

November  
2024

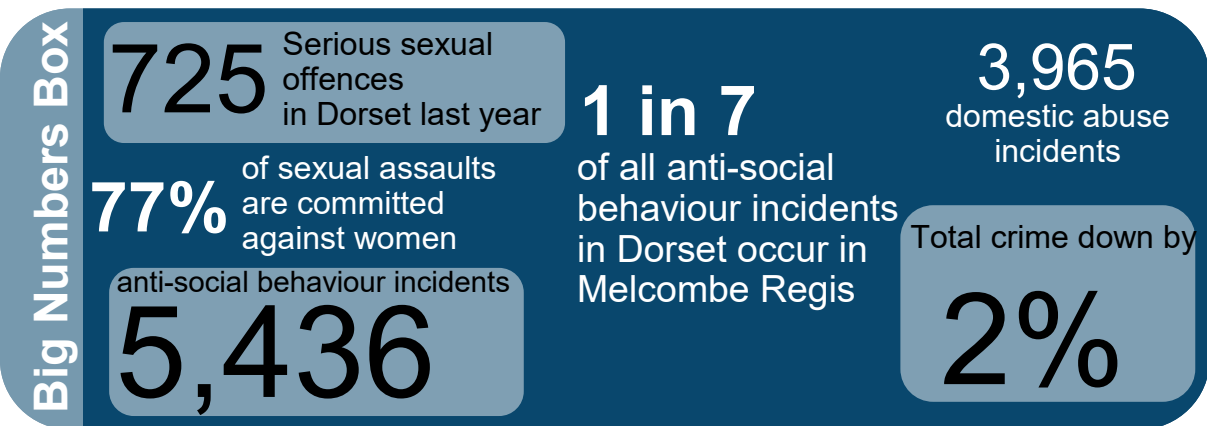
# State of Dorset Crime



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

Data relates to the 2023/24 fiscal year unless stated otherwise.

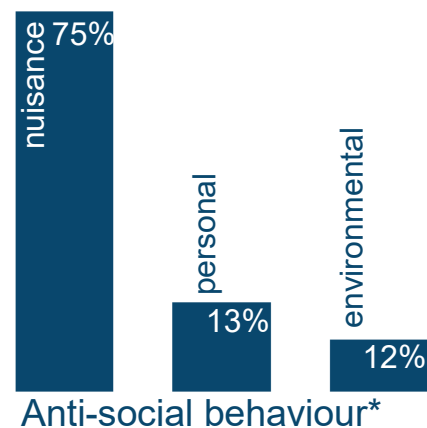
Total recorded crime has fallen by 2% in this fiscal year compared to last year<sup>1</sup>, and anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased by 14% from last year. The number of domestic abuse incidents have increased by 2% since the last financial year.



## Box 1: Dorset Community Safety Partnership Priorities<sup>1</sup>

- Sexual Offences
- Domestic Abuse and Stalking
- Serious and Public Place Violence
- Fraud
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Rural Crime

- In 2023-24 there were 5,436 incidents of **anti-social behaviour** in the Dorset Council area.
- 75% of these were classified as nuisance, 13% personal and 12% environmental.
- Weymouth has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour across the Dorset Council area.
- There were 725 serious **sexual offences** in the Dorset Council area last year.
- There were 3,965 **domestic abuse** incidents in the Dorset Council area last year.



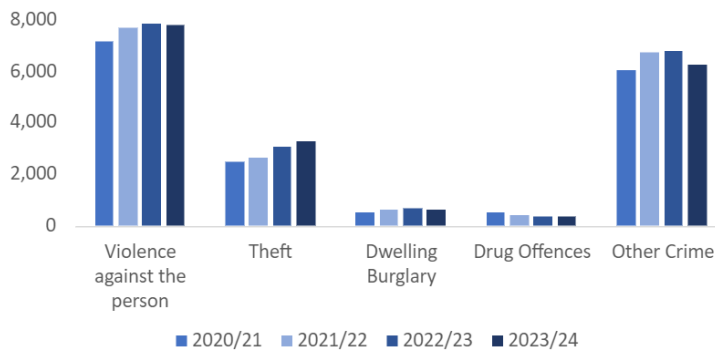
\* 'directed towards a community' 'directed towards a person' or 'directed at the local area'

### Sources

1 Community Safety Partnership Performance Reporting, 2023/24

## Box 2: Other Crime

Crimes in the Dorset Council Area



- Total crimes were slightly 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 and the longer daylight hours.
  - In 2023 68% of residents surveyed across Dorset said that they felt safe in their local area after dark a significant drop since 2019 (77%).
- In the last year<sup>1</sup>:**
- Residential Burglary accounts for 87% of acquisitive crimes
  - While Robbery accounts for 13%
  - 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 areas<sup>3</sup>.

## Box 3: Hate Crime<sup>4</sup>

- 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.
- One of the focuses of local policing when tackling Hate Crime 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.
- Hate crimes are reported separately to racially and religiously aggravated crimes, the number of hate crimes and incidents for the financial year 2023/24 across Dorset Council were 27. The number of racially/religiously aggravated crime fell from 90 last year to 85 this year.
- 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 confidence<sup>5</sup>.

### Sources

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

<sup>4</sup> Dorset Police, 2023/24

<sup>5</sup> Prejudice Free Dorset