too often* were also common reasons for crimes not being reported.
 - Compared to the 2021 survey, the proportion of respondents *unsure how to report* declined across most crime types, including hate crime, serious violent crime, sexual assault and domestic abuse. Although, 16% of respondents who witnessed or experienced domestic abuse were *unsure how to report it*; the highest across crime types.

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](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/data-observatory/).

Young people are at a disproportionately higher risk of becoming involved in crime, either as a victim or offender^{50, 51}. 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 +6.7% by 2028 (Figure 5.1). This may lead to an increase in offending and/or victimisation due to the forecast growth of young persons aged 10 to 24 in Southampton. However, early intervention has the capacity to offset some of this expected increase. This is because early interventions can prevent young people becoming involved in crime, either as a victim or perpetrator.

Figure 5.1: Chart showing forecast change in the resident population of Southampton



⁵⁰ Weatherburn, D. (2001) 'What Causes Crime?', *Crime and Justice Bulletin*, 54. Available via: <https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Publications/CJB/cjb54.pdf>

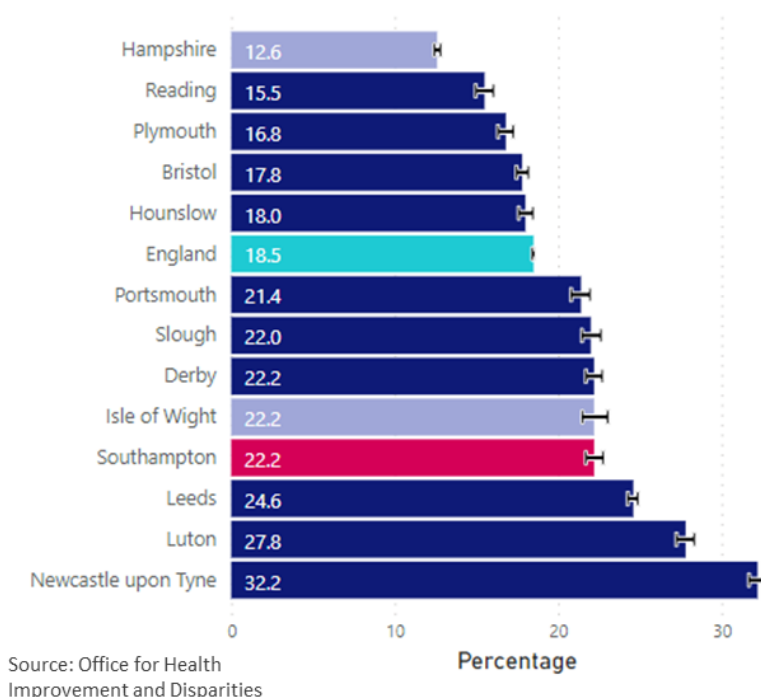
⁵¹ Victim Support – Working with young victims of crime. Available via: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/young-victims-crime/teachers-and-professionals/working-young-victims-crime/>

Income inequality is linked to crime, with individuals living in poverty; particularly children, on average more likely to become involved in crime⁵². Approximately 22.2% (10,456) of children in Southampton live in relative low-income families (2020/21), significantly higher than the national average of 18.5% (Figure 5.2). Given current financial pressures and economic uncertainty, it is likely that income inequality will further widen, and a greater proportion of children will live in low-income families. Children in poverty are more likely to have poorer outcomes, particularly those related to health, education and crime.

In addition, 33.0% (11,049) 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 22.5% in 2021/22 (Figure 5.3). The proportion of children eligible for FSMs has continued to increase; having been 24.7% in 2019/20, to 30.4% in 2020/21 and now to 33% in 2021/22. Although, some of this increase will in part be due to 'protected' status of FSM eligible pupils, due to increased universal credit rollout during the pandemic. This potentially suggests a growing need among children in Southampton, which could be further exacerbated due to recent financial pressures and economic uncertainty.

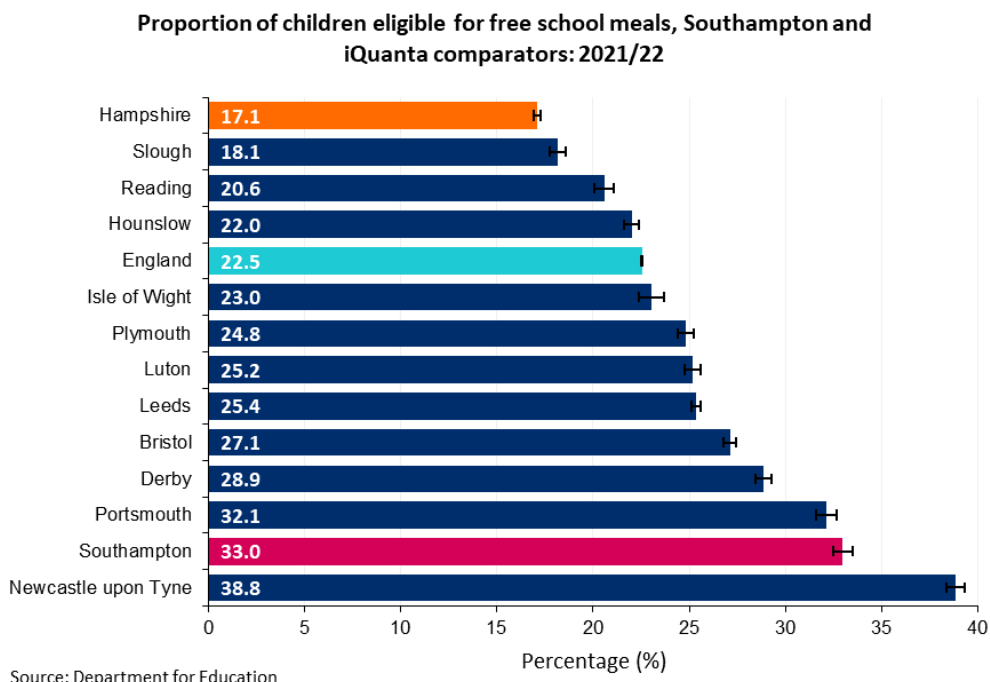
Figure 5.2: Benchmarking chart showing the proportion of children living in relative low income families

Percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low income families, Southampton and iQuanta Comparators: 2020/21



⁵² Rufrancos, H. G. *et al.* (2013) 'Income Inequality and Crime: A Review and Explanation of the Time-series Evidence', *Sociology and Criminology*, 1 (1). Available via: https://equalitytrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/Income%20Inequality%20and%20Crime%20-%20A%20Review%20and%20Explanation%20of%20the%20Time%20series%20evidence_0.pdf

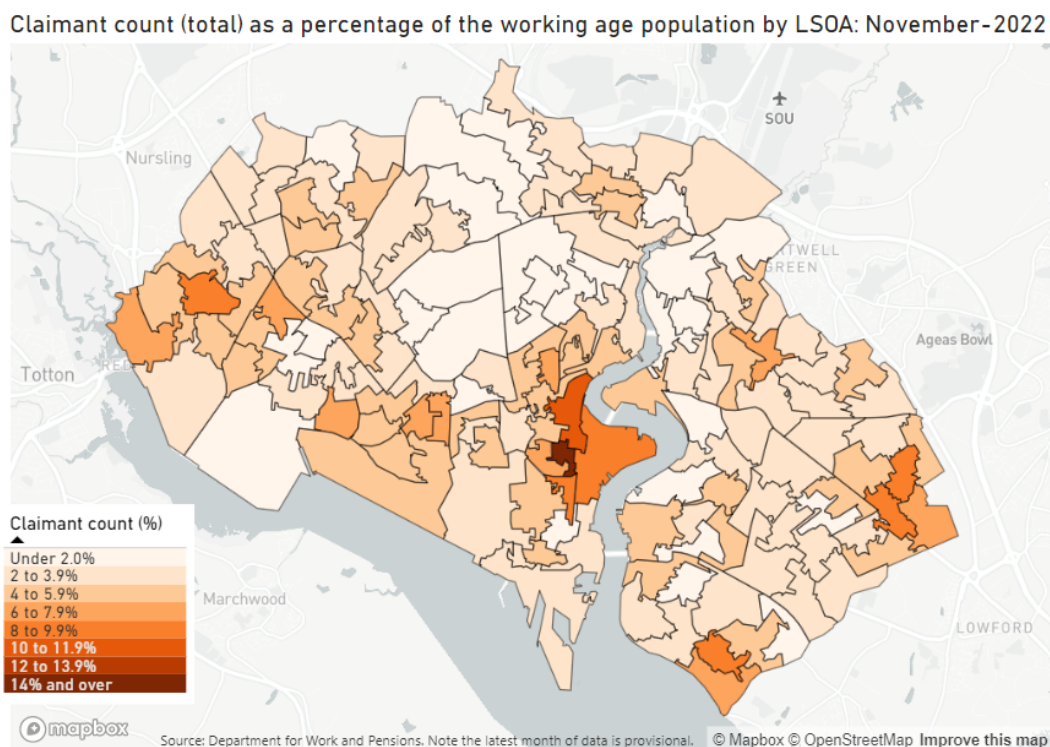
Figure 5.3: Benchmarking chart showing the proportion of children known to be eligible for free school meals



In Southampton, the number of adults claiming out of work benefits (claimant count⁵³) more than doubled (+117%) during the coronavirus pandemic; from 5,595 in March 2020 to 12,145 in March 2021. However, between March 2021 and March 2022 the number of claimants decreased by -4,280 (-35%). Whilst progress has been made in recovering from the pandemic, Southampton is yet to return to the pre-pandemic baseline (less than 3.5% of the working age population). Figure 5.4 shows the claimant count across Southampton neighbourhoods in November 2022 (4.0% total). It is evident that unemployment is not evenly distributed across Southampton, with higher claimant counts generally seen in more deprived neighbourhoods.

⁵³ Claimant count includes all Universal Credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work, as well as Jobseeker's Allowance claimants. Claimant count is expressed as a proportion of the working age population; those aged 16 to 64 years old. Note that data for the latest month (November 2022) is provisional.

Figure 5.4: Map showing the claimant count by Southampton neighbourhoods (LSOAs) as of November 2022



It is important to note that 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 violence⁵⁴. Research into ACEs suggests that these risk factors are cumulative⁵⁵. Therefore, the more factors a young person experiences, the greater the risk of that individual becoming involved in crime. Examples of ACEs include:

- Emotional, physical or sexual abuse
- Emotional or physical neglect
- Observed or experienced domestic violence

⁵⁴ 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). Available via: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5699-8>

⁵⁵ Local Government Association: Public health approaches to reducing violence (2018). Available via: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/public-health-approaches-reducing-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

5.1 Points for the Partnership to note

- It is important to monitor the wider determinants of crime, as if these worsen, we may see subsequent increases in crime. This is important as socio-economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have been observed in Southampton, such as increases in the claimant count. Additionally, recent economic uncertainty, financial pressures and the 'cost of living crisis' will likely exacerbate the socio-economic situation for many. Therefore, the Partnership should continue to monitor and consider how to positively influence the wider determinants of crime, such as poverty and deprivation, when setting priorities and implementing interventions.
- Southampton has high levels of deprivation, poverty and inequality across the city. Tackling the wider determinants of crime is key to reducing overall levels of crime in Southampton. As well as improving a wider range of outcomes, such as those relating to education and health. It is important to prevent individuals, especially young people from becoming involved in crime in the first place through a programme of early intervention.
- A project was undertaken that examined need across a number of theme areas including but not limited to poverty and deprivation, education, child health and adult health across Southampton neighbourhoods. The Partnership should take note of key findings from this work, as it highlights where need is greatest in the city for many wider determinants. Findings from this work are available on the [Southampton Data Observatory](https://southamptondataobservatory.org.uk/).
- Forecasts for the impact of the 'cost of living crisis' on household energy bills in Southampton have been produced. It was estimated that the discretionary income of 16% of households could fall below £0 per month and 50% below £125 per month. These growing financial pressures will likely have far-reaching impacts, potentially affecting levels of crime. More detailed findings are available on the [Southampton Data Observatory](https://southamptondataobservatory.org.uk/).

6. Summary

Southampton continues to have the highest total crime rate and severity among comparator CSPs, suggesting that Southampton remains the most affected area among comparators for the volume and severity of total crime. Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, there was a +7.4% increase in total recorded crime in Southampton, highlighting that Southampton has returned to pre-pandemic volumes of crime, and in some cases exceeding pre-pandemic volumes. The increase in total recorded crime over recent years may not reflect a 'true' increase in crime, as recorded crime can be influenced by improved awareness of key issues, more people reporting crime and improvements in recording by the police. The TCSEW found no significant increase in total crime compared to the pre-pandemic baseline, with the 2022 community safety survey also finding no significant change in levels of reported victimisation compared to before the pandemic (section 4.1.5).

However, it is important to emphasise that this varies by crime type. Although volumes of some offence types have increased, such as violent crimes, sexual offences and domestic flagged crimes, others have decreased, for example anti-social behaviour and residential burglary. It will be important for the Partnership to monitor these trends moving forward, particularly due to the rising national and local profile of VAWG, with reports of these crimes expected to continue to rise⁵⁶.

Similar to previous years, a simple score was calculated to help inform priority setting for crimes in Southampton. Based on this exercise the following areas were highlighted as priority areas for the Partnership:

- Violent crime (all forms)
- Sexual offences
- Domestic crimes including domestic violence

These areas have remained a priority for the last four years. This suggests that despite changes in the volume and patterns of many crime types during recent years in Southampton, these areas remain substantial issues in the city. Residential burglary featured as a priority in the previous assessment, however due to declines in the volume and severity of offences it does not score as highly in 2021/22.

Repeat victimisation and repeat offending remains an issue and are potentially growing issues in Southampton. This is because there have been sustained increases in the proportion of repeat victims and repeat offenders in recent years (section 2.5). This is a trend that should continue to be monitored, particularly as tackling repeat offending is key to reducing overall levels of crime in the city.

Findings from the most recent community safety survey suggest that confidence in the Partnership is declining locally. Just 13% of respondents agreed that the police and other local public services are

⁵⁶ Hampshire Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2022

successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area, with the majority of respondents (63%) now disagreeing with this statement. The Partnership should take note of these findings and consider how best to improve public confidence.

Feelings of safety after dark remain a substantial issue in Southampton, with females continuing to feel significantly less safe after dark across all settings compared to males. Additionally, respondents with a disability also felt significantly less safe after dark in all settings compared to respondents without a disability. The 2022 community safety survey also found that 70% of people who felt unsafe had altered their behaviour in the last month, with female respondents changing their behaviour to a greater extent compared to males, as did respondents with a disability compared to those without a disability. Although, the above findings are in line with national research⁵⁷, they highlight that not only are residents feeling unsafe in Southampton, but they are also feeling unsafe to the extent where they are altering their behaviour. The Partnership should take note of these findings and consider how best to improve feelings of safety after dark for all, but particularly for females and those with disabilities, as people should be able to go about their daily lives without fearing for their safety⁵⁸.

The majority of community safety survey respondents indicated that they did not report crimes they had witnessed or been a victim of. This is especially concerning for higher harm and priority offence groups where proportions of respondents not reporting crimes increased; namely VAWG, sexual assault, stalking and harassment and domestic abuse. However, the survey highlighted barriers to reporting for different crime types, which the Partnership may be able to act upon. The most common reason for not reporting crimes was *reporting it makes no difference*, although barriers vary between crime groups (Section 4.1.5).

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. There is evidence to suggest that some wider determinants have worsened in recent years, most likely as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and could potentially worsen further due to recent financial pressures and economic uncertainty. The Partnership should continue to monitor the wider determinants of crime alongside police recorded crime, whilst also giving consideration as to how partners can positively influence these factors.

⁵⁷ 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>

⁵⁸ Home Office (2021) Tackling violence against women and girls strategy. Online available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy>