

May
2022

State of Dorset Crime



In a national context, crime in the Dorset Council area is consistently very low, well below the average in England.

Data relates to the 2020/21 fiscal year unless stated otherwise.

Total recorded crime has fallen by 14% in this fiscal year compared to last year¹, however, anti-social behaviour incidents have increased from last year. The number of domestic abuse incidents have also increased year-on-year.

Big Numbers Box

467 sexual offences
in Dorset last year

82% of sexual assaults
are committed
against women

anti-social behaviour incidents

10,722

1 in 9

of all anti-social
behaviour incidents
in Dorset occur in
Melcombe Regis

3,225
domestic abuse
incidents

Total crime down

14%

Box 1: Dorset Community Safety Partnership Priorities¹

- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- County Lines
- Serious Sexual Offences
- Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Rural Crime
- Fraud
- Public Place Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour

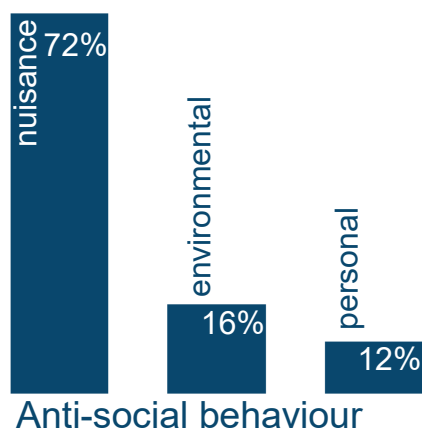
• In 2020-21 there were 10,722 incidents of **anti-social behaviour** in the Dorset Council area.

• 72% of these were classified as nuisance, 12% personal and 16% environmental.

• Weymouth has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour across the Dorset Council area.

• There were 467 serious **sexual offences** in the Dorset Council area last year.

• There were 3,225 **domestic abuse** incidents in the Dorset Council area last year.

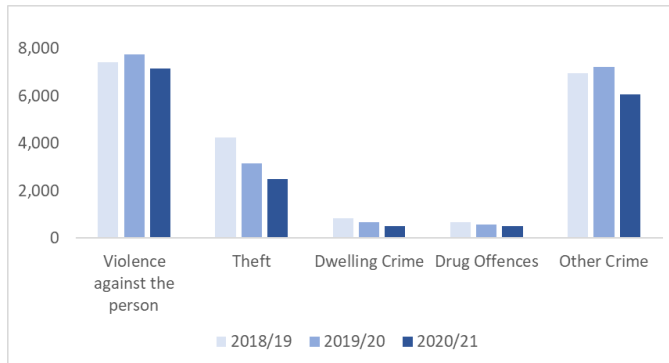


Sources

¹ Community Safety Partnership Performance Reporting, 2021

Box 2: Other Crime

Crimes in the Dorset Council Area



- Total crimes were lower this year than in the previous year.
 - East Dorset is the former district with the lowest crime rate in Dorset...and Weymouth and Portland has the highest.
 - Crime is highest in Dorset between April and June each year, which could be because of the better weather, the holidays and the longer daylight hours.
 - In 2021 71% of residents surveyed across Dorset said that they felt safe in their local area after dark.
- In the last year¹:**
- Residential Burglary accounts for 91% of acquisitive crimes
 - While Robbery makes just 9%
 - Most Robbery took place in Weymouth
 - While most Burglaries occurred in East Dorset
 - Compared to other areas, crime in the Dorset Council area is consistently low. Last year, Dorset had a lower crime rate than most council areas³.

Box 3: Hate Crime⁴

- A hate crime or incident is any criminal offence or non-criminal incidence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate towards a person's protected characteristic.
- The numbers of sexual orientation hate crimes have been increasing year on year. 132 sexual orientation hate crimes were recorded in 2019, 136 in 2020 and 200 from January to August 2021.
- Hate crimes often go unreported and a focus of local policing is on building trust and confidence in reporting and ensuring that everyone knows how to report a hate crime or incident. Third-party reporting centres and trusted community partners are key to this.
- The council is a member of Prejudice Free Dorset, a partnership group made up of local agencies that seeks to promote inclusive communities and challenge prejudice cross Dorset, so everyone can go about their daily lives safely and with confidence⁵.

Sources

³ [Compare your area | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk)

⁴ Dorset Police, 2021

⁵ Prejudice Free Dorset