

December  
2025

# State of Dorset Crime



In a national context, recorded crime in the Dorset Council area remains low compared to other police authority areas in England.

Data relates to the 2024/25 fiscal year unless stated otherwise.

Total recorded crime has risen by 2% this year.<sup>1</sup> However, reported anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased by 12% while the number of domestic abuse incidents has increased by 12%.

Big Numbers Box

**773** Serious sexual offences in Dorset last year

**80%** of sexual assaults are committed against women

anti-social behaviour incidents  
**4,771**

**1 in 7** of all anti-social behaviour incidents in Dorset occur in Melcombe Regis

**4,328** domestic abuse incidents

Total crime up by

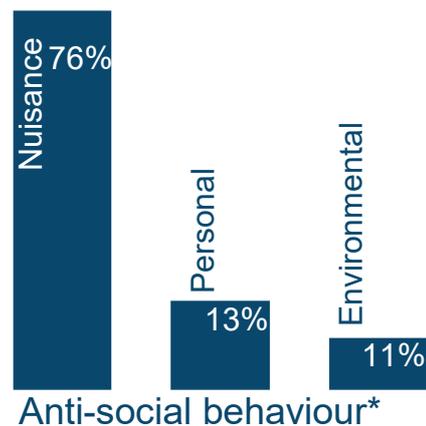
**2%**

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

- Sexual Offences
- Domestic Abuse and Stalking
- Serious and Public Place Violence

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Rural Crime

- In 2024-25 there were 4,771 incidents of **anti-social behaviour** in the Dorset Council area.
- 76% of these were classified as nuisance, 13% personal and 11% environmental.
- Weymouth has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour across the Dorset Council area.
- There were 773 serious **sexual offences** in the Dorset Council area last year.
- There were 4,328 **domestic abuse** incidents in the Dorset Council area last year.

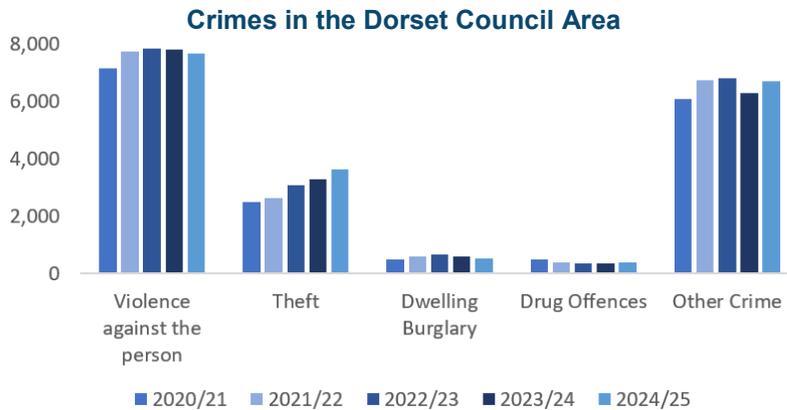


\* 'Nuisance: directed towards a community', Personal: 'directed towards a person', Environmental: 'directed at the local area'.

### Sources

1 Community Safety Partnership Performance Reporting, 2025

## Box 2: Other Crime



- Total crimes were slightly higher this year than in the previous year.
- East Dorset is the area with the lowest crime rate in Dorset and Weymouth and Portland has the highest.
- Crime is highest in Dorset between May and October each year.
- In 2023 68% of residents surveyed across Dorset said that they felt safe in their local area after dark.
- In the past year, residential burglary accounted for 87% of acquisitive crimes, while robbery made up 13%.
- The highest number of robberies occurred in Weymouth & Portland, whereas the highest burglary rate per household was in West Dorset.
- Compared to other areas, crime in the Dorset Council area remains low.

## 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. There were 75 Hate crime and incidents in 2024/25 up from 27 last year - a 177% increase.
- The number of religious or racially aggravated crimes has risen in the last three years. There were 132 recorded cases in 2024/25, up from 85 in the last year - a 55% increase.
- A key focus of local policing on hate crimes is 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 play an important role in 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 across 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 \(www.compareyourarea.police.uk\)](http://www.compareyourarea.police.uk)

<sup>4</sup> Dorset Police, 2024/25

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.prejudicefreedorset.co.uk/>